Technology magazine honors engineering faculty member

By Jim Winkler

Good things come in very, very small packages.

Just ask Dr. Abul-Majeed Azad, winner of a 2007 Nano50 Award from Nanotech Briefs, an industry magazine, who has developed a new, nanotechnology-derived process to make hydrogen fuel from a byproduct of steel production.

The associate professor of chemical and environmental engineering was recognized at the NASA Tech Briefs National Nano Engineering Conference in Boston Nov. 14, and his research featured in the magazine's November issue. Nanotechnology is a fast-emerging science that concerns itself with the engineering of materials at the level of individual atoms and molecules.

The method relies on some well-established scientific principles. When steam passes over a hot iron surface, the metal reacts by soaking up the oxygen in the steam to form iron oxide and releasing hydrogen. While it is certainly a clean way to produce hydrogen compared to fossil-fuel combustion, it would not produce enough of the gas for use in cars, in industry and at home to cover production costs.

To make nanoscale iron powder, Azad relies on a process known as solvothermal reaction, which doesn’t use water as a solvent. He dissolves waste iron oxide in a mineral acid, adds hydrazine, a compound found in rocket fuel, and then ethanol as a solvent. The mixture is taken to about 100 degrees Celsius in a stainless steel jacket and kept for four hours under a pressure equivalent of five atmospheres.

This causes the iron oxide to transform into very tiny, sugar cube-shaped grains of iron that are magnetic, have a large surface area, and can’t be seen with the naked eye because they are about five billionth of a meter in size. The method produces iron nanoparticles in a more environmentally friendly, cheap supply of the metal — enter the picture.

But increasing the surface area of the iron makes the process, known as metal-steam reforming, easier and more effective.

That’s where nanotechnology — and hundreds of thousands of tons of iron oxide annually dumped into landfills by steel manufacturers, providing a readily available, cheap supply of the metal — enter the picture.

To make nanoscale iron powder, Azad relies on a process known as solvothermal reaction, which doesn’t use water as a solvent. He dissolves waste iron oxide in a mineral acid, adds hydrazine, a compound found in rocket fuel, and then ethanol as a solvent. The mixture is taken to about 100 degrees Celsius in a stainless steel jacket and kept for four hours under a pressure equivalent of five atmospheres.

This causes the iron oxide to transform into very tiny, sugar cube-shaped grains of iron that are magnetic, have a large surface area, and can’t be seen with the naked eye because they are about five billionth of a meter in size. The method produces iron nanoparticles in a more environmentally friendly, cheap supply of the metal — enter the picture.

instant Reaction: Doctoral student Sathees Kesavan dropped sodium borohydride solution into the iron precursor as Dr. Abdul-Majeed Azad watched the black nanoscale iron particles that formed instantaneously.

Ohio governor lauds UT researchers, energy work during visit

By Jon Strunk

Choosing UT and its research into photovoltaics and other alternative energies as the backdrop for his Nov. 28 visit, Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland joined Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and other University, business and elected leaders for a tour of a number of alternative energy-related startup businesses located in UT’s incubator building at the corner of Westwood Avenue and Dorr Street.

Ohio should make a commitment that by 2025, 25 percent of the state’s electricity would be generated from renewable and advanced energy resources, like solar power, Strickland told a crowd of about 50 following the tour.

Strickland praised UT faculty and researchers, saying he and Lee Fisher, Ohio’s lieutenant governor and director of development, looked forward to continuing to build on the millions of dollars in alternative energy awards UT had already received, as well as the commercialization and, ultimately, the jobs that will result from the knowledge created at the University.

“We want to help you take the second and third steps from the laboratory toward job creation,” Strickland said.

Strickland’s visit added momentum to a research area at UT that already has considerable speed.

With help from Kaptur, Dr. Frank Calzonetti, vice president for research development, and many talented researchers, UT has become a center of alternative energy research, particularly in solar power. In February, UT received an $18.6 million award to take the lead in the creation of the Center for Photovoltaics Innovation and Commercialization.

In addition to a $3.6 million award for solar research from the U.S. Department of Defense and a prominent article in Newsweek magazine, UT recently was chosen to house the University Clean Energy Alliance of Ohio, a collection of 15 Ohio universities working together to advance and commercialize energy research.

The governor also said he may have caused UT President Lloyd Jacobs’ ears to itch.

No one has been a better role model for higher education in this state than Lloyd Jacobs,” Strickland said, adding that he frequently talks about UT’s accomplishments.

HOT RESEARCH: Dr. Xuming Deng, professor of physics, right, showed a solar panel his team fabricated to Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland.

continued on p. 4
Women and Philanthropy grant available at UT

By Alissa Hammond

Women and Philanthropy at The University of Toledo is accepting applications for the first grant to be given by the group.

Women and Philanthropy is a group of women donors who have created an association to promote the University through investments and grants to UT initiatives. Up to $20,000 is available in this first grant cycle.

A group of women donors, spearheaded by local businesswoman and the current chair of the group Marianne Ballas, met in 2004 to begin laying the groundwork for a women’s giving circle at UT. In 2005, they officially organized under the name Women and Philanthropy at The University of Toledo. Members are committed to forging new relationships and building a community of thoughtful, effective philanthropists among women diverse in age, interests and backgrounds.

