

## Med school student trades in baton for stethoscope

By Brandi Barhite

First-year medical student Moriah Muscaro is one of the best baton twirlers in the nation.

Her perfect figure eights, spins and illusions are a result of 17 years of continual practice, constant competition and relentless repetition.

"Twirling is amazing for me, even if it is an incredible amount of hard work, because I love to perform for people," the 22-year-old said. "I love performing for an audience and getting everyone to smile when they leave."

Just a week after being named College Miss Majorette of America in July, she traded in her baton for a short white coat.

"In many ways, my years of baton twirling and competing can be compared to my journey of getting into medical school and my first semester at The University of Toledo," Muscaro said. "What I learned from twirling is work ethic. I have had to balance school and twirling my whole life. When I had homework and competition, I had to turn down friends and social opportunities."

That continues to be the reality of her new life as a medical school student. The aspiring pediatrician who

"loves the way our bodies are put together" is applying many of her baton lessons to real life.

"I love the feeling of my hard work paying off, but I know that even if I work hard, I won't always succeed," she said. "That is good to keep in mind as I go through medical school because while I tend to excel in math and science, I am undertaking the most vigorous academic journey of my life."

Even though Muscaro was given a baby baton at birth, she wasn't that good when she started twirling at age 5. That was hard to accept because her mom, Rhonda, runs a twirling program called Twirl-M's in their hometown of Walled Lake, Mich.

"You could say that I was born with a baton in my hand, but I didn't like it at first," Muscaro said. "I actually wrote my personal statement to get into medical school about baton twirling because I was terrible. I wasn't flexible; I had no natural talent, so I wrote about the life lessons learned from having to work so hard to succeed."



Muscaro

Photo by Daniel Miller

continued on p. 4

## Talking with the president



The Professional Staff Council sponsored an Open Dialogue with President Sharon L. Gaber Thursday in the Student Union. The president answered questions on several topics, including building The University of Toledo's reputation and brand, her goal to grow enrollment, safety and diversity issues for college campuses recently in the news, ways to better engage alumni, management of campus parking, and increasing professional development opportunities.

Photo by Daniel Miller

## UT receives national recognition for support to military students

The University of Toledo has earned recognition from Military Times and G.I. Jobs as a top school for supporting student veterans.

UT is among the top 175 schools, including 125 four-year institutions, listed in the Best for Vets: Colleges 2016 rankings announced last week by Military Times, and the University also recently was designated a 2016 Military Friendly School by Victory Media's G.I. Jobs magazine.

"These two recognitions are in addition to recently being named a Top Military-Friendly University by Military Advanced Education & Transition," said Navy Reserve Lt. Haraz N. Ghanbari, UT director of military and veteran affairs. "This is UT's first time achieving the trifecta, and it is an impressive testament to the support of our campus community."

continued on p. 2



## Faculty member participates in White House Summit to enhance high school experience

By Meghan Cunningham

A UT faculty member participated in the first White House Summit on Next Generation Schools last week to share the University's work with area high school students to improve their scientific inquiry skills.

Dr. Beth Schlemper, associate professor in the UT Department of Geography and Planning, was invited to the event to speak about a National Science Foundation-funded project that engages students in using geospatial technology to understand their communities and prepare for careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

"If students can understand and apply the lessons to their own communities, they can see how they can use it in potential careers," Schlemper said. "Geospatial technology is a fast-growing field, and introducing students to it in high school gives them an opportunity to think about careers spanning business, government and nonprofit sectors where neighborhood and community planning skills are essential."

That type of authentic learning project was appealing to the White House staff, said Schlemper, who was one of a number of educators, students, philanthropists and entrepreneurs invited to Washington for the first-ever event to share their efforts to reinvent the high school experience to better empower students to seize opportunities in today's economy, and prepare students for success in college and career.

Specifically, Schlemper was part of a group of presenters from institutions that support high schools tasked with discussing and making recommendations on the most important elements of redesigning high schools, how to scale up successful models, and how to build evidence to give policymakers the data needed to make changes.

"It was great to see so many government officials, as well as philanthropists and entrepreneurs, who are supportive of efforts underway to enhance high school education," Schlemper said. "I like seeing we are not doing this alone and there are opportunities to collaborate. That was one of the greatest benefits of getting all of us together. We can see successful projects and how they have scaled them up to make a broader impact to inspire the work that we are doing."

