

## College of Medicine and Life Sciences to hold commencement June 7

By Jon Strunk

Dr. Thomas Nasca, chief executive officer of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), will speak at the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences' commencement ceremony Friday, June 7, at 2 p.m. at Stranahan Theater.

There are more than 200 students who are candidates for degrees; this includes 156 students who will receive doctor



Nasca

of medicine degrees, including three who also will receive certificates, one who also will receive a master's in public health, and one who

also will receive a PhD in biomedical sciences.

Five students will earn a PhD in biomedical sciences, and 58 will receive master's degrees, including two who also will receive certificates. One student will receive a combined master of public health and master of occupational health degree, and eight students are candidates for certificates.

Nasca will receive an honorary doctor of science degree at the ceremony.

"As the practice of health care changes, so too will the methods we use to educate the next generation of doctors. As the CEO of the ACGME, Dr. Thomas Nasca has unique insight into what the future holds for an industry very much in flux," said Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, chancellor and executive vice president for biosciences and health

affairs, and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

"We are honored to welcome Dr. Nasca to The University of Toledo as a new class of physicians and health professionals embark on their careers."

In addition to his current role, Nasca is the chief executive officer of the ACGME International and a professor of medicine at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Involved in medical education since 1981, Nasca has served as chair and residency program director of the Department of Medicine and director of medical services at Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh.

He served in the role of vice chair of the Department of Medicine at Jefferson Medical College and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, where he was responsible for the medical student, residency and fellowship educational

continued on p. 2

## Interim director honored as 'Emerging Leader'

By Khyara Harris

William Pierce, interim director of undergraduate admission at The University of Toledo, has been selected as one of six 2013 Emerging Leaders by the African American Legacy Project.



Pierce

"It is a tremendous honor to be recognized by the Toledo community for simply doing what I love to do, recruiting students and speaking to the benefits of higher education," Pierce

said. "To be recognized for something that you are passionate about is an immense honor and one that I share with my admissions team that works diligently with me to recruit students to The University of Toledo."

The African American Legacy Project is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that documents and preserves the history of the African-American community in northwest Ohio.

In 2008, the organization established the Emerging Leader award to recognize those whose "work, work ethic, commitment to the community and individual spirit exemplifies the collective good of the Toledo community," said Tracee Ellis, program coordinator with the African American Legacy Project.

The goal of the award is to place emphasis on the importance of education, professionalism and character regardless of vocation or professional field of study.

"The selection process begins in January and runs until May 1. This year our board of directors had roughly 30 candidates to choose from," Ellis said. "As an Emerging Leader, Billy will be assigned a task to work with children of the Toledo community as a mentor to our youth."

Pierce, along with the other five award recipients, will be honored at a luncheon during the African American Legacy Project's annual Legends Weekend Oct. 4-5. Tickets will be available the first week of August and can be purchased at the organization's office at 1326 Collingwood Blvd.

## Biological sciences professor combats parasitic worms through research

By Meghan Cunningham

More than two billion people worldwide are infected by parasitic worms, which also cause billions of dollars in damage to crops and livestock.

Dr. Richard Komuniecki, Distinguished University Professor of Biological Sciences and Joan L. and Julius H. Jacobson II Endowed Professor in Biomedical Research, has received a \$100,000 Grand Challenges Explorations grant, an initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to study these parasitic worms, or nematodes.

These Gates grants are designed to foster technological innovation to solve key health problems in the developing world. Komuniecki is one of only 58 investigators, out of thousands of applicants from around the globe, funded in this Round 10 Grand Challenges Explorations grant program.

"Parasitic nematodes also infect livestock and most plants, in addition

to humans, and only recently has their negative impact on human productivity been fully appreciated. In many cases, we lack effective chemotherapy to control these infections and, more importantly, for those that we do, resistance is appearing rapidly," he said.

Komuniecki, who joined the UT faculty in 1980, has long studied parasitic nematodes to identify drug targets that could be used to paralyze or kill them. The Gates grant will support his innovative approach to screen for new drugs by expressing receptors from the parasitic nematodes in the more genetically tractable free-living nematode, *Caenorhabditis elegans*.



Komuniecki

continued on p. 6

## University, UT Police Patrolman's Association ratify new three-year contract

By Jon Strunk

The University of Toledo Police Patrolman's Association (UTPPA) and The University of Toledo recently ratified a new three-year contract that will run through Dec. 31, 2015.

The UTPPA ratified the agreement May 12 by a 28-1 vote, and UT's Board of Trustees unanimously approved the deal at its May 13 meeting.

