

# UT NEWS

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## Welcome



Photo by Daniel Miller

Dr. Sharon Gaber will become The University of Toledo's 17th president Wednesday, July 1.

## Non-union staff to receive 2 percent raise

Members of the Professional Staff Association will receive a 2 percent wage increase and an additional \$500 to their base pay effective July 1, University officials announced today. The \$500 amount will be prorated for part-time PSA employees.

Employees eligible for the increase are full-time and part-time non-union employees who were hired before Jan 1, 2015, and who have not received salary actions resulting in an increase after that date. The dates that the increases will appear in paychecks are still being determined, but they will be retroactive to July 1 in any event.

The about 1,200 staff members in the Professional Staff Association include the classified exempt, classified salaried, and unclassified administrative and

*continued on p. 4*

## Infections down 51 percent; UT Health celebrates 'extraordinary' patient care achievement

By Jon Strunk

University of Toledo Health employees celebrated last week an achievement UT Health leaders called extraordinary and exceptional in modern health care: Cutting by more than 50 percent an already low hospital-acquired infection rate and sustaining that reduction for more than half a year.

"Preventing hospital-acquired infections is something that UTMC has been pretty good at for awhile, but last fall we decided pretty good didn't cut it. We decided to be great," said Dave Morlock, CEO for UT Health.

"For the last six months, we've sustained a cumulative 51 percent drop across all categories of inpatient hospital-acquired infections," Morlock said. "I truly believe it's an accomplishment by these caregivers and employees that few organizations across the country can top.

"From hospital leaders to physicians and nurses, to house keepers and maintenance staff, to everyone who has made this possible, thank you."

UTMC numbers show an average of about 2.5 inpatient hospital-acquired infections per week in the last six months and multiple weeks with zero hospital acquired infections.



Photo by Daniel Miller

**SWEET SUCCESS:** Pasha Andrews, delivery worker in the mailroom, showed off the cookie she picked up from Melissa Ahrens, left, and Nikki Blue, infection preventionists in Infection Prevention and Control.

*continued on p. 4*

## UT Minority Business Assistance Center Program awarded grant

By Jennifer Solanics

The University of Toledo has been awarded a \$355,000 two-year state grant to host the Minority Business Assistance Center Program, which helps small, minority and disadvantaged businesses by providing services such as technical support, professional consulting, access to capital and assistance obtaining contract opportunities.

The program, which will provide support for 17 counties in northwest Ohio, will be housed within UT's Minority Business Development Center, one of only a few minority business-focused incubators across the country. The center supports a selective group of minority businesses through services that include counseling,

*continued on p. 4*

# Trustees thank interim president for service, approve budget

By Meghan Cunningham

The University of Toledo Board of Trustees recently thanked Dr. Nagi Naganathan for moving the University forward during a time of transition as he completes his year as interim president.

Board Chair Joseph Zerbey presented Naganathan with a resolution honoring his service to the institution.

“Under your leadership as interim president, the Board of Trustees acknowledges and thanks you for your guidance and efforts to build the morale of students, faculty and staff, while continuing to grow the University’s educational foundation, as well as your tireless commitment to academics, research and philanthropic growth,” Zerbey said.

When he assumed the interim presidency, Naganathan held a retreat with student and faculty leaders, vice presidents and deans to identify key initiatives for the year and then focused on achieving those goals.

Among those initiatives were faculty hiring and retention plans that led to new tenure-track faculty in 34 departments and lecturers in 17 departments; improvements in the student experience with an overhaul of the Title IX policies and procedures; and the implementation of a student recruitment

and retention council to work to increase enrollment, with early indicators predicting more students this fall.

Naganathan also provided leadership for efforts underway that include a campus master planning process, an affiliation agreement between the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences and ProMedica, and UT’s Capital Campaign.

He thanked the board for the opportunity to serve the institution.

“It truly has been a great honor,” said Naganathan, who will resume his position as dean of the College of Engineering July 1.

The Board of Trustees also approved the \$932 million budget for fiscal year 2016 and ratified the employment contract of the incoming president, Dr. Sharon Gaber.

The budget includes a 2 percent increase in tuition and general fee for in-state undergraduate students contingent on the requirements embedded in Ohio’s two-year budget, which continues to be developed by state lawmakers

Also included in the budget are a 3 percent increase in room and board costs and a 3 percent price increase for UT Health clinical operations. Non-union salary groups will receive a 2 percent wage increase, and



Photo by Daniel Miller

**WITH GRATITUDE:** UT Board of Trustees Chairman Joseph Zerbey, left, presented a proclamation to Dr. Nagi Naganathan for his exemplary service as interim president of the University.

there are pay increases for union salary groups according to collective bargaining agreements.

An additional \$7.4 million is invested in scholarship dollars for students.

The board also elected officers for the 2015-16 year. Sharon Speyer will serve as

chair, and Steven Cavanaugh will serve as vice chair.

The June meeting was the last for John Szuch, executive officer at Signature Bank, who was named to the UT Board of Trustees in 2006 to a term set to expire June 30.

## Signed



Photo by Daniel Miller

Interim President Nagi Naganathan, left, and Dr. Harvey Wolff, professor emeritus of mathematics and president of the UT chapter of the American Association of University Professors, signed a new contract between the University and the faculty union as Kevin West, senior director of faculty relations, watched last week. Approved by the UT Board of Trustees and ratified by union members last month, the collective bargaining agreements cover some 600 of UT’s tenured and tenure-track faculty and lecturers.

## Combating human trafficking



Photo by Daniel Miller

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman held a roundtable discussion on human trafficking June 26 in the Law Center. Dr. Celia Williamson, UT professor of social work and a nationally recognized expert on human trafficking advocacy, left, and Michelle Moore, a survivor of sex trafficking, were two members on the panel, which also included Dr. Kamala London, UT associate professor of psychology; FBI Special Agent James “Jake” Hardie, who is part of the Innocence Lost Task Force; and Sarah Ladd, an attorney and member of the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition. The discussion included recently passed legislation to combat human trafficking, including the Bringing Missing Children Home Act and Ensuring a Better Response for Victims of Child Sex Trafficking, as well as the efforts of UT’s newly established Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute.

## Internationally recognized fellowship awarded to professor

By Lindsay Mahaney

With an already extensive docket of achievements to his credit, Dr. Ishmael Parsai can now add Fellow of the International Organization for Medical Physics to the list.



Parsai

Unlike other fellowships that select recipients via nominations, the International Organization for Medical Physics Fellows are picked by an honoree committee comprised of medical physicist

professionals from around the world. The fellowship is awarded to recognize outstanding medical physicists who have made significant contributions to the field and to the International Organization for Medical Physics and its regional organizations on a global scale in development of medical physics over a significant period of time.

This year only six individuals received the honor, and only two were from the United States.

“This award is a tremendous honor, especially because it’s at the international level,” said Parsai, UT professor of radiation oncology, chief of the Medical Physics Division and director of the Graduate Medical Physics Program. “The international community is very different from the national one in that representatives from different countries have their own way of measuring achievements and there’s not one right way. So when a committee comes to the agreement that it’ll pick a dozen people throughout the world and they select one guy from UT, that’s indeed a great honor.”

