

UToledo graduate programs jump in U.S. News rankings

By Meghan Cunningham

The University of Toledo's graduate programs are recognized among the best in the nation, according to the 2020 U.S. News & World Report Best Graduate Schools rankings.

The College of Nursing and College of Law, in particular, jumped dramatically in the most recent rankings released Tuesday.

The master's degree in nursing jumped up to 135 from the previous year's ranking of 183. The doctor of nursing is ranked 135 compared to 152 the previous year.

The full-time law program is now ranked 126. It had been 137 in the 2018 rankings.

"The significant increases in the U.S. News rankings in just one year reflect the University's increasingly positive reputation and the progress we are making advancing our academic and research excellence,"

President Sharon L. Gaber said. "We are proud of these rankings, but, more importantly, the outcomes they represent in student success, program quality and accomplished faculty."

In addition to the nursing and law programs, UToledo's graduate programs in education and social work moved up in the rankings. Education is now ranked 172 up from 176, and social work is listed as 196 up from 201 the previous year. In addition, the engineering graduate program is now ranked and listed as 148.

The College of Nursing attributes its dramatic 48-point jump in the master's program and increase of 17 spots in the doctoral program to attracting a more qualified student applicant pool, increasing program accessibility for students, strong

graduation rates, and a growing research profile for faculty.

"We are proud of the recognition for our outstanding programs, excellent students and talented faculty, who are leaders in clinical practice, teaching and research," said Dr. Linda Lewandowski, dean of the College of Nursing.

The 11-point increase in the College of Law rankings reflects an improved academic reputation, improved bar passage results, and a higher employment rate 10 months after graduation.

"The reputation of Toledo Law continues to grow in recognition of our strong faculty and commitment to student success, which includes advanced bar exam preparation and career development initiatives," said D. Benjamin Barros, dean of the College of Law.

Former NSF director, water quality expert to speak at University

By Tyrel Linkhorn

A former director of the National Science Foundation who is known worldwide for her work in addressing water quality issues will visit The University of Toledo next week as part of the Jesup Scott Honors College Distinguished Lecture Series.



Colwell

Dr. Rita Colwell was the first scientist to discover cholera can enter a dormant state and lurk in water until conditions are again favorable for it to grow. Her finding opened the door to new research about the link between the natural environment, climate, and the spread of infectious diseases.

She is working with the British government on a project to track and better respond to likely cholera outbreaks.

"Dr. Colwell is one of the most influential and well-known life scientists in the world today," said Dr. Heidi Appel, dean of the Jesup Scott Honors College. "She is a leader not only in her academic discipline, but in pulling people together from many academic disciplines to focus on water quality and interdisciplinary approaches to solve major societal challenges."

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Match Day brings joy, excitement as medical students learn their residency placements

By Tyrel Linkhorn

Some of Christian Siebenaler's earliest memories were of his father, a Toledo-area physician, going off to help people.

"It sounds cliché, but since I was 5 years old seeing him go to work every day in his white coat, I knew I wanted to be a doctor," Siebenaler said.

He got his own white coat four years ago when he entered The University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences. Now, as he prepares to graduate with his medical degree, he knows he'll begin practicing right where he wanted.

Siebenaler, who is specializing in physical medicine and rehabilitation, was one of 20 UToledo students who paired with the University's residency program at this year's Match Day event.

The annual celebration is a seminal event for next-generation physicians. At exactly noon, an eager swarm of fourth-year medical students received envelopes that revealed where they will spend the next



Photo by Daniel Miller

WOW! Kevin Litzenberg showed his match to Ohio State University Medical Center to Shazli Khan as his brother, Joshua, watched Friday during the Match Day ceremony. Litzenberg will specialize in internal medicine, and Khan will continue her training in internal medicine at the University of Pittsburgh.

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Match Day

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three to seven years in residency as they train in their chosen specialties.

“The faculty and staff really look forward to Match Day,” said Dr. Christopher Cooper, dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences. “It is an opportunity to see how much the students have grown intellectually and professionally over their four years of intensive training, and where that training will lead them next. Some will stay at UT for their residencies, which is an absolute delight. Others will train in Ohio or elsewhere across the country. For all of our students, we always hope the very best.”

A total of 165 UToledo medical students matched this year. Notably, there was a 33 percent increase in the number of students who matched with UToledo over last year.

Mariah Truscinski was one of them.

Truscinski, who grew up just a couple of miles from Health Science Campus and completed her undergraduate degree at UToledo, matched in emergency medicine. Already involved in community volunteer work, she was thrilled to open her envelope and see she matched with UToledo.

“It was a pretty amazing feeling. It was a little overwhelming, and there were a lot of thoughts about what the future holds, also just pure excitement. I couldn’t be happier,” she said. “I just feel like I’m really connected to this area and wouldn’t want to go anywhere else.”

In all, UToledo’s fourth-year medical students matched in 23 specialties at institutions in 28 states. Forty-four percent of UToledo’s students matched in primary care specialties.

Archit Sahai, who was born in central India, moved with his parents to Cincinnati when he was 3, and became a U.S. citizen in September, matched with the University of Cincinnati in pediatrics.

“There’s a lot of emotions,” he said of Match Day. “You’re anxious, you’re excited, scared a little bit. I probably can’t put words to describe it. As soon as I saw the letters, that’s just pure joy.”

Sahai, whose father is a neurologist at UC, had high praise for both Toledo and the College of Medicine, saying he’d like to return here eventually.

