Life follows from UT graduate’s death, inspires father’s mission to support organ donations

By Cynthia Nowak

C arl Hunlock is a man on a mission. Multiple missions, in fact, all of them related to the tragic death of his 22-year-old son, Kyle — a 2006 graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences — and a choice Kyle made.

Kyle, who last June was involved in a work-related accident that left him brain-dead, had decided while still in high school to be a multiple organ donor. Thus, his wife and other family who gathered round him in the hospital knew what he wanted to happen; eight organs were harvested and donated. Within hours, Kyle’s heart was beating in the chest of a man who had been given three months to live.

Jack Hunt is a 59-year-old husband, father and grandfather, a U.S. Air Force veteran who always considered himself “fairly lucky,” but until Kyle’s decision gave him another shot at life, his luck — and options — had run out. Heart medications, surgery and a pacemaker failed to stop the organ deterioration caused by cardiomyopathy. Once Kyle’s heart was transplanted into his body, Jack rallied dramatically, sitting up in bed and eating only 12 hours after the surgery. On the 1-to-100 viability scale that cardiologists use to predict transplant success, Jack scored a 96.

His gratitude led him to seek out Kyle’s parents, Carl and Dianna, who told him about the young man whose heart Jack was carrying. “In high school, Kyle was homecoming king,” Carl said. “In his junior year, he played the Cowardly Lion in the school production of ‘The Wizard of Oz.’ He was active in youth ministry. That pretty much sums up Kyle: courage, leadership and faith.”

Adventurous, too. While at UT, Kyle traveled to the University of Hertfordshire in England as an exchange student. Active in sports, Kyle made inquiries about Hertfordshire’s football team (British American variety), the Hurricanes. “He was a great ambassador for our country,” his father recalled. “Even though he and his teammates didn’t agree on politics — Kyle supported George Bush — they all loved him.”

In fact, Kyle — voted Most Valuable Player for the Hurricanes’ 2004-05 season — didn’t walk at his UT graduation because he was visiting his friends in England. He and his then-fiancée, Kara Wierman (a 2006 UT College of Pharmacy graduate now working on her doctorate), returned the following year to participate in a marriage blessing ceremony for the friends who wouldn’t be able to travel to Ohio for their August 2005 wedding. Kara was in England visiting their friends at press time.

Now almost 10 months after Kyle’s death, Carl said of his plan to meet all Kyle’s organ recipients, “I’m wearing a mantle my son wore — to connect with and help others. The thing is, Kyle set the bar very high.”

There’s a more immediate mission, too. Jack Hunt is participating in a 10K walk Sunday, March 25, in Cincinnati to raise funds for the American Heart Association. Carl hopes to sign up as many walkers and donors as he can for Jack’s team, Kyle’s Heart. “This is about Kyle, but it’s more about Jack and others like him,” said Carl, who hopes to raise $30,000 in honor of his son. As a result of Kyle’s decision, Carl hopes to sign up as many walkers and donors as he can for Jack’s team, Kyle’s Heart. This week announced his selection of Dr. Rosemary Haggett, acting director of the Division of Graduate Education and senior adviser of the education and human resources directorate at the National Science Foundation, as the next Main Campus provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

The decision requires ultimate approval by the University’s Board of Trustees.

“He brings a wealth of experience that I believe will be invaluable as we move this University forward in our pursuit of excellence,” Jacobs said. “Her background is exemplary, and her enthusiasm for this institution’s direction is palpable.”

Haggett has been with the National Science Foundation in various roles since 2003 and holds the rank of professor of animal and veterinary sciences at West Virginia University. She spent four years as associate provost for academic programs at WVU, where she also served as dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences from 1994 to 1999.

After earning an undergraduate degree in biology from the University of Bridgeport in 1974, Haggett went on to earn her Ph.D. in physiology from the University of Virginia in 1979. She conducted post-doctoral work in reproductive biology at Northwestern University. Her complete CV is available online at http://utoledo.edu/offices/president/docs/haggett.pdf.

“The position represents a tremendous opportunity by any measure,” Haggett said. “I’m highly optimistic that we will be able to come to an agreement that will formalize this exciting new relationship.”

Jacobs and Haggett will negotiate a contract that will require approval by the Board of Trustees before being finalized. That process is under way.

“With our new strategic directions and a new provost, The University of Toledo is poised to take excellence to a new level,” Jacobs said. “I believe Dr. Rosemary Haggett will be a tremendous asset to this institution in the years to come.”