When asked what he considered some of his greatest achievements in medical

physics, he answered, “The students we produce are the legacy. I have been so fortunate to have worked with students whom I have learned so much from, and I’ve taught them a little bit, too. Many have become great leaders in our field and community, and I am proud to have been a part of their professional lives.”

Parsai has published numerous benchmarked manuscripts, including patented ideas in the field of medical physics and radiation oncology, which he considers to be accomplishments that distinguish his career.

One that he considers highly important involved the modification of radiation delivery systems to cancer patients that achieve higher doses of radiation in a much shorter time without needlessly damaging surrounding tissue. This technology, developed eight years ago at The University of Toledo Medical Center, has become an integral part of every modern linear accelerator manufactured and marketed worldwide. It is critically significant in advanced treatment modalities, such as stereotactic body radiotherapy — a specially designed coordinate system used for the exact localization of tumors, he said.

In addition to his clinical work, research and teaching, Parsai served as the editor-in-chief for the International Organization for Medical Physics bulletin, *Medical Physics World* — a publication distributed to more than 21,000 practicing medical physicists in 92 countries — for 10 years.

“His work has helped bringing together medical physicists from all over the world and had a huge impact in promoting global development of medical physics,” said Dr. Kin-Yin Cheung, president of the International Organization for Medical Physics.

Parsai is also a Fellow of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine and the first scientist to receive the Fellowship of the American College of Radiation Oncology in the United States.

He received his award earlier this month at the International Organization for Medical Physics presidential reception during the World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering in Toronto.

## UT to host engineering workshops for high school students

By Cassandra DeYoung

Incoming high school seniors and juniors are invited to attend engineering workshops this July at The University of Toledo’s College of Engineering.

“These workshops take interest in math and science a step further and put them in an application setting to show students what they can do with those interests,” said Kevin Brooks, recruitment officer in the College of Engineering.

Dates and topics of the faculty-run workshops are:

- Wednesday, July 8 — bioengineering;
- Wednesday, July 15 — computer science and engineering; and

- Friday, July 24 — electrical engineering.

Each workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and will feature an introduction session, labs, lunch and a question-and-answer session. Parents are welcome to attend the introduction and closing sessions.

“It’s a way for the students to see if they want to get into engineering and further their education in it; it’s a real hands-on look,” Brooks said. “Engineers aren’t simply sitting down and solving equations all day; they are applying math to real-world problems and finding solutions.”

Additionally, a continental breakfast featuring coffee, bagels, orange juice, muffins and fruit will be provided.

Registration is \$35 for the bioengineering workshop and \$25 apiece for the computer science and electrical engineering workshops.

To register, visit [eng.utoledo.edu](http://eng.utoledo.edu). Space is limited.

For more information about the bioengineering workshop, contact Dr. Aurnan Nadarajah, professor, chair and graduate program director for the UT Department of Bioengineering, at 419.530.8031 or [arunan.nadarajah@utoledo.edu](mailto:arunan.nadarajah@utoledo.edu).

For more information about the computer science or electrical engineering workshops, contact Dr. Richard Molyet, professor and undergraduate program director for the UT Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department, at [richard.molyet@utoledo.edu](mailto:richard.molyet@utoledo.edu) or 419.530.8143.

LOOK FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF UT NEWS JULY 13

## Inspiring success



Photo by Jennifer Solanics

John Barfield, founder of The Bartech Group Inc., signed a copy of his book, *Starting From Scratch: The Humble Beginning of a Two Billion-Dollar Enterprise*, for Erik Johnson, manager of the UT Minority Business Development Center, at a recent workshop hosted by the center. Barfield talked about the book, which he wrote with Anthony Neely, and shared his story with area businessmen and women. The son of two field hands, Barfield was born in Tuscaloosa, Ala., before moving to Washington, Pa., and later Ypsilanti, Mich. In 1947, he began working as a custodian for the University of Michigan, later cleaning newly constructed houses on the side for additional income. After his side job became more lucrative than his full-time position, he quit his UM job and began the Barfield Cleaning Co. After several acquisitions and transitions, Barfield founded the Barfield Manufacturing Co., now called The Bartech Group, which he has since turned over to his son, Jon. The staffing and human resources company based in Southfield, Mich., employs and manages the daily work assignments for more than 35,000 associates and more than \$3 billion in contingent labor for major employers around the world.

## Infections down

*continued from p. 1*

“It’s long been considered an unfortunate fact that hospital-acquired infections are just part of the reality of health care,” said Marge McFadden, chief administrative officer for quality and patient safety.

“We’ve rejected that attitude. It is true that some procedures and some conditions can make patients more susceptible to infection, but our caregivers have demonstrated clearly in the last half year that the potential for infection can be minimized.”

Both Morlock and McFadden said the goal is to eliminate hospital-acquired infections, not merely reduce them.

“From an emphasis on hand washing to reviewing and revising our processes, hundreds and hundreds of people across all levels of our hospital own this success,” said Dr. Carl Sirio, chief operating and clinical officer for UT Health.

“Until we reach zero, we’ll always have more to do to drive infections down even further. One is too many,” Sirio said.

## Raise

*continued from p. 1*

professional employees who do not belong to a bargaining unit and do not have faculty rank.

“We are deeply appreciative of the many contributions and services provided by all of our academic, hospital and professional staff employees, and we recognize the important role each employee plays in supporting and advancing the University’s mission and goals,” said Dr. Nagi Naganathan, interim president. “Thank you so much for all you do for our university.”

Compensation for UT employees who are members of unions is determined by their collective bargaining units. The American Association of University Professors approved a new contract in May, and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Ohio Council 8 and AFSCME Local 2415 and Communication Workers of America Local 4319 are operating under contracts approved in July 2014. The UT Police Patrolman’s Association approved its current contract in 2013.

## UT Minority Business Assistance Center

*continued from p. 1*

networking opportunities, access to office space and conference rooms, and hands-on student learning experiences.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the program will be held Tuesday, July 7, at 10 a.m. in the center, located in the Faculty Annex on Scott Park Campus of Energy and Innovation.

“We are excited about the confidence the state has in the University to award us this program, and about the support of our partners. Collaboration with the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce will allow for expansion on the prior success they have established with the program, and will allow for expansion of this opportunity to more students,” said Dr. Shanda Gore, UT chief diversity officer and associate vice president for equity, diversity and community engagement.

“With the combined partnerships and synergy of a single location, this creates a one-stop shop opportunity for minority-owned businesses for the five primary counties and 12 secondary counties in northwest Ohio,” Gore said.

The University demonstrated the strength of its collaboration and community support for the success of minority

businesses in its application for the grant, Gore said, a team approach that will create an environment to help minority businesses flourish.

“This initiative is one more way The University of Toledo is leveraging its strengths in diversity and inclusion outward into the community and across the region,” said Jovita Thomas-Williams, vice president and chief human resources officer. “We’re incredibly excited to be working with community partners such as the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce to advance the region’s economic interests in this way.”

