Scholarship created to honor 39-year-old UT Health doctor dying from cancer

By Christine Long

One year shy of finishing his surgical residency at The University of Toledo Medical Center, Dr. Cyrus Chan is facing death with courage at his home in hospice care.

“I feel the end is approaching,” said Chan, a California native who is battling stage IV colon cancer. “I keep a positive attitude, but I know the outcome. My mom likes to feel there is a glimmer of hope. I am more realistic.”

“We are hoping there is a miracle out there,” said his mother, Maria Chan, in the living room of the doctor’s suburban Holland home, where a hospital bed has been placed next to the couch.

“I am trying to live each day as it comes and make the best of it,” Chan said. “The table has completely turned. I have absolutely no control. I am beginning to feel the grip that cancer has on me. It is something I have accepted.”

Chan’s transformation from life-saving doctor to terminal patient has touched his fellow surgeons with the unpredictability of life.

“He is a brilliant surgeon who has helped heal so many patients, and he is extremely kind to medical students,” said Dr. Tahir Jamil, chief surgical resident at UTMC. “Seeing such a close friend and such a good human being have such a terrible condition has hit home for all of us. We’re devastated.”

Chan began his general surgery residency at UT in 2009.

A year and a half ago, Chan felt a pain on his left side. He thought maybe he pulled a muscle while skiing. However, when the pain persisted along with sudden weight loss and blood in his stool, he knew something was wrong. A colonoscopy uncovered malignant tumors. He was diagnosed with colon cancer at the age of 37.

Surgery to remove the cancer further revealed it had spread to the liver. Intensive chemotherapy and radiation did not keep it at bay for long. On Feb. 25, 2016, surgeons found hundreds of tumors all over Chan’s abdominal wall and small bowel. He said the largest was three centimeters and encased his small bowel.

“I have been honored and privileged to work with Cyrus,” Dr. Thomas Schwann, UT interim chair and professor of surgery, said. “Cyrus is not a ‘Hollywood’ sort of a

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UT helping effort to restore giant, ancient sturgeon to Lake Erie

By Christine Long

The University of Toledo has partnered with the Toledo Zoo, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to re-establish ancient lake sturgeon in Lake Erie.

“They’re charismatic, gentle giants who look like sharks and have been around for more than 150 million years,” said Jessica Sherman, PhD student researcher in UT’s Department of Environmental Sciences.

“People are sometimes scared because lake sturgeon are enormous, but they don’t have teeth.”

“Their mouths are almost little vacuum tubes underneath the snout,” Dr. Christine Mayer, UT ecology professor, said of the fish that can grow up to 300 pounds and nine feet long. “They siphon things off of the bottom [of the lake], such as insect larvae, worms and snails.”

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Freeze frame

Polar explorer Ann Bancroft answered questions from Interim Provost John Barrett April 5 in Doerrmann Theater. The author, educator and philanthropist talked about her inspiring life as the first woman to cross the ice to both the North and South Poles, leader of the first group of women to cross Greenland, and first woman to sail and ski across Antarctica’s landmass alongside fellow polar explorer Liv Arnesen. More than 350 listened to her inspiring message about the power of a dream. She also discussed establishing the Ann Bancroft Foundation, which provides grants, mentoring and encouragement to girls ages 5 to 18 to help them reach their biggest aspirations. The event was part of the UT Jesup Scott Honors Distinguished Lecture Series.
Embracing diversity

“At The University of Toledo, our dedication to academic excellence is inseparable from our commitment to diversity and inclusion,” President Sharon L. Gaber said at the April 4 kickoff for Diversity Month in the Student Union Ingman Room. “It’s central to our mission as a public research institution to ensure that each student has every opportunity to thrive — regardless of background, religious or political beliefs, race, ethnicity, disability, age, gender, social status, or sexual orientation. Our campuses must be diverse and welcoming places where all UT students, faculty and staff feel valued and included, and where their concerns are not only heard, but also addressed because diversity is our pathway to academic excellence.” She also encouraged campus community members to participate in Diversity Month activities, which can be found at utoledo.edu/diversity/diversity-month.

Photo by Cameron Norton

Sturgeon

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Mayer and Sherman are part of the UT team helping the effort to get $90,000 in federal grant money for a sturgeon rearing facility at the Toledo Zoo.

“The plan would be to hatch sturgeon eggs and raise them to juvenile stage in a trailer-sized, streamside fish hatchery. The goal is to release 3,000 of these juvenile fish into the Maumee River every year,” Mayer said. “The zoo owns property right against the river. We would be running Maumee River water through the facility because sturgeon do what is called imprinting. When they decide at the age of 15 or 20 years old that it’s time to make babies, they go back to where they were born.”

Sherman is working to determine how much spawning and nursery habitat still exists for the fish in the Maumee River, which flows into the Great Lake.

“We don’t want to spend a lot of time and money to build this rearing facility and put the sturgeon in the river if we don’t know the river is going to be able to support them,” Sherman said. “Historically, they were in the Maumee, but a lot has changed in the past 100 years. The implementation of a shipping channel and a couple of dams, as well as development in the river floodplain, have influenced the Maumee River since sturgeon have been extirpated. This is an endangered and threatened fish, so we don’t want to misuse our resource by putting them in an area they can’t survive.”

