

## UT major gifts officer one of five in nation recognized as Outstanding Young Professional

By Madison Vasko

**N**icholas Kulik, major gifts officer for the College of Engineering, is among five fundraisers younger than 31 recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

For his impressive fundraising achievements, he recently was named to the association's first group of Outstanding Young Professionals.

In his first year with The University of Toledo, Kulik raised more than \$2 million for the major gift programs of two of UT's largest colleges.

"Nick's personal contributions have been a tremendous asset to the Advancement team," said Brenda S. Lee, president of the UT Foundation. "This national honor is a testament to his exemplary efforts and enthusiasm."

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Kulik



Photo by Rachel Nearhoof

## Here come the hot steppers

Nearly 100 men at The University of Toledo wore high heels and walked or sprinted across campus April 18 to raise awareness about sexual assault. The "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event raised more than \$700 for the Bethany House, a local domestic violence shelter. "The trick was pacing myself and using duct tape to keep the stilettos from falling off," said Izzy Okeke, a senior who finished first. "Domestic violence is a big issue in today's world, and getting people to participate in this event and raise awareness is amazing." Alpha Chi Omega and the UT Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness hosted the fundraiser, which was part of a series of events at UT for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.



Photo by Christine Billau

## Senator visits UT restored wetlands

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, left, and Dr. Daryl Dwyer, UT ecology professor, toured the University's restored wetlands site near the entrance of Maumee Bay State Park last week. That project is federally funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Dwyer, who oversaw the wetlands construction, updated Portman on how it helps improve Lake Erie water quality by filtering out E. coli bacteria and phosphorus pollutants before runoff water reaches Maumee Bay. Phosphorus input to Lake Erie is linked to the size of the annual harmful algal bloom.

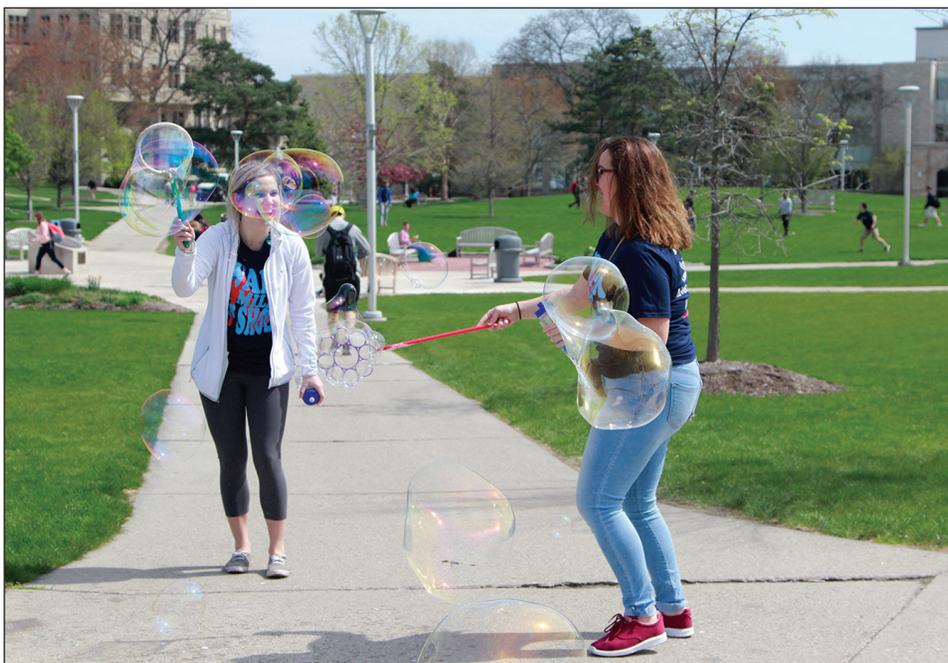
## Petal power



Photos by Rachel Nearhoof

Tvisha Martin, left, helped pick out a marigold for Rani Woodland during Earth Fest last week. Hosted by several student groups, the event was held April 18 on Centennial Mall in celebration of Earth Day to promote sustainable habitats and protecting the soil, water and air.

## Bubbles of laughter



Amber Creviston, left, and Cathy James had fun making bubbles during Earth Fest last week. Imagination Station brought the bubbles to campus to help celebrate Earth Day.

## Fighting human trafficking



Photo by Daniel Miller

President Sharon L. Gaber, left, and U.S. Sen. Rob Portman applauded the efforts of Dr. Celia Williamson, professor of social work and director of the UT Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute, during a discussion that preceded the first screening in Ohio of "I Am Jane Doe." Williamson dedicates her life's work to raising awareness about human trafficking and aiding victims. The documentary focusing on the fight against child sex trafficking online was shown April 18 in Doermann Theater. Sponsored by the UT Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute, the screening was part of a series of events at the University for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

## Now serving



Photo by Daniel Miller

Rocky and Rocky had some help cutting the ribbon to mark the opening of Steak 'n Shake in the Thompson Student Union. On hand for the April 18 event were, from left, Dr. Kaye M. Patten, senior vice president for student affairs; Bonnie Murphy, associate vice president for auxiliary administration; President Sharon L. Gaber; and Jason Toth, associate vice president for facilities and construction. Steak 'n Shake will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## New winter break schedule announced

By Christine Wasserman

In response to employee feedback, a new University of Toledo winter break schedule will become effective beginning in December to provide UT employees with days off to rest, relax and rejuvenate at a time when most departments are operationally slow. The University will suspend operations from Dec. 25 through Jan. 1.

"We're very pleased to offer this break to the majority of our employees," said Wendy Davis, interim associate vice president for human resources and talent development. "It's in alignment with best practices, saves the University some money, and also supports better work/life balance."

The new winter break time-off schedule supports the institution's long-term sustainability by reducing costs, while still maintaining crucial functions, such as hospital operations at UT Medical Center, approved research activities, and public safety. Consequently, the new policy does not include UTMC employees, police or certain positions deemed necessary due to end-of-year operations.

