

## President asks Toledo to share its Rocket pride during address

By Meghan Cunningham

In her second state of the University address, UT President Sharon L. Gaber shared accomplishments that are building a positive momentum on campus and encouraged the Toledo community to uplift its university by showing its Rocket pride.

“We have so many great programs, exceptional faculty, talented clinicians and accomplished students. We need to celebrate that!” Gaber said. “We need to talk about ourselves as a destination university. We need to tell each other and everyone we meet that this is a fantastic place where students can earn an excellent education in a safe and supportive environment.”

More than 400 students, faculty, staff and community members attended the speech April 18 in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium. Attendees received a UT window cling to take with them to share their Rocket pride on their vehicle or in their office or home.

Gaber focused much of her talk on the initiatives underway to support student

success, enhance research excellence, and strengthen UT’s reputation.

The president highlighted a number of programs adopted to support students, such as lowering the cost of a UT education through the Tuition Guarantee program that locks in the cost of tuition and some general fees for four years and a digital course content program that offers less expensive digital texts to students.

The \$6 million investment in Carlson Library that was completed in the summer has led to a 40 percent increase in student visits this school year, she said, before announcing another enhancement to the library coming in the fall — a new Starbucks on the second floor.

Gaber recognized a number of researchers for their contributions to advancing knowledge, including undergraduate physics student Nathan Szymanski, who was recently awarded



Photo by Daniel Miller

**ROCKET PRIDE:** President Sharon L. Gaber encouraged everyone on campus and in Toledo to share their Rocket pride during her second state of the University address last week in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium.

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## UT student earns prestigious Goldwater Scholarship

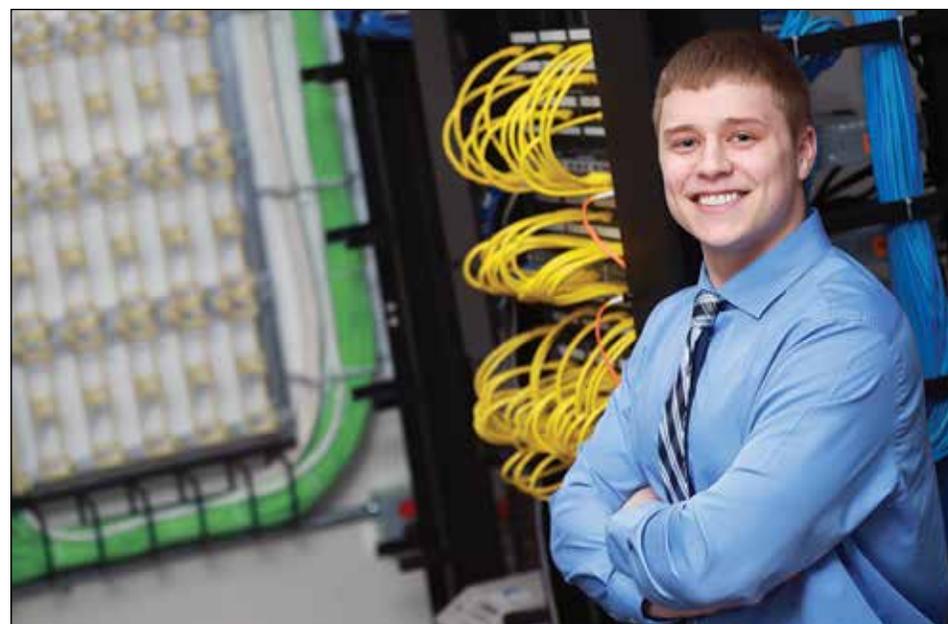
By Christine Billau

A University of Toledo physics student was awarded the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship, one of the oldest and most competitive honors in the country in the fields of science and mathematics.

Nathan Szymanski, who graduated from Genoa Area High School and is in his third year at UT, is one of 211 students in the United States chosen to receive \$7,500 a year to be used for tuition, books and housing for the remainder of their undergraduate experience.

“It feels truly amazing to be selected for the Goldwater Scholarship, and I am very grateful for all the help that the faculty at UT, especially in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, has provided me,” said Szymanski, who is double majoring in physics and mathematics. “I believe I was chosen because of my high level of research experience.”

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation was established by Congress in 1986 to honor the lifetime work of Sen. Barry Goldwater,



Szymanski

Photo by Daniel Miller

who served his country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman. The foundation’s goal is to support “highly qualified undergraduates who are subsequently

obtaining advanced degrees and going on to become this country’s leading scientists, engineers and mathematicians.”

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## University partners with TARTA to run campus transit services

By Meghan Cunningham

University of Toledo students, faculty and staff can catch a bus anywhere in the community for free through a new partnership with the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority.



TARTA will begin managing UT’s bus shuttle services this summer, continuing the same on-campus routes and also providing free access to all TARTA bus routes for every UT student, faculty and staff member with their Rocket ID card. The UT Board of Trustees approved the partnership April 16.

“We listened to our student leaders who asked us to expand bus services to

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## Two successful engineering alumni named national trustees

By Meghan Cunningham

Two successful graduates of the University will join the UT Board of Trustees as national members.



Armes

Roy V. Armes, a 1975 mechanical engineering graduate of the UT College of Engineering who served as president and CEO of Cooper Tire & Rubber Co. in Findlay, and Birdel F. Jackson III,

who graduated from UT in 1968 with a civil engineering degree and founded the B&E Jackson & Associates Inc. engineering and consulting firm in Atlanta, will join the UT Board of Trustees effective July 2. Their appointment was approved April 16.

UT established national trustees last year to take advantage of the diverse cultural, geographic, business, professional, public service and civic backgrounds, talents and experiences of friends and alumni of the University. Toledo native and award-winning journalist Christine Brennan was named the first national member. National trustees serve a two-year term without voting privileges.

“Roy and Birdel are among UT’s most distinguished alumni who are highly respected leaders in their professions,” Board Chair Steven Cavanaugh said. “The perspectives from these accomplished graduates will be invaluable as we make progress on our strategic priorities.”

Armes led Cooper Tire for a decade. He was appointed CEO and president in 2006 and chairman in 2007. He retired in 2016.

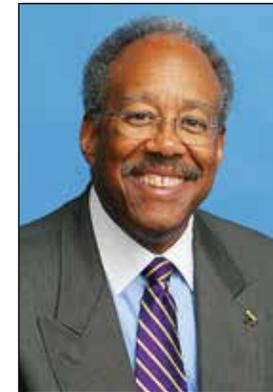
Armes’ career also included a variety of roles for the Whirlpool Corp. in the areas of engineering, manufacturing, global procurement and international operations

management. He served as corporate vice president and general director of Whirlpool Mexico, vice president of manufacturing technology for Whirlpool Asia, and vice president of manufacturing technology-refrigeration products for Whirlpool Europe.

Armes and his wife, Marcia, were instrumental in establishing the Engineering Leadership Institute in UT’s College of Engineering to help undergraduate engineering students develop leadership skills. The Armes have provided generous support to The University of Toledo.

Jackson established B&E Jackson and Associates in 1988 and grew the company into a respected professional consulting firm serving the transportation, aviation and civil engineering industries.