Schlemper, along with UT faculty members Dr. Kevin Czajkowski and Dr. Sujata Shetty of the Department



PHOTO OP: Dr. Beth Schlemper posed for a photo in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, which is next to the White House.

of Geography and Planning and Dr. Victoria Stewart of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, earlier this year received a \$581,000 grant through the National Science Foundation's Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers, or ITEST, program for their geospatial curriculum project. They held a workshop with Scott High School students in the summer where the teens came up with topics to study, collected geographic information, and produced maps for civic action to address these issues. A similar workshop is being planned for summer 2016. As part of the research project, the team also will create a book and online curriculum for more teachers and students to incorporate similar field experiences into their classes.

Prior to the White House Summit on Next Generation Schools Nov. 10, Schlemper also participated in the National Science Foundation's Next Generation STEM Learning for All Nov. 9.

## University president names special assistant for diversity

By Jon Strunk

Calling a safe, supportive and inviting environment for all students, faculty, staff and guests one of The University of Toledo's most important values and responsibilities, UT President Sharon L. Gaber announced Nov. 13 a new campus leader to continue and elevate the institution's ongoing, proactive commitment to diversity.

"As ongoing events at the University of Missouri and other colleges across the country have demonstrated, institutions of higher education still have work to do to live up to our ideals," Gaber wrote in a message sent to the UT community.

"I'm pleased to share with you that Dr. Willie McKether, associate dean in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences, has agreed to take on a special assignment to help advance diversity throughout our institution," she wrote.

"As special assistant to the president for diversity, Dr. McKether will be applying his diversity and academic expertise to work with faculty, staff and students to develop a University of Toledo diversity plan. Dr. McKether will build on the work provided by the Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Engagement."

Gaber also pointed to the Division of Student Affairs, where Dr. Kaye Patten Wallace is implementing changes to strengthen diversity resources for students.

The Office of Multicultural Student Services is in the process of being restructured to identify graduate students who will provide programming, academic support and mentoring for specific student groups, including African-American, Latino, LGBTQA and international student populations. Further, the office is being elevated to the assistant dean level and a new leader will be hired soon.

"The University of Toledo's commitment to diversity must be infused into every action we take," Gaber wrote. "It is represented in our words as well as our actions and decisions at all levels of the University. From the faculty, staff and students we recruit to ensuring our retention and graduation rates demonstrate equal opportunities of success for all, we must come together as an institution to continue to move this critical priority forward."

"I ask for your help, input and steadfast commitment to equality as we proactively work to strengthen diversity at UT."

## National recognition

continued from p. 1

Best for Vets: Colleges 2016 is an editorially independent news project that evaluates the many factors that help make colleges and universities good fit for service members, military veterans and their families. More than 600 colleges took part in this year's detailed survey, and this is the first year UT earned the designation ranking in the top 100 of four-year schools across the country.

"We award the Best for Vets designation to the very best — the colleges that really are setting the example," said Amanda Miller, editor of Military Times' Best for Vets rankings and special editions.

The 2016 Military Friendly School designation by G.I. Jobs magazine is the seventh

consecutive year UT has received the honor from Victory Media.

"Post-secondary institutions earning the 2016 Military Friendly School award have exceptionally strong programs for transitioning service members and spouses," said Daniel Nichols, chief product officer of Victory Media and Navy Reserve veteran. "Our Military Friendly

Schools are truly aligning their military programs and services with employers to help students translate military experience, skills and training into successful careers after graduation."

For more information about UT's commitment to student service members, veterans and their families, visit [utoledo.edu/call/military](http://utoledo.edu/call/military) or call 419.530.VETS.





## Employees could win use of suite with UTC3 donation

By Brandi Barhite

The University is aiming to raise \$125,000 for four charitable federations through its UT Community Charitable Campaign known as UTC3.

To help kick off the campaign, employees who make a new pledge of \$250 or more — or employees who increase their pledge from last year to \$250 or gave \$250 last year, but increase their pledge by any amount — before Thanksgiving will be entered to win the use of a suite for a men's or women's UT basketball game. The suite, donated by Brooks Insurance, includes up to 20 people with food and beverages.

"We are really excited to offer this prize because the suite and food are of considerable value," said Vicki Riddick, director of Rocket Wellness and UTC3 committee member. "We thought this would be motivating for those who were considering donating because it's a unique prize that would allow you to celebrate with family and friends."

The campaign started Nov. 1 and runs through Dec. 31. Within the first day, UT employees had donated \$10,000. Since then, about \$25,000 has been raised.

That's a humbling start, Riddick said. In addition to raising more money, she wants to increase employee participation.

