25th annual Art on the Mall set for July 30
By Madison Vasko

Artists and art appreciators alike are gearing up for this summer’s Art on the Mall, which this year is celebrating its 25th anniversary on campus.

The juried art show will be held on Centennial Mall Sunday, July 30, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free parking will be available in Lot 1 South, Lot 1 North and Lot 13 with golf cart shuttle service to transport guests and their packages to and from Centennial Mall if needed.

More than 100 artists are expected to set up in Centennial Mall to show off their wares, which range from acrylic, glass, jewelry, mixed media, pen and ink, oil, photography, pottery, textile, watercolor, woodwork and more.

“The quality of our artists’ work is outstanding, and there is something for everyone. We have a diverse and eclectic mix, sure to excite art lovers of all kinds,” said Ansley Abrams-Frederick, director of alumni programming in the UT Office of Alumni and Annual Engagement. “In addition, the venue of our beautiful campus is the ideal place to enjoy the day. Free parking, golf cart shuttles, and no admission certainly make this show appealing to all.”

Artists who have participated in all 25 years of Art on the Mall will have an indicator on their booths commemorating the achievement.

Works will be juried by representatives from the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, with prizes such as UT’s Best of Show, awarded to an artist with affiliation to the University.

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Trustees approve 2018 operating budget
By Meghan Cunningham

The UT Board of Trustees approved July 6 an operating budget for fiscal year 2018 that positions the University to continue to provide a high-quality education to students and care to patients.

The $775.8 million operating budget includes an undergraduate tuition freeze for the third year in a row.

“We are committed to keeping a UT education affordable to our students and their families, which is why we’ve not increased tuition six out of the past 10 years,” said Larry Kelley, executive vice president for finance and administration, and chief financial officer.

The University has made strides in reducing costs and generating new income through a number of changes in administrative operations and initiatives, such as a Voluntary Separation Incentive Program.

UT was able to avoid across-the-board reductions to operating budgets for the first time in a decade; however, Kelley said the University needs to continue to closely monitor its financial position moving forward with the state of Ohio budget not providing additional state support or allowing universities the flexibility to increase tuition.

It is the first time that public four-year universities will receive no increase in state share of instruction dollars while also being required to keep undergraduate tuition frozen. UT also will receive less clinical teaching support in the recently adopted Ohio biennium budget.

“The University of Toledo continues to have the lowest per credit hour undergraduate tuition and fees of any Ohio research university and the third lowest of any major public university in the state,” he said. “A UT education is an exceptional value for the positive impact it has on a graduate’s social and income mobility.”

The budget includes a 2 percent increase in the graduate tuition rate, and the Board of Trustees previously approved a 2 percent increase for housing and dining fees to cover additional operational costs.

The budget projects a modest increase in student enrollment and retention and stable patient volume and anticipated growth in behavioral care at UT Medical Center in the coming year.

The approved budget includes funding for raises to all employee groups. University employees who are members of unions will receive increased compensation as determined by their collective bargaining agreements. The budget includes a 1 percent increase for professional staff mid-year after reviewing fall enrollment numbers, as well as a one-time payment of $300 for unrepresented employees who make $50,000 or less.

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UT offers first online PhD program at an Ohio university
By Christine Billau

The University of Toledo is enrolling students for the first online PhD program approved in Ohio.

The Curriculum and Instruction: Special Education Doctoral Degree Program starts in the fall semester and is open to people across the country, specifically those who specialize in early childhood special education. It is the first such program to be offered online at a public or private university in the state.

“We are proud to play a pioneering role in the state of Ohio for making doctoral degrees more accessible to hard-working, full-time professionals who want to take the next step in their careers,” UT President Sharon L. Gaber said. “This rigorous program of study is designed to prepare the leaders who will guide our education system into the future.”

“Students can complete the program without having to set foot on UT’s campus,” said Dr. Laurie Dinnebeil, Distinguished University Professor and chair of the UT Department of Early Childhood, Higher Education and Special Education in the Judith Herb College of Education.

“Students will have the opportunity to work with nationally known leaders in the field of early childhood special education, research and measurement.”

Earning this doctoral degree would allow educators to advance into district, regional or state leadership positions. For example, they could serve as a state consultant to school districts,
Student-athlete among record number of nominees for NCAA Woman of the Year Award

By Steve Easton

Former Toledo women’s basketball player Sophie Reecher has been named a nominee for the 2017 NCAA Woman of the Year award.

Reecher is among a record 543 female college athletes who have been nominated by a NCAA member school for this year’s award.

The three-time team captain is one of only four representatives from the Mid-American Conference and the lone student-athlete from the sport of women’s basketball to make the distinguished list.

A native of Byron, Ill., Reecher recently received the MAC’s 2017 Medal of Excellence Award, given to a student-athlete who has been successful on the playing field, in the classroom, and proven her fineness through leadership and service.

On the hardwood, the four-year letterwinner helped the Rockets capture their eighth conference title in program history in 2016-17 and advance to the 2017 NCAA Championships for the first time since 2001. UT finished with a 25-9 overall ledger and a 12-6 mark in the league, equaling the fifth most wins in single-season history.

In the classroom, Reecher graduated with a degree in exercise science with a concentration as a physician’s assistant in the spring. She will attend graduate school at UT and seek a master of science degree in biomedical science with a physician assistant concentration beginning this fall.

