Social work assistant professor, students help assistance dogs program

By Casey Cheap

Assistance Dogs for Achieving Independence (ADAI), a regional nonprofit, recently merged with the Ability Center of Greater Toledo and strengthened ties with The University of Toledo.

According to Dr. Janet Hoy, assistant professor of social work, two social work students have completed field practicums with ADAI in the last two years, and she just finished fostering Kennedy, a golden retriever that works for Tiffin City Schools as a therapy dog.

“Kennedy grew up in Toledo Correctional Institute’s ‘puppy prison’ program [where inmates train the canines] and then went on to an adult foster home,” Hoy said. “He initially started with another foster, but he was in my care for about five months. Our students were very helpful in socializing and interacting with Kennedy and practicing his various commands.”

She first got involved with ADAI about three years ago, but said she has been researching the benefits of human-animal bonds much longer.

“We sometimes don’t explicitly consider and tap into the various benefits of the human-animal bond,” Hoy said. “It is something that has been underutilized in social work practice.”

To help promote such research, Hoy convened and co-facilitated a new research group on animals and social work practice at a national research conference in San Diego earlier this month.
UT continues strategy to attract better-prepared students, cites grad student growth

By Jon Strunk

Graduate student enrollment grew more than 3 percent at The University of Toledo for spring 2013 while overall enrollment was 19,675 as of Jan. 21, the official 15-day enrollment reporting date. Overall enrollment in spring 2012 was 20,675.

The numbers follow a strategy implemented in fall 2012 when UT tightened its admission standards in an effort to attract greater numbers of well-prepared students to the institution.

UT Provost Scott Scarborough, who oversees University enrollment efforts, said an initial drop in population numbers was anticipated and that current efforts under way — including the elevation and increased promotion of the Honors College — will help grow UT’s retention and graduation rates in addition to its enrollment numbers.

“As the landscape for higher education is shifting and competition to attract the highest quality students is steadily increasing, UT continues to work to implement its strategy to be the university of choice for well-prepared students,” Scarborough said.

“We began this strategy some months ago, and these figures were anticipated given the new focus. We are now working to modify our overall approach to teaching in an effort to create an environment where an increasing number of students are taught by full-time, tenured and tenure-track faculty.”

Assistance dogs

continued from p.1

Therapy dogs must pass a temperament test and complete basic and advanced obedience training. In addition to the requirements met by therapy dogs, service dogs are trained to do anything from opening and closing doors and pulling laundry baskets to helping people get dressed. The tasks service dogs learn depend upon the needs of the individual each is matched with.

“All of the methods used by ADAI trainers entail positive reinforcement,” Hoy said. “There are no punishments, and if a dog doesn’t make it as a service or therapy dog, he or she is adopted out of the program. ADAI is committed to the well-being of the trainee dogs, irrespective of whether they successfully complete the training program.”

Not every dog has the temperament to become a service dog. Kennedy is considered to have a good temperament, but his drive to consistently perform complex tasks was not especially high. So Kennedy was designated as a therapy dog.

The most common types of dogs trained by ADAI are golden retrievers and Labrador retrievers. ADAI receives dogs through a variety of routes, including breeder donations and shelter rescues.

There is a waiting list of individuals seeking service and therapy dogs, and ADAI is always in need of good foster homes for service and therapy dog trainees. Fosters are expected to do a daily minimum of one half hour of daily training practice, attend monthly sessions, maintain a daily log, and complete a series of community outings and socialization activities with their trainees.

“Some people are able to live independently in large part due to the assistance of their service dogs,” Hoy said.

For more details about ADAI or inquiries of how to get involved, visit http://utole.do/assistancedogs.

Paying tribute

UT President Lloyd Jacobs, right, posed for a photo with John Barfield, founder and chair emeritus of the Bartech Group Inc., who gave the keynote address at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Celebration in Savage Arena. The theme of the 12th annual event was “Make a Way.”

Students from the Ella P. Academy for Girls recited the school pledge at the MLK Unity Celebration.
New application allows Facebook users to send free ‘Givt’ cards

By Amelia Acuna

Facebook users long have enjoyed the ability to easily wish friends a “happy birthday” or “congratulations” via the social networking tool. Now a firm co-owned by a University of Toledo alumnus and supported by UT’s Innovation Enterprises is making it easy to attach a free gift card to those well wishes.

