

New Biomarker Could Better Predict Diabetic Kidney Disease

By Tyrel Linkhorn

Clinicians may soon have a better way to predict which of their diabetic patients are most likely to develop kidney disease, allowing for earlier interventions that keep patients off lifelong dialysis or transplant waiting lists.

In a study led by Dr. Rujun Gong, professor and director of kidney research at The University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences, researchers analyzed how an enzyme present in urine can be used as a novel biomarker for diabetic kidney disease progression.

The study was published in the journal *Kidney International*.

"The research in this field is very important," Gong said. "There is a pressing need to more precisely determine which diabetic patients are at the highest risk, as early intervention and intensive treatment can prevent this certain cohort of patients from developing diabetic kidney disease and kidney failure."

Diabetic kidney disease is the

No. 1 cause of kidney failure in the United States, accounting for nearly half of all new cases, according to the National Kidney Foundation. Prior research has shown approximately 40% of diabetics will develop kidney disease, but Gong said clinicians lack a reliable way of determining which patients will be affected.

"Right now, testing patients for albuminuria, or protein in the urine, is considered by some as a gold standard diagnostic," Gong said. "However, in the field of nephrology practice, there is a huge debate about the test's usefulness. There is evidence suggesting it is not accurate."

By examining cell culture and animal models and performing a retrospective study of diabetic patients in China, Gong and his collaborators from the Brown University School of Medicine and Zhengzhou University concluded that an over-activation of an enzyme called GSK3-

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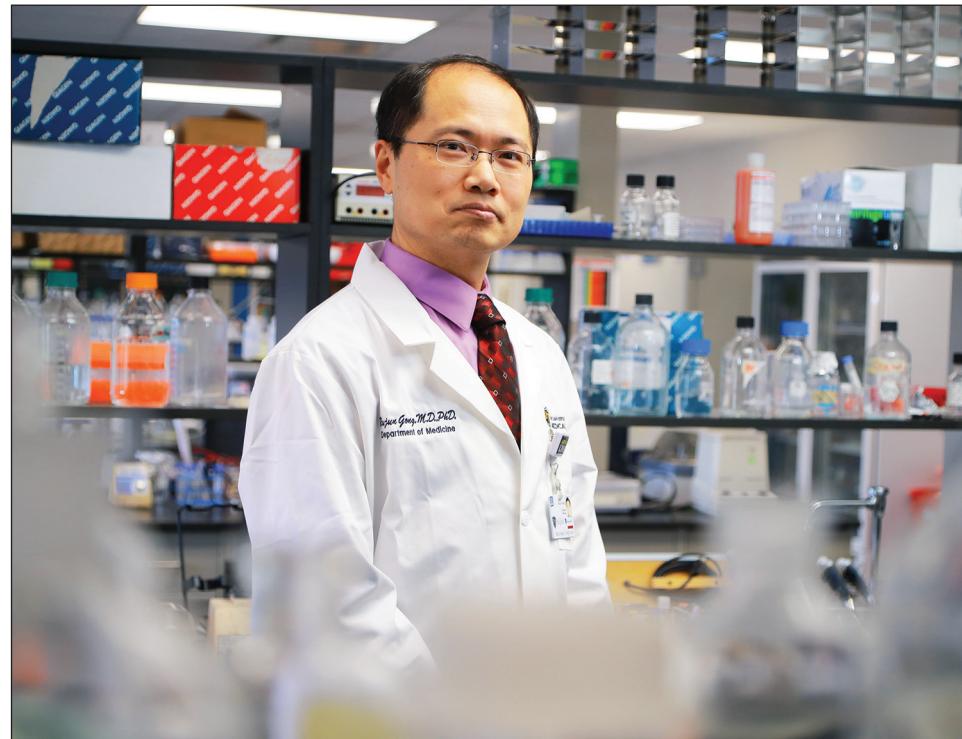


Photo by Daniel Miller

IN THE LAB: Dr. Rujun Gong's study on enzyme GSK3-beta present in urine that can be used as a biomarker for diabetic kidney disease progression was published in the journal *Kidney International*.

Art Professor's Work Selected for Prestigious International Exhibition

"Remembering Uncle Philip 2," from the series "Elusive Memory" by Deborah Orloff, will be on display in the Royal Photographic Society's 162nd International Photography Exhibition.

The UT Toledo professor of art's image was selected from nearly 1,400 entries



Orloff

from 62 countries for the exhibition, which will open Saturday, Feb. 15, in Bristol, England.

