National expert in legal education, property law selected college dean

By Jon Strunk

A national leader in legal education and property law will become The University of Toledo College of Law’s next dean, pending approval by UT’s Board of Trustees.

Benjamin Barros, associate dean of academic affairs at Widener University’s School of Law in Harrisburg, Pa., will be the college’s next leader following a national search, it was announced last week.

“Ben Barros has extensive experience in legal education and in the practice of law at two of the nation’s top law firms, each with an international footprint,” said John Barrett, interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. “As wetland restoration project helps prevent bacteria from entering Maumee Bay

By Meghan Cunningham

There should be fewer days when Maumee Bay beaches are under a public health advisory this summer thanks to a wetland restoration project led by a University of Toledo environmental scientist.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Project includes the addition of a sedimentation pond in Wolf Creek and treatment wetland near Maumee Bay State Park that will filter out Escherichia coli bacteria and phosphorus pollutants before runoff water enters Lake Erie.

“The goal is for better water quality at Maumee Bay State Park, which in recent years has had health advisories posted 20 percent of the time due to high levels of bacteria in the water and that has had a negative impact on attendance to the beaches,” said Dr. Daryl Dwyer, UT Interim UT President Nagi Naganathan hooded his daughter, Sonya Naganathan, Friday afternoon during the College of Medicine and Life Sciences commencement in Stranahan Theater. There were 236 candidates for degrees, including 174 for the doctor of medicine degree, which she received. Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, senior adviser to the Secretary for American Indians and Alaska Natives with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, was presented an honorary degree from Naganathan and Dr. Christopher Cooper, senior vice president for clinical affairs and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences. She addressed the graduates during the ceremony.

Women’s soccer coach named

By Brian DeBenedictis

The University of Toledo has hired former Southwest Minnesota State University head coach Thomas (TJ) Buchholz as its head women’s soccer coach, UT Vice President and Athletic Director Mike O’Brien announced Friday.

“TJ is a proven winner at the collegiate level,” O’Brien said. “He built Southwest Minnesota State into a competitive regional team. His teams have excelled on the field, in the classroom and in the community. He is a great choice to lead our women’s soccer team.”

“I’m truly overjoyed for the opportunity to lead this well-respected program,” said Buchholz, who will be the third coach in the 20-year history of the program. “The UT soccer program has a strong history, winning four conference tournament titles, and has consistently been...
Associate professor to talk on climate change in nation’s capital

By Samantha Watson

S
ince taking a sabbatical in Washington, D.C., seven years ago, Dr. Andy Jorgensen has spoken to approximately 150 groups of students, teachers, chemists and other audiences about climate change.

On Wednesday, June 3, The University of Toledo associate professor of chemistry will present once more — to the National Press Club. Though the group is different from his normal audience, Jorgensen said it is very important to share his knowledge with press members.

“This is the National Press Club,” Jorgensen said. “This is where people talk about important national issues, and I hope that I can make connections with reporters to help them understand and connect with this subject. In the future, they might come to me with questions because there is a climate change story in the news every day.”

Jorgensen, who focuses on science education, studied climate change during his sabbatical at the National Council for Science and the Environment. During that time, he worked with colleagues to create CAMEL — Climate Adaptation Mitigation E-Learning — an online program with more than 1,400 resources on climate change.

The website, camelclimatechange.org, and Jorgensen’s presentations to groups all over the country attempt to educate the public on why climate change education is important. During each presentation, Jorgensen aims to contextualize and personalize the data so that audience members realize the individual impact they can have on the environment.

“Every person makes a decision,” Jorgensen said. “The next time they buy a car, the next time they walk out of room without hitting the light switch, the next time they order on a restaurant menu — every decision has its consequences.”

Jorgensen was invited to speak to the National Press Club after a member saw a presentation he gave to the American Chemical Society, of which he is a member.

His June 3 presentation is titled “Climate Change Disruption: How Do We Know? What Can We Do?” He plans to provide current data about climate change, but also information about the presentation itself and the impact it has had on other audiences.

In particular, Jorgensen will talk about his use of clickers during his presentations; these allow him to ask the audience questions, gather responses, and display them in real time. He typically asks the audience for their opinions on climate change before and after the presentation, then displays the changes in opinion.

Aside from presentations, Jorgensen spends much of his time helping the public understand climate change in other capacities. He recently helped the UT Department of Theatre and Film with its production of “The Immortals,” which touched on climate change and global warming.

UT Health physician becomes first cardiologist to visit Central American city

By Brandi Barhite

A physician for UT Health made a notable impression during a recent trip to a poverty-stricken city in Honduras.

Dr. Samer Khouri, director of non-invasive cardiology at UT Health, earned the distinction of becoming the first cardiologist to treat patients in La Ceiba, a city of 250,000 people.

