

UT Medical Center Department of Rehabilitation Services helps patient transition from coma to community

By Chelsea-Lynn Carey

Donnie Vliet and friends were drinking the night of March 25, 2006, when they hopped into the car and headed to a bar about a block away.

They never made it to the bar.

The car they were in collided with a TARTA bus on Glendale Avenue.

Vliet's head smashed through the windshield, and he was rushed to the then-Medical University of Ohio Hospital.

"The reason I think that the ambulance brought me there [UT Medical Center] was because ... this one was so close and they didn't think I could make it to another hospital," Vliet said.

Vliet remained in a coma for a week and then was stable but in a medically induced coma for the next month.

He was released from the hospital the day after his birthday — two months and one day after he was nearly killed. He had some vision loss in one eye and has nasal problems, brain damage and ataxia, which affects his right arm, causing it to shake.

Vliet was 23 years old and interested in partying with his friends, he said. "My friends at the time, that's what we would do, drink, and not think anything about it," he said. "We thought we were invincible, 'That's never going to happen to us.'"

He said, "The doctors didn't think I was going to live, walk, talk, anything." But now thanks in part to the efforts of the UT Medical Center staff, he is able to walk and talk again.

While he still has not achieved all of his goals in recovery, Vliet said doctors are impressed by the progress he has made since the crash.

Physical therapy was a tremendous help, Vliet said. He worked on simple tasks like balance and walking up and down steps.

"Great people, great service, great therapists — everyone here has been great," Vliet said.

He enjoyed working with physical therapy assistant Jennifer Bortz under the

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Photo by Jack Meade

PRESSING ON: With the help of occupational therapist Lynne Chapman, Donnie Vliet worked on vision training to correct the malalignment of his eye that caused double vision.

UT study: Professionally prepared tissue specimens as effective as dissection for teaching gross anatomy

By Jim Winkler

Medical students who learn gross anatomy from professionally prepared dissections called prosections score as well on a standardized test as those who do cadaver dissections, according to a research study conducted by four College of Medicine faculty members that won the Best Presentation Award at the 11th meeting of the International Association of Medical Science Educators held this summer in Cleveland.

The study adds fuel to the national debate among medical educators about the value of cadaver dissection, one of the oldest traditions in medicine, and whether alternative instructional tools to teach gross anatomy are as good or better, according to Dr. Carol A. Bennett-Clarke, associate professor of neurosciences, associate dean



Photo by Jack Meade

HANDIWORK: Study authors, from left, Drs. Richard Lane, Carol Bennett-Clarke, Connie Shriner and Carlos Baptista examined a plastinated hand.

for pre-clinical education and an author of the study titled "Plastinated Anatomical Specimens: Do They Have a Place in the Gross Anatomy Laboratory?"

"Time pressures, reduced numbers of qualified faculty and advances in technology have called into question the value of student cadaver dissection and whether plastinated prosections are as effective as cadaver dissection for promoting student learning," Bennett-Clarke said.

The plastination process involves replacing water in organic tissues and organs with a liquid plastic that hardens, leaving tissues intact and allowing them to be displayed and handled in their natural color, without formaldehyde. Plastinated tissues keep their texture almost indefinitely, mak-

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eLibrary gives distance learning students access to UT libraries' resources

By Janet Green

The Division of eLearning and Academic Support and University Libraries are adding online eLibrary services to UT's distance learning programs.

Distance learning students interact in a virtual classroom and often do not have physical access to the University Libraries' resources.

"eLibrary introduces distance learning students to the libraries' resources and services. From borrowing books to downloading full text articles to electronic reserves, this resource supports student success," said Marcia King-Blandford, associate professor of general libraries.

A collaborative effort of eLearning and Academic Support and University Libraries, eLibrary is designed to provide services

from both Carlson and Mulford libraries to all distance learning students, said Jolene Miller, coordinator of information services.

With more than 12,000 students for 2007-08, 900 courses and 35 certificate and degree programs offered, UT is the largest provider of distance education among Ohio universities.

"This expansion of resources for our distance learning students is critical as online enrollment continues to expand," said Dr. Karen Rhoda, administrative director of eLearning and Academic Support.

A link to eLibrary services will be placed on the WebCT homepage of students and faculty.

For more information, contact Deborah Czechowski at 419.530.4083.

Buy a book, support right to read

By Vicki L. Kroll

UT's Banned Books Week Vigil will take place Thursday, Oct. 4, in the Center for Performing Arts on Main Campus.

