

Professor receives \$2.6 million research grant to further examine link between gut bacteria and high blood pressure

By Tyrel Linkhorn

A University of Toledo researcher recently received a \$2.64 million grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to continue her groundbreaking study into how the unique colonies of tiny microorganisms living in our gut can regulate blood pressure — or lead to hypertension.

High blood pressure is one of the most common ailments among American adults. According to figures from the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, one in three adults has hypertension. And only about half of those have their condition under control.

But even those who are actively controlling their hypertension are frequently just masking the problem.

“Blood pressure medicines are not curing the cause. They are attacking

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Photo by Daniel Miller

IN THE LAB: Dr. Bina Joe has received a \$2.64 million grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for her research on hypertension and gut bacteria.

UT College of Nursing and ProMedica expand partnership

The University of Toledo College of Nursing and ProMedica last week announced an expanded partnership to bolster nursing education and address current and future health-care industry challenges.

The planned partnership between the UT College of Nursing and ProMedica will focus on enhancing undergraduate and graduate nursing education and high-quality care while developing a clinical nursing workforce to help meet current and future health-care needs in ProMedica’s local, regional and national service areas. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the United States is expecting 1.2 million job position vacancies for registered nurses by 2020.

The UT College of Nursing provides nursing education programs responsive to the changing needs of students and the health-care environment. UT’s nationally

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UT chemists awarded \$2.1 million to develop new antibiotic to treat TB

By Christine Billau

The National Institutes of Health awarded a team of chemists at The University of Toledo a five-year, \$2.1 million grant to create a new, more effective drug to treat tuberculosis, the most common cause of death from an infectious disease worldwide.

The grant renews funding through 2023 for the project that combats drug resistance to current antibiotics.

Dr. Donald Ronning and Dr. Steve Sucheck, professors in the UT Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, will build on their progress made in the fight against Mycobacterium tuberculosis, which can be spread through coughing, sneezing or laughing, and kills more people each year than HIV, malaria and the flu. It takes at

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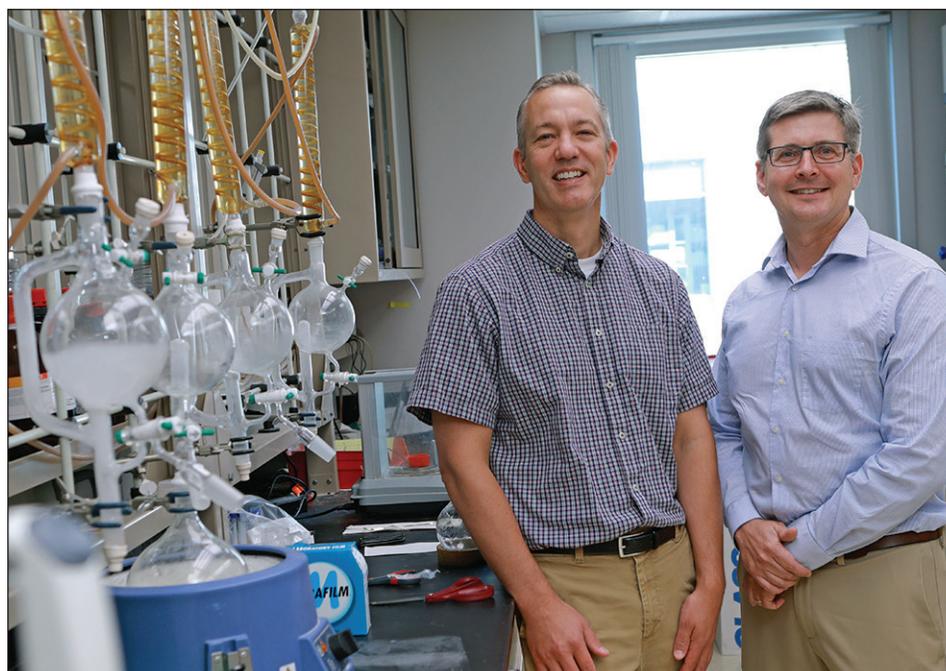


Photo by Daniel Miller

CREATING A CURE: Dr. Donald Ronning, left, and Dr. Steve Sucheck are using a five-year, \$2.1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop a better drug to treat tuberculosis.

State honors UT for Latino community leadership

By Christine Billau

The Ohio Latino Affairs Commission selected The University of Toledo for its 2018 Governor’s Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Award.

UT was chosen for the category of Nuestra Familia, or Our Family, which honors individuals or organizations that encourage the inclusion of Latinos in Ohio and are committed to making the state a welcoming place to all.

“We value and embrace our wonderfully diverse campus,” UT President Sharon L. Gaber said. “Diversity and

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UTMC nurse graduates from FEMA's first National Emergency Management Basic Academy in Ohio

By Marla Gootee

UT Medical Center Nurse Erin Konecki recently graduated from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Emergency Management Basic Academy in Columbus, Ohio.

It was the first such program to be held in the state.

FEMA is an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security; its mission is to support citizens and first responders to ensure that the nation works together to build, sustain and improve the capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

The National Emergency Basic Academy was created to produce a comprehensive curriculum that provides the foundational knowledge and skills needed to support the unpredictable challenges in the field of emergency management.

It can be considered a gateway for those pursuing a career in emergency management and provides participants with the opportunity to build camaraderie and establish contacts for those new or transferring to the emergency management profession.

It is the first phase of FEMA's new Emergency Management Professional Program, which is designed to be a lifetime of learning for emergency managers. The program includes three separate but closely related training programs — the Basic Academy, the National Emergency Management Leaders Academy and the Executive Academy.

"I have had a lot of experience taking classes through FEMA training, including online self-paced courses, traveling to Anniston, Alabama, to the Center for Domestic Preparedness, taking local FEMA courses, and hosting FEMA classes right here at UT," Konecki said. "I began seeking other opportunities through the state and when I was made aware there was a basic



CONGRATS: Erin Konecki posed for a photo with Daniel Kolcum, assistant director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, after graduating from FEMA's National Emergency Management Basic Academy in June.

emergency management course, I jumped at the opportunity."

Konecki finished the five required courses — Foundations in Emergency Management; Science of Disaster; Planning; Emergency Operations; Exercise Design; and Public Information and Warning. She also completed a total of 152 hours of training to graduate from the National Emergency Basic Academy.

