

National science leader and Toledo native to deliver UT commencement address Dec. 15

By Kim Goodin

The head of the nation's oldest and one of its most prestigious laboratories will return home, as Toledo native Michael Witherell is set to deliver the address during UT's undergraduate commencement ceremony Saturday, Dec. 15.

Witherell, director of the Lawrence



Witherell

Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) in Berkeley, Calif., will address 1,474 candidates for degrees, including 1,437 bachelor's and 37 associate's candidates. The event will take

place at 11:30 a.m. in Savage Arena on Main Campus.

UT's graduate commencement ceremony is scheduled at 8 a.m. in Savage Arena and will commemorate 641 candidates for doctoral, education specialist and master's degrees, as well as graduate certificates. Md Kamal Hossain, emerging cancer researcher and candidate for a doctoral degree at the University, will be the speaker.

Both ceremonies are open to the public and can be viewed live at video.utoledo.edu.

Witherell, a distinguished physicist, educator and science leader, developed the foundation for his future at Toledo's St. Francis de Sales High School. Salutatorian at age 15, he earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Michigan and a doctorate in experimental

physics from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. After a distinguished career as a university professor performing research in particle physics, he devoted himself to leading large research institutions.

In 2016, Witherell was named director of Berkeley Lab, the oldest of the 17 labs in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) national laboratories systems. Berkeley Lab is a global leader in fundamental and applied scientific research in physical, biological, energy, computing and environmental sciences. The lab's employees have earned 13 Nobel Prizes and played a role in the discovery of 16 elements on the periodic table, among its honors. The lab is managed for the DOE by the University of California.

"Our mission at Berkeley Lab is solving the nation's most challenging

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Toledo led MAC in football attendance in 2018

By Paul Helgren

The University of Toledo finished No. 1 in the Mid-American Conference in home football attendance for the second consecutive season with an average of 21,352 fans per game in 2018, well above the MAC average of 15,532.

The Rockets totaled 149,462 fans in seven home games. The season-high mark was 28,117 vs. Miami (Fla.) Sept. 15.

Seating capacity for the Glass Bowl is 26,038. Toledo averaged 20,745 fans in 2017, also tops in the MAC.

The Rockets also sold 11,830 season tickets in 2018, a 13.8 percent increase from the 10,388 season tickets sold in 2017.

"We are very thankful for the Toledo community for another year of great support for our football program," said Dave Nottke,

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University engineers create method to save at least \$120,000 per mile on road pavement projects

By Christine Billau

Before orange construction barrels dot pot-holed streets or highways, a vital part of planning a pavement project is determining how thick the next layer of asphalt needs to be, taking into consideration the layers that already lie beneath the surface.

A team of engineers at The University of Toledo created a new procedure and design software to more accurately estimate the structural capacity of existing pavement that could save the Ohio Department of Transportation millions of dollars on road improvement projects and be adopted by states across the country.

The Transportation Research Board, a unit of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, selected UT's project for developing a revised pavement overlay thickness design procedure as one of 32 High-Value Research projects

nationwide to be highlighted at its annual meeting Jan. 13-17 in Washington, D.C. The meeting attracts 13,000 transportation professionals from around the world.

The new method is specifically designed for composite pavement — concrete pavement already topped with a thick layer of asphalt — which accounts for the majority of ODOT's four-lane and interstate highways. Previously, ODOT used a design method that was originally developed for rigid, concrete pavements that tended to produce designs often deemed too thick and wasteful for today's roadways, as pavement becomes thicker with each additional overlay.

For an update, ODOT turned to the engineer who crafted the original design 25 years ago: Dr. Eddie Chou, UT professor

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Photo by Daniel Miller

PAVING SAVINGS: Dr. Eddie Chou is leading a team of UT engineers that designed software to estimate the structural capacity of existing pavement that could save the Ohio Department of Transportation millions of dollars on road improvement projects.

Bioengineer to receive international award for work in orthopaedic mechanics

By Tyrel Linkhorn

Dr. Vijay K. Goel will be honored by the government of Dubai this month with the Hamdan International Award for Medical Research Excellence for his lifelong work in orthopaedic mechanics.



Goel

Goel, Distinguished University Professor and Endowed Chair and McMaster-Gardner Professor of Orthopaedic Bioengineering at The University of Toledo, was nominated for the award by UT President Sharon L. Gaber.

“This is a noteworthy award.

Many of the previous winners are among the world’s top physicians and researchers. They really pick the cream of the cream,” Goel said. “I’m very honored, very excited, and very proud to have been selected. From my perspective, it is the cumulation of all the work I have done that helped me to get this award.”

The Hamdan International Award for Medical Research Excellence was established in 1999 by

Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the United Arab Emirates vice president, prime minister and ruler of Dubai, to recognize those behind transformative medical research that serves the interests of humanity.

This year’s conference and awards are focused on musculoskeletal disorders, rheumatology, orthopaedics and orthopaedic mechanics. Goel is set to receive the award at a ceremony Dec. 12.

“I’m helping several institutions in India to establish bioengineering programs, and I hope with this award I may be able to help Gulf countries establish programs as well,” he said.

Goel joined The University of Toledo in 2000 after 18 years at the University of Iowa. He also spent three years as a research associate in the Department of Orthopedics at Yale Medical School.

Goel holds 18 patents and has been involved in establishing several companies, including OsteoNovus Inc. and Spinal Balance Inc. He recently received an Ohio Faculty Council Technology Commercialization Award from the Ohio Department of Higher Education for his work in developing and commercializing the Libra Pedicel Screw System.

Commencement

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problems through great scientific and technological discoveries. I believe that the national assets in addressing these problems include public universities and the students whom they are educating,” Witherell said.

Before joining Berkeley Lab, Witherell spent six years as director of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Illinois. He was vice chancellor for research at the University of California in Santa Barbara, where he also held a presidential chair in the Physics Department.

His primary research interest is in studying the nature of dark matter. He was a contributor to the LUX experiment, which in 2016 published the most sensitive search for interactions of dark matter particles with normal matter. He is now part of an international research team that is building a successor to LUX, known as LZ, which will be three orders of magnitude more sensitive. Data collection is expected to start in 2020.

Witherell is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He chairs the Board of Physics and Astronomy of the National Academies and serves on the National Academies’ Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy.

“As a nationally recognized, public research university, The University of Toledo is pleased to have Dr. Witherell as our fall commencement speaker. Research not only helps us to discover new knowledge that advances all areas of study, but also instills critical thinking skills that our students can use to approach problems systematically and come up with solutions that improve everyday life,” UT President Sharon L. Gaber said. “We look forward to Dr. Witherell sharing his insights with our graduates, especially since he grew up in Toledo and has since made tremendous contributions through research.”

Witherell’s personal success can be traced back to the Glass City, as well. He and his wife, Elizabeth Hall Witherell, head of the Princeton Edition of Henry Thoreau’s writings, grew up in the same west Toledo neighborhood and were high school sweethearts. They have a daughter, Lily.

“The foundation for my career and life was my extended family in Toledo,” Witherell said. “Their support and the value they put on education and public service were central to my personal and professional development.”



Hossain

Hossain, the graduate ceremony speaker, is a native of Dhaka, Bangladesh, who came to UT as an industrial pharmacist with a passion to develop innovative medicines.

“I’ve always been interested in studying health-related fields due to the suffering of people in my homeland from different types of disease,” Hossain said. “My focus is to develop a specific targeting approach for a more effective cancer vaccine. My research examined the utilization of a natural antibody already present in human serum that makes the vaccine more convenient to target tumor cells.”

