

## Streamlined student portal to go live Feb. 23

By Tobin J. Klinger

When the myUT Portal (myUT.utoledo.edu) went live a few years ago, it became a critical tool for enabling students to access important academic, financial and social information via the Web. Now it is evolving to incorporate new features and become more streamlined to enhance ease of use and the overall experience.

"The portal is an extremely important part of student life at UT," said Lawrence J. Burns, vice president for external affairs and interim vice president for equity and diversity. "It's a powerful resource through which students can accomplish nearly every part of their enrollment process. It enables them to do everything from scheduling

courses to accepting financial aid to paying for parking permits without having to stand in a line."

"Our goal was to reinvent the portal in a way that would not just make it easier to use, but increase its usage and ultimately reduce the likelihood that students would need to wait in line at Rocket Solution Central," said Kevin Kucera, associate vice president for enrollment services.

"Our team has gone beyond simply adding new features to making it more user-friendly through a complete redesign and reorganization of content."

Among the highlights of the upgraded myUT Portal:

- My Toolkit: A one-stop location where mandatory parts of the enrollment process are clustered together, such as course registration, financial aid acceptance and health-care insurance waivers;

- Single sign-on for e-mail: Once logged into the portal, students, faculty and staff will be able to access their e-mail without re-entering login information;

- A complete reorganization of content: Links to information have been reorganized according to frequency of use and student demand, as well as pulling together like items with less text; and

*continued on p. 2*

## New vacation policy to bring 'symmetry' to campuses

By Tobin J. Klinger

It's been among the most-asked questions since the Medical University of Ohio and The University of Toledo became one. When will vacation accruals match between campuses?

University leadership is now able to answer that question.

Effective March 28, a new vacation policy, designed to increase parity between non-union employee groups, will take effect.

Members of bargaining units will continue to operate under vacation time accrual rates as outlined in their agreements, but non-union employees will accrue vacation at the same rate, regardless of campus of origin.

Unclassified salaried, administrative contract and limited contract employees will earn 22 paid vacation days per year, or 6.77 hours per pay period, with a maximum total accrual of 352 hours.

Classified and hourly non-union employees fall under a different set of accrual rates, based on years of service.

Faculty administrators and non-union faculty members with year-round assignments will earn 24 days per year, with a maximum based on their date of hire.

"While this represents additional vacation for some, it also represents a slight decline for others," said President Lloyd Jacobs. "However, we believe that the more symmetry we are able to bring about, the greater the synergy we'll create."

Extensive benchmarking of other Ohio institutions was conducted before a final number of vacation days was decided upon.

"UT's professional staff employees are not only on par with their peers across the campuses, but also with those around the state," Jacobs said. "We are fortunate to have such a tremendous benefits program at the University, and it is particularly pleasing to see a new level of equality between like groups."

"A great deal of effort has gone into

*continued on p. 7*



Photo by Jack Meade

**BRUSHWORK:** Taylor Myers sat patiently while Toledo defensive lineman Alex Johnson painted her face during Give Kids a Smile Day. UT Medical Center participated in the national program by offering free dental care for children in need. Rocket student-athletes from the football, volleyball and men's golf teams entertained children in the waiting room.

## Student portal

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• The Help Center: Various links to technical assistance resources, new tutorial videos and descriptions of ways to simplify content customization will be available.

“This deployment is just the first phase of a major overhaul,” said Sue Shible, Web development coordinator and project lead. “The first objective of this phase was to create a more user-friendly experience for students by presenting existing content in a more organized fashion. This layout is really a work in progress, and students can expect even more new features and functionality as we progress through various phases of the project.”

“We wanted to focus our efforts on the student portions of the portal first,” Shible added. “Faculty and staff can expect to see new things in their part of the portal when they next login, but it is truly the beginning of the enhancement.”

Faculty and staff members will have single sign-in to e-mail and a new UT Community tab in conjunction with the roll-out of the new student-role look. However,

some links previously contained in the Home tab and the UT Resources tab have been moved to the new UT Community tab and the Self-Service tab to accommodate the design change for students.

“We have retained all the content links,” Shible said. “We have simply moved some into other areas of the portal as we bridge through this enhancement process.”

