UT, city to honor Martin Luther King legacy Jan. 18

By Jon Strunk

The community is invited to the ninth annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Celebration Monday, Jan. 18, at 9:30 a.m. in The University of Toledo’s Savage Arena as UT joins with the city of Toledo to honor the activist’s memory and vision of a society free of violence and prejudice.

The ceremony will include music and words of inspiration from elected and community leaders and area youth. 2009 MLK Scholarship winners will be recognized, and the immortal words of King will serve as a reminder of a brighter future even in difficult times.

A free community luncheon immediately will follow the celebration.

Toledo Mayor Mike Bell will join UT President Lloyd Jacobs as members of the Unity Celebration organizing committee gather Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 10 a.m. in the Driscoll Alumni Center to personally invite the community to attend the Jan. 18 event.

“Dr. King was a leader in setting the example for how to help our neighbor,” Bell said. “I am so proud of the members of our community who seek to follow his example each day, and I look forward to celebrating his leadership once again at this special community event.”

“Not only did Dr. King provide this nation tremendous leadership as he pushed for equality, he gave hope and confidence to millions across this nation and transformed them into leaders for subsequent generations,” Jacobs said. “UT is educating today the leaders of tomorrow. That education occurs beyond classroom walls just as much as it occurs within them. Students learn by interacting with those

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UT community comes together to support displaced employees

Proving that family extends beyond blood relation, The University of Toledo community is rallying around former employees affected by recent budget cuts.

Spearheaded by the officers of the College of Medicine Faculty Council, a new fund has been established at the UT Foundation to assist employees laid off since July 1. The Employee Relief Fund is designed to reimburse a portion of the base COBRA costs for qualifying former employees who elected this coverage upon their departures.

“Our goal is to make a positive impact on the finances of a number of former employees,” said Dr. Lawrence Elmer, chair of the Employee Relief Fund Committee. “It represents a heartfelt expression of our thanks to them for their help in advancing the mission of The University of Toledo. We want them to know that they’re still part of our UT family.”

The application process for qualifying individuals is still pending and will be dependent upon the amount of contributions received. Due to the urgency of payment and reimbursement issues, the College of Medicine Faculty Council hopes that gifts to the fund will be made as soon as possible.

The committee would like to garner enough support to assist displaced employees through June 30.

Members of the College of Medicine Faculty Council and staff from the UT

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$3 million UT lab renovation pulls researchers together, modernizes facilities

By Jon Strunk

The completion of a $3 million laboratory renovation designed to improve coordination and cooperation between researchers was celebrated last week during a ceremony in Health Education Building Room 259 on Health Science Campus.

Eight professors and about 30 students and staff in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology will ultimately occupy the 15,000-square-foot lab space.

Department Chairman Dr. Akira Takashima said the layout of the renovations was just as important as the new equipment and facilities.

“Traditionally, individual professors have pursued research projects independently in their own laboratories,” Takashima said. “The new lab space has an ‘open lab’ concept where multiple professors with overlapping research interests share a large laboratory, as well as many research instruments and equipment.”

He explained the design was chosen to promote “accidental collaboration” — those casual conversations between researchers that have formed the basis for countless scientific breakthroughs.

“Scientific progress is not something you can plan. You may be wrestling with a challenge for years and suddenly one conversation with a colleague will enable you to see that challenge in a unique way,” Takashima said.

He said such an interaction already has occurred between two professors who just moved into the space and have joined together to study the role blood components play in immune responses to bacteria.

The renovations were paid for in part by a $1.5 million Third Frontier Grant from the Ohio Department of Development awarded to Takashima. UT matched the grant amount.

Additionally, Chuck Lehnert, vice president for facilities and construction, said the renovations created about 150 construction jobs.

The renovations, which began last May, are the first phase of an effort to modernize and open up laboratories across Health Science Campus to promote researcher collaboration.

Research policy receives presidential approval

By Tobin J. Klinger

A major revision to the University’s policy on integrity in research has received the full support of President Lloyd Jacobs as it enters the final comment period before taking effect.

According to Dr. Rosemary Haggett, Main Campus provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, the policy revision began in an effort to bring together previously existing Main and Health Science Campus policies that dated back before the merger. Under the new policy, investigations into allegations of academic dishonesty would be carried out in two phases.

