

Maumee resident 'glad to be first' to get complex surgery

By Brandi Barhite

Robert Gayer, 74, was mowing his grass on a hot day in 2010 when he started to struggle to breathe.

"I kept going to sit down in the garage, and then I would start mowing again when I felt better," he said.

This went on for most of the day until Gayer drove to his then-fiancée's house.

"I told Sharon, 'I have a tightness in my heart and my jaw hurts,'" Gayer said. "She said, 'Get in the car. We are going to the hospital.'"

This was the start of a series of health problems that wouldn't end until May 1 of this year when Dr. George Moukarbel performed the first percutaneous closure of a mitral paravalvular leak at The University of Toledo Medical Center. The complex procedure had never been done at UTMC.

"It's the day I got my life back," the Maumee resident said.

The complicated surgery required the UT Health cardiologist to go up



Photo by Daniel Miller

WALKING ON AIR: Robert and Sharon Gayer took a walk at their home last month. Robert had the first percutaneous closure of a mitral paravalvular leak at UT Medical Center in May.

through Gayer's groin with a catheter, cross the right atrium of the heart, and then navigate into the left atrium before

delivering a plug to the hole next to his prosthetic heart valve.

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U.S. News ranks UTMC a best regional hospital for fifth straight year

U.S. News & World Report recognized The University of Toledo Medical Center as a best hospital in the Toledo metro area for 2015-16.

It is the fifth consecutive year UTMC has been included in the U.S. News & World Report rankings.

"Recognition of this type is due to the outstanding contributions of thousands of UT employees at the UT Medical Center dedicated to providing top-tier patient care and an optimum patient experience," said Dave Morlock, executive vice president and CEO of UTMC.

"It's also important for our community members and their families to understand the incredible community resource they have in UTMC to ensure their health and wellness."

Nearly 5,000 U.S. hospitals were evaluated for the 2015-16 ranking.

"Patients deserve high-quality information on hospitals," said Ben Harder, chief of health analysis at U.S. News & World Report. "We strive to provide them with the most comprehensive data available so they can make more informed decisions together with their doctor about where to undergo treatment."

U.S. News has been publishing hospital rankings since 1990.

New vice president for advancement named, will lead newly merged division

By Jon Strunk

A top fundraising executive for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Health System has been selected to lead The University of Toledo's Advancement Division,



McCrimmon

pending approval of UT's Board of Trustees.

UT President Sharon Gaber recently announced that Samuel

McCrimmon, executive director of clinical development at UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh, would join the University as vice president of advancement. He will start at UT Sept. 8.

"Philanthropy is key to the continued positive momentum of The University of Toledo, and in Sam, I've found a leader who will help elevate UT's fundraising and messaging on a national and international level," Gaber said.

Since her selection in March, Gaber has repeatedly identified as a priority a dramatic increase in fundraising, saying such a move is needed to increase the number of student scholarships, establish

endowed professorships to help attract top-tier faculty, and to ensure that UT has the facilities it needs to advance research and expand its profile and reputation.

McCrimmon will oversee the merger of UT's Institutional Advancement Division and its External Affairs Division into a single Division of Advancement, including Alumni Relations, Development, University Communications, University Marketing and Special Events.

"I'm incredibly excited to be joining UT at such a transformational time," McCrimmon said. "I have seen the impact philanthropy can have on

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UT Health to celebrate with picnic this week

University of Toledo Health invites faculty, staff, students and volunteers to celebrate the achievements of the past year with a thank-you picnic Thursday, Aug. 13.

The picnic will kick off for first-shift employees from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the patio area outside the Four Seasons Bistro and the Health Education Building. A brief program by hospital administration will take place at 11:30 a.m.

Celebrations also will be held for second-shift employees from 4 to 6 p.m. in the same location and inside the Four Seasons Bistro Friday, Aug. 14, from 7 to 9:30 a.m. for third-shift employees.

"We would like to thank our faculty, staff, students and volunteers for providing university-quality care and patient experiences at UTMC and in our clinics," David Morlock, executive vice president and CEO of UTMC, said. "It is important to take the opportunity to celebrate our successes as we look forward to another year and set forth on achieving those goals. We also want to extend a warm welcome to all of our new students on Health Science Campus and to returning students as they start the academic year."

UTMC offering new clinic to provide preventative HIV medication

By Brandi Barhite

The University of Toledo Medical Center is offering medication that could prevent a person from contracting HIV.



Duggan

Multiple studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of taking pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), which can be obtained at a new clinic at the Ryan White Program from 8 a.m. to noon

every Thursday on Health Science Campus.

“This is a very important step in HIV prevention,” said Dr. Joan Duggan, chief of infectious diseases at UTMC. “This is highly recommended for people at risk to contract HIV, including people who are intimate with a partner who has HIV and men who are having sex with men. This is also something that injection drug users should consider taking every day.”

Duggan compared the concept to women taking a daily birth control pill to prevent unplanned pregnancies. Just like birth control, though, nothing is a prevention guarantee, which is why UTMC also distributes condoms with all of its informational packets about PrEP.

“While use of the PrEP medication does decrease the risk of HIV, it does not eliminate the recommendation to use condoms to decrease the risk of HIV, and it does not provide protection against any other sexually transmitted diseases,” Duggan said.

People might be concerned that PrEP could cause high-risk sexual behaviors, but studies show that isn't the case, according to Dr. David Grossman, commissioner of the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, which has been referring its patients who are at risk of getting HIV to UTMC for PrEP.

Grossman also cited a two-year study that showed no increase in sexually transmitted diseases for the 545 participants, which indicates that the participants did not have more unprotected sex because they knew they were protected by PrEP.

“We have a good audience and hope we can refer a lot of people,” Grossman said. “We have people who come in for repeated HIV testing, and we want to make sure they know about this option.”

Duggan said the medication is expensive, but some insurance companies do cover it and the staff at the Ryan White Program can direct uninsured patients toward programs that offer financial help.

“Offering this medication is the right thing to do, and it is something that will go a long way in the war against AIDS,” Duggan said.

