

Tower Talk

Barbara Floyd, editor
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope everyone has been staying cool during this hot, hot summer. But, as hot as it has been, your Association has been keeping busy, and I want to thank everyone who came out for our events.

We all owe a big thank-you to two members of the Board who have served their term: Brenda McKinley, who leaves the board as Treasurer, and Barbara Floyd, who leaves the board as a Board member at Large. Their service has been greatly appreciated. We also welcome our two newest Board members at Large: Pete Papadimos and Kathy Wilson. In addition, Celia Regimbal, who completed her term as a Board member at Large, is now our new Treasurer. Thanks and congratulations to all.

To say we have been busy is an understatement. On March 25, around 40 members and guests enjoyed a visit to the National Museum of the Great Lakes followed by lunch at the Old Bag of Nails. We had a large turnout for our visit to Hoen's Greenhouse, where we enjoyed a presentation on container gardening, got to fill our pots with dirt and pick out plants to bring home. In May, we visited the Toledo Museum of Art to hear a

lecture by Al Geha on stolen World War II art. It was an interesting slide presentation, and I am sure attendees absorbed a great deal. I know I learned some things I didn't know before. A good number of attendees enjoyed a lunch at the museum café before the lecture, and others were taken on a museum tour by Geha to see several examples of alleged stolen art that the museum has in its collection.

Our June Annual Meeting featured guest speaker Floyd Akins, the new vice president of advancement at The University of Toledo Foundation. Many thanks go out to members who contributed to the Student Food Pantry and brought stuffed animals for the Satellites at this meeting. These donations are appreciated greatly.

We had a tremendous turnout for our Sandpiper cruise on July 8. Members and guests enjoyed the leisurely cruise up the river past the grain elevators. We saw some beautiful riverside homes and an assortment of avian wildlife! Everyone enjoyed a really good boxed lunch along the way.

Our new walking group has an official name: UTRA Pathfinders Walking Club. We meet every other Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. followed by a lunch at a local restaurant. Be sure to check the UTRA website and information in this newsletter on upcoming walks.

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UNIVERSITY PREPARES TO CELEBRATE 150 YEARS

The University of Toledo is beginning a yearlong celebration of its 150th anniversary with kick-off events scheduled for Founder's Day, Oct. 12.

The events mark the day in 1872 when Jesup W. Scott and six other Toledoans signed the Articles of Incorporation for the Toledo University of Arts and Trades, the predecessor of the University. Scott, a wealthy landowner, donated 160 acres of land as an endowment for the University. Today, that land is Scott Park.

The events that day will begin with the President's Backyard Barbeque on Centennial Mall and at the Health Science Campus.

At 3 p.m., an exhibit on the University's history titled "Vision, Faith, Hard Work: The University of Toledo at 150" will open in the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections on the fifth floor of Carlson Library. The free, public event will include a lecture by Barbara Floyd, professor emerita of library administration and retired university archivist.



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AN INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN & PHILANTHROPY

By Chris Spengler, UTRA President

Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles on public service activities by UTRA members. If you are volunteering in ways that help our community, please contact the editor to do a story in this series.

Women & Philanthropy at The University of Toledo was created in 2005 by a group of women wanting to do their own part to make a difference by working together. That grassroots philanthropic effort has become a driving force in uniting members in their mutual interest to advance the University's mission. Women & Philanthropy supports and promotes the University while building relationships among a community of generous and forward-thinking women.

The mission statement: "Women & Philanthropy at The University of Toledo aspires to promote the University through investments and grants to UToledo initiatives. We are committed to forging new relationships and building a community of thoughtful, effective philanthropists among women diverse in age, interests, and backgrounds."

Membership dues are pooled, with available funds distributed annually based on grant applications from University departments, colleges, and service areas. Women & Philanthropy members vote on which grant request receives funds each year. Since 2005, Women & Philanthropy has granted more than \$600,000 in 21 grants to The University of Toledo. These grants have impacted students, patients, programs, and services — having a ripple effect through the UToledo community and beyond.

The inaugural grant, in the amount of \$15,000, was awarded to the William S. Carlson Library to commission a glass sculpture by artist Thomas McLaughlin. That sculpture, "A University Woman," is on display in the library and has become the model for the Women & Philanthropy logo.

