Trustees consider proposal to renovate Memorial Field House

By Jim Winkler

The building once hosted concerts by Simon and Garfunkel and Jimi Hendrix, and talks by anthropologist Margaret Meade and civil rights activist Dick Gregory.

The Doors were set to perform a Sept. 21, 1969, concert in the building, but a skittish UT Board of Trustees and concert organizers canceled it after Jim Morrison reportedly exposed himself at a show in Miami.

Barry Goldwater, the 1964 Republican presidential candidate, tried to give a speech there during a campaign stop in Toledo, but was shouted down by hecklers.

Steve Mix’s stellar basketball career was launched in the building, and the Rockets won the Mid-American Conference Championship in the 1966-67 season, going 23-2 and making the NCAA Tournament.

With its castle-like turrets and echoes of bouncing basketballs, military training, student registrations and physical education classes ringing through its halls, plus the potential for a whole new life in its second century, small, intimate, venerable Memorial Field House, one of the gems of Main Campus, is getting ready to reclaim its former pivotal place in the life of UT students.

Today, the UT Board of Trustees continued on p. 3

Preliminary plans call for a “town square” inside the Memorial Field House.

CHEERS! UT alumna and benefactor Judith Herb led a toast during the recent 90th anniversary gala for the Judith Herb College of Education. About 200 people attended the event with the theme “Celebrating a Rich History, Igniting a New Future.”

“I’m not really doing anything except giving the evening’s toast, but I love to talk with people who are so deeply involved in education,” Herb said before the gala. She likened the event to the “thrill of giving the commencement address this past spring and then having the chance to shake hands with the graduating students. It was truly heart-warming.”

GroupWise e-mail users migrating to Outlook

By Melissa Crabtree and Jon Strunk

The University of Toledo has begun the process of migrating Health Science Campus users of the Novell GroupWise e-mail system to Microsoft Outlook, a move that will allow for improved communication between campuses, increased functionality and features for those making the transition, and greatly reduced institutional licensing and support costs.

“We’ve worked very hard to make the migration process as seamless for the UT community as possible,” said Chief Information Officer Joe Sawasky, who noted that the current schedule is subject to change.

During the migration, Outlook will be automatically installed and loaded based on the following schedule:

- Monday, Nov. 13 — Center for Creative Education, Collier Building, Health Education Building, Block Health Science Building, Mulford Library;
- Monday, Nov. 27 — Dowling Hall and Glendale Medical Center;
- Monday, Dec. 4 — Ruppert Center, Dana Conference Center, Kobacker Center, Garden Lake Building and MUO Foundation Building;
- Monday, Dec. 11 — University Medical Center and the Private Wireless.

Stressing that the current schedule is subject to change, Sawasky said faculty and staff migrations would occur by building

look for the next issue of UT news November 27
Award created for student centeredness

By Matt Lockwood

Dr. Morris Jenkins, assistant professor of criminal justice, was in the middle of a constitutional law lecture last week when a group of people unexpectedly walked in, bringing things to a halt.

Darlene Stevens, an enrollment management specialist in the College of Business Administration, was working in her office the next day when the same group interrupted her.

What did Jenkins and Stevens do to deserve such treatment?

They put students first on a daily basis and were named November’s student-centered employees of the month.

The President’s Commission on Student Centeredness is recognizing University employees who go above and beyond the call of duty to help students and ensure their success.

Now your help is needed nominating the new award and submitting nominations.

Please send potential award names to namethesCAward@utoledo.edu by Wednesday, Nov. 15.

The contest winner will receive a $75 gift certificate to the UT Bookstore, a $25 gift certificate to Starbucks and a specially designed pin.

You also can help recognize employees who go the extra mile for students by nominating a student-centered employee of the month.

All monthly winners will receive the previously mentioned gift certificates and pin and be eligible to win $1,500 as the student-centered employee of the year.

Dr. Eric Lambert, professor and chair of criminal justice, nominated Jenkins, writing, “He volunteers to teach lower-level courses so he can help students learn, succeed and graduate. He holds students to high standards and constantly helps them to meet these standards.”

Dr. TerriBeth Gordon-Moore, assistant dean in the College of Business, nominated Stevens. “She is willing to meet with prospective and current students in the day, evening or weekend to meet the student’s schedule,” she wrote. “She will advise the students and act as a mentor and a confidant.”

To nominate a student-centered employee of the month, visit www.admission.utoledo.edu/7613.