"Emergency management is a very complex discipline," Konecki said. "Enrolling in the academy was extremely beneficial to me to gain a greater understanding of the foundation and background of emergency management."

She is a registered and alternate lead nurse in UTMC's Emergency Department. She also serves as the department's clinical disaster liaison, working with the staff of the Safety and Health departments and the clinical staff members of the Emergency Department. She assists with disaster drill planning and other necessary tasks to ensure involvement of the nurses.

Konecki received her bachelor's degree in nursing from Lourdes University and basic EMT certification and national registry card through Owens Community College.

She is also a recent graduate from the Master of Public Health Program at UT, where she majored in environmental and occupational health and safety science with a focus in disaster preparedness.

Konecki said the academy taught her how to effectively plan drills while working with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency planners; improved her networking and public speaking skills; taught her how to anticipate and respond to disasters, and how to disseminate information to the public.

"It was a very proud moment to have graduated from this program," she said. "It was especially monumental to be the first group ever from Ohio."

Konecki plans to attend higher levels of the Emergency Management Professional Program as her career progresses.

For more information about FEMA's training and emergency management courses, visit training.fema.gov/empp.

College of Nursing

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ranked Master's and Doctor of Nursing Practice Program include a range of specialties, including adult gerontology primary care, pediatrics and psychiatric mental health. UT's Post-Baccalaureate Doctor of Nursing Practice Program was the first such program in the state to take nurses to the highest level of clinical practice and position them as leaders in the health-care field.

Through this partnership, ProMedica and UT will collaborate to develop innovative educational programs, diverse clinical experiences for students, interprofessional research collaborations, and high-quality professional development programs to improve health care in the community.

Additionally, the partnership will work to advance the nursing profession and health care by supporting the development of local, state and national policies.

"Our expanded partnership with The University of Toledo College of Nursing is a natural extension of the academic affiliation between ProMedica and The University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences, and it reflects our shared commitment to developing northwest Ohio into a premier hub of medical education and clinical care," said Randy Oostra, president and CEO of ProMedica. "This is an especially exciting time to take this partnership to the next level given our recent addition of HCR ManorCare, and the increased opportunities to educate and better prepare nurses to meet the needs of the growing senior population."

"Strengthening the University's partnership with ProMedica provides exciting opportunities to expand clinical training opportunities for our nursing students and to increase academic-clinical collaboration to advance nursing education, research and practice," said Dr. Sharon L. Gaber, president of The University of Toledo. "We are proud to build on our existing Academic Affiliation to continue to advance our region as an innovative leader in education and health-care delivery. As part of this new partnership with the College of Nursing, research will be enhanced and the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, through the Academic Affiliation, is committing \$1 million to collaborative research between the colleges."

University to host naturalization ceremony for Constitution Day

By Bailey Sparks

Nearly 70 people will become U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony Monday, Sept. 17, at 11 a.m. in the Law Center McQuade Auditorium on UT's Main Campus.

Judge Jack Zouhary of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio will preside over the ceremony, which will celebrate Constitution Day at the University.

"Students, faculty and staff should plan to attend this very moving ceremony celebrating United States citizenship," said Diane Miller, associate vice president for government relations.

"It's a great reminder of the freedoms we enjoy as citizens of the United States and how that is sought after by people from all over the globe."

Welcome remarks will be given by UT President Sharon L. Gaber and D. Benjamin Barros, dean of the UT College of Law.

Billy Jeffers, president of the Student Bar Association, will open the court, while Ariel Berger, vice president of the association, will close it.

Andrew Williams, president of Student Government, will read the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest speakers will be Inma Zanoquera, a graduate student and 2015 UT alumna and former women's basketball star who won the Sahara Marathon earlier this year, and Benjamin Syroka, a UT law student who clerked for Judge Zouhary.

The UT Concert Chorale will perform "The Star-Spangled Banner" under the direction of Dr. Brad Pierson, assistant professor and director of choral activities in the UT Music Department.

The free, public event is sponsored by the Office of Government Relations and the Center for International Studies and Programs.

For more information on the naturalization ceremony, contact Lisa Byers, executive assistant in the Office of Government Relations, at lisa.byers@utoledo.edu.



Staff Leadership Development forms due Oct. 1

As a reminder, all applications and nominations for the second cohort of UT's Staff Leadership Development Program are due by 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1.

The one-year program is designed to develop emerging, high-potential leaders to help them grow in their existing positions at the University and later assume expanded leadership roles at UT. Eligible staff members must have at least two years of employment with UT.

"Participants will be required to attend at least two or three hours of course work per month, except during July and August when they will have summer reading assignments," said Wendy Davis, associate vice president and chief human resources officer. "Additionally, they will need to

complete a capstone project by October 2019."

Approximately 20 individuals will be selected to participate in the Staff Leadership Development Program for 2018-19.

Interested staff members should complete an application form, or deans, vice presidents and other senior leaders may recommend an emerging leader to participate by submitting a nomination form on their behalf. (Please avoid duplicates.) Forms and additional information are available at utoledo.edu/depts/hr.

A multidisciplinary selection committee will review all forms, and individuals selected to be part of the program's second cohort will be notified by Tuesday, Oct. 16.

Ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house

University Counseling Center
Wednesday, Sept. 12
1 to 4 p.m.

Main Campus Medical Center

Stop by and check out the new location!

For more information, call the University Counseling Center at 419.530.2426.

THURSDAY
SEPT. 13
 NOON - 2 P.M.

12th ANNUAL
PRESIDENT'S
BACKYARD BBQ

Centennial Mall
 Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to enjoy free food, inflatables and fun activities!

#UTYouKnow
 Rain location: Health Education Center

Women & Philanthropy awards two grants to College of Medicine

Women & Philanthropy, a volunteer organization that promotes The University of Toledo through grants to UT initiatives, has given 2018 grants in the amount of \$69,348.44.

The first grant for \$63,400 was awarded to the College of Medicine and Life Sciences to create the Women & Philanthropy Thrombosis and Hemostasis Research Center. This grant will address a significant gap in the University's ability to assess thrombosis in human patient and rodent samples.

Scientists in the college are focusing on diseases that have significant mortality due to thrombotic complications and in projects surrounding cancer-induced thrombosis.

