

Pioneering surgeon to speak at College of Medicine commencement May 26

By Sarah A. Velliquette

Internationally renowned minimally invasive surgeon Dr. Mehran Anvari will be the commencement speaker for the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences graduation ceremony Friday, May 26, at 2 p.m. at Stranahan Theater, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd. in Toledo.

There are more than 200 candidates for degrees: 162 for doctor of medicine degrees; 10 for a doctor of philosophy degrees; 29 for master's degrees; and four for graduate certificates.

Anvari, one of the first physicians in Canada to use robotics in surgery who also won a NASA award for his role in developing an automated robot used for detecting the early stages of breast cancer, will receive an honorary doctor of science degree.

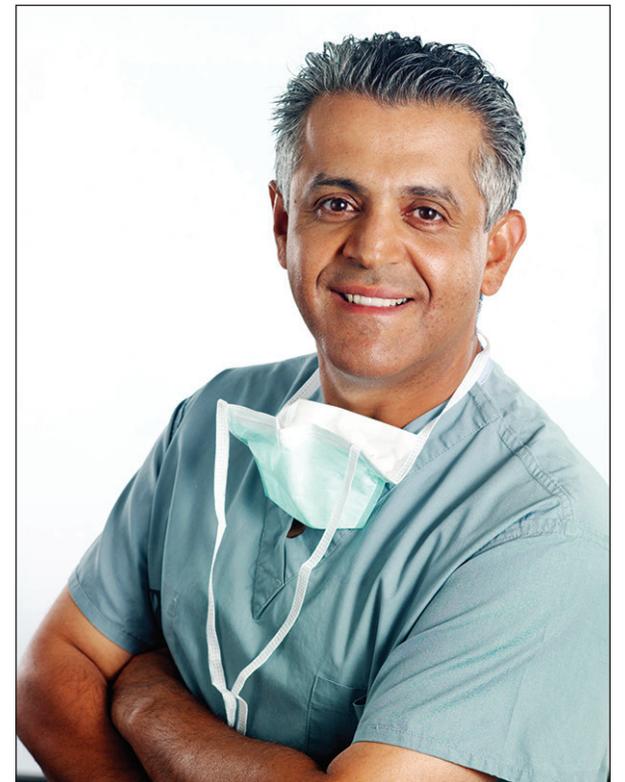
"We are fortunate to have Dr. Anvari serve as the speaker for our upcoming commencement," said Dr. Christopher Cooper, senior vice president for clinical affairs and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences. "His impressive body of work, particularly in minimal access techniques, should serve as an example to our graduates that pushing boundaries and finding new and innovative methods to replace established practices can lead to better, more positive outcomes."

A tenured professor and chair in minimally invasive surgery and surgical innovation at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Anvari is the founding director of the McMaster Institute for Surgical Invention, Innovation and

Education; the Centre for Minimal Access Surgery; and the Centre for Surgical Invention and Innovation.

"It is an honor to be invited to speak at the commencement of The University of Toledo's College of Medicine and Life Sciences," Anvari said. "My talk will focus on how innovation is an essential ingredient for social and economic progress and can solve the problems facing our global community. It should be a goal for all students and drive our future academic and professional endeavors."

Anvari is a pioneer in his field. He is the founding director of the Centre for Minimal Access Surgery and scientific director and CEO of the Centre for Surgical Invention and Innovation,



Anvari

continued on p. 15

Shaping scientific minds



Photo by Daniel Miller

Dr. Cora Lind-Kovacs, professor and associate chair of chemistry and biochemistry, dropped ferrofluid in a magnetic field, where the colloidal liquid made a shape. She conducted the experiment as part of the eighth annual Women in STEMM Day of Meetings, which goes by the acronym WISDOM. More than 140 sophomore high school girls visited the University and were introduced to the exciting world of science and technology through hands-on experiments and demonstrations with female scientists and engineers. The event was hosted by the Northwestern Ohio Chapter of the Association for Women in Science.



Read about
UT's economic impact
on the community — p. 3

Look for the next issue of UT News May 30

Glowing in the Glass Bowl



Photos by Daniel Miller



"The secret to success is that there is no secret to success. With the wonderful education you received here at The University of Toledo, what happens next is up to you," Christine Brennan told 2,906 candidates for degrees during the May 7 spring commencement ceremony in the Glass Bowl. "If you are willing to work harder than your peers and your colleagues, if you find something you love or are interested in, and throw yourself into it with everything you've got, if you don't cut corners, if you listen and learn — you will be a success." That was one of the "Glass Bowl Life Lessons" shared by the USA Today columnist and commentator at ABC News, CNN, PBS NewsHour and National Public Radio. Brennan said she sat by her dad in the stadium during the Rockets' 35-0 streak from 1969 to 1971 and learned a lot while her love of sports was fueled by victory after victory.

Rockets continue to land impressive Academic Progress Rate scores

By Paul Helgren

The NCAA released its annual Academic Progress Rate (APR) figures for the four-year period from 2012-13 to 2015-16, and The University of Toledo received very impressive scores across the board.

All 16 UT varsity sports had at least a 965 score, well above the NCAA's "cut point" of 930, with women's golf leading the way with a perfect 1,000 mark. Eight other UT sports were at 990 or above: baseball, men's basketball, men's golf, women's basketball, women's cross country, women's soccer, women's tennis and women's volleyball.

In addition, five Rocket teams — baseball, men's basketball, football, women's golf and women's tennis — had the best APR score in the Mid-American Conference in their respective sports. The UT football program had an APR score of 981, giving it the No. 1 mark in the MAC for the fourth consecutive season. Men's basketball (990) also led the MAC, while women's basketball (995) was just five points off the pace set by league leaders Kent State and Miami.

"We are very proud of all of our sports for posting such impressive APR numbers," said UT Vice President and Athletic Director Mike O'Brien. "Nine of our sports had APR scores of 990 or above, and all of them were above a 965.

Those numbers mean that our student-athletes are doing well in the classroom and, most importantly, are on track to graduate.

"Special recognition should go to our women's golf program, which has a perfect APR score over the past four years," O'Brien said. "Also, congratulations to our football program for finishing with the highest APR in the Mid-American Conference for the fourth consecutive season."

APR is a gauge of every team's academic performance at a given point in time. Points are awarded on a semester-by-semester basis for eligibility, retention and graduation of scholarship student-athletes. A score of 1,000 is considered perfect. Sports that fail to reach the "cut point" (930) can be penalized with the loss of scholarships, practice restrictions and post-season bans. The APR data released May 10 is a cumulative figure taken from the 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years.



