UT astronomer part of research team to discover ‘young Jupiter’ exoplanet

By Meghan Cunningham

A

University of Toledo researcher is among a group of astronomers to discover a young Jupiter-like planet that could help further our understanding about how planets formed around the sun.

The research results are published in the current issue of the journal Science, which is the world’s leading outlet for science news published by the American Association of the Advancement of Science. Read the article at sciencemag.org.

Dr. Adam Schneider, a UT astronomy postdoctoral research associate, and the research team led by Dr. Bruce Macintosh, professor of physics at Stanford University, identified the planet, called 51 Eridani b, about 90 light years away from Earth using the new Gemini Planet Imager on the Gemini South telescope in Chile.

The Gemini Planet Imager was designed to discover and analyze faint, young planets orbiting bright stars.

“Looking for a planet near a star is a little bit like looking for a firefly next to a lighthouse,” Schneider said. “It is hard to see the planet because of all the light coming from the star.”

While thousands of planets have been discovered, it has previously been done indirectly by detecting a loss of starlight as a planet passes in front of its star or by the gravitational wobble of the star induced by the planet. This new technology searches for light from the planet itself, which astronomers refer to as direct imaging, and 51 Eridani b is the first planet discovered with the Gemini Planet Imager.

The planet is a million times fainter than its parent star, 51 Eridani, and is orbiting a little father away from its star than Saturn does from the sun. Observations reveal it is about twice the mass of Jupiter, making it the lowest-mass planet ever imaged, and it also is one of the coldest at 800 degrees Fahrenheit.

HOT RESEARCH: This is an artistic conception of the Jupiter-like exoplanet 51 Eridani b, with the hot layers deep in its atmosphere glowing through the clouds. Because of its young age, this cousin of Jupiter is still hot and carries information on the way it was formed 20 million years ago. Dr. Adam Schneider, a UT astronomy postdoctoral research associate, is among scientists to discover the exoplanet.

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Greetings from President Gaber

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

Welcome to the start of a new academic year!

As you might know, I have had the privilege of serving as UT’s president since July 1, and I have been eagerly awaiting the energy and enthusiasm that comes with the start of the fall semester. I’ve had the chance to say hello to some of you, and I’m looking forward to many more meetings during campus activities and programs, at athletic events, or just in line for lunch at the Student Union.

During the summer, I’ve been able to meet with many groups across campus, as well as community leaders and elected officials at all levels of government representing northwest Ohio. I’m excited to work with my leadership team to find ways we can enhance our relationships with the various components of the community to provide learning and engagement opportunities for our students and faculty.

I am currently working to finalize my senior leadership team. We’ve combined the external affairs and institutional advancement vice presidencies into one position. Sam McCrimmon, a great addition to UT from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, will lead the new division.

continued on p. 3
Correction

The wrong photo appeared with a story about the overdose drug Naloxone in the Aug. 10 issue. This is Dr. Anthony Pattin, UT assistant professor of pharmacy practice. The shot that ran with the story was of Dr. Sumit Bhattacharya, senior research associate in the Department of Neurosciences.
Greetings from President Gaber

continued from p. 1

Additionally, Institutional Research is now led at the director level and will be reporting to the Provost’s Office. I’ve also asked Matt Schroeder, who previously worked in the UT Foundation, to join my office as chief of staff. He starts today.

In the past few weeks, I’ve been meeting with colleges and other divisions. At each meeting, I’ve been laying out my goals for UT:

1. We will raise the standing of the University on the national stage, and we will do that by investing in the academic and research core of the institution. We’re going to celebrate and recognize on a greater level the thousands of accomplishments of our students, faculty, researchers and alumni.

2. We’re going to increase the numbers and the academic preparedness of students enrolling at UT, put programs in place to support and retain them as they take robust curricula, and make sure they graduate on time.

3. UT will recommit to increasing externally funded research, advancing scholarship, and demonstrating for the world the new knowledge that we discover.

4. We will increase our fundraising efforts to fund more student scholarships, establish endowed chairs and professorships, develop academic programs and initiatives, and fund new and renovated facilities. I mentioned Sam earlier. Sam and his team will be working with the college deans and units across campus to do this.

5. The University also will be working to reduce administrative costs over time to ensure a UT education remains financially accessible for students.

In the coming months, we will begin a formal strategic planning process that will depend upon substantial campus input and feedback to develop the necessary steps to achieve these goals and move UT forward. The faculty, staff and students are critically important to our collective success.

I joined The University of Toledo because I see what you see: a strong University with an incredible potential for greatness. I am proud to be a part of this community and am grateful for the warm welcome I have received.

To our entire community of UT students, employees, alumni and supporters, thank you for all you continue to do to help this University reach new heights.

Sincerely,

Sharon L. Gaber, Ph.D.
President

Greetings from President Gaber

continued from p. 1

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Sincerely,

Sharon L. Gaber, Ph.D.
President

In memoriam

James C. Koelsch, Metamora, Ohio, died Aug. 16 at age 69. He received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from UT in 1973. He later taught civil engineering at his alma mater.