He is a candidate for a doctor of philosophy degree in medicinal chemistry in UT’s College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

UT’s fall commencement ceremonies will recognize graduates from the colleges of Arts and Letters; Business and Innovation; Judith Herb College of Education; Engineering; Graduate Studies; Health and Human Services; Natural Sciences and Mathematics; Nursing; Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; and University College.

The College of Law will host its commencement ceremony Sunday, May 5, at 1 p.m. in the Thompson Student Union Auditorium. Later that week — Friday, May 10, at 4 p.m. — the College of Medicine and Life Sciences will hold its commencement ceremony in Savage Arena.

For more information, visit utoledo.edu/commencement.

Spreading holiday cheer



Photo by Daniel Miller

UT President Sharon L. Gaber helped carry presents in the Thompson Student Union last week to load the Salvation Army truck. Thanks to the generosity of UT community members, 55 families will have a brighter holiday this year. The Office of Student Involvement and Leadership organized the University’s participation in the Salvation Army holiday giving programs.

UT Foundation, Development, Alumni Engagement, Special Events moving to Dorr Street

Several University of Toledo offices are moving this winter to a new location on Dorr Street, thanks to a generous gift from Welltower Inc.

As of Thursday, Jan. 3, the UT Foundation offices will be relocated to the new Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement, 4510 Dorr St., Toledo, OH 43615 (adjacent to Welltower Inc). UT Development, Alumni Engagement, and Special Events offices also will move to the new center by the end of January.

Mail stop numbers will be UT Foundation MS 820, Development MS 825, Alumni Engagement MS 830, and Special Events MS 835.

All office phone numbers remain the same.

Coinciding with the move, the UT Foundation is also changing its logo, adopting a version of the shield logo used throughout the University.

“Transitioning to a new location seems a fitting time to make a brand change that more clearly identifies our organization as part of the UT family,” said Brenda S. Lee, UT Foundation president. “Our goal has always been — and continues to be — providing impactful financial support for the University and fostering a spirit of loyalty and opportunity for UT alumni and friends. We look forward to continuing our efforts and working with alumni, faculty, staff and donors from our new offices.”

Lee noted that there’s still time to make a 2018 gift in support of UT programs, projects and students. Contributions may be made online at utfoundation.org/give/giveonline.aspx or in person at the Foundation’s current Driscoll Alumni Center location. Offices will be closed Dec. 24-26, but will be open for year-end giving from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 27, 28 and 31.



Photo by Daniel Miller

NEW LOCATION: The UT Foundation offices are scheduled to be at the new Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement, 4510 Dorr St., Jan. 3. UT Development, Alumni Engagement, and Special Events offices also are slated to move to the new center by the end of January.

Bus services between semesters announced

Bus services will not be running from Saturday, Dec. 15, through Saturday, Jan. 12. The last day to ride the Blue, Gold and Scott Park route is Friday, Dec. 14.

The Scott Park route will resume a normal evening schedule Sunday, Jan. 13. The Gold and Blue Route will resume a normal schedule on the first day of spring semester, Monday, Jan. 14.

Downtown Connect stopped service Dec. 8 for the season and will resume Saturday, Jan. 19.

The late-night bus service will revise service hours to Saturday only to meet student demand beginning spring semester. Read more on the Downtown Connect website at utoledo.edu/parkingservices/late-night-bus-services.

For more information, call Parking and Transportation Services at 419.530.4100.

New vice provost for faculty affairs appointed

Dr. Amy Thompson has been named vice provost for faculty affairs, effective Jan. 1.



Thompson

Thompson currently serves as interim associate vice provost for faculty affairs and professor of public health, and provides oversight for the faculty orientation program, the UT Leadership Institute, and the University’s faculty awards program. In addition, she provides leadership for the new Future of Higher Education forums that are held monthly by the Office of the Provost.

In her new role, Thompson also will be responsible for the administration of faculty personnel processes, policies and procedures; faculty leadership and development programs; and additional faculty success initiatives related to the priorities of UT’s strategic plan.

“Amy joined the Office of the Provost last summer and has provided outstanding leadership for a number of initiatives that strengthen and support faculty success at UT,” Dr. Andrew Hsu, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, said. “In her new position, she will continue to help faculty members achieve new levels of success.”

Dr. Jamie Barlowe, who serves as interim vice provost for faculty affairs, announced her plans to retire in the new year. Barlowe has been a UT faculty member since 1990 as a professor of English and women’s and gender

studies. She also served as dean of the College of Arts and Letters, formerly the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences, for six years. During her time at UT, she also has served as an associate dean, department chair and president of Faculty Senate.



Barlowe

“Jamie is a valued member of the Office of the Provost’s leadership team, and her wisdom, experience and knowledge will be greatly missed,” Hsu said. “I am grateful that she will help with the transition during the month of January.”

Thompson has been a member of the UT faculty since 2007 and has served as director of the Center for Health and Successful Living in the College of Health and Human Services. She is the immediate past-president of the University’s Faculty Senate. She was selected to serve as a Fellow in the Mid-American Conference Academic Leadership Development Program in 2017-18, and last year served as a Fellow in UT’s Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. She also served as a Fellow in the Office of the Provost in summer 2018.

Thompson received a PhD in health education and a master of science and education in public health from UT. She received a bachelor of science in public health from Central Michigan University.

Farewell reception for vice president Dec. 18

The University of Toledo will thank Stephanie Sanders for her service to the institution at a farewell reception Tuesday, Dec. 18.



Sanders

Sanders, interim vice president for enrollment management, has led UT’s enrollment and retention efforts since 2016. She is returning to her home in Columbus at the conclusion of her contract. Her last day at UT will be Jan. 18.

The University community is invited to the reception from 3 to 5 p.m. in Thompson Student Union Room 2592.

“Thanks to Stephanie’s leadership, we have been able to enhance our marketing and recruitment strategies to increase student enrollment and retention after a period of decline,” UT President Sharon L. Gaber said. “I truly appreciate everything she has done for the University to put us on a path for continued success.”

Sanders joined UT from Ruffalo Noel Levitz, where she served as an executive consultant for the firm that specializes in strengthening higher education enrollment practices. She was a member of the firm’s team that consulted with UT on developing a strategic enrollment plan. Prior to joining Ruffalo Noel Levitz, Sanders spent nearly 30 years working in admissions at Ohio State University.

Jim Anderson, associate vice president for enrollment services for Boise State University, will succeed Sanders as UT’s vice president for enrollment management.

UT researcher calls on FDA to change rules to address spine screw contamination

By Tyrel Linkhorn

A University of Toledo researcher is calling for a revamp of how operating room personnel store and handle the screws used in spinal fusion surgeries after results from a multicenter trial found high levels of contamination on supposedly sterile implants.

“Our findings about the prevalence of contaminated pedicle screws are concerning, to say the least,” said Dr. Aakash Agarwal, an adjunct professor in the UT Department of Bioengineering. “We immediately need to ensure all surgical implants are truly sterile. Our research unequivocally demonstrates that we have not been doing things correctly.”

Spinal fusion surgeries generally require four to six pedicle screws, but in the vast majority of procedures performed in the United States, surgeons begin with a tray containing 100 or more screws of different sizes to ensure the right size is immediately available within the operating room.

Because so few implants are used in each procedure, most screws are washed and sterilized repeatedly with other contaminated instruments from the operating room before they are actually used during a surgery.

But Agarwal said that isn’t practical or safe, and he’s calling on the Food and Drug Administration to ban the process in the United States.

In a paper published in the *Global Spine Journal*, a team of experts led by Agarwal found screws that had been repeatedly reprocessed are harboring a number of contaminants, including corrosion, soap residue and organic tissue.

