



Photo By Curtis Brinkman

GOOD DAY SUNSHINE: Cassie Stasuk, left, and Whitney Stover took advantage of the great weather last Wednesday and studied on Centennial Mall.

Author to discuss role of women in Islamic faith

By Jeffrey Romagni

In order to fill the Islamic obligation known as hajj, each year more than two million Muslim men and women from all over the world travel to the city of Mecca, the holiest meeting site of the Islamic religion, to demonstrate religious harmony and their submission to Allah.

Faced with a new life as a single mother, Asra Nomani, author and then Wall Street Journal correspondent, made the dangerous journey from America to the Middle East in efforts to investigate and rediscover her religion.

Inspired by her personal pilgrimage, Nomani returned to America to confront religious sexism and intolerance and to fight for the rights of modern Muslim women.

Nomani will discuss and sign her book, *Standing Alone in Mecca: An American Woman's Struggle for the Soul of Islam*, Thursday, Oct. 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. in The University of Toledo Law Center Auditorium on Main Campus.

In her book, Nomani explains that many religious freedoms enjoyed centuries ago have been replaced today by the conservative brand of Islam, which labels Muslim women as veiled and isolated from the world. Through personal narrative, Nomani compares the modern-day lives of Muslim women to the lives of

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Nomani

H1N1 here, faculty asked to relax attendance policies

By Matt Lockwood

The Main Campus Medical Center has been dealing with a long and steady stream of students that are not feeling well in recent days.

Dr. Christopher Halasy, medical director and chief of medicine of the Main Campus Medical Center, said since more than a dozen students have tested positive for influenza A in the past week, it can be assumed that if students have a cough and/or a sore throat and a fever, they likely have influenza A and H1N1. Therefore, the Medical Center is no longer testing for the virus unless the patient has a chronic condition and is at higher risk of complications.

The Student Medical Center also is reminding students that unless they are pregnant or have a chronic condition, such as diabetes or asthma, they should not need to seek care at the center. However, students who still feel they need to be seen should make an appointment.

"It is critical that people isolate themselves when they get sick to prevent the spread of the flu," Halasy said. "For the majority of students, there's not much we

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Clinical enterprise discussed at town hall meeting

By Chris Ankney

UT President Lloyd Jacobs reiterated that tough economic times call for positive, forward thinking at a special town hall meeting focusing on the clinical enterprise Tuesday, Oct. 20.

The meeting came after the previous week's announcement from Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, Health Science Campus provost, executive vice president for health affairs and dean of the College of Medicine, that financial challenges at The University of Toledo Medical Center had led to layoffs of 56 full-time equivalent positions.

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UT offers savings accounts, road map to college

By Matt Lockwood

Unfortunately, many people give up on the dream of going to college at a young age because they don't think their family would ever be able to afford it.

The University of Toledo has developed an innovative new program that reinforces the concept that college can be a reality for students willing to work for it.

UT's new Scholarly Savings Account Program will make annual deposits of \$2,000 into individual student scholarship accounts beginning with the successful completion of the eighth grade and for completion of each successful year of high school. The first deposits will be made in June 2010.

Upon graduation from high school, a student may have accumulated a maximum of \$10,000 through the Scholarly Savings Program that can be used toward tuition at UT. The scholarship funds will then be disbursed in annual increments of \$2,500

for each of four years of attendance at the University.

UT's requirements for students are that they graduate high school with a minimum 3.0 grade-point average and meet core curriculum criteria for regular admission to the University.

"I believe this provides a road map for students and families beginning at a young age to make higher education a reality," said Lawrence J. Burns, vice president for external affairs and interim vice president for equity and diversity. "It's a powerful message to be able to say, 'Here is money on the table; if you work hard in school, it's yours.'"

For students to be eligible, their school districts must sign a participation agreement with UT, including the development of its own requirements and an annual tracking process. The program is open to all school districts, including parochial schools.

Besides providing scholarship dollars, the Scholarly Savings Account Program aims to give school districts leverage

to require students to do things such as take the necessary college prep courses, participate in activities and meet attendance requirements.

University officials believe that this will result in improved high school graduation rates and better prepare students for the rigor of a UT education.



Burns at press conference

Author

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those living centuries ago to show the changing face of women in Islam.

A graduate of West Virginia University and American University, Nomani serves as a visiting journalism scholar at Georgetown University, where she leads the Pearl Project, a faculty-student investigation into the 2002 murder of her close friend and journalist, Daniel Pearl.

"As a child of West Virginia, I have looked to Toledo as a shining beacon in the American-Muslim community," Nomani said. "For years, I have heard the stories of

the courageous citizens of Toledo, who have been leaders and pioneers for an expression of Islam that is tolerant and just."

A reception, including refreshments, will be held in the Law Center Auditorium from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. preceding the lecture.

This free, public event is sponsored by the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women, the UT Program in Religious Studies, and the departments of Philosophy and Women's and Gender Studies, and is part of the President's Lecture Series on Diversity.

"The Eberly Center is extremely pleased to be a part of the effort to bring Asra Nomani to UT," said Charlene Gilbert, director of the Eberly Center for Women. "She is a strong voice encouraging an important dialogue about the role of women in the Islamic faith. History has shown that one of the first steps on the road to change in any community is dialogue."

