University of Toledo announces inauguration date of 17th president

By Jon Strunk

The University of Toledo has announced that the inauguration of Dr. Sharon L. Gaber as the University’s 17th president has been scheduled for Friday, Sept. 25, at 3 p.m. in Savage Arena.

The ceremony will be the culmination of a week of academic and student-led events celebrating UT and focusing on the selected theme of “Tradition, Collaboration and Transformation.”

“Our mission to improve the human condition is unwavering. Dr. Gaber led truly transformational change at the University of Arkansas and it is that degree of excellence that we need and expect for The University of Toledo,” said Sharon Speyer, chair of the UT Board of Trustees.

Trustee Jeff Cole, who is leading the planning process for the inauguration, said he and members of the University community will be reaching out to the community to engage them as well.

UT Lake Erie Center to dedicate new research vessel July 16

By Meghan Cunningham

The University of Toledo’s new research vessel with state-of-the-art technology will advance the Lake Erie Center’s environmental research into water quality, harmful algal blooms, invasive species and other issues impacting the Great Lakes region.

The dedication ceremony for the new 28-foot research vessel will be Thursday, July 16, at 10:30 a.m. at the National Museum of the Great Lakes, 1701 Front St. UT President Sharon Gaber and Ohio Department of Higher Education Chancellor John Carey will join faculty and students from the Lake Erie Center at the event.

“The UT Lake Erie Center is a national leader in water quality research. The addition of this research vessel will afford our dedicated faculty members the opportunity to advance their work to address issues such as the harmful algae that impact regions like ours that depend on the health of the Great Lakes,” Gaber said. “Given our location on the shores of Lake Erie and the depth of our expertise, it is vital for the University to make this investment to further our knowledge and provide sustainable solutions for our community.”

OUT TO LAUNCH: The Lake Erie Center will dedicate its new research vessel Thursday, July 16.

Photo courtesy of Lake Erie Center

Read more about this year’s event on p. 7.
Inauguration

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“An inauguration is a university tradition, but it is very much a community event,” Cole said. “This region and this institution are inextricably linked, and as we chart our course for the future, UT’s success will be measured in the positive impact we have on this region, this state and around the world.”

An urban planner by professional training, Gaber emphasized the strength the University will generate by collaborating with people and organizations in the region.

“Toledo is where we will create the opportunities that keep our graduates close, our alumni engaged, and attract new talent and new ideas,” she said. “An inauguration isn’t about an individual. It’s a reaffirmation of the foundations and core beliefs of The University of Toledo and the recognition of where we need to go and what we need to achieve.”

Officials said a calendar of the weeklong celebration, as well as the details of the inauguration, are still being finalized and will be released in the coming weeks. They also noted that private dollars from the UT Foundation, not tuition or taxpayer subsidies, will fund the celebration.

New home for center

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur spoke last week at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Minority Business Assistance Center, which now is housed in UT’s Minority Business Development Center in the Faculty Annex on the Scott Park Campus of Energy and Innovation. The University received a $355,000 two-year state grant to host the center, which will provide support for 17 counties in northwest Ohio. The center previously was hosted by the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Interim education dean named

By Meghan Cunningham

An educator with 26 years of service to The University of Toledo has been named interim dean of the Judith Herb College of Education.

Dr. Virginia Keil, executive associate dean, will lead the college while a search is conducted for a permanent dean. Dr. Penny Poplin Gosetti is stepping down to return to the faculty in the Higher Education Program.

“Penny has been an excellent leader and I appreciate her service, while at the same time commend her interest in being more actively involved in the advancements of her discipline,” Interim Provost and Executive Vice President John Barrett said. “Ginny is the right person to move the college forward during this transition as we continue to advance the college as a frontrunner in the training of tomorrow’s teachers.”

Interim director of University Libraries announced

Barbara Floyd, director of the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections, has been named interim director of University Libraries.

Floyd, who also holds the positions of professor and university archivist, has served UT since 1986 and is responsible for the selection, preservation and reference of the historical records of the University. Floyd also leads the UT Press.

Marcia King-Blanford, vice provost for academic operations, had been serving as interim director of the libraries, and this change will allow her to focus on her curriculum management responsibilities, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs John Barrett said.

In memoriam

Vicky (Stoll) Naugle, Toledo, who worked at the University 20 years, died June 19 at age 60. She joined the MCO staff in 1994. Naugle worked in the Kobacker Center and was a telephone operator in Service Excellence when she retired in 2014.

Shirley Zawodni, Sylvania, a former UT employee, died July 5 at age 82.

Correction

Nikki Brue’s name was misspelled in a photo caption that accompanied a story about UT Health employees celebrating a 51 percent reduction in the hospital-acquired infection rate. She is an infection preventionist in Infection Prevention and Control.
A million thanks

Vern Snyder, vice president for institutional advancement, right, shown here with his wife, Sue, received an engraved glass thank-you at his June 29 retirement reception from Dr. Nagi Naganathan, former interim president and now dean of the College of Engineering. More than $200 million was raised in support of the University during Snyder’s tenure, which began in 2002. He led UT’s “The Time Is Now” capital campaign, which surpassed its goal and raised $106 million.

