Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist to speak at UT commencement Dec. 17

By Kim Goodin

Toledo native and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Michael D. Sallah will return to his alma mater Sunday, Dec. 17, to deliver the keynote address during The University of Toledo’s fall commencement ceremony.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. in Savage Arena.

Sallah will address 2,067 candidates for degrees, including 118 doctoral, 523 master’s, 1,370 bachelor’s and 56 associate’s.

The ceremony is open to the public and can be viewed live at video.utoledo.edu.

Sallah’s investigative work as a reporter and editor with award-winning newspapers across the country has revealed public corruption, police abuses and government blunders, resulting in grand jury investigations, legislative reform, and the recovery of millions of taxpayer dollars.

He is a reporter on the national investigations team at USA Today/Gannett Network in Washington, D.C.

“From the time I took my first journalism class in the fall of my freshman year, I fell in love with journalism, and UT is a big part of that. It’s part of my foundation — the professors, the values they conveyed to me about journalism, and why it’s so critical to our society, especially investigative work. I’m honored to be coming home to be the commencement speaker.”

Sallah

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Tickets on sale for Dollar General Bowl

By Paul Helgren

Tickets for the 2017 Dollar General Bowl are on sale and can be purchased through the University until Thursday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m.

The game will be played Saturday, Dec. 23, at 6 p.m. Central time (7 p.m. Eastern time) at the Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile, Ala. The bowl will be televised by ESPN.

The Mid-American Conference Champion Rockets (11-2, 7-1 MAC) are playing Sun Belt Conference Co-Champion Appalachian State (8-4, 7-1 Sun Belt).

Ticket orders are being taken online at utrockets.com, by phone at 419.530.GOLD (4653), or in person at the UT Athletic Ticket Office in Savage Arena.

Fans who are not able to attend the game may purchase tickets to be donated to charities in the Mobile area. For more information on purchasing tickets to donate to charitable groups, call the ticket office at 419.530.GOLD (4653).

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’Tis the season of giving

President Sharon L. Gaber and Interim Vice President of Student Affairs Phillip “Flapp” Cockrell carried bikes down the steps in the Thompson Student Union Friday to help load the Salvation Army truck. Thanks to the generosity of UT community members, 87 families, including more than 200 children, will have a brighter holiday this year. The Office of Student Involvement organized the University’s participation in the adopt-a-family and holiday giving programs.

Photo by Cameron Norton

Take a look back at 2017 — pages 7-10
Fewer toys lead to richer play experiences, UT researchers find

By Cherie Spino

Any parent knows how toys seem to magically multiply and take over a house. Do children need so many toys?

A team of University of Toledo researchers studied whether the number of toys in a toddler’s environment influenced their quality of play. Their findings: Less is definitely more when it comes to creative, healthy play.

The results of the study come just in time for families and friends who are picking up holiday gifts for the children in their lives. The research, which will appear in the February issue of Infant Behavior and Development, suggests that an abundance of toys may create a distraction. fewer new toys might be a better route this holiday season.

When toddlers had exposure to fewer toys, they played twice as long with the toys they had and in more sophisticated ways, said Dr. Alexia Metz, the study’s lead investigator and a UT associate professor of occupational therapy.

As the mother of 12-year-old twins, Metz has personal experience with the proliferation of toys phenomenon.

“I was astonished by how much our home filled up with stuff,” she said. “I wondered whether there was any risk to having that much stuff.”

Metz said she also had observed people worrying whether their toddlers had attention deficit disorder. Toddlers, by nature, are distractible, but she wondered whether their environment might be a factor in how they played or how easily distracted they were.

Metz and her team of graduate students studied 36 toddlers from 18 to 30 months of age. The children visited the playroom lab twice. On one visit, the children played in a room with just four toys; on the other, they had access to 16 toys.

The team charted how many times the toddler picked up a toy; how long they played with it; and how many ways they played with it.

“When there were fewer toys, they played with them in more ways,” Metz said.

In the 16-toy environment, many of the children played with 10 or more toys in the 15 minutes soon after they entered the room. By flitting from toy to toy, they didn’t take the time to explore the ways they could use each toy, Metz said.

Fewer toys led to “higher quality play,” meaning the toddler stuck with the toy for longer and played with it in more creative ways. Instead of stacking or tipping a toy, they began to hammer with it or feed it or hide it. This increased exploration may support development of motor and cognitive skills.

“Today there is the demand to have the latest and greatest toy that encourages a more technological mind. In this study, we used older toys that encouraged more creative play and tested the theory of is less really more?” said Dr. Carly Dauch, who graduated from UT in May following the completion of the study and is now an occupational therapist at the Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

“How the children played supported our hypothesis and provides support for deeper and richer play with fewer toys.”

Michelle Inmalle and Brooke Ocasio, who also graduated in May, were the other graduate students involved in the project.

The bottom line for parents: “If your child receives an abundance of toys, you don’t need to introduce them all at once,” Metz said. “Save some for later and swap them out. If they have a chance to explore a few toys at a time, they might have a richer experience.”

“This is also good news for families who may feel guilty for not being able to shower their children with dozens of toys.”

“They’re not depriving their children of an opportunity for meaningful play,” Metz said. “This is a less is more story.”

\[continued from p. 1\]
UT social media ranked 14th among Division I institutions

Educational, informative, fun and timely. Those are just some of the factors that have placed The University of Toledo’s social media content ahead of the pack.

The University’s Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts were compared against 338 Division I programs, and the University was ranked 14th for its robust engagement.

Rival IQ, a social media analytics company out of Seattle, compared social media engagement figures of university-level accounts from a 10-month period spanning August 2016 to May 2017.

