

# Tower Talk

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*UTRA President  
Chris Spengler*

As I wrap up my term as president of The University of Toledo Retirees Association, I want to thank everyone for all the support you have given to me during the past two years. I am forever grateful.

It has been an exciting and fun-filled two years that I can look back upon with pride. Just as I came in as your president, we were coming off that long stretch of quarantine because of COVID. Our association held strong and steady during that time and continued to offer programs via the wonders of electronic media. It was a relief, however, to get back to in-person programming. And we have done that with a bang. The list of activities we have offered to members is exhaustive — from lecture programs to trips and tours to museums, the Main Library, Hoens Greenhouse (for a little dirt under our fingernails), and cemeteries. We have learned everything from kidney transplantation to stolen World War II art; we have been on the Sandpiper, experienced a wonderful wine tasting event, took a day trip to the Purple Rose Theatre for a play and a group took a trip to Vermont. That is just a sampling of the programming that members enjoyed in the past two years. And more is to come.

In addition to all of those activities, we have a very active Breakfast Bunch that meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m. at Denny's on Central Avenue and an active Book Buddies group that meets the first Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m. in CADE. In addition to those two special interest groups, the Pathfinders walking group was founded this past year. This group meets every other Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. for a walk in different local parks followed by lunch. Please plan to join us for any or all of these groups. Information is available on the UTRA website for upcoming meetings.

When I took office, I asked our immediate past president, Curt Black, to spearhead a committee that worked diligently to put together a governance document to augment our bylaws and outline committee structure, goals and procedures for UTRA. This has come to fruition and the results can be found on the UTRA website. This is a valuable resource for the board, current committee members and for anyone who wishes to become involved in UTRA. Please visit this site to review the document.

A new committee was also established this year, the Philanthropy Committee. This committee is just getting underway and will handle those special philanthropic requests that we have throughout the year, such as our past requests for stuffed animals and funds for the

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## UNIVERSITY WRAPS UP CELEBRATION OF 150TH ANNIVERSARY

This spring, The University of Toledo Sesquicentennial Committee is wrapping up events in celebration of UToledo's 150th anniversary. The year-long celebration included a concert for students, a series of lectures, the president's State of the University Address, fireworks and a fundraising campaign for scholarships.

Founder's Day on October 12 was the formal opening of the celebration. Following a President's Backyard Barbeque for students, faculty and staff on both campuses, the students were treated to a free concert by noted rap musician T-Pain. That afternoon, Barbara Floyd, professor emerita and former university archivist, opened a UToledo historical exhibition in the Ward M. Canaday Center in Carlson Library with the lecture "Ten Events That Shaped 150 Years." Randy Gardner, chancellor of education for the state of Ohio,



*Barbara Floyd presents Founder's Day lecture on Oct. 12 in Carlson Library.*

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# CAPSTONE OF A CAREER: WRITING 150 YEARS OF UTOLEDO HISTORY

By Barbara Floyd

In 2018, Yarko Kuk, managing editor of The University of Toledo Press, approached me with the chance of a lifetime — would I be interested in writing the history of the University for the upcoming sesquicentennial in 2022? I immediately said yes. But when I sat down to prepare a proposal for the book, the immense challenge of what I had agreed to do hit me. Even though I had been university archivist for 31 years and was familiar with the primary sources that would provide the basis for the research and writing, I still was not sure I was up to the task.

The result is *An Institution for the Promoting of Knowledge: The University of Toledo at 150*. The effort to write the book has been a wonderful chance for me to cap off my career. Actually, not just my career as University archivist, but my lifetime experience as an alumna. I started at UToledo as a freshman in the fall of 1976, and would go on to receive three degrees from the institution.

But I received so much more than just academic degrees. As I explain in the preface to the book, my life was changed by The University of Toledo. Like many UToledo students, I came from a blue-collar background, and my sister and I were the first of our family to attend college. She went to UToledo, so that is why I enrolled there. Our father did not see much point to higher education, especially for his daughters. Despite this, or perhaps because of it, I was determined to succeed.

My first class on the first day was America to 1865, a large general education lecture class taught by the masterful teacher, Dr. William Longton. With few notes, Dr. Longton proceeded that day to give the most amazing lecture I had ever heard from an educator. The topic was Christopher Columbus's voyage to the Americas. Of course I knew how that turned out, but I was sitting on the edge of my seat, enthralled by every word. It was that day that I decided that history was not just a topic I had always enjoyed, but it could be a worthwhile career.

Jump ahead almost 50 years, and I have been able to research and write the history of the institution that taught me history.

I see historical research and writing as a way to not just tell about the past, but also to hopefully inform about the future. I approached writing the history of UToledo in the same way. I did not want to sugarcoat it. If the book I was planning was to be meaningful, it had

to tell the truth and be based on a careful examination of primary sources. I hope that readers will agree this approach was appropriate.

In one way, researching and writing about the first 100 years was less challenging than I expected. I was able to rely on *The Tower Builders: The Centennial Story of The University of Toledo*, written in 1972 by Dr. Frank Hickerson, as my guide. While Dr. Hickerson's book is rich with facts, I felt it did not do enough to provide context, so that is what I tried to add to his telling of the first 100 years. The challenging part was when I got to the years where I was not just an observer of UToledo history, but also a part of it.

