International conference at UT to explore labor and sex trafficking in Ohio, U.S. and around the globe

By Christine Billau

The 15th Annual International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference at The University of Toledo will host almost 90 presentations from researchers, advocates and survivors over the course of two days.

Heroin as a method of control and the connection between sex trafficking and drug addiction are among the issues to be explored.

The conference, which brings the sex and labor trafficking trades out of the shadows and helps end abuse through education and advocacy, will take place Thursday and Friday, Sept. 20 and 21, in the Thompson Student Union.

UT’s Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute and the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition host the conference.

“We are celebrating 15 years of global collaboration to go beyond the idea of rescue and restore to have a profound understanding of emancipation and liberation from modern-day slavery,” Dr. Celia Williamson, UT professor of social work and director of the UT Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute, said.

“This conference is an amazing experience where we see people connect to a new thought and open their hearts to vulnerable and stigmatized men and women.”

To date, the trafficking conference has welcomed presenters from 34 states and 25 countries to educate social service, health-care and criminal justice professionals on human trafficking and the needs and risks of survivors, as well as their customers and traffickers. The conference establishes the

Fun on the mall

There was a lot to smile about during the President’s Backyard BBQ Sept. 13 — all kinds of free food, a pep rally, inflatables and the chance to meet Dr. Sharon L. Gaber. Posing for a photo were, from left, Valerie Bandel and Logan Johnson, both UT students; President Gaber; and Debra Middleton, secretary 2 in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Bowl full

It was a hot ticket: The Rocket faithful packed the Glass Bowl Saturday and watched Toledo fall to the No. 21 Miami Hurricanes, 49-24. Junior quarterback Mitchell Guadagni threw for 222 yards and two touchdowns in front of 28,117 fans. The sold-out game was televised by ESPN2. Up next, UT will play Nevada Saturday, Sept. 22, at noon in the Glass Bowl.

Photo by Daniel Miller

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UT welcomes best academically prepared freshman class in school history

By Meghan Cunningham

The University of Toledo welcomed the best academically prepared class of first-year students in school history for fall semester 2018.

The 3,269 new students who joined UT this year have an average ACT score of 23.02 and average GPA of 3.45. The freshman class also is 1.5 percent larger than the previous year’s class.

Total enrollment for fall semester 2018 is 20,304, according to official 15-day census numbers. UT had 20,579 students enrolled in fall semester 2017.

“In addition to the historic strength of this year's freshman class, this is the sixth consecutive year we've seen an increase in the number of students who return to campus for their second year,” President Sharon L. Gaber said.

“We have been increasingly focused on recruiting top students to come to campus and helping them succeed once they are here so they can graduate and achieve their goals. I am proud of the significant 5.5 percent increase we saw in our six-year graduation rate last year, and I am excited about the positive trajectory of our University.”

The fall 2018 enrollment includes 16,065 undergraduate students and 4,239 graduate and professional students. The fall 2017 enrollment included 16,194 undergraduates and 4,385 graduate students.

The University experienced a significant increase in doctoral students choosing UT to pursue their most advanced degrees. The UT College of Law also experienced a nearly 10 percent increase in student enrollment this year.
Scientists awarded nearly $1 million in federal grants to examine cell behaviors

By Christine Billau

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded nearly $1 million in federal grants to two scientists at The University of Toledo for research projects examining cell behaviors that can lead to the development of better medicines to treat cancer, cardiovascular disease and autoimmune disease.

“Once again one of our top-level Ohio universities proves that they are on the cutting edge of medical research and innovation,” said Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur. “Northern Ohio is a leader in medical research, and these funds build on that foundation of excellence. These researchers are pushing boundaries and working to develop treatments and therapies to help those suffering from chronic illness. The University of Toledo distinguishes itself by competing and winning competitive grant opportunities such as the one announced [Sept. 11]. I am pleased to be able to support their efforts to access federal research resources.”

Dr. Ajith Karunarathne, assistant professor in the UT Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, received $441,323 from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences to examine the regulation of a crucial group of signaling pathways named G-protein and GPCRs that help the body control functions, including heart rate, and are involved in pathological processes such as cancer and heart disease.

“Knowledge from our experiments will help develop tissue- and organ-specific therapeutics for a variety of diseases, including cancer, that are less harmful to bodily functions,” Karunarathne said.

Dr. James Slama, professor in the UT Department of Medicinal and Biological Chemistry, received $461,898 from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences to identify the elusive receptor for nicotinic acid adenine dinucleotide phosphate, or NAADP, which could lead to the development of inhibitors that may be useful as anti-tumor drugs.