Project SCOUT helps individuals with disabilities find work at University

By Sheila Doles

Spend a few minutes with Laurel Volk and her enthusiasm for work is evident.

“I like meeting new people, doing something different every day, and wearing my name badge,” she said.

Volk started her job as an office assistant in the College of Engineering in June. She works in the Office of College Relations and Facilities Management, where she performs general clerical duties, including laminating, copying, collating and mailing.

She came to the University through Project SCOUT (Securing Career Opportunities at UT), a grant-funded program in Human Resources that provides job matching for departments and personnel candidates from the Toledo area. In existence for one year, Project SCOUT has assisted supervisors in the hiring of individuals with varying disabilities and providing supportive services they may require to become productive members of the work force.

Volk has excelled since she started working at the College of Engineering, according to Christine Smallman, director of college relations and facilities management.

“She simply needed an opportunity to show people what she is capable of,” Smallman said. “Laurel is not part of our team because of her handicap. Her capabilities have nothing to do with her handicap. Laurel is a smart, engaged, capable young woman who has added a positive spirit to the work environment in the College of Engineering.”

Smallman added, “With the recent merger, the topic of the human condition has been an issue of discussion. The human condition in Laurel’s case has been improved and, in addition, the human condition has been improved for engineering as well. She is so much fun to work with, and we truly enjoy watching her growth as she becomes an integral part of our department.”

For Volk, Project SCOUT has provided support in the form of a job coach, Stephanie Leu, who monitors and assists with specialized adaptive training. Project SCOUT’s ongoing resources and support have made it possible for Volk to maintain a level of success that the College of Engineering hopes to elevate into computer training.

“I want to learn how to use a computer touch screen so I can help the College of Engineering more,” Volk said.

Her success story is one of many that are a result of teamwork.

“With the support of The University of Toledo, the Ability Center of Greater Toledo, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Lucas County Board of Mental Retardation, and Harbor Behavioral Healthcare, Project SCOUT represents a collaborative partnership that gives individuals who may experience barriers in the hiring process an opportunity to gain competitive employment,” said Dr. Patricia Devlin, director for Project SCOUT.

Diane Witt, project coordinator, said, “We’re here to be a single point of entry for our service provider partners, allowing for a focus on what an individual can do rather than what they ‘cannot do.’ What we have experienced in engineering and other departments is that collaboration and commitment enabled everyone’s world to expand.”

E-mail migrating

continued from p. 1

one’s original e-mail, address books and calendars. The account will continue to accept mail during the migration process, but users may not be able to access their mail until the migration is completed, said Operations and Infrastructure Director Steve Swartz.

Those who do have technical problems can call the Help Desk at 419.383.4259, a service that will be augmented in each group of buildings and areas in the days following each migration.

“Outlook offers virtually all of the same options as GroupWise, and we have organized 25 education classes to provide new users assistance as they make the transition,” Swartz said. The complete calendar of training sessions is available at http://www.cit.utoledo.edu/News/EmailMigration/Email%20Migration%20Calendar.pdf.

A Web version of Outlook is available at http://email.utoledo.edu to enable users to access their e-mail from off campus. Under Outlook, new e-mail addresses will follow the format firstname.lastname@utoledo.edu.

Those with PDAs currently syncing with GroupWise will be addressed at the end of the migration process, Sawasky said. He also reminded users that this Outlook e-mail conversion does not affect users’ Novell network account, NetWare login, h:drive or any other files shares. A migration from Novell’s to Microsoft’s directory will occur at a later date.
UT researcher receives NIH grant to explore neurobiology of nicotine addiction

By Jim Winkler

Humorist Mark Twain once joked, "Quitting smoking is easy. I've done it a thousand times."

Unfortunately, for hundreds of thousands of people each year, the consequences of trying and failing to quit smoking are no laughing matter.

The primary ingredient in tobacco that sustains the smoking habit is nicotine, a toxic plant alkaloid that is more addictive than heroin. Nicotine addiction compels smokers to light up despite widespread awareness that smoking causes cancer, stroke, emphysema, bronchitis and cardiovascular diseases that kill more than 400,000 Americans yearly.

Now, Dr. Joseph Margiotta, a University of Toledo scientist, has received a prestigious, two-year, $200,000 Cutting-Edge Basic Research Award (CEBRA) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in order to uncover molecular mechanisms involved in nicotine addiction, and thereby learn more about how the underlying neuronal circuits are regulated.

