



Photo By Daniel Miller

HAVING A BLAST: UT student Chris Feisley launched a pop-bottle rocket outside Nitschke Hall Feb. 15 as part of the University's celebration of National Engineers Week. His soaring entry landed atop Palmer Hall. Triangle Fraternity sponsored the event.

THANK YOU, FACULTY AND STAFF!

You are invited to a celebration
Thursday, March 4, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Rocket Hall West Lobby

Members of the senior leadership team will serve coffee and muffins to thank you for contributing to increased student enrollment for the eighth consecutive semester.

Annual Jefferson Award honoree turns tragedy into activism

By Kim Harvey

Once the shock passed and the tears dried, Patricia Rizzi decided something good would come from unspeakable tragedy.

After enduring the death of her daughter in 2000, the registered nurse decided to focus on doing her best to ensure other mothers would not experience the same type of pain.

For her efforts against domestic violence, Rizzi was named UT's second annual Jefferson Awards Champion honoree during a Feb. 15 luncheon in Libbey Hall. The event recognized 12 Jefferson Award winners selected in 2009.

Rizzi, who has worked on Health Science Campus for more than 25 years, was UT's third honoree in 2009.

"We salute all of our Jefferson Award Champions for their dedication to serving others," said Lawrence J. Burns, vice president for external affairs and interim vice president for equity and diversity, who serves as UT's Jefferson Awards program chair. "It's been a wealth of riches, trying to select a Champion each month. That's how outstanding our nominations have been."

Rizzi's nomination, however, had the committee that selected the annual honoree spellbound.

In the late 1990s, Rizzi's daughter, Michelle Rizzi Salerno, a graduate student at Michigan State University, became entangled in an abusive marriage. After Michelle's murder, Rizzi found herself at a spiritual crossroads.

"You drift around, wondering what to do," she said. "You can either wallow in self-pity or try to make a difference."

She chose the latter, driven by the memory of the daughter she lost. Beginning in her own backyard, Rizzi spearheaded efforts to enhance The University of Toledo Medical Center's policies regarding domestic violence, promoting better awareness of abuse and ensuring victim resources are readily available in treatment areas.

A member of the Lucas County Domestic Violence Task Force, Rizzi often recounts her daughter's story during public awareness events, such as Take Back the Night and Silent Witness.

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Photo By Daniel Miller

2009 CHAMPION: Patricia Rizzi, UT's annual Jefferson Award Champion, posed for a photo with Greg Moore, national director of the Jefferson Awards for Public Service, left, and UT Vice President Lawrence Burns.



Photo By Curtis Brinkman

COURTING EQUALITY: Head Women's Basketball Coach Tricia Cullop gave a talk titled "Title IX: How Equity in Education Has Changed College Athletics" last week in Libbey Hall. She said funding for women's sports is vastly improved; to underscore that point, she read letters from former UT female athletes who recalled sharing jerseys and workout gear. Her talk was part of the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women's brown-bag lecture series.

Jefferson Award

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Silent Witness is particularly moving, as life-sized silhouettes create solemn displays to commemorate victims. The figure for Michelle Rizzi Salerno was northwest Ohio's first silent witness.

"Pat Rizzi is an inspiration for all of us," Burns said. "Her activism comes from a desire to make a difference in the lives of others."

UT began its Jefferson Awards program last year to recognize the unsung heroes of volunteerism within the campus community. One honoree is selected each month from nominations submitted through the Jefferson Awards Web site at www.utoledo.edu/jeffersonaward.

Last year's honorees were students Linda Amrou, Luc Blazejewski, Michael Miller, Natalie Powers, Will Schmitt, Mark Skopin, Emily Stinehart and Alex Wise; faculty member Dr. Barbara Kopp Miller; and staff members Connie Donald, Sue Kielczewski and Rizzi.

As UT's annual honoree, Rizzi has the opportunity to attend a national Jefferson Awards seminar this June in Washington, D.C. Greg Moore, national director of the Jefferson Awards for Public Service, was on hand to congratulate Rizzi during the luncheon.

UT to host Feb. 26 workshop on aging solutions

By Kim Harvey

The University of Toledo's Department of Social Work will host a three-hour workshop titled "Engaged Lifestyle: A Solution to Cognitive Aging?" Friday, Feb. 26.

The program will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the College of Health Science and Human Services Multipurpose Room on Main Campus.

