

Tower Talk

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What a year we have had. The pandemic still gave us fits, but we were able to start to have in-person programming once again. What a welcome change that was! Looking back, it is truly amazing that UTRA was able to maintain its strong engagement efforts while still dealing with that darn COVID.

While our June Annual Meeting had to be canceled due to COVID, we were able to combine it with our December Holiday Brunch — a welcomed in-person event. The turnout for the Holiday Brunch was great, and we were able to celebrate seeing each other in the flesh once again, honor scholarship recipients, raise funds for the UToledo Student Food Pantry, and supply all those stuffed animals for the hospital. In addition, it was a treat to hear from our guest speaker, Dr. Sammy Spann, who spoke about the challenges of being a college student in 2021.

As some of you may know, I am a genealogist with a specialty in cemetery research. You can imagine my delight when we had a tour of the historic Woodlawn Cemetery and Arboretum in October. We wandered around looking at gravesites of prominent Toledo families and received information on the hundreds of tree species in the cemetery — all with a guide who provided valuable information. The turnout for this walking tour was fantastic. I know I enjoyed it immensely and could have spent many more hours there.

Shortly after I took office last year, I appointed an ad hoc committee to review all of our standing committees. I asked Curt Black to spearhead this effort, and he has been doing a great job. This ad hoc committee is drafting a document that outlines basic committee guidelines, responsibilities of committee chairs and committee members, and putting in writing the purpose, structure, functions, responsibilities, and operating procedures for each of our standing committees. This document, when complete, will reside on the UTRA website and will be enormously helpful as we move forward. This document is now in draft form with the final tweaks to come shortly.

The bylaws committee has met and made recommendations to two articles: one to account for ties in elections, and the other to make the bylaws committee a standing committee. If you have any questions, feel free to contact any board member or me.

You should have received your ballot by now for selecting board members at various positions. Please take the time to review all of the material and cast your vote.

I look forward to seeing everyone at one of our upcoming events. We have some exciting programs in the planning stages to include a trip to the National Museum of the Great Lakes, a trip to Hoen's Garden Center for a program on container gardening, a program on World War II stolen art, our annual meeting June 8, and don't forget about our bus trip to Vermont in August. See you soon.

Sincerely,
Chris Spengler
UTRA President

UTRA MEMBERS ENJOY HOLIDAY BRUNCH, ANNUAL MEETING

Unable to hold its annual meeting last year, UTRA combined that event with its holiday brunch on Dec. 5 at the Heather Downs Country Club. The special guest speaker was Sammy J. Spann, associate vice president of student affairs and dean of students. Spann provided an overview of his work that he does to help The University of Toledo succeed and thrive, which has been especially challenging during 2020 and 2021 when many aspects of student life were drastically changed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Spann stressed the importance of paying attention to the needs of all students, noting that some of them most affected by the lack of social interaction resulting from the pandemic were the high achievers and actively engaged students.

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UTRA MEMBERS ENJOY HOLIDAY BRUNCH, ANNUAL MEETING

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One of the most challenging aspects of the past two years has been the suicides of nine UToledo students, Spann said. He added that it is important to acknowledge the pain some students are experiencing and seek to reach out to them.

He urged retirees to get involved as mentors, which can help not only the students to have experienced faculty and staff as supporters, but also help to keep retirees engaged in the University. Spann said he wants UTRA members to "continue the sense of belonging to the University."

Retirees have been active supporters of another student-centered initiative, the food pantry. The pantry provides free food and hygiene supplies to students who are without. The pantry is helping to cover basic

needs, and sometimes it not only feeds students, but also their families.

Spann encouraged retirees to provide financial support to the pantry rather than supplies because the University can use the funds to purchase food for just 19 cents a pound from local food banks.



Another way Spann said UTRA members can help is by opening their homes to international students for holiday dinners. This not only helps the students to feel a connection to the community, but also can introduce them to unique aspects of American culture they might not get to experience otherwise.

Members Get Update on UTRA Activities

President Chris Spengler opened the annual business meeting by introducing the officers, and Brenda McKinley gave the treasurer's report. Despite not being able to organize special events during COVID, McKinley said the organization raised nearly \$4,000 in income from memberships. Without programming, there were also few expenses, and the organization's balance was \$35,835 as of September. UTRA did help to underwrite some of the cost of the holiday brunch for members.

Billy Pierce, director of alumni relations, updated members on events happening at the University, including the beginning of a new strategic planning process, which President Gregory Postel hopes to conclude by the end of the summer. A series of web-based events sought input from many constituencies, including UTRA members, in the process.

The University also hired a new athletic director, Bryan Blair, and new vice president of advancement, Floyd Akins.

James Lapp, the UTRA representative to the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees, gave a report on the outlook for both OPERS and STRS for 2022. He said the stock market has provided healthy returns to both organizations, although he warned that success is not likely to continue this year. In anticipation of the full impact of the pandemic on the national economy, Lapp said OPERS is looking at freezing its cost of living increases in benefits for two years, which would save \$3 billion. He also added that it was unlikely that STRS would be able to implement such yearly increases for new members. While retirees advocated for COLAs, active contributors were not supportive.

Lapp ended with some interesting facts about the beneficiaries of the pension plans. There are more than 200 recipients who are older than 100 years of age, and there is one retiree who is 108 years old who has been retired for 52 years.

Lapp said that compared to other university retiree groups at Ohio's public universities, UTRA has the largest membership, is more active, has more scholarship money to award, and has more support from its alumni organization.

Dorothea Sawicki gave a brief report on the Satellites, the volunteer group founded on Health Science Campus in 1975. Volunteers have given more than 2 million hours to the institution and have raised \$1 million in support of scholarships. She encouraged UTRA members to consider joining the organization.