“We performed extensive benchmarking to determine best practices,” Haggett said. “What we found is that many universities have a body that determines if an inquiry is warranted and another, separate body that performs the actual investigation. That’s the model that is reflected in this policy revision.”

The revision of the Policy on Integrity in Research and Scholarship, and Procedures for Investigating Allegations of Misconduct in Research and Scholarship was authored by Dr. Jim Trempe, interim senior director for research administration, and vests the responsibility for overseeing the process on an integrity officer. Trempe received input from the Research Council and members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee during the development of the policy.

“Our Research Council has played and will continue to play an important role in this process, and we are grateful for their work on this critically important area,” Haggett added.

“This policy moves us along a continuum to be a great research university,” Jacobs said. “These changes to the policy are simply the right thing to do. And they will ensure the integrity of our processes as we seek to maintain the integrity of our research activities.”

He added, “Dr. Trempe was meticulous in his effort to find consensus on this policy. He performed numerous revisions attempting to address all concerns, and this final draft reflects his hard work.”

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from different parts of society, and UT’s efforts to create a culture of diversity seem to me entirely consistent with Dr. King’s vision for America.”

The event is being organized by Unity Celebration committee co-chairs Juanita Green, executive director of the Toledo Board of Community Relations, and Dr. Shanda Gore, assistant vice president for equity and diversity.

The Unity Celebration is sponsored by the city of Toledo, the Board of Community Relations, Better Community Relations Inc., The University of Toledo and several community sponsors, including Black & Veatch, the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority and ProMedica Health System.

For more information, contact the Board of Community Relations at 419.245.1565 or the UT Office of Special Events at 419.530.2200.
UT Foundation adopts new endowment spending policy

By Sherry Stanfa-Stanley

I n continuing efforts to ensure strong fiscal stewardship, The University of Toledo Foundation Board of Trustees has approved a new endowment policy. According to Bryan Dadey, UT Foundation vice president of finance and operations, Ohio legislature recently adopted a version of the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA). One provision in the revised law allows institutions to spend below an endowment’s original gift value (spending principal) if the institution concludes it’s a prudent course of action and if a donor agreement does not preclude it.

As a result of UPMIFA, the UT Foundation has approved a new policy that addresses spending from “underwater” funds, as well as other endowment considerations.

‘Underwater spending’ rules modified

Endowment funds with an original gift value greater than the current fair market value will be considered “underwater.” Consistent with prior practice, spending will cease until the fund returns to its original gift value, Dadey noted. However, he said a new mandate is that any spendable account balance must be rolled back into the quasi-endowment account and may not be carried forward in order to accelerate the fund’s recovery.

The Foundation will allow exemptions to the original gift value spending limitation for certain funds with previously established commitments. These include:

- Guaranteed renewable student scholarships and awards, for which the Foundation has committed to support students through a multi-year award.
- Endowed chair and professorship funds, with committed restrictions for salary support or contractual agreements for related expenses. A “stop-loss threshold” has been established for spending from these funds. Spending would cease if the fair market value of the fund, evaluated at the beginning of each budget period, falls below 80 percent of the original gift value. “This stop-loss threshold is a mechanism to provide the balance between supporting the institution and the commitment to prudent management,” Dadey explained.

Other endowment spending issues addressed

Expenditures are subject to donor intent as stated specifically in the fund agreement, Dadey said. Therefore, the donor’s intent would take precedence over the Foundation’s policy. Correspondingly, donors also may provide written approval to allow spending from underwater endowments.

The Foundation’s spending rate will apply to these expenditures, he said. “Our spending policy will be conservative, based on preserving and growing a fund’s spending power,” he said. The Foundation has lowered the spending rate for the 2011 fiscal year from 4.5 percent to 4 percent of an endowment’s three-year average market value.

In addition to underwater spending, the new policy deals with spending from new and existing endowments. “Endowments are intended to be held in perpetuity,” Dadey said. “Therefore, spending typically comes from accumulated investment earnings.” Consequently, the new policy mandates that spending from a new endowment cannot occur immediately upon establishment unless the donor specifies a portion of the gift as non-endowed and available for immediate expenditure. Otherwise, spending from a newly created endowment will begin after a minimum of 12 months to allow earnings to accumulate.

In order to enhance fund values, the Foundation also will not permit the carry-forward of the previous year’s spendable balance of any fund until sufficient justification is provided. Departments requesting balance carryovers for any funds will be required to complete a form and obtain Foundation approval.

