

# President touts power of University's people during yearly address

By Joe Bellfy

n her third State of the University address, President Sharon L. Gaber focused on the important contributions of students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters in positioning UToledo for the future.

"Above all else, today is a celebration of the people who showcase the exciting future for our great institution," Gaber said to the audience of more than 500 gathered April 3 in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium.

"The people in our campus community have fueled our momentum throughout the last year. You are the reason we are the university of choice for so many seeking higher education."

The president unveiled UToledo's new brand, Fueling Tomorrows, in her address that concentrated on how through the dedication and commitment of UToledo's faculty, staff and students, the institution is achieving its strategic priorities specifically in the areas of student success, groundbreaking research, and progress in growing its national reputation.

Through the individual stories of students, researchers and alumni, Gaber illustrated how UToledo is making an impact. *continued on p. 2* 



**FUELING TOMORROWS:** During her State of the University address, President Sharon L. Gaber focused on the contributions of students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters in positioning UToledo for the future. More than 500 attended the event in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium, where the president also unveiled UToledo's new brand — Fueling Tomorrows.

## UToledo physicist awarded \$1.1 million to boost performance of solar cells

By Christine Billau

physicist at The University of Toledo was awarded a \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to develop ultra-high efficiency solar cells that accelerate the conversion of the sun's energy into electricity.

Dr. Yanfa Yan, professor of physics, is teaming up with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory on the photovoltaics project to create what are referred to as all-perovskite tandem solar cells that would have a higher conversion efficiency and lower cost.

While the majority of solar panels based on polycrystalline absorber materials on the market today have about a 16 percent efficiency rating, Yan's goal is to raise the bar by creating a cell with more than 25 percent efficiency.

"We are excited about this opportunity and eager to collaborate with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to push the performance of solar cells to a higher level and make contributions to the U.S. Department of Energy's clean energy goal," Yan said. Yan's work is one of 25 projects recently awarded a total of \$28 million in federal funding by the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office, which supports early-stage research and development to improve the affordability, reliability and performance of solar technologies on the grid.

"This \$1.1 million award recognizes The University of Toledo as a national leader in photovoltaics research," Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur said. "This is part of an effort to innovate toward a cleaner energy future. With First Solar's footprint in northwest Ohio and the Wright Center for Photovoltaics Innovation and Commercialization at The University of Toledo, Toledo is a hotbed for clean energy and photovoltaics research. This is another success story for northwest Ohio's green energy economy."

Yan is one of the leaders of UToledo's area of excellence in solar energy, water quality and sustainable technologies.



Photo by Daniel Miller

## Address

continued from p. I

The determination and resilience of Lovely Forges and Justin Tapp, both graduating in May, led highlights of the personal experiences of students. Young alumni also were featured, including Quinton Babcock - now mayor of the Village of Oak Harbor, Ohio - and Margaret Gorz, an associate scientist for Estée Lauder in New York.

Gaber announced several key support programs and coming additions to campus, including a meal alert program, kayaks on the Ottawa River starting in the fall, and a new soccer field coming to Main Campus outside the Fetterman Training Center, to underscore how UToledo continues to reimagine its various services and facilities to be supportive and responsive to student success.

"We are on a mission to help students succeed, but we realize that the word 'success' can translate in different ways for a student body as rich and diverse as ours," Gaber said.

"The University of Toledo not only recognizes, but embraces these different perspectives and is empowering all of our students to thrive."

Rocket student-athletes were recognized for proving their excellence in the classroom as well as in competition. Seven sports programs led the Mid-American Conference in Academic Progress Rate, and Coach Tricia Cullop recently became the winningest women's basketball head coach in the program's history with 241 career victories.

The president also applauded the University's rigorous approach to research, innovation and outreach, which has contributed to its growing national profile.

Gaber announced that cutting-edge physicist Dr. Yanfa Yan will collaborate with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to develop ultra-high efficiency solar cells, thanks to a \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. (See story on p. 1.)

The University also will host a National Lab Day this October, which will connect its researchers and students with Department of Energy scientists, facilities and opportunities that are unique to some of the country's most preeminent labs.

"It's no coincidence that you are seeing more headlines about our exceptional faculty making great breakthroughs," Gaber said. "Our experts are not only advancing discovery beyond what we thought possible — they are engaging our students in the process."