A member of the UT dean’s list in five of the last six semesters, Reecher posted a perfect 4.0 GPA in fall 2016. The two-time Academic All-Team honoree also earned the team’s Roy and Gail Hummel Scholarship for 2016-17, awarded to the senior women’s basketball student-athlete with the highest GPA.

In the community, Reecher was nominated for the 2015 Allstate Women’s Basketball Coaches Association and National Association of Basketball Coaches Good Works Team for community service and spent part of last summer on a medical mission trip in Peru.

Established in 1991 and in its 27th year, the NCAA Woman of the Year award honors graduating female college athletes who have exhausted their eligibility and distinguished themselves in academics, athletics, service and leadership throughout their collegiate careers.

The school nominees represent all three NCAA divisions, with 229 from Division I, 117 from Division II and 197 from Division III. The nominees competed in 21 different women’s sports, and 122 were multi-sport athletes during their time in college.

The NCAA encourages member schools to honor their top graduating female student-athletes each year by submitting their names for consideration for the Woman of the Year award.

Next, conferences will select up to two conference nominees each from the pool of nominees. The Woman of the Year selection committee, made up of representatives from the NCAA membership, then will choose the top 30 honorees — 10 from each division.

From the top 30, the selection committee determines the top three honorees from each division and will announce the nine finalists in September. The NCAA Committee on Women’s Athletics then chooses the 2017 NCAA Woman of the Year from those nine.

The top 30 honorees will be recognized and the 2017 NCAA Woman of the Year will be announced at the annual award ceremony Sunday, Oct. 22, in Indianapolis.

Lab work

Elizabeth Hamelin, analytical chemist for the Division of Laboratory Sciences in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Environmental Health, left, toured labs on Health Science Campus with, from left, Dr. David Kennedy and Dr. Steven Haller, both assistant professors in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, and Melanie Feyereisen, biologist in the Division of Laboratory Sciences in the National Center for Environmental Health in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Hamelin visited UT June 29 and gave a talk titled “Monitoring and Measuring Human Exposure to Algal Toxins.” She develops analytical methods to detect human exposure to toxins and poisons.

Photo by Christine Billau
President lauded for strategic direction set for University

By Meghan Cunningham

In its second annual review of The University of Toledo President Sharon L. Gaber, the UT Board of Trustees recognized her leadership in providing an ambitious strategic direction for the institution.

“In Dr. Gaber, we see a leader who is fully engaged in moving all components of the University forward,” Board Chair Steven Cavanaugh said. “She devotes enormous energy to representing the University to the community, alumni and donors. It’s a 24/7 job, and she has embraced that with grace.”

The recent adoption of the strategic plan, called The University of Toledo’s Path to Excellence, which aims for UT to become a top 100 public research university, was among the criteria the trustees used to evaluate the president’s second year at the University.

The board also recognized Gaber, who began her tenure as UT’s 17th president July 1, 2015, for improving the financial health of the institution, enhancing student enrollment and retention, increasing fundraising, implementing a diversity plan, and re-energizing research and the scholarly reputation of the University.

“The 2016-17 academic year was a year of progress on our road to excellence, but we still have much to do to reach our full potential. The bar moves higher every year,” Cavanaugh said. “What encourages me is that I know Dr. Gaber feels exactly the same way.”

As part of the performance review, the board voted to give Gaber a performance incentive of 20 percent of her salary per her hiring contract. Gaber requested that the performance incentive compensation be deferred until late September after fall enrollment is reviewed. Funding comes from unrestricted funds that were generated from investment earnings and allocated to a Board of Trustees account with the UT Foundation.

Discussion of a salary increase for Gaber has been deferred until the fall when enrollment numbers are reviewed and compensation for professional staff is determined.

Cavanaugh described the board’s philosophy for executive compensation saying that leadership is a key variable in determining the performance of an institution, and the president needs to be held accountable for achieving meaningful goals to move the institution forward.

Compliance Training Required in July

By Christine Wasserman

All faculty, supervisors, staff and student employees are required to complete online training courses to help the University advance its commitment to provide a supportive, inclusive and productive working environment.

All 12-month faculty and staff should begin this course work by Friday, July 14, and complete the courses by Monday, July 31. All nine-month and part-time faculty and staff should begin this course work by Friday, Sept. 15, and complete the courses by Saturday, Sept. 30.

The courses to be completed include:
- Intersections (anti-harassment and Title IX), and
- Conflict of interest (Ohio Ethics Commission).*

Additionally, Health Science Campus employees, individuals who work with patients, and those who work in clinical areas on Main Campus must complete a third course — HIPAA basics. These employees also may be required to take other compliance training courses to satisfy Joint Commission and other regulatory requirements.

Please reserve approximately one hour to complete each course.

To access the courses, log in to myUT by entering your UTAD and password. You will find the courses in the Employee tab under the Training and Career Development section. (UT Foundation employees will use the Affiliate tab.) Faculty and staff will be sent email reminders prior to the deadlines and also may access the courses by simply using the link contained in these emails.

* Note: A few employees have reported difficulty accessing and/or completing the Ohio Ethics Commission course due to high network volume. Therefore, as of Friday, July 7, when you use the training button for this course, you will be linked directly to the Ohio Ethics Commission site.

“If it is working to resolve all issues. Meanwhile, we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate everyone’s understanding,” said Dave Cutri, executive director of internal audit and chief compliance officer.