Dr. Stephen B. McConnell, Toledo, who taught at the University three decades, died Aug. 9 at age 74. He joined the Department of Sociology as an assistant professor in 1972. He was promoted to associate professor in 1980. His research focused on crime control. McConnell retired from UT in 2003.

Stephen W. Sloan, Perrysburg, died Aug. 14 at age 64. He was technical services chair on the board of directors for UT’s Coalition to Access Technology and Networking in Toledo. Sloan also assisted with University field research on coral reefs and wild horses.

Marilyn M. Wandtke, Perrysburg, died Aug. 5 at age 85. She received an associate’s degree in nursing from UT in 1978. She was a nurse at Maumee Valley Hospital and then moved with the staff to work at the Medical College of Ohio Hospital.
Funding to help create jobs in community health field

By Brandi Barhite

The University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences recently announced a program that will add 35 community health workers to the region to connect patients with resources to help them obtain the care they need.

UT, through its Area Health Education Center program, received $458,000 from the Medicaid Technical Assistance and Policy Program Healthcare Access Initiative to provide scholarship stipends to allow community members to receive the appropriate training to become a community health worker.

“Community health workers are entry-level health practitioners who serve as a liaison between individuals and health-care providers,” said Grant administrator Kathy Vasquez, director of the UT and Ohio Statewide Area Health Education Center programs and UT associate vice president for government relations. “Community health workers go by many titles that include care coordinator, navigator or advocate. No matter what they are called, though, they are vital employees who connect individuals and families to health insurance, health information, food, housing and transportation, so that those things do not keep them from obtaining the care they need.”

The Area Health Education Center Partnership for Community Health Workers program is a collaboration among UT’s Area Health Education Center program, the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio/Northwest Ohio Pathways HUB, Mercy College of Ohio, North Central State College and Care Coordination Systems.

The Healthcare Access Initiative is funded by the Medicaid Technical Assistance and Policy Program through the Ohio Department of Medicaid and administered by the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center. It supports the development, training and retention of health-care practitioners to serve Ohio’s Medicaid population using emerging health-care delivery models and evidenced-based practices.

Scholarship stipends, with commitment to serve Ohio’s Medicaid population, are available and will cover the full cost of the program being conducted by North Central State College. Partial coverage (up to $3,000) for those attending the program through Mercy College of Ohio in Toledo also is available.

Mercy College started a class Aug. 15. North Central State College will offer a class at the Mansfield campus in August and another class on UT Health Science Campus in early 2016.

The certification program will include classroom, laboratory and clinical components designed to prepare students for work in many health-care settings, including an ambulatory care center, a senior outreach program and a pregnancy center.

Course work in the program entails medical terminology, cultural diversity, basic life support, and first aid and community health specific topics such as advocacy, referral processes, documentation, and skills to complete home visits. Practical experiences in community health settings also are part of the program.

Graduates of the program will receive assistance finding a job upon successful completion of the program and certification by the Ohio Board of Nursing. Employers also could be eligible for funds to assist with the cost of creating new community health worker positions and employing workers to fill those positions.

The Northwest Ohio Pathways HUB partners with organizations that hire community health workers. The HUB is focused on finding people at risk for poor health and identifying and reducing barriers to care by addressing social issues and measuring the results.

“Through the Northwest Ohio Pathways HUB, nonprofit organizations that hire community health workers can secure sustainable sources of funding for their care coordination program focused on addressing the social determinants of health,” said Jan Ruma, director of the Northwest Ohio Pathways HUB and vice president of the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio.

Astronomer

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Schneider’s role was target identification for the research team to classify the 600 celestial objects for the Gemini Planet Imager Exoplanet Survey that will continue during the next several years. 51 Eridani b is the 44th target of the 600 in the survey and was first observed in December.

“As you would imagine, we don’t pick random stars to study,” Schneider said. “One of the main factors we use to determine what gets further study is to look at the nearest and youngest stars that would have young planets that still emit some of their own light, rather than light only being reflected from the star.”

To put that in perspective, our sun is 4.5 billion years old. A young star, by comparison, would be less than 100 million years old. This object is about 20 million years old, Schneider explained.

In addition to expanding the number of known planets, the goal of the exoplanet survey is to provide clues as to how solar systems form through the study of these young planets. The characteristics of 51 Eridani b are similar to what research models suggest Jupiter was like in its infancy.

“This is the cutting-edge of planet detection and it is a great opportunity for The University of Toledo to be involved in this research,” said Dr. Mike Cushing, UT associate professor of astronomy and director of the Ritter Planetarium. “It is all a question of origins. Where did we come from? We know our solar system very well, but this research will help us learn if the architecture of our solar system is common or rare.”
Paint it black

A worker painted the overpass above Secor Road on the southwest side of Main Campus last Monday so the UT sign would stand out more.

Cool down

Luke Thomas and his 2-year-old daughter, Charlotte, and their Yorkshire terrier, Maizy, stopped by the Toledo Edison Memorial Fountain in front of the Student Union during a recent Saturday morning walk.

