

# It's complicated ... make sense of it



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TOLEDO  
1872

**Greetings!** This is the second College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences newsletter covering highlights of the 2013-2014 academic year.

We hope you enjoy reading and learning about the people and events in the college.

**The CLLSS Committee for Communication and Marketing:**

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Associate Dean, College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences

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The College extends a *special thank you* to former Associate Dean **Joni Mihura** for her valuable contributions to this newsletter.

## PREPARE YOURSELF IN THE College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences

### The Humanities Institute Re-launched!

The Humanities Institute is up and running again in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences! Originally founded in 1986 and led for many years by Roger Ray, emeritus professor of history, the institute has been re-launched under the leadership of Institute Director Christina M. Fitzgerald, professor of English. According

to its mission, the Humanities Institute advocates for and supports the study of human culture — its literature, languages, arts, history, philosophy, folklore, and religion — at all levels of learning and scholarship, through both disciplinary and interdisciplinary means. It seeks both to sustain the work of humanities scholars at the university and to foster the dissemination of that knowledge and expertise to a larger community of learners both inside and outside the university.

Information about its events, and other links of interest, are shared on its Facebook page ([facebook.com/HumanitiesInstituteToledo](https://www.facebook.com/HumanitiesInstituteToledo)) and through its Twitter account (@HumInstToledo if you're on Twitter, or go to [twitter.com/HumInstToledo](https://twitter.com/HumInstToledo)).

The institute restarted in spring 2014 with a series of "Humanities Happy Hours" and a lecture on "The Humanities as a Discipline" by the director of the National Humanities Institute, Dr. Geoffrey Galt Harpham, a scholar of American literature and the history of the humanities in American institutions and culture. Harpham's talk was filmed by WGTE for its Knowledge Stream website:

[knowledgestream.org/kstream/index.asp?item\\_id=16687](http://knowledgestream.org/kstream/index.asp?item_id=16687).



Dr. Fitzgerald

## Tackling the Lake Erie Algae Bloom Problem: Spotlight on Professor Patrick Lawrence

Often it is not until a crisis occurs that one can truly appreciate vital things in life. Water is one of those vital resources that sustain us, yet is often taken for granted. On Aug. 2, 2014, residents of Toledo and the surrounding area were brought face-to-face with this reality when the Toledo water crisis occurred.

Suddenly, the vital and multifaceted role that water plays in our life became – at least for a few days – undeniable. Toledoans learned firsthand that not only do we simply need water to drink – we need it to cook, clean, shower and bathe, water the lawn, and to sustain our beloved pets. Although the crisis lasted just three days, Toledoans are being made aware that if the cause of the problem is not addressed, it will happen again and again.

Enter on the water scene Patrick Lawrence, a man whose career as a geographer has focused on water, and not just any water, but the water Toledoans use and rely on every day – water from the Great Lakes. Dr. Lawrence – who obtained his PhD in geography at the University of Waterloo – serves as the chair for the Department of Geography and Planning. As project director and investigator, he has obtained well over a million dollars in external funding to study the Maumee and Ottawa

Rivers alone, as well as multiple other water-related projects. Dr. Lawrence is a founding board member and current president of Partners for Clean Streams, Inc. [partnersforcleanstreams.org](http://partnersforcleanstreams.org) He has also been a key player in the restoration of the Ottawa River that flows through The University of Toledo. [utoledo.edu/commissions/river/pdfs/2014landandwater.pdf](http://utoledo.edu/commissions/river/pdfs/2014landandwater.pdf).

Two days after the Toledo water crisis was announced, Dr. Lawrence was featured on an AAG News Brief shown on CBS News and USA Today describing the algae bloom problem and its causes. Watch the video here: [cbsnews.com/videos/toledo-declares-drinking-water-safe-lifts-ban](http://cbsnews.com/videos/toledo-declares-drinking-water-safe-lifts-ban).

