Physician Assistant Studies Program retains accreditation following appeal

By Meghan Cunningham

utnews.utoledo.edu

he University of Toledo has regained accreditation for the Physician Assistant Studies Program and will continue efforts to enhance the program while on probation with its accrediting agency.

The University successfully appealed the withdrawal of accreditation by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). In a Jan. 22 letter to UT President Sharon L. Gaber, ARC-PA notified her the program will return to accreditation-probation status, effective immediately.

"The ARC-PA decided to keep the program on probation in order to protect the interests of current students and because the ARC-PA determined the program appears to have sufficient resources in place to resolve the citations in a timely manner," the letter stated.

"This is good news, particularly for our students, whose success is our top priority," Gaber wrote in a letter to campus shortly after receiving the news.

"The accreditation process has always served as an opportunity for us to improve on our processes and programs. We will continue to strive to provide the highest quality educational experience for our PA students with unwavering commitment."

The PA program had been put on probation in April 2017 due to leadership issues and insufficient numbers of faculty, self-study practices, and inadequate explanation of goals and outcomes. The University moved quickly to address the issues, many of which were done or in progress by the June 2017 site visit by ARC-PA. The University received a preliminary

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Sharing hope



Be in the moment, cherish good times, and learn and grow from bad times — that's what three-time cancer survivor Annie Parker told the audience at the Maumee Indoor Theatre last week. The genetic testing advocate who inspired the film, "Decoding Annie Parker," which was screened Jan. 24, said she is passionate about sharing her story to encourage others to talk openly about cancer and how it impacts their lives. The College of Medicine and Life Sciences hosted "An Evening With Annie Parker," which concluded with a panel discussion by experts, including Dr. John Nemunaitis, UT professor and chief in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, shown speaking.

Photos by Daniel Mille

University alumna to discuss worldview of America and its affect at home

AN. 29, 2018 VOLUME 18, ISSUE 19

By Cathy Zimmer

UT alumna Shamila Chaudhary will return to campus to deliver a lecture titled "The Meaning of America, at Home and Abroad" Thursday, Feb. 8, at 6 p.m. in Doermann Theatre.



Chaudhary

The event marks the second of this year's Jesup Scott Honors College Distinguished Lecture series.

Chaudhary, a foreign policy analyst and photographer based in Washington, D.C., will discuss the U.S. role in the world and its connection to the social and economic landscapes of life within the United States. She will address the many transformations underway in American identity and culture as they relate to politics, the humanities, law and international affairs.

She is the senior adviser to Dean Vali Nasr of the Johns Hopkins University School for Advanced International Studies. She also

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Toledo Public Schools superintendent to speak at UT Black History Month kickoff

"A Different World: Honoring Our Past, A Journey to Our Future" is the theme of The University of Toledo's 2018 celebration of Black History Month.



Durant

"The 1990s played a large role in our generation," said Guyton Mathews IV, a graduate student pursuing a master of liberal studies degree, who is chair of the Black History Month Committee. "When the Black History Month Planning Committee met, many theme options were discussed, but we all kept coming back to the hit '90s television show, 'A Different World.'

"We decided to add the tagline 'Honoring Our Past, A Journey to Our Future' to show that we do respect and

acknowledge what has been done in the past and the groundwork that has been laid for our advancement," Mathews, a graduate assistant for African-American Initiatives in the Office of Multicultural Student Success, said. "While there are some issues that we still face that can be related to the past, our adversity is different."

Dr. Romules Durant, superintendent of Toledo Public Schools, will give the keynote address at the Black History Month Kickoff

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JAN. 22, 2018 **NEWS**

Physician Assistant Studies Program

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report following the visit, and responded to the report in August.

