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APRIL 2, 2012 VOLUME 12, ISSUE 30

Professor emeritus contributes to exhibit at Versailles

By Vicki L. Kroll

all it the French connection. Dr. Marc Gerstein received a request last fall to help behind the scenes with a dramatic thriller: an exhibition at the Château de Versailles.

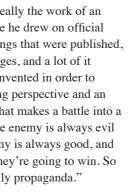
The professor emeritus of art history wrote two essays included in the catalog for "Napoleon's Wars: Louis François Lejeune, General and Painter," which is on display at the royal palace through May 13.

"It was quite an honor to be contacted by the curator of Versailles, who asked for help writing the exhibition catalog," Gerstein said. "I was the only American working with French scholars on the project."

The exhibit focuses on Lejeune, who in addition to fighting in military campaigns chronicled them on canvas during the Napoleonic era. He championed the selfproclaimed emperor and the glory of the First Empire.

"His paintings were extremely popular when they were shown at the various Salon exhibitions beginning around 1800; the public really found them quite fascinating," Gerstein said. "And what he was given credit for was being an eyewitness; what he painted must have been accurate, people thought, because he was there as a witness

"But it's not really the work of an eyewitness because he drew on official accounts, other things that were published, other people's images, and a lot of it is elaborated and invented in order to create an interesting perspective and an exciting painting that makes a battle into a spectacle where the enemy is always evil and the French army is always good, and it's obvious why they're going to win. So ultimately, it's really propaganda."





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FRAMEWORK: Dr. Marc Gerstein posed for a photo in front of Louis François Lejeune's painting, "The Battle of Somo Sierra," at the opening of the "Napoleon's Wars" exhibition at the Château de Versailles.

Visual Communication course held in Second Life virtual world

By Paul Webb

or the first time, The University of Toledo is offering a class taught on the beach. Only this isn't your traditional beach. This one is located on Cheshire Island, where students can fly or even teleport to it.

Obviously this beach is not in Toledo or Ohio. It is located in Second Life, an online virtual world developed by Linden Lab, where users create online avatars they use to explore the world, meet other residents, socialize, participate in individual and group activities, and create and trade virtual property and services with one another.

UT's campus on Second Life is located on the educational Cheshire Island, which is also used by Cheyney University of Pennsylvania and Aurora University in Illinois. UT students have the opportunity to interact through voice chat, group chat and instant messaging with students from these universities and other users of Second Life.

All of the participating institutions are part of the "Teach From the Beach" experiment.

"Teach From the Beach allows students to loosen their tongues. They ask more questions and make more comments.



VIRTUALLY YOURS: Dr. Sumitra Srinivasan, assistant professor of communication. has her own avatar in the Second Life Visual Communication class

Rocket Hall parking improvements to begin next month

By Kim Goodin

oug Collins remembers when a local grocery store occupied the piece of campus where Rocket Hall now stands.

"Back then, it was a simple rectangular lot where there wasn't a whole lot of heavy traffic," said the director of facilities and grounds services.

This spring, the corner of Main Campus near Secor Road and Dorr Street again will see transformation as lot 25, the major parking area for Rocket Hall and the Gateway Project, undergoes numerous improvements.

The lot will be closed from May 7 through early August to complete the

- Lot 25 parking area restructuring/
- Pedestrian walkway from Gateway businesses to residence halls on West Rocket Drive (Ottawa House and the Crossings);

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APRIL 2, 2012 **NEWS**

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. honors pharmacy dean

By Nicolette Jett

Dr. Johnnie Early II, dean of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been recognized for his contributions to the Toledo community.

He received the Drum Major Award from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. for his continuing efforts in retention and quality of student education.

"I do not go out and seek awards for the work with students, faculty and staff at UT," Early said. "It is a privilege and an honor to receive the recognition for all of my work."

The Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha selected Early, who is not a member of the fraternity, because of his community service. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. was founded in 1906, and the Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter in Toledo was founded in 1928.

