UT Medical Center to celebrate start of renovations for new Parkinson’s center

By Jon Strunk

The University of Toledo Medical Center will mark the beginning of a six-month renovation project to create one of the leading Parkinson’s centers in the nation with a ceremonial groundbreaking Tuesday, June 26, at 10 a.m. on the first floor of Dowling Hall’s southwest corner.

The nearly 6,000-square-foot center will be named the Gardner/McMaster Parkinson’s Center, recognizing generous donations from the family of Findlay businessman Philip Gardner, as well as the Harold and Helen McMaster Foundation.

In addition to numerous other private donors who will be recognized when the center opens early next year, the Parkinson’s Foundation of Northwest Ohio has raised more than $160,000 to help offset the approximately $1.35 million in renovation costs.

“There have been tremendous advances in the past 10 years that have greatly expanded our understanding of Parkinson’s disease and the ways we care for people with this disease,” said Dr. Lawrence Elmer, professor of neurology and medical director of the Center for Neurological Health.

“This new center will increase accessibility for patients, optimize and maximize the care provided to our patients and their families, and place them in

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Trustees approve budget, AFSCME extension, telescope consortium

By Jon Strunk

The University of Toledo Board of Trustees approved the fiscal year 2013 budget at its June 18 meeting, concluding a months-long process that included participation from faculty and student leaders.

The $797.6 million budget invests in graduate student stipends, a new pharmacy program, and additional space and equipment for research areas.

The budget reflects a $7.6 million reduction in state subsidy, but a $15 million investment in state capital dollars that will be used to fund routine maintenance. Due to strategic position control, the University was able to reduce salary expenditures without widespread layoffs.

The budget includes an in-state undergraduate tuition increase of 3.5 percent, but no increase in general fees. There were no changes in residence hall fees, and the budget includes new meal plan options for students.

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Opening soon

Work is almost done on the University Bookstore in the Gateway Project. A grand opening will be held Wednesday, July 11, at noon in the store, which is operated by Barnes & Noble Booksellers and will be the anchor of the new development on the corner of Dorr Street and Secor Road. The bookstore will feature a Starbucks café, popular and textbook sections, and a children’s area.
DIGGING IN: Picking up shovels for the ceremonial groundbreaking of the $36 million Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center were, from left, Pamela Bowers, director of the center; Carroll Ashley, chair of the UT Board of Trustees; President Lloyd Jacobs; William Koester, vice chair of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Jeffrey Gold, chancellor and executive vice president for biosciences and health affairs; and Dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences; and Chuck Leinhert, vice president of administration. Slated to open in February 2014, the Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center will be the first in the nation to incorporate three integrated simulation centers: a progressive anatomy and surgical skills center; an advanced simulation center and the virtual immersive reality center. Plans call for embedding simulation technologies beyond medical and health education and ultimately including interdisciplinary educational collaboration spanning the arts, the humanities, the natural sciences and engineering.

Parkinson’s center

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close proximity to physical and occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, and other health-care professionals, who are also experts in Parkinson’s care,” said Elmer, a specialist in the treatment and research of Parkinson’s disease for more than 20 years.

“One of the keys we have learned over the years is the value of exercise in slowing the progression of Parkinson’s and the importance of a team-care approach in combating complications of the disease,” he said.

And the center’s resources aren’t just for patients.

“As our society on average gets older, more and more people are diagnosed with or know someone who has been diagnosed with Parkinson’s. At this center, we also want to help educate family members caring for someone with this disease so they know what to expect and how to assist when needed,” Elmer said.

Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, chancellor and executive vice president for health affairs, emphasized this isn’t a resource only for northwest Ohio.

“Larry Elmer is recognized internationally for his research and expertise in the treatment of Parkinson’s,” said Gold, who also serves as dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences. “Advanced clinical treatment facilities like UTMC’s Gardner/McMaster Parkinson’s Center separate academic medical centers from other health-care organizations and attract patients from all corners of the globe seeking the most current treatments available.”

Elmer also emphasized his thanks to the center’s donors.

