Strategic plan heads toward approval, implementation

By Jon Strunk

On the front of the penultimate draft of the Executive Strategic Planning Committee’s document outlining the direction of the University for years to come is a quote from Aristotle: “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”

Committee Co-Chair Dr. Jeffrey Gold echoed the Greek philosopher as he spoke at a meeting of the University ambassadors Jan. 17 about the document officials were in the process of finalizing.

“This document is about creating a culture, about creating a habit of excellence,” he said.

Gold, provost and executive vice president for health affairs and dean of the College of Medicine, said he and co-chair Dr. Tom Gutteridge, dean of the College of Business Administration, were deeply grateful to everyone who participated in developing the strategic plan.

Despite some earlier confusing media reports, Gold said that once the final draft of the strategic plan is finished, it would be forwarded to the president and then to the Board of Trustees for approval. Several trustees served on the Executive Strategic Planning Committee, as did more than 40 faculty, staff, students and community members.

Gold said the strategic plan identified dozens of goals under six categories — undergraduate education, graduate and professional education, research, student-centeredness, health-care access and delivery, and outreach and engagement. Once finalized, 16 to 18 work groups would be established to implement strategies to achieve the various goals.

“We worked hard on every section in the document,” Gold said, emphasizing that the wide-ranging opinions as the plan was forged helped ensure the strength of the final product. “This process really affected the best of what a merger has to offer — the bringing together of disparate ideas and people to create something sustainable and operational — something truly excellent.”

Norma Tomlinson, associate vice president and associate director of The University of Toledo Medical Center and a member, for his assistance in partnering with the city of Toledo to create one of the largest MLK celebrations in northwest Ohio. Lawshe has served as co-chair of the event since its inception. Some 3,000 attended the annual Unity Celebration, which was sponsored by the University and the city.

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Zero percent tuition increase leaves undergrads overjoyed

By Krista M. Hayes

UT students may be smiling more. The University’s recent announcement that there will be no increase in tuition for undergraduates for fall semester has made a lot of students happy.

“I am very pleased to hear that tuition will not increase for fall semester 2007,” said Cicma Hunter, a sophomore majoring in business. “I can now rely on grants and my scholarship instead of taking out student loans.”

“I think it would make going here a lot easier,” said Alaina Pirmat, a freshman majoring in athletic training. “Not only do students have to pay for tuition, but we also have to pay for food, books and in some cases rent. If tuition continues to increase, it will just make college more stressful.”

“Tuition increases have become an all-too-common occurrence in higher education,” said President Lloyd Jacobs after announcing the news at the Unity Day Celebration on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. “And while the topic is complicated and reasons for the increase are certainly legitimate, we have created a burden on our students and their families, limiting their opportunities to shape their future.”

Vowing to reverse the trend at UT, Jacobs pledged to “increase opportunities without increasing costs.”

“Students will pay the same tuition to attend UT as undergraduates for fall 2007, as was charged for fall 2006,” Jacobs added. “The administration will evaluate the decision as the spring 2008 semester approaches and will determine if an increase is necessary at that time.

“While this action will certainly decrease the revenue coming into the University, it is our belief that it is simply the right thing to do,” Jacobs said. “Higher education must be accessible if we are to fulfill our mission of ‘improving the human condition.’”

“Though I am a scholarship athlete,” said John Allen, a sophomore majoring in business management, “I feel that the 0 percent increase is a good thing. I paid for my first year, and it is very expensive out-of-state.”

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Students First Awards go to medical faculty, staff members

By Matt Lockwood

The University of Toledo graduates about 150 newly minted medical doctors each year, but a blue ribbon panel of physician experts recently reported that unless more begin staying in northwest Ohio, the area will face a physician shortage of crisis proportions in five years.

The report underscores the importance of creating opportunities for UT medical students and ensuring they have a positive experience.

January’s winners of the Students First Award, which recognizes student centeredness, are doing their part.

