

CNN journalist to deliver commencement address Dec. 19

By Christine Long

Christi Paul, anchor of CNN New Day Weekends and HLN's Daily Share, will address graduates at The University of Toledo's fall commencement Saturday, Dec. 19, at 10 a.m. in Savage Arena.

The UT graduate and Bellevue, Ohio, native, who also will receive an honorary degree during the ceremony, will address more than 2,000 candidates for degrees, including 138 doctoral candidates, 556 master's degree candidates and 1,372 bachelor's degree candidates.

The ceremony will be streamed live at <http://video.utoledo.edu>.

This will mark the first University of Toledo commencement for President Sharon L. Gaber.



Paul

power of information," Gaber said. "She has been at the forefront of many major news stories of our time. The award-winning journalist and advocate for women and

"From her time at UT to her successful career at CNN, Christi Paul has devoted her life to thoughtful curiosity, learning, and helping others with the

children is an inspiring voice who will offer a passionate message to our graduates and guests."

The national journalist graduated from UT in 1993 with a bachelor of arts degree in communication with a focus on broadcast journalism.

"I'm humbled and honored to give the commencement speech and so grateful to UT, the professors who helped me grow, the staff who guided me to solid internships, and the friends I made along the way," Paul said. "I will always credit UT for giving me my springboard into the journalism arena."

Paul has covered many high-profile events throughout her distinguished career; these include President Barack Obama's second inauguration, Hurricane Sandy, and

the Casey Anthony murder trial. She was in the anchor chair, walking heartbroken viewers through the early hours of the tragic shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School and Virginia Tech.

Prior to joining CNN and HLN in 2003, Paul worked as an anchor and reporter in Phoenix and Boise, Idaho. The Idaho Press Club honored Paul for her series about a brave 4-year-old girl who underwent a five-organ transplant. Paul began her career at WDTV in Clarksburg, W.Va.

The wife and mother of three also is passionate about helping children. Along with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Paul is co-founder of

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Assistant coach qualifies for U.S. Olympic Team Trials

By Mike Scholze

Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Assistant Coach Sam Bluske qualified for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials in the marathon Dec. 6 with a time of 2:41:13.



Bluske

Bluske bested the qualifying mark of 2:43:00 at the California International Marathon in Sacramento, where she finished ninth.

The Olympic Team Trials will take place Feb. 13 in Los Angeles. To qualify for the event, the time must be run on a USA Track & Field-certified course in a sanctioned event.

"The feeling is unexplainable," Bluske said. "I set the goal of qualifying after

graduating college, but I figured I would shoot for the 2020 Olympic year. A lot of the other women are older and more experienced, so I'm just excited to learn from them and the experience."

Only 145 women have qualified for the 2016 Olympic Trials so far. Two UT graduates, Emma Kertesz and Nicole Camp, also qualified for the event. Kertesz ran a 2:42:07 at the same race, while Camp ran a 2:37:37 at the Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon in Minneapolis.

"This is a great accomplishment for Samantha, and we're all really proud of her," said UT Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Head Coach Linh Nguyen. "It's not an easy thing to train at a high level while coaching, but she's managed it really well. It's awesome that we'll have two alums and an assistant coach all running at the Olympic Trials. I'm sure that Nicole, Emma and Sam will all represent Toledo well, and we're excited to see how they perform in February."

Holiday greetings



Photo by Daniel Miller

Julie Bonitati, administrative assistant to the president, left, and Katie DeBenedictis, director of senior administrative operations, center, shared a laugh with President Sharon L. Gaber Thursday at the president's holiday open house in the Driscoll Alumni Center. Approximately 360 employees attended the event.

UT receives Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award

By Samantha Watson

The University of Toledo has a strong commitment to diversity, and a recent award shows that dedication hasn't gone unnoticed.

UT is a winner of the 2015 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. It is the third time that UT has received this award.

"Being recognized by INSIGHT Into Diversity is really rewarding and encouraging for us," said Dr. Shanda Gore, associate vice president for equity, diversity and community engagement, and chief diversity officer. "Every day, we are involved in initiatives for diversity that have a positive impact on our students, faculty, staff and broader community. It's nice to have that hard work recognized, and it encourages us to continue making a difference."

UT was featured in the magazine's November issue along with the other winners of this year's award. The magazine includes thought-provoking news and feature stories on matters of diversity and inclusion across higher education and beyond.

"The Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award process consists of a comprehensive and rigorous application that includes questions relating to the recruitment and retention of students and employees," said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. "Our standards



are high, and we look for institutions where diversity and inclusion are woven into the work being accomplished every day across a campus."

For more information about UT's ongoing efforts for diversity, visit utoledo.edu/diversity/oed. For more information about INSIGHT Into Diversity and the award, visit insightintodiversity.com.

In memoriam

Barbara Kolb Beittel, Marietta, Ohio, a former adjunct faculty member in the Music Department, died Dec. 2 at age 89.

Dr. Patrick Mulrow, Jupiter Island, Fla., professor emeritus of medicine, died Dec. 3 at age 88. In 1975, he joined the MCO faculty as professor and chair of the Department of Medicine. His research on hypertension was known around the world. In 1991, Mulrow was elected chair of the American Heart Association's Council for High Blood Pressure Research. Four years later while on sabbatical, he conducted research on hypertension at the Max Delbruck Center for Molecular Medicine in Berlin. Soon after that, he was elected secretary-general of the World Hypertension League in Ottawa, Ontario. In addition, he served on several research committees for the National Institutes of Health. For his work, he received numerous honors, including the Senior U.S. Scientist Award from the Alexander Von-Humboldt Foundation and the Irvine Page-Alva Bradley Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Heart Association's Council for High Blood Pressure Research. He retired in 1997, was granted emeritus status, and continued his research. In 2004, Mulrow received the MCO Career Achievement Award. Scholarship donations are suggested in Mulrow's name to the College of Medicine and Life Sciences through the UT Foundation.



Mulrow

Dr. Hector Ramirez, Perrysburg, died Dec. 4 at age 76. He completed his residency in vascular surgery at MCO and was an assistant instructor of surgery in 1972 and 1973.

Howard M. Selland, Henderson, Nev., former trustee on the MCO Board of Trustees from 1995 to 2000 and University benefactor, died Nov. 16 at age 72. He was the former president of Aeroquip and senior vice president and group executive of Eaton Corp. Tributes are suggested to the Sandra Jean Selland Endowment through the UT Foundation.

Winter weather policy reminder

In the rare event of a major snow or ice storm or other inclement weather that makes it necessary for UT to delay or suspend classes or campus events, the University will announce this information through several communications vehicles:

- UT Alert text message and email: Sign up at utalert.utoledo.edu;
- Web: utoledo.edu and myut.utoledo.edu;
- Phone: 419.530.SNOW (7669);
- Social media: Facebook and Twitter; and
- Local media.

Commencement

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the "Find Our Children" series that airs on HLN. Viewers have helped bring home 35 missing kids as a result of the news profile segments. The center honored Paul in 2012 with its prestigious Hope Award for her efforts to make the world a safer place for children.

Paul serves on the National Advisory Council for the One Love Foundation, which works with teens to help end dating violence. She also serves on the advisory board for When Georgia Smiled that helps victims of domestic violence and sexual assault find healing, safety and joy.

UT recognized Paul in 2006 as an Outstanding Alumna of the former College of Arts and Sciences.

The fall commencement ceremony will recognize graduates from the colleges of Adult and Lifelong Learning; Business and

Innovation; Communication and the Arts; Judith Herb College of Education; Health Sciences; Languages, Literature and Social Sciences; Medicine and Life Sciences; Natural Sciences and Mathematics; Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; and Social Justice and Human Service.

Other commencement ceremonies that will take place are:

- College of Engineering — graduate commencement Thursday, Dec. 17, at 5 p.m.; undergraduate commencement Saturday, Dec. 19, at 3 p.m. Both ceremonies will be held in Nitschke Hall Auditorium.
- College of Nursing: Friday, Dec. 18, at 1 p.m. in Nitschke Hall Auditorium.

For more information, visit utoledo.edu/commencement.

Associate professor honored with Champion for Children Award

By Cassandra DeYoung

Dr. Lisa Pescara-Kovach, associate professor in the Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership in the UT Judith Herb College of Education, received the Northwest Ohio 2015 Champion for Children Award Dec. 1.

