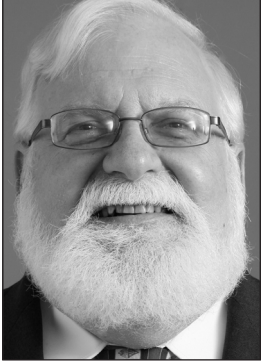


Tower Talk

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



UTRA President
Andy Jorgensen

Greetings, UTRA Member! I hope that spring has sprung in your location. We have experienced some very nice weather in Toledo.

This message will focus on topics discussed in recent UTRA Board Meetings in order to update you on the workings of your Board.

A major focus of each meeting is a report on the various activities planned by our

Program Committee, which is co-chaired by Kathy Wilson and Chris Spengler. Please consider participating in one or more of the events, which are advertised to members through emails you should receive. For programs presented at the Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement, we sometimes provide access to the presentation via Zoom and post it online afterward. Look for details in the invitation to register.

Each meeting also includes a report on our finances presented by Treasurer Celia Regimbal. You may

have noticed that for some events, such as our two in-person meetings, our treasury covers part of the meal costs to reduce the registration for you and your guest. This is a tangible value of your membership that has become more important as the charges at the country clubs where we hold the meetings have been increasing markedly.

At a recent meeting, we heard from Billy Pierce, UToledo associate vice president of alumni engagement. He gave a presentation on the new Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving Strategic Plan. A major component of that plan includes increased service to the Alumni Association by the trustees of the organization. He discussed the philanthropic and support roles of the trustees. If you attend our Annual Meeting on June 12, Billy will be our guest speaker. Look for the invitation to register for the event.

Each meeting includes reports on our two scholarship funds by the respective chairs of those committees. Look for the report of the Health Science Campus Scholarship Committee in another section of this newsletter and consider supporting students through these scholarships.

Continued on page 8

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT STUDIO NAMED FOR UTRA MEMBERS

The Nancy and James Lapp Creative Studio, a new state-of-the-art facility for The University of Toledo's Athletic Department, was recently dedicated thanks to a generous donation from the Lapps.

Both of the Lapps are lifetime members of UTRA and have served in leadership positions in UTRA and other University and community organizations. Jim currently serves on the board as a past president and represents UTRA on the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees.

The new studio, which is located in renovated space in Savage Arena, will use Vu One technology to create content about Athletic Department events. Athletic Director Bryan Blair told *The Blade* at the facility's dedication in January that "Virtual production is the wave of the future... Today marks a new era in our approach to creativity and innovation, and furthers our commitment to providing our student-athletes with an unparalleled experience." The studio is one of the first of its kind in the nation, Blair added.



Nancy and James Lapp posed outside the new creative studio in Savage Arena that is named for them.

Continued on page 8

PROFESSOR'S RESEARCH IS A FASCINATING ADVENTURE

By Barbara Floyd

Trekking across the Egyptian desert guided by nomadic Bedouins, in search of ancient rock quarries. Watching out for venomous viper and cobra snakes that hide in the shadows. Finding a scorpion in the shower. Confronting dangerous jackals and wild dogs. Sneaking onto an island to conduct research without being seen by occupying Egyptian army forces. Discovering previously unknown gold mines and forts that date back 4,000 years.

No, this is not the plot of another "Raiders of the Lost Ark" starring Harrison Ford. Rather, these are some of the experiences of University of Toledo Professor James Harrell during his 34 years of research spent seeking out the rocks and minerals in the Egyptian desert that were utilized by ancient civilizations.

Dr. Harrell, professor emeritus, recently described his research adventures to UTRA members in a talk titled "My 30 Years in the Egyptian Desert: Archaeological Discoveries and Adventures."

Harrell's research in Egypt began in 1989 and has centered on the rocks and minerals used by ancient Egyptians to make tools, vessels and other items, and where the quarries are located that produced these materials. Some of his findings will be published in his two-volume upcoming book, *Archaeology and Geology of Ancient Egyptian Stones*.

Some of his discoveries included finding blanks used to create vessels and hammers dating to around 2900 BC, and a quarry used to produce stone shrines dating back to 350 BC. Harrell said the latter showed evidence of the earliest known use of iron tools to quarry stone in Egypt. Later in his career, Harrell discovered four previously unknown Egyptian gold mines along with the forts that had been constructed to protect the quarries.

From the hieroglyphics etched into its stone, it was possible to date one of the gold mines to the King Sensusret dynasty of about 1887 BC.

In addition to his fascinating research, Harrell shared sometimes hair-raising tales of what it took to make his discoveries, which often played out like an adventure movie.

One of the most dangerous aspects of conducting research in the desert, Harrell said, was the venomous snakes that blend in with the surroundings and sometimes hide in the shadows. He described one evening when he slept on a thin mattress in the desert, only to wake up in the morning and see evidence that a viper had been circling near his head. After this experience, Harrell made a habit of sleeping with a screen around his bed. On another trip, he found a large scorpion in his shower.

When exploring an underground quarry, Harrell was confronted by two golden jackals that watched him closely before he was able to scare them off. Jackals, which travel in packs like wolves, are known to attack people when hungry.