Jackson began his career in the bridge divisions for U.S. Steel in Pittsburgh and the District of Columbia Highway Department. He went on to work for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, General Electric, and engineering and architecture



Jackson

firms. He spent much of his career in Atlanta and is a registered professional engineer in Georgia and 13 other states.

Jackson is the president of the Jackson-Davis Foundation,

which he established to award scholarships in honor of his grandparents and to make the engineering profession more diverse and inclusive. He has served his alma mater as past president of the UT Alumni Association and University of Toledo Foundation board. Jackson also has been recognized with the UT Alumni Association’s Gold T and Blue T awards.

## TARTA

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enhance access to off-campus experiences, and we recognize the importance of UT being a leader in connecting to the broader community,” said Larry Kelley, UT executive vice president for finance and administration, and chief financial officer. “Consolidating our campus bus system with our regional transit system will help our students — and all 6,500 employees of the University — get downtown or to the zoo or to area shopping and restaurants more easily. It will allow them to better connect to our community.”

“TARTA is about connecting people with the places they want and need to go. This partnership is a great opportunity for UT students, faculty and staff to be directly connected to the entire metro Toledo community,” TARTA General Manager James Gee said. “The partnership is an example of collaborating to create efficiencies that enhance the vitality of our region overall.”

UT will pay TARTA an annual fee to manage its transit system. The cost is comparable to current operating costs for the University’s bus program, and there will be no additional fees for students.

The University expects to save about \$2 million that without this partnership would have been required to purchase new vehicles to replace its aging bus fleet. Of UT’s fleet of 16 buses, nine are approaching replacement.

TARTA will continue to employ the UT students to drive campus buses and maintain the GPS system used to track the vehicles along their on-campus routes.

There are 16 Ohio colleges and universities with similar partnerships with their regional transit authorities; however, UT’s agreement with TARTA is unique in that faculty and staff also benefit with free access to community bus routes.



# Trustees approve contract with faculty union

By Meghan Cunningham

The University of Toledo Board of Trustees approved April 16 a new contract with the union representing UT's faculty members.

Members of the UT chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), which represents the University's tenured and tenure-track faculty and lecturers, ratified the collective bargaining agreement April 9.

The new contract is effective July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2022. The current contract was set to expire June 30, and negotiations began in January.

"Our faculty is key to providing students a high-quality education that leads to successful careers and meaningful lives," UT President Sharon L. Gaber said. "This contract affirms our commitment to recruiting and retaining the best teachers and researchers in our classrooms and in our community. I would like to thank AAUP leadership and all faculty for their strong spirit of collaboration and dedication to our University."

"The proposed tentative contract has been overwhelmingly approved by the UT-AAUP membership. This time around negotiations were handled in a noticeably

smoother and more efficient manner than has been the case in past years," said Dr. Harvey Wolff, UT-AAUP president and professor emeritus of math. "The primary issues were economic, with faculty receiving raises over the life of the contract, while on the other hand, there were some increases in faculty health-care costs. Altogether, we are pleased that we were able to reach agreement on a reasonable contract that will guide us over the next few years."

The agreement includes tiered pay raises for union members. In the first year, individuals with a salary greater than \$100,000 will receive a 1 percent wage

increase; faculty members who make between \$75,000 and \$100,000 will receive a 1.5 percent raise; and those who make less than \$75,000 will receive a 3 percent wage increase. In the second year, faculty members who make less than \$75,000 will receive a 2 percent raise and all others will receive a 1.5 percent wage increase. The final two years of the contract include a 2 percent wage increase each year for all members.

The bargaining agreement also includes changes to health-care contributions and contract language regarding qualifications for sabbaticals and tenure and promotion to align with Ohio law.

## Address

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the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship for his studies of solar cell and battery technologies.

Overall, UT's research program has doubled the number of awards received so far this year compared to the year before. UT has received 233 research awards and nearly \$41 million in external research funding, Gaber announced.

"We are proud of the national accolades bestowed this year on our talented researchers and faculty members for advancing knowledge," she said.

The president did note that the University has been able to maintain financial stability thanks to a number of successful initiatives last year, but asked every individual at UT to continue efforts to recruit and retain more students because enrollment growth is key to achieving UT's goals.

Building up fundraising efforts also is important for UT's success. The president publicly announced for the first time how the University plans to use the real estate gift from Welltower, which is UT's largest gift in history valued at \$30 million. UT's Division of Advancement will relocate to the Welltower property to allow all of its offices — Alumni and Annual Engagement, Development, Special Events, the UT Foundation, and University Marketing and Communications — to work together under one roof.



Women's Basketball Coach Tricia Cullop chatted with Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz after the state of the University address.

Gaber's speech about UT's accomplishments and the talent of its students, faculty and staff led to a call to action for the audience — and the broader Toledo community — to help tell the University's story and strengthen its reputation by showing their Rocket pride.

"UT is this city's only university. We have an important impact on this community, and we need your support," Gaber said. "We want you to share our enthusiasm. Mentor our students. See our physicians. Partner with us. Root for our Rockets. And hire our graduates.

"We are energized by our positive momentum. And we are so proud to be The University of Toledo."

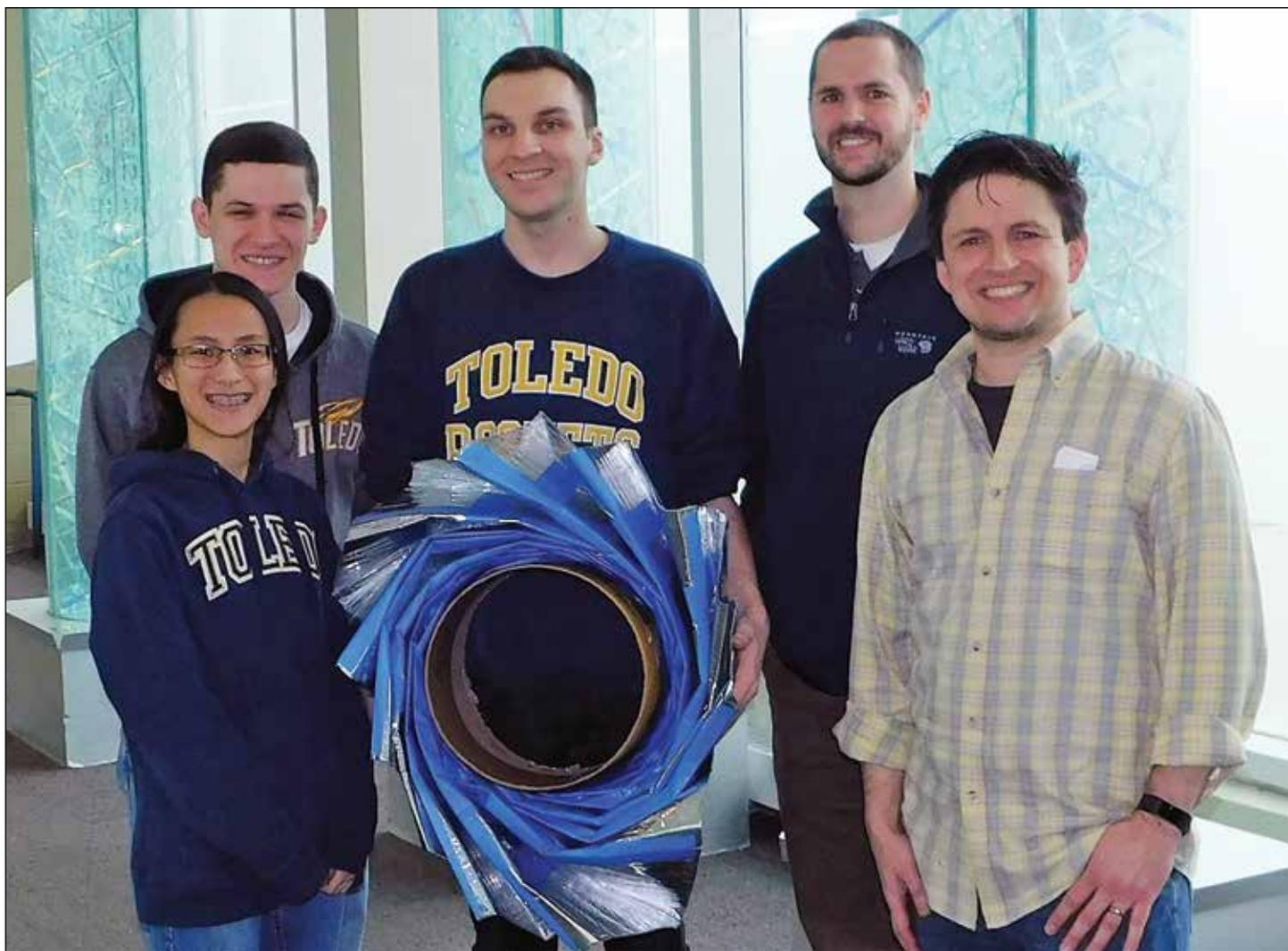
During the reception after the address, Dr. Linda Lewandowski, dean of the College of Nursing, left, talked with longtime UT supporters Elizabeth and Dr. Tom Brady. Dr. Brady is a former member of the UT Board of Trustees and former interim dean of the Judith Herb College of Education.