To start a new chapter for the 10th anniversary of the daylong event, faculty, staff and students can show their support for the right to read by purchasing books from the American Library Association's most banned list that will be given out as door prizes throughout the vigil.

"*To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Harry Potter* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* are on the list," said Dr. Paulette D. Kilmer, UT associate professor of communication. "For \$10 or less, you could purchase a paperback and support the right to read freely, which is also the right to think freely."

A list of the most banned books that may be purchased for the vigil is available

on the Communication Department's Web site at <http://communication.utoledo.edu>; the UT Bookstore in the Student Union on Main Campus and the Department of Communication Office, University Hall Room 4600, also will have copies of the list.

Patrons' names will be inscribed in plates in the books, acknowledging their gifts and listing them as a "Champion of Freedom of Expression."

Those interested in purchasing a book should contact Colleen Strayer, general manager at the UT Bookstore, at 419.530.2516 or at bkstoleo@bncollege.com. Specific books from the list may be purchased; cash donations also will be accepted and works purchased accordingly.

Friday, Sept. 14, is the deadline to buy books.

UT enrollment up 2 percent as diversity, academic numbers rise

By Jon Strunk

For the third consecutive semester, student enrollment is up at The University of Toledo, and officials say they are particularly excited that the gains are accompanied by increases in diversity and academic preparedness for the incoming class.

Across all campuses, UT's student count stood at 21,119, up 2.0 percent from last fall's mark of 20,713. Perhaps even more encouraging, full-time equivalency (FTE) — the total number of credit hours divided by 15, the state-defined full-time course load — was up 2.8 percent from last year. FTEs often convey a more accurate representation of the way enrollment affects UT's fiscal picture.

"More and more students are choosing The University of Toledo and that's a reflection of where this University is headed," said Lawrence J. Burns, vice president for enrollment services, marketing and communication. "The profile of the incoming class is stronger academically, and the increased numbers of underrepresented students will create better living-learning opportunities for the entire campus community."

In addition to an increase of 110 new African-American students, a 22.4 percent rise, UT experienced a 13.5 percent gain in direct-from-high-school admissions, standing at 3,595 after a 427-student gain. The number of new adult students rose by 80 admits, a 26.2 percent gain, and the College of Nursing saw its numbers rise

by 25 percent, or 235 students. Nearly all academic areas saw increases.

The average composite ACT score and high school grade point average also rose, according to Kevin Kucera, associate vice president for enrollment services, and a focused enrollment push in Michigan attracted dozens of students from a previously untapped region.

"In the end it all comes down to the staff," Kucera said. "The recruiters and everyone in Enrollment Services worked so hard all year to get to this point. But it's also the professors and staff members who met with students during Rocket Launch or interacted with them on campus. Maximizing positive experiences for prospective students is everyone's job, and people have really taken that to heart."

"This University has over the last 18 months worked to define excellence to where it becomes more actionable, more tangible, more than just a slogan," said UT President Lloyd Jacobs. "Excellence is that which those with choice choose, and it's clear that students, in increasing numbers, are seizing the opportunity for a top-notch education."

Meanwhile, Burns made clear that UT is already pressing ahead as it strategizes for additional enrollment gains next year.

"We've had a great year, and now the goal is to prove that we can achieve this level of growth consistently," Burns said.

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ing them valuable instructional tools.

Gross anatomy, the study of the human body's structure without the use of a microscope, is one of the first courses UT medical students take, a course that for many defines the experience of being a first-year medical student. Currently, 97 percent of medical schools, including the UT College of Medicine, require cadaver dissection, viewing it an essential component of the curriculum.

However, as new disciplines like genomics and neuroscience have emerged over the last 30 years, the number of hours students spend on gross anatomy has decreased steadily. Some think that students can learn about human anatomy from studying pre-dissected bodies and body parts or from computer simulations. Others, however, contend that there is no substitute for learning from a real human body.

UT medical students have ready access to an array of computer-based tools to learn gross anatomy on their own.

The study involved 19 first-year medical students in a lab session that covered hand dissection. The students were given a pretest just prior to the lab and then placed in two groups. One group completed a standard dissection of the hand, while the other used only plastinated hand prosections to learn.

The students were then tested on their knowledge of hand anatomy, and the researchers found no statistically significant differences between the two groups.

"However, the mean time needed to complete the lab using plastinated specimens was only half that of the group who did the actual hand dissection," Bennett-Clarke said. "Students utilizing the prosections reported them easy to work with and important structures easy to identify. Overall, these students were more satisfied with the laboratory experience based on level of difficulty and time productivity measures."