Members also enjoy special programming and social opportunities that include visits to see the results of



Members of Women & Philanthropy.

their grants, membership receptions, and holiday socials, in addition to special interest programming. Members are able to engage in rewarding opportunities to influence, mentor, and guide other women on their own roads to philanthropy. Through an unwavering commitment to furthering the mission of UToledo, members hope to empower and educate women through networking and leadership opportunities.

In addition, the group has an annual fundraising holiday special project. Past projects have included providing stuffed animals to the UTMC Satellites; supporting the UToledo Student Food Pantry; collecting coats and mittens in collaboration with the Judith Herb College of Education for needy children in schools where UToledo has student teachers; supplying books to second-grade classrooms to encourage early literacy; and providing funds for needy children to take swimming lessons at the UToledo Student Recreation Center.

Membership is open to any interested woman. Dues are \$1,000 per year (\$500 per year for a member younger than 40). The membership application form is online at the Women & Philanthropy website: utfoundation.org/give/women-philanthropy. Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/utoledowp.

UNIVERSITY PREPARES TO CELEBRATE 150 YEARS

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Floyd also will sign copies of the new comprehensive University history she wrote titled "An Institution for the Promoting of Knowledge: The University of Toledo at 150". The book, published by The University of Toledo Press, will be available for sale at the lecture. The lecture also will be livestreamed.

That evening, a concert and fireworks open to the Toledo community will be held on Main Campus.

Additional events are planned throughout the 2022-23 academic year. For more information on those events, visit the special sesquicentennial website: utoledo.edu/150celebration

UTRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

By Donna Haar, Nominating Committee Chair

The 2022 UTRA election results are in. Newly elected Board members are:

Treasurer — Celia Regimbal

Celia retired in 2017 after serving as a faculty member for 31 years in the College of Education, where she taught Physical Education Teacher Education courses, as well as classes for Early Childhood Education. Celia served on numerous department and college committees and several University committees, including the Beautification Committee and Faculty Senate, and she was the Faculty Athletic Representative. Currently, she serves on the President's Commission on Campus Design and Environment. She most recently served as a UTRA Member at Large.

Member at Large — Peter J. Papadimos

Peter retired from The University of Toledo after 24 years of service in the Office of Legal Affairs. He was hired by the University as an associate general counsel in 1995 and promoted to vice president and general counsel in 2007. His responsibilities included the Health Science Campus and UTMC. Service in the latter position was through retirement in 2020. Peter is a first-time UTRA Board member.

Member at Large — Lance Talmage

Lance has served on the UTRA Board for the last two years and was re-elected for another two-year term. He has been active on the Bylaws Committee, the Committee on Committees, and has attended the morning breakfasts and activities. His background includes a bachelor of engineering degree from UT and activity in the Alumni Association, where he served as president in 2009 and 2010. He joined the part-time faculty of the medical school in 1973, the full-time faculty in 2014, and was appointed clinical professor in 1988 and professor in 2014.

Member at Large — Kathy (Bielski) Wilson

Kathy is a recent University of Toledo retiree who serves on the UTRA Program Committee and has participated in UTRA events and activities. She started working for UT in University College in 1987, with stints at the former ComTech, College of Pharmacy, Enrollment Management, and Division of Student Affairs. Kathy is a first-time UTRA Board member.

UTRA BYLAWS REVISIONS APPROVED

This past spring, UTRA members approved two revisions to the Bylaws.

One revision specified a procedure for handling tie votes in elections for Executive Board members.

The other changed the status of the Bylaws and the Nominating Committees from ad hoc to standing committees.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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The Board has voted to establish a new Ad-Hoc Philanthropy Committee. This committee would be responsible for suggesting and coordinating any philanthropic project UTRA may promote — such as the donations we have raised for the Student Food Pantry and the donations of stuffed animals for the hospital. There may be other projects of interest. I am looking for someone to chair and/or serve on the committee. Please let me know if you are interested.

The Bylaws amendments that were on the ballot earlier this year have passed. In addition, we are close

to completing the operating procedures document I mentioned in the last newsletter. This document will be posted on our web page.

Have a safe fall. I look forward to seeing you soon at any of our upcoming events — and there are even more in the initial planning stages.

Sincerely,

Chris Spengler
UTRA President

UTRA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2022-23

The UTRA Scholarship Committee reviewed the applications submitted by descendants of UTRA members. This year the committee received applications from four qualified students. Each of the applicants had positive achievements and expressed worthy goals, so we decided to split the available funds and support each student equally with the sum of \$650.