“I’ve never met a more collaborative group of people, whether it’s my classmates or the faculty,” he said. “Everyone genuinely wants everyone to do well here. It’s been an incredible four years. I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

Among the other institutions where UToledo students will do their residency work were the Mayo Clinic, Massachusetts General, the University of Michigan and the Cleveland Clinic. Ohio was the most popular state, followed by Michigan, Pennsylvania, California, Indiana and New York.



Photos by Daniel Miller

MATCH DAY MEMORIES: Smiling for the camera were, from left, Danielle Hery, who matched in general surgery at Riverside Methodist in Columbus, Ohio; Eugene Lapshin, who will train in family medicine at Grant Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio; Talya Spivak, who matched in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics in Madison; and Alexis Vick, who will continue her training in general surgery at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas.





2019 STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY

JOIN US

Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 4 p.m.
Thompson Student Union Auditorium

Dr. Sharon L. Gaber, president
of The University of Toledo,
invites you to attend her
State of the University address.

University's Big Event set to make big impact in community

Spending time with seniors, visiting patients in the hospital, helping with spring cleanup — these are a few of the assignments on the list for The University of Toledo's Big Event.

The largest student-run service project will take place Saturday, March 23.

More than 1,000 University students, faculty, staff and alumni are expected to pitch in this year across the Toledo area.

"It is inspiring to see participants come together from all backgrounds to make a difference in the city we all have the privilege to call home during our time at the University," Tara Roeder, a senior majoring in accounting and director of the Big Event, said.

Volunteers can check in starting at 9 a.m. at the Student Recreation Center. An opening ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. and feature two speakers: Ken Leslie, founder of Veterans Matter and 1 Matters, and University alumnus Matt Rubin, president and CEO of Crane Development Ltd. in Toledo, who started the Big Event 10 years ago.

Rubin's vision for the Big Event was to give University students a chance to show their appreciation and give back to surrounding communities by completing service projects.

University volunteers will be assigned to more than 50 locations in the area, according to Dylan Vonderhuevel, a senior majoring in premed biology and director of job sites for the Big Event.

Locations include the University's Stranahan Arboretum to clean up damage sustained from the ice storm; Toledo Bikes! to help repair recycled bicycles at the nonprofit organization; Sunset House Retirement Home to talk to seniors and play games; and Mercy Children's Hospital to visit patients.

"I realize I've been very lucky to grow up with the family I have and be able to attend college, so I have always wanted to help others who have been less fortunate," Vonderhuevel said.

"I hope participants leave this event inspired and with a newfound or renewed passion for service," Roeder said.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer can sign up on the Big Event registration website at inonet.utoledo.edu/submitter/form/step/1?Guid=a9402f98-40ae-411e-9c68-426ae2de00ca through Friday, March 22, and at the event Saturday morning.



One Big Day, One Big Thanks,
One Big Event

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

UToledo's Big Event

Saturday, March 23
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Volunteer to be part of the University's largest student-run service project!

Meet in the Student Recreation Center to check in and receive an assignment.

Satellites Auxiliary to host audiologist at upcoming luncheon

The Satellites Auxiliary at The University of Toledo Medical Center will host a local audiologist and philanthropist for an educational luncheon Tuesday, March 26.

Dr. Randa Mansour-Shousher, who earned her bachelor's degree from UToledo before going on to the University of Michigan to earn her master's degree, has been practicing audiology since 1981. She also holds a doctorate of audiology from A.T. Still University.

Mansour-Shousher is the director of the Northwest Ohio Hearing Clinic, which has locations in Perrysburg and on UToledo's Health Science Campus.

In addition to her practice, Mansour-Shousher has been involved in a number of humanitarian efforts, including trips to the Middle East and Africa to provide hearing screening and treatments and distribute hearing aids collected in the United States.

Mansour-Shousher will speak Tuesday, March 26, at 12:30 p.m. in Health Education Building Room 105.

The event is open to the public. Cost to attend is \$7 per person, or \$5 with a guest. Students may attend for free.

Reservations are requested by Friday, March 22: Call Ray and Donna Darr at 419.382.0054, Carol Okenka

at 419.654.5326, or Pat Windham at 419.385.4808.

Free valet parking will be available at the Medical Pavilion orthopaedic entrance.

Satellites volunteers also will be collecting new stuffed animals for children in UTMC's Emergency Department.

The Satellites Auxiliary promotes education, research and service programs; provides support of patient programs in accordance with the needs and approval of administration; conducts fundraising events; and offers volunteer services.



Mansour-Shousher

Water quality expert

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Colwell is scheduled to present a pair of lectures at the University:

- A public presentation of how connections between climate and oceans affect human health on Monday, March 25, at 6 p.m. in Doermann Theatre on Main Campus.
- A technical talk about how next-generation DNA sequencing has revolutionized the study of the relationship between microbial communities and how that new knowledge can be used in diagnostics, drug development, public health and water safety Tuesday, March 26, at noon in Radisson Hotel Suite C on Health Science Campus.

Both lectures are open to the public, but reservations are requested to the technical talk luncheon; go to the Distinguished Lecture Series website at utoledo.edu/honorslecture.

Much of Colwell's six decades of research has been dedicated to understanding and preventing cholera outbreaks. Among her many discoveries, she demonstrated how algal blooms, spurred by high nutrient loads and warming ocean waters, increases the population of cholera-carrying zooplankton.