Dr. Carlos Baptista, assistant professor of neurosciences, and Maggie Lienhardt, the Department of Family Medicine clerkship coordinator, were both nominated for the award by several medical students.

Baptista said he came close to needing medical care himself when his award was delivered unannounced by President Lloyd Jacobs and members of his Commission on Student Centeredness during a gross anatomy lab.

“I almost had a heart attack when Dr. Jacobs called out my name,” Baptista said. “I was very honored and surprised.”

Although anatomy is a difficult class, students noted Baptista makes it exciting.

Medical student Habib Srour said, “He makes innovative use of technology, makes an extra effort to follow up with students, and recognizes and teaches with an eye toward different learning styles. Because he is also an MD, he takes time to explain the context of what we are learning and how it’s relevant to the clinic and life as a physician.”

Medical student Mike Crotty added, “He is always available to explain difficult concepts, even if he was not the one who taught us the material. He spent an hour with me and I had not even been his student in over a year.”

As the family medicine clerkship coordinator, Lienhardt assures physicians are properly credentialed, that UT recruits the best possible physicians, and that medical students are placed in enriching positions with outstanding preceptors.

But she doesn’t let a job description stop her from putting students first.

Recently, when students were working to reopen a free clinic they operate for those in medical need, Lienhardt filled out the necessary credentialing packets for family medicine physicians allowing them to serve as student preceptors and to see patients, thus clearing the clinic to open.

Dr. Thomas Tafelski, associate professor of family medicine, said, “That was not in her job description; she agreed to do it because the students needed help.”

Sunil Arora, a second-year medical student, said each credentialing packet takes three to four hours to fill out, and “Maggie has filled out eight … and counting.”

Fourth-year medical student Mary LaSalvia said reopening the clinic was a six-month process that wouldn’t have happened without Lienhardt.

“She was the driving force behind making it happen,” LaSalvia said. “She was very supportive.”

To nominate someone for the Students First Award, visit the student centeredness Web page at utoledo.edu/commissions/studentcenteredness.
‘Six Weeks to Wellness’ begins winter workshops

By Liz Concian

Through six workshops, you can learn how to improve your heart, mind and body to ultimately answer the question, “How strong is my core?”

“These sessions will promote positive lifestyle changes. We want to empower people to lead a healthier lifestyle and provide workshops that will encourage a culture of wellness at The University of Toledo,” said Vicki Riddick, network director of University Health Services.

In February, the Employee Primary Care Clinic wants to help the UT community kick off National Heart Month. According to Dr. Jeffrey Gold, provost and executive vice president for health affairs and dean of the College of Medicine, “Heart and vascular diseases are the number one killer of Americans. We don’t want to be number one anymore.”

Bill Logie, vice president for administration, said, “We are encouraging the UT community to take charge of their health and well-being. Don’t just plan for wellness, but make it part of your lifestyle — every day. Join us in learning how to be well and stay well.

The workshops are free to all students, faculty and staff at UT and will take place on the following Thursdays from noon to 12:45 p.m. at the Health Science Campus:

Feb. 1 — “Ergonomics — What’s Wrong With the Office Chair?” with Marilyn Neuhansel of Voc Works, Health Education Building 227;
Feb. 8 — “Heart Health in America — Why It Matters” with Dr. Gold, Dowling Hall 2315;
Feb. 15 — “Supplements — Help Me Feel My Best” with Dr. Douglas Federman, medical director of University Health Services, Health Education Building 227;
Feb. 22 — “How I Became ‘Half’ My Size” with Michelle Petersen, administrative assistant with University Health Services, Health Education Building 227;
March 1 — “Functional Fitness” with Dr. Kevin Phelps, assistant professor in the College of Medicine, Health Education Building 227; and
March 8 — “Relaxation Training — Relax for Wellness” with ThomasFine, associate professor of psychiatry, Health Education Building 227.

Strategic planning

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member of the Executive Strategic Planning Committee, said that particularly when additional student input was added to the group, “There was so much learning that went on in all the meetings.”

