

## Toledo-born actress to give commencement address

By Meghan Cunningham

**K**atie Holmes, an internationally recognized actress, producer and director, will return to her hometown to inspire The University of Toledo graduates at the spring commencement ceremony.



Holmes

The Toledo-born actress who has appeared in more than 30 films and television programs will be the commencement speaker for the undergraduate ceremony Saturday, May 4, at 10 a.m. in the Glass Bowl.

The UT Board of Trustees approved Feb. 18 an honorary degree for Holmes, in addition to several other board actions.

Holmes made her feature film debut in “The Ice Storm” in 1997, and her breakout role came a year later as Joey Potter in the television series “Dawson’s Creek,” in which she appeared for six years.

Her film credits include “Go,” “Wonder Boys,” “Batman Begins” and “All We Had,” which is one of several projects in which she served as director and producer. In addition, her Broadway experience includes “All My Sons” and “Dead Accounts.”

Holmes managed and designed the fashion line Holmes & Yang, with Jeanne Yang from 2009 to 2014, and is the

co-founder of the Dizzy Feet Foundation that supports dance education in the United States. Holmes is a graduate of Toledo’s Notre Dame Academy. Her father, Martin Holmes Sr., and brother, Martin Holmes Jr., are graduates of the UT College of Law.

Trustees also approved an honorary degree for Dr. Scott Parazynski, a physician, astronaut and inventor, who will address graduates of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences at its commencement ceremony Friday, May 10, at 4 p.m. in Savage Arena.

Parazynski spent 17 years as an astronaut, during which time he flew five space shuttle missions and conducted seven spacewalks. In 2016, he was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame at Kennedy Space Center.

Parazynski trained for a career in emergency medicine and trauma and has applied his expertise in the human adaptation to stressful environments. He is



Parazynski

founder and CEO of Fluidity Technologies, a company focused on developing disruptive robotic control devices for everything from drones to surgical robots.

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## Insects hijack reproductive genes of grape vines to create own living space on plant

By Christine Billau

**A** team of scientists at The University of Toledo uncovered new, galling details in the intimate relationship between insects and plants, opening the door to new possibilities in protecting the source of wine and raisins worldwide from a major agricultural pest.

The biologists discovered grape phylloxera — the insect that nearly wiped out wine production at the end of the 19th century in France — hijacks a grape vine’s reproductive programs to create a leaf gall, which it uses as a pseudo apartment for the parasite to siphon off the plant’s nutrients. The research is published in the latest issue of Nature Scientific Reports.

A gall is an organ a little smaller than a marble on a plant that can look like a wart, flower or fruit and provides insects with a protected place to feed and reproduce.

“When galls form on a leaf, the flower genes are on. They shouldn’t be activated, but the insect is manipulatively inserting its own signals into the pathway to get a flower-like result,” said Dr. Heidi Appel, dean of the Jesup Scott Honors College at The University of Toledo and professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences.

The insect lays an egg and starts the process to exploit the plant’s reproductive genetic machinery, directing the plant to create these structures.

Appel and Dr. Jack Schultz, senior executive director for research development at The University of Toledo, said Charles Darwin guessed at the idea in 1867 when he observed that the gall bears a certain degree of resemblance to the inside of a peach when cut open.

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Photo by Daniel Miller

**PROTECTING THE SOURCE OF WINE:** The researchers studying how insects control grape vines are, from left, Dr. Melanie Body, postdoctoral associate in the Department of Environmental Sciences; Dr. Jack Schultz, senior executive director for research development; and Dr. Heidi Appel, dean of the Jesup Scott Honors College and professor of environmental sciences.

# Independent coffee shop celebrates grand opening in Gateway Feb. 25

By Christine Billau

An independent coffee shop is celebrating its move to Gateway Plaza at The University of Toledo with a grand opening event Monday, Feb. 25.

Brew, which is open to the public at the retail center on the corner of UT Main Campus on Secor Road at Dorr Street, is offering \$1 Americanos and free drip coffee or tea with the purchase of a pastry from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The coffee bar is located between Barnes & Noble University Bookstore and Huntington Bank. It moved to Gateway from its original location near campus on the south side of Dorr Street.

“We love coffee, and we opened our business in 2016 because we felt there was a need for coffee shops around The University of Toledo area,” Jennifer Erd, owner of Brew, said. “Approximately 70 percent of our customers are students, so being closer to student housing, faculty and classrooms makes sense. Plus, Gateway gives us double the space.”

Brew serves coffee from Zingerman’s Coffee in Ann Arbor, along with local, made-from-scratch pastries and desserts from All Crumbs Artesian Bakery, 7 Little Cupcakes,

Libby’s 17 Second Cookies, and So Sweet Lebanese and French Pastries.

Since the move, Brew added ice cream.

“We’re selling pints by Hartzler Creamery out of Wooster, the same place we get our milk. It’s delicious,” Erd said. “With the ice cream, we’ve added affogatos to our menu — a scoop of vanilla ice cream drowned with a double shot of espresso. Coke floats are coming soon.

“Along with being an awesome local coffee shop, we want people to think of us as a nice, after-dinner option, too,” she said. “We will continue to promote local artists by displaying and selling their work and offering open-mic sessions every month.”