Lake Erie Center to host one-day mini-camps in August

By Cassandra DeYoung

The University of Toledo’s Lake Erie Center will hold one-day mini-camps Tuesday, Aug. 4, and Wednesday, Aug. 5, for incoming fourth- and fifth-graders.

Each class will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lake Erie Center, 6200 Bayshore Road in Oregon.

The science program is titled “Nature of Maumee Bay” and will feature laboratory exercises, art and outdoor activities focusing on DNA, the food chain, invasive species and more.

“We hope to foster interest in STEM fields, which are science, technology, engineering and mathematics,” said Rachel Lohner, education program manager at the Lake Erie Center. “This is a great opportunity for parents to get their kids to learn while having fun.”

Registration is $40 each and can be done online or by mail. Scholarships and sibling discounts are available. Class size is limited.

To register online or download a registration form, visit utoledo.edu/nsm/lec.

For more information, contact Lohner at rachel.lohner@utoledo.edu or 419.530.8364.

Lake Erie Center

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The new vessel was custom-made by North River Boats/Almar Boats in Roseburg, Ore., to meet the research needs of the Lake Erie Center faculty and staff. The new boat is constructed of aluminum and is larger and sturdier than the existing 25-foot fiberglass boat the center named the Mayflier, which had been UT’s primary research vessel for more than 15 years and will continue to be used on the Maumee River and Lake Erie.

“We are excited to add this wonderful new boat as an instrumental tool in the research efforts of our Lake Erie Center faculty and students,” said Dr. Carol Stepies, director of the Lake Erie Center and Distinguished University Professor of Ecology. “As the community has become more aware of the water quality issues that impact the Maumee Bay region, it is increasingly important for our public university to be able to maintain and build upon its leadership in addressing those issues. The new research vessel will help us do that.”

With this vessel, the researchers will no longer be restricted to field research only on calm waters, allowing them to collect data in differing kinds of weather conditions for a more comprehensive understanding of the ecology of the lake, said Dr. Tom Bridgeman, associate professor of ecology in the Department of Environmental Sciences.

The research vessel also is equipped with more advanced equipment and instrumentation that will allow the researchers to deploy buoys, bottom dredges, and fish trawling gear to expand the kinds of studies they can conduct, he said.

“We’ve used the new boat to launch a buoy in Maumee Bay about seven miles from Toledo’s water intake to monitor the blue-green algae in western Lake Erie, which we wouldn’t have been able to do with the Mayflier,” Bridgeman said. “We are already using that technology to track the harmful algal blooms this summer and to collect water samples so that we can provide some of the first data on the blooms as they grow and expand eastward.”

UT is working with the city of Toledo, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and others to monitor the health of Lake Erie and provide timely communications to residents who rely on the lake for their drinking water.

Real-time data from The University of Toledo’s buoy and other instruments monitoring western Lake Erie are available at habs.glos.us with additional information on the UT buoy at wqdatalive.com/public/515. The city has an online Toledo water quality dashboard to communicate the quality of the drinking water at toledo.oh.gov/services/public-utilities/water-treatment/water-quality.

The UT Lake Erie Center’s new vessel also has an enclosed cabin to protect the crew from the elements and additional enhanced safety gear that includes radar and a spotlight and power anchor windlass, all of which will allow for a longer research season and evening sampling if needed.

For more information on the UT Lake Erie Center, visit utoledo.edu/nsm/lec.
Patients Presenting With Congestive Heart Failure: An Analysis of the Cardiovascular Outcomes in Renal Atherosclerotic Lesions Trial.”

“This is a very prestigious study, and I was honored to be a part of the research led by Dr. Cooper,” Yu said. “He is an outstanding faculty member and an expert in this field of study.”

Yu said renal atherosclerotic lesions have been a challenging medical topic. Past clinical trials were criticized because they were poorly designed and executed, he added. However, Cooper’s study is the largest ever and showed convincingly evidence that stenting does not help.

“We looked at 123 patients, which is significant because the past three studies, added together, looked at 90 patients total,” Yu said. “I feel very lucky to be a part of Dr. Cooper’s group. He is leading this cutting-edge research. It was a wonderful opportunity to present this work. I am blessed.”

Cooper said the completion of the study was made possible by the excellent residents at UT.

“You have to work with the residents to develop the study,” Cooper said. “Mark did an outstanding job presenting the findings of the study. As a result of disseminating this information, it is possible that fewer patients will have to deal with the recovery and cost of inserting a stent surgically.”

Singer Avril Lavigne recently talked publicly about how she was bedridden for five months due to Lyme disease and thought she “was dying” because she couldn’t eat, talk or move.

By studying the real-time immune response to the bacteria that causes the disease, a University of Toledo researcher is hoping to help create better treatments so that fewer people have to experience what the songstress did.

“What we are trying to figure out is what ‘tricks’ that the bacteria play so that our immune response can’t clear the infection on its own,” said Dr. Mark Wooten, UT associate professor of microbiology and immunology. “If we figure that out, we will have a better idea of what type of vaccine is needed to prevent this disease, which can be quite debilitating in some patients.”

Previously, when the bacteria was injected into mice, researchers were limited on what they could see and when. Wooten came up with the idea to make the bacteria fluorescent (glow green) so it could be studied in real-time using a high-tech multiphoton microscope.