Student Union Auditorium.

The president also highlighted a number of recent achievements to celebrate. In addition to record highs in academic preparedness for first-year students and sixyear graduation rates, graduate programs in nursing and law have risen dramatically in U.S. News & World Report rankings.

Gaber

encouraged everyone present, and those in the wider Toledo community, to proudly tell UToledo's story to share the positive energy that positions the institution for continued success.

"At The University of Toledo, we are a community

inspired to help our students succeed through inclusive collaboration, scholarly research and hands-on experience," she said

"We are committed to improving the human condition in the region and throughout the world. We are changing lives through the work that we do. We are shaping the future. We are fueling tomorrows."





## **Physicist**

#### continued from p. I

"I am delighted about Dr. Yanfa Yan's continuing success in advancing his research on perovskite solar cells," UToledo Vice President for Research Frank Calzonetti said. "Building upon his remarkably impressive publication record Photos by Daniel Miller

SMILE: Posing for a photo prior to the State of the University address were, from left, University alumnus and former Toledo mayor Mike Bell; Dr. Tom Brady, former interim dean of the Judith Herb College of Education and former member of the University Board of Trustees; and Toledo Men's Basketball Coach Tod Kowalczyk.

**APPLAUSE**: Students clapped when President Sharon L. Gaber announced that kayaks will be available on the Ottawa River this fall.

#### in solar energy science, this award confirms the quality and importance of his research and provides him and his collaborators funding to develop techniques to increase the power conversion efficiency of these cells up to 28 percent."

## NEW

## NEWS

# UToledo develops precise method to test for exposure to toxic algae

By Tyrel Linkhorn

Researchers at The University of Toledo have developed a highly accurate method to test for microcystin in blood or urine samples, an advancement that could provide clinicians a powerful new tool in assessing a patient's exposure to the dangerous toxin.

The discovery is a continuation of the work UToledo has done around harmful algal blooms since the 2014 Toledo water crisis that temporarily left the city without drinkable water.

"We don't want just to be known as the people who turned off the tap, we want to be known as the people who come up with the solutions," said Dr. David Kennedy, assistant professor of medicine in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, and one of the researchers involved in the project. "We're leading in that area, and the way we're leading isn't just going to help northwest Ohio — it's going to help the world."

Kennedy's lab collaborated with Dr. Dragan Isailovic, associate professor of chemistry in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Dr. Steven Haller, assistant professor of medicine, to develop and test the method. The research was funded from grants awarded from the Ohio Department of Higher Education's Harmful Algal Bloom Research Initiative.

UToledo's microcystin test combines a method for separating the toxic compounds

out of blood or urine samples by liquid chromatography with further examination using mass spectrometry.

The test can identify various microcystins and quantify concentrations of six common microcystins, including the types most often found in Lake Erie.

"Together, we have created a reliable tool that hasn't existed before. From a clinician's point of view, you can't underestimate the importance of having certitude in your diagnosis. We're helping to provide new diagnostic methods for clinicians to rule in or rule out exposure to microcystin," Haller said. Most other attempts at

testing blood or urine samples for microcystin have relied on the ELISA test, which is the standard method for quantifying microcystins in water but isn't as effective in biological samples.

"Our method is very IN THE sensitive and reproducible for urine sa identification and quantification of microcystins in biological fluids," Isailovic said. "It would be difficult to do this with the same sensitivity and specificity using any other method."

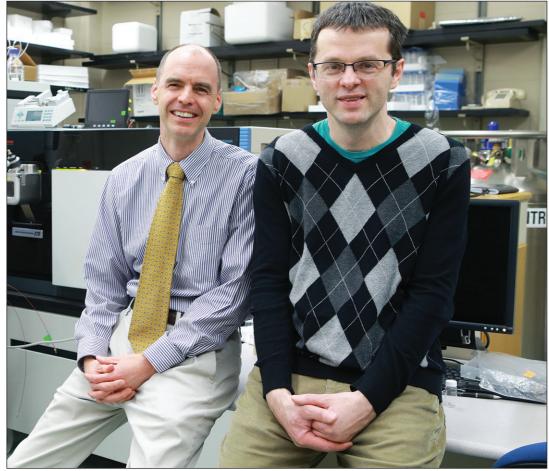


Photo by Daniel Mille

**IN THE LAB:** Dr. David Kennedy, left, and Dr. Dragan Isailovic have developed a test for microcystin in blood or urine samples that could prove to be a powerful new tool to assess a patient's exposure to the toxin.

