Medical students learn residency placements at annual Match Day ceremony

By Aimee Portala

 Tears of joy and congratulatory shouts filled the Great Hall of Stranahan Theater Friday as fourth-year medical students opened envelopes to reveal their residency placements. 

 Match Day is an annual event where medical students across the country learn where they will continue their training and, possibly, their entire medical careers. 

 “Match Day is one of the most exciting times in the life of a medical student, culminating years of hard work and indicating where they will spend the next three to seven years of their lives in training,” said Dr. Christopher Cooper, dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, and senior vice president for clinical affairs. “The University of Toledo College of Medicine faculty and staff are proud of our students and each year celebrate this important milestone in their lives.” 

 The 166 students matched with institutions across the country: the Cleveland Clinic, Johns Hopkins University, Yale University, the Mayo Clinic and more. 

 Interim President Nagi Naganathan attended the event as the leader of UT and as a parent of a medical student. His daughter, Sonya Naganathan, will study emergency medicine at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. 

 “I’m very excited to go where I’m matched,” Naganathan said. “I have worked as an EMT and my interest in the field has continued to grow. I’m happy to see how I progress over the next four years.” 

 Ann Hulme will study physical medicine and rehabilitation at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. 

 “It’s exciting to go somewhere new and take on a new adventure,” Hulme said. 

 Paying tribute

 Artist and UT alumna Leslie Adams revealed her presidential portrait for Dr. Lloyd Jacobs and his wife, Ola, Thursday during a rededication ceremony to announce the naming of the Lloyd A. Jacobs Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center in his honor. Jacobs, who said he was proud to have his name associated with the state-of-the-art medical education facility, thanked the many people who influenced his past decade in Toledo and expressed his confidence in the future of UT. He served as the University’s 16th president from 2006 to 2014 and oversaw the merger between the Medical College of Ohio and UT. Jacobs was the sixth president of MCO before the merger.

 New responsive UT website live

 Coming to a screen any size near you: The new responsive UT website. 

 Launching Monday, utoledo.edu is in a template that creates a better user experience by dynamically delivering the website in various device sizes, including desktop, mobile phones and tablets. 

 That change was made possible thanks to the Center for Creative Instruction, which is part of the Division of External Affairs.

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Match Day

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Match Day in northwest Ohio and 64 throughout the Buckeye State.

Christopher Johnson was the only student to match in the competitive field of ophthalmology. He is headed to Indiana University Health Ball Memorial for a preliminary year before studying at Loyola University Hines VA Hospital in Chicago.

“I was genuinely interested in optometry until I saw cataract surgery and I fell in love,” Johnson said. “I feel like I can do more for my patients in this field.”

Johnson’s three daughters, 12-week old twins and a 22-month-old, were present at the celebration wearing scrubs for the occasion.

The students matched into 26 specialties, with 58, or 35 percent, in primary care fields, and 108, or 65 percent, entering other specialties. The top specialties for this graduating class were internal medicine, pediatrics, emergency medicine and general surgery.

Michigan was the most popular state behind Ohio with 19 students matching there, followed by California with 13, and Pennsylvania and Texas each with seven. Overall, students matched with programs in 29 states.

‘Conservative Conservation’ topic of March 26 Stranahan Lecture

Jonathan H. Adler, the inaugural Johan Verheij Memorial Professor of Law and director of the Center for Business Law and Regulation at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, will deliver a talk titled “Conservative Conservation: Property Rights and Environmental Protection” Thursday, March 26, at noon in the Law Center McQuade Law Auditorium.

The free, public lecture is a presentation in the UT College of Law’s Stranahan National Issues Forum and is sponsored by the college and its chapter of the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies.

During his talk, Adler will challenge the premises upon which conventional approaches to environmental protection are based. He will argue that greater concern for property rights can provide the foundation for environmental protection that is more effective and equitable.

