

Tower Talk

Barbara Floyd, editor
Vicki Kroll, assistant editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we all look forward to a resumption of gatherings with family and friends and the return of handshakes, if not hugs, from others, I look back at the past year and am proud of what UTRA members have been able to accomplish.

We successfully held our annual meeting, have resumed activities like our "Book Buddies," and have modified the format of our programming to offer virtual social and learning opportunities. In addition, as you will read later, we have continued to offer and build our scholarship programs and conducted a very successful initiative to enhance the endowment of the UTRA scholarship. Certainly, I eagerly look ahead as we resume more activities, and as you read the information in this newsletter, I am positive you will share my enthusiasm!

Also, in the coming weeks you will be receiving your ballot for selecting our next President, Vice President, Treasurer, and board members for 2021-22. Past-president Donna Haar and her nominating committee have assembled an impressive group of individuals to lead UTRA in the future and I hope you will take the time to review the candidates and make your choice. Also, accompanying the elections materials will be a ballot to adopt proposed changes to the bylaws.

Bylaws review chair Jim Lapp and his committee carefully reviewed our bylaws document and presented the UTRA Board with their recommendations in January. The Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed changes, including a requested clarification of membership and voting eligibility and extensions of the terms of President and Vice President to two years (rather than one year with eligibility for a second consecutive term).

This latter change makes the terms consistent with those of the other two Board officers (secretary and treasurer). A provision was also added to allow for the removal of Board members who miss three or more consecutive Board meetings without an excused absence. If you have questions as you receive the materials, please feel free to contact me or any Board member.

As this is my last letter as UTRA President, I wish to thank my fellow officers, Board members and committee chairs for their tireless devotion to UTRA and their willingness to pivot as conditions dictated. I hope I will be able to share in person my gratitude to you as UTRA members at our annual meeting, if not in June, by late summer. I look forward to getting back together and seeing the beautiful smiles behind the masks!

Sincerely,
Curt Black
UTRA President

PRESIDENT POSTEL DISCUSSES PLANS AT ANNUAL MEETING

Newly appointed University of Toledo President Dr. Gregory Postel looked back on the unusual year of 2020 and talked about his plans for the new year in an address to the UTRA annual meeting, held virtually on December 9.

The annual meeting, which is required under UTRA's constitution, was held via Zoom. In addition to hearing from the interim president, UTRA members also heard from one of the group's scholarship recipients; received an update on the Health Science retirees' scholarship program; got a financial report from the treasurer; and heard from the membership, program, benefit, and nominating committee chairs. William Pierce, vice president for alumni engagement, also updated UTRA on activities of the Alumni Association.

President Postel said that last year started out normally, but quickly changed as the COVID-19 pandemic became serious in March. Students were sent home, and the remainder of Spring 2020 classes were taught online. During the summer, many faculty and staff worked to make the campus safe for students returning in the fall. That work paid off with a 2 percent COVID positivity rate, far below the rest of the country, Dr. Postel said.

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PRESIDENT POSTEL DISCUSSES PLANS AT ANNUAL MEETING

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The Spring 2021 semester was similar to the fall, with some students on campus and some doing classes remotely. The president added that switching to remote learning had been difficult in the beginning, but faculty had learned from the experience and had refined their teaching practices.

While the year had been successful despite the pandemic, Dr. Postel said that he does hope the university can continue to interface with the outside world and return to normal as soon as possible. While many of his meetings are conducted remotely, he continues to meet with individuals and small groups in person when possible to connect in more personal ways.

Dr. Postel said that while serving as interim president, he tried to keep the University moving forward by forming management teams to study ways to improve eight areas of the institution. The teams are focused on: returning the medical center to an area of strength, reviewing the affiliation agreement between the University and ProMedica, developing a new Responsibility Centered Management budget model, assessing risk management across campus, rebuilding human resources with a modern approach, addressing issues of racism, working on improving enrollment, and reinvesting in academics.

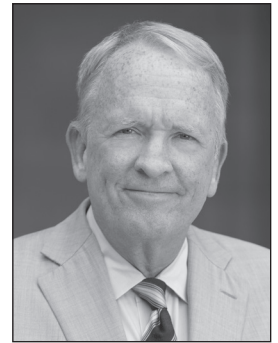
The president said he was particularly interested in putting money back into the academic budget, and the team looking at this issue was prioritizing where such reinvestments should occur.

President Postel has 25 years of experience in higher education, including experience in a medical college. He said he was honored to serve as the University of Toledo's interim president, and that everyone had been welcoming to him.

In his comments to UTRA, he said it was unusual to have such a large group of retirees who want to stay active and engaged in their institution, and this was evidence of how much UTRA members care about the university.

President Postel ended his remarks by stating his goal to make all the progress possible at the university while he is there, and to make it a better institution.

UTRA President Curt Black thanked Dr. Postel for making time to talk with the retirees.



Dr. Gregory Postel

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS UPDATE UTRA MEMBERSHIP

In addition to hearing from newly appointed UToledo President Dr. Gregory Postel, those attending the virtual annual meeting also received updates on UTRA activities with Curt Black, UTRA president, serving as chair of the meeting.

Andy Jorgensen, chair of the UTRA scholarship committee, reported on this year's scholarship recipients. Each of the two students, who are granddaughters of university employees, will receive \$1200 toward their education. Regan Simon will be entering the Doctorate in Physical Therapy program next year, and thanked UTRA and her grandfather, Robert Hansen, for his support. Maisy Ransford is a business major but maintains a love for music, which she credits to her grandfather, Thomas East, a professor of voice. She said the UTRA scholarship allows her to continue to participate in band and orchestra.