Givt is a new web-based app that allows users to send gift cards at no cost to friends and family through Facebook. The app was launched in December and created by Whisper Labs, a Toledo-based technology incubator and web design firm co-owned by Josh Cooper and Justin Blanchard, and co-founded by Todd Armstrong. Cooper earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration and a law degree from UT.

The company is working with local businesses that are looking for innovative ways to attract new customers to their stores.

“Getting new customers is always a challenge for businesses,” Cooper said. “We wanted to create an incentive to check out local business and also a way for the business to only pay when customers actually purchase in the store.

“Restaurants and retailers are interested in driving traffic into their stores and are willing to give money directly to the consumers so they can share their favorite brands with their friends,” he said. “It’s a win-win situation. Consumers get free gift cards, and businesses get new customers trying them out.”

The tool is simple: Download the app and login through your Facebook account. Givt then walks you through the friends who are having birthdays or allows the user to seek out specific people to receive the free gift card. Once the recipient is selected, a set of gift card options from local businesses is offered. The cards are free to give, but come in specific denominations.

Givt can be accessed through the mobile web by going to givt.com on any smart phone or by connecting through Facebook. It also is available as a downloadable app at the iTunes and Android app stores.

In memoriam

Murl Jackson, Toledo, a former library media assistant on Scott Park Campus, died Dec. 26 at age 67.

Esther L. Newcomer, Bakersfield, Calif., a secretary in the Department of Surgery from 1969 until her retirement in 1984, died Jan. 5 at age 94.

Judith A. Pelton, Toledo, a local nurse and ambulatory care director who taught at the former UT Community and Technical College and at MCO, died Jan. 21 at age 68. She received a bachelor of education degree from UT in 1982.
A recent grant from the U.S. Department of Education will help ensure that local elementary school students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing soon will have new opportunities to learn.

The University of Toledo and the University of Akron will use a joint grant to develop course work and practicum experiences for speech-language pathology graduate students.

UT’s Rehabilitation Sciences received the grant last fall for maximizing listening and spoken language of children who are deaf and hard-of-hearing through advanced technologies, according to Dr. Lori Pakulski, professor of speech-language pathology.

She said there is a great need for the program because there are very few people trained in this field in northwest Ohio.

“Most children, with early intervention, can expect to be on par with their peers by kindergarten,” Pakulski said. “If we want to maximize their opportunities, we have to begin intervention in the first year of life.”

Pakulski said there have traditionally been two schools of thought in the audiology field. There are those who believe one should never force a deaf or hard-of-hearing person to use technology such as cochlear implants or hearing aids, and he or she should embrace deaf culture and learn sign language.

But the opposing viewpoint believes in those devices and supporting a family’s desire to help children learn to listen and talk.

“There was a time when a deaf person’s use of cochlear implants was looked down upon by the deaf community,” she said. “But our approach here is that families should do what is right for them and learn about the options available to their children.”

Pakulski said she is working on the grant in conjunction with Dr. Todd Houston, associate professor at the School of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at the University of Akron.

“The University of Akron was selected because of its long history of working with kids and taking this approach to listening and spoken language,” she said. “The geographical convenience between UT and UA will also make it more convenient to host joint events.”

Pakulski said the grant and new program also play into the Auditory and Language Enriched Program, a play group for young deaf and hard-of-hearing children that is run by speech-language pathology graduate students as a community service. The program helps young children in similar circumstances bond, while targeting listening and spoken language skills and educating parents.

Both UT and UA will choose five students for four of the five years the grant is in place. The first group of first-year graduate students accepted into the UT program are Adam Barnes, Mary Dunn, Ryan Rummel, Emily Russell and Leslie Starr.

For employees, registration forms must be signed by supervisors so they are aware that staff may require time off to take the classes.

Though the program is free, departments will be charged $150 if an employee is a no-show.

If there are any questions, contact Jeff Witt, program manager in the Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Engagement, at 419.530.8573.
Spotlight shines on art by health science community members

A bear balancing on a ball with a clown watching done in watercolors. Psychedelic trees courtesy of photo manipulation. A portrait of a girl drawn in pencil.

These are a few of the works featured in the eighth annual Health Science Campus Artist Showcase that is on display through Monday, March 18, on the fourth floor of Mulford Library.