“This approach is reflected in federal legislation and is unquestioned by most scholars. In his Stranahan lecture, Professor Adler will challenge this narrative. In place of the heavy hand of the EPA, Professor Adler will argue that the free market and private property rights are the best way to protect the environment.”

Adler is a joint program of The University of Toledo and Detroit College of Law. The Stranahan National Issues Forum is a joint program of The University of Toledo College of Law and its chapter of the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies. It is made possible by an endowment from the Stranahan Foundation.

In memoriam

Daniel G. Sundberg, Sylvania, an instructor in the Department of Mathematics since 2004, died Feb. 28 at age 60.
The University of Toledo College of Business and Innovation and the Business Engagement and Leadership Council will recognize both business and academic excellence during its 52nd annual Pacemaker Awards Friday, March 27, at the Inverness Country Club.

The 2015 recipient of the Business Pacemaker Award is Steven M. Cavanaugh, executive vice president and chief operating officer, HCR ManorCare Inc. in Toledo.

In his capacity as chief operating officer at HCR ManorCare, Cavanaugh has oversight responsibility for all of the company’s day-to-day operations as well as the company’s public policy and government relations activities. He also serves as a member of the company’s board of directors.

HCR ManorCare is a post-acute health-care services company that operates skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, home health and hospice agencies, and outpatient rehabilitation. It does business in more than 500 locations nationwide and has nearly 60,000 employees who provide care to some 200,000 patients annually.

A native of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, Cavanaugh earned a bachelor’s degree in finance, magna cum laude, from The University of Toledo. He was appointed to The University of Toledo Board of Trustees by Ohio Gov. John Kasich in April 2014 and is also former chairman of the Business Advisory Council for the UT College of Business and Innovation.

Cavanaugh and his wife, Tiffany, reside in Holland, Ohio, and are the parents of two children.

“Recipients of the Pacemaker Award over the past five decades read as a who’s who of current and legendary business leaders in the Toledo region, and Steve certainly belongs in that impressive roster,” said Dr. Gary Insch, dean of the UT College of Business and Innovation.

“The Pacemaker Award is the college’s highest honor, recognizing an individual for outstanding achievement in business as well as contributions to the community and the University. His highly successful career, outstanding leadership and tremendous generosity make him the ideal business professional to receive this year’s award.”

Insch added, “Steven and Tiffany are generous supporters of the college and have enabled the college to pursue new initiatives. They also have recently established an endowed fund to provide scholarships, which are vital to attracting talented honor students to the college. It is a gift that will impact generations to come.”

Student Pacemaker Awards are presented to UT College of Business and Innovation graduate and undergraduate students for their outstanding academic achievement, University and community service, and leadership.

The 2015 student Pacemakers are:

- Applied Organizational Technology — Jessie Instone; Accounting — Lindsey Shepherd and Wenchao Li; Finance — James Spieth and James McSherry;
- Information Operations Technology Management — Amanda Bleasdale and Alexa Jarrett; Management — Jake Tullis and Christina Koepe;
- Marketing/International Business — Elizabeth Weiler and Alexandra Orr; MBA — Deanna Bobak and Katie Griggs; and PhD — Canchu Lin.

Cavanaugh and his wife, Tiffany, reside in Holland, Ohio, and are the parents of two children.

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“We have been watching our smartphone traffic increase, so moving to a responsive design was important,” Kathleen Walsh, director of web development, said. “Our visitors will now get a consistent and high-quality user experience across all browsing devices.”

“Our goal is to create an eye-catching, user-friendly website that offers visitors the best web experience,” Lawrence J. Burns, vice president for external affairs, said. “The responsive website aligns with our efforts to reach potential students through digital marketing to showcase all the great things UT offers.”

The UT home page and navigation received an updated look so it functions better on different devices and continues to focus on prospective students.

The large, bold top image will feature photography taken by University Marketing as part of UT’s efforts to advertise degrees and programs offered by the colleges. Content specifically focused on enrollment actions also takes commanding space on the new home page.

