

## Medicinal chemist awarded \$2 million to study Alzheimer's, drug addiction

By Christine Billau

The National Institutes of Health awarded two grants totaling more than \$2 million to a synthetic and bioanalytical organic chemist at The University of Toledo whose research is primarily focused on Alzheimer's treatment.

The National Institute on Aging awarded Dr. Isaac Schiefer, assistant professor in the Department of Medicinal and Biological Chemistry in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, \$1.9 million over five years to continue developing a drug to treat Alzheimer's disease, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse awarded him \$153,500 over two years to study drug targets to addiction centers in the brain.

At 33 years old, Schiefer is among the youngest investigators to receive this level

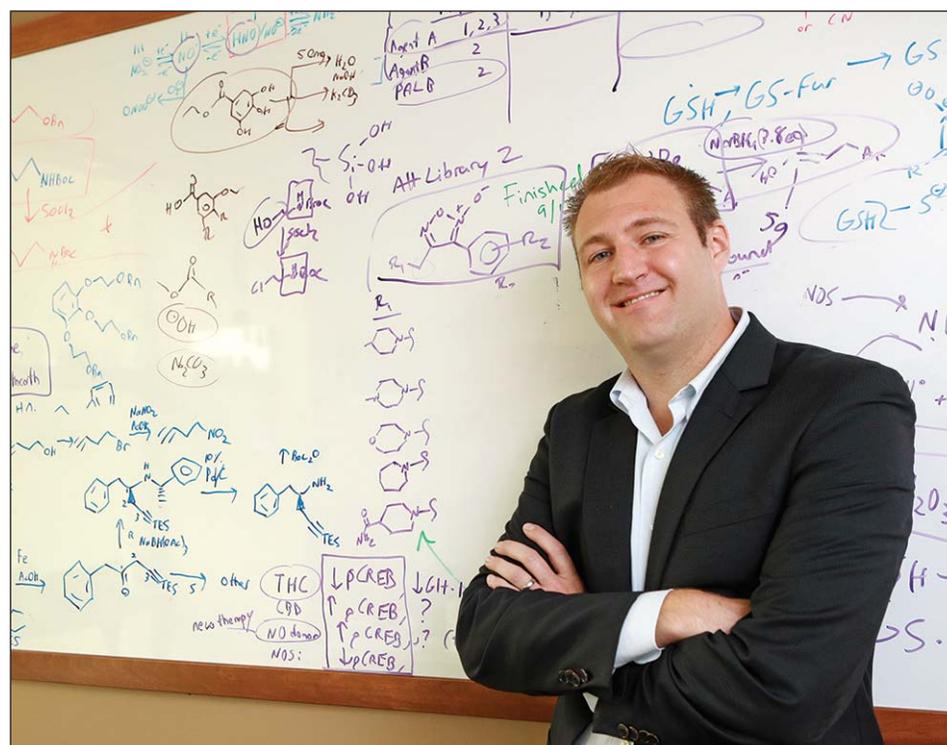
of research support across all NIH institutes, according to NIH records.

"I am proud that my lab's work in drug discovery and design at the University is garnering so much support," Schiefer said. "Brain disease is heartbreaking, no matter if you're suffering from Alzheimer's or drug addiction. I hope to create new ways to understand how the brain works and help families find better treatment options for their loved ones."

Schiefer developed a prototype molecule that improves memory in mice, which was the first step toward developing a drug that could be given to Alzheimer's patients.

The prototype molecule was designed to increase brain-derived neurotrophic factor, also known as BDNF. BDNF, a

*continued on p. 2*



Schiefer

Photo by Daniel Miller

## UT researchers discover lizards immediately adjust sun-basking behavior to offset warmer temperatures

By Christine Billau

When in Rome, lizards do as the Romans do.

A team of scientists and students at The University of Toledo found that desert short-horned lizards in southeastern Utah immediately adjust sun-basking behavior to offset warmer temperatures or minimize exposure to dangerous heat, according to climate change research published in the scientific journal *Functional Ecology*.

The study conducted in the Abajo Mountains, a small, isolated range near the town of Monticello, in July and August 2016 shows that the ectotherms, or cold-blooded animals whose body temperatures are the same as the environment around them, find levels of shade or sun to match the local lizard population when transplanted between cool and warm sites.

"Individual lizards are able to adjust their sun-basking behavior to compensate for a different climate," said Dr. Jeanine Refsnider, herpetologist and assistant professor in the UT Department of Environmental Sciences. "This is critical because it is a way that lizards can respond immediately to changes in environmental conditions."

Refsnider said this flexibility is one way that lizards and other ectotherms might survive at least small amounts of climate change and avoid extinction.

"It's a much faster response than evolutionary adaptation, which occurs over multiple generations," Refsnider said.

