Best-selling author to discuss importance of words

Author Tom Robbins is searching for the perfect sentence.

“The perfect sentence, if there is such a thing, would be both vivid and mysterious, accessible and unpredictable at the same time. Whether it shakes out like a wrinkled bed sheet or barrels ahead like a locomotive, it has to have rhythm,” he said in a recent phone interview from his home near Seattle. “When the subject meets the verb, the verb should yell, ‘Surprise!’”

The writer known for his witty wordplay and enlightening fiction will deliver the 16th annual Richard M. Summers Memorial Lecture Friday, April 15, at 4 p.m. in Doermann Theater. The title of his talk is “Language Is Not the Frosting, It’s the Cake.”

“Robbins has put together some great sentences over the years. He has written eight novels, including Even Cowgirls Get the Blues (1976), Still Life With Wood-

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UT researcher looking to prevent bone loss

As the baby boomers near retirement and the American population continues to age, health concerns such as cancer, strokes and heart disease more often are considered the primary threat to older Americans. But the risk for broken or fractured limbs is just as real because of age-related loss of bone mass.

Osteoporosis is a condition characterized by decreased bone mass that leads to increased skeletal fragility and susceptibility to fracture, and more than 75 percent of the more than 10 million Americans afflicted with osteoporosis are women, according to the National Osteoporosis Foundation.

To help reverse this trend, the National Science Foundation has awarded UT a five-year, $400,000 grant to develop and implement a program dedicated to studying the causes of skeletal fragility and looking at ways to reverse the process.

“Forty percent of all women over age 50 will eventually suffer from a hip, wrist or vertebral osteoporotic fracture,” said Dr. Ozan Akkus, UT assistant professor of bioengineering, who will direct the study. “Twelve to 20 percent of osteoporotic hip fracture patients don’t survive the year following their fracture due to surgical complications and old age.”

According to Akkus, the current treatment for osteoporosis aims to preserve bone mass to prevent increased bone weakness. He hopes to develop a complementary procedure to augment the body’s natural processes for strengthening the quality of remaining bone tissue.

Bone quality will be improved by artificial mimicking agents that will make up for the loss in natural factors that regulate the creation and mineralization of bone tissue. As the body ages, the mineralization process becomes irregular, which results in uncontrolled growth of mineral crystals, increasing bone’s fragility. “The uncontrolled growth of crystals is akin to a fossilization process as we live,” he said.

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Campus community invited to Spring Convocation

Wednesday, April 20
4 p.m.
Doermann Theater

President Dan Johnson to discuss “Action Plan for Excellence”

Faculty/Staff Campaign Kickoff

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Work area: Beth Rasor, front, and Mallory Fay, seniors in the College of Pharmacy, studied on a bench in Centennial Mall last week.

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Step into the World of Atoms this fall

By Deanna Lytle

In celebration of the World Year of Physics 2005, the physics and astronomy department is offering a special version of PHYS 1050 titled World of Atoms during fall semester 2005. The World Year of Physics recognizes the 100th anniversary of Albert Einstein’s Miracle Year 1905, a year in which he published three landmark papers in the field of physics on light quanta, Brownian motion and the special theory of relativity.

The PHYS 1050 course has no prerequisites and can be applied toward a UT core requirement and a College of Arts and Sciences requirement in natural sciences. It is worth three credit hours and meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 1:50 p.m. in McMaster Hall Room 2002.

According to Dr. Larry Curtis, Distinguished University Professor of Physics and Astronomy, class materials will include Einstein’s original papers, as well as newspaper articles and work of later scientists. “What many people don’t realize is that Einstein’s work is very easy to read — people have added in more math than the original papers contain,” Curtis explained. “There is no math intimidation in this course” as the material is conceptual in nature. Two areas that Curtis will stress in the course include atomic structure and the demystification of physics phenomena. “I want to convey the behavior of atoms and how they go together to form things,” he said. “I especially want to get across that certain physics occurrences do not violate intuition. Often, things in physics are presented as if there is some mystery or magic involved. But these apparent paradoxes are actually functioning the right way. I want to make some of the phenomena seem more friendly and clear.”

Curtis said people from all academic disciplines are welcome in the course. “In a sense, this class can be treated as a one-room schoolhouse. If there are some people who are well-versed in math, I can speak to them. And if there are others who don’t have as much experience in math, I can address them.”

For more information on the course, contact Curtis at ljc@physics.utoledo.edu or call Ext. 2341.

UT program designed to boost students’ interest in chemistry, confidence

To qualify, students must have completed one year of high school chemistry and have limited family income (below $32,000 or below $45,200 if the students have a secondary factor, such as if they would represent the family’s first generation in college, if they come from a single parent family or if they’re a member of underrepresented minority). Amounts are scaled for family size.

Students are required to work full time for at least eight weeks during the summer. “This isn’t just a shadow program,” Jorgensen said, “it’s a proactive learning environment. Students are in the lab doing some of the same work as professors and graduate students.”

First-year Project SEED students receive a stipend of $2,275, funded equally by ACS and the UT chemistry department. The Toledo section of ACS and Dr. Robert Maley, a UT chemistry department alumnus, also have donated funds. Those returning for a second year of research — under the same professor and in the same lab — earn $2,600.

Jorgensen said he remembers being in the same position as the students Project SEED tries to reach — academically able to attend college but with no plans to do so because of financial limitations. “I went to college because one of my teachers invested his time to ensure college was in my future,” he said. “We’re trying to do the same thing with these students today, and we are hopeful that their future success will be the reward.”

By Jon Strunk

College of Engineering, praised Akkus, both for his academic and scholarly achievements as well as for his outreach into the Toledo community. “Our engineering faculty are involved in cutting-edge research in the area of advanced materials and Dr. Akkus’ work is an excellent example. We are proud to have him as a member of our faculty and delighted that the National Science Foundation has chosen to recognize him through the prestigious Career Award,” he said.

