Graduation day

There were lots of happy faces in Savage Arena during commencement. At the two ceremonies, there were 2,711 candidates for degrees: 124 doctoral candidates, 554 master's candidates, 1,941 bachelor's candidates, and 92 candidates for education specialist, certificates and associate's degrees.

UT launches website for presidential search process

The University of Toledo launched a website May 5 dedicated to keeping internal and external communities up-to-date on the search for UT’s 17th president. This site is at utoledo.edu/presidential-search.

“The presidency of The University of Toledo is one of the most important roles in our region and a key figure in higher education,” said Joseph Zerbey, chair of the UT Board of Trustees, left, and Dr. Scott Scarborough, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, watched. Wince-Smith delivered the morning commencement address and received an honorary doctor of public administration degree.

Provost named University of Akron president

Dr. Scott Scarborough, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, has been named the 16th president of the University of Akron.

Scarborough, who has served The University of Toledo since 2008, will begin his term at Akron July 1.

“I am proud of the team at The University of Toledo that I had the pleasure of working with that is so dedicated to the success of our students through ensuring high academic quality and a great student experience,” Scarborough said. “While it is difficult for Tammy and I to leave Toledo and all of our friends and colleagues, I am

continued on p. 2

continued on p. 2
New associate vice president for HR named

By Meghan Cunningham

A human resources leader with vast experience in a variety of industries will join The University of Toledo as associate vice president for human resources and talent development.

Jovita A. Thomas-Williams, who is president and founder of the JTW Affiliates LLC, a management services firm specializing in strategic HR management, organizational effectiveness and innovative people systems in Birmingham, Mich., will start May 26.

Thomas-Williams’ career spans nearly 30 years and includes an impressive track record in HR strategic planning and business alignment, talent management, and the design and delivery of world-class HR programs and services. She is highly regarded as a contemporary HR leader skilled at balancing her role as strategist with that of chief employee advocate. During her career, Thomas-Williams has served in a variety of senior HR leadership capacities at both publicly traded and private firms spanning North and South America, Europe and Asia.

“I am thrilled to be joining UT as the associate vice president of human resources and talent development,” Thomas-Williams said. “It is clear that The University of Toledo will continue to shape the future of higher education and health care, and lead cutting-edge technology and research while laying a solid foundation for tomorrow’s leaders in a variety of fields. I am honored to partner with the UT community and members of its leadership team to ensure HR’s support of its mission and vision and to drive university-wide success.”

In 2007, Thomas-Williams established JTW Affiliates to address the needs of evolving organizations using innovative HR solutions to achieve strategic objectives while driving operational and employee excellence. Some of her clients include Morgan Stanley, PepsiCo Inc., the Walt Disney Co. and McDonald’s USA LLC.

Thomas-Williams established JTW Affiliates following more than 20 years of successful global HR leadership at internationally recognized, industry-leading companies, including MGM MIRAGE (now MGM Resorts International) in Las Vegas, Textron Inc. in Providence, R.I., and Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn, Mich.

Provost

did the bright future that lies ahead for this institution.”

Since 2012, Scarborough has served as UT’s chief academic and operating officer, creating and implementing the Imagine 2017 strategic plan that outlines key initiatives on Main Campus during the next five years. He has led efforts to rebrand the Jesup Scott Honors College and organized a system of portal colleges to meet the needs of students entering UT with varied levels of preparedness.

He joined UT in 2008 as senior vice president for finance and administration, and in 2011 was appointed to serve as vice president and executive director of UT Medical Center.

Prior to joining UT, Scarborough was executive vice president at DePaul University, the nation’s largest Catholic university. Previously, he served as chief operating officer at the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Co. For more than 10 years, Scarborough worked in higher education within the University of Texas System, serving for five years as vice president for business affairs at the University of Texas at Tyler.

In the spotlight

UT Medical Center paid tribute to some of its valued employees during National Nurses Week. Since 1990, nurses have been recognized from May 6 to May 12, the birthdate of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. Three years ago, UT nurses began posing for photos with sayings and quotes. Continuing that tradition and advocating that “laughter is good medicine,” were, from left, Colleen Sobecki, Jeannine Drenner, Val Walters and Asia Young from SAB Surgery. During the week, nurses were treated to meals and snacks.

