

University major player in \$11.8 million award to stimulate new technology businesses, jobs

By Jim Winkler

Where will the next generation of Toledo entrepreneurs come from?

It may be from the Main Campus of The University of Toledo, which is part of a 20-member consortium of corporations, universities and colleges, economic development organizations and pre-seed venture firms headed by the Regional Growth Partnership (RGP) that has received a three-year, \$11.8 million grant from the state's Entrepreneurial Signature Program to support technology-based entrepreneurship and business growth in 18 northwest Ohio counties.

The program, which will identify and support entrepreneurs who need professional expertise and funding to launch their businesses, is aimed at nurturing an environment for young businesses and at significantly increasing efforts to commercialize technology-based products and services, according to Dr. Frank J.

Calzonetti, UT vice president for research development, who briefed UT trustees about the program at their January meeting.

Some \$6 million will be used to capitalize a pre-seed fund, investing in 32 to 38 companies, primarily focused in the signature areas of advanced materials and agbiosciences, and \$5.8 for entrepreneurial services. So-called "pre-seed" funds help early-stage startup firms that need to test a product for a market and need assistance to get the product to market. Without pre-seed money, these companies might fail instead of grow.

Another \$5.9 million was provided by businesses, organizations and universities as a match to the state money. They included UT, Bostleman Corp., Brooks Insurance Agency Inc., Carson Associates Inc., Bowling Green State University, Fifth Third Bank, Hylant Group Inc., KeyBank, Lucas County Improvement Corp., National

continued on p. 3



Photo by Daniel Miller

FUELING UP: Dr. Connie Schall, associate professor of chemical and environmental engineering, left, showed graduate students Indira Samayam, center, and Noureen Faizee how to operate a gas chromatographic instrument used to analyze feed stock and chemicals produced from renewable energy sources, including wood waste, grass and corn stalks.



ALL THAT JAZZ: Bass player Clifford Murphy and pianist Claude Black of The Murphys performed last week at the Black History Month Kick-Off Luncheon on Main Campus. The popular jazz musicians take the stage weekly at Murphy's Place, 151 Water St. UT has several events planned to celebrate Black History Month. To see a calendar, go to www.multicultural.utoledo.edu.



Photos by Daniel Miller

REFLECTIVE WORK: Pianist Claude Black kept his eyes on the keys last week.

Expert to discuss women, science at symposium Feb.15-16

By Krista M. Hayes

The University of Toledo's Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women will host a three-part symposium on women and science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM) titled "Was Eve a Scientist?" Thursday and Friday, Feb. 15-16.

"Was Eve a Scientist?" asked Dr. Patricia Murphy, UT interim director of the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women, pointing to "The Panther (Rodin's Eve)," a painting by UT alumna Leslie Adams. "Eve stands in front of a blackboard with her head bowed. I think the painting expresses the idea that Eve ate from the tree of knowledge and then was punished for it. I believe that the status of women in STEMM is reflective of this cultural and religious myth. That is, women are only 20 percent or less in technology and engineering as students and even less as faculty."

During the symposium, Dr. Claudia Morrissey, an expert in STEMM, will give three 40-minute PowerPoint presentations.

Morrissey is the associate director for the Center for Research on Women and Gender, associate director of the National Center of Excellence in Women's Health, and assistant dean for faculty advancement for the College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago. In 2006, she was awarded a National Science Foundation grant of more than \$3 million for the Women in Science and Engineering System Transformation Initiative.

Her first presentation will be held Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. in Student Union Room 2584 on Main Campus. The title of the presentation is "Women's Leadership in STEMM: A Case Study of the Center for Research on Women and Gender at the Uni-

versity of Illinois at Chicago" and will cover the history and organization of the center.

According to Murphy, Morrissey's presentation will be followed by a panel of discussants that will address the need for women's leadership on STEMM issues at UT using the Center for Research on Women and Gender's model of accomplishment. They also will point out what UT needs to do to get to the level of the organization. Discussants will include Murphy, Dr. Charlene Czerniak, UT professor and director for the Office of Research Partnership, and Dr. Jamie Barlowe, UT professor and interim chair of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies.

A continental breakfast will be served Friday at 9:30 a.m. in Nitschke Hall on Main Campus to kick off the second part of the symposium. The breakfast is sponsored by the UT College of Engineering.