The award was presented at the fraternity's 20th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Breakfast, which raises funds for scholarship and education

programs. More than 100 people, including the dean's son, Johnnie Early III, attended the 2012 event, where everyone learned a little bit more about the College of Pharmacy and UT in general.

"The award is very touching due to the fact I was able to invite students, faculty and other staff with the college. A large group of wonderful people were able to experience this prestigious moment with me," Early said.

He is a registered pharmacist who has led the College of Pharmacy since 2000 and has nearly 25 years experience as dean, previously serving at the helm of the pharmacy colleges at Florida A&M University and the Medical University of South Carolina.

"I am honored and humbled to receive an award named after one of the great men to lead by example, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," Early said. "The fundraiser was such a memorable experience."



HONORED: Dr. Johnnie Early showed off the Drum Major Award he received from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. with the Rev. John Jones, chair of the MLK Scholarship Breakfast, left, and Dr. Michael Stubblefield, president of the Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

Second Life

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Classes are limited to 20 students so saying something dumb is a lot easier than saying it in a real classroom in front of 80 people," said Tom Layton, owner of Cheshire Island and creator of the Teach From the Beach concept. "Blackboard and webinars can make students feel isolated and not connected. After a webinar, you can't go to the beach to continue the discussion. In Second Life, you get much more interaction and, on top of that, you can go to class in your bathrobe."

UT's Second Life class is Visual Communication taught by Dr. Sumitra Srinivasan, assistant professor in the Department of Communication. It is an eight-week class that began March 12.

"I've been informally testing the waters with Second Life for about two years now. After some initial trepidation, I think that students and I are now ready to use this technology," Sriniyasan said.

She said students in Second Life have access to a variety of educational material, including e-books, class lectures, artwork, workshops and presentations.

"This particular course deals with the use of design software and the creation of diverse multimedia artifacts such as photo albums, posters and websites," Srinivasan said. "Second Life provides an apt environment for such a class and opportunities for experiential learning as well. Students can now teleport to a digital

media exhibition in Australia and interact with designers and experts there. They can go to the Louvre or Sistine Chapel, which are available as meticulous 3D reproductions in Second Life, to appreciate the digital displays there and come back inspired to unleash their creativity."

Srinivasan's Visual Communication class is scheduled to meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but she plans to have students sometimes meet in Second Life without coming to the classroom

"I feel brave enough to experiment with Second Life for this class, as it primarily meets face to face so students will have the comfort of a familiar classroom setup while we all learn to leverage this new virtual world experience toward achieving course goals," Srinivasan said. "While I am cautious not to let the hype of technology overpower me, I also believe in its immense potential for higher education. Incorporating technology in a seamless and relevant fashion is key to its effectiveness."

Srinivasan said the current college student population, known as Generation Y and the Millennial Generation, thrives in using technology in a variety of environments, and she is excited to see how this experiment shapes up.

At the end of the semester, the students will host an exhibition of their class projects on Second Life.

Rocket Hall parking

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- Numerous landscaped, curbed islands:
- Raised concrete crosswalk and drop-off entrance to Rocket Hall;
- LED parking lights; and
- UT transit stop at the Gateway Project.

Although the lot directly in front of Rocket Hall will not reopen until early August, Collins said a section close to the Gateway Project will be completed by July 9, in conjunction with the estimated openings of several businesses, including Barnes & Noble Bookstore and Gradkowski's Sports Grille.

A special, right-turn only entrance from Secor Road into the Gateway area will be constructed as well, although most will continue to enter the Rocket Hall area using the existing entrance marked with a traffic signal off Secor Road.

"We're taking this area from its original, 1950s shopping center format and transforming it into a more flexible, interactive area for the UT community," Collins said, noting that the Secor Road entrance into Rocket Hall also will be reconfigured for greater driver and pedestrian safety. "I understand it'll be a hardship for some who will have to park

further from their buildings. But once the new area is completed, it'll be a better environment for drivers, pedestrians and visitors"

The goal, he added, is to finish all enhancements before students return in mid-August.

Alternate parking for those who normally use lot 25 has been established in the following areas:

- Visitors to Rocket Hall and handicapped parking — lot 27A near Ottawa House; and
- Staff and students lot 26 near the Student Medical Center.