“Brew is a great addition to Gateway,” Brenda Lee, president of the UT Foundation,

said. “We are excited they have joined our vibrant campus.”

Brew is located on the south end of the Gateway, which also includes Rice Blvd., Verizon Wireless Zone, Great Clips, Jimmy John’s, Bubble Tea and Domino’s Pizza.

Brew is open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Brew is an Alumni Association membership benefit partner. UT Alumni Association members can save 10 percent at Brew when they show their membership cards.



Photo by Daniel Miller

**NOW OPEN:** Brew, an independent coffee bar, is serving customers at its new location in the Gateway Plaza. The shop offers coffee, tea, pastries and ice cream.

## Grape vines

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“We examined Darwin’s hypothesis and found the insect forces the plant to use the same genes to make a gall that the plant uses to make a flower or fruit,” Schultz said. “The plant produces the central part of a flower known as the carpel in a place the plant would never produce one on its own.”

“In each case as we genetically held up a mirror to see the differences in the plant at each stage of galling, an insect injected some kind of signal into the plant,” Appel said. “The signal took over the plant’s development and told the plant to make a gall on a leaf instead of normal plant tissue.”

Galls damage grape vines by draining resources and getting in the way of photosynthesis, resulting in lower yields.

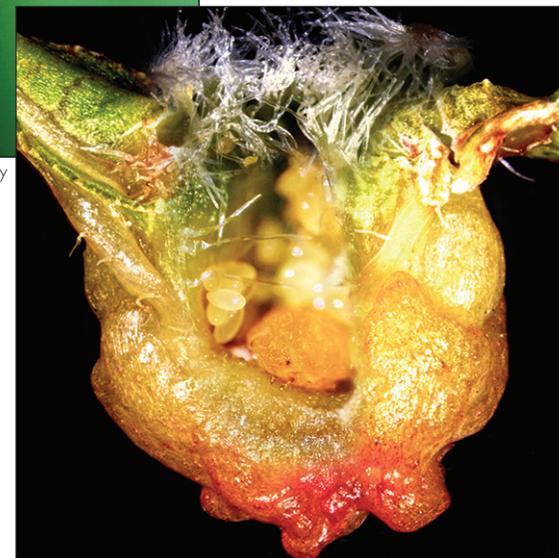
By identifying the genes in grape vines that have to be activated for an insect to produce a gall, scientists can next find a way to block the insect from attacking the plant.

“While North American grape vines have developed the ability to resist phylloxera, one option is to crossbreed plants to be genetically resistant,” Schultz said. “Another option is to create a biologically based pesticide to spray on grape vines to manipulate the hormones in plants to be active at different times.”



Photos by Dr. Melanie Body

**RENT-FREE:** Insects have set up house in phylloxera galls on this leaf. This cross-section of a gall taken with a stereomicroscope shows an insect mom — the orange ball in the center — surrounded by eggs she laid — the yellow ovals.



## 2019 winter break dates announced

Once again this year, the University will close for winter break at a time when most departments are operationally slow. UT implemented a winter break policy in 2017 in response to feedback received from employees over several years.

Winter break enables UT faculty and most staff to rest before spring semester, and also helps to reduce costs while maintaining crucial functions, such as hospital operations at UT Medical Center, approved research activities and public safety. Therefore, winter break does not include UTMC employees or certain required positions, which might vary depending on annual need.

In addition to existing holiday pay, the University provides additional paid days off — either three days or four, depending on which day the holiday falls in the year — to cover the entire specified time period.

This year's winter break schedule includes four paid days off:

- Tuesday, Dec. 24 — Holiday (Columbus Day/floating holiday);
- Wednesday, Dec. 25 — Holiday (Christmas);
- Thursday, Dec. 26 — Paid day off provided for winter break;
- Friday, Dec. 27 — Paid day off provided for winter break;
- Monday, Dec. 30 — Paid day off provided for winter break;
- Tuesday, Dec. 31 — Paid day off provided for winter break; and
- Wednesday, Jan. 1 — Holiday (New Year's Day).

“We received very positive feedback from faculty and staff who appreciated having extra time off to enjoy the holidays with loved ones, as well as to re-energize

before spring semester,” said Wendy Davis, associate vice president and human resources officer.

“When recruiting high-quality individuals for employment at UT, winter break schedule has become an added bonus because many other employers in our region cannot offer this benefit,” Davis added. “This extra paid time off is yet one more differential that has helped position the University as the employer of choice in northwest Ohio.”

Faculty and staff who work on Main Campus or Scott Park Campus are asked to refrain from being on campus during winter break, unless pre-approved by their department's leadership in order to conduct essential business. Access to buildings will be restricted, and facility operations and ground maintenance also will be limited.

The University identifies essential operations that may need to be continued during winter break by March 1 of each year in areas that require vacation planning. Leadership members are responsible for designating any specific employees who will need to be on call and/or who must work during winter break in order to provide essential services, which may include research that cannot be conducted at home.

Leaders also should notify all affected service and product providers, including vendors and contractors, about UT's winter break closure dates so they may plan their services and deliveries accordingly.

Additional details, including frequently asked questions, are available on the winter break schedule website at [utoledo.edu/depts/hr/benefits/time-off/winter-break.html](http://utoledo.edu/depts/hr/benefits/time-off/winter-break.html).