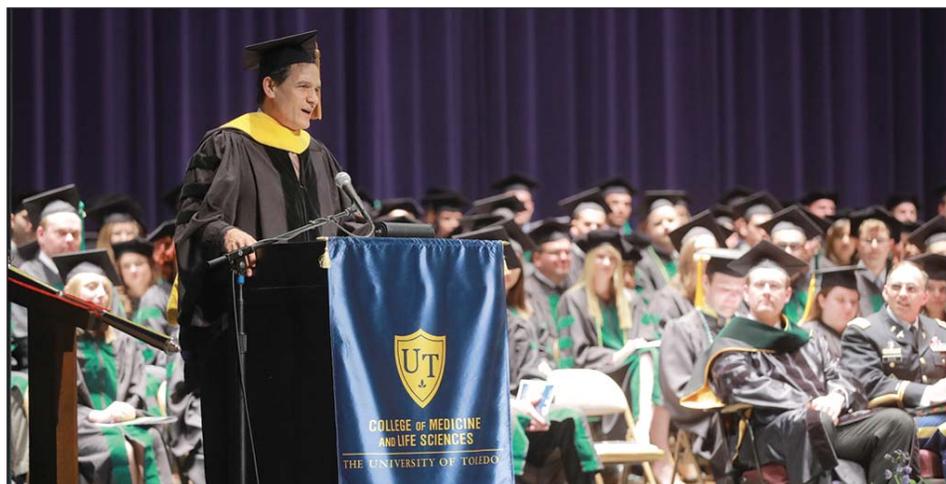
The UT team attached to the lizards data loggers that continuously record light levels to measure and analyze how much

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**CATCHING SOME SUN:** This short-horned lizard sported a data logger that continuously recorded light levels in different environments in the Abajo Mountains in Utah. UT researchers found the reptiles immediately adjusted sun-basking behavior to offset warmer temperatures or minimize exposure to dangerous heat.

## Congratulations!



Dr. Josiah D. Rich, an addiction expert, was the speaker at the College of Medicine and Life Sciences' graduation ceremony May 25 at Stranahan Theater. He told the graduates they are needed to fight the opioid epidemic, that they need to identify and overcome the stigma associated with these drugs. "You need to tell [patients who are addicted]: There is hope; people recover from this disease," Rich said. He received an honorary doctor of science degree. Rich is a professor of medicine and epidemiology at the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University in Providence and a practicing infectious disease specialist at the Miriam Hospital and at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections. In 2015, Rhode Island's Gov. Gina Raimondo appointed Rich as an expert adviser to the Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force, charged with formulating a strategic plan to address addiction and stop overdose deaths in the state.



Photos by Daniel Miller

Samantha Kay and Smit Shah hugged prior to the graduation ceremony. A total of 200 degrees were awarded: 161 doctor of medicine degrees, nine doctor of philosophy degrees, 25 master's degrees, and five graduate certificates.

## New equal opportunity and affirmative action director named

By Christine Wasserman

Tiffany Murray has been named UT's equal opportunity and affirmative action director, reporting to Human Resources.

"This position has administrative oversight for equal opportunity and affirmative action program activities, including the annual affirmative action plan, investigation of any complaints involving prohibited discrimination, training, and consultation on related topics," stated Wendy Davis, associate vice president for human resources.

The University is committed to providing equitable employment opportunities, fairness, and access throughout the institu-

tion without regard to race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, military service, covered veterans status, or genetic information.

Any questions should be directed to UT's Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Office at 419.530.1464 or [tiffany.murray2@utoledo.edu](mailto:tiffany.murray2@utoledo.edu).

Reports of potential discrimination also can be made by completing the Discrimination and Harassment Reporting/Complaint form at [https://cm.maxient.com/reporting-form.php?UnivofToledo&layout\\_id=17](https://cm.maxient.com/reporting-form.php?UnivofToledo&layout_id=17).

## UT partners with Ohio's public universities in efforts to close attainment gap

By Meghan Cunningham

The University of Toledo is partnering with Ohio's 13 other public universities to raise awareness of the value of public higher education and spur efforts to produce more college graduates to close the state's higher education attainment gap.

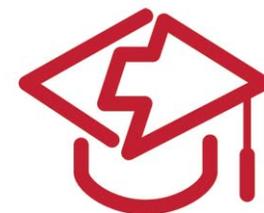
The statewide campaign, called Forward Ohio, seeks to mobilize public support for enhanced investment in public higher education and ensure that it is a public policy imperative for state government.

"We know that higher education is a smart investment for the college graduate who will earn \$1 million more than a high school graduate over the course of a lifetime," UT President Sharon L. Gaber said. "It also is a smart investment for the state because Ohio needs a highly skilled workforce to attract and retain the jobs of the future. Public universities like The University of Toledo play an important role in training the majority of those skilled workers."

Studies indicate that about 66 percent of jobs in Ohio in 2025 will require degree, certificate or other postsecondary workforce credentials. Currently, just 44 percent of working age Ohioans have these credentials.

The Forward Ohio campaign illustrates how maintaining a strong system of public higher education is essential to closing the attainment gap and meeting the economic and workforce needs of the state's business community.

In addition to producing the workforce of the future, public universities also have direct economic impacts on their communities. In northwest Ohio, UT is the region's second largest employer and has a \$3.3 billion annual impact on the community. For every \$1 invested by the state into UT, \$10 of economic impact is generated to the local economy.



**FORWARD  
OHIO**  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
STRENGTHENING OUR STATE

UT also is an exceptional value for students providing a high-quality education with one of the lowest tuition rates among Ohio's public universities.

The value of a UT degree has been validated by external sources such as Schools.com, which ranked UT Ohio's best four-year college when analyzing criteria such as affordability, flexibility and student services. The website LendEDU also ranked UT the top Ohio public college for the lowest student debt. Most recently, Student Loan Hero listed Toledo third in its list of the 20 cheapest cities in the country for college students, a ranking based on cost-of-living data in college towns where students benefit from low room and board costs on and off campus.

