

Rocket Nation



Photo by Daniel Miller

More than 24,000 fans were at the Glass Bowl Saturday afternoon as Toledo fell to No. 24 Missouri, 49-24. UT running back Kareem Hunt rushed for 148 yards and three touchdowns during the contest, which was broadcast by ESPN. The Rockets will travel south to face the Cincinnati Bearcats Friday night at Paul Brown Stadium. Read about the tailgate party on p. 5.

Presidential search open forums

We want to know what you think: What traits and characteristics should the next UT president have?

Share your opinions:

Wednesday, Sept. 10

- 10 to 11:30 a.m. — Driscoll Alumni Center Schmakel Room, Main Campus
- 3 to 4:30 p.m. — Faculty Club, Radisson Hotel, Health Science Campus

Thursday, Sept. 11

- 10:30 a.m. to noon — Faculty Club, Radisson Hotel, Health Science Campus
- 3 to 4:30 p.m. — Student Union Room 2591, Main Campus

UT engineer developing smarter smartphone technology

By Meghan Cunningham

Smartphones have transformed the way we communicate and organize our lives, but what if those electronic personal assistants could understand us a bit better?

Dr. Rashmi Jha, an associate professor in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department of the UT College of Engineering, is developing a computer chip that can learn, evolve and make decisions like a human brain that will allow your phone to anticipate your needs.

“The human brain, which also is a memory device, is very robust. Consider how we can recognize a friend’s voice even if it is hoarse due to a cold. Computers are not good at that,” Jha said. “We are working to make a trainable memory device that over time will be able to make those types of recognitions and associate memories to better respond to our needs.”

Jha has received one of the National Science Foundation’s most prestigious grants, the Career Award, to pursue her research. The \$442,000 grant, a U.S. patent in this area, a partnership with the IBM Watson Research Center, and active collaboration with Dr. Scott Molitor, UT associate professor of neurophysiology, are contributing to making this brainy smartphone a reality.



Photo by Crystal Hand

continued on p. 4

IN THE LAB: Dr. Rashmi Jha is working on a smartphone computer chip that can learn, evolve and anticipate your needs.

On the mall



Photos by Daniel Miller

Students, faculty and staff lined up for the President's Backyard Barbecue last week on Centennial Mall. The event was sponsored by the Office of the President and the Division of Student Affairs. And the bucket brigade continued as Ronald Tallon poured ice cubes and cold water on Ali El Tatawy, left, and Tyler Mattson during the barbecue. The two students took the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge to help raise awareness for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease.



It's official



Photo by Daniel Miller

Interim President Nagi Naganathan shook hands with Erika White, vice president of the Communication Workers of America Local 4319, last week after the two signed a new three-year contract between the University and the union. With the agreement, which runs from Jan. 1, 2014, through the end of 2016, CWA employees receive a 2.5 percent wage increase in the first year and a 1 percent wage increase in the second year. The contract calls for a reopening of wage negotiations in year three. CWA members and the UT Board of Trustees approved the contract in July.

AFSCME employees approve tentative agreement with UT

By Jon Strunk

Members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Ohio Council 8 and AFSCME Local 2415, representing about 1,900 employees on Health Science Campus at The University of Toledo, voted Thursday to accept a tentative three-year agreement.

The University's Board of Trustees must still approve the agreement.

"This agreement with our colleagues in AFSCME is an important step forward for The University of Toledo," said Interim President Nagi Naganathan. "I want to thank members of both bargaining committees for their special efforts. I believe we have a framework that will facilitate a constructive and mutually beneficial engagement throughout the term of the contract and beyond."

The agreement runs from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2017, and calls for wage increases of 2.5 percent in year one and 1 percent in both years two and three.

While health care and other contract costs still are being calculated, UT officials estimate the contract's wage increases to total \$3.7 million over three years.

The agreement provides employees and their dependents expedited primary care appointments at UTMC health-care facilities. It also reduces monthly health-care premiums by 2 percent as UT works to make premiums uniform across all collective bargaining units and employee groups. The new contract also establishes labor-management committees that will leverage strong partnerships to drive improvements in patient care and satisfaction, and to address unique employee occupational categories.

Naganathan and Dave Morlock, CEO of UTMC and executive vice president for finance and administration, thanked Jovita Thomas-Williams, associate vice president for human resources and talent development, for her leadership role in the negotiations on behalf of the University.