Keith Schlender, chair of the Health Science Campus scholarship committee, said that the committee will be awarding four \$2,000 scholarships, one in each of the HSC's colleges. The recipients are noted elsewhere in this issue of *Tower Talk*. Schlender said that the scholarship fund is supported both by member contributions and by a percentage of the hospital shoe sales held several times each year.

Brenda McKinley, who is completing her last year as treasurer, reported that as of November 30, UTRA had \$33,489 in its treasury. President Black thanked Brenda for her service to the organization.

William Pierce, reporting on Alumni Association activities, said he was pleased that UTRA continues, despite the pandemic, to be one of the most active affiliate groups in the Alumni Association. He noted that due to the success of the UTRA Book Buddies group, a similar book club has been formed that all Alumni Association members can participate in. The new group is hoping to have four to five book discussions a year, and more information about the club is available from the Alumni Association website.

Pat Russell, co-chair of the UTRA Program Committee, said the committee is working on ideas for virtual engagement with the membership, and urged those with ideas for such programming to let her know.

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HEALTH SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

By Keith K. Schlender

Each year, proceeds from the Health Science Campus (HSC) Retirees Scholarship Fund are used to award scholarships to students in the colleges located on the HSC. Funding for the scholarships comes from three sources: income from the HSC Retiree Fund Endowment, contributions from HSC retirees, and fund-raising activity such as the hospital shoe sales. Due to the generosity of the HSC retirees, this year for the first time, our HSC Retirees fund exceeds \$100,000. We were able to grant \$2,000 in scholarships to each of the four colleges on the HSC (Graduate Studies, Medicine and Life Sciences, Nursing, and Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences). The recipients are recommended by the colleges based on academic excellence and valuable contributions to the campus and the community.

The recipients from the College of Graduate Studies are Sara Moore and Sangita Sridharan. Sara is an M.D./Ph.D. student who has finished the first two years of medical school and is currently in the Ph.D. program in Medical Microbiology and Immunology. Her dissertation research is related to the regulation of a central component of the immune system. Based on her progress, she obtained a grant from the Joint Biology Consortium (funded through National Institutes of Health) and has published or has in preparation several journal articles. She was awarded a travel grant to participate in an International Complement Society Workshop 2020 in September in Germany. Some of her service to the College of Medicine and Life Sciences include serving as an Academic Peer Leader, Kobacker Center volunteer, and secretary for the OBGYN Student Club. In the community, she is serving as a board member for an international girls' rights organization and volunteers in a community garden; at the Toledo Museum of Art; and at the Community Care Clinics, a student-run local free medical clinic.

Sangita is a fifth-year graduate student in the Department of Cancer Biology. Sangita's dissertation research involves identifying and investigating chemotherapeutic drugs that target breast cancer stem-like cells. Her research has resulted in three peer-reviewed journal articles and one co-authored book chapter, with others under review. She also coauthored, in lay-terms, a description of her complex research in the *Toledo Blade*. In service to her fellow students and the community, Sangita mentored three students in their summer research projects, served as a Cancer Biology track representative and an international student representative in the Council of Biomedical Graduate Students. Sangita volunteers at the Hindu Temple of Toledo.

The recipients from the College of Medicine and Life Sciences are fourth-year medical students Kalee Royster and Rachel Wyand. In addition to their outstanding academic achievements, Kalee and Rachel have shown compassion and humanism by volunteering over 1000 hours while in medical school. Kalee's volunteer efforts include clinical work in the Community Care Clinics and teaching health education to school children, as well as work with the Alzheimer's Association and participating in Students for Medical Missions in Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Rachel's efforts include working in the Community Care Clinics, participation in Health Education and Advocacy Reaching Toledo Students, working with Lucas County Early Head Start to provide medical screening for children, and volunteering at a COVID-19 vaccination clinic.

The recipient from the College of Nursing is Tammie Ferguson. Tammie, a BSN and MSN graduate of the UT College of Nursing, is a student in the post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. She has been active in various nursing professional organizations including Ohio League of Nursing, National League of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, and Ohio Council of Associate Degree Nursing Education Administrators. Her DNP research project is titled "Music Listening: An Evidence-Based Approach to Help Manage Postoperative Pain." Her research focuses on evaluating the effectiveness of listening to music in addition to traditional management strategies to manage pain after surgery. If successful, this could lead to a decrease in opioid use.

The recipients from the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science are Safalta Khadka and Daniyah Almarghalani. Safalta is an MS student in the Division of Health Outcome and Socioeconomic Sciences. Her thesis topic is researching the outcomes of adverse drug events among patients using opioids. Her advisor noted, "Safalta has been insightful, responsive, and shown great perseverance in meeting her research objectives and outcomes." Daniyah, a Ph.D. student, has worked to establish a novel mouse model for inflammation after hemorrhagic brain injury. While defending her scientific poster at an International Stroke Conference in Los Angeles held last February, she was recognized as an outstanding graduate student. Her dissertation advisor credits Daniyah's work as being pivotal in securing a five-year National Institutes of Health grant to support his laboratory's research.