## Premiere UT Research Symposium garners strong interest

More than 80 researchers across University of Toledo campuses recently responded to a call for proposals to participate in the first UT Research Symposium titled “Impacting Our Region Through Community-Engaged Research,” hosted by the Office of the Provost.

The inaugural event will be held Wednesday, April 17, from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Nitschke Technology Commercialization Complex and include a special panel discussion from 5 to 6 p.m. in Nitschke Auditorium.

“Our goal was to receive 25 or 30 proposals for this first symposium, which is being held to help advance part of our strategic plan,” said Dr. Amy Thompson, vice provost for faculty affairs and co-chair for the UT Research Symposium. “I think this strong response — nearly triple what we anticipated — certainly demonstrates that our faculty, clinicians and other staff are highly engaged in their research, scholarship and creative activities.

“It also shows their willingness to connect with students in order to ignite their interest in conducting research,” Thompson added. “Additionally, participation helps the University showcase the incredible depth and sheer volume of the work we're doing that is significantly impacting not only

northwest Ohio, but — in many cases — millions of lives around the world.”

Each person who submitted a proposal will be notified by Friday, March 1, whether his or her proposal has been accepted for the April 17 symposium. Participants had the choice of a poster presentation or booth, with easel stands and tables to be provided.

All faculty, staff and students are encouraged to attend this first UT Research Symposium, with a formal agenda of panelists and a complete list of all participants to be announced in mid-March.

“At this time, we would like our University community to save the date of April 17, and ask our faculty across all disciplines to encourage students to attend anytime between 3 and 6 p.m. that day,” Thompson said. “Research and other related activities foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills that can be applied in all disciplines, regardless of students' future career paths.”

Community members and organizations throughout the region that have partnered in the presentations to be featured at the symposium also will be invited to attend.

Additional details, including frequently asked questions for those who will be presenting, are available at [utoledo.edu/research/symposium](http://utoledo.edu/research/symposium).

## Maximizing office hours for student success to be addressed at forum

“Can I Meet With You? Web-Based, Student Self-Scheduling of Office Hours” is the topic of this month's Future of Higher Education Forum.

The session will be held Wednesday, Feb. 27, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Carlson Library Room 1005.

James Oberlander, an instructor in the College of Nursing, will lead the forum.

He will talk about the correlation between direct student and faculty interaction and academic success. Oberlander will discuss scheduling methodologies used for office hour appointments and the importance of changing the perception of office hours to promote student success.

“Faculty have office hours to benefit students. It is a fact: Face-to-face interaction leads to student success,” said Dr. Amy Thompson, vice provost for faculty affairs. “James Oberlander will share his research on office hours, as well as how to maximize the benefits of that time for students as well as faculty members.”

The Future of Higher Education Forums are coordinated by the Office of the Provost.

Register for this month's program and read more about the forums, including how



Oberlander

to submit proposals for upcoming events, at [utoledo.edu/offices/provost/future-of-higher-education-forum](http://utoledo.edu/offices/provost/future-of-higher-education-forum).

Those who attend are asked to bring a laptop or tablet.

Faculty members who are unable to attend can watch live at [utoledo.edu/offices/provost/future-of-higher-education-forum](http://utoledo.edu/offices/provost/future-of-higher-education-forum).

## New request form for scheduling major University surveys

The Office of Institutional Research has launched a new web page to help faculty and staff conduct surveys to collect the data they need for analysis and decision-making.

The new UT Survey Committee web page at [oir.utoledo.edu/surveymain.shtml](http://oir.utoledo.edu/surveymain.shtml) includes a calendar of major surveys scheduled for the University community. A newly developed survey request form also is available on the website.

To coordinate the implementation of surveys at the University, faculty, staff and students are urged to use the form to request the launch of any survey to be administered to 500 persons or more. Note that surveys that are meant to gather data in support of faculty research agendas are not required to use the form.

The use of this new form will allow the Survey Committee to coordinate major surveys at the University, as it addresses issues related to strategic timing of the release of major surveys to encourage more responses while decreasing survey fatigue.

Members of the Survey Committee include representatives from the Office of Institutional Research; Information Technology; the Office of Diversity and Inclusion; the Division of Student Affairs; the Office of the Provost; the Institutional Review Board; faculty representatives; and other members of the University community. A list of committee members is available on the website.

The Office of Institutional Research and members of the Survey Committee are available to help with the deployment and analysis of large surveys. For assistance, send an email request to [institutional.research@utoledo.edu](mailto:institutional.research@utoledo.edu).

For additional information, contact Dr. Brigitte Norton-Odenthal, interim director of institutional research, at [brigitte.nortonodenthal@utoledo.edu](mailto:brigitte.nortonodenthal@utoledo.edu) or Dr. Barbara Schneider, associate vice provost, at [barbara.schneider@utoledo.edu](mailto:barbara.schneider@utoledo.edu). Norton-Odenthal and Schneider are co-chairs of the UT Survey Committee.

## Apply by March 1 to serve as student trustee

By Meghan Cunningham

Applications are being accepted for students to join The University of Toledo Board of Trustees.

Students interested in representing the student body on the board are encouraged to apply by Friday, March 1.

The student trustee appointment is a two-year term in which the student attends board meetings, including corresponding committee meetings to which they are appointed, and reports information to the Student Government.

