UT women win Faculty Athletics Representative Award for highest GPA rank in MAC

By Paul Helgren

University of Toledo female student-athletes have been named the recipients of the 2017-18 Mid-American Conference Faculty Athletics Representative Academic Achievement Award.

The Faculty Athletics Representative Academic Achievement Awards recognize the conference institution with the highest overall grade point average rank for both men’s and women’s student-athletes.

This is the first time the UT women have won the award. The UT men have won the award three times.

The conference faculty athletic representatives worked with the conference’s athletic academic advisors to compute an award that best represents the academic achievement of student-athletes in a competitive setting. Using the same ranking method as the longtime Reese and Jacoby trophies (traditionally awarded to the best overall male and female athletic programs in the MAC), the Faculty Athletics Representative Academic Achievement Awards are given to those institutions’ male and female programs with the highest overall GPA rank points within the conference. Only MAC-sponsored sports are used.

Toledo had the highest GPA rank as the Rockets women carried the highest league GPA in women’s golf, while posting the second-highest GPA rank in women’s soccer and women’s tennis, and the third-best GPA rank in women’s cross country and women’s...
University reinforces commitment to research integrity

The University of Toledo is revising its research misconduct policy to update procedures to ensure researchers on campus adhere to the highest standards of research integrity.

“Sheer volume of research conducted today and the tremendous impact of research on our society requires a strong commitment to research integrity,” Vice President for Research Frank Calzonetti said. “For example, results falsely claiming that a new material is able to withstand heavier loads than its actual tolerance could result in bridge collapses if engineers relied on false data in structural design. In biomedical research, misleading results, based upon dishonest research, could result in the use of ineffective, or even dangerous, therapies for patients.”

UT is committed to ensuring honesty and integrity in all aspects of research and scholarship. Systems and policies are in place to respond to reports of research misconduct and to promote campus-wide education and training to ensure that faculty members, research scientists, postdoctoral fellows and students understand their responsibilities in the ethical conduct of their work.

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, in concert with the College of Graduate Studies, is planning Responsible Conduct of Research training program sessions for the University community. The COMPETES Act of 2009 calls the training, which is federally mandated, “an integral part of the preparation and long-term professional development of current and future generations of scientists and engineers.”

To review and comment on the revision to the research misconduct policy, visit utoledo.edu/policies/draft_policies.

University begins search for VP for enrollment management

By Meghan Cunningham

The University of Toledo has begun the search for its next vice president for enrollment management.

Stephanie Sanders, who joined UT in 2016, plans to complete her tenure at the University at the end of the calendar year at the conclusion of her contract.

“We are thankful for Stephanie’s leadership to reverse a previous trend of enrollment decline and position the University to successfully recruit new students to come to UT and succeed in their studies,” UT President Sharon L. Gaber said.

UT has engaged Parker Executive Search to assist in the recruiting efforts.

The search committee will be chaired by Dr. Phillip “Flap” Cockrell, vice president for student affairs, and includes Sanders; Dr. Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, dean of the College of Graduate Studies; Dr. Mary Humphrys, associate professor of business technology; Dr. Timothy Brakel, professor of music education and president elect of Faculty Senate; Sunday Griffith, associate director of enrollment reporting; Gina Roberts, senior director of financial aid and Rocket Solution Central; and William Pierce, director of undergraduate admission.

Candidates for the vice president position will be recruited during the next 60 days with the plan to conduct on-campus interviews by November. The goal is to have the new person in place in January.

Members of the University community are invited to help identify candidates for the position. The position description is available at utoledo.edu/offices/enrollmentmanagement/search.

Names of individuals who might be appropriate for the opportunity can be submitted to Parker Executive Search Vice President Porsha Williams or Associate Rich McNeal by mail to 5 Concourse Parkway, Suite 2900, Atlanta, GA 30328, by email to pwilliams@parkerssearch.com or rmcneal@parkerssearch.com, or by phone to 770.804.1996, ext. 109, or 770.804.1996, ext. 112.

In class

Sharmeta Gibbon, an instructor in the College of Nursing, was among nearly 50 who attended the new faculty orientation program last week. The two-day program introduces new faculty to The University of Toledo and shares information and resources to support their research, teaching and outreach efforts.