“I think students will find the new design of the portal makes their lives a lot easier,” said Krystal Weaver, a student representative to the work group. “It’s much easier to navigate and makes what can be a complicated process much less of a burden.”

“These enhancements have come about through a true team effort,” Burns said. “Representatives from numerous offices involved in the enrollment process, Information Technology, the Center for Creative Instruction, students and more really pulled together to enhance this key tool in the student experience. Hopefully, it will be widely embraced and help to make things more efficient for our students, faculty and staff.”

## Hot air lands physician in prestigious journal



Mukundan

By Matt Lockwood

**D**iagnosis of a rare medical condition has landed a University of Toledo pediatrician in the Feb. 12 issue of the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine*.

A 13-year-old boy with swelling and pain on the left side of his face was referred for suspected infection to Dr. Deepa Mukundan, assistant professor and specialist in pediatric infectious diseases.

CT scan images revealed air in a salivary gland as the cause of his problem, which was confirmed by blood tests.

Those CT scans and a summary of the case were featured in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. *U.S. News and World Report* then picked up the story.

Mukundan said the rare condition, known as pneumoparotid, is most often seen in musicians who play wind instruments and in glassblowers. The boy recently had started playing the tuba.

“The parotid gland produces saliva and sends it to the mouth through a duct,” Mukundan said. “Under normal conditions, the duct acts like a one-way valve, allowing saliva to drain into the mouth and not backward. In this case, the pressure of blowing on the tuba forced the air in the wrong direction through the duct into the gland.”

The prescription? The boy had to give up the tuba, at least for a while, to allow the air in his gland to escape over time. However, some months later he developed an infection and the gland had to be removed.



Photo by Daniel Miller

**COLUMBUS VISIT:** Approximately 40 UT enrollment and college representatives traveled to Columbus last week to tell high school seniors about the UT Guarantee. More than 400 Columbus City Schools students with at least a 3.0 grade point average had a chance to talk with current UT students from Columbus, ask specific questions about their colleges of interest, and be instantly admitted after filling out applications.

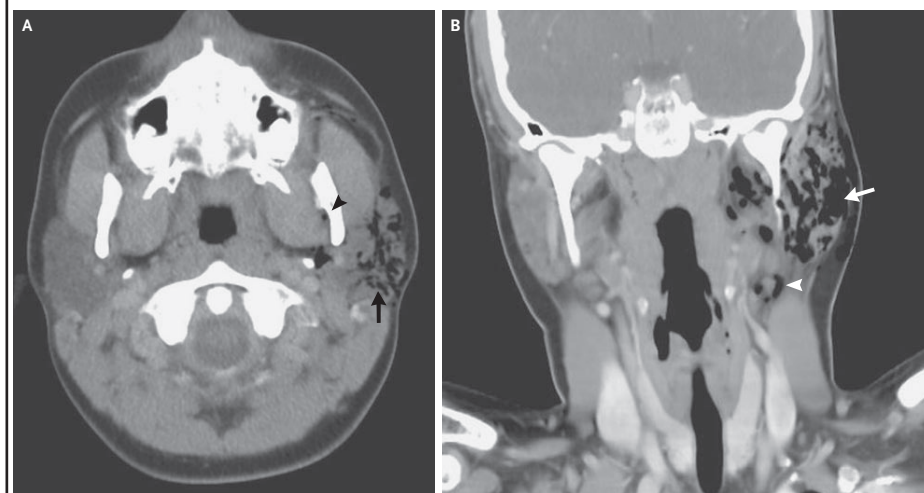
## Clarification

The Scott Park Bookstore closing story that appeared in last week’s issue stated “most” of the staff has been redistributed to other Barnes & Noble stores. There are two full-time Barnes & Noble employees at the Scott Park Bookstore; one has been offered a job at another store. Several part-time student employees who work at the Scott Park Bookstore during busy times will work those periods at the Student Union Bookstore on Main Campus.

THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

### A Tuba Player with Air in the Parotid Gland



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**A** 13-YEAR-OLD BOY WHO HAD RECENTLY BEGUN PLAYING THE TUBA PRESENTED with a 2-day history of facial swelling on the left side and pain without fever or ear or nasal discharge. On physical examination, he had swelling of the left cheek with tenderness on palpation. There was no erythema or crepitation. Massage of the parotid gland resulted in expression of foamy secretions from the parotid duct. Computed tomography of the head, neck, and sinuses (Panel A) revealed air in the left parotid gland (arrow) and in the parotid duct (arrowhead). A reconstructed image (Panel B) also revealed air in the parotid gland (arrow) and lateral to the carotid sheath (arrowhead). There was no radiographic evidence of parotitis or involvement of the retropharyngeal space. The serum amylase level was three times the upper limit of the normal range, probably because of parotid injury; all other laboratory measures were normal. The boy received the diagnosis of pneumoparotid associated with playing the tuba; there was no evidence of parotid infection. Conservative management led to resolution of the symptoms within days. Pneumo-

# On-site UT MBA classes worked well for Delta's North Star Bluescope Steel

By Bob Mackowiak

Classmates often become close during the years of working toward the same degree.

But 23 recent University of Toledo students already had a lot in common before starting work on their MBA degrees three years ago: Almost all of them worked at the same company.

"The culture of our facility is one where employees continue to grow and learn throughout their careers," said Rich Menzel, vice president of human resources at North Star Bluescope Steel in Delta, Ohio. Cost of tuition and books are covered, and core undergraduate college classes were offered on-site for several years.

"About four years ago, a mechanical engineer and a couple others here approached us about doing an on-site MBA program," Menzel said. "We were very impressed with UT's flexibility, how they took advantage of the opportunity, and we worked out an incredible schedule."

The schedule offered one course at a time for eight weeks, meeting on Mondays from 4 to 9 p.m. If employees had scheduling issues, they would do a shift exchange with another employee to work it out. Approximately 25 people, including six people from the area who did not work at North Star, started the program, and after three years, 23 people graduated in December.

"The convenience was incredible," said Menzel, who is also a member of the North Star MBA cohort. "I walked 10 steps out of my office into the classroom, the books were brought out to us by UT, and I didn't get any bills since the company paid for it."

"The big picture is that the MBA program at North Star is an example of what we are trying to do so people become greater and greater assets to the company," Menzel said.

Doug Lange was vice president of finance at North Star Bluescope Steel when he enrolled in the MBA program because, as he said, "UT made it so easy to get involved. I love when people are creative in addressing issues, and this is a pretty innovative program. UT was very accommodating."

The accommodations continued when Lange became vice president of finance for Bluescope Steel in Kansas City earlier this year. "I thought so much of what UT did, I said I'm not giving up on this program," Lange recalled. "The move to become a vice president of a multiple location business for BlueScope was facilitated by the classes I took."

With only two courses to go and not wanting to deal with all the paperwork of transferring, he was pleased with the opportunity to remain part of the North Star

cohort, still participating in the Delta, Ohio, classes via phone and videoconferencing.

"What I learned at UT is invaluable for my everyday job," Lange said. "Thanks to UT for putting it all together and making it all work for us."

"We always say that UT's MBA classes are convenient and provide immediately

applicable information. That was uniquely true at North Star Bluescope Steel," said Dr. Thomas Gutteridge, dean of the UT College of Business Administration. "We are excited to have served the Delta community through this innovative arrangement and welcome other opportunities to deliver our high-quality on-site MBA program."



Photo by Terry Fell

Rich Menzel, vice president of human resources at North Star Bluescope Steel, center, posed for a photo with Ray Peters, chief operating officer of North Star Bluescope Steel, right, while receiving his MBA from Dr. Thomas Gutteridge, dean of the College of Business Administration.

## UT schedules events for National Engineers Week

The University of Toledo College of Engineering has several activities lined up to celebrate National Engineers Week, Feb. 16-22.

"The profession of engineering is about innovations to improve the quality of life in our society," said Dr. Nagi Naganathan, dean of the UT College of Engineering. "Celebrations during National Engineers Week not only recognize the accomplishments of the engineering and technology professionals, but also highlight the relevance and importance of the profession of engineering in our everyday lives."