Photos by Daniel Miller

Dr. Sammy Spann, associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students, left, met with Dr. Phillip "Flapp" Cockrell, vice president for student affairs, before the address in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium.

## Taking off



A design team made up of engineering students who are graduating next month traveled last week to NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab in California to present to NASA engineers the prototype for their senior design project, a deployable wrap-rib space structure. Shown here with their spaceflight hardware are, from left, Nai-Ning Kuo, Steve Will, Alexander Binder, Mark Gore and Dr. Brian Trease, assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering. "We received positive feedback, and the Jet Propulsion Lab wants to keep pushing forward with the collaboration," Trease said.

## UT to host town hall on free speech April 24

By Christine Billau

**F**or the second time in a month, The University of Toledo is hosting a town hall meeting to give students the opportunity to discuss free speech rights and the University's role in maintaining and protecting those rights.

The event will be Tuesday, April 24, from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Thompson Student Union Ingman Room.

Dr. Sam Nelson, associate professor and chair of the UT Department of Political Science and Public Administration, will serve as moderator. Nelson is the author of "Beyond the First Amendment: The Politics of Free Speech and Pluralism."

Lee Strang, UT constitutional law scholar and John W. Stoepler Professor of Law and Values, will provide an overview about constitutional law and free speech, as well as field questions.

"Students asked us to continue this important dialogue on the topic of free speech after a controversial banner was hung in the Thompson Student Union, and we encourage their high level of civil discourse," said Dr. Phillip "Flapp" Cockrell, vice president for student affairs.

"I am proud of the passionate, respectful way our students are engaged on campus," Dr. Willie McKether, vice president of diversity and inclusion and vice provost, said.

## Goldwater Scholarship

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Szymanski, who studies computational materials science at UT, uses supercomputers for his solid-state physics research, which includes working with lithium-ion batteries and solar cell materials for solar panels.

"I have been conducting research since my freshman year here at UT," Szymanski said. "I have worked on a wide variety of projects. This resulted in me publishing a paper in a peer-reviewed international academic journal."

He was first author on "Electronic and Optical Properties of Vanadium Oxides From First Principles," which was recently published in *Computational Materials Science*.

"The goal of our research is to apply state-of-the-art theoretical and computational techniques to understand

materials systems of significant experimental interest," Szymanski said. "This work involves the prediction of new phenomena, as well as explanation of existing experimental data. We also are able to predict new materials that have desirable properties for a wide variety of applications, such as solar cells, lithium-ion batteries and thin-film coatings."

"Nathan was faced with many challenges in research, all of which he overcame with astounding proficiency," said Dr. Sanjay V. Khare, professor and chair of the UT Department of Physics and Astronomy, and co-author on Szymanski's published paper. "He gained a deep understanding of numerous advanced theories, such as density functional theory and special quasi-random structures, which

would typically prove daunting even to senior graduate students."

Szymanski plans to earn a PhD in materials science and work in research laboratories.

"My overall long-term goal is to make meaningful contributions to the advancement of future technology, such as solar cells and batteries, as well as hopefully improve the theoretical and computational methods being used to do so," Szymanski said.

Szymanski is the first UT student to be named a Goldwater Scholar in 16 years. The last undergraduate was Robert Cooper in the Department of Physics and Astronomy who graduated in 2002, went on to earn his PhD from the University of Michigan in 2008, and is now an assistant professor in the

Department of Physics at New Mexico State University.

"The prestigious Goldwater Scholarship will place Nathan in the very top category of students applying for graduate programs in the best institutions of higher learning," Khare said. "I have no doubt that Nathan will one day make great contributions to the scientific enterprise."

The UT Office of Undergraduate Research provided funding for Szymanski's research and oversaw his application for the scholarship.

"This is a great honor for Nathan and his mentors at the University," Dr. Jonathan Bossenbroek, director of the UT Office of Undergraduate Research and professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences, said.

# NIH grant supports continued studies on how to target cilia for therapeutics

By Cherie Spino

Dr. Wissam AbouAlaiwi and the pharmacy students in his lab continue to earn accolades for their research on cilia, the tiny hair-like structures that emanate from the surface of cells in our bodies and act as sensory antennas.

The University of Toledo assistant professor secured in January a highly competitive \$400,000 National Institutes of Health grant, the fourth award his lab has earned since it opened in 2014, to further his cilia research. But the award's true objective, he said, is to groom future researchers.

"We want to stimulate students' interest in research, so they stay in the biomedical research field and become research scientists," AbouAlaiwi said.

His students already are receiving attention for their research, which was published in the October issue of the online Nature journal *Scientific Reports*.

AbouAlaiwi and his students' research in the UT Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics focuses on cilia. The motile type of cilia is important because they help move fluids throughout the body and nourish brain cells. Non-motile cilia function as sensors, triggering biochemical processes within the body.

The team of students that recently published their work studied how alcohol affects the function of cilia in the brain. The paper's lead author was Alzahra J. Al Omran, a graduate student in pharmacology and toxicology track. She will be continuing her studies as a PhD student in the fall, studying pharmacology and experimental therapeutics in AbouAlaiwi's laboratory. The team also included graduate students Hannah C. Saternos, Alexander Wisner and Yusuff Althobaiti.