"UT and all of Ohio's public universities provide significant value to our students and to the state," Gaber said. "I join my fellow university presidents in advocating for enhanced support for strong public higher education to move Ohio forward."

Visit the Forward Ohio website at [forwardohio.org](http://forwardohio.org) for more detailed facts, figures and success stories.

## Medicinal chemist

*continued from p. 1*

protein, is important for long-term memory, and patients with Alzheimer's disease have been shown to have less of it. Schiefer said BDNF's ability to heal damaged brain cells could be compared to how Human Growth Hormone, known as HGH, helps athletes recover from muscle fatigue or injury.

He received a \$100,000 grant from the Alzheimer's Association in 2015

and a \$10,000 grant from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in 2014. His research was recently published in the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*.

Schiefer said his goal is to translate molecules created and developed in the lab at UT into the clinic as safe and effective therapeutics for patients.

## Professor receives recognition at Access to Justice Awards

By Marla Gootee

Dr. Celia Williamson, professor of social work and director of the Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute, won the Community Advocacy Award May 10 at the 18th annual Access to Justice Awards.

The Advocates for Basic Equality and Legal Aid of Western Ohio's Access to Justice Awards recognize and celebrate individuals and organizations for their contributions to promote and provide access to justice for the underprivileged and underserved.

Williamson is well-known for her community advocacy against human trafficking and domestic violence, along with her extensive research into the subjects and finding ways to combat them.

The Community Advocacy Award is given to an organization or individual who has made a difference in the lives of low-income or disadvantaged persons and

communities. It is intended to recognize grass roots organizing, public education, or community advocacy by an individual or group in northwest Ohio.

"The award means that the community recognizes and acknowledges that the work I'm doing is important and is on behalf of the vulnerable, poor and oppressed, and that human rights should be protected," Williamson said.

Williamson has devoted much of her time addressing the problem of human trafficking. The UT alumna has given more than 200 presentations on the topic; completed several studies, articles and reports; and edited two books on sex trafficking. She is a chair of the Research and Analysis Subcommittee for the Ohio Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission and is the editorial manager for the Journal of Human Trafficking.

In 1993, she founded the first and oldest anti-trafficking program in Ohio titled Second Chance in Lucas County. She later established the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition.

In addition, Williamson is both the founder and president of a National Research Consortium on Commercial Sexual Exploitation and founder of the annual International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference.

Recently, she has worked with the community to develop Partners Against Trafficking in Humans, known as the PATH model, which helps victims transition to survivors and eventually "thrivers."

Williamson has been recognized for her trailblazing work, receiving the YWCA Milestone Award, the UT Gold T Award, Ohio Liberator Award and more.