Khouri, along with Dr. Eddie Kakish, Dr. Jean-Paul Amegee and registered nurse Julia Benfield, went on the UT Health-funded mission trip May 3-9. Including heart patients, they treated about 80 others a day at the local medical clinic.

Residents flocked to the clinic where UT Health’s team had set up. Many of the patients had questions about heart pain and palpitations. One woman had been out of breath for the past eight years. She thought it was a heart problem, but Khouri diagnosed her as asthmatic and prescribed her an inhaler.

“The nearest hospital with a cardiologist is two and half hours away,” Khouri said. “Hardly anyone has health insurance and it would cost a month’s salary for any type of heart treatment. These people were so appreciative of the help and care that we brought to their city.”

The UT Health relationship with Honduras was forged with the help of the Toledo area church, CedarCreek, which founded the medical clinic in La Ceiba. The clinic is primarily an outpatient facility that treats routine illnesses and injuries; it does not offer cardiac treatment.

“It was huge for a cardiologist to visit the city,” said Bill Trout, executive pastor who oversees international missions.

“Dr. Khouri was able to bring some technology to the small clinic, including a handheld echocardiogram.

“Dr. Khouri was teaching the entire time as well. He was imparting his knowledge and experience to a fourth-year medical student in Honduras. It was so amazing to watch,” Trout said.

Khouri put this community’s plight into perspective by comparing it to the Toledo area, which is a region of similar

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Handicapped parking to be relocated during Lot 11 construction starting June 8

By Samantha Watson

Beginning Monday, June 8, Lot 11 on The University of Toledo’s Main Campus will be closed.

Lot 11, the handicapped-only area located behind the Snyder Memorial Building, will undergo construction to add more parking and improve sidewalk connections in the area.

In the meantime, there will be 11 temporary handicap spots in Lot 10 north of the Glass Bowl for the duration of construction. Motorists and pedestrians should be cautious in the area and obey signage.

“We’re working hard to improve the parking situation around campus, and this project is one of many to accomplish that goal,” said Doug Collins, director of grounds and off-site facilities. “We thank everyone for being patient while we make improvements and apologize for any inconvenience.”

The lot will reopen at the end of the summer in time for the start of fall semester. If you have any questions, contact Collins at 419.530.1018 or douglas.collins@utoledo.edu.

In memoriam

Wampa J. Bitz, Holland, a custodian at UT for 21 years before her retirement, died May 17 at age 87.

Dick Meyers, Toledo, an architect who had the vision to cultivate beauty on the University’s campuses, died May 21 at age 75. As a co-founder of the Collaborative Inc., a Toledo-based design firm, he had a hand in more than 30 landscape design and planning projects on UT campuses. He recently cited his most notable achievement as Centennial Mall, which was a parking lot before he helped design the green space. Meyers also did the planning for the landscape surrounding the Law Center; the site planning for the Student Recreation Center and the expansion of the Student Union; and many projects on Health Science Campus, including the original site and landscape design for the Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center and the Bryant Academic Commons. In addition to his professional work, Meyers served the University for the past 10 years as a volunteer. He was one of the original members of the President’s Commission on the River; the organization that started the habitat restoration efforts for the 3,700 feet of the Ottawa River running through Main Campus. Meyers also worked on the renovation project around Savage Arena and designed the first river outlook, which was dedicated with a plaque in his honor in April. Before the ceremony, Meyers said, “It’s exciting to see the growth here on campus and know that I was a small part of that.” Memorial tributes are suggested to the UT Foundation General Scholarship Fund.

Dr. Joseph R. Stevens, Sylvania, died May 15 at age 92. He was named a clinical associate in surgery at MCO in 1970, became a clinical assistant professor in 1975, and a clinical associate professor in 1986. Stevens was a volunteer faculty member until 2003.

The University of Toledo’s Main Campus and adjacent areas.

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The University of Toledo’s Main Campus and adjacent areas.
Law graduate receives statewide award for article

By Rachel Phipps

Alec Vogelpohl has won the Ohio State Bar Association’s 2015 Environmental Law Award for his paper titled “Ohio’s Public Trust Doctrine: The State’s Duty to Prevent Harmful Algal Blooms in Lake Erie.”

Vogelpohl’s paper analyzes how the public trust doctrine, rooted in the U.S. Constitution, statutes and common law, imposes a duty on the state to protect the public’s rights of navigation, commerce and fishing in Lake Erie. The state is violating its duties under the public trust doctrine by failing to address key sources of nutrient pollution contributing to harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie, Vogelpohl argued, and the state should be forced to regulate those sources.

“Alec’s novel paper does a great job of applying an ancient legal doctrine to an important modern problem,” said Ken Kilbert, associate dean for academic affairs, professor of law, and director of the UT College of Law’s Legal Institute of the Great Lakes.

