

## UT names San Jose State dean as its next provost

By Jon Strunk

It seems only fitting that the Toledo Rockets would select an aerospace engineer to lead its academic enterprise in the years ahead.

And with a rich research background and a passion for helping first-generation students enroll and succeed in higher education, it was clear to UT President Sharon L. Gaber that Dr. Andrew Hsu, dean of the College of Engineering at San Jose State University, was the right fit to be UT's next provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

Hsu's appointment, which is slated for July 1, is contingent upon approval by the UT Board of Trustees.

"Andrew Hsu will be an incredible advocate for students and faculty, and a tremendous leader who will play a crucial role in elevating The University of Toledo on the national stage," Gaber said.

Hsu's arrival at UT will return him to a familiar state. Earlier in his career, he served as a research engineer at the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. He



Hsu

also was associate vice president for research and dean of the graduate school at Wright State University, and he spent a year at

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## UT hires Title IX leader

By Jon Strunk

As The University of Toledo continues to strengthen its efforts to fight sexual assault and unlawful harassment, it announced last week the appointment of a campus administrator who will lead the prevention, education and response efforts regarding Title IX matters at UT.

Donald Kamm, associate director and Title IX deputy coordinator at the University of Illinois at Chicago Office for Access and Equity, will join The University of Toledo as director of Title IX and compliance and Title IX coordinator May 2.

"Donald brings a wealth of relevant experience to the role," said David Cutri, UT director of the Office of Internal Audit and chief compliance officer.

"He is a legal professional and university administrator with more than 15 years of experience in partnering with senior executives, administrators, faculty, staff and students in areas of Title IX, Title VII, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the

Clery Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Cutri said Kamm is well-versed in related areas of state and local law and with state and federal agencies, including the Department of Education and its Office of Civil Rights, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

"Donald will be a terrific ambassador for the University, and will propel the University to a leadership role in ensuring an inclusive, diverse and safe learning environment," Cutri said.

At UT, Kamm will lead a recently restructured Title IX office. Three deputy coordinators each responsible for students, faculty and staff Title IX issues will report to Kamm, who also will work closely with the Division of Student Affairs, the UT Police Department and other divisions across the University.

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## UT medical students learn their matches

By Christine Long

A buzz of nervous anticipation swept the Great Hall at Stranahan Theater as 165 graduating medical students at The University of Toledo waited with their families for the moment that would change their lives.

As the clock struck noon on Match Day, Sophia Toraby ripped open the envelope revealing she won't be moving anywhere for her residency training. The Connecticut native matched in general surgery at The University of Toledo Medical Center.

"I could've gone somewhere closer to home in New England, but my experience here made me want to stay," Toraby said as her hands shook with a mix of excitement and adrenaline. "The specialty was a wonderful surprise. I had applied for both general surgery and ob/gyn. I let the national match math algorithm make the decision for me. I would've been happy with either. This is a great fit."

"Match Day is a thrilling milestone for a medical student," Dr. Chris Cooper, dean of the UT College of Medicine and Life Sciences, said. "Students at The University

of Toledo did well again this year. They matched competitively throughout Ohio and the nation in a very competitive environment. Our faculty and staff are proud of this class for their years of hard work and dedication to become doctors. We are honored to help launch their careers."

Through the waves of cheers and tears, fourth-year medical student Nick Oblizajek of Sylvania cradled his 4-month-old daughter, Addison, in his arms.

"We're moving the family to Minnesota," said Oblizajek, who was placed into the Mayo Clinic's three-year internal medicine residency program. "This is very special. The day Addison was born was the greatest moment of my life, but this match comes close."

The same scene unfolded at medical schools across the country at precisely the same time as part of the annual Match Day ritual.

Nine of the 165 UT medical students will continue their training at The University of Toledo Medical Center as part of 12 who matched in northwest Ohio hospitals.

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Photo by Daniel Miller

**CELEBRATING:** UT Resident Ebtisam Alumin, left, and medical student Tarshree Sawyer, center, are excited to see that Avneet Singh matched in internal medicine at the University of Vermont Medical Center. Sawyer is headed to the University of North Carolina Hospitals for pediatrics.

