

## Advanced learning



Medical student Mark Abraham practiced laparoscopic surgery with a few pointers from Cristina Alvarado, clinical simulation and educational research associate, during an open house last week in the Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center on Health Science Campus. The new three-story, 65,000-square-foot facility features the Virtual Immersive Reality Center, the Advanced Clinical Simulation Center, and the Progressive Anatomy and Surgical Skills Center.

Photo by Daniel Miller

## Champions of innovation, education to address graduates May 3

By Aimee Portala

Advocates for innovation and education will speak at The University of Toledo at the spring commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 3, in Savage Arena.

During the 9:30 a.m. ceremony, Deborah L. Wince-Smith, president and CEO of the United States Council on Competitiveness, will speak to the graduates from the colleges of Health Sciences, Adult and Lifelong Learning, Social Justice and Human Service, and the Judith Herb College of Education.

G. Rangaswamy, chair of the Chandra Group in India and managing

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## Couple has a lot to celebrate at commencement

By Vicki L. Kroll

**G**iraffes Can't Dance is the favorite book of Richard "Richie" Montgomery III, who is 2.

"It's about a little giraffe who goes to the jungle dance with the other animals. They tell him giraffes can't dance, so he goes off and finds his own rhythm," Charisse Montgomery, Richie's mom, said.

Charisse and Richard Montgomery II have been working on their routine since Richie arrived Aug. 12, 2011.

"When he was born, it was immediately noticeable that there was something going on. His muscle tone was very floppy, and he had a weak cry," Charisse recalled. "The doctors scooped him up, swept him away, and intubated him almost immediately."

Richie, who weighed 6 pounds and 6 ounces and measured 19 inches, spent 31 days in the neonatal intensive care unit.

Lots of tests followed.

"My sister also was born with similar muscle weakness, so that was our point of reference. She was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy at a young age, although we

later learned that she had a myopathy, which is similar but sometimes harder to identify," Charisse said.

Richie's diagnosis: congenital fiber-type disproportion myopathy.

"The simple explanation is that he has a disproportion between the types of muscle fibers that fire and give you strength versus the kind that stay more relaxed. The disease results in severe weakness of all the muscles in the body," Charisse explained.

At the time, Charisse and Richard, who both work in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, were pursuing degrees in the Judith Herb College of Education.

They embraced more learning for their son.

"We had to become experts on every aspect of his care. Having a child with a tracheostomy tube and a ventilator is a whole educational process by itself. We had to learn every aspect of care for him and all his medical devices and equipment



Photo by Rick Guidotti

Meet the Montgomerys: Charisse, Richie and Richard.

in order to bring him home," Charisse, scientific editor and college communicator, said.

"Our education has not just occurred in the classroom. Our educational backgrounds allow us to approach Richie's health issues as an academic project of sorts," she added.

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## Champions

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trustee of the GRG Trust, will address graduates during the 2 p.m. ceremony for the colleges of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Business and Innovation, Communication and the Arts, and Languages, Literature and Social Sciences.



Wince-Smith

“We are honored to welcome two leaders in education and innovation, industries important to our ever-changing world,” said UT President Lloyd Jacobs. “These individuals will

provide invaluable guidance to help prepare our graduates for the road ahead.”

There are 2,711 candidates for degrees; these include 124 doctoral candidates, 554 master’s candidates and 1,941 bachelor’s candidates. The remaining 92 candidates are for education specialist, certificates or associate’s degrees.

Each ceremony will be broadcast live on video.utoledo.edu.

Wince-Smith will receive an honorary doctor of public administration.

She has been credited with recharging the national debate on competitiveness, innovation and resilience. She has been called upon frequently to testify in front of the U.S. Congress and appears regularly on global television news networks, including Bloomberg, BBC, CNBC, CNN and Fox News.

Since 2009, Wince-Smith has served as president of the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils, the first international, public-private mechanism to promote global economic growth through collaboration in innovation.

During her 17-year tenure in the federal government, Wince-Smith held leading positions in the areas of science, technology policy and international economic affairs. She served as the nation’s first Senate-confirmed assistant secretary of commerce for technology policy in the administration of George H.W. Bush. During the Reagan administration, Wince-Smith was appointed the first assistant director of international affairs and competitiveness in the White House Office of Science and Technology.

In 2004, she spearheaded the groundbreaking National Innovation Initiative, which played a pivotal role in creating a reinvigorated U.S. competitiveness movement. The initiative shaped the bipartisan America Competes Act, created state and regional innovation initiatives, and brought a global focus to innovation.

Rangaswamy oversees more than 35 organizations facilitating education, training and employment to empower the work force of tomorrow. His efforts have opened the doors to educational opportunities in the fields of medicine, arts and sciences, industry, and technology.



Rangaswamy

As managing trustee of the GRG Trust, Rangaswamy has significantly contributed to the emancipation of women through higher education and training. He manages five educational facilities exclusively for girls and young women in Coimbatore, India. His efforts to expand educational opportunities have directly impacted more

than 30,000 students, from kindergarteners to those pursuing doctoral degrees.

Rangaswamy is a founding trustee of PSG and Sons Charities, which provides quality education funded by philanthropic contributions. PSG manages six colleges, including a medical school and hospital. Rangaswamy spearheaded the modernization of the hospital by collaborating with medical equipment manufacturers, securing funding for clinical trials, and establishing policies to provide quality, affordable medical care

Rangaswamy pioneered the first foreign partnership for PSG in collaboration with The University of Toledo College of Business and Innovation. Under this joint degree program, students from Coimbatore travel each year to complete their MBA degrees on UT’s Main Campus.

