

UT finalizes new core curriculum matched to core competencies

By Jon Strunk

The presentation of 94 general education courses to The University of Toledo Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Committee April 10 represented the culmination of more than 18 months of work by faculty, Faculty Senate, department chairs and deans across the institution.

“This consolidation of UT’s core curriculum is something that this board has desired for some time, and I’m pleased to present the good work of so many across this University to you for your consideration,” UT President Lloyd Jacobs said at the committee meeting.

“Starting in January of 2011, faculty and the Faculty Senate, with support from the Provost’s Office, worked very hard to establish core competency recommendations that integrated feedback we were receiving from the board, from several external constituencies, and from nationwide trends that said we needed to focus more attention on the incorporation and measurement of competency development,” said Dr. Lawrence Anderson-Huang, professor and chair of astronomy and physics, and president of Faculty Senate.

Dr. William McMillen, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, who recommended approval of the changes to the

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UTMC volunteers to be recognized during National Volunteer Week

By Nicolette Jett

Volunteers at The University of Toledo Medical Center are a diverse group ranging from college students with career goals in the health sciences to retirees looking to give back to the community.

Each year during National Volunteer Week, the medical center recognizes these dedicated people who give their time to help others.

“Volunteers do a splendid job of providing a welcoming presence when people walk into UTMC,” said Lynette Hearst, support service specialist for Volunteer Services. “Every volunteer

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Photo by Daniel Miller

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Eleanor Malkuian is a volunteer who helps in the Four Seasons Bistro.



Photo by Daniel Miller

FIELD DAY: Head Football Coach Matt Campbell talked to some 70 students who attended the Fantasy Football Camp.

Proposed OPERS changes to be discussed April 24

By Yarko Kuk

Representatives from the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) will be on campus to discuss proposed changes at a brown-bag forum in Nitschke Hall Auditorium Tuesday, April 24, at noon.

Changes to OPERS and the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) are in the future, and while the final details or implementation dates are not yet known, the Human Resources and Talent Development Department is working to keep UT employees as informed as possible.

According to officials in Columbus, the proposed changes to OPERS are awaiting approval by the Ohio General Assembly. These changes include a transitional plan for age and years of service requirements, and the annual cost of living adjustment will change across the board.

According to information provided by OPERS, the current fixed 3 percent cost of living adjustment will go away the moment the new plan is enacted. Under the new plan, these adjustments will be tied to the consumer price index, just as Social Security is. Recent Social Security cost of living adjustments have been 1 percent a year. Under the new system, the cost of living adjustments would be capped at 3 percent annually.

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Parking garages on Main Campus to close May 7 for repair

By Kim Goodin

The two parking garages on Main Campus, known as the east and west decks, will close Monday, May 7, for structural repair and general refurbishment.

According to Doug Collins, director of facilities and grounds services, the normal freeze and thaw cycle from autumn through spring causes damage such as rust and spalling that impact the structural integrity of the decks.

"We conduct an annual inspection after the winter, which happened earlier than usual this year," Collins said. "We found that, in general, concrete areas on both decks showed rust in the metal structures, as well as blisters that can contribute to buckling of certain areas. This type of wear and tear is normal due to weather conditions, and it needs regular maintenance and repair to keep the structures safe."

The project will include repair of targeted areas and the rooftops to prevent water damage, as well as general cleaning and repainting in the stairwells.

The refurbishment, which will cost approximately \$440,000, is expected to be complete by mid-August.

"We know it's an inconvenience to have both parking decks closed, but the optimal structural integrity of the buildings is our primary concern," Collins said.

"We need to ensure these structures are maintained as necessary. It's a safety issue."

Combined, the two decks contain 1,738 parking spaces.

Collins added that this refurbishment is phase one of continued improvements planned on the decks. Additional evaluations will be conducted to determine the extent of future reinforcement.

Exterior signage will direct to alternate parking areas in lots 9 and 10 (near the Glass Bowl), as well as 13N, located behind Dowd, Nash and White halls. "These lots are open for staff use during summer construction. After construction, all lots will return to original permits," Collins said of the space near the residence halls.

For questions about the project, contact Collins at 419.530.1018 or douglas.collins@utoledo.edu.

University Bookstores prepare to move into Gateway

By Meghan Cunningham

The new University Bookstore in the Gateway Project will offer students a place to get the textbooks they need for class, the gear to show off their Rocket pride, and other essentials in a new space open to the entire community.

The University Bookstore, a division of Auxiliary Services that is operated by Barnes & Noble Booksellers, will be the anchor of the much-anticipated new development on the corner of Dorr Street and Secor Road.

"The first floor of the bookstore will offer a Starbucks café, popular books, and a children's area along with University of Toledo clothing and gift items. The second floor will be devoted to textbooks and medical reference and equipment, as well as school supplies," said Joy Gramling, director of auxiliary services.

The current locations on Main Campus and Health Science Campus will begin moving in June to prepare for the July 9 opening.

Both bookstores will be open, with limited items available until Friday, June 29, when the stores will close to allow for the move to the Gateway. The one-week closures of the bookstores have been planned during the time that offered the

least impact on students and employees, as all summer terms will be under way before June 29.

"We share the University community's excitement about the new bookstore and the entire Gateway project. We look forward to serving the students and community from the new location and appreciate everyone's patience as we make this transition," said Colleen Strayer, general manager of the University Bookstore.

The Health Science Campus will host a satellite office with a kiosk where students can order and pick up their books if they are not able to visit the new Gateway location.

