

Tower Talk

Barbara Floyd, editor
Vicki Kroll, assistant editor
Cynthia Nowak, assistant editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is a great honor to begin my term as the president of The University of Toledo Retirees Association. Long ago, while still working at UToledo, I pledged myself to join UTRA when I retired and become active in the organization as I wanted to stay connected to the University I had come to love. And that decision

has paid many dividends. There is an old saying that you get out of something what you put into it and that has proved to be so very true. Friendships continue, new friends are made, and the array of programs and events offered provide continuing opportunities to discover, learn, and just plain have fun.

Over the past year, we have all struggled through the pandemic. Our Program Committee did a yeoman's job of planning virtual events that have been well attended, but we have all yearned to get together in person once again. That just happened with our first in-person event held at the Center for Alumni Engagement and Development. It was a slide/lecture presentation on the Liberty Aviation Museum. We are also planning a tour of the Main Library, a trip to the Museum of the Great Lakes, and a visit to Hoen's Nursery for a little bit of "getting dirt under our fingernails."

Because of the pandemic, the Vermont bus trip had to be cancelled once again, but we hope to put together a trip for next year. In addition, our June annual luncheon meeting had to be cancelled, but we are going to combine that annual meeting with our Holiday Brunch in December. Please stay tuned for all upcoming announcements and flyers about this and other programs as the details are confirmed. Also, please

plan to attend to renew acquaintances, meet new people, and have fun. You won't be disappointed.

We are also always in need of people to serve on committees. Please let me know if you would like to join a committee. Currently, these committees are: Nominating, Scholarship, Program, Membership, and Benefits.

I would like to thank Curt Black for his service as president these past two years. It hasn't been easy because just about everything had to be virtual. We had many Zoom meetings, and I am sure we all got a little tired of Zooming-it. Curt showed exemplary leadership during this difficult time and kept us all on track. His leadership has been and is extremely valuable. To that end, I have asked him to spearhead a committee that will be reviewing our committee structure and fleshing out the mission statement for each committee along with formalizing responsibilities and goal-oriented action plans.

I would also like to thank Jim Lapp for serving as our representative to the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER). Jim keeps us up-to-date on issues before OPERS and STRS. He has also served as the chair of our ad hoc Bylaws Committee.

I would be remiss if I didn't also thank all members of UTRA for their membership. You are very important to the organization, and we appreciate your interest and continued membership. Please plan to join us for upcoming events that will add value to your membership.

Sincerely,
Chris Spengler
UTRA President

UNIVERSITY ELIMINATES PARKING BENEFIT FOR MANY RETIREES

By Dr. Judith Wilkinson

The University of Toledo Parking and Transportation Services recently published Retiree & Emeritus Parking Permit information effective Aug. 11, 2021. The statement that leads to the announcement of a fee of \$207 per academic year to park on campus states: "As a thank-you for your service and dedication to The University of Toledo, we would like to help you register for a parking permit." Up until now, as a thank-you and commitment to retirees for continuing to give multifaceted services to The University of Toledo, there has been a promise that no parking fee will be charged.

The change was the result of the University's decision to privatize parking services.

Continued on Page 2

UNIVERSITY ELIMINATES PARKING BENEFIT FOR MANY RETIREES

Continued from Page 1

It has been difficult to investigate how widespread this change reaches. One such category includes many of our retirees who are President's Club (PC) donors. The UToledo Foundation is not issuing parking privileges to either new PC pledges or donors at the \$100K level. However, they stated to me that they are honoring the commitments made to two "groups" of PC members for free parking: one group are those who continue to pay and renew their PC commitments, and the other are the "grandfathered" folks. They are communicating about the issue by letter to PC members.

Since the Foundation is honoring its past commitments to donors, perhaps past commitments to retirees for free parking can also be honored. Hopefully, inquiries to meet with both Parking and Transportation Services and the UToledo Foundation regarding parking for donors will bring resolution.

This change to parking is one that UTRA will continue to pursue. Please check your email and the UTRA website for more information on this topic as it develops.

On a positive note, we have learned that parking at the Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement on the Welltower campus will remain free and not require a parking permit. This is important because our UTRA Board and committee meetings, as well as many programs and events, are held at the center.



The east and west parking ramps, built in 1976, were recently demolished due to safety concerns.

NEWS FROM COLUMBUS

By James Lapp

STRS OHIO: At the June 2021 meeting of the STRS board, Chief Investment Officer Matt Worley shared that the fund investment return for the current fiscal year that ends June 30 is among the highest in recent history. The fund's preliminary return through May 31 was +27%. If this holds, it would be the highest return since 1983. Worley also noted this exceeds the total fund benchmark return of 25.8%. (At the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2021, STRS Ohio's investments returned more than 29% with total investments exceeding \$94.8 billion.)