The findings were published in the Journal of Chromatography A. Other UToledo contributors on the paper were Dr. Dilrukshika S.W. Palagama, David Baliu-Rodriguez, Apurva Lad and Dr. Bruce S. Levison. A provisional patent on the testing method has been filed. The researchers are exploring opportunities to use the lab's technology to offer testing of samples to outside entities.

## Alumnus, business students to receive 2019 Pacemaker Awards

The University of Toledo College of Business and Innovation and the Business Engagement and Leadership Council will hold its 56th annual Pacemaker Awards Friday, April 12, at the Inverness Club.



Gonzalez

Ramon E. Gonzalez III will receive the 2019 Business Pacemaker Award at the ceremony, which will start at 7 p.m. He received a bachelor of business administration degree from the University in 1961. Gonzalez split his career between serving as a foreign service officer at the U.S. State Department, as assistant vice president at Merrill Lynch, and as chief financial officer of Lone Star Seed Co. in San Antonio. He is now retired.

Gonzalez served in the military and is a retired captain of the United States Army Reserve. He also is a past member of the staff of the U.S. House of Representatives, and a member emeritus and past secretary of the Explorers Club, Washington Group.

The University alumnus is a strong supporter of the College of Business and Innovation's Edward H. Schmidt School of Professional Sales. Gonzalez and his family regularly visit the University every fall.

"The Pacemaker Award is the College of Business and Innovation's highest honor,

recognizing individuals for outstanding achievement in business, as well as contributions to the community and the University," said. Dr. Anne L. Balazs, dean of the College of Business and Innovation. "We also are proud to recognize our business students at this prestigious annual event."

Student Pacemaker Awards are presented to College of Business and Innovation graduate and undergraduate students for their outstanding academic achievement, University and community service, and leadership.

The 2019 Student Pacemaker Award recipients are:

- Master of Business Administration — Himabindu Katrapati;
- Master of Science in Accountancy — Constance Baumgartner;

- Accounting Rachael Noe and Hannah Smith;
- Applied Organizational Management

   Gregory Matuszynski II;
- Finance Landon Bleau and Spencer Shoemaker;
- Information Operations Technology Management — Cassidy Hamill and Scott Pribe;
- Management Laurie Britt and Quinne Meyer;
- Marketing and International Business — Olivia Wright and Jovan Sanson; and
- Dean's Award Abigail Brannan.

## NEWS

## Imam Khattab Lecture on Islamic Thought to focus on progressive Muslim world

By Remy Darby

The word "caliphate" often conjures images of Islamic extremism, but a growing population of young and globally engaged Muslims are reclaiming the term.

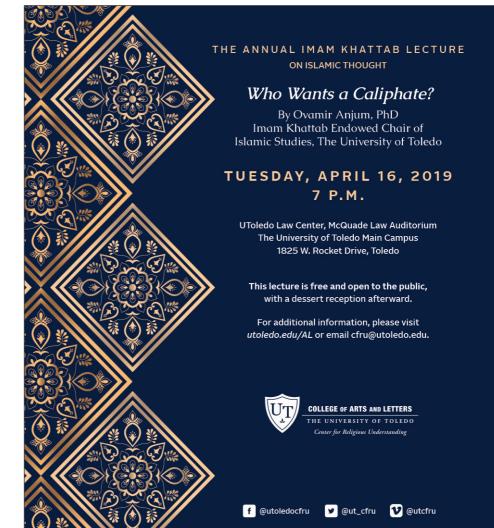
In the face of active crises involving Muslims, such as the recent mosque attack in New Zealand, a free, public lecture titled "Who Wants a Caliphate?" will shed light on diametrically opposed Western and Islamic perspectives and offer a vision for a path forward.

The Imam Khattab Lecture on Islamic Thought will take place Tuesday, April 16, at 7 p.m. in the Law Center McQuade Auditorium.

Dr. Ovamir Anjum, UToledo Imam Khattab Endowed Chair of Islamic Studies, will explore how the connotation of "caliphate" is evolving to represent a more progressive Muslim world. "I hope attendees of the lecture will take away new ways to think about the past and the future of Islam-West relations, and, in general, how to think about the rising global struggle between nativism and globalism," Anjum said.