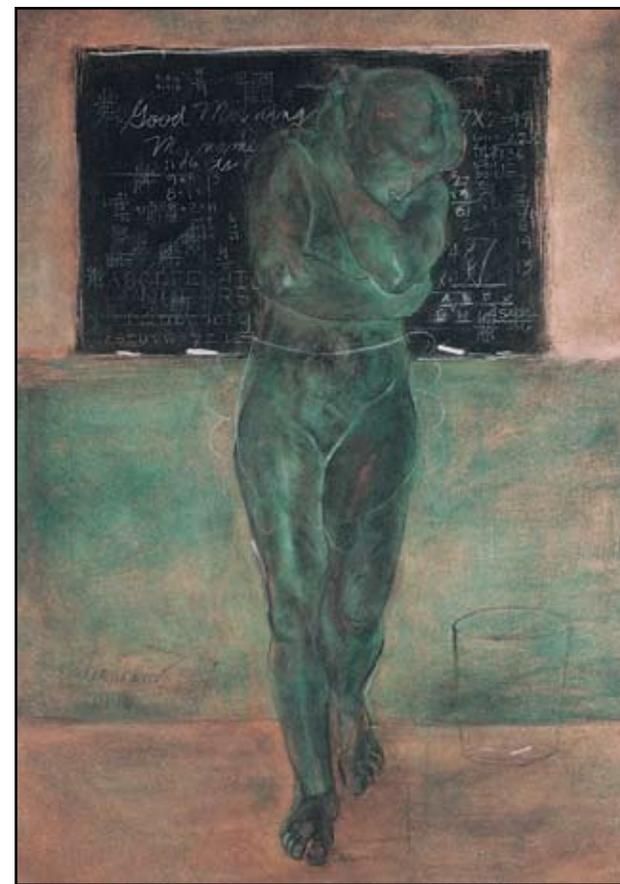
The second presentation titled "Women's Academic Careers in STEMM: A Case Study of the \$5,298,736 for Women in Science and Engineering and for Nurturing Diversity from the National Science Foundation" will be presented by Morrissey from 10 a.m. to noon in the Nitschke Hall Auditorium. A panel discussion will follow with Dr. Karen Bjorkman, UT professor of astronomy; Dr. Maria Coleman, UT associate professor of chemical and environmental engineering; and Dr. Beth Schlemper, UT instructor of geography.

The final presentation of the day, "Women in the Health Professions: A Case Study of the National Center for Excellence in Women's Health and Women's Leadership in Academic Medicine," will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. in Health Education Build-

ing Room 103 on the Health Science Campus. A panel discussion will follow with Dr. Carrie Lee, UT director for the Department of Primary Care; Dr. Gretchen E. Tietjen, UT professor and chair for the Department of Neurology; and Dr. Barbaranne Benjamin, UT professor and associate dean for the College of Health Science and Human Service.

"The symposium is of critical importance as UT moves toward a STEMM focus," Murphy said. "To be truly successful, the issues of full participation of women students, staff and faculty will have to be addressed. Otherwise, women's wages and status will continue their current backward slide."

For more information on the free, public events, contact Murphy at 419.530.8574 or at patricia.murphy2@utoledo.edu.



"The Panther (Rodin's Eve)" by Leslie Adams

FEB. 7 CAMPUS TOWN HALL CANCELED

The next Campus Town Hall Meeting
will be Thursday, March 1
Student Union Ingman Room
Main Campus
Note time change: 6 p.m.

WORKING FROM HOME:

Dr. Lloyd Jacobs, right, talked with Daniel Morissette, senior vice president for finance and strategy, last week at the Levis House, the presidential residence on West Bancroft Street. The UT president broke his ankle in several places Jan. 28 while at his Michigan farm when he slipped on some ice. He is slated for surgery at the UT Medical Center today to have screws inserted to stabilize the fractures. Jacobs said he plans to work, with most meetings at the Levis House during his recuperation.



Photo by Jack Meade

UTNEWS

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Influential African-American cultural commentator to speak at Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Benefit Dinner

By Jon Strunk

A script consultant who worked to eliminate stereotypes and screen out inappropriate humor in programs such as “The Cosby Show” and several children’s shows on Nickelodeon will provide the keynote address at UT’s 2007 Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Benefit Dinner Monday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Auditorium on Main Campus.



Poussaint

Dr. Alvin Poussaint, professor of psychiatry and faculty associate dean for students at Harvard Medical School, will discuss “Breaking Down Segregation and Disparities in Health Care: A Life and Death Issue.”