The next day, Aug. 5, more than 250 people attended a public forum addressing the toxic algae blooms in Lake Erie held in UT's Driscoll Auditorium. Dr. Lawrence said that “land management practices on farmland are improving. But we still need to do a lot of work,” and that it’s “up to us to put pressure” to improve these practices for the environment. See the UT News and Toledo Blade stories and videos: [utnews.utoledo.edu/index.php/08\\_06\\_2014/watch-ut-forum-on-toxic-algae-concerns-in-lake-erie-video](http://utnews.utoledo.edu/index.php/08_06_2014/watch-ut-forum-on-toxic-algae-concerns-in-lake-erie-video).



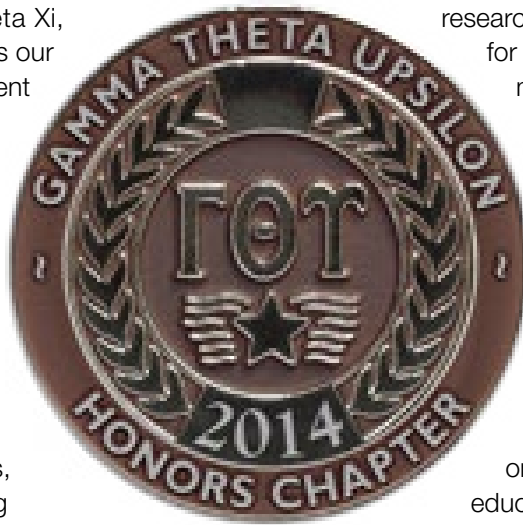
Clearly, the algae bloom problem isn't going away on its own, nor is it limited to Toledo or even Lake Erie. In a continuing attempt to tackle this problem, Dr. Lawrence has designed a new, interactive, engaged, project-based course at UT called the IdeaLab:Toledo H2O. This innovative course will examine the

2014 Toledo drinking water crisis with the involvement of experts, field trips, videos, and online and discussion-based learning. For anyone interested in the IdeaLab:Toledo H2O course, it is the GEPL 4910.004 and will be offered during spring 2015 semester on Tuesdays from 9-11:30 a.m.

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## Local Geography Honors Society (Zeta Xi) Receives Award

The University of Toledo Department of Geography and Planning Zeta Xi Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the international geographic honors society, was selected as a GTU Honors Chapter for 2014. Only seven of GTU's 130 active chapters achieved this status for activities during the 2013-2014 academic year. Nominated by Dr. Beth Schlemper, faculty advisor for GTU Zeta Xi, this award highlights our students' commitment to campus and community service. According to the Second Vice President of GTU, Zeta Xi "is commended not only for the superior scholarship of your geography students, but also for planning activities that celebrate and spread the word about geography to your campus and community." GTU was founded in 1928, and our local chapter in 1981.



The Zeta Xi Chapter engaged in number of outreach activities, social events and professional development opportunities in AY 2013-2014. We continued our efforts to encourage both student and faculty participation in our chapter meetings by including "open mic" forums, where student members volunteered to discuss recent internships, travel experiences, current research, or practice presentations for upcoming professional meetings. In addition, students helped with the organization, registration table, and other aspects of the East Lakes Regional Association of American Geographers meeting that was held at UT in October 2013. Each year, Zeta Xi also participates in the annual Clean Your Streams event on campus. For social and educational purposes, we had two "Geopardy" tournaments, movie nights, and attended a Mud Hens game. At the spring 2014 GTU initiation, we had a banquet and invited alumni, as well as the faculty advisor and students of the newly-formed (2013) Mu Rho chapter of GTU at Owens Community College.



## UT Psychology Graduate Obtains Prestigious Fellowship with the National Cancer Institute

Stephanie Fowler, PhD, MPH, is a recent graduate from The University of Toledo, where she earned her MA (2009) and PhD (2013) in Experimental Social Psychology. She is originally from Tampa, Fla., and completed her Bachelor's of Science in Psychology degree



with a minor in Geography from the University of North Florida in 2006. The University of Toledo was Dr. Fowler's number one choice of PhD Experimental Psychology programs because of the multidisciplinary approach that

her graduate advisor, Dr. Andrew Geers, integrates into his research enterprise. Since beginning her graduate training at UT, she has been an author on 13 peer-reviewed articles, with more in the pipeline, from her work in Dr. Geers' lab, isolating the factors involved in a) risk-taking behaviors and b) receptiveness to medical health information.