In addition to his passion for education, Rangaswamy is an ardent environmental protection activist. He is the founder and secretary of the Coimbatore Zoological Park and Conservation Centre, focusing on ecological restoration, conservation, education and research.

### Other commencement ceremonies that will take place are:

- **College of Engineering** — graduate commencement Thursday, May 1, at 5 p.m. and undergraduate commencement Saturday, May 3, at 3 p.m. Both ceremonies will be held in Nitschke Hall Auditorium.
- **College of Nursing** — Friday, May 2, at 1 p.m. in Savage Arena.
- **College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences** — Sunday, May 4, at 2 p.m. in Savage Arena.
- **College of Law** — Sunday, May 11, at 1 p.m. in the Student Union Auditorium.
- **College of Medicine and Life Sciences** — Friday, May 30, at 2 p.m. in the Stranahan Theater, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd.

## Pharmacy commencement set for May 4

By Charisse Montgomery

The College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences will hold its spring commencement Sunday, May 4, at 2 p.m. in Savage Arena.

The college will award 102 doctor of pharmacy degrees, two PhD in medicinal

chemistry, 17 master’s degrees and 141 baccalaureate degrees.

Among the 141 baccalaureate degree recipients, a majority will graduate with honors. Twenty-one will graduate summa cum laude, 31 will graduate magna cum laude, and 43 will graduate cum laude.

Two valedictorians will speak during the ceremony. Ellen Dzierzak, a pharmacology/toxicology major is the valedictorian for the bachelor of science in pharmaceutical sciences class, and Kyle Rako is valedictorian for the doctor of pharmacy class.

The college will recognize Ferdinand Bedi, the first to earn the PharmD/PhD dual degree, along with the first three cosmetic science graduates. UT has the only undergraduate cosmetic science program in the country.

## Judith Herb College of Education recognized for exemplary program

By Kevin Bucher

The University of Toledo Judith Herb College of Education was honored with the 2014 Outstanding Field Experience Program designation from the Ohio Association of Teacher Educators.

UT received the honor for its one-year Licensure and Master's Program.

The Licensure and Master's Program is a graduate-level pre-service program designed to meet the needs of adults who already have degrees. It is a comprehensive graduate program where students earn a master's degree in education and become licensed to teach in middle or secondary grades in the state of Ohio.

Students in the program have the opportunity to see the beginning of the school year and follow along with the teacher and classroom to the end of the academic year.

"It is a unique opportunity in that traditional pre-service programs include only one semester of student teaching. In our Licensure and Master's Program, course work is integrated with the field throughout the program," said Dr. Rebecca Schneider, UT professor of curriculum and instruction.

This award is for exemplary field experience programs that significantly contribute to the professional development of pre-service teachers.

"At both the state and national levels, field-based programs are considered to be the direction that teacher participation programs should be headed, and we are ahead of the curve," said Dr. Virginia Keil, executive associate dean of the Judith Herb College of Education. "This program has been in place for four years, so we are truly leading the way."

## UT Orthopaedic Center upcoming public forums

April 29 "Diabetic Foot Conditions" by Dr. Satheesh Ramineni

May 6 "Spine Fusion and Failed Back Surgery" by Dr. Hossein Elgafy

May 13 "Neck Pain" by Dr. Mustafa Khan

May 20 "Wrist Pain" by Dr. Martin Skie

May 27 "Ankle Pain" by Dr. Satheesh Ramineni

June 3 "Nerve Problems With Arm and Wrist" by Dr. Margaret Jain

June 10 "Hip Arthroscopy for Hip Pain" by Dr. David Sohn

The free talks will begin at 6 p.m. in the Orthopaedic Center on UT's Health Science Campus.

## In memoriam

**Anna Josephine (Polesovsky) Stevens**, Monclova, Ohio, died April 22 at age 91. She was a secretary in the Department of Anesthesiology at MCO from 1970 to 1980.

## Emergency Medicine Wall of Honor to pay tribute to fallen firefighters

By Aimee Portala

The Emergency Medicine Wall of Honor at The University of Toledo Health Science Campus will add plaques as a tribute to fallen firefighters Pvt. James A. "Jamie" Dickman and Pvt. Stephen A. Machcinski in a private ceremony Wednesday, April 30.

Machcinski, 42, had been with the Toledo Fire and Rescue Department since 1998, for 16 years of service. Dickman, 31, was appointed to the department in September, for six months of service. He previously served with the Sandusky Perkins Fire Department.

Machcinski and Dickman died from injuries incurred while battling a structure fire Jan. 26. Both men were assigned to Engine 3.

They were the 48th and 49th firefighters to die in the line of duty in the 177-year history of the Toledo Fire and Rescue Department, and the first fatalities from an active blaze since 1981.

A plaque for each firefighter will be added to the wall, which is located in the Emergency Department of UT Medical Center near the ambulance entrance.

"In addition to the plaques on the wall of honor, there will be plaques displayed

where our paramedic students are taught," said Dr. Paul Rega, assistant professor in the Department of Public Health and Preventative Medicine and the Department of Emergency Medicine. "It's a reminder of why they need to learn what they need to learn, who was there before them, and whose shoulders they are standing on."

UT President Lloyd Jacobs, Toledo Mayor D. Michael Collins, Toledo Fire Chief Louis Santiago and Joe Zerbey, president and general manager for The Blade, and chair of the UT Board of Trustees, will be in attendance.