The award honors individuals who have dedicated time, resources and energy to protecting children in the community, and have demonstrated that protecting children is a top priority.

"I was pretty floored when I was called and told that I was selected because I'm sure I was [nominated] amongst some pretty important people doing some really good things," Pescara-Kovach said.

She received the award from the National Exchange Club, the oldest service organization in the United States that provides individuals with opportunities to use their time and talents to benefit their local communities and country.

"I was really surprised and honored by the fact that this group, that I really had no idea was monitoring these kinds of experiences and activities in the community, chose me for this award; I had no idea that I was even on their radar," she said.

Pescara-Kovach teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the field of human development and graduate-level seminars on the causes, consequences and prevention of

school violence. Additionally, she is the co-chair of UT's Anti-Bullying Task Force.

She is working under a U.S. Department of Justice Education, Communication, Assessment, Intervention and Protection Plan grant that is geared toward providing colleges and universities with knowledge and resources to prevent and respond to emerging and chronic crime problems. Through this grant, she is a trainer for the Campus Violence Prevention and Protection and K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment programs in the local community.

Additionally, she serves as the community bullying prevention liaison for Healthy Lucas County and the content expert and chair of the Fostering Healthy Communities' Preventing Bullying = Creating Safety campaign, which has grown into the Bullying Resources and Anti-violence Education (BRAVE) initiative, a partnership between Mercy Hospital, ProMedica Health Systems and the UT Judith Herb College of Education.

Pescara-Kovach has presented on the topic of bullying-related suicides and homicides as well as causes and consequences of bullying at the regional, state, national and international levels, and is the author of *School Shootings and Suicides: Why We Must Stop the Bullies*.



HONORED: Dr. Lisa Pescara-Kovach, left, posed for a photo with Louise Kachmarik, center, and Tracey Edwards, membership development manager and executive vice president with the National Exchange Club, respectively. Kachmarik and Edwards were on the committee that selected Pescara-Kovach to receive the Northwest Ohio 2015 Champion for Children Award.

She recently had an article accepted for publication by eHearsay Journal titled "Parenting: The Frontline in Bullying Prevention," and her approach to targeted violence prevention, intervention, active response and postvention will be published in the International Bullying Prevention Association's 2016 winter newsletter.

"There are many of us working hard to prevent further tragedies," Pescara-Kovach

said. "I do it because I have had so many conversations with parents who have lost children and I've promised these parents that I will continue to do this because they all want me to continue to let their child's voice be heard, to make sure that their story is being told, and to provide a lesson or some sort of epiphany on how bad this can be."

UT students able to save thousands of dollars with credit hour fee change

By Jon Strunk

Beginning in spring 2016, full-time undergraduate students will be able to take two more credit hours per semester at no additional cost, a change that could save students thousands of dollars over the course of their college careers.

Currently, in-state students taking 12, 13, 14, 15 or 16 credit hours in a semester are charged the same full-time tuition rate of \$4,025.88, equivalent to the 12 credit hour rate. For each credit hour above 16, students are charged an additional \$318.39. Out-of-state students benefit from a parallel system that includes the out-of-state surcharge.

Beginning spring semester 2016, the same full-time tuition rate will be extended to cover 12 to 18 credit hours per semester, with per credit hour charges beginning at the 19th credit hour.

Further, the two-year tuition freeze the state of Ohio passed in June guarantees that students and their families will be able to take advantage of this additional education at no extra cost for a minimum of the next five semesters, including summer sessions.

"Finding additional ways to keep a college degree financially accessible to students is one of my top priorities," said UT President Sharon L. Gaber. "This initiative will financially benefit many of our learners immediately."

Bret Michaels to headline rock fest March 19

By Brian DeBenedictis

Savage Arena is about to rock. The lineup for Rock the Arena, which will take place Saturday, March 19, will feature more than eight hours of entertainment.



Michaels

show and winning "Celebrity Apprentice."

The lineup also will feature Ratt, Warrant, Winger, Lita Ford, Firehouse, L.A. Guns and Trixter.

Michaels sang lead with Poison, which is known for "Every Rose Has its Thorn," "Nothing but a Good Time" and "Something to Believe in."

The all-day event will be headlined by Bret Michaels, best known as the front man for Poison as well as for his "Rock of Love" reality

Ratt raced up the charts with "Round and Round," Warrant scored with "Cherry Pie," Winger had a hit with "Miles Away," Ford's solo career included "Kiss Me Deadly," Firehouse was hot with "Love of a Lifetime," L.A. Guns blasted "Never Enough," and Trixter turned it up with "One in a Million."

Rock the Arena is part of SAVAGE LIVE, a multi-event concert series recently announced by UT. Events will be open to the public, with discount tickets available to UT students. This will be the venue's first self-promoted concert since 2009.

Doors will open at 12:30 p.m. March 19 and music will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Tickets starting at \$35.50 will go on sale Thursday, Dec. 17, at 8:30 a.m. and will be available online at utrockets.com.

Limited UT student tickets are available with UT ID for \$29 (limit four) at the UT Ticket Office located in Savage Arena starting Monday, Dec. 14, at 9 a.m.

For more information, visit utrockets.com.

Clinical trial at UTMC paves way for FDA-approved drug

By Brandi Barhite

The University of Toledo Medical Center is participating in a clinical study with a cholesterol medication that has been approved by the FDA.

The evolocumab injection, also known by the name brand Repatha-Amgen, is for patients who cannot get their LDL cholesterol low enough with other treatment options. It works best when combined with a healthy diet and statin therapy.

“The evolocumab injection is an effective drug for patients who have very high cholesterol, but statins, such as Lipitor, and following a healthy diet aren’t working for them,” said Dr. Mujeeb Sheikh, assistant professor in the Department of Medicine and principal investigator for the clinical trial. “Cholesterol is a big problem for many patients. It is the root cause for coronary

disease. If we can reduce cholesterol, patients are less likely to need stents and other medical procedures.”

The nationwide 18-month clinical trial, which ends in December, includes patients from UTMC who have not been able to reduce their cholesterol with traditional treatment options. Once the double-blind study is complete, they will receive the medication free of cost.

“This is a powerful drug that can reduce cholesterol by 50 or 60 points by simply giving yourself three injections per months,” Sheikh said. “This is a game-changer. I plan to prescribe it to my patients.”

Dr. John Jenkins, director of the FDA’s Office of New Drugs, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, said in a written

statement that “Cardiovascular disease is a serious threat to the health of Americans, and the FDA is committed to facilitating the development and approval of effective and safe drugs to address this important public health problem.”

Sheikh is glad that UTMC can offer people the opportunity to participate in clinical trials. In addition to free medication, they can contribute to the growth of science.

“We are conducting a lot of research at UTMC, and patients can benefit from these cutting-edge developments,” Sheikh said. “We are proud to be a part of important experimental therapies that can improve health care in our city, in our region and even nationwide.”



Sheikh

UT research points to possible treatment for brain injuries

By Brandi Barhite

University of Toledo research on a promising treatment for traumatic brain injuries coincides with the public’s growing interest in football-related injuries.

Dr. Kenneth Hensley, associate professor of pathology, is using a compound that he developed and patented known as LKE, or XN-001, to explore the possible medical benefits. LKE treatment reduces neural damage and accelerates recovery in a mouse model of diffuse axonal injury, which is a common type of brain injury in motor vehicle accidents, combat injuries and football players. The study results were published recently in the *Journal of Neurotrauma*.

“This topic is of great interest to the public, especially as we continue to hear more and more about the long-term effects of brain injuries, in particular as it relates to football,” Hensley said. “The movie ‘Concussion’ with Will Smith is coming out on Dec. 25, which will spark additional dialogue on brain injuries caused by sports and if we should be encouraging our children to get involved in such potentially dangerous activities.”

Hensley said LKE works by binding to a protein called CRMP2 that helps stabilize connections that neurons use to communicate with one another. In a

traumatic brain injury, these connections are damaged; however, LKE helps nerve cells repair the CRMP2.

Further, Hensley and his UT colleagues, Dr. Kris Brickman, an emergency medicine physician, and Dr. Daniel Gaudin, a neurosurgeon, are conducting studies to identify salivary biomarkers of concussive brain injury in local high school football players and in car crash patients. This is imperative because a biomarker would allow a more objective way to determine the seriousness of a head injury, Hensley said.

“This work has the potential to rapidly and accurately identify serious brain injury and provide effective treatment to minimize the brain damage resulting from such injuries,” he said.

