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Trustees give full support to president in annual review

By Meghan Cunningham

he University of Toledo Board of Trustees conducted its initial annual review of President Sharon L. Gaber last week and voiced its full support of her leadership.

Board Chair Sharon Speyer said the president has made great progress on achieving the University's strategic goals, and trustees look forward to continued success

"When we think about what's been accomplished in one year, I will speak for all of my colleagues: We are unanimously thrilled at the progress, but understand there is a lot of work that we need to do," she said.

Gaber began her tenure as UT's 17th president July 1, 2015, and has engaged the campus and broader community with her leadership, Speyer said.

Specifically, the UT Board of Trustees commended the president on the first enrollment increase at the University in six

years and an increase in fundraising with 11 percent more dollars raised in the past year.

Speyer also noted administrative efficiencies taken to merge colleges and consolidate leadership positions, and that the president has put together an exceptional leadership team.

The accomplishments noted by the board align with the five strategic goals Gaber laid out for the institution when she ioined UT:

- Raise UT's national status by recognizing the tremendous achievements of faculty,
- researchers, clinicians and students; Increase student enrollment and
- ensure students are better prepared; Expand externally funded research
- so UT may continue to make gains in developing new knowledge in multiple fields;
- Grow philanthropic support for student scholarships, faculty



Gaber

endowments, updated facilities and other University initiatives; and

Reduce administrative expenses to improve UT's financial standing.

As part of the performance review, the board voted to give Gaber a 2 percent raise that she asked to be deferred until January in line with the actions of her senior leadership

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UT to host International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference Sept. 22-23

By Christine Long

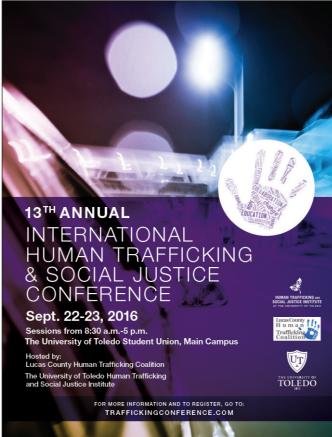
very year thousands of children in the U.S. and around the world are forced to become victims of a criminal underworld and suffer in plain sight.

Survivors, social workers, law enforcement officers, educators, nurses and researchers from across the globe are coming together for a two-day conference at The University of Toledo to bring the sex and labor trafficking trades out of the shadows and help end the abuse through education and advocacy.

UT is hosting the 13th Annual International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference Thursday and Friday, Sept. 22 and 23, in the Student Union.

The conference is hosted by UT's Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute and the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition.

"Human trafficking affects more than just the victims, it hurts the whole community," said Dr. Celia Williamson, UT professor of social work and director of the Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute. "Since 2004, this annual conference has welcomed presenters from 31 states and 15 countries to educate social service, health-care and criminal justice professionals on this form of modern slavery and the needs and risk of victims, as well as their customers and traffickers. We are laying the groundwork for future collaborative research, advocacy and program development."



Steak 'n Shake coming to UT campus dining

By Christine Long

he University of Toledo is expanding dining options for students on campus as it extends its contract with Aramark for six years.

Steak 'n Shake is scheduled to open in January replacing Rocky's Grill in the lower level of the Student Union.

A second national restaurant chain is expected to open next fall in the lower level of the Student Union around the corner



from Rocket Wireless and the UT Federal Credit Union

"We're excited to continue our partnership with Aramark because they have given us very good service to meet the needs of students," Dr. Kaye M. Patten,

Legal ramifications of sharing economy topic of Cannon Lecture Sept. 27

By Kirsten M. Winek

Ancy Leong, a professor at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, will present The University of Toledo College of Law's annual Cannon Lecture Tuesday, Sept. 27, at noon in the Law Center's McQuade Law Auditorium.



The explosive growth of the so-called sharing economy has been marked by the emergence of Uber and Airbnb. Yet the sharing economy also raises new risks,

Leong

as transactions move into a legal gray area. In her lecture, "The New Public

Accommodations," Leong will discuss how current public accommodation laws designed to prevent discrimination in the provision of services do not always work in the context of this new sharing economy.

Her research on anti-discrimination law and the sharing economy has been featured in The Washington Post, Salon, Slate and on ABC's "Nightline."

