UT professor leads coordination of $1.7 million grant on climate change solutions

By Jon Strunk

While a debate continues to rage in political circles, in scientific circles there is little question that climate change is occurring and that human activities are a major cause of the problem. Despite that certainty, solutions to combat and reverse these changes are not always obvious.

“Most of the solutions you hear about are really efforts to harm the environment more slowly than we have been [doing] in the past century,” said Dr. Andrew Jorgensen, UT professor of chemistry.

Jorgensen studied climate change during a recent sabbatical in Washington, D.C., where he took the lead in preparing a grant proposal for members of the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors of the National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) to create a global online community, providing information and resources to faculty members teaching various aspects of climate change.

The National Science Foundation funded $1.7 million over three years for a nationwide cyber-enabled learning community for solutions to climate change, dubbed CAMEL (Climate, Adaptation and Mitigation e-Learning).

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Paychecks to be distributed Dec. 31

By Kim Harvey

Faculty and staff will be paid early the week of Dec. 28.

UT’s regularly scheduled payday falls on the Jan. 1 holiday. To avoid holding payroll until Monday, Jan. 4, paper checks and direct-deposit funds will be available Thursday, Dec. 31.

Because UT will distribute checks Dec. 31 rather than Jan. 4, slightly more
UT professor

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“The impacts of climate change are incredibly interdisciplinary,” Jorgensen said. “Certainly the natural sciences play a key role, but also sociology, economics, political science, law and the humanities as you look at ethical implications of climate change.”

Since no single faculty member can be an expert in all these areas, there is a natural demand among professors for teaching materials in their non-specialty areas, Jorgensen said.

CAMEL will utilize NCSE’s Web-based information sharing platform, the Encyclopedia of the Earth (www.eoearth.org), and dedicated Web portals created for this purpose.

Content would include video clips, digital renderings and models, articles and other materials to help faculty "prepare the next generation of citizens for a set of environmental and societal issues that will really be theirs to deal with," Jorgensen said.

He said his sabbatical opened many opportunities for him that not only strengthened his knowledge of climate change but also facilitated the start of a process that will allow him and others associated with NCSE to address the issues through education. An earlier grant of $180,000 grant from NASA allowed the team to begin their work.

“Climate change is so much more complicated than I could have imagined,” Jorgensen said. “The consequences are very uneven, depending on geography and societal factors, and people’s understanding of the dangers of climate change can vary greatly depending on your point of view.

“But during my time in Washington, I was able to go hear leaders in the field, including the president’s science adviser, and to be a part of a broad community dedicated to the study of environmental issues,” he said. “It gave me a much deeper appreciation for what will be needed for the global community to slow and combat a problem my children and grandchildren will ultimately be left to confront.”

Scientist, human rights advocate to give talk Dec. 10

The College of Arts and Sciences will continue its 100th anniversary celebration with a visit from renowned scientist, educator and human rights advocate Dr. Zafra Lerman Thursday, Dec. 10.

The free, public event will start at 7 p.m. in Doerrmann Theater.

Lerman, distinguished professor of science and public policy and head of the Institute for Science Education and Science Communication at Columbia College Chicago, will discuss “Scientific Freedom and Human Rights: A Personal Odyssey.”

In addition to her professorship, Lerman has been the chair of the American Chemical Society Subcommittee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights for more than 20 years. During that time, she has worked with other organizations to advocate and fight for the rights and freedom of chemists in trouble with the governments of nations, including China, Somalia, Turkey and the former Soviet Union. At times she has risked her life in these countries to free imprisoned scientists.

She has worked with other chemists in trouble during that time. She has worked with other chemists in trouble

In memoriam

Dr. Alice Jane Buencamino, Houston, died Nov. 15 at age 73. She completed her residency at MCO in 1991 when she was appointed clinical instructor in the Department of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine. She held the volunteer faculty appointment through 2005.

Matilda “Tillie” J. Kuhns, Ottawa Lake, Mich., a licensed practical nurse for the MCO Outpatient Clinic-Pediatrics from 1960 until her retirement in 1990, died Nov. 30 at age 86.

Robert J. Lewandowski, Toledo, a stationary engineer for the MCO Energy Management Department from 1978 until his retirement in 1997, died Nov. 30 at age 72.

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income will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service for calendar year 2009. However, the early pay will not affect the amount of income each faculty and staff member receives in 2010, regardless of whether the person is paid on the academic calendar (19 pay periods) or the fiscal calendar (26 pay periods).

Dec. 31 income will be reported as 2010 pay for purposes of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System and State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio, since it is based on the pay-end date.

