



Photo by Daniel Miller

FLOOR SHOW: Workers from Kiefer Specialty Flooring Inc. in Lindenhurst, Ill., installed the basketball court floor in Savage Hall Arena last week. Renovations are scheduled to be complete before the start of the basketball season.

UT Medical Center specialties ranked best in area

By Matt Lockwood

The annual U.S. News and World Report “Best Hospitals” rankings are out and The University of Toledo Medical Center has three specialties ranked as the very best in northwest Ohio.

The rankings, which judge hospitals on difficult cases across an entire specialty,

on routine procedures because they are done more often and it is easier to establish benchmarks and compare facilities; however, these “Best Hospital” rankings are specific to more challenging specialty cases.

Hospitals had to perform a certain number of specified procedures on Medicare

U.S. News and World Report named

UTMC best in the region

for kidney, brain and urologic treatment*



*U.S. News and World Report 2008 Hospital Rankings

listed UTMC No. 1 in specialty care of kidney disease, neurology and urology.

“This recognition underscores what we already knew,” said Mark Chastang, vice president and executive director of the hospital. “UT Medical Center has extremely talented health-care professionals and university-quality health care is the best available.”

Most hospital rankings are based

inpatients from 2004 to 2006 to qualify for the rankings.

Each hospital then received a U.S. News score from zero to 100 determined in equal parts by reputation, death rate and care-related criteria, including nursing and patient services.

This year’s rankings were produced by RTI International, a research organization based in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Interim dean for College of Arts and Sciences named

By Tobin J. Klinger

Dr. Nina McClelland, president of a consulting firm focusing on public health issues and environmental sciences, has accepted a one-year appointment as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Rosemary Haggett, Main Campus provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, announced the selection Wednesday, after spending the last few weeks weighing her options. Ultimately, she looked to a highly respected scientist and successful alumna who is familiar to the UT family to step into the critical role.

A two-time graduate of the University, McClelland earned bachelor and master of science degrees in 1951 and 1963, respectively. She received her doctorate in environmental chemistry from the University of Michigan in 1968. UT awarded her an honorary doctorate in science in 2003.

McClelland has been highly successful in the business world, spending more than 30 years with NSF International, an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to certifying products and writing standards for food, water and consumer goods. She served as chair of the board of directors and executive committee, president and chief executive officer. In 1995, McClelland started her own consulting firm. She describes her style as one of “applying consensus principles to management decisions and in achieving conflict resolution.”

In addition to her corporate background, McClelland has held adjunct faculty positions at both UT and the University of Michigan, and has been very active in a number of professional organizations, including leadership roles with the American

Chemical Society.

“Nina has been a strong advocate for the College of Arts and Sciences for many



WELCOME: Dr. Rosemary Haggett, Main Campus provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, right, shook hands with Dr. Nina McClelland, who was on Main Campus last week when it was announced she would be the interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Her one-year appointment will begin Sept. 19.

years,” Haggett said. “Most recently, she has chaired the dean’s advisory board and is keenly aware of the strengths and challenges of the college. I am thrilled she will be joining us in this leadership role.”

One of McClelland’s primary duties during the coming months will be to help provide leadership to the college’s strategic assessment, which will be performed by the Learning Alliance of the University of Pittsburgh during fall semester.

“The College of Arts and Sciences is at a critical juncture,” McClelland said. “I am honored to be able to help play a part in shaping the future of the institution that means so much to me.

“The strategic assessment we will be undertaking will be an inclusive process,” McClelland said. “Given what we are trying to accomplish, I’m not sure we can achieve success any other way. I am looking forward to working with people from across the college and the University on this important undertaking.”

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Future Rocket doctors to receive white coats at convocation Aug. 22

By Jim Winkler

The annual convocation where incoming College of Medicine students receive their traditional doctors' coats will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22, in Nitschke Hall Auditorium on Main Campus.

Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, Health Science Campus provost, executive vice president for health affairs and College of Medicine dean, will officiate at the ceremony, where 176 members of the class of 2012 will be welcomed.

More than 100 new and returning students also will be awarded scholarships.

Since its inception in 1993, the white-coat ceremony has become a rite that is practiced at medical schools around the country as a way to welcome students to the clinical aspects of medical practice and to impress upon them the importance of professionalism and humanism in the field of medicine.

