

Best-selling author to discuss youth revolt at Imam Khattab Lecture April 1

By Lindsay Mahaney

With prejudice and intolerance toward Muslims on the rise both in the United States and Europe, The University of Toledo's Imam Khattab Lecture offers an opportunity to promote a better understanding of Islam and the Middle East. This year's speaker is a candidate uniquely qualified for the job.

Dr. Reza Aslan, a New York Times best-selling author and scholar, will speak on "Youth Revolt: The Future of the New Middle East."

This year's free, public lecture will be held Wednesday, April 1, at 7 p.m. in Nitschke Hall Auditorium. A reception will follow in the Brady Engineering Innovation Center.



Aslan

Wednesday, April 1, at 7 p.m. in Nitschke Hall Auditorium. A reception will follow in the Brady Engineering Innovation Center.

Aslan is the author of a number of books, including *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus*

of Nazareth, No God But God: The Origins, Evolution and Future of Islam and *How to Win a Cosmic War*. *Zealot* recently was picked up by Lions Gate Entertainment Corp. to be turned into a feature film.

He is a creative writing professor at the University of California in Riverside and serves on the board of trustees for the Chicago Theological Seminary. He is also the founder of AslanMedia, a social network focusing on news and entertainment about the Middle East, and the co-founder and chief creative officer of BoomGen Studios, an entertainment brand for creative content from and about the Middle East.

At the lecture, Aslan will focus on the growing number of young adults in the Middle East and their increasingly vocal campaign for greater rights and opportunities. This young generation vastly outnumbers its elders; 75 percent of the population is younger than 35, and 50 percent is younger than 25. In countries like Iran, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Syria, young

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Vision quest: Museum director eyes changes in education

By Meghan Cunningham

The world is more saturated than ever with visual images, but we have never properly trained our eyes to look, the Toledo Art Museum's director told the crowd at the finale of the 2014-15 Jesup Scott Honors College Distinguished Lecture Series.

In a lecture about visual literacy appropriately filled with images and videos, Dr. Brian Kennedy, president, director and CEO of the Toledo Museum of Art, talked about living in an extraordinary time during a communications revolution that has only happened twice before.

It occurred 5,000 years ago with the first appearance of writing in cuneiform and again 500 years ago with print evolution. Now we are in the midst of a digital revolution and it has happened so

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Photo by Daniel Miller

MIND'S EYE: Dr. Brian Kennedy talked about how the brain processes visual information during the Jesup Scott Honors College Distinguished Lecture.

Flying high in prime time



Photo by Daniel Miller

Senior forward J.D. Weatherspoon will sport a Toledo Rocket uniform one more time for State Farm's 27th annual College Slam Dunk and Three-Point Championships. The event will take place at Butler's Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis Thursday, April 2, and air on ESPN from 7 to 9 p.m. The Columbus, Ohio, native will be one of eight players competing in the slam-dunk portion of the event. He slammed 69 dunks this season and 115 in 67 games as a Rocket.

Assistant professor receives grant to advance learning, careers in geospatial technology

By Kevin Bucher

The University of Toledo recently received a three-year research grant for more than \$500,000 from the National Science Foundation to work with area high school students to improve their scientific inquiry skills.

Faculty members in the departments of Geography and

Planning and Curriculum and Instruction will begin work this summer at Scott High School to improve students' spatial thinking and geospatial technology skills and also introduce them to potential careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

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Division of Student Affairs adds associate vice president

When Virginia Speight assumes the position of associate vice president for student affairs April 1, it won't be an entirely new hat to wear.

"Because I'll continue to serve as director of residence life, I'll be able to keep drawing on the wealth of valuable experiences as I take on the more comprehensive duties of associate vice president," she said.



Speight

"Working with the thousands of students as well as the many resident advisers who have lived in the residence halls was an amazing foundation for me professionally.

They probably taught me more than I taught them."

As associate vice president, Speight will be able to apply that experience to

all the departments and programs under the Student Affairs umbrella, working with directors, managers and the dean of students to identify current needs, anticipate developing trends, and keep the far-ranging division nimble.

"This new position is a natural progression for Virginia," noted Dr. Kaye Patten Wallace, senior vice president for the student experience. "She already has a deep understanding of our resident students' needs that has made her a vital member of the Student Affairs team.

"Now we'll be relying on her to build on that understanding as she works closely with our other areas."

