Lake Erie Bill of Rights Topic of Great Lakes Water Conference Nov. 8 at UToledo

By Lauren Szmuszek

Toledo's innovative Lake Erie Bill of Rights will take center stage with a family of "forever chemicals" during the 19th annual Great Lakes Water Conference at The University of Toledo College of Law.

Approved by voters in February and challenged by a lawsuit in federal court, the new "rights of nature" ordinance that allows citizens to sue on behalf of the lake to address pollution has attracted national and international attention.

The conference, which is sponsored by the College of Law and its Legal Institute of the Great Lakes, will take place Friday, Nov. 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Law Center McQuade Auditorium.

"Three panels of experts will be tackling issues of local, regional, national and international import," said Ken Kilbert, UToledo professor of law and director of the Legal Institute of the Great Lakes. "Law and policy are key to the solutions."

The keynote speaker will be Carrie Sowden, archaeological director of the National Museum of the Great Lakes. She will talk at 8:45 a.m.

The first panel, which will debate the city of Toledo’s Lake Erie Bill of Rights, will start at 9:15 a.m.

Kilbert will serve as moderator with speakers Jason Hill, court administrator for the Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals, who teaches election law; Terry Lodge, a Toledo attorney who specializes in environmental and energy issues and supports the ordinance; and Louis Tosi, attorney with Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick in Toledo, who serves as chair of the firm’s Environmental Practice Group.

The other two panels will explore water quality problems posed by PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl) substances chemicals, a proposed rule affecting the reach of the federal Clean Water Act; Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine’s new HEOhio initiative, and a proposed new diversion of Great Lakes water.

The one-day conference is free and open to the public. Registration is $75 for attorneys seeking 4.5 hours of Ohio Continuing Legal Education credit.

For more information about the conference and to register for credit or box lunch, visit the College of Law website at utoledo.edu/law/academics/lg/l conferences.

UToledo teams up with the American Red Cross and the Lucas County Veterans Service Commission to pay tribute to area veterans and active service members for the sacrifices they have made for their country.

Dr. Mike Toole, dean of the UToledo College of Engineering, will speak at the event on behalf of the University.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be able to thank the men and women who have served and are serving the United States in the armed forces," Toole said. "This event is a way for our community members to come together to express gratitude and show respect to these dedicated individuals."

First Sgt. Nathan Wishard of the U.S. Army will give the keynote address.

A native of York, Penn., Wishard enlisted in the Army in 2003. He attended basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and completed advanced individual training in the military occupational specialty of Apache helicopter armament/electrical/avionics systems repair at Fort Eustis, Va.

Wishard’s deployments include Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, where he served with the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, Attach Reconnaissance Battalion, Wolfpack. Currently, he is serving in the Toledo Recruiting Company within the Cleveland Battalion.

His awards and decorations include a Meritorious Service Medal 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal 5th Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal 17th Oak Leaf Cluster, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal 3rd Knot.

In addition to the free breakfast, local veterans and members of the military and their families will have access to more than 30 military-friendly community resources.

The program also will feature entertainment by the UToledo Jazz Ensemble and fourth-graders from Wauseon Primary School, as well as a historical military vehicle display.

Members of the Rossford High School S.O.S. (Serving Our Soldiers) Club will greet and assist veterans through the breakfast line.

Free parking will be available in lots 3, 5 and 6 near Savage Arena.

For more information on the event, contact the UToledo Office of Special Events at 419.530.2200 or specialevents@utoledo.edu.

Support Community Through Annual Charitable Campaign

By Joe Bellfy

All faculty, staff and retirees are encouraged to participate in UToledo Cares 2019, the University’s annual charitable campaign running from Monday, Nov. 4, through Friday, Dec. 13.

Contributions to the campaign benefit four important federations – United Way of Greater Toledo, Community Health Charities, EarthShare Ohio and Northwest Ohio Community Shares – which together represent more than 200 nonprofit organizations throughout the greater Toledo area.

The 2019 campaign co-chairs are Dan Barbee, chief executive officer at The University of Toledo Medical Center, and Dr. Willie McKether, vice president for diversity and inclusion and vice provost.

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**UToledo Law Graduates Have Strongest Showing in Ohio Bar Exams in 10 Years**

By Christine Billau

The number of graduates from The University of Toledo College of Law who passed the July bar exam in Ohio on the first try is well above the state average.

It’s also UToledo’s highest result for first-time takers on the summer exam in a decade.