Wooten uses special mouse strains with fluorescent immune cells, injecting them with the Lyme disease-causing bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is also fluorescent. He then uses high-powered microscopy to observe the fluorescent bacteria in the skin of the living mice to see how they interact with the different immune cells.

Initial findings show that the immune system starts to fight the bacteria, but backs down after a few days, even though large numbers of the bacteria remain. Figuring out why the immune system starts and then stops is crucial to finding a way to treat those infected by Lyme disease, the No. 1 vector-borne disease in the United States that sees an increase this time of year during tick season.

“For the first time we are seeing what the bacteria does in the mice and how the immune cells respond to them,” Wooten said. “We can see where the deficiencies are, which in return allows us to figure out how to improve the immune response in humans.”

UT microbiologist seeks better treatments for Lyme disease with immune response research

By Brandi Barhite

A University of Toledo resident presented research at an international conference, showing that patients who have narrowed arteries to their kidneys are not benefiting from opening up the narrowed arteries by stenting and therefore should not have the surgery.

Mark Yu, a third-year internal medicine resident, discussed his work at the European Society of Hypertension Conference in Milan in June.

Yu was part of an international research project led by Dr. Christopher Cooper, executive vice president for clinical affairs and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, that investigated whether the use of stents helped reduce blood pressure and provided additional benefit beyond medicine. The study focused on patients with renal artery stenosis, or blockage of the arteries to the kidneys, and found stents provided no additional benefit.

Yu’s presentation was titled “Stenting of Atherosclerotic Renal Artery Stenosis Does Not Improve Clinical Outcomes in Patients Presenting With Congestive Heart Failure: An Analysis of the Cardiovascular Outcomes in Renal Atherosclerotic Lesions Trial.”

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UT Health doctor named Physician of the Year by Dysautonomia International

Laura Ruszczyk could not sit upright and think for long periods of time. She was continually dizzy and had to give up her beloved road bike. She even had to retire from her job as an elementary school counselor.

Her dysautonomia, which was diagnosed in August 2011, was ruining the only thing she wanted out of life — normalcy.

It wasn’t until she secured an appointment with Dr. Blair Grubb at The University of Toledo Medical Center that she began to hope and think that life with an autonomic nervous system disorder was manageable.

She waited 16 months to meet the world-renowned autonomic specialist who has a wait list of more than 600 people. The distance did not matter. She drove 300 miles from Buffalo, N.Y., to Toledo.

“You hear his name, see it throughout the research on dysautonomia, and expect a giant when you finally meet him,” Ruszczyk, 51, said. “He walked into my exam room and greeted my husband and me with a warm handshake and smile. He listened, explained the autonomic nervous system to us, examined me and gave answers and hope that we would — together — find a treatment plan that gave me a better quality of life.”

Ruszczyk will get to thank Grubb for his medical efforts and well-known bedside manner when Dysautonomia International presents him with the 2015 Physician of the Year Award at its annual conference July 17-20 in Washington, D.C.

Ruszczyk nominated Grubb, specifically citing a life-changing operation to implant a Biotronik Evia pacemaker that works well for her because it responds to both heart rate and blood pressure.

“This award means a lot to me because of all the work that I have done in creating this subspecialty of medicine,” said Grubb, director of Electrophysiology Services at UTMC and Distinguished University Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics.

“However, this award isn’t about me. It is about patients and changing their lives. My nurse practitioner and I do what we can for our patients. It is one day at a time with our huge waiting list. We wish we could do more.”

Dysautonomia affects the nerves that carry information from the brain and spinal cord to the heart, bladder, intestines, sweat glands, pupils and blood vessels. Symptoms can include rapid heart rate or slow heart rate, excessive fatigue, thirstiness, shortness of breath, blood pressure fluctuations and bladder problems.

Because many of the sufferers are women, Grubb said he has seen that their concerns are sometimes not taken as seriously by doctors, and they are told to rest or drink more water.

Before becoming Grubb’s patient, Ruszczyk’s heart was beating only 40 to 50 beats per minute compared to a healthy rate of 60 to 100. Her heart now beats 62 beats per minute with the pacemaker.

“I can drive almost an hour now, where before I could not drive for more than five minutes,” she said. “Since the pacemaker, I can go into stores. I can shop for 20 minutes. I didn’t think I would ever bike again. I just finished a 10-mile charity ride.”

Lauren Stiles, president of the Dysautonomia International board, said Grubb was chosen from among 50 nominations. This is the second year for this award.

“This award is important because our patient community has a hard time finding doctors who understand autonomic nervous system diseases and how to treat them,” she said. “We think it is important to recognize doctors who are making a difference for these patients.”

Stiles said one of the common themes among Grubb’s patients is how much time he takes with every patient.

“He is a very special physician. He never stops learning. He is inquisitive,” she said. “He has an excellent bedside manner. He never rushes his patients. In addition to advanced research, he understands the psychology of suffering. Patient-centered medicine is a buzzword these days, but Dr. Grubb has been implementing a patient-centered practice for over 20 years, which is why his patients adore him.”

At the conference, Grubb will address the medical community when he talks about how to talk with patients who are suffering from symptoms that aren’t easily explained.

“Some physicians don’t take this area of medicine as seriously as they should,” Stiles said. “Dr. Grubb helps many of his patients feel so much better. He figures them out the best he can. Even when he can’t immediately figure it out, he says, ‘This is real and we’re going to work together to help you get your life back.’”

