Professor on team to evaluate structural, utility damage in Haiti

Buildings are often the most obvious structural casualties caused by earthquakes like the one that hit Haiti in January, but just as vital are utilities and services that are lifelines for communities trying to recover.

Dr. Mark Pickett, UT professor of civil engineering, is part of a team from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) that traveled to Haiti Feb. 28 for a weeklong assessment of not only buildings, but also electrical systems, water and waste water lines, fuel and natural gas lines, transportation systems, hospitals and other utility lifelines critical to Haiti’s recovery.

“We do this to get information out to the engineering community so that future natural disasters have less impact on people,” Pickett said. “What I learn I bring back into the classroom to show students the good and the bad of civil engineering.

“What might seem like dry topics to a civil engineering student just beginning his or her education can literally be a matter of life and death.”

Pickett has been a member of the ASCE’s Technical Council on Lifeline Earthquake Engineering since 1988 and has conducted similar assessments at several earthquake sites, including San Francisco in 1989, North Ridge, Los Angeles in 1994, and

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Governor touts alternative energy business growth, thanks to UT, Huntington leadership

Accolades and optimism were in the air Friday along with snow flurries when Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland visited UT’s Scott Park Campus of Energy and Innovation to celebrate a $1 billion partnership between the state and Huntington Bank to provide loans to small businesses. Listening were, from left, Steve Steinour; Dr. Xunming Deng, Sharon Speyer and Dr. Rosemary Haggett.

We’re so proud of this university,” Strickland said to the more than 200 people at the event. “It’s a remarkable institution doing wonderful things.”

Huntington CEO Steve Steinour echoed that sentiment.

“UT is a global leader in what’s going on in the marketplace of alternative energy,” he said. “It could be happening anywhere in the world; it’s happening here.”

Steinour added the University is at the forefront in this area thanks to the commitment of the people of northwest Ohio.

Dr. Rosemary Haggett, UT Main Campus provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, said funding is necessary to help the University continue to lead the way in alternative energy research.

“The University of Toledo has worked hard to help faculty and researchers commercialize research conducted in the lab, patent it, and create some of the high-tech, knowledge-based jobs that the region needs as the local and global economies change,” Haggett said. “Capital investment and small business loans are an essential component of that business growth.”

Ohio Treasurer and UT alumnus Kevin Boyce, Willard & Kelsey CEO Michael Cicak, Huntington Northwest Ohio Regional President Sharon Speyer, and UT Professor and Xunlight co-founder and CEO Dr. Xunming Deng also talked about the potential growth the small business loans will bring to the region.

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Turkey in 1999 and Peru in 2007. He also assisted in assessments in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Pickett said his focus has traditionally been on hospitals, how they fare structurally following an earthquake, and how the various utilities feeding those hospitals survive.

“In addition to electric, water and sewage, you look at the fire suppression systems, the medical systems. Most hospitals use a variety of gases for various purposes; these gases must be stored in an earthquake-safe manner,” Pickett said. “But you also look at the roads and transportation systems to and from and inside a hospital.”

Pickett said that one of the major problems in New Orleans was the inability of replacement hospital workers to get to hospitals to relieve clinicians and staff trapped there during the initial storm.

Dr. Nagi Naganathan, dean of the College of Engineering, said Pickett’s involvement with the Technical Council on Lifeline Earthquake Engineering team was just one more example of professors in the college using experiences outside the classroom to educate students about the realities of the field they are entering.

“Civil engineers have a tremendous responsibility to society as the structures they design form the core of the world’s infrastructure,” Naganathan said. “Dr. Pickett’s effort provides an outstanding example of how we can turn tragedy into a learning experience that will save lives in the future.”

For more information on the ASCE effort in Haiti, visit http://content.asce.org/TCLEE/Haiti2010.html.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT: Dr. Mark Pickett, right, and then UT doctoral student Dr. Omar Abu-Yasein examined a failed column from the I-880 bridge that collapsed during the 1989 San Francisco earthquake.

CORRECTIONS

Dr. Rubin Patterson’s title was wrong in a story that appeared in last week’s paper about a lecture. He is interim director of the Africana Studies Program and professor of sociology.

To clarify a story posted on myUT Feb. 23, the University has partnered with Affinity Information Management, electronic recycling and document destruction specialists in Sylvania. Under the partnership, the group will handle the disposal of all campus electronic equipment without charge.

FACE VALUE: Dr. Sarit Bhaduri, professor of mechanical engineering and surgery, recently explained the work he and graduate student Darcy Wagner are conducting on regenerative medicine for facial tissues to Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur. Bhaduri said the technique involves creating artificially grown body parts; he and Wagner are developing a non-viral delivery system to introduce genes to the body so bone formation can take place in the jaw. Specifically, the researchers are synthesizing nanoparticles to transport the genes.

President’s Lecture Series

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS IN THE WORKPLACE

Wednesday, March 3

Nitschke Hall Auditorium at 7 p.m.
Members of The University of Toledo Board of Trustees Finance Committee last week agreed to move three renovation projects and a resolution supporting the state’s Third Frontier research funding to the full board for its consideration in March.

The Finance Committee listened to a presentation from Chuck Lehner, vice president for facilities and construction, requesting approval of capital funds to support renovations for:

- The Center for Performing Arts — $2 million;
- The third floor of Snyder Memorial Building — $1 million; and
- Renovations to Wolfe Hall — $2.3 million.

President Lloyd Jacobs had invited students from the departments of Music and Theatre and Film to attend, and several dozen showed up in support of the renovation funding for the Center for Performing Arts. Jacobs asked several students to join trustees around the table as trustees discussed the state of the building.

