Engineering alumna lands job with Microsoft

Courtney Greer wanted to be part of the computer revolution.

“Computers are all around us. Whether you know it or not, they impact our lives every single day,” she said. “I wanted to be a part of that impact and innovation.”

Greer graduated from The University of Toledo with a bachelor of science degree in computer science and engineering with a minor in business administration in May.

Shortly after graduation, she accepted a job offer from Microsoft, the sixth largest information technology company in the world by revenue.

“I actually didn’t know anything about computer science or engineering until my senior year of high school. Before that, I was in between interior design and psychology,” Greer said. “My mother convinced me to take a look at engineering because of my love for math. Math has always been my favorite subject, but I never really knew how to make a career out of it. Engineering was the perfect choice for me once I started to learn about it. I chose computer science engineering once I realized how much growth and opportunity there was in that field.”

Once she began her studies at UT, Greer became involved with several student organizations, sports and jobs. She said her four engineering co-ops, three of which are required by the College of Engineering before graduation, especially prepared her for her future working with tech.

“I did two [co-ops] with Lubrizol in Cleveland and two in San Francisco with Visa,” Greer said. “My internships helped me narrow down exactly what I was interested in my field and helped me network with people from all over.

“My studies at UT taught me how to learn and how to love learning, which is going to be key stepping in to such a fast-paced field,” she added. “I also wouldn’t be anywhere without my organization, the National Society of Black Engineers. I was a part of NSBE all five years on campus,”

Researcher’s study of how cells move could lead to enhanced medical therapies

A University of Toledo chemistry and biochemistry faculty member and his research team of graduate students have answered a fundamental biological question about cell migration that could have implications for enhanced medical treatments.

Results from the two-year study have been published in the Oct. 20 issue of the Journal of Biological Chemistry.

“If we better understand how cells migrate, we can target some of these molecules for therapeutic purposes,” said Dr. Ajith Karunarathne, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, who led the research team.

Scientists have long been trying to better understand exactly how cells move throughout the body. If you can control a cell’s movement, you might be able to prevent cancer cell movement and secondary tumor formation in vital body organs such as the lungs or pancreas. Or you could help immune cells move to the site of an infection and accelerate healing.

In their research, the UT team targeted the cell’s G protein-coupled receptors, or GPCRs. These receptors are known as the “sniffers,” Karunarathne said, because they sense the environment and steer the cell where it’s needed in the body. They also regulate everything from heart rate to how much insulin the pancreas kicks out.

One-third of marketed drugs are used to control the GPCR pathways, according to Karunarathne. That includes everything from beta blockers to cancer and diabetes medicines.

When a cell moves, the front of the cell scoots forward, while the back of the cell retracts. You need both things to happen for the cell to move. It’s called “treadmilling.”

“...
Dr. Clinton O. Longenecker, Distinguished University Professor and director of the College of Business and Innovation’s Center for Leadership in Organizational Excellence, right, received his finalist plaque and $15,000 check for Baylor University’s national Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching from Dr. Michael Thompson, chairman of the selection committee. Longenecker is one of three finalists for the Cherry Award, which has been described as the “Nobel Prize for university teaching.” The other two finalists are Dr. Neil Garg, professor of chemistry from UCLA, and Dr. Heidi Elmendorf, professor of biology from Georgetown University. The Cherry Award competition was completed last month at Baylor. The winner of the Robert Foster Cherry Award will be announced in January and will receive $250,000 for teaching one semester at Baylor University. The Cherry Award is the largest cash teaching prize in the United States.

**Professor vying for national teaching award**

Dr. Clinton O. Longenecker, Distinguished University Professor and director of the College of Business and Innovation’s Center for Leadership in Organizational Excellence, right, received his finalist plaque and $15,000 check for Baylor University’s national Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching from Dr. Michael Thompson, chairman of the selection committee. Longenecker is one of three finalists for the Cherry Award, which has been described as the “Nobel Prize for university teaching.” The other two finalists are Dr. Neil Garg, professor of chemistry from UCLA, and Dr. Heidi Elmendorf, professor of biology from Georgetown University. The Cherry Award competition was completed last month at Baylor. The winner of the Robert Foster Cherry Award will be announced in January and will receive $250,000 for teaching one semester at Baylor University. The Cherry Award is the largest cash teaching prize in the United States.

