

## Researchers study red-headed woodpeckers to solve mysteries of charismatic, declining species

By Christine Billau

**T**he red-headed woodpecker's feisty, loud personality fits the reputation of crimson-maned creatures, but the student researcher gently holding the bird bucked the trend.

University of Toledo graduate student Kyle Pagel was calm, steady and methodical as he banded the woodpecker's legs with tiny, colorful identifying rings and looped a miniature backpack armed with a light-level geolocator and pinpoint-GPS around its legs.

"The woodpecker is wearing it like a climbing harness," said Pagel, who is pursuing a master's degree in environmental sciences at UT. "The backpack is so thin and light that it doesn't inhibit flight or movement."

The bird that flies freely once again from tree to tree isn't the scarlet-mohawked woodpecker regularly spotted in backyards. The red-headed woodpecker is about the size of a robin or 10 times larger than a warbler.

This 70-gram, boldly patterned "flying checkerboard" is the seventh bird of its kind in a week that the UT team has examined at Oak Openings Metropark, taken a blood sample from, and outfitted with tracking technology to identify migration routes.

"This is such a photogenic, popular species, it's surprising how little is known about them," Pagel said. "It's fascinating to work with such a charismatic bird."

Pagel, along with Dr. Henry Streby, ornithologist and UT assistant professor of environmental

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Photos by Christine Billau

**WINGING IT:** UT graduate student Kyle Pagel held a red-headed woodpecker at Oak Openings Metropark in Swanton, Ohio. He is helping to conduct research on the bird to discover migration routes and why the species is in decline.

## Scientist studies effect of algal blooms on turtles

By Kim Goodin

**W**hen the tap water of more than 500,000 northwest Ohioans was declared unsafe in August 2014, the three-day crisis caused global concern. Most was focused on how high levels of microcystin in citizens' Lake Erie-fed tap water could affect those using it to drink, cook and bathe.

There was scant discussion regarding how the toxin, which is caused by certain freshwater cyanobacteria found in algal blooms, affects wildlife in and around freshwater lakes such as Lake Erie because little research existed.

Dr. Jeanine Refsnider, assistant professor of ecology in UT's Department of Environmental Sciences, is among the first to study how the harmful effects of algal blooms influence the health of Lake Erie wildlife, particularly turtles.

"Turtles are quite robust," Refsnider said. "For a lot of species of vertebrates, what you see is when they're stressed, their immune function is depressed, just like you find in humans. For turtles, preliminarily, we don't really see that. [Their] immune system doesn't seem to get weaker when they're under stress."

Refsnider and her team have been trapping turtles at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in Oak Harbor, Ohio, since mid-May and will continue through next month. In the field, they take baseline measurements, such as weight and size; determine the genders; check females for eggs; count the number of leeches clinging to shells; and photograph the shells.

"Turtles that aren't able to bask as much as they should tend to have more leeches and more algae growing on their shells, and we think that's an indicator of worse health," Refsnider noted.

The team also will take blood samples from each turtle's tail for various assays to be examined in Refsnider's lab.

"We're looking for baseline levels of physiological stress," she said. "When an organism is exposed to a longer-term stressor, the ratio of different types of white blood cells changes. It takes a few days, but you can actually get an estimate of their stress level by counting the number of white blood cells and looking at this ratio."

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Photo by Christine Billau

**TURTLE POWER:** This painted turtle from the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in Oak Harbor, Ohio, was trapped and released by Dr. Jeanine Refsnider and her assistants after they took measurements to begin assessing the effects of algal blooms on the reptile.

## Congratulations!



Photo by Daniel Miller

Be innovative: That's the advice internationally renowned minimally invasive surgeon Dr. Mehran Anvari gave to more than 200 candidates for degrees at the College of Medicine and Life Sciences graduation ceremony May 26 at Stranahan Theater. 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, received an honorary doctor of science.

## Interim VP of student affairs named

By Christine Billau

The University of Toledo Division of Student Affairs is transitioning through a leadership change.

Dr. Phillip "Flapp" Cockrell, associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students,



Cockrell

will serve as interim vice president of student affairs effective June 1. Dr. Kaye M. Patten will retire in June.

Patten, who ascended to the role of senior vice president since joining UT in July 2005, plans to take advantage of the University's Voluntary Separation Incentive Program.

"I have enjoyed my time at UT, have created many great memories, and feel our team has accomplished much," Patten said. "I am looking forward to the future."

"For 11 years Dr. Kaye Patten has provided strong leadership for the Division

of Student Affairs," UT President Sharon L. Gaber said. "On behalf of our UT community, I thank her for all she has done and wish her the best upon her well-deserved retirement."

A retirement reception for Patten will be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 1, in the UT Driscoll Alumni Center Schmadel Room.

"Dr. Phillip 'Flapp' Cockrell has proven himself to be a strong leader with a commitment to student success, and I appreciate his willingness to step into the role of interim vice president to continue the progress being made in the Division of Student Affairs and to fulfill the University's mission for a student-centered environment," Gaber said.

"I appreciate the opportunity and look forward to working with the administration and faculty in looking for ways to enhance student success as it relates to the student experience at the University," Cockrell said.

The offices and departments that make up the Division of Student Affairs include the Office of the Dean of Students; Office of Residence Life; University Counseling Center; Office of Multicultural Student Success; Office of Recreation; Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards; Office of Student Involvement and

Leadership; Office of Student Advocacy and Support; Toledo Excel; and Upward Bound.

Cockrell joined UT as associate vice president of student affairs and dean of students in April 2016. Cockrell has several years of experience working in student affairs at various universities. Most recently, he served three years as associate vice provost for student affairs and dean of students at Jackson State University in Mississippi.

His prior student affairs experience also includes work in various positions at Mississippi University for Women, Ohio State University and Florida International University.

Cockrell toured and studied institutions of higher learning policies and practices abroad in England, Scotland and Ireland.

He received his bachelor of science degree in family studies from Mississippi University for Women in 2003. Cockrell obtained a master of science degree in educational leadership and student affairs from Florida International University, followed by a doctor of philosophy in urban higher education from Jackson State University.

## Retirement reception June 1 for senior VP of student affairs

By Christine Billau

A retirement reception for Dr. Kaye M. Patten, senior vice president of student affairs at The University of Toledo, will be held Thursday, June 1, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Driscoll Alumni Center Schmadel Room.



Patten

Patten will retire in June after more than a decade at the University.

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### CORRECTION

Alison Brandel's name was misspelled in the May 15 issue in a story about the annual conference of the International Association of Great Lakes Research. Brandel, a PhD student researcher who works in the lab of Dr. Jason Huntley, associate professor of medical microbiology and immunology, gave a presentation at the conference.

Look for the next issue  
of UT News June 12

## New dean selected to lead College of Nursing

By Christine Billau

The future of nursing education at The University of Toledo will be in the hands of a leader and scholar with a passion for pediatrics whose research focuses on helping children and families cope with traumatic situations.

Dr. Linda Lewandowski is selected to join UT as the dean of the College of Nursing effective July 10.

Lewandowski comes to UT from the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) College of Nursing, where she served as professor of nursing and former associate dean for academic affairs and graduate program director.

"I am proud to welcome Dr. Linda Lewandowski to The University of Toledo as dean of the College of Nursing," Dr. Andrew Hsu, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, said. "Her extensive experience in patient care, nursing education and research will advance and strengthen our commitment to research and training high-quality, versatile health-care providers who will make a difference in the community."

