UTMC sets path forward to serve health-care needs of community

By Meghan Cunningham

After a thorough review during the past year, The University of Toledo leadership has determined that UT Medical Center will continue to operate as a teaching hospital, serving the community in South Toledo.

In addition to reviewing UTMC operations, University leaders studied the rapidly evolving health-care market to determine the most viable path forward for the medical center. They also took into account the change going on at the University, in the industry and in local communities.

“In a rapidly changing industry such as health care, it was imperative that we take the time to thoroughly review our operations, the community we serve, and the dynamics of the health-care market. We needed to be sure we could successfully adapt to the changing environment we live in and continue to serve our 80,000 neighbors effectively,” UT President Sharon L. Gaber said. “We have confidence in our team, and we appreciate the patience everyone exhibited while we worked toward determining this path forward.”

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Activist to give keynote address for Black History Month

By Vicki L. Kroll

Dr. Angela Davis, an activist, scholar and author, will speak at The University of Toledo’s Black History Month Kickoff Luncheon Saturday, Feb. 4, at noon in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium.

She is a Distinguished Professor Emerita of History of Consciousness at the University of California at Santa Cruz, where she also led the Feminist Studies Department. Davis is a founding member of Critical Resistance, a national organization dedicated to dismantling the industrial prison complex, and an affiliate of Sisters Inside, an abolitionist organization based in Australia that works in solidarity with women in prison.

Her books include “Women, Race and Class,” “If They Come in the Morning (Radical Thinkers),” “Are Prisons Obsolete?” and “Angela Davis: An Autobiography.”

“Dr. Angela Davis will urge the audience to seriously think about the changes that have occurred from the 1960s to the present with regard to rights, activism, and social and cultural change as it relates to African Americans,” Dr. Kaye M. Patten, senior vice president for student affairs, said.

“We are proud to welcome Dr. Davis, who has always been an advocate for positive change. To be able to hear her personal stories will be an incredible honor,” Dr. Willie McKether, vice president for diversity and inclusion, said.

In addition to Davis’ talk, the UT Gospel Choir will perform at the luncheon. A limited number of $20 tickets are still available for the event, which is free for UT students who RSVP. To purchase tickets or RSVP, go to utoledo.edu/diversity.

The event will be streamed live in the Thompson Student Union Ingman Room.

The luncheon is presented by the UT Division of Student Affairs, the UT Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Toledo chapter of the Links Inc., and the Study Hour Club.

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Enrollment increases through strengthened efforts to recruit, retain more students

By Meghan Cunningham

The University of Toledo has 372 more students enrolled for spring semester than at the same time last year, reflecting continued efforts to recruit and retain additional students.

The total enrollment for spring semester 2017 is 19,221, according to official 15-day census numbers. UT had 18,849 students enrolled in spring semester 2016.

At the beginning of this academic year, UT experienced its first fall enrollment increase in six years, with 20,648 students taking classes.

The University has continued its efforts to encourage students to continue...
Reception slated for longtime dean

Campus community members are invited to a farewell reception for Dr. Nagi Naganathan Friday, Feb. 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Thomas and Elizabeth Brady Engineering Innovation Center.

In November, Naganathan, dean of the College of Engineering, was named the seventh president of the Oregon Institute of Technology.

“As you can imagine, this is a bittersweet moment for me. UT granted me the privilege of shaping the futures of thousands of students in many ways. I am truly thankful for the same, and I am so proud of how well my students are doing after their graduation,” Naganathan said. “When I joined UT three decades ago, there was in no way I could have imagined the wonderful journey I have had here. This was possible because of the extraordinary friendship and support of my faculty and staff colleagues, as well as our friends and benefactors in the larger UT community, for which I will always remain grateful.”

Naganathan joined the UT faculty in 1986 and has led the College of Engineering as dean since 2003 after serving as the college’s interim dean for two years. He also served as interim president of the University from 2014 to 2015. Naganathan is a tenured professor of mechanical, industrial and manufacturing engineering, with expertise in smart material systems and structures, robotics, vibrations and control, and microcomputer applications in electromechanical systems.

Under Naganathan’s leadership, the College of Engineering has achieved record high student enrollments and elevated its mandatory co-op experience program — one of only eight in the nation — exceeding 15,000 placements in partnership with more than 1,600 employers in more than 40 states in the U.S. and in more than 30 countries.