“This project is part of an effort to discover how cells in an organism control their behaviors, and how they can respond to changing outside conditions,” Slama said. “Calcium inside of the cell is an important controller, and a second chemical, named NAADP, is one of several substances that triggers internal calcium release. Our goal is to understand how NAADP causes this calcium release and to identify the individual steps in the process in both normal and in diseased states.”
Filmmaker to visit UT as artist-in-residence Sept. 17-21, will screen documentary at trafficking conference

By Angela Riddel

Motion picture editor and filmmaker Mike Goodier will be a guest film-maker-in-residence in the UT Department of Theatre and Film Monday through Friday, Sept. 17-21.

During his stay, Goodier will lecture in several classes in the UT Film/Video Program and give individualized tutorials and critiques to film/video students.

On Friday, Sept. 21, Goodier, along with Holly Hey, UT professor of film and head of the Film/Video Program, will give a lecture titled “Cutting ‘Teeth’: Influence and Agency in Documentary Film Editing” at the 2018 International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference. Their talk is scheduled at 2:45 p.m. in the Thompson Student Union Room 2591.

Goodier also will screen the film he edited titled “Teeth,” which follows the story of a middle-aged Hawaiian woman, sex trafficked when she was younger, as she raises her family and begins to heal physically and emotionally from the abuse she has suffered.

The 2018 International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference is free to UT students, faculty and staff with Rocket ID. For pricing details and more event information, visit traffickingconference.com.

Also on Friday, Sept. 21, Goodier will screen the documentary, “An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power,” for which he was the post-production supervisor. The film will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts Center Theatre.

A decade after “An Inconvenient Truth” brought climate change into the heart of popular culture, this follow-up documentary shows the emerging energy revolution. Cameras follow former U.S. Vice President Al Gore behind the scenes — in moments private and public, funny and poignant — as he pursues empowering the notion that while the stakes have never been higher, the perils of climate change can be overcome with human ingenuity and passion.

The free screening will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Goodier; Dr. Defne Apul, UT professor of civil engineering and sustainable engineering; Dr. Todd Crail, UT associate lecturer of environmental sciences; Dr. John Koolage, associate professor of philosophy of science at Eastern Michigan University; and Tom Henry, a reporter with The Blade.

Goodier is a motion picture editor and filmmaker with more than a decade of experience crafting stories for documentary and narrative film. His professional credits include in-production films such as “Teeth” and “Survivors,” and editing work on “The Hidden Vote Episode 01” (2018) and “Redemption Trail” (2013). He also served as assistant editor for “Cinema Travellers” (2016), “The Kill Team” (2013) and “The Waiting Room” (2012), and as an additional editor, post-production coordinator and assistant editor for “Audrie & Daisy” (2016).

In 2014, he was named a Sundance Documentary Edit Lab Assistant Editor Fellow.

Goodier also has taught and developed filmmaking-related courses. He was an instructor and created a visual storytelling class specifically for young adults with developmental disabilities at the Harvey Milk Center in San Francisco. He was a video editing instructor at the Associated Students of the University of California Berkeley Art Studio.

He earned a bachelor of arts degree in film studies from Rhode Island College and a master of fine arts degree in media arts from the California College of the Arts, where he also was a teaching assistant in its 4D program, as well as in its introductory and advanced film production courses.
groundwork for future collaborative research, advocacy and program development.

Presentations in the Thompson Student Union will include:

- “What I Wanted Was the Drugs: Heroin as a Method of Control in a Case Study on Sex Trafficking” Thursday, Sept. 20, at 9 a.m. in Room 2582 by Dr. Jesse Bach, director emeritus of the Imagine Foundation; Dr. George Tsagaris, associate professor in the School of Social Work at Cleveland State University; and Christine Buddner, paralegal and member of the Cleveland State University human trafficking research team.

- “Critical Linkages: Opiate Addiction and Elevated Risk of Human Trafficking” Thursday, Sept. 20, at 11:30 a.m. in Room 3010A by Dr. Amy Thompson, UT professor of public health and co-chair of UT’s opioid task force; Dr. Joan Duggan, chief of infectious diseases at UT Medical Center and medical director of the UT Ryan White Program; Dr. Jamie Dowling Tawes, assistant director of the UT Ryan White Program; and Courtney Stewart, social worker and chemical dependency counselor with the Toledo Lucas County Health Department’s Northwest Ohio Syringe Services harm reduction program.

- “A Childhood Sex Trafficking Survivor’s Story and Perspectives” Thursday, Sept. 20, at 9 a.m. in the Auditorium by Kylee Gregg, a survivor of childhood sex trafficking who wants to share her story to help save others.