One for the books

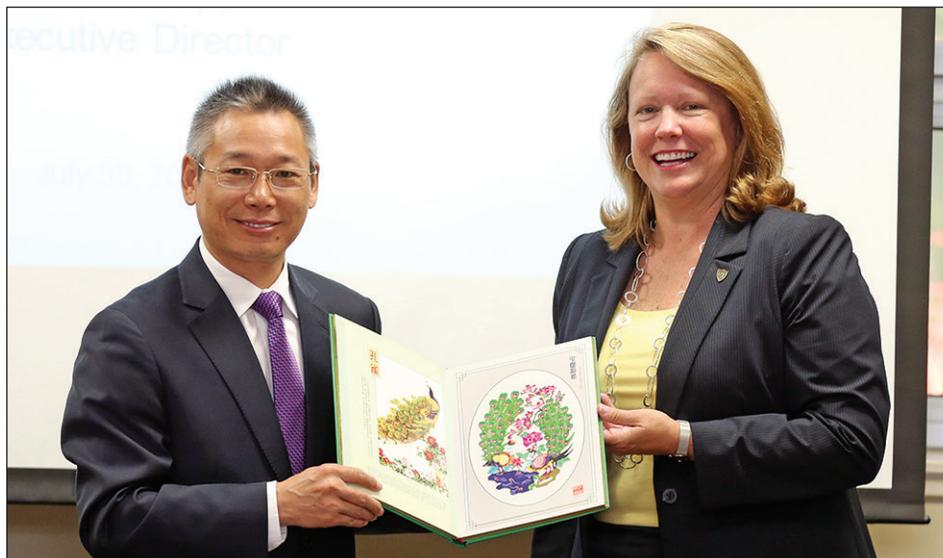


Photo by Anthony Tscherne

Hanwen Xu, vice president at Wuxi Institute of Commerce in China, presented President Sharon Gaber with a gift during a recent visit by a delegation of Chinese community and vocational colleges to UT. Xu led the delegation as the University works to expand the UT-Community College Internationalization Consortium to bring more students from China to northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan community colleges for associate's degrees. Those students would then complete bachelor's degrees at UT. Dr. Ron Opp, associate professor of educational leadership, is leading the effort at the University.

Associate prof appointed to American Bar Association standing committee

By Rachel Phipps

Benjamin G. Davis, UT associate professor of law, recently was appointed to serve on the American Bar Association (ABA) Standing Committee on Law and National Security for a three-year term by ABA President-Elect Paulette Brown.

The ABA's oldest standing committee, the Standing Committee on Law and National Security is charged with examining a wide variety of legal issues that exist in the national security sphere, including cybersecurity, military commissions, counter-terrorism threats, drones, laws of war, and international humanitarian law.

Davis, an international expert on topics such as cyber dispute resolution, drones, detainee treatment, military commissions, and domestic law issues, joined the committee at the 2015 ABA annual meeting last week.

“It is a great opportunity to do important work with distinguished colleague members and advisory committee members on the pressing issues in the national security arena that confront America and the world,” Davis said. “I can then bring that experience back to my students to help



Davis

deepen their understanding of cutting-edge national security issues.”

Davis has been working on issues of international law and national security for 12 years. In 2006, he led the successful effort to adopt the American Society of International Law Centennial Resolution on Laws of War and Detainee Treatment, only the eighth resolution in the history of that organization. He has testified in overseas cases on torture, and has spoken and written extensively on the topics of accountability and the military commission process in the national security arena. Davis also heads the college's Guantanamo Bay Military Commissions Human Rights Observer Program for students and alumni.

He is a graduate of Harvard College, Harvard Law School and Harvard Business School.

Correction

The wrong photo appeared with a story in the July 27 issue. This is Dr. Donald Ronning, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, who became a permanent member of one of the national peer review groups that evaluate research grant applications sent to the National Institute of Health. The shot that ran with the story was of Dr. Steve Sucheck, professor of chemistry and biochemistry.



Ronning

UT pharmacy assistant professor says new overdose drug law will be 'life-saving'

By Brandi Barhite

A new state law giving easier access to the overdose reversal drug Naloxone will result in more lives saved, according to a University of Toledo pharmacy faculty member.

"It is definitely a proactive and positive move. This provides a new avenue to access a life-saving drug," said Dr. Anthony Pattin, UT assistant professor of pharmacy practice. "With this new law, people can get Naloxone without having to get a doctor's note or finding distribution centers, which are not widely available. This is potentially life-saving because people will have the antidote nearby in case of an overdose instead of waiting for an EMT to arrive and administer it."

House Bill 4, signed into law by Gov. John Kasich last month, authorizes a pharmacist or pharmacy intern to dispense Naloxone without a prescription as long as counseling and written education is provided. Opioids can slow or stop a person's breathing. Naloxone helps the person wake up and continue breathing.

This law comes as the number of opiate-related deaths from prescription drugs and heroin in Ohio continue to climb; since 2000, there has been a 366 percent increase, Pattin said, making it the leading cause of accidental deaths in the state.

This new law will allow for a family member or a friend to get a prescription for a loved one.

"People should always call 911 in conjunction with taking the antidote, but taking Naloxone as soon as an overdose is suspected is key for survival," he said.

Despite concerns that making Naloxone more readily available will lead to more drug abuse, Pattin said pilot programs showed that

did not occur. Also, Naloxone is safe if taken by someone who is not overdosing.

"This provides opportunities for pharmacists to offer a new service and show our value to health care," Pattin said. "We

have to provide counseling about opiate abuse when someone comes in for this antidote. They just don't get it and leave."



Pattin

Photo by Daniel Miller

New vice president

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institutional growth, and it's clear to me this University can increase funding to leverage its strengths, improving the lives of students and the community."

McCrimmon said the ability to integrate the University's branding and messaging strategy into advancement will be key to ensuring that all members of the University family have a clear vision of where UT is headed and how they can help UT achieve its goals.

"My wife and I consider ourselves to be Midwesterners, so we are thrilled to become a part of the Toledo community because it feels like a move home," he said.

He and his wife, Courtney, have two children, Evangeline and Duncan.

Gaber also expressed her thanks to members of the search committee for their time and expertise during the past several months.

McCrimmon started his fundraising career at Wheeling Jesuit University and served as director of programs for the Executive Service Corps of Western Pennsylvania. In 2004, he joined the University of Detroit Mercy, where he advanced to leading the major and planned gift programs, providing strategic direction that resulted in record fundraising in fiscal 2010-11. He joined the UPMC Health System in 2011 and has overseen growth both of fundraising and infrastructure.

McCrimmon holds a juris doctorate from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, a master of theological studies degree from Duke University and a bachelor of arts degree from Wabash College.

In memoriam

Dr. Rhua C. Ernst, Rosenhayn, N.J., died May 16 at age 75. She joined the UT faculty in 1967 as an assistant professor of general studies and director of the Instructional Resources Center at the former Community and Technical College. In 1970, she was named coordinator in library technology. She left the University to start a family and became an elementary school teacher.

Dr. Robert L. Gibson, Bloomington, Ind., died July 23 at age 95. In 1957, he joined the UT faculty as associate professor and chair of guidance and counselor education. Gibson was promoted to professor two years later. The West Virginia native ran the Counseling and Guidance Training Institute, an annual summer program, in the early 1960s. Gibson left UT in 1965 to teach at Indiana University.

Dr. John M. "Jack" Lowe Jr., Mechanicsburg, Pa., who coached track and cross country at UT from 1960 to 1970, died July 19 at age 89. While working at the University, he received a doctorate in education in 1969.

Edward B. "Ned" Wickes Jr., Madison, Conn., a longtime faculty member in the College of Education, died July 24 at age 97. He joined the faculty as an assistant professor in 1951 and was promoted to associate professor of curriculum and teaching in 1955. Wickes taught at UT until his retirement.

Dr. R. Kenneth Wolfe, Holland, professor emeritus of computer science and engineering, died July 24 at age 85. He came to the University in 1973 after working at Owens-Illinois Inc. and IBM Corp. In 1994, he received one of UT's Outstanding Teacher Awards. Wolfe served on Faculty Senate and was chair of the systems doctoral program. The native of Chattanooga, Tenn., retired from the University in 1997.

