



Welcome!



Photo by Daniel Miller

President Sharon L. Gaber welcomed Aiyanna Tanner, a freshman majoring in marketing from Strongsville, Ohio, to campus Friday morning and helped her move into Parks Tower. The president was among many employees and students who volunteered to be part of the Rocket Welcome Crew to assist students and their families.

Rockets Win MAC Institutional Academic Award With 3.277 GPA

By Paul Helgren

The University of Toledo has been named the recipient of the 2018-19 Mid-American Conference Institutional Academic Achievement Award, the conference office announced Aug. 26. For the past academic year, UToledo's student-athletes posted a school-record grade point average of 3.277.

It is the second consecutive year the Rockets have won the award, and the sixth time in the past eight years.

The MAC Institutional Academic Achievement Award is presented annually to the conference institution that achieves the highest overall GPA for student-athletes competing in school-sponsored sports for the academic year.

"We put tremendous emphasis on academic excellence at The University of

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Grad Student Keeps Children 'Bookin' Through the Summer' Using Mystery Readers, Social Media

By Christine Billau

On a 90-degree day during one of the last precious weeks of summer break, nearly 30 children gathered at the Bedford Public Library to read together, sing, dance and scavenger hunt.

"The worst thing about going to the library is when I have to leave the library," said 7-year-old Gunnar Talley, who is entering second grade at Monroe Road Elementary School in Bedford, Mich.

That's music to Amy Kochendoerfer's ears.

The Ph.D. student in the Judith Herb College of Education and assistant principal of Monroe Road Elementary School is focused on getting and keeping children hooked on books

through her innovative, 12-week summer reading program, which debuted 11 weeks ago.

"This is an incredible turnout today - almost half of the children participating in our program - because we're competing with football and cheerleading practices and end-of-summer vacations," Kochendoerfer said. "Every week we've averaged about 40 children at the library."

She and Dawn Henderson, a speech pathologist for Monroe County, spent the summer piloting their program to help the youngest children at Monroe Road Elementary School avoid the "summer slide," the term used to describe how reading and academic skills regress over summer break.

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Photo by Daniel Miller

STORYTIME: Amy Kochendoerfer, UToledo Ph.D. student, read "How Much Is That Doggie in the Window?" by Iza Trapani to children participating in "Bookin' Through the Summer" at the Bedford Public Library in Michigan.

Staff Leadership Development Program Gains Momentum, Endorsements

By Christine Wasserman

Twenty-one University of Toledo staff members who are in the second cohort of the Staff Leadership Development Program are nearing the end of the yearlong program, which will conclude with their capstone projects and a graduation ceremony in November.

Participation in the program requires a commitment of at least three hours each month; this includes classroom discussions, reading assignments and completing a capstone project.

"We're very pleased this program has elicited such strong participation during its first two years," said President Sharon L. Gaber. "Our goal is to develop the next generation of leaders by offering a formal program through which our staff can have direct exchanges with leading experts and discuss topics currently trending in higher education."

Testimonials from current Staff Leadership Development Program participants point to myriad benefits of the one-year program.

"I wanted to further develop my skills and better serve the University," said Shawna Babula, success coach for the Center for Success Coaching. "It's exciting to apply new skills to help refine the institution and better serve our students. Also, my personal network is growing thanks to the connections I've made."

"I've had the unique opportunity to interact with experts in leadership development, emotional intelligence, diversity and customer service," noted Jon Pawlecki, director of student services and transfer partnerships for the College of Engineering. "The program has served as a hub for sharing best practices, many of which I have been able to apply to my current role."

Colleen Miller, contract compliance officer for the Office of Legal Affairs, agreed. "The biggest benefit to me, both professionally and personally, has been the focus on actually applying the knowledge we've learned. The concept of getting results is carried through the Staff

Leadership Development Program."

In addition to Babula, Pawlecki and Miller, members of the program's second cohort are Nicole Baden, Facilities and Construction; Keith Grindle, Technology and Advanced Solutions; Laura Hallauer, Finance/Controller/Grants Accounting; Stacy Jenkins, College of Business and Innovation Office of Graduate Programs; Aleiah Jones, Office of Multicultural Student Success; Stacy Ann Latta, Faculty Labor Relations; Monica Leppelmeier, Orthopaedic Surgery; Heather Lutz, Intercollegiate Athletics; Lindsay McLaughlin, Controller's Office; Pamela Moore, Research and Sponsored Programs; Sharon Murphy, UToledo Medical Center Pathology; Cameron Norton, University Marketing and Communications; Katrina Nottke, Title IX; Douglas Queenan, Facilities and Construction; Jonathan Rethorn, College of Engineering; Leslie Rhegness, Division of Technology and Advanced Solutions; Rachel Stanford, Finance and Administration; and Mingli Xiao, UToledo

Online.