He grew the College of Engineering with the addition of the Nitschke Technology Commercialization Complex and the Thomas and Elizabeth Brady Engineering Innovation Center. Naganathan also created the Engineering Leadership Institute with philanthropic support from Roy and Marcia Armes. Roy Armes is a 1975 UT mechanical engineering graduate who served as CEO of Cooper Tire & Rubber Co.

Enrollment

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their studies with a fall to spring semester undergraduate retention rate for 2016-17 of 89.2 percent, which is on par with the previous year.

“I am proud to see our increased recruitment and retention efforts result in more students choosing to come to UT and succeeding in their studies,” President Sharon L. Gaber said.

The spring 2017 enrollment includes 14,858 undergraduate students, an increase over the 14,679 enrolled the previous spring. These figures are partially attributed to a larger number of new transfer students and high school students taking courses at the University.

The University experienced stronger growth in graduate students with 4,363 graduate students currently enrolled. The 4.6 percent increase over the 4,170 enrolled in spring 2016 includes a 31 percent increase in first-time graduate students and a 44 percent increase in new international graduate students.
Physician’s research earns Sigma Xi award

By Kim Goodin

Dr. Blair Grubb, director of UT Medical Center’s Cardiac Electrophysiology Program, has been named the 2015-2016 winner of the Dion D. Raftopoulos/Sigma Xi Award for Outstanding Research, an honor given by the University’s Sigma Xi chapter.

Dr. Steven Federman, professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and president of UT Sigma Xi, presented a plaque and cash award of $1,500 to Grubb Jan. 25 during a ceremony on Health Science Campus.

Grubb, who also is Distinguished University Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics and director of the Syncope and Autonomic Disorders Clinic, said he and a team of international researchers have studied the field of autonomics for more than 30 years. The Baltimore native is one of the world’s authorities in the treatment of illnesses that include syncope (abrupt, brief loss of consciousness) and other disorders of the autonomic nervous system.

“This award is presented to faculty who have made significant contributions in their fields of research,” Federman said. “Dr. Grubb’s accomplishments in the study of autonomic disorders while a professor at UT are truly impressive, and UT Sigma Xi is pleased to honor him.”

International recognition as a pioneering researcher, Grubb identifies autonomics as a new field. His work has had a significant impact on the medicine of the autonomic nervous system around the globe, and has improved the lives of hundreds of patients suffering from these disorders.

Grubb, who called his study of autonomic disorders his “life’s work,” discussed his research in a lecture titled “Autonomics: The Birth of a New Science” during the ceremony.

“When I began in this field,” Grubb said, “we knew virtually nothing about these disorders, and patients were often disabled and without hope. Over the last three decades, we have carefully characterized and classified these illnesses and established diagnostic criteria for them. Recently, we have embarked on an ambitious program to identify the molecular, genetic and immunologic causes of these disorders. In addition, we have used this information to discover a series of new and innovative therapies that can return close to 80 percent of these patients to near-normal lives.”

His patients, he added, routinely come to UTMC from around the world for treatment.

He added that he is humbled by the Sigma Xi award, noting that Sigma Xi’s national office has honored a number of Nobel laureates, including Albert Einstein and Al Gore. It is the most recent recognition for Grubb’s dedication to medical research and patient care. In 2016, he was the recipient of UT’s Career Achievement Award. The year before, he was named Dysautonomia International’s Physician of the Year, as well as the British Heart Rhythm Society and Arrhythmia Alliance’s Medical Professional of the Decade — one of the only non-British citizens to be so honored.

He has authored more than 240 scientific papers, five books and 35 book chapters during his career in medicine.

Also known for a creative prowess, Grubb has published more than 50 essays and poems, including a book titled “The Calling.”

Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Honor Society, is a national organization that recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of scientific research and knowledge. A voiceover on the Sigma Xi website stated, “The honor of members is that we are a society of integrity… that we have been chosen and selected to represent science, that we are members of a society with Nobel laureates, and we carry a tradition more than 100 years old.”

HONORED: Dr. Steven Federman, right, shook hands with Dr. Blair Grubb after presenting him with the 2015-2016 Dion D. Raftopoulos/Sigma Xi Award for Outstanding Research.