Photo by Daniel Miller
Register for parking

Faculty and staff: Register for a parking permit by visiting the myUT portal or myparking.utoledo.edu.

Select one of two payment options:

- Automatic payroll deductions (using pre-tax dollars) for a continuous parking permit registration.
- A lump sum payment using a credit card. This option does not use pre-tax dollars and will require annual renewal of your parking permit registration.

Register by Saturday, Sept. 1.
And remember: You must update your parking permit via the myparking app or myparking.utoledo.edu whenever you change vehicles, whether for a particular day or if you purchase a new vehicle. Read more at parking permit by visiting the myUT portal or myparking.utoledo.edu.

Have a question? Email parking@utoledo.edu.

Blackboard Ally now available to help with accessibility of online course content

Ally is a new award-winning accessibility tool that integrates directly into The University of Toledo’s Blackboard environment.

The new tool, which was purchased by the University in March, was piloted by several UT faculty and staff members during summer semester. Ally is now available to all Blackboard users.

Ally advances UT’s commitment to universal design in learning by reducing barriers to instruction, providing flexibility in the ways that information is presented, and providing methods for which students can interact and engage with the information.

With Ally fully enabled, Blackboard users will notice some new features.

When editing courses or organizations in Blackboard, faculty and staff will see small accessibility indicators next to the files posted in their sites. Clicking on an indicator will provide users with specific feedback about the accessibility of that item and, if there are potential actions to be taken, faculty and staff will find guidance on what can be done to improve the accessibility of that content.

Ally will automatically provide several alternative formats for various files in Blackboard courses for students, faculty and staff. Some of the new alternative formats available include audio (mp3), electronic braille, tagged PDF, ePub, and semantic HTML. While the original document in the class serves as the official course material, the alternative versions serve as additional study aids and can benefit students’ diverse learning styles.

Faculty workshops for Ally are available. See UT Online’s faculty course and workshop listings for more information and to register.

UT Online at utoledo.edu/dl is developing online guides for Ally. For now, instructors and students can view help resources provided by Blackboard at Ally Help for Instructors and Ally Help for Students. UT Online at utoledo.edu/dl is developing online guides for Ally. For now, instructors and students can view help resources provided by Blackboard at Ally Help for Instructors and Ally Help for Students. If you have questions or would like to learn more about Blackboard Ally, contact the UT Online Help Desk at 419.530.8835.

New catalog system launched

Add this bookmark: utoledo.edu/catalog.

The Office of the Provost has launched a new online University catalog.

The new catalog is built on a computer-assisted translation software platform, which integrates with student information systems, flags errors, and provides summary reports to deliver an academic catalog website that accurately reflects the University’s programs.

“The computer-assisted translation program ensures that the material in the catalog is aligned with the contents of Banner and U/Achieve, thus bringing us one step closer to an integrated software environment that supports our students’ success in navigating and completing their academic programs,” Dr. R. William Ayres, senior vice provost for academic affairs, said.

Catalog content is search engine-optimized and features advanced search capabilities so important content may be found quickly. The catalog also may be integrated with social media so students and advisors are able to share information.

And while the catalog still will be published once a year, users have the ability to produce formatted and print-ready PDF documents from any page with a single click.

“This new online University catalog is easy to use and designed to facilitate student success,” Ayres said. “Thanks to months of hard work by the Office of the Provost and college faculty and leadership, this new catalog is a reality.”

Now the Office of the Provost is developing a curriculum tracking system that integrates with the new catalog. The curriculum management software works with the catalog’s computer-assisted translation program to automatically update the catalog with approved course, program and student information system data.

“The curriculum management software shares information from Banner to deliver a seamless progression from curriculum proposal through faculty governance to publication in the catalog,” Ayres said.

Faculty and staff training sessions on the new curriculum management system will be announced during fall semester.

For more information on the University catalog, contact catalog@utoledo.edu.
As another academic year ramps up, there are events galore on the horizon. To make sure major happenings don’t overlap, campus community members planning events are reminded to check the University’s master calendar at calendar.utoledo.edu. Faculty, staff and students also are asked to post events to the online calendar.

Sharing information about events is easy: Go to calendar.utoledo.edu, click “add event,” and follow the prompts. Detailed instructions are available at utoledo.edu/offices/marketing/web/docs/calendar-directions.pdf.