Included in the contract are:

- Wage increases of 1.5 percent, 0.5 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively, over the duration of the contract;
- No health-care plan design changes and premium cost sharing equal to other staff bargaining units; and
- Increased work rule flexibility to meet the various and changing needs of the University and police officers.

Chuck Lehnert, vice president for administration, said the agreement was the most recent example of the UTPPA's commitment to the University community.

"The University of Toledo is incredibly fortunate to have these men and women providing protection, education and security to members of the UT community," Lehnert said. "It was clear even while UTPPA negotiated on behalf of its

membership that it had students, faculty, staff and the public safety in mind."

"This agreement is a public example of the special and collaborative relationship between UT and the UTPPA, and I think it demonstrates that by working together we can overcome any challenge in a manner that is satisfactory to us both," said Officer Bryon Hansel, UTPPA president. "UTPPA would like to thank The University of Toledo Board of Trustees for working with us in reaching an agreement during these trying economic times."

"We have seen all too often in recent years the critical role campus police forces across the nation have played in responding to emergencies and keeping students and universities safe," said Jeff Newton, UT police chief and director of public safety.

"Our campus community looks to and trusts these officers they interact with on a day-to-day basis, and I think we were able to reach a successful outcome for the UTPPA and the University because of the trust and respect cultivated over time away from the bargaining table."

All 37 UT police officers are sworn state of Ohio peace officers commissioned by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy.



Photo by Cameron Norton

**DONE DEAL:** Chuck Lehnert, vice president for administration, signed a new three-year contract ratified by the University and the UT Police Patrolman's Association (UTPPA) as Officer Bryon Hansel, UTPPA president, watched.

## Huntington to invest in Gateway, gives UT \$150K for scholarships, academic programming

Huntington Bank will give \$150,000 in funding for academic programming and scholarships to The University of Toledo as part of an expanded banking program it will offer on campus over the next five years.

Huntington is expanding its product and service offerings to students and employees who choose to become customers. The bank also has committed to making banking more convenient for the UT community by adding a full-service branch in the Student Union and additional ATMs on campus.

Additionally, Huntington will invest in the Gateway business district revitalization with a new branch at the corner of Dorr Street and Secor Road.

"Huntington is committed to ongoing investment in Toledo and all of northwest Ohio," said Steve Steinour, chair, president and CEO of Huntington Bank. "We look forward to continuing to work with the University as it educates the next generation



of leaders. We are especially pleased to contribute to the vitality and economic growth of the Gateway neighborhood through the construction of a new branch in its business district."

"Huntington has always been a great community partner," said UT President Lloyd Jacobs. "Our partnership will provide more students with the ability to earn a top-tier education, more convenience for students and staff, and it will increase our students' knowledge of the way money works and how to use it responsibly. Our relationship with Huntington represents the kind of public-private partnership that communities need in order to grow."

Huntington also has committed to financial literacy seminars and support for both students and employees.

## College of Medicine

*continued from p. 1*

programs. He also served as the associate dean for education and research, the associate dean for academic affairs and affiliations, and then was appointed the senior vice president for academic affairs and dean of Jefferson Medical College and president of Jefferson University Physicians.

Named the first Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean of Jefferson Medical College, Nasca left the deanship in 2007 to assume the leadership of the ACGME.

Nasca has served in various leadership roles on the Council of the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine, the Nephrology Medical Knowledge Self-Assessment Program for the American College of Physicians, the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine, the Federated Council for Internal Medicine, the Residency Review Committee for Internal Medicine, and the Council on Graduate Medical Education of the Department of Health and Human Services and the United States Congress.

He has received numerous awards, including the Dema C. Daley Founders Award for Excellence in Internal Medical Education from the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine, the Rev. Clarence Shaffrey S.J. Award from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia and the Jefferson Medical College Alumni Achievement Award. He was named one of the 50 most powerful physician executives in 2009, 2010 and 2011 by Modern Healthcare. Nasca is the author of more than 100 peer-reviewed articles, chapters and other publications, and has delivered more than 300 invited lectures and presentations on topics related to medical education.

Nasca graduated from the University of Notre Dame with high honors and is an Alpha Omega Alpha graduate of Jefferson Medical College. He completed his internship, residency, and was chief medical resident at Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh, and completed his nephrology fellowship at Brown University and Rhode Island Hospital.

## Letter

**O**n the May 6 “The Relevant University: Toledo” radio program on WSPD, I spoke with UT President Lloyd Jacobs about the recommendation Dr. Jacobs plans to make to trustees to shore up the remainder of our estimated \$30 million to \$36 million shortfall for fiscal year 2014.

