Grant funds research project involving business, radiology

By Bob Mackowiak

A unique research project involving the Accounting Department in The University of Toledo College of Business and Innovation and the Radiology Department at UT Medical Center recently received a $70,000 grant from the United Arab Emirates University.

“The Impact of Managers’ Supervisory Style on the Relation Between Debt Covenants and Earnings Management: A Neuroscience Imaging Approach” will utilize neuroscientific research in an attempt to capture and understand the behavior of managers in different debt covenant violation situations, and its relation on supervisory styles.

Debt covenants are agreements between banks and borrowers that dictate the way a company manages its finances while indebted to the bank. These covenants are tested on a regular basis during the term of the debt. Violations happen when the company is not meeting any of these covenants.

Dr. Hassan HassabElnaby, associate professor and chair of accounting, said, “We are using a very novel approach to investigate an accounting/business issue. To my knowledge, no study in the area of agency theory and debt contract is utilizing this approach.”

UT Foundation, alumni website gets revitalized

By Samantha Watson

In 2013, The University of Toledo Foundation received more than $13.4 million from donors for students, programs and services.

This year, the UT Foundation is making things easier for donors with improvements to its website. After a year of working on the site, it’s now not only more visually appealing, but more organized and easier for alumni and donors to navigate.

“We wanted to create a new site for several reasons,” said Patty Gelb, development writer for the UT Foundation. “We were looking to create a more unified front for the Foundation and the Alumni Association as well as tie in our own internal databases for content and information.”

When visitors see the site, they are greeted by pictures of Main Campus and Health Science Campus, as well as current UT news items. Across the top, visitors can find the separate areas for donors, alumni and staff.

“Our new website best represents the merger of Institutional Advancement and the UT Foundation,” said Vern Snyder, UT vice president for institutional advancement. “Together we can better serve our alumni and better steward our donors while providing an information portal to The University of Toledo.”

But the biggest improvement to the site is not its appearance; connecting the site to databases already in place allows for a more seamless experience. Donors now can see which University and college funds need the most support, saving their information and preferences for future donations.

“The beauty of this new site is it will be 100 percent database-driven, which ensures the integrity of the data presented,” said Eric Glessor, director of information systems and services for the UT Foundation. “I always say ‘nothing fits like custom,’ and nowhere is that more true than in software development. This website was designed and developed with the specific needs of our donors, alumni and UT staff in mind.”

To see these improvements, visit utfoundation.org.
Governor appoints local executive new trustee

An executive with Dana Holding Corp. is joining The University of Toledo Board of Trustees.

Jeffrey C. Cole, senior director of corporate communications for Dana, was appointed by Ohio Gov. John Kasich to serve on the board until July 1, 2020.

He is a graduate of UT with a bachelor’s degree in communication and master’s degree in education. As a student, he served as Student Government president, editor-in-chief of The Collegian student newspaper and head manager of the men’s basketball team.

Cole was a staff member at UT in various positions prior to joining Dana in 1997. These posts included assistant director and counselor in the Office of Admissions and development officer for the College of Pharmacy. In addition, he was chair of the Professional Staff Council. He also has been an adjunct faculty member for 20 years in the Department of Communication.

Active in the community, Cole has served on the boards of the American Red Cross Greater Toledo Chapter, Press Club of Toledo, Alzheimer’s Association of Northwest Ohio and Mobile Meals of Toledo, among others.

A few more degrees

Sumrime Raja, center, received her medical degree and was hooded by her sisters, Dr. Naureen Raja, left, and Dr. Sobia Raja, a resident at UT Medical Center. Sumrime was one of more than 260 candidates for degrees during the May 30 commencement ceremony for the College of Medicine and Life Sciences. The event was held at Stranahan Theater.