Beta Gamma Sigma Sigma, they are the College of Business and Innovation, and they are UT.

“This recognition is made possible by the high-level academic success and achievements of our College of Business and Innovation undergrad, graduate and PhD students,” Nigem said. “The UT chapter under the leadership of our new president, Jamal Shaheen, will continue efforts to engage the chapter’s alumni, increase involvement with other student organizations, and continue to connect with our community.”

Beta Gamma Sigma members reside in all 50 U.S. states and more than 190 countries. Notable members include Nobel Prize winners, Olympians, inventors, CEOs of major global companies and nonprofit organizations, deans of the top business schools, and others who are making the world a better place at all levels of contribution through social enterprise, service and leadership.

A Highest Honors Chapter is eligible for several benefits, including one Global Leadership Summit Registration Scholarship, which covers the cost of one student registration, hotel accommodations, program materials, and most meals for the 2018 Global Leadership Summit to take place in November in Chicago.
Give a little bit: Sign up for blood drive Sept. 4-5

About an hour — that’s how long it takes to donate blood.

“Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood,” Angie O’Brien, account representative with the American Red Cross, said.

“We are still facing a blood emergency. Blood donations are being distributed to hospitals faster than donations are coming in, and more donations are needed now — especially type O — to replenish blood supply.”

Donations at high school and college blood drives account for as much as 20 percent of the donations during the school year, O’Brien said.

“We need the support of the UT campus community to help save lives,” she said.

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 4-5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Thompson Student Union Ingman Room.

Donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment by visiting redcrossblood.org and entering the sponsor code UTMAIN, or by calling 1.800.RED.CROSS (733.2767).

Save time by going to the blood app or redcrossblood.org/rapidpass. This allows donors to answer questions prior to donation; it must be completed the day of the drive.

Walk-in donors also are welcome.

“Our goal is to collect more than 100 pints of blood during the two-day period,” O’Brien said. “As a UT grad, I know the students, faculty and staff will roll up their sleeves to help.”

She offered tips for donors: Eat iron-enriched food, start drinking water prior to the day of the drive, and get some rest.

Blood donors must bring a photo ID or Red Cross donor card to the drive.

To learn about eligibility requirements, go to https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/how-to-donate/eligibility-requirements.html.

Those who are not eligible to donate can volunteer time to help run the drive and recruit others who are able to give blood.

“One person, one donation makes a difference,” O’Brien said. “One pint of blood could save the lives of three people. Help us make a difference.”
Career Services ready to launch student success stories

C
areer Services has been undergoing major transformations. In the past year, the office has added three professional staff members, completed major office renovations, and formed partnerships with several online career readiness platforms to better serve students.

The Career Services renovation resulted in a studio model suite. There are computers for students to search for jobs and work on résumés, as well as space for group collaboration and workshops.

“We are excited to start the new school year in our freshened space, but our renovation is more than just the office,” Shelly Drouillard, director of Career Services, said. “This studio model gives us the flexibility we need to help more students prepare for the ever-competitive job market.

Starting fall semester, the center located in Thompson Student Union Room 1533 will be open some evenings and Saturdays to accommodate students and alumni with busy workday schedules.

An added convenience, Drouillard noted, is that students can access any one of five new software platforms — remotely 24/7 from their own computers or mobile devices — that are designed to support their career goals.

One of the new platforms launched in collaboration with the UT Alumni and Annual Engagement Office is called Rocket Connect. Students and alumni can create profiles on the system and join different interest-based communities for the purpose of mentoring and professional networking. Students can obtain career-related advice and tips from alumni, and alumni have the opportunity to engage with the University in a unique and meaningful way.

“These changes have positioned Career Services well to offer Rocket Ready, a new internship readiness guarantee program set to launch this September,” Drouillard said.

Rocket Ready offers support, education and guidance for students in programs that do not have required internship or co-op components. Students who participate will have the opportunity to identify possible career paths; plan and carry out a search for internship or other experiential learning opportunities; and polish networking, interviewing and other skills. The Rocket Ready program ensures that all UT students have the opportunity to do some form of internship even if it is not a requirement of their degree program.

Learn more about Career Services and its new programs and online resources at utoledo.edu/success/career or stop by during an open house Thursday, Sept 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Faculty Athletics Representative Award

continued from p. 1

track and field during the 2017-18 academic year.