The notice of the accreditation withdrawal came in October. The University disagreed with many of the conclusions made by ARC-PA and Nov. 3 submitted a 138-page appeal, which included 1,600 pages of supporting documentation. The response from ARC-PA was received last week

"We took the comments by ARC-PA very seriously," said Dr. Christopher Cooper, dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, and executive vice president for clinical affairs. "We quickly created a very focused, multidisciplinary team to address their concerns and ensure compliance with the accreditation standards."

Since the initial probation notice, the PA program has been working in close collaboration with leaders in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences to address the concerns raised by the accrediting agency and to enhance the program that has successfully trained physician assistants for 20 years.

New program leadership has been put in place. Dr. Linda Speer is serving as chair of the department, in addition to her role as chair of the Department of Family Medicine. April Gardner, a graduate of the program, was hired as the new program director. An additional PA-certified faculty member was hired, and the program is looking to add two more positions.

A program assessment committee was established to conduct an intensive review of the program. As part of that effort, all of the syllabi and course plans were reviewed with the Office of the Provost to ensure clear alignment with ARC-PA's standards. Improved ongoing self-assessment and oversight of the program also are in place.

"We will continue our efforts to enhance the quality of our PA program so that it is on par with the high standards of the other well-respected and valued programs at UT," Cooper said.

The University is permitted to enroll a class of 20 students for the upcoming fall 2018 semester, which is half the normal class size

The probation period is two years, and ARC-PA notified the University it will schedule a site visit later this year.

"During this probationary period, we will work with ARC-PA to demonstrate how our program, curriculum and processes meet or exceed current standards," Cooper said. "Our goal is to achieve full accreditation status for our PA program. We view the PA program as a critical part of the college's mission to improve the health of our community and region by training excellent clinicians."

Accreditation status according to ARC-PA

The accreditation status of the UT Physician Assistant Studies Program is:

At its March 2017 meeting, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for Physician Assistants (ARC-PA) placed the University of Toledo Physician Assistant program sponsored by University of Toledo on Accreditation-Probation status until its next review in March 2019.

Probation is a temporary status of accreditation conferred when a program does not meet the *Standards* and when the capability of the program to provide an acceptable educational experience for its students is threatened

Once placed on probation, programs that still fail to comply with accreditation requirements in a timely manner, as specified by the ARC-PA, may be scheduled for a focused site visit and/or risk having their accreditation withdrawn.

Specific questions regarding the Program and its plans should be directed to the Program Director and/or the appropriate institutional official(s).

Submit nominations for research, scholarship areas of excellence by Jan. 31

By Meghan Cunningham

The deadline for faculty to submit nominations of areas of research and scholarship excellence is Wednesday, Jan. 31.

The deadline was extended to ensure faculty provide the guidance necessary for the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs to identify the areas in which UT currently has national recognition or the potential to develop national prominence.

"The faculty know the research and scholarship strengths of our institution better than anybody, and we need their input to achieve this strategic priority," said Dr. Frank Calzonetti, vice president for research.

Promoting research, scholarship and creative activity is among the priorities identified in The University of Toledo's Path to Excellence strategic plan. Among the goals for that priority is to develop and implement a plan for national recognition in up to five areas of research excellence to build upon faculty strengths and to identify opportunities for growth and development.

The University already has identified the broad areas of biomedical and environmental sustainability; however, there are specialty areas within those fields to focus efforts, Calzonetti said.

Faculty members are encouraged to identify interdisciplinary and collaborative

activities as they nominate areas of excellence.

To nominate an area, create a document that includes:

- Name and brief description of the area;
- Description of the area's specific focus (up to one page);
- List of disciplines and academic departments involved;
- Analysis of ways to achieve excellence or how it has already been achieved (up to two pages);
- Names of individuals responsible for organizing, leading and representing the area; and

 Names, academic titles and twopage curricula vitae of at least four additional participating faculty members

Submissions are to be sent to Jack Schultz, senior executive director for research development, via email to john.schultz@utoledo.edu by Wednesday, Ion. 31

Visit utoledo.edu/research/rsp and click on the "Call for Submissions Area of Research & Scholarship Excellence at UT" link for additional information.

