UT, city announce Toledo Talent Keeps Toledo Great internship program

By Meghan Cunningham

The University of Toledo and the city of Toledo are expanding an internship program to allow all students the opportunity to earn valuable experience working in city offices and provide local government with additional talent to serve the community.

The Toledo Talent Keeps Toledo Great program was announced by UT President Sharon L. Gaber and Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson Aug. 1 in the Center for Experiential Learning and Career Services on Main Campus.

“Internships are critical for our students to learn how to apply what they learn in the classroom and gain experience working in their field of study so that they are better prepared for career success upon graduation,” Gaber said. “Students who have interned with the city have gone on to do great things, and we are excited to expand this program to allow more students from across campus to benefit from these experiences.”

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Art on the Mall

Fans of Art on the Mall flocked to UT July 31 for the juried show that featured creations by more than 100 artists. Erin Livingston and 18-month-old Madden checked out a screen bug at Dan and Trish Shanty’s booth on Centennial Mall. The annual event hosted by the UT Alumni Association has become a summer tradition.

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UT researchers test new experimental drug to treat diabetes and increase bone mass

By Rebecca Schwan

Researchers from The University of Toledo, in collaboration with chemists from the Scripps Research Institute, have discovered a compound that normalizes glucose levels while increasing the mass and quality of bone.

Body processes that regulate energy metabolism and bone mass are closely intertwined, and numerous studies have shown individuals with Type 2 diabetes are at increased risk for bone fractures. Additionally, some current anti-diabetic drugs work well to regulate insulin levels, but can cause further bone damage.

Photo by Daniel Miller

President Sharon L. Gaber talked about the Toledo Talent Keeps Toledo Great program at a press conference Aug. 1.

Photo by Daniel Miller

LOOK FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF UT NEWS AUG. 22
Paying tribute

Natalie Zechura and Corey Warren comforted each other during a ceremony in honor of Sierah Joughin that was held July 30 in the Student Union. Joughin, who was entering her third year as a student in the College of Business and Innovation, died last month at age 20. Business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi held the event, which moved outside for a candlelight vigil. About 100 gathered for the ceremony.

IN THE LAB: Dr. Beata Lecka-Czernik, right, posed for a photo with her team, from left, Shermel Sherman, Faiz Tausif, Amit Chougule, Lance Stechschulte, Matthew Mazur, Zachary Rotter and Ali Eltatawy.

Abigail Dudek, a member of Alpha Kappa Psi, lit the candle of a heart-shaped lantern during the vigil.

UT researchers

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“Our data demonstrate the regulation of bone mass and energy metabolism share similar mechanisms,” said Dr. Beata Lecka-Czernik, professor in UT’s departments of Orthopaedic Surgery and Physiology and Pharmacology, and a member of the faculty in the Center for Diabetes and Endocrine Research. “This suggests a new pharmacologic agent could be developed to treat both diabetes and metabolic bone diseases.”

Targeting PPARγ, the protein in the body that regulates energy use and bone cell differentiation and function, Dr. Patrick Griffin and researchers from the Scripps Research Institute developed a series of new insulin sensitizers.

“Our multidisciplinary chemical biology team at Scripps Florida had spent many years developing precise structure activity relationships around many chemical scaffolds that alter the shape and behavior of PPARγ,” Griffin said. “These efforts were then combined with the bone biology expertise of Dr. Lecka-Czernik to explore whether we have compounds that maintain excellent insulin sensitization efficacy but are positive on bone health.”

Lecka-Czernik and her team at UT then tested these compounds for bone safety.

“During the course of our experiments, we discovered that a compound called SR10171 normalizes glucose levels in Type 2 diabetes, prevents associated weight gain, and increases the mass and quality of bone,” she said. “Remarkably, this experimental drug also maintains its positive effect on bone in non-diabetic conditions and acts as insulin sensitizer only on demand when normal glucose and insulin becomes imbalanced.”

SR10171 supports bone formation by directly regulating bone cells that work together to break down, build and protect bone.

The results also suggest the bone remodeling properties of this compound could be used to treat osteoporosis, Lecka-Czernik said.

The team’s findings, “PPARG Post-Translational Modifications Regulate Bone Formation and Bone Resorption,” was published in the August issue of EBioMedicine. This team science was funded in part on a collaborative grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.
UT Health to host appreciation celebration

By Rebecca Schwan

University of Toledo Health faculty, staff, students and volunteers are invited to gather for a celebration picnic Tuesday, Aug. 16.

A picnic lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the patio area outside Four Seasons Bistro. A message of appreciation will be delivered by hospital leaders at noon. Live entertainment will be provided by KGB Band.

The annual celebration on Health Science Campus thanks staff for their hard work and kicks off the new academic year.

“It’s a celebration of the outstanding progress UTMC has made toward eliminating hospital-acquired infections and keeping our patients safe through state-of-the-art, university-quality care,” said Dan Barbee, UTMC interim chief executive officer.