The students wear the short coats throughout their third and fourth years of medical school, differentiating them in

clinical settings from UT faculty physicians and residents, who wear knee-length white coats.

The students also will receive gold lapel pins that feature a heart-shaped stethoscope, which represents humanism in medicine, and recite the Medical Student Pledge of Ethics to mark the official beginning of their medical careers. A reception will follow.

The members of the entering class are scheduled to start a four-day orientation of informational sessions and welcoming events today. More than 30 faculty, staff and students will talk on the curriculum, medical ethics and professionalism, medical school policies, student organizations, and strategies for balancing their personal lives with medical studies. They're also learning where to go for help with situations that might arise such as keeping up with classes, family matters, illness and stress.

Classes start Monday, Aug. 25.



Photo by Daniel Miller

THANK YOU: President Lloyd Jacobs took a moment to thank Mary Ann Adams, records management officer 2, for her assistance in answering an incoming student's questions about housing arrangements. The 23-year UT employee was able to help a father ensure his daughter would be able to room with a longtime friend. Jacobs told Adams that he always enjoys meeting someone with "that type of service orientation." Jo Campbell, director of residence life, echoed the president's remarks, adding, "Mary Ann is a treasure. I don't know what I would do without her."

Interim dean

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"Anyone that knows Nina will tell you that she is data-driven and results-oriented," Hagggett said. "I think she will hold all of us, administration included, to the highest standards as we develop a shared vision for the College of Arts and Sciences. She will be a strong advocate for the faculty."

MCClelland replaces Dr. Yueh-Ting Lee, who has accepted a position as associate vice president for analysis and assessment in the Department of Human Resources effective Sept. 19.

Main Campus wireless offerings expand

By Kim Harvey

The first phase of a project to expand wireless service recently was completed on Main Campus, yielding greater accessibility throughout several facilities.

According to Michael Firsdon and John Chanowski, network engineers in Information Technology, the goal to add wireless points of service began about a year ago.

"Wireless service was available in many locations throughout Main Campus," Firsdon explained, "but it wasn't extensive. Even in buildings that were covered, it was available in some areas, but not others."

For instance, last year at this time, Rocket Hall had just one access point for wireless service. According to Chanowski, the facility now hosts 39 access points. Another focal gathering facility, the Student Union, also has been blanketed with wireless coverage.

In all, wireless points of service have increased from about 100 last year to 461 throughout Main and Scott Park campuses.

"Wireless accessibility was one of the most sought-after things students wanted when they were interviewed," Firsdon said. "It was in their top five. Wireless availability also complements the educational process."

Faculty and staff, he noted, echoed students' requests for coverage in buildings that house classroom, office and conference areas.

"Our strategy was to have wireless coverage in as many of the academic buildings as our budget would allow and in places where students were congregating," Chanowski said. "We worked with the individual colleges to determine where students were likely to be and where tenants felt wireless access was most-needed."

Information Technology spent about \$250,000 purchasing wireless equipment and installing it in buildings pivotal to student access, including the Student Union and Rocket Hall. Individual colleges and buildings, Firsdon said, identified primary coverage zones that could be established within budget parameters.

"Not all buildings are fully covered," Firsdon explained. "The tenants let us know which areas they wanted covered, and we worked within those guidelines."

Buildings and departments that have zones of wireless access include:

- Bowman-Oddy Laboratories;
- Carlson Library;
- Center for the Visual Arts on the Toledo Museum of Art Campus;
- Driscoll Alumni Center;

- Dowd Hall;
- Gillham Hall;
- Health and Human Services Building;
- Larimer Athletic Complex;
- Law Center;
- Learning Resource Center on Scott Park Campus;
- Nash Hall;
- Palmer Hall;
- Rocket Hall;
- Scott Park Library;
- Stranahan Hall;
- Student Medical Center;
- Student Union;
- Sullivan Hall;
- Transportation Center;
- University Computer Center;
- University Hall;
- Wolfe Hall; and
- White Hall.

To see the specific wireless points of service in these buildings and departments, view http://www.utoledo.edu/depts/it/Service_and_Support/O&I/Networking.html.

Because of budgetary concerns, student residence halls currently do not have University-supported wireless service. Firsdon said the undertaking will be a substantial one from the standpoints of cost and staff, but Information Technology is exploring wireless possibilities in all residence halls.