Andy Jorgensen, chair of the UTRA scholarship committee, said more than \$70,000 has been awarded over the years to Main Campus students who are direct descendants of UTRA members. He introduced two of the students who received scholarships this past year, each of whom thanked members for their financial support of their education. Keith Schlender, chair of the Health Science Campus scholarship committee, said that fund currently has a balance of \$120,000 in its endowment and will continue to award a scholarship to one student from each of the four colleges on that campus.

UTRA members ended the event by donating more than \$1,000 to the Student Food Pantry. President Spengler thanked everyone for stepping up to help students in need.

The annual meeting will return this year at the Belmont Country Club in June. UTRA members should check their email for announcements on how to register.

HEALTH SCIENCE CAMPUS SCHOLARSHIP REPORT 2021-22

By Keith K. Schlender

Each year proceeds from the Health Science Campus (HSC) Retirees Scholarship Fund are used to award scholarships to master's and doctoral students in the colleges located on HSC. Funding for the scholarships comes from three sources: income from the HSC Retiree Fund Endowment, contributions from HSC retirees, and fundraising activity such as the hospital shoe sales. Due to the generosity of the HSC retirees, our endowment is \$84,336, and our endowment plus earnings exceeds \$128,000. We were able to grant \$2,000 in scholarships to Graduate Studies; Medicine and Life Sciences; Nursing; and Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The recipients are recommended by the colleges based on academic excellence and campus and community contributions.

The recipient from the HSC College of Graduate Studies is Sayani Bhattacharjee, a PhD student in the Cell and Cancer Biology Program. Sayani's dissertation advisor, Dr. Nagalakshmi Nadiminty, said, "I have watched Sayani become an independent researcher able to design and carry out complex experiments." In addition to her studies and research, Sayani has served as president of the Council of Biomedical Graduate Students. In recognition of her academic and research activities, she was the recipient of the American Association of University Women's Dean Katherine Easley Wemmer Scholarship.

The recipients from the College of Medicine and Life Sciences are fourth-year medical students Kristen Hayden and Michael McHugh. Kristen participated in an emergency medicine research project on stress and anxiety in emergency medicine residents that led to a publication in the journal *Wellness*. She will enter the residency program in Emergency Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School. Kristen was involved in numerous community activities, including the student-run Community Cares

Clinic. She also played French horn with the UToledo Orchestra all four years of medical school.

Michael is a nontraditional medical student; he will graduate with a wife, 10-year-old son, and 4-year-old daughter. Understandably, he spent most of the last four years balancing his role as husband, father, and medical student. One of his family projects was collecting and delivering food and amenity donations monthly to the Family House Toledo. Michael will enter the residence program in orthopedic surgery at The University of Toledo Medical Center.

The recipients from the College of Nursing are Jordan Farnsworth and Megan Schlachter. After working for several years as a healthcare consultant, Jordan decided he wanted to transition to a patient-centered career. He enrolled in the UToledo Graduate Entry Master's Program. After completing his first semester of nursing school, he began working at UTM as a nursing assistant, as well as volunteering as director of nursing relations at the Community Care Clinic. Megan is a student in the post-Master's to Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. She is also working on a graduate certificate as a family nurse practitioner. While working on her master's degree, she began clinical teaching in the UToledo BSN Program. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she tutored MSN students as part of the COVID Relief Act. As a DPN student, Megan continues to participate in numerous programs in the Toledo healthcare community.

The recipients from the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science are Maxime Ahouansou and Saloni Malla. Maxime is a Fulbright Scholar in the Industrial Pharmacy Program. During his first year, he became an expert in the quantitative analysis of numerous drugs. Data from Maxime's results are being used in three separate research manuscripts. He has

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REMINDER: ELECTION BALLOTS DUE MAY 13

You should already have received your ballot for the 2022-23 UTRA elections — be sure to make your choices and mail them back by May 13. Full biographies of each candidate are included with the ballot, but here's a quick reminder of who's running to represent you:

Candidate for Treasurer (two-year term)

Celia Regumbal

Candidates for Member-at-Large (three to be elected to two-year terms)

Sabrina A. Nabors
Peter J. Papadimos
Roberta (Bobbie) Henry Raeder
Lance Talmage
Janice (Jan) M. Whitaker
Kathy (Bielski) Wilson

COMMITTEE REVIEW PROJECT AIMS TO MAXIMIZE UTRA POTENTIAL

By Curt Black and Cynthia Nowak

You might jokingly call it a “committee on committees,” but the Committee Review Project hopes to unlock the full potential of all existing and future UTRA committees.

The current nine committees cover everything from UTRA retiree benefits, programs, and activities to organization bylaws to making sure that UTRA is represented at meetings of the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees.

Until now, UTRA committee members haven’t had a central document to help guide their decisions, and to prepare future committee chairs with a blueprint for the future. The Committee Review Project is providing that guidance by gathering input from each committee to create a standardized, step-by-step outline of how the committees function.

Although the Committee Review Project aims to delineate the purpose, responsibilities and operating procedures for each standing committee, the scope for creativity and new initiatives within each committee remains.

“UTRA standing committees are the backbone of what the organization accomplishes for retirees year after year,” says Curt Black, chair of the project. “We wanted to make sure that those accomplishments are made easier with this guidance document. As always, and thanks to our dedicated committee members, the sky’s the limit.”

UTRA standing committees always welcome new members. A full list of committees will soon be available at the UTRA website: toledoalumni.org/membership/ut-retirees/

SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS

April 26: Hoen’s Garden Center Container Gardening Activity at 10:30 a.m.