Through the National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA), NIH introduced CEBRA grants in 2001 "to foster highly innovative or conceptually creative research that advances our understanding of drug abuse and addiction and how to prevent and treat them."

Margiotta, a professor in the Department of Neurosciences who obtained the Faculty Research Award from the former Medical College of Ohio in 2004, received the CEBRA grant to use molecular and electrophysiological tools he and his colleagues have developed to learn more about how nicotine triggers addiction.

Each time a smoker takes a drag, nicotine travels through the lungs, into the bloodstream and then deep into the brain where it acts on specific synapses associated with pleasure and reward. Synapses are junctions where information is communicated between nerve cells by chemical neurotransmitters. Once present at these synapses, nicotine mimics one such chemical neurotransmitter called acetylcholine and "commandeers" many of its receptors. Activation of acetylcholine receptors stimulates the release of other chemicals, notably dopamine, which produces the "high" associated with smoking and with other abused drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamine. Repeated exposure to nicotine is believed to reinforce the pleasure and reward synapses, making people crave and seek out another dose of nicotine and resultant flood of dopamine to get that next "high."

Margiotta, who has earned a national reputation for his basic research on nicotinic receptors and synapses, has developed a novel approach for his studies, using a new technology called single-neuron electroportion. The technique gives an electric shock to a neuron, which makes tiny holes in its membrane, allowing new genes to be inserted and expressed. Using neurons grown in cell culture, he hopes to determine exactly how exposure to nicotine perturbs subsequent synaptic function.

By combining the nicotine exposure with test and marker genes introduced by single-neuron electroporation, he will define the receptors required for any synaptic alterations and determine their location on the pre- or post-synaptic neurons. What Margiotta and his colleagues learn about such receptors eventually might give them tools to block nicotine's effects.

He cautions, however, that there is still much work to be done to figure out exactly what drives nicotine addiction.

Margiotta has been conducting neuroscience research for more than 20 years. While his current experiments relate to how drugs like nicotine cause addiction, his accomplishments stem from an interest in understanding how the normal function and formation of synapses are regulated.

He feels that pursuing basic cellular questions is the best route to important, sometimes unexpected findings that are key to biomedical advances.

"I am more interested in the underlying biology of what goes right, rather than what goes wrong," he said.

Field House

is scheduled to consider a $25 million proposal to renovate the facility, adding 80,000 square feet of space for classrooms and faculty offices, and putting new life back into UT's second oldest building.

Developed by BHDP Architecture of Cincinnati, the preliminary proposal calls for the old gymnasium space, with its elevated ceiling, to be divided into two levels with state-of-the-art classrooms, seminar rooms, several large auditoriums for lectures, computer rooms and faculty offices, according to Chuck Lehnert, associate vice president for facilities and construction.

If approved by the trustees, the work will get under way soon with completion set for 2008.

The renovations include an "academic sidewalk" that leads to a "town square" in the center of the building that will give it an open feeling and allow students and faculty to gather and socialize. A stairwell will be built to reach the second level.

New lighting and flooring will give the old gym a modern look, and classrooms will be equipped so professors can use the latest in technology to teach. New energy-efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems will be installed, and the building will be designed to meet all accessibility specifications of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Emphasizing that the project is still in its conceptual stage of development, Lehnert said discussions are under way on how to best preserve and display the building's colorful history. He also would like to see solar panels installed to help heat the building.

Plans also call for the building's Collegiate Gothic exterior features to be preserved, including its battlements along rooflines of the main entrance, a tower-like entrance that appears almost as a shortened University Hall tower, protruding supports, which, if extended outward, would look like the flying buttresses used to support the great European Gothic cathedrals, and a central bay window, which is a common Gothic feature. The existing Lannon stone facade will be refurbished and preserved.

Constructed as a Works Progress Administration project, the $470,000 Memorial Field House, the second building on Main Campus, was completed in 1931.

The Collegiate Gothic style reflected by Memorial Field House and other campus buildings developed out of the work of famed Boston architect Ralph Adams Cram. The Late Gothic architecture of England and France formed the historical basis for the style, which today can be seen at many colleges and universities, including the University of Chicago and Duke and Princeton universities.

When Centennial Hall — later renamed Savage Hall — opened in 1976, Memorial Field House was no longer the primary sports center on campus and was used less often by students.
Librarian documents WW II activities of college

By Jim Winkler

When Japanese bombs suddenly dropped on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941, everything changed.