The new responsive template was launched on all websites managed in OmniUpdate, the web content management system that handles the majority of UT’s web pages.

“The content management system allows us to efficiently maintain this type of advanced technology, deliver it across 20,000-plus web pages, and still give our users complete access to managing their content,” Walsh said.

The template also continues the University’s commitment to meet the federal guidelines for accessible websites, Walsh added.

For breaking news, go to utnews.utoledo.edu

National spotlight

Dr. Kelly Phillips, associate professor and chair of the Department of Population and Community Care and director of the Master’s Programs in Nursing for the College of Nursing, was recognized for her work to advance and promote the clinical nurse leader role. She received an honorable mention for the 2015 Clinical Nurse Leader Educator Award at the 2015 Clinical Nurse Leader Summit that took place earlier this year in Orlando, Fla. Although another nominee was selected for the award, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing review committee was particularly moved by Phillips’ nomination and letters of support and she received an honorable mention because of her accomplishments and innovation.

“It is such a wonderful honor to be recognized nationally for my work,” Phillips said. “I have been involved with the clinical nurse leader program since its inception, and I was touched that my colleagues recognized my hard work and dedication through the nomination.”
Two professors named Jefferson Award winners

By Samantha Watson

Faculty at The University of Toledo are dedicated to improving the human condition — and Dr. Celia Williamson and Dr. Kristopher Brickman do so both in and out of the classroom.

That's why Williamson, professor of social work, and Brickman, professor and chair of emergency medicine, are two recipients of this year’s Toledo Area Jefferson Awards. The awards, given by the American Institute for Public Service, honor people for their leadership qualities while empowering other women to reach their potential.

Williamson has volunteered her time with many of these resources. She also founded the Second Chance program in Lucas County in 1993, the oldest program in the state that works with prostituted women and trafficked youth.

“Human trafficking affects more than just the victims, it affects the whole community,” Williamson said. “I’m honored that the community I’m serving recognizes my efforts, and I’m encouraged by this award to make an even bigger impact.”

Now she is leading the UT Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute, recently established by the University Board of Trustees.

Brickman, who has practiced medicine for almost 30 years, has led medical missions all over the world to help those in need after crises. He didn’t hesitate to help the people of Haiti after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck in 2010, and he was there in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan killed more than 6,000 people in 2013.

“Even with a job that keeps me busy here at UT, I never feel like my work is done,” Brickman said. “There is always more to do, but it’s important to approach each day with a passion to make the world a better place, whether it’s mentoring local high school students or developing global health programs.”

Along with his University responsibilities, Brickman has been the team physician and part-time wrestling coach for St. John’s High School for the last 28 years. He has mentored hundreds of high school students on their careers in both sports and life.

On top of providing help to those in need all over the world, Brickman encourages his students to do the same and educates them to be better equipped to assist others. He is the director of global health at UT Medical Center, partnering with foreign medical schools to give students an opportunity to learn outside the United States.

By placing medical students in international settings, often without modern medical infrastructure, Brickman introduces them to the challenges of working in diverse cultural situations. The Office of Global Health also supports students who want to go on medical missions by providing guidance and resources.

Williamson and Brickman were two of four honorees selected from a list of 53 nominees and 15 finalists. The four winners have the potential to win national Jefferson Awards and represent the region at a national ceremony in Washington, D.C., this summer.

The Toledo Area Jefferson Awards are sponsored by The Blade, Buckeye CableSystem, WTVG-13 and Leadership Toledo.

Professor, trustee recognized for service, achievement

By Cassandra DeSanto

The Youth and Women Catholic Association of Northwest Ohio recognized two women with connections to The University of Toledo at its 20th anniversary celebration, YWCA Milestones: A Tribute to Women, March 12.

At the evening gala, seven women were honored in the areas of arts, business, education, government, sciences, social services and volunteerism.