"I feel very honored and privileged to be joining the UT community," Lewandowski said. "Visionary and action-oriented new University leadership; leading-edge, innovative educational facilities; well-established interprofessional collaborative education programs; and talented and compassionate faculty, staff and students are some of the strengths that drew me to this position."

Personally, this move brings her much closer to family.

"I grew up in Michigan and am looking forward to coming back to the Midwest," Lewandowski said. "The fact that my daughter, son-in-law and grandchild — with



Lewandowski

Lewandowski said she believes that universities play vital roles in advancing the health and well-being of communities, while providing meaningful and real-world learning experiences for students.

"Helping address and manage tough challenges, such as the growing opioid epidemic, which affects families of every socio-demographic group, through our research, education and service activities is one example of how we can help make a difference in the state of Ohio as well as the nation," Lewandowski said.

Lewandowski worked in a joint position at Wayne State University College of Nursing and Children's Hospital of Michigan from 2003 to 2012 as the Elizabeth Schotanus Endowed Professor of Pediatric Nursing and

another on the way — live not too far away in the Detroit area is certainly a plus. I am looking forward to more frequent 'grandma-time.'"

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## Familiar face returning to lead College of Arts and Letters

By Christine Billau

An award-winning independent documentary filmmaker and scholar of women's and gender studies will join The University of Toledo to lead the College of Arts and Letters.

She also is a familiar face on campus.

Charlene Gilbert will return to UT from Ohio State



Gilbert

University at Lima, where she has served as dean and director since 2014, as well as professor in the departments of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Her appointment will be effective July 10.

Prior to Lima, Gilbert worked at UT for seven years

as professor and chair of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies, founding director of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, and director of the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women.

"The University is excited to welcome Charlene Gilbert back to Toledo," Dr. Andrew Hsu, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, said. "Her excellent, diverse experience and enthusiasm for student and faculty success will be strong assets as dean of the College of Arts and Letters."

"I am honored to have been selected as the next dean of the College of Arts and Letters," Gilbert said. "This is an inspiring time for The University of Toledo, and it is clear to me that the College of Arts and Letters will be a critical part of the University's highest aspirations for the future."

Gilbert was a documentary filmmaker and professor at American University in Washington, D.C., from 2001 to 2007 in the School of Communication.

Her documentary films have been screened nationally on PBS and in film festivals across the country.

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## New dean named for College of Engineering

By Christine Billau

A civil and environmental engineer with a focus on design and construction innovation and safety will join The University of Toledo as the leader of the College of Engineering effective Aug. 1.



Toole

Dr. Michael Toole comes to UT from Bucknell University in Pennsylvania. Over his 18 years at Bucknell, he served as professor of civil and environmental engineering, associate dean of engineering, director of the Grand Challenge Scholars Program, and director of the Institute for

Leadership in Technology and Management. During the current academic year, Toole has been a faculty fellow associated with the Partnership for Achieving Construction Excellence at Pennsylvania State University's Department of Architectural Engineering.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Michael Toole to The University of Toledo," Dr. Andrew Hsu, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, said. "His robust experience in higher education, the private sector and the U.S. Navy Civil Engineering Corps will enhance and strengthen our commitment to research and training in the College of Engineering."

"I can't wait to begin working with the excellent faculty and staff at UT to help provide quality engineering education that strengthens the Toledo region, as well as our nation," Toole said. "The commitment on campus to achieve excellence in both teaching and research is inspiring. The strong co-op program, extensive research facilities and wonderful ties with regional industry partners make this opportunity very compelling."

Prior to Bucknell University, Toole worked at Packer Engineering as director of construction systems and vice president of HomeCAD; Ryland Homes as purchasing and construction services manager; Tonyan Composites Corp. as president and co-founder; Massachusetts Institute of Technology as an instructor of business and technology strategy; Brown and Root Services Corp. as project manager; and the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps as assistant resident officer in charge of construction and company commander in a SEABEE battalion.

Toole earned a PhD in technology strategy and a master's in civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Bucknell University.

Toole is a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a member of the National Academy of Engineering Grand Challenge Scholars Program Steering Committee, the American Society of Safety Engineers and the American Society of Engineering Education. Toole won teaching awards at MIT and Bucknell and received two best paper awards from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

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## Main Campus Pharmacy set to start summer hours

On Monday, June 5, The University of Toledo's Main Campus Pharmacy will begin its summer hours.

The pharmacy will be open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We want to make sure employees, students and members of the UT community know we are here for them," Dr. Valerie Householder, manager of the UT Main Campus Pharmacy, said. "Our goal is to continue to provide great patient care, and that means offering hours that are convenient for everyone. Stop by before or after work."

The summer hours will remain in effect until Monday, Aug. 21, one week prior to the start of fall semester.

Located in the Main Campus Medical Center across from the Horton International House, the pharmacy offers personalized health care, immunization services, affordable prices and a wide array of over-the-counter products.

"Our highly trained staff is available to counsel every patient regarding his or her current or new prescriptions," Householder said. "We can conveniently transfer prescriptions or answer questions regarding our services."

She added that the pharmacy will be closed Tuesday, July 4, for Independence Day.

For more information, call the Main Campus Pharmacy at 419.530.3471.

## UTMC to host Summer Disaster Preparedness Training series

By Sarah A. Velliquette

The University of Toledo Medical Center will host a four-part training series that will focus on disaster preparedness training beginning Wednesday, July 19, at the Jacobs Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center on Health Science Campus.

The series, which is supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security — Federal Emergency Management Agency funds, will be led by Texas A&M Extension Service disaster preparedness experts and is free for all UTMC employees and UT students, faculty and staff.

"I am passionate about this facility and value the importance of excellent disaster preparedness training," said Erin Konecki, UTMC nurse and organizer of the series. "I believe that you can only be prepared for what you practice. This is why I, with the strong support of many UT faculty and staff, have arranged for this invaluable, all-hazards approach training to be brought right to our doorstep. When, not if, disaster comes knocking at our door, UT and UTMC will be ready to respond."

The classes provide continuing medical education for physicians and continuing education for nurses and emergency medical technicians.

The courses are:

- MGT 319 Medical Countermeasures: Points of Dispensing, Planning and Response from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 19, and Thursday, July 20;
- MGT 341 Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals and Health-Care Organizations Within the Community Infrastructure from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, July 27, and Friday, July 28;
- PER 341 Medical Management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive Events from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16, and Thursday, Aug. 17; and
- PER 320 Personal Protective Measures for Biological Events from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24.

Participants are encouraged to donate \$10 for each course to help with food expenses.

To register, contact Konecki at [erin.berry2@utoledo.edu](mailto:erin.berry2@utoledo.edu) or 419.266.4059.

For additional information about the courses, visit <https://teex.org/Pages/default.aspx>.



READY TO ASSIST: Pharmacist Monica Hogrefe talked to a customer at the Main Campus Pharmacy.

### Final reminder: Voluntary Separation Incentive Program

Eligible employees must submit forms to Human Resources no later than **Tuesday, May 30, by 5 p.m.** to be considered.

To access the forms and plan details, visit [utoledo.edu/depts/hr/voluntary-separation](http://utoledo.edu/depts/hr/voluntary-separation). Applicants will be informed whether they are eligible to separate during the week of June 12.

## Class investigates mock crime scene

By Christine Billau

Consider it CSI: UT. University of Toledo students studying criminal justice and paralegal studies got a dose of reality as part of a pioneering summer course titled Criminal Forensics and Trial Practice.

It's a collaboration between the Paralegal Studies and Criminal Justice programs in the College of Health and Human Services.