In an effort to minimize the impact of the shortfall on UT faculty and staff, Dr. Jacobs said he would recommend deferring the funding of some facilities and equipment upkeep during the next year or two. The result is the bittersweet reality that while there still will be some layoffs, far fewer people will be negatively impacted.

As Dr. Jacobs told me during the interview, this is a move that includes some measure of risk. The costs we are deferring still will be waiting for us in years to come. But through investments in areas like the Jesup W. Scott Honors College, the Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center, and our online offerings through the UTXnet World Campus, UT will recruit more, better-prepared students.

And with more top faculty in the classroom, increased opportunities for internships and experiential learning, and a focus on a top-tier student experience, UT’s retention will increase.

During challenging times, we invest in the things that will provide long-term benefits. We cannot starve ourselves back into financial health. If we work together and invest ourselves in achieving our collective goals, we will offset our shortfalls. But we will do so by enhancing our reputation and increasing our appeal to future Rockets.

Please take a minute to read excerpts from my interview with Dr. Jacobs at <http://utoledo.edu/wspdtranscript>. Tune in each Monday at 6 p.m. to WSPD 1370 and you’ll have the opportunity to learn more about the great things going on at UT.

Lawrence J. Burns  
Vice President for External Affairs



Photo by Anthony Tscherne

**SPECIAL GUEST:** Vuyiswa Tulelo, the South African Consul General, recently visited the University and discussed the benefits of cross-cultural engagement via study abroad and emphasized that she would like to foster strong partnerships between UT and South African institutions. The University is in the early stages of discussions with potential partnering institutions in South Africa and Botswana, according to Dr. Rubin Patterson, professor and chair of the Sociology and Anthropology Department and director of the Africana Studies Program. While on campus, Tulelo also visited with UT President Lloyd Jacobs.

## ‘The Relevant University’ to air May 28

**T**une in to “The Relevant University” Tuesday, May 28, at 7 p.m. on AM 760 WJR. This month, Lawrence J. Burns, UT vice president for external affairs, delves into the finances behind higher education and how students can get the best value for their tuition dollars.

In this month’s episode:

- Dr. Lloyd Jacobs, president of The University of Toledo, discusses how UT is finding unique ways to handle complex budget challenges.
- Detroit lawyer Mark Bernstein talks about being elected a University of Michigan Regent after a “Make College Affordable” campaign.
- Doug Lederman, editor of Inside Higher Ed, provides information about his online source for all higher education news and a national perspective on higher education funding.
- And Kelly Chesney, vice president of marketing and communication for Business Leaders for Michigan, shares the organization’s plan to grow “the new Michigan” with investment in higher education as a key component.

The University and Detroit’s WJR Radio produce the monthly, hourlong program that explores the critical role higher education plays in our world.

Listen at [utoledo.edu/therelevantuniversity](http://utoledo.edu/therelevantuniversity).

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**Relevant  
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## In memoriam

**William F. Brandel**, Toledo, a Satellites Auxiliary volunteer, died May 13 at age 89. For 20 years, he distributed communion at the hospital.

**Leona F. Restorick**, Canal Fulton, Ohio, who volunteered at MCO as a member of the Satellites Auxiliary, died April 10 at age 93.

Look for the next issue of UT News **June 10**

## Nursing students return from Nicaragua, present research

By Samantha Watson

When 15 nursing students from The University of Toledo returned from a medical mission trip to Leon, Nicaragua, in March, they brought back life-changing experiences and invaluable research.

These students set up mobile clinics — sometimes within someone's home if it was offered — and provided much-needed medicine, vaccines and screenings. Some of the students conducted research while providing health care to local patients who sometimes waited hours to receive it.

In April, these students presented their research at the seventh annual UT College of Nursing Research Conference. Their topics included Nicaraguan women's roles in health care and the impact of education on cervical cancer screenings in Leon, Nicaragua.

"I love watching the students blossom through the major impact that this trip has through them serving other people," said Denise Oancea, an instructor in the College of Nursing, who coordinated the trip.

Oancea along with Karen Hoblet, assistant professor in the College of Nursing, advised a group of students in Nicaragua as they analyzed the roles of Nicaraguan women in the health care of their families. Since the revolution in the country during the 1980s, research has been limited on the roles women now play in family life and specifically in health care.

Students who worked on this research were Britteney Stanton, Kelly Jackson, Stephanie Blanchard and Stacy Swanson. Stanton, a Toledo native in her second year of the Clinical Nurse Leader Program, said she has enjoyed two trips to Nicaragua and has experienced great things in her time there.