Orloff is one of 43 photographers to have work included in the world's longest running juried photography exhibition, which over the next year will travel to a number of United Kingdom venues, including the Royal Albert Hall in London.

"I'm truly honored to have my new work chosen for this exhibition," she said. "Competing with that many people from all over the world and then presenting with such talented colleagues is really humbling."

The honor means even more to the artist because it features a photo from her family archive.

"Although the title 'Remembering Uncle Philip 2' suggests nostalgia for a lost relative, I don't actually recognize the man in the photo; the title is ironic and speaks to the fallibility of memory."

She began reflecting on the photographic past following the death of her father in 2007.

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Activist to Speak for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

By Catharine L. Harned

International HIV/AIDS activist and humanitarian Hydeia Broadbent will be the featured speaker at The University of Toledo Medical Center's National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day event Saturday, Feb. 8.



Broadbent

The free, public program will begin at 4 p.m. in Collier Building Room 1000 A and B on Health Science Campus.

As part of the first generation of children born HIV-positive, Broadbent was diagnosed with AIDS at age 3. The prognosis was that she wouldn't live past age 5.

Broadbent began her work as an HIV/AIDS activist and public speaker when she was 6 years old. By 12, she had appeared on national television programs, including "Oprah," "20/20," "Good Morning America" and "A Conversation With Magic Johnson."

Now, at age 34, Broadbent is a distinguished motivational speaker and activist who shares her message of HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention to audiences of all ages. Her mission is to encourage avoiding at-risk behaviors through self-examination and informed decision-making. She promotes abstinence, safe-sex practices, and HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.

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Bundling Up, Giving Back



Photo by Daniel Miller

Kathie George, left, and Barbara Monroe, center, with Human Resources and Sara Wisniewski with the Office Of Legal Affairs celebrated the \$114,000 raised during UToledo Cares 2019 at a breakfast Jan. 30. Faculty, staff and retiree donors to the annual campaign received a complimentary scarf in thanks for their generosity. Contributions to UToledo Cares will benefit nearly 300 local charities and nonprofit organizations.

Constitutional Intent



Photo by Daniel Miller

Lee Strang, the John W. Stoepler Professor of Law and Values in the UToledo College of Law, talked about his new book, "Originalism's Promise: A Natural Law Account of the American Constitution," last week in the Law Center McQuade Auditorium. In the book, Strang summarized the history of constitutional interpretation in the United States and wrote a thorough, detailed description of how originalism operates in practice.

Biomarker

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beta was strongly linked to the progression of diabetic kidney disease, and a better indicator of disease development than albuminuria.

GSK3-beta plays a key role primarily in the insulin pathway, helping the body transform glucose – or sugar – into glycogen – or stored energy – and back again. The enzyme is also pivotal for other cellular processes and can be measured in urine because it is present in cells shed from the kidney.

"The idea here is to take advantage of these exfoliated cells as a liquid biopsy," Gong said. "It's not painful. It's not invasive. We can simply collect the urine and examine the exfoliated kidney cells as a biomarker."

The incidence rate of diabetes has risen sharply. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes the percentage of Americans living with diabetes rose from 4.4% in 2000 to 7.4% in 2015, while the World Health Organization says the number of people with diabetes has risen from 108 million in 1980 to 422 million in 2014.

As the number of people with diabetes continues to grow, Gong said it is important to give clinicians new tools to keep their patients healthy. If a physician knows a diabetic patient is prone to developing kidney disease, they can take steps to reduce the risk by ensuring tighter glycemic control, strictly monitoring blood pressure, avoiding nephrotoxic drugs, and prescribing other protective medications.

Beyond being a biomarker, GSK3-beta may be a therapeutic target itself, as it is implicated in a number of kidney conditions. Previous research by Gong under the support of the National Institutes of Health found that very small doses of lithium, frequently used as a medication for conditions such as bipolar affective disorder, can inhibit GSK3-beta and accelerate the recovery of renal function.

The next step for researchers is to conduct a large-scale randomized study to further confirm the ability of GSK3-beta to predict diabetic kidney disease.

W-2s now available for 2019

The UToledo Payroll Department has processed W-2 forms for the 2019 tax year.

Employees who chose to receive their W-2 electronically can log in to the myUT portal and, using the Employee Self-Service dashboard, select Taxes, choose W-2 Wage and Tax Statement from the drop-down menu, and then

select 2019 to view and print a copy.