Website for presidential search

did anyone the opportunity to share with the advisory committee what qualities and values they believe the next president should have and offer suggestions on how to make the search process better.

John Barrett, UT vice provost for faculty relations and accreditation assessment and program review, said the selection of the presidential search firm by the Board of Trustees and the selection of the membership of the search advisory committee are the next big events in the process.

confident of the bright future that lies ahead for this institution.”

Burns said the website’s feedback link provides anyone the opportunity to share with the advisory committee what qualities and values they believe the next president should have and offer suggestions on how to make the search process better.

John Barrett, UT vice provost for faculty relations and accreditation assessment and program review, said the selection of the presidential search firm by the Board of Trustees and the selection of the membership of the search advisory committee are the next big events in the process.

“Once we have the people and the partners in place, we can start talking through the desired qualities, values and attributes of the next president. This is where input from students, faculty, staff and alumni is crucial, and we’ll be reaching out aggressively and asking you to share your views,” Barrett said.

The website also includes the request for proposal for a presidential search firm that was posted April 29.

The website will be linked from the myut.utoledo.edu page next to the University directory as well as off the utoledo.edu home page.
In memoriam

Jacob A. “Jake” Campbell, Toledo, a custodian at UT from 1997 to 2006, died April 29 at age 54.

Delories A. Galloway, Toledo, died April 28 at age 85. She was a custodial worker at UT from 1975 until her retirement in 1989.

Dr. Sabry F. Gohara, Ottawa Hills, associate professor of surgery, died April 25 at age 71. He volunteered as a clinical assistant professor in the MCO Department of Surgery in 1981 and was named assistant professor in 2000. Gohara was promoted to associate professor in 2012. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Amira Gohara, dean emerita and professor emerita of pathology.

Dr. Ruth A. Myers, Toledo, who taught at the University for three decades, died May 5 at age 80. She joined the UT faculty as an instructor in psychology in 1963 and was named assistant professor of psychology in 1965. She later was named adjunct associate professor.

Dr. George A. Nankervis, Akron, professor and chair of the MCO Department of Pediatrics from 1979 to 1985, died April 8 at age 84. He received the Golden Apple Award for teaching in 1982.

Adasme Schooner, Holland, a dietary food service worker at MCO from 1982 to 1991, died April 27 at age 84.

Beverly J. “Bev” Vasko, Toledo, died April 21 at age 61. She was a counselor in Student Services from 1993 to 1998. The UT alumna received a bachelor of arts degree in social work in 1988 and a master of liberal studies degree in 2002.

Dr. William “Bill” Wiersma, Holland, professor emeritus of education, died April 25 at age 83. He joined the UT faculty as an assistant professor of educational research and measurement in the College of Education in 1963. Two years later, he was promoted to associate professor and founded the Center for Educational Research and Services and served as its director for 22 years. Wiersma was named professor emeritus in 1967. He wrote or co-wrote seven textbooks and was recognized for his work in the classroom in 1979 when he received one of the University’s Outstanding Teacher Awards. He retired from UT in 1987, was named professor emeritus, and continued to teach part time for 14 years.

Employees now able to update campus directory information

By Lindsey Mahaney

A new self-service tool now allows University of Toledo faculty and staff to update their contact information on the myUT portal.

Employees can update their building, room, telephone, fax, and mail stop numbers as needed through their UTAD account at myut.utoledo.edu.

When logging in, individuals must click on the employee tab. They then navigate to the mytoolkit, personal/office information tab, and choose the link titled update office address and phone.

There, they will be able to update their directory information, which will appear the next business day on the UT directory site.

Faculty and staff’s official university email addresses also can be updated by submitting an IT service request at http://ithelp.utoledo.edu or by calling 419.530.2400. Personal and family email addresses can be updated through the self-service tool as well.

