

Catching up



Photo by Daniel Miller

Katie Wilson, left, Allison Edelbrock, center, and Ami Ill talked in Carlson Library on the first day of classes last week.

Volunteers, donations needed for UT's Feed My Starving Children mobile pack Jan. 26-27

By Bob Mackowiak

On Friday and Saturday, Jan. 26 and 27, more than 800 volunteers will gather again in the UT Health Education Building to assemble thousands of meals through the Feed My Starving Children program.

Anyone can help by joining the mobile pack, donating money for food, and by spreading the word.

UT's participation in this mobile pack event is sponsored by the College of Business and Innovation Klar Leadership Academy, which was founded in 2015 with the support of Steven Klar, a 1971 business alumnus and a New York City builder and real estate developer. Klar will attend this event to work a production shift with his wife, Kathy,

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President named higher ed leader to watch

The University of Toledo President Sharon L. Gaber has been recognized as one of the top higher education leaders for her focus on student success and a strong financial foundation for the institution.

Gaber leads the list of "5 Higher Ed Leaders to Watch in 2018 (and Beyond)" by Education Dive, an education industry publication that shares K-12 and higher education news and analysis.

The publication notes the University's cost-saving measures, including consolidated purchasing and salary restructuring, and efforts to improve student retention under Gaber's leadership.

"And Toledo's first woman president, whose research interests include community needs

assessment of marginalized populations, Gaber has honed in on student success in her first two years at the helm of the University," the publication states.

Along with Dr. Gaber, the list includes Dr. Harold L. Martin Sr., chancellor of North Carolina A&T State University; Dr. Becky Takeda-Tinker, president of Colorado State University-Global Campus; Dr. Robert C. (Bob) Fisher, president of Belmont University; and Dr. Ruth Simmons, president of Prairie View A&M University.

Read the article online at educationdive.com/news/5-higher-ed-leaders-to-watch-in-2018-and-beyond.



FEATURE

5 higher ed leaders to watch in 2018 (and beyond)

Strong financial savvy, fundraising prowess and a pronounced desire for students to succeed make these administrators stand out above the rest

New dean selected to lead Judith Herb College of Education

By Meghan Cunningham

An educational psychologist with an interest in enhancing classroom assessment for more effective teaching and learning has been named dean of The University of Toledo Judith Herb College of Education.

Dr. Raymond H. Witte will join UT July 1 from Miami University, where he is professor and chair of the Department of Educational Psychology.

“Dr. Witte is an experienced administrator, having served as department chair and associate dean. He is not only an accomplished scholar as a university professor, he had many years of experience working for public schools before joining academia,” said Dr. Andrew Hsu, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. “He has a passion for student success, especially those of first-generation college students. I am glad to welcome him to The

University of Toledo and look forward to working with him and the college to further improve our college and our student success.”

“I am honored to be the new dean of the Judith Herb College of Education. I’ve always thought highly of the institution and been impressed with the quality and professionalism of the faculty and the administrators,” Witte said. “I am looking forward to working and collaborating with the distinguished faculty and staff of the college, as well as all the members of the University and Toledo communities.”

Witte joined the faculty of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, in 1999 and held a variety of additional administrative roles, including associate dean, graduate program director, department chair and assistant chair. Prior to his career in higher education, Witte

was a school psychologist for the Jessamine County School District in Nicholasville, Ky., where he also directed the kindergarten and preschool programs.

Witte received his doctoral and master’s degrees in educational psychology and bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Kentucky.

His academic interests include working with students with learning disabilities assisting individuals and their families through transitions. As his career evolved, he became increasingly interested in effective assessment and has written two books and numerous articles on the topic.

Accordingly, Witte said he is a data-driven leader and looks forward to getting to know the college staff and collaborating with them to ensure strong student enrollment and community partnerships.



Witte

Hsu thanked Dr. Virginia Keil for her leadership while serving as interim dean of the Judith Herb College of Education since July 2015.