Speight will continue to report to Patten Wallace as she takes on her new responsibilities. She anticipates opportunities, she said, to work more comprehensively with staff and students across the division.

Speight added, "It's typical to say you're excited about a new position, but it's so true for me because as associate vice president I expect to be able to reach many more people."

Distinguished lecture to focus on photovoltaics April 1

By Kevin Bucher

The Academic Honors Committee will host Dr. Robert Collins as part of the Distinguished University Professor Lecture Series.



Collins

The free, public lecture, "Polarized Wave Probes for Thin-Film Photovoltaics: From the Lab to the Production Line," will take place Wednesday, April 1, at 4 p.m. in Memorial Field House Room 2100 with a reception to follow.

Collins holds the positions of Distinguished University Professor, NEG Endowed Chair of Silicate and Materials Science, and co-director of the Wright Center for Photovoltaics Innovation and Commercialization in the UT Department of Physics and Astronomy.

He will speak about his work with the Wright Center for Photovoltaics

Innovation and Commercialization, recent developments in second-generation photovoltaics in his group's laboratory, and how it impacts second-generation photovoltaics in use today.

Second-generation or thin-film photovoltaic modules incorporate several thin layers of different solid-state materials applied to low-cost substrates such as glass or stainless steel foil for direct conversion of sunlight to electricity.

"It is an exciting time for this technology. In addition to their application for utility scale power, thin-film photovoltaics have a wider range of applications that rely on its potential for flexibility, lightweight and portability, as an example, generating emergency power for disaster relief," Collins said. "The potential exists for low-cost manufacturing of thin-film photovoltaics, which have been realized by the industry leaders.

"A key goal, however, is to translate the recent significant efficiency improvements made in the laboratory to the production line."

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Museum director

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fast that it has overwhelmed our education system, he said.

While 90 percent of information from the world is taken in with our eyes, our entire education system is focused on digits and letters rather than scanning to take in all of the visual world around us, not to mention its exclusion of the other senses, Kennedy said.

"If we don't train ourselves with how to use our senses, we miss out on an awful lot of the world," he said. "And if we keep on training kids with digits and letters and just computer knowledge and not really load up the curriculum with sensory curriculum — all those things that are about communication, which are about social behavioral skills, all those arts, all those opportunities to engage with each other socially — we will be creating a generation that can't succeed."

The process of learning to look starts with looking and making assumptions based on what we've seen before. But by taking our time, we can advance the process to be able to see, describe, analyze and interpret what we are looking at, Kennedy said.

Becoming visually literate also requires knowledge of the visual elements of art — line, shape, color, space and texture — and the principles of art — emphasis, balance, harmony, variety, movement, proportion, rhythm and unity.

Kennedy advocated for this training to begin with young children, which is why the museum has programs for babies and toddlers, and to continue throughout formal education and the rest of our lives. He complimented UT's Lloyd A. Jacobs Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center for approaching teaching and learning as visual sensory experiences.

"The thing about visual language is that visual language is all over the world. It helps us to see each other and helps us to engage with each other. What it does is it tells us how to approach the world, and we know that the world is actually a series of moments," Kennedy said.

"Vision creates empathy and the more we know about how to use our eyes, the more empathy we generate and the more tolerant we become."



Photo by Daniel Miller

VISUALLY SPEAKING: Dr. Brian Kennedy answered questions following his talk from Interim Provost John Barrett.

Following his talk, Kennedy answered questions about how visual literacy is incorporated into the museum and its exhibits, how culture impacts our sensory

experiences, the role of traveling exhibits as a way to expose people to art, and how technology advances will change the art museum experience, among others.

Africa Night to take place April 4

Experience a night of African culture, fashion and food at Africa Night 2015 Saturday, April 4.

Titled "Continent D'Afrique," the event will begin at 8 p.m. in the Student Union Auditorium. Doors open at 7 p.m.

The show will include singing, dancing and performances by UT students with a fashion show displaying the latest clothing from the Amyang fashion brand.

"It's always great to see the African students take so much pride in the countries they come from during Africa Night," Victor

Aberdeen, UT student and president of the African Peoples Association, said. "I also always enjoy seeing the guests who aren't of African descent and how they enjoy seeing the display of African culture."

Tickets are \$10 at Ask Rocky in the Student Union and will be sold at the door.

The event is sponsored by the African Peoples Association and the Center for International Studies and Programs.

