President discusses merger, challenges in State of the University Address

By Deanna Woolf

“...I believe it is safe to say that the ‘state of our university’ is quite different than when we gathered together last year,” said UT President Dan Johnson, referring to the upcoming merger with the Medical University of Ohio. “In fact, this year’s ‘state of the university’ is unlike any that have come before.”

He described the state of The University of Toledo as a “state of readiness” in his fifth annual State of the University Address, speaking to a crowd of nearly 300 students, staff, faculty and community members Jan. 19. “We are ready to move forward and ready to move The University of Toledo to its new status as a university of distinction in our state and in the nation,” he said.

Johnson stated recent initiatives, such as promoting a student-centered culture and completing a strategic plan, have helped to position UT for greatness. “Through these initiatives, we are rejecting the status quo as an acceptable future and announcing to our students and their parents, our constituents, stakeholders, our donors and the taxpayers of Ohio who make this University possible, we are committed to...”

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Tentative agreement reached; unions to vote

By Tobin J. Klinger and Deanna Woolf

Last week the UT administration reached a tentative agreement with its three collective bargaining units, the Communications Workers of America Local 4319 (CWA), the UT chapter of the American Association of University Professors (UT-AAUP) and the UT chapter of the Police Patrolman’s Association (UTPAA). This week, unions will vote on the health-care contract.

According to James Sciarini, UT associate vice president for human resources, the parties arrived at the terms Jan. 17, avoiding the Jan. 23 strike date.

“This represents compromise by all parties to reach an agreement that balances a competitive benefits package for our employees with cost savings that will benefit the entire institution,” he said.

The agreement calls for several changes in the UT’s health-care package, including working spouse health coverage premiums based on income, same and opposite sex domestic partner benefits for a monthly premium, and a revised prescription drug program that includes on-campus dispensing at preferred co-payment rates and 90-day maintenance drug fills. The proposal runs through Dec. 31, 2007, and copies are up on the unions’ Web sites.

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Professor explores *Dark Side of the Moon* in new book

By Vicki L. Kroll

No concept album has eclipsed Pink Floyd’s *Dark Side of the Moon*, according to Dr. Russell Reising, UT professor of English.

Once people experience the disc, it’s often in their heads; it may be all that they hear, all that they see, all that they think.

“Nobody quite expected to hear an album so seamlessly woven together, so musically experimental, and so politically, psychologically, socially and even economically ambitious,” Reising said. “And I think the combination of the theme, musicality and the adventurous sonic and lyrical ambitions of Pink Floyd came together in that record like nothing before. It was a single album statement. There were concept albums and albums with themes, but nothing that was so...”

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Executive VP accepts top finance position at OU

By Tobin J. Klinger

William R. Decatur, executive vice president and chief operating officer, has accepted the position of vice president for finance and administration, chief financial officer and treasurer, at Ohio University, starting March 20.

Decatur will leave his UT post March 3.

“My experiences here at UT have been incredible,” Decatur said. “Not only have I developed great professional relationships with many on the staff and faculty, I consider myself extremely fortunate to have built many true friendships along the way.”

Having served as interim president for more than a year following a time of upheaval, Decatur was credited with “calming the waters” during a search for a permanent president.

“Bill has been an exceptional chief financial officer for this institution,” said President Dan Johnson. “He’s guided us through some difficult budget times over the years, while preserving the fiscal health of this University. I wish he and his family the best in Athens. He will be missed, both professionally and personally.”

This marks the end of Decatur’s second tour of duty at UT, having started in 1989 before moving on to Georgia State University in 1993 and returning to Toledo in 1999.

“I’m proud of my time here at The University of Toledo,” Decatur said. “We accomplished a lot, despite many obstacles. We’ve placed this institution on an exciting path that I believe will ultimately benefit the entire region.”

UT, MUO presidents to hold Student Town Hall Jan. 25

By Deanna Woolf

Have a question for UT President Dan Johnson or Medical University of Ohio President Lloyd Jacobs? Then attend the Student Town Hall on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 11:30 a.m.

During the forum, to be held in Student Union Room 2592, they will take questions from the audience about the merger and the future of the University.

The Student Town Hall is the second UT forum for Jacobs, who addressed faculty and staff members in December.

University-owned island joins first international environmental refuge

By Jon Strunk

Gard Island, a UT-owned 17-acre island located in northern Maumee Bay in Michigan waters, is now part of the first international environmental refuge in North America.

UT and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the addition of Gard Island, which provides high-quality fish and waterfowl habitat, to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Jan. 17 at the Lake Erie Research Center.

“I commend The University of Toledo for demonstrating their commitment to environmental stewardship and welcome them as partners in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge,” said Michigan Congressman John D. Dingell. “In the finest traditions of our institutes of higher learning, UT is making a positive difference not only in the lives of those they educate, but just as important, in the community in which we live. Gard Island will serve as a living laboratory for cooperative conservation throughout our region.”

The Detroit International Wildlife Refuge was established in 2001 by President Bush and covers an area of 48 miles of shoreline along the lower Detroit River and the western basin of Lake Erie. The refuge will conserve, protect and restore habitat for 29 species of waterfowl, 65 kinds of fish and 300 species of migratory birds. Unique habitats being managed within the refuge include islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shools and riverfront lands.

“The addition of Gard Island provides an excellent opportunity for The University of Toledo to enhance many activities related to its mission of learning, research and community engagement within the environmental field,” said Dr. Patrick Lawrence, UT assistant professor of geography.

A cooperative management agreement signed between UT and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representatives allows for the continued management of Gard Island for wildlife and wildlife compatible uses, including archeological, scientific and educational purposes.