“None of this would have been possible without the generosity of the Gardner and McMaster families, the Parkinson’s Foundation of Northwest Ohio, and the many, many people who made individual gifts to help fight, treat and one day cure this disease,” Elmer said. “In spite of our nation’s economic challenges, this overwhelming degree of community and University support is breathtaking; our commitment to people with Parkinson’s disease and their families is to serve them in a way that exceeds all their expectations and to enhance their quality of life to the highest possible level.”

New chief of staff to focus on efficiency, productivity

By Meghan Cunningham

Dr. Kristopher Brickman will bring his more than 25 years experience in emergency medicine and trauma care to the Chief of Staff Office as he focuses on improving efficiency and productivity at The University of Toledo Medical Center.

Brickman, who will begin his appointment as the University’s 24th chief of staff July 1, has led the UTMC Department of Emergency Medicine since he was appointed its medical director at the former Medical College of Ohio Hospital in 1991.

He also serves as associate professor and chair of emergency medicine, director of the Office of Global Health and president of UT Physicians.

“I look forward to engaging the medical staff and hospital to assess our processes and to find ways to be more productive

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Trustees

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The board also approved a $1.4 million investment in the Discovery Channel Telescope near Flagstaff, Ariz., enabling UT astronomers to join a consortium with the University of Maryland and Boston University governing usage of the 4.3-meter ground-based telescope.

Dr. J.D. Smith, associate professor of astronomy, said that guaranteed access to the telescope will be invaluable for UT researchers and graduate students and greatly will increase the strength of grant applications for external funding.

In other business, trustees approved a one-year extension with American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2415, the collective bargaining unit representing nearly 2,000 employees on Health Science Campus. AFSCME members will vote on the tentative agreement Wednesday, June 27.

President Lloyd Jacobs announced that six years after the merger with the former Medical University of Ohio, a significant milestone had been reached: Every policy difference between MUO and UT has been merged, rewritten or deleted. He also called attention to Dr. Jamie Barlowe being named permanent dean of the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences.

Trustees also approved new officers for the coming fiscal year, naming William Koester chair of the board and Joseph Zerbey vice chair.

Outgoing chair Carroll Ashley praised the University, looking back over all that has changed and all that has been accomplished since his appointment in 2002.

“This University has emerged as a leader in the region and it has been exciting to see this transformation, especially in such a relatively short period of time,” Ashley said.

The terms of Trustee Richard McQuade and student trustee Heather Griffin also will end June 30.

THANK YOU:
President Lloyd Jacobs, right, presented a proclamation to Carroll Ashley, chair of the UT Board of Trustees, whose term will expire at the end of the month. Ashley was appointed to the MUO Board of Trustees in 2002 and helped during the merger with UT.

Photo by Daniel Miller
Trees to come down as Ottawa River restoration project continues

By Vicki L. Kroll

Approximately 100 trees on the banks of the Ottawa River near the Law Center on Main Campus will be cut down in the coming weeks as work continues on the waterway’s restoration.

“The trees range in size from six inch in diameter to some larger cottonwoods three feet in diameter,” said Dr. Patrick Lawrence, professor and chair of the Department of Geography and Planning, and chair of the President’s Commission on the River. “Some of these trees are dead or dying, and there are some ash trees that will be coming down.”

Aaron Tree and Lawn of Toledo will undertake the clearing project.

“Initial design work on the river restoration determined that we need to create a cut bank area that will allow for more water storage during higher river levels,” Lawrence said. “We didn’t anticipate this when the project started, but it’s a requirement for a federal permit.

“Removing these trees is a necessity, not a choice,” he emphasized. “This area adjacent to the Law Center parking lot is the only site requiring extensive tree removal for the river restoration project. And replanting — from grasses to small trees and shrubs — is part of the overall plan.”

A $235,000 grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and a $111,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are funding the Ottawa River restoration.

Once the trees are cleared, a section will be dug out to create the cut bank and widen the land on the north side of the river at that site.