Training to help faculty recognize, assist at-risk students

aculty members and graduate assistants who teach are encouraged to attend a one-hour session on "How to Identify and Help Students in Crisis."

"Our students' safety and academic success are priorities at UT," said Dr. Amy Thompson, professor of public health and president of Faculty Senate. "We need to make sure our faculty and teaching assistants are adequately trained and prepared to help students in need.

"That's why Faculty Senate has partnered with the Division of Student Affairs to help provide this important training for faculty and graduate teaching assistants."

There will be three training sessions offered Thursday, Feb. 1, in Health and Human Services Building Room 1711 on Main Campus: from 9 to 10 a.m., 10 to 11 a.m., and noon to 1 p.m.

Training also will be held Thursday, Feb. 15, from 10 to 11 a.m. in Collier Building Room 1200 on Health Science Campus.

Presenters at the sessions will be:

- Dr. Lisa Pescara-Kovach, associate professor of educational psychology, who will discuss identifying at-risk students;
- Dr. Mychail Scheramic, director of the University Counseling Center, who will talk about threat assessments; and
- Donald Kamm, director of Title IX and compliance, who will provide information on how to help students who have been sexually assaulted.

"Mental health and alcohol and other drug issues are major factors that can hinder academic success. It is important to help train faculty and those teaching our students how to identify at-risk students and refer them to needed services," Thompson said. "Many of us have never received such training, and this can really help improve student outcomes."

Space is limited at the sessions and is available on a first-come, first-seated basis.

For more information, contact Thompson at amy.thompson4@utoledo.edu.

FACULTY SENATE AND THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS PRESENTS:

HOW TO IDENTIFY AND HELP STUDENTS IN CRISIS

An overview for all faculty including teaching graduate assistants.

PRESENTERS INCLUDE:

Lisa Pescara-Kovach, Ph.D.

associate professor, Educational Psychology

Mychail Scheramic, Ph.D

director, University Counseling Center

Donald Kamm

director, Title IX and Compliance

THIS TRAINING WILL:

- Increase familiarity with services available to students on campus
- Review signs that indicate distress
- Provide resources that you can use to address student issues

THURSDAY, FEB. 1, 2018

Main Campus

Health and Human Services Building

Room 1711

9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Noon – 1 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 15, 2018

Health Science Campus Collier Building Room 1200

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.



For more information, contact:

Faculty Senate President
Dr. Amy Thompson
at 419.530.4171 or
Amy.Thompson4@utoledo.edu.

SA 1931 0118

ATTENTION STUDENTS:

If you have insurance through the University, be sure to check the mail for a new insurance card.

If you have not received communication from the Student Educational Benefit Trust and a new health benefit ID card, email Tonya Tressler at ttressler@sebtrust.com.

JAN. 22, 2018 **NEWS**

'Mysticism and the Mass' topic of UT Center for Religious Understanding lecture Feb. 7

By Ashley Diel

The University of Toledo Center for Religious Understanding will host a lecture titled "Mysticism and the Mass" Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall.

The lecture will be given by Dr. Peter Feldmeier, who is the Thomas and Margaret Murray/James J. Bacik Professor of Catholic Studies at UT.

"The topic is central to Catholic spirituality, and I think something that would be interesting, perhaps entertaining, and educational about the dynamics of the spiritual life," Feldmeier said. "Mysticism is a topic of great fascination and broad interest in our society, though widely misunderstood or too loosely used. But mysticism, uniting with God in a profoundly transformative way, is one of the great possibilities for the human soul, and some argue the deepest religious aim."