Hensley also is working with Dr. Marni Harris-White, associate professor and research health scientist at UCLA/Veterans Administration, to understand how traumatic brain injuries translate to Alzheimer’s disease, which affects more than 5 million Americans and has no treatment to slow it down.

Harris-White has found that people with mild brain trauma don’t have swelling or bleeding that can be detected with a brain scan. The brain’s neurons go through subtle



Hensley

Photo by Crystal Hand

changes, which she and Hensley are trying to understand so they can develop drugs to treat the injury, whether big or small.

“We grossly underestimate the number of traumatic brain injuries a person might experience in a lifetime,” Hensley said. “Kids fall all the time when they are

learning to walk and are those falls causing changes to the brain over time? That’s why this research is so important. The cost to a young person is difficult to estimate, but we are talking about a reduction in decision-making capabilities and brain function.”

Stressed out? UT researcher suggests floating as a way to relax

By Brandi Barbite

A University of Toledo mental health counselor says that people aren't taking time to relax and enjoy life these days, in particular during the hectic holiday season.

While that might seem like nothing new, Thomas Fine, associate professor of psychiatry, said floating is making a comeback as an alternative mode of relaxation.

"If you are looking for ways to deal with stress, I would consider floating as a stress management activity," Fine said. "Floating is so relaxing. The buoyancy of the water allows your muscles to relax. As your muscles relax, your mind begins to shut off."

Fine, who started researching flotation in the 1970s with UT colleague Dr. John Turner, professor in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, said that it is promising that this once "hippie thing" is gaining credence as a possible source of relaxation. Fine was recently quoted in a Time magazine article about floating as a therapy for distress.

Through the 1990s, Fine and Turner published studies on floating. Scientifically known as flotation Restricted Environmental Stimulation Technique (REST), their studies

looked at subjects who participated in eight 40-minute float sessions in salt water at skin temperature.

"In several studies, we saw improvements in blood pressure, mood, pain and muscle tension as a result of the regular experience of deep relaxation that accompanies frequent flotation experiences," Fine said.

Isolation tanks, which are lightless and soundproof, designed for flotation relaxation are as close as Detroit.

"Interestingly enough, people want to relax, but don't want to take the time to relax or make the drive to experience the best relaxation of their life," Fine said. "What makes our research still relevant today is that the stress that humans are experiencing continues to ramp up as we become more immersed in technology. When I first started studying floating, we didn't have smartphones or emails. We could go on vacation without having to check in at work or respond to questions or concerns. We live in a world filled with stress and overstimulation."

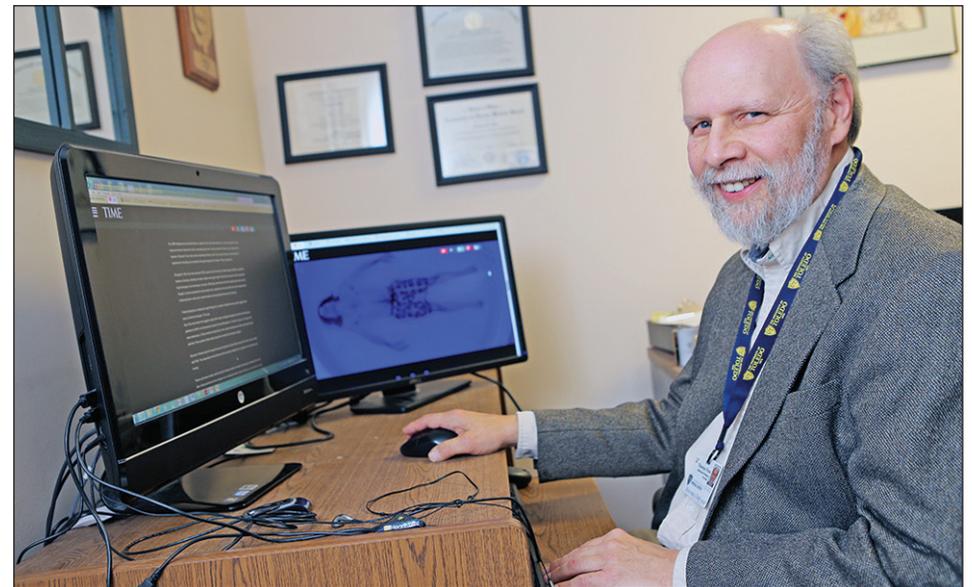


Photo by Daniel Miller

FLOAT ON: Thomas Fine was recently quoted in a Time magazine story about floating as a therapy for stress.

Fine, who presented at the Portland Float Conference in August, recognizes that not everyone will be able to experience an isolation tank, but yoga and meditation are activities that can produce similar results.

"You could also get into bed and put a pillow under your head and a pillow under

your knees and lie there with no light and no sound for 30 minutes," he said. "If you did that, you would be starting to approach the deep relaxation experienced by those who float."

University nursing organization named best in state

By Lindsay Mahaney

The University of Toledo Student Nurses' Association took home honors for the Chapter of the Year at the Ohio Student Nurses' Association convention in October.

To win the honor, a chapter applies for the award and is then reviewed by a board of directors. A chapter should be active on campus, promote professional development, and display student success to win the award.

"Toledo is the most active chapter in the state and that helped us win," said Amanda Nuckols, president of the UT Student Nurses' Association chapter.

In 2014, the chapter also was named a Stellar Chapter, a national award recognizing school chapters that demonstrate ongoing involvement in the organization, including a strong commitment to shared governance and professional development of students and faculty.

The professional student organization has a strong presence on UT's campus, offering a variety of student social activities, community outreach and professional

development for students to network with nursing employers.

In fact, November was one of the chapter's busiest months. In a single week, the group collected more than 700 items for the Cherry Street Mission's Thanksgiving baskets; held an apparel sale that sold more than 200 items; made eight dozen cookies for Veterans Day that were given to a branch of the American Legions, the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization; planned a surprise party for one of the group's advisers who was retiring; and created busy blankets — small quilts made with squares of material featuring zippers, buttons, netting, satin, ribbons, lace and other materials for Alzheimer's patients to keep on their laps and fiddle with.

"It was crazy," Nuckols said of the week and laughed. "But it all turned out really well."

If interested in joining, Nuckols encourages people to come to meetings, which are held biweekly in Collier Building Room 2401. The schedule for spring semester will be announced early next year.



STATEWIDE RECOGNITION: Showing off the certificate the UT Student Nurses' Association received in October were, from left, Stacy Barnes, Amanda Nuckols, Adviser Denise Oancea, College of Nursing Interim Dean Kelly Phillips, Adviser Karen Tormoehlen, Max Pulfer and Morgan Rethman. Nuckols is the president of the chapter, and Barnes, Pulfer and Rethman are executive board members of the organization.

"This organization has done countless things for me," she said. "It's really helped me to grow, be more structured with my time, and break out of my shell."

Pre-nursing students also are encouraged to join the UT Pre-Nursing Student Organization. For more information,

contact Carol Bryan at carol.bryan@utoledo.edu.

To learn more about the UT Student Nurses' Association and to find out the date of the next meeting in January, contact Nuckols at amanda.nuckols@utoledo.edu.

Trim up the tree



Photos by Daniel Miller

The University of Toledo is represented in the 2015 Holiday Parade of Trees Auction at the Toledo Club. Kate McComb, digital media specialist in the UT Foundation, added some sparkly gold accents, and Carlton Evans, her boyfriend and former UT student, placed the Rocky golf club cover on top of the University's tree. They were assisted by Patty Gelb, development writer in the UT Foundation, and her husband and UT alumnus, Grant Gelb, and Gail Simpson, executive assistant 2 in the Division of Advancement. The spirited UT tree, which features hand-painted gold snowflakes and frames that showcase campus and student photos, is one of some 40 that the public and Toledo Club members can check out and bid on Tuesday through Thursday, Dec. 15-17, during the evening, and Sunday, Dec. 20, at brunch. Reservations are required: 419.254.2961. All proceeds from the sale of the Rocket tree will go to the UT Foundation, which is a private, nonprofit organization.

Special guest



Photo by Daniel Miller

Dr. Nagi Naganathan, dean of the College of Engineering, announced the arrival of Santa Claus (Tom Pellitieri of Toledo Santa LLC) at the college's recent holiday party.