For more information, contact the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women at 419.530.8570.

H1N1

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can do other than recommend that they take Motrin or Tylenol, not aspirin, for fever and aches, get rest, keep up their fluids and self-isolate."

If students get sick, they should stay home or in their residence hall rooms away from others until it's been 24 hours since they've had a fever.

In addition to exposing others to flu by visiting the Medical Center, the large volume of students also is causing access issues, which may impede those at high risk of flu complications from being seen and getting treatment.

"Many of the students that we're seeing just have colds and are apprehensive about H1N1," Halasy said.

The University's Faculty Senate has endorsed a relaxed attendance policy related to H1N1 illnesses, and on Friday Dr. Rosemary Haggett, Main Campus provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, underscored the importance of faculty cooperation in preventing the spread of disease.

"I am asking that faculty refrain from asking students for a doctor's note if they're sick with the flu," Haggett said. "One, the

Medical Center is not providing notes for the flu, and two, it is contrary to our message that encourages students to remain isolated. Further, faculty play a critical role in letting students know about their relaxed attendance policy and encouraging students to not attend class if they have the flu."

Students should, however, contact their professors and inform them that they are sick and will be absent. That communication remains the student's responsibility, and it should take place at the front end of an illness, not after the fact.

Town hall

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"I know that this is painful," Jacobs said. "But this is an issue of spirit. And it is not a time to lose sight of why we are here. We are doing OK. We are struggling, we are working harder ... but we will prevail and we will continue to keep our eye on the ball."

Gold said UTMC's financial challenges fall into various categories, but are primarily driven by a marked increase in the amount of uncompensated care taking place in the hospital.

"That is to say, some patients come here with serious medical problems, but have little or no ability to pay for that care," Gold said. "And they don't have the benefit of some type of health insurance coverage or other resources."

Another challenge, Gold said, was the quick growth of outpatient care, which is at best a break-even or money-losing venture for hospitals. Outpatient care grows in slow economies, he said, because patients defer procedures requiring longer stays, elective operations, and other inpatient tests and diagnostics.

Gold said the list of cost-savings initiatives aimed at combating these financial issues is more than 200 items long.

Included on the list of initiatives is the announced reduction in work force, renegotiations with and consolidation of vendor contracts, controls for the use of high-cost drugs, implementation of new procedures to provide financial counseling to patients, and a look into starting new strategic alignments with employees and with other area health-care institutions.

"We are a mission-driven institution," Gold said. "And these decisions are not being made to create resources that are not being used to support and sustain our mission."

Jacobs agreed, saying the University's path to excellence needs to be clearer now more than ever.

"We need to build a sustainable future. And that means being fiscally responsible," he said. "So all we can do is pledge that we will continue to experience the anguish of balancing today against tomorrow."

The entire town hall meeting is available to view online at video.utoledo.edu.

President Lloyd Jacobs talks about H1N1 in a new video posted on myut.utoledo.edu.

Jefferson honoree to leave legacy of service

By Kim Harvey

Once William Schmitt becomes Dr. William Schmitt in June, he will probably leave this area to fulfill his goals of practicing reconstructive and plastic surgery.

Even after he's gone, however, a spirit cultivated during four years of Schmitt's training will remain in The University of Toledo Medical Center. It will spark every time a UT volunteer checks the heart rate of a child, prepares a patient for surgery, and dispenses medication for dengue fever in Leon, Nicaragua.

Schmitt, who earns his medical degree in June and has applied for residencies outside of northwest Ohio, has been honored as UT's monthly Jefferson Awards "Champion" recipient for creating a medical mission program.

"Not only is Will committed to serving people, but his passion to serve is inspirational," said Denise Oancea, faculty member in the College of Nursing. "He'll be leaving us this year, but the tradition he's started with the mission program will carry on."

Schmitt's dedication to service began with a somber realization.

"I had been asked for three examples of altruism on my medical school applications and was completely stumped," he recalled. "I hadn't done anything altruistic."

Shortly after, he was accepted into medical school. The same week, he bought a one-way plane ticket to Nicaragua. The five months he spent there would set the tone for a program that, today, assists thousands of Nicaraguan patients.

"Being in Nicaragua was the most incredible experience," Schmitt said. "When I came back, I knew I wanted to go on more of these trips and get other medical students involved. It would be a great chance to help people and promote a learning experience for the clinical participants."

During Schmitt's first year of medical school, he hosted fundraisers, recruited volunteers, and secured donations of supplies and equipment. With \$8,000, he and a team of



William Schmitt listened to the heart of a patient in Nicaragua as Dr. Anna Rohrbacher reviewed information.

about 20 volunteers treated more than 1,000 patients during eight days in Leon.

As he continued the demanding curriculum of a medical student, the mission expanded. With \$13,000 annually secured through numerous fundraisers, Schmitt and his team have returned to Nicaragua for three years to treat more than 3,000 indigent natives — some of whom haven't seen physicians in months or even years. Their maladies include tropical illnesses, parasite infections, nutritional deficiencies and other, more common conditions, including surgical procedures performed in Nicaraguan facilities far different from the state-of-the-art technologies at UTMC.