"It doesn't matter if you want to give \$500 or \$5, every little bit helps the great causes that this campaign supports," Riddick said. "We want to emphasize that employees should give any amount that they want to give."

Sam McCrimmon, vice president for advancement, said the United Way of Greater Toledo, Northwest Ohio Community Shares, Community Health Charities of Ohio and EarthShare Ohio are reputable nonprofits that help more than 200 local, regional and national charities. UT employees can designate what charity or charities they want to receive their donation.

One of the charities is the MLK Kitchen for the Poor, which is located in Toledo. It feeds up to 200 on most days and served 35,340 meals in 2014.

"We hope that every UT employee can find at least one cause that they want to support with their donation," McCrimmon said. "It doesn't matter how much you give; we just want to encourage giving because

UT's participation in this campaign is vital for the well-being of the community."

Giving is convenient because the donation can be set up as an automatic deduction. If an employee donates \$250, approximately \$17 would come out of each paycheck.

Karen Mathison, president and CEO, United Way of Greater Toledo, said UT's participation helps the United Way of Greater Toledo work toward its goals of serving the community. In 2014, United Way raised \$13.6 million.

"We all do better when we all do better" was something the late Senator Paul Wellstone often said. And he's right," Mathison said. "We are all connected to each other. Give and get connected. Your investment matters, regardless of size, because it adds up and together we do so much more than we could ever do alone."

Laura Harrison, executive director of Northwest Ohio Community Shares, one of the four federations that are a part of UTC3, said the donations are critical for her organization's livelihood.

"The real measure of your wealth is how much you'd be worth if you lost all

your money. It really is true that we can find the most meaning in giving to others," Harrison said.

While UT employees who donate by Thanksgiving will be eligible for the suite prize, they, along with everyone who donates after Nov. 26, will receive these incentives:

- \$100 or more: UT item from the campaign treasure chest and an invitation to the UTC3 breakfast in the Savage Arena Grogan Room.
- \$250 or more: UT pen and an invitation to the UTC3 breakfast.
- \$500 or more: UT umbrella and an invitation to the UTC3 breakfast.
- \$750 or more: UT umbrella and pen and an invitation to the UTC3 breakfast.
- \$1,000 or more: UT umbrella and pen, an invitation to the UTC3 breakfast, and an invitation to a special post-campaign celebration with President Sharon L. Gaber.

To find out more about donating, look for weekly emails. You also can email Patty Gelb at [patty.gelb@utoledo.edu](mailto:patty.gelb@utoledo.edu).

## Rocky's Locker opens store in Franklin Park Mall

By Paul Helgren

Rocky's Locker, the official athletics apparel store for The University of Toledo located in Savage Arena, has opened a second location at Franklin Park Mall.

The Franklin Park Rocky's Locker store opened Nov. 10 and will be open during normal mall hours: Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Extended hours will begin a few weeks before Christmas.

The store will offer a wide sample of the inventory currently available in Savage Arena, plus select pieces of framed UT memorabilia from Hall of Framers.

Tony Zaworski, UT associate athletic director for finance, said strong sales at Savage Arena and the growing success of Rocket athletics overall made this the right time for the expansion to Franklin Park.

"We decided the time was right to expand our retail presence in the community in order to provide greater opportunity to purchase University of Toledo merchandise to UT fans and alumni that may not visit campus on a regular basis," Zaworski said. "We believe this is the perfect time to launch



with the holidays approaching but more importantly to build on the national attention football has received this season as well as the approaching basketball season.

"We always appreciate the University's retail partners in the community carrying UT merchandise, but we believe that between the Savage Arena and Franklin Park locations, people will be pleasantly surprised by the variety of merchandise available for sale."

Most items at Rocky's Locker also are available online at [rockyslocker.com](http://rockyslocker.com). Store hours at Savage Arena are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours on game days.

All proceeds raised from merchandise sales from Rocky's Locker directly support the University and UT athletics.

## In memoriam

Garry L. Anderson, Toledo, a custodial worker at the University for 21 years, died Nov. 2 at age 59. He joined the MCO staff in 1994.

Mary Frances "Tibble" Doyle Foster, Perrysburg, who was a member of the MCO Board of Trustees from 1975 to 1984, died Nov. 5 at age 86. She was a founding board member of Hospice of Northwest Ohio, and a former president of Planned Parenthood of Toledo and Junior League of Toledo.

Carole A. Golder, Covington, Ky., a former UT employee, died Oct. 29 at age 58.

