

OBOR chancellor discusses higher education strategic plan, Centers of Excellence

By Tobin J. Klinger

The University of Toledo became the epicenter of the statewide discussion about Gov. Ted Strickland's and Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut's 10-year strategic plan for higher education June 17, as Fingerhut came to campus for a series of meetings and a panel discussion.

The public event in the Law Center Auditorium drew higher education leaders from across northern Ohio, as well as political leaders from the region.

"Our state's leaders have all placed higher education at the center of Ohio's economic rebirth," Fingerhut said, adding he believes the current Ohio General Assembly will be remembered for starting the "renaissance of higher education in Ohio."

The chancellor's 10-year plan focuses heavily on economic development and the disciplines believed to most immediately

continued on p. 2



Photo by Jack Meade

VIPS: Dr. Nabil Ebraheim, professor and chair of orthopedics, left, last week talked to Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut, right, and Mark Chastang, vice president and UT Medical Center executive director.

UT to get funds for photovoltaics, spine research

By Jim Winkler

Some more very smart people soon will arrive at The University of Toledo.

UT will use some \$13.4 million in funding from the Ohio Research Scholars Program to recruit top scholars and to establish "research clusters" for work on photovoltaics — the direct conversion of sunlight into electricity — and for studies into spinal disease and spine products that keep the spine flexible after surgery.

The Ohio Third Frontier Commission, which works to increase high-tech research throughout Ohio, approved more than \$143 million in grants in May for 10 projects designed to create jobs and boost the state's economy.

UT and Bowling Green State University are joining forces and will receive \$8.9

continued on p. 3

Memorial Field House construction continues; English, Foreign Languages faculty members eager to move in

By Matt Lockwood

With renovations to the Memorial Field House progressing nicely, the departments of English and Foreign Languages are speaking the same language these days. Faculty members in both departments say they can't wait to move into their new digs, which will be completed this fall and open for classes beginning after the first of the year.

The English Department offices will be on the first floor and the Foreign Languages folks will be on the second floor, with classrooms open to a variety of disciplines.

"I think it's going to be beautiful," said Dr. Sara Lundquist, associate professor and chair of the English Department. "When students come into the building, it's going to be state-of-the-art, and it's going to show that the University cares about them."

The Department of English, with 51 full-time faculty members and 32 teaching assistants spread out over several floors of University Hall, will be housed together.

continued on p. 2

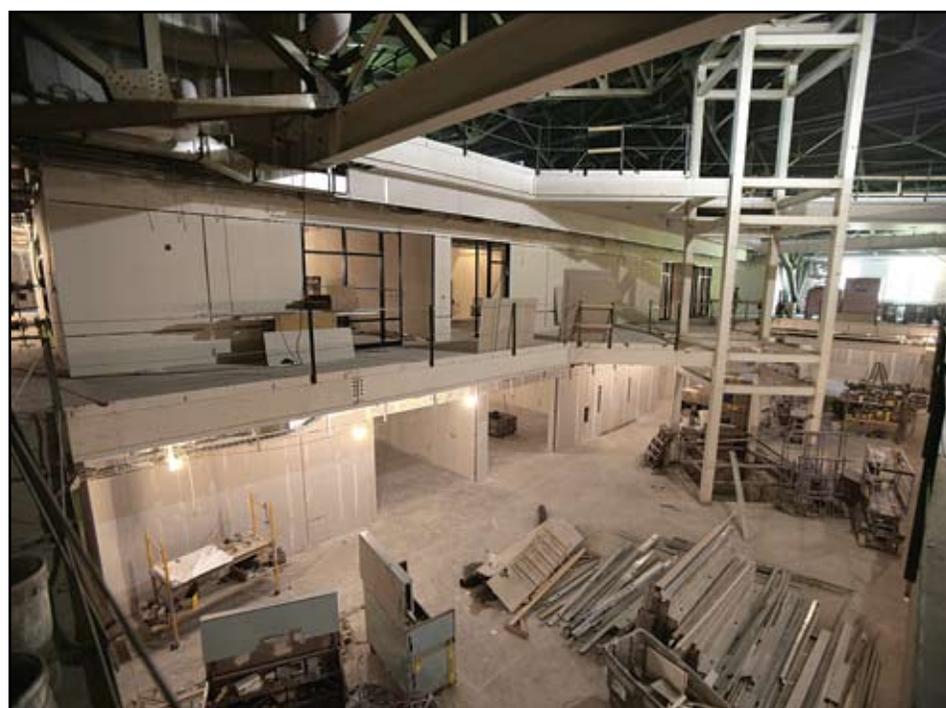


Photo by Daniel Miller

GOING UP: All three floors of the Memorial Field House, including classrooms and a new elevator shaft, have begun taking shape.

Salary increases to be distributed to professional and non-union staff

By Tobin J. Klinger

With the passage of the fiscal year 2009 budget, many employees across the University will see an increase in their base salaries to help offset increases in the cost of living, as well as a lump sum bonus in recognition of what leaders are calling "their contribution to excellence" at The University of Toledo.

According to Bill Logie, vice president for human resources and campus safety, eligible employees will receive lump sum bonuses and base salary increases in paychecks Aug. 29. Increases will be retroactive to July 6.

"The thing that makes this institution truly great is the people and their commitment to improving the human condition," said President Lloyd Jacobs. "Without their contribution to excellence, this institution would not be as strong as it is today. This was a solid year financially for this Univer-

continued on p. 4

Board passes budget, selects leadership for next year

By Tobin J. Klinger

The fiscal year 2009 budget unanimously was approved last week, as the merged University of Toledo Board of Trustees brought its second year to a close.

According to Dr. Scott Scarborough, senior vice president for finance and administration, the \$743 million operating budget includes some \$13.1 million in reallocations to fund strategic objectives.