Here are our scholarship winners for 2022-23:

- **Mark Dembowski** will be a junior chemical engineering major. He has earned a perfect GPA every semester to date. At UToledo and during his high school years, he has been active in numerous community service projects and leadership positions. In his essay, he wrote, "One of my career goals is to make a difference in the lives of people, and I believe I will be the best equipped to achieve that goal as an engineer." He was awarded a UTRA Scholarship for 2021-22. He is a descendant of Cennis Zablocki.

- **Maisy Ransford** will be a senior marketing major. Her GPA exceeds the A- level. Much of her extracurricular activities before and while at UToledo center on her love for performing music, including for audiences in prisons and homeless shelters. She has been a member of the UToledo Symphony Orchestra and has served in a leadership role for the UToledo Symphony Student Association. Her essay focused on her desire to continue her education after UToledo and use her knowledge to open her own business. She has previously received a UTRA Scholarship. She is a descendant of Thomas East.

- **Lee Stahler** will be a senior information technology major with an almost perfect course GPA. Lee has been a member of several organizations that focused on the field of business and groups that provide services to those in need. His previous work experience included time in the fast-food industry, but in 2021 he started working as a student technician assistant at UToledo. In his essay, he wrote of his plan to "...use the experience from my college courses and co-ops in order to work with others to create a product that may change the way people live and create jobs along the way." He was awarded a UTRA Scholarship for 2021-22. He is a descendant of Kathy Helmick.

- **Kayla Walsh** will be a junior in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. She has significant experience in programs that help others with food and shelter needs. Since last year, she has worked as an on-call aide for two area nursing homes. In her essay, she wrote, "... I find the most value in mental fortitude when faced with difficult situations, being empathetic, and, most importantly, having clear communication skills with both patients and colleagues." Kayla will be a first-time recipient of a UTRA Scholarship. She is a descendant of Dr. Thomas Walsh.

Donations to the scholarship fund are accepted throughout the year. The donations over the past few years have allowed us to increase the total amount of awards. Also, when your children and grandchildren are attending UToledo, please encourage them to include the UTRA Scholarship as one of the financial aid programs they include in their annual application.

ADD HOLIDAY BRUNCH, OTHER EVENTS TO YOUR CALENDARS

While it may just be turning fall, UTRA has already booked the date and place for its annual Holiday Brunch. The popular event will be Sunday, December 11, at the Heather Downs Country Club. Be sure to check your email for updated information and registration details. And remember to bring a stuffed animal with you to the brunch to donate to the children at The University of Toledo Medical Center.

Other planned member events include a wine tasting hosted by Jim Sautter of Sautter's Markets. He will be talking about wines recommended for the holidays. The event will take place on October 20. Again, check your email for registration information.

On November 10, the Women & Philanthropy organization is sponsoring a lecture by Barbara Floyd, former UToledo archivist, on the founding of the Bancroft Street campus of The University of Toledo. The lecture, titled "Miracle on Bancroft Street," will

also examine other aspects of early UToledo history. UTRA members are invited. The free event, which is part of the University's celebration of its 150th anniversary, will take place in the Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Do not forget that Book Buddies, the UTRA book club, meets on the first Wednesday of every month in the Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement at 2 p.m. Contact Jan Whitaker at janwhitaker@aol.com for information on upcoming books planned for discussion.

The UTRA Breakfast Club continues to meet the first Tuesday of each month at Denny's on Central Avenue at 9 a.m. No registration is required — just come!

The Program Committee is busy planning other activities for the fall and winter. These events will be advertised through the UTRA website.

ADVANCEMENT VP: UNIVERSITY NEEDS UTRA TO MOVE FORWARD

By Laurie Flowers

Floyd Akins has a message for members of The University of Toledo Retirees Association. "The only way we are going to move forward as an institution is with your help," the vice president for university advancement told more than 40 who attended the UTRA Annual Meeting June 8 at the Belmont Country Club.

Akins, a fundraiser with 25 years of experience in higher education advancement who joined UToledo in February, was the featured speaker at the meeting and was excited to talk about his plans for the University.

UTRA members have contributed \$1.4 million to the University, according to Akins. UToledo's current endowment is around \$700 million, Akins said. The five-year goal: \$1 billion.