Meals also will be provided for employees who work other shifts. An evening meal for second-shift staff will be served from 4 to 6 p.m. on the patio, and breakfast will be served from 7 to 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17, for third-shift staff in the Four Seasons Bistro.

Thank You

UT Health

Faculty, Staff, Students and Volunteers for providing university-quality care and patient experiences in our hospital and clinics.

Come celebrate with us!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16
Patio area outside
Four Seasons Bistro and Health Education Bldg.
• First shift: 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
• Brief program at Noon by hospital administration
• Second shift: 4–6 p.m.
Live music by: KGB Band

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17
Four Seasons Bistro
• Third Shift: 7–9:30 a.m.

For breaking news, go to utnews.utoledo.edu

In memoriam

Dr. Charles Creutz, Lambertville, a faculty member in the UT Department of Biological Sciences for nearly 40 years, died July 28 at age 77. Creutz came to the University as a postdoctoral associate in chemistry in 1971. Two years later, he became an assistant professor of biology and was promoted to associate professor in 1993. Creutz received one of UT’s Outstanding Teacher Awards in 1995, and he was honored as a master teacher and master mentor in the College of Arts and Sciences. In 2003, Creutz was recognized as one of the state’s top 100 college educators by Ohio Magazine. During his career, he was an academic adviser for 30 years and a member of the Faculty Senate. In addition, he served on numerous UT committees. He retired in 2010 and received the emeritus designation. His family is establishing a scholarship with the Department of Biological Sciences; tributes are welcome through the UT Foundation.

James D. Davis, Sylvania, a hospital aide at UT Medical Center from 2003 to 2007, died July 31 at age 71.

Sierah “Ce” Joughin, Metamora, who was entering her third year as a student in the UT College of Business and Innovation, died last month at age 20. She was a member of the business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi and played intramural volleyball. Joughin was an intern at Ice Industries Inc. in Sylvania.

Mary C. “Katie” (TenEyck) Loch, Toledo, a former MCO employee, died Aug. 2 at age 87.

Dr. Marjorie Romanoff, a longtime UT faculty member, died Aug. 2 at age 92. She joined the University in 1968 as a supervisor of student teachers. She taught English as a second language as an instructor in the American Language Institute from 1978 to 1992. In the mid-1980s, she became an assistant professor of elementary education. A UT alumna, she received a bachelor of education degree in 1947, a master of education degree in 1968 and a doctor of education degree in 1976. She served as president of two University honoraries — Kappa Delta Pi and Pi Lambda Theta. Her book, Stepping Down Ladders From Language Skills to Study Skills, was published in 1991. A member of Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Delta Kappa, Romanoff was known for championing women’s concerns. In 1990, the University Women’s Commission honored her with one of its Outstanding Women Awards.

Dr. David K. Scheer, Toledo, a former community-based volunteer faculty member at MCO, died July 22 at age 97. He served as chief of staff of the former Maumee Valley Hospital and was appointed clinical assistant professor in the Department of Medicine in 1970. Scheer received a bachelor’s degree in biology from UT in 1940.

Dr. Eric W. Snider Jr., Lansing, Mich., who taught at UT for 20 years, died July 26 at age 58. He joined the Department of Philosophy as an assistant professor in 1987, was promoted to associate professor in 1992, and served as department chair from 2001 to 2007. In 1998, Snider received one of UT’s Outstanding Teacher Awards. He served on several committees before leaving the University in 2008.
UT research group contributes to international study on itch sensation

By Rebecca Schwan

Researchers at The University of Toledo are investigating what makes us itch.

Dr. Ajith Karunarathne, assistant professor in the UT Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and his research group recently completed a collaborative, interdisciplinary study of the body’s itch response.

“While itchiness is not a life-threatening health concern, it is uncomfortable and can be a quality of life issue for some people,” Karunarathne said. “Our lab worked with researchers nationally and internationally to explore how the body interprets the itch sensation.”

Led by Dr. Zhou-Feng Chen in the Center for the Study of Itch at Washington University School of Medicine, researchers explored the cell’s sensory neuron response to itch-inducing stimuli. Karunarathne’s research group was selected to participate due to its expertise in subcellular optogenetics, which is live cell imaging and signaling.

“Our lab designs and uses light-sensitive signaling proteins and precisely targeted light beams to control signaling in specific regions in single cells,” Karunarathne said. “This way, we can use light for both controlling and monitoring cellular activities and understanding pathologically important cell behaviors such as cancer cell migration.”

Imaging fluorescence biosensors help to capture activities in various cellular compartments. However, scientists do not have a precise way of controlling signaling activities in these subcellular locations.

In the body, a cell’s transient receptor potential (TRP) channels transmit the sensation of pain, itch, temperature and touch to the brain. One channel, named TRPV1, responds to histamine signals, and another channel, TRPA1, responds to the itch-inducing chemical chloroquine.