Juvenile sturgeon need soft, sandy areas. Adults need harder terrain for spawning so eggs can settle between rocks and be protected from predators and fast currents.

Sherman’s preliminary evidence shows 25 percent of the Maumee River habitat is suitable for spawning.

“It may not seem like a lot, but there are areas where sturgeon are doing well in northern Michigan. Between 1 and 10 percent of those habitats are spawning habitat,” Sherman said. “25 percent is more than enough to successfully spawn.”

Lake sturgeon, which existed with dinosaurs, are no longer in the Maumee River. They’re believed to exist in small numbers in Lake Erie.

Lake sturgeon are only spawning in two Lake Erie tributaries: the Detroit River and the Niagara River.

“In the 1800s before commercial fishing started, it’s estimated there were over a million sturgeon in Lake Erie alone,” Sherman said. “Sturgeon have been rehabilitated in other parts of the Great Lakes, but it hasn’t been focused on in Lake Erie. We are trying to find a balance in our waterways that has been gone for a long time.”

If funding comes through in the fall, groundbreaking on the streamside rearing facility at the zoo also could begin in the fall. The eggs could start growing in spring 2017. The first 3,000 lake sturgeon would be released in fall 2017. However, it would be another 15 to 20 years before they came back to the Maumee River to spawn.

“This is a long-term project,” Mayer said. “The coolest part of this is the impacts are for generations to come,” Sherman said.

UT Department of Environmental Sciences faculty members Dr. Jonathan Bossenbroek and Dr. Todd Crail also are collaborators on the project.

Write on

Rapper, record producer, actor and activist David Banner signed autographs last week after discussing “Diversity in Politics.” More than 650 attended the event in the Student Union Auditorium. His keynote address was part of Diversity Week and Diversity Month. Check out more events at utoledo.edu/diversity/diversity-month.

Photo by Cameron Norton

Eric Stadig, left, and Jim Boase posed with an adult lake sturgeon in this photo courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A juvenile lake sturgeon is shown in this photo from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
Harvard Business Review article discusses business marketing professor’s research

By Bob Mackowiak

A research paper co-written by Dr. Xi Zhang, UT professor of marketing in the College of Business and Innovation, was the subject of a two-page feature in the March issue of the Harvard Business Review, widely considered to be the world’s most influential management magazine.

“Winning Back Lost Customers: How to Target and Appeal to the Most Likely Returnees” is an article under the Idea Watch section of the Harvard Business Review. The article analyzes Zhang’s research article, “Regaining ‘Lost’ Customers: The Predictive Power of First — Lifetime Behavior, the Reason for Defection, and the Nature of the Win-Back Offer,” which he co-authored with Dr. Viswanathan Kumar of Georgia State University and Dr. Yashoda Bhagwat of Texas Christian University. It first appeared in the July 2015 issue of the Journal of Marketing.

Zhang started teaching at the University in fall 2015. He conducted the research that is the basis for the article while a PhD student at Georgia State University.

“Businesses everywhere are interested in the subject of winning back customers,” Zhang said, “so we approached different companies and obtained cooperation from a telecommunications company to conduct randomized field experiments. Using the company’s data, we analyzed the consumption patterns of its customers, built advanced statistical models, and developed actionable and generalizable intelligence.

“It’s a long process, but this project was very meaningful as we helped an industry solve its real problems. It is a great example of how to utilize analytics on a company’s marketing problems, and why a company should rely on data as they manage their customer relationships.”

Zhang added, “I see the potential bridge between data analysis and real business problems. The process should start from problem recognition, followed by the use of techniques in problem solving and knowledge generation.”

After the article appeared in the Journal of Marketing, he said other media noticed it.

“We were asked to write an article for an academic blog by a research center of Arizona State University. It was then re-blogged on CustomerThink.com, which serves more than 80,000 visitors per month from 200 countries. The post drew a lot of attention, including a comment from Dr. Michael Lowenstein, one of the two authors of a best-selling book on customer win-back. So we knew we had good content.”

One week after the article appeared in the Harvard Business Research, the researchers could track that more people were reading the original article.

“This article is drawing attention not just from academia, but also from people in industry as they gain insights and apply them to what they are doing,” he said. “It is a good thing. We don’t want our work to be buried.”

Zhang added, “The purpose of research is to solve real problems. I intend to continue to tackle more intense and relevant research projects, continue to educate the next generation of leaders, and to apply what I have learned to solve problems that companies have.”

He teaches courses in principles of marketing, e-commerce and digital marketing.

“I am impressed by Dean Gary Insch’s vision that the College of Business and Innovation’s mission is to help students succeed. UT is a school where the faculty are close, help each other, and they also put a lot of emphasis on student success. That appeals to me and is something I also value. And, of course, I am also attracted by the UT campus, one of the most beautiful universities in the United States.”