The newly released data shows the first-time passage rate for UToledo law graduates taking the bar exam is 89%, up from 84% in July 2018. The state average in Ohio this year is 82%.

“I am very proud of our graduates for their success on the bar exam,” said College of Law Dean D. Benjamin Barros. “We have done a lot of work at the College of Law over the past several years to help our graduates succeed on the bar exam. At the end of the day, though, it is the graduates who do the hard work needed to pass the exam, and this result is the payoff for their efforts.”

The UToledo College of Law is committed to preparing students for a successful career with programming and partnerships dedicated to bar passage.

In the last few years, the college aligned its curriculum to bar-tested subjects, developed a first-year support program, expanded its third-year bar prep course, and implemented a legal analysis course and academic success contracts.

The UToledo College of Law also created the position of director of academic success and bar preparation, designed to prepare both third-year students and graduates for the bar exam. Through post-graduation mentoring, every law graduate is paired with a faculty mentor to provide support during bar exam study.

Plus, the UToledo College of Law partnered with Barbri, a company headquartered in Texas, to offer students access to its comprehensive bar review course with flexible classroom, online and mobile learning environments.

**Free HIV Testing on Main Campus**

The University of Toledo Medical Center will offer free HIV testing on the first Tuesday of the month on Main Campus. Testing will take place from noon to 2:30 p.m. at the University Health Center, located across from Horton International House.

A photo ID is needed for the LGBTQA-friendly service.

For more information, call 419.383.6057.

**UToledo Awarded Federal Grant to Train Teenagers in Cybersecurity**

By Christine Billau

From hackers to cyberbullies, cybercriminals are increasingly targeting technology-hungry teenagers.

“The cybersecurity landscape is changing fast, and due to the ubiquitous information on the internet, the enemies of the state are more dangerous and advanced than ever,” said Dr. Ahmad Javaid, assistant professor in the UToledo Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, director of the Paul A. Hotmer Cybersecurity and Teaming Research Lab, and project leader. “We need to train the future workforce to prepare them for what’s to come and protect the nation.”

The plan calls for a summer camp setting and using interactive, animated visualizations to help students understand cybersecurity threats, defense and prevention mechanisms.

If the project aimed at creating a safer cyber environment is successful locally, the new high school cybersecurity curriculum could be adopted nationwide.

UToledo is collaborating with Purdue University Northwest (PNW) on the research. The National Science Foundation awarded PNW about $230,000, bringing the total funding for the project to nearly half a million dollars.

**President Recognized by Alma Mater**

The University of Toledo President Sharon L. Gaber has been recognized by the University of Southern California as a pioneering academic leader.

Gaber, who received a master of urban planning degree from USC, was named one of the “90 Pioneers” who as alumni demonstrate the strong history, impact and relevance of the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy. The recognition is part of the school’s celebration of its 90th anniversary throughout 2019.

Gaber was honored as the first woman to serve as president of The University of Toledo, beginning her tenure in 2015. Her alma mater also noted her academic career with a background in city and regional planning, and previous roles as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Arkansas and interim provost at Auburn University.

USC also noted Gaber’s recognition by Education Dive last year when she was named one of the top higher education leaders to watch in 2018 and beyond.

To learn more about the recognition, visit the USC Price 90 Years of Pioneers website at price90.usc.edu/90-years-of-pioneers.
UTeacho Jumps 43 Spots in ‘Best for Vets’ Ranking

By Christine Billau

Surging 43 spots in one year, The University of Toledo has been recognized again as a top school for supporting student veterans.

The Military Times awarded UToledo the Best for Vets 2020 designation, ranking UToledo No. 80 out of 134 four-year institutions. The University was ranked 123 out of 208 in 2019.

“The University of Toledo Military Service Center is honored to help our service men and women succeed, and the Military Times’ Best for Vets designation recognizes our steadfast commitment,” said Eric Buetikofer, UToledo director of military and veteran affairs. “We have worked hard over the last year in adding new programming that, we feel, has improved our students’ sense of connection to the University and UToledo community.”

For 10 years, Military Times has conducted an extensive, editorially independent, objective study evaluating the many factors that help make colleges and universities a good fit for service members, military veterans and their families.

“The University has made great strides over the last year to improve our ability to track military-connected students, which has allowed us to communicate more effectively with our student population and work with them as they progress toward graduation and beyond,” Buetikofer said. “This increase in rankings is a reflection of the team effort led by University College, including the Military Service Center staff and student workers.”