Though Lake Erie's algal blooms raise concerns of microcystin — not cholera — Colwell's innovative research methods and multidisciplinary way of developing solutions could prove a helpful roadmap to addressing the problem in northwest Ohio.

"We believe the kinds of tools she's developed and the way of thinking about interdisciplinary research-based problem solving will be of interest and value to the people in our region who are dedicated to protecting water quality," Appel said.

Colwell was the first woman to lead the National Science Foundation, serving as director from 1998 to 2004. She was awarded the National Medal of Science in 2006 and the Stockholm Water Prize in 2010.

She has a bachelor's degree in bacteriology, master's degree in genetics and doctorate in oceanography. She holds distinguished professorships at both the University of Maryland at College Park and Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.



Jesup Scott
HONORS COLLEGE

Distinguished Lecture Series

2019-20
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

Climate, Oceans and Human Health

6 – 7:30 p.m.

Monday, March 25, 2019

University Hall, Doermann Theatre
The University of Toledo Main Campus

Translating Microbiome Research to Applications

Noon – 1 p.m.

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Radisson Hotel, Salon C
The University of Toledo Health Science Campus

A light lunch will be provided by RSVP.



Dr. Rita Colwell

MARCH 25 & 26

**BOTH EVENTS ARE FREE
AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

Dr. Rita Colwell's research is focused on tackling infectious diseases. Active in helping to develop a global network to address climate change and safe drinking water, her presentations will explore the role that microbiology plays in ecology, public health and the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Colwell is a Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland at College Park and at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is past president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, former director of the National Science Foundation, and recipient of the President's National Medal of Science, the Stockholm Water Prize and the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize. She also is senior advisor and chairman emeritus of Canon U.S. Life Sciences, Inc., as well as president/CFO of CosmosID, Inc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RSVP, VISIT
UTOLEDO.EDU/HONORSLECTURE OR CALL 419.530.6030.

Canine in training on campus through Rocket Service Dogs

She was one of the most popular residents in Ottawa House West: an energetic blonde with sparkling brown eyes and an outgoing personality.

“Aspen is why most people come to our room,” Alana Shockley, a sophomore majoring in communication, said and then laughed while petting the Labrador retriever.

The 1-year-old dog definitely turned heads and made a lot of friends.

“Some people ask, ‘How did you get a dog in a residence hall?’ And we explain she’s a service dog in training,” Courtney Koebel, a sophomore majoring in education, said. “Some ask if they can pet her, and we have to calm her down first.”

Settling down is just one thing Shockley and Koebel worked on with Aspen.

“We are trying to teach her commands — sit, stay, kennel — and to get her to focus,” Koebel said. “It’s going well. She has a good work ethic, but she gets distracted sometimes.”

Koebel and Shockley welcomed their four-legged roommate last fall. They are members of Rocket Service Dogs, a University organization partnering with Assistance Dogs for Achieving Independence and the Ability Center of Greater Toledo to encourage students to foster and train dogs.

“We were trying to figure out how to get more involved on campus and were looking at all the organizations,” Shockley said. “And once we saw Rocket Service Dogs, we fell in love because we’re really crazy animal lovers, it’s dogs, and we’re helping people.”

Students in the organization take an orientation and policy class through Rocket Service Dogs, and then a handling course taught by Assistance Dogs for Achieving Independence.

Aspen is the first canine to live and train in a residence hall through Rocket Service Dogs.

It took a year of planning between the University, Assistance Dogs for Achieving Independence and the Ability Center of Greater Toledo to make the placement possible, according to Josephine Biltz, a third-year student majoring in biology and president of the Rocket Service Dogs.

“Aspen seemed to really like the residence hall from the second she walked in, and I think it was a really great



Photo by Natalie Watson

SMILE: Aspen, center, was happy to pose for a photo with Courtney Koebel, left, and Alana Shockley of Rocket Service Dogs in Ottawa House West.

atmosphere for her to be exposed to a lot of different people,” Biltz said.

While Aspen wasn’t ready to attend class on campus with Shockley and Koebel, she did go to school once a week. Every Friday, the trio headed to Flower Hospital for class with Assistance Dogs for Achieving Independence.

“We practice attention, loose-leash walking. Sometimes they teach us new commands, and then we’ll practice old commands,” Koebel said. “We work on Aspen’s attention, get her to focus for long periods of time, so she’ll be able to come to University classes with us. And sometimes instead of class, we’ll have outings. We’ll go out with [Assistance Dogs for Achieving Independence] to a public place to see how she reacts.”

Praise and rewards bolster Aspen’s desire to please — and learn.

“We usually give her small treats to motivate her; sometimes we just use her kibble,” Shockley said. “We bought her some little Milk-Bones, and she really likes those.”

“When you’ve been working with her for a while and she finally understands what we’re trying to do, it’s rewarding to see her get excited,” Koebel said. “She really likes treats, so she’s kind of always excited.”

Aspen recently moved on to continue training through Assistance Dogs for Achieving Independence’s prison program, where she was paired with an inmate.

While their time working with the Lab was brief, Koebel and Shockley will remember Aspen and her goal.

“Depending on how well Aspen does and if her attention span gets longer, she could be paired with someone with a disability,” Shockley said. “But if not, she’ll be a therapy and emotional support animal.”

“It makes me feel good that I’m able to help someone who has a disability and can’t help themselves, so it’s cool to know I’m part of the process to help make their life a little bit easier,” Shockley said.