Members of the giving circle pledge to donate a minimum of $1,000 per year to their donor-designated fund at The University of Toledo Foundation. A grant is then made from this pooled fund.

The grant guidelines and an application form may be found on the Women and Philanthropy Web site: http://www.utoledo.edu/offices/women_philanthropy/grant.html.

The grant is available only for UT projects or programs. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to apply. The deadline for grant applications is Jan. 18.

Safe Places program re-launched

By Matt Lockwood

Walking around campus you may begin noticing stickers outside of office doors indicating that the space inside is a “Safe Place.” The stickers are part of the Safe Places project being re-launched by UT Spectrum, a student gay-straight alliance. The Safe Places stickers identify safe locations where people can ask questions, discuss problems and get information about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues.

“People who participate in the Safe Places program are those willing to go the extra mile on these types of issues,” said Noah Gillespie, coordinator of the Safe Places program. “It doesn’t mean other places on campus are unsafe.”

UT President Lloyd Jacobs is a participant in the program and recently placed a Safe Places sticker outside of his office.

In a memo to the campus, Jacobs wrote, “Making our campus welcoming to all students, staff and visitors, and especially to our lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender friends and colleagues, fits with our mission of improving the human condition and our commitment to making UT the most student-centered university in the nation.”

The program was originally launched at UT in the 2002-03 academic year and about 35 “safe places” remained. There are now 80 safe places and growing.

Gillespie said the program was re-launched after a campus diversity assessment in 2006 found most lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people didn’t feel completely safe on campus.

“The goals of this program are to create a network of education, and a more tolerant and accepting campus,” Gillespie said.

To obtain your Safe Places packet, complete the registration form located at http://spectrum.utoledo.edu and either e-mail it to ngilles@utoledo.edu or drop it off at the Spectrum office, located in Student Union Room 3522 on Main Campus.

Officials ask UT community to register for emergency message service

By Jon Strunk

University of Toledo e-mailed a communication to all members of the UT community last week asking that they register their cellular phones to receive messages from the Red Alert emergency mass communication system in the event of an incident on campus.

To receive Red Alert messages, students, faculty and staff must register their e-mail and cell phone numbers via the Red Alert channel on the Home tab inside the myUT portal. They are strongly encouraged to register to receive instantaneous text messages; however, if they do not have text availability, they can choose to receive a voice message. Due to the logistical requirements of disbursing many voice messages, voice mails may be significantly delayed.

In a letter to the campus, UT Police Chief Jeff Newton wrote that while UT has been working to improve emergency communications for some time, the violence at Virginia Tech only served to increase the urgency to have a system in place to help prevent similar tragedies and provide information on other campus-wide warnings, such as tornados, mass utility failures, violent incidents, missing or abducted children, or chemical contaminations.

“While it is hoped that registrants will rarely see a Red Alert message, it is important to be able to communicate rapidly and clearly to avoid potential injury or tragedy,” Newton wrote.

Newton added it was important for registrants to know that some cell phone carriers may offer users the ability to block mass text messages, similar to a SPAM filter, and that this option should not be accepted.

“Red Alert is only as powerful as the number of students, faculty and staff it can communicate with,” Newton wrote. “Please visit the myUT portal and register for this important service.”

UT administrators hope to have the system ready to use early next semester.

In memoriam

Dr. Edward T. Kirkpatrick, Weston, Mass., died Nov. 25 at age 82. He joined the University in 1959 as professor and chair of mechanical engineering as well as director of the Computation Center; positions he held until his departure in 1964. In the early days of the space race, he served as adviser to the Rocket Club and its controlled rocket experiments. More lightheartedly, he brought some national attention to the campus with his invention, the Twistor, an oscilloscope that measured the torso torque and shake rate on dancers performing the Twist.
UT researchers study best ways to suppress dangerous crystalline silica dust

By Jim Winkler

Each spring Toledo and northwest Ohio jump from winter to construction season, with motorists greeted by orange barrels, lane closures, and thundering jackhammers and saws breaking up and sawing concrete roadbeds.

And with a boom in construction going on in some parts of northwest Ohio, workers in excavators can often be seen digging in a cloud of dust.

Construction means progress, but it can be loud, dusty and sometimes harmful to health, which is one reason four University of Toledo researchers are using a new $185,000 grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to conduct a study to determine the best ways to suppress hazardous dust produced during concrete polishing and grinding.

Three Department of Public Health and Homeland Security faculty members — Drs. Farhang Akbar-Khanzadeh, professor; Michael Bisesi, professor and chair; and Sheryl Milz, assistant professor — and Dr. Sadik Khader, a professor of medicine and study design expert, are conducting the research that will compare the effectiveness of two well-established dust-control techniques. One involves spraying water where dust is being generated, while the other uses powerful vacuums attached to concrete grinders and polishers. Both methods aim to reduce toxic dust emissions.

A local concrete company is participating by setting up a field laboratory where experiments will be conducted.

“The cloud of dust you see when someone is cutting or grinding concrete is not harmless,” Akbar-Khanzadeh said. “It contains crystalline silica particles that have been linked to a serious lung disease known as silicosis that, in some cases, leads to lung cancer.”