The lives of thousands of Toledoans were transformed forever that day. Men and women flocked to recruiting offices to enlist, women went to work in factories, and children learned about blackouts and the meaning of the word “rationing” as the country united for a single purpose — to defeat the Axis powers of Germany, Japan and Italy.

And as John Napp, assistant professor of library administration and engineering librarian, has documented, The University of Toledo College of Engineering went to war.

Napp is author of a thoughtfully prepared article on the role the college played in World War II titled “The University of Toledo and Civilian Defense Training During World War II” that will appear in an upcoming issue of the Journal of Northwest Ohio History.

Relying on UT’s Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections, The Blade, the former Toledo Times, and other primary sources to conduct his research, the Whitmer High School and University of Toledo graduate showed how much the college aided the fight against tyranny.

Even before the attack on Pearl Harbor, UT, like many other U.S. colleges and universities, increased its commitment to technical training and aligned the University’s work with national defense priorities through two government-sponsored programs — the Civilian Pilot Training (CPT) Program, which started in 1939 and prepared students to obtain civilian pilot’s licenses, and the Engineering, Science and Management War Training (ESMWT) Program, which was authorized in 1940 by the U.S. Congress to train and upgrade technicians in industrial and defense plants.

Four hundred fifty-three men completed the CPT Program and its successor, the Civil Aeronautics Administration War Training Service Program, and served in all theaters of the war, according to Napp.

Students attended classes in the Field House and practiced flying at the municipal airport.

Graduates were required to sign a contract agreeing to enter the military following graduation. Tuition for the course was $32, although it was estimated that the training cost $20,000. Students wore khaki uniforms, had 10:30 p.m. bed check, and were forbidden from talking or studying in groups in the library.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, UT students and professors departed in droves to join the military — the College of Engineering lost 90 percent of its students, the largest decline of any University college, and 15 faculty members. The college, however, became the destination for thousands of Toledo residents, many of them women, who enrolled in 12-week ESMWT courses on welding, drafting, blueprint reading, materials inspection, machine design, diesel engines, tool engineering, labor relations, applied chemistry and other technical subjects to aid in the war effort.

The initial public response to the courses was overwhelming, Napp discovered in his research. Delos Palmer, college dean, had initially planned for 235 students to take classes in the new program, but four times as many students enrolled, requiring the hiring of 23 additional instructors. One man took 18 courses, while another woman took 10.

Advertisements in The Blade and the Polish-language Echo newspaper and on radio and bus and streetcars touted the program.

“Women in particular were targeted for war jobs training,” Napp explained. “Appeals were made to their love of country and their love of their husbands and boyfriends. Getting war training and a subsequent war job would help supply needed war materials. Many women took wartime jobs out of patriotism or in the hope that by aiding the war effort they would help their loved ones return home.”

Classes conducted mostly in the evening in University Hall equipped area residents with skills they could use during wartime and allowed them to step into assembly lines at places like Willys-Overland, Owens-Illinois, DeVilbiss, Toledo Scale and other Toledo firms that had received defense contracts to build shell casings, jeeps, trailers, 155-mm shells, aircraft parts and rockets, as well as protective coatings for helmets, planes and tanks; bullet-proof safety glass; materials to insulate ships; and plastic laminates for structural aircraft parts.

Building the “Arsenal of Democracy” was highly skilled work, sometimes dangerous and often involved heavy physical labor. Classes also were held in other Ohio cities, including Piqua, Mansfield, Lima, Marion, Fremont and Fostoria.

In 1942, the Works Progress Administration opened the first nurseries — the forerunner of today’s day-care centers — in Toledo to help mothers working in the factories.

By the time the war was over, more than 14,500 people had taken courses, and despite pressure from unions for women to leave their war jobs so returning veterans could have them, many women continued to work in factories.

Napp, who grew up in West Toledo, said he enjoyed conducting the research. It gave him a better idea of what UT was like during the war, when his father was a student on campus.

As Napp concluded, “Much has been written on the transformation of the industrial economy of the United States from peacetime to wartime. This paper shows that the academy was transformed at well. The transformation of the academy allowed industries to better supply needed war materials and services. This in turn allowed the Allies to have a successful end to the war.”