Learn more about Rocket Service Dogs at facebook.com/rocketservicedogs, or email rocketservicedogs@gmail.com.

Study explaining side effects of statins finds drug can have unexpected benefits

By Christine Billau

While investigating why cholesterol-lowering drugs called statins cause negative side effects such as blurred vision, short-term memory loss or increased risk for diabetes, cellular chemists at The University of Toledo discovered several previously unknown benefits.

It is well-established statins can help lower the risk of heart attack by lowering blood cholesterol, but statins also may play a protective role in the event of a heart attack because they can suppress a biological process that disrupts cardiac function.

By suppressing the activity of key cellular receptors called G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) and their interacting partners called G proteins, statins have the potential to alter various bodily functions controlled by this important pathway, according to research published in the journal *Molecular Pharmacology*.

“We believe this and our future investigations can help physicians make more informed decisions about prescribing statins, opening a whole new door to what statins can do in addition to cholesterol control,” said Dr. Ajith Karunaratne, assistant professor in The University of Toledo Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

GPCR signaling pathways are crucial to our survival. They are the largest pharmaceutical drug target — more than one-third of all drugs on the market — because GPCR pathways regulate the body by controlling a variety of functions from vision to heart rate and neurotransmission.

Statins are designed to target and inhibit the cholesterol-synthesis pathway, which is why it is an effective and popular drug to lower cholesterol. But parts of the cholesterol-synthesis pathway are needed for the GPCR signaling pathway to function, which

explains the temporary negative side effects while taking statins, such as blurred vision or short-term memory loss.

The UToledo scientists also revealed another crucial finding: The cholesterol-lowering drugs reduce the ability of migratory cells, such as cancer and immune cells, to travel.

When testing GPCR-directed cell invasion, Karunaratne’s lab found that statins reduced movement more than 10-fold compared to the control group.

“This indicated that GPCR-governed cancer cell migration also can be reduced by statins,” Karunaratne said.

The research was done using cells, not human patients. Karunaratne’s lab uses light to control cell behavior — through a novel method named subcellular optogenetics — and studies the way cells respond to light through signal transduction pathways.

“We observed that different types of statins induce very different deviations or changes to G proteins in the GPCR pathway,” said Mithila Tennakoon, a UToledo Ph.D. student in Karunaratne’s lab and first author of the study.

“The side effects of statins are not uniform,” Karunaratne said. “Cells in the eyes, brain, heart and lungs can have completely different impact levels because they have different types of G proteins.”

These findings help explain the molecular sources for side effects of statins, which Karunaratne’s lab discovered can have different effects on tissues and organs.

This research was supported by a grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, part of the National Institutes of Health.

Fly fisherman hooked on conservation to speak at Lake Erie Center March 21

By Christine Billau

The community is invited to a free, public talk on fishing, conservation and healthy habitat at The University of Toledo Lake Erie Center.

Brad White, president of the Fallen Timbers chapter of Trout Unlimited and an avid fly fisherman, will speak Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m. at the Lake Erie Center, 6200 Bayshore Road in Oregon.

Trout Unlimited, which has about 300,000 members nationwide, is a nonprofit organization that works to conserve, protect and restore North America’s cold-water fisheries and their watersheds. The local chapter has 300 members.



FISH TALES: Brad White, president of the Fallen Timbers chapter of Trout Unlimited, shown here with a rainbow trout, will speak at the Lake Erie Center Thursday, March 21.

“I want to introduce people to Trout Unlimited and talk about the varied activities and programs we get involved in, such as our Trout in the Classroom program,” said White, a retired software entrepreneur in Perrysburg. “We also host events for veterans, stream cleanups and more. Our efforts in the Great Lakes region continue to expand.”

White also serves as vice president of the Merickel-Farley Trout Club and is a member of the Anglers of the Au Sable, Fly Fishers International and the North Branch Boys.

The local chapter of Trout Unlimited meets monthly in Maumee and takes trips to locations where trout and salmon can be found.

“Even though the western basin of Lake Erie is not a hot spot for cold-water fish, Trout Unlimited is interested in local problems on the lake,” Dr. Christine Mayer, professor in the UToledo Department of Environmental Sciences and Lake Erie Center, said. “Most members are avid anglers who also care deeply about conservation.”

White’s talk is part of the Lake Erie Center’s Public Lecture Series.

A shuttle will be available to transport visitors from UToledo’s Main Campus to the Lake Erie Center and back. The shuttle will depart at 6:15 p.m. from the south side of Bowman-Oddy Laboratories. Passengers must reserve a spot. Email lakeeriecenter@utoledo.edu or call 419.530.8360 to make a reservation for the shuttle.

The Lake Erie Center is UToledo’s freshwater research and science education campus focused on finding solutions to water quality issues that face the Great Lakes, including harmful algal blooms, invasive species and pollutants.



Photo by Daniel Miller

IN THE LAB: Dr. Ajith Karunaratne, assistant professor in The University of Toledo Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, monitors Mithila Tennakoon, UToledo Ph.D. student, as she exposes living cells to statins.

Lucas County poet laureate to give performance March 22

Race, disability and cultural identity will be in the spotlight for “Is Your Mama White? Excavating Hidden History” Friday, March 22.

Dr. Jim Ferris, UToledo professor and the Ability Center Endowed Chair in Disability Studies, will take the stage at 8 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall.