2015-16 UT Academic Progress Rates

| SPORT | FOUR-YEAR APR# |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Baseball | 990 |
| Men's Basketball | 990 |
| Men's Cross Country | 988 |
| Football | 981 |
| Men's Golf | 993 |
| Men's Tennis | 971 |
| Women's Basketball | 995 |
| Women's Cross Country | 994 |
| Women's Golf | 1,000 |
| Women's Soccer | 997 |
| Softball | 965 |
| Women's Swimming | 989 |
| Women's Tennis | 993 |
| Women's Track | 977 |
| Women's Volleyball | 995 |

NCAA "Cut Point" 930

#Four-year data from academic years 2012-13 through 2015-16

Study shows UT has \$3.3 billion economic impact on community

By Christine Billau

The University of Toledo's impact to the region's economy totals \$3.3 billion, according to a comprehensive study by UT economists.

That is equivalent to 9.7 percent of the region's gross metropolitan area product.

"As the second largest employer in northwest Ohio with an enrollment of more than 20,000 students, we are proud to be one of Toledo's anchor institutions contributing as a major force to the region's growth and development," UT President Sharon L. Gaber said. "The University of Toledo continues to work hard to strengthen the community."

Dr. Oleg Smirnov, associate professor of economics, and Dr. Olugbenga Ajilore, associate professor of economics, completed the analysis this academic year.

"We show the short-term and cumulative, lasting contributions the institution makes to the region," Smirnov

said. "If the University had not been opened in Toledo 145 years ago, these impacts would not exist."

The UT economists not only charted University, student and employee spending over the 2015-16 academic year and its ripple effect, they also calculated the long-term value of the educated workforce of UT alumni and faculty living in the area.

Of the \$3.3 billion, \$1.98 billion in economic growth and competitiveness is contributed by UT faculty and alumni who live in the region. Thirty-three percent of UT alumni have remained in the Toledo area after graduating.

The University is the top-ranked institution in the region for social mobility and second in Ohio. UT also ranks among the highest compared to other Ohio public research universities for income mobility.

"UT provides a path to success and professional opportunity for

underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students who wouldn't otherwise be able to access higher education," Ajilore said. "Because of this University, they are thriving. Plus, many of them stay in the region and impact the economy once they graduate."

Of the \$3.3 billion in total economic impact, \$1.35 billion goes from UT to the Toledo area through payroll, local purchases for day-to-day operations, and expenditures by students and visitors at local businesses. That includes direct impacts of \$769 million, which lead to an additional \$582 million in indirect and induced effects.

The study finds that for every job at UT, the local economy gains 2.6 full-time equivalent jobs.

According to the study, UT directly generates more than 5,000 full-time jobs, and economic activity by the University leads to the creation of over 8,000 additional

direct and indirect jobs. A total of 13,498 jobs were created directly or indirectly because of UT's presence.

UT's 20,381 students and visitors to the campus contributed an estimated \$340 million to the Toledo area economy in fiscal year 2015-16, according to the report.

Plus, Smirnov and Ajilore looked at state impact. They found that for every \$1 invested by the state into UT, \$10 of economic impact is generated to the local economy. University operations and associated economic activity contributed \$44.4 million in state and local taxes.

"When it comes to supporting higher education, every dollar counts, and any change is felt widespread," Smirnov said.

To read the full report, go to utoledo.edu/economic-impact.

\$3.3 Billion
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

The University of Toledo is a **MAJOR FORCE** in the economy of greater Toledo. In addition to the **ENORMOUS DIRECT AND INDIRECT/INDUCED ECONOMIC IMPACT** the University has on the region, thousands of UT alumni and faculty remain in the region, **CONTRIBUTING TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT** of Toledo. This helps Toledoans and the region **MOVE UP AND MOVE FORWARD.**

National spotlight



Nicholas Kulik posed for a photo with the award he received April 30 at the Association of Fundraising Professionals' International Fundraising Conference in San Francisco. The major gifts officer for the College of Engineering was one of five fundraisers younger than 31 in the country recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. In his first year with The University of Toledo, Kulik raised more than \$2 million for the major gift programs of two of UT's largest colleges. For his achievements, he was named to the Association of Fundraising Professionals' first group of Outstanding Young Professionals. The designation honors exemplary work in raising funds, inspiring donors, helping manage campaigns, and giving back to the profession.