The Emergency Medicine Wall of Honor, made possible through funding from The Blade, was established in 2011 to recognize individual achievement and self-sacrifice in the emergency medical service and emergency medicine communities. Nominations are submitted by community stakeholders and then reviewed by a multidisciplinary selection committee.

"It's a great way to commemorate doctors, nurses and medics," Rega said. "These excellent educators and practitioners deserve recognition."

For more information, contact Rega at paul.rega@utoledo.edu.

# UTNEWS

UT News is published for faculty, staff and students by the University Communications Office weekly during the academic year and periodically during the summer. Copies are mailed to employees and placed in newsstands on the Main, Health Science, Scott Park and Toledo Museum of Art campuses. UT News strives to present accurate, fair and timely communication of interest to employees. Story ideas and comments from the UT community are welcome. Send information by campus mail to #949, University Communications Office, Vicki Kroll. Email: vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu. Fax: 419.530.4618. Phone: 419.530.2248. Mailing address: University Communications Office, The University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606-3390.

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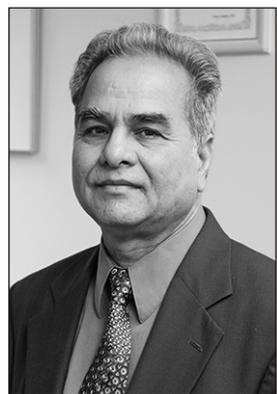
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## Professor to give prestigious lecture at national conference

By Samantha Watson

If you ask Dr. Vijay Goel why he received the prestigious Borelli Award, he'll say it's because they look at whether or not you have gray hair, but colleagues say it's because of his tireless efforts in the bioengineering field.

Goel, UT Distinguished University Professor and the McMaster-Gardner Endowed Chair in Orthopedic Bioengineering, is the recipient of this



Goel

year's Borelli Award, the most prestigious honor given by the American Society of Biomechanics. It is awarded to those who mimic the qualities of Giovanni

Alfonso Borelli, a Renaissance Italian physiologist, physicist and mathematician.

Since Goel came to UT in 2000, he has been part of several high-impact bioengineering research and education initiatives at the University.

In 2006, he played a key role with the creation of the Engineering Center for Orthopedic Research Excellence, a collaboration between the colleges of Engineering and Medicine. Goel and his colleagues also have secured more than \$10 million in sponsored awards for research at UT through the state of Ohio, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and other sources. In addition, he was among the contributors in establishing a doctoral program in biomedical engineering, which involved collaboration between the College of Engineering and the College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

"I have received such great support from this institution," Goel said. "From the

dean, the president, my colleagues — they have really encouraged me to work the way I want to."

He has an internationally recognized 34-year academic career in bioengineering work on spinal diseases and mechanics. He was a pioneer of three-dimensional finite element modeling of orthopedic implant-constructs and in predicting their load-displacement behavior.

For his work, he has received lifelong achievement awards from the American Society of Mechanical Engineering — Bioengineering Division, the North American Spine Society and the International Society of the Study of Lumbar Spine.

"I am glad that it's not just one society that thinks I'm making contributions; four different societies feel the same way," Goel said. "That makes me feel good — humble, also, at the same time, because my joy is to work with the students and staff."

As this year's recipient, Goel will present the Borelli Award Lecture at the annual meeting of the American Society of Biomechanics, which will co-host its meeting as part of the World Congress on Biomechanics that will take place July 6-11 in Boston.

His lecture is titled "Design, Development and Evaluation of Innovative Fusion Augmenting Spinal Hardware."

"Dr. Goel is truly a role model with his tireless efforts and outstanding contributions in research and technology transfer and is most deserving of the Borelli Award," said Dr. Nagi Naganathan, dean of the UT College of Engineering. "This award represents laurels not just for Dr. Goel, but also for our college and our university. We are honored to have Dr. Goel as a member of our distinguished faculty."

## Doctoral student selected leadership fellow of counseling honor society

Robin DuFresne, a second-year doctoral student in counselor education and supervision at The University of Toledo, is one of 10 Chi Sigma Iota members selected to participate in the international academic and professional honor society's 2014-15 Leadership Fellow and Intern Program.

The 10 leadership fellows receive recognition, specialized leadership training, and financial support to attend Chi Sigma Iota activities held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Counseling Association.

Those selected exemplify leadership potential within their chapters.

DuFresne is president of the Alpha Omega Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota at UT.

"We are thrilled that Robin received this opportunity. She served as our Alpha Omega chapter president in the 2013-14 academic year and acquitted herself admirably," said Dr. John Laux, professor and chair of the UT School of Psychology, Higher Education and Counselor Education, who is Alpha Omega Chapter adviser.

"Robin is now the third consecutive Alpha Omega past-president to serve as a Chi Sigma Iota leadership fellow. This track record of success is a testament to Robin's and the chapter's leadership development," he added.

"I am very excited to serve as a Chi Sigma Iota fellow," DuFresne said. "It is an honor to be chosen as one of 10 fellows in the United States. I am particularly excited to be able to continue as the third fellow to be chosen from The University of Toledo Alpha Omega Chapter."

DuFresne, an Ohio-licensed professional counselor and a nationally certified counselor, provides counseling services at Zepf Center in Toledo. She has 14 years of experience working with individuals diagnosed with developmental disabilities in residential settings.

"This opportunity will allow me to serve the counseling profession at the state and national level, as well as the local level," DuFresne said. "I am grateful to be

able to give back to this profession through service and leadership."