All of the recipients are clearly deserving of the scholarship support. The Health Science Scholarship Committee's members are: Ruth Alteneider, RN, Ph.D., Augusta Askari, Ph.D., Donna Haar, A. John McSweeney, Ph.D., J.D, Thomas Mehelas, M.D., Carol Okenka, RT-T, MR, Roberta Raeder, Ph.D. and Keith Schlender, Ph.D.

BYLAWS REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS CHANGES

By James Lapp

At the July 2020 Executive Board meeting, UTRA President Curt Black appointed an ad hoc Bylaws Review Committee to study our current UTRA Bylaws and determine if changes to the Bylaws were necessary and/or desired. The last such review of the Bylaws, in their entirety, occurred during the 2012-13 business year. I was asked and agreed to chair the committee. Members of the committee are Barbara Floyd, Donna Haar, Keith Schlender, Lance Talmage, and Judith Wilkinson. I would like to recognize and thank these members for their time and diligence.

Committee members began their review in August and continued that process through the end of the year. The members met several times in person (following all appropriate COVID-19 protocols) and exchanged many emails and drafts as they prepared their report. The committee's initial report was presented to the entire Executive Board at its November 2020 meeting, and the final report received the Board's unanimous approval at the January 2021 Executive Board meeting. A copy of the Bylaws, as amended, will be sent to all UTRA voting members this spring. It is the committee's hope that members will approve the revisions. A majority of the eligible members voting is required to change the Bylaws. To voting members — please review these changes and make sure to vote per the information you will receive.

OTHER UPDATE

By James Lapp

Update on OPERS. The OPERS Defined Benefit Fund returned just over 12 percent for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020, which exceeded its assumed rate of return of 7.2 percent. The Health Care Fund increased by almost 11 percent, compared to the target return of 6 percent. The system's Defined Benefit Fund for investment is \$98.4 billion, and the Health Care Fund is \$13.4 billion.

To update members on changes to health care planned for 2022, two new webinars were added to its Member Education Center (accessible at opers.org): *Retiree Health Care 65 and Older*, and *Retiree Health Care Under 65*. OPERS will also be mailing health care information to retirees, and members should be on the lookout for letters with the identifier "Health Care 2022 Important Information." Please be sure to read the letters as you may need to take action by an established deadline.

Update on STRS. The STRS pension fund returned 3.14 percent for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, due to the effects of the COVID-19 economic crisis. But the fund bounced back with healthy returns by year's end. For calendar year 2020, the fund's return was 12.6 percent. The board's investment consultant reported that the STRS Ohio's investment returns ranked in the top 25 percent of 300 public investment funds for three-, five-, seven-, and ten-year periods. Members seeking more information should consult the *STRS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2020*, available at strsoh.org.

BOOK BUDDIES

The UTRA book club, "Book Buddies," continues to meet virtually through Zoom due to the COVID pandemic, helping to keep members intellectually engaged during this difficult time. 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 how to connect with the group electronically.

UPDATE: UTRA SCHOLARSHIP FUND DRIVE

Andy Jorgensen, chair of the UTRA Scholarship Committee, reports that members stepped up and met the challenge of the UTRA board and donated \$3100 to the scholarship fund. This was matched by a \$3230 donation from board members, for a total of \$6,330. These funds will help in underwriting the cost of the scholarships this year, which are awarded to descendants of UTRA members.

For information on last year's recipients, see the annual meeting update on page 2 of this edition of *Tower Talk*.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The UTRA Program Committee is still unable to plan in-person events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the committee is working hard to develop virtual events. Members should check their email and the UTRA website for information on upcoming scheduled events. Events are also recorded and can be viewed at a time convenient to members.

Hopefully UTRA will be able to return to in-person events later this year, and we can once again enjoy the company of our fellow members.

METROPARKS: A GEM OF TOLEDO

Scott Carpenter, director of public relations for the Toledo Metroparks, recalled 2020 as the “best worst year ever” in his remarks to UTRA members on January 27. His presentation via Zoom highlighted some of the Metroparks’ successes of 2020 that were achieved despite the pandemic.

One of the ways the Metroparks was able to serve the Toledo community was by staying open during the pandemic, making the parks one of the only outdoor activities that people could take advantage of during the lockdown. By doing so, Carpenter said that the organization was able to create a sense of normalcy during a time of stress for most. He added that the Metroparks usually were a way to bring people together, but during the pandemic, they have served to help people stay apart in the outdoors.

But the Metroparks did more than just manage to stay open. Carpenter reflected on many ways the system was able to move forward to improve the quality of life for Toledoans, not only for 2020, but for many years into the future. The success of the Metroparks was recognized early in the year when the system was named the top park system in the country, receiving the prestigious National Gold Medal Award from the American Academy of Park and Recreation Administration.

The Metroparks also opened several new parks in 2020, Carpenter added, helping the organization achieve its goal of having a Metropark within five miles of every resident in Lucas County. That now includes north Toledo, where the new Manhattan Marsh Preserve opened this year. The park includes a 1.3 mile walk area around the marsh.

Another new park this year is Glass City Metropark, located downtown in the area previously occupied by the Sports Arena. Phase one of the park is now open, Carpenter said, and phases two and three are scheduled to open in the coming years. Cannonball Prairie, the third new park, opened in May and will connect the Oak Openings park with Secor Metropark with miles of bike trails. Carpenter said this is part of the plan of Metroparks to link together all of the parks west of the Maumee River.

Another new development Carpenter discussed was the new Treehouse Village at Oak Openings, the first construction of treehouses in a public park in the country. It includes five treehouses of different sizes that can be rented for overnight stays. The development is also unique in that it was built with private donations.