"Nancy Leong is one of the most prolific and well-known scholars of

her generation," said Nicole Porter, UT professor of law. "Her work is creative and interesting, and I'm excited to hear her thoughts on racism in the sharing economy. It is sure to be a fascinating discussion."

Leong's research interests include constitutional rights, criminal procedure, discrimination, and the commodification of identity. Her scholarship has been published in the California Law Review, Harvard Law Review, Northwestern University Law Review, Stanford Law Review, Virginia Law Review, Yale Law Journal and other journals.

She earned her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and her juris doctor from Stanford Law School. She is a former law clerk of Judge Kermit Lipez of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and previously served on the faculty at the William & Mary School of Law. At Denver, she teaches Civil Rights, Constitutional Law, and Criminal Procedure.

This free, public lecture is part of the Cannon Lecture Series that was established in 1980 to honor former Toledo attorney Joseph A. Cannon. The series hosts nationally known individuals who explore both the humanistic dimensions and limitations of the legal system. Food and beverages will be provided.

Steak 'n Shake

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senior vice president for student affairs, said. "The plan the company presented to us gives the University a whole new model for our dining services, which will result in new choices and variety for our students. These changes are in direct response to what students have told us is important to them. Our students visit other campuses and see these restaurants. When they return to UT, they ask for popular name brands."

Freshens, a chain promoting healthy options, is moving into UT's engineering campus by the end of the year to offer a dining option on that side of campus.

"Freshens is a new type of restaurant that is up-and-coming on college campuses across the country," Patten said. "Freshens will offer salads, sandwiches, rice bowls, crepes and smoothies. Students will be able to use a meal plan to swipe at the counter."

UT has four years remaining on its contract with Aramark to operate campus dining, and the six-year extension includes upgrading the main dining facility in Ottawa House West residence hall and adding more fresh food concepts.

South Dining Hall in the Student Union also will undergo minor renovations as part of the contract extension.

"Our partnership with Aramark is all about being responsive to the needs and requests of our students," Patten said.



COMING SOON: Steak 'n Shake is scheduled to open in January in the Student Union.

Conference

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One session allows participants to watch a video of UT medical students treating a human trafficking victim inside a state-of-the-art patient simulation suite at the Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center on Health Science Campus. The victim is a high-tech medical mannequin that can bleed and breathe.

"Nearly 90 percent of sex trafficking victims encounter an ER or clinic, but only a quarter of health-care professionals think that trafficking impacts their patients," Katie Bush, clinical simulation and education research associate, said. "This simulation presentation will showcase how our students going into the health-care field are being trained to spot red flags of trafficking and help rescue victims."

Bush will discuss the simulation Thursday, Sept. 22, from 4 to 5 p.m. in Student Union Room 3010A.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown will speak Friday, Sept. 23, at 12:30 p.m. in the Student Union Auditorium.

Additional speakers will include:FBI Special Agent James Hardie and Detective Pete Swartz with the

Toledo Police Department, who

specialize in investigating child sex trafficking as part of the FBI's Innocence Lost initiative, Thursday, Sept. 22, at 11:15 a.m. in Student Union Room 2584.

- International human trafficking expert Mohammad Ashraful Alam, who will present "Sex Trade Behind the Scene of Women and Girls Trafficking: A Case of Bangladesh" Thursday, Sept. 22, at 1:30 p.m. in Student Union Room 2584.
- Theresa Flores, a human trafficking survivor, who will present "The

Health-Care Needs of Domestically Trafficked Women: Study Results" Thursday, Sept. 22, at 2:45 p.m. in the Student Union Ingman Room.

For more information, visit traffickingconference.com or email traffickingconference@gmail.com.

NEWS

Memorial service slated for trailblazing professor

The UT community will come together to remember and celebrate Dr. Lancelot C.A. Thompson Monday, Sept. 19, at 6 p.m. in the Student Union Auditorium.



professor emeritus of chemistry and 55-year UT veteran, died Sept. 10 at age 91. A true

Thompson,

trailblazer, Thompson was the first African-American

full-time

Thompson

faculty member at the University, the first black to receive tenure, one of the first four recipients of UT's Outstanding Teacher Award, the first African-American vice president, and the first person to hold the post of vice president for student affairs.