For more information, contact victor.aberdeen@rockets.utoledo.edu or 614.707.8302.

African Peoples Association Presents:
CONTINENT D'AFRIQUE
 April 4th, 2015
 University of Toledo
 Student Union Auditorium
 2801 W. Bancroft St Toledo, OH 43606
 Doors open at 7pm
 Food will be served at 7:30

In memoriam

Jack Ford, Toledo city councilman, died March 21 at age 67. The longtime politician was Toledo's first black mayor and a former Democratic leader of the Ohio House of Representatives. He was president of city council for 21 years, and he served as the Glass City's mayor from 2002 through 2005. Ford received a law degree and master of public administration degree from UT in 1975 and 1978, respectively, and taught political science classes at the University.

Carole J. Napski, Toledo, who worked at MCO 14 years, died March 20 at age 80. She was hired in 1978 and in 1987 was named assistant manager in the Business Office. One year later, she was named assistant manager of special projects. In 1991, Napski became special assignments coordinator and left the institution in 1992.

Mary F. Spencer, Toledo, who worked at UT for more than two decades, died March 19 at age 83. She was hired as a clerk typist in the Physical Education Department in 1969. Two years later, she was named secretary in the department, where she retired from as secretary II in 1992. Spencer received a bachelor of arts degree from UT in 1987.

Cheryl A. Wesolowski, Mesa, Ariz., a nurse at MCO from 1976 to 1983, died Feb. 27 at age 59.

Imam Khattab Lecture

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people's views stand often in stark contrast to those of the ruling elite. Aslan will discuss what motivates these young people and how they will affect the future of the Middle East.

"This is a timely discussion," said Dr. John Sarnecki, UT associate professor and chair of philosophy and religious studies. "With what's happening with ISIS and what's happening with the demographic change in the Middle East, the talk is topical, it's political, and it's also helping us understand the world from a perspective of

people who do not often have a voice in our media."

This talk is part of the Center for Religious Understanding's annual lecture series, which has been active for more than a decade. Aslan will be available for questions and a book signing after the lecture.

For more information, visit Aslan's website at rezaaslan.com or the Imam Khattab Lecture Series web page at <http://utole.do/imamhattab>.

2015 IMAM KHATTAB LECTURE IN ISLAMIC STUDIES

DR. REZA ASLAN

YOUTH REVOLT: THE FUTURE OF THE NEW MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY
APRIL 1, 2015
7 P.M.

NITSCHKE AUDITORIUM
 MAIN CAMPUS

Reception following in the
 Brady Engineering Innovation Center

Distinguished lecture

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At UT Photovoltaics Innovation and Commercialization, a team of faculty, staff and students are developing and applying diagnostic probes of thin-film photovoltaic material systems using polarized electromagnetic waves. The team also is collaborating with local companies such as Calyxo and NSG Pilkington to advance second-generation photovoltaics.

"We value the opportunity to work with Toledo area companies to advance this technology," Collins said.

In 2004, he joined UT, where his interests span from condensed matter physics to optical and materials sciences with applications in photovoltaic devices, optical instrumentation and metrology.

Collins was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society in 2014.

Psychology graduate student publishes work on Facebook study

By Lindsay Mahaney

Does the number of likes on Facebook affect how much you like yourself? A recent study was published by a University of Toledo graduate student on an experiment exploring the effects social media has on self-esteem.

Erin Vogel wrote an article on her social media study that was printed in the October edition of *Psychology of Popular Media Culture*, a scholarly journal dedicated to experimental research and papers on popular culture and media influence.

She worked with graduate student Lindsay Roberts and 2013 graduate Katie Eckles to conduct the experiment in spring 2013. Vogel, Roberts and Eckles were students of Dr. Jason Rose, UT associate professor of psychology, who encouraged the collaboration.

“It started when we were talking about social comparisons,” Vogel said. “We started talking about Facebook because it’s relatively new and it’s a really rich source of social information for people. They can get all sorts of information about people they barely know — their daily habits, their activities, all sorts of things about their lives.”

Vogel said the experiment was divided into two separate studies. In the first one, they surveyed people about their self-esteem, social media habits, and how much they felt they compare themselves to others. For the second study, she said they created fake Facebook profiles and showed them to students, saying they belonged to other UT students.

The profiles varied based on whether they conveyed an upward comparison target, or someone with desirable characteristics, or a downward comparison target, or someone with undesirable characteristics.