"Every year, you're kind of blown away by the kindness of the people," Stanton said. "They're really proud of what they have and everything that they can give."

One medical doctor in Nicaragua, who only makes about \$300 a month, took an entire week off work to help the students,

according to Rica Davis, another student who traveled with the group.

Davis, a native of McKinney, Texas, who recently graduated from the Clinical Nurse Leaders Program, worked with fellow students Davis Bothe and Lina Barakat-Boraby to produce research on the impact of education on cervical cancer screening during the trip.

These students provided educational sessions in Nicaragua on either general health or cervical cancer, and then analyzed how many women in each group sought cervical cancer screenings afterward.

Davis said she hopes the program continues to receive donations to make this type of work possible for future students.

"We are able to feed a family for one to two weeks on \$30," she said. "I encourage everyone to think about donating because something that is so little to us goes such a long way over there."

According to the group's website, \$3 can provide a course of antibiotics for a patient. Even just 20 cents treats parasites for a month.

"It's amazing and it is wonderful work," said Mabel Gutierrez, the group's translator from Nicaragua. "I hope that they can continue doing [the trip] for many more years because it is a benefit for my country and city especially."

Donations can be made by check to The University of Toledo Foundation with the note "Nicaragua College of Nursing" and mailed to:

Denise Oancea  
The University of Toledo  
Health Science Campus  
Mail Stop: 1026 Collier Building  
3000 Arlington Ave.  
Toledo Ohio 43614



Nursing students, from left, Heather Berry, Megan Raffle and Britteney Stanton visited children in an orphanage in Nicaragua.



Nursing student Lee Rosenberg helped a student with an art project during a visit to an orphanage.



Denise Oancea, UT nursing instructor, posed for a photo with a baby she treated at the clinic in Nicaragua.

## Research Day allows nursing students to learn advances in field

By Samantha Watson

In addition to the students presenting their experiences in Nicaragua, the seventh annual College of Nursing Research Day gave students the opportunity to showcase their research, learn about the work of other students, and listen to professionals talk about modern practices and studies.

"Students express appreciation for nursing research and take the day seriously,"

said Dr. Jane Ransom, chair of the Research Day Committee and founder of the event.

The keynote speaker at the April 22 event was Dr. Elaine Miller, a professor of nursing at the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing. Certified in rehabilitation and gerontological nursing, she has had nationally funded intervention

research for 25 years, primarily in the area of stroke rehabilitation.

Since 2003, Miller has been the editor of Rehabilitation Nursing, the official refereed scholarly journal of the Association of Rehabilitation Nursing. She is also a Fellow of the American Heart Association and the American Academy of Nursing.

In addition to support from the College of Nursing, Research Day was sponsored by Zeta Theta Chapter-at-Large, a nursing honor society for northwest Ohio, which is the local chapter for Sigma Theta Tau International, the international honor society of nursing.

## Professor offers healing, comfort to fellow Muslims at UTMC

By Samantha Watson

In Islam, illness is often seen as a blessing in disguise through which God cleanses,



Azad

purifies and forgives.

Visiting the sick also is an important tenet of the Islamic faith — viewed as an act of worship and mercy that brings comfort and blessings

not only to the one suffering but also to those visiting.

Dr. Abdul-Majeed Azad, University of Toledo professor of chemical engineering, has put these core beliefs of his Islamic faith into practice by bringing gifts of healing to fellow Muslim patients at UT Medical Center. He believes this helps the patients keep connected to their faith while receiving medical help from dedicated physicians and nurses.

Inspired by a program at Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center started by a colleague in August 2012, Azad contacted the Rev. Dan Deeter, the spiritual support specialist at UTMC, in hopes of creating something similar at the hospital.

Deeter was supportive of the idea and after completing hospital volunteer training, Azad started the service in January.

Each morning, Deeter gives a list of Muslim patients to Azad, and he visits them on his way home from work. To every newly

admitted patient, he brings special gifts of healing.

Gifts include a bottle of water from the Well of Zamzam in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the holiest and most revered city in Islam; a packet of Ajwa dates planted by Prophet Muhammad in the city of Medinah, Saudi Arabia, the second holiest city of Islam; and a card printed with supplications in both Arabic and English from the Quran as well as from Prophet Muhammad.

Muslims believe that both Zamzam water and the Ajwa dates have health benefits and healing attributes. The water and dates come directly from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in certified packets and each bag of these healing gifts costs about \$20.

Azad said he feels blessed visiting these patients and providing support and encouragement because it gives him the feeling of kinship and reminds him to be thankful to God for his own good health.

"When I see a patient, I feel thankful that I am healthy," Azad said. "It is a blessing of God to me that He has not afflicted me with any disease."