Williamson

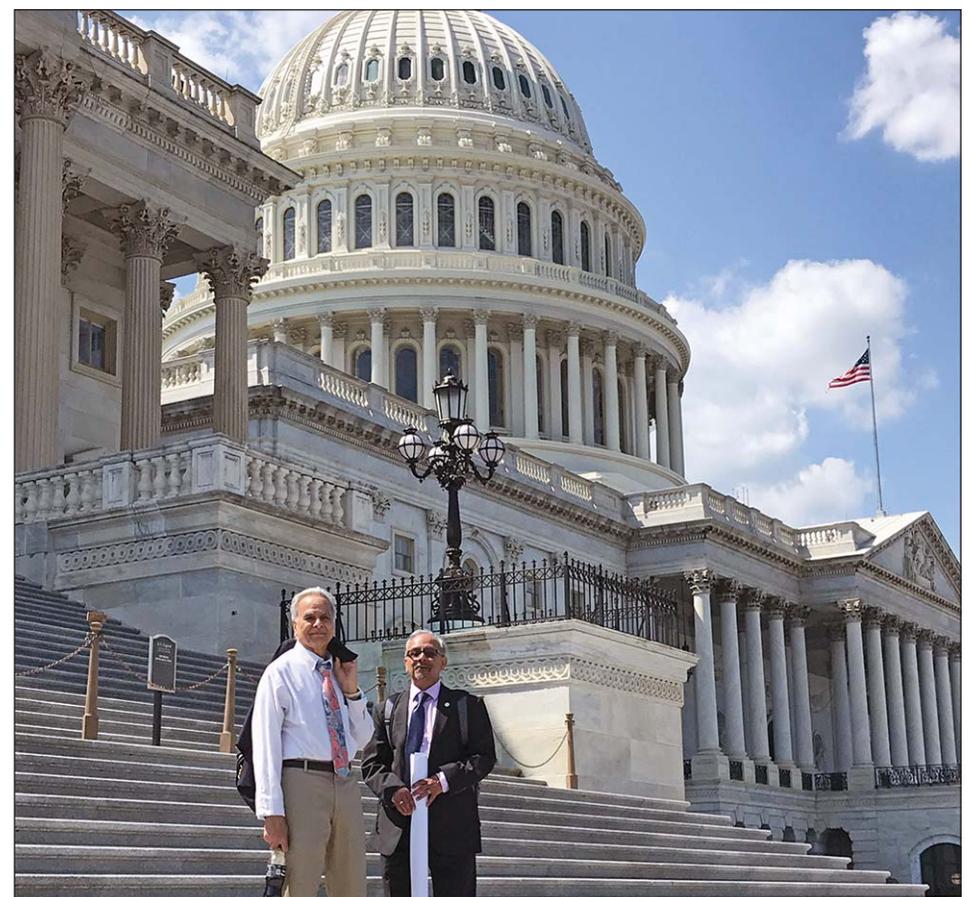
## Honored



Photo by Daniel Miller

Cathy Zimmer, director of academic and curricular initiatives in the Office of the Provost, left, received the Professional Staff Association's Frank E. Horton Award from Jamie Fager, senior business manager in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and vice chair of the Professional Staff Council. The award is named for the former UT president who was instrumental in establishing the association in 1992; it recognizes a PSA member who displays an outstanding commitment, exemplary support, advocacy and service to professional staff at the University. Zimmer has been involved with the PSA since 1997, serving two terms on Professional Staff Council and as PSC chair in 2003. In between terms, she served on the PSA Scholarship Committee and Communication Committee, and as chair of the Communication Committee. "From the day I started at UT, I noticed Cathy's commitment to the University and activity in committees, including the Professional Staff Council," a nominator wrote. "She was a member of the Professional Staff Council during a tumultuous administrative time and worked to foster collaboration and communication with administrators for the betterment of her fellow employees."

## UT researchers help fuel American innovation



Dr. Vijay Goel, professor of bioengineering and co-director of the Engineering Center for Orthopedic Research Excellence, left, and Dr. Sarit B. Bhaduri, Distinguished University Professor of Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, were among more than 30 researchers who discussed their work at the 24th Annual Exhibition and Reception hosted by the Coalition for National Science Funding. At the May 9 event in Washington, D.C., Bhaduri and Goel talked about their more than a decade of National Science Foundation-supported work that led to the creation of a regenerative material to be used in spinal surgeries. The new material is being manufactured locally, providing a direct impact on communities in Ohio.

## Global climate disruption topic of June 5 lecture at University

By Marla Gootee

A lecture discussing climate change and global climate disruption will take place Tuesday, June 5, at The University of Toledo.



Jorgensen

Dr. Andy Jorgensen, UT associate professor emeritus of chemistry, will present this lecture at 6 p.m. in the Driscoll Alumni Center Schmadel Room.

He will provide background information about global climate disruption and the human dimension of the problem.

“Attendees will get an idea of the changes in the climate during recent years, as well as the reasons and consequences of these changes,” Jorgensen said. “The last part of the talk will be about what can

be done to reduce the negative impacts of climate change.”

Actions that the community can take to combat and reduce climate change include reducing waste, recycling, and driving less, Jorgensen said.

He is a Senior Fellow at the National Council for Science and the Environment. He developed climate change curricular materials that have been featured in a web-based repository titled Climate Adaption Mitigation E-Learning with more than 300 resources. Both NASA and the Natural Science Foundation have provided grants in support of his climate research.

For his efforts to educate the public on climate change, Jorgensen was one of the 2017 recipients of UT’s Edith Rathbun Award for Outreach and Engagement.

Those who wish to attend the free, public discussion are asked to make reservations by Friday, June 1.

To register for the event, call the Office of Alumni and Annual Engagement at 419.530.2586.

## Puppy love



Kait Tippet took a break during finals week to bring her puppy, Echo, to campus for a walk. The four-month-old is an Australian cattle dog. Tippet graduated May 5 with a bachelor of arts degree in individualized studies focused in marketing and communication. She plans to pursue a career in the field of marketing.

## Lizards

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time the reptiles spent basking in full sun, sitting in a shrub, or buried underground at warm and cool sites on a mountain. Then the scientists transplanted lizards to the opposite site for a week so that they were exposed to a new climate.

Once the light-level recordings were done, the team recaptured the lizards, downloaded the data, and returned them to their home sites.

“We found that transplanted lizards immediately adjusted their light-level use to match local lizards,” Refsnider said. “That means light-level use, one type of thermoregulatory behavior or way to regulate their temperature, is a highly flexible behavior. Our results provide hope that lizards may respond to climate change by adjusting the amount of time they spend in different light environments in order to compensate for warmer environmental temperatures.”

Refsnider said this UT study is unique compared to previous studies trying to predict effects of climate change on lizards because the team used lizards living in desert habitat, as opposed to tropical lizard species.

“Tropical lizard species normally experience fairly constant but very warm climates,” Refsnider said. “We focused on lizards living at high elevations in the desert that experience an extremely wide range of temperatures — from well below freezing in the winter that requires hibernation to pretty hot conditions in the summer similar to those experienced by tropical species.”



**MOUNTAIN TIME:** The UT research team posed for a photo at Canyonlands Research Center near Monticello, Utah. They are, from left, Sarah Carter, Tyara Vazquez, Dr. Henry Streby, Ian Clifton, Adam Siefker and Dr. Jeanine Refsnider, who is holding Sora Streby.

The UT authors of the published research include three professors, two graduate students and two undergraduate students. The faculty members are Refsnider; Dr. Henry Streby, ecologist and assistant professor in the UT Department of Environmental Sciences; and Dr. Song Qian,

an environmental and ecological statistician and associate professor in the UT Department of Environmental Sciences. The graduate students are Ian Clifton and Tyara Vazquez. The undergraduate students are Adam Siefker and Sarah Carter.

# UT alumna's exhibit invites viewers to share dreams

By Angela Riddel

UT alumna and artist Leslie Adams will present an exhibition at the Center for the Visual Arts on the University's Toledo Museum of Art Campus.

The exhibition, "The Handwritten Dreams Project," will open Friday, June 1, and be on display through Saturday, July 7.

Adams will discuss her work Friday, June 1, at 5 p.m. in the Toledo Museum of Art Little Theatre.