One night, while on what he thought would be a short walk through the desert, he got hopelessly lost, and walked for hours in an area near a military base mine field. Exhausted, he finally laid down and buried himself in the sand to keep warm, hoping to get some sleep. But he soon heard yelps from wild dogs that kept getting louder and louder as the dogs smelled his scent. Luckily, as he was running away from them, he discovered an army bunker left over from one of the previous wars in the region that had an observation tower. He was able to climb up the tower just as the dogs came upon him.

Other adventures Harrell described included running out of water — which caused him to collapse — and sneaking onto an island occupied by Egyptian army forces who would have likely interrogated him — or worse — if he had been discovered by them.

Harrell holds a BA in geology from California State at Fullerton, an MA from the University of Oklahoma, and a PhD from the University of Cincinnati. He served on the UToledo faculty from 1979 until 2009, when he was appointed professor emeritus.



Dr. James Harrell smiled with a friend during one of his research trips to Egypt.

UTRA WELCOMES NEW RETIREES

Dale Black	Gerald Heuring	Debra O'Connell	NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS
Karen Boling	Karen Hutt	Nanette O'Connor	Kathryn George
Nancy Burhans	Arletha James	Kimberly Pollauf	Steven LeBlanc
Robert Busch	Annette Johnson	Brenda Snyder	Gerald Heuring
Prabir Chaudhuri	Cheryl Jones	Marvin Swift	Laurie Mauro
Deborah Corkins	Melissa Keaton	Michael Taylor	Vincent Mauro
Kathleen Diegel	Marcia King-Blandford	Deborah Vestal	Donald McLeod
Vijay Goel	Carolyn Lee	Beverly Ann Wilson	Jose Trevino
Lorraine Hayes	Shirley Michel	Marcia Yoder	
Henry Heffner	Jeff Newton		

PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE SEEKS TO EXPAND UTRA'S IMPACT

By Lynn Hutt

What is The University of Toledo Retirees Association's Philanthropy Committee? First, I looked for the definition of philanthropy. This is what I found: "Greek playwright Aeschylus coined the term philanthropy in the 5th century BCE. It meant 'love of humanity.' Today, philanthropy means generosity in all its forms and is often defined as giving gifts of 'time, talent and treasure' to help make life better for other people."

The guiding principle of UTRA's Philanthropy Committee is, as Aeschylus stated, "the love of humanity." The committee looks for projects to enhance the lives of our UT community, specifically the students, and as well as the patients served by UTMC.

The committee is committed to giving gifts of time, talent and treasure, and building on UTRA's long-standing philanthropic traditions. Ways the committee has sought to do this include:

Twice a year, retirees are encouraged to donate stuffed animals that are passed on to the Satellites Auxiliary at UTMC. Volunteers prepare the toys to be given to children who are being treated at the hospital. If a retiree would like to contribute but prefers not to go shopping, the Satellites Auxiliary can do the shopping for you!

At the UTRA Annual Meeting and the Holiday Brunch, retirees are encouraged to make donations to the Rocket Fuel Food Pantry or to the Rocket-to-Rocket Fund. Both funds support UToledo students in need.

New in 2023, a fundraiser was held to assist our students on both campuses. UTRA partnered with the local company Junk King to hold a garage sale. Junk King staff did the work, and all proceeds went to the Rocket-to-Rocket Fund. This fund assists students who have an unplanned expense that they cannot afford. We expect to continue this new tradition in 2024.

Finally, our retiree groups have established two endowed scholarship funds, **UTRA Scholarship Fund, #1301163, and HSC Retirees Scholarship Fund, #1500260.**

Retirees may contribute to either fund at any time by mailing a check made out to the UT Alumni Association, 4510 Dorr Street, Toledo, OH 43615, attn: Sarah Metzger. Please specify in the memo line the purpose of your donation. Alternatively, you may make a gift online at givecampus.com/campaigns/37691/donations/new.

The Philanthropy Committee asks UTRA members and other retirees to continue to support these philanthropic endeavors. If you know other areas of the UToledo community that would benefit from our support, please let us know. You can contact Sarah Metzger in the Alumni Association Office with any questions at 419-530-4237 or sarah.metzger2@utoledo.edu.

NEWS FROM COLUMBUS

By James Lapp

OPERS

Following a disappointing 2022, OPERS investment funds rebounded in 2023. Preliminary investment results, net of fees, indicate double-digit returns for the pension fund and healthcare fund. The defined benefit fund increased by 11.34% in 2023, outperforming its policy benchmark by 0.87%. Global equities led the strong showing. US equity increased 25.9% and contributed 5.9% to the total return, while non-US equity returned 17.2%, contributing 3.6% to total return. The healthcare fund returned 13.96% last year, outperforming its benchmark by 0.32%. Global equities again led the way, contributing 6.9% to the total return, while non-US equities contributed 4.3% to the return.

The healthcare fund is much smaller than the defined benefit fund and has a different asset mix that considers the higher liquidity needs. With these preliminary returns, the funding level for the defined benefit program is expected to remain at 84%. The amortization period, the time required to pay off the system's unfunded liabilities, is expected to decline from 16 to 15 years. The healthcare fund's solvency years are expected to improve to 22 years, up from 21 years at the end of 2022.