Lastly, Carpenter discussed the new venture at the Toledo Botanical Garden done in collaboration with the Ability Center of Toledo which created an accessible garden for adults and a playground for children.

The improvements to Toledo Metroparks were aided with the approval of a levy by voters in November that will help to fund further enhancements to the park system.

Carpenter’s talk was arranged by UTRA’s Program Committee, chaired by Pat Russell and Shirley Joseph. It was another in a series of virtual programming the committee has organized for UTRA members.

A recording of Carpenter’s complete talk is available at: toledoalumni.org/membership/ut-retirees



One of the tree houses for rent at Oak Openings Metropark. (Photo from Toledo Metroparks)

ZOO STAFF DISCUSSES ANIMAL BEHAVIOR FOR UTRA MEMBERS

Dealing with animal behavior is an important part of the care provided by the staff of the Toledo Zoo, according to zoo curators who talked about the topic at a UTRA members' virtual program on February 23. The program was another in a series of outreach presentations arranged by the UTRA Program Committee providing educational opportunities for members during the pandemic.

Curators must both understand animal behavior and seek ways to change it to help the animals adjust to life in captivity, said Beth Posta, curator of behavioral husbandry and research. By developing strong and trusting relationships with staff, the animals are trained to perform tasks that are necessary for their well-being, such as how to get health care check-ups from veterinarians in a way that is safe for both the animals and the caretakers.

Posta added that studying the social structures of animals as they would exist in the wild allows the curators to develop enrichment programs to make the lives in captivity fulfilling. The way the animals are provided their food is a big part of enriching their lives. For example, food can be hidden in locations that require the animals to forage for it in the same way they would in the wild.

Zoo animals get used to visitors, so much so that during the COVID shutdown last spring, some animals reacted adversely to the lack of people, said Nicole Syrek, zoo staff member. Zoo staff regularly walked through the grounds during this time to help reassure the animals, she added.

Alexandra Burris took UTRA members on a virtual tour of some of the zoo's animals to show specific animal behaviors. She also spoke about the zoo's animal conservation program which seeks to breed animals with the eventual hope of returning some of them to their native habitats. For example, the Toledo Zoo is seeking to increase the number of sturgeon in the Great Lakes by raising the fish in captivity and releasing them into Lake Erie with trackers that can let conservators see their movements and map their locations. This is especially useful for sturgeon because they can live to be over 100 years of age.

Burris also said the zoo participates in a national tiger breeding program to diversify the species and supplement the world population. The tigers are moved around from zoo to zoo to breed with other animals as part of their "Species Survival Plan."

UTRA President Curt Black thanked the zoo staff for their presentations and noted the importance of the zoo to Toledoans' quality of life.

A recording of the presentation in full is available on the UTRA website: toledoalumni.org/membership/ut-retirees

WELCOME 2020 NEW RETIREES AND LIFETIME MEMBERS

NEW RETIREES:

Diane Ammons	Patrick Dunne	Robin Kuhl	Barb Robertson
Ronnie Arnold	Janice Duris	Cindy Kwapich	Lorie Sarnes
Dr. Andrew Beavis	Diane Eisel	Patricia Layton	Dr. Jeffrey Sarver
Linda Beall	Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Dr. Kee Sook Lim	Rebecca Schnabel
Douglas Beckman	Laurie Flowers	David Lymanstall	Dr. Linda Schuller
Katherine Best	Joanne Floyd	Cindy Markovich	Danny Shuler
Terry Budd	Danial Fritch	Donald McLeod	Margaret Marie Smith
Mildred M. Chamberlain	Joyce Garber	Cora Middlebrooks	Dr. Alison Spongberg
Cynthia Chambers	Kathryn George	Syed Mohiuddin	Richard Springman
Vicki Chudey	Charlene Hansen	Joseph Munier	Brooke Stagner
Dr. Robert Coombs	Dr. Ezdihar Hassoun	Kimberly Myers	Nancy Staub
Julie Commager	Joyce Henley	Vita Norrils	Constance Stec
Joseph Cooper	Todd Honsberger	Dr. Douglas Nims	Roy Stewart
Karen Crabtree	Deborah Houck	Lynda Obee	Lansing Stoll
Thomas Crumley	Melissa Johnson	Cynthia O'Connell	Pamela Struffolino
Gary Daugherty	Andrea Joldrichsen	Jacquelyn Oricko	Charlotte Stubblefield
Benjamin Davis	Vicki Kroll	Patricia Padilla	Camila Taormina
Cassandra Diggins	Shannon Kimble	Deborah Pflighaar	
Dr. Laurie Dinnebeil	Theodore Koder	Tondapu Reddy	
	Valerie Koss	Rebecca Roberts	

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UTRA NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS CANDIDATES

The UTRA Nominating Committee's slate of candidates for election to office in 2021 was approved by the executive board on March 10. Candidates for office this year include:

For President, One to be Elected for 2-Year Term

Chris Spengler. Spengler, UTRA's vice president for the past two years, retired from UT in 2017 as Director of Advancement Relations after a 40-year career. Before joining the Advancement Division in 1999, Spengler served as executive secretary for 20 years, working for four university presidents during this time.

For Vice President, One to be Elected for 2-Year Term

Andy Jorgensen. Jorgensen, who has served on the UTRA board as an at-large member for the past two years, retired from UT in 2017 after 29 years as a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry. Throughout his career he served in many roles, including as an administrator in Academic Affairs and twice as chair of the UT Faculty Senate.