A reception will follow the lecture from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Center for the Visual Arts Main Gallery.

"Drawing is my first love, but I'm infatuated with cursive — with signatures, poetry and long letters from friends — anything written in one's own hand," Adams said. "And I love dreams. I love the dreamers of dreams.

"A self-portrait, 'Handwritten Dreams' celebrates the hopes and aspirations that we, as children and adults, universally share. It is a drawing, installation and interactive work that provides the space and time where viewers can pause, reflect and write their own dreams on paper. Each then pins their hopes to a growing 'wall of dreams' in the symbolically staged 1970s' classroom that I remember as a child," she said.

"As a young school girl, I was taught to be curious, inspired to dream, and encouraged to record my dreams in perfect penmanship. It made them real," Adams said. "I am so fortunate that my dream of becoming an artist came true, and my goal as an artist is to inspire others to believe in possibility.

"Reflecting on the great cursive debate confronting today's society, 'Handwritten

Dreams' seamlessly marries the elegance and beauty of line found in both cursive and drawing with the very marks that are the expressions of our individuality and pure imagination."

In 2016, "Handwritten Dreams" was presented as part of ArtPrize Eight at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Mich. Over 19 days, 196,000 visitors to the museum viewed the work, and approximately 50,000 people recorded their hopes, dreams and aspirations, according to Adams.

"Through the beauty of line — from nearly indecipherable scribbles to precise manuscript writing and elegant cursive — individuals conveyed their dreams for themselves, their families and for our world," she said. "Subsequently, we are given a time capsule of our current culture. Because the dreams echo our lives. They anticipate our future."

The artist would like to see the wall of dreams continue to grow.

"I am grateful to the Center for the Visual Arts for inviting me to share the installation," Adams said. "Before 'The Handwritten Dreams Project' travels to other venues throughout the world, I invite you to contribute to the work by taking a moment to share your handwritten dream."

Adams followed her dream and pursued art. She received a bachelor of fine arts degree from UT in 1989 and in 1990 won the International Collegiate Competition in Figurative Drawing, which was sponsored by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. She was awarded the grand prize, a full tuition scholarship, which

enabled her to attend the New York Academy of Art.

Since earning her master of fine arts degree from the academy, Adams has established herself as an eminent Ohio artist. She has been commissioned to paint more than a dozen official portraits for the state of Ohio. In addition to painting the most recent official gubernatorial portraits, she has portrayed many leaders of the Ohio State Senate, House of Representatives and the Supreme Court of Ohio. Adams also has received commissions from U.S. universities, corporations and institutions.

The recent years have characterized a significant turning point in Adams' successful career. Her major solo exhibition, "Leslie Adams, Drawn From Life," part of the Toledo Museum of Art's 2012 Fall Season of Portraiture, received both critical and public acclaim. As the exhibition was drawing to a close, greater recognition followed. Adams was one of 48 artists in the country whose work was selected for inclusion in the celebrated 2013 Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition at the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. That same year, her work, "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Girl," was awarded the William F. Draper Grand Prize in the Portrait Society of America's 15th Annual International Portrait Competition.

The free, public exhibition can be viewed Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## Two exhibits set to open

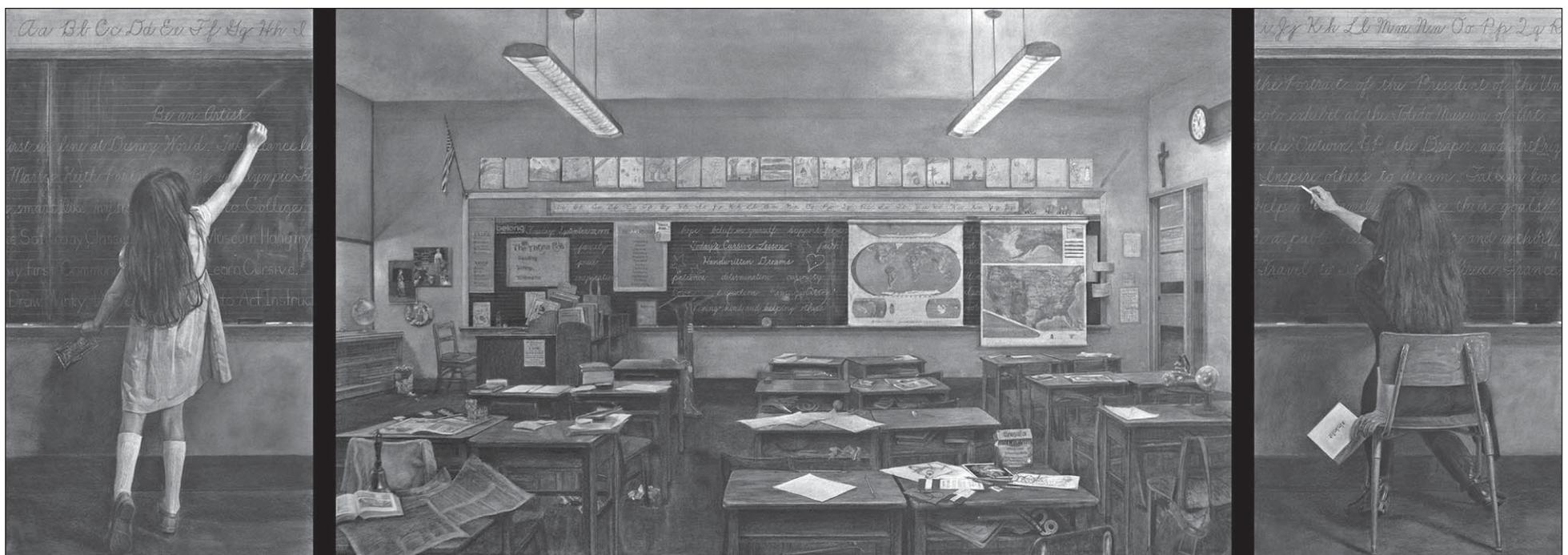
The Friday, June 1, reception also will celebrate two other exhibits in the Center for the Visual Arts.