Earlier this year, the OPERS board approved minor modifications to the target allocations. On the defined benefit side, the allocation to investment grade credit is increasing from 2% to 3%, and the allocation to high yield fixed income is increasing from 3% to 4%. Allocations to US and non-US equity are both being decreased by 1%, with US equity dropping from 22% to 21%, and non-US equity dropping from 21% to 20%. Changes to the healthcare fund increase securitized debt from 2% to 3%, high yield fixed income from 4% to 5%, investment grade credit from 2% to 3%, and risk parity from 2% to 3%. Allocations in US equity will decrease from 26% to 25%, commodities drop from 4% to 3%, and REITS drop from 7% to 5%.

STRS OHIO

Last November William Neville was placed on paid leave from his position as STRS executive director after an anonymous letter accused him of misconduct. An outside law firm hired by the Ohio Attorney General's Office to investigate these charges found the accusations to be "largely without merit." Twenty-three STRS employees who have regular contact with Neville were interviewed along with two former pension fund employees, and nothing was uncovered that rose to the level of creating a hostile work environment. The investigation did not uncover who wrote the letter or whether that person was a STRS employee. Despite the report of the allegations, the STRS board is keeping Neville on paid administrative

leave through mid-May and will provide him with professional development training. Lynn Hoover will continue as acting executive director. Hoover has been with STRS for the past 30 years, most recently serving as deputy executive director, finance and CFO.

Crowe LLP completed its audit of STRS's 2023 financial statements. STRS received an unmodified or "clean" opinion. The report showed the retirement system's financial statements were fairly presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and found no instances of noncompliance nor any material weaknesses in internal controls. CEM Benchmarking's cost analysis found that STRS's costs were low compared to peers, primarily due to its managing about two-thirds of assets in-house and paying less than peers for similar services. CEM estimated this approach saved STRS about \$135 million in 2022. The study also showed STRS's five-year annualized net total fund return (2018 through 2022) at 7%, which was above both the US public median of 5.9% and its similar-sized US peer median of 6.5%. CEM is an industry leader in providing investment and pension benchmarking and compared STRS with 146 US pension funds.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

At the federal level, efforts to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) have continued this session with the introduction of HR 82 and S 597 (sponsored by Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-OH). In the House, 300 members co-sponsored the repeal legislation. Past attempts at passage have stalled in committee due to concerns about the cost – estimated at \$146 billion over 10 years – and the implications for the Social Security trust fund, which is projected to become insolvent in the early 2030s barring changes. The Ohio House of Representatives passed a concurrent resolution urging Congress to repeal the WEP and GPO by a unanimous 85-0 vote. At this writing, the resolution was still in committee in the Ohio Senate. At the state level, STRS continues to monitor HB 78, which would allow re-employed STRS members to serve on the board only as a retiree member, which is consistent with other pension systems.

Both OPERS and STRS are closely following House Bill 296, which would increase the employer contribution for Ohio Police and Fire from 19.5% to 24%. The two systems are also pursuing legislation to increase employer contribution rates. The STRS employer contribution rate has been the same since 1984, and the last OPERS increase in the employer contribution rate was 50 years ago.

REINVIGORATION, CHANGES TO CURRICULUM AND FACILITIES

Two seemingly disparate announcements — a prioritization approach that suspended admissions for a number of its academic programs, plus the creation of a new science site and welcome center — put the spotlight on The University of Toledo early this year.

However, the two developments intersect, with a shared intention to improve overall enrollment and build excitement about UToledo, according to campus administrators.

In January, UToledo publicly announced the culmination of a prioritization process several years in the making. The Office of the Provost worked with college deans to review the academic portfolio using criteria that included student and workforce demand, program viability, accreditation requirements, general education requirements, and the potential to deliver a program as a minor or certificate.

The University also weighed its areas of strength in STEM-H: science, technology, engineering, mathematics and healthcare.

As a result, several academic programs will suspend admissions beginning with the 2024-25 academic year and prepare to close. Impacted programs include foreign languages, media communication, urban studies, graduate education degrees, industrial engineering and exercise science. UToledo also is reducing the number of specializations in the areas of public health, nursing and pharmaceutical sciences.

“While there may be some cost savings, the outcome of this effort is more focused on growth,” Interim Provost and Executive President for Academic Affairs Scott Molitor said. “In reducing low-demand degree programs and their associated courses, we can apply the time and talents of our faculty to develop and

deliver innovative and high-demand programs and make UToledo more competitive.”

As administrators emphasized, all students currently enrolled in a program impacted by this prioritization process can complete their degrees without disruption.

Details on the programs impacted during this ongoing process are listed on the Office of the Provost prioritization website: utoledo.edu/offices/provost/prioritization.

Prioritization of its assets was also the goal behind an updated five-year Main Campus master plan approved by the UToledo Board of Trustees, centering on the creation of a science building as well as a dedicated “front door” to campus. It’s a \$300-\$400 million investment that will be funded via state capital dollars, philanthropic support, and UToledo borrowing from the capital markets, according to Jason Toth, senior associate vice president for administration.

The existing Health and Human Services Building on Centennial Mall will be the location for cutting-edge classrooms, labs and research areas. The move is intended to reinvigorate the core of Main Campus. The new welcome center has a similar aim, moving Rocket Solution Central to a location between Scott and Tucker Halls off Bancroft Street — closer as well to UToledo Admissions Office in Libbey Hall.

During a challenging time in higher education, universities nationwide are re-examining just about every aspect of existing practices. Retirees and alumni are encouraged to stay involved in the process by attending public meetings, offering feedback or simply keeping abreast of the latest UT news.

