Health Science Campus buildings get new signs

By Jim Winkler

Two buildings on the UT Health Science Campus have gotten a significant, symbolic facelift.

The old sign on the east side of the hospital that read “University Medical Center” has been replaced with lettering “UTMC,” which stands for University of Toledo Medical Center, and the crest-shaped, blue-and-yellow UT logo. The new sign has large type, making it easy for motorists driving east on Arlington Avenue to read.

In addition, the UT name and the logo have been added to the sign on the overhang canopy on the east side of the hospital, and the UT logo now adorns the exterior of the George Isaac Minimally Invasive Surgery Center.

This week a large sign with the words “University of Toledo Medical Center” and the logo are scheduled to be installed on the west side of the hospital building. The letters will be big enough for easy viewing by eastbound motorists on Arlington Avenue.

The signs, which are being installed by Harmon Sign Co. of Toledo, feature light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, which are considered durable, economical and long-lasting. They produce a brighter light than fluorescent bulbs and employ semiconductors to produce light with almost no heat.

“The new campus signs are an important, striking symbol of change,” said Diana Ganues, acting associate vice president for facilities operations. “We want students, visitors and others to understand and appreciate that they are receiving care at the teaching hospital of The University of Toledo. We want to give the University a single, cleanly recognizable identity. Having a consistent visual identity on the Main, Scott Park and Health Science campuses effectively communicates to the public the University’s significant presence in the city.”

Doug Collins, director of grounds, said the inclusion of the logos and colors reflects efforts to re-brand the Health Science Campus following the merger of the former Medical University of Ohio and UT. The UT logo was redesigned following the merger and has been prominent in University communications and advertising.

“The signs will stand out because of their locations and size,” Collins said. “They are important because they are the first thing students, patients or visitors will see coming to our campus. We want to project a single university image.”

U.S. Supreme Court Justice to speak at UT March 13

By Kathleen Amerkhanian

The University of Toledo College of Law will welcome United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia as part of its Centennial Speaker Series. He will give a public lecture on constitutional interpretation Tuesday, March 13, at 2 p.m. in Doerrmann Theater on Main Campus.

Scalia was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in 1982, and took his seat as an associate justice of the Supreme Court Sept. 26, 1986. Scalia has carved a distinctive niche on the Supreme Court by questioning the conventions of modern statutory construction and constitutional interpretation. He has described himself as a “textualist” who believes that judges should apply the actual intent of the legislature.


On March 13, Scalia will give the 2007 lecture titled “The Signs They Are a-Changin’.”

President could decide on Main Campus provost, start negotiations today

By Tobin J. Klinger

President Lloyd Jacobs last Thursday formally received the names of the recommended candidates for provost on the Main Campus and executive vice president for academic affairs.

The slate features:
• Dr. Rathindra Bose, vice president for research and dean of the graduate school, and professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Northern Illinois University;
• Dr. Rosemary Haggert, acting director of the Division of Graduate Education and senior adviser of the education and human resources directorate at the National Science Foundation; and
• Dr. Rob Sheehan, interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at The University of Toledo.

“I am delighted by the work of the search committee,” Jacobs said. “I deeply appreciate their work and willingness to provide me an unranked, alphabetically listed slate of candidates to consider.”

The president accepted input on the candidates and intends to make a decision today as to a candidate to begin negotiations with and take forward for formal board approval.

“Again let me express my deepest gratitude to the search committee for coming up with this excellent group of candidates,” Jacobs said. “While I may not be able to make a formal announcement of the selected candidate until negotiations are complete, I anticipate being able to inform the campus community in the very near future.”

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UT Medical Center moves toward digital campus

By Liz Cancian

The University of Toledo Medical Center has gone digital with its new, state-of-the-art patient record system that digitally acquires, stores and retrieves diagnostic images.

The Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) will allow physicians to access patient records and images, such as X-rays and CT or MRI scans, throughout the wireless Health Science Campus.

“The PACS system is just one step in a unique and highly innovative digital program that will enhance the clinical treatment of patients at UTMC,” said Dr. Jeffrey Gold, provost and executive vice president for health affairs and dean of the College of Medicine.