Dr. Sudershan Pasupuleti, UT associate professor of social work and Hartford Geriatric Faculty Scholar, will present preliminary observations from the brain fitness program study, in addition to emerging evidence on improving cognitive function in older adults. The study is being conducted in tandem with more than a dozen senior centers and senior housing facilities in northwest Ohio. The study will address the effects of computerized stimulation exercises on cognitive functioning.

In addition, panel discussion will include area geriatric experts, including Tina Skeldon

Wozniak, Lucas County Commissioner; Dr. Barbara Gunning, director of health services, Toledo-Lucas County Health Department; Dr. Barbara Kopp Miller, director, Center for Successful Aging; Billie Johnson, president, Area Office on Aging, Northwest Ohio Region; Salli Bollin, executive director, Alzheimer's Association of Northwest Ohio; Dr. Terry Cluse-Tolar, associate professor and chair, UT Department of Social Work; and Pasupuleti.

The workshop is offered in collaboration with the Area Office on Aging, Northwest Ohio Region, and the UT Center for Successful Aging.

Participants are eligible to earn three continuing education units in social work for attendance. The charge for those seeking credit is \$15; others will be admitted free.

To RSVP, call 419.530.4140 or e-mail dgosser@utnet.utoledo.edu by Wednesday, Feb. 24.

Researcher to discuss environmental, social issues Feb. 25

By Jeffrey Romagni

For nearly a decade, the Multicultural Environmental Leadership Development Initiative, a project housed in the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment, has worked to increase diversity in environmental organizations as well as the broader environmental movement.

Dr. Dorceta Taylor, UM associate professor and founder and program director of the initiative, will present a lecture titled "Environment, Social Inequality and Sustainability: Understanding the Past and Working Toward the Future," Thursday, Feb. 25, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in Student Union Room 2584 on Main Campus.

"Dr. Taylor's work is exciting due to its simultaneous importance to society and its accessibility by the public," said Dr. Rubin Patterson, UT interim director of the Africana Studies Program and associate professor of sociology.

"The thrust of her work is twofold," Patterson explained. "First, she reminds us that we all suffer from environmental

degradation in varying degrees, and we all have opportunities, if not the obligation, to build green economies in sustainable communities. In addition, although the working class and communities of color suffer disproportionately from environmental degradation, they have tended to be less involved in academic programs and mainstream organizations focusing on addressing that degradation, as well as building green economies in sustainable communities."

He said that Taylor's Multicultural Environmental Leadership Development Initiative studies that contradiction to help produce future environmental leaders from more diverse communities.

Her free, public lecture is sponsored by UT's Africana Studies Program, Office of Multicultural Student Services, President's Lecture Series on Diversity, Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women, and the departments of Sociology and Anthropology, Environmental Sciences, and Women's and Gender Studies.

Gravel parking area opens to 'A,' 'C' passes

By Jon Strunk

The gravel parking area north of the Ottawa River and near the site of the former Student Classroom Annex is open to UT community members who have either an "A" or "C" permit.

The lot had been reserved primarily for construction contractors. University officials say a lull between construction projects is the reason for broadening the temporary parking area to "A" and "C" passes.

"We certainly want to help alleviate parking frustrations, but it is important to emphasize that this is a short-term convenience," said Sherri Kaspar, support services manager for the UT Police

Department. "In the coming years, additional construction projects are planned in that area of campus, and at that time the lot will likely again be restricted to construction contractors."

In several town hall meetings, UT President Lloyd Jacobs has discussed using the temporary gravel lot to help reduce parking congestion, but he has said the lot is not in UT's long-term future.

Kaspar reminded those looking for spaces on UT's Main Campus that parking availability does exist on the periphery of the campus and that UT recently has increased bus service to limit waiting times.

Student organizations hope to start new tradition at UT

By Kate Wentz

On Tuesday, March 2, UT's Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) and several other organizations will host the Student Organization Gala from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Student Union Auditorium on Main Campus.

Themed "A Historic Night," the gala will include an evening of fine dining, dancing and PhotoBoothLive to celebrate all active student organization members and their hard work throughout the year.

"As a member of a small student organization, I understand how much time goes in gaining new members, fundraising and event planning," said Emily Hickey, UT senior, PRSSA president and event chair for the gala. "The gala is our way of saying thank you to all student organization members who work just as hard."

The purpose of the gala is to encourage more collaboration between student leaders and organizations on campus.