**Take five**

Connor Ward and Chloe Wagenhauser from Chloe and the Steel Strings took a break from performing at Phoenixia Cuisine’s grand opening celebration and picked up pieces of cake. The Nov. 7 event was in honor of the restaurant’s relocation to the fourth floor of the Thompson Student Union.

**25 years and counting: Center for Family Business to celebrate, look to future**

By Bob Mackowiak

The University of Toledo Center for Family and Privately Held Business will celebrate its 25th anniversary of service to area companies Tuesday, Nov. 14, at the Toledo Club.

Established in 1992, the UT Center for Family and Privately Held Business is dedicated to serving the specific needs of family businesses, primarily in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. It received its start due to a generous endowment by the Stranahan Foundation and the continual support of family businesses.

“The fun-filled evening will include stories about the past and reflections on the future,” Debbie Skutch, center director, said. “We will honor center leadership past, present and future; and we have some other fun activities planned. The center has thrived for 25 years because of our members, sponsors and community partners, and we want to spend the evening celebrating them.”

“We have always strived to be attentive and responsive to the changing needs of our members,” Angie Jones, assistant director at the center, said. “Their businesses are not static, but always evolving. They change as the economy changes, as world markets shift, and as dynamics change in their own businesses. We truly believe it is our responsibility to be there with pertinent answers to as many of these issues as we can. We have done that, which is why our members stay with us and new members join us all the time.”

Today, with nearly 200 family businesses as members, the center membership benefits include:

- Attendance at events and forums sponsored by the UT Center for Family and Privately Held Business;
- Monthly mini-forums available to member companies only;
- Interaction with family business peers through affinity group participation; and
- Access to local, regional and nationally recognized business experts.

Thirteen companies have been members since the center was established; these include The Andersons, the Appliance Center, Gross Electric, Hart Inc., Kuhlman Corp., Shrader Tire & Oil, and Walt Churchill’s Market.

“Over our first 25 years of service, we estimate that the information, resources, programs, networking and more has resulted in a positive impact worth millions of dollars to these regional businesses,” Skutch said. “The viability of our members is the reward we seek, and together we will continue to make a meaningful difference in their future success.”
Community charitable campaign improves lives

By Christine Wasserman

This year’s University of Toledo Community Charitable Campaign (UTC3), formerly known as the United Way Campaign, runs through Friday, Dec. 22. As of Nov. 9, University faculty, physicians, staff and retirees have pledged more than $20,000 to more than 200 nonprofit agencies whose missions depend on our generosity.

Consider for a moment:

• A young mom struggling to build a new life finally landing a job while living at Bethany House, Toledo’s only long-term domestic violence shelter, just in time to purchase clothing and a few toys so her three sons will find gifts under the Christmas tree this year.
• A pediatric oncology patient being comforted in her hospital bed by a new furry friend from Pet Partners, which provides pet therapy for patients of all ages.
• A couple in their early 90s still living at home in south Toledo because meals are delivered right to their doorstep, thanks to Mobile Meals of Toledo.
• And hundreds of area bird watchers gleefully spotting nearly 40 species of warblers at Magee Marsh when the birds gather on the forested beach ridges in large numbers, reluctant to cross Lake Erie.

These actual lives — and thousands more — all have been positively impacted by local charities assisted by UTC3. If there’s a particular charity or cause that’s near to your heart — perhaps an issue that has directly affected your own family — you may designate which nonprofit organization(s) your funds will support when you complete your UTC3 ePledge form.

The ePledge form is accessible in weekly emails you receive from this year’s campaign chair, Dr. Michele Soliz, assistant vice president of student success and inclusion. To see a complete list of charities supported by UTC3, visit utoledo.edu/utc3.

All gifts are tax-deductible, and you may choose from a variety of payment options, including payroll deduction, which does not begin until 2018.