### The schedule of events:

#### Monday, Feb. 16

- Pop Bottle Rocket Launch Contest —

This competition will challenge students to create an air-pressure rocket using a two-liter or 20-ounce pop bottle to travel the furthest distance in a straight line. Triangle Fraternity will sponsor the event outside the main doors of Nitschke Hall in the courtyard on Main Campus from 3 to 5 p.m.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 17

- Egg-Drop Contest — Students will test their small, lightweight containers they design to protect a raw egg dropped from successive heights. The event will take place on the first floor of Nitschke Hall from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and is sponsored by Triangle Fraternity and Phi Sigma Rho Sorority.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 18

- Engineer for a Day — Area high school students will meet in Nitschke Hall for lunch with local business leaders and

UT faculty and staff. After touring the UT College of Engineering Complex, students will spend half a day shadowing a community engineer.

#### Thursday, Feb. 19

- Toothpick Bridge Competition — Students will test bridges they have designed and built using toothpicks, white glue and other materials by adding weight until the structure fails. Bridges must have a minimum span of 10 inches and a mass less than 1.4 ounces. The contest is sponsored by the Society of Women Engineers and will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. in Nitschke Hall.

- Egg Launcher Competition — Students will be given materials — newspaper, duct tape, toilet tissue, plastic bags and other items — to design and construct a container that will protect a raw egg when

launched from a trebuchet. Sponsored by the First-Year Rocket Engineers and the UT Engineers Council, the contest will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. in Nitschke Hall.

#### Friday, Feb. 20

- Rube Goldberg Competition — Students will compete to see who can construct the most creative and complex contraption to replace an incandescent light bulb with a more energy-efficient, light-emitting design. The contest will be held at 5:30 p.m. on the first floor of Nitschke Hall on Main Campus.

For more information on the events, contact the UT College of Engineering at 419.530.8000.

# Black History Month spotlight



Photo by Daniel Miller

Nick Kneer checked out "Comics in Color: African-American Superheroes," an exhibit of black characters in comic books, on display in Carlson Library on Main Campus through the end of the month.



Photo by Daniel Miller

David Young, interim director of the Office of Excellence, was one of the participants who discussed the historic election of President Barack Obama during a panel discussion.



Photo by Stephanie Matthews

Photographer and 1995 UT graduate Stephanie Matthews took this photo, "Three," which is part of her exhibit titled "Children of the Congo" that is on display in the Multicultural Student Services Office in Student Union Room 2500 on Main Campus. Copper and leather mixed-media pieces and sand paintings also are included in "Art From the Congo." Both free exhibits may be viewed Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. through February.



Photo by Daniel Miller

The UT Gospel Restoration Praise Choir performed at the Black History Month kickoff event.



Photo by Daniel Miller

Violinist Nehemiah Johnson accompanied singer and pianist Raevon Isaiah on "Lift Every Voice" at the Feb. 2 Black History Month kickoff event.

# 'Crumbs From the Table of Joy' to open Feb. 20

By Angela Riddel

The University of Toledo Department of Theatre and Film will perform African-American playwright Lynn Nottage's "Crumbs From the Table of Joy" Friday through Sunday, Feb. 20-22, and Wednesday through Sunday, Feb. 25-March 1, in the Center for Performing Arts Center Theatre on Main Campus.

All Wednesday through Saturday performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Sunday performances will take place at 2 p.m.

"Through my plays, I examine aspects of the African-American experience that often don't find their way onto the American stage," Nottage said. "I use historic events or characters as a departure point. I enjoy challenging convention and exploring history, using humor to retell stories from the perspective of an African-American woman."

"Crumbs From the Table of Joy" draws from the African-American storytelling tradition. Set in fall 1950, the play follows the story of a teenage girl, Ernestine, while looking to the future and to the past as her memories expand and contract.

"The characters seek unity in a household wrenched apart by religious extremism, the fear of communism and interracial love in the age of Jim Crow," said Nottage, who is a lecturer in playwriting at

the Yale School of Drama in New Haven, Conn.