Dr. Howard S. Madigan, Sylvania, who was associated with MCO for more than 30 years, died Nov. 7 at age 94. He joined the college as assistant dean for continuing education in 1968 and became associate dean and associate professor of surgery one year later. In 1986, Madigan returned to the faculty. He retired as associate professor in 1987 and received a volunteer appointment as clinical associate professor of surgery, a position he held until 2004. Madigan was a founding member of the American Academy of Continuing Medical Education.

Jo Ann Valvo, Toledo, a UT alumna who was a volunteer with the Satellites Auxiliary for 20 years, died Nov. 8 at age 70. She received bachelor of science and master of education degrees from the University in 1991 and 1992, respectively.



## Med school student

*continued from p. 1*

By age 10, she had started to get serious about the sport, and her mom hired outside coaches. In 2005, she won her first competition. After that, the awards and accolades never stopped. She twirled for Walled Lake Middle School and Walled Lake Northern High School.

"People are so stressed out. Life is so hard," Muscaro said. "I want to bring joy to people with my baton twirling. I want everyone to have a moment where they don't have to worry about all the things that bring them down in life and just watch something that is pleasurable and enjoyable."

While many twirlers end their careers after high school, Muscaro was talented enough to continue; from 2011 to 2015, she was the feature twirler for Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich., where she majored in biomedical sciences and graduated with a 4.0 GPA.

"During the school year, I practiced two hours a day in the morning before class," she said. "In the summer, I practiced with my team, the Twirl-Ms, for six hours a day. My philosophy is that I practice until I get everything done and do it well."

Meanwhile, she was taking the MCAT and applying to medical school, which included traveling for in-person interviews.

"I felt so strongly that I was being called toward medicine and, if possible, I wanted to go straight to medical school," Muscaro said. "The process of becoming a doctor takes so long, but I really want to do this."

She never stopped twirling, though.

In April, Muscaro competed as part of Team USA at the World Baton Twirling Championships in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy. She placed fourth as a soloist. In May, Muscaro won the College Miss Majorette of Michigan competition for the fourth time. In June, she took home the College Miss Majorette of the Great Lakes award for the third time.

When Muscaro won College Miss Majorette of America in July — the highest honor a person can get as a collegiate baton twirler — it was her fourth attempt. The first two times, she placed second. The third time she was first runner-up.

"Moriah twirled under intense pressure at College Miss Majorette of America," said her mom, Rhonda. "Everyone wanted her to win because it was her last time before she went to medical school. Her solo routine, which was the bread and butter of

the competition, was 2.5 minutes long. She twirled one, two, three and then four batons. She didn't drop. It is like watching ice skating at the Olympics where everyone is just hoping the skater sticks the landing."

The event was a three-part competition: a solo routine, a strutting routine that judged flexibility and timing, and then modeling a gown, which measured poise, confidence and interviewing skills. In the end, Muscaro bested 53 other twirlers.

"The whole week was emotional because I knew I was going to medical school and I was retiring from competitive baton twirling," she said. "I needed to stick it. I needed to hit everything. Frankly, I wanted to throw up."

Moriah doesn't remember performing much of her solo routine, but she does remember feeling the last catch in her hand and knowing she had achieved a personal best.

