

## UToledo alum, flight director for International Space Station leading NASA's launch of commercial crew vehicle

By Christine Billau

**A**fter an eight-year hiatus, NASA is one step closer to rocketing its astronauts to the International Space Station from U.S. soil, instead of buying seats aboard Russian spacecraft.

An alumnus of The University of Toledo will serve as flight director for the launch of the unmanned test flight of the Boeing Starliner slated for late August, about a month after the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

"The CST-100 Starliner is designed as a space taxi," said Dr. Robert Dempsey, NASA flight director for the International Space Station at Johnson Space Center's Mission Control in Houston. "I've been working on this project for eight years, longer than it took me to earn my Ph.D. at The University of Toledo. I joke that I have a doctorate in Starliner now."

Dempsey, who received a master's degree and Ph.D. in physics from UToledo in 1987 and 1991, is working around the clock to train and troubleshoot for the upcoming launch, which — if successful — could lead to a crewed flight by the end of the year.

"I will be flight director for the rendezvous and docking," Dempsey said. "I'm excited because the current timeframe means the Starliner would dock on my birthday, Aug. 18, which would be a cool present."

*continued on p. 4*



Photo courtesy of NASA

**ALL SYSTEMS GO:** Dr. Robert Dempsey, NASA flight director for the International Space Station at Johnson Space Center's Mission Control in Houston, is leading the launch of a commercial crew vehicle. He received a master's degree and Ph.D. in physics from UToledo in 1987 and 1991.

## UToledo student studying suicide and opioids awarded prestigious NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

By Christine Billau

**M**argaret Baer, a first-year doctoral student in The University of Toledo Department of Psychology, uses science to help make sense of suicide and substance use, leading causes of death in the United States.



Baer

Baer's somber work is driven by these widespread sources of pain and unlocking new ways to ease suffering and prevent the loss of more lives.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded Baer a Graduate Research Fellowship in clinical psychology, recognizing her potential for significant research achievements.

The fellowship is worth \$34,000 a year for three years. It is regarded as one of the most competitive and respected scientific fellowships in the country. This year the NSF awarded fellowships to 2,050 students around the country out of about 12,000 applications.

*continued on p. 2*

## Collaborative research between colleges uncovers potential cancer drug

By Tyrel Linkhorn

**S**cientists at The University of Toledo investigating improvements to a commonly used chemotherapy drug have discovered an entirely new class of cancer-killing agents that show promise in eradicating cancer stem cells.

Their findings could prove to be a breakthrough in not only treating tumors, but ensuring cancer doesn't return years later — giving peace of mind to patients that their illness is truly gone.

"Not all cancer cells are the same, even in the same tumor," said Dr. William Taylor, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences in the UToledo College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. "There is a lot of variability and some of the cells, like cancer

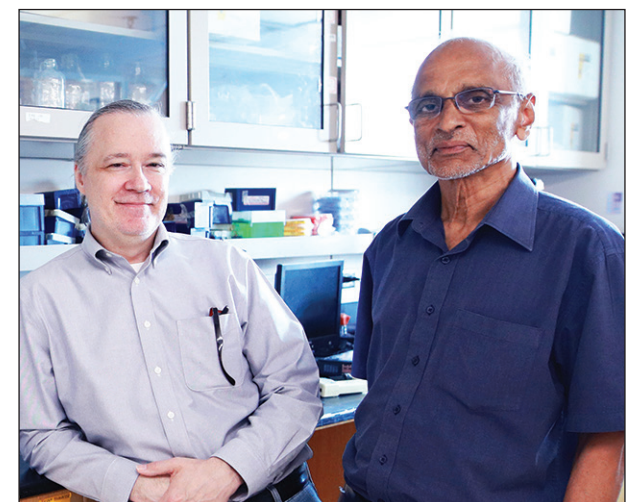


Photo by Daniel Miller

**ON THE HUNT:** Dr. William Taylor, left, and Dr. L.M. Viranga Tillekeratne are investigating a small molecule that locks on to and kills cancer stem cells.

stem cells, are much nastier. Everyone is trying to figure out how to kill them, and this may be one way to do it."

*continued on p. 3*

# Police embrace technology to better connect with campus

By Meghan Cunningham

Campus police are embracing technology to better connect with faculty, staff and students instantly through the smartphones we have on us at all times.

The UT Alert emergency notification system ([utoledo.edu/publicsafety/utalert](http://utoledo.edu/publicsafety/utalert)) is moving to an opt-out system for the 2019-20 academic year; once complete, this will automatically sign up mobile numbers to receive texts in the event of an emergency on campus. Users currently have to sign up for the texts while all members of the campus community receive an email to their UToledo accounts when a UT Alert is sent.

“We don’t leave home without our phones. It’s always with us in our pocket or sitting right there on our desks while we’re in class or in the office. We know that is our go-to communications tool in the event of an emergency, and it’s important our campus community know that’s how they will get the message if we need to reach them,” UToledo Police Chief and Director of Public Safety Jeff Newton said.

