Surgeon, UM president tapped as speakers for UT commencement May 6

Dr. Sayed Amjad Hussain, a Toledo thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon, and Dr. Mary Sue Coleman, president of the University of Michigan, will deliver addresses at UT’s commencement ceremonies Sunday, May 6, in Savage Hall on Main Campus.

Hussain will speak at 9:30 a.m. for the colleges of Business Administration, Health Science and Human Service, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy. Coleman will speak at 2:30 p.m. for the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Education, Engineering and University College.

There are 2,807 UT candidates for degrees, including those who will finish classes in August, from nine colleges. There are 737 candidates for doctoral, education specialist and master’s degrees, and 2,070 for bachelor’s and associate degrees.

Robert Bell, president and CEO of the Toledo Symphony, will receive an honorary doctor of music degree in recognition of his exceptional achievements during his 50-year association with the symphony. Bell taught music classes at UT for more than 20 years while he was principal timpanist with the orchestra. He held a variety of administrative positions for more than four decades and was named president and CEO in 1997. Since that time, the quality of symphony programming has continued to develop, driving increases in concert ticket sales and contributed income. He also led a successful $14 million endowment capitalization effort.

Hussain is professor emeritus of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at the UT College of Medicine. He has published more than 50 papers in American and international medical journals and given nearly 80 lectures. In addition, he writes an opinion column for The Blade.

Since 1976, Hussain has returned to Pakistan annually to teach at his alma mater, Khyber Medical College at the University of Peshawar. He has been a visiting professor at the Post-Graduate Medical Institute in Peshawar, the King Edward Medical College in Lahore, Benghazi University in Libya, the University of Kentucky and the Government Medical College in Amirsar, India.

He is on the governing board of WGTE Public Broadcasting and has served as president of the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo, the Association of Pakistani Physicians of North America, the Toledo Surgical Society and the Academy of Medicine of Toledo and Lucas County.

Coleman became the first woman named president of the University of Michigan in 2002. She has led the university’s $2.5 billion capital campaign and helped to establish partnerships between UM and institutions in China and Japan. She also fostered collaboration with Google to put UM library’s seven million volumes online.

Prior to her presidential post in Ann Arbor, Coleman held administrative positions at the University of Kentucky, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of New Mexico and the University of Iowa, where she served as president for seven years.

She is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She has served on the boards of the American Council on Education, the NCAAD and the Association of American Universities.

The UT College of Law will hold its commencement Saturday, May 5, at 10 a.m. in the Student Union Auditorium on Main Campus, and the UT College of Medicine will hold its commencement Friday, June 1, at 2:30 p.m. in Stranahan Theater.

Main Campus Senate approves draft constitution

A document that could lead to the ultimate merger of the faculty senates from the Main and Health Science campuses took a significant step forward April 24, as Main Campus senators voted in favor of a new constitution by a vote of 35-6.

Balloting on the draft constitution is now under way by the full Main Campus faculty, with voting ending May 18. The constitution requires a two-thirds majority of ballots cast for passage.

The Health Science Campus Faculty Senate will hold a special meeting regarding the constitution May 1. If approved there, voting by the Health Science Campus faculty would be expected shortly thereafter.

Pointing out that the document resulted from a large amount of “compromise” on the part of faculty from both campuses, Barbara Floyd, a member of the constitutional writing team, director of the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections, university archivist and professor of library administration, told the senate prior to voting, “It is the best document that could be drafted that would allow us to have one senate and one constitution.”

“I believe very deeply in the constitution that has been presented to you today,” said Dr. Bernie Bopp, member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, and professor of astronomy.

In comments prior to the constitutional discussion, Dr. Lloyd Jacobs, president, encouraged a positive vote, telling the Senate, “I urge passage of this constitution.”

Prior to its approval, senators debated portions of the document, including the total

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Alumnus to speak at law commencement May 5

Joseph W. Bauer, vice president and general counsel of the Lubrizol Corp., will return to his alma mater to address UT College of Law graduates Saturday, May 5, at 10 a.m. in the Student Union Auditorium on Main Campus.