Using their confocal subcellular fluorescence resonance energy transfer techniques, Karunarathne and his colleagues at UT were able to extract data that helped the team to identify a third member of the TRP family that also plays a role in the body’s itch response.

“We examined the role TRPV4 plays in itch and tested the hypotheses that TRPV1 and TRPV4 cooperate to relay itch information in sensory neurons,” Karunarathne said. “The study suggested that TRPV4 is required for cells to form complexes that relay itch signals.”

This new discovery could lead to new pharmaceuticals that target TRPV4 to provide relief to chronic itch.

The team’s work was published in Science Signaling online last month.

UT student helps Toledo Zoo secure grant money to restore sturgeon to Lake Erie

By Christine Long

The Toledo Zoo secured approximately $90,000 in federal grant money to re-establish ancient lake sturgeon to Lake Erie with the help of a PhD student researcher at The University of Toledo.

The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act Grants Program recently approved the funding proposal to build a sturgeon rearing facility at the Toledo Zoo along the Maumee River, which flows into Lake Erie.

Jessica Sherman, PhD student researcher in UT’s Department of Environmental Sciences, assisted the project by verifying that spawning and nursery habitat still exists in the Maumee River to sustain a population of the fish that can live to be 150 years old and grow up to 300 pounds and nine feet long.

“The new lake sturgeon rearing facility to be built at the Toledo Zoo will be a starting point for rebuilding the population that was once an important part of Lake Erie’s ecology,” Sherman said. “As a graduate student, it has been an incredible opportunity for me to work with partners at the zoo, as well as state and federal agencies to give these large and ancient fish a chance to thrive in Lake Erie once again. This is an instance when scientists and natural resource managers have the opportunity to improve the state of an ecosystem by restoring a species that belongs there and to learn a good lesson about our actions in the past.”

The addition of the grant brings the total funding for the project to $170,000.

Construction of the trailer-sized streamside fish hatchery is slated to begin next year. The goal is to release 3,000 juvenile fish into the Maumee River every year starting in 2018.

“The Toledo Zoo is proud to work with our partners: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Toledo, Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Wildlife, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to re-introduce a historical fish back to our area waterways,” said Jeff Sailer, executive director of the Toledo Zoo.

“This project fits well with the zoo’s mission of inspiring others to join us in caring for animals and conserving the natural world. Humans caused the demise of this species, and it is most appropriate that we work together to bring it back.”

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

According to the zoo’s conservation director, lake sturgeon were abundant in the Maumee River in the 1800s, but the demand for caviar and fuel, as well as commercial over-fishing, caused the population to decline and ultimately disappear.

“Ohio doesn’t have a current reproducing lake sturgeon population,” said Kent Bekker, director of conservation and research for the Toledo Zoo. “This facility is a huge step for the reintroduction of this species in our state and for the Lake Erie basin.”
Ribbon-cutting ceremony, open house to mark Carlson Library renovations

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house for University faculty and staff will celebrate the completion of major renovations to the third and fourth floors of Carlson Library. The event will take place Thursday, Aug. 18, from 3 to 5 p.m. on the third floor of the library.

President Sharon L. Gaber and Provost Andrew Hsu will provide opening remarks.

“We hope faculty and staff will use this opportunity to see the amazing transformation that has happened in the library,” said Barbara Floyd, interim director of University Libraries. “We think the University community will be pleased with the results.”

The $3 million renovation, funded by state capital investment funds, includes the creation of more than 20 new group study rooms on the floors.

“There is a real demand by students for these spaces,” said David Remaklus, director of library operations. “These are important spaces for students to collaborate on projects and work together in study teams.”

The renovations include larger rooms that can fit six to eight persons as well as smaller rooms for two to three students.

Also included are rooms with study carrels for individual quiet work. All of the spaces provide numerous outlets for using and charging technological devices.

The walls also have been painted, carpeting has been replaced, and new ceilings and lighting installed.

During renovations, books and journals located on these floors were wrapped and protected from the dirt and debris created during construction. The materials were inaccessible during the summer, but patrons were accommodated by borrowing needed books through OhioLINK, Floyd said.

The renovations required shifting some 170,000 journals and government documents on the third floor from one side of the floor to the other. Library faculty and staff, with help from the maintenance staff, completed the move in a little more than a week.

“Moving the collection was an incredibly difficult job, but everyone pitched in, and we finished it in record time,” Remaklus said.

Both the book and journal collection located on the two floors will be accessible again.

The University community is invited to stop over during the open house for refreshments and to see the transformed space. Library faculty and staff will be available to answer questions and provide tours of the new spaces.

Floyd said additional events for students are planned for the first two weeks of the semester. These events will include raffles for prizes, and a contest for students to post a “shelfie” with their favorite library book or their favorite new study space. The student whose photo gets the most likes on social media will receive a prize. The theme for the student events is “Carlson Library: Extreme Makeover Edition.”

