Volunteers, donations needed for UT’s Feed My Starving Children mobile pack Jan. 26-27

On Friday and Saturday, Jan. 26 and 27, more than 800 volunteers will gather again in the UT Health Education Building to assemble thousands of meals through the Feed My Starving Children program. Anyone can help by joining the mobile pack, donating money for food, and by spreading the word. UT’s participation in this mobile pack event is sponsored by the College of Business and Innovation Klar Leadership Academy, which was founded in 2015 with the support of Steven Klar, a 1971 business alumnus and a New York City builder and real estate developer. Klar will attend this event to work a production shift with his wife, Kathy, continued on p. 2

Catching up

Katie Wilson, left, Allison Edelbrock, center, and Ami Ill talked in Carlson Library on the first day of classes last week.

President named higher ed leader to watch

The University of Toledo President Sharon L. Gaber has been recognized as one of the top higher education leaders for her focus on student success and a strong financial foundation for the institution.

Gaber leads the list of “5 Higher Ed Leaders to Watch in 2018 (and Beyond)” by Education Dive, an education industry publication that shares K-12 and higher education news and analysis.

The publication notes the University’s cost-saving measures, including consolidated purchasing and salary restructuring, and efforts to improve student retention under Gaber’s leadership.

“And Toledo’s first woman president, whose research interests include community needs assessment of marginalized populations, Gaber has honed in on student success in her first two years at the helm of the University,” the publication states.

Along with Dr. Gaber, the list includes Dr. Harold L. Martin Sr., chancellor of North Carolina A&T State University; Dr. Becky Takeda-Tinker, president of Colorado State University-Global Campus; Dr. Robert C. (Bob) Fisher, president of Belmont University; and Dr. Ruth Simmons, president of Prairie View A&M University.

Read the article online at educationdive.com/news/5-higher-ed-leaders-to-watch-in-2018-and-beyond.

5 higher ed leaders to watch in 2018 (and beyond)

Strong financial savvy, fundraising prowess and a pronounced desire for students to succeed make these administrators stand out above the rest
New dean selected to lead Judith Herb College of Education

By Meghan Cunningham

A n educational psychologist with an interest in enhancing classroom assessment for more effective teaching and learning has been named dean of The University of Toledo Judith Herb College of Education.

Dr. Raymond H. Witte will join UT July 1 from Miami University, where he is professor and chair of the Department of Educational Psychology.

“Dr. Witte is an experienced administrator, having served as department chair and associate dean. He is not only an accomplished scholar as a university professor, he had many years of experience working for public schools before joining academia,” said Dr. Andrew Hsa, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. “He has a passion for student success, especially those of first-generation college students. I am glad to welcome him to The University of Toledo and look forward to working with him and the college to further improve our college and our student success.”

“I am honored to be the new dean of the Judith Herb College of Education. I’ve always thought highly of the institution and been impressed with the quality and professionalism of the faculty and the administrators,” Witte said. “I am looking forward to working and collaborating with the distinguished faculty and staff of the college, as well as all the members of the University and Toledo communities.”

Witte joined the faculty of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, in 1999 and held a variety of additional administrative roles, including associate dean, graduate program director, department chair and assistant chair. Prior to his career in higher education, Witte was a school psychologist for the Jessamine County School District in Nicholasville, Ky., where he also directed the kindergarten and preschool programs.

Witte received his doctoral and master’s degrees in educational psychology and bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Kentucky.

His academic interests include working with students with learning disabilities assisting individuals and their families through transitions. As his career evolved, he became increasingly interested in effective assessment and has written two books and numerous articles on the topic.

Accordingly, Witte said he is a data-driven leader and looks forward to getting to know the college staff and collaborating with them to ensure strong student enrollment and community partnerships.

Ad campaign focuses on local alumni

By Jennifer Soenensfuei

T he University recently launched a new ad campaign highlighting the impact of alumni in the Toledo community and the career success they have achieved with their UT degrees.

The campaign is featured on 14 billboards throughout Toledo and in print and digital ads. The ads include an array of graduates from varied generations and academic backgrounds. The featured alumni include:

- Bob Savage, co-founder of Savage & Associates;
- Robin Whitney, vice president of real estate and construction for ProMedica;
- Prakash Karamchandani and HoChan Jang, co-owners of Balance Pan-Asian Grille and Bubble Tea;
- Dr. Romules Durant, superintendent of Toledo Public Schools; and
- McKenzie Kuehnlein, reporter for 13 ABC.