UTMC honored for organ donor education

By Brandi Barhite

The University of Toledo Medical Center is being honored for the third year in a row for its efforts to educate people about becoming organ donors.

UTMC is among a select group of hospitals and transplant centers nationwide being recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for reaching gold-level status. The hospitals are part of the national Workplace Partnership for Life Hospital Campaign, sponsored by the department's Health Resources and Services Administration.

"Education about organ donation is so important because a lot of people don't even think of it as an option," said Kristin Calkins, director of trauma services at UTMC. "Organ donation is not something that we talk about, which makes it difficult for surviving family members to decide what to do when it isn't listed on a driver's license. We want to make sure that people's wishes are known."

UTMC hosted several events in the past nine months that educated staff, patients, visitors and community members about the critical need for organ, eye and tissue donors.

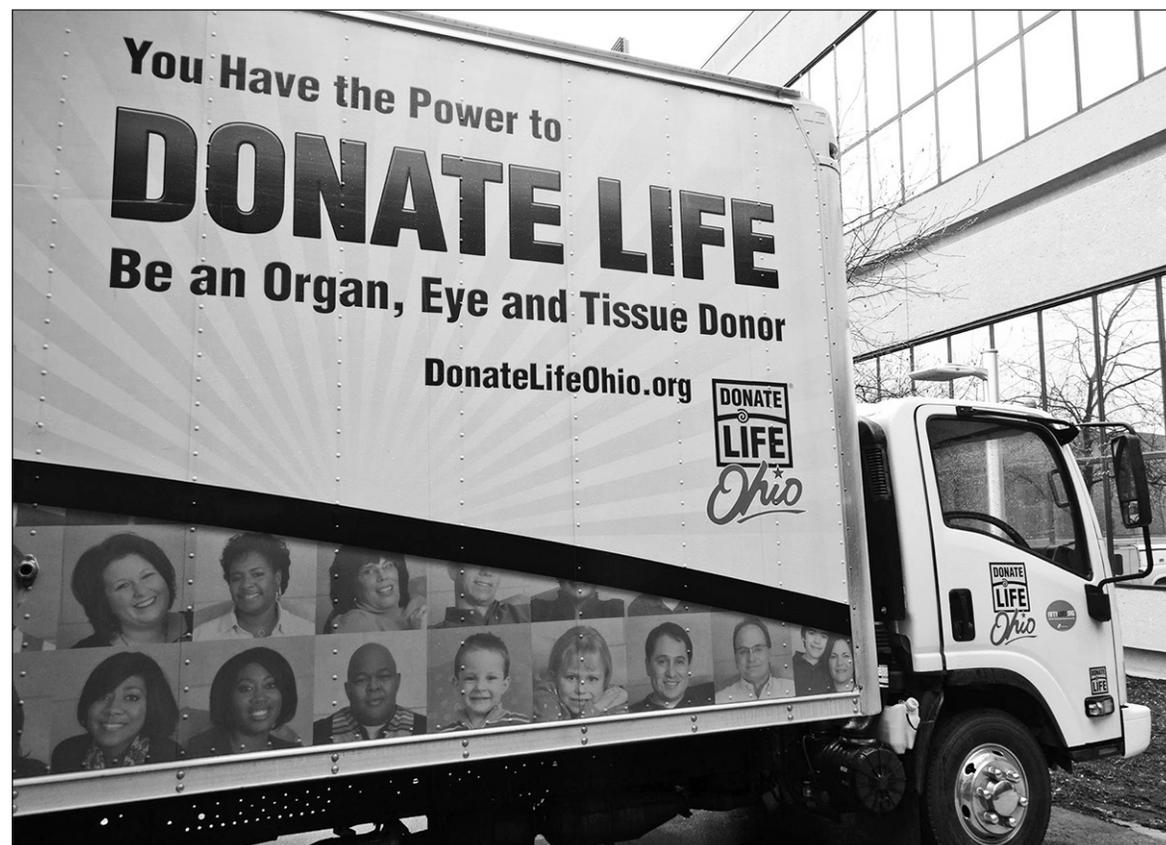
One of the signature events was bringing in the mobile education vehicle through Life Connection of Ohio to UT's Health Science Campus in April. The 25-foot-long mobile education experience gave people an opportunity to learn the history of transplantation, listen to stories of Ohioans whose lives have been

touched by donation, dispel common misconceptions about donating, review what can be donated, and join the Ohio Donor Registry online.

"We thought this would help hospital staff and visitors visualize the importance of considering becoming an organ donor," said Valerie Augustyniak, a communication student at The University of Toledo who managed the awareness campaign. "A lot of misinformation exists about organ donation, and we want people to make a decision based on the facts. For instance, your medical treatment will not suffer because you are listed as an organ donor. Every effort will be made to save someone's life regardless of organ donor status."

Since launching in 2011, the national Workplace Partnership for Life Hospital Campaign has added more than 350,000 donor enrollments to state registries around the country.

Every effort will be made to save someone's life regardless of organ donor status."



ROLL UP: Life Connection of Ohio's mobile education vehicle stopped on Health Science Campus in April to help spread awareness about organ donation.

Calkins said it is hard to keep track of who becomes a donor through UTMC's efforts because registering as a donor can be done in person or online. The main point of the campaign is to educate people on the topic and then let them decide, she said.

"We know this is a sensitive topic for some, so we don't want to tell people what to do," she said. "We just want to let people know that it is an option and that organ donation also can include giving soft tissue; it doesn't have to be a heart or a liver."

Lecture will highlight cutting-edge cancer-fighting technology

By Brandi Barhite

The University of Toledo Medical Center is the only hospital in town offering an innovative non-invasive radiosurgery treatment option using the latest technology for patients battling cancer.

Dr. Krishna Reddy, a radiation oncologist at UTMC, will discuss this cutting-edge technology Thursday, Aug. 20, at 6 p.m. in the Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center.

The free, public lecture is part of the Tie One On Awareness Lecture Series hosted by the Dana Cancer Center.

Reddy will discuss the Edge radiosurgery system, which can destroy tumors — smaller than half a centimeter — with high doses of focused radiation beams.



Reddy

tumors, such as those in the brain, with better precision with radiation treatments

The new system, unveiled one year ago, is one of only five medical centers in the world to have the advanced technology.

Reddy said the high-dose radiation can target difficult-to-reach

that are 15 minutes, compared to one hour for other types of radiation therapy.

"The goal is to deliver a radiation dose that is high enough to kill the cancer while limiting exposure to surrounding healthy organs," he said. "At the lecture, we will talk about situations where patients can benefit from this treatment.

"This is definitely something we take a lot of pride in offering at UTMC," he said.

Unfortunately, patients don't always receive information about these options because doctors are just learning about the high-tech possibility, he said.

"We are excited to spread the word to doctors and those people who could benefit from it," Reddy said.

The Tie One On Cancer Awareness Lecture Series will continue this fall.

Upcoming Thursday lectures will be:

- Sept. 17 — Dr. Samay Jain, UT assistant professor and chief of the Division of Urologic Oncology, will discuss prostate cancer.
- Oct. 15 — Dr. Iman Mohamed, UT professor and chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology, will discuss lymphedema.

