

President's contract extended through 2023

By Meghan Cunningham

In a strong show of support for The University of Toledo President Sharon L. Gaber's leadership, the UT Board of Trustees approved June 18 an amended contract to continue her presidency for the next five years.

The term of the amended contract is from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2023. Her original contract was set to expire in June 2020.

"Dr. Gaber's leadership has put UT on a positive trajectory toward the ambitious goal of being a top public research university, and the campus is energized because of the great work underway to support our students and the Toledo community," Board Chair Steven Cavanaugh said.

The amended and restated employment agreement updates the president's base salary and includes specific performance metrics aligned with the University's strategic plan. The president's overall compensation is directly tied to achievement of the metrics.

The contract extension for Gaber was approved as part of the Board of

Trustees' annual review of the University's leader in which they praised the positive momentum of the institution.

"I am thankful to have the support of the Board of Trustees to continue to lead this fantastic university," Gaber said. "It truly is a team effort to work together collaboratively to make progress on achieving our strategic priorities. I am proud of what we've been able to accomplish these past three years, and I'm excited about what we can achieve in the years ahead."

The board commended Gaber's commitment to student success, noting that student retention rates at UT are the highest in at least 18 years, and the largest number of candidates for degrees in at least 20 years participated in spring commencement.

The new Toledo Tuition Guarantee was recognized as a positive initiative to provide



Gaber

more transparency to students and their families. In addition, UT was recognized this year for its value by several external sources. Schools.com ranked UT Ohio's best four-year college when analyzing

continued on p. 2

UT recognizes areas of research excellence

By Meghan Cunningham

The University of Toledo has identified three areas of research excellence as it pursues its goal of achieving national recognition for contributions to advancing knowledge.

UT's current areas of research excellence identified by the University Research Council and endorsed by external reviews are:

- Astronomy and Astrophysics;
- Solar Energy, Water Quality and Sustainable Technologies; and
- Cell Architecture and Dynamics.

"These areas emerged from a yearlong review process and were selected because of the highly accomplished faculty members UT has in these areas who are recognized nationally for contributions to their fields of study," Vice President for Research Frank Calzonetti said. "Identifying these areas of excellence will help promote the University's standing as a strong research university and create opportunities for collaboration."

This will be a continual process with ongoing invitations to consider new areas and to update existing areas of excellence, Calzonetti said.

UT astronomers have produced groundbreaking discoveries in the origins of stars and star clusters. They have access to highly competitive time on the world's best telescopes, including NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope and the European Space Agency's Herschel Space Observatory. UT also is a partner with Lowell Observatory, which provides guaranteed access to the Discovery Channel Telescope in Arizona. The University regularly engages undergraduate and graduate students in research projects with that telescope.

continued on p. 5

New dean selected to lead College of Business and Innovation

By Christine Billau

An expert in marketing, consumer behavior and sales force management with administrative experience in higher education has been named dean of The



Balazs

University of Toledo College of Business and Innovation.

Dr. Anne L. Balazs will join UT Monday, Aug. 13, from Eastern Michigan

University, where she is interim dean of the College of Business.

"I am proud to welcome Dr. Anne Balazs to The University of Toledo as dean of the College of Business and Innovation," Dr. Andrew Hsu, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, said. "She is an experienced leader with a track record of moving organizations forward through collaborations with faculty and industry partners."

"It's a great joy and honor to join The University of Toledo College of Business and Innovation with its impressive faculty, staff, students, supportive alumni and business community partners," Balazs said. "This is a strong base from which to build and prepare the next generation of leaders for the global marketplace."

Balazs will be the first woman to serve as dean of the UT College of Business and Innovation. Amy Morrison served as interim dean of the college from 1965 to 1966.

"I have learned from many strong female leaders throughout my career of nearly 30 years," Balazs said. "I'm looking forward to joining the leadership team and moving UT onward and upward."

During her 10 years at EMU, Balazs also served as interim assistant vice president and director of graduate studies, interim director of graduate studies, special assistant to the dean of the College of Business, head of the Department of Marketing, and professor of marketing.

Prior to EMU, Balazs worked at Mississippi University for Women as interim dean of the College of Business,

continued on p. 3

**Look for the next
issue of UT News
July 9**

Trustees approve 2019 operating budget

By Meghan Cunningham

The UT Board of Trustees approved on June 18 the University's operating budget for fiscal year 2019 that includes the new Tuition Guarantee plan for incoming students and no tuition increase for continuing undergraduate students.

The \$750 million operating budget is based on stable student enrollment and reflects efforts the University has taken to control costs, such as savings from last year's Voluntary Separation Incentive Program and health-care savings generated by encouraging employees to use UT's pharmacies.

The new Tuition Guarantee goes into effect for the 2018-19 academic year and allows new degree-seeking undergraduate students to pay the same tuition and general fees from their first day of college through graduation four years later. On-campus housing and meal plan rates also are guaranteed for four years; however, residence hall space cannot be guaranteed beyond a student's second year due to high demand from first- and second-year students.

An undergraduate tuition freeze continues for the fourth consecutive year for students enrolled prior to summer 2018 who are not included in the Tuition Guarantee program. The budget includes a 2 percent increase in the graduate tuition rate,

with additional increases in some specific graduate programs. The trustees previously approved a 2 percent increase in housing and meal plans to cover increasing costs of operations.

The budget reflects wage increases for professional staff and faculty members who are not part of a bargaining unit. The increases are based on salary levels in which individuals with a salary greater than \$100,000 will receive a 1 percent wage increase; employees who make between \$75,000 and \$100,000 will receive a 1.5 percent raise; and those who make less than \$75,000 will receive a 3 percent wage increase. University employees who are members of unions will receive increased compensation as determined by their collective bargaining agreements.

The Board of Trustees elected officers for the 2018-19 year. Mary Ellen Pisanelli will serve as chair, and Alfred A. Baker will serve as vice chair.

The June meeting completed the board service of Joseph H. Zerbey, former president and general manager for The Blade, who was appointed to the board in 2009. Lucas D. Zastrow, a student trustee in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, also was recognized for his two years of service to the board.

President's contract

continued from p. 1

criteria such as affordability, flexibility and student services. The website LendEDU also ranked UT the top Ohio public college for the lowest student debt.

The trustees specifically noted the improved research portfolio of the institution. The total number of research award dollars is at a five-year high. The board noted that three researchers were named Fellows of the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, and several UT students were awarded highly competitive scholarships, including the Goldwater Scholarship and a Sarnoff Fellowship.

Also enhancing UT's reputation is the strong athletics program with two new Mid-American Conference Championships by the football and women's soccer teams. UT was awarded the Jacoby Trophy as the top women's athletic program in the MAC, and, in the fall, all student-athletes achieved a record high combined GPA of 3.29.

Individually, Gaber was named one of the top five higher education leaders to watch. She was appointed to the NCAA Strategic Planning Committee and the Inter-University Council Executive Committee, and serves on the MAC Finance Committee, of which she will be the chair next year.

