

WGTE Public Media launches 'Plugged-In,' monthly program highlighting University

By Tobin J. Klinger

On Wednesday, Sept. 17, television viewers across northwest Ohio will be able to get "Plugged-In," thanks to a new program on WGTE television made possible by The University of Toledo.

The debut episode of the monthly program will air at 8 p.m. on TV 30, channel 9 on the Buckeye CableSystem, channel 3 on Time Warner Cable Waterville/Perrysburg and channel 8 on Time Warner Cable Bowling Green.

"'Plugged-In' showcases the excellence that the University brings to the world in science, technology and medicine, while highlighting our expertise in other areas, such as business, economic development, the arts and other important ways," said Lawrence J. Burns, vice president for external affairs. "We believe this program will ultimately help increase awareness of

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Trustees ratify tentative agreement with faculty union

By Tobin J. Klinger

The next major step in bringing a 19-month contract negotiation to a successful close took place last week, as The University of Toledo Board of Trustees voted unanimously to ratify a tentative agreement with the UT chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

Under the terms of the contract, which would expire June 30, 2011, faculty members would receive a 3 percent across-the-board increase retroactive to July 1, 2007, with incremental 3 percent across-the-board increases each subsequent year, with additional dollars allocated for merit-based distribution. In addition, a 2 percent increase would take effect Jan. 1, 2009, to offset an anticipated increase in health-care costs.

"We need to thank not only our negotiating team, but also the AAUP leadership, their negotiating team and the faculty at large for bargaining in good faith and building relationships with the administration," said Dr. Lloyd Jacobs, president. "This is an excellent tentative agreement."

The membership of the AAUP is expected to vote on the agreement sometime this month.

NIH \$1.62 million grant continues UT's hypertension research

By Jacob Corkins

The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health is continuing to support Dr. Bina Joe, UT associate professor of physiology and pharmacology, as she advances her research in the genetics of high blood pressure or hypertension.

The four-year, \$1.62 million grant will be used to continue Joe's four years of research on the role genetics plays in the disease that affects the lives of some 31 percent of Americans; nearly 25,000 die a year as a result.

Known as "the silent killer," hypertension shows few warning signs, but it can lead to serious, life-threatening illnesses such as permanent damage of arteries, blocked or ruptured blood vessels in the brain causing a stroke, and heart failure.

"It's a wake-up call you get one day when you have heart or kidney trouble, but by then it's already too late," Joe said.

Statistics from the National Heart,



Photo by Jack Meade

Joe

Lung and Blood Institute say that those who don't have high blood pressure by age 55 have a 90 percent chance of developing it later, and according to the American Heart Association, in 90 to 95 percent of high blood pressure cases, there's no identifiable cause.

Joe became interested in the role of genetics in altering diseases such as arthritis, diabetes and hypertension in the mid-1990s as a graduate student in India when studying the anti-inflammatory effects of oils and spices on arthritis in rats.

After learning of the work being done at the NIH researching genes that caused rheumatoid arthritis by using a model she was familiar with, Joe pursued a position there to finish her postdoctoral training and was accepted in 1997. This was the beginning of what would amount to a life dedicated to curing hypertension.

Conducting research to prove her theory, Joe received her first four-year grant from the NIH based on a proposal from research done at the Institute for Genome

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Additional pay increase offered to non-union faculty