Students are placed on prosecuting and defense teams and assigned as crime scene investigators, paralegals and attorneys. They are responsible for investigating a

mock homicide, indicting a suspect, and conducting a trial.

The exercise began with a fake crime scene May 23 at the southwest corner of Wildwood Preserve Metropark near the maintenance building. Sixteen undergraduate students spent all day at the site.

The students tested their knowledge of forensic principles, including securing a crime scene, photographing and collecting evidence, blood spatter analysis, and interrogation, with the guidance of John Schlageter, director of the UT Paralegal

Studies Program and a former attorney who practiced in Ohio and Michigan, and Andrew "Mick" Dier, director of the UT Criminal Justice Program and a retired UT police officer.

"This is an opportunity for students to step out of the traditional classroom setting and practice hands-on skills that they will use in their careers," Schlageter said.

A mock jury trial will be held Thursday, June 22, in the McQuade Courtroom located in the Health and Human Services Building.

At the trial, students will use their knowledge of trial procedure, including

the preparation and examination of trial witnesses, how to make a closing argument, and rules of evidence.

"Following proper procedure from the very beginning at the crime scene could be the deciding factor in a guilty verdict from a jury," Dier said. "This is practical training to put the students in real situations and force them to make mistakes here because in the real world of law enforcement, we get one shot to do it right, one bite of the apple."



Photos by Daniel Miller

**ON THE SCENE:** Students in the Criminal Forensics and Trial Practice class secured the mock crime scene May 23 at Wildwood Preserve Metropark.



**CLOSER LOOK:** Cortney Dillhoff, who is majoring in criminal justice, examined skeletal remains found at the mock crime scene at Wildwood Preserve Metropark.



**CLICK:** A student took a photo at the mock crime scene to document evidence.

## Fellows selected for new conference leadership initiative

Three UT faculty members have been named fellows to participate in the new Mid-American Conference Academic Leadership Development Program.

The program was created to foster preparation and advancement of future academic leaders through working with MAC administrators and colleagues.

Dr. Andrew Hsu, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, said, "The University of Toledo is excited to join the Mid-American Conference Academic Leadership Development Program, and we are happy to announce the fellows from our institution who will benefit from this tremendous opportunity."

Fellows for the 2017-18 academic year are:

- Dr. Patrick Lawrence, professor of geography and planning, and associate dean of social and behavioral sciences in the College of Arts and Letters;
- Holly Monsos, professor of theatre and associate dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts in the College of Arts and Letters; and
- Dr. Amy Thompson, professor of public health in the School of Population Health in the College of Health and Human Services; faculty

fellow in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs; and 2017-18 president of Faculty Senate.

All tenured faculty with experience in administrative leadership and service were eligible to apply for the MAC Academic Leadership Development Program. Candidates needed to submit a letter of support from their dean, as well as an application and curriculum vitae for consideration.

"Our fellows will participate in a development program with UT leaders to gain valuable insight and experience," Hsu said. "In addition, they will work with MAC school administrators and peers to better understand how universities operate."

All MAC Academic Leadership Development Program fellows will attend one three-day workshop each semester. Topics to be addressed include conflict resolution, budgeting, accreditation and accountability.

"Thanks to this program, our fellows will see firsthand the challenges and rewards of institutional service as they prepare for potential leadership positions," Hsu said.

Read more about the MAC Academic Leadership Development Program at [utoledo.edu/offices/provost/MAC-ALDP.html](http://utoledo.edu/offices/provost/MAC-ALDP.html).

## Meet new director of University Counseling Center

Dr. Mychail Scheramic started his new position as director of the University Counseling Center last month.



Scheramic

"Dr. Scheramic brings over 20 years of counseling and leadership experience to his new role at UT," Dr. Kaye M. Patten, senior vice president for student affairs, said.

His experience includes inpatient and outpatient therapy, and supervision

of counselors, graduate students and interns through an American Psychology Association-accredited internship consortium.

"I am excited about learning more about the students, faculty and staff, and how I can help contribute to UT's success," Scheramic said. "I am proud to lead our efforts in the University Counseling Center and look forward to working with our students and staff."

Previously, he worked as chief executive officer at the Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital, where he was responsible for the administration of mental health/clinical programs and the development and management of innovative counseling techniques serving a diverse population of clients.

Scheramic has numerous publications to his credit that address critical issues in areas of behavior management and counseling.

The Toledo native received an MBA from UT, and master of arts and doctoral degree from the Forrest Institute of Professional Psychology, Wheeling, Ill.

## Campus motivation



Photos by Daniel Miller



Area high school students practiced CPR in the Jacobs Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center this month when they visited the University for the Latino Youth Summit. More than 500 area students in grades six through 12 came to campus for the program that concentrates on college preparation and planning, as well as career choices. Keynote speaker Richard Santana talked 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. During his talk, Santana removed his sunglasses, coat and baggy jeans to reveal his transformation to a successful professional.

# UT scientist named Top 40 Under 40 by Greenhouse Product News

By Madison Vasko

When asked how she first became interested in plants and nature, Dr. Jennifer Boldt attributed her passion to her family.

“For most of my life, my parents owned and operated a greenhouse and garden center in Florida. I have literally grown up surrounded by plants. My sister and I would help out in the afternoons after school and during the summers. I have fond memories of helping my parents and grandparents transplant seedlings,” she recalled.

“My sister and I thought it was great because we got to spend time with [family] and nobody minded that we got dirty. As we got older, we assumed more and more responsibility in both the production and retail aspects of the business. We saw all the hard work, dedication and passion that our parents had for growing beautiful plants, helping customers find the right plants for their gardens and landscapes, and providing a sense of community for their employees and customers,” Boldt continued. “My dad was a very patient teacher and cultivated our interest in learning how plants grow. As I got older, I decided that this could be a career path for me, too.

“I studied horticulture and business administration as an undergraduate, and had planned to one day take over the family business. However, I discovered research and have taken a slightly different career path, but I am still very much involved in the horticulture industry and enjoy it immensely.”

Boldt was recently named one of the Top 40 Under 40 by Greenhouse Product News. She is a research horticulturalist with the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service, housed in Wolfe Hall. She and her colleagues utilize space in the Wolfe Hall greenhouse and at the Toledo Botanical Garden. The Wolfe Hall greenhouse also is utilized by members of the departments of Biological Sciences and Environmental Sciences.

In addition, Boldt is an adjunct research assistant professor in environmental sciences at UT.

Listed among Boldt’s accomplishments in Greenhouse Product News was her research program that studied how different factors and practices influenced the growth and development of greenhouse crops.

“The Agricultural Research Service is the chief in-house scientific research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It has more than 90 research locations and

690 research projects, but our group is the only one whose project is focused specifically on the production of greenhouse-grown ornamentals. This includes primarily flowering plants, like what you would plant in a home garden or in container planters, but also vegetables and culinary herbs. Our research looks at how light, temperature, carbon dioxide concentration, fertilizers, and the growing medium influence how quickly a plant grows, how quickly it flowers, how it looks (its architecture), and/or how well it is able to tolerate stress,” Boldt explained.

“For instance, one project looks at what growing conditions optimize a plant’s photosynthetic rate. We have developed models and incorporated them into a software tool that growers can use to see how adding supplemental lighting or increasing and/or decreasing the greenhouse temperature will affect plant growth. They can compare the predicted change in plant growth to the costs associated with changing the greenhouse environment and determine if it is worthwhile from an economic perspective. We want to provide information and recommendations to growers that can help increase their productivity and profitability, while at the same time reduce the quantity of inputs — water, fertilizer, energy, etc. — required to successfully grow plants in greenhouses and other controlled environments.”