“We randomly selected screws from four different trays of cleaned, wrapped and sterilized screws. Every screw we took out was contaminated, and they were about to go into a patient’s body,” Agarwal said. “The health-care system and patients would really benefit if we start packaging screws

individually. The repeated reprocessing system in trays should be banned.”

The researchers recently submitted a formal petition along with their data to the FDA.

Agarwal and his fellow researchers — which included Dr. Steven R. Garfin, interim dean of the University of California at San Diego School of Medicine, and Dr. Jeffrey C. Wang, co-director of the University of Southern California Spine Institute and president of North American Spine Society — presented evidence in a separate paper that individually sterile-packed screws also are picking up contaminants as they are handled in the operating room.

The researchers devised a study in which two groups of individually packaged screws were used during live spine surgeries at multiple centers across the United States. One group of screws had a built-in intraoperative guard, while the other group did not have such a guard. The screws were prepared for insertion then sent away for analysis.

“All 26 surgeries in the study had bacterial growth on the unguarded screws. That was the major finding, which surprised everyone,” Agarwal said. “Even if you provide screws in an individually sterile package, the way it’s handled in the operating theater makes it unsterile.”

That could potentially lead to infection and biofilm formation at the screw-bone interface.

No microbial growth was detected on the screws that had integrated guards, which is meant to shield the screw itself from being exposed to air or touch while loading it onto the insertion device.

The findings were published in *Global Spine Journal* and multiple conference proceedings. It also has been published by news media, including *Becker’s Spine Review*, *Spinal News International*,



Photo by Daniel Miller

SAFEGUARD: Dr. Aakash Agarwal, shown here holding a prepackaged surgical screw, has petitioned the FDA to revamp how screws used in spinal fusion surgeries are handled to avoid contamination.

Orthopedic This Week and *Orthopedics Today*.

Also involved in the research were Dr. Vijay Goel, Distinguished University Professor and Endowed Chair and McMaster-Gardner Professor of Orthopaedic Bioengineering at UT; Dr. Anand K. Agarwal, professor at UT’s Engineering Center for Orthopaedic Research Excellence; Dr. Hossein Elgafy, professor of orthopaedic surgery at UT; and Dr. Boren Lin, postdoctoral fellow at UT’s Engineering Center for Orthopaedic Research Excellence.

Data on surgical site infections following spine surgery varies, but a recent randomized trial from Mount Sinai Beth Israel hospital in New York found a 12.7 percent incidence rate. Agarwal said that could represent up to 100,000 patients suffering from surgical site infection in the United States alone.

“We shouldn’t be knowingly putting bacteria and other contaminants inside a patient’s body. With the disclosure of these evidences, it would be impossible to not undertake necessary safety measures,” Agarwal said.

In addition to his faculty appointment at UT, Agarwal is the director of research and development for Spinal Balance, a private company that was founded in 2013 by a group of UT research professors. The firm, with its corporate office at the UT LaunchPad Incubation building, was created in part to address the problem of surgical site infection stemming from contaminated implants.

Agarwal also was recently appointed to the editorial board of the *Clinical Spine Surgery* journal by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins for his contribution toward original research and peer reviews in the spine field.

Faculty: Jan. 16 deadline to apply for research funding

Wednesday, Jan. 16, is the deadline for UT faculty members to apply for more than \$200,000 in internal funding administered by Research and Sponsored Programs.

“Our annual internal grant programs support a wide range of faculty research and scholarship at the University,” Dr. Richard Francis, director of research advancement

and information systems in Research and Sponsored Programs, said.

The Jan. 16 deadline is for the STEM Research Innovation Program, the Biomedical Research Innovation Program, the Interdisciplinary Research Initiation Award, and the Archaeological Research Endowment Fund.

In addition, there are several minor programs that faculty can apply for that do not have deadlines.

“We encourage all full-time, tenured and tenure-track faculty from all disciplines to find a program that could help advance their scholarly efforts,” Francis said. “These awards also provide support to help faculty gather preliminary data that will enhance

their ability to receive external competitive awards.”

For more information, including details on submitting proposals, visit the Research and Sponsored Programs website at utoledo.edu/research/rsp/urfo.

Ritter Planetarium showing holiday programs on full dome for kids

By Christine Billau

The University of Toledo Ritter Planetarium is showing “The Alien Who Stole Christmas” and “Santa’s Secret Star” in full dome for children throughout the holiday season.

“The Alien Who Stole Christmas” is featured at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays through Dec. 21.

“Santa’s Secret Star” is shown at 1 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 22.

“These are amusing, entertaining and educational programs for children and Santa fans of all ages,” Alex Mak, associate director of UT Ritter Planetarium, said.

“Santa’s Secret Star” is a story about Santa and Rudolph learning how to find their way back to the North Pole using constellations. After Santa finishes his Christmas deliveries, he and his reindeer become lost. Without a compass, he and Rudolph turn to the constellations for help, and the stars lead them to the North Star, which guides them home.

“The Alien Who Stole Christmas” tells the story of Santa meeting Mr. Freep, an alien from another world. Together, they head off on a cosmic adventure taking them to the farthest regions of the solar system and try to make it back in time for Santa to deliver toys to the children of Earth.

Admission to the programs is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children, senior citizens and UT community members. All children younger than 4 are free.

Doors will open 30 minutes prior to the show.



HOLIDAY STARS: Santa Claus and Rudolph appear in “Santa’s Secret Star,” UT’s full-dome production that premiered in 2014. The show is based on a planetarium program created in 1988 by Alex Mak, associate director of Ritter Planetarium.