He says his favorite part is meeting Muslims who come from places all over the United States and Canada. He also has reached out to surrounding hospitals, such as Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center and Flower Hospital, in the hope of growing this program.

Deeter said he is excited to see the program at UTMC.

"Many times what I find is people of similar religions are kind of like family, even though they may not know each other," Deeter



Dr. Abdul-Majeed Azad's gifts for Islamic patients include a bottle of water from the Well of Zamzam in Mecca, Saudi Arabia; a packet of Ajwa dates planted by Prophet Muhammad in the city of Medinah, Saudi Arabia; and a card printed with supplications in both Arabic and English from the Quran as well as from Prophet Muhammad.

said. "For someone to come alongside them and be a caring presence is encouraging."

Azad, who has been a faculty member at the University for 10 years, soon will be leaving.

Though he will not be around to continue this visitation program, he is optimistic that someone will step in to take charge and continue it. He encourages his Muslim

colleagues to take over because he believes this volunteer service is invaluable.

To donate or volunteer, contact Azad at [abdul-majeed.azad@utoledo.edu](mailto:abdul-majeed.azad@utoledo.edu) or 419.699.9191 or Deeter at [daniel.deeter@utoledo.edu](mailto:daniel.deeter@utoledo.edu).

## Law student receives fellowship to work at firm representing unions

By Rachel Phipps

UT law student James Myers has received a 10-week fellowship from the Peggy Browning Fund that will enable him to delve deeper into his labor law studies while working at the union-side law firm of Schwarzwald, McNair & Fusco LLP in Cleveland this summer.

"The Peggy Browning Fellowship is a wonderful program, and I am honored to be chosen as a fellow. I hope this summer will be the beginning of a rewarding career in labor law," Myers said.

After receiving more than 500 applications from 139 participating law schools, the Peggy Browning Fund will

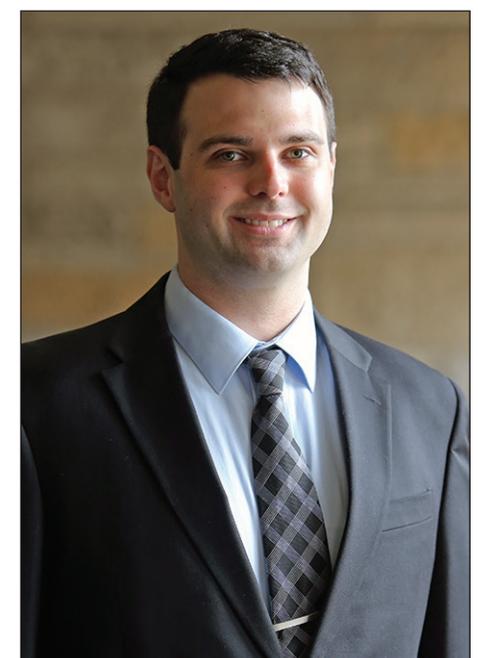
support nearly 70 public interest labor law fellowships nationwide this year.

Myers' passion for employee rights began early as the son of a union officer in the small farming community of Paulding, Ohio, and his interest increased while he was working in two unionized factories to pay for his undergraduate degree from Miami University.

While at the UT College of Law, Myers has served as an extern at the Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals and as an intern with the Toledo Bar Association's Pro Bono Legal Services Program. He intends to graduate next spring with a certificate of concentration in labor and employment law.

"James is an excellent student, and I'm very happy for him," said Joseph Slater, the Eugene N. Balk Professor of Law and Values and an expert in labor and employment law. "The Peggy Browning Fund is a terrific organization, and the students who have received fellowships in the past have had very good experiences."

The Peggy Browning Fund is a nonprofit organization established in memory of Margaret A. Browning, a prominent union-side attorney who was a member of the National Labor Relations Board from 1994 until 1997. More information is available at [peggybrowningfund.org](http://peggybrowningfund.org).



Myers

# College of Graduate Studies, Graduate Student Association recognize student scholarship

By Casey Cheap

Fourteen graduate students were honored for their outstanding research during the final Graduate Council meeting of the academic year April 30.

The College of Graduate Studies' annual endowed awards went to three outstanding students. Dr. Patricia Komuniecki, dean of the college who chaired the Graduate Council Fellowships and Scholarships Committee that selected the recipients, presented the awards to:

- Nneka Mbah, second-year doctoral student in the Department of Biochemistry and Cancer Biology, who received the Robert R. Buell Memorial Achievement Award (\$1,000) for her research on new drugs to attack cancerous brain cells.