Every person who pledges a UTC3 donation will receive a complimentary gift, be eligible for weekly prize drawings, and will be invited to a hearty breakfast buffet with President Sharon L. Gaber in January.

UTC3 options

2017 Federation Fair & Ice Cream Social

Learn more about UTC3 and meet representatives from the charities your donations will support throughout the community.

Health Science Campus — Tuesday, Nov. 21
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Four Seasons Bistro

** Drawings for great prizes! **

Voluntary donations of any amount will be accepted at the ice cream social to support the four federations assisted by UTC3: United Way of Greater Toledo, Community Health Charities of Ohio, Northwest Ohio Shares and EarthShare Ohio.

Nadine Hoffmann, secretary in the School of Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences in the College of Health and Human Services, talked with John Pullella of the Collingwood Arts Center at the UT Community Charitable Campaign (UTC3, formerly known as the United Way campaign) federation fair and ice cream social last week in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium. Representatives from more than 200 nonprofit organizations that benefit from UTC3 donations were at the event, which also served up ice cream. To learn more about this year’s campaign and meet representatives from area agencies supported by UTC3 gifts, a federation fair and ice cream social will be held Tuesday, Nov. 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Four Seasons Bistro on Health Science Campus. For more information about the annual community campaign, including a complete list of charities gifts may support, visit utoledo.edu/utc3.
and the professional workshops, resumé building, community service, engineering conventions and leadership opportunities. I’ve had with my colleagues in the org had a huge impact on where I am today.”

Greer seems to have found her groove at Microsoft in Chicago, where she is a partner development manager, working with a team called One Commercial Partner.

“I quickly came to realize that an average day doesn’t exist in my role,” Greer explained. “My team is responsible for creating the growth of Microsoft’s cloud, Azure, in market. My sole responsibility is recruitment. I work within a team of about 20 individuals in different regions and areas of expertise to bring startups, small to medium businesses, and consumers to the cloud.

“Once we are able to get a consumer integrated into Azure, we become a partner with that brand, and, in turn, I become one of their brand champions on Microsoft’s behalf. We want our consumers to get all they can out of Azure; we want them to leverage new technologies relating to Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Internet of Things and more. It is so fascinating to see how our consumers are able to leverage our technologies to change the world.”

She helps contact more than 300 accounts in the Midwest region. These accounts vary from manufacturing, financial services, health care and more.

“I need to understand what their company produces and their mission, but also try my best to predict the business and technology needs of each business I interact with. This is why I say no day is average,” Greer said.

“Any day I could be talking to a CTO and CEO of a million-dollar manufacturing company or four college students hoping to create an app that helps hospitals manage patient data. I could be working from home, or I could be working downtown showing clients one of the Microsoft Technology Centers. I could be traveling to Vegas to a conference to speak to up-and-coming startups about the capabilities of Azure.

“No day is set in stone, which is what I love the most. I love getting to speak to people who have created these wonderful technologies and assisting them to get to the next step.”

Greer is also passionate about encouraging young women and other minorities to pursue their interests in engineering. According to the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, only 14 percent of engineers are women.

“Don’t let failures stop you,” Greer advised. “I’ve read a lot of studies about how insecurities in minorities and women tend to be their downfall. They believe they have to be the best when surrounded by the majority either in school, work or in social interactions ‘or else they’ll think we’re all dumb,’ ‘or else they’ll think I don’t belong.’

It’s called the stereotype threat, and it can be very hurtful to both women and minorities in their studies.

“Don’t fall into that trap. Look at failures as opportunities for learning, no matter where or who you are. We all make mistakes. I learned this insight from a book I read titled ‘Mindset’ by Carol Dweck. I recommend anyone beginning a new phase in her or his life read that book as it is very impactful.”

Researchers’ study

Until now, scientists haven’t had much information on how the retraction piece of the puzzle works, Karunarathne said.

In its study, the research team inserted GPCR receptors from the eye, which are sensitive to light, into cells from other parts of the body. They then used light to activate the receptors and target a specific area in the front of the cell. In this way, they could take a look at how the back of the cell reacted — the piece of the puzzle that’s been missing.

