Rocket Wheels

Rocket Wheels, a bike sharing program tailored by Facilities and Construction made its return on Monday, March 14th. Beginning this spring, faculty and staff members are now able to join the students in becoming members of the Rocket Wheels program. Also new this semester through numerous requests from the fall participants, the bikes can now be borrowed for six hours instead of four.

A mass ride event to promote the bike share kick off was held on Wednesday, March 16. The event which began at the Rocket Hall bike share station rack was well attended. Speakers for the event included Associate Vice President of Facilities and Construction; Jason Toth, Student Government President; Cody Spoon, Marketing Representative; Cam Norton, UTPD Officer; Mike Mattimoe, and Assistant Provost for the Center of International Studies Program; Sammy Spann.

The mass ride was led by our very own avid biker and colleague, Tom Garey; Manager of Facilities Information. Around 20 participants were taken on a tour of Main Campus to become acquainted with the Rocket Wheel Stations and other bike racks available for use.

The mass ride ended at the Q, located in the Flatlands between Parks Tower and Academic House, where the participants were nourished with free food and drinks.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped make this event a success. Emily Mohn and Alexa Orr from Marketing, Sustainability Specialist; Neil Tabor, Manager of Facilities Information; Tom Garey, OISSS Director; Pete Thomas, Doris Matthews, Ryan Oaks, SEED, the Transit Services Staff, sponsoring local businesses: Marcos, Papa Johns, The Brew, Spoke Life Bike Shop, Werzells Bike and Ski Shop and everyone who spoke and attended the event. For more information or to sign up for the Rocket Wheels Bike Share program, please visit: https://www.utoledo.edu/rocket-wheels/

UPDATE:
4/20/2016 - Just wanted to give you all and update that Rocket Wheels membership went up significantly over the weekend due to the nice weather. We are now at 624 and rising. Thanks for all your help in making bike share a success.

Diana Watts
Univ. of Toledo, Transit and Rocket Wheels Bike Share Coordinator
Howard Hillard, Purchasing Contract Manager enjoyed a Caribbean cruise recently with a port stop in St. Maarten. Here is Howard’s creative account of his excursion.....

“X MARKS THE SPOT”
(better known as the Tale of my Caribbean Vacation day)
By Howard Hillard

Sounds like a pirate story. “X” marks the spot. With pirates, ships on the high seas, treasure, clues, island adventure and sharks! Ok, ok, it is not quite that scenario. There was a ship (cruise ship), we were on the high seas, and pi-rates, heck yes! (Army buddies). Also, there is treasure to be found (very small treasure), along with clues to follow to find the treasure, and finally a local establishment where scurvy pirates (land lubber tourist) hang out, called Sharkys. Where do I begin...The day started when we landed at St Maarten, a half French/half Dutch, enchanted Tropical Island, located in the Caribbean. The wench (my wife) and myself (Sgt. Howie, first mate) were immediately shanghaied by some locals from the pier, the minute we got off our ship. Thinking we had treasure, we were then taken to another smaller boat, which then took us to a floating barge located in a hidden cove far from the mainland. Upon arrival at the barge, we were forced to put on under-water helmets and walk the plank, (well, an underwater ladder). Once under the water we saw sunken remains of a pirate’s can-non, Neptune’s statue, and even an underwater jail. We also saw every tropical fish that you could imagine. Yes, of course we were thrown into the underwater jail, nailed with a trumped up charge of, are you ready for this “drinking and diving”. When our captures realized we would not divulge the whereabouts of the treasure, they brought us back to the surface, and whisked us back to the mainland.