Ruszczyk remembers when she called Grubb in the middle of the day because she was nervous about her upcoming surgery. He got on the phone with her immediately.

“Dr. Grubb examines patients from all over the world, and he is usually behind schedule and works long into the evening to see everyone,” Ruszczyk said. “He spends as much time as necessary to see each patient in the clinic, but yet he did not rush me on the telephone.”

Dan Barbee, vice president of clinical services at UTMC, said Grubb is a testament to UTMC’s approach to putting the patient first. His waiting list is indicative of how much his expertise and compassion is valued. Patients come from Canada, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Great Britain.

“He’s regarded, literally, as the global leader in his field, and patients came from all around the world to see him here at UTMC,” he said. “We are proud that Grubb is one of our own.”

Physician suicide topic of July 27 lecture

A series of studies have documented a noticeable decline in the mental and social health of American physicians.

Physicians suffer some of the highest rates of alcoholism, divorce, substance abuse and suicide of any profession, according to research.

Dr. Blair Grubb, director of electrophysiology services at The University of Toledo Medical Center and Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, will present a lecture on the topic Monday, July 27, at 1 p.m. in the Mulford Café on Health Science Campus.

Grubb’s free, public presentation, “Struggling in Silence: Preventing Physician Suicide and Promoting Wellness,” will focus on three topics:

- Understanding the scope of the physician wellness issue;
- Describing the causes of physician suicide; and
- Discussing ways to address the issue of suicide and promoting wellness.
**African-American Festival to be held July 18-19**

By Cassandra DeYoung

The 11th annual African-American Festival, “Celebrating Our History, Health and Education,” will rock The University of Toledo’s Scott Park Campus Saturday and Sunday, July 18-19.

Rain or shine, each day will feature musical performances from 2 to 10 p.m. with gates opening at 1 p.m.

Saturday, July 18, festivities will feature performances by The Five Deep Bank, Darrell Banks, Steve Perry, Boom the Bomb, Katrina Barnhill, and Zapp. Additionally, the annual parade will begin at the corner of Dorr Street and Detroit Avenue at 10 a.m. and end at Nelson Grace Park.


Free health screenings sponsored by the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences, the Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Engagement, and Rocket Wellness will be offered Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. at the event.

“It is critical for the community to understand their health, and we’ve saved lives through these screenings on a number of occasions when people did not realize their health was in jeopardy,” said Dr. Shanda Gore, UT chief diversity officer and associate vice president for equity, diversity and community engagement.

“Reaching out is another demonstration of The University of Toledo’s care for the community and the populations that we serve.”

In addition to the weekend celebration, the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union will host a prayer breakfast Friday, July 17, from 8 to 10 a.m. at Ruby’s Kitchen, 4933 Dorr St. Tickets are $10 per person and must be purchased in advance at the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, 1339 Dorr St.

Discounted tickets for $8 are available for senior citizens and college students, $5 for youth between the ages of 12 and 17, and $2 for children 11 and younger.

For more information, contact the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union at 419.255.8876.

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**Diamante Awards nominations due July 24**

By Aimee Portala

Nominations for the Diamante Awards are being accepted for this year’s 26th annual event.

The Diamante Awards will be held Thursday, Sept. 10, at The University of Toledo Driscoll Alumni Center to kick off National Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated Sept. 15 through Oct. 15. Carlos Ruiz, president of the Latino Alliance of Northwest Ohio, will emcee this year’s event.

Founded in 1989 by IMAGE of Northwest Ohio, a local Latino advocacy group, the Diamante Awards celebrate the profound and lasting influence that Latinos have on American history, values and culture.

The awards recognize individuals and organizations for their outstanding achievements and service to Latinos.

The event also serves to raise scholarship funds for Latino youth seeking advanced degrees.

The Diamante Awards initiative is a collaboration between The University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, Herzing University, Lourdes University and Owens Community College.

Nominations are open through Monday, July 24, in the following categories:

- Latino/Latina Youth Leadership: Recognizes a young person of Latino descent between the ages of 16 and 21 who has made an impact within the northwest Ohio community.
- Latino/Latina Adult Leadership: Recognizes an adult of Latino descent age 21 and older who has demonstrated significant leadership in any area in northwest Ohio.
- Latino/Latina Adult Professional: Recognizes the contributions from professionals of Latino descent making a significant impact in their workplace or profession.
- Corporation/Community Agency: This group category recognizes an entity for supporting and making an impact within the northwest Ohio community.
- Friend of the Latino Community: Recognizes the contribution of an individual, of non-Latino descent, who is making an impact on the Latino community in northwest Ohio.

Nomination forms can be found at diamantetoledo.org/nomination.html.

For more information, contact Alexis DeAnda Martinez at adeanda@bgsu.edu or 419.372.2678.
Modernist jeweler to feature colorful work at Art on the Mall

By Lindsay Mahaney

As Jane Lamanna settled into her chair, she adjusted her ivory crescent necklace, just one of many pieces she’s fashioned throughout her career.

“I don’t make tons of bracelets probably because I don’t like to wear them,” she added with a laugh.

Inspired by midcentury modernist jewelers, much of Lamanna’s work features clean lines and shapes that relate well to the body.