Holiday sparkle



Photo by Crystal Hand

Tina Papalekas, a volunteer with the Satellites Auxiliary, left, showed the popular blue and gold poinsettia to Miranda Garczynski as Ben Corey checked out a traditional red plant in Rocket Hall. The UT students were two of many who purchased festive plants for the holidays from the fundraiser organized by the volunteer group.

January

- Rocket Nation celebrates Toledo's 63-44 win over Arkansas State Jan. 4 in the GoDaddy Bowl in Ladd-Peebles Stadium, Mobile, Ala.
- George Isaac, a former member of the Medical College of Ohio Board of Trustees and a longtime MCO benefactor who gave the University some \$2 million, dies Jan. 11 at age 91.
- UT is among 240 U.S. colleges and universities to receive the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's 2015 Community Engagement Classification.
- Some 2,000 attend the 14th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Celebration in Savage Arena.
- Democratic political strategist Paul Begala speaks at UT as part of the Jesup Scott Honors College Distinguished Lecture Series.
- Three finalists for the UT presidency are announced.
- UT receives more than \$830,000 of \$2 million from the state to lead eight of 18 research projects on water quality and algal bloom toxicity.
- The Schoolcraft to U facility opens Jan. 27. The renovated space in the Jeffress Center on Schoolcraft College's Livonia campus allows southeast Michigan residents to earn a UT degree closer to home.

February

- Three UT Health physicians start a monthly clinic offering comprehensive men's health care.
- Candidates vying for the UT presidency visit for open forums.

March

- Dr. Sharon L. Gaber, provost of the University of Arkansas, is named The University of Toledo's 17th president.
- UT renames the Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center in honor of its 16th president. A reception is held to announce the naming of the Lloyd A. Jacobs Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center.
- A total of 166 fourth-year medical students learn where they will train for their residencies at Match Day.
- Junior Brenae Harris records the first triple-double in UT women's basketball history to lead the Rockets to a 72-64 victory over Wright State in the first round of the 2015 Postseason WNIT before 1,709 fans in Savage Arena. She tallies 16 points, a career-high 11 assists and a collegiate-best 11 rebounds in the game.
- Dr. Tom Megeath, associate professor of physics and astronomy, leads a team of UT astronomers that discovers an outburst from a star thought to be in the earliest phase of its development. The protostar is known as HOPS 383.

2015
Year in Review



April

- Dr. Reza Aslan, a New York Times best-selling author and creative writing professor at the University of California in Riverside, gives a talk on "Youth Revolt: The Future of the New Middle East" for the Imam Khattab Lecture.
- Senior men's basketball guard Julius Brown plays in the Reese's 2015 Division I College All-Star Game during Final Four weekend, and senior basketball forward J.D. Weatherspoon participates in State Farm's College Slam Dunk Championship in Butler's Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.
- The UT Foundation closes on a home at 2646 Forestvale Road in Ottawa Hills to be the new presidential residence.
- Dr. Laurie A. Dinnebeil, Judith Herb Endowed Chair of Inclusive Early Childhood Education, and Dr. Clinton O. Longenecker, Stranahan Professor of Leadership and Organizational Excellence, are named Distinguished University Professors.
- The UT Pershing Rifles unit Troop L-1 wins the championship cup at the 2015 John J. Pershing Memorial Drill Competition for the third year in a row.
- UT, Owens Community College, Northwest State Community College and Terra State Community College agree to create a consortium aimed at making college more affordable for students and families.
- The University completes an assessment of its Title IX policies, procedures, training and outreach in an effort to implement the best practices for preventing and addressing sexual assault and harassment.
- UT Health Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine opens at the Regency Medical Campus near Franklin Park Mall.
- Two fundraisers for the UT Foundation, Barbara Tartaglia-Poure and Brett Loney, earn the highest professional certification in their field from the Association of Fundraising Professionals.
- Dick Meyers is honored with a plaque at a new Ottawa River outlook near Savage Arena. As a co-founder of the Collaborative Inc., a Toledo-based design firm, Meyers was involved with more than 30 landscape design and planning projects on UT campuses.
- A mural titled "Connections" on the 158-foot blue wall between the Tom and Betsy Brady Engineering Innovation Center and Nitschke Hall Auditorium is dedicated; the couple sponsored the project.
- Toledo Associate Head Women's Basketball Coach Vicki Hall is inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.
- The John W. & Betty Jane Barfield Exhibit featuring artwork by Paul Collins is dedicated on the fifth floor of Mulford Library.
- The Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute is dedicated April 28 in Health and Human Services Building Room 2638.

May

- Senior Chris Selfridge is named the Mid-American Conference's Men's Golfer of the Year.
- Sen. Keith Faber, representative of the 12th State Senate District in western Ohio, and Roy Armes, CEO, president and chair of Cooper Tire and Rubber Co., address 2,962 candidates for degrees at commencement ceremonies.
- UT and ProMedica officials sign a letter of intent to pursue an academic affiliation.
- UT Health and Ernest Health Inc. administrators and physicians shovel some dirt May 12 to mark the beginning of building the Rehabilitation Hospital of Northwest Ohio on Health Science Campus.
- For the first time in school history, all 16 sports teams earn a team grade point average of 3.0 or higher spring semester.
- Trustees approve a new contract with the UT chapter of the American Association of University Professors.
- Gary Pinkel, former UT football coach, is among five 2015 inductees to the Mid-American Conference Hall of Fame. Pinkel left the University after the 2000 season to coach at the University of Missouri.
- Benjamin Barros, associate dean of academic affairs at Widener University's School of Law in Harrisburg, Pa., is named dean of the UT College of Law.
- Southwest Minnesota State head coach Thomas (TJ) Buchholz is hired as UT's head women's soccer coach.
- An agreement is reached for the historic Inverness Club to be the home course for the UT men's and women's golf programs for the next five years.
- Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, senior adviser to the secretary for American Indians and Alaska Natives with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, speaks in front of 236 candidates for degrees at the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences commencement ceremony.



June

- The Edward H. Schmidt School of Professional Sales in the UT College of Business and Innovation is recognized by the Sales Education Foundation in its "Top Universities for Professional Sales Education" program.
- UT Health employees celebrate decreasing by more than 50 percent an already low hospital-acquired infection rate and sustaining that reduction for more than half a year.
- The UT Board of Trustees presents a resolution to thank Dr. Nagi Naganathan for moving the University forward as interim president during a time of transition.
- Trustees approve the \$932 million budget for fiscal year 2016.
- The University announces the launch of a production operation — part of the MAC's 13-year agreement with ESPN — that will provide

significant exposure and learning opportunities for UT communications students.

- The UT Health Family Medicine Center opens at Glendale Medical East, 3333 Glendale Ave. The center reunites the family medicine practice formerly located in the Ruppert Center and the family medicine residency practice that has been on the St. Luke's Hospital campus since 2007.

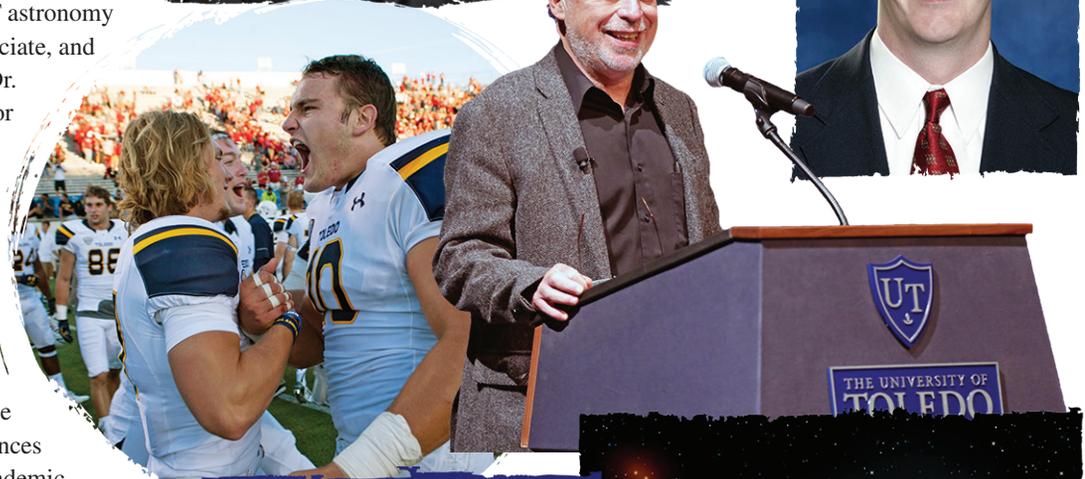
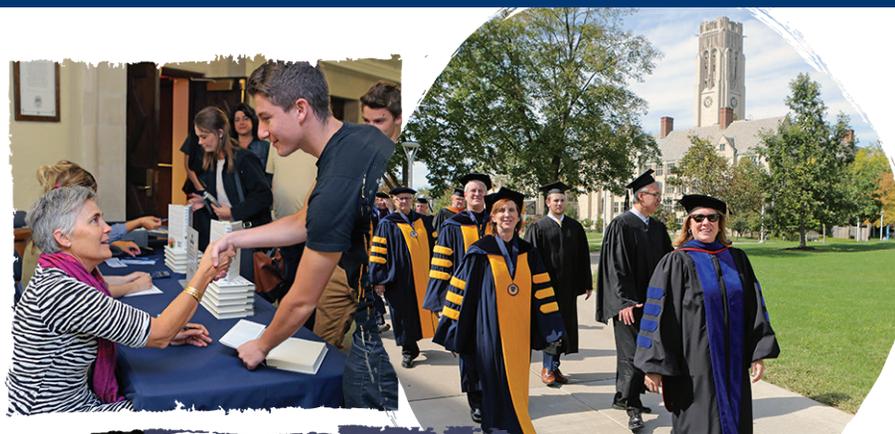
July