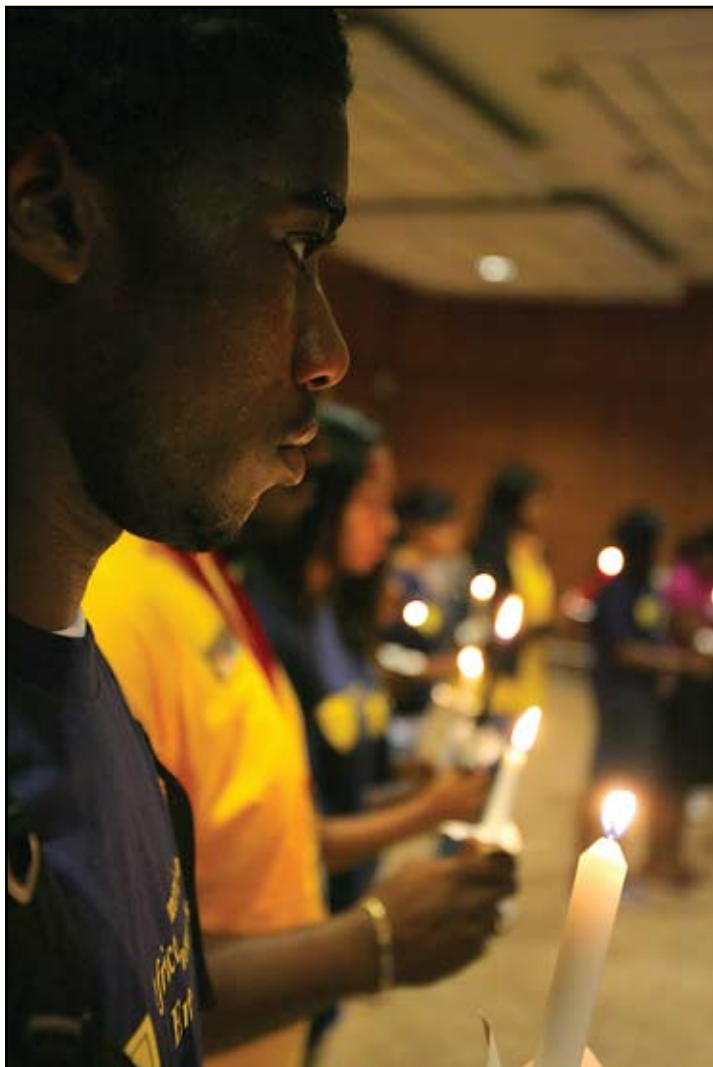
By Tobin J. Klinger

The University of Toledo will offer non-union faculty groups a retroactive pay increase in an effort to ensure a level of salary equality among faculty across the institution.

President Lloyd Jacobs Friday announced that faculty members in the colleges of Health Science and Human Service, Law, Medicine, and Nursing will each re-

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LIGHTING THE WAY: Students attending the Enrichment Institute sponsored by the African-American Initiatives Office participated in a rites of passage ceremony where upperclassmen volunteers who serve as peer leaders lit candles for freshmen.

Photo by Daniel Miller

Additional pay

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ceive an incremental 1 percent pay increase, retroactive to July 1, 2007, in an effort to bring parity with proposed increases for unionized faculty outlined in a tentative agreement between the UT chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the UT Board of Trustees.

Trustees voted unanimously to ratify the tentative agreement Sept. 3. AAUP members are expected to vote before the end of the month.

"The University of Toledo is enjoying some real momentum, and we believe that the faculty across the institution are a big reason why," Jacobs said. "Consistent with our value of an environment of equality, we felt it was important that all of our faculty be rewarded at the same level for a job well done."

The incremental 1 percent increase brings the two groups to a similar level, to the 3 percent increase put forth in the tentative agreement. Law, medicine and several other Health Science Campus faculty received 2 percent increases in fiscal year 2007-08 and 3 percent increases this year.

"Achieving symmetry is a major goal for every member of the administration," said Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, Health Science Campus provost, executive vice president for health affairs and College of Medicine dean. "Our faculty have continued to demonstrate their drive toward excellence, and we are pleased to be able to further reward their efforts. In fact, we intend to set aside some additional dollars for additional merit-based increases in the current fiscal year. This is in addition to the ongoing equity adjustments and merit programs."

"We are thrilled to have a tentative agreement endorsed by our Board of Trustees," said Dr. Rosemary Haggett, Main Campus provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "But equally important is that we show all our faculty that we endorse the work they do by making sure their compensation is evenly matched overall with their peers. This increase accomplishes that goal."

A date for the distribution of the increases has not yet been set but will be retroactive to July 2007.

'Plugged-In'

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the great things happening at UT, locally, regionally and across the nation."

"The development of this program has been a thrill for all of us here at WGTE Public Media," said Darren LaShelle, executive producer for the show. "The news-magazine style of 'Plugged-In' has allowed us to branch out in terms of our approach to television, and I think our audience will be excited by the results."

One of the key components of the program is the utilization of UT students as reporters and hosts, each of whom was intimately involved in story development.

"We were able to tap into the vibrancy of our students in a way that will translate into excitement for our viewers," Burns said. "In addition to our academic excellence, we have an extremely talented student body that we are able to highlight with the program."

Episode one consists of four stories

focusing on the technology behind global positioning systems, research into biofuels and alternative sources of energy, the use of virtual reality in education, and the differences between left-brained and right-brained people.

"We've really only touched the tip of the iceberg when it comes to interesting stories from UT and the region," LaShelle said. "In the next year, we hope to illustrate the innovative atmosphere we have here in northwest Ohio. It should make for good television."

"Plugged-In" will air multiple times each month, with new episodes debuting the third Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. The program is made possible by the College of Business Administration, the College of Engineering, the College of Medicine, the Office of Research and Development, the Division of External Affairs, Rocket Ventures and Launch.