Leadership fellows must be members of Chi Sigma Iota and have the support of their chapter, including endorsement by the chapter faculty adviser, and a commitment for a matching fund award from their chapter.

The UT Alpha Omega Chapter was chartered in 1986. Alpha Omega has initiated almost 350 members to date and remains an active chapter in Chi Sigma Iota.

Chi Sigma Iota initiated almost 100,000 counselors and counselors-in-training since its establishment in 1985. More than 15,000 members remain active in more than 350 university-based chapters.

The mission of the nonprofit association is to promote scholarship, research, professionalism, leadership, advocacy and excellence in counseling, and to recognize high attainment in the pursuit of academic and clinical excellence in the profession of counseling.

## Students to present climate action and cost reduction plan

By Kevin Bucher

In conjunction with the UT sustainability, energy, efficiency and design initiative, the sustainability engineering class offered by the Civil Engineering Department will present a climate action and cost reduction plan for the University Tuesday, April 29, at 4 p.m.

The students' presentation will take place in Nitschke Hall Room 1027.

The University of Toledo annually spends \$21 million for its campus operations, including the purchasing of natural gas, diesel, electricity, paper, fertilizer and management of its wastewater and solid waste, according to students in the class.

Approximately 173,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases are directly or indirectly emitted from these operations.

The climate action and cost reduction plan is designed to reduce UT's emissions by 40 percent by 2040 and decrease the University's annual operating expense by \$1 million.

Light refreshments will follow the presentation.

To RSVP for the free, public event, contact julie.perry@utoledo.edu.

## Outstanding staff members celebrated

By Vicki L. Kroll

Four employees received the University's 2014 Outstanding Staff Awards last week.

More than 30 nominees were honored at the UT Annual Awards Ceremony.

In a change of format, winners were not selected from each union and employee association at the University.

"We changed the format this year to recognize staff for career accomplishments, leadership and services to the University community, and for making a positive and professional impact with students or patients regardless of what employee group or union their position may belong," Meghan Rayfield, consultant in Human Resources and Talent Development, said.

Winners this year were:

- **Paul Casmus**, lead records technician II in the Radiology Department. He has worked at the University for 19 years. "Several staff members regularly seek his advice throughout the day. He always offers a willing and clear explanation for the questions he is asked and, if necessary, he knows how to use his many resources to find the right answer," one nominator wrote. "Paul works under stressful conditions, scheduling complicated tests and procedures for all hospital departments. He continuously keeps his cool and

accomplishes the tasks in a timely manner, also due to the fact that he is extremely organized." Another wrote, "Paul is known for his quick wit and that is sometimes just what an apprehensive patient needs when he or she arrives for an appointment. He has an uncanny way of paving the way to make the patient's visit more tolerable, even in serious and challenging situations. He is truly compassionate and empathetic."

- **Deirdre Jones**, associate director of the Edward H. Schmidt School of Professional Sales, and associate director of Innovative Outreach Technologies, both in the College of Business and Innovation. She has worked at UT since 2004. "She is incredibly student-centered and career-centered. She works closely with our students and prepares them using mock interviews and other methods so that they are ready for any question that comes up when they are interviewed for a permanent job or internship. As a result of her hard work and the faculty's teaching, our placement rate for sales majors is 100 percent," one nominator wrote. Another noted, "Her efforts have led to an increase in revenues through corporate partnerships, recruiting

and network events, and outreach and engagement at business forums, job fairs, conferences and student sales competitions. Deirdre is constantly selling UT, the College of Business and Innovation, and the sales program. She is very detailed and polished in her oral and written presentation to stakeholders."

- **Beverly Mayo**, library associate, LaValley Law Library in the College of Law. She began her career at the University in 1982 in Carlson Library and moved to the LaValley Law Library in 2007. "As a leader, Ms. Mayo's influence can't be denied. She is the circulation supervisor and sets the tone for 10 to 15 student employees she works with. Additionally, she is a member of the Black Faculty and Staff Association," one nominator wrote. "She preaches tolerances. Not through words does she preach, however, rather through action and redirection. She reminds us that we are all the same and all equal by her treatment toward and respect for each of us. To the extent anyone is frustrated or displeased with another, she will redirect our thoughts to ones of compassion and empathy." Another wrote, "Ms. Mayo wouldn't advertise great

things she has done. She is the type of individual who does what is needed and asks for no recognition or credit."

- **Ginny York**, mental health administrator 2 in the Kobacker Center. She joined MCO in 1994. "Ginny exemplifies what we would like all of our staff members at UTMC to personify. She continually strives to do the right thing and will agonize over issues to make sure all parties get what is needed," one nominator wrote. "Part of Ginny's role is that of client rights officer for the Department of Psychiatry. She takes this job very seriously and acts as an advocate for the patients and their families, ensuring that patients and their families understand their rights and responsibilities and that they are always receiving the best possible care." Another wrote, "Ginny returned to school to begin her master's degree in counseling and will graduate in May from UT. This is a major accomplishment considering she worked full time, has a husband and three young boys, and completed her internship all while still providing the same high level of work we've come to expect from her."



Photo by Daniel Miller

Taking home Outstanding Staff Awards were, from left, Paul Casmus, Deirdre Jones, Beverly Mayo and Ginny York.

# University recognizes faculty, staff for advising, research, teaching, outreach work

By Vicki L. Kroll

UT outstanding advisers, researchers and teachers, and recipients of the Edith Rathbun Award for Outreach and Engagement, were recognized last week.

## Recipients of the Outstanding Adviser Award are:

**Adrienne Aguilar**, program manager of computer science and engineering in the UT College of Engineering at Lorain County Community College in Elyria, Ohio. She has worked at the University since 2001.