Getting to nose you

Cooper, left, and Marv greeted each other recently on Main Campus. The dachshund belongs to Vince DiGuglielmo, social media specialist in University Communications, and the blue merle Great Dane is owned by Tyler Mattson, a student majoring in broadcast communication and station manager of WXUT-FM 88.3.
Professors assessing financial damage from water crisis

By Bob Mackowiak

The memories of last year’s water crisis in and around Toledo are still fresh in the minds of most residents, and the anxiety about a repeat event in 2015 is high.

But two University of Toledo professors are hard at work at one of the critical issues surrounding last year’s three-day event: What was the economic impact of the 2014 Toledo water crisis on the local economy?

Dr. Andrew Solocha, professor in the Department of Finance in the College of Business and Innovation, along with Dr. Neil Reid, director of the UT Jack Ford Urban Affairs Center and professor of geography and planning in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences, are researching that very issue, funded by a grant from the Environmental Law and Policy Center in Chicago. They began their research in May and will have an initial impact report by the end of August.

“Lake Erie is an enormously important resource,” Solocha said. “I didn’t know anything about the science behind this, but I was really concerned about what happened here last year, and so I volunteered my time for this research. We envision a series of reports, the first one in August about the three days from last year, and then other reports over time.

“My training is in economics, data and model building, and for this research and report it is essential to have someone with experience in both business and economics because we have to interpret this data, find out what the data is saying to us; sometimes it doesn’t say anything at all. We have to go and interview people, and people can be confused or have misinformation. This is a work in progress, and we don’t yet know where all the answers are to make this complete.”

“One of the main challenges in doing this research is getting reliable data,” Reid said. “Often in the research we do, you can go to a public data source like the census and use data that has been collected in a systematic fashion. But with unanticipated one-off events like this, there are no data that are systematically collected.

“So it becomes like doing a jigsaw puzzle, but one in which you have to go out and find all the data pieces,” Reid said. “And, unfortunately, many of the pieces are either very hard to find or may not even exist. Our task here is to find as many of the pieces as possible and put them together to paint as complete a picture as we possibly can.”

“We need to be able to assess what the damages — all the damages — are. We know several sectors that were impacted by the 2014 water crisis, including hospitals, the food processing industry, restaurants, tourism and consumers, plus we will probably see an impact on housing,” Solocha said.

“But there may be impacts that we can’t see, and there could be a long-term impact. For example, people who typically go to Lake Erie beaches who have decided that now they can’t go there in the future because of the negative publicity for the region.

“Of course, there was also good news, such as the charities that came out, mobilized and helped,” he observed. “For example, the American Red Cross brought in water for people, and the National Guard distributed water and food.”

Solocha added, “The University of Toledo has been fantastic in helping us with this project, as have other organizations such as the United Way of Greater Toledo. It is absolutely critical that people know we are working on this report and that they help us.”

If you have information you would like to share about the economic impact of the 2014 water crisis, contact Solocha at Andrew.Solocha@utoledo.edu or Reid at Neil.Reid@utoledo.edu.

UT Health rocks

Medical student Truc Ho and Rocky compared danced moves during the UT Health celebration picnic.
UT faculty film accepted to prominent international film festival

By Angela Riddle

Holly Hey, a filmmaker and faculty member of The University of Toledo Department of Theatre and Film, will screen one of her films at the internationally recognized Aesthetica Short Film Festival in November.

The Aesthetica Film Festival, accredited by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, is a celebration of independent film and an outlet for championing and supporting short filmmaking. The festival includes a selection of films from around the world in genres including advertising, artists' film, music video, drama and documentary.

Hey’s film, “the dum dum capitol of the world,” emerged successfully after two competitive rounds of selection review.

The UT associate professor of film said the first-person experimental documentary is a moving-image meditation that contemplates landscape, home, recollection, queerness and time.

“The project uses personal history to reflect on universal themes about home, life, love, parenting, memory and death,” she said.

Hey began the project in 2005 when she received funding from the LEF Moving Image Foundation. She later received funding from The University of Toledo in 2012 and completed the film in 2014.

To date, “the dum dum capitol of the world” has screened at several festivals, including the Ann Arbor Film Festival; the Athens Film Festival in Athens, Ohio; the Queens World Film Festival in New York; and the Moon Rise Film Festival in British Columbia.

Hey is head of the UT Film Program. She holds a master of fine arts degree in filmmaking from the Art Institute of Chicago.

She makes a broad range of work that can be seen in galleries, film festivals, live performances and on television. Her works have screened both nationally and internationally, and the National Educational Telecommunications Association distributed her last major release, “Rat Stories,” which aired on PBS affiliates in the United States, British Columbia and Puerto Rico.

STILL-LIFE: These stills are from Holly Hey’s film, “the dum dum capitol of the world,” which will be shown at the Aesthetica Short Film Festival in November.

Theatre auditions slated for Aug. 25-26

The University of Toledo Department of Theatre and Film will hold auditions for its fall plays Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 25 and 26, in the Center for Performing Arts Studio Theatre.