The board's actuarial consultant reminded the board that its investment consultant expects lower than normal returns over the next decade, and estimated that the STRS Ohio portfolio return over the next 10 years will be 6.02%. The board, following the consultant's recommendation, voted to lower its assumed rate of return to 7.0% from 7.45% and will continue to evaluate this rate during the upcoming five-year experience review. The fact that STRS pays out about \$7.4 billion per year while collecting only about \$3.4 billion per year (making it more reliant on investment returns) underscores the need for realistic assumptions.

In other action, the board approved health-care premiums for the 2022 plan year. Premiums will decrease a little for about 88% of enrollees.

Ted Siedle, hired by the Ohio Retired Teachers Association (ORTA) to conduct a forensic audit of the STRS pension fund, has issued his preliminary report – "The High Cost of Secrecy". This report is available on the ORTA website (orta.org). You can also find on that site the STRS rebuttal, Siedle's rebuttal to the STRS, and letters written by STRS board members on what they see as a lack of transparency on the part of STRS.

The main points taken from a summary of the Siedle report are:

- STRS has a transparency problem.
- The underreporting of fees and expenses related to alternative investments means that STRS does not return a positive value to the total fund of \$100,000,000 per year as claimed.
- STRS pays fees to Wall Street money managers for not investing money.
- STRS's underreporting of fees and expenses to external fund managers may be due to STRS not knowing the fees that are paid.
- The Ohio Retirement Study Council has failed in its responsibility to commission a fiduciary audit and an actuarial audit of STRS every 10 years.

Continued on Page 3

ANONYMOUS DONOR LEAVES ESTATE TO UTRA

A University of Toledo retiree recently has stipulated in her will that her entire estate is to be donated to UTRA. The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has established a planned gift estimated to be worth between \$325,000 and \$350,000 that will be available to UTRA upon her death. Some of the proceeds of the estate will be used to support UTRA scholarships, which are awarded to deserving direct descendants of UTRA members who are attending The University of Toledo.

UTRA's Executive Board has expressed its sincere

thanks to the donor for helping to support our organization and its mission. The board is certain that all of its members are similarly appreciative of this unique gift.

Other UTRA members who might be interested in establishing a planned gift to help support the work of UTRA or other University-related activities are encouraged to contact the UToledo Foundation.

NEWS FROM COLUMBUS

Continued from Page 2

In response, STRS notes:

- STRS Ohio supports transparency.
- An independent review shows STRS Ohio's 10-year return exceeds 88% of public fund peers, making it among the best over multiple time periods.
- Independent analysis shows STRS Ohio's total investment costs are among the lowest in its peer group.
- STRS Ohio follows industry best practice for investment calculation and reporting.
- The report materially understates the impact of paying cost-of-living increases.

OPERS: All eligible OPERS retirees, including those who receive an automatic 3% adjustment as well as those whose COLA is based on the Consumer Price Index-W, will receive a 3% cost-of-living adjustment in 2022.

The latest OPERS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the abbreviated Popular Annual Financial Report are available for members to review at opers.org. Highlights for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020, include:

- A total investment portfolio gain of 11.95%.
- An increase in the pension funded ratio to 83% from 80%.
- An increase in the health-care funded ratio to 104% from 65%.
- Improved health-care fund solvency from 11 years in 2018 to 23 years as of December 31, 2019 (the most recent health-care valuation).
- An \$8 billion increase in OPERS' total net position to \$114 billion.
- Pension benefit payments of more than \$5.8 billion to Ohio retirees and their beneficiaries.
- A 5.6% decrease in OPERS health-care costs.
- A 5.0% decrease in active membership and a 0.7% increase in retirees.

OCHER: At the May 25 Zoom meeting of the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees, guest speakers from OPERS Gretchen Feldman, assistant director of health care, and Donna Castiglione, assistant director of member services, presented an update on 2022 health care for pre-Medicare retirees. OPERS will no longer offer a pre-Medicare group plan. Instead, enrollees will receive an allowance to help cover the cost of an individual health-care plan. The base allowance amount for 2022 will be \$1,200. Enrollees will receive a percentage of this amount (ranging from 51 to 90%) based upon years of service and age when first enrolled in OPERS health care. All current members enrolled in the OPERS health-care plan and those eligible but not enrolled are grandfathered and will be eligible for the new Health Reimbursement Allowance (HRA). OPERS will also provide a one-time transition deposit of \$1,200 this fall for retirees who are enrolled in the OPERS pre-Medicare group medical plan as of December 1, 2021, and have opted in to the HRA. This deposit is designed to help defray up-front costs associated with enrolling in a new medical plan. Via Benefits will serve as the connector for retirees as they choose their new health-care plan. Retirees will not be required to use Via Benefits, but OPERS is promoting the benefits of using them.