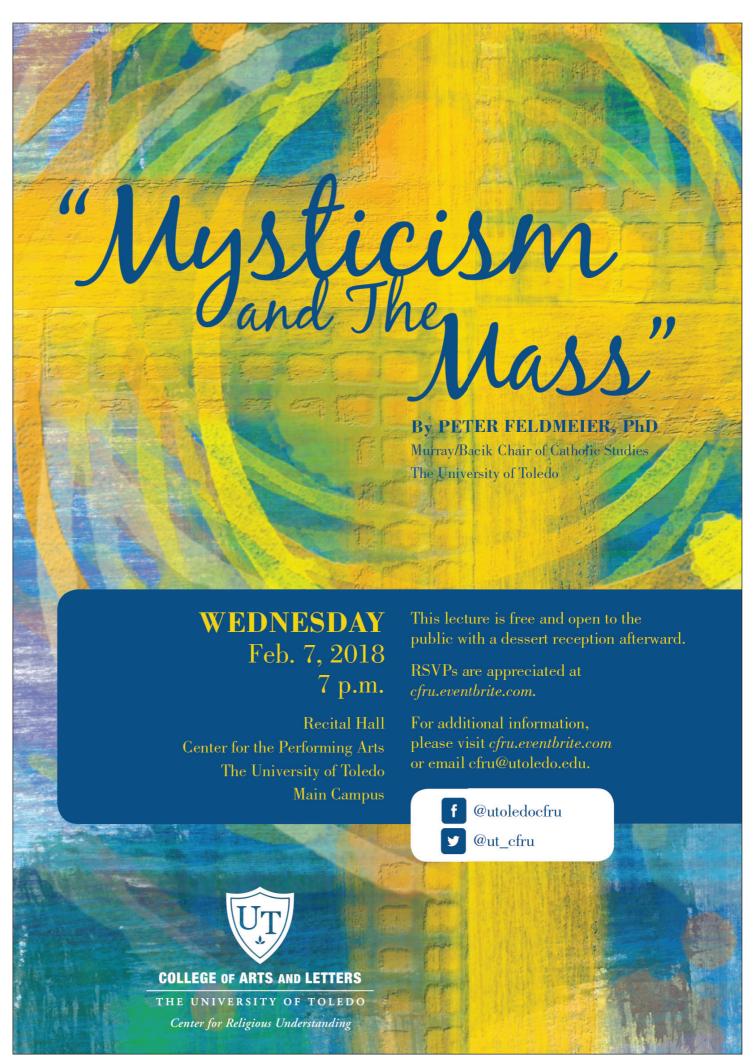
Feldmeier earned his PhD in Christian spirituality at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif., and his research areas of interest include Christian spirituality, comparative theology, Buddhist-Christian dialogue and religious mysticism.

He is a member of the Catholic Theological Society of America, the College Theology Society, the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality, and the American Academy of Religion.

"Those attending will learn a great deal about what's really going on in this most essential sacrament," Feldmeier said. "They will also learn about mysticism in general and about how sacred rites can make present the very realities they symbolize."

The free, public lecture will be followed by a dessert reception.

For more information, email the UT Center for Religious Understanding at cfru@utoledo.edu.



SCIENCE JAN. 22, 2018

Saturday Morning Science returns with 'Twisty Puzzles,' 'Green Goo,' 'Talking Trees'

By Christine Billau

f you're curious about solving the Rubik's Cube or the break of a pitcher's curve ball, ask a mathematician or scientist

Saturday Morning Science is back for 2018 at The University of Toledo with six programs to give the community the opportunity to learn about hot topics in modern science.

The free, public talks are presented by the UT College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and kick off Saturday, Feb. 3, at 10 a.m. in Memorial Field House Room 2100 with "A Brief History of Twisty Puzzles," most famously the Rubik's Cube.

"Puzzles are more important than most people realize," said Dr. Nathaniel Iverson, lecturer in the UT Department of Mathematics and Statistics, who will lead the session and teach strategies to solve a Rubik's Cube. "Mathematics is not just about numbers and calculations, but also about analyzing the world around you and solving problems. Puzzles are valuable for developing dexterity, problemsolving strategies, spatial reasoning, refinement of practice techniques, and intuition for higher-level concepts in mathematics."