The native of Jamaica joined the UT faculty as an assistant professor of chemistry in 1958. He was promoted to associate professor in 1962 and was named assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1964, the same year he won the University's Outstanding Teacher Award. Two years later, Thompson was appointed dean of student services. In 1967, he was promoted to professor, and in 1968, he became vice president for student affairs, the position he retired from in 1988, when he was named professor emeritus.

As vice president for student affairs, Thompson coordinated activities of

more than a dozen offices — student activities, housing, financial aid, discipline, international students, placement, the Student Union, Counseling Center, minority affairs, Testing Center, health services, the Interfraternity and PanHellenic councils, and intramurals and recreation.

"Lance's mark on The University of Toledo and in particular on the Division of Student Affairs was immeasurable," said Dr. Kaye M. Patten, senior vice president for student affairs. "He was a true student services professional who gave us a blueprint for service and optimism and dedication."

A track star in college and a cricket player, Thompson's passion for athletics continued when he arrived in Toledo. Without a budget or a bag, he organized and became the unpaid coach of UT track in 1960. When track became a varsity sport, he organized a soccer team.

"Over the years, Lance was an adviser, a mentor and, most of all, a friend to many of our student-athletes. The wisdom and guidance Lance provided played an important role in their lives," said Mike O'Brien, UT vice president and athletic director.

To inspire the next generation of college students, Thompson helped organize UT's annual Aspiring Minorities Youth Conference. And the Toledo resident continued to mentor UT students throughout his life.

In addition, he cared about the community. Thompson served on the executive committee of the Bridge Inc., the Toledo Health Planning Association Board, the Toledo Development Committee, and the board of trustees of the Neighborhood Health Association. In addition, he served on the Toledo Labor Management Citizens Committee, the board of trustees for the Better Business Bureau, Connecting Point, and the board of directors of the American Red Cross. A member of Kiwanis International since 1971, he served as president.

A member of the American Chemical Society and chair of the Toledo section in 1965, Thompson was a member of Sigma Xi chemistry honorary, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the New York Academy of Sciences, and the Blue Key National Honor Fraternity.

Thompson

He received a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Morgan State University in 1952 and a doctoral degree in

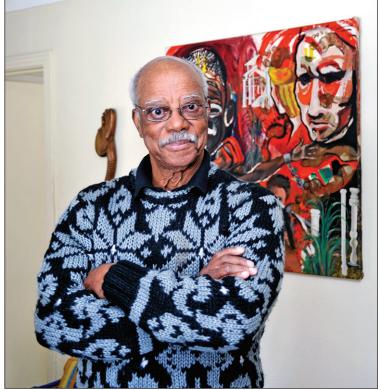


Photo by Jack Meade

chemistry from Wayne State University in 1956.

In 2014, the Dr. Lancelot C.A. Thompson Meeting Room was dedicated in his honor in the Student Union.

Thompson's passion was helping students. In 2014, he said, "If anything is said about me, just let it be that I cared about people, especially students, so they had all the help available to them."

Trustees

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team when the fiscal year 2017 budget was adopted in June. The trustees also approved a performance incentive of 20 percent of her salary.

Speyer said that selecting the president and evaluating that leadership are among the most important roles for the trustees, and they take the responsibility seriously. "On behalf of all of us, I want to thank you. This is very well-deserved," Speyer told the president.

Trustees echoed those comments with "ditto," and Board Vice Chair Steven Cavanaugh said, "Great first year."

In memoriam

David R. Dierks, Toledo, a pharmacist at UT Medical Center, died Sept. 10 at age 65. He joined the MCO staff in 2004 and was a UT alumnus, receiving a bachelor of science degree in pharmacy in 1979.

Therese M. Floro, Toledo, a former MCO employee, died Sept. 6 at age 82.

HEALTH

Physician recommends specialized care for senior citizens

By Rebecca Schwan

A ging is inevitable, and health issues can start to arise as our bodies get older. While some aches, pains and forgetfulness are a normal part of this process, other symptoms can signal a more serious problem.

September is Healthy Aging Month, and UT Health physicians want to remind caregivers that now is a great time to take a closer look at the health of the senior citizens in their lives.



"When most people think of health-care concerns as we age, they most commonly think about memory loss and dementia. It is a major concern because it

limits the

Garg

physical, mental and financial independence

of the elderly," said Dr. Anu Garg, program director of the Geriatric Medicine Fellowship. "It's important that seniors and their families seek out care early. We can help to maintain their quality of life longer."