# UT, TPS launch initiative to help local citizens become Toledo teachers

By Christine Long

The University of Toledo and Toledo Public Schools (TPS) have partnered together to create a new degree initiative called Teach Toledo to recruit and prepare the Glass City's citizens to become Toledo's teachers.

"The new degree initiative allows us to build on research on what teachers need to be successful in central city schools," Dr. Lynne Hamer, professor of educational foundations and leadership in the UT Judith Herb College of Education, said. "First, they need life experience being part of urban neighborhoods. Second, they need to know history and culture that is relevant to their students. Third, they need to understand the complex economic and bureaucratic systems that they will work within."

Teach Toledo students will receive partial tuition scholarships and earn an associate of arts degree with a focus on urban education within two and a half years. The first class is scheduled to begin in fall 2016.

"As a TPS and UT graduate, I know the power of teaching in our city, which is why I believe in Teach Toledo," Dr. Romules Durant, TPS superintendent, said.

At least the first year of college classes will take place at TPS's Jones Leadership Academy, where Teach Toledo students will gain early classroom experience by interacting with the preschool, middle school and high school students who attend Jones.

"In urban school districts nationwide, children need dedicated teachers who understand their neighborhood and community," Hamer said. "We want to grow our own teachers by investing in people of all ages who want to stay in Toledo, including high school students, parents and grandparents. This will build diversity in teaching staff, which will contribute to student success in the classroom."

Participants in Teach Toledo must be admitted to UT, which requires having a high school diploma or GED.

If Teach Toledo graduates want to pursue a teaching license, they can transition to the UT Judith Herb College of Education to complete a bachelor's degree.

"Teach Toledo courses have the same requirements as those on campus except that they will be specially designed to focus on issues and knowledge essential to urban teaching," Hamer said. "These include African and African-American history and culture, Latin American and Latino American history and culture, understanding the impact of various levels of government on schooling, understanding economic systems in urban environments, and working for the common good and social welfare."

UT and TPS have collaborated since 2011 to deliver the UT@TPS program that was designed to make college education more accessible to adults in the Toledo area while building a college-going culture in central city schools.

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For more information about how to enroll in Teach Toledo, go to [utoledo.edu/education/teachtoledo](http://utoledo.edu/education/teachtoledo).

## Matches

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The students matched in 24 specialties, with 67, or 41 percent, in primary care fields. The top specialties for this graduating class were internal medicine, emergency medicine, family medicine and pediatrics.

Ohio was the most popular state with 52 students matching there, followed by Michigan with 18, and California with 14. Overall, students matched with programs in 31 states.

"I have been waiting for this day my whole life," said Anita Mallya, who will spend the next four years in the neurology residency program at the Albany Medical Center in New York. "I've known I wanted to be a doctor since I was 5 years old."

"This is more of a big deal than graduation," said Jessica Arden, who matched in radiation oncology at the Beaumont Health System in Royal Oak, Mich. "I am happy to be spending the next five years training close to my family. We've been waiting a long time to find out. It was a lot of work to get here."

"I thought my heart was going to jump out of my mouth as we waited for noon to arrive," said Hillary Liebler, who will head to Houston after graduation in May to complete her residency in internal medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine. "This experience is rewarding and fulfilling. I'm excited for the next chapter to begin."

Not only were graduating medical students proud of their placements, faculty and staff are pleased with the spike in number of budding doctors across the country who will be joining UTMC's residency programs.

"The number of American medical school graduates choosing UTMC doubled compared to last year," Cooper said. "We believe



Photo by Daniel Miller

**EMBRACING THE FUTURE:** Erin Main and Vijay Mehta hugged during the Match Day ceremony. Main matched in internal medicine at the University of Minnesota Medical School, and Mehta is headed to Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Fla., for internal medicine.

that the academic affiliation agreement with ProMedica is and will continue to strengthen our training programs, and this is having a positive impact."