Once back on the main island, the wench (I’d better stop calling her that) and myself decided we should hide the treasure and draw up clues to find it. We had a plan! We knew an-other seafaring pirate couple (Diana Raider, from UT facilities and her husband) would be coming down to the same island some months later and they could retrieve the hidden treasure (UT Pin, see photo) and return it safely back to Toledo (no not Toledo, Spain, but Ohio). Meanwhile ......back on the island my loving wife (note the name change) and I decided to come up with clues and landmarks to plan a route that would lead to the hidden treasure. We pulled out our map and began to write clues (actually it was a small spiral note book) and with our trusty camera (I’m sure every good pirate treasure map maker had a camera), to document land-marks, of course. We charted a map to record where we would hide the treasure. We were very clever and devious in charting steps and landmarks for one to follow. We made a trail that encompassed all of the main central market area, complete with dead ends, wrong ways and correct directions. Clues lead to more clues all written in rhythm poem verse, for one to follow. After we were satisfied that we covered the entire area we looked for a place to hide or bury the treasure. At that point a horrible thought came over us. Even though we put the treasure in a water proof container what would happen if we were caught digging up the ground or planting something under a rock or in a tree? Could the local authorities nab us for...
defacing island property or even worse, littering while trying to hide our precious treasure? Heaven for-bid! What were we to do? We had already been in jail once that day and we did not want to go to another. It was getting late in the day and at sundown our ship would sail away with or without us. Showing no panic, I went to the middle of the market square and closed my eyes and turned in a counter clockwise motion. I listened and listened and finally I heard the sound I was hunting for; the direction we would go. At first the sound was a low hum, but grew louder as we approached our final destination, the place where we would hide the treasure. I can still close my eyes today and hear that wonderful sound. It was the sound of a cocktail blender mixing those frozen concoctions from Jimmy Buffet tunes (he was kind of a pirate, being a parrot head and all). Back to the story, the sound was beckoning me closer and closer. When we finally were close enough we opened our eyes and to our amazement and delight we were standing in front of Sharkys, an old island watering hole we had visited on a prior cruise. We knew we were in the right place, the perfect spot to hide the treasure. We figured we had best try to fit in, so as not to draw attention, we ordered drinks. “Carib” Beer and frozen Spirits of Frumen-ties for the wench “oops”. (Ok, ok, for me first I ordered a red stripe and then a Carib). As we sipped on the adult beverages I was looking for a suitable place to hide the treasure. I wanted to win the trust of the bartender, so what did I do? Of course I knew what I would do, I ordered another cold brew (hey, that rhymes! I didn’t know what to do so I ordered...never mind). On or about the XXX beverage (remember the story title is “X marks the spot”) I got the nerve to ask the owner if he would put my treasure behind the bar on the wall, to be hidden amongst the other island décor. He agreed to. I told him it would only be for a few months and then a non-tan couple will come and inquire, and he was to give them the pin. Is that the end of my Island tale? Nope, at that moment my other sailing pirate buddies showed up and we remained a little longer and drank some more grog (ok, it was the last departure horn call from the ship that made us leave that magical place). My wife (insert other name if you like...her real name is Kathy) used that opportunity to break away and go and SHOP and SHOP, or should I say get more booty and more booty! Now, jump ahead six months the saga continues......Back at home port I showed Diana Raider the landmark photos and gave her the treasure map clues (spiral note book). Unknown to her I had hermetically sealed (scotch taped) up the last two pages of the clues with a note not to open until the hunt was completed. When Diana and Craig arrived on the island they immediately started the search. The clues must have been good because they ended up at Sharkys (must have been the sound of that blender). 

Now the sad news. Sharkys had remodeled the place, hence the mystery begins....... All the employees from there knew of, and had seen the treasure but did not know the whereabouts. Bummed out, Diana and Craig decided to open the final two sealed pages of the map (spiral notebook). Tucked away inside was good old American cash, with a note stating “Have a drink on us.” What we forgot to tell them was the drink mix cost more on the Island than the actual alcohol does, hence the bartender used more of that. Diana said she felt the effects right away (Oh well, no worries mate!).

Epilogue (fancy word that means more to the story): The treasure is still down there for the finding, and if you are ever on the Island, head to Sharkys and take a look around.......who knows what you may find...........hidden treasure awaits you!

THE END
Automation

The Facility and Construction Sustainability Energy Efficiency and Design (SEED) initiative is thrilled to announce the Energy Dashboard Campaign. Through various sustainability initiatives around the Energy Dashboard, we aim to reach out to faculty, staff and students to foster sustainability at UT while saving energy. The Energy Dashboard is an interactive weather based tool that shows how much energy each building is using 24/7. Our Dashboard is one of only two in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois that have the ability to export current and historical data. That is 1 of 2 in 74 public and private institutions! So check out the Dashboard at www.utoledo.edu/sustainability/dashpro

Amongst the various initiatives that are part of the Energy Dashboard Campaign:
1. For the first time, SEED awarded 4 scholarships to students who promote sustainability at UT.
2. Another first, the social media competition awarded prizes to students, faculty and staff who accessed the Energy Dashboard, and completed the tutorial so they could learn how to use it.
3. Currently, the Photo Contest is taking place from 4/11 to 4/25. Help us take pictures of UT buildings and send them to seed@utoledo.edu for a chance to win prizes and have your work featured on the Energy Dashboard. Your photos could be showcased as a thumbnail for a building on the Energy Dashboard. Pictures must be 200x200 pixels.
4. Every week SEED uses social media (blogs, facebook, twitter, and Instagram) to reach out and engage the UT community. We highlights the efforts that we make at UT to save energy and to be more sustainable.
5. In October, SEED will represent the University of Toledo at the 2016 Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Conference and Expo. We will share our experience engaging the UT community via the Energy Dashboard Campaign in front of over 2,000 attendees. Over 1,000 universities and colleges are members of AASHE.