Their research explored whether cilia in brain cells play a part in some of the first symptoms — headaches and confusion — experienced by someone who abuses alcohol.

Scientists already knew that malfunctioning cilia play a part in many genetic diseases. For instance, if cilia in the brain don't do their job — to help circulate cerebral spinal fluid — fluid can build up in the brain in a condition known as hydrocephalus.



AbouAlaiwi

The UT team wondered whether malfunctioning cilia have anything to do with the symptoms of alcohol abuse. To figure this out, they needed to study the beating frequency of the cilia.

It was their method in doing this, as much as their results, that attracted the journal's attention, AbouAlaiwi said.

In the past, scientists were not able to determine the exact effect on the beating frequency of cilia because they were looking at the organelles in cells, not in live animals.

UT researchers were able to see the cilia in action. They served up alcohol to rats and within a half hour, isolated their brains using a technique developed in their lab. They examined cilia while they were still beating in the brain and ascertained how frequently they beat.

The results didn't surprise researchers: Alcohol significantly slows down the cilia and hampers its ability to mobilize fluids.

This dysfunction could affect brain cell function and may contribute to headaches and confusion that accompany alcohol abuse.

In another first, the UT team discovered three kinds of cilia in brain ventricles. Each has a unique beating frequency and angle. Each also tends to congregate in a certain part of the brain ventricle — one kind at the ends and two others along the edges.

AbouAlaiwi said the research is still in its early stages. More research is needed on the characteristics of each kind of cilia and why they are distributed the way they are. But the more they can unearth about the cilia's behavior in the future, the greater chance of developing drugs to repair the malfunctioning cilia and restore their beating frequency.

"We're starting to explore cilia-based therapy," AbouAlaiwi said. "If we can find drugs to specifically target cilia, we

could one day find cures for these genetic diseases."

The NIH grant also will support AbouAlaiwi's ongoing research suggesting that the cardiovascular symptoms of patients with polycystic kidney disease may be caused by malfunctioning or mutated cilia.

AbouAlaiwi, in research that hasn't been published yet, discovered a family of receptors found in primary cilia, the kind of cilia that act as sensors to transform signals into active biochemical processes in the body. It was the first proof scientists had that cilia house this family of receptors.

Receptors have been the primary focus of research on neurodegenerative disease, AbouAlaiwi said. He's now studying whether the receptors have anything to do with polycystic kidney disease and hypertension.

# UT, NOAA research team to host town hall on invasive species prevention in Great Lakes

By Christine Billau

A team of researchers at The University of Toledo and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will host a public education forum to help prevent invasive species from entering the Great Lakes through bait shop retailers and their customers.

The public is invited to a town hall meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 26, at the WGTE Public Media studio, 1270 S. Detroit Ave. in Toledo, to learn more about how non-native species may potentially find their way into the Great Lakes and what can be done to prevent it.

In 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded UT researchers a nearly \$500,000 grant through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for a three-year project to prevent invasive species from entering the Great Lakes through bait shops and pond stores.

The project is led by Dr. Carol Stepien, UT Distinguished University Professor of Ecology and research division leader at the NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle, who is working with Dr. Kevin Czajkowski, UT professor of geography and planning, and Dr. Andrew Solocha, UT associate professor of finance.

“We found that bait shops sometimes accidentally sell non-native species mixed in with other bait,” Stepien said. “If non-native species such as silver carp become prevalent in the Great Lakes, it is predicted they could decimate valuable native species such as lake trout, walleye and yellow perch. They compete with these native species, depriving them of their food and habitat and can carry pathogens.”

The researchers sampled water from bait tanks for genetic material in 51 bait stores in 2016 and 2017 around Lake Erie. They found that 43 percent of the shops dispensed misidentified species. Using a technique called environmental DNA sampling, researchers sampled genetic material from bait tank water and found DNA evidence of invasive species such as silver carp, round goby, mosquitofish and tadpole snails in several bait shops.

“Retailers, customers and even some scientific experts are often unable to distinguish some of these invasive species from native species at early life stages,” Stepien said. “For example, many minnows may appear alike.”

The researchers also surveyed 217 anglers. Of those, 61 said they fished in Lake Erie.

“From our surveys, we found that 66 percent of Lake Erie anglers use live bait fish, and 50 percent of those reported discarding live bait into the water,” Stepien

said. “This coupled with the instances of non-native bait in shops surrounding Lake Erie makes this region at definite risk of introduction of invasive species.”

The goal of the town hall meeting is to discuss the research findings and help the public and bait shop owners understand responsible measures they can take to



These minnows were in a bowl at the Lake Erie Center, where researchers analyzed samples as part of a study to prevent invasive species from entering the Great Lakes through bait shop retailers and their customers.

**IN THE LAB:** Dr. Carol Stepien, Distinguished University Professor of Ecology and research division leader at the NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle, second from right, with researchers at UT Lake Erie Center.

prevent invasive species from entering the Great Lakes.

“Releasing non-native pets, bait and other organisms into waterways can have unpredictable and widespread effects on Lake Erie’s long-term ecological health,” Stepien said.

The team is also planning a voluntary “invasive free” certification program for retailers.

In addition to Stepien, the panel of experts will include representatives from the Toledo Zoo, Maumee Bait & Tackle, the Lake Erie Charter Boat Association and NOAA’s Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory.



## Celebrate Earth Day!

### Earth Fest

Tuesday, April 24 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Centennial Mall

Stop by and learn more about sustainability and environmental issues!

## Three Distinguished University Lecturers named

Three faculty members have been named Distinguished University Lecturers in recognition of their exemplary teaching, supporting student success, and demonstrating their commitment to UT's educational mission.

The newest Distinguished University Lecturers, who were approved and recognized by the UT Board of Trustees April 16, are Amy O'Donnell of the College of Business and Innovation; Sherry Tripepi in the School of Social Justice in the College of Health and Human Services; and Sara Yaklin of the College of Arts and Letters.

"It is a privilege to honor these outstanding faculty members who are accomplished in their fields and who are dedicated to sharing their expertise with students," said Dr. Andrew Hsu, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "Every day, they make a difference in so many lives at this institution and in our community."

O'Donnell joined the University as a lecturer in the Department of Management in 2004 and was promoted to senior lecturer in 2015.

She has received University and college awards for excellent teaching and dedication to students. O'Donnell has developed new courses and programs, facilitated student success initiatives, and supported the Business Career Programs Office in the College of Business. In addition, she served as faculty advisor to the UT chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity. O'Donnell also has presented at 19 regional conferences.

"I have always felt respected and supported by College of Business and Innovation students, faculty and staff. This appointment as a Distinguished Lecturer at the University level further validates that my efforts are valued and meaningful by our community," O'Donnell said. "I am humbled and proud."

Tripepi started working as a clinical social worker in the University Counseling Center in 1997. Ten years later, she was



Photo by Daniel Miller

Distinguished University Lecturers, from left, Sara Yaklin, Amy O'Donnell and Sherry Tripepi were recognized last Thursday during an awards ceremony.

named a visiting assistant professor of social work. In 2010, Tripepi became a lecturer in the Social Work Program and was promoted to associate lecturer in 2013.