“One aspect of the library’s third floor has not changed, and will look familiar to everyone who has visited the library since it opened in 1973 — the large Rand McNally globe. The globe, which has been on the third floor for the past six years, has a new place of prominence. It also will be restored during fall semester with new paint, and the motor that spins the globe will be repaired.”

“University Libraries provides UT faculty and students with resources literally from around the world. We see the globe as a way to reinforce this idea,” Floyd said.

The globe originally was purchased and installed on the first floor of the library near a portrait of Dr. William Carlson, who was a geographer. It is one of only a few such large globes that were built, and an even fewer number still exist today, Floyd said.

Renovations to the library are not complete with the work on the third and fourth floors, however. The next phase will begin in December with changes to the first floor, completion of work on the second floor, and the installation of a glass wall on the east side of the library.

Geology class celebrating National Park Service centennial with trip to 20 parks, monuments

By Christine Long

Before fall semester begins, a group of 20 undergraduate students at The University of Toledo is heading west for the mountains, hiking, hot springs, and hope of an antelope sighting.

“I’ve never seen the Grand Canyon,” Angela Williams, a UT junior and geology major, said.

The National Park Service turns 100 years old this month, and a geologist at The University of Toledo is taking his class on the two-week field trip to celebrate.

“Although national parks commonly are featured on my trips, this year’s excursion includes more parks than we have ever visited in a single trip in honor of the centennial.”

said Dr. Mark Camp, associate professor of geology in the Department of Environmental Sciences. “There is no better way to see the geology and natural history of the United States than to explore our national parks.

Many were created simply to focus on one landscape feature, like a cave or volcano.”

The group departed Aug. 6 from Bowman-Oddy Laboratories.

The tour through Colorado, Utah, Arizona and Nebraska called “Cavalcade of Parks” is packed with visits to 20 parks, monuments and recreation areas in the Rocky Mountains and Colorado Plateau regions.

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STACKING UP: Sheryl Stevens, director of collection services, handed books to David Remaklus, director of library operations. Journals and government documents had to be moved from one side of the third floor to the other during the renovation.

Questions about the renovations can be directed to Remaklus at 419.530.4030 or david.remaklus@utoledo.edu.

ROCK ON: Angela Williams, a UT junior majoring in geology, submitted this photo from a previous UT geology class trip to Rocky Mountain National Park. She is excited for this year’s trip.
AUG. 8, 2016

ESPN analyst to speak at Rocket Roundball Social Oct. 11

By Steve Easton

ESPN game and studio analyst Jay Bilas will serve as the guest speaker for Toledo’s annual Rocket Roundball Social Tuesday, Oct. 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. on the main floor in Savage Arena.

UT President Sharon L. Gaber is hosting the event, and all proceeds will go directly to The University of Toledo Men’s Basketball Progress Fund.

The Rocket Roundball Social, which is an event that has grown into a UT basketball tradition, offers individuals the opportunity to meet the UT president, Head Coach Tod Kowalczyk, and his staff and players, while enjoying food from some of Toledo’s finest restaurants.

Bilas, who is known for his extensive knowledge of men’s basketball and insightful analysis about the sports industry, joined ESPN in 1995 and calls the top men’s college basketball games involving the nation’s marquee teams and conferences. He joined ESPN’s Saturday Primetime Game of the Week telecasts in 2015, adding to his role on the popular Saturday morning and evening college basketball program, College GameDay. Bilas has been an analyst on the show that originates from the site of the Saturday Primetime telecast since its debut in 2005.

Kowalczyk is entering his seventh season at UT and has orchestrated a dramatic turnaround since his arrival in 2010. He has guided the Midnight Blue and Gold to a 98-65 (.601) win-loss mark over the last five years, including back-to-back 20-win campaigns in 2013-14 and 2014-15. Toledo also has registered 64 victories over the last three seasons, a total that ranks second among Mid-American Conference members. The Rockets also were the lone MAC school to be honored recently with the National Association of Basketball Coaches’ Team Academic Excellence Award. The honor was given to programs that possessed a 3.0 grade point average or better in the 2015-16 campaign.

The Rockets are returning three starters in 2016-17 with senior guard Jonathan Williams leading the way after ranking third in the MAC with 17.6 points per game. Williams will be joined by classmates Zach Garber (6.0 points per game, 4.8 rebounds per game), Jordan Lauf (4.6 points per game, 3.8 rebounds per game) and Steve Taylor Jr. (sat out 2015-16 after transferring from Marquette). UT also will have a pair of sophomores, Nate Navigato (8.4 points per game, 3.4 rebounds per game) and Jaelan Sanford (8.2 points per game, 2.0 rebounds per game) who were key contributors last season.

Advance ticket options include an individual ticket for $100 and a reserved table of 10 for $1,000.

Payments can be made via cash, credit card or check. Checks should be made payable to the UT Foundation.