The organization has 60,000 members worldwide. Chapters usually are found in universities, industrial facilities and government laboratories, as well as other locations where scientific research is conducted.

Grubb succeeds Dr. Yanfa Yan, professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, the 2014-2015 Sigma Xi awardee.

In memoriam

Dr. James B. Farison, Waco, Texas, professor and dean emeritus of the College of Engineering, died Jan. 19 at age 78. He graduated summa cum laude from UT in 1960 with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering. Farison returned to his alma mater in 1964 as an assistant professor of electrical engineering. Two years later, he was promoted to associate professor and to professor in 1974. He was named the first assistant dean for graduate programs in the College of Engineering in 1969. One year later, he was tapped to serve as acting dean of the college and was selected as the seventh dean in 1971. The McClure, Ohio native returned to the faculty in 1980, and he moved from the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department to the Bioengineering Department in 1996. Two years later, he retired. During his career, Farison collected several honors, including UT’s 1986 Outstanding Teacher Award, 1983 UT College of Engineering Distinguished Alumnus designation, and the technical Society of Toledo’s 1984 Engineer of the Year recognition. In 1979, he was named a Fellow of the Ohio Academy of Science. Farison’s list of University service included the Faculty Senate and the Sigma Xi chapter.

Beverly L. Patrick, Maumee, a charter member of the Satellites Auxiliary, died Jan. 16 at age 84. She chaired several committees over the years and started the American Red Cross blood drives at MCO. She is survived by Dr. James R. Patrick, professor emeritus of pathology.
Criminal justice and legal specialties career/internship fair Feb. 2

The University of Toledo Criminal Justice and Paralegal Studies programs will host a career and internship fair Thursday, Feb. 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium.

Representatives from nearly 90 agencies will be available to meet with students interested in law enforcement, corrections, social work, probation and legal specialties.

Students of all majors are encouraged to attend and meet potential employers, including the FBI; police departments throughout Ohio, Michigan and Indiana; the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency; Marshall & Melhorn LLC; and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“Students should dress professionally and bring a resumé,” Dr. Wendi Goodlin-Fahncke, associate professor of criminal justice and director of the Criminal Justice Undergraduate Program, said. “Even if you’re not looking for a job or internship, this is a great opportunity to network for the future.”

Still time to apply for 2017 grant from Women & Philanthropy; $75,000 available

Wednesday, Feb. 15, is the deadline to submit an application for a grant from Women & Philanthropy at The University of Toledo.

UT staff, faculty and students from all campuses are eligible to apply. Women & Philanthropy grant applications are available at utfoundation.org/foundation/home/women_philanthropy.aspx.

To be considered for a grant, all application guidelines must be followed. The Women & Philanthropy Grants Committee will review and evaluate the applications, and the general membership will vote to determine the recipient(s). Grant amounts vary from year to year.

For 2017, Women & Philanthropy has allocated $75,000 to award in grants for UT projects and programs.

Grant recipients will be announced in May.

For more information, contact Chris Spengler, director of advancement relations, and a member and administrative contact for Women & Philanthropy, at chris.spengler@utoledo.edu or 419.530.4927.

Satellites to hold 45-hour shoe sale

Who doesn’t love a great new pair of shoes? Stop by the 45-hour shoe sale!

The Satellites Auxiliary in conjunction with Outside the Box Shoes will hold the sale from Monday, Jan. 30, at 5 p.m. to Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 2 p.m. in the Four Seasons Bistro Atrium.

Brand names will include Skechers, Merrell, Spira, Dansko, Alegria, Klogs, New Balance, Bearpaw and more.

Cash, check, credit cards and payroll deduction will be accepted.

Profits will benefit the auxiliary’s campus scholarships.

The Satellites Auxiliary promotes education, research and service programs; provides support of patient programs in accordance with the needs and approval of administration; conducts fundraising events; and offers volunteer services.

For more information on the shoe sale, contact Lynn Brand, president of the Satellites, at lynn.brand@utoledo.edu.
Journal of Great Lakes Research names UT algae expert’s paper as one of most highly cited

By Christine Billau

The Journal of Great Lakes Research identified a University of Toledo ecologist’s “high-quality research” on harmful algal blooms as one of its five most highly cited papers for nearly three years.