The Lucas County poet laureate’s solo performance focuses on family history and starts with his grandfather.

“My grandfather’s birth records list his race as black. In the 1910 census, he is listed as black,” Ferris said. “But on the 1917 draft records for World War I, his race is listed as Ethiopian. And sometime in the 1920s, as the resurgent Ku Klux Klan was nearing the zenith of its remarkable power in Indiana, sometime in his 30s, he became white.”

Decades later, Ferris was born on his grandfather’s birthday.

“I was listed as white, a status I didn’t think to question until long after grandpa had passed away,” he said. “In my 20s, I remember a whispered, half-heard story about grandpa’s first wife being black. But I also remember the suggestions that we were part Cherokee, though neither were things to speak of openly.

“There were other things best not spoken of too much, including that I was born crippled. Somewhere along the line, I became handicapped, disabled, a person with a disability,” Ferris said.

Then his younger brother was born with Down syndrome.

“Suddenly, two of the six kids in the family, a full third of those rambunctious Ferris boys, were disabled,” he said. “The presence of disability — particularly my brother’s — profoundly affected my family. Not surprisingly, disability profoundly affected my own evolving sense of identity as well.”

Ferris will share this personal story and enlist audience members to help tell the tale.

“We will probe the crucial yet questionable role that narrative plays in the construction of identity and how story is essential to the person we know ourselves to be,” he said.

For more information about the free, public performance, go to the College of Arts and Letters’ website at utoledo.edu/al.



Is Your Mama White? Excavating Hidden History

A performance by Jim Ferris

**FRIDAY, MARCH 22
8 P.M.**

Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall
The University of Toledo Main Campus



JIM FERRIS, PHD

Ability Center Endowed Chair
in Disability Studies
The University of Toledo

What do you do when you learn you’re not exactly who you think you are?

In this solo performance, Jim Ferris digs into his family’s past to challenge assumptions about cultural identity. In the process, he explores how race and disability inform a sense of self and how stories are shaped not only by the tellers, but also by the listeners and the context.

To learn more, *visit utoledo.edu/AL*.

This event is free and open to the public.



Multicultural Week to celebrate traditions spanning the globe

“A Week Around the World: Experience the Culture” is the theme of The University of Toledo’s Multicultural Week, which will take place Monday through Saturday, March 18-23.

“For Multicultural Week, our main focus is to give students a space to celebrate their history, culture and traditions in a collaborative way,” said Alondra Martin, graduate assistant in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. “Most of us either directly come from different countries or have heritage and ancestors from multiple countries. This week is dedicated to learning about the cultures we have on campus while celebrating our diversity.”

Listed by date, events for Multicultural Week will be:

- Monday, March 18 — Womxn of Color Symposium: Finding and Using Our Voice, 1 to 7 p.m., Thompson Student Union Ingman Room. Denice Frohman, poet, educator and performer, will lead the symposium. Her work focuses on identity, lineage, subverting traditional notions of power, and celebrating aspects women deem unworthy. The professional development event will feature dialogue and cultivating resilience and empowerment.
- Tuesday, March 19 — Dance Workshop and Social, 7 to 11 p.m., Thompson Student Union Auditorium. Learn traditional dances from different cultures: salsa and bachata from Latin America; Pandango from the Philippines; Guramayle from Ethiopia; and Soran Bushi from Japan. The African People’s Association dance team, UT Tribe, also will give a workshop. DJ Canny will play music, and there will be light refreshments.
- Wednesday, March 20 — Multicultural Student Organization Showcase, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thompson Student Union Room 2591. Stop by and meet members from more than 10 student groups on campus.
 - Intercultural Team Trivia Night, 7 p.m., Thompson Student Union Ingman Room. Test your knowledge about different cultures for a chance to win gift cards.
- Thursday, March 21 — International Professional Development Expo, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thompson Student Union Room 2592. This networking and information event will offer presentations on job search and interview skills, as well as assistance with resumés and cover letters. Students also can meet members from preprofessional organizations and learn about potential job and internship opportunities.
- Saturday, March 23 — International Students Association’s 43rd International Dinner, 7 p.m., Thompson Student Union Auditorium. This year’s theme is “The Royal Banquet.” Formal attire is recommended. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Go to the University Marketplace website, https://secure.touchnet.net/C20238_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=36&SINGLESTORE=true, to purchase tickets.

For more information on Multicultural Week, contact Martin at alondra.martin@rockets.utoledo.edu.

A Week Around the World: Experience the Culture

Multicultural Week 2019 | March 19-23



Join us and get to know other cultures.

Womxn of Color Symposium

Monday, March 18 | 1 - 7 p.m.

Thompson Student Union Ingman Room

Intercultural Trivia Night

Wednesday, March 20 | 7 p.m.

Thompson Student Union Ingman Room

Dance Workshop and Social Event

Tuesday, March 19 | 7 - 11 p.m.

Thompson Student Union Room 2582

International Professional Development Expo

Thursday, March 21 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Thompson Student Union Room 2592

Multicultural Student Organization Showcase

Wednesday, March 20 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Thompson Student Union Room 2591

International Dinner- The Royal Banquet

Saturday, March 23 | 6 p.m.

Thompson Student Union Auditorium

Search “multicultural week” on InvoNet or Corq for more details.
For more information, please email alondra.martin@rockets.utoledo.edu.