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## Title IX leaders

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"I am looking forward to my return to The University of Toledo," said Kamm, who earned his juris doctor from UT's College of Law. "Colleges and universities across the nation are facing Title IX challenges, and I am excited to partner with UT students, faculty, staff and the community to help the University become a national leader in Title IX."

## RSVP for University Women's Commission awards lunch

The University Women's Commission will hold its 30th annual awards luncheon Thursday, April 7, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Savage Arena Joe Grogan Room.

Dr. Patricia Komuniecki, vice provost for graduate studies and dean of the College of Graduate Studies, will be the guest speaker.

Several employees will be honored with the Dr. Alice Skeens Outstanding Woman Award, and three students will receive scholarships.

A light lunch will be served at the event, which will feature door prizes.

All proceeds will go toward the commission's progress fund and scholarships.



The event is free for University Women's Commission members; anyone may join the organization at the lunch for \$25.

RSVPs are requested by Monday, March 28, to synita.gates@utoledo.edu.

## In memoriam

**Dr. Michael G. Brattain**, Omaha, Neb., a former faculty member, died March 5 at age 68. In 1992, he joined MCO as professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, and was named acting chair of the department in 1997 shortly before leaving the college.

**Dolores "Dee" Davis**, Temperance, Mich., who worked in the College of Pharmacy for 17 years and retired as an executive assistant, died March 13 at age 87.

**Eugene DeAngelis**, Toledo, a member of the Satellites Auxiliary who volunteered in the Pastoral Care Department, died March 8 at age 89.

**Bruce D. Gregory**, Elmore, Ohio, who worked at UT 21 years, died March 10 at age 83. He was appointed controller in 1971 and was named bursar in 1980. Gregory retired as bursar in 1992.

**Joyce V. Nantz**, Kingwood, Texas, a UT employee who retired in 1995, died March 5 at age 82.

**Dr. Richard E. White**, Sylvania, professor emeritus of higher education, died March 10 at age 90. He joined the UT College of Education as an associate professor in 1967 and was named a professor two years later. In 1971, White was named assistant dean for finance and budget services for three years before he was promoted to associate dean for administration, a position he held from 1975 to 1985. In addition, White served as interim dean of the College of Education for seven months and as chair of the Department of Higher Education for six years. In 1985, he was named director of the John H. Russel Center for Higher Education. He served two terms on the Faculty Senate and was vice chair for one year. During his two decades at the University, White was a member of some 50 dissertation committees and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.



White

## Women's golf coach signs contract through 2018-19 season

By Steve Easton

University of Toledo Women's Golf Head Coach Nicole Hollingsworth has signed a contract that will keep her at the Rockets' helm through the 2018-19 season.



Hollingsworth

"Nicole has done a remarkable job in building our women's golf program into one of the best in the Mid-American Conference," Vice President and Athletic Director Mike O'Brien said. "While her teams have been successful year in and year out on the course and in the classroom, her student-athletes

have also been extremely active in giving back to the Toledo community. We're committed to Nicole as she strives for greater success and look forward to her leading our program for many years to come."

"I would like to thank Mike and President (Sharon) Gaber for this contract extension and their continued support of the Toledo women's golf program," said Hollingsworth, who received MAC Coach of the Year honors following the 2013-14 campaign. "I've enjoyed building our program to where it is and am excited to see what our future holds. The support from our administration and the facilities we offer at Toledo have played an enormous role in what we've accomplished, and I'm blessed to be a part of this tremendous institution."

Hollingsworth has developed the Rockets into one of the top programs in the MAC since assuming the reins as the initial full-time head coach in 2003.

The Clinton, Ind., native has guided the Rockets to 27 tournament and 13 individual titles during her tenure. More importantly, UT has finished in the top half of the MAC in nine of 12 Hollingsworth's seasons at the helm. The last four years at the conference championships, the Rockets have taken their play to a higher level with a runner-up showing in 2014, a second-place tie in 2013, and a third-place showing in 2012 and 2015.