An electronic record will be made when you access and complete all courses except for the Ohio Ethics course. Once you complete this course, you should print your certificate of completion and scan/email it to TrainingDevelopment@utoledo.edu. Or you may send a print copy of your completion certificate to Terrie Kovacs, UT Human Resources and Talent Development, Mail Stop 405. Please keep a copy for your files.

If you have any questions or need assistance, contact Terrie Kovacs at 419.530.1478 or terrie.kovacs@utoledo.edu, or Keenen Fisher at 419.530.1435 or keenen.fisher@utoledo.edu.

Stormy weather

Photo by Rachel Nearhoof

Photography Assistant Rachel Nearhoof took this shot of Centennial Mall and the Thompson Student Union as a storm approached from the south last month.

Art on the Mall

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For younger guests who prefer to take a more hands-on approach to art, the Young Artist Area, sponsored by Huntington, will provide supplies for creating projects free of charge.

In addition to the art pieces, food and beverages will be available from vendors such as Jeanie’s Comfort Cuisine, Karen Anne’s Kettle Korn, K & K Concessions, OPA!

Cuisine, Quinn’s Concessions, and Rosie’s Rolling Chef.

A beer and wine garden will be open for guests 21 or older with a valid ID.

For more information, contact Abrams-Frederick at 419.530.4316 or ansley.abrams@utoledo.edu.
Diamante Awards call for nominations

Friday, July 28, is the deadline to submit nominations for this year’s Diamante Awards.

Founded in 1989 by IMAGE of Northwest Ohio, a local Latino advocacy group, the Diamante Awards celebrate the profound and lasting influence that Latinos have on American history, values and culture.

The awards recognize individuals and organizations for their outstanding achievements and service to Latinos.

In addition, the event raises scholarship funds for Latino youth seeking degrees at area colleges and universities.

The Diamante Awards is a collaboration between The University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, Lourdes University and Owens Community College, in cooperation with the Latino Alliance of Northwest Ohio.

The 28th annual event will take place Thursday, Sept. 14, at the Wolfe Center for the Performing Arts at Bowling Green State University.

“Now’s the perfect Diamante Awards dinner will be held on the eve of National Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated Sept. 15 through Oct. 15,” Dr. Michele Soliz, UT assistant vice president for student success and inclusion, said. “The University of Toledo is proud to work with area schools to recognize and promote Latinos and their successes, and to help raise funds for scholarships.”

Nominations are sought for:

• Latino/Latina Youth Leadership: Recognizes a young person of Latino descent between the ages of 16 and 21 who has made an impact within the northwest Ohio community.
• Latino/Latina Adult Leadership: Recognizes an adult of Latino descent age 21 and older who has demonstrated significant leadership in any area in northwest Ohio.
• Latino/Latina Adult Professional: Recognizes the contributions from professionals of Latino descent making a significant impact in their workplace or profession.
• Corporation/Community Agency: This group category recognizes an entity for supporting and making an impact within the northwest Ohio community.
• Friend of the Latino Community: Recognizes the contribution of an individual, of non-Latino descent, who is making an impact on the Latino community in northwest Ohio.

Nomination forms can be found at diamantetoledo.org/nomination.html.

For more information, email latinoalliancenwo@gmail.com or call 567.343.3432.

Colleges of Business, Engineering alumni affiliates hosting annual golf outing

The University of Toledo’s College of Business and Innovation and the Engineering alumni affiliates will host their 19th annual golf outing Saturday, Aug. 5, to support student scholarships and affiliate programming.

The event will be held at Bedford Hills Golf Club, 6400 Jackman Road in Temperance, Mich., with check-in beginning at 8 a.m. and the 18-hole shotgun starting at 9 a.m.

More than 100 area golfers are expected to participate in this philanthropic event.

“Last year, thanks to our many wonderful sponsors and participants, we successfully raised more than $10,000 for student scholarships,” Marcus Sneed, associate director of alumni relations, said.

“We are again asking the community to support this outing through sponsorship and participation. With your help, this year’s outing will be an even greater success.”

The cost is $90 per golfer ($360 per foursome) and includes:

• Continental breakfast and catered lunch;
• Two beverage tickets;
• Free use of the driving range;
• 18 holes of golf with a cart;
• Swag bag of gifts for each golfer;
• Prizes for the first-, second- and third-place teams;
• Two betting holes, closest to the pin, and longest putt contests; and
• Mulligans and team skins available.

The College of Business and Innovation and the College of Engineering alumni affiliates were established to help connect graduates to their UT family. Through these groups, alumni have the opportunity to network, socialize and volunteer at all levels throughout the Alumni Association.

To participate or become a sponsor, visit toledoalumni.org.

Online PhD

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The director of a school district’s special education program, or work for agencies and organizations at the national level. They also would be able to teach at colleges and universities.

The 70-credit hour program is designed to be completed in less than five years by part-time students who register for six credit hours each semester, including summers.

All course work is available online with the exception of two professional seminars that students can attend virtually using Skype or FaceTime technology if they cannot attend in person.

“I’d like to congratulate The University of Toledo for this innovative approach and for changing the dynamics of higher education by offering this degree,” said Ohio Department of Higher Education Chancellor John Carey.

No matter the distance, students enrolled in the program will have access to all University services and resources relevant to the program, such as the UT Virtual Lab, and the library and all of its digital resources and databases. Students also will have access to supplementary support as needed, such as the UT Writing Center and College of Graduate Studies staff and resources.

Students will present information about their progress using web-based tools, such as discussion boards and webinars.