Darletta Snyder said she sought out a geriatrician when she felt her husband's needs were no longer a good fit for their family practice physician. "Sam had some concerns about his memory, and I thought it would be best if we found a doctor that was specially trained in caring for us," she said. "Dr. Garg listened to our concerns and felt it would be a good idea to have a more detailed evaluation done. Everything came out fine for Sam, but she has continued to care for us and does a great job in seeing we stay healthy."

Garg said warning signs of dementia can include repeating questions, forgetting to pay bills or take medications, and leaving the stove or oven on.

"As we age, we do become more forgetful, but this forgetfulness should be seen as a warning sign and the patient should be evaluated," she said. "We use the St. Louis University Mental Status evaluation to determine if there are signs of early dementia and can start medications that can slow its progression, if necessary."

Garg said there isn't a cure for dementia or Alzheimer's disease at this time, but she has begun collaborating with a UT assistant professor of neuroscience to explore new medications for treatment.

Dr. Joshua Park received two grants this year to assist in funding his research into how a common food additive could reverse brain cell damage caused by the disease. Midi-GAGR, a byproduct of low acyl gellan gum, already has shown promise in lab testing to reverse the effects of Alzheimer's disease in mice. "There is still much more testing to do before we will be approved for human trials, but it should move fairly quickly as low acyl gellan gum is used as a thickening agent in foods like pudding and has already been approved for human consumption by the FDA," he said.

Until a cure is found, patients and their caregivers need to know there are support systems available for individuals who are experiencing memory loss and early symptoms of dementia.

"This is a progressive disease and it can become very difficult for caregivers to support their loved one as they become less independent," Garg said. "We work with social workers to reach out to organizations and programs and connect them to families as they travel this path."

Social workers connect patients with community resources such as the Alzheimer's Association, Area Office on Aging and Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek, which provide geriatric wellness and caregiver support programming.

UT's Center for Successful Aging is another resource for education and finding resources within the community.

"Our focus is on education, research and service," said Victoria Steiner, assistant director of the center. "We offer a graduate certificate in gerontology to support those who wish to work with seniors, participate in local research to determine our community's needs, and work closely with area support organizations to provide educational outreach programs and to connect individuals with the support they need to age well."

Garg created a support fund for the center to continue to promote geriatric medicine education for students, residents and fellows; enhance research and education activities; and promote team building and support excercises for those who provide senior care.

"It is important that all caregivers, including medical team members, take time to get the support they need when caring for elderly patients," she said. "It can be very taxing as patients can progressively lose their independence and it's easy to get burnt out."

While caring for aging patients can be challenging at times, Garg said she is confident she is making a difference for older adults and their families.

Snyder said switching to a geriatric specialist was the right decision for her and her husband.

"Going to see Dr. Garg is enjoyable," Snyder said. "She is very knowledgeable and listens to us and has a great sense of humor. It's comforting to know we are with someone who cares and stays on top of our health."

UT cancer survivor forms team for Komen Race for the Cure

By Rebecca Schwan

Until she was diagnosed with breast cancer in spring 2015, it was the kind of thing that happened to someone else.

Now Wendy Howe, The University of Toledo's assistant director of recruitment events, knows the importance of a team when it comes to fighting cancer.

On Sunday, Sept. 25, Howe and her team will join thousands of other walkers and runners at the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in celebration of her own victory over cancer and in support of all of those who have battled breast cancer.

"My diagnosis meant I had to rely on others to take care of me. Co-workers and friends organized meals, the school principal helped with my kids, my family helped with chores, and my husband researched the best doctors," she said. "We assembled a team to take on cancer together."

Howe credits her team at UT's Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center with providing top-quality care during her treatment. She said the physicians and nurses fought for her, cared for her, and encouraged her as she went through surgery, chemotherapy and radiation.

A little more than a year later, Howe is living cancer-free.

"Thanks to my team, I'm in a great place right now," Howe said.

"I'm in a place where I can give back."

Howe is inviting members of the UT community to join her at northwest Ohio's Race for the Cure. Faculty, physicians, staff and students are welcome to join Howe by registering to join her team UT Survivors online at http://komennwohio.org/.