During Hollingsworth's tenure, a Toledo golfer has received first-team All-MAC accolades on six occasions with senior Sathika Ruenreong (2013, 2014 and 2015) being the first Rocket to earn the award more than once.

Toledo already has tied its school record with four tournament titles this season and is on pace to set a school record for lowest stroke average for the second time in the last three years with a 298.9 mark in its seven tournaments. The Rockets posted their best average ever with a figure of 302.1 in the 2013-14 campaign.

Hollingsworth's squads also have excelled in the classroom, registering team GPAs above 3.0 in all but one semester. Women's golf has posted the athletic department's highest GPA on three occasions, a 3.651 mark in fall 2009, a 3.625 in fall 2013, and a school-record 3.714 measure this past fall.

The Rockets also have been very active in the Toledo community during Hollingsworth's time at UT, helping with projects that have included serving hot meals at That Neighborhood Church, mentoring children in weekly visits to McTigue Elementary School, assisting at the UT Medical Center dental office on National Dentist Day, and helping several organizations, including the American Heart Association.

## Provost

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Ohio State University as an American Council on Education Fellow.

"I am excited by the opportunities The University of Toledo has to offer its students, its employees and its community," Hsu said, "and I'm excited to help further the momentum President Sharon Gaber has already created in such a short period of time."

During the interview process, Hsu spoke to the campus community about his passion for helping students from disadvantaged backgrounds succeed.

"As we push our academics and our research to new levels of excellence, it is the students for whom college was not a foregone conclusion that add so much to our campus community and remind us of why we have chosen higher education as a profession."

Hsu also was a staff scientist at Rolls-Royce North America and a faculty member at the University of Miami and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. He received his PhD in aerospace engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Gaber also took a minute to thank Interim Provost John Barrett for his service.

"John has spent countless hours during the last 18 months leading the academic arm of The University of Toledo and creating an opportunity for a seamless transition upon Andrew's arrival. I want to join so many across UT in thanking him for his efforts."

## Self-love enthusiast/popular blogger to speak March 24

By Ashley Gearheart

Healthy self-love will be the topic of well-known blogger Jes Baker's talk Thursday, March 24, at 6 p.m. in Doermann Theater in University Hall.

Baker's program, "Change Your World, Not Your Body: The Social Impact of Healthy Self-Love," will look at the history behind the current ideal body type and how each person can change the way he or she perceives himself or herself as well as others.

"Ms. Baker addresses not only how society sees body size, but how we internalize size in relation to what we think society wants," said Dr. Shanda Gore, associate vice president for equity, diversity and community engagement, and chief diversity officer. "She speaks frankly to this dimension of diversity in a way that many don't think about, including all the micro-aggressions and macro-aggressions that can go with it."

The program is part of the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women's Lecture and Film Series, and it is co-sponsored by the President's Lecture Series on Diversity.

According to Jennifer Solanics, marketing and recruitment specialist for equity, diversity and community engagement, this particular presentation was chosen after the Eberly Center's staff saw a compilation of Baker's interviews.

"We saw a video and she was discussing her message of healthy self-love — how no matter what your body type, shape or size was, the first step in living a truly healthy life was by loving who you are. We felt that it was a very relevant topic for today's society, not only for the college campus, but for the entire community," Solanics said.

Baker is known most for her blog, *The Militant Baker*, and for her "Attractive and Fat" campaign, in which she combated Abercrombie & Fitch's exclusivity through photos meant to challenge the notion that beauty is restricted.

"This message goes beyond physical health, and taps into emotional and mental health. Loving yourself for who you are is something that is so important for every person," Solanics said.

Parking for the free, public event will be available in lot 13 north of the west parking garage.

For more information, contact Solanics at [jennifer.solanics@utoledo.edu](mailto:jennifer.solanics@utoledo.edu).