"We are seeking student leaders who are excited about the opportunity to get involved at the highest level and offer their insight into decisions that impact the University," said Dr. Phillip "Flapp" Cockrell, vice president for student affairs.

The requirements to apply to serve as a student trustee are:

- A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above;
- Ability to fulfill the two-year term commitment with UT student status;
- Enrolled full time when nominated or appointed;
- Enrolled for three semesters on a full-time basis at UT prior to nomination and appointment;

- Not under conduct probation or other disciplinary action; and
- Be a registered Ohio voter.

To apply, a student needs to complete the application available online at [utoledo.edu/offices/trustees/studenttrusteeapplication](http://utoledo.edu/offices/trustees/studenttrusteeapplication). The form includes a place for students to provide information on their time at UT, including any volunteer work, internships or activities.

Applications are being accepted for one of two student trustee positions and must be submitted to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs in University Hall Room 3630 by noon Friday, March 1.

Following an application review and interviews with Student Government, up to five candidates will be submitted to the Ohio Governor's Office for final selection.

The new trustee will replace Hedyeh Elahinia, who completes her term in June. The new trustee will join Kyle D. Bergen, a third-year doctor of pharmacy student in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, to represent the student body on the board.

## Commencement

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In other business, the Board of Trustees approved a proposal for a new Master of Applied Business Analytics Degree Program in the College of Business and Innovation. The program's goal is to meet a growing demand for skilled professionals with analytical problem-solving skills who can apply real-time solutions to business problems.

The proposed 30-credit-hour program combines functional areas of business with business analytics courses and would conclude with an internship project or thesis. The proposal next will be submitted to the Ohio Department of Higher Education. With approval, the program would start by fall semester 2020.

Also approved by trustees were housing and meal plan rates for the upcoming academic year for continuing and incoming students who are not in the current cohort of the Toledo Tuition Guarantee Plan. Dining rates will increase 2.8 percent, with

a maximum of \$4 more per week depending on the meal plan selected, and housing fees will increase an average of 2.9 percent, which represents an increase of up to \$19.60 per week. The new housing and dining rates will help to cover increased costs of operations.

A new collective bargaining agreement with The University of Toledo Police Patrolman's Association (UTPPA) also was approved by the trustees. The agreement, which runs from Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 31, 2021, was ratified by the union Jan. 9. There are 26 employees represented by the UTPPA who received a wage increase of 1.8 percent effective Jan. 1, 2019, and who will receive wage increases of 2 percent effective Jan. 1, 2020, and 2.2 percent effective Jan. 1, 2021.

## Midwest Graduate Research Symposium free registration deadline March 10

By Chase M. Foland

The UT Graduate Student Association will host the 10th annual Midwest Graduate Research Symposium Saturday, April 6, in the Memorial Field House and Thompson Student Union.

Students will represent a variety of disciplines and compete for awards and monetary prizes at the symposium.

"This event invites more than 90 universities across the Midwest and surrounding areas, offering an opportunity for all graduate students in the region to have their work presented as seminar or poster presentations," said Alisa Nammavong, president of the UT Graduate Student Association.

The symposium is open to all majors and is great for networking opportunities, according to Nammavong.

"I hope that with the symposium, attendees learn something new,"



Nammavong said. "It is my personal belief that as researchers, we must connect with the communities we are supporting and directly or indirectly engaging."

Charlene Gilbert, dean of the UT College of Arts and Letters, and professor of film, will give the keynote address at the event.

Sunday, March 10, is the deadline to register for free; go to [graduatestudentassociationblog.wordpress.com](http://graduatestudentassociationblog.wordpress.com).

For more information, email [graduatestudentassociation@gmail.com](mailto:graduatestudentassociation@gmail.com).

# NIH grant supports study of central nervous system's precise connections

By Tyrel Linkhorn

A University of Toledo researcher who studies embryonic development has received a \$448,500 research grant to further understanding of how the central nervous system's extraordinarily precise connections are made in the first few weeks of life.

With that information, it might be possible to address brain disorders such as epilepsy, schizophrenia and dyslexia during development, or to rewire the central nervous system in people who have had strokes or spinal cord injuries.

The three-year grant from the National Institutes of Health's Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development will enable Dr. Guofa Liu, associate professor in the UT Department of Biological Sciences, to study the role of microRNA in mapping the central nervous system.

The brain and spinal cord each have two sides, which link together to control



Liu

everything from movement to the sense of touch.

Those connections between the two sides are made early. Commissural neurons

in a developing embryo send out a tiny fiber known as an axon that finds its way to a corresponding target cell to link the two sides of the central nervous system.

Scientists know there's a process that works almost like a relay race as the axons cross the midline of the central nervous system. As the axon approaches and crosses the embryonic midline, there's a sort of molecular switch that hands off guidance from one side of the central nervous system to the other.

"Axon pathfinding is very important for early development of the nervous system, but we don't know much about the switch that pushes or pulls the nerve fiber to make the right connections," Liu said. "If we find that mechanism, we may be able to find a way to rescue defects in axon guidance that lead to neurodevelopmental disorders."

MicroRNA are tiny molecules that work as biological programming to regulate gene expression. Liu's previous research

has suggested they play a key role in the handoff as axons cross from one side of the central nervous system to the other.

Work funded by the new grant will dig deeper into how that molecular switch actually works.