PACS — currently in use by the departments of Radiology and Emergency Medicine — is just the first of many advances for UTMC as it moves toward becoming a “digital campus” and reducing the volume of the hospital’s paper records.

“The GE Radiology PACS project is one of the vanguard projects in the larger digital campus umbrella initiative,” said Joe Sawasky, chief information officer and associate vice president of information technology. “GE PACS is helping to build the 21st-century foundation for coming digital campus clinical information systems. These advanced technology systems are designed to dramatically enhance the quality of patient care, improve information accessibility for clinicians, and promote more effective back office operations.”

“Many hospitals have the PACS system. These initiatives will not only distinguish us as a university hospital, but will continue to embrace our mission here at UTMC by providing education as well as excellent patient care,” said Gold at the PACS ribbon-cutting ceremony last week.

This set of applications, which has begun with PACS, is better known throughout UTMC as Quantum Leap, according to Julie Christy, director of clinical informatics.

“We are working with 18 to 20 applications to transform UT into a ‘paper-light’ environment,” Christy said. “It takes lots of time, technology and energy, but we have everyone involved. Physicians, researchers and administration are all on board.”

Quantum Leap is an investment in technology to optimize clinical, financial and administrative processes. It includes the integration of the ancillary systems and devices in order to access a single patient record. The project has a phased approach, and each leap progresses toward eliminating the chart hunt for patient information.

According to Christy, the next two applications are already in the works. Beginning in April, the Misys management system will be under way at UTMC. This system will create a single patient registry portal and reduce duplicative patient registration requirements throughout hospital departments. Misys also will create a single physician billing database, allowing only one bill to be sent to patients after all treatment at UTMC.

In fall 2007, the next leap will be implemented. Departments will be trained to use document-imaging software that allows manual scanning of all paper patient records. It will allow for easier storage and give access to patient information to everyone at the click of a button.

“The highest levels of care are expected from university hospitals, and this system will offer UTMC health-care providers the latest in health-care technology and improved patient care,” said Mark Chastang, vice president and executive director of the UT Medical Center.

To learn more about Quantum Leap and future digital projects at UTMC, contact Christy at julie.christy@utoledo.edu.

Correction

A photo caption incorrectly identified an artist in last week’s paper. Works by Marvin Vines were on display in the Mulford Library glass connector on the Health Science Campus in honor of Black History Month. The words below each piece were written by his brother, Thomas D. Vines Sr.

DETAILED WORK: This work by Marvin Vines is accompanied by words written by his brother, Thomas D. Vines Sr.: “Just as we were created/Now we must create. Just as we were educated/Now we must educate. Just as we care/Now we must share. Just as we are loved/Now we must love.” Works and words by the Vines brothers and other artists will be on display in the Office of Multicultural Student Services in Student Union Room 2500 on Main Campus from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday, March 9.

Supreme Court Justice

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language of the Constitution and laws, reasonably understood.

His visit coincides with The University of Toledo College of Law’s centennial academic year (2006-07). Top legal scholars, jurists, practitioners and lawmakers regularly visit the College of Law as part of its speaker series, giving students and community members the opportunity to learn from and interact with the people whose thoughts and actions shape the law.

The College of Law has welcomed three U.S. Supreme Court Justices over the last five years, including a previous visit from Scalia in 2003. Justice Sandra Day O’Connor (now retired) spoke at UT in 2004, and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was at the University in 2006.

For more information, contact the Law Communications Office at 419.530.2712 or at lawcommunications@utoledo.edu.
Author to speak on Michael Owens, glass industry March 7

By Krista M. Hayes

The University of Toledo’s Canaday Center for Special Collections will host a presentation on Toledo native Michael Owens and his contributions to the glass industry by author Dr. Quentin Skrabec Jr. Wednesday, March 7, at 3 p.m.

According to Barbara Floyd, UT director of business at Findlay University, where Skrabec has been teaching since 1998, Dr. Skrabec used our collection in writing his book, Michael Owens and the Glass Industry (2006), which is a biography of the late entrepreneur.