The University will provide employees with the additional paid days off — either

three days or four depending on which day the holiday falls in the year. This means the days off will be paid.

For 2017-18, the winter break schedule is:

- **Monday, Dec. 25** — Holiday (Christmas);
- **Tuesday, Dec. 26** — Holiday (Columbus Day);
- **Wednesday, Dec. 27** — Paid day off provided by the University;
- **Thursday, Dec. 28** — Paid day off provided by the University;
- **Friday, Dec. 29** — Paid day off provided by the University; and
- **Monday, Jan. 1** — Holiday (New Year's Day).

More information is available on the Human Resources and Talent Development at [utoledo.edu/depts/hr/benefits/time-off/winter-break.html](http://utoledo.edu/depts/hr/benefits/time-off/winter-break.html).

Should you have any questions after reviewing the question-and-answer information, contact a human resources consultant.

## Changes made to cell phone stipends

By Christine Wasserman

To reduce costs and align the University with best practices, all current cell phone stipends will end effective Friday, June 30.

The University of Toledo has developed a new program for monthly cell phone stipends to employees whose duties and responsibilities require substantial business use of a cellular telephone.

The following criteria will be applied in awarding stipends:

- Job requirement as a first responder on call before and/or after assigned work hours;
- Substantial job duties conducted away from campus;
- Safety requirements making cellular phone service an integral part of performing job duties; or
- Critical decision maker.

Stipend amounts will include \$25 per month for moderate use and \$40 per month for heavier use.

To obtain a new stipend, employees must complete an authorization form that will be reviewed and recommended by the

director or dean of an employee's area, with approval sought from the area vice president. The form is available at <https://www.utoledo.edu/offices/controller/payroll/pdfs/Cellphonestipendform050814.pdf>.

Reviews and approvals may be for a single month or for multiple months, up to the number of months remaining in the current fiscal year. The reviews and approvals are to be conducted annually and in place before May 31 of each year. This allows the stipend to apply in the first pay period of the new fiscal year.

Employees are encouraged to work through Rocket Wireless to obtain equipment and their service plans, which can provide convenience and save money. Employees who receive stipends are responsible for selecting a carrier, equipment and service plan, paying their bills, and maintaining their availability via their cell phone.

The stipend is taxable income and will be included on W-2 wages, subject to income tax reporting.

## UT to implement parking changes for fall 2017

By Christine Wasserman

In an effort to reduce vehicle congestion, promote alternative transportation, and move toward more equitable pricing for parking, there will be a number of changes made to parking beginning fall semester.

These modifications were developed with input from nearly 5,000 students, faculty and staff in a parking survey conducted last December.

Beginning July 1, UT parking rates will be:

- "A" permits (faculty and staff), \$150 annually;
- "U" permits (faculty and staff), union negotiated rates;
- "E/G" permits (executives and physicians), \$225 annually;
- "E-reserved" permits (executives), \$400 annually;
- Student permits, \$125 per semester; and
- Freshman residential (Scott Park Lot 21), \$100 per semester.

Employees with union benefits have the choice of upgrading to an "A" permit or maintaining their current union-negotiated price by using the following lots:

- Lots 18, 25 and 28 on Main Campus;
- Lots 44E, 44B and 46 on Health Science Campus; and
- Lot 22 on Scott Park Campus.

"The parking fee payment option through payroll deduction will be expanded and assessed on a pre-tax basis," said Larry

Kelley, executive vice president for finance and administration. "Implementing the payment as pre-tax will help to reduce the net amount paid by faculty and staff."

"We're also working to add special parking areas for those who travel in carpools, and we'll continue to have the bike share program and transit services for all University faculty, staff and students," Bonnie Murphy, associate vice president for auxiliary administration, said. "As one of the largest employers in Toledo, UT wants to encourage commuters to consider using greener modes of transportation."

In addition to the change in parking permit rates, which freezes student fees as UT moves toward a more equitable system, vehicle owners will be required to display printed permits to show that their vehicle is registered.

"There have been no increases in parking rates at UT for more than 10 years, despite parking being one of the only budgetary items that has no other funding source, such as state subsidies," Kelley said.

"These changes will help to cover costs of maintaining UT lots and aging parking structures. Despite these changes," he added, "UT still offers some of the lowest parking rates available among universities in our region."

Additional information about the new parking system will be shared as more details are finalized in the coming weeks.

## In memoriam

**Kenneth E. DeShetler**, Naples, Fla., and Dublin, Ohio, a former trustee of the Medical College of Ohio, died April 10 at age 88. He was appointed to a nine-year term by Gov. Richard Celeste in 1988. DeShetler resigned from the board when he moved to Florida in 1994. The insurance executive who was elected to the bench of the Toledo Municipal Court was a UT alumnus; he received a bachelor of business administration degree in 1957.

**John M. Garn**, Sylvania, who taught at UT from 1994 to 2002, died April 17 at age 78.

**Dr. Jaak Panksepp**, Bowling Green, a former clinical professor at MCO, died April 18 at age 73.

**Roy Treuhaft**, Toledo, a former trustee of the Medical College of Ohio, died April 17 at age 100. In 1974, he was appointed to the MCO board by Gov. John Gilligan and later served as chairman. He also was a member of the Medical University of Ohio Foundation Board of Trustees from 1979 to 1990. A real estate leader in the area for four decades, Treuhaft studied at UT for two years. Tributes are suggested to the Roy Treuhaft Scholarship in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences through the UT Foundation at <https://give2ut.utoledo.edu>.

## Applications being accepted for Presidential Faculty Fellowship

Faculty members interested in leadership development are encouraged to apply for the UT Presidential Faculty Fellowship.

The fellowship is designed for faculty members who want to expand their leadership skills by dedicating time to the President and Provost offices during fall semester.