Mary Kurtz, information technology convergence systems analyst, said that Keith Bitter, senior web services administrator, developed the tool.

“With many of us switching offices, IT recognized the need to provide this self-service to all faculty and staff,” Kurtz said.

Help the Toledo Zoo win the “Best U.S. Zoo” designation!

A beloved fixture in the Glass City for more than 100 years, the Toledo Zoo was named one of USA Today Travel’s Top 20 Zoos in the Nation and is in the running to be voted “Best U.S. Zoo.” Using data supplied by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the top 20 zoos were chosen based on annual attendance, total acreage, admission fees, contributions to conservation efforts, number of supporting members, and recent awards. Vote daily in the USA Today competition that runs through Monday, May 19. Go to utole.do/zoo.
Employees celebrate commencement

Dr. Abraham Avalos, husband of Dr. Lidia Rodriguez, materials research scientist in the Department of Bioengineering, received a doctoral degree in bioengineering. He plans to work as a scientist in the research and characterization of materials and nanocomposites, and in the development of new products. They are holding their daughter, Adriana Sophia.

Bryan Durivage, son of Dawn Durivage, assistant director of student affairs, graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. He would like to get his master’s degree in criminal justice and is exploring the possibility of entering law school.

Curtis A. Deeter, shown here with his mother, Dr. Beth Schlemper, assistant professor of geography and planning, and stepfather, Dr. Dan Hammel, professor of geography and planning, received a bachelor of arts degree in English with a concentration in creative writing. Curtis, who received the Fern R. Kalmbach Scholarship in 2013-14, is considering pursuing a master of business administration degree.

Justin Brackett, grandson of Lisa Brackett, credentialing specialist in the Central Verification Office in UT Medical Center, graduated magna cum laude and received a bachelor’s degree in engineering. He plans to work in a marketing position in the electronic commerce field.

Bryan Durivage, son of Dawn Durivage, assistant director of student affairs, graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a major in marketing and e-commerce. He plans to work in a marketing position in the electronic commerce field.
Sarah Fatemi, daughter of Dr. Ali Fatemi, professor of mechanical, industrial and manufacturing engineering, received a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a major in marketing and international business.

Brian Goldberg, son of Jill Goldberg, senior university law enforcement officer, received a law degree. He plans to work at a local law firm.

Adam C. Hahn, son of Harry J. Hahn, cardiac electrophysiology nurse in the Heart and Vascular Center, received a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering technology. Adam is a computer-aided design engineer at Applied Technology Integration in Maumee.

Julianne Kujawa, daughter of David Kujawa, clinical assistant professor of physical therapy, received a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a dual major in marketing and sales. She plans to establish a wedding consulting and event planning service in Cleveland.
Kayla Nowacki, daughter of Laura Nowacki, application security administrator in Information Technology, graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of education degree in early childhood education. Kayla is certified for pre-kindergarten through fifth grade with a concentration in mathematics and plans to be an educator in an early childhood classroom.

Emily Pohlman, daughter of Marianne Pohlman, secretary 2 in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, and in the Department of Biochemistry, graduated cum laude with a bachelor of fine arts degree in new media. Emily is applying to national and international graduate schools.

Renée Norrils, secretary in the Chemical and Environmental Engineering Department, received a master of liberal studies degree. She is a member of Golden Key International Honour Society and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Norrils is completing a graduate certificate program in women’s and gender studies, and plans to continue working at the University.

Oladeji M. Tiamiyu, son of Dr. Mojisola F. Tiamiyu, associate professor of psychology, graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree in political science. He will work in the nonprofit sector in Washington, D.C., before going to graduate school.
Visiting Polish jazz band to perform at UT

By Lindsay Mahaney

Toledoans will swing and sway to the tune of jazz as a Polish band is set to perform at the University this week.

The Dixie Jazz Company, a seven-member jazz group visiting from Poland, will play their music in UT’s Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall Wednesday, May 14, and Thursday, May 15, at 7 p.m. both nights.

The band will play two 90-minute shows before continuing on to Sacramento, Calif., for a weeklong jazz festival.