"If you're serious about becoming an effective leader, I highly recommend you take part in the program," said Craig Turner, career recruitment advisor for the College of Business and Innovation, who was a member of the first cohort

Current full-time staff members with two or more years of UToledo service who have demonstrated high potential as an emerging leader are encouraged to apply for the program's third cohort, with course work starting in mid-October.

If you are interested in participating in the Staff Leadership Development Program, watch for a call for applications in mid-September. UToledo leaders also may nominate a staff member to be considered for participation. All applications are reviewed by a multidisciplinary team, with selections made by mid-October.

Rockets

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Toledo, so it is very gratifying to know that our student-athletes are being recognized for their superior achievement in the classroom," UToledo Vice President and Athletic Director Mike O'Brien said. "This is the second year in a row we set the school-record for our department grade-point average, and the sixth time in the past eight years we have won the MAC Institutional Achievement Award. That consistency speaks to the determined efforts of our student-athletes, as well as the outstanding support they receive from the parents, coaches, classroom instructors and Student Athlete Academic Services staff members."

"The Student-Athlete Academic Support Services staff is excited to break

another academic record and continue the academic success of our student-athletes," Ericka Lavender, associate athletic director for academics, added. "We are extremely proud of our student-athletes, coaches, faculty and staff. Without their support, we would not be able to achieve and maintain the academic success at UToledo."

A year ago, Toledo won the MAC Academic Achievement Award with a 3.266 GPA, a school record at the time. The Rockets also set a then-school record while winning the award in 2015-16 (3.235 GPA). The other academic years that Toledo won the award were 2014-15 (3.213 GPA), 2012-13 (3.200) and 2011-12 (3.171).

That's Pride!



Photo by Elliott Oberneder

The University of Toledo had the largest group in the Toledo Pride Parade. More than 190 UToledo students, employees and alumni hit the streets for the Aug. 17 event in downtown Toledo. In addition, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion sponsored a UToledo table at the festival.

Poet/Activist to Return to Alma Mater to Launch 'Legacy of Black People in America'

Sierra Leone, president and artistic director of Oral Funk Poetry Productions, will visit The University of Toledo to kick off 1619-2019: The Legacy of Black People in America Series.



Leone

"Voices of the People" is the title of the first program in the series.

Leone, a writer and leader of an urban poetry movement in Dayton, Ohio, will speak Thursday, Aug. 29, at the

event, which will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Thompson Student Union Steps on Centennial Mall. If the weather doesn't cooperate, the program will be moved inside the Thompson Student Union.

"This series of events over this next year is to commemorate the totality of the horrific and majestic experience of black

people in America from 1619 to 2019," Ben Davis, professor of law and co-chair of the 1619 Committee, said. "We are also planning other events – Health and the People, Art and the People, Slavery and the People, Faith and the People, Law and the People – and a writing contest are in the works to hopefully have a series of learning moments for our University community over the course of the school year."

"The purpose of this first program is to have members of the community honor and commemorate the lives and experiences of African Americans – living, dead, famous, infamous, from any field of endeavor – through spoken word, quotes, sayings, poems and readings," said Angela Siner, director of the Africana Studies Program and co-chair of the 1619 Committee.

"We want these programs to inspire and engage through the words and stories that spotlight African Americans' contributions to U.S. culture during the past 400 years," Davis said.

Both agree Leone is the perfect person to open the series.

Leone received the 2018 Ohio Governor's Award in the community development and participation category. The honor was presented by the Ohio Arts Council and Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation and recognized the educator and entrepreneur for creating and strengthening interactive arts participation among diverse community members while increasing awareness about the arts.

More than a decade ago, Leone and her husband, Robert Owens Sr., founded Oral Funk Poetry Productions; the creative urban arts initiative has brought together communities across racial, cultural, ideological and economic divides.