Dean’s Club honors business owner, names first endowed urology professorship

By Christine Long

The 2016 Dean’s Club Symposium of The University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences celebrated the volunteer service of a local business owner and awarded the first Kenneth A. Kropp, MD, Endowed Professorship of Urology.

The event held Tuesday at the Radisson Hotel on UT’s Health Science Campus also was an opportunity to thank the more than 300 members of the Dean’s Club who have each committed at least $10,000 to help the college and UTMC meet its mission of excellence in medical education, research and clinical care. Gifts from members provide essential funds for scholarships, faculty research support and other innovative programs.

“Philanthropy is essential to our mission, and philanthropy is making a difference,” said Dr. Christopher Cooper, executive vice president for clinical affairs and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences. “In the last fiscal year, the college raised over $6.5 million in new gifts and pledges. We are tracking very well to meet and exceed that total for fiscal year 2016. Each of you in this room is part of that success story.”

The 2016 Ashel Bryan Distinguished Service Award was presented to longtime UT supporter Marianne Ballas, who owns Ballas Buick GMC on Central Avenue. Ballas is the chair of Women & Philanthropy at UT, an organization created under her leadership in 2006. She also is one of the founding members of the College of Medicine Advisory Council.

Dr. Kenneth A. Kropp, left, presented a medallion to Dr. Puneet Sindhwani, who was awarded the first Kenneth A. Kropp, MD, Endowed Professorship of Urology.

Marianne Ballas, a longtime UT benefactor; received the Ashel Bryan Distinguished Service Award.
UT cardiologists, engineer team up to develop, market device that extracts blood clots

By Christine Long

A potentially life-saving surgical tool under development for years at The University of Toledo looks like a thin wire that blossoms into two tiny umbrellas.

Three UT faculty members who created the QuickFlow PE say — if fully fine-tuned, tested and FDA-approved — the device would safely remove large blood clots in the lungs in emergency situations faster than what currently exists and reduce patient costs.

Dr. Mohammad Elahinia, professor of mechanical engineering, Dr. Rajesh Gupta, assistant professor of medicine and an interventional cardiologist, and Dr. Christopher Cooper, professor of medicine and dean of the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences, recently launched a startup company called Thermomorph to further build and commercialize the QuickFlow PE with the help of UT’s technology transfer team.

“Our research led us to this promising, simple and effective technology, which we believe could restore blood flow within 30 to 60 minutes of the patient’s arrival,” Elahinia said. “This would be significantly faster than all other modes of treatment, including competitive catheters.”

The plan is for the device to extract blood clots without leaving behind smaller clots, and make the procedure to remove a pulmonary embolism — a blockage in a lung artery — safe and less expensive than current methods.

An estimated 100,000 Americans die of pulmonary embolism every year, and about 600,000 Americans suffer from this disease each year.

The QuickFlow PE would work similar to a heart catheterization. The idea is for vascular access to be gained through a vein in the groin. The catheter then would be threaded to the affected site, and the device — which opens like two tiny umbrellas attached by a flexible wire — would be deployed. Next, the clot is captured by closing the circular covers together and removed through the catheter.

UT signed an exclusive license agreement with Elahinia and Cooper, executive vice president for clinical affairs, to move the business-building process forward.

“It has been exciting to watch the technology evolve from a basic idea in the laboratory to the potentially life-saving device it has become today,” Mark Fox, patent technology associate with the UT Office of Technology Transfer, said. “It has been a pleasure to work with Drs. Cooper, Gupta and Elahinia, as well as the various students involved in the development of this device over the last few years to assist with acquiring patent protection for the QuickFlow PE.”

The UT technology transfer team also helped with the launch of Thermomorph by acquiring funding through UT’s Rocket Innovations and the Ohio Third Frontier Commission, which invests in entrepreneurs moving new technology into the marketplace to create companies and jobs.

UT inventors and startup companies have received more than $1.5 million from the Third Frontier Technology Validation and Start-Up Fund and matching funds to support the commercialization of research since January 2012. UT ranks third in the state for the number of these awards.

Elahinia recently participated in the National Science Foundation Innovation Corps program to more precisely define the market need his device would meet.

Dean’s Club

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Most recently, Ballas started UT’s Medical Research Society that grants funding for biomedical projects. Last year, the society funded a research project for cervical cancer.

“Marianne is a dreamer and an innovator,” said David Bryan, Ashel Bryan’s son. “Now with an endowment of over $1 million, the Medical Research Society can distribute grants of $50,000 a year to deserving faculty members who have the potential for bringing not only millions of dollars to the University and the community, but just as importantly, improving the health of everyone in this region.”

“I can feel the momentum,” Ballas said. “I am so excited about the future of research at The University of Toledo. I believe what we’re doing here is going to define the University eventually as a major research center.”

The first Kenneth A. Kropp, MD, Endowed Professorship of Urology was awarded to Dr. Puneet Sindhwani, the newly named chair of the Department of Urology in UT’s College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

Kropp, who built the largest kidney transplant program in the region, presented a medallion to his former student.

“I am delighted to know he will be the first holder of the chair,” Kropp said.