Check it out

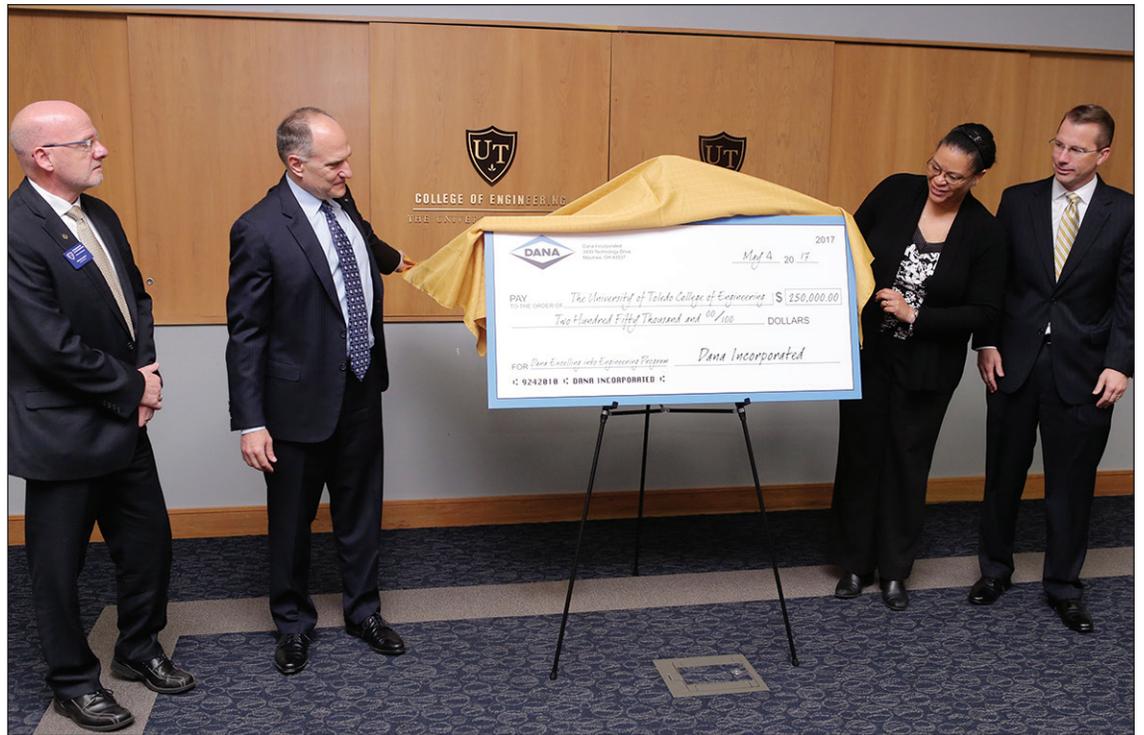


Photo by Daniel Miller

George Constand, chief technology officer at Dana Inc., and Dr. Lesley Berhan, director of engineering diversity initiatives and associate professor of mechanical, industrial and manufacturing engineering, revealed a \$250,000 check from Dana Inc. as Dr. Steve LeBlanc, interim dean of the College of Engineering, left, and Michael Harders, vice president for advancement, watched. The May 4 event was held to announce a new initiative in partnership with Dana Inc. and Toledo Excel. The Dana Excelling into Engineering Scholarship Program aims to increase the recruitment, enrollment, retention and success of underrepresented minority students in degree programs offered by the College of Engineering. The four-stage program will start after the completion of 11th grade with a summer institute, beginning in July. Mentorship and professional development opportunities will continue through the completion of a degree from the College of Engineering.



Thank you

UT President Sharon L. Gaber spoke to nearly 230 guests who attended the 28th annual Donor Recognition Reception May 9 in Savage Hall. The event was a tribute to donors whose contributions have topped more than \$17.2 million year to date, marking a nine-year high in University fundraising. Three students were presented with the Frank E. Horton Presidents Club Scholarship to assist them during their senior year: Tara Fraley, special education; Jessica Guice, communications; and Griso Barrios Rodriguez, political science and social work.

Photo by Daniel Miller

Latino Youth Summit set to excite, motivate students for college

More than 500 area students in grades six through 12 are expected to attend the 2017 Latino Youth Summit Tuesday and Wednesday, May 16 and 17, at The University of Toledo.

The program focuses on college preparation and planning, as well as career choices.

“The Latino Youth Summit encourages our young people to consider college and, more importantly, to picture themselves at The University of Toledo someday,” Dr. Michele Soliz, assistant vice president for student success and inclusion, said. “In its 15th year, this is the largest event for Latino youth in the state.”

Students in grades six through eight will be on campus Tuesday. They will visit Ritter Planetarium and the colleges of Engineering; Natural Sciences and Mathematics; Nursing; and Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

High school students will attend the summit Wednesday. They will learn about health careers at the Jacobs Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center on Health Science Campus, as well as stop by the Judith Herb College of Education and the colleges of Arts and Letters, and Business and Innovation on Main Campus.

Richard Santana is this year’s keynote speaker; he will address the students at 1 p.m. each day.

“My story is proof that through adversity, we can still achieve our dreams and go to college,” Santana said.

He will talk about his days as a gang member in California and how he turned his life around. The counselor and educator received a master’s degree from Harvard University and founded Homeboy Goes to Harvard Productions, which focuses on raising awareness about gangs, drug addiction and self-esteem.

In addition, the event will provide financial aid options for college, including a UT scholarship for attending the Latino Youth Summit.

The summit is sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and the Division of Student Affairs.

For more information, call the Office of Multicultural Student Success at 419.530.2261.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

2017 Latino Youth Summit

Grades 6-8

Tuesday, May 16
9:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
The University of Toledo
Thompson Student Union

Grades 9-12

Wednesday, May 17
8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
The University of Toledo
Thompson Student Union

Attend The University of Toledo’s 2017 Latino Youth Summit to learn more about college preparation and planning, as well as career paths. Students will have the opportunity to earn a scholarship to attend The University of Toledo and will leave with a better understanding of the benefits of attending a four-year college.

Register and submit a completed liability release form before Wednesday, April 26, at utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/omss/latinos/lys_home.html.



OFFICE OF DIVERSITY
AND INCLUSION

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
Office of Multicultural Student Success

To learn more, please contact:
The Office of Multicultural Student Success
419.530.2261
OMSS@utoledo.edu

 /omssutoledo

 @UT_OMSS

UTMC nurse named ‘Champion for Children’

By Madison Vasko

Katie Bush, a sexual assault nurse examiner at UT Medical Center, recently received another award for her dedication to helping those in need.

Bush received the Cullen Champion for Children Award at the Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center’s spring luncheon. The award honors those who show an outstanding commitment to the well-being of children and families, tireless advocacy, and a pioneer spirit. It is named for Dr. Bernard J. Cullen, a Toledo pediatrician who worked on behalf of abused children.

“I feel very blessed that my name was even considered for this award,” Bush said. “There are so many people doing wonderful things in this community for children and families living with violence as their daily norm, and if I have positively impacted even one child, then it’s all worth it.”

Bush acknowledged the difficult nature of her work: “There is no doubt about it, working with this population is hard. It’s sad and frustrating at times, and there are not always good outcomes. Being immersed in this part of the world can be dark, so this award shines that light and reinforces that I’ve kept going for a reason.”

She earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees in criminal justice at the University, where she worked with victims of crime. After becoming a registered nurse, the UT alumna made it her goal to become a forensic nurse at the encouragement of one of her advisers.

“I wish I could explain where the passion comes from to work with this patient population,” Bush said. “I truly believe it’s just inherently there for me, to be the advocate for the broken, for the victim or patient that just needs someone to be 100 percent on their side and supportive no matter what the circumstances. I’ve been lucky enough to live my life violence-free, but that’s not the case for so many families in our community, and I’m happy to be the person willing to help them in any way possible.”

In addition to this award, Bush received a Liberator Award in 2016, which recognizes locals fighting human trafficking, as well as a 2013 20 Under 40 Leadership Recognition Award.



HONORED: Katie Bush, a sexual assault nurse examiner at UT Medical Center, left, received the Cullen Champion for Children Award from Dr. Christie Jenkins, CEO of the Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center.