Auditions will be held from 6 to 10 p.m., and all actors are expected to stay the full time.

The department will be casting for:

- “The Laramie Project,” a play written by Moises Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project about the Wyoming town where the 1998 beating death of Matthew Shepherd, a gay college student, occurred. It will be staged Nov. 20-22 and Dec. 1-2 and Dec. 4-6.

Auditions are open to all.

Those auditioning should have a brief monologue prepared and will be asked to do movement exercises. Actors should be familiar with the shows; script information is available from the Theatre and Film Department office.

Sign-up sheets are posted outside the Theatre and Film Department office, located in Center for Performing Arts Room 1030.

Audition preparation information can be found at http://utole.do/auditions.

For breaking news, go to utnews.utoledo.edu

They got the beat

Members of the UT Marching Band, including these drummers, practiced on Main Campus last week.

Photo by Vicki Krall
Women’s basketball team courts camaraderie, victories during European trip

By Tricia Cullop

I’m a big fan of foreign trips. This was a great tool to expose our team to different food, languages and culture around the world, as well as a chance to take advantage of extra practice time and games. With our new rule changes in effect this season, this Aug. 8-18 trip to London and Spain gave us an opportunity to adjust to playing with four quarters and have fewer timeouts.

On these types of trips, you never know the type of competition you will face, but I was very pleased we were able to play two strong teams who took us to the wire. I’m also proud of our team for finding a way to win both games, and I know all our players gained valuable experience that will pay dividends this winter. More importantly, we had a chance to build what I like to refer to as our “foundation,” the team chemistry needed to be successful.

I loved watching our players’ reactions and listening to their comments as we toured Buckingham Palace, floated down the River Thames under the Tower Bridge, cycled through beautiful Mallorca, enjoyed the beachside block party hosted by Inma’s [Zanoguera] family, toured the city of Barcelona, cruised the Mediterranean Sea on a catamaran, and cheered loudly in the stands for FC Barcelona [soccer team]. They will never forget the memories of this trip, but it was even more rewarding to be able to share it with some players’ parents from the United States as well as our Toledo families abroad [the families of Jay-Ann Bravo-Harriott, Janice Monakana and Inma Zanoguera]. Our foreign players sacrifice quite a bit to spend four years with us, so this trip was a great gift to their friends and family. It was a chance to share our UT family with each of them and gain a quick snapshot of what life is like in each of their respective countries.

In addition to our team, administrators and family members, we were blessed to share this trip with roughly 25 Toledo fans. We count our lucky stars every day that we have such a tremendous fan base. Not only do they provide a great home court advantage in Savage Arena, but those who came with us showed our team just how kind and generous they are by how they treated our newcomers and newly appointed assistants. They now feel like official members of our program.

I hope everybody had a chance to spend some time with our Vice President and Athletic Director Mike O’Brien and our Senior Associate Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator Kelly Andrews. Their leadership in our athletic department is outstanding, and I greatly appreciate their support of our women’s basketball program. They don’t get enough credit for what they do behind the scenes so that we can be successful, and I’m very happy they were able to join us.

Saying goodbye to Inma at the conclusion of our trip was not something we looked forward to, but it is also an exciting time as she will soon be joining her professional team in Italy. I have no doubt her new Italian coach will soon feel as blessed as I did to coach such a class act. I’m so glad she was able to join us on this trip. The night we spent with her family at their beach house was a night we will always treasure.

Thank you to everyone who made this trip possible. We are very fortunate to call all of you a friend of our program. Our players returned with a lifetime of memories wrapped into the past 10 days, and our staff gained valuable knowledge that will help us as we progress toward our first game. We all had moments during this past trip where we almost wanted to pinch ourselves and say, “We are walking down the same hallway in Buckingham Palace where the queen walks!” or “Could Spain be any more beautiful?” And sometimes we even wondered, “What on earth are we eating?” (LOL).

We return to Toledo with a grateful heart, excited about the potential of our team, and ready to embark on the season ahead.

¡Muchas Gracias!

Cullop is the women’s head basketball coach.
Mikaela Boyd took a turn at the helm during a catamaran trip off the coast of Barcelona, Spain.

Jada Woody, Nancy Kessler and Lindsay Dorr smiled while on the top deck of a tour boat on the River Thames just after passing under Tower Bridge in London.

UT graduate and former team member Inma Zanoguera stood with her arm around Jay-Ann Bravo-Harriott as they looked at the coastline of Palma, Mallorca.

Jay-Ann Bravo-Harriott was fouled while driving toward the basket.

Teammates, from left, Ana Capotosto, Lindsay Dorr, Nancy Kessler and Brenae Harris talked and laughed during a street party that was given by Inma Zanoguera’s parents on the island of Mallorca.