Beyond understanding how the central nervous system develops, the new knowledge could be applied toward nervous system regeneration in individuals impacted by paralysis.

"If we find the mechanics that can promote axon growth and reach the proper target, that could give us potential treatment for stroke or brain trauma patients," he said. "Currently, there are some clinical methods to create axon growth, but because scar tissue can create a barrier, the axon cannot reach the right place. Even if they can grow past the scar, they don't know where to go. Understanding this mechanism and the role microRNA plays might allow us to help route the axon pathways."

## Training session



Photo by Cameron Norton

As part of an initiative to recruit and retain diverse talent, the University held a training day Feb. 8 for campus leaders. Dr. Alfreda Brown, vice president for the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Kent State University, center left, and Dana Lawless-Andric, associate vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion at Kent State University, center right, led the session. They are pictured with, from left, Dr. Karen Bjorkman, interim provost; President Sharon L. Gaber; Dr. Willie McKether, vice president for diversity and inclusion; and Dr. Amy Thompson, vice provost for faculty affairs.

# Launch into Law bridge to profession program prepares students for law school application process, experience

By Diana Case

The University of Toledo College of Law piloted the Launch into Law bridge to the profession program this year to increase the number of historically underrepresented students enrolled in law school. The free, weeklong program took place last month.

Launch into Law prepared participants to be stronger law school applicants and law students. Participants were immersed in courses to prepare them for the Law School Application Test (LSAT) and to improve legal writing and study skills.

Additionally, the participants sat in on a first-year law school class, and attended sessions on success strategies, clinical education, the admissions process, and legal career opportunities.

Faculty members in the UT College of Law presented practice spotlights on business law, health law, criminal law, and intellectual property law. The program also included a field trip to observe proceedings at the Toledo Municipal Court.

The first cohort was composed of 11 undergraduate students and recent graduates of The University of Toledo, as well as Ohio State University, Penn State University, Roosevelt University, Spring Arbor University, University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and Xavier University. Participants ranged in age from 19 to 30.

Each participant was matched with a student mentor and a professional mentor



Photo by Daniel Miller

**COURTING SUCCESS:** Launch into Law participants gathered with their professional mentors for a group photo last month.

based on the student's background and expressed practice interest. Professional mentors included a common pleas court judge and prosecutor, as well as attorneys in small and large firms, legal aid/nonprofit agencies, and senior corporate counsel.

Jelani Jefferson Exum, professor of law and associate dean for diversity and inclusion, designed the Launch into Law program in collaboration with Amber Chuhy, assistant director of law admissions.

"Programs providing a pipeline to law school are vitally important, not only in providing individuals from a variety of backgrounds with access to a legal career, but also in enhancing the legal profession itself so that it better reflects the rich diversity of our

society," Exum said. "I was so pleased with the caliber of students that participated in our first program. They are bright, passionate, and all very interesting individuals whom I have no doubt will be excellent law students."

The Launch into Law pilot was a success. Official LSAT practice tests were administered pre- and post-experience. Participant scores increased an average of 4.6 points with increases as high as 8 points. Three participants already have applied to the UT College of Law for fall 2019, with two more planning to apply in the future.

"This program has enlightened me to the true practice of law and has given me a glimpse as to what I should expect as a future law student," said Noelle DeRiso from

Penn State University. "Hearing each of the member's journeys has only strengthened my passion to one day work within the law."

DeRiso added, "Launch into Law has only solidified my desire to attend The University of Toledo's law school. With the array of opportunities offered through its legal clinics and extensive courses taught by such knowledgeable professors, I know I will receive an exceptional education that will prepare me for the real world."

For more information about the program, contact Chuhy at [amber.chuhy@utoledo.edu](mailto:amber.chuhy@utoledo.edu).



## On the force

Matt Schroeder, interim executive vice president for finance and administration, left, swore in three new UT police officers, from left, John Sawicki, Kyla Simmons and Cody Calendine. Sawicki received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from UT in 2010, and Simmons is completing a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and will graduate in December from the University.

Photo by Cameron Norton

## University Women's Commission accepting applications for scholarships

By Chase M. Foland

**W**ednesday, March 13, is the deadline for female undergraduates to submit applications for the University Women's Commission Scholarship.

At least three \$1,000 scholarships for the 2019-20 academic year will be awarded to female undergraduates who have earned 60 or more credit hours.

Scholarship recipients and the Alice H. Skeens Outstanding Woman Award winners will be recognized at a luncheon Wednesday, April 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Savage Arena Grogan Room.

Scholarship application and guidelines can be found at [utoledo.edu/commissions/uwc](http://utoledo.edu/commissions/uwc).

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



**Women's**  
HISTORY MONTH  
M A R C H 2 0 1 9

For a list of events, visit  
[utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/omss](http://utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/omss)

For more information, contact the  
Office of Multicultural Student Success  
419.530.2261

Presented by:  
The Office of Diversity and Inclusion,  
the Office of Multicultural Student Success  
and the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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1872

# Fraternities, sororities recognized nationally for GPA

By Chase M. Foland

Nearly 50 UT Greek life student leaders recently attended the Association of Fraternity Leadership and Values Conference in Indianapolis, where they celebrated an honor for academic excellence.