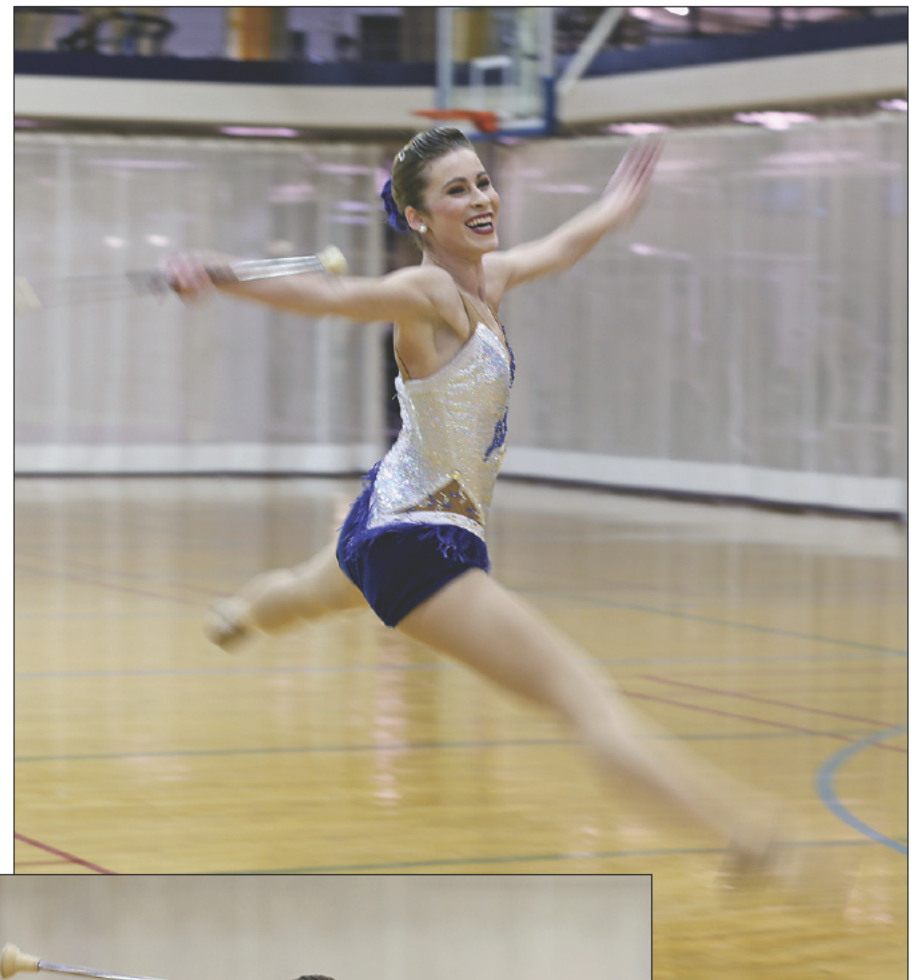
"This didn't seem reachable because I was so terrible when I was young," she said. "I am still in shock."

These days, she uses baton twirling as her stress reliever. She also helps with the Perrysburg Twirling Sophisticates. However, medical school and becoming immersed in the UT community is her priority, even though it feels strange to not twirl every day.

"When I came here for my interview, I really loved the community feel," Muscaro said. "Students are welcoming to each other. It is a collaborative environment. There is so much research going on, but professors still take time for the students."

Jeff Cole, a member of the UT Board of Trustees, talked to Muscaro before she decided on UT for medical school. He wants her to twirl at an upcoming athletic event.

"Moriah is an exceptional student who could have chosen just about any college of medicine in the country, so I think it speaks to the reputation of our faculty, student services personnel and alumni that she elected to attend The University of Toledo," Cole said. "Likewise, she represents the excellent caliber of students enrolled in our College of Medicine. Like many of them, Moriah has achieved excellence both in and outside of the classroom while taking time to serve others along the way."



Photos by Daniel Miller



**SPIN DOCTOR:** First-year medical student Moriah Muscaro, who won College Miss Majorette of America in July, performed her routine in the Student Recreation Center.



# Act of hate inspires theater project of hope: UT to stage 'The Laramie Project'

By Angela Riddel

In 1998, 21-year old gay college student Matthew Shepard was tied to a fence outside Laramie, Wyo., savagely beaten and left for dead; he succumbed several days later to his injuries.

While his death was horrific enough, the reaction in the community was even more startling. Some reacted with hate, others with compassion.

"The Laramie Project," created by Moisés Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project, poignantly gives voice to the members of the Laramie community who were affected by this tragedy. By doing so, the project began a dialogue that opened a path to healing and hope.

The UT production of "The Laramie Project" is directed by gay couple Pete Cross and Mark Leasor, both UT graduates. Leasor earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in theatre in 1994 and a bachelor of arts degree in art in 1995. Cross earned bachelor of art degrees in art history and psychology in 2002.

The voices represented in the play are not just from the LGBTQ community, according to the directors. The play expresses a range of viewpoints.

"We wanted our actors to envision the people of Laramie and to connect to each other and to the people of the town," Cross said.

He added the UT cast and crew hope this performance will continue the dialogue.

Performances will take place Friday, Nov. 20, through Sunday, Nov. 22, and Friday, Dec. 4, through Sunday, Dec. 6. Performance times are 7:30 p.m., except Sunday performances, which are at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$8 for students and children; \$10 for UT faculty, staff and alumni, and military members and seniors; and \$15 for the general public. Call 419.530.ARTS (2787) or order online at <http://utoledo.tix.com>. Tickets also will be available at the door.