Course instructors, as well as the students’ dissertation adviser and dissertation committee members, are already accustomed to working with students from a distance. UT offers an online master’s degree and an education specialist degree program online, and students complete comprehensive examinations and master’s projects online.

“Educational scholars are used to working by themselves in classrooms, schools or other settings that provide educational experiences,” Dinnebier said.

“That means that the quality of research that online students complete will not differ from the quality of research that traditional face-to-face doctoral students in our college complete.”

To apply, go to utoledo.edu/admissions/apply.
Study abroad trip broadens business horizons for students

By Bob Mackowiak

As soon as spring semester ended and the last graduates walked off the stage with their cherished diplomas, dozens of College of Business and Innovation students embarked on an engaging study abroad program to London and Berlin.

All College of Business and Innovation students — all majors — are strongly encouraged to study abroad during their undergraduate degree program. Study abroad programs can assist students in the development of academic, intellectual, personal, professional and cross-cultural skills.

These two- to three-week study abroad programs are led by College of Business faculty members, with Carol Sullinger and Dean Gary Insch leading May’s trip. Examples of College of Business faculty trips include eastern Europe, western Europe and Asia. Opportunities vary from year to year.

“I teach both marketing and international business classes and have experience in industry international business,” Sullinger said. “The trip is designed to be an immersion into the business culture, which includes the economic, political and cultural environments of a country. Those are the foundations of the business environment, and the trip is an experiential way to learn. The idea is to experience both the differences and the similarities of the different countries.

“My role was co-teaching the class with the dean throughout the semester in preparation for the trip, as well as planning the company, educational and cultural visits, everything from picking the hotels and assigning roommates to coordinating travel plans and the itinerary throughout the trip,” she added. “I think one of the really special parts of the trip was for the students to spend 10 days with the dean of the College of Business and Innovation. It was a privilege for all of us to learn from his knowledge and experience.”

“I went on this trip because I thought it was a great opportunity to squeeze in an extra class while being able to travel abroad and immerse myself into new cultures,” said Alex Odenweller, who majors in finance and accounting. “The biggest thing I learned was that the cultural and language barriers in European countries were more apparent than I thought they were. These barriers sometimes made it difficult to travel around the cities and immerse into the cultures.”

“I would definitely recommend this class to everyone,” Natalie Zerucha said. “I believe everyone should experience a culture change to make us as Americans realize how fortunate we are, as well as to show them that companies overall operate the same as we do and that it would be interesting to work with a business overseas.

“All businesses have the same sort of cycle no matter where you are in the world,” Zerucha added. “They might operate differently but they get their products from somewhere and someone else packages those products, so that is supply chain. Someone deals with their numbers. They market. I learned if you have an idea, run with it and see where it takes you, like Passle for example; they failed a few times, but they got back up and readjusted how they wanted to do things and be an asset to the business world. I also learned that you have to go with the trends to stay in the market, like QVC.”

Odenweller said, “The best experience for me was becoming very good friends with some of the people on the trip. I didn’t know anyone before going on the trip. And when I left, I had made a whole new group of friends. Being able to experience everything London and Berlin had to offer with a group of friends made the trip an even greater experience. I would say that this trip was one of the best experiences I have ever had, and I would go on it again in a heartbeat.”

“My favorite part of the trip was watching each student grow,” Sullinger said. “We had a wide variety of travel experience in the group; one student had never been on a plane, and another was a graduate student who did international medical device sales for his career. The group bonded in so many ways. One of the students who had never run a 10K in his life decided to enter and compete in one in London. His roommate on the trip went with him to cheer him on. The whole group, after learning of his accomplishment, congratulated him for days. I have many more of those stories, and each one was really rewarding to see. Watching each student grow is what I love about teaching.”

The location of next year’s trip will be determined before the fall semester starts. Anyone interested can contact Sullinger at carol.sullinger@utoledo.edu.

“The dean and I are looking forward to another great trip with up to 20 students in May 2018,” she said.
Men’s golf coach named
By Brian DeBenedictis

Jeff Roope has been named the men’s golf coach at The University of Toledo. Roope is the former Wittenberg University men’s and women’s golf coach.

“Jeff is an outstanding coach and an exceptional person,” UT Vice President and Athletic Director Mike O’Brien said. “His experience in building a national championship men’s golf program speaks for itself, but it only tells part of the story. He is a man of great character who we feel will be able to recruit student-athletes who will excel in the classroom and bring our men’s golf program back into national prominence. Jeff is also a relentless recruiter, and we’re very excited for the future of the program.”

During his 10 years at Wittenberg, Roope propelled the Tigers to new heights unachieved prior to his arrival. The men’s program captured its first NCAA Division III Championship in 2017, as well as finished third nationally in 2015 and 2016, and fifth in 2014. The women’s program placed second at the NCAA Championships in 2015 and third in each of the last two years.

“I’m so thrilled to be a part of the UT men’s golf program,” said Roope, who also served as head coach of Team USA at the 2016 Toyota Junior Golf World Cup in Japan. “The potential here is unlimited. I was so impressed with the support of the administration and the community during the interview process. It is definitely bittersweet to leave Wittenberg, but I know both programs will be in good hands. My hope is to bring that kind of success to UT. I’m very excited to see how much this program can achieve on the course, in the classroom, and in the community. I can’t wait to get started.”