She has received teaching, service and student impact awards. Tripepi serves as director of the Social Work Bachelor's Degree Program, field coordinator, internship supervisor and continuing education coordinator for the UT Social Work Program through the Ohio Board of Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers. In addition, she developed a new course on social work practice with the LGBTQ population and has helped develop and implement campus-wide training programs — including Safe Place and anti-bullying programs — at area schools.

"I feel very honored and appreciative of this recognition," Tripepi said. "I feel social

work is the best career as it has allowed me to bring my passion to work each day. And for the past 11 years, I have been fortunate to be able to bring this passion to the classroom. I have fantastic students, who I want to thank for allowing me to join them in their professional journey and nurture their passion along the way. I also have such wonderful colleagues and am forever grateful for their support and teamwork."

Yaklin was named a lecturer in 2001 and was promoted to senior lecturer in 2009. She received a master of arts degree in English language and literature from UT.

She is a founding co-director of the Composition Institute for Teaching Excellence and is a composition instructor and program contributor for the Multicultural Emerging Scholars Summer Bridge Program. Yaklin also was a presenter at the Multicultural Orientation

and Resources for Excellence Institute. In addition to mentoring teaching assistants in the English Department, Yaklin participates in the University Common Read Program and is a writing consultant, tutor, editor and mentor at UT, Owens Community College and local organizations. She recently received an Innovations in Teaching Award for a community partner pilot program for scientific and technical report writing students.

"Each day, I am grateful for the opportunity to do what I love in teaching and working with students. I have a dream job," Yaklin said. "My program director, department chair, college deans, co-director and colleagues all deserve recognition and thanks for making it a dream job. I am deeply appreciative of the University's honoring of faculty through these awards."

# University recognizes faculty, staff for advising, research, teaching, outreach work

UT outstanding advisers, researchers and teachers, and recipients of the Edith Rathbun Award for Outreach and Engagement, were recognized last week.

## Recipients of the Outstanding Advisor Award were:

**Amanda Seabolt**, academic advisor in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The UT alumna received a bachelor of science degree in biology, a master of public health degree, a master of science degree in nursing, and a graduate certificate in gerontological practice. She will graduate with a doctor of philosophy in curriculum and instruction from the University next month. Seabolt started advising students in 2015, the same year she received one of UT's Outstanding Staff Awards.

"She is always giving students opportunities, whether it be in getting a new job, joining an organization, or participating in research," one nominator wrote. "She is always pushing students to do their best." "She shows great knowledge through her own personal experience and continued education. She never stops learning," another nominator wrote. "If she doesn't know something, she doesn't stop looking until she finds the answer. She is always working for the student. She has been one of the most influential people during my time at the University."



Winners of the Outstanding Adviser Award were Dr. Jerry Van Hoy and Amanda Seabolt.

**Dr. Jerry Van Hoy**, associate professor of sociology in the College of Arts and Letters. He is co-director of the Program in Law and Social Thought and director of the Master of Liberal Studies Program. Van Hoy joined the University in 2000 and received one of UT's Outstanding Teacher Awards in 2013.



Receiving Outstanding Research and Scholarship Awards were, from left, Dr. Vijay Devabhaktuni, Dr. Yanfa Yan and Nicole Buonocore Porter.

"He flips the notion that advising is purely transactional on its head by listening to students' needs and concerns. He helps students develop academic plans that work for them, addressing weaknesses and creating pathways to not only graduation, but to a life after college that students are excited about," a nominator wrote. Another noted, "As a recent graduate, I faced some distressing events during my capstone project. Dr. Van Hoy provided objective feedback to let me know the problem wasn't unusual, the troubling issues were not caused by me, and that they were not insurmountable. His advice was calming and reassuring. He was sensitive, diplomatic when needed, and direct as required."

## Recipients of the Outstanding Research and Scholarship Award were:

**Dr. Vijay Devabhaktuni**, professor of electrical engineering and computer science in the College of Engineering. He is executive director of emerging technologies and special advisor to the UT vice president, chief operation officer and chief technology officer. Devabhaktuni joined the faculty as an associate professor in 2008.

He is a renowned expert in computer-aided design, machine learning, modeling, optimization and simulation as applied to electromagnetics, big data, biomedical engineering, cyber security, energy efficiency, virtual reality, wireless sensor networking, image and signal processing, and more. Since 2009, the National Science Foundation has supported his work. While at UT, he has received about \$2 million

in funding from more than 30 external grants and has published more than 80 papers. According to Google Scholar, Devabhaktuni's work has been cited 3,200 times since 2013.

**Nicole Buonocore Porter**, professor of law in the College of Law. She joined the faculty as an assistant professor in 2007.

Porter is a nationally recognized scholar on the employment rights of women and individuals with disabilities. She is the author of a disability law casebook, published by a leading legal academic publisher, and is the co-editor of a forthcoming book titled "Feminist Judgments: Employment Discrimination Opinions Rewritten." Her published articles address the persistent pay gap between men and women, discrimination against workers with caregiving responsibilities, and the employment rights of individuals with disabilities. Her work has been cited more than any other faculty member in the UT College of Law, and she is frequently invited to speak at symposia and national conferences. In addition, Porter was invited to join the Labor Law Group, a prestigious organization that produces scholarship on labor and employment law.

**Dr. Yanfa Yan**, professor of physics in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. He joined the UT faculty in 2011.

For two decades, Yan has been researching photovoltaics, solar fuels and energy storage techniques using a

combination of theory, material synthesis, device fabrication, and material and device characterization. He has written or co-written more than 350 articles and has given more than 50 invited talks. According to Google Scholar, Yan's work has been cited 16,868 times. His work has been funded with more than \$5 million from the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, Office of Naval Research and private industry.

## Recipients of the Edith Rathbun Award for Outreach and Engagement were:

**Dr. Susan Batten**, professor in the College of Nursing. She joined the University in 1995.

Batten coordinates patient intake for the UT Community Care Clinic at Cedar Creek Church, provides care during Labre Traveling Clinic in south and east Toledo, and for migrant workers at their resident camps in northwest Ohio. She also has mentored nursing, medical and pharmacy students during annual medical missions to Guatemala, Honduras and Haiti. Batten has worked with more than 1,000 UT students with her community outreach and service projects. Their work has impacted more than 4,000 chronic disease patients in northwest Ohio, 500 immigrant workers and their families in rural Ohio, and more than 40,000 patients in Honduras, Guatemala and Haiti.



Recipients of the Edith Rathbun Award for Outreach and Engagement were Dr. Susan Batten and Kenneth Kilbert.

**Kenneth Kilbert**, professor and director of the Legal Institute of the Great Lakes in the College of Law. He joined the University in 2006.

A scholar of environmental law, Kilbert's work focuses on water issues affecting the Great Lakes region. Since



Taking home Outstanding Teacher Awards were, from left, Elyce Ervin, Dr. Jackie Layng, John J. Schlageter III, Dr. Kim E. Nielsen, Kara Bruce and Dr. Edward Cancio.

2006, he has planned UT's annual Great Lakes Water Conference, which addresses legal and policy issues important to the region and its water resources. Each year, the conference draws approximately 300 guests and garners extensive media coverage. In addition, Kilbert has received multiple grants to study harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie. His scholarly work increases awareness, promotes best practices, and suggests legal solutions to address the algal bloom problem.