OFFICE OF DIVERSITY
AND INCLUSION
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

UTMC nurses launch Nurses Honor Guard of Northwest Ohio

By Tyrel Linkhorn

When a beloved colleague died last spring, Michelle Smith and Julia Benfield wanted to do something to recognize their friend's unwavering dedication to the field of nursing.

Smith, who recalled hearing about nursing honor guards while attending nursing school in Pennsylvania, sought out a local chapter.

"There was nothing around this area, but it was really important to us that we honored her," Smith said.

Benfield and Smith, both of whom are nurses in The University of Toledo Medical Center Emergency Department, rounded up a few co-workers and launched the Nurses Honor Guard of Northwest Ohio.

"It's similar to honoring police or military members when they pass away. Nursing is another public service that deserves recognition," Smith said.

The Nurses Honor Guard of Northwest Ohio is actively recruiting new members so it can participate in more services. Each requires at least four individuals and it can be difficult to match up schedules from a small group of volunteers. Smith hopes they'll soon have the personnel to offer their services more widely through the community.

"Once we have a big enough group of people who are committed to being available, I would like to go to the funeral homes and let them know we have this," Smith said. "It's an honor for us to be able to do this for nurses and their families, but we need to have more volunteers in order to get this out in the community."

As part of the solemn show of respect, members of the Nurses Honor Guard of Northwest Ohio wear traditional all-white uniforms along with a cap and blue cape.



Photo by Daniel Miller

PAYING RESPECT: Michelle Smith, left, and Julia Benfield, nurses at The University of Toledo Medical Center, started the Nurses Honor Guard of Northwest Ohio to pay tribute to peers who have passed away. As part of the service, a Florence Nightingale-inspired lamp — like the one they are holding — is given to the family.

The ceremony is heavy with imagery of Florence Nightingale, the British woman who is widely credited as the pioneer of modern nursing.

After a poem is read, the deceased's name is called out three times, signaling their final roll call. The honor guard then extinguishes the flame from a Nightingale-style lamp, which is presented to the family, and lays a single white rose on the casket.

"When we show up at a funeral in all white with the cape, it's pretty striking,"

Benfield said. "People come up and hug us, ask questions, and they're very appreciative we're celebrating that portion of their loved one's life."

Members have performed three services in the last 10 months, two of which were for fellow UTMC employees.

Benfield acknowledged the job can be demanding — there are long hours, holiday and weekend shifts, and high-stress situations — but she also said the career is something that brings a great deal of pride

and becomes a huge part of most nurses' lives.

"We're all very proud of all the time and effort we've put into being a nurse and all the years we've spent taking care of patients," Benfield said. "It just seems right that we do something to honor our colleagues when they pass."

Upcoming Alzheimer's Association program to explain basics of disease, dementia

In the United States alone, more than 5 million individuals are living with Alzheimer's disease and 16 million are serving as their unpaid caregivers. The disease is a global crisis that impacts numerous families here in the community. However, no one has to face this disease alone or without information.

The Alzheimer's Association, in collaboration with Healthy U, is offering an educational program covering the basics of Alzheimer's and dementia. These presentations on The University of Toledo's Main and Health Science campuses will provide a general overview for people who are

facing a diagnosis, as well as those who wish to be informed.

The Main Campus program will be held Wednesday, March 27, in Carlson Library Room 1005 from noon to 1 p.m.

The Health Science Campus program will take place Thursday, March 28, in Collier Building Room 2409 from noon to 1 p.m.

The free program, "Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia," will:

- Explore the relationship between Alzheimer's disease and dementia;
- Examine what happens in a brain affected by Alzheimer's;

- Detail the risk factors for the disease and its three general stages;
- Identify FDA-approved treatments available to treat some symptoms;
- Look ahead to what's on the horizon for Alzheimer's research; and
- Offer helpful Alzheimer's Association resources.

"This program is extremely vital to offer to the University community," said Jocelyn Szymanski, wellness administrator. "We want to help educate, so that individuals can recognize signs and symptoms and know there

is support out there for those diagnosed, as well as caregivers."

The University of Toledo's free employee assistance program, IMPACT Solutions, also provides various resources for caregivers such as caregiver support, adult care services, and grief and loss assistance. Visit IMPACT Solutions at myimpactsolution.com and use UT as the username; caregiver resources are under the relationships icon.

For more information, visit Healthy U at utoledo.edu/offices/rocketwellness/healthyu.

Annual Service Awards: 'Treasuring Our Talent' April 18

Human Resources announces the University's Employee Service Awards will be held Thursday, April 18, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Radisson Mahogany Ball Room on Health Science Campus.

Parking is available in the hotel lot.

More than 650 employees will be recognized for reaching a milestone year of service in 2018, including 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 years. Each eligible faculty and staff member will be presented with a special UToledo service pin during a brief awards ceremony, hosted by President Sharon L. Gaber. Employees also should plan to pick up a gift selected for their specific service anniversary at this event.

All eligible employees are receiving an email invitation this week and should RSVP using the link provided in that email by 5 p.m. Monday, April 8.

"Our Service Awards honor milestone employees for their unique contributions in helping our students, patients and other stakeholders reach higher outcomes," Gaber said. "We're very grateful for continual efforts by our faculty and staff to ensure an exceptional UToledo experience for everyone we serve."

"Our Service Awards theme this year is 'Treasuring Our Talent' because we really do appreciate every employee's unique skills, whether they teach classes,

maintain our beautiful campus grounds, conduct cutting-edge research, provide exceptional patient care, coach students, or clean residence halls," said Wendy Davis, associate vice president and chief human resources officer.