The ads direct to utoledo.edu/alumni with more information about the featured participants and their UT experiences.

“We have so many success stories at UT and are proud of our graduates’ accomplishments,” said Barbara Owens, UT associate vice president for marketing and communications. “We want to raise awareness of how these alumni are present and contributing to the Toledo region, and also remind area high school students about the opportunities for success at UT.”

The campaign will run through March.

Feed My Starving Children

continued from p. 1

and son, Ashton, who are coming in from New York.

Additionally, longtime UT benefactor and business alumnus Ed Kinsey is a primary sponsor of this year’s event through the Kinsey Family Foundation and also will be in attendance to work a shift with his family.

“Members of the College of Business and Innovation’s Klar Leadership Academy have set a goal to build 160,000 meals for Caribbean hurricane relief and are taking the lead to recruit 850 volunteers and raise nearly $40,000 for this year’s event,” said Dr. Clint Longenecker, Distinguished University Professor and director of the Center for Leadership and Organizational Excellence in the College of Business and Innovation.

“At The University of Toledo, we all are about developing student leaders who can fulfill the University’s mission of improving the human condition,” Longenecker continued. “This event is a perfect example of our students developing leadership, servant-leadership, planning and team-building skills while serving a greater purpose — to help create solutions to the problem of world hunger.”

“We are all very excited about this big campus-wide event and are working very hard to make it a big success,” noted Nick Johnston, a student in the College of Business and Innovation. “It’s something bigger than ourselves. It’s a win-win: We are learning invaluable leadership skills while at the same time helping address global issues like world hunger.”

“I had the amazing experience of volunteering last year to make these nutritious packs for children in Haiti,” said Natalie Zerucha, a student in the College of Business and Innovation, who is a Klar Leadership Academy member. “I participated in the last shift possible last year, and we created a total of 34,776 meals, which feeds 95 kids for an entire year. My heart was so full to pray over the last shipment before it got on the truck.

“I learned a lot about myself that day, and I challenge you to do the same. Here is your chance to give back to kids who need nutrition in their lives,” Zerucha said.

While members of the Klar Leadership Academy are taking the lead in organizing the event, hundreds of volunteers and at least $36,000 are needed to help obtain the goal of assembling 160,000 meals over the two-day mobile pack.

There will be three shifts Friday, Jan. 26, following setup: noon to 2 p.m., 3 to 5 p.m., and 7 to 9 p.m. There will also be three shifts Saturday, Jan. 27: 9 to 11 a.m.; noon to 2 p.m., and 4 to 6 p.m.

To donate or register to help at the event, go to https://give.fmsc.org/Toledo.
Apply for 2018 grant from Women & Philanthropy; up to $76,000 available

Monday, Feb. 19, is the deadline to submit an application for a grant from Women & Philanthropy at The University of Toledo.

UT staff, faculty and students from all campuses are eligible to apply. Women & Philanthropy grant applications are available at utfoundation.org/foundation/home/women_philanthropy.aspx?request=6.

To be considered for a grant, all application guidelines must be followed.

The Women & Philanthropy Grants Committee will review and evaluate the applications, and the general membership will vote to determine the recipient(s). Grant amounts vary from year to year.

For 2018, Women & Philanthropy has allocated up to $76,000 to award in grants for UT projects and programs.

Grant recipients will be announced in May.

The inaugural grant, in the amount of $15,000, was awarded in 2008 to Carlson Library to commission a glass sculpture by artist Tom McClauchlin. That sculpture titled “A University Woman” is on display in the library concourse and has become the model for the Women & Philanthropy logo.

Since then, Women & Philanthropy has funded classrooms; an art gallery; locker room enhancements; a sensory-friendly medical examination room; the hospitality area in the William and Carol Koester Alumni Pavilion; renovations to the Savage Arena media room; computer-based educational displays in Ritter Planetarium and Lake Erie Center; a computer lab in the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women; a playground at the Kobacker Center; a student-family room in University College; an interactive periodic table display; and a Genetics Analysis Instrumentation Center.

