

Working to Support and Enhance the Academic Journey

NEWS & EVENTS

Building Ohio Talent for a Sustainable Energy Future

The Ohio Board of Regents announced that *Building Ohio Talent for a Sustainable Energy Future* project has been funded in round one of the State of Ohio First Scholarship Program, the state's premier model for recruiting and retaining talented Ohio residents as students in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEM) and STEM education fields. (<http://regents.ohio.gov/>) The University of Toledo (lead institution), in conjunction with Bowling Green State University, Owens Community College, Terra Community College and Northwest State Community College will attract and graduate more than 150 students in the STEM areas of renewable energy generation and environment remediation over a five-year period. Highlights of the program include using photovoltaic energy generation to lessen environmental pollution and creating a minor degree in renewable energy. Student support will include impressive internship and cooperative education opportunities, as well as mentoring and summer research projects in the Great Lakes region of Ohio. \$1.563 million in Choose Ohio First scholarship state funds will be shared between the collaboration. Tom Kvale, director of Undergraduate Research, is the Co-Principal Investigator on the grant and his office will coordinate the summer research and internships for all participants.

Transforming the First Year Orientation Course...Beginning the Academic Journey

Exciting new things are happening in the new first-year orientation course taught by all the colleges. Often this class is the front line first contact a student has on campus with faculty. Jennifer Rockwood and Angela Paprocki are leading a cross college group of faculty and FYE instructors in transforming the course for the 21st century. Working with *BrandEd*, the group is developing a "toolbox" of course materials and instructional strategies that can be used to meet the objectives of the course. In addition, ongoing faculty/instructor training will be provided aimed at developing a *community of scholars* committed to engaging and retaining first year students. This course is the foundation of a student's academic journey and is based on using the best practices in the field. "Through inquiry, self-reflection, participation, and problem solving, the courses are to assist first-year students in clarifying their goals and developing strategies and skills for their academic journey at The University of Toledo and beyond." (Faculty Senate Resolution, reaffirmed 2/10/09.) We are excited about faculty's renewed commitment and look forward to the debut of a newly "transformed" course next fall.

Save the Date! New Student Convocation

Office of New Student Orientation Programs has scheduled the New Student Convocation to be held on Friday, August 21 in Savage Arena. The Student Convocation serves as the second phase of the orientation experience.

\$29,000 of Community Service

From September 2008 through February 2009, over 425 students have been involved in community service learning. During the same time frame, over 4,000 hours of service have been done in the surrounding Toledo community. Valuing that service at Ohio's minimum wage, these students have completed over \$29,000 of community service.

Volunteers are unpaid not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless! ~Anonymous

ADA Amendments Act

On September 25, 2008, the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Amendments Act (ADAAA) was signed into law. It became effective on January 1, 2009. The U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives both unanimously passed the ADAAA.

The ADAAA focuses on the discrimination at issue instead of the individual's disability. It makes important changes to the definition of the term "disability" by rejecting the holdings in several Supreme Court decisions and portions of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) ADA regulations. The Act retains the ADA's basic definition of "disability" as an impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment. However, it changes the way that the statutory terms should be interpreted. Most significantly, the ADAAA:

- Directs EEOC to revise the portion of its regulations that defines the term "substantially limits";
- Expands the definition of "major life activities" by including two non-exhaustive lists:
 1. The first list includes many activities that the EEOC has recognized (e.g., walking) as well as activities that EEOC has not specifically recognized (e.g., reading, bending, and communicating);
 2. The second list includes major bodily functions (e.g., "functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, respiratory, neurological, brain, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions");
- States that mitigating measures other than "ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses" shall not be considered in assessing whether an individual has a disability;
- Clarifies that an impairment that is episodic or in remission is a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active;
- Provides that an individual subjected to an action prohibited by the ADA (e.g., failure to hire) because of an actual or perceived impairment will meet the "regarded as" definition of disability, unless the impairment is transitory and minor;
- Provides that individuals covered only under the "regarded as" prong are not entitled to reasonable accommodation; and
- Emphasizes that the definition of "disability" should be interpreted broadly.