“The Foundation is committed to its role as fiscal steward,” Dadey said. “Maximizing fund values, while minimizing losses, is key. We believe prudent management helps to ensure that endowment funds provide benefits to the University in perpetuity.”

The policy in its entirety can be found on the Foundation Web site at www.utoledo.edu/foundation/Information/policies.

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Foundation collaborated with multiple offices throughout the University to create the fund.

Contributions may be made as one-time, tax-deductible gifts or through payroll deduction until June of this year.

Donations may be sent to the UT Foundation, mail stop 319, or made online (specifying the Employee Relief Fund) at www.utfoundation.org.

Questions can be directed to Bryan Dadey, vice president of finance and operations, UT Foundation, at 419-530-5607.

Febr. 15 deadline to apply for Women & Philanthropy grant

Applications for the 2010 Women & Philanthropy grant are being accepted.

The grant is available only for UT projects or programs. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to apply.

Women & Philanthropy is a group of women who have created an association to promote the University through investments and grants to UT initiatives. Up to $20,000 is available for the next grant cycle.

A group of donors, spearheaded by local businesswoman and current chair of the group Marianne Ballas, created the women’s giving circle that was chartered in 2006. Members are committed to forging new relationships and building a community of thoughtful, effective philanthropists among women diverse in age, interests and backgrounds. Members of the giving circle donate a minimum of $1,000 per year to their donor-designated fund at The University of Toledo Foundation. A grant (or grants) is then made from this pooled fund.

The grant guidelines and an application form may be found at http://www.utoledo.edu/offices/women_philanthropy/index.html. The deadline for grant applications is Monday, Feb. 15.

Members of Women & Philanthropy will review grant applications and a recipient will be announced in April.

Trustees name faculty to serve on board committees

By Jon Strunk

T he University of Toledo Board of Trustees announced last week the names of four faculty members who have accepted invitations to serve as non-voting members on four board committees.

Trustees have been in discussions for several months about the possibility of adding faculty voices to board committee discussions.

Olivia Summons, board chair, announced the appointments. Listed by committee, they are:

- Audit — Dr. Hassan HassabElNaby, associate professor of accounting and assistant director of the doctoral program in the College of Business Administration. HassabElNaby’s research areas include corporate governance and effectiveness and oversight responsibilities of audit committees.
- Clinical Affairs — Dr. Roland Skeel, professor of hematology and oncology and chair of the Institutional Review Board. In his more than 35 years at the Medical College of Ohio and UT, he has served in multiple administrative and faculty senate roles, including as acting dean of the College of Medicine earlier this decade.
- External Affairs — Dr. Jamie Barlowe, professor and chair of the Department of Women’s Studies, who is the immediate past president of Faculty Senate.
- Finance — Dr. Bina Joe, associate professor in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology in the College of Medicine. Joe has expertise in handling finance for multiple federal grant accounts.

The board previously had asked the president of Faculty Senate to join the Academic/Student Affairs Committee and as current president, John Barrett, associate professor of law, has been serving on that committee.

Summons said that after a call for nominations went out to faculty in the fall, she reviewed the list with Bill Fall, vice chair of the board, Susan Gilmore, chair of the Trusteeship and Governance Committee, and Barrett.

Summons said she and Fall reviewed the list with UT President Lloyd Jacobs and both provosts before ultimately arriving at these selections.
Interim education dean receives lifetime achievement award from Society of Plastic Engineers

Dr. Thomas E. Brady, interim dean of UT’s Judith Herb College of Education and founder of Plastic Technologies Inc., recently received the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Plastic Engineers’ Blow Molding Division.

The award is presented annually to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional contributions to blow-molding technology.

Brady is well-known in the plastics and packaging industries as a technology innovator and founder of seven related companies. The flagship company, Plastic Technologies Inc., opened its doors in 1985. Today, the companies employ 200 people worldwide and operate from corporate locations in Holland and Bowling Green, Ohio, as well as Verdon-les-Bains, Switzerland.

“I thank the Society of Plastic Engineers for this prestigious honor,” Brady said. “I also would like to thank all of the employees at Plastic Technologies Inc. who have made the company the plastics packaging thought leader it is today. My family also has played an important contribution. Their continued support throughout my career encouraged me to forge new paths.”