Akkus’ grant is titled “Career: Development of an Integrated Research and Education Program in Nanobio-mechanical Analysis of Skeletal Fragility.” The Career Award is NSF’s most prestigious commendation for new faculty members and recognizes the early career development activities of scholars most likely to become the academic leaders of the 21st century.
University Women’s Commission honors employees, students

By Vicki L. Kroll

Five UT women were recognized March 30 for their continuing contributions to the campus community at the 19th annual Outstanding Women’s Awards.

About 200 people attended the ceremony, which was sponsored by the University Women’s Commission and the Society of Women Engineers.

President Dan Johnson helped present the Outstanding Women Awards to:

• Dr. Marcia McNerney, professor and interim chair of medicinal and biological chemistry. She joined the UT faculty in 1991 and has been studying autoimmune diabetes for more than 20 years. Her research has gained much attention. McNerney has received grants from the National Institutes of Health, and she was a Senior Iacocca Fellow and worked at the Joslin Diabetes Center at Harvard Medical School in 1998-99. In addition to teaching and conducting research, McNerney serves on several UT committees.

• Mary Morrison, director of development for the College of Arts and Sciences in the Office of Institutional Advancement. “Mary has been a loyal, dedicated and hard-working employee at The University of Toledo for 20 years,” wrote one nominator. “Mary’s support of and belief in UT is attested by the fact that she is a long-term donor to the University and volunteers countless hours of her time toward many activities associated with UT.” Morrison is a 1989 alumna of the College of Business Administration.

• Dr. Nancy Morrison, associate professor of astronomy and director of Ritter Observatory. She came to the University in 1978. Her research focuses on stellar spectroscopy, including massive stars and stellar winds. “She has worked diligently to maintain and improve Ritter Observatory, despite the fact that resources have been limited,” noted one nominator. Last year, Morrison received a National Science Foundation grant for $411,905 to make Ritter Observatory’s controls more user friendly and to purchase a large-format CCD camera to further research efforts.

• Dr. Madeline Muntersbjorn, associate professor of philosophy. She has been at UT since 1994. Nominators wrote Muntersbjorn has a reputation for making difficult logic courses easier by using humor and real-life examples. She is the department’s undergraduate adviser and past adviser for the UT Philosophy Club. She writes papers in the history and philosophy of science and mathematics as well as “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” studies. Muntersbjorn has served on several UT committees, and she is an advocate for Apple Tree Nursery School.

• Sherry Tripepi, a social worker in the University Counseling Center. She has been working at UT since 1997. The therapist specializes in eating disorders, body image, sexual assault and abuse, and stress management. Tripepi has participated in Take Back the Night and coordinated the Clothesline Project on campus. In addition, she is part of the emergency response team and is on call around the clock three months of the year to help students in emotional distress.

The University Women’s Commission also recognized Joan Uhl Browne for her years of service to UT. Browne’s nine-year term on the UT board of trustees will expire in July. She was the first woman to serve as chair of the board from 2002 to 2004, and she led the presidential search committee in 2000 and 2001.

In addition, the commission handed out four professional staff development awards for the first time. Receiving $50 awards to help cover costs for a seminar, training or class were Dr. Christina Fitzgerald, assistant professor of English; Charlene Hansen-Morlock, secretary 2 in the chemistry department; Dr. Lisa Kovach, assistant professor of foundations of education; and Angela Pezzi, hall director in Parks Tower.

The commission also presented $1,000 scholarships to four students. Receiving awards based on academic achievement, support of women’s and gender studies, and campus and community involvement were Wolali Dedo, a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences; Ashley Nickel, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences; Gabrielle Seay, a sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences; and Megan Vozar, a senior in the College of Pharmacy.
Outstanding advisers, researchers, teachers honored

By Vicki L. Kroll

Outstanding advisers, researchers and teachers will be recognized at a dinner Friday, April 15, at 6 p.m. in the Student Union Ingman Room. Each 2005 award recipient will receive a certificate and $1,500.

Recipients of the Outstanding Adviser Awards are:

Cora Allen

Cora Allen, counselor in the Student Development Program in University College. She has been advising UT students since 1972. She has served on several University committees over the years and was honored with one of the Outstanding Women Awards in 1996. Allen is an alumna of UT, receiving an associate degree in social services technology in 1972.

“I have known Mrs. Allen for over 30 years, and she is one truly remarkable woman. Her knowledge of University policies and procedures is phenomenal,” wrote one nominator. “Students love her. She is willing to help anyone who needs it. I have seen her give students money, food, clothing, transportation to class and even home if necessary.” Another wrote, “Mrs. Allen is dedicated to helping students in every way, shape and form. She loves her job and does everything she can to make students succeed.”

“I strongly believe in advising the whole student, both academically and on a personal level,” Allen said. “I believe that an adviser should be honest, trustworthy, nonjudgmental, knowledgeable and open-minded. I love my job and I love making a difference in my students’ lives by showing them that someone cares about them.”

Dr. Alice Skeens

Dr. Alice Skeens, associate professor of psychology. She started teaching at UT as an instructor in 1963 in the former Community and Technical College and four years later moved to the College of Arts and Sciences, where she was an assistant professor and undergraduate adviser. In 1982, she was promoted to associate professor. Skeens served as assistant to the president from 1987 to 1997, and then returned to full-time teaching.

“Dr. Skeens is always willing to put the student first,” wrote one nominator. “She helped me a great deal throughout my four years at UT. She is an extremely busy individual; she is on several committees, but she always took time to answer my questions.”

“I believe that advising is much more than scheduling and making sure students stay on track for graduation,” Skeens said. “I believe it involves caring for students, taking time to listen to their problems, suggesting possible solutions, calling the appropriate person for them and arranging an appointment if you refer them, discussing career goals and alternatives, and recommending them for graduate school or employment. My greatest rewards are thank-you notes from students, seeing my students succeed in their chosen careers, and seeing them happy.”