“We want to extend our congratulations to all our women’s sports for earning the Faculty Athletics Representative Academic Achievement Award,” said Vice President and Athletic Director Mike O’Brien. “We take great pride in the academic success of our student-athletes. An achievement like this is a testimony to their hard work and dedication, as well as the tremendous support of coaches, administrators and faculty.”

The MAC Institutional Achievement Award, which honors the school with the best overall GPA rank for all men’s and women’s sports, will be announced Tuesday, Aug. 28.

2017-18 TOLEDO WOMEN’S SPORTS GPA BY SPORT

Basketball – 3.323
Cross Country – 3.646
Golf – 3.722
Soccer – 3.575
Softball – 3.349
Swimming and Diving – 3.494
Tennis – 3.546
Track and Field – 3.376
Volleyball – 3.582

VP/athletic director

continued from p. 1

and grateful for the opportunity to join the tremendous group of people who serve on this very important committee. I especially want to thank the NCAA’s senior vice president for basketball, Dan Gavitt, for this opportunity.

I began my career in athletics as a basketball coach, so it is very exciting and gratifying for me to be a part of the committee that selects the field for one of the greatest sporting events in the world, the NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Championship.”

“We’re pleased to welcome Mike O’Brien to the men’s basketball committee,” Gavitt said. “Mike is highly respected by his peers as an athletic director with a long tenure at Toledo and a deep history of NCAA committee service. Having started his career as a college assistant basketball coach, Mike has great passion and feel for the game.”

O’Brien is in his 17th year as the athletic director at the University. During his tenure, he has helped shape the UT Athletics program into one of the very best in the Mid-American Conference. His tenure has seen unprecedented athletic and academic achievements of UT’s student-athletes, as well as numerous ambitious capital projects that have elevated the University’s status as one of the top mid-major athletic programs in the country.

Under O’Brien’s watch, the Rockets have won or shared 33 league titles in nine different sports, including championships in football and women’s soccer last season. The Rockets have won the Jacoby Trophy as the MAC’s top women’s athletic program twice in O’Brien’s reign, in 2011-12 and 2017-18.

In the classroom, UT has produced overall department grade point averages above a 3.2 in each of the past seven semesters, and above a 3.1 in the past 19 consecutive semesters. Rocket student-athletes had a combined GPA of 3.266 in 2017-18, including a school record 3.290 in the 2017 fall semester. UT women’s athletes won the MAC’s Faculty Athletic Representatives Award for the highest combined GPA in 2017-18. UT has won the Mid-American Conference Institutional Academic Achievement Award, presented annually to the school with the highest grade point average, in four of the last six years. In 2011-12, UT won the Cartwright Award, given annually to the MAC athletic program with the highest degree of excellence in academics, athletics and citizenship.

Capital projects secured during O’Brien’s tenure include the Charles A. Sullivan Athletic Complex construction and Savage Arena renovation project (2008); Fettermann Training Center construction (2010); Glass Bowl and Larimer Athletic Complex renovations (2016); as well as updates to soccer (2004), tennis (2006), and track and field (2010).

O’Brien received national recognition for his accomplishments from the National Association of College Directors of Athletics at its convention in June 2012 when he was named the Football Bowl Subdivision Northeast Region Athletic Director of the Year. O’Brien, who has the second-longest tenure among MAC athletic directors, previously served on the NCAA Division I Council from 2015 to 2018, where he worked on the Competition Oversight Committee. He also chairs the MAC Football Coaches Committee and was the conference’s athletic director representative to the College Football Playoff Committee (formerly the Bowl Championship Series). He also has served as the chair of the Mid-American Conference Athletic Director’s Committee and was a member of the NCAA Division I Football Issues Committee.
Rockets ready to defend Mid-American Conference crown

By Paul Helgren

See you at the game! As Toledo sets out to defend its 2017 Mid-American Conference title, six of the Rockets’ seven home games will be played in September and October.

Highlighting the home slate is a Sept. 15 matchup with Miami (Fla.). The Hurricanes currently are ranked No. 8 in the country and could potentially be in the top 10 when they visit the Glass Bowl next month.