“The Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce is proud to have been the host of the Minority Business Assistance Center since 2005. Now is the perfect time to take advantage of the increased synergy of housing the Minority Business Assistance Center at The University of Toledo’s Minority Business Development Center and incubator,” said Wendy R. Gramza, president of the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce. “We look forward to working closely with the University to continue nurturing minority entrepreneurship and economic development.”

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## UT Health doctors diagnose rare disease in Honduran teen

By Brandi Barhite

**H**onduran native Benjie Benitez traveled across the world in hopes of finding answers to a mysterious neuromuscular disorder that has left him in a wheelchair.

After two weeks of tests in June, the doctors at The University of Toledo Medical Center determined he has a rare mitochondrial disease, which affects the protein in his cells and leads to muscle breakdown.

The diagnosis was possible thanks to a collaboration between CedarCreek and UTMC in an ongoing medical mission clinic in La Ceiba, Honduras.

The 18-year-old doesn't speak English, so he used a translation machine to communicate with UT Health doctors. He also used his music to bond with people he met during his first trip to America.

The former track star brought his guitar to a recent appointment with cardiologist Dr. Samer Khouri. He played a song for everyone as a way to offer thanks.

"We are happy to find an answer, but unfortunately, there is no cure," said Dr. Kris Brickman, founder and director of the UT Office of Global Health, and professor and chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine. "He has been seen by many doctors and after an exhausting number of tests, scans and evaluations, no one has been able to find a diagnosis or treatment for this illness — until now.

"Hopefully, we can slow the progression of this disease with a series of vitamins and medicines, which we are starting right away," Brickman said.

CedarCreek Church paid for Benitez and his mother, Martha, to fly to America. CedarCreek heard about Benitez's condition during a mission trip and asked UTMC doctors to help with the diagnosis.

Benitez arrived May 27 and stayed until June 11. He met with Khouri, director of echocardiography, director of the heart station and professor of medicine; Dr. Boyd Koffman, director of neurology ambulatory services and professor of neurology; Dr. Dalynn Badenhop, director of cardiopulmonary rehabilitation and professor of medicine; Dr. Bashar Kahaleh, chief of the Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, and professor of medicine; Dr. Jeffrey Hammersley, chief of the Pulmonary Division and associate professor of medicine; Dr. Blair Grubb, director of electrophysiology services and professor of medicine; and Dr. Donald Cameron, assistant professor of neurology.

Up until a few years ago, Benitez was an athlete, his mother said. He was a strong and healthy young man. He started having trouble with muscle control, which progressively worsened leaving him needing a wheelchair.

Benitez wrote an email that expressed his gratitude: "I'm almost in shock of happiness that this is happening; thank you for caring for

my family. God bless you all for everything you do."

Brickman said Benitez is overwhelmed that anyone would do this for him.

"We aren't considering this anything special," Brickman said. "This is taking some time, but it is the right thing to do. We aren't getting reimbursed for any of this."

Bill Trout, executive pastor at CedarCreek, said many people approach his church for help, but Benitez's case was unique.

"It is an opportunity to help Benjie, but it is an opportunity to teach students about a case that the doctors in Honduras haven't been able to diagnose," Trout said.

Benitez and his mom split their time staying with Trout and his family. They also

stayed with Sean Siwa and his wife, Yeimy, who is from Honduras.

Siwa, who accompanied Benitez to his appointment with Khouri, said Benitez is sick, but he still smiles because he loves music.

"The guitar is helping," she said. "He has a hard time using his hands because of his muscle problem, but he plays anyway."



Photo by Daniel Miller

**PATIENT CARE:** Dr. Jeffrey Hammersley asked Benjie Benitez how his hands were doing during a visit to UT Medical Center earlier this month. The Honduran teen was diagnosed with a rare mitochondrial disease that leads to muscle breakdown.



### Making a difference

UT students, from left, Morgan Monahan, Miranda Dziobak and Melissa Brodsky visited with a mother and her daughter in Puerto Penasco, Mexico, during an International Service Learning medical mission trip with the UT College of Health Sciences. Monahan is a sophomore majoring in exercise science with a pre-physician assistant concentration; Brodsky is a fourth-year bioengineering/premedical student; and Dziobak is a sophomore majoring in biochemistry with a premedical concentration. They were among 15 students who spent a week working with doctors in local hospitals and health clinics.

# Medical Research Society awards first grant to support ovarian cancer treatment

By Brandi Barhite

The University of Toledo Medical Research Society is awarding its first grant to a faculty member working to develop a life-saving ovarian cancer treatment.



Eisenmann

The \$50,000 grant to Dr. Kathryn Eisenmann, assistant professor in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, will support her research to develop a drug that will

allow cancer-fighting treatments to more effectively penetrate tumor cells.

“Many anti-cancer drugs work poorly because they do not penetrate tumors. Tumor cells are packed so tightly that drugs cannot easily pass through these cells,” Eisenmann said. “My research is going to look at a new drug that blocks tumor cells from binding so tightly together. If successful, combining this new drug with current drugs used to treat ovarian cancer will allow more of the cancer-fighting drugs to enter the tumor and kill the tumor.”

This research is vital because ovarian cancer is the fifth-leading cause of cancer deaths in American women. About 200,000 women in the United States live with this cancer, and 55 percent of women diagnosed die within five years.

“I am so thankful to receive this funding because it is a highly innovative idea that could lead to novel therapies for this deadly disease,” Eisenmann said.

Howard Newman, UT associate vice president for development, said the Medical Research Society met June 11 to review three faculty proposals. The society, which consists of 20 individuals representing community and medical leadership, selected Eisenmann’s proposal because she had potential to secure additional funding and make a significant difference in the fight against ovarian cancer.

The society’s founding member, Marianne Ballas, the owner of Ballas Buick GMC and a member of the UT College of Medicine Advisory Council, founded the Medical Research Society in 2014 to help junior faculty who are just starting their scientific career. Since then, the society has gained 20 members who made \$25,000 commitments and garnered a \$1 million matching donation from The University of Toledo Physicians.

“Junior faculty need the most encouragement,” Ballas said. “The funding environment is so difficult these days. This is geared toward scientists who have developed their research, but need some more money to develop it further before applying for a larger grant.”

Newman said the National Institutes of Health used to fund more than 30 percent of the grants applied for by junior faculty, but in recent years the number has decreased to 10 percent due to reduction in federal funding. Having this grant will better position Eisenmann to apply for federal funding to further advance her work, he said.

## Campers listen and learn



Photo by Brandi Barhite

Abby Price, who will be a freshman at Margareta High School in the fall, practiced her stethoscope skills on Payton Taylor, who will be a freshman at North Central High School. The girls were among nearly 40 students who participated in CampMed at UT Health earlier this month. The two-day program, which started in 1998, allows students to gain hands-on experience in the medical field.

## Canvassing art



Photo by Daniel Miller

Lisa Collins, certified surgical technician in the operating room, checked out the art during the Satellites Auxiliary’s recent fundraising sale. A portion of the proceeds benefited nursing scholarships.

## Correction

Yana Doughty’s name was misspelled in a story about UT Medical Center’s Anti-Coagulation Clinic in the June 15 issue. She is the new anti-coagulation pharmacist and outpatient pharmacy supervisor at the clinic.