Through the competitive program, one or two fellows will be selected to shadow the president and the provost, who will provide mentorship and insight into the skills needed in higher education administration. The fellows will receive a one-course release for fall semester so they can work on projects that further the University.

“These fellowship positions provide a wonderful opportunity for our outstanding faculty members to become future academic leaders,” President Sharon L. Gaber said.

“Any faculty member who has an interest in working in higher education administration should apply for the fellowship,” Dr. Andrew Hsu, provost and executive president for academic affairs, said.

This semester, Dr. Melissa Valiska Gregory, associate professor of English, who was selected for the inaugural Presidential Faculty Fellowship, is analyzing tenure and promotion guidelines at the university level in addition to the expectations at the college and department levels.

“I researched this subject extensively, making myself fully conversant in the specific tenure and promotion elaborations of all the different departments and colleges at UT, and I investigated the university-level guidelines of more than 40 public institutions similar to ours,” Gregory said. “I developed a proposal for the guidelines that I presented to the Faculty Senate Executive

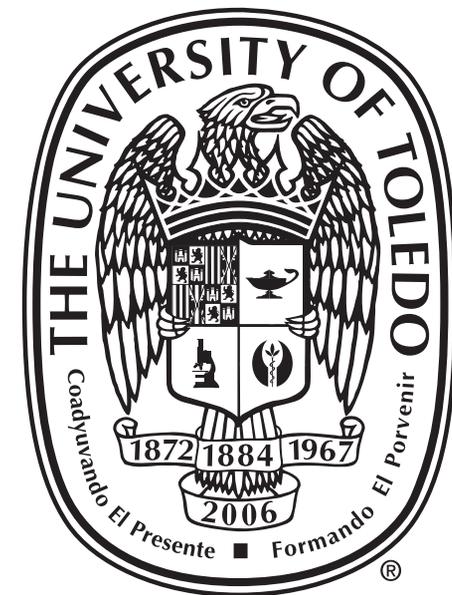
Committee for feedback, and I will continue to work on the project over the summer in collaboration with a faculty committee so that we can present the guidelines for wider faculty response next fall.”

To be eligible for the fellowship, faculty members must be tenured full professors or tenured associate professors within two years of applying for full professor. Individuals must not hold administrative titles with the exception of directors or department chairs, who are eligible to apply.

Candidates will be selected based on contributions to the University and emerging academic administrator qualities.

Applications are due by Friday, May 12.

To apply and for more details, go to [utoledo.edu/offices/president/faculty-fellowship](http://utoledo.edu/offices/president/faculty-fellowship).



## Deadline extended to May 28 for Diversity Climate Survey

### FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS:

There's still time to take the 2017 Diversity Climate Survey.

The 40-question survey should take about 20 minutes to complete and contains queries designed to anonymously collect honest feelings about the campus climate related to diversity, classroom climate and inclusion. A handful of questions are open-ended for participants to provide in-depth responses.

The survey will be open through Sunday, May 28.

## UT selected for national leadership project for student-athletes, coaches focused on sexual assault prevention

By Christine Billau

The U.S. Department of Justice awarded The University of Toledo approximately \$10,000 worth of training and curriculum to participate in the Healthy Masculinity Campus Athletics Project.

UT is one of 14 colleges and universities across the country chosen for the initiative through the Office on Violence Against Women to positively engage male college athletes, coaches and athletic administrators as influential leaders in the prevention of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking on college campuses and in their surrounding communities.

UT will send three representatives to an intensive three-day training at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., in July. The representatives will be from the UT Athletics Department and the UT Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness. Upon their return to campus, they will implement the curriculum through programming and practice.

“This is a great opportunity to further enhance our training and resources for our student-athletes so they can play a strong leading role in fostering a healthy, safe campus,” said Mike O’Brien, UT vice

president and athletic director. “UT athletics continues to support sexual assault education and prevention. We work with UT’s Title IX Office and Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness to train our coaches, staff and student-athletes on an ongoing basis. We are very excited about this collaboration and what the new grant means for our student-athletes and entire University.”

“College athletes and coaches across the country are uniquely positioned to play a key role in creating a safer campus climate,” Dr. Kasey Tucker-Gail, associate professor of criminal justice and director of the UT Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness, said. “They can use their visibility to promote healthy relationships and advocate against sexual violence. We are honored to work with the Athletics Department and value their continued support.”

The 13 other colleges participating in the program are Wheaton College; St. Johns University; Utah State University; Juniata College; Upper Iowa University; Loyola University; College of Mt. Saint Vincent; Goucher College; University of Idaho; Doane University; Georgian Court University; North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University; and the College of New Jersey.

## Outstanding staff members honored



Photo by Daniel Miller

President Sharon L. Gaber posed for a photo with this year's Outstanding Staff Award winners, from left, Jon Pawlecki, Sarah Farkas, Anthony Edwards, Alexandria Kraft Luneke and Tony Gibson. Also in the photo is Candace "Candy" Busdiecker, right, who won the Diane Hymore Exemplar of Excellence Award; read story on p. 8.

**F**ive employees received the University's 2017 Outstanding Staff Awards last week.

More than 30 nominees were recognized at a ceremony April 19 in the Thomas and Elizabeth Brady Engineering Innovation Center.

Winners this year were:

**Anthony Edwards**, custodial worker in Environmental Services on Health Science Campus. He has worked at the University since 1986.

"Anthony is one of the most positive and kind individuals you may meet on Health Science Campus. He truly embraces all employees and patients with his high standard of excellence and old-fashioned manners and demeanor. Anthony never has a bad day and spreads his infectious cheer anywhere he goes," one nominator wrote. "Anthony does not just stick to the responsibilities of his specific position; he stops what he is doing to hold the door for someone and will set down his supplies to walk someone to the right place when they are lost. This is just something Anthony does naturally because he has a kind heart."