TOWER TALK SEEKS YOUR INPUT

Changing methods of communication have led the editors of *Tower Talk* to seek input on how to keep the newsletter relevant to UTRA members.

Much of the information that in the past has been conveyed to the membership through the newsletter is now sent electronically via email or posted on Facebook. This includes announcements of programs, information on our annual meeting and holiday brunch, and special events such as the bus tour. By the time the twice-annual newsletter is published, most of the events have already taken place or registration deadlines have passed.

Tower Talk still remains the most important way in which the organization connects with its membership,

and we intend to continue to publish it. But we would like it to contain information that is different from what members receive electronically.

Please consider sending your comments on how to improve the newsletter to the editor. Are there topics you want to see covered more? Would you prefer the newsletter to be distributed electronically instead of in print form? What features do you read the most? Which do you read the least? Send your comments to: barbara.floyd@utoledo.edu.

NEW FEATURE: MEMBER MENTIONS

Learn more on page 6.

MEMBER MENTIONS

One way we have decided to address the issue of relevance is a new feature called Member Mentions. It will include brief notes and updates from members about what they are currently doing, where they are living, what new research or public service projects they are pursuing, and how they are spending their retirement. We hope members will submit information and even photographs for the newsletter that will help members stay connected both personally and professionally with their former colleagues.

Below is the first of our new Member Mentions column. This issue features updates from members of the UTRA Executive Committee. We hope that members from around the country will send us their updates for future editions of *Tower Talk*.

We will publish as many notes as we have room for in the newsletter. The deadline for the fall 2024 issue is Aug. 1, and the deadline for the spring 2025 issue is March 1.

Send your information and even photographs to barbara.floyd@utoledo.edu.

Lynn Hutt: I retired on July 1, 2020, and due to COVID, I was unable to get involved in many outside activities. I was able to spend time catching up on cleaning, redecorating, and planting flowers. My husband and I had gotten a puppy, so getting exercise was not difficult. The puppy loves taking walks and running at the park, and we found out that we started to feel better and were getting fit. I also joined The University of Toledo Retirees Association, which has enabled me to see people that I worked with, heard about, or did not know at all. It has been fun.

Andy Jorgensen: I went back into the classroom in January. For several weeks, I did substitute teaching at St. Francis High School to cover for a teacher who was out on medical leave. The teacher is a UToledo graduate who needed time off for surgery but has since returned to teaching. I ended the experience with a renewed appreciation for the hard work done by pre-college teachers!

Chris Spengler: I loved my 40 years at UToledo, but I have not regretted retiring for a single day. My advice to people contemplating retirement is to make sure you have hobbies and activities separate from your work life: join clubs or organizations that interest you and, possibly, take you out of your comfort zone. Life since retirement has been full of home improvements and redecorating projects; joining several organizations that offer physical activity (I now walk 3-5 miles a week); enjoying all home UToledo basketball and football games; and traveling (Italy, Greece, Vermont, Gettysburg) and this year to the UP of Michigan, with future plans for a trip to Ireland.

I have also been busy in my art studio creating greeting cards for myself and others by commission and conducting genealogy research in my genealogy office.

Barbara Floyd: My husband and I spend much of our time at our vacation place, an 80-year-old log cabin in Sister Lakes, Michigan, just east of St. Joseph. We are unable to travel long distances after Bill suffered a severe stroke two years ago, but he is gaining strength and improving all the time. I keep busy doing volunteer work (including selecting the recipient of a scholarship awarded by a family foundation that supports outstanding students from North Berrien County, near where our cabin is located), and also some archival consulting in Toledo.

Jim Lapp: I have been serving on the UTRA Executive Board and various committees for the past 13 years, have represented UTRA on the board of the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees since 2012, and spent three years on the Alumni Association Board of Trustees. My wife and I have been avid supporters of UToledo athletics as Stadium Club members since 2008. I enjoy attending Toledo Symphony concerts, art festivals, visiting parks and museums, travel, photography, and spending time with friends and neighbors at our patio parties. In addition, I also like reading biographies and history (especially US Civil War and early American history) and solving KenKen, Sudoku and crossword puzzles.

Kathy Wilson: I volunteer at the Toledo Metroparks, primarily garden-keeping at Toledo Botanical Garden, and a new assignment as a trail patrol volunteer. I am in my second year as an at-large member of the UTRA Board, co-chair of the UTRA Planning Committee and Pathfinders walking group, and member of the UTRA Philanthropy Committee. My husband and I enjoy traveling. Last year, we visited Naples and Sicily. This year, we will travel to London and Scotland with a Beatles-influenced side trip to Liverpool. On the domestic front, we have set a goal of visiting every MLB ballpark — and we are about halfway through!

Lance Talmage: Since retirement I have had a chance to be active on many boards such as UTRA, American Legion, Torch Club and our neighborhood association. We get to our condo in Siesta Key several times a year for two or three weeks each time. Our favorite travel is cruising. We will do the upper Mississippi in August.

HEALTH SCIENCE CAMPUS SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

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 the 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 now \$93,542 and our endowment plus earnings exceeds \$131,000. We were able to grant \$3,750 in scholarships to each of the four colleges on the HSC. The recipients are recommended by the colleges based on their academic excellence and contributions to the campus and the community.