## Law professor to join Federal Sentencing Reporter editorial board

By Rachel Phipps

Jelani Jefferson Exum, UT professor of law instruction, has been invited to join the editorial board of the Federal Sentencing Reporter. The journal explores in detail sentencing law, practice, and theory.



Exum

In her new role, Exum will pick a topic for one Federal Sentencing Reporter issue each year and oversee its production.

“Professor Exum has established herself as one of the

top researchers and theorists in the highly important field of criminal sentencing,” said Daniel J. Steinbock, dean of the UT College of Law. “This appointment to the editorial board of a major journal in the field confirms her status as one of the leaders of the next generation of sentencing scholars.”

Two of Exum’s articles have been published in the Federal Sentencing Reporter: “Reflections of a First-Time Expert Witness” in December 2013 and “What’s Happening With Child Pornography Sentencing?” in December 2011. She also guest-edited the December 2011 issue on child pornography.

Exum mainly writes in the area of sentencing law and policy, but her research interests also include comparative criminal law and procedure, and the impact of race on criminal justice.

Before joining academia, she served as a law clerk for James Dennis, U.S. circuit judge for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and Eldon Fallon, U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Exum is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Harvard College.

Published five times annually for the Vera Institute of Justice by the University of California Press, each issue of the Federal Sentencing Reporter features articles, cases and other primary materials written by judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys, probation officers, scholars, and members of sentencing commissions.

## Professor named Lucas County poet laureate

By Aimee Portala

The Lucas County Commissioners approved June 16 the appointment of Dr. Jim Ferris, UT professor and chair of disability studies, as the Lucas County poet laureate.

The position was created in 2007, modeled after the national appointment, and Ferris is the second person named to the role. A poet laureate helps citizens develop a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry.

Ferris replaces Joel Lipman, UT professor emeritus of English, who held the position of poet laureate from 2008 to 2013. Lipman owns Abracadabra Studio of Poetics, located in Toledo’s Warehouse District.

As poet laureate of Lucas County, Lipman attended various outreach events to present poetry to the greater Toledo community.

“It’s a real honor, and it’s not something I was expecting,” Ferris said. “I’m following a fabulous poet and a compelling advocate for the arts in northwest Ohio. Joel left me with big shoes to fill.”

Ferris will serve a two-year term as poet laureate.

He is the Ability Center Endowed Chair in Disability Studies at the University. He also is a poet and performance artist, holding a doctorate in performance studies.

Ferris is the author of *Slouching Towards Guantanamo*, *Facts of Life* and *The Hospital Poems*. His writing has appeared in numerous publications, including Poetry, Text and Performance Quarterly, the Georgia Review, and many weekly newspapers.



Ferris

## Stoepler Professor of Law and Values named

By Rachel Phipps

Dean Daniel J. Steinbock has named Professor Lee J. Strang the next John W. Stoepler Professor of Law and Values, effective July 1.



Strang

Strang follows Professor Susan Martyn, who became the John W. Stoepler Professor of Law and Values Emeritus following her retirement last month.

“Professor Strang’s outstanding national scholarly reputation and concern for values in his work put him squarely within the aims of this professorship,” Steinbock said. “He joins three other distinguished scholars on the College of Law faculty, Professors Geoffrey Rapp, Joseph Slater and Rebecca Zietlow, in holding one of our named professorships.”

Strang is the author of more than 20 law review publications, a constitutional law casebook, as well as several book chapters and book reviews. He has published in the fields of constitutional law and interpretation, property law, and religion and the First Amendment.

Among other scholarly projects, he is editing the second edition of his casebook for LexisNexis, writing a book titled *Originalism’s Promise and Its Limits*, and authoring a book on the history of Catholic legal education in the United States.

He frequently presents at scholarly conferences and participates in debates at law schools across the country. He also is regularly quoted in the media. Strang was named the college’s director of faculty research in 2014. This fall, he will be a visiting scholar at the Georgetown Center for the Constitution, where he will complete his book on originalism.

A graduate of the University of Iowa, where he was articles editor of the Iowa Law Review and a member of Order of the Coif, Strang also holds a master of law degree from Harvard Law School.

Before joining the UT College of Law faculty, Strang was a visiting professor at Michigan State University College of Law and an associate professor at Ave Maria School of Law.

Prior to teaching, Strang served as a judicial clerk for Chief Judge Alice Batchelder of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and was an associate with Jenner & Block LLP in Chicago, where he practiced general and appellate litigation.

The professorship is named after Stoepler, the seventh dean of the College of Law. He was an alumnus and longtime faculty member before being named dean of the college in 1983. Stoepler served as interim president of the University in 1988.

The Stoepler Professorship of Law and Values is funded out of a bequest by Eugene N. Balk, a former general counsel of The Andersons Inc.

# Summer walking tours set to show off downtown Toledo

By Cassandra DeYoung

**D**iscover downtown Toledo with free, guided lunchtime tours this summer. The weekly walking tours will run from Thursday, July 9, through Thursday, Sept. 3, from noon to 1 p.m. and will include a copy of the award-winning *Discover Downtown Toledo Walking Tour Guidebook*.

“The tours are a way for people to become reacquainted with the area,” said Irene Martin, librarian and preservationist at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library. “We like people to get into the habit of looking up at the buildings on Washington Street and to become more aware of their surroundings.”

The tour schedule is:

- **July 9** — UpTown. See a neighborhood in transition. Meet at the Upton Green at Madison Avenue and 18th Street.
- **July 16** — “Historic Church of St. Patrick’s.” Constructed between 1892 and 1902, St. Patrick’s Church celebrates the Irish roots of Toledo. Meet at 130 Avondale Ave.
- **July 23** — The Oliver House. Built in 1859, tour the oldest commercial building in use in Toledo. Meet at 27 Broadway St. in the parking lot.
- **July 30** — Trinity Episcopal Church. Explore how the Civil War affected the 1863 church. Meet at 316 Adams St.

- **Aug. 6** — Panoramic Toledo. See the skyline tour of downtown from the east side of Toledo. Meet at the Docks outside of Forrester’s on the River in International Park.
- **Aug. 13** — “What’s Happening at the Mud Hens?” Hear about what’s planned for Toledo’s historic Warehouse District. Meet at the corner of St. Clair and Washington streets.
- **Aug. 20** — Bush Street History District. Check out Toledo’s Italianate colony that has a touch of Spain. Meet in front of 712 Bush St. Park on the street.
- **Aug. 27** — Fort Industry Square and the Riverfront. Walk along the riverfront before the changes begin. Meet at Water Street and Jefferson Avenue, behind Fort Industry Square.
- **Sept. 3** — The Valentine Theatre. Discover the famous players who appeared at the venue and the renovations that have kept it alive. Meet at the Superior Street entrance.

Parking is free on downtown Toledo streets between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Tours will take place rain or shine and are sponsored by The University of Toledo Jack Ford Urban Affairs Center and the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library.

For more information about the Discover Downtown Toledo Walking Tours, contact Martin at 419.259.5233 or [irene.martin@toledolibrary.org](mailto:irene.martin@toledolibrary.org).