Vogelpohl graduated cum laude last month with a certificate of concentration in environmental law.

Last year, he earned a Best Oralist Award at the National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition.

This is the sixth year for the Ohio State Bar Association’s Environmental Law Award, and it marks the second time a UT law student captured the top prize. 2012 law alumnus M. Zack Hohl won three years ago.

According to the Ohio State Bar Association website, a panel of environmental lawyers and association members reviewed the submitted articles, which were judged on the following criteria: relevance to the practice of law in Ohio, timeliness and importance of the selected topic, organization, quality of legal analysis, quality of legal research, and quality of the overall writing.

This year there were two second-place winners: Alex Savickas, who also graduated from the UT College of Law in May, and a student from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

The article was published in the Ohio State Bar Association’s Environment, Energy and Resources Law Seminar materials, and Vogelpohl received a prize of $1,000 donated by the Ohio law firm McMahon DeGulis LLP.

The Ohio State Bar Association’s Environmental Law Award is the prize for a writing contest for law students on topics that advance the application and practice of environmental, energy or resources law in the state.

Register for Stoeppler Scholarship Golf Outing

By Cassandra DeYoung

Support University of Toledo law students by signing up for the 16th annual John W. Stoeppler Scholarship Golf Outing, which will take place Monday, June 8.

The golf outing was established in 1990 to benefit UT College of Law students. To date, the fund has awarded more than $98,900 in scholarships to 37 students.

This year’s event will be held at the Belmont Country Club in Perrysburg. Registration will start at 11:30 a.m. Participants can eat lunch or begin practicing on the driving range until the 1 p.m. shotgun start. Teams then will play an 18-hole scramble and finish with dinner. A short presentation will begin at 6 p.m.

Teams of four golfers are being accepted for $620 per team. A single golfer also can register and be placed on a team for $155. Individuals may opt to not golf, but may still socialize by attending the dinner for $40 per person.

Team and individual golfers must register either online at give2ut.utoledo.edu/stoepplerGolf.asp or by printing a registration form and mailing it with a check made payable to The University of Toledo Foundation to Ansley Abrams-Frederick, Office of Alumni Relations, Mail Stop 301, The University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606.

All proceeds will benefit UT law students.

For more information, call the UT Alumni Relations Office at 419.530.2586.

Dean

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dean, Ben will bring with him innovative educational approaches that respond to the changes in the legal profession and ensure our law graduates continue to leave UT a step ahead of their peers as they pursue employment.”

Barros said the strength of UT’s law school was one of the key components that attracted him to the position. “UT’s law graduates have some of the best bar passage rates in both Ohio and Michigan and a big part of that is unquestionably the stellar faculty that comprise the College of Law,” Barros said. “Faculty are regularly advancing national legal conversations in their published scholarship and are frequently the voices media at a national level reach out to for expertise.

“The result is an alumni base that is very successful in the profession and holds many prestigious and influential positions across the country,” Barros said, also noting the college has positioned itself very competitively with its current tuition pricing.

Barros also emphasized the importance of a continued partnership with the local legal community for the college and UT’s students.

Prior to joining Widner University, Barros worked as an attorney at the law firm Latham & Watkins LLP, and before that at Debevoise & Plimpton, both in New York City. He has taught at Fordham University and Catholic University.

Immediately after graduating law school at Fordham, Barros clerked for Judge Milton Pollack of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. He has a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in philosophy from Colgate University and the University of Maryland, respectively.

Barros is the founding editor of the Journal of Law, Property and Society. He was one of the youngest educators to serve on the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools and has served as chair of its Property Section as well as president of the Association for Law, Property and Society.

Earlier this year, he published a textbook on property law with Aspen and Wolters Kluwer and has been published in leading philosophy journals, including Philosophy of Science and Synthese.

A recipient of Widner law school’s outstanding faculty award this spring, Barros said student success is the primary goal.

“The most rewarding part of being a law professor to me is seeing the transformation of my students in law school and following their career success,” he said.

Barrett also thanked Daniel Steinbock for his service as the college’s dean since 2011. He also served as interim dean in 2010.

“Under Dean Steinbock’s leadership, UT law graduates passed the bar exam at some of the highest rates in Michigan and Ohio,” Barrett said. “From faculty scholarship, to fundraising, to community engagement, Dan is leaving the deanship in a much stronger state. I know I speak for many when I say thank you for all he has accomplished on behalf of UT.”
A n agreement has been reached for the historic Inverness Club to serve as the home course for The University of Toledo men’s and women’s golf programs for the next five years.