Advance tickets by Friday, Oct. 7, by contacting Toledo basketball via email at toledombb@gmail.com or Assistant Coach Jason Kalsow at 419.530.7739.

Community invited to free movie night

Aug. 19 at Glass Bowl

By Paul Helgren

The University of Toledo will host a free movie night Friday, Aug. 19, in the Glass Bowl. Rocket fans of all ages are invited to watch “Toy Story” (PG) on the football field.

The gates will open at 6:30 p.m., and the movie is scheduled to start at 8 p.m. The UT football and volleyball teams will be in attendance, and fans can meet the student-athletes and get their autographs.

Fans also can enjoy a variety of in-stadium activities, including coloring stations, inflatable bounce houses and obstacle courses, corn hole and more.

The concession stands will be open on the west concourse, but fans also are allowed to bring their own food and drinks into the stadium.

Half-price Rocket football season tickets available for UT faculty, staff and retirees

By Paul Helgren

The University of Toledo faculty and staff, as well as UT retirees, may purchase up to two Rocket football season tickets at half price.

Season tickets for UT faculty, staff and retirees are as low as $40.

Ticket prices for UT faculty and staff range from $92.50 for Sideline A seats to $40 for the Ultimate Fan Plan. The Ultimate Fan Plan includes free food ($24 in concession vouchers), free UT gear ($20 Rocket Shop gift card), and free parking ($60 general admission season pass).

Ultimate Fan Plan tickets are located in sections 30-38. This is a $259 value for only $40.

To order tickets, stop by the UT Athletic Ticket Office located in the Sullivan Athletic Complex at Savage Arena or call 419.530.GOLD (4653).

The Rockets open their season at Arkansas State Friday, Sept. 2. Their first home game is Saturday, Sept. 10, vs. Maine.

UT Faculty/Staff/Retirees Football Season Tickets

Two tickets at half-price. Additional tickets are full price.

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2016 Toledo Football Home Games

Premium games in **bold.**
‘From the Heart’ Celebrity Wait Night to benefit cardiology fund

By Rebecca Schwan

It’s a night when UT Health physicians trade their white coats for aprons and their stethoscopes for sombreros. And instead of giving advice, they take orders from their patients.

The sixth annual “From the Heart” Celebrity Wait Night and fundraiser dinner will take place Monday, Aug. 15, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Loma Linda Restaurant, 10400 Airport Highway in Swanton.

Dr. Thomas Schwann, UTMC chief of staff and professor and interim chair of surgery, has participated in the event from the start and is known for his creative costuming.

“The food and drinks are great, the people are great, and the costumes are great,” he said. “They are a fun way to make the night memorable as we celebrate and raise money for a great cause.”

Al Mundt, whose family owns Loma Linda, initiated the event as a way to give back to the hospital he credits with saving his life. Mundt had a heart transplant in 1998 at the former Medical College of Ohio Hospital.

“Al has been a strong supporter of UT Heart and Vascular Center ever since,” said Dr. Samer Khouri, associate chief of cardiology. “He and his family are very grateful for the care he received and have been very generous in helping to promote cardiac care in our community.”

Funds raised by the celebrity waiter event support the Mundt Cardiology Endowment Fund at the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences. Established in 2008, the endowment supports new and innovative programs in advanced cardiac care at UTMC.

Khouri was the 2015 recipient of the Adela and Alfred Mundt Endowed Professorship in Transplantation Cardiology. His expertise is the diagnosis of diastolic heart failure and pulmonary hypertension and the interaction between the kidney and the heart.

“Receiving the endowment from the Mundt family and the University is a great honor,” Khouri said. “It is important to the work we are doing to provide quality medical care to cardiac patients.”

Khouri said he feels every major metro area should have a medical facility that can provide specialized cardiovascular care such as left ventricular assist devices (LVADs).

“Every year a half a million people are diagnosed with heart failure and only 3,000 transplants are performed,” he said. “The LVAD can save lives, serve as a bridge to transplant until a donor is found, and improve the quality of life for heart failure patients.”

Joining Schwann and Khouri as celebrity servers will be Dan Barbee, UTMC interim chief executive officer; Dr. Christopher Cooper, executive vice president of clinical affairs and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences; Sam McCrimmon, vice president for advancement; Dr. Laura Murphy, professor of medicine; and Dr. Mark Bonnell and Dr. Mark Burket, UTMC cardiologists.

Tricia Cullop and Tod Kowalczyk, UT women’s and men’s basketball coaches, and Mike O’Brien, vice president and director of athletics, also will serve patrons that evening.

“We will have a raffle with prizes ranging from suite seats at a UT Rocket football game up to $5,000 cash,” Schwann said. “With only 2,500 tickets available, the odds of winning a prize are really very good.”

Tickets are $10 each and will be available for purchase leading up to and during the event. Prize winners need not be present to win.

“Celebrity Wait Night is something that we really look forward to every year,” Khouri said. “It’s a fun event with a lot of laughs, and the patients enjoy giving their doctors orders for an evening.”