Source: [EEOC Notice Concerning Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008: www.eeoc.gov/ada/amendments_notice.html](http://www.eeoc.gov/ada/amendments_notice.html)

VZ Orientation System to help with reservation process

VZ Orientation, the new online orientation reservation system purchased for the Office of New Student Orientation Programs, will go live in April 2009. The program integrates with Banner and will provide added functionality, such as the ability to take guest reservations, overnight accommodation reservations, and a questionnaire to collect integral information for use by academic advisors, the Athletic Department, Office of Accessibility, and other key student service areas.

Rocket Re-Discover

The first Rocket Re-Discover, the new orientation program for UT Post-Secondary Enrollment Option students who will begin college at UT full-time in the fall semester, will take place on Thursday, May 14 from 5:30-8pm in SU Auditorium.

Orientation for New Summer Students

Rocket Launch and Rocket Transition Programs will be held for new students admitted for Summer 2009 on April 16 and 17 and May 15 and 16 in the Student Union.

1,200 Students Hear *DUI: A Powerful Lesson*©



Just months from graduation, Mark and four of his fraternity brothers headed to Spring Break. Each night, one would be the designated driver. But on the final night, they decided that the least drunk among them would drive home. Mark ended up with the keys at the end of the night.

The next morning, three of the men were dead, and Mark lay in the hospital critically injured and facing three felony counts of manslaughter. Instead of being the first in his family to graduate college, he would be the first to go to prison.

In his acclaimed program, *DUI: A Powerful Lesson*©, Mark shares the bad decisions that changed his life and ended the lives of his friends. Mark doesn't preach or tell people what to do, but he leaves students with a real story that forces them to confront their own choices. Mark puts real faces to the tragic consequences of impaired driving by showing the videotape the friends made of their Spring Break, ending just minutes before the crash.

Mark Sterner spoke at Savage Arena on Monday, February 9, 2009 as an initiative under the NCAA Choices Grant. All student-athletes were required to be in attendance as well as 60% of each Greek Social Chapter on UT's campus. The audience was close to 1,200 students, staff and community members. The University of Toledo's Athletics Department, The NCAA CHAMPS/Life Skills Program and Choices Grant, and Panhel and IFC funded the program.

Summer Study Abroad

Study Abroad will have approximately 80 students participating in overseas programs for Summer 2009. These students representing various academic departments will be studying in 17 different countries (e.g., Australia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain, South Africa, and Tanzania). Some programs are faculty led; others are sponsored by the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC), while others involve independent graduate research. The length of these programs varies from about three weeks to two full summer sessions of 4-6 weeks each.

Leadership Development Skills Workshop

The Mentoring Collaborative coordinated a team building and leadership development workshop on March 19 that featured service learning, community engagement and other opportunities. Participants heard presentations by Camp Miakonda - *Training Trainers to Work for Camp Miakonda*, UT Camp Adventure - *Around the World in 60 Seconds - Serve U.S. Forces Abroad*, UT Office of Service Learning- *New Horizons in Service Learning*, and UT Rec Center - *Team Building for Maximum Potential*. There was great interaction between students, connection to work study opportunities and chance for students to share what their experiences.

Academic Integrity Forum Fuels Discussion

On March 3 and 4, FYE and the UTLC hosted two forums on Academic Integrity. The forums, geared toward faculty and staff who teach/work with first year students, generated discussion regarding the importance of instilling high academic standards, clarifying assignments, and teaching the values of becoming a good learner.

For learning and scholarship to thrive, academic communities cannot tolerate acts of academic dishonesty, such as cheating, misrepresentation or plagiarism. **According to the Center for Academic Integrity**, there are five fundamental values that characterize an academic community of integrity:

- **Honesty:** The quest for truth and knowledge requires intellectual and personal honesty in learning, teaching, research and service.
- **Trust:** Academic institutions must foster a climate of mutual trust in order to stimulate the free exchange of ideas.
- **Fairness:** All interactions among students, faculty and administrators should be grounded in clear standards, practices and procedures.
- **Respect:** Learning is acknowledged as a participatory process, and a wide range of opinions and ideas is respected.
- **Responsibility:** A thriving community demands personal accountability on the part of all members and depends upon action in the face of wrongdoing.