Photo by Daniel Miller

WHERE: Women trained at UT worked in the Libbey-Owens-Ford Co.
University Health Matters celebrates one-year anniversary

By Lisa Colvin

The month of November marks the one-year anniversary for University Health Matters, a campaign to provide the Toledo community with advanced education on a variety of topics related to maintaining good health.

The program also is used to promote the University Medical Center at The University of Toledo’s Health Science Campus and its practicing physicians.

“University Health Matters has been successful this year in helping the medical center to keep a consistent presence in the local media,” said Director of Health Care Marketing Esther Fabian. “It provides an opportunity to help us define ‘university-quality care’ because we’re able to highlight our physicians’ sub-specialties, our leading-edge equipment and facilities, and UT researchers.”

Each month University Health Matters features a different health-care topic presented by multiple University Medical Center physicians, other health-care professionals and faculty. Past segments have included topics related to emergency medicine, trauma, cardiology, women’s health, surgical options, minimally invasive surgery and university-quality health care.

The best way to access University Health Matters is at www.universityhealthmatters.com. The interactive Web site includes online quizzes, a calendar of events, a link to help patients find physicians, and videos.

An online quiz in honor of the one-year anniversary can be found at the University Medical Center Web site at www.umc.utoledo.edu. The quiz will cover topics from the past 12 months; T-shirts will be given away as prizes.

To celebrate the anniversary, representatives from University Health Matters also will have tables and informative displays set up from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the University Medical Center lobby Tuesday, Nov. 14, and Thursday, Nov. 16, and on the Main Campus in the Student Union Friday, Nov. 17.

University Health Matters is a partnership of University Medical Center, The University of Toledo, Buckeye CableSystem and The Blade.

To access University Health Matters, watch for advertisements on television, in The Blade or visit www.universityhealthmatters.com.

Icicle classes forming for holiday season

By Stacy Moeller

Ever wonder what it would be like to be Jack Frost? Here is your chance to make your very own icicles — out of glass.

The University of Toledo’s Department of Chemistry will hold its ninth annual glass shop icicle class with Steve Moder, a scientific glassblower, in Bowman-Oddy Laboratories Room 1079.

Moder produces glassware for several UT departments, primarily Chemistry and Biology, as well as the College of Pharmacy, and area businesses and schools, including Bowling Green State University. He has run the UT glass shop since 1996.

According to Moder, he started the icicle-making for scientific glassware in the teaching and research labs. The holiday icicle sessions were then created because he found it to be something people are capable of doing and it exposes them to glass.

“It’s a Christmastime thing and I truly enjoying helping brighten people’s seasons,” Moder said.

And brighten it does. With a pair of special glasses to protect his eyes from the bright orange flame, Moder makes working with the glass look easy as he uses a torch to heat, form and seal the glassware.

“How long it takes to make the icicle sculptures depends on the individual,” Moder said. “Some students walk out of the class with only a half a dozen and others with over 20. They make great gifts, and so far our icicles have made it to eight foreign countries and over 30 states.”

The free, public class will be offered:

• Wednesday, Nov. 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.;
• Saturday, Nov. 18, 8:30-10:30 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.;
• Wednesday, Nov. 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.;
• Wednesday, Dec. 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.;
• Saturday, Dec. 9, 8:30-10:30 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.;
• Saturday, Dec. 16, 8:30-10:30 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.; and
• Wednesday, Dec. 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Advanced classes also will be offered and require instructor approval:

• Friday, Nov. 17, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
• Friday, Dec. 1, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Be sure to reserve your torch early as space is limited. Participants must be at least 16 years of age.

For more information or to register, call the glass shop at 419.530.2117.

FIRE AND ICE: Julie Boucau, left, Stacy Gates, center, and Amy Gindhart, all PhD students in the Chemistry Department, work on icicles in the glass shop.

Photo by Daniel Miller
BRUSHING UP: “Eden” by Amy Finkbeiner, manager of volunteer services at the University Medical Center, and “Hope” by Tom Amstutz, head coach of the football team, are two of the paintings that will be up for bid at the Toledo Artists’ Club 46th Annual Auction Thursday, Nov. 16. Works by local celebrities and artists will be sold to benefit the Toledo Artists’ Club, its projects and scholarship. Previews begin at 5:30 p.m. and the auction will start at 7 p.m. at the Heatherdowns Country Club, 3910 Heatherdowns Blvd. There is a $2 donation for admission.