The band is from one of Toledo’s sister cities, Poznan, Poland. The Toledo-Poznan Alliance was formed in 1991 by Toledo Sister Cities International, a Toledo group that works to foster international activity for world peace.

Kathy Grabel, retired UT employee who is one of the founders of the Toledo-Poznan Alliance and board member for the organization, has helped organize many events through the group and tries to promote cultural understanding between the two cities.

“It’s important that we welcome the jazz band to Toledo as part of the cultural exchange, as stated in our mission statement,” she said.

The relationship allows both cities to share in cultural events periodically throughout the year. Additionally, at Christmas, a monetary gift is sent to an orphanage in Poznan to provide the children with gifts.

While visiting Toledo, the Dixie Jazz Company will meet with community leaders, including Mayor D. Michael Collins and his wife, Sandra Drabik, who have participated in events previously with the Toledo-Poznan Alliance. In 2009, the couple toured Poland. Grabel explained that during their tour, the two were welcomed by some of Poznan’s city officials.

“The deputy mayor, Mr. Andrzej Sobon, met with us; he had a very nice reception for our group touring Poland,” she said. “Mr. Sobon spoke excellent English and part of his entourage was other officials of the city of Poznan.”

Tickets to the show are $20 for adults and $10 for students and can be purchased from the Lourdes University Franciscan Center Ticket Office or by calling 419.824.3999 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cash or checks will be accepted; checks can be made payable to Toledo-Poznan Alliance.

Discs will be for sale at the concert.

Proceeds will go toward covering the band’s time in Toledo. Grabel added that donations from the Polish community also are requested.

Professional Staff Association to hold general meeting May 14

By Samantha Watson

This Wednesday is the Professional Staff Association’s spring general meeting, complete with lunch, a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle.

The meeting, which will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union Ingman Room, will feature a presentation by Dr. Paul Schaefer, assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine, on how the department can meet your family’s medical needs.

There also will be a presentation by David Morlock, UT executive vice president for finance and administration.

A question-and-answer session will follow each presentation.

The annual meeting will continue with the tradition of a 50/50 raffle and silent auction. Up for bid will be Mud Hens and Walleye tickets, certificates for a one-hour massage and a personal trainer, a Pandora bracelet, UT items and more. Proceeds from the raffle and auction go to the PSA Scholarship Fund. Check and cash are accepted.

The Professional Staff Association is made up of all classified exempt, classified salaried, and unclassified administrative and professional employees that do not belong to a bargaining unit and do not have faculty rank.

The meeting, which will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union Ingman Room, will feature a presentation by Dr. Paul Schaefer, assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine, on how the department can meet your family’s medical needs.

There also will be a presentation by David Morlock, UT executive vice president for finance and administration.

A question-and-answer session will follow each presentation.

The annual meeting will continue with the tradition of a 50/50 raffle and silent auction. Up for bid will be Mud Hens and Walleye tickets, certificates for a one-hour massage and a personal trainer, a Pandora bracelet, UT items and more. Proceeds from the raffle and auction go to the PSA Scholarship Fund. Check and cash are accepted.

The Professional Staff Association is made up of all classified exempt, classified salaried, and unclassified administrative and professional employees that do not belong to a bargaining unit and do not have faculty rank.
All campuses to be tobacco-free by August

Following a push by Student Government this spring, UT is poised to eliminate tobacco from all of its campuses before fall semester.

An implementation committee appointed by President Lloyd A. Jacobs is working to formalize tobacco-free policy and plan implementation throughout UT’s campuses after the Board of Trustees approved a resolution to ban tobacco on Main Campus. The action will align all campuses with Health Science Campus, which has been tobacco-free since 2006.

According to Dr. Tavis Glassman, associate professor of rehabilitation services and committee co-chair, the policy is expected to be in place by Aug. 15.