Ad campaign focuses on local alumni

By Jennifer Sorgenfrei

The University recently launched a new ad campaign highlighting the impact of alumni in the Toledo community and the career success they have achieved with their UT degrees.

The campaign is featured on 14 billboards throughout Toledo and in print and digital ads. The ads include an array of graduates from varied generations and academic backgrounds. The featured alumni include:

- Bob Savage, co-founder of Savage & Associates;
- Robin Whitney, vice president of real estate and construction for ProMedica;
- Prakash Karamchandani and HoChan Jang, co-owners of Balance Pan-Asian Grille and Bubble Tea;

- Dr. Romules Durant, superintendent of Toledo Public Schools; and
- McKenzie Kuehnlein, reporter for 13 ABC.

The ads direct to utoledo.edu/alumni with more information about the featured participants and their UT experiences.

“We have so many success stories at UT and are proud of our graduates’ accomplishments,” said Barbara Owens, UT associate vice president for marketing and communications. “We want to raise awareness of how these alumni are present and contributing to the Toledo region, and also remind area high school students about the opportunities for success at UT.”

The campaign will run through March.



Photo by Daniel Miller

NOW UP: This billboard at Monroe Street and Douglas Road is one of 14 in the area that are part of UT’s new ad campaign focusing on local alumni and their success stories.

Feed My Starving Children

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and son, Ashton, who are coming in from New York.

Additionally, longtime UT benefactor and business alumnus Ed Kinsey is a primary sponsor of this year’s event through the Kinsey Family Foundation and also will be in attendance to work a shift with his family.

“Members of the College of Business and Innovation’s Klar Leadership Academy have set a goal to build 160,000 meals for Caribbean hurricane relief and are taking the lead to recruit 850 volunteers and raise nearly \$40,000 for this year’s event,” said Dr. Clint Longenecker, Distinguished University Professor and director of the Center for Leadership and Organizational Excellence in the College of Business and Innovation.

“At The University of Toledo, we are all about developing student leaders who can fulfill the University’s mission of improving the human condition,” Longenecker continued. “This event is a perfect example of our students developing leadership, servant-leadership, planning and team-building skills while serving a greater purpose — to help create solutions to the problem of world hunger.”

“We are all very excited about this big campus-wide event and are working very hard to make it a big success,” noted Nick Johnston, a student in the College of Business and Innovation. “It’s something

bigger than ourselves. It’s a win-win: We are learning invaluable leadership skills while at the same time helping address global issues like world hunger.”

“I had the amazing experience of volunteering last year to make these nutritious packs for children in Haiti,” said Natalie Zerucha, a student in the College of Business and Innovation, who is a Klar Leadership Academy member. “I participated in the last shift possible last year, and we created a total of 34,776 meals, which feeds 95 kids for an entire year. My heart was so full to pray over the last shipment before it got on the truck.

“I learned a lot about myself that day, and I challenge you to do the same. Here is your chance to give back to kids who need nutrition in their lives,” Zerucha said.

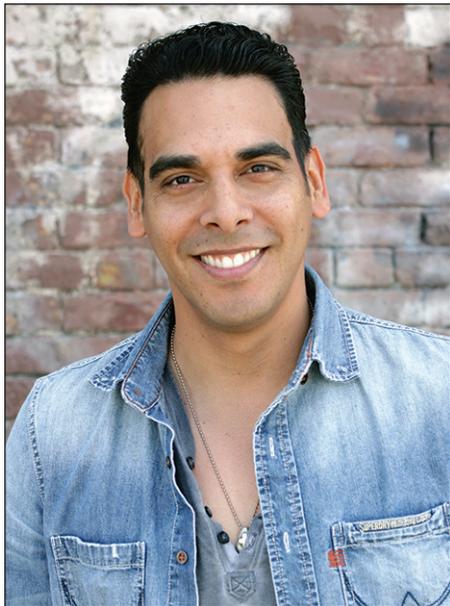
While members of the Klar Leadership Academy are taking the lead in organizing the event, hundreds of volunteers and at least \$36,000 are needed to help obtain the goal of assembling 160,000 meals over the two-day mobile pack.