Akins came to UToledo from Michigan State University, where he was associate vice president for advancement. Akins also worked with the Aspen Leadership Group, the University of Tennessee Foundation, Ohio State University, the University of

Iowa, and Grinnell College.

During the pandemic, Akins co-founded Blacks in Philanthropy, a program designed to mentor young black professionals in philanthropy.

UTRA President Christine Spengler opened the annual business meeting and talked about past association activities and upcoming events. Dorothea Sawicki gave an update on the Satellites, the volunteer group on Health Science Campus. She said UTRA members donated more than 60 stuffed animals at the holiday event and gave \$1,527 for the UToledo Student Food Pantry. Several stuffed animals were collected at the annual meeting and will be branded with UToledo and UTMC ribbons and given to children at the hospital and the Kobacker Center. In addition, \$320 was given for the UToledo Student Food Pantry at the June meeting.

Newly elected UTRA Board members also were introduced: Lance Talmage, Pete Papadakis, and Kathy Wilson.



UTRA members at the annual meeting at the Belmont Country Club.



NEW CAMERA WILL BE EYE ON UTOLEDO'S SKY-FLYING PEREGRINES

By Cynthia Nowak

What's smaller than a breadbox, capable of seeing in the dark, operates in both frost and extreme heat, has a built-in gyro sensor, and will be spending a lot of time with a family of peregrine falcons? If your answer was an Axis Q3538-LVE dome camera, you nailed it. If you never heard of the University's Fal-Cam, prepare to be surprised and amazed.

Peregrine falcons (not the bogus BGSU variety) have called the University Hall bell tower home since 2007, when a nest was installed by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Since then, successive pairs of adult peregrines have raised nearly three dozen young birds.

Since 2012, the UToledo Fal-Cam

(utoledo.edu/nsm/envsciences/peregrine/fal-cam.html) has been a live eye on the nest, sharing intimate peregrine moments of mating, egg-laying, hatching, feeding, and (pardon the anthropomorphism) affection. Ten years' time, though, allows for notable technological improvements — so by early autumn, Fal-Cam viewers will be enjoying a much-improved view of the peregrines' world.

Check out Toledo Peregrine Project (utoledo.edu/nsm/envsciences/peregrine/) and use the UToledo Fal-Cam to follow the 2023 breeding season, beginning in February.



Mother and baby falcon in the tower of University Hall.

NEWS FROM COLUMBUS

By James Lapp

STRS Ohio

On May 19, the Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC) released the final report on the fiduciary performance audit of STRS. The report stated, "The STRS Board has acted in accordance with its fiduciary duties to ensure the sustainability of the fund for the exclusive benefit of current and future members and beneficiaries." The report further noted:

- The Retirement Board has been effectively fulfilling its fiduciary duties of loyalty, prudence, staying informed, diversifying assets, controlling costs, compliance with laws and co-fiduciary duties.
- Overall, STRS is operationally excellent with effective operational policies and processes. The STRS system is a generally well-run, high-performing operation.
- Investment performance is in the top 25 percent and costs are consistent with peers.
- Member services are top 10 percent, and costs are below peers.
- Investment operations demonstrate excellence. The effective use of lower cost in-house management by STRS is at an advanced level.
- STRS appears to be consistent with leading industry practices in all areas of investment performance measurement and monitoring.

The report did include recommendations for improvement in several areas, including governance policies and practices; organizational structure; and stakeholder engagement. On May 24, ORSC posted the final report on the actuarial audit of STRS. The actuarial audit is an independent verification and analysis of the procedures and methods used. It found no errors.

At its June meeting, the board approved health-care premiums for the 2023 plan year that will result in lower premiums for about 96 percent of plan enrollees. The lower cost is due to a board-approved increase in the health-care subsidy, lower-than-expected health-care claims, and increased revenue from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Also at the June meeting, its investment consultant, Callan LLC,

reported that STRS Ohio's investment returns for the one-, three-, five-, seven-, and 10-year time periods ending March 31, 2022, ranked in the top 10 percent of Callan's public fund sponsor database of more than 200 public funds.

STRS recently introduced a new publication to share basic information and statistics about the system. The Summary Annual Financial Report (SAFR) is a summary of the more detailed Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and is available on the STRS website.