- “Internet Sex Trafficking: Will the Monster Stop Growing?” Thursday, Sept. 20, at 1:30 p.m. in the Ingman Room by Maureen Guirguis, director of the Northeast Ohio Human Trafficking Law Clinic.

- “Theatre for Youth: A Tool for Tackling Trafficking” Thursday, Sept. 20, at 10:15 a.m. in Room 3020 by Dr. Jo Beth Gonzalez, theater teacher at Bowling Green High School and leader of the BGHS Human Trafficking Awareness Troupe, which is made up of students who perform “Lily’s Shadow”; and Roxanna Schroeder-Arce, associate professor in the University of Texas at Austin’s Department of Theatre and Dance and co-playwright of “Lily’s Shadow,” which illustrates signs of abuse in victims, strategies traffickers use to coerce young victims into the system, and tactics for escaping perilous situations.

- “Not #MeToo: How Gender-Based Work and Micro/Macro-Aggressions Impede Trafficking Survivors of Color From Accessing Services” Thursday, Sept. 20, at 4 p.m. in the Ingman Room by Dr. Tyffani Monford Dent, a psychologist who has collaborated on projects addressing sexual violence.

- “Correlates of Human Trafficking Risk: Implications for Screening, Referral and Intervention Among Substance Abuse Populations” Thursday, Sept. 20, at 4 p.m. in Room 2582 by Isis Martel, medical sciences researcher at the University of Arkansas.

For additional information and a full schedule of presentations, visit traffickingconference.com.
Jesup Scott
HONORS COLLEGE

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THURSDAY
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Elaine McMillion Sheldon is an Academy Award-nominated documentary filmmaker based in West Virginia. Her work explores universal stories of identity, roots, survival, resilience and hope. Sheldon is the director of “Heroin(e),” a Netflix Original Documentary short that follows three women fighting the opioid crisis in Huntington, West Virginia. “Heroin(e)” was nominated for a 2018 Academy Award.

Watch Sheldon’s debut feature documentary, “Recovery Boys,” which documents the lives of four men working to transform their lives after years of addiction. The film is also a Netflix Original Documentary. A Q&A session will follow.

Join us for a dessert reception following the lecture.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RSVP, VISIT
UTOLEDO.EDU/HONORSLECTURE OR CALL 419.530.6030.
“SculptureX 2018 — Social Practice: Igniting Change” is a two-day symposium for artists, educators, students, arts administrators, collectors, patrons and arts enthusiasts. It will be held Friday and Saturday, Sept. 28-29.

Now entering its ninth year, SculptureX (sculpture exchange) is intended to encourage and foster the intellectual pursuit of compassionate thinking, while discovering new forms and definitions of visual communication and understanding.

This year’s symposium will explore social practice in art, a discipline that critically and explicitly challenges existing social norms and conditions. Social practice is frequently expressed through community engagement, performative installations, political encounters and environmental activities. SculptureX 2018 will investigate current manifestations of this important field.

The keynote address for the symposium will be delivered by Mel Chin, an internationally acclaimed artist known for his use of sculpture, video and land art, among other mediums, to spread political awareness and expose social injustice.

Chin’s appearance in Toledo comes on the heels of a groundbreaking multi-site exhibition in New York titled “All Over the Place.” His sculpture, “Two Me,” is on display at the Toledo Museum of Art’s Monroe Street entrance.

A second keynote address will be delivered by Laurie Jo Reynolds, an award-winning artist, policy advocate, and researcher who has dedicated two decades of work to addressing the negative representations of people in prison.

The UT Department of Art is hosting an exhibition of the work of artist and symposium presenter Jova Lynne. She is displaying “Soft Thrones,” a portion of her larger body of work titled “Sites of Power,” in the UT Center for the Visual Arts through Saturday, Oct. 27. A reception with Lynne will take place in the Center for the Visual Arts Friday, Sept. 28, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Lynne will speak at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, in BGSU’s Wolfe Center Auditorium.

Shanna Merola, a visual artist, photojournalist and activist legal worker, will speak Saturday, Sept. 29, at 3 p.m. in BGSU’s Wolfe Center Auditorium. She also coordinates legal support for grassroots organizations through the Michigan Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. Merola will speak about know-your-rights best practices during police encounters.

Additional programming for the two-day event includes six exhibitions, presentations by noted artists, evening networking events, and guided tours of the Toledo Museum of Art, UT Center for the Visual Arts, and Bowling Green State University’s Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery.

The cost of attending the event is $15 general admission and $10 for students. The fee covers admission to most symposium events, exhibits and receptions; however, there is a separate $10 admission to attend the SX Party Friday, Sept. 28, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Secor Building, 425 Jefferson Ave. in Toledo.