“She motivates us when we stumble and congratulates us when we shine. She believes in us even when we seem to lose faith in ourselves. She gives us educational advice on study habits, testing tips, and other aspects of student life,” one nominator wrote. Another noted, “Adrienne was always a second mom to me. She not only was there for me when school was tough, she listened and provided support when I needed it the most. Even years after graduation, I make a point to stop and visit her often.”

**Dr. Lynn Bachelor**, associate professor of political science and public administration, and director of the Master of Public Administration Program, in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences. She joined the UT faculty in 1988.

“Lynn is the consummate, caring adviser. Her patience is legendary,” one nominator wrote. “Her attention to detail



Dr. Lynn Bachelor, left, and Adrienne Aguilar won Outstanding Adviser Awards.

enables her to assist students navigating the sometimes confusing — and often frustrating — bureaucracy and procedures of many different University offices. With her assistance, students are able to find their way through the mazes and resolve their issues.” Another wrote, “She has amazing community contacts allowing the most diverse pool of internship opportunities. Dr. Bachelor is able take an educator’s passion mixed with a practitioner’s knowledge and apply those aspects to all students coming to her for advising.”

## Recipients of the Outstanding Researcher Award are:

**Dr. Abdollah Afjeh**, professor and chair of the Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering in the College of Engineering. He joined the UT faculty in 1984.



Outstanding Researcher Awards went to Dr. Tim Fisher, left, and Dr. Abdollah Afjeh.

His research focuses on the general area of dynamics and fluid dynamics of mechanical systems, particularly rotating systems.

“He has developed mathematical methods to improve the accuracy and stability of computational methods to study advanced propulsion systems and wind turbines. He has made significant contributions to the advancement of high-speed rotating equipment by developing experimental facilities and methods to design high-performance compressors and develop novel bearing designs to reduce the vibration, noise and weight of these systems,” one nominator noted. “He also has developed unconventional experimental facilities and approaches to understand and model flow physics in laryngeal processes, which includes development of computational modeling and a mechanical model of the vibration of vocal folds.”

Afjeh has been the principal investigator of 37 research grants and has received more than \$18 million in sponsored research. These grants have allowed him to establish computational and experimental research facilities at UT.

**Dr. Tim Fisher**, professor and chair of environmental sciences in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. He joined the University in 2003.

He studies landscape evolution during the Quaternary Period, the last 2.6 million years of Earth’s history with a focus on geologic events that occurred during the last glaciation up to modern time.

Fisher’s fieldwork activities are conducted in southern Canada, the Midwest and the Great Lakes region.

“His major scientific contributions include the paleogeography of glacial Lake Agassiz that was present in central North America at the close of the last ice age for 6,000 years until it drained into Hudson Bay as the Laurentide Ice Sheet dam melted,” one nominator wrote. “His publications describe both how water levels in Lake Michigan and the western Lake Erie basin evolved over the past 17,000 years and the activity of sand dunes along the Michigan coastline and across the Oak Openings Region that lie to the west of Toledo.”

## Recipients of the Edith Rathbun Award for Outreach and Engagement are:

**Dr. Sonny Ariss**, professor and chair of management in the College of Business and Innovation. He joined the UT faculty in 1985.

“For the past 28 years, Dr. Ariss has created a body of service and academic engagement in the region that is second to no one on campus. He is a highly engaged business leader who is a fellow in the Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology Commercialization and has held several leadership positions, including director of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Institute designed to facilitate the growth and development of smaller enterprises in our region and responsible for the initiative and revival of 40 businesses.” Another noted, “Dr. Ariss showed me the importance of service, being a leader, being entrepreneurial in life, and making a difference in my community. His talent for linking people, projects and plans together is remarkable.”

**Dr. Todd Crail**, lecturer in environmental sciences in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. He became a lecturer in 2012 and was a teaching assistant/research assistant at the Lake Erie Research Center and UT since 2005.



Dr. Todd Crail, left, and Dr. Sonny Ariss received the Edith Rathbun Award for Outreach and Engagement.

“The name ‘Todd Crail’ represents a driving force and important professional resource to local natural resource managers,” one nominator wrote. “He engages with the community to enhance his teaching and his students. His accomplishments include establishing the local chapter of Wild Ones, implementing an extensive invasive plant control at Irwin Prairie State Nature Reserve, restoring a Southview High School oak savanna, and developing nature guidebooks to inform the public of the biodiversity in their communities.” Another wrote, “He is knowledgeable, passionate and enthusiastic to mentor and teach students about conservation in this region and beyond.”

### Recipients of the Outstanding Teacher Award are:

**Dr. Page Armstrong**, lecturer in the Jesup W. Scott Honors College. She has been teaching at the University since 2001.

“She is an absolutely amazing teacher that goes out of her way to ensure her students’ success,” one nominator wrote. “Inside the classroom is where the magic happened. She guided a student-based discussion that led the class into interesting directions. She made sure that we were not only understanding just the material, but the true underlying meaning behind that material and how it can be applied to everyday life.” Another wrote, “Even though I have only taken Honors Readings Conference classes with her, I will always consider her one of my favorite professors, while also considering her a professor that has had a large influence in my life.”

**Dr. Carol Bennett-Clarke**, professor of neurosciences and associate dean for preclinical undergraduate medical education in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences. She joined the faculty in 1991.