Part of the pride

The University of Toledo continues to expand its reach into southeast Michigan, partnering with the Detroit Lions. On hand at Ford Field in the Motor City when the announcement was made were, from left, Mike O’Brien, UT vice president and athletic director; Rocky; Tom Lewand, Detroit Lions team president; Roary; Lawrence J. Burns, UT vice president for external affairs; and Rocksy. In addition to stadium signage, UT and the Lions are developing hands-on opportunities for students and planning joint educational projects that are applicable to sports business. UT also has a prominent presence at both Comerica Park and Joe Louis Arena. The increased marketing effort has impacted student recruitment, almost doubling undergraduate student enrollment from metro Detroit from 860 in 2006 to nearly 1,600 southeastern Michigan students in fall 2013.

Cole
In memoriam

Michael J. Barron, Sylvania, who formerly taught in the History Department, died May 25 at age 78.

Paul W. Hankins, Toledo, facilitator at the Northwest Ohio Center for Labor-Management Cooperation from 1989 until his retirement in 2003, died May 26 at age 84.

John “Jack” A. Honsberger, Perrysburg, who joined MCO as an employee in 1999 and worked at the University until 2010, died May 20 at age 84. He also was a volunteer with the Satellites Auxiliary.

Dr. Marvin L. Michael Kay, Oberlin, Ohio, professor emeritus of history, died May 31 at age 86. He joined the UT faculty as an associate professor in 1971 and retired in 1992. He was chair of the Faculty Committee for Peace and Justice.

Joseph J. Monto II, Toledo, a member of the Satellites Auxiliary, died May 27 at age 79. The auxiliary board member was a greeter at the George Isaac Minimally Invasive Surgery Center and a laundry delivery volunteer. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, a University retiree.

Nancy C. (Freeborn) Peluso, Toledo, a clinic manager in family practice from 2005 to 2008, died May 31 at age 58.

H. Alan Rudolph, Holland, a former local executive who taught marketing and sales, died May 24 at age 80.

Maryal Slee, Perrysburg, a telephone operator at MCO from 1979 to 1992, died May 19 at age 85.
associate professor honored for helping set up prostate cancer screening program

By Kevin Bucher

Dr. Khaled Shahrour, UT associate professor of urology, received the Humanitarian Award from Mercy Memorial Hospital in Monroe, Mich., for his outstanding work in establishing a prostate cancer screening program.

The program started in September 2013 at Mercy Memorial Hospital, enabling Shahrour and his team to screen patients for signs of prostate cancer and other diseases. “This award represents great teamwork,” Shahrour said. “It represents all the hard work we do to prevent health issues, and we are honored to receive it.”

Shahrour and his team received the award earlier this spring at the annual Doctor’s Day Celebration at Mercy Memorial Hospital.

“It is nice to receive an award, and it is also nice to know our work is appreciated,” Shahrour said. “Especially in Monroe, it was a relatively new program and it was good for the community.”

University selects presidential search firm

By Jon Strunk

The University of Toledo Board of Trustees voted May 27 to partner with Witt/Kieffer to help manage the search process for the selection of the institution’s 17th president.

“This decision is an integral part of the search process as Witt/Kieffer will help guide us as the board and the UT community develop the values, characteristics and the job description for the next president,” said Joseph Zerbey, chair of the UT Board of Trustees.

He said the board will immediately begin working with the executive search firm located in Oak Brook, Ill., to develop a process to solicit input from faculty, students, staff, alumni and members of the community, as well as to establish timelines for the entirety of the search process.

Trustee Susan Palmer said that when she had worked with Witt/Kieffer during UT’s recent search for a vice president for institutional advancement, she found those at the firm to be outstanding.

“They were very honest and upfront about the pluses and the minuses of the University and came in with a strong understanding of UT,” Palmer said, noting the diversity of the pool.

The search was ultimately suspended following the announcement by UT President Lloyd Jacobs that he would be stepping down.

Trustee Vice Chair Sharon Speyer said Witt/Kieffer’s experience in health care as well as higher education was one of the points that helped her decide.

Witt/Kieffer was selected following presentations by three firms at a special board meeting.

Associate professor honored for helping set up prostate cancer screening program

By Jessica LeMire

Since the dedication of the William and Carol Koester Alumni Pavilion in 2012, thousands of alumni, organizations and friends from across the country and around the globe have supported the construction efforts through their generous donations.