"The ability to find reliable diagnostic tests or markers that will accurately characterize the risk of developing a clot is vital," Marcy McMahon, chair of Women & Philanthropy, said. "While the scientists can do certain assays associated with assessing clotting, they do not have the necessary equipment to perform platelet aggregometry and complete blood counts."

The new equipment will have broad-ranging applications from autoimmune to metabolic disease. Investigators in multiple departments will be able to highlight the Thrombosis and Hemostasis Research Center in grant applications to organizations such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation to help secure more research funding for investigators and The University of Toledo.

The second grant for \$5,948.44 also went to the College of Medicine and Life Sciences to provide for photoscreening of infants and children at well-care visits.

The Spot Vision Screener to be utilized requires minimal patient cooperation, bypassing traditional screening methods. It will allow infants and toddlers to be screened, along with older children with significant developmental disabilities.

"This screening is important in order to reduce the risk of amblyopia, a condition that causes permanent vision impairment but is preventable if vision problems are recognized early," McMahon said.

Women & Philanthropy at The University of Toledo was chartered in 2006 and made its first award to UT in 2008. Through this giving circle, members of diverse backgrounds and interests work collaboratively to make positive, meaningful and immediate impacts at the University.

Women & Philanthropy has given a total of 19 grants totaling \$493,687.44 to The University of Toledo during the past 10 years.

Applications for 2019 grants will be available in late fall.

Additional information about Women & Philanthropy is available at utfoundation.org/give/women-philanthropy.



The University of Toledo Women's Commission 2018-2019 Fall Membership Drive Luncheon

* September 19 @ noon to 1 p.m.

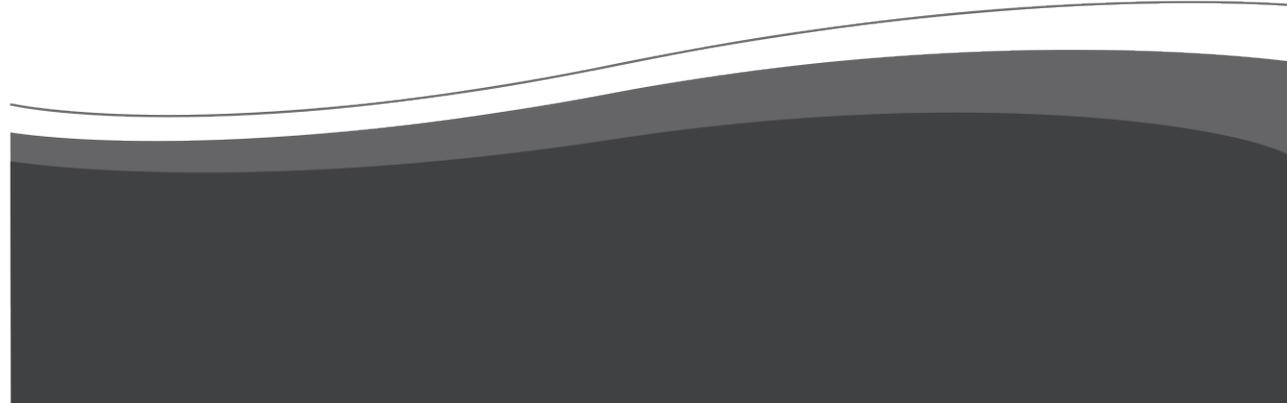
Savage Arena Grogan Room

Special Guest Speaker Enjie Hall, Director of Campus Accessibility and Student Disability Services

"Be the Change You Seek"

RSVP to Brianna.Stewart@rockets.utoledo.edu by Sept. 14

The UWC continues to provide scholarships to exceptional female students and takes pride in honoring our University's outstanding women each year. Your tax-deductible annual membership is \$30 for faculty and staff and \$10 for students. New and returning members can join at the luncheon or online at <http://www.utoledo.edu/commissions/uwc/membership.html>



Wanted: Banned books to support right to read

For two decades, The University of Toledo's Banned Books Vigil has shined a spotlight on the right to read, speak, think and create freely.

That tradition will continue Thursday, Sept. 27, during the daylong vigil in Carlson Library Room 1005. Presentations will be given every half hour, and attendees will have the chance to win banned books, as well as other door prizes.

"Between 2000 and 2009, the Office for Intellectual Freedom processed 5,099 reports of challenges to books," Dr. Paulette Kilmer, UT professor of communication and coordinator of the UT Banned Books Coalition, said. "This number will increase since many complaints are not reported until years after they occurred.

"Moreover, the American Library Association estimates the media does not cover 85 percent of challenges and bans. That's why events like the UT Banned Books Vigil are so important. We need to support our First Amendment now more than ever."

Kilmer noted Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" and even the dictionary have been banned or challenged.

"Our fight for intellectual freedom is never over," she said.

Become a "Champion of Freedom of Expression" by donating banned and challenged titles listed on the American Library Association's website at ala.org/advocacy/bbooks.

Champions will be recognized by having their names appear in front of the titles they purchase, and their names will appear on a poster at the event.

Donations are requested by 9 p.m. Monday, Sept. 17. Books may be purchased at the Barnes & Noble University Bookstore. Cash donations also are welcome and will be used to purchase books. For assistance, contact Katrina Pedersen at toledo@bkstore.com or 419.530.2516.

For more information on the Banned Books Vigil, contact Kilmer at paulette.kilmer@utoledo.edu.



READ, THINK, SPEAK, CREATE
FREELY

UT Banned Books Coalition

Now serving



Photos by Daniel Miller



UT student Samah Albayk, right, and Christine Albright, career consultant with Career Services, picked up information about Mobile Meals of Toledo during the service fair last week on Centennial Mall. Students, faculty and staff braved the heat to learn about local charitable organizations and how they could get involved to give back. And, as always, the food trucks were popular.

Documentary by UT professor to air locally Sept. 16

By Angela Riddel

“Crossing Water — Flint Michigan — 2017,” a documentary about the ongoing water crisis produced by Holly Hey, UT professor of film, will air on WGTE-TV 30 in Toledo Sunday, Sept. 16, at 5 p.m.



Hey

Hey, who is also head of the UT Film Program, worked with the nonprofit service organization Crossing Water to highlight the continuing needs and challenges facing the residents of Flint and the social service volunteers who help them. She co-produced the film with Lee Fearnside, a local artist, photographer and film producer.