“‘CBC,’ as we students like to call her, is an outstanding role model. Her enthusiasm for teaching always shines through, whether she’s in the gross anatomy lab helping with my dissection or explaining the specifics of the autonomic nervous system to a classroom full of students eager to hear her explanation. She is one of the most patient and supportive professors I’ve had the privilege to learn from, and her dedication to my education never goes unnoticed,” one nominator wrote. Another noted, “I could always tell she enjoys teaching by the way she presents her materials to the class. I have always admired her for her professional yet compassionate style of teaching.”

**Dr. David Guip**, professor of art in the College of Communication and the Arts. He began teaching at UT in 1972.

“After years of being an undecided student, I chose to declare art education as a major,” one nominator wrote. “Dr. Guip has been such an incredible and profound person in my life, guiding me professionally throughout the course of the last three years, acknowledging my hardships, and recognizing my academic abilities and achievement. It is he who believed in my abilities and his respect that helped me receive three scholarships totaling \$11,500. I will forever be grateful for Dr. Guip and his profound place and leadership within my life, enabling me to fulfill my long-held dream of obtaining my bachelor’s degree in art education. Thank you most graciously, Dr. Guip, for your leadership and belief in me.”

**Dr. John Laux**, professor and chair of the School of Psychology, Higher Education and Counselor Education in the College of Social Justice and Human Service. He joined the UT faculty in 2001.

“My personal and professional experiences with Dr. Laux have proven that he is determined to be helpful to others in all areas of his life. He is a valuable member of the profession and a mentor for students and peers,” one nominator wrote. “I first had the opportunity to work with him while I served on the executive board for Chi Sigma Iota, our profession’s honors fraternity. He has voluntarily taken on the faculty adviser role for several years. During that time, I observed him challenge our leadership skills, encourage growth and opportunity through various experiences, and promote service as paramount to the profession.”

**Dr. Sara Lundquist**, associate professor and chair of English language and literature in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences. She started teaching at the University in 1993.

“I am an English major, but I hated poetry. Prose is what I had considered literature; poetry was, well, poetry. I had Dr. Lundquist for two classes, and I now have an understanding and a love of poetry,” one nominator wrote. “She praised me when I was in need of encouragement, and she nudged me when I needed prodding. She far exceeded her role of professor. She really cares, and she lets her students know this.” Another noted, “I must address the eagerness and joy Dr. Lundquist displays for her subject. Even a mediocre student cannot help but become infected with her excitement.”

**Dr. Robert McCollough**, lecturer in history in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences. Col. McCollough, a former fighter pilot, joined the UT faculty in 1992.

“The only reason I am a Rocket today is because of Robert McCollough. After taking his Roman History class in spring 2007, I changed my major to history. I was already accepted to Ohio State University, ready to transfer in the fall, but he changed my mind. Nobody has ever inspired me to do what I love to do like he did,” one nominator wrote. Another wrote, “He has made me excited to learn and to develop my own thoughts and ideas. I’ve been shown that learning is not about power, but about the beauty of knowledge. Robert McCollough showed me that the act of learning is a lifelong venture.”



The Outstanding Teacher Awards went to, from left, Dr. John Laux, Dr. Page Armstrong, Dr. Sara Lundquist, Dr. David Guip, Dr. Carol Bennett-Clarke and Dr. Robert McCollough.

## Medical assistant receives Hymore award

“Happy” by Pharrell Williams is Mary Cornell’s favorite song.

That should come as no surprise to anyone who knows the medical assistant who works in the Psychiatry Department.

Her cheerful demeanor helped her win this year’s Diane Hymore Exemplar of Excellence Award last week at the UT Annual Awards Ceremony.

The honor named for the longtime executive secretary to President Lloyd Jacobs is presented to an individual whose work

defines the core values of the University in her spirit of support, encouragement and service.

Cornell has worked at the University since 2006. She started as a medical assistant in Surgery, and joined Psychiatry in 2012.

“Mary is the face of psychiatry. She is the first person people see when they come to our department. Every day Mary has a smile that glows along with a courteous and happy tone,” one nominator wrote.

Another noted, “Mary has built a relationship with every single patient she encounters. She makes them feel comfortable, and they all know her by name. Mary also knows almost all of our patients’ first names. She even brings in dog treats for the assistance dogs our patients bring to our office. Mary even knows all the dogs by name, too.”



Cornell

## Commencement

*continued from p. 1*

“The combination of my wife being a former English teacher and me having a master’s in early intervention/education works well for us. We create lesson plans, and we talk a lot about what our goals are for him,” Richard, assistant director of the bachelor of science in pharmaceutical sciences degree program and director of the Institute for Professional Advancement in Pharmaceutical Sciences, said.

After being in and out of the hospital during his first few months, Richie was ready to be home.

“We decorated his room with a rocket theme, complete with glow-in-the-dark stars and planets,” Charisse, who received a master’s degree in English from UT in 2010, said.

A rocket-shaped chalkboard on the closet door outlines the activities for the week: phonics DVDs, ABC flashcards, educational iPad apps, sensory play, reading books, coloring, music. Nurses who care for Richie during the day while the Montgomerys are at work follow the plan.

“Because we both have backgrounds in teaching, we probably overwhelm his little world,” Charisse said and laughed.

As first-generation college graduates, the Montgomerys are committed to education. They started signing with their son at birth to work on language development.

“His recent test to prepare for preschool showed that on some aspects of cognitive development, he’s at age 4 and a half.

He’s very smart,” Richard, adviser for the Student African-American Brotherhood, said.