"Students are just so busy juggling school, work, organization responsibilities

and on top of that trying to maintain a social life," said Angie Green, assistant director of programming at the Student Recreation Center and adviser of the Student Organization Gala. "This is a really great way for students to open up and share resources with one another."

"Ultimately, we would like to bring everyone on campus closer together," Hickey said.

This is the first year the gala will be held, and Hickey hopes that it will become an annual tradition. "Student collaboration is an important part of the college experience, and what better way to encourage that than the Student Organization Gala."

If you are a member of a UT student organization and are interested in attending the Student Organization Gala, RSVP by sending your name, student organization and phone number to utstudentgala@gmail.com. Space is limited, so be sure to check out the UT Student Organization Gala Facebook page for updates.

In memoriam

J. William Haskins, Perrysburg, who taught at the former Community and Technical College from 1969 to 1986, died Feb. 12 at age 79. He joined UT as an instructor of engineering technology and was promoted to assistant professor in 1970, associate professor in 1973 and professor in 1976. In 1975, he became coordinator of the Electronics Technology Program, and he was named chair of the Engineering Technology Department in 1977. At his early retirement in 1986, he was made professor emeritus.

OPINION

UT employees: Don't forget about professional development benefit

By Carrie Herr and Eva Curtis

As an employee of The University of Toledo, you can enjoy a great benefit in the form of professional development opportunities. If you have not participated recently or understood the details about this free professional development benefit, check out the Office of Quality and Continuous Learning Web site at http://www.utoledo.edu/offices/oqcl/Professional_Development.html.

Over the past couple of years, the selection of seminars and classes offered by the Office of Quality and Continuous Learning has been identified as timely and relevant to the effective work of University employees. The seminars will assist you in improving your strategic planning skills, increasing your effectiveness in handling projects, helping you navigate the changing work environment, improving your job performance, polishing your business writing skills, raising your professional confidence through assertiveness and negotiation workshops, and getting the results needed through successfully developed team dynamics.

An important component of our curriculum is the availability of computer training opportunities. Whether you need a basic Microsoft Office class or whether you require an advanced level class such

as Crystal Reports, we have it or we can schedule it. Computer courses are offered every week, so don't miss out by waiting. Most of the computer courses and professional development seminars are designed conveniently to be half days or full days to minimize time spent away from your job. Feedback from past participants indicates satisfaction with both the format and the quality of delivery. Sign up today and enjoy your professional development opportunities.

As a valuable member of the UT family, you are encouraged to participate in these excellent programs designed specifically for you. As an employee of our dynamic and continually changing institution of higher education, we need to expand our competitive edge by updating the skills and knowledge that would increase our productivity and exceptional patient and student service. The Office of Quality and Continuous Learning programs are just one of the many ways we can maintain our high standards of performance to make an effective contribution.

Herr is the director and Curtis is the program manager of the Office of Quality and Continuous Learning.

UTNEWS

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Submissions sought for uncUT Film Festival

By Cathy Zimmer

The First-Year Experience Program is calling all would-be filmmakers to enter a short film about the first-year college experience.

“Each year UT holds a film festival for first-year students to tell their story about what college is like in the first transitional year here at UT,” said Jennifer Rockwood, director of the First-Year Experience Program. “The films are often funny, poignant and silly, and show an artistic range of the trials and tribulations of UT frosh.”

Student groups, residence halls, Greek organizations and just good friends are invited to get involved and tell their stories

at the uncUT Film Festival, which is open to all UT students.

“There are great prizes for the top three films; in past years, the festival has awarded iPod shuffles. It is great fun and you don’t know who could be the next burgeoning Steven Spielberg or Sophia Coppola,” Rockwood said. “We are hoping for a great turnout this year. We are encouraging students to get a group or student organization together and show the spirit in defining the freshman big first year as one of their most memorable.”

Films will be judged on creativity, innovative use of technology, videography,

editing, thematic integration, quality of acting, story or narrative, and first-year experience content.

Entries are due Wednesday, March 17. The First-Year Experience Program will supply all needed equipment; however, students may use their own.

Rules for the uncUT Film Festival are:

- Films must relate to the first-year experience.
- Recommended time limits are between three and five minutes.
- Films may not contain nudity, sex, drugs (simulated or actual), profane or obscene language.
- No violations of state law may be included. Don’t know if it’s a violation? Ask.