**CHANGE YOUR WORLD, NOT YOUR BODY; THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF HEALTHY SELF LOVE**

"I believe in glorifying all bodies. All of them. Because every single person in the entire world deserves to feel good and love themselves. It's that simple."  
—Jes Baker

**Thursday, March 24  
6 p.m.  
Doermann Theatre, University Hall**

In honor of Women's History Month, author and self-love enthusiast, Jes Baker, will be on campus to speak about a range of topics from the delightful to uncomfortable. This fiery body advocate and blog superstar will touch on relevant topics, such as the journey to body acceptance for all walks of people and general empowerment. Parking is available in Lot 13.

Part of the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women's Lecture and Film Series  
Co-sponsored by the President's Lecture Series on Diversity

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## 2016 Shapiro Essay Revision Contest winners announced

By Ashley Gearheart

The 27th annual Shapiro Essay Revision Contest attracted nearly 200 undergraduate participants from almost every academic major for the 2016 event.

Contest judging has ended, and 15 winners were selected:

- Jeanette M. Cornwall, senior English major, \$500;
- Kayle K. Elliot, senior psychology major, \$400;
- Elissa Vaitkus, junior sociology and women's and gender studies major, \$300;
- Hedyeh Elahinia, freshman biology and neurology major, \$200;
- Luke R. Skowronek, freshman education major, \$100;
- Melody Beerbower, sophomore English major, \$75;
- Araceli Gutierrez, freshman nursing major, \$75;
- Sara K. Hochadel, sophomore chemical engineering major, \$75;
- Anne M. Jennings, junior special education major, \$75;
- Olivia Krupp, junior health-care administration major, \$75;
- Mackenzie Miller, senior music major, \$75;
- Celine M. Schreidah, freshman biochemistry major, \$75;
- Ashley Teow, senior biology major, \$75;
- Andrea A. Tsatalis, junior biology major, \$75; and
- Anna I. Wagenhauser, sophomore psychology major, \$75.

"We wish to thank all students who participated, and we will see you again next year," said Dr. Deborah Coulter-Harris, coordinator of the contest and associate lecturer of English. "We also wish to thank our faculty for serving as monitors, judges

and advertisers; this is a true collegial effort."

The Shapiro Writing Contest is named for and supported by funds established by Dr. Edward Shapiro, professor emeritus of economics, who retired from The University of Toledo in 1989 after 22 years of service. After receiving a bachelor's degree in economics from UT in 1942, he went on to obtain a master of arts degree from Ohio State University and PhD from Harvard. Shapiro donated this money to recognize and reward future UT students in what he regarded as the craft of good writing.

# Grateful patient establishes fund to thank doctor

By Amanda Benjamin

“How do you thank someone for saving your life?” asked Dr. Allison Vanderbilt, UT associate professor and assistant dean for curriculum evaluation and innovation. “Sometimes thank you is not enough.”

Vanderbilt had been living with intense



pain from rheumatoid arthritis for six years before she met Dr. Nezam Altorok, UT assistant professor of medicine and rheumatologist at UT Medical Center.

A former marathon runner and tennis player, Vanderbilt’s first symptom of rheumatoid arthritis was pain in her ankle.

“It felt like I had a sprained ankle,” Vanderbilt said. “I just tried to run through it.”

However, the pain spread to her hand, wrist and spine, and her ankle swelled to the size of a softball. Vanderbilt was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. When she started

treatment in Virginia, she found that she was allergic to biologics, genetically engineered proteins used to treat rheumatoid arthritis.

“I’m a patient who’s difficult to treat because I have a lot of allergies,” Vanderbilt said.

When she went to another rheumatologist for a second opinion, she was prescribed to take Methotrexate as an injection, a drug also used by cancer patients that has serious side effects. Vanderbilt said the medication helped with gastrointestinal issues but not with the pain.

During her treatment, Vanderbilt was working from home. It was hard for her to get out of bed, and she had trouble with daily tasks, such as picking up a coffee cup and brushing her hair.

“I had trouble with things people take for granted, things people don’t think about,” Vanderbilt said. “I kept thinking I can’t live like this.”

Then a career opportunity at The University of Toledo changed Vanderbilt’s life. She moved to the Glass City from Virginia and started seeing Altorok.