We need your help to reach out to as many people as possible so that together we can fight climate change. We want to reach at least 2,100 users. So logon to www.utoledo.edu/sustainability/dashpro and use the dashboard. Every bit of energy saved counts, so turn off lights, lower the thermostat or unplugged your electronic when not in use. Visit the energy dashboard and send us ideas at seed@utoledo.edu. Below is a picture of the SEED team:

Sandrine Mubenga, PE, MSEE
Manager, Electrical Engineering

Facilities &Construction was recognized by the State of Ohio Energy efficiency committee. Please follow the link to read this article.
Employee Spotlight

Gentlemen

I want to write to tell you about two great interactions I had with your staff today. One, with Ellen Richardson, who answered the phone today in the most joyous moods and her quick response to getting me an answer about a work order. Second, Jeff Johnson who continues to go above and beyond to get any situation resolved. Even if he can’t fix something right away he’ll tell me that he’ll be back and later and follows up with a call, this is the epitome of great work ethics and customer service. He’s probably going to tell me not to send this but, I think they need to hear what great work they are doing in an environment where we have more complaints than compliments.

Sammy J. Spann, Ph.D.
Assistant Provost

Sandra Blackford a custodian on the main campus assigned to Ottawa House East and West was nominated and was awarded The University of Toledo National Residence Hall Honorary custodian of the month.

Sandra takes pride in the work she does in Ottawa House and she is very grateful to have this honor in being recognized by the Res. Life staff.

Sandra wants to thank Sarah Boyer for nominating her.

Jason,

Thank you so much for everything Friday and Saturday (for Bill Clinton Rally in FH). All your people that I met were terrific! We really appreciated the support of your team—thanks!

Thank you again,

Diane M. Miller, J.D.
Associate Vice President Federal Relations

Judd...

I just wanted to pass along my thanks and appreciation to Wayde Bockert and Brian Reynolds, for their assistance with the hot water situation here at Savage last week.

Thanks again.

Tim Warga, Assistant Athletic Director, Operations & Events
Dear Jason and Amanda:

I don’t know if I ever had a chance to formally thank you both for your special efforts in creating an attractive entrance on the north side of North Engineering. As always the quality of the work and your professionalism were exemplary. Thank you.

Warm regards,

Nagi
Nagi G. Naganathan, Ph.D., ASME Fellow
Dean, College of Engineering

Jason,

I just wanted to take a minute to let you know what a pleasure it has been to work with Deb, especially on the Joint Use Agreement with Feed Lucas County. Her keen attention to detail, expediency and professionalism has been so impressive to me. Tom Blank, counsel for Feed Lucas County, has repeatedly commented on how invaluable and central Deb has been to this project. We are fortunate to have her on the team.

Thanks,

Natalie Jackson, Ph.D., J.D.
Associate General Counsel
The University of Toledo | Office of Legal Affairs

Jason, Chris and Jim,

Just wanted to let you know my appreciation for all the help I received from Gary Maxey at University Hall. We had nine work orders for water damaged walls that needed extensive scraping, and some that needed to be lathed, before we could patch and paint. It was a lot of hard work and clean-up and Gary was eager to do whatever he could to get the work done. Everything was completed in a timely manner.

All the customers were very happy to have these areas completed. I feel that Gary needs recognition for all the hard work and his wonderful attitude with his co-workers and customers in making sure the areas that need attention get done.

Sherry Ankney, Painter
Jim,

I wanted to take a moment to recognize one of your employees, Mike Meyers, the 3rd shift worker in Central Control. He was a great point of contact when the drains backed up last night. I must have called him 2-3 times throughout the incident and he showed great customer service with each call. He not only ensured we had a response quickly, but also coordinated with EVS for cleaning and followed-up with me when everything was done. He truly represented your department well. Much appreciated!

Thanks for the excellent support and have a great weekend,

Joshua Krupinski
Assistant Director
Food & Nutrition Services
The University of Toledo Medical Center

Hi Diana,

Just wanted to let you know that Austin was great! He is very professional and kind to my clients.

Thanks for all that you do for us and have a great weekend!

Jackie Eisel
Records Management Officer
Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women

Thanks to all

Chris Levicki, Bob Boyd, Rey Guerra, Bruce Butler, Jeff Jacobs

Guys:

I simply wanted to thank each and every one of you for your efforts with our water clean-up this morning. Unfortunately, due to the accident, we needed your assistance. Your work was truly amazing and please know that it was deeply appreciated. Other than the fans operating, one would never know there was an issue. You are all THE best and again, thank you from the Rockets.

If I can ever assist, please let me know.