The grand opening celebration of the bookstore is being planned for Monday, July 9, with a series of events the first week to invite families from the greater Toledo community to check out the store.

In addition to the Barnes & Noble bookstore, the Gateway Project will include Gradkowski's Sports Grille, Jimmy John's, Great Clips, YogurtU and other retailers. The upper floors are Lofts at Gateway apartments for UT students. The 48 units will house 112 students in two- and four-bedroom modern, fully furnished apartments.

Volunteers

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walks through the UTMC doors with an inspiring smile on his or her face and leaves with a sense of fulfillment."

The 2012 National Volunteer Week is April 15-21. Volunteers at UT Medical Center will be recognized with a luncheon Wednesday, April 18.

UTMC volunteers give their time as ambassadors in the International Welcome Center, Emergency Room and Ruppert Health Center. Volunteers also assist in the gift shop, Heart and Vascular Center, surgery waiting room, clerical offices and Pastoral Care, to mention a few. Satellites Auxiliary volunteers organize sales of books, plants and food to benefit UTMC patient programs and scholarships.

"Volunteering at UTMC is different than what I anticipated, and different in a good way. I leave every day with a sense of accomplishment and a

rewarding feeling," said Zack Dooley, UT sophomore majoring in pre-med biology. "Not every place can create such wonderful feelings for both the patrons of UTMC and those of us who serve."

UTMC volunteers like Dooley donated a total of nearly 50,000 hours of their time in 2011.

"We are all in this together — one team, one family, one mission to fulfill," Hearst said. "Our mission could not be complete without the hard work put in every day by each volunteer. I am honored to be working with such a wonderful group of individuals."

Those interested in volunteering at UT Medical Center should contact Hearst at lynette.hearst@utoledo.edu or 419.383.3835.

For more information on Volunteer Services, visit utmc.utoledo.edu/depts/volunteer.



Photo by Daniel Miller

HERE TO HELP: Volunteers, from left, James Lukalo, Luberta Trammell, Sue LaPlant, Linda Murphy and Ahmed AlKhudhair, make a difference by working in the International Welcome Center, Emergency Room and the Ruppert Health Center.

Faculty recommended for promotion, tenure sent to full board

By Jon Strunk

The University of Toledo Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Committee approved and forwarded to the full board for its consideration the promotion and tenure of more than two dozen faculty at its meeting April 10.

Faculty recommended by the committee for tenure and promotion from assistant professor to associate professor are:

College of Engineering

- Dr. Daniel Georgiev, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences

- Dr. Sumitra Srinivasan, Department of Communication
- Dr. Bhuiyan Alam, Department of Geography and Planning

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

- Dr. Bruce Bamber, Department of Biological Sciences
- Dr. Maria Diakonova, Department of Biological Sciences
- Dr. Thomas Bridgeman, Department of Environmental Sciences

- Dr. Michael Weintraub, Department of Environmental Sciences
- Dr. John D. Smith, Department of Physics and Astronomy

College of Visual and Performing Arts

- Cornel Gabara, Department of Theatre and Film

Judith Herb College of Education, Health Science and Human Service

- Dr. Richard Johnson, Department of Criminal Justice and Social Work
- Dr. Susanna Hapgood, Department of Curriculum and Instruction
- Dr. Tavis Glassman, Department of Health and Recreation Professions
- Dr. Jiunn-Jye Sheu, Department of Health and Recreation Professions

Faculty recommended by the committee for promotion from associate professor to professor are:

College of Business and Innovation

- Dr. Monideepa Tarafdar, Department of Information Operations and Technology

College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences

- Dr. James Ferris, Department of Communication
- Dr. Paul Fritz, Department of Communication
- Dr. Daniel Hammel, Department of Geography and Planning
- Dr. Neil Reid, Department of Geography and Planning
- Dr. Andrew Geers, Department of Psychology
- Dr. John D. Jasper, Department of Psychology

College of Visual and Performing Arts

- Tammy Kinsey, Department of Theatre and Film

Judith Herb College of Education, Health Science and Human Service

- Dr. Rebecca Schneider, Department of Curriculum and Instruction
- Dr. Berhane Teclehaimanot, Department of Curriculum and Instruction

- Dr. Dale Snauwaert, Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership
- Dr. Gregory Stone, Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership
- Dr. Joseph Dake, Department of Health and Recreation Professions
- Dr. Timothy Jordan, Department of Health and Recreation Professions

Also recommended for promotion are Kenneth Kilbert from associate professor to professor of law with tenure; Kelly Moore from assistant professor to associate professor of law; and Richard Springman from instructor to assistant professor of engineering technology.

Several faculty members have yet to complete the tenure review process, and they will be considered by the board at a future meeting.

Newest Distinguished University Professors named

By Jon Strunk

Two University of Toledo faculty members were approved as Distinguished University Professors by the UT Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Committee April 10 and recommended to the full board for approval.

Susan Martyn, Stoepler Professor of Law and Values in the College of Law, and Dr. Ali Fatemi, professor of mechanical, industrial and manufacturing engineering in the College of Engineering, were selected to receive the institution's highest academic honor.

"Susan and Ali are internationally respected scholars in their fields, gifted teachers and outstanding researchers," said Dr. William McMillen, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

Martyn, an elected member of the American Law Institute, has authored five books in the field of legal ethics. She has contributed amicus curiae briefs pro bono to the U.S. Supreme Court to assist as it assessed bioethics and legal ethics issues.