Lawrence explained that phase two of the restoration calls for adding in-stream elements with natural materials — rock, tree trunks, wood — to create changes in water flow, and that has the potential to affect the 100-year flood level in the river.

“When you do work like that in a river, you can’t raise the water level more than it would rise naturally,” he said. “We haven’t had an event like that for decades, but you have to design for it just in case.”

The cut bank will have long-term benefits.

“The area will be more open and accessible to people. It’ll be a great opportunity to have an overlook to the river on the north bank by the Law Center and maybe put in a trail and benches,” Lawrence said. “There’s no funding for those now in this project, but we are optimistic for the future to search for grants and other means.”

Phase two of the restoration will begin in August 2013 when the in-stream elements are added to create diversity in the river. Interpretative signage will be placed along the waterway to explain the work to the campus community and visitors.

This demonstration and education project will mean more fish and wildlife.

“We have more than 40 fish species in the river. This summer we’ve also been noting muskrats, deer, turtles, frogs, blue heron, mallard ducks and Canada geese,” Lawrence said. “This is a living river, a natural corridor that we’re lucky to have on our campus.

“The Ottawa River has its issues and challenges, but it has a lot of potential if we can improve the aquatic and forest habitat along the 3,700 feet through Main Campus.”

In memoriam

JoAnn F. Maher, Parrish, Fla., an alumna of UT and local educator who supported girls’ athletics and equal participation in sports at area schools following Title IX, died Dec. 16 at age 79. She was a member of the UT Athletic Board and served one term as chair. Maher also was a lifetime member of the UT Alumni Association and served on its board. She received bachelor and master of education degrees from the University in 1955 and 1980, respectively. Her husband has established the JoAnn Francis and James E. Maher Scholarship in her honor through the UT Foundation.

Karen McGruder, Washington, D.C., a former UT employee who worked in Carlson Library, died June 9 at age 54.

Dorothy C. (Downey) Mohler, Sylvania, a former MCO employee who worked in Mulford Library, died June 16 at age 90. She received master of arts and education specialist degrees from UT in 1979 and 1988, respectively.

Doris (Collins) Williams, North Fort Myers, Fla., a former nurse at MCO, died June 7 at age 83.
Associate professor to receive international award for invasive species research

By Paul Webb

A university of Toledo faculty member is being recognized for his extensive research into the spread of invasive species.

Dr. Jonathan Bossenbroek, associate professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences, co-authored a paper, “Stepping Stones for Biological Invasion: A Bioeconomic Model of Transferable Risk,” that recently was recognized by the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economics as the best paper published in the journal Environmental and Resource Economics for 2011.

“This is an interdisciplinary paper that looks at the economics of the spread of zebra mussels from recreational boaters. It takes a look at how different policies for controlling the mussels would have an economic impact,” Bossenbroek said. “This is extremely exciting because it’s so hard to get interdisciplinary papers published.”

Bossenbroek and co-authors Dr. Travis Warziniack with the U.S. Forest Service, Dr. David Finnoff and Dr. Jason F. Shogren with the University of Wyoming, and Dr. David Lodge of the University of Notre Dame will receive the award Saturday, June 30, at the 19th Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists in Prague, Czech Republic.

“Dr. Bossenbroek’s high-quality research has averaged $350,000 a year as a principal investigator and a co-principal investigator on many grants. His papers are in top journals for his discipline and are well-cited,” said Dr. Timothy Fisher, professor and chair of the Department of Environmental Sciences. “He has developed a national and international reputation for outstanding work on the spread of invasive species. His work reflects very positively on UT and on our department.”

Bossenbroek also is well-known for his work with students of all levels in environmental sciences.

“He is able to fund their research activities, mentor them through modeling, help with work in the laboratory and in the field, take them to conferences, and see their results published,” Fisher said. “Dr. Bossenbroek is not only a great researcher, but a wonderful teacher as well.”

UT Biomedical Optics Lab awarded Ohio Third Frontier grant for diabetes monitoring technology

By Anne Icz

The potential to more easily diagnose illnesses and chronic medical conditions such as diabetes has been a hot area for researchers. Current methods are expensive, slow and not accurate enough to provide the best possible care to patients.