Around 25 women’s basketball fans, as well as UT Vice President and Athletic Director Mike O’Brien, also made the trip. Many of them are seen here posing for a photo with Barcelona behind them.
AUG. 24, 2015

NEWS

UT research featured on cover of chemistry journal

By Lindsay Mahaney

Featured on the cover of a recent issue of one of chemistry’s most notable journals was a diagram of lead iodide molecules assembling into a complex photovoltaic material. It referenced an article inside the magazine written by a group of scholars from The University of Toledo.

Chemistry of Materials is a peer-reviewed scientific journal featuring fundamental research in chemistry, chemical engineering and materials science.

The article and cover art in the July 14 edition focused on the formation of revolutionary material that is exciting the photovoltaics community: so-called perovskites. This material, applied to solar energy conversion only in the last five years, has quickly demonstrated high efficiency for generating power from solar energy.

The project has been worked on for the past two years in UT’s Wright Center for Photovoltaics Innovation and Commercialization, which was started in 2007 to strengthen photovoltaic research and manufacturing in Ohio. Drs. Michael Heben, Randy Ellingson and Adam Phillips of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, along with students Suneth Watthage, Zhaoning Song and Brandon Tompkins, contributed to the research and writing for the article.

Heben, UT professor of physics and the Wright Center’s endowed chair, explained that perovskites have attracted so much attention for photovoltaics because they have only been around for a fraction of the time of other photovoltaic materials, but already have demonstrated great effectiveness.

“It’s really unanticipated that a material that was not on anybody’s radar would come on the scene about three years ago and rapidly progress from efficiencies of just a few percent to efficiencies greater than 20 percent,” he said.

“Researchers from all over the world have been very rapidly working to improve the performance of the materials in solar cells.”

With all the haste to improve efficiency, some fundamental science questions have gone unanswered. The UT group’s research gained attention due to the creation of a phase diagram for the handling and processing of the perovskite material. A phase diagram is a material’s representation of the limits of stability of the various phases in a chemical system with respect to variables such as composition and temperature, Heben explained.

“The reason that this is important is because it will provide a road map for others who want to work in this field, and help those currently working in the field to understand and improve upon the results they already have,” he said.

In the past month, the article has been one of the top downloads from the journal.

“Solar energy is booming; the market is growing 30 to 40 percent each year and has been doing so for more than 15 years. In many parts of the country, clean solar energy is already cost-competitive with conventional forms of electricity,” Heben said.

For more information about the article, contact Heben at michael.heben@utoledo.edu.

Ringleaders

Students Jaxon Rowe and Megan Goedde played a game of ringtoss last week on Centennial Mall. They participated in the Jesup Jam, a two-day orientation program for incoming honors students.

Photo by Daniel Miller
Rolling in

Riya Parikh, a freshman majoring in pharmacy, left, is helped by her parents, Nimisha, center, and Rakesh, as she moved into Presidents Hall last week.

Jessica Najor, a freshman majoring in nursing, moved into Parks Tower last week.

Open forums set for CFO candidates

In the coming weeks, The University of Toledo will welcome to campus three candidates for the position of executive vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer.

Each candidate will hold two open forums during his or her visit, one on Main Campus and one on Health Science Campus.

Listed by dates, the candidates are:

**Thursday, Aug. 27** — Sherideen Stoll, vice president for finance and administration and CFO at Bowling Green State University
  • Main Campus Public Forum — 1:15 to 2 p.m. in Libbey Hall Main Dining Room
  • Health Science Campus Public Forum — 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. in Health Education Building Room 110

**Wednesday, Sept. 2** — Gregory Scott, assistant vice president for finance and business at Pennsylvania State University
  • Main Campus Public Forum — 2:15 to 3 p.m. in the Driscoll Alumni Center Board Room
  • Health Science Campus Public Forum — 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. in Health Education Building Room 110

**Tuesday, Sept. 8** — Dawn Rhodes, vice chancellor for finance and administration, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
  • Main Campus Public Forum — 1:15 to 2 p.m. in Libbey Hall Main Dining Room
  • Health Science Campus Public Forum — 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. in Health Education Building Room 110

In a letter to campus, UT President Sharon Gaber encouraged faculty, staff and students to participate in the forums to help evaluate the candidates.

“The executive vice president for finance and administration and CFO will play an important role as we develop and implement our strategic plan for UT in the years ahead,” she wrote. “Your input during these forums will play an important part in ensuring we make the right choices for the University’s future.”

Back-to-school drive, kick-off social to be held Aug. 31

Join University of Toledo Alumni Affiliates Monday, Aug. 31, for the Shoes, Socks and Underwear Drive and kick-off social from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Gradkowski’s, located at 1440 Secor Road in the Gateway.

“It’s a chance for affiliates to get together and kick off the school year,” said Tamara Talmage, president of the Judith Herb College of Education, Health Science, and Social Justice and Human Services Alumni Affiliate.

Donations will be collected for the Shoes, Socks and Underwear Drive during the event, and participants can sample free appetizers.

“Other local organizations started collecting backpacks and school supplies to donate in the area, so we talked to principals to see what else students needed,” Talmage said. “Last year, we only collected shoes, but this year socks and underwear were added to the drive after hearing there was a need for them.”