At the University for 22 years, she has received the Outstanding Research Award from the Ohio State Bar Association and the UT Outstanding Research Award, and has served on several national bodies that shape the laws that govern lawyer conduct.

Fatemi, an educator and researcher at UT for 25 years, is a fellow in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and is internationally recognized for his contributions and research into materials fatigue and fracture mechanics, co-developing multi-axial fatigue theory.

He has published 139 refereed publications, been awarded \$3.6 million over 35 research projects as the sole principal investigator and an additional \$3.1 million in sponsored research as a co-principal investigator with other researchers. He is the recipient of the Engineering Outstanding Research Award, the UT Outstanding Research Award and the Sigma Xi/Raftopoulos Outstanding Research Award.



Martyn



Fatemi

Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue to address religious perspectives on environment

By Feliza Casano

The Annual Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue, sponsored by the UT Center for Religious Understanding, will again unite local members of the three Abrahamic faiths for discussion Wednesday, April 18, at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Ingman Room.

"Repairing the Earth: Is It Too Late?" is the theme this year that will be presented by Dr. Dennis Weaver, professor emeritus of religion at Bluffton University. The respondents will be Rabbi Moshe Saks and Nura Sedique.

"Repairing the Earth: Is It Too Late?" will focus on human effects on the environment and the religious imperatives for the three Abrahamic faiths to remediate those effects.

"Each of the religious traditions share a fundamental understanding of the goodness of creation, but each has a different take on humanity's relationship to and responsibility for creation," said Dr. Peter Feldmeier, the UT Endowed Murray/Bacik Chair of Catholic Studies. "It's an opportunity to share different perspectives on the issue of creation, the degradation of the created world, and the religious imperative to address that."

After Weaver's talk, which will discuss a Christian perspective, Saks and Sedique will offer brief responses from the Jewish and Muslim perspectives. Dialogue then will open up at each of the tables at the event and be moderated by discussion facilitators from each perspective.

"The Abrahamic religions can provide a voice of wisdom and transcendental perspective to what is surely one of the most pressing moral issues of the day," Feldmeier said. "While some politicians frame the issue in economic terms or purely in human terms, theological perspectives can also provide a larger sense of inherent, intrinsic good that must be protected."

Followers of all three Abrahamic faiths are encouraged to attend, and members of the public are invited to the free, public event.

"The dialogue has proven to be a great opportunity for those of different traditions to get to know one another: Friendships and cordial, warm relationships emerge," Feldmeier said. "It's a way for each of the three branches to express their uniqueness as well as their common bond."

THE CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING PRESENTS:
THE ANNUAL JEWISH-CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM DIALOGUE

REPAIRING THE EARTH: IS IT TOO LATE?

BY DR. DENNIS WEAVER, PH.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF RELIGION,
BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY


RESPONDENTS
Rabbi Moshe Saks
Nura Sedique

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18
7-9 P.M.
STUDENT UNION
INGMAN ROOM

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork (*Psalms 19:1*)

He created the heavens and earth in accordance with the requirements of wisdom (*Quran 39:6*)

Creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God (*Romans 8:12*)



UT
CENTER FOR
RELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

This event is free and open to the public. For parking information for Main Campus, visit utoledo.edu/campus/virtualtour

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OPERS

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If someone were to retire before the plan is enacted, they are grandfathered into a plan with an annual 3 percent cost of living increase.

The transitional plan for age and service eligibility has organized employees into three groups:

- Group A — People who are eligible to retire within five years of the effective date of the legislation.
- Group B — People who are eligible to retire within 10 years of the effective date of the legislation or have 20 years of service credit prior to the effective date.

- Group C — Everyone else and all new hires.

According to information provided by OPERS, the only change for people in Group A is the cost of living adjustment provision of their retirement. For people in Group B, in addition to the cost of living adjustment changes, there are new years of service requirements: age 52 with 31 years of service, or any age with 32 years of service, or 66 with five years of service. In addition, anyone in Group B who seeks early retirement will have his or her pension reduced to reflect longer life expectancies.

People in Group C will feel the full impact of the proposed changes. All new

provisions will apply, from cost of living adjustment to age reduction factors, new benefit formulas, etc.

As for STRS, on March 22, the board discussed revisions to the current proposal, aimed at reaching a 30-year amortization goal. Some of the plan design scenarios discussed at the March meeting included a reduction to the cost of living adjustment, age and service eligibility changes, and giving the board the authority to adjust the plan in the future.

According to Chuck Lehnert, UT vice president of administration, the University will continue to work with state officials to schedule future question-and-answer

sessions regarding the pending changes to OPERS and STRS.

"Human Resources and Talent Development is working to keep our employees informed," he said. "We realize there has been a lot of discussion around the OPERS and STRS plan design and proposed changes. We believe it is important to keep all UT employees up to date with the most current information."

For more information and updates about the upcoming OPERS changes, visit www.opers.org.

For information on the ongoing efforts of STRS, visit www.strsoh.org.



Celebrating Diversity

Monday, April 16

What: Greg Walloch's Comic Film "F*CK the Disabled"

Where: Student Union room 3018, MC

When: 11 a.m.

Greg Walloch, a disabled gay comedian, uses humor to expose cultural and social fault lines.

What: Diversity Dinner with Latino Student Union

Where: Student Union room 2584, MC

When: 7 p.m.

The LSU hosts Dr. Jetsabe Casceres, UT professor of political science and public administration, who will address the importance of diversity and her experiences as a Latina professional. Hispanic food and music will follow!