The use of light receptors was an important innovation in the team’s research. It is part of a fairly new field called subcellular optogenetics, Karunarathne said.

Normally, chemicals are used to activate receptors. But chemicals, which dissipate throughout the cell, are hard to control. By using light instead to stimulate the receptors, researchers could target specific, small regions on a single cell. They also could turn the light on and off, stopping and starting the activation.

As the researchers activated the GPCR in the front of the cell, the cell generated proteins. Through trial and error, and by targeting combinations of those proteins, the UT team found two pathways that affect how the back of the cell retracts and that are essential to cell migration. Stop either of those pathways and the cells can’t move.

With this discovery, scientists can now begin thinking about how to create therapies that either slow, stop or accelerate a cell’s movement. Karunarathne said one possibility is gene therapy whereby patients are injected with genes that make cells to produce light-sensitive GPCRs. Tumor cells could be “told” not to migrate, and immune cells could be “told” to attack nasty infections.

Innovators to present ideas at UT LaunchPad Incubator’s Pitch & Pour Nov. 16

An app that aggregates social media messaging, 3D printed bone implants, and a cutting-edge treatment for autism are among the ideas to be presented from aspiring entrepreneurs at Pitch & Pour, northwest Ohio’s largest entrepreneurial business pitch competition.

Five teams will pitch their ideas at the sixth annual startup pitch event sponsored by The University of Toledo’s Launchpad Incubation Program Thursday, Nov. 16, at 5:30 p.m. in the Nitschke Technology Commercialization Complex.

The teams are vying for a grand prize of $10,000 in cash, plus access to entrepreneurial services through UT Launchpad Incubation.

The future entrepreneurs will have five minutes and five slides to pitch their business concepts to the region’s angel investors, venture capitalists, technology experts, professors, and business and community leaders. An expert panel of judges will provide helpful insight and vote to determine the winner or winners.

“We are proud to be providing the opportunity for candidate companies and entrepreneurs to compete in November’s event here at the heart of our region’s startup community,” said Jessica Sattler, director of economic engagement and business development programs at UT. “Each year we seek to identify high-tech, high-growth, technology-enabled enterprises that demonstrate innovation and business concepts with the potential to develop into successful companies. This year we are thrilled to have received the greatest number of applicants in Pitch & Pour history with some true standout ideas in the mix. This is a testament to the growth in the entrepreneurial culture and overall ecosystem here in northwest Ohio.”
Events planned for International Education Week Nov. 13-17

By Cathy Zimmer

The Center for International Studies and Programs will spotlight International Education Week, Nov. 13-17, with more than 20 events.

“International Education Week is not only an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide, but also a great opportunity for students to study and work with people from other countries and cultures,” said Sara Clark, interim director of the Center for International Studies and Special Programs.

Fun, academic opportunities for students, faculty and staff will include a film screening of “Crossing Borders,” a 70-minute documentary about four Moroccan and four American university students as they travel together; a lecture about Global Citizen, a social action platform for those who want to solve the world’s biggest problems; an international photo contest; a cultural experience at the International Village; and more.

“This annual initiative aims to promote international understanding and build support for international educational exchange,” Clark said. “We are honored to share our different cultures and experiences to bring that unique diversity to UT.”

For a complete list of International Education Week events, visit utoledo.edu/cisp/iew/.

International Education Week celebrates diversity of voices and the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education is part of their efforts to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn and exchange experiences in the United States.
Artists donate works to be sold to benefit alma mater

By Angela Riddel

The University of Toledo College of Arts and Letters' School of Visual and Performing Arts will hold an exhibition of selected artwork created by local artist and UT art alumna Nathine G. Smith.

The Benefit Exhibition for the Nathine G. Smith Fund for Artistic Achievement will be held on the first floor of Sullivan Hall on Main Campus from Friday, Nov. 17, through Friday, Jan. 5, during regular business hours.

All pieces in the exhibit are for sale. Smith has graciously offered to donate the proceeds to benefit the UT Department of Art and its students.

The work will be introduced to potential buyers at an invitation-only reception Friday, Nov. 17. Remaining work will be on display through Jan. 5 or until it is sold.