In 10 years, Women & Philanthropy has gifted nearly $425,000 in 17 grants to The University of Toledo. Women & Philanthropy is able to give substantial gifts to the University by pooling its members’ resources and making monetary awards in the form of grants.

For more information, contact Sarah Metzger in the Office of Alumni and Annual Engagement at sarah.metzger2@utoledo.edu or 419.530.4237.
Panel presentation to explore peace studies, peace education

By Ashley Diel

The UT Peace Fellows will hold a meeting and panel presentation focusing on the topic of peace and justice issues Monday, Jan. 29, at 7 p.m. in Gillham Hall Room 5300.

The free event is open to students from any academic discipline, as well as campus and community members.

The UT Peace Fellows is a group of faculty, students and community members that meets three times a year to discuss current events, theory and research in peace studies and peace education, and how a community can contribute to help create a more peaceful and just society.

“We work together to bridge academic interests related to peace studies, to aid in the promotion of peace-related programs and events on campus, and to foster the roots of peace and justice into the core of the UT mission and culture,” said Dr. Dale T. Snauwaert, professor of philosophy of education and peace studies.

The event will allow attendees to participate in group discussions and exchange ideas and research related to the topic of peace and justice issues.

Feature presentations will be given by Dr. Jeannine Diller, associate professor of philosophy and religious studies, and Dr. Hans Gottgens, professor of environmental studies.

“Drs. Diller and Gottgens will speak about their scholarship, which is situated in different disciplinary areas, yet they will both highlight how peace and justice issues impact their scholarship, teaching and service to the community,” said Dr. Florian Feucht, associate professor of educational psychology and peace education. “The speakers are examples for how peace and justice connects and impacts our daily work and local community.”

The Peace Fellows is affiliated with a new undergraduate minor in peace and justice studies at the University. The minor includes four core courses and two electives that students can take from across campus.

“By completing the peace and justice studies minor, students gain a deep understanding of the meaning of peace as not merely the absence of violence, but more broadly as the presence of justice, human rights, ecological sustainability and human security,” Snauwaert said. “Students understand and are able to apply and create just and effective responses to threats to and violations of peace and justice on all levels of human society from the local to the global.”

The program also offers access to resources such as the Betty A. Reardon Collection in the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections in Carlson Library, as well as a peace studies and peace education library housed in Gillham Hall.

For more information about the event or about the peace and justice studies minor, contact Snauwaert at dale.snauwaert@utoledo.edu.
Wanted: Entries for business innovation competition

By Bob Mackowiak

University of Toledo students, faculty and staff who have a great business idea may win up to $10,000 to help make their idea a reality in the eighth annual business innovation competition sponsored by the UT College of Business and Innovation. Entries are due Monday, Feb. 26.

“The first seven years of the business competition were a remarkable success as the College of Business and Innovation received dozens of entries from across UT campuses,” said Dr. Sonny Ariss, chair and professor of management. “We are expecting another tremendous array of entries this year and trust the contest will continue to advance a creative culture of growth in all areas of the University.”

Dr. Hassan HassabElnaby, interim dean of the College of Business and Innovation, said, “This annual business plan competition truly reflects our emphasis on supporting innovation, fostering creative thinking, and nurturing the entrepreneurial environment so essential for the economic growth of this region.”

Ariss explained, “Entrepreneurship is not only for people who want to start a business. Corporate America also looks for innovative thinking from their employees, so intrapreneurship within the corporate business structure remains important. This is demonstrated by the fact that the college continues to have corporate partners — Owens-Illinois, PNC Bank, and Chuck and Ann Hodge — who contribute prize money for the winners of this competition.”

Competition entries must be submitted using Lean Launch Pad concepts, which enable people to develop their business model upon nine basic building blocks: customer segments, value propositions, channels, customer relationships, revenue streams, key resources, key activities, key partnerships and cost structure.

“As we have every year, the College of Business and Innovation is again ready to offer guidance to help these teams effectively implement their plans, emerge beyond the University, create jobs, and enhance area economic growth,” Ariss added.

There is no cost to enter the competition. Registration must be completed online. Winners must prove that they have formed an LLC or S Corp in order to receive a financial award.