Crystalline silica dust can be unleashed during construction, sandblasting, mining, quarrying, asphalt paving, concrete mixing, glass and ceramics manufacturing, and tunneling. Silica is a mineral found in sand, granite, concrete and other substances. Particles invade the lungs, causing minute cuts, lesions and scar tissue that eventually fill up the air sacs and make breathing difficult.

Akbar-Khanzadeh explained that there are technologies and practices available to prevent dust-related disease, adding that it is vital that employers monitor dust levels to assess the risk of exposure of employees and they put control measures in place.
Engineering students to present projects at design expo

By Alissa Hammond

A system to monitor and predict failure of a sump pump, a device that helps those with disabilities and the elderly shop for groceries with complete independence, a racing wheelchair, and a moving holiday decoration scene are four of 40 projects that will be on display during the UT College of Engineering Undergraduate Research and Senior Design Exposition.

The expo will take place Friday, Dec. 7, from noon to 3 p.m. in Nitschke Hall on Main Campus and feature projects from the departments of Bioengineering, Chemical and Environmental Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Engineering Technology, and Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering.

“Our senior design projects course is not just another course for our students; it is a capstone experience where students synthesize and demonstrate what they have learned over their entire program of study,” said Dr. Nagi Naganathan, dean of the College of Engineering. “These projects are valuable not just because of their technical merit. Students work on real-world problems while affirming what engineering is all about — dedicating their professional knowledge and skills to the advancement and betterment of human welfare.”

A part of the required senior design project for students is to form business-consulting units to come up with a solution for a client’s technical or business challenge. After creating a plan, businesses, industry and federal agencies sponsor the projects, according to Christine Smallman, director of college relations and facilities management in the College of Engineering, who started the Senior Design Clinic in 1997 in the Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering Department. Since then, it has grown to include all college departments.

“The College of Engineering Undergraduate Research and Senior Design Exposition is one of the proudest moments in our college. The day is an assessment of the quality of education our students have received from the fine faculty in our college, as well as a day when students showcase quality senior design projects,” Smallman said. “Due to the engineering student’s mandatory co-op experience, on-the-job experience and the senior design course, they are able to showcase their development as an engineer ready to join the work force or continue on to graduate school.”

One of the projects designed by students is a system to monitor and predict failure of a sump pump; the system has communication ability through a dial-up phone line or the Internet. This project has been designed by UT students Kenyatta Carlisle, Gideon Engelberth, Ben Sauder and Timothy Smith. The faculty adviser is Dr. Roger King, professor of electrical engineering and computer science, and the client adviser and sponsor are Jeff Culver and Predictive Technologies.

Store-Search.org, a Web-based shopping assistant designed by UT students Kevin Durst, Matt Marincic and Chadd Schwartz, allows customers to search store inventory for items. The site then tells them the in-store location of the item, as well as allows customers to create an itemized shopping list organized for easy navigation of the store. The faculty adviser on the project is Dr. Cyrus Hagigat, assistant professor of engineering technology.

A customized racing wheelchair was designed and constructed by Kyle Bedal, Jake Hofelich, Ben Sarver, Bret Schlosser and Jon Willett, who worked with faculty advisers from the Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering Department, Dr. Mohamed Samir Hefzy, associate dean of graduate studies and research administration, and Dr. Mehdi Pourazady, associate professor. Created for a UT student, the aluminum, three-wheel, A-frame racing wheelchair features a steering compensator, which allows steady direction and prescribed turning around curves. Client adviser is the Ability Center of Greater Toledo and the sponsor is the National Science Foundation.

Another project is based around the holiday season. A Christmas scene was constructed that contains moving characters of Santa and Mrs. Claus and Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer. A stamp controller brings the characters to life, thanks to a solar-powered battery. Ahmad Alshawwaf, Mishal Alasuliman, Rob Hayes, Paul Holtz, Jeffrey Rice and Jeremy Smallman are the students behind the design, and Dr. Ahmad Farhoud, associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science, is the faculty adviser. Hayes Brothers Ornamental Ironworks served as client adviser and sponsor.

Engineering faculty member

continued from p. 1

unhealthy levels of perchlorate and arsenic in drinking water supplies that plague many parts of the world.

Perchlorate, a chemical used in rocket fuel, has been found in the drinking water of more than 11 million Americans nationwide. It keeps iodide from being absorbed by the body, has been found to damage fetuses and infants, and could lessen brain development and lead to Attention-Deficit Disorder.

“Nanoscale iron appears to act like a sponge for perchlorate and arsenic,” Azad said, noting that particles can bind up to 100 times as much arsenic as the larger iron particles currently used in filters.

Azad has worked with colleagues at California’s Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to assess the efficacy of nanoscale iron in removing arsenic from drinking water. His research has been funded by the Department of Energy through an Edison Materials Technology Center grant to support his PhD student, Sathees Kesavan, who graduates this semester.

Collaborating with Main and Health Science campus researchers, Azad also plans to study how nanoscale iron and iron oxide particles can be used to improve magnetic resonance imaging.

According to Nanotech Briefs’ Web site, the Nano50 Awards recognize the “top 50 technologies, products and innovators that have significantly impacted, or are expected to impact, the state of the art in nanotechnology. The winners of the Nano50 Awards are the best of the best — the innovative people and technologies that will continue to move nanotechnology to key mainstream markets.” A panel of nanotechnology experts judged the nominations, with technologies, products and innovators receiving the 50 highest scores named as award winners.

