Pastor passionate about Ferguson movement to speak at MLK Unity Celebration Jan. 18

By Vicki L. Kroll

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Those words spoken by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. still resonate today.

“Justice for All” is the theme of the 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Celebration, which will take place Monday, Jan. 18, at 9 a.m. in Savage Arena.

Cori Bush, pastor of Kingdom Embassy International who is helping lead the Ferguson movement, will give the keynote address.

“We desire peace, but we wage war. We desire love, but we allow hate. We want freedom, but we won’t fight for justice,” Bush said. “No longer can we be afraid to use our voices to shed light on the experiences we’ve endured, changing the world around us. Healing lies in our stories. So now we lift our voices realizing that our hunger for equality has to be greater than that seat of comfortability.”

Born and raised in the St. Louis area, Bush has been involved with the Ferguson movement as a protester, clergy member, nurse, and victim of police assault. The activist is co-director of the Truth Telling Project, a grassroots, community-centered organization established to share local voices, educate America, and support reconciliation to eliminate structural violence and systematic racism against black people in the United States.

Bush, a nonviolence 365 ambassador with the King Center, is working to establish the new Ferguson/St. Louis chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to help ensure that King’s philosophy on nonviolence is present in Missouri.

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, ‘True peace is not...’

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Newsbreak

Christi Paul, anchor of CNN New Day Weekends and HLN’s Daily Share, returned to her alma mater to deliver the fall commencement address Dec. 19 in Savage Arena. She asked graduates to raise their hands if they were looking for jobs. She then described her own struggle and encouraged those who raised their hands not to worry, that their opportunities will come. “You’ve got to trust the struggle,” Paul said. “Quiet your ego, listen to your gut, and work for what you want no matter where you are because what is meant for you will indeed happen.”

The Bellevue, Ohio, native received an honorary degree during the ceremony for more than 2,000 degree candidates, some of whom expressed themselves on their mortar boards.

Rockets reign!

Toledo players hoisted up Head Coach Jason Candle after the Rockets poured it on to beat the No. 24 Temple Owls, 32-17, Dec. 22 in the Marmot Boca Raton Bowl in Florida Atlantic University Stadium. UT finished the season 10-2; it’s the Rockets first 10-win season since 2001. See more photos on p. 8.

LOOK FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF UT NEWS JAN. 19
The Ohio Attorney General’s office has awarded The University of Toledo $214,000 to help victims of sexual violence on campus.

The funding is part of $1.2 million in grants given to colleges, universities and rape crisis centers across the state to assist victims of sexual assault on Ohio campuses by providing additional programs, as well as promoting education and awareness.

“The federal grant awarded by Attorney General [Mike] DeWine is an endorsement of our efforts to strengthen the resources we offer to members of our campus community who have experienced sexual assault,” UT President Sharon L. Gaber said. “Dr. Kasey Tucker-Gale, [Senior Vice President for Student Affairs] Kaye Patten Wallace, [Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer] Jovita Thomas-Williams, [UT Police] Chief Jeff Newton and their teams have championed our commitment to develop a strong support structure to educate students about domestic and sexual violence, assist survivors, and prevent future incidents from occurring on campus. I’m happy to see this progress and proud that our students will have somewhere to turn when they need assistance.”

“Sexual violence is a national issue, and we are excited about the opportunity to provide even more resources to our students,” Newton said.

UT plans to use the grant money to create the Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness.

Tucker-Gail, associate professor in the Department of Criminal Justice, Social Work and Legal Specialties, said UT will hire a new sexual assault counselor and a domestic violence counselor to provide direct victim services, such as crisis response, hospital advocacy and criminal justice advocacy. Plus, the grant includes the addition of graduate student positions.

The funding strengthens The University of Toledo’s commitment to raise awareness and increase education and prevention of sexual assault and violence.

“This is a phenomenal resource for students,” Tucker-Gail said. “This will be one spot for students to go for resources as they deal with difficult relationships and victimization. This grant allows us to strengthen our services to help survivors recover by bringing assistance into one location on campus with a community partner.”

