Ash borer forces tree removal, replenishment on Centennial Mall

By Tobin J. Klinger

The battle between the emerald ash borer and UT white ash trees has been raging for several years. Now the institution is taking steps to remove and replenish the trees across Centennial Mall.

According to Diana Ganues, associate vice president for facilities operations, a total of 47 trees will be removed from the mall over three phases, with 61 new trees planted during the project.

“Initially, we treated the trees for the ash borer,” she said. “However, that appears to have simply prolonged the inevitable.”

“There have been a number of trees that have begun to die off, showing signs of the borer,” said Doug Collins, manager of grounds. “We really have no choice but to be proactive in removing the ash trees and starting fresh with new species.”

Under the plan, a variety of trees will be planted in similar but not exact locations.

“While having uniformity among the foliage is attractive,” Ganues said, “it can come back to haunt you if there’s a problem with that particular tree type. That’s some of what we’re experiencing now.”

The effort will occur over the course of fall and spring in 2007, 2008 and 2009, and include the planting of trees such as dynasty lacebark elm, swamp white oak, Serbian spruce, autumn blaze maple, white fir and many others.

“We heard suggestions from a lot of people regarding species that might be attractive,” Collins said. “However, we had to take things into account like the types of fruit that a tree bears and aroma to make sure it was a good fit with life and activities on the mall.”

The Campus Beautification Committee has been involved in the development of the strategy, understanding the importance of Centennial Mall to the UT community, alumni and friends of the University.

“Although we are saddened by the need to remove so many trees, the chance occurrence of a single insect pest will eventually undo the beauty of the mall design if the University does not act,” said Dr. Steven LeBlanc, chair of the beautification committee. “We are working with the administration to ensure that the phased replacement of ash trees over the next few years will enable the mall to retain its beauty, albeit in a more sustainable manner.”

Phase one of the removal and planting is scheduled to begin in the next couple weeks, according to Ganues.

Benefit dinner, silent auction slated to help employee’s grandsons born 13 weeks early

By Vicki L. Kroll

Shelly Cassidy woke up when the phone rang April 22.

“I fully expected a call from my daughter-in-law either saying my son was in the emergency room with a kidney stone or their dog was in labor with puppies,” recalled the public inquiries assistant in the Student Union. “I got a call from Steve, frantic, worried, about 10 that night to come to the hospital, that Laura was in labor and probably would lose the babies.”

After an emergency Caesarean section, Jayden and Regan Cassidy arrived — three months and one week before they were due.

“Both babies went to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) immediately and were on life support,” Shelly said. “A lot of it was normal for such premature babies; younger ones have survived and smaller ones have survived, too.”

Jayden weighed two pounds and four ounces and was 13.5 inches long; Regan was two pounds and six ounces and 14 inches long.

Laura had twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome, a rare condition where identical twins share the same placenta. The result is an unbalanced supply of blood, oxygen and fluids.

“Basically, the recipient twin will take the resources from the donor twin, and one could die from overload — the heart and circulatory system will be overloaded,” Shelly said. “It’s possible Laura being forced into labor saved their lives.”

Jayden and Regan both had heart surgery and remained in NICU. They had difficulty breathing due to their underdeveloped respiratory systems and were on oxygen and ventilators.

“Because they were so tiny and fragile, we could only touch them on a good day, lay a hand on their heads, because stroking was painful to them,” Shelly said.

Regan’s health worsened. He developed inflammation in the sac around his heart. He underwent major stomach surgery to prevent his food from backing up and will have a feeding tube for about one year. After several attempts to remove his oxygen, Regan stopped breathing. An emergency tracheotomy saved him.

“The doctors tried to intubate, but they found his airway had shut down 99 percent so he couldn’t breathe,” Shelly explained. “Next spring when Regan is old enough and big enough, he will go to Cincinnati Children’s Hospital for surgery. The surgeon will take cartilage from his body and form an airway for him, and he should recover.”

“It was some very scary times with continued on p. 3
Making a CASE for UT: Materials net top honors in district competition

By Deanna Woolf

The University of Toledo Office of Marketing received eight awards as part of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) 2007 district competition, the Pride of CASE V Awards.