Though her work may seem complicated to outsiders, Boldt enjoys her day-to-day research.

“There never is a typical day, which keeps things interesting. Most of my time is spent in the office, planning upcoming research, analyzing data from experiments, writing manuscripts, reviewing manuscripts, and checking in with our fabulous greenhouse and lab technicians to see how plant care, data collection and laboratory analyses are going. I have ongoing research collaborations with a few Agricultural Research Service and university researchers, so there are planning and update meetings that occur. When we have ongoing plant trials, I routinely check in on the plants — like a doctor making rounds at a hospital — to see how they are growing.



Photo by Daniel Miller

**BLOOMING SUCCESS:** Dr. Jennifer Boldt, adjunct research assistant professor of environmental sciences, was named one of the Top 40 Under 40 by Greenhouse Product News.

“I do enjoy the days when I get to spend some time in the greenhouse; we lease greenhouse space at the Toledo Botanical Garden and conduct many of our research trials there,” she said.

As for her colleagues, Boldt said, “I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the great team of scientists, postdocs, technicians and undergraduate students that work daily to accomplish the research goals of our group. Current members include Mona-Lisa Banks, Douglas Sturtz, Cindy Carnicom and Mitchell Caris. We also had two terrific undergraduate students in spring semester — Amy Towell and Maithili Kulkarni.”

There was another member of the horticulture industry that Boldt was especially pleased to be recognized alongside: her twin sister, Jessica Boldt.

“It was a wonderful surprise. We are very close and have very similar interests. Our undergraduate degrees are the same, and we even had the same adviser for our master’s degrees. We have cheered on each other’s accomplishments, and so it’s very special to be nominated by different individuals and selected for this recognition together in the same year,” Boldt said. “We found out that we both had been selected when someone emailed me instead of Jessica to congratulate her. We had a good laugh, since we get mistaken for the other all the time, even though we now live in different states.

“In case you can’t tell, I’m very proud of Jessica,” she said and then laughed.

The two share the same passion for horticulture and the large role that it plays in society.

“On a basic level, plants are a source of food, fiber and fuel. They provide vitamins and nutrients. Many contain compounds that have medicinal uses. Plants improve the air quality. Trees, shrubs and green roofs lower the energy costs of homes and buildings. Exposure to plants and nature reduces our stress levels. Gardening is therapeutic and provides a way to stay active. There are so many benefits that plants provide that positively impact our well-being,” Boldt explained.

“Have you seen how someone’s face lights up when you give her or him a basket of fresh-picked strawberries or a bouquet of beautiful flowers? There is joy in planting bulbs in the fall and watching them emerge from the ground the following spring. Without waxing poetic too much, we need to feed and nourish the body, mind and soul, and horticulture allows us to do that. Also, career opportunities abound in horticulture — plant breeding, greenhouse flower and vegetable production, public garden management, teaching, research, education, and marketing, to name a few.”

She beamed as she looked at the pink petunias lined up in the greenhouse at Toledo Botanical Garden.

“From my little corner of horticulture, it’s very satisfying to not just advance our understanding of plants, but also provide practical recommendations to growers so that they can continue to be successful.”

## Red-headed woodpeckers

continued from p. 1

sciences, launched a study this month of red-headed woodpeckers that could last up to 10 years and solve many mysteries about the species.

For the next several weeks, the birding team's office will be located throughout the Oak Openings region, including sites along Girdham Road and Jeffers Road at Oak Openings Metropark in Swanton, Ohio. They expect this year to put tracking technology on 20 adult red-headed woodpeckers in Ohio and 20 in Minnesota, and on another 25 juveniles in each of those states.

"They're in extreme decline, especially in the Midwest and Great Lakes area, maybe because of habitat loss and changes in their food supply," Streby said. "We're lucky to have Oak Openings just west of Toledo because it's a place where red-headed woodpeckers seem to be doing relatively well. We want to figure out what's working here and see if we can offer recommendations for habitat management elsewhere."

Every morning the team sets up mist nets and uses recorded calls, drums and decoy birds to attract the woodpeckers.

Researchers are using blood samples to analyze DNA and hormones, as well as measure stress, immune system condition and aging.

The miniature backpack weighs about two grams and uses a light-level geolocator to gather data about when the birds go in and out of tree cavities each day. Pinpoint GPS, like on a cell phone, will tell the researchers where the birds traveled.

"Red-headed woodpeckers are inconsistent," Streby said. "Some years they migrate for the winter, some years they don't. We want to know why. We also want to know where they go when they're not here on their breeding grounds. It could only be as far south as Kentucky or Tennessee. That is what we will learn for the first time when we recover the backpacks from the birds."

Food availability, specifically acorns, is one of the factors being observed at Oak Openings this season, as well as reproductive success and genetics.

"We're studying all of this without knowing whether these woodpeckers are going to leave or not," Streby said. "It'll take several breeding seasons to be able to analyze their habits and help us know what



Photo by Christine Billau

**RESEARCH PREP:** At Oak Openings Metropark, Dr. Henry Streby set up a mist net used to gently collect red-headed woodpeckers so more can be learned about the vanishing species.

needs to be done to conserve the species, especially in places where the populations are shrinking."

Streby also has been studying golden-winged warblers for five years using light-level geolocators that weigh less than half a paper clip to track migration patterns.

The songbirds, which are about the size of a ping-pong ball, travel thousands of miles once they leave their spring and summer nesting grounds.

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FAL-CAM

## Fantastic five

Liadan and Rocky, the peregrine falcon couple who live atop University Hall tower, have their talons full this year with five chicks. Peek in on the family at [utoledo.edu/nsm/envsciences/peregrine](http://utoledo.edu/nsm/envsciences/peregrine), but be prepared: Feeding time may not be suitable for all viewers. The UT Fal-Cam is supported by donations; fans of the raptors can go to [give2ut.utoledo.edu](http://give2ut.utoledo.edu) and search peregrine to contribute to the project.

## Turtles

continued from p. 1

“We’re expecting that turtles during an algal bloom will have higher stress levels and lower immune functioning than turtles that are not exposed to an algal bloom, or turtles from different years when there isn’t any exposure to algae.”

Refsnider’s research, funded in part by a \$10,000 Ohio Sea Grant, will continue through 2018. This year, turtles will be trapped and analyzed in May and June, then again in August. In 2018, Refsnider’s team will repeat a spring catch, when algal blooms are absent from Lake Erie, and again in August, when warmer lake temperatures, increased rainfall and other factors contribute to the formation of algal blooms.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, spring measurements and rainfall projections indicate that the formation of harmful algal blooms this summer will be in the “middle of the pack” — neither severe nor insignificant.

Since Lake Erie is the shallowest and warmest of the Great Lakes, it is most susceptible to algal bloom formation.

Refsnider said this year she’d like to sample about 80 turtles, including painted turtles, which are the most common to be seen basking on rocks and other structures; map turtles, which live closer to streams and rivers; snapping turtles; and red-eared slider turtles, which are not indigenous to Lake Erie, but are bought in pet stores and sometimes released into the wild.

Map turtles will be subject to an additional assay that takes place during 48 hours in Refsnider’s lab.

“We inject a skin irritant in the webbing between their toes that causes their body to think it’s infected, so the skin swells a little bit,” Refsnider said. “It is similar to the response to a bacterial infection. We can measure how much their skin swells in response to that irritant. It usually peaks at about six hours, then goes back to normal within the next 36 hours.”