Dr. Jeanne Funk

“Jeanne’s work will benefit society in many ways,” wrote one nominator. “It will assist our children to be less violent and aggressive and as a result will lower aggression and violence in our society.”

Funk has received continuous funding in training grants from the Ohio Department of Mental Health for years. She has published more than 40 refereed journal papers. In 2000, she testified before the Senate Commerce Committee on the impact of interactive violence on children. Her expertise on violent video games has led to interviews with The New York Times, the Associated Press, Time Magazine, Consumer Reports and ABC’s “Primetime.”

Susan Martyn

“Her scholarship manages to blend the theoretical with an approach that also makes her work accessible to non-academic lawyers. In her 30 years of law teaching, she has published one casebook, two forthcoming book manuscripts, four book chapters, 27 law review articles and four reviews,” noted one nominator. “Professor Martyn’s research has had major identifiable impact on the development of the law both in the area of legal ethics and in the field of health care law.”

Martyn has served on two national commissions that have created templates for state lawyer professional codes and the entire law that governs lawyer conduct. She is a member of the Ohio Supreme Court’s Task Force on the Rules of Professional Conduct, charged with the responsibility of redrafting Ohio’s state lawyer code. Her work in bioethics includes two Supreme Court briefs filed in right-to-die cases.

Dr. John Murray

Dr. John Murray, associate professor of economics. He joined the UT faculty in 1994. His research examines the economic and demographic history of the United States, continental Europe and Southeast Asia, integrating economics and history in the study of health, education and labor markets in the past.

“Since receiving his PhD in 1992, Murray has published 31 articles in refereed journals, six book chapters and reference entries, and 13 book reviews,” wrote one nominator. “Google indicates that Murray’s publications have appeared on syllabi of courses in English, economics, history, public health and sociology departments at such universities..."
Dr. Katherine Wall

Dr. Katherine A. Wall, professor of medicinal and biological chemistry. She has been at UT since 1991. She is the director of the College of Pharmacy Honors Program. The immunologist and biochemist began her research with the initial characterization of the murine analog of CD4, the lymphocyte protein known as the receptor for HIV. Since 1989, Wall has studied the function of the immune system in the autoimmune disease myasthenia gravis, a chronic neuromuscular disease characterized by skeletal muscle weakness.

“This is seminal work. She has continued to challenge herself with pressing questions in the forefront of immunology research and recently showed that cytokines worsen myasthenia gravis,” wrote one nominator. “This was clearly an unexpected finding, which has resulted in a change in the attitude toward the role of cytokines in antibody mediated autoimmune diseases in general.”

While at UT, Wall has received consistent funding from the National Institutes of Health, including a six-year $500,000 grant in 1999. She has received more than $1 million in federal funding for her work and has published 29 papers on numerous biological subjects.

**Honored as Outstanding Teachers are:**

**Edward J. Stelnicki**, lecturer in mathematics. He has taught at the University for 11 years. Stelnicki was a teacher and administrator for 32 years with Washington Local Schools and was twice nominated for Ohio principal of the year.

“Mr. Stelnicki does an unbelievable job at getting everyone in the class to participate and understand the material being taught. Everyone is comfortable enough to ask him questions, and he answers them in ways we can comprehend,” wrote one nominator. Another wrote, “Mr. Stelnicki is the best teacher I have. He looks at the class when he does a problem so he notices if someone doesn’t understand it. He will go over the problem until he or she gets it right.”

“I want to challenge my students to do their best. I expect them to work hard,” Stelnicki said. “My purpose as a teacher is to provide a learning experience that will last a lifetime and be useful in the years ahead.”

Dr. John Murray

Murray and Dr. Ruth Herndon, UT professor of history, received $125,000 from the Spencer Foundation in Chicago to fund conferences that will lead to the publication of their edited book, *Children Bound to Labor in Early America.* He also received a $71,000 grant from the Spencer Foundation in Chicago to fund conferences that will lead to the publication of their edited book, *Children Bound to Labor in Early America.*

“Dr. John Murray is the associate editor of *Social Science History.*”

**Elaine Miller**, associate professor of mathematics. She has been teaching at UT since 1984.

“I have always hated math, but with Mrs. Miller, I have learned to enjoy it,” wrote one nominator. “She understands the frustration that is involved with her subject and that everyone is different so she takes her time to thoroughly explain everything.” Another noted, “She brings a wonderful, friendly attitude to class that makes learning business math fun. She’s an asset to the entire University.” And another wrote, “She is one of the few professors that I remember with the fondest memories.”

“Receiving this award is a great honor,” Miller said. “My teaching philosophy is quite simple. I have high expectations of the students. I am always well-prepared for my classes and I have fun in the classroom. I hope I am able to convey the beauty of mathematics and the enjoyment that comes from mastering this useful subject.”


**James Tierney**

“Professor Tierney is passionate about his work. He isn’t like most professors who just go through the motions,” wrote one nominator. “He treats each student as if he or she is the most important student in the school. Also, he is one of the few professors who will come down to the forum just to chat with students.” Another wrote, “He teaches Contract Law and Federal Income Tax. Both can be very complex, difficult (if not maddening!) subjects, but Professor Tierney breaks the material down in a clear and concise manner to make it understandable.”

“In my teaching, I try to show respect for the abilities of my students and for the diverse experiences they bring to the classroom,” Tierney said. “I often think I have a hidden advantage in teaching Contract Law and Federal Income Tax, in that students don’t often expect to enjoy these subjects. It’s rewarding to see my students become excited and engaged as they realize that the law in these areas is not a dry set of abstract rules, but consists of principles that affect individuals every day.”

— Photos by Bill Hartough and Daniel Miller
‘Ideals, Courage and Hope’: War experiences spotlighted at Canaday Center

By Deanna Lytle

In no way do I want this recap of my war experience to be misconstrued to give the impression that I did anything heroic, but merely was glad to have served my country.