“Richie doesn’t have the expressive language that kids typically do at his age because he’s had a trach since he was 2 months old, and he was not able to vocalize at all until just a few months ago with the help of a speaking valve for his trach,” Charisse said.

But he’s catching up fast — almost as fast as he drives.

“In December, he got his first motorized wheelchair, and he loves to drive. He drives like a 2-year-old, mostly into the furniture,” Charisse joked.

“I’ll say, ‘Hey Richie, you’re going in circles.’ And he’ll be like, ‘Woo! I’m going in circles!’” Richard said and laughed.

“He’s very happy,” Charisse said. “And he has the best laugh. One of the things that we’ve gained from having the speaking valve is that we can hear him laugh, and that’s my favorite sound in the world. The first few weeks that he had the speaking valve, I cried every time he laughed.”

While they’ve been teaching their son, the couple finished their degrees.

This Saturday, Richard will receive a doctor of education degree in educational leadership, and Charisse will earn a master of education degree in educational psychology. Richie will be in the audience.

They remain committed to Richie’s cognitive development in honor of Charisse’s sister, Chavon Hodges, who

passed away at age 27 in 2012.

“Chavon was earning a PhD in bioengineering. She had been all over the country presenting her research on the humane genome project, and she was just a remarkably smart young lady,” Charisse said. “She really inspired me to make sure that our child has every tool that he can have to be successful because despite the physical disability, he still has the potential to live a very full life, to be very academically successful, and to pursue all of his curiosities.”

“So that’s our hope, that we prepare him minimally for one doctoral degree; he can have two if he wants,” Richard said.



**READY TO GRADUATE:** Charisse and Richard Montgomery II posed for a photo with their son, Richie.

## UT psychology study gains national attention

By Aimee Portala

Dr. Andrew Geers, professor of psychology at The University of Toledo, and Dr. Lisa Neff, former UT assistant professor of psychology, recently published a paper titled “Optimism Expectations in Early Marriage: A Resource or Vulnerability for Adaptive Relationship Functioning?”

The study was published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* and received mention in numerous national media outlets, including *The Huffington Post* and *Psychology Today*.

Neff and Geers examined how two types of optimism affect marriage, and differences in regards to the successes or struggles of a relationship.

“Prior research suggested that optimists fare better in relationships; however, that work did not take into account that there is more than one type of optimism,” Geers said.

Approximately 68 couples from the Toledo area participated in the study. Each couple participated for a full year, some starting at different times than others.

Including prep work, the study lasted a total of about two years.

Dispositional, or global, optimism concerns one’s general tendency to expect positive outcomes in life. This broad form of optimism is different from domain-specific forms of optimism — such as relationship-specific optimism. This form of optimism concerns one’s positive expectations that are particular to relational events.

Some researchers have cautioned that always expecting the best in a relationship can create a false sense of security that prevents individuals from taking proactive steps when confronted with difficulties. Relationship-specific optimism can create a context in which problems are left unresolved. When experiences continually fall short of expectations, it can leave one or both spouses disappointed and uncertain in the fate of the relationship. Relational uncertainty often leads to critical, self-protective behavior, including lashing out or creating deliberate distance between partners.

The research of Geers and Neff, assistant professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin, found that dispositional optimism is more likely to be a relationship asset, but very high relationship-specific optimism can place couples at risk of marital issues and deterioration.

However, highly positive relationship-specific expectancies may not be harmful for marital well-being if couples happen to possess the necessary skills and resources for confirming those expectations.

“Dispositional optimists are better equipped to withstand daily hassles. It’s useful to have the mental flexibility to re-interpret negative events and see them in a positive light. They have active coping strategies, both mentally and physically. This can be beneficial to the individual and, of course, in the context of a relationship,” Geers said. “However, when someone has very high and unyielding specific levels of



Geers

optimism, it is more likely to lead to disillusionment.”

For more information, contact Geers at [andrew.geers@utoledo.edu](mailto:andrew.geers@utoledo.edu).

## UT offers program in elder law, applications due May 1

By Samantha Watson

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, persons 65 and older represented more than 13 percent of the U.S. population in 2012.

With a large and ever-growing population of older Americans, The University of Toledo is taking steps to ensure these individuals are taken care of. The UT Legal Specialties Program has teamed up with the UT Center for Successful Aging to offer an online graduate certificate in elder law.

The UT Elder Law Program consists of five classes, all offered in summer and fall semesters. These classes are Legal Issues for the Elderly, Elder Health Law and Ethical Issues, Guided Study in Elder Law Issues, Health and Aging, and Issues in Contemporary Gerontological Practice.

“They learn a lot about the legal side — the rights and responsibilities of elderly people,” said Michael Spiros, UT associate professor of legal specialties. “They also look directly at health care.”

The classes cover topics such as wills, estate administration, guardianships,

Medicare, Medicaid, late-in-life marriages, disabilities, Social Security and more. Each of the classes is offered online as a distance-learning course that can be accessed any time in any location.

To participate in the program, applicants must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with an undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0. Students currently enrolled in a graduate program at UT also can take these classes, even if they do not wish to receive their certificate.

“We’ve attracted people who have just gotten their bachelor’s degree in the last year or two, some law students, lawyers, professors and middle-aged people with elderly parents,” Spiros said. “There are people who are interested in the program from a personal point of view and/or a professional point of view.”

For more information or to apply, visit [utole.do/elderlaw](http://utole.do/elderlaw). Applications are due by Thursday, May 1.

## New Megabus stop at University makes travel easier

By Samantha Watson

The University of Toledo community may have noticed a different type of bus on campus lately, and that’s because UT is now a stop for megabus.com.