The annual Imam Khattab Lecture on Islamic Thought encourages dialogue about the Muslim experience through both historical and contemporary contexts. The event is part of the Center for Religious Understanding's lecture series and expands on the center's mission to promote a deeper understanding of religion on campus and throughout greater Toledo.

RSVPs are appreciated: utoledo.edu/al.



## UToledo equestrian team hosts horse rides to raise money for shelter dogs

By Christine Billau

The University of Toledo equestrian team will host Horses for Humanity to help care for shelter dogs in need of forever homes. The public event will take place Wednesday, April 10, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the grassy area south of Memorial Field House on

Main Campus. If it rains, the event will be held Wednesday, April 17. Several horses will be on campus for people to ride for a donation of at least \$3. The team also is accepting paper towels, dog toys, dog treats and blankets.

Donations will go to Lucas County Canine Care and Control to support animals up for adoption.

Visitors also will have the opportunity to pet and adopt dogs accompanied by volunteers with Lucas County Canine Care and Control.

"We want to support the work being done in the Toledo area to take care of stray and homeless dogs," Andrea Woo, co-president of the UToledo equestrian team, said. "Horses and dogs are such incredibly therapeutic animals. We are excited to share the joy our horses bring us with our campus community, while working to help these loving dogs up for adoption."

Members of the equestrian team will be on hand to assist in riding horses.



Photo by loe Englis

GIDDY UP: Makaleigh Hubbard rode Maggie during Horses for Humanity last year with the help of Nicole Archer of the UToledo equestrian team.

## ARTS

## Zooming in on nature: Winners of Lake Erie Photo Contest announced

A total of 161 eye-catching entries vyed for top honors in the ninth annual Lake Erie Photo Contest.

Photographers of all ages were invited to submit up to three shots that fit the theme, "The Nature of Our Region, From Oak Openings to Maumee Bay."

All entries are on display in the Lake Erie Center Lobby, 6200 Bayshore Road, Oregon.

"We love this contest; we love seeing the fantastic photographs that are submitted every year, and we love that everyone is out enjoying nature," said Rachel Lohner, education program manager for the Lake Erie Center.

Winners took home cash prizes. Listed by category, they are:

- Best of Show Michael Henningsen;
- Adult Henningsen;
- Teen (13 to 18 years old) —
- Bekah McVicker; and • Youth (7 to 12 years old) —
- Natalie Gibbons.

Lohner said the photo contest is designed to inspire camera enthusiasts and others to explore nature in the Lake Erie region.

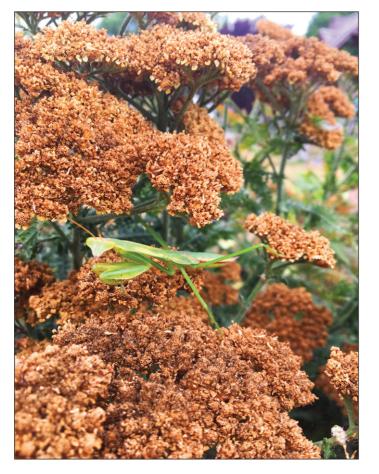
Visit facebook.com/lakeeriecenter to see more photos from the contest.



Michael Henningsen took home the overall top prize for this photo of raccoons.

Michael Henningsen also won first place in the adult category for his photo of foxes.





Natalie Gibbons received top honors in the youth category for her photo of a praying mantis.



Bekah McVicker placed first in the teen category with this shot of a hummingbird.

## NEWS

# Students to recreate first moon landing with drones and robots on 50th anniversary

By Christine Billau

s the country prepares to celebrate that one small step for man and one giant leap for mankind taken 50 years ago, The University of Toledo is on a mission to enlist local middle and high school students in a competition to recreate the historic lunar landing using robots and drones.

The winning team receives a trip to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"The Apollo 11 moon landing serves as a shining example of scientific ingenuity and human curiosity," Dr. Kevin Czajkowski, professor of geography and planning, said. "This event will give students a taste of the excitement the world had for the lunar landing in 1969."

UToledo and Monroe Community College have teamed up to serve as one of more than a dozen hubs across the U.S. in the Apollo Next Giant Leap Student Challenge. Each hub sends a winning team to Houston.