She said her team measures the injected area every six hours.

None of the turtles, she added, are harmed by tests performed in the field or the lab.

Refsnider expects turtle research to be a precursor for further studies among Lake Erie’s wildlife, including water snakes, frogs and water birds.



**WATER WORK:** Dr. Jeanine Refsnider sets up a trap to catch turtles at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in Oak Harbor, Ohio. The turtles are not harmed by the tests performed in the lab or field, she said.

“Since turtles are pretty tough, you can expose them to new climates and it doesn’t seem to affect them too much,” Refsnider, who has conducted research on turtles previously, said. “But a toxin in their water might be a substantially bigger problem; we’re just not sure. It could be that it doesn’t affect turtles, but it affects snakes or birds.”

She said water snakes at the Ottawa refuge are similar to the indigenous Lake Erie water snakes found only around the limestone islands scattered near the Catawba/Marblehead peninsula in Catawba Island, Ohio.

“The snake we’ll be studying is closely related to the Lake Erie water snake, and there are two rare turtle species that live along Lake Erie,” Refsnider said. “Whatever impact algal blooms have on these common species, they’re going to have on the rare species because both are closely related, so this will have implications on the endangered species.”



Photo by Christine Billau

**SET THEM FREE:** Jessica Garcia, a graduate student pursuing a master’s degree in biology, returned a painted turtle to the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in Oak Harbor, Ohio.

At UT since 2015, Refsnider was drawn by the opportunity to study how organisms respond to rapid environmental change. The ecological climate surrounding Lake Erie seemed an ideal laboratory.

“The ecology here is really interesting,” Refsnider said. “For the Midwest, Ohio has a really diverse community of reptiles and amphibians, which is what I work on. This is a great fit for me.”

She hopes research that begins with 80 turtles will have broader applications as

scientists grapple with the effects of unprecedented climate change.

“If we can tell that algal blooms have a severe impact on these populations, maybe we can think about how to protect certain habitat areas from any kind of water exchange with Lake Erie so they have a refuge,” Refsnider noted. “Understanding the role algal blooms play in the decline of a local species will give us a better idea of how to protect these species against some human-caused threats.”

## Women's basketball coach signs contract extension through 2024-25 campaign

By Brian DeBenedictis

The University of Toledo and Head Women's Basketball Coach Tricia Cullop have agreed to a contract extension through the 2024-25 campaign.

"We're extremely happy about extending Tricia's contract to continue the stability and success that she has brought to Toledo women's basketball," Vice President and Athletic Director Mike O'Brien said. "Tricia is an outstanding coach, and I believe our program is positioned well for the future. Along with leading the way to countless victories on the court, I have been impressed with Tricia's community involvement and how the program has been embraced by the city of Toledo and surrounding areas."

In her nine years patrolling the Rockets' sideline, the program has averaged 22.4 wins and advanced to the postseason on six occasions. This past season, Cullop led UT to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2001 and eighth time in school history.

"It's been an honor to serve as the head women's basketball coach at The University of Toledo for the past nine years," said Cullop, a three-time Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year honoree. "I sincerely thank [UT President] Dr. [Sharon L.] Gaber and Mike O'Brien for this extension and the opportunity to lead the program for many years to come. It has been a distinct privilege to coach at an institution with so many outstanding

professors, committed administration, dedicated alumni and loyal fans. Our student-athletes enjoy strong academics, outstanding facilities, a beautiful campus and a supportive community. This extension shows our future recruits what a strong commitment there is for Toledo women's basketball."

UT posted a 25-9 overall record and a 12-6 conference mark in 2016-17. The Rockets and their 25 victories tied for fifth most in school history. The Midnight Blue and Gold wrapped up the year ranked unofficially No. 26 in the country among mid-major programs, according to the collegeinsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 Poll.

Toledo also led the MAC in attendance for an unprecedented 27th consecutive season in 2016-17 and ranked No. 27 in the NCAA, averaging a league-high 3,744 fans per home game. UT has ranked in the Top 30 nationally in home attendance each of the last six seasons.

"I will never forget this past year," Cullop said. "I'm excited that we return a strong nucleus from our MAC Championship team next season. This group



Cullop

has also been successful in the classroom and active in the community."

Under Cullop's guidance, the Rockets have secured one MAC Championship (2017), two MAC regular-season titles (2010-11, 2012-13), four MAC West Division crowns (2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13), and two tourney finalist appearances (2010, 2017). In 2011, Toledo won the WNIT Championship and finished the season 29-8 (14-2 in the MAC). Individually, 11 Rockets have earned All-MAC honors (first-team, second-team and/or third-team) on 18 occasions.

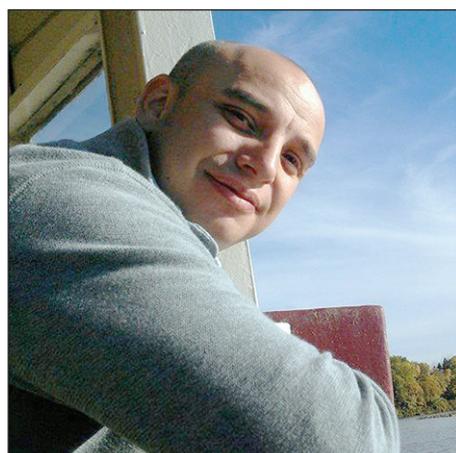
The Rockets also have been successful in the classroom under Cullop. A total of 15 players have been selected Academic All-MAC on 24 occasions, and a total of 27 players have made the dean's list (3.5 GPA or higher) on 86 occasions over the last nine years. UT also has posted a team grade-point average above 3.0 in 16 of 17 semesters.

Hired April 18, 2008, Cullop is fourth in MAC history in overall winning percentage (202-96, .678) and seventh in league winning percentage (108-44, .711).

## Golf outing to raise funds for geography scholarship to honor late UT grad student

If Michael Moore wasn't working on his dissertation or sampling craft beer, he was on the golf course.

"Mike enjoyed playing golf," said Dr. Neil Reid, professor of geography and



Moore

planning, and director of the Jack Ford Urban Affairs Center. "He also enjoyed debating varieties of hops and India pale ales as much and as easily as he dove into complex statistical analyses of the industry."

Moore died from an aortic aneurysm April 8, 2015, while having a beer at a local pub. The doctoral student in the UT Department of Geography and Planning was 34.

To honor his memory, the Geography and Planning Department has established the Michael Moore Memorial Student Scholarship Fund.

"This fund will allow us to award scholarships to academically qualified students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in geography who demonstrate financial need," said Dr. Dan Hammel, professor and chair of geography and planning. "It also

allows us to remember a fine student who became a respected colleague."

For his dissertation, Moore was studying the spatial dynamics of the American craft beer industry.

He posthumously received his PhD from the University.

"The craft brewing industry is growing so fast and changing the whole brewing landscape," Reid said. "Mike analyzed where it's growing and why. He was well on his way to being a really successful academic."

A native of Swanton, Ohio, Moore received a certificate in geographic information sciences and applied geographics from UT in 2012.

To raise funds, the Michael Moore Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing will be held Saturday, June 17, from 1 to 9 p.m.

at White Pines Golf Course, 1640 County Road 2, Swanton.

The cost is \$75 for an individual golfer or \$300 for a foursome and covers 18 holes, golf cart and dinner. There also are hole signage sponsorship opportunities available for \$125. A dinner-only option costs \$50.

To register, go to [give2ut.utoledo.edu/mooregolf.asp](http://give2ut.utoledo.edu/mooregolf.asp).

