

President calls for sweeping changes in education for undergraduates during University address

By Jim Winkler

A radical new program to transform undergraduate education at The University of Toledo — one that gives students more freedom to develop their own customized learning programs and commits to “extreme student centeredness” — was envisioned Wednesday by President Lloyd Jacobs at his annual address to the community in Doermann Theater.

Jacobs offered his far-reaching blueprint to reinvigorate and personalize undergraduate education and to have students actively engage their own undergraduate academic experiences during an address titled “Re-Engineering the Undergraduate Academic Experience.”

Emphasizing that transforming the undergraduate experience at UT is one of his top priorities, Jacobs explained that a new, yet-to-be-named administrative unit reporting to Main Campus Provost Rosemary Haggett will be established “to organizationally house many of the functions essential to extreme student centeredness.”

“Extreme student centeredness founded



Photo by Daniel Miller

TOP PRIORITY: Dr. Lloyd Jacobs talked about re-engineering undergraduate education to allow students to customize their own programs during his address last week.

on the principles of mass customization is the best single strategy for higher education and for the persistence of an educated and participative populace in America,” the president said.

He warned the audience of some 200 trustees, faculty and staff members, and students that the United States’ mass-model, assembly-line approach to higher education is failing because it ignores students’ unique learning styles.

“Higher education is failing in America, is on a collision course with bankruptcy, and its failure, ultimately, threatens our democracy,” Jacobs said.

The new unit to be headed by Dr. Haggett would include the First-Year Experience, Honors and Study-Abroad programs, a new Office of Student Solutions, and the student-supported portion of the Office of Global Initiatives, among other programs.

Incoming students undecided about their majors or career plans and conditionally admitted students who do not meet

continued on p. 2

Shapiro festival offers variety of writing activities this week

By Kim Harvey

The Shapiro Writing Festival will continue this week with several events open to students, employees and the public.

Dr. Danielle Ofri, physician and author, will kick off the festival at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 9. Ofri will read from her books, *Singular Intimacies: Becoming a Doctor at Bellevue* and *Incidental Findings: Lessons From My Patients on the Art of Medicine*.

Ofri divides her time between duties as an attending physician at Bellevue Hospital Center in New York, assistant professor of medicine at New York University School of Medicine and editor of Bellevue Literary



Ofri

Review.

Her public program will take place in Health Education Building Room 100 on the Health Science Campus. A reception will follow in the same location.

On Thursday, April 10, author and Affrilachian poet Frank X Walker will host a workshop and personal readings in the

President’s Room of Libbey Hall on Main Campus. The poetry workshop will take place from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and Walker will read from his poetry collections at 6 p.m.

Walker’s work includes *Black Box*, *Buffalo Dance: The Journey of York*, which

continued on p. 2

Tentative agreement reached with CWA Local 4319, ratification votes to follow

By Tobin J. Klinger

The UT administration has reached a tentative agreement with the Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 4319 that could lead to the ratification of a new three-year contract.

According to Bill Logie, vice president for human resources and campus safety, the proposed contract will be voted on by CWA membership and the Board of Trustees before the end of April.

“We’ve come a long way,” Logie said, noting the significance of the issues covered under the tentative agreement. “Both sides stayed true to our interest-based bargaining approach, and I believe that paved the way to this tentative agreement.”

“CWA has emerged into a leadership role,” said President Lloyd Jacobs. “There is also much to learn from the success we see here. Thanks to everyone that helped to

make this agreement happen.”

Bob Hull, president of CWA Local 4319, said, “This tentative agreement, in these times of economic uncertainty, moves the CWA members and the University into the future, well-prepared for the challenges in front of us.”

Details on the tentative agreement will be discussed at informational meetings slated for Monday, April 14, at 5:30 p.m. in the Scott Park Auditorium on the Scott Park Campus; Tuesday, April 15, at 2 p.m. in Student Union Room 2584 on Main Campus; and Wednesday, April 16, at 11 p.m. in Student Union Room 2584.