The competition, which is free and open to students in fifth through 12th grades, takes place Saturday, July 20, at Monroe County Community College. However, the registration deadline is Monday, April 15. Register online at nwessp.org/apollo50/ registration.

Teams of five students need to be affiliated with an organization such as a school, library, museum, after-school program or club

The teams build a replica of the lunar module and program a Lego robot to act as a rover; use a remote-controlled drone to land the module on a map of the moon's surface as close to where Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong landed; maneuver the rover across the map of the lunar surface, completing various missions to score points; plant a flag; and safely return the lunar module to where it started using a drone.

A limited number of kits are available at UToledo for teams to use for free. Contact janet.struble2@utoledo.edu or



call 419.530.4120 if you are interested in participating.

"The students have to hit the target and program the robot to go around obstacles," Chris Black, UToledo doctoral student in the Spatially Integrated Social Science Program, said. "They'll have a commander and pilot, just like a lunar mission. We want them to feel the spirit of achievement and exploration exemplified by those who contributed to the successful landing of the Apollo 11 spacecraft on the moon 50 years ago."

After registering, adult mentors are encouraged to attend a training at Monroe

County Community College from 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, and Wednesday, April 17.

As director of what is known as the SATELLITES (Students And Teachers Exploring Local Landscapes to Interpret the Earth from Space) program, Czajkowski has been giving K-12 opportunities to develop and present hands-on research projects to build knowledge using the resources of NASA and education partners across the country.

"The 50th anniversary of the moon landing presents a unique opportunity to have a blast," Czajkowski said.

## University to engage in dialogue on race: Founder of Jim Crow Museum to speak April 11

By Bailey Sparks

Dr. David Pilgrim, an expert in racist expressions in history, will come to campus Thursday, April 11, to give a presentation titled "Dialogue on Race: Jim Crow and 'Blackface' in the 21st Century."

He will speak on the national dialogue concerning the issues of Jim Crow and blackface within the broader discussion of race and racism in America. The talk will take place from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Law Center Auditorium; doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Pilgrim is the vice president of diversity and inclusion, as well as the founder and director of the Jim Crow Museum at Ferris State University.

The Jim Crow Museum is the largest collection of publicly accessible racist memorabilia. The collection includes more than 12,000 racist artifacts that are used to teach tolerance and promote social justice.

Pilgrim has worked extensively in race relations and inclusion in books and documentaries, including "Watermelons, Nooses, and Straight Razors," "Understanding Jim Crow: Using Racist Memorabilia to Teach Tolerance and Promote Social Justice," "Jim Crow's Museum," "The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross," and Will Smith's "All of Us."

"I would like individuals to leave the presentation with an understanding of both the historical and contemporary meaning of blackface as an expression of racism, and also that this presentation can spark an honest dialogue on the broader issues and implications of racism in society," said Angela Siner, director of the Africana Studies Program.

This free, public event is sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters, the Africana Studies Program, and the Dean of Students Office.



Dr. David Pilgrim at the Jim Crow Museum at Ferris State University

## NEWS

## APRIL 8, 2019



#### **REGISTER EARLY** FOR FALL 2019.

Get the classes you need and the schedule that works for you.

GRADUATE STUDENTS	March 13
PRIORITY REGISTRATION FOR THESE STUDENTS: Honors, athletes (including varsity cheerleaders), Salford students, ROTC scholarship cadets, students with disabilities (and note-takers), and military/veterans, distance learning-only program	March 13
SENIORS (90 or more earned hours)	March 20
JUNIORS (60-89 earned hours)	March 25
SOPHOMORES (30-59 earned hours), undergraduates with degrees	April 1
FRESHMEN & OPEN REGISTRATION (0-29 earned hours)	April 8

YOUR PATH TO GRADUATION. Be sure to register for a minimum of 15 credit hours per semester to graduate on time.

REGISTER TODAY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN. Register for Fall 2019 by Monday, April 15, for a chance to win one of 20 Starbucks gift cards worth \$20.

FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE: Visit Rocket Solution Central in Rocket Hall Room 1200, or call 419.530.8700. utoledo.edu/getahead



In memoriam

**Dr. Hal R. Jenks Jr.**, Saline, Mich., who was a visiting assistant professor of health and human services from 1997 to 2002, died March 29 at age 77.