“We’ve been working toward a tobacco-free campus since 2008,” Glassman said. “In the fall of 2011, the University passed a policy restricting tobacco use to several designated areas, with the plan of ultimately implementing a tobacco-free campus. Consistent with the University’s mission of improving the human condition, all campuses will finally be 100 percent tobacco-free before fall semester begins.”

He said the purposes of banning tobacco are threefold: preventing tobacco use, promoting cessation, and preventing exposure to harmful secondhand smoke.

Designated huts scattered throughout Main and satellite campuses where smoking has been permitted will be removed by mid-August.

Glassman added that the committee anticipates some difficulty for those who use tobacco products and is facilitating cessation and support programs. To get started, those interested in cessation can receive information at smokefree.gov and 1.800.QUIT.NOW, the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line.

“As a campus devoted to the health of those with whom we interact, it is our responsibility to take a leadership role in the community and advocate a tobacco-free environment,” said Vicki Ridlick, committee co-chair and director of service excellence/senior wellness officer, University Medical Center Administration. “Study after study has shown that if you stop smoking today, you will be rewarded with quality years at the end of your life. It will also add years to the lives of those who inhale secondhand smoke.”

The implementation committee members are Glassman; Jeff Newton, co-chair and public safety officer/chief of police, UT Police Department; Ridlick; Doug Collins, director, grounds and off-site facilities, Facilities and Construction; Marcus Dawson, associate director, Residence Life; Dr. Stan Edwards, director, Counseling Center; Kim Goodin, information writer, University Marketing; Dr. Tom Gutteridge, senior vice provost and dean of academic administration/interim dean, College of Social Justice and Human Service; Valerie Householder, pharmacist, Main Campus Pharmacy; Clay NoteStine, president, Student Government; Will Pecsok, associate director, Counseling Center; Jocelyn Szymanski, wellness coordinator, Community Wellness and Health Programs; Dr. Amy Thompson, professor, Rehabilitation Services; and Alex Wrege, assistant director, American Language Institute.

UT to celebrate National Hospital Week

By Lindsay Mahaney

Each year during the second week of May, The University of Toledo joins the country in celebrating the medical community for National Hospital Week.

UT is hosting events from Monday, May 12, through Friday, May 16.

According to the American Hospital Association, the week is meant to recognize hospitals and the individuals who “day in and day out, support the health of their communities through compassionate care, constant innovation and unwavering, unmatched dedication.”

“At UTMC, we never forget that it’s our dedicated team of people who make us strong. We wish to take this opportunity to thank all of the dedicated individuals — nurses, therapists, engineers, clerical workers, physicians, food service workers, security, volunteers, administrators and so many more — for their commitment,” said Dr. Carl Sirio, vice president for medical affairs and associate dean for clinical affairs. “Because of them, UTMC is a place of hope.”

The first National Hospital Day was on May 12, 1921, on nurse and public activist Florence Nightingale’s birthday. The event was changed to a weeklong celebration in 1953.

Events at UTMC will include a kickoff at the Four Seasons Bistro, where cupcakes and beverages will be served to hospital staff members Monday, May 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The event will include a meet-and-greet with David Morlock, UT executive vice president for finance and CEO of UT Medical Center, and Sirio.

Hospital leadership will hand out cupcakes and beverages in the bistro from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and in the basement of Dowling Hall near Campus Police Tuesday, May 13, from 1 to 2:30 a.m.

Hospital leadership also will hand out ice cream at the Four Seasons Bistro Thursday, May 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and again from 4 to 5:30 p.m. They will offer frozen treats in the basement of Dowling Hall near Campus Police Friday, May 16, from 1 to 2:30 a.m.

The University of Toledo is a tobacco-free environment.

The use of tobacco products on any of UT’s campuses is prohibited.

Tobacco products include, but are not limited to cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snus (chewing tobacco in a porous pouch), pipes and hookahs.

The time to quit tobacco is now! UT can help faculty, students and staff who want to quit using tobacco with support and cessation programs. For more information, contact: 1.800.QUIT.NOW, the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line.

Will J. Pecsok, PhD, PCC-S, LICDC
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) Prevention Programs
419.530.8436
will.pecsok@utoledo.edu