She told the Dayton Daily News she was influenced by growing up in a large family with a grandmother who believed life is better when shared: "In community, we can be more creative, more impactful, reach more people in diverse audiences."

Her project, The Signature: A Poetic Medley Show, presents a fusion of urban

poetry, music, dance and visual arts from local, regional and international talent. The quarterly show expanded to include a competition, The Last Poet Standing.

Through Signature Educational Solutions in Dayton, Leone works with schools, youth art organizations and community groups. A big focus is on girls' and women's empowerment.

The wordsmith has written and performed commissioned works for many organizations, and she was the featured artist at the 2017 National Breaking Silences Conference, where she shared a poem about her journey with dyslexia.

Leone was known as Lucy Armstrong when she received a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice in 2000 from The University of Toledo. The native of the Glass City is working on a book of poems and short stories.

1619-2019: The Legacy of Black People in America Series is free and sponsored by the College of Law, the College of Arts and Letters, the Africana Studies Program, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

'Bookin' Through the Summer'

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The two raised \$4,300 from organizations in Bedford to fund "Bookin' Through the Summer," an intervention project blending free books, mystery readers, parents, social media and library adventures.

"We want them to go back to school ready to start at the point they left off," Henderson said. "This has been a true community-wide effort."

It stems from Michigan's Read by Grade Three Law, which goes into effect this school year.

"I created this new spin on how to keep kids reading over the summer because the state of Michigan passed a law that if a child can't read by third grade, he or she will be retained and have to repeat third grade," Kochendoerfer said. "They need to catch that bug for books to keep growing, so we created a way to turn reading from a boring task into

something fun and interactive."

Talley is one of the 68 children in kindergarten, first, second and third grades participating in the program who received a book every week in the mail with a flyer for parents outlining suggestions to make reading the book together more engaging.

Aside from the optional meetings once a week at the library, the key ingredients that make this recipe sing are Facebook and mystery readers.

The organizers created a private Facebook page where parents interacted and shared photos and videos of their children's thoughts or crafts stemming from the books, including puppet shows.

Mystery readers from the community also popped up regularly on the page reading and discussing the book of the week.

"Everyone we approached was excited

to shoot a video of themselves reading the book and talking about the book in order to help keep the children motivated. The mystery readers sent us their videos, we posted them, and the parents sat down and watched them with their kids," Kochendoerfer said. "We had varsity football players, cheerleaders, our state representative, a sheriff's deputy and teachers reading to our children on social media. The buy-in from the community was incredible."

Especially from the parents.

"These moms and dads understand the importance of literacy, but we know how difficult it can be in the summer when you're out of the school routine," Henderson said. "They took this opportunity to help their children discover the love of reading by sitting down with them and modeling these weekly habits."

"Amy's work to encourage children to

have fun and enjoy reading books together is yielding great results," said Dr. Susanna Hapgood, associate professor in the UToledo Department of Curriculum and Instruction. "We know even just 10 to 15 minutes a day of reading to children can give them a boost in terms of vocabulary knowledge and motivation for reading that has long-lasting repercussions."

Though the data comparing student testing results from the end of the last school year to the beginning of this school year aren't available yet, Gunnar Talley's dad already calls the program a success.

"This experience is helping my son because it's not such a drudgery to get him to read anymore," Edward Talley said. "It still can sometimes be a battle, but not what it used to be."

Revved Up: Rockets Ready for 2019 Season

By Paul Helgren

Consistency has been the hallmark of The University of Toledo football program, and Head Coach Jason Candle is counting on that to continue in 2019 as his team battles for a Mid-American Conference title this fall.

The Rockets, who are one of only nine Football Bowl Subdivision teams to have a winning record in each of the past nine years, were chosen by the media to win the MAC West Division and make an appearance in the MAC Championship Game in Detroit Dec. 7.

A total of 13 returning starters are among the 49 letterwinners back from last season's squad – six on offense, five on defense and two special teams players. Among those returning this year are 2018 All-MAC tight end Reggie Gilliam, leading rusher Bryant Koback, and senior

defensive leaders Kahlil Robinson and Jordan Fisher.

The Rockets will open their season at Kentucky Saturday, Aug. 31, at noon. That contest will be televised on the SEC Network.

After a bye week, UToledo will host another Kentucky school, Murray State, Saturday, Sept. 14, at 7 p.m. in the Glass Bowl.

Candle is excited for the season to begin.

