Technology Takes the Wheel

Welcome Address and Overview of Speakers Series Program

Dr. Patricia Relue – Associate Dean, Engineering Graduate Studies and Research, The University of Toledo College of Engineering

Introduction of Guest Speakers and Panelists

Lissa Guyton, Reporter, 13abc

Featured Speakers

Dr. Lisa J. Molnar – University of Michigan
Dan Wilkins – The Ability Center of Greater Toledo

Panel Discussion

Panel Moderator: Lissa Guyton

Panelists:
Connor Briggs – Toledo Area Regional Paratransit Service (TARPS)
Dr. Jim Ferris – The University of Toledo
Dr. Lisa Molnar – University of Michigan
Dan Wilkins – The Ability Center of Greater Toledo

Closing Remarks

Edgar Avila – Executive Vice President, AAA Northwest Ohio

Dr. Lisa J. Molnar is an associate research scientist in the Behavioral Sciences Group UMTRI, as well as associate director of UMTRI and the Center for Advancing Transportation Leadership and Safety (ATLAS Center). Dr. Molnar’s research has focused primarily on traffic safety and driver behavior. Specific topics of interest include older driver safety and mobility; the use of vehicle technology to improve driver safety; and behavioral effects and safety outcomes associated with traffic laws, policies and programs. She also leads projects in the area of older driver safety and mobility, including examining age differences in the transfer of control between manual and automated driving in an automated vehicle. Dr. Molnar is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) and a past convener of GSA’s Transportation and Aging Interest Group. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Michigan State University, a master of health services administration degree in public health policy and administration from the University of Michigan and a PhD in public health with an emphasis on road safety from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

Dan Wilkins is director of special projects at The Ability Center of Greater Toledo. He is an outspoken advocate, storyteller and visionary for people living with disabilities, as well as the disability culture. He is a dad, husband, friend, chair-user, artist, writer, graphic designer, humorist, Browns fan and a million other things. Since 1989, he has been sharing stories and ideas in workshops, breakouts, keynotes and roundtables, formal and informal, for students from preschool (tough crowd) to doctorate level, parents, professionals in business, human service and allied health, educators and administrators, and folks with disabilities on a broad range of topics from disability and diversity awareness, advocacy and self-advocacy, to the importance of humor, inclusion, community and seeing through bigger eyes.

Panelists

Connor Briggs is director of paratransit services at the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA). A native of Toledo and a proud graduate of Toledo Public Schools, his career in transit began as a student bus operator at The University of Toledo before graduating from Ohio University. He has served in various management-level roles in public transit during the last five years. Most recently, he was director of transit operations at the Butler County RTA in suburban Cincinnati before returning to serve his home community. In his position at TARTA, he oversees the TARPS service, which provides more than 1,200 trips per day for disabled residents in the Toledo area.

Dr. Jim Ferris is a poet and performance artist. He is author of Slouching Towards Guantanamo, Facts of Life and The Hospital Poems, which won the Main Street Rag Book Award in 2004. Dr. Ferris, who has a doctorate in performance studies, has performed at the Kennedy Center and across the United States, Canada and Great Britain; recent performance work includes the solo performance piece “Scars: A Love Story.” Past president of the Society for Disability Studies, he has received awards for performance and mathematics, as well as poetry and creative nonfiction. His writing has appeared in dozens of publications, ranging from POETRY to Text & Performance Quarterly, from the Georgia Review to weekly newspapers. He is the Ability Center Endowed Chair in Disability Studies at The University of Toledo.