Tuesday, April 17

What: International Soccer Tournament

Where: Student Recreation Center, MC

When: 3-6 p.m.

Enjoy free pizza and compete in a soccer tournament. To register, e-mail Guo.Lin@rockets.utoledo.edu.

What: Story Telling by Teju Ologboni

Where: Student Recreation Center, MC

When: 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 18

What: Carnival in the Mall presented by Student Government

Where: Centennial Mall, MC

When: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Enjoy free food, inflatables and live music by Abigail Stauffer!

What: Speaker Brian C. Johnson

Where: Health Education Building room 100, HSC

When: Noon

Hear an inspirational program about respect and creating community at UT!

Sponsored by: the President's Lecture Series on Diversity, DOS Office, Office of External Affairs

What: Speaker Brian C. Johnson

Where: John F. Savage Arena, MC

When: 7 p.m.

Hear an inspirational program about respect and creating community at UT!

Sponsored by: the President's Lecture Series on Diversity, DOS Office, Office of External Affairs

Thursday, April 19

What: The Clothesline Project and White Ribbon Campaign

Where: Centennial Mall, MC

When: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

The Clothesline Project is a display of shirts bearing witness to violence against women. Survivors of violence against women and family and friends of murdered women design shirts in response to their experiences. The White Ribbon Campaign invites men to pledge not to commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women. Each man who pledges receives a ribbon to wear as a sign of his commitment. Stop by between 12:30-1:30 pm for a free UTURN T-shirt!

What: Islam and Pluralism

Where: Gillham Hall room 5300, MC

When: 7 p.m.

Dr. Ovamir Ajum, Imam Khattab Chair of Islamic Studies in the Department of Philosophy, will speak on the topic of Islam, diversity and pluralism.

What: Greg Walloch's Comic Film "F*CK the Disabled"

Where: Memorial Field House room 2100, MC

When: 7:30 p.m.

Greg Walloch, a disabled gay comedian, uses humor to expose cultural and social fault lines.

What: Talent/Drag Show

Where: Student Union room 2591, MC

When: 8 p.m.

Enjoy a night of talents and drag royalty with performances by UT's students! Fun and entertaining, the annual drag show goes on.

Friday, April 20

What: Diversity Ball

Where: Student Union room 2591, MC

When: 7 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of dancing, socializing, and remembering all the fun had last year!

What: Shabbat Dinner

Where: Hillel House, 2012 Brookdale Drive (right around the corner from MC)

When: 6-9 p.m.

Celebrate the Jewish Sabbath on Friday evening with a delicious dinner and service. The day of rest and celebration is meant to free the Jewish people from labors of everyday life with the comfort of prayer and friends.

Saturday, April 21

What: Take Back the Night

Where: Outside the Howard L. Collier Building, HSC

When: 6-11 p.m.

Join this community rally with a goal of ending violence against women, followed by a women's march, survivor speakout and ally/men's event. Events include a resource fair and displays from the Silent Witness, Clothesline and Bandana projects. UT sponsors include SAEPP, UTURN, Social Work, Women's and Gender Studies, 4AW, Student Social Work Organization and more. www.toledotakebackthenight.org

Artistic concept by Derrel Stephens.

Supported by:

President's Lecture Series on
DiVersity
at The University of Toledo



UT, Toledo Symphony Orchestra team up for Wartime Reflections Festival

The University of Toledo College of Visual and Performing Arts and the Toledo Symphony Orchestra have partnered to present a diverse series of events this month.

This arts and humanities collaboration is the first of its kind between the symphony and the college. Highlights include a film screening, performances and historical lectures.

“The amazing faculty at The University of Toledo have prepared a wonderful array of events that perfectly contextualize the way artists deal with the pain of wartime,” said Toledo Symphony President and CEO Kathleen Carroll. “This is truly a gift to the community.”

The festival theme centers on the poignant concert that the symphony will perform Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28, at 8 p.m. in the Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle Theater. “Wartime Reflections” was performed by the Oregon Symphony at the 2011 Spring for Music Festival in New York City alongside the Glass City orchestra’s Carnegie Hall debut. The Toledo Symphony wanted to bring back a postcard from the festival to share with Toledo audiences. Works by Ives, Adams and Britten will be performed continuously with no applause to heighten the emotion in the first half. The concert will conclude with Vaughan Williams’ haunting Fourth Symphony.

Concert tickets start at \$15 and can be purchased at www.ToledoSymphony.com or by calling 419.246.8000.

Four free, public events remain that are part of the Wartime Reflections Festival.

Listed by date, they are:

- **Wednesday, April 18** — “Rage and Remembrance: The British Musical Response to the Great War” with Dr. Christopher Williams, UT visiting assistant professor of music, at 7:30 p.m. in Libbey Hall. He will discuss how the First World War and the loss of many young, promising artists affected Ralph Vaughan Williams, who wrote his Fourth Symphony, and Benjamin Britten, who was a fierce pacifist his entire career.
- **Friday, April 20** — Film Screening of Derek Jarman’s “War Requiem” with Tammy Kinsey, UT associate professor of film, at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for the Visual Arts Haigh Auditorium on UT’s Toledo Museum of Art Camps. She will introduce this screening of Jarman’s controversial visualization of Britten’s score. Utilizing no dialogue, the film alternates between original dramatic scenes and archival footage of World War I. The film is set to Britten’s own 1963 rendition

of the music and is also notable for containing the last performance on stage or screen of Sir Laurence Olivier.