"This team is fun to coach," Candle, who is in his fourth year at the helm, said. "It's a good group of guys to be around. They really love what they do, and they are passionate about it. If you can handle that, then the locker room becomes a player-driven locker room and you have a real chance."

The Rockets were 7-6 last season and earned a trip to the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl. Candle said while his team is not focused on looking backward, they are motivated to improve upon that record.

"Last season is over. The past is the past," said Candle, who is 28-13 as Toledo's head coach. "But we're foolish if we can't learn from it. A year ago, we were coming off an 11-3 season, and we were trying to learn from those three losses. It's no different this year."

After the home-opener, the Rockets travel to Fort Collins to play Colorado State Saturday, Sept. 21, before returning to the Glass Bowl to host Brigham Young University Saturday, Sept. 28.

Conference play starts Homecoming weekend when Western Michigan visits for a 3:30 p.m. kickoff Saturday, Oct. 5.

Toledo will play at Bowling Green Saturday, Oct. 12, and at Ball State Saturday, Oct. 19, before returning home for three games: Eastern Michigan Saturday, Oct. 26; Kent State Tuesday, Nov. 5; and Northern Illinois Wednesday, Nov. 13.

The Rockets will close out the 2019 season on the road at Buffalo Wednesday, Nov. 20, and at Central Michigan Friday, Nov. 29.

Season and single-game tickets are on sale at the UToledo Athletic Ticket Office in the Sullivan Athletic Complex in Savage Arena, online at utrockets.com, and by phone at 419.530.GOLD (4653). Faculty and staff can buy tickets half off with ID, and UToledo students are admitted free with ID.



2019 UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

 SATURDAY AUG. 31	 SATURDAY SEPT. 14	 SATURDAY SEPT. 21	 SATURDAY SEPT. 28
 SATURDAY OCT. 5 HOMECOMING	 SATURDAY OCT. 12	 SATURDAY OCT. 19	 SATURDAY OCT. 26
 TUESDAY NOV. 5	 WEDNESDAY NOV. 13	 WEDNESDAY NOV. 20	 FRIDAY NOV. 29

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Women's Basketball Team Travels to Italy for Exhibition Games, Sightseeing

By Tricia Cullop

Our trip to Italy was an incredible experience for our student-athletes, staff and fans.

We planned our last three foreign trips around the home countries of players on the roster. We went to Israel in 2011 for Naama Shafir, and England and Spain in 2015 for Jay-Ann Bravo-Harriott, Janice Monakana and Inma Zanguera. This time we chose Italy for Mariella Santucci.

Quickly after we landed, we found ourselves navigating the waters of Venice, tasting our first pasta dish, and absorbing the Venetian culture. That evening we traveled to Bologna to find our bus greeted by the Santucci family. It was such a moving experience to see Mariella's entire family there to see her play at our first game; many hadn't seen her play in a very long time, if at all.

One of the highlights of our trip was spending an evening celebrating the occasion with Mariella's parents and sister. We enjoyed a five-course, authentic Italian dinner, which left us all stuffed and energized for the days ahead. While in Bologna, we also attended a cooking class, where our players learned how to make tortellini and spaghetti. We may have a future Julia Child or two in this group.

Next, we explored the sights in Florence and collected many souvenirs before making our way to Naples by way of a high-speed train. After a quick lunch of margherita pizza, we traveled the curvy, scenic drive to Sorrento by bus. The cliffs unveiled the beautiful coast, where we would play our second game and enjoy a few days by the water.

Another highlight of the trip was taking 10-passenger boats to the island of Capri. We stopped on the back, rugged side of the island to enjoy a refreshing swim in the Tyrrhenian Sea. Game two took place in the high hills of Sorrento and ended in a second victory for our team.

Our final stop was Rome. Despite record-high temperatures that reached 105 degrees, we attended mass at St. Peter's Basilica and toured the



ROMAN HOLIDAY: Members of the women's basketball team posed for a photo in front of the Colosseum in Rome. Mariella Santucci and Head Coach Tricia Cullop, right, smiled for the camera in front of the iconic structure.

Colosseum, Pantheon, Spanish Steps, Vatican Museum and Trevi Fountain. We also had unbelievable opportunities to hear the pope give his Sunday blessing to the crowd in St. Peter's Square and visit the Sistine Chapel to see the famous works of Michelangelo. In addition, our third and final exhibition game took place in Italy's capital city against the Rome All-Stars.