Employees may pick up paper checks from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at the Payroll Office, located on the second floor of the Learning Resource Center on Scott Park Campus. Checks not collected by 4:30 will be mailed to individuals’ homes Jan. 4; this will delay their availability.

If you have questions regarding the Dec. 31 pay period, call Robert Demory, controller, at 419.530.6244, or e-mail robert.demony@utoledo.edu.
From the board

The UT Board of Trustees approved the following personnel actions at its Nov. 16 meeting:

NEW PERSONNEL: Shelly Dionyssiou, teaching assistant, College of Nursing, effective Sept. 9; Jovonne Foster, quality assessment technical coordinator, Quality Management, effective Sept. 22; Ronald Goedde, director of hospital budgeting, Hospital Finance, effective Oct. 6; Ronda Meyer, security officer, UT Police, effective Sept. 17; Scott Reed, interim assistant women’s soccer coach, Intercollegiate Athletics, effective Aug. 10; Nicholas Sauber, teaching assistant, College of Nursing, effective Sept. 10; Angela Schratt, security officer, UT Police, effective Sept. 9; Noelle Walker, neurology registered nurse case manager, OP Clinic-Neurology, effective Oct. 13; and Jill Zdunczyk, senior auditor, Internal Audit, effective Sept. 21.

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS: Nader Abraham, professor and chair of physiology and pharmacology, effective Sept. 14; Paul Lehmann, professor of medical microbiology and immunology, effective Oct. 1 through Nov. 20; and Thomas Schwann, academic rank pending, chief of cardiothoracic surgery, effective Nov. 3.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR APPOINTMENTS: Piotr Czernik, Orthopedic Surgery, effective Nov. 2; Mai Dao, Accounting, effective Aug. 27; Victor Fluta, Pathology, effective Oct. 1; Andrea Kalinoski, Surgery, effective Oct. 1; Dong Hyun Kim, Physiology and Pharmacology, effective Oct. 1; Valerie Lint, Emergency Medicine, effective July 1; Joshua Park, Neurosciences, effective Oct. 1; Diana Shvydky, Radiation Oncology, effective Sept. 1; Michael Tevald, Physical Therapy, effective Jan. 1; and James Young, Emergency Medicine, effective Oct. 1.

INSTRUCTOR APPOINTMENTS: Selena Nicholas-Bublick, Neurology, effective Oct. 1, and Barbara Gunning, Nursing, effective Aug. 15 to Dec. 18.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR APPOINTMENT: Constantine Demetropoulos, Bioengineering, effective Sept. 21.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR APPOINTMENT: Reva Williams, Physics and Astronomy, effective Oct. 1.

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR APPOINTMENTS: Jeongoo Cheh, Mathematics, effective Sept. 3; Trieu Le, Mathematics, effective Sept. 8; Henry Marshall, Applied Organizational Technology, effective Aug. 24; and Minhui Paik, Mathematics, effective Aug. 17.

VISITING SCHOLAR APPOINTMENT: Krzysztof Bankowski, Biochemistry and Cancer Biology, effective Oct. 8.


CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR APPOINTMENT — effective July 1: Charles Filippiak, Medicine.

CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR APPOINTMENTS — effective Aug. 31 unless otherwise noted: Debra Achinger, Radiology; Souheil Al-Jadda, Surgery, effective Sept. 1; Wallace Ameson Jr., Surgery, effective July 1; Zakaria Assi, Radiology; Maura Bradley, Family Medicine, effective Oct. 1; Amy Culler, Radiology; Allison Dollman, Family Medicine, effective Oct. 1; Glenn Drgnaski, Family Medicine, effective Oct. 1; Murray Howe, Radiology; Wainwright Jaggernauth, Radiation Oncology, effective Oct. 12; Sanjiv Joshi, Family Medicine, effective Oct. 1; Allan Kaufman, Radiology; Sahira Kazanjian, Radiology; Blaine Keigley, Radiology; Vincent Keiser, Radiology; Humaira Lateef, Family Medicine, effective Oct. 1; Tamara Martin, Radiology; James Mayer, Surgery, effective Sept. 15; Daniel Mayman, Psychiatry, effective Oct. 1; Parag Parikh, Radiology; Shaunak Rashid, Medicine, effective Oct. 1; Maged Rizk, Medicine, effective Sept. 1; Robin Shermis, Radiology; and Tauseef Syed, Medicine, effective Oct. 5.

RESIDENT APPOINTMENTS — Hala Aboukhair, Medicine, effective Oct. 1, and Nebras Alsaghy, Medicine, effective Sept. 15.

