Gateway ribbon-cutting event to open doors to Toledo community

By Samantha Watson

For years, The University of Toledo and its community partners have envisioned an elegant addition to Main Campus.

On Thursday, Sept. 6, the first phase of this shared vision will be celebrated with the dedication of Gateway, a student- and community-centered development at the corner of Dorr Street and Secor Road that features restaurants, retail stores and modern apartments.

“The new development is located in a prime location, offering an enjoyable and exciting experience,” said Matt Schroeder, vice president for real estate and business development. “It is always rewarding to see your dreams become reality. This was a vision that many

STUDY TIME: Keith Thompson, an engineering student majoring in computer science, stopped by Barnes & Noble last week to study.

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UTMC acting exec director named

By Jon Strunk

A familiar face and a leader in University of Toledo Medical Center’s effort to transform its culture over the last several years has been named acting executive director of the hospital.

Pending Board of Trustees approval, Dr. Jeffrey Gold, chancellor and executive vice president for biosciences and health affairs, has selected Norma Tomlinson to lead UTMC following the appointment of Dr. Scott Scarborough to the position of provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, also pending board approval.

She has served as UTMC associate vice president and associate executive director.

“Norma has been an integral part of UTMC, and we are lucky to have her leadership during this time of transition. Her leadership is an important reason why external organizations like the Joint Commission, U.S. News & World Report and Press Ganey have all held UTMC in high esteem. She has been a stalwart champion of patient safety and quality, and has worked hard to improve the patient experience,” said Gold, who also serves as dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

“With more than 30 years at patients’ bedside and as a leader in health-care delivery — more than seven of them in an administrative role at UTMC — Norma

continued on p. 6
Eberly Center to hold back-to-school gathering Sept. 6

By Casey Cheap

The Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women will host “Welcome Back, Women,” a networking event for the new school year, Thursday, Sept. 6, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

The free, public event will include food, music and a tent in the parking lot by the main entrance of the Eberly Center, which is located in Tucker Hall.

“We want to create an informal networking opportunity for women and encourage the campus community to know more about the Eberly Center,” said Dr. Shanda Gore, associate vice president for equity, diversity and community engagement.

“The Eberly Center has always been about empowering ourselves and supporting each other. It is a great place to reconnect with colleagues and meet new ones,” she added.

Gore said she not only hoped people unfamiliar with the Eberly Center would turn out, but that people who have not been there in a long time would re-familiarize themselves with the changes at the center. She said the staff will be available to give tours and answer questions about the center.

Some of the renovations to the Eberly Center include a new quiet room for breast-feeding and a library room, which used to be housed in the computer lab.

Foreclosures don’t always mean loss of home, geography professors’ research shows

By Cynthia Nowak

Housing foreclosures may have dropped from the front-page news, but Americans are still losing their homes.

Dr. Dan Hammel, professor in the Department of Geography and Planning, who’s researching several aspects of national foreclosure trends, said that the situation remains volatile: “Are we still in a foreclosure crisis? Yes, because some of the root causes and practices that led to the crisis are ongoing.” He noted that continuing high unemployment is one trend helping to drive the crisis.

Despite fewer subprime loans, he said job loss can still leave homeowners vulnerable. He added, “There are signs, though, that banks held off on foreclosures they could have initiated — in part because they were alarmed at the crisis, and in part to get their legal houses in order. I expect that the number of foreclosures will continue to be high.”

To understand the dynamics of foreclosures in Lucas County, he and Dr. Sujata Shetty, assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Planning, took advantage of the fact that Ohio has a judicial foreclosure process: the process goes through the courts, thus generating large amounts of information.

After collecting a statistically significant sampling of foreclosure filings from 2004 through 2008, they followed the items through online court dockets. What they found was surprising.

“In 2004, slightly more than half of all filings ended up with sheriff’s sales and loss of a home, but those numbers subsequently went down significantly. Although there were more filings, fewer led to foreclosure,” Hammel said.