Other institutions represented by the winners were Stanford, Princeton, Rice and Old Dominion universities; universities of Texas, Virginia, Florida and Missouri; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Harvard Medical School; Xerox, Oak Ridge, Lawrence Livermore and Idaho National laboratories; NASA Langley Research Center; and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.
Elephants push engineering students to think outside box to develop novel feeding device

By Chelsea-Lynn Carey

L ast fall five UT engineering students used their knowledge and educational experience to counter the clever elephants at the Toledo Zoo. The students were charged with designing and building two automatic elephant feeders, which posed a more difficult task than originally thought.

The students unveiled their feeder during the 2006 UT College of Engineering Undergraduate Research and Senior Design Exposition, and the Toledo Zoo has been using the feeder for almost a year.

The five engineering students were Brandon Via, Jeremy Oyer, Alyssa Main, Brett Anderson and Michael Burghardt.

Their faculty adviser was Dr. Lesley Berhan, associate professor of mechanical, industrial and manufacturing engineering.

“The Toledo Zoo wanted a device that could feed the elephants small amounts of food at intervals throughout the night, which is healthier and more interactive for them,” Via said.

The group developed four concepts, but only had time to physically test the final design, according to Via.

“We took all of our conceptual designs and evaluated them on a number of criteria. There were several things to consider on the zoo’s behalf, such as ease of use, making it small enough to fit in their facility, making it mobile so they can use it in various locations, and making it durable so it will serve the zoo for a long time,” Via said. “We also had to look at such issues as cost, functionality, maintenance and safety. We compared the pros and cons of each design based on these issues, and chose the one that seemed the most feasible.”

The final design was chosen based on simplicity and functionality. “The design chosen took up less space than the other designs and only requires an electronic timer to work. We could also very easily put this product on wheels, which would allow the zookeepers to move it between the various facilities and feed the elephants from different locations,” Via said.

There were multiple elephant-caused concerns that developed as this design came together, said Don Redfox, Toledo Zoo elephant trainer. These included the elephants’ ability to destroy most anything put in their reach and their problem-solving skills.

“We quickly came to find there is really no such thing as ‘elephant-proof,’” Via said. Almost anything put within their reach can be, and most likely will be, destroyed quickly. It became evident that the device needed to be out of the reach of the elephant rather than “elephant-proof.”

“Renee, our adult female elephant, has applied her natural problem-solving skills to figure out how to spring the doors by hitting them with sticks, toys and other objects,” Redfox said. “I put a top on the feeder to prevent this, and she learned to throw sand into the opening under the top and above the doors until she weighted down the area enough to spring the doors and get the hay and treats. I added a hinged panel on the front, and so far this has solved the problem.”

“When we heard several months later what the elephants were trying to do to get the food, by throwing branches and sand at the device, it was pretty amusing,” Via said. “It was also great news to us — it means our product was serving its purpose well. As an added bonus, it’s almost an enrichment tool for the elephants. Now they’re using the mind a little more each day to figure out how to get their food, and the zookeepers can keep them guessing where the food will drop by moving the device around every day.”

“The feeders are used every day and working great,” Redfox said. “The team was great to work with and really stepped up to solve an unconventional problem.”

“I had a blast working on this project. Not many people get to use their engineering degree to try to improve the lives of animals and humans at the same time,” Via said. “Personally, I found just how valuable my engineering degree could be — they certainly don’t teach courses on designing feeders for elephants — but our group had no doubt that we had the tools and knowledge to apply from our engineering course work to make the project work.”

Via and the other group members graduated in December 2006.
NEW Personnel: Michael Alston, security officer, UT Police, effective Sept. 10; Brittany Austin, research technican, Environmental Sciences, effective Aug. 1; Herrera Barbas, nurse practitioner, Urogyn, effective Oct. 1; Vera Blitz, greenhouse manager, Plant Science Research, effective Oct. 29; Thomas Cromley, research analyst, Purchasing Services, effective Sept. 24; Matthew Drucker, interim coordinator, Student Health Services, effective Oct. 1; Paul Fabry, assistant soccer coach, Intercollegiate Athletics, effective July 23; Mark Fox, patent technology associate, Research and Development, effective Oct. 22; Richard Fronh, security officer, UT Police, effective Sept. 17; Theresa Garris, nurse practitioner, College of Medicine, effective Oct. 24; Joseph Gilbert, assistant football coach, Intercollegiate Athletics, effective Aug. 6; Marcelo Gonzalez, senior research associate, Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, effective Sept. 1; John Goodwin, security officer, UT Police, effective Oct. 22; Stephen Hardy, program specialist, Student Recreation Center, effective Nov. 1; Karen Jensen, administrative assistant, Multnomah Library, effective July 1; Lynn Labearde, teaching associate, College of Nursing, effective Oct. 9; Rolinda Lemen, academic program coordinator, Environmental Sciences, effective Oct. 1; Xi Lin, visiting scientist, Physiology, Pharmacology, and Metabolism and Cardiovascular Sciences, effective Oct. 25; Richard McNutt, assistant football coach, Intercollegiate Athletics, effective Aug. 7; Samuel Ora, intern research technician, Environmental Sciences, effective Oct. 1; Connie Mueller, staff development specialist, Surgical Intensive Care, effective Oct. 4; C’Sullivan Parker, staff development specialist, Outpatient Clinic, effective Sept. 24; Wioma Porath, academic program coordinator, Bioengineering, effective Oct. 9; Gregory Pothast, software specialist, Information Technology, effective Oct. 15; Cindy Puffer, coordinator and manager care pharmacist, Pharmacy, effective Nov. 1; David Reamey, systems technician, University Libraries, effective Sept. 24; Debra Robertson, HR specialist, Human Resources, effective Aug. 27; Laura Summitt, teaching associate, College of Nursing, effective Oct. 5; Charles Schum, temporary project manager, Residence Life, effective July 30; Maria Stevens, executive secretary, 2 Enrollment Services, effective July 25; Karen Tormochen, nurse practitioner, University Health Services, effective May 3; James Waiite, director of development, Institute for Advanced Learning and the Arts, effective Oct. 14; Nohiawey Adair, systems analyst, Information Technology, effective Oct. 15; Kyle Walton, interim hall director, Residence Life, effective July 2; Katrina Wilson, security officer, UT Police, effective Sept. 27; Olivia Wolfert, assistant, base coach, Intercollegiate Athletics, effective Sept. 5; Xiaohui Xiang, lab specialist, Physics and Astronomy, effective Aug. 6; James Zeller, systems analyst, Institute of Industrial Research, effective Oct. 15; and Karol Zuraun, staff development specialist, Surgical Intensive Care, effective Oct. 4.