Students accepted the Gamma Sigma Alpha GPA Award at the conference, which brought together more than 3,800 undergraduate fraternity and sorority leaders from across the country.

“Since 2000, Gamma Sigma Alpha has conducted the regional GPA competition to determine the fraternity and sorority community whose GPA is the highest on their campus,” Ron Binder, president of Gamma Sigma Alpha Honor Society, said.

The fraternity and sorority community at UT was recognized for having an overall GPA higher than the all-campus GPA for both fall 2017 and spring 2018.

In addition, the UT Greek community was honored for having the most significant difference between the all-Greek GPA and all-campus GPA from among the 280-plus campuses represented.

“We are incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication that our students put into everything that they do,” Alex Zernechel, program manager for Greek life, said. “Members of fraternities and sororities on campus not only serve within their respective chapter, but they also work various jobs on and off campus, are varsity athletes, are leaders in other student



**ACADEMIC HONOR:** Several Greek life student leaders showed off the Gamma Sigma Alpha GPA Award they received at the Association of Fraternity Leadership and Values Conference. Alex Zernechel, program manager for Greek life, is standing in the back row at left.

organizations, serve as mentors for youth, and continuously give back both to the local community and their national charities.”

During fall 2018 semester, 8 percent of the UT Greek population achieved a 4.0 semester GPA, and 38 percent of community members were recognized for being on the dean’s list.

“The fraternity and sorority student leaders are continually looking for ways to improve and have a greater impact on our UT community,” Zernechel said. “We are incredibly lucky to have our partners in the Learning Enhancement Center who continue to provide academic support and guidance to not only our leaders, but also to the individual members of chapters.

“Tia Tucker, director of Academic Support Services, and Julie Radwanski, coordinator in Academic Support Services, have provided continued guidance to several of our members, and we are excited to continue working with them to advance the academic performance of all members of a fraternity or sorority at The University of Toledo.”

## UT sorority and fraternity organization GPAs (3.0+)

- Delta Delta Delta (Panhellenic) 3.448
- Alpha Omicron Pi (Panhellenic) 3.437
- Pi Beta Phi (Panhellenic) 3.431
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. (National Pan-Hellenic Council) 3.387
- Alpha Xi Delta (Panhellenic) 3.387
- Sigma Phi Epsilon (Interfraternity Council) 3.380
- Kappa Delta (Panhellenic) 3.373
- Chi Omega (Panhellenic) 3.354
- Alpha Chi Omega (Panhellenic) 3.305
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. (NPHC) 3.298
- Theta Chi (IFC) 3.229
- Phi Sigma Rho (Panhellenic) 3.197
- Phi Kappa Psi (IFC) 3.190
- FIJI (IFC) 3.171
- Alpha Lambda Mu (IFC) 3.150
- Delta Phi Epsilon (Panhellenic) 3.140
- Kappa Delta Rho (IFC) 3.130
- Alpha Psi Lambda National Fraternity Inc. (National Multicultural Greek Council) 3.125
- Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. (NPHC) 3.125
- Triangle (IFC) 3.000

# Dress for success: Students invited to check out Professional Menswear and Kate's closets

By Anna Brogan-Knight

Career Services recently opened the Professional Menswear Closet. Now, in conjunction with Kate's Closet, a service of the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women since 2013, students have access to professional clothing — women's and men's styles — to prepare for interviews and internships, and to build their professional wardrobes at no cost to them.

"We are excited to offer the Professional Menswear Closet in addition to the Eberly Center's Kate's Closet. By increasing our services and making sure all students have a source for business wear, we are aligning The University of Toledo more closely with national best practices and providing a solution for job fairs, interviews and other opportunities that arise, sometimes catching students unprepared in the clothing department," Shelly Drouillard, director of Career Services, said.

"Kate's Closet was started as a way to give women on campus and in the community an affordable alternative to shopping for interview clothing, an expense that may be out of reach for many students, especially women," Dr. Kim Nielsen, interim director of the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women, said. "With the help of our community advisory board, we have been able to offer current clothing and trained volunteers to help our students find the best fit and look at no cost to them."

"The timing is perfect for our summer job and internship fair, Jobfest on March 19," Drouillard said. "Students have time to make an appointment with the clothing closets to get their business casual look together. First impressions mean a lot; that means being ready with a resumé, which Career Services can help you review, and a polished, professional look."

Both closets are welcoming, inclusive spaces and are LGBTQA+ friendly.

Students who need menswear should go to [utoledo.edu/success/career/professional-menswear-closet](http://utoledo.edu/success/career/professional-menswear-closet) or call 419.530.4341 to request an appointment.

If women's styles are what you need, call the Eberly Center at 419.530.8570 to set up an appointment.



**KATE'S CLOSET**  
BUILD YOUR PROFESSIONAL WARDROBE.

**Do you need clothing for a job interview or internship?**

Kate's Closet in the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women can help you find professional attire, at no cost to you.

Students and community members may visit Kate's Closet once each semester.

Call 419.530.8570 to request an appointment.

For more information, to volunteer as a style consultant or to arrange a donation, please email the Eberly Center at [ecwomen@utoledo.edu](mailto:ecwomen@utoledo.edu) or call 419.530.8570.