Voting will take place Monday, April 21, from 6 a.m. to noon in Student Union Room 2579 and from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Scott Park VIP Room. Members must bring a photo ID to vote.

President's address

continued from p. 1

academic requirements would be assigned to the new unit. Conditionally admitted students would be permitted to take no more than 11 credit hours during the first semester so they can use support services to remedy academic deficiencies.

"A corollary of all conditionally admitted students going to the new entity will be that all other colleges will be encouraged to raise their admissions standards," Jacobs said.

So that students have good information and advice about options available, the Career Center and the Office of Accessibility would be part of the new administrative division, and the Division of Student Affairs would provide on-site academic support and counselor-in-residence services in first-year residence halls. The Main Campus provost also would have administrative responsibility for college professional advisers and would work to improve their training.

In addition, degree-completion programs in University College, including the adult liberal studies and individualized programs, would be moved to the College of Arts and Sciences.

"The College of Arts and Sciences is itself in a period of reassessment and renewal," Jacobs said. "This change fits wells with Dr. [Yueh-Ting] Lee's goal for that college and fits wells with my and Dr. Hagggett's tremendous confidence in Dr. Lee."

Jacobs pointed out the concept aligns with the University's strategic plan, "Directions," which was adopted last year by the Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees and pledges "undergraduate academic

programs at UT will be regionally distinguished and highly ranked nationally. The undergraduate experience will provide exceptional student-centeredness and a consumer-driven focus, which combine to ensure a personally satisfying and professionally relevant education."

It also corresponds with the new 10-year strategic plan for higher education in the state released by Eric Fingerhut, chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents. The 140-page report includes dozens of recommendations to increase the number of Ohio residents with college degrees, from associate to doctorate, which could enhance entrepreneurship and attract businesses to the state.

"Mass customization" of courses and programs would allow the University to cater to more students' individual needs instead of setting up inflexible requirements.

Instead of being homogeneous products, Jacobs stressed that courses should be crafted to meet the needs of different students, who should be able to assemble their own courses from the offerings of different professors and have more control over not only when and where they learn, but also how and what they learn. Information systems would be developed to track their progress through various formats and methods of learning such as online and in the classroom.

"Degree-completion requirements for every student with an associate's degree will be custom-made," Jacobs said. "Each student will understand the shortest, most frugal path from where he or she is to their

desired goal. Computer-assisted instruction and peer instruction will become widespread and automated as evidence continues to accumulate that many students learn best where those tools are utilized. Students with unique intellectual accomplishments will be attracted to The University of Toledo by its commitment to customized programs that allow them to proceed at a pace which is intellectually rewarding to them."

To become "extremely student centered," UT plans to:

- Organize all undergraduate courses into modules and algorithms corresponding to the faculty's themes and strengths. The work will be spearheaded by the Main Campus provost and members of her staff who will consult with faculty. The most important module will be the "common core curriculum," the eight to 10 courses taken by more than 95 percent of the students. Additional modules will be assembled into traditional majors and minors.
- Require new faculty members to attend an enhanced orientation program that emphasizes peer instruction and computer-assisted learning.
- Assign all classroom time in the renovated Memorial Field House to maximize computer-assisted learning.
- Create an educational incubator on the third floor of the Memorial Field House to stress peer instruction and computer-assisted learning principles.
- Hire a chief information officer with particular skills in computer-assisted and

distance learning.

- Study whether purchasing additional or supplemental computer-assisted and distance-learning programs from outside vendors makes sense.
- Consolidate computer-assisted and distance-learning operations and offer distance-learning courses to Northwest Ohio Higher Education Consortium members.
- Move administrative responsibility for the Center for Teaching and Learning, and the University's computer-assisted and distance-learning operations to the Main Campus Provost's Office.
- Adopt the College Learning Assessment test, which is intended to measure students' critical thinking, analytical reasoning and written communication skills, and to improve university accountability.

During his talk, the president drew parallels between his plan and the multimillion-dollar renovation of Memorial Field House.