"This budget has been reviewed and vetted by several important constituent groups, including the University's standing Finance and Strategy Committee and the University's Strategic Planning Steering Committee," Scarborough said.

In other action, the Board's nominating committee brought forward a slate of candidates for next year's trustee leadership — including Richard Stansley for a third term as chair — for approval. The nomination unanimously was approved, and the Board voted to formally waive a bylaw that prevents trustees from serving as chair for more than two years.

Olivia Summons was named vice chair,

and Judge Richard McQuade was named secretary.

The Board also approved:

- Tenure and promotion recommendations for 2008-09;
- The naming of the Nitschke Technology Commercialization Complex, the Dorothy and Ashel Bryan Board Room in the Driscoll Alumni Center, the Tom and Mary Wakefield Head Football Coaches Office in Larimer Hall, the Lyden Family Suite Level Lobby in Savage Hall, the Charles and Nancy Creech Savage Hall Weight Room, the Sullivan Athletic Complex and the Alice Ohlinger Weaver Honors Seminar Room;
- A resolution designating certain administrative officials as the appointing authority;
- \$1 million for turf replacement in the Glass Bowl;
- A charter for the Internal Audit Office; and
- A resolution extending authorization for refinancing general receipt bonds.

UT signs food contract with Aramark

By Kim Harvey

The University of Toledo has finalized a new three-year food service contract with Philadelphia-based Aramark, a company ranked first in its industry in Fortune Magazine's 2008 list of "America's Most Admired Companies."

Dr. Kaye Patten Wallace, vice president for student affairs, who chaired the food service search committee, said Aramark was the unanimous choice of a group that represented students, athletics, staff and members of the administration.

"We're very excited by the commitment we saw at Aramark to excellence, quality and to expanding the selection of choices students will have when it comes to dining on campus," Patten Wallace said.

Breanne Democko, a senior majoring in political science and creative writing, who was one of the student members of the recommendation committee, said the group saw each company in action before making its recommendation.

"When visiting Grand Valley State and Central Michigan University to evaluate Aramark, I was extremely impressed," Democko said. "The facilities were clean, the workers were friendly, and there was a wide variety of food as well as innovative concepts that could be introduced at UT."

Democko said every student she spoke with about Aramark's dining services had positive things to say.

Some of the expanded options include the Ottawa House introduction of the Fresh Food Co., an Aramark concept that will feature freshly made menus each day and made-to-order cooking; an Einstein Bros. to replace the current Taylor and Byrnes; a convenience store at Carter Hall; and a new Java City Coffee Shop at Rocket Hall. Other changes and improvements will occur during the course of the year.

UT officials say the contract provides financial incentives for successes and rewards Aramark for exceptional customer satisfaction and improvements to service. To monitor performance, a Quality Assurance Team made up primarily of students is being formed. The team will provide feedback to Aramark throughout the contract.

"In order to truly partner with Aramark, we realized early in the process that we needed a method to provide constant feedback from the students and others who dine on campus," said David Wahr, interim director of auxiliary services. "We think this team will provide meaningful feedback to assist Aramark in its goal of serving the UT community."

OBOR

continued from p. 1

support economic development. These are the so-called STEM disciplines — science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine. The conversation focused on the section of the strategic plan that calls for the creation of Centers of Excellence at universities around the state that can serve as economic drivers of the Ohio economy.

"This university is playing a critical role in generating that kind of activity," Fingerhut said of UT's work in areas that include alternative energy, for which several members of the panel noted as having great promise in terms of job creation.

Fingerhut said he believes the state needs to "develop areas of national ranking that would serve as a magnet," and complimented UT as "already beginning to serve as a magnet" in the alternative energy arena.

"Excellence, through history, has always been a best-seller," added Bob Savage, president of Savage and Associates, and member of the panel. "When you're excellent, everyone wants to be around you."

The University is beginning to build a "comprehensive process," according to President Lloyd Jacobs, to identify UT's potential Centers of Excellence. Discussions have begun on what characteristics each might share. While many are areas within the STEM disciplines, the chancellor and others emphasized that Centers of Excellence need not be confined to these disciplines.

Betsy Yeary, a junior majoring in

theatre and panel member, injected her concern into the discussion that she fears the emphasis on STEM in the state's strategic plan and direction at UT may significantly diminish the arts and social sciences.

"When I graduate, I don't want someone to give me a hammer," Yeary said. "I want to be an intellectual being with a toolbox full of tools I can use for the rest of my life."

However, all panel members and several speakers from the audience noted that STEM emphasis is not intended to diminish arts and humanities.

"The question is, 'Are they mutually exclusive?'" said State Rep. Peter Ujvagi. "They are not mutually exclusive. They are critical for success." He later noted that "liberal arts education is the basis of all critical thinking."

"Great university's debate great issues," Jacobs said about the discussion. "We are debating these great issues here at The University of Toledo."

Jacobs said, "I invite you to re-read my address of April 2 titled 'Re-Engineering the Undergraduate Experience or Mass Customization in Higher Education.' The focus is on meeting the students' needs and aspirations whether they are interested in science, the visual arts or sociology. In it, the STEM acronym does not appear, an intentional de-emphasis." Jacobs said, "It is my hope to continue this discussion with a forum early in the fall semester."

Memorial Field House

continued from p. 1

"I think people underestimate the importance of space," Lundquist said. "The more we see each other and interact, the more we can create an atmosphere of academic purpose and possibility."

Lundquist also is excited that the new classrooms will be wireless and have built-in computers and projection systems at the teachers' stations.

"That's the kind of technology we can really use. For example, a professor can show various clips of 'Hamlet' to show the different ways text can be interpreted by actors."

The University's typography lab, in which students can practice the art of making books, also will be upgraded with sinks and an enhanced ventilation system. In addition, the lab will have glass walls so people can observe the process.

Tony Varela, associate professor and chair of the Foreign Languages Department, expects the Field House will be inviting for

everyone, in particular high school students and their parents who tour the facility during the college selection process.