“CASE is very highly regarded in our field, and this is truly an honor to receive awards for eight out of our 10 entries,” said John Adams, senior director of the University Marketing Office. “We are very proud, and the awards reflect the high caliber and quality of the work being produced in-house at The University of Toledo.”

The categories, awards and pieces are:

• Excellence in Photography, People and Portraits — Gold Award, “Icicles”
• Excellence in Design, Individual Poster — Silver Award, 2006 Shapiro Lecture Series
• Excellence in Design, Miscellaneous — Silver Award, 2007 Maumee Valley Growers Calendar
• Best Alumni/Institution Magazine, 10,000 FTE and up — Bronze Award, Toledo Alumni Magazine
• Best Graphic Identity/Logo — Bronze Award, The University of Toledo Logo
• Best Video PSA or Commercial Spot — Bronze Award, 2006 UT Brand-Building TV Spots (produced with an outside agency)
• Excellence in Design, Individual Poster — Bronze Award, 2006 Art on the Mall
• Excellence in Design, Series — Bronze Award, Individual College View Book Series

Dan Miller, UT photographer, was honored with the Gold Award, the highest honor in the category, for his November 2006 shot of an icicle-making class in the UT Department of Chemistry.

Miller shared how he captured the image. “I love a new piece of gadgetry as much as the next person, so I had originally intended to use our new remote flash triggers to add some dramatic lighting to the scene. After experimenting with flash placement for about 15 minutes, I just wasn’t satisfied with the results I was getting. It was only after standing back, opening my eyes and just observing that I realized the light and shadows created by the three gas flames alone was the most dramatic thing I could ask for. Sometimes simple is better,” he said.

The University of Toledo took home the most Pride of CASE V Awards after the University of Wisconsin and Indiana University systems.

Medical student receives 2007-08 Wallenberg Award for exemplary service

In his interview with Robert Karp, founder and administrator for the UT Raoul Wallenberg Scholar Award, first-year medical student John Paul Pham found himself humbled as he listened to stories, deeds and accomplishments of Wallenberg, a so-called “lost hero of the Holocaust.”

CAPTURING THE MOMENT: First-year medical student John Pham, center, posed for a photo with his parents, Lan, left, and Anh Pham, after he received the UT Raoul Wallenberg Scholar Award and his white coat earlier this semester.

It’s an attitude that says quite a bit about Pham. Even a glance at his resume makes it clear the first-year medical student — alone more than a full-time commitment — either doesn’t sleep or lives 36-hour days.

“John Pham’s identifying with the humanity of these troubled individuals is the essence of Raoul Wallenberg,” Karp said. “John Pham is an exceptional person who will be an exceptional physician.”

Wallenberg, a 33-year-old neutral Swede, undertook a mission at the behest of the U.S. War Refugee Board to go to Budapest in 1944 and saved tens of thousands of Jews by giving them documents that identified them as Swedish nationals. He was arrested by the advancing Soviet Army in January 1945 and was never seen free again.

In 1981, Wallenberg was named an honorary U.S. citizen, a distinction shared only by former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Entries sought: Liveable city essay contest open to students, faculty, staff

What makes Toledo one of the world’s most liveable cities?

Answer that question in 750 words or fewer and you could earn a trip to London.

The Office of the President, in conjunction with University Communications, is sponsoring an essay contest, through which UT will select a representative to join Mayor Carty Finkbeiner and his delegation in London for the United Nations International Awards for Liveable Communities (LivCom) Nov. 22-26. Toledo is one of six finalists in the global competition.

The contest is open to all faculty, staff and students.

“We’re looking for someone who can not only serve as an ambassador for The University of Toledo, but someone who is passionate about our city,” said Lawrence J. Burns, vice president for enrollment services, marketing and communications.

“This is a great community, and we want to help as the mayor and his team let the world know it.”

A team of faculty, staff and students...
UT professor appointed to National Institutes of Health committee

By Alissa Hammond

Dr. Marcia McInerney, professor and chair of medicinal and biological chemistry in the College of Pharmacy, has been appointed to serve on a committee of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

She will be a member of the Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases B Subcommittee of the Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Initial Review Group.

“Members are selected on the basis of their demonstrated expertise and achievement in their scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals, and other significant scientific activities, achievements and honors,” said Dr. Griffin Rodgers, director of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).

Rodgers added that although membership on an initial review group represents a major commitment of professional time, the service also provides a unique opportunity to contribute to the national biomedical research effort.