A southern field director of the Medical Committee for Human Rights during the civil rights movement, he has authored several books on topics ranging from parenting to crime to mental health in the African-American community.

Additionally, a raffle drawing will be held Feb. 19 for a 37.5-inch by 29.5-inch watercolor painting of King by Toledo artist Aaron S. Bivens with all proceeds going to the MLK Scholarship fund. Tickets are \$1 or can be purchased in groups of six for \$5 or 12 for \$10 and are available from Feb. 1 through Feb. 16 at:

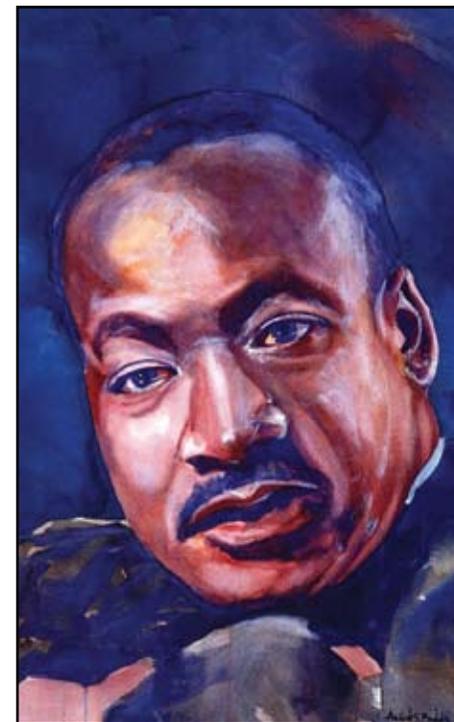
- The Office of Institutional Diversity: University Hall Room 3370 on Main Campus, Mulford Library Room 327 on the Health Science Campus;
- The Office of Multicultural Student Services: Student Union Room 2500 on Main Campus;
- The UT Medical Center Skyview Food Court Atrium from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.;

- UT Bookstore on the Health Science Campus; and
- UT Rocket Copy: Student Union Room 2525 on Main Campus.

During his work with comedian Bill Cosby and through current media consulting efforts, Poussaint attempts not only to screen out stereotypes, but also to create positive images of blacks and expand the cultural context represented by the shows.

Poussaint is a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, a member of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

For more information on the dinner or raffle, contact Sandra Rivers, manager of diversity programs in UT’s Office of Institutional Diversity, at 419.383.3609 or 419.530.2508, or Ella Armstead, executive secretary in UT’s Office of Multicultural Student Services, at 419.530.2261.



Painting by Aaron Bivens

UT major player

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City Bank, Ohio/Michigan chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association, Regional Growth Partnership, Sky Bank and White Family Investment Co. In addition, a number of organizations, including UT, will provide in-kind contributions to support the project.

To deliver services under the program, the RGP, which was the lead applicant for the grant, will create an organization, Rocket Ventures, whose sole function will be to carry out the plan. Rocket Ventures will provide an average of 200 pro-bono hours of management and entrepreneurial services to each of its portfolio companies along with investments of \$50,000 to \$600,000 per company through the pre-seed fund.

The emphasis will be on two sectors in which the region has core strength and expertise — advanced materials focusing on advanced films and coatings for photovoltaics, and conversion of biomass — organic materials such as wood chips — to alternative energy fuels.

Over the next three years, the project aims to:

- Create and expand 100 pre-seed companies that focus on biomass conversion and advanced materials, and create 150 “high-value” jobs;
- Generate \$4.2 million in new investments

from the fund and \$2 million in investments from other sources;

- Place entrepreneurs-in-residence in 25 companies;
- Evaluate “raw-deal” flow of 900 companies for potential investments;
- Invest in 32 to 38 companies selected by the RGP; and
- Assist in 30 patent applications and 10 federal or state grant proposals.

Calzonetti noted that UT played a major role in the project by assisting in writing the proposal, providing \$150,000 in cash matching funds, and pledging support of its research and technology transfer staff, incubation facilities, the College of Business Administration for business services and entrepreneurship, the College of Law for intellectual property and other business-support assistance, the colleges of Engineering and Medicine to evaluate technologies, and support from the Science and Technology Corridor.