In addition to offices, classrooms, a language lab, a large conference room and a 250-seat auditorium, common space for students to gather is going to do wonders for the department, Varela believes.

"Right now there is no place for the students to hang out," Varela said. "We're going to have a comfortable area for students to gather and look at foreign language media. I think that will provide more of a sense of family and collegiality."

The third floor loft, with its skylight, arched steel beams and open area, is intended to serve as an educational incubator to develop innovative teaching methods.

Picture teams of faculty brainstorming and working with an instructional designer to optimize how courses are taught, learning objectives and the ideal delivery methods, for example.

Photovoltaics, spine research

continued from p. 1

million to strengthen a photovoltaics research cluster focusing on development in the areas of thin silicon photovoltaic science, photovoltaic nanoscale surface science, solid-state photonics, deposition modeling and molecular photonics.

Attraction packages for a new endowed faculty chair and two additional faculty members are expected to be developed with the money as the University continues its upward trajectory to become among the world's premier photovoltaics research centers, developing science and technology that will make solar cells more efficient and affordable, while helping reduce the world's dependence on fossil fuels that contribute to global warming.

In addition, UT and the Cleveland Clinic's Center for Spine Health and Clinical Center for Tissue Engineering were recommended for \$4.5 million for basic and applied research on spinal diseases and devices.

The awards are contingent upon State Controlling Board approval and will require the University to secure additional cost-share funds and firm commitments from collaborating partners.

Twenty-three research proposals were rigorously reviewed for scientific merit by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), while the Ohio Department of Development looked at how the proposals fit with prior Third Frontier investments, the state's research and technology strengths, and how they could leverage research strengths at the state's universities. The Ohio Board of Regents weighed the proposals for excellence, collaboration among institutions, and how they could fortify the state's economy. The NAS ranked five of the 23 proposals in the top category for funding, and all three UT proposals, including one submitted by Dr. Akira Takashima, professor and chairman of medical microbiology and immunology, were among the top five.

The \$8.9 million award will be used for a new \$2.5 million endowed chair in photovoltaics, another \$4.5 million for new, state-of-the-art instruments and computer equipment for modeling of materials, as well as for operating support that funds the three new faculty members, according to Dr. Robert Collins, professor of physics, the Nippon Electric Glass Chair in Silicate and Material Science, and the proposal's principal investigator. According to the terms of the award, the holder of the new chair must come from outside the state.

With Dr. Xunming Deng, the UT physics professor who founded solar-panel manufacturer Xunlight Corp., a UT technology spin-off, on a five-year faculty leave and the eventual retirement of Dr.

Alvin Compaan, Distinguished University Professor of Physics and chair of the Physics and Astronomy Department, UT will recruit a new generation of highly skilled photovoltaics scientists who will "propel UT to among the world's leaders," Collins explained. The endowment will provide UT with an edge in recruiting and in attracting other scholars, who will in turn bring in additional research dollars, talented graduate students and company incubation, all of which help the region's economy.

Two internationally recognized faculty members with photovoltaics expertise, Drs. Michael Heben and Randall Ellingson, recently accepted offers to join UT, and Collins, who headed the search committee that recruited the pair from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Colorado, said a fourth photovoltaics authority will be recruited to the University as part of the research scholars program cluster with funds from the newly established McMaster Chair, bringing the total number of UT faculty members involved in photovoltaics research to 16.

Bowling Green State University also is expected to use nearly \$2 million of the funds to recruit a faculty member with expertise in photovoltaics who will collaborate with UT faculty members, Collins said.

Collins, who along with Dr. Sylvain Marsillac, associate professor of physics, is the principal investigator and architect of the \$18.6 million Wright Center for Photovoltaics Innovation and Commercialization, applauded the efforts of Drs. Yueh-Ting Lee, College of Arts and Sciences dean; Dr. Frank Calzonetti, vice president for research development; and Marsillac in developing the successful research scholars proposal in photovoltaics.

"I received unprecedented support from Dean Lee," Collins said. "His active involvement in helping us bring Drs. Heben and Ellingson to UT was critical for us in landing this award. It demonstrated our capacity for bringing world-class scientists to UT from out of state. In fact, Dr. Heben himself traveled from NREL to Columbus to help defend our proposal in front of the



Photo by Jack Meade

President Lloyd Jacobs and Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut, center, posed for a photo last week with, from left, College of Arts and Sciences Dean Dr. Yueh-Ting Lee, Dr. Vijay Goel, Dr. Robert Collins and Dr. Sylvain Marsillac.

National Academy of Sciences review panel."

As part of an effort to establish a research cluster in spine products, UT will recruit a top scientist in bioengineering with expertise in nanotechnology/tissue engineering, while the Cleveland Clinic will recruit a postdoctoral fellow with expertise in biological approaches that work with the body's natural processes to assist in healing after surgery or to provide alternative products that can be implanted to mimic the normal function of diseased or degenerated spine components.

The cluster, it is hoped, will generate new firms specializing in the development and manufacture of spine-related medical devices, which would mean big payoffs for Toledo's and northwest Ohio's economy and also deliver more clinical and research dollars for the region.

Dr. Vijay K. Goel, who has earned an international reputation during his 30-year career studying spinal diseases and spinal mechanics, will work on the project with three Cleveland Clinic researchers — Drs. Lars G. Gilbertson, Edward C. Benzell and Robert F. McLain — and three members of UT's Department of Orthopedic Surgery — Drs. Ashok Biyani, associate professor; Hossein Elgafy, assistant professor; and Nabil Ebraheim, professor and chair.

Goel and Ebraheim direct UT's Engineering Center for Orthopedic Research Excellence that was established in 2006. The center has more than 4,000 square feet of space on both campuses while the Cleveland Clinic also operates a spine research laboratory.