OPERS

The latest OPERS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the abbreviated Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) are now available for members to review at opers.org. Highlights for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, include:

- A Defined Benefit Fund investment portfolio gain of 15.34 percent.
- A Health-Care Fund investment portfolio gain of 14.34 percent.
- The improvement of health-care solvency to 25 years.
- A total net position of \$127.0 billion at the end of 2021, up \$13 billion from a year earlier.
- Pension benefit payments of more than \$6.8 billion and health-care payments of \$0.9 billion.
- An average pension at retirement of \$23,056.

OCHER

The Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER) met via Zoom May 24. Greg Nickell (STRS) reviewed changes to the STRS health-care plan for next year. The changes will positively affect nearly all plan enrollees beginning Jan. 1, 2023. Ann Erkman (STRS) and Anthony Tedesco (OPERS) talked about legislation at the federal level that would either eliminate the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) or at least reduce its impact by using a proportional formula. Erkman also discussed the results of the fiduciary audit recently released by the Ohio Retirement Study Council. Overall things are being run well, but there is always room for improvement.

INFLATION IMPACTS NEEDS UTOLEDO STUDENTS

By Augusta Askari

Higher prices for everyday necessities have shocked all of us as we look at our budgets to ascertain where our money has been spent and where we might trim a little. Some expenses are non-negotiable. For those UToledo students who already could not quite cover their bills, the outlook is indeed bleak. Checking grocery receipts, necessary pharmacy costs, transportation expenses, utility bills, housing and other unavoidable expenses swallow every spare penny and still require more. Unfortunately, consumer inflation hurts those who have the most need the hardest.

The UToledo Rocket Fuel Pantries help UToledo students in need complete their degrees and become self-sufficient individuals who hold good jobs, care for their families, and pay taxes to help Toledo flourish.

With the 2022-23 academic year beginning, it is absolutely vital for these students to avoid having to drop out of the University. A helping hand in a time of need is what they need. Rocket Fuel Pantries offer a lifeline by offering fresh and nonperishable food, as well as everyday necessities such as toothpaste, hygiene products, and menstrual necessities. The pantries need monetary donations to be able to purchase in bulk those needed supplies to give to students who cannot afford them. The University of Toledo Retirees Association strives to support this worthy cause.

Checks should be made payable to The University of Toledo Foundation with a notation the money is intended for the Rocket Fuel Pantries, Fund #2402427. Your checks should be sent to Sarah Metzger, The University of Toledo Foundation, 4510 Dorr Street, Mail Stop #830, Toledo, OH 43615. She will make sure UTRA retirees are credited with donating these funds and that your check is properly deposited. You will receive a tax-deductible receipt from the UToledo Foundation. If you wish, you may designate your gift in honor or in memory of someone. When you supply their name and address, they will receive a letter informing them of your generosity without mentioning the amount given. This is a wonderful way to help our students and at the same time find a "one size fits all" birthday or remembrance gift.

If you have questions about your donation, Sarah Metzger also may be reached by calling 419.530.4237 or e-mailing sarah.metzger2@utoledo.edu.

Please send your donations now so the funds will be available to help students during fall semester.

Our immediate goal is to raise \$2,022 for the UToledo Rocket Fuel Pantries by the start of the 2022-23 academic year. Your donations are needed so that we can retain these bright, hard-working students and help them achieve their professional dreams.



The UToledo Rocket Food Pantries include staples and well as fresh produce.

WELCOME NEW RETIREES AND LIFETIME MEMBERS

Dr. Debra Boardley
Dorothy Brikmanis
Veronica Cooper
Pam Corron
Dr. Barbara Coventry
Maxine Cross
Warren Dick
June Golden
Catherine Harned
Carrie Herr
Dr. James Hofmann
Dr. Marthe Howard
Dr. Ruthie Kucharewski

Lisa Kutz
Jeanette Lake
Dr. Scott Lee
Shirley Neese
Michael O'Brien
Kelly Odneal
Dr. Sam Okoroafo
Sherry Patterson
Dr. Paul Rega
Cynthia Reinsel
Karen Roderick-Lingeman
Crystal Smith
Dr. Andrew Solocha

Ralph Spitulski
Dr. Robert Trumbly
Mary Valdes-Dapena
Dr. Michael Valigosky
John R. Vaughn
Dr. Richard Welsch
Tanya White
Denise Wilburn

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Mary Jo Borden
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IN MEMORIAM

Dr. John "Jack" Ahern, Toledo, professor emeritus of education, died July 23 at age 85. He joined the faculty as an assistant professor in 1969. Ahern served as chair of Faculty Senate and was the recipient of the UT Outstanding Teacher Award and the Lancelot Thompson Service to Students Award. He wrote and edited several books about the Birmingham neighborhood in Toledo. In 1999, Ahern retired and was named professor emeritus. He served on the UTRA Board.