"If there's anything I've learned in going through this, it is that people are awesome," Howe said. "I feel like I have a whole new network of people who have been down this road and have been touched by cancer. It's a special bond."



INSPIRING SUPPORT SYSTEM: UT employee and cancer survivor Wendy Howe snuggles with the youngest members of her care team, her children, Abby, Ben, center, and Caleb.

NEWS

Keeping the faith: Senior lecturer explores immortality in new book

By Vicki L. Kroll

The greatest mysteries of all time: death, the afterlife, and the essence of the human soul. "I am terrified of dying, and I think most people are," Dr. Deborah M. Coulter-Harris said. "As humans grow older, they become increasingly aware of their mortality, and I am part of this group."

The senior lecturer in the UT Department of English Language and Literature decided to delve deeper and examine the eternal enigmas.

"I have studied comparative religion for over 40 years and have always wanted to write a book that analyzed similarities rather than differences in varied faith systems," Coulter-Harris said. "I wanted to highlight connections and influences that ancient religions had on later faith systems."

Chasing Immortality in World Religions (McFarland & Co. Inc.) was published in August.

"Beginning with ancient Sumer and traversing ideas in ancient Egypt, Greece, India, and in the Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, I attempted to discover how earlier, regional, religious models influenced subsequent theories, and if this multitudinous array of thinking developed simply as a reaction to historical events or to an assimilation of cultural values," Coulter-Harris wrote in the book.

She discovered that man's belief in immortality and afterlife hasn't changed much in 6,000 years.

"After many years of studying these issues, I was not a bit surprised, as there has been a continuity of general ideas about immortality and the afterlife throughout human history," she said.

God, Anu, Ra, Zeus, Vishnu, Yahweh, Jesus, Allah — to believe or not to believe, that is the question.

"Whether one chooses to believe or not, the concept of immortality becomes a type of protector of human morality," Coulter-Harris said.

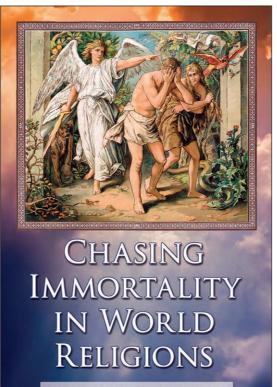
Perchance to presume that there is an afterlife, that the soul lives on, that resurrection is around the corner.

"Considering the vast number of texts throughout the millennia that support these possibilities, it would seem more logical to accept that not all of these minds can be in error," Coulter-Harris wrote in the book.

Yet doubters abound.

"As the human mind is finite, full understanding of such mysteries is impossible, unless it can be concluded that belief in immortality is simply a delusion created to bring order, control and optimism to human lives, and, without such a fantasy, life would be a nihilistic misadventure, an existence that would have meaning only in the material," she wrote in the book.

While growing up, the author attended Roman Catholic schools for 12 years.



Deborah M. Coulter-Harris

"I treasure the fact that I had such a sound and stable cultural background," she said. "As a professionally trained analyst, I consciously try to avoid biases toward other religious systems, and, in this book, I make no value judgments or moral assessments of any of the religions."

She has faith: "I know I fall short of moral perfection, but I do try to be kind and generous in my dealings with others. I hope I am found worthy of assuming my immortal body on Resurrection Day, as promised in scriptures. I believe there is some type of afterlife, but the form and essence that the afterlife will take is unknown to me as a concrete concept — the same with the soul."

Coulter-Harris will read from and discuss Chasing Immortality in World Religions Thursday, Sept. 22, at 3:30 p.m. in the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections in Carlson Library.

"I want readers to recognize that human beings are more than just an enlivened lump of clay, more than a miraculous and complex combination of minerals, proteins and atoms, that we are vessels of some greater love, intelligence, energy and spirit," she said. "Our religions are more connected than disconnected."

Chasing Immortality in World Religions is \$35 and available at the Barnes & Noble University Bookstore, Barnes & Noble online, Amazon, and hundreds of online booksellers worldwide.

Photography artist explores relationships in exhibition

By Angela Riddel

"Future Research (revisited)" by Chris Cox is on display through Friday, Oct. 14, in the Center for the Visual Arts Clement Gallery on the University's Toledo Museum of Art Campus.

