

Information Commons opening ceremony set for Oct. 19

By Jon Strunk

From the start, the Information Commons project on the first floor of Carlson Library was an effort to marry the technology that is so essential to modern learning with other educational resources designed to help ensure a successful academic experience for UT students.

On Friday, Oct. 19, from 3:30 to 5 p.m., UT will commemorate that happy union with an event celebrating the Information Commons facility and the student-centered learning opportunities it represents.

"We've created a much more valuable resource for our students," said Dr. John Gaboury, dean of University Libraries. "The library's content and information haven't changed, but students' ability to access it, to find the content they need and organize it in a way that is useful is greatly improved."

In addition to reference librarians willing to assist, students can take information literacy classes to help better learn how to locate, synthesize and organize information.

"Technology has brought access to so much information; digging through it to find quality information in a timely way is no small skill," Gaboury said.

Adding to the more modern, relaxing learning environment, the \$3.7 million Information Commons blends information technology resources, such as media labs where students can produce and edit audio and video content, with group study spaces and a room designed specifically for students to practice giving presentations.

"Students demand cutting-edge technology and it was essential with this project that we provide that for them," said Steve Swartz, interim chief technology officer. "The hardware and software assistance available to our students will help them as they acquire technology skills that will provide an advantage as they begin their careers."

Swartz referred to the laptops that are available for checkout and an information technology help desk that will provide troubleshooting and computer training assistance.

Other academic resources located just across from the Information Commons include UT's Tutoring Center and its Writing Center.



Photo by Daniel Miller

INFO CENTRAL: The \$3.7 million Information Commons in Carlson Library officially will open Friday, Oct. 19, during a special ceremony.

Rocket returns from Iraq, runs for UT cross country team

By Matt Lockwood

While serving in Iraq with the 200th Red Horse Squadron of the U.S. Air Force, Adam Bernal, a construction engineering senior, so looked forward to his shower at the end of the day that he once stayed in it instead of scrambling to a concrete bunker when his base was being bombed.

After searching Iraqi supply vehicles for improvised explosive devices 12 hours a day in scorching heat, a cool shower was the highlight of his day.

While at home, the highlight of Bernal's day is going for a run, but the Rocket cross country team member had trouble getting in workouts on base.

"After work it was still 115 degrees, so I could only run about three miles," Bernal said. "Then there were days [where] if the threat level was high, I couldn't run for security reasons."

Today, Bernal is back at UT and he's



Photo by Daniel Miller

Bernal

enjoying training with the cross country team.

Unfortunately, he's doing it with a stress fracture in his lower leg.

"I was so excited to get back [from Iraq] and I wanted to run well, so I pushed myself to the limit," Bernal said. "My legs were sore, but I kept telling myself I was just getting used to the increased mileage."

Doctors wanted to put a rod in Bernal's tibia this summer to help fuse the bone, but he's decided to hold off on surgery because it's his senior year.

Instead, he's been working with a UT physical therapist at Savage Hall to strengthen his leg and only running with the team three days a week, while cross-

training on the other days.

Bernal's times have been competitive, but not his best. Still, there's nothing he'd rather be doing.

"I love the team and being around people who feel the same about running as I do," he said.

Upon reflection, he's also decided he likes being around the military. After enjoying this season and graduating, Bernal will return to the Air Force as an officer. He just re-enlisted for three years to work as an engineer, and he expects a return to the Middle East.

"Nobody can go to Iraq and not have it change their perspective on everything," Bernal said. "I have a lot more respect now for what everybody is doing over there."

"People should remember that every day there are a lot of young people serving their country over there, including students from here at UT."

Grant enables mid-career transition to math, science teaching

By Jon Strunk

Professionals looking to change career paths and become teachers can now do so with minimal financial penalty as a new program at the Judith Herb College of Education at The University of Toledo offers a fast-track, on-the-job teacher licensure program.

Funded by a four-year, \$750,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, the Robert Noyce Scholarship Program turns the teaching certification process around, explained Dr. Charlene Czerniak, professor of education, who, with postdoctoral student Dr. Gale Mentzer, will administer the program aimed at helping reduce the shortage of math and science teachers.

"This program is designed for individuals who have strong subject knowledge, such as accountants, engineers and other science majors who might want to teach science or mathematics," Czerniak said. "They already have the subject knowledge they need; all they need is to learn the best ways to convey it to students."

Professionals accepted into the program will receive a scholarship to take 12 credit hours focused primarily on teaching methods and classroom engagement, as their professional experience will replace the need for most content and subject course work.

Following their passage of the Praxis II Principles of Learning and Teaching exam, they will receive an Ohio Alternative Educator License from the school that hires them.