There are 129 candidates for law degrees this spring and summer.

Bauer received bachelor of arts and law degrees from UT in 1975 and 1981, and then practiced with Jones, Day in Cleveland.

In 1985, Bauer joined Lubrizol, the largest manufacturer of chemical additives for lubricants and fuels used in vehicles and industry and a leading producer of ingredients used in personal care products, plastic plumbing, paints and specialty plastics. Headquartered near Cleveland, the company has 7,000 employees and makes products in 20 countries. It is among the Fortune 500; revenues in 2006 exceeded $4 billion.

The Toledo native managed the company’s litigation matters and was named general counsel in 1991 and elected an officer in 1992. Since then, Bauer has been responsible for legal affairs and health of Lubrizol and its wholly owned subsidiaries and affiliates around the world. He is a member of the executive committee of the company’s management and is the principal legal adviser to the CEO and the board of directors.

RSVP for Center for Diabetes and Endocrine Research opening reception

A reception to celebrate the completion of the Center for Diabetes and Endocrine Research (CeDER) will take place Tuesday, May 15, at 4 p.m. in the main lobby of the Block Health Science Building on the Health Science Campus.

Dr. Sonia Najjar, professor of physiology, pharmacology, metabolism and cardiovascular diseases and director of the Molecular Basis of Disease Program, will say a few words about the new center, and Dr. Jeffrey Gold, provost and executive vice president for health affairs and dean of the College of Medicine, also will speak. Students will give tours of the center and talk about their research, as well as answer questions.

CeDER received equipment from the previous research lab, and there are three main areas: the laboratory, animal room, and the offices of Najjar and Lisa Akeman, administrative assistant.

RSVPs are requested by Tuesday, May 8, to Akeman at 419.383.4183 or elizabeth.akeman@utoledo.edu.

Human research, oversight vital to University work

By Matt Lockwood

Scholars at The University of Toledo have been conducting groundbreaking biomedical and behavioral research with human subjects for decades, and thanks to the merger, those research efforts will undoubtedly continue to expand.

Despite the important questions human research can help answer, the top priority is protecting human subjects. Therefore, the University has created the Department for Human Research Protections to serve as a resource to investigators and the University’s two Institutional Review Boards (IRB).

“Through the merger we have been able to consolidate resources and create this department to ensure we’re dotting our I’s and crossing our T’s,” said Dr. Doug Wilkerson, vice president for research administration. “The goal is to better protect human subjects, while still maintaining an efficient research enterprise.”

The department’s director of operations is Carolyn Pinkston, and its director of regulatory compliance is Samara Wisniewski.

“As more people learn about our efforts to enhance the system, we’ve been able to impact the process in a positive way,” Pinkston said. “The response from students, investigators and research staff has been very gratifying.”

Prior to any research involving humans, approval must be granted from one of the University IRBs. Depending on the type of research being conducted, either the Biomedical IRB or the Social, Behavioral and Educational IRB will review the proposal to ensure it includes the necessary oversight and safeguards.

“The Department for Human Research Protections and the IRBs are not barriers to research,” said Dr. Roland Skeel, chair of the Biomedical IRB. “They are user-friendly and facilitators of good, ethical research.”

Still, because of the merger, some people may be unclear about the roles of the IRBs.

“I’d like to emphasize that the IRBs are not divided by campuses, but by research area,” Wilkerson said. “However, the same federal rules apply to both campuses, and those rules have not changed much in 20 years.”

IRBs are federally mandated bodies required by any organization that does research with human subjects. Each board must have at least five members, including at least one community member and one non-scientific member.

“If somebody is unsure whether the project they are planning fits under the definition of human subjects research, the department office or one of the UT IRBs can help advise them. I encourage them to...
UT employee named Social Worker of the Year

Connie Eppstein, who works in the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Geriatric Center, recently was named Social Worker of the Year for northwest Ohio by the National Association of Social Workers.