For Secretary, One to be Elected for 2-Year Term

Cecelia Clarke. Clarke retired from the UT College of Pharmacy in 2001. Since that time she has been active in UTRA, serving on the executive committee, helping to establish the UTRA Scholarship, and volunteering in the Office of Alumni Relations where she helps to maintain the UTRA membership database.

Candidates for Member-At-Large, Three to be Elected for Two-Year Term

Laurie Flowers. Flowers retired from her position in UT Marketing and Communications as Business Services Officer in September 2020. She began her career at UT in 1989 in the former Office of Public Information. She was active in the University Women's Commission as public relations chairperson and is currently volunteering for Toledo Metroparks.

Cynthia Nowak. Nowak served as editor and chief writer for the *Toledo Alumni Magazine* for 16 years and as communications director for Academic Affairs and Student Affairs before her retirement. She also taught part-time for nearly 25 years in the Honors College and is currently a freelance writer and volunteer for her church and environmental groups.

Thomas Mehelas. Mehelas retired in 2017 from the faculty of the Health Science Campus, where he taught in the areas of ophthalmology and neurology. He also had a clinical practice at the UT Medical Center and a private practice in the fields. He has been active in many organizations related to his medical specialty, and UTRA's Health Science Campus Scholarship Committee.

Thea Sawicki. Sawicki has served as a UTRA at-large member for the past two years. She retired in 2017 after a long career at the Health Science Campus. She joined the Medical College of Ohio in 1977 and served in various administrative positions including associate dean and vice-chancellor. She is also active in UT's Women & Philanthropy, and volunteers at the Health Science Campus.

WELCOME 2020 NEW RETIREES AND LIFETIME MEMBERS

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NEW RETIREES:

Terrance Teagarden
Lucy Thomas
Mary Vanness
Christine Wasserman

Brett Weaver
Sibylle Weck-Schwarz
Nicole Winhoven-Kamm
Lisa Young
Dr. Jacob Zeiss

NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS:

Dr. Kenneth Alexander
Dr. William Free
Donna Haar
Dr. Lance Talmage

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS UPDATE UTRA MEMBERSHIP

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Celia Regimbal, co-chair of the Membership Committee, reported that UTRA has 112 annual members, 153 complementary members, and 538 life members as of the date of the annual meeting.

Judith Wilkinson, chair of the Benefits Committee, said a new benefits brochure has been produced, and also noted a new program called PerkSpot which offers exclusive benefits to alumni and UTRA members. The new service is free.

POSTEL APPOINTED UTOLEDO PRESIDENT

By Dr. Adrienne King

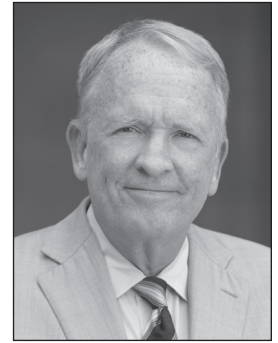
Dr. Gregory Postel was named the 18th president of The University of Toledo during a special Board of Trustees meeting on March 3.

The Board commended Postel for his tireless efforts since joining UToledo in the interim role last July. Since the beginning of fall semester, UToledo has navigated the pandemic utilizing the Rocket Prevention Principles best practices, a proactive surveillance testing strategy and transparent communication. UToledo's reported positivity rate has remained below the state's reported positivity rate since tracking began in August.

In addition, Postel was recognized for the stabilization of hospital finances following a tumultuous year for The University of Toledo Medical Center exacerbated by the pandemic. Preliminary FY21 projections indicate a positive turnaround in revenue.

The University's growing research portfolio continues to grow with several recent multimillion dollar grants announced from the Department of Defense, NASA and NIH, to name just a few. The University's year-to-date research funding numbers are on track based on last year's goals.

Postel was actively involved in securing the institution's second named college – the John B. and Lillian E. Neff College of Business and Innovation, which was announced in December. He has assisted with a number of other private gifts to support the University.



Dr. Gregory Postel

The board unanimously approved a resolution to continue his service to UToledo through June 2025.

"I am truly appreciative of and humbled by the vote of confidence from the Board of Trustees," Postel said. "I have found The University of Toledo to be an outstanding institution committed to student success. I look forward to working collaboratively with the dedicated leaders across our campuses to continue our positive momentum and achieve UToledo's full potential."

Postel has more than 25 years of leadership experience with university operations, academic medical centers and clinical research, as well as university governance, teaching and research. A graduate of the College of Wooster and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Postel completed a residency in radiology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and a fellowship in neuroradiology at the Mayo Clinic Foundation.

VERMONT BUS TRIP CANCELLED

Due to continuing concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic and travel, the UTRA bus trip to Vermont scheduled for August has been cancelled. For information on refunds, contact Sarah Metzger, Office of Alumni Engagement, at sarah.metzger2@utoledo.edu or call 419-530-4237.

UTRA AT 25 / MUOR AT 30: A HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP

While we were unable to do much to celebrate the 25th anniversary of UTRA and what would have been the 30th anniversary of MUOR in 2020, we can still honor those who served as leaders during these important years. Below is a list, compiled from the archives of both organizations, of the leaders of these groups and the years that they served.