- Dr. Gaber officially begins her tenure as president.
- The women's swimming and diving team earns College Swimming Coaches Association of America Scholar All-America honors for its cumulative GPA of 3.56 during spring semester.
- The Minority Business Assistance Center opens in UT's Minority Business Development Center in the Faculty Annex on the Scott Park Campus of Energy and Innovation. The University receives a \$355,000 two-year state grant to host the center, which provides support for 17 counties in northwest Ohio.
- Rocket fans love their women's basketball team: UT ranks 28th in the country, averaging 3,636 fans per game in the 2014-15 season, according to the NCAA. The Rockets also lead the MAC in attendance for an unprecedented 25th consecutive season.
- Dr. Virginia Keil, executive associate dean, is named interim dean of the Judith Herb College of Education while a search is conducted for a permanent dean.
- Barbara Floyd, professor and director of the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections, is named interim director of University Libraries.
- Dr. Blair Grubb, director of Electrophysiology Services at UT Medical Center and Distinguished University Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, receives Dysautonomia International's 2015 Physician of the Year Award.
- A new undergraduate degree in disability studies at UT is the first of its kind in the country rooted in the humanities and social sciences and offered on campus.
- UT wins the 2014-15 MAC Institutional Academic Achievement Award. For the academic year, UT's 399 student-athletes post an overall athletic grade point average of 3.213.
- The University's Epsilon Epsilon chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha earns the Smythe Award — one of the highest national honors the fraternity can receive — for the second year in a row.
- UT dedicates a new 28-foot research vessel with state-of-the-art technology to advance the Lake Erie Center's studies.
- More than 10,000 attend the 23rd annual Art on the Mall.
- Dr. Kelly Phillips, a member of the UT College of Nursing faculty since 1993, is named interim dean of the college.
- Kelly Moore, vice provost for college and faculty relations, academic governance and program review, and associate professor of law, is named interim dean of the Jesup Scott Honors College.
- UT Health launches the Move to Improve program to help patients heal faster.

- The women's basketball team ranks No. 18 in the nation with its 3.443 overall GPA during the 2014-15 academic year, according to the Women's Basketball Coaches Association.

August

- For the fifth straight year, UTMC is recognized as a best hospital in the Toledo metro area by U.S. News & World Report.
- Samuel McCrimmon, executive director of clinical development at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and the University of Pittsburgh, is named vice president for advancement.
- For helping educate people to become organ donors, UTMC receives gold status for the third consecutive year from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- The Toledo Rockets football team and star running back Kareem Hunt are featured in the College Football Preview edition of Sports Illustrated.
- Dr. Adam Schneider, a UT astronomy postdoctoral research associate, and the research team led by Dr. Bruce Macintosh, professor of physics at Stanford University, identify a 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.
- ProMedica and UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences representatives sign an academic affiliation agreement that will enable the two organizations to develop one of the nation's leading academic medical centers.
- The University engages enrollment consultant Ruffalo Noel Levitz to increase student populations across the institution.
- Ohio Gov. John Kasich appoints Mary Ellen Pisanelli, a partner in the law firm Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, to the UT Board of Trustees.
- UT continues its efforts to recruit medical students from northwest Ohio with 25 percent of this year's class from the region.



**MATT CAMPBELL
COACHES FOOTBALL
FOR THE ROCKETS
OF THIS UNIVERSITY
THAT'S IN OHIO
BUT SOUNDS LIKE
IT COULD BE IN SPAIN**



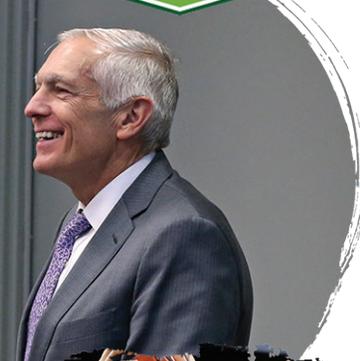
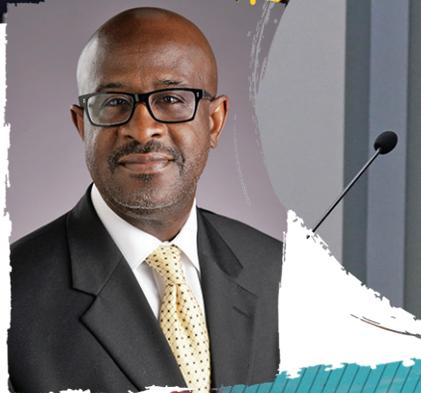
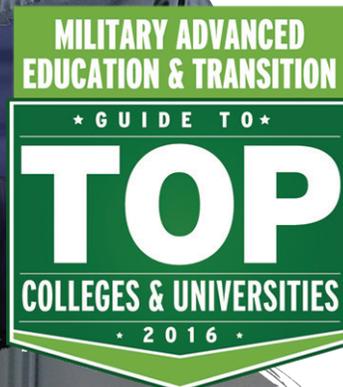
- defense, and DeJuan Rogers is named the Walter Camp National Defensive Player of the Week for his performance.
- UT undergraduate retention increases nearly 2 percentage points while total enrollment dips, according to official 15-day census numbers.
- Toledo Men's Golf Coach Jamie Broce is one of 10 players to represent Team USA in the PGA Cup at the CordeValle Golf Club in San Martin, Calif.
- The Toledo Rockets beat the Big 12's Iowa State Cyclones, 30-23, in double overtime in the Glass Bowl in front of 23,104 happy fans.
- Don Reiber, associate professor of communication and the director of media services in the Department of Communication, dies unexpectedly Sept. 20. The 68-year-old oversaw the University's television studio and production facilities; he taught classes in television production, live-truck production, and radio production and programming. His students and alumni number in the thousands, working in broadcasting in Toledo, throughout the United States, and for national news organizations including CNN.
- A ribbon-cutting ceremony marks the official opening of the Honors Academic Village, a four-story, 142,000-square-foot building developed and managed by American Campus Communities that opened for the 2015-16 academic year and provides opportunities for living-learning communities for 492 UT Honors College students.
- Transportation entrepreneur Robin Chase speaks as part of the Jesup Scott Honors College Distinguished Lecture Series. She is the co-founder and former CEO of Zipcar, the largest car-sharing company in the world; Buzzcar, a peer-to-peer car-sharing service in France now merged with Drivy; and GoLoco, an online ride-sharing community.
- UT garners more national exposure Sept. 22 on "Jeopardy!" thanks to its football team. Under the category "Rocket Man" for \$400, the answer is, "Matt Campbell coaches football for the Rockets of this university that's in Ohio but sounds like it could be in Spain."
- The University of Toledo inaugurates Dr. Sharon L. Gaber as its 17th president Sept. 25 in a ceremony filled with the traditions of the institution as more than 1,200 watch in Savage Arena.
- A victory culminates a week of special inauguration events as Toledo defeats the Arkansas State Red Wolves, 37-7, in the Glass Bowl in front of 21,385 from Rocket Nation.