- **Sunday, April 22** — “Cabaret!” with Dr. Denise Ritter Bernardini and Dr. Michael Boyd of the UT Department of Music at 3 p.m. in the Toledo Museum of Art Great Gallery. This fun, educational concert will focus on the origins of the cabaret. Take a musical adventure that begins in Paris on the streets of Montmartre during the late 19th century. Then travel to war-torn Munich and Berlin to tour the Kabarettts, complete with bawdy satire to amuse and entertain. The concert will culminate with a modern look at American cabaret,

introducing some new music by Benjamin Moore.

- **Thursday, April 26** — “Remembering the Civil War: Photographs and Monuments” with Dr. Richard Putney, UT associate professor of art, at 7:30 p.m. in Libbey Hall. He will give an illustrated lecture devoted to memories of the Civil War provided by photographs and memorials, with emphasis on Alexander Gardiner’s *Sketchbook of the Civil War* (1866) and monuments dedicated at Gettysburg in the 1880s and 1890s.



MALLET MAN: Dave Samuels & The Organik Vibe Trio will be special guests at the UT Jazz Night Monday, April 23, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at Crystal’s Lounge in the Ramanda Inn, 3536 Secor Road. Samuels, a noted vibraphone and marimba performer and composer, has worked with Spyro Gyra and is a member of The Caribbean Jazz Project. Tickets are \$3 for students and seniors and \$5 for the public.

Poetry reading slated for April 23

Award-winning poet and disability studies scholar Dr. Jim Ferris will present "Slouching Towards Guantanamo," a poetry reading from his latest book of the same name, as well as the widely hailed anthology, *Beauty Is a Verb: The New Poetry of Disability*.

The reading will be held at 4 p.m. Monday, April 23, in the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections in Carlson Library.

Ferris is the Ability Center of Greater Toledo Endowed Chair of Disability Studies, director of the UT Disability Studies Program and associate professor of communication.

Critics have described his poems as "funny," "sly," "Whitmanesque" and "kind of holy." He is the author of *The Hospital Poems* (2004), *Facts of Life* (2005) and his latest, *Slouching Towards Guantanamo* (2011). One reviewer said, "Notwithstanding the spiritual weight they carry, these poems are playful, musical, satirical and passionate."

"Poetry is where tomorrow's ideas first come to light. Poetry is about making the world new, and real, and whole. Poems vibrate in our deepest places; poems move us to action," Ferris said. "I hope people will come away from the reading enlivened to their own power in the world. I hope they have a good time, too."

Ferris has won awards for creative nonfiction and performance as well as for his poetry. His work has been featured in journals, newspapers and books, including *Beauty Is a Verb: The New Poetry of Disability*, which was named a Notable Book of 2012 by the American Library Association.

For more information on the free, public reading, contact the Disability Studies Program at 419.530.7244.

SLOUCHING



TOWARDS

GUANTANAMO



THE DISABILITY STUDIES PROGRAM
presents

A POETRY READING
by

JIM FERRIS



modest and unassuming Ability Center Endowed Chair in Disability Studies

4 p.m. Monday, April 23 - Canaday Center - 5th Floor, Carlson Library

For further information, contact the Disability Studies Program, 419.530.7244
Free and open to the public



GLITCH HACK PLAY

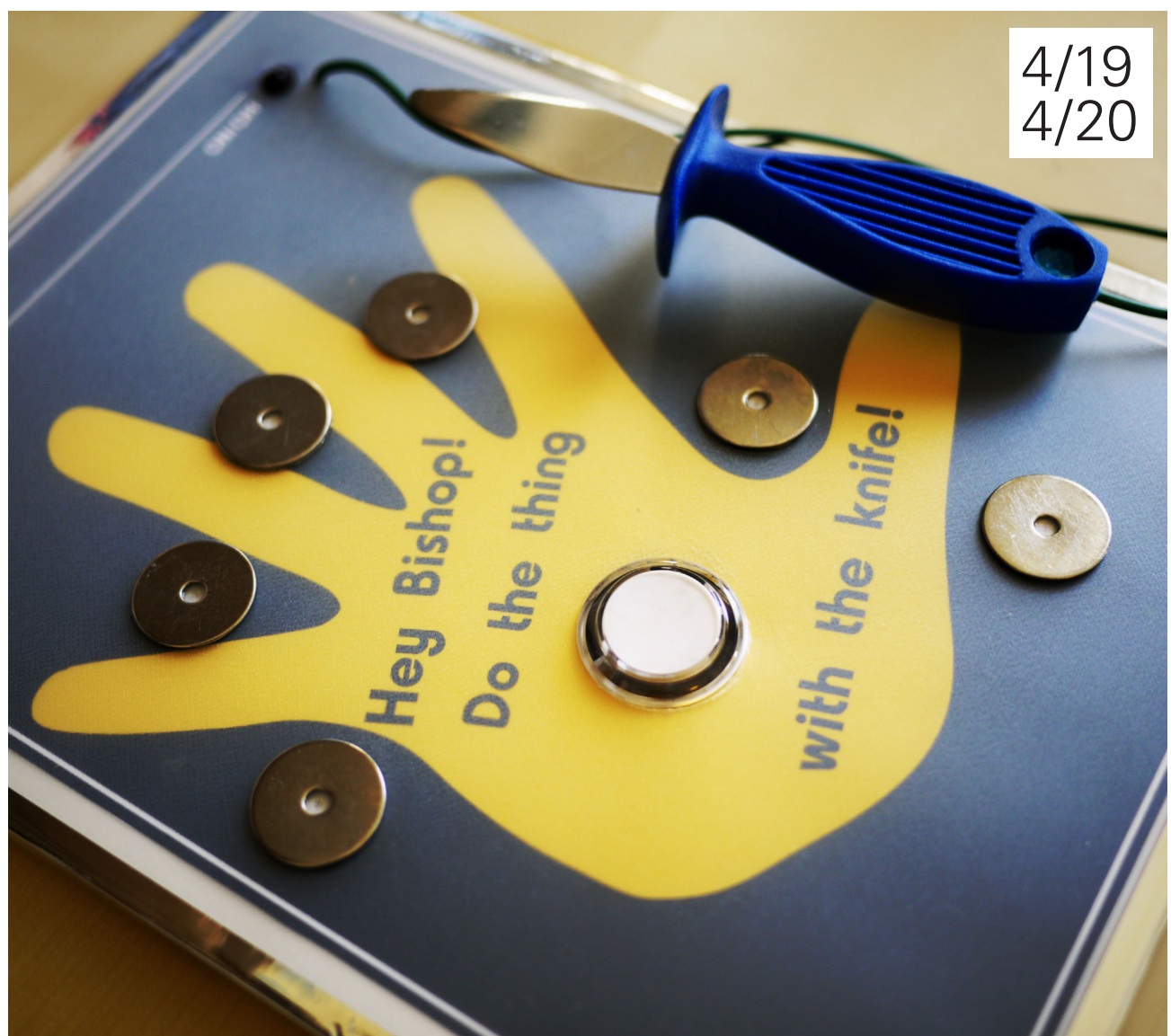
Spring 2012 New Media Visiting Artist
Lecture & Workshop Series from the
University Of Toledo Department Of Art