Also at the May meeting, all current OCHER officers were re-elected for the 2021-22 year: President Jerry Feezel (Kent State University); Vice President Dan Sheffer (University of Akron); Secretary Michele Hobbs (Ohio State University); and Treasurer Jim Lapp (The University of Toledo).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Donna Haar

A slate of potential candidates for UTRA officers and members-at-large was submitted to the UTRA Board for approval. Nominating Committee members included Donna Haar, chair; and James Lapp, Keith Schlender, Shirley Joseph, Dorothea Sawicki, and Judith Wilkinson. All of the members contributed a great deal of time, effort, and thought to identify a good mix of candidates for the 2021-2022 Board officers and members-at-large. The group also completed all of the ballot preparation tasks.

The ballot counting was handled by Donna Haar, Jim Lapp, Keith Schlender, and Gussie Askari. The results determined there was a tie for one of the member-at-large positions, the first time in anyone's memory that this had happened. After an Executive Board meeting to discuss how to proceed, it was determined that both candidates who received tie votes would be allowed to

serve. The Bylaws do not provide guidance on how to handle a tie vote, and the Bylaws Committee will examine the issue in the upcoming year.

The results of the election — with newly elected members in bold — are:

Chris Spengler, president (2-year term)
Andy Jorgensen, vice president (2-year term)
Brenda McKinley, treasurer
Cecelia Clark, secretary

Members-at-Large:

Laurie Flowers
Barbara Floyd
Thomas Mehalas
Cynthia Nowak
Celia Regimbal
Dorothea Sawicki
Lance Talmage

UTRA HELPS STUDENT FOOD AND HYGIENE PANTRY

By Augusta Askari

The UTRA Board supports UToledo students always and in all ways. We have recently agreed to offer help nourishing their bodies as well as their minds.

UToledo retirees, faculty, staff, and friends may not realize the extent of poverty among students who are facing personal financial sacrifices in order to complete the education that will enable them to attain their professional goals. Their quality UToledo education will lead them to future financial security, thus benefiting them, their families, as well as society.

While scholarships and student-work opportunities help cover tuition, there is a heart-wrenching need to help pay for just plain living. Food insecurity is an ongoing struggle as is the need for daily hygiene products such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, and menstrual products. When we help provide these basic human necessities, we are nurturing our students' self-respect as well as their physical needs.

The UToledo Food Pantry coordinates distribution of food and hygiene products to those students requiring assistance. The Main Campus Food Pantry is open from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and is located in the Thompson Student Union Room 2504. The Health Science Campus Food Pantry is open from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and is located in Health Education Building Room 113. Both pantries are staffed by student

employees who are working part-time to support their education. The shorter hours on Health Science Campus were requested by its post-graduate students to better accommodate their class schedules.

The UToledo staff person overseeing these pantries is Benjamin Weiner, interim associate director of student involvement and leadership. His office is located in Thompson Student Union Room 1532. He can also be reached at 419.530.5210 or benjamin.weiner@utoledo.edu.

Donations of fresh, canned, non-perishable foods and hygiene products may be made at either pantry during their open hours. UTRA will collect these items at all membership events and take them to the food pantries. Monetary donations are always greatly appreciated. Checks should be made payable to The University of Toledo Foundation. Donors will receive a receipt for tax purposes.



UTRA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021-2022

President

Chris Spengler
PH: 419-351-9936
Chris.spengler@utoledo.edu

Vice President

Andy Jorgensen
PH: 419-344-0768
Andy.jorgensen@utoledo.edu
UTRA Scholarship Committee Chair

Secretary

Cecelia Clarke
PH: 419-350-8446
Cecelia.clark@utoledo.edu

Treasurer

Brenda McKinley
PH: 419-215-5087
Brenda.mckinley@utoledo.edu

Immediate Past President

Curtis Black
PH: 419-536-1438
Curt.black@hotmail.com

Past Presidents

Augusta Askari
PH: 419-531-7559
aaskari@bex.net

James Lapp
PH: 419-841-2107
jlapp@buckeye-express.com
Bylaws Review Chair;
OCHER Representative

Keith Schlender
PH: 419-865-1331
Keith.schlender@utoledo.edu
HSC Scholarship Committee Chair

Donna Haar
PH: 419-277-9176
Dhaar67@gmail.com
Nominations Committee Chair

Members-at-Large

Laurie Flowers
PH: 419-297-8372
FlowersKeeler@gmail.com

Barbara Floyd
PH: 419-536-9747
Barbara.floyd@utoledo.edu
Newsletter editor; Historian

Thomas Mehelas
PH: 419-277-6342
tmehelas@aol.com

Cynthia Nowak
PH: 419-531-1834
Cynthia.nowak@utoledo.edu

Celia Regimbal
PH: 419-535-0632
Celia.regimbal@utoledo.edu
Membership Committee Chair

Thea Sawicki
PH: 419-531-2439
Dorothea.sawicki@utoledo.edu

Lance Talmage
PH: 419-535-1605
ltalmage@bex.net

Committee Chairs

Shirley Joseph
PH: 419-536-3166
Shirley.joseph@utoledo.edu
Program Committee Co-chair

Patricia Russell
PH: 419-283-1828
patyatesrussell@bex.net
Program Committee Co-chair

Judith Wilkinson
PH: 419-356-6102
Judith.wilkinson@utoledo.edu
Benefits Committee Chair

Alumni Relations Staff

Sarah Metzger
PH: 419-530-4237
Sarah.metzger2@utoledo.edu

William (Billy) Pierce
PH: 419-530-5359
William.pierce@utoledo.edu

UTRA 2021-2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

By Andy Jorgensen, UTRA Scholarship Committee Chair

The UTRA Scholarship Committee reviewed the applications submitted for the scholarship by descendants of UTRA members. The following two UToledo students were selected to each receive \$1,200 in the 2021-22 academic year to support educational expenses.