Making seasons bright



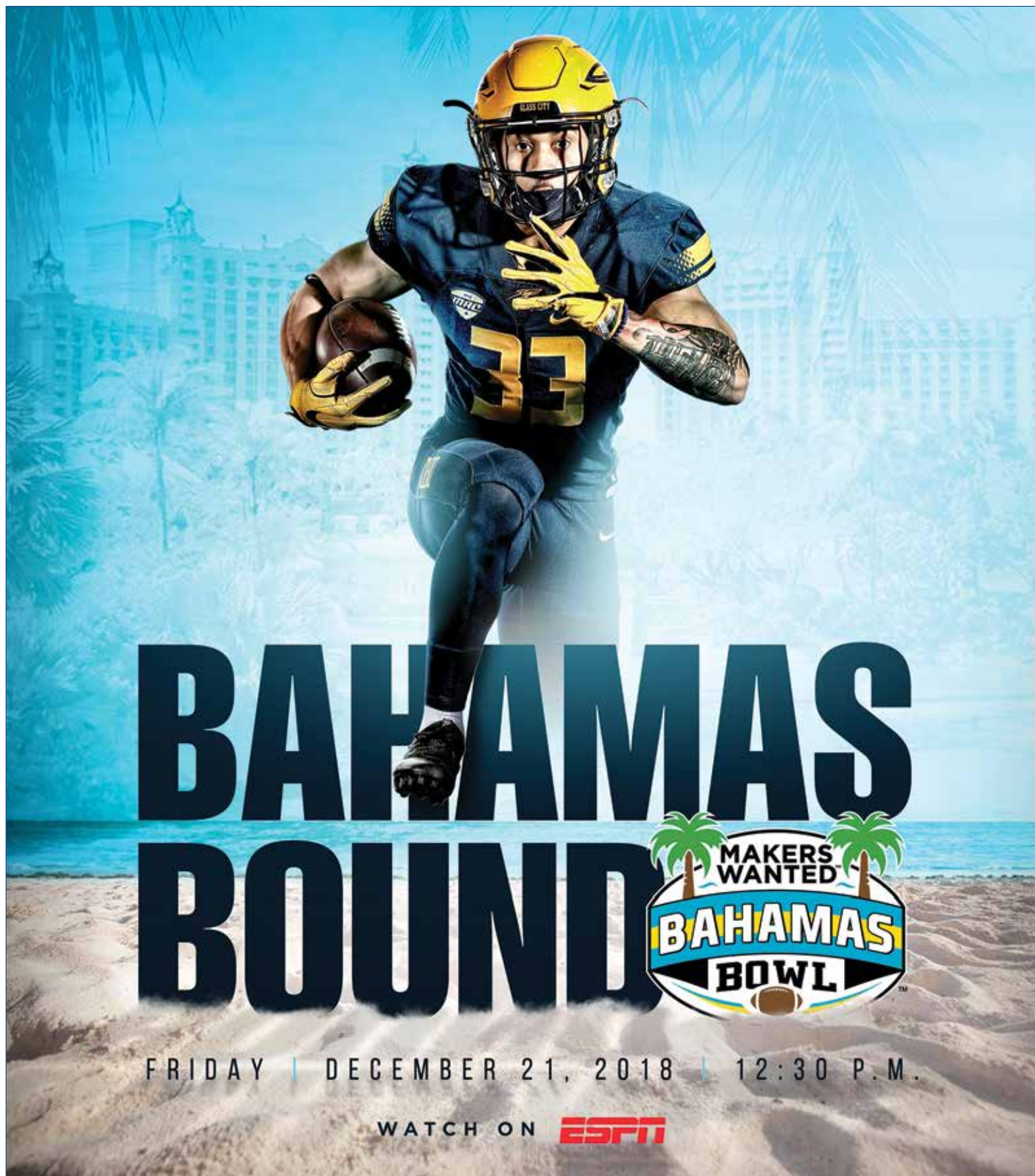
Photo by Katlyn Olexa

Donna Darr, a volunteer with the Satellies Auxiliary, helped Christopher Montpetit, associate lecturer of theatre, with some poinsettias last week in Rocket Hall. He was one of many who stopped by the fundraiser organized by the volunteer group.

Winter weather policy reminder

In the rare event of a major snow or ice storm or other inclement weather that makes it necessary for UT to delay or suspend classes or campus events, the University will announce this information through several communications vehicles:

- UT Alert text message and email:
Sign up at utalert.utoledo.edu;
- Web: utoledo.edu and myut.utoledo.edu;
- Phone: 419.530.SNOW (7669);
- Social media: Facebook and Twitter; and
- Local media.



See you at the 2018 Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl!

Toledo will play Florida International University Friday, Dec. 21, at 12:30 p.m.
Eastern Time at Thomas A. Robinson Stadium in Nassau.

Tickets are \$50; orders are being taken online at utrockets.com, by phone at 419.530.GOLD (4653),
and in person at the UT Athletic Ticket Office in Savage Arena.

Tickets can be purchased through UT through Friday, Dec. 14, at 5 p.m.

In addition, the UT Alumni Engagement Office will sponsor a pregame reception Friday, Dec. 21, from 10 a.m.
to noon at the stadium. The cost is \$35 per person. For more information, including the list of hotels, go to
toledoalumni.org or call 1.800.235.6766 or 419.530.2586 (ALUM).

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW



JANUARY

- Dr. Phillip “Flapp” Cockrell is named vice president for student affairs, a position he held on an interim basis for six months.
- UT student-athletes earn a combined grade point average of 3.290 in fall semester. It is the highest department semester GPA in school history.
- Jason Oliver, assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Indiana University, is named the women’s volleyball coach.
- UT President Sharon L. Gaber is recognized as one of the top higher education leaders for her focus on student success and a strong financial foundation for the institution. She leads the list of “5 Higher Ed Leaders to Watch in 2018 (and Beyond)” by Education Dive.
- The University regains accreditation for the Physician Assistant Studies Program and continues efforts to enhance the program while on probation with its accrediting agency.



FEBRUARY

- The University is slated to lead eight out of the 21 new research projects to be funded with \$3.5 million from the state of Ohio to address water quality and algal bloom toxicity. UT is to receive nearly \$1 million of the \$3.5 million dedicated by the Ohio Department of Higher Education for additional projects in the ongoing, statewide Harmful Algal Bloom Research Initiative.
- The UT Board of Trustees adopts the Inclusive Access Program, which will automatically provide students with lower cost, digital course materials when they enroll in a number of specific courses. The initiative will begin fall semester.
- UT finishes No. 1 in the Mid-American Conference with an average of 20,745 fans per football game in 2017, according to the NCAA annual attendance report.

MARCH

- President Gaber creates a task force to address the opioid epidemic. Dr. Linda Lewandowski, dean of the College of Nursing, and Dr. Amy Thompson, interim associate vice provost for faculty affairs and professor of public health, serve as co-chairs of the committee.
- Senior men’s basketball player Tre’Shaun Fletcher is named the 2017-18 Mid-American Conference Player of the Year.
- A total of 156 fourth-year medical students learn where they will train for their residencies at Match Day; 10 percent will stay in northwest Ohio to continue their training.
- Senior Jay-Ann Bravo-Harriott is named to the 2017-18 College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-America First Team. She becomes only the fourth player in school history to earn this prestigious honor.
- The University of Toledo and five public schools in northwest Ohio enter into a compact reaffirming their commitment to working collectively and collaboratively to educate residents in the region. The Northwest Region Higher Education Compact is composed of UT, Bowling Green State University, Northwest State Community College, Owens Community College, Rhodes State Community College and Terra State Community College.
- Head Men’s Basketball Coach Tod Kowalczyk inks a contract extension through the 2022-23 season.

APRIL

- The University hosts an Opioid Summit to connect UT researchers, physicians and community partners with state leaders to advance collaborations that can help address the crisis affecting Ohio.
- The UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences and ProMedica open a joint Neurosciences Center that advances education, research and care for patients with neurological disorders.
- UT is included on the national Campus Pride Index for being LGBTQ-friendly and striving to continually improve its LGBTQ campus climate.

- The College of Nursing improves its place in the U.S. News & World Report list of the top graduate nursing programs in the country. The 2019 Best Graduate Schools edition lists the master's program in nursing at 183, up 20 spots from the previous year, and the doctor of nursing practice program is ranked for the first time.
- More than 1,600 students give back to the community by participating in the Big Event April 14. Crews provide approximately 7,000 hours of service at 60 sites throughout Toledo.
- President Gaber encourages everyone on campus and in Toledo to share their Rocket pride during her second state of the University address.
- Trustees approve a partnership between the University and Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority; TARTA will begin managing UT's bus shuttle services, and UT students and employees can catch a bus anywhere in the community for free.
- The Board of Trustees approves a new contract with the UT chapter of the American Association of University Professors.
- Women's Basketball Coach Tricia Cullop and former Rocket great Dana Drew-Shaw are inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame 2018 class.
- UT Medical Center's commitment to the equal treatment of all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning patients is recognized for the seventh consecutive year by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation with its "Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality" designation.
- Rahul Mital, a third-year medical student focusing on the field of pediatric cardiology, is one of nine students across the United States selected as a 2018-19 Sarnoff Fellow.