May: WWII Stolen Art Presentation by Al Geha at the Center for the Visual Arts; \$5 Optional Docent Tour

June 8: Annual UTRA Board Meeting and Luncheon at the Belmont Country Club

July 31: The University of Toledo Alumni Association’s Art on the Mall

Aug. 8-13: Bus Trip to Vermont

Possible Future Activities Under Discussion:

- Sandpiper Boat Tour in August
- Maumee Indoor Theater Movie with Treat or Food
- Wine and Cheese Presentation with Jim Sautter in October or November
- Bus Trip to Purple Rose Theatre to see “Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine”
- Talk by author Kimberly Brownlee with a box lunch followed by a tour of the State Hospital Cemetery
- Rent Trolley for UToledo Board and Program Committee 150th Anniversary on Oct. 1
- Presentation by Tom Walton, former vice president and editor of The Blade

HEALTH SCIENCE CAMPUS SCHOLARSHIP REPORT 2021-22

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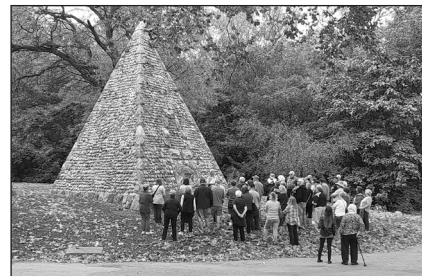
also participated in a collaborative research project with the UToledo Department of Dentistry. Saloni’s research focuses on breast cancer. She has published seven manuscripts, and her preliminary findings led to a \$1.4 million research award from the Department of Defense to the laboratory of her major advisor, Dr. Amit Tiwari. Saloni received the American Association of University Women’s Dean Katherine Easley Wemmer Scholarship of Excellence Awarded.

All of the recipients are deserving of the scholarship support we were able to provide them. The Health Science Scholarship Committee has members from each of the four colleges on the campus: Ruth Alteneider, RN, PhD; Augusta Askari, PhD; Donna Haar; A. John McSweeney, PhD, JD; Thomas Mehelas, MD; Carol Okenka, RT-T, MR; Roberta Raeder, PhD; and Keith Schlender, PhD.

WALKING TOUR

UTRA members were given a guided tour of Woodlawn Cemetery, Toledo's most iconic cemetery, on October 12. The cemetery was established in 1876 and is an outstanding example of the "rural cemetery movement," where burial grounds were perceived as parks to be enjoyed by the living. Some of the most important memorials are those for John Gunckel and Edward Drummond Libbey. Mr. Gunckel was the founder of the Toledo Newsboys Association, which today is known as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Toledo. His monument is a pyramid made of 10,000 different stones from around the world gathered and placed by the boys who were served by the association. Edward

Drummond Libbey brought the glass industry to Toledo in 1888; he and his wife, Florence Scott Libbey, also founded the Toledo Museum of Art. Included in their memorial is an art installation at the bottom of the grave marker that replicates the cut glass that the Libbey Company produced and marketed internationally from the 1890s to the 1920s.



UTRA MEMBERS DONATE \$1,000 TO ROCKET FUEL PANTRIES

Members attending our annual UTRA Holiday Brunch/General Meeting last December donated \$1,000 to UToledo's Rocket Fuel Pantries to support students who struggle with food insecurity while also trying to bolster their resumés and their chances for obtaining well-paying, meaningful jobs in the future. It is stunning to realize that some of our students are dealing with hunger pangs while preparing for exams or writing term papers. Tuition scholarships offer opportunity, but not ordinary daily food and hygiene needs.

UToledo Rocket Fuel Pantries help provide daily necessities for students requiring and deserving our help. The pantries are located on Main Campus in Thompson Student Union Room 2504 and on Health Science Campus in Health Education Building Room 113. Information about the pantries may be obtained by calling 419.530.2471. All donated funds are used to purchase non-perishable food and also fresh vegetables or fruit when in season. Donated funds also enable the pantries to buy everyday basic hygiene needs, including soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, and menstrual products.

In addition to dispensing food and hygiene products and to lower the cost of ongoing necessary expenditures, the pantries also oversee garden local plots growing produce to provide fresh vegetables and fruits for students who cannot afford them, especially now when inflation forces hard choices. There always is, however, an ongoing shortage of gardeners to help grow these vegetables and fruits. If you have a green thumb and are willing to volunteer with gardening chores, please contact the pantries by calling the number above.

Our goal for 2022 is to raise \$2,022 in donations from our UToledo retirees to fund the UToledo Rocket Fuel Pantries and to receive your checks before The University of Toledo's Homecoming on Oct. 1. Checks should be made payable to The University of Toledo Foundation with a notation that the money is intended for the Rocket Fuel Pantries, Fund #2402427. Your checks should be sent directly to Sarah Metzger, c/o The University of Toledo Foundation, 4510 Dorr Street, Mail Stop #830, Toledo, OH 43615. Sarah Metzger will make sure that UTRA retirees are credited with donating these funds and that your check is properly deposited. You will receive a tax-deductible receipt from the UToledo Foundation. If you wish, you may designate your gift as being given in honor or in memory of someone. When you supply names and addresses, all honorees will receive a letter informing them of your generosity without mentioning the amount given. This is a wonderful way to help our students and at the same find a "one-size-fits-all" birthday or remembrance gift.

If you have questions about your donation, Sarah Metzger may be reached at 419.530.4237 or sarah.metzger2@utoledo.edu. Please send your donations now so that the funds will be available to help students during fall semester.