Mark Dembowski will be a sophomore chemical engineering major. In fall 2020, he was on the President's and Dean's Lists honoring his academic achievement. At UToledo and during his high school years, he has been active in numerous community service projects and leadership positions. In his essay, he stated: "One of my career goals is to make a difference in the lives of people, and I believe I will be the best equipped to achieve that goal as an engineer."

Lee Stahler will be a junior business administration major with an almost perfect course GPA. Lee has been a member of several organizations that focused on the field of business, as well as groups that provided services to those in need. His work experience included time in the fast-food industry. Lee's essay included the statement: "I want to build a business of my own from the ground up. I will use the experience from my college courses and co-ops in order to work with others to create a product that may change the way people live and create jobs along the way."

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all of the UTRA members who donated to support the scholarships.

DO NOT FORGET TO RENEW YOUR UTRA MEMBERSHIP

By Celia Regimbal, Membership Committee Chair

Your first year's membership to The University of Toledo Retirees Association is free. If you retired in 2020, now may be the time to renew your membership. You might be wondering, "Why should I renew?" With all the things that happen in the first year of retirement, you may not have taken advantage of your UTRA membership.

The following are some reasons to continue your membership:

- The opportunity to attend presentations that range from Current Trends in Physical Therapy, a Virtual Presentation on Animal Behavior by the Toledo Zoo, and a great wine-tasting event!
- Updates on important issues being discussed in Columbus related to OPERS and STRS.
- Social events including a Breakfast Bunch that meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. for lively conversation and a delicious breakfast at Denny's, located at 6920 W. Central Ave., and a Book Club that recently discussed *Trespassing Across America: One Man's Epic, Never-Done-Before (and Sort of Illegal) Hike Across the Heartland* by Ken Ilgunas.
- Group travel adventures and a wide variety of discounts at local businesses.
- A scholarship program for direct descendants of members.
- An annual meeting and social opportunity providing you a chance to network and catch up with former co-workers.

Renewing your memberships is easy at toledoalumni.org/membership/ut-retirees/.

Membership fees are \$20 per year, or \$200 for a lifetime membership.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE HOLIDAY BRUNCH

While it may only be fall, it is not too early to begin planning for the UTRA holiday brunch. After a year when we were not able to see our colleagues and friends in person, it will be nice to connect again.

The brunch will be held on Sunday, Dec. 5, at 11:30 a.m. at the Heather Downs Country Club, 3910 Heatherdowns Blvd. Dr. Gregory Postel, president of The University of Toledo, is scheduled to provide remarks. A brief annual meeting of UTRA will be incorporated into the brunch gathering since the usual meeting was cancelled this year.

Please check your email and the UTRA website for registration information.

BOOK BUDDIES

The UTRA book club, "Book Buddies," has returned to meeting in person following virtual meetings only during the COVID pandemic. Members who are interested in participating in book discussions should contact Jan Whitaker at janwhitaker@aol.com for information on upcoming books and details on meetings.

UTRA MEMBERS VIRTUALLY TOUR AVIATION MUSEUM

The Liberty Aviation Museum in Port Clinton preserves many original restored aircraft and military vehicles, some with direct ties to the history of our region. Todd Hackbarth, the museum's aircraft appearance coordinator and membership manager, provided UTRA members with a virtual tour of some of the museum's most important artifacts at a presentation on July 22 in the auditorium of the Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement on UToledo's Dorr St. campus.

The museum, located in an old hangar at the Erie-Ottawa International Airport, opened in July 2012. The site capitalizes on the rich aeronautical heritage of the airport, which has served those living around the Lake Erie islands for many years, especially during the winter months when air transportation is often the only way to move goods and people between the islands and the mainland.

Hackbarth said one of the museum's most important holdings is a Ford Trimotor, one of just 199 produced for a few years beginning in 1927. The Trimotor, known in the industry as the "Tin Goose," is famous for being the first venture of the Ford Motor Company into aviation, and also for being part of the first U.S. transcontinental air flight. The distinctive look of the plane, which holds 12 passengers, has made it one of the favorites of historic aircraft enthusiasts.

Hackbarth said Liberty Aviation's Trimotor is available for rides when it is in Port Clinton. The schedule of flights is available on the museum's website, libertyaviationmuseum.org.



The Liberty Aviation Museum, located in Port Clinton.