“When I’m thinking of how to make my jewelry, I like it to be clean and comfortable to wear and colorful — that’s the other thing that really inspires me,” she said. “Some of my newer pieces that feature color resin are more fun for me because I’m mixing the color myself to get just the right one.”

But long before color mixing, Lamanna starts with a sketch where she formulates her idea and scales it to a size that she would want to wear. From there, she cuts sheet metal with a tiny saw blade and forms it to create the style she wants.

“There’s soldering, sawing, filing, sanding: lots and lots of cleanup so it looks snappy,” she said.

Working with the metal is her favorite part of jewelry making, but mixing the colors to create resin is a close second. It takes her two days to tinker with the colors — blending and mixing the different hues to get just the right shade.

Sometimes while mixing, Lamanna creates a color she never intended to that works for the piece: “It’s a great surprise when that happens.”

She sells her jewelry at many art fairs and venues, including Art on the Mall, where she will be one of more than 100 exhibitors Sunday, July 26, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on UT’s Centennial Mall. Her work also is featured at the Toledo Museum of Art’s gift shop.

A number of her wearable works will be featured at the free, juried event.

“I’m still in the process of creating pieces for [Art on the Mall],” she said. “There’s going to be tons of earrings and some new styles of necklaces and everything. There should be new colors and styles of resin. All sorts of new things — clean and colorful.”

For Lamanna, jewelry making is a family affair that started with her grandfather in the 1940s and 1950s. He owned a jewelry shop in Manhattan, where Lamanna’s grandmother and aunts helped string pearls, she recalled. Since then, there have been many family members who owned shops or created their own pieces.

While Lamanna never got the chance to work with her grandfather because he passed away while she was very young, she feels he lives through her today. Many of his tools were passed down to her, and she uses them for her own work.

“It’s funny, I have an old design book — kind of like a reference book — of his. A couple years ago I was flipping through that and found that he had made little sketches and notes, I felt like he was talking to me through that,” she said.

When she’s not creating or selling pieces of jewelry, Lamanna can be found teaching others how to make it at the Toledo Museum of Art. She teaches beginning, intermediate and advanced fabrication classes, which guides students through the process of cutting sheet metal and wire to building something — a job she finds highly rewarding.

“I just really, really love teaching.”

Ever since taking classes in college, Lamanna said she has known jewelry making is where she belongs.

Art on the Mall to take place July 26

It’s summer and that means Art on the Mall. Come to The University of Toledo’s Main Campus and help celebrate the 23rd year of the juried art show Sunday, July 26, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The free, public event will have more than 100 booths featuring a multitude of media, including acrylic, glass, jewelry, mixed media, pen and ink, oil, photography, pottery, textile, watercolor, woodwork and more.

“We’ve got some really amazing artists returning and quite a few new talented people who will be joining us this year. There is sure to be something for everyone at Art on the Mall,” said Ansley Abrams-Frederick, director of alumni programming in the UT Office of Alumni Relations. “In addition, the venue of our beautiful campus is the perfect place to enjoy the day. Free parking, golf cart shuttles and no admission certainly make it very easy to drop in for a visit to the show.”

Each booth will have artwork available for sale by cash, or guests can pay with a credit card at the artist’s booth or at a credit card station in the Student Union.

Additionally, artists’ works will be juried by Dayton Art Institute representatives. Prizes will be granted to top artists, and the highest award, UT’s Best of Show, will be presented to the finest artist with an affiliation to the University — current students, faculty, staff, retirees, alumni or parents.

Food and beverages will be for sale from Karen Anne’s Kettle Corn, Opa! Gyros, Java Sensations, K & K Concessions, Taste Spuds, Jeanie’s Weenies and Let’s Go Nuts.

A beer garden featuring craft beer from Saranac also will be available for guests 21 and older with a valid ID.

Music will fill the air during the event with performances by UT faculty, alumni and students, and from musicians from the Toledo School for the Arts.

Free parking will be available in Lot 1 South, Lot 1 North, Lot 13 and Lot 10, with golf cart shuttle service to transport guests and their packages to and from Centennial Mall if needed.

Art on the Mall’s presenting sponsors are The Blade, Buckeye CableSystem and Huntington. Supporting sponsors include Homewood Press, Mail It and iHeartMEDIA.

For more information, contact Abrams-Frederick at 419.530.4316 or ansley.abrams@utoledo.edu.
Community dialogue on urban revitalization set for July 29

By Lindsay Mahaney

When more than 30 local organizations come together this month for a dialogue, plans will be discussed to put Toledo on the fast track to greater success.

The University of Toledo’s Peace Education Initiative, in partnership with a broad coalition of area organizations focusing on issues of peace, will host the Community Dialogue and Public Forum on Urban Revitalization Through the Lenses of Peace and Justice Wednesday, July 29, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Frederick Douglass Community Association, 1001 Indiana Ave.

Lunch, coffee and snacks will be provided at the free, public event.

Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson is scheduled to give opening remarks.

The day will kick off with a facilitated dialogue — open to anyone in the Toledo community — where an analysis of problems and ideas for transforming the city’s urban issues will be discussed. Ranging from economic justice to peace education, ecological justice to social justice, a whole gambit of topics will be up for discussion.

“The particular organizations we’re partnering with have either a mission or perspective through which they approach their work in communities that incorporates peace and justice,” said Dr. Tony Jenkins, director of the UT Peace Education Initiative.