The success of our UToledo students not only helps them and their families, but also all of the Toledo establishments who are seeking well-qualified employees. These worthy students need our support so they can graduate and then use their skills to support themselves and their families, also furthering Toledo's quality of life and economic growth.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

By James Lapp

As you may recall, during the election for Executive Board members last year, a tie vote occurred for one of the member-at-large positions. The UTRA Bylaws, as currently written, do not provide guidance to handle such ties. The Bylaws Committee is proposing new wording to be added to our Bylaws to resolve this issue should it occur in the future. Additionally, we are proposing a revision to the Bylaws that would change the status of the Bylaws and Nominating

Committees from ad hoc to standing committees. Both changes have been approved by the UTRA Executive Board. These revisions will be sent to all UTRA voting members for approval this spring. We hope you will support our recommended changes. Members of the Bylaws Committee are Laurie Flowers, Barbara Floyd, Donna Haar, James Lapp (Chair), Keith Schlender, Lance Talmage, and Judith Wilkinson.

WELCOME NEW RETIREES AND LIFETIME MEMBERS

Pasha Andrews
Carylon Anteau
Kathy Austin
Kimberly Banas
Carole Bechstein
Cynthia Beisser
Diane Bouillon
Diana Bressler
Dennis Brown
Gail Burgin
Constance Butler
Susan Carter
Jeffrey Clark
Douglas Collins
Jamie Cooper
Thomas Crumley
Piotr J. Czernik
Denise Dandino-Abbott
Dr. Patricia Devlin
Lauren Diehl
Barbara Elliott
Peggy Estes
Cindy Filas
Sandra Flick
Nancy Frazier
Mary Genalo
Dr. Lucy Goodenday
Soultana Grether
Edward Gust
Oralia Hensley

Sue Hineline
Sue Hochberg
Darlene Jambor
Tressa Johnson
Susan King
Mary Knapich
Patricia Komives
Kay Langenderfer
Julie Ann Lavey
Carol Ann Lawrence
Gaile Lewandowski
Robert Liebnau
Terri Lonsway
Michele Lovett
Karen MacDonald
Marilyn Maidlow
Dr. Joseph Margiotta
Joyce McDonagh
Donald McLeod
Geoffrey Mitchell
Joan Moosman
Linda Morgillo
Pamela Mosher
Dr. Daniel Murtagh
Darlene Nidek
Thomas O'Brien
Bethan O'Neill
Larissa Orlovski
Margaret Otoo
Richard Overholt

Gary Pirolli
John Riley
Carolyn Ruge
Bonnie Rugg
Sherry Scotton
Debra Shepard
Anne Marie Simon
Connie Smith
Dr. Susan Sochacki
Joan Stasa
Thomas Szymanski
Lynne Timpe
Wai-Ming To
Jose Trevino
Karen Whitmer
Celina Winfield
Karen Wolniewicz
Dr. John Wryobek
Joseph Young

New Lifetime Members

Joyce Garber
Vicki Chudey
Charlene Hansen
Brenda McKinley
Dr. Katherine L. Sink
Richard Springman
Linda Sue Stacy
Mary Beth VanNess

UTRA BUS TRIP TO VERMONT FULLY BOOKED

Looks like everybody knows a great time when they see it — the bus to Vermont is now full! UTRA members can get on the wait list by calling the Office of Alumni Engagement at 419.530.2586. The trip runs from Aug. 8-13 and includes luxury motor coach transportation; five nights of lodging; five breakfast

and three dinner meals; and visits to the Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks, Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Factory, the Shelburne Museum, Cold Hollow Cider Mill, Rock of Ages Granite Quarry, Stowe Village, and a dinner cruise on Lake Champlain.

NEWS FROM COLUMBUS

By James Lapp

STRS Ohio

At the February meeting of the STRS board, actuarial consultant Cheiron provided further analysis of potential benefit improvements designed to help both active and retired members of the system. The board expressed interest in various options that include a one-time 2 percent COLA for eligible recipients and a change to the current age and service eligibility requirements for active members, which would allow teachers with 35 years of service to retire at any age (eliminating the age 60 requirement set to be put in place in 2026). The board is also considering a reduction in the member contribution rate from 14 percent to 13 percent. Options discussed at previous meetings don't appear to be much in the mix anymore (a 2 percent one-time COLA along with a 2 percent salary reduction in employee contributions, and a 2 percent ongoing simple COLA). A one-time simple COLA increase would result in a higher benefit in all future years but does not commit STRS to additional COLA increases each year. Cheiron estimates the cost to provide a one-time 2 percent COLA to be about \$1 billion. They have also projected that the cost of providing an ongoing 2 percent COLA would add approximately \$13.8 billion in liabilities, which would increase STRS' unfunded liabilities to \$34.6 billion from \$20.8 billion. With investment returns expected to be muted over the next decade and a negative cash flow of about \$4 billion annually (paying out about \$7.4 billion versus collecting \$3.4 billion in contributions), Cheiron is advising the system to proceed cautiously with benefit changes. Cheiron will be providing additional information on the financial impact of the proposed changes at the March board meeting (which had not happened at the time of this writing).

Among active teachers, there appears to be at least some difference of opinion between teachers at the elementary and secondary level versus those at the college and university level. The former group seems to be more interested in eliminating the age 60 requirement. Unfortunately, there are many teachers feeling stressed out who do not believe they are still going to be teaching by the time they turn 60. A survey of active teachers released in February by the National Education Association showed that teachers are feeling burned out, and 55 percent indicate they are ready to leave the profession earlier than planned. In contrast, higher education faculty tend to retire well after age 60, so for them reducing employee contributions is preferable. Eliminating the age 60 requirement for retirement would impact only a small number of college and university faculty members. For example, a recent OSU analysis found only 1.8 percent of its faculty reaching 35 years of service before age 60.