In 2013, Dr. Fowler obtained a prestigious four-year post-doctoral fellowship with the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program. As part of the Cancer Prevention Fellowship, she earned a Master of Public Health degree from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in May 2014; she specialized in Policy and Management and Environmental Health Sciences.

Dr. Fowler is currently working with the Risk Factor Monitoring and Methods Branch in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. As a behavioral scientist and public health professional, she works with systems-level data, understanding the factors related to primary cancer prevention behaviors and how to translate the science to policy and practice.

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## UT German Club builds Berlin Wall Replica on Campus

This fall, students from The University of Toledo German Club built a replica of the Berlin Wall in front of the Student Union on Main Campus to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall.

The replica was 32 feet long and 8 feet high, painted gray and topped off with "barbed" wire to give it a more authentic appearance. However, the German Club students did not want their wall simply to be a monument on campus; what they had in mind was interaction! They spray-painted the wall with chalk paint and wrote political quotes of that time on the wall, such as John F. Kennedy's famous 1963 exclamation "Ich bin ein Berliner!" in support of the citizens of West Berlin.





From Monday, Sept. 29, through Friday, Oct. 4, the campus community was invited to leave comments and messages on the wall. Within a very short time, the UT wall was covered with graffiti, short remarks, personal messages, political opinions, and thoughtful aphorisms. During this week, German Club students monitored the wall, handed out information pamphlets, and replenished the chalk supply daily. On Oct. 4, the official “German Unity Day” and a national holiday in Germany, the UT German Club organized a tear-down ceremony to symbolize the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall.

That wall – once a symbol for severe government restrictions of travel and free speech, dividing Germany into the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) for 28 years (1961-1989) – was here at UT, turned into a forum and springboard for free speech and freedom of expression: once again, a celebration of democratic values of a free world.





## The Humanities Institute Re-launched!

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The Happy Hour series, which continues this fall, highlights the interesting and varied work of UT's humanities scholars in a casual, social atmosphere of food and fun, with short, accessible talks, free food, and a cash bar. The events are free and open to the public, and no expertise is needed in the subjects of the presentations to enjoy them.

Dr. Fitzgerald strongly believes that humanities scholarship at the university is a public good, and the Happy Hours help bring work in the humanities at UT to a wider audience.

Last semester featured eight talks on historical fiction (Dr. Ben Stroud, English), the philosophy of fiction (Dr. Ammon Allred, Philosophy), the possibility of merciful justice (Dr. Jeanine Diller, Philosophy), the Arab community in Toledo (Dr. Gaby Semaan, Foreign Languages), Indian diasporic cinema (Dr. Parama Sarkar, English), the Batman television series (Dr. Matt Yockey, Film), African-American settlement in Cleveland's suburbs (Dr. Todd Michney, History), and modernization and medical history in Japan (Dr. Roberto Padilla, History). This semester's series began with two talks on art historical subjects: Dr. Richard Putney presented on the landscape architecture of Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris, and Dr. Thor Mednick talked about landscape in 19th-century Danish art. Most of the past Happy Hour talks were filmed by WGTE and can be watched on Knowledge Stream by searching "happy hour" from its main page: [knowledgestream.org](http://knowledgestream.org).

Happy Hour events also were held in October, with talks by Dr. Melissa Gregory on "Women Writers and Nursery Rhyme" and Dr. Andrew Mattison on "Renaissance Song Lyrics in Print and the Definition of Poetry." November programs included philosophers Dr. Madeline Montersbjorn and Dr. John Sarnecki regarding "Why Monsters Matter" and "Culture and the Origins of Human Cognition."

The Humanities Institute is also beginning to collaborate in other ways with humanities departments on campus and with area educational organizations and institutions. So far, the institute has worked with the English Department to co-sponsor the



appearance of writer Zadie Smith on campus (thanks also to the generosity of the Toledo-Lucas County Library, which brought her to Toledo for its Authors! Authors! series), and provided additional funding for events and exhibits last year in Disabilities Studies and Anthropology. The institute is also working with the Way Library in Perryburg to co-sponsor talks by UT's humanities scholars there.