Dr. Iman Mohamed, associate dean of medical school admissions in the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences, medical oncologist and professor of medicine, and Sharon Speyer, northwest Ohio regional president of Huntington National Bank and vice chair of the UT Board of Trustees, were among the women recognized at the event.

The awards were presented to women who have reached significant milestones in their fields and have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities while empowering other women to reach their potential.

In addition, these women’s service and achievements are consistent with the YWCA’s mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

Mohamed, who also has membership in the Royal College of Physicians of the United Kingdom, which recognizes her knowledge for core medical training and is a valued professional distinction internationally, received the science milestone award.

“I receive gratification daily; there is not a single day where you don’t hear people who are thankful for what you do as a physician. But when the community acknowledges that you have made a difference, in even a small way, that’s very gratifying,” Mohamed said.

She was presented the award for her innovative live and social media outreach programs that focus on promoting breast cancer awareness, with an emphasis on preventive care and education, as well as her commitment to education, research and dedication to helping others.

“This is a northwest Ohio award, so that means that the area recognizes what I’ve done, which is important because then we can all partner in making the world a better place,” Mohamed said.

Speyer received the business milestone award for her Women in Leadership Program, which provides awareness, mentoring and opportunity for women seeking advancement.

“I am very flattered to be named as a milestone recipient,” Speyer said. “It is very humbling to be honored by your peers. It is even more special when these peers have been influential in your career development.”

The award further recognizes her service to the local community through her position of co-chair at Local Initiative Support Corp., which promotes healthy environments and lifestyles, and improving income and quality of life in the Cherry Street Corridor and the Garfield/Marina District. In addition, she serves the community as a board member for Marathon Classic, Regional Growth Partnership, ASPIRE and the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority.

“I am very fortuate to work for a company that values inclusion and promotes women to leadership positions,” Speyer said. “The more young women see others in leadership roles, the more they can appreciate that their aspirations are possible.”
Songfest to sport red, white and blue March 28

By Cassandra DeYoung

S ongfest, The University of Toledo’s second oldest tradition, shows its national pride with this year’s theme “Star-Spangled Songfest: A Tribute to American Music Icons” and chosen philanthropy, the Wounded Warrior Project.

For the competition, participating organizations are divided into three different divisions, co-ed, men and women. There will be nine different organizations participating in each of the men and women divisions, and three different organizations participating in the co-ed division.

“Since the event is free, each participating organization set fundraising goals to help raise money to donate to our philanthropy,” Nichole Herevia, Songfest mistress of ceremony and Blue Key member, said. “Throughout the months leading up to Songfest, organizations raised money by hosting fundraisers or will ask friends and family to donate.”

The Wounded Warrior Project is dedicated to raising awareness and to enlisting the public’s aid for the needs of injured service members, while also helping injured servicemen and women assist each other by providing unique, direct programs and services to meet veterans’ needs.

“There are countless numbers of service members who have answered the call to serve our country that have returned home with visible and invisible wounds,” Navy Reserve Lt. Haraz Ghanbari, UT military liaison, said.

“The decision of Songfest organizers to support the Wounded Warrior Project is another indicator of how our University community values the service and sacrifice of our military personnel.”

The Songfest committee, which consists of Blue Key and Motor Board National Honor Society members, is collaborating with the UT Military Service Center for the event.

“The military support on campus for this event has been extremely helpful,” Mauter said. “They are providing a lot for the event; for instance, they are bringing a Humvee to the event to be on display and for pictures.”

T-shirts and a pre-order video of the event can be purchased for $10 in the Student Union from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. this week and at Songfest. Proceeds from the sales will be donated to the Wounded Warrior Project after general costs.

Cash donations will be collected at the event, and online donations can be given at gofundme.com/songfestgivestowwp.

Additionally, materials will be collected at the event for care packages that will be sent to troops that are overseas. A list of accepted items can be found on the Hero’s in Action website at http://utoledo.oh/heroesinaction.

To keep up-to-date with Songfest, visit facebook.com/ut.songfest or follow on Twitter @utsongfest.