Pieces are mixed-media on paper, collage, watercolor, pastel, colored pencil, and graphite.

“My work is created by experiment with mixed-media on paper, exploring texture, form and color in two- and three-dimensional abstract forms. My inspiration comes from nature, music and literature,” Smith said.

“Mainly I work with my hands. I like the feel of the textural surface, the piecing together — almost quilt-like — of paper creations. I work with layers and layers of art tissues, stacks of them, and I have to sort through those and cut and tear to size. It could take three weeks or sometimes a couple months. I couldn’t possibly duplicate a piece — the colors are always different.”

Smith and her husband, Willard Smith, former UT vice president for business affairs, are longtime Toledo arts supporters. Together, through years of volunteerism and financial assistance, they have supported a wide range of area arts and educational initiatives and institutions, including the Toledo Art Museum, Toledo Symphony, The University of Toledo, area hospitals, and the Rotary Club.

Nathine is a graduate of the UT/Toledo Museum of Art School of Design with a bachelor of arts degree in art. Afterward, she pursued an independent study program at UT. Previously, she received a bachelor of science degree in education from Miami University.

Her works were featured in a one-woman exhibit called “Exploring Texture” at the UT Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women.

Smith, who has numerous awards to her credit, is also a longtime member of the National Collage Society. In 2005, she was included in the society’s book, “Collage,” as a Signature Member. She is also a member of the Athena Art Society (since 1988) and the Toledo Artists’ Club (since 1997).

The UT Department of Theatre and Film will screen “The Sugarland Express” Friday, Nov. 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts Room 1039. Shown from 16-millimeter film, the 1974 crime drama was co-written and directed by Steven Spielberg and marks the first time he worked with composer John Williams. The 110-minute movie stars Goldie Hawn, Ben Johnson, William Atherton and Michael Sacks, and was based on a real-life incident about a husband and wife trying to outrun the law while reuniting their family by kidnapping their son. 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 or by calling the Center for Performing Arts Box Office at 419-530-ARTS (2787). Read more about Fridays on Film and the department’s 2017-18 season at utoledo.edu/al/svpa/theatrefilm/currentseason.

These are a few of the documents and artifacts that will be on display in the exhibit titled “Preserving Yesterday for Tomorrow: The Best of the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections.”

Barbara Floyd, who retired last month as director of the Canaday Center, will speak at an opening reception Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 3 p.m.

“With 31 years in the Canaday Center — initially as university archivist and for the past 20 years as university archivist and director of special collections — I had a role in preserving some great collections,” Floyd said. “This exhibit is bittersweet for me. It has been a privilege to have helped shape the development of the center and its collections.”

It was a $226,000 gift from Doreen Canaday Spitzer in 1977 that made the center possible. The donation was to be used to create a research center for the study of rare books and special collections as a tribute to her father, Ward Murphy Canaday, chairman of the board and president of Willys-Overland Motor Co., and longtime president of the Friends of the UT Libraries.

Since its dedication Sept. 26, 1979, the center has grown from a small rare books repository into a modern special collections department, preserving thousands of feet of material.

“The center still has a three-pronged mission of collecting, preserving and making available rare and unique research materials,” Floyd said. “The center continues to preserve three distinct types of materials: rare books, manuscripts and The University of Toledo archives.”

In addition, the center has refined its collecting focus while expanding its emphasis to include new research areas.

“With rare books, the center has collected less literature and more books chronicling the history of northwest Ohio and women’s social history,” Floyd said. “The center also added an amazing collection of rare medical books following the merger of UT’s library with Mulford Library of the former Medical College of Ohio.”

It is in manuscript collecting that the Canaday Center has grown in terms of size and reputation, according to Floyd.

“The center has developed three extraordinary collecting areas: the history of business and industry in Toledo, disability history, and the history of Toledo’s city government,” she said.

These areas will be showcased in the exhibit, along with gender and sexuality, sports and recreation in Toledo, and more.

“This exhibit highlights specific, individual items from our collections that are judged to be among the best of what we preserve,” Floyd said.