faCulty Appointments/reApointments: Minh Shinh Anh Ahmed, assistant professor of pathology, effective Sept. 4; Joseph Atlahal, assistant professor of anesthesia, effective Aug. 17; Mirza Baig, assistant professor of urology, effective July 1; Theresa Barbas, clinical instructor of urology, effective July 1; Kenneth Bertka, clinical associate professor of family medicine, effective July 1; Sameh Bittar, assistant professor of surgical pathology, effective July 1; Brian Borey, academic rank pending, College of Medicine, effective Dec. 1; Wenhao Chen, assistant professor of medical physics and immunology, effective Oct. 15; Daniel Feinberg, visiting instructor, University Libraries, effective Sept. 3; Yongqing Feng, assistant professor of medicine, effective Sept. 1; Mohamed Salah Elazzawi, visiting assistant professor of radiology, effective Aug. 1; Raghad Fergany, visiting assistant professor of surgery, effective Sept. 24; Timothy Janiga, assistant professor of surgery, effective Aug. 1; Kimberly Jenkins, instructor of anesthesiology, effective Sept. 17; Mohammad Kanwal, instructor of medicine, effective Sept. 1; Theo Keith, research professor of mechanical, industrial and management engineering, effective Sept. 1; William Kiel, assistant professor, College of Engineering, Loran County Community College agreement, effective Aug. 13; Melissa Kouimtzis, assistant professor of orthopaedics, effective Sept. 1; Larry Leng, assistant professor of medicine, effective Nov. 1; Dianna Lento, visiting assistant professor of nursing, effective Aug. 18; William Long, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, effective Aug. 6; Robert Mruk, professor and chair of pathology, effective Sept. 17; John David Smith, assistant professor of physics and astronomy, effective Jan. 1; 2008; Stanislav Stepkowski, professor of medical microbiology and immunology, with tenure, effective Dec. 17; and Jang Tian, assistant professor of pathology, effective Sept. 17.

clINICAL APPOintment:s proFessor APPOintMENts: Dean Christopher Bailey, Family Medicine, effective Nov. 5; Indira Bhagat, Pediatrics, effective Nov. 20; Donald Cameron, Neurology, effective Sept. 29; Michelle Gardner, Obstetrics and Gynecology, effective Sept. 5; Robert Kuhl, Family Medicine, effective Aug. 30; Robert Kuhl, effective Aug. 13; Roger Kuecker, Radiation Oncology, effective Sept. 10; Krishna Malik, Orthopaedic Surgery, effective Sept. 29; Kenneth Maps, Surgery, effective Oct. 5; Health Services, effective Nov. 20; Spilios John Papas, Surgery, effective Oct. 1; Tara Shamy, Pediatrics, effective Nov. 20; Cheryl Marie Shurts, Pediatrics, effective Nov. 20; and Shanon Kronkowksi, Pediatrics, effective Nov. 20.

Temporary Rehired FaculTy: Philip Conran, professor emeritus of nursing, effective Aug. 20.