She also was the primary author of the national Emergency Nurses Association position statement on Human Trafficking Patient Awareness in the Emergency Setting. This statement was created to educate emergency nurses throughout the country on their essential role in identifying trafficking victims.

For those who wished to get involved with the various causes that she supports, Bush cited volunteering as the best way to both help and educate oneself simultaneously.

“I volunteered for 10 years with the Lucas County Crisis Response Team,” she said. “I went to homes and hospitals at police request to provide immediate crisis intervention to victims seeking help. There are so many programs out there that need help. From our own Lucas County

Human Trafficking Coalition, to rape crisis, the battered women’s shelter and [court-appointed special advocates], there are plenty of opportunities to donate time and learn what the needs are within our own backyard.”

On advice for young nurses, Bush cited the importance of knowledge on different types of abuse: “Seek education on topics such as child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. I assure you, no matter what type of nurse you become, this population is among those you will care for. Understanding the dynamics they live within goes a long way to increase positive patient interaction; you may actually be the only person they can trust or turn to. They may not want your help, but offer it anyhow. Reserve judgments and keep the door open for them

to feel safe no matter how many times they may walk away. And if you identify a need, know your resources. Connect them to services and call a social worker or a sexual assault nurse examiner.”

Bush’s passion for her work shines through her tireless efforts to provide survivors and their families with appropriate care. Her work has not gone unnoticed by her peers.

“I’m proud to have received an award in honor of Dr. Cullen, because in no way do I believe I’ve impacted our profession on his level,” Bush said. “It creates a goal for me, to continue improving lives of people who deserve better than the violence they live within. That was part of Dr. Cullen’s mission, and I couldn’t be more proud to be among the past recipients of this award.”

Vibrant works update outdoor sculpture exhibition

By Vicki L. Kroll

A sturdy green stalk sports a showy red head high on the hill west of University Hall. An energetic dancer gives a joyful performance near UT Medical Center. And a family stands on the west side of Centennial Mall.

Ray Katz's "Domino," Gregory Mendez's "Ellie" and Todd Kime's "Profiling" are three of the eight new pieces installed for the 12th annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition.

It's a springtime tradition: New artwork blooms at The University of Toledo.

"This is my favorite time of the year. I love when the new pieces arrive," said Dr. Steve LeBlanc, interim dean of the College of Engineering and chair of the Campus Beautification Committee. "They certainly add to the beauty of the campus."

Three of the new works are by Mike Sohikian: "Male Flamenco" steps it up near

the sidewalk on the north side of University and Gillham halls; "Figure With Large Bowl" walks on the east side of the Health and Human Services Building; and "The Veteran" stands resolutely on the west side of the Health Education Building on Main Campus.

Sohikian, a retired ironworker, has a reputation for creating beauty from scraps of steel.

"I had a lifetime of love and appreciation for art, but I didn't begin my art career until 1995," the Genoa, Ohio, resident said. "I assemble industrial materials and rework them into fascinating forms."

Sam Soet's artful twist titled "Cedar Walker Variations II" sits in Ravin Plaza on Centennial Mall.

"I am at home outdoors in the woods. This is where I draw my inspiration from — the lines, shapes and movements influence

the forms of my sculptures," said Soet, who lives in Farwell, Mich. "I pride myself in working with materials that are sustainably sourced, essentially giving new life to a fallen tree or limb, or saving a log from a burn pile."

This year's last new work, "Three Tenors" by Ric Lechlitter, will be installed this week near the Root Bridge, where North Tower Boulevard meets Stadium Drive.

In addition, Sohikian's "Reaching for the Moon" was held over from last year's exhibit and still sits on the west side of Savage Arena.

And thanks to donor contributions and a partnership between the Campus Beautification Committee and the President's Commission on the River, Tom Rudd's 9-foot, 1,000-pound "Whitefish" is becoming a permanent part of UT's collection and will continue

swimming south of Carlson Library near the Ottawa River.

Nearly 230 artists submitted proposals to the Midwest Sculpture Initiative, and the UT Campus Beautification Committee reviewed the entries and selected pieces for this year's exhibition.

Artists receive stipends for the sculptures, which will be on display for the next year.

Nearly 120 sculptures have rotated through the display at the University since the exhibit began, and 11 have become part of UT's art collection thanks to the generosity of campus benefactors, colleges and departments, according to LeBlanc.

"Gifts from donors make the annual exhibition possible," LeBlanc said. "If you like the sculptures, please consider a gift to the Campus Beautification Committee through the UT Foundation."

Go to <https://give2ut.utoledo.edu>.



"Profiling" by Todd Kime stands on the west side of Centennial Mall.



Sam Soet's "Cedar Walker Variations II" is perched in Ravin Plaza on Centennial Mall.

Gregory Mendez's "Ellie" dances near UT Medical Center.

Photos by Rachel Nearhoof

Employees celebrate commencement



James Cutri, son of David Cutri, executive director of internal audit and chief compliance officer; graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting with a minor in information systems. He has accepted a job as an information technology auditor at Marathon Petroleum Corp. in Findlay, Ohio.



Cheryl Thomas, executive assistant 2 in the Center for International Studies and Programs, graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree in liberal studies. She plans to continue working at the center and said, "I love my job!"



Amma Kankam, daughter of Kwabena Kankam, senior business manager in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, graduated cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in nursing. She plans to become a labor and delivery nurse.



Danielle Saevig, daughter of Dan Saevig, associate vice president of alumni relations, graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in biology from the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and the Jesup Scott Honors College. Danielle also received the Outstanding Student Award from the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. She will pursue a medical degree at the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences.



Abigail Sullivan, daughter of Kathy Sullivan, communication and technology specialist at the Lake Erie Center; graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree in communications with a minor in visual communications. She plans to look for a job in communications and pursue a master of business administration degree.

Employees invited for ‘Rocket Recess at Work’ May 17, May 25

By Madison Vasko

Who says that recess should be left to elementary school? This is the same question that was asked by Healthy U, UT’s voluntary wellness program for employees, when Rocket Recess at Work was created.

“[The goal is] to provide an opportunity for faculty and staff to take a stress and activity break in their day to improve their physical and mental health,” said Andrea Masters, assistant director of Rocket Wellness.