There will be three shifts Friday, Jan. 26, following setup: noon to 2 p.m., 3 to 5 p.m., and 7 to 9 p.m. There also will be three shifts Saturday, Jan. 27: 9 to 11 a.m.; noon to 2 p.m., and 2 to 4 p.m.

To donate or register to help at the event, go to <https://give.fmsc.org/Toledo>.

‘Focus on the Future’ topic of UT Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth

Dream big and succeed — that’s the message Gabe Salazar will deliver when he gives the keynote address at The University of Toledo’s 34th Annual Conference for Aspiring Minority Youth Saturday, Jan. 27.



Salazar

Sponsored by Toledo Excel and the UT Joint Committee, the conference for seventh- and eighth-graders, high school students and parents will start at 8:30 a.m. in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium. This year’s theme is “Focus on the Future: Anticipating and Overcoming Obstacles.”

Salazar will share his story of enduring hardships and pursuing success. He was born to a teen mother and abandoned by his biological father. Living in poverty, he turned to gangs for a sense of belonging. But injuries from street fights left him looking for something else. Enter a high school principal who began to mentor Salazar.

“Life has incredible future when you stay away from drugs, when you stay away from alcohol, when you stay away from gang violence,” Salazar tells teens in an online video. “I want to tell you your dreams can come true if you surround yourself with mentors and pursue your education. Nothing else can stop you, and nothing can hold you back.”

The first member of his family to go to college, Salazar attended Southwestern

Assemblies of God University in Waxahacie, Texas, from 1996 to 2001 to pursue a degree in professional development with a specialization in theology.

He began his career as an inclusion specialist for special education and at-risk students at a middle school in San Antonio and was a church youth pastor. He discovered his gift: inspiring teens.

“I want students to know that there’s hope, that they should never stop believing in themselves,” Salazar said.

“This year we gave our students greater input in what they would like to see in a speaker, and Gabe Salazar fit all the criteria,” said David Young, director of the Office of Excellence and the Toledo Excel Program. “As a motivational speaker, he has talked to millions of teens. His comedy and real-life stories encourage youth to make positive choices in their lives. He has been recognized as America’s No. 1 Latino youth speaker by Popular Hispanics Magazine.”

After Salazar’s talk, there will be a session to provide an interactive setting to learn about and discuss bullying in all its forms.

Toledo Excel was established in 1988 to help underrepresented students, including African, Asian, Hispanic and Native Americans, for success in college. Through summer institutes, academic retreat weekends, campus visits and guidance through the admission process, students increase their self-esteem, cultural awareness and civic involvement.

Toledo Excel is part of the Office of Multicultural Student Success, which is in the Division of Student Affairs. The UT Joint Committee includes representatives from the University, Toledo Public and Parochial schools, and civic and community leaders from the city of Toledo. The mission of the committee is to bring together people in the community interested in the education of underrepresented youth. The UT Joint Committee also serves as an advisory board and support system for Toledo Excel.

Advance reservations for the free, public conference are encouraged; visit utoledo.edu/success/excel or call 419.530.3820.

Apply for 2018 grant from Women & Philanthropy; up to \$76,000 available

Monday, Feb. 19, is the deadline to submit an application for a grant from Women & Philanthropy at The University of Toledo.

UT staff, faculty and students from all campuses are eligible to apply. Women & Philanthropy grant applications are available at utfoundation.org/foundation/home/women_philanthropy.aspx?request=6.

To be considered for a grant, all application guidelines must be followed.

The Women & Philanthropy Grants Committee will review and evaluate the applications, and the general membership will vote to determine the recipient(s). Grant amounts vary from year to year.

For 2018, Women & Philanthropy has allocated up to \$76,000 to award in grants for UT projects and programs.