The rankings are based on the results of Military Times’ annual survey – a school-by-school assessment of veteran and military student services and rates of academic achievement – as well as a detailed review of public data collected by federal agencies.

Military Times’ annual survey asks colleges and universities to disclose academic outcome and input data; describe many aspects of veteran culture on campus; and document a wide array of services, policies, accommodations and financial incentives offered to students with military ties. Military Times also factors in data from the Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense, as well as three Education Department sources: the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Center, College Scorecard data and the Cohort Default Rate Database.


Report Examines State Progress in Implementing Great Lakes Compact

The University of Toledo College of Law’s Legal Institute of the Great Lakes released a new report assessing the progress each of the eight Great Lakes states has made in implementing the terms of the 2008 interstate compact that ushered in a new era of water management and conservation in the Great Lakes region.

While the overall assessment is positive, the report identifies critical areas for improvement within each state.


The report provides a state-by-state assessment of how Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are carrying out the water management, conservation and efficiency provisions of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

The report is particularly timely. This December, each state is required to report on its implementation of water management, conservation and efficiency programs under the compact.

The states’ reports are subject to review by the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council, which will determine whether state programs meet compact provisions and will make recommendations to those that do not.

“The compact not only banned most new diversions of water outside the Great Lakes basin, it also required the states to undertake stronger programs for management and conservation of waters within the basin,” Kilbert said. “In order to fulfill the promise of the compact, it is essential that the states carry out their obligations to implement its terms.”

The Legal Institute of the Great Lakes is a multidisciplinary research center within the College of Law. The research project was funded by a grant from the Joyce Foundation.

Kilbert joined the UToledo College of Law faculty in 2006. He teaches environmental law, natural resources law, administrative law, civil procedure and water law. As director of the institute, Kilbert organizes the annual Great Lakes Water Conference, which this year is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 8.
Charitable Campaign

"This campaign is a great opportunity for our employees and retirees across all of our academic and clinical operations to make an impact in the lives of our neighbors in northwest Ohio," Barbee said.

"With so many deserving charities to choose for your donation, UToledo Cares aligns each of our passions with a purpose," McKether added. "This year’s theme of ‘Supporting Community’ speaks to that.”

Donations of any size are appreciated. To make your pledge, watch for weekly emails that contain a link to your e-pledge form. Once you submit your completed pledge, you will no longer receive emails requesting support for the UToledo Cares campaign.

Those who donate by Friday, Dec. 13, will receive a complimentary gift, plus an invitation to a breakfast buffet hosted by President Sharon L. Gaber in January.

All gifts are tax-deductible, and a variety of payment options are available, including payroll deduction, which does not begin until early 2020.

For more information, visit utoledo.edu/cares.

Special Recognition

The UToledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences celebrated its annual scholarship recognition event Oct. 24 awarding 161 scholarships worth more than $1.8 million to 124 students, some of whom are shown here. In addition to celebrating the students and donors who support them, UToledo President Sharon L. Gaber recognized Ethel Lee Walden, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Walden’s late husband, Dr. Robert E. Walden, was one of the first faculty members of the former Medical College of Ohio, and the Walden family are longtime supporters of the health sciences at UToledo. In the spring, the College of Medicine will present the Robert E. Walden M.D. Award to a graduating medical student in the Psychiatry Residency Training Program.
Welcome to ‘The Jungle’: Department of Theatre and Film to Stage Adaptation of Novel

By Angela Riddel

The University of Toledo Department of Theatre and Film will present “The Jungle,” an award-winning adaptation of Upton Sinclair’s novel, written and directed by Matt Foss, UToledo assistant professor of theatre.

Performances will take place Friday through Sunday, Nov. 8-10 and 15-17, in the Center for Performing Arts Center Theatre. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; Sunday shows are at 2 p.m.

Sinclair’s landmark novel, written in 1906, exposed the appalling working conditions of immigrants employed in Chicago’s meat-packing industry. Originally written to shed light on issues surrounding workers, immigrants and the growing income disparity in America, Sinclair commented that he aimed for the public’s heart, but ultimately only “hit it in the stomach.”

The book prompted transformative changes throughout the industry and led to the development of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, but had little to no effect on immigration, poverty or workers’ rights.