**Sarah Farkas**, customer service liaison in Parking Services. She began her career at the University in 2012.

"Sarah always receives my calls with excitement, confidence, empathy, urgency and respect. Honestly, talking to her is like catching up with an old friend, when, truth be told, I'm not sure we've even had the pleasure of formally meeting," one nominator wrote. "Because of Sarah, I've been able to help my visiting students assimilate into the University system in a timely manner, allowing them to have a more comprehensive experience. It's clear to me that Sarah goes out of her way to help those requiring assistance, providing exemplary customer service to all she encounters." Another noted, "I always feel like my students are a priority to Sarah."

**Tony Gibson**, custodial worker in Building Services on Main Campus. He joined the staff in 1997.

"Tony is exceptionally diligent, dedicated and hard-working. He approaches his many responsibilities in the Snyder Memorial Building with consistent good humor and without complaint. When I arrive to the building early in the morning, Tony is well into his rounds and tasks: He is predictably systematic and organized, and completes all his tasks with zeal and pride," one nominator wrote. "Tony is

intelligent and innovative in his approach to his career. He is jovial and charismatic, and these are major prerequisites for successful leadership. I recommend that UT administration recognize Tony's leadership potential and deploy it to improve campus harmony and efficiency in the future."

**Alexandria Kraft Luneke**, aquatics and safety program coordinator in the Office of Recreational Services. She has worked at UT since 2012.

"Alex works toward the University's vision of improving the human condition by being a steward of very important safety and risk education within our department. She makes sure those that use and participate in programs, services and facilities offered by the office do so knowing that it is a safe and risk-free environment," one nominator wrote. "She is an outstanding teammate and teacher in the area of aquatics, aquatics management and aquatics safety. Alex is committed to the departments' values of diversity and inclusion, student development, community services, and healthy lifestyle options. Alex also has worked to be student-centered, mentoring students who are working toward their professional pursuits."

**Jon Pawlecki**, director of student services in the College of Engineering. He joined the UT staff in 2003. Pawlecki has two degrees from the University and is pursuing a doctoral degree in higher education at UT.

"Jon's role in the College of Engineering revolves around recruitment, retention and student success. He is tireless in his efforts to promote the College of Engineering, whether it is in large-scale recruiting events, daily tours, or during individual meetings with students and their families. Our undergraduate enrollment has increased 60 percent over the past decade, and Jon's contributions are an essential component of this success," one nominator wrote. "Jon has created numerous extracurricular and leadership opportunities for our students outside the classroom. He is the adviser to a number of college-wide organizations. Engineering students are among the most active on campus, and his contributions have been essential to this outcome."

# University recognizes faculty, staff for advising, research, teaching, outreach work

UT outstanding advisers, researchers and teachers, and recipients of the Edith Rathbun Award for Outreach and Engagement, were honored last week.

## Recipients of the Outstanding Advisor Award were:

**Rose Marie Ackerman**, associate director of student services in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the College of Engineering. She joined the University in 2006.

“Rose is the only adviser I know that does long-range plans for students. This helps tremendously because I am able to check off the classes I have already taken because she provides a specialized plan for each individual,” one nominator wrote. “She is the best adviser I’ve had at any university, and I’ve been to three different universities.” “Rose is always willing to see and talk to any student,” another noted. “She responds to emails quickly with any information needed. I just changed my major, and Rose is the person who helped me the most.” Another wrote, “She is the go-to person in the department for policies and procedures.”

**Dr. Matthew Franchetti**, associate professor and associate chair of mechanical, industrial and manufacturing engineering in the College of Engineering. He began working at UT in 2007.



Photos by Daniel Miller

Winners of the Outstanding Adviser Award were Rose Marie Ackerman and Dr. Matthew Franchetti.

“Dr. Franchetti is the most helpful person I have ever met,” one nominator noted. Another wrote, “The other day I walked into his office looking for advice on going to grad school. He went through the positives and negatives and all of the things required in the application process. He sat down and went over the different

courses of study and what each plan entails. On top of that, he took the time to explain what the University is kind of looking for and offered to be one of my references. I do not know how I would have gotten through engineering without him.”

## Recipients of the Outstanding Research and Scholarship Award were:

**Dr. Robert Collins**, NEG Endowed Chair and Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Collins is an internationally recognized expert on thin films and photovoltaics, especially for his groundbreaking contributions in the use of optical measurements, in particular, ellipsometry for assessments of real-time thin-film growth. This work is not only important to the photovoltaics industry, but also is valuable to related technologies such as displays and sensors. His total research funding, either as principal investigator or co-principal investigator at both UT and his former university, exceeds \$48 million. He is a prolific writer with more than 450 peer-reviewed journal and conference proceedings articles, and he is the editor or co-editor of nine books. His published work has more than 10,000 citations.

**Dr. Mohamed Elahinia**, professor of mechanical, industrial and manufacturing engineering in the College of Engineering.

Elahinia’s group, with support from the Ohio Federal Research Network and NASA Glenn, has fabricated high-temperature shape memory alloys in 3D printing for the first time. His research on low-temperature shape memory alloys has resulted in several medical devices, which are at various stages of commercialization. In collaboration with NASA Glenn and the Cleveland Clinic, he organized the development of the Nitinol Commercialization Center to support startup companies. He has been the principal investigator and co-investigator on 37 research projects, bringing in more than \$12 million in awards. He is the author of a leading book on shape memory alloys, as well as more than 70 journal articles; his publications have been cited about 2,000 times.

**Dr. Blair Grubb**, Distinguished University Professor and director of the Electrophysiology Program in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences.



Receiving Outstanding Research Awards were, from left, Dr. Robert Collins, Lee J. Strang, Dr. Blair Grubb and Dr. Mohamed Elahinia.