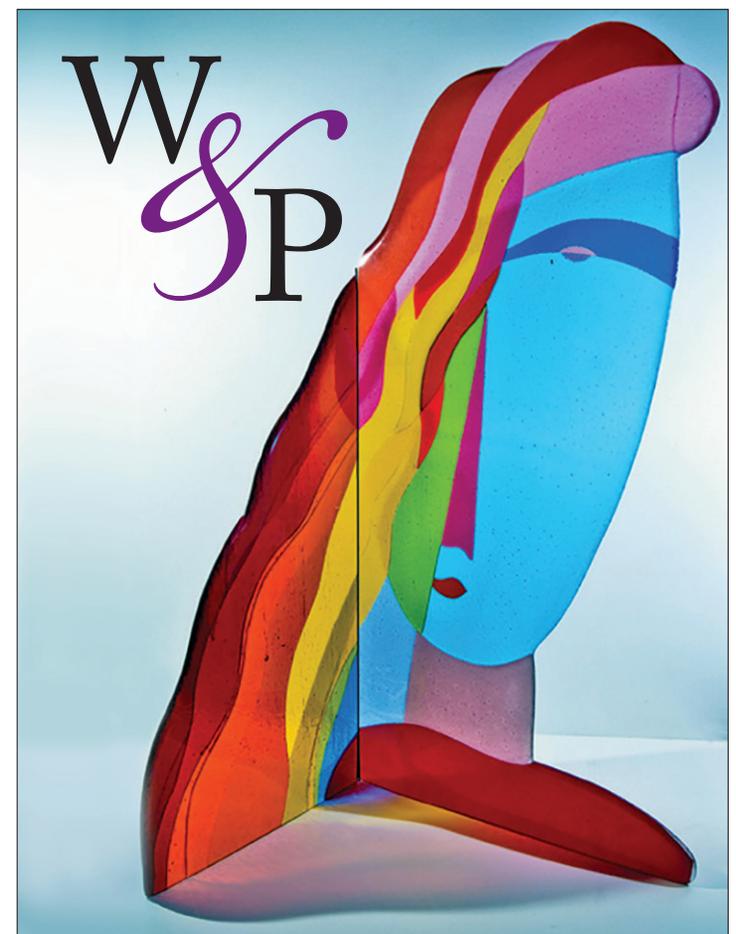
Grant recipients will be announced in May.

The inaugural grant, in the amount of \$15,000, was awarded in 2008 to Carlson Library to commission a glass sculpture by artist Tom McGlauchlin. That sculpture titled “A University Woman” is on display in the library concourse and has become the model for the Women & Philanthropy logo.

Since then, Women & Philanthropy has funded classrooms; an art gallery; locker room enhancements; a sensory-friendly medical examination room; the hospitality area in the William and Carol Koester Alumni Pavilion; renovations to the Savage Arena media room; computer-based educational displays in Ritter Planetarium and Lake Erie Center; a computer lab in the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women; a playground at the Kobacker Center; a student-family room in University College; an interactive periodic table display; and a Genetics Analysis Instrumentation Center.

In 10 years, Women & Philanthropy has gifted nearly \$425,000 in 17 grants to The University of Toledo. Women & Philanthropy is able to give substantial gifts to the University by pooling its members’ resources and making monetary awards in the form of grants.

For more information, contact Sarah Metzger in the Office of Alumni and Annual Engagement at sarah.metzger2@utoledo.edu or 419.530.4237.



Panel presentation to explore peace studies, peace education

By Ashley Diel

The UT Peace Fellows will hold a meeting and panel presentation focusing on the topic of peace and justice issues Monday, Jan. 29, at 7 p.m. in Gillham Hall Room 5300.

The free event is open to students from any academic discipline, as well as campus and community members.

The UT Peace Fellows is a group of faculty, students and community members that meets three times a year to discuss current events, theory and research in peace studies and peace education, and how a community can contribute to help create a more peaceful and just society.