For more information about the event and to purchase raffle tickets, contact Jennifer Schaefer, major gifts officer, at 419.383.5071 or Jeanie Kunzer, manager of Loma Linda Restaurant, at 419.865.5455.

New medical class welcomed

A total of 173 medical students received their white coats and recited the pledge of ethics at a ceremony Aug. 4 in the Lois and Norman Nitschke Auditorium. The annual event is a rite practiced at medical schools across the country to welcome students to the clinical aspects of medical practice and emphasize professionalism and humanism in the field of medicine. More than 75 percent of the new students are Ohio residents, and one-third are from northwest Ohio.
Students search to understand the power of Pokémon Go

By Meghan Cunningham

Researchers at The University of Toledo are working to be among the first to provide data on why so many Pokémon Go players are so dedicated to catching ‘em all.

In a survey of players of the incredibly popular Nintendo augmented reality smart phone game, doctoral students in UT’s Health Education Program are working to add some quantitative data about those who spend hours and walk miles playing the game.

“You see the snapshots in the news about the good and the bad stories about individual people playing the game, but it is so new we don’t have data on the players,” said Victoria Wagner-Greene, the UT doctoral student who came up with the research project. “We’re working to be among the first to share who is playing this game and how it is impacting their lives.”

To play Pokémon Go, players create an avatar that searches for and catches Pokémon characters out in the community using GPS on their mobile devices. PokéStops are landmarks where you can find characters and equipment, such as the Poké Balls you use to catch them, that are in popular public locations, including several on UT’s campus, making it an ideal location to survey a large number of players.

It was seeing students on campus from the University of Michigan who had traveled to Toledo specifically to catch more characters that inspired Wagner-Greene, who plays the game herself, to create this research project to learn more about that dedication.

Because she studies public health, of particular interest is how has playing Pokémon Go impacted the player’s physical activity. As players catch more characters and earn more steps, they move up through the levels of the game. Data on the safety concerns and social aspects of the game also will be gathered.

The survey asks players questions about how many hours per day they play the game, has it increased their physical activity, have they trespassed or run into people or objects while playing, do they play after dark, and have they played with strangers. It also gathers demographic information, such as age, race, gender, marital status and education level.

Wagner-Greene and her colleagues Amy Wotring and Tom Castor, also UT doctoral students in the Health Education Program, began surveying players last month at UT and other area hot spots, including parks. They hope to get more than 500 players completing the paper survey and an additional insight from 1,000 more players contacted through online forums.

Associate professor selected as Health Law Scholar

By Kirsten M. Winck

Elizabeth McCuskey, an associate professor at the UT College of Law, recently was selected as one of four 2016 Health Law Scholars by the American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics and Saint Louis University Law School’s Center for Health Law Studies.

The society’s Health Law Scholars are chosen using blind selection by a nominating committee composed of nine health law and bioethics scholars from across the country. Scholars are selected based on the originality of their articles and likelihood of making a significant contribution to health law scholarship. McCuskey will participate in Scholars Weekend in September and present her work to an audience of distinguished health law professors.

Her article is titled “Affordable Care Preemption.” The work “examines preemption doctrine in the light of health reform, focusing on the Affordable Care Act’s health insurance provisions,” McCuskey explained.

“This project illuminates the novel ways that the Affordable Care Act deploys preemption and scrutinizes its implications for the development of preemption doctrine and the implementation of health reform.”

McCuSkey joined the UT law faculty in 2012 to coordinate the college’s health law concentration and direct the University’s JD/MD and JD/MPH joint-degree programs. In particular, the new JD/MPH joint-degree program can be completed in three and a half to four years and offers graduates a unique, interdisciplinary perspective on law and its role in promoting public health.

Additionally, McCuskey teaches Civil Procedure, Jurisdiction, Health Law, and Food and Drug Law, and was the winner of the Beth Eisler First-Year Teaching Award in 2014.

“It is an honor to be named a 2016 Health Law Scholar,” McCuskey said. “I am thrilled that the nominating committee found ‘Affordable Care Preemption’ so promising, and I look forward to sharing my work with this esteemed group.”

“Health law is an extremely hot topic in legal education,” said Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Geoffrey Rapp. “Legal and compliance jobs in the health field represent a major growth area, and we’re lucky to have a rising star in the field like Professor McCuskey leading our interdisciplinary efforts in the area.”

UT law professor appointed to commission to recommend federal judge candidate

By Christine Long

A constitutional law scholar at The University of Toledo was chosen to help identify the best candidate to fill a vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

Rebecca Zietlow, the Charles W. Fornoff Professor of Law and Values in the UT College of Law, is one of more than a dozen members of the bipartisan judiciary advisory commission announced by U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Rob Portman (R-OH).

The retirement of the Hon. Gregory L. Frost created the vacancy on the federal bench.