There also will be daytime matinee performances for schools and community groups only. These will be held at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, and Wednesday, Dec. 2. All seats are \$8. Individual tickets will not be sold, groups only. To reserve seats for your group, call Christopher Montpetit at 419.530.4776 or email [christopher.montpetit@utoledo.edu](mailto:christopher.montpetit@utoledo.edu).

Based in New York City, the Tectonic Theater Project is an award-winning company whose plays have been performed around the world. The project is dedicated to developing innovative works that explore

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Written by Moisés Kaufman  
and the Members of Tectonic Theater Project  
Directed by Pete Cross and Mark Leasor

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theatrical language and form, fostering an artistic dialogue with audiences on the social, political and human issues that affect everyone.

Tectonic Theater Project was founded in 1991 by Kaufman and LaHoste. Tectonic refers to the art and science of structure and was chosen to emphasize the company's interest in construction — how things

are made and how they might be made differently.

Its groundbreaking plays, "The Laramie Project," "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde" and "I Am My Own Wife," among others, have sparked national discourse and have inspired artists and audiences worldwide.

The UT production of "The Laramie Project" is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service Inc. in New York.



## Law professor elected vice chair of American Bar Association's Section of Dispute Resolution

By Rachel Phipps

UT Law Professor Benjamin G. Davis was elected vice chair of the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution at the organization's annual meeting in August in Chicago.

The Section of Dispute Resolution, established in 1993, has more than 18,000 members and is a global leader in dispute resolution. As number three in command, Davis will help to manage and develop the section's work.

"Enhancing peaceful means of dispute resolution at the local, state, national and international levels is what the section and its members do in their remarkable work," Davis said. "I am deeply honored to have this opportunity to help dispute resolution progress and to bring back that experience to my students."

Davis has spoken on dispute resolution issues around the world and is published widely across a number of academic disciplines. He led the creation of fast-track international commercial

arbitration at the International Chamber of Commerce. He has been an early innovator in the development of online dispute resolution, creating an international law student moot court in online negotiation, online mediation, online arbitration and online litigation from 2000 to 2005, and a symposium on the topic of online dispute resolution published in *The University of Toledo Law Review* in 2006. He is a fellow of the National Center for Technology and Dispute Resolution at the University of Massachusetts.

Before teaching, Davis worked in Paris for 17 years. Most of that time was as American legal counsel of the International Chamber of Commerce International Court of Arbitration. There, he directly or indirectly supervised more than 5,000 international commercial arbitrations and mediations, and developed training programs on international trade topics for professionals around the world.



Davis

Photo by Daniel Miller

Davis also recently was appointed to serve on the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Law and National Security.

He received a bachelor of arts degree from Harvard College and is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Harvard Business School.

## Distinguished University Professor featured on business skills DVD from The Great Courses

By Bob Mackowiak

Dr. Clinton O. Longenecker, Stranahan Distinguished University Professor and director of the Center for Leadership and Organizational Excellence in the UT College of Business and Innovation, is one of five business professors from top U.S. business schools featured in the recently released Critical Business Skills for Success



Longenecker

Lecture Series published by The Great Courses. For 25 years, The Great Courses has been producing audios, videos,

CDs and DVDs featuring the world's best professors on topics in the fields of science, mathematics, history, fine arts, music, religion, philosophy, literature, finance and more.

Ryan Davis, a recruiter from The Great Courses, said, "The Great Courses selects only the top 1 percent of professors in the world to share their knowledge with our worldwide customer base of adult learners."

"Everyone wants to know: What does it take to reach success in business, the kind of success that lasts? It all comes down to a solid grasp of the fundamentals of business — the same kind that are taught to MBA students in many of the world's most prestigious business schools, including our own," Longenecker said.

The comprehensive Great Courses five-part, 60-lecture course, Critical Business Skills for Success, is designed to give people this kind of integrated,

accessible introduction. Each of the Critical Business Skills for Success course's five parts is a detailed look at a particular skill: strategy, operations, finance and accounting, organizational behavior, and marketing.

Longenecker's sections focus on organizational behavior and high performance leadership.

"The Great Courses Series has an exceptional following among lifelong learners as they draw talent from the best schools from around the world," Longenecker said. "Their lecture series are developed with amazing professors from universities such as Harvard, Michigan, Yale, Duke, Ohio State, UCLA, Emory and others. To have The University of Toledo included in these circles in a series with worldwide distribution is a wonderful thing."

He added, "I also think that the ideas shared in Great Courses programs are more

powerful than ideas being included in a book, primarily because of the reach and the powerful learning associated with great and dynamic lectures and with these topics being available on DVDs, CDs, streaming."