But two UT researchers are looking to change that, thanks to a $50,000 grant from the Ohio Third Frontier Technology Validation Fund recently awarded to UT’s Biomedical Optics Lab. The goal of the fund is to create greater economic growth in Ohio-based startup companies to commercialize technologies developed by institutions of higher education in the state.

When the grant funds are matched by the UT Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Dr. Brent Cameron, associate professor of bioengineering, and Dr. Dong-Shik Kim, associate professor of chemical and environmental engineering, will have $100,000 to continue their research in the area of biomarkers, which indicate the level of certain molecules in the body and can be measured to indicate the progression of a disease or condition such as diabetes.

This technology provides a less expensive but much more detailed way to look at a patient’s blood sugar history over recent days, weeks or even months, which will provide physicians with the information they need to diagnose conditions like diabetes earlier and give more accurate and specific therapy guidelines to help keep blood sugar levels under control for those already diagnosed,” Cameron said.

Cameron, director of UT’s Biomedical Optics Lab, has been working for years in the field of optics and plasmonic sensing to develop biomarker-sensing technologies. Some of these technologies will be useful to help physicians know how well a diabetic patient is following instructions about how and what to eat in order to keep blood sugar levels within acceptable limits.

“Anything we can do to bring these life-changing technologies to Ohio startup companies will have a direct impact on job creation, and further positions Ohio as a leader in innovative technology,” said Christine Schmenk, director of the Ohio Department of Development and chair of the Ohio Third Frontier Commission.

The technology for which UT has filed two patent applications describes methods for the ultra-sensitive and selective detection of an almost unlimited number of biomarkers for many different conditions beyond diabetes. Such measurements can provide significant information to physicians, allowing them to provide more effective individualized therapies specific to each patient.

The technology also can be adapted to create a low-cost handheld device for use in a physician office or home environment. Together, these two technologies will allow fast and easy assessment of patients’ long-term glucose regulation compliance, Cameron said.

The modified sensors can be fabricated for less than $1, making testing available to a greater number of people while eliminating the expense for patients associated with lab analyses.
Local bands to vie for chance to perform at UT Music Fest 2012

By Amelia Acuna

Local bands interested in playing in front of a live crowd at one of the area’s largest outdoor music events will have that opportunity at Music Fest 2012 at The University of Toledo.

Think you have what it takes to become famous? This is your chance. Local bands waiting to be discovered can upload a live performance YouTube video to Music Fest’s Facebook page for a chance to be selected as an opening act for the popular music event that will take place Friday, Sept. 14, on UT’s Main Campus.

“After two successful years of Music Fest, we wanted to do something a bit different this year and get the community involved in selecting the performers,” said Lawrence J. Burns, UT vice president for external affairs. “We have such amazing musical talent here in northwest Ohio, and this is a great way to give local bands the opportunity to share their music with a huge audience of music lovers.”

Videos no longer than five minutes can be uploaded to the Music Fest Facebook page through Wednesday, June 27. The YouTube video should include the band name and the words “UT Local Band Challenge” in the title.

The top 10 bands with strong musical talent, unique sound and energetic performances will be selected as finalists and have their videos posted on Facebook starting Sunday, July 1, for the public to vote on their favorites.

The winner will be announced Monday, July 16, and will receive $750 and the opportunity to perform in front of hundreds of excited fans at Music Fest 2012.

For more information, visit facebook.com/UTMusicFest.

Go Rockets! Toledo Police Sgt. Kevin Braun wore a UT hat during the first episode of “The Glass House.”

Local police officer shows Rocket pride while competing on new reality show

By Aaron Horn

A Toledo police officer is supporting The University of Toledo while a contestant on a new summer reality show on ABC.

“The Glass House” is similar to the CBS hit “Big Brother” with the unique difference of viewers being involved with the program by making suggestions to shape the contestants’ daily lives and determining who stays on the show.