The Rockets also will host the Battle of I-75 against archrival Bowling Green Saturday, Oct. 6. That game also will be Homecoming for Toledo. The Rockets have won eight consecutive games vs. the Falcons, evening the all-time series at 39-39-4.

Four games on Toledo’s 2018 schedule are set for national TV broadcast; additional TV contests could be added later. The four national TV games are Oct. 25 at Western Michigan (ESPN2 or CBS Sports Network); Oct. 31 vs. Ball State (ESPN2); Nov. 7 at Northern Illinois (ESPN2 or ESPNU); and Nov. 15 at Kent State (CBSSN).

Toledo opens its season with three consecutive home games, beginning with Virginia Military Institute Saturday, Sept. 1. Following a bye week, the Rockets will host Miami Sept. 15 and Nevada Sept. 22.

UT closes out the non-conference portion of its schedule with a trip to Fresno State Sept. 29.

In addition to Bowling Green, Mid-American Conference opponents coming to the Glass Bowl are Buffalo (Oct. 20), Ball State (Oct. 31) and Central Michigan (Nov. 23).

UT will hit the road to face Eastern Michigan (Oct. 13), Western Michigan (Oct. 25), Northern Illinois (Nov. 7) and Kent State (Nov. 15).

Head Coach Jason Candle’s 2018 team returns 14 starters from last season’s MAC Championship squad, including one of the best receiving corps in the nation. Senior wide receiver Cody Thompson, who returns for his fifth season following an injury in 2017, was a first-team All-MAC selection in 2016. He has caught 133 passes and 20 TD passes in his Rocket career. Junior Diontae Johnson was a first-team All-MAC choice in 2017, catching 72 passes for a school-record 1,257 yards and 13 scores. Senior Jon’Vea Johnson has caught 82 passes and 15 touchdowns over the past two seasons.

“We built our scheme to match our players in years past and have been very successful in doing that — offensively, defensively and in the kicking game. The challenges remain the same as we approach this year, too,” Candle said.

“The fun part is to get the moving pieces in the right place to keep all the arrows in your program headed in the right direction. That’s where you go from a good team to a great team, if you can get all those arrows going in the right direction and get everybody on the same page. That’s what we’re constantly working to do each and every day.”

Season tickets are on sale at the UT Athletic Ticket Office, online at utrockets.com or at 419.530.GOLD (4653). Faculty and staff can buy tickets half off with ID, and UT students are admitted free with ID.
2018 HOME OPENER

TOLEDO vs Y

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 1
7:00 P.M. | THE GLASS BOWL

2018 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY SEPT. 1 7:00 P.M.
SATURDAY SEPT. 15 NOON
SATURDAY SEPT. 22 TBA
SATURDAY OCT. 6 3:30 P.M.
SATURDAY OCT. 20 NOON
WEDNESDAY OCT. 31 7:30 P.M.
FRIDAY NOV. 23 TBA

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CODY THOMPSON
SCHOOL WIDE RECEIVER
SATURDAY  
SEPT. 1
4:30 - 6:30 P.M.

PRESIDENT’S TAILGATE

Join UT President Sharon L. Gaber for free food, fun and games. Look for our tent near the University Parks Trail just outside Rocket Hall.
Toledo introduces Stadium Drive Live for 2018 football season

By Chris Cullum

The University of Toledo will introduce a new pregame event for fans this football season called Stadium Drive Live, presented by iHeart Radio.

Stadium Drive Live, which is free to attend, will take place prior to the first five Saturday home games of the 2018 football season and provide a community tailgate for all Rocket football fans.

Opening three hours prior to kickoff, Stadium Drive Live will give fans a chance to play tailgate games and listen to live music performances on the Battery Wholesale stage. Fans will be able to purchase food and beverages from Aramark’s Tailgate Gourmet II Booth, which will offer grilled hamburgers and hot dogs as well as other items, in addition to other food trucks and the Bud Light Beer Garden.

Stadium Drive Live will be located adjacent to the Glass Bowl on Stadium Drive. See the story below for parking information.

Listed by date, musical acts to perform at Stadium Drive Live on the stage powered by Battery Wholesale will be:

- Sept. 1 (Virginia Military Institute) — Kentucky Chrome;
- Sept. 15 (Miami) — Last Born Sons;
- Sept. 22 (Nevada) — Andrew Ellis;
- Oct. 6 (Bowling Green) — Distant Cousinz; and
- Oct. 20 (Buffalo) — Arctic Clam.