In 2013, the quarterly journal published the paper titled “A Novel Method for Tracking Western Lake Erie Microcystis Blooms, 2002-2011,” by Dr. Thomas Bridgeman, UT algae researcher and associate professor of ecology.

Bridgeman’s paper was cited 33 times between January 2014 and June 2016, according to Scopus Article Metrics. It ranks in the 98th percentile compared to aquatic science articles of the same age.

“It’s nice to know that other people are using your work and building on what you have done,” Bridgeman said. “Our goal is to advance the science and provide knowledge that ultimately benefits society, and I think my students and I did that here.”

Bridgeman and his students developed a new method to measure how much harmful algae there is in the lake over the course of the summer and compared the harmful algal bloom from one year to another. In the paper, Bridgeman included data on a decade of harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie from 2002 to 2011.

“Other researchers are now using this method, and therefore cite our method when they publish their own studies,” Bridgeman said. “In addition, the annual records are extremely valuable for any researcher who is trying to understand how the health of the lake has been changing and what we need to do to get harmful algal blooms under control.”

“Together, our findings helped to convince the U.S. and Canadian governments that we need to decrease phosphorus entering Lake Erie by about 40 percent in order to reduce harmful algal blooms to a level that we can live with.”

Bridgeman’s research was a major contribution to the development of models that directly link the size of the annual harmful algal bloom with the amount of spring and summer phosphorus discharge from the Maumee River.

“Several of my colleagues are pursuing this line of research now,” Bridgeman said.

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Additional topics on University transportation will be covered in the coming weeks, and specific information about the new parking system will be released once details are finalized.

Parking

is off Oakwood Avenue near the College of Engineering complex — has readily available parking spaces during peak hours.

“On Main Campus, keep in mind that high-demand parking is on the north end of campus, nearest Bancroft Street,” advised Sherri Kaspar, manager of parking safety services. “There is always parking available on the south end of campus, particularly south of the bike trail.

“If you’re parking on Health Science Campus,” Kaspar offered, “Lot 46 near the Dana Cancer Center is your best bet for parking during peak times.”

Faculty, staff and students are reminded that UT Transit Services has bus stops conveniently available throughout campus, and buses run approximately every 15 minutes. For more details about these services, visit transit.utoledo.edu. Your Rocket ID card will enable you to ride for free, whether you are an employee or student.

“While we continue working toward implementing a new parking system for the University for fall semester 2017, we want drivers to know that there are available spaces throughout the day,” noted Larry Kelley, executive vice president for finance and administration. “Drivers can find parking and often reach their destination sooner if they simply bypass high-demand lots during peak times and head straight for the lower-demand lots.”

Kelley also emphasized that using other modes of transportation to get to and around campus — such as walking, biking and riding UT and TARTA buses — not only are healthier options for individuals, but also are healthier for the environment. “We have a great opportunity here to use greener options for transportation,” he said. “There are ways for traveling relatively short distances other than driving.”

Additional topics on University transportation will be covered in the coming weeks, and specific information about the new parking system will be released once details are finalized.
Friday night movie

UT will continue its Fridays on Film Series this semester. The French cinema classic “Hiroshima Mon Amour” will be shown Friday, Feb. 3. A married French actress travels to Japan to make a film about peace in the aftermath of World War II. While there, she has a passionate affair with a Japanese architect. Their romance stirs up ghosts of the war and lovers of the past. Directed by Alain Resnais, “Hiroshima Mon Amour” is known for its innovative artistic devices and poetic screenplay. Tickets are $10 for general admission and $5 for students, UT employees and alumni, military members, and seniors 60 and older. Classic movies also will be projected from film in March and April. Get tickets at utoledo.tix.com or by calling the Center for Performing Arts Box Office at 419.530.ARTS (2787).

Piano series to continue Feb. 4-5

By Angela Riddel

The Dorothy MacKenzie Price Piano Series will continue with guest pianist Caroline Hong visiting campus this week. Hong will present a master class Saturday, Feb. 4, at 10 a.m. and a recital Sunday, Feb. 5, at 3 p.m. Both free, public events will be held in the Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall.

Her program will feature “The Goldberg Variations” by Johann Sebastian Bach, originally for harpsichord. “[‘The Goldberg Variations’] have never been performed on the UT piano series. But they are always a treat to hear in a live performance,” said Dr. Michael Boyd, UT professor of piano, who organizes pianists for the series.