Vogel explained they created upward comparisons by making the fake profiles depict students who had very desirable

characteristics, such as being very fit and healthy and receiving social support from their Facebook friends and family in the form of virtual likes and comments. On the other hand, they created downward comparison targets by making the profiles depict students who had undesirable characteristics, such as a sedentary lifestyle and the lack of social support from family and friends.

Once they finished viewing the fake profiles, students’ self-esteem was measured in two ways: trait self-esteem, the way one generally feels about or evaluates himself or herself, and state self-esteem, how one feels about or evaluates herself or himself at a given point. Vogel said trait self-esteem was used to measure the effects Facebook has on long-term self-esteem, and state self-esteem to measure how people feel about themselves while they were actually viewing the profiles.

“In study one, it was observed that people who use Facebook most frequently tended to have lower trait self-esteem,” Rose said. “So they have this lower chronic, stable self-esteem and that tended to be because of the fact that Facebook involves so many of the upward social comparisons — comparing ourselves to people who are doing great things, who we think are better than us on some dimension.”



Photo by Daniel Miller

POSTING AND SHARING: Erin Vogel led an experiment to see how Facebook affects self-esteem; the study was published in *Psychology of Popular Media Culture*.

Rose said even temporary exposure to Facebook profiles with an upward comparison target, like the ones viewed in the second phase of the study, affected self-esteem — particularly state self-esteem.

Vogel, who is in her third year of graduate school, said she plans to look for research positions at a university after she graduates. Eventually, she would like to apply for a faculty position. Getting this paper published will boost her opportunities, she said.

“It’s my first publication, so I’m really excited about it,” she said. “It’s definitely

important to have a good publication record for getting a job. It’s given me a lot of insight into the peer-review process and just the entire process from start to finish from coming up with an idea to getting it published.”

Vogel is conducting further studies about social comparisons on social media.

How Western-educated youth become radicalized topic of Middle Eastern forum April 7

By Kevin Bucher

The Center of Middle Eastern Studies and the Asian Studies Institute will present “Islam and Muslims in Central Asia: Why Some Western-Educated Muslim Youth Become Radicalized” Tuesday, April 7.

The free, public event will take place from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in Student Union Room 2582.

Scheduled to speak are Dr. Gaby Semaan, UT assistant professor of foreign languages, and Dr. S. Amjad Hussain, UT professor emeritus of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery and UT Board of Trustees member.

“This is a very important issue for parents and our children to be aware of; hopefully this forum will bring attention to the severity of the issue,” said Dr. Gene Chang,

UT professor of economics and director of the Asian Studies Institute.

Hussain and Semaan will talk about what causes Western-educated youth to become radicalized and how we can help prevent it, Chang said.

“We are curious about why they become radicalized. We know the fact that some youth become radicalized, but we don’t know the reasons,” Chang said. “It is

a very important topic in our society, and I think everyone would benefit from learning more about the issue.”

Light snacks and a reception will be provided from 4:30 to 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Chang at gene.chang@utoledo.edu or Linda Curtis at linda.curtis@utoledo.edu.

Student selected for 2015-16 Fulbright award to Germany

By Cathy Zimmer

Neil Hetrick, a senior majoring in multi-age education (pre-kindergarten through 12) and German at The University of Toledo, has been selected to receive the Fulbright U.S. Student Award to Germany.

He will participate in the English Teaching Assistant Program, which places Fulbrighters in classrooms abroad to provide assistance to the local English teachers. Those in the program help teach English while serving as cultural ambassadors for the United States.

Hetrick's love of exploring his world and of Germany started in high school.

"During high school, I participated in a foreign exchange program in Germany for a year. This experience was my first brief exposure to all the world has to offer," he said. "It invigorated my drive for academic success and became my motivation to continue on into college.

"Throughout my studies, I had another opportunity to travel to Germany for a semester abroad and it solidified my love for this country and its culture. By receiving this Fulbright grant for an English teaching assistantship, it truly is a dream coming true.

"This statement might be a little cliché, but I have really devoted a lot of time and energy to equip myself with the skills and expertise to become a positive impact in the local and global community," Hetrick added.

"It is my hope that Fulbright will provide me with the opportunity to continue improving myself, while also allowing me to make a greater difference on the international community — living in, growing and influencing the target culture Auf ein spannendes Jahr [on an exciting year]!"