Social media engagement is commonly defined as an interaction on a social media post that can be measured by likes, comments, favorites, retweets, shares and reactions. Once data was gathered, results were weighed based on audience size, activity and engagement.

“This is an effort on our part to inform the campus community while occasionally showing the lighter side of campus,” said Cam Norton, associate director for social media. “Our small team often creates videos and other content to be used on the same day to stay relevant.”

Overall, UT placed 14th out of the 338 institutions. On Twitter, UT ranked No. 8, and the University had top 50 placements in Facebook and Instagram.

UT was the only Mid-American Conference university ranked in the top 100 programs.

During the 10 months analyzed by Rival IQ, UT had several high-performing posts that aided in the ranking, according to Norton. Posts on research, graduation, sports victories and dogs generated the most engagement.

UT has more than 53,000 followers on Facebook (facebook.com/utoledo), more than 59,000 people follow @UToledo on Twitter, and there are more than 12,000 followers of the uoftoledo Instagram account.

To view the full 2017 Higher Ed Social Media Engagement Report, go to upandup.agency/2017-higher-ed-social-media.

Dec. 15 deadline to make changes to tax deferred annuities

The IRS recently announced new limits for 403b and 457 plans.

Beginning Jan. 1, the contribution limits are:
• Younger than age 50 — $18,500, and
• Older than age 50: $24,500.

Employees who would like to increase or change their contribution amounts for 403b plans must submit the salary reduction agreement stating the new per-pay contribution amount. And for Ohio Deferred Compensation 457 plans, employees must contact Ohio Deferred Compensation to change their contribution.

Employees can enroll or make changes to these plans anytime during the year.

However, these actions must be taken by Friday, Dec. 15, and submitted to the Benefits Department in Human Resources in order to start contributions the first pay in January.

“We also want to let employees know that all contributions are changing to 26 deductions — and 19 for nine-month employees — per year for 2018,” Kate Johnson, manager of benefits planning and administration, said.

For more information, contact benefits@utoledo.edu or call 419.530.4747 and ask to speak with a benefits representative.

Winter weather policy reminder

In the rare event of a major snow or ice storm or other inclement weather that makes it necessary for UT to delay or suspend classes or campus events, the University will announce this information through several communications vehicles:

• UT Alert text message and email: Sign up at utalert.utoledo.edu;
• Web: utoledo.edu and myut.utoledo.edu;
• Phone: 419.530.SNOW (7669);
• Social media: Facebook and Twitter; and
• Local media.

Look for the next issue of UT News Jan. 16
UT Alumni Association offers trip, party for Dollar General Bowl

See you at the Dollar General Bowl! The UT Alumni Association has organized a charter plane trip so fans can watch the Rockets play the Appalachian State Mountaineers Saturday, Dec. 23, at 6 p.m. Central time at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile, Ala.

The charter flight will leave Friday, Dec. 22, at approximately 7:30 a.m. from the Toledo Express Airport and return immediately after the game Sunday, Dec. 24, around 4 a.m.

The package includes:
- Round-trip charter air travel.
- A ticket to the mayor’s luncheon featuring Bob Stoops, college football coaching legend at the University of Oklahoma.
- The world-famous Mardi Gras parade and pep rally.
- A meal and tour of GulfQuest, National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico.
- UT Alumni Association pre-game party with a menu that will feature fried shrimp; catfish and chicken tenders; hush puppies; fried green tomatoes; Cajun seafood gumbo; peeled shrimp; red beans and rice; Cajun seafood gumbo; peeled shrimp; red beans and rice. UT President Sharon L. Gaber, the UT Rocket Marching Band and UT cheerleaders will be at this event.
- Ticket to watch the bowl game.
- Overnight accommodations at the Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa in Mobile, Ala.
- A Dollar General Bowl hoodie, exclusive to travelers on the charter.
- All shuttles and gratuities.

The package cost, based on double occupancy, is $1,200 per person. The cost for a single is $1,300. Those who already have tickets to the game may deduct $45 per ticket.

There are 70 seats available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information and to register, go to utfoundation.org/foundation/home/events_alumni.aspx.

The deadline to register for the charter trip is Tuesday, Dec. 19.

Alumni and fans who are traveling on their own to the game can attend the pregame party for $35; registration is required. Go to utfoundation.org/foundation/home/events_alumni.aspx.

The cost for fans who need a ticket and would like to attend the pregame party is $80 per person.

Reservations for the party only — not including a game ticket — will be accepted until 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22.

Fans who want tickets to the bowl game can call 419.530.GOLD (4653) or go to utrockets.com.

For more information, call the UT Alumni Office at 419.530.2586 or 800.235.6766.

Student accommodations package announced for Dollar General Bowl

The University is offering a special rate for hotel accommodations, as well as a game and pregame party ticket, to all UT students traveling to the Dollar General Bowl in Mobile, Ala.

For $50, a student will receive a hotel room at the Hampton Inn & Suites (1028 West I-65 Service Road in Mobile, 241.343.4007) for the nights of Friday, Dec. 22, and/or Saturday, Dec. 23. Check-in is at 3 p.m. Dec. 22 and/or 23, and check-out is at noon Dec. 24. Incidental fees are not covered and must be paid for by each individual guest.

There will be a complimentary breakfast buffet for UT students in the hotel between 6:30 and 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, and Sunday, Dec. 24.

A reservation also includes entry to the pregame party hosted by the UT Alumni Association. The event will take place from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, prior to the 6 p.m. kickoff. The heated, outdoor tent will be located inside the gates of Ladd-Peebles Stadium, 1621 Virginia St., Mobile.