Inverness, which became the home course for the Rockets last fall, has hosted the 1986 and 1993 PGA Championships; the 1920, 1931, 1957 and 1979 U.S. Opens; the 1973 U.S. Amateur; the 2003 and 2009 U.S. Senior Opens; and the 1944 and 2009 NCAA Men’s Golf Championships. The storied course also will host the 2019 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship.

“The Inverness Club has made to our programs, and this will help take us to the next level,” Hollingsworth said. “We’ve already noticed a big improvement in our play, especially in the short game, since last fall. Having a chance to practice and play at a course with so much history can only help us get better, and we’re very thankful to be able to call Inverness our home.”

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The Inverness Club was founded in 1903 and derives its name from the small village of Inverness in Scotland. The course was designed by Donald Ross and updated by Arthur Hills in 1997. Inverness is one of America’s great golf courses and is home to a very rich golf history. In 2010, Golf Digest ranked the Inverness Club the 40th-best course in the United States.

Women’s soccer coach

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one of the top teams in the region. I’m very aware of their past accomplishments, and I look to continue the great tradition.

“It was very tough to leave Southwest Minnesota State. I had four special years there, but The University of Toledo is also a special place, and I can’t wait to get started.”

Buchholz posted a record of 38-32-5 in four years at NCAA Division II SMSU, including 29-24-5 in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. He helped the Mustangs establish 17 school records during his stay at SMSU.

This past fall, Southwest Minnesota State finished 10-8-1 overall, 9-5-1 in the league. Autumn Hayes and Miranda Cadena were tabbed to the All-Central Region second team. In total, five players were named to the conference team.

In 2013, SMSU reached new heights by earning a berth into the NCAA Division II Championships for the first time in program history. The Mustangs earned two post-season victories along the way, defeating No. 1 seed Minnesota State to snap the Mavericks’ 36-match home winning streak and advance to the NCAA Sweet 16. SMSU wrapped up the year with a school-record 16 wins and was ranked No. 18 in the Top 25 poll. For the squad’s efforts on the pitch, Buchholz was tabbed the conference coach of the year.

SMSU had six players garner all-conference accolades in 2013, including Brienna Dehkes, who earned goalkeeper of the year honors. Cadena also was named the NCAA Division II Central Region Player of the Year and became the program’s first-ever All-American. SMSU had a total of five players earn all-region laurels in 2013.

Buchholz laid the foundation during his first two seasons, producing a 5-10-1 record in 2011, the program’s highest victory total since 2004, and improving again in 2012, finishing with a 7-9-1 mark academically, SMSU maintained at least a 3.0 team grade-point average every year since 2011 and earned multiple National Soccer Coaches Association of America Team Academic Awards.

Buchholz, who has 12 seasons of head coaching experience at the collegiate level, came to SMSU after spending 2010 as assistant women’s soccer coach at NCAA Division I California-Riverside.

Prior to his stint at UC-Riverside, Buchholz spent two seasons (2008-09) as the head women’s and men’s soccer coach at NCAA Division III Wartburg College in Iowa and seven seasons (2001-08) as head coach of the men’s program at Northwestern College in Iowa. He also served one season as the Northwestern College head women’s soccer coach (2007).

His career head coaching record in women’s soccer is 76-47-9 in six seasons and 99-69-7 in nine seasons as a men’s head coach.

During his two seasons as Wartburg’s women’s head coach, the team compiled a 31-5-4 overall record, won the program’s first conference championship in 2008 and achieved the first-ever national ranking in 2009. He led the Wartburg men’s team to a pair of conference tournament championships, two NCAA Championship appearances and an overall ledger of 31-10-2. In the classroom, both programs received National Soccer Coaches Association of America Team Academic Awards in 2008 and 2009.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Northwestern College in 1999 and earned his master’s degree in sports management from California University of Pennsylvania in 2008.

Buchholz and his wife, Candace, have three daughters, Season (10), Chloe (7) and Sophie (3).
Patent’s recovery ‘unbelievable’ after brain bleeding

By Meghan Cunningham

Kirk Walters heard a crash in the kitchen and ran in to find his son lying on the floor.

There were no visible signs of injury. Maybe Sam fell and twisted an ankle? But when his son answered “Where does it hurt?” by grabbing the back of his head, the father of four made a quick decision to call an ambulance and head to The University of Toledo Medical Center, where a neurosurgeon saved him from a rare brain bleed.

“That was our demarcation of time — Jan. 24, 2011. There is before and there is after. He was as healthy as an ox one minute and the next he just collapsed on the kitchen floor getting a Diet Pepsi,” Kirk said. “The progress he has made has just been unbelievable.”

Four years after that deep brain Arteriovenous malformation caused significant bleeding on the left side of Sam’s brain, which is the dominant side, the Walters family reunited last month with UT Health neurosurgeon Dr. Daniel Gaudin for a checkup.