Increases in the elderly population, technology advances, and improved understanding of cellular and molecular biology have produced a big market for spine surgery products, Goel noted. Spinal surgery is being transformed from fusion procedures to motion preservation approaches such as artificial discs and prosthetic disc nuclei devices that offer patients a new lease on life. New kinds of spine products, particularly those incorporating motion preservation techniques, now are revolutionizing spine surgery and promising a faster recovery and return to normal activity.

"From an economic perspective, these shifts have made spine care and research the fastest growing segment of the orthopedic industry," Goel said. "A new development is the emergence of the motion preservation devices to treat back pain. Annual revenues have increased in the spinal-care market from \$100 million in 1990 to \$5.3 billion in 2005, a compound annual growth rate of 27 percent. These advances present unique and outstanding opportunities for the state."

More than 10 UT faculty members on Main and Health Science campuses are expected to be involved in the spinal cluster.

Calzonetti noted the NAS was extremely impressed and ranked a proposal submitted by Takashima as one of the top five of all submissions. However, it was not funded because it did not fit as well with the Ohio Department of Development's economic development goals as did other proposals.

UT, Esclapeus Biopharmaceuticals ink deal to develop molecule to fight obesity

By Jacob Corkins

Esclopeus Biopharmaceuticals LLC, founded by Dr. Khew-Voon Chin, UT associate professor of medicine and director of genomic medicine in the College of Medicine, recently entered into a licensing agreement with the University to develop a small molecule intervention for obesity.

According to Stephen Snider, UT director of technology licensing and contracts, "If successful, this molecule would be utilized to reduce the growing obesity epidemic, which is one of the most serious public health risks in the United States."

While spending more than 20 years in cancer research, Chin came across an unexpected result: He found a drug that regulates

cholesterol levels, which could be applied to treatment of obesity.

After making this discovery more than three years ago, Chin shifted half of his research team's focus from cancer to obesity in order to combat one of the nation's fastest-growing problems.

Chin named his company, Esclapeus, after the Greek god of medicine and health.

Chin and Esclapeus Biopharmaceuticals add their names to the other 12 spin-off companies that have been developed by UT faculty since 1998.

For more information on these companies, visit http://www.utoledo.edu/research/TechTransfer/spin_offs.html.

UT seals deal with professor to create spinoff to generate fresh water

By Jacob Corkins

The University of Toledo has entered into an exclusive agreement with Innovative Water Technologies LLC, created by Dr. Dean Giolando, UT professor of chemistry. The spin-off company is working to battle the global water shortage with new desalination technology.

"This technology could be used to generate fresh water for municipal, industrial and agricultural use as demand for fresh water continues to rise globally," said Stephen Snider, UT director of licensing and contracts.

According to www.worldwatercouncil.org, there are about one billion people globally without access to safe drinking water, and the supply of fresh water in the United States is dwindling.

The technology also could be used widely in northwest Ohio. Water from aquifers — underground water pools that wells tap into — may contain impurities such as salt and other pollutants that need to be removed to make the water safe.

Severe droughts in Alabama, Georgia, Florida and many southwestern states also illustrate why the technology could prove

very valuable.

Giolando said the idea came to him when he was working with spray technology.

In order to remove the impurities from water, it is sprayed into a heated chamber, where it evaporates and the water molecules separate from the impurities, Giolando explained. The process then condenses the water molecules. The final result is purified water.

Giolando, who has been researching solar technology for 10 years, plans to drive the new desalination process with renewable solar energy.

Along with Alan McMaster, Giolando runs another UT spinoff, Innovative Thin Films Ltd., a solar energy research company, licensed by the University in 2004.

Innovative Water Technologies is the third spin-off company to enter into an agreement with the University this year, the most in one year since 2002.

For more information on these companies, visit http://www.utoledo.edu/research/TechTransfer/spin_offs.html.



Photo by Jack Meade

REFLECTIVE MOMENT: Dr. Andrew Beavis, associate professor of physiology and pharmacology and director of the cardiovascular and metabolic disease track, checked out the new UT crest that recently was installed in the main lobby of the Mulford Library Building on the Health Science Campus.

Salary increases

continued from p. 1

sity, and we feel it is really important to let our professional and non-union employees know how much we appreciate their contributions."

The increases will be distributed according to employment category. These categories are:

Main Campus-originating employees

- Professional staff: A 3 percent increase effective July 6, a 1 percent lump sum bonus retroactive to Jan. 1, and a 2 percent increase effective Jan. 1, 2009, to offset an increase in employee contribution for health care;

- College of Law faculty: A potential increase from a 3 percent merit pool and a 2 percent increase effective Jan. 1, 2009, to offset an increase in employee contribution for health care; and

- Non-union hourly employees: A 3 percent increase effective July 6, a 1 percent lump sum bonus retroactive to Jan. 1, and a 2 percent increase effective Jan. 1, 2009, to offset an increase in employee contribution for health care.

Health Science Campus-originating employees

- Professional staff: A 3 percent increase effective July 6, and a 1 percent lump sum bonus retroactive to Jan. 1;

- Non-union hourly employees: A 3 percent increase effective July 6 and a 1 percent lump sum bonus retroactive to Jan. 1;

- Faculty: A potential increase from a 3 percent merit pool.

Executive Staff and Faculty Administra-

tors are eligible for a potential increase from a 3 percent merit pool. This group includes vice presidents, associate vice presidents and faculty with administrative appointments, including provosts, vice provosts, deans, associate deans and chairs. Main Campus-originating executive staff and faculty administrators also would receive a 2 percent increase effective Jan. 1, 2009, to offset an increase in employee contribution for health care.

"Between these increases and the implementation of our extensive compensation study, we have all but achieved parity between peers and across campuses," Logie said. "These increases are symbolic of our commitment to making sure our employees are able to keep up with cost-of-living increases, that our salaries are competitive, and that hard work is rewarded."