Individuals should continue to opt in to UT Alert until the start of the 2019-20 academic year; go to <https://fs.utoledo.edu/>

[ads/ls/?wa=wsignin1.0&wtrealm=um:federation:cas.](https://fs.utoledo.edu/)

All UT Alert users have the ability to enter up to three phone numbers and three email addresses in to the account to be sure they get the alerts in whatever platform they use most regularly. Some students also might wish to include contact information for their parents or guardians to receive the real-time notification of campus emergencies, Newton said.

“In the event of an emergency, we are looking to reach as many people as possible as soon as possible,” he said. “Our campus community has embraced UT Alert, and we look forward to expanding its use even more.”

UToledo Police also continue to encourage members of campus to download the Rave Guardian app to access safety services. It has a safety timer and panic button to immediately contact police in an emergency and uses your GPS location to get help to you faster. The app, which is available to download for Android or iPhone, also allows trusted friends or “guardians” to receive the same information as the police.

With the advances in technology, UToledo will follow the trend of other universities and discontinue use of the stationary phones located across campus; they are past their life expectancy with parts no longer available for repairs, Newton said.

“We had planned to move away from the kiosks and toward smartphone applications, which is the trend in higher education,” Newton said. “Our Code Blue phones are becoming obsolete and are rarely used, so now is the time to make that change.”

In addition to smartphones to quickly contact campus police, new software now allows for calls to 911 from campus phones to ring both to Lucas County 911 and the UToledo Police dispatch center permitting the campus officers to listen to the live call and immediately get the information, allowing for quicker police response and decreases in potential errors in relaying messages.

To contact campus police in case of an emergency on campus, call 419.530.2600. For non-emergency situations, call 419.530.2601. For off-campus emergencies, dial 911.

## NSF

*continued from p. 1*

“I am immensely grateful for the NSF support,” said Baer, who is currently examining the link between suicide and substance abuse. “My passion is to conduct impactful, innovative research that ameliorates these large-scale public health problems. Among other studies, I hope to investigate the mechanisms underlying the co-occurrence of suicide-related behaviors and opioid misuse.”

Baer, who is from Evansville, Ind., works in the Personality and Emotion Research and Treatment Laboratory of Dr. Matthew Tull and Dr. Kim Gratz, both UToledo professors of psychology.

“Margaret is highly dedicated to conducting innovative and clinically relevant research, particularly in the areas of substance abuse and suicide,” Tull said. “I am incredibly pleased that the NSF has recognized her with this fellowship, which will provide her with even more opportunities to contribute to the field, as well as provide a foundation and resources for Margaret to build a highly impactful career.”

Baer’s own undergraduate experience at several different colleges sparked her interest in becoming a suicide researcher.

“I thought of college as a very exciting, hopeful time. I was shocked at the number of students who struggled with thoughts of suicide,” Baer said. “Kids were at their healthiest and youngest, on the cusp of exploring their extraordinary potential in higher education. It was an eye-opener. I felt the urgency of suicide prevention.”

Before arriving at UToledo in August 2018 to pursue her Ph.D., Baer worked with researchers at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., and Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Md.

“There is great need for suicide prevention at all ages — adolescents, seniors and middle-aged adults. All may resort to risky behaviors, such as substance abuse or self-injury — cutting, for example — while also having thoughts of suicide or attempting suicide,” Baer said. “My focus right now is on substance use impacting barriers to suicide. Soon I hope to examine the relationship between negative social interactions in daily life and opioid craving.”

Since 1952, NSF has funded more than 50,000 Graduate Research Fellowships out of more than 500,000 applicants. Currently, 42 Fellows have gone on to become Nobel laureates.

## Director named to lead military, veteran affairs

By Vicki L. Kroll

A U.S. Army veteran has been tapped as The University of Toledo’s new director of military and veteran affairs.

Eric Buetikofer started his new post May 20.

“I have been working with military-connected students in higher education for more than 10 years. My background is in programing, supplemental advising, and recruiting military-connected students,” he said. “I am excited to bring my skills to UToledo and hopefully enhance military services at the University.”

Buetikofer served as military advisor for nine years at Bowling Green State University, where he implemented several national programs for military-connected students, and was a success mentor/advisor for one year at Owens Community College.

At UToledo, Buetikofer is charged with strategically planning and leading the effort to assist military and veteran students achieve success in the classroom and beyond. Duties also include developing programs and building relationships that continue to promote the University as a military-friendly

institution, as well as overseeing the Military Service Center.

“We are happy to have Eric Buetikofer as our director of military and veteran affairs. He is a veteran who has worked in higher education to help military members realize their dreams,” Dr. Barbara Kopp Miller, dean of University College, said. “We are proud The University of Toledo is recognized as a military-friendly institution, and we know Eric will build on that tradition.”