“He’s the first doctor who told me I don’t have to live with this pain,” Vanderbilt said. “He said we’ll find a way to solve it.”

And they did. First, Altorok found that Vanderbilt had a vitamin D deficiency. In addition to prescribing a vitamin D supplement, Altorok also prescribed Xeljanz, a drug for rheumatoid arthritis patients.

“I think the key is listening to the patient,” Altorok said. “We do not treat the lab tests; we treat the patient.”

Altorok said Vanderbilt’s treatment was really effective, and it was impressive how she has improved. According to Vanderbilt, Xeljanz is hard to find, and UTMC’s Outpatient Pharmacy conveniently had the medication.

“Once I started taking that medication, my hands felt better,” Vanderbilt said. “I can now move my ankle, walk and skip because of Dr. Altorok. He gave me my life back.”

To thank Altorok for improving her quality of life, Vanderbilt established the Dr. Nezam Altorok Patient-Centered Care Fund Focused on Rheumatology. The fund will support Altorok’s research and educational efforts in the field of rheumatology to help improve patient outcomes.

Altorok said he was very happy to hear about the fund and that it will allow him to look into better treatment options for patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

“I’m thankful and grateful to the Department of Medicine and College of Medicine for all the help and support they provide to me to get to this stage,” he said.

In addition to honoring Altorok, Vanderbilt also created the fund as a way for other patients to say thank you to Altorok.

“He’s so humble. I don’t think he realizes the work he does touches peoples’ lives and changes them,” Vanderbilt said. “If a patient can only donate \$1 to say thank you, I want them to be able to do that.”

Patients can contribute to the fund by visiting <https://give2ut.toledo.edu> and searching for fund number 2402328.

With National Doctors’ Day on Wednesday, March 30, it is the perfect time to celebrate physicians who have provided compassionate and exceptional care. University of Toledo Health has created a website, <http://uthealth.toledo.edu/doctorsday>, where patients can honor their doctor by sharing their stories or making a gift.

## Armed and generous



Photo by Amanda Benjamin

Dr. Joseph Ryno, UT assistant professor of emergency medicine, left, Deanna Montanaro, nursing director of the Emergency Department, and Kevin Kraus, staff nurse in the Emergency Department, posed with some of the fuzzy friends their department collected for the UT Medical Center Stuffed Animal Donation Drive. The Emergency Department won a pizza party for giving 264 stuffed animals that will receive UTMC ribbons from members of the Satellites Auxiliary before they are handed out to the children of patients at the hospital and clinics.