New UTMC chief of staff to focus on providing support

By Meghan Cunningham

As the new chief of staff at The University of Toledo Medical Center, Dr. Thomas A. Schwann is focused on empowering the staff to provide outstanding university-quality care while working to streamline operational processes to maximize their effectiveness.

Schwann, who began his appointment as the University's 25th chief of staff July 1, is the S. Amjad Hussain Professor of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery and division chief of cardiothoracic surgery. He also serves as director of the UTMC Heart and Vascular Center.

"My hope is to reorient the institutional focus on the most important resource, which is our talented medical staff, and to ensure that the system functions effectively to support the mission and goals of our team," Schwann said. "That means simplifying policies and procedures, and eliminating those that unnecessarily and unintentionally impede effectiveness, efficiency and quality of the medical staff. Simultaneously, we will continue to concentrate on altruism and professionalism in all of our daily activities. The goal is to provide our patients with safe, compassionate and effective care."

Because multiple studies have documented that quality and patient satisfaction are enhanced with the increasing

personal and professional fulfillment and satisfaction of the health-care provider, it becomes important to take these simple measures that will impact medical staff positively, Schwann said.

"We have an excellent medical staff that is talented and compassionate, and my goal is to work closely with our administration to ensure that they are well resourced to meet their professional obligations."

Board-certified in cardiothoracic surgery, Schwann is a graduate of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and he completed residency and fellowship programs at Yale University. He has a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Columbia University and a master of business administration degree from UT.

Schwann has been associated with the institution since 1999 and joined UTMC full time in 2009. He previously held chief of cardiothoracic surgery positions at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, Conn., St. Luke's Hospital in Maumee and St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center in Toledo.

He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, American College of Cardiology and American College of Chest Physicians, as well as a member of the American College of Physician Executives, American College of Healthcare Executives, Society of Thoracic Surgery, European Association of Cardiothoracic Surgeons and the International Society of Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery.

Director of Schmidt School of Professional Sales named

By Bob Mackowiak

Deirdre Jones, who served as associate director of the Edward H. Schmidt School of Professional Sales in The University of Toledo College of Business and Innovation, has been named director of the school.



Jones

"I look forward to all the opportunities and challenges that will demonstrate our commitment to developing the world's future sales professionals —

one student at a time," Jones said. "I am confident that we will continue to set the bar high in terms of learning, discovery and outreach."

The Schmidt School's previous director Dr. Ellen Pullins, who was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and research at Hagan Helia University in Finland during the 2014-15 academic year, stepped down from the director position to pursue a sabbatical and the Fulbright opportunity.

Pullins remains the Schmidt Research Professor of Sales and Sales Management, where she will continue with oversight for the curriculum and the school's academic research efforts. She also continues as a professor in the UT Department of Marketing and International Business.

"I am confident that the Schmidt School will continue to excel and enhance

its national reputation for excellence under Deirdre's leadership," Pullins said.

"Everyone plays a critical role to ensure the sustainability and success of our top ranked program," Jones, who was named director in July, observed. "We have accomplished a great deal by launching and propelling our professional sales program. As such, we owe a considerable amount of gratitude to the vision, dedication and leadership displayed by the program's previous directors, Dave Reid, Richard Buehrer and Ellen."

Jones added that there are a number of exciting projects on the horizon for the school, including growing its annual local sales competition into a national event beginning in February 2016; expanding the scholarship program, which just awarded its first scholarships this year; launching a student ambassador program; and establishing additional endowments.

Founded in 2000, the Edward H. Schmidt School of Professional Sales is committed to providing high-quality educational programs to enhance the world of business practices related to professional sales and to continue to be a recognized leader in sales learning, discovery and engagement.

The UT College of Business and Innovation is one of just two business colleges in the country to have three undergraduate designations and a MBA concentration devoted to professional sales.

In memoriam

Dr. Nadim Bitar, Bingham Farm, Mich., professor emeritus of sociology, died Aug. 25 at age 90. He joined the UT faculty in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology as an associate professor in 1969. The native of Lebanon had a reputation for his scholarly work focusing on revolutionary ideology and advocating the possibility for the unification of Arab countries. Bitar was the author of several books, including *The Revolutionary Nature of Political Catastrophes* and *The Revolutionary Ideology*. In 1977, he received one of the University's Outstanding Teacher Awards.