Increases and bonuses will be based on salaries as of March 31. Employees hired after March 31 are not eligible for an increase.

Details on changes to the health-care plan for employees in these categories are available at <http://utoledo.edu/depts/hr/main/benefits/index.html>.

Increases for three of the University's unions, the Communications Workers of America Local 4319, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2415, and the UT Police Patrolman's Association, were received in conjunction with contract approvals.

The University is involved in contract negotiations with the UT chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

Check out UToday

For news updates, go to myut.utoledo.edu.

Outstanding Staff Awards presented; 10 receive cash prizes

By Vicki L. Kroll

Ten employees each received a crystal arc and \$1,000 at the University's 2008 Outstanding Staff Awards ceremony earlier this month.

President Lloyd Jacobs spoke at the event, which was held to honor 76 nominees from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2415; the Communications Workers of America Local 4319 and the UT Police Patrolman's Association; and the Professional Staff Association.

Award recipients from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2415 were:

- **Sandy Hassell**, administrative assistant 3 in the College of Medicine Office of Admissions. She has worked at the University 31 years. "We always know that we can call on Sandy for just about anything — a simple question, help with a project, friendly advice," wrote one nominator. "Sandy is very approachable and the type of person you would want to run into after a tough week of exams. She always has kind words to say and a smile to share."

- **Martha Heck**, data systems coordinator in the Physiology and Pharmacology Department in the College of Medicine. She has worked at the University since 1983. "Martha always arrives early, checking her e-mail to be sure no important faculty-related or other departmental-related issues haven't arisen overnight and addresses them immediately if necessary," noted one nominator. "Martha always does the best job possible no matter how small the task or how great the challenge, giving equal dedication to each and setting the very highest standards for her own job performance."

- **Melvin Millimen**, building operator in Campus Environment and Physical Plant. He is responsible for the Educare Building on the Health Science Campus. Millimen has worked at the University 13 years. "Mel's biggest impact is on the children in our center. These are the children of University employees, and he spends his time explaining to the children while he works," wrote one nominator. "He patiently explains what his tools are, what they're for, and why he's doing what he's doing. He takes a job and makes it a teaching opportunity."

- **Darlene Stickles**, LPN in Surgery and Orthopedics in UT Medical Center. She started working at the hospital in 1995. "Darlene has struggled for many years to obtain her RN, which she is about to achieve, while working, caring for a husband with disabilities, and being the income provider in her family," wrote one nominator. "She is very



Photo by Daniel Miller

Outstanding Staff Award winners are, seated from left, Candace Couturier, Jeff Witt, Diane Ammons and Rick Seward, and, standing from left, Martha Heck, Mona Dokurno, Sandy Hassell, Darlene Stickles and John Adams; Melvin Millimen was unable to attend the event.

loyal to her patients; she is kind, bold and brave, and she is never afraid of a difficult task."

Winners from the Communications Workers of America Local 4319 and the UT Police Patrolman's Association were:

- **Candace Couturier**, custodial worker on the Scott Park Campus. She joined the UT staff in 2000. "She is very quiet and does not want attention drawn to her; however, just ask for any kind of help and she is willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done," wrote one nominator. "Candace demonstrates her loyalty to the University through her high work ethic in maintaining classrooms for students and participating on division committees to promote spirit and good will."

- **Mona Dokurno**, public inquiry assistant in the Student Services Office in University College. She has worked 15 years at UT. "Mona is involved in contract negotiations for CWA, and she previously served as CWA white collar steward for the past two years," one nominator wrote. "She is a role model to her two daughters. Mona found time to attend college and graduated from University College with a bachelor of arts degree in liberal studies." Another noted, "For several years, Mona has helped to organize and staff the Latino Youth Summit."

- **Rick Seward**, supervisor of grounds on

Main Campus. He has worked 31 years at UT. "Rick has a vast array of skills, including welding, equipment operations and repair, and repair and operation of irrigation systems. He is always firm yet fair as a supervisor," noted one nominator. Another wrote, "Rick has been a longtime member of the Beautification Committee and also has served as the CWA vice president. He works directly with student workers and instills a strong work ethic in a positive environment."

Professional Staff Association members recognized were:

- **John Adams**, senior director of marketing. He has worked at the University since 2001. "The University has struggled with branding issues and breaking out of its regional notoriety toward the state and national level. John was instrumental in gently moving the University toward common branding initiatives and moving toward a larger mission and vision in the area of marketing for The University of Toledo," wrote one nominator. "John has an intense loyalty to the institution and truly wants to deliver a superior product."

- **Diane Ammons**, assistant to the chair of the Medical Microbiology and Immunology Department. She joined the University staff 19 years ago. "She has obvious leadership skills of the best kind — forceful enough to get things done but without being a

marionette. This is a balance that relatively few people achieve," wrote one nominator. "Diane serves as the secretary to the UT Health Science Campus Provost's Research Advisory Council; this is a large amount of work and requires her to constantly take on new projects."

- **Jeff Witt**, director of the Student Recreation Center. He started working at UT in 1998. "The Student Recreation Center is widely recognized as a top-notch facility in Toledo, and Jeff's leadership has enabled the facility to flourish. As a leader, Jeff is always willing to incorporate change, welcomes feedback and criticism, and has extended his hand in ensuring students from the Health Science Campus are able to take advantage of all the Student Recreation Center has to offer," wrote one nominator.

**Look for the next
issue of UT News
July 7**

Educator seeks answer to age-old problem

By Kim Harvey

It's almost a given with the mature adult population. As Aunt Karen reaches her twilight years, she'll start to forget things, her reactions will slow, and she'll need increasing assistance with everyday tasks.

It's merely part of getting older, right?

Maybe not.

"There is a traditional stereotype that says as we get older, our cognitive abilities are bound to decline," explained Dr. Sudershan Pasupuleti, associate professor of social work and director of the Office of Service Learning and Community Engagement. "Research in cognitive health is beginning to show evidence that this stereotype is no longer true."