MAY

- More than 3,000 candidates for degrees celebrate at commencement May 5 in the Glass Bowl. Chuck Ealey, football star, businessman and UT alumnus, delivers the commencement address and receives an honorary doctor of humane letters. Dr. Helen Sun, a technology strategist known for transforming companies and UT alumna, speaks at the graduate commencement.
- World War II veteran Robert Edgar Barger receives a standing ovation and an associate of technical studies degree from University College during

commencement. The 96-year-old is lauded across the country as his story is covered by ABC News, Fox News, the Associated Press, The New York Times and The Washington Post.

- Students complete nearly 40,000 hours of service in the community during the 2017-18 academic year through activities with student organizations and athletic teams.
- Dr. Tom Bridgeman, algae researcher and UT professor of ecology, starts his new job as director of the UT Lake Erie Center.
- Dr. Josiah D. Rich, an addiction expert, speaks at the College of Medicine and Life Sciences' graduation ceremony at Stranahan Theater. He receives an honorary doctor of science degree, and a total of 200 degrees are awarded.

- UT partners with Ohio's 13 other public universities to raise awareness of the value of public higher education and spur efforts to produce more college graduates to close the state's higher education attainment gap. Forward Ohio seeks

to mobilize public support for enhanced investment in public higher education and ensure that it is a public policy imperative for state government.

- Former Toledo women's basketball player Dana Drew-Shaw is inducted into the MAC Hall of Fame. She played basketball at UT from 1990 to 1995 and was named MAC Player of the Year and All-MAC First Team in her sophomore and junior years, leading Toledo to three NCAA Tournament appearances and one WNIT berth. She guided Toledo to three regular-season MAC Championships and three MAC Tournament Titles.
- UT is awarded the Jacoby Trophy as the top women's athletic program in the Mid-American Conference.

JUNE

- College Mentors for Kids Inc., in partnership with the Hylant Family Foundation, opens a new chapter at the University.
- UT Medical Center is again recognized by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association for outstanding stroke care with the Get With the Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus award.
- In a show of support for Dr. Gaber, trustees approve an extended contract to continue her presidency through June 30, 2023.
- Women's track and field student-athlete Janelle Noe receives a proclamation from the UT Board of Trustees for her sensational performance this season. Noe lowered her 1,500-meter time by almost 20 seconds and broke the MAC record at the MAC Championship Meet with a time of 4:17.01. She competed at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in Eugene, Ore., where she beat her personal record by six seconds in the 1,500-meter prelims (4:10.83) and finished 11th.
- The University identifies three areas of research excellence as it pursues its goal of achieving national recognition for contributions to advancing knowledge. Areas of research excellence identified by the University Research Council



and endorsed by external reviews are astronomy and astrophysics; solar energy, water quality and sustainable technologies; and cell architecture and dynamics.

- Jenny Coluccio is named the women's golf coach. She comes to Toledo after serving as an assistant coach for the University of Illinois women's golf team.
- Dr. Noel Richardson, postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, is part of a team using NASA's NuSTAR space telescope that discovered the most luminous and massive stellar system within 10,000 light years also is a source of cosmic rays that sometimes reach Earth, no explosion necessary.

JULY

- Dr. Raymond H. Witte, professor and chair of the Department of Educational Psychology at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, joins the University as dean of the Judith Herb College of Education.
- Roy V. Armes, a 1975 mechanical engineering graduate of the UT College of Engineering who served as president and CEO of Cooper Tire & Rubber Co. in Findlay, and Birdel F. Jackson III, who graduated from UT in 1968 with a civil engineering degree and founded the B&E Jackson and Associates engineering and consulting firm in Atlanta, join the UT Board of Trustees July 2 as national members.
- Women's Basketball Coach Tricia Cullop is elected vice president of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association.
- Joe Abraham is named head softball coach. He comes to Toledo from Hillsdale College, where he was head softball coach.
- More than 12,000 visit campus for Art on the Mall. The weather is perfect for the UT Alumni Association's signature summer event July 29 on Centennial Mall.

AUGUST

- Dr. Anne L. Balazs, interim dean of the College of Business at Eastern Michigan University, begins her new job as dean of the College of Business and Innovation.
- A standing-room-only crowd attends the Parks Tower ribbon-cutting celebration. The largest residence hall on campus reopens after undergoing a \$12 million upgrade.
- Dr. Ajith Karunarathne, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, earns international attention for discovering how blue light can lead to age-related macular degeneration, a major cause of blindness in the U.S. His research about blue light, which is emitted from digital devices such as televisions, cell

phones and tablet screens, reaches more than 400 million people around the world through hundreds of news outlets, including Popular Science, USA Today, CNN Headline News/HLN, The Guardian, Teen Vogue, Forbes and Newsweek.

- President Gaber and Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz kick off the start of "Rocket Week" with an official proclamation from the mayor and ceremonial raising of the UT flag outside One Government Center.

- Vice President and Director of Athletics Mike O'Brien is appointed to the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee.
- UT female student-athletes receive the 2017-18 Mid-American Conference Faculty Athletics

Representative Academic Achievement Award for the highest overall grade point average rank for both men's and women's student-athletes.

- UT's new Toledo Tuition Guarantee, approved in December 2017, begins for degree-seeking, first-year and transfer undergraduate students.
- The University launches its electric scooter sharing program through Lime.
- UT receives the 2017-18 MAC Institutional Academic Achievement Award. UT student-athletes posted a school-record grade point average of 3.266 for the past academic year.
- Men's Basketball Coach

Tod Kowalczyk is selected to serve as the chair for the NCAA's Division I Men's Basketball Ethics Coalition.

SEPTEMBER

- Dr. Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, dean of the College of Graduate Studies and vice provost for graduate affairs, is named interim dean of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, replacing Dr. Johnnie Early, who is leaving to serve as dean of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Florida A&M University. Dr. Cyndee Gruden, associate dean for academic and student affairs in the College of Graduate Studies and

professor of civil and environmental engineering, is tapped as interim dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

- For the second time in two years, UT's social media content gains national recognition. The University's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts are compared against all 338 Division I programs, and UT is ranked 14th for its consistent engagement of social media users.



- The College of Nursing and ProMedica announce an expanded partnership to bolster nursing education and address current and future health-care industry challenges.
- The newly renovated John B. and Lillian E. Neff Trading Room is rededicated in the Savage & Associates Complex for Business Learning and Engagement.
- The University welcomes the best academically prepared class of first-year students in school history. The 3,269 new students who join UT this year have an average ACT score of 23.02 and average GPA of 3.45.
- Former Rocket wide receiver Lance Moore is inducted into the New Orleans Saints Hall of Fame. Moore played 11 seasons in the NFL, nine of them with the Saints. He caught 360 passes in his pro career, including a career-high of 78 in 2008.

UT researchers receive \$27.1 million in new grants to fund work during the 2018 fiscal year, contributing to a five-year high in external research funding. When combining the 39.5 percent increase in new awards compared to 2017 with renewal grants

awarded to continue progress on previously funded projects, the total amount of grants awarded to UT in 2018 climbs to \$46.6 million, an increase of 21 percent compared to the previous year.

- Stephen (Steve) Ciucci, president and CEO of Toledo Molding & Die Inc., is appointed to the UT Board of Trustees.
- The NCAA Board of Governors name President Gaber to a 10-member working group that will put together a strategic plan that solidifies the direction and priorities of the association.

OCTOBER

- The Glass Bowl is ranked by fans as the No. 4 college football stadium in the country, according to a new poll conducted by Podium.com.
- The Judith Herb College of Education dedicates the Herb Innovation Center.
- Toledo businessman Hal Fetterman and his wife, Susan Fetterman, pledge \$1 million to the University to fund new research into treatments for pancreatic cancer.
- The number of donors who participate in the second annual University of Toledo Day of Giving more than doubles: 3,156 donors support Rocket Forward: You Launch Lives, contributing a total of \$717,375.
- UT and the Toledo Museum of Art announce a strengthened partnership that will advance visual literacy education.
- The Ohio Latino Affairs Commission selects the University for its 2018 Governor's Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Award.