“We also examined how long the foreclosure process took and found it sped up slightly. There’s evidence, in fact, that government overall has kept up with the process far better than the financial sector has. What a city and county do not want is a large quantity of houses sitting in limbo. At least foreclosure clarifies that the bank owns the property, and the city or county can proceed with the issues of taxes and upkeep.”

Hammel and Shetty also wanted to determine if there were differences in the way the process moved based on the homeowner’s economic status. Although it was clear that more foreclosures happen in moderate-income neighborhoods than in their middle-class counterparts, “filing the foreclosure seems to be the great leveler,” Hammel said. “It’s odd; once the process starts, you would think that people of higher income would have access to more resources like hiring a lawyer to slow the process, but it seems to move just as rapidly for middle-class people as for moderate- or lower-income people.

“Although foreclosures are overwhelmingly concentrated in moderate-income neighborhoods, even the likelihood of the process going all the way to a sheriff’s sale is statistically the same in middle- and moderate-income areas.”

One reason might be access to legal aid via ABLE (Advocates for Basic Legal Equality) and the Toledo Fair Housing Center — two services available to local clients — as well as other legal aid providers. As well, Lucas County has since 2008 employed a foreclosure magistrate, an official with the authority to impel sometimes-balky lenders and third-party loan servicers into mediation with homeowners prior to foreclosed homes being lost.

“Even before the magistrate, though, we saw a decline in the number of cases going through to sheriff’s sales,” Hammel said. “That was likely tied to homeowners having an actual income; in that case, there was a better chance of settlement prior to the sheriff’s sale. Also, foreclosure education in the early stages of the process is critical; oftentimes it comes too late, when earlier intervention could have resulted in a better outcome.”

For the future of their research, the two faculty members want to find out what happens to people after foreclosure.

“I’ve only seen one such study that traces where people have gone after their homes were lost through foreclosure,” Hammel said. “My guess for Toledo is that given the state of the local economy, a lot of people just left. We want to use our original sample and find enough people to conduct interviews; we’d like to talk with people who managed to stay in their homes despite a foreclosure filing, as well as those who lost their homes.”

He noted the difficulty of finding such people and their likely reluctance to discuss a painful episode. Foreclosure, he added, still carries a stigma.

“I’d like to say that things are getting better. To a certain extent, our ability to handle foreclosures makes the process faster, so people can move on. People in the process who can be extricated with relative ease have been extricated, but those who have lost jobs and have no resources, owe more on their homes than their market value — yeah, their cases remain difficult.”

The paper by Hammel and Shetty was accepted for publication in the journal Housing Policy Debate, in a special issue on foreclosures.
Americans With Disabilities Act compliance officer named

By Samantha Watson

W endy Wiitala is The University of Toledo’s new Americans With Disabilities Act/504 compliance officer. She will bring her knowledge of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and work experience as a former ADA compliance/advocate to her new role.

The position of ADA/504 compliance officer is different this year; it is a part of the Internal Audit Department.

“The biggest change I’ve seen at UT is what’s happening right now,” Wiitala said. “To put an ADA compliance officer in the position where ‘they’re putting me can be more impactful’.”

Now that the position is within the Internal Audit Department, Wiitala said she will have better access to the University’s officials. She also wishes to work with different areas of the University to make things happen, rather than oversee what others are doing.

“Through getting people together to talk to each other and coordinate, we can create positive change in the University,” Wiitala said. “We can be very proactive in making this University accessible and accommodating for all of our students, employees and patients who have disabilities.”

She received her graduate and undergraduate degrees from UT and was a faculty member in the Disability Studies Program from 2006 to 2009, and has seen the University grow firsthand over the last few years. She has watched the University become more accessible and knows how important these changes are for UT.

“This will be a challenging role, but I look forward to the challenge,” Wiitala said. “I look forward to seeing our efforts move forward in a positive way.”

Memorial service slated for former dean

The UT community is invited to come together to remember Dr. Thomas Switzer Friday, Sept. 7, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Driscoll Alumni Center Auditorium.

Switzer, Milan, Mich., who served as dean of the Judith Herb College of Education from 2002 to 2009, died Aug. 29 at age 73.