Even when the Trimotor is not at the museum, guests can still get a feel for the era by dining at the Tin Goose Diner, which is attached to the museum. The diner, which was built in 1939, has been fully restored with many of its original features. Hackbarth said it is a great place to watch the planes take off and land on the airport's runway. Hours of operation vary by season, so those wishing to eat at the diner should call ahead at 419.732.0236.

Liberty Aviation also houses a restored B-25J Mitchell Bomber that was used in World War II, as well as a PT boat like the one John F. Kennedy piloted during the war. Restoration of the boat has taken over four years so far, Hackbarth said, and will likely be another five years before it is completed. The museum also preserves many other military vehicles, including several early models of Toledo-made Jeeps. It also has an outstanding collection of military uniforms, Hackbarth said, including the costumes worn by cast members of the popular television show "Hogan's Heroes."

Admission to those wishing to visit the museum is \$10 per person, with a \$2 discount for retirees. Flights on historic airplanes vary in price from \$72 to \$495. For more information on upcoming flights and how to purchase tickets, call 419.732.0234.

WELCOME NEW RETIREES AND LIFETIME MEMBERS

New Retirees

Debbie Arbogast
Kathleen Arquette
Sandra Blackford
Mary Jo Borden
Mary Burda
Sheila Burk
Carmen Clarke Davis
Dawn Cook
Patricia Damschroder
Kathy Dashner
Kelly Dorfmeister
Dwande Doss

Joseph Drees
Dr. Dale Dwyer
Maureen Dwyer
Dr. Paul Fritz
Selina Griswold
Julie Grosbeck
Ethel Grzelak
Dr. Joseph Hara
George Hayes
Cathy Hites
Patricia Hoover
Joanne Houser
Veronica Johnson

Pennie Jo Kauffman
Julie LaPlante
Timothy Lewandowski
Pamela Linker
Janine Losek
Dr. Sara Lundquist
Alexander Mak
Dr. Laurie Mauro
Dr. Vincent Mauro
Delia Mekus
Annamarie Moss
Patsy Miller
Dr. Ronald Opp

Continued on Page 8

TASTING WINE ‘VIRTUALLY’

While UTRA members were unable to meet in person for more than a year, the Program Committee has been busy developing educational opportunities for members available via Zoom. In April, Jim Sautter of Sautter’s Market in Sylvania hosted a “virtual wine tasting” to guide members to some of the best wines available locally at reasonable prices.

Sautter said the pandemic has provided many challenges for the food and beverage industry, with many products — like yeast and flour, and staples like tuna fish — in short supply or impossible to find. Sautter said some of the reason for the shortages is related to the labor market, especially the shortage of truck drivers to deliver goods to stores.

Wine has also seen a disruption in availability, Sautter said, but there are still good buys for the knowledgeable customer. Close-outs, where distributors offer special deals on wine, can be one way for the public to get good deals, but Sautter rejects about 40 % of those offered to him because he does not believe the wines to be of good quality.

Sautter showed examples of some of his favorite well-priced wines, including Spanish Tempranillo. A good bottle of this wine sells for less than \$10. He also noted that Rose wines are becoming increasingly popular after being given a bad rap, and they are also well-priced. Sautter has expanded his selection of Rose wines because of their increasing popularity.

Also getting a bad rap for many years has been boxed wines. But Sautter said these too are improving in quality, and during the pandemic sales of boxed wines skyrocketed as people stopped going to restaurants where they would buy bottles of wine. He said they are a good value, not only because of the price, but because the packaging does not allow air to affect the wine, extending shelf life.

Another area of wine that is becoming more popular, according to Sautter, is low-calorie wine. He has been surprised by this trend. He also noted that local wines from Ohio and Michigan have been improving over the past decade, and consumers who have not experienced locally produced wines for some time will likely be surprised at the quality.

Sautter ended his presentation by encouraging those who want to appreciate wine more to experiment with different types, read books, and to not be afraid to try new types. Most importantly, Sautter said, “Drink what you like.” Sautter’s complete presentation is available for viewing at toledoalumni.org/events/utra-virtual-wine.html.

WELCOME NEW RETIREES AND LIFETIME MEMBERS

Continued from Page 7

Vicki Pacholek
Patricia Pertz
Dr. Penny Poplin Gosetti
Lawrence Price
Rhonda Reed
Cynthia Richard
Judith Riggle
Peggy Roberts
Anna Ronau
Melodie Rufener-Woodley
Linda Ruiz
Anita Sanders
Ramona Savage
Elzbieta Szczerba
Dr. Katherine Sink
Eugene Slatton

Deborah Sobczak
Barbara Stickels
Dr. Janelle Tipton
Katherine Turner
Carl Warner
Dr. Suzanne Waumbold
Katherine Wilson
Cheryl Yeager
Sylvia Yeager
Denise Zeller

New Lifetime Members

Lynn Marie Hutt
Dr. George P. Jan
Peter Papadimos

PRESIDENT DELIVERS STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

Despite the unprecedented upheaval in operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, President Gregory Postel optimistically stated that he was confident “that brighter days are ahead” for The University of Toledo in his State of the University address delivered in the spring.