“We are very grateful that people have responded the way they have,” said Dan Saevig, UT associate vice president of alumni relations. “We have sold to date over $90,000 worth of pavers. As of today, we have approximately 200 spots left to sell.”

Later this summer, the UT Alumni Association will install pavers in the last remaining section of the pavilion walkway.

Pavers are available for purchase at $150 each.

The pavers are 8 inches by 8 inches, twice the size of normal bricks, and have a smooth finish. Each paver has room for three lines of text, with 12 characters (including spaces and punctuation) per line. Symbols and Greek letters are not available.

The bricks will be installed in time for the football season kickoff Saturday, Aug. 30.

Naming opportunities of $1,000 or more also are available. Donors of $1,000 or more will be recognized on the major donor wall. Contributors of $1,000 to $4,999 also will receive one paver, and those who give $5,000 to $9,999 will receive two pavers.

Located at the northwest corner of Glass Bowl Stadium, the pavilion serves as a site to honor exceptional alumni, past Alumni Association presidents and generous donors. It also functions as a venue for various University and community gatherings and celebrations.

“When you walk through and read the messages on the pavers, when you read the messages on the benches, when you read the messages on the pillars that have been left by our alumni and friends, you realize what an impact this university has had on their lives; they’re proud to tell their story and share it with other people,” Saevig said. “It’s really a nice opportunity for people to leave their mark on the campus in a very affordable way.”

Orders will be accepted until Friday, Aug. 1, or until the remaining spots have been filled.

To place an order, visit http://utole.do/pavilionbrick or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 419.530.2586 or 800.235.6766.

If donating a gift of $1,000 or more, contact Saevig at 419.530.4008, 800.235.6766 or daniel.saevig@utoledo.edu.

PAVING ON: Pavers for the William and Carol Koester Alumni Pavilion are available for purchase at $150 each.

Photo by Crystal Hand
Against the odds: Newest UT peregrines victors in battle for nest

By Cynthia Nowak

The count is 24. That’s the number of chicks who have “graduated” from eggs in the peregrine falcon nest atop University Hall tower.

The two latest downy alumni received state and federal identification bands May 27 as part of a tracking program run by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources’ Division of Wildlife.

As explained by Jennifer Norris, state research biologist, the rebounding of peregrine falcon numbers in the Midwest since their near-eradication some 30 years ago due largely to DDT exposure is a major success story.

“Today, the state has identified 48 breeding peregrine pairs. Now although that sounds like a lot, compare it to the number of robin nests we have in our backyards, and you’ll understand that we still have a way to go before the birds are no longer considered threatened,” she told the onlookers who crowded around a table set up for the banding event.

Sunny skies and balmy temperatures not only made the perfect backdrop for the banding, but the humid warmth may have made the normally squawking young birds just a bit more docile than usual.

The two birds, a female and a male, received the respective names Dr. Jane and Tennant — the former to honor Jane Forsythe, a longtime member of the Toledo Naturalists Association, a local organization that helped fund the UT Fal-Cam. The latter name is for nature writer Alan Tennant, whose 2004 book, On the Wing: To the Edge of the Earth With the Peregrine Falcon, won critical and popular acclaim.

The story of this year’s brood, hatched on May 8, includes some unfortunate drama. Belle, the female peregrine who has ruled the roost since the nest was established in 2007, actually produced four eggs this year. While she was brooding them in April, she was attacked by a female peregrine intruder attempting to establish her own territory in the nest.

In the ensuing bloody battle that eventually included the UT male bird, Allen, the eggs were scattered. Although he and Belle drove off the intruder and subsequently gathered the eggs back together, only two hatched. Belle’s left eyelid was injured in the fight, but has since healed.

As the summer progresses, the young birds will learn to fly and hunt for themselves, which in rare instances can result in mishaps. If you see one of the birds on the ground, call the Ohio Division of Wildlife at 1.800.WILDLIFE.