The pregame party menu will feature fried shrimp; catfish and chicken tenders; hush puppies; fried green tomatoes; Cajun seafood gumbo; peeled shrimp; red beans and rice with sausage; Creole coleslaw; marinated corn and tomato salad; cookies; brownies; sweet tea; and lemonade. UT President Sharon L. Gaber, the UT Rocket Marching Band and UT cheerleaders will be at this event.

Student registration is only available online and must be completed by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, to secure a room. To register, go to utfoundation.org/foundation/home/Events_Alumni.aspx?eid=709.

The hotel will not offer students complimentary lodging directly. Four students, of the same gender, are assigned to each hotel room. Students who wish to room with friends must enter their names on the registration page in the space provided. If this information is not provided, there is no guarantee you will room with them. Each student must register himself or herself through the webpage; students cannot register for friends.

A liability waiver and a travel expectation form must be completed during the registration process online. All trip participants will be required to show a valid Rocket ID upon check-in at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Mobile.

Students must make their own travel arrangements for the trip to Mobile and to the Dollar General Bowl game.

Refunds will not be issued after 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20.

For questions or more information, contact Marcus L. Sneed or Amanda Schwartz of the UT Alumni Relations Office at marcus.sneed@utoledo.edu and amanda.schwartz@utoledo.edu.

Hot T

Allie Cline, retail, marketing and communications manager at Rocky’s Locker, hung up Mid-American Conference Football Championship T-shirts that arrived last week at the store in Savage Arena.
Rockets preview Dollar General Bowl in Mobile

By Paul Helgren

Toledo Head Football Coach Jason Candle, along with seniors Logan Woodside and Terry Swanson, visited Mobile, Ala., Wednesday in preparation for the 2017 Dollar General Bowl.

The Mid-American Conference Champion Rockets will face Sun Belt Co-Champion Appalachian State Saturday, Dec. 23. The 7 p.m. game will be broadcast on ESPN.

The Rockets toured Ladd-Peebles Stadium, site of the Dollar General Bowl, as well as University Military School-Wright High School, where UT will hold its practices during bowl week.

During a stop for lunch, the players met with and posed for photos with children from St. Elmo’s Elementary School. Candle and the players met with local media in a late afternoon news conference before returning to Toledo.

“We’re looking forward to playing a tremendous opponent in App State,” Candle said. “We’ve had a tremendous year, winning a conference championship, and it certainly would be awesome for our seniors to finish it with a win in their final game.”

Toledo will officially arrive in Mobile Tuesday, Dec. 19, in anticipation of bowl activities that will include a Mardi Gras-style parade, a visit to the USS Alabama, a bowling competition vs. Appalachian State, and a visit to the University of South Alabama Children’s and Women’s Hospital.

Ticket orders for the Dollar General Bowl are being taken online, by phone or in person at the UT Athletic Ticket Office in Savage Arena.

Tickets can be purchased through UT through Thursday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m. See below for details.

Tickets

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Ticket information

Ticket price:
• $45 general public
• $15 UT students (limit one with valid UT ID in-person sales only)

All fans may purchase tickets through Thursday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m.

• Online: Fans may order tickets online at utrockets.com (online fees apply).
• UT ticket office: Fans may buy tickets at the UT Athletic Ticket Office in the Sullivan Athletic Complex during office hours.
• Telephone: Fans may order by telephone through the UT ticket office with a Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card or American Express by calling 419.530.GOLD (4653).

Ticket details

• Toledo tickets purchased at the $45 ticket price will be placed on the west side of the stadium.
• A ticket is required for everyone ages 4 and older.
• Fans who want to sit together in a group must place one order. No requests will be taken to place ticket orders or groups together.
• Rocket fans not able to attend the game may support UT by purchasing tickets for donation to charitable organizations in the Mobile area.
• To purchase tickets to donate to charitable groups, call the ticket office at 419.530.GOLD (4653).

Will call

• Tickets can be picked up at the UT Ticket Office in the Sullivan Athletic Complex through Thursday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m.
• Tickets not picked up at the UT Athletic Ticket Office can be picked up at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile at Gate 4W beginning at 4:30 p.m. Central time through halftime.
• When picking up tickets, you must present ID and the major credit card used to purchase the tickets.

UT student ticket information

UT student ticket prices:
• $15 UT student (limit one with valid UT ID in-person sales only)
• $45 UT student guest tickets
• UT students may purchase tickets at the UT ticket office in the Sullivan Athletic Complex at Savage Arena during office hours.
• UT students must have a valid UT student ID at time of purchase, and only one ticket per UT student ID and one ID per UT student.
• UT students will receive their ticket(s) at time of purchase. There will be no UT student will call.

UT Athletic Ticket Office hours

• Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The UT Athletic Ticket Office is located in the Sullivan Athletic Complex at Savage Arena.
Mark your calendar: The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Celebration will be held Monday, Jan. 15, at 9 a.m. in Savage Arena.

“Injustice Anywhere Is a Threat to Justice Everywhere: Unifying the Community Voice” is the theme of this year’s event.

Recipients of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship will be recognized.

A free community lunch will follow the celebration.

For more information, contact the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at 419.530.5529.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Celebration set for Jan. 15

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

2018 UNITY CELEBRATION

Injustice Anywhere is a Threat to Justice Everywhere:
Unifying the Community Voice

All members of our UT community are encouraged to get involved as we celebrate the legacy of this transformational leader.

UNITY DAY CELEBRATION
Monday, Jan. 15, 2018
The University of Toledo,
John F. Savage Arena
9 – 11 a.m.
Free community lunch follows.