Fourteen contestants, including Toledo Police Sgt. Kevin Braun, are fighting to stay in the house to have a chance to win $250,000.

On the first episode, which aired June 18, Braun sported a midnight blue and gold UT baseball cap.

Braun, who lives in Walbridge, has been a member of the Toledo Police Department for 12 years.

Watch “The Glass House” Mondays at 10 p.m. on ABC to see if Braun shows off more Rocket gear as he competes for the cash prize.

Go Rockets! Toledo Police Sgt. Kevin Braun wore a UT hat during the first episode of “The Glass House.”
First UT class of Woodrow Wilson Fellows named

The University of Toledo has 12 Woodrow Wilson Ohio Teaching Fellows who began taking classes last month to become math and science teachers for high-need schools in the state.

Each of the Fellows will receive a $30,000 stipend to complete a special intensive master’s program; they should be ready to teach students in fall 2013.

The program recruits accomplished career changers and outstanding recent college graduates in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM) fields who will prepare for math and science teaching positions in Ohio’s urban and rural schools.

“Education is key to improving the economy in Ohio. We have jobs available in Ohio, many of them in the STEMM fields. We need students trained to fill those jobs,” said Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Jim Petro. “The universities participating in this program realize that invigorating our teacher education programs will help invigorate the way we educate our children in STEMM subject areas.”

UT, the University of Dayton and Ohio University join John Carroll University, Ohio State University, the University of Akron and the University of Cincinnati as participants in the Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship program.

After a year of classroom-based preparation, Fellows commit to teach for at least three years in a high-need Ohio school, with ongoing support and mentoring.

“The University System of Ohio eagerly anticipates the difference these new educators will make in focusing more Ohio children on STEMM degree pathways, and ultimately, careers in these vibrant job sectors,” Petro said.

After a yearlong application and selection process, Fellows chosen and studying at UT are:

• Amerah Abed, chemistry technologist who worked at a major private-sector research and development organization;
• Allison Bayes, 2012 UT alumna who received a bachelor of science degree in biology;
• Patrice Brock, college research and teaching assistant, and substitute teacher;
• Elizabeth Brockway, college research and teaching assistant, and substitute teacher;
• James Canterbury, award-winning broadcast meteorologist, substitute teacher and published poet;
• Callie Goyer, 2011 Belmont University graduate with a degree in mathematics and an independent researcher;
• Michelle Huffman, research scientist and patent holder in the refinish paint industry and former auto body shop owner;
• Araina Johnson, 2012 Ohio State graduate with a degree in biology and anthropology;
• Ashley Kozak, 2011 Lourdes University alumna with a degree in biology and an undergraduate researcher in genetics, physics and organic chemistry;
• Nicole Rud, 2012 UT graduate with a master of science degree in biology and ecology, who is a teaching assistant in horticulture classes;
• Michael Saloitye, 2012 UT alumus with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry and a teaching assistant for a middle school science class; and
• Brandy Tanner, substitute teacher and veterinary technician and assistant.

New chief of staff

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and efficient,” Brickman said. “There are a great number of opportunities for collaboration not only between departments, but between individual physicians as well. I’d like to make a concerted effort to promote collaboration.”

Brickman also said improved communication will be a focus of his two-year term. Better communication between health-care providers is essential, but most important is communication with patients and their families, he said.

He commended the improvements UTMC has made in recent years to become more focused on patients and to improve customer service at the hospital, and said he would like to build on that momentum.

“It’s important to continue our efforts to make this an institution people want to come to,” he said.

Brickman received his medical degree from the Wright State University School of Medicine and a bachelor’s degree in biological sciences from Ohio State University.

While at Ohio State, he was a member of the OSU wrestling team and has continued his sports interests, serving as an assistant wrestling coach at St. John’s High School and team physician and medical adviser for all of its sports programs. In 2006, he received the Ohio Outstanding Team Physician Award from the Ohio State Medical Board.