The work comes with an interesting tale about its origin, Boyd added. Legend has it that Bach composed the work for a count who suffered from insomnia. The count’s harpsichordist, Johann Gottlieb Goldberg, was pressed into service to perform the work whenever the count found himself up at night pacing the floors. While that may not be why the work was written, Goldberg is often credited as the first person to have played the variations, hence he bear his name.

Hong, associate professor of keyboard at Ohio State University, is internationally active as a soloist, chamber musician, lecturer and master class teacher at universities, institutions and competitions.

For more information on the piano series, contact Boyd at michael.boyd@utoledo.edu or 419.530.2183.

Rocket football to hold signing day event Feb. 1

By Paul Helgren

The UT football coaching staff will host a special presentation of its 2017 recruiting class Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 4 p.m. in Savage Arena.

Doors will open at 3:30 p.m. The event is free to all Rocket fans and will be streamed live on ESPN3. Fans may park for free in area 5 located west of Savage Arena.

Head Coach Jason Candle and his assistant coaching staff will review their 2017 recruiting class and show video highlights of each signee at the event. Feb. 1 is the first day that high school seniors are allowed to sign national letters of intent.

Following the presentation, Rocket fans also will have a chance to meet the coaches at a reception and sign their own “letter of intent” with the football team. Fans who sign a letter committing to purchase season tickets for the 2017 season can get their “signing day” photo taken with Candle.

Season ticket information will be available. Current season ticket holders may renew their season tickets at the event.

The concession stands will be open at the event. Fans also may enter to win Rocket gear from Rocky’s Locker, a 2017 football parking pass, or four tickets to the 2017 home opener.

The Rockets will open the 2017 season at home vs. Elon Thursday, Aug. 31.

For season ticket information, call 419.530.GOLD (4653).
Poetry, paint night set for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

By Vicki L. Kroll

Spoken word poet and HIV/AIDS advocate Mary Bowman will headline the Black AIDS Awareness Poetry and Paint Session Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. at Club Evolution, 519 N. Reynolds Road.

“Mary is known to be fearless as she shares her story with audiences around the Washington metropolitan area,” Kennyetta White, minority outreach coordinator for the UT Ryan White Program, said.

At 6 months old, Bowman was diagnosed with HIV. She found out about that diagnosis in fourth grade and began writing poetry to express herself in high school.


“‘Be the change you wish to see in the world’ is a quote that Mary lives by, organizing community events to raise money for HIV/AIDS awareness, facilitating support groups for HIV-positive youth, and sharing her personal experiences being born HIV-positive through the art of spoken word,” Richard W. Meeker, manager of fundraising and special projects for the Ryan White Program, said.

In addition to performing and writing poetry, Bowman has established an organization called POET (People Over Entertainment), which uses visual and performing arts to bring awareness and education about HIV/AIDS.

Bowman appeared at the University in 2015.

Local poets Huntor Prey, Lonnie Hamilton, Jordan Bowman appeared at the University in 2015.

Black History Month

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Listed by date, other events that will take place at the University in honor of Black History Month will include:

• Wednesday, Feb. 8 — “Real Talk: Mental Health in the Black Community” at 6:30 p.m. in Thompson Student Union Room 2500. Sponsored by the UT Office of Multicultural Student Success, the free, public event will be facilitated by Dr. Steven Kniffley, assistant professor in the School of Professional Psychology at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. He is the author of the book, “Understanding the Mind of the Black Male.”

• Thursday, Feb. 16 — Dr. Damon Tweedy will discuss race and health disparities at 7 p.m. in Collie Building Room 1200 on UT’s Health Science Campus. He is an assistant professor of psychiatry at Duke University Medical Center and a staff physician at the Durham Veteran Affairs Medical Center. His articles on race and medicine have been published by The New York Times, Chicago Tribune and The Washington Post, as well as by several medical journals. His free, public talk is sponsored by We Are STEMm, a UT student organization dedicated to empowering peers from underrepresented populations who are interested in science, technology, engineering, math and medicine.