Grey, black, brown or white tennis shoes or dress shoes and socks are needed for students in grades K-8 in children’s sizes 1 to 6 or toddler sizes 10 to 13.

Underwear donations are needed for younger students.

Throughout August and September, donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Driscoll Alumni Center Room 2001 on Main Campus.

For more information, visit toledoalumni.org or call 419.530.2586.
UT organization welcomes international students, assists in transition to college

By Lindsay Mahaney

While there are nearly 8,000 miles separating India and The University of Toledo, a student organization on campus helps to make it feel a little more like home for Indian students.

The Indian Student Cultural Organization (ISCO) helps Indian students adapt and flourish at college in America. Between social events, festivals, aid with housing and airport pickups, the organization works to make the transition for international students as easy as possible.

“It’s very difficult for an international student going somewhere new,” said Krishnakant Patel, ISCO president.

When Patel first became a member of ISCO in 2012, the group’s membership was at an all-time low due to a large number of graduating students. The seniors at the time decided to revamp the organization so that future students wouldn’t have to struggle to get acclimated on campus like they did.

“The group wasn’t active when we first came here, so it was kind of difficult to get in touch with everyone here at UT,” Patel explained.

New programs and events were instated, including an airport pickup program where students could be shuttled from either the Detroit Metropolitan or Toledo Express airports if they became a member of ISCO — which costs just $10.

Since then, ISCO’s numbers have been steadily increasing.

“We want to bring our organization to the next level and make sure everyone at UT, especially the new incoming students this semester, know about our organization and what we offer,” said Raj Jessica Thomas, ISCO marketing manager.

A variety of activities and festivals also are offered through ISCO to spotlight Indian culture, including Patel’s favorite, Diya — an event to celebrate Deepawali, the festival of lights. During the event, students perform traditional dances and songs, and Indian food is provided. The event is ISCO’s largest; last year more than 600 people attended.

“This event gives an overall idea for the people on what India really is,” he said. “People get to see India is a diverse place where each state has its own way of living.”

ISCO also helps put on Holi Toledo, which is Thomas’ favorite. The campus-wide event, which is organized by a collaboration of groups including ISCO, the UT Center for International Studies and Programs, and the UT Center for Religious Understanding, is for the Hindu religious festival Holi — a celebration known for the color thrown into the air to commemorate the arrival of spring.

“Since so many people are walking around the field where Holi is, it gives us a great opportunity to expose our culture to everyone,” she said.

In addition to the big festivals, ISCO gives students the chance to connect and just hang out with movie nights and cricket tournaments. The group also organizes trips to the Hindu Temple of Toledo, located on King Road in Sylvania, so students can connect with community members.

“It gives [students] good exposure to a lot of other people so they don’t feel homesick,” Patel said.

For more information about ISCO, contact Thomas at Raj.Thomas@rockets.utoledo.edu or visit utoledisco.org.

PHOTO OP: Members of the Indian Student Cultural Organization posed for a shot at the Festival of India earlier this month. Members manned the food booths at the event and served up a variety of Indian delights, including dosa, naan and panner, mango lassi, and pani puri.

NOW SERVING: Preparing paratha, an Indian flatbread, at the Festival of India earlier this month were, from left, Roshan Kini, volunteer; Sai Kumar Naini, panel member, graduate vice president and webmaster for the Indian Student Cultural Organization; Narendra Raghav Venkatesan, volunteer; and Krishnakant Patel, president of the Indian Student Cultural Organization.

PHOTO OP: Members of the Indian Student Cultural Organization posed for a shot at the Festival of India earlier this month. Members manned the food booths at the event and served up a variety of Indian delights, including dosa, naan and panner, mango lassi, and pani puri.

Just a reminder: The University of Toledo campuses are tobacco-free.
First Weeks events set for students

Students: Ready, set, get involved! It’s time to have fun, meet new friends, and learn all about The University of Toledo during First Weeks events. Check out the events organized by the Division of Student Affairs to welcome students to campus.

This year’s events include:

Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 24 and 25
• Student Affairs Welcome Stations, various locations across Main Campus. Administrators, faculty and staff will be available to answer questions and hand out freebies while supplies last.

Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 25 and 26
• Commuter Ice Cream Social, 5 to 8 p.m., Cold Stone Creamery, 4038 Talmadge Road. Meet other commuters and have some free ice cream.

Wednesday, Aug. 26
• Student Organization Fair, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Centennial Mall. There’s an organization for everyone; see for yourself! Get involved!

Thursday, Aug. 27
• Meet the Sororities, 7 to 9 p.m., Student Union Ingman Room. Sororities will give presentations for all students interested in recruitment.

Thursday, Sept. 3
• President’s Tailgate, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., tent near Rocket Hall and University Parks Trail. Meet UT President Sharon Gaber, play some games for a chance to win prizes, eat some free food, and listen to music before the UT-Stony Brook football game.

• UT vs. Stony Brook, 7 p.m., Glass Bowl. Students are admitted free with Rocket ID; faculty and staff can buy tickets half off with ID; $25 to $60.