Weeks of service: Give back in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visit diversity.utoledo.edu to get involved.

Apply for the 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship: This is open to African-American UT students with GPAs of 3.0 or higher who have at least 30 semester hours before the application deadline of Friday, Dec. 8. For application details, visit diversity.utoledo.edu.

For more information, contact the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at 419.530.5529 or diversity@utoledo.edu.

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
January

- UT is nationally recognized as the first university campus in the country to simultaneously honor all service members of the armed forces and the families who lost a loved one defending the United States by dedicating both a Blue Star Memorial marker and Gold Star Memorial marker.

- UT Medical Center is named one of America’s 32 best teaching hospitals at preventing central-line infections in intensive care units by Consumer Reports.

- The 800-pound, life-size interactive periodic table debuts in the main entrance of Wolfe Hall and features 118 LED-illuminated glass boxes; it is the first of its kind at a university or museum in Ohio and Michigan. “Living Science: The Ever-Changing Periodic Table” was funded by a $31,465 grant from UT’s Women & Philanthropy.

- Some 1,800 attend the 16th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Celebration in Savage Arena. UT students volunteer throughout the city as part of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Week of Service.

- UTMC leaders hold information sessions to discuss how the teaching hospital will continue to serve south Toledo.

- Total enrollment for spring semester is 19,221, according to official 15-day census numbers. That’s up from 18,849 in spring semester 2016.

- Some 800 volunteers assemble 140,000 meals to be sent to Haiti for hurricane relief at Feed My Starving Children, a global service project organized by the Klar Leadership Academy of the College of Business and Innovation.

- Jemele Hill, award-winning national sports journalist and analyst on ESPN, shares her story with more than 700 who attend UT’s 33rd Annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth Jan. 28 in the Thompson Student Union.

- More than 400 protesters gather in front of the Thompson Student Union Jan. 30 and march on Main Campus to protest President Donald Trump’s executive order suspending the entry of individuals from certain countries into the United States for 90 days. Chants of “UT unity” echo across Centennial Mall.

- Pledges from 709 donors to the UT Community Charitable Campaign total $134,568, which will assist nearly 220 nonprofit organizations throughout the community.

- Former Toledo running back Kareem Hunt rushes for 118 yards on 15 carries and is named the North’s Most Outstanding Player in the 2017 Reese’s Senior Bowl.

February

- Dr. Angela Davis, an activist, scholar and author, speaks at UT’s Black History Month Kickoff Luncheon Feb. 4 in a packed Thompson Student Union Auditorium.

- Dan Barbee is named chief executive officer of UT Medical Center after serving in the role on an interim basis since June 2016.

- The Journal of Great Lakes Research identifies Associate Professor of Ecology Thomas Bridgeman’s "high-quality research" on harmful algal blooms as one of its five most cited papers for nearly three years.

- Alex Sheen, who started the international social movement because I said I would, talks about the power of promises kept Feb. 16 in Doermann Theater as part of the Jesup Scott Honors College Distinguished Lecture Series.

March

- The UT Board of Trustees votes to endorse the Multiple Campus Master Plan 2017 that establishes a guide to the evolution of the University’s campuses for the next decade. The plan focuses on four themes: repositioning the academic core, investing in research, consolidating athletics, and enhancing student life.

- The women’s basketball team defeats Northern Illinois, 82-71, and celebrates winning the Mid-American Conference Tournament March 11 at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland. The Rockets advance to the NCAA Championships for the first time since 2001.

- A total of 155 fourth-year medical students learn where they will train for their residencies at Match Day; 15 percent will stay in Toledo to continue their training.

- U.S. News & World Report ranks UT’s law school No. 132 out of 196 schools as part of its 2018 Best Graduate Schools edition. That is up from No. 144 last year.

- The University and Owens Community College agree to a dual-admission partnership called Rocket Express, which is designed to provide a seamless pathway to a bachelor’s degree from UT starting at Owens.

- Michael Harders, vice president of university advancement and development for Kennesaw State University in Georgia, joins UT as vice president for advancement.

- Gary Pinkel, former UT head football coach from 1991 to 2000 who had a career record of 73-37-3 and was named the 1995 MAC Coach of the Year, gives the keynote address at the KeyBank Global Leaders Forum in Savage Arena.
The Board of Trustees votes to honor three faculty members with the most prestigious professorship title. Appointed to the rank of Distinguished University Professor are Dr. Sarit Bhaduri in the Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering in the College of Engineering; Llewellyn Gibbons in the College of Law; and Dr. Bina Joe in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

Head Football Coach Jason Candle agrees to a contract extension through the 2021 season.

UT Medical Center is recognized as a 2017 “Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality” by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation for its commitment to the equal treatment of all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning patients.

The hospital begins accepting patients to its new Adult Detoxification Inpatient Unit.

Dr. Clinton Longenecker, Distinguished University Professor and director of the Center for Leadership and Organizational Excellence in the College of Business and Innovation, is one of three finalists selected for Baylor University’s 2018 Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching. The Cherry Award is the largest cash teaching prize — $250,000 — in the United States.

The Department of Communication, in cooperation with the College of Law, celebrates its 100th anniversary.

The U.S. Department of Justice awards the University a $250,000 check to create the Dana Excelling into Engineering Scholarship Program, which aims to increase the recruitment, enrollment, retention and success of underrepresented minority students in degree programs offered by the college.

Christine Brennan talks about the lessons she learned in the Glass Bowl during UT’s spring commencement ceremony. A total of 2,906 candidates for degrees listen to the USA Today columnist and commentator at ABC News, CNN, PBS NewsHour and National Public Radio, who grew up near campus and watched the Rockets’ 35-0 streak from 1969 to 1971. Brennan joins the UT Board of Trustees as its first national board member.