To donate to the Michael Moore Memorial Student Scholarship Fund, go to [give2ut.utoledo.edu/mikemoore.asp](http://give2ut.utoledo.edu/mikemoore.asp).

For more information about the event or fund, contact Heather Slough, director of annual giving in the Division of Advancement, at [heather.slough@utoledo.edu](mailto:heather.slough@utoledo.edu) or 419.530.8495.

# Break time



Photo by Rachel Nearhoof

Brian Bills, left, watched as Austin Taylor attempted to move a block during a game of Jenga at Rocket Recess at Work May 17 on Main Campus.



Photo by Rachel Nearhoof

Nathan Wamer, left, Rana Elhag and Eric Carlson dined al fresco thanks to the popular food trucks during Rocket Recess at Work May 17 on Main Campus.



Photo by Rachel Nearhoof

A bicyclist wheeled up and placed an order at the Displaced Chef during Rocket Recess at Work May 17 on Main Campus.

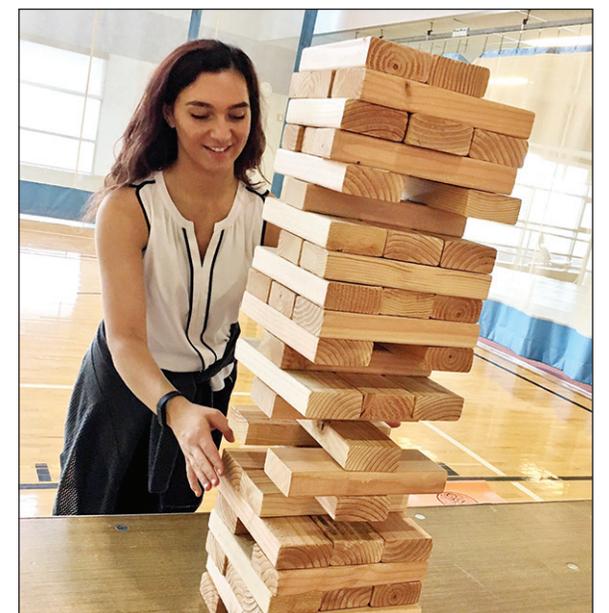


Photo by James A. Molnar

Brianna Rodriguez, health-care marketing intern, took her turn playing Jenga in the Morse Center during Rocket Recess at Work May 25.



Rainy weather May 25 moved Rocket Recess at Work inside the Morse Center on Health Science Campus.

Photo by James A. Molnar

## Thank you: UTMC recognizes volunteers

For Amanjyot Sidhu, UT Medical Center is like home. “I didn’t expect to be recognized for helping,” she said. “I always wanted to serve humanity by doing something good for others.”

She recently received the Frances Clinton Service Award. The honor is named for longtime volunteer Clinton who died in 2016; she started volunteering in 1993 and gave 18,000 service hours to UT Medical Center.

Sidhu was recognized for 800 hours volunteering in UTMC’s Family Medicine Department in 2016.

“I have always enjoyed volunteering, whether it is in research or in a clinical setting,” she said. “Doing research in the Family Medicine Department not only helped me in gaining professional experience, but it is going to have a lasting, positive impact on the organization.”

Sidhu was one of about 200 who were celebrated at a luncheon during National Volunteer Week last month at the Radisson Hotel on Health Science Campus.

“Our volunteers help make UT Medical Center what it is — a friendly, patient-centered place where everyone is welcome,” Amy Finkbeiner, service excellence operations manager, said. “We couldn’t be the institution we are without our volunteers.”

Those 200 volunteers average approximately 3,000 hours of total service each month and assist 116 departments.

“It’s amazing how much of themselves our volunteers give to UTMC,” Patty MacAllister, support services coordinator in the Service Excellence Department, said.

Volunteers who completed more than 500 service hours in 2016 also were recognized at the event: James Bretz, Xiaohuan Chen, Don Godfrey, Eisuko “Judy” Kudelka, Don Lemle, Yun Liu and Tawfik Obri.

Dan Barbee, chief executive officer of UTMC, and Monecca (Mo) Smith, director of nursing, also spoke at the luncheon and expressed their gratitude to the volunteers for their contributions to the hospital.

For more information about UTMC Volunteer Services, contact MacAllister at [patricia.mac2@utoledo.edu](mailto:patricia.mac2@utoledo.edu) or 419.383.6336.



**HONORED:** Patty MacAllister, left, presented the Frances Clinton Service Award to Amanjyot Sidhu, right. Clinton’s sisters, Paulette Smietana, left center, and Mary Anne Nappens, attended the volunteer luncheon.

**WITH GRATITUDE:** Sue Vancamp, ambulatory staff development and performance improvement director, left, sat with volunteers Joyce Scarbrough, center, and Pat Cheney at the luncheon.

Photo by Daniel Miller

## Getting ready



Photo by Daniel Miller

Faculty, staff and students checked out the Joint Commission Safety Fair May 23 at UT Medical Center. The event was held to help prepare for the upcoming triennial Joint Commission accreditation visit, which is unannounced and will take place prior to Wednesday, Nov. 1. The safety fair serves as a way to boost awareness of hot topics to increase compliance with regulatory requirements.

## Department of Art to present two workshops June 5-9

By Angela Riddel

The UT Department of Art will offer two summer workshops for students ages 9 through high school. From Monday through Friday, June 5-9, Manga/Anime will be held in the morning, and Wizard School will take place in the afternoon.



Cox

In the morning workshop, students will explore manga and anime design techniques across a range of media — hand-painted shoes, digital design, hats and more. Participants should bring a

pair of new, white canvas tennis shoes; all other materials are provided.

When students graduate from Wizard School, they'll be equipped to unleash their creative inner wizard. Participants will make

a wand; design a wizardry crest; concoct potion bottles; build a dark forest terrarium; create a plush creature; and develop and play wizard games. All materials will be provided.

Alissa Cox, an independent artist since 2006, will present the workshops.

Coming from a family of artisans and artists, Cox grew up learning woodcrafts, stained glass, blacksmithing, jewelry craft, quilting and painting. She moved her business, Smoky Grove, to Ohio in 2012

and has exhibited at Columbus Winterfair, the Great Lakes Jazz Festival and the Black Swamp Arts Festival. Cox has taught several workshops in pyrography, sewing and painting.



**GROWING ART:** Students in the Wizard School will make a dark forest terrarium.



**COOL CANVAS:** Students in the Manga/Anime workshop will create hand-painted tennis shoes.

The cost is \$60 per workshop or \$105 to take both workshops.

Both workshops will be held in the Center for the Visual Arts on the University's Toledo Museum of Art Campus.

To register, go to [utoledo.edu/al/svpa/art/webforms/summerartworkshopsregform.html](http://utoledo.edu/al/svpa/art/webforms/summerartworkshopsregform.html).

## UT offers summer music workshops

By Angela Riddel

The UT Department of Music will host several summer music workshops.

Workshops are available in jazz, flute, voice, and choral conducting and teaching, with tracks available for multiple ages and skill levels.

All the workshops listed below will be held in the Center for Performing Arts.

### UT Summer Jazz Institute — June 11-16

Deadline to Register: June 1

The UT Summer Jazz Institute is the place where all levels of jazz students from beginning through professional can discover and achieve their jazz potential through the study of jazz in one of four programs: instrumental jazz, vocal jazz, teacher training and jazz appreciation. The curriculum is designed to provide introductory, fundamental, intermediate and advanced jazz experiences for interested students from middle school through high school, undergraduate and graduate college students. There also is a pedagogy track for educators desiring to refine and develop their teaching skills. A track for those who want to grow in their appreciation of jazz also is available.