The lectures were recorded late last year, and the Critical Business Skills Series was released worldwide in the spring.

"This kind of well-rounded business education is useful to anyone who works in a company of any size," said Longenecker, who was named by *The Economist* as one of the top 15 business professors in the world. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master of business administration degree from UT in 1977 and 1978, respectively.

The CD and DVD versions include 60 lectures, a 496-page printed course guidebook, and a downloadable PDF of the course guidebook. The program is available at [GreatCourses.com](http://GreatCourses.com).

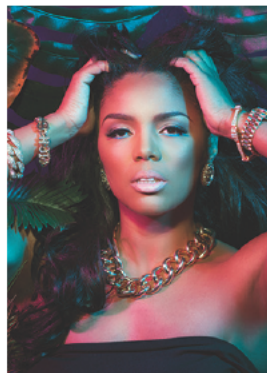


## UTMC to host fashion show Nov. 29 in honor of World AIDS Day

By Brandi Barhite

The Ryan White Program at The University of Toledo Medical Center is getting the conversation started about HIV/AIDS prevention with a fashion show Sunday, Nov. 29, at 7 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 3100 Glendale Ave.

“Fashion With the Stars: A Tribute to Fashion’s Fallen Stars” will feature Rasheeda, an American rapper, fashion designer, television personality and businesswoman from Atlanta.



Rasheeda

“We thought fashion would be a way to reach the black community, which isn’t as accepting of hearing about HIV and AIDS because of a stigma within some churches and families,” said Kenyetta White, minority outreach coordinator for the Ryan White Program.

The fashion show, in honor of World AIDS Day on Tuesday, Dec. 1, is being

hosted in collaboration with Priceless Designs in Toledo, which is providing the models and the clothing. During the intermissions, facts about HIV and AIDS will be shared. One of the most startling facts is that the highest risk population for contracting HIV is black men between the ages of 18 and 24.

“The fashion industry has lost some amazing people to AIDS such as Perry Ellis and Willi Smith,” said Richard

Meeker, project director for the Healthy Relationships Program in the Ryan White Clinic. “This show is trying to reach a whole new demographic.

“We don’t pay attention to HIV and AIDS like we used to, but it is still a huge problem,” Meeker said. “Besides the risk to the black community, it is on the rise because of heroin abuse. We had a case in Ohio where 26 people were affected by the same needle.”

White said some people look at HIV as a manageable disease these days so they aren’t as careful when it comes to protected sex and drug abuse.

“They think they can take a pill and they will be fine,” she said. “They relate it to something like diabetes.”

While the treatment plans for HIV can lead to a normal and healthy life, each body reacts to the disease differently. It isn’t something you want to contract just because it can be manageable, White said.

Rasheeda said continuing the AIDS conversation is vital because it has no cure.

“It’s very important that I participate in this cause and use my platform to spread as much awareness as possible,” she said.

Tickets — \$25 for general admission and \$35 for VIP — can be purchased by contacting White at 419.266.2853 or email kennyetta.white@utoledo.edu. Proceeds will benefit the Ann Locher Foundation.

Organizers also are seeking sponsorships and other donations.

## UT employees may schedule graduate photos

Faculty and staff or members of their families who will graduate from UT in December 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 Tuesday, Dec. 22.

Photos will appear in an upcoming issue of the paper.

# UTNEWS

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

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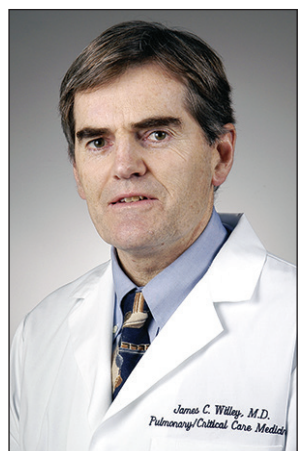
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## UT Health physician focuses on hope during Lung Cancer Awareness Month

By Brandi Barhite

The biggest problem with lung cancer — the leading cause of cancer death in the United States for both men and women — is that it doesn't generate symptoms until it is advanced.



Willey

That's partly because there is a lot of space in the lungs where a tumor can expand without causing symptoms.

"It can be growing for more than a year, and the person really has very little symptoms or no symptoms until it is large enough to

metastasize to other parts of the body," said Dr. James Willey, lung cancer expert and UT professor of medicine.

This is why, during Lung Cancer Awareness Month in November, Willey wants to make sure that people at risk for lung cancer are getting screened with a low-dose chest CT scan.