Stadium Drive Live is sponsored by iHeart Radio, Battery Wholesale, Bud Light, Treu House of Munch and Ace Sanitation.

Updated information for Rocket fans driving to Glass Bowl for game day

By Chris Cullum

The University of Toledo Athletic Department is announcing updated parking procedures for Rocket home football games this year due to the addition of Stadium Drive Live.

Stadium Drive Live, presented by iHeart Radio, is a free event that will open three hours prior to kickoff and give fans the chance to enjoy food, drinks and live music before UT’s first five home contests.

For games in which Stadium Drive Live is scheduled, Stadium Drive will be closed five hours prior to game time from the south entrance of parking lot 10 to the footbridge (from Bancroft Street).

With the street closures to accommodate Stadium Drive Live, fans with parking passes for lots 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10 will be instructed to enter their respective parking areas the following ways:

- For parking lots 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10: Enter off Douglas Road and proceed to lot 10 on the left before the crosswalk near the Larimer Athletic Complex.
- For parking lots 3, 4, 5 and 6 (lot 6 is used for RVs and trailers and requires a lot 9 or 10 pass): Enter off Douglas Road and proceed to your lot through lot 4.
- For parking lot 10: Enter campus via East Rocket Drive at Douglas and proceed to Stadium Drive. Turn right at Stadium Drive and proceed to lot 10 on the left before the crosswalk near the Larimer Athletic Complex.
- Overnight parking in any lot is not permitted prior to all home football games. Specifically, parking lots 6, 9 and 10 will close at 9 p.m. the night prior to the game. All remaining vehicles in these areas will need to be moved prior to 2 a.m. Beginning at 3 a.m., any cars remaining in these three lots will be towed at the owner’s expense. These parking lots, as well as lots 3, 4 and 5, will open at 6 a.m. on game days. Fans intending to park in these lots will need to have the appropriate parking pass available to allow entry.

All parking will be based on availability; if a parking area is full, fans will be directed to the nearest available area.

Fans also should be aware that construction on Bancroft Street may cause delays on game day. If possible, fans should avoid Bancroft and enter campus via Douglas Road, Secor Road or Dorr Street.

For any further questions regarding parking at Toledo football home games, fans are encouraged to visit utrockets.com for the most up-to-date rules and policies.

UT student IDs to be scanned for admission to Glass Bowl in 2018

By Steve Easton

A new system for University of Toledo students to gain admission into Rocket football games in the Glass Bowl is being implemented this season.

UT students will continue to be admitted free for all Rocket home sporting events. For entry into the Glass Bowl, students will be required to have their current IDs scanned at the southwest and southeast gates prior to heading to the Launch Pad Student Section (11-21).

Gates will open 90 minutes prior to kickoff with admission based on availability.

The Rockets have seven home games in the 2018 season, including home games vs. Miami (Fla.) Sept. 15 and Bowling Green Oct. 6.

For more information, students may contact the Athletic Ticket Office at 419.530.GOLD (4653).
Rockets share joy of victory with area special needs students

By Paul Helgren

The University of Toledo football program hosted its fifth annual “Victory Day” for special needs students Aug. 19 in the Glass Bowl.

Participating students met UT football players, ran drills, and heard their names announced over the public address system as they scored a touchdown.

Victory Day is an opportunity for special needs students to have their moment in the sun on the football field. Each student was partnered with a UT football player who served as his or her mentor for the day. Victory Day athletes wore Rocket T-shirts and were presented with medals at the end of the day to commemorate their victory.

Toledo football players, cheerleaders, Rocky the Rocket and marching band members were on hand to cheer on the participants.

“This is a humbling day and humbling experience for our players. It’s something our guys look forward to every year,” said UT Head Coach Jason Candle. “Victory Day comes at a perfect time for us — right in the middle of the grind of training camp. This is a perfect way to put things in perspective and make us realize how grateful we should be to be able to do what we love each and every day. It’s great to watch these young people come out here and have a smile on their face all afternoon as they interact with our players. It’s a tremendous day all around.”