Between the men’s and women’s programs, Roope helped Wittenberg secure 70 team championships, 67 all-conference accolades, 48 individual medalist honors, 31 Academic All-Scholar Awards, 22 All-Americans, 11 North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) championships, 10 league medalist recipients, seven NCAC Player of the Year honorees, and two Academic All-Americans over the last decade.

Almost immediately after arriving at Wittenberg in 2007, Roope turned both programs into perennial contenders for conference championships and NCAA Division III Tournament bids. The men’s team made big strides in his first two years, moving quickly up the ranks in the NCAC, and both teams rewrote the school record books for team and individual scoring.


Individually, Tiger men’s players won the NCAC’s Bob Nye Award as the conference’s individual medalist six straight years, with Craig Osterbrock becoming the program’s first All-American in nearly 20 years with back-to-back awards in 2010 and 2011. Other individuals who earned All-America recognition included David Wetterich in 2012; Alex Andrews in 2013, 2014 and 2015; John Chaney in 2014 and 2015; Ben Hogenkamp in 2014; Garrett Brickley in 2016 and 2017; Sam Geise and Issae Hartley in 2016; and Sam Stilwell in 2015 and 2017.

Roope also garnered two Great Lakes Region Women’s Coach of the Year awards (2013, 2015) as the Tiger women’s program rapidly ascended over the same time period, ranking in the top 25 nationally at the conclusion of six straight seasons. After taking second place in three of the first four NCAC Tournaments, Roope guided the team to three consecutive league titles. The four-time reigning NCAC Coach of the Year also took the Tigers to the brink of a national championship, finishing second in 2015 and third each of the last two years.

Individualy, Jane Hopkinson-Wood and Macy Hubbard garnered a spot on the All-America Team each of the last three years.

Prior to working at Wittenberg, Roope spent four years as a women’s golf assistant coach at Otterbein College. The Cardinals won three Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) championships during his time at Otterbein, capped in 2006 when all five golfers finished in the individual top 10 to earn All-OAC honors. Otterbein women’s golf won 19 team titles and recorded 18 individual titles in tournament play over four years, and Cardinal players earned 17 all-conference honors in that span.

Before joining the Cardinals, Roope served as head women’s golf coach at Upper Arlington High School in Columbus for the 2002 and 2003 seasons. His teams won back-to-back Mid-Ohio Girl’s Golf League championships, and he was honored as the league’s Coach of the Year in 2002.

In addition to coaching, Roope previously worked as an assistant tournament director with the Florida State Golf Association and as an assistant caddiemaster at the Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, site of the Professional Golf Association’s (PGA) annual Memorial Tournament. He has successfully completed the PGA/USGA Rules of Golf School and the PGA of America’s Playing Ability Test, required for certification as a teaching professional.

Roope is a former chair of the Golf Coaches Association of America (GCIAA) All-Region and All-America Selection Committee, as well as a member of the GCAA Palmer Cup and Jack Nicklaus Award Selection Committee. In 2011, he was named to the Women’s Golf Coaches Association Board of Directors, where he served two terms as the Division III representative. Roope was also a member of the NCAA Women’s Great Lakes Regional Advisory Committee, the GCAA All-Region and All-America Selection Committee, and he successfully completed his fourth USGA/PGA rules of golf school in 2015.

He also competes as an amateur golfer in local and regional events. He has posted several top finishes in recent years, including a top 10 finish in the 2008 Franklin County Amateur Championship.

A native of Grove City, Ohio, Roope earned a bachelor’s degree in sport management from Bowling Green State University in 1993 and a master’s degree in sport administration from Ashland University in 2006. He and his wife, Nicole, have a daughter, Madeline.

UT football single-game tickets on sale
By Paul Heffernan

Single-game Toledo football tickets and away-game tickets are on sale now at The University of Toledo Athletic Ticket Office.

The Rockets have six home games in 2017, including key Mid-American Conference games vs. Northern Illinois and Western Michigan.

The season opens at home vs. Elon Thursday, Aug. 31.

Tickets also are available for all six away games, including the Rockets’ battle vs. Miami Saturday, Sept. 23, at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Fla.

To purchase season tickets, single-game tickets or away-game tickets, stop by the UT Athletic Ticket Office, located in the Sullivan Athletic Complex at Savage Arena, go online to UTrockets.com, or call 419.530.GOLD (4653).
Rockets tie for country best with school-record seven on national scholar team

By Steve Easton

Toledo tied for the national high with a school-record seven Rockets named to the 2016-17 National Golf Coaches Association (NGCA) All-American Scholar Team.

The previous best for UT for the NGCA’s scholar squad members was four.

Junior Napaphan Phongpaiboon, sophomore Natcha Daengpiem, sophomore Pimchanok Kawil, sophomore Hannah Kochendoerfer, sophomore Pinyada Kuvanun, freshman Thunpijja Sukkasem and freshman Saranlak Tumfong each earned a spot on the squad.

The criteria for selection to the All-American Scholar Team are some of the most stringent of all college athletics. The minimum cumulative GPA is 3.50, and student-athletes must have competed in at least 50 percent (Division I) or 66 percent (Division II and III) of the college’s regularly scheduled competitive rounds during the year.

“We had an amazing year in the classroom with a school-record 3.78 team GPA and now having seven members on the NGCA All-American Scholar Team tops it off,” Head Coach Nicole Hollingsworth said.

“I am so proud of all seven individuals on how they have performed in the classroom and on the golf course.”