Online, Toledo Peregrine Project provides information about the birds and a chance to see the nest via the UT Fal-Cam: http://utoledo.ofalcam. There’s a Facebook page as well: https://www.facebook.com/Peregrineproject.

The story revolves around six salesmen, scam artists who are trying to meet their quota for selling real estate, but are having trouble finding leads. Knowing their boss has many leads hidden in his office, the colleagues joke that someone should steal them.

The following morning the salesmen discover that someone has robbed the office and a storm of accusations begins, but no one is willing to admit he was behind the heist.

Shelly “The Machine” Levene will be read by Jeff Albright, George Aaronow will be played by Matthew Gretzinger, and Richard “Ricky” Roma will be read by Qarie Marshall, all UT alumni. Abu-Abi is also a UT alumna.

Abu-Abi said she enjoys giving a female perspective on a story all about men.

“Readings are really about the words and the characters,” said Kate Abu-Abi, director of UT’s Arts Living and Learning Community, who is directing the reading.

“It’s something that audiences find hard to describe until they see a reading and they’re like ‘OK, I totally thought it was going to be boring, but in some respects I find it more interesting because I was actually paying attention to the script.’”

The story is a tale of scams, real estate, robbery and greed of Chicago’s seedy underbelly will be painted in the minds of audience members by seven men sitting on stools behind music stands.

Actors Collaborative Toledo will present a concert reading of the production “Glengarry Glen Ross” by David Mamet Saturday, June 14, at 8 p.m. in The University of Toledo’s Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall.

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Abu-Abi said she enjoys giving a female perspective on a story all about men. She said she likes that she can question the male motives of the story from her perspective.

“There’s not a weak character in this show,” Abu-Abi said. “I’m working with super-talented — crazy-talented — people. It’s kind of fun to be able to be a part of a show that you know you’d never be able to perform since it’s an all-male cast.”

Tickets cost $10 and will be available at the door.
He explained that neuroscientific evidence shows that activities in the ventral striatum of the brain would increase with bad information and decrease with good information.

“We argue that human brains have the ability to implement ‘automatic’ processes of bad and good information to make rational managerial accounting decisions,” he said. “Therefore, we will rely on the functional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to capture and encode the neural activity in the ventral striatum. The results of this interdisciplinary study will contribute to the understanding of managers’ behavior and provide crucial implications for the practice and research in management accounting.”

HassabElnaby added, “This type of research is very costly and business research grants are almost non-existent at the required level. While attending an international conference, I was talking with Dr. Ahmed Abdel-Maksoud, a researcher from the United Arab of Emirates University, about a dream research project that I want to do and the difficulty of funding this research. I wrote the basic proposal and sent it to him and other researchers to form a research team. I was lucky enough to have all the researchers I approached interested in the idea, and they made significant contributions to develop the grant proposal. We applied for the grant and last December, we were granted about $70,000 over two years for our research project. Almost $55,000 is budgeted for the MRI experiment that will be done at The University of Toledo’s Medical Center under the supervision of both Dr. Haitham Elsamaloty and Dr. Xin Wang.”

Said added, “Earnings management behavior is an ethical question and has been the topic of interest for researchers, practitioners and regulators. We expect that understanding the thinking and decision-making processes of managers can assist in mitigating unethical behavior in the future. The findings of this research project can be incorporated into training material, models and/or packages that are delivered to accountants and business leaders on the role of managers’ personal characteristics (neural activity), the leadership style they follow, and the design and use of management control systems in controlling the suboptimal behavior/practices of managers in relation to firm resources.”

Elsamaloty, UT professor of radiology, said, “I was consulted by Dr. HassabElnaby on the possibility of implementing the study using the imaging tool. I was interested, and we decided to collaborate in this interesting research project.”

He explained that this is a unique study: “We’ll use the high sensitivity and resolution of our 3T functional MRI in evaluating managers under different conditions using different scenarios. We have performed functional MRI research in post-traumatic patients, but to the best of my knowledge, this will be the first study at UT, and possibly in the nation, to evaluate decision-making for managers.”