Along with aesthetic improvements, Collins said the \$1.9 million project will add 178 parking spaces near University Parks Trail and the area south of Rocket

Handicapped parking and crosswalks also will be compliant with Americans With Disabilities Act standards.

"By mid-August, we'll accomplish a few important goals with this project," Collins said. "The safety of pedestrians and drivers will be enhanced, and the Rocket Hall area will be more attractive and accessible to everyone in the UT and greater Toledo communities." NEWS APRIL 2, 2012

Versailles

continued from p. I

For the exhibition catalog, the specialist on 19th century French art wrote about a painting and a drawing by Lejeune.

"Lejeune fought in the battle of Somo Sierra in late 1808 and did the painting in 1810," he said. "It was a battle important for military reasons because it opened the way for Napoleon to take Madrid. It probably was the only battle that Napoleon himself was involved in during the Spanish invasion."

Gerstein has been researching French representations of the war in Spain that took place from 1808 to 1813.

"Many people know the Spanish version of the war. Francisco Goya's images are often seen in art history classes, for instance, 'The Executions of the Third of May 1808.' And Goya also did a well-known series of etchings that was titled 'The Disasters of War,'" he said.

Napoleon, a master of controlling public opinion, used artwork as one way to give public prominence to his version of the war while leading military maneuvers to expand his empire into Western and Central Europe.

"Propaganda isn't used to report on what's done; it's used to make exciting

paintings but also to serve a purpose," Gerstein explained. "I see Lejeune's paintings not so much as the truthful eyewitness account, but as something fabricated to put over a series of points, a series of ideas about what the French were doing and why."

He also penned an essay on Lejeune's drawing of the Battle of Eylau. More than a decade ago, Gerstein studied a competition Napoleon held to see which painter would win the honor of immortalizing that victory on canvas. That research led to him working on an exhibition at the Musée du Louvre in Paris in 1999.

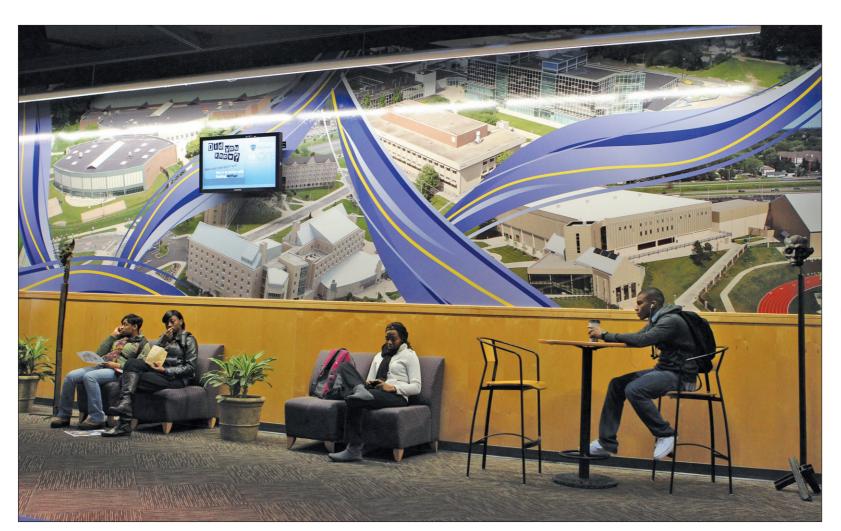
Gerstein, who retired in December after teaching art to UT students since 1980, attended the opening of "Napoleon's Wars" at the Château de Versailles in February.

"The exhibition is really quite grand in these enormous, tall spaces, with incredibly long hallways very lavishly decorated," he said. "It's actually in several rooms that are often closed, where they put up temporary walls and paneling for the exhibition."

Back in the States, Gerstein is continuing his research on the French representation of the war in Spain by focusing on other artists.



PAINTING HISTORY: Louis François Lejeune's painting, "The Battle of Somo Sierra," is part of the exhibition, "Napoleon's Wars," at the Château de Versailles. Dr. Marc Gerstein wrote an essay on the work for the exhibit's catalog.