#### Recipients of the Outstanding Teacher Award were:

**Kara Bruce**, professor in the College of Law. She joined the faculty in 2010.

"Professor Bruce exemplifies everything a professor should be — teacher, mentor, friend," a nominator wrote. "Professor Bruce strives to engage her students while teaching difficult, sometimes less-interesting classes. She provides practical examples, makes jokes, and she goes out of her way (sometimes at the expense of getting behind schedule) to make sure we all understand what she is teaching. Honestly, I wish I could take Professor Bruce for every class in law school." "Professor Bruce is excellent at taking complicated and challenging material and making it manageable for her students. She presents the material in a way that acknowledges the difficulty without making it seem daunting," another wrote. "Not only is she passionate about students passing her class, she is passionate about making her students pass the bar."

**Dr. Edward Cancio**, associate professor of special education in the Judith Herb College of Education. He came to UT in 2007.

"Dr. Cancio has been the most knowledgeable and inspiring professor I have had in my four years at UT. Every week Dr. Cancio showed the same passion for the subject that he taught and brought out the best from my classmates and I. It is easy to see from his lectures, published articles, and just speaking to him that Dr. Cancio is an expert in his field and was happy to pass his knowledge on special education to the class," one nominator wrote. "Dr. Cancio's class focused on teaching students with emotional behavioral disorder, which is one of the most intimidating sections of special education. After taking his class, I know that I am more than prepared to go into this field."

**Elyce Ervin**, senior lecturer in the School of Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences in the College of Health and Human Services. She has been teaching at the University since 1999.

"I had Elyce Ervin for Anatomy and Physiology, which has never been so easily comprehensible than it was in her class. She provided mini-activities every other class that helped us to understand the material. She also provided great lecture notes that were organized and easy to keep up with. The notes were fill-in, which helped people pay attention in her class. She would always ask if anyone had any questions in between every slide to ensure we were understanding the material," one nominator wrote. "The one thing that makes Elyce Ervin stick out is

how she is continuing to have an impact on me. She is without a doubt one of the best people I have met in my life."

**Dr. Jackie Layng**, professor of communication in the College of Arts and Letters. She has taught at the University since 1997.

"Dr. Layng has by far been the most knowledgeable and personable professor I have had at UT. Her classes always push me to do my best work and achieve professional-level skills. Many times her class assignments seem intimidating at first, but Dr. Layng is always available to guide students throughout the process," a nominator wrote. Another noted, "Selfless, dedicated, inspiring, caring: If you asked me to list all of the amazing things about Jackie, I think it'd be impossible because she's had such a profound impact on my life. She genuinely cares about her students. Her constant words of encouragement, honest critiques, and passion for her career genuinely keep me going, and I couldn't have asked for a better mentor."

**Dr. Kim E. Nielsen**, professor of history, disability studies, and women's and gender studies in the College of Arts and Letters. She joined the faculty in 2012.

"Dr. Nielsen creates a classroom atmosphere that makes all of her students feel comfortable to share stories, ideas and opinions. She listens to every student and encourages all of her students to have a voice," a nominator wrote. Another noted, "Dr. Nielsen goes out of her way to make sure every student succeeds. Her sense of humor makes every class intriguing and

makes me want to learn more. I wasn't much of a history buff until taking classes with her and hearing her passionate views. Dr. Nielsen is always available when you need her. She always comes to class with a smiling face even considering the boatload of other work she has to do. I wish I could have her for more classes."

**John J. Schlageter III**, senior lecturer in the Paralegal Studies Program housed in the School of Social Justice in the College of Health and Human Services. He is a graduate of the UT College of Law and has been teaching at the University since 1998.

"He is truly the best professor that I had throughout my college career — always willing to listen, help in any way he can, and truly do everything in his power to help you begin your career in law," one nominator wrote. Another noted, "Professor Schlageter goes above and beyond to help the students achieve great success in the paralegal classes. He always offers support, help and resources. He strives hard to make sure all students find a good quality internship. He always checks in on students and always offers support." Another wrote, "He listens to every concern and teaches with such a passion. You can tell John loves what he does. He has helped myself and many others land jobs."

#### Distinguished University Professors also were recognized at the ceremony:

- **Dr. Abdollah Afjeh** of the Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering in the College of Engineering;
- **Dr. Paul Hong** of the Department of Information Operations and Technology Management in the College of Business and Innovation; and
- **Joseph Slater** of the College of Law.

#### And Distinguished University Lecturers were honored:

- **Amy O'Donnell** of the Department of Management in the College of Business and Innovation;
- **Sherry Tripepi** of the School of Social Justice in the College of Health and Human Services; and
- **Sara Yaklin** of the Department of English in the College of Arts and Letters.

## Senior lecturer to debut play featuring UT students, colleagues

Dr. Deborah Coulter-Harris will debut her second play, "Charmed Like a Snake, I'm Sure," Saturday, April 28, at 8 p.m. at the Toledo Repertoire Theatre, 16 10th St.



Coulter-Harris

The event is part of the Toledo Rep's Toledo Voices staged readings series.

The play is a mysterious, farcical tragedy and black comedy set during the chaos surrounding 9/11, and involves several fictional characters and events at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). After prescient and powerful Dr. M misses the exact date of 9/11 by only four days, mayhem ensues. Dr. M tries to uncover the reason her superiors are redacting Osama Bin Laden's location from her reports. The mystery ends with many surprises.

"This play is not so much about the CIA as it is with human nature, with its Nietzschean impulse for power and authority over others," Coulter-Harris said. "The play also touches on current universal political themes of instability, mendacity and untrustworthiness. The ending of the play will leave the audience in shock."

## Toledo Voices

There are 14 actors in "Charmed Like a Snake, I'm Sure." These actors include John Adams, associate director for dual enrollment in Admission; Teresa Boyer, an instructor in the UT Department of English Language and Literature; Hallie Dolin, a UT medical student; Sherris Anne Schwind, a UT alumna who received a bachelor of arts degree in English in 2005; and Ricardo Urista, a student in the UT College of Business and Innovation.

In addition, Dr. Elliot Adams, senior lecturer in the English Department, is doing the sound for the play.

Other actors performing will be Jordan Borowski, Karen Long, Jose Melgar, John Mensing, Jeremy Natter, Brad Riker, Paul Sepeda, Michael Schmitz and Dayna Triplett.

"I feel that community outreach through the arts is key to building strong community alliances and relationships, and speaks to the diversity we value here at The University of Toledo," Coulter-Harris said. "Theater is a valuable expression of people's talent, and develops self-confidence and self-esteem and other qualities that strengthen and enrich a community."

Tickets for "Charmed Like a Snake, I'm Sure" are \$5 for students and \$7 for adults and are available at [toledorep.org](http://toledorep.org) and at the door.

## Good night, sweet prince



The UT Department of Theatre and Film will screen "Hamlet" Friday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m. in Center for Performing Arts Room 1039. Shown from 16-millimeter film, the 1948 film adaptation of William Shakespeare's play stars and was directed by Sir Laurence Olivier. It was the first British film to win the Academy Award for Best Picture. Tickets — \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students, UT employees and alumni, military members, and seniors 60 and older — include popcorn and soft drink. Get tickets at [utoledo.tix.com](http://utoledo.tix.com) or by calling the Center for Performing Arts Box Office at 419.530.ARTS (2787).