“This was a complicated case and seeing his progress is the reason why I do this,” Gaudin said. “We don’t have a lot of huge successes like that.”

When Sam came to the hospital four years ago, he was unresponsive. The first step was to control the bleeding and save his life, then find the cause. In Sam’s case, that cause was a deep brain Arteriovenous malformation, known as AVM, which is an abnormal collection of blood vessels.

It is estimated that in the United States one in 200 to 500 people have an AVM in the brain, but half the time it isn’t discovered until there is bleeding more frequently. There is a 2 to 4 percent chance of a hemorrhage per year for people with an AVM, which compounds with age, and there is a risk of permanent brain damage or even death when it happens, Gaudin said.

Sam, who is severely autistic, was not able to communicate with his caregivers, which caused Gaudin and his team at UT Health to make adjustments to his treatment plan.

In most cases, and specifically for Sam, a blood clot needs to be removed to save the patient’s life and then he would need to have part of his skull removed for quite some time to accommodate for the brain swelling. After a couple months when the swelling recedes enough, the doctors can then replace the skull bone and perform radiation to address the AVM.

In Sam’s case, however, he would not keep the helmet on to protect his brain while the piece of his skull was removed, so that was not an option.

“We needed to put the bone back earlier even though the swelling was still present in order to start the stereotactic radiosurgery in two to three weeks, rather than two to three months,” Gaudin said.

The radiation therapy focuses high-powered energy on a small area of the body. The radiation causes the AVM to close off over a period of two to three years in up to 80 percent of patients. After the radiation therapy, Sam’s AVM completely resolved.

“His parents were great through the whole process as we explained why we were doing things a bit differently,” Gaudin said. “There were some challenges, but we overcame them.”

Sam was in intensive care for a long time and had a difficult road ahead with some complications and other health concerns along the way. It was a year and a half before they could begin the process of teaching him how to walk again.

“When he took his first steps, everybody was in tears. Everybody,” said Mary Walters, Sam’s mother and director of the Autism Model School from which he graduated in the fall. “Then it progressed quickly. He went from barely standing to taking a few steps to walking the length of the gym in almost no time. Before this all happened, he would run like the wind. I had to take up running to keep up! So it was his determination that got him back on his feet.”

Kirk, who is the editorial cartoonist for The Blade, was worried that his son’s personality might have changed. Sam was withdrawn for a while and, of course, he couldn’t be as active as he once was.

“But then there was birthday cake at a nursing station where he was in rehab and Sam wheeled himself in there. Only able to use his left arm, he used his foot as sort of a rudder to steer and get in there without going in circles. He stole the cake and ate half of it before anyone noticed,” Kirk said with a laugh. “That’s when I knew he was going to be OK. If Sam is fixated on something, he will get it and there is nothing you can do to stop him. He’s mischievous and quite the problem solver.”

The recent reunion between the Walters family and Gaudin happened to occur during the Autism Awareness Month of April.

“I think the autism, maybe ironically, helped in his recovery,” Kirk said.

“He does have that resilience,” Gaudin agreed.

Sam, now 22, has resumed the language skills he had before the incident. There is still some weakness on his right side, but that will continue to improve over time.

The progress he has made from where he was is remarkable, his mother said.

“The entire staff at UTMC was fabulous,” Mary said. “They were so patient and explained everything to us every step of the way. We were a team.”

“On a particularly difficult day, I’m sitting in the hallway and a woman pushing a cart stops to tell me a joke. I don’t even remember the joke, but I started laughing and she said, ‘Good. It looked like you needed to smile,’” Kirk remembered.

“And that’s an example of just a nice touch through our experience here. That woman didn’t need to stop, but she did. That stays with me four years later.”
New sculptures reign on campuses

By Vicki L. Kroll

A trio of red blossoms reaches skyward between UT Medical Center and Mulford Library. Swimming silently through a sea of green leaves is a 9-foot fish south of Carlson Library near the Ottawa River. And a 300-pound dog measuring more than 5 feet tall stands guard outside Nitschke Hall.

Ric Leichliter’s “Promise to Flower,” Tom Rudd’s “Whitefish” and James Oleson’s “Howl” are three of the 10 new works featured in the 10th annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition.

The three artists were among more than 50 who submitted proposals for consideration to the Midwest Sculpture Initiative. The UT Campus Beautification Committee reviewed the applications and chose pieces that were installed last month.

“It’s a privilege to be involved with this project and to see the creativity it sparks year after year,” said Dr. Steve LeBlanc, interim dean of the College of Engineering and chair of the Campus Beautification Committee. “I look forward each year to the arrival of the new sculptures to campus.”

Nearly 100 sculptures have rotated through the display at the University since the exhibit began, and 12 have become part of UT’s art collection thanks to the generosity of campus benefactors, colleges and departments, LeBlanc added.