• Friday, Feb. 24 — The Black Student Union 48th Annual Fashion Show at 6 p.m. in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium. This year’s theme is “All Around the World.” The show will feature fashion from countries around the globe, particularly places represented by UT students. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased at the Ask Rocky counter in the Thompson Student Union or at the door. All proceeds will go toward scholarships to support African-American students.

For more information on UT’s events for Black History Month, contact David Young, director of the Toledo Excel Program, at david.young@utoledo.edu or 419.530.3815.
Saturday Morning Science programs return

Why humans love music, this year’s solar eclipse, and bees — these are some of the topics that will be addressed during Saturday Morning Science.

The free, public programs will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Memorial Field House Room 2100. A light breakfast sponsored in part by Barry Bagels will be available prior to the talks.

Presented by the UT Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Saturday Morning Science aims to educate, engage and entertain.

“We try to come up with topics that are of general public interest as well as interesting to us. Everyone should feel welcome to come,” Dr. Joseph Schmidt, UT professor of chemistry and an organizer of the event, said.

Listed by date, the programs and speakers are:

• Feb. 4 — “From Scorpion Skin to Photonic Devices: New Technology Inspired by Nature” by Bruno Ullrich, owner of Ullrich Photonics LLC, Wayne, Ohio.

• Feb. 18 — “From the River to Our Taps: The Poisoning of a City” by Monique Wilhelm, laboratory manager and lecturer in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Michigan in Flint.

• Feb. 25 — “From Science Labs to Your Homes: Be Citizen Scientists During the Solar Eclipse (Aug. 21)” by Dr. Kevin Czajkowski, UT professor of geography and lead director for Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment MISSION EARTH.

• March 18 — “From Petroleum to Fuel: Boiling Oil in Modern Times” by Aaron Coulter, process engineering manager at the Toledo Refining Co. LLC.

• April 1 — “From Pollen to Honey: What Are the Bees Telling Us?” by Joan Mandell, beekeeper and educator with Citybees Detroit and Green Toe Gardens.

• April 29 — “From the Stone Age to Today: Why Do Humans Love Music, and What Has Physics Got to Do With It?” by Dr. Steven Errede, professor emeritus of physics at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

“These programs are designed to pique interest in all ages. I hope the younger members who attend the talks think about science as a career,” Schmidt said.

He invited anyone with questions regarding the programs or topic suggestions for future programs to contact him at joseph.schmidt@utoledo.edu.

Free parking will be available in area 13 and the west parking ramp.

For more information about Saturday Morning Science, go to facebook.com/SaturdayMorningScience or contact Schmidt at joseph.schmidt@utoledo.edu.

Breakfast serves up conversation

Fourteen faculty and staff members attended the first Breakfast with the President Jan. 26. Dr. Sharon L. Gaber welcomed their questions and discussed topics that included the future of UT Medical Center, increased enrollment, a stronger focus on research, and improved collaboration with other universities. The new monthly breakfast series provides an additional way for employees to interact directly with Gaber while becoming more informed on University topics so they may share what they learn with colleagues. A student series is planned to launch later this semester.
University launches option on myUT portal to use preferred first name in email, directory systems

By Christine Billau

University of Toledo students, faculty and staff now have the option to manually change their first name to their preferred name in systems where it’s visible to the University community.

The preferred name would be displayed in place of the legal first name in the myUT portal, Outlook email, eDirectory, BlackBoard Learn and Self-Service for all class lists, course schedules, course rosters and any other non-legal document. It does not change an individual’s actual email address. The first name in the email display name also would reflect the preferred name.

The change can be made on the myUT portal beginning this spring semester. It’s a self-service process that does not require approval.

UT made the move to offer the preferred-name option in response to input from the LGBTQA community.

“This is an important step in supporting those who are in transition,” Dr. Willie McKether, vice president for diversity and inclusion, said. “This allows how you identify yourself to be reflected in UT systems, whether it be a transgender issue or a nickname you prefer. We have colleagues who are not comfortable using their given names. This gives them the flexibility to use their preferred name. We want to ensure every member of the UT community feels included, respected and free from discrimination.”

To add, change or delete a preferred first name, sign in to the myUT portal. Under the “Employee” and “Student” tabs, click on “Update Preferred First Name.” Type your preferred first name and click “Update.”