The University’s impact to the region’s economy totals $3.3 billion, according to a comprehensive study by UT economists. That is equivalent to 9.7 percent of the region’s gross metropolitan area product.

All 16 UT varsity sports earn an Academic Progress Rate (APR) score of at least 965, well above the NCAA’s “cut point” of 930. Women’s golf leads the way with a perfect 1,000 mark. Eight other UT sports are at 990 or above: baseball, men’s basketball, men’s golf, women’s basketball, women’s cross country, women’s soccer, women’s tennis and women’s volleyball. In addition, five Rocket teams — baseball, men’s basketball, football, women’s golf and

April

More than 600 attend President Sharon L. Gaber’s first state of the university address April 5 in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium. She talks about the significant progress UT has made and the challenges the institution faces.

The UT Libraries receive a bequest of $500,000 from the estate of Dorothy MacKenzie Price; it is the largest gift in the libraries’ history.

The women’s basketball team finishes 27th in the nation in home attendance; the Rockets average 3,744 fans per game. Toledo also leads the MAC for an unprecedented 27th consecutive season.

More than 1,200 students dance 13 hours and raise $153,707.09 for the Mercy Children’s Hospital. This is the highest total raised during the event’s 16-year history.

At the request of UT students, Steak ’n Shake opens April 18 in the Thompson Student Union.

Nicholas Kulik, major gifts officer for the College of Engineering, is among five fundraisers younger than 31 in the nation recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals by being named an Outstanding Young Professional.

The U.S. Department of Justice awards the University approximately $10,000 in training and curriculum to participate in the Healthy Masculinity Campus Athletics Project. UT is one of 14 colleges and universities across the country chosen for the initiative through the Office on Violence Against Women to positively engage male college athletes, coaches and athletic administrators as influential leaders in the prevention of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking on college campuses and in their surrounding communities.

Alan H. Barry and his wife, Karen A. Barry, give their alma mater a $1 million gift to establish an endowment that supports the Alan H. and Karen A. Barry Endowed Professorship in Accounting.

May

Running back Kareem Hunt (Kansas City, third round), tight end Michael Roberts (Detroit, fourth round) and defensive tackle Treyon Hester (Oakland, seventh round) are selected in the NFL Draft, the most Rockets taken in the draft since the league went to a seven-round draft in 1994.

UT is ranked 66th in the nation by the Milken Institute’s Center for Jobs and Human Capital in its list of Best Universities for Technology Transfer.

The Department of Communication, in cooperation with the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, celebrates its 100th ESPN3 broadcast.
women’s tennis — have the best APR score in the MAC in their respective sports.

- Be innovative: That’s what Dr. Mehran Anvari, one of the first physicians in Canada to use robotics in surgery who also won a NASA award for his role in developing an automated robot used for detecting the early stages of breast cancer, tells more than 200 candidates for degrees at the College of Medicine and Life Sciences’ graduation ceremony May 26 at Stranahan Theater.

- Head Women’s Basketball Coach Tricia Cullop signs a contract extension through the 2024-25 campaign.

- Even before receiving a juris doctor from the College of Law May 6, Maysaa Ouza makes history by being the first Muslim hijabi selected as a U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General’s Corps attorney.

**June**

- Dr. Kaye M. Patten, senior vice president of student affairs, retires; Dr. Phillip “Flapp” Cockrell, associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students, begins to serve as interim vice president of student affairs.

- UT student-athletes earn a combined grade point average of 3.270 in spring semester; it is the highest department semester GPA in school history.

- The U.S. Department of Education renews funding for the Upward Bound program for the next five years; UT will receive $417,693 a year through 2022 for a total of approximately $2 million. The program has been helping local high school students prepare for college and succeed for more than five decades.

- The state awards the University a $330,000, two-year grant to continue to host the Minority Business Assistance Center Program that serves the 17-county region.

- Trustees approve a new strategic plan to guide The University of Toledo’s priorities during the next five years as it approaches its 150th anniversary in 2022.

- The Board of Trustees approves collective bargaining agreements with members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Ohio Council 8 and AFSCME Local 241, and Communication Workers of America Local 4319.

- President Gaber is appointed to represent the Mid-American Conference on the NCAA Division I Presidential Forum.

- UT begins enrolling students for the first online PhD program approved in Ohio, the Curriculum and Instruction: Special Education Doctoral Degree Program.

**July**

- The Athletic Department begins a multi-year exclusive partnership with Nike. The six-year agreement will make Nike the official athletic footwear, apparel, accessory and equipment brand for all 16 of Toledo’s varsity sports through the 2022-23 season.

- Dr. Linda Lewandowski, professor of nursing and former associate dean for academic affairs and graduate program director at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, starts her new job as dean of the College of Nursing.

- Charlene Gilbert returns to UT from Ohio State University at Lima, where she was dean and director since 2014, to serve as dean of the College of Arts and Letters.

- More than 13,000 visit campus July 30 for Art on the Mall. It is the 25th anniversary for the juried art fair hosted by the UT Alumni Association.

**August**

- Dr. Michael Toole, who worked 18 years at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania, starts his new job as dean of the College of Engineering.

- Beau Case, who was head of the arts and humanities libraries and collections at the University of Michigan Library, joins UT as dean of University Libraries.

- Repairs to the ornamental stone features surrounding the top of University Hall’s iconic 205-foot-tall tower are made to preserve its architectural integrity.