Acts of academic dishonesty compromise these core values and undermine the process by which knowledge is created, shared and evaluated. Repeated offenses not only cast suspicion upon the integrity of individuals, but also damage the reputation of the larger academic community.

Panelists on March 3 included: Luanne Momenee, Director, Learning Enhancement Center; Jerry VanHoy, Associate Professor, Sociology; Charlie Blatz, Professor, Philosophy; and Renee Heberle, Associate Professor, Political Science. Panelists for March 4 included Bernie Bopp, Professor, Astronomy; Sharon Barnes, Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies; and Tom Barden, Director, Honors Program.

Additional suggested reading: *It's Culture, Not Morality*

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/02/03/myword>

Pharm D. Interviews

The staff in Career Services has been busy conducting mock interviews with students in the College of Pharmacy to prepare them for the professional program Pharm D interviews scheduled for late March. Students request practice with Career Services professionals so they can present themselves well at the critical interviews.

Career Services Works with Graduate Students

In collaboration with Graduate Studies, Career Services hosted a Graduate Student Program panel discussion entitled: "Job Search Strategies in a Tough Economy" on March 19. The panel of on- and off-campus professionals provided insights and information on job searching in this difficult economy to approximately 100 graduate students from all colleges. Students noted that the information and resources provided were helpful. Career Services also hosted an annual Graduate Assistantship Fair on March 20, in collaboration with the Division of Student Affairs, to provide interview opportunities for master's level students to obtain a graduate assistantship for the 2009-2010 academic year. Candidates were interviewed by departments such as Residence Life, the Student Unions, the Rec Center, and others.

Education Day

In collaboration with the College of Education, Career Services will host the annual Education Interview Day on Friday, April 24. Approximately 60 school districts from around the country are registered to attend. Various school districts are looking for UT students to fill their teaching positions from grades Pre K - 12.

Alternative Spring Break

Office of Service Learning and Community Engagement paired with Toledo Campus Ministry for a second year to offer Alternative Spring Break trips. This year, five trips were offered. All of the trips occur during the normal Spring Break period (March 9-13). The trips were a great option for students looking to do something worthwhile during their break, while having fun too! This year's trips included:

- *"All God's People!"* is a cultural immersion project that journeyed through various parts of the USA while reflecting on multiple cultures. Students spent time with Rev. Fred Shaw, storyteller for the Shawnee Nation, learning about the ongoing presence of Native persons in the Midwest. Experiences include different cultural setting and service opportunity each day – including time spent at the Underground Railroad Museum, the only remaining Shaker town in the United States; migrant camps; Appalachian culture; and Howard University – an historic black college. This team took time to reflect on the implications of each culture on our collective American spiritual identity.
- *Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi*, students worked to rebuild homes struck by Hurricane Katrina. Fourteen students headed to Mississippi, four of them are student leaders, including Service Learning Ambassador, Kyle Thobe.
- *Cameron, Louisiana*, where UT students, for the fourth time, traveled to help with relief efforts from Hurricane Rita. Fifteen students went on this trip to help with the clean-up.
- *Everglades, Florida* where 12 students helped with environmental reclamation in John C. Pennekamp State Park.
- *Black Mountain, North Carolina*, where 15 students created programs for groups of children within the Presbyterian Children's Home.

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS and ALUMS

UT Represents at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research

Eighteen students will represent The University of Toledo at the 23rd National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) on April 16-18th at The University of Wisconsin at Lacrosse. Over 2,000 undergraduate students from colleges and universities across the country will be attending to present their research and creative projects. NCUR's acceptance rate is about 60-63%; The University of Toledo boasts a 100% acceptance rate over the last two years. "I attribute this high success rate to the hard work of the students along with the fantastic job the faculty mentors on campus do in working closely with these students, often over the course of the academic year," said Larry Connin, Administrator Program Coordinator for the Honors Program. "We normally send between 15-20 students each year, and many are funded and mentored by the Office of Undergraduate Research before they are accepted to present at NCUR. I might be bias, but our student researchers are very competitive when compared against students from other top research universities in the country."

Below are the numbers for UT's representation at NCUR. The conference participation is co-sponsored by the Honors Program and the Office of Undergraduate Research.