Pasupuleti proposed a study of how cyber stimulation affects the brain and cognitive functioning among older adults to the John A. Hartford Foundation. His theory sparked interest; Pasupuleti was chosen as one of 10 inductees into the Hartford Faculty Scholars Program for 2008, becoming the third scholar in the state of Ohio. The Hartford Faculty Scholars program has existed for more than a decade.

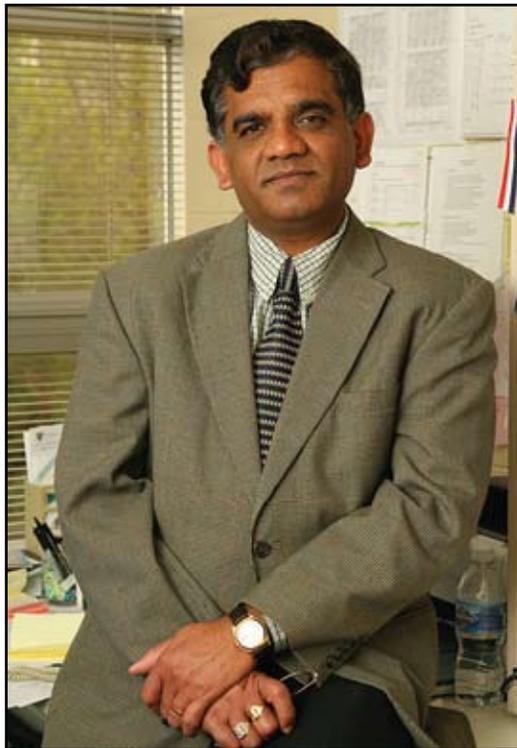
The distinguished honor comes with a two-year commitment of \$100,000 in research funding and access to acclaimed mentors.

"I'm really excited about this opportunity," Pasupuleti said. "It's a good foundation for my future research. This award brings great recognition for me personally, for my department and for the University."

His research is titled "Impact of Computer-Based Brain Fitness Program on Cognitive Functioning and Quality of Life of Older Adults in Public Dwellings." He'll examine whether older adults experience positive changes in cognitive functions after receiving the computer-based Brain Fitness intervention. Those in the study will complete the cyber exercises for five hours weekly during a period of eight weeks.

"This research has wider implications for serving older adults with cognitive impairment, dementia and Alzheimer's disease," Pasupuleti said. "Data we gather will help us answer the question, 'Can we do anything to improve cognitive function or minimize the effects of cognitive decline?'"

"If an older person loses his day-to-day abilities, he begins to depend more on others," Pasupuleti continued, noting cognitive impairment is one of the primary reasons older adults seek help through assisted living and other supplemental arrangements.



Pasupuleti

"If we improve cognitive function, even by a small percentage, we can reduce the growing dependence on long-term care and other resources often used with older adults."

Approximately 100 people will take part in the study, which Pasupuleti will administer with the assistance of the Area Office on Aging, the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority, Madonna Homes Inc. and other organizations.

Participants will work with interactive software from Posit Science Corp., a San Francisco-based company.

"Posit Science was developed by leading experts in the area of cognitive health and neurosciences," Pasupuleti said. "Posit's software provides intellectual stimulation that has a positive effect on areas of the brain that control basic thinking and speed processing."

Participants will be evaluated before and after they complete the program.

"During the next five years, I would like to test different interventions to discover which methods have the most positive effects," Pasupuleti said. "Once we have that knowledge, older adults will be able to choose an activity, based on their capacities, to maintain cognitive health."

Pasupuleti said the Hartford award recognizes work in the field of gerontology, social work, mental health and nursing. In the future, he expects UT to offer a geriatric concentration in its master of social work program.

New director seeks to expand animal research program

By Kim Harvey

Did you ever wonder why your gimpy pet can be prescribed arthritis tablets similar to those in your own medicine cabinet? According to Dr. Phillip Robinson, the search for new drugs and treatments for humans frequently benefits family pets, as well.

Robinson, assistant professor and director of UT's Department of Laboratory Animal Resources, said many diseases in animals parallel human conditions. Research subjects, particularly rodents, are invaluable in developing new medications, treatments and procedures for humans.

"Animals provide irreplaceable insights into human medicine because their genetics and physiology are strikingly similar to ours," Robinson, a board-certified veterinarian who joined UT's faculty in April, said. "Understanding the basic biology of a disease is a vital part of being able to develop new methods of detection and treatment."

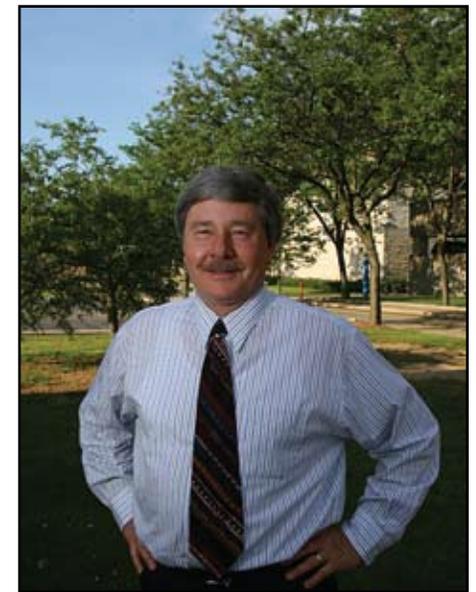
He cited diabetes, cancer and hypertension as conditions that have been significantly advanced by animal research. Surgical procedures such as organ transplantation and cardiac intervention also are being refined through investigations in animals.

"For organ transplantation in particular, animal research is crucial in terms of understanding the compatibilities from one patient to another," Robinson said. "The best method of transplantation, whether the host accepts or rejects the organ, how the body recognizes foreign tissue — these are all variables we study through animal research."