For two years, Buetikofer worked in military intelligence in the U.S. Army. He provided ground surveillance and conducted training sessions while completing a tour of duty in South Korea and temporary duty in Japan.

“When I returned from active duty in the early 2000s, there was very little support for military-connected students in higher education,” Buetikofer said. “As a first-generation college student, like many military veterans, I did not have a lot of guidance on how to navigate higher education. As the new



Buetikofer

director of military and veteran affairs, I can ensure that today’s military-connected students are fully supported as they pursue education at The University of Toledo.”

A native of Erie, Pa., Buetikofer received a bachelor of arts degree in education from Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pa., and a master of arts degree in education from Bowling Green State University in 2007 and 2009, respectively.

## UTMC dysautonomia expert wins patient choice award

By Tyrel Linkhorn

The University of Toledo and Dr. Blair Grubb have been recognized by the Dysautonomia Support Network for innovative research into a group of conditions that affect the body's autonomic nervous system.

The accolades are part of the nonprofit patient support and advocacy group's first Patient's Choice awards and were presented June 6.

Grubb, a Distinguished University Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, and director of electrophysiology services at The University of Toledo Medical Center, is one of the world's foremost experts in syncope and disorders of the autonomic nervous system, including postural tachycardia syndrome, or POTS.

"As a leader in the field for over a decade, Dr. Grubb continues impacting standards of practice and expanding treatment options for various forms of dysautonomia," said Amanda Aikulola,

president and executive director of the Dysautonomia Support Network. "Over and over again, patients return to him because of his passion and desire not only to practice medicine, but also to leave a lasting impression on those he has cared for."

Grubb received the Revolutionary Research Award. UToledo received the Powerhouse Research Award. Nominations and voting were done by patients.

The autonomic nervous system controls our most basic life functions, regulating our breathing, heart rate and blood pressure without us ever thinking about it.

When the system malfunctions, the body can no longer control those functions. Symptoms can include rapid heart rate or slow heart rate, excessive fatigue, thirstiness, shortness of breath, blood pressure fluctuations and bladder problems.

"People with these conditions can be really devastated. They're frequently wheelchair-bound or bedridden. We often

see some of the worst cases, but we have a good track record of making people better," Grubb said.

Grubb pioneered many of the diagnostic and treatment modalities that now are commonly used for these disorders, and UTMC was the first center to describe that POTS could occur in children.

"We are one of the world's leading centers for research on this and in finding new and innovative therapies looking for new ways to treat people," Grubb said. "I think this recognition is an acknowledgement of that."

Grubb previously has been named Physician of the Year by Dysautonomia International and received the Medical Professional of the Decade Award from the British Heart Rhythm Society and Arrhythmia Alliance.



Grubb

## Nursing students receive coats



Photo by Daniel Miller

A total of 96 students in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program and 30 students in the Advanced Practice Nurse Program received white coats last month during ceremonies made possible with a grant from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation and a donation in memory of Michael Shannon, the late brother of Dr. Gregory Shannon, UToledo assistant professor of nursing. The College of Nursing students recited an oath pledging compassionate care for patients.

## Collaborative research

*continued from p. 1*

Taylor and Dr. L.M. Viranga Tillekeratne, a professor in the Department of Medicinal and Biological Chemistry in the UToledo College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, reported their findings in a paper recently published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

Cancer stem cells are an intriguing target for researchers because of their potential to re-seed tumors.

When doctors remove a tumor surgically or target it with chemotherapy drugs or radiation therapy, the cancer may appear to be gone. However, evidence suggests that a tiny subpopulation of adaptable cancer cells can remain and circulate through the body to seed new metastasis in far-off locations.

Those cancer stem cells, Taylor said, are similar to dandelions in a well-manicured lawn.

"You could chop the plant off, but it will drop a seed. You know the seeds are there, but they're hiding," he said. "You pull one weed out and another comes up right after it. Cancers can be like this as well."

The small molecule they have isolated appears to lock on to those stem cells and kill them by blocking their absorption of an amino acid called cystine.

UToledo was awarded a patent for the discovery late last year.

For Tillekeratne and Taylor, uncovering a new class of therapeutic molecules could

prove to be an even larger contribution to cancer research than the project they initially envisioned.

"At present, there are no drugs that can kill cancer stem cells, but people are looking for them," Tillekeratne said. "A lot of drugs are discovered by serendipity. Sometimes in research if you get unexpected results, you welcome that because it opens up a new line of research. This also shows the beauty of collaboration. I wouldn't have been able to do this on my own, and [Taylor] wouldn't have been able to do it on his own."

Tillekeratne also has received a three-year, \$449,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health National Cancer Institute to continue testing the effectiveness of the newly identified therapy.

Because the molecules so selectively target cancer stem cells, it's possible they could ultimately be paired with other chemotherapy drugs to deliver a more comprehensive treatment.