2009 National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)
The University of Toledo – 18 students applied, 18 accepted (100%)
13 students will present /5 students will display posters

9 – Biology
2 – Economics
1 – Health Science and Public Health (PHARM)
1 – Computer Science
1 – Kinesiology and Exercise Science

1 – Art and Media Studies
1 – Psychology
1 – Pharmaceutical Sciences and Toxicology
1 – Chemistry

Other Schools Conference Participation

Wayne State – 22
Xavier – 19
University of Toledo – 18
University of Michigan – 10
Wittenberg – 8
Kenyon College – 7
Michigan State University – 6
Bowling Green – 5
Miami University – 6

Case Western Reserve – 5
University of Buffalo – 5
Capital University – 4
Albion College – 2
Western Michigan – 2
Central Michigan University – 1
Ohio State University – 1
Ohio University – 1
Oberlin – 1

Honors Brown Bags Spring 2009

In UT's Honors Program, cutting-edge research opportunities with faculty members are available year-round. UT Honors students are involved in a wide array of research and creative projects. Honors students have the opportunity to present their research informally to the campus community through the Honors Program Brown Bag Series held in Sullivan Hall's Hoch Conference Room at 12 p.m. (noon).

Series Schedule:

*David Hartwig
“Etheridge Knight: African-American Poet and His Manuscript Collection in the UT Canady Center”
Wednesday, Feb. 11th
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tom Barden, Director of Honors Program

*Brittany Brinley
“SH2BB Actin Binding Sites Needed for Enhancement of Growth Hormone Cell Ruffling”
April 1st at 12 noon
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Diakonova, Department of Biological Sciences

*Rachel Smith
“The Effect of Coaching on Two-Handed Catching Instincts”
Friday, April 3rd at 12 noon.
Faculty mentor: Professor Peggy Arnos, Department of Kinesiology

*Amanda Stewart
“Interaction Between Mixed Lineage Kinase 3 and the Tumor Suppressor Protein Merlin”
Tuesday, April 7th at 12 noon
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deborah Chadee, Department of Biological Sciences

*Michele Phillips
“IL-13 Induced Regulation of Autoreactive T-Cells”
Thursday, April 9th at 12 noon
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anthony Quinn, Department of Biological Sciences

*Alison Fedyna
“TCR Alpha-Chain Usage in the NOD Model of Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis”
Friday, April 10th at 12 noon
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anthony Quinn, Department of Biological Sciences

STARS in Undergraduate Research

The Student Achievement in Research and Scholarship Program (STARS) is an undergraduate program designed to prepare high achieving low-income, or (potential) first generation students and/or students from underrepresented groups for the next level in their educational continuum through graduate education. Four UT students have been accepted to present their research at the STARS Conference in Cleveland, OH on March 27-29.

- **Matthew Dawson** "Synthesis of 4-Substituted 1,2,3 Triazole-Oxazolidinones via a Three Compound Reaction"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Steven Sucheck, Department of Biological Sciences
- **Alexander Soto-Edwards** "Measurement of Human Cortical Thickness in Response to Amputation"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Wall, Department of Neuroscience, UT Medical Center
- **Monica Bonner** "Pelargonium"
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Scott Leisner, Department of Biological Sciences
- **Michael Aguilar** "TRAF 2 and TRAF 6: Influence on Mixed Lineage Kinase 3 Activation"
Faculty mentor: Dr. Deborah Chadee, Department of Biological Sciences

Posters at the Capitol

Posters at the Capitol, held in Columbus, OH on April 02, 2009, is an event for undergraduate student researchers/scholars from Northwest Ohio. Students that are selected to participate will design and produce professional research posters that represent their work and note its significance to Northwest Ohio. Posters will be displayed at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm on Thursday, April 2, 2009. Selected students will be in attendance with their posters so that Ohio legislators, legislative staff, state agency personnel, and visitors to the Statehouse can learn more about the student research. The Ohio event is being planned and organized through collaboration among Bowling Green State University, the University of Findlay, and The University of Toledo.