“I will do my best to continue my mentor’s tradition of excellence,” said Sindhwani, who completed his urology residency and obtained a master of science degree in biomedical sciences in 2001 from the Medical College of Ohio. “This is a great day. It’s a wheel turned full circle. Dr. Kropp was the first attending who got me interested in urology 22 years ago.”

Sindhwani served as an associate professor of urology at the University of Oklahoma Sciences Center since October 2005. He was the university’s chief of male infertility and andrology section, and he started the male reproductive health program.

Previously, Sindhwani was the surgical director of pediatric and adult renal transplantation at the Children’s Hospital and Oklahoma Transplant Center. He also headed the urology section at the VA Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

UTMC to transition to new leadership

By Jon Strunk

The University of Toledo Medical Center will transition to a new leader June 1 following an announcement by UT President Sharon L. Gaber April 5 that Dave Morlock, CEO of UTMC and executive vice president, will leave the institution for a new opportunity based in New York.

Dan Barbee, vice president for clinical services, has been named UTMC’s interim CEO and will report to Dr. Christopher Cooper, executive vice president for clinical affairs and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

“Under Dave’s leadership, UTMC’s patient care quality, patient satisfaction, market share and finances have improved significantly,” Gaber said.

“Additionally, Dave has aligned UTMC well for success indicated by next year’s financial and patient measures.”

Greg Hawkins, director of business development, will be taking on a larger role at UTMC, as well as with the implementation of the affiliation agreement.

Gaber, who will remain directly involved with decisions regarding the hospital’s operation and future, said a national search will be conducted for a permanent CEO.

“I want to wish Dave much success, and I am grateful for all he has done as CEO,” Gaber said. “UTMC remains committed to outstanding health care, patient safety and patient satisfaction.”
University Women’s Commission honors employees, awards scholarships to students

By Vicki L. Kroll

Seven University employees were recognized last week for excellence and dedication to the campus community at the 30th annual Outstanding Women’s Award ceremony.

More than 70 attended the University Women’s Commission program, which was held Thursday in the Savage Arena Joe Grogan Room. Dr. Patry Komuniecki, vice provost for graduate studies and dean of the College of Graduate Studies, spoke at the event.

The recipients of the Dr. Alice Skeens Outstanding Woman Award were:

• Sara Clark, director of global engagement and the American Language Institute. She has worked at the University eight years. She received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education from UT in 2004 and 2007, respectively.

  “Sara is totally involved on campus. She goes to most every campus event with dozens of international students. She also teaches two UT evening courses on service learning. Sara is an adviser to the UT Student Explorers, which involves both domestic and foreign students in many exciting trips and activities throughout the region,” a nominator wrote. “She performs her job with a combination of positive energy, absolute integrity, and a powerful can-do attitude. I am so grateful to have such a devoted and talented woman here as our leader.”

• Nadine Hoffmann, assistant to the undergraduate dean in the Office of Undergraduate Studies in the College of Engineering. Previously, she worked for two deans in the College of Law, but spent most of her tenure at the former UT Community and Technical College. Hoffmann received associate’s and bachelor’s degrees from UT in 1994 and 2007, respectively.

  “Nadine is a critical person in our office, and she excels in customer service. She is the first voice people hear when they call our office and the first face they see when they enter our office. Each day, our office has between one and 20 prospective students visit for a presentation and a tour. Ms. Hoffmann takes time to personally greet and speak with each family. She helps answer their initial questions, calms their nerves, and welcomes them to the College of Engineering. Her positive aura is a blessing for these prospective students and gives our college a friendly face,” a nominator wrote. “She also is actively involved in her church, Cedar Creek. She has taught Bible study and volunteers at the soup kitchen weekly.”

• Dr. Deepa Mukundan, associate professor of pediatrics. She completed her residency at MCO in 2003 and returned to UT as an assistant professor in 2006. Mukundan was promoted to associate professor in 2013 and was named associate student clerkship director in pediatrics in 2014. She helped establish the UT International Traveler’s Clinic in the Ruppert Health Center in 2014.

  “Dr. Mukundan is very active in supporting women’s and children’s health-care needs in our community. She is bringing awareness to families regarding the need for vaccination against meningitis in Ohio,” one nominator wrote. “She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a member of the section on International Child Health, Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology. She also is a member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society of America, Global Health Council, American Society of Microbiology, International Society for Infectious Diseases, Emerging Infections Network, and International Society of Travel Medicine. She also is involved with MDJunior as a global medical mentor for mission trips to Honduras with high school and middle school students.”

• Nicole Porter, professor of law. She joined the College of Law faculty in 2007. She served as associate dean for academic affairs from 2010 to 2012.