- UT is among 208 schools receiving the Best for Vets 2019 designation, according to the Military Times.
- The number of graduates from the College of Law who passed the July bar exam in Ohio on the first try is well above the state average. The first-time passage rate for UT law graduates taking the bar exam is 84 percent, up from 74 percent last year. The state average in Ohio this year is 79 percent.
- The new Starbucks on the second floor of Carlson Library opens.

NOVEMBER

- Dr. Adrienne King, vice president of university advancement for Murray State University, is named associate vice president of



marketing and communications. Naba Rizvi, a sophomore majoring in information technology, is one of 20 students who receives the \$10,000 Google Women Techmakers Scholarship this year.

- UT is one of 130 schools and systems selected by the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities initiative called Powered by Publics: Scaling Student Success. The Toledo Rockets accept an invitation to play in the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl and will face the Florida International University Golden Panthers Friday, Dec. 21,



in Nassau. Daniel J. Guttman, a partner in the national law firm BakerHostetler, is appointed to the UT Board of Trustees. Dr. Andrew Hsu, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, is named the president of the College of Charleston.

DECEMBER

- Jim Anderson, associate vice president for enrollment services for Boise State University, is named UT vice president for enrollment management.

Pavement

continued from p. 1

of civil and environmental engineering, and director of the Transportation Systems Research Lab.

“The previous procedure did not work well with thick composite pavement. With this particular type of road, it tended to underestimate the existing structure’s worth,” said Chou, who worked on the project with Dr. Liango Hu, UT associate professor of civil and environmental engineering. “Many existing pavement sections we examined now require several inches thinner than previously demanded to withstand traffic for an additional 20 to 25 years.”

The UT research team adopted a three-layer model for back-calculating the properties of the soil subgrade and pavement layers, instead of the old two-layer model that combined cement and asphalt into one.

Chou said the new design reduces on average about five inches of overlay thickness, and the reduction of each additional inch of overlay can save approximately \$120,000 per mile.

“In addition to being more environmentally friendly, the potential cost savings can be substantial considering each year ODOT rehabilitates several hundred miles of existing composite pavements by laying additional asphalt on top,” Chou said.

The revised design procedure was implemented into design software that adopts the improved back-calculation model. The software also offers an optional feature that takes into consideration the effects of temperature.

The Ohio Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration sponsored the UT research.

“This UT research developed a revised rehabilitation design procedure for composite pavement structures in Ohio and more accurately characterizes pavement layers for this analysis,” Patrick Bierl, pavement design engineer and pavement rating coordinator in ODOT’s Office of Pavement Engineering, said. “This revised procedure allows ODOT to continue to produce efficient and cost-effective rehabilitation designs to manage our composite pavements.”



Find the perfect gift for every Rocket fan, from jewelry to wall décor and many other unique ideas!

To find a full list of retailers carrying Toledo products, or to shop online for great gift ideas, go to utoledo.edu/shop-rockets.

Attendance

continued from p. 1

deputy director of athletics. “In addition to experiencing another successful season on the field, our fans were able to enjoy all the fun and excitement of game day at the Glass Bowl. Our pre-game Stadium Drive Live concerts, in-game promotions, halftime entertainment and great traditions like the UT Marching Band make Rocket football one of the best college football atmospheres in the country.”

Toledo’s 2019 schedule will feature six home games, including a Sept. 28 matchup with Brigham Young University. The Rockets also will host Northern Illinois and Western Michigan among their four conference home games.



BOWL FULL: The Rockets averaged more than 21,000 fans per game in 2018; this included a capacity crowd of 28,117 vs. Miami (Fla.) Sept. 15.

Photo by Cameron Norton

Virtual Dementia Tour gives UT occupational therapy students lesson in empathy

By Tyrel Linkhorn

Unfamiliar surroundings, confusing instructions and dulled senses are a recipe for frustration and anxiety.

They're also a window into the life of someone who is living with dementia.

Every fall, a group of second-year students in The University of Toledo's nationally ranked occupational therapy doctorate program make their way to the West Park Place senior living community to participate in the Virtual Dementia Tour, an experiential learning program designed to give them a taste of what dementia patients struggle with every day.

"It's a good opportunity to have an empathetic lived experience," said Dr. Alexia Metz, UT associate professor of occupational therapy. "We hope this gives our students an anchor point to think back to in a moment where a client is having a challenge or a frustration, and to think creatively about how to teach caregivers and people in other professions to have some of that empathy."

Developed by P.K. Beville and donated to the nonprofit group Second Wind Dreams, the Virtual Dementia Tour immerses students — if only for a few minutes — in the experience of struggling to do things that wouldn't normally take a second thought.

"It's going to be a very eye-opening experience, I promise you," said Kirsten Pickle, executive director of West Park Place. "When you leave here today, we want

you to have a little better understanding of the prevalence of dementia, the impact of dementia on caregivers, and what a person with dementia may be experiencing."

To ensure the experience is as meaningful as possible, most of the specific methods are kept under wraps. Participants are outfitted with an array of gear that alters their senses and then asked to complete a list of everyday tasks alongside a partner.

For many of the students, even those who have been around or cared for those with dementia, the Virtual Dementia Tour was indeed eye-opening.

"It really demonstrated how much our experiences and abilities are shaped by our senses and knowledge of the environment around us. It was much more frustrating and anxiety-provoking not being able to complete simple things or locate objects than I had expected it to be," said Emily Ottinger, a second-year occupational therapy doctoral student.

"It really helped me to view dementia as something more than just a memory issue, and to consider all of the other related barriers so that when I do work with individuals who have a dementia diagnosis, I can provide better and more holistic treatment."

Occupational therapists often work directly with Alzheimer's patients, but even those who don't practice in geriatric care settings are likely to encounter individuals



Photo courtesy of Second Wind Dreams

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING: Participants in the Virtual Dementia Tour put on vision-limiting glasses and other items that dull their senses to recreate the confusion and frustration dementia patients experience in their daily lives.

with dementia throughout their career as the number of dementia patients continues to grow.

The Alzheimer's Association estimates 5.7 million Americans are living with the disease. As the Baby Boomers age, the association projects that number to increase to 14 million by 2050.

Because of that, Metz said it's important to give students all the tools possible to ensure

they're both understanding caregivers and compassionate advocates.

"You fall short in teaching if you teach this kind of thing straight from a book. To feel that innate frustration coming from inside you rather than just seeing it from someone else gives them a much better understanding," she said. "It prepares our students to be better occupational therapists."



Spotlight on scholarship

Cheyenne Haymond, a senior majoring in English, discussed her project titled "'Absent Presence' and Representation: How Shakespeare and Webster Portray the Female Character" with Charlene Gilbert, dean of the College of Arts and Letters, during the Scholars Celebration Dec. 3 in Carlson Library. Presented by the Office of Undergraduate Research and University Libraries, the annual event showcases the diverse and dynamic undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activities at the University.

Photo by Katlyn Olexa

Deadline for UT Charitable Campaign Dec. 14

All faculty and staff are reminded this is the last week to contribute to the annual University of Toledo Charitable Campaign, formerly known as the United Way Campaign. The deadline to pledge your gift is by end of day Friday, Dec. 14.