SESSION 3 SAM SHEFFIELD

LECTURE:
April 19, 2PM
Toledo Museum of Art
Little Theater

WORKSHOP:
Build Your Own Retro Game With Fixel
April 20, 1PM
University of Toledo
Carlson Library, CL 1025
To register for the workshop
email: william.whittaker@utoledo.edu

ARTS@VCS
COLLEGE OF VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS



Class exploring death, afterlife receives visit from Iraq veteran who 'died and met God'

By Paul Webb

Dr. Linda Smith's course *The Afterlife in Literature, Religion and Science* explores the concepts of consciousness and death. The Honors College seminar encourages critical thinking and open-mindedness.

"In class, we examine views about the survival of consciousness after death. We also look at questions such as what is death and what defines it? What is consciousness and where is it located? And what is happening in a near-death experience as reported by those who 'die' and are resuscitated?" said Smith, professor and associate dean in the Honors College.

While facilitating discussion on near-death experiences, Smith brought a special guest into the classroom — an Army specialist wounded in combat.

Matthew Drake, a retired Army specialist, was serving in Iraq in October 2004 when his military vehicle was struck by a suicide bomber. Medical experts didn't expect him to live through the first night. It seems they may have been at least partially correct.

"Eight months post-injury, we were in the Veteran's Hospital in Ann Arbor. By this time, Matthew was able to spontaneously speak and was beginning to regain some memory, although he was still very childlike in his understanding," said Lisa Schuster, Drake's mother. "One day I mentioned something about talking to God, and Matthew replied, 'I think I met him, God. I met God.'"

"I replied, 'You met God?' And he continued on saying, 'Yes, he touched my hand and told me that I'm not done and there are things I have to do. So here I am,'" Schuster said. "I asked Matthew what God looked like, and he said, 'Well he isn't an old man; he wasn't even a person at all. He is more like a light. It was white, yellow, gold and warm.' I asked if there were angels, and he said, 'There were angels, and

they were lights of all different colors.' That was the end of the conversation on that day."

Drake was the sole survivor of the attack on his vehicle. In later conversations with his mother and his aunt, Drake reported seeing his two friends who were killed in the attack walk into a bright light, greeted by loved ones.

He suffered massive injuries, including brain and skull trauma, a fractured spinal vertebra, two broken clavicles, a fractured upper right arm, jaw fractures, third-degree burns, and glass and shrapnel in his head, face, neck and throat.

"Because of the brain trauma, it is hard for me to remember things I told my mom and to pick out certain memories," Drake told the class during his guest lecture last month. "But I will always have that feeling of extreme peace I felt in heaven."

Schuster said they receive mixed responses from people about their story, but for the students in Smith's class, Drake provided insight into near-death experiences.

"Some people have skeptical views, and individuals who have near-death experiences often suffer from disbelief or outright ridicule when they try to tell their



Photo by Dr. Linda Smith

SHARING EXPERIENCE: With the help of his mother, Lisa Schuster, Matthew Drake, a retired Army specialist, talked about how he died and met God after his military vehicle was struck by a suicide bomber in Iraq in 2004.

health-care workers about the experience. It is often suggested that their experience, which to them was profound and inspiring, is merely a hallucination or the results of medical or drug treatment," Smith said. "Many of these people are afraid they will be considered mentally ill and don't talk about it again for many years. This results in people having great difficulty integrating the experience into their lives, often resulting in depression, feelings of alienation and broken relationships."

Smith, who also is a licensed professional counselor, is developing a series of workshops for counselors and medical health professionals about near-

death experiences and other death-related issues.