A limited number of custom UT/Saturday Morning Science cube puzzles will be given away to attendees of the Feb. 3 presentation.

Listed by date, additional programs and speakers are:

- Feb. 17 "Bio-Inspired, Bio-Hybrid, and Organic Robots: The Many Roles of Nature in Robotic Development" by Dr. Roger Quinn, director of the Biologically Inspired Robotics Laboratory at Case Western Reserve University, and Dr. Victoria Webster-Wood, postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Case Western Reserve University, in Memorial Field House Room 2100.
- Feb. 24 "From Fork to Fauna: Unlocking the Secrets of Nutrition to Optimize Our Health" by Sally Itawi and Manish Karamchandani, medical students in the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences, in Wolfe Hall Room 1205.
- March 17 "Talking Trees and Babbling Bushes:
 How Plants Communicate with Each Other" by
 Dr. Jack C. Schultz, senior executive director of
 research development at UT and director emeritus of
 the Bond Life Sciences Center at the University of
 Missouri, in Wolfe Hall Room 1205.
- April 21 "The Great Green Goo of Lake Erie: Harmful Algal Blooms and Your Drinking Water" by Dr. Tom Bridgeman, UT professor of ecology in the Department of Environmental Sciences, in Memorial Field House Room 2100.
- April 28 "The Physics of Baseball" by Dr. Alan Nathan, professor emeritus at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in Memorial Field House Room 2100.

All talks begin at 10 a.m. and include complimentary light refreshments.

"One theme running through this year's series is our relationship with nature," said Dr. John Bellizzi, UT



GOT QUESTIONS?

Get answers at Saturday Morning Science at The University of Toledo.

Programs are FREE and begin at 10 a.m.

Feb. 3, 2018 Memorial Field House Room 2100

A Brief History of Twisty Puzzles

Dr. Nathaniel Iverson
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
The University of Toledo

Feb. 17, 2018 Memorial Field House Room 2100

Bio-inspired, Bio-hybrid, and Organic Robots: The Many Roles of Nature in Robotic Development

Dr. Roger Quinn, Director of Biorobotics
Dr. Victoria Webster-Wood, Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Case Western Reserve University

Feb. 24, 2018 Wolfe Hall Room 1205

From Fork to Fauna: Unlocking the Secrets of Nutrition to Optimize Our Health

Sally Itawi and Manish Karamchandani Medical Students The University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences

Pagelo and soffee generously provided by





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Follow #SaturdayMorningScience

March 17, 2018 Wolfe Hall Room 1205

Talking Trees and Babbling Bushes: How Plants Communicate with Each Other

Dr. Jack C. Schultz
Senior Executive Director of Research Development
The University of Toledo
Director Emeritus, Bond Life Sciences Center
University of Missouri
Distinguished Professor Emeritus
Pennsylvania State University

April 21, 2018 Memorial Field House Room 2100

The Great Green Goo of Lake Erie: Harmful Algal Blooms and Your Drinking Water

Dr. Tom Bridgeman Department of Environmental Sciences The University of Toledo

April 28, 2018 Memorial Field House Room 2100

The Physics of Baseball

Dr. Alan Nathan Professor Emeritus, Department of Physics University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Free, light breakfast is provided prior to each program.

Free parking is available in Lot 13 and the West Ramp Parking Garage. See map at utoledo.edu/campus/directions/pdfs/Main-Campus-Map.pdf

Organizers: Prof. Joseph Schmidt, Prof. John Bellizzi and Prof. Terry Bigioni Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, The University of Toledo

Sponsored by the Office of the Dean, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, and codirector of Saturday Morning Science. "We're connected to the environment through the food we eat and the water we drink, and we can also draw inspiration from understanding how animals move and plants communicate." For more information about the upcoming events, visit facebook.com/saturdaymorningscience.