Dr. Gregory Postel

Because of the precautions required by the pandemic, the address was delivered virtually.

Dr. Postel began his address with a review of how he came to be interim president. In the spring of 2019, he was approached by UToledo alumnus Dr. Roderick McDavis, who asked if he would like to be considered for the position of interim president. Postel said he accepted the position with the hope that his medical knowledge and professional experience could help lead the University through uncertain times.

The pandemic not only uprooted students and faculty, but also created financial challenges. The impact that all-virtual education on enrollment was unknown, and state support was threatened by a near shutdown of the economy.

“We weathered the storm with grace and an unwavering commitment to our mission. From rapidly shifting academic courses online, to establishing support systems for our students, to caring for the rising number of COVID-19 positive patients at our hospital, our campus community rallied. We made the impossible happen, together,” Postel said.

The president said he had initially hoped to have a positive impact on the University, even if for only a short time. He did not expect the impact the University would have on him and his family. He was impressed by the sense of community. On March 3, 2021, the Board of Trustees appointed Postel the 18th president of The University of Toledo. He will be inaugurated during Homecoming week.

“Rocket Nation truly is a special place, and I’m honored to have been selected to serve as your president as we look toward our bright future together,” he added.

His annual address highlighted the academic and personal challenges of several students, including Leah Williams, whose studies were disrupted by the need for a kidney transplant, which she received at The University of Toledo Medical Center. After that experience, Williams changed her career focus to becoming a renal transplant social worker. Williams graduated last spring.

“We all faced unforeseeable challenges, but through it all, we witnessed the very best in our campus community,” Postel said. He also noted that the University was one of the only institutions in the state to successfully reopen without any major spikes in COVID positive cases.

He ended his address by highlighting the importance of the University’s engagement with the city and stated that “we are proud to be Toledo’s University.”

Dr. Postel’s entire address can be viewed at: utoledo.edu/offices/president/state-of-the-university

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO PLAN EVENTS

By Shirley Joseph and Pat Russell

While the COVID pandemic has made events more difficult to plan, UTRA’s Program Committee has continued to work to make interesting and educational events available to members. Those during the worst months of the pandemic were provided virtually. More recently, the committee has planned some in-person events for those who are fully vaccinated.

Virtual events were recorded, and members can access the presentations via UTRA’s website, toledoalumni.org/membership/ut-retirees. In addition to the virtual wine tour described in this edition of the newsletter, other presentation accessible include one on current trends in physical therapy, a presentation on the Toledo Zoo’s animal behavior program, and a talk about the recent expansion of Metroparks Toledo.

Upcoming programming for the rest of 2021 and the early months of 2022 include a tour of the Toledo Lucas County Main Library in November that will show recent renovations; a tour of the Museum of the Great Lakes planned for January; and a trip to Hoen’s Nursery in April to learn more about how to make arrangements of flowering plants.

The Program Committee also hopes that UTRA members will participate in Homecoming events scheduled for Oct. 8, as well as activities surrounding the inauguration of President Gregory Postel that also will take place that weekend.

UTRA members should receive email information about programming events with links to the registration portal.

IN MEMORIAM

Karen D. Allison-Hunt, Toledo, a former MCO employee, died April 8 at age 67.

Alan C. Beckman, Toledo, who was a UToledo employee from 1997 to 2002, died Jan. 15 at age 64.

William (Bill) Bettinger, Toledo, who worked at the University from 2005 to 2007, died May 16 at age 78. He was a consultant in plant sciences.

Regina "Gina" (Metty) Brasel, Toledo, who retired from the UT/MCO Federal Credit Union, died Aug. 5 at age 79.

Carol S. (Lewandowski) Davis, Toledo, who worked at UToledo nearly three decades, died May 19 at age 66. She joined the staff in 1991 as an account clerk and worked in the Print Shop then moved to Mail Services in 2014.

Phyllis J. (Catlan) Davis, Toledo, who was an instructor at the University in the late 1940s, died March 26 at age 97. The UToledo alumna received a bachelor's degree in education in 1945, and she was a lifetime member of the Alumni Association.

Beverly Domalski, Toledo, a former art instructor, died April 6. She was 90.

Marsha L. (Glaze) Dombkowski, Toledo, an MCO employee for more than two decades, died July 10 at age 72. She was a computer operator who retired in the late 1990s.

Thomas C. Dumas, Toledo, who worked at UToledo from 1996 to 2004, died Nov. 5 at age 82.

Patricia J. Fisher, Toledo, a former UToledo employee, died May 2 at age 76.

Richard C. Glowacki, Naples, Fla., former chair of the UToledo Board of Trustees, died April 20 at age 88. He was appointed by the governor to the University Board in 1991, later served as chair, and resigned his seat in 1999. Glowacki received a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in finance from the University in 1957.