The production features a large cast who stream over a three-story set, using printmaking techniques to create a turn-of-the-century packinghouse. Extensive choreography created by Abby Glanville, academic advisor in the College of Arts and Letters — along with design and technical work by Drew Parmelee, senior film/video major; associate sound designer; Kelly McBane, lecturer of theatre, costume shop manager; Stephen Sakowski, assistant professor of theatre, lighting and sound designer; Daniel Thobias, associate professor of theatre, production designer; and Nathaniel White, assistant lecturer of theatre, technical director and scene shop manager — create a dynamic, 90-minute telling of this classic novel.

Foss adapted and directed Upton Sinclair’s “The Jungle” for Oracle Productions in Chicago in 2014. That production received Chicago Jeff Award Nominations for outstanding production, director, ensemble, and won for best new adaptation.

The cast features Jordyn Beery, sophomore theatre major; Maggie Carder, freshman media communications major; Erin Coyne, sophomore theatre major; Emily Damshroder, sophomore theatre major; Jeffery Enck, sophomore theatre design and technology major; Dona Gamblin, freshman theatre major; Sarena Jackson, 2019 UToledo theatre alumna; Shaquira Jackson, senior theatre major; Maya Kinney, freshman theatre major; Andrew R. Kleopfer, sophomore theatre major; Ben Kunee, sophomore theatre and communication double major; Becca Lustic, senior theatre major; Olivia Manias, junior creative writing major; Grace E. Mulnix, Toledo Early College High School senior and UToledo theatre major; Faith E. Murphy, senior theatre major; Alexandra Bayford-West, junior creative writing and theatre double major; Victoria Rinker, senior theatre major; Ezekiel Roberts, Toledo Early College High School junior and UToledo theatre major; Dillon Sickels, sophomore theatre major; Alec Simon, sophomore theatre major; Eve Smith, sophomore theatre major; Charlotte Vaughn, theatre major; and Kyle Yerg, senior philosophy and literature double major.

Members of the design team are Holly Monsos, interim chair of the Department of Theatre and Film, producer; Katelyn Justice, sophomore theatre major, paint charge; Matthew Kerr, electrical engineering major, assistant lighting designer; Addison Toth, sophomore theatre major, stage manager; Jared Kaplan, freshman political science major, and Elise Pahl, junior theatre design and technology major, assistant stage managers; Christopher M. Montpetit, lecturer of theatre, theatre/production manager; and Imani Hudson, junior theatre major, house manager.

Tickets are $10 for students; $12 for UToledo faculty, staff and alumni, and military members and seniors; and $18 for the general public. Call 419.530.ARTS (2787) or go to utoledo.tix.com. Tickets also will be available at the door.
Students: Get Ahead by Registering Early for Spring Semester

The University of Toledo is encouraging students to register now for spring 2020.

“The earlier students register, the more likely they will be able to take the courses they want at the times that work best in their schedules,” Interim Provost Karen Bjorkman said. “Even if students are still waiting to hear back about a co-op placement or an internship they applied for, they should register for the next semester to be sure they stay on track. It is easier to adjust a plan already in place than to be behind schedule at a later date.”

Registration for spring semester is underway, with registration dates ordered by class rank. Graduate students, priority registration and seniors started last week. Other dates are:
- Wednesday, Nov. 6 – Juniors – (60 to 89 earned hours);
- Tuesday, Nov. 12 – Sophomores – (30 to 59 earned hours) and undergraduates with degrees; and
- Wednesday, Nov. 20 – Freshman (0-29 earned hours).

“Our top priority is student success, and planning ahead is critical for students on a successful path to graduation,” Vice President for Student Affairs Phillip “Flapp” Cockrell said. “We’re launching this campaign to change the culture here for students and all of us who support students. We want students to focus on doing well now, but also to be thinking ahead about what comes next and planning well in advance to meet those goals.”

Academic advisors are available to help students plan their course of study. Students are encouraged to aim for 15 credit hours per semester to graduate on time. Most degree programs require 120 total credit hours or more to graduate. Regardless of when a student registers for spring semester, tuition is not billed until January. Students can register and view important spring semester dates at utoledo.edu/getahead.

Students who are unsure of who their academic advisor is or who are considering a change of major may contact the Center for Success Coaching at 419.530.1250 for support and assistance.

UTeach Pre-Health Advising Center Offers Enhanced Support for Students Pursuing Healthcare Careers

By Tyrel Linkhorn

The University of Toledo is celebrating the opening of a specialized undergraduate advising center to support students in UT’s growing pre-professional and allied health programs.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the new Pre-Health Advising Center will take place Thursday, Nov. 7, at 9 a.m. outside University Hall Room 2160. The Nursing Advising Center, relocated across the hall, also will be recognized.