On public display for the first time will be the original charter of the city of Toledo, which the center recently acquired and preserves on behalf of the city. Also on display will be items documenting Toledo’s glass industry. The collections of historical records from Owens-Illinois, Owens Corning, and the former Libbey-Owens-Ford companies that the center houses have been used extensively by researchers from around the world.

“Preserving Yesterday for Tomorrow: The Best of the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections” will be on display Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through July 27.

For more information on the free, public exhibit and opening, contact Sara Mouch, curator and assistant university archivist, at sara.mouch@utoledo.edu or 419.530.5578.
In memoriam

Gary L. Carr, Dade City, Fla., who worked at UT 10 years and retired as director of student services management in Admissions in 2009, died Oct. 11 at age 72.

Donita “Donnie” Davis, Toledo, a nurse who worked at MCO from 1980 to 1987, died Oct. 31 at age 69.
UT doctoral student receives 20 Under 40 Leadership Award

Jeremy Holloway, who is pursuing a doctorate in curriculum and instruction in the Judith Herb College of Education, recently was recognized for his contributions to the community.

He was honored as one of this year’s recipients of the 20 Under 40 Leadership Award.

The award is presented annually to 20 individuals who are 39 or younger in the Toledo community who have demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities.

“Am so proud to receive this award and so proud to represent The University of Toledo,” Holloway said.

He is a man in motion. Holloway is a mentor for undergraduate students through the University’s Brothers on the Rise, which helps UT males, especially African-American and Latino, make the transition from high school and college. He also is involved with UT’s Multicultural Emerging Scholars Program, represents the Judith Herb College of Education in the Graduate Student Association, and is a leader for the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society in Education. In addition, he is a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

“It gives back when you give back,” Holloway said. “You make deposits to your character account when you pay it forward. [Being involved] also helps me realize that we are all together, and we all really need each other to make a difference.”

The native of Toledo also is finishing his doctoral degree. He has been invited to speak on his dissertation research at conferences in Ohio and Pennsylvania, as well as Austria.

“I try to take things one task at a time and believe I work better when my schedule is fairly full,” he said. “I think the key for me is to prioritize.”

He packs a lot into his days. As a graduate assistant in the Judith Herb College of Education, he coordinates professional development for the High Schools That Work and Northwest Ohio Tech Prep programs, and teaches workshops for area teachers and administrators. Holloway also tutors local students.

In 2005, he received a bachelor of arts degree in Spanish and a bachelor of education degree from UT. He taught Spanish at area schools and graduated in 2014 from the University with a master’s degree in English as a second language.

Holloway is grateful to his father, Tyrone Holloway Sr., who graduated from UT with a bachelor’s degree in business administration with an administration personnel major in 1971.

“After my dad graduated from The University of Toledo, he was unable to find a job, so he returned to UT and worked as a janitor for years,” he said.

Tyrone Holloway worked as a custodian from 1985 to 1994, when he took a job in the UT Registration Office. He retired from the University in 1994.

“Later I realized my dad stayed and worked as a janitor so that I could attend the University when I grew up,” Holloway said. “I decided to take him up on that offer.”

“The University of Toledo is a place of legacy for me. I am honored to be here.”

Pitch & Pour

The presenting startup teams at the Pitch & Pour event will be:

- Flyght, a retail and restaurant software platform that automates and unifies the business ecosystem to allow retailers to focus on their customer.
- Psyneurgy, which is developing new treatments for neurological disorders, including autism spectrum disorders.
- RegenFix, an implant that mimics the structure and mechanical behavior of bone designed and produced according to patient-derived CT data.
- Venturi, an app that aggregates different social media platforms to allow the user to see and organize all messages in one place.
- Uptik, a service that organizes upcoming expenses and revenue to provide a daily, accurate picture of your financial future without taking any personal and sensitive information.

This year’s judges are Tom Burden, founder of Grypmat and former student winner of Pitch & Pour; Justin Hammerling, CEO of Kapios Health and associate vice president at ProMedica Innovations; Candice Matthews, founder of Cincinnati’s Hillman Accelerator; Bob Savage, founder and managing partner of CoreNetwork Fund and founder and president of Savage Consulting; and Dr. Michael Toole, dean of the UT College of Engineering.