"My hope is that such workshops and classes will help educate people about compassionate ways to respond to clients and patients who report some of these experiences," Smith said.

Drake, who is doing well in a supported-living apartment and working two part-time jobs, said he was happy to share his story with the class to better their understanding from his experiences.

"I'm here because I need to help people," he said. "If I can be an inspiration to anyone, I am helping them."

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UT Chapter of Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi to initiate new members April 22

The University of Toledo Chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi will hold its initiation ceremony for new members Sunday, April 22, at 1 p.m. in Student Union Room 2582.

More than 100 undergraduate and graduate students and three UT faculty members will be inducted into the honor society this year. Dr. Curtis Black, UT professor emeritus of pharmacy and national Phi Kappa Phi vice president for finance, will present the keynote address.

Inductees into the honorary must be in the top 7.5 percent of the junior class in their college, or the top 10 percent of their senior or graduate school college to qualify for membership.

In addition to inducting new members, the society will honor three scholarship winners and the chapter's nominee for the national Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship Award.

The chapter is awarding three \$500 scholarships this year. The winners were selected based upon academic performance,

an essay and letters of recommendation from faculty members. The winners of the scholarships are Yasmine Ayoub, Jeanetta Mohlke-Hill and Jessica Wenninger.

Ayoub of Sylvania is a freshman majoring in pre-med and biology. She is a student in the Honors College and volunteers at the Lake Park Nursing Facility in Sylvania. One of her nominators for the scholarship noted, "She is a very talented student and is devoted to pursuing a career as a physician."

Mohlke-Hill of Toledo is a junior majoring in women's and gender studies. Also in the Honors College, Mohlke-Hill is assistant director of the UT Writing Center, where she tutors students. She has received numerous scholarships for studies



in the humanities and has presented research at a national conference.

She is working on her senior thesis project, which examines how girls today are taught through popular culture to embody feminism.

Wenninger of Paulding County, Ohio, is a freshman majoring in exercise science and is in the

Pre-Physical Therapy Program and the Honors College. In her scholarship application essay, she described the personal impact of a volunteer summer trip to help a deaf village in Montego Bay, Jamaica. She has continued her volunteer efforts by working at an orphanage in Mexico last year, and helping to clean up after a tornado in Alabama over spring break this year. One of her nominators for the scholarship noted

her strong critical thinking skills and writing abilities.

The UT Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi also will honor its nominee for the national Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship Award, Lisa Marie Kitzler. One graduating senior is selected by the chapter each year for nomination as a national fellow. Kitzler will pursue graduate study in the field of speech-language pathology.

In addition to the undergraduate and graduate students who will be inducted into the honor society, UT faculty members will be inducted. They are Dr. Susanna Haggood, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction in the Judith Herb College of Education, Health Science and Human Service; Dr. Barbara Mann, assistant professor in the Honors College; and Dr. Nagi Naganathan, dean of the College of Engineering.

For more information, contact Dr. Mohamed Samir Hefzy, UT Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi president, at 419.530.6086.

Summer leaves/voluntary reduction in hours programs available

As part of UT's continuous efforts to manage expenses and assist employees with work-life balance, the Department of Human Resources and Talent Development will offer voluntary summer leaves and reduced work schedules to eligible employees.

Starting Monday, May 7, academic employees on Health Science Campus and all Main Campus employees may take advantage of programs allowing voluntary, unpaid leaves of absence and reduction in work hours.

The programs are available to staff whose departments typically experience lower workloads from May 7 through Aug. 17. The options allow employees to rejuvenate and spend extra time with their families while helping reduce UT's labor costs.

Employees are eligible for these programs only with the approvals of their department managers, based on business needs.

Request forms and details regarding changes in benefits, sick and vacation time accruals, and retirement contributions, among others, are explained in the Summer Leave/Voluntary Reduction in Work Hours Program Outline, which is available on the Human Resources and Talent Development website at <http://www.utoledo.edu/depts/hr> in the Employee's Toolkit and HR News sections.

Questions may be directed to Human Resources and Talent Development at 419.530.4747.

RSVP for University Women's Commission awards luncheon April 24

The University Women's Commission will hold its 26th annual awards luncheon Tuesday, April 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Savage Arena Joe Grogan Room.

Dr. Jamie Barlowe, interim dean of the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences, will be the guest speaker. The title of her talk is "They Also Ran: Women and U.S. Elections."

This year, the awards are being renamed to honor Dr. Alice Skeens, longtime UT faculty member and administrator, who championed women's issues.

"In honor of Dr. Alice Skeens' long-standing commitment to The University of Toledo, the University Women's Commission, and the women of the UT community, the commission board has renamed the Outstanding Woman Award in Alice's name," said Kelly Andrews, senior associate athletics director and senior woman administrator, who is president of the University Women's Commission.



**University Women's
Commission**

"More than 145 women at UT have received this award during the past 25 years, and by naming this award in honor of Alice, we believe we will perpetually honor Alice's service to the University."

A light lunch will be served at the event, which also will feature a 50/50 raffle and auction items.

All proceeds will go toward the commission's progress fund and scholarships.

RSVPs are requested by noon Thursday, April 19, to sarah.wilson2@utoledo.edu.

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UTNEWS

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Yell & Tell rally to raise awareness about child abuse

By Nicolette Jett

Raising awareness about child abuse in the Toledo area is the focus of Yell & Tell: Stop Child Abuse Now, and the organization makes an extra effort during the National Child Abuse Prevention Month of April.