During his seven years at the helm, the college:

• Continued its accreditation by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education;
• Conducted a $12 million renovation to its Gillham Hall home;
• Started and grew the Camp Adventure Youth Services Program, which provides students with service-learning experiences with children in the United States and around the globe; and
• Received the single largest gift in the history of The University of Toledo — a $15 million pledge from Judith and Marvin Herb and sons.

When he stepped down, Switzer was named dean emeritus.

Switzer came to UT from the University of Northern Iowa, where he was dean of the College of Education. Prior to that, he was at the University of Michigan School of Education, where he held several positions, including associate dean, associate professor and assistant professor.

He also worked as a curriculum developer for the American Sociological Association’s Sociological Resources for the Social Studies and taught high school social studies in Waterloo, Iowa.

Switzer received his doctorate in curriculum and instruction from the University of Michigan in 1973. He held a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Northern Iowa.

UT offers assistance to students, staff, patients with disabilities

T he University of Toledo strives to make learning, working and receiving medical treatment as easy as possible for those with disabilities — whether students, patients or employees.

While the Office of Accessibility has changed its name to the Office of Academic Access, it still provides the same services to assist students on campuses.

Students with disabilities can use the Office of Academic Access, which is designed to create an accessible learning environment. Through this office, students can obtain special accommodations for their classes as well as help with their course work.

The University provides interpreting services, classroom adaptations, flexible attendance, testing accommodations and paratransit shuttles.

The Office of Academic Access provides student workers who are available to take notes and proctor tests for others in its testing center when needed. The office also works with faculty members when alternative learning materials are needed, such as electronic texts or different media.

Although this office offers many services to students, it also stresses the importance of students speaking directly with their instructors if they need preferential seating, breaks or other needs. Faculty members are there to assist students’ learning experiences in whatever way possible.

UT employees should communicate their accessibility needs to their supervisors so that they can receive the necessary accommodations. Supervisors will then coordinate with the Office of Institutional Diversity to ensure accommodations are provided that best suit the work environment.

When patients with disabilities come to The University of Toledo Medical Center, it is important for them to discuss their needs with their primary care physician. The UTMC staff will work together to create accommodations. A service excellence officer also is available to assist with this process.

Other areas vital to the accessibility and accommodation of the University are Human Resources and Talent Development; Service Excellence; Legal Affairs; Facilities and Construction; Purchasing Services; Information Technology; Center for Creative Instruction; Auxiliary Services; Office of Equity and Diversity; and Student Affairs.

The UT Americans With Disabilities Act Compliance Officer Wendy Wiitala is another resource available to assist in advising and resolving accessibility issues. (See story at left.) She is in the Internal Audit and Compliance Department, giving the position more oversight responsibility throughout the University.

And there is a 24-hour Americans With Disabilities Act compliance hotline available should any difficulties arise with other accommodation processes. Call 419.530.1ADA (1232) or email ADA504@utoledo.edu.

Gateway

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shared, and we all worked collaboratively to make it happen.

“Gateway is a place to dine, shop, and offers a unique side of living and working by being part of the collegiate atmosphere. It’s an accomplishment that we are very proud of and that we know will benefit not only The University of Toledo, but the city of Toledo as a whole.”

The dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony will begin at 10 a.m., with a welcome from The University of Toledo Foundation Chair Hussien Shousher.

Remarks also will be made by UT President Lloyd Jacobs and UT Student Government President Paullette Bongratz.

Shousher, Jacobs and Bongratz will cut the ribbon, and music will be provided at the event by the UT Pep Band.

The Gateway project features a variety of businesses: Yogurt U, Rice Blvd., Gradkowski’s Sports Grille, Wireless Zone, Great Clips, Jimmy John’s, Starbucks and Barnes & Noble bookstore, along with 48 loft-style apartments available for rent.

For more information on the Gateway, visit utoledo.edu/dorrstreetgateway.
Events slated for Celebrate Our River Week

By Vicki L. Kroll

It’s time to go down to the Ottawa River and recognize the waterway that runs through Main Campus.

Several events are planned for this year’s Celebrate Our River Week.