Collaborative art draws audience into ‘recovery’

By Cynthia Nowak

You’re addicted. At least you think you are. The government says that you are; experts in addiction tell you that you’ve got a mysterious but dangerous blue drug in your system. The idea is starting to get very, very scary. Lucky for you that you can check yourself into one of the many recovery centers set up for people like you. They’re safe havens where you’ll receive the treatment you need.

Or not.

That’s the world created in The University of Toledo Department of Theatre and Film’s production of “recovery,” which opens Tuesday, Nov. 14. The play, a collaborative effort between the departments of Theatre, Film and Visual Arts, is both “an intriguing thriller and a feast for the senses,” said its director, guest artist Stacey Christodoulou.

The play is about a group of people who have voluntarily signed themselves into a recovery center in Antarctica. At first, everything seems benign; they give up only a few things in order to be taken care of. Then things slowly change from a hospital environment to a labor camp where people have given up all their rights.

Written by Canadian author Greg MacArthur, the play premiered this year in Ottawa and is slated for a number of international openings. Christodoulou, who as founder of Montreal’s The Other Theatre has a longtime interest in innovative works, said, “The subversive message is there, but the play presents a very interesting story that shows the consequences of a certain line of action. And of course it’s a thriller as well — among the people in recovery, who will die and who will survive?”

The collaborative aspect of the play becomes apparent as soon as audience members enter the Center for Performing Arts. Installation art — the use of media to broaden the sensory experience of the audience — will pull the audience into the play before it begins. “We have the participation of film students, theatre students and visual arts students. The last are using projected videos and setting up their own mini-recovery center that people participate in before the show,” Christodoulou said.

“During our show, we also have a video going on when everyone sits down to watch the play. It’s a real sensory treat, with video, stills, slogans, a very dense soundtrack and lots of movement.”

Christodoulou, who founded The Other Theatre in 1991 as a permanent ensemble of theatre artists who focus on experimental works of social relevance, noted that the play is not offensive. “We’re not here to shock, but I hope that people say, ‘Wow!’ and go away wanting to talk about the ideas of the play, whether or not they agree.”

“recovery” runs Tuesday through Saturday, Nov. 14-18, at 7:30 p.m., with a 2 p.m. show Sunday, Nov. 19, in the Center for Performing Arts Studio Theatre. The installation opens at 6:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are $11 for UT faculty, staff and seniors, $9 for students.

For more information, call the Theatre Box Office at 419.530.2375.

Show spirit at UT-BG football game

The annual football showdown between UT and BGSU will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, in the Glass Bowl, and UT faculty and staff are urged to attend the 71st annual meeting and show their school spirit by wearing free T-shirts being given away this week.

The navy-colored T-shirts, which have the new UT logo on the front and lettering “Shape Your Future” on the back, will be in limited supply and will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. The shirts should be available starting Thursday, Nov. 16.

UT faculty and staff can obtain one by going to myut.utoledo.edu and checking their personal announcements, printing out a coupon, and bringing the coupon to Student Union Room 2509 on Main Campus and the Student Affairs Office on the first floor of Mulford Library on the Health Science Campus. One shirt per person, please.

THE INSIDER: Jeannette Turner, UT junior majoring in theatre, acts as the voice of inmates in a scene from “recovery.”
Students asked to weigh in on classroom renovation effort

By Tobin J. Klinger

When the decision was made to spend $1 million upgrading Main Campus classroom spaces, the question was quickly asked, “Which ones?”

Faculty members were asked to nominate spaces to deans, who in turn provided the information to the Office of the Provost. Now the Office of the Provost is looking for student input on the “Upgrade to First Class” project’s priorities.

“We have identified 60 classrooms in need of improvement,” said Dr. Rob Sheehan, interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. “We’re asking students to weigh in and help us rank them to determine where the need is greatest.”

The projects are minor in scope, ranging from new carpeting and paint to window coverings and flooring, according to Chuck Lehnert, associate vice president for facilities and construction.

“We’re looking to spruce things up,” Lehnert said. “We’re not able to perform full mediations in terms of technology, but we can do a lot of good with $1 million.”

Registered students can provide feedback through the myUT Web portal at https://my0.ut.edu/survey/login.asp?hidSurveyID=44. The survey will be available until Friday, Nov. 17.

Letters

As I attended both town hall meetings recently, I was struck by the depth of debate and concern about the proposed strategic direction of the University. The debate on “arts vs. science, math vs. humanities, etc.” reminds me of a fitting analogy that’s already been addressed by the greatest mind of the universe.