RSVP by Sept. 10 for luncheon on family business strategies

The Center for Family and Privately Held Business will hold a luncheon Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 11:30 a.m. at the Pinnacle in Maumee.

On the menu for discussion: "Leveraging the Investment of a Lifetime: Seven Strategies for Success in the Family Business."

At the event presented by Mass Mutual, Lisé Stewart, a nationally known advocate and trainer for family businesses, will provide practical techniques for increasing a company's value, financial security, productivity, profitability, business potential and long-term sustainability.

She will address:

- Basic steps to take for long-term sustainability through transition;
- Business transition conversation starters for families;
- How to identify and prepare a successor; and

- Common transition pitfalls and ways to avoid them.

"Businesses will endure or die depending on how effectively they plan for the future," said Angie Jones, program director at the Center for Family and Privately Held Business. "Those who survive will have managed to recreate the energy and wonder that fueled the original entrepreneurial spirit. Attend this event and take the first step toward being a survivor."

This lunch event is free and open to the public; however, registration is required by Wednesday, Sept. 10. Go to <http://utole.do/rsvplunch>.



Stewart

Wrongful convictions, exonerations topic of Sept. 16 law lecture

By Michelle Dyer

Samuel Gross, professor of law at the University of Michigan and editor of the National Registry of Exonerations, will discuss wrongful convictions and exonerations in the United States Tuesday, Sept. 16.



Gross

The free, public lecture, “Wrongful Convictions in the U.S.: Lessons From the National Registry of Exonerations,” will start at noon in the Law Center McQuade Law

Auditorium. It is part of the College of Law’s Distinguished Speaker Series.

In the lecture, Gross will speak to surprising findings that have been discovered through examining wrongful convictions, including the effect of eyewitness misidentification on false convictions, and the roles of DNA, prosecutors and police in exonerations.

Gross is the editor of the National Registry of Exonerations, exoneratiregistry.org, a joint project of the University of Michigan Law School and the Center on Wrongful Convictions at the Northwestern University School of Law.

Launched in 2012, the registry is the most comprehensive collection of exonerations in the United States ever assembled and maintains a detailed online database of all known exonerations in the country since 1989.

“Samuel Gross is one of the nation’s leading experts on wrongful convictions and exonerations. We are delighted to have him speak on how to address these most fundamental failures of our justice system,” said Daniel J. Steinbock, dean of the UT College of Law.

Gross teaches evidence, criminal procedure and courses on wrongful criminal convictions at the University of Michigan

Law School. His published work includes articles and books on evidence law, the death penalty, false convictions, racial profiling, eyewitness identification, and the relationship between pretrial bargaining and trial verdicts.

As a cooperating attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc. in New York and the National Jury Project in California, Gross litigated a series of test cases on jury selection in capital trials and worked on the issue of racial discrimination and the death penalty.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

As part of UT’s 2014 Edward Shapiro
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Sandel is the Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of Government at Harvard University, where he has taught for more than 30 years. His legendary course “Justice” has enrolled more than 15,000 students and was the first Harvard course to be made freely available online and on public television. His book *Justice: What’s the Right Thing to Do?* has sold more than 2 million copies worldwide and has been translated into 27 languages.



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UT engineer

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The nanoelectronic memory devices being created in Jha’s lab can store substantially more data than what is currently available on other devices while using very low power. While not able to completely replicate as many synapses as those of the efficient human brain, they can mimic certain functionalities of a biological synapse responsible for learning and decision making, Jha said.

“The goal is a chip using devices based on new material compounds that can learn, evolve and make decisions as a human brain, but admittedly on a smaller scale,” she said.

While anyone could benefit from a smarter smartphone, such as one that notices you are upset and gives you suggestions to cheer up or uses present and past grocery lists to give you suggestions of what to make for dinner, Jha said she anticipates such a device would be able to assist people with disabilities and those with memory loss. A device that can sense when you are lost and help get you to your destination or recognize individuals and help remind you who they are could be of great value, she said.

“In the last few years, many of the advancements to smartphones have been cosmetic, such as a larger screen or a little bit of a better camera or battery life, but we are at the point now where new innovation is wanted and needed,” Jha said.

Submissions sought for Ottawa River Photography Contest

Students: It's time to enter the 2014 UT Ottawa River Photography Contest.

The President's Commission on the River is sponsoring the competition. Gift cards will be awarded for first, second and third place.

Photographers of all skill levels are encouraged to enter the contest; cell phone photos will be accepted.