Robinson said more than 90 percent of animals used for research — both at UT and in the industry — are rodents specifically bred for this purpose. The University purchases these animals from professional suppliers and screens them before they are accepted. "We receive the animals through a controlled process and have our own programs for disease control and quality monitoring," he said.

UT is registered with the United States Department of Agriculture as an animal research institution. The program also undergoes a rigorous voluntary evaluation every three years by the Association for the Accreditation and Assessment of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC).

"We have an ongoing dialogue



Robinson

with federal and accrediting organizations," Robinson said. "We've elected to belong to AAALAC because we believe that quality animal care is vital to quality research."

He added that UT intends to expand its animal research capabilities. The program has facilities on the Main and Health Science campuses and at the Lake Erie Center.

"The University has an interesting diversity of research within this program," Robinson said. "We have excellent facilities, outstanding professional staff, and all of the components that define a progressive, growing program."

As campus-wide director of animal care, his early goals are unifying policies and procedures throughout UT's facilities. This includes achieving AAALAC accreditation for all UT animal-related research programs.

Dr. Douglas Wilkerson, vice president for research administration, noted, "Phillip Robinson brings a diversity of experience that is particularly appropriate for the growth of UT's research initiatives. His commitment to humane animal research and his array of qualifications assure that our program is in good hands."

Robinson, a native of Grand Rapids, Mich., has been director of veterinary services at the San Diego Zoo, chief veterinarian at the University of California in San Diego, a biomedical research consultant and a private veterinary practitioner. His book, *Life at the Zoo — Behind the Scenes With the Animal Doctors*, was published in 2004.

Robinson is a longtime proponent of wildlife and rainforest conservation in West Africa and will maintain his research contacts in the Republic of Liberia, where he has done conservation field research.

Employee terminated for failing to protect health information

By Matt Lockwood

A University of Toledo Medical Center employee with nearly 30 years' experience at the hospital has been fired for discussing another employee's personal health information although he had no direct involvement with the co-worker's care.

A human resources investigation found that the terminated employee violated the institution's patient confidentiality policy, among several others.

"We take the protection of our patients' personal health information very, very seriously," said Lynn Hutt, the compliance and privacy officer for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). "It doesn't matter how long you've worked at the University or if you know the patient."

The federal HIPAA privacy rule has strict guidelines outlining appropriate uses of protected health information. Generally, unless the information is being used directly for a patient's treatment, billing or records, it should not be accessed or shared.

"Confidentiality is a top priority at UTMC," Hutt said. "That means you can

expect university-quality health care without worrying about anyone sharing your confidential information. If there is a violation, it will be dealt with swiftly."

Hutt added that hospital employees do not bear sole responsibility for protecting health information. The entire UTMC work force, including students and residents, are required to comply with hospital policies and HIPAA.

Failure to comply with HIPAA requirements can result in fines, loss of wages, termination and, in extreme cases, even prison.

The act states, "A person who knowingly obtains or discloses individually identifiable health information in violation of HIPAA faces a fine of up to \$50,000 and up to a one-year imprisonment."

HIPAA privacy training is required for all employees who come into contact with patients or patient information. For more information on what level of training your job requires and how you can receive training, contact Hutt at 419.383.3920.

Financial offices moving to Scott Park

During the week of June 23, the Office of the Vice President for Finance and all of its reporting areas will move to the second floor of the Learning Resource Center on the Scott Park Campus.

For more information, go to UToday at my.ut.utoledo.edu.



Photo by Jack Meade

STUDENTS FIRST AWARD WINNERS OF THE YEAR: Susan Andrews, director of student customer service on Main Campus, left, and Dr. Connie Shriner, assistant professor of family medicine and associate dean for faculty development and curriculum evaluation, were selected as the Students First Award winners for the year. Each month during the academic year, the University recognized employees who help students and ensure their success. The Students First Award Selection Committee tapped Andrews and Shriner as the best of the best. They received checks for \$1,500.

Batter up!

How would you like to take batting practice and shag fly balls at Comerica Park?

A five-minute batting session is up for grabs, courtesy of Lawrence J. Burns, vice president for enrollment services, marketing and communications.

The special visit to the home field of the Detroit Tigers will take place rain or shine Monday, June 30. Sessions will be scheduled from 2 to 10 p.m. The VIP treatment will include a slot in the Tigers Parking Garage.

One person may take the field, or two individuals may split the five minutes at the

plate. Participants must be 18 and older.

Interested? Show your stripes by identifying the man who once sported the old English D who said, "I've got my faults, but living in the past isn't one of them. There's no future in it."

Send your answer along with your name and phone number to Joanne Gray of University Communications at joanne.gray3@utoledo.edu or fax 419.530.4618.

Answers must be received by 5 p.m. Thursday, June 26. All correct responses will be entered in a random drawing, which will take place Friday, June 27.



UT to host African-American Festival

By Tobin J. Klinger

An event that has become a Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union tradition over the last few years will have a new home this July. On July 12 and 13, Toledo Urban's African-American Festival will take place on UT's Scott Park Campus.

The celebration of the African-American culture features music, food, rides and a parade. The parade will take place Saturday, July 12, at 10 a.m., with festival activities running from noon to 10 p.m., and continuing from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, July 13.

"We're thrilled that The University of Toledo has offered to host this important community event," said Suzette Cowell, CEO of Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union and the event organizer. "We will have an extensive musical lineup and some wonderful activities for the whole family to enjoy."

According to Cowell, the new location is appealing in that it keeps the event close to the community without some of the logistical challenges a neighborhood event can pose.

"This event will retain the character of the original," Cowell said. "Each year we have grown in turnout, and we expect that to continue with UT as a partner."

"Holding this event on our Scott Park Campus seemed a natural fit," said Lawrence J. Burns, vice president for enrollment services, marketing and communications. "We at The University of Toledo want to do all we can to build connections with our community, and this is a perfect way to further develop that relationship."