Donald O. Harrington, Waterville, who was a volunteer with the Satellites, died March 22 at age 87.

Edith A. "Edie" (Vogel) Hawkins, Perrysburg, a financial analyst with the UToledo Foundation from 2006 until her retirement in 2015, died Feb. 26 at age 71.

Rebecca J. (Learned) Hawley, Monclova, who worked in hospital finance at MCO/MUO/UTMC for 19 years, died April 5 at age 71. She joined the staff in 1992 and retired as manager of cost and reimbursement in 2011.

Dawn J. (Pahle) Heisler, Toledo, who was a secretary in the Geology Department for more than a decade, died April 7 at age 76.

Katherine P. (Johnstone) Hinrichs, Woodville, who worked in Research and Sponsored Programs at MCO from 1989 to 2002, died June 7 at age 75.

Ronald W. Hoskins, Toledo, a stationary engineer at MCO from 1972 until his retirement in 2002, died July 18 at age 69.

Charlee (Gates) Irmien, Sylvania, who worked at MCO for more than two decades until her retirement, died April 27 at age 93. She joined the college as a secretary and later became an assistant to the dean in the graduate school.

Dr. Cary S. Kart, Boynton Beach, Fla., professor of sociology for 30 years, died July 15 at age 74. He joined the UToledo faculty as an assistant professor in 1974. Three years later, he was promoted to associate professor and named professor in 1981. Kart also served as chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work for several years. He studied aging and nutrition and wrote several books and research articles. Kart was the author of *The Realities of Aging*, which was translated into 10 languages and was widely used as a college textbook in gerontology classes. He was a member of Faculty Senate and served on a presidential search committee.

Jerry N. Keil, the Villages, Fla., a radio broadcaster known as the "voice of the Rockets" for UToledo football and basketball games for more than three decades, died Feb. 13 at age 83. For many years, he hosted "Rocket Country" and UToledo coaches shows on WSPD and television.

Lt. Col. Larry G. Kelly, Englewood, Ohio, who taught in the Military Science Department, died Jan. 7 at age 81. A UToledo alumnus, he received a master of business administration degree in 1973.

Kerri K. King, Toledo, a nurse at UTMC from 2012 to 2019, died June 3 at age 49.

Dr. John R. Klocinski, Toledo, UToledo faculty member, died May 11 at age 70. He received a bachelor of business administration degree in management and industrial relations in 1982; a master of education degree in educational technology in 1988; two education specialist degrees in curriculum and instruction in 1989; and a doctor of philosophy degree in higher education in 1999 from UToledo.

Continued on Page 11

IN MEMORIAM

Continued from Page 10

Dr. Daniel A. Koechel, Toledo, professor emeritus of pharmacology, died May 31 at age 81. He joined MCO as a postdoctoral fellow in 1969 and became a faculty member two years later. For 31 consecutive years, he was a recipient of the Robert T. Tidrick Golden Apple Award for outstanding teaching. His research focused on renal pharmacology and toxicology and was supported by the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association.

Marietta J. (Giovannucci) Kruse-Wells, Sylvania, who worked at the University 30 years and retired in 2004, died Feb. 12 at age 83. She was a budget officer in the Financial Aid Office for a few years before transferring to Career and Placement Services. Kruse-Wells was a member of the The University of Toledo Retirees Association. She was preceded in death by her husband, F. Dean Wells, professor emeritus of technical science mathematics. The couple regularly attended Rocket football games.

Norman J. Lammers, Leipsic, Ohio, a former faculty member in the College of Engineering, died July 19 at age 86.

Dorothy J. (Perz) Langenderfer, Toledo, who volunteered at UTMC, died May 29 at age 89.

Deborah M. "Deb" (Gillingham) Leonard, Toledo, a retired police officer, died June 8 at age 65. She joined the MCO police force in 1976 and retired as a University law enforcement officer in 2010. Leonard then volunteered with the Satellites Auxiliary.

Dr. Rodney W. McCarthy, Holland, clinical associate professor of surgery, died May 3 at age 72. He joined MCO as a community-based faculty member in 1979.

Dr. Thomas J. Minter, Oklahoma City, professor emeritus of engineering technology, died June 5 at age 90. He joined the faculty in 1967, received a doctoral degree in education from the University in 1970, and retired in 2005 and was named professor emeritus.

Dr. George J. Murnen, Toledo, professor emeritus of civil engineering, died May 30 at age 91. He received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from UToledo in 1957. One year later, he joined the faculty at his alma mater as an assistant professor of civil engineering and was promoted to associate professor in 1969. For a time, Murnen served as acting chair of the Civil Engineering Department. He retired in 1993 and was named professor emeritus. Murnen continued to teach for several years. The Army veteran of the Korean War was a former president of the UToledo Retirees Association.

Gary E. Oancea, Toledo, who taught criminal justice classes at the University, died April 1 at age 62.