The recipients from the HSC College of Graduate Studies this year are Hunter Eby, a MD/PhD student in the Bioinformatics Graduate Program; and Sophia Modes, a third-year student in the Physician Assistant Master's Program. The recipient from the College of Medicine and Life Sciences is Adam Girmann, a fourth-year medical student. The recipient from the College of Nursing is Lydien Besong Mangeb, a student in the Post-Baccalaureate to Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. The recipients from the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences are Kathleen Forero, a PhD student in Experimental Therapeutics; Chase Morse, a PhD student in Medicinal and Biological Chemistry; Woonyen Wong, a PhD student in Experimental Therapeutics; Shelby Travaglianti, a master's student in Pharmacology and Toxicology; and Raihaanah Safee, a master's student in Industrial Pharmacy.

All of the recipients have outstanding academic records, but what really stood out were their many contributions to the campus, the community and beyond. All are clearly deserving of the scholarship support we were able to provide them.

UTRA NOMINATIONING COMMITTEE REPORT

The following are candidates for offices for the UTRA Executive Committee for 2024. Members should have received ballots in the mail to cast their votes. The ballots contain full biographies of candidates. If you did not receive a ballot, please contact Sarah Metzger at The UToledo Alumni Association at 419-530-4237 or sarah.metzger2@utoledo.edu.

Candidate for Treasurer One to Be Elected, Two-Year Term:

Celia Regimbal retired in 2017 after serving as a faculty member for 31 years in the College of Education.

Candidates for Member-At-Large, Three to Be Elected to Two-Year Terms:

John David Dignam retired in 2014 from the Department of Biochemistry at the Medical College of Ohio and has been an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Debbie MacDonald retired from the University in 2012 after 32 years of service, including as secretary in the Department of History.

Peter J. Papadimos retired from The University of Toledo after 24 years of service in the Office of Legal Affairs including as Vice President and General Counsel.

Dr. Elliot Tramer served UToledo for 38 years in the Department of Biology and in the Environmental Sciences Department.

Maria Villagomez began her UToledo career in 1975, and she retired in 2011 from the Office of Institutional Research.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued from page 1

We occasionally receive questions from retirees about benefits available to UTRA members. The co-chairs of our Benefits Committee have reached out to UToledo staff in Human Resources to update our collective understanding of such benefits. This is important because several aspects of our retirement status have changed over recent years.

Board member Jim Lapp continues to attend the meetings of the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees and reports on actions from Columbus that can affect our status. Currently, there are major discussions on possible changes to our retirement payments and medical coverage. The UTRA Board continues to monitor this situation. You are welcome to request a copy of Jim's report by sending an email to me (andy.jorgensen@utoledo.edu).

An annual topic of the meetings is the development of a slate of candidates for the Board. Look for your ballot for this election that should have come to you by US Postal Service in April.

We continue to discuss the role of UTRA in terms of philanthropic support for various programs at UToledo. Look for reports on plans for future events.

Each of our several committees would welcome participation of UTRA members. One need not be on the Board to contribute efforts and ideas. Please let Sarah Metzger or me know of your interest or send a message to the committee chair. We can always use new ideas to make UTRA an even better organization for our members!

Finally, if you have received this newsletter by mail, but do not receive the regular UTRA emails, please send your email address to Sarah Metzger (sarah.metzger2@utoledo.edu) so you can be added to that distribution. If you are on Facebook, look for UTRA postings there. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions for future activities, please write to me at andy.jorgensen@utoledo.edu.

Andy Jorgenson, UTRA President

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT STUDIO NAMED FOR UTRA MEMBERS

Continued from page 1

In addition to creating dynamic content using video, graphics and new virtual production methods, the studio will also serve as the site for men's and women's basketball press conferences. Because the studio is all glass, fans will be able to watch the press conferences live. Vu Technologies and its Vue One LED display technology also will allow the Athletic Department to create content such as films, and move quickly from creative ideas to executed content in ways not possible with past technology.

"As proud alums and retirees, we have been Rocket fans for many, many years. We were excited to have this opportunity to further support the Athletic Department's vision for the future with this cutting-edge technology," Jim Lapp said. "We can't wait to see the different ways in which the Creative Studio, with its virtual production technology, will be used to elevate student-athletes, the Athletic Department and the University as a whole."

PLAN NOW FOR NEXT UTRA GATHERING

The UTRA's annual meeting and lunch will take place at the Belmont Country Club in Perrysburg on June 12. Watch your email for details of how to register. Shown here are member Guy Szuberla and his wife Joan at UTRA's holiday brunch in December of last year. The annual meeting and holiday brunch are two ways that UTRA connects in person with its membership and gives members a chance to catch up with colleagues and friends. Please plan on attending the annual meeting this June!



IN MEMORIAM

Marion B. Adair-Hinds, State College, Pa., former coordinator of the Social Work Technology Program, died Oct. 11 at age 93.

Dr. Dena M. Baker-Becker, Maumee, a faculty member who taught educational psychology and early childhood education, died Oct. 25 at age 62. She was on campus from the mid-1990s until the mid-2000s and again in 2009 and 2010. Baker-Becker received a doctorate from UT in 2005.

Nancy R. (Martin) Beal, Waterville, a mental health technician at the Kobacker Center from 1982 to 2002, died Jan. 22 at age 85. The UT alumna received a bachelor of science degree in 1981.