The College of Business and Innovation at The University of Toledo is providing the following prize money:

- First place: $10,000 (sponsored by Owens-Illinois Inc.);
- Second place: $5,000 (sponsored by Chuck and Ann Hodge Business Plan Competition Fund); and
- Third place: $2,000 (sponsored by PNC Bank).

The timeline for the 2018 competition is:

- Those planning to enter the competition are invited to attend a question-and-answer session Monday, Feb. 5, from noon to 1 p.m. in the PNC Entrepreneurship Lab, located in Savage & Associates Business Complex Room 3100.
- Finalists will be announced Friday, March 23.
- Finalists will make an oral presentation about their business using the business model canvas Thursday, April 12, between noon and 5:30 p.m. in the PNC Entrepreneurship Lab, Savage & Associates Business Complex Room 3100.
- Winners will be announced Thursday, April 19.

This competition reflects UT’s belief in innovative thinking and is intended to advance a creative culture of growth in all areas of the University. UT College of Business and Innovation is conducting the business model plan competition.

COBE reserves the right to not provide a particular cash award if no qualified proposal is received. In addition for cash prizes, selected awardees may receive assistance in areas such as intellectual property and business consultations.

*Alumni can participate as a member of a team involving current UT faculty, staff or students.

** For more information, please visit businessmodelgeneration.com/canvas or leancanvas.com

The competition is open to all UT students, faculty and staff, while alumni can participate as a member of a team involving current students, faculty or staff.

To register or for more information, go to utoledo.edu/business.
Rocket Wellness takes walking paths indoors

The beginning of the year motivates some to increase physical activity. Recent temperatures, however, can act as a deterrent to some driven individuals.

Beginning in January, UT Rocket Wellness will be rolling out various walking paths inside University buildings.

“As one of the largest employers in the region, The University of Toledo is proud to offer its faculty, staff and students these new indoor walking paths as an additional way to stay healthy, which can be especially challenging during the winter,” said President Sharon L. Gaber. “I encourage our campus community to take advantage of these paths as part of a routine fitness regimen.”

Walking has been recognized to provide many benefits such as increased energy, improved mood, lowered risk of heart disease, and enhanced physical health.

“Mapped and marked outdoor walking paths are present on Main Campus, Health Science Campus and Scott Park Campus,” Jocelyn Szymanski, wellness administrator, said. “This year, we will be adding paths in several buildings on all campuses so that members of our UT community can walk at their leisure regardless of weather.”

Rocket Wellness offers recommendations for walking:

• Walk at least 30 minutes on most days; “most days” is defined as five days per week.
• Break the recommended 30 minutes into various segments throughout the day.
• Invite co-workers to a walking meeting. Recent research finds that the act of walking leads to increased creative thinking.
• Walk at a moderate intensity — walk as if you are going somewhere. This is neither a casual pace nor a jog.
• Always speak to a physician or health-care provider before beginning a new exercise program.

Maps to all indoor and outdoor paths can be viewed at utoledo.edu/offices/rocketwellness/healthyu.

UT Cheerleaders to hold kids’ clinic Feb. 3

Registration is open for The University of Toledo’s 2018 Cheerleading Clinic for Kids that will be held Saturday, Feb. 3.

Registration can be completed online at https://www.ticketreturn.com/prod2/BuyNew.asp?EventID=220815#.Wkz9idG270, by calling the UT Ticket Office at 419.530.GOLD (4653), or in person at the ticket office.

Participants will learn a routine to be performed at halftime of the Feb. 3 women’s basketball game against Buffalo.

The clinic registration fee is $30 and includes a T-shirt, ticket to the game and a post-performance snack.

In order to guarantee your child receives the requested T-shirt size, registration must be received by Sunday, Jan. 28.

An approximate timeline of the clinic day’s activities will be:

• 11:30 a.m. — Registration.
• Noon — Clinic in the Fetterman Center Gym.
• 2:15 p.m. — Move to Savage Arena.
• 2:45 p.m. — Halftime performance.

Fans can purchase additional tickets for $7 by using the promo code “CHEER” at https://www.ticketreturn.com/prod2/BuyNew.asp?EventID=220815#.Wkz9idG270?.