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program of the United States. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program provides grants for individually designed study/research projects or for English Teaching Assistant Programs.

During their grants, Fulbrighters live, learn and work with people of the host country. The program facilitates cultural exchange through direct interaction, allowing the grantee to gain an appreciation of others' viewpoints and beliefs. Through engagement in the community, the individual will interact with his or her hosts in an atmosphere of openness, academic integrity and intellectual freedom, thereby promoting mutual understanding.

"The Center for International Studies and Programs and the UT Fulbright Interview Committee are ecstatic that Neil was accepted for this exceptional experience and prestigious program," said Michelle Ploeger, international education specialist in the Education Abroad Office. "This opportunity will enable Neil to not only continue his personal, academic and

professional growth, but will provide an unprecedented occasion for him to share American culture and values with German students, professors, teachers and the community. He will be an excellent ambassador for UT and the United States."

She encouraged students interested in Fulbright opportunities to attend the April 6 event (see story below).

"Your international journey can start during your undergraduate studies. Don't miss out on the opportunities to study abroad. We often find that study abroad is a launching pad for future international opportunities, and Neil is a perfect example of this," Ploeger said.

Applicants for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program include graduating seniors and those who have recently received bachelor's degrees; graduate-level



LÄCHELN (SMILE): Neil Hetrick posed for a photo in front of the East Side Gallery in Berlin, Germany.

candidates demonstrating the capacity for independent study or research, together with a general knowledge of the history, culture and current events of the countries to which they are applying; and young professionals, including writers, creative and performing artists, journalists, and those in law, business and other professional fields.

Benefits for all Fulbright U.S. student grants include round-trip transportation to the host country; funding to cover room, board and incidentals based on the cost of living in the host country; and accident and sickness health benefits.

Fulbright U.S. Student Program Workshop slated for April 6

By Cathy Zimmer

Learn about fully funded grants for study, research or English teaching assistantships in more than 140 countries at a Fulbright U.S. Student Program Workshop Monday, April 6, from 2 to 3 p.m. in Student Union Room 2592.

All undergraduate and graduate students interested in learning more about the program are welcome to attend the free, public event.

Lora Seery, senior program officer at the Institute of International Education, will lead the presentation.

The institute is a private not-for-profit leader in the international exchange of people and ideas. In collaboration with governments, foundations and other sponsors, the institute creates programs of study and training for students, educators and professionals from all sectors. These programs include the Fulbright Program

administered for the U.S. Department of State.

"This workshop is open to any student in any major; however, it is ideal for highly motivated, open-minded individuals who are graduating college seniors, graduate students, young professionals, scientists and artists," said Michelle Ploeger, international education specialist in the Education Abroad Office. "Fulbright evaluates candidates based on their cumulative experience and goals; there is no minimum undergraduate GPA requirement."

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers fellowships abroad for one academic year. Program participants pursue graduate or professional study, advanced research, or English teaching in elementary and secondary schools or universities.

Fulbright grants for research/study and Fulbright English teaching assistantships

provide round-trip transportation to the host country, maintenance for the academic year based on living costs in the host country, book and research allowances, health-care coverage, mid-term enrichment activities, full or partial tuition, and language or orientation programs to support students while abroad.

"Fulbright is for individuals who are looking to foster mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries and for those who see their international experiences as cultural ambassadors to enhance their academic and professional careers," Ploeger added.

UT students who participate in education abroad experience new and diverse academic environments, cultures,

people and sights, all while earning college credit.

Education abroad programs include faculty-led, exchange and affiliate options. International opportunities are offered during breaks, summer, semester and yearlong sessions.

For more information, call the Center for International Studies and Programs at 419.530.5268 or visit <http://utole.do/fulbrightcisp>.



UT Health community to raise organ donation awareness

More than 123,000 adults and children in the United States are waiting for organ transplants to save their lives, according to Donate Life America.

That's why The University of Toledo Health is partnering with Life Connection of Ohio and Community Tissue Services for a series of outreach events to spread awareness about organ and tissue donation during April.

UT Health will kick off Donate Life Month with a flag-raising ceremony Wednesday, April 1, at 10 a.m. outside the main entrance of UT Medical Center. A UTMC transplant recipient and a UTMC donor family will make some brief comments at the event. Students, staff and visitors are encouraged to attend.