Norine M. (Hettle) Begell, Toledo, a registered nurse at MCO for more than two decades, died Feb. 22 at age 82. She worked in the Surgical ICU for about 10 years and then transferred to the Otolaryngology Clinic.

Donald J. Bensch, Toledo, who worked in information technology from 1998 until his retirement in 2005, died April 2, 2023, at age 56. He was hired as a junior software specialist and was promoted to systems administrator in 2001. Bensch received a degree in electronics engineering technology from UT in 1989.

Carl R. Blaesing, Holland, an electronics maintenance technician at MCO/MUO/UTMC from 2001 until his retirement in 2013, died Sept. 22 at age 72.

Thomas Bollin, Rocky River, Ohio, a former theatre director, died Oct. 28 at age 82. A UT alumnus, he received bachelor of education and education specialist degrees in 1963 and 1976, respectively.

Norma Jean (Wells) Briggs, Toledo, who worked in the UT Treasurer's Office from 1996 to 2007, died Nov. 2 at age 87.

Eileen T. (Coressel) Brittain, Fort Wayne, Ind., who worked in the UT Finance Office until her retirement in the early 1990s, died Nov. 21 at age 89.

Robert J. Burmeister, Toledo, a technician in the Brooks Observatory from 1988 until his retirement in 2006, died Aug. 8 at age 79.

Lynne Rundle Carlson, Bowling Green, former instructor of accounting, died Feb. 22 at age 86.

Shanna L. Carroll, Toledo, a former secretary at the University, died Feb. 18 at age 79. She was hired in 1986 and retired in 2009 while working in the College of Health and Human Services.

Rita R. (Roth) Clark, Maumee, who was a member of the Satellites Auxiliary, died Aug. 31 at age 92. She served as treasurer of the volunteer organization.

Hannah (Collins) Davis, Toledo, who worked at MCO during the 1970s, died Oct. 2 at age 96. She received a teaching certificate from the University.

Ronald S. Davis, Genoa, who taught in the College of Education from 1997 until his retirement in 2015, died Aug. 31 at age 76. He was a visiting assistant professor of early childhood, physical and special education in 2005 and became a lecturer in 2008.

Dr. William J. Doll, The Villages, Fla., professor emeritus of management, died Aug. 7 at age 78. He joined the faculty in 1980 as an associate professor and was promoted to professor in 1983. He taught strategy management courses and researched and published on information system and manufacturing issues. Doll also served as director of the Business Research Center. He retired in 2011.

Patrick K. Dunne, Whitehouse, who worked in information technology at MCO/MUO/UTMC, died Sept. 20

at age 70. He was hired in 1997 and retired in 2020.

Leslie Edgerton, Fort Wayne, Ind., visiting assistant professor of English from 2004 to 2007, died Aug. 31 at age 80. He wrote more than 20 books; his fiction won a number of awards.

Bryan D. Ellis, Toledo, an instructor in the College of Engineering from 2006 to 2019, died Aug. 13 at age 50. The University alumnus received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering in 1998. Ellis also served as advisor of the UT student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Diana Erickson, Toledo, an instructor from 2000 to 2002, died Feb. 26 at age 81. The UT alumna received a bachelor of education degree in 1990 and a master of science degree in education in 1994.

Ronald E. Fasca, Chesterfield, Mo., an instructor of engineering technology from 2001 to 2010, died Nov. 8 at age 79.

Thomas J. Flowers, Walbridge, an instructor in business technology, died Oct. 23, 2022. He started teaching in 2000. The UT alumnus received a bachelor of science degree in business services in 1982.

Carol A. (Schlagheck) French, Toledo, an administrative secretary in the MCO Radiology Residency Program from 1991 until her retirement in 2001, died Sept. 9 at age 83.

Theodore F. Gacik, Rossford, a former MCO employee, died March 26 at age 65.

Dr. Richard R. Gaillardetz, West Roxbury, Mass., the Murray/Bacik Chair in Catholic Studies for 10 years, died Nov. 7 at age 65. A professor of philosophy, he was on campus from 2001 to 2011. Gaillardetz helped establish the Center for Religious Understanding.

Continued on page 10

IN MEMORIAM

Continued from page 9

Mary B. (Honsberger) Gaynor, Toledo, a former MCO employee who worked in the Urology Department, died Jan. 25 at age 72.

Lois K. (Upton) Gensler, Toledo, a former UT secretary, died Sept. 9 at age 88.

Norman S. Giddan, Carrollton, Texas, a psychologist who worked in the UT Counseling Center for a time, died Feb. 21 at age 90.

Roxye Goings, Toledo, a retired MCO nurse, died Oct. 1 at age 96. She primarily worked in the Pediatric Unit.

Dr. Leonard O. Greninger, Sylvania, professor emeritus of exercise science, died Oct. 5 at age 82. He began teaching exercise therapy and anatomy as an assistant professor in 1974. Greninger started the Exercise Therapy Clinic and served as director of the Kinesiotherapy Center and Cardiac Rehabilitation Program. For a time, Greninger was director of the Division of Physical Education, Health and Recreation. Off campus, he helped bring aquatic therapy to Toledo. Greninger retired from the University in 2009.