Changes In STAFF CoNTacts: Barbara Akgun, from triage nurse to research nurse, College of Medicine, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 14; Aroon Andrews, from student ombudsman to director of student customer service, Student Services, effective Sept. 14; Carylon Antean, from systems analyst to senior systems analyst, Information Technology, effective Oct. 1; Lisa Baker, from transfer admission coordinator to assistant director of undergraduate admission, Adult Transfer Admission, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 10; Justin Ballard, from assistant network specialist to network specialist, e-Learning and Academic Support, effective Aug. 20; Paula Ballmer, admissions representative, College of Nursing, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 15; Kathy Bledsoe, senior business manager, Enrollment Services, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 17; John Blunt, project coordinator, Early Childhood, Physical and Special Education, salary adjusted, effective July 1; Sherry Blosser, from systems analyst to senior systems analyst, Information Technology, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 15; John Blunt, administrative coordinator, College of Medicine, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 6; Gary Carr, from student services coordinator to interdirector of student services management, Student Services, effective Sept. 26; Julie Christy, interim informatics technology chief, Clinical Informatics, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 1; Charles Clark, from acting director to associate director, Institutional Research, effective Aug. 27; Amanda Costell, director of small projects, Campus Environment and Physical Plant, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 10; Melissa Crabtree, team leader of quality, communication and security, Information Technology, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 27; Don Curtis, senior Web developer, Enrollment Services, salary adjusted, effective Jan. 1; Matthew DeVries, from research assistant to lab research compliance coordinator, College of Veterinary Medicine, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 10; Kathleen Diegel, team leader of integrity process management, Information Technology, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 13; Claire Edmondson, from transfer systems coordinator to assistant director of undergraduate admission, Direct From High School Admission, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 17; Jared Faris, from assistant network specialist to network specialist, Revenue Cycle, salary adjusted, effective Nov. 20; Kishan Financial, chargemaster specialist, Revenue Cycle, salary adjusted, effective Nov. 20; Shengteng Fang, anesthesia specialist, Research and Development, effective Oct. 5; Amy Finch, manager, Volume Services, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 2; Suren Khichik, transplant coordinator, Transplant Administration, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 2; Suzette Fronk, from assistant athletic director, Intramural Athletics, to assistant director of contracts and fiscal planning, Budget and Planning, salary adjusted, effective July 1; Laurat Frost, clinic manager, Outpatient Clinics-Orthopaedics, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 1; Nancy Gapan, operations supervisor, Operating Room, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 1; William Gaines, from coordinator to licensing associate, Direct From High School Admission, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 2; Amy Gant, from assistant director of programming, Student Recreation Center, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 20; Ellen Garbar, from coordinator to supervisor of record completion, Health Information Management, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 29; Chris Henderson, associate director of student management, Enrollment Services, salary adjusted, effective July 1; Robert Hogue, interim information technology chief operating officer, Information Technology, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 1; Jennifer Joy, from assistant director to interim director of Small Projects, College of Medicine, salary adjusted, effective Apr. 1; Dawn Rhodes, from vice president to interim vice president for administration, effective Sept. 5; Julie Krenz, enrollment coordinator, University of Oregon, College of Medicine, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 13; Patricia Robinson, from RN clinic manager to RN case management, psychology, adjusted, effective Sept. 10; Theresa Rudnicki, manager of recovery Room, Outpatient Surgery/Post-Anesthesia Care Unit, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 12; Rebecca Rym, manager, Transfer and International Students, Enrollment Services, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 10; and Lorie Sarnes, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 10; Floyd Shoup, director of facilities management, Campus Environment and Physical Plant, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 10; Cynthia Schneider, operations supervisor, Operating Room, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 2; Floyd Shoup, director of facilities management, Campus Environment and Physical Plant, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 10; Pamela Snyder, from research nurse to nurse practitioner, Outpatient Clinic, effective Sept. 12; Hidam Van VuinBui, international enrollment assistant, College of Engineering, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 10; Harvey Vershun, from interim director to director of energy management, Campus Environment and Physical Plant, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 10; and Norine Wasielewski, senior professor of family medicine, School of Medicine, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 12; J. W. Waugh, from medical assistant to supervisor of medical assistants, Outpatient Clinic-Medicine, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 1; and Jeffrey Witt, from assistant director of revenue to director of Student Recreation Center, salary adjusted, effective July 18.