However, the researchers have found their agents show stand-alone promise in treating sarcomas and a subtype of breast cancer known as claudin-low breast cancer, which represents up to 14 percent of all breast cancers and can be particularly difficult to treat.

## Rocket Reduction promotes smarter recycling

By Christine Wasserman

The University is expanding its efforts to educate faculty, staff and students on how to better recycle materials in order to significantly reduce recycling contamination and increase UToledo's environmental stewardship.

"Gone are the days when people are simply encouraged to recycle," said Michael Green, director for energy management. "What we've learned over the years is that too many of us use recycling containers improperly, tossing the wrong items into the blue bins. That cross-contamination defeats the purpose because then *everything* in that bin ends up at the landfill."

Organizations also have realized they can no longer afford the enormous amount of time it takes to sort through and manage recycled materials. Therefore, all too often they combine recyclables with their waste for ease of disposal and to reduce costs, Green added.

To improve recycling at the University, blue, single-stream recycling bins are being removed from individual offices across campuses to promote the use of existing multi-stream recycling stations located throughout each UToledo facility. This measure helps to streamline the process and to reduce costs associated with recycling, while still offering the campus community ready access to recycling bins.

If you have any questions about using multi-stream recycling stations — which provide separate bins for recycling paper, cardboard, metal and plastic — refer to the label atop each blue bin, as it provides clear tips for sorting.

"Even *before* we recycle items, we should reduce and reuse materials whenever possible," said Jennell Brown, sustainability specialist, who is spearheading UToledo's recycling and reduction efforts through the Rocket Reduction program.

"When in doubt, throw it out," Brown advised. "It's better to throw any questionable items into the trash — such as that potato chip bag, a book or a box's packaging material — than to put it into a recycling bin where it might contaminate the system."

As examples of how to reduce waste and reuse materials, you should consider:

- Purchasing a coffee store's mug to use whenever you buy coffee from that store vs. frequently disposing paper coffee cups;
- Filling a reusable glass with drinking water from the office water cooler vs. buying water in disposable plastic containers; and
- Using washable tote bags at grocery stores instead of using unrecyclable plastic bags that end up in the landfill.

Additional information about reducing waste and recycling may be found at [utoledo.edu/sustainability/rocketrecycling.html](http://utoledo.edu/sustainability/rocketrecycling.html).

Throughout the coming months, more Rocket Reduction tips, as well as training, will be available to students and employees.

"A University-wide reduction program can't be successful without many individuals choosing to learn responsible recycling practices," Brown said. "I'm proud the University is supporting the Rocket Reduction program, especially because it teaches students how to care for the environment ... habits they can use long after graduation to improve whatever community they call home."

## NASA's launch

continued from p. 1

The Starliner is part of NASA's Commercial Crew Program, a public-private partnership in which the agency contracted with Boeing and SpaceX to fly crews to the space station, an orbiting laboratory.

The goal of the Commercial Crew Program is to have safe, reliable and cost-effective access to and from the International Space Station and foster commercial access to other potential low-Earth orbit destinations.

It's an expansion of NASA's success in unmanned cargo supply ships.

The vision is for private companies to someday fly customers to hotels in space and other celestial destinations.

"When we look at the space program, the Commercial Crew Program is one example of what to expect over the next 50 years," Dempsey said. "NASA will focus strategically on big-vision projects like getting to Mars, but private companies can invest and develop technology for low-Earth orbit transportation. We'll focus on the hard stuff at NASA so that down the road Boeing and SpaceX can launch commercial vehicles to take customers to the moon or Mars."

Leading up to the debut launch of Starliner, Dempsey spends his time thinking of everything that could go wrong on the mission and figuring out how to fix it.

It's familiar territory.



Image courtesy of NASA

**READY FOR LAUNCH:** This NASA graphic shows the Boeing Starliner that is scheduled for an unmanned test flight in August. Dr. Robert Dempsey, UToledo alumnus, is the flight director for the launch.

Dempsey started working at NASA 21 years ago when the agency was creating the International Space Station.

"We were about three years from launching the first piece of the space station," Dempsey said. "The design was mostly done, but the software was

immature. I helped out with finishing the software."

It's a dream career sparked 50 years ago by one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.

Dempsey was 6 years old when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon July 20, 1969.

"I remember watching the lunar landing on television and thinking, 'I want to do that,'" Dempsey said. "I have never wavered. Here I am today doing that work."

## Men's basketball coach signs contract extension through 2023-24 season

By Paul Helgren

The University of Toledo and Head Men's Basketball Coach Tod Kowalczyk have reached an agreement that extends Kowalczyk's contract through the 2023-24 season.



Kowalczyk

"Our men's basketball program continues to thrive under Tod's leadership," UToledo Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Mike O'Brien said.

"His teams have consistently been among the elite programs in the Mid-American Conference, and we look forward to even greater success in the future.