Each person who attends the lecture will be entered into a drawing for tickets to an upcoming sporting event or a gift certificate for spa services.

To reserve a spot, email christopher.kosinski@utoledo.edu.

Complex surgery

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“This is one of the most challenging and risky cardiac procedures being done in the country,” Moukarbel said. “It is only done in referral specialized centers, which as of May 1 includes UTMC.”

When Moukarbel first met Gayer, they talked about options: Do nothing, which would continue to diminish his quality of life; open him up again for another heart surgery; perform the percutaneous closure procedure.

Moukarbel said Gayer was not a good candidate for open-heart surgery because he already had a quadruple bypass after he ignored his heart attack symptoms and kept mowing the grass that day in 2010. A few years later, he also had a second open-heart surgery to replace the mitral valve. He then developed a leak behind the prosthetic valve.

The most recent leak left him short of breath, faint and low on energy because the blood wasn't flowing properly to his heart. He wasn't able to fish or travel as much. His health was a continual concern.

“We didn't want to open him up again unless we really thought that was the only option,” Moukarbel said. “I had done this specialty procedure at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and I thought it would be a good fit for Robert because it was less invasive and the recovery was less difficult.”

Gayer's wife didn't like the idea of her husband “being the first,” but she asked

their longtime cardiologist, Dr. Christopher Cooper, executive vice president for clinical affairs and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, “What would you say if it was your dad?”

Cooper told them to go with the percutaneous closure.

“I had the utmost confidence in Dr. Moukarbel's skill as an interventional cardiologist, and I knew that Robert was a good candidate for this type of procedure,” Cooper said.

Just days after the surgery, Gayer walked into his follow-up appointment — no walker or wheelchair.

“It was amazing to see him walk in so full of energy and life,” Moukarbel said. “If he had underwent open heart surgery, he would have still been at the hospital.”



Photos by Daniel Miller



IN THE OPERATING ROOM: Dr. George Moukarbel performed Robert Gayer's percutaneous closure of a mitral paravalvular leak, the first at The University of Toledo Medical Center.

“I was only in the hospital for five days with this procedure,” Gayer said. “Normally, when I had open surgery in the past, I had to stay in the hospital for a long time and then when I got home, I was laid up for a few months.”

“I was scared to be the first person to have this procedure at UTMC, but after

talking with Dr. Moukarbel and hearing him explain how it was to be done, I had confidence,” he said. “I am glad I was the first person because now others might not be as scared.”

Spreading summertime cheer



This sunflower in Brunner Garden on the south side of University Hall is one of many blooming on Main Campus. Along with several businesses and organizations, the University is participating in Toledo Botanical Garden's Operation Sunflower. The project is part of the garden's 50th anniversary celebration.

Photo by Crystal Hand

Rockets, Kareem Hunt featured in Sports Illustrated's College Football Preview issue

By Paul Helgren

The Toledo Rockets football team and its star running back Kareem Hunt are featured in the College Football Preview edition of Sports Illustrated that came out last week.

The Rockets are picked to win the Mid-American Conference and are named one of the five "teams that could get the Group of Five's 'New Year's Six' bowl bid."

While the magazine points out that Toledo faces major hurdles in contests vs. Arkansas and Iowa State, it says that "winning both would keep Toledo in the conversation heading into the MAC campaign."

A photo of Hunt, who is referred to as "one of the MAC's top rushers," is the largest on the page.

Unfortunately, the magazine's coverage had one major fumble. It says Hunt had 866 rushing yards last year (his total from his freshman season in 2013) when he in fact had 1,631.



Investigating options



Photos by Daniel Miller

Kiki Lammie received instructions from Tammy Mansfield, intervention specialist at the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West, on how to assemble test packets for the Judith Herb College of Education, and McKenna Durback helped spread mulch by McComas Village last month during the Career Exploration Program. They were two of 12 students who participated in the two-week camp offered by the University in partnership with the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities. "This summer program helps individuals with disabilities explore options they may want to pursue," said Dr. Patricia Devlin, UT associate professor of early childhood, physical and special education, and director of the program. With the goal of helping high school students become familiar with and practice skills needed to obtain a job, the camp offered vocational opportunities on and around UT's Main Campus. Job sites include Schorling's 5-Star Market, Ferdos Restaurant, Barnes & Noble University Bookstore, The Oasis, UT Facilities and Construction, UT Grounds Services, UT Student Recreation Center, Phoenicia Cuisine, Carlson Library, Judith Herb College of Education, and Horton International House.

Glacity Theatre Collective to premiere new musical 'House of Vinyl'

The Glacity Theatre Collective will present an original musical theater piece, "House of Vinyl," written and composed by company members Dr. Edmund B. Ligan, UT associate professor and chair of theatre and film, and Timothy Lake.

"House of Vinyl" was developed through Glacity's Junkbox Theatre Initiative, which is focused on devising new works for the company.

"Junkbox describes Glacity Theatre Collective's particular approach to devised or made-from-scratch theater," Ligan, artistic director of the company, said. "Junkbox theater is created out of whatever materials the collaborative group of artists has lying around: old, unfinished portions of plays, ideas jotted on notebook paper and shoved in a drawer, whatever. The Junkbox process takes these various materials and converts them into a full and comprehensive work of theater with a fascinating story."

Based on a story that Ligan has written and rewritten as a play, novel and screenplay, "House of Vinyl" focuses on Horton Stephen Wilder, who has an intense fear of open spaces, or agoraphobia. When Horton is forced out of his apartment and into the street because of a gas leak, he embarks on a strange and hallucinogenic journey involving lawyer-knights, psychic stingrays, a diaper fetishist, and yards and yards of vinyl. Will he ever make it back to his apartment and safety? Or will he be trapped in the "House of Vinyl" forever?

Company members featured in the work are Nolan Thomaswick as Horton, as well as Victoria Zajac, Jennifer

Nagy-Lake, Emily Werner, Jeffery Albright, Phillippe Taylor, William Toth, John Toth, and Holly Monsos, UT associate dean of the College of Communication and the Arts.