At that school, the professional will work with a veteran teacher for two years, gaining classroom experience and taking additional course work at UT. At the end of that time, the Noyce scholars, like all teachers, must pass the Praxis III exam to gain a permanent teaching license.

Ten students will be awarded scholarships each year, and in conjunction with their employment at their schools, the financial hit will be reduced or eliminated as these professionals change career directions.

"This is ideal for those who have considered teaching, but can't afford to quit their job to go back to school," Mentzer said.

Czerniak said the vast majority of the grant will go to scholarships with a small percentage going to hire a recruiter. While all are welcome to apply, she said UT will be looking particularly at qualified individuals in the metropolitan Detroit and Toledo areas searching for a career change.

The Noyce Scholarship Program participants will benefit from the professional support, as well as the staff and administrative overhead of the \$6 million "UToledo. UTeach. UTouch the Future" grant from the U.S. Department of Education awarded in 2004, Czerniak said.

Through the grant and the recruitment process, Czerniak and Mentzer also hope to increase the number of minority math and science teachers, they said.

NASA flight director for space station to give Turin Memorial Lecture Oct. 18

By Vicki L. Kroll

Dr. Robert Dempsey, flight director for the International Space Station at NASA Johnson Space Center, will present the John J. Turin Memorial Lecture Thursday, Oct. 18.

He will discuss "A Rocket in Low Earth Orbit: Engineering Challenges in Operating the International Space Station" at 3 p.m. in McMaster Hall Room 1005 on Main Campus.

"The talk will focus on some of the issues that go into the planning and operations of a permanently manned vehicle as viewed from the flight control team in mission control," Dempsey said.

The UT alumnus said he would discuss two specific events — a computer failure that nearly resulted in the loss of the International Space Station and the physics of jet-

tioning a 1,400-pound piece of equipment.

"There have only been about 60 flight directors since the beginning of NASA," Dempsey said. "The work is extremely hard but challenging. I am very happy to be doing what I do."

Dempsey received master of science and doctor of philosophy degrees in physics from UT in 1987 and 1991, respectively.

The lecture is named after Turin, who was chair of the UT Department of Physics and Astronomy from 1942 to 1972 and dean of the Graduate School from 1969 to 1973.

Prior to the talk, there will be a reception with refreshments in McMaster Hall Room 4009.

For more information on the free, public lecture, contact the Department of Physics and Astronomy at 419.530.2241.

Congresswoman to speak at Mikhail Memorial Lecture Oct. 21

By Chelsea-Lynn Carey

U.S. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur will speak at the seventh annual Maryse Mikhail Memorial Lecture Sunday, Oct. 21, at 3 p.m. in the Law Center Auditorium on Main Campus.

The title of her talk will be "Moving Toward Stability and Democracy in the Middle East."

international affairs, her intimate knowledge of the Middle East, and her concern for building bridges of understanding among people of different backgrounds make her an ideal lecturer in this series."

Kaptur is serving her 13th term in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is the most senior woman and one of 90 women out of 535 members of the 110th Congress.

The lifelong Toledo resident has served on several congressional committees, including House Appropriations, House Budget and Budget Affairs, and also on subcommittees, including Agriculture, Defense, and Housing and Urban Development. She is the author of a book, *Women in Congress*, which was published in 1996 by Congressional Quarterly Inc.

Kaptur demonstrated international leadership through diplomatic contributions to the Middle East peace process. She was responsible for directing the first surplus farm commodities in 1999 to support the peace process in the Middle East in Lebanon,



Photo by Terry Fell

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur at a press conference at UT in 2006

The Mikhail Endowment Fund was created through a donation from the Mikhail family in honor of Maryse Mikhail and her devotion to educational, philanthropic and interfaith organizations.

"The main purpose of the fund is to support an annual lecture dealing with Arab culture, history, politics, economics and other aspects of life in the Middle East, including issues of peace and justice," said Dr. Samir Abu-Absi, UT professor emeritus of English and chair of the Maryse Mikhail Lecture Committee.

"Marcy Kaptur has represented the ninth district with distinction since 1983, leading numerous legislative efforts on behalf of the district, the state and the nation," Abu-Absi said. "Her involvement with

Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

She has received many honors, including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Prisoner of War "Barbed Wire" Award for her dedication to veterans' affairs. In addition, she was named Legislator of the Year by the National Mental Health Association and received an honorary doctor of laws degree from The University of Toledo in recognition of her "effective representation of the community," of UT and of northwest Ohio.

A reception will follow the free, public lecture.

The lecture is sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences in cooperation with WGTE as media sponsors.

A search for a senior vice president for finance is under way.