JAN. 22, 2018 NEW

UT alumna

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has a blog titled "All Things Foreign" (allthingsforeignblog.wordpress.com), where she shares comments and essays on foreign policy and current events.

"Shamila Chaudhary is a former Obama White House and State Department official and a frequent commentator on CNN and BBC. She is also an author, and her article in The Atlantic magazine describing a multifaith Middle Eastern refugee community in Toledo is a wonderful read," said Dr. Heidi Appel, dean of the Jesup Scott Honors College. "Altogether, she represents the amazing career possible with an honors degree in the humanities

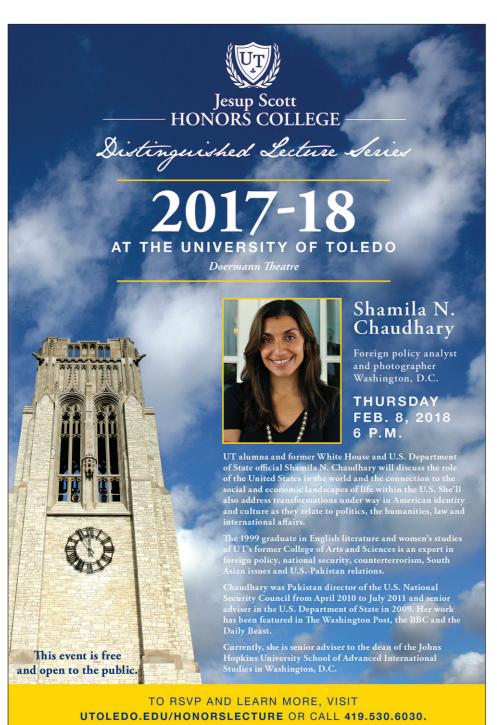
from The University of Toledo, and I'm excited for our students to meet her."

Chaudhary received a bachelor's degree in English literature and women's studies from The University of Toledo Honors College and the former College of Arts and Sciences in 1999.

Guests are invited to stay for a reception following the lecture.

Tickets are free by visiting utoledo.edu/ honorslecture.

For questions and tickets for groups larger than 10, contact the Jesup Scott Honors College at honors@utoledo.edu or 419.530.6030.

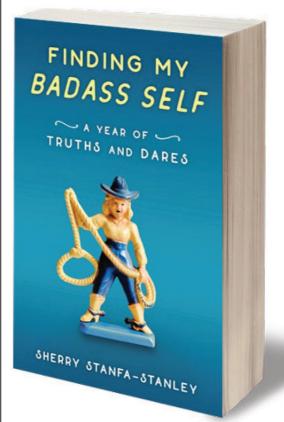


Distinguished University Professor Lecture



The UT Office of the Provost and College of Law will host the Distinguished University Professor Lecture and Installation honoring Llewellyn J. Gibbons Wednesday, Jan. 31. Gibbons will present a lecture on "The Internet, a Toll Road on the Final Frontier: The End of Net Neutrality" at 4 p.m. in the Law Center McQuade Law Auditorium. Prior to the talk, D. Benjamin Barros, dean of the College of Law, will install Gibbons as Distinguished University Professor of Law. A reception will follow the lecture. RSVP to utoledo.edu/law/events/dup-lecture.html.