October

- Richard G. LaValley, a UT alumnus and benefactor who gave the University more than \$2 million, dies Sept. 4 at age 86.
- The Toledo Rockets visit War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock and upset the No. 18 Arkansas Razorbacks, 16-12. It is UT's first win over a Southeastern Conference team and the first time the Rockets defeat a Top 25 non-conference opponent on the road. UT Assistant Coach Tyson Veidt is named Linebackers Coach of the Week by CoachingSearch.com for the play of the Rocket

- Dr. Blair Grubb, director of Electrophysiology Services at UTMC and Distinguished University Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, receives the Medical Professional of the Decade Award from the British Heart Rhythm Society and Arrhythmia Alliance in Birmingham, England.
- Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Russo visits campus as part of the Jesup Scott Honors College Distinguished Lecture Series.

- The president announces there will be a national search for UT's next provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. Dr. Kaye Patten Wallace, senior vice president for student affairs, and Dr. Christopher Ingersoll, dean of the College of Health Sciences, are announced as co-chairs of the committee.
- President Gaber is the grand marshal for the Edward C. and Helen G. Schmakel Homecoming Parade.
- Open forums are held for campus and community input on UT's master planning.
- UPMC is one of 126 U.S. medical centers in 34 states to be named Most Connected Hospitals for 2015-16 by U.S. News & World Report.
- Famed jazzman Dave Liebman conducts a master class and plays a concert with Expansions: The Dave Liebman Group.
- The UT College of Law is one of the nation's top law schools, according to The Princeton Review's 2016 list of The Best 173 Law Schools, and the UT College of Business and Innovation is one of the nation's best business schools, according to The Princeton Review's 2016 guide of The Best 295 Business Schools.
- Dr. James Mager, who has held a variety of enrollment management positions at Ohio State University, starts as interim vice president of enrollment management.
- UPMC receives the Get With The Guidelines — Heart Failure Silver Plus Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.
- The women's golf team wins a third-straight tournament for the first time in school history by carding a three-over 291 at the Florida International University Pat Bradley Invitational.
- Dr. Kevin Czajkowski, UT professor of geography and planning, leads a \$10 million NASA project to develop a new K-12 science curriculum that relies on hands-on experiments and uses NASA resources and education partners across the country.
- The Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons presents UPMC with the 2015 Outstanding Achievement Award.
- The Times Higher Education World University rankings lists UT in the range between 501 and 600 of all institutions of higher education worldwide.



- Dr. Richard R. Perry, UT professor emeritus and World War II veteran, receives the Soldier's Medal during a ceremony in Doermann Theater. The University alumnus and benefactor is recognized for his bravery following an ammunition explosion April 6, 1945, in Germany.
- Dr. Willie McKether, associate dean in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences, is named special assistant to the president for diversity.
- UT is named a top Military-Friendly University by Military Advanced Education & Transition for the third straight year. UT also is among the top 175 schools, including 125 four-year institutions, listed in the Best for Vets: Colleges 2016 rankings, and the University is designated a 2016 Military Friendly School by Victory Media's GI Jobs magazine.
- Dr. Beth Schlemper, associate professor of geography and planning, is invited to the first White House Summit on Next Generation Schools to speak about a National Science Foundation-funded project that engages students in using geospatial technology to understand their communities and prepare for careers in science, technology, engineering and math.
- Invited by Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, retired NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe Gen. Wesley Clark gives a talk in Nitschke Hall about how the United States needs to develop domestic energy sources to bolster its national security.
- Senior center Nathan Boothe posts the first triple-double in UT men's basketball history to lead the Rockets to an 89-74 victory over San Jose State in the 2015 GCI Great Alaska Shootout at the Alaska Airlines Center. He tallies 12 points, 13 rebounds, a career-high 10 assists and two blocked shots.

December

- Jason Candle, who previously served as UT associate head coach/offensive coordinator, is named the head football coach.
- The Toledo Rockets accept an invitation to play the Temple Owls Tuesday, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m. in the Marmot Boca Rotan Bowl at Florida Atlantic University Stadium. For the first time since 2012, UT was ranked in the Top 25 for six weeks this season, rising to No. 19 in the AP poll Oct. 18.

November

- The women's golf team is the subject of a story on Golfweek.com thanks to its three straight tournament victories to end its fall season.
- Travis T. Tygart, CEO of the United States Anti-Doping Agency, talks about the role of ethics in Olympic competition and in cycling, including the high-profile case against Lance Armstrong, as part of the Edwin Dodd Distinguished Lecture Series in Business Ethics.



UT alumnus donates \$500,000 to energy engineering program

By Meghan Cunningham

A University of Toledo alumnus is ensuring future engineers will have the right combination of technical and business skills needed to meet the growing energy needs of the world.

Gary Leidich, retired executive vice president and president of FirstEnergy Generation and FirstEnergy Corp., is donating \$500,000 to the UT College of Engineering in support of a new academic initiative in energy engineering.

An event to celebrate the generosity of Gary and Eileen Leidich will be held Friday, Dec. 18, at 10 a.m. in the Nitschke Hall SSOE Seminar Room.

“It is very clear that energy dependence is not going away. The energy needs in the United States and around the world are going to be significant,” Leidich, chair of the UT Foundation Board of Trustees, said. “We have become accustomed to a lot of energy use. You plug in your cell phone and it’s all magic, but there is a lot behind it.”

Leidich, who received a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering and a master’s degree in engineering science from UT, remembers well the power systems courses where he learned about energy conversion that prepared him for the technical aspects of his career.

He saw a need for increased specialization for today’s engineers not only in power systems, but also with oil, gas and other alternative energy sectors. So he was intrigued when Dr. Nagi Naganathan, dean of the UT College of Engineering, approached him with an idea to create a unique energy engineering concentration as a graduate degree option. Naganathan also invited Leidich to chair a task force of faculty, alumni and representatives from corporate partners DTE Energy Co., Owens Corning and First Solar Inc. to shape the curriculum.

“I saw my role in stepping up and demonstrating some leadership for this program that I think will get a lot of traction,” Leidich said.

“We cannot thank Gary and Eileen Leidich enough for their generosity and commitment to the success of future engineers,” UT President Sharon L. Gaber said. “Graduates of this new energy engineering concentration will be prepared to advance the world’s energy needs with the strong foundation Gary laid during his successful career in the energy sector.”

According to Naganathan, both in the United States and across the world, there will be an increased need for uniquely qualified engineering professionals who understand the energy portfolio not only technically, but also with a good knowledge of complementary topics in management, law and social sciences. Every organization that has a significant energy footprint would want to hire such professionals as the energy demand increases, he said.

“The success of the UT College of Engineering and our graduates is directly tied to the strong relationships we have with leaders like Gary Leidich and the corporations they represent to be sure our curriculum is current, relevant and engaging,” Naganathan said. “Thanks to Gary and Eileen’s generosity and the support of alumni and corporate partners, we can now launch a program to produce a new cadre of graduates who will be innovative leaders of energy portfolios in the future.”

Leidich, who retired from FirstEnergy Corp. in 2011, began his career with Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. (CEI) during the construction of the Perry Nuclear Power

Plant. During his career, he held a number of positions with Centerior Energy, the parent company of CEI and Toledo Edison that merged with Ohio Edison in 1997 to form FirstEnergy Corp., including director of system planning, director of human resources, vice president of finance and administration, and president of the power generation group. As an administrator with FirstEnergy, Leidich also held the roles of president and chief nuclear officer and senior vice

president of operations prior to retiring as executive vice president.

Leidich continues to do consulting work for the electric utility industry and serves as chair of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council.

“Our society has grown completely dependent on energy, and this is something we are going to need forever,” Leidich said.



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Xboxes available on campus for fun, education

By Meghan Cunningham

Video games are being installed across campus for students to enjoy between classes and later use as part of their education.

There are 18 Microsoft Xbox systems now in use on Main Campus in common areas of residence halls, the Student Union, Gillham Hall and the Savage & Associates Complex for Business Learning and Engagement.

Throughout the semester, UT's Information Technology Department has been installing custom cabinets that include a TV and Xbox system around campus for students to use. Controllers can be checked out with a student ID from the building's office or residence hall's front desk.

"UT is implementing Microsoft's Xbox One systems across campus to provide a platform for not only entertainment, but eventually multimedia education," said Dominic D'Emilio, senior director of network services and technology support. "We recently installed the gaming systems and students are already enjoying the new technology playing the popular NFL Madden game with their friends. As Microsoft releases more games in this new Windows 10 environment, we will be adding further edutainment options for students."