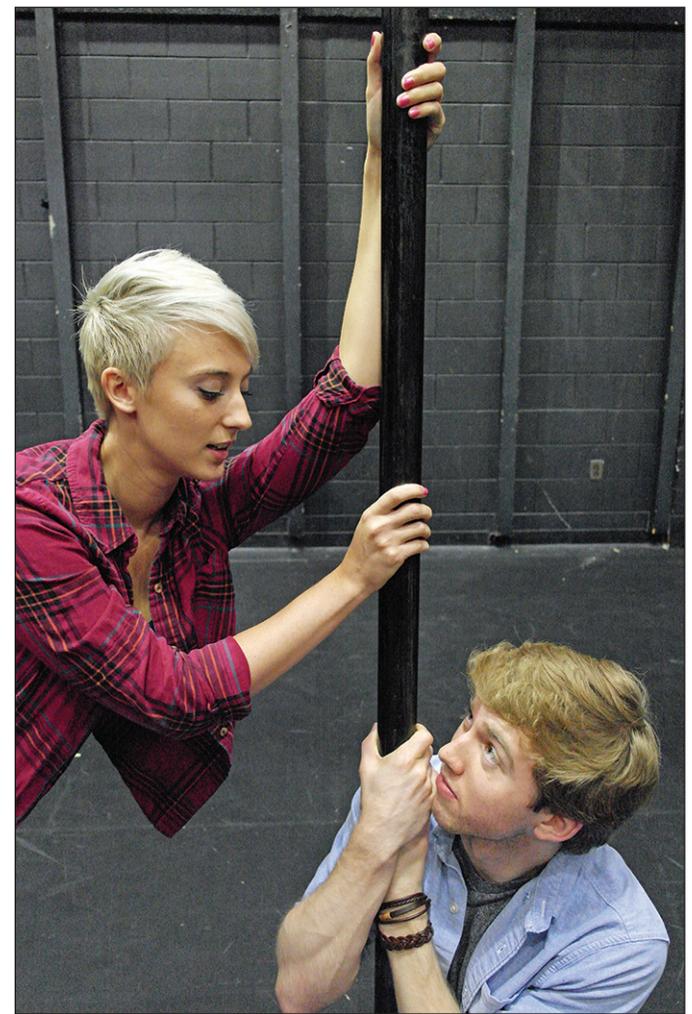
Co-creators Lake and Ligan do appear onstage in wildly costumed bit roles, yet the two spend the duration of "House of Vinyl" playing in the pop-rock pit orchestra on guitar, bass, keys, and triggering custom-made electronica.

The production is directed by Lake, with Andrés Medina as stage manager. Costumes are designed by Lynnette Bates, lighting design is by Corey Sprinkles, and Rick Clever is the sound designer.

"House of Vinyl" will run two weekends, Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 20-22 and Aug. 27-29, at 8 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts Center Theatre. The doors open 30 minutes prior to curtain.

Ticket prices are \$15 at the door, or they can be purchased in advance online at <http://glacity.tix.org>. Student rush tickets for \$10 are available at the door only on the night of the performance.

Go to <http://glacity.org> for more information.



SCENE SPINNING: Nolan Thomaswick and Victoria Zajac rehearsed for "House of Vinyl."

Photo by Megan Ahern

Celebrity Wait Night to raise money for cardiology endowment

By Brandi Barhite

UT Health cardiologist Dr. Christopher Cooper will be collecting tips, not giving them, when he works as a celebrity waiter Monday, Aug. 24.

Cooper, executive vice president for clinical affairs and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, will be among the celebrity wait staff raising money for the college's Mundt Cardiology Endowment Fund from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Loma Linda, 10400 Airport Highway, Swanton.

The University of Toledo Medical Center and the Mundt family are hosting "From the Heart," which is the fifth annual celebrity wait event.

"It is an event we have been doing for five years. It has been very popular from the first year on and we have been very successful," said Al Mundt, whose family owns Loma Linda.

Mundt had a heart transplant in 1998 at the former Medical College of Ohio.

"My heart was giving out; it was working only 12 percent," he said. "I have had this new heart for 17 years and it has been going very well."

Established in 2008, the endowment supports new and innovative programs such as the Left Ventricle Assist Device that will one day make heart transplantation again available in Toledo.

"All the tips raised by the celebrity waiters will go toward the fund," said Laura Robinson, senior major gifts officer. "Every year, we are fortunate enough to raise \$30,000 to \$40,000 for this incredibly worthy cause. In addition, the patrons truly enjoy seeing their doctors and other UT staff as waiters."

Wait staff will include UT Women's Basketball Coach Tricia Cullop and UT Men's Basketball Coach Tod Kowalczyk. UT Health cardiologists Dr. Mark Bonnell, Dr. Mark Burket, Dr. Jeffrey Hammersley, Dr. Samer Khouri, Dr. George Moukarbel and Dr. Thomas Schwann will serve as celebrity waiters as well.

The evening will feature a raffle with a grand prize of \$5,000. Tickets, which are \$10 each, can be purchased at either Loma Linda or Ventura's restaurants, or through Robinson or Felicia Guerrero.

Cooper hopes that the community comes out for a good cause — and a good meal.



Photo by Daniel Miller

TAKING TIME OUT: Women's Basketball Coach Tricia Cullop talked to customers at last year's Celebrity Wait Night at Loma Linda.

"I love the food at Loma Linda's, and my favorite is shrimp tacos," he said.

For more information about the event and raffle tickets, or to make a contribution to the

Mundt Endowment Fund, contact Robinson at 419.383.6645 or laura.robinson@utoledo.edu.

UT faculty member elected to national professional council

By Cassandra DeYoung

Dr. Patrick L. Lawrence, professor and chair of The University of Toledo's Department of Geography and Planning in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences, has been elected to



Lawrence

the National Council of the American Association of Geographers, a nonprofit scientific and educational society founded in 1904.

"They are the predominate professional

organization for geographers both in academia, like students and faculty, and those who are employed in various fields but are trained as geographers," Lawrence said. "There are more than 10,000 members from professionals to students, and it's become much more of an international organization."

The council is the governing body of the association and consists of 15 elected officers and councilors and the executive committee's executive director and most recent past president.

"I'm looking forward to the experiences," Lawrence said. "I've served on other national boards, but to be able to participate in my predominate professional organization at the national level is very

exciting. In our department, we are constantly looking at how to be innovative and how to improve our programs; we are always thinking about our students and what will benefit them, so I'm excited for the opportunity and hope a lot of what I learn can be brought back to apply here at UT."

As part of his three-year term that began July 1, Lawrence will represent the East Lakes Division of the association as its regional councilor where he previously served as chair of the division executive committee. The division has more than 500 American Association of Geographers members from 20 member colleges in Ohio and Michigan.

"The regional councilors have a unique role in that we are the voice of our

region," Lawrence said. "Typically twice a year, we meet as members of the national council and give a brief overview of what is happening in our respective regions: what the challenges are, does it have to do with education, outreach, faculty hiring or resources."

Additionally, Lawrence is the chair of the President's Commission on the River, which played an integral role in the restoration efforts on the portion of the Ottawa River that runs through the University's Main Campus. He also is part of the UT Water Task Force that was established last summer.

Associate professor to teach abroad this fall

By Lindsay Mahaney

Sunshine and cultural immersion are what a University of Toledo faculty member has to look forward to as he takes off this week for Central America.

Dr. Ainsworth Bailey is set to leave for Heredia, Costa Rica, where he will teach Cross-Cultural Consumer Behavior and International Business and Management this fall as a visiting professor through the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC), a program offering study abroad opportunities for students and teaching abroad opportunities for faculty members.

"Traditionally, Heredia, and Costa Rica in general, has not been a program site for business, and I am hoping that I will be able to start the process of Heredia being a site where USAC participants will be able to take business courses," he said. "I want to learn more about Costa Rica and business in general, and marketing and consumer behavior in particular, so that I can enhance my teaching here at UT."

The associate professor of marketing and international business visited Heredia before when he was a recipient of USAC's Faculty International Development Award — a program run similarly to a student USAC program where faculty and professional staff members attend classes.