According to a national study, between 3 and 10 percent of college women will be raped. In the same time period, 13 to 40 percent experience sexual victimization other than rape.

Newton said the UT Police Department had one report of sexual assault on campus in 2014.

“However, we know that one of the challenges is creating an environment where victims feel comfortable reporting,” Newton said.

MLK Unity Celebration

continued from p. 1

merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice.’
To have this true peace, we must not be afraid of justice,”
Bush said. “To have true justice, we mustn’t be afraid of truth.
Speak.”

“We are very excited to hear from Pastor Cori Bush, who
is a true champion of the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King
Jr.,” UT President Sharon L. Gaber said. “Her passion and
wisdom will bring together our community and help us join the
peaceful march toward justice for all.”

The 15th annual event to commemorate the life and
legacy of the Nobel Peace Prize winner also will feature
remarks by Gaber, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Toledo
Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson and Toledo Public Schools
Superintendent Romules Durant.

In addition, there will be performances by the Toledo
International Youth Orchestra, Justice or Else All-Stars, the
NuVision Baptist Choir, the Scott High School Marching
Band, JV4, and the Carmen Miller Band.

And recipients of The University of Toledo’s 2016 MLK
Scholarship will be announced. UT established the scholarship
in 1969 shortly after the death of the civil rights leader. Thanks
to Paramount Advantage, the scholarship has been funded for
the past two decades.

A free community luncheon will follow the ceremony,
which is being hosted by the city of Toledo and the University.
Those who attend the event also will have an opportunity
to share their personal stories to be recorded and saved in the
Library of Congress.

For more information, call the UT Office of Special
Events at 419.530.2200.
Leadership changes in Advancement to enhance University outreach efforts

By Meghan Cunningham

New roles in the Division of Advancement will strengthen The University of Toledo’s fundraising and marketing efforts to increase support to the institution and expand its profile and reputation.

Barbara Tartaglia-Poure will serve in the newly created role of executive director of national development for the UT Foundation, and Brett Loney has been tapped to fill her previous role on an interim basis as UT associate vice president of development for Main Campus.

Additionally, Jon Strunk, associate vice president for university communications, will lead both the Office of University Communications and the Office of University Marketing on an interim basis.

“Expanding our outreach to UT alumni, donors and supporters across the nation is critical to our efforts to raise the resources President Sharon L. Gaber has spoken to as critical to the success of this University,” said Sam McCrimmon, vice president for advancement.

“When Barbara indicated she was considering retirement, we both felt that it created a tremendous opportunity to expand the UT Foundation’s geographic footprint,” McCrimmon said, noting that Tartaglia-Poure will be based in Florida much of the year in line with the growing trend for institutions to expand their successful fundraising efforts with staff members stationed remotely in strategic locations.

“I am enthusiastic about this new opportunity and believe it will be successful in generating a significant impact for UT,” Tartaglia-Poure said. “I get to do what I love to do the most, meet with the most interesting alumni, share gifting opportunities with them, and assist in helping them create meaningful legacies for our students, faculty and our University.”

Loney, who has served as UT’s director of corporate and foundation relations since January 2014, is a good fit to take over leadership of development on Main Campus, McCrimmon said.

“Brett has a tremendous depth of philanthropic experience, and I am confident UT’s Main Campus development officers will thrive under his leadership,” he said.

“Dr. Gaber has made clear that philanthropic success is key to the ultimate success of our students, faculty and researchers,” Loney said. “I’m excited to work with the deans and major gift officers to help tell The University of Toledo’s success stories and share the vital role our donors play in making that success possible.”

The interim leadership change in the communication and marketing areas will help ensure a consistent message across The University of Toledo, as well as reduce administrative costs, McCrimmon said.

“I am excited about this opportunity to leverage the strengths of UT’s communications and marketing teams to work more closely together under Jon’s leadership to speak with one voice about the exciting things happening at UT,” McCrimmon said.