The institute provides a learning environment through lectures, master

classes, jam sessions, performances and a recording experience. Tuition is \$500 (\$50 application fee, \$450 camp fee). Register online at [summerjazz.utoledo.edu](http://summerjazz.utoledo.edu). Deadline to register is June 1; all fees due by June 9.

### Flute Camp — June 19-23

Deadline to Register: June 12

The UT Flute Camp is taught by musicians Joel Tse, principal flute for the Toledo Symphony Orchestra and UT flute instructor, and Amy Heritage, second flute with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra and Suzuki flute instructor. It is suitable for elementary age students through adults.

Special guests will present on instrument care, yoga and breathing, music and movement, and more. These extras are included in the track fees. A free, public concert performed by students will conclude the workshop on Friday, June 23, at 4 p.m.

There are two tracks to choose from:

Track 1 is for students who have been playing for one to three years. It runs from 9 a.m. to noon and is taught by Heritage. The cost for Track 1 is \$150. Fees are due by the first day of the workshop.

Track 2 is for intermediate and advanced students and will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This track is taught by Tse and

Heritage. Track 2 is \$300. Fees are due by the first day of the workshop.

Can't attend all week? Sign up by the day. The cost is \$65 per day for any track if attending less than the full week. Scholarships also are available to help cover fees; apply when you register.

To register or for more information, visit [utoledo.edu/al/svpa/music/communitymusic/flutecamp.html](http://utoledo.edu/al/svpa/music/communitymusic/flutecamp.html).

### Janus Vocal Arts Workshops — July 5-14

Deadline to Register: June 7

The Janus Vocal Arts Workshops offer professional development seminars and workshops in voice. In addition to the Emerging Artist track that studies and performs an opera, there is a High School Student track (July 10-14) which focuses on vocal technique and musical theatre. The two seminars — "Mind, Body, Voice" (July 7-8) and "Music as a Business" (July 12-13) — can be taken separately or together at a discount.

Registration, cost and discount information available online at: [utoledo.edu/al/svpa/music/communitymusic/janusvocalarts/](http://utoledo.edu/al/svpa/music/communitymusic/janusvocalarts/)

### Choral Conducting and Teaching Workshop — July 25-27

Deadline to Register July 1

This comprehensive and immersive choral conducting workshop is intended to serve and educate individuals as conductor, teacher, leader, scholar, performer and servant. Conductors will engage in sessions covering a wide variety of topics. This year's workshop will allow conductors to choose from either a three-day immersion workshop or a one-day workshop. Teachers: This workshop will provide up to 18 contact hours of professional development.

There will be a limit of 15 spaces so that each conductor is allowed sufficient podium/conducting time. Coffee and a light breakfast will be provided in the morning. The three-day workshop is \$300 if registered by July 1; \$325 if registered after July 1. The one-day workshop is \$100 if registered by July 1; \$125 if registered after July 1. All sessions will be from from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a break for lunch (not provided).

Registration and information are available online at [utoledo.edu/al/svpa/music/communitymusic/summerchoral/choralworkshops.html](http://utoledo.edu/al/svpa/music/communitymusic/summerchoral/choralworkshops.html).

# Alternative retirement plan mitigating rate changes to take effect July 1

By Christine Wasserman

Employees who have voluntarily selected to participate in an alternative retirement plan (ARP) should note that effective July 1, the following changes will be made to mitigating rates:

Employees Retirement System (OPERS) or State Teachers Retirement System (STRS), and is intended to offset the financial impact of the loss of their contributions.

The OPERS mitigating rate has

STRS recently announced the mitigating rate for the ARP, and STRS Defined Contribution Plan (STRS-DC) will decrease from 4.5 percent to 4.47 percent effective July 1.

paid to OPERS or STRS by a college or university.

The ARP mitigating contribution rate applies only to contributions effective with the ARP election, not to any OPERS or STRS balances transferred to an ARP vendor. Refunds of ARP mitigating contributions submitted in error will appear as a credit on your ARP employer account summary; they will not be refunded in the form of a check.

Once an ARP is selected, it is irrevocable while an employee remains employed with the same college or university. If an employee changes employers or there is a one-year break in service and they return to the same college or university, employees have the opportunity to select OPERS or STRS membership.

Questions about the new mitigating rate and ARP should be directed to OPERS at 800.777.7377 or STRS at 888.227.7877.

The mitigating rate reflects university contributions that are directed to STRS instead of the ARP or STRS-DC in order to offset the negative impact to STRS funding liabilities created by the existence of the ARP and STRS-DC.

As a result of this decrease, contributions to the ARP and STRS-DC for participants will increase by 0.03 percent.

Ohio House Bill 520 established a formula for

calculating the percentage of an ARP participant's compensation, funded by the employer contributions, which must be

	Mitigating Rate	Contribution to Employee's ARP
<b>OPERS ARP</b>		
Current	0.77 percent	13.23 percent
Effective 7/1/17	2.44 percent	11.56 percent (decrease of 1.67 percent)
<b>STRS ARP</b>		
Current	4.50 percent	9.50 percent
Effective 7/1/17	4.47 percent	9.53 percent (increase of 0.03 percent)

The mitigating rate is a portion of the employer contributions paid by university employers on behalf of their employees who have chosen not to join the Ohio Public

remained unchanged since 2009. This rate will increase July 1 and will apply to all OPERS/ARP participants.

## Honored



Photo by Rachel Nearhoof

Don Curtis, enterprise business systems automation developer in Information Technology, received the Professional Staff Association's Frank E. Horton Award from Dr. Lori DeShelter, accreditation and assessment director in the Judith Herb College of Education and vice chair of the Professional Staff Council. Curtis was one of three PSA members nominated for the award named for the former UT president who was instrumental in establishing the association in 1992. Curtis received the honor that recognizes a PSA member who displays an outstanding commitment, exemplary support, advocacy and service to professional staff at the University. He has been involved with the PSA since he was hired in 2002. For 10 years, Curtis was chair of the Professional Staff Council's Communication Committee, developing a new website and creating a new newsletter; the PSA Voice. In addition, he automated the PSA membership list and handles online nominations and voting for representatives, web-based surveys, email blasts and event registration. "Don always is very kind, considerate and helpful," a nominator noted.

## Page-turners



Photo by Daniel Miller

Andrew Roberts, a patient advocacy administrative intern, and volunteer Truda Kynad checked out a book during the Satellites Auxiliary's recent Collective Goods Flash Sale. About \$1,400 was raised for campus scholarships, according to Lynn Brand, president of the Satellites.

## Another celebration



Abigail M. Riddel, daughter of Angela Riddel, promotions specialist in the School of Visual and Performing Arts, and Clayton Riddel, technical support specialist in distance learning, received a doctor of physical therapy degree. Abby will be moving to Florida, where she will work for PT Solutions in Zephyrhills. She also will be getting married in June.

## Voluntary summer reduced hours available

**A**cademic, administrative and staff employees are reminded they may voluntarily reduce the number of hours they work this summer through UT's annual Voluntary Summer Reduced Hours Program.

Summer time off must be approved in advance by your supervisor and is unpaid.

"In addition to the University's new winter break schedule, this opportunity enables individuals to spend extra time with family and friends, to travel or otherwise relax before fall semester begins," said Wendy Davis, interim associate vice president for human resources and

talent development. "It also helps UT to reduce expenditures at a time when work schedules are somewhat slower for certain departments."