In July, the National Educational Telecommunications Association contracted with Hey for exclusive public television distribution rights of her film. The program has already aired in a few other markets around the country. The film broadcast regionally for the first time Aug. 11 on WNED in Buffalo, N.Y.

Katherine Larsen senior director of radio/TV programming for WNED said Hey’s film is a “great program on an

ongoing issue. Clean water is vital to our communities, especially in the Great Lakes region.”

Flint made national news in 2014 when the city’s emergency manager switched the source of the city’s water, plaguing residents with a host of immediate and toxic problems, including deadly bacteria, outbreaks and deaths from Legionnaires’ disease, and the widespread presence of lead in the city’s drinking water.

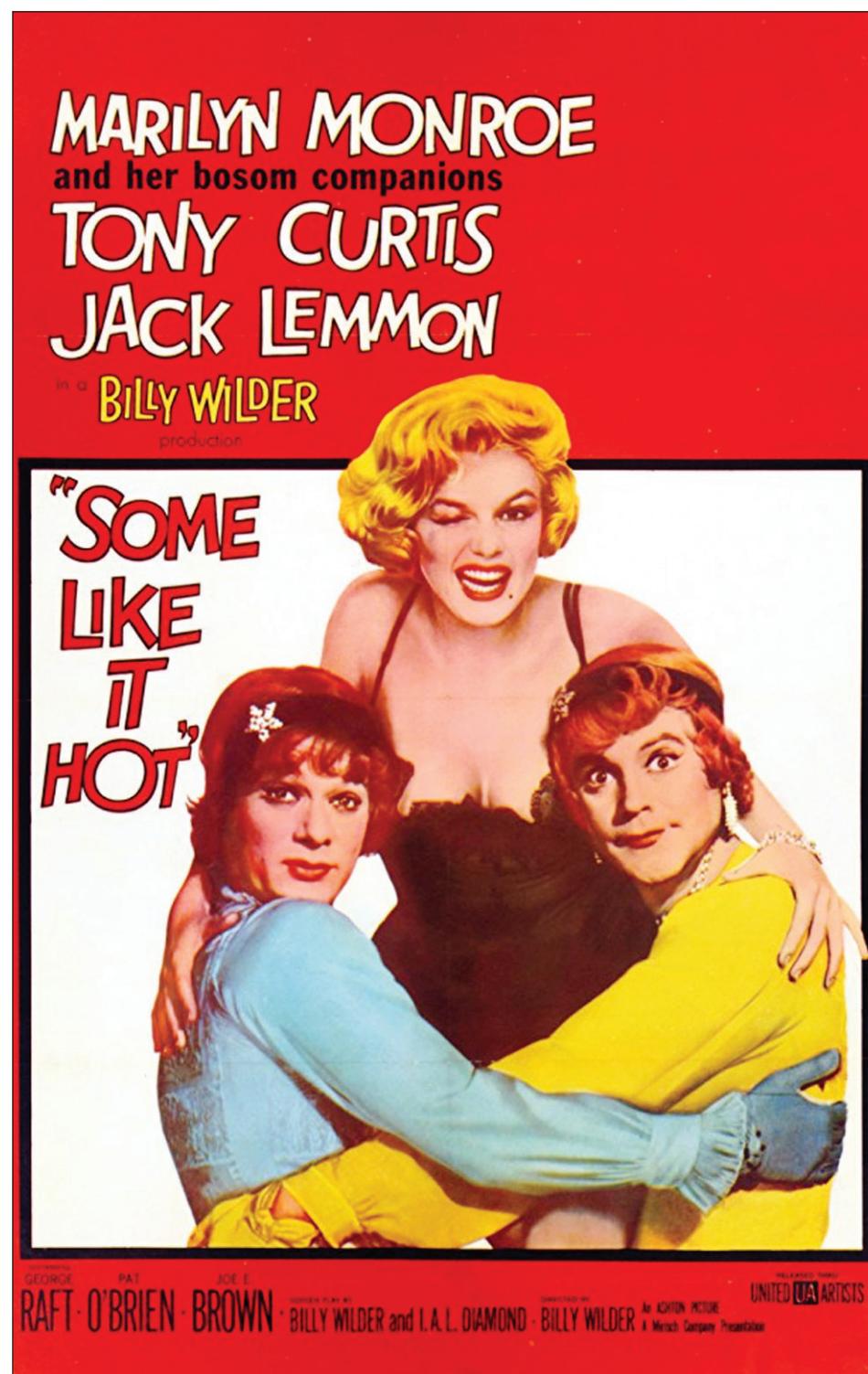
In the film, Hey highlights the work of Crossing Water, which brings together social workers and other volunteers to provide water, services, and access to resources to the hardest hit residents of Flint. Hey weaves together multiple stories of Crossing Water volunteers, staff and Flint residents, creating a portrait of what it is like to live within an ongoing systemic disaster.

Michael Hood, executive director of Crossing Water, called the film “a sobering story of the Flint water crisis.”

Hey believes all Americans should care about Flint because it’s a crisis that is indicative of the future for many U.S. communities. According to CNN, more than 5,300 municipalities around the country are in violation of lead rules.

“Eventually, systems will fail in any community, systems essential to human life like water and power. We can’t ignore that we are all vulnerable to such collapse, wherever we live in America,” Hey said.

Steamy scene-stealers



The UT Department of Theatre and Film will screen “Some Like It Hot” Friday, Sept. 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts Room 1039. Shown from 16-millimeter film, the 1959 romantic comedy directed by Billy Wilder stars Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon. Set in 1929, two male musicians witness a mob hit and then, disguised as women, flee by joining an all-female band. Tickets — \$12 for general admission and \$8 for students, UT employees and alumni, military members, and seniors 60 and older — include popcorn and soft drink. Get tickets at utoledo.tix.com or by calling the Center for Performing Arts Box Office at 419.530.ARTS (2787). Read more about Film Fridays and the department’s 2018-19 season at utoledo.edu/allsvpa/theatrefilm/currentseason.





HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY

5 - 9PM

- °Launch of INTER/ACTIVE Projects
- °More!

FRIDAY

5 - 10PM

- °Concerts
- °Food Trucks
- °More!