“We work together to bridge academic interests related to peace studies, to aid in the promotion of peace-related programs and events on campus, and to foster the roots of peace and justice into the core of the UT mission and culture,” said Dr. Dale T. Snauwaert, professor of philosophy of education and peace studies.

The event will allow attendees to participate in group discussions and exchange ideas and research related to the topic of peace and justice issues.

Feature presentations will be given by Dr. Jeannine Diller, associate professor of philosophy and religious studies, and Dr. Hans Gottgens, professor of environmental studies.

“Drs. Diller and Gottgens will speak about their scholarship, which is situated in different disciplinary areas, yet they will both highlight how peace and justice issues impact their scholarship, teaching and service to the community,” said Dr. Florian Feucht, associate professor of educational psychology and peace education. “The speakers are examples for how peace and justice connects and impacts our daily work and local community.”

The Peace Fellows is affiliated with a new undergraduate minor in peace and justice studies at the University. The minor includes four core courses and two electives that students can take from across campus.

“By completing the peace and justice studies minor, students gain a deep understanding of the meaning of peace as not merely the absence of violence, but more broadly as the presence of justice, human rights, ecological sustainability and human security,” Snauwaert said. “Students understand and are able to apply and create just and effective responses to threats to and violations of peace and justice on all levels of human society from the local to the global.”

The program also offers access to resources such as the Betty A. Reardon Collection in the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections in Carlson Library, as well as a peace studies and peace education library housed in Gillham Hall.

For more information about the event or about the peace and justice studies minor, contact Snauwaert at dale.snauwaert@utoledo.edu.

MINOR IN PEACE AND JUSTICE STUDIES



WHAT IS PEACE AND JUSTICE STUDIES?

A minor in peace and justice studies will help you gain a deep understanding of the meaning of peace as the presence of justice, human rights, ecological sustainability and human security. Learn how to think, analyze and create from a peace perspective.

$$4 + 2 = 6$$

4 required courses + 2 elective courses = 6 total courses for the minor

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The program is designed to build fundamental knowledge in the field of peace and justice studies while offering the opportunity to explore individual areas of interest in a variety of disciplines.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

You'll gain knowledge in and skill of conflict resolution and transformation.

You'll be prepared to address critical issues and challenges of the 21st century.



FULFILL GEN ED REQUIREMENTS

PJS 1000 = Social Science gen ed core

PJS 2000 = Humanities gen ed core



ADDED VALUE

The program also offers access to valuable resources, including the Betty A. Reardon archives and peace education library, as well as the Peace Studies Fellows Group.



NEXT STEPS

To learn more, please schedule a meeting with program faculty.

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utoledo.edu/education/peace

@UTpeaceED



START YOUR JOURNEY AS A GLOBAL CITIZEN



JUDITH HERB
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

ED 1194 0517

Wanted: Entries for business innovation competition

By Bob Mackowiak

University of Toledo students, faculty and staff who have a great business idea may win up to \$10,000 to help make their idea a reality in the eighth annual business innovation competition sponsored by the UT College of Business and Innovation. Entries are due Monday, Feb. 26.

“The first seven years of the business competition were a remarkable success as the College of Business and Innovation received dozens of entries from across UT campuses,” said Dr. Sonny Ariss, chair and professor of management. “We are expecting another tremendous array of entries this year and trust the contest will continue to advance a creative culture of growth in all areas of the University.”

Dr. Hassan HassabElnaby, interim dean of the College of Business and Innovation, said, “This annual business plan competition truly reflects our emphasis on supporting innovation, fostering creative thinking, and nurturing the entrepreneurial environment so essential for the economic growth of this region.”

Ariss explained, “Entrepreneurship is not only for people who want to start a business. Corporate America also looks for innovative thinking from their employees, so intrapreneurship within the corporate business structure remains important. This is demonstrated by the fact that the college continues to have corporate partners — Owens-Illinois, PNC Bank, and Chuck and Ann Hodge — who contribute prize money for the winners of this competition.”