Prior to founding Plastic Technologies Inc., Brady was vice president of plastics technology for Owen-Illinois Inc. There, he led the development of the first polyethylene terephthalate (PET) soft drink containers and directed the technical activities of the plastic product lines.

As a researcher at Owen-Illinois, Brady was part of the team that studied molecular orientation in PET and the stretch blow molding process. The culmination of this pioneering work was the introduction of the first continuous rotary reheat stretch blow molding machine in the United States. This led to the commercialization of PET as a preferred option for many rigid packaging applications.

Brady’s initial vision for Plastic Technologies Inc. was to provide technical development services for those wishing to enter the PET arena. The resulting projects continued to fuel commercialization for PET containers and bottles.

He also pushed for the development of recycling technology. Phoenix Technologies was formed in 1992 and is now one of the largest global recyclers of PET for bottle and blow molding applications.

During his career, Brady has been active in the Society of Plastics Engineers, the International Plastics Processing Society, the American Chemical Society and the Ohio Polymer Strategies Council.

He earned his PhD in plastic materials engineering from the University of Michigan and his master’s and bachelor’s engineering science degrees from Dartmouth College.

Director recognized for regional business impact

Most business professionals who were honored during the 2009 Entrepreneurial & Business Excellence Hall of Fame Ceremony in November had been informed of their award in advance. The exception was the winner of the final award, the prestigious Davenport-Longenecker Lifetime Achievement Award for Business Advocacy.

Debbie Skutch, director of the Center for Family & Privately Held Business at The University of Toledo College of Business Administration, was quite surprised when she was introduced as the recipient.

Especially since she served on the executive committee for the event.

“With planning for the event with the executive committee and all the activities surrounding the College of Business Administration dedication of the Savage & Associates Complex for Business Learning and Engagement in November, it escaped me to ask who would win, and no one brought it up,” she said.

“I was surprised, honored and very humbled. Throughout the induction ceremony, I had been thinking about the 2009 Entrepreneurial & Business Excellence Hall of Fame honorees and how being family and privately held businesses played a vital role in their success. They are people who do a lot for business in the region.”

As does Skutch.

The Davenport-Longenecker Lifetime Achievement Award for Business Advocacy is given annually to an individual selected for a lifetime of positive impact on this region’s business community. The recipients have influenced the success of many others and have established a legacy of making a positive contribution to this region’s vitality. The award is named for Larry Davenport, one of the founders of the Entrepreneurial & Business Excellence Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, and Dr. Clinton Longenecker, UT professor of management.

“This award is really a validation of the work of the Center for Family & Privately Held Business. It’s the center and its members that are being recognized,” said Skutch, who has been with the program since it was established 18 years ago. The center started with 50 members and now has 128.

“I can’t think of a more deserving individual to receive this award than Debbie Skutch,” said Dr. Thomas Gutteridge, dean of the College of Business Administration.

“Debbie has worked tirelessly over the years to enhance the success of family businesses in northwest Ohio. Now she is adding another dimension, privately held businesses, to the portfolio for which she is responsible at UT’s business school, and I know they also will benefit from her talents.”

“I have the best job ever,” Skutch said. “I have the privilege of working with some of the best of UT and the family and privately held business sector.”

She credits having mentors and access to entrepreneurs and family business owners as critical elements of the center’s success.

“We realized early on that the expertise is within our membership, and the center has remained member-driven. We’ve facilitated their sharing and learning from each other at programs, symposiums, affinity groups and more,” Skutch said.

“The center is about relationships,” she added, “and when you get the right people with the right people, that’s when good things happen.”

The Entrepreneurial & Business Excellence Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was presented by Rocket Ventures and Launch, programs of the Regional Growth Partnership, and sponsored by Gorillas & Gazelles LLC in partnership with UT and Bowling Green State University.
Students design exhibition, ‘Paris: City of Art,’ at museum

Taking advantage of a rare institutional partnership between higher education and a museum, the UT Art History Program and the Toledo Museum of Art have inaugurated a new curriculum in art museum practices.

As part of the new curriculum, University students created an exhibition, “Paris: City of Art,” which is on view at the museum through March 14.

According to Dr. Richard H. Putney, associate professor and director of art history, a major goal of the program is for art faculty to work with museum professionals to provide hands-on training for University students in the design of art exhibitions. The latter uses the museum’s collections and is on display in its Hitchcock and Stevens galleries.