The next phase of wireless expansion is planned for several areas of campus:

- University Hall;
- McMaster Hall;
- Memorial Field House;
- Ritter Astrophysical Research Center;
- Snyder Memorial Building;
- Savage Hall Arena; and
- Savage & Associates Complex for Business Learning and Engagement.

According to Firsdon, expansion is dependent upon budget considerations and prioritization within UT's strategic plan.

"Our ultimate goal is to have blanket coverage throughout the Main Campus, including our green spaces," Firsdon said. "But we haven't really touched on that part of it yet."

Professor gives Liberian Independence Day national oration, receives honor

By Jon Strunk

Chosen to give the national oration at the Liberian Independence Day celebration in the city of Kakata July 26, University of Toledo Professor Dr. Sakui Malakpa also received one of Liberia's highest honors — Knight Commander in the

ship for me to attend the school for the blind in neighboring Sierra Leone as there was no such school at the time in Liberia," Malakpa said, adding Tolbert later died in the 1980 military coup.

After learning Braille and attend-



HONORED: Dr. Sakui Malakpa, center, received one of Liberia's highest honors — Knight Commander in the Humane Order of African Redemption — from Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, second from left.

Humane Order of African Redemption — and a personal thanks from President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Malakpa's speech, "Coping With the Inevitability of Change: Our Challenges, Chances and Choices," marked the 161st anniversary of the nation founded by freed American slaves in 1847 and emphasized the collective decision the country has made in the past few years to throw off decades of dictatorship in favor of democracy.

"I was incredibly humbled to be chosen and even more so when President Johnson-Sirleaf personally called to thank me for accepting," said the professor of early childhood, physical and special education, pointing out Johnson-Sirleaf's 2005 election made her the first democratically elected female president in Africa.

Malakpa was born in the northwest region of the West African nation in a small town called Wozi and lost his sight as a young boy.

"Former President of Liberia William R. Tolbert Jr. provided his personal sponsor-

ing high school in Sierra Leone, Malakpa earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Florida State University in four years.

With an additional master's degree and a doctorate in education from Harvard University, Malakpa joined The University of Toledo in 1986 as an assistant professor of education. Now a full professor, he also earned a juris doctorate from the UT College of Law.

"After 161 years of existence, it is not surprising that Liberia has gone through many changes," Malakpa said of his first home. "Liberia's challenges in politics, economics and academia offer Liberians chances to make amends. These chances leave the people of Liberia with choices.

"They can choose, for instance, to be a part of the solution and not the problem; they have a choice to contribute to development or incessantly criticize; they have a choice to follow a leader or sit aside as disgruntled spectators. They can choose peace over conflict," he said.

New UTMC Web site has 'Flash-y' design

By Kim Harvey

Web designers have added a bit of "Flash" to The University of Toledo Medical Center's revamped Web site.

The new site, which was launched Friday, features a patient-friendly approach and a dynamic look, complete with a "Flash"-engineered photo banner on the home page.

According to Esther Fabian, director of health-care marketing, plans to give the site a fresh look began about a year ago. Research indicated that navigating the site could be difficult for those who needed clear, concise information — patients and visitors.

"Our goal was to provide a patient-centered site," Fabian said, noting that usage data revealed information most valuable to those who frequented the site. "The design is much more updated and flexible. We wanted to make it easy for patients to find what they're looking for."

A prominent change is the manner in which medical services are presented. Jessica Gast, Web coordinator, said each service now includes a brief description to help users navigate. In addition, related services are offered in links.

"For example, you might want to explore 'cancer care,'" Gast said. "There's a short description about our cancer services, along with links to our hematology/oncology, radiation oncology and surgical oncology services, even though those divisions are in different clinical departments.

"Some health-care centers use medical jargon and their sites are not easily understood," Gast continued. "We wanted patients to be able to navigate as simply as possible. We also made sure there is an easy way to



contact UT Medical Center on every single page."

A section dedicated to physician information was added to provide efficient access to the UT medical staff as well as referring physicians.

"Our physicians are very important customers," Fabian said. "We wanted to help them get directly to the information they need."

Photos of UT employees at work are utilized throughout the pages. Most of the images, Gast said, existed in recent archives and were tailored for use on the site.