Tentative agreement

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Meeting and voting times for the unions are as follows:

CWA

• Informational meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 5:45 p.m. in the Driscoll Alumni Center Auditorium.

• Voting, Thursday, Jan. 26, from 6 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Student Union Room 2579 and from 1:30 to 5 p.m. in the Scott Park Conference Room.

UT-AAUP

• Membership meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 1 to 3 p.m. in Student Union Room 2591.

• Voting through Thursday, Jan. 26, until 3 p.m. on the Web site, www.uaaup.com, or in the AAUP Office in University Hall Room 5130 A-C.

The board of trustees also will need to vote on the tentative agreement.

LEGACY REMEMBERED: Tanasio Loudermill, 10, a student at Horizon Science Academy, recited Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech, and Shilease Hofmann, a praise dancer at the First Church of God, performed during the recent Unity Celebration in Savage Hall. Some 3,300 people, the largest crowd to date, attended the sixth annual event, which was sponsored by the University and the city of Toledo.

Photos by Terry Fall
Filmmaker to address domestic violence

By Deanna Woolf

Rory Kennedy, documentary filmmaker and social activist, will give a speech on “Domestic Violence: A Family Affair” on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at noon in the Law Center Auditorium. Kennedy is the co-founder and co-president of Moxie Firecracker Films Inc. Among the company’s documentaries are “Different Moms,” about parents with mental disabilities raising children; “The Changing Face of Beauty,” on society’s beauty myths and standards; “Epidemic Africa,” about the impact of AIDS on African families; “Up in Arms,” on those whose family members died due to gun violence; and “Together: Stop Violence Against Women.”

Kennedy serves on the board of directors for the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial, the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation, the Legal Action Center and the Project Return Foundation.

She is the daughter of Robert F. Kennedy.

For more information on the free, public event, contact the Law Communications Office at Ext. 2712.

Rapper to kick off Black History Month events at UT

By Deanna Woolf

Chuck D, co-host of the radio show “On the Real” and member of the rap group Public Enemy, will speak at The University of Toledo Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 11:30 a.m. in Student Union Rooms 2582 and 2584.

His speech, “Rap is CNN for Black People,” is the first event during UT’s 2006 Black History Month observance, titled “Bridging the Gap: Civil Rights Generation to Hip-Hop Generation.”

Public Enemy, which formed during the 1980s, is acknowledged as one of the most influential rap groups and is known for its members’ politically charged lyrics. The group’s recent single “Hell No We Ain’t All Right!” criticized aid response to Hurricane Katrina.

In addition to rapping and hosting the weekly radio program, Chuck D is an activist, lecturer and producer. He co-wrote Fight the Power: Rap, Race and Reality and is a proponent of Internet music file sharing. He also is the founder of the record company Slam Jamz.

For more information on the free, public event, contact the Multicultural Student Center at Ext. 2261.

Book

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together sonically as Dark Side of the Moon.”

Talk about great gigs — Reising edited and helped write a new book about the band’s 1973 masterpiece, ‘Speak to Me’: The Legacy of Pink Floyd’s Dark Side of the Moon will be released by Ashgate Publishing Co. this month. The 251-page work features 15 chapters that look at the album from musical, cultural, literary and social perspectives. Contributors include literary and music scholars, plus students Reising met through the International Association for the Study of Popular Music.

“There’s something about the mystique of Dark Side of the Moon,” he said. “People think it’s the greatest Pink Floyd album. I like Meddle more. But I have to admit each time I listen to Dark Side of the Moon it has a kind of spell-binding, almost hypnotic hold on me.”

That hold started 33 years ago when Reising was a sophomore at the University of Miami in Oxford. “The first time I heard Dark Side of the Moon it had a transformative effect on me,” he recalled. He noted the other record to do that was ‘The Beatles’ Revolver, which he addressed in ‘Every Sound There Is’: ‘The Beatles’ Revolver and the Transformation of Rock and Roll (2002).

“I came up with the idea of doing a small series of books on what I call seminal statements of the rock era. I tried to choose albums that are pivotal both for the performers and the history of popular music,” he said.

From the opening and closing heartbeatos to the chiming bells and the rhythmic sounds of cold, hard cash, it was clear Pink Floyd’s collection of continuous songs was special. Roger Waters, David Gilmour, Nick Mason and Richard Wright released a record that landed on Billboard’s Top 100 Chart and stayed there, seemingly forever. Three decades later, the disc continues to sell: 6.3 million copies as of 2003, according to Rolling Stone.

The book analyzes the LP’s popularity in four sections. The first addresses the album’s historical significance; it includes a chapter on the rumored connection between the record and “The Wizard of Oz.” Pink Floyd’s sound, structure and tonal qualities are covered in musicological essays in section two. Psychological and philosophical views are shared in section three, and the album’s influence is discussed in the last segment.

Reising edited the submissions and wrote the introduction and the chapters “On the Waxing and Waning: A Brief History of The Dark Side of the Moon” and “The Moons Are Eclipsed by the Moon: Covering the Dark Side.”

He also interviewed Mike Gordon of Phish about covering Pink Floyd.

From bluegrass to classical to reggae, the cover versions of the disc amused Reising. “I gave them dutiful listens and I tried to suggest in what ways they were doing tributes and what the meanings of the covers were. Sometimes they achieved really interesting effects, and sometimes they were just moronic,” he said.

He believes the lasting legacy of the work can be attributed to Pink Floyd’s romantic glorification of childhood, which also is a favorite topic in literature. “Henry David Thoreau talked about the exact same things in Walden as Pink Floyd talks about in Dark Side of the Moon. Their solutions are similar as well,” Reising said. “Shelley, Keats, Emerson, Thoreau — you keep coming back to this romantic theme of somehow trying to find a way to protect something that is innate and fragile in human life so it isn’t warped and crushed by all the pressures of life.”