New works dotting campus this year are:

• James Havens’ “Phoenix” rises atop the hill west of University Hall.
• “Teal Oak Leaf Bench” offers an inviting seat on Centennial Mall between University Hall and the Student Union. The decorative, functional piece was made by Joe Krajkiewcz.
• “Ad Infinitum” by Virginia Kistler is a 500-pound work created from Extira and steel that appears to rotate while standing still north of Libbey Hall.
• Todd Kime’s “Bounce” is a bright yellow and red piece that exudes energy on Centennial Mall west of the Health and Human Services Building.
• “Mantis,” a 1,500-pound black steel insect by John W. Parker, awaits traffic along University Parks Trail north of Ottawa House West.
• “To Hope” by William Walther is a funky steel bench located in front of University Hall and west of Gillham Hall.

Artists receive stipends for their sculptures, which will be on display for the next year. LeBlanc said the annual exhibit is made possible through gifts from donors.

“Those who enjoy the sculptures are asked to please consider a donation to the Campus Beautification Committee through the UT Foundation,” he said.

Photos by Crystal Hand and Daniel Miller
Grandfather surprises family, finally obtains his first college degree

By Bob Mackowiak

Among the hugs and happiness of hundreds of graduates from The University of Toledo College of Business and Innovation in May, there may not have been anyone happier, more emotional than Michael Mack.

That’s because 59-year-old Mack, a skilled trades pipe fitter/millwright at Jeep in Toledo, first started taking college classes (political science) in 1978, but he never obtained a degree until receiving his associate’s degree in business last month.

And although his family knew he was taking classes at UT, they did not know he would be receiving his degree in May until about one week before graduation.

“I didn’t let anybody know I was getting my degree; I wanted people to be shocked,” Mack said.

“I always felt that something was not finished,” he explained. “I knew it would be a relatively difficult task, but that it had to be undertaken if I wanted to succeed. I kept this to myself and did not share it with anyone in my family except my stepdaughter — who developed into an inspiration when it became difficult — until just before graduation. The difficulty of this task make’s the taste of completion even sweeter and more appreciative.”

“This degree brings closure,” Mack said. “It’s like the closing of one part of my life and the opening of another. I had quite a few individuals ask me, ‘Why are you going back to school now?’ and expressing their apprehension toward it. The first reason is that my own father always told me an education is something to never be turned down, that once you have it no one can take it away. Secondly, I wanted to send a message to my own children and grandchildren about the importance of an education, that it is never too late to achieve it, that you never know it all.”

The challenges were great. Mack often worked at Jeep seven days a week, 12 hours a day.

“I worked, ate, did the dishes and then did my homework.”

Mack intends to continue his business college goals by obtaining his bachelor’s degree, possibly majoring in management.

He is already putting his business acumen into action, having started a small golf repair business.

“Mack Daddy Golf is up and running, but at a regulated schedule,” the UT alumnus said. “I would like to start a business in South Carolina where I can show different companies how to be more efficient in their processes and daily operations. I have had a few conversations with some individuals who have expressed interest in the different ideas I shared with them. I knew to succeed I needed to know and understand how to run a business, otherwise all I had was a dream. I had to equip myself for this new venture in life. About the same time Chrysler and The University of Toledo entered into an agreement offering individuals the opportunity to get back into school and further their education.”

Mack also admits that working on his degree enabled him to learn more than his course material.

“One eye-opening moment was when I came to the realization through my fellow classmates, most of whom are quite a bit younger than myself, that over the last few years I have spent my efforts talking at the younger generation and not with them. They do have some great and useful ideas if we just open up and absorb them.”

This trip helps fulfill part of Dr. Kris Brickman’s global initiative to bring health care to impoverished parts of the world.

Brickman, who is the founder and director of the UT Office of Global Health, wants to establish ongoing relationships with cities like La Ceiba. He appreciates that the medical clinic in La Ceiba can sustain the work started by UT Health physicians and staff.

“This was Khouri’s first mission trip, which he described as enlightening.

“We live in a society where we are privileged with our health care and resources,” Khouri said. “You don’t know how other people live until you see it for yourself. Some of them live in homes that don’t even have doors.”
All 16 UT sports teams score 3.0 GPA or higher for first time

By Paul Helgren

UT student-athletes are rewriting the record books — in the classroom.

For the first time in school history, all 16 sports teams earned team grade point averages of 3.0 or higher spring semester.

Overall, UT student-athletes earned a grade point average of 3.258 in spring semester, the second-highest department GPA in UT history, trailing only the 3.266 set in spring 2012.

It is also the 13th consecutive semester in which UT student-athletes earned a combined GPA of 3.1 or higher.