Changes In Faculty COntactS: Joseph Atlahal, assistant professor of anesthesiology, effective Aug. 1; Noemi Baud, associate professor of orthopedic surgery, effective Nov. 1; Andrew Beavis, from associate director to associate professor of physiology, pharmacology, metabolism and cardiovascular sciences and director of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases research, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 10; Carol Bennett-Clarke, from associate professor to professor of neurosciences, salary adjusted, effective Jan. 1, 2008; Mark Burket, from professor to associate professor of anesthesiology, salary adjusted, effective July 1; Joanne Ene, head of women’s tennis, Intercollegiate Athletics, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 10; Mohammad El-Zahawi, from associate professor to professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, effectve salray adjusted, effective July 1; Johnnie Fields, from assistant professor to professor of surgery, effective Jan. 1, 2008; William Fine, associate professor of psychiatry, salary adjusted, effective July 1; Jacoby Flom, lecturer...
in management, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 4; Diana French, professor and chair of primary care, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 15; Karen Graham, associate professor of physician assistant studies, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 6; James Hampton, from associate professor to professor of nursing, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 15; Rhonda Hercher, from assistant professor to assistant professor of surgery and ER assistant medical director, effective Oct. 24; Marthe Howard, professor of neurosciences, salary adjusted, effective July 1, 2006; Virginia Keef, associate professor of medicine and associate dean, Judith Herb College of Education, salary adjusted, effective July 1; Michele Knox, associate professor of pharmacy, salary adjusted, effective Sept. 1; Barbara Kopp Miller, associate professor of occupational therapy and director of Center for Successful Aging, joint appointment in Department of Public Health, tenure granted, effective July 1; Anand Kannathoor, from associate dean and professor to senior associate dean and professor, College of Business Administration, salary adjusted, effective July 1; Catherine Marco, professor of surgery and director of professional medical education, effective Sept. 1; Steven Martin, from associate professor and interim chair to associate professor and chair of pharmacy practice, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 1; Anand Mungi, professor of medical education, associate director of Medical Residency Program to professor of medicine, salary adjusted, effective Oct. 1; Michael Nagel, from clinical assistant professor of neurology to volunteer status, effective Aug. 1; Sonia Najjar, from professor and director of molecular basis of disease and director of Center for Diabetes and Endocrine Research to professor of physiology, pharmacology, metabolism and cardiovascular sciences and director of Center for Diabetes and Endocrine Research, effective Sept. 10; T.S. Ragu-Nathan, from chair and professor to chair and professor of marketing and intern director of India MBA Program, salary adjusted, effective July 1; Isabel Novella, associate professor of medical microbiology and immunology, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 1; Jean Overmeyer, from assistant professor to associate professor of biochemistry and cancer biology, salary adjusted, effective Jan. 1, 2008; James Patrick, from professor emeritus and acting chair of pathology to professor emeritus of pathology, effective Sept. 16; Kathryn Pildl-Carpenter, instructor of nursing, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 15; Susan Pocotte, assistant professor of nursing, contract change from 20 months to 12 months, salary adjusted, effective July 1; Michael Rees, associate professor of urology, joint appointment in Medical Microbiology and Immunology Department, effective Dec. 1; Susan Rice, associate professor of nursing, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 15; Martin Ritchie, from professor and professor of council on aging and mental health, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 6; Joseph Ryno, from assistant professor to assistant professor of surgery and IR assistant medical director, effective Oct. 24; Randall Schievvert, from assistant professor to associate professor of pediatrics, salary adjusted, effective Jan. 1, 2008; Cynthia Smas, from associate professor to associate professor of biochemistry and cancer biology, salary adjusted, effective Jan. 1, 2008; Susan Soachki, from instructor to assistant professor of nursing, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 15; Thomas Sodeman, associate professor of medicine, three-month military leave, effective Aug. 15; Mark Vonderembse, from professor and director to professor of information operations technology management, salary adjusted, effective Aug. 19; and David Wieder, assistant professor of family medicine, joint appointment with Department of Kinesiology, effective Aug. 6.

STAFF SEPARATIONS: Debra Beach, interim instructional designer, Distance and e-Learning, effective Aug. 31; Teresa Bozman, interim instructional designer, Distance and e-Learning, effective Aug. 29; Anna Crawford, assistant director, Financial Aid, effective July 20; Yolanda Darden, associate director, Gear-Up Program, effective Sept. 14; Ben Ebihara, senior research associate, Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, effective Sept. 30; Joseph Eckhardt, associate director, Residence Life, effective Oct. 19; Phillip Ezakovich, security officer, UT Police, effective Sept. 6; Delitha Glaze, director of benefits, Human Resources, effective Nov. 1; Matthew Gottfried, lab manager, Geographic Information Science and Applied Geography Research Center, effective Aug. 31; Tina Hacker, human resource representative, Human Resources, effective Oct. 19; Martino Harmon, director, African-American Student Enrichment Initiatives, effective Oct. 26; Dorian Hooker, manager, Gear-Up Program, effective Sept. 14; Diane Hughes, infection control coordinator, Infection Prevention and Control, effective Sept. 26; Susan Jankowski, manager, Health Science Campus Bookstore, effective Nov. 21; Rita Krieger, teaching associate, College of Nursing, effective July 20; Larry Low, computer specialist, Clinical Informatics, effective Jan. 22; Elizabeth Martin, budget analyst, Budget, effective Sept. 1; John McWhorter, new record completion, Health Information Management, effective Dec. 27; Daniel Morisette, senior vice president for finance and strategy, effective Oct. 21; Chasity O’Neill, director of development, Institutional Advancement, effective Oct. 5; Jeff Peters, senior instructional designer and coordinator, Distance and e-Learning, effective Oct. 29; John Prybyloew, computer lab and staff supervisor, Information Technology, effective Nov. 9; Dawn Reinhart, financial analyst, Grants Accounting, effective Nov. 6; Robert Rose, research associate, Institutional Research, effective Sept. 5; Randy Sanner, hall operations manager, Residence Life, effective Oct. 19; Jennifer Schells, interim assistant director of staffing and trainable staff, effective Sept. 14; Charles Schuur, temporary projects manager, Residence Life, effective Oct. 10; Nicholas Sierke, researcher, Gear-Up Program, effective Sept. 14; Asmit Shabadib, senior research associate, Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, effective Oct. 16; Rahul Sharma, director, Gear-Up Program, effective Sept. 14; Kathryn Slight, outreach coordinator, Outpatient Clinic-Orthopaedics, effective Sept. 7; Kristina Suly, nurse practitioner, Student Health Services, effective Sept. 30; Katherine Trenhaft, administrative assistant 2, Outpatient Clinic-Orthopaedics, effective July 20; Sara Wensenberg, staff auditor, Internal Audit, effective Sept. 27; and Stephanie Wright, assistant treasurer, Finance, Technology and Operations, effective Oct. 12.