Saturday, Sept. 5
• Rocket to the Point, 8:45 a.m., meet at the Transportation Center for a trip to Cedar Point. For $25, students can ride a bus to the amusement park, receive a ticket and free (non-alcoholic) drinks. Space is limited; tickets on sale at Ask Rocky in the Student Union.

For more information, go to utole.do/getinvolved.

Law faculty recognized for scholarly impact

By Rachel Phipps

The University of Toledo College of Law recently ranked 62nd of the nation’s 205 law schools, as measured by citations to faculty articles, in a study on faculty productivity completed by Professor Gregory Sisk and several of his colleagues at the University of St. Thomas School of Law.

The College of Law appeared between the University of Missouri and DePaul University on the recently released list. Of the 14 law schools in Ohio and Michigan, only The University of Toledo, the University of Michigan, Ohio State University and Case Western Reserve University were among the top third of law schools in terms of scholarly impact, according to the Sisk ranking.

“I was excited to come to UT in part because of our outstanding faculty,” said D. Benjamin Barros, dean of the College of Law. “This study reinforces our faculty’s strength and shows that we are producing scholarship that has a real impact.”

UT law faculty scholarship has been cited in recent years in multiple U.S. Supreme Court briefs and one Supreme Court opinion, and several federal trial and appellate court decisions. Faculty members have penned Supreme Court amicus briefs and testified in state legislative and judicial proceedings and in U.S. Congressional hearings. Faculty members are regularly sought for analysis and opinions by the media. Many faculty members are interviewed for local television and newspaper articles, and several comment frequently in national publications such as The New York Times and USA Today. Additionally, faculty members edit two top law professor blogs.

“The faculty at the College of Law has worked to build and maintain a fertile scholarly environment,” said Eric Chaffee, associate dean for faculty research and development. “We are excited about this study because it demonstrates that we are making an impact within the legal academy based upon the breadth and depth of knowledge and ideas of those teaching at the school.”

The UT law faculty’s commitment to scholarship enriches the student experience.

“The quality of faculty scholarship at our school is directly related to the first-rate instruction students get in our classrooms,” said Geoffrey Rapp, associate dean for academic affairs and the Harold A. Anderson Professor of Law and Values.

“Should a student care about how many citations a professor gets? No. But students should care that professors have a broad and deep understanding of their fields, and it’s that understanding that supports our high-impact research,” Rapp said.

The Sisk study applied methodology to evaluate faculty productivity developed by Brian Leiter, professor of law at the University of Chicago Law School, and can be downloaded free of charge at http://utole.do/lawproductivitystudy.

This is the second major study to highlight the prominence of UT law faculty scholarship in recent years. In a study conducted by Roger Williams University in 2013, the college’s faculty ranked 90th in the country and fourth among Ohio law schools as measured by placements in top law reviews.
UTMC coders help generate $1.4M in gross revenue

By Brandi Barhite

The University of Toledo Medical Center collected $1.4 million in gross revenue last fiscal year because of a commitment to educate on accurate and detailed physician documentation.

Paula Kessler, director of health information management at UTMC, said the documentation improvement team is dedicated to the identification of clinical indications and treatments or services provided to patients. The team wants to make sure the treatments are reflected accurately in the physician’s documentation in the medical record before going to the inpatient coders and, ultimately, the insurance companies. The more accurate the coding, the more likely the insurance companies will pay accordingly, she said.

“The bottom line is we are doing a good job of painting an accurate picture of the patient’s hospital stay, which allows for the hospital to be accurately reimbursed for the services provided,” Kessler said.

UTMC began hiring documentation improvement specialists in 2007. Kessler said housing the documentation improvement program in health information management works because of the detailed and concentrated coding education and training that the employees receive in a two- or four-year health information college program.

For instance, a doctor might note a drop in hemoglobin and order a transfusion. However, the doctor might never state that the patient has anemia and what type of anemia the patient has, which is important to know for reimbursement purposes.

“Documentation improvement specialists know the coding and are diligent in their efforts to contact the doctors to get clarification,” said Holly Hill, coding manager. “We don’t want to leave money on the table. This is what we went to school for. Doctors went to school to care for patients. We are here to help the doctors.”

Health information management head to step down, interim named

By Jon Strunk

University of Toledo Health officials expressed thanks to Paula Kessler as they announced her plans to step down as director of health information management.

Pam Eaton, director of health-care information technology and clinical informatics, will assume Kessler’s duties on an interim basis.

“Paula has played an important leadership role as the UT Medical Center has implemented its electronic medical record system and prepares for the adoption of the next iteration of medical coding requirements,” said Dr. Carl Sirio, UTMC chief operating and clinical officer, and senior associate dean for clinical affairs.

Sirio also thanked Eaton for taking on additional duties in the interim.

“Pam’s demonstrated leadership in health-care information technology makes clear that the health information management team is in good hands,” he said.