The first is a presentation of work created by artist educator Amy Pollman and her students that will be displayed in the hallways and courtyard of the building. Pollman is a 2018 UT master of art education graduate, and her exhibit will be a site-specific installation at the center.

The Center for the Visual Arts Clement Gallery will feature an exhibit by artist Ella Musher-Eizenman. "Dear, :Love" is an exhibition exploring the duality of one's introspection and interpersonal relationships through the act of writing letters. This exhibit will open Thursday, June 14, and run through Saturday, July 7.

The Center for the Visual Arts is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Clement Gallery is open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information on the free, public exhibitions, contact Brian Carpenter, UT lecturer of art and gallery director, at [brian.carpenter@utoledo.edu](mailto:brian.carpenter@utoledo.edu).



"The Handwritten Dreams Project" includes this self-portrait by Leslie Adams learning cursive in grade school by writing about her dreams. Her interactive exhibition invites viewers to write down their dreams and pin them near her work.

## Toledo Choral Society to honor legendary jazz pianist at scholarship benefit concert June 10

By Angela Riddel

The Toledo Choral Society will feature “Celebration for Art Tatum” by Dr. David Jex, UT professor of music, at its “Tributes” concert Sunday, June 10, at 3 p.m. in Doermann Theatre.

“Celebration for Art Tatum” is a suite of five expressive movements, each based on Langston Hughes poetry. It starts with the question “Can you love an eagle, tame or wild,” urges listeners to “Bring me all of your dreams,” and concludes with a rollicking “Fantasy in purple.”

During the concert, the innovative jazz spirit of Tatum will be honored by world-renowned guest pianist Alvin Waddles, a Detroit native.

The show also will feature traditional American folk songs and gospel music.

Richard Napierala, musical director of the Toledo Choral Society, will conduct the concert. He received bachelor of education and master of music performance degrees from the University.

The Toledo Choral Society is a nonprofit organization aimed at contributing to the local musical community through the performance of significant choral works. It is Toledo’s oldest continuously performing musical organization, with its 100th anniversary celebration to be held during the 2019-20 concert season.

Proceeds from this concert will benefit the Bernard Sanchez Memorial Scholarship at The University of Toledo. A beloved professor and performer, Sanchez made an impact on the Toledo musical community for more than 50 years.

Tickets are \$20 each and are available at [toledochoralsociety.org](http://toledochoralsociety.org).

Those who wish to contribute to the Bernard Sanchez Memorial Scholarship may contact Nick Butler at the UT Foundation at 419.530.5413.



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**Tickets: \$20** available from any TCS Member  
or by visiting [www.ToledoChoralSociety.org](http://www.ToledoChoralSociety.org)



## Police lieutenant, alumna honored by community agency

By Jessica A. Guice

UT Police Lt. Tressa Johnson and University alumna Natalie Zerucha were honored this month by the Lucas County Mental Health Recovery Services Board.

Johnson was named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

"This recognition and honor confirms my peer's appreciation of the work we do daily in the area of helping others during crisis or a traumatic experience," Johnson said. "It means my passion for mental health recovery has now become an honor, and I am greatly appreciative of this honor."

Johnson implemented the first domestic violence program through the UT Police Department. She is a Lucas County Drug Addiction Response Team officer and is sent to hospitals to help drug-addicts find appropriate, long-term treatment while diverting them away from the criminal justice system. And she is a member of the Crisis Intervention Team.

"Her tireless commitment to service routinely goes far beyond what one could reasonably expect from a single person," UT Police Chief Jeff Newton said. "Tressa's passion and unique mental health training and credentials make her a truly irreplaceable asset to the community."

Being aware of the crime statistics in the community, Johnson said it is difficult to not be engaged.

"According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, one in three college students reported prolonged periods of depression, one in four college students have a diagnosable illness, and one in seven college students reported engaging in abnormally reckless behavior," she said. "When you have knowledge of this data, we as law enforcement officers have no choice but to be engaged, well-trained on how to intervene, assist, and provide resources as needed to our students."

The Lucas County Mental Health Recovery Services Board also honored Zerucha, who received the Consumer Involvement of the Year Award, which recognizes her involvement in the community, her ability to give time without expectation, and her act of giving strength and dignity to those in need.

"I am speechless to be recognized among community leaders that have been doing this for some time," Zerucha said. "It means the world to me."

Being aware of the drug statistics throughout the community, Zerucha founded "Be-WISE-er," an event that serves to educate the Toledo community on substance abuse and help those who are at risk.

"Three years ago, we noticed an opioid and substance epidemic in the Toledo area," Zerucha said. "We wanted to educate the college community on how bad substances are and how they are being abused over time."