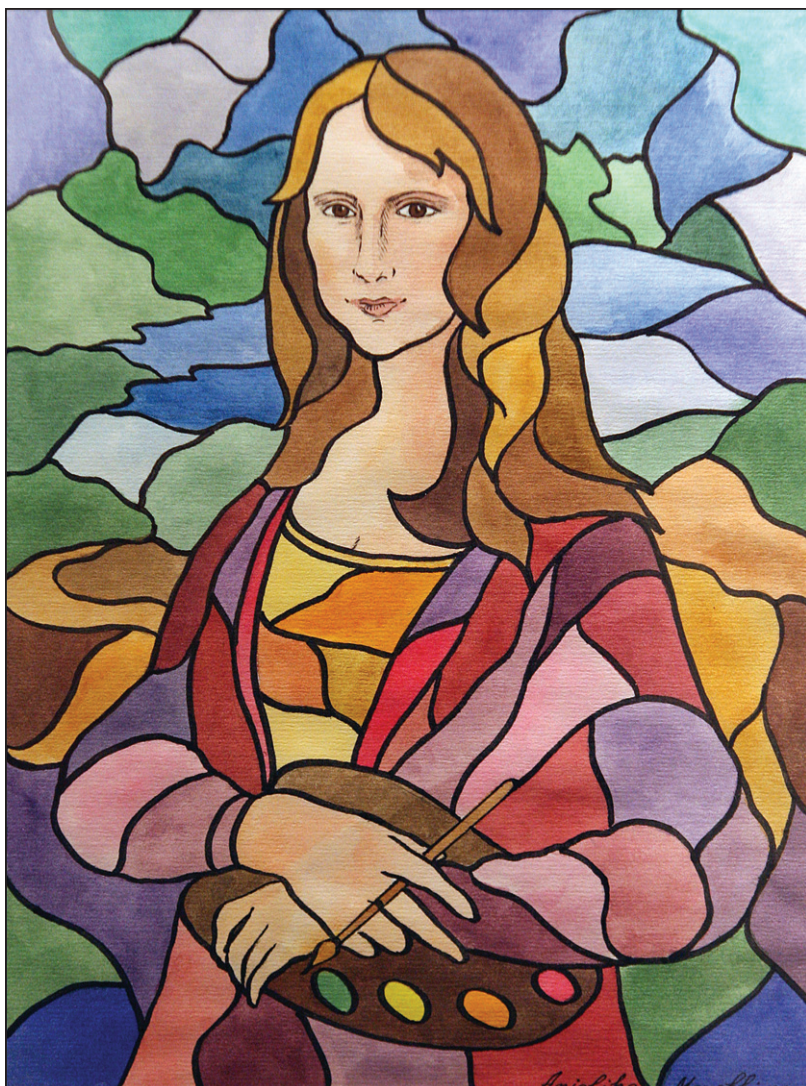
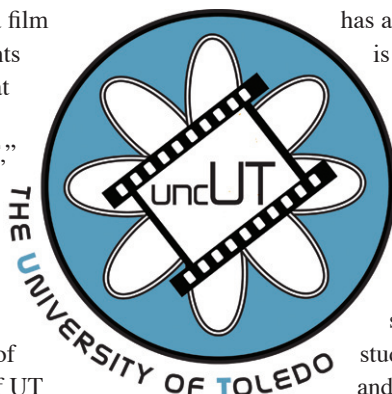
- Teams must consist of at least three members, to a maximum of six. Teams should try to involve one first-year student.

The finalists’ films will be shown and scored by a panel of judges during a big Oscar-style event.

“There’ll be great door prizes, a public showing of your work, PR for your group, and glamorous fun to be had by all,” Rockwood said.

The uncUT Film Festival will take place Sunday, March 28, at 7 p.m. in Doermann Theater.

Interested students should call 419.530.8549 to register their team or to request a team. Information can be found at www.utoledo.edu/utlc/fye or contact Cheryl Thomas at cheryl.thomas@utoledo.edu.



ROLL OVER LEONARDO: “Artist Mona” by Anjelika Manakhimova, left, and “Marsh Mona” by Lucy Jane Webster are two of the paintings that are part of “The Mona Project,” which is on display in the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women. The selections from the Athena Art Society are personal interpretations of da Vinci’s “Mona Lisa.” The free, public exhibit can be seen Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. through March 5 in the Center for Women, located in Tucker Hall Room 0180.