McInerney has been a professor at UT since 1991 and served as an adjunct faculty member at the former Medical University of Ohio. Her research focuses on diabetes, both Type 1 and Type 2, exploring the role of the immune system, inflammation and immunopathogenesis in the disease process.

As a member of the UT Center for Diabetes and Endocrine Research (CeDER), she collaborates with Dr. Sonia Najjar, director of CeDER and professor of physiology, pharmacology, metabolism and cardiovascular diseases, on a grant supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This grant is investigating how a high-fat diet contributes to the development of Type 2 diabetes in mice.

Since 1992, McInerney has garnered more than $2.2 million in extramural grant funding related to diabetes research from NIH, the American Diabetes Association (ADA), the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), and the Diabetes Action Research and Education Foundation.

“We are quite pleased to see Marcia being tapped for service because it shows recognition for her research contributions and that she is prepared and recognized in her field,” said Dr. Johnnie Early, dean of the UT College of Pharmacy. “Beyond that, her publications and the funding she has won are exceptional and speak greatly for the University.”

McInerney received a Career Development Award from ADA (1993-1996), the Children’s Research Award from the Central Ohio Diabetes Association (1996), an Outstanding University Woman Award from the University Women’s Commission (2005), a UT Outstanding Faculty Research Award (2006) and the College of Pharmacy Dean’s Award for Outstanding Research (2006). She was named a Senior Iacocca Fellow at the Joslin Diabetes Center/Harvard University during her sabbatical leave in 1998-99.

With NIH-NIDDK, McInerney will be reviewing grants for clinician-scientist awards and training grants in diabetes research.

“I am happy to serve on a committee dedicated to training and supporting young investigators who will be utilizing clinical and basic science research methods to forward translational research that will ultimately enhance patient care,” said McInerney, who will remain on the committee through June 2011.

Benefit dinner

continued from p. 1

that, but he’s stable,” she said. “Regan has the trach but doesn’t require oxygen anymore. He does have his feeding tube and gets supplements at night, but he does take a bottle several times a day. He does pretty much what every baby does.

“The doctors are saying that his vocal cords are paralyzed from numerous intubations; they don’t think he’ll speak again. We’re praying. There’ve been so many miracles. We’re hoping after the surgery he’ll be able to speak. He’s defied the odds a million times.”

Jayden has other complications.

“His biggest problem: He’s profoundly hearing impaired,” Shelly said. “It’s not caused by prematurity, but an antibiotic that they give almost all premies and 99.9 percent are fine, but it can cause hearing loss in others. Jayden’s being fitted for hearing aids and we’ll see how that goes.

“But he’s growing and being a baby — he’ll roll over soon, I just know he will,” the first-time grandmother gushed.

Jayden spent two months in the hospital before coming home to Oregon, Ohio, and Regan came home on life support one day before their actual due date, which was July 23. They weighed four pounds when they came home; Jayden now is 14 pounds, Regan 12 pounds.

It helps that their mom is a nurse, and that Steve, who attended UT from 1998 to 2002, learned from hands-on involvement in NICU, Shelly said.

“The only way they sent Regan home was because they were so well-trained. The nursery was basically a hospital room with so much equipment and monitors. It was intimidating, but it’s eased up, there’s less equipment. A nurse comes in for the midnight shift to watch over Regan and the trach so they can get some sleep.”

The young couple has handled everything as well as could be expected.

“They’re 26 years old. The life-threatening decisions they’ve had to make are unbelievable,” Shelly said. “But with God’s grace, you do what you have to do. We’re so proud of them.”

Family and friends of Laura and Steve will hold the Jayden and Regan Cassidy Benefit Saturday, Nov. 3, from 4 to 9 p.m. at the First Alliance Church Fellowship Hall, 2201 Monroe St. Suggested donation for the spaghetti dinner is $10 for adults and $4 for children 4 to 12. There also will be a silent auction. All proceeds will go to the family to help with medical expenses.

Those who wish to make a donation may make checks payable to the Regan and Jayden Cassidy Benefit Fund and drop them off in Student Union Room 2525 on Main Campus, mail stop 114, or call Shelly at 419.530.5202 to pick them up. Deposits to the fund also can be made at Fifth Third Bank.
Two UT faculty members, Deborah Orloff and Barbara Miner, have their work on display at the Flatlanders Art Gallery, 11993 East U.S. 223 in Blissfield, Mich.