To design and implement the site, Fabian and Gast worked with the Center for Creative Instruction: Sherry Andrews, director; Ani Avanian, coordinator of Web development; Brock Clagg, multimedia specialist; Ryan Getz, intern; and Kathleen Walsh, director of Web development.

UTMC's Web site can be accessed at the same URL, <http://utmc.utoledo.edu>, or through a link on UT's Main Campus site at <http://utoledo.edu>.

UTNEWS

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Photo by Jack Meade

MOVING IN: Dr. Bryan K. Yamamoto, the new professor and chairman of the College of Medicine's Department of Neurosciences, recently unpacked some boxes as he moved into his office in the Block Health Science Building on Health Science Campus. Yamamoto, a neuropharmacologist and expert on the neurotoxicity of amphetamines, joined UT from the Boston University School of Medicine. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1975 from UCLA and a PhD in 1981 from Syracuse University. In addition to his administrative and teaching responsibilities, Yamamoto, a native of Gardena, Calif., a Los Angeles suburb, will conduct research with grants from the National Institutes of Health that total more than \$3.5 million on the neuropharmacology, neurodegeneration and the neurotoxicity of amphetamines, in particular, methamphetamines and MDMA, also known as ecstasy. His research has been continuously funded by the NIH since 1986.



Photo by Jack Meade

PARTING GIFT: Kelle Repinski, director of annual giving, and Vern Snyder, vice president for institutional advancement, posed for a photo during Repinski's farewell party. Co-workers signed the mat around the UT photos she received as a gift. Repinski left the University to become a development coordinator at St. Luke's Hospital Foundation. After receiving a bachelor of arts degree in communication from UT in 1992, she was hired by her alma mater as supervisor of the Phonathon in Institutional Advancement. She became assistant director of annual giving and later director of development for the College of Arts and Sciences; she was director of annual giving since 2000. Repinski was very involved with the Professional Staff Association, serving as chair of the Professional Staff Council. "I began working at UT at age 21 and feel as though I have grown up here," she said. "The people I have worked with aren't just my co-workers but my family and friends."

Faculty recognized for book design

By Jacob Corkins

When Dr. Kathy Danko-McGhee and Dr. Ruslan Slutsky learned their book, *The Impact of Early Art Experiences on Literacy Development*, won second place in the technical text category of the Washington Book Publishers 2008 Book Design and Effectiveness Awards, they had to admit they were surprised, since they had not submitted the book in any contests.

The National Art Education Association, the publishers of the book, decided to enter it, and the book "impressed the judges in the technical text category, which includes how the typography choices and the presentation of data in figures, tables, graphs, charts, photographs and line drawings drove the design," according to the NAEA Web site.

The book suggests that parents and teachers should encourage a more creative and natural method to develop literacy rather than taking a traditional structured approach.

"Writing skills come naturally, in our own evolution ... children's scribbles will start to look like letter forms as [children] mimic watching others," said Danko-McGhee, professor of art education.

The book also stresses the need for involvement and reinforcement from parents

who may have been relying on schools and daycares to teach children literacy skills.

Both Danko-McGhee and Slutsky have been studying the connection between art and the development of literacy in children for about seven years.



Danko-McGhee and Slutsky

"Art is an early infrastructure in developing literacy," said Slutsky, associate professor of early childhood, physical and special education.

The Reggio Emilia approach, applied by Danko-McGhee and Slutsky, allows children to have control over the direction of their learning by having numerous ways and opportunities to express themselves.



Photo by Jack Meade

GOOD LUCK: Dr. Ron Pirog, director of the Study Abroad Program, left, wished Geof Tracy well at his goodbye party. Tracy left his position as interim senior director in the Office of the Provost to become director of budget and planning at Bowling Green State University. He joined the UT staff as assistant director of academic finance and planning in 2000.

In memoriam

Minnie Coleman, Toledo, a custodial worker at UT from 1968 to 1979, died Aug. 3 at age 87.

Melner Morine Harris, Toledo, who worked at the former MCO Hospital 18 years, died Aug. 5 at age 72. She was a nurse in Surgery/Orthopedics from 1973 to 1991.

Dr. Victor A. McKusick, Towson, Md., a Johns Hopkins University faculty member who was widely regarded as the founding father of medical genetics, died July 29 at age 86. He received an honorary degree from the former MCO in 1988.