The individual’s legal first name will remain unchanged in UTAD accounts and on identification badges because those connect with the legal name in other University systems. “We don’t want to create a potential error when it comes to tax forms, official transcripts, insurance and legal issues,” Bill McCreary, UT vice president and chief information and technology officer, said. “I prefer to be called Bill, not William, so I plan to take advantage of this option myself. However, we advise students, faculty and staff to keep names appropriate and respectful because it is visible to our entire University community.”

Approximately 5,500 students, faculty and staff members already use their preferred names in some systems.

UT political science scholar to speak at alumni event about presidential election

By Christine Billau

The community is invited to an event hosted by the Golden Alumni Society at The University of Toledo discussing the victory of President Donald Trump, the Electoral College and its history, and the effect of the 2016 election on the major political parties.

The Golden Alumni Society is comprised of UT alumni who graduated at least 50 years ago or who have reached the age of 75 since graduation.

The free, public program titled “The Election and the Future” will feature Dr. Jeffrey Broxmeyer, assistant professor in the UT Department of Political Science and Public Administration, and take place Friday, Feb. 3, at 10 a.m. in the Driscoll Alumni Center Schmakel Room. Reservations are required.

Retired Judge George Glasser is a member of the Golden Alumni Society and coordinator of the event. He graduated from UT with a bachelor of arts degree in 1951 and a law degree in 1953.

“This is the first time the Golden Alumni Society is hosting a program about an election,” Glasser said. “The subject is on everybody’s mind and stirring up a great deal of controversy and opinions. We want to serve the community by utilizing some of the fine resources we have at the University to provide information, discussion and answers to questions.”

This semester, Broxmeyer is teaching courses at the University about political parties and the presidency. His current research in American political development focuses on the wealth accumulated by party leaders during the 19th century.

“I plan to provide some historical context to the election results as well as a political science perspective on where the country is heading with the new Trump administration,” Broxmeyer said. “One of the main topics will be the development and impact of heightened political polarization on governing, political institutions and public discourse.”

A question-and-answer session will follow Broxmeyer’s presentation.

To sign up to attend the event, call the Office of Alumni Relations at 419.530.2586 or register online at toledoalumni.org.
UT scholars to host forum Jan. 31 titled ‘A Law and Order Presidency? Issues in Policing and Criminal Justice’

By Christine Billau

The University of Toledo’s second post-election forum since President Donald Trump became the country’s 45th president will feature a panel of scholars focusing on the topic of “A Law and Order Presidency? Issues in Policing and Criminal Justice.”

The free, public event will be held Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 6 p.m. at the West Toledo Branch Library, 1320 W. Sylvania Ave.

“We invite all concerned members of our community to join us for a public discussion about critical issues and questions pertaining to law enforcement, the terms on which we adjudicate crime and punishment, how we think about rights, and how we might aspire to justice,” Dr. Rene Heberle, professor of political science, said. Heberle will discuss “Undoing Mass Incarceration in the Trump Era: What Is to Be Done?”

Additional speakers and topics will include:
- Dr. Liat Ben-Moshe, UT assistant professor of disability studies, “Not in Our Name: Disability, Mental Health and Criminal Justice Reform.”
- Gregory Gilchrist, UT associate professor of law, “Federal Influences on Local Policing.”

“Criminal justice and policing reforms have been at the forefront of political and policy activity at the federal level, in statehouses, in communities and in the streets for the last several years,” Heberle said. “Faculty from various disciplines will offer perspectives on the kind of influence the federal government has had on reform efforts over the past several years. More importantly, we will discuss prospects for continuing reform given the fundamental shifts in ideological perspectives and priorities signaled by the new administration taking shape under President Donald Trump.”

The event is sponsored by the UT College of Law and the UT School for Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Arts and Letters.
Joining the Women’s March on Washington

By Danielle Stamper

Two hours into the drive, I realized I left my coat on my couch. D.C. was supposed to be 51 degrees, and I had packed layers, so I was not concerned that my coat would be doubling as a dog bed for the weekend.

We got to our lodging in Virginia a little after 8 p.m. Friday, grabbed dinner, and made our plan for the morning: wake up at 6:30 a.m., Metro station by 8 a.m., and into D.C. by 9 a.m.