Asked for comment by Board Chair Olivia Summons and Board Vice Chair Bill Fall, students highlighted the building’s many deficiencies. Jacobs echoed many of the comments, saying the building’s exterior was sound, but the interior needed a great deal of work.

The need for Wolfe Hall renovations will come as the upper division students in the College of Pharmacy complete their move to Health Science Campus. Lehner said UT had secured an additional $5.6 million in grant and state capital funding to augment the $2.3 million UT would contribute.

Trustees also forward to the full board a recommendation to approve a resolution in support of the Ohio Third Frontier. Third Frontier funding will be on the ballot in May when Ohio voters will be asked to renew funding.

Since 2002, Third Frontier has helped create 48,000 jobs in the state by investing tax dollars in innovative companies to create jobs. According to an estimate from SRI International and the Ohio Business Roundtable, taxpayers’ initial investment of $1.35 billion is expected to be fully repaid by 2014 via the economic activity created with the help of the funding.

Meanwhile, trustees also heard a presentation from Dr. Scott Scarborough, senior vice president for finance and administration, outlining the ongoing fiscal year 2011 budget process. The External Affairs Committee also heard a presentation on the recalibration of UT’s strategic plan, an update on a possible relationship with SRI International, and held a discussion on the role UT desires between overseas institutions of higher education.

Dr. Richard E. Boyer, Toledo, who taught history at UT for nearly 30 years, died Feb. 22 at age 77. He came to the University in 1964 as an assistant professor; was promoted to associate professor in 1967 and professor in 1973. The author of three books on 17th-century British history, he was given a Distinguished Service Award from the Ohio Academy of History in 1998 and was named a UT Outstanding Teacher in 1984. His long service included a place on the Faculty Senate from its 1967 founding to 1993, plus 25 years as the Faculty Senate’s liaison to the chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents. He also served as president of the UT chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and on the AAUP Executive Committee. A U.S. Army veteran, he served 20 years on the UT Military Affairs Committee. He retired in 1993 as professor emeritus.

The University of Toledo chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is accepting applications for its Undergraduate Awards of Excellence.

Three $1,200 scholarships will be awarded to students who will continue their undergraduate program at UT next year. To be eligible, students must have a GPA of 3.6 or higher. Each applicant must submit a résumé, a 500-word essay, and two letters of recommendation.

The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, March 26.

The application form is available at www.pkptoledo.org/pkpscholarship.pdf or by contacting Barbara Floyd at 419.530.2170, Wade Lee at 419.530.4490, Curt Black at 419.530.1973 or Mary Powers at 419.530.1954.

For more on the recalibration, go to www.utoledo.edu/strategicplan.
‘More’ is best: University’s ad campaign wins Best of Show at 2010 Addys

By Deanna Woolf

The slogan of the evening was “the best ideas rise to the top,” and at the top was The University of Toledo’s “More” institutional advertising campaign.

The campaign received the best of show award at the 2010 Addys, the annual award program of the Advertising Club of Toledo, which was held Feb. 25. This marks the first time the University has received the overall best of show award.

The elements of the “More” campaign include print ads, billboards, TV commercials and radio ads. The campaign was developed and produced by the UT offices of Marketing and University Communications, with assistance from local TV and radio production houses. For an overview of the campaign materials, visit utoledo.edu/offices/marketing/marketing.html.

UT Marketing, University Communications and the Center for Creative Instruction staff also were honored for their work in the following categories:

- Gold Addy Award — UT “More” institutional advertising campaign;
- Gold Addy Award — Seed Money/UT Guarantee direct mail package;
- Bronze Addy Award — CoachBeckman.com Web site;
- Bronze Addy Award — Utoledo.edu home page;
- Bronze Addy Award — UT Medical Center TV commercial; and
- Student Bronze Addy Award — UT 2009 Homecoming poster by Jon Cody, UT graphic design intern.

The Gold Addy Award-winning entries will be forwarded on to the district competition.

“This peer recognition of our marketing and Web initiatives is an indication of how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful group of creative, innovative and team-spirited people in our Division of External Affairs,” said Lawrence J. Burns, vice president for external affairs and interim vice president for equity and diversity.

Free events offered to temper risks of spring break

By Kim Harvey

As college students begin packing their sunscreen for upcoming spring breaks, The University of Toledo is hoping a couple awareness events will deter substance abuse typically associated with a few days in the sun.

UT will offer two free events for students this week. The first, called Facts on Tap, will take place at 8 p.m. Monday, March 1, in the International House.

Dr. Tavis Glassman, assistant professor in the College of Health Science and Human Service, will present information regarding high-risk alcohol use. In addition, an officer from the UT Police Department will discuss legal consequences of alcohol and drug infractions.

“Every university in America has a problem with high-risk drinking and substance use, some more than others,” Glassman said. “Study after study confirms these behaviors escalate when students are on spring break, which has become a rite of passage of sorts for college kids. We wanted to give our students some practical things to think about before they leave.”

UT’s spring break is scheduled next week. Classes are slated to resume Monday, March 15.

High-risk behaviors that accompany substance use include unprotected sex, sexual assault, accidents and injuries, overdose and alcohol poisoning, among others.

On Wednesday, March 3, Wellapalooza will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Crossings. Activities will include a health fair with educational “beer goggles,” a distracted driving station, and education regarding tobacco cessation, sexual abuse, HIV testing, club drugs, safe tattoo and piercing procedures, and skin cancer awareness. Giveaways and free food will be included.

At 8 p.m., recipients of prizes offered to respondents of Alcohol.edu surveys will be announced.

The events are sponsored by UT’s Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention Committee. Wellapalooza is co-sponsored by the Safety Awareness Committee.