[@eberlycenterforwomen](#)  
[@eberlycenter](#)

After your wardrobe is set, plan to attend the Job Fair Prep & Networking Night Tuesday, March 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Thompson Student Union Ingman Room. Career Services and the UT Alumni Association will offer tips and facilitate networking.

Students who need assistance with their resúmes or Jobfest strategies should go to Career Services, located in Thompson Student Union Room 1533. Undergraduate drop-in hours are Monday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Career Services at 419.530.4341.



**THE PROFESSIONAL MENSWEAR CLOSET IS HERE.**

**Do you need clothing for a job or an interview?**

The Professional Menswear Closet has everything - suits, ties, shoes and more, available at no cost to you.

Go to [utoledo.edu/success/career/professional-menswear-closet](http://utoledo.edu/success/career/professional-menswear-closet) to request an appointment.

For more information, please contact Career Services at 419.530.4341 or email [joshua.vail@utoledo.edu](mailto:joshua.vail@utoledo.edu).



**DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

## World Languages and Cultures Department to explore global topics this spring

Three talks are scheduled for the UT Department of World Languages and Culture's spring colloquium.

The free events will take place at noon in Memorial Field House Room 2420.

"Arab Refugees in Germany Reloaded" will be the first topic presented by Dr. Gaby Semaan, director of Middle East Studies and coordinator of the Arabic program, Wednesday, Feb. 27.

"Between 2015 and 2016, Germany received about one million refugees of whom approximately 40 percent were from Arab countries, the majority of them being from Iraq and Syria," Semaan said.

The UT associate professor of Arabic will provide snapshots from his ongoing research on Arab refugees in Germany.

"Attendees will get to know more about the challenges, successes and failures of the acculturation process of the Arab refugees in Germany," Semaan said. "I hope to provide a better understanding of the complexities of identify formation the European countries and the Arab refugees are facing."

Next month, Dr. Linda M. Rouillard, professor of French and chair of the World

Languages and Cultures Department, will discuss "The Sin That Stinks to High Heaven: Disbelief in Gautier de Coinci's Marian Miracles" Wednesday, March 20.

And on Wednesday, April 17, Dr. Manuel R. Montes, assistant professor of Spanish, will give a presentation titled "The Assassination of Don Quixote by the Coward Sansón Carrasco: A Rereading of Cervantes' Classic Through a Western Film."

"The colloquium lecture series the Department of World Languages and Cultures organizes every semester is a space where the department shares the scholarship and research of its faculty, students, alums and others with the University and local community," Semaan said. "Presenters share their work and address a wide range of topics stretching from cultural aspects of pharmaceutical practices in Europe and Asia to other issues that are of cultural, technological, literary, pedagogical, communicative and linguistic nature."

For more information, contact the Department of World Languages and Cultures at 419.530.2606 or Semaan at gaby.semaan@utoledo.edu.



**Spring 2019 Colloquium**  
Hosted by the Department of  
World Languages and Cultures

**We cordially invite you to a series of lectures**

<p>February 27, 2019</p> <p>Arab Refugees in Germany Reloaded</p> <p><small>Presented by: Dr. Gaby Semaan</small></p>	<p>Time: 12:00-1:00 p.m.</p>
<p>March 20, 2019</p> <p>The Sin that Stinks to High Heaven: Disbelief in Gautier de Coinci's Marian Miracles</p> <p><small>Presented by: Dr. Linda M. Rouillard</small></p>	<p>Time: 12:00-1:00 p.m.</p>
<p>April 17, 2019</p> <p>The Assassination of Don Quixote by the Coward Sansón Carrasco: A Rereading of Cervantes' Classic Through a Western Film</p> <p><small>Presented by: Dr. Manuel R. Montes</small></p>	<p>Time: 12:00-1:00 p.m.</p>

**Place: Field House 2420**

For questions or more information contact Dr. Gaby Semaan @ [Gaby.Semaan@utoledo.edu](mailto:Gaby.Semaan@utoledo.edu)

## UT Engineering Spring Career Expo to take place Feb. 27

The University of Toledo Engineering Career Development Center will host the Spring 2019 Engineering Career Expo Wednesday, Feb. 27, from noon to 4 p.m. in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium.

"This year continues to mark a milestone for the center: celebrating 20 years of placing more than 20,000 engineering co-ops," Angie Gorny, director of the Engineering Career Development Center, said.

More than 120 companies from across the United States and 700 engineering students, graduates and alumni will participate. Companies scheduled to have representatives on campus include Cooper Tire & Rubber Co., Dana Inc., GEM Inc., Johnson & Johnson — DePuy Synthes, GE Appliances, Honda, Matrix Service Co., Marathon Petroleum Corp., Owens Corning, Owens-Illinois Inc., PCC Airfoils, SSOE Group, and North Star Bluescope Steel LLC.

"This event is a dynamic networking and hiring experience for students to connect with companies seeking the talent they need for success," Gorny said. "The expo is exclusive to UT College of Engineering students who are enrolled in the mandatory co-op program, as well as UT College of Engineering alumni searching for full-time opportunities."

Employers are seeking undergraduate students to participate in engineering

co-op assignments, as well as their leadership development programs, along with seniors and graduates for full-time employment.

"The current job outlook for engineering students at The University of Toledo College of Engineering is certainly bright as indicated by the record number of students attending the college's career expos," Gorny said. "This reflects very positively on the quality of the University's engineering program and its students. It also demonstrates the vital and mutually beneficial partnership they have with industry participants."