Learn about St. Patrick’s Church Thursday, July 16, during a free walking tour.



Check out the historic Oliver House Thursday, July 23.



Find out what’s planned for Fifth Third Field and the Warehouse District Thursday, Aug. 13.



Photos by Crystal Hand

## Brothers on the Rise helps students stay, succeed

College requires a major adjustment for many new students. They face various problems, based largely on their previous educational experience, culture and family situation.

“Students come to The University of Toledo with varied levels of academic preparedness, maturity and cultural readiness,” said Dr. Willie McKether, associate dean and associate professor in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences. “First-generation, direct-from-high-school, and low-income students particularly face unique challenges.”

Being part of a predominantly white campus population, and often coming from an underperforming urban school district and a low-income household, he noted, can be intimidating and overwhelming.

Founded in 2011, Brothers on the Rise offers these students a lifeline. The group’s objective is to help UT males, especially African-American and Latino, make the transition from high school to college.

“We targeted this population because it has the lowest first- to second-year retention and graduation rates on campus,” McKether, Brothers on the Rise president, said.

In 2013, 18 percent of UT’s African-American male students and 39 percent of Latino males graduated after six years, compared with 51 percent of the University’s white male students. The greatest gap is in the retention between the students’ first and second years of college.

“When you see guys on campus one semester and you don’t see them the next, it hurts,” McKether said. “This is nothing short of a crisis. We lose kids all the time who want to be here but don’t know how to be here.”

To assist this transition, the group’s dozen faculty volunteers conduct biweekly “real talk” discussions with members to address concerns such as study habits and social issues. The group also assigns each student a UT mentor — faculty or staff member or graduate student — and connects him with another mentor from the community.

“We attempt to match students with members from the community in the profession or type of work in which the student hopes to engage upon graduation,” McKether said.

Victor Aberdeen Jr., who graduated in May with a bachelor of arts degree in English and communication, was matched with a local lawyer.

“My biggest off-campus mentor has been Pariss Coleman. He is an attorney here in Toledo,” Aberdeen said. “Pariss has

taught me the importance of discipline, planning and professionalism.”

Aberdeen, who has been involved with Brothers on the Rise since 2012, will begin his first year as a law student at UT this fall.

He credited Brothers on the Rise leaders and on-campus mentors as well.

“Dr. McKether and Dr. [Anthony ] Quinn [assistant dean and associate professor in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics] both did a great job of encouraging the students to be active and take leadership roles at the University. I believe that taking on any role on campus, regardless of how big or small, allows for the student to grow as a leader and professional,” Aberdeen said.

As an undergraduate, Aberdeen was president of the African Peoples Association and served as a Presidential Ambassador.

In addition to McKether and Quinn, Aberdeen mentioned Dr. Sammy Spann, assistant provost for international studies and programs.

“Dr. Spann has been a constant source of support and encouragement for me from when I arrived at UT as a freshman. He has taught me that any idea is never out of reach regardless of how big of an idea it may be,” Aberdeen said.

As Brothers on the Rise enters its third year, efforts are paying off. Many students have experienced improvements in their grades, and many, like Aberdeen, are in leadership roles on campus. In addition, the majority of members are returning to UT year after year.

Thanks to a request from Xavier Owens, principal of Bennett Venture Academy in Toledo, the organization recently expanded its reach.

“I talked to Dr. McKether some time ago to express an idea that counters the ‘school house to jail house track,’ a process too many urban families are too familiar with. We want to create a school house to college track,” Owens said.

“One parent recently told me she took her kid to a Scared Straight Program; I told that mom that won’t work because our students understand this process all too well. I suggested taking him to a university so



Photo by Daniel Miller

**PUT IT THERE:** Demond Pryor, director of the Office of Recreation and vice chair of mentoring with Brothers on the Rise, shook hands with Deon Brown, a sixth-grader at Bennett Venture Academy, last month when students from the Toledo school visited campus.

he can see what’s on the other end of the spectrum.

“After that conversation, I immediately called Dr. McKether. He made things happen with an all-day university visit for some of my most challenging students,” Owens said.

Ten Bennett Venture Academy students — nine boys and one girl — spent a day at UT last month.

“Xavier wanted these young students to meet African-American college students, professionals and professors,” Quinn said. “Many of these students had never been on UT’s campus and never imagined themselves attending college.”

“Too many urban youth do not understand that college is reachable and doable. Our primary goal for the visit was to put students around highly positive and successful black men,” Owens said.

Spann arranged for vans to transport the local students to and from the University. Demond Pryor, director of the Office of Recreation and vice chair of mentoring for Brothers on the Rise, provided meeting space in the Student Recreation Center.

“Brothers on the Rise undergraduate and graduate students took the lead in fielding questions from the students,” McKether said. “We were amazed and impressed with the quality and quantity of

questions these young people had about attending college.

“We’re now discussing with Bennett the possibility of Brothers on the Rise adopting this school on a pilot basis to establish a mentoring program where we spend more time with these and other potential future Rockets.”

Even with these successes, Brothers on the Rise faces some hurdles.

“A major obstacle we face is lack of infrastructure and staffing to coordinate the program,” McKether noted. “Despite our knowing what works in retention, the volunteer nature of the organization makes it difficult to sustain and sub-optimizes efforts.”

The key to the organization’s continued success is financial support, according to Vern Snyder, UT vice president for institutional advancement.

“Dr. McKether and Dr. Quinn have accomplished a lot with very few resources. They have done wonders,” Snyder said. “Brothers on the Rise is worthy of support from our alumni and friends.”

For information on supporting Brothers on the Rise, contact Snyder at vern.snyder@utoledo.edu or 419.530.4249.

## UT initiative dedicated to teaching how to promote peace

By Lindsay Mahaney

In a world plagued by violence and unrest, there is an initiative at The University of Toledo working for peaceful resolutions.

The Peace Education Initiative in the Judith Herb College of Education was established to help the University become a global leader in peace education. Through a variety of programming and research in peace education and peace studies, UT is working to promote understanding both in the local community and globally.

“Peace education, in a nutshell, is education about and for peace,” said Dr. Tony Jenkins, director of the initiative. “The two sides of the coin are learning that helps bring critical issues related to peace, conflict and violence into the curriculum, but more than that, it’s about how we prepare and nurture students to become critically engaged citizens who are able to create a better world for themselves and future generations. It’s not just learning about peace, but also capacitating students to resolve differences nonviolently.”

The rapidly growing field of study is available at more than 400 international universities, including UT, where a graduate certificate in peace education is offered. The certificate pushes students to explore the philosophy and theory of peace studies, and

also teaches about incorporating peace into the curriculum.

“It’s about how we make the learning environment a space where we are modeling peaceful and just relationships,” Jenkins explained.

The subject leads to a host of potential jobs after graduation, ranging from community-based education or faith organizations to international peace and development organizations such as the United Nations.

According to Jenkins, the highlight of the initiative is the International Institute on Peace Education — a weeklong residential experience for peace educators hosted in a different country each year. Last year UT was established as the program’s coordination headquarters.