Past Presidents of the University of Toledo Retirees Association:

James Brunner, 1995-1997
Lancelot C. A. Thompson, 1997-1999
Robert Niedzielski, 1999-2001
Richard Perry, 2001-2003
George Murnen, 2003-2005

George Kertz, 2006-2007
Jim Richard, 2007-2008
Mildred Allred, 2008-2010
Keith Schlender, 2010-2012
James Lapp, 2013-2015
Keith Schlender, 2015
Pam Pullella, 2015-2017
Donna Haar, 2017-2019
Curt Black, 2019-2021

Past Presidents of Medical University of Ohio Retirees Club:

Jim Richard, 1990
Gerald Connolly, 1991
Paul Moyer, 1992
Virginia Nilsson, 1993
Russel Rice, 1994
Augusta Askari, 1995
Lois Hupp, 1996

Jim Mansfield, 1997
Deanna Cedargren, 1998
Pat Harmon, 1999-2001
Richard Ruppert, 2002-2003
Joanne Schwartzberg, 2003-2004
Roberta Raeder, 2004-2006

IN MEMORIAM

Douglas B. Adler, Toledo, who worked in the Maintenance Department at MCO/MUO/UTMC, died Sept. 9 at age 64.

Martha A. (Allen) Albert, Sylvania, a medical laboratory technician at MCO from 1981 until her retirement in 1999, died Aug. 30 at age 81.

Dr. Amir Askari, Toledo, professor emeritus of cancer biology, died Jan. 15, 2020. He was 89. He joined the Medical College of Ohio faculty as professor and chair of pharmacology and experimental therapeutics in 1975. Askari was chair of the department until 1997 and later served as chair of the combined Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at the University of Toledo. Askari studied the heart muscle at the molecular level, focusing on its function during good health and disease. In addition to decades-long support from the National Institutes of Health, Askari was the lead investigator on a project titled "Control Mechanisms of Cardiac Proteins and Enzymes," which received funding for more than 20 years from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. He received emeritus status in 2014.

Robert L. Banks, Toledo, a custodian at the University from 1996 until his retirement in 2005, died Dec. 7 at age 77.

Dr. James L. Baumann, Toledo, a former UT faculty member, died Jan. 21 at age 85. He received bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in biology from the University in 1958, 1974 and 1979, respectively.

Sammy L. Bills, Toledo, a custodian at MCO/MUO from 1995 until his retirement in 2005, died Jan. 19 at age 81.

Marie J. Boyd Mims, Toledo, a former instructor at the University, died Dec. 24 at age 69. She was a UT alumna, receiving an associate degree in social services technology in 1995 and a bachelor of arts degree in adult liberal studies in 1996.

Claudia Jane Bradley, Toledo, professor of English and author, died Sept. 20 at age 65. She joined the University as an assistant professor of English in 1990. For 30 years, Bradley was a popular faculty member who taught creative writing, as well as literature and women's studies classes. She was a Master Teacher from 2002 to 2004 and served as an undergraduate adviser and director of creative writing in the English Department. A recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts grant, Bradley was the author of several books: *You Believers*, *Living Doll*, *Power Lines: and Other Stories*, *Visitors* and *Are We Lucky Yet?* In 2013, she received the University's Outstanding Research and Scholarship Award.

David Browning, Sylvania, a longtime faculty member at the University, died July 17 at age 80. He began teaching in the former Community and Technical College in 1987 and later joined the College of Health and Human Services. The assistant professor of social work retired in 2012. Browning received a master's degree in guidance and counselor education from UToledo in 1972.

Sandra K. (Coffman) Chick, Temperance, Mich., a secretary in the College of Education from 1978 until her death, passed away Jan. 9 at age 60.

Ruth J. (Smith) Clemens, Port Clinton, a former employee of the UT Bookstore, died Jan. 27 at age 88.

Loretta A. Cooke, Toledo, who worked in the UT International Admissions Office for more than two decades until her retirement in the mid-1990s, died Dec. 4 at age 96. In the mid-1970s, she served as a staff representative on the University's Affirmative Action Council.

John Czarnecki, Toledo, who taught in the College of Law in the mid-1970s, died Jan. 9 at age 80.

James "Jimmy" Dawley, Toledo, a custodian at UTMC from 2007 until his 2013 retirement, died Jan. 5 at age 72.

Dr. David Moore del Castillo, Albuquerque, N.M., professor emeritus of psychology, died Nov. 28 at age 82. He joined the University as an instructor in 1968. When he retired in 1996, he was named professor emeritus.

Judith A. (Barry) Dettinger, Monroe, N.C., a UT faculty member, died Oct. 5 at age 74. She worked with students with disabilities from 1996 to 2000.

Laurel R. (Church) Falls, Ida, Mich., a former nurse at MCO, died June 17 at age 60.

Virginia L. "Gini" (Neeley) Feller, Genoa, Ohio, a former instructor, died Jan. 20 at age 57.

Louis Escobar, Toledo, who served as interim coordinator in the Multicultural Student Center from 2002 to 2006, died Aug. 29 at age 70.

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IN MEMORIAM

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Andrew “Bud” Fisher, Sylvania, who helped preserve history by interviewing countless war veterans, died Aug. 2 at age 89. When UT partnered with the Library of Congress for the Veterans History Project in 2002, Fisher volunteered to interview local veterans. Recordings of the interviews are housed in the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections and the Library of Congress, and he published selected ones in the books *What a Time it Was: Interviews with Northwest Ohio Veterans of World War II* and *30 Below on Christmas Eve*.