CHANGES IN STAFF CONTRACTS: Abdelraof Al Agha, assistant, Pathology, unpaid leave, effective Sept. 28; Lauren Barone, lab technician, Biochemistry and Cancer Biology, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 28; Kathy Bishop, staff accountant, Accounting, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 17; Julie Butcher, evening supervisor of records management, Health Information Management, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 13; Melanie Common, from interim assistant registrar to assistant registrar, Registrar’s Office, effective Aug. 29; Amanda Costell, from director of small projects to interior designer, Physical Plant, effective July 28; Jamie Daughton, from interim curriculum systems analyst to curriculum systems analyst, Registrar’s Office, effective Aug. 29; Kathy Davis, from clinical research coordinator and nurse coordinator to clinical research coordinator, Center for Clinical Research, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 26; Bonnie Dresseler, assistant administrative assistant 2, Rehab Administration, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 27, and from Rehab Administration to Family Medicine, effective Nov. 6; Celia Egan, from account clerk 3 to accountant 2, Grants Accounting, salary adjusted, effective July 1; Carol Gedert, assistant nursing director, Vascular Lab, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 28; Brenda Grant, from interim senior director of budget academic affairs to associate vice president for academic finance, Office of the Main Campus Provost, salary adjusted, effective July 1; Joanne Gray, secretary, Bioinform Proteo Gen Program, from BU exempt to AFSCME, salary adjusted, effective July 1, 2006; Wafaa Hanna, director of faculty affairs, Office of the Health Science Campus Provost, salary adjusted, effective July 1; Diane Harris, from account clerk 3 to interim financial analyst, Payroll, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 15; Justin Hupp, from security officer to police dispatcher, UT Police, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 28; James Jackson, from director, African-American Student Enrichment Initiatives, to associate director, Multicultural Student Services, effective July 1; Amanda Jennott, from admissions analyst 2, Graduate Studies, to grants analyst, Controller’s Office, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 14; Daniel Kall, from systems analyst to law registrar, College of Law, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 1; Janice Kusowski, from administrative assistant to finance and operations administrator, Curriculum and Instruction, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 1; Cindy Kwapiwch, from secretary 2 to administrative assistant 2, College of Nursing, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 1; Lynn Labardee, teaching assistant, College of Nursing, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 24; Linda Lohner, from teaching associate and clinical associate to clinical associate, College of Nursing, salary adjusted, effective Feb. 25; Sarah Lyons, project manager, Center for Clinical Research, salary adjusted, effective May 7; Jeanne Majerowski, from staff nurse to teaching assistant, College of Nursing, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 28; Erin Merillatt, medical assistant, OP Clinic-Neurology, from AFSCME to BU exempt, effective Oct. 27; Selena Nicholas-Bublick, from resident, Neurosciences, to instructor, Neurology, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 1; Patricia Nopper, from manager of distribution services in RMM-Operations to manager of distribution services, Distribution Services, effective June 7;

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Mike O’Brien, from director to vice president/director of intercollegiate athletics, contract extension through July 31, 2014, effective Aug. 1; Danielle Peace, from administrative assistant 2 in Orthopedics to administrative assistant 2 in Rehab Services, salary adjusted, effective Nov. 2; Nitra Perry, interim assistant women’s basketball coach, Intercollegiate Athletics, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 17; Cori Point, from administrative assistant 2 in Customer Service to administrative assistant 2 in Orthopedics, effective Oct. 27; Deann Schiavone, staff nurse, University Health Services, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 27; Mark Schroeder, from coordinator, Military Service Center, to associate director, Adult Transfer Admission, salary adjusted, effective July 1; Janet Schroeder, secretary, Urology, from BU exempt to AFSCME, salary adjusted, effective July 1; Patsy Scott, senior labor relations assistant, Human Resources, additional duties with Institutional Diversity, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 1; Sabina Serratos, director, Latino Initiatives, salary adjusted, effective July 1; Julie Sheehy, senior clinician, Rehab Speech Therapy, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 27; Denise Shrott, benefits manager, Human Resources, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 17 through Dec. 11; Lisa Simpson, labor and employee relations specialist, Human Resources, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 1; Pamela Smith, from assistant project coordinator to interim program coordinator, UT3, Curriculum and Instruction, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 1; Janet Struble, from program coordinator, UT3, to program director, Leaders, Curriculum and Instruction, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 1; Robin Tanner, staff nurse, University Health Services, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 27; Chad Versansky, from health planning coordinator to medical assistant, University Health Services, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 27; and Toni Woodley, from lead nurse to operations supervisor, Emergency Department, salary adjusted, effective Nov. 9.