“It’s our shining gem,” Jenkins said.

The institute, which will be hosted at UT in July, was established by Dr. Betty A. Reardon in 1982 at Teachers College, Columbia University. It serves as an opportunity for peace educators to exchange theory and practical experiences to grow and enhance the field. This summer’s institute will explore urban revitalization as pursued through the lenses of peace and justice with emphasis given to the role of formal

and nonformal educational strategies in contributing to positive community development.

The Peace Education Initiative also oversees the Betty A. Reardon Archives, which is housed in UT’s Canaday Center for Special Collections. The collection consists of Reardon’s extensive publications, unpublished manuscripts, curriculum, reports, scholarly presentations, and correspondence from the 1960s to the present about peace studies. Her archives have been in the Canaday Center since 2009.

For more information on the initiative and its programs, visit [utoledo.edu/](http://utoledo.edu/)



**PEACEWORK:** Dr. Tony Jenkins delivered a lecture on peace education in Trondheim, Norway in February.

education/peace or contact Jenkins at [tony.jenkins@utoledo.edu](mailto:tony.jenkins@utoledo.edu).

## Lecturer named Apple Distinguished Educator

By Samantha Watson

Three years ago, Jim Zubricky changed the way he taught chemistry; now he’s being recognized by Apple for it.

Zubricky, an associate lecturer in the UT Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, utilizes the Apple iPad in his general chemistry courses. He began using the technology in 2012 after a suggestion from a collaborative program between the Office of the Provost and the Jesup Scott Honors College.

Students in Zubricky’s flipped course are assigned homework to help them understand a particular topic by using apps on the iPad, such as those that allow students to manipulate molecules or video apps with demonstrations. After practicing the topic, students answer questions about it on Mastering Chemistry, an online homework program.

Each assignment is due before class, which allows Zubricky to see how well the students grasped a particular topic and whether they should spend more time on it or move on.

“One of the coolest things is that the students are essentially dictating what we do in class,” Zubricky said. “There’s still a set curriculum, so I have to get from point A to point B, but they dictate the path we take.”

And the students seem to be taking very well to this type of learning; on average, they are scoring between 2 and 10 percent higher on exams than students who aren’t in the revamped class.

Because of his success with the course, Zubricky was encouraged to apply for the title of Apple Distinguished Educator. He wrote five pages of material describing his course and made a movie to demonstrate

using iMovie. He found out earlier this year that he received the honorary title.

“Personally, it’s a huge accomplishment,” Zubricky said. “I’ve done something different, and people recognize that and it makes me feel great. But the best part about it is helping the students.”

Apple describes its distinguished honorees as “the most innovative educators in the world.” Zubricky is one of only six educators in Ohio to have the distinction, and one of only two in higher education in the state.

Zubricky plans to continue refining the course and making the student experience better using the technology available.



Zubricky

## Observatory undergoing renovations

By Aimee Portala

The Brooks Observatory at The University of Toledo is receiving a new telescope, replacing one that is more than 100 years old.

The Brooks Observatory hosts an array of small telescopes, including the six-inch Brashear refracting telescope that has been on UT's campus since 1931. The observatory, established in 1987, is used primarily for public viewing and undergraduate instruction.

A Celestron 14-inch high-definition telescope will replace the Brashear telescope, according to Alexander Mak, associate director of the UT Ritter Planetarium.

"The new telescope can gather more than five times as much light as the old telescope and will let us view fainter and more exotic objects than ever before," Mak said. "The new mount and pedestal will offer a stable platform for the telescope and allow us to quickly move the telescope from one target to another. This will let us showcase more objects for our students and guests."

In order to accommodate the sightlines of the new telescope, the observatory located on top of McMaster Hall on Main Campus will be significantly modified. The Brooks Observatory will be under construction for approximately four months.

"The current telescope in the dome is more than 100 years old and was originally housed on top of University Hall," Mak said. "It is a historically significant telescope, having been manufactured by a noted craftsman."

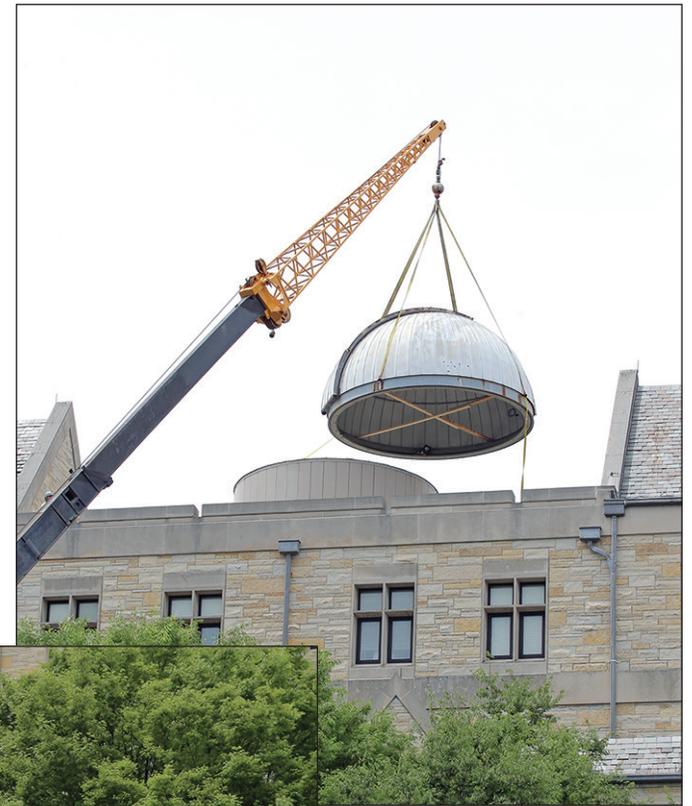
Dr. John Alfred Brashear, a late American astronomer and instrument builder, dedicated his time to manufacturing astronomical and scientific instruments.

The Brashear telescope will be placed in storage during the renovation and eventually will be on display, Mak said.

The project is funded through support from the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and an endowment established by the late Helen and Elgin Brooks.

The updated facility will be a state-of-the-art instructional observatory that will continue the mission of undergraduate education and public outreach. New undergraduate laboratory exercises will be developed, and more public observing opportunities will be scheduled once work is completed.

During the renovations, the Ritter Observatory, adjacent to the Brooks Observatory, will be open to the public for viewing on the first Friday of each month immediately following the regularly scheduled 8:30 p.m. planetarium program.



Photos by Daniel Miller

**GOING UP AND COMING DOWN:** A crane removed the dome of the Brooks Observatory last week and workers helped guide the structure to the ground.

## Multicultural scholars program kicks off this week

By Lindsay Mahaney

A collaborative program geared toward helping students succeed in their first year of college will be introduced on campus this week.

Thirty students have been accepted into the Multicultural Emerging Scholars Summer Bridge and Living Learning Community Program that will start Monday, June 29. The program is designed to aid the transition from high school to college and promote academic excellence in college-level courses for first-year students.

The entering freshmen, who have been admitted into the UT colleges of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences

or Natural Sciences and Mathematics, will receive an \$8,000 scholarship to cover tuition, books, housing and meals for the six weeks of summer class, and enrollment for the Emerging Scholars Living Learning Community during the academic year.