UT benefits from the award, he said, because it supports development of promising UT technology that could lead to license agreements or support new companies that bring royalty income to the University. It also creates technology-based jobs to retain UT graduates in the region and additional opportunities for faculty and

students from the colleges of Business and Law interested in advancing entrepreneurial companies. New technology-related companies could do collaborative research with faculty members.

Other Signature Program grant collaborators were Bowling Green State

University, Owens Corning, Savage Consulting, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and Pilkington North America.

“UT was a major partner in the development of the proposal and will need to be a major partner if the project is to be successful,” Calzonetti said.

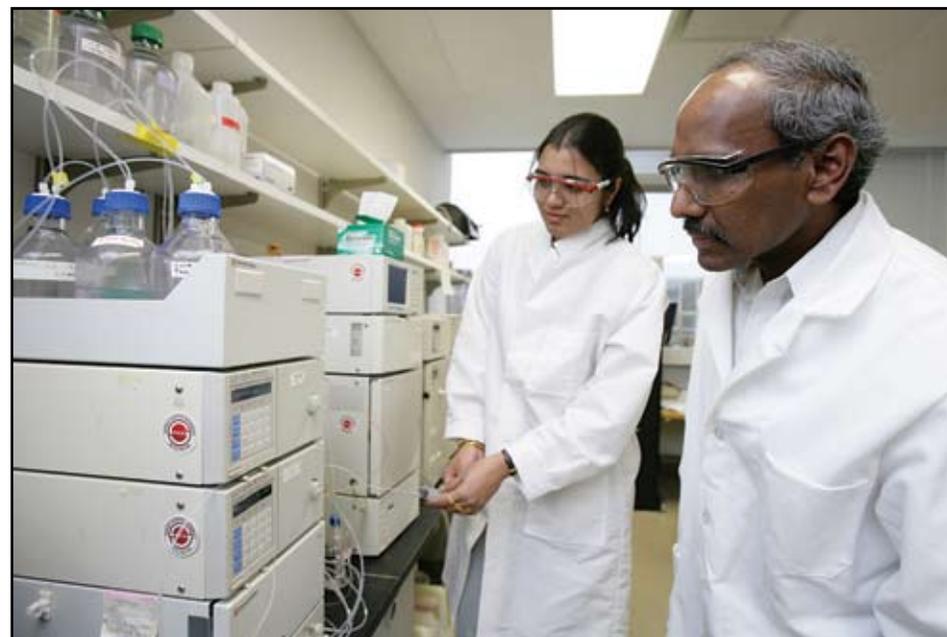


Photo by Daniel Miller

IN THE LAB: Dr. Sasidhar Varanasi, professor of chemical and environmental engineering, right, and doctoral student Kripa Rao work with a high-performance liquid chromatography instrument to check byproducts produced from renewable energy sources.



Photo by Daniel Miller

SO LONG: Bill Marsh, director of operations and desktop support in Educational and Information Technology, posed for a photo with his wife, Dianna, at his retirement party last week. During his 26 years at UT, he held several titles — operations supervisor; operations manager; assistant director of operations; director of computer services support; director of computer operations. "I'll miss working with the faculty, staff and students. They are the justification of our jobs," Marsh said. "I'm looking forward to enjoying the children, grandchildren, life in general, and most of all Dianna, my loving wife of 46 years."



Photo by Daniel Miller

LOVELY DAY: The snow last week produced picturesque scenes, including this one on Main Campus. If winter weather becomes severe, call 419.530.SNOW (7669) to find out if the University is open. The UT Medical Center never closes; it continues to provide medical services.

HEART HEALTHY IN AMERICA — WHY IT MATTERS

DR. JEFFREY GOLD, PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VP FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS AND DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

THURSDAY, FEB. 8
Noon
Dowling Hall Room 2315

RSVP for lunch to **Bianna Russell** at 419.383.3000 or bianna.russell@utoledo.edu.

In memoriam

Eddie D. Butler, Toledo, who attended University College from 2003 to 2006, died Jan. 29 at age 30.

Cornelia M. Collier, Toledo, who worked as a secretary in the Pediatrics Department at the former MCO in 1999, died Jan. 29 at age 66. She also was a medical transcriber at MUO.

Timothy Conklin, Holland, Ohio, a senior in the College of Business Administration, died Jan. 27 at age 22 as a result of injuries from a car accident.

David E. Machcinski, a custodial worker on the Health Science Campus, died Jan. 26 at age 64. He joined the staff at the former MCO in 1992.

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