Reising’s next book in the series will focus on Jimi Hendrix’s Electric Ladyland.

A piece of history: Assistant professor acquires scrap of medieval manuscript

By Deanna Woolf

Dr. Christina Fitzgerald carefully slid the scrap of paper out of the envelope and into her waiting hands.

The yellowed piece had black script, punctuated with letters of red and blue, as well as a few holes and torn edges.

“It’s probably a goat or sheep,” Fitzgerald said. “The animal skin was stretched, then scraped” to prepare it for writing. One side of the scrap has a smooth texture, meaning it was the inside of the skin. The other side has tiny holes, or pores, across the surface — that was the fur side.

“It’s clear the scrap has seen some better days, but that’s to be expected — Fitzgerald, assistant professor of English, was holding a piece from a manuscript more than 600 years old.

She was able to purchase the scrap with a Center for Teaching and Learning Small Grant for her English 4400 Early English Literature class.

“The reason I bought it is to show my students the continuity between writing today and then,” she said. “If you knew nothing about medieval literature, reading something like this,” she began, taking a copy of *The Canterbury Tales* off the shelf and opening it, “you would have no sense what the real manuscripts were like.”

True, *The Canterbury Tales* page is smooth and white — it’s paper. The manuscript scrap has a different texture depending on which side you look at — it’s animal skin.

“The animal skin was stretched, then scraped” to prepare it for writing. One side of the scrap has a smooth texture, meaning it was the inside of the skin. The other side has tiny holes, or pores, across the surface — that was the fur side.

It may have taken a herd of animals to make one large book for a church or monastery, but the book the scrap came from didn’t contain that many hides. Fitzgerald believes the book measured roughly 11 inches by 17 inches. “Also, I doubt very much that this particular manuscript was kept in a home collection, as it’s in Latin,” she said. “It’s probably from a monastery or a church, but it’s not a sacred text for use in church services.”

The cost of the scrap didn’t break the bank either — only $25, while a whole page with artwork might cost up to $400.

And for those worried the scrap was cut from a precious manuscript by unscrupulous dealers, “The scrap has one clean-cut edge. They used old manuscript pages in binding newer books. This piece likely supported the spine of another work,” Fitzgerald said.

In the shadow of soldiers: Spending an afternoon with Army ROTC cadets

By Deanna Woolf

Maybe you’ve heard them outside, running around campus three mornings a week before 7 a.m. “We’re half done with our day while most people are still sleeping,” said Christin Nuttle.

Or perhaps you’ve seen them wearing their camouflage uniforms on Fridays. “I think some people are a little unsure of us,” said Richard Miller.

Maybe you’ve heard the stereotypes — they’re all automatons, thinking and acting alike, or that they just do it for the scholarship money.

But go beyond the sights and sounds, and you’ll find Army ROTC cadets are students who are up to the physical and mental challenges of training to serve their country after graduation.

I spoke to Nuttle and Miller, two UT students, and attended a Leadership Lab to get a better idea of who cadets are and what they experience. I arrived at the Army ROTC headquarters, now located in the Health Education Building.

Ovenden’s office is the class room where military science courses are held. Students can take classes until their sopho-
Thank you and thank you all for coming. We have many guests this afternoon, and I want to especially thank you for coming. I am told we have some public officials here. Thank you for coming.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Mr. Dan Brennan, chairman of our board of trustees, for coming. As you know, Dan lives in Cleveland and he often comes to Toledo two or three times a week for University business. Dan, thank you for being here and, more than that, thank you for your leadership of our board. We genuinely appreciate it.

We have some other guests that I will acknowledge a bit later, but I would like to thank Elaine for coming again today. Thanks.

Each January I look forward to our coming together to report on “the state of our university.” Last year you heard about “new challenges and bold initiatives” — and, looking back, I think it is indeed safe to say that the challenges have been many. The budget, declining state subsidies, prioritization and enrollment dominated our discussions and actions. While these issues have not disappeared and have certainly not been resolved, I am pleased that we are tackling them head-on in this new academic year.

It was also a year of bold initiatives — and the impending merger between The University of Toledo and the Medical University of Ohio is at the top of that list. I was very pleased that Dr. Lloyd Jacobs, president of the Medical University of Ohio, was with us last year for this annual convocation. I noted at the time that his presence was reflective of the strong partnership between UT and MUO. I also remember saying to Lloyd during my talk “I know you and I are eager not just to strengthen our current collaborations but also to expand them.”

Lloyd, can you believe how far we have come since January 20, 2005? It is great to have you here with us again. Would you please stand? We would like to give you a warm welcome today from all of us in the UT community.

I believe it is safe to say that the “state of our university” is quite different than when we gathered together last year. In fact, this year’s “state of the university” is unlike any that have come before.

UT is poised and is now ready to take a giant step that will put it in a new league of universities. Our university — the University to which we all have linked our professional lives — is ready to embrace a future that will include a nationally recognized medical school, a world-class health campus and a distinguished university hospital.

The University of Toledo is ready for the new opportunities and responsibilities that will come with our merger with MUO. It is a new beginning for two major universities with deep roots in our community and region. The time for the merger has come.

All of us here at UT, our colleagues at the Medical University, and our many friends and supporters in the community know the time has come — and we are ready to begin “shaping the future” of this new University of Toledo.
So, when I am asked, “What is the state of the university?” I say we are in a “state of readiness.” We are ready to move forward and ready to move The University of Toledo to its new status as a university of distinction in our state and in the nation.