Michael O’Brien
Vice President and Director of Athletics
The University of Toledo
Last Friday we had a couple different issues with a couple of the retractable seating banks here in Savage Arena last Friday afternoon. Dale stopped down right away and repaired an electrical cord that had been damaged and did all he could to repair the other issues on the other seating bank. Dan Perry also was on-site and assisted. We ended up having to call in the service tech. Once the service tech arrived at 4:30pm Dan came back and stayed until the repair was complete.

Just wanted to pass along my appreciation for Dan and Dale’s efforts. They went above and beyond.

Tim Warga  
*Assistant Athletic Director, Operations & Events*

Jason,

I would like to give proper respect and praise to Daniel Perry for his continued quick response to our needs during our new POS install. He has been an example of great service is a very fast responder. I appreciate his professionalism and team minded attitude.

Very nice!

Mario Toussaint  
*Senior Director of Operations  
Dining, Retail & Clinical Nutrition  
UTMC & UT Main Campus*

Jeffrey Johnson is the air-quality technician in Wolfe Hall. Jeff comes and checks with us regularly to make sure all the systems in the lab are operating appropriately. If asked for help, he immediately responds and fixes it. If the problem is not Jeff’s responsibility, he contacts the person responsible to make sure it is fixed, and repeatedly does so until the issue is fixed. He also helps faculty and students fix things that are not his direct responsibility, like replacing bad tiles in the ceiling. Furthermore, he is a no-nonsense person that is pleasant to work with. Altogether, Jeffrey Johnson is an exemplary employee that does exceptional work that exceeds expectations.

All the best,  
Tome Avidor-Reiss

Hi Jason,  
I know in life we hear more about bad things than good things.

I want to let you know that yesterday I emailed Dan Perry about a lighting issue in NT 1000 that has been lingering for almost a year. He emailed me back quickly and said he would look into it. Today he informed me that about half the problem is fixed and he is continuing to get everything in working order again! I am so very pleased!

Sandy Stewart  
*Assoc. Resource Manager, The University of Toledo, College of Engineering*
Just wanted to praise Phillip Vittetoe for being a great guy and making my techs happy! People don’t get enough credit for doing a good job and most of the time you hear complaints. Thus I wanted to go out of my way to let you know. Please give him a nice pat on the back!

William Gunning

Dear Jason,

Now that the mid-cycle review and site visit from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is complete, I would like to personally thank you for your participation. As you know, this is a very important requirement for UT and it entailed a lot of effort from many people, including you. While no official results are available yet, we are confident that this was a favorable review. Final comments by the site team identified many areas of strength, and supported the University’s current efforts to move forward. We look forward to the HLC’s final report in the coming months.

Thanks again for your assistance in this process.

John A. Barrett Jr, JD
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
The University of Toledo

Congratulations to Tom Garey!

Tom has been nominated for a 2016 Outstanding Staff Award for Outstanding Service. Tom has been invited to the Award Celebration on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 in the Student Union Auditorium.

Congrats Tom,

Thank you for representing our department in such a positive light!

Jason Toth, AVP for Facilities & Construction
Announcements

This is a program that I started last October to help in some way to try and bridge the huge gap between our youth here in the Toledo area and people who protect and serve us every day. Last weekend in a regional bowling youth tournament in Akron, Ohio I was able to speak to other coaches around our eight state region that’s in a bowling organization that I belong to and my goal is to get this to happen around the country, which I’m currently working on. I encourage you to look at the video from last year.

Thanks and have a very blessed day.

George W. Hayes Jr.
University of Toledo
Electrician
Retirements

We hope you reflect on your past with happiness and look forward to your future with joy and anticipation.

(Unknown)
Nancy’s Personal Best!

Isn’t it nice to wake up to spring! Such a re-birth of life in every form. Good for the soul.

We have one terrific and remarkable work force of men and women. So many things are just falling into place with the addition of new managers and tradespeople. The Work Center is getting fewer calls about the same complaints we’ve had over the years. I credit every one of you for taking pride in your buildings and the campus in general and the camaraderie you have with each other. Really makes it pleasant to come to work every day. Plus the level of humor we are able to express keeps most of us smiling when we’d rather complain.

One of the most effective things put into place is time sheets getting turned in to managers weekly. Sure, it’s a lot of work and repetition but the end result is better and current accounting for our time and material. When we have up-to-date information it transfers into better communication with the campus community and that makes everyone happy! For the work center, it is very helpful to have accurate information to satisfy our callers. So my personal best goes to everybody.

In watching maybe Undercover Boss with maybe Marco’s pizza, the owner said something to the effect that “the smallest bolt holds up the largest structure”. I of course don’t remember the details but the message was loud and clear. Any time you think you are insignificant or don’t matter, think of this and remember you ARE valuable. You DO make a difference. We are all parts that make up the whole.

Enjoy spring. Appreciate all there is out there. Time slips away faster than we realize. We never get one second back, so make the best of life!

Nancy