## Art on the Mall accepting artist applications

By Jessica A. Guice

Artists looking to participate in the 26th annual Art on the Mall at The University of Toledo have until the end of the month to apply for consideration.

Applications for the event, which will be held Sunday, July 29, can be accessed at <https://www.toledoalumni.org/events/art-on-the-mall/artist-application.html>.

Monday, April 30, is the deadline to apply to be part of one of the University's signature events.

In addition to completing the online application, artists will need to submit four digital images of their work. They also need to pay a \$25 application fee.

All applications will be reviewed by three independent jury members from the Fort Wayne Art Museum, according to Ansley Abrams-Frederick, director of

alumni programming in the UT Office of Alumni and Annual Engagement.

"Art on the Mall is an amazing event that brings more than 12,000 people to our beautiful campus," Abrams-Frederick said.

Each year, more than 100 artists throughout the country have the opportunity to display and sell their works in acrylic, glass, jewelry, mixed media, oil, pen and ink, photography, pottery, textiles, fibers, and many other forms.

Artists will be eligible for cash prizes, including UT's Best of Show Award presented to an artist with a UT affiliation.

The event also will feature food vendors, live music, and hands-on children's art activities.

For more information, contact the UT Office of Alumni and Annual Engagement at 419.530.2586.



### Leading the way



Photos by Sam Smolenski

USA Today columnist and best-selling author Christine Brennan, above, and UT President Sharon L. Gaber were among the speakers at the women's basketball program's inaugural Lessons in LeadHERship Conference last week. Approximately 375 attended the event April 17 in the Thompson Student Union. The conference was designed to help grow female leadership in the Toledo community and was sponsored by UT alumna Kelly Savage from Savage & Associates.



### Final salute



Photos by Sam Smolenski

UT Army ROTC Cadet Erica Loroff placed a flag to be retired into a burning barrel during a ceremony Thursday in front of the Thompson Student Union. According to the U.S. Flag Code, when an American flag is torn, tattered or faded and is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. The event was organized by the Student Veterans of America UT Chapter.



# Winners announced for 2018 business plan competition

By Bob Mackowiak

The winners of the eighth annual UT College of Business and Innovation's Business Innovation Competition were announced April 19, with the first-place \$10,000 prize awarded to Narges Shayesteh Moghaddam for her QuickFlow product.

QuickFlow is a novel device that offers several advantages over percutaneous mechanical thrombectomy devices currently on the market, and it provides a higher degree of authority and maneuverability for capturing and removing clots. The prototype device uses a pair of superelastic Nitinol-capturing elements to aid in the collection of a thrombus and minimize distal embolization.

"The incidence of pulmonary embolism is estimated to be 650,000 cases per year, and the mortality rate is estimated at approximately 100,000 deaths per year, which makes pulmonary embolism the third most common cause of death for hospitalized patients in the U.S.," Moghaddam said. "As current treatments specifically for acute massive and submassive pulmonary embolism patients are not effective, we have decided to develop and commercialize QuickFlow PE, a thrombectomy device that addresses the shortcomings of current therapies or surgical procedures and also provides a non-invasive procedure with lower cost solution.

"Our device design and the method of deployment distinguish it from the competition in several ways. ThermoMorph is a startup company established by inventors from The University of Toledo to develop

QuickFlow; their device has a smaller profile and can capture and encircle the entire clot for retrieval, the whole clots without distal embolization. We have been working to develop this device since 2015," Moghaddam said. "The main problem was how to optimize the baskets to maximize its authority to capture the different size of blood clots without shearing off."

Other UT members of the QuickFlow team are Dr. Mohammad Elahinia, Dr. Hamdy Ibrahim and Reza Mehrabi; the co-inventors of the device are Elahinia, Dr. Christopher Cooper and Dr. Rajesh Gupta.

"Our goal is to help increase the number and scale up businesses in Ohio," Dr. Sonny Ariss, professor and chair of the Department of Management, told the winners. "We are willing to support you, to provide free advice about how to spend, where to spend, and when not to spend. Your prize money is a major leap. Don't underestimate yourself. Surround yourself with a great advisory board."

"This year the business plan competition had 22 submissions with plan ideas ranging from bioengineering to mechanical engineering to recreation and consumer-related products," Ariss added. "Of the 22, seven semifinalists were selected for an oral presentation in front of the judges."

Finishing in second place was the FIERCE by Tyler Ray, Rebecca Potts, Emily Wallace, Caren Aramouni and Therese Orsagos. FIERCE — the female individual

ergonomically re-designed carrying equipment — is a new rucksack intended for female soldiers in all branches of the military. It intends to reduce the weight pot onto the spine and increase the weight on the hips through multiple innovations based on the biomechanics and anatomy of the female.

Finishing in third place was Retractor by Parisa Bayatimalayeri and Ahmadreza Jahadakbar. The rectal retractor is a minimally invasive device to move the rectum away from the vicinity of the radiation field; in addition, the path of the radiation beam allows for delivery of higher doses of radiation per fraction and shorter treatment days while eliminating the undesirable damage to the rectal tissue.



Photo by Bob Mackowiak

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Dr. Sonny Ariss shook hands with Narges Shayesteh Moghaddam to congratulate her for winning a check for \$10,000 for her QuickFlow device, which took top honors at this year's UT College of Business and Innovation's Business Innovation Competition.

The College of Business and Innovation Business Plan Competition was open to all UT faculty, staff and students. The first-place \$10,000 prize is sponsored by Owens-Illinois Inc.; the second-place \$5,000 prize is sponsored by Chuck and Ann Hodge Business Plan Competition Fund; and the third-place \$2,000 prize is sponsored by PNC Bank.



Photo by Bob Mackowiak

Winners of this year's UT College of Business and Innovation's Business Innovation Competition were, from left, third-place winner; Retractor: Ahmadreza Jahadakbar and Parisa Bayatimalayeri; second-place winner; The FIERCE: Tyler Ray, Rebecca Potts, Emily Wallace, Caren Aramouni and Therese Orsagos; first-place winner; QuickFlow: Narges Shayesteh Moghaddam.

# Women's basketball coach, former UT star named to 2018 Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame

By Brian DeBenedictis

**T**oledo Head Women's Basketball Coach Tricia Cullop and former Rocket great Dana (Drew) Shaw are among 11 members of the 2018 Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Induction Class.

The 2018 induction class will be honored at the 17th annual women's award banquet Saturday, April 28. The day's events will include a free reception at the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Museum that afternoon and a banquet that evening at the Primo Banquet Hall in Indianapolis.