To say that we are ready doesn’t mean we aren’t nervous and somewhat anxious. If we weren’t, we wouldn’t be human — and we would be foolhardy to believe that there will not be bumps in the road ahead, unexpected detours and some missed turns. Our maps, at the beginning, won’t be as detailed as we want or need them to be.

But we will keep moving forward — because we know where we are going and what will happen when we get there. It is a future filled with new possibilities and tremendously expanded opportunities for our two institutions in the years and decades that lay ahead.

It will be a time of change — that is for certain. But I want you to know that it will also be a time for continuity in many important and strategic areas.

The question for all of us — faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, donors, friends, trustees, regents, legislators — is how do we realize and capture the full potential of this new institution for the benefit of our students — those who are with us now as well as those who will be here five, 10, 20, 40 years from now?

How do we achieve excellence and increase access?

How do we accelerate and focus our research productivity to meet the needs of our ever-more complex global society?

How do we use the expanded assets of the “new UT” to expand, develop and diversify our region’s economy?

And how do we leverage the expanded knowledge and resource base of the new University of Toledo to enhance the quality of life here in the city and region we call home and to which we are called to serve?

These are not rhetorical questions. On the contrary, they are the questions that must and will drive our planning, our priorities, our programs and our policies.

If UT is truly to be a “leading student-centered metropolitan research university,” we must actively and aggressively shape our future in order to live our mission of academic excellence and engagement with our students, our stakeholders, our constituents and our community.

The only reason for UT’s existence is to make a difference and to bring about positive change in the lives of our students, our community and our state. Or, to echo a phrase I’ve heard Dr. Jacobs use, we are here to “improve the human condition.”

So what have we done so far to shape our future? Over the past five years, we have been working to position UT for distinction and greatness. We have refined our mission, developed our strategic plan, completed our master plan, and initiated a capital campaign.

As a campus, we have decided that the status quo is not for us and that an unchallenged future is not good enough for The University of Toledo.

We have acted to take control of our destiny — rather than let that future be defined for us by declining state subsidies; increasing competition for students; state policies that are placing greater constraints on public higher education in the form of tuition caps; a shrinking federal student loan program; and dwindling capital funding for new facilities and deferred maintenance.

Over the past nearly five years, we have challenged the status quo with numerous strong University initiatives, including:

- The development and implementation of an outstanding master plan for the campus — for new buildings and new facilities that will transform UT and enhance our ability to attract world-class researchers;
- The development and implementation of an exciting capital campaign. With nearly $35 million raised, we are well on our way to success;
- The development and implementation of strategic, integrated marketing that is strengthening the UT brand;
- The development of an outstanding intercollegiate athletics program that features student-athletes who not only win championships but excel in the classroom; and
- The implementation of a faculty-led university prioritization process. We must set institutional priorities among our academic programs and services and, even though we are struggling with this challenge, I know this “faculty-led” effort will succeed because it absolutely must succeed.

We have embarked on other major University initiatives that include:

- The development and implementation of initiatives that put us on track to double our research in five years; and
- The commitment of this University to bring about the expansion and diversification of our region’s economy through the creation of the Science and Technology Corridor.

We are also challenging the “status quo” with programs and efforts designed to engage Toledo and northwest Ohio in ways that will improve our quality of life and the human condition: There are now:

- Programs that provide our students with increased and enhanced service learning opportunities;
- Initiatives that provide our faculty with more meaningful research opportunities that reflect our mission of engagement; and
- Efforts that bring our community into our planning and program development in ways that exemplify what it truly means to be an “engaged metropolitan research university.”

We are also committed to shaping our future by:

- Increasing the diversity of our faculty, staff and students;
- Enhancing the beauty and functionality of our campus by tapping the full potential of the river that adds a unique and special dimension to the University;
- Building partnerships with area colleges and universities to better serve our community and region; and by
- Reaching out to international partners and developing meaningful institutional relationships in China, India, Europe, Africa and other parts of the globe.

Through these initiatives, we are rejecting the status quo as an acceptable future and announcing to our students and their parents, our constituents, stakeholders, our donors and most of all the taxpayers of Ohio who make this University possible, “we are committed to shaping a new University of Toledo” — a university committed to excellence, access, innovation and engagement.

We want all to know that The University of Toledo is committed to playing a strategic and effective role in expanding and diversifying our region’s economy. Working with our partners in both the private and public sectors, we can help ensure and be a part of the next Toledo renaissance.

Today, we stand — very literally — at the front door of the new University of Toledo. The bill that will bring our two institutions together has been “dropped” and the legislative process has begun. In just a few days, the Ohio Legislature will begin hearings on our proposal — a proposal that has been strongly endorsed by the Ohio Board of Regents — to combine UT and MUO. President Jacobs and I have met with our northwest Ohio delegation collectively and individually,
Continuity will be the objective we seek with respect to our mission and goal of becoming a “leading student-centered” metropolitan research university. The new University of Toledo must and will “put students first” — and our actions and decision-making will take place in that context.

There will be continuity of the capital campaign — and we will move forward with a new sense of energy and purpose. Moreover, we believe there may, in fact, be reason to increase our informal capital campaign goal of $75 million to a larger goal so that the needs of the Health campus are also reflected in our campaign case statement. We believe the momentum is there that would justify such actions, and we will be exploring this addition to the campaign in the near future.

There will be continuity in strategic, integrated marketing. Branding and institutional messages will play an important role in our communications with prospective students, donors, faculty, staff and alumni.

Prioritization of programs and services will also continue. Now, more than ever, we must quickly find consensus on those programs and services that represent University priorities. As our two great institutions come together over the next few months, we must have a strong sense of our respective strengths and mission-related priorities.