HANGING AROUND:

University Photographer Daniel Miller took this shot of students hanging out in Rocket Hall earlier this semester.

Photo by Daniel Miller

APRIL 2, 2012 **NEWS**

UT Center for Materials and Sensor Characterization works with BioOhio to advance research, innovation

The Center for Materials and Sensor Characterization provides expert analysis and assistance for companies in the fields of materials, biology and environmental sciences.

The three-year-old center helps startups and established companies test protocols when initiating new products or services, as well as provides ongoing or short-term services.

"Our main objective is to serve UT researchers and Ohiobased companies by helping them troubleshoot their problems and provide solutions," said Dr. Joseph Lawrence, director of the center. "Our lab is a core facility with state-of-the-art equipment and advanced analysis capabilities. We strive to provide the highest quality service and attention to customer needs."

For the past five years, UT has been an active member of BioOhio, a nonprofit bioscience membership and development organization committed to connecting demand for biological products and services with Ohio entities that can fill those needs.

The UT Technology Transfer Office, BioOhio and other organizations play a critical role in connecting the University's research initiatives to companies with the knowledge, experience and financial stability to bring the fruits of that research to the marketplace.

A Lab-to-Launch initiative has been developed at the University that partners UT's technology transfer team with Rocket Ventures and UT Innovation Enterprises to accelerate the transfer of research to the market. The technology transfer team works closely with research faculty to identify and promote high-potential platform technologies and expedite the transfer innovations derived from University research into commercial products and services, with particular emphasis on regional economic development.

As a one-stop center for technology commercialization, Lab-to-Launch provides a clear pathway from laboratory innovation to the commercial market, Lawrence said.

The benefits of UT's membership in BioOhio and collaborative efforts recently were highlighted when Columbus-based IR Diagnostyx (IRDx) needed to identify a laboratory with expertise in infrared microspectroscopic analysis.

IRDx utilized its membership in BioOhio to locate an Ohio laboratory with the needed expertise and ultimately chose UT's Center for Materials and Sensor Characterization for its responsiveness, expertise, and simple and expedient commercial contracting process.

"The initial analysis was so successful that the plan is to continue to provide services to IRDx on a long-term contractual basis." Lawrence said.

UT faculty, staff and students are encouraged to take advantage of the benefits of the Lab-to-Launch program and membership in BioOhio. Advantages include the ability to post contact information on the BioOhio "supplier" website to encourage commercial and sponsored academic research collaborations with other members; the chance to engage in BioOhio programs and/or networking opportunities; utilization of BioOhio as a technical resource for connecting companies with UT; and access to tap BioOhio's marketing expertise to help spread the word about the services and capabilities UT labs and researchers offer.

For more information about the UT Center for Materials and Sensor Characterization, visit eng.utoledo.edu/cmsc. To take advantage of membership benefits of BioOhio, visit bioohio.com/membership/Benefits.aspx.

For assistance with your discovery or invention, contact the UT Technology Transfer Office at utoledo.edu/research/TechTransfer.



Photo by Daniel Mill

IN SESSION: The Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in the Law Center Auditorium last month. Presiding over the session were, from left, Judges Peter M. Handwork, Arlene Singer and Stephen A. Yarbrough. The auditorium was transformed into a courtroom for the day, and UT law students had the chance to hear arguments in two criminal cases and on a contract dispute.



IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL: UT President Lloyd Jacobs met with Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur last week while in Washington, D.C. Jacobs also met with Congressman Bob Latta and attended Sen. Sherrod Brown's annual meeting for Ohio college and university presidents.

High school students to participate in Media Day April 17

By Paul Webb

undreds of high school students have been invited to campus for the 44th annual Media Day, which will be hosted by the Department of Communication.

The event gives high school students the opportunity to network with each other, mingle with professors and professionals, participate in writing contests, and learn from informational workshops.