Nearly 30 artists affiliated with the health sciences — students, faculty and staff on Health Science and Main campuses — have pieces showcased this year. Media include painting, drawing, photography and digital art.

“This is a great opportunity for health science students, faculty and staff to show off their creativity. We look forward to it every year,” said Jodi Jameson, instructor in the College of Nursing and librarian at Mulford Library, who is a member of the artist showcase committee.

An artists’ reception will take place Friday, Feb. 1, from 4 to 6 p.m. Diana Attie, UT professor emeritus of art, will be the guest speaker. She will discuss her life experiences in art, as well as anatomical drawing, one of her specialties.

“Professor Attie is a highly revered member of the Toledo art community and a well-respected teacher,” Jameson said. “We are so pleased to have her as our guest speaker. In fact, some of the artists in this year’s show, as well as in past years, have had Attie as a teacher.”

Visitors can view the artwork during regular library hours: Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to midnight; Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday from 9 a.m. to midnight.

For more information on the free, public exhibit, go to libguides.utoledo.edu/hscart.

“Treeage,” photo manipulation, by Dr. Donna Woodson, professor of medicine

“Clowning Around,” watercolor on gesso, by Melissa Straub, medical student

Alumnus returns to perform for spring piano series

By Angela Riddel

Dr. Anthony Pattin will return to his alma mater Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 2 and 3, and be the first artist to perform in the spring Dorothy MacKenzie Price Piano Series.

He will present a master class at 10 a.m. Saturday and a recital at 3 p.m. Sunday. The free, public events will take place in the Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall.

Pattin’s program will include works by Modeste Mussorgsky, George Gershwin, Franz Schubert and William Grant Still.

A native of Toledo, Pattin is professor emeritus of music at the University of Montevallo in Alabama. He has performed as a soloist with many orchestras, and given recitals and presented master classes throughout the United States. He also has performed at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and at Merkin Concert Hall in New York, and in Tokyo.

A versatile musician, Pattin also is an accomplished organist, composer and arranger. He received a bachelor’s degree in music from UT and a master’s degree in music from the University of Michigan.

The Toledo Piano Teachers Association assists with The University of Toledo Dorothy MacKenzie Price Piano Series. The association provides students for the master class, publicity for the class and concert, and refreshments for the reception in the lobby following the concert.

For more information on the series, contact Dr. Michael Boyd, UT professor of music, at michael.boyd@utoledo.edu or 419.530.2183.
University announces 2013 Class for Varsity ‘T’ Hall of Fame

By Paul Helgren

Six former student-athletes will be inducted into The University of Toledo Varsity ‘T’ Hall of Fame Friday, Feb. 8 in Savage Arena.

Social hour for the event will begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will follow at 7 p.m.

The Varsity ‘T’ Hall of Fame also will present the Distinguished Service Award to longtime team physician Dr. Roger Kruse, clinical assistant professor of family medicine, and posthumously to John Stoepler, who served as dean of the UT College of Law from 1983 to 1990 and was a faculty athletics representative.

Tickets for the induction dinner are $40 and can be purchased by calling the Athletic Development Office at 419.530.5347.

The 2013 Varsity ‘T’ Hall of Fame inductees are:

JIM HARDING. Football, 1997-2000. A four-year starter at tackle, Harding was a team captain and a first-team All-Mid-American Conference selection as a senior in 2000. He was part of three MAC West Championships in which he started 46 consecutive games (every game of his career) for the Rockets and blocked for UT’s all-time leading rusher Chester Taylor. A UT Academic Honor Roll student in 1999 and 2000, Harding was awarded Academic All-MAC honors in 1998 and 1999. As a senior, he received the Jim Nicholson Award, which is given to the athlete who makes the greatest contribution to the team. Currently, Harding is the offensive line coach at the University of Wyoming.

KELLY MEINHART. Softball, 1985-1988. Meinhart was named first-team All-MAC as a catcher in 1987 and as a designated hitter in 1988, as well as first-team All-Region in 1988. She was a member of the Rocket squad that won the MAC Championship in 1985 and earned second place in the MAC in 1986 and 1987. Meinhart holds the school record for triples in a season (eight in 1985, four more than the second-place holder) and triples in a career (13, five more than the No. 2 hitter). She ranks fifth all-time with 81 RBI and third in at-bats (678).