Wang, UT assistant professor of psychiatry, said, “We completed a study with a kinesiology group from Main Campus in 2011-2013. The research scans increase the use of MRI scanner in addition to clinical use and other studies. It will compete for the limited scanning time, but we will try our best to arrange the scans.”

HassabElnaby said, “We expect the study to take about 18 months and to yield multiple papers. My co-authors and I hope that this study will be a breakthrough and will open new lines of research in accounting, business and other disciplines.”
Learning Ventures’ instructional designers win Blackboard Catalyst Award

Phoebe Ballard, senior instructional designer and coordinator for special projects, and Dr. Mingli Xiao, senior instructional designer, were named winners of a Blackboard Catalyst Award for Exemplary Course for their online faculty development class, UT Learning Ventures Online Teaching Certificate.

This is the second Blackboard Catalyst Award for Exemplary Course received by Ballard, who was honored in 2013 alongside former UT art lecturer, Seder Burns, for their online art class, Fundamentals of Digital Media.

Part of the annual Blackboard Catalyst Awards program since 2000, the Blackboard Exemplary Course Award highlights technologically rich, engaging, well-designed and pedagogically sound courses that showcase best practices for the user community. More than 200 entries were evaluated in a rigorous peer-review process by more than 300 faculty and instructional designers. Submissions were judged on course design, interaction, collaboration, assessment and learner support.

“The Exemplary Course Program gives faculty of online and blended courses the opportunity to reflect on their own course design and to gain new insights about best practices in online instruction,” Ballard said. “Using the Exemplary Course Rubric, we were able to identify unique and exemplary design elements that make this professional development course a high-quality, interactive and engaging experience for faculty and teaching assistants at UT.”

“I am overjoyed to hear that our course received the Blackboard Exemplary Course Award,” Xiao said. “Our course aims at providing faculty an opportunity to experience the dynamics of online teaching from a student’s perspective and to understand the importance of instructor presence. The award is one of many indicators that our design has hit the target.”

The Blackboard Catalyst Awards annually recognize and honor innovation and excellence in the Blackboard global community of practice, where teachers and learners work every day to redefine what is possible when leveraging technology.

“It’s an honor each year to recognize forward-thinking educators who are helping create a world inspired to learn through the work they do every day,” said Jay Bhatt, Blackboard CEO. “We congratulate Catalyst Award winners on their vision and innovative approaches to education, and celebrate their accomplishments with them.”

Ballard and Xiao will be honored alongside other Blackboard Catalyst Award winners during BbWorld, Blackboard’s annual user conference, in July in Las Vegas. Additionally, their course will be highlighted on the Blackboard Catalyst Award website at blackboard.com/catalyst.

To learn more about Learning Ventures’ faculty certificate courses, contact Dr. Peter You, director of instructional design and development, at peter.you@utoledo.edu or 419.530.4016.

UTMC renovations receive environmental distinction

Recent renovations at The University of Toledo Medical Center were awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

This is the first clinical building at The University of Toledo to receive this honor. Updates were made to patient rooms on the third and fifth floors of UTMC. The renovations received 51 total points on the LEED scorecard in areas including energy and atmosphere, innovation, material and resources, and indoor environmental quality.

“As part of the bond-funded initiative at UTMC, the UT Board of Trustees and hospital administration committed to upgrading the patient rooms,” said Jason Toth, associate vice president of facilities and construction. “This project was one of many to continue that initiative. This project also marked the completion of renovations to the entire third floor of the hospital.”

A number of factors contributed to the certification; these included diverting 50 percent of construction waste from landfills or incinerators, a 34 percent reduction in water use for all fixtures, a 20 percent reduction in lighting powered density, and increased access to views of the outdoors. The project also utilized regionally manufactured materials with high-recycled content.

This is the fifth UT building to receive LEED certification. The Savage & Associates Complex for Business and Learning and the Center for Biosphere Restoration Research in Bowman-Oddy Laboratories both received silver certification in 2013. Two UT buildings have been given gold certification: the Memorial Field House in 2009 and John F. Savage Arena/Fetterman Athletic Complex in 2011.