Admission is free. Attendees must pre-register online at pitchandpour.com.

Pitch & Pour competitors have the opportunity to be invited to join UT’s LaunchPad Incubation Program, which works to bolster innovation in northwest Ohio by providing access to capital, resources and expertise focused on enhancing community collaboration and communication for entrepreneurial development.
Professional Staff Council to host Holiday Bazaar Nov. 17

By Madison Vasko

The Professional Staff Council will host a Holiday Bazaar Friday, Nov. 17, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in UT Medical Center’s Four Seasons Bistro Atrium.

Vendors from the local community will sell makeup, housewares, arts and crafts, and holiday goodies. Confirmed vendors include Pampered Chef, Mary Kay, Scentsy and many more.

“This is the first year the holiday bazaar is returning,” said Jennifer Pizio, associate director for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and Professional Staff Council fundraising committee co-chair. “A holiday bazaar used to be held, but has not happened in many years. We are excited to bring it back.”

In addition to shopping for the holidays, attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about the Professional Staff Council and participate in a basket raffle.

For more information, contact Pizio at jennifer.pizio@utoledo.edu.

Satellites’ poinsettia orders due Nov. 15

Brighten up the holidays: Order a poinsettia from the Satellites Auxiliary.

The poinsettias range in price from $6 to $16 and are available in a variety of colors, including red, white, pink, and blue with gold. The plants vary in size from 4.5 inches to 7.5 inches and by the number of blooms.

Fresh wreaths measuring 14 inches also are available for $11.

Order forms must be received by Wednesday, Nov. 15. Fax to 419.383.3206, drop off to Volunteer Services in Dowling Hall Room 75, or email lynn.brand@utoledo.edu.

Orders will be available for pickup on Main Campus Monday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Rocket Hall Lobby. The pickup date for Health Science Campus will be Thursday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Four Seasons Bistro. For pickup, all poinsettias will be foiled and sleeved.

Payment options for the poinsettias include checks (payable to Satellites of UT Medical Center), cash, departmental requisition for Main Campus and payroll deduction for Health Science Campus. Payment is due at the time of pickup.

The Satellites Auxiliary is a group designed to promote education, research and service programs; provide support of patient programs in accordance with the needs and approval of administration; conduct fundraising events; and provide volunteer services.

For more information on the annual poinsettia sale, contact Lynn Brand, president of the Satellites, at lynn.brand@utoledo.edu.
TICKETS ARE HALF-OFF FOR UT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES; UT STUDENTS ADMITTED FREE WITH ID!

For a list of events visit utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/omss
Make a difference for local families this holiday season

By Ashley Diel

With the holiday season approaching, UT will once again be participating in the Salvation Army holiday giving programs.

Student organizations, faculty, staff, colleges, departments and offices are encouraged to help and be involved by providing toys and meals for a local family in need.

Participants have the opportunity to pick from three programs: Adopt-a-Family, Toys for Tots and Food for Families.

“This event is important, because without these donations, there are families in the Toledo area that will struggle this holiday or go without,” said Alex Zernechel, program manager for Greek life. “Through our donations, we will put smiles on children’s faces as they open their gifts and bring peace to parents that weren’t sure how they would be able to make sure their children had the best holiday.”

Those wishing to participate should register by Friday, Nov. 17, at 4 p.m.

Donated gifts and gift cards should be left unwrapped and delivered to the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership by Thursday, Dec. 7.

Last year, UT was able to adopt and help 60 families. This year, the goal is to help at least 100 families.

“Tokle supports our students and University in so many ways that this is one opportunity that the University community can give back to our Toledo families,” Zernechel said. “A driving passion for UT has been the aspect of service and making the Toledo area better because of our active involvement in the community. Adopt-a-Family is one way that student organizations, faculty, staff, offices and departments can get involved in the process of giving back.”

To register, visit https://orgsync.com/102331/forms/285664 or contact studentinvolvement@utoledo.edu for more information.