"Just as importantly, Tod cares about his players as student-athletes, establishing an academic culture that is also at the top of the MAC," O'Brien said.

Kowalczyk recently completed his ninth season at Toledo and is third on the school's all-time victory list with 167 wins. He has guided the Rockets to a 129-71 (.645) win-loss mark over the last six seasons, including a 25-8 record last season, the second most wins in school history. Kowalczyk also led Toledo to a school record 27-7 ledger in 2013-14.

During the 2018-19 season, Toledo captured its second consecutive MAC West Division title with a 13-5 league mark. The Rockets also earned a berth into the National Invitation Tournament.

"I am thankful for the opportunity given to me and my staff by President [Sharon L.] Gaber and Mike O'Brien," Kowalczyk said. "We are extremely fortunate to have their support and leadership. I am proud of the program we have built here, and I am very excited about the prospects for next year's team."

In addition to winning on the court, the Rockets have achieved tremendous success in the classroom under Kowalczyk. Toledo earned the National Association of Basketball Coaches' Team Academic Excellence Award for 2018-19, the fourth time in the last six seasons the Rockets have been so honored. Also, Toledo's most recent Academic Progress Rate score of 979 ranked second among the 12 MAC men's basketball programs.

Prior to becoming UToledo's head coach, Kowalczyk posted a 136-112 record in eight years as Wisconsin-Green Bay's head coach. The Phoenix advanced to post-season play and notched back-to-back 22-win seasons in his last two seasons. In addition, every player who completed his eligibility while Kowalczyk was Green Bay's head coach received a degree.

A native of DePere, Wis., Kowalczyk and his wife, Julie, have two children, Race (12) and Rose (10).

## Toledo football announces '150 Rocket Challenge' ticket promotion

By Paul Helgren

The University of Toledo announced a new football season ticket initiative for the 2019 season, the "150 Rocket Challenge," to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of college football.

The Rockets have set a goal to sell 150 new season ticket orders in the month of June. As part of the promotion, a limited number of Sideline A season tickets Section 25 will be available for only \$150 until Sunday, June 30; that's a savings of \$45 per season ticket. Fans also can opt to purchase other season ticket packages with prices starting as low as \$70.

New season ticket purchases in the month of June will be entered to win an autographed football from Head Coach Jason Candle. A new winner will be selected

after every 25 season ticket packages sold for a total of six winners, who will be selected on Facebook live and Instagram stories.

The University of Toledo is joining the celebration of the 150th anniversary of college football with special events throughout the 2019 season. The Rockets will host a 150th anniversary commemoration game in the Glass Bowl vs. Kent State Tuesday, Nov. 5. The first college football game was played Nov. 4, 1869, between Rutgers and Princeton. Football began at The University of Toledo in 1917.

For more information, go to utrockets.com, call 419.530.GOLD (4653), or stop by the UToledo Athletic Ticket Office during business hours.

## Soccer unveils new locker room

By Will Edmonds

The Toledo women's soccer team saw their new home on Main Campus this spring as the team's newly renovated locker room was unveiled.

Sitting on the ground level adjacent to the Savage Arena Media Room, the soccer area features newly renovated coaches' offices, a fully furnished team room and kitchen, and locker room.

The Rockets' new team area comes as the women's soccer program prepares to fully move on to The University of Toledo Main Campus ahead of the fall 2019 season.

"We are ecstatic about the new team area in Savage Arena," Head Coach TJ Buchholz said. "We wanted

to give our players a first-class facility to call home, and we believe we have accomplished that with this project.

"A big thanks goes out to President [Sharon L.] Gaber, Mike O'Brien, Kelly Andrews, Dave Nottke, Jason Toth and Tim Warga for helping our move to Main Campus become a reality for our soccer team. We are so thankful and appreciative to them for giving our team this unbelievable place on Main Campus to call home."

After 23 seasons at Scott Park, the women's soccer team joins 10 of Toledo's other sports in calling Savage Arena home.



Photo by Will Edmonds

HOME, SWEET HOME: Abby Demboski, left, and Olivia Young led the way as the soccer team checked out its new locker room in Savage Arena.

## CampMed program shows area students their potential in studying medicine

By Tyrel Linkhorn

The University of Toledo will provide more than three dozen teens from across northwest Ohio a hands-on introduction to studying medicine during its annual CampMed program.

The students, all of whom will be high school freshmen this fall, will be on Health Science Campus Thursday and Friday, June 13 and 14.

Now in its 22nd year, CampMed gives students who excel in science and mathematics a window into what it's like to pursue a career as a physician or medical researcher.

"We want to inspire these students and help give them an outline of how to prepare for an education in medicine," said Courtney K. Combs, director of the UToledo and Ohio Area Health Education Center programs. "As much as CampMed is educational — and it really is — we also want it to be a fun time for the kids. It's summer. It's camp. It might be the first time they're surrounded by kids their own age who have the same interests. We try to make it as hands-on as possible."