“The communications and marketing arms of the University have always had a good working relationship, and I look forward to the creative and engaging outreach that will be the result of increased collaboration.” Strunk, who joined UT in 2004, said.

Energizing engineering

Eileen and Gary Leidich, left, donated $500,000 to the UT College of Engineering and posed for a photo Dec. 18 with, from left, Sam McCrimmon, vice president for advancement; Brenda Lee, president of the UT Foundation; and Dr. Nagi Naganathan, dean of the College of Engineering. Gary Leidich, retired executive vice president and president of FirstEnergy Generation and FirstEnergy Corp., saw the need for increased specialization for today’s engineers not only in power systems, but also with oil, gas and other alternative energy sectors. The funds will be used to create a unique energy engineering concentration as a graduate degree option. Naganathan invited Leidich, who received a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering and a master’s degree in engineering science from UT, 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.

In memoriam

Barbara J. Barlow, Toledo, a former custodian, died Dec. 15 at age 70.

Linda L. Bryant, Toledo, an account clerk in the Controller’s Office from 2000 until her retirement in 2009, died Dec. 13 at age 66.

Frances N. (Sniadecki) Clinton, Toledo, a volunteer with the Satellites Auxiliary, died Dec. 31 at age 62. She joined the Satellites in 1994 and logged nearly 18,000 volunteer hours at the hospital in various departments.

Dr. James H. Freisheim, Kenosha, Wis., died Aug. 2 at age 78. He was professor and chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from 1985 to 1993.

Daniel Kasprzak, Toledo, a former volunteer with the Satellites Auxiliary, died Dec. 11 at age 72.

William E. Rutchow, Toledo, a former project manager in Facilities, died Dec. 19 at age 77.

Freda Mae Stovall, Toledo, an account clerk in the University Marketing on an interim basis.

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UT class concludes algal bloom toxin-measuring method ‘highly variable’

By Christine Long

In the wake of 2014’s water crisis in Toledo that left a half million residents without safe tap water for three days, a graduate-level class in The University of Toledo’s Department of Environmental Sciences embarked on an analysis of issues related to the measuring and reporting of microcystin in drinking water.

The resulting research recently published in the journal Environmental Science and Technology takes aim at the ELISA test kit — the standard method of measuring the concentration of the group of toxins associated with cyanobacterial blooms in Lake Erie — in order to help local government agencies responsible for providing the public with safe drinking water.

“Our goal is to come up with a way to improve the results and reduce the level of uncertainty in their decision-making process to avoid unnecessary panic,” Dr. Song Qian, UT assistant professor of environmental science, said. “Frequent and accurate quantification of cyanobacterial toxins in treatment-finished drinking water is paramount to protecting the public.”

Qian led the group of six UT graduate students and a researcher from Ohio State University as they collected monitoring data measured during the 2014 bloom season from the city of Toledo’s Water Department and OSU’s Stone Lab in Put-in-Bay.

“Much of the uncertainty is a result of the highly uncertain ‘standard curve’ developed during each test.”

A standard curve links a microcystin concentration through a color development process to an optical density — a quantity that can be measured directly.

Qian says the problem with the current test kit is that the standard curve is developed from only five or six data points. He says unavoidable measurement errors in optical density make the standard curve variable from test to test.

In order to increase reliability, Qian and the graduate students propose pooling raw test data from multiple tests using a more sophisticated statistical method.

“Estimation uncertainty can be effectively reduced through the effort of regional regulatory agencies by sharing and combining raw test data from their regularly scheduled microcystin monitoring programs,” according to the published report.

Qian admits combining data from multiple tests is a complicated mathematical process. That is why he is looking for funding to develop easy-to-use software that would analyze monitoring data and calculate a microcystin concentration estimate based on a more stable standard curve.

“Our drinking water is safe because of the advanced treatment used in our city,” Qian said. “The decision made during the 2014 water crisis was a difficult one given the uncertainty associated with the method. By teaching the class, we want to figure out how science can help support leaders when they’re making calls during bloom seasons that could threaten public health. Reducing the uncertainty in the measured microcystin concentration will make the process easier.”