Some of the organizations at the event will offer workshops and information about their group’s work. For example, Toledo Botanical Garden’s Toledo GROWs project — a grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to the continued growth and success of community-based gardens in the city of Toledo and throughout northwest Ohio — will offer demonstrations on their work with youth to develop environmental stewardship and healthy eating habits.

A panel of speakers, including both international guests and local leaders, also will be invited to the event in the afternoon. One such panel member will be Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, founder, president and executive director of the Afghan Institute of Learning. The institute was established to provide teacher training to Afghan women, to support education for boys and girls, and to provide health education to women and children while under Taliban rule.

“We’ll be hearing stories from people at the international level, as well as our local community doing work in the [Frederick Douglass] neighborhood, which will create a bridge from the local to the global,” Jenkins said.

RSVPs for the forum are required and can be made at 419.530.2552 or info@i-i-p-e.org.

For more information, visit the event’s website utoldeo.edu/education/peace/peace_events.html.
Women & Philanthropy at UT announces 2015 grant award winners

Women & Philanthropy, a volunteer organization that promotes The University of Toledo through grants to UT initiatives, has given 2015 grants totaling $49,216.

The first grant, in the amount of $21,146, has been awarded to the College of Communication and the Arts to create event signage for Main Campus.

The funding will be used to build a foundation with a core construction of concrete masonry units. The core will feature stone that matches the aesthetics of the University. The construction will house an 89-inch-by-97-inch full-color electronic material change digital display screen.

The proposed location of the electronic messaging system will be in a high-traffic area near the Driscoll Alumni Center on Bancroft Street. The board will be used to promote public events such as art exhibitions, theatrical performances, workshops, musical performances, and lecture and colloquium series.

The objective of this project is to increase awareness and attendance at UT public events and to increase awareness of the exceptional offerings that the University brings to the community, according to Debra A. Davis, dean of the College of Communication and the Arts.

“The College of Communication and the Arts is extremely pleased to receive grant support from Women & Philanthropy for 2015,” Davis said. “The college is very excited to have this addition to our PR efforts. This will bring attention to our concerts, theatre performances, film screenings, and exhibitions and lectures, many of which are collaborations with community and business partners, and help spread the word that culture and the arts are alive and well in Toledo.”

She added that the signage also will benefit the University.

“Each year, UT invites the public to join us at the Jesup Scott Honors College Distinguished Lecture Series, the Geography and Planning Colloquium Series, and the Edward Shapiro Distinguished Lecture Series where renowned speakers examine the issues and topics affecting our contemporary lives,” Davis said. “We invite all Toledoans to attend our offerings and learn more about what the University has to offer.”

The second grant, in the amount of $28,070, has been awarded to the Kobacker Center on Health Science Campus for the Women & Philanthropy Playground.

The grant will be used to fund the construction of a new outdoor playground for children who receive services through UT Medical Center’s Kobacker Center, which has been a leader in northwest Ohio for treating the emotional and behavioral needs of children younger than 18.

The funds will cover the expenses for a fence and new play equipment to update the physical environment. Women & Philanthropy was able to leverage its grant with a match from UTMC to cover the entire cost of the project ($56,140).

“This generous grant from Women & Philanthropy will cultivate an enjoyable, safe, child-friendly environment for our patients,” said Dr. Michele Know, professor in the Department of Psychiatry. “It creates the ideal environment to enable our treatment teams to help children and families recover, thrive, even prosper in response to these services.”

“Positive peer interaction, problem solving and emotion management skills are key components to the treatment we provide through our program,” said Katie Cotton, a social worker at the center. “Having a new playground will provide our patients with a safe place to play and practice these skills.”

Women & Philanthropy at The University of Toledo was chartered in 2006 and made its first award to UT in 2008. Through this giving circle, members of diverse backgrounds and interests work collaboratively to make positive, meaningful and immediate impacts at the University.

In just eight years, the group has gifted $298,047 in 14 grants to the University, according to Chris Spengler, director of advancement relations in Institutional Advancement, member and administrative contact for Women & Philanthropy.

Through their generous support, members of Women & Philanthropy have created a permanent legacy at The University of Toledo.

“Our goal is to unify and collaborate with many women to make a difference at The University of Toledo. These gifts are examples of what we can do with a membership of only 70 women. We invite all women to research our group and consider a membership. Collective and collaborative giving is powerful, and that’s what Women & Philanthropy is all about,” said Marianne Ballas, chair of Women & Philanthropy at The University of Toledo.

Applications for 2016 grants will be available in late fall.

Additional information about Women & Philanthropy is available at http://utoledo.edu/womaphilanthropy.

Youth Pages Toledo aims to educate area teens

By Aimee Portala

A number of local organizations, led by The University of Toledo Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute, have launched a prevention tool for at-risk youth in the area.

Youth Pages Toledo is a program that provides resources on issues including substance abuse and teen pregnancy, with a special focus on the risk factors that make youth vulnerable to human trafficking. It includes a cell phone app, website, and a printed handbook in English and Spanish.

A press conference announcing TARTA’s partnership with Youth Pages Toledo to promote the resource was held July 8 at One Government Center. State Rep. Teresa Fedor and Lucas County Sheriff John Tharp spoke at the media event.