  “Professor Porter served on the University’s Sexual Harassment Task Force and was one of the principal drafters of the new UT Sexual Harassment Policy, promulgated in 2011,” one nominator wrote. “Professor Porter conceived and developed a junior faculty orientation for new College of Law faculty members. Even more significant has been the informal mentorship she has provided to junior faculty members, in particular persons of color and female faculty members.” Another noted, “As a scholar, Professor Portman is exemplary. Her research has consistently attracted national attention. And many of her articles have focused squarely on women’s issues, including ‘Women, Unions and Negotiation,’ ‘Sex Plus Age Discrimination: Protecting Older Women Workers,’ ‘Debunking the Market Myth in Pay Discrimination Cases,’ ‘Finding a Fix for the FMLA: A New Perspective, a New Solution,’ and ‘The Caregiver Conundrum Redux: The Entrenchment of Structural Norms.’ All of her work is widely read, cited and influential.”

• Dr. Barbara Schneider, senior associate dean in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences, and associate professor of English. She joined the faculty as assistant professor and director of composition in 2000 and received tenure and was promoted to associate professor and appointed director of the UT Writing Center in 2006. Five years later, Schneider was named associate dean of the College of Innovative Learning and in 2012 became associate dean in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences, where she was promoted to senior associate dean in 2013.

  “Despite her daunting duties as senior associate dean, Dr. Schneider teaches every semester for the Department of English and in fall 2016 will teach a class for the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies,” one nominator wrote. “She is creative and tireless in her efforts to support every college initiative and to promote and support students. Whatever the task, she works quietly and efficiently behind the scenes, never seeking credit or functioning in self-serving ways, and always maintaining a positive attitude and good humor.”

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Peace studies talks to be held April 12-14

By Lindsay Mahaney

Since the initiation of the Peace Education Initiative at The University of Toledo, the city has become a hub for peace education.

To supplement the growth, Dr. Betty A. Reardon will visit Toledo Tuesday, April 12, through Thursday, April 14, for three public events.

As the founder and director of the International Institute on Peace Education, a weeklong residential experience for educators facilitating the exchange of ideas surrounding peace education, Reardon is known as the “Mother of Peace Education.” She will host conversations with students, faculty and community members about peace education, how it’s being implemented in Toledo, and ideas on how to further utilize it in the community.

“My belief is peace studies and peace education are the most significant issues for universities to address,” Reardon said. “We need to start looking at these fields and how [they] can address major crises.”

The events will be:

• Public Dialogue — Tuesday, April 12, at 7 p.m. in Health and Human Services Building Room 1711; light refreshments will be served.
• Lunchtime Dialogue — Wednesday, April 13, at 12:30 p.m. in Health and Human Services Building Room 1711; this event is geared toward students. Lunch will be served.
• Faculty and Staff Dialogue — Thursday, April 14, at 1 p.m. in Student Union Room 2591.

The free, public platforms are meant to be informal conversations about how peace education works and how it can be used effectively, Reardon explained. The events are sponsored and coordinated by the Graduate Student Association with the support of the Peace Education Initiative.

Individuals can RSVP at utoledo.edu/education/peace/RSVP.html.

Reardon also founded the Peace Education Center at Columbia University, taught at universities around the world, and has experience both in formal school settings and community-based education programs. Throughout her career, she has advanced peace and global citizenship education through a focus on human security, human rights, sustainable development, ecology and gender.

Additionally, she received special honorary mention from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Peace Education Prize for establishing the International Institute on Peace Education. She also received the 2010 Sean McBride Peace Prize and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.

The Peace Education Initiative in UT’s Judith Herb College of Education was established to help the University become a global leader in peace education. Last month, UT’s Faculty Senate approved a new peace studies major and minor. The minor is tentatively set to launch this fall.

“I’m very excited about what’s happening in Toledo,” Reardon said. “UT is poised to be a new leading peace learning institution for the country and internationally.”

The Peace Education Initiative also oversees the Betty A. Reardon Archives, which is housed in UT’s Canaday Center for Special Collections. The collection consists of Reardon’s extensive publications, unpublished manuscripts, curriculum, reports, scholarly presentations, and correspondence from the 1960s to the present about peace studies. Her archives have been in the Canaday Center since 2009.

To learn more about the Peace Education Initiative and its programs, visit utoledo.edu/education/peace.

For more information, contact Dr. Tony Jenkins, director of the UT Peace Education Initiative, at tony.jenkins@utoledo.edu.

Holi Toledo to return to campus April 13

By Ashley Gearheart

Just days after hosting the color run, The University of Toledo campus will once again be covered in vibrant hues, but this time it will be in celebration of Holi Toledo.

Holi, an Indian holiday meant to welcome spring, will be celebrated at The University of Toledo for its third consecutive year on Wednesday, April 13, from 3 to 5 p.m. on the grounds outside Memorial Field House. In case of rain, there is an alternate date set for Wednesday, April 20, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Holi has been observed all over India since ancient times as a celebration of the arrival of spring. For many Hindus, Holi serves as an opportunity to loosen social restrictions and bridge social gaps to bring people of different statuses together.

“[Holi Toledo is] a great venue to talk directly with people from other religions and cultures about what matters to them. It’s an immersion in one of the world’s longest continuously practiced holidays,” said Dr. Jeanine Diller, director of the Center for Religious Understanding. “It’s a lot of fun!”

The event will involve throwing color powder in an area surrounded by booths created by religious and cultural student organizations. There will be music, color blasts every 30 minutes, and prizes for the most colorful individual and participants who visit five or more booths.