The undergraduate mandatory co-op program is one of only eight mandatory engineering co-op programs in the country.

"Many students indicate that the co-op training is the reason they attend the College of Engineering at The University of Toledo," Gorny said. "Students experience one full year of professional engineering experience before they graduate, and they feel confident seeking full-time employment upon graduation. Co-op businesses are able to work with these students and determine how the student fits within their organization. It's a win-win situation for both students and the companies who hire them."

More information can be found at [utoledo.edu/engineering/co-op-and-careers](http://utoledo.edu/engineering/co-op-and-careers) or by contacting Gorny at [angela.gorny@utoledo.edu](mailto:angela.gorny@utoledo.edu).

# 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](mailto: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](http://utnews.utoledo.edu) and [myut.utoledo.edu](http://myut.utoledo.edu).

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ALL MAJORS WELCOME!

# JOB & INTERNSHIP FAIR

JOB FEST 2019



## JOIN US!

Tuesday, March 19, 2019  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Thompson Student Union Auditorium

## WHAT'S YOUR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PLAN?

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- In-field internships
- Full-time career positions

*Visit UT's Career Services now to prepare your resume and Job Fest strategy!*

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### Business Casual Attire

#### Career Services

419.530.4341  
Thompson Student Union Room 1533  
[utoledo.edu/success/career](http://utoledo.edu/success/career)  
[careerservices@utoledo.edu](mailto:careerservices@utoledo.edu)



Download Career Fair Plus to view employer info.

# Toledo's 2019 football schedule features six home games

By Paul Helgren

The University of Toledo's 2019 football schedule was released last week, with six games on the home slate for the Rockets. Toledo will open the season at Kentucky Saturday, Aug. 31, and will debut at home Saturday, Sept. 14, vs. Murray State.

Highlighting the home schedule is a Sept. 28 matchup with traditional power Brigham Young University. The Rockets and the Cougars met in a high-scoring classic in Provo in 2016, with BYU coming away with a 55-53 victory on a last-second field goal.

The Rockets also will host defending Mid-American Conference Champion Northern Illinois in a Wednesday night meeting Nov. 13.

Rounding out the home schedule is a matchup vs. Western Michigan Saturday, Oct. 5, in the annual Homecoming game; a date with Eastern Michigan Saturday, Oct. 26; and a clash with Kent State Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Toledo's road schedule will begin with its first-ever meeting on the gridiron with Kentucky. The Wildcats were 10-3 in 2018, their best season since the 1977 squad went 10-1. UT's other nonconference road contest is at Colorado State of the Mountain West Conference Saturday, Sept. 21.

The MAC road games are Saturday, Oct. 12, at Bowling Green; Saturday,

Oct. 19, at Ball State; Wednesday, Nov. 20, at defending East Division Champion Buffalo; and Friday, Nov. 29, at Central Michigan.

Three games on the 2019 schedule have already been set for national TV broadcasts: Nov. 5 vs. Kent State (ESPN2/ESPNU or CBS Sports Network), Nov. 13 vs. Northern Illinois (ESPN2 or ESPNU), and Buffalo (ESPN2 or ESPNU). Other dates will be added to the broadcast schedule later.

Head Football Coach Jason Candle's 2019 squad returns 51 letterwinners and 14 starters from last season's team, including sophomore running back Bryant Koback, who led the Rockets with 917 yards rushing as a freshman. The Rockets were 7-6 in 2018, and are one of only nine schools in the Football Bowl Subdivision that have had a winning record in each of the past nine seasons.

Rocket fans can get a preview of the 2019 team at the annual spring scrimmage Friday, April 12, at 7 p.m. in the Glass Bowl.

2019 UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO FOOTBALL SCHEDULE			
UK SATURDAY AUG. 31	M SATURDAY SEPT. 14	BYU SATURDAY SEPT. 21	Y SATURDAY SEPT. 28
W SATURDAY OCT. 5 HOMECOMING	BYU SATURDAY OCT. 12	NIU SATURDAY OCT. 19	E SATURDAY OCT. 26
KS TUESDAY NOV. 5	NU WEDNESDAY NOV. 13	BU WEDNESDAY NOV. 20	CS FRIDAY NOV. 29
	HOME	AWAY	
UTROCKETS.COM 419.530.GOLD			

The 2019 season also will mark the 150th anniversary of the first college football game between Rutgers and Princeton Nov. 6, 1869. To commemorate the occasion, UT will feature social media posts all season highlighting the tradition of Toledo football. In addition, a special celebration of Rocket football history will take place at the Nov. 5 game vs. Kent State.

Rocket football season tickets are on sale for as low as \$70.

Full-time UT employees and retirees may purchase up to two season tickets at half-price. Additional season tickets may be purchased at the full price. UT students are admitted to home games free with ID.

For more information, go online to utrockets.com, call 419.530.GOLD (4653), or stop by the UT Athletic Ticket Office.



Miller



## Shooting star

University Photographer Daniel Miller won a Silver ADDY Award in the photography advertising category at the 2019 American Advertising Awards in Toledo Feb. 21 for this shot of Nakiah Black to promote the UT women's basketball season. The ADDYs competition recognizes the creative spirit of excellence in the art of advertising.