## Sharing some sun

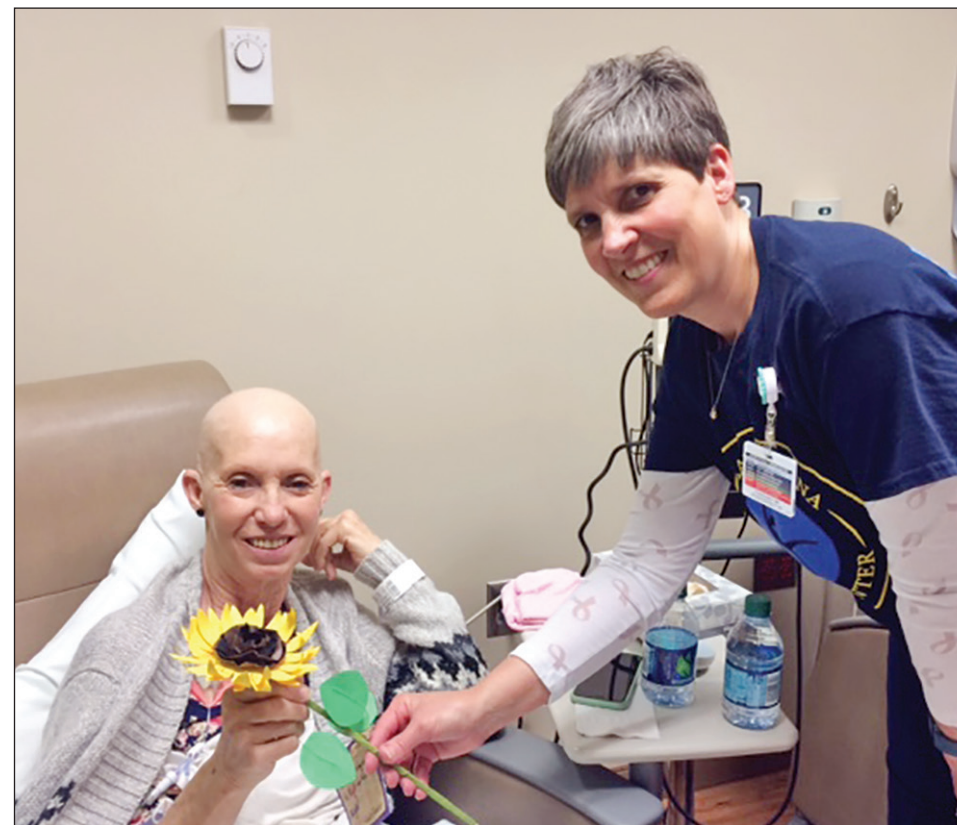


Photo by Jan Tipton

Kristie Keil, staff nurse at the Infusion Center at the Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center, gave a paper sunflower to patient Sarah Anderson last week. The sunflowers were created by seventh-graders from the Toledo School for the Arts and given to cancer patients to spread some joy.

## Events slated for Black Student Union Week, March 21-25

By Samantha Watson

Celebrate The University of Toledo's Black Student Union with events all week for #PaintTheWeekBlack.

Listed by date, events will include:

- **Monday, March 21** — We Are Empowered: A Testimony to the Empowerment of Women, 6:30 p.m., Student Union Ingman Room. This program is designed to uplift and empower the women on campus. A panel of women will speak, and three women will be acknowledged for academic excellence, community service, and providing an uplifting spark to the people in the Toledo community. Refreshments and light snacks will be provided.
- **Tuesday, March 22** — Pizza With the Police, 7:30 p.m., President's Hall Multipurpose Room. This event aims to create a positive relationship with The University of Toledo Police Department, the Toledo Police Department and the students on campus. This will be a comfortable environment to have real conversations about real topics.
- **Wednesday, March 23** — Wild'n Out UT vs. BG, 7:30 p.m., Student Union Auditorium. This event will feature

students from UT and Bowling Green State University going head to head in an improvisational competition. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. Tickets are available at Ask Rocky for \$3 or can be purchased for \$5 at the door.

- **Thursday, March 24** — Rocket Release, 6 p.m., Student Union Room 3523. Take a moment to come together and talk about current events going on in the world.
- **Friday, March 25** — The 47th annual Black Student Union Fashion Show, doors open at 5 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m., Student Union Auditorium. One of the Black Student Union's biggest events, the show's theme this year is "Coming to America." It will feature vendors, a place to take photos, and a red carpet. Tickets are available at Ask Rocky — general admission is \$10, and VIP tickets are \$15 and will include a meet-and-greet with host KC Clark, front-row seats, and a Chic-fil-A meal.

Follow the Black Student Union on Instagram at @utoledobsu.

## Accelerating



Photo by Daniel Miller

Former Toledo Rocket cornerback Cheatham Norrills ran the 40-yard dash last week at UT's Pro Day. Norrills was one of 17 football players who performed drills and exercises for pro scouts in the Fetterman Training Center. The four-year starter and 2015 first-team All-Mid-American Conference cornerback is working out and preparing for the NFL Draft that will take place April 28-30.



## Freewheelin' Rocky



Photo by Daniel Miller

Rocky led a mass ride of some 30 students and employees Wednesday to herald the return of Rocket Wheels, a bike sharing program launched last fall on Main Campus by Facilities and Construction. Students, faculty and staff can sign up for the Rocket Wheels program, which allows them to borrow bikes for up to six hours from three locations. For more information or to register for Rocket Wheels, visit <http://utole.do/rocketwheels>.