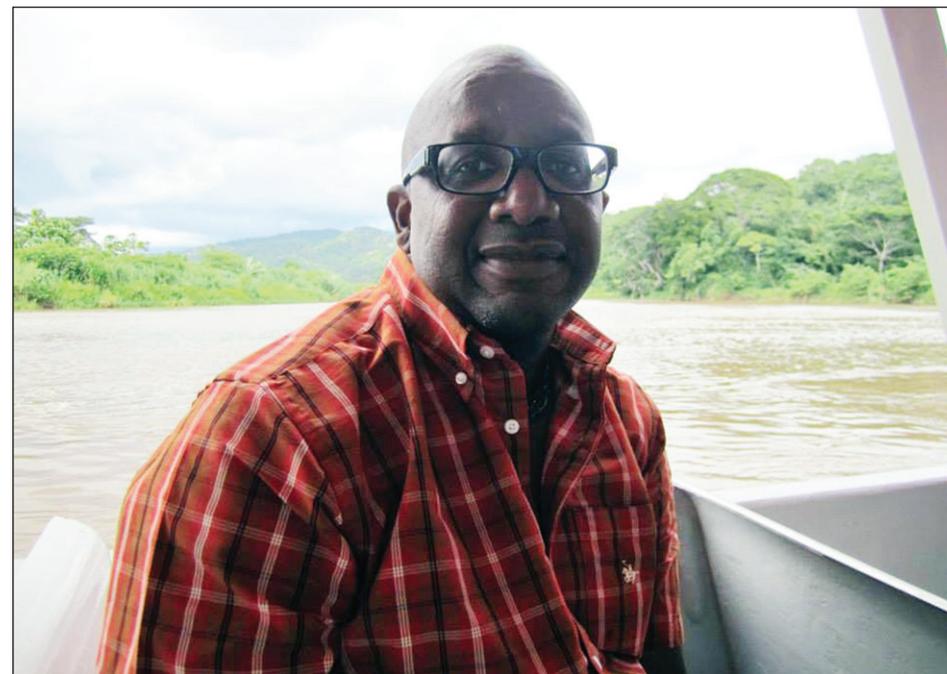
Bailey attended in the summer 2013 semester.

"The Faculty International Development Award experience marked the first time that I would be setting foot on Central American soil, so I was excited about the prospects of being in Costa Rica and taking part in the program," he said. "During my time there, I became one of the group of students, most of them similar to my students here at UT, and I had such a fun experience with them."

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Bailey plans to spend some time working on research with faculty from the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, his host university in Heredia.

"I would love to see my discipline, marketing, publish more work from this region, and hopefully I can get publishable work done in the short time that I will be there," he said.

As a language aficionado, Bailey also said he looks forward to taking advantage of interacting with the Costa Rican people to improve his Spanish. Additionally, he plans to visit the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica, Limon, where a group of Jamaican descendants reside. Bailey, who is Jamaican



JUST AROUND THE RIVERBEND: Dr. Ainsworth Bailey, shown here on a river safari during his first trip to Costa Rica in 2013, will return to Heredia to teach.

by birth and upbringing, said the group intrigues him from a linguistic perspective.

"They speak Jamaican Creole as a result of their Jamaican roots, and their conversations are often a mix of this

Jamaican Creole and Spanish, and I find it fascinating," he said.

Bailey is set to depart Wednesday, Aug. 12, and is scheduled to return to Toledo Tuesday, Dec. 15.

LOOK FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF UT NEWS AUG. 24

UT launches sports production program: ESPN3 to carry live Rocket events produced by University

By Paul Helgren

The University of Toledo will launch a production operation — part of the Mid-American Conference's 13-year agreement with ESPN — that will provide significant exposure and learning opportunities for UT students. The initiative will feature a minimum of 35 Rocket athletic events that will be carried live on ESPN3.

UT's broadcast productions will supplement the numerous football, men's basketball and women's basketball games already being produced and carried on ESPN and other national and regional networks.

The University will produce home games in men's basketball, women's basketball, women's volleyball, baseball and other sports. The multi-camera high-definition game productions will feature full ESPN-branded graphics, replay and two-person commentator crews. A mobile production unit is being equipped that will house state-of-the-art video and audio equipment.

"We are very excited about this great opportunity to bring so many Rocket athletic events to a national audience on ESPN3," said UT Vice President and Athletic

Director Mike O'Brien. "Not only is this an opportunity to create more exposure for our athletic teams, it will also be a great recruiting tool for our athletic programs and for our University in general. Rocket alumni, fans and parents of our student-athletes will have the opportunity to watch live action of UT sports events from almost anywhere in the country. Students in our Department of Communication will have an excellent opportunity to gain valuable work experience producing our games, which could lead to exciting new careers in their chosen fields. We are truly entering a new age in the branding and marketing of our athletic program and our University as a whole."

The productions will be operated primarily by UT students who are taking courses in television production in the Department of Communication. Staff positions have been added in the Department of Communication to assist with the productions and manage the student staff.

"The opportunity for UT communication students to work on programming that will appear nationally on ESPN3 offers them real-world experience,

which is critical to building a sustainable career," said Debra Davis, dean of the College of Communication and the Arts. "They will also learn the demands and rewards of their field. When learning through doing, learning experientially, the students build an understanding of how to respond to crises or unexpected news, and the follow-up action needed to complete the task.

"Students participating in our broadcasts will be prepared for the marketplace after graduation. Producing these sports programs, along with the opportunity to participate in our award-winning UT:10 News, will provide valuable on-the-job experience and will expand their professional networks. I am very excited that College of Communication and the Arts students are being offered this great chance to learn through professional practice."

In addition to live event production, Toledo students will produce pregame, halftime and postgame content, as well as feature pieces, in-game and postgame highlight packages, interviews, and coaches shows. These events will be available to more than 99 million households and by an

additional 21 million U.S.-based college students and military personnel.

ESPN3 is ESPN's live multi-screen sports network, a destination that delivers thousands of exclusive sports events annually. It is accessible online at WatchESPN.com, on smartphones and tablets via the WatchESPN app, and streamed on televisions through Amazon Fire TV and Fire TV Stick, Apple TV, Chromecast, Roku, Xbox 360 and Xbox One.

The network is available to more than 99 million homes at no additional cost to fans who receive their high-speed Internet connection or video subscription from an affiliated service provider. The network also is available at no cost to approximately 21 million U.S. college students and U.S.-based military personnel via computers, smartphones and tablets connected to on-campus educational and on-base military broadband and Wi-Fi networks.

Teaching critical scientific thinking pays off: Students' reviews published in Journal of Neuroscience

By Samantha Watson

Six students studying in the Neurosciences and Neurological Disorders Graduate Program at The University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences have had review articles accepted for publication in the Journal of Neuroscience.

Eric Starr, Jack Imbery, Stuart Collins, Amanda Blaker, Erin Semple and Carmen Mitchell took the UT course Journal Paper Review in Neuroscience last spring. The course — designed and taught by Dr. Marthe Howard and Dr. Joseph Margiotta, both professors of neurosciences — aims to teach young scientists to read and think critically, evaluate and discuss research with their peers and the scientific community, and give effective oral presentations.