Eppstein was presented the award at a ceremony at Toledo Hospital in the Croxton House after being nominated by her peers. “This award means a great deal to me,” Eppstein said. “I have put years into my career and for those years to be acknowledged is very fulfilling.”

Eppstein graduated from UT in 1975 with a bachelor of science degree with a specialty in social welfare service and started her social work career with the Lucas County Children’s Services Board. Six years later, she attended the University of Michigan to earn her master’s degree in social work. She then joined the social workers at the former MCO, working in Kobacker Child and Adolescent Psychiatry School, Coghill Rehabilitation Hospital and for the majority of her last 20 years at UT Medical Center, where she has been working in the Geriatric Center, a primary-care office and consultative service for older adults.

That adds up to more than 30 years of social work experience in the Toledo area.

In addition to her workload, Eppstein has facilitated an Alzheimer’s support group for more than 15 years, and in the past served as a board member for the Alzheimer’s Association northwest Ohio chapter. “Currently my full-time employment is split between Kobacker Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital and the Geriatric Center,” Eppstein said. “At Kobacker Center, I am a family therapist and work with a wonderful group of social workers who are very devoted to a very high standard of care for the children and their families.”

Eppstein also has been a field supervisor for social work students, varying in levels of education from associate’s degree to master’s degree, including students from UT, the University of Michigan, Case Western Reserve, Ohio State, Lourdes College, Bowling Green State University and Eastern Michigan.

“I feel very proud of the job all of the social workers at UTMC do, and I wish they could be acknowledged in the same manner,” Eppstein said. “It takes dedication and commitment, and all of us here at UTMC and many others in the community do a terrific job.

“My family has witnessed my job satisfaction along with the challenges,” she added. “Proudly, one of my daughters plans to pursue a career in social work, and I am hopeful she will experience the same satisfaction and rewards social work can offer.”

UT social worker receives Outstanding Service Award

Sherry Tripepi, a social worker for UT’s Counseling Center, recently received an Outstanding Service Award for Region One of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Ohio chapter and is eligible for a state Outstanding Service Award this fall.

“I felt very honored to receive the award as there are many individuals who are involved in service to our profession and community,” Tripepi said.

The National Association of Social Workers numbers 150,000 members and is the largest organization of professional social workers in the world. NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social policies.

According to Tripepi, each year the NASW Ohio chapter selects a social worker for the regional Outstanding Service Award. In honoring the recipient, the NASW Ohio chapter recognizes the best social work values and accomplishments demonstrated in the social worker’s NASW activities.

The regional Outstanding Service Award recipient must:
• Be involved in regional and/or state-level NASW activities over a period of years;
• Make a significant contribution to a NASW project during the past year;
• Demonstrate a consistent adherence to the NASW code of ethics;
• Meet all criteria for outstanding service; and
• Be an NASW member in good standing.

“My NASW regional and state activities have included participation in the regional monthly meetings; presentations on clinical considerations when working with gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual clients and body image; and participation in the Political Action for Candidate Election Committee and Lobby Day in Columbus,” Tripepi said. “In addition, my community service includes the Take Back the Night planning collective. I am also an Equality Toledo board member and chair of the UT Social Work Advisory Board.”

UT employees may schedule graduate photos

UT faculty and staff or members of their families who will graduate from the University in May or June can contact the University Communications Office if they wish to have a photo taken and published in UT News. Call Joanne Gray at 419.530.2675 to schedule an appointment by Friday, May 25. Photos will appear in an upcoming issue of the paper.

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 #999, University Communications Office, Vicki Kroll, E-mail: vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu. Fax: 419.530.4618. Phone: 419.530.2248. Mailing address: University Communications Office, The University of Toledo, OH 43606-3390.