Phongpaiboon, who possesses a 3.757 grade-point average in international business, ranked fourth on the team with a 77.2 stroke average and notched six top 20 finishes. She posted a career-best fourth-place showing at the Ball State Sunshine Invitational to help the Rockets to one of two tournament titles. Phongpaiboon also earned MAC Golfer of Week honors after registering a fifth-place finish and career-low four-under par 212 at the Pat Bradley Invitational.

A communications major with a 3.823 GPA, Daengpiem ranked fifth on the team with a 78.1 stroke average and notched two top 20 showings.

Kawil ranked second on the team with a 75.6 stroke average en route to earning second-team All-Mid-American Conference honors. She was named co-MAC Golfer of Week after tying for second place with a season-best one-under par 215 at Red Rocks Invitational. Kawil, who possesses a 3.689 GPA in business, tied the school record with a five-under par 67 at the Golfweek Conference Challenge and notched three top five finishes and eight top 20 finishes.

A computer engineering major with a 3.898 GPA, Kochendoerfer posted an 80.4 stroke average and registered a season-best tying 13th-place finish at the Rocket Classic.

Kuvanun, who possesses a 3.625 GPA in international business, earned second-team All-MAC accolades after leading the Rockets with a 74.9 stroke average and eight top 10 finishes. She also received co-MAC Golfer of Week honors on a pair of occasions by tying for second place at the Idle Hour Collegiate Championship and the Red Rocks Invitational, respectively, with an even-par 216 and with a season-low one-under par 215.

A management major with a 3.600 GPA, Sukkasem posted a 79.9 stroke average and earned MAC Golfer of the Week honors by tying for first place at the Ball State Sunshine Invitational with a 15-over par 231.

Tumfong registered a 77.0 stroke average and holds a perfect 4.000 GPA in media communication. She garnered her top showing by tying for fifth place at the Indiana Invitational with a season-best eight-over par 224 (77-74-73).

Tops in the conference

The University of Toledo brought home two awards from the May 31 Mid-American Conference honors dinner in Cleveland.

UT received the 2015-16 MAC Academic Institutional Achievement Award, given annually to the school with the highest overall GPA. On hand for the honor were, from left, Dr. Mary Powers, UT faculty athletics representative and professor of pharmacy practice; UT President Sharon L. Gaber; Brad Spelman, football player; Jon Steinbrecher, MAC commissioner; Mike O’Brien; vice president and athletic director; and Kelly Andrews, senior associate athletic director and senior woman administrator in Intercollegiate Athletics.
Since 1972, contestants on “The Price Is Right” have “come on down” for the chance to appear on television and win prizes. Jacob Mattoni, a UT student majoring in electrical engineering, never thought one day he would be among them.

Mattoni was on a trip to California with his girlfriend and fellow UT student, Kendall Bialecki, who is majoring in biology/pre-med, during spring break while taping of the show took place.

“Her sister-in-law was looking into getting tickets for a show in Los Angeles because we would be traveling there for a few days to visit. The day of the taping, we showed up and stood in line waiting to get into the registration area. The registration process took about three hours,” Mattoni explained. “Part of this process was the interview, which is when they take about 20 people at a time and ask them a simple question just to see how they respond.”

When asked by the interviewer what he does, Mattoni responded enthusiastically, telling him about going to The University of Toledo and studying electrical engineering.

“He then responded with, ‘I bet you could use a new computer,’ which is when I said, ‘I could, but I’d rather win a new car,’” Mattoni said.

Luck appeared to be on Mattoni’s side when he was called on to participate in the game show, after putting on a performance in the audience to act “as obnoxious as possible” in an attempt to gain the attention of those running the program.

“I thought I heard my last name, but with everyone cheering in the audience, I couldn’t hear a thing. I then look on stage and see a man holding up a poster board with my name on it. At that point, I basically blacked out and couldn’t remember anything,” Mattoni recalled. “Out of 300 people in the audience, I never would have imagined getting my name called.

“Participating in the show is all a blur, to be honest. With dozens of cameras in your face and people screaming and cheering for you, there wasn’t much focus on the actual objective of the show,” he continued.

Mattoni did express thanks to his girlfriend and her family for their help from the audience throughout the show, which aired May 25.

After a brief setback during one of his prize games, Mattoni won a chance to compete for a showcase prize after spinning 95 cents on “the Big Wheel,” the closest amount to $1 that was spun without going over.

He then bested his opponent with his bid on a showcase prize that included a roundtrip to Yosemite National Park, a Mongoose ATV and a 2017 Honda Fit, which he said he traded for a more “age appropriate” 2017 Honda Civic, which has plenty of room for his golf clubs.
Glacity Theatre Collective to present world premiere of ‘Falling Short’

It’s Feb. 1, 2003. Space Shuttle Columbia has just disintegrated upon re-entry. What kind of person would see this horrible disaster as an opportunity?

Meet Ed and Tony. On a quest for Shuttle parts — as souvenirs or possibly to sell on eBay — the two men journey through the Piney Woods of east Texas, arguing conspiracy theories, ridiculing Nazis, dissing English literature, confessing peculiar secrets, and contemplating their own failed existence.

Texas playwright Wolfgang Paetzel vividly remembers that day: “The Columbia disaster happened right over my house. I should have noticed the loud booms and rattling of windows, but I was too preoccupied chasing a screaming toddler. At that moment, in my own little universe, a poopy diaper was more pressing. ‘Falling Short’ features many folks in similar situations — but only one poopy diaper.”