“IT’s important to spotlight the continuing work of the President’s Commission on the River and the current restoration project taking place on the Ottawa River,” said Dr. Patrick Lawrence, UT professor and chair of the Department of Geography and Planning, and chair of the commission. “These improvements will enhance the beauty, environment, access, enjoyment and educational opportunities for a natural river that we are lucky to have on Main Campus.”

He added, “The Ottawa River in our community and here at UT has its issues and challenges, but there is also a lot of potential if we can strive to improve the aquatic and forest habitat along the 3,700 feet through Main Campus.”

The President’s Commission on the River has organized five events:

• Wednesday through Saturday, Sept. 12-15 — A video and poster displays focusing on the river and proposed restoration project will be available for viewing in Carlson Library.
• Wednesday, Sept. 12 — Tour the cut bank project site, located south of the Law Center. Meet in the parking area by the Law Center at noon to see why trees were cleared and old construction fill removed over the summer to create the cut bank that will allow for more water storage during potential higher river levels. “Removing these trees was a necessity, not a choice,” Lawrence said. “We didn’t anticipate this when the project started, but it’s a requirement for us to proceed with planned in-stream habitat restoration in 2013.”
• Thursday, Sept. 13 — River scavenger hunt at noon. Get the list of what you’re looking for on the bridge behind Carlson Library for a chance to win gift cards.
• Friday, Sept. 14 — Announcement of winners of the Ottawa River Photography Contest at noon in the Student River Plaza, located between Carlson Library and the Student Union.
• Saturday, Sept. 15 — Clean Your Streams. Take a couple hours to be part of this community-wide event and help clean the banks of the Ottawa River on Main Campus. Sign-in at the Law Center Patio will begin at 8 a.m. Last year, more than 200 volunteers picked up some 1,500 pounds of trash — including spark plugs and a shopping cart — along the waterway on Main Campus.

“UT is a partner for the 16th annual Clean Your Streams,” Lawrence said. “This is a great opportunity for all UT community members, especially students, to be involved with our environmental efforts, including for the Ottawa River, and participate in this regional event.”

For more information or to register, go to partnersforcleanstreams.org/CYS.html.

To learn more about Celebrate Our River Week, contact Lawrence at 419.530.8360 or patrick.lawrence@utoledo.edu.
Faculty members invited to direct theatre production in South Korea

By Angela Riddle

Cornel Gabara, associate professor of theatre, and Irene Alby, theatre lecturer, are in Seoul, South Korea, where they are co-directing a production of William Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”

The two were invited by Kookmin University to direct the play, featuring master’s thesis students. The production will open Friday, Sept. 7.

The play is familiar territory for Gabara, who directed the UT production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” that was staged in Toledo’s historic Valentine Theatre last November. However, he said the Korean production won’t look the same as the UT production.

“In Korea, you have a different language and a different culture, so it will also have a different directorial approach. It will have more video elements and more choreography,” Gabara said.

Alby will direct the video and choreography, and Gabara will handle the text analysis, although they will collaborate and share ideas across their roles. The husband-and-wife team are co-directing the production.

Alby said that while she will bring her own direction and design concepts, they are not set in stone.

“I will be relying on [student cast and crew members] and their familiarity with the culture to guide me. I have already sent my ideas to them for their consideration, and I’m anxious to see what their thoughts are,” she said.

Even though Gabara does not speak Korean, he has much experience with translating Shakespeare into foreign languages. Aided by an interpreter, he has worked through the text to provide a translation that is the most meaningful to his Korean audience and best communicates Shakespeare’s work. The interpreter also will help Alby and Gabara as they direct the actors.

Gabara added that language isn’t necessarily the biggest challenge.

“The real challenge is how do we express the universality of Shakespeare with Korean cultural elements. It’s still the same play. The comedy and the concepts of opposing forces — male and female, night and day, dark and light, powerful and powerless — they are still there. But the form they take will be different. It will reflect Korean culture.”

Those interested can learn more about the progress of the play on the UT Department of Theatre and Film blog at http://utole.do/theatreblog and Facebook fan page at facebook.com/UTTheatreFilm.
Student observers provide needed feedback to faculty

By Samantha Watson

Whether it’s an assessment of their teaching methods or checking out their classes, faculty members can turn to student observers to gain a different perspective.