FACULTY SEPARATIONS: David Boilard, assistant professor of family medicine, effective Sept. 28; James Byers, associate professor of pharmacology, effective Sept. 28; Donald Cameron, clinical assistant professor of neurology, effective Sept. 28; Gregory Cerilli, assistant professor of surgery, effective Sept. 14; Robyn Gandy, assistant professor of psychiatry, effective Dec. 28; Mary Kozy, assistant professor of nursing, effective June 15; Kenneth Mapes, assistant professor of surgery, effective Oct. 4; Brent Martin, associate professor and director of lab animal medicine, effective Dec. 20; Tamya Mouginis, assistant professor of anesthesia, effective June 18; Dale Patterson, clinical assistant professor of family medicine, effective June 30; Spalio John Pappas, clinical assistant professor of surgery, effective Sept. 30; Jan Phillips, clinical instructor of physical therapy, effective June 30; and Marilyn Wood, assistant professor of nursing, effective Aug. 3.

STAFF RETIREMENT: Kay Krueger, administrative assistant, Finance and Strategy, effective Nov. 1; Marcia Meeker, accountant 2, Accounts Payable, effective Sept. 21; and John Schoonover, systems analyst 2, Clinical Informatics, effective Sept. 21.

FACULTY RETIREMENT: Norman Carrio, clinical professor of family medicine, effective June 30.

FACULTY GRANTED EMERITUS STATUS: William Bischoff, professor emeritus of biological sciences, effective July 1; Bernard Cullen, professor emeritus of psychiatric medicine, effective July 17; and Channing Hinman, professor emeritus of medicinal and biological chemistry, effective July 1.

HONORED: UT Police Lt. Jesse Albright and his wife, Arlene, held the handsome plaque Jesse received upon retirement after 21 years of service and posed for a photo with UT Police Chief Jeff Newton, left, and UT Police Lt. Tony Oberneder following a Nov. 28 reception on the Health Science Campus. Chores around the house and trips to visit daughters in Oklahoma and California are in the future for the 63-year-old Navy veteran, who joined the police department of the former Medical College of Ohio in 1986, Albright said that “the people who have been here over the years have made my job very easy,” and that the merger between MUO and UT is “a great marriage.” He added, “People here have been like a second family. I’m going to really miss the people. It has been a lot of fun.”

UT researchers continued from p. 3

to reduce the levels to which workers are exposed, and consequently reduce their risk of developing silicosis and/or lung cancer.

In the UT study, subjects will be randomly assigned to conventional operations where there are no dust controls or to operations “with proper dust-control options in place,” according to Akbar-Khanzadeh. Personal respirable dust samples will be collected during concrete finishing from three groups of workers applying hand-held grinders. One group will use grinders connected to running water, while another group will use grinders connected to vacuum bags. A third group will use grinders with no dust-suppression equipment.

“Our research is aimed at finding the best practical way to lower the risk of exposure to silica dust,” Akbar-Khanzadeh said. “This will make working with concrete and other products that contain silica much safer.”
October Students First Award winners recognized

By Alissa Hammond

Two UT employees recently were honored with the Students First Award for the month of October. President Lloyd Jacobs recognized the winners in front of the group the award is given for: students.

Tracci Harmon, manager of retail operations and student staffing, and Dr. Dennis Morse, professor emeritus of neurosciences in the College of Medicine, were October’s Students First Award winners. Both were nominated by students and were chosen by the committee from the President’s Commission on Student Centeredness.

Harmon was nominated for keeping students at the forefront of her job and working beyond expected hours. She has been serving UT students for a number of years, both as director of student activities and leadership and her current position.

She has provided snacks for students who did not have time to eat breakfast before early summer classes from her own resources and, according to her nominator, a recent UT graduate and student leader, “She goes above and beyond the call of duty. Her door is literally always open.” He added, “She [listens to students about] their lives and struggles. She shows students that she is not only interested in their campus involvement, but also in their hearts and minds.”

“I am truly delighted to have received this award, and receiving it during the holiday season stirs even more emotion,” Harmon said. “I am passionate about helping students set and achieve their goals. It gives me great joy to know that my efforts are appreciated by the students and acknowledged by President Jacobs and the University.”

A student who saw Morse’s attention to detail and devotion to teaching nominated him because these qualities make him a student-centered faculty member.

Much of Morse’s career has been spent teaching and researching vertebrate cardiovascular and visual systems, but in an effort to make teaching more student-centered and informed by developing technology, he shifted his interests to the development of software that effectively teaches students about gross anatomy and histology.

According to the student who nominated him, Morse is known as “the artist” among his colleagues because of his elegant and clear illustrations. Beyond the technical end of his job, he also spends time making sure his students understand the material.

“He spends time with students who have difficulty mastering this challenging subject and makes sure that they receive the attention they need from their professors in order to succeed,” wrote his nominator.

“When you spend time with Dr. Morse, you can tell his focus in education is the student. He cares for his students, not only whether or not they perform well on an exam, but who they are as people.”

“The receipt of the Students First Award is very special to me since it represents the best kind of feedback — from the consumer,” Morse said. “My success in the classroom is made possible by the opportunity to work with bright, motivated adult learners and by being a member of a team of anatomists with similar educational philosophies.”

Jacobs surprised both winners with their awards right before Thanksgiving. Each received gift cards to Barnes & Noble and Starbucks, and at the end of the academic year, one overall winner will be chosen to receive a prize of $1,500.

...