To receive color to throw, participants must visit booths and ask a quick question about an inspiration, journey or tradition. The T-shirts worn by those running the booths will hint at which question to ask.

Hundreds of people are expected to participate in this year’s Holi Toledo, which is sponsored by the Center for Religious Understanding, the Center for International Studies and Programs, the Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Engagement, and the Division of Student Affairs.

All students, faculty, employees and community members are welcome to participate.

For more information, contact Diller at jeanine.diller@utoledo.edu.
Social Documentary Photo class partners with Arts Commission/AmeriCorp for exhibition

This semester, students in UT Art Professor Deborah Orloff’s Social Documentary Photography class have been working in partnership with the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo and AmeriCorp to help further Toledo’s Strategic Plan for Arts and Culture.

The city’s plan is designed to “support cultural vibrancy, economic revitalization, and to connect and grow the rich network of creative life that exists in Toledo.”

Working with the Arts Commission, Orloff and her students have volunteered their talents to help capture the stories of Toledo’s creatives and community leaders. Students have been interviewing people in the community and capturing the essence of their work through photographs.

The students’ images will be featured on the Arts Commission’s new website, print materials, and in an exhibition at the Parkwood Gallery, which is housed in the Professional Building at 1838 Parkwood Ave. The exhibition, “Toledo Vitality,” will open with a reception Thursday, April 14, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

“Toledo is a vibrant city with rich cultural resources, and a thriving arts scene, but, ultimately, people make a city great,” Orloff said. “This exhibition celebrates some of those individuals.”

Orloff said the Department of Art’s innovative class was designed to expose students to the rich history of social documentary photography and allow students to experiment within the genre, while simultaneously working within the community in a professional capacity. The service-learning component of the course provides students with practical, hands-on experience working with regional agencies to support and enhance the local community.

“It’s an amazing opportunity for the students to get professional experience out in the real world while simultaneously helping to further the city’s Strategic Plan for Arts and Culture and improve the region; each student is making a difference in the community,” Orloff said. “It’s important to talk about social change and look at slides in a classroom, but our students are actually out there doing it.”

The class also will serve UT’s new Peace Studies Program and become a regular offering in the Department of Art.

A second photography exhibition is on display in the Center for the Visual Arts Clement Gallery at UT’s Toledo Museum of Art Campus. This exhibit features examples of the photo students’ personal projects, also created in the social documentary class.

Both free, public exhibitions will run through Thursday, May 5, and the galleries will remain open until 7:30 p.m. April 21 for the next 3rd Thursday Art Loop.

Parkwood Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Christie, a local garden owner, was photographed in front of Tom’s Carryout on Lagrange Street by Lucas Sigurdson.
UT professor receives national recognition

By Lindsay Mahaney

The University of Toledo houses the only disability studies program in the country with faculty members solely devoted to disability studies, one of whom was recently recognized for her work.

Dr. Liat Ben-Moshe, assistant professor of disability studies, was granted the Western Social Science Association’s 2016 New Scholar Award.

“It’s an honor to be someone representing disability studies, which is a very tiny discipline compared to some of the other [social sciences],” Ben-Moshe said. “It’s also an honor that specifically it’s work on incarceration of people with disabilities that’s getting attention.”

Ben-Moshe specializes in applying disability studies to imprisonment and incarcerated individuals. She recently edited Disability Incarcerated: Imprisonment and Disability in the United States and Canada, a book examining the incarceration and segregation of people with disabilities, which she cites as one of the reasons she received recognition.

When asked what drew her to disability studies and incarceration, Ben-Moshe explained the two fields didn’t intersect at first: “I saw that people who do anti-prison work are amazing advocates, but they didn’t really talk about disability. And when they did, they didn’t really understand disability as an identity and a culture, but as a deficit. And vice versa, people who do really good work in disability areas don’t know anything about prisons.”

Through her work, Ben-Moshe hopes to bridge the gap between the two fields. Since the book was published, the editors have been invited to various universities and grassroots organizations nationwide to speak, which is where Ben-Moshe encourages collaboration.

“We really started this conversation on a national level,” she said. “I hope this isn’t the full conversation, but hopefully it’s just the beginning of the conversation.”

The Western Social Science Association works to advance scholarship, teaching, service and professional exchange across the social science disciplines. Its mission is to foster professional study and promote teaching of social science.

Ben-Moshe will receive her award later this month at the president’s luncheon at the association’s annual meeting in Reno, Nevada, where she will present her research.

For more information, contact Ben-Moshe at liat.benmoshe@utoledo.edu or visit wssaweb.com.

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University Women’s Commision

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• Betty Jean Sullivan, custodial worker in Gillham Hall. She joined the UT staff in 1991 and has worked in Memorial Field House, Carlson Library, Wolfe Hall and Gillham Hall. In 2014, Sullivan received the University’s Shining Star Award.