In this multimedia piece, Ed and Tony will be played live by Drew Wheeler and Dr. Edmund B. Lingan, UT associate professor and chair of theatre and film, as they interact with video segments incorporating actors from both Texas and Ohio.

“East Texas has a distinct natural environment that is different from the rest of Texas,” said Lingan, who, like Paetzel, grew up in that area. “Wolfgang has done an amazing job of capturing the look and the language of the region, and he has really caught the essence of the people we grew up with.”

The production is directed by Lingan, with video segments created by Paetzel and UT alumna Megan Aherne, and set and lighting design by James S. Hill, UT professor emeritus of theatre.

The soundtrack showcases music from obscure Texas garage bands as well as Lone Star legends, including The Blanks, Texas Belairs, Ran, Homer Henderson, Sled, Culturicide, Roy Bennett, and The Peenbeets.

‘Falling Short’ will run Thursday through Saturday, July 20-22, in the UT Center for Performing Arts Center Theatre. All performances will be at 8 p.m. The doors will open one half hour prior to curtain.

‘Moana’ chosen for movie night in Glass Bowl Aug. 18

By Paul Helgren

The University of Toledo will host a free movie night for the community in the Glass Bowl Friday, Aug. 18. Determined by an online fan vote, the movie will be “Moana.”

The movie will begin at 8 p.m. with gates opening at 6:30 p.m. for the opportunity to meet members of the football and volleyball teams.

Throughout the evening, fans of all ages can participate in various activities, including color stations, inflatable bounce houses, obstacle courses, corn hole and more.

Attendees may bring their own food and drink into the stadium. The concession stands also will be open.

For more information about movie night at the Glass Bowl, call 419.530.GOLD (4653).
Dig it

Austin Bartos and Linnea Vicari weeded the arugula at a community garden. Thanks to an internship supported through the David G. Hoch Honors Fund at the UT Foundation, the two students in the Jesup Scott Honors College are interns with Toledo GROWs, a community gardening outreach program of Toledo Botanical Garden. Both are majoring in environmental science. To make a donation to the fund, go to https://give2ut.utoledo.edu and search for Hoch.

Good growing

Sara Guiher, a graduate student in the Department of Environmental Sciences, checked out the native plants at the roundabout at Dorr Street and Centennial Road. She is working with Dr. Todd Crail, associate lecturer of environmental sciences, and other students to ensure the flowering species native to the Oak Openings region continue to flourish in that roundabout as well as one at Dorr Street and King Road. The past two years, students planted predominantly herbaceous species that keep weeds at bay by taking up nutrients and space. Plants include black-eyed Susans, butterfly milkweed, dotted horsemint, prairie thimbleweed, rattlesnake master, rough blazing star, wild bergamot and wild blue lupine. The Lucas County Engineer’s office provided funding to purchase the native species plants.
International Youth Academy set for July 23-Aug. 5

By Cathy Zimmer

The Center for International Studies and Programs, in conjunction with Toledo Sister Cities, will welcome students from around the world for the 2017 International Youth Academy scheduled for Sunday, July 23, through Saturday, Aug. 5, on The University of Toledo’s Main Campus.

Students who participate in the International Youth Academy, a special cultural program for high school-aged youth 14 to 17 from around the world, can improve their conversational English, develop new understanding of teens from different cultures, and gain lifetime friendships, all while having fun.

“The University of Toledo and Toledo Sister Cities International have a long standing relationship; this relationship has evolved into a partnership to implement the International Youth Academy program,” said Dr. Sammy Spann, assistant vice provost for international studies and programs. “In my mind there is no greater pride than the pride I ascribe to our UT/Sister Cities co-sponsorship of the International Youth Academy. Our shared commitment to creatively foster the development of a corps of young citizen-of-the-world diplomats through the International Youth Academy exemplifies the synergy between UT and Sister Cities.”

International Youth Academy is a special cultural two-week program that enriches high school students’ global awareness and English language. The program is designed for students to share their thoughts and experiences with teenagers from other countries. American youth diplomats work side by side with students to assist them with English, learn about the students’ traditions and culture, and share interests. English classes, language games, cultural activities, field trips and hands-on team building events all aid in improving students’ conversational English.

“We are happy to host the International Youth Academy on UT’s campus. The high school students have the opportunity to experience campus life by residing in one of our residence halls and engaging with The University of Toledo students,” said Kayann Carlson, who is coordinating this program for the Center for International Studies and Programs. “We have added a new twist to the program: This year we will have junior ambassadors. Junior ambassadors are American students in the same age group as the program participants. The ambassador program allows the students to build relationships with American students within their age group. Additionally, the American junior ambassadors are able to gain an international perspective while remaining in the United States.”

This summer’s International Youth Academy program will host nine students from Japan, two students from Tanzania, and five junior ambassador students from the United States.

Program highlights will include targeted English second language instruction and development of cultural awareness through outings to Cedar Point, Toledo Zoo, Toledo Mud Hens game, and the Toledo Art Museum.

For the third year, The Blade will support the International Youth Academy. The Blade staff will provide education on the concept of free press and teach the process of interviewing and reporting. In addition, The Blade is sponsoring several of the student outings.
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University College adviser selected for award in excellence

By Madison Vasko

Whether students, faculty or staff, those tied to The University of Toledo know just how important the role of an adviser is.

Melissa Gleckler, senior specialist for prior learning and credit assessment, was recognized for her achievements in advising by the Ohio Academic Advising Association June 16 at its annual conference held at Cleveland State University. Gleckler was presented with the Advising Excellence Award, which she was nominated for by Deb Sobczak, director of student services for the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and DeMya Wimberly, success coach and pre-major adviser for exploratory studies.