Media Day is scheduled to start at 9 a.m. Tuesday, April 17, in the Student Union Auditorium. Topics to be covered will include microjournalism, photography, social networking as a media tool, public relations, news writing, and broadcast and television production.

"We really get the cream of the crop of high school students who are great writers already. We are really happy to have them," said Dr. Paul Many, professor of communication and chair of Media Day. "This day is a great way for young students to start building their portfolios."

The Outstanding Communication Alum of the Year Award will be conferred at the event. The 2012 recipient will be Lynnette Werning, founder of Blue Water Communications in Perrysburg, who will be the keynote speaker.

"One of the best aspects of this event is its cooperative nature. All the schools that attend bring a display and can talk to each other about issues they have faced over the year," Many said. "This is a great way for different schools to learn from each other."

The event costs \$8 per student and includes lunch. Students may still register for workshops and the luncheon.

For more information, contact the UT Department of Communication at 419.530.2005.

NEWS APRIL 2, 2012

Students to hold forum to enhance relations between area youth, police

By Roxanne Ring

ver the past few years, several discussions with youth from Toledo's urban areas have yielded valuable insights and strategies for building stronger, safer neighborhoods.

Among these, enhancing relations between law enforcement officers and youth has emerged as a priority.

As part of their Understanding Racism course, criminal justice students from The University of Toledo are using part of their class time to help urban youth realize one of their visions.

In a move to address the concerns and fears of these youth, students will facilitate a forum to devise strategies for the distribution of informational cards that inform youth about what to do when stopped by the police.

The event will take place Tuesday, April 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Health and Human Services Room 1711.

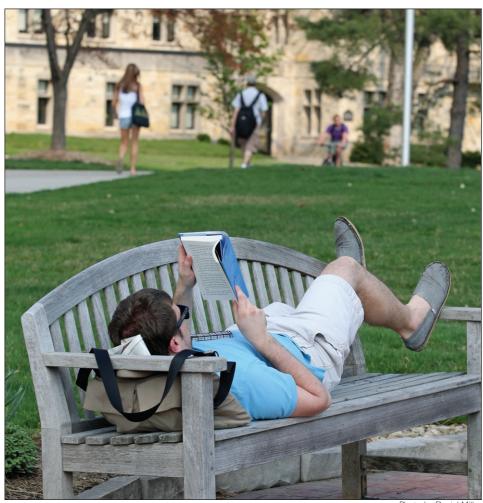
Shakyra Diaz, policy director from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Ohio, will speak about the cards, which are published by ACLU, and will make them available to Toledo communities.

Police Chiefs Derrick Diggs and Jeff Newton, former Chief Michael Navarre and Dr. Romulus Durant, assistant superintendent of Toledo Public Schools, also will attend the free, public forum.

Suggestions and strategies generated during the event will be compiled and forwarded to the chiefs of police, the superintendents of schools, the ACLU, and other participants expressing an interest.



HELPFUL ADVICE: Dr. Barbara Kopp Miller, administrative director of the Center for Successful Aging and professor and associate dean for research and quality in the Judith Herb College of Education, Health Science and Human Service, gave a talk on "Taking Care of Yourself While Taking Care of Your Aging Parents" at the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women. "It's important to take care of yourself because if you are not able to take care of your loved one, who will?" she said. "Sadly, 50 percent of caregivers die before the person they are caring for does. We are trying to lower that statistic."



SPRING READ: A student relaxed on a bench on Centennial Mall and read during one of the warm days last week.

UTMC biomedical engineers create recognition program for hospital employees

By Nicolette Jett

t started with Joe Munier in the Biomedical Engineering Department at UT Medical Center giving out candy to those who made the extra effort to alert the office when medical devices were in need of inspection or repair.

Now that gesture has grown to an official recognition program called Helping Us to Give Great Service, or HUGGS.

"Anyone who goes out of their way to help us can be recognized for putting in the extra effort," said Steve Hanenkrath, director of the Biomedical Engineering Work Center. "By helping our department, medical equipment can be processed quicker, therefore creating a better patient environment and also helping the staff; it's a win-win for everyone."