Students are limited to a maximum of three separate photo entries. Digital manipulation should be limited to basic light and color correction.

Entries should include a high-resolution jpeg image of the Ottawa River on Main Campus and can focus on scenic views, wildlife, nature, people or any river-related topic or theme.

A panel of photography and Ottawa River experts will judge the entries. Decisions of the judges will be final.

Entries must be received by 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15.

Email photos, along with student name, Rocket ID and phone number, to Dr. Patrick Lawrence, UT professor and chair of the Department of Geography and Planning,



"Bridge Reflections" by Anthony Dixon won first place in last year's contest.

and chair of the President's Commission on the River, at patrick.lawrence@utoledo.edu.

Awards will be presented Friday, Sept. 19, at noon at the Student River Plaza, located between the Student Union and Carlson Library, as part of Celebrate Our River Week.

Celebrate the right to read by sponsoring a banned book

By Cassandra DeYoung

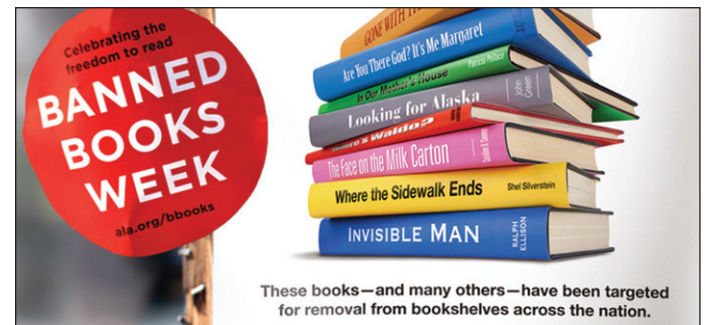
Last year, the 1988 Coretta Scott King Award-winning book *Fallen Angels* was challenged for inappropriate language in a middle school 50 miles from Toledo. The book illustrates life during the Vietnam War, with foul language from soldiers and gruesome descriptions of combat.

Fallen Angels isn't the only book that has been challenged. Last year, 307 challenges were reported to the Office for Intellectual Freedom.

Help protect the right to read freely by celebrating the American Library Association's Banned Books Week with The University of Toledo.

Other books that have been banned include popular titles: *The Hunger Games*, *Looking for Alaska*, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, *The Kite Runner* and *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

Celebrate and become a "Champion of Freedom of Expression" by donating a challenged book to be handed out at the 17th Annual UT Banned Books Week Vigil Thursday, Sept. 25, in the Carl Joseph



Memorial Reading Commons on the fifth floor of Carlson Library.

Those who donate will be honored by having their names appear in front of the titles they purchase and be announced as the novels are given away.

Door prizes and donated books will be given away every half hour from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. the day of the event.

To see a full list of banned books, visit the American Library Association's website at <http://utole.do/bannedbooks>.

To donate, visit the Barnes & Noble University Bookstore or contact Colleen Strayer at toledo.@bkstore.com or 419.530.2516 by 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19. Cash donations also are welcomed.

For more information about the UT Banned Books Week Vigil, contact Dr. Paulette D. Kilmer, UT professor of communication, at paulette.kilmer@utoledo.edu.

RSVP by Sept. 9 to show Rocket pride at Cincinnati tailgate party

By Cassandra DeYoung

Support the Rockets and join alumni and friends for The University of Toledo Alumni Association Tailgate Party as UT takes on the Bearcats!

The men's football team will play the Cincinnati Bearcats Friday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m. at Paul Brown Stadium.

The pre-game event and buffet will begin at 4:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 151 W. 5th St., Cincinnati, a five-minute walk from the stadium.

A Taste of Cincinnati themed buffet will feature miniature Coney dogs, Montgomery Inn BBQ ribs, Bavarian pretzels with beer cheese dip, crispy onion rings, and mesclun salad. A cash bar will be available.



Buffet tickets cost \$20 per person and can be purchased online at ToledoAlumni.org or call 419.530.2586 or 800.235.6766 by Tuesday, Sept. 9. All Rocket fans are welcome.

For more information, call Ashleigh Sonnenberg, UT assistant director of alumni relations, at 419.530.5359 or email ashleigh.sonnenberg@utoledo.edu.

Register for Clean Your Streams by Sept. 10

By Aimee Portala

The 18th annual Clean Your Streams event, presented by Partners for Clean Streams, will take place Saturday, Sept. 20.