"A great university, like the Memorial Field House, must undertake to preserve that which is valuable and to replace what is outmoded," he said. "To be at once an innovator and a preservationist. This university is great. It derives from the history of two great institutions. It will be greater for the future. But the same mix of preservation and innovation will be necessary for it to thrive and excel in the turbulent times we are facing. It is my hope that, like the interior of the field house, our undergraduate experience will be exciting, inviting and fulfilling."

Shapiro festival

continued from p. 1

won the Lillian Smith Book Award in 2004, and *Affrilachia*. He is writer in residence and lecturer of English at Northern Kentucky University and publisher of *PLUCK! Journal of Affrilachian Art & Culture*.

Thursday's activities continue as Ohio native Joe Mackall will host a nonfiction writing workshop from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in University Hall Room 5080 on Main Campus. The associate professor of English and journalism at Ashland University has authored two books, *Plain Secrets: An Outsider Among the Amish* and his memoir, *The Last Street Before Cleveland: An Accidental Pilgrimage*. Mackall also is founder and editor of *River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narrative*.

A panel discussion regarding "Writing

in the Workplace" is offered Thursday, as well. Topics will include "Writing in the Legal Profession," "Writing in the Engineering Profession" and "Writing and the Media." The discussions will take place from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections in Carlson Library on Main Campus.

The festival will close with three events Friday, April 11. Donald Ray Pollock, author of *Knockemstiff*, a collection of short stories, will offer a fiction-writing workshop from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the President's Room of Libbey Hall. He will read passages from the piece at 6 p.m. in the same location. Pollock is President Fellow at Ohio State University.

Samantha Blackmon, associate profes-

sor at Purdue University, will host a technology and writing workshop from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in University Hall Room 4270. She has been widely published on the subjects of race and gaming, race and technology, and technology and pedagogy, and writes frequently for *Joystick101.org*.

Receptions to meet the authors will be offered from 5 to 6 p.m. in Libbey Hall Thursday and Friday.

Students, faculty, staff and others who would like to share original work are welcome to attend an open-mic event from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday in Libbey Hall. Readings will be limited to three minutes or less.

The Shapiro Writing Festival will conclude with a gala reception/scholarship award ceremony from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday,

April 12, in Libbey Hall. Scholarships for the Department of English will be awarded, and winners of the recent Shapiro Writing Contest will be announced.

The festival is named in honor of former UT graduate and instructor Dr. Edward Shapiro. He taught at UT from 1967 to 1989, specializing in macroeconomics while fostering a love for writing. He authored an economic textbook that became an international bestseller and established scholarships in both the Economics and English departments.

For more information about the Shapiro Writing Festival, go to <http://www.utoledo.edu/as/english/ShapiroWritingFestival.html>.

New finance vice president announces realignments in division

By Tobin J. Klinger

The Division of Finance and Administration is undergoing some realignment, as Dr. Scott Scarborough, senior vice president for finance and administration, fills important vacancies and modifies reporting lines.

Scarborough has hired David Dabney as the permanent vice president for finance, replacing Tom Biggs, who will end his interim appointment April 30. Dabney, who has served as treasurer at DePaul University since 2003, was selected from a national slate of candidates suggested by a search committee.

"This will mark the fourth occasion that David and I have worked together," Scarborough said. "His credentials are impeccable, and my past experience with him put him over the top in the selection process. I'm thrilled to have him on my team again."

Dabney has 36 years of finance experience, including service as director of financial services at the University of Texas at Tyler and as chief financial officer for the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Co. in Austin. His first day at The University of Toledo was March 27.

"This is a truly exciting time to be joining UT," Dabney said. "Over the years I've had the chance to work in a variety of settings, but none showed as much in terms of challenges and opportunities as this recently merged institution."

In addition to the hiring of Dabney, Scarborough has promoted Ken Long from director of budget and planning to associate

vice president for budget and planning. He will report directly to Scarborough.