Ruth F. (Zimmerman) Friedman, Toledo, professor emerita of English, died Oct. 19. She was 105. Friedman received a master of arts degree from the University in 1968, when she began teaching English as an instructor. Friedman was named an assistant professor in 1976 and an associate professor in 1983. She led the freshman composition program and taught introduction to literature. In 1985, Friedman retired from UT.

Cynthia M. (Greenwald) Goodman, Maumee, who worked in the University’s Division of Continuing Education, died July 30 at age 74.

James H. (Jim) Granecki, Prescott, Ariz., a faculty member from 1997 to 2002, died Feb. 6 at age 73. He received a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy and a law degree from the University in 1970 and 1976, respectively.

Dr. Temeaka Gray, Toledo, assistant professor of nursing, died Feb. 5 at age 49. She served as director of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Program and the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. Gray joined the University as an instructor in 2006.

Peter M. Handwork, a retired judge of the Sixth District Court of Appeals in Toledo, died Sept. 5 at age 78. He was an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Undergraduate Legal Specialties for more than two decades and coached the UT mock trial team for 19 years.

Marilyn J. (Smith) Hartkopf, Sarasota, Fla., a retired MCO employee, died Aug. 1 at age 87.

Patricia A. Harmon, Swanton, a longtime nurse administrator at MCO, died Sept. 20 at age 84.

Frederick E. Henning, Holland, Ohio, a former instructor who taught criminal law, died Dec. 16 at age 80. He received a bachelor’s degree in economics from UT in 1962.

Thomas R. Hertzfeld, Waterville, Ohio, who worked at the UTMCC Credit Union, died Jan. 12 at age 81.

Marilyn E. Hixon, Maumee, a medical technician who retired from MCO, died Dec. 20 at age 84.

Dr. Paul E. Hodel, Goshen, Ind., died Nov. 15 at age 84. He was an assistant professor of anesthesiology at MCO from 1984 until his retirement in 1996.

Dr. Russell V. Howard, Sylvania, a former clinical assistant professor of pediatrics, died Nov. 22 at age 90.

Erma J. (Merrill) Hughes, Toledo, a longtime UT staff member, died Oct. 29 at age 94. She was an administrative assistant to the dean in the College of Engineering. In 1988, Hughes received an Outstanding Women Award. She retired from the University after more than 20 years of service.

Arthur “Art” Irving, Sylvania, who worked for 17 years in maintenance at MCO until his retirement in 1998, died Aug. 11. He was 87.

John A. “Doc” Janowski, Delta, Ohio, an electrician at the University from 1990 until his retirement in 2010, died Jan. 18 at age 74.

Mahlon “Al” Keivel, Largo, Fla., a former UT employee who worked in maintenance, died Oct. 10 at age 98.

Dr. Thomas A. Klein, Maumee, a longtime faculty member and administrator in the College of Business, died Sept. 17 at age 84. He joined the University as an assistant professor of statistics and marketing in 1964 and was promoted to associate professor in 1967 and professor in 1971. From 1967 to 1980, Klein served as director of the Business Research Center. He was an expert on macromarketing and authored a book, *Social Costs and Benefits of Business*. In 1985, Klein was named associate dean of the College of Business. He served as interim dean of the college from 1987 to 1990. Klein retired in 1993 and was named professor emeritus. He continued to teach after retiring and helped establish the Center for Family Business and the business ethics and sales programs.

Tamara (Tammy) Kneisley, Sylvania, a University employee for 32 years, died Oct. 30 at age 62. She began working in the UT Ticket Office in 1985 and later became an administrative assistant in Athletics. Kneisley coordinated NCAA, MAC and UT scholarships for all sports. In 2011, she received an Outstanding Women Award. Kneisley retired in 2017.

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IN MEMORIAM

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Nancy C. (Williamson) Kolinski, Toledo, who retired from UT as a secretary in 1997, died Oct. 21 at age 83. She worked at the University nearly 20 years.

Donald R. Koralewski, Bryan, Ohio, a writer in the UT Public Relations Office from 1998 to 2002, died Dec. 11 at age 63.

James F. Machen, Toledo, a former member of the College of Engineering, died Nov. 7 at age 91. He received a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from UT in 1951 and began teaching engineering graphics as an instructor in 1954. Six years later, he went to work in the industry and received an MBA from UT in 1964. In 1969, Machen returned to the University as assistant professor and was promoted to associate professor in 1982. One year later, he was tapped to serve as assistant dean in the College of Engineering. The inventor received nine patents.

Rosemary Madonna Callahan "Posy" McHugh, Toledo, who worked with student teachers in the College of Education, died Sept. 8 at age 93.

Gary Maxey, Toledo, a maintenance repair journeyman at the University, died Oct. 21 at age 73. He joined the staff in 1989.

Sally A. (Bissell) Michaels, Sylvania, a former instructor in the UT Paralegal Studies Program, died Dec. 13 at age 82.

John (Jack) Murphy, Toledo, former UT head football coach from 1971 to 1976, died Jan. 9 at age 88. In his first season as head coach, the Rockets went 12-0, completing a perfect 35-0 run from 1969 to 1971. Toledo won

its third consecutive Mid-American Conference Championship and Tangerine Bowl title that season, and Murphy was voted MAC Coach of the Year. He joined the Rockets in 1960 as an assistant coach and then became the defensive coordinator under Frank Lauterbur in 1963. He led defenses that helped produce Toledo's first MAC title in 1967 and was a critical part of the 35-0 streak that started in 1969. In five of Murphy's last six seasons as defensive coordinator, the Rockets were in the top 10 nationally in total defense; this included a No. 1 ranking in 1969. Murphy left UT in 1970 to become the head coach at Heidelberg, but returned to assume the reins in Toledo in 1971.