Last year, more than 1,000 volunteers, including 320 from UT, participated in the event.

Clean Your Streams engages community members in helping pick up the banks of Swan Creek, the Ottawa River, the Maumee River and other local waterways.

Registration is required. The deadline to register is Wednesday, Sept. 10. Call 419.936.3954 or visit <http://utole.do/streamsvp> for more information.

Participants can choose from seven kickoff locations:

- The University of Toledo College of Law, patio entrance.
- The University of Toledo Medical Center, Collier Building Room 1000A.
- Olander Park Open Air Shelter, 6930 Sylvania Ave., Sylvania.
- Monroe St. United Methodist Church, 3613 Monroe St., Toledo.
- Side Cut Metropark, Riverview Area Shelter, W. River Road, Maumee.



- Oregon Municipal Building, 5330 Seaman Road, Oregon.
- Downtown Toledo, International Park Gazebo, Boers-Boyer Way.

Check-in will begin at 8 a.m., with a brief orientation at 8:30 a.m. and cleanup until noon. An appreciation picnic will be held for volunteers post-cleanup.

The University of Toledo is a community sponsor and a partner for the event.

For more information, contact Dr. Patrick Lawrence, UT professor and chair of the Department of Geography and Planning, and chair of the President's Commission on the River, at patrick.lawrence@utoledo.edu.

Extra online security designed to protect personal financial info

As global digital scammers continue to up the ante, the University's Information Technology Department works to increase the sophistication of online protection for its students, staff and faculty. Its latest implementation of two-factor authentication is designed for the self-service process by which direct deposit banking information is viewed and updated.

Two-factor authentication adds a second level of security to the account login process for direct deposit. The first level is your account ID and password (UTAD credentials). The second level is a six-digit PIN sent to your phone or given to you through voice mail for those who do not have a phone capable of receiving text messages, after you have registered your phone number. Your registered phone number will not be shared with any entity and will be securely encrypted.

"This added level of security is necessary given the increased threats to private information held by university systems nationwide," said Dr. Godfrey Ovwigho, vice president for information technology. "Private banking information is especially valued by these criminal hackers, so adding another lock on this particular digital door will create a more secure system for our faculty, students and staff."

The two-factor security system will be required on all direct deposit changes through myUT portal self-service and on viewing phone numbers or making changes to myUT portal self-service pages, he added.

The current process of logging into the myUT portal with UTAD credentials remains the same. When faculty, staff or students click on one of the links to view or update direct deposit bank information, they now will need to go through the two-factor authentication process by following the link on the direct deposit self-service page.

Details for the initial setup and subsequent two-factor access can be found online at myut.utoledo.edu; click on direct deposit information or update addresses and phones.

"It's a slight effort up front for all of us, but a higher level of security at the end," Ovwigho said.

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Program peddling bikes for fall semester

By Lindsay Mahaney

Rocket ReCycle, a program started by Director of Experiential Education Peter Thomas three years ago, is continuing to grow this fall with 30 student bike recipients to be announced Friday, Sept. 12.

Previously, the program loaned bicycles to several international students for a semester. However, with a donation from Sustainability, Energy Efficiency and Design, the program is able to offer 30 bicycles — 15 for international students and 15 for domestic students, all without cars — in an effort to reduce traffic congestion, parking issues and gas emissions on campus.

Students can apply for a bike by filling out an application online at <http://utoledo.edu/bikeapplication>.

Students are chosen on a first-come, first-served basis and are required to pay a \$50 security deposit. If they return the bike in good condition at the end of the semester, students can get their money back, Thomas said. Bicycle recipients also are required to watch several safety videos once they are selected.

Sustainability Specialist Brooke Mason said she became interested in Rocket ReCycle because she thought it was a great effort to make UT's campus more environmentally friendly.

Donations through the Sustainability, Energy Efficiency and Design fund at the UT Foundation are providing the money to purchase new bikes, as well as to repair the program's older bikes, she said.

In addition to being a means of transportation, Thomas said students have told him that the bikes aided in their success in school.

Former bicycle recipient Srinival Muthukrishnan, a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in engineering, said the program was a helpful tool in keeping connected on campus.

"It has been of extreme utility for me, from getting to class every day to going to tennis practice," Muthukrishnan said. "I even took it out to get my Social Security number, doctor appointments and countless other errands."