Employees who opted for a paper copy of their W-2 should check their home mail. The University mailed W-2s via the U.S. Postal Service Tuesday, Jan. 28.

Activist

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"With all that we know about the virus, it is clear to me that contracting HIV/AIDS today is a choice, and we can't allow anyone the power to make that choice for us," Broadbent said.

"National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day annually promotes HIV education, testing, community involvement and treatment in communities of color, specifically targeting black communities," said Richard Meeker, manager of community engagement and development for the UTMC Ryan White Program.

As of Dec. 31, 2017, there were 1,014 persons living with HIV/AIDS in Lucas County, according to the Ohio Department of Health. In Lucas County, approximately 42% of persons living with HIV/AIDS are white not Hispanic; 49% are African American; 6% are Hispanic/Latinx; 2% are Multi-Race; and 1% are Asian/Pacific Islander. Lucas

County is approximately 74% white, 20% African American, 7% Hispanic/Latinx, 1.8% Asian, and 3.2% two or more races.

The Ryan White Program serves more than 1,000 clients annually. In 2019, the program provided more than 16,000 services, which included medical visits, medical case management, non-medical case management, support and additional services.

The National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day event is supported by the Ann Wayson Locher Memorial Fund for HIV Care in partnership with the UToledo Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Visit the Ryan White Center's website at utmc.utoledo.edu/ryanwhiteprogram for more information.

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The deadline for nominations is 11:59 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020.

Previous recipients are not eligible.



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Alumna to Discuss Mixed-Media Work Feb. 5

Sheree Hovsepian will return to her alma mater to discuss her mixed-media artwork Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 10 a.m. in the Center for the Visual Arts Haigh Auditorium on the University's Toledo Museum of Art Campus.

Born in Iran and raised in Toledo, Hovsepian is a visual artist who works with photography, collage, sculpture and drawing in her studio in New York City.

"I have this idea of repurposing and taking from what's around me," Hovsepian said in an interview with Vice. "I think it's this very feminine sort of thing. It also helps me make decisions. It's like, OK, I've got to make something. Everything I need is in my studio. Now, go."

And go she does. Hovsepian's one-of-a-kind pieces are exhibited internationally and are in the permanent collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Guggenheim Museum and the Studio Museum

in Harlem. She also was featured in the exhibition and book, "Photography is Magic," which was published by Aperture and chronicles experimental approaches to photographic art.

"Being recognized by Aperture is quite an accomplishment," Deborah Orloff, UToledo professor and associate chair of art, said. "It's incredibly gratifying to see our students flourish, and I'm thrilled to see how successful Sheree has been. Ever since she was a student here, Sheree's talent has been obvious. She's always had a sophisticated sense of pulling together disparate media to create artwork that's both beautiful and thought-provoking."

Hovsepian received a bachelor of fine arts degree from UToledo in 1999 and continued her education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she graduated with a master of fine arts degree in 2002.

She is represented by Higher Pictures in New York and



Hovsepian



"Sleight of Hand #55," chromogenic print, by Sheree Hovsepian

International Exhibition

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"Several years ago, I inherited thousands of neglected prints and slides that had been in my father's basement, where they were damaged by flooding. I started photographing them in the studio, not knowing what I would do with the images, but hoping to salvage some of the family pictures for posterity," Orloff, associate chair of art, said. "It wasn't until I saw them enlarged on a computer screen that I recognized their poignancy and greater relevance: I saw metaphors for loss and the fragmentary, ephemeral nature of memory."

"Elusive Memory" focuses on those severely damaged photos.

"Family photographs provide glimpses of the past and elicit memories, shaping narratives of personal history and identity," Orloff said. "Pictures reinforce recollections, but do we really remember our past, or have we simply absorbed personal photographs into fabricated memories and shaped our perspective accordingly?"

"The connection between photography and memory is enigmatic, and 'Elusive Memory' is a meditation on this dubious relationship."

In 2019, Orloff received an Individual Excellence Award from the Ohio Arts Council for "Elusive Memory."

To see more of Orloff's work, visit her website at deborahorloff.com.

For more information on the Royal Photographic Society's International Photography Exhibition, go to rps.org/ipe162.



"Remembering Uncle Philip 2" from "Elusive Memory," color photograph on rag paper, by Deborah Orloff



UToledo Theatre Student to Direct Production of 'The Flick'

By Angela Riddel

The University of Toledo Department of Theatre and Film will present Annie Baker's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, "The Flick." It will be directed by theatre student Justin Petty, a senior who will graduate in May.