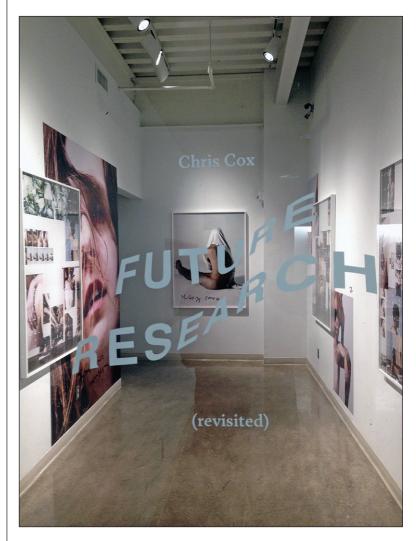
His latest is an organically created body of work involving male subjects shot in a stark white studio. And that's where the simplest explanation ends.

A quote from artist Kara Gut, who helped write some of the text when the images were collected into book form, suggests that any explanation invariably raises more questions (and insights) than answers.

"A common question posed by our mentor and fearless leader, Liz Cohen [artist-in-residence at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.], in her attempt to understand the dynamics of this group of models, 'Are they friends?' 'Are they lovers?' 'What is the matter of each relationship?' She sought definition in order to generate meaning from content," Gut wrote. "However, I counter her argument. Allowing actions, sexual or otherwise, to creep into abstraction, sans meaning, has generated enough content to satisfy my wildest dreams."

Cox and Gut received master of fine art degrees from the Cranbrook Academy of Art this year.

The free, public exhibition can be seen daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, contact Brian Carpenter, UT gallery director and lecturer in the Art Department, at brian.carpenter@utoledo.edu.



NEWS

Ryan White Program plans inaugural fundraiser event

By Rebecca Schwan

Plans are underway for an evening of dining and dancing to support local HIV and AIDS patients.

"Re-tie the Red Ribbon" will be presented by The University of Toledo Medical Center's Ryan White Program. The event will be held Saturday, Oct. 1, from 6 to 10 p.m. at Hensville in downtown Toledo.

"We are excited for the opportunity to host the event in this great new venue," said Richard Meeker, manager of fundraising and special projects. "There will be a variety of food stations from fajitas to pasta and a cash bar. Live entertainment will be provided by Fu5ion. It's going to be a lot of fun for a good cause."

Funds raised at the event will support the Ann Wayson Locher Memorial Fund for HIV Care, which supports HIV care for adults and children in the Toledo area.

Ann Wayson Locher opened the first grant-funded free and anonymous HIV testing site in northwest Ohio in 1985 and was one of the key organizers for The University of Toledo's Ryan White Program. The memorial fund was developed in her honor upon her death in 2010. "The memorial fund provides services for HIV and AIDS patients who have needs that cannot be covered by other agencies or programs in our community," Meeker said. "Many individuals are living on a fixed income and need a little help when emergencies arise. That's where we come in."

Meeker said the organization has seen an increase in the number of clients seeking assistance.

"We are grateful for the committed support of Ann's friends and family and others who regularly donate to the memorial fund," he said.

"Unfortunately, our community's need has outpaced what we are able to provide at this time, particularly in the area of housing, and we need to work harder to assist those who need our help the most."



Tickets for the "Re-tie the Red Ribbon" fundraiser are \$50 each.

The Ryan White Program also is seeking sponsorships with opportunities that

range from \$500 to \$5,000 and include VIP tickets and recognition at the event. For more information, call 419.383.4072 or email richard.meeker@ utoledo.edu.

Over the river



President Sharon L. Gaber cut the ribbon at a dedication ceremony Thursday for the new David Leigh Root Bridge on Stadium Drive. Holding the ribbon were David Leigh Root, local businessman and namesake of the bridge, left, and Dr. Patrick Lawrence, chair of the UT President's Commission on the River and associate dean of social and behavioral sciences in the College of Arts and Letters. The span features UT's signature lannon stone as well as six-foot-wide sidewalks on both sides of the road.The event was part of UT's Celebrate Our River Week.

Outpouring of emotion



Photo by Daniel Miller

Freshman Madalynn Jarzeboski looked at the Clothesline Project and umbrellas that were on Centennial Mall last week for Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) Day, which is held annually on campuses across the country to empower college students in educating their peers. At UT, students embellished umbrellas with messages against violence. The event also included a chance to talk with professionals from the University Counseling Center and visit the Clothesline Project, an initiative in which women affected by violence and their families and friends create shirts to be displayed as part of their healing process.