As a result of this research, Qian believes the city of Toledo made the right call issuing the “Do Not Drink” advisory in 2014 because he said, “Our microcystin estimate for that particular day is higher.”

Read the full research report at utole.do/algalbloom.
‘Black Noise’ turns up volume on Glass City, Motown

By Angela Riddel

Holly Branstner’s exhibition titled “Black Noise” will open Thursday, Jan. 14, at 6 p.m. in the Center for the Visual Arts Gallery on UT’s Toledo Museum of Art Campus.

The paintings and sculptures featured in “Black Noise” focus on a series of moody and abstracted depictions and less obvious visions that begin with what remains of the industrial landscapes of Detroit’s River Rouge and the periphery of Toledo. Born in Gaylord, Mich., Branstner was raised in Detroit where she graduated from Wayne State University with a master of fine arts degree in 1983. She continued to reside and work as an artist in the Motor City for years.

Her work, often regardless of its subject, is always a reflection of her youth and subsequent summers spent at an idyllic Lake Louise in northern Michigan and her intimate, wrestling, and nostalgic relationship with the attracting complexities of Detroit, its surrounds, and Toledo, where she lives.

Branstner’s work is in the permanent collections of the Detroit Institute of Arts, the University of Dayton, the University of Evansville, and Crown Equipment Corp., as well as individuals. She has received numerous awards for her work, including three individual artist grants from the Michigan Council for the Arts and a Canaday Award from the Toledo Museum of Art.

Recently she has served as an artist-in-residence at the University of Dayton, where her work continues to be regularly shown in the context of exhibitions of American art from the Dicke Collection.

“Black Noise” will be on display through Sunday, Feb. 14. The free, public exhibition can be seen in the Center for the Visual Arts Gallery Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Branstner also will be at the gallery Thursday, Jan. 21, from 5 to 9 p.m. when the Center for the Visual Arts will be included as a stop on the bus route for the Arts Commission’s 3rd Thursday Loop. See some of her work at hollybranstnerstudio.com.

Glacity Theatre Collective explores disconnected family ties

The Glacity Theatre Collective will present Sam Shepard’s 1979 Pulitzer Prize-winning play “Buried Child” Friday through Sunday, Jan. 15-17, in the UT Center for Performing Arts Center Theatre.

In this play, Shepard, who won the Obie Award for playwriting in 1979, analyzes what were to become key themes in much of his later work.

Of “Buried Child,” he has said, “One of the weird things about being in America now is that you don’t have any connection with the past. … You’ve got this emotional thing that goes a long way back, which creates a certain kind of chaos, a kind of terror.”

Indeed, the patriarch of the family has grown nothing on his land for 30 years, and family members sometimes fail to even recognize each other. Shepard focuses on the surreal de-evolution of a family deeply disturbed by self-inflicted traumas.

This is a family that is irreparably disconnected both socially and emotionally — still an all-too-unfortunate constant in America, according to UT alumna and director Megan Aherne.

“While we may not have all experienced the transgressions within this play, we all know how this feels in one way or another,” Aherne said. “Everyone has secrets, and only by unearthing those truths and confronting the past can one begin to heal.”

Company members include James Trumm and Pamela Tomassetti Hulbert as Dodge and Halie. Other roles are played by Jeffrey A. Burden II, John Toth, Nolan Thomaswick, Pasha Carter and John DuVall.

Costumes were designed by Kelly McBane. Aherne came up with the set, which was realized by James S. Hill, UT professor emeritus of theatre. The lighting designer is Corey Sprinkles, and Jessica Homer is the sound designer.

“Buried Child” will be performed Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., with the Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. The doors will open one half hour prior to curtain.

Ticket prices are $15 at the door; student rush tickets for $10 also will be available.

Go to http://glacity.org for more information.
By Brandi Barhite

The academic affiliation between The University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences and ProMedica is moving forward with the appointments of two representatives to lead the process.