“Ms. Sullivan is highly deserving of this award as she exemplifies the work of women as foundational to family life and community life, and as the often invisible, or at least ignored, work that is essential to maintaining an institution like The University of Toledo as a healthy, thriving institution,” a nominator wrote. After her husband was diagnosed with cancer, she cared for him at home for two years until he passed, according to a nomination. Then she took on more responsibility at the Paradise Baptist Church, which was founded by her husband. “Since the church was a small community of low-income people in Toledo, she took two things she loves and combined them together, spiritual and physical food.

The corner of Tecumseh and Detroit became a place where people could stop by and get some good soul food and receive a message of hope and love.”

• Dr. Mary Beth Wroblewski, assistant professor of pediatrics, pediatric clerkship director, and assistant dean for student affairs in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences. She received a bachelor of science degree in pharmaceutical science from UT in 1998 and a doctor of medicine degree from MCO in 2005. She completed post-graduate training at UT and served as chief resident her final year. Wroblewski has received many awards, including the Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence.

“Dr. Wroblewski oversees pediatric education for 350 third- and fourth-year medical students each year. She listens to the medical students and works diligently to lead them to solutions that work for them and gets them back on track. She does this with a great deal of humility, compassion and humor,” one nominator wrote. “Her most recent involvement in the community is her pediatric clinic at Toledo Public Schools. She also is very involved with the recent epidemic of babies addicted to methadone. She also is an active supporter of women’s issues and is very involved educating parents on the health care of children as well as the importance of vaccinating children.”

The University Women’s Commission also presented $1,000 scholarships to three students. Receiving awards based on academic achievement, support of women’s and gender issues, and campus and community involvement were Ashley Daniels, a senior majoring in forensic science; Batool Mehdi, a senior majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry; and Ashley Daniels, a senior majoring in early childhood education.
Pharmacy dean tapped as a facilitator for academic leadership fellows program

By Ashley Gearheart

Dr. Johnnie Early, dean of the UT College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, is serving as a leadership facilitator for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy 2015-16 Academic Leadership Fellows Program.

The Academic Leadership Fellows Program is in its 13th year. The program lasts for one year and includes four sessions that are designed to develop leaders in academic pharmacy and higher education.

Early was first selected as a leadership facilitator in 2009 and was chosen again to serve this year.

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy leadership facilitators are involved in the selection of Fellows. Throughout the program, the facilitators provide feedback to the Fellows on their progress, listen to their ideas, and prompt them to think in new ways.

“Dr. Early unselfishly exemplifies an interest in the success of students and career development of faculty. These traits are ones of a true leader and that is why he was chosen to be a leadership facilitator for the current Academic Leadership Fellows Program cohort,” said John C. Ressler, director of academic programs and professional development for the Academic Leadership Fellows Program.

Bryant-Friedrich said the program is allowing her to learn a great deal about herself and build relationships with those she serves and reports to.

“While I have been blessed with a uniquely diverse set of leadership experiences in academic pharmacy, I also continue to learn. Learning occurs through the Fellows program, talks, readings and the Academic Leadership Fellows Program experiences. It is a very well done program,” he said.

In addition to Early, several other faculty members have been or are currently involved in the Academic Leadership Fellows Program. Dr. Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, UT associate professor of medicinal chemistry, is a current Fellow of the program.

Bryant-Friedrich said the program is allowing her to learn a great deal about herself and build relationships with those she serves and reports to.

“I have learned a great deal about academic leadership and how to prepare myself for future leadership roles,” she said.

Other UT faculty graduates of the Academic Leadership Fellows Program from the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences include Dr. Laurie Mauro, associate dean of academic affairs; Dr. Monica Holiday-Goodman, associate dean of student affairs; Dr. Mary Powers, associate dean of student affairs; and Dr. Megan Kaun, director of experiential education.

According to Early, the University intends to send more faculty members as Fellows to the program.

“We are blessed with a number of individuals who already demonstrate leadership, and part of our role is to help them develop. In fact, the college through its leadership council has its own development plan for Fellows,” Early said.

For more information on the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Academic Leadership Fellows Program, visit http://utole.do/aacp.

Distinguished University Professor to give book talk April 19

Dr. Blair Grubb, University of Toledo Distinguished University Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Pediatrics, will give a talk about his book, The Calling, Tuesday, April 19, at 3:30 p.m. in the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections on the fifth floor of Carlson Library.

In the book, Grubb recounts stories of interactions with his patients that have stayed with him throughout his career, influenced him as a physician, and touched him as a person.

“He vividly depicts memorable encounters he has had in his calling as he strives to be a good healer and a good human being. The book presents a uniquely intimate view of what it means to be a physician,” Barbara Floyd, interim director of UT Libraries, said.

The book, published by the UT Press in 2011, was written with the encouragement of his late wife, Barbara Straus.

Copies will be available for sale at the event for a discounted price of $10. Grubb will be available after the talk to sign books.

The free, public event is part of UT Libraries’ celebration of National Library Week.

For more information on the event, contact Floyd at 419.530.2170 or barbara.floyd@utoledo.edu.
RockeTHON to raise thousands for Mercy Children’s Hospital
April 16

By Ashley Gearheart

Since 2001, the 13-hour RockeTHON dance marathon has brought together students, faculty, family and friends to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for Mercy Children’s Hospital in downtown Toledo.