In our three exhibition games, we had a chance to mix up the lineups, give our new players time to show what they can add to our team, and witness our returnees grow in their leadership roles. I was very pleased with how hard we played and how coachable they were. With only 10 practices to prepare, we threw a lot of new things at them, and they absorbed it at a very rapid pace.

In our final night, we went to an interactive opera dinner show with the entire travel party, which included 22 fans.

We are so fortunate to have a tremendous fan base that supports Toledo women's basketball. Seven out of the last eight years, we have been ranked top 30 in the country in attendance. It was fun to share this trip with some of our fans who have helped us enjoy our amazing atmosphere in Savage Arena through the years. That night, we had our final pasta dish from Italy and shared many laughs before returning back to the hotel to pack our bags for an early departure home.

To sum up the trip, we immersed ourselves in art, culture and history, as well as tasted amazing cuisine. This voyage gave our six newcomers a chance to learn our style of play, gain valuable playing experience, and bond as a team. I've always felt that team chemistry is the



Photos by Max Minor

foundation of any great program. We won three games and grew closer as a team. Many of us traveled throughout Italy for the first time and gained memories that will be etched in our minds for a lifetime.

We will forever be grateful to our Rocket family for their generosity and making this trip a reality. We return home feeling very grateful, thankful and blessed.

Cullop is the head coach of the women's basketball team – and the winningest coach in UToledo women's basketball history with 241 victories.

New Food App Comes to Campus

By Alexis Razo

As students return to school this fall, Grubhub Campus Dining will be the new way to order ahead from on-campus dining locations.

Grubhub lets students, faculty and staff mobile order from their favorite dining locations on campus, get real-time updates, and pick up their orders on the go. Accepting locations are Starbucks, Subway, Steak 'n Shake, Croutonz, Oath

Pizza, Java City and Agave.

“The migration to Grubhub Campus Dining was implemented based on feedback from students and campuses across the country,” said Cameron McAdams, resident district manager of UToledo Dining Services. “Grubhub Campus Dining was piloted on select campuses last spring to solicit feedback and address any issues before the wider

release this fall.”

Grubhub Campus Dining is accessed through the Grubhub app and offers all of the features students have come to expect from Tapingo to provide the best possible digital campus dining experience, McAdams added.

It’s easy to switch from Tapingo to Grubhub. First, download the Grubhub app and sign up. Once downloaded, go

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to my Grubhub, settings, campus dining, and then select The University of Toledo. Students, faculty and staff can use any credit card, bank card or their Rocket Card to place orders.

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For more information, visit utoledo.edu/mealplans/grubhub.html.

IN MEMORIAM



Lahti

Dr. Leslie E. Lahti, Sylvania, who as dean helped grow the College of Engineering, died Aug. 17 at age 87. He joined the faculty as an associate professor of chemical engineering in 1967. Five years later, Lahti was named professor and chair of the department. In 1980, Lahti was tapped as dean of the College of Engineering. Under his leadership, the college doubled its faculty and staff, increased its research base from \$250,000 a year to \$2.5 million annually, and tripled the number of students from 950 in 1979 to nearly 3,000 in 1987. Lahti stepped down as dean in 1988 and returned to teaching until he retired in 1990; he was named professor emeritus and continued teaching part time for another five years. Lahti also assisted with the development of the College of Engineering graduate program, the pre-engineering program, the Office of Applied Research and the Polymer Institute. He was president of the Faculty Senate from 1976 to 1977 and served on several University committees. In 1977, Lahti was honored as the Outstanding Engineering Educator of the Year by the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers. In 1986, he was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. His professional memberships included the American Chemical Society, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Society of Engineering Education, the Council of Ohio Engineering Deans, and the National Society of Professional Engineers. His research focused on adductive crystallization, a method for separating compounds from a mixture. Tributes are suggested to the Dean and Mrs. Les Lahti Scholarship Fund through The University of Toledo Foundation.

Deborah K. “Deb” Madison, Toledo, an employee at MCO/MUO/UTMC from 2000 to 2015, died June 1 at age 48. She was a hospital aide and worked in sterile processing and transportation.

Sister Ann Rita Young, Sylvania, who was chaplain at the University Medical Center from 2008 until her retirement in 2016, died Aug. 14 at age 79.

UTOLEDO NEWS

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