SATURDAY

Noon - 6PM

- °Toledo Mini Maker Faire - UT Biodesign Challenge Projects
- °Jazz Faculty Quartet
- °INTER/ACTIVE Projects
- °Food Trucks
- °More!

momentumtoledo.org/



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
School of Visual and Performing Arts

University of Toledo School of Visual and Performing Arts faculty and students are involved in the 2018 Momentum Arts & Music Festival in a BIG way! Momentum is a three-day festival of music and art along the riverfront in downtown Toledo. All events are free and open to all,



ALL TOGETHER NOW

Julia Labay Darrah + Yusef Lateef - Art

Combines play, sculpture, and installation using interchangeable life-size forms, inviting participants to interact with the forms to create a "family photo".

STEM

Matthew Dansack + Sebastien Schohn - Music

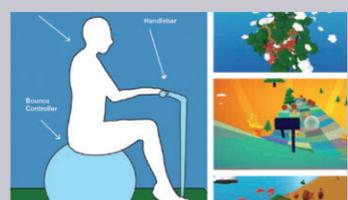
Stem is a digital interactive media project using multiple song stems (tracks of one or two instruments used to make a song) to allow participants a chance to create new song compositions.



DIALOGUE WITH THE RIVER

Barbara Miner - Art

Based on Tibetan Prayer Flags, hand silk-screened flags with environmental information about the Maumee River and Lake Erie printed on the colorful fabric will be created. Individuals can write on and create "dialogues," "wishes" or "pledges" for the health of the river and the lake. The flags will then be strung on tent-like uprights, creating a wind-driven sculpture.



BUBBLE BUTT

SaBa: Sam Sheffield + Barry Whittaker - Digital Art

Players will work as a team bouncing on a convoluted, two-person, human-powered interface to control each leg of a pair of sentient pants as it journeys through ridiculous obstacles and distractions.



ECO PARADE

Matt Foss - Theatre & Film

Features large format puppets, live music, and community created objects to showcase our community water source biodiversity, ecological need. Everyone can join in the processional.



Greening UT's projects blossoming

By Marla Gootee

Greening UT has been leaving its mark on campus through projects aimed at replacing turf grass with native plantings and reintroducing habitats that once thrived in the area.

Greening UT is a team of students supported through the UT Student Green Fund. Its mission is to make the University a more sustainable institution and improve the human condition by supporting green ideas and initiatives proposed, decided upon, implemented by, and funded directly by students.

The group's most recent project is a prairie planted in front of Bowman-Oddy Laboratories on Main Campus. This site was chosen due to its visibility, continuous monitoring, and two greenhouses that allow the students to manage seed sorting and growing.

"Native prairie plants work with the ecosystem rather than fighting it," said Dr. Todd Crail, UT associate lecturer of environmental sciences. "They remove the need for fertilizer, dramatically reduce water usage, have root systems that store as much carbon as a forest, and additionally balance natural water and nutrient cycles. These plants species also feed the ecosystem through the food web interactions with insects and birds. Ultimately, they reduce the costs of maintaining a landscape, and we're hoping to demonstrate that this different aesthetic is acceptable, if not beautiful and inspirational."

Jeanna Meisner developed the Greening UT project as her capstone project. She graduated in 2016 with a bachelor of science degree in biology.

"Jeanna's proposal was the first to receive wages for students from the UT Student Green Fund," said Linnea Vicari, a former UT Greening student. "Using these hours, Jeanna and another student were paid to identify potential areas for native plantings on campus. As I moved in and Jeanna finished up, we focused on the Bowman-Oddy site."

Service learning opportunities to work with these plants have been offered throughout the semester by faculty in the Environmental Sciences Department. Students can help raise and plant in existing prairies and gardens, as well as collect and process seeds to germinate and grow for new projects.

As for upcoming projects, UT Greening plans to work on filling existing prairies with more plant species and create more installations around campus, according to Bernadette Barror, a UT student on the team.

"I feel that this is a great way for students to get involved with plants on campus," Barror said. "So many of our volunteers have never or rarely worked in a garden, and Greening UT provides not only this experience but the satisfaction of knowing that they are contributing to an



Photo by Dr. Todd Crail

BLOOMING SUCCESS: Black-eyed Susans, butterfly milkweed, false sunflower, partridge pear and gray-headed coneflower are included in Greening UT's prairie planted by Bowman-Oddy Laboratories.

improvement of the environment for the whole community."

To the surprise of many, herbicide is one of the tools used when converting swaths of turf grass and is coordinated with UT Facilities.

"[Targeted] spraying will give us a clean slate to work with," Barror explained. "When we do this, it will kill the invasive plants while not affecting the plants we want to grow."

"Working with UT Greening was an incredible experience for me," Vicari

said. "UT Greening helped me develop my leadership skills as well as really rooting me into the Environmental Science Department."

Students who are interested in learning about UT Greening, its projects and volunteering opportunities are encouraged to contact Crail at todd.crail@utoledo.edu or Dr. Jon Bossenbroek, director of the UT Office of Undergraduate Research and professor of environmental sciences, at jonathan.bossenbroek@utoledo.edu.



Deer one

Kelsi Rooks, a graduate student in the Counselor Education Program, took this photo of a deer walking by the Ottawa River on Main Campus.

Photo by Kelsi Rooks

Join Komen team for Sept. 30 Race for the Cure

By Catharine L. Hamed

One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime, and many of those diagnosed won't have the same access to health-care resources and support.

That's why The University of Toledo is joining the fight and participating in the 25th annual Komen Northwest Ohio Toledo Race for the Cure Sunday, Sept. 30.

The team, Rocket to a Cure, will be led by Tonya Hoyt, a cardio electrophysiology nurse in the UT Medical Center Heart and Vascular Center. Hoyt was diagnosed with metastatic invasive ductal carcinoma of the breast in August 2017.

"This year has been a rough one getting through chemotherapy, surgery and radiation, along with getting Herceptin and Perjeta every three weeks," Hoyt said.

The Race for a Cure cause is close to Hoyt.

"I have been a supporter of this event for years, long before I was diagnosed," she said. "I want to make an impact in the fight against breast cancer and need the help of colleagues and friends."

Hoyt is inviting members of the UT community to join her at this year's Race for the Cure. Faculty, physicians, staff and students are welcome to join her by registering for Rocket to a Cure at http://www.info-komen.org/site/TR?fr_id=7254&pg=team&team_id=411688.

