

PSA VOICE

February 2018

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION



IN THE SPOTLIGHT
Christine Billau

Christine is a Media Relations Specialist with University Marketing and Communications

How long have you been a Rocket and in what capacity?

I joined The University of Toledo's marketing and communications team as media relations specialist just over two years ago. It was a natural transition from my decade-long career as a television journalist during which I won Emmy, Edward R. Murrow and Associated Press awards. I am most proud of being honored for my investigative coverage of a childhood cancer cluster in the Clyde area. Over the years, I grew to care very much about those beautiful kids and

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Lori DeShetler, PhD

The Membership Committee is currently planning the PSA Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Health Science Campus, Health Education Building (HEB) Room 110, on Tuesday, May 22 at 12:00 p.m. If you are interested in helping plan this event, please contact the committee chair, Lisa Akeman, at Elizabeth.akeman@utoledo.edu. This year's theme for the Annual Meeting is "State of Mind" and will feature Stress-Break Massages. Back by popular demand is the PSA Scholarship silent auction with a lot of great items already collected for bidding. Please watch for more information in the coming months and in the meantime, save the date! You can also stay connected by checking out our PSA webpage (http://www.utoledo.edu/org/psa/) and Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/UToledoPSA/). These sites are regularly updated to share information, upcoming events, and professional development activities for PSA. Have a happy and healthy February, stay warm, and ***Go Rockets!***

ADVOCATING FOR YOU

The Professional Staff Association of The University of Toledo consists of all classified exempt, classified salaried, and unclassified administrative and professional employees who do not belong to a bargaining unit and do not have faculty rank. One of the eight committees within the Professional Staff Association is the Advocacy Committee. A PSA Advocate can be requested to review concerns that have not been resolved through normal departmental procedures, and if necessary, act as an informal mediator between professional staff and the administration. This request can be done by contacting one of the members of our committee, which are listed on the Advocacy Committee page on the PSA website. The Advocacy Committee works with Human Resources and Talent Development and in accordance with the University Policy and Procedure Manual in reference to problem resolution. The committee is also responsible for monitoring the application of University policies as they relate to the PSA. Additional information regarding these policies can be found on the PSA website.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT continued

their families. I hope some of what we brought to light helped the community. The reason I share that is because I view my work here to be helping Toledo. If the University flourishes, so does this wonderful region that we call home.

How would you describe your job?

I treat the University as my news beat. I am constantly on the hunt for stories about groundbreaking UT research. I find and write stories to share with local, regional, national and international media outlets to showcase the interesting and relevant work done by our researchers. Also, I connect reporters with UT scholars to offer perspective on current events in their worlds of expertise – anywhere from economics and political science to health care and water quality.

What distinguishes UT from other workplaces?

I am always learning without sitting in a classroom. For example, our aquatic ecologists do not simply have me ride along aboard the Lake Erie research vessel to observe water quality testing, they teach me how to do the work myself. It doesn't matter that I am staff, not a student. They care that I understand, too.

What resources from UT are your "must-haves" to perform your job?

The people. Without their passion, skills and dedication to find solutions that make life better, there is no need for me to find mountains from which to scream our success stories.

What is your favorite thing about UT?

The creative people in the Office of Marketing and Communications. It's a joy to go to work every day. Our ideas are valued. Our debates are effective. It's a support system, not only professionally. Thank goodness this is in writing so you cannot see me cry. I recently returned to work from maternity leave. I am the proud

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TAKE A "BREATHER" THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

Professional Staff Council and the Professional Development Committee have scheduled the first workshop of 2018 for Wednesday, February 14th from 12—1 pm in Rocket Hall 1530 (the Rocket Room). Professor Jay Rinsen Weik, director of The University of Toledo Mindfulness and Creativity Initiative, will give an introduction to the practice of seated mindfulness meditation. Register today at: Mindfulness Meditation. Learn how to reduce stress in the midst of a hectic life. Love yourself for Valentine's Day!





JUST CAN'T STOP THE MUSIC!

Did you know you do not have to be a student to participate in the UT Symphony Orchestra? The UTSO is open to the **entire** UT Community. For information on auditioning contact Matthew Forte, Assistant Professor and Director of Orchestral Studies at matthew.forte@utoledo.edu.



Professional Staff Association has a Facebook page! Like and follow us for announcements, event photos, and the occasional fun, motivational post! Want to be in the spotlight, or know someone who should? Nominate yourself or a colleague for a Spotlight feature in an upcoming newsletter with our new web nomination form, available on the PSA website. Have news to share or wish to serve on a committee? Send an email to utpsc@utoledo.edu

IN THE SPOTLIGHT continued

Mommy of a healthy, happy boy named Charles. It's no small feat to walk away from your baby, but this team gave me the heartiest, happiest welcome and continue to make me stronger every day.

Can you tell us something about yourself that most people don't know or would be surprised to learn?

I love Celine Dion. My husband and two stepchildren do not. However, that does not in the least stop me from belting out a ballad at any given moment around the house or in the car or while in the garden. At least Charlie appreciates my awful singing … for now.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

PROFESSIONAL STAFF COUNCIL

ANONYMOUS FEEDBACK

PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

PSA COMMITTEES

ADVOCACY | COMMUNICATIONS | ELECTIONS | FUNDRAISING | MEMBERSHIP

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT | SCHOLARSHIP | SICK LEAVE BANK

GET TO THE GAME WITH HALF-PRICE SEASON TIX!

University of Toledo full-time employees and retirees may purchase up to two season or individual tickets at half-price. Additional tickets may be purchased at full-price. Discount applies to season or individual game tickets, but not both.

BASKETBALL ROCKET 5 PACK: $31.25 Mini ticket plan can be used for both women's and men's basketball and allows you to create your own ticket plan to attend the games you want.

FOOTBALL SEASON TICKETS: The 2018 Rocket Football Season Tickets are on Sale, with season tickets starting at $40 for full-time UT Employees! The Rockets open the football season on Saturday, September 1 vs. VMI. Order your Toledo Football Season Tickets today by calling 419.530.GOLD (4653) or at the UT Ticket Office.

See YOU at the GAME! ***GO ROCKETS!***



The Professional Staff Association is Accepting PSA Scholarship Applications for the 2018—2019 Academic Year

The PSA Scholarship is still accepting applications. This application requires one letter of recommendation from a PSA member, and the deadline is Friday, March 16, so get your letters written now!

The PSA scholarship is awarded annually to part-time or full-time students who are currently enrolled at The University of Toledo. Qualified applicants must have at least 30 earned hours (sophomore standing) and hold a 2.5 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) by time of application for eligibility. Students must submit their completed application (to include 3 personal/professional references, their 500-word essay, as well as one letter of recommendation from a current UT PSA employee) to Deborah Krohn, PSA Scholarship Chair, by mail, drop off to Stranahan Hall Suite 1022, or email (as one PDF attachment) from their UT Rockets email account only to deborah.krohn@utoledo.edu

Applications must be received or, if sent by mail, **postmarked by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 16, 2018 for consideration**; no exceptions. The application and submission information are available on the Professional Staff Association webpage. For questions, concerns, or a copy of the full letter soliciting applications to send to students, contact Deborah Krohn.