Rocket Recess at Work will be comprised of open play activities such as bean-bag toss, chess, giant Jenga and bocce ball, as well as team events like kickball, tug of war, yoga and four-square volleyball. Team events require an RSVP on the event page by Tuesday, May 16; go to utoledo.edu/offices/rocketwellness/healthyu/events.html and scroll to Rocket Recess at Work.

Prizes, including yoga mats, duffle bags and farmer’s market tokens, will be available to win throughout the day.

“It is a perfect opportunity to have some fun with colleagues and get some activity in,” Masters said.

After working up an appetite playing kickball, employees can grab lunch from Rosie’s Rolling Chef, Nacho Danny or Displaced Chef food trucks, which will be parked on Centennial Mall.

Even if employees can’t make it out to the events, they can still get in on the fun by downloading a Healthy U bingo card from the event page. After completing a row of spaces that include prompts such as “get 7-8 hours of sleep on a week night,” “pack your lunch instead of going out,” “drink 64 ounces of water in one day,” and “participate in a charitable or community event,” employees can send in their completed bingo card and be entered into a raffle.

“We realize some employees may not be able to participate due to work obligations, but we don’t want them to miss out on the opportunity to win prizes and participate in healthy activities. The bingo card can be completed at their own pace and convenience,” Masters said.

Rocket Recess at Work will take place Wednesday, May 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Centennial Mall.

A similar event will be held on Health Science Campus Thursday, May 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more details on either event, bingo card download and RSVP information, visit utoledo.edu/offices/rocketwellness/healthyu/events.html and scroll to Rocket Recess at Work.

ROCKET RECESS @WORK

NATIONAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND FITNESS DAY
ALL UT EMPLOYEES ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN THE FUN!

Wednesday, May 17
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Carter Field and Centennial Mall
Main Campus

Rain Location-Student Rec Center

HSC event: Thursday, May 25
More info coming soon!

Schedule
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. **open play**
11:15 a.m. - noon **kickball***
12:15 - 12:30 p.m. **tug-of-war***
12:30 - 1 p.m. **yoga on the lawn***
12:45 - 1:15 p.m. **four square volleyball***

Additional activities will include

- Food trucks
- Bean bag toss
- Bocce
- Fowling
- Giant Jenga
- Chance to win prizes

*Please RSVP at utoledo.edu/offices/rocketwellness/healthyu (under the events tab) for kickball, tug-of-war, yoga and four square volleyball. You also can RSVP by emailing healthyut@utoledo.edu or calling 419.383.2348.

Stuck in the office? You can still celebrate National Employee Health and Fitness Day by playing Rocket Recess @Work BINGO! Visit the Healthy U website to download your Bingo card and for more details.

UT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO 1872

HEALTHY U
A healthy U is a healthy UT

Toledo named to 16-team Preseason WNIT field

By Brian DeBenedictis

Toledo has been selected as one of 16 teams to participate in the 2017 Preseason Women's National Invitation Tournament this upcoming season, the WNIT announced May 10.

The 24th annual Preseason WNIT will feature a three-game guarantee for all squads. Matchups are hosted by participating schools, and sites are announced by the end of the preceding round. The complete bracket with first-round sites will be announced later this spring.

The Rockets, who will take part in the Preseason WNIT for the fourth time in program history, are one of eight teams in the field that qualified for post-season play in 2016-17. UT captured its eighth Mid-American Conference title in program history and advanced to the NCAA Championships for the first time since 2001.

Toledo is slated to return nine letterwinners in 2017-18, including four starters, from last year's post-season squad that finished with a 25-9 overall record and a 12-6 league ledger. Guided by 10th-year Head Coach Tricia Cullop, the Rockets



READY TO GO: Junior Sarah St-Fort and the Rockets have been selected as one of 16 teams to participate in the 2017 Preseason WNIT.

welcome back 77.4 percent of their scoring, 76.9 percent of their rebounding, 86.9 percent of their assists, 90.1 percent of their blocks, and 77.5 percent of their steals for this season.

The Midnight Blue and Gold also took part in the Preseason WNIT during the 1994-95, 1998-99 and most recently 2010-11 season, respectively. UT has tallied a 2-4 all-time record in the event.

UT to host Women's Basketball Coaches Association session May 20

By Brian DeBenedictis

Toledo will host a Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Coaches' Classroom Saturday, May 20.

The whiteboard session will run from 9:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Savage Arena.

There is no cost to attend for coaches who are a member of the WBCA, but the session is limited to the first 100 registrations.

Speakers at the University's Regional Whiteboard Series will include Michigan Head Coach Kim Barnes Arico ("High-Energy Drills"), Ashland Head Coach Robyn Fralick ("Building a Team"), Wright State Head Coach Katrina Merriweather

("Defensive Drills"), Ohio State Associate Head Coach Patrick Klein ("Dribble Drive") and Toledo Head Coach Tricia Cullop ("Offensive Quick Hits").

The association is putting on regional clinics called the WBCA Coaches' Classroom at four locations in 2017. These half-day programs are open to coaches at every level of women's and girls' basketball.

The other three locations for the WBCA Coaches' Classroom are North Andover, Mass. (May 24), San Francisco (Aug. 5) and Auburn, Ala. (rescheduled for August).



Here comes the bun

UT Women's Basketball Coach Tricia Cullop joined the list of celebrities to sign a world-famous Tony Packo's Hot Dog Bun May 3. Fans can look for the bun on the walls of the original Tony Packo's Restaurant at 1902 Front St. in Toledo. Cullop guided the Rockets to their eighth Mid-American Conference title in program history in 2016-17, as well as advancing to the NCAA Championships for the first time since 2001.

Freshman of the Year



Thomas Thurloway was named the Mid-American Conference Freshman of the Year in men's golf. This is the fourth time a Rocket has been honored. Brad Heaven received the award in 2001, Chris Selfridge in 2012, and Otto Black in 2013. Thurloway averaged a team-best 74.5 strokes per round this past season.

UT faculty, students to present diverse water quality research at Great Lakes conference in Detroit

By Christine Billau

An ongoing study on the height of the annual algal bloom in the water near the Toledo Water Intake in Lake Erie is one of 34 University of Toledo research projects being presented this week at the annual conference of the International Association of Great Lakes Research.

The study, which measures the algal bloom over 24 hours in rough and calm waters, is entering its second year. The goal is to make recommendations to water plant operators on the best time to pump water and reduce intake exposure to microcystin.

“This has the possibility to provide a practical way to protect the public drinking water,” Dr. Thomas Bridgeman, UT algae researcher and professor of ecology, said. “We want to develop a model that tells the water utilities where to expect the algae to be and when to pump more or less to avoid it.”