Gold encouraged the University community to review the draft of the strategic plan, available at http://www.utoledo.edu/offices/president/strategiccommittee/index.html.

MLK’s vision on health care topic of talk Jan. 24

By Krista M. Hayes

The University of Toledo is the latest to take in a talk for the MLK Day. Dr. Frederick Cason, UT associate professor in the Department of Surgery, will give a talk, “I Have a Dream: The Involvement of Public Hospitals in the Care of the Poor.”

He will discuss Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream for enhancement of care, how care has improved since the civil rights movement, and what areas still need to be addressed.

“It is important to educate others in understanding the history of American hospitals and how it impacts health-care disparities today,” said Sandra Rivers, UT manager of diversity programs for the Office of Institutional Diversity.

According to Rivers, the Cross-Cultural Showcase Dialogue Series has been in existence since 2005 and has continued to gain momentum with each presentation.

“The series’ purpose is to showcase monthly diversity topics, and we are utilizing the series’ format for this event, which is a timely occasion wherein to honor Dr. King’s legacy,” Rivers said. “This MLK program may be significantly different from previous years, but it will allow the audience to be educated about health-care issues and disparities as they relate to Dr. King’s dream for all people.”

Trivia questions and prizes also will be featured at the event, along with musical selections from the Health Science Campus’ a cappella choir, Docappella and Vocal Remedy. A 200-word essay contest will be highlighted; contestants will be asked to discuss how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s contributions affect their lives.

The deadline for essay submissions is Wednesday, Jan. 31.

For more information on the free, public event or to RSVP, contact the Office of Institutional Diversity at 419.383.3609.

Zero percent tuition increase

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The tuition freeze applies only to in-state undergraduate students. Tuition fees for graduate school and law school could be increased.

However, UT still remains one of the most affordable universities in Ohio, ranking eighth out of 13 institutions, costing $7,929 annually. Total enrollment is at 19,374.

“We will be working during the next several months to leverage the decision and bolster enrollment,” said Lawrence J. Burns, UT vice president for enrollment services, marketing and communications. “Our enrollment team believes this represents a tremendous opportunity to increase accessibility and create opportunities for success.”

UT News is published for faculty and staff by the University Communications Office weekly during the academic year and periodically during the summer. Copies are mailed to employees and placed in newstands on the Main, Health Science, Scott Park and Toledo Museum of Art campuses. UT News strives to present accurate, fair and timely communication of interest to employees. Story ideas and comments from the UT community are welcome.

Send information by campus mail to #949, University Communications Office, Vicki Kroll. E-mail: vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu.

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University to honor Black History Month by uncovering ‘Hidden Histories: Untold Stories of a Journey’

By Deanna Woolf

The University of Toledo will celebrate Black History Month with the theme of “Hidden Histories: Untold Stories of a Journey.” During February, offices and student organizations have planned special activities and presentations to highlight “hidden” or overlooked contributions of African Americans to society.

Three monthlong activities on Main Campus are the Black Arts Movement display in Carlson Library, a poster and quiz about well-known African Americans with disabilities in the Office of Accessibility in Snyder Memorial Building Room 1400, and “Hidden Histories: Untold Stories of a Journey,” an art exhibit of works by Marvin Vines, in the Office of Multicultural Student Services, Student Union Room 2500. The Health Science Campus will feature the “African Americans of the Nation: The Late Great Marvin Vines, Artist, Works Unseen: Part Two” in the Mulford Library glass connector during February, as well.

In addition, Ritter Planetarium will present “The Skywatchers of Africa” on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and “Follow the Drinking Gourd” on Saturdays at 1 p.m. Each program costs $5 for adults, $4 for seniors and children 12 and younger, and free for children 3 and younger.

The complete list can be found online at UT today, http://myutoledo.edu. Events include:

**Thursday, Feb. 1**
- Black History Month Kick-off Luncheon. Speaker: Jon Hendricks, Distinguished University Professor of Jazz. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Student Union Auditorium.