Cheiron has concluded its actuarial experience review (comparing the STRS demographic and economic assumptions with what actually happened) and recommended several changes to its actuarial assumptions. The recommendations were approved by the board and will result in an actuarial gain of about \$2.6 billion, slightly decreasing the fund's liability. The demographic changes will also have a positive impact on the STRS healthcare fund, resulting in an actuarial gain of about \$300 million.

Investment consultant Callan LLC shared its quarterly performance report for various periods ending December 31, 2021. STRS' total return for calendar year 2021 was 19.36 percent, beating the fund's benchmark by a full 2.0 percent and outperforming 96 percent of the funds in Callan's public fund sponsor database of more than 200 funds. Additionally, STRS' return ranked in the top 15 percent of public funds for the three-, five-, seven-, and 10-year time periods. Callan also noted that the STRS total fund has a lower level of risk than the average fund in the database.

OPERS

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, the OPERS defined benefit fund showed a return of 15.3 percent, slightly outperforming its policy benchmark by 0.06 percent. The annualized total return was 14.9 percent for the past three years, 11.4 percent for five years, and 10.1 percent for 10 years, beating its benchmark return for all periods. Leading the strong performance last year were private equity, up 44.8 percent; U.S. equities, up 26.3 percent; and real estate, up 17 percent. The defined benefit fund ended the year with assets of \$109 billion. The healthcare fund finished 2021 at \$14.5 billion, thanks to an investment return of 14.3 percent. The return exceeded its policy benchmark by 0.58 percent. The healthcare fund's annualized return was 14.9 percent over three years, 10.5 percent over five years, and 8.7 percent over 10 years. All those returns exceeded its policy benchmarks. As compared to the pension fund, the healthcare fund has a reduced risk investment allocation (due to higher liquidity needs) and as such does not invest in private equity or private real estate. It has a 7.3 percent allocation in real estate investment trusts, which returned 46.0 percent in 2021.

OCHER

One last note, the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees has a new website, ocheroh.org. Please be sure to check it out.

IN MEMORIAM

Gary L. Andres, Stryker, Ohio, director of grants accounting from 2000 to 2019, died Aug. 10 at age 68. A UToledo alumnus, he received a master of public administration degree in 1976.

Marilyn (O'Brien) Arbaugh, Sylvania, who taught at the University from 1999 to 2000, died Nov. 19 at age 86. She received a bachelor's degree in business education from UToledo in 1957.

Afaf "Fay" Barakat, Toledo, who helped her sons with Phoenicia Cuisine restaurant in the Thompson Student Union, died Oct. 27 at age 80.

Michael A. Bartell, Toledo, who taught journalism at UToledo for 32 years, died Oct. 1 at age 70. The longtime Blade reporter and editor joined the Communication Department in 1981. Bartell received the Student Impact Award in 2012 and told the UToledo Alumni eMagazine, "That award came straight from my students. That really meant a lot to me." He retired from the University in 2013. Bartell co-wrote a book, "Orbit of Discovery: The All-Ohio Space Shuttle Mission," which was published in 2014. The Toledo native received a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1973 from UToledo, where he was in the ROTC Program.

Robert J. Bartusch Jr., Oakwood, Ohio, a former manager of the dining halls, died Aug. 27 at age 75.

David L. Beckwith, Toledo, a former research associate with the UToledo Urban Affairs Center, died Feb. 22 at age 71.

David Beekley, Sylvania, who taught mathematics at UToledo for 29 years, died March 14 at age 79. He was hired in 1981 and retired as an associate lecturer in 2010. Beekley received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University in 1963.

Dean A. Berkey, Farmington, Conn., died Dec. 7 at age 87. He received a bachelor's degree from UToledo in 1973 and returned to work at his alma mater. Berkey was director of information systems and later director of student records; he retired from the University in 1992.

Dennis W. Bicknell, Londonderry, N.H., who was registrar at the College of Medicine from 1994 until his retirement in 2007, died Dec. 5 at age 75.

Dr. Robert J. Blair, Toledo, who was a clinical assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, died Nov. 13 at age 80.

Shirley A. (Helminiak) Bourquin, Maumee, who worked more than 30 years at MCO/MUO/UTMC, died Jan. 7 at age 71. She was hired in 1981 as a clerical specialist in outpatient clinical psychiatry and transferred in 2012 to the medical intensive care unit. After she retired in 2017, she volunteered at UTMC.

Dr. Colleen V. "Mikki" (Eppard) Breese, Sylvania, who was an instructor at the University from 1997 to 1999, died Feb. 20 at age 84. A UToledo alumna, she received bachelor of education, master of arts and doctoral degrees in English in 1988, 1989, and 1992, respectively.

Eugene "Gene" Busson, Port Charlotte, Fla., a laboratory technologist from 1996 until his retirement in 1999, died Sept. 8 at age 88.

Clarence Casey Jr., Toledo, a former UToledo employee, died Nov. 9 at age 86.

Cynthia S. Clayton, Lambertville, Mich., a former medical coder for UToledo Physicians, died Jan. 17 at age 55.

Dr. Carson P. Cochran, Whitehouse, a clinical professor of pediatrics until 2009, died Nov. 25 at age 90. He

also served as medical director of the UToledo Cummings Zucker Center.

JoAnn (Buehrle) Colapietro, Rossford, who attended the University and worked for a while as an architectural draftsman at UToledo, died Nov. 18 at age 69.

Joseph J. Coyle, Toledo, a former trustee of the Medical College of Ohio Foundation, died March 7 at age 77. He also served on the board of the UToledo Family Business Center.

Helen L. (Seifert) Culbertson, Hardeeville, S.C., who worked in food service for 25 years at MCO as a food service worker, supervisor, and catering manager, died Oct. 13 at age 96. She was a member of the MCO Retirement Club.