For more information about UT's Voluntary Summer Reduced Hours Program, including the request form, visit <http://utoledo.edu/depts/hr/benefits/time-off/voluntary-summer.html>.

There is no deadline to present the form; however, advance notice will help departments to appropriately plan for absences, as needed.

All voluntary summer reduced hours are subject to approval by your supervisor.

## In memoriam

**Bernard W. "Bernie" Beers**, Perrysburg and Naples, Fla., a former instructor at the University, died May 11 at age 91.

**Margot H. (Heilbrunn) Brauer**, Toledo, a former occupational therapist at MCO, died May 10 at age 93.

**Dolores M. (Riley) Long**, Elkhart, Ind., a nurse at MCO from 1979 to 1991, died May 2 at age 90.

**James R. Metzler**, Sylvania, who taught music as an instructor, died May 19 at age 69.

**John J. Michalak Jr.**, who was a volunteer with the Satellites Auxiliary, died May 11 at age 81.

**Daniel J. "Danny" Neshkoff**, Lambertville, Mich., who retired from the UT Maintenance Department in 1989, died May 18 at age 90.

# UT NEWS

UT News is published for faculty, staff and students by the University Marketing and Communications Office weekly during the academic year and periodically during the summer. Copies are mailed to employees and placed in newsstands on the Main, Health Science, Scott Park and Toledo Museum of Art campuses. UT News strives to present accurate, fair and timely communication of interest to employees. Story ideas and comments from the UT community are welcome. Send information by campus mail to #949, University Marketing and Communications Office, Vicki Kroll. Email: [vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu](mailto:vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu). Fax: 419.530.4618. Phone: 419.530.2248. Mailing address: University Marketing and Communications Office, Mail Stop 949, The University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606-3390.

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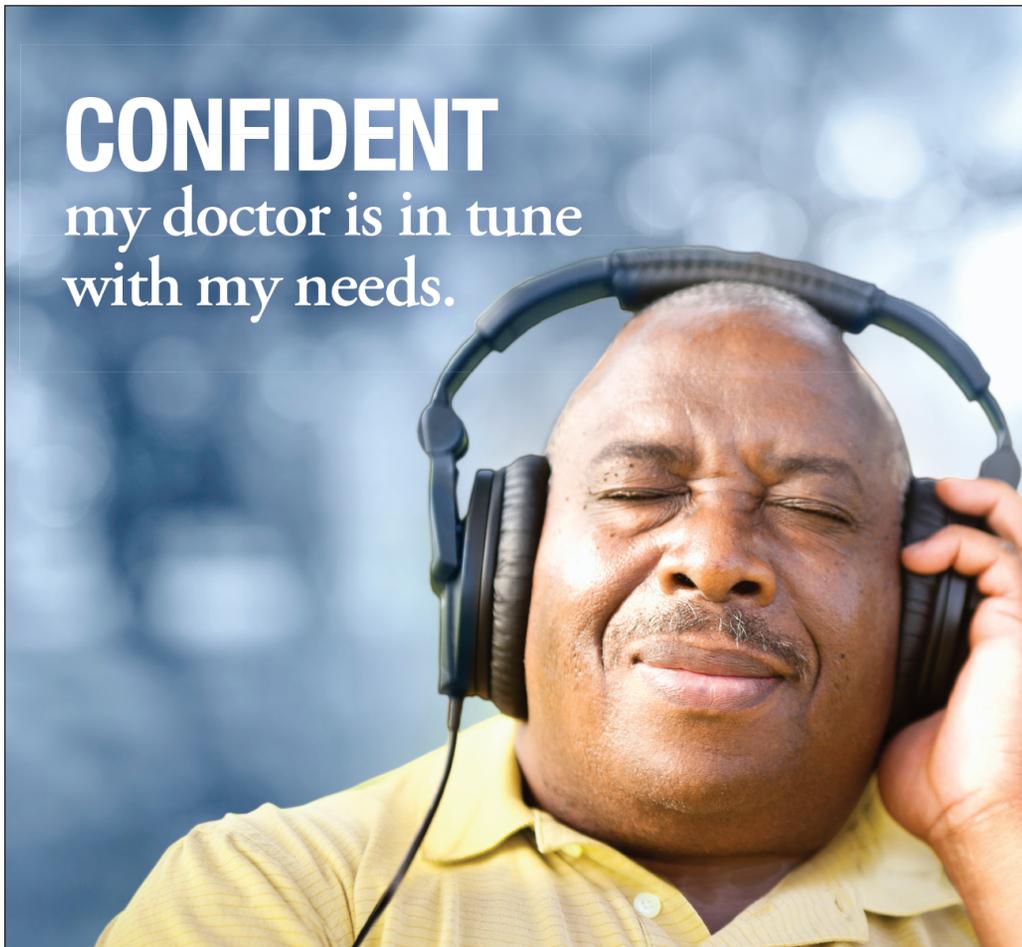
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## College of Nursing dean

*continued from p. 3*

assistant dean of family, community and mental health.

While teaching at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing from 1993 to 2002, she was promoted to associate professor. Lewandowski also served as associate director for training and education from 2001 to 2002 at the Johns Hopkins Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence.

From 1981 to 1993, she was at Yale University School of Nursing, where she held several positions, including assistant professor, research associate and acting department chair. Additionally, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical psychology at Yale.

Lewandowski worked as a staff educator and resource nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at Mount Zion Hospital and Medical Center in San Francisco and in the pediatric intensive

care unit at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

She earned a PhD in clinical psychology and master's in psychology from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. She also holds a master's in pediatric critical care nursing from the University of California in San Francisco. Lewandowski earned a bachelor of science in nursing from the University of Michigan.

Lewandowski is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and holds leadership posts in national and international nursing organizations.

"I wish to thank Dr. Kelly Phillips for her leadership as interim dean during the last two years," Hsu said. "Together with the nursing faculty, Dr. Phillips has made tremendous progress in moving the college forward."

## College of Arts and Letters dean

*continued from p. 3*

Some of her best-known works include "Homecoming: Sometimes I Am Haunted by Memories of Red Dirt and Clay," about African-American farmers and their struggle after the Civil War to own and farm land in the rural South, and "Children Will Listen," which is about elementary school children planning and performing a junior production of Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods" for the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Her current projects include an experimental documentary on the international prototype for the kilogram and a documentary on Mary Fields, a female pioneer known as "Stagecoach Mary" who has ties to Toledo.

Gilbert is a past recipient of Harvard University's Radcliffe

Fellowship, the Rockefeller Media Arts Fellowship and the American Council on Education Fellowship.

She has a bachelor's degree in economics and political science from Yale University and a master of fine arts in film and media arts from Temple University.

"The College of Arts and Letters has an incredibly talented community of faculty, staff and students," Gilbert said. "I am looking forward to joining this community and building on the strong legacy of excellence that can be found in all of the departments and schools within the college."

Once Gilbert's appointment begins at UT, Dr. Jamie Barlowe will join the Provost's Office full time as interim vice provost for faculty affairs.

## College of Engineering dean

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"My primary goal for the foreseeable future is to strengthen the scholarly profile for UT's College of Engineering," Toole said. "Securing funded research is

an integral part of our mission because acquiring new knowledge leads to vibrancy within classrooms and throughout campus."

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Steve LeBlanc for his leadership as interim dean of the College of Engineering since January," Hsu said.

"Dr. LeBlanc and the engineering faculty have made tremendous progress in moving the college forward."