- The American Association of State Colleges and Universities honors UT with its Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Education in recognition of a successful program that engages teachers and parents in supporting a young child’s curiosity through interactive, inquiry-based science lessons. NURTURES Early Childhood Science program aims to improve the science readiness scores of preschool through third-grade students in the Toledo area.

- The National Science Foundation awards UT a nearly $1 million federal grant to continue, expand and further evaluate its NURTURES Early Childhood Science program.

- A task force created by President Gaber to review the University’s sexual assault awareness and prevention practices finds UT is among the safest campuses in Ohio with consistently low reports of sexual misconduct with strong prevention programming and support services.

- UT graduates have the lowest student loan debt among the state’s public colleges, according to a recent analysis of student debt by LendEDU.

- Approximately 1,200 attend Ritter Planetarium’s eclipse viewing party Aug. 21.

- UT’s new 15-week semester begins Aug. 28.

- The Rocket football team begins its 100th anniversary with a 47-13 victory over Elon.

**September**

- The “Charter of the City of Toledo Year 1837,” discovered in a safe in the attic of Toledo’s Safety Building, is preserved in the Canaday Center for Special Collections.

- The University is the best four-year college in Ohio in a new ranking that focuses on affordability, flexibility and student services. Schools.com, an online source for education information, compiled the list using data from the National Center for Education Statistics.
• UT’s new Drinking Water Research Laboratory, a resource that will benefit the region, opens.

• The Rockets’ 2017 football schedule poster is ranked No. 7 in the nation, according to a contest held by posterswag.com.

• UT alumnus Kareem Hunt sets an NFL record in his professional debut and is featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated. The former Toledo football star amasses 246 yards and three touchdowns to help the Kansas City Chiefs defeat the New England Patriots, 42-27, Sept. 7 in Foxborough, Mass. He sets a record for yards from scrimmage for a player in his first NFL game.

• The Lt. Col. Thomas J. Orlowski ’65 Veterans Lounge opens in Carlson Library.

• Welltower Inc. announces the donation of its state-of-the-art, LEED-certified office buildings and approximately 100 acres of land for the benefit of the University. This transformational gift, at an estimated value of more than $30 million, is made possible through an innovative real estate agreement that transfers the company’s extensive Toledo property at 4500 Dorr St. to the UT Foundation.

• UT celebrates 100 years on the gridiron; Chuck Ealey, who was quarterback during the Rockets’ 35-0 streak from 1969 to 1971, is voted No. 1 on the All-Century Football Team.

• John Quiñones — ABC News veteran, anchor for 20/20 and Primetime, and host of the popular series “What Would You Do?” — shares his story Sept. 21 in Doerrmann Theater during the Jesup Scott Honors College Distinguished Lecture in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

• Dr. F. Charles Brunicardi, chair of the Department of Surgery and chief of academic surgery for ProMedica, is named director of the cancer program in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

• Approximately 750 people stop by during UT’s 20th annual Banned Books Vigil.

October

• Men’s Basketball Coach Tod Kowalczyk receives the Donate Life Champion Award from Donate Life America.

• UT and Ohio University sign a collaboration agreement to create the Ohio Alliance for Innovation in Population Health to help create community-specific ways to fix the state’s health problems, such as opioid addiction, health-care access, chronic disease and infant mortality.

• UT holds its first Day of Giving on Founder’s Day, Rocket Forward: You Launch Lives, Oct. 12 to carry on Jesup W. Scott’s legacy by investing in the University’s future. Nearly 1,600 people contribute more than $425,000 to the University.

• A ceremony celebrates the $6 million renovation to Carlson Library. In addition to the new glass wall spanning the entire height of the building, the renovations include an expanded and landscaped concourse that greets guests when they enter the library and an added mezzanine area on the second floor.

• The College of Business and Innovation teams up with the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles Toledo Assembly Complex to prepare more than 2,200 workers to build the next generation Jeep Wrangler, launching this year.

• To better serve people in the area who suffer from addiction, UT Medical Center joins the Hazelden Betty Ford Patient Care Network.

• The Joint Commission visits UTMC and reaccredits the hospital for another three years. The Joint Commission surveys the hospital as well as its behavioral health-care and home-care operations.

• Dr. Hassan HassabElnaby, associate dean for graduate programs and research for the College of Business and Innovation, is named interim dean of the college.

November

• Singer and actress Audra McDonald visits campus for the Edward Shapiro Distinguished Lecture.

• The women’s soccer team beats Bowling Green in overtime, 2-1, Nov. 5 at Kent State University to win the MAC Tournament. The victory gives the Rockets an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament.

• UT and BGSU officials sign a memorandum of agreement supporting a foreign language course exchange.

• Three researchers are named Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Dr. Heidi Appel, dean of the Jesup Scott Honors College and professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences; Dr. Karen Bjorkman, dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Distinguished University Professor of Astronomy, and Helen Luedtke Brooks Endowed Professor of Astronomy; and Dr. Steven Federman, professor of astronomy.

• Jon Hendricks, a legend in the jazz world who taught at UT as a Distinguished Professor of Jazz from 2000 to 2016, dies Nov. 22 at age 96 in New York City.

• Toledo defeats Western Michigan, 37-10, to win the MAC East Division and advance to the MAC Championship Game.

• UT Medical Center joins the Hazelden Betty Ford Patient Care Network.

• Senior quarterback Logan Woodside is named MAC Offensive Player of the Year and the Vern Smith Leadership Award winner, and Jason Candle is named MAC Coach of the Year. Woodside is one of seven Rockets who earn first-team All-MAC honors, the most honorees in the conference.