Ernestine's father, Godfrey Crump, re-locates himself and his two daughters from the South to Brooklyn, N.Y., after the death of his wife. In keeping with the moral constraints of the era, Crump pressures his daughters to follow the teachings of his spiritual leader, Father Divine. But when his late wife's sister, Lily, shows up looking for a place to live, she creates tension and turmoil with her less-restrictive moral stance and her talk of the civil rights movement unfolding around them. Complicating matters, Crump marries a white woman who is a German refugee.

The play's director is Dr. Edmund B. Lingan, UT assistant professor of theatre, whose area of research focuses on intersections between religion and theatre. This interest is what drew him to direct "Crumbs From the Table of Joy."

"This play deals with a fictional follower of the real-life religious leader Father Divine, and it explores the potential and the shortcomings of religious and non-religious approaches to the challenges of race relations in the United States," Lingan said. "However, this play should not be viewed as strictly a race play because the struggle with spirituality within the play is a

universal one."

The cast of "Crumbs From the Table of Joy" is comprised of five UT students. Phillip Brown plays Godfrey, Briana Rawls plays Ernestine, Naheema Shafau is Ermina, Jessica Kight is Lily, and Elif Erturk plays Gerta.

Tickets — \$13; \$11 for faculty, staff, alumni and seniors; and \$9 for students — can be purchased online at [www.utoledo.edu/boxoffice](http://www.utoledo.edu/boxoffice), at the box office prior to the shows or Monday through Friday from 3 to 5 p.m., or by calling 419.530.2375.

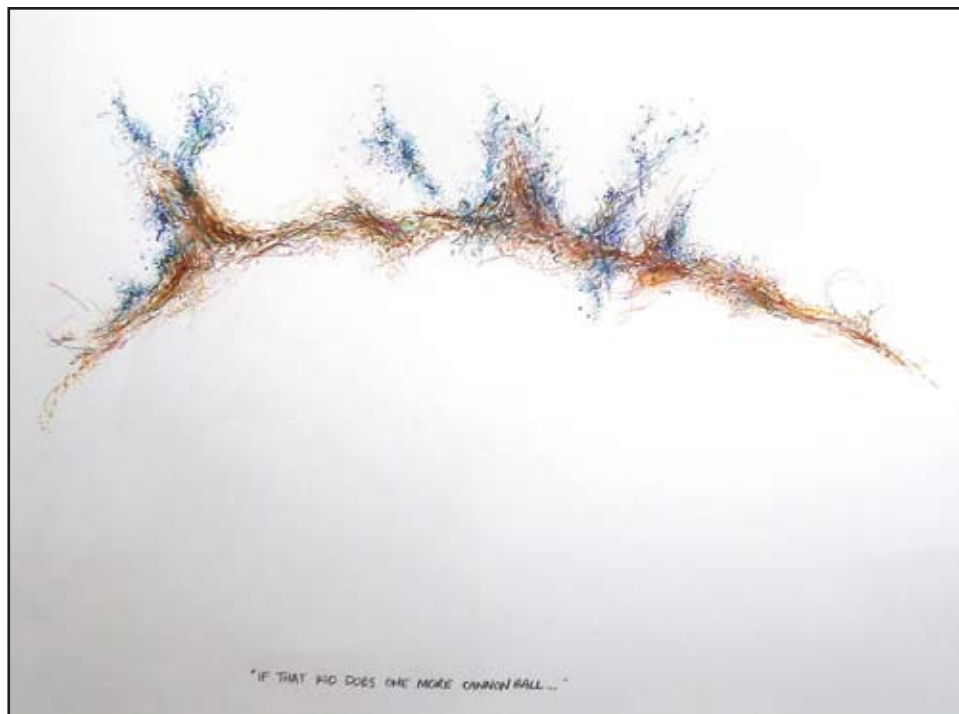


Photo by Daniel Miller

**SHOWDOWN:** Aunt Lily (Jessica Kight), left, and Gerta (Elif Erturk) confront one another as Ernestine (Briana Rawls) watches in this scene from "Crumbs From the Table of Joy."

## 'Conversational' artwork on display at Center for Women

By Jeffrey Romagni



'If that kid does one more cannon ball ...' by Britney McIntire

Britney McIntire, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences, uses mixed-media art to represent different aspects of communication.