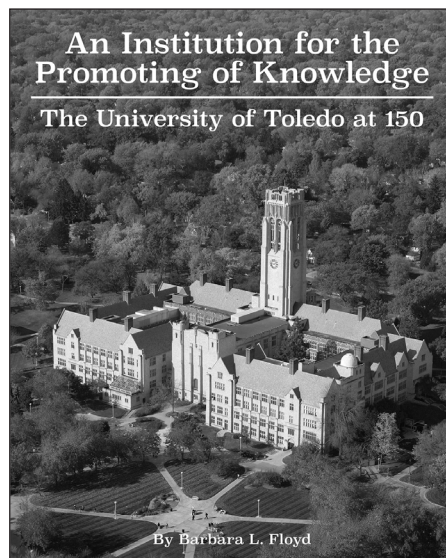
I worried whether I would be able to be unbiased as I explained events that I experienced and helped to shape as a faculty member. One of the hardest periods to write about was the failed presidency of Dr. Vik Kapoor. That time had impacted me personally, as well as many of my colleagues and friends. But while we had all lived it, I do not think we really understood it as an historical event. Hopefully, my research provides the context to make sense of something that at the time seemed to make no sense at all.

Another period I struggled to portray accurately was the time when I was chair of the Faculty Senate as the University was merging with the Medical University of Ohio. Again, I hope that I did not let my personal experience cloud the history as I wrote it.

At all places in the University's history where I was involved in events, I included a footnote stating as such, just to make it clear to readers.

*An Institution for the Promoting of Knowledge: The University of Toledo at 150* is probably not like most university histories written to mark milestones in an institution's life. But I do hope it will serve to not only educate in a truthful way about the University's past, but also help guide the leaders in the future.

*An Institution for the Promoting of Knowledge: The University of Toledo at 150* is available from the UToledo Press's website, [utoledopress.com](http://utoledopress.com). The 328-page hardcover book sells for \$39.95. I am donating all author royalties from the sale of the book to the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections in support of the work of university archives to preserve the history of the University.



# HEALTH SCIENCE CAMPUS SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

By Keith Schlender

This year, the Health Science Campus retirees Scholarship Fund will be awarding \$2,000 in scholarships to one master's or doctoral students in each of the colleges on 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.

Funding 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 exceeds \$88,000.

The recipient from the HSC College of Graduate Studies is Rachel Golonka. She is a fifth-year PhD student in the Molecular Medicine Track. Rachel has excelled both in her research and as a student leader. She was awarded a Fellowship by the National Cancer Institute and recently the Young Scientist Grant from QIAGEN. Her several first author publications undoubtedly played a significant role in these prestigious scientific awards. As president of the Council of Biomedical Graduate Students for the second year, Rachel guided its largest event, the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Student Research Forum.

The recipient from the College of Medicine and Life Sciences is Karim Ibrahim. Karim is a fourth-year medical student with a perfect 4.00 GPA. In addition to her medical school studies, Karim participated in research, mentored MSBS-MS students and tutored refugee elementary students. In recognition of these and other activities, Karim was elected into the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

The recipient from the College of Nursing is Megan Satter. Megan is a second-year student in the MSN Graduate Entry Program, which is designed for students with a bachelor's degree in another field who

want to become registered nurses. Working during her undergraduate years as a patient care associate and emergency room technician, she witnessed firsthand the significant impact nurses have on patient care. As a first-year MSN student, Megan served as the nursing representative of the Interprofessional Education Student Council, a board dedicated to promoting interprofessional relationships and awareness among healthcare professionals. This year she is a member of the College of Nursing Student Admissions, Retention and Progression Committee.

The recipients from the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences are Briana Maktab and Amer Aseel. Briana is a PhD student and teaching assistant in the Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. She has served as a University of Toledo Medical Center Ambassador providing support and communication for patients and their families. Briana has volunteered in several events, both on and off campus, including assisting faculty in the STEMInist event to introduce high school female students to science and chemistry, and she assisted in the annual Walk MS Toledo.

Amer is a PharmD candidate and a teaching assistant in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. She has volunteered in numerous community activities, including Toledo Community Care Clinic, Dialysis Toledo Center, and the Blood Pressure and Blood Glucose Health Fair sponsored by the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPA). She also served in several leadership roles, including secretary of the College's Pi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society and the vice president of SNPA.

The Health Science Scholarship Committee has members from each of the four colleges on Health Science Campus. Committee members are: 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.

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## SAVE THE DATE FOR HOMECOMING 2023

The University of Toledo annual Homecoming festivities are planned for the weekend of Sept. 29 through Oct. 1 this year.

The events include the 50-year class reunion and Homecoming Gala on Friday, followed by the Homecoming parade and football game on Saturday and ending with the Golden Alumni Society luncheon on Sunday.

The Alumni Association is hoping to include UTRA in the Homecoming parade this year. Anyone with an open bed truck and/or trailer, or knowing someone with either of these who would be willing to allow UTRA representatives to ride in it, should contact Sarah Metzger at 419.530.4237.

GO ROCKETS!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Student Food Pantry. Lynn Hutt has undertaken the chairmanship of this committee, which is investigating possible special philanthropic projects for members to support.

Since this is my last message as UTRA President, I want to thank each and every one of you for your support and dedication to our association. I said in my first message, back in 2021, that I live by the old saying that you get out of something what you put into it; that has remained true for me. I also have always said that you can't teach a person how to swim if you are

not willing to get wet yourself. That is my challenge to everyone...get wet. An organization becomes strong and stays strong with the input and activity that members put into making it so. You won't regret it.

Thanks, again, to everyone. See you soon as we continue to move onward and upward.