Registration is \$30 per adult team member and \$25 for survivors.

The event, which will take place between 9:30 and 11 a.m., includes a 5K

**Rocket
to a CURE**
Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center
at The University of Toledo Medical Center

run, 5K walk and a one-mile family fun walk.

Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. in downtown Toledo at 406 Washington St.

Participants will receive a T-shirt in addition to making a difference in breast cancer care, support and research.

"Your support helps us get one step closer to a world without breast cancer," Hoyt said.

TB

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least six months to clear the infection with the drugs currently available.

"Antibiotics discovered 60 years ago are becoming obsolete as bacteria naturally evolve to outsmart drug therapies," Scheck said. "Mycobacterium tuberculosis, which kills 1.5 million people a year, is one of a number of bacteria that have become increasingly drug-resistant."

"We're designing an antibiotic to shorten the time it takes to clear the infection," Ronning said. "Instead of six to 24 months, we're aiming for a therapy of two weeks, like treating strep throat or an ear infection, as well as reducing the side effects."

The team has published several papers about breakthroughs in their ongoing research in journals, including Nature Communications, Scientific Reports and the Journal of Biological Chemistry, as well as the American Chemical Society's journals Biochemistry and Infectious Diseases.

"We've used X-rays to structurally characterize two targets and are making progress in understanding how to better hit those targets to make a molecule that is going to be much more potent against the bacterium that causes tuberculosis," Ronning said.

The research centers around inhibiting two essential classes of enzymes found in Mycobacterium tuberculosis. One is called the antigen 85 Complex that the researchers learned changes shape as it performs its job in the cell, making the protein more vulnerable to some of the compounds the lab has been testing. The second enzyme class synthesizes long polymers of sugar. Inhibiting this enzyme promotes an accumulation of compounds toxic to the bacterium and leads to rapid killing.

"There is a tremendous need to identify new drugs and new drug targets that can be used to treat this increasingly drug-resistant bacteria," Scheck said. "We are creating something that has never been made. The work is urgent because many cases of TB are almost impossible to treat."

Gut bacteria and high blood pressure

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it after its onset," said Dr. Bina Joe, Distinguished University Professor and chair of UT's Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, and director of the Center for Hypertension and Precision Medicine. "If we know that there are some bacteria that shouldn't be there and we can correct it early on, will that lead to better health as a preventative measure?"

The hope is that the grant-funded research could ultimately lead to breakthroughs that would give clinicians a way to treat or even prevent high blood pressure by manipulating those microorganisms, also known as microbiota.

Researchers have long known that our genes can predispose us to high blood pressure. But only more recently — thanks in large part to the research by Joe's team at The University of Toledo — has the medical community begun to realize how the microorganisms living in our bodies play a role in that equation.

"A human is an ecosystem," Joe said. "We have one host and so many microbiota. Together they influence several traits for normal health."

The four-year grant will allow Joe's lab and co-investigators from her department, Drs. Matam Vijay-Kumar and Ritu Chakravarti, to dig deeper into that connection in three ways:

- First, researchers will look into how an individual's genome determines

which microorganisms flourish in their guts.

- Second, researchers will look at the effects of high salt consumption on the animals' microbiota. Salt can kill bacteria, and it's possible, Joe said, that high salt intake can disturb the microbiota that are beneficial to maintenance of normal blood pressure.
- Third, researchers will look at epigenetics — essentially how gene function can be altered by environmental factors and diet.

Though the work is still early, Joe and her graduate student, Saroj Chakraborty, have already been granted a patent. Researchers isolated a certain chemical called beta hydroxybutyrate that increases with exercise, but decreases with salt consumption. Joe said it's possible that exercise benefits hypertension in part because of the higher concentration of that compound.

The lab fed hypertensive rats a precursor of that molecule to see if their blood pressure decreased.

"Sure enough, it did," Joe said. "Our idea is if there are people who cannot exercise but they're salt-sensitive hypertensives, here could be a magic pill. You could take a bit of this chemical so you don't have to keep running but you can control your blood pressure. That's

unpublished data coming from this work, currently in peer review."

Some of Joe's earlier work on microbiota and hypertension also is getting attention for its intersection with the growing worry that overuse of antibiotics is leading to an increase in drug-resistant superbugs.

Research led by her lab found that common antibiotics could lead to a spike in blood pressure for certain individuals, while other antibiotics may actually reduce blood pressure in hypertensive patients.

The reason for that discrepancy appears to be tied to how the antibiotics interact with an individual's microbiota.

The findings, which were recently published in the journal Physiological Genomics, could lead to additional studies that hone a more individualized approach for physicians to consider when using antibiotics to treat infection.

"I think this study is hugely important for the future of prescribing antibiotics. They're prescribed so often to hypertensive individuals, and this study shows that can have a really negative affect on their blood pressures," said Sarah Galla, an MD/PhD candidate, who worked with Joe on the study.

"This highlights the importance of more studies that need to be done to further the field of personalized medicine, rather than just prescribing the same antibiotic to every patient."

In memoriam

Katherine G. "Kae" Ames, Toledo, who was a medical transcriptionist at MCO until her retirement, died June 28 at age 95. In 2000, at age 77, she graduated from UT with a bachelor's degree in adult liberal studies. While taking classes, she sang with the Concert Chorale.



Lawshe

Calvin Lawshe, Maumee, Ohio, a UT graduate who worked at his alma mater for nearly three decades, died Sept. 5 at age 71. The Toledo native received a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1971 and a master of business administration degree in 1975. Lawshe played basketball for the Rockets and was a member of the Mid-American Conference Champions in 1966-67. He joined the faculty as an instructor in the Business Technology Department in 1974. Three years later, he was named assistant professor. The promotions continued, and he was appointed chair of the department in 1987. Lawshe was named assistant to the vice president for academic affairs in 1994. In 2000, he was appointed interim vice president for student services, and continued in his role as assistant to the president for community relations. He retired in 2002 and taught until 2003. Over the years, Lawshe was involved in many scholarship and fundraising efforts to benefit minority students. He chaired the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Committee. In addition, he served on the Athletic Board of Control, was a member of Faculty Senate, and was a faculty representative to the NCAA.