NIH grant

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Research.

Since then, Joe has continued to work on genetics and has found some links between animal and human genes that may one day lead to personalized, preventive medicine.

"During the last year, we have success-

fully identified a potential candidate gene in rats and obtained evidence for the association of this gene in human hypertension," Joe said. "Future plans include continuing our efforts to positionally clone genes for hypertension and extend our studies to humans wherever applicable."



Photo by Daniel Miller

SPIRITED PAINTER: Genesis Butler, 4, was one of several children from Apple Tree Nursery School who recently painted UT's spirit rock in the Flatlands on Main Campus.

Kobacker Center celebrates 25 years of service

By Megan Lewis

The Kobacker Center, a UT Medical Center facility that offers mental health treatment for children and adolescents, is celebrating 25 years of service.

The center will hold a celebration luncheon Monday, Sept. 15, with guest speakers, including Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, former state representative Lynn Olman and National Alliance on Mental Illness Executive Director Marci Dvorak.

The Kobacker program began in 1983,

“The commitment and compassion of our staff is what keeps our program successful.”

Geha said kids are masters of masking their emotions, and staff members at the center are trained to help bring the child’s feelings to the surface so they can be dealt with appropriately.

Dr. Theodor Rais, child psychiatry residency program director and acting director of the center, said, “Adolescent suicide rates are as high as adult suicide rates these days



Photo by Jack Meade

THUMBS UP: Staffers at the Kobacker Center, from left, Megan Hickey, Denise Jarmon and Vickie Geha, posed for a photo to celebrate the facility’s 25-year anniversary.

becoming the first in northwest Ohio to serve children under the age of 18 who have psychiatric needs. The center offers inpatient and outpatient treatment, and partial hospitalization.

Staff members at the Kobacker Center specialize in helping youngsters and their families understand the emotional and physical reasons for their problems and developing treatment options.

Vickie Geha, hospital administrator and 25-year Kobacker employee, said she feels privileged to have worked for the center since its opening. Much has changed in psychiatric health care for kids over the years, she said, and the Kobacker Center is one of the few remaining programs that offer mental health treatment for children and adolescents.

Working with children who have mental health problems is emotionally difficult sometimes, but the staff finds personal fulfillment in caring for the patients, Geha said.

due to increased stress levels.”

Kids are expected to perform more difficult tasks in school and are learning advanced skills at earlier ages, Rais said, adding, “We save lives and prevent self-harm by treatment, changing the child’s settings and creating better existential horizons.”

Megan Hickey, mental health technician and another 25-year employee, said, “It’s so important to reach out to children who are emotionally troubled. When people get older, they become set in their ways so it’s more difficult to change.”

Hickey feels the center has been successful in providing care. “We are the only hospital in northwest Ohio devoted to treating the emotional needs of children and adolescents that has been open for 25 years.”

For more information about the Kobacker Center, visit <http://utmc.utoledo.edu/centers/kobacker/index.html>.



MEMORIAL
1931 FIELD HOUSE 2008
Building for the Future

**Memorial Field House Grand Opening
and President's Backyard BBQ**

Thursday, Sept. 18
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (program at 12:30 p.m.)

The Mall in front of the Memorial Field House

Hot dogs, hamburgers and history will be prominent for the grand opening of the renovated Memorial Field House and the third annual President's Backyard BBQ.

The entire UT community is invited to tour UT's building for the future and to enjoy a **FREE LUNCH**. **FREE T-SHIRTS** will be available while supplies last.

'Voices of Men' to take place Sept. 11

By Shannon Wermer

How can you help stop violence against women? Start by hearing voices of men.

“Voices of Men,” an educational comedy by Ben Atherton-Zeman, will take place Thursday, Sept. 11, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Health and Human Services Building Room 1711 on Main Campus.

The multimedia play deals with sexual assault, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment and objectification of women. Atherton-Zeman uses humor, celebrity male voice impressions and video to bring these topics to light in a way that minimizes defensiveness and promotes learning and

understanding, according to Diane Docis, coordinator of the UT Sexual Assault Education and Prevention Program.

Vouchers will be available for students attending for class credit.

The free, public event is sponsored by POW student group, Sexual Assault Education and Prevention Program, Criminal Justice Department, Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women, Social Work Department, University Counseling Center, Women’s and Gender Studies Department, and UTURN student group.

For more information, contact Docis at 419.530.3431.

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.

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Check out UToday

Don't forget to bookmark UToday at myut.utoledo.edu.

Things you need to know ...