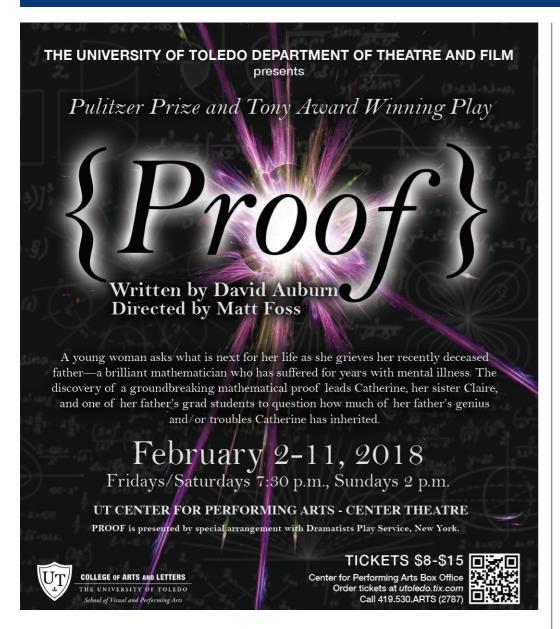
Lunch with 'Badass' author





Author Sherry Stanfa-Stanley will discuss her book, "Finding My Badass Self: A Year of Truths and Dares," at the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women's Lunch With a Purpose Wednesday, Jan. 31. Stanfa-Stanley, director of foundation and development communications at the UT Foundation, will talk about taking risks, self-empowerment, and learning to laugh at yourself. Books will be available for purchase and signing at the free event, which will take place from 12:10 to 1 p.m. at the Eberly Center in Tucker Hall Room 0168. Space is limited at the brown-bag luncheon; reserve a seat by calling the Eberly Center at 419.530.8570.

NEWS JAN. 22, 2018





Celebrate Go Red for Women:

Join Rocket Wellness for a heart-healthy walk!

Friday, Feb. 2 • Noon

Meet outside Doermann Theatre in University Hall. Bring a friend and don't forget to wear red!



In memoriam

Lois M. Bruce, Maumee, who worked at MCO from 1974 to 2000 when she retired as parking/traffic controller, died Jan. 7 at age 80.

Mary Jo (McBride) Hanudel, Toledo, a former MCO employee, died Jan. 22 at age 82.

Ruth M. (Johnson) Leininger, Toledo, a member of the Satellites Auxiliary who volunteered in the hospital gift shop, died Jan. 20 at age 95.

Dr. Richard Cee Nan Tam, Monclova, clinical assistant professor of surgery, died Jan. 19 at age 40. He was a community-based volunteer faculty member since 2015.

UTNEWS

UT News is published for faculty, staff and students by the University Communications Office weekly during the academic year and periodically during the summer. Copies are mailed to employees and placed in newsstands on the Main, Health Science, Scott Park and Toledo Museum of Art campuses. UT News strives to present accurate, fair and timely communication of interest to employees. Story ideas and comments from the UT community are welcome. Send information by campus mail to #949, University Communications Office, Vicki Kroll. Email: vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu. Fax: 419.530.4618. Phone: 419.530.2248. Mailing address: University Communications Office, The University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606-3390.

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JAN. 22, 2018 **NEWS**

Black History Month

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Luncheon Saturday, Feb. 3, at 11:30 a.m. in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium. Alexis Means of 13 ABC will emcee the event, which will include singing and dancing performances. A lunch will be provided for those who RSVP by Tuesday, Jan. 30, at utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/omss.

"Black History Month is a time to remember and celebrate the achievements of black men and women who have shaped our history whether locally, nationally and internationally," Durant said. "My ultimate goal is that I can inspire someone toward greatness by sharing the challenges I've faced and the goals I've accomplished."

A Toledo native, Durant is a graduate of Waite High School and UT. He received bachelor of arts, master of arts and doctoral degrees in education from the University in 1998, 2002 and 2007, respectively. Since 2000, he has worked at Toledo Public Schools as a teacher, administrator and assistant superintendent; he became the district's 30th superintendent in 2013.

"I'm honored to be the keynote speaker at The University of Toledo's Black History Month kickoff luncheon," Durant said. "As a proud UT graduate, I look forward to anytime I can support or give back to my alma mater."

A former member of the UT Alumni Association Board of Trustees, Durant received the Judith Herb College of Education Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2015.

Listed by date, other events will include:

Wednesday, Feb. 7

 Black History Month Trivia, 8 to 10 p.m., Thompson Student Union Room 2591. Join the Office of Multicultural Student Success, the Black Student Union and the Multicultural Emerging Scholars Program for questions about black history, as well as the Black Card Revoked game.