Brickman has participated in 10 Medical Missions to Haiti as a volunteer physician, and also supports a variety of community programs such as Make-A-Wish Foundation and United Way.
Get your passport at UT and start exploring your world

By Samantha Watson

Starting July 1, The University of Toledo will be a certified regional passport agency, where students, faculty, staff and community members can apply to obtain their passports.

“This makes it really convenient for students who we’re trying to engage in more global experiences,” said Cathy Zimmer, director of relations for the Center of International Studies and Programs. “Sometimes getting a passport can be an obstacle to studying abroad.”

The Center of International Studies and Programs, the driving force behind this new service, applied to become a regional passport agency to help UT students more easily participate in study abroad, international service learning and global health programs, according to Dr. Sammy Spann, assistant provost for international studies and programs.

“Traveling abroad offers many benefits such as gaining new perspectives, learning about different cultures, and meeting new people,” Spann said.

The center will pay for the passport of any student participating in a University-approved, faculty-led study abroad program beginning this fall. Faculty members also may receive this benefit if they work with the center to develop a University-approved, faculty-led trip. Individuals will need to cover any expedition fees.

Now that UT can accept passport applications on behalf of the U.S. Department of State, getting a passport is easier than ever for those who either live near or frequent the University. Applications can be turned in and photos can be taken on Main Campus after scheduling an appointment with the Center of International Studies and Programs, located in Snyder Memorial Room 1000.

To obtain a passport, individuals need to complete an application (DS-11 form) and provide proof of citizenship (birth certificate, proof of naturalization, consular report of birth abroad or certificate of citizenship) and a current photo ID (driver’s license or government-issued identification card).

U.S. citizens also can complete passport application processes at other regional agencies, such as local post offices or county clerk of court offices.

There are fees associated with getting a passport, including the $110 passport fee that goes directly to the U.S. Department of State and a $25 execution fee and $5 photo fee to the agency.

Passports generally take between four to six weeks to process; however, there is a $60 expedition fee if the passport is needed in less than four weeks. Payment of these fees must be made with cash, check or money order.

The Center of International Studies and Programs can only process U.S. passports; international students and citizens must contact their home country or embassy for passport matters.

To make an appointment for passport services, call the Center of International Studies and Programs at 419.530.5268.

Golf tourney to fall on birthday of Eberly Center’s namesake

By Samantha Watson

The University of Toledo’s Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women is hosting the fourth annual Golfing for Empowerment Tournament Monday, July 23, which just so happens to be what would have been Mrs. Eberly’s 90th birthday.

The people who planned the event were not aware that this date was her birthday; it was sheer coincidence. In 1980, the center was named in honor of Eberly, one of its first advisory board members. She was a staunch supporter of the center and had served as chair of its advisory committee until her death in an automobile accident in 1979.

“The Eberly Center for Women has and continues to create programming and events that provide women an opportunity to try to do new things,” said Dr. Shanda Gore, associate vice president for the Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Engagement, and center director. “We wanted a summer event to highlight one of our community partnerships, build awareness about the center, and ultimately create a fun atmosphere of engagement. We not only got that, but now we have a birthday to celebrate.”

The center will be partnering with A Service for Self-Employment Training and Support (ASSETS) of Toledo, a nonprofit organization that provides practical, experience-based training for those starting or expanding a small business.

“I think it’s really important for everyone to get more involved with golf because it’s such a great tool for getting access to different people,” said Emily Hardcastle, interim community outreach coordinator for the Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Engagement. “Golf is really popular in a lot of different professions, and we hope to have a great turnout on July 23.”

The tournament will be held at the Brandywine Country Club, 6004 Salisbury Road in Maumee. It will be a scramble beginning with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. There will be several raffle prizes and even a possible $10,000 award for anyone who gets a hole-in-one.

The event costs $85 per player and includes 18 holes of golf, a golf cart and dinner. Dinner will be served at the golf course after the tournament.

Tickets are available for those who wish to attend the dinner without playing golf. It also is possible to sponsor one of the holes or sign up an entire team.

For more information and to sign up, visit www.utoledo.edu/centers/eberly/docs/golfregister.pdf. Registrations are requested by the first week of July.
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