For more information on the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union's African-American Festival, contact Cowell at 419.255.8876.

UTNEWS

UT News is published for faculty, staff and students by the University Communications Office weekly during the academic year and periodically during the summer. Copies are mailed to employees and placed in newsstands 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 #949, 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, Toledo, OH 43606-3390.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT SERVICES, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS: Lawrence J. Burns

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS:

Tobin J. Klinger

EDITOR: Vicki L. Kroll

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Cynthia Nowak

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Liz Allen

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Terry Fell, Jack Meade, Daniel Miller

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: Jacob Corkins, Kim Harvey, Megan Lewis,

Matt Lockwood, Jon Strunk, Jim Winkler

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS: Laurie Flowers, Joanne Gray

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANT: Jason Ogurchak

Read UT news at www.utnews.utoledo.edu and myut.utoledo.edu.

The University of Toledo is committed to a policy of equal opportunity in education, employment, membership and contracts, and no differentiation will be made based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, veteran status or the presence of a disability. The University will take affirmative action as required by federal or state law.



Photo by Daniel Miller



Photo by Jack Meade

TAKE AS NEEDED: Dr. Johnnie Early, dean of the College of Pharmacy, presented some headache relief to Dr. Carol Bresnahan, vice provost for academic programs and policies, during her recent goodbye party. She will start her job as provost and executive vice president at the College of New Jersey in Ewing in July. A specialist in Renaissance Italian history, Bresnahan joined the UT faculty in 1985 and was promoted to assistant professor in 1986, to associate professor in 1990 and to professor in 1995. She served as chair of the department from 1994 to 1997. In 1996, she received one of the University's Outstanding Research Awards, and she served as chair of the Faculty Senate in 2001-02. Bresnahan was named an American Council on Education Fellow for 2003-04. In 2004, she was named vice provost. "These events are bittersweet," Bresnahan said. "I have loved my time here at The University of Toledo and will sincerely miss my friends and colleagues from the campus community."

FUN FAREWELL: Dr. Jeri Milstead, dean of the College of Nursing, center, shared a laugh with Dr. Ann Baker, associate professor emerita of nursing, and Baker's husband, Tom. The two were among many who stopped by to wish Milstead well at her retirement party. "I will miss working with our wonderful faculty, staff and students," she said. "Our faculty are knowledgeable, caring and committed to rigorous learning; our staff are so innovative, often solving problems that seemed unsolvable. Our students are enthusiastic about nursing and learning, and our graduates have had a huge impact on patient care, especially in northwest Ohio." Milstead said her greatest accomplishments were implementing the doctor of nursing practice in collaboration with Wright State University and the pre-licensure master's degree clinical nurse leader with UTM and Toledo Hospital, moving the School of Nursing to college status, and integrating the college into the new UT, and expanding distance-learning options for students and faculty. In retirement, Milstead said she plans to teach some health-policy courses around the country, continue to serve as chair of a national committee, expand her political interests and experience, spend time with family, visit close friends and satisfy her "creative side by sewing."

In memoriam

Arnold B. Cole, Toledo, stationary engineer 2 in Plant Operations, died June 3 at age 59. He joined the UT staff in 2002.

Dr. Julian Wohl, Naples, Fla., professor emeritus of psychology, died May 25 at age 80. He joined UT's Psychology Department in 1961 and that year received a Fulbright Grant to teach at Rangoon University in Burma. In 1957, a second Fulbright Grant led to teaching in Chang Mai, Thailand. Wohl served as chair of the Psychology Department from 1964 to 1970 and played an integral role in establishing UT's doctoral program in clinical and experimental psychology. The former director of the Clinical Psychology Training Program retired from UT in 1987, when he was named professor emeritus.

Elizabeth A. Zepf, who served on the UT Board of Trustees from 1954 to 1967 and was vice chair seven years, died June 6 at age 104. In 1969, she received an honorary doctor of humane letters from the University. Zepf was president of the National Council of Catholic Women from 1960 to 1962. One year later, President John F. Kennedy tapped her to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Freedom From Hunger Foundation. As vice president of the foundation, she was one of four U.S. delegates at the World Conference on Freedom From Hunger in Rome in 1965 and attended the Young World Food and Development Seminar in Toronto in 1967. She had private papal audiences with Pope John XXIII and Pope Paul VI. Zepf founded the Women's Cancer Education Council and was a past president of the Board of Trustees of the Toledo Mental Hygiene Clinic. A former vice chair of the Lucas County Mental Health Board, she was named an honorary life member. During the 1960s, she served on a governor's community mental health task force. Zepf served on the March of Dimes of Board and was a member of the former UT Community and Technical College Advisory Committee. In 1960, she received the Distinguished Citizenship Award from The Blade for outstanding service to the community. The Lucas County Mental Health Board opened the Zepf Center, named in her honor, in 1974. The Satellites of the former MCO honored her as one of the "Treasures of Toledo" in 1988.



Photo by Jim Winkler

STROLLING DOWN MEMORY LANE: Tina Kinkaid, left, who retired this month as CT, MRI and nuclear medicine manager after 31 years of service at the former MCO/MUO and later UT; Mary Ann Dimick, nursing director of the fifth floor and cardiovascular lab, and Dr. Haitham Elsalamoty, associate professor of radiology, looked at a scrapbook with photographs of the Department of Radiology. A 1974 graduate of Maumee High School, Kinkaid earned an associate degree in applied science from the then-Owens Technical College in 1977, when she joined MCO and quickly moved through department administrative ranks. "I'm going to miss all the friends I've made over the years," she said. Kinkaid plans to work part time and travel with her husband, Randy, visiting daughter Kristen, who earned her MD degree this month from the College of Medicine and is beginning residency training in Akron, and another daughter, Jodie, who lives in North Carolina. The couple's third daughter, Marissa, is a senior at Bowling Green State University.