Dolores A. (Gogolewski) Lucitte, Temperance, Mich., died Sept. 1 at age 77. She was a data processor in the College of Business for two decades, retiring in 2002.



Mason

Dr. John L. Mason, Waterville, Ohio, former dean of the College of Business, died Sept. 3 at age 87. He joined the University as an assistant professor of marketing in 1960. Four years later, Mason was named assistant dean of the College of Business and was appointed dean in 1966. He left UT in 1974 and returned to teach as a visiting professor of marketing in 1987.

Dr. Daniel C. "Dan" Seemann, Sylvania, Ohio, professor emeritus of counselor education, died Sept. 3 at age 88. He served as the first director of student activities from 1967 to 1976. Seemann also was a member and former chair of the Athletic Control Board. The UT alumnus received a master's degree in 1963 and a PhD in guidance and counselor education in 1979. After receiving his doctorate, Seemann started his career as a faculty member, teaching classes for several years. His love of music was well-known; the bass player founded the Dan Seemann Quintet, a group that played gigs on campus and in the Toledo area.

Gregory J. Wingate, Toledo, a former painter at the University, died Aug. 27 at age 54.

Faculty and Staff Social events to kick off Sept. 14

University employees are invited to attend the UT Faculty and Staff Social Friday, Sept. 14, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Libbey Hall.

Sponsored by the Office of the Provost, these events are an opportunity to meet with colleagues — both old and new — in a relaxed and casual setting to enjoy light refreshments, including a cash bar that opens at 5 p.m.

The Office of the Provost will continue to host the monthly UT Faculty and Staff Socials

throughout the 2018-19 academic year in Libbey Hall. Mark these Fridays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on your calendar:

- Oct. 26;
- Nov. 30;
- Jan. 25;
- Feb. 22; and
- March 29.

Vendors, artists: Time to sign up for UT Holiday Bazaar

The Professional Staff Council is accepting applications to participate in The University of Toledo Holiday Bazaar.

The holiday sale will take place Friday, Nov. 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Thompson Student Union Ingman Room.

The fee is \$25 per eight-foot table for the one-day event. Proceeds from the vendor fees will benefit an endowed scholarship and progress fund for the Professional Staff Association.

Friday, Sept. 28, is the deadline to submit applications. The application and payment process can all be found at utoledo.edu/org/

[psa/fundraising_committee.html](http://utoledo.edu/org/psa/fundraising_committee.html). There will be no refunds of payments.

UT employees that choose to be vendors must receive approval from their supervisors to be away from work and must submit vacation time for the hours spent at the Holiday Bazaar that are during their normal workday.

For any questions or more information, contact Aleiah Jones, program coordinator with the Office of Multicultural Student Success and treasurer for the Professional Staff Council, at aleiah.jones@utoledo.edu.

UT NEWS

UT News is published for faculty, staff and students by the University Marketing and 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 Marketing and Communications Office, Vicki Kroll. Email: vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu. Fax: 419.530.4618. Phone: 419.530.2248. Mailing address: University Marketing and Communications Office, Mail Stop 949, The University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606-3390.

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Read UT news at utnews.utoledo.edu and myut.utoledo.edu.

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Rocket families unite for family weekend

By Bailey Sparks

The University of Toledo invites families of students to visit Friday through Sunday, Sept. 21 to 23, promising free food and entertainment.

Parents and family are invited to attend that weekend's football game for free; the Rockets will play Nevada in the Glass Bowl.

There also will be free food at a tailgate before the game for anybody attending the family weekend. Jimmy G's BBQ, Rusty's Road Trip, and Holey Toledough Doughnuts food trucks will all be in attendance.

The band Distant Cousinz will be featured at the family tailgate as well. The group known for its wide range of music will play from 7 to 9 p.m.

Families planning to visit and partake in the festivities must RSVP by 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14. Go to utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/osi/familyweekend.

JOIN US FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

FAMILY WEEKEND

ROCKET FAMILIES
UNITE!

SEPTEMBER 21-23

**Live entertainment,
tailgate fun and football**

**REGISTER BY FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 14 AT 5 P.M.**

For details and registration, visit us online at
utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/osi/familyweekend



UT schedules events to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Several events at The University of Toledo are planned to honor Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

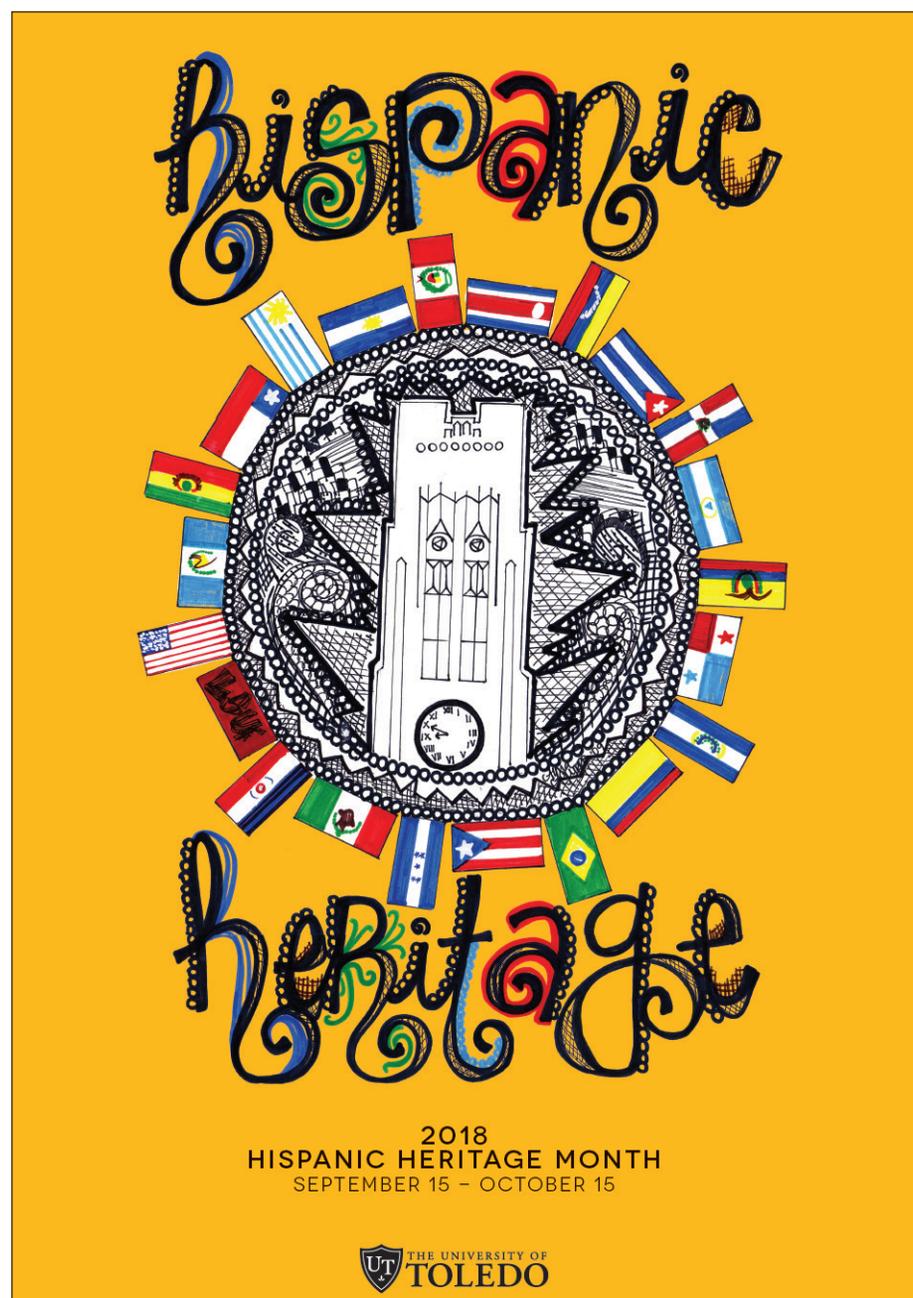
“Hispanic Heritage Month highlights the contributions of Hispanics/Latinx people in history and contemporary society by bringing awareness to emerging issues,” Aleiah Jones, program coordinator with the Office of Multicultural Student Success, said. “We are excited to bring more than a dozen events to campus this year.”