Sincerely,

Chris Spengler  
UTRA President

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## PLAN NOW FOR SUMMER UTRA ACTIVITIES

The Programming Committee usually offers at least one program each month, most of which are free or at reasonable costs.

In May, UTRA members are invited to attend a session at Hoen's Nursery on how to develop a container garden. Members will then select some plants and make their own arrangement. This popular program has been offered in the past and fills up quickly.

The UTRA annual meeting and luncheon will take place on June 14 at the Belmont Country Club in Perrysburg. The annual meeting is a chance to catch up with friends you have not seen recently, and hear about UTRA from the organization's officers.

A tour of the Maumee River is scheduled for July on the Sandpiper Boat. This is also a repeat program that proved popular last year.

For details and reservations for any of these events, check your email or UTRA Facebook page.



*UTRA members enjoy the holiday brunch at Heather Downs Country Club.*

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## UTRA BUS TRIP TO VISIT LANCASTER AND GETTYSBURG PA

After several years of cancellations due to COVID, the UTRA bus trip resumed last year with a visit to Vermont. The sold-out trip was a huge success, and those participating even had a chance to meet Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, an unplanned but fun encounter.

This year, UTRA members have the opportunity to visit Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, for a taste of the Amish lifestyle. The five-day trip from Aug. 21 to 25 includes motorcoach transportation, four nights of lodging in the Lancaster area, and four breakfasts and dinners.

Many events are scheduled for the tour. Participants will be able to tour the Kitchen Kettle Village, a marketplace of shops and restaurants, and attend a performance of the "Moses" show. "Moses" is a live performance with massive sets and even animals! The

show is popular with visitors to the area.

The tour also will include a visit to the Amish Experience at the Amish Country Homestead. Visitors will be able to see how the Amish practice their religion and live without most modern conveniences.

On the last day of the tour, participants will tour Gettysburg National Park. The tour will begin at the visitors' center, where the amazing Cyclorama portrays the Civil War battle. After the visitors' center, a guided bus tour of the battlefield, including stops at some of the landmarks and monuments, will take place.

The cost of the trip is \$685 per person, double occupancy. Seats are likely to go quickly, so UTRA members are encouraged to reserve their spot with a \$75 deposit. Final payment is due June 14. For more information and to make a reservation, contact Sarah Metzger in Alumni Relations at 419.530.4237.

# NEWS FROM COLUMBUS

By James Lapp

## OPERS

At the OPERS January 2023 board meeting, investment staff provided the board with 2022 preliminary investment returns. The defined benefit fund return was -12.1%, while the healthcare fund fell by -15.5%. Final audited results will be available later.

Despite the decline, the pension fund's metrics improved. Based on preliminary investment returns, the system's funded ratio rose to 85% in 2022, up slightly from 84% the previous year. Also, the unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities (amortization period) dropped from 16 years to 15 years. The reason for the improvements is that OPERS smooths its investment returns over a four-year period for funding purposes. Good returns in the immediate years preceding 2022 equated to an unrecognized gain of \$10.5 billion at the end of 2021. That's the good news for 2022. The bad news is that OPERS recognized only 1/4 of the 2022 investment loss this year. The system will need to recognize the remainder, about \$14.8 billion, over the next three years. The net amount of these unrecognized gains/losses as of Jan. 1, 2023, is a \$9.4 billion loss. The primary metric for the healthcare fund is the estimated remaining years of solvency, which declined from 29 years at the end of 2021 to 21 years at the end of 2022.

The board also voted to approve new asset

allocations for both the pension and healthcare funds. The new allocation reflects a slight tilt to less-liquid assets, which are forecasted to generate returns above the target rate of 6.9%. In the largest categories for the pension fund, U.S. equity is up to 22%, private equity is up to 15%, real estate is up to 12%, non-U.S. equity is down to 21% and core bonds are down to 9%. Seven other categories have an allocation of no more than 3% of the total.

## STRS OHIO

The Ohio Auditor of State Office released the report of its special audit of STRS on Dec. 29, 2022. This special audit had been initiated, in large part, because of a June 2021 report for the Ohio Retired Teachers Association (ORTA) – "The High Cost of Secrecy: Preliminary Findings of Forensic Investigation of State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio".

The report of the State Auditor's findings and conclusions is available on the STRS website ([strsoh.org](http://strsoh.org)). The special audit found no evidence of fraud, illegal acts or data manipulation related to the \$90 billion held in trust by STRS for its members. The audit's report showed that the STRS organizational structure, control environment and operations are suitably designed and well-monitored, both internally and by independent experts. These experts help assure that STRS follows applicable asset and

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## UNIVERSITY WRAPS UP CELEBRATION OF 150TH ANNIVERSARY

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spoke at the opening of the event, along with UToledo President Gregory Postel.

Floyd also signed copies of her new anniversary history, *An Institution for the Promoting of Knowledge: The University of Toledo at 150*, which was released that day.

In March, a traveling exhibit from the Canada Center on the University's history was displayed at the main branch of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library. Later that month, Floyd presented a talk that celebrated the unique relationship between the University and the city of Toledo, including the institution's 83 years as a municipal university.

419 Day (April 19) became another focus of sesquicentennial events. The Toledo community was invited to join in the celebration following President Postel's State of the University Address with games, food trucks and fireworks in the evening.

Throughout the year, the UToledo Foundation waged a special campaign to raise \$5 million for needs-based scholarships for students. The first \$1.5 million was matched by an anonymous donor. The campaign represents a lasting legacy of the sesquicentennial year. Funds raised will help the nearly 60 percent of UToledo students who receive scholarship assistance.