CHANGES IN FACULTY CONTRACT — effective Aug. 17 unless otherwise noted: Farhang Akbar, professor of public health and medicine and director of preventive medicine in occupational health degree/industrial hygiene program, salary adjusted, effective July 2; Basil Akpunonu, professor of primary care, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 1; Jacques Amar, professor and interim associate chair of physics and astronomy, extension of interim associate chair appointment; Don Beeman, professor of marketing and international business, salary adjusted; Lingyu Chen, assistant professor of medical microbiology and immunology, unpaid leave, effective Oct. 12 to Dec. 4; Claire Cohen-Schmidt, lecturer in chemistry, maternity leave; Barbara Floyd, from professor and director of Canaday Center to professor and director of Canaday Center and development, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 1; Tim Geiger, from associate professor and acting chair to associate professor of English, salary adjusted, effective Dec. 19; William Gray, from professor to professor and interim chair of educational foundations, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 31; Jennifer Hill, from assistant professor of physiology and pharmacology to assistant professor of physiology and pharmacology and obstetrics and gynecology, effective Oct. 26; Joseph Holew, from professor and chair to professor of psychology, salary adjusted, and return from paternity leave effective Jan. 1; Laura Keller, associate lecturer, return from maternity leave, effective Jan. 11; Yun-Su Kim, visiting assistant professor of mathematics, salary adjusted; Richard Komuniecki, from Distinguished University Professor of Biological Sciences to Distinguished University Professor of Biological Sciences and Medical Microbiology and Immunology, effective Sept. 1; Thomas Kvale, from director of undergraduate research to director of undergraduate research and acting director of academic enrichment, salary adjusted, effective Jan. 11; Gregory Lewis, lecturer in mathematics, maternity leave; Catherine Marco, professor, director of medical ethics curriculum and program director of emergency medicine, salary adjusted, effective July 2; Nina McClelland, from interim dean and professor to dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, professor and interim dean of the School of Solar and Advanced Renewable Energy, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 20; Alina Rais, assistant professor of psychiatry, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 1; John Sarnecki, associate professor of philosophy, maternity leave; Qin Shao, associate professor of mathematics, maternity leave; Munir Terry Simon, lecturer in mathematics, maternity leave; Robert Sullivan, from professor to professor of curriculum and instruction and interim associate dean, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 14; Jiang Tian, from assistant professor of physiology and pharmacology to assistant professor of physiology and pharmacology and medicine, effective Sept. 1; Deborah Vestal, from associate professor of biological sciences to associate professor of biological sciences and biochemistry and cancer biology, effective Sept. 1; and Richard Welsch, from associate professor to associate professor and interim chair of early childhood, physical and special education, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 31.

STAFF SEPARATIONS: Krzysztof Bankowski, visiting scholar, Biochemistry and Cancer Biology, effective Sept. 9; Leslie Barnhart, supervisor/social work case manager, Outcome Management, effective Jan. 9; Ben Bohland, enrollment management specialist, Pharmacy Student Services, effective Nov. 6; Pamela Easler, director of access, Revenue Cycle, effective Jan. 9; Samuel Hancock, assistant to the president for diversity, President’s Office, effective Sept. 9; Bo He, postdoctoral associate, Chemistry, effective Sept. 20; Anthony Kapp, project manager, Student Activities, effective Oct. 23; Patricia McMullen, administrative assistant, Hospital Finance, effective Jan. 9; Darrah Metz, interim assistant women’s basketball coach, Intercollegiate Athletics, effective Sept. 20; David Pelov, shift supervisor, Sterile Processing, effective Jan. 9; Regina Penn, manager, Cardiology Clinic, OP Clinic-Cardiology, effective Sept. 30; Glenda Schwartz, staff nurse, University Health Services, effective Oct. 26; and Jennifer Welsh-Doore, supervisor, Customer Care Center, Referral Resource Center, effective Jan. 9.

FACULTY RETIREMENTS: Genevieve Nawrocki, superannuate, Interdisciplinary Studies, effective Oct. 15.

FACULTY GRANTED EMERITUS STATUS: Earl Murry, Curriculum and Instruction, effective Aug. 17.

If severe winter weather alters operations at the University …

UT will announce class cancellations, delays of classes and changes to administrative office hours through its alert text messaging system, e-mail, the UT home page at u Toledo.edu, myut.utoledo.edu, the UT snow line, 419.530.SNOW (7669), and on local radio and television stations.

Sign up for UT Alert at myut.utoledo.edu.

The University’s policy is to remain open whenever possible to minimize interruption of teaching and research. It also is UT’s policy that the hospital never closes.