The UT Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute worked in partnership with United Way of Greater Toledo and the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition to create Youth Pages Toledo, which in addition to providing information on issues impacting area youth also directs them to nearby services, such as Lucas County Children’s Services or Mom’s House Toledo.

“Youth Pages Toledo puts the information directly into the hands of those who need it most — our youth,” said Ashley Wickerham-Cutcher, associate director of the UT Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute.

TARTA is working to promote Youth Pages Toledo with bus posters and signs that advertise the program and encourage riders to download the free app, available for Android and Apple devices.

The program was made possible by a grant from the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund, the Zonta Club of Toledo and the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition.

The UT Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute opened in April, and aims to respond to human trafficking and social justice issues through education, research and service.

For more information, visit youthpages Toledo.org.

There to help: State Rep. Teresa Fedor spoke at a press conference last week when Youth Pages Toledo was unveiled. Listening to her were, from left, Jim Gee, general manager of TARTA; Lucas County Sheriff John Tharp; and Dr. Celia Williamson, UT professor of social work and director of the University’s newly established Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute.
Hands-on class puts students at crime scene, in courtroom

By Brandi Barhite

A roped-off crime scene. A dead body on a couch. A pesky reporter trying to get the scoop.

That is what University of Toledo students encountered on the first day of their summer class May 26.

By the end of the six-week class, these same students were in a courtroom trying to prosecute the accused murderer of this simulated crime.

The class, offered through the UT College of Social Justice and Human Service, is a pilot course for the Criminal Justice and Paralegal Studies programs. The cross-listed class was titled Criminal Forensics and Trial Practice for paralegal studies students and Criminal Investigations III for criminal justice students.

“This has been the class that I have learned the most,” said Nick McCullough, a criminal justice major who served as a prosecutor during the mock trial. “You can only learn so much in a textbook about investigations and trial prep. Being hands-on is so much more valuable. This is as close to the real deal that you can get. I have learned more about criminal investigations in these six weeks than I have in the entire semester.”

The class was taught by John Schlageter, director of the Paralegal Studies Program, and Mick Dier, a retired UT police officer and lecturer in the Criminal Justice Program. Students were placed on prosecution and defense teams and assigned as crime scene investigators, paralegals and attorneys. They were responsible for investigating the mock homicide, indicting one of three possible suspects, and conducting a jury trial.

“I think students gain transferable skills that they wouldn’t otherwise attain,” Schlageter said. “You can read books all you want, but until you do it, you aren’t truly getting it.”

With the guidance of Schlageter and Dier, criminal justice students shared their knowledge of forensic principles such as crime scene processing, blood spatter analysis and interviewing/interrogation. In return, paralegal studies students shared information relative to trial procedure, including courtroom technology, the preparation and examination of trial witnesses, and effectively delivering an opening statement and a closing argument.

Callie Nelson, a paralegal studies graduate, took the class when it first started and volunteered at the mock trial June 24. She is attending law school at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

“It is really important for us paralegal students to understand how the investigation works,” she said. “For criminal justice students, it is important to see what it is like after you are done investigating the crime.”

Josh Project educating, protecting community with help from UT

By Samantha Watson

After her son Josh drowned at the age of 16, Wanda Butts decided she had to do something to save other families from the same heartache.

She founded the Josh Project, which has since taught hundreds of children how to swim and continues to educate the Toledo community on water safety.

This summer, the organization is holding free lessons for 114 students, 30 more than usual, thanks in part to members of The Ohio House of Representatives.

The grant is from the Children’s Safety Commission.

Glassman and his graduate students will be evaluating the intervention via a pre- and post-test study design utilizing a control group. They will then analyze the results, evaluate the program, and aim to publish those results in a journal.

For now, the grant provides funds to assess the current intervention, but Glassman is hoping to get further funding for other water safety studies so that they can continue their research.

Though this is one of the largest groups that the Josh Project has taught, it’s just one of many initiatives that the organization is working on to help protect Toledo’s youth. Just this year, the organization installed a life jacket station at Olander Park in Sylvania following the accidental drowning of a young boy last summer.

“We can count the number of students and parents in our program, but we know that we impact more than just those people,” Butts said. “We’ll never know how many lives we actually save because the people we teach will share the information that they learn. There’s a ripple effect.”

On June 18, the Josh Project participated in a worldwide swimming lesson. The local lesson, held at St. Francis de Sales High School, was one of more than 900 that took place around the globe on that day in an attempt to break a Guinness World Record.

There were 21 participants at St. Francis, with guest appearances by Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson and Robert Adler, commissioner of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

To get involved, visit joshproject.org or facebook.com/thejoshproject.
It’s back: Toledo Farmers’ Market to bring fresh produce to Health Science Campus

By Amanda Benjamin

The Toledo Farmers’ Market will return to UT Medical Center this week for its third consecutive year.

UT employees, students and volunteers as well as local community members can purchase fresh, local produce and kettle corn outside Mulford Library on Health Science Campus.

The market will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. starting Wednesday, July 15, and will continue every other Wednesday through Oct. 21.

“By bringing the Toledo Farmers’ Market to UTMC, it’s convenient for our staff and students, and it makes it easier for them to make healthy food choices,” said Jocelyn Szymanski, wellness coordinator at Rocket Wellness.

Rocket Wellness also is providing an incentive for employees to visit the farmers’ market. UT employees can pick up a punch card that will get stamped for every $5 they spend.