NEWS

Benefits fairs scheduled to help employees with open enrollment

th open enrollment for 2017 health benefits just around the corner, Human Resources and Talent Development will hold the 2016 Employee Benefits Fair.

The 2016 Employee Benefits Fair will take place Thursday, Sept. 22, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Student Recreation Center on Main Campus, and the Health Science Campus Benefits Fair will be held Tuesday, Sept. 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Morse Center.

Representatives from insurance carriers, retirement representatives, and Healthy U and other health-care professionals will be available to answer any questions.

Stop by to learn about benefits and complete a passport for a chance to win prizes.

The University of Toledo will offer open enrollment for 2017 health benefits during the month of October, and new benefits elections will be effective Jan. 1.

Similar to last year, open enrollment will be conducted online through the myUT portal.

What is different from last year: Employees will not need to complete the online open enrollment process if they are not planning to make any changes and do not have a medical spending account, dependent care account or health savings account.

Human Resources is available to partner with employees by providing the information and assistance needed to select the most appropriate benefits plan during open enrollment. "The most important advice we can provide to an employee is to be an active participant in the open enrollment process," Jovita Thomas-Williams, vice president and chief human resources officer, said. "Healthcare needs can vary from year to year, and when you combine that with the changing health-care landscape, it's critical for employees to educate themselves on their available coverage options and re-evaluate their choices."

Employees can access the open enrollment link on the myUT portal located on the University's internal website, myut.utoledo.edu. From there, they may access the employee tab and click the open enrollment link under the benefits section. A series of prompts will lead them through the process. Employees will need their user name and password to enter the portal.

"The myUT online enrollment portal is easy and convenient, takes just a few minutes, and can be done anywhere with access to computers, laptops, tablets or smart devices," Thomas-Williams said. Details regarding each health-care plan will be on the benefits website beginning Friday, Sept. 30. The open enrollment portal will be available starting Saturday, Oct. 1, through Monday, Oct. 31.

During the month of October, computers will be available for employee access Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Human Resources and Talent Development Office in Academic Services Center Room 1000 on Scott Park Campus.

Employees with questions about the online enrollment are advised to email benefits@utoledo.edu. Individuals with more complex questions or who desire one-on-one assistance to enroll can schedule time to meet with a benefit representative for assistance through that email address.

If you are having technical issues with the myUT portal, contact the IT Help Desk at 419.530.2400 on Main Campus or 419.383.2400 on Health Science Campus.

Open enrollment ends at 11:59 p.m. Monday, Oct. 31, but employees are encouraged not to wait until the last minute.





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NEWS

UT, ProMedica promote Academic Affiliation through new ad campaign

By Jen Sorgenfrei

The University of Toledo and ProMedica have launched a new marketing campaign to promote the Academic Affiliation between the College of Medicine and Life Sciences and the health system.

Television, print and digital ads have begun to appear around the Toledo region promoting the benefits of the affiliation to the community and to students, residents and fellows in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences. The advertisements feature local thought leaders representing a cross section of the community and praising the benefits of the unique educational relationship.

The Academic Affiliation will provide long-term benefits for the University and the community throughout the course of the 50-year agreement. The anticipated impacts of the agreement include attracting and retaining top talent among learners, faculty and physicians; additional funding to support biomedical research; economic development in the community; expanded clinical learning opportunities for students, residents and fellows; and increased access to specialty care in the Toledo community.

In July, the first class of College of Medicine and Life Sciences students and residents began training under the Academic Affiliation, utilizing new learning space, and filling clinical learning opportunities at ProMedica Toledo Hospital. University learners in pediatrics, surgery, internal medicine sub-specialties and emergency medicine are on-site at ProMedica Toledo Hospital for clerkships and residencies.

More information about the Academic Affiliation and the new television commercial are available at TheNextGenerationOfMedicine.com.



"I don't think most people fully appreciate how transformational the Academic Affiliation will be for the entire region. We're attracting high-quality doctors and innovative researchers. We can retain medical students and keep them here in the community. It's going to make this a better place for future generations."

Kent E. Bishop, MD Obstetrics & Gynecology, ProMedica Physicians