For more information on the event, contact Mauter and Herevia at utolesongfest@gmail.com.

‘The Vagina Monologues’ set to raise awareness, funds March 27-28

By Lindsay Mahaney

O ne in every three women will be physically or sexually abused in her lifetime — a staggering statistic that is being combated across the globe with the V-Day campaign. This March, The University of Toledo will take part in the movement to end violence.

“The Vagina Monologues” will be presented Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28, at 7 p.m. in the Driscoll Alumni Center Auditorium.

The show, which is sponsored by the UT Counseling Center, is an effort to raise money and awareness for ending violence against women.

“It’s traditional to have the show in the time period that’s known as the V-day season, so Valentine’s Day through April, which is Sexual Assault Awareness Month,” said Aly Barakat, a second-year master of public health student, who is directing the performance.

Based on American playwright Eve Ensler’s monologue — which used interviews from women of different age, race and origin — the all-female show will delve into the many different feminine experiences that the body goes through, varying from sexual assault to the birth of a child.

When the show premiered in 1994, it ignited the V-Day movement, a global campaign of grassroots activists dedicated to generating broader attention and funds to stop violence against women and girls. The movement supports the show on college campuses and theaters worldwide with all proceeds going toward ending violence. With a presence in more than 140 countries, millions of dollars are raised annually.

This year’s show at UT will benefit Steinem’s Sisters, a feminist lending library and archive in northwest Ohio established to honor Gloria Steinem and sustain feminist thought, values and culture. The ongoing project is working toward a stand-alone nonprofit community place that will serve as a feminist education center and library.

The funds raised will be put toward purchasing books and materials that can be checked out at the People Called Women feminist bookstore, 6060 Renaissance Place, Toledo.

“Women talking about themselves, having the power to talk about themselves and not being afraid to talk about themselves; the implication of having the freedom to talk about your body is humongous,” Barakat said. “In a personal sense, in a relationship sense, in a health sense — it has a lot of reach. I think that’s why I’m so personally invested.”

Preceding the show, a resource fair will be held starting at 6 p.m. and feature local organizations and businesses owned and operated by women.

Tickets are $5 for students and $10 for general admission and can be purchased at the door.

For more information, contact Barakat at alcy.barakat@rockets.utoledo.edu.
Event shines spotlight on Diversity Champions

By Jennifer Solanics

On St. Patrick’s Day, University community members saw just how lucky they are at a reception celebrating the 2015 Diversity Champions.

More than 330 faculty, staff and students were recognized in the 2014 Campus Climate Survey as Diversity Champions for embracing diversity well at UT.

A reception was held last week to celebrate and thank the champions for their work on campus. The event was sponsored by the Culture Ambassadors as part of an initiative to recognize and thank individuals for helping create a welcoming environment at the University.

Interim President Nagi Naganathan, Vice President of External Affairs Lawrence J. Burns, and Interim Provost John Barrett addressed the crowd, speaking on the importance of diversity and a welcoming culture, and thanked the champions for their efforts.

Naganathan welcomed the attendees and said, “You are doing the right things, not in desperate moments, but just doing the right things every day.”

Barrett spoke about promoting diversity and how it creates opportunities, mentors, role models and better citizens: “To me, the most important thing that diversity does is it makes all of us better.”

The event also honored eight individuals, four faculty/staff and four students, as Diversity Award Winners. These individuals were recognized in the Campus Climate Survey results multiple times for their efforts for diversity.

“In our environment, we are really trying to embrace diversity and our differences to learn from one another. Six years ago, we came up with the concept of creating the Culture Ambassadors to do just that, to come up with events and activities that tell the story about our differences to understand each other better,” Burns said.

“Diversity is a UT core value and this inaugural event celebrates the hard work of the UT community members,” said Dr. Shanda Gore, associate vice president for equity, diversity and community engagement, and chief diversity officer, who recently was in Washington, D.C., accepting the 2014 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine on behalf of the University. “UT has once again been recognized nationally for diversity-related initiatives that are directly impacting the lives of our UT students, faculty and staff, and surrounding community. Our office and the Culture Ambassadors look forward to continuing this event and recognition of future champions.”