This year the University also received the largest gift in UT's history from

Welltower, which gave UT real estate and a headquarter building valued at \$30 million. It will serve as an additional campus where the Division of Advancement will continue to build relationships with alumni and donors. The number of donors to the institution grew by more than 10 percent this year.

The increase in philanthropic support and additional initiatives have put UT in a strong financial position, confirmed by the University's bond rating being reaffirmed by Standard & Poor's and Moody's. UT approved this year a new contract with the American Association of University Professors, one of five bargaining agreements approved in the last two years. A new transportation partnership with TARTA will save the University approximately \$2 million by not replacing the aging bus fleet while extending free bus rides to students, faculty and staff throughout the community.

As part of the performance review, the board voted to give the president a performance incentive per her hiring contract. The funding comes from unrestricted funds that were generated from investment earnings and allocated to a Board of Trustees account with the UT Foundation.

Thank you



Photo by Daniel Miller

Joseph H. Zerbey, former president and general manager for The Blade, center, received a proclamation from the Board of Trustees June 18 thanking him for his service as his term comes to an end. Shown here with Board Chair Steven M. Cavanaugh and President Sharon L. Gaber, Zerbey was appointed to the trustees in 2009 and served as chair.

Runner recognized



Photo by Daniel Miller

Women's track and field student-athlete Janelle Noe received a proclamation from the UT Board of Trustees June 18 for her sensational performance this season and posed for a photo with Coach Linh Nguyen, center, and board member Jeff Cole. Noe lowered her 1,500-meter time by almost 20 seconds and broke the Mid-American Conference record at the MAC Championship Meet with a time of 4:17.01. She competed at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in Eugene, Ore., where she beat her personal record by six seconds in the 1,500-meter prelims (4:10.83) and finished 11th in the finals after crossing the line in 4:20.37. Last week, the Sylvania, Ohio, native, also represented UT at the USA Track and Field Championships in Des Moines, Iowa.

Be prepared



Photo by Daniel Miller

Subhan Toor, a second-year UT medical student, left, and Kim Toles, overdose prevention coordinator with the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, held up Narcan during a recent training session on how to deliver the opioid antidote. More than 200 faculty, staff and students attended the training sessions, which were hosted by the UT opioid task force on Health Science Campus.

On the run



Photo by Daniel Miller

UT Police Chief and Director of Public Safety Jeff Newton carried the torch on Main Campus June 15 during a local leg of the Ohio Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. More than 2,000 officers participated in the run that celebrates the state's Summer Olympic Games and raises funds for Special Olympics Ohio.

New dean

continued from p. 1

head of the Division of Business and Communications, and associate professor of marketing. She started her teaching career at the University of Oklahoma as an assistant professor of marketing.

“Dr. Balazs’ extensive administrative experience as department chair at two different institutions and her experience as interim dean also at two different institutions distinguished her as a candidate,” Hsu said. “Our stakeholders were particularly impressed with her understanding of the accreditation process through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.”

“The goal is to show the world what we do in Toledo,” Balazs said. “I plan to promote the college and all it has to offer to a wide audience. Research productivity and sharing of the knowledge we create is important. The accomplishments of the faculty and students are great stories to share. Success breeds success.”

Balazs holds a PhD in business administration from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, studied graduate-level course work in economics at Boston University while working at Fidelity Investments, and earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from Smith College.

Her research has been published in the *Journal of International Business*, *Journal of Consumer Affairs, Psychology & Marketing*, and the *Journal of Business Research*.

Balazs is familiar with Toledo, not only because she currently lives about an hour away.

“I first experienced the UT campus in the winter of 2014 as a fellow for the American Council on Education,” Balazs said. “My family has been to the Toledo Zoo, Toledo Museum of Art and Mud Hens games. Plus, I am of Hungarian descent and enjoy visiting the Birmingham community that serves as home to Tony Packo’s. Toledo already feels like home.”

Balazs’ husband is Dr. Peter B. Wood, criminologist on the faculty at EMU. The couple has three children. Margaret, 19, is a sophomore at the University of Alabama. Twins Andrew and Sophie, 16, are entering their sophomore year at Saline High School in the fall.

Hsu thanked Dr. Hassan HassabElnaby for his leadership while serving as interim dean since October. He will return to the position of associate dean for graduate programs and research for the UT College of Business and Innovation.

Study shows overeating during breastfeeding may lead to health problems for offspring

By Christine Billau

Breastfeeding has many health benefits for children, such as reducing their risk of obesity and strengthening their immune system. However, new mothers who consume a high-fat diet while breastfeeding may undermine some of those advantages, according to new research at The University of Toledo.

When mouse moms ate a high-fat, high-calorie diet while nursing, their offspring developed obesity, early puberty, diabetes and fertility issues.

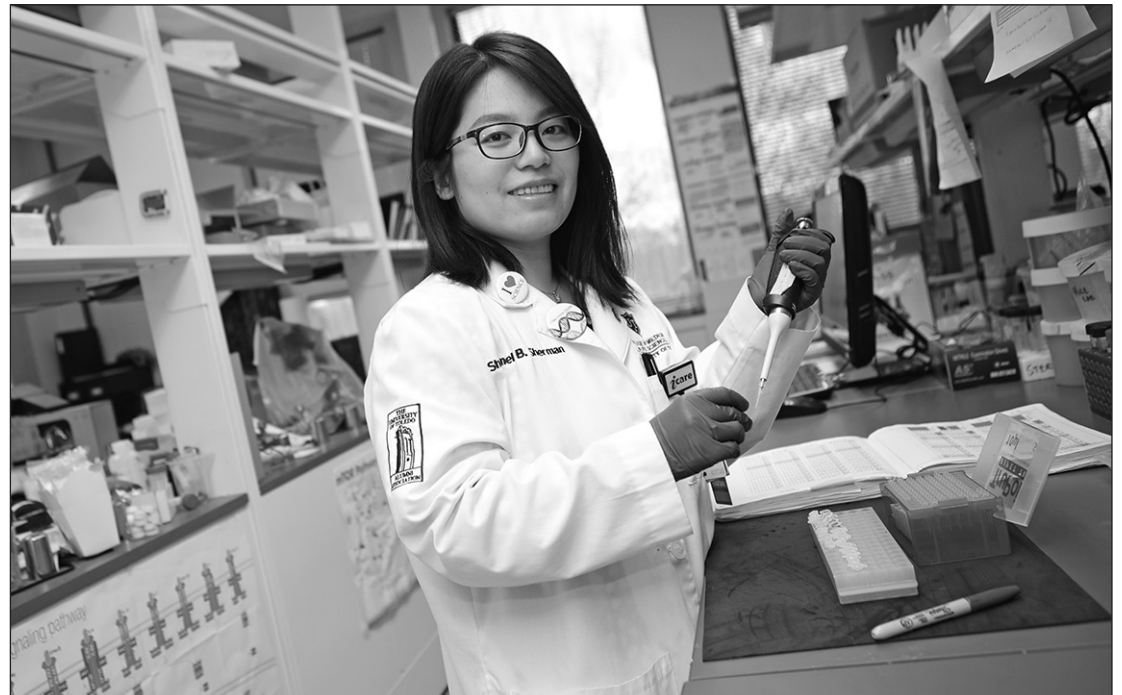
Dr. Mengjie Wang, a PhD candidate in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, is the lead researcher of a team that used mice as a model to study the impact of excess calories during the breastfeeding stage on the offspring's metabolism and reproduction.