"We've conducted a qualitative study where students have told us, 'I thought I was prepared in high school, but I got here and realized I wasn't,'" said Dr. Willie McKether, associate dean of social sciences and associate professor of anthropology. "We also learned from the study that some students, male students in particular, oftentimes have trouble asking for help.

We need to help students understand that asking for help is not a sign of weakness in a college environment."

With the goal of promoting academic excellence and college readiness, the program will allow students to form a community of support to help them during their academic journey — starting with their own peers in a living learning community, a group of students who share similar academic goals and attitudes. There have been many studies reflecting the benefits of living learning communities, said Dr. Barbara Schneider, senior associate dean

of humanities and associate professor of English.

McKether, who helped run one of the prior Multicultural Living Learning Communities on campus, said while students living in a focused community certainly helps them achieve academically, the system still has room to improve. Many of the first-year students spend much of their first semester getting acclimated to college, which McKether said is difficult when so many things are happening around them. It's for this reason the program has the summer bridge component.

continued on p. 15

### Real wringer



Photos by Crystal Hand

Joseph Chandler ran with a sponge full of water and then wrung it out as he and others filled up a bowl during a relay challenge that was part of the National Youth Sports Program's Blue and Gold Field Games June 16 on Main Campus. Chandler was one of more than 100 Toledo area children who participated in UT's annual camp for financially disadvantaged youth. The University has hosted the monthlong camp since 1968. Once supported by federal funds and the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the program now relies on donations. To give a gift to the National Youth Sports Program Fund, contact the UT Foundation at 419.530.7730.

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## New Medical Technology Program showing great success

By Samantha Watson

Though many patients don't interact with medical technologists, these specialists have a lot to do with their care.

Medical technologists are the scientists who typically work in a clinical lab setting such as a hospital, testing blood and tissue to help physicians and practitioners diagnose and treat their patients. Because of a growing need for these medical laboratory scientists, The University of Toledo unveiled a newly developed Medical Technology Program in 2013 — a program that has been very successful.

"The area hospitals, particularly ProMedica and UTMTC, were facing a huge number of retirements and it was clear that the number of students being trained in the area was not going to meet that demand," said Dr. Douglas Leaman, professor and chair in the UT Department of Biological Sciences.

That prompted faculty at the University to partner with area hospitals in offering a comprehensive program to train medical technologists. Students begin in premedical technology, then apply for the program in the fall of their junior year.

After being accepted into the program, they begin their clinical portion the following May. The clinical portion lasts for a total of one year and one semester, after which students graduate with a bachelor of science in medical technology and begin preparing for certification exams.

So far, the program has graduated one class of 10 students, all of whom have passed their certification exams and landed jobs at area hospitals. Three of these students are at The University of Toledo Medical Center, and others are at ProMedica and Wood County hospitals.

The program has seen success in many other ways as well.

"The premed tech program within our department has grown substantially since this came into effect," Leaman said. "We probably have about 50 students in that program. If that number doesn't sound huge, I expect it to double in the next couple years. When you start talking about 100 students that otherwise would not have come to this University, that's significant."

The program also became accredited earlier this year by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences. After a site visit last September, the agency recommended an initial accreditation of five years — the longest possible.

The accreditation took place under the program's director Robert Tjan, who has since retired. Before becoming director of the program, Tjan was a retired medical technologist from ProMedica.

"I can't say enough about him," Leaman said. "He came in and got the entire program from zero to accredited. He was incredible."



Photo by Daniel Miller

**IN THE LAB:** Catherine Shaffner is the new director of the Medical Technology Program.

The program now is led by Catherine Shaffner, who brings a lot to the table. Shaffner was interim director of a similar program at Bowling Green State University, has been involved with placements of medical technology students at ProMedica, and has served in roles with the same accrediting agency that recently examined UT's program.

"This program has been a lot of work for everyone involved, but it's been one of the most rewarding efforts that I've experienced

as chair of this department," Leaman said. "To progress from an idea for a new degree program to where it is now and see the success and the excitement the students have about what they're doing — it's been awesome."

For more information on the program, visit [utoledo.edu/nsm/bio/undergrad/medtech.html](http://utoledo.edu/nsm/bio/undergrad/medtech.html).

## UT awards beverage contract to Coca-Cola

By Brandi Barhite

Coca-Cola will become the exclusive beverage provider for The University of Toledo beginning Aug. 1.

The switch from Pepsi to Coke is a move that will generate more revenue for the University as well as opportunities for promotional giveaways associated with sporting events in the Glass Bowl and Savage Arena. Coke also has agreed to set up its vending machines and coolers to accept debit cards, in addition to the Rocket Card, as an added convenience for UT students and employees.

"Coke offered a competitive package that will benefit all of the campuses, including The University of Toledo Medical Center on Health Science Campus," said Phil Worley, UT contract manager. "This is the first time since the merger in 2006 that a beverage deal includes both Main Campus and Health Science Campus. We are excited that everyone will benefit from this 10-year contract."

Worley said the process of transitioning from Pepsi to Coke is already underway with no expected interruptions in beverage services. The vending machines and coolers are being swapped out, and the tubing for all the fountain stations will be changed in the next few weeks. UTMTC and Health Science Campus will continue to only serve sugar-free drinks.

"Pepsi has already started to come in and remove some of its equipment," Worley said. "We have valued our partnership with Pepsi for the past 10 years and appreciate its help in this transition."

In early 2015, UT began accepting requests for proposals as Pepsi's 10-year contract was expiring. A committee made up of employees from UT athletics, food services, marketing and student affairs reviewed the information and made the final decision between Pepsi and Coke, the only two beverage companies to submit proposals.

"The opportunities for sales and promotions with Coca-Cola exceeded our expectations and made the decision an easy one," said Mario Toussaint, UT senior director of operations, dining and clinical nutrition. "We think the faculty, students and staff are going to like being able to pay with a debit card and will enjoy all of the promotional giveaways that Coke has in the works."