Performances will take place Friday through Sunday, Feb. 7-9 and 14-16, in the Center for Performing Arts Center Theatre. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; Sunday shows are at 2 p.m.

"The Flick" follows three underpaid employees in a run-down movie theater who attend to one of the last 35mm film projections in the state - a hilarious and heart-rending cry for authenticity in a fast-changing world.

"We're committed to our students having the experiences that prepare them for entering the professional community once they graduate. We try to bring student designers, technicians and performers to positions of leadership and responsibility inside our departmental season pretty quick during their time here at the University," said Dr. Matt Foss, UToledo assistant professor of theatre and an advisor on the project. "The opportunity for Justin to be an artist leader on this collaboration was one we were excited to make happen for him and the team involved on the project."

"The University has helped me foster a new outlook on theatre-making. It has helped me become more precise and helped me understand how to make and find stories that not only represent but highlight the struggles of being a minority," Petty said.

When choosing "The Flick," Petty said, "I'm glad I came about this play when I did. It really speaks truthfully on being a youth in our society today, while also highlighting the microaggressions that happen on a scale that everyone can relate to."

He added he is glad that UToledo allowed him to take a risk with the play and really trust and challenge him with this production.

Petty has directed a number of smaller shows, but this is his first time leading a project of this scale. He served as the assistant director on "Proof" at The University of Toledo and as the assistant director of "Northern Aggression" for Tipping Point Theatre, a professional company in Northville, Mich.

He has several UToledo theatre credits, including "The Pillowman," "All Quiet on the Western Front," "Arcadia," "The Internationalist" and "The King and the Clown."

Petty also has studied abroad at the Moscow Art Theatre in Russia with The University of Toledo and Wayne State

University.

"The Flick" is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.

The cast features Gillian Martin, senior majoring in media communication with a theatre minor; Jackson Howard, anthropology major with a minor in theatre; Carlos Washington Jr., junior majoring in theatre; and Seth Mansu, sophomore majoring in media communication with a theatre minor.

Members of the design team are Dr. Edmund Lingan, professor and chair of the Department of Theatre and Film, producer; Frankie Teuber, adjunct professor of theatre and 2011 UToledo alumna, scenic designer/props master; Faith Pegus, junior majoring in visual arts, assistant scenic designer; Kelly McBane, lecturer in theatre, costume designer and costume shop manager; Stephen Sakowski, assistant professor of theatre, lighting designer and sound designer; Morgan Cunningham, sophomore

majoring in theatre, assistant lighting designer; Mekayla Shellenbarger, senior majoring in music and communication, assistant sound designer; Nathaniel White, assistant

lecturer in theatre, technical director and scene shop manager; Grace Mulinix, freshman majoring in theatre, wardrobe head; Natalie Rice, sophomore majoring in media communication and theatre, stage manager; Jacob Prokup, freshman majoring in theatre, assistant stage

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER FOR DRAMA

THE FLICK

BY ANNIE BAKER
DIRECTED BY JUSTIN PETTY



**Department of
Theatre and Film**

"The Flick" is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.

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manager; and Christopher M. Montpetit, lecturer in theatre, theatre/production manager.

Tickets are \$10 for students; \$12 for UToledo faculty, staff and alumni, and military members and seniors; and \$18 for the general public. Call 419.530.ARTS

Career Services' Events Set to Help Students Land Jobs

Career Services is ramping up for the spring recruitment season by offering traditional and new employment-related events this semester.

For the first time, Career Services has partnered with Carlson Library to present a weeklong, career-related poster exhibit. "An Introduction to Career Clusters" is on the first floor of Carlson Library.

The exhibit can be viewed Monday, Feb. 3, through Monday, Feb. 10, during library hours: Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to midnight; Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday from 11 a.m. to midnight.

"Career clusters are typical career paths by which students may gain employment in a given occupation," Davlon Miller, assistant director of career development, said. "The Career Services Office has mapped The University of Toledo's academic majors to common industry areas where students may be successful in finding an internship or full-time positions. These clusters will allow a student to have a guide in making important decisions to achieve their career goals."

"We identified the first-floor lobby area with its high volume of student foot traffic to be the perfect location to introduce the career clusters to our campus community via a poster exhibit," said Shelly Drouillard, director of career services. "We encourage students, faculty and staff to stop by to view the displays and learn more about career clusters prior to the upcoming Job Fair Prep and Job Fest events."