UTRA members wishing to contribute to the scholarship fund can do so by visiting [utoledo.edu/150/celebration/](http://utoledo.edu/150/celebration/) and click on the "Give" button at the top of the web page.



# NEWS FROM COLUMBUS

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liability measurement, reporting, investing and cash management laws, professional standards and best practices. “Our conclusions are consistent with the findings of these independent firms,” the report stated. These independent firms included Funston Advisory Services LLC, which was earlier commissioned by the Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC) to conduct a fiduciary performance audit.

At the February STRS board meeting, investment consultant Callan LLC shared its quarterly report on the performance of STRS Ohio’s investments compared to its investment policy benchmark. While returns were negative, the good news is that STRS performed better than its benchmark as well as most of its peers.

The total return for the calendar year was -9.52%. By comparison, the overall stock market was down -18% and the bond market was down -13%. The STRS 2022 return also beat its benchmark by 1.38%. It was noted that STRS investment returns ranked in the top 10% of public funds examined by Callan for the three-, five-, seven-, and 10-year periods. When measuring risk versus performance for the past five years, the STRS investment return ranked in the top 5% of public funds reviewed by Callan with a portfolio that had lower risk than its peers.

Also at the meeting, STRS Ohio Executive Director Bill Neville shared a summary of the special audit mentioned above. He pointed out that of 29 allegations reviewed, the Auditor of State found only two with merit, both of which were related to audits commissioned by the ORSC.

## **PENSIONOMICS**

The National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS) quantifies the economic impact of defined benefit pension funds (both private and public) in the United States overall, as well as the impact of state and local defined benefit plans, on a state-by-state basis. By estimating the employment, output, value added and

tax impacts of pension benefit expenditures at the national and state levels, the analyses continually show how important expenditures made with retiree pension benefits are to the national, state and local economies.

“Pensionomics 2023: Measuring the Economic Impact of Defined Benefit Pension Expenditures,” released earlier this year, found that nationwide, retiree spending of defined benefit pensions in 2020 (the most recent figures available) contributed \$1.3 trillion to the U.S. economy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pension benefits in the amount \$612.6 billion were paid to 24.6 million retired Americans in 2020. Pension expenditures have large multiplier effects — each dollar paid out in pension benefits supported \$2.13 in total economic output nationally. Almost 70% of the pension benefits paid went to public sector retirees and beneficiaries who make up about 58% of total defined benefit plan retirees and beneficiaries. The report further indicated that pensions supported nearly 6.8 million jobs and added more than \$157 billion to federal, state and local tax revenue through taxes paid on retirees’ pension benefits and their spending.

In 2020, 492,723 residents of Ohio received a total of \$16.2 billion in pension benefits from state and local pension plans. The average annual benefit was \$32,898. Retiree expenditures stemming from state and local pensions created \$21.7 billion in total economic output and generated \$2.8 billion federal, state and local taxes.

Retiree expenditures from these pension plans supported 129,688 jobs that paid \$7 billion in wages and salaries. Each dollar paid out in pension benefits furthered \$1.34 in total economic activity in the state as retiree spending rippled through the state economy. Because taxpayer contributions are a minor source of financing for retirement benefits — investment earnings and employee contributions finance the largest source — each \$1 in taxpayer contributions to the pension funds supported \$5.98 in total output to the State of Ohio.

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## UTRA PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE FORMED

The UTRA Philanthropy Committee met for the first time on February 7, 2023. The President of UTRA, Chris Spengler, assisted the two new members Lynn Hutt (chair) and Kathy Wilson in a discussion of the committee responsibilities and the procedures.

There was a discussion of the past projects such as Student Food Pantry; the collection of hats, mittens and scarves; and the collection of stuffed animals to name just a few activities that will now fall under the Philanthropy Committee. The committee also discussed several new ideas. Over the course of the next few months, committee members will be meeting with University personnel to determine other needs of students that could be addressed by the committee.

# SATELLITES AUXILIARY VOLUNTEERS — COME JOIN US!

By Dorothea Sawicki



The Satellites Auxiliary Volunteers of UToledo-Health Science Campus (SAV UToledo-HSC) was founded in 1975. Over the last 48 years, they

have contributed more than 2.5 million volunteer hours in support of the Medical College of Ohio and now to The University of Toledo Health Science Campus and UT Medical Center. In addition, SAV UToledo-HSC has raised more than \$1 million to fund scholarships for medical and graduate students in the fields of nursing, pharmacy and medical research.

Mark your calendars and join us in the atrium of the Four Seasons Bistro hospital café on the Health Science Campus for our fundraising sales this fall; 20 percent of each sale goes to HSC Retirees student scholarships or Satellites student scholarships. Other upcoming events include:

- "Outside the Box" shoe sale on Aug. 8 and 9;
- "In the Bag" handbag and purse sale on Sept. 19 and 20;

- "Grateful Hearts" sterling silver jewelry sale Dec. 4 through 6.

SAV UToledo-HSC welcomes members who make a commitment to support our purpose and who register to volunteer a minimum of 40 hours service each year for the benefit of the UToledo Health Science Campus. Volunteers help in the hospital, make patient tray favors, assist at fundraising events, help with office work such as filing or stuffing envelopes for major mailings, support seminars by hosting and serving refreshments, act as ambassadors greeting visitors to UTMC, and tie ribbons on stuffed animals donated by UTRA members and others for children coming to UTMC, among other things. Satellites welcomes volunteers from all walks of life and gladly accepts community volunteers with a wide variety of abilities and disabilities. For safety reasons, there is a screening process.