- Hasmik Chakaryan, third-year doctoral student in the Department of School Psychology, Legal Specialties and Counselor Education, who received the Helen M. Fields Memorial Achievement Award (\$1,000) for her scholarship in the area of social justice.

- Ateka Akbar Contractor, third-year doctoral student in the Department of Psychology, who was awarded the Robert N. Whiteford Memorial Scholarship (\$400) for her research on post-traumatic stress disorder.

For the first time, the Graduate Student Association gave 10 Graduate Research Awards to 11 students (two sharing an award) to support their research projects. The awards provide financial support up

to \$2,000 per student for research costs not covered by other resources. Several of the award winners were present to be recognized at the final Graduate Council meeting.

Graduate Student Association President Joshua Waldman initiated the establishment of the Graduate Research Awards as part of the group's efforts to promote student professional development. The recipients were selected through a competitive review process by the Graduate Student Affairs Committee comprised of members of the association and faculty representatives, and chaired by Dr. Susan Pocotte, associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Graduate Studies.

"The award was open to graduate students to support their master's or doctoral

research," Pocotte said. "Graduate students from all colleges with graduate programs were invited to apply, and the 40 applicants represented diverse programs across several colleges."

"I am really grateful to the Graduate Student Association, and I am thankful for my adviser, Dr. Jason Rose [assistant professor of psychology], who helped me design my project and supported me in applying for the grant," said Erin Vogel, psychology student and Graduate Student Research Award recipient.

Announcements regarding the application process for next year's awards will begin fall semester. Information will be posted on the College of Graduate Studies website at [utoledo.edu/graduate](http://utoledo.edu/graduate).



Graduate students who received Graduate Research Awards and the College of Graduate Studies dean, Graduate Council officers and Graduate Student Association president posed for a photo last month. They are, from left, Dr. Nick Piazza, Dr. David Giovannucci, Priyodarshan Goswamee, Christine Baksovich, Erin Vogel, Michelle Roley, Chandrasekhar Garapati, Ryan Corser, Ashley Hall, Monica Rohrabraugh, Dr. Patricia Komuniecki and Joshua Waldman. Also receiving awards but not in the photo were Nick Kruse, Trent Cayot and Aditya Togi.

## Biological sciences professor

continued from p. 1

*Caenorhabditis elegans*, more commonly referred to as *C. elegans*, was one of the first multicellular organisms to have its genome completely sequenced and has been used as a model in the past to identify key processes in mammals. Komuniecki and his team will use these "chimeric" nematodes, expressing key drug targets from the parasites in the free-living *C. elegans*, in high-throughput screens

designed to identify compounds that selectively inhibit movement or feeding.

The research could lead to new methods for screening and the identification of new drugs and drug targets; however, Komuniecki is more interested in understanding the basic biology of the nematodes.

"The more that we know about how movement and feeding are controlled in

these animals, the better able we will be to identify new drug targets," Komuniecki said.

His research in this area continuously has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 1981, and in addition to the Grand Challenges Explorations grant, Komuniecki just received \$356,000 from a High Priority, Short-Term Project R56 Award from the NIH to continue his basic

research on the role of the nervous system in controlling locomotion and feeding in nematodes.

For this research, Komuniecki collaborates with Dr. Patricia Komuniecki, dean of the College of Graduate Studies and vice provost for graduate affairs, and Dr. Bruce Bamber, associate professor of biological sciences.

## UT partners with university in China to improve the study of medicine

By Haraz N. Ghanbari

**F**ar from their homes in China, visiting scholars are practicing their English while learning new teaching methods they hope to incorporate into their own classrooms.

The five scholars whose disciplines involve pharmacology, microbiology and immunology, biochemistry, pathology and physiology are paired with mentors from UT's College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences as well as the College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

UT's relationship with North Sichuan Medical College began in 2002, and Dr. Johnnie L. Early II, dean of the UT College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, notes the two institutions are revisiting their memorandums of understanding with a new agreement he expects to be signed in June.

The North Sichuan Medical College is a government-run college of medicine in Sichuan Province. Established in 1951, North Sichuan has nearly 15,000 students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs.

"I have been on their campus at least twice and have seen their facilities both for student living and for learning," Early said. "Their teaching labs on campus are quite

comparable to ours, and they've added a pharmacy school, so we are a really good match."

The underlying emphasis for the partnership is faculty exchange programs providing avenues for research collaboration and the sharing of knowledge across borders.

There are 12 undergraduate and graduate specialties at North Sichuan: clinical medicine, imaging medicine, laboratory medicine, stomatology, anesthesiology, nursing, integrated medicine of traditional Chinese medicine and Western medicine, forensics, ophthalmology, biomedical engineering, health service management, and medical English.