**MAKING A DIFFERENCE:** UT alumna Natalie Zerucha, left, and UT Police Lt. Tressa Johnson were recognized by the Lucas County Mental Health Recovery Services Board. Zerucha received the Consumer Involvement of the Year Award, and Johnson was named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Since 2016, more than 900 people have attended the annual event, which was presented by the Alpha Kappa Psi Chapter at the UT College of Business and Innovation.

Zerucha graduated from the University this month and received a bachelor of business administration degree in management and marketing.

### In memoriam

**Gary A. Dutridge**, Jensen Beach, Fla, a former MCO employee, died May 7 at age 56. The Toledo native received three degrees from UT: a bachelor of arts degree in biology in 1985, a bachelor of science degree in medical technology and medical terminology in 1986, and a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry in 1989.

**Shirley A. Harris**, Toledo, who worked at MCO 28 years until her retirement in 1997, died May 16 at age 75.

**Daniel Leal**, Delta, Ohio, a former registered nurse at UT Medical Center, died May 8 at age 62.

**Marilyn (Veigel) McAlear**, Rossford, who was a member of the UT Foundation Board of Trustees from 1998 to 2004, died May 21 at age 82. In 2004, she retired as chief financial officer from Service Spring Corp., a business founded by her father, Clarence Veigel. She worked 37 years at Service Spring, which is a member of the UT Center for Family and Privately-Held Business. McAlear and her husband, Patrick, who survives, started a scholarship fund in their names at the University and have supported the College of Business and Innovation.

**Debra A. (Byrd) Walton**, Toledo, who worked at MCO for more than two decades, died May 8 at age 60. She was an EKG technician and an ultrasound technician at the hospital. Walton was a UT alumna, receiving an associate degree in medical assisting technology in 1978.

## UT NEWS

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## Former Rocket selected for MAC Hall of Fame

By Brian DeBenedictis

**F**ormer Toledo women's basketball player Dana Drew-Shaw has been voted into the Mid-American Conference Hall of Fame.

Drew-Shaw will join four other inductees into the 2018 Induction Class Wednesday, May 30, at 6 p.m. during the MAC Honor's Dinner at the Cleveland Renaissance Hotel.

In addition to Drew-Shaw, the other inductees are Orel Hershiser (Bowling Green, baseball), Charlie Batch (Eastern Michigan, football), Dr. Carol Cartwright (MAC/Bowling Green/Kent State, administration) and Michael Turner (Northern Illinois, football).

Drew-Shaw played basketball at UT from 1990 to 1995 and was named MAC Player of the Year and All-MAC First Team in her sophomore and junior years, leading Toledo to three NCAA Tournament appearances and one WNIT berth. She guided Toledo to three regular-season MAC Championships and three MAC Tournament Titles.

She averaged 11.7 points per game as a freshman, 15.0 points per game as a sophomore, 20.1 points per game as a junior and 19.0 points per game as a senior. She was named MAC Player of the Year her sophomore season and then sat out the 1992-93 season due to knee surgery, playing just three games that year. Drew-Shaw came back for her junior season and was again named MAC Player of the Year. After sitting out several games due to injury, she was named All-MAC Second Team as a senior in 1994-95.

Drew-Shaw was named to the MAC All-Tournament Team on four occasions and was the MAC Tournament Most

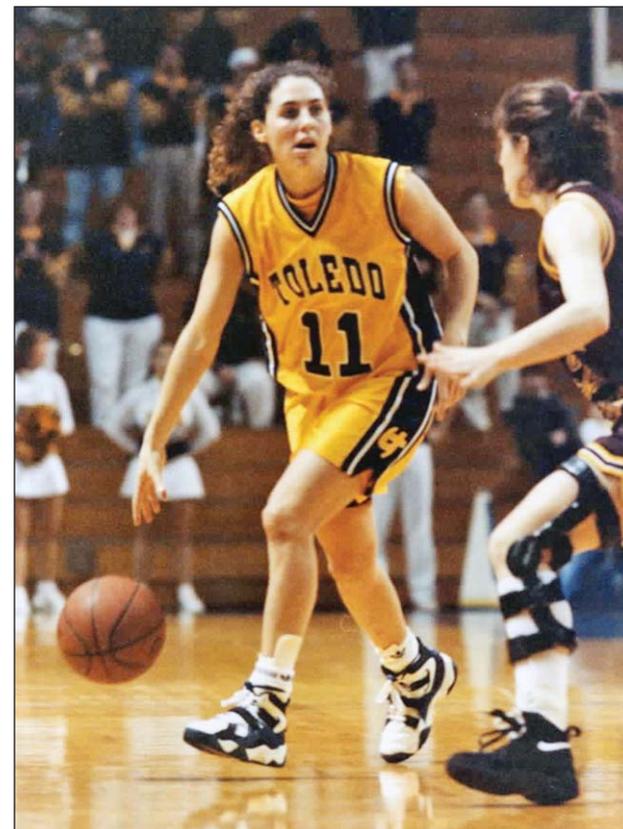
Valuable Player three times. She ranks second on Toledo's all-time career assists (659) and fourth in scoring (1,919). As a sophomore, she played on the United States Olympic Festival team.

She was named Academic All-American First Team twice (1994, 1995) and was named Academic All-MAC on three occasions (1991, 1994 and 1995). She was the recipient of the Walt Disney Post-Graduate Scholarship, NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship, MAC Post-Graduate Scholarship, and White Scholarship for Excellence in the Study of Political Science.