"All over the world, puberty is starting earlier than it did in the past," said Wang, who is earning her PhD at UT after graduating from medical school in China at Guangxi Medical University. "Childhood obesity, a common health issue, is one of the risk factors for early puberty. Previous evidence from animals has revealed that post-weaning overeating advances the timing of puberty, but we lack knowledge of

how nutrition before weaning influences metabolism and reproduction."

To determine how excess body fat alters the timing of puberty, Wang's team gave female mice that are new mothers a high-fat diet from the date they gave birth and started breastfeeding until they weaned their offspring. A second group of mice that also were new mothers were given a regular diet. The onset of puberty was evaluated in the offspring after weaning, and fertility tests were done on the mice in adulthood, as well as an examination of their metabolic function.

"We found that excess calories during the breastfeeding phase can cause early obesity and early puberty and increases the risk of developing diabetes, metabolic dysfunction and subfertility during adulthood," Wang said. "These results show that the breastfeeding phase is a critical window that influences when puberty happens."



Wang

The study found that offspring of the mothers fed a high-fat diet while breastfeeding suffered from glucose intolerance and insulin insensitivity. They also had decreased litter sizes and impaired pregnancy rates.

"Human studies are needed to know whether these results apply to our species," Wang said. "Still, I recommend that mothers consume a moderate and healthy diet while

breastfeeding to protect their child's long-term health."

Wang said the research is significant in the clinical setting because doctors don't always follow the same patients from puberty to adult life.

"Our findings can alert doctors and patients with early puberty that other health problems may arise after they become adults," Wang said.

CampMed



Photos by Daniel Miller

Dr. Rhonda L. Hercher, assistant professor of emergency medicine, left, talked to students about UT Medical Center's Emergency Department during CampMed. The two-day program gave 39 high school freshmen from northwest Ohio a chance to learn more about health-care fields. CampMed is a scholarship program at no cost to the students, most of whom are first-generation college students and other underrepresented groups.

Dr. Carlos Baptista, professor of neurosciences, gave CampMed students a tour of the Liberato Didio and Peter Goldblatt Interactive Museum of Anatomy and Pathology. Baptista explained plastination, a technique to preserve specimens. The camp is sponsored by the UT Area Health Education Center program, which along with other programs throughout the country, strives to improve the health of individuals and communities by developing the health-care workforce.

Research excellence

continued from p. 1

The strength of the University’s astronomy and astrophysics program was recognized nationally in 2016 when UT was selected to join the prestigious Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, which includes many of the country’s top programs.

Solar energy, water quality, and sustainable technologies were identified in part due to the University’s strong reputation in research, development, and commercialization of thin-film photovoltaic technologies. For example, in solar energy, Dr. Yanfa Yan, Ohio Research Scholar chair and UT professor of physics, has one of the strongest publication records among researchers in his field.

The UT Lake Erie Center receives attention for its work studying harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie and its efforts to protect the quality of the region’s drinking water. Additional faculty members are making important contributions to green chemistry and other sustainability studies.

The cell architecture and dynamics category recognizes the basic science researchers involved in the study of the cell and its structures to better understand cell movement and how that affects disease progression. For example, Dr. Rafael Garcia-Mata, associate professor of biological sciences, has three active National Institutes of Health grants to study the migration of cancer cells away from the primary tumor and their subsequent metastasis to distant organs.

The identification of these areas of research excellence and a plan to advance them is part of the University’s strategic plan. As part of the process to identify existing strong research programs, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs also recognized spotlight areas of unique distinction, areas of emerging research excellence, and areas of future opportunity.

The spotlight areas of unique distinction include programs that have received national recognition with strong faculty leadership, but with few faculty experts on campus currently advancing that field of study. Those spotlight areas identified are:

- Human Trafficking, led by Social Work Professor Celia Williamson and supported by the UT Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute;
- Disability and Society, which includes Professor Kim E. Nielson, who is the author of the only book to cover the entirety of

1 RECOGNIZED AREAS OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Astronomy and Astrophysics

Solar Energy, Water Quality and Sustainable Technologies

Cell Architecture and Dynamics

2 SPOTLIGHT AREAS OF UNIQUE DISTINCTION

Human Trafficking

Disability and Society

Hypertension and Precision Medicine

3 AREAS OF EMERGING RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Legacy Cities

Cancer, Immune Therapy and Precision Molecular Therapy

4 AREAS OF FUTURE OPPORTUNITY

Vector Biology

Smart Transportation

Data 2 Decision

BioPsychoSocial Determinants of Chronic Disease

Community-Based STEAM

American disability history titled “A Disability History of the United States.” UT also offers the only humanities-based undergraduate degree in disabilities studies; and

- Hypertension and Precision Medicine, led by Distinguished University Professor Bina Joe, a recognized leader in the field of genetic determinants of high blood pressure.

Identified areas of emerging research excellence are those with growth opportunities based upon the significance of their work to science and society. The areas that could benefit from further development are:

- Legacy Cities, which includes a collaborative group of faculty members across the social sciences who study how former industrial cities that experienced massive decline are being reinvented, and
- Cancer, Immune Therapy and Precision Molecular Therapy, which features advances in

targeting specific genes or proteins for more effective and less invasive treatment options.

Lastly, areas of future opportunity were identified where a group of faculty members are working in an area of emerging importance in science, technology and society. The areas that could gain recognition through focused investment are:

- Vector Biology, which studies mosquitos and other insects that transmit diseases and affect public health;
- Smart Transportation, which includes advances in autonomous vehicles;
- Data 2 Decision, which is the study of big data and how it is used, analyzed and protected;
- BioPsychoSocial Determinants of Chronic Disease, which studies the economic and social conditions that impact health factors, such as the work underway by UT’s opioid task force; and

- Community-Based STEAM, which features community partnerships, such as with the Toledo Museum of Art, that advance the arts and promote continued education. STEAM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, art and math.

“The University of Toledo has strong research programs across the institution,” said Dr. Jack Schultz, senior executive director for research development. “Our goal with this process was to identify those areas with a high level of recognition at the national level. We look forward to exploring opportunities to elevate their standing and bring more attention to these areas of research excellence.”

The identification of the University’s focus areas does not imply that research without these designations will be unsupported. The University values all faculty research and the contributions each faculty member makes in their fields.

UT researcher cures high blood pressure in rats

By Cherie Spino

A University of Toledo researcher recently won a prestigious award for his cutting-edge hypertension study that cured high blood pressure in rats.