It is hoped the curriculum also will strengthen the existing partnership between the University and the museum, according to Putney. The UT Center for the Visual Arts, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Frank O. Gehry, is home to the University’s Department of Art and the museum’s Art Reference Library. Structurally connected to the museum’s main building, the center provides students an invaluable opportunity to incorporate one of the nation’s finest art collections into their studies, Putney said.

A class of 37 undergraduate and graduate students designed “Paris: City of Art” with the help of Carolyn Putney, the museum’s head curator and interim deputy director, who is an instructor in the UT Art Department, and Richard Putney.

Making use of numerous works selected by the students from the museum’s collection, the exhibition focuses on three major themes: the city itself and its evolution; the people of Paris from diverse eras in the city’s history; and Paris as an innovative center for the creation and exhibition of works of art.

Many works being exhibited are not regularly seen in the museum’s galleries, according to Richard Putney. Installation of the works was completed in November, and installation of interpretative materials was finished in December, he said.

The free, public exhibition is made possible with support from members of the Toledo Museum of Art and the Ohio Arts Council, which helps to fund programs with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.

The museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

For more information, call the Toledo Museum of Art at 419.255.8000 or visit www.toledomuseum.org.

‘Films by Fosse’ series to be screened spring semester

By Angela Riddel

“Films by Fosse,” a series featuring the directorial work of Bob Fosse, will be shown by the UT Department of Theatre and Film beginning Friday, Jan. 15, in the Center for Performing Arts Lab Theatre Room 1039.

Fosse, often best remembered for his trademark dance style, was an accomplished director as well, according to Holly Hey, UT assistant professor of film, who was instrumental in arranging the series at the University.

“I’ve always believed that Fosse, as a film director, was before his time, misunderstood and undervalued — at least in America,” Hey said. “This series will give our students an invaluable opportunity to see an entire body of work by a far too often forgotten filmmaker.”

Fosse’s first love was the silver screen; he wanted most to be a movie star, according to Hey. He was a creative genius and a spectacular dancer, but was barred by the inner Hollywood circle, rejected as Gene Kelly’s successor.

“His absence from in front of the camera was a true gift to American cinema as it would eventually place him behind the camera,” she said. “His film work is as equally brilliant, equally crafted and equally insightful to the human condition as his theatrical work, Fosse’s films are cinematic dances where he contemplates sex and death.”

The films will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays. Listed by date, they are:

- Jan. 15 — “Sweet Charity” (1969) Rated G. Taxi dancer Charity continues to have faith in people despite endless disappointment. Fosse’s directorial debut, the film is based on the Broadway musical, which itself was based on Federico Fellini’s “Nights of Cabiria.”
- Jan. 29 — “Cabaret” (1972) Rated PG. “Cabaret” follows the exploits of American singer Sally Bowles in Berlin during the decadent 1930s. Both the original Broadway musical and the film were based on Christopher Isherwood’s Goodbye to Berlin.
- March 19 — “All That Jazz” (1979) Rated R. Although presented as fiction, this film clearly presents a self-portrait of the director and eerily foreshadows Fosse’s premature death.
- April 9 — “Star 80” (1983) Rated R. This unsettling film focuses on the murder of Playboy centerfold Dorothy Stratten and the men who wanted to make her a star.

Admission to the films is free, but $3 donations are appreciated.

For more information, contact the UT Department of Theatre and Film at 419.530.2202 or go to http://www.utoledo.edu/as/theatrefilm/index.html.
Employees celebrate fall commencement

Michele Sheley, assistant to the vice provost for student affairs, celebrated the graduations of two daughters in 2009. Melissa Pollick, right, received a bachelor of arts degree in psychology in May and is a graduate student at Eastern Michigan University, where she is in the college counseling program. Amanda Pollick graduated cum laude in December with a bachelor of education degree and plans to be a teacher.

Andrew Puffer, son of Cindy Puffer, coordinator of managed care pharmacy services, graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering with a minor in business administration. A member of the Engineering Honor Society Tau Beta Pi, Andrew is continuing his education at UT for a master of science degree in mechanical engineering.

Daniel Tierney II, son of Cynthia Tierney, events coordinator in the Office of Special Events, received a bachelor of business administration degree in finance. He plans to pursue a career in the finance field and attend graduate school.