"I find there are many differences between our colleges," said Dr. Lin Mo, a lecturer of pathology at North Sichuan. "For example, a pathology teacher at UT talks more about how the disease happens and the relationship between the disease and the clinical symptoms. Teachers give more cases to discuss ... this is a good because the students can understand the disease very well."

Mo said in a similar class taught at North Sichuan, professors lecture more about the structural and functional changes in cells, tissues and organs while not providing an opportunity for students to ask questions.

"In China, it is just teachers talking and students listening," Mo said. "I want the students to think more about it instead of just listening to the lecture."

North Sichuan has more than 10 teaching departments, including preclinical and clinical medicine, seven research departments, a rheumatism research center, three preclinical experimental centers, one clinical medicine skill center, two clinical medicine skill centers, two clinical hospitals, nine affiliated hospitals, two clinical medicine schools and 39 teaching hospitals.

While traditional Chinese medical practices are rooted in almost 5,000 years of history providing for a more holistic approach compared to the typical Western medicine of capsules, tablets and liquids that target specific symptoms, the visiting scholars note the commonalities.

"Chinese traditional medicine has many, many ingredients, but the chemistry is the same as Western medicine," said Dr. Yongyan Song, a lecturer of biochemistry at North Sichuan. "The role of the pharmacy is to put it all together."

The years of teaching experience for the visiting scholars range from three to eight years, and all are eager to take what they've learned at UT and put it to practice with the international students enrolled at North Sichuan Medical College.

"We have spent all of our time in China," said Dr. Jinxia Chang, a lecturer of microbiology and immunology, who noted the main foreign language studied in China is English. "It has been good to observe the teaching methods and improve our English so we can go back and give our medical students bilingual teaching."

According to Early, the exchange program will continue this summer when for the first time, two doctor of pharmacy students will visit China for about four weeks to practice pharmacy within the North Sichuan Medical College campus facilities.

## UT Dept. of Psychology, ProMedica work together to combat hearing disorder

By Casey Cheap

**M**illions of people suffer from tinnitus, a condition characterized by a constant ringing sound in the ears that becomes more common as one grows older.

As of now, there is no permanent cure for tinnitus; however, new studies conducted by researchers at The University of Toledo and ProMedica could lead to new treatments.

Ringing in the ears tends to occur around middle age and is most likely caused by prolonged exposure to loud noise or the overuse of drugs such as aspirin.

Because tinnitus has been linked to both loud noises and high doses of aspirin, part of the research will focus on whether various drugs such as aspirin will make already degraded hearing worse.

Apart from aspirin, some cancer treatment medicines, antibiotics and antidepressants also have been linked to tinnitus.

"The current project is to test the effects of drugs on tinnitus in animals," said Dr. Henry Heffner, UT professor of psychology. "The goal is to identify drugs that can then be used to treat tinnitus in humans. Our past work was on developing a test for tinnitus in animals. This will be the first time we have used the procedure to test drugs."

The research is funded by a \$25,000 grant from the Jacobson Center for Clinical and Translational Research and was issued to Heffner and Dr. Aaron Benson of ProMedica's Toledo Ear, Nose and Throat Audiology.

"If everything goes as planned with the pilot program, an application for a larger grant will be submitted to the National Institutes of Health after one year," Heffner said.

## UTNEWS

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Photo by Daniel Miller

**SHARING WISDOM:** More than 100 high school sophomores visited UT this month for the fourth annual Women in STEM Day of Meetings, WISDOM. The girls learned about and performed experiments in a number of areas: physics and astronomy, chemistry, biology, engineering, pharmacy, and medicine. The event was hosted by the Northwest Ohio Chapter of the Association for Women in Science, which organizes the exploration day to encourage young women to consider careers in one of the areas offered at the Women in STEM Day.

## Program offers local, fresh produce to UT community

By Khyara Harris

The University of Toledo Urban Affairs Center continues its Community Supported Agriculture Program this summer with Riehm Farms.

What began as a pilot program four years ago has expanded into a local food source for faculty, staff and students to buy fresh produce directly from farmers in Ohio.

“People don’t think about the most important thing, ‘Who grows your food?’” said Dr. Debra Boardley, professor of health education and public health, who is a customer of the program. “Riehm Farms offers this information, and you can even go out and visit the farm and watch them grow your veggies if you wanted to. So why buy broccoli from Florida when you can get it from Ohio?”