Kelley and Maddocks are named to the National Society of Collegiate Scholars

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) is an honor society for high-achieving freshmen and sophomores. Members must have a GPA of 3.4 or above and rank in the top 20 percent of their class. Service Learning Student Ambassador Jessica Kelley was recently named to University of Toledo's chapter of National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She will serve as Vice President for Community Service, which will allow her to become more engaged in the community through programs that she plans and implements on a larger scale. One of Kelley's projects will be coordinating a mentoring program, presentations and panel discussions for the annual "March to College," which encourages high school students to attend college. With the recently released "UT Guarantee scholarship," her focus will be on Toledo Public Schools. M3C Fellow Jordan Maddocks was named Chapter President for NSCS as well. (M3C fellows devote, in one year, 300 hours in service to their community!) Congratulations to these two outstanding students for being named to this prestigious group!

Edgar Presents Research at MPA

Courtney Edgar, student office assistant and student orientation leader for the Office of New Student Orientation Programs, will be presenting her research findings at the 2009 Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) Conference, through the Psi Chi Program in Chicago on April 30-May 2. Edgar's research project, , entitled "*Happy Birthday? A Study of Present Emotional Status on the Recall of a Childhood Memory,*" investigated the effects of current mood and emotional state of individuals while being asked to recall a birthday memory from childhood. The project was sponsored by the National Honor Society in Psychology, UT's Psi Chi, and faculty sponsor Dr. Mojisola Tiamiyu.

Independent Advocates

University College, Individualized Degree program graduate, Rachel Richardson (Bachelor of Arts, 2002) is one of the founders of *Independent Advocates* (IA). Richardson and her colleague, Rebecca Facey, formed a two-woman nonprofit agency that focuses on violence against women. IA provides court advocacy to victims of domestic violence, community healthy relationship education to young people and training to professionals about the dynamics of domestic violence. More on Independent Advocates can be found at the following web links:

- Independent Advocates: <http://iatoledo.org/>
- *Toledo Blade* Articles: <http://www.toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090312/COLUMNIST03/903120348>
- *InToledo Magazine*: http://iatoledo.org/ia_toledo_magazine.pdf

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS:

Fulbright Headed to Japan

The director of UT's Study Abroad, Dr. Ron Pirog, has been selected as a Fulbright scholar for the U.S – Japan International Education Administrators Program. This summer program will include visits to various cities and academic institutions in Japan. Pirog will join others in meeting with leaders from government offices and academic institutions to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and Japan. The Fulbright Program is a program for international educational exchange for scholars, educators, graduate students and professionals. The Fulbright Program is one of the most prestigious awards programs worldwide.

Fischer-Kinney Recognized for 10 Years of Service

Julie Fischer-Kinney, Director of the Office of New Student Orientation Programs, was recognized for her 10 years of service to UT (Employee Service Recognition) at the UT Women's Basketball game on March 7, 2009.

Walker Featured in UT Matters Marketing Campaign

Whitney Walker, Assistant Director of the Office of New Student Orientation Programs, will be featured in the UT Matters ads running both in print and on television in May 2009.

University College Degree Program Advisers Shine

Gerasimiak Nominated for Outstanding Adviser - University College Degree Programs academic adviser, Beth Gerasimiak, has been nominated for the Outstanding Adviser Award.

Johnson-Ham nominated for the Students First Award - Marie Johnson-Ham has been nominated for the Students First Award. Both have already received the award for which the other person is currently nominated.

NEW WAYS OF COMMUNICATING

New Rocket Orientation Web Site

The Office of New Student Orientation Programs now has a new and improved website and a new link: www.utoledo.edu/utlc/orientation.

New Parent Video Blog

FYE is pleased to present their second video blog for parents, friends and families of UT students. The goal is to create a vehicle along with new *Family Connections* e-newsletter that will help us to stay in touch with parents/families. Visit this video link for the latest video message to Rocket parents and family: <http://rocketvideo.utoledo.edu/telecom/jrockwood2.mov>.

UTLC on the MOVE:

- The Office of EXCELlence's EXCEL Program and Upward Bound have moved to the Scott Park Campus, Learning Resource Center third floor.
- The TRIO-Student Support Services Program has moved to the Rathbun Cove in the lower level of the Carlson Library.
- The Office of Undergraduate Research has moved to Sullivan Hall 2140



To submit information to the UTLC News send details to cathy.zimmer@utoledo.edu