Dr. James Kleshinski, UT senior associate dean for clinical affiliation, and Holly Bristoll, chief integration officer for academic affiliations for ProMedica, will guide and advise the Academic Affiliation Operating Group toward the goals outlined in the agreement signed in August.

Kleshinski and Bristoll issued a joint statement about their appointments:

“It is an honor to serve in this new role as our two organizations begin the exciting work ahead of us. Through the affiliation, we want to enhance the training and education of medical students, residents, fellows and allied health professionals, and retain these high-quality graduates in northwest Ohio. We also want to develop Toledo Hospital and Toledo Children’s Hospital into a premier academic medical center focused on safety, quality and cost-effective medical care, and develop unique areas of research excellence as well.”

Dr. Christopher Cooper, executive vice president for clinical affairs and dean of the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences, said one of the first steps in establishing the academic affiliation will be the creation of a transition steering committee, led by Kleshinski and Bristoll, and implementation teams for each residency and fellowship.

The steering committee, which will be multidisciplinary, will address the overall planning of the resident transition, new residency development, student transition, facility changes/accommodations and capital spending.

In addition to the residents, Cooper said UT and ProMedica will look at adding electives for medical students. The two organizations also will explore opportunities in the areas of nursing, medical technicians, pharmacy, occupational therapy/physical therapy and others as both UT and ProMedica identify needs in the allied health professions.

“Creating a more dynamic academic medical center will benefit our entire community,” Cooper said. “The academic affiliation has already proven to be a key differentiator in recruiting faculty and staff, including recent open positions that have attracted nationally recognized candidates as well as the potential for enhanced research funding and development.”

Kleshinski graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor of science in pre-professional studies in 1992. He subsequently earned his medical degree from the former Medical College of Ohio in 1996. He did his internship at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Medical Center in Chicago before returning to MCO to complete his residency in internal medicine.

He is a professor in the Department of Medicine in UT’s College of Medicine and Life Sciences and is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. He also served as the associate dean for admissions in the medical school from 2005 to 2012 and associate dean for graduate medical education over the last four years.

Bristoll has held various leadership positions within ProMedica throughout her 24 years of service, including vice president of marketing and regionalization; vice president of strategic business development; president of ProMedica Wildwood Orthopaedic and Spine Hospital; executive director of the ProMedica Orthopaedic Institute; and president of ProMedica Fostoria Community Hospital. She also serves as the president of ProMedica Bay Park Hospital.

Bristoll received her MBA from the University of Michigan, and she completed her undergraduate studies at Michigan State University.

By Jon Strunk

The merger of the College of Health Sciences and the College of Social Justice and Human Service will go before the Board of Trustees in January for its consideration following the conceptual approval by The University of Toledo’s president, interim provost, and the colleges’ faculty and administration.

The newly named College of Health and Human Services will be established July 1 and will be led by Dr. Christopher Ingersoll, dean of the College of Health Sciences. Ingersoll also will serve as interim dean of the College of Social Justice and Human Service from January through July following the retirement in December of Dr. Thomas Gutteridge.

“Thank you for your support for this merger,” Ingersoll wrote in a memo distributed to both colleges. “I look forward to working with you, individually and collectively, as appropriate to transform this agreement into reality.”

Ingersoll wrote that the college councils had already initiated discussions about the merger and will be moving forward to draft a new constitution and bylaws.

Faculty and leaders in the two colleges also will work this semester to organize the new college’s programs into four schools. In addition, UT’s public health program will be housed in the College of Health and Human Services, and the higher education program will shift to the Judith Herb College of Education.

The program groupings for the four to-be-named schools will be:

School 1
Health Care Administration
Health Education
Health Information Administration
Public Health

School 2
Criminal Justice
Legal Specialties
Social Work

School 3
Athletic Training
Exercise Science
Occupational Therapy
Physical Therapy
Recreation Administration
Recreational Therapy

School 4
Counselor Education
School Psychology
Speech-Language Pathology

Chairs for each school will be identified in the months ahead according to institutional policy.