— George Blakeman, U.S. Marines 2nd Division during World War II and corporal during the Korean War

Whether or not they are comfortable with the title of hero, it is clear that members of the armed services have performed extraordinary deeds that have preserved America’s freedom. But going beyond the epic battles and larger-than-life military icons, the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections is focusing on the personal experiences of soldiers in “Ideals, Courage and Hope: The Experience of Soldiers in America’s Wars.”

The exhibit opens at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, and runs through Friday, Aug. 26. Sarah Rouse, deputy director of the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, will speak at the opening, and a reception will follow her talk.

To accompany the exhibit, the Canaday Center has published “Ideals, Courage and Hope: Selections From The University of Toledo Veterans History Project Interviews.” The booklet contains excerpts from some of the almost 200 oral history interviews with local veterans recorded for the national Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. The booklet was made possible in part by the Ohio Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and was edited by Casey Stark and Jim Seely, graduate students in the UT history department.

“I think the oral history project is wonderful,” said Corrine Blakeman, who read a story written by her late husband for inclusion in the project. “It’s in the archives at UT and in Washington, D.C., and it will help others learn about war.”

Veterans and survivors interviewed for the project have been invited to the opening of the exhibit.

The exhibit contains cases for the early American wars, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Photographs, mementos, diaries, letters and books provide a vivid description of the soldiers’ experiences. Uniforms from World Wars I and II and the Korean War are also on display.

According to Barbara Floyd, director of the center, interest in firsthand accounts of soldiers has increased recently. “Many books have been written from the perspective of the historian. But within the past five years, something we’re finally doing is publishing the soldiers’ stories.”

She believes people are taking more notice of veterans’ viewpoints due to the opening of the World War II memorial and the war’s 60th anniversary this year. It’s also important to capture veterans’ experiences, as “something like 1,500 World War II veterans a day are dying,” Floyd said.

The free, public exhibit can be seen Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The art exhibit, “Renewed Hope: Paintings by Adam Grant,” is on display in the art gallery outside the Canaday Center. It features works by Toledo artist Grant, who was imprisoned in concentration camps during World War II.

For more information, contact the Canaday Center at Ext. 4480.

See works by Toledo artist who survived concentration camps

By Terry Biel

A n art exhibit, “Renewed Hope: Paintings by Adam Grant,” will be on display in the art gallery on the fifth floor of Carlson Library from Wednesday, April 13, to Friday, Aug. 26.

“Renewed Hope” is a companion exhibition to the Canaday Center’s spring exhibit, “Ideals, Courage and Hope: The Experience of Soldiers in America’s Wars.”

In “Renewed Hope,” Adam Grant’s development as a master figure artist will be traced from his early days in Europe to his mature years in Toledo.

Grant was born Adam Grochowski in Warsaw, Poland. He was 17 years old when he was imprisoned by the Nazis as a political threat, and later sent to the Auschwitz and Mauthausen concentration camps. Grant, who had studied art since age 10, was forced in Auschwitz to draw greeting and holiday cards for the guards throughout his imprisonment. As a reward, he was given gifts of soap, cigarettes and the extra food that kept him from starving to death.

Grant later immigrated to Detroit and was hired as lead designer by Palmer Paint Corp., then the world’s largest producer of paint-by-number panels. While working for Palmer, Grant created many wildly popular paint-by-number works under their Craft Master brand and met his future wife, Peggy.

When Palmer Paint Corp. moved to Toledo in 1956, Grant went as well. He later abandoned commercial art to pursue his own work, focusing on figure studies. His paintings were exhibited in 32 Toledo Area Artist shows, winning multiple first place awards and the Roulet Medal for excellence.

Following his death in 1992, Grant’s papers were donated to the Canaday Center, and several of his early works were donated by his wife to the Holocaust Museum Collection in Auschwitz, Poland, where they remain on display.

For more information on the free, public exhibit, call the Canaday Center at Ext. 4480.

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EarthFest to bring environmental awareness events to campus

By Shannon Coon

What do a solar oven cookout, an automobile that runs on cooking oil, and a comedy where a fish tries to buy a car have in common? They can all be found at EarthFest 2005, an event that tries to spark environmental awareness and celebrate nature, on Monday, April 18, from noon to 9 p.m. on The University of Toledo Centennial Mall.

The event will kick off with a recycled art demonstration where workshop participants will change a collection of discarded materials into art projects. The event will be followed by a solar oven demonstration where, provided the sun is shining, participants will partake in a sun-cooked meal.

A Volkswagen van with an engine that runs on deep-fry cooking oil recycled from restaurants will be on display on the mall as well. The engine was revamped by UT alumnus Andrew Stipnick who will explain the conversion process and the benefits of biodiesel fuels at 1 p.m.

Other events at EarthFest will include a live wildlife presentation of birds of prey and some small mammals by Nature’s Nursery at 2 p.m.; the presentation of “Frankenfish,” a musical comedy about the invasive snakehead fish by Christine Child, UT instructor of music/theatre, and Dr. David Jex, UT professor of music, at 5 p.m.; and an environmental poetry reading where the EarthFest 2005 Environmental Poetry Contest winners will be announced at 6 p.m.

The fest will include free pizza and live entertainment by ALMA Dance Experience, a group that consists of dancers who perform authentic native dances from Africa and the Caribbean cultures to the accompaniment of drumming; Drum-for-the-Earth drumming cycle featuring a number of natural-material drums that will lead participants in rhythmic patterns that simulate the heart beat and the other natural vibrations of the Earth; and live music from singer, guitarist and Toledo native Sarah Cohen who has recorded two CDs and is a member of the Toledo-based group the Anti-Villains.

“A lot of people treat EarthFest the same way some people treat Christmas or Easter — it’s just one day a year they think about important issues and afterward they forget about it,” said Dr. Linda Smith, UT honors lecturer and faculty adviser for the UT Society for Environmental Education (SEE). “But really we need to be thinking about such issues every day and living our lives differently as a result. I’m not saying environmentalism is a religion, but, like religion, it’s something you need to pay attention to every day.”