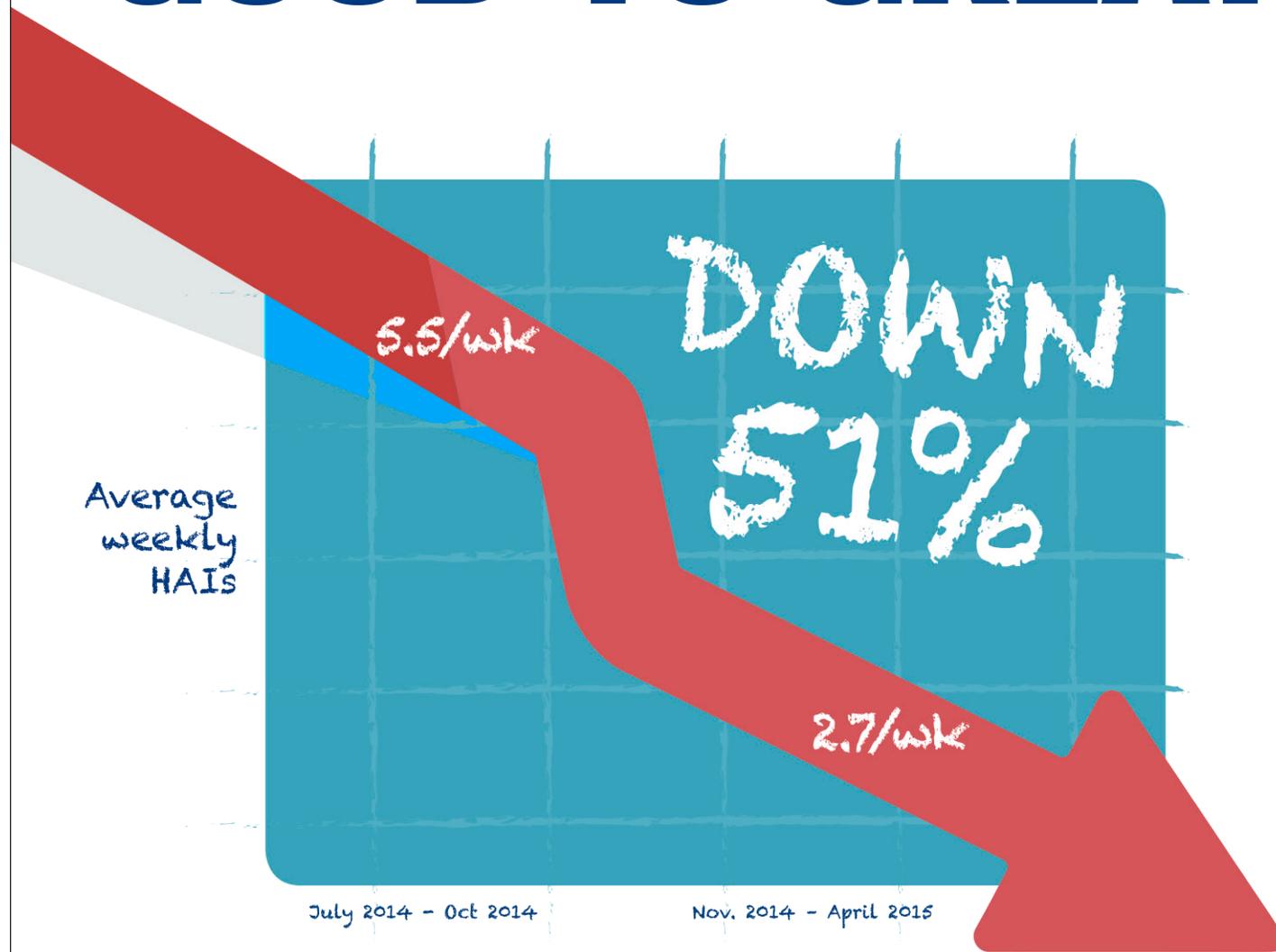
One of the plans is to bring the "Share a Coke" program to UT. This has proven popular at other campuses as students line up to get a free can of soda with their names on it, Worley said. Other promotions will revolve around purchasing Coke products and being

entered to win tickets to sporting events and Cedar Point.

"Coca-Cola believes we have a unique opportunity to form an exclusive campus-wide partnership that benefits The University of Toledo students, faculty and staff by enhancing satisfaction, creating excitement on campus, and participating in the future growth of the University," the company wrote in its proposal.



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## Multicultural scholars program

continued from p. 11

“The idea of linking this to a summer bridge program is so that they come back in the fall and now they’re ready to hit the ground running,” he said.

“It’s like if you enter a foot race and you decide to walk until you get warmed up; you start running at mile five and you’ve already lost,” Schneider added.

Each student will be enrolled in a series of classes during the six-week summer program: Composition I, Cultural Anthropology, Learning to Serve and Math Camp. These courses fulfill requirements that all UT students have, but also provide a variety that each student can benefit from.

The program also pushes the freshmen to become socially cognizant leaders in their community. Through the Learning to Serve class and Learning to Lead course they will take in the fall, students will be required to complete a service project with an organization in the Toledo community.

“What we hope is that in addition to strengthening students and their competitiveness, we will also create future mentors who will see a social responsibility to reach back and encourage more students to pursue careers in STEM areas,” said Dr. Anthony Quinn, assistant dean in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and associate professor of biological sciences.

Students also will take a variety of trips during the summer session to help enhance their understanding and appreciation of their own culture and the Toledo community. These will include visits to the Holocaust Memorial Center, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the Lake Erie Center and Toledo City Council.

According to UT Director of Undergraduate Admission William Pierce, the first- to second-year retention rate at the University has steadily been improving the past few years and with programs like this, coupled with the continued recruitment of more well-prepared students, those numbers will hopefully continue moving upward.

“You’re never really content with retention. UT is continually working to not only attract more students that are prepared for college, but is also investing resources designed to ensure students are successful at UT from their first day on campus through graduation.

“The success coach initiative and now the Multicultural Emerging Scholars Program are great examples of this,” Pierce said.

“Are we happy with the progress we’ve made the past couple years? Absolutely. But until you are retaining 100 percent of the students who enroll, there is always work to be done,” Pierce said.

For more information on the Multicultural Emerging Scholars Summer Bridge and Living Learning Community Program, contact McKether at [Willie.Mckether@utoledo.edu](mailto:Willie.Mckether@utoledo.edu).

## Get growing: UT joins Operation Sunflower

By Cassandra DeYoung

The University of Toledo is showing its support of Toledo Botanical Garden this summer by planting sunflowers throughout campus as part of Operation Sunflower.

“The goal has been to plant a million sunflowers all over the community so that by mid- to late July, you start to see sunflowers every where you go,” said Karen Ranney Wolkins, executive director at Toledo Botanical Garden.

This is a community-wide project in collaboration with The Andersons to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Toledo Botanical Garden.

“We want to engage everyone in the celebration and make it approachable,” Ranney Wolkins said. “Not everyone can grow a rose — I don’t think I can — but virtually anybody can grow a sunflower. It’s one of the easiest flowers to grow and so many people have shared that it’s a flower that makes them smile.”

The sunflowers have been planted around Main Campus, including by the Secor Road and Douglas Road entrance signs, in Brunner Garden on the south side of University Hall, and behind Carlson Library.

In addition to planting a million sunflowers, the garden is hosting a related photo contest that includes three categories: before and after, largest, and most unique growing location.



“Something magical happens when you are growing something and particularly when other people are involved. There’s a relationship that gets built that wouldn’t otherwise happen,” said Molly Thompson, director of the UT LaunchPad Incubation Program and executive committee member of the Toledo Botanical Garden. “That is something that I think is extremely important, particularly now in marking the 50th anniversary of the Toledo Botanical Garden, is to be able to build

that relationship in a way that hasn’t existed previously.”

Operation Sunflower is one of many happenings for the garden’s 50th anniversary milestone. Another event, “The Garden After Dark,” featured a projection installation by UT students.

For more information on Operation Sunflower or on Toledo Botanical Garden, visit [toledogarden.org](http://toledogarden.org) or call 419.536.5566.

## UT NEWS

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