Dorothy A. (Dottie) Deeter, Greensboro, N.C., who was a part-time instructor in the Medical Assisting Program for 10 years, died Oct. 23 at age 85.

Bruce Douglas, Winter Park, Fla., a longtime Toledo real estate developer who served on the UToledo Board of Trustees from 1984 to 1995, died Jan. 12 at age 88. He was chair of the UToledo board from 1990 to 1995, and he served as interim president of the University in 1990. At age 71, Douglas received a doctorate in history from UToledo in 2004.

Sean Eckhardt, Swanton, a former MCO employee, died Dec. 12 at age 54.

Dr. Mohamed El Shafie, Toledo, professor emeritus of surgery, died Nov. 19 at age 89.

IN MEMORIAM

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Richard W. Edwards Jr., professor emeritus of law, Toledo, died Oct. 24 at age 86. He joined the College of Law faculty as an associate professor in 1970 and was promoted to professor in 1974. He served as assistant dean in the college from 1970 to 1973. Edwards wrote the 1985 book, "International Monetary Collaboration," and was honored as one of the University's Outstanding Researchers. Edwards served on Faculty Senate and was chair in 1985 and 1986. After he retired in 1990, Edwards taught part time until 2006.

Suzanne R. (Sue) Ehrmin, Sylvania, who was a part-time faculty member in the late 1990s, died Oct. 26 at age 77.

Catherine E. Evans, Toledo, a medical assistant at MCO/MUO/UTMC for several years, died Sept. 24 at age 57.

Richard D. Finn Jr., Columbus, Ohio, who was the baseball coach from 1964 to 1969, died Nov. 16 at age 88. A UToledo alumnus, he received a master of education degree in 1962.

Sharon (Neuhausel) Fitzgerald, Toledo, died Oct. 20 at age 77. She worked for several years at MCO in the Anatomy and Physiology Department. Fitzgerald received a law degree from the University in 1982 and then began a legal career.

Dr. Lori (Schuh) Fortner, Sylvania, who was an associate professor in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, died Jan. 31 at age 59. She joined the University in 2018.

Ralph Gallagher, Bryan, Ohio, died Nov. 29 at age 80. He received a law degree from UToledo in 1969 and later taught in the College of Law.

Betty Garcia, Toledo, who worked at MCO for nearly two decades, died Feb. 2 at age 72. She joined the staff in 1985; over the years, she was a unit clerk in Oncology, a records

technician in Psychiatry, a clerical specialist in the Rehab Care Unit, and technical typist in Neurology. She retired in 2004.

Sandra J. (Perry) Gilreath, Toledo, who worked in the UToledo library, died Feb. 27 at age 74.

Dr. Peter J. Goldblatt, Indian Lake, N.Y., professor and chair emeritus of pathology, died Nov. 13 at age 88. He joined the MCO faculty as chair of the Pathology Department in 1979. During his 18 years in that position, he assembled a faculty team known for teaching and research. During his tenure, he also served as dean of the Graduate School. Goldblatt promoted collaboration; he wrote about developing outreach programs among area hospitals. In addition, he fostered a stronger relationship with the coroner's office. Goldblatt also organized two major scientific conferences at MCO. When he retired in 2000, he received a master of public health degree that year from the University. Goldblatt returned to the Pathology Department from 2007 to 2010. In recognition of his service to MCO/MUO/UT, he was honored in 2013 when the University dedicated the Liberato DiDio and Peter Goldblatt Interactive Museum of Anatomy and Pathology on Health Science Campus.

Dr. Stephen L. Goldman, Toledo, professor emeritus of biology and medicinal biochemistry, died Oct. 17 at age 80. He joined the UToledo faculty as an assistant professor of biology in 1971. Five years later, he was promoted to professor. Goldman was named director of the Plant Science Center in 1997; he held that position until 2006. In 2000, he became professor of environmental science. Goldman served as director of both the Lake Erie Center and the Stranahan Arboretum from 2000 to 2004. He held several patents; his research focused on phytomediation mechanisms and the production of

biofuels and biopharma products in cereals and legumes.

James D. Growden Jr., Pahrump, Nev., a police officer and nurse at MCO/MUO/UTMC, died Aug. 21 at age 59. He joined MCO in 2005 and retired in 2016. Growden returned to work at UTMC from 2016 to 2020. He received an associate degree in business management technology from the University in 1984.

Dr. Robert E. Hansen, Perrysburg, professor emeritus of accounting, died Aug. 13 at age 89. A UToledo alumnus, he received a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting in 1957. He began teaching accounting at the University as an assistant professor and later associate professor from 1963 to 1974. He returned to campus in 1978 as professor and chair of the Accounting Department. At UToledo, Hansen helped start the Beta Alpha Psi Accounting Honorary. He retired from the University in the late 1980s.

Oliver Harris Jr., Toledo, a former UToledo employee, died Feb. 12 at age 65.

Dr. Charles H. Harrison, Woodville, Va., a former employee who retired in the 1990s, died Aug. 3 at age 94.

Dr. Mikell L. "Mike" (Schlotter) Hedley, Sylvania, a former instructor, staff curriculum specialist, and seasonal employee from 2008 to 2019, died Feb. 23 at age 82. She received a doctor of philosophy degree in education from the University in 2008.

Patrick (Pat) Hendricks, Toledo, who was a volunteer mentor for UToledo athletes, died Dec. 4 at age 87.

Sarah L. Hiris, Elmore, Ohio, who was a nurse at MCO for more than 20 years until her retirement, died Nov. 24 at age 76.

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IN MEMORIAM

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Calvin E. Hoffer, Genoa, Ohio, who was a stationary engineer at MCO from 1993 until his retirement in 2005, died Nov. 6 at age 81. He received an associate degree in electronic engineering technology in 1966.