Dr. Xi Cheng, a UT College of Medicine postdoctoral fellow, won the Physiological Genomics Group New Investigator Award from the American Physiological Society and presented his research in April at the Experimental Biology meeting in San Diego.

In his trailblazing research, Cheng identified a gene responsible for inherited high blood pressure in rats, and then he genetically engineered that gene to cure hypertension in the rats. Both were firsts in the field of genomic science that is focused on essential hypertension.

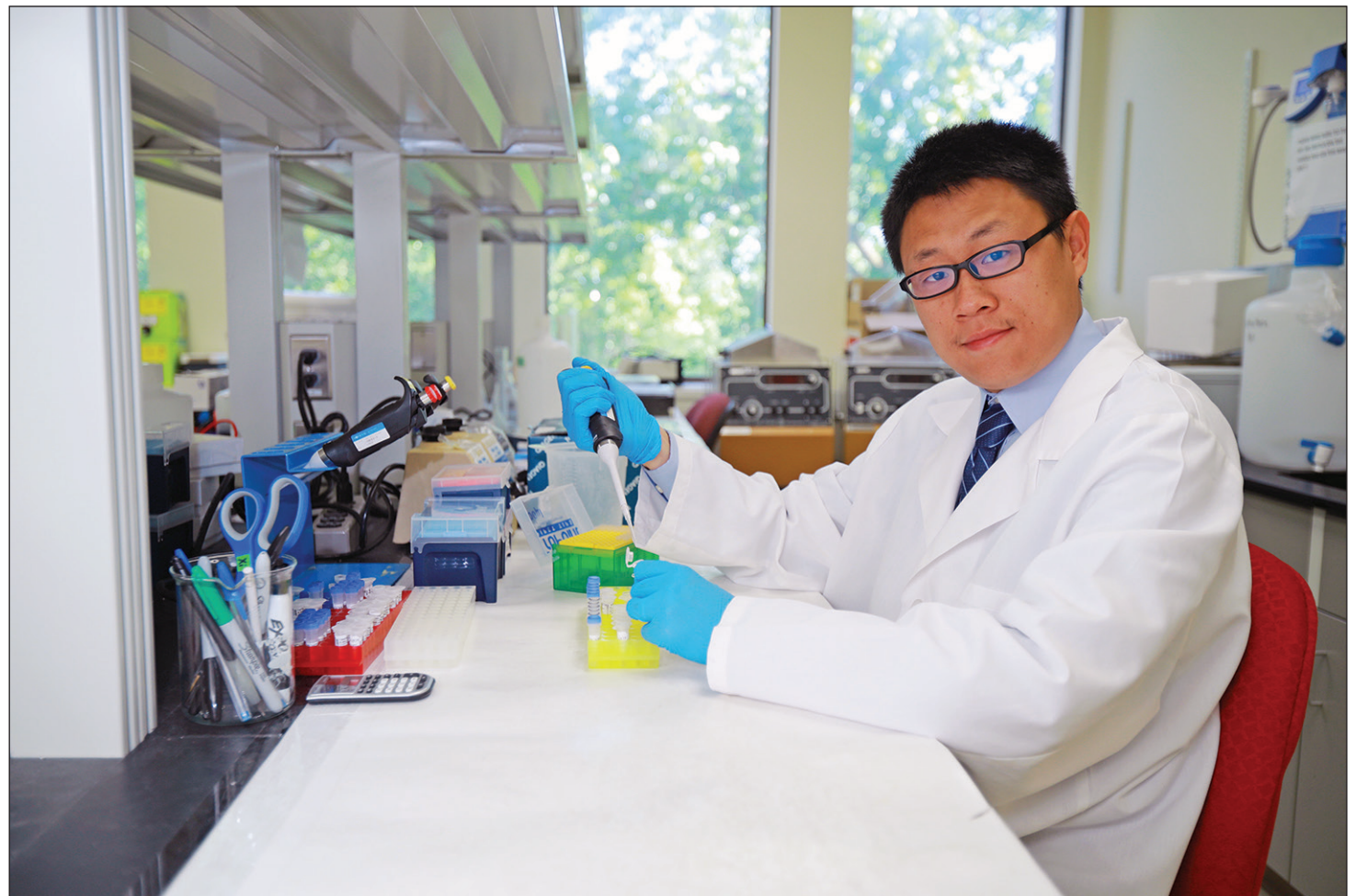
About one in three U.S. adults suffers from essential hypertension, or high blood pressure, which is a complex condition with no clear cause. Blood pressure can be affected by environmental factors such as diet and weight, but hypertension also runs in families with no identifiable, pre-existing cause. This kind of hypertension is what interests the UT researchers.

Cheng also discovered that another kind of genetic material — circular RNA — also seems to play a role in hypertension. His paper, published last fall in *Physiological Genomics*, was chosen as an APSselect article, an award given to authors of the most exciting original research articles published by the American Physiological Society.

Cheng has been studying hypertension since 2013, when he came to UT as a doctoral student in molecular medicine. He continues to work with his mentor, Dr. Bina Joe, Distinguished University Professor and chair of the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, and director of the Center for Hypertension and Personalized Medicine. Their research focuses on how to correct and, if possible, permanently cure hypertension.

Scientists believe patients with hypertension inherit multiple genetic defects, which are difficult for researchers to find on strands of DNA that are millions of base pairs long. It's also difficult to prove whether the defects "cause" or are "associated" with high blood pressure.

Cheng identified a new gene that regulates blood pressure in rats and pinpointed the mutation that is inherited and causes high blood pressure. He found a



Cheng

19-base sequence of DNA in rats with lower blood pressure that was missing in rats with higher blood pressure.

Using a new technology, he extracted that critical DNA sequence from the rats with normal blood pressure and inserted it into the genome of hypertensive rats to see if correcting the mutation would cause their blood pressure to decrease. It was the first time anyone had used the new technique, called CRISPR/Cas9 technology, to perform genome surgery in rats for correcting mutations for hypertension.

The embryos with the edited gene were implanted into surrogate mother rats. When the rodents were born, they became the world's first genetically altered rats created to pinpoint the area on their DNA that caused them to inherit hypertension. More importantly, Cheng's new rat strain no longer had high blood pressure. The "cure" had worked.

Cheng's first-of-its-kind research proved that genome surgery — editing genes — can permanently cure a genetically inherited cause of hypertension in rats.

Allen Cowley, an internationally renowned hypertension researcher at the Medical College of Wisconsin, remarked in his review of Cheng's work that "the work represents a technical tour de force and illustrates the critically important role of animal models that can mimic human traits of a complex disease to advance our understanding of the polymorphic associations that have been defined in human populations."

Human patients can't throw out their blood pressure meds just yet, though.

"Additional research will determine the possibility of this approach to cure hypertension in humans as we work to identify all the genetic pieces within the human genome that contribute to hypertension," Cheng said.

The particular region that controls blood pressure in rats is similar to a region on a chromosome in humans in which scientists have reported associations with cardiac dysfunction and high blood pressure.