The ninth annual Yell & Tell: Stop Child Abuse Now Rally will take place Sunday, April 22, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Walbridge Park Shelter House, located on Broadway Avenue across from the Toledo Zoo.

The 2012 rally will include a keynote address from UT Head Football Coach Matt Campbell, with entertainment provided by soloist Amy Gibson and the Distinguished Clown Corps, which includes Dan Saevig, UT associate vice president for alumni relations.

"The rally provides an opportunity for students to gain material and knowledge about child abuse prevention methods," said Pamela Crabtree, president and founder of Yell & Tell: Stop Child Abuse Now. "Students are the future and as an organization, our mission is to educate the future leaders of tomorrow on how to protect our children."

In 2010, 743 Lucas County children were victims of maltreatment, according to Lucas County Children Services.

A number of UT events have raised funds for Yell & Tell's awareness efforts. The nonprofit organization was the philanthropy choice of this year's Songfest, which took place March 31. Proceeds from the Kappa Delta sorority 5K Shamrock run April 15 at Swan Creek Preserve Metropark benefited Yell & Tell, and the UT electricians each year sponsor a bowling tournament fundraiser.

"UT is always supportive of our annual rally and that is very commendable," Crabtree said. "I am very proud and honored to be an alumna and retiree from UT."

Local law enforcement, community organizations and service agencies will participate in the free, public rally. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information, contact Crabtree at 419.764.9302.

Women's basketball postseason reception April 26

The University of Toledo women's basketball program will hold a postseason reception Thursday, April 26, in Savage Arena.

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and a brief awards ceremony will follow.

The event is open to the public and the cost is \$25 per person. If you would like to attend the awards presentation only, the cost is \$5 per person.

The Rockets finished the 2011-12 campaign with a 24-10 overall record and claimed a share of a third consecutive Mid-American Conference West Division crown with a 13-3 league ledger. UT also earned its third straight appearance in the Postseason WNIT, advancing to the Sweet 16.

RSVP to attend the event by Monday, April 23, to Coordinator of Women's Basketball Katie DeBenedictis at 419.530.2363 or email katie.debenedictis@utoledo.edu.

Purchase discounted UT apparel at yard sale April 18

By Nicolette Jett

The spring '12 UToledo Gear Yard Sale will offer discounted merchandise from three on-campus retailers: The University of Toledo Bookstore, the Rocket Shop and utoledogear.com.

The sale will take place Wednesday, April 18, from noon to 3 p.m. on Centennial Mall outside the Student Union near the fountain. In case of inclement weather, the sale will take place inside the Student Union by the bookstore.

"The yard sale is just one of the many ways the UT community can show off its Rocket pride," said Keri Gallagher, Collegiate Licensing Co. graduate assistant. "Wearing UT apparel and merchandise on and off campus is one of the easiest ways to show UT pride."

Representatives from utoledogear.com will sell items, including hoodies, flip-flops, capris and tote bags, and the UT Bookstore will offer select styles of sweatshirts, T-shirts and other products.

New to the yard sale this year will be the Shady Peeps wayfarer-style sunglasses designed for UT in blue and gold with the Rocket logo.

All UT students, faculty and staff are encouraged to check out the great deals, Gallagher said.

Cash and credit/debit cards will be accepted for payment at the spring '12 UToledo Gear Yard Sale.



Core curriculum

continued from p. 1

president, said by whittling the number of general education courses down from several hundred, students were more likely to have shared experiences as they developed the crucial skills all UT graduates need to have.

"The question was, 'What does it mean to have earned a UT degree?'" McMillen said. "By establishing five core competencies and asking all departments to resubmit general education courses framed around these skills, the answer to this question for UT graduates is more specific and better defined."

UT's five core competencies are:

- Critical and Integrative Thinking;
- Information Literacy;
- Personal and Social Responsibility;
- Scientific and Quantitative Literacy and Reasoning; and
- Communication.

"UT's core curriculum was something that really hadn't been reviewed for quite some time, and I think the long hours were well worth the result," Anderson-Huang said. "But the work's not done. By developing these competencies and the measurements associated with them, we will be able to evaluate whether courses are meeting students' needs to learn these skills and will be able to adjust the course syllabi as needed."

"Furthermore, competency development should not be limited to general education courses at the elementary level. We expect to broaden the concept and track development throughout the student experience, culminating in graduation."



23rd Annual Richard M. Summers Memorial Lecture

Dr. Wai Chee Dimock, William Lampson Professor of English and American Studies at Yale University, and author of *Through Other Continents: American Literature Across Deep Time*

Friday, April 20

4 p.m.

Memorial Field House Room 2100

For more information on the free, public event, call the Department of English Language and Literature at 419.530.2318.

In memoriam

Kathleen A. McCarthy, Toledo, an assistant to the Rev. James Bacik at Corpus Christi University Parish from 1987 to 1997, died April 7 at age 80. She typed Bacik's lecture notes, letters, books and homilies.

Katherine P. Pappas, Sylvania, died April 9 at age 81. She received a bachelor's degree in education from UT in 1952 and returned to her alma mater to teach business classes at the former University Community and Technical College.

UT employees may schedule graduate photos

Faculty and staff or members of their families who will graduate from UT this semester may contact the University Communications Office if they wish to have a photo taken and published in UT News.

Call Laurie Flowers at 419.530.2002 to schedule an appointment before Friday, May 4.

Photos will appear in an upcoming issue of the paper.

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utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/oms/events.html

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