Six UT structures are pending LEED certification: the Nitschke Technology Commercialization Complex (silver), the Research and Technology Complex 1 (silver), the Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center (gold), Collier Auditorium (silver), Bowman-Oddy Laboratories (silver), and the Frederic and Mary Wolfe Center (silver), which is home to the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Services.

The University of Toledo is committed to energy efficiency and prioritizes the same for all construction projects.
UTMC Senior Behavioral Health Center set to open

By Lindsay Mahaney

University of Toledo Medical Center’s Senior Behavioral Health Center plans to accept its first patients Tuesday, June 10.

An open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony were held June 6 in the Kobacker Center.

The center is a senior-based medical program that monitors the health of adult patients 55 years and older who are experiencing emotional or behavioral health issues. Partnered with Horizon Health Services, a behavioral health management company that builds, manages and improves psychiatric programs within a hospital setting, the center investigates the possible source of any health issues and diagnoses the problem.

“We want to be the gero-psycho provider in the area,” said Carol Schaaf, the center’s program director. “We intend to be and we will do whatever it takes to make that happen.”

Schaaf explained that this facility is different from other geriatric care facilities because it thoroughly tests all aspects of the patient’s condition, including prior and current health issues, medications and lifestyle choices, to fix the problem and provide a positive outcome for the patient.

“We’ll be able to tell if our patients are getting better,” Schaaf said. “We’ll be able to tell you how much better they’re getting and what symptoms are improving. We’ll be able to tell why those symptoms are improving and what we did that made it better.”

There will be 18 beds available at the center, which will accept patients 24 hours a day. Referrals can be made by anyone, including physicians, psychologists, social workers and family members. Most insurances will be accepted, Schaaf said.

“It’s not like what you see in the movies or on TV,” Schaaf said. “Any of us on any day could be in our unit. It’s just you’re having life circumstances that are a little more than you can handle today. For today, you need some help with that.”

Prior to this center, UTMC had a gero-psychiatric unit that was closed in 2008 due to changes in hospital programs.

Wendi Sorensen, the program’s nurse manager, said the new program is different because it’s designed for the comfort of the patient.

“UTMC has taken a cutting-edge approach providing health care in today’s market,” Sorensen said. “In today’s world, you want metrics, you want outcomes, you have to see sustained results, and they have contracted with Horizon because that’s what Horizon does and the outcomes are huge. That’s really what defines us differently.”

Schaaf said the hospital administration has been very supportive of the program and its start.

“Going to bat for mental health services isn’t always the popular thing to do,” she said. “There are bigger, fancier, sexier and frankly more revenue-producing things they could’ve done with their money, but they chose to do this. And they chose to do it very, very well.”

The center also is available to present mental health educational programs in the community free of charge.

For more information, contact the center at 419.383.6161.

OPEN HOUSE: Volunteer Jeanene Pifer, right, gave a tour of the Senior Behavioral Health Center to social workers from the Lutheran Homes Society during an open house Friday.

Women’s basketball program to host golf outing June 30

By Brian DeBenedictis

The University of Toledo women’s basketball program will host an inaugural golf outing Monday, June 30, at the Legacy Golf Course in Ottawa Lake, Mich.

The event will give fans a chance to golf with Rocket coaches and players for a day of competition and fun that supports the UT women’s basketball program. All proceeds from the golf outing will go directly toward Toledo’s upcoming overseas trip in summer 2015.

The entry fee for the outing is $125 per person, $475 for a foursome or $75 for women’s basketball alumni. The fee includes use of the driving range prior to the event, pre-golf breakfast, golf, post-golf lunch, and closest to the hole and longest drive competitions.

Registration and breakfast will begin at 8 a.m. with the shotgun start following at 9 a.m.

Head Coach Tricia Cullop also is offering opportunities for a Midnight Blue and Gold package ($1,000), hole sponsors ($150), green sponsors ($100), beverage cart sponsors ($200) for the outing and more.

For more information, call Lauren Flaum at 419.530.2363 or email at lauren.flaum2@utoledo.edu.