Victory Day was started in 2010 by Aaron Segedi, a teacher and football coach from Trenton, Mich., a cancer survivor whose life was saved thanks to a liver donation from his sister, Rhonda. Since then, the Victory Day program has been adopted by high schools and universities in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana.

The Rockets first celebrated Victory Day came in 2014.
Football player nominated for Allstate Good Works Team for second time

By Paul Helgren

Toledo senior wide receiver Cody Thompson has been nominated for the 2018 Allstate American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Good Works Team. It is the second consecutive season that Thompson has been nominated for the award.

Every year, the Allstate Insurance Co. and the American Football Coaches Association honor college football players who balance academics and athletics, while remaining committed to helping others and bettering their communities.

Thompson was a first-team All-Mid-American Conference selection in 2016, catching 64 passes for a then school record 1,269 yards and 11 touchdowns. Last year, he was averaging 126.3 yards per game and 18.7 yards per catch going into the Eastern Michigan game Oct. 7 in which he suffered a season-ending injury. He was granted an injury hardship waiver by the NCAA, giving him another chance to complete his senior season.

Thompson, who earned Academic All-MAC honors in 2016, graduated last December with a 3.7 GPA in marketing. He is pursuing his master’s degree in recreation and leisure.

He has volunteered for numerous community activities and organizations, including the Toledo Boys and Girls Club, Ronald McDonald House, Cherry Street Mission, RocketTHON for Mercy Children’s Hospital, Kids Day at the Glass City Marathon, Victory Day, the Toledo Crash wheelchair football team, and more.

A total of 169 student-athletes from all levels of college football were nominated for the award. A final roster of 22 award recipients will be unveiled in September. From the nominees submitted by sports information directors across the nation on behalf of their schools, a special voting panel consisting of former Allstate AFCA Good Works Team members and prominent college football media members will select the 2018 Good Works Team.

QB sandwich

UT fan John Guitteau, president of WRK Advertising in Toledo, center, posed for a photo with two of the all-time greatest Rocket quarterbacks: Chuck Ealey, left, and Bruce Gradkowski. The Toledo football stars were at Tony Packo’s to sign a hot dog bun and football for a community fundraiser in October. The autographed items are on display at Packo’s at the Park on S. Superior Street; individual buns signed by the quarterback are at Tony Packo’s restaurant on Secor Road. Ealey and Gradkowski finished No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, in online fan voting for Toledo’s All-Century Team last year. Ealey led the Rockets to a 35-0 record in three seasons and final Associated Press rankings of No. 20 in 1969, No. 12 in 1970 and No. 14 in 1971; Gradkowski called the signals at UT from 2001 to 2005, playing a pivotal role in the team’s 2004 Mid-American Conference Championship and two bowl appearances. The QBs both received bachelor of business administration degrees from the University — Ealey in 1972 and Gradkowski in 2005. Guitteau also is a UT alumnus, graduating in 1982 with a bachelor of arts degree in communication.
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- Homesickness

Visit utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/counseling or call 419.530.2426 for more information.
Employees encouraged to perform paycheck checkup

The Internal Revenue Service is encouraging all taxpayers to perform a prompt “paycheck checkup” to protect against withholding too little tax during 2018 and facing an unexpected tax bill in 2019.

A checkup also can prevent employees from withholding too much tax.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act enacted in December 2017 made major changes in limiting some deductions and changing the standard deduction. Read about that at irs.gov/tax-reform.

The IRS has updated its withholding calculator, which can be used by employees to perform this recommended payroll checkup. Go to irs.gov/individuals/irs-withholding-calculator. Using information provided by the new IRS calculator, University employees can change their W-4 online through myUT, if needed.

Instructions for updating your W4 withholding can be found at utoledo.edu/offices/controller/payroll/pdfs/taxupdate.pdf.

As a reminder, UT’s Payroll Department is unable to provide individuals with tax advice. Therefore, if you have any questions or concerns, consult the irs.gov website and/or your own tax professional.

Additionally, for questions regarding the new IRS calculator, you may refer to irs.gov/newsroom/withholding-calculator-frequently-asked-questions.

Taxpayers with more complex situations may want to refer to Publication 505, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax, found at irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-publication-505, instead of the withholding calculator.
The scooters are here!

Learn more about the new electric scooter sharing program at utoledo.edu/parkingservices/electric-scooters