After a night of making signs, 6:30 came early, and we did not leave the house until closer to 8 a.m. The traffic was heavy getting off the highway, and about a mile away from the Metro station, we started to see groups of people in pink hats carrying signs headed toward the station. Inside the car, we started to question if the parking was full and we should park and walk, too. We decided to chance the parking being full and drove the rest of the way to the Metro station. Before the Metro station or the parking garage were visible, there was a line of people welcoming the incoming traffic. Once we were parked, we noticed two other lines of people waiting to get to the Women’s March.

Waiting in line at the Metro station was almost like a pre-rally to the rally in D.C. Signs were waving and people were chanting and singing; the atmosphere was energizing. The visual makeup of the crowd was diverse in age, gender expression, race and ethnicity; and going by the content of the signs, there was diversity of religion and sexual orientation as well. There were thousands of people at our Metro station, and a Metro trip that should have taken less than an hour took more than four hours.

Getting out of the Federal Center Station, the streets were filled with people all moving toward the rally that had started at 10 a.m. For blocks, the streets were filled with people standing up for women, people standing up for undocumented persons, people standing up for people of color, people standing up for LGBTQ+ folks, people standing up for Muslims and people of Middle Eastern descent, people standing up for people with disabilities and non-neurotypical people, people standing up for survivors of sexual assault and gender violence, people standing up for Black Lives Matter, people standing up for unions, people standing up for our planet, people standing up for education, people standing up for reproductive rights, people standing up for No Dakota Access Pipeline, people standing up for clean water in Flint, Mich., people standing up for solidarity.

There were so many beautiful moments throughout the day, from seeing children with handmade signs and clothing that displayed “future voter” and similar messages, to seeing generations of one family marching together holding signs stating they were marching for one another. It was no surprise that the rally lasted longer than scheduled and part of that may have been to accommodate the route of the march changing due to the size of the crowd. While waiting in line for bathrooms, we noticed people flocking to the overpass. The reroute had led the start of the march under the overpass that we were standing on. It was complete coincidence that we were there for that moment, but I would relive the morning just to see the start of the march again. The street previously had not been occupied, so you could see the flooding of the street — it was unbelievably empowering. Watching the people flood the street and start marching embodied the notion that the people have the power.

There has been a lot of criticism of the Women’s March, and the majority of it does need to be heard and addressed for future activism to be more inclusive. To be clear, the criticism that does not need to be heard includes the sexist comments coming from male politicians or the “Where were you before?” critiques coming from those who had protested prior to the Women’s March. We can and need to be critical of the Women’s March, but we also need to acknowledge it as a historic demonstration not just in D.C., but around the world. The solidarity shown by the people who participated in Women’s Marches around the world is incredibly powerful and forces those in power to recognize that we are not going to take the next four years lying down; we are ready and willing to fight for our rights.

I may have forgotten my coat, but I will never forget the Women’s March.

Stamper is a graduate student in the Master of Social Work Program.

Letters/opinion-editorial columns

UT News welcomes letters and guest editorial columns. We may edit for clarity, accuracy and space. For author verification, we ask that you include your name and daytime phone number. Letters must be received by noon Wednesday to be considered for next week’s issue; op-eds must be received by noon Tuesday for consideration. Submissions may be sent to vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu. UT News may not be able to print all letters and columns received due to space limitations.
DO YOU HAVE A GREAT BUSINESS IDEA?

The University of Toledo faculty, staff, students and alumni* are invited to participate in a business innovation competition detailing your unique business idea.

THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND INNOVATION AT UT IS PROVIDING PRIZE MONEY OF:

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You’ll find the application instructions for this competition utilizing Lean Launch Pad concepts at utoledo.edu/business.

- There is one free workshop for those planning to enter the competition. It will be offered on **Monday, February 6, 2017**, from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the PNC Entrepreneurship Lab, room 3100, Savage & Associates Business Complex.
- Entries must be submitted by **Monday, February 27, 2017**.
- Finalists will be announced on **Friday, March 24, 2017**.
- Finalists will make an oral presentation about their business using the business model canvas** on **Thursday, April 13, 2017**, between noon and 5:30 p.m. in the PNC Entrepreneurship Lab, room 3100, Savage & Associates Business Complex.
- Winners will be announced **Thursday, April 20, 2017**.

*Alumni can participate as a member of a team involving current UT faculty, staff or students. **For more information, please visit businessmodelgeneration.com/canvas or leancanvas.com