EarthFest also will include information tables by several organizations, including the Northwest Ohio Peace Coalition, Toledo Grows and the UT Stranahan Arboretum.

In case of rain, events will be held in the Student Union Ingman Room.

The event is sponsored by SEE and co-sponsored by the UT English department, the earth, ecological and environmental sciences department, the College of Law, the Campus Democrats and the University Honors Program.

Parking will be available in Lot 13 by the West Parking Ramp and Lot 1S on the east side of campus by the Health and Human Services Building.

For more information on the free, public events, contact Smith at 419.530.6039 or Linda.Smith@utoledo.edu. For a detailed list of events, visit utsee.utoledo.edu.

In memoriam

Donald G. Flickinger, Toledo, died March 31 at age 97. In 1966, he was hired as assistant equipment manager in Athletics and became a purchasing buyer in the purchasing department one year later. He retired from the University in 1972. He became UT’s oldest graduate in 2003 when he received an associate degree at age 95.

Melvia A. Scott, Toledo, died April 1 at age 76. She was a clerk 3 in the College of Business Administration from 1974 to 1976, when she became a library media technical assistant 2, a position she held until 1982.

Jill Ellen (Welch) Lee, Broken Arrow, Okla., died March 24 at age 54. She received both undergraduate and graduate degrees from UT in 1989 and 1991, respectively. She was hired as a counselor for the former Community and Technical College’s Student Services in 1991. One year later, she was appointed cooperative education coordinator of the Professional Experience Program and was promoted to coordinator of Scott Park Career Services in 1994. She resigned in 1997.

‘Frankenfish’ set to invade the mall

More terrifying than a vampire bat, more menacing than a death’s head moth — it’s “Frankenfish,” a play about the invasive snakehead fish.

On Monday, April 18, the North Coast Theatre group will perform the music/theatre piece at 5 p.m. in the Centennial Mall as part of EarthFest 2005. This is the premiere for the play, which is written by Christine Child, UT instructor of playwriting, and Dr. David Jex, UT professor of music.

According to Child, “Frankenfish” is the third in a trilogy of pieces about invasive species. Previous plays have focused on zebra mussels and the round goby. “This is sort of a genre we’ve created,” she said. “We want people to pay more attention to this issue.”

The snakehead is native to parts of Asia and Africa and entered the United States via release from aquarium collections and from people eager to establish local populations for consumption purposes. A snakehead was caught in Lake Michigan in Fall 2004, spurring fears the species is the latest aquatic invader to enter the Great Lakes system. The fish have received their nickname due to their canine-like teeth and their ability to survive out of water for three days as they move from one water source to another.

The play involves a car salesman who’s fretting over the species, wondering, “What could the fish do next? Come in to buy a car?” Child explained. Apparently, he spoke too soon, as a snakehead comes to the dealership to purchase a set of wheels.

The 6-foot colored snakefish costume used in the production was made by Nora Warejko, a graduate of UT. Other University members involved include Irene Alby, part-time theatre instructor; Marvin Parker, a UT theatre major; and Dr. Matthew Wikander, professor of English. Other cast members are Madge Levinson and Irina Zaurov.

“We’re kind of an experimental group. We want to bring this type of material to audiences who may not necessarily have seen it,” Child said. She added the theatre group might find its new home at the Maumee Indoor Theater, where it’s performing in May.

For more information on the free, public event, contact Dr. Linda Smith, lecturer in the humanities in the Honors Program, at Ext. 6039.
Words of wisdom and advice united a cabbie and a university president on April 12, 1945, and the story of their chance encounter has surfaced through a letter and newspaper clipping recently donated to the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections.

Last month, Curtis Nash, son of past UT President Dr. Philip C. Nash, sent a newspaper clipping and a personal letter to the center that detail his father’s conversation with a cab driver in New York City on that fateful day in 1945, according to Barbara Floyd, director of the center and university archivist.

President Nash was in the city to deliver an address at the Columbia Broadcasting Station. But there was a change in the content plans, as President Franklin Roosevelt died earlier that day and Nash was expected to address the nation. When he got into the cab of Thomas Parks, he was nervous about what to say to soothe a sorrowing nation.

As the two spoke, Parks recalled the words of Thomas Gray’s “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard.” He recited, “Can stori’d urn, or animated bust/ Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath?/ Can Honour’s voice provoke the silent dust/ Or Flattery soothe the dull cold ear of death?” Nash thanked him and decided to use some of the words in his address.

The two began to talk about Matson’s home state and Parks mentioned he once gave a ride to a university president from Ohio. When he mentioned the president was from The University of Toledo, Matson told him he knew Nash. “In fact … he was very nearly exactly my age, our birthdays were so close we had celebrated them together when I lived in Toledo,” Matson recalled.

Parks admitted he had received a letter and a copy of the broadcast from Nash but had never replied because “if I wrote to thank … I might be taking liberty. Perhaps bothering a man so important and busy.” Matson encouraged him to write back, as Nash was sick in Toledo Hospital. He had been admitted because of a heart condition. Matson later summarized the meeting in a piece titled “It’s a Small World” in The Cleveland Press.

Parks sent a letter to Nash two weeks later in March 1947, almost two years after they had first met. He wrote that he found Nash “a friendly American gentleman who was just the sort of good fellow I always remember having met.” He related meeting Matson and learning of Nash’s present condition. “I have said an occasional prayer that you will be speeded back on the road to recovery. You are too good a man to be out of action long.”

Unfortunately, Nash never did get back to the action. Two months later, on May 7, 1947, he died. But the O. Henry-like story serves to show strangers in a cab can become friends across the miles.

The clipping and letter from the cab driver to UT’s seventh president detailing the story are preserved as part of Philip Nash’s papers in university archives.

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Condensed Shakespeare serves up fun

The play is directed by Kirby Wahl, assistant professor of theatre, and features UT students Seth Shaffer, Abby Youngs and David Corris. Local actor Grant Walker completes the cast.