"Regardless of anyone's particular role, their work helps the University collectively change lives, and that's part of why UToledo is a preferred employer in northwest Ohio," Davis added. "We're proud to offer satisfying employment opportunities that help employees fulfill their life's purpose."

Employees eligible for Service Awards but unable to attend the ceremony April 18 will be notified of alternate gift pickup dates, times and locations for all UToledo campuses at a later date.

For additional information and the complete list of the University's 2019 Service Award recipients, visit utoledo.edu/depts/hr/employee-engagement/awards.

"We hope all members of the University community visit Human Resources' webpages to learn which of their colleagues are celebrating service anniversaries so these employees also may be recognized individually within their own particular department or college," Davis said.

Nominations for Diane Hymore Award sought

Human Resources requests all faculty and staff members who would like to nominate a University of Toledo employee for the 2019 Diane Hymore Exemplar of Excellence Award to complete the nomination form by 5 p.m. Monday, March 25.

The form is available at utoledo.edu/offices/provost/awards/hymoreexcellenceaward.html.

Hymore was director of senior administration operations and a longtime executive secretary to the University's president. She was honored in 2013 as the first recipient of the award, and passed away in 2015.

Established in 2013, the annual award supports UToledo's ongoing commitment to workforce recognition and is presented to current employees who perform exceptional work, yet may be unheralded because they often serve customers behind the scenes.

The esteemed award honors individuals whose work defines the core values of the University in Hymore's spirit of support, encouragement and service. Nominees should consistently demonstrate exceptional service to students, co-workers or other key customers.

The award will be presented at the University's Outstanding Staff Recognition ceremony Monday, May 6, at noon at the Thomas and Elizabeth Brady Engineering Innovation Center.

Questions about the Diane Hymore Exemplar of Excellence Award or nomination process should be sent to michelle.peterson@utoledo.edu.



Hymore

In memoriam

Alfred Mundt, Maumee, local restaurateur and longtime benefactor of the University, died March 5 at age 82. He received a heart transplant at MCO in 1998 and established the Adela and Alfred Mundt Professorship in Transplantation Cardiology Fund. The endowment supports new and innovative programs in advanced cardiac care at The University of Toledo Medical Center. The Mundts held an annual "From the Heart" Celebrity Wait Night at Loma Linda in Swanton to raise funds for the endowment. Tributes are suggested to the Adela and Alfred Mundt Professorship in Transplantation Cardiology Fund in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences through The University of Toledo Foundation website at give2ut.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. 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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Ready to roll: Electric scooters, bikes return to campus

Bikes and electric Lime scooters have returned to campus in anticipation of warmer weather.

Lime scooters were launched on campus in fall 2018. The program was so successful that the number of electric scooters was doubled, to 250, within two months of the startup.

With this successful rollout, Parking and Transportation Services will expand the fleet to the Health Science Campus in March.

“These are great transportation options that enable all members of campus to travel from one corner of the University to another,” said Bonnie Murphy, associate vice president for auxiliary services. “In addition to shuttle services provided by TARTA, we’re proud to offer options that are green and support an exceptional student experience.”

Users can locate scooters in real time, and unlock and lock them by downloading the free Lime app to their mobile devices. The cost is one dollar to unlock a scooter, plus 15 cents per minute of use.

“The immediate popularity of Lime scooters among both students and staff demonstrated strong support of alternative transportation modes, which is fantastic,” said Sherri Kaspar, director for parking and transportation services. “With even more bikes and scooters on campus this spring, though, we need to remind everyone to practice safety guidelines at all times.”

Users are encouraged to wear helmets and should avoid leaving scooters and bikes near doorways, which prevents accessibility. Bikes and scooters should be left in an upright position and in a manner that would not cause trips and falls, or impede foot traffic.

Parking and Transportation Services also is excited to unveil the updated Rocket Wheels’ fleet. The program is currently made up of 40 regular bikes and will expand to approximately 60 bikes before the end of the year.

“To keep our bike fleet in top condition and continue to build on the program each year, we began looking for a sponsor for Rocket Wheels,” Kaspar said. “Through a generous sponsorship by Walmart, we are able to bring a new life to the program and better serve our UToledo community.”

In addition to 10 regular bikes being added to the fleet this spring, Parking and Transportation Services plans to expand the fleet to include additional regular, tricycle, tandem and hand-pedal bikes this year. The expansion of specialty bikes will accommodate persons with disabilities.

“We are very excited for the opportunity to partner with our Toledo community,” said Jeffrey Gerber, Walmart assistant store manager. “Once we learned of the University’s goal to not only add new bikes, but to also introduce bikes that will accommodate persons with disabilities, we knew we wanted to help.”

Bikes may be checked out with a Rocket card, and should be returned to corrals located outside the west parking ramp, by Rocket Hall near the horse sculptures, next to Ritter Planetarium, and by the North Engineering Building and Palmer Hall.

For more information about Rocket Wheels, review safety guidelines and register for the program, visit utoledo.edu/parkingservices/rocket-wheels.

A complete list of safety rules and regulations for scooters may be viewed at utoledo.edu/parkingservices/electric-scooters, where the free Lime app and much more information is available.

All UToledo transportation information, including TARTA bus service schedules, is available at utoledo.edu/parkingservices, and related questions may be sent to parking@utoledo.edu.