Planning for spring events is underway, too. In the past, under Dr. Ray's leadership, the institute received a large grant to bring UT's humanities experts into local schools, and Dr. Fitzgerald hopes to continue that legacy as she rebuilds the institute.

## UT Family Helps Moldova Orphans



Shari Grayczyk (left), an account clerk in the Department of Geography and Planning, and her daughters, UT students Joy and Bethany Grayczyk, have volunteered their time to help orphans in Moldova. These children are often released from orphanages without adult assistance by age 16.

Read the tragic and touching story in the UT News here:

[utnews.utoledo.edu/index.php/09\\_05\\_2014/staff-members-volunteer-to-help-orphans-in-moldova.](http://utnews.utoledo.edu/index.php/09_05_2014/staff-members-volunteer-to-help-orphans-in-moldova)



## College Student Experience Video

See a brief video (4:23) of CLLSS undergraduate students talking about their learning experiences at UT here: [tubechop.com/watch/3660456](http://tubechop.com/watch/3660456)



# Speaker Projects Hope Through Education, Community

Early in the fall, the Department of Women's and Gender Studies co-sponsored a lecture by Carol A. Goss. The event, held in collaboration with Brothers on the Rise, the association of African American faculty and staff, the Division of Student Affairs, several UT female student organizations and community partner Alpha Phi Boule, drew more than 200 students, faculty, staff and members of the Toledo community.

Ms. Goss is the former president and chief executive officer of the Skillman Foundation, a private, independent foundation in Detroit with a mission to improve the lives of children by strengthening schools and neighborhoods. Ms. Goss has a B.A. in sociology and a master's in social work from the University of Michigan. She is currently a fellow in the Advanced Leadership Initiative at Harvard University.

Dr. Willie McKether, Associate Dean in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences and President of Brothers on the Rise, said, "These types of programs are important for students because it helps them realize they can overcome life's challenges and become successful, productive citizens in their chosen career paths."

Another program is scheduled for spring semester.

During her talk, Ms. Goss drew upon her personal experiences as a child growing up in Detroit. She suggested that living in a particular neighborhood and that one's socio-economic class do not dictate future outcomes, noting, "The American dream is available to all children." To help attain success in school, she suggested that students focus and use technology wisely; work and study in groups where appropriate; find mentors; "study, study, study;" and have a good time in the process.

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## College Hosts a Variety of Events

CLISS departments and programs have hosted or co-hosted many interesting and thought-provoking events. Over the past academic year, there have been a smorgasbord of events – about 20 a month – most of which include outside speakers including poets and novelists. Most are open to the public. One of the new regular events, the Humanities Happy Hour, has quickly become a popular one. The event is held in Libbey Hall and includes free snacks and a cash bar with brief, interesting talks typically from UT faculty.

The Summers Memorial Lecture was given by George Saunders, an American writer whose 2013 "kindness" convocation speech [youtube.com/watch?v=ruJWd\\_m-LgY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ruJWd_m-LgY) at Syracuse University went viral after it was posted online at The New York Times here: [6thfloor.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/07/31/george-saunderss-advice-to-graduates](http://6thfloor.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/07/31/george-saunderss-advice-to-graduates).

More recently, the Edward Shapiro Distinguished Lecture was given by Harvard's popular Michael Sandel, who presented "Doing the Right Thing in Public and Private Life." See his TED talk at: [ted.com/talks/michael\\_sandel\\_what\\_s\\_the\\_right\\_thing\\_to\\_do](http://ted.com/talks/michael_sandel_what_s_the_right_thing_to_do).

To get the word out, since February 2014 the College has been posting these events on its website. The events are announced weekly via the email distribution list, but you can visit the college website anytime. There is also an archive of College events starting late February 2014: [utoledo.edu/liss/events.html](http://utoledo.edu/liss/events.html).