Audience members can look forward to seeing Othello and Hamlet rap, as well as a version of “Titus Andronicus” as a cooking show. A football game also will substitute for the history plays.

A preview performance will be held on Thursday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m. with tickets at $8. The Thursday, April 21, performance will be signed for hearing-impaired patrons. Curtain times for the Wednesday through Saturday performances are 7:30 p.m. Sunday shows will begin at 2 p.m.

Tickets are $12 for the general public, $10 for seniors and UT faculty, staff and alumni, and $8 for students. Group tickets are available for parties of 10 or more. Contact the Theatre and Film Box Office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and one hour prior to all events at Ext. 2375.

For more information, contact the theatre and film department at Ext. 2202.

Schedule graduate photos

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

Call Joanne Gray at Ext. 2675 to schedule an appointment by Friday, May 13. Photos will appear in the May 23 issue of the paper.
Spring Week ’05 boasts eclectic events for students

By Megan Mangano

Say goodbye to cabin fever and hello to sunshine with Spring Week 2005, “Let’s Soak up the Sun … Rocket Style!” Monday, April 11, through Friday, April 16.

Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society, has lined up a week of festive and electrifying events that are sure to cure the winter blues.

Some of the activities for the week are:

Monday, April 11
• MTV Battle of the Sexes featuring Shane and Rachel from the “Real World.” Student Union Ingman Room, 7 p.m.
• Help Campus H.E.A.T. make 1,000 pizzas to feed the hungry in Toledo. Student Union Auditorium, 7-8 p.m.

Tuesday, April 12
• Fashion show sponsored by the Student Alumni Association will feature appropriate professional clothes for different work environments. By the Student Union Fountain, noon.
• Dodge ball tournament. Student Recreation Center, 5 p.m.
• Black Comedy Tour featuring Spike Davis and Coco Brown. Doermann Theater, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13
• “Throwing for Tsunami,” a clay pottery demonstration and bowl sale with proceeds benefiting tsunami relief. By the Student Union Fountain, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
• Summer job fair. Student Union Ingman Room, 1-4 p.m.
• Matt Nathanson concert featuring the Battle of the Bands winners. Parking Lot 9, south of the Glass Bowl, 6 p.m.

Thursday, April 14
• Spring Week festival with laser tag, inflatables, food and face painting. Centennial Mall, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
• “The Authority of Sacred Texts: Jewish, Christian and Muslim,” an interfaith dialogue with Dr. Gail O’Day, A.H. Shaftrd Professor of Preaching and New Testament at Emory University; Dr. Phillip Markowicz, Holocaust survivor and lifelong rabbinic scholar; and Dr. Mustansir Mir, chair of Islamic Studies at Youngstown State University. Nitschke Hall Auditorium, 7-9 p.m.
• Student Government presidential election festival. Rocky’s Attic, 9 p.m.

Saturday, April 16
• “I Can Show You the World.” The event will feature the 3.1 miles through campus, sponsor a walker and donate toward their journey, or volunteer to help before and after the walk.
• “I Can Show You the World.” The event will feature Battle of the Bands winners. Parking Lot 9, south of the Glass Bowl, 6 p.m.

Additional events include:
• International Student Dinner, Saturday, April 16, at 6:15 p.m. in the Student Union Auditorium.
• Student Government presidential election.
• Helping Campus H.E.A.T. make 1,000 pizzas for the annual UT International Student Dinner.
• International Student Special Needs Workers Day celebration.
• Sigma Xi Student Research Symposium.
• Making is Art, Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. in Student Union.
• International Student Dinner.
• Student Government presidential election.
• Helping Campus H.E.A.T. make 1,000 pizzas to feed the hungry in Toledo.
• International Student Dinner.
• Helping Campus H.E.A.T. make 1,000 pizzas to feed the hungry in Toledo.

For more information and reservations, contact Cecilia Rivera, Office of Community Relations and Special Events, at Ext. 5474.

Make plans to participate in Heart Walk May 7

By Megan Mangano

Get those hearts pumping and help save a life at the annual American Heart Association’s Heart Walk Saturday, May 7, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at Carter Field.

There are several ways to be involved with the event: Walk the 3.1 miles through campus, sponsor a walker and donate toward their journey, or volunteer to help before and after the walk.

Last year, UT raised $5,804 for the event with 100 walkers participating, according to Deb Driscoll, UT senior events coordinator for the President’s Office.

The University of Toledo chapter of Sigma Xi, the national scientific research honors society, will host the annual Sigma Xi Student Research Symposium Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the Student Union Rooms 2582, 2591 and 2592.

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur will deliver the keynote address at 1:15 p.m. Both undergraduate and graduate students will have the opportunity to present their ongoing research and share their ideas with the community. Presentations are divided into three areas: Life Sciences and Pharmacy, Physical Sciences and Engineering, and Undergraduate Student Research in all areas.

Achievement awards will be presented at the symposium dinner in the evening. The cost is $22 for the dinner reception.

For more information and to make reservations, e-mail Dr. Daryl F. Dwyer, director of the Sigma Xi Symposium and UT associate professor of earth, ecological and environmental sciences, at daryl.dwyer@utoledo.edu.

University to host International Student Dinner

By Shannon Coon

There’s still time to get your tickets for the 29th annual UT International Student Dinner.

International students from more than 80 nations will come together to celebrate hope, unity and peace for the human race Saturday, April 16, at 6:15 p.m. in the Student Union Auditorium.

This year’s theme is “I Can Show You the World.” The event will feature international appetizers, an exhibition of international fashion, and entertainment provided by members of the UT International Student Association (ISA.)

ISA is an organization that promotes improved relations among all people.

All proceeds from the dinner will go to the International Student Special Needs Fund to assist international students during financial crisis.

Tickets are available in advance only at the UT Office of International Student Services, Student Union Room 1533. Cost is $12 for UT students and $14 for non-students. Tickets can be purchased through April 15.