Read more at <http://myut.utoledo.edu>.

Cross-Cultural Dialogue Series announced

By Alissa Hammond

Three speakers will address a range of diversity issues during a Cross-Cultural Dialogue Series sponsored by the Office of Institutional Diversity.

Speakers will be:

- Dr. William Suarez, UT associate professor of pediatrics, who will present “Understanding the Challenges While Living the Dream” Tuesday, Oct. 16, from noon to 1 p.m. in Health Education Building Room 103 on the Health Science Campus. His talk will be part of Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Dr. Sakui W. G. Malakpa, UT professor of early childhood, physical and special education, who will present “River Blindness: A Personal Experience” Wednesday, Oct. 31,

from noon to 1 p.m. in Student Union Room 2592 on Main Campus. This presentation will be for Disability Awareness Month.

- Kimberly “Morning Cloud” Kennedy, who will present “Living in Two Cultures: What It Means to be Indian in Today’s Society” Tuesday, Nov. 20, from noon to 1 p.m. in Health Education Building Room 103 on the Health Science Campus. This talk will help to commemorate Native-American Heritage Month.

The series is free to the public, and lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP to the Office of Institutional Diversity at 419.383.3438.

Illustrated compliance captain to provide employee education

The University of Toledo has a new compliance mascot to help remind UT employees of the better angels of their nature as they perform their jobs each day.

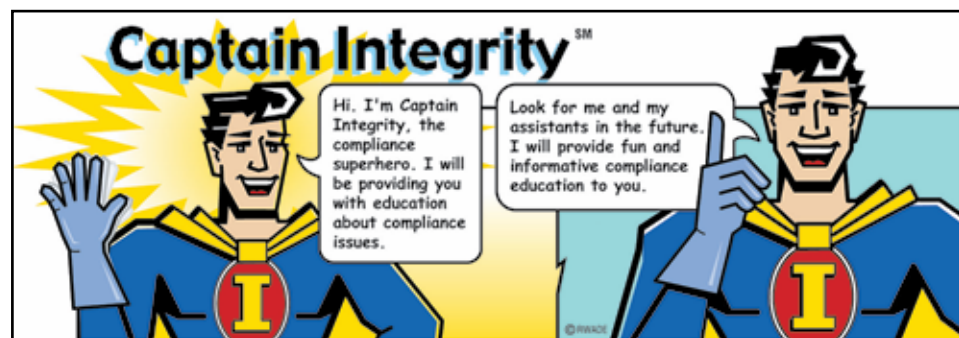
Captain Integrity, a true office superhero, is an informational strip employees can look to in order to help keep compliance issues top of mind.

“The Captain Integrity strip is a fun way to catch employees’ attention and, while he may seem a little silly, hopefully

that will help people remember what he represents whenever they see the strip,” said Lynn Hutt, UT’s compliance and privacy officer.

“In the end, the captain’s message comes down to what must be and is UT’s message: Do the right thing.”

The comic will be posted periodically on UToday and will augment current compliance awareness efforts.



Workout program on Health Science Campus extended

The UT Community Wellness and Health Promotion Services is extending the fall session of the Toledo Rocket Workout Program through Thursday, Dec. 13.

These 30-minute, low-impact series of exercises are designed to strengthen, increase range of motion, and promote circulation throughout the body.

Classes will continue to be held Wednesdays and Thursdays (except Thanksgiving, Nov. 22) from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Morse Center Racquet Ball Court No. 2 on the Health Science Campus.

For more information or to register for this program, contact Bianna Russell at 419.383.BFIT (2348).



Photo by Jack Meade

FIRED UP: Dr. Larry Wilcox, professor of history, talked about “Nazi Germany and Book Burning” during the 10th annual Banned Books Vigil. Nearly 400 people stopped by the Center for Performing Arts on Main Campus during the daylong event that champions the right to read and think freely.

MOVING TALK: Author Ishmael Beah visited Main Campus last week and discussed his book, *A Long Way Gone*, which details his life as a child soldier in Sierra Leone. The book was selected for UT’s First Read Program, which brings together incoming students to introduce them to academic life and their peers, as well as faculty and staff.



Photo by Daniel Miller

UTNEWS

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

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Flu shots to be given on Main, Health Science campuses

By Chelsea-Lynn Carey

Flu shots will be available free of charge for all UT faculty, staff and students starting Monday, Oct. 15, through Thursday, Nov. 1, on both Main Campus and the Health Science Campus.

“With the pending flu season, it is important for everyone to identify the true risk of influenza. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that the flu kills an average of 36,000 persons, not to mention hospitalizes 200,000 more, in the United States each year,” said Norine Wasielewski, senior director of family medicine.