Third-year engineering student Alessandra Krusciel De Moraes agreed: "Now I can go anywhere in the city, keep healthy, and even make new friends. The Rocket bike turned into my new hobby."

For more information or to make a donation, contact Thomas at 419.530.4229 or peter.thomas@utoledo.edu.



Photo by Daniel Miller

READY TO ROLL: Pete Thomas, who started Rocket ReCycle, right, handed a bike helmet to student Ivan Tkachenko.

UT NEWS

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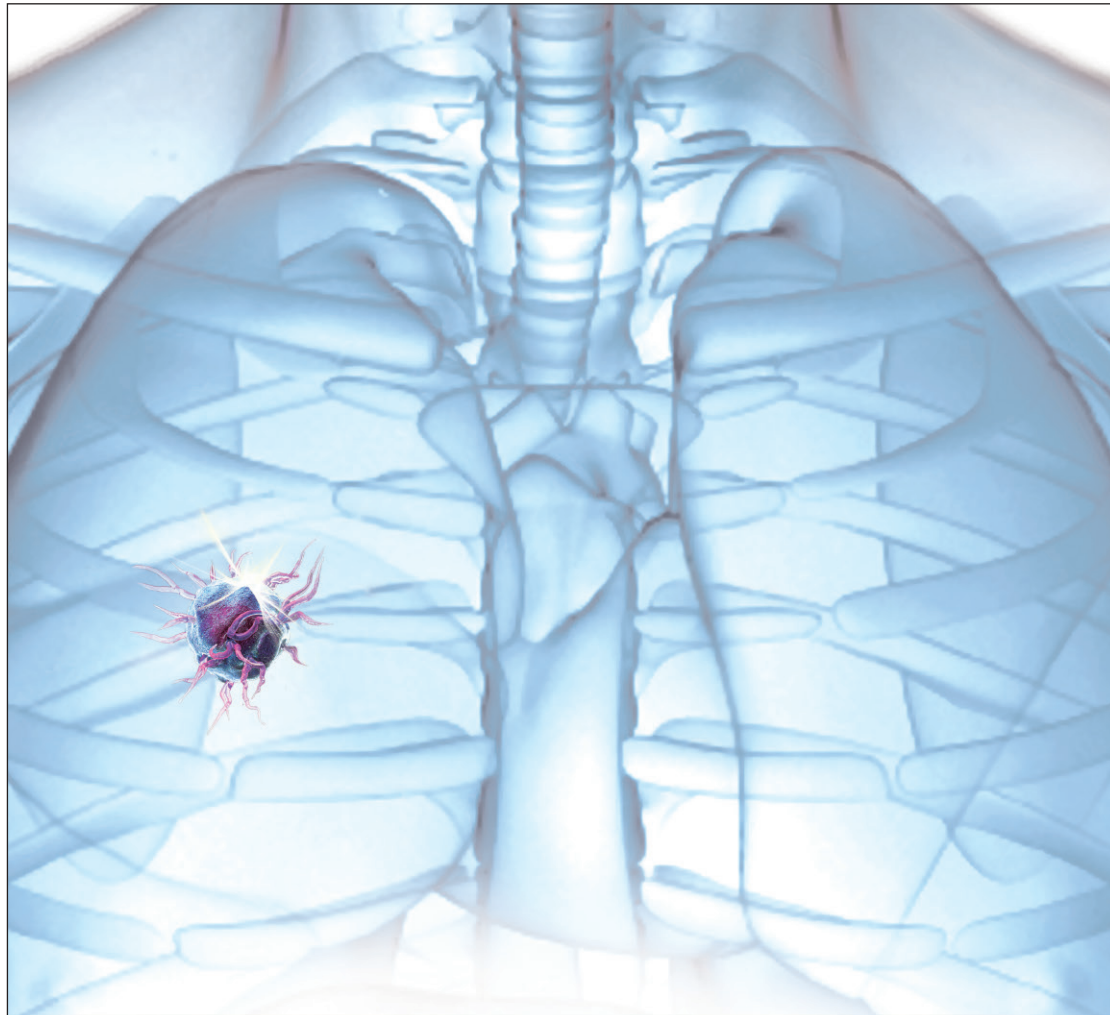


Special delivery



Kyle Solomon, a third-year student majoring in accounting and information systems, rode around and handed out UT planners on Centennial Mall during the first week of classes.

Photo by Daniel Miller



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