“Michael Owens came to Toledo in 1888 to work for the Libbey Glass Co.,” Floyd said. “While he was largely unschooled, he had a great deal of practical experience in the glass industry, having started work in the industry at the age of 10. In 1903, he patented a machine that automatically produced glass bottles. Prior to that time, all glass bottles were produced by hand, and the industry employed a lot of young boys to make bottles. The Owens bottle machine not only made bottle production faster, but it also eliminated the need for child labor.”

His company later became Owens-Illinois Inc., one of Toledo’s largest corporations, according to Floyd. Owens also was part of the formation of the Libbey-Owens-Ford Co., now Pilkington Glass, and Owens Corning Inc.

“The reason the Canaday Center is holding the lecture is because we preserve the historical records of Owens-Illinois, and Dr. Skrabec used our collection in writing his book,” Floyd said.

Skrabec is an adjunct associate professor of business at Findlay University, where he has been teaching since 1998. He has written more than 50 articles and five books on history, industrial history and business. Among his books are The Metallurgic Age: The Victorian Flowering of Invention and Industrial Science (2005), Ironic Lessons in Operations Management (2005) and The Boys of Braddock: The Genealogy of a Town That Changed Industrial History (2004).

The Maumee resident received a doctorate from UT in 1999.

“The ubiquitous glass container is an afterthought in modern life,” Skrabec said. “Today’s marketing focus is on the beverage inside the bottle and the snappy jingle or ad that clamors for consumer attention. But before the bottle was filled, it had to be made. Prior to the automated machines invented by Michael Owens, child labor was the backbone in producing inconsistent and unsanitary containers for foods, beverages and machines.

“His automated inventions were vital to electric lighting, food and beverage packaging, advanced optics and automotive safety,” Skrabec said. “The reduction of child labor was a direct and significant outcome of his inventions. With nine companies and 49 patents bearing his name, Michael J. Owens ultimately became known as the father of project management.”

For more information on the free, public lecture on Main Campus, contact Floyd at 419.530.2170 or at barbara.floyd@utoledo.edu.
Teddy bears ready to help young patients at UT Medical Center

By Jim Winkler

Some cuddly exchanges are taking place at UT Medical Center these days, thanks to the efforts of a UT Police Department officer and The University of Toledo Medical Center Satellites auxiliary.

More than 500 plush brown stuffed toy bears costing some $3,000 recently arrived. They will be given to patients in the Pediatrics Outpatient Clinic and the Emergency Department to comfort them through situations that may be difficult, but hopefully will end up as happy memories, according to Officer Jeni Gerber, who spearheaded the efforts to obtain the bears.

She recalled that the hospital for many years had a supply of toy bears to give to youngsters to make their visits less scary and help make them feel better.

Then budgets got tight. So she started buying bears out of her own pocket to make the hospital a more kid-friendly place.

Last year, she approached the auxiliary to see if it would purchase some bears to give to children as they underwent tests in the hospital.

The auxiliary raised money for the bears from sales at the hospital gift shop.

“I am so excited that they are here,” Gerber said. “They each have a green elastic bow around their neck with the UTMC logo on it.”

Teddy bears have become enormously popular symbols of human caring and loving, she noted. A soft cuddly bear can ease the pain and fear in a young child’s mind as he or she lies under a big bright light, surrounded by strangers in white coats. Gerber believes giving children something to hug when they are in a strange place away from their familiar toys makes a hospital stay less traumatic.

“I hope the bears help make the hospital surroundings less traumatizing to our small and perhaps even our developmentally challenged patients and, in doing so, not only comfort patients, but their parents or guardians as well,” Gerber said. “The medical staff should also be positively influenced by the bears because having a comforted patient and family can make their job a little easier. With the teddy bears, I hope the visits for these families to the hospital will be positive and they will have a high level of satisfaction.”

In memoriam

Homer E. Meder, Toledo, a carpenter in Hospital Maintenance at the former Medical College of Ohio for 20 years, died Feb. 25 at age 85. He retired from MCO in 1989.

“I have enjoyed volunteering as a football mentor, chapter adviser for Pi Kappa Phi, and adviser for the Rocketeers.” He is leaving to join PerkinElmer Life and Analytical Sciences.