When the card is completely filled, employees can bring it to the Rocket Wellness table to receive a free reusable tote bag and be entered into a raffle for a wellness basket.

Mark your calendar: The farmers’ market will be held Wednesdays:
- July 15
- July 29
- Aug. 12
- Aug. 26
- Sept. 9
- Sept. 23
- Oct. 7
- Oct. 21

Cash, credit cards and Ohio Direction/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program cards are accepted.

To learn more about the Toledo Farmers’ Market, visit toledofarmersmarket.com.

Snip!

Dr. Linda Speer, professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, and Steve Bailey, clinic manager of the UT Health Family Medicine Center, wielded the giant scissors to cut the ribbon June 30 to officially open the center. Located at Glendale Medical East, 3333 Glendale Ave., the UT Health Family Medicine Center reunites the family medicine practice formerly located in the Ruppert Center and the family medicine residency practice that has been on St. Luke’s Hospital campus since 2007. It also includes a Geriatric Medicine Center relocated from Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek.
Basketball star signs with Italian club  
By Brian DellBenedito

Former Rocket Inma Zanoguera will get the opportunity to continue her basketball career. She signed with Italian Club Techmania Battipaglia, according to lovewomensbasketball.com.

Zanoguera becomes the fourth UT women’s basketball player to play professionally under three-time Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year Tricia Cullop, joining Melissa Goodall (Italy and Spain), Naama Shafir (Israel) and Andola Dortch (Belarus) on that list.

Techmania Battipaglia is a professional basketball club based in Battipaglia, Italy. The team plays in the Italian top league, Serie A1. Last season, Battipaglia finished ninth in the league.

This past season, Zanoguera led the Rockets in scoring (15.4 points per game), rebounding (6.7 per game), assists (5.0 per game, No. 37 in NCAA), steals (1.8 per game), minutes played (35.7 per game), overall field-goal percentage (.481, 178 of 374), and free-throw percentage (.866, 129 of 149, No. 21 in NCAA), on route to earning first-team All-MAC recognition.

The three-time All-MAC selection ranked second in the league in dimes, free-throw percentage and minutes played, third in assist-to-turnover ratio (1.9, 166-88, No. 60 in NCAA), fourth in thefts, eighth in scoring and overall field-goal percentage, 15th in defensive boards (4.5 rebounds per game), and 18th in overall rebounding.

Zanoguera wrapped up her collegiate career fourth in school history in minutes played (3,936), fifth in free-throw percentage (819, 258 of 315) and games played (132), sixth in steals (195), ninth in overall rebounds (781), 10th in overall field goals made (548) and assists (375), and 13th in scoring (1,424 points).

Zanoguera helped Toledo win 88 games over the last four seasons, including 44 league victories. She was a part of two MAC West Division Championships (2011-12, 2012-13), one MAC regular-season title (2012-13), and played a key role in UT securing three postseason appearances (2011-12, 2012-13, 2014-15).

True colors

Rocket fans love their women’s basketball team: UT ranked 28th in the country, averaging 3,636 fans per game in the 2014-15 season, according to the NCAA. The Rockets also led the Mid-American Conference in attendance for an unprecedented 25th consecutive season. UT drew at least 3,700 fans on nine occasions during the year. In seven years under Head Coach Tricia Cullop, the Rockets are 92-23 (.800) on their home court, including 50-10 (.833) against conference opponents, and have ranked in the top 30 nationally in home attendance each of the last four seasons.

Rocket football to host golf outing July 24

By Paul Helgren

The University of Toledo football program will host its 15th annual golf outing Friday, July 24, at Stone Oak Country Club in Holland.

The outing gives fans a chance to golf with Rocket coaches and former Toledo football players, and is a time for former players to re-connect.

Other highlights will include raffle prizes and an auction of Rocket football items. There also are opportunities for hole sponsors.

All proceeds will benefit the football program’s Rocket Fuel fund.

Registration and lunch will begin at 12:15 p.m. with the shotgun start following at 1:30 p.m. The dinner reception and auction will start about 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call Greg Brubenece, director of football operations, at greg.brubenec@utoledo.edu or 419.530.3500.

College of Law receives reaccreditation

By Cassandra DeYoung

The University of Toledo’s College of Law has been granted continual accreditation by the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.

“We are pleased to be reaccredited; we fully expected to be reaccredited,” said Daniel J. Steinbock, former dean of UT’s College of Law. Steinbock stepped down at the end of June, and Dean D. Benjamin Barros started in the position July 1.

UT’s law school was granted full accreditation in 1941 and has since continued to be re-approved during every evaluation.

The American Bar Association Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar has been recognized as the U.S. national agency for accreditation of programs leading to the juris doctor degree since 1952.

“We take the bar exam, which is required to be licensed as an attorney in almost all states, the individual has to have graduated from an ABA-accredited law school,” Steinbock said. “Since that’s most law school graduates’ aim in life, to be licensed, they would have no interest in going to an unaccredited law school.”

In addition to the ABA continual accreditation, the College of Law’s membership with the Association of American Law Schools, an academic organization, was reviewed and continued this past November as well. Afterward, the association commended the college’s scholarly productivity and culture, innovative and advanced research and writing requirement, and its success in increasing student diversity.