The HUGGS program, named in part for the Hershey Hugs that were given out in thanks, is a fun way to acknowledge those who go out of their way to locate backlogged devices, remove equipment from service when it is due for inspection,

and fill out service tags appropriately, Hanenkrath said.

When staff assists by bringing this information to the attention of the Biomedical Engineering Department, the team can turn equipment around more quickly and provide the most efficient devices for patients.

As the award continues to develop, the department plans to give certificates and extra large Hershey Hugs and Kisses candy to those who have been recognized.

"HUGGS is a lighthearted way to create a positive atmosphere around UTMC and help our department," Hanenkrath said. "By inspecting and replacing devices and equipment around the hospital, we can provide a higher degree of service and higher degree of patient care."

The department is excited for the development of the award and anxious to recognize those around UTMC for all the hard work they put forth every day to serve patients better, Hanenkrath said.

APRIL 2, 2012

2011 Jefferson Award honoree gives time, smiles

By Nicolette Jett

Shannon Longenecker has had a passion for volunteerism since an early age.

She recalls local service opportunities at the Cherry Street Mission with her father and other service trips with her church.

In eighth grade, Longenecker and 15 other junior high students from a Christian mission group traveled for a month and a half to Honduras, where they planted banana trees and interacted with local children.

The UT senior majoring in biology continues that passion for service, having taken part in three service missions to Haiti while at the University.

"I have learned through all of the mission trips I have taken that a smile is universal," Longenecker said. "Giving time to locals and their families is a powerful thing."

The 22-year-old Toledoan was recognized for her dedication to volunteerism as the University's fourth annual Jefferson Award for Public Service "Champion" Winner for 2011. The announcement came as a surprise to Longenecker during a congratulatory luncheon in February in Libbey Hall for all the monthly Jefferson Award winners.

"Every honoree for 2011 inspires me to continue my volunteer efforts on and off campus," she said. "The Jefferson Awards is a great organization, and I am honored to be recognized for volunteer efforts."

While attending UT, Longenecker has participated in International Justice Mission, which is a human rights agency that works to raise awareness and justice for victims of sexual exploitation, slavery and other violent oppression. The UT chapter began two years ago, and Longenecker serves as vice president.

Last semester, Longenecker and other organization members gave a presentation called "Sex Trafficking Revealed" in UT residence halls to inform students of the startling statistics about sex trafficking in the Toledo area and around the world.

"Students were interested to help and wanted to learn more about International Justice Mission and our mission as a UT chapter," she said. "Everyone is welcome to join our organization, and we encourage students of all religions, races and backgrounds."

Along with the Perceptual Motor Development Program and her University commitments, Longenecker finds time to volunteer around the Toledo community as a junior high basketball coach, and she provides assistance to Nature's Nursery and the Cherry Street Mission.

Longenecker, who will graduate in May, plans to attend Ohio State University in the fall for veterinary

If you know of an unsung hero who dedicates his or her time to volunteering and community service, be sure to submit a nomination for the Jefferson Awards. Go to utoledo.edu/Jeffersonaward or facebook.com/ utjeffersonawards.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE: UT senior Shannon Longenecker visited with a child during a mission trip to Haiti last summer.



SHARING HER STORY: Dr. Amira Gohara, dean emerita and professor of pathology, gave a talk titled "Women in Medicine: Personal Experiences, 1972 to Present'' at a Satellites Auxiliary's luncheon last week

In memoriam

Dr. Edward L. Doermann, Toledo, died March 21 at age 92. The local surgeon held a voluntary faculty appointment in MCO's Department of Surgery from 1969 to 2003. He received a bachelor of science degree from UT in 1940. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dr. Edward L. Doermann and Norma R. Doermann Scholarship Fund, which was established at the UT Foundation in 2000 to help pre-med and nursing students. NEWS APRIL 2, 2012

New UTMC pharmacy offers private, individualized care for infectious disease patients

By Feliza Casano

new clinical pharmacy at The University of Toledo Medical Center helps provide private, individualized care to patients of the Infectious Disease Clinic.