If you would like to share fun and fellowship, make new friends and support our mission, please contact Jennifer Archer in the Volunteer Office located in Dowling Hall Room 0075; telephone: 419.383.6336; e-mail [jennifer.archer@utoledo.edu](mailto:jennifer.archer@utoledo.edu).

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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS

Below is a list of the candidates for each office. More detailed biographies will be included with the ballot, which will be mailed to all UTRA members.

Please remember to mark your ballot when it arrives and return it by May 5! Your vote counts.

### **For President (two-year term):**

Andy Jorgensen, retired associate professor of chemistry and current UTRA Vice President.

### **For Vice President (two-year term):**

Lance Talmage, retired clinical professor of medicine in the College of Medicine on the Health Science Campus. He is currently a UTRA board member.

### **For Secretary (two-year term):**

Jan Whitaker, retired social worker in the transplant program at UTMC and leader of UTRA's book club.

### **For Members-at-Large (two-year term, three to be elected):**

Lisa Akeman, former administrator in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology who retired in 2022.

Cecelia Clarke, retired staff member in the College of Pharmacy and current member-at-large on the UTRA board running for second term. Cecelia also volunteers for the Alumni Association.

Laurie Flowers, retired administrator in the Office of Marketing and Communications running for her second term as member-at-large. Laurie organized the new UTRA Pathfinders walking group last year.

Penny Poplin Gosetti, retired professor in the Judith Herb College of Education where she taught in the Higher Education program.

Thomas Mehelas, current UTRA member-at-large running for second term. Tom retired in 2017 from his position as a clinical faculty member in the ophthalmology and neuro-ophthalmology in the College of Medicine.



# UTRA COMMITTEE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT COMPLETED

In fall 2021, UTRA President Chris Spengler appointed an ad hoc committee chaired by Immediate Past President Curt Black to develop a document that would detail the purpose and activities for each of the 10 UTRA standing committees. The working committee consisted of Andy Jorgensen, Jim Lapp, Cynthia Nowak and Lance Talmage. In October 2022, this committee, working with the respective standing committee chairs, presented the first edition of the document to the UTRA Executive Board.

Titled The UTRA Committee Guidance Document, the text provides a statement of the purpose, an outline of the structure, a detailed listing of the functions and responsibilities, and the timeline and operating procedures for each UTRA standing committee. The idea for creating such a document was to provide committee chairs and members consistent guidance on the scope and functions of their committees. The document was equally intended to inform the UTRA membership of the breadth of UTRA activities and to encourage UTRA members to use their talents and their interests to engage and advance UTRA purpose and activities.

The document is posted on [toledoalumni.org/connect/ut-retirees/member-materials.html](https://toledoalumni.org/connect/ut-retirees/member-materials.html) to explore.

If you are thinking of ways to continue engagement with UToledo, through social or educational opportunities, through service and support of UToledo students, and/or to stay informed with the Ohio pension plans, then peruse through the Committee Guidance Document. There truly is something for everyone!

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## DUES SUPPORT MANY ASPECTS OF UTRA

By Celia Regimbal, UTRA Treasurer

Have you ever wondered, “How are my UTRA dues used?” This information may help to answer that question.

When UTRA sends mailings to members, including ballots for the slate of officers, dues cover the costs of printing and postage. If you attended one of the many activities planned by the Program Committee, you may have had a name badge waiting for you, a miscellaneous expense covered by your dues. And during football season, did you visit the Kent State pregame tent for UTRA members, families and guests? If so, the delicious 150th Anniversary cookies were provided with UTRA dues.

Once again, the Holiday Brunch at Heather Downs Country Club was a great success. The original cost of the brunch represented a substantial increase from the ticket price last year. The Executive Board discussed costs and made the decision to underwrite the cost of the ticket by \$10 for the member and first guest.

There are many perks to being a UTRA member. Including access to the same benefits and privileges of UToledo Alumni Association members. This includes discounts at local and national businesses, the Rockets bookstore and the UTMC gift shop, as well as discounted memberships to UToledo’s fitness centers and much more.

I hope you will continue your membership.

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## WELCOME NEW RETIREES AND LIFETIME MEMBERS

Elizabeth Akeman  
Robert Augustyniak  
Robert Ballinger  
Patricia Blust  
Wayde Bockert  
Marcia Burns  
Dr. Diane Cappelletty  
Diane Cline  
Debra Davis  
Robert Lee Dilworth  
Constance Donald  
Marlene Downs  
Debra Driscoll  
Dr. Nabil Ebraheim

Theresa Garris  
Jacalynn Hakius  
Theresa Hayes  
Paula Hills  
Herbert Adrian Hoskins  
Tonya Hoyt  
Edward James  
Kenneth Kilbert  
Mickey Kime  
Dr. Ming-Cheh Liu  
Sandra MacNevin  
Cornelius Madison  
Mary Main  
Dr. Barbara Mann

Deborah Mickle  
Mary Morrison  
David Nottke  
Cheryl Lynn Oden  
Doris Rahman  
Edith Reynolds  
Nikki Russell  
Dr. Barbara Schneider  
Cheryl Lynn Skolmowski  
Mark Sorensen  
Lula Spearman  
Diana Stegman  
Lisa Storer  
Loretta Sybert

Chad Versansky  
Anthony Ware  
Tina Washington  
Tamara Wittmann

### **Lifetime Members**

Jacalynn Hakius  
Martin Higley  
Carol Plimpton  
Patricia Pulcini  
Mary Schneider  
Denise Zeller



## IN MEMORIAM

Carol S. (Conwell) Ayers, Toledo, a former nurse on campus, died Nov. 14 at age 77. She received an associate degree in nursing from the University in 1978.