Lorell Anderson II, Toledo, an instructor in University College in 2006, died Sept. 28, 2021, at age 49. He received a bachelor of education degree in English from UT in 1997.

Donna Jean (Decker) Bardis, Toledo, who taught mathematics at UT in the 1960s, died April 5 at age 84. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Panos D. Bardis, professor emeritus of sociology.

Alan Barry, UT benefactor, Commerce Charter Township, Mich., and Scottsdale, Ariz., died May 10 at age 79. A 1966 graduate of the UT College of Business, the certified public accountant was the retired president and chief operating officer of the Fortune 200 company Masco Corp. and served on the UT Foundation's Board of Trustees. Barry and his wife, Karen, a 1964 UT alumna, have a history of philanthropy at the University. In 2014, UT named a new accounting lab in the College of Business and Innovation for Alan Barry. The couple also endowed the Alan and Karen Barry Scholarship Fund, which provides support for full-time UT business accounting students, and they gave \$1 million to support the Alan H. and Karen A. Barry Endowed Professorship in Accounting. In 2018, Alan Barry received the UT College of Business Pacemaker Award.

Karen M. (Bocian) Bates, Toledo, a former MCO employee, died April 26 at age 69.

Dr. Lathrop F. "Lay" Berry, Sanibel, Fla., a former associate professor of surgery at MCO, died April 20 at age 96.

Leslie R. Bothast, Westerville, Ohio, a former UT employee, died April 23 at age 74. He received a bachelor's degree in 1974 and a master's degree in engineering science in 1976 from the University.

Dawn R. (Dominique) Bolyard, Swanton, a registered nurse care manager in the UT Physicians Pulmonary Center and Rocket Pediatrics since 2019, died May 7 at age 63.

William G. Brazeau, Holland, a maintenance repair journeyman for more than 30 years at the University, died April 27 at age 64. He retired in 2012 and returned to work for a few months in 2018 and 2021.

Dr. Bernadette E. (Knetchel) Butler, Toledo, associate professor emerita of nursing, died June 25 at age 85. She taught for several years at MCO and UT, retiring in 2014. Butler received a doctorate in education in curriculum and instruction from UT in 1985.

Lois A. (Fralich) Churchill, Perrysburg, died May 26 at age 93. As a member of the Junior League, she played an integral role in a project that brought together MCO and Toledo Public Schools to help emotionally troubled children. Churchill also served on the MCO Foundation Board and the MCO Development Committee. She received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from UT in 1951.

Ronald J. Cousino, Toledo, a maintenance repair journeyman at UT from 1980 until his retirement in 1980, died Jan. 17 at age 67.

Angelica B. (Liauw) Fenton, Toledo, a UT employee from the mid-1990s to the early 2000s, died March 31 at age 64. A UT alumna, she received two bachelor of arts degrees in biology and psychology in 1981 and a

master's degree in health in 2004.

Barbara Ann Frank-LeMay, Taylor, Mich., who retired from UT in the 1990s, died March 23 at age 89.

Dr. Paul A. Fritz, Toledo, professor of communication, died April 12 at age 80. He joined the faculty as an assistant professor in 1981 and retired in 2021. In addition to teaching, he also served as chair of the Communication Department for several years. In 2009, Fritz was named one of the University's Outstanding Teachers.

Helen E. (Hoel) Hatcher, Toledo, who served as registrar in the College of Law until her retirement, died March 17 at age 91. She received a bachelor of arts degree from UT in 1981.

Annabelle Isaacs, Bowling Green, who was one of the earliest employees at MCO, died April 4 at age 93. She was hired in 1965 and one year later became the administrative assistant to Dr. Glidden Brooks, MCO's first president. Isaacs helped recruit early faculty members, as well as assisted with interviewing and admitting the first class of medical students. Later she became secretary to the MCO Board of Trustees, acting treasurer of the college, and acting director of personnel. In 1969, Isaacs was named registrar for the medical school, graduate school, and nursing school, while continuing her duties as secretary to the board. She retired in 1985.