The students learn how to give and take criticism, and work with editors of scientific journals that many of them will someday publish articles in.

"They get real-world experience, as scientists, in oral communication, written communication, and learning the ins and outs of publishing a paper," Howard said.

The course curriculum is given in two parts. In the first half, Howard and Margiotta select recent papers in the field of neuroscience for the students to present. One of the students presents the paper, while the others write a one-page review and come prepared to ask the presenter questions.

In the following class meeting, the students critique the oral presentation. The course is designed to encourage in-class participation and development of critical questioning skills.

"Part of being a good, critical scientist is knowing how to make a critique in a positive way because peer review is designed to be something that's helpful," Howard said. "You also have to learn to take criticism in the way it was intended."

In the second half of the class, the students split into two teams and choose a current paper in the Journal of Neuroscience or the Journal of Physiology to review.

Both journals invite graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to submit scholarly reviews of recently published articles.

Prior to writing their review, the two groups present the paper to the class and justify their choice. They then collaborate in writing the review and submitting it to the journal's editors for feedback and decision on whether the journal will publish the review.

This is a valuable experience for the students because it reflects their ability to demonstrate in writing the knowledge needed to critically evaluate the published work and present their independent assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the experiments, according to Howard.

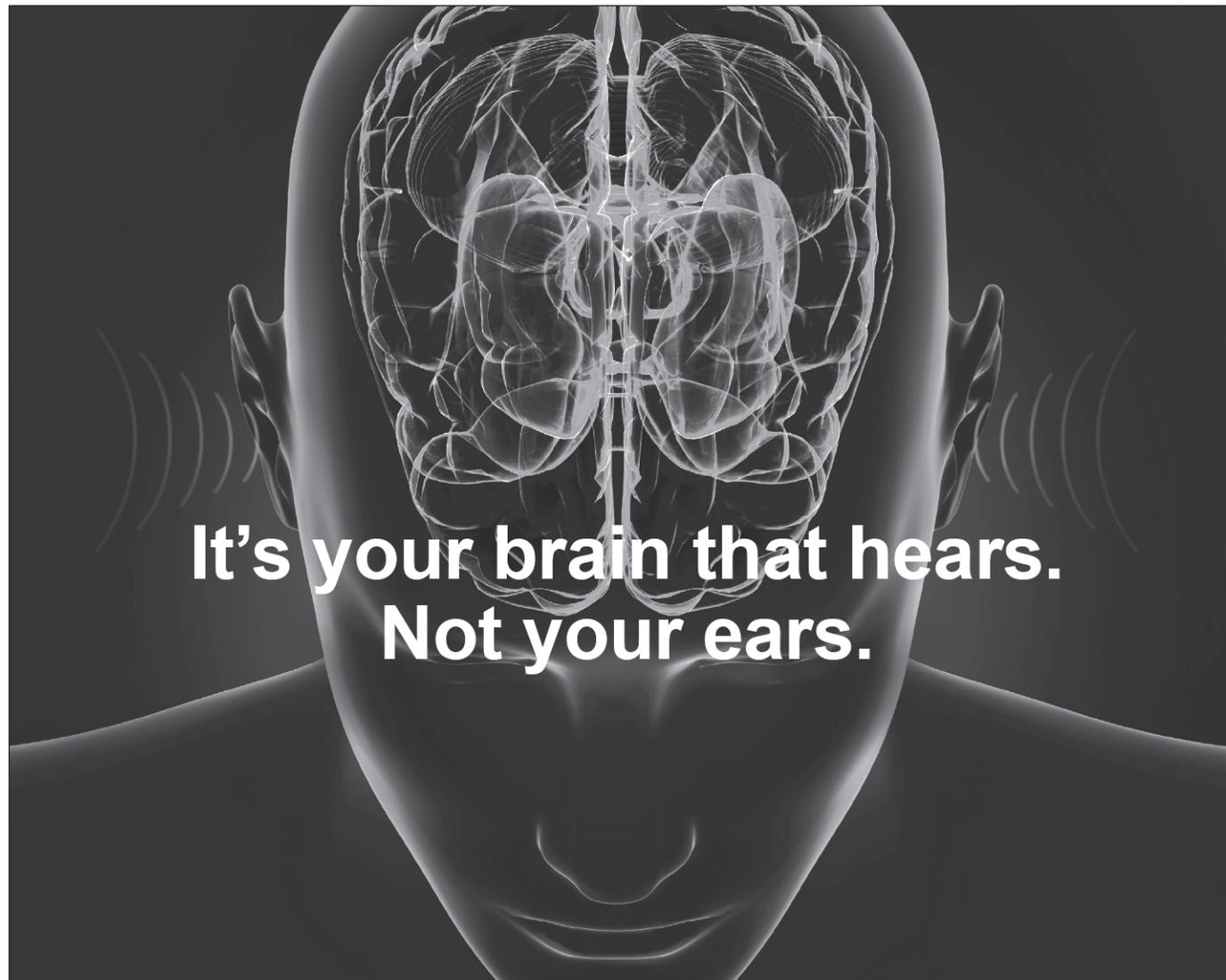
"Although all of these students have to have a published paper to finish their

dissertation, for many this will be the first time they've written and submitted a paper on their own," she said.

Previously, the class has had one team's review published, but this year both teams' reviews were accepted for publication in the July 15 and July 29 issues of the Journal of Neuroscience, the official publication of the Society for Neuroscience. Publication of articles in this prestigious journal signifies the success of training in skills critical for developing scientists, according to Howard.

"It is not our goal to write these papers for the students, so the quality of the students is really reflected in their ability to get these papers published," Howard said. "I see a lot of value in teaching young scientists outstanding communication skills, and this group of students did very well."

To learn more about this course, email Marthe.Howard@utoledo.edu or Joseph.Margiotta@utoledo.edu.



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Children's eye health is highlighted during August

By Brandi Barhite

A local pediatric optometrist wants to make sure that your back-to-school lists include more than notebooks, markers and glue.

A successful school year begins with good vision by having a comprehensive eye exam, which is one reason that August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month, said Dr. Nahrain Shasteen, who is on staff with Vision Associates, which serves as The University of Toledo's Department of Ophthalmology.

"If your child has never had a comprehensive eye exam, it is a good idea to schedule one to make sure everything is developing well," Shasteen said. "Blurred vision can make it difficult to see the board in school. Eye coordination, eye focusing or visual perception problems can also impact learning."

The American Optometric Association actually recommends that a child have his or her eyes examined at 6 months of age because vision development is rapid within the first year of life, Shasteen said. If normal, the next exam should be at 3 years old and then every year once a child is in kindergarten.

The importance of early detection recently was popularized with a YouTube video that showed 10-month-old Piper seeing clearly for the first time with her new eyeglasses.

"She was a patient of the InfantSee Program, which I participate in," Shasteen said. "Doctors participating in the American Optometric Association's InfantSee Program provide no-cost eye examinations to infants between 6 and 12 months of age."

Shasteen said children with vision problems often can't communicate the issue. They might not know what normal vision looks like or they want to please their parents, so when quizzed, they indicate they can see something far away.