“This year, extra effort is being made to increase the flu vaccination rate across both campuses. Prevention starts with each faculty, staff and student, and we are encouraging everyone to step up and do their part to maintain a healthy campus for everyone,” she said.

Flu shots will be available:

- **Monday, Oct. 15** — Health Education Building on the Health Science Campus from 1 to 4 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 17** — Student Medical Center Room 1890 on Main Campus from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Dowling Hall Room 2410 on the Health Science Campus from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- **Thursday, Oct. 18** — Student Recreation Center Elm Room on Main Campus from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Dowling Hall Room 2410 on the Health Science Campus from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- **Wednesday, Oct. 24** — Student Medical Center Room 1890 on Main Campus from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Dowling Hall Room 2410 on the Health Science Campus from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- **Thursday, Oct. 25** — Law Center on Main Campus from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Dowling Hall Room 2410 on the Health Science Campus from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- **Wednesday, Oct. 31** — Student Medical Center Room 1890 on Main Campus from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Dowling Hall Room 2410 on the Health Science Campus from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- **Thursday, Nov. 1** — Student Recreation Center Oak Room on Main Campus from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Dowling Hall Room 2410 on the Health Science Campus from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Students, faculty and staff must present IDs to receive a free flu shot.

Health Science Campus finalizing new non-smoking policy

By Jon Strunk

University administrators are working to finalize the new Health Science Campus non-smoking policy, which will prohibit smoking on all Health Science Campus property and all tobacco products in the UT Medical Center beginning Jan. 1.

Stemming from agreement with the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio’s call for the region’s hospital campuses to go smoke-free, and following passage of tougher anti-smoking laws last November, University administrators decided the health-focused nature of the Health Science Campus necessitated a leadership role by UTMC when it came to the health of smokers and those affected by second-hand smoke.

“The science has long been known and is irrefutable: Smoking is toxic to both smokers and any near them,” said Dr. Jeffrey Gold, provost and executive vice president for health affairs and dean of the College of Medicine. “As a medical institution dedicated to the university-quality health of its patients, visitors, faculty, staff and students, this policy is not only symbolic of that commitment, but will also save lives and improve the quality of life for all who visit The University of Toledo Medical Center.”

Almost two dozen hospitals in the region have agreed to implement similar policies on the same timeline, and officials noted that smoking bans of health-care campuses represent a nationwide trend.

For those employees who do smoke, Gold emphasized that UT is offering multiple, free smoking-cessation programs. Vicki Riddick, director of Community Wellness and Health Promotion Services, and Dr. Stephen Roberts, associate professor of rehabilitation services, are leading efforts to promote healthy lifestyles as well as the smoking-cessation classes.

“Our hope is that those who smoke will take this opportunity not only to quit, but also to incorporate other healthy activities into their lives,” Riddick said. “Our office exists to help people make more informed choices about their health and get them headed down the right track.”

Riddick said she also hopes non-smokers will feel a renewed emphasis on their health and encourage their friends and colleagues to do the same. Employees and students are invited to contact Community Wellness and Health Promotion Services at 419.383.BFIT (2348) to take that first step.

ROYAL TREATMENT:

Author and former nurse Melodie Chenevert dressed like the Queen of Hearts for part of her Oct. 11 talk, “Through the Looking Glass — Winning the Hearts and Minds of the Nurses of Wonderland,” on the Health Science Campus. She gave the inaugural Dorothy Gladys Hussain Distinguished Visiting Lecture. The series was started in honor of Hussain, a staff nurse and critical care nurse for 32 years, who died in 2006. She is survived by her husband, Dr. S. Amjad Hussain, professor emeritus of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery and member of the UT Board of Trustees.



Photo by Jack Meade



Photo by Daniel Miller

SHARING STORIES: Gretchen Clark Hammond, state coordinator of the Ohio Women’s Coalition Smoking Cessation and Prevention Initiative, talked about her life after UT during a brown-bag lunch presentation for the Honors Program as her husband, Jake Hammond, a 2002 Honors Program graduate, watched and held their sleeping daughter, Kyla. Clark Hammond, a 1998 graduate of UT’s Honors Program, returned to her alma mater during Homecoming festivities to receive the UT Alumni Association’s 2007 Edward H. Schmidt Outstanding Young Alum Award, which is presented to a graduate who is 35 years or younger in recognition of exceptional achievement in his or her field while providing leadership and noteworthy service to the association, University or community. Daughter Maya later joined the family for the fun weekend.

In memoriam

Helen A. Brimacombe, Toledo, an account clerk in the Alumni Relations Office from 1980 to 1984, died Oct. 11 at age 89. She attended UT from 1936 to 1941.