Graduate student researcher Eva Kramer will present the research, which is titled “Avoiding Harmful Algal Blooms at Toledo’s Drinking Water Intake by Observing Vertical Distribution and Migration,” during poster presentations Wednesday, May 17.

“It’s inspiring to be surrounded by hundreds of people working to understand, protect and restore the Great Lakes from a broad range of backgrounds,” said Kramer, who is pursuing a master’s degree in ecology. “I look forward to hearing their stories and learning from their successes and struggles.”

The annual conference of the International Association of Great Lakes Research is taking place from Monday, May 15, through Friday, May 19, at the Cobo Center in Detroit.

UT researchers will present from diverse areas of study, including economics; engineering; environmental sciences; chemistry and biochemistry; geography and planning; and medical microbiology and immunology.

A full list of the UT researchers and their projects can be found at utoledo.edu/nsm/lec/news/abstracts.html.

Dr. Carol Stepien, Distinguished University Professor of Ecology, and Dr. Kevin Czajkowski, professor and director of the UT Center for Geographic Information Sciences and Applied Geographics, organized a special session titled “Pathways for Invasions Into the Great

Lakes: Detection, Monitoring and New Technology” that will run from 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday, May 17. Stepien and Czajkowski work with bait shops and fishermen for invasive species prevention.

PhD student researcher Alison Brendel, who works in the lab of Dr. Jason Huntley, associate professor of medical microbiology and immunology, will present a talk titled “Isolation and Characterization of Lake Erie Bacteria That Degrade the Microcystin Toxin MC-LR” Friday, May 19, at 10:40 a.m. during the session titled “Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Research Initiatives: Field to Faucet and Beyond.”

During that same session, Dr. Kevin Egan, associate professor of economics, will present “Benefit-Cost Analysis for Policy Options (e.g. Fertilizer Fee, Wetlands) to Reduce Nutrient Runoff” Friday, May 19, at 8 a.m.

Water quality is a major research focus at the University. With \$12.5 million in active grants underway, UT is studying algal blooms, invasive species such as Asian carp, and pollutants, and looking for pathways to restore the greatest natural resource for future generations to ensure communities continue to have access to safe drinking water.

Researchers and students help to protect the public drinking water supply for the greater Toledo area throughout summer algal bloom season by conducting water sampling to alert water treatment plant operators of any toxins heading toward the water intake. UT’s 28-foot research vessel enables the University to partner with the city of Toledo and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to monitor the health of the lake and provide real-time data.

The UT Lake Erie Center is a research and educational facility focused on environmental conditions and aquatic resources in Maumee Bay and western Lake Erie as a model for the Great Lakes and aquatic ecosystems worldwide.



Last year, Ken Gibbons pulled up a water sample using a long, white tube that reaches the lake bottom. The water was emptied into the orange bucket held by Dr. Thomas Bridgeman, UT algae researcher and professor of ecology.



Photos by Christine Billau

UT researchers take regular samples near the Toledo Water Intake in Lake Erie.

Engineering classmates win first-place prize in 2017 business plan competition

By Bob Mackowiak

The SpecuLIFT Team claimed the \$10,000 prize last month in the seventh annual UT College of Business and Innovation's Business Innovation Competition.

The award will help the team develop its idea into a successful business.

The winning team — Michael Peachock, Rachel Wagner, Andrew Oehrtman, Mark Caris and Melissa Brodsky — all met in the College of Engineering, are all bioengineering majors, and have remained close friends through their shared five-year educational journey. Their competition idea submission, developed for their engineering senior design project, was for a Novel Vaginal Speculum, a medical diagnostic device for which they are pursuing a patent.

"We started with about 50 different ideas for our senior design engineering project," Wagner said. "Melissa and I worked on research. My sister works in the health-care field, and current specula are uncomfortable. Our team member, Michael, is a business minor and gave us a lot of insight into developing our business plan."

"Since our major is bioengineering, we saw that it has good market potential," Caris said, "so it was one of our top three ideas. The device is used by gynecologists for a pelvic exam, and a likely scenario for our device would be in an emergency room setting. Our goal was to maximize patient comfort with functionality."

Caris added, "We all met in engineering and have known each other for five years. They are all great people, and we are great friends."

Brodsky said, "The \$10,000 prize will enable us to do more prototyping, such as a version that has a light source. Entering the business plan competition was a very eye-opening experience."

"We are willing to support you, to provide free advice about how to spend, where to spend and when not to spend," advised Dr. Sonny Ariss, professor and chair of the Department of Management in the College of Business and Innovation. "Statistically, you have a 5 percent chance of success, and I'm telling you this so you will be diligent not to fail. Your prize money is a major leap. Don't underestimate



BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS: Winning the College of Business and Innovation's Business Innovation Competition and \$10,000 were members of the SpecuLIFT Team, from left, Michael Peachock, Rachel Wagner; Andrew Oehrtman, Mark Caris, Melissa Brodsky, and Dr. Ronald Fournier, professor of bioengineering and team adviser. The team posed for a photo with Dr. Sonny Ariss, professor and chair of the Department of Management.

yourself. Surround yourself with a great advisory board."

"We are pursuing a patent for the device and, ultimately, will need to obtain FDA approval," Caris said. "I am super-excited about this and fully expect to work lots of hours. We are ready to proceed."

Finishing in second place was Green Agrothermal LLC, submitted by Mohammadmatin Hanifzadeh and Dr. Dong Shik Kim, associate professor of chemical

and environmental engineering, who received the \$5,000 prize to develop their business.

Honorable mention went to RowBot, submitted by Jeffrey Darah and Andrew Puppas.

The College of Business and Innovation's business plan competition received 31 entries this year and was open to all UT faculty, staff and students.

Law student named finalist in American Constitution Society writing competition

By Kirsten M. Winek

Second-year UT law student Ashley Blas was selected in April as a finalist in the American Constitution Society's National Student Writing Competition.

Named in honor of Judge Constance Baker Motley, the first African-American woman appointed to a federal judgeship, the competition seeks law student writing that takes a progressive view of the U.S. Constitution, law and public policy.

The competition was judged by a panel of well-known law professors and deans, including constitutional law scholar Erwin Chemerinsky, as well as federal and state judges. Writing and analytical quality were paramount in the paper judging process.