Signs that a child might be struggling to see include red eyes, tearing eyes or squinting. More subtle clues are tilting or turning of the head, covering an eye, having difficulty paying attention in class, loss of place when reading, or avoiding reading. Some children with vision problems have difficulty with eye-hand-body coordination and playing sports.

Shasteen said even if a child has good vision, the health of the eye needs to be protected. She recommends wearing sports

goggles, which often is not emphasized in a school setting, and for parents to set a good example by wearing protective gear when mowing the lawn or working on home improvement projects. Sunglasses should be worn outside to prevent damage from ultraviolet light.

"Children learn best by what their parents are doing," she said.

While it's a myth that carrots will improve eyesight, Shasteen said an overall healthy diet is good for eye health because it prevents diabetes and other diseases that affect eyesight.

"As for video games, they are OK in moderation," she said. "We actually found that video games used in vision therapy have a positive



Shasteen

Photo by Daniel Miller

impact in improving lazy eye and other vision disorders."

UT athletic director named to NCAA Division I Council

By Paul Helgren

University of Toledo Vice President and Athletic Director Mike O'Brien has been selected by the NCAA Board of Directors to serve as the Mid-American Conference's representative to the NCAA Division I Council.

The NCAA Division I Council primarily deals with legislative issues through its various committees. There are 46 voting administrators, faculty, coaches and former coaches that serve on the seven committees.

Now in his 14th year as Toledo's athletic director, O'Brien previously has served as the chair of the Mid-American Conference Athletic Director's Committee and is currently the conference's athletic director representative to the College Football Playoff Committee (formerly the Bowl Championship Series).

He also has served as a member of the NCAA Division I Football Issues Committee and currently chairs the MAC Football Coaches Committee.



O'Brien

UT NEWS

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Students helping TARTA revamp downtown routes

By Samantha Watson

For some time, the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority has been working to change their routes downtown — and they're getting some help from students at The University of Toledo.

Right now, TARTA is working on finding a way to replace its five-station bus loop downtown with a single bus terminal. To do this, TARTA is considering route proposals from Taslima Akter and Jonathon Ousky, two UT grad students.

"It may seem small," said Dr. Bhuiyan Alam, associate professor in the Department of Geography and Planning, "but given that TARTA is the sole public transportation system in Lucas County and since it involves 12 major blocks in the heart of the city, changing this plan and the proposal given by the students is very important and will have a long-term impact on downtown Toledo."

Akter and Ousky are part of a planning workshop class led by Alam. For a semester, they analyzed data from TARTA and came up with proposals for changing most of the routes that would lead into the downtown hub.

"We could change whatever we wanted, but our main concern was to reduce the route length," Akter said.

And the students were successful in that sense — if TARTA accepts their proposal, they could save up to 46 hours of driving time each week. This would have an impact on the amount of time riders spend on buses, as

well as the amount of gas used by TARTA.

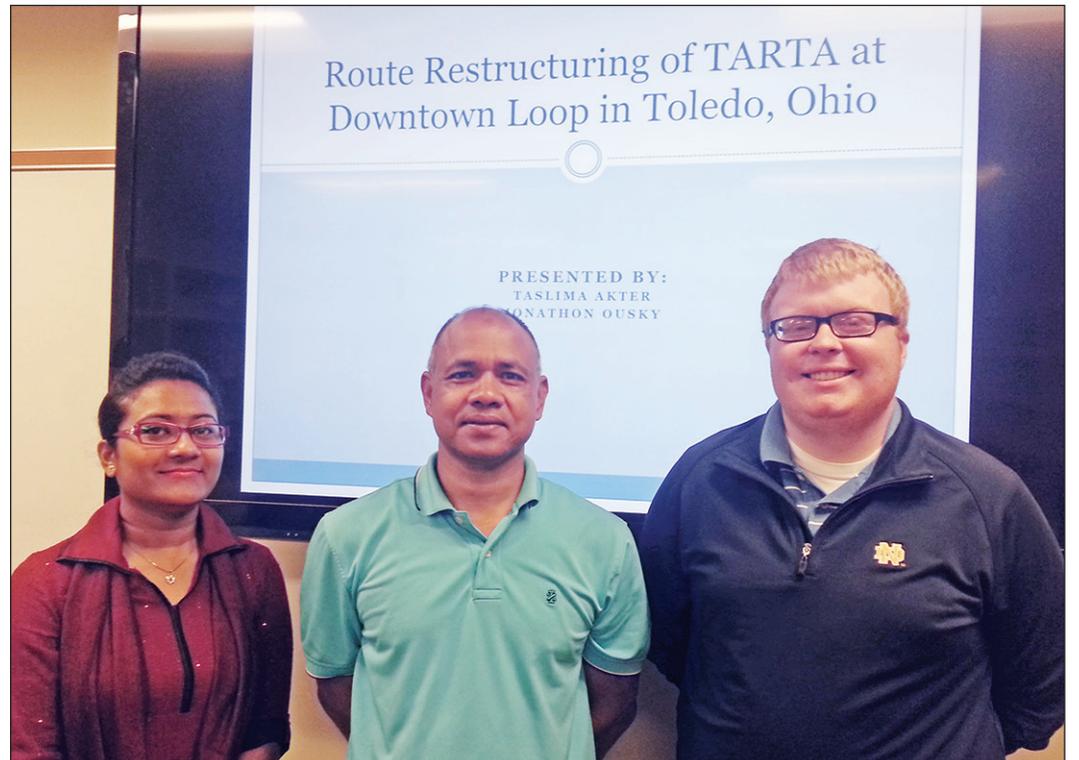
"It could be convenient for both TARTA and the passengers," Akter said.

Alam has taught this course for six years, with the exception of 2014 when he was on sabbatical. Each year, he tries to get his students involved in projects that have real impacts on the local community.

In the past, students in this course have researched predicted impacts of community hub schools on their students and communities, land-use classification and suitability analysis of walkability and bikeability in Toledo's uptown district, brownfield redevelopment potentials in Toledo, and streetscape planning of Broadway Street in Toledo. This year, he approached TARTA, where officials were open to receiving help from students.

Throughout the semester, the students worked and met with TARTA officials to create their proposal. TARTA gave the students suggestions, reviewed drafts of routes, and answered their questions.

"It's been a really nice experience for me to work with TARTA, and I'm surprised



PLOTTING ALTERNATE ROUTES: Dr. Bhuiyan Alam, associate professor of geography and planning, center, posed for a photo with graduate students Taslima Akter and Jonathon Ousky, who put together new route proposals for TARTA for the Community Planning Workshop class.

by how much they helped us to complete the project," Akter said.

Though no plans have yet been finalized for TARTA's downtown hub, administrators have a wealth of ideas for routes to use thanks to the efforts of these two students.

For more information on Alam's Community Planning Workshop class, email Bhuiyan.Alam@utoledo.edu.

Sharing the love



Photo by Daniel Miller

Sheryl Rathge looked at pet photos that were on display last week in the Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center. UT Health staff and patients shared shots of their pets for the exhibit, which showcased that unconditional love and special bond with animals.

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