Judith L. (Settles) Katafiasz, Toledo, died March 27 at age 60. She was a clerical specialist and word processing specialist in Rehabilitation Services and the Physical Therapy Department at MCO from 1991 to 2001.

Daniel W. Kozak, Toledo, died March 27 at age 79. He was operations supervisor at MCO from 1977 until his retirement in 1990.

**Heather A.Williams**, Westland, Mich., an instructor who taught mathematics from 2002 until 2016, died March 21 at age 51.

JOIN US AT UTOLEDO'S PREMIERE COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM, SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST:

### Impacting Our Region Through Community-Engaged Research

Wednesday, April 17

3 to 6 p.m.

Nitschke Technology Commercialization Complex I 600 N. Westwood Ave., Toledo

3 to 5 p.m. More than 40 faculty booth and poster presentations featuring UToledo's latest research, scholarship and creative activities impacting our region

3:30 to 4: 30 p.m. Great Lakes Community-Engaged Scholarship Professional Development Programs Special presentation, Nitschke Hall SSOE Seminar Room Dr. Heather A. Triesenberg, Michigan Sea Grant, Michigan State University Extension

5 to 6 p.m. Toledo Opioid Overdose Response Team: Partnering for Better Outcomes Featured panel discussion, Nitschke Auditorium

Complimentary hors d' oeuvres and refreshments available. Free parking next to Nitschke (lots 19 and 20).

For more details, including a complete list of faculty presenters: *utoledo.edu/research/symposium* 





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## NEWS

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## **Events slated for Asian American and Pacific Islander Month**

The University of Toledo has several events scheduled to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Month.

"The Office of Multicultural Student Success makes it its mission to support multicultural students through programming, academic, social support and through celebration of the various heritage and history months," said Arturo Ordonez, graduate assistant in the Office of Multicultural Student Success. "These opportunities allow us to highlight the unique differences all multicultural students bring to our beautiful campus.

"Join us this month as we indulge in delicious food and learn about the different traditions and rituals that people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent contribute in the United States."

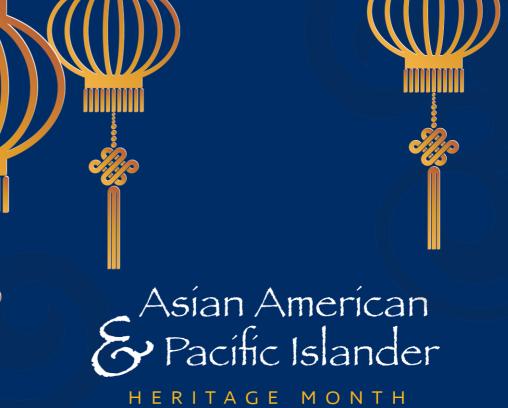
While Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is celebrated in May, the University will hold events in April before the semester ends so more students can take part in festivities, Ordonez added.

"It's important to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Month because it brings people together," Margaret Hill of the Vietnamese Student Association said. "People from all different backgrounds come together to learn and celebrate these beautiful cultures. I hope people who attend these events take away the importance of celebrating a culture and feel more familiar with it."

Listed by date, events will include:

- Tuesday, April 9 International Curry Contest, 7 p.m., Memorial Field House Room 2420. Bring your curry to share and compete for prizes. The Japanese Student Association will provide rice.
- Friday, April 12 International Game Night, 7 to 10 p.m., Thompson Student Union Room 1532. Stop by to play board games from other countries.
- Wednesday, April 17 Asian Night Market, 6 p.m., Thompson Student Union Auditorium. This free event will feature foods and activities celebrating cultures and diversity of traditional night markets across Asia.
- Saturday, April 20 Filipino American Association Picnic, 5 to 9 p.m., the Flatlands. Plan to be there for end-of-the-semester food and fun.

For more information on Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, call the Office of Multicultural Student Success at 419.530.2261.



## APRIL 2019

For a list of events, visit utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/omss.

For more information, contact the Office of Multicultural Student Success at 419.530.2261.

Presented by

the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Office for Multicultural Student Success and the following student associations: Bangladeshi; Chinese American; Chinese Students and Scholars; Filipino American; Indian Student Cultural Organization; Japanese; Korean; Middle Eastern and North African; Sri Lankan and Vietnamese