“I am honored and excited to serve on this commission,” Zietlow said. “As a professor of constitutional law, I understand the importance of a strong federal judiciary, and I am happy to play a role in making that happen.”

The Southern District Court serves more than five million Ohioans in 48 counties throughout Cincinnati, Columbus and Dayton.

The vetting process requires a candidate’s nomination by the president of the United States and confirmation by the U.S. Senate.
Social Gastropub to open at Gateway Aug. 15

By Christine Long

Former University of Toledo Rocket quarterback Bruce Gradkowski is debuting a new restaurant at the Gateway.

Social Gastropub will open to the public Monday, Aug. 15, at 11 a.m. at the retail center on the corner of the UT Main Campus on Secor Road at Dorr Street.

The renovated eatery replaces Gradkowski’s, a bar and restaurant that closed last month for the transition.

“The quality of food will still be amazing, but the environment will be more relaxed and casual to appeal to a larger crowd,” Gradkowski said in a phone call from training camp with the NFL’s Pittsburgh Steelers. “It’s a hip, new and exciting place to be on a campus that holds a special place in my heart. We’ve reinvested in a place where students can hang out and be social at Social.”

Gradkowski played for the Rockets from 2002 to 2005. Social Gastropub serves as the third location of a restaurant concept Gradkowski and co-owner Mike Graber launched in Perrysburg near Levis Commons three years ago that features bourbon flights, a rotating craft beer selection, creative cocktails, and a menu of food updated every two months. The other Social Gastropub location is in Edwardsville, Ill.

Facebook teases for Social Gastropub in Toledo include tiki drinks and an Italian sandwich oozing local raspberry preserves.

“We wanted to create something more user-friendly to students,” Graber said. “Social has an eclectic mix of customers in Perrysburg — anywhere from seniors to 16-year-olds. But we’re also trying something different in Toledo. Customers will not only be able to build their own mac and cheese, but they’ll be able to build their own pizza, too.”

Social Gastropub will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Appetizers will be 25 percent off from 3 to 5 p.m.

Social Gastropub is located on the north end of the Gateway, which also includes Barnes & Noble University Bookstore, Starbucks, Domino’s Pizza, Rice Blvd., Verizon Wireless Zone, Huntington Bank, Great Clips, Jimmy John’s and Bubble Tea.

UT Health interim chief administrative officer named to permanent post

By Rebecca Schwan

University of Toledo Health’s interim chief administrative officer of outpatient integrated clinical operations has been selected to fill the permanent position.

Allen Seifert, who also will continue in his role as administrator for the Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center, was named to the post effective July 11.

“Allan’s vast experience in clinical operations, process improvement and project management, along with his proven ability to partner with faculty, makes him an excellent fit for this critical position,” said Dan Barbee, interim chief executive officer of UTMC.

Seifert said he looks forward to the opportunity to work to ensure that UT Health ambulatory clinics, both on campus and in the community, operate efficiently while raising the bar on patient-centered, high-quality care.

“The only way this can happen is to partner with our faculty and staff where everyone is pulling in the same direction,” he said.

Seifert joined the Medical College of Ohio in 1987 as a biomedical engineering technologist. In his nearly 30 years with the institution, Seifert also has served as the director of purchasing, director of support services, and director of radiation oncology. Among his notable career accomplishments are operationalizing the cancer service line and increasing revenue in Radiation Oncology by nearly $5 million in less than two years.

You are invited to

A RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY TO MARK THE COMPLETION OF RENOVATIONS
To the William S. Carlson Library
The University of Toledo
Thursday, August 18 ~ 3:00-5:00 p.m.
THIRD FLOOR, WILLIAM S. CARLSON LIBRARY

OPENING REMARKS BY DR. SHARON GABER, UT PRESIDENT AND DR. ANDREW HSU, PROVOST
REFRESHMENTS TO BE SERVED
PARKING AVAILABLE IN LOT 13 AND THE WEST PARKING RAMP
FOR MORE INFORMATION: 419-530-2170
New tool in Blackboard allows faculty to bring library resources to online students

Faculty can now bring the library into the Blackboard classroom with a new tool, the UTMOST Curriculum Builder, creating an innovative and convenient way for students to access online library resources. UTMOST Curriculum Builder is available now from the Tools menu option in Blackboard. When added to a course, UTMOST Curriculum Builder provides an in-course search box for library resources. Search by keyword, author or title. Items from the search can be added to the course and are visible to students as a reading list.

Faculty can create annotated reading lists for assignments with instructions and PDF links. Students can click through to full text.

For step-by-step information on how to add UTMOST Curriculum Builder to a Blackboard course, faculty can visit http://utoledo.do/curriculumbuilder. Questions about the UTMOST Curriculum Builder can be directed to Elaine Reeves, associate lecturer and online learning librarian at Carlson Library, at elaine.reeves@utoledo.edu or 419.530.2868.