Without that knowledge of our priorities, we will not be able to make the kind of informed decisions that will be required during the transition years ahead. Continuity is our policy with regard to prioritization.

And, of course, we will all hope for continuity in terms of winning bowl games and continuing the upward grade-point trend of our outstanding student-athletes.

While continuity will be our policy for master planning and implementation, the combination of UT and MUO raises important questions with regard to the most desirable location for health-related programs currently on the UT campus, such as pharmacy and certain programs in the College of Health and Human Services.

We have had preliminary discussions with the deans of both of these colleges about relocating certain programs now housed on what we have been calling the “main campus” to the Health campus. There is a compelling rationale for having our health programs together.

Accordingly, I anticipate a need to revisit the facility master plan to accommodate these likely adjustments.

I have, therefore, placed a temporary moratorium on the planning and design of the new science building until we have resolved these matters. Hopefully, we can do this quickly.

Over the past several years, I have established major presidential initiatives that reflect the kind of institution we want and need to be, that reflect our mission as a metropolitan university and an underutilized opportunity given to us by Mother Nature. They are:

- The Commission on Diversity;
- The Council on Outreach and Engagement; and
- The Commission on the River.

These initiatives, and particularly the values on which they are established, will continue to function in the new University of Toledo. I will, therefore, ask that these commissions, especially the Commission on Diversity and our Council on Outreach and Engagement, broaden their perspectives and, as appropriate, begin conversing with their counterparts and colleagues at MUO on their role in the combined institution.

As you are aware, we are well into national searches for the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, our largest college, and the dean of the College of Law. These searches — which are being carried out under the Office of Academic Affairs — will continue as planned.

As we enter the final stages of the selection process, I will invite Dr. Jacobs to meet with the finalists for each position. Further, I will invite his comments on the candidates and we will take them into account in the decision-making process. He, like us, believes that “excellence” and commitment to our mission should be the standard by which we choose leaders for the new institution. The deans’ searches, therefore, will continue as planned and scheduled.

One of the most innovative, important and exciting initiatives currently under way at UT is the development of the Science and Technology Corridor. Although UT has led the way in making the case for this bold initiative that will over time transform Toledo and northwest Ohio, it has been in every sense a project made possible by the many partners who are joining with us to make the corridor a success — and a model — for regional economic development in today’s information age and global economy.

Chief among our partners has been MUO. In one of our first meetings shortly after he arrived, Dr. Jacobs
made it clear that the corridor would be a priority for him and MUO. That partnership was formalized in a recent joint meeting of the boards of trustees of MUO and UT where there was a resolution adopted that made the corridor a joint initiative of our two institutions. The timing was perfect.

Today, we have with us the new director of the Science and Technology Corridor, a person selected following a national search, Mr. Peter Kay. Peter has joined us this month and will be ratcheting up our activities and projects to help make the corridor become a reality. Peter, would you stand and let us give you a warm new UT welcome.

Needless to say, the policy for the Science and Technology Corridor is to continue the course, but at a faster speed.

Continuity will also be our policy in many other areas of the University, including:

- Student recruitment and retention;
- First-year experience;
- Broadening our inter-institutional efforts in collaborative research;
- Developing closer ties with Owens Community College and other community colleges in northwest Ohio;
- Campus beautification; and
- Neighborhood relations.

The combination of two large, complex institutions requires a high degree of continuity, and that we will have. But such combinations also bring change. If there were no changes, there would be no reason for combining the institutions. So, without a doubt, there will be change as we move forward.

Change can be disruptive and for that reason our natural instincts are to avoid it, sometimes even in the face of evidence that the outcome would be good and positive. We do face a period of change, but it is change that will bring about a stronger university. There will be some “bumps in the road” during the transition. We should anticipate tough questions, hard decisions and — from time to time — strong differences of opinions.

But the end result will be the “new University of Toledo” I described earlier. A university that is stronger. A university that is significantly larger and ranked much higher among major research universities. A university with an enhanced image and reputation in our state and in our nation. A university that will offer our students a broader array of courses and programs provided in the framework of an integrated curriculum.

While it is too early to determine the breadth and depth of some of the changes you will most likely see in the months ahead, I expect there will be some modifications to several areas in order to achieve a higher level of functional integration, including:

- The size and structure of the board of trustees;
- The organizational structure of the University, including the executive structure of the administration;
- The organization of graduate studies;
- The composition of the president’s cabinet;
- Our IT systems;
- Our budgeting processes; and
- Marketing and communications.

For the past few months, we have talked about the need for a “transition period.” In actual fact, the transition will occur over a period of two, three, even four years or more. It is important, therefore, that we use this context and “timeframe” as we plan those areas that require both continuity and change.

Successful transitions are planned. They do not happen automatically. Right now, we are in the initial stages of planning a transition which, we anticipate, will occur when the merger legislation becomes effective on July 1, 2006, just over five months from now.

Currently, we envision at least three concurrent transition-planning processes:

The first is the planning that must occur at the level of our respective boards of trustees. A joint committee has been formed, and they are working now to schedule their meetings and will be setting their agenda in the very near future.

The second will be carried out by a joint operations steering committee of administrators and others from each campus. Representation from our respective boards of trustees and faculty senates will be sought. We also want to have community representation on this committee. We will be announcing the membership of this committee in a few days and charging the committee to establish several subcommittees to develop plans for the major transition areas and issues in a timely manner.

The third will focus on the academic and curricular issues and will be carried out by the faculty senates from each campus. The leadership of the respective senates has met and is in the process of establishing an effective line of communication and identifying issues with which they must deal during the transition.

Mechanisms for effective communications among the three parts of the transition planning structure will be developed, as well as a plan to communicate all aspects of the transition to all of our major constituents and stakeholders.