Drew-Shaw is married to former Toledo Academic All-America basketball player Casey Shaw. They lived in Italy for several years, where Shaw was a professional basketball player, and Drew played three years of professional basketball. They currently reside in Nashville with their four children, Anna, Isaiah, Caleb and Luke.

The MAC Hall of Fame was approved by the MAC Council of Presidents in 1987. The charter class was inducted in 1988 and subsequent classes were added in 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1994. After six induction classes, the MAC Hall of Fame maintained 52 members until it was reinstated in May 2012. This year's class brings the number of MAC Hall of Fame inductees to 92 individuals from 13 classes.

Tickets are available for the MAC Honor's Dinner. Individual tickets are \$100 each and a table of 10 is \$950. Contact Julie Kachner at the MAC Office at 216.566.4622.



**SHOOTING STAR:** Dana Drew-Shaw was a two-time MAC Player of the Year.

## UT teams up with Toledo Mud Hens to spotlight high-achieving students

By Marla Gootee

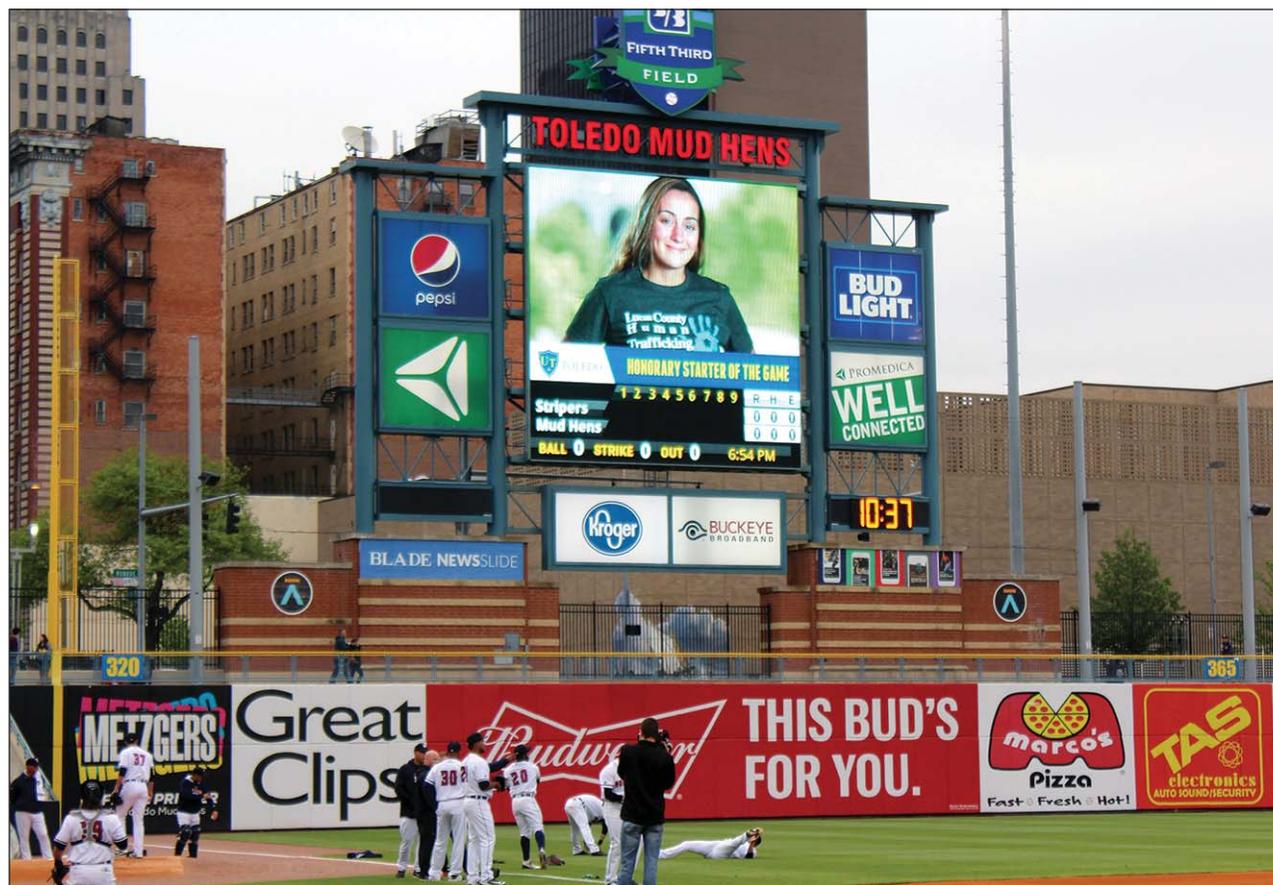
The University of Toledo is partnering with the Toledo Mud Hens to recognize students who have achieved commendable academic success during the school year.

Students selected will be recognized as the Honorary Starter of the Game on the field prior to the first pitch.

The first recipient of the award was Sierra Hawkins, a social work major in the College of Health and Human Services.

"It was a really neat experience to be able to walk out on the field and be on the huge board just for achieving my personal goals of maintaining good grades," Hawkins said. "This award is extremely important because it is recognizing local students and praising them for their achievements."

Students will be honored at 13 home games throughout the season and are chosen based on recommendations from each UT college.



**FIELD DAY:** Sierra Hawkins, who is majoring in social work in the College of Health and Human Services, was the first UT student recognized for academic success at a Toledo Mud Hens' game thanks to a new partnership between the baseball club and the University.