Joe N. Howard, Toledo, a security officer on campus in 2003 and 2004, died Sept. 19 at age 76.

Roger Howell, Toledo, who was involved with the Toledo Campus Ministry, died Feb. 2 at age 82.

John D. "Dave" Jacobs, Blissfield, Mich., who worked at special events, died Sept. 2 at age 81.

Lula M. (Glenn) Johnson, Toledo, who worked with the Toledo Excel Program in the early 2000s, died Oct. 14 at age 78.

Katherine A. (Welsh) Kaczmarek, Toledo, who worked at the University 18 years, died Oct. 18 at age 79. She joined the MCO staff in 1993 as a secretary in Student Affairs. In 2000, Kaczmarek was promoted to secretary 2. Two years later, she became coordinator of student activities and in 2007 was named administrative assistant in Student Affairs. Kaczmarek retired in 2011.

Corrine B. (Goldman) Krakoff, Toledo, a former officer and volunteer for the Satellites Auxiliary, died Dec. 17 at age 95.

Dr. Karl O. Mann, Lewisburg, Pa., a former faculty member who taught industrial relations and human resource management, died Jan. 6 at age 96.

David C. Mariasy, Toledo, a faculty member in the Music Department since 1982, died Sept. 6 at age 65. He joined the University as an instructor and was promoted to lecturer in 2001 and senior lecturer in 2004. A musician and composer, Mariasy was an expert in music technology and was involved in recording, electronic music, and sampling. He helped

establish UToledo's Electronic Music Lab in the Center for Performing Arts. In 1979, he received a bachelor of arts degree from the University and started Audiomatrix Recording Studios in Toledo. Mariasy was a recording engineer and producer who was known for audio forensics.

Virginia (Strzechowski) Martishius, Toledo, a costume shop manager in the Theatre and Film Department in the late 1980s, died Feb. 17 at age 85.

Barbara Jo Mason, Sylvania, an accountant at the University from 1996 to 2002, died Jan. 18, 2021, at age 61. A UToledo alumna, she received an associate degree in medical assisting technology in 1979, an associate degree in secretarial technology in 1985, a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting in 1992, and a master of business administration degree in administration in 1996.

Zella D. (Fuller) Mathewson, Temperance, Mich., a word processor specialist in UToledo nursing for several years until her retirement in 1997, died Dec. 27 at age 88. She returned to the University as a seasonal employee from 1998 to 2002.

Catherine Rae McIlwain, Chicago, who taught healthcare administration for 10 years at the University, died Nov. 30 at age 62. The UToledo alumna received a bachelor of science degree in 1992, a master of science in education degree in public health in 1999, and a certificate in health information management in 2007.

Henrietta F. Mister, Toledo, who worked at UToledo more than three decades, died Nov. 17 at age 72. She joined the staff as a secretary in 1972 and worked most of her career in University College. Mister retired in 2008. She received an associate degree in secretarial technology from the University in 1987.

Gretchen (Herget) Modlin, Toledo, who was a volunteer with the Satellites, died Feb. 6 at age 97.

Georgina M. (Hatzinikolis) Molina, Toledo, a secretary at UToledo from 1997 until her retirement in 2017, died Aug. 28 at age 65. Over the years, she worked in the Theatre Department, Student Development, and International Student Services.

Dr. Robert J. Niedzielski, Toledo, professor emeritus of chemistry, died Nov. 8 at age 85. He joined the UToledo faculty as an assistant professor of chemistry in 1965. Four years later, he was promoted to associate professor and to professor in 1975. Niedzielski served as acting chair of the Chemistry Department, associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, and associate vice president for academic affairs in the Provost Office. In 1993, he retired from the University, but continued to teach part time for seven years. He was the UToledo representative to the Ohio Council for Higher Education Retirees. In addition, Niedzielski was a past president of the UToledo chapter of the American Association of University Professors and a past chair of the UToledo Faculty Senate. He also volunteered to help adults learn to read through Read For Literacy at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library.

Frances M. (Brock) Osterhoudt, Bonita Springs, Fla., who worked at the University for more than two decades before retiring in 1995, died Nov. 4 at age 93.

Jane-Ella (Ratcliff) Pitney, Holland, who worked at MCO/MUO/UTMC 32 years, died Nov. 22 at age 66. She joined the staff in 1986 and became an account clerk in 2007. One year later, she was named a billing specialist and worked in Patient Financial Services.

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IN MEMORIAM

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Otis Quinn, Toledo, a maintenance repair worker at the University from 1994 until his retirement in 2004, died Aug. 17 at age 80.

Margaret "Peggy" C. (Oberle) Rabideau, Sylvania, a former UToledo employee, died Jan. 22 at age 91. She worked in public relations in the 1950s and was a part-time faculty member in 1997. A UToledo alumna, Rabideau received a bachelor's degree in English and journalism in 1952; master of education degrees in media technology and educational technology in 1978; and education specialist degrees in education administration and supervision in 1984.

Albert F. "Al" Radolec, a longtime UToledo employee who worked in Broadcast Services from 1969 until his retirement in the mid-1990s, died Dec. 23 at age 95.

Linda M. Ransey, Toledo, an instructor who taught Africana studies, died Aug. 16 at age 66. She joined the faculty in 2019. A UToledo alumna, she received bachelor and master of education degrees in 1982 and 1997, respectively.

Tami M. (Ransom) Rempe, Sylvania, an instructor of biological sciences in 2009 and 2010, died Dec. 18 at age 51.

Reed S. Reynolds, Toledo, died March 3 at age 85. He was a part-time faculty member from 1997 to 2002, when he became a visiting professor, a position he held until 2005. Reynolds received bachelor's and master's degrees in economics in 1963 and 1968.