Michael R. Pacholski, Toledo, a former UTMC employee, died June 12 at age 73. A UToledo alumnus, he received an associate's degree in respiratory therapy in 1980.

Ellis D. Rainsberger, Colorado Springs, Colo., who was an assistant football coach from 1990 to 1991, died July 17 at age 88.

Jo Ann (Reynolds) Ramisch, Maumee, a literacy advocate who volunteered to work with children at MCO, died May 12 at age 92. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in liberal studies from UToledo in 1997 and 2001, respectively.

Stan Sanders, Maumee, UToledo baseball coach for more than two decades, died July 23 at age 81. He was the head of the Rockets' baseball team from 1970 to 1981 and from 1981 to 1992, winning a program-record 534 games during his tenure. He coached 31 All-Mid-American Conference players, and 46 of his athletes played professional baseball following their collegiate careers. The Rockets posted six 30-win campaigns under Sanders' watch, and his pitchers tossed five no-hitters. In 1982, he became the first coach in NCAA history to obtain permission to take a leave of absence to be an instructor for a professional team; he served as a coach and scout for one year with the New York Yankees before returning to Toledo. While at the University, Sanders was a member of the Mideast Regional Advisory Committee for the NCAA. He was inducted into the Varsity T Hall of Fame in 1998.

Darleen F. Shepard, Toledo, who worked at MCO, died June 21 at age 85.

Betty Jo (Moyer) Sherman, Fremont, who was a volunteer for the Satellites Auxiliary, died May 3 at age 85.

Dale E. Simon, Petersburg, Mich., who was a faculty member in the College of Engineering for more than three decades, died March 27 at age 83. He joined the University in 1980 as an instructor of engineering graphics. He received a master of science degree in industrial engineering from the University in 1988 and was promoted to assistant professor of engineering technology. He retired in 2013 and then taught part time one more year.

Continued on Page 12



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Toledo, OH
Permit No. 161

Office of Alumni Engagement
Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement
The University of Toledo Foundation
4510 Dorr St.
Toledo, OH 43615-4040

UTRA Tower Talk

IN MEMORIAM

Continued from Page 11

Joy Dimmermann Skeel, Toledo, professor emerita of medicine, died March 30 at age 83. The registered nurse and ordained minister began teaching medical ethics at MCO in 1977. She developed a bioethics program for medical students and went on rounds to teach them how to deliver bad news. Skeel also was director of a medical ethics consultation service she helped establish to resolve dilemmas among patients, families, staff, and physicians. She retired in 2014.

Dr. Melvyn S. Soloff, Galveston, Texas, professor emeritus, died April 18 at age 82. He was an early MCO faculty member, joining the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 1970. Later, he also was part of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department. In 1992, Soloff retired and was granted emeritus status in 1993.

Lorna L. (Miller) Snyder, Swanton, who was an instructor of geology from 2000 to 2004, died April 20 at age 68. The UToledo alumna received a bachelor of science degree in geology in 2000.

Dr. Charles W. Sprandel, Sarasota, Fla., a former faculty member in the

College of Education, died March 5 at age 87.

Dr. Donald C. Stolberg, Stone Mountain, Ga., professor emeritus of exercise science, died Dec. 6 at age 91. He joined the University as an assistant professor of physical education in 1963 and was promoted to professor in 1969. Stolberg was the first chair of the Department of Recreation and Leisure Education from 1971 to 1975. During that time, he helped develop an undergraduate degree program. He also served as associate director of the Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Stolberg was named professor emeritus of exercise science and physical education when he retired in 1986. He continued to teach for a few years. Stolberg co-wrote three books and was an award-winning wood-carving artist.

Dr. Gerald W. Sutherland, Holland, clinical professor in orthopedic surgery, died March 18 at age 91. He was appointed to the MCO faculty in 1969 and taught as a community-based faculty member until his retirement in 2007. Sutherland continued to teach part time for a few years.

Charles R. Taylor, Mount Vernon, Ohio, a former UToledo employee, died April 17 at age 90.

Irma D. (Moffett) Thomas, Toledo, who worked at the University more than two decades, died Dec. 25 at age 92. She joined the staff as a press operator in the Print Shop and later was promoted to assistant manager. Thomas retired in 1992.

Carol M. (LeVally) Woods, Toledo, who worked at the University 25 years, died March 21 at age 65. She joined the MCO staff in 1990 and was assistant to the chair of medicine. Woods retired in 2015.

Dr. Dale E. Wright, Toledo, a veterinarian who helped with research at UToledo from 1996 to 1999, died Aug. 6 at age 86.

Douglas H. Yohe, Oregon, a custodian at the University from 2010 to 2016, died March 16 at age 70. He also was a seasonal employee from 2006 to 2009.

The Rev. Daniel J. Zak, Toledo, a former co-pastor at Corpus Christi University Parish, died July 10 at age 79. The UToledo alumnus received a master of education degree in 1975.