To see a complete listing of the award winners and champions, visit the Culture Ambassadors webpage, utoledo.edu/diversity/ambassadors/award/index.html.

The Culture Ambassadors are a group of faculty, staff and students on all the campuses who are passionate about creating a welcoming environment for everyone. The Culture Ambassadors are supported by the Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Engagement. The group meets monthly and is always looking for new members. For more information, call 419.530.5538.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION: Dr. Shanda Gore, associate vice president for equity, diversity and community engagement, and chief diversity officer, shows off the 2014 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine that she accepted recently in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the University.

IT’S IN THE BAG: Anna Chlebowski, administrative secretary in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, checked out purses at the Satellites Auxiliary’s spring sale last week. Proceeds will benefit the auxiliary’s nursing scholarship.
Learning Ventures recognizes individuals who impact distance learning

By Kevin Bucher

Learning Ventures recently celebrated three individuals who have made a big impact in distance learning at The University of Toledo.

Dr. David Meabon, associate professor of higher education in the College of Social Justice and Human Service, and director of the John H. Russel Center for Educational Leadership, received the DiAnne M. Musztak Award.

The award is presented annually to an individual in the greater University community who has supported online learning and educational technology in a distinguished fashion. Meabon has been teaching online at UT since 2001.

“DiAnne is a very special individual who provided incredible service to the University,” Meabon said. “The award I received could only be achieved by the service I got through Learning Ventures, so it is quite an honor to have that connection with her.”

Kevin Gibbs, associate lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, received thella Friidm An Award for exhibiting pedagogically sound and student-centered instruction in an online course.

Fridman was a faculty member in the Engineering Technology Department and a pioneer in online learning. She was one of the first faculty members to start converting courses to online versions.

“I am very humbled having worked with Mark for a number of years. He was an amazing individual, a very hard-working person who was passionate about helping others,” Ballard said. “To be nominated for an award in his name is a great honor.”

Dr. Barbara Kopp Miller, associate provost for online education, said the awards are a way to acknowledge the hard work of individuals and the impact they have made with online learning at UT.

“It was a way for us to recognize advocates of online education both at The University of Toledo community level and also within Learning Ventures to celebrate the success of those who help us succeed with online education.”

College of Law offers Indiana residents Ohio in-state tuition

By Rachel Phipps

What if Indiana’s most affordable law school isn’t in Indiana?

For members of the fall 2015 entering class, The University of Toledo College of Law will provide Indiana residents a scholarship to cover the out-of-state tuition surcharges, making UT the most affordable law school for Hoosiers. The scholarship will be automatically renewed each semester of law school enrollment.

With the new Indiana Resident Scholarship Guarantee, Indiana residents will effectively pay the UT College of Law’s in-state tuition rate of $17,900, which is lower than any public or private law school in Indiana.

“The UT College of Law offers a nationally ranked education with a personal touch,” said Daniel J. Steinbock, dean of the College of Law. “We have many graduates who have had outstanding legal careers after returning to or settling in Indiana with a UT law degree.”

He added that improving the value the UT College of Law provides its students is vital and noted other recent initiatives include enhanced opportunities for experiential learning during all three years and more emphasis on joint degree programs such as the JD/MBA and new JD/MD.

Shapiro Essay Revision Contest winners named

By Kevin Bucher

On its 26th anniversary, the 2015 Shapiro Essay Revision Contest had the largest number of participants ever with 174 students competing for 15 prizes.

Students from almost every academic major took part in the writing contest on campus, which was sponsored by the Department of English Language and Literature and the Composition Program.

“We were very excited with the number of students that participated in the contest this year; 174 is the largest turnout we have ever had,” said Dr. Deborah Coulter-Harris, associate lecturer of English and the contest director.