Zoellen Harrington Murphy, Perrysburg, residency and curriculum coordinator in the Department of Psychiatry, died Jan. 24 at age 60. She joined the MCO staff as a secretary in the Psychiatry Department in 1994, became an administrative assistant in 2007, and was named residency and curriculum coordinator in 2015.

Dr. Richard J. Nelson, Toledo, an assistant professor of medicine at MCO from 1991 to 1999, died Sept. 27 at age 63.

Douglas R. "Nic" Nichol, Holland, Ohio, a longtime member of the Music Department, died Nov. 1 at age 75. He joined the faculty as an assistant professor of music and director of choral activities in 1979. The baritone was promoted to associate professor and also served as director of the University Chorus, the Varsity Singers and the University Concert Chorale.

Norman Nitschke, an engineer and inventor who generously supported the College of Engineering, died Feb. 14 in his Perrysburg home. He was 100. In recognition of his support for engineering programs, the University named Nitschke Hall, Nitschke Auditorium and the Nitschke Technology Commercialization Complex in his honor. The engineer was known for his work advancing glass tempering technology; he was a leader in developing safety glass fabrication processes and standards. Throughout his career, he partnered with the late Harold McMaster. He also supported student scholarships and other UT fundraising initiatives throughout his lifetime.

Dr. William J. O'Neal, Toledo, professor emeritus of classics, history, and foreign languages, died Oct. 29 at age 87. He joined the University as an assistant professor in 1969. He taught an array of classes on the ancient world, as well as Latin and Greek languages. In 1978, O'Neal was named one of UT's Outstanding Teachers. O'Neal also served as director of graduate studies and chair of the Foreign Languages Department, and also chair of the History Department. Most summers found the Vatican Scholar studying works of 15th- and 16th-century poets in Italy. He retired in 2014.

Pando E. Pappas, Oregon, Ohio, a former instructor in the College of Business, died Dec. 2 at age 92. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration in accounting from UT in 1953.

Martha J. (Cuthbert) Phillips, Lambertville, Mich., who was a secretary at UT, died Feb. 7 at age 87.

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UTRA Tower Talk

IN MEMORIAM

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Vickie L. (Frey) Piriczky, Toledo, who worked at the University more than three decades, died June 21 at age 67. She joined the staff in 1982 and worked in the Bursar's Office/Treasurer's Office until her retirement in 2014.

Betty Jane (Stanislawski) Piotrowski, Rossford, who worked at UT for nearly two decades until her retirement, died July 12 at age 93.

Marjorie A. "Margie" Richmond, Sylvania, a secretary at the University for many years, died Jan. 16 at age 89.

Karen (Chokel) Rohrs, Westlake, Ohio, a faculty member at the University from 1997 to 2002, died Jan. 1 at age 73.

Barbara M. (Hanudel) Rudnicki, Toledo, who was a member of the College of Pharmacy from 1986 to 2009, died Jan. 13 at age 62. She received a bachelor of science degree in pharmacy in 1981 and a master of science degree in pharmacy sciences in 1988 from the University.

Sylvia K. Salsbury, Tampa, Fla., died Sept. 25 at age 84. She received a bachelor of arts degree in English from the University in 1989 and was a tutor in the Writing Center.

Leslie W. Sheridan, Cincinnati, dean emeritus of University Libraries, died Oct. 27 at age 84. He was appointed director of libraries at UT in 1975. Sheridan was named the first dean of University Libraries in 1991. He led Carlson Library's efforts to put its catalogues online. In addition, Sheridan helped establish the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections in 1979.

Robert E. "Sonny" Soncrant, Toledo, who served as director of the Workplace Credit Program at the University from 1998 until his retirement in 2007, died Dec. 12 at age 74.

Michael P. Soto, Toledo, a custodian at the University from 1979 until his retirement in 2009, died Jan. 28 at age 72.

Margaret M. (Moran) Stengle, Toledo, who taught physics at the University, died Sept. 11 at age 93.

Robert C. Steinmiller, Helena, Ohio, a former instructor in the College of Engineering, died Dec. 23 at age 77. In 1967, he received a master's degree in civil engineering from the University.

Ronald D. Suess, Manistee, Mich., a former UToledo employee, died Sept. 12 at age 86.

Dr. Frederick E. Tank, Toledo, professor emeritus of economics, died Jan. 22 at age 79. Tank retired in 1999 and was named professor emeritus.

Christine L. (Brummett) Vaughn, Bowling Green, who was a nurse at MUO/UTMC from 2006 to 2008, died Aug. 17 at age 56.

Shirley A. (Raitz) Vogelsang, Sylvania, who worked in the University Print Shop from 1995 until her retirement in 2006, died Sept. 9 at age 93.

Carl E. Williams, Oregon, Ohio, who worked in the UT Education Center, died Jan. 3 at age 84.

Vaughn H. Williams Jr., Toledo, who worked at the University from 1996 to 1998, died Nov. 21 at age 91.

Margaret L. Wood, Toledo, who worked in the Records Department at MCO, died Sept. 26 at age 90.

Jacqueline Brown Yocum, Asheville, N.C., a former coordinator of continuing education at MCO, died Dec. 24 at age 79.