“We could not be more proud of what our student-athletes accomplished in the classroom this past semester,” Vice President and Athletic Director Mike O’Brien said. “For every team to earn at least a 3.0 grade point average says so much about the commitment to academics of our student-athletes. It also speaks of the great support provided by our coaches, athletic department academic staff and University faculty members who help them reach their goals.”

“This is truly a great achievement for our student-athletes, one in which all of Rocket Nation can take great pride.”

Individually, 23 student-athletes earned President’s List honors with a perfect 4.0 GPA, while 35 percent (119 of 340) earned a spot on the Dean’s List by garnering at least a 3.50 GPA, and 70 percent (238 of 340) achieved a 3.0 grade point average or better for spring semester.

Women’s soccer had the highest team GPA at 3.640. Baseball had the highest GPA for a men’s team with 3.307.

UT Simulation Center assists with military exercises

By Brandi Bartos

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during the first two weeks in June, The University of Toledo Jacobs Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center will join the United States Air Force in conducting live virtual constructive exercises for emergency responders.

Guardian Angels, formerly known as pararescue jumpers, will be thrust into real-life emergency scenarios to treat the CAE Healthcare patient simulators, which can breathe, bleed and also react to treatment.

Ben Stobbe, administrative director and business manager of the UT Simulation Center, will be onsite in Arizona and New Mexico to lead the UT team. The University’s simulation experts will be supporting the medical focus — specifically triage, transfer of care and medical competencies — of the training exercises.

The consortium also will be testing “distributed training,” which means running the patient simulators from a distance. Jeremy Asbrey and Jeff Schneiderman, both clinical simulation education and research associates, will be involved with that at the UT center.

As a first step, the team will test the capability of running the patient simulators (located in Arizona and New Mexico) from the center in Toledo.

“We want to show that it is possible to train from a distance. This is called ‘distributed training,’” said Suzanne Torroni-Roberts, director of business development for the UT Simulation Center. “In doing so, we plan to alternate between running the patient simulators onsite in Arizona and New Mexico and running the patient simulators from The University of Toledo as well as San Antonio. This has the potential to help the military training become more time- and cost-efficient.”

The Wright Patterson Air Force Base 711th Human Performance Wing, based in Dayton, Ohio, is leading these military exercises. The UT Simulation Center has an educational partnership with Wright Patterson; the two frequently work together on innovative projects.

The first exercises will be in Tucson, Ariz., Monday through Wednesday, June 1-3. The second exercise will be in Playas, N.M., Sunday through Thursday, June 7-11.

As an example of a scenario, the Guardian Angels might respond to the aftermath of a roadside bomb explosion where U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency agents are injured. The Guardian Angels will work to secure the scene, remove the victims, care for the casualties, and transport them to medical facilities.

“The patient simulators are so life-like that the Guardian Angels can get a feel for a real emergency,” Stobbe said. “The simulators react to treatment unlike a basic mannequin or a real person acting like they are injured and suffering.”

Stobbe hopes this exercise will further solidify the important role that the UT center and patient simulators play in military exercises.

“Use of this level of patient simulator with the expertise in the UT Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center is groundbreaking when it comes to training and helping the military get experience that is as close to reality as possible,” he said.

Rockets to host evening with football coach June 10

By Paul Helgren

U
iversity of Toledo Head Football Coach Matt Campbell and his staff will host a reception at the world-famous Inverness Club in Toledo Wednesday, June 10, from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

There’ll be craft beer and wine tasting, hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar for fans and supporters of the Rockets. And up for bid during a live auction will be a trip for two to games at Arkansas and UMass, and a complete game-day experience with the team for home games vs. Iowa State and Northern Illinois.

Proceeds will benefit The University of Toledo Rocket Fuel Program. Donation levels are $1,000 for a table (seating for 10 and event recognition), $150 for a couple, and $100 for an individual. Donations are tax-deductible, except for $30 per person to cover costs.

Pre-registration is required. Go to give2ut.toledo.edu/inverness_reg.asp.

For more information or to register by phone, call the UT Football Office at 419.530.3500.

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Hands-on summer classes offered in environmental sciences

By Lindsay Mahaney

Three special courses are being offered this summer to teach students about Toledo’s aquatic habitats.

Students are invited to enroll in three different one-week courses this summer through The University of Toledo’s Lake Erie Center. Each course is comprised of two semester credits — one lecture credit and one lab credit — and features hands-on learning opportunities in the Toledo community.

Intro to Aquatic Ecology (EEES 2980) will be taught by Dr. Douglas Kane and will run from Monday, June 15, to Friday, June 19, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The class will explore the ecology of inland waters, with a specific emphasis on the Maumee River watershed and the western basin of Lake Erie. It is open to undergraduate and advanced high school students and teachers.