“To meet our goal of \$125,000, we still need many more individuals across our campus community to make a pledge today,” urged Dr. Willie McKether, vice president for diversity and inclusion, and chair of UT’s 2018 Charitable Campaign.

“There are more than 200 local nonprofit organizations that you can choose to support with your donation, and so you readily will be able to find causes that align with your passion when you review the list of charities supported by this crucial community campaign,” McKether said.

Represented by four federations — Community Health Charities of Ohio, Northwest Ohio Community Shares, EarthShare Ohio and United Way of Greater Toledo — the complete list of charities is available for your review at utoledo.edu/utc3/.

Donors also may choose from several payment options, including cash, credit card, invoice and payroll deduction, delaying payment until early next year and spreading payments out across multiple paychecks, if preferred.

“We understand everyone has certain financial obligations, and these options help to ensure it’s easy for everyone to give whatever amount their own household can afford,” McKether said.

This year’s campaign theme is “Unity for Community” because by uniting and combining all of our gifts, we collectively can make a huge difference in the lives of others living right here in our community, he said.

If you have not yet contributed to the 2018 UT Charitable Campaign, see your email. You will receive a message from McKether each day this week as a reminder to give by Dec. 14. Simply click on the link in the email to access your personal ePledge form. Be sure to indicate which charity (or several) you would like to support with your donation.

Each faculty, staff member and retiree who makes a donation by the end of Dec. 14, regardless of the amount, will receive a complimentary gift from the University plus an invitation to a donor breakfast buffet in January hosted by President Sharon L. Gaber.

Featured at the breakfast will be many drawings for prizes, including gift cards, area restaurant vouchers and UT-branded merchandise.

Special services, discounts offered to employees

Human Resources is pleased to remind University of Toledo employees that as part of your comprehensive package of benefits, many resources and special discounts are available to you. These include discounts on products and services available on UT campuses, as well as through local, regional and national vendors.

“We’re always striving to ensure UT is the No. 1 destination to work,” said Wendy Davis, associate vice president and chief human resources officer. “As the second largest employer in the region, we continually work to offer our employees a wide range of diverse products and services to help them achieve a healthy work/life balance.”

Whether you are looking to purchase electronics, find a new day care or financial institution, receive special savings when booking travel plans, or purchase discounted tickets to movies and sporting events, the HR Employee Resources website puts myriad resources at your fingertips.

To review a complete list of services and special discounts available,

visit utoledo.edu/depts/hr/benefits/employeeresources/EmployeeResources.html.

“Recently we’ve added more vendors and services to our website so employees have a convenient way to find resources 24/7,” said Michelle Peterson, program manager for retention, appreciation and awards. “These include discounts on certain UT products and services, as well as reduced-rate tickets for Walleye games, movie theaters and more.

“While we can’t endorse any of the outside businesses, products or services included on UT’s HR employee resource page, we want our employees to have ready access to many different types of products and services throughout our region and across the country,” Peterson said. “I think employees will be pleased to see that they can save money throughout the year by using this site.”

Information on the site is updated routinely throughout the year.

Over the river

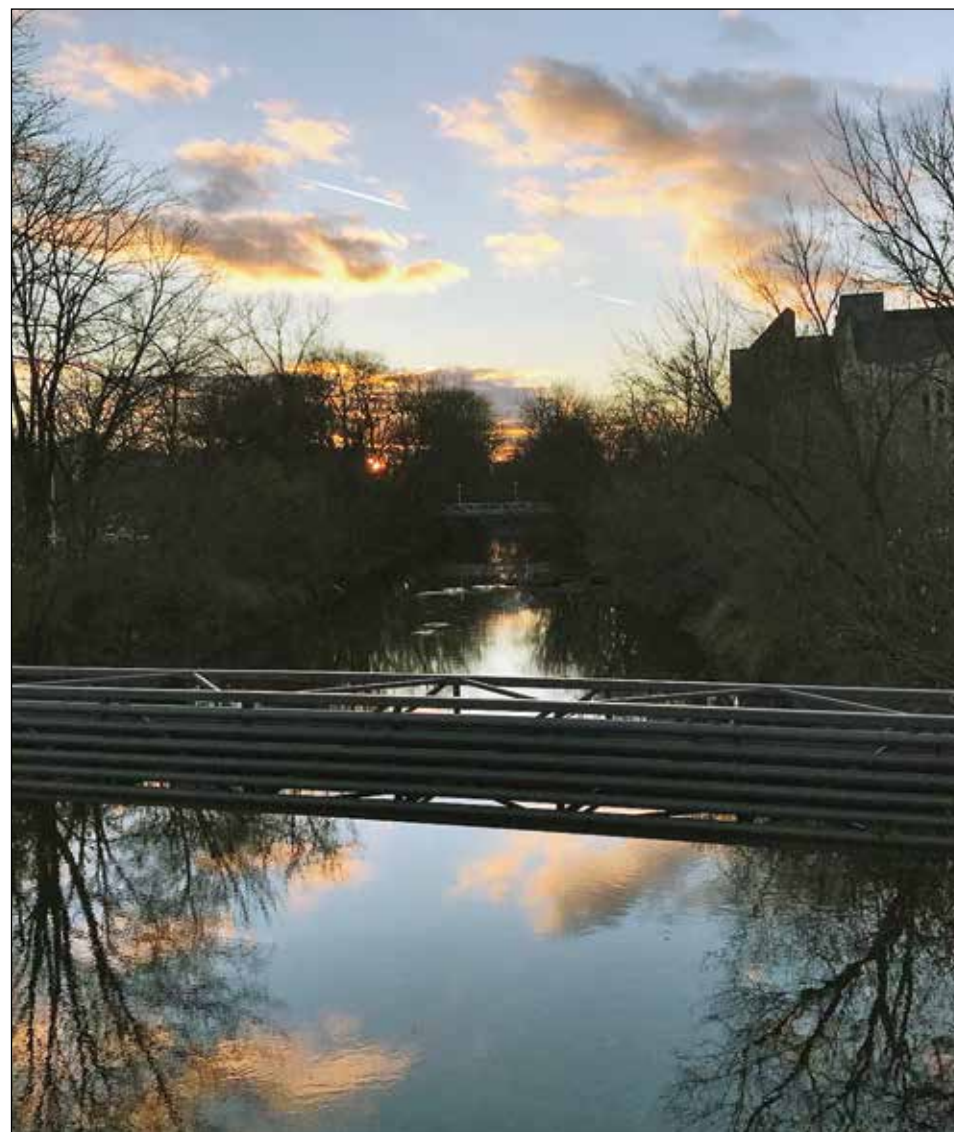


Photo by Kelsi Rooks

UT graduate student Kelsi Rooks took this photo in November as she crossed the David Leigh Root Bridge.

Fall flurries



Photo by Daniel Miller

University Photographer Daniel Miller took this shot of UT Medical Center during a recent light snow.

UT Student Nurses Association is Ohio chapter of the year

By Tyrel Linkhorn

The University of Toledo's Student Nurses Association chapter is again tops in the state.

The award comes from the Ohio Student Nurses Association, which recognized the group's outstanding work in leadership development and community service. UT is also one of just a handful of schools nationwide to receive the Stellar School Award from the National Student Nurses Association, recognizing its continued involvement in the organization.

"It's a big deal for us," said Christopher Foy, a senior working toward his bachelor's of nursing degree and UT's chapter president. "It's just a nice way to verify that we're actually making an impact in our community."

The Student Nurses Association, which has chapters at colleges and universities across the country, is dedicated to fostering professional development and promoting the standards, ethics and skills that students will need as they enter the profession as licensed nurses.