It's much more difficult, though, to test this in humans, whose genes vary in

millions of ways from person to person. To pinpoint the piece of genetic material that causes high blood pressure is like finding that proverbial needle in a haystack.

But the researchers are hopeful about the future of the research being conducted at the Center for Hypertension and Personalized Medicine.

"Here in Toledo, we are contributing to a piece of the puzzle," Joe said. "When Xi and I were born, we didn't have genome sequencing ability. Now we do."

In the future, she said, scientists will use artificial intelligence and machine learning to predict who will get what diseases. And those scientists will rely on researchers like Joe and Cheng for data and to understand the blueprint of the genome.

Cheng has been accepted into a highly competitive online master's program in computer science and machine learning at the Georgia Institute of Technology and will apply what he learns in the program to his research in Toledo.

Researchers discover molecule that could stop movement of cancer cells

By Cherie Spino

Researchers at The University of Toledo have designed a first-of-its-kind gene-targeting molecule that could serve as a therapy to stop cancer growth and to help cancer patients who are resistant to current drugs.

Dr. Terry Hinds, assistant professor in the UT Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, and Lucien McBeth, a second-year medical student, received a full international patent last fall for “Sweet-P,” a new type of anti-cancer molecule.

“When cancer cells are moving to other parts of the body, Sweet-P stops the migration,” Hinds said. “There’s nothing like it out there.”

Sweet-P has the potential to be a unique anti-cancer therapy, Hinds said, but more research is needed. It first needs to be used in preclinical investigations in mice before it can be tested in human patients.

Like many scientific discoveries, this one came about as Hinds and his team were studying something else — obesity.

Their work centered on GR beta, one of two proteins that originate from a gene called the glucocorticoid receptor (GR). Hinds genetically modified stem cells to have a higher level of GR beta and hypothesized based on other studies that the stem cells would change into large fat cells.

But they didn’t. They rapidly proliferated instead.

“GR beta was driving the growth phase of the cells,” Hinds said.

This discovery led Hinds and his team to ask more questions about GR beta, which is known to cause cancer cells to grow, proliferate and migrate.

Hinds’ team focused on the place on a gene where small RNAs, in this case microRNA-144, bind on the GR beta gene. Very little is known about microRNA-144 or what it specifically controls, but reports show that levels of it are significantly higher in patients with bladder cancer.

“Typically, microRNAs suppress genes. But this microRNA activates GR beta, especially during migration,” Hinds said. “We’d never seen this before.”

No one had ever created a drug to target microRNA-specific interaction with a gene. So Hinds got to work.

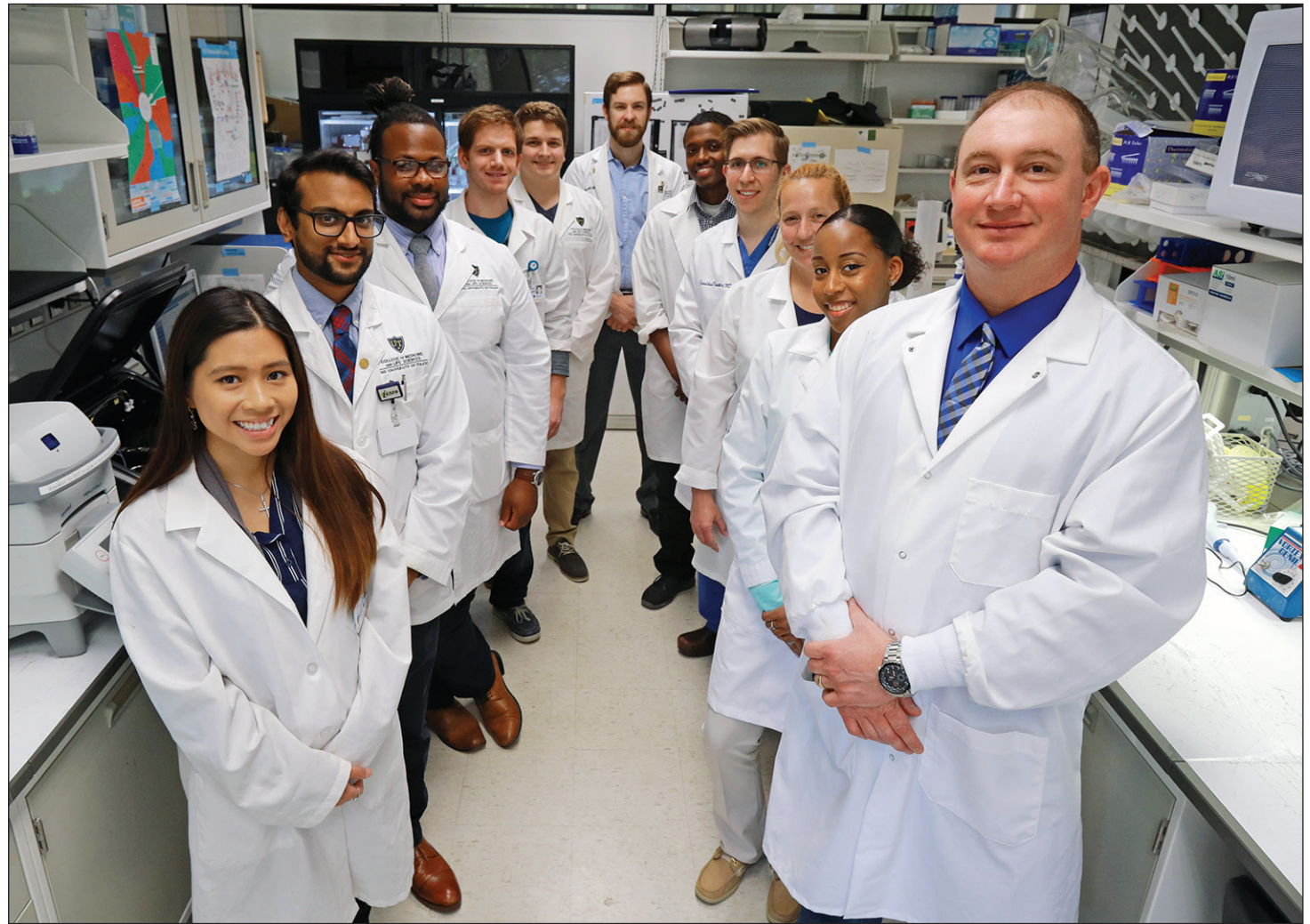


Photo by Daniel Miller

TEAMWORK IN THE LAB: Dr. Terry Hinds, right, is quick to credit his research team for helping to discover Sweet-P, a new type of anti-cancer molecule. Team members are, from left, Maggie Wong, Vikram Sundararaghavan, Darren Gordon, Charles Hawk, Justin Spear, Lucien McBeth, Abdul-Rizq Ali Hamoud, Jonathan Demeter, Kari Neifer-Sadhwani and Jonnelle Edwards.

The end result is Sweet-P, a peptide nucleic acid molecule that resembles DNA.