Photo by Daniel Miller

ROLLING: Tia Harris, a freshman majoring in forensic psychology, rode a Lime scooter last week on Centennial Mall.



Photo by Allie Cline

BIKE PARTNERS: Thanks to a sponsorship by Walmart, Rocket Wheels will keep rolling — and add specialty bicycles to its fleet. Celebrating the partnership were, from left, Sherri Kaspar, director of parking and transportation services; Dexter Emch, operations administrator with Parking Services; Jeffrey Gerber, Walmart assistant store manager; Mike Crawford, Walmart bike assembler; Brandilynn Harvey, Walmart store manager; and Joshua Galati, Walmart assistant store manager.

Wrestler named to MAC Hall of Fame

By Paul Helgren

The Mid-American Conference announced Friday that former University of Toledo wrestler Greg Wojciechowski will be one of four new members inducted into the MAC Hall of Fame in May.

Wojciechowski will be joined by Dee Abrahamson (Northern Illinois, softball/administration), Pauline Maurice (Kent State, softball) and Bruno Pauletto (Central Michigan, men's track and field).

Wojciechowski is regarded as the greatest wrestler ever at The University of Toledo. Wrestling as a heavyweight, Wojciechowski won one NCAA title, earned two second-place finishes, and was a member of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Team.

As a sophomore in 1970, Wojciechowski won 18 of 19 matches, losing only in the championship round of the NCAA Championships. One year later, Wojciechowski became Toledo's second NCAA heavyweight champion, leading the Rockets to their highest team finish ever at the NCAAs, 13th place. He outscored his opponents 94-15 in matches that went to a decision that season and went on to win the National Amateur Athletic Union title as well.

As a senior in 1972, he won 14 of his 15 matches, with his only defeat coming in the NCAA championship title match to 415-pound Chris Taylor of Iowa State. He finished his intercollegiate career with a record of 55-2 and won three straight MAC heavyweight titles.

Wojciechowski was runner-up at the Olympic Trials and was named an alternate for the U.S. Olympic teams in Greco-Roman wrestling in 1968, 1972 and 1976, and in freestyle in 1972 and 1976, before making the team in 1980. In that year, he won the U.S. Olympic Trials in both the freestyle and Greco-Roman events, the last American to sweep both events at the trials. Unfortunately, the U.S. boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics kept Wojciechowski from participating.

He graduated from the University in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in education and went on to earn a

master's degree in guidance and counseling from Toledo in 1976.

Wojciechowski began his career as a teacher and wrestling coach at Archbold (Ohio) High School in 1972, mentoring John Cowell to a state championship at 126 pounds. He returned to Toledo in 1973 to train for the Olympics. There, he taught in the occupational work adjustment programs for drop-out prone youths at Libbey High School, a position he held for 28 years. He taught high school wrestling at Libbey for 11 years and later at Bowsler High School for five years. He also was actively involved in establishing a wrestling program in Ohio middle schools.

After his successful amateur wrestling career, Wojciechowski made the jump to professional wrestling. Known as "The Great Wojo," he spent 12 years as a professional wrestler, winning three World Wrestling Association heavyweight championship titles. He retired from the WWA as champion in 1987.

Wojciechowski was inducted into The University of Toledo Varsity 'T' Hall of Fame in 1978 and the George Tragos and Lou Thesz Pro National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2015.

The MAC Hall of Fame was approved by the MAC Council of Presidents in 1987. The charter class was inducted in 1988, and subsequent classes were added in 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1994. After six induction classes, the MAC Hall of Fame maintained 52 members until it was reinstated in May 2012. This year's class brings the number of MAC Hall of Fame inductees to 96 individuals from 14 classes.

Tickets are available for the MAC Honor's Dinner, which will be held Wednesday, May 29, at 6 p.m. at the Cleveland Renaissance Hotel. Individual tickets (\$100 each) and a table of 10 (\$950) are available for purchase. Contact Julie Kachner at the Mid-American Conference office at 216.566.4622.



Wojciechowski

Varsity 'T' Hall of Fame nominations due April 15

By Paul Helgren

Nominations for the 2019 class of the Varsity 'T' Hall of Fame are being accepted through Monday, April 15.

Nominations may come from any source. Nominations from previous years automatically carry over to the next year.

Criteria are:

- Any athlete who has performed with distinction at The University of Toledo. The athlete need not necessarily be a graduate.
- Any athlete who has been out of the University for at least five years and who has demonstrated

good citizenship since leaving the University. For the 2019 class, nominees must not have been active on or after July 1, 2014.

- Any coach, administrator, trainer, etc. who has served The University of Toledo with distinction for a period of at least five years and who has been retired or resigned or otherwise disenfranchised from his/her position for a period of at least five years. For the 2019 class, nominees must not have been active on or after July 1, 2014.

The nomination form can be found on the Toledo Rockets' website at utrockets.com/documents/2019/1/15//Nomination_form.pdf?id=12982.

Email the nomination form along with all supporting data to Paul Helgren at paul.helgren@utoledo.edu.

Nominations also can be mailed to:
Paul Helgren
The University of Toledo
Athletic Communications Office
MS 302
2801 W. Bancroft St.
Toledo, OH 43606

Members will be chosen by a three-quarters vote of the selection committee.

The Varsity 'T' Hall of Fame banquet will be held in the fall, with the 2019 class being presented at halftime of a Toledo football game.