“I would like to thank the faculty of the colleges of Health Science and Social Justice and Human Service, as well as Dean Gutteridge, Dean Ingersoll and Interim Provost John Barrett for their leadership in this area,” said UT President Sharon L. Gaber. “The new College of Health and Human Services will strengthen educational, research and patient care opportunities for our students and our faculty.”
UT alumni open bubble tea business Jan. 11 at Gateway

By Christine Long

The University of Toledo alumni who are the co-founders of Balance Pan-Asian Grille are opening a new spinoff business at the Gateway that will tickle your tastebuds.

Bubble Tea will open its doors Monday, Jan. 11, at the Gateway on the corner of Dorr Street and Secor Road when students return from winter break.

“Bubble tea is a hand-shaken virgin cocktail based on tea,” Prakash Karamchandani, who graduated from UT in 2008, said. “We plan to be experimental and try different concepts. This is going to be our test lab. Students are the best test market.”

The Asian specialty drink contains flavored tea and tapioca balls or fruit juice bubbles.

“It’s nostalgic,” Hochan Jang, who graduated from UT in 2009, said. “We met in the College of Business and developed the plan for Balance [Pan-Asian Grille] here. It feels good to be back on campus. We wanted to be part of the reinvention happening at UT.”

Balance Pan-Asian Grille sells bubble tea at its locations in Sylvania, Maumee and a third opening soon in Perrysburg. However, Bubble Tea will be a stand-alone shop separate from the Asian-fusion restaurants.

The owners of Bubble Tea will hold a grand opening celebration Friday, Jan. 14, at 3 p.m. Customers are invited to help complete an art installation on the wall by blowing paint bubbles.

“We are proud these innovative alumni chose to come back to campus to expand their business that is sure to be appealing to students,” Brenda Lee, president of the UT Foundation, said. “Bubble Tea is a vibrant addition to all of the businesses at the Gateway anchored by Barnes & Noble and Gradkowski’s, owned by another successful graduate. Since breaking ground nearly five years ago, Gateway has become a great asset to revitalize the Dorr Street corridor.”

Bubble Tea will be open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Gateway opened two years ago and features restaurants, stores and loft-style apartments. Businesses include Barnes & Noble University Bookstore, Gradkowski’s, Starbucks, Rice Blvd., Verizon Wireless Zone, Huntington, Great Clips and Jimmy John’s.

NEW YEAR APPRECIATION DAY: Hesham Youssef, department administrator in Family Medicine, served up green beans for Steve Ford, custodial worker, last week during the New Year Appreciation Day celebration at UT Medical Center. “As the new year begins, we choose to remind our faculty, staff, students and volunteers that their efforts to provide our patients with quality care and an exceptional health-care experience do not go unnoticed,” UTMC CEO David Morlock said. “It is important to take time during these busy days to express our gratitude and thanks.” The event marked the celebration of last year’s achievements while looking forward to accomplishing goals in 2016, he added.

READY FOR BUSINESS: UT graduates Prakash Karamchandani, left, and Hochan Jang posed for a photo outside of their latest establishment, Bubble Tea, which is located in the Gateway.
Bowling in Florida

Champions! Head Coach Jason Candle held up the Marmot Boca Raton Bowl trophy after Toledo’s 32-17 victory over the No. 24 Temple Owls Dec. 22 in Florida Atlantic University Stadium. He is flanked by seniors Alonzo Russell, left, Trent Voss, center, and Alex Zmolik.

Beach Boys: Members of the Toledo Rockets football team romped in the surf of the Atlantic Ocean Dec. 19.

Score! Junior wide receiver Corey Jones scored Toledo’s first touchdown.

Spreading Rocket Cheer: Several Toledo football players and Head Coach Jason Candle posed for a photo at Boca Raton Regional Hospital Dec. 20 after visiting patients.

High-Fives: Players thank the Rocket faithful after the big bowl victory.

Rumbling: Kareem Hunt ran for 79 yards and two touchdowns.

Light It Up: The UT Rocket Marching Band played at the pep rally Dec. 21 in Boca Raton to psych up fans.

Photos by Daniel Miller