Field Ecology and Behavior of Amphibians and Reptiles also has two sections: undergraduate (EEES 4980) and graduate (EEES 6980). It will be taught Monday, July 13, through Friday, July 17, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dr. Kayte Klymus will teach the courses, which will serve as an introduction to herpetology — the study of reptiles and amphibians. Students will have the opportunity to study the basic taxonomy of these two groups, specifically native Ohio species.

To register, students should go to the myUT portal and click on the student tab. For more information, visit utoledo.edu/nsm/lec or call 419.530.8364.

Dr. David Judge starting Monday, July 6, through Friday, July 10, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. This course will focus on fish habitats specifically in the Great Lakes emphasizing how humans have affected fish communities. Students will learn how fish are processed to provide useful data, how habitat affects distribution and abundance of species, how toxic substances affect fish, and the importance of understanding larval fish taxonomy.

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Child has asthma? Ask pediatrician to test for peanut allergy

By Brandi Barhite

Children with asthma should be tested for a peanut allergy or sensitivity, according to research conducted by a former resident at UT Health.

Dr. Anas Al-Yazji, who was a resident at UT Health from 2010 to 2013, co-authored a study that found children with asthma might benefit from such testing — and parents should ask for it because it isn’t routine for pediatricians to suggest it.

“Asthma is one of the most common diseases in pediatrics, while a peanut allergy or sensitivity can lead to one of the most severe allergic reactions,” he said. “It can be particularly dangerous for asthmatics if they are not prepared.”

The study, led by his mentor Dr. Robert Cohen, looked at 1,517 children who were treated for respiratory problems. Cohen, who at the time worked at Mercy Children’s Hospital in Toledo, presented May 17 at the American Thoracic Society’s international conference in Denver.

Al-Yazji combed through file after file to determine how prevalent peanut allergies were in asthmatics. The link became apparent.

“In general, asthmatics tend to have other allergies like food allergies and skin allergies,” he said. “Peanut allergies are usually more serious because sufferers can have an extreme anaphylactic reaction where they cannot breathe.”

Al-Yazji, who is a pediatrician at Family Care Partners in Jacksonville, Fla., said the study has changed the way he treats asthmatics.

“We recommend that doctors run a blood test called an ImmunoCap to see if their patients are sensitive or allergic to peanuts,” Al-Yazji said. “If they are, doctors should send them home with an EpiPen.”

He added, “It is good to see your hard work pay off. I spent a lot of time working on this. I went through every single chart.”

UT neuroscientist named department chair at Indiana University

A University of Toledo neuroscientist has been named chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the Indiana University School of Medicine.

Dr. Bryan Yamamoto, who has been professor and chair of the UT Department of Neurosciences since 2008, will begin his new position July 1 with Indiana, which also includes serving as the Robert B. Forney Professor of Toxicology.

“The people here in Toledo have been the best I’ve ever worked with — very supportive and collegial,” Yamamoto said. “I can’t think of a better group of people to work with, but it is the time for me to accept a new challenge and new opportunities.”

Yamamoto’s area of research is the impact of drugs of abuse on the brain, specifically methamphetamine and ecstasy. He said he looks forward to the potential for continuing that research in collaboration with Indiana’s Stark Neurosciences Research Institute and Indiana Alcohol Research Center.

Yamamoto received his PhD in neurobiology at Syracuse University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical pharmacology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. He holds a bachelor’s degree in psychobiology from UCLA.

Round and round

Diane Pym, clerical specialist in the Rehabilitative Care Unit, left, watched the spinning wheel at Heart-Palooza last week with Tonya Swantek, secretary in Facilities, center, and Marge McFadden, chief administrative officer for quality and patient safety, to see if she won a small prize and to support the American Heart Association.

Located outside Mulford Library on Health Science Campus, Heart-Palooza featured carnival games, raffles and heart health education.

Photo by Val Augustyniak
Thanks to Dr. Hans Gottgens, professor and associate chair of environmental sciences, University Photographer Daniel Miller took these photos of a female ruby-throated hummingbird nesting near the Center for Performing Arts by the Ottawa River. “It’s rare to be able to see the nest because it starts out the size of a walnut,” Gottgens said. “A lot of times you will see the female and not the nest.” He added that Dr. Daryl Moorhead, professor of environmental sciences, discovered the nest last year in the same location. “This nest is another sign that the river can provide enough habitat and food for a diversity of species,” Gottgens said. “For multiple decades, people have been working on reviving this river and its natural ecosystem.”

Getting ‘schooled’

Several clown fish windsocks are flying in front of University Hall as part of the Toledo Zoo’s “Dive Into Summer” campaign. Look for the colorful fish near the Glendale Avenue entrance to Health Science Campus and around town as several schools, businesses and organizations are in the swim to promote the remodeled aquarium.