Riehm Farms, located in Tiffin, is offering 350 vegetable shares, 90 eggs shares and 50 beef shares. All shares range from one to two canvas

grocery bags received weekly, depending on preference and availability.

The season will run for 20 weeks beginning Tuesday, June 4, until the middle of October.

“We are entering our fourth year partnership with the University and it’s been pretty good. But I would love to see it grow,” said Diane Riehm, co-owner of Riehm Farms.

The Community Supported Agriculture Program also offers complimentary delivery services to the campus every Tuesday from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. at the Research Technology Complex, 2600 Dorr St.

The UT community can sign up for a membership at <http://funacres.net> until Tuesday, June 4.

All memberships are on a first-come, first-served basis. The fruit shares are sold out.



## UT art project wins national award for local billboard displays

By Brian Purdue

Several University of Toledo art students recently were recognized on a national scale for bringing their art to the city.

The project, “Stories From Toledo,” developed by art students from the Time, Motion, Space class and others representing the Department of Art, was selected as the winner of the 2012 Achievement in Digital Art & Design Award by the International Digital Media and Arts Association.

UT art students had their work displayed on 20 digital billboards throughout Toledo from October through December last year thanks to a collaborative effort with Lamar Outdoor Advertising.

“It’s very exciting to have student work seen locally and recognized nationally,” said Barry Whittaker, assistant professor of art and coordinator of new media design practices, who directed the students

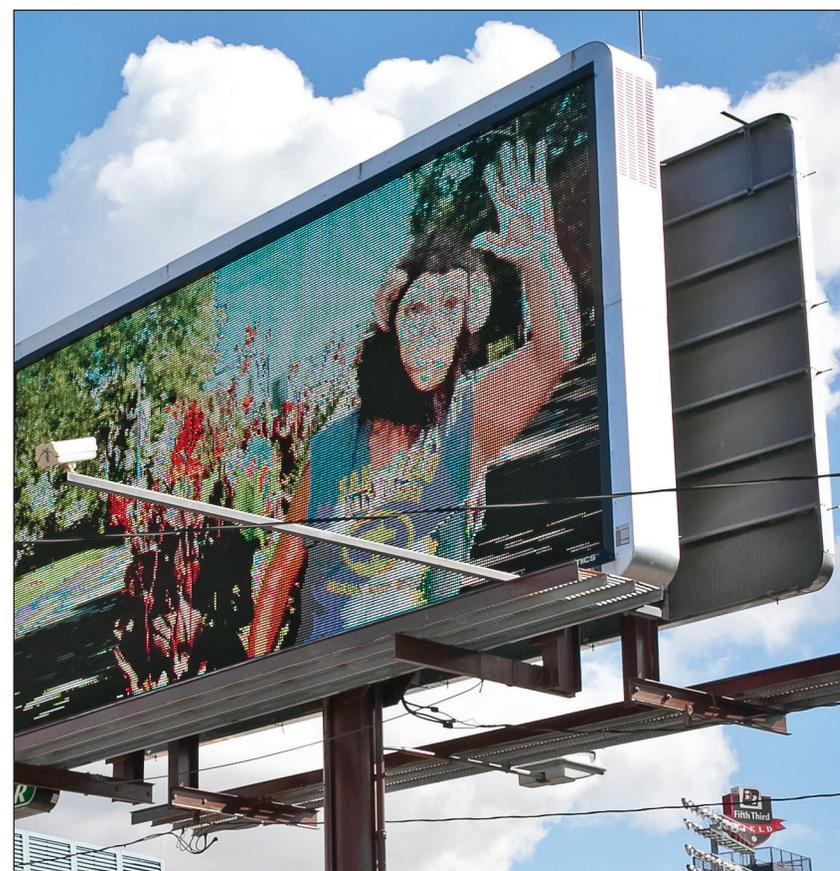
on the project. “It was a unique opportunity to get the art out of the classroom and into the city.”

For the project, students were told to create fictional film stills that represented a larger story that was connected to the Toledo community.

“This posed an interesting challenge for a time-based media class. They had to create a still image that would suggest something before and after,” Whittaker said.

The student artists who participated in the project were Clinton Bales, Alyssa Brown, Kasia Gacek, Yang Gao, Morgan Hayward, Philip Herman, Thomas Johnson, Marko Milliken, Halah Mohamed, Jessica Ostrander, Jeremy Pellington, Noah Roszczipka, Austin Tuttle, April VanSlambrouck, Jon Wittes and Mark Yappueying.

To view the pieces used in the project, visit <http://utole.do/billboard>.



**ART REACH:** This work by April VanSlambrouck — as well as art by other UT students — was featured on digital billboards in Toledo last fall.