When a faculty member wants feedback on his or her class, he or she can turn to the Student Observer Program at The University of Toledo. The program is available to any instructor and any class, including online or hybrid courses.

“This program offers the chance to contribute to the University in a way that is positive,” said Jeff Jablonski, program coordinator. “It has a very big impact on the quality of learning and teaching.”

Student observers are trained to monitor different aspects of a course in multiple ways, so they can suit an instructor’s needs. Some observers sit in as a faux student, taking notes and recording what is taught in class versus another. Others record the organization of a class — what is taught or how much one subject is covered.

Once a student observer has been requested, he or she is matched up with the instructor and an initial meeting is arranged. At that meeting, the faculty member discusses with the observer what he or she is looking to gain from the experience.

After meeting, the student observer attends the class and gathers data. He or she then prepares feedback in the form of a written report and presents it to the instructor.

“It’s a rather unique program because of the dialogue between faculty and students,” said John Gaboury, executive director of Learning Ventures, which oversees the program. “It’s almost as if the roles are reversed.”

Participation in this program by faculty is completely voluntary, and information gathered by the student observers is strictly confidential. Faculty members who have used this tool before have said that these observations can help enhance student learning.

Observers are generally sophomores or juniors with at least a 3.0 grade point average and excellent observation and communication skills. Students from any major can become an observer. Each student receives 10 to 15 hours of training before his or her first assignment.

This program began providing insight for faculty members in 1995 when it was created by Dr. Bernie Bopp, who has since become a professor emeritus. Read more about the Student Observer Program at utoledo.edu/dl/faculty/observer.html.

For more information, to schedule an observation, or to nominate a student who might be interested in becoming an observer, contact Jablonski at jeffrey.jablonski@utoledo.edu.

Acting exec director

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brings an essential perspective to the importance of the highest quality of care, a commitment to patient satisfaction, and an understanding of the ways the integration of technology can make care safer, more efficient and less expensive,” Gold said.

Tomlinson said she was excited by the opportunity and looked forward to continuing the momentum Scarborough and the entire UTMC team had generated.

“Excellent health care is a team effort, and UTMC has a tremendous group of dedicated people who wake up each day with the goal of improving the lives of those we serve,” Tomlinson said. “I’m honored to take on this role, and I’m excited by the opportunities that lie ahead for UTMC.”

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Read UT news at utnews.utoledo.edu and my34.utoledo.edu.

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SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION: Medical students, from left, Jennifer Yonkoff, Nicholas Oblizajek, and Vinh Dang posed for a photo with Dr. Robert Fredrick from ProMedica, left, and Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, chancellor, executive vice president for biosciences and health affairs, and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, at a recent scholarship dinner. More than 100 students and donors attended the event, where more than $1.1 million in scholarships was awarded. Students met face to face with donors whose avenues of giving back are smoothing the way for the future doctors to pursue their dreams.

Photo by Jodi Meade
Why do you give?
The campus community can consider its reasons as UT’s annual charitable campaign will kick off Wednesday, Sept. 5, with a goal of raising $175,000 in donations.

The University of Toledo Community Charitable Campaign (UTC3) is UT’s annual giving drive offered in tandem with a diverse group of organizations: the United Way of Northwest Ohio, Northwest Ohio Community Shares, Community Health Charities of Ohio and Earth Share of Ohio.

“The campaign aligns perfectly with UT’s mission of improving the human condition,” said Vicki Riddick, UT senior wellness officer and UTC3 chair. “Together, we can build a stronger community through advocacy, volunteerism and giving to this charitable campaign.”

New to the campaign this year will be a dedicated blog on the myUT page. Instead of having one featured blogger, however, many people associated with UTC3 — from campaign volunteers, to those who have benefited from the charitable organizations associated with UTC3, to federation representatives — will write weekly about their experiences.

The first blog will be published Tuesday, Sept. 4.

UTC3 also will be featured in an upcoming town hall meeting.