He is one of the world’s authorities in the treatment of syncope — abrupt, brief loss of consciousness — and other disorders of the autonomic nervous system. He has patients referred to him from all over the world to help those dealing with severe autonomic disorders. His patients testify on how he takes a personal interest in their condition, and he has a long list of testimonials on how he has provided patients with ways to improve their condition. Grubb has published more than 240 scientific papers, authored five books, written 35 book chapters, and has been the recipient of 10 research grants while at UT. He has been recognized as one of America’s Top Doctor’s 15 years in a row.

**Lee J. Strang**, the John W. Stoepler Professor of Law and Values in the College of Law.

Strang is an expert in constitutional law, particularly originalism and constitutional interpretation. He has expertise on the topic of law and religion and the history of Catholic legal education. He is highly sought as an invited speaker and expert on constitutional law matters and has presented his work at more than 150 conferences at top institutions. Since arriving at UT, Strang has authored 17 articles, two book chapters and five book reviews, as well as co-written a 1,500-page casebook. His work is highly regarded; Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens cited Strang’s work on the original meaning of “religion” in the First Amendment.

Strang’s work also was cited in the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals Hobby Lobby case.

## Recipients of the Edith Rathbun Award for Outreach and Engagement were:

**Dr. Lisa Pescara-Kovach**, associate professor of educational foundations and leadership in the Judith Herb College of Education. She is the co-chair of the UT Anti-Bullying Task Force, a campus violence prevention and protection trainer for the Department of Justice, and author of “School Shootings and Suicides: Why We Must Stop the Bullies.”

“Dr. Pescara-Kovach has performed countless service in the community in working with the prevention of tragedy in our schools and workplaces. She works with University and community agencies in multiple stages: preventing bullying and other aggressive behaviors; preventing targeted violence and suicide; and postvention of first responders, victims and witnesses when such incidents occur,” one nominator wrote. “While many faculty think their work is life-changing, few (outside the medical fields) can honestly claim their work saves lives; Dr. Pescara-Kovach is such a faculty member.”

**Dr. Andrew Jorgensen**, associate professor of chemistry in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. He studied climate change during his sabbatical at the National Council for Science and the Environment, helping to create Climate Adaption Mitigation E-Learning, an online



Recipients of the Edith Rathbun Award for Outreach and Engagement were Dr. Lisa Pescara-Kovach and Dr. Andrew Jorgensen.

program with more than 300 resources on climate change.

“Dr. Jorgensen has given more than 150 lectures to general public audiences all over the world about climate change. Having been an audience member, I can attest to the way he presents scientific knowledge in a nonpolitical, approachable way that makes a strong case for the need to address this topic,” one nominator wrote. “I admire his energy, commitment and passion, and am deeply respectful of his personal mission to educate as many people as he can about the importance of climate change to our global future.”

#### Recipients of the Outstanding Teacher Award were:

**Dr. Jillian Bornak**, associate lecturer of physics and astronomy in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. She began teaching at the University in 2014.

“She brought her enthusiasm for science into the classroom every Tuesday and Thursday night when we were all tired and drained. Her enthusiasm was contagious, and her energy made it easy to show up to every class that semester,” one nominator wrote. “She gave us every tool we needed to learn the material and pass her course with a good grade. She taught us with both ease and eagerness for her students to learn. Her students gained knowledge of these tough physics concept without ever feeling like we were too behind or too incapable of learning these concepts. The University is lucky to have her.”

**Dr. Todd Crail**, associate lecturer of environmental sciences in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. He joined the faculty in 2012.

“I have yet to meet any professor as engaging and passionate about the environment as Dr. Crail,” one nominator wrote. “He has a distinct voice and motivation in what he teaches — take action. If you want a better world, a better environment, then you have to act upon it. Dr. Crail encourages students’ critical thinking, he supports the curious mind, and he makes time for his students.” Another noted, “He has changed the lives of so many students, and he deserves to finally be rewarded for all the hours of hard work and dedication that he puts into his class, activities,

service learning, and the Department of Environmental Sciences.”

**Dr. Nitin Puri**, assistant professor of physiology and pharmacology in the

College of Medicine and Life Sciences. He has been at the University since 2012.

“Dr. Puri teaches physiology with great passion and consistently has the highest turnouts for lectures and review sessions. He expects the most from his students and repeatedly encourages you to think like a physician,” one nominator wrote. “Dr. Puri’s teaching style is interactive and certainly yields the strongest staying power of the basic sciences. I still use his notes to prepare for clinical rotations. Dr. Puri is more than a teacher. He is a fierce advocate for students, an outstanding mentor and, most importantly, a genuine person.” Another wrote, “Dr. Puri prepares you for the future, not just exams, but for clinical practice unlike any other professor.”

**Dr. Ruslan Slutsky**, professor of early childhood education, higher education and special education in the Judith Herb College of Education. He came to the University in 2001.

“Dr. Slutsky always makes time for his students. He is always willing to give extra help, and he goes out of his way to provide students with learning experiences outside of the classroom — research opportunities, helps send projects to conferences, etc. His lectures are always thought-provoking

and stimulate deep classroom discussions. He expects a lot from his students and, in turn, his students achieve great things,” one nominator wrote. “I am thankful to have had him as a professor and am thankful for all the things he has done for the college, as well as the University and community as a whole.”

**Dr. Patricia Sopko**, instructor in the College of Nursing. She joined the faculty in 2010.

“I was essentially failing my pathopharmacology class despite hours of studying. I always felt the exams to be very fair, and I approached Dr. Sopko to help me understand what I was doing wrong,” one nominator wrote. “When I did eventually speak with her, she in no way looked down upon me or made me feel intimidated, despite the fact that I should have approached her long before to ask for help. She not only clarified what I was doing wrong, she also made sure I was properly preparing for the final exam. She helped me improve my overall critical thinking abilities. The fact that she took the extra time to help me is something that I greatly appreciate.”