Hinds tested the molecule on bladder cancer cells and found that it did indeed suppress GR beta. It latches on to the microRNA binding site of the GR beta gene and stops the microRNA from activating the protein. If the GR beta doesn’t work properly, the cancer cells don’t migrate.

Think of it as a basketball game. GR beta is the point guard, the playmaker. It sends the basketball (a signal) to other players (the cancer cells) to move and drive to the basket (other parts of the body). MicroRNA-144, then, is the coach screaming at GR beta to go faster. Sweet-P is akin to the referee giving a technical foul

to silence the “coach” and slow down the game.

Because Sweet-P targets just one specific gene interaction — between the microRNA and the GR beta gene — it could significantly reduce side effects of potential treatments created with it, Hinds said.

“It’s precision medicine at its best,” he said.

Sweet-P’s ability to target GR beta could have implications for treating other cancers in which GR beta is highly expressed, including glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer, and prostate and lung cancers.

Sweet-P also could be a potential treatment for other diseases, like asthma, Hinds said.

Glucocorticoid hormones (GCs), the most commonly prescribed anti-inflammatory drugs, are often used to treat asthma, as well as cancer and other diseases. A high level of GR beta can cause those hormones to become ineffective, a condition known as GC resistance. Asthma patients often have high GR beta in their airways.

“When Sweet-P inhibited the GR beta, it increased the responsiveness of GCs, so Sweet-P may reverse GC-resistant diseases,” Hinds said.

If Sweet-P someday becomes an approved therapy, Hinds, who has asthma, might be able to get rid of the EpiPen on his desk.

UT professor to be promoted by Army to lieutenant colonel

By Marla Gootee

Maj. Michael Penney, professor and chair of the UT Military Science and Leadership Department, will be promoted by the U.S. Army to lieutenant colonel Friday, July 6.



Penney

The ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. in Thompson Student Union Room 2592.

Penney is originally from North Texas and received a BBA from

Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. Since then, he has earned master's degrees from both Webster University and the Army's School of Advanced Military Science.

He was commissioned by the Army's Officer Candidate School in 2002.

Penney came to UT from Carson, Colo., where he served from 2014 to 2017. His time there included two operational deployments — to Europe and to Afghanistan.

Last July, Penney joined the UT faculty as professor and chair of military science and leadership.

Through his department chair position, Penney oversees recruiting, retention, preparation and leadership development of cadets along their path toward their goal of being awarded a commission as an officer in the U.S. Army, Army Reserves or the Army National Guard.

He also instructs Military Science and Leadership Level Four Cadets throughout their transition from Cadet to Army Officer and works directly with UT's University College and its ROTC program.

"My role as head of the ROTC program here at UT is one of the most important and rewarding jobs the Army has given to me to this point," Penney said. "Leader development is crucial in the Army of today, and having some impact on the lives of future Army leaders is one of the best jobs."

Penney will remain at UT for one more year and then take command of a battalion in South Carolina.

"This promotion to lieutenant colonel is an important one along the path to reaching my ultimate Army career goals," Penney said. "But when I think about my nearly 16 years of commissioned service, I think more of those who have helped me along the way; specifically, those who I have served alongside and those who I have had the honor to lead at some point, and, most importantly, my family."

Digging the past



Photos by Daniel Miller



Students, from left, Isaiah Kolb, Conor Thomas and Jacalyn DeSelms recently sifted through soil from an excavation site at Side Cut Metropark in Maumee. They are attending the UT Archaeological Field School as a summer class that combines hands-on learning of archaeology techniques and local history research. Dr. Melissa Baltus, archaeologist and assistant professor of anthropology, shown here examining a small artifact, is running the school.



Join the parade

A group of UT students, employees and alumni participated in the Columbus Pride Festival. Rocky and Rocky also were in the state capital June 16 for the parade. Rocket pride was evident on the Scioto Mile at one of the largest LGBTQA+ events in the Midwest.

A closer look



Apurva Lad, a third-year PhD student in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, left, demonstrated the capabilities of the QIagility liquid handling instrument for Marcy McMahon, chair of Women & Philanthropy at The University of Toledo. The QIagility is one of several new instruments purchased as part of a grant awarded to support the Women & Philanthropy Genetic Analysis Center, which is located in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

Photos by James A. Molnar

Three decades of excelling



Toledo Excel held a ceremony June 3 for its 26th graduating class. The college preparation and scholarship incentive program celebrated 30 years of supporting promising high school students and continued mentoring and advising throughout their time at UT. Toledo Excel was founded in 1989 by Dr. Helen C. Cooks, UT professor emeritus of education. The program supplements education students receive during their regular school year with a focus on career exploration and development, leadership, and advanced research writing and composition.

Photos by Mike Henningsen

Motivational message



Photo by Daniel Miller

Josué "JQ" Quiñones, an educator and life coach, gave the keynote address at this year's Latino Youth Summit. He shared his story about attending college to create a better life for himself and talked about his signature phrase, "Success is a lifestyle." More than 500 Latino junior high and high school students visited campus to learn more about the different educational opportunities UT provides along with other postsecondary options. The summit encourages students to strive for success and a promising future while instilling a sense of pride for their heritage.

Utilize campus resources to improve wellness

Creating a culture of wellness and work-life balance is at the heart of the University's employee wellness program, Healthy U.

"As the second largest employer in the region, UT is proud to offer our faculty and staff a variety of wellness programming, along with health screenings and wellness incentives, as a way to stay healthy," said President Sharon L. Gaber. "I encourage our campus community to take advantage of these ongoing wellness offerings that provide resources for a healthier lifestyle."

Over the last three years, Healthy U program enrollment has doubled to 2,100 employees.

Featured events this past academic year included Rocket Recharge, which featured stress-relieving activities such as yoga, art therapy and gardening; Mindfulness Training, which taught meditation techniques to help with relaxation and stress-reduction; and the Toledo Heart Walk, which garnered strong participation by faculty and staff across UT campuses.

Most recently, Healthy U collaborated with the Benefits section of Human Resources to implement a wellness incentive program for faculty and staff who elected the Blue medical plan. This incentive offers eligible employees the opportunity to earn an additional employer contribution toward their health savings

account by completing a variety of wellness activities, including taking a health screening and online health risk assessment, receiving an annual flu shot, and participating in campus Lunch 'n Learns.

Additionally, Healthy U implemented the WellDimensions program, which is available to employees on both the Gold and Blue medical plans. This program offers work and home activities that focus on several dimensions of wellness, including meal preparation and planning workshops, physical activity tracking, and financial wellness resources.

"By using our various partners and resources, we're able to bring experts to campus and empower employees to improve all dimensions of their well-being," said Wendy Davis, associate vice president and chief human resources officer.

Upcoming Healthy U offerings this summer include the following Lunch 'n Learns: Handling Stress on Wednesday July 25, and Retirement Planning 101, on Tuesday and Thursday, Aug. 7 and 9.

For more information about Healthy U and a complete list of programming, including additional details about the summer Lunch 'n Learns, visit utoledo.edu/offices/rocketwellness/healthyu.