On Tuesday, Feb. 11, from 3 to 5 p.m., Career Services will host two simultaneous events: Job Fair Prep and a

Majors Fair. The Majors Fair will be in the Thompson Student Union Trimble Lounge and will feature representatives from various UToledo colleges and academic programs giving students the opportunity to ask questions, gather information, and explore different majors at the University. At the same time, the Job Fair Prep event will take place in the Thompson Student Union Ingman Room and will include various stations to help students prepare for upcoming job fairs by learning about resumes, networking and professional attire.

Another popular semi-annual event to help students obtain professional attire is The University of Toledo Suit-Up Event at JCPenney in Franklin Park Mall. On Sunday, March 1, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., UToledo students, alumni and employees will be able to purchase everything they need to finish their look for that next interview or a new job: suits, dresses, sports coats, dress pants, shoes and accessories at an additional 30% off. All UToledo students, recent graduates, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend.

Career Services also can help with dressing for success with the Professional Menswear Closet and referrals to the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women's Kate's Closet.

This year Career Services also is putting a new spin on the annual spring job fair. The event has been rebranded as the Spring Job Fest and will include the addition of the on-campus student employment job fair along with the all-majors job and internship fair. It will take place Tuesday, March 3, from noon to 3 p.m. in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium and Ingman Room.

Another new element at the event



Photo by Daniel Miller

PUT IT THERE: Students will have the chance to meet with potential employers at the Job Fest and On-Campus Job Fair Tuesday, March 3, in the Thompson Student Union.

will be the opportunity for students to meet with representatives from more than 20 Japanese companies that collectively represent membership in the Japan External Trade Organization.

"We are excited to add additional opportunities for our students to find experiential learning and employment opportunities, whether that is on or off campus," said Shannon Niedzwicki, assistant director of internship and employment development. "This event will be the one-stop shop for all students and offer a diverse range of opportunities."

Later in the semester, Career Services will host the annual UTeach Job Fair Thursday, April 9, in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium. Representatives from more than 90 schools and districts are expected to be on campus recruiting for teacher and other school-related positions.

For more information on these events and Career Services, stop by the office in Thompson Student Union Room 1533 or go to utoledo.edu/career.



Study Break

Alicia Tower, a sophomore majoring in early childhood education, and her support dog, Ruby, took a break between classes in Memorial Field House. Tower said Jan. 29 was the dachshund's first day on campus, and Ruby was doing well and making friends.

Photo by Vicki Kroll

UToledo to Present Saturday Morning Math Sessions

By Bailey Sparks

The University of Toledo will offer lessons on real-world math Saturday mornings this semester in Memorial Field House Room 1240.

These free, public sessions will begin at 11 a.m.; no registration is required to attend.

Following the success of UToledo's Saturday Morning Science, faculty from University College and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics decided to create a program for the public that would present basic mathematical ideas in simple ways.

The sessions were designed to prove that mathematics can be simple and fun. The programs are for people considering attending college; parents of potential students who are concerned about college-level mathematics; people who realize it's important to understand mathematics but never "got it" or have forgotten how mathematics work; and people who want to learn some new ideas.

Organizers stress math is not mysterious or impossible to understand; anyone who knows how to add, subtract, multiply and divide has the skills to be good at math.

Listed by date, the hourlong Saturday Morning Math sessions will be:

- Feb. 15 – "Let's Go Shopping" will discuss percents, increases, decreases, markups, discounts and taxes.
- Feb. 29 – "Growth and Decay of Candy." Exponentials, logarithms, growth, decay, effects of inflation, population trends and more will be explored.
- March 21 – "Life Isn't Fair" will spotlight ratios, proportions, probability, odds, and why the lottery isn't a path to riches.
- April 4 – "Lies and Statistics." Mean, median, mode, distributions, normal curves, and how numbers can be misleading will be the topics of this session.
- April 18 – "What's Slope Got to Do With It?" Graphs, slope, rates of change, maximums, minimums, and predicting the future will be covered in this hour.

Those who attend will receive free access to ALEKS, a web-based educational program for K-12 and college mathematics, to practice their skills at home.

For more information, visit the Saturday Morning Math website at utoledo.edu/uc/smm.html.

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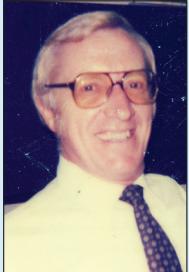
Join us for fun, informative sessions and explore the fascinating world of math.

Each hourlong program is FREE and open to the public!
All sessions begin at 11 a.m. in Memorial Field House Room 1240 on The University of Toledo Main Campus.