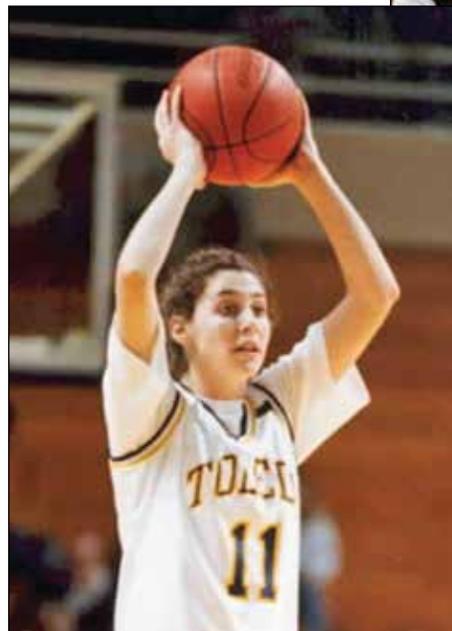
Cullop set numerous records at North Knox High School, earning national recognition from USA Today, Parade Magazine and Street & Smith's following a career that included 1,461 points and 918 rebounds. She was a 1989 Indiana All-Star and helped her team to their first two sectional and regional titles in 1988 and 1989.

From 1990 to 1993, Cullop earned four letters at Purdue University under Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Head Coach Lin Dunn. A native of Bicknell, Ind., Cullop was a member of the Boilermakers' first Big Ten Conference Championship team in 1991, and she appeared in three NCAA Tournaments in 1990, 1991 and 1992. A team captain as a senior, Cullop garnered accolades as a three-time Academic All-Big Ten selection, recipient of the Red Mackey Award and Purdue's Mortar Board Student-Athlete of the Year.

Cullop immediately turned to coaching following her playing career and held assistant positions at Radford, Long Beach State and Xavier before becoming the head coach at the University of Evansville in 2000. She spent eight years at the helm of the Purple Aces' program and left in 2008 as the second-winningest coach in school history with 123 victories.

On April 28, 2008, Cullop was named the head coach at The University of Toledo and is in her 10th season with the Rockets. During her time at UT, Cullop has hung six postseason banners, including a 2011 Postseason WNIT Championship, one Mid-American Conference Championship, and two MAC regular-season and four MAC West Division titles.

Shaw, a 1990 Indiana All-Star, Associated Press first-team all-state



Shaw



Cullop

and Parade Magazine honorable mention All-American, graduated with 1,125 career points at Penn and Valparaiso

high schools. Averaging 15.4 points and five assists per game as a senior, she helped Valpo to a 22-1 record and led them to sectional and regional titles that season.

Following high school, she recorded a then school record 1,919 career points at UT, in addition to a school record 659 career assists. Shaw was named the MAC Player of the Year on two occasions, the MAC

Tournament MVP three times, and she was an Academic All-American twice on teams that advanced to the postseason on four occasions.

Shaw played professionally in Italy. In 2012, her jersey was retired at Toledo.

She went on to earn a law degree from UT and serves as an independent legal consultant and representative for professional and college coaches in the NBA, WNBA, internationally and in high major college basketball conferences.



## Sport MAC Champs soccer gear

The defending Mid-American Conference women's soccer champions have team gear available to order online for a limited time. Purchases can be made at <https://utsoccer2018springgear.itemorder.com/sale>. Fans have until Wednesday, May 16, to place their orders. Orders will arrive in the beginning of July. The Rockets will kick off their 2018 campaign at Xavier Friday, Aug. 17.

# The **Campus Culture Climate Survey** is here.

Share your experience.  
Make your voice count.  
Help us improve.

**Complete your survey by May 11.**



Look for a link to the survey in your Rockets email today  
or request a hard copy from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Responses are confidential.



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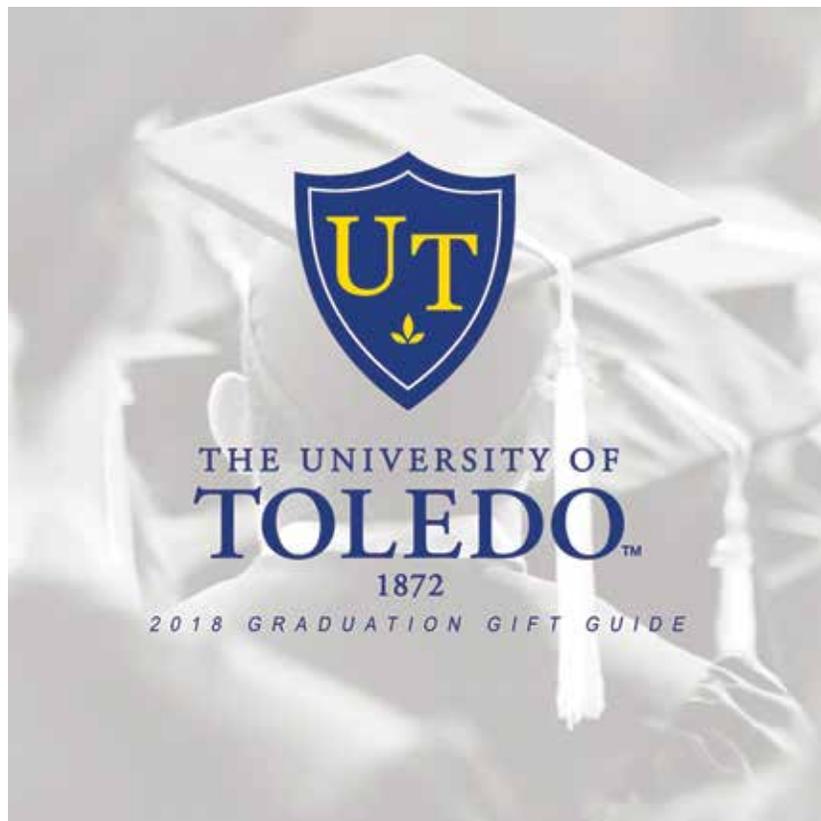
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## Celebrate with Rocket Gear

From graduation gifts to office swag, The University of Toledo has the perfect gift for every Rocket fan: shirts, hoodies, mugs, degree frames and more!

Check out special graduation gifts at  
<http://bit.ly/toledograduation18>.

To find a full list of retailers carrying Toledo products, or to shop online for great gifts, go to [utoledo.edu/shop-rockets](http://utoledo.edu/shop-rockets).



## UT employees may schedule graduate photos

Faculty and staff or members of their families who will graduate from UT this semester may contact the University Marketing and Communications Office if they wish to have a photo taken and published in UT News.

Contact Kelsi Rooks at [kelsi.rooks@utoledo.edu](mailto:kelsi.rooks@utoledo.edu) or 419.530.2299 to schedule an appointment before Friday, May 4.

Photos will appear in the paper after commencement.

# UTNEWS

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Read UT news at [utnews.utoledo.edu](http://utnews.utoledo.edu) and [myut.utoledo.edu](http://myut.utoledo.edu).

## In memoriam

John H. "Jack" Esbin, Toledo, former director of college computing at the University, died April 13 at age 82.

The University of Toledo is committed to a policy of equal opportunity in education, employment, membership and contracts, and no differentiation will be made based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, veteran status or the presence of a disability. The University will take affirmative action as required by federal or state law.





# WE ARE BACK!

*Year-End*

## ROCKY'S LOCKER POP-UP STORE

**Wednesday, April 25,  
through Friday, April 27**  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

*Thompson Student Union across from Chick-fil-A*

- > Score some great deals on UT merchandise by Champion, 47 Brand, Nike and Under Armour!
- > Great deals on lanyards, glassware, flags and more!
- > Baseball caps only \$5!
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