In memoriam

Chester W. Banachowski, Toledo, who taught in the Mechanical Engineering Technical Program at UT’s former Community and Technical College for more than 20 years, died Jan. 4 at age 86. He was an assistant professor of engineering technology from 1967 to 1977, earning tenure in 1971. In 1977, he became an associate professor and coordinator of the Mechanical Engineering Technical Program. An alumnus of UT who earned his 1948 bachelor’s degree in engineering, he retired in 1989 as professor emeritus, continuing to teach until 1993.

Lawrence B. Raskin, Ottawa Hills, a member of the UT Corporation (now UT Foundation) Board of Trustees from 1982 to 1991, died Jan. 5 at age 86. He was a member of the Presidents Club.

Susan L. (Dale) Schneider, Toledo, clerical specialist in Financial Aid, died Dec. 21 at age 67. She joined the UT Office of Financial Aid as a clerk in 1989.

Dr. John M. “Jack” Vergiels, Las Vegas, died Dec. 16 at age 72. He was a graduate assistant in the College of Education in 1966 and then served as assistant director for transfer students in Admissions from 1967 to 1968. The UT alumnus lettered in football in 1959 and baseball in 1959 and 1960; he received bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in 1960, 1961 and 1968, respectively.
Public thank-you for exceptional medical care

By Regina Myatt

I was a patient at UT Medical Center 48 days. I had one surgery in July and two in August and ended up in the Intensive Care Unit twice. I wasn’t expected to live after the first surgery. But I am writing today thanks to the doctors and staff there.

As a licensed nurse in six states, I’ve worked in a lot of hospitals. Doctors suggested I go to the Mayo Clinic or the Cleveland Clinic for care. I’ve worked at the Cleveland Clinic and knew they were short on nurses, and the Mayo Clinic was too far from my family and home in Indianapolis. Since nobody would take my case in Indiana, I contacted my former physician, Dr. John Geisler, who transferred to UT Medical Center for research. He still had me down as his patient, so I decided to come to Toledo for care.

And it was care I received at UT Medical Center. To be honest, at first, I was reluctant to come to a research hospital as I’ve seen what goes on behind the scenes at some institutions. But so many people there were phenomenal. I’ve sent cards and taken a few gifts to show my appreciation as I continue to visit Toledo for treatment, but I wanted to take a few minutes to recognize some people who made a difference in my life.

When I was at UT Medical Center, I remember waking up in the ICU and one of the doctors walked in and I grabbed his hand and said, “Please don’t let me die,” and fell back asleep. I had been on a ventilator and was swelled with fluid. I woke up hours later and that doctor was still there. I drifted off again and awoke to pounding; it was the doctor trying to get me up.

I asked everyone who this doctor was; people thought he was a figment of my imagination. But Dr. Geisler told me it was Dr. Thomas Papadimos. That division chief stayed with me around the clock. I gave him a gift during a recent hospital visit and told him, “God does use some of his angels to get to some of his children.” That’s all I could say to him.

Dr. Geisler performed my first two surgeries there, and his wife, Dr. Kelly Manahan, performed the last surgery. It was Dr. Manahan who told me on Aug. 24 that if I didn’t have surgery within one hour, I would die. She and Dr. Geisler performed so diligently, removing the diseased masses piece by piece from my pancreas and colon. What’s more, when Dr. Geisler wasn’t at the hospital, he gave his personal pager number to my husband, Gene.

That same concern and care was given by several nurses as well. I remember Roxanne Grignonneau, Jen Schell and Allison Batey; they were just awesome. It still makes me cry when I think about how wonderful they were to me, and I wasn’t the best patient. I was incompetent and needed tending to every 15 minutes or the bed needed to be changed. It was Roxanne who requested me as a patient for continuity of care because I was on my deathbed. I don’t know how many times I hit the call light or was incompetent, but those nurses’ attitudes never changed; they were friendly and polite. They lifted my spirits.

As a nurse, I know recognition doesn’t always come our way. I want Pam Major, 4AB Med/Surgery GI nursing supervisor, to know I would love to work with nurses like she has on the fourth floor. I’d want to go to work every day; I’d be proud to work with a staff like that.

I also want to recognize Lakisha Carter, patient care aide on 4AB. She looks like a Barbie doll and works like an angel. When I didn’t want a bath, she told me how it would make me feel better, gave me a massage, and braided my hair, which had started to fall out. She even tried to feed me when I didn’t want to eat.