Taking home Outstanding Teacher Awards were, from left, Dr. Patricia Sopko, Dr. Ruslan Slutsky, Dr. Jillian Bornak, Dr. Nitin Puri and Dr. Todd Crail.

## Executive assistant selected for Hymore Award

Candace “Candy” Busdiecker, executive assistant and liaison committee on medical education coordinator in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, is the 2017 recipient of the Diane Hymore Exemplar of Excellence Award.

Busdiecker received the honor named for the longtime executive secretary to former President Lloyd Jacobs April 19 at the Outstanding Staff Awards in the Thomas and Elizabeth Brady Engineering Innovation Center. The award is presented annually to an individual whose work defines the core values of the University in Hymore’s spirit of support, encouragement and service.

“Candy wears many hats in her position. She provides assistance to the administrative director of operations for the dean, which is an extremely busy office. She is also taking calls, emails or visits in her capacity as ‘conciierge’ for specific needs for UT Medical Center,” one nominator wrote. “She is always calm, smiling, happy and welcoming. No matter how small or large of an issue, she maintains professionalism throughout. She follows through and also

follows up. She does not consider any matter resolved until she knows it has been satisfactorily done.”

She joined the University in 1995 as a secretary in the Department of Medicine in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, becoming a secretary II in 1999. One year later, Busdiecker took on the role of administrative research coordinator staying within the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine. She joined the College of Medicine Dean’s Office as administrative assistant to the chancellor in 2011.

“Candy is a very patient person. One of her biggest assets is the art of how she listens. She honors each person as unique and knows that it is not a one-size-fits-all type of approach in doing her job,” one nominator wrote. “She understands that the success of UTMC and UT as a whole is built one person at a time. Whether she is dealing with members for the affiliation, faculty, staff or students, her mission is that they have a positive experience however she is able to help.”



Photo by Daniel Miller

Dr. Kaye M. Patten, senior vice president for student affairs, left, and President Sharon L. Gaber, right, presented the Diane Hymore Exemplar of Excellence Award to Candace “Candy” Busdiecker.

“I enjoy the people at UT and working with such a great team in the College of Medicine Dean’s Office,” Busdiecker said. “There is no way to express my gratitude to everyone for nominating and choosing

me for this award. Ms. Hymore was an amazing lady and will always have a special place in my heart.”

**TOLEDO SISTER CITIES**

# International Festival

## April 29, 2017



**The University of Toledo**  
Savage Arena Concourse  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Admission:** \$5 for advance sales, seniors (65+), students with ID

**General Admission at door:** \$7.  
Children 10 and under free.

*For advance tickets at \$5 each, send check to Toledo Sister Cities International, PO Box 353004, Toledo, OH 43615 by April 14. List “Tickets” in memo field and provide your name. Tickets will be held at “Will Call.”*

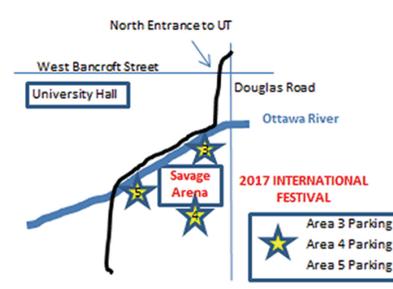
**Enjoy entertainment, food, crafts and souvenirs, vendors, raffles, and our language corner! Share pride in your heritage and learn about other cultures.**

- Eight hours of music, dance, and martial arts!
  - Ethnic food!
- A celebration of people and culture!
- Beer, wine, coffee, water, and soft drinks available for purchase

**Free, Ample Parking!**  
**Family-friendly!**  
**Enjoy the music!**

University of Toledo, 2801 West Bancroft Street, Toledo, OH 43606





## Share pride in heritage, learn about other cultures at April 29 international festival

By Ashley Diel

The eighth annual Toledo Sister Cities International Festival will be held Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Savage Arena.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about and experience cultures from around the world.

The event will start with a parade of nations at 10 a.m. After that, there will be an opportunity every 30 minutes for participants to learn a little bit of a different language including Urdu, Arabic and Hungarian.

Ethnic food and crafts will be available for purchase.

“The basic premise of Sister Cities International is that the road to global peace is built with the small bridges that citizen diplomats create among each other through business, and educational and cultural exchanges,” said Christine Weisfelder, treasurer of Toledo Sister Cities International. “The international festival brings new people into this process and helps all of us appreciate this mosaic we call Toledo.”

Last year, more than 3,000 people attended the event that featured music, dance, and the celebration of people and diverse cultures.

“I think people should come to the international festival because the event celebrates the wonderful diverse cultures of the people who live in Toledo and surrounding communities,” Weisfelder said. “Toledo Sister Cities International exists to build bridges — internationally among our citizens and the citizens of our sister cities, and locally among our ethnic communities here in Ohio. Our lives are enriched when we appreciate each other.”

Admission is \$5 for seniors 65 and older and students with their ID; \$7 for general admission; and free for children 10 and younger.

For more information, visit [toledosistercities.org](http://toledosistercities.org).

## Outstanding Young Professional

continued from p. 1

The Outstanding Young Professionals designation honors exemplary work in raising funds, inspiring donors, helping manage campaigns, and giving back to the profession.

“Nick’s focus on meeting donor objectives, while working to further the University’s mission, has been a great part of his success,” said Michael Harders, vice president for advancement. “Not only is he an outstanding fundraiser, he also is skilled at building relationships throughout the University community.”

Kulik and the other four honorees will be recognized at the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ International Fundraising Conference in San Francisco Sunday, April 30.

“It’s an honor and humbling experience being recognized with a great class of young professionals,” said Kulik, a Certified Fund Raising Executive. “Through the guidance of my mentors, support of my family, especially my wife, and experiences through the Association of Fundraising Professionals, I’ve turned my career into my passion.”