Competition entries must be submitted using Lean Launch Pad concepts, which enable people to develop their business model upon nine basic building blocks: customer segments, value propositions, channels, customer relationships, revenue streams, key resources, key activities, key partnerships and cost structure.

“As we have every year, the College of Business and Innovation is again ready to offer guidance to help these teams effectively implement their plans, emerge beyond the University, create jobs, and enhance area economic growth,” Ariss added.

There is no cost to enter the competition. Registration must be completed online. Winners must prove that they have formed an LLC or S Corp in order to receive a financial award.

The College of Business and Innovation at The University of Toledo is providing the following prize money:

- First place: \$10,000 (sponsored by Owens-Illinois Inc.);
- Second place: \$5,000 (sponsored by Chuck and Ann Hodge Business Plan Competition Fund); and
- Third place: \$2,000 (sponsored by PNC Bank).

The timeline for the 2018 competition is:

- Those planning to enter the competition are invited to attend a question-and-answer session Monday, Feb. 5, from noon to 1 p.m. in the PNC Entrepreneurship Lab, located in Savage & Associates Business Complex Room 3100.
- Entries must be submitted by Monday, Feb. 26.
- Finalists will be announced Friday, March 23.
- Finalists will make an oral presentation about their business using the business model canvas Thursday, April 12, between noon and 5:30 p.m. in the PNC Entrepreneurship Lab, Savage & Associates Business Complex Room 3100.
- Winners will be announced Thursday, April 19.

DO YOU HAVE A GREAT BUSINESS IDEA?

The University of Toledo faculty, staff, students and alumni* are invited to participate in a business innovation competition detailing your unique business idea.

THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND INNOVATION AT UT IS PROVIDING PRIZE MONEY OF:

 1ST \$10,000 <small>sponsored by O-I</small>	 2ND \$5,000 <small>sponsored by Chuck and Ann Hodge Business Plan Competition Fund</small>	 3RD \$2,000 <small>sponsored by PNC Bank</small>
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Innovation

Honorable Mention \$500
sponsored by PNC Bank

You'll find the application instructions for this competition utilizing Lean Launch Pad concepts at utoledo.edu/business.

- There is one free workshop for those planning to enter the competition. It will be offered on **Monday, February 5, 2018**, from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the PNC Entrepreneurship Lab, room 3100, Savage & Associates Business Complex.
- Entries must be submitted by **Monday, February 26, 2018**.
- Finalists will be announced on **Friday, March 23, 2018**.
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- Winners will be announced **Thursday, April 19, 2018**.


COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND INNOVATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

This competition reflects UT's belief in innovative thinking and is intended to advance a creative culture of growth in all areas of the University. UT College of Business and Innovation is conducting the business model/plan competition.

COBI reserves the right to not provide a particular cash award if no qualified proposal is received. In addition to cash prizes, selected awardees may receive assistance in areas such as intellectual property and business consultation.

*Alumni can participate as a member of a team involving current UT faculty, staff or students.

** For more information, please visit businessmodelgeneration.com/canvas or leancanvas.com

The competition is open to all UT students, faculty and staff, while alumni can participate as a member of a team involving current students, faculty or staff.

To register or for more information, go to utoledo.edu/business.

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Rocket Wellness takes walking paths indoors

The beginning of the year motivates some to increase physical activity. Recent temperatures, however, can act as a deterrent to some driven individuals.

Beginning in January, UT Rocket Wellness will be rolling out various walking paths inside University buildings.

“As one of the largest employers in the region, The University of Toledo is proud to offer its faculty, staff and students these new indoor walking paths as an additional way to stay healthy, which can be especially challenging during the winter,” said President Sharon L. Gaber. “I encourage our campus community to take advantage of these paths as part of a routine fitness regimen.”

Walking has been recognized to provide many benefits such as increased energy, improved mood, lowered risk of heart disease, and enhanced physical health.