Frederick E. Jackson, Toledo, an instructor at UT from 2000 to 2005, died May 11 at age 66.

William M. Janney, Toledo, a former chaplain at MCO, died April 22 at age 81.

Marian W. Johansen, Harrod, Ohio, a former instructor at MCO, died Feb. 13 at age 82.

Winifred M. Kuk, Toledo, an accountant in the UT Controller's

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IN MEMORIAM

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Office from 1981 until her retirement in 2004, died June 3 at age 95. She is survived by Yarko Kuk, managing editor at the UT Press, and was preceded in death by Dr. Zenon Kuk, UT professor of Russian and German.

Thomas J. Lewandowski, Toledo, a custodian from 1982 until his retirement in 2009, died March 19 at age 76.

Ila L. (Hudson) Madden, Toledo, who worked at MCO/MUO/UTMC, died Feb. 7 at age 76. She was hired in 1989 as a technical typist in Admitting. In 2008, she became a registration specialist in Registration.

Edwin P. McCarroll, Holiday, Fla., who worked at MCO for 18 years, died May 9 at age 83. He was hired in 1984 and served as management engineer and retired in 2002 as director of construction management. McCarroll received an MBA from the University in 1991.

Dr. Hollis W. Merrick III, Perrysburg, professor emeritus of surgery, died June 8 at age 83. He joined the MCO faculty in 1977. He was passionate about the technological advances in surgery, both in the operating room and in the classroom. Merrick gave a donation to support simulation as a safe way to teach surgical skills; the University named the surgical simulation lab after the physician. He retired in 2013 and continued to teach until 2020. Surviving is his wife, Dr. Mary R. Smith Merrick, UT professor emerita of medicine.

Dr. Wassef E.M. Mikhail, Naples, Fla., a pioneering orthopedic surgeon who held patents in nearly 30 countries, died April 3 at age 86. He was professor of orthopedic surgery at MCO from 1972 to 2001; he also served as chief of the Division of Total Joints and director of advancement of joint replacement and research. In 1997, Mikhail was named the first McMaster-Gardner Endowed Chair of Orthopedic

Biomedical Engineering at UT. In addition, he served as director of the UT Orthopedic Biomedical Research Center.

Carmen J. (Pfeiffer) Mouch, Toledo, a secretary at UT for several years until her retirement in 2002, died April 26 at age 82.

Dr. Linda (Baker) Murphy, Waterville, a UT graduate who returned to her alma mater as a faculty member and administrator, died March 13 at age 86. She received bachelor and master of education degrees in 1958 and 1960, and a doctorate in education in 1977. Murphy joined the College of Education faculty in 1973 and held several titles until 1992. She served as assistant dean and associate dean, as well as chair of special education. In 2001, the professor emerita returned to the University for a one-year appointment as interim dean of the College of Education. During that time, she helped oversee the accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. Murphy also taught from 2009 to 2011.

Daniel O. Ngur, Sylvania, a former researcher at the University, died April 18 at age 71.

Mollie M. (Ellis) Palmer, Dublin, Ohio, a former MCO employee, died June 7 at age 87.

Elizabeth M. Papps, Toledo, a faculty member in University College from 1997 to 2006 and from 2008 to 2010, died April 3 at age 94.

Joseph A. Perlaky, Oregon, Ohio, who returned to his alma mater to work, died June 13 at age 66. He received a bachelor of education in music education in 1979 and a master of business administration degree in executive management in 2001. Perlaky joined the staff in 2003 and worked in the Research Office, where he was named grant research manager and supervisor in

2006. Three years later, he became manager of the Urban Affairs Center and helped start the Maumee Valley Growers Association and served as its executive director for several years.

Emery "Jim" Pocs, Clay Center, Ohio, a custodian at UT for 20 years who retired in 1998, died June 25 at age 83.

Dr. Ramakrishna Puligandla, Toledo, professor emeritus of philosophy, died June 23 at age 91. He joined the UT faculty in 1966 as an associate professor and was promoted to professor in 1971. Puligandla taught logic, philosophy of science, phenomenology, eastern religions, and comparative philosophy. The author of 10 books, his 1975 "Fundamentals of Indian Philosophy" introduced students to major non-Western philosophies. In 1992, Puligandla received a Fulbright Scholar Grant and spent four months at the Radhakrishnan Institute for Advanced Study of Philosophy at the University of Madras. He retired in 1993 and was named professor emeritus.