"It is truly a leadership program," said Patricia Sopko, an instructor in the UT College of Nursing and the adviser

of the UT Student Nurses Association. "It's really important to learn how to multitask, work as a team, delegate responsibility, and be comfortable speaking up for those who can't speak for themselves. They're learning all those leadership skills without even realizing it."

Sopko said one of the projects that helped UT earn chapter of the year was its volunteer mentorship program that pairs students in their first semester of nursing school with students who are deeper into the curriculum.

The UT chapter is also heavily involved in community service projects.

The group has held stuffed animal drives for Lucas County Children Services, provided health education and after school programming at Sherman Elementary, worked with Mom's House Toledo to adopt local families for the holidays, and recently led a drive to register bone marrow donors.



HONORED: Dr. Linda Lewandowski, dean of the College of Nursing, left, and Patricia Sopko, an instructor in the College of Nursing and the adviser of the Student Nurses Association, right, showed off the UT chapter's award with student members from left, Jensyn Huffman, Hunter Perrin, Rylee Rosentreter and Allison Patton.

That effort added nearly 100 names to the national registry.

"I'm so proud of the work our College of Nursing students do throughout the community," said Dr. Linda Lewandowski, dean of the UT College of Nursing. "Their dedication to helping others is inspiring, and

through The University of Toledo's Student Nurses Association, they are building leadership skills that will serve them well as they move into their professional careers. It's wonderful to see them get this well-deserved recognition."

Submissions sought for 2019 Health Science Campus Artist Showcase

Mulford Library is seeking submissions for its 2019 Health Science Campus Artist Showcase.

The deadline to apply for consideration to be included in the annual event is 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11.

The library is accepting submissions from UT faculty, staff and students in the health sciences — nursing, medicine, pharmacy and the health professions — as well as UT Medical Center employees.

To be considered for the show, digital images of artwork can be sent to hscartshow@utoledo.edu, along with a submission form that can be found with guidelines on University Libraries' website at libguides.utoledo.edu/hscart.

Artists will be notified if their submitted pieces have been accepted no later than Wednesday, Jan. 16, and will

receive instructions for bringing in their artwork to the library for the showcase.

The showcase will be on display from Feb. 18 through April 10 on the fourth floor of Mulford Library. In the past, artwork included photography, painting, drawing, sculpture, jewelry making, quilting, multimedia, graphics, wood carving and more.

An opening reception featuring a talk by Dr. Paul H. Brand, associate professor emeritus of physiology and pharmacology, and accomplished artist, will be held Friday, Feb. 22, at 4 p.m. in Mulford Library.

Questions about the showcase can be directed to Jodi Jameson, assistant professor and nursing librarian at Mulford Library, who is a member of the artist showcase committee, at 419.383.5152 or jodi.jameson@utoledo.edu.

Call for Submissions
2019
**Health Science Campus
Artist Showcase**

Students, faculty and staff in the health sciences, medicine, nursing and pharmacy, show us your creative talents!

Submission deadline: January 11, 2019
Send digital images of your artwork to hscartshow@utoledo.edu
For complete submission instructions, visit <http://libguides.utoledo.edu/hscart>

In memoriam



McMillen

Dr. William McMillen, who worked at MCO/MUO/UT from 1982 until his retirement in 2012, died Nov. 23 at age 71. The Perrysburg, Ohio, resident most recently served as interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs in 2010 and delayed his retirement to take the post permanently in 2011. McMillen was vice president for government relations for both UT and MUO from 2005 to 2006; he played a pivotal role in navigating the legislative process that led to the merger of the two institutions. In addition, he oversaw the legislation in the state general assembly that changed the name from the Medical College of Ohio to the Medical University of Ohio. McMillen held a variety of senior-level positions at MCO involving government relations, fundraising, communications and affirmative action while serving four presidents. In addition, he was secretary of the MCO Board of Trustees for 10 years and received a community-based appointment in the Department of Psychiatry in 1994. At UT, he worked on initiatives in strategic planning, sustainability, economic development, and relations with the Ohio Board of Regents. McMillen also led efforts for a successful accreditation visit from the Higher Learning Commission. Ever the writer, McMillen penned a play, "First Do No Harm," which premiered in February through the Toledo Repertoire Theatre's Toledo Voices. He also wrote fiction and nonfiction, including the books "From Campus to Capitol" (2010) and "Sticks" (2000). And he wrote a government relations column, "The Party Line," for The Chronicle of Higher Education under the pseudonym Peter Onear.

James L. Routson, Oregon, a former instructor of mathematics, died Dec. 2 at age 79.



Smith

Willard (Bill) W. Smith, Toledo, who was UT's chief business officer for 28 years, including a quarter of a century as a vice president, died Dec. 2 at age 91. He began his longtime association with the University as a lecturer of political science in 1954. Smith was hired as director of administration and assistant professor of political science in 1961. Three years later, he was named vice president-treasurer and served in that position until 1975 when he became vice president for business affairs. During his tenure, the University transformed from a municipal institution with just a few buildings into a state school with more than 40 buildings on three campuses. Smith was one of the UT representatives in Columbus for the historic signing in the governor's office that made the school a member of the University System of Ohio in 1967. The Cleveland native also frequented the state capital to discuss the creation of a new medical school in Toledo; the Medical College of Ohio was founded in 1964. At the University, he oversaw the Physical Plant; Security; Personnel; Purchasing and Central Services; Facilities Management; and the UT Bookstore. During most of Smith's nearly three decades at the University, at least one major construction project was started each year. The long list of projects includes Carter Hall (1964), Stranahan Arboretum (1964), Snyder Memorial Building (1964), Student Union additions (1965 and 1973), Ritter Planetarium (1967), Bowman-Oddy Laboratories (1968), Health Education Center (1969), Parks Tower (1972), Law Center (1972 and 1981), Carlson Library (1973), Center for Performing Arts (1976), Centennial Mall (1980), Stranahan Hall (1984) and McMaster Hall (1987). Smith also served as a non-voting executive secretary for two Presidential Search Committees. He retired from the University in 1989.

Reminder: UT to close for winter break

The University will close for winter break at a time when most departments are operationally slow.

The break helps UT reduce operating costs while still maintaining crucial functions, such as hospital operations at UT Medical Center, approved research activities and public safety. Winter break does not include UTMC employees and certain required positions, which might vary depending on annual need.

In addition to existing holiday pay, the University provides additional paid days off — either three days or four, depending on which day the holiday falls in the year — to cover this specified time period. UT's 2018 winter break schedule is:

- Monday, Dec. 24 — Holiday (Columbus Day);
- Tuesday, Dec. 25 — Christmas Day;
- Wednesday, Dec. 26 — Paid day off for winter break;
- Thursday, Dec. 27 — Paid day off for winter break;

- Friday, Dec. 28 — Paid day off for winter break;
- Monday, Dec. 31 — Paid day off for winter break; and
- Tuesday, Jan. 1 — New Year's Day.

Faculty and staff who work on Main Campus or Scott Park Campus are reminded to refrain from being at the University during winter break, unless pre-approved by their department's leadership in order to conduct essential business. Access to buildings will be restricted, and facility operations and ground maintenance also will be limited.

Additional details, including frequently asked questions, are available at utoledo.edu/depts/hr/benefits/time-off/winter-break.html.

UT NEWS

UT 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 the Main, Health Science, Scott Park and Toledo Museum of Art campuses. UT News strives to present accurate, fair and timely communication of interest to employees. Story ideas and comments from the UT community are welcome. Send information by campus mail to #949, 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 949, The University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606-3390.

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REGISTER NOW FOR SPRING 2019

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