“With a challenging economy, we know charitable giving isn’t the first consideration in a family budget,” Riddick said. “But every gift, whether small or a bit larger, has an impact, as you’ll see throughout the campaign.”

Last year’s average gift was $198 per person, or about $9 per paycheck. Riddick hopes that in addition to retaining faculty and employee donors from last year, those who haven’t contributed to UTC3 will consider giving this year.

“One of our goals is to increase participation on our campuses,” Riddick said. “If each one of us gives, we’ll easily reach our goal and have a positive impact on many organizations that have both local and worldwide reach.”

Donations may be made online or with paper pledge forms. To give online, go to http://utole.do/campaign and type in user ID and password information that will be emailed to you Wednesday, Sept. 5.

Paper pledges may be turned in to the following UTC3 representatives:
• Donna Braswell, Bowman-Oddy Building Room 205B, Main Campus;
• Lisa Hasselschwert, Rocket Hall Room 1200, Main Campus; and
• Sandra Manton, Learning Resources Center Room 2011G, Scott Park Campus.

Each person who donates will receive a special gift as a token of appreciation from the UTC3 committee.

UT Community Charitable Campaign dates to remember

Kickoff: Sept. 5
Halfway point: Nov. 10
Conclusion: Dec. 15

For breaking news, go to utnews.utoledo.edu
Meal Plans for UT employees, commuters

Dining and Hospitality Services has designed new meal plan options for UT employees and commuter students.

The Employee 75 Meal Plan costs $450; that’s a value of $6 per meal. Purchase this plan and receive a free bonus coupon booklet.

"With the Employee 75 Meal Plan, you could save up to $2.50 each time you eat in any of our dining halls," said Nicole Milliken, marketing manager with Dining and Hospitality Services.

The Commuter 35 Plan costs $380; that averages out to $7 per meal. Anyone who purchases a Commuter 35 Plan also will receive a free coupon booklet.

Sign up for your meal plan through the myUT portal.

For information, go to utoledo.edu/mealplans or call 419.530.8403.

**Walk benefitting ovarian cancer education, awareness, research to be held on Health Science Campus Sept. 15**

By Samantha Watson

When Ellen Jackson passed away in 2010 from ovarian cancer, she left behind a legacy of kindness and hard work.

Jackson was a valedictorian in school, received a bachelor’s degree in education from The University of Toledo in 1962, became a teacher, and eventually worked her way up to become a top executive at Buckeye CableSystem. After her diagnosis in 2002, she retired and turned her focus to raising money and awareness for ovarian cancer. She was a founding member of the Ovarian Cancer Connection and participated in many different benefit walks.

The first Ellen Jackson Ovarian Cancer Walk will take place Saturday, Sept. 15, on UT’s Health Science Campus. Sponsored by Buckeye CableSystem, it is designed to educate women about ovarian cancer, celebrate those who have overcome it, remember those who were lost to it, and raise money for a cure.

Check-in and open registration will be from 8 to 9:15 a.m. at Mulford Library. Immediately following check-in, survivors will join together for a picture beneath the balloon arch, the opening ceremony will begin, and the walk will start at 10 a.m. Wearing the color teal is encouraged, as it nationally represents ovarian cancer.

Participants are encouraged to bring photos, poetry, articles or other items to be displayed on a wall during the event to represent the support and love they have for those individuals whose lives have been affected by ovarian cancer.

All proceeds from the 5K walk will support the Ovarian Cancer Connection, a local nonprofit organization that serves northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. The organization provides financial assistance to ovarian cancer survivors who need help with insurance co-pays, prescription drugs, rent or mortgage, utility bills, and transportation to and from medical appointments. Some of the proceeds also will go toward ovarian cancer awareness, education and research.

The Ovarian Cancer Connection has been hosting an awareness walk since 2005. Jackson participated in the walk in previous years; after her passing in 2010, her colleagues at Buckeye CableSystem approached the organization to set up a walk in her name.

For more information on the event or to register, visit imathlete.com/events/Ellen. For more information on the Ovarian Cancer Connection, visit ovarianconnection.org.