Beginning July 1, we will be open on
Sundays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

NEW HOURS!

The University of Toledo Medical Center Outpatient Pharmacy

Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



In memoriam

Marie G. (Lorenz) Bremer, Toledo, who was a member of the Satellites Auxiliary, died June 12 at age 91. She volunteered with pastoral care.

Frank J. Parker, Temperance, Mich., a former carpenter at the University, died June 7 at age 85.

Dr. Frank P. Saul, Toledo, professor emeritus of anatomy and associate dean emeritus, died June 16 at age 87. He joined the MCO faculty in 1969 and taught until 1990. Saul then served as associate dean for continuing medical education until his retirement in 1994. The internationally known forensic anthropologist created a term to describe the interpretation of lives from bones: "osteobiography." He was diplomate and president of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology. Saul also was a senior consultant in forensic anthropology at the Lucas County Coroner's Office and a forensic anthropology consultant for the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office in Detroit. From 1997 to 2011, he served as commander of the Region 5 Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team of the Department of Health and Human Services for the National Disaster Medical System.

Dr. Judith (Judy) Schoonmaker, Toledo, died June 11 at age 70. In the 1970s, she was a secretary in Radiology at MCO when she decided to become a physician. An alumna of the University, Schoonmaker received a bachelor of arts degree in biology in 1981 and a doctor of medicine in 1984. She joined the general medicine faculty at MCO in 1988 and retired as an associate professor in 2004.

James Van Orden, Toledo, died June 9 at age 83. A native Toledoan and friend of the University, Van Orden was an avid collector of historical memorabilia related to the Glass City for more than 50 years. His collection focused on items produced and showcased in Toledo, with an emphasis on historical documents and brochures. The retiree from General Motors Powertrain found items at estate and garage sales, as well as business closures and flea markets. Over the years, he donated many items to the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections.

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 UT community are welcome. Send information by campus mail to #949, University Marketing and Communications Office, Vicki Kroll. Email: vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu. Fax: 419.530.4618. Phone: 419.530.2248. Mailing address: University Marketing and Communications Office, Mail Stop 949, The University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606-3390.

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Read UT news at utnews.utoledo.edu and myut.utoledo.edu.

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UT Recreational Services honored by Campus Rec Magazine

By Marla Gootee

Due to numerous recommendations by leading professionals in the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association, the UT Student Recreation Center received the honor of being featured in this month's issue of Campus Rec Magazine as its "Rec of the Month."

Campus Rec Magazine serves as the premier business resource for college and university recreation centers and seeks to educate and empower leaders within these facilities while also providing them with the best possible services and products.

Established in 1965, UT Recreational Services' mission is to enhance the human condition with a focus on health and well-being by providing programs and services that enrich the learning of students and the campus community.

UT Recreational Services offers four different facilities: the Student Recreation Center, Carter Field and the Health Education Building on Main Campus, and the Morse Fitness Center on Health Science Campus.

The numerous features of these facilities are highlighted in the magazine; for example, the Student Recreation Center's weight and cardio equipment, five basketball courts, indoor track, auxiliary gym, aquatic center with three pools and climbing wall are mentioned.

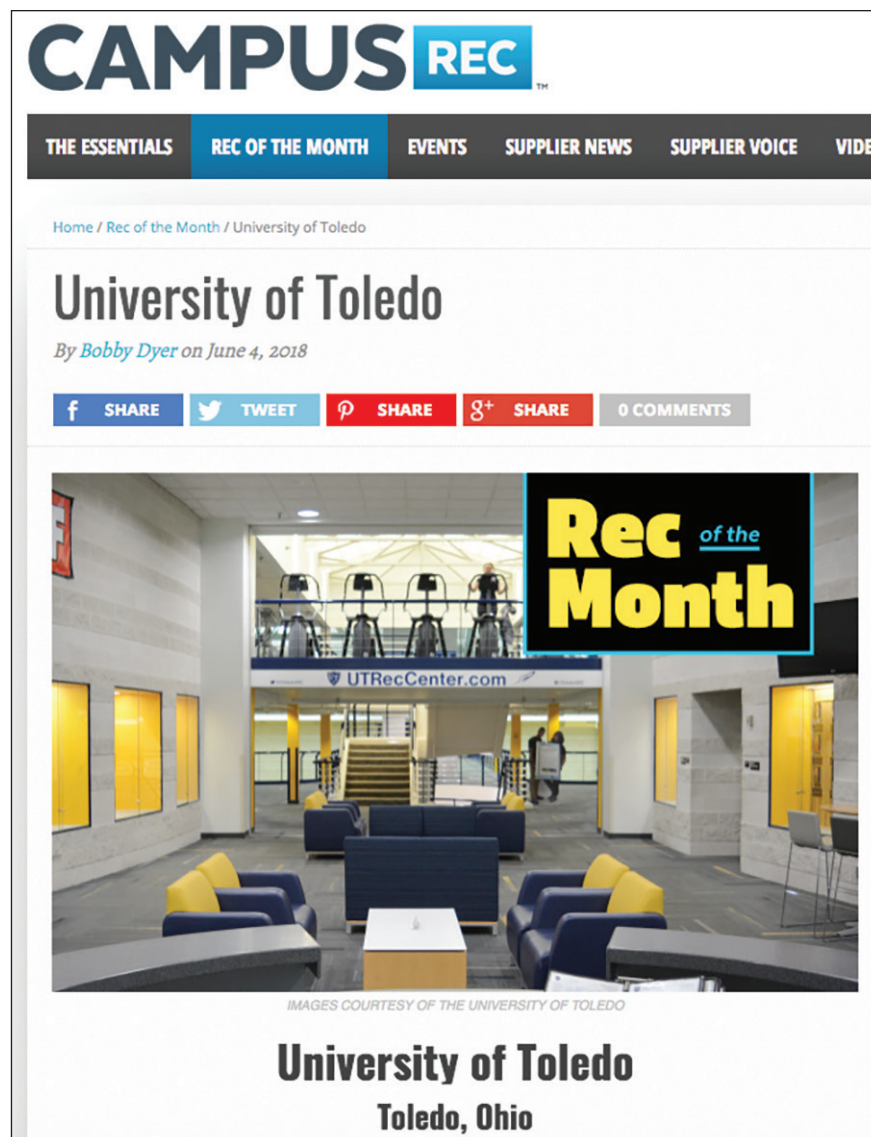
Other features acknowledged by the magazine are the fitness studio at the Morse Fitness Center, four basketball courts and five-lane therapy pool in the Health Education Building, and the nine acres of land that Carter Field provides for intramural sports, sports clubs, varsity football practice and other campus events.

UT Recreational Services also offers programs for guests or members. These include private swimming lessons, competitive sports, personal training, first aid, lifeguarding and more.

"It's not the physical features that set UT Recreational Services apart from other collegiate recreation departments," said Demond Pryor, director of Recreational Services. "It's our very intentional efforts to be an environment that celebrates the very spirit of being a Rocket, which is driven by our mission, vision and values."