The new Pre-Health Advising Center brings together a comprehensive array of services for students interested in pursuing a career in healthcare.

Academic advisers will be available to help students who have declared a pre-med/pre-vet/pre-dental concentration with course selection, provide information about clinical and networking opportunities, and offer guidance on navigating the application process to medical school and other professional healthcare programs.

“We know that jobs in healthcare are growing. As part of our commitment to student success, we want to ensure our students are on track and well-prepared to enter those career fields,” said Dr. Amy Thompson, vice provost for faculty affairs and professor of public health. “This center provides specialized resources to support and encourage students, as well as help them review their options at UT.”

UTeach boasts an extensive catalog of options for undergraduate students pursuing a career in healthcare; these include a number of pre-medicine tracks, pre-physical therapy, pre-dental, pre-veterinary and pre-pharmacy.

The Pre-Health Advising Center is open to all undergraduates enrolled in a healthcare program. Staff at the center also can provide guidance to those considering attending UT or who are undecided on a major explore the University’s numerous pre-professional and allied health fields.

“We want our students to find the right home for their interests and talents,” Thompson said. “Our advisers can walk students through academic prerequisites and help them evaluate all possible majors that are in the health professions so that they find the best fit.”

The center also has special workshops for pre-medicine, pre-dental and pre-veterinary students, as well as students enrolled in UT’s Bacc2MD Program and the UT/Case Western Reserve University’s School of Dental Medicine Program.

HERE TO HELP: Deborah Hendricks, director of the Pre-Health Advising Center, left, and Shavron Kelley, program coordinator at the Pre-Health Advising Center, are on campus to assist students interested in pre-professional and allied health programs.
Sign up to Host International Student for Thanksgiving

The Center for International Studies and Programs is inviting UToledo faculty and staff to host an international student for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Share in a cross-cultural experience as you celebrate Thanksgiving. American families are invited to volunteer and open their homes to share a meal with international students.

“Families and students all have enjoyed meeting new people and learning about different cultures in the past,” said Xinren Yu, assistant director of the Center for International Studies and Programs. “This is the center’s seventh year of coordinating this event. We were able to pair more than 40 international students with 20 families through this program last year, and we would like to see more people from the UToledo community get involved this year.”

Thanksgiving is Thursday, Nov. 28, and many U.S. families will host a dinner on this day; however, some families may celebrate on another day.

“Even if you celebrate Thanksgiving on another day during that weekend, we would still like to invite you to sign up as a host family,” Yu said. “For many UToledo international students and scholars, this will be their first American Thanksgiving experience. As U.S. students plan trips home to celebrate the holiday with their families, many international students are unable to do the same. This Thanksgiving dinner experience will truly make a difference in their lives.”

Host families are asked to register at u Toledo.edu/cisp/thanksgiving by Thursday, Nov. 21.

For more information, contact Yu at utexplorers@utoledo.edu or call 419.530.5268.
UTeach Plans Events for Native American Heritage Month

Each November, The University of Toledo pays tribute to Native American Heritage Month.

A kickoff event will take place Monday, Nov. 4, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Thompson Student Union Room 2500. Stop by to learn about common words and names that come from Native American culture.

“We wanted to have a couple powerful events this year early in the month,” said Sydni Harmon, program coordinator in the Office of Multicultural Student Success and chair of the Native American Heritage Month Committee. “We are excited to welcome water activists to give our keynote talk.”

Beatrice Menase Kwe Jackson and Shirley Jons will be on campus Thursday, Nov. 7, at 5 p.m. in Thompson Student Union Room 2592. The two will perform a water ceremony and discuss their water protection efforts. Both protested the Dakota Access Pipeline, fearing an oil spill would pollute drinking water for the Standing Rock Sioux reservation in North Dakota.

“We also have an amazing film to show that chronicles the fight for indigenous and women’s rights,” Harmon said. “The 65-minute film is about mothers and daughters standing up for themselves in the American Indian Movement of the 1970s.”

“Warrior Women” will be screened Wednesday, Nov. 13, at 3:30 p.m. in Memorial Field House Room 1230. The 2018 documentary tells the story of Lakota activist Madonna Thunder Hunk, who has fought for indigenous and women’s rights for more than 50 years.

For more information on these free, public events, contact the Office of Multicultural Student Success at 419.530.2261 or omss@utoledo.edu.