Before that surgery on Aug. 24, Lakisha and the nurses knew I was going septic and my prognosis wasn’t good, but none of them wanted to tell me. They all kept smiles on their faces whenever they walked into my room. They really care for their patients, just like Dr. Geisler, Dr. Manahan and Dr. Papadimos.

I still have a long way to go and will continue to travel back to UT Medical Center for treatment. I’m not guaranteed tomorrow, but I want to make sure the people who took care of me are recognized. If I had the power to put my story on CNN, I would.

When I get better and return to being a traveling nurse, I’ll be telling everyone about UT Medical Center. I would not hesitate to send anyone there for care.
Local author to read from new book
Jan. 12

Naomi Chapman, an author from Fostoria, Ohio, will read from her new book, Criminal Company, Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 3 p.m. in the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections on the fifth floor of Carlson Library.

Criminal Company is a thriller published last month by Wings ePress. It is the fifth book by Chapman. Her previous books, which are also thrillers, are Bathroom Strangler, Secret Past, The Digby Lake Killer and Wallet of Death.

Criminal Company is the story of Holly Andrews, who lands a job working for a family-owned company. Little does she know that the owner’s children are involved in illegal activities and are stealing money from their parents. Andrews finds herself in the middle — and in danger.

Chapman was born in Fostoria and has lived there her entire life. A single parent, she took up writing because of her love of the craft.

Copies of Chapman’s book will be for sale at the free, public reading.

UT to send delegation to World Future Energy Summit

A delegation will depart for the World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi this week as The University of Toledo works to strengthen and establish new relationships with researchers, companies and countries at the premier alternative energy conference.

UT will be one of some 600 exhibitors and one of the only universities represented by the United States.

“I know we impressed people last year and it is important to highlight that our alternative energy knowledge, expertise and efforts are continuing to expand,” said Dr. Frank Calzonetti, vice president for research development.

“Last year was about introducing The University of Toledo to key global players in alternative energy. It will be through continued development of those relationships that UT will find opportunities for research and commercialization partnerships that we hope eventually can translate into alternative energy industry jobs in northwest Ohio.”

Calzonetti will give a presentation on UT’s Clean and Alternative Energy Incubator and Toledo’s solar energy industry cluster.

This year’s delegation also will include Chuck Lehnert, vice president for facilities and construction, Dr. Dan Kory, associate vice president for technology transfer, Megan Reichert-Kral, director of incubation, and Diane Miller, assistant director of incubation.

As it did last year, UT’s exhibit will include materials from the Ohio Department of Development, emphasizing the value the state sees in possible investment from the companies or countries at the summit, Calzonetti said.

Meanwhile, Kory will converse with exhibitors UT met with last year and work to create new partnerships.

Because UT has dramatically increased its external research funding and its number of patents over the past several years, Calzonetti said, “We want to see who we can partner with on our current research efforts and who might be interested in licensing patent technology and moving toward commercialization.”

Additionally, UT officials pointed to the progress the University has made in the last year alone.

“Our Scott Park Campus has been transformed in the last year and serves to emphasize the commitment UT has toward alternative energy,” Lehnert said.

Lehnert has led that transformation that includes connecting a wind-powered turbine and a 1.12-megawatt solar field to the UT grid.

“Many of these companies have already completed the type of alternative energy projects we are still planning for Scott Park,” Lehnert said. “Also, the summit will provide invaluable insight into what alternative energy technologies are on the horizon.”

A key part of the mission for the Scott Park Campus of Energy and Innovation is to provide a working alternative energy laboratory for students to ensure they are working with technologies they will see when they graduate from UT and enter the job market, Lehnert said.

Retired Apollo astronaut to speak Jan. 14

Col. Jack Lousma is one of the few people who have seen the entire Earth in the blink of an eye.

The retired astronaut will give a talk in Doerrmann Theater at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, as part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Lousma was a member of the support crew for the Apollo 9, 10 and 13 missions. Though he didn’t fly in the Apollo 13 mission, he was the capcom recipient of the famous “Houston, we have a problem” message from the troubled astronauts.

His spaceflight experience consists of piloting Skylab 3. Lousma also was commander on the third Space Shuttle mission. He has logged more than 1,600 hours in space (totaling just over two months) and spent 11 hours on two spacewalks outside of the Skylab space station.

The free, public event is co-sponsored by the College of Engineering.

Look for the next issue of UT News
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Spring semester parking permit distribution continues this week — read more at myut.utoledo.edu

By Jon Strunk