Our alumni are very interested in the merger as are many of our civic leaders and community members. We are getting inquiries from Florida, California and elsewhere about the merger. Similarly, many have written expressing their strong support and enthusiasm for this initiative.

In the next several days, we will have a communications plan that will include a transition Web site to help keep us all up-to-date on transition meetings, minutes, actions and decisions as we move forward.

Every effort will be made to develop and implement an effective plan for communicating information related to the merger to all interested parties.

As we go through this process, it is important for us to remember, and for me to remember, that in the final analysis, institutions are here to serve people — and that is especially true for our university. The University of Toledo is here first and foremost to serve our students and our community — and that cannot be accomplished without the hard work and dedication of all of you here today.

We must not lose sight of why we are going through this merger — and must keep in mind the opportunities this new university will bring to our city, our region and our state.

We must also not lose sight of the values we cherish and hold dear as stewards of learning and higher education.

We cannot lose sight of the importance and value of the individual, the value we attach to knowledge, the importance of improving the quality of life and the human condition.

These are non-negotiables, and they cannot be lost in the shuffle and dust we are generating with this historic transition.

As I look back over the past five years, I think primarily about the people who have worked at this great institution — and those colleagues who are here with us today.

We owe those who came before us a huge debt of gratitude for all they have done to make UT into a university of distinction — and we owe a sincere and heartfelt thanks to our current faculty, staff, students, friends and alumni for their support of the upcoming merger.

It is your energy and talent that will shape the new University of Toledo. And I look forward to shaping that future with you. Together, we can and will make this institution one of the leading, student-centered metropolitan research universities in our nation. A new university of excellence and access. A university committed to improving the human condition. A new university of which we can all be proud.

Thank you.
State of the University

continued from p. 1

to shaping a new University of Toledo — a university committed to excellence, access, innovation and engagement,” he said.

He then discussed the progress of the merger. He said the merger bill has begun the legislative process, with hearings on the bill to begin within a week. Members of the Ohio Legislature could vote on the bill by the end of March, with July 1 as the effective date.

While he believes “continuity is the key” as the merger progresses, Johnson said there may be some changes in areas such as the organizational structure of the University, information technology systems, the board of trustees, budgeting processes, and marketing and communications. The facilities master plan also may need to be tweaked, he said, citing his moratorium on designs for the new science building as talks continue about relocating pharmacy and other health-related programs to the Medical University of Ohio campus.

Johnson also announced three levels of transition planning processes. The two boards of trustees have formed a joint committee; members of a joint steering committee of administrators from both campuses will be announced in a few days; and the faculty senates will work together on academic and curricular issues.

He said a communication plan, including a transition Web site, soon will be announced to inform the community of news.

“As we go forward through this process, it is important for us to remember, and for me to remember, that in the final analysis, institutions are here to serve people — and this is especially true for our University. The University of Toledo is here first and foremost to serve our students and our community — and that cannot be accomplished without the hard work and dedication of all of you here today,” he said.

Audience reaction to the speech was positive. “I think he did a nice job explaining the merger,” said Amy Kawsky, a sophomore majoring in math education. “It sounds like it will be really good for our University.”

Dr. Patricia Murphy, interim director of the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women, felt Johnson’s emphasis on continuity was important. “I serve on the President’s Commission on Diversity, so I am pleased to hear him say we will continue this and discuss this with MUO,” she said.

ROTC

continued from p. 4

latter due to the ambush on Jessica Lynch’s vehicle. “It mainly came about because they got lost and didn’t know where they were,” Miller said.

It’s 2:30 p.m. and the underclassmen join the MS4s for the lab in the gym. Cadets were grouped and rotated to nine different stations. At one station, they fired laser rifles at targets. Watching their shots on computer screens, MS4s alerted the cadets to problems with breathing or improper movements of the weapon that affected their aim.

At two other stations, cadets identified parts of M-16 rifles and disassembled and reassembled them as fast as they could. “I remember holding it and being like ‘What’s this?’” said Nuttle of the first time she picked up a rifle. But now she sat at the identification station, pointing to parts as rapidly as the leader could ask.

Across the gym, Miller helped drill cadets on the customs and courtesies of being an Army officer. They practiced marching, standing at attention, and raising and lowering ROTC battalion flags. The phrase “military precision” was apparent here, as cadets cared about getting it exactly right from the first salute to the last step.

It also was clear why Miller and Nuttle referred to the Rocket Battalion as their family. Cadets — not the military science instructors — were the ones teaching and assisting each other.

“I try to remember to help the freshmen ... it can be hard to pick up on some of the stuff,” Nuttle said.

At 4:30 p.m., the lab wrapped up and the cadets left the headquarters for the weekend. Some, like Miller, are members of area Army Reserve or Army National Guard units and drill with those organizations on the weekends. Others prepare their schedules and schoolwork for the coming week.

“You just do more and sleep less,” Miller said of being a cadet. “You become more efficient at managing time. You prioritize things.”

While the plans for the weekend are certain, many are not sure where they will be after graduation. Miller wants to go into engineering, but doesn’t know in which Army branch. Nuttle said she will join the Army for four years’ active duty as a nurse, “and I guess if we’re still in Iraq or Afghanistan, I might go there.”

Speaking of the wars, I asked if either has been confronted about being in the military. Quite the opposite — “My friend and I went to the mall after lab one Friday with our uniforms on. People were coming up to us and saying, ‘Thank you.’ I thought, ‘We haven’t even done anything yet,’” Nuttle said.

“As far as being members of the military, we stay neutral,” Miller said of their stance on conflicts. “We just ask people to support the soldiers.”
Black Heritage and African-American Influence on Islam
Part of Islam Awareness Week. Student Union Room 2592. 5 p.m. Free. Public. Info: toledomama@yahoo.com.