"The results of this study suggest that plastinated prosections may be used in the gross anatomy laboratory without negative impact on student learning," Bennett-Clarke said.

The other researchers were Dr. Carlos A.C. Baptista, associate professor of neurosciences; Dr. Constance J. Shriner, assistant professor of family medicine and associate dean for faculty development and curriculum evaluation; Dr. Richard D. Lane, professor and acting chair of neurosciences; and second-year medical student Michael Thorpe. Baptista directs a plastination laboratory on the Health Science Campus.

Ohio's Third Frontier Commission has \$207.5 million to expand the state's high-tech research and promote innovation.

Learn how to apply for grants Friday, Sept. 14, at 10 a.m. in the Hilton Toledo Grand Ballroom on the Health Science Campus.

'Celebrate Our River' Week to highlight the Ottawa

By Jim Winkler

Tires. Golf and tennis balls. Toys. Car parts. Plastic bags.

Great to find in a department store. Not so great to find along the banks of the Ottawa River on Main Campus.

On Saturday, Sept. 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., UT students, faculty and staff members and volunteers will gather these and other items from the banks of the waterway on campus during the University's first-ever "Celebrate Our River" event.

Sponsored by the two-year-old President's Commission on the River, the four-day event is aimed at encouraging UT students, faculty and staff to get to know the river better and give it a helping hand.

The cleanup is also part of the annual Clean Your Streams event organized in the Toledo area by Partners for Clean Streams Inc., a nonprofit community organization that supports local and regional water

Clean Streams Inc., "and this event not only helps clean up the river, but also serves as a reminder of the importance of the river in the life of the University. The University is committed to making improvements to the river, implementing the best management practices associated with campus development, taking more responsibility for the river, and improving the landscape and environment for our students."

Last year more than 60 volunteers gathered 88 bags during a cleanup of the river bank that included among other things a computer chair, aquarium, bicycle and television set.

The cleanup is one of four major events that will be held during the week.

People can canoe the river and enjoy the scenery at 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 17. Canoes will be available for the first 24 people, and those with their own canoes or



BANKING ON ENVIRONMENTALISM: Two of the more than 60 volunteers from last year's Clean Your Streams event picked up debris along the Ottawa River on Main Campus.

quality improvements in the area, and the Maumee Remedial Action Plan, a cooperative effort of citizens, businesses, industry and government working to restore the area's waters.

Volunteers will be provided with work gloves and trash bags and then fan out in groups of three or four to assigned areas to gather food wrappers, cups, beverage cans, straws, construction materials and other items, many of which were blown on campus by winds. They also will inventory debris that is collected. Volunteers should meet at Ottawa Park on Kenwood Boulevard at 8:30 a.m.

"The Ottawa River is an invaluable resource," said Dr. Patrick Lawrence, associate professor of geography and planning, chair of the President's Commission on the River, and chair of Partners for

kayaks are welcome. The event starts in Ottawa Hills where the river crosses Talmadge Road north of Bancroft Street.

On Tuesday, Sept. 18, members of the UT Society of Environmental Education will have a display and handouts in the Student Union from 10 a.m. to 1:50 p.m.

A fish sampling demonstration will be held Wednesday, Sept. 19, at 4 p.m. on the river next to the Law Center parking lot. The Ottawa River is home to more than 12 species of native freshwater mussels and 26 fish species, including northern pike, yellow perch, largemouth bass and steelhead trout. Fish will be caught with nets, examined and thrown back in.

For more information on the events, including Clean Your Streams, call Lawrence at 419.530.4128 or e-mail him at patrick.lawrence@utoledo.edu.

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direction of physical therapist Greg Hall in the Department of Rehabilitation Services because she oriented an athletic theme into their workouts. Athletics were a large part of his life prior to the accident.

Vliet said that his occupational therapists Kelly Farley and Lynne Chapman in Rehabilitation Services also were significant people in his recovery. Chapman helped Vliet put together the alcohol prevention education program that he takes to high schools.

More than a year after his accident, Vliet is talking to high school students about his experience and the dangers of drinking and driving.

"When Donnie first was injured, he had severe ataxia throughout his entire right side that caused him to have poor coordination in his right arm and leg, as well as poor balance," Chapman said. "By the time Donnie was discharged, he had improved dramatically in his coordination and his balance and returned to work doing landscaping, painting and household maintenance for rental properties."

There is an opportunity for brain surgery to fix ataxia, but Vliet has chosen to forgo that. "I'm not going to do that because I can live with this [the ataxia] but to go in there and mess around in my brain, no."