For complete details and to register for SculptureX 2018 and/or the SX Party, visit catoledo.org/sculpturex.
Environmental reform of Lake Erie topic of Sept. 20 talk

By Bailey Sparks

Dr. Timothy W. Davis will discuss environmental reform concerning Lake Erie Thursday, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m. at the UT Lake Erie Center.

His presentation is titled “Learning From the Past: Improving and Maintaining Water Quality in Western Lake Erie Requires Science, Policy and Endurance.”

Davis is an associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Bowling Green State University.

“We focus on Lake Erie because it’s in our backyard,” Davis said, “but harmful algal blooms are a nationwide issue affecting communities from the coast to the Great Lakes, and have broad impacts on our nation’s economy and environment. It’s a difficult problem, but not an impossible one.”

UT students are invited to the free, public event, and a shuttle is being provided to take them from Main Campus to the Lake Erie Center, located at 6200 Bayshore Road in Oregon, Ohio.

The shuttle will depart at 6:15 p.m. from the south side of Bowman-Oddy Laboratories on Towerview Boulevard. Passengers will be returned to Main Campus following the lecture.

Those who wish to ride the shuttle must reserve their spots by Tuesday, Sept. 18, by emailing lakeeriecenter@utoledo.edu or calling 419.530.8360.

UT Engineering Fall Career Expo slated for Sept. 26 in Savage Arena

The University of Toledo Engineering Career Development Center will host the Fall 2018 Engineering Career Expo Wednesday, Sept. 26, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Savage Arena.

“This year marks a milestone for the center: celebrating 20 years of placing more than 20,000 engineering co-ops,” said Angie Gorny, interim director of the Engineering Career Development Center.

More than 190 companies from across the United States and 700 UT engineering students, graduates and alumni are expected at the event.


Employers are seeking undergraduate students to participate in engineering co-op assignments, as well as their leadership development programs, along with seniors and graduates for full-time employment.

“This event is a dynamic networking and hiring experience for students to connect with companies seeking the talent they need for success,” Gorny said. “The expo is exclusive to UT College of Engineering students who are enrolled in the mandatory co-op program, as well as UT engineering alumni searching for full-time employment.

Since the launch of the co-op program, the event has grown in size each year and this fall has been relocated to Savage Arena.

“The demand for our co-op students is evidenced by the increase in the number of companies participating this fall,” Gorny said.

The college hosts semiannual career expos to offer UT students the opportunity to network with potential employers. It allows employers to meet UT students to determine if they would be a good fit in their organizations.

“The current job outlook for engineering students in The University of Toledo Engineering College is certainly bright as indicated by the record number of students registered to attend the fall expo,” Gorny said. “This reflects very positively on the quality of The University of Toledo’s engineering program and our students. It also demonstrates our vital and mutually beneficial partnership we have with our industry participants.”

The UT undergraduate mandatory co-op program is one of only eight mandatory engineering co-op programs in the country.

“Many students indicate our co-op training is the reason they attend the College of Engineering at The University of Toledo,” Gorny said. “Our students have one full year of professional engineering experience before they graduate, and they feel confident seeking full-time employment upon graduation. Co-op businesses are able to work with these students and determine how the student fits within their organization. It’s a win-win situation for our students and the companies who hire them.”

More information can be found on the College of Engineering Career Development website at utoledo.edu/engineering/co-op-and-careers or by contacting Gorny at angelagorny@utoledo.edu.

High-flying fun

Sarah Neeper, left, and Miranda Garczynski threw a disc for Piper on Centennial Mall last week. The UT students are members of the Women’s Ultimate Frisbee Club. For more information about the club, email womensultimate@utoledo.edu.
Families sought for Toledo International Hospitality Program

By Cathy Zimmer

Explore your world by becoming a friend of an international student.

The Toledo International Hospitality Program promotes friendship and cultural exchange between area residents and UT’s Center for International Studies and Programs to provide UT international students a positive, culturally rich experience outside the classroom, and to offer local citizens the opportunity and pleasure of building international friendships.

“Individuals and families from the community are matched with international students from all over the world and get together at least once a month to do fun things,” said Sara Clark, director of the Center for International Studies and Programs. “This program is an excellent opportunity to learn about different cultures and to help our international students better integrate into life in the U.S.”

She encouraged individuals and families who would like to have this unique experience to sign up by Sunday, Sept. 23. An online application can be found at utoledo.edu/cisp/international/IEP/GO_UT/Hospitality.