"Ken has done an excellent job during some challenging fiscal times," Scarborough said. "This university is strong financially, and that's due in part to many of Ken's efforts. We want to keep the positive momentum."

Meanwhile, the departure of Dawn Rhodes, interim vice president for administration, to Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis where she will be vice president for finance and administration, has enabled Scarborough to modify operations and transform the vacancy into a vice president for information technology position. A search is under way and is expected to be complete in the next month.

"Information Technology is critically important as we look to our collective future," Scarborough said. "We need a position of leadership that can help us achieve our strategic goals while keeping us knowledgeable about what's happening on the cutting edge."

Other departments that were previously part of the vice president for administration's portfolio now are under the vice president for facilities and construction or the vice president for human resources and campus safety.

"These additions and realignments will empower us to focus on implementation of the University's strategic plan," Scarborough said. "It's an honor to have the opportunity to be a part of making it a reality."



Photo by Jacke Meade

PROUD PATRIOTS: Camille Castillo, left, and her sister, Sharmaine Castillo, were among more than 80 people from some 30 countries who recently became U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony in the Law Center Auditorium on Main Campus. "It's an unbelievable feeling to be a part of such a wonderful country," said Camille, who is from Canada and attended UT from 2001 to 2006.



Photo by Daniel Miller

INSPIRATION: Dr. Don Bartlette gave a recent talk, "Macaroni at Midnight: A Portrait of Racism, Hunger and Poverty for a Handicapped Native-American Child." More than 30 people came to the Student Union on Main Campus to hear the social worker discuss how he overcame a difficult childhood. "You can empower someone with compassion, acceptance and the touch of your life," he said.



Photo by Daniel Miller

AND THEY DANCED: Close to 450 students hit the floor for this year's UT Dance Marathon in the Student Recreation Center on Main Campus. Dancers kept moving for 16 hours and raised approximately \$52,000 for rehabilitation programs at St. Vincent Mercy Children's Hospital in Toledo. Since 2002, the nonprofit, student-run organization that puts on UT Dance Marathon has raised more than \$150,000.

UTNEWS

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UT to celebrate Diversity Week

By Shannon Wermer

Diversity Week 2008 will be presented by The University of Toledo Student Government in cooperation with various organizations and funding support from the Student Activities Committee.

Listed by date, events planned for the week include:

Monday, April 7

- Diversity Week Kickoff, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Student Union South Lounge on Main Campus. Student organizations will serve up dishes during this food festival that also will showcase music and information about ethnic cultures. Students may pick up free Diversity Week 2008 T-shirts while supplies last.

- Movie screening of "Crash," 10 p.m., Student Recreation Center Oak Room on Main Campus.

Tuesday, April 8

- Health Science Campus Food Festival and Music, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Skyview Food Court.

- Luncheon and discussion, noon to 1 p.m. in Health Education Building Room 103 on the Health Science Campus. Dr. Joan R. Griffith, UT associate professor of pediatrics, will discuss "Is There a Disparity in the Psychosocial Effects of Childhood Obesity?" RSVP for the free lunch by calling 419.383.3609.

- DL Hughley: Live "Unapologetic" Tour, 8 p.m. Student Union Auditorium on Main Campus. Tickets — \$5 for general admission and \$7 for VIP seating — are available at Rocket Copy, located in Student Union Room 2500. This event is presented by Campus Activities and Programming.

Wednesday, April 9

- Student Organization Information Fair, 11

a.m. to 2 p.m., Scott Park Student Center on the Scott Park Campus.

- Pizza luncheon and discussion, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., in the candy counter area at Scott Park. Selina Griswold, UT associate professor of business technology, will discuss "Diversity — Is It a Gift or an Obstacle?"

- "Poetry: Diversified Expressions," 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Scott Park VIP Room. Faculty, students and staff will read poetry from various cultures, including Mongolian, Indian and African-American works. Light refreshments will be served.