Monday, Feb. 12

 "Black GirlZ Rock," 6 to 9 p.m., Thompson Student Union Ingman Room. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. will honor women on campus who have made an impact on UT students. Appetizers will be served.

Tuesday, Feb. 13

 "Black Love Is Raw," 7 to 8 p.m., Thompson Student Union Room 2584. Presented by the Association for the Advancement of African-American Women and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., this event will offer a safe place to have a discussion about love. There will be activities to facilitate the dialogue.

Thursday, Feb. 15

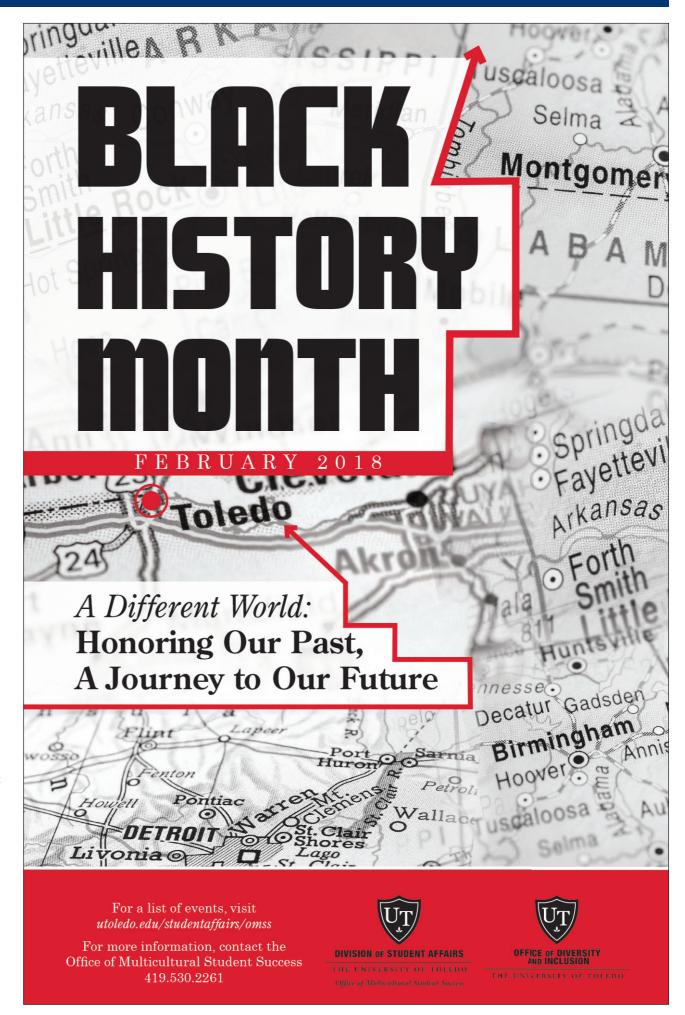
Black History Month Art Exhibit, 3 to 5 p.m.,
 Thompson Student Union Trimble Lounge. The
 Office of Multicultural Student Success is inviting
 artists to share their works relating to black history
 and culture in a museum-style setting.

Tuesday, Feb. 20

 Name That Tune: Black History Month Edition, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Thompson Student Union Room 2591. Teams will compete in a multiple round competition to guess songs from the 1960s to the present. Winners will receive a prize from the Office of Multicultural Student Success.

Friday, Feb. 23

Black Student Union Fashion Show, 7:30 to 10 p.m.,
 Thompson Student Union Auditorium. Tickets: \$10



in advance, \$15 VIP available at Ask Rocky. General admission at the door will be \$15.

Monday, Feb. 26

• Black History Month College Preview Day, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thompson Student Union. High school students can visit campus and learn about college life from members of several multicultural student

organizations. For more information, call the Office of Multicultural Student Success at 419.530.2261.

All events are free unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact the the Office of Multicultural Student Success at 419.530.2261.