Providing video game systems on campus started as a conversation in the Provost's Office for activities students might enjoy, such as a video game tournament, and it quickly evolved into a discussion of how to support UT's increasing use of interactive technology in and out of the classroom.

Academic Technology and Simulation Gaming along with the Information

Technology Department is part of UT's new Division of Technology and Advanced Solutions, which also includes the Jacobs Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center and the Center for Creative Instruction.

UT's Technology team has worked with industries on simulation game initiatives. For example, a simulation game recently developed for a local company will help staff experience running a virtual plant under different scenarios to better prepare managers for real-world operations.

"The technology team is now working with several academic programs to build similar simulation games, which will be part of academic courses across UT," said William McCreary, vice president, chief information officer and chief technology officer.

"Simulation is becoming an integral part of the education experience at UT with medical students using the Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center and students doing modeling in geography courses, among many others, and the University is looking forward to working with Microsoft to deploy new product versions and features to incorporate more serious gaming into the education experience using our Xbox Windows 10 environment."



Photo by Crystal Hand

SCORE! Students Justin Fowler, left, and Matthew Scarpino played soccer on an Xbox system in the Student Union.

The Xboxes are located at:

- Academic House Rooms 1064 and 6072;
- Gillham Hall fourth floor lounge;
- International House lounges in Rooms 2001, 4001 and 6001;
- MacKinnon Hall Room 2170;
- Ottawa House East Room 2213;
- Ottawa House West Room 2215;
- Parks Tower Rooms 327, 627, 827, 1027, 1227 and 1427;

- Presidents Hall Room 3002;
- Savage & Associates Complex for Business Learning and Engagement Room 1110; and
- Outside Student Union Room 1525.

Gaming systems also will be installed in the Honors Academic Village.

"As these systems gain increased adoption, students will be truly amazed at the many things they can do beyond just game playing," McCreary said.

UT classes use nonprofit organization to give back this holiday season

By Lindsay Mahaney

The season of giving is here and can be found in The University of Toledo's classrooms.

Two UT Principles of Financial Accounting classes had the opportunity to use the nonprofit organization Kiva to give to those in need and learn about finance while they did it.

Kiva offers money to underprivileged people through microcredit loans — a very small amount of money usually lent to people in disadvantaged or impoverished situations, explained Kathleen Fitzpatrick,

associate professor of accounting and instructor for the accounting classes.

Fitzpatrick, who has been lending to people on the site for five years, said that the organization offered her 35 free credits valued at \$25 apiece to use in her classes for educational purposes. After teaching students about the nonprofit organization and the necessity of microcredit loans in impoverished countries, student groups used the credits to donate to any cause they wanted on the site.

"They don't have what we have in the way of normal access to loans," Fitzpatrick

said. "There are no banks; they aren't accessible to the non-rich in that country, so there's no other option for them to borrow money. You're making a real tangible difference in the lives of people who have nothing."

The organization has thousands of profiles from people around the world with various businesses or causes that they're trying to raise money for. The site allows lenders to give as little as \$25 to the person or group of their choosing.

"I found the Kiva donation to be an excellent way to celebrate the Thanksgiving

holiday," said Jacob Beakas, a second-year chemical engineering major in Fitzpatrick's class. "Personally, our group provided funding to a man who was installing a well for drinking water in his village. Hopefully, our simple actions here at UT can provide a means to acquiring much needed clean water in his village."

The University of Toledo also has a team on the site, which Fitzpatrick is a part of. Anyone is welcome to join, she said.

For more information, visit kiva.org.

UT expands Starfish technology that is making a difference for students

By Samantha Watson

This past spring, The University of Toledo implemented a tool to help student success and retention. Less than a year later, UT has won a national award for it and is looking to expand it.

The tool is Starfish Early Alert and Connect, a platform that helps students find resources to ensure they are getting what they need to be successful.

UT began using the software in spring 2015, focusing on first- and second-year students, transfer students and students within three key courses — English Composition I, Mathematical Modeling and Problem Solving, and College Algebra. All 1000-level courses, these were the starting point because of their broad impact and the faculty's willingness to participate.

Starfish works by providing students with a success network, which includes their instructors, success coach and other campus resources. Through timed Starfish Early Alert progress surveys, instructors can provide positive feedback or raise concerns about students in their class, which either rewards them with a kudos email or connects them with the resources they need to be successful.

The goal with these initial courses was to improve the success rates in English and math from the prior spring semester, and UT exceeded its goals. Success in English Composition I went up 5 percent over the previous year, College Algebra increased by 7 percent, and Mathematical Modeling and Problem Solving by 16 percent.

"We had success because of multiple interventions," said Dr. Julie Fischer-Kinney, assistant provost for student success and retention, and interim dean of YouCollege. "I attribute our success to the faculty in those departments, the success coaches who were reaching out to the students when alerted by the faculty, our Learning Enhancement Center for providing tutoring and math study tables, and other resources on campus such as the Counseling Center."

In September, UT was awarded the Starfish 360 Rising Star Award, and was one of only three winners across the country and the only four-year public institution.

Winning has brought national attention to UT's student success and retention practices, and Fischer-Kinney has been asked to speak at multiple conferences for the National Academic Advising Association.

"I think through our success with Starfish, it has put our institution on a national platform," Fischer-Kinney said. "I've been contacted by many schools about how we were able to achieve that success in math and English."

One of the main factors that contributed to UT winning this award is the focus not only on academics, but on the overall experience students have. In particular, financial aid has been integrated because many students struggle with that process.

One campaign in particular was to alert students to holds on their account before they became an issue. In spring, 1,301 students

had a past due balance hold and another 129 students had missing transcript holds; all remedied their past due balances, and 99 percent were able to fix their missing transcript holds.

"Students were responding in real time to what was going on so that they could continue to register for classes and move forward in their academic studies," Fischer-Kinney said.

This fall, Starfish was expanded to Mathematics for Liberal Arts, a few sections of Calculus With Applications to Business and Finance, and a section of Single Variable Calculus I. In spring, English Composition II may be added to the early alert progress surveys, and academic advisers will be incorporated into the platform.

Other areas of campus that are being integrated into Starfish this year are Student-Athlete Academic Services, Greek Life, College Credit Plus students, International Students, Student Involvement, Residence Life, Career Services and more.

When students log in to the software, they are able to instantly connect with individuals in their network that can help them succeed. They also can see an A-Z listing of



the resources available to them on campus such as student involvement and counseling services.

Students don't necessarily have to log in to Starfish to gain from it — each student receives an email whenever something requires attention — but the platform provides a lot of extra resources for them. They also can update their profile with a picture and cell phone information for text alerts to their phone.

"It does not replace people, and it does not replace relationships or conversations," Fischer-Kinney said. "It's simply a tool to help us communicate and identify students in need so that we can have those conversations."

Star power



Rudolph and Mr. Claus use astronomy to plan that annual trek around the world in the UT Fulldome Studio production of "Santa's Secret Star," which can be seen Friday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 19, at 1 p.m. in Ritter Planetarium. Written in 1988 by Alex Mak, associate director of the planetarium, the 3D immersive version of the show debuted last year. Cost is \$7 for adults; \$5 for children 12 and younger; seniors and UT community members; and free for kids 3 and younger.

UT NEWS

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Student donates more than money for annual charity event

By Lindsay Mahaney

Thousands of students participated in Relay for Life this month, but one student took her support to the next level.

Katie Elco took part in the campus-wide cancer-fighting event. The twist? Elco vowed to cut off and donate one inch of her own hair for every \$100 she raised.

“This idea has always kind of been eating away at me,” she said. “This seemed like the perfect opportunity.”

Relay for Life is an annual event at The University of Toledo put on by the Colleges Against Cancer and sponsored by the American Cancer Society. More than 13,000 students participated in the 12-hour overnight event in the Student Recreation Center to help raise money to fight cancer.

Elco said her goal was \$1,300, equivalent to 13 inches of hair. When asked about her inspiration, she cited a friend from high school, Lexi, whose father passed away from cancer and mother was diagnosed with breast cancer.

“Everyone has been touched by cancer. It’s such a big thing

in our day and age, watching our older relatives, and all ages, suffer from this disease.”