Dr. Brian G. Bagley, Waterville, professor emeritus of physics, died Dec. 22 at age 88. In 1991, he was appointed UToledo's first holder of the Nippon Electric Glass Chair in Silicate and Material Science, as well as professor of physics and chemical engineering. Bagley was director of the UToledo Eitel Institute from 1991 to 2002. He retired from the University in 2008 and continued to teach part time until 2013.

Grover H. Baldwin, Toledo, professor of educational leadership from the early 1990s to 1999, died Oct. 17 at age 79. He also served as chair of the department.

Bruce G. Binkley, Toledo, a purchasing agent at MCO from 1998 to 2003, died Aug. 3 at age 60.

Judy Martin Bock, Lambertville, Mich., who was an x-ray senior technology specialist in the MCO Vascular Lab in 2002 and 2003, died Nov. 16 at age 76. She received a bachelor of science degree in general studies from UToledo in 1981.

Dr. James G. Boulger, Eden Prairie, Minn., a former administrator at MCO and an original faculty member of the Psychiatry Department, died Jan. 14 at age 81.

Anna (Mattarella) Breider, Cincinnati, who was an instructor at UToledo in 2003, died Nov. 4 at age 75.

William L. Brown, Toledo, a local firefighter and a member of the first area paramedic class who taught basic life support and cardiac support training at MCO from 1984 to 2003, died Jan. 24 at age 80. In 2019, Brown and other members of the first Toledo paramedic class were added to the UToledo Emergency Medicine Wall of Honor.

Dr. Neilma (Staunton) Budd, Port Clinton, associate professor emerita of pathology, died Nov. 5 at age 88. She graduated from the MCO Residency Program in 1980. An accomplished artist, she was often observed sketching during meetings. Budd retired in 1998.

David "Pat" Connelly, Maumee, an instructor who taught at UToledo and MCO, died Oct. 26 at age 85.

Jeannette "June" (Baynes-Hicks) Davis, Toledo, a former MCO employee, died Jan. 7 at age 69.

Bonnie J. (Woodworth) Dennison, Toledo, a custodian at UToledo for more than three decades, died Nov. 8 at age 70. She joined the staff in 1984 and retired from the University in 2016.

Irene A. Durivage, Toledo, who worked at MCO for more than two decades, died Aug. 11 at age 91. She retired as departmental administrator in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department.

Jane (Sanborn) Ergood, Athens, Ohio, a former nursing instructor, died Sept. 22 at age 87.

Terry J. Fell, Toledo, a photographer who helped document history at the University for three decades and was an ardent supporter of the UToledo women's basketball team, died Nov. 18 at age 67. He took classes at UToledo and was a photographer for the campus newspaper before he began working as a student assistant in Audio-Visual Services. In 1983, Fell became a full-time AVS staff member specializing in photography. He received an Outstanding Staff Award in 2015. Fell finished his career at the University as a computer design specialist in the Marketing and Communications Office. His dedication to his job and the University was matched by his love and loyalty for the UToledo women's basketball team. He was a member of the UToledo Igniters Fan Club and often was seen on the

sidelines taking photos at home games.

Thelma (Noronha) Fernandes, Perrysburg, who worked at the University for about two decades, died Oct. 5 at age 84. She joined the staff as a guidance counselor, a position she held for several years, before becoming an academic advisor. Fernandes was named one of UToledo's Outstanding Advisors in 1990. She retired in 1999. Fernandes received a master of education degree and an education specialist degree from the University in 1981 and 1994, respectively.

Joseph A. Feustle Jr., Toledo, professor of Spanish, died Aug. 7 at age 79. He joined the faculty in 1971 as an instructor. Four years later, he was named chair of the department and was promoted to professor in 1979. Feustle retired in 2007.

Lana D. Fish, Sylvania, a library media technical assistant in Mulford Library from 1995 to 2012, died Sept. 13 at age 75.

Dr. Robert B. Forney, Toledo, associate clinical professor of pathology, died Dec. 4 at age 77. He joined MCO as director of toxicology in 1976. During his career, the well-known forensic toxicologist also worked at the Lucas County Coroner's Office.

Robert O. Fountain, Toledo, a UToledo swim coach who became a well-known athletic fundraiser for the Rockets, died Jan. 26 at age 88. He received a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting from the University in 1959. He returned to his alma mater in 1973 to coach the swim team. One year later, he helped establish the Rocket Club, a program dedicated to raising funds for athletics. In 1981, Fountain stepped away from the pool to focus on fundraising and help with the Downtown Coaches Association. He retired from the University in 1996. He was recognized for his dedication

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# IN MEMORIAM

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in 2009 with the Distinguished Service Award from UToledo's Varsity T Hall of Fame.

Robert Coulson Freeman II, Toledo, died Aug. 19 at age 80. In the early 1970s, he was hired as MCO's director of personnel. He left the college after three years, but returned to serve as an administrator in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department from 2005 to 2011.

Ellen Crowder Hamilton, Maineville, Ohio, an instructor who taught computer classes from 1994 to 2002, died Sept. 15 at age 78. She received a bachelor of education degree from UToledo in 1979.