“Mapped and marked outdoor walking paths are present on Main Campus, Health Science Campus and Scott Park Campus,” Jocelyn Szymanski, wellness administrator, said. “This year, we will be adding paths in

several buildings on all campuses so that members of our UT community can walk at their leisure regardless of weather.”

Rocket Wellness offers recommendations for walking:

- Walk at least 30 minutes on most days; “most days” is defined as five days per week.
- Break the recommended 30 minutes into various segments throughout the day.
- Invite co-workers to a walking meeting. Recent research finds that the act of walking leads to increased creative thinking.
- Walk at a moderate intensity — walk as if you are going somewhere. This is neither a casual pace nor a jog.
- Always speak to a physician or health-care provider before beginning a new exercise program.

Maps to all indoor and outdoor paths can be viewed at utoledo.edu/offices/rocketwellness/healthyu.



Rocket Wellness THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

UT Cheerleaders to hold kids' clinic Feb. 3

By Chris Cullum

Registration is open for The University of Toledo's 2018 Cheerleading Clinic for Kids that will be held Saturday, Feb. 3.

Registration can be completed online at <https://www.ticketreturn.com/prod2/BuyNew.asp?EventID=253646#.Wkz53XIG270>, by calling the UT Ticket Office at 419.530.GOLD (4653), or in person at the ticket office.

Participants will learn a routine to be performed at halftime of the Feb. 3 women's basketball game against Buffalo.

The clinic registration fee is \$30 and includes a T-shirt, ticket to the game and a post-performance snack.

In order to guarantee your child receives the requested T-shirt size, registration must be received by Sunday, Jan. 28.

An approximate timeline of the clinic day's activities will be:

- 11:30 a.m. — Registration.
- Noon — Clinic in the Fetterman Center Gym.
- 2:15 p.m. — Move to Savage Arena.
- 2:45 p.m. — Halftime performance.

Fans can purchase additional tickets for \$7 by using the promo code “CHEER” at <https://www.ticketreturn.com/prod2/BuyNew.asp?EventID=220815#.Wkz9iXIG270?>.



CATCH THE SPIRIT: The UT Cheerleaders will hold a clinic for kids Saturday, Feb. 3.

International spotlight



Dipesh Niraula, a University of Toledo doctoral student in condensed matter physics, third from left, was among researchers to win a best paper award at the COMSOL Conference 2017 in Boston in October. Niraula competed against more than 100 users, including students, professors, engineers and others at this international conference. He and his adviser, Dr. Victor Karpov, professor of physics, used COMSOL's modeling software to quantitatively predict the features of RRAM, resistive random access memory, and come to a better understanding of how it works. RRAM is a promising new feature that in the future may help to make computers smaller and use less operating power. Karpov and Niraula's research also received the highest score at a panel review for memory device research sponsored by the Semiconductor Research Corp. at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in May. "Our department has a strong research program," Niraula said, "and our department head, Dr. [Sanjay] Khare, and dean, Dr. [Karen] Bjorkman, encourage our effort and have been very supportive."

In memoriam

David Leigh Root, Harbor Springs, Mich., died Jan. 11 at age 67. In 1978, he became president and CEO of the family business, Root Outdoor Advertising, which was a UT benefactor. The bridge on Stadium Drive behind the Snyder Memorial Building is named for the Toledo businessman.

Shirley M. (Brown) Zietlow, Perrysburg, who was a secretary at UT for several years, died Jan. 11 at age 84.



College of Graduate Studies Annual Fellowships | Scholarships | Awards

- \$ University Fellowships
- \$ Helen M. Fields Memorial Achievement Award
- \$ Richard L. Bostleman Memorial Scholarship
- \$ Robert R. Buell Memorial Achievement Award
- \$ Robert N. Whiteford Memorial Scholarship

APPLY NOW!

Award Descriptions and Application links are available on the College of Graduate Studies Website <http://www.utoledo.edu/graduate/scholarships/index.html>. Deadline for submission of all applications is **February 12, 2018**.