For more information on this event, contact the UT Office of International Student Services at Ext. 4229.
FYI on FYE: Supplemental instruction works

By Terry Biel

This article is the second in a three-part series on the First-Year Experience Program. The first article can be found on the UT News Web site.

In its mission of helping entering freshmen gain the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in their new academic community, the UT First-Year Experience Program is exploring the expansion of several nontraditional teaching styles.

Through FYE funding, the Learning Enhancement Center has been able to expand its supplemental instruction offerings to cover a total of six courses with a history of 30 percent or greater failure rates, according to Luanne Momenee, LEC director. “Rather than look at high-risk students,” she explains, “SI centers on high-risk courses.”

An “SI leader” who has performed well previously in a course and been recommended by his or her instructor attends all lectures for a given course and then holds three study sessions per week open to all students taking that section of the course. It is not a recitation, but rather a collaborative effort to aid students in finding their own best methods of comprehension. “The idea,” Momenee says, “is to make it interactive; the students who are involved become the thinkers, the problem-solvers.”

And SI has not been all hugs and warm feelings: The program is seeing undeniable results. Of students attending at least three SI sessions for the two SI-supported sections of Biology 2150 in spring 2004, 92 percent were “successful” (received a C- or higher grade for the semester), while only 52 percent of students attending zero sessions were successful. In sections without SI offerings, only 64 percent of students were successful. Students attending three or more sessions also boasted an 84 percent retention rate, 21 percent higher than those attending zero sessions. More data is being compiled at the center for the fall 2004 semester.

With expanded SI giving students a leg up on digesting lectures and homework, additional Chem 1200 sections are giving students a chance to tackle work pre-emptively. “Here’s the deal: Chemistry’s tough,” says Dr. Andrew Jorgensen, UT associate professor of chemistry. Chem 1230 is a required course for virtually all science and engineering majors, with around 1,300 students, mostly freshmen, enrolling annually. Of those, typically 10 percent withdraw, 10 percent fail and 10 percent earn D grades.

Modeled after similar programs at other universities, Chem 1200 is a one-credit pass/fail supplement to Chem 1230. Like SI, Chem 1200 is an expansion of a previous program and not a recitation. A two-hour session is held once a week in addition to the original Chem 1230 class time, during which peer leaders examine material given in advance of the Chem 1230 lecture. Through FYE support, Jorgensen intends to increase peer-led Chem 1200 sections from 5 percent to 30 percent of those enrolled in Chem 1230. In its first year following FYE funding, Chem 1200 has about 13 percent participation.

Statistical analysis of Chem 1200 participant performance in Chem 1230 will be done over the summer months, but satisfaction survey results for the last semester have been compiled. In response to the questions “Was the peer leader well prepared” and “Did the peer leader serve a valuable role in the group,” 77 percent of students said “always” and another 22 percent said “usually.”

Where SI and Chem 1200 offer means to keep students on track, Math 990 and the new mathematics lab in Carlson Library provide a way for students to catch up. Those placing into Math 950 or Math 980 may be candidates for Math 990, which uses a combination of automated developmental math skills software and one-on-one attention to teach the skills covered in the other two courses.

It is designed for “students who were fairly decent in high school, but who have gaps,” according to Dr. Gwen Terwilliger, program director and associate professor of mathematics. Students may finish their required high school math courses by the time they are juniors, she explains, so by the time they take a college placement test they have forgotten some key fundamentals. In Math 990, “Everybody starts in the same place,” Terwilliger says. Students take a pre-test on every chapter, which the software uses to identify problem areas and develop a study strategy for the student. This format allows each student to progress at his or her own pace.

There are currently 159 students enrolled in Math 990, and their performance in subsequent math courses will be compared to that of students completing Math 980 to examine the impact and effectiveness of this innovative course offering.

Current FYE-supported academic initiatives also include Math 1750 tech support, the Arts Living-Learning Center and the Residence Life Faculty Friends Program.

For more information on these or other First-Year Experience Programs, contact Jennifer Rockwood, FYE director, at Ext. 2330 or see http://utfye.utoledo.edu.

UT fund-raiser goes to bat for area women

By Terry Biel

The University of Toledo Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women will hold the William S. Eberly memorial celebration and fund-raiser at the Roost at Fifth Third Field Friday, April 22, at 5 p.m.

The celebration will honor William Eberly’s lifelong commitment to diversity in baseball and to higher education for women.

Money raised will go toward Project Succeed, an Eberly Center program that helps unemployed women in northwest Ohio attain economic self-sufficiency through higher education, technical training and counseling.

Tickets for the general public are $50 per person, $30 of which is tax deductible, while UT student tickets are $20 per person. Prices include dinner and admission to the 7 p.m. Toledo Mud Hens game against the Charlotte Knights. Tickets can be purchased through the Eberly Center.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Center for Women at Ext. 8570.
Spring Blood Drive
Sponsor: American Red Cross. Student Union, Room 10. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: utblooddrive@hotmail.com.
 Directed by Kirby Wahl, UT 325 N. Michigan St. 5:30-7 p.m. Free, public. Info: 419.530.2239.

Softball
UT vs. Dayton. Scott Park. Doubleheader starts at 4 p.m. $3; $1 for UT employees and children 12 and younger; free for UT students with I.D. Info: 419.530.2239.

Softball
UT vs. Oakland. Scott Park. Doubleheader starts at 1 p.m. $3; $1 for UT employees and children 12 and younger; free for UT students with I.D. Info: 419.530.2239.

Vocal Concert
Directed by Jon Hendricks. Distinguished University Professor of Jazz. Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall. 6 p.m. Free, public. Info: 419.530.2448.

Wednesday, April 20

Spring Blood Drive
Sponsor: American Red Cross. Student Union, Room 10. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: utblooddrive@hotmail.com.

Returning to Learning
Program for women making the transition to college. Center for Women, Tucker Hall Room 168. 9-11 a.m. Info: 419.530.8570.