Winners of this year’s contest were:

- Andrea Tsatalis, sophomore biology major, $500;
- Ashley Teow, junior biology major, $400;
- Elissa L. Vaitheus, sophomore sociology/women and gender studies major, $300;
- Jessica Mysyk, sophomore political science/economics major, $200; and
- Christina Palmiero, sophomore speech language pathology major, $100.

Taking home $75 prizes were:

- Erin Bruggemann, freshman education major;
- Ryan K. Beagle, freshman economics major;
- Andrea A. Ferrao, freshman economics major;
- Lindsay M. Mahaney, junior communication major;
- Jana L. Choberka, freshman biology major; and
- Dingzhong Hu, senior psychology major.

The Shapiro Writing Contest is named for and supported by funds established by the late Dr. Edward Shapiro, professor emeritus of economics, who retired from The University of Toledo in 1989 after 22 years of service. An undergraduate of UT, he went on to obtain a master of arts degree from Ohio State University and a doctoral degree from Harvard.
Gary Pinkel, former Toledo football coach, was among five individuals recently named as 2015 inductees to the Mid-American Conference Hall of Fame.

The five new members will be inducted Wednesday, May 27, at 6 p.m. during the MAC Honor’s Dinner at the Cleveland Renaissance Hotel.

Joining Pinkel will be Casey Cunningham (Central Michigan, wrestling), Bob Parks (Eastern Michigan, men’s cross country, men’s track and field), Ben Roethlisberger (Miami, football), and George Dales (Western Michigan, men’s cross country, men’s track and field).

Pinkel has a long association with the Mid-American Conference from his time as UT head football coach from 1991 to 2000, to his origins as a Kent State football player and graduate in 1975.

In Pinkel’s 10 seasons as the head coach of the Rockets, Toledo players were named to the Academic All-MAC team or Academic Honor Roll 61 times, more than any other league school during that time period. He coached two Academic All-Americans at Toledo, Craig Dues (1995, 1996) and Todd France (2000).

During his decade at the helm, Pinkel racked up the most wins in school history (73), as well as the highest winning percentage (.659) among those coaches who were on the sidelines for at least three seasons. He also ranks fifth in the MAC in wins, fourth in wins in MAC contests (53), and eighth in winning percentage.

He led his team to a MAC Championship in 1995, as the Rockets went 11-0-1, won the Las Vegas Bowl, and ended the season ranked No. 22 in the final coaches’ poll. He also led UT to MAC West Division titles in 1997 and 1998. In his final season at Toledo in 2000, Pinkel’s Rockets went 10-1, including a 24-6 win at Penn State. His teams ranked in the top 25 in three different seasons — 1995, 1997 and 2000.

He was MAC Coach of the Year in 1995 and 1997. Pinkel left Toledo after the 2000 season to accept the head coaching position at Missouri, leading the Tigers into the top 10 in 2007 and 2008, as well as to SEC East titles in 2013 and 2014. He is Missouri’s all-time leader in wins (113-66), making him the all-time victory leader at two schools.

Pinkel was a three-time letterwinner as a tight end at Kent State from 1971 to 1973. In his senior season, he earned All-MAC and honorable mention All-America honors.

At Toledo, Pinkel established volunteer programs for his team with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Habitat for Humanity, as well as numerous elementary school outreach programs in the Toledo area. He has the unique distinction of being in the hall of fame at two MAC schools, Kent State and Toledo.

The MAC Hall of Fame was approved by the MAC Council of Presidents in 1987. The charter class was inducted in 1988 and subsequent classes were added in 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1994. After six induction classes, the MAC Hall of Fame maintained 52 members until it was reinstated in 2012. This year’s class brings the number of MAC Hall of Fame inductees to 77 individuals from 10 classes.

Tickets for the MAC Honor’s Dinner — individual ticket for $100 and a table of 10 for $950 — are available by contacting Julie Kachner at the Mid-American Conference Office at 216.566.4622.