If you’ll, for a moment, consider your human body and its members, its parts and organs and their diverse functions. Though vastly different in size, form, function and visibility, each member of your human body is essential to the full optimal functioning of the whole of you. As an ordained minister, I’m reminded that in 1 Corinthians Chapter 12 of the Holy Bible beginning at verse 12, the Lord speaks through Paul in stating, (verse 21) “The eye cannot say to the hand, I don’t need you, nor can the head say to the feet that I don’t need you.” The fact that a university emphasizes certain disciplines in no way should be considered as a threat to all other disciplines that hold equal value and merit.

As a graduate of our great university, with degrees in both the arts and education, as a business owner and inventor, playwright, musician, singer and a concerned servant of the community, I can attest that having a university that is comprehensive in scope while at the same time well known for certain disciplines provides a much-needed service in educating individuals who will contribute in countless ways to our culture and world. I am thankful for the well-rounded education that I’ve received and the specific continuous learning opportunities to bolster my skills for various endeavors.

The debate on our campuses, I believe, is steeped in unnecessary fear (of somehow being discounted, along with a mistrust of leadership), selfishness (it’s all about me and my program), and pride (how dare other disciplines be showcased in this university). The bottom line is that, in my humble opinion, our collective goal and desire should be to exist as an outstanding and whole university, celebrating the successes and special honors of each discipline and department, including flagship disciplines in their season, rather than competing against our own body.

Crystal Dixon
Associate Vice President for Human Resources
Health Science Campus

RSVP for Toys R Us VIP night

Make plans to shop at Toys R Us Sunday, Nov. 19, during The University of Toledo VIP night.

Check out stores at 2333 S. Reynolds Road or at 5025 Monroe St. from 7 to 9:30 p.m. for the exclusive shopping experience for UT employees.

There’ll be raffles for Toys R Us gift cards, movie passes and restaurant gift certificates. UT employees may bring one guest.

The deadline to RSVP is Thursday, Nov. 16. Specify the number of shoppers and which store when you e-mail utoystrusnight@utoledo.edu.
Charitable campaign extended

Leaders of the 2006 UT Community Charitable Campaign have announced an extension through Monday, Nov. 20.

Campaign co-chair Dan Saevig said the campaign had just passed the 90 percent mark with almost $180,000 raised as of Thursday, Nov. 9.

Those who have not yet donated and wish to can give online through a secure, personalized link e-mailed from employeeccharitablecampaign@unitedwaytoledol.org each Monday or can visit http://chartablecampaign.utoledo.edu to view contact information for individual department and unit team leaders. Paper pledge cards also can be downloaded from the site if that method of donation is preferred.

Service awards slated for Dec. 4

Nearly 400 staff and faculty members from Main, Scott Park and Toledo Museum of Art campuses will be recognized for their years of employment at the University at the Service Recognition Awards on Monday, Dec. 4, at 1 p.m. in the Student Union Auditorium.

Employees marking five-, 10-, 15-, 20-, 25-, 30-, 35- and 40-year anniversaries as of Dec. 31 will receive awards. Forty-five employees to be honored have worked at UT for 25 years or more, and some recent retirees will return to attend the ceremony.

UT faculty and staff from Main, Scott Park and Toledo Museum of Art campuses are asked to double-check this year’s honoree list at http://hr.utoledo.edu/news/default.asp.

Beverages and hors d’oeuvres will be served at the event.

For more information, contact Matt Dills at matthew.dills@utoledo.edu.

In memoriam

Marian A. (Mathewson) Miller, Toledo, who worked at the former Medical College of Ohio until her retirement from nursing, died Oct. 26 at age 77.

Phyllis J. Church, Toledo, who worked at UT 22 years, died Nov. 7 at age 71. She was hired as a clerk in the Cashier’s Office in 1970 and moved to Finance as cashier in 1976. Four years later, Church was promoted to accountant, the position she retired from in 1992.

COOL BEANS: Terri Miller-Campbell, UT senior and intern in Purchasing, chose one of the many chili entrees in the 2006 Division of Administration and the Division of Finance and Strategy’s chili cook-off and pie bake-off. Terrie Lundy, billing specialist in the Business Office of the Glendale Medical Center, won the chili contest, and Chuck Lehmer, associate vice president for facilities and construction, placed first in the pie contest. Some 350 attended the Nov. 3 event.