Dean and Professor Emeritus Daniel J. Steinbock, who served as a law clerk for Motley, said, "This is a notable

achievement, and I, especially, am proud of Ashley for doing so well in a competition named for a great person and true hero of the civil rights movement."

Blas submitted her law review article titled "The Danger of Silence: How the Political Activities Prohibition Negatively Affects Nonprofit Domestic Violence Organizations and the Case for Broader Federal Protection," which will be published in the spring issue of *The University of Toledo Law Review*.

She was one of seven finalists, joining law students from Duke University School of Law, University of Virginia School of Law, University of Florida Levin College of Law, Boston College Law School, University of North Carolina School of Law and University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Rebecca Zietlow, the Charles W. Fornoff Professor of Law and Values, was Blas' law review faculty adviser.

"I am happy, but not surprised, that Ashley has been named a finalist for this award. Her article is well-written and original," Zietlow said. "It is about an important issue, restrictions on the political speech of 501(c)(3) corporations. Although it is widely recognized that these restrictions impact religious organizations, Ashley points out that these restrictions also limit the speech of politically vulnerable charitable organizations, including those helping victims of domestic violence."



Blas

Ritter Planetarium to show 'Cosmic Colors' Fridays through June 30

By Christine Billau

Have you ever wondered why the sky is blue, Mars is red, and plants are green?

The community is invited to Ritter Planetarium to take an adventure along the electromagnetic spectrum and discover the

world of color at 8:30 p.m. every Friday through June 30.

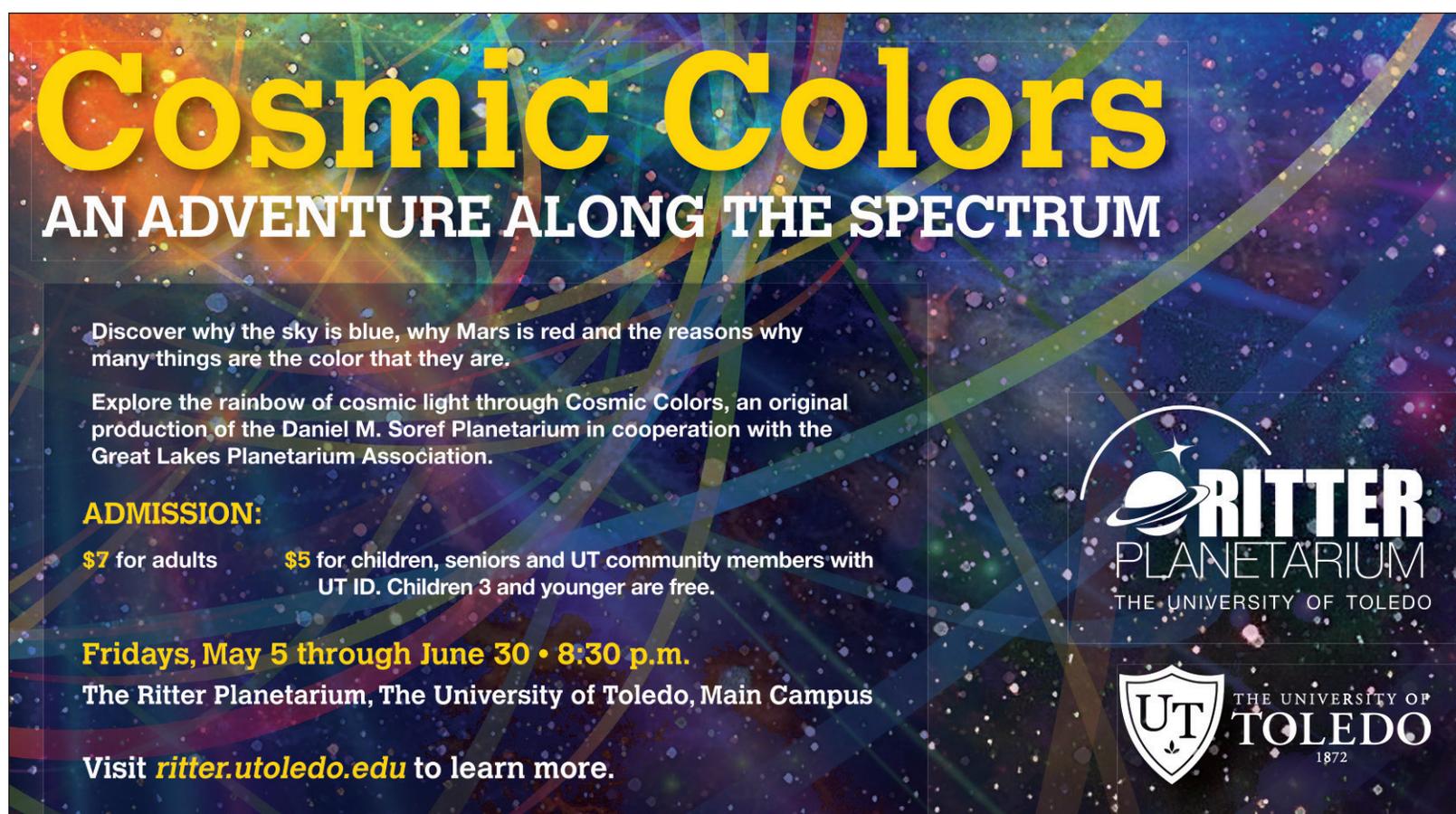
"Cosmic Colors, an Adventure Along the Spectrum," an original production of the Daniel M. Soref Planetarium in cooperation with the Great Lakes Planetarium

Association, will be projected inside UT's full dome.

The show takes viewers on a tour of a plant leaf and through a human eye. Plus, it explores the world of infrared in a roaring fire, and it investigates x-rays by taking on a monstrous black hole.

Admission to the program is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children, senior citizens and UT community members. All children younger than 4 are free.

Doors open 30 minutes before the show.



Cosmic Colors
AN ADVENTURE ALONG THE SPECTRUM

Discover why the sky is blue, why Mars is red and the reasons why many things are the color that they are.

Explore the rainbow of cosmic light through Cosmic Colors, an original production of the Daniel M. Soref Planetarium in cooperation with the Great Lakes Planetarium Association.

ADMISSION:
\$7 for adults \$5 for children, seniors and UT community members with UT ID. Children 3 and younger are free.

Fridays, May 5 through June 30 • 8:30 p.m.
The Ritter Planetarium, The University of Toledo, Main Campus

Visit ritter.utoledo.edu to learn more.