Campus Town Hall with President Lloyd Jacobs

Thursday, March 22
6 p.m.
Scott Park Auditorium on the Scott Park Campus

Questions can be sent to townhallquestions@utoledo.edu
Medical Student Match Day serves as reminder of state of area health care

By Jon Strunk

Fourth-year medical students at The University of Toledo and throughout the United States are anxiously awaiting Thursday, March 15. The day is known as Match Day, an annual event when medical students around the country simultaneously learn where they will train during their medical residencies, also known as graduate medical education.

UT students will gather beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the Stranahan Theater Great Hall, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd. Match results will be revealed promptly at noon during a formal envelope-opening ceremony.

“For many students, finding out where they match is the most important event since finding out where they would be attending medical school,” said Dr. Jeffrey Gold, provost and executive vice president for health affairs and dean of the College of Medicine.

Those students have spent months interviewing at hospitals across the country, searching for the ideal place to continue their education and ultimately to practice their chosen specialty. They ranked their top choices, and the hospitals ranked their top student choices. Then a computer program administered by the National Resident Matching Program matched the students and hospitals together. The first nationwide match was held in 1952.

“With a history of matches at many of the most prestigious hospitals across the nation, our students’ successes also highlight the growing challenges facing health care in northwest Ohio,” Gold said.

“By a large majority, physicians tend to practice medicine in the area where they complete their residency,” he said. “Our community needs to reshape the way we administer graduate medical education or we will find ourselves increasingly traveling to Cleveland, Ann Arbor or Columbus for health care Toledo physicians should be able to provide for the city’s own residents.

“We are facing a near-crisis level physician shortage over the next five years,” Gold said.

As an example, Gold cited the fact that across northwest Ohio, medical educational facilities offer new doctors resident training in approximately 20 of the 86 approved medical specialty programs. In Columbus, nearly all of the programs are available for resident education.

Life follows

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Jack’s courage for entering the marathon so soon after surgery. Pledges can be made by visiting http://heartwalk.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=182723&lis=1 and clicking on the teams link.

Carl also is working to raise public awareness of Life Connection of Ohio, a nonprofit agency federally designated as an Organ Procurement Organization. “People should know about their no-borders policy for those who need donated organs,” he said. “Donations can come from all over the country.”

Given the demanding agenda Carl has set for himself, he admits he needs some courage to meet it. He gets a daily reminder from the time Kyle visited a tattoo parlor in England and came out with a lion’s head over his heart. “I was not happy — in fact, I was upset about it,” Carl said. However, when he and his family attended the Hertfordshire tribute to Kyle, Carl hunted down the same tattoo shop. Over his heart he now wears a lion’s head.

AVI loses trans fat in kitchens

Due to health risks and a desire to step up quality, AVI Foodsystems Inc. has completely eliminated the use of oils that contain trans fat.

“We now use canola oil to fry foods because it is an overall healthier product,” said Rosalyn Emerson, marketing manager for AVI Foodsystems Inc. “We are dedicated to the wellness and development of the students, faculty and staff, and this was AVI’s way of taking the quality to the next level.”

The corporate decision to discontinue the use of oils containing trans fat was put into operation in January at the beginning of spring semester.

“It’s always exciting to implement new ways we can improve our students’ health, and eliminating trans fat will provide a healthier environment for students,” said Dr. Kaye Patten Wallace, vice president of student affairs. “In my opinion, we are moving in the right direction of what needs to be done to improve health nationally.”

“Our motto is ‘AVI Fresh,’ and eliminating trans fat is just another way we can live up to this statement,” Emerson said. “The slight increase in cost to use canola oil is nothing compared to the health benefits that it brings.”

Eating trans fat has been shown to increase the risk of coronary heart disease. Health officials recommended that people consume as few trans fats as possible; Emerson said AVI eliminated the use of oils that contain trans fat to improve the overall health benefits of the food.

For more information, contact Emerson at 419.530.8467.
Dolls needed to help patients with Alzheimer’s disease

By Stacy Moeller

Most people think baby dolls are just for kids, but they have been proven to be very effective and beneficial to people living with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia.

The Geriatric Psychiatry Center is looking for soft/plush baby dolls in good condition for its patient population. Cabbage Patch or realistic baby dolls are preferred.

“We see many patients on our unit with varying degrees of dementia. Many of our patients enjoy holding and caring for the dolls,” said Andrea McKenna, program director. “We use the dolls to help decrease agitation and to offer an object for attention or comfort.”

According to recent studies, a doll can calm an agitated patient with Alzheimer’s disease. It may appear to be a simple doll, but it can serve a myriad of purposes.