Her exhibit, "Conversational Dust," is on display through March 12 in the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women, located in Tucker Hall on Main Campus. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In high school, McIntire decided to pursue a degree in fine arts after attending a juried art show titled "Focus" that featured works by high school artists at the Center for the Visual Arts on UT's Toledo Museum of Art Campus. She uses simplicity and patience as a basis for all her work.

"I find inspiration living my life," McIntire said. "Art has to come to you; it can't be forced at all."

Each piece in "Conversational Dust" represents a particular conversation heard by McIntire, who focused mostly on the

details of exchange.

"I work more abstractly and expressively to allow my hand to flow and catch up with the interactions, such as eavesdropping on conversations that are not meant to be heard in lecture halls, bars, bathrooms, elevators and phone conversations," McIntire said. "I want each work to be about a particular place in time and space."

Even though there are 18 pieces on display, McIntire considers the exhibit just the beginning of her series.

"The collection is growing over time, and it's never-ending," she said. "I'm really pleased as to how it's turning out, and I'm excited for it to evolve."

After graduation, McIntire plans to pursue a master of fine arts degree and continue creating art for her collection.

For more information on the free, public exhibit, call the Center for Women at 419.530.8570.

# Decentralization program adopted by UT Medical Center pharmacy; safety features touted

By Jim Winkler

**T**he University of Toledo Medical Center is introducing a program that puts the skills, knowledge and abilities of clinical pharmacists directly on patient-care units.

Five pharmacists — Sherry Scotton, Paul Samenuk, Jeanette Woodruff, Lorne Roby and Bob Wright — have been assigned to inpatient floors, placing them in the middle of patient-care activities, according to Russell Smith, pharmacy operations manager.

The pharmacists are providing services on the hospital's third, fourth, fifth and sixth floors. Plans call for the program eventually to be extended to the surgical intensive care unit, Emergency Department and surgical suites, and to operate on weekends if funds become available to hire additional pharmacists.

Smith used the term “decentralized pharmacy services” to describe the new initiative that has pharmacists stationed on the units Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. They review and verify physicians' medication orders; answer questions from physicians, nurses, therapists, nutritionists and other members of the health-care team; provide therapeutic drug monitoring; note allergies and potential adverse medical interactions; and perform medication reconciliation.

In the past, Smith explained, hospitalized patients were served from the hospital's central pharmacy, located on the ground floor and isolated physically from patient-care areas. Physicians' written prescription orders were submitted via fax.

Now physicians fill out prescription orders that are picked up by pharmacists throughout the hour. They first screen and approve the orders on the floor — looking for sound-alike and look-alike medications or omissions that others may miss or dosages that don't seem right — and then electronically enter it into the patient's profile in a computer. Within seconds of approval, nurses have immediate access to computerized medication tracking and dispensing cabinets located on each nursing unit and used to distribute hundreds of medications.

The process cuts the time getting prescribed medications to patients, which is critical because patients' medication needs often rapidly change.

Smith said that a major advantage of having pharmacists on the floors is



Photo by Jack Meade

**WORKING TOGETHER:** Conferring about a patient care plan are, from left, Deana Sievert, medical coronary care unit (MCCU), intermediate coronary care unit (ICCU), surgical intensive care unit and remote cardiac monitoring station nursing director; Jackie Bury, MCCU/ICCU lead nurse; Russ Smith, pharmacy operations manager; and Sherry Scotton, clinical pharmacist.

the opportunity for physicians, residents and nurses to quickly consult one-on-one with them. Because they are experts in medication safety and effectiveness, pharmacists can quickly address potential drug interactions and suggest effective medication alternatives.

“Patient safety is improved through that kind of communication and the involvement of pharmacists,” said Joel Tavormina, pharmacy director. “The new program reflects the hospital's commitment to provide health care that is extremely patient-centered and safe.”

Tavormina hopes the new program will encourage departments throughout the hospital to tap into pharmacy as a resource. UT pharmacists are well-trained in clinical issues and can assist nurses and physicians in day-to-day patient care, he added.

Having pharmacists working on patient floors not only improves care, it also improves pharmacists' job satisfaction, Smith noted.