An alumnus of Pi Kappa Phi, Kulik also was recognized with the fraternity’s

Thirty Under 30 Award in 2014. It was through Pi Kappa Phi that he realized he wanted to make fundraising his career.

“While in college, I started raising funds for people with disabilities through Pi Kappa Phi and wanted to make it my life’s pursuit to help people,” Kulik said. “Working with philanthropists to create transformation change in a community, hospital or university has been personally rewarding.”

After graduating from Bowling Green State University, Kulik spent most of his career with the United Way network, where he worked on multiple \$13 million annual campaigns in northwest Ohio. Kulik also worked at the United Way of Racine County, where he led a campaign that raised a record-setting \$5.4 million.

In addition to his United Way experience, he was a major gifts officer for Bowling Green State University and ProMedica Health System focusing on securing major gifts for their comprehensive campaigns.

He is pursuing a master of studies in law from The University of Toledo.

# UTNEWS

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## Sign up for UT team to make strides toward cancer research

By Ashley Diel

Join thousands of others by taking to the streets Saturday, May 6, for the 11th annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk to help the American Cancer Society end the pain and suffering of those with breast cancer.

The 5K walk will take place at the Town Center at Levis Commons in Perrysburg. Registration will open at 8 a.m. with the walk beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Before the walk, an opening ceremony will take place to help inspire participants to take action as well as to symbolize the uplifting and energizing commitment people have made in making sure that no one has to face breast cancer alone.

“This event is important to the community and the breast cancer survivors and families. Not only does it bring

the walk as she herself is a two-year breast cancer survivor.

“My mom and my aunt both were diagnosed and are survivors; my best friend is as well. I am sad to say that my sister-in-law died of the disease when she was in her 40s,” Giovanoli said. “I want people to know they are not forgotten; we walk in support of those who have survived as well as those who have passed from their disease.”

The walk also will honor Renee Schick, manager of Renee’s Survivor Shop in the Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center, as this year’s honorary survivor. She is celebrating 16 years as a breast cancer survivor.

A limited number of T-shirts will be available at the event for \$20. Parking will be free at the Town Center at Levis



## MAKING STRIDES Against Breast Cancer®



awareness, but the funds generated from this walk benefit research, and free events for patients undergoing treatments, programs on educating the public to prevent it, catch it early and treat it,” said Michelle Giovanoli, manager of radiation oncology at UT Medical Center. “Their goal is to create a world without pain and suffering of breast cancer.”

Last year, more than 5,000 participants raised more than \$130,000 for cancer research. The money raised was able to support programs to fight breast cancer in areas such as research, education, advocacy and patient services.

So far this year, 1,600 participants have raised more than \$154,000.

Giovanoli serves as a co-chair for the event, but also has a deeper connection to

Common. The parking lots on the back side of the mall also will be available for participants.

The University of Toledo has a team called Rocket to a Cure, and people are encouraged to register for it. Rocky and Rocky also will be in attendance.

The walk is family-friendly, and there is no registration fee to sign up. Participants are encouraged to fundraise or donate, but are not required.

UT Health will sponsor a photo booth for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

To sign up for the event or to donate, visit [main.acevents.org/site/TR/MakingStridesAgainstBreastCancer/MSABCCY17EC?pg=entry&fr\\_id=84289](http://main.acevents.org/site/TR/MakingStridesAgainstBreastCancer/MSABCCY17EC?pg=entry&fr_id=84289).



## UT students encouraged to 'Pay It Forward' April 24-28

By Madison Vasko



With final exams just around the corner, many students are feeling the stress of their assignments building up.

Jack Sample, noticing this continuing trend, decided to take steps to bring some cheer to The University of Toledo campus.

"I have always had a passion for serving others; if I see an opportunity to help someone, I feel inclined to take it," Sample, president and founder of Pay It Forward Toledo, said. "I believe that any heartfelt contribution, no matter how big or how small, can help change the world. Founding Pay It Forward was a way for me to extend the passion that myself and many other students share to other areas of the UT campus and Toledo community."

The organization follows the philosophy of many other "pay it forward" groups worldwide.

But what exactly does it mean to "pay it forward?"

"To me, 'paying it forward' means putting other people before yourself. When you 'pay it forward,' you are inspiring positive change, and this inspiration can be the foundation of great change in our world," Sample explained. "The beauty of Pay It Forward is every person can create their own meaning of what it means to them, and they can take that and run with it as far as they wish. I believe this is so important to the UT community because there is so much need in our community, and creating a

student body that is more understanding of the importance of service in the community helps tremendously."

Pay It Forward Week will be observed Monday, April 24, through Friday, April 28, at the University. Friday, April 28, also is recognized as International Pay It Forward Day.

Sample emphasized the wide variety of ways that people may choose to pay it forward. Suggestions include paying for someone's coffee, holding a door, offering verbal encouragement, or just going out of your way to make someone smile.

"The biggest piece of advice I can give people who ask, 'How can I pay it forward?' is to simply do something that you want to do," Sample said. "Everyone knows how good it feels when someone goes out of their way to help them, so we all have the capacity to do that for others. Just go out and make people smile! That is one of the greatest gifts you can give to others."

Pay It Forward Toledo will host many events in celebration of the week. These will include free coffee, granola bars, and food for students on their way to class and study, as well as stress management activities and free golf cart rides to class.

For more information on Pay It Forward Toledo, follow @UTPayItForward or go to [facebook.com/payitforwardutoledo](https://facebook.com/payitforwardutoledo).

## Community invited to celebrate National Astronomy Day at Ritter Planetarium

By Christine Billau

The solar eclipse set to occur this summer will be prominently featured at the sixth annual Astronomy Day celebration hosted by The University of Toledo.

The free, public event, which will start at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 29, in Ritter Planetarium, will include hands-on, family-friendly activities for kids, UT astronomers sharing their latest research, shows in the planetarium, and a chance to look through the largest optical telescope in the Midwest.