ROBERT “BOB” PAWLAK. Men’s Basketball, 1958-1961. A three-time letterwinner, Pawlak was the point guard on outstanding teams from 1958 to 1961 that were a combined 44-27 (just 23-46 in the three years previous to his arrival). He averaged 9.8 points per contest, shooting 41 percent from the floor and 76 percent from the line in his career. He averaged 11.7 points as a sophomore, 7.9 points as a junior, and 9.5 points as a senior. He shot an impressive 46 percent from the field as a senior, mostly from long range. No assist statistics were kept in those days, but by all accounts he was one of the leaders in the MAC. Pawlak helped the Rockets finish in second place in the MAC in both his junior and senior seasons, and led UT to victories over some big names in college basketball at the time: Loyola of Chicago, Duquesne, Dayton, Virginia Tech, Wake Forest, Utah State, Detroit, Xavier and Villanova. A fine overall athlete, Pawlak also lettered in baseball in 1960. After graduation, he was drafted by the Cleveland Pipers of the American Basketball Association, and eventually ended up playing alongside the Harlem Globetrotters for two seasons with the opponent team, the Washington Generals. His love for sports spilled over into the running world as he competed in 13 marathons, including the Boston Marathon three times. He coached high school basketball for 25 years, served seven years as an athletic director at Start High School, and retired in 2006 after 38 years of teaching.
Pat Reilly, Wrestling, 1960-1963. Reilly was a MAC Champion in 1962 and 1963, leading the Rockets to league titles both years. From 1961 to 1963, Reilly lost only eight matches. He qualified for the NCAA Championships in 1961, 1962 and 1963, helping UT knock off top seed Oklahoma State in the 1963 tourney. As a sophomore in 1961 wrestling at 147 pounds, Reilly went 17-3 and took second place at the MAC Championship Meet. As a junior, he went 20-2 and won the MAC title. As a senior captain, Reilly finished with a 25-3 mark, taking another MAC title and placing second at the Olympic Regional trials, qualifying to attend the U.S. Olympic Training Camp. After a stint as a graduate assistant coach at UT under Coach Joe Scalzo from 1965 to 1969, Reilly went on to coach wrestling at Cardinal Stritch High School. He is a member of the Hall of Fame at Toledo Central Catholic as a wrestler and football player, and at Cardinal Stritch as a coach. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education from UT.

John Wesley Saunders,
Football 1969-1971 and Men’s Basketball 1970-1971. Saunders was a three-year starter for a 35-0 Rocket team with the top defense in the nation. Saunders was selected as an All-MAC safety in 1971. He also played basketball in the 1970-71 season under Coach Bobby Nichols. He later was selected to play in the 1972 All-American Bowl. Saunders was a fourth-round draft pick by the Los Angeles Rams in 1972. He later played with the 49ers, Bills and Lions. Saunders died of a heart attack in 2001.

Tom Ward, Football, 1999-2002. Ward was a three-year starter at middle linebacker for the Rockets and was team captain in 2002. He earned first-team All-MAC honors as a senior and won the Jim Nicholson Award (team MVP). Ward is ninth all-time in career tackles/sacks (403) and 10th all-time in tackles a season (180 in 2002). He led the team in tackles in 2001 and 2002 and twice had 22 tackles in a game, against UNLV and Ball State in 2002. He played on teams that won or shared three MAC West Division titles, won the MAC Championship in 2001, earned back-to-back trips to the Motor City Bowl in 2001 and 2002, and compiled a record of 35-13.
Men’s and women’s programs to hold Rocket Golf Celebration Feb. 13

By Steve Easton

The University of Toledo men’s and women’s golf programs will hold the first-ever Rocket Golf Celebration Wednesday, Feb. 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Savage Arena Grogan Room.

Men’s Head Coach Jamie Broce and Women’s Head Coach Nicole Hollingsworth will host the event.

Tickets are available for purchase for $20 with a social hour beginning at 5 p.m. and appetizers being served throughout. The event’s program will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Individuals are encouraged to bring their golf clubs and take the opportunity to practice in the Fetterneman Indoor Training Golf Center.

Please contact Hollingsworth at 419.530.7761 or nicole.hollingsworth@utoledo.edu if you are interested in attending the event.