The physical limitations as a consequence of the accident initially affected his ability to drive due to vision loss in one eye, Vliet said. But he's working

toward getting back on the road.

Since the accident Vliet's life has been different. "I changed a lot ... since the accident I have come close with God, and church wise, but before, I didn't really think anything about it."

Vliet said, "I don't take anything for granted, I mean, not knowing if anything is going to happen ... Always knowing that tomorrow is another day — just to wake up and know tomorrow is another day."



Photo by Jack Meade

GETTING STRONGER: Occupational therapist Lynne Chapman helped Donnie Vliet work on balance, strength and endurance so he could mow lawns.

UTNEWS

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Main Campus Provost's Office revising, expanding structure

By Tobin J. Klinger

Dr. Rosemary Haggett, Main Campus provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, has been on the job since July 1, and she's already leaving her mark on the institution by revising and expanding the organizational structure within the Provost's Office.

"We've drawn up a new model, designed to foster excellence in the development of faculty and the student experience," Haggett said. "The Provost's Office provides leadership to many areas in academic affairs, and we're trying to align them in a way that provides the greatest benefit to the constituents we serve."

Under the new structure, Dr. Carol Bresnahan will continue to serve as vice provost for academic programs and policies. She will provide leadership to the development and promulgation of academic programs and policies that support student success by overseeing retention, diversity and other institutional initiatives.

In the new model, Haggett has created a new position, vice provost for academic innovation. Dr. Penny Poplin Gosetti will fill the role on an interim basis and will provide leadership to the continuous improvement of the student academic experience, including strategic planning, development of metrics, assessment of student learning outcomes, accreditation and program evaluation.

Another new position will be created to focus on faculty and administrator hiring and professional development. Recruitment for the vice provost for faculty and organizational development will begin this fall, with a goal of having a candidate selected by the end of the academic year.

"We are looking to provide support and guidance for faculty members through such efforts as mentoring for new faculty and continuing professional development for faculty as they progress toward promotion and tenure," Haggett said. "We also want to support faculty who are in administrative roles and provide them with opportunities for professional growth and development."

A special assistant to the provost position also will be created in the new model, with recruitment to begin fall semester for a spring semester appointment. This one-to-two-semester, half-time appointment is designed to provide an opportunity to individuals considering a move into academic administration.

"This structure brings the Provost's Office back to the necessary staffing level that it had in past years and places a new emphasis on professional and academic development that we believe will not only help our students and faculty achieve excellence, but our entire University," Haggett said.



Photo by Terry Fell

GREETINGS: President Lloyd Jacobs shook hands with law students last week during a college picnic as Douglas Ray, dean of the College of Law, looked on. Some 200 attended the event.



Photo by Jack Meade

SHARING PERCEPTIONS: Rachel Chapman, a senior in the Honors Program majoring in sociology and Spanish, gave a presentation, "tHe hAiR project," last week at the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women. She talked about how she shaved her head to support a friend who began treatment for leukemia and then began looking at how hair is related to gender identity and femininity and what it means socially and culturally to not have hair.

In memoriam

Scott C. Roberson, Toledo, who as a graduate assistant taught electronics at the former UT Community and Technical College, died Sept. 2 at age 73. He earned a bachelor's degree in English from UT in 1957 and a master's degree in vocational education in 1984.

Phillip A. Sinclair, Holland, Ohio, professor emeritus of business technologies, died Sept. 5 at age 93. He joined the UT faculty of the former Community and Technical College as an assistant professor in 1967 and was promoted to associate professor in 1973 and professor in 1976. Sinclair pioneered the development of instructional television and the creation of audio-visual materials for use in and out of the classroom. In 1973, he received UT's Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award. Sinclair was among 32 Midwest faculty members selected by the People's Republic of China to participate in its 1982 summer scientific exchange program. He was the author of two books, *Personal Creativity for Today* and *Just Grammar — How to Enjoy It*. He retired in 1984. One year later, he received the Innovative Teacher Award from the National Association of Management/Marketing Educators.



Photo by Jack Meade

STRATEGIC PLANNING: Dr. Carol Cartwright, UT's "scholar-president in residence," talked with members of the executive committees of the Main Campus and Health Science Campus faculty senates last week. Cartwright, president emeritus of Kent State University, met with several University leaders and decision-makers to discuss how to implement UT's strategic plan.

Correction

The date of death was incorrect in the obituary of Dr. Franklin (Bud) R. Koontz Jr. in last week's paper. He died Aug. 26.