"Astronomy Day is a special event for us each year," said Alex Mak, UT associate planetarium director. "It is one of the ways we give back to the community for the tremendous support they give us year after year. It also is an opportunity to invite young people to campus to learn about our solar system."

Programs and activities will include:

- The planetarium show titled "One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure" at 1 p.m. followed immediately by Moon Adventure, a hands-on education experience that includes making craters and exploring the "moon" with binoculars;

- A discussion at 5 p.m. about the solar eclipse that will occur Monday, Aug. 21, and be visible from Toledo;

- The Fulldome Festival at 6 p.m., which will include a presentation of three programs along with a live tour of the night sky and a look at the Discovery Channel Telescope;

- A session for adults called Research Talks at 8 p.m. to learn about the cutting-edge investigations that UT faculty and students are involved in, while younger guests watch episodes of "The Zula Patrol" in the planetarium; and

- An open house to tour Ritter Observatory at 9 p.m. Weather-permitting, guests will have the chance to look through UT's 1-meter telescope, the largest optical telescope in the Midwest.

Members of the Toledo Astronomical Association will be available to answer questions about telescopes and provide solar observing, weather permitting.



### UT employees may schedule graduate photos

Faculty and staff or members of their families who will graduate from UT this semester may contact the University Marketing and Communications Office if they wish to have a photo taken and published in UT News.

Call Joanne Gray at 419.530.5157 to schedule an appointment before Wednesday, May 10. Photos will appear in an upcoming issue of the paper.

## 'Wearable Conditions,' BFA Thesis exhibitions this week

This year's "Wearable Conditions" exhibition will be held Thursday, April 27, at 6 p.m. in the Toledo Museum of Art's Glass Pavilion.

"Students in the School of Visual Art's Department of Art have created extraordinary hybrids of sculpture plus fashion plus research to fabricate runway-ready works of art," Brian Carpenter, UT gallery director and lecturer in the Art Department, said. "Students dove into analysis of diseases such as Type 1 diabetes, delusional disorder and neuroblastoma.

"Students worked to understand the impact of these conditions on the individuals who suffer with the disease and those who care for the afflicted. They even worked with physician partners and health-care workers to familiarize themselves with the toll the diseases take on their victims," he said.

Students employed costuming techniques, old and cutting-edge technologies, sewing machines and computer numerical control machines to craft dramatic sculptural responses to the conceptualization of the particular virus, disorder or disease they chose to study.

In addition to the exhibition, there will be lectures by Brian Kennedy, president, director and CEO of the Toledo Museum of Art, and Dr. Mysoon Rizk, UT associate

professor of art history and director of the Roger Ray Institute for the Humanities.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and the show will begin at 6 p.m. at the TMA Glass Pavilion.

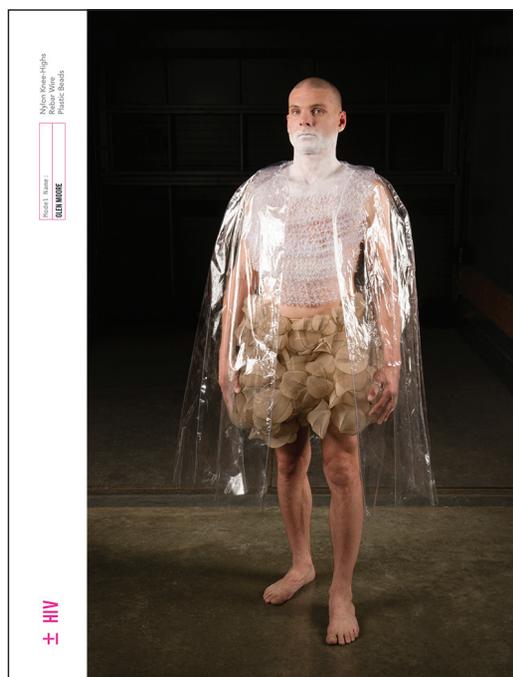
Due to limited seating in the Glass Pavilion, the show will be streamed live in the Center for the Visual Arts Haigh Auditorium on the University's Toledo Museum of Art Campus.

Immediately following the "Wearable Conditions" exhibition, there will be a reception for the BFA Thesis Exhibition in the Center for the Visual Arts Gallery.

This exhibition features works by eight graduating students who will receive bachelor of fine arts degrees. The work spans multiple mediums, including photography, ceramics, painting and virtual reality.

The works will be on display through Wednesday, May 3.

For more information on the free, public exhibitions, contact Carpenter at [brian.carpenter@utoledo.edu](mailto:brian.carpenter@utoledo.edu).



"HIV/AIDS" by Shelly Trivisonno is from last year's "Wearable Conditions" exhibit.



"Epilepsy" by Kayla Perez is from last year's "Wearable Conditions" exhibit.

## Glass City Singers to perform first concert

The Glass City Singers will present their premiere concert Tuesday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 316 Adams St. in Toledo.

The concert will feature contemporary music written by living composers, including selections for choir, cello and piano.

The Glass City Singers is a new ensemble to Toledo and is the first of its kind in northwest Ohio, according to Dr. Brad Pierson, assistant professor and director of choral activities in the UT Music Department. The ensemble is an auditioned group of singers age 16 to 30, and includes high school students, young professionals and college students majoring in everything from music to medicine.

An alternative to the more traditional community chorus, Glass City Singers performs music composed exclusively in the 21st century, Pierson, who directs the group, said.



Pierson will conduct at the concert, which will feature UT pianist Christina Montri and Dr. Brian Snow of Bowling Green State University on cello.

Tickets for the concert are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students and seniors.

Tickets will be available at the door, from the UT Center for Performing Arts Box Office, or online at <http://utoledo.tix.com/Event.aspx?EventCode=961050>.



These archival pigment prints by Sebastien Schohn are featured in the BFA Thesis Exhibition.