David D. Gross, Cygnet, Ohio, who worked at the University for 29 years, died Feb. 4 at age 76. He joined the MCO information technology staff in 1986. His titles included telephone service manager, telecommunications technology specialist and healthcare technology support analyst. Gross retired in 2015.

Richard A. Hayes, Toledo, degree audit coordinator at the University in 1996 and 1997, died Dec. 27 at age 89.

Patrick J. Heider, Northwood, an adjunct professor of geology in 1997, died Nov. 4 at age 67. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in geology from the University in 1984 and 1991, respectively.

Dr. John Hemdal, Toledo, professor emeritus of electrical engineering, died Jan. 19 at age 89. He joined the faculty in 1982 as associate professor of electrical engineering and was named assistant chair of the department in 1986. Hemdal retired in 1998.

Betty Jean (Ziegelhofer) Hier, Toledo, who worked at the University 11 years, died Feb. 21 at age 80. She was hired in 1998 and became a custodian in 2000. Hier retired in 2009.

Donald F. Homier, Toledo, a faculty member in the English Department from 1984 to 2016, died Dec. 22 at age 88. While at the University, Homier served as an academic advisor in the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as manager of the writing lab on Health Science Campus.

Glenna R. (Myers) Jaeck, Toledo, a former member of the Satellites Auxiliary, died Dec. 14 at age 96.

Piotr Jakimczuk, Toledo, a groundskeeper at UT for 23 years, died Dec. 2 at age 77. He was hired in 1988 and retired in 2011.

Leonore V. (Jenkins) Johnson, Saint Albans, Vt., a former secretary in the Philosophy Department, died Nov. 2 at age 100.

Sidnee L. (Eakin) Kaminski, Toledo, a longtime employee who retired from MCO, died Feb. 20 at age 90.

Joanne Strickling Kennedy, Toledo, who worked in the College of Education from 1997 to 2010, died Jan. 11 at age 92. She was an instructor who also worked in Student Services. Kennedy received a master of education degree in elementary education from UT in 1971.

Dr. Richard F. Judkins, Palmetto, Fla., a physician at MCO for a time, died Sept. 18 at age 86.

Norma Jean LaVrar, Toledo, a former member of the Satellites Auxiliary, died Aug. 19 at age 93.

Margot (Friesenhahn) Lightfoot, Toledo, a nurse at MCO from 1980 until her retirement in 1999, died June 23 at age 83. She worked in the Rehabilitative Care Unit.

Peter A. Liske, Wenatchee, Wash., former UT athletic director, died Feb. 12, 2022, at age 80. He joined the staff in 1996 and worked on campus until 2001.

Tony G. Miller, Toledo, who worked on campus for more than two decades, died July 23, 2022; he was 64. He joined the MCO staff as an electrical maintenance technician in 1998. Ten years later, Miller became a telecommunications technician.

Gerald P. Moran, who taught in the College of Law for 27 years, died Dec. 22 at age 86. He joined the faculty as a lecturer in tax law in 1972; Moran was promoted to associate professor of law in 1974 and professor in 1978. He was named the Eugene N. Balk Professorship of Law and Values in 1998 and left the University one year later.

Dr. Joseph "Jerry" J. Mundell, Cleveland, a former UT faculty member who taught chemistry, died Nov. 25 at age 74.

Rosanne H. (Leszczynski) Neuser, Toledo, who worked at the University for three decades, died Jan. 1, 2023, at age 75. She was hired in 1983, named assistant director of financial aid in 1996, and retired in 2013. Neuser received a bachelor of arts degree from UT in 1991.

Robert D. Nichols, Monroe, Mich., an anthropology instructor at the University from 2019 to 2021, died Jan. 31 at age 59. The UT alumnus received a master of science degree in education in 1998.

Continued on page 11

IN MEMORIAM

Continued from page 10

Teodora "Dory" Quinsay Paat, Toledo, a former surgical nurse at MCO, died Sept. 15 at age 89.

Gloria A. (George) Palencsar, Oregon, a clerical specialist at the University during the 1990s, died June 30 at age 63.

Suzanne (Chaille) Payne, Orlando, Fla., who worked at the University 21 years, died Jan. 17 at age 78. She joined the staff in 1994 and, over the years, held many titles, including word processing specialist and administrative secretary in the College of Nursing and the Biochemistry and Cancer Biology Department, and secretary in the Orthopedic Department. Payne retired in 2015.

Carol A. Petoskey, Toledo, a longtime physical therapy assistant at MCO/MUO until her retirement, died Feb. 19 at age 76.

Martha (McDonald) Vail Pownall, Toledo, an instructor at UT from 1997 to the early 2000s, died Oct. 11 at age 95. The UT alumna received a master of education degree in 1983.

Bobbie (Hunter) Ray, Toledo, a longtime MCO/MUO employee and UT alumna, died Sept. 12 at age 84. She was an EEG technologist in Neurodiagnostic Services from 1982 until her retirement in 2004. Ray received a bachelor of arts degree from the University in 1991.

Dean E. Riggs, Toledo, an acquisitions librarian at UT from 1974 until his retirement in 1999, died Oct. 3 at age 86. He was named an assistant professor of library administration in 1996 and volunteered as a counselor at the MCO HIV Clinic. Riggs was an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community.

Henry Rose, Chevy Chase, Md., a former UT law instructor, died Nov. 2 at age 96.