“It is an honor to be recognized by my peers as an exemplary adviser for the state of Ohio,” Gleckler said. “It is important that we not only support our students, but also support each other. Receiving the state advising award is a wonderful way to celebrate my 10th year in higher education here at UT.”

Gleckler, who completed both bachelor’s and a master’s degrees at UT, said she hadn’t planned on working in higher education.

“Higher education is actually my second career, and an accidental one, at that. My bachelor’s degree is in broadcast communication, and I worked in TV production for many years. I often found myself in teaching and training situations, which is what led me to pursue a master’s degree and commute my career to higher education.

“I’m currently pursuing a PhD in educational technology, which I find to be a marriage between my two careers, both of which I have enjoyed immensely,” she said.

Wiona Porath, who at the time was president of the Ohio Academic Advising Association, sent Gleckler the notification of her award. She transitioned to past-president at the conference.

“I have known [Gleckler] since 2007, when I worked at UT. I was so pleased that the awards committee selected her to receive the Excellence in Advising Award for the Ohio Academic Advising Association,” Porath said. “It was such a joy for me to let Mel know she would be the recipient of the 2017 award. It was even more exciting to be able to present the award to her at our annual conference.”

“Universities can be large and hard to navigate. Higher education is so different from high school. Advisers are a lifeline for students. While academic success is our main goal, I, like so many of my colleagues, believe in holistic advising to promote student success in all facets of life, well beyond the books.” Gleckler explained, when asked about the importance of good advising.

“I’ve actually had students ask me about my career path and how to become an adviser — which is a great compliment in itself. The desire to pay it forward reminds me of the impact we have on students. The best advice I have for them is to always remember their own student journey — what helped them, what they needed to know, what they know now that they wish they had known then. Sometimes a student might not know the right questions to ask, but we still have to be able to give them the answers they need. By staying in touch with the student experience, I know I can better understand and serve my students’ needs.”

Parking garages scheduled to reopen

The east and west garages on Main Campus are set to reopen Friday, July 21.

“We had the chance to install supplemental horizontal reinforcement and completed other repairs, such as floor patching and caulking replacement, which addressed maintenance issues that arise due to the winter months’ freeze and thaw cycle,” Doug Collins, director of grounds and transportation, said.

Americans With Disabilities Act improvements also were addressed in the structures, he added, along with restriping the spaces and washing the driving areas and stairwells.

“We appreciate everyone’s patience as we continue to address the annual maintenance for the parking garages,” Collins said.
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Main Campus – The University of Toledo
Law student recognized for oral advocacy at international moot court competition

By Kirsten M. Winek

For the last several years, the UT College of Law has sent a team of students to China to compete in the Beijing Foreign Studies University–Wanhuida Cup Intellectual Property Moot Court Competition.

This year’s team — Victor Aberdeen, Jason Csehi, Alex Bayoneto and Patrick Charest — competed against teams from China, Australia, Taiwan and the United States. The team was coached by Bernadette Delgado, a law student who competed in last year’s competition.

The team faced incisive questions from the competition judges, who were intellectual property attorneys, law professors, and the chief judge of the District Intellectual Property Court of China.

Charest’s oral arguments and responses to questions were praised by the judges, who named him one of four “Best Oralists” in the competition.

According to Delgado, Charest’s win was well-deserved. “Patrick had a solid grasp of the problem and both sides of the argument,” she said. “He was very persuasive in his arguments and knew the applicable Chinese law and cases well enough to support his position.”

Because this competition brings together both native and non-native English speakers to argue unique questions of Chinese intellectual property law, the judging is different from a typical moot court competition.

“The judges give greater weight to the quality and substance of the answer rather than the style of the oralist,” explained Professor Llewellyn Gibbons, faculty adviser to the team. “Patrick’s answers impressed a panel of Chinese law experts with his mastery of Chinese intellectual property law, as well as principles of trademark law drawn from the U.S., the E.U. and the Paris Convention.”

Summer reflections

James A. Mohar, web and digital media specialist in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, took this photo of day lilies in front of the University sign on Health Science Campus.

In memoriam

Dr. James G. Diller, Ann Arbor, Mich., a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Surgery from 2000 to 2003, died July 3 at age 88. The plastic and reconstructive surgeon led medical mission trips to the Dominican Republic starting in the 1990s; several MCO physicians and students helped on these trips. In 2007, Diller was inducted into the Global Medical Mission Hall of Fame.

Thaddeus P. “Ted” McHugh, Toledo, who worked at the University two decades, died July 2 at age 83. He joined UT as an adviser in 1980 and later became director of adult liberal studies. In 1995, as acting director of University College Programs, McHugh received the University’s Outstanding Adviser Award.

Barbara C. (Baily) Krastin, Toledo, secretary to the dean in the College of Education from 1952 to 1972, died June 27 at age 87. She was preceded in death by her husband, Karl Krastin, dean emeritus of the College of Law.

Robert L. Shryock, Indianapolis, manager of the UT bookstore from 1952 until his retirement in 1987, died June 8 at age 92.
Dr. Michelle L. Serres, clinical associate professor and director of introductory pharmacy experiential education, took the Special Topics in Diabetes class outside to the patio area between Dowling Hall and the Health Education Building. She was discussing diabetes review cases on a recent nice day.

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