A seven-month pilot study led by Monica Nayar, a pharmacy practice resident, was conducted on a third-floor nursing unit last year to work out some kinks and to obtain feedback from nurses. As a result of the enthusiasm and support expressed by third-floor nurses, it was decided to expand it to other units.

Deana Sievert, nursing director for four hospital care units, applauded the new program.

“The decentralized pharmacist program has been wonderful for the staff, physicians and especially the patients,” she said. “It has definitely created a team atmosphere that was hard to achieve before when our pharmacist was in the basement. The program has saved nursing time for sure.”

Nurses are making fewer phone calls to the pharmacy because they can communicate with pharmacists directly, saving time, she noted.

“Also, I believe it creates a safer environment because now we have an

easily accessible pharmacist who can help answer questions and who has access to all the information we have access to,” Sievert added. “So the nurse is no longer communicating information over the phone. We can pull the chart and order and look at it together to design a plan that is optimal for the individual patient. The impact has been huge. In fact, we have seen a significant decrease in occurrence reports related to medications and medication administration since we began our pilot. I'm convinced that this will also happen with the other units.”

The central pharmacy continues to serve as the hub for preparing more sophisticated, complex therapies such as sterile products, gene therapies and chemotherapy.

The program also has an educational component as College of Pharmacy students will participate so they can learn the role of “decentralized pharmacists.”

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## SPECIAL SEGMENTS THIS MONTH:



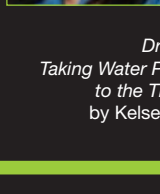
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*"E" Cycling:  
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## UT offers study-abroad program in China this summer

By Jeffrey Romagni

The University of Toledo, in cooperation with Yanshan University, is offering students the opportunity to study abroad this summer in China.

The program titled "A Rich Cultural Immersion Experience" will allow students to travel to various places in China and earn up to six transferable college credit hours.

Students will spend the first 16 days at Yanshan University in Qinhuangdao learning the Chinese language, culture and economic dynamics. The last week will take students to Xi'an and Beijing to learn and experience Chinese history.

The program will run from July 14 to Aug. 7.

The cost of the program, including tuition, round-trip airfare, local travel, accommodations and meals, is approximately \$2,500.

"Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says that 'Washington's relationship with China will be the most important bilateral relationship in the world in this century,'" said Dr. Gene Chang, director of the Asian Studies Institute and professor of economics. "This is a wonderful opportunity for our UT students to be physically in China to study this relationship. It is an effective way to learn. Students will not only observe the true China with their eyes, but also learn its culture and history firsthand.

"In addition, I hope they will have a lot of fun and good food there."

Students will have the chance to see the Great Wall and the Forbidden City in Beijing, the beach and port in Qinhuangdao, and Terracotta army in Xi'an, he added.

Officials from UT and Yanshan University signed a memorandum of understanding in 2007 to guide the formation of reciprocal campuses.

"UT and Yanshan are sister universities and both sides had a lot of exchanges and visits," Chang said. "The Asian Studies Institute and its counterpart at Yanshan University are working together to make this program possible. We plan to offer this on a regular basis. We want our students to be better-prepared to meet the globalization challenge in this century."

Students can reduce their costs by applying for a travel grant from the Study-Abroad Program. Applications for the grant must be submitted by Friday, Feb. 20, to the Office of Study Abroad in Rocket Hall Room 1830 on Main Campus.

For more information or to apply, contact Chang at [gene.chang@utoledo.edu](mailto:gene.chang@utoledo.edu) or 419.530.4677 or Wenli Zhang, instructor in Chinese, at [wenli.zhang@utoledo.edu](mailto:wenli.zhang@utoledo.edu) or 419.509.0824.

## Vacation policy

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streamlining this extremely complicated issue," said Bill Logie, vice president for human resources and campus safety. "Through due diligence and teamwork, we've arrived at what we hope will be a long-lasting model for vacation accrual. We are grateful to everyone who has been involved in this process."

The University is allowing employees who are currently carrying vacation balances beyond the maximum hours one year to use their overage.

"It is to the benefit of the entire University that our employees use their

allotted vacation," Logie said. "There are not only financial advantages, it has been proven to have a positive impact on employee productivity and performance. We encourage all our managers to enable employees to utilize their earned vacation time."