Michael J. Ryan, Fremont, an instructor in the English Language and Literature Department from

2003 to 2006, died Aug. 27 at age 72. He received a bachelor's degree from UT in 1973.

Dr. Wesley C. Sampson, Toledo, a former UT instructor in the accounting field, died Feb. 4 at age 94.

Ronald A. Samson, Toledo, a custodial worker at UT who retired in 2003, died March 1 at age 83.

Dr. Jack S. Schendel, Newberg, Ore., a former UT faculty member, died Dec. 2 at age 91.

Joan E. (Roffee) Schorling, Perrysburg, an administrative assistant at MCO/MUO/UT from 1999 to 2010, died Oct. 18 at age 80. She worked in the Development Office and later in the Office of Institutional Advancement.

Dr. Joseph W. Scott, Seattle, a former UT faculty member in sociology/political science, died Jan. 14 at age 88.

Susan (Shu-Shan) Shih, Bolton, Mass., a former instructor who taught computer science, died Jan. 23 at age 87.

Ralph "Rahwae" W. Shuman, Toledo, former UT staff and faculty member, died Feb. 10 at age 71. He first started working on campus in 1996 and later assisted with the Upward Bound and Toledo Excel programs. Shuman became an instructor in 2011 and taught until 2013.

Robert A. Siddens, Toledo, professor emeritus of business technology, died April 17, 2023, at age 86. He joined the faculty of the former Community and Technical College in 1973. He was an assistant professor until 1977 when he was promoted to associate professor. Siddens was named professor emeritus in 1996.

Dr. Donald J. Stierman, Perrysburg, professor emeritus of environmental sciences, died Nov. 9 at age 76. He joined the faculty in 1984 and taught

geophysics until his retirement in 2018. Stierman also served as associate director of the Latin American Studies Institute and was involved with several college and department committees. He was an ardent Rocket fan who followed the football and women's basketball teams.

Betty V. (Rothhaar) Tashenberg, Toledo, a secretary at the University during the 1950s, died Sept. 16 at age 92.

Josephine A. "JoAnn" (Rychlewski) Veller, Perrysburg, a former secretary in the College of Pharmacy, died Sept. 10 at age 95.

Della N. (Schroeder) Ward, Maumee, who worked in Carlson Library, died Feb. 8 at age 76. Ward received a bachelor of education degree from the University in 1984.

Dr. Christine Johansson Weisfelder, a former instructor of accounting, died Sept. 9 at age 81. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Richard Weisfelder, retired professor of political science.

Kay E. (Sharrock) Wilcox, Toledo, who worked in the UT Finance Office during the early 1970s, died Dec. 20. She was 80. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Larry Wilcox, UT professor emeritus of history.

Lenora "Lee" Williams, Toledo, who worked at MCO/MUO/UTMC, died Dec. 14 at age 90.

Betty A. (Potts) Wright, Independence, Mo., died Jan. 12 at age 90. She worked in UT Mail Services and later moved to the Purchasing Department. Wright retired in the early 1990s.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TOLEDO
1872

Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement
4510 Dorr St.
Toledo, OH 43615-4040

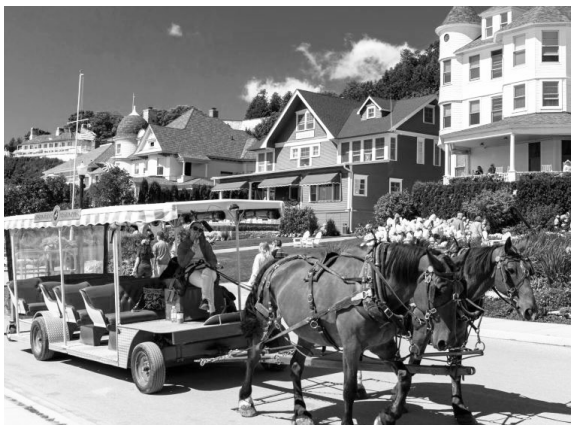
NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TOLEDO, OH
PERMIT NO. 242

UTRA Tower Talk

JOIN THE UTRA BUS TRIP TO MACKINAC ISLAND

Who can forget the 1980 movie “Somewhere in Time” starring Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour as time-traveling lovers? Even those who did not like the plot would surely agree that the setting for the movie was beautiful, and a place you might want to visit someday.

Now is your chance to visit Mackinac Island, the picturesque town where the movie was filmed, along with fellow UTRA members.



The annual UTRA bus trip is planned from August 19 through August 23. The trip, offered by Diamond Tours, will include four nights’ lodging in Northern Michigan, eight meals, and transportation to some of the most scenic areas in the region.

It includes a cruise through the Soo Locks, a visit to the charming town of Sault Sainte Marie, and a trip to the Tower of History for a spectacular panoramic view of the locks and surrounding areas. Also included is plenty of time to explore Mackinac Island via a carriage ride and walking (since cars are not allowed on the island). The trip will conclude with a guided tour of quaint Mackinaw City, a visit to the Mackinac Point lighthouse built in 1892, and a tour of the 18th-century Colonial Michilimackinac.

The cost of this tour open exclusively to UTRA members is \$835. A \$75 deposit is due at registration, and the final payment is due June 12. At time of publication, there is a wait list to register.

For more information, contact Sarah Metzger at the Office of Alumni Engagement at 419-530-4237.