Other events scheduled during the month include:

- Tuesday and Wednesday, April 7 and 8 — The Green Chair, an awareness tool used by Life Connection of Ohio and Community Tissue Services, will move across Health Science Campus with an educational table display. The green chair represents someone who

has received a second chance at life because someone else made the decision to be a donor.

- Thursday, April 9 — An educational vehicle in Lot 44A on Health Science Campus will be open to the public and feature a raffle to win Mud Hens tickets and a prize basket.
- Friday, April 17 — On Blue and Green Day, representatives from Life Connection of Ohio and Community Tissue Services will visit floors and units throughout the day and night with interactive educational games for prizes. Staff members are encouraged to dress in blue and green, decorate office doors, and take photos for the Life Connection of Ohio and UT Health Facebook pages.

To learn more about organ, tissue and eye donation, call 800.262.5443 or go to donatelifeohio.org.



IT'S BACK: The Green Chair will be on Health Science Campus in April to help raise organ donation awareness.

University encourages employees to participate in National Walking Day

Step by step, day after day, you walk to make progress. Now you can take steps toward a healthier workplace and support the American Heart Association.

On Wednesday, April 1, The University of Toledo will join the American Heart Association in celebrating National Walking Day. There will be a kickoff event from 11 a.m. to noon at the Morse Center on Health Science Campus.

The event will include an employee walk with Rocky, healthy snacks and information on the Greater Toledo Heart Walk, which will take place Saturday, May 30. Team captains for the Heart Walk can pick up their packets at the event.

"It's a day to challenge ourselves and our nation to get heart healthy and fit," said Vicki Riddick, senior wellness officer.

"We'll be encouraging everyone to think of this day as a starting point toward making physical activity a part of their everyday lifestyle."

In addition, UT Rocket Wellness will launch a four-week walking challenge, which includes walking at least 30 minutes every day.

"To participate, you don't have to walk for a half hour straight; it can be broken up into smaller time blocks, making it more manageable," Riddick said. "So it's time to lace up your shoes and join UT on walking toward wellness."

For more information on the walking challenge, visit utoledo.edu/offices/rocketwellness.

To join the UT/UT Health team for the Heart Walk, visit heart.org/toledowalk.

Sorority promotes autism awareness

By Lindsay Mahaney

From the Tokyo Tower and the Prince's Palace of Monaco, to the Christ the Redeemer statue and The University of Toledo's bell tower — national landmarks around the globe will be bathed in blue light for autism awareness.

World Autism Awareness Day is celebrated every year April 2. The event was adopted by the United Nations in 2007 to shine a light on autism as a growing global health crisis. On this day, Autism Speaks, the world's leading autism advocacy organization, celebrates its Light It Up Blue campaign by organizing thousands of buildings worldwide to shine blue lights for autism awareness.

The Alpha Xi Delta sorority, whose philanthropy is Autism Speaks, will bring the campaign to UT this April for the second time.

"Autism is kind of my life," said Jennifer Huffman, the sorority's programs vice president. "That's how I picked my major in occupational therapy. My brother has autism, and I've seen personally what it does to people and how it affects people."

This year's celebration will include information tables in the Student Union Tuesday, March 31, Wednesday, April 1, and Thursday, April 2, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Thursday there will be a "kissing booth" where members of the sorority will pass out



free Hershey kisses with facts about autism on them, Light It Up Blue wristbands, and save-the-date cards for the sorority's philanthropy dinner later in April. Puzzle piece cookies and other baked goods also will be sold Thursday. All proceeds go toward Autism Speaks.

At sundown, the sorority will host a ceremony during which University Hall will join numerous other world landmarks in lighting up blue for autism. Every night the following week, the tower will light up.

"The money we raised for our philanthropy helped my family specifically, so I just want to pass that on to other people," Huffman said.

Started in 2005, Autism Speaks raises awareness about the disorder, advocates for the needs of individuals with autism and their families, and funds research into the causes, prevention, treatments and cure for autism.

To learn more about the campaign, contact Huffman at jennifer.huffman2@rockets.utoledo.edu.



Students to prepare for anthropology conference with April 1 colloquium

By Lindsay Mahaney

With just about a week until they speak in front of hundreds of anthropology professors, students, scholars and aficionados, two University of Toledo undergraduates are looking for constructive criticism from their peers.