- "Dimensions in Diversity: From One Comes Many," 2:30 to 4 p.m., Scott Park Auditorium. Toledo early college high school students will put on a production highlighting four cultures. Griswold will moderate.

- Celebration of Dance, 7 p.m. Doermann Theater, Main Campus.

Thursday, April 10

- Spectrum Open-Mic Night, 7 to 10 p.m., Student Union South Lounge.

Friday, April 11

- Late Night at the Student Recreation Center on Main Campus, 8 to 10 p.m. This event will feature cultural dance lessons taught by the Toledo Ballroom Dance Society and the South Asian Youth Association.

Saturday, April 12

- Songfest, 5 p.m., SeaGate Centre. This year's theme is "Rockets Hit the Red Carpet."

For more information about Diversity Week, contact Student Government at 419.530.4165.

Physician assistant, nursing students sponsor race to honor faculty member

By Jim Winkler

More than 150 runners and walkers are expected to participate in the inaugural "Hampton on the Trail" five-kilometer run and three-kilometer walk that will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 19, at scenic Farnsworth Metropark off U.S. 24 west of Waterville, Ohio.

The event will benefit the James Hampton Scholarship Fund that honors the popular, longtime faculty member of the former Medical College of Ohio, who recently retired after being diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

The scholarships will benefit students on the Health Science Campus who excel in the pathophysiology course that Hampton taught and exemplify Hampton's attributes of character, honesty and integrity.

The run and walk will start near the Roche de Bouf shelter. Prizes will be awarded.

Runners and walkers can register by visiting <http://hsc.utoledo.edu/healthsciences/pa/hampton.html>. Registration is \$15; participants will receive a free T-shirt while supplies last.

UT faculty members Dr. Joan Moon and Jay Peterson are chairing the event, which is sponsored by the Physician Assistant Student Society and Student Nurses Association.



Hampton

'Bat Boy: The Musical' ready to fly

By Angela Riddel

"Bat Boy: The Musical," a comedy that deals with the serious problem of intolerance, will open Friday, April 11, in UT's Center for Performing Arts Center Theatre on Main Campus.

Performances continue through Sunday, April 13, and Wednesday, April 16, through Sunday, April 20. Curtain time will be 7:30 p.m. for all performances except for Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

Written by Keythe Farley and Brian Flemming with lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe, "Bat Boy: The Musical"

is currently one of the most widely staged musicals on college campuses, following successful runs off-Broadway and in London's West End.

The show is based on an article in the Weekly World News — the tongue-in-cheek tabloid that labeled itself "the world's only reliable newspaper" — that announced the discovery of a freakish, feral "bat boy" in a West Virginia cave. The musical expands upon this story, placing the boy in a highly conservative town, where inhabitants are too

closed-minded to allow him to assimilate and become part of the community.

The hero, Bat Boy, is discovered in a cave by a group of teenagers. They capture him and turn him over to the local veterinarian, who takes a special interest in the half-boy, half-bat. Bat Boy's struggle to fit in is set to music and song.

For all of its quirkiness, "Bat Boy: The Musical" provides a glimpse into the frightening results of intolerance, according to director Edmund Lingan, UT assistant professor of theatre. He said Bat Boy, who is severely ostracized

and mistreated for his differences, can be viewed as an allegory for people who have suffered physical and emotional abuse in their attempts to find places in society.

Tickets are \$14; \$12 for faculty, staff, alumni and seniors; and \$10 for students. They can be purchased online at www.utoledo.edu/boxoffice, at the box office prior to the shows or by calling 419.530.2375.

For tickets or more information, visit the UT Department of Theatre and Film at www.utoledo.edu/as/theatrefilm.



Patrick J. Miller, a freshman majoring in film and minoring in art, plays Bat Boy.



Photo by Jack Meade

NOW SERVING: Dr. Suresh Koneswaran, a resident in Cardiology, picked up a made-to-order omelet prepared by Chef Adam Thompson last week in honor of National Doctor's Day. To show appreciation, breakfast was served for physicians in UT Medical Center.