“I am really excited about hosting our Rocket Golf Celebration,” Hollingsworth said. “This is the first time we are doing this, and it should be a great night where we can talk with our fans and get our spring season started in a positive way.”

“We have a lot to be proud of with both of our programs and want to share this excitement with our supporters,” Broce said. “I’m looking forward to having a fun, relaxing evening for people to get to know us and our teams.”

The two programs are celebrating tremendous fall campaigns both in the classroom and on the links. The women posted a 3.41 cumulative GPA with the men notching a 3.379 cumulative GPA. On the course, the women opened the season by winning Illinois State’s Redbird Invitational, while the men closed their fall with a championship at the Georgetown Intercollegiate.

Individually, sophomore Chris Selfridge captured his first collegiate event at Georgetown, with senior Allison Schultz taking runner-up honors at Illinois State.

Entrepreneurs, nonprofit execs invited to franchise summit

By Bob Mackowiak

The University of Toledo College of Business and Innovation will conduct a Franchise Summit Friday, Feb. 8, from 8 to 11 a.m. on Main Campus.

This free workshop is intended for area entrepreneurs considering this business structure as well as executives at nonprofit organizations who are exploring new options to fund their missions.

The featured speaker will be Dr. Ben Litalien, founder and principal of Franchise Well, a consulting practice dedicated to the enhancement of franchising. He is an author and frequent speaker on franchising, is a certified franchise executive as designated by the International Franchise Association, and he designed and oversees the Franchise Management Certificate Program at Georgetown University.

“Franchising is a powerful model for generating value,” Litalien said. “Entrepreneurs and nonprofit management should not miss this unique opportunity to learn how to harness franchising in new and beneficial ways, including growing business concepts, creating jobs, and achieving above market-rate returns.”

Litalien also will moderate a panel discussion that will include W. Rhett Linke, executive director of national business development, NISH; Jeannie Hylant, vice president, Hylant; Anthony Calamunci, attorney, franchise law group Roetzel & Andress; Kevin Lent, president, Sonic Drive-In; and Byron Stephens, vice president, Marco’s Franchising.

“The University of Toledo College of Business and Innovation embraces its mission of presenting innovative ways to educate and assist the regional business community,” said Dr. Anand Kunnathur, executive associate dean of the college. “Franchising is an increasingly popular and viable format for many people to establish their own businesses, so we are pleased to work with experts in this field to develop this free educational program.

“We know that the more we can do to help area businesses and entrepreneurs, the better it is for the regional economy,” Kunnathur said.

The Franchise Summit is free, but seating is limited. Register at utoledo.edu/business/franchisesummit.

‘The Relevant University’ to air Jan. 29

Tune in to a special “The Relevant University” recorded from the 2013 North American International Auto Show to air Tuesday, Jan. 29, at 7 p.m. on AM 760 WJR.

This month, Lawrence J. Burns, UT vice president for external affairs, again takes his show on the road, recording from the Detroit Auto Show to explore connections between the Motor City and the Glass City and between universities and the auto industry.

In this month’s episode:

• News/Talk 760 WJR radio personality Paul W. Smith discusses the numerous connections between Detroit and Toledo, many of which are on display at the auto show.
• Robert Shuman, vice chair of the 2013 North American International Auto Show, shares what’s new at the event that attracts thousands of worldwide media members and auto fans each year.
• Executive Director of Global IT Operations for General Motors and University of Toledo alumnus Jeff Liedel talks about how universities can prepare students for careers in the auto industry.
• And Dr. Ali Fatemi, Distinguished University Professor in the UT College of Engineering, shares his fatigue and fracture mechanics research with General Motors.

The University and Detroit’s WJR Radio produce the monthly, hourlong program that explores the critical role higher education plays in the world. Listen at utoledo.edu/therelevantuniversity.

Football coaches to host signing day Feb. 6

By Paul Helgren

The University of Toledo football coaching staff will host a special presentation of its 2013 recruiting class in Savage Arena Wednesday, Feb. 6, at 4 p.m.

All Rocket fans are invited to attend free of charge. A concession stand will be open to purchase snacks and beverages.

Head Coach Matt Campbell and his assistant coaching staff will announce their 2013 recruiting class and show video highlights of each signee at the event.

Feb. 6 is the first day that high school seniors are allowed to sign national letters of intent.

The event will be streamed live on utrockets.com beginning at 4 p.m.