Details on accrual rates, maximum accruals, vacation payouts and related information for all employee groups are available on the Human Resources Web site at <http://www.utoledo.edu/depts/hr/main/benefits/vacation.html>.

## UTNEWS

UT News is published for faculty, staff and students by the University Communications Office weekly during the academic year and periodically during the summer. Copies are mailed to employees and placed in newsstands on the Main, Health Science, Scott Park and Toledo Museum of Art campuses. UT News strives to present accurate, fair and timely communication of interest to employees. Story ideas and comments from the UT community are welcome. Send information by campus mail to #949, University Communications Office, Vicki Kroll. E-mail: [vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu](mailto:vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu). Fax: 419.530.4618. Phone: 419.530.2248. Mailing address: University Communications Office, The University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606-3390.

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## Medical students to put on talent show to help Make-A-Wish raise funds for local child

By Shannon Wermer

The University of Toledo Pathology Club is partnering with the Medical Student Council to put together a talent show called “Med Students Do the Darn’dst Things” to help the Make-A-Wish Foundation raise funds for a local Toledo child.

The talent show will take place Friday, Feb. 20, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts Recital Hall on UT’s Main Campus.

Albert, 13, suffers from mitochondrial myopathy, a muscle weakness that prevents him from participating in athletic activities. His wish is to meet John Homa, an acting coach from Los Angeles, who is best known for his work on ABC’s daytime drama, “General Hospital.”

According to Jessica Jackson, Pathology Club president, “We decided to do a fundraiser because we felt that our organization should not only be involved with academic enrichment, but also with community service.”

The club is interested in both the pathological manifestations of disease and

the humanistic effects of disease. Members care about the well-being of patients who are negatively affected by serious illnesses, she said.

“At The University of Toledo Medical Center, we are privileged to have faculty and staff that both encourage and participate in our community service events. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful examples here,” she said.

Jackson has not had the opportunity to meet Albert yet, but said she is impressed with what she has learned about him through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

“From what I hear, he is good-spirited and a joy to be with,” she said. “His desire to achieve great things during his young teenage years such as acting, writing plays and getting personal acting lessons in the midst of intense hardship is inspiring to me. We are very honored and excited to fundraise on his behalf.”

Tickets for the talent show are \$5. The fundraising will include ticket sales, promotional material sales and donations. Promotional items include Make-A-Wish

T-shirts, water bottles, magnets, bracelets, lapel pins and hats.

The Pathology Club will be fundraising from noon to 12:50 p.m. weekdays through Friday, Feb. 20, at their ticket booth, located in the Health Education Building Lobby on Health Science Campus.

Direct donations for Albert can be made at the event. Net proceeds go directly toward granting Albert’s wish. The average cost of a wish is \$5,000, according to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Make checks payable to UT Foundation, memo line “talent show.”

For more information or to make a donation, contact Jackson at 419.324.6287 or Jessica.Jackson7@utoledo.edu.



## UTMC essential employees may use University ID badge during snow emergency

By Chris Ankeny

Essential employees of the UT Medical Center may now use their University of Toledo identification badge when driving to and from work in a snow emergency.

Lucas County Sheriff James Telb has agreed to let the UT ID badge be used as proper snow emergency credentials for UTMC employees instead of the special ID cards normally handed out to essential employees.

Gary Jankowski, UT associate vice president for safety and health, said the arrangement is more convenient for all involved, but urged UTMC employees who may find themselves driving to work during snow emergencies to use caution.

“Make sure you have adequate transportation before leaving home,” Jankowski said. “These warnings are put out for a reason, and we certainly don’t want our employees getting stranded and adding to the emergency.”



Photos by Jack Meade

**DETOUR:** Students walked on Ravine Drive as the pedestrian bridge between Parking Area 44 and the Mulford Library Building on Health Science Campus is closed for a \$750,000 construction project on the third-floor outdoor patio that is part of Mulford. Richard Sheets, facilities and maintenance project manager, said the bridge is scheduled to be closed another week because a crane will be hoisting steel girders and construction materials to the patio, which will be enclosed and furnished as an activities and lounge area for medical and health professions students.