Under the guidance of UToledo faculty members and physicians, the students will be taught Heartsaver CPR, learn how to suture, and practice forming a cast. They'll also receive hands-on tours of the Emergency Department at The University of Toledo Medical Center, the gross anatomy lab, and

the Jacobs Interprofessional and Immersive Simulation Center.

Second- and third-year medical students serve as camp counselors.

Most of the students who attend CampMed are underrepresented minorities in medicine, from underserved rural or urban communities, or the first in their family planning to attend college.

"We want to encourage these students to help them realize that a career in medicine is a realistic goal for them. Some of them may have never even been on a college campus before," Combs said. "We want to provide that exposure to let them know if they work hard and are serious about their schoolwork now, this could be an option and The University of Toledo College of Medicine would welcome them."

CampMed, which began in 1998, was implemented by and is coordinated through the UToledo Area Health Education Center program, which works to improve the well-being of individuals and communities by developing the health-care workforce.

The competitive scholarship program requires students to submit a letter of recommendation from a science or math teacher or guidance counselor, grade transcripts, and a personal essay to be chosen to participate.

## Changes announced for users of Pcard, corporate card program

By Christine Wasserman

UToledo's Finance Department is implementing changes for employees who use a University Pcard or University-issued credit card.

A new vendor, Concur Travel and Expense, has been selected to unify and automate the travel and expense process across campuses. This new service has several advantages, including:

- Creating a better travel and expense process for affected faculty and staff;
- Increasing policy compliance;
- Providing better transparency of travel and expense spending for supervisors; and
- Eliminating the need for the University to collect, manage and store paper receipts.

"This change enables us to leverage the University's buying power with vendors, providing cost savings and a better user experience," said Michael Dennis, associate vice president for finance and treasurer. "It will replace our current Banner Travel and Reimbursement Module, plus the PaymentNet Pcard reporting system."

Users will find that Concur's process is seamless and has an intuitive design for ease of use because it automatically populates expense reports with the Concur Smart Expense application, plus it reduces the need for paper receipts, imaging and faxing, Dennis explained.

Additionally, the University is replacing the JP Morgan Chase Mastercard Pcard program with a Bank of America Merrill Lynch Visa-branded card program. The new corporate card also will make travel and purchasing expense reporting simpler for employees, while also maximizing purchasing and accounting efficiencies for UToledo. The new card program will be available beginning Monday, July 1, with all users converted by Friday, Aug. 30.

Users will receive an email invitation to sign up for in-person training on these new tools, which will be required for travel requests, travel reimbursement, and reconciling Pcard activity.

Updated policies, training materials, Pcard application materials and FAQs also will be available at [utoledo.edu/offices/controller/accounts\\_payable](http://utoledo.edu/offices/controller/accounts_payable).

If you have questions, contact:

- Jason.Hanely@utoledo.edu for Concur functionality and training opportunities;
- Alyssa.High@utoledo.edu for Pcard use, limits and reconciliation; and
- Dorene.Spotts@utoledo.edu or Patricia.Peterson@utoledo.edu for general accounts payable assistance.

"We look forward to implementing these new tools and appreciate all users participating in the training to help ensure a smooth transition," Dennis said.



## Taking care of business

Pat Militzer, secretary in the Curriculum and Instruction Department in the Judith Herb College of Education, right, talked with Jessica Duran, left, and Edna Long of Proforma Speciality Printing in Toledo at the Minority Supplier Showcase May 29 in the Thompson Student Union. More than 20 vendors were at the event. Part of the University's Strategic Plan for Diversity and Inclusion, the Minority Supplier Showcase increases knowledge and awareness of minority businesses with a goal of increasing their participation as providers of goods and services for UToledo.

Photo by Daniel Miller

## UToledo Dining announces summer meal plans, hours of operation

By Alexis Cline

To better serve the campus community, UToledo Dining is introducing four summer meal plan options for students, faculty and staff.

“Our goal is to ensure customers have a variety of options, offering them both flexibility and great value,” said Cameron McAdams, district manager for UToledo Dining.

The four summer meal plan options are Summer 35, Summer 35+, Summer 75 and Summer 75+.

Summer meal plans may be purchased online using a credit card, e-check, or may be billed to your student account. For eligible students, financial aid may be used to cover the cost of the meal plan.

You may purchase the plans online at [utoledo.edu/mealplans/summer.html](http://utoledo.edu/mealplans/summer.html).

Meal plans will be directly loaded to your Rocket Card and will be activated within one business day from time of purchase.

For more information regarding summer meal plan options, including a complete list of costs and dining venues

that accept the plans, visit [utoledo.edu/mealplans/summer.html](http://utoledo.edu/mealplans/summer.html).