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UT Medical Center to hold Joint Commission Safety Fair May 23

By Sarah A. Velliquette

The University of Toledo Medical Center will hold a Joint Commission Safety Fair Tuesday, May 23, in the Four Seasons' Bistro.

The fair is scheduled to run from 2 to 4 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in the event in preparation for the upcoming triennial Joint Commission accreditation visit. The accreditation visit is unannounced and will take place prior to Wednesday, Nov. 1.

The safety fair serves as a way to increase awareness of hot topics to boost compliance with regulatory requirements.

Topics offered will include: medication management, pain management, fall reduction, appropriate use of restraints, sepsis, suicide precautions, environment of care topics, life safety topics, universal protocol, infection prevention, joint commission accreditation information, and national patient safety goals.

There will be a station for each topic with activities, prizes and/or treats, ending with ice cream for all participants.

For additional information, contact Bobbie Jordan, regulatory compliance coordinator, at 419.383.4848.



The Joint Commission Safety Fair

May 23, 2017

0200-0400 and 1100-1400

The Four Seasons Bistro

In memoriam

Winfred "Fred" Fails, Maumee, a former math instructor who helped with the Upward Bound Program, died May 7 at age 81. The UT alumnus received a master of education degree in 1966 and an education specialist degree in 1979.

Walda G. Kelly, Toledo, who worked at MCO for 19 years, died April 27 at age 58.

Lawrence J. "Larry" Kirsch, Toledo, who worked on campus from 1994 to 2002, died May 6 at age 85.

Dorothy J. Martindale, Toledo, who worked at MCO for more than two decades, died April 30 at age 90. She joined the staff in 1968 and retired as housekeeping manager in the Environmental Services Department in 1994.

Ray E. Mowery, Toledo, a former part-time instructor, died May 9 at age 80.

Clark H. Reber, Sylvania, who worked at UT 15 years, died April 27 at age 88. In 1966, he was named the University's first director of financial aid. He served in that position until his retirement in 1981. The UT alumnus received a bachelor's degree in education and French in 1950, a master of education degree in 1956, and a legal assisting certificate in 2000. His survivors include two daughters who are retired from the University, Janine Reber and Karen Pojedynski.

Theresa "Tessie" (Muszynski) Reiter, Toledo, who was a volunteer with the Satellites Auxiliary, died May 2 at age 97.

Theodore J. "Ted" Rondeau, Whitehouse, Ohio, who was a volunteer with the Satellites Auxiliary, died May 3 at age 70.

University's strategic plan nears completion

The final review of the University's strategic plan has been completed, and the plan is in the process of being finalized for approval by the UT Board of Trustees.

Approximately 30 people provided comments on the plan in the two-week public review period in late April. As a result of comments received, a number of minor adjustments were made to the plan.

In several cases, language was altered to make the meaning clearer. Changes were made to better clarify how this plan dovetails with UT's Diversity and Inclusion Plan,

the Multi-Campus Plan, and the Strategic Enrollment Plan.

Other clarifications were made in the language around philanthropy, globalization, research and support of faculty research, as well as UT's image.

The goal seeking to reduce the number of programs that require more than 120 credit hours to graduate also was rewritten for clarity.

No comments were made about the University's new mission, vision and values statements.

A final copy of the plan will be available in mid to late June.

College of Medicine commencement

continued from p. 1

affiliated with McMaster University and St. Joseph Healthcare Hamilton.

In 2003, he established the world's first telerobotic surgical service linking St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton and a community hospital.

In addition, Anvari has authored more than 120 publications and has been an invited lecturer numerous times on the outcomes and evidence for the increasing use of laparoscopic esophagogastric and bowel surgery, as well as on the use of robotics in surgery.

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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Sea of green

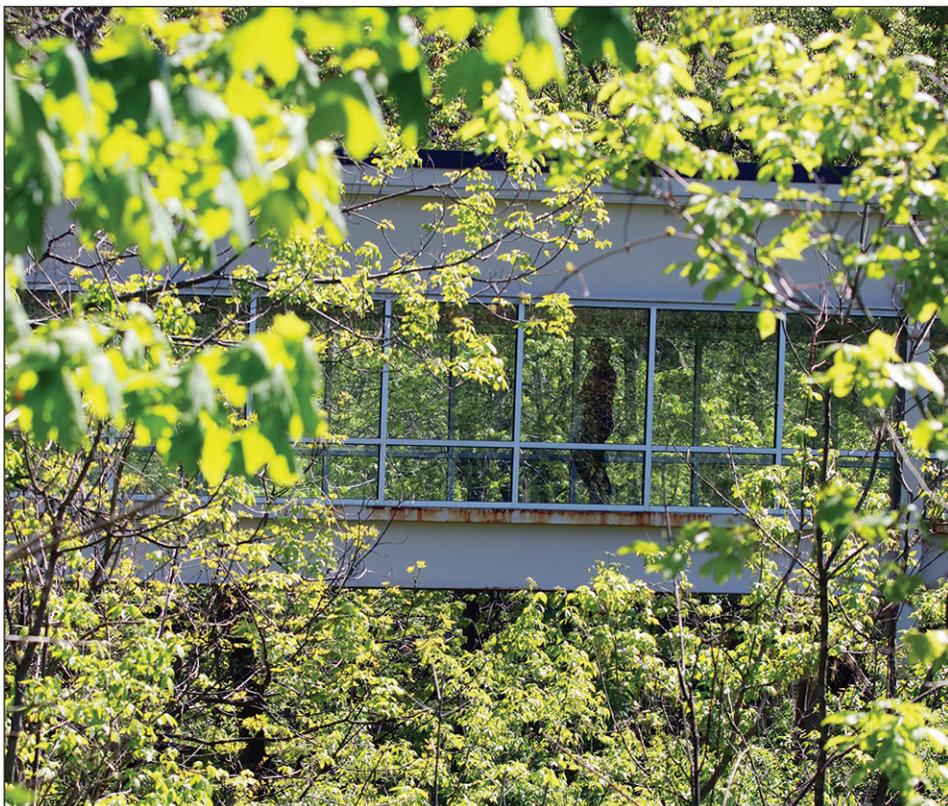


Photo by Rachel Nearhoof

Photography Assistant Rachel Nearhoof last week took this shot of a person in the walkway between Mulford Library and the Collier Building.



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