The exhibit is called “5 Tough Broads” and showcases works by five independent, talented and empowered women artists.

Orloff, professor of art and director of photography, has been at UT since 1994 as a full-time faculty member. Her primary focus is photography, but she also works in video, mixed media and installation.

Miner, associate professor of art and director of foundations, has been at UT since 1998 and has taught classes in drawing, design, installation and alternative materials.

In Orloff’s works from her “Holzwege” series, she created ambiguous landscapes through the layering of multiple photographs. “These ethereal images include representations of paths, roads and woods that are combined digitally to create surreal, new spaces,” Orloff said. “These invented landscapes symbolize junctures in life when our clarity of purpose is compromised and we must re-examine our aspirations as well as how to pursue them.”

Miner’s works, from the series titled “Offering: In Response to an Interior Landscape,” incorporate wood and found objects such as books. Xerox-transfers are painted, drawn upon and often times stitched together prior to being laminated to wood surfaces. “The materials I have chosen are significant in their own intrinsic, evocative powers. In these pieces, I strive to meld the materials, images, textures and colors into works that will invite reflection and a desire to touch,” Miner said.

“It is rewarding to exhibit work and receive feedback from the public and other artists,” Miner added. “Putting together pieces for an exhibition allows me to look at what I have been working on and to make choices about where I want to go next.” Miner said, “It is important for faculty and staff to get their work both in the city of Toledo and in other areas of the country because we represent the University and it is great for students and others in the arts to see our affiliation and know that we are actively engaged in our artistic careers.” Their work will be displayed, along with art by Meighen Jackson, Norma Penchansky-Glasher and Margo McCafferty, in the free, public exhibit through Sunday, Nov. 11.

Hours in the galleries are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

For more information, call Flatlanders Art Galleries at 517.486.4591 or visit www.flatlandersculpture.com.

Entries sought

will review submissions and announce a winner Friday, Nov. 9. Essays must include the writer’s name and telephone number and be submitted by noon Monday, Nov. 5, to cynthia.nowak@utoledo.edu for consideration.

Entrants should note that a valid passport is required for travel and the trip takes place over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Travel arrangements will be made by the Office of the President, with reimbursement for food based on established per diem rates.

The winning essay will be published in UT News.

For more information, contact Tobin J. Klinger, senior director of university communications, at 419.530.4279.

In memoriam

Willard L. Benjamin, Toledo, a UT employee for two decades, died Oct. 23 at age 80. After working at several newspapers, he joined the University as a public information officer 2 in University Relations in 1968. Four years later, he was named assistant to the vice president in University Development and returned to University Relations in 1973 as public information officer 3. In 1976, Benjamin became publications editor in the renamed Public Information Office. He retired from UT in 1988.

Dr. William K. Bottorff, Toledo, professor emeritus of English, died Oct. 15 at age 76. He joined the faculty of the Department of English in 1968 as associate professor and was promoted to professor in 1973. Starting in 1971, he served as director of the American Studies Program as well as chairing the program’s Faculty Advisory Committee. A much-published creative writer with poems, short stories, novellas and a novel to his credit, he served as academic adviser for undergraduate writing majors and chaired the English Graduate Studies Committee. He retired in 1992.

MOVING ON: Martino Harmon, director of the African-American Student Enrichment Office, received a hug from Jeanne Eastop, who spoke at his farewell reception last week in place of her husband, Richard Eastop, vice president emeritus for enrollment services. Harmon is leaving UT to become dean of enrollment at Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, Mich. From 1996 to 2005, Harmon worked in the Office of Undergraduate Admission and held several titles, including coordinator for campus visit programs, assistant director of multicultural recruitment, associate director of admission and director of freshman admission. He founded the African-American Student Enrichment Office in 2005.

“I have loved the student interaction and my experiences working with staff, particularly in Enrollment Services and Student Affairs,” he said. “I will miss being able to influence, assist and motivate students of all backgrounds to achieve, whether it was choosing UT, staying in school or graduating.” Harmon received a bachelor’s degree in business administration in 1987 and a master of education degree in 1998 and is pursuing a doctoral degree in higher education at UT.