As a reminder, hours of operation for summer session one dining are:

- Starbucks — Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.;
- Magic Wok and Subway, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.;
- Phoenicia Cuisine, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
- South Dining Hall, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; and
- Ottawa House East, Monday through Friday for breakfast from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., for lunch from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and for dinner from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

For reference, a complete list of summer hours for on-campus dining venues is available at [utoledo.edu/mealplans/hours.html](http://utoledo.edu/mealplans/hours.html).

For more information, email [mealplan@utoledo.edu](mailto:mealplan@utoledo.edu).

## Getting ready

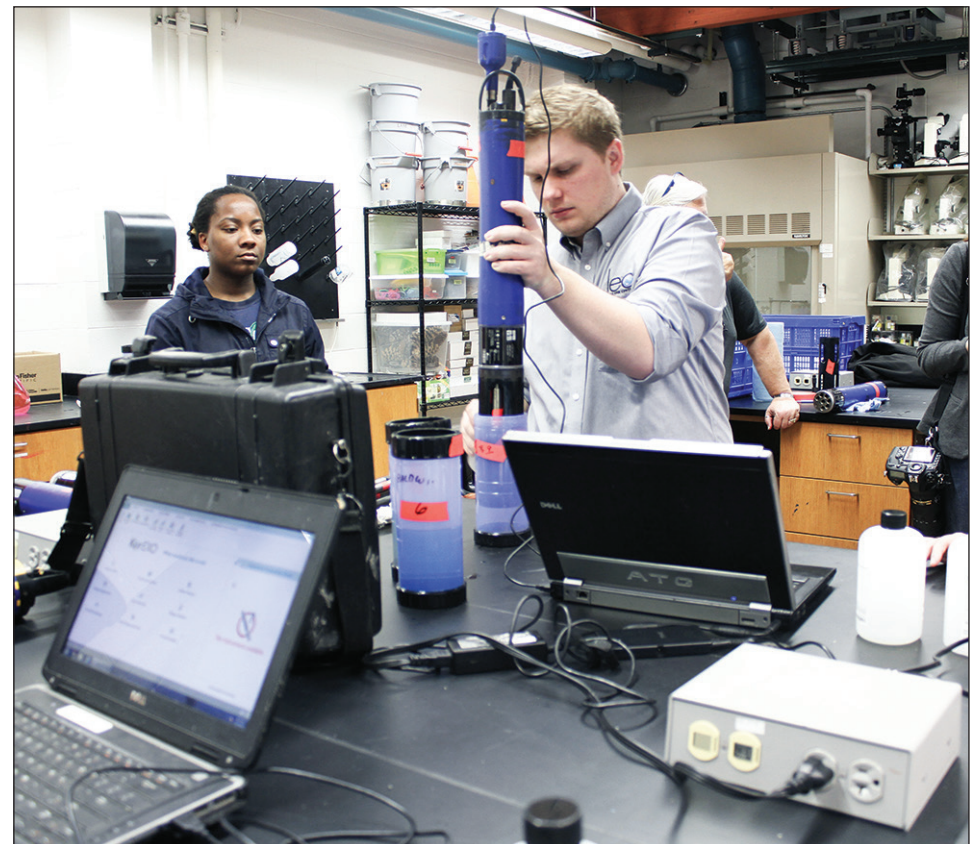


Photo by David Fitch

Zachary Swan, UToledo student pursuing a master's degree in the Department of Environmental Sciences, cleaned and calibrated a YSI EXO sonde, an instrument consisting of several probes to measure various water-quality parameters, including how much blue-green algae are present, water temperature, clarity, oxygen levels, turbidity and pH. Scientists and water treatment plant managers from Toledo to Cleveland recently visited the UToledo Lake Erie Center to prep their equipment that will be deployed in buoys across Lake Erie to sound the early warning for a harmful algal bloom.

## Lot by North Engineering Building to close June 10

As construction on the North Engineering Building ramps up, lot 19S located on the north of the structure will close Monday, June 10.

In preparation for the first phase of the lab and classroom renovation of the North Engineering Building, the contractor will assemble scaffolding along the north face of the edifice.

“In order to provide space for the equipment and materials necessary for the construction, the north parking lot 19S will

be closed,” Christopher Levicki, project manager with Facilities and Construction, said. “There will be a single one-way lane flowing west to east located along the most northern end of the lot for access to the east portion of the lot and emergency vehicle access around the building. That lane will take up the parking spaces in the area.”

Lot 19S is scheduled to remain closed until phase one of the construction project is finished in May next year.

## In memoriam

**John P. Collier**, Deshler, Ohio, who worked at MCO for more than a decade, died May 31 at age 94. He joined the Purchasing Department staff as a purchasing administrator in 1971 and retired as director of purchasing in 1985. Collier oversaw the budget and purchasing of equipment for the hospital and research laboratories.

**Charles J. “Chuck” Mira**, Holland, Ohio, died May 23 at age 61. He received a law degree from UToledo in 1983 and returned to his alma mater to teach in the Paralegal Studies Program.