“After 22 years at UTMC, I made the difficult decision to leave the University,” Kessler said. “I was presented with a wonderful opportunity that will bring me closer to my family and allow me to utilize the knowledge I’ve gained while working in the Health Information Management Department since 1993. I want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone for being so kind, supportive and helpful throughout my career at UTMC. You are all truly the best.”

William McCreary, vice president and chief information and technology officer, said that both women deserved credit for UTMC’s current position of strength in the area of health-care information technology.

“Healthcare IT is a rapidly changing field, and Paula and Pam have both done a great deal to ensure we’re ready to meet the challenges ahead,” McCreary said.

A farewell reception for Kessler will be held Thursday, Sept. 3, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Pinnacle Lounge.
START OF SCHOOL YEAR SIGNALS STRESS IN STUDENTS

By Brandi Barhite

Back to school can mean back to stress for some students, according to a psychiatrist at The University of Toledo Medical Center.

The school year — as opposed to summer vacation — is ripe for stress and anxiety, said Dr. Theodor Rais, director of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division at UTMC.

Parents need to try to continually communicate with their students, even those in college, if they want to stay on top of mental health issues that might arise during the school year, Rais said.

Students in high school are more likely to be bullied or worried about getting good grades, he said, while college students, especially first-year students, are adjusting to a new environment and being away from home for the first time.

Rais, who said his office sees an uptick in patients September through May, recommends giving your student advance notice before a visit to check in, that way you aren’t surprising him or her. Incorporating food into the conversation is also a tactic that works with many young people. It’s hard to turn down a free meal, Rais said.

Changes in eating or sleeping patterns also should be taken seriously.

“If you see something that is wrong, do not take any chances,” Rais said. “Even if you have the least degree of suspicion, you need to take your child in for an assessment.”

College can be particularly stressful for the “imposter syndrome,” Rais said. Students at Ivy League schools, for instance, might think that they don’t belong, feeling like they are there by luck and won’t be able to make it academically and socially, he said.

“My best advice is preserving the communication, which is made easier these days with texting, Skype and email,” Rais said. “Even though your students are striving for independence, they still need a family.”

UT HEALTH SUPPORTS JDRF ONE WALK

By Brandi Barhite

Julie LaPlante’s job as the secretary for the Endocrinology Division at The University of Toledo Medical Center has helped her gain insight into Type 1 diabetes.

But it wasn’t until her adult son, Derek, was diagnosed with the disease that she truly understood its life-changing implications.

In support of the research being done to find a cure for juvenile diabetes, LaPlante is organizing a UT Health team to walk in the JDRF One Walk Sunday, Sept. 20, at Ottawa Park in Toledo to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

“It completely changed my son’s life when he was diagnosed,” LaPlante said. “He started with insulin injections three times per day and then began to use an insulin pump.”

LaPlante said her son started showing signs of diabetes with weight loss, frequent urination and lightheadedness. While the diagnosis gave him answers, he had to adopt a brand-new lifestyle.

“He has to be mindful of everything that he does, whether that is tracking the carbs in what he eats or remembering to remove the insulin pump before he swims.”

The Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at The University of Toledo is a silver sponsor for the walk. Dr. Juan Jaume, chief of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at UTMC, said JDRF is the leading charitable fundraiser and advocate for juvenile diabetes research and its complications. The disease impacts 1.25 million Americans.

“Insulin should not be considered a cure, so we need to keep researching to find a cure for this disease,” Jaume said.

“While insulin helps a person stay alive, it does not prevent some of the disease complications that can include nerve damage, blindness and kidney failure.”

LaPlante said she hopes her son’s story encourages UT employees to make a donation or join the team.

“I would be ecstatic if 50 people signed up to be on the team,” LaPlante said. “My son is even coming home from Chicago to walk with me.”

To register for the team or to donate, go to http://utole.do/et.
Downtown Coaches Association luncheons set to begin

By Lindsay Mahaney

A University association will host weekly luncheons featuring the UT athletic community.

The Downtown Coaches Association is an organization dedicated to promoting and encouraging interest in the University of Toledo athletics program. Members and guests will have the opportunity to attend a weekly buffet lunch that will feature talks from different members of UT’s athletic community.

The cost of lunch is $14, and anyone interested in Rocket athletics is encouraged to attend. Annual membership dues are $40 for those who choose to join the organization.

“The Downtown Coaches Association has been an instrumental support group for Rocket athletic programs for several decades,” said David Nottke, senior associate athletic director. “Members get the up-close and personal look inside of Rocket athletics. Our coaches and student-athletes are regular guests on our Monday luncheon programs.”

The opening luncheon on Monday, Aug. 31, will feature UT Football Coach Matt Campbell with a report and Football Equipment Manager Jeremy Boyd with a demonstration on what it takes to outfit and protect players. Lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the program beginning at noon.

UT President Sharon Gaber will speak at the second luncheon, which will be Tuesday, Sept. 8, due to the Labor Day holiday.

Lunches then will continue each Monday until winter break. After winter break, luncheons will resume Monday, Jan. 4.

For more information or to join Downtown Coaches Association, contact Julia Kudla at 419.530.5087 or Julia.Kudla@utoledo.edu.