For some, the baby dolls take them back to a time they were parents, caring for a child. This may provide an opportunity to communicate and reminisce with staff or other patients. For others, it may be simply a way of coping with the disease and the many frustrations it imposes.

“We had one patient in particular who formed an attachment to one of our dolls. The staff felt it best to allow the doll to accompany the patient on discharge from our unit,” McKenna said. “The doll now resides with the patient in one of the area’s nursing homes. We hoped that the bond she appeared to establish with the doll aids the patient in her transition to the nursing home.”

If you have a doll to donate or would like more information, contact McKenna at 419.383.6694.

In memoriam

Colleen B. Anderson, Woodville, Ohio, a custodian at UT from 1977 until her retirement in 1988, died March 7 at age 84.
Sitting Bull’s great-grandson to talk at UT, share heritage

By Stacy Moeller

Guest speaker Ernie LaPointe, great-grandson of the legendary Lakota (Sioux) leader Sitting Bull, will speak at The University of Toledo Wednesday, March 28, at 7 p.m. in Snyder Memorial Building Room 2110 on Main Campus.

As the direct descendent of Sitting Bull, LaPointe is heir to a rich family history, passed on in the oral tradition of the Lakota. His talk will focus on correcting the historical record regarding his famous ancestor, as well as giving new insight into the man, his times, and the significant role he played in American history from the Battle of the Little Bighorn to the Wounded Knee Massacre.

“LaPointe is a strong advocate of intercultural understanding,” said Dr. Lani Van Eck, UT visiting assistant professor of anthropology. “Anyone who wishes to know more about the history of this country and about Native America, past and present, will find this event both enjoyable and enlightening.”

The free, public presentation is sponsored by the American Indian Student Council, the Anthropology Society, the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, the Department of English, the Department of Political Science, and the Department of Geography and Planning.

For more information, contact Van Eck at 419.530.4395 or at Lani.VanEck@utoledo.edu.

Concert to feature works by jazz bassist and composer

By Vicki L. Kroll

Saxophonist Gunnar Mossblad recorded a disc titled Bebop Process Excellence, Volume 2: Tribute to Charles Mingus last year with legendary jazz drummer Jimmy Cobb, who recorded with Miles Davis on Kind of Blue.

“My project concept was to put an all-star group together featuring several bass players paying homage to other great bass players from jazz history,” said Mossblad, UT professor of music. “The soon-to-be-released recording was so successful that I thought it would make a great presentation for one of our Jazz Master Series concerts, especially with these three great bass players — Marion Hayden, Jeff Halsey and UT’s own Norm Damschroder.”

“A Tribute to Charles Mingus” will take place Wednesday, March 14, at 8 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall on Main Campus. Tickets are $5 and $3 for students and seniors.

Mingus was a bass player and composer known for fusing elements of jazz, classical and gospel. As a bandleader, he focused on collective improvisation, noting how each musician interacted with the group. He recorded more than 100 albums and wrote over 300 scores. In 1997, Mingus was honored with the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

“He is a great composer and bass player,” Mossblad said of Mingus. “He had a very unique sound to both his music and his playing, a very personal sound that is based in the blues tradition.”

Three bass players will perform during the concert with the UT Jazz Ensemble, which is directed by Mossblad.

Damschroder, UT lecturer in the Music Department, will play “Haitian Fight Song.” He has performed with Rosemary Clooney, Barry Harris, Jon Hendricks, Michael Feinstein and Sandi Patty. He is a member of the Toledo Symphony Jazz Trio.

Halsey, professor of music at Bowling Green State University, will perform “Jelly Roll.” He has toured the United States, Europe and Africa, and has played with Tommy Flanagan, Dizzy Gillespie, Arturo Sandoval and J.C. Heard.

Hayden, adjunct assistant professor of jazz bass and improvisation studies at the University of Michigan, will play “Goodbye Pork Pie Hat.” A co-founder of the jazz group Straight Ahead, she is touring with Free Radicals, an ensemble led by saxophonist/composer Donald Walden.

The three bassists will take the stage together for “Self-Portrait in Three Colors” and “Boogie Stop Shuffle,” as well as a few impromptu interludes.

For more information on the performance that is part of the UT Jazz Master Series, call the Music Department at 419.530.2448 or e-mail jazz@utoledo.edu.

STEMM ONLINE: Presentations by Dr. Claudia Morrissey, an expert on women and science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM), can be viewed on the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women’s Web page at www.womenscenter.utoledo.edu. Morrissey was the guest speaker last month at a three-part symposium on women and STEMM titled “Was Eve a Scientist?” She 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.