# UT NEWS

UT News is published for faculty, staff and students by the University Marketing and 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 UToledo community are welcome. Send information by campus mail to #190, University Marketing and Communications Office, Vicki Kroll. Email: [vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu](mailto:vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu). Fax: 419.530.4618. Phone: 419.530.2248. Mailing address: University Marketing and Communications Office, Mail Stop 190, The University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606-3390.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS: Dr. Adrienne King

DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS: Meghan Cunningham

EDITOR: Vicki L. Kroll

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Stephanie Delo

PHOTOGRAPHER: Daniel Miller

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: Christine Billau, Chase M. Foland, Tyrel Linkhorn, Christine Wasserman

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS: Laurie Flowers, Kelsi Rooks

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANT: Ahmed Tijani

Read UT news at [utnews.utoledo.edu](http://utnews.utoledo.edu) and [myut.utoledo.edu](http://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.



## Emergency grant funds available for currently enrolled undergraduate students

By Anna Brogan-Knight

**R**ocket Recovery, The University of Toledo's student emergency grant fund, has awarded more than \$320,000 to students since the program started in 2017.

The Great Lakes Higher Education Corp. & Affiliates, now known as Ascendium, awarded The University of Toledo a two-year grant to help low-income students cover the cost of financial emergencies, like car repairs or medical bills, so they can focus on their studies and stay in college.

Rocket Recovery provides emergency grants for up to \$1,000 per student to help pay for unexpected costs. Funds are disbursed within 48 hours of the approved application.

Undergraduate students who meet income guidelines and are enrolled for the current semester are encouraged to apply for funds.

Dr. Michele Soliz, UToledo assistant vice president for student success and inclusion, focuses on strategic retention initiatives and serves as program director.

"Lack of financial aid is a main reason for not completing a degree. These funds help students who find themselves in extreme circumstances that otherwise could mean the end of college. We want students to use this resource and avoid unneeded disruption to their studies," Soliz said. "The more students use resources like this and tell us what types of obstacles they are facing, the better we can serve them."

For more information or to apply for a grant, visit the Rocket Recovery web page at [utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/omss/rocketrecovery/Rocket\\_Recovery.html](http://utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/omss/rocketrecovery/Rocket_Recovery.html).

## The Rocket Recovery Emergency Grant

Grants up to \$1,000 for emergency expenses

Are you at risk of dropping out of college due to unexpected financial emergencies?

**The Rocket Recovery Emergency Grant** may be able to help.

### Eligible expenses:

- Housing/rent
- Utilities
- Food/meals
- Medical/dental expenses
- Personal automobile expenses and gasoline
- Public transportation/bus pass
- Child care

### To be eligible, you must:

- Be a currently enrolled UT undergraduate student
- Be experiencing an unforeseen expense that is unlikely to reoccur, and is jeopardizing your ability to stay in school
- Have a current, valid FAFSA on file
- Have an estimated family contribution of \$7,000 or less



For more information and application instructions, call 419.530.2261 or visit: [utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/omss](http://utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/omss).



## Theatre students studying abroad at Moscow Art Theatre

By Angela Riddel

**T**wo students and a faculty member from The University of Toledo Department of Theatre and Film are in Russia for the month of June as part of a study abroad experience at the Moscow Art Theatre.

In addition to taking classes with the theatre, the students, Bailey Flint and Gillian Martin, have received grants to work behind the scenes on a collaboration with the International Public Theatre at Moscow's Meyerhold Center. The production is directed and written by Dr. Matt Foss, UToledo assistant professor of theatre.

The students are taking a full range of classes six days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will watch plays most evenings.

"[We] will see about 28 plays in like 30 days. So we don't have much time to venture too far out," Flint said. "But we're pretty much in the heart of Moscow, so there's a lot to see around where we're at."

The University of Toledo collaboration with the International Public Theatre and Meyerhold Center will perform Sunday and Monday, June 16 and 17. The students are

rehearsing with their Russian counterparts in preparation for the production.

Flint, who is majoring in theatre and media communications and is a punter for the football team, said, "I will act as a deck manager and understudy to one of the main Russian actors."

Martin, who is majoring in media communications and minoring in theatre, also will be part of the crew. "I'll be serving as a stage manager, so I will be doing a lot of the sound cues," she said. "We all kind of get a hand in the experience and to be a part of the production, which is really cool."

The students received Undergraduate Summer Research and Creative Activities Program Grants to support their work on the production. Martin and Flint will work with the UToledo Office of Undergraduate Research to reflect on their work and present at a symposium in August.

This is the second year UToledo students have traveled to train and study at one of the world's leading theater schools.



Photo by Angela Riddel

**FINAL BOARDING CALL:** Bailey Flint, left, Dr. Matt Foss and Gillian Martin posed for a photo on campus before leaving for Russia.