**Tuesday, Feb. 6**
- African-American Dance Exhibitions. 8-9 p.m. Student Recreation Center.

**Wednesday, Feb. 7**

**Thursday, Feb. 8**
- Brown-Bag Talk, “Black Migration.” Speaker Willie McKether, Wayne State University Institute for Information Technology and Culture. Noon-1 p.m. Student Union Room 2500.
- African-American Dance Exhibitions. 8-9 p.m. Student Recreation Center.

**Friday, Feb. 9**
- Black Student Union Fashion Show and After Party. 7 p.m. Student Union Auditorium. $7 for show, $5 for after party, or $10 for both.

**Tuesday, Feb. 13**
- UT NAACP Bake Sale. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. In front of the Student Union Huntington Bank location.

**Thursday, Feb. 15**
- Brown-Bag Lecture, “The Strange Career of Jezebel: Black Women, Representation and Sexuality.” Speaker Dr. Nikki Taylor, University of Cincinnati assistant professor of history. 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Tucker Hall Room 180; 6:30 p.m. in Driscoll Alumni Center Room 1019.
- Night at the Apollo. 7-9 p.m. Rocky’s Attic in the Student Union.
- 16th Annual Art Tatum Memorial Scholarship Concert featuring jazz pianist Scott Gwinnell. 8 p.m. Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall. $5 for students and seniors, $12 for Toledo Jazz Society members, $15 for the public, and $40 for patrons.

**Friday, Feb. 16**
- Toledo’s Untold Stories” and a visit to Toledo’s Legacy Center. 11 a.m.-noon at the Office of Multicultural Student Services Gallery (Student Union Room 2500). 12:30-2 p.m. at the Legacy Center. Bus provided to Legacy Center.

**Saturday, Feb. 17**
- Bus Trip to National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. 8 a.m. departure. 8 p.m. return. $7 per person. Register in the African-American Student Enrichment Initiatives Office (Student Union Room 1531) or in the Office of Multicultural Student Services (Student Union Room 2500).

**Monday, Feb. 19**
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Benefit Dinner. Speaker Dr. Alvin Poussaint, director of the Media Center of the Judge Baker Children’s Center in Boston and professor of psychiatry and faculty associate dean for student affairs at Harvard Medical School. 7-10 p.m. Student Union Auditorium. $30 for students and $60 for all other attendees.

**Tuesday, Feb. 20**
- Dr. Lancelot Thompson Achievement Program. 6:30 p.m. Student Union Auditorium.

**Wednesday, Feb. 21**
- Black Student Union Meeting. “Tribute to Black Music.” 7:30 p.m. Student Union Room 2592.

**Thursday, Feb. 22**
- Brown-Bag Lecture, “Harriet Tubman: A Life of Courage and Determination; A Portrayal.” Speaker Joyce Brown of the Toledo branch of the American Association of University Women. 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Tucker Hall Room 180.

**Friday, Feb. 23**
- Multicultural Jeopardy on Black History. Noon-1 p.m. Student Union South Lounge.
- “Blues All Around Me.” 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m. photography show. 3-4 p.m. lecture. 7-9 p.m. performance by David “Honeyboy” Edwards. Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall.

**Saturday, Feb. 24**
- Gospel Extravaganza. 7:30 p.m. Ottawa House Cafeteria.

**Monday, Feb. 26**
- “History Is a People’s Memory.” Speaker Kevin Powell, author of Who’s Gonna Take the Weight? Manhood, Race and Power in America. 7 p.m. Student Union Auditorium.

For more information, call the UT Office of Multicultural Student Services at 419.530.2261.

Don’t forget to bookmark
http://myut.utoledo.edu and http://calendar.utoledo.edu

The artwork for the Black History Month calendar was created by Nate Austin, a freshman in the Judith Herb College of Education majoring in multi-age education with a concentration in visual arts.