Listed by date, events facilitated through the Office of Multicultural Student Success and the Latino Student Union include:

- **Monday, Sept. 17** — Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff Luncheon, noon to 2 p.m., Thompson Student Union Room 2584. Stop by for a free taco bar courtesy of La Michoacana and learn more about Hispanic/Latino student organizations and departments.
- **Thursday, Sept. 20** — Diamante Awards, 6 p.m., Center for Fine and Performing Arts at Owens Community College. Awards for Latino leadership and achievements in northwest Ohio will be presented at this event, which is co-sponsored by UT, Bowling Green State University, Owens Community College and Lourdes University. Tickets are \$75 for the public and \$25 for students in advance at eventbrite.com/e/2018-diamante-awards-tickets-48200533092.
- **Thursday, Sept. 27** — Ted Talk: Latinx Initiatives, 5 p.m., Thompson Student Union Room 2584. The Office of Multicultural Student Success will host a panel discussion on Latinx identities.
- **Saturday, Sept. 29 through Monday, Oct. 15** — Latinx Comic Book and Graphic Novel Display, Carlson Library Information Commons. Check out the Latinx

community’s impact on this literary art form. The exhibit can be viewed during regular library hours: Monday through Thursday from 7:30 to 1 a.m.; Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday from 11 to 1 a.m.

- **Monday, Oct. 1** — Film Screening, “Gay and Undocumented: Moises Serrano Fights for Justice,” 7:30 p.m., University Hall Room 4280. Follow the story of Serranos, an undocumented gay man living in rural North Carolina.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 3** — Latino Business Owners Panel, 7 p.m., Scott Park Student Center on Scott Park Campus. Local Latino business owners will share their stories.
- **Saturday, Oct. 6** — Latino Alumni Affiliate Homecoming Tailgate, 10 a.m., lot 10 north of the Glass Bowl. Psych up for the UT-BGSU football game! Bring a dish to share.
- **Monday, Oct. 8** — Film Screening, “Crossing Arizona,” 6 p.m., Carlson Library Room 1005. A panel discussion will be held after the documentary that focuses on illegal immigration and security on the U.S.-Mexico border.
- **Friday, Oct. 12** — NAMI’s Latino Mental Health Forum, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thompson Student Union Auditorium. The National Association of Mental Illness of Greater Toledo will host its fourth annual forum; this year’s theme is “Emerging Issues in Behavioral Health.” Sessions will examine the impact of trauma, working with families, and the substance abuse epidemic. The event is free, but space is limited; register at eventbrite.com/e/nami-4th-annual-latino-mental-health-forum-emerging-issues-in-behavioral-health-tickets-48606797239.



- **Sunday, Oct. 14** — Unidos: Keeping Families Together Fundraiser, 5 to 7 p.m., Thompson Student Union Ingman Room. Immigration will be discussed. The event is free, but donations will be accepted at the door to benefit Advocates for Basic Legal Equality of Toledo.

- **Monday, Oct. 15** — Film Screening, “Frida,” 7:30 p.m., University Hall Room 4280. Watch the biopic drama about surrealist Mexican painter Frida Kahlo.

For more information, go to utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/omss/history_and_heritage/hispanic_heritage_month.html.

Latino community leadership

continued from p. 1

inclusion are important to our success. In fact, it makes us stronger every day. Our investment and growth in Latino students, faculty and staff is important to who we are as a University, and we are honored to be recognized for our commitment.”

The award will be presented to Gaber Saturday, Oct. 27, at the 38th annual Governor’s Distinguished Hispanic Ohioans

Gala at Lorain Community College in Elyria.

“The honor recognizes organizations within the state of Ohio who perform service of exceptional benefit to Latino Ohioans,” Dr. Gregory A. Guzman, commissioner of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs, wrote in a letter to Gaber. “The receiving organizations and

individuals are always of good character and community standing exhibiting exceptional leadership, which The University of Toledo has certainly done.”

“The University is proud of the good work that we are doing with the Latino community,” Dr. Michele Soliz, associate vice president for student success and inclusion in the Division of Student

Affairs, said. “From medical missions to Spanish-speaking countries to focusing on the success of Latino students, we are committed to the betterment of our communities. We are humbled to be recognized for this prestigious and competitive award. We look forward to working collaboratively with community members and forging new partnerships.”