Intership

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“We’ve had excellent results with the caliber of University of Toledo interns,” Hicks-Hudson said. “Our workforce is strengthened as interns perform meaningful work, and the program enhances our ability to hire select graduates because relationships have already developed.”

Toledo Talent Keeps Toledo Great builds upon an existing summer research program that began in 2007 that has placed students in the city’s finance, neighborhoods, plan commission, law, parks, human resources, community relations, fleet and facility, youth commission and health departments. More internship opportunities now will be available throughout the year in even more city departments and divisions.

The program is open to all UT undergraduate students in good academic standing who are interested in spending a semester gaining practical knowledge, skills and abilities in a professional work environment. The University will assist students with their résumés, cover letters and applications to be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

The city of Toledo will identify internship opportunities in areas throughout the local government where students can provide valuable assistance serving the citizens of Toledo. Students will be matched with internships according to their major, skills and interests.

The interns will work up to 20 hours per week during the academic year and up to 30 hours per week in the summer, and students in many degree programs will have the option to earn course credit for the experience.

Geology class

continued from p. 5

Locations will include Rocky Mountain National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, Arches National Park, Mesa Verde National Park, Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Dinosaur National Monument.

“I’m looking forward to finally being able to say I’ve been to every national park in Utah,” said Williams, a Toledo native who has already visited 25 national parks. “Each park is full of its own history. The National Park Service has been able to save so much of this country — not just the natural environment and animals, but a lot of the parks incorporate battle sites, forts, and amazing manors where people lived.”

Students will spend most evenings at campgrounds in state or national parks and return to UT Friday, Aug. 19. A $200 field trip fee covers student expenses for camping and motel costs, as well as admission fees to the parks.

UT Health to hold seminar on cancer and female sexuality

Cancer treatment can have a dramatic effect on a woman’s well-being, but it doesn’t have to rob her of the joys of an intimate relationship.

A special seminar aimed at improving the sex life of women undergoing cancer treatment will be held Thursday, Aug. 18, at 6 p.m. at UT Health’s Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center. Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Cancer treatment can cause menopause-like symptoms such as hot flashes, vaginal dryness and low sex drive in some women. Surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, coupled with the emotional stress of battling cancer, also can affect desire and sexual function, but there is help available.

“We see these difficulties particularly among breast cancer patients. Unfortunately, a lot of women just put up with it or give up,” said Dr. Terry Gibbs, OB/GYN and director of the UT Health Menopause Clinic. “Women should know there is help available, and it’s important to include sexual health as a part of their survivorship care plan.”

Hormonal and non-hormonal therapies, prescription drugs, herbal therapies, and keeping communication at the forefront of the relationship can prove to be effective in improving sexual health.

“Cancer Treatment and Female Sexuality: Love in the New Normal” will be presented as a part of the Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center’s Wellness Information Series. Gibbs is certified through the North American Menopausal Society and is a regional leader in the treatment of menopause and menopausal symptoms.

Space is limited, and reservations are required. Email eleanorndanacancer@utoledo.edu or call 419.383.5243.

NEWS
**Ride on**

Tim Schlachter, center, led the way as a team of 30 bicyclists brought the Journey of Hope to UT last week. Schlachter, who is the crew chief, is flanked by fellow UT students Conor Welsch, left, who participated in the 2015 event and joined the team for the local ride this year, and Zach LePla, far right. The team started pedaling from San Francisco last month. Journey of Hope is a program of the Ability Experience, the national philanthropy of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, which raises funds and awareness for people with disabilities. Three teams of men from Pi Kappa Phi chapters from across the country are biking about 4,000 miles from the West Coast to Washington, D.C., where they are scheduled to meet Saturday, Aug. 13. At stops along the way, the students visit organizations that serve people with disabilities. While on Main Campus, the cyclists ate dinner, stayed overnight at the Academic House, and fueled up with breakfast at the McCombs Greek Village before continuing their trek.

**Time of the season**

Amy Campbell, house supervisor in Nursing Services, picked up some ears of corn at the Toledo Farmers’ Market last month on UT’s Health Science Campus. Fresh produce will be back Wednesday, Aug. 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the loop drive in front of the Block Health Science Building and the Center for Creative Education.
"THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO IS ONE OF THE FEW SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY THAT OFFERS YOU THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A DOUBLE MAJOR IN MEDICINE AND LAW."

—Rudel
Dean, JD/MD program
College of Law and
College of Medicine & Life Sciences

MOTIVATION

TO A GREATER DEGREE

RUDELM IS MOTIVATED TO BE SUCCESSFUL.
After earning his PhD, he is now advancing toward his dream to be the physician CEO of a health system as a student in The University of Toledo’s dual JD/MD program. Rudel is balancing structured coursework, clinical opportunities and legal externships for both degrees, but still devotes quality time to his nephew who he raises.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW UT HELPS MOTIVATED STUDENTS LIKE RUDEL PURSUE THEIR DREAMS, VISIT
> UTOLEDO.EDU/GREATERDEGREE