The UT CARE Pharmacy, which is affiliated with the Ryan White Clinic at UTMC, is located in the Ruppert Health Center and offers a team of professionals to provide personal health-care services in a private location with flexible hours.

"We need to be here in order to give back to the community," said Tiffany Morgillo-Zunk, a certified pharmacy technician at the UT CARE Pharmacy. "We want to expand what UT does for the community by taking the education students receive and put it back into the University and Toledo community."

The UT CARE Pharmacy offers affordable prescriptions for those with or without insurance benefits and is the only 340B pharmacy at UT Medical Center.

The federal 340B pharmacy program offers assistance to eligible clinics, including the Ryan White Clinic, such as prescription medications at a reduced rate for patients who do not have insurance

coverage. The program aids clinics and pharmacies in reaching more patients and extending health-care benefits in the community.

The pharmacy also has hired clinical pharmacist Lindsey Taylor to oversee the program geared specifically for HIV patients visiting the Infectious Disease Clinic. The partnership that has been developed between the UTMC pharmacy and the Infectious Disease Clinic staff is a model that will provide opportunities for better adherence to medication therapy and healthier outcomes for patients.

"We're helping people who don't always feel they have a place to go," Morgillo-Zunk said. "We are here to care for them and help them with whatever we can. Beyond just helping with prescriptions, we serve as confidants and answer questions for our patients when they don't know who to turn to."

The new UT CARE Pharmacy also has alternate pick-up locations on Main Campus and Health Science Campus.

To learn more about the UT CARE Pharmacy, call 419.383.3355.



Photo by Daniel Miller

NOW OPEN: The UT CARE Pharmacy is located in the Ruppert Health Center.

Program coordinator elected board member of National Science Teachers Association

association

is the largest

organization

to promoting

committed

excellence

in science

a focus on

examining

curriculums

and outcomes

teaching and

learning with

By David Gonzalez

anet Struble, a UT doctoral student and program coordinator, has been elected to a position in the National Science Teachers Association.



Struble

abic

to ensure student and teacher success.

Struble, who is the program coordinator for Leadership for Education Academy

for Leadership for Education Academy for Driving Economic Revitalization and Success and is pursuing her doctorate in curriculum and instruction in the Judith Herb College of Education, Health Science and Human Service, was named the District X council member after being recommended to the nominating committee and running in an election process.

Struble's three-year term will start June 1 when she will serve the district that includes Ohio, Michigan and Indiana.

"I am proud to represent The University of Toledo in the effort to make science education better for our youth," she said.

Struble's involvement in science education in Ohio has included serving as District I director, secretary and president for the Science Education Council of Ohio, which is the state chapter of the National Science Teachers Association, and presenter of the Ohio Science Content Standards to teachers.

She was a classroom teacher for 20 years before coming to UT.

Meet the Chef Day!

Friday, April 6, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Stop by the Four Seasons Bistro and meet Executive Chef Scott Sundermeyer, who will cook complimentary items just for you!

<u>UTNEWS</u>

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APRIL 2, 2012 **NEWS**

Planetarium shows to explore water, weather in solar system

Buckle up! Two Ritter Planetarium programs will take viewers on interplanetary journeys this month.

"Oasis in Space" will be shown Fridays through April 27 at 7:30 p.m.

This show looks at water and how it makes Earth special. Travel to the planets that orbit the sun to see if life is possible elsewhere in the universe.

"The Zula Patrol: Under the Weather" will be shown Saturdays through April 28 at 1 p.m.

This adventure begins on the bright orange planet of Zula. Ride along with the patrol and learn about the weather while battling the evil villain Dark Truder.

If weather permits, observing with Ritter's 1-meter telescope will follow the April 6 program; viewing at the Brooks Observatory will take place after the other Friday evening programs. Observing with a small solar telescope will follow the Saturday programs, weather permitting.

Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 4 through 12, seniors, and UT students and employees. Children 3 and younger are free.

For more information, call Ritter Planetarium at 419.530.2650 or its 24-hour information hotline at 419.530.4037, or go to utoledo.edu/nsm/rpbo/programs/public.html.