Nancy J. (McDonald) Heath, Kalamazoo, Mich., a former staff member at the University, died Aug. 13 at age 94.

Marlene M. (Studer) Hollstein, Swanton, a teaching assistant in the College of Nursing in 2005, died Oct. 9 at age 74. A UToledo alumna, she received bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing in 1980 and 1988.

Dr. Joanne C. Joys, Toledo, who retired as director of publications in 2000 after more than three decades at the University, died Dec. 12 at age 82. She joined the staff as a graphic designer in Publications in 1965. The UToledo alumna received several degrees: BBA and MBA in marketing in 1962 and 1964; bachelor of arts degrees in history and anthropology in 1977; master of arts degree in 1980; and master of arts degree in geography in 2005. Joys also received a PhD from Bowling Green State University. An expert on circus history, she wrote *The Wild Animal Trainer in America* (1983).

Rose Marie T. (Rosinski) Kennelly, Toledo, who worked at MCO/MUO/UTMC for more than three decades, died Feb. 19 at age 75. She joined the hospital in 1973 as a nurse. During her career, Kennelly also worked as a documentation specialist, patient care coordinator and resource

utilization coordinator in various departments. She retired in 2007.

Raymond T. Kest, Toledo, an instructor at the University in 1997, died July 31 at age 72.

Natalie E. Kotula, Perrysburg, a clerical specialist in Human Resources at MCO from 1985 to 1999, died Jan. 3 at age 87.

Dr. James W. Lacksonen, Columbus, Ohio, professor emeritus of chemical engineering, died Nov. 18 at age 86. He joined the faculty in 1967 and retired from the University in 1998. For a time, he served as assistant dean of engineering before returning to teaching. Lacksonen received one of the University's Outstanding Teacher Awards in 1991 and was named Engineer of the Year by the Technical Society of Toledo and the Toledo Society of Professional Engineers in 1992. In addition, he was named Outstanding Engineering Educator in the state by the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers in 1986.

Dr. Richard F. Leighton, Savannah, Ga., dean emeritus and professor emeritus of medicine, died Feb. 5 at age 91. He joined MCO in 1974 as professor of medicine and the first chief of cardiology. He was charged with setting up a modern catheterization lab, expanding the cardiac care unit, and starting a station for echocardiography and nuclear cardiology. In 1990, Leighton was named vice president and dean of medicine. He was the author of more than 90 articles on cardiovascular medicine and six books. Leighton retired from MCO in 1997.

Margaret A. (Kelley) Lesle, Toledo, who retired as an inventory control specialist in the early 1990s, died Oct. 15 at age 95.

Neil Lindsay, Maumee, who taught briefly at UToledo, died Sept. 6 at age 95.

Mary Ann (Peiffer) Luther, Toledo, a former MCO employee, died Oct. 3 at age 68.

Dr. Michael S. Mack, Toledo, died Dec. 31 at age 74. He was a clinical professor of gynecology and obstetrics until 2020. The department honored his work with its Michael Mack Education Award. The UToledo alumnus received a bachelor's degree in biology in 1970 and completed his residency at MCO in 1977.

Marian T. (Laube) Marquette, Rossford, an administrative assistant in the Physics and Astronomy Department until her retirement, died Oct. 23 at age 90.

Virginia "Ginny" (Mowka) Matuszek, Waterville, a former UToledo employee who worked in the College of Pharmacy, died Dec. 20 at age 96. She retired from the University in 1987.

Dr. Harry E. Mayhew, Tucson, Ariz., professor emeritus of family medicine, died Dec. 27 at age 89. He joined MCO in 1976 when he was appointed chair of the Department of Family Medicine. Mayhew, a recipient of the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence, led the department until his retirement in 1997 when he received emeritus status. To honor his career, the Harry E. Mayhew Department of Family Medicine Award was established to recognize the department's top graduate.

Frank S. Merritt, Perrysburg, professor emeritus of law, died Dec. 8 at age 79. He joined the law faculty in 1977 as a visiting associate professor and was named associate professor in 1979. He taught criminal law and procedure; white-collar crime; and torts. Merritt was promoted to professor and was involved with the UToledo Legal Institute of the Great Lakes. After 29 years at the University, he retired in 2006.

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# IN MEMORIAM

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Sarah E. (Sally) Miller, Perrysburg, an instructor in the Art Department in 2012, died Nov. 30 at age 54.

Patricia R. Moore Lester, Layton, Utah, a secretary at MCO from 1982 until her retirement in 2005, died Dec. 6 at age 83. She worked in the Audio-Visual Department in Mulford Library.

David D. Murray, Ottawa Lake, Mich., a law instructor from 1994 to 2014, died Sept. 17 at age 77. He taught classes on patent law. Murray received a law degree from the University in 1977.

Dr. James R. Patrick, Maumee, professor emeritus of pathology, died Feb. 15 at age 92. He was recruited in 1969 to become chair of pathology at the new medical college. Patrick retired from the University in 2007. He served as coroner in Lucas County for 34 years, retiring in 2019.

Shirley A. Pawlicki, Maumee, a registered medical technologist who retired from MCO in 1993, died Jan. 18 at age 85.

Melva Jewel Plocek, Monclova, an instructor at UToledo from 1997 to 2002, died Aug. 27 at age 83.