Students are matched based on common interests with a community resident for a period of one year. Toledo residents will meet monthly with their students, including them in activities they enjoy, such as sightseeing, sporting events, shopping, coffee and conversation, birthdays, home-cooked meals, and holiday celebrations. American friendship partners do not provide permanent housing or assume any financial responsibility for students.

An information/orientation session for people who sign up for the program will be held on campus Wednesday, Sept. 26, at 4 p.m. The location will be announced through email.

There are more than 1,700 international students at the University from more than 80 countries.

The Toledo International Hospitality Program is governed by Global Opportunities UT, a community-based group, and is affiliated with the Center for International Studies and Programs at the University. The Toledo International Hospitality Program provides orientation for American friendship families as well as cross-cultural programs and group events each semester.

Toledo International Hospitality Program applicants will participate in an orientation meeting where program details will be shared along with upcoming events. A key event involves the annual Harvest Party, where participants will have the chance to meet their student(s) for the first time in the context of traditional American fall activities. This year’s Harvest Party will take place Sunday, Oct. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium.

The Center for International Studies and Programs supports members of the UT community, domestic and international, in their pursuit of knowledge and cultural exchanges.

Follow the center on Facebook @utcisp for future event and program information.
In memoriam

Elaine Hester, Toledo, who was a nurse at MCO from 1981 to 1991, died Sept. 2 at age 64.

Dominic R. Mattoni, Perrysburg, Ohio, a custodial worker at UT from 2004 to 2011, died Sept. 7 at age 61.
Diversity training sessions announced

By Anna Brogan-Knight

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion continues to offer diversity training for faculty and staff this semester.

The session takes a fresh look at the critical importance of diversity and inclusion, cultural competence, and strategies for integrating best practices at The University of Toledo.

“This training provides a safe space to ask questions and learn more about pressing issues of diversity that impact our students and colleagues, and helps us learn how to make sure that we are all contributing to an inclusive atmosphere,” said Malaika Bell, program manager and diversity trainer for the Diversity and Inclusion Office.

“The Campus Culture Climate Survey, which The University of Toledo conducts biannually, reports that 92 percent of participants feel accepted on campus,” said Dr. Willie McKether, vice president for diversity and inclusion. “We are extremely proud of that statistic and are diligently working to provide trainings, programs and to support initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion and maintain the feeling of acceptance that so many reported.”

In addition to diversity training, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion hosts speakers, works with student and alumni groups for retention and outreach activities, and partners with departments across campus to provide a high-quality, academic and experiential approach to meeting UT’s diversity and inclusion goals.

Available dates for diversity training from 9 a.m. to noon are:

• Friday, Sept. 21;
• Friday, Oct. 5; and
• Friday, Nov. 16.

All sessions are held in University Hall Room 3820.

Training dates on Health Science Campus will be announced soon.

To schedule a training for departments, offices or divisions, contact the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at 419.530.5531 or visit utoledo.edu/diversity/training.html to register or for more information.
Filipino American Heritage Month events scheduled at UT

The importance of language, food and dance in Filipino American culture will be highlighted during events at The University of Toledo in honor of Filipino American Heritage Month.

“During October, we will be showcasing our beautiful traditions and cultures, and we are aiming to make University of Toledo students feel this is their home away from home,” Farzana Qurban Ali, president of the Filipino American Association, said.

Listed by date, events facilitated through the Office of Multicultural Student Success and the Filipino American Association include:

- **Thursday, Oct. 4** — Filipino American Heritage Month Kickoff, noon to 2 p.m., Thompson Student Union Trimble Lounge. Members of the Filipino American Association will serve up samples of Filipino food, including lumpia and flan, and teach a traditional dance called Tinikling.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 9** — Food Workshop, 7 to 9 p.m., Thompson Student Union Room 2584. Stop by to learn how to make halo halo (ice cream), the traditional dessert of the Philippines.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 17** — Dance Workshop, 7 to 9 p.m., location to be announced. Step it up with Filipino American Association members, who will teach participants cultural dances.
- **Saturday, Oct. 20** — Philippine Culture Night, 7 p.m., Thompson Student Union Auditorium. Traditional Filipino dances and Filipino foods will be featured during this event. Tickets — $8 for UT students and $10 — can be purchased at the door or by contacting Filipino American Association member Diana Chiem at diana.chiem@rockets.utoledo.edu.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 23** — Language Workshop, 7 p.m., Thompson Student Union Room 2584. A member of the Filipino American Association will teach the basics of the Filipino language, Tagalog.

For more information, go to u Toledo.edu/studentaffairs/omss/history_and_heritage/Filipino_American_Heritage%20Month%20.html.