CATCH THE SPIRIT: The UT Cheerleaders will hold a clinic for kids Saturday, Feb. 3.
International spotlight

Dipesh Niraula, a University of Toledo doctoral student in condensed matter physics, third from left, was among researchers to win a best paper award at the COMSOL Conference 2017 in Boston in October. Niraula competed against more than 100 users, including students, professors, engineers and others at this international conference. He and his adviser, Dr. Victor Karpov, professor of physics, used COMSOL’s modeling software to quantitatively predict the features of RRAM, resistive random access memory, and come to a better understanding of how it works. RRAM is a promising new feature that in the future may help to make computers smaller and use less operating power. Karpov and Niraula’s research also received the highest score at a panel review for memory device research sponsored by the Semiconductor Research Corp. at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in May. “Our department has a strong research program,” Niraula said, “and our department head, Dr. [Sanjay] Khare, and dean, Dr. [Karen] Bjorkman, encourage our effort and have been very supportive.”

In memoriam

David Leigh Root, Harbor Springs, Mich., died Jan. 11 at age 67. In 1978, he became president and CEO of the family business, Root Outdoor Advertising, which was a UT benefactor. The bridge on Stadium Drive behind the Snyder Memorial Building is named for the Toledo businessman.

Shirley M. (Brown) Zietlow, Perrysburg, who was a secretary at UT for several years, died Jan. 11 at age 84.
Celebrating civil rights icon

Photos by Michelle ‘Mickey’ Ross

James Meena, principal artistic adviser, directed members of the Toledo Opera Association. The group previewed Douglas Tappin’s “I Dream: The Story of a Preacher From Atlanta,” which the association will perform in Toledo in April.

Professor writes, reads poem for new mayor

Poetry is a passion for Dr. Jim Ferris. So when he received a request from Wade Kapszukiewicz to write a poem that could be read when he would be sworn in as the new mayor of Toledo, Ferris put pen to paper.

“I wrote a poem that seemed to work for the moment; it’s called ‘Laborare,’” Ferris, professor and Ability Center of Greater Toledo Endowed Chair in Disability Studies, said. “The Latin title means ‘To Work.’

“My initial plan was to pick something off the shelf. Inspiration to order has never been my strong suit. But I found myself thinking about the Latin phrase on the Toledo city seal, ‘laborare est orare’ [to work is to pray], and that led me to pick up a pen.”

Ferris, who began his second two-year term as the Lucas County poet laureate last summer, read the poem Jan. 2 when Kapszukiewicz officially took office as the Glass City’s mayor.

“It is quite an honor to serve as poet laureate of Lucas County; I hope I can be an ambassador for poetry and the arts in general in northwest Ohio,” Ferris said. “And it is quite gratifying when people find my work engaging and useful.”

He is the author of “Slouching Towards Guantanamo,” “Facts of Life” and “The Hospital Poems.” His writing has appeared in numerous publications, including Poetry, Text and Performance Quarterly, and the Georgia Review.

“For me, poetry is not separate from my work to create greater access and opportunity for people with disabilities, people of color, and other oppressed groups in society,” Ferris said. “My commitment to diversity and inclusion informs my poems, whether that commitment is readily apparent or not.”

As Lucas County poet laureate, he shares his love of words and presents poetry to the area community.

“Samuel Taylor Coleridge described poetry as the best words in the best order; I think of language as humanity’s most important tool and toy. We do things with language, we use language to perform work, and sometimes we are most productive when we are most playful,” Ferris said. “Language is fun, and this is sort of a productive paradox: I hope my poems are useful and fun at the same time, whether it’s laugh-out-loud fun or ‘Oh, that’s moving’ fun.”

Ferris

“laborare est orare” (to work is to pray)
so help me God
we can all use a little help
once in a while —
the rest of the time all the help
we can get

“laborare est amare” (to work is to love)
and what we make
under the gray Lake Erie sky
can move and join us
it is good to have work — we all
have work to do

“amare est vivere” (to love is to live)
this place, this day
this moment is our lever
and our fulcrum
we have the tools we need — the hands and heart —
to work, to pray
to love, to live

“vivere est opus” (to live is the work)
to help each other
to lift and lift again
to remember to look up
to remember
to reach down

aduware — to help — amare — to love — vivere — to live —
this is our work