Theater Performance
"Disputed Voices: Collateral Damage." One-woman show featuring Annie Ruth, New Zealand director, actress, and educator, Center for Performing Arts Studio Theatre. 7:30 p.m. Free. Public. Info: 419.530.2202.

Friday, Feb. 3
Never Attended Instructor Withdrawals Due
Graduate Student Graduation Application Deadline

RSVP Deadline for Economic Outlook Forum
Make plans to attend forum Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 11:30 a.m. at The Pinnacle, 1771 Indian Wood Circle. Mauk, panel discussion with Robert Stein, deputy assistant secretary for macroeconomics analysis, U.S. Department of Treasury; Patrick Rea, regional administrator; Small Business Administration's Midwest Region; and Steven Westen, president and CEO, Regional Growth Partnership Moderators: Dr. Thomas Guttentag, dean of the UT College of Business Administration. RSVP: 419.530.4425, powary@einet.utoledo.edu.

Humanities Lecture

Planetarium Program
"Skywatchers of Africa." Find out how the people of Africa have used the sky to survive and shape their spiritual lives. Ritter Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Observing with Ritter 1-1-meter telescope and at Brooks Observatory, Milky Way, program, weather permitting, $4 for adults, $3 for seniors and children ages 4-12, free for children 3 and younger. Info: 419.530.4037.

Theater Performance
"Disputed Voices: Collateral Damage." One-woman show featuring Annie Ruth, New Zealand director, actress, and educator, Center for Performing Arts Studio Theatre. 7:30 p.m. Free. Public. Info: 419.530.2202.

Saturday, Feb. 4
Career Saturdays

UT Speed Dating
Student Union Auditorium. 7:30-9 p.m. Admission: Minimum of five nonperishable food items to be donated to Feed Local County Children, Inc. Sign up in advance at UTSpeedDating@yahoo.com. Info: 419.676.4771.

Sunday, Feb. 5
Dance Lessons
Sponsored by UT Dance Society. Student Union Auditorium. 4:55 p.m. $3. Info: utdance@utmail.com.

UT Speed Dating
Sponsored by UT Dance Society. Student Union Auditorium. 4:55 p.m. $3. Info: utdance@utmail.com.

Monday, Feb. 6
HIV Testing
Free and anonymous testing by Substance Abuse Services Inc. Walk-in welcome. Student Medical Center. 1-3:45 p.m. Info: 419.530.3641, 419.243.7274.

Tuesday, Feb. 7
UT Employee Computer Class
"Access I." First of four classes. University Computer Class Center. 1600, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free for UT employees. Register: 419.530.1460.

Wednesday, Feb. 8
UT Employee Computer Class
"PowerPoint I." First of two classes. University Computer Class Center. Room 1600. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free for UT employees. Register: 419.530.1460.


UT Speed Dating
Sponsored by UT Dance Society. Student Union Auditorium. 4:55 p.m. $3. Info: utdance@utmail.com.

Lecture: "Access I." First of four classes. University Computer Class Center. Room 1600. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free for UT employees. Register: 419.530.1460.

Law Lecture

Spoken Word Night

Theater Performance
"Disputed Voices: Collateral Damage." One-woman show featuring Annie Ruth, New Zealand director, actress, and educator, Center for Performing Arts Studio Theatre. 7:30 p.m. Free. Public. Info: 419.530.2202.

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Humanities Lecture

Planetarium Program
"Skywatchers of Africa." Find out how the people of Africa have used the sky to survive and shape their spiritual lives. Ritter Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Observing with Ritter 1-1-meter telescope and at Brooks Observatory, Milky Way, program, weather permitting, $4 for adults, $3 for seniors and children ages 4-12, free for children 3 and younger. Info: 419.530.4037.

Theater Performance
"Disputed Voices: Collateral Damage." One-woman show featuring Annie Ruth, New Zealand director, actress, and educator, Center for Performing Arts Studio Theatre. 7:30 p.m. Free. Public. Info: 419.530.2202.

Saturday, Feb. 4
Career Saturdays

Topics include resume and interviewing job search. Student Union Room 1532, 9 a.m.-noon. Free. RSVP: 419.530.4231.

Swimming and Diving Meet

Planetarium Program
"Follow the Drinking Gourd." Learn how African-American slaves used the constellations to find their way north to freedom. Ritter Planetarium. 1 p.m. Free for adults, $3 for seniors and children ages 4-12, free for children 3 and younger. Info: 419.530.4037.

Men’s Tennis

Men’s Basketball
UT vs. Central Michigan. Savage Hall. 7 p.m. $10 and $7 for reserved seats, $6 for general admission half off for children, 12 and younger; half off for UT employees free for UT students. Info: 419.530.4231.
Former University of Toledo football player Brock Kreitzburg has been nominated to the U.S. Olympic bobsled team as a push athlete and brakeman. Kreitzburg will be on the four-man bobsled team. The Olympics take place in Torino, Italy, Feb. 10-26.

Kreitzburg, 29, was promoted to driver Todd Hays’ USA No. 1 four-man bobsled for the World Cup event Jan. 15 in Konigssee, Germany, where they captured a silver medal. Hays is ranked second in the world in the four-man event and is the defending Olympic silver medalist. He is the world’s No. 1-ranked two-man bobsled driver, and he told Kreitzburg that Kreitzburg also will be on his two-man sled for the World Cup event in St. Moritz.