Project Succeed Orientation

Pre-Exam Stress Reduction Workshop
With Dr. Ashley Pryor, UT assistant professor of women’s and gender studies. Center for Women, Tucker Hall Room 168. 3 p.m. Free, public. Info: 419.530.8570.

Spring Convocation
President Dan Johnson to speak on “Action Plan for Excellence,” faculty and staff kickoff. Doerrmann Theater. 4 p.m. Free, public. Info: 419.530.2738.

“Discover Downtown Toledo” Tour Guide Program
Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, 325 N. Michigan St. 5:30-7 p.m. Free, public. Register: 419.530.3591.

Theatre Production
“The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged).” Directed by Kirby Wahl, UT assistant professor of theatre. Center for Performing Arts Center Theatre. 7:30 p.m. $12 for general admission; $10 for seniors and UT faculty, staff and alumni; $8 for UT students. Info: 419.530.2375.

Theatre Production
“The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged).” Directed by Kirby Wahl, UT assistant professor of theatre. Center for Performing Arts Center Theatre. 7:30 p.m. $12 for general admission; $10 for seniors and UT faculty, staff and alumni; $8 for UT students. Info: 419.530.2375.

Thursday, April 21
Summer Recruitment Day
Spring Blood Drive
Sponsor: American Red Cross. Student Union, Room 10. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: utblooddrive@hotmail.com.

Softball
UT vs. Oakland. Scott Park. Doubleheader starts at 3 p.m. $3; $1 for UT employees and children 12 and younger; free for UT students with I.D. Info: 419.530.2239.

Physics and Astronomy Colloquium
“Why is Einstein the Standard of Greatness?” Speaker: John Rigden, Washington University at St. Louis. McMaster Hall Room 1065. 4 p.m. Free, public. Info: 419.530.2241.

Theatre Production
“The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged).” Directed by Kirby Wahl, UT assistant professor of theatre. Center for Performing Arts Center Theatre. 7:30 p.m. $12 for general admission; $10 for seniors and UT faculty, staff and alumni; $8 for UT students. Info: 419.530.2375.

Piano Recital
Directed by Dr. Michael Boyd. UT professor of music. Wildwood Manor, 5100 W. Central Ave. 7:30 p.m. Free, public. Info: 419.530.2448.

Art
“Renewed Hope: Paintings by Adam Grant” Exhibit features works by Toledo artist Adam Grant. Toledo Museum of Art Great Gallery. 3 p.m. Free, public. Info: 419.530.2448.

Project Succeed Orientation
Program for women in transition following a change in marital status. Center for Women, Tucker Hall Room 168. 5:30 p.m. Free, public. Info: 419.530.8570.

Tuesday, April 26
Web Grading Opens
Law Exams Begin
Faculty Senate Meeting
Student Union Room 2582. 3 p.m. Info: 419.530.2112.

UT Symphony Orchestra Concert
Conducted by Rico McNeela, UT associate professor of music. Doerrmann Theater. 8 p.m. Free, public. Info: 419.530.2448.
Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition I

UT Jazz Guitar Ensemble
Directed by Ed Levy, UT lecturer of music. Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall. 8 p.m. Free, public. Info: 419.530.2448.

Academic Administrators Professional Development Program
"From the Trenches: Conversations With the Provost on University Prioritization Process." University Hall Room 3300. 1-2:30 p.m. Register: ganders3@unet.utoledo.edu.

Returning to Learning
Program for women making the transition to college. Center for Women, Tucker Hall Room 168. 6-8 p.m. Info: 419.530.8570.

"Discover Downtown Toledo" Tour Guide Program
Workshops will feature illustrated discussion given by leading authorities on Toledo history, architecture and redevelopment. Those who complete the session will be eligible to volunteer as a tour guide. Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, 325 N. Michigan St. 5:30-7 p.m. Free, public. Register: 419.530.3591.

Spring Week Concert

Theatre Production
"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)." An irreverent, faced-paced romp through Shakespeare's works. Directed by Kirby Wah!, UT assistant professor of theatre. Center for Performing Arts Center Theatre. 7:30 p.m. $12 for general admission; $10 for seniors and UT faculty, staff and alumni; $8 for UT students. Info: 419.530.2375.

Planetarium Program
"The Star Gazer." Ritter Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Observing at Brooks Observatory follows program, weather permitting, $4 for adults, $3 for seniors and children ages 4-12; free for children 3 and younger. Info: 419.530.4037.

Saturday, April 16
Sigma Xi Student Research Symposium
Students will present their ongoing research and ideas. Keynote speaker: Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur. Student Union Rooms 3020-3021. 11 a.m. Free, public. Info: 419.530.4341.

Honors Brown-Bag Presentation

Women's Tennis
UT vs. Eastern Michigan. Ottawa Park, weather permitting, or Laurel Hill Tennis Club, 2222 Cass Road, Toledo. 1 p.m. Free, public. Info: 419.530.4925.

Baseball
UT vs. Butler. Scott Park. Noon; $3 for UT employees and children 12 and younger; free for UT students with I.D. Game to be televised live on BCSN. Info: 419.530.2261.

Planetarium Program
"Don't Duck, Look Up!" Ritter Planetarium. 1 p.m. $4 for adults; $3 for seniors and children ages 4-12; free for children 3 and younger. Info: 419.530.4037.

Sunday, April 17
Swimming and Diving Banquet
Speaker: Janet Evans, Olympic gold medalist. Wyndham Hotel, 2 Seagate, Summit Street, Toledo. Noon. $40. RSVP: 419.530.4925.

Baseball
UT vs. IPFW. Scott Park. Double-header starts at 1 p.m.; $3 for UT employees and children 12 and younger; free for UT students with I.D. First game to be televised live on BCSN. Info: 419.530.2261.

Theatre Production
"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)." Center for Performing Arts Center Theatre. 7:30 p.m. $12 for general admission; $10 for seniors and UT faculty, staff and alumni; $8 for UT students. Info: 419.530.2375.