"We practice in a hospital that has no air conditioning or sophisticated imaging equipment, such as CT scans or MRIs,"

Schmitt said. "IV tubing is hung on sticks, and sometimes the electricity just goes off and you don't know when it's coming back on."

Despite the rustic conditions, membership on Schmitt's teams has increased.

"We've all grown very attached to the Nicaraguan people, and we can see how much of a need they have for medical care," he said. "They're very gracious, welcoming

and so grateful for any help we can give."

Oancea marvels at Schmitt's dedication to the cause. "He's done whatever he has to for the mission to continue," she said, "even being the DJ at one of our fundraisers. I can't wait to see what he's going to do as a physician. I have a feeling he's one of those people we're going to read about someday with all of the great things he's going to do."

UTNEWS

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More benefits forums scheduled through November

By Kim Harvey

Additional education programs have been scheduled in response to faculty and employee interest as the benefits open enrollment period continues.

Some previously scheduled programs have been moved to accommodate large numbers of participants as well.

The updated schedule of programs on Health Science, Main and Scott Park campuses is listed below:

- Monday, Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m., Nitschke Hall Auditorium, and 2 p.m., Student Recreation Center Oak Room;
- Tuesday, Oct. 27, 9 a.m., Health Education Building Room 105;
- Wednesday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m., Scott Park Student Center Auditorium, and 2 p.m., Health Education Building Room 105;
- Thursday, Oct. 29, 9 a.m., Student Union Room 2592;
- Monday, Nov. 2, 2 p.m., Health Education Building Room 105;
- Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2 p.m., Nitschke Hall Auditorium;
- Wednesday, Nov. 4, 9 a.m., Student Union Ingman Room; and
- Thursday, Nov. 5, 7:30 a.m., Health Education Building Room 105.

Open enrollment continues through Friday, Nov. 13.

All employees must re-enroll by completing enrollment forms and bringing them to HR, whether they elect to make changes in 2010 benefits choices or not, to ensure their coverage continues after Dec. 31.

Forms have been posted on HR's Web site at <http://hr.utoledo.edu>. Employees who do not have access to computers may pick up enrollment packets in HR, which is located in the Transportation Center on Main Campus and is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Employees who have questions following the educational programs may e-mail benefits@utoledo.edu with specific inquiries. HR personnel will respond within 48 hours.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME TO END

Don't forget to turn clocks back one hour Sunday, Nov. 1.

O.A.R. to rock UT Savage Arena Nov. 3

When classes start, O.A.R. heads back to campus.

"Usually every fall and spring, we go out and [play] colleges, and that's something that we really enjoy doing because that's where we cut our teeth and that's where we got our start," said saxophonist Jerry DePizzo.

It was in Columbus, Ohio, where O.A.R. (Of A Revolution) started building its fan base and its reputation as a live band. Singer-guitarist Marc Roberge, guitarist Richard On, drummer Chris Culos and bass player Benj Gershman graduated from high school in Rockville, Md., and decided to go to Ohio State University, where DePizzo was taking classes.

"There was always a special spark about O.A.R.," DePizzo said during a phone interview from his Columbus home. "I was O.A.R.'s biggest fan, then I got to be in the band."

The sax man joined in 2000. Since then, the group that mixes rock and reggae has recorded five studio releases and three live discs.

With 2008's "All Sides," the quintet achieved mainstream success, thanks to the hits "Shattered (Turn the Car Around)" and "This Town."

DePizzo talked about recording the disc with producer Mat Wallace, known for his work with Maroon 5 and The Replacements.

"Mat Wallace did a great job. He was a great fit for us. He brought a blue-collar work ethic to the table," DePizzo said. "We just threw material at him, and he sifted through it



O.A.R.

to pick out the things that worked. That made the record better.

"We knew we were going to have some radio-friendly stuff, that's where you have your 'Shattered' and your 'One Day' and 'This Town,'" DePizzo continued. "We wanted to make stuff where people would debate which is the best song. We wanted to make album tracks that had no shot of being on the radio like 'War Song' or 'Whatever Happened.'"

The band just finished mixing a live, four-disc set recorded over two nights in Chicago.

"It's a great representation of where the band is right now," DePizzo said of the forthcoming release. "It's almost like a greatest hits album because it spans so much material. We're really proud of it and really excited for people to hear it."

O.A.R. will play at The University of Toledo Savage Arena Tuesday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m. Elmwood will open the show. Tickets are \$27.50 for the public, \$17.50 for UT students with ID and \$32.50 day of the show.

For more information, contact the UT Savage Arena Ticket Office at 419.530.4653.



Photo By Daniel Miller

SHAPING UP: Construction continues on the Fetterman Training Center, a multipurpose athletics practice facility that will be connected to Savage Arena. Longtime UT supporters Hal and Susan Fetterman committed \$1 million for the facility, which, when finished in January, will feature a 100-yard Field Turf playing surface, a regulation basketball court, sprinting lanes, a long jump pit, a golf practice area and new locker rooms.