A native of Akron, Kreitzburg played wide receiver for the Rockets from 1995 to 1998, catching 130 passes and scoring 11 touchdowns. He earned second-team All-MAC honors in 1997 when he caught 44 passes and scored seven touchdowns. Kreitzburg, who also was a sprinter on the UT track team, earned Academic All-MAC honors in 1997 and 1998 as an early education major. He graduated with a bachelor of education degree in 1998.
**UT CALENDAR — JAN. 25-FEB. 7**

**Wednesday, Jan. 25**

**International Village/Food Festival**
International Student Association members will have displays highlighting their countries, along with food and music. Student Union Room 257; 6 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Scott Park Conference Room, 1:30-5 p.m. Info: 419.530.7833.

**Student Town Hall Meeting**
Speakers: UT President Dan Johnson and Medical University of Ohio President Lloyd Jacobs. Student Union Room 2592; 11:30 a.m. Free, public. Info: 419.530.2675.

**Law Lecture**

**Chemistry Seminar**

**CWA Informational Meeting**
Learn about the proposed health-care contract. DCscoll Alumni Center Auditorium. 5:45 p.m. Info: 419.530.7833.

**“Building Healthy Relationships”**
For campus community members who want to learn how to maintain healthy relationships with everyone. Parks Tower Multipurpose Room, 6-7:30 p.m. Info: 419.530.4964.

**Thursday, Jan. 26**

**CWA Voting**
Vote on proposed health-care contract. Student Union Room 257; 6 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Scott Park Conference Room, 1:30-5 p.m. Info: 419.530.7833.

**Student Activities Fair**
Check out more than 200 student organizations on campus. Student Union Ingman Room, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Free. Info: 419.530.7221.

**Biological Sciences Seminar**
“IMP Kinase Nuclear Translocation and Cytoplasmic Host Divergent Functions During Drosophila Development.” Speaker: Dr. Daniel Marenda, postdoctoral fellow, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Wolfe Hall Room 3246, 11 a.m. Free. Info: 419.530.2066.

**University Women’s Commission Meeting**
Student Union Room 2584; Noon. Info: 419.530.2606.

**Center for Women Brown-Bag Lecture**

**Volunteer Fair**
Learn about opportunities from representatives from agencies and organizations. Student Union Rooms 2582 and 2584; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Info: 419.530.4541; 419.530.0493.

**“Techno-Bits”**

**Student Activities Fair**
For area seventh- through 12th-graders and their parents. Driscoll Alumni Center Auditorium. 5:45 p.m. Info: 419.530.7833.

**Monday, Jan. 30**

**HIV Testing**
Free and anonymous testing by Substance Abuse Services, Inc. Walk-ins welcome. Student Medical Center. 1-5 p.m. Info: 419.530.3664; 419.241.7274.

**Biological Sciences Seminar**
“Cell Fusion, Viruses and Oncogenic Transformation.” Speaker: Dr. Dominik Duell, postdoctoral fellow, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. Wolfe Hall Room 3246; 2 p.m. Free. Info: 419.530.2066.

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**ON THE COURT**

The UT women’s basketball team will hit the hardwood in Savage Hall to take on Miami Saturday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 5, to play Bowling Green at 4 p.m.

Tickets are $9, $4.50 for children 12 and younger; half off for UT employees; free for UT students. Info: 419.530.4231.

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**Continued on p. 10**

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**Margaret Mead Traveling Film Video Festival**
“Afghanistan Unveiled” and “Modern I.2.26” (Mrs. Littleboness), Center for Performing Arts Lab Theatre. 7 p.m. $3 donation suggested. Info: 419.530.2202.

**Men’s Basketball**
UT vs. Eastern Michigan; Savage Hall; 7 p.m. $10 and $7 for reserved seats; $6 for general admission; half off for children 12 and younger; half off for UT employees; free for UT students. Info: 419.530.5211.

**History Lecture**

**Friday, Jan. 27**

**Bioengineering Seminar**

**“Techno-Bits”**

**Retirement Reception**
Stop in and say goodbye to Ron Becznyski, director of athletic facilities, who is retiring after 38 years at UT. Savage Hall Grogan Room 3:30 p.m. Info: 419.530.4037.

**Margaret Mead Traveling Film Video Festival**
“Margaret Mead: A Portrait by a Friend” and “Jaguar.” Center for Performing Arts Lab Theatre. 7 p.m. $3 donation suggested. Info: 419.530.2202.

**Planetarium Program**
“The Winter Skies Over Toledo.” What can you see in the nighttime sky from northwest Ohio? Find out at this program. 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, Jan. 28**

**Aspiring Minority Youth Conference**
Theme: “The Power of Education for Building Winning Communities.” Speaker: Herman Boone, retired football coach whose story is told in the movie “Remember the Titans.” Student Union Auditorium. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. For area seventh- through 12th-graders and their parents. Free. RSVP: 419.530.3820.

**Piano Master Class**
Toledo Piano Teachers Association Master Class. Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall 9 a.m. Free, public. Info: 419.530.2488.

**Planetarium Program**
“Amazing Stargazing.” Constellations, comets, shooting stars and moons are some of the topics covered in this program designed for children. 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.

**Margaret Mead Traveling Film Video Festival**
“How to Fix the World” and “Oscar.” Center for Performing Arts Lab Theatre. 7 p.m. Free and anonymous testing by Substance Abuse Services. $3 donation suggested. Info: 419.530.2202.

**Sunday, Jan. 29**

**Dance Lessons**
Sponsor: UT Ballroom Dance Society. Student Union Auditorium. 4:55 p.m. $3; $1 for students. Info: ubdbs@hotmail.com.

**“Building Healthy Relationships”**
For campus community members who want to learn how to maintain healthy relationships with everyone. Parks Tower Multipurpose Room. 6:30-8 p.m. Info: 419.530.4964.

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**Islam and Humanity**