This year’s event will be held Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. in Savage Arena, and more than 1,300 people are expected to attend.

In 2015, over $106,000 was raised, and since its beginning at The University of Toledo, RockeTHON has raised more than $700,000 for Mercy Children’s Hospital.

The RockeTHON committee set the bar even higher for 2016 with a goal of raising $130,000 throughout the year for Mercy Children's Hospital. In the last 12 months, a number of fundraising events have taken place to help reach this goal: the FT5K, a 5K run/walk; 16K1Day, a 24-hour event that brought in $23,592; a Miracle Banquet for faculty, family and friends to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for Mercy Children's Hospital.

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Throughout RockeTHON, there will be stage entertainment, including Miracle Family highlights, inflatables, five different dress themes and a photo booth. Participants also can ride a mechanical bull, compete in basketball and dodge ball tournaments, get Henna tattoos, and have a chance to win one of the special giveaways at the end of the night.

Sean Reck, a senior majoring in chemical engineering and overall director of RockeTHON, added that there will be extra surprises throughout the event on top of what has been announced.

“I attended my first Dance Marathon two years ago, and I fell in love with its success and potential, but most importantly who it was for,” Reck said. “Raising money for the kids and working hard to challenge other community members to do the same – that’s what I’m here for.”

Students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members are all encouraged to participate.

For more information or to register for RockeTHON, visit rockethon.org and click “Give Today.”

Event to raise awareness, funds for clean water

By Lindsay Mahaney

Women and children lugging jugs for miles every day to get clean water is a reality in many countries around the world — and it will be simulated on The University of Toledo’s Main Campus this weekend.

Walk for Water is an annual fundraising event to increase Toledo’s awareness for the worldwide lack of access to clean water and to raise funds to help Clean Water for the World, an organization working to build, ship, install and maintain water purification units for people without clean water around the world. The organization provides the units at no cost to local communities in developing countries.

The fundraiser will start on The University of Toledo’s Centennial Mall Sunday, April 17, at 2 p.m. Participants can begin checking in at 1:15 p.m. for the 5K run or walk.

Over the past three years, the campaign has raised $31,000, purchasing 10 water purification units that have been placed in Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti.

“It is important to participate in [Walk for Water] because it promotes solidarity and awareness through experiential learning on The University of Toledo campus, allowing students, faculty and Toledo community members to advocate for clean water,” said Kristy Kagy, president of UT’s Catholic Student Association.

Donations can be solicited through the registration website. Once registered, individuals make an account that family, friends and community members can give to by clicking on the participant’s name and pressing the donate button. Groups also can register.

Participants are encouraged to carry jugs filled with water during the 5K to mimic the daily effort of women and children in developing countries exert for clean water. A water carrying competition will be held during the event, in which the group that carries the greatest volume of water without backpacks or wheels wins. Pre-filled jugs will be available at the event.

Registration is $10 for students and $15 for adults and includes a Walk for Water button.

T-shirts can be purchased for $8.

Register and donate at firstgiving.com/cw46/walk-for-water-toledo-2016.
Jamil and fellow resident Dr. Steve Stanek came up with a way to ensure Chan’s legacy lives on. While Chan is still alive, friends and colleagues have created an endowed scholarship for medical students and an endowed award for residents that will be presented annually through The University of Toledo Foundation in Chan’s name. The money will be given to people with the same gifts as Chan.

“He is not only a compassionate doctor with his patients. Cyrus has won several awards for teaching,” Jamil said. “The money will be for students and residents committed to surgery and to taking the time to educate others.”

As of Friday, 237 people donated a total of $28,871 to the GoFundMe account for the Cyrus Chan Legacy Scholarship. The University of Toledo Foundation also has collected $38,495 from 35 private donors all over the world, including Trinity College in Ireland, where Cyrus attended medical school.

“He has touched the lives of so many people. It’s amazing that so many people are giving back,” Jamil said. “The smile on his face is priceless.”

UT also plans to give Chan an honorary degree.

“If he had not become sick, he would’ve graduated in June,” Mary Burda, UT residency education coordinator, said. “Our hearts are broken.”

“He is not loud and boisterous. He is quietly effective.”

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"The Jesup Scott Honors College has amplified my experience at UT by pushing me to do more. When I look at my accomplishments, I know the education that I received at UT is unparalleled."

政和 Science and Economics major '17
College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences
Jesp Scott Honors College

ACHIEVEMENT

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TOLEDO

As a student in the Jesup Scott Honors College,
Samuel is focused on developing his knowledge base through research and experiential learning.

He's studying abroad in Cuba to learn more about its politics and economics and has interned in government offices from the Mayor of Toledo, Ohio to the U.S. Congress. He's developing economic policy research proposals to support his application to the UT Office for Competitive Awards and Research.

Samuel is a competitive candidate for undergraduate research — an honor he believes he could only achieve at The University of Toledo.

Learn more about how UT helps students like Samuel achieve high honors at UTOLEDO.EDU/GREATERRDEGREE