This year the event raised \$56,685.81, and Elco personally raised \$300. Instead of the original 3 inches she promised, Elco had 18 inches of her hair cut off at the event and donated it to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, an organization creating real-hair wigs to give to woman fighting cancer.

Kicking off with a survivors walk, the overnight event was filled with dodgeball, bake sales, photobooths, a Mr. Relay pageant and more activities to celebrate the fight for life.

“Any amount of passion, not even money necessarily, counts,” Elco said. “Of course, every dollar helps, but just being there shows your support for people fighting cancer. I feel like it’s a no-brainer to just go to a Relay for Life event and show your support.”

For more information visit relayforlife.org/ut.



CLIP SERVICE: Katie Elco had 18 inches of her hair cut to raise funds; she donated \$300 to Relay for Life and gave her locks to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, which creates wigs for women fighting cancer.



Down to the river

Dr. Todd Crail, lecturer in environmental sciences, center, led ecology lab students as they sampled the biodiversity of Ottawa River. Crail pointed out how different structures in a river shape various habitats of fish. Wading in to learn in early November were, from left, Emily Reutter, Christina Jacobs, Nicholas Gordon, Kevin Corbin, Dr. Tom Bridgeman, associate professor of environmental sciences, and Jacob Bourey.

Photo by Deepesh Bista

University employees can still donate to UTC3

By Brandi Barhite

University of Toledo employees have pledged more than \$70,000 as they strive to raise \$125,000 before the end of the year for the UT Community Charitable Campaign known as UTC3.

“We are more than halfway there, and we are hopeful we can meet our goal by Dec. 31,” said Sam McCrimmon, vice president for advancement. “UT employees are answering the call to invest in the many reputable causes that are slated to benefit from this money.”

Dr. Jeanine Diller, a faculty member in the Department of Philosophy in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences, donated because giving runs deep for her family and faith.

“I’m blessed with more than I need and I know others aren’t, so it just seems right to share,” Diller said. “It’s also exciting to think about the gift making a real change for the better for someone or strengthening Toledo, my hometown.”

Diller won the use of a suite for a men’s or women’s UT basketball game because of her donation. Employees who pledged \$250 before Thanksgiving were entered to win this prize donated by Brooks Insurance.

McCrimmon reminds UT employees that the United Way of Greater Toledo, Northwest Ohio Community Shares, Community Health Charities of Ohio and EarthShare Ohio are reputable nonprofits that help more than 200 local, regional



COMMUNITY CHARITABLE CAMPAIGN

and national charities. UT employees can designate what charity or charities they want to receive their donation.

The campaign started Nov. 1 and runs through Dec. 31. The incentives are:

- \$100 or more: UT item from the campaign treasure chest and an invitation to the UTC3 breakfast in the Savage Arena Grogan Room.
- \$250 or more: UT pen and an invitation to the UTC3 breakfast.
- \$500 or more: UT umbrella and an invitation to the UTC3 breakfast.
- \$750 or more: UT umbrella and pen and an invitation to the UTC3 breakfast.
- \$1,000 or more: UT umbrella and pen, an invitation to the UTC3 breakfast, and an invitation to a special post-campaign celebration with President Sharon L. Gaber.

To find out more about donating, look for weekly emails or contact Patty Gelb at patty.gelb@utoledo.edu.

Two colleges team up to offer six-year BA/JD program

By Rachel Phipps

The College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences and the College of Law have partnered to create a program that allows students to earn both a bachelor’s degree and a law degree in just six years instead of the usual seven.

The new three-plus-three program is an innovative collaboration that saves UT students both time and money, according to Dr. Jamie Barlowe, dean of UT College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences.

“This exciting three-plus-three program not only provides our students with a focused, cost-saving pathway to a rewarding career, but it also acknowledges the importance of a liberal arts background to the study of the law,” she said.

In order to participate in the new program, students in the UT College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences must fulfill the college’s general education and major requirements by the end of their third year. The student postpones 18 hours of related fields requirement and 12 hours of electives until senior year.

The UT College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences student applies to the UT College of Law during junior year and begins attending law school during senior year. When the student has completed all of the first year law courses, he or she is awarded a bachelor’s degree from the UT College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences. The student receives the law degree after completing the entire law program.

“We are very excited to collaborate with the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences on the three-plus-three program,” said D. Benjamin Barros, dean of the College of Law. “It gives students an opportunity to get an outstanding undergraduate and legal education quickly and inexpensively.”

A UT College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences student can decide to pursue the program at any point during undergraduate study, but students are encouraged to discuss their intention as early as possible with an undergraduate adviser to ensure completion of any required courses for the student’s major.

For more information, visit utoledo.edu/llss/prospective/3-3-admissions.html or contact Dr. Barbara Schneider, senior associate dean in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences, at llss@utoledo.edu. Interested students also may contact College of Law admissions staff at law.admissions@utoledo.edu or 419.530.4131.



‘A Cup of Prevention’

Lindsay Tuttle, sexual assault and substance abuse prevention education coordinator in the Counseling Center, led “A Cup of Prevention” campaign Dec. 7 to raise awareness about the UT Sexual Assault Education and Prevention Program. Stickers on 600 coffee sleeves at Starbucks in the Student Union and Java City in Rocket Hall shared information about the program’s free and confidential services for UT students.

Photos by Daniel Miller

Rockets gearing up for Temple, Marmot Boca Raton Bowl

By Paul Helgren

The University of Toledo began practice Friday in preparation for its game vs. Temple in the 2015 Marmot Boca Bowl Tuesday, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m. in Florida Atlantic University Stadium in Boca Raton.

The Rockets conducted practices over the weekend, will break for final exams this week, then resume practice upon arrival in Florida Friday, Dec. 18.

Toledo (9-2, 6-2 Mid-American Conference) faces a tough challenge in No. 24 Temple (10-3, 7-1 American Athletic Conference). Head Coach Jason Candle is struck by the similarities between the Owls and his own squad. Both teams were ranked in the Top 25 for much of the 2015 season. Both teams had signature victories over Power Five schools, with Toledo winning at Arkansas and Temple knocking off Penn State at home. Sports Illustrated called it the best bowl game featuring two “Group of Five” opponents.

“Temple has had a tremendous season, very similar to our own,” Candle said. “They’ve been ranked in the Top 25 like ourselves. It’s a great opportunity for us to play a very good football team.”

Candle, who assumed the head coaching position Dec. 2 following the departure of Matt Campbell to Iowa State, will make his head coaching debut at the bowl.

The Rockets, co-champions of the West Division of the Mid-American Conference, were ranked in the Top 25 for six weeks this season, rising to No. 19 in the AP poll Oct. 18. UT defeated two teams from Power Five conferences in successive weeks, No. 18 Arkansas Sept. 12 and Iowa State Sept. 19.

Temple finished in first place in the East Division of the American Athletic Conference, losing in the league championship game to Houston, 24-13, Dec. 5. The Owls were ranked as high as No. 20 in the AP poll this season and are currently ranked No. 24 in all three polls.

Toledo leads the all-time series with Temple, 7-3, including a 1-1 record when the Owls were a member of the Mid-American Conference from 2007 to 2011. The two teams last faced in Philadelphia in 2011, a 36-13 Rocket victory.

UT’s players are excited about the prospect of playing a strong Temple squad. Toledo seniors have won 34 games over the past four years and are looking to end their careers with a bowl victory.

“We lost our last game [to Western Michigan], so we have a chip on our shoulder,” said senior defensive end Trent Voss. “Our seniors don’t want to go out like that. We are definitely looking forward to playing Temple. I’ve watched them play on TV, and you can tell they’re a tough team. They have a great backfield and a very good defense. It’s going to be an exciting game to watch.”

Senior quarterback Phillip Ely added, “Temple is very well coached. It’s a great matchup and something we are looking forward to.”

Candle said that despite playing in an attractive warm-weather destination, his team will be focused on one thing. “We’re not treating this as a vacation,” he said. “We’re going there to win a football game.”

Tickets for the Marmot Boca Raton Bowl — \$40 for the general public and \$15 for UT students — are on sale at the UT Athletic Ticket Office. Call 419.530.GOLD (4653).

Fans also can go to UTRockets.com to buy tickets and see details for the UT Alumni Association pregame party.

Marmot
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TOLEDO vs. **TEMPLE**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22
7:00 PM | FAU STADIUM | BOCA RATON, FL

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