“We are happy to offer another mode of transportation to our students, faculty and staff on campus,” said Diana Watts, UT transit coordinator. “Megabus offers safe, convenient and affordable transportation to our campus community.”

With fares starting at \$1 plus reservation fees, megabus.com is more affordable than most other bus companies. Fare prices vary based on the time seats are purchased; as more seats are reserved, prices increase.

“The further in advance you buy your ticket on megabus.com, the more of an opportunity you have for those \$1 seats,” said Mike Alvich, vice president of marketing and public relations for Coach USA. “But all of our fares are affordable. The highest fare you could pay would still be equal to or less than that of another bus company and also 70 percent cheaper than an airline.”

Megabuses also offer guaranteed seats, free Wi-Fi, electrical outlets, no middle seats, and the inclusion of a carry-on and up to 50 pounds of luggage at no cost. Each bus also is green-certified and runs on biodiesel fuel.

From lot 23 on the UT Scott Park Campus, passengers can travel to Chicago, Cleveland, New York City and State College, Pa. From those cities, passengers can purchase tickets to more than 120 additional U.S. locations through approved connections found on megabus.com.

“It is a great way for students to get to and from their hometowns without having the worry of bringing their car on campus,” Watts said. “It also offers opportunities for visitors who aren’t affiliated with our university to see our campus and engage with our community.”

For exclusive information on fares, booking dates and contests, follow @megabus on Twitter or like megabus.com on Facebook at [facebook.com/megabus.com.officialpage](http://facebook.com/megabus.com.officialpage).

To purchase tickets, visit [megabus.com](http://megabus.com).

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## Professor promotes tourism on America's 'roads to hell'

By Samantha Watson

There is a growing consensus that modern mass tourism is neither economically nor environmentally sustainable, but Dr. David Nemeth suggests a viable alternative.

Nemeth, UT professor of geography and planning, believes "dark niche"



Nemeth

destination tourism has the potential to revitalize pockets of distressed rural economies in America. He specifically focuses on roadways numbered 666 and "phantasmal niche" destinations, where visitors experience imagined supernatural, magical or mystical allure with a touch of evil.

"One of the big enemies of scientific method is called the fallacy of selective thinking, or confirmation bias," Nemeth said. "If you have an expectation to see something, then you're going to see it. If you expect to see the beast, you will."

The number 666 carries a dark connotation because of its ties with Satan in the Christian faith. In the Bible, Revelation 13:18 states, "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred threescore and six."

Nemeth co-authored an article with Dr. Deborah Che, lecturer at the Southern

Cross University School of Tourism and Hospitality Management in Australia, about the idea of capitalizing on roads numbered 666. The article, "Alternative Tourism Geographies: Leveraging the Ironic Case of Pennsylvania's Route 666 for Economic Development," was originally published in *Applied Geography* and featured by the London School of Economics and Political Science in December.

The article focuses specifically on the David Zeisberger Highway (Route 666) in Pennsylvania, which already has some appealing irony because it's named for the well-known missionary. Areas along Pennsylvania 666 are in rapid decline due to regional deindustrialization and depopulation, which make it an ideal place for revitalization through the promotion of dark-niche tourism, according to Nemeth.

"You have this odd juxtaposition of good and evil at this one place," he said.

Dark-niche tourism focuses on historic death and tragedy and has been successful in other parts of the world. The tourism ranges from "very dark," such as tours of Auschwitz, to "very light," which is where these "roads to hell" fall, Nemeth said.

In total, there are about 58 roads in the United States numbered 666, and that figure is decreasing because religious groups have petitioned local governments to change the digits. The most famous case is that of Routes 491 and 191, a former Route 666 that circled the Four Corners of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Arizona. It appeared to be a noose shape around the Four Corners, which looked like a crucifix, Nemeth said.

Go to <http://utole.do/666> to read the article by Nemeth and Che in *Applied Geography*.

## Into the woods



Students in Eric Zeigler's New Media Imaging Photo Studio class constructed a murder scene for an assignment earlier this month. The students — Hannah Evans, Crystal Hand, Brandy Save, Drew Grady, Jerod Schoonover, Elizabeth Markham, Ben Hitchman, Kayla Dopfer, Caitlyn Witt, Emily Pohlman and Victor Lewis — were inspired by Gregory Crewdson's "Beneath the Roses" series. "This class teaches how to create photographs in the controllable environment of a photographic studio. I took the students into an environment where everything was variable, and they had to create the photograph on the fly," Zeigler, instructor in art, said. "Constructing this photograph taught the students how to use lighting in an unfamiliar environment." The students titled their photo "UT Beneath the Leaves."

## Canine comfort



Photo by Daniel Miller

Melissa Hrovat gave some love to Watkins, one of the dogs that was on Centennial Mall Thursday during the Toledo Area Humane Society's adopt-a-pet and pet therapy session

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 Office of Recreation

## UT employees may schedule graduate photos

**F**aculty and staff or members of their families who will graduate from UT this semester may contact the University Communications Office if they wish to have a photo taken and published in UT News.

Call Laurie Flowers at 419.530.2002 to schedule an appointment before Wednesday, May 7. Photos will appear in an upcoming issue of the paper.

## Good day sunshine



Photos by Daniel Miller

Centennial Mall was packed during Student Appreciation Day last week. Fun, food and sun were abundant at the event, which was sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs and Dr. Kaye Patten Wallace, senior vice president for the student experience.



Kelsey O'Brien stopped by Student Appreciation Day to get something to drink.