## Staff, faculty honored for contributions to UT Online

By Ashley Gearheart

UT Online recently recognized three employees for their outstanding contributions to The University's online learning services.

The first award, named for Dr. Ella Fridman, who was one of the first UT faculty members to convert her courses to online versions, was presented to Barbara Mauter, adjunct instructor in the College of Adult and Lifelong Learning.

"[Mauter] should be recognized as an excellent example of what being an online instructor truly means. She is dedicated to quality and student engagement, and continues to be a strong faculty advocate for all of UT Online's services," wrote a nominator.

Mauter began teaching at The University of Toledo in 2007 and taught her first online course in 2010. She has written two of her own courses and is in the process of creating a third. Mauter was the first faculty member to complete the Pathway to Master Online Instructor program.

"I enjoy what I do. Maybe that's it. I enjoy working with the students," Mauter said when asked what she believes has made her so successful.

The second honor presented by UT Online was the DiAnne M. Masztak Award, given annually to a UT community member who has supported online learning in a distinguished fashion and gone above and beyond his or her duties to provide exemplary service to students, faculty and the UT community.

This award went to Dr. Ruthie Kucharewski, professor and director of the Recreation Therapy Program in the College of

Health Sciences. She was called "an endless advocate for online education and UT Online" by her nominator.

"I try to improve my skills and educate myself [about online learning] more all the time and connect with other online faculty so that my classes are interactive, interesting, designed well, and have good content," said Kucharewski, who has worked at the University since 1997.

UT Online's Mark A. Yeary Award was named in recognition of the man who worked at the University 23 years. During his time at UT, Yeary's dedication to the distance learning program contributed greatly to the development of the largest distance learning program in Ohio here at UT.

The winner of this award was Phoebe Ballard, director of instructional design and development. Since, 2003, Ballard has worked in UT's Online learning division, and in her spare time, she teaches at the University, serves on the board of directors for The Independent Collegian, and is an adviser for the Student Media Association.

Nominators called Ballard a "capable, caring and passionate leader" who "exhibited exemplary dedication to her work and for serving members of The University of Toledo community."

"This award is extremely important to me because it came from my peers. They inspire me and challenge me daily, and I am very proud to be a member of this dedicated group," Ballard said.



**HONORED:** Phoebe Ballard, director of instructional design and development, center, showed off the Mark A. Yeary Award she was presented by Dr. Barbara Kopp Miller, associate provost for online education, left, who held the plaque where Ballard's name was added, and Dr. Mingli Xiao, senior instructional designer.

## Human trafficking info sessions made available to Toledo community

By Lindsay Mahaney

With the high rate of sex trafficking in the area, it's important for Toledoans to be informed.

The University of Toledo's Interprofessional Education program has teamed up with the Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute for a series of "Lunch and Learns" focusing on human trafficking starting Thursday, March 24, at noon in Jacobs Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center Room 1200.

Sessions will cover a variety of topics, including labor and sex trafficking, domestic and international trafficking, how to identify signs of trafficking, health-care professionals'

trafficking knowledge, and current trafficking prevention tactics.

"It's important for people to be well-informed about trafficking," said Allison Spencer, program coordinator for UT's School for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education. "By being informed, people are better-equipped to identify and fix the issue."

Two additional sessions will be offered Thursday, April 14, and Monday, April 18.

Pizza will be provided at each session.

Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to reserve a spot at <http://utole.do/signup>.

For more information, contact Spencer at [allison.spencer@utoledo.edu](mailto:allison.spencer@utoledo.edu).

## UT NEWS

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VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT: Samuel McCrimmon  
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 EDITOR: Vicki L. Kroll  
 GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Stephanie Delo  
 PHOTOGRAPHERS: Crystal Hand, Daniel Miller  
 CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: Amanda Benjamin, Meghan Cunningham, Ashley Gearheart, Christine Long, Lindsay Mahaney, Jen Sorgenfrei, Christine Wasserman, Samantha Watson  
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*-Anna*

Student Trustee and Public Health major '17  
College of Health Sciences



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