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Electricians to hold bowling tournament to raise funds for co-worker with cancer

By Krista M. Hayes

Five electricians at The University of Toledo and their supervisor will help fellow employee Steve Johnson, UT cement mason, in his battle to fight cancer by hosting a “Believe for Steve” bowling tournament fund-raiser Saturday, May 26, at 1 p.m. at Imperial Lanes, 5505 W. Central Ave. in Toledo, to raise money for his family and medical expenses.

Steve Johnson, a husband, father and grandfather, was born and raised in Toledo. He has worked 21 years at the University and is a member and assistant minister at the Literal Life Tabernacle Church in Toledo. He was diagnosed with Aden carcinoma about three months ago, and UT electricians Richard Kaliniak, John “Doc” Janowski, Ron Condon, Glenn Mathiesen and George W. “GW” Hayes Jr., together with their supervisor, Doug Peatee, want to raise money to help him and his family as he battles the disease.

The “Nine Pins is a Strike” singles tournament with a three-game format will use all 60 lanes in the bowling alley. There will be a 100 percent handicap for all participants. If there are no averages among the bowlers, men will receive a 175 average and women will be given a 150 average.

The cost to participate in the public tournament is $20 pre-paid to Imperial Lanes before the event and $25 the day of the event. Advance payment can be made to Imperial Lanes by calling 419.531.5338. Hayes said $6 of the entry fee will go to Imperial Lanes to cover the cost of bowling, and the rest will go to Johnson and his family.

Prizes of $100 will be awarded to male and female bowlers who place first in the age 55 and younger and 55 and older categories.

During the tournament, door prizes will be awarded; these include a bowling ball and coupons for free games donated by Imperial Lanes, and movie tickets. In addition, two to three 50/50 raffles will be held. Raffle tickets can be purchased by contacting the UT electricians at 419.530.1052. “Our goal is to fill the house and raise funds for Steve and his family,” Hayes said. “Steve is a nice guy who always has positive things to say, and all of the UT electricians are like family, we’re like brothers. We like doing things for a cause and we see so much bad and unfortunate events that happen around us. God has blessed us, so we try to bless others.”

“I believe that Jesus Christ is still in the healing business ‘with his stripes we are healed,’ Isaiah 53:5. ‘Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever,’ Hebrews 13:8,” Johnson said. “I am standing on God’s promises.”

Johnson added, “I want to thank the electricians and my fellow UT employees for everything that they’ve done since this situation started.”

For more information on the tournament, contact the UT electricians at 419.530.1062 or Hayes at g.hayes@utoledo.edu.

Draft constitution

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number of senators, as well as proportional representation.

If approved by faculty on both campuses, the document would go to Jacobs for final consideration and submission to the Board of Trustees.

Look for the next issue of UT News May 14

SO LONG: Dr. Elliot Tramer, center, talked with Dr. Max Brown, UT associate professor of geology, left, as Dr. Mike Phillips, professor and chair of environmental sciences, listened. Brown and Phillips were two of many who stopped by Tramer’s recent retirement party. Tramer joined the UT faculty in 1969 as an assistant professor of biology and was promoted to associate professor in 1974 and professor in 1977. In 2000, he moved to the Environmental Sciences Department. Tramer served as director of the Stranahan-Arboretum from 1994 to 2000 and director of the Environmental Studies Program from 1997 to 2000 before it became a department, of which he is associate chair. “I couldn’t imagine going out the door cold turkey; I wanted to continue to have some involvement at UT,” Tramer said. “I’ve arranged to continue next year on a part-time basis as an undergraduate adviser in my department. I’m also working on two books and have a couple research projects ongoing at Oak Openings Metropark.” He also hopes to have more time to spend with his grandchildren and travel with his wife.

ROCK ON: Lead singer and bass player Tyson Ritter of the All-American Rejects invited girls on stage during the band’s April 21 concert in Savage Hall. UT students were asked last semester to vote on which band they would like to perform for the spring concert. About 2,400 tickets were sold for the show, according to Dr. Zauyah Waite, associate vice president for student affairs.