College of Graduate Studies
University Hall, Room 3190
Inquiries: COGS@utoledo.edu
☎ 419.530.8582

UTNEWS

UT News is published for faculty, staff and students by the University 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 Communications Office, Vicki Kroll. Email: vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu. Fax: 419.530.4618. Phone: 419.530.2248. Mailing address: University Communications Office, The University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606-3390.

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Read UT news at utnews.utoledo.edu and myut.utoledo.edu.

The University of Toledo is committed to a policy of equal opportunity in education, employment, membership and contracts, and no differentiation will be made based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, veteran status or the presence of a disability. The University will take affirmative action as required by federal or state law.



Celebrating civil rights icon



Singing "We Shall Overcome" during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Celebration were, from left, Charlie Mack of The Juice 107.3 FM, Kristian Brown of 13 ABC, UT President Sharon L. Gaber, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and Lucas County Commissioner Carol Contrada. Approximately 2,000 people attended the Jan. 15 event in Savage Arena. This year's theme was "Injustice Anywhere Is a Threat to Justice Everywhere: Unifying the Community Voice."

James Meena, principal artistic adviser, directed members of the Toledo Opera Association. The group previewed Douglas Tappin's "I Dream: The Story of a Preacher From Atlanta," which the association will perform in Toledo in April.



Photos by Michele "Mickey" Ross

Professor writes, reads poem for new mayor

Poetry is a passion for Dr. Jim Ferris. So when he received a request from Wade Kapszukiewicz to write a poem that could be read when he would be sworn in as the new mayor of Toledo, Ferris put pen to paper.



Ferris

"I wrote a poem that seemed to work for the moment; it's called 'Laborare,'" Ferris, professor and Ability Center of Greater Toledo Endowed Chair in Disability Studies, said. "The Latin title means 'To Work.'

"My initial plan was to pick something off the shelf. Inspiration to order has never been my strong suit. But I found myself thinking about the Latin phrase on the Toledo city seal, 'laborare est orare' [to work is to pray], and that led me to pick up a pen."

Ferris, who began his second two-year term as the Lucas County poet laureate last summer, read the poem Jan. 2 when Kapszukiewicz officially took office as the Glass City's mayor.

"Laborare" also was included in the program for the mayor's inaugural events last weekend.

"It is quite an honor to serve as poet laureate of Lucas County; I hope I can be an ambassador for poetry and the arts in general in northwest Ohio," Ferris said. "And it is quite gratifying when people find my work engaging and useful."

He is the author of "Slouching Towards Guantanamo," "Facts of Life" and "The Hospital Poems." His writing has appeared in numerous publications, including Poetry, Text and Performance Quarterly, and the Georgia Review.

"For me, poetry is not separate from my work to create greater access and opportunity for people with disabilities, people of color, and other oppressed groups in society," Ferris said. "My commitment to diversity and inclusion informs my poems, whether that commitment is readily apparent or not."

As Lucas County poet laureate, he shares his love of words and presents poetry to the area community.

"Samuel Taylor Coleridge described poetry as the best words in the best order; I think of language as humanity's most important tool and toy. We do things with language, we use language to perform work, and sometimes we are most productive when we are most playful," Ferris said. "Language is fun, and this is sort of a productive paradox: I hope my poems are useful and fun at the same time, whether it's laugh-out-loud fun or 'Oh, that's moving' fun."

Laborare
By Jim Ferris

laborare est orare (to work is to pray)
so help me God
we can all use a little help
once in a while —
the rest of the time all the help
we can get

laborare est amare (to work is to love)
and what we make
under the gray Lake Erie sky
can move and join us
it is good to have work — we all
have work to do

amare est vivere (to love is to live)
this place, this day
this moment is our lever
and our fulcrum
we have the tools we need — the hands and heart —
to work, to pray
to love, to live

vivere est opus (to live is the work)
to help each other
to lift and lift again
to remember to look up
to remember
to reach down

adiuvare — to help — amare — to love — vivere — to live —
this is our work