December

• Toledo beats Akron, 45-28, to win the the MAC Championship Dec. 2 at Ford Field in Detroit.

• Rachel Burns, a second-year student in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, wins $100,000 in the Dr Pepper Tuition Throw during halftime of the Big 12 Championship game at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

• UT accepts an invitation to play Appalachian State in the 2017 Dollar General Bowl Saturday, Dec. 23, at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile, Ala.
Winter break to provide rest, relaxation

By Christine Wasserman

As the University announced in April, a new winter break schedule will be implemented this month, in response to feedback from employees over several years. This break will enable faculty and staff to rest and rejuvenate at a time when many departments are operationally slow — from Dec. 25, Christmas Day, through Jan. 1, New Year’s Day.

“The new winter break schedule also supports the University’s long-term sustainability by reducing costs while still maintaining crucial functions, such as hospital operations at UTMC, approved research activities and public safety,” said Larry Kelley, executive vice president for finance and administration. “Therefore, the new policy does not include specific UTMC employees; certain required positions, which might vary depending on annual need; and police.”

In addition to existing holiday pay, UT will provide additional paid days off — either three days or four, depending on which day the holiday falls in the year — to cover the entire specified time period. This year’s winter break schedule:

- Monday, Dec. 25 — Christmas (holiday);
- Tuesday, Dec. 26 – holiday (Columbus Day);
- Wednesday, Dec. 27 — Paid day off provided for winter break;
- Thursday, Dec. 28 — Paid day off provided for winter break;
- Friday, Dec. 29 — Paid day off provided for winter break; and
- Monday, Jan. 1 — New Year’s Day (holiday).

“If you work on Main Campus or Scott Park Campus, you should not be on campus during winter break unless pre-approved by your department’s leadership in order to conduct essential business,” Kelley said. “Access to buildings will be restricted, and facility operations and ground maintenance also will be limited.”

For departments with an area (such as a lab) that must maintain normal heating and/or requires other specific maintenance during winter break, leadership should immediately contact Jason Toth, associate vice president for facilities, at jason.toth@utoledo.edu to make these arrangements.

Leadership members also are responsible for designating any specific employees who need to be on call and/or must work during winter break in order to provide essential services, such as to conduct research or provide services in the case of an emergency. Further, each department’s leadership should ensure appropriate notification of UT’s closure is provided to their customers and all affected service or product providers, such as vendors and contractors.

Additional winter break details, including frequently asked questions, are available at utoledo.edu/depts/hr/benefits/time-off/winter-break.html.

If you have any questions after reading the information on this webpage, talk with your supervisor or contact your human resources consultant.
Main Campus Medical Center treats students, employees

By Sarah A. Velliquette

The Main Campus Medical Center is open five days a week to provide health services to students and employees in a convenient location.

The on-campus medical services are primarily for sick visits; however, students who have a primary care physician out of town also can schedule appointments for primary care needs, such as physicals or oversight of chronic medical conditions.

“We understand the convenience factor when it comes to serving employees and students and having an office right on campus,” said Dr. Linda Speer, professor and chair of family medicine. “If a member of our campus community is experiencing symptoms of an ear or sinus infection, for example, you can schedule an appointment to be seen, in most cases, that same day.”

The Main Campus Medical Center is staffed with a nurse practitioner with a physician in the office on Wednesdays. Appointments are encouraged. Walk-in patients will be treated; however, they could have a considerable wait time when patient volume is high, Speer said.

In the event there are not any immediate openings at the Main Campus Medical Center, the staff will assist with making arrangements for the employee or student to be seen at another UT health-care provider at the Student Health and Wellness Center on Health Science Campus, the Regency Medical Campus off Talmadge Road north of Monroe Street, or Glendale Medical East on Glendale Avenue between Health Science Campus and Byrne Road.

The Main Campus Medical Center is closed during summer term, and fall, winter and spring breaks, a decision that was made earlier in the year in response to low usage. Students on campus during breaks can access medical services in the Student Wellness Center located in the lower level of the Ruppert Health Center on Health Science Campus. They may use the UT transit loop that provides a free shuttle between campuses with a direct stop at Ruppert Health Center. Students can use the TransLoc service to track the UT buses en route at https://utoledo.transloc.com.

The last day of operation for the Main Campus Medical Center this month will be Friday, Dec. 15.

The Main Campus Medical Center will reopen Tuesday, Jan. 16, for spring semester.

The hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from noon to 6 p.m., and Friday from 1 to 5 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, call 419.530.3451. For more information about the Main Campus Medical Center, visit utoledo.edu/healthservices/student.

Professor honored for pioneering academic contributions

By Ashley Diel

Dr. David Nemeth, UT professor in the Department of Geography and Planning, has received the second annual Kevin O’Donnell Distinguished Friend of Korea Award.

The Friend of Korea Award is dedicated to enhancing cultural awareness and friendship between Americans and Koreans and was founded in 2002 by former Peace Corps volunteers who served in Korea between 1966 and 1981.

Nemeth spent two years on Jeju Island off the southern coast of South Korea with the Peace Corps in 1972. After returning to the United States, he pursued researching, publishing and teaching about Korea.

“I formed a mystical attachment to Jeju Island and a fictive kinship with its inhabitants during my Peace Corps years of service,” Nemeth said. “In addition, I found a moral compass there.

“After Peace Corps, my in-depth studies of Jeju Island, highlighted by many return visits, became a rewarding intellectual obsession that I vigorously pursued while earning my PhD at UCLA.”

Nemeth’s research focuses on cultural geographic studies in Korea, which include diverse yet related explorations into Neo-Confucianism, geomancy, economic-growth ideology and agricultural ecology.