Dr. Paul P. Rega, Toledo, a faculty member at MCO/MUO/UToledo, died Oct. 13 at age 74. He taught public health and emergency medicine; Rega was known for teaching students through disaster preparedness drills. In the late 1980s, he helped form the Toledo Area Disaster Medical Assistance Team. Rega's name was added to the Emergency Medicine Wall of Honor on the Health Science Campus in 2015. He retired from the University in July 2022.

Dr. Barry L. Richardson, Columbus, a longtime faculty member and administrator at MCO, died Sept. 9 at age 79. In 1977, he joined the MCO faculty in the Physiology Department. Richardson later was appointed associate dean

of admissions and assistant vice president for multicultural affairs. He was the first African-American administrator in the new Office of Minority Affairs. Upon his retirement in 2004, he was honored with the establishment of the Dr. Barry L. Richardson Scholarship, which is awarded to first-year under-represented minority medical students who demonstrate the potential for excellence in medicine and leadership service to under-represented populations in the community.

Sara Vasquez Rios, Sylvania, a former University employee, died Oct. 29 at age 94.

Kerry L. Rottenstein, Toledo, who worked at the University 25 years, died Nov. 1 at age 65. She received an associate degree in electronics engineering from UToledo in 1987 and then joined the staff in 1990. Rottenstein was an administrative assistant and worked in several offices, including Affirmative Action, Human Resources, and Faculty Labor Relations and Inclusion. She received a bachelor of engineering technology degree from the University in 1996. She retired in 2015.

Dr. William J. Rowe, Keswick, Va., a longtime faculty member at MCO, died Sept. 18 at age 94. His specialty was internal medicine.

William P. Schwepe, Fostoria, an instructor in the Department of Music from 2002 to 2011, died Oct. 27 at age 72.

Megan M. (Anderson) Sekulski, Sylvania, died Oct. 3 at age 37. She was a clinical associate in the College of Nursing from 2015 until her death.

Lana S. (Monger) Shryock, Sylvania, a former instructor who taught computer information systems, died Dec. 25 at age 67. She received two master of business administration degrees — one in information systems and one in management — from UToledo in 1992.

Edwin L. Spackey, Toledo, a former UToledo instructor, died Oct. 25 at age 92. He received a bachelor of arts degree from the University in 1997.

Dr. Bernard B. Spiegel, Toledo, who taught speech and language at UToledo for 28 years, died Feb. 8 at age 81. In 1984, he joined the University, where he also supervised students at the Speech and Hearing Clinic. Spiegel retired as an associate professor in 2013.

Chuck Stobart, former UToledo football coach, died Nov. 29 at age 90. As head coach of the Rockets from 1977 to 1981, he was recognized for rebuilding the program.

Stobart was named Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year in 1979 and 1981. He led Toledo to a 9-3 record, a MAC Championship, and a memorable 27-25 victory over San Jose State in the California Bowl in 1981. Stobart was inducted into the Varsity T Hall of Fame in 2012.

Thomas J. Stucky, Marysville, Ohio, a former instructor at the University, died Oct. 3 at age 78.

Dr. Christine A. (Conrad) Taylor, a faculty member at MCO from 1991 to 2004, died Dec. 24 at age 75. She was an associate professor in family medicine with a joint appointment in surgery. Taylor served as assistant dean for medical education and director of faculty development. An alumna of UToledo, she received a bachelor of education degree in public affairs and community service in 1980, a master of science in education degree in public health in 1982, and a doctoral degree in education in educational psychology in 1987.

Thomas H. Tenney, Toledo, a former MCO employee, died April 14 at age 83. A UToledo alumnus, he received a bachelor of science degree in engineering in 1967 and a master of science degree in physics in 1969.

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## UTRA Tower Talk

### IN MEMORIAM

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Cheryl L. (Szczublewski) Thomas, Toledo, who worked at UToledo for 26 years, died Jan. 27 at age 61. She joined the staff in 1996 and worked in the Office of the First-Year Experience. She also worked for the Study Abroad Program, the Center for International Students and Programs, and most recently was the executive assistant in the Office of the Dean of Students and Vice President of Student Affairs. In 2017, Thomas was honored with the Dr. Alice Skeens Outstanding Woman Award from the University Women's Commission. In addition, she received the Classified Staff Award in 2004 and was inducted as an honorary member of the Blue Key National Honor Society in 2018.

Thomas was an avid supporter of the Rockets and earned a bachelor of arts degree in adult liberal studies from UToledo in 2017.

James E. Tierney, Sylvania, a retired law professor, died Feb. 6 at age 66. In 1988, he joined the College of Law as an associate professor and was later promoted to professor. He specialized in contract and taxation law. Tierney received an Outstanding Professor Award in 2005. He retired in 2012.

John C. Ulmer, Tavares, Fla., a former UToledo instructor, died Dec. 31 at age 88.

Dr. Steven J. Weiss, Sylvania, professor emeritus of economics, died Sept. 13 at age 83. He joined the

faculty as an assistant professor in 1968 and was promoted to professor in 1984. During his tenure, he served as chair of the department. Weiss retired in 1999.

Elizabeth A. (Harris) Witt, Swanton, who worked at MCO/MUO/UTMC for 26 years, died Aug. 25 at age 68. She was hired in 1986 and was an x-ray technology specialist in the Vascular Lab. Witt retired in 2012.

Karen M. Woods-Cox, Sylvania, who worked in the UToledo Placement Office and Carlson Library before retiring, died Jan. 9 at age 87.

Nancy J. (Eichenlaub) Zrull, High Point, N.C., who was a member of the Satellites Auxiliary, died Oct. 10 at age 90.