"We highly recommend that people who are 55 to 75 years of age with a heavy smoking history get this screening once a year," Willey said. "This includes people who smoked at least a pack a day for 30 years and quit smoking less than 15 years ago. In addition, to qualify for screening, it is important that their overall health permits them to safely undergo surgical removal of the tumor."

Willey said lung cancer screenings — a standard of care as determined by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force — have been shown to reduce deaths from lung

cancer by more than 20 percent. Medicare and Medicaid now are covering the cost of these screenings with private insurance companies expected to follow that example. Even without insurance coverage, the cost is only \$99 at the Lung Nodule Clinic at UT Medical Center.

The screenings are offered at UTMC the first Tuesday of every month from 4 to 6 p.m. The visit includes immediate results and optional smoking cessation counseling. To make an appointment, call 419.383.3927.

For people who are screened and lung cancer is detected, it can be treated in 85 percent of cases. Willey hopes this will help with the stigma of lung cancer.

"Historically, lung cancer has had a bad reputation because without screening, it is advanced at the time of diagnosis and not curable in more than 85 percent of cases. Consequently, most people die within one to two years of diagnosis."

Additionally, as part of Lung Cancer Awareness Month, Willey will present a lecture on these life-saving scans Thursday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. in the Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center at UTMC.

Willey has been funded for many years by the National Cancer Institute to conduct molecular genetic studies aimed at determining why some people are genetically predisposed to lung cancer. This is important because although tobacco use is the No. 1 cause of lung cancer, about 20 percent of lung cancers occur in people who don't smoke. He will discuss this at the lecture as well.

The free, public lecture is part of the Tie One On Awareness Lecture Series hosted by the Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center. To reserve a spot, email christopher.kosinski@utoledo.edu.

## Bedside pharmacy program on track to surpass goals

By Brandi Barhite

The last thing that Pat Stevenson wanted to do was stop at a pharmacy on her way home to fill her husband's prescriptions when he was discharged from the hospital after a heart attack.

She was tired. She was ready to go home. She was daunted by the task of running an errand during the busy holiday season.

Much to her surprise, UT Health offers a free bedside program to take care of prescriptions for patients. She didn't have to drive to her local pharmacy.

"My husband, John, is a Vietnam veteran who usually gets his medication from the VA, but when he had a heart attack in December, we started getting some of the heart medications from UTMC," Stevenson said. "I thought it was going to be a difficult transition, but UTMC has helped us save money on the prescriptions because UTMC puts people before money. That is rare in 2015."

The iMEDS program (Medication Education Delivery System) started as a pilot program on the cardiovascular floor of the hospital in April 2013 to help patients get their medications upon discharge. The program was so successful in its first few months that the hospital hired an additional pharmacist and two pharmacy technicians to roll it out hospital-wide by the end of 2013.

Year to date, iMEDS has helped 3,508 patients with a total of 9,141 prescriptions. This is on track to surpass 2014 when 2,741 patients were helped with 7,340 prescriptions filled.

"Our overall goal is to provide a convenient service for our patients and get them the medication they need at discharge, which keeps them healthy and prevents another hospital readmission," said Holly Smith, pharmacy manager at the outpatient pharmacy. "The patients love it. They love the convenience of our service because they can leave the hospital with their medications."

Smith said patients and families like not having to make another trip to their pharmacy on their way home. They also like being able to ask face-to-face questions with a pharmacist when the medication is delivered to their rooms.

"Some medications require in-depth counseling," Smith said. "We may have to demonstrate to a patient how to give themselves an injection."

The other benefit is that if there are insurance problems, the outpatient pharmacy staff will look for alternative medications that are covered or find manufacturer discount cards. While the iMEDS service is free, the medications are billed to the patient's



Smith

Photo by Daniel Miller

insurance company, just like at any other local pharmacy.

iMEDS also has led to an uptick in sales at the outpatient pharmacy. Patients who utilize iMEDS often return for refills.

"We make follow-up phone calls to patients who are scheduled for a refill," Smith said. "We offer to transfer the prescription if that is what the patient wants to ensure they continue on their prescribed medication."

In the future, Smith would like to expand the program by creating a follow-up program for patients where they can sit with a

pharmacist to review their current medications and make sure everything is going smoothly.

"I am passionate about patient care. I love helping other people," Smith said. "This program has been self-rewarding and self-fulfilling. I know that we are doing great things in the outpatient pharmacy, and our staff is dedicated to improving the health of our patients by offering convenient patient-centered services."