In 1987, Nemeth published a book titled “The Architecture of Ideology: Neo-Confucian Imprinting on Cheju Island, Korea,” which has since been translated into Korean.

“This award in general draws international scholarly and public attention to the profound significance of Korean civilization on the world stage, past, present and future,” Nemeth said. “More specifically, my award celebrates the uniqueness and worth of Jeju Island’s remarkable landscape and culture within Korea.”
Ritter Planetarium hosting holiday shows this month

By Ashley Diehl

Join in some holiday cheer at the UT Ritter Planetarium this year and check out two educational and festive shows.

“The Alien Who Stole Christmas,” recommended for children 4 to 10, will run Fridays at 7:30 p.m. through Dec. 22.

Follow along as Santa meets Mr. Feep, an alien from another world, and watch as they go on an adventure to the farthest regions of the solar system.

“Santa’s Secret Star” will run Saturdays at 1 p.m. through Dec. 23.

The program is geared toward children ages 4 to 7 and tells the story of how Santa uses the constellations to find his way around the world on Christmas.

“Santa fans of all ages should attend,” said Alex Mak, associate planetarium director. “These shows are entertaining, educational and seasonal-appropriate.”

Both programs will take place in the full-dome studio and offer an immersive, 3D experience. UT’s full-dome projector, the Spitz SciDome XD, was installed in 2011.

Admission is $7 for adults; $5 for children, UT community members and seniors; children 3 and younger are free.

For more information, call Ritter Planetarium at 419.530.2650 or its 24-hour information hotline at 419.530.4037.

STAR POWER: Santa Claus and Rudolph appear in “Santa’s Secret Star,” UT’s first full-dome production that premiered in 2014. The show is based on a planetarium program created in 1988 by Alex Mak, associate director of Ritter Planetarium.

Wanted: Works for 2018 Health Science Campus Artist Showcase

Mulford Library is seeking submissions for its 13th Annual Health Science Campus Artist Showcase.

The deadline to apply for consideration to be included in the showcase is Friday, Jan. 12.

The library is accepting submissions from UT faculty, staff and students in the health sciences — nursing, medicine, pharmacy and the health professions — as well as UT Medical Center employees.

To be considered for the show, digital images of artwork can be sent to hscartshow@utoledo.edu, along with a submission form that can be found with guidelines at http://libguides.utoledo.edu/hscart.

In the past, the showcase has featured artwork in a variety of media, including photography, painting, drawing, sculpture, jewelry making, quilting, multimedia, graphics, wood carving and more.

The showcase will be on display from Feb. 12 through April 2 on the fourth floor of Mulford Library.

An artist reception is planned for Friday, Feb. 16, from 4 to 6 p.m. with a lecture on “Renaissance Art as Medicine” by Allie Terry-Fritsch, associate professor of art history at Bowling Green State University.

Questions about the showcase can be directed to Jodi Jameson, assistant professor and nursing librarian at Mulford Library, who is a member of the artist showcase committee, at 419.383.5152 or jodi.jameson@utoledo.edu.
‘Star Wars’ Day set for men’s basketball game Dec. 16

By Steve Easton

“Star Wars” Day will be held Saturday, Dec. 16, at 2 p.m. when the Toledo men’s basketball team hosts Wright State in a non-conference matchup.

Fans can dress up as their favorite character from the popular film series and have their pictures taken during the first half and halftime with “Star Wars” characters Obi-Wan Kenobi, Darth Vader, Princess Leia and a Storm Trooper.

Young Rocket fans also can take part in Jedi training in the Fetterman Gym from 1:15 to 2 p.m. The cost for the Jedi training is $7 and includes a game ticket, a light saber and a Jedi training certificate. Participants must be dressed up in a “Star Wars” costume; Jedi training is based on availability due to limited space.

Jedi are members of a powerful order of scholars and fighters skilled in manipulating the universe with their minds. They are endowed with incredible physical and metaphysical strength, and their power is well-known everywhere in the galaxy. While they are tough fighters when necessary, they seek peace for the galaxy. They are always looking for ways to help those around them and keep the dark side at bay.

A costume contest also will be held during the game with the winner announced during the second half.

The Rockets also are teaming up with Leadership Toledo’s Students in Action for a toy drive. Fans are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy to the game to help make the holidays brighter for kids at Toledo Children’s Hospital.

For ticket information, stop by the UT Athletic Ticket Office in the Sullivan Athletic Complex at Savage Arena, go online at utrockets.com, or call 419.530.GOLD (4653).
One for the books

Jeremy Santus, manager of desktop support in Information Technology, flipped through some pages at the Satellites Auxiliary’s Collective Goods Book Fair last week in UT Medical Center’s Four Seasons Bistro Atrium. Approximately $1,500 was raised for campus scholarships, according to Lynn Brand, president of the volunteer organization.

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 or 419.530.2299 to schedule an appointment before Friday, Jan. 5.

Photos will appear in an upcoming issue of the paper.

In memoriam

Allie Albert, Fort Myers, Fla., a former UT faculty member, died Dec. 3 at age 79.

Ann M. Loch, Temperance, Mich., who was a secretary in the College of Engineering from 1997 until her retirement in 2009, died Dec. 4. She was 73.

Richard A. Seese, Toledo, an instructor in the Mathematics and Statistics Department from 1991 to 2008, died Dec. 4 at age 77.

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.
Spread Cheer with Rocket Gear

Find the perfect gift for every Rocket fan, from jewelry to wall décor and many other unique ideas!

To find a full list of retailers carrying Toledo products, or to shop online for great gift ideas, go to utoledo.edu/shop-rockets.