By being featured in this month's issue of Campus Rec Magazine, UT is being recognized as a national leader in providing highly impactful recreation, health and well-being services to students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members, Pryor explained.

To learn more about the services and programs offered by UT Recreational Services, visit utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/rec.



Sign up for Student Recreation Center, Morse Fitness Center memberships

Employee membership plans for UT recreation and fitness facilities are now available for purchase.

The employee, retiree, alumni, community and family memberships provide access to the Student Recreation Center on Main Campus and the Morse Fitness Center on Health Science Campus.

Memberships can be purchased annually or by semester. See rates at right.

Throughout the year, family hours for minors will remain until 9 p.m. daily. All RocketEx group classes will continue to be offered to members at no additional cost.

Full-time employees can sign up for an annual membership with payroll deduction using the myUT portal. Go to Other HR Information in the left-hand column of the Employee tab and click on Rec Center Access to specify a plan. All employees will be required to sign an annual digital waiver

at the Student Recreation Center or Morse Fitness Center.

The sign-up period for payroll deduction will remain open until April 1.

Effective Aug. 1, faculty who are part of an existing collective bargaining agreement are required to purchase a membership. Faculty may sign up early for an annual membership with payroll deduction using the myUT portal.

All other employees, retirees, alumni and community members can purchase memberships in person at either the Student Recreation Center or Morse Fitness Center.

For more information on membership rates, hours and programs, go to utreccenter.com or contact the Office of Recreational Services at 419.530.3700.

Employee membership rates

UT-AAUP Faculty members	\$150
Faculty, staff, retirees and spouses	\$260
Family membership for UT employees and retirees	\$390
Alumni and spouses of UT graduates	\$300
Alumni family membership	\$450
Community member	\$390
Community family membership	\$630

University hires new women's golf coach

By Steve Easton

Jenny Coluccio has been named the women's golf coach at The University of Toledo.



Coluccio

She is the third head coach in program history. Coluccio comes to Toledo after serving as an assistant coach for the University of Illinois women's golf program

for the last five years.

"We are excited to have Jenny as the new leader of our women's golf program," UT Vice President and Athletic Director Mike O'Brien said. "Her passion for golf and her ability to teach the game as well as recruit will be extremely beneficial to our student-athletes. She has experienced tremendous success as a head coach and assistant coach at the collegiate level. We look forward to watching the impact she makes on our program."

During her five years with the Fighting Illini, Coluccio helped the program register their fifth and sixth NCAA Regional

appearances in program history and collect All-Big Ten accolades on eight occasions. During her tenure, the Illini vaulted nearly 100 spots in the Golfstat's national rankings — No. 122 in 2013 to No. 23 at the conclusion of the 2018 campaign. In addition, the women's golf program currently holds the athletic department's high grade-point average.

"I would like to thank Mike O'Brien and The University of Toledo for this tremendous opportunity," Coluccio said. "I am honored and grateful to become part of the Rockets' family and lead the women's golf program. I am impressed and motivated by the support from the administration, staff and community for the program. With the strong foundation that is present here, the potential is limitless. I'm looking forward to building on the success the team has experienced in recent years, and I'm very excited to see how far we can go."

Coluccio also wanted to express her gratitude for the support she has received during her time in Champaign, as well as throughout her entire coaching career.

"I cannot thank [Illinois Women's Golf Coach] Renee Slone and the University of Illinois enough for allowing me to be a part of their lives and success over the past five years," Coluccio said. "I also want to say thank you to my family, friends, mentors and peers who have all continued

to challenge me to improve every step of the way."

This past season, Illinois registered its best regional finish ever, with four golfers earning All-Big Ten honors and setting 13 school records. The Fighting Illini narrowly missed making a trip to the NCAA Championships, finishing one spot away from qualifying with a seventh-place standing at the NCAA Madison Regional. Illinois also tied for second place at the Big Ten Championships, its best showing since 1976, and set a team scoring average for the third year in a row with a mark of 289.6 (over six strokes better than the previous best).

Prior to arriving in Champaign, Coluccio spent three seasons as the head men's and women's golf coach at NCAA Division II University of Sioux Falls. Coluccio led the USF men's golf team to a third-place finish at the 2013 Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Championship, while the women placed fourth. Sophomore Tavia Rutherford became the first Cougar golfer to compete in the NCAA Central Region Tournament since USF reached NCAA Division II status.

In 2011, Coluccio guided her men's and women's teams to second- and third-place finishes, respectively, in the Great Plains Athletic Conference. In the same year, she produced six All-GPAC selections

(four men, two women) while her teams set impressive grade-point averages in the classroom (3.2 for the men, 3.5 for the women).

Before becoming head coach at USF, Coluccio served two seasons as a graduate assistant for Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, S.D., working with both men's and women's teams. The Tigers claimed men and women's GPAC regular-season championships and advanced to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Championships for the first time ever during her stint.

A native of Springfield, Mo., Coluccio earned a bachelor's degree in sports management from Drury (Mo.) University in 2007 and a master's degree in educational administration and policy from Dakota Wesleyan in 2010. She was a three-time All-Great Lakes Valley Conference golfer for the Panthers, while also collecting 12 top-15 tournament finishes. She has competed in several tournaments throughout her playing career, including the Women's Western Amateur, Women's Trans National Amateur, College Players Tour, Futures Tour Qualifying School and LPGA Qualifying School.

Coluccio and her husband, Brett, have two sons, Braden, 3, and Walker, who was born in November 2017.

Former Rocket named to New Orleans Saints Hall of Fame

By Paul Helgren

The New Orleans Saints have announced that former Rocket wide receiver Lance Moore will be inducted into their Hall of Fame in a ceremony Friday, Sept. 14.

Moore played 11 seasons in the NFL (2005 to 2015), nine of them with the Saints. He caught 360 passes in his pro career, including a career-high of 78 in 2008.

He battled injuries throughout most of 2009, but came back in time to help New Orleans win Super Bowl XLIV. His acrobatic snag of a two-point conversion was key in the Saints' 31-17 victory over the Indianapolis Colts.

Moore played for the Rockets from 2000 to 2003, earning first-team All-Mid-American Conference honors in his junior and senior seasons.

As a junior, he set then-UT records for receptions (103), receiving yards (1,194) and TD receptions (9). His biggest game came in a 35-31 win over No. 9 Pittsburgh in which he caught the game-winner in the corner of the end zone in the waning moments of the contest.

As a senior, Moore caught 90 passes for 1,189 yards, setting the school mark for TD receptions with 15, including three scores in Toledo's 35-27 win over Miami in the 2004 MAC Championship Game.

He also was an excellent student, earning Academic All-America honors as a senior in 2004.

Moore was inducted into the Varsity T Hall of Fame in 2011.



INCREDIBLE PLAY: Former Rocket Lance Moore made this spectacular catch for a two-point conversion in Super Bowl XLIV. The photo appeared in Sports Illustrated.