To prepare for the Central States Anthropological Society conference in St. Paul, Minn., UT Anthropology Society President Katrina Beckloff, a third-year anthropology and history major, and society member Joy Reason, a fourth-year anthropology and sociology major, will take part in a student colloquium Wednesday, April 1, at 12:30 in University Hall Room 5260.

At the colloquium, they will give presentations: Beckloff on “Fascist Italian Archaeology” and Reason on “Ethnography of Toledo Charter Schools.” These will be the same talks they will give at the conference.

“At the student colloquium, Joy Reason and I can present on topics that we’re going to be presenting on at the conference in more of an informal setting,” Beckloff said. “It’s a way that we can practice going through what we’re going to say and get feedback before actually going to do a big presentation.”

Reason said she’s excited and nervous to present at the conference: “I’ve never presented anything major like this before. This will be a new experience for me.”

The conference will be held Thursday, April 9, through Saturday, April 11, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in St. Paul. This will be the 94th Central States Anthropological Society meeting.

For more information on the free, public presentation where refreshments will be served, contact Beckloff at katrina.beckloff@rockets.utoledo.edu.

Open mic night April 2 to promote poetry, sexual assault awareness

By Cassandra DeYoung

An open mic night will be held in Rocky’s Attic in the Student Union Thursday, April 2, from 7 to 9 p.m. to start a campus-wide recognition of National Poetry Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

“Poetry in the Attic” will feature students, faculty and Toledo community members performing readings geared toward women empowerment, activism and sexual assault awareness.

“I just want to generate awareness, and I feel like this event will promote harmony between men and women because they can see how sexual assault and domestic violence can affect someone’s life,” said Lanette Dukett, event organizer and UT student intern in the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies.

Non-monetary donations will be accepted at the event for the YWCA Battered Women’s Shelter. Items suggested include blankets, kid’s toys, baby accessories, non-perishables, clothing and hygiene products.

“This event is also about gathering students together to show the YWCA that UT is a community that cares about our Toledo community,” Dukett said.

“To me, the poetry event is a way to share each other’s feelings and thoughts on domestic violence and at the same time raise donations to help those who are suffering right now,” Dukett said. “That’s a big part of what our college is doing as far as teaching people in humanity courses. This is what we should be doing, being more humane to people who are less fortunate than we are.”

The UT Feminist Alliance will provide refreshments and snacks during the event.

The open mic night is sponsored by the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, the UT Sexual Assault Education and Prevention Program, the UT Feminist Alliance and the Division of Student Affairs.

To participate or for more information, contact Dukett at 419.261.3349 or lanette.dukett@rockets.utoledo.edu.

Grant

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Dr. Beth Schlemper, UT assistant professor of geography and principal investigator on the project, said students will participate in summer workshops designed to highlight recent advances in geospatial technology, especially in relation to understanding their communities and preparing them for the STEM work force of the future.

“We hope the students gain greater knowledge of their community and also become aware of the careers they could have in this area of study,” Schlemper said. “Geospatial technology is one of the fastest-growing fields in the country, so there is amazing opportunity for these students to take advantage of that.”

Over a two-week period, students will research topics related to their neighborhoods and communities that are of interest to them using secondary data, field work and geospatial technology. The students will be organized into four groups led by UT professors and PhD students.

Dr. Kevin Czajkowski and Dr. Sujata Shetty of the Department of Geography and Planning and Dr. Victoria Stewart of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction will lead the groups in their research along with Schlemper.

Students will be guided through the scientific process of synthesis, analysis and



interpretation, and input data they have produced through gathering geographic information into open-source mapping programs, producing maps for civic action they will present to key individuals and organizations in the area, Schlemper said.

Another goal of the project is to develop a book and curriculum based on the results of the project so that teachers across the country can use them to teach geography and geospatial technology, as well as related subjects in the physical and social sciences. Faculty members will integrate a mixture of topics into the curriculum that utilizes geospatial technology, various online and open-source mapping programs, and explore related career opportunities.

“We want something tangible and useful that we can share with other educators to show how the results of the research can benefit other students,” Schlemper said.

UT NEWS

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. Email: 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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OLD-FASHIONED

Ice Cream



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

SOCIAL

UT Health Administration invites all faculty, staff, students and volunteers to join us for a Spring Break Celebration at the Four Seasons Bistro.

7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (first & third shifts)

4 - 6:30 p.m. (second shift)

Paragon Barbershop Quartet will provide entertainment from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



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