Pauline A. (Duncan) Scheuer, Ottawa Lake, Mich., a former secretary at the University, died Dec. 15 at age 86.

Dr. Rajni B. Sharma, Toledo, clinical assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology from 1982 to 2004, died Feb. 5 at age 79.

Boyde L. Shoup, Toledo, a former UToledo employee, died Jan. 18 at age 67. The building safety systems technician retired in 2004.

Robin C. Shy, Toledo, who was a staff nurse in Surgical Intensive Care from 2012 to 2017, died Jan. 24 at age 65.

Rosetta L. "Rose" Steinmiller, Miami, Fla., a nurse at MCO for nearly 40 years, died Oct. 28 at age 96.

Dr. Charles D. Stienecker, Lima, Ohio, who was an assistant clinical professor of family medicine at MCO from 1982 to 1989, died Dec. 17 at age 85.

Charles A. "Chuck" Sullivan, Overland Park, Kan., one of UToledo's greatest philanthropists, died Dec. 18 at age 86. Sullivan and his wife, Jackie, contributed more than \$14 million to the University, making them the second-highest donors in school history. Perhaps the most significant donation from the Sullivans was a \$5.5 million gift announced in July 2006 for the renovation of Savage Hall and the construction of the Sullivan Athletic Complex. The couple also announced a donation of an additional \$500,000 for the Charles A. Sullivan Scholarship Fund in the College of Business and \$500,000 to the Patricia Ann Sullivan Alumni Honors Scholarship Fund. The Sullivans were deeply involved with the Glass Bowl Renovation Campaign in the late 1980s. The Sullivans have had seats in the Stadium Club since the renovation was completed in 1990. More recently, the Sullivans made the lead gift to the Rockets' latest capital campaign, a \$5 million renovation of the Larimer Athletic Complex. They donated \$1.5 million, half of which went toward the Larimer project, while the other half was designated for the Coaches' Incentive Endowment Fund. The Sullivans' support for Rocket Athletics went beyond the sports of football and basketball; their first major gift to the Athletic Department

was a \$1.2 million donation in 2003 for the renovations of the outdoor track, tennis courts, and soccer field. A 1959 graduate of the UToledo College of Business, Sullivan was the retired chairman, CEO, and president of Interstate Bakeries Corp. He served as chair and vice chair of the The University of Toledo Foundation Board of Trustees and was chair of the UT40 Campaign, which exceeded its \$40 million goal. His alma mater recognized his success with an honorary degree. In 2010, Sullivan was named the outstanding philanthropist of the year by the Northwest Ohio Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals; he was nominated by the University and two Toledo high schools.

Janet L. (Stock) Sumner, Toledo, who worked at MCO/MUO/UT more than 20 years, died Oct. 1 at age 72. She joined the staff as a data control technician in Research and Sponsored Programs in 1994 and was named supervisor of research and grants in 2006. Two years later, Sumner became assistant to the chair in the Department of Neurosciences. She retired in 2015.

Dr. David Tavel, Estes Park, Colo., professor emeritus of educational theory and social foundations, died March 4 at age 90. He joined the University as an associate professor in 1961 and was promoted to professor in 1966. During his tenure, he served as chair of the department and as director of the Division of Educational Foundations. The author of several books and numerous articles, Tavel's research focused on Latin America, relations between church and state, and teaching social studies. He was president of the Local 1435 of the American Federation of Teachers and the Ohio Council for the Social Studies. Tavel was named professor emeritus when he retired in 1989.

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IN MEMORIAM

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Charles W. Taylor, Toledo, a former instructor who taught electrical engineering, died Jan. 28 at age 83. A UToledo alumnus, he received a master's degree in electrical engineering in 1963.

Ethel V. (Fabian) Toth, Oregon, who worked in the UToledo Admissions Office, died Sept. 10 at age 98.

Patrick M. Tucker, Oak Harbor, Ohio, a part-time faculty member who taught archaeology and anthropology from 2015 to 2019, died Jan. 29 at age 71.

Genevieve (Garcia) Vasquez, Toledo, a custodian at the University from 2007 to 2015, died Nov. 21 at age 67.

Kathryn "Kate" (Timiney) Wagner, Toledo, who worked at the UToledo Federal Credit Union for 38 years, died Dec. 30 at age 77. She retired from the credit union in 2010.

Mark A. Walker, Maumee, who worked at UToledo for 30 years, died Nov. 27 at age 66. He received a bachelor of science degree in educational technology and instructional design in 1980 from the University. He began working at his alma mater that year in the Educational Media Department. In 1991, Walker became manager of classroom audiovisual operations. He later took a job as a computer graphic design artist and worked with University Libraries and eLearning and Academic Support. Walker retired in 2010. During his career, he also helped record songs played on the carillon in the University Hall bell tower.

Barbara A. (Miller) Weber, Maumee, who worked in the UToledo Finance Office for several years, died Aug. 20 at age 92.

Mary E. Wiitala, Toledo, who was an occupational therapist at MCO/

MUO/UTMC from 2004 to 2007, died Nov. 16 at age 63.

Charles E. Williams, Chicago, associate professor emeritus of theatre known for his lighting expertise and design, died Oct. 14 at age 88. He joined the UToledo faculty as an associate professor in 1984 and served as chair of the Department of Theatre and Film from 1992 to 1997. Williams retired from the University in 2002. During his career, Williams created more than 80 university designs and more than 30 professional designs for theatre, ballet, and opera. In 1978, he was inducted as a Fellow of the U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology. After he retired, he taught part time at UToledo until 2009.

Nellie L. (Inge) Wordlaw, Toledo, who worked in UToledo Food Services, died Feb. 11 at age 94.