Below are some important facts that may impact your work life at The University of Toledo. Visit myUT.utoledo.edu for additional details.

- Trustees unanimously approved a tentative agreement with the UT chapter of the American Association of University Professors Sept. 3.
- The administration will provide incremental 1 percent pay increases to non-union faculty retroactive to July 1, 2007.
- Fall enrollment figures will be official at the close of business Monday, Sept. 8.
- The UT Athletic Ticket Office has returned to Savage Hall.
- Family status changes that impact health plan coverage must be reported to Human Resources within 30 days to be reflected in benefits.
- A schedule of town hall meetings is available at <http://www.utoledo.edu/offices/president/townhall/index.html>.



Photo by Jack Meade

ALL SMILES: Warren Davis, left, shared a laugh at his retirement party with friend and former colleague Vernon Thomas. Davis, senior director of student development, worked at the University 26 years. He joined the staff as a counselor in Student Development, where he coordinated tutorial services. Over the years, Davis worked his way up the ladder; his titles included assistant director of student development, director of the Multicultural Student Center and director of student development. "It was such a family atmosphere early on. There was a lot of camaraderie," he said of his UT career. "The University gave me the opportunity to travel nationally and internationally and to have a really enriching experience with my colleagues in my field." His retirement plans include consulting on first-year programs with higher education institutions and restoring properties. "I have 10 grandchildren — they will be planning some for me," Davis said and laughed. "I also have seven brothers and sisters, and I plan to see them more frequently."

In memoriam

Gene C. Buttruff, Northwood, who worked in UT's Maintenance Department more than 20 years, died Sept. 1 at age 67. He joined the staff in 1969 as a maintenance repair worker 2, was promoted to maintenance repair worker 3 in 1992, and retired from the University in 1996.

University Women's Commission member reflects on 30 years of service

By Kim Harvey

Dr. Alice Skeens remembers a time when the "glass ceiling" was firmly in place among UT's leadership. The time was the late 1970s and the University Women's Commission (UWC) started a trickle that would become a steady stream of women's achievement.

"There had never been a woman chair of the Faculty Senate," Skeens, associate professor of psychology and interim associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, recalled. "Our group decided we'd run someone just to test the political climate for a solid candidate the next year."

Things didn't go as planned. Skeens was selected as the first female chair of the Faculty Senate, opening the door for colleagues to follow.

As the UWC enters its 32nd year by hosting two membership mixers, Skeens reflected on more than three decades of change, activism and fellowship.

The UWC, she noted, didn't exist in name until January 1980. Its predecessor, the Student Affairs Commission for Women's Programs and Services, formed four years earlier but became inactive after the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women was created.

Skeens said the Center for Women's focus on community rather than UT's specific issues was the catalyst for the UWC to re-emerge in 1980. Early goals targeted women's issues of that decade: salary and position inequities, faculty and staff education, and athletic opportunities. Snapshots of the UWC's illustrious history include a keynote program featuring Toledo native and respected feminist Gloria Steinem in 1981; ongoing support of student scholarships and professional development opportunities; and influence regarding national and campus legislation, including the federal Equal Rights Amendment and Title IX, as well as UT's sexual harassment policy.

"We also pushed for child care."



Skeens

Skeens said, noting that it took many years — and University presidents — to establish a day-care center on Main Campus.

As the UWC evolved, it has embraced its mission of philanthropy. A popular brown-bag lecture series open to faculty, staff and students has been a mainstay, UWC scholarships support the UT community, and this year's Outstanding Women Awards will be given for the 22nd consecutive year.

Skeens encourages new people — women and men — to get involved in the campus surrounding them.

"One of my personal concerns is that there is a new generation of women that doesn't realize how many fought for the things they take for granted," she said. "When I first came here, the highest ranking woman at UT was an assistant dean in the College of Business. Female chair positions were few. There was such a glass ceiling, it was unbelievable."

She paused, pondering the progress. "We've come a long way. We still have a way to go, but we're looking much better."

University Women's Commission to hold mixers

The University Women's Commission (UWC) is looking for members.

The organization that provides a support service for all UT women and serves as a network of alliances for campuses will hold two mixers.

Faculty, staff and students are invited to stop by Main Campus Thursday, Sept. 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Student Union Room 2592 or Health Science Campus Thursday, Sept. 18, from 11:30

a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Mulford Library Café.

The University Women's Commission awards annual scholarships, gives the Outstanding Women Awards, and presents programs of interest to the UT community.

For more information, contact Sandra Stutzenstein, UWC co-chair of communications, at 419.530.6045 or sandra.stutzenstein@utoledo.edu.