IN MEMORIAM

Virginia (Long) Havers Corsini, Toledo, a former secretary at the University, died Jan. 26 at age 95.

Susan M. (Sass) Davis, Sylvania, who was a registered nurse at MCO/MUO/UTMC for more than three decades, died Jan. 22 at age 72. She joined the hospital staff in 1979 and retired in 2011.



Walter "Walt" H. Lange, Swanton, professor emeritus of mathematics who taught for more than 40 years, died Jan. 18 at age 81. The UToledo alumnus received a bachelor of education degree in 1961, a master of education degree in 1965, and an education specialist degree in 1977. Lange started teaching at his alma mater in 1967 and was promoted to professor in 1978. For a time, he served as chair of the Department of Technical Science and Mathematics, as well as coordinator of mathematics. Lange was the co-author of several high school and college math textbooks. In addition, he was a member of Faculty Senate and served on the Student Affairs Committee. He retired in 2012.

Barbara E. (Horton) Linzie, Lambertville, Mich., a retired UToledo employee, died Jan. 27 at age 80. After she retired from the University, she returned as an intermittent employee in the Bursar's Office from 2005 to 2007.

Richard V. Roberts, Toledo, died Jan. 22 at age 83. He joined the MCO staff in 1993 as a delivery worker in Receiving and retired in 2001.

Margaret "Peggy" Tams, Toledo, who worked in the University's Admissions Office for more than 20 years, died Jan. 15 age 93.

UTOLEDO NEWS

UToledo News is published for faculty, staff and students by the University Marketing and Communications Office weekly during the academic year and periodically during the summer. Copies are mailed to employees and placed in newsstands on Main, Health Science, Scott Park and Toledo Museum of Art campuses. UToledo News strives to present accurate, fair and timely communication of interest to employees. Story ideas and comments from the UToledo community are welcome. Send information by campus mail to #190, University Marketing and Communications Office, Vicki Kroll. Email: vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu. Fax: 419.530.4618. Phone: 419.530.2248. Mailing address: University Marketing and Communications Office, Mail Stop 190, The University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606-3390.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS:
Dr. Adrienne King

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS: Meghan Cunningham
EDITOR: Vicki L. Kroll

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Stephanie Delo

PHOTOGRAPHER: Daniel Miller

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: Joe Bellfy, Christine Billau, Tyrel Linkhorn, Bailey Sparks

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS: Laurie Flowers, Megan Hilbert

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANT: Ahmed Tijani

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Toledo Men's Basketball to Host Craft Beer Night Feb. 11

By Steve Easton

The Toledo men's basketball program will host Craft Beer Night at Savage Arena prior to its game vs. Miami Tuesday, Feb. 11.

Cost for the annual event is \$35 and includes game ticket, 12 three-ounce beer samples, and appetizers. Tickets are \$25 for fans who have already purchased their game tickets. The cost for designated drivers is \$25 and includes game ticket and appetizers with soft drinks.

Attendees will be required to show a valid photo ID upon entry. No refunds or exchanges will be provided for failure to provide ID or failure to attend.

The event will take place in the Fetterman Gym from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and is for fans 21 and older.

For more information, visit the UToledo Athletic Ticket Office, located in the Sullivan Athletic Complex at Savage Arena, call 419.530.GOLD (4653), or go to utrockets.com.



Toledo Football Signing Day Show to Air Feb. 5 on ESPN3

By Paul Helgren

The University of Toledo will produce and air the 2020 Rocket Football Signing Day Show on ESPN3 Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 2 p.m.

Brent Balbinot, the voice of the Rockets, will host the one-hour studio show along with Toledo Head Coach Jason Candle and the Rocket coaching staff.

The coaches will review the Rockets' 2020 recruiting class and show video highlights of each signee.

Feb. 5 is the first day of the second signing period in which high school seniors are allowed to sign national letters of intent. The Rockets signed 18 recruits during the early signing period Dec. 18.

The Rockets will open the 2020 season at Tulsa Saturday, Sept. 5. The home season includes six games, including the opener Saturday, Sept. 12, vs. San Diego State and a matchup with archrival Bowling Green on a date to be announced.

Full-time UToledo employees and retirees may purchase two season tickets at half-price. UToledo students are admitted to home games free with ID.

To purchase season tickets, stop by the UToledo Athletic Ticket Office, located in the Sullivan Athletic Complex at Savage Arena, go to utrockets.com, or call 419.530.GOLD (4653).