Larry L. Ricica, Lyons, Ohio, died June 22 at age 77. During his UT career, he worked as a groundskeeper and retired in 2004 as an air quality technician.

David I. Roberts, Toledo, a former UT employee, died March 26 at age 73. He received bachelor of business administration and master of business administration degrees from the University in 1977 and 1983.

Dr. Steven H. Selman, Toledo, professor emeritus of urology and kidney transplant surgeon, died May 13 at age 74. He joined MCO in 1981 and transplanted more than 500 kidneys. In 2002, Selman received the John Turin Award for Outstanding Career Accomplishment at the University, where the Urology Department library is named in

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IN MEMORIAM

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his honor. He served as chair of the Urology Department for several years and retired in 2015. A UT alumnus, Selman received a bachelor's degree in engineering physics in 1970.

Judith A. Sigler, Walbridge, a secretary in the Department of Medicine from 2009 to 2014, died May 30 at age 81.

Sharon K. (Mosiniak) Skrzyniecki, Rossford, a former UT secretary, died July 13 at age 73.

Dr. Sam R. Snyder, Toledo, professor emeritus of education, died July 15 at age 90. He taught at the University for nearly three decades. He received a master of education degree in 1965 from UToledo.

James W. Spencer, Mount Dora, Fla., a former director of computing at UT, died May 27 at age 86.

Paul D. Steele, Swanton, who worked at UT 24 years, died June 3 at age 71. Hired in building maintenance

in 1988, he later worked as an air quality technician and a refrigeration mechanic journeyman. He retired in 2012.

Dr. Charles D. Stienecker, Charlotte, N.C., and Lima, Ohio, an assistant clinical professor of family medicine at MCO from 1982 to 1991, died Dec. 21, 2021, at age 85.

Robert C. Sweet, Perrysburg, a longtime MCO employee, died May 11 at age 95.

Gene A. Tandler, Toledo, who worked at UT from 1996 to 2000, died April 5 at age 76. He received an associate degree in data processing technology from the University in 1987.

Florestela Thomas, Toledo, a custodial worker, died May 23 at age 75. She joined MCO in 1994 and retired from the University in 2007.

Luther Tolliver, Toledo, who worked in UT dining for nearly two decades, died July 19 at age 57.

Monica M. (Keller) Tuck, Waterville, a secretary at UT for 10 years until retirement in 2001, died April 13 at age 81.

Dr. Harris "West" Vayo, Perrysburg, professor emeritus of mathematics, died July 2 at age 86. He joined the faculty as an assistant professor in 1965, was promoted to associate professor in 1968, and named professor in 1974. Vayo's research focused on applied mathematics with an emphasis in biological applications. He helped establish the doctoral program in mathematics. Vayo retired in 2016.

Dr. Rita (Diaz) Vergara, Toledo, an obstetrician and gynecologist with a specialty in internal medicine who worked at MCO and later at the UT Student Clinic, died May 21 at age 82. She was in the MCO Residency Program in 1975.

VERMONT BUS TRIP PHOTOS



UTRA's Vermont bus trip in August was a huge success. Here, members prepare to leave for the trip. They also met a Vermont celebrity, Senator Bernie Sanders.



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UTRA Tower Talk

STEP OUT WITH PATHFINDERS

By Laurie Flowers

There was always a lot of interest in starting a retiree walking group, but it was Augusta (Gussie) Askari, UTRA Past President, who made it a reality. Gussie would not stop trying to organize the UTRA members until we were on the move.

Retirees voted on Facebook for a group name, and the winner was UTRA Pathfinders Walking Club.

In May, retirees started meeting twice a month at Metroparks and area trails in the morning for an hour walk, then head to a local restaurant for refreshments.

You will usually catch UTRA President Christine Spengler and Vice President Andy Jorgensen on the trails with a few other regulars. The pace is whatever: Walkers set it themselves. Find a friend there who can keep up with you, or bring a friend along.

Laurie Flowers, UTRA Board member, agreed to coordinate the walks; suggestions for future locales are appreciated. Contact Laurie at flowerskeeler@gmail.com.

Sarah Metzger, executive assistant in the Office of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving, communicates the Pathfinder schedule via Facebook and email. Check the UTRA Facebook page for updates. RSVPs are encouraged.



Members of UTRA Pathfinders on their walks at Wildwood and at the Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement.