

## Families Set to Celebrate Commencement Dec. 14

By Christine Billau

More than 2,000 students at The University of Toledo will graduate at commencement ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 14, in Savage Arena.

The University is holding two ceremonies to include both undergraduate and graduate students from each of the colleges.

A total of 2,070 degrees will be awarded: 1,474 bachelor's degrees, 426 master's degrees, 104 doctoral degrees, 41 associate's degrees, 15 education specialist degrees and 10 graduate certificates.

The 9 a.m. ceremony will recognize all Ph.D. candidates and graduates from the colleges of Arts and Letters; Engineering; Judith Herb College of Education; Natural Sciences and Mathematics; and Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The 1 p.m. ceremony will recognize undergraduate and graduate students receiving degrees from the colleges of Business and Innovation; Health and Human Services; Nursing; University

College; and Medicine and Life Sciences.

Commencement is always a time to celebrate with family. Their support is critical to achieving success. For several students walking across the stage this year, family was literally at their side for the journey.

At 48 years old, Lori Boyer is set to take the stage and grasp her diploma on the same day as her son, Jordan.

Lori, a preschool teacher, started taking classes at UToledo in 1990, but stopped to raise her three children.

After returning in January to cross the finish line, the UToledo employee at the Early Learning Center is graduating from University College with a bachelor's degree in an individualized program of early childhood education and educational leadership. Her son is graduating from the College of Engineering with a bachelor's degree in computer science and engineering technology.

"I am proud to share this special



THEN AND NOW: Lori and Jordan Boyer in 2001 and 2019

moment with my oldest son," Boyer said. "It's important to me to prove to all of my children that you can accomplish anything no matter what point you are in life. I accomplished something I set out to do a long time ago, and it has the potential to take me in different directions in my career."

Fall commencement also is a family

affair for a brother-and-sister duo who worked side by side as undergraduates in the same exercise biology research lab.

Dylan and Nicole Sarieh, two-thirds of a set of fraternal triplets, both chose to study exercise science as pre-med students in the College of Health and

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## Check It Out

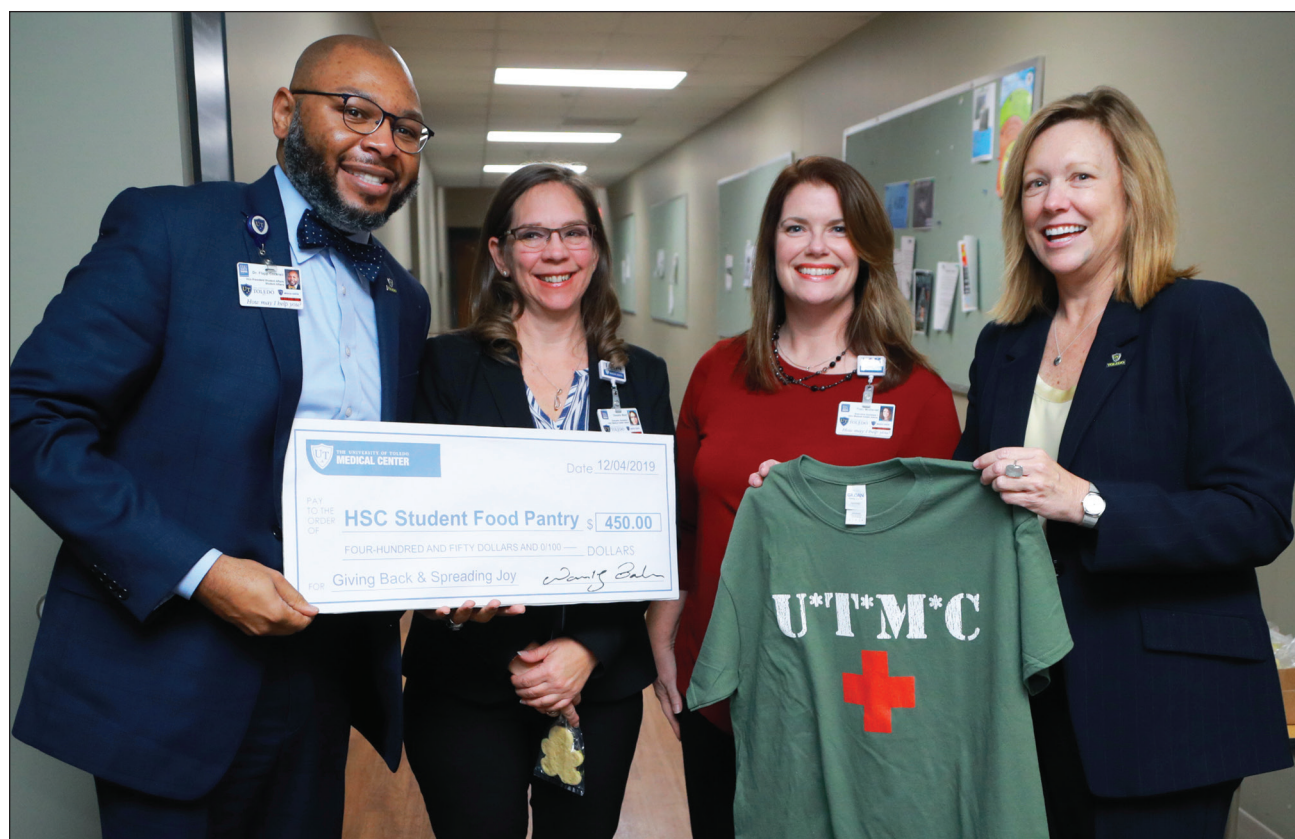


Photo by Daniel Miller

UTMC employees raised \$450 for the Health Science Campus Student Food Pantry by purchasing T-shirts paying tribute to "M\*A\*S\*H." Attending the check presentation last week were, from left, Dr. Phillip "Flapp" Cockrell, vice president for student affairs and vice provost; Danelle Mooi, executive assistant at UTMC; Traci McDaniel, executive assistant at UTMC; and President Sharon L. Gaber. The funds will be used to stock the pantry.

## UToledo Study Estimates Impact of Opioid Epidemic at \$1.6B in Northwest Ohio

By Tyrel Linkhorn

Fatal overdoses tied to Ohio's ongoing opioid epidemic cost the metropolitan Toledo economy \$1.6 billion and more than 2,000 jobs in 2017, according to a new study by The University of Toledo.

At \$1.6 billion, the total economic impact of the opioid epidemic is equivalent to approximately 4.5% of the region's gross domestic product – or roughly the same amount of economic activity generated annually by the entire private construction industry.

"The University of Toledo has an important role to play in addressing the major issues that affect northwest Ohio and beyond," UToledo President Sharon L. Gaber said. "This research provides another piece of the puzzle as we work together to confront the opioid epidemic."

The research was led by Dr. Oleg Smirnov, associate professor of economics, in close collaboration with members of The University of Toledo Opioid Task Force.

"Over a relatively period of short time, the number of deaths from opioid overdose has skyrocketed, and the crisis doesn't show any signs of abating," Smirnov said. "This report helps give us a better understanding of how the epidemic affects our region and also provides a

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# UToledo Professor Elected Fellow of Renowned Scientific Society

By Christine Billau

A professor at The University of Toledo has been awarded one of the highest honors a scientist can earn.



Bryant-Friedrich

Dr. Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, professor of medicinal and biological chemistry, is

among the 443 scientists elected in 2019 as Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society.

The lifetime appointment is an honor bestowed upon the society's members by their peers and recognizes individuals for their efforts in advancing science applications that are deemed scientifically or socially distinguished.

Bryant-Friedrich has created tools for the study of oxidative damage processes in DNA and RNA, contributing to the development of new, more effective ways to treat or prevent cancer, neurological disorders and age-related disorders.

Her research also includes biomarkers, photochemistry, mass spectrometry and ionizing radiation.

"I am thankful to be elected as a Fellow to the AAAS for the contributions I have made to the science that I love," said Bryant-Friedrich, who also serves as dean of the College of Graduate Studies, vice provost for graduate affairs and director of the

Shimadzu Laboratory for Pharmaceutical Research Excellence. "Scholarly recognition by one's peers is the highest honor, and recognition for my work validates my efforts. I credit this honor to the wonderful like-minded, adventurous students and colleagues who have accompanied me along this journey."

The AAAS includes more than 250 affiliated societies and academies of science, serves 10 million individuals, and publishes the journal *Science*. It was founded in 1848 and its tradition of naming AAAS Fellows began in 1874.

"This prestigious national honor for Dr. Bryant-Friedrich brings great pride to our campus," UToledo President Sharon L. Gaber said. "Recognition by AAAS is an external validation of our talented experts determined to advance science and improve our world."

Bryant-Friedrich, who joined the University in 2007, will be honored in February at the organization's annual meeting in Seattle.

She shares this honor with four UToledo colleagues who were previously elected to AAAS: Dr. Heidi Appel, dean of the Jesup Scott Honors College; Dr. Karen Bjorkman, interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs; and Dr. Steven Federman, professor of astronomy, who were named Fellows in 2017; and Dr. Jack Schultz, who recently retired from his position as senior executive director of research development and has been an AAAS Fellow since 2011.

Last year, Bryant-Friedrich was named a Fellow of the American Chemical Society.

She received a bachelor of science degree in chemistry at North Carolina Central University, a master's degree in chemistry from Duke University, and a doctorate in pharmaceutical chemistry from Ruprecht-Karls Universität in Germany. In addition, she conducted postdoctoral studies at the University of Basel in Switzerland.

## Commencement

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Human Services, while their brother studies business at UToledo.

Together, Dylan and Nicole researched the molecular regulation of skeletal muscle growth under the guidance of Dr. Thomas McLoughlin, associate professor in the School of Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences, in order to help clinicians develop ways to help patients grow stronger after suffering from muscle loss.

"The opportunity to do real, meaningful, hands-on work in the lab definitely built our confidence and opened our eyes to what is important," Dylan said about his undergraduate research experience. "My sister and I both plan to next go to medical school. She wants to be a dermatologist, and I want to be a general physician."

"Whether at home, in the classroom or in the lab, I always had someone I could lean on who was tackling the same challenges," Nicole said. "Putting our two brains together - even during car rides - made a big difference in our success."

For some graduates, they found love and are starting their own family.

McKenna Wirebaugh, who is graduating with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering, met her soon-to-be

husband at UToledo. Both she and Travis Mang, her fiancé, will receive degrees Saturday.

Turns out, planning their upcoming wedding is the only item left on the to-do list. Wirebaugh secured a full-time job as a process engineer at BP's Cherry Point Refinery in Blaine, Wash., located about 40 minutes south of Vancouver. She is scheduled to start her new job in March, about a month after her honeymoon.

"I chose to go to UToledo because of the mandatory co-op program in engineering," Wirebaugh said. "It guaranteed I would have a paycheck while in school and build my resumé. I'm grateful for my decision because it ended up launching my career."

Wirebaugh completed four co-op rotations with BP while at UToledo. She also helped build a water purification unit that was sent to Ecuador through the nonprofit organization Clean Water for the World.

Her favorite experience as a student in the Jesup Scott Honors College was a class focusing on creativity. For a group project on the dangers of cell-phone use, they brought in a PlayStation 2 system and challenged students to text and drive on Mario Kart without crashing.



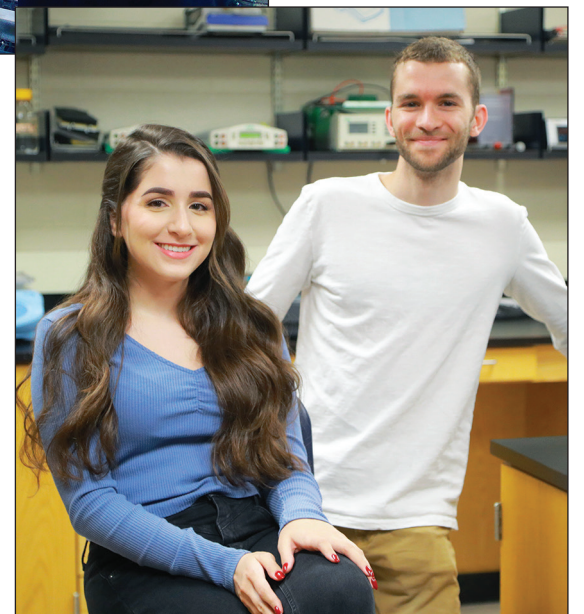
ON HIGH: McKenna Wirebaugh completed a co-op at the BP Whiting Refinery in Whiting, Ind. This photo shows Lake Michigan and the Chicago skyline.

"My professors have truly cared about me inside and outside of my academic career," Wirebaugh said. "I don't see the friendships I've made here ending anytime soon."

In the event of inclement weather, the approximately two-hour commencement ceremonies will be moved to Sunday, Dec. 15.

For those unable to attend, the ceremonies will stream live at [video.utoledo.edu](http://video.utoledo.edu).

For more information about commencement, go to [utoledo.edu/commencement](http://utoledo.edu/commencement).



IN THE LAB: Nicole and Dylan Sarieh

JANUARY

- Dr. Heather Conti, assistant professor of biological sciences, receives a \$2.1 million National Institutes of Health grant for her research on a fungal infection called oral candidiasis.
- The UToledo Foundation and the offices of Development, Alumni Engagement and Special Events move to the new Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement on Dorr Street thanks to a generous give from Welltower Inc.
- The Princeton Review selects the College of Law in its prestigious list of the top 165 law schools in the country. The college ranks No. 1 for professor accessibility in Ohio and Michigan, and ties for No. 1 in Indiana. Nationwide, UToledo's law school ties for third in the category of professor accessibility with 14 other schools with a score of 97 out of 99.
- UToledo student-athletes earn a combined grade point average of 3.247 in fall semester. It is the second highest department semester GPA in school history.
- Dr. Karen Bjorkman, dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Distinguished University Professor of Astronomy and the Helen Luedtke Brooks Endowed Professor of Astronomy, is named interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.
- Dr. John Plenefisch, associate dean for the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, is named interim dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.
- John Presloid, research assistant in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, wins on "Jeopardy!" The UToledo alumnus was champion for four days and won \$94,200.



- UToledo is 114 out of 348 total institutions listed in the 2019 U.S. News & World Report of Best Online Programs ranking, an increase from 125 last year and 142 in 2017. The University is ranked 67 out of the public universities.



- Approximately 500 attend the 18th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Celebration in Savage Arena.

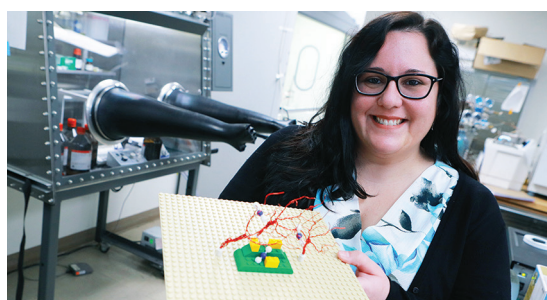
- Dr. Ami Pflugrad-Jackisch, associate professor and chair of history, is awarded a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to complete her book, "The World of Westover: Mary Willing Byrd, Gender, Slavery, and the Economics of Citizenship in Revolutionary Virginia."
- As a polar vortex grips much of the nation, the University cancels classes for two days.

FEBRUARY

- A total of 1,080 volunteers from the campus community prepare 202,392 meals that were shipped to Haiti and distributed through Feed My Starving Children. The two-day pack is organized by 90 students who are members of the Klar Leadership Academy in the College of Business and Innovation.



- Dr. Saori Furuta, assistant professor of cancer biology, receives a \$792,000 grant from the American Cancer Society to study precancerous breast lesions.
- Dr. Ana C. Alba-Rubio, assistant professor of chemical engineering, is awarded a five-year, \$558,795 grant from the National Science Foundation for pioneering a new method for factories to approach environmental stewardship and fight pollution.



- Dr. Juan Jaume, professor of medicine, and Dr. Shahnawaz Imam, a senior researcher in the Department of Medicine and an associate member of the Center for Diabetes and Endocrine Research, find a new way to replicate in lab mice the development and progression of Type I diabetes, a breakthrough that has the potential to reshape how the chronic disease is studied. The first peer-reviewed study using the UToledo-developed mouse model is published Feb. 7 in Scientific Reports.



- Greek life student leaders attend the Association of Fraternity Leadership and Values Conference in Indianapolis to accept the Gamma Sigma Alpha GPA Award.
- Brew, an independent coffee shop, moves into the Gateway Plaza.
- Dr. William F. Pickard, chair of Global Automotive Alliance, co-managing partner of MGM Grand Detroit Casino, and author of "Millionaire Moves: Seven Proven Principles of Entrepreneurship," speaks at the University for Black History Month.

MARCH

- Dr. Gary Pollack of Washington State University is named dean of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. He will begin his new post Aug. 15.
- Richard Swaine starts his job as chief financial officer for The University of Toledo Medical Center.
- Alfred Mundt, local restaurateur and longtime benefactor of the University, dies March 5 at age 82. He received a heart transplant at MCO in 1998 and established the Adela and Alfred Mundt Professorship in Transplantation Cardiology Fund to support new and innovative programs in advanced cardiac care at The University of Toledo Medical Center.
- Edith (Bondy) Rathbun, a local philanthropist and longtime supporter of the University, dies March 7 at age 103. She endowed several scholarships, including one named in her honor, and gave a donation to establish the Edith Rathbun Outreach and Engagement Excellence Award.



- Dr. Pamela Stover, organist and associate professor of music education, receives a Fulbright grant to conduct research on folk songs at the Kodály Institute of the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Kecskemét, Hungary.
- A genetic analysis conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey confirms that larval fish collected by UToledo researchers from the Maumee River during summer 2018 are grass carp, one species of invasive Asian carps that threaten the Great Lakes.
- The University of Toledo's graduate programs are recognized among the best in the nation, according to the 2020 U.S. News & World Report Best Graduate Schools rankings. The master's degree in nursing jumps to 135 from the previous year's ranking of 183; the doctor of nursing is ranked 135 compared to 152 the previous year; and the full-time law program is ranked 126, up from 137 in 2019. In addition, graduate programs in education and social work move up in the rankings.

- A total of 165 fourth-year medical students learn where they will train for their residencies at Match Day; there is a 33% increase in the number of students who match with UToledo over 2018.



- The men's basketball team wins 25 games, the second most victories in school history, and earns an at-large berth in the National Invitation Tournament.
- More than 1,200 students, employees and alumni sign up for the Big Event. Volunteers pitch in at more than 40 locations around the Toledo area during the largest student-run service project.



- Dr. Rita Colwell, a former director of the National Science Foundation who is known worldwide for her work in addressing water quality issues, visits the University as part of the Jesup Scott Honors College Distinguished Lecture Series.

## APRIL

- President Gaber focuses on the contributions of students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters in positioning UToledo for the future during her third State of the University address.



- Dr. Yanfa Yan, professor of physics, is awarded a \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to develop ultra-high efficiency solar cells that accelerate the conversion of the sun's energy into electricity.
- The University holds an opioid educational resource expo and community-wide teach-in to help address the crisis affecting Ohio.
- Three researchers – Dr. David Kennedy, assistant professor of medicine, Dr. Dragan Isailovic, associate professor of chemistry, and Dr. Steven Haller, assistant professor of medicine – develop

a highly accurate method to test for microcystin in blood or urine samples, an advancement that could provide clinicians a powerful new tool in assessing a patient's exposure to the toxin.

- The University's Physician Assistant Studies Program is granted full accreditation from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant.
- A new study about problematic smartphone usage by Dr. Jon Elhai, professor of psychology, is published in the journal Computers in Human Behavior.



- The women's basketball program leads the Mid-American Conference in attendance an unprecedented 29th consecutive season in 2018-19 and ranks No. 30 in the NCAA, averaging 3,728 fans per home game.

- Rasesh Shah and his wife, Shilpa Shah, attend the dedication of the Shah Center for Engineering Career Development in Nitschke Hall. The couple's \$500,000 gift will endow a fund to support current and advance new professional development programs for students in the College of Engineering.

- UToledo alumna Markie Miller speaks at the Ninth Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony With Nature at the United Nations on Earth Day. The 2012 anthropology graduate who through Toledoans for Safe Water worked for the Lake Erie Charter Initiative passed by Toledo voters in February talks about the rights of nature movement.

- Senior Pinyada Kuvanun is invited to participate in the second Women's Amateur Asia Pacific at the Royal Golf Club in Hokota, Japan.

- Senior Duncan McNeill is the fifth Rocket to capture medalist honors at the MAC Men's Golf Championships. He qualifies for the 2019 NCAA Louisville Regional, where he ties for 12th place.

## MAY

- Katie Holmes, a Toledo native who rose to fame as an actor, producer and director, speaks to more than 2,000 candidates for degrees May 4 in the Glass Bowl. She receives an honorary doctor of humane letters.



- Dr. Ricky Voigt and Dr. Bobby Easterling complete a coast-to-coast cycling trip that raises more than \$16,000 for The University of Toledo Community Care Clinics. After their 44-day day trip that covered 3,138 miles, Voigt and Easterling graduate with medical degrees from the College of Medicine and Life Sciences May 10.



- Dr. Scott Parazynski, a pioneering explorer, inventor, astronaut and physician, delivers the address at the College of Medicine and Life Sciences' commencement ceremony in Savage Arena. He receives an honorary doctorate of science, and the first graduates of UToledo's J.D./M.D. Program are recognized.
- The softball team wins three games May 11 to capture the Mid-American Conference Tournament Championship for the first time in program history. The victory qualifies the Rockets to play in first-round regional action of the 2019 NCAA Softball Championships.



- UToledo student-athletes earn a combined grade point average of 3.294 in spring semester; it is the highest semester GPA ever for the Rockets.
- Dr. Asma Abdel Halim, associate professor of women's and gender studies, and director of the Center of the Muslim Woman, is selected as a Fulbright Scholar. She will study the history of gender effects on Sudanese law, produce ideas for reform, and teach a class on gender and the law at her alma mater, the University of Khartoum in her native Sudan.
- U.S. Army veteran Eric Buetikofer is named director of military and veteran affairs.
- Dr. Rupali Chandar, professor of astronomy, is awarded 40 hours of observing time with the Hubble Telescope between July and early 2020. She will study star formation in nearby galaxies.



- UToledo wrestler Greg Wojchiechowski is one of four new members inducted into the Mid-American Conference Hall of Fame May 29.

JUNE

- Head Men's Basketball Coach Tod Kowalczyk signs an agreement that extends his contract through the 2023-24 season.



- The National Youth Sports Program at the University celebrates its 50th anniversary.



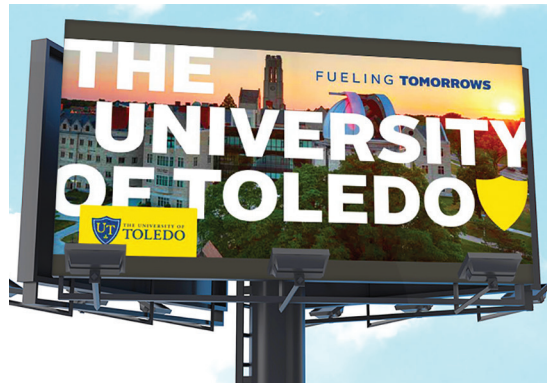
- Margaret Baer, a first-year doctoral student in the Department of Psychology, receives the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship in clinical psychology to further her research using science to help make sense of suicide and substance use. The fellowship is worth \$102,000 over three years.
- Trustees praise President Gaber during her annual performance review. The Board recognizes the president for meeting the graduation rate in the strategic plan three years ahead of schedule, as well as consecutive years of increased student retention rates and research awards during her tenure, and two years of strong fundraising that exceeded goals.
- Medical student Adam Meisler is one of three students in the country to receive a fellowship with the North American Society for Thrombosis and Hemostasis for his research on the connection between lung cancer and serious blood-clotting disorders.
- Dr. Rafael Garcia-Mata, associate professor of biological sciences, identifies a protein complex that regulates how epithelial cells bond together, a breakthrough that could advance cancer research. His research is published June 27 in the Journal of Cell Biology.



- President Gaber is elected chair of the Inter-University Council of Ohio.

JULY

- UToledo launches its new brand that features the tagline Fueling Tomorrows.



- Dr. Barry Scheuermann begins serving as interim dean of the College of Health and Human Services.
- Matt Schroeder is named executive vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer.
- Diane Miller is appointed chief of staff and associate vice president for government relations.
- UToledo announces its new baseball coach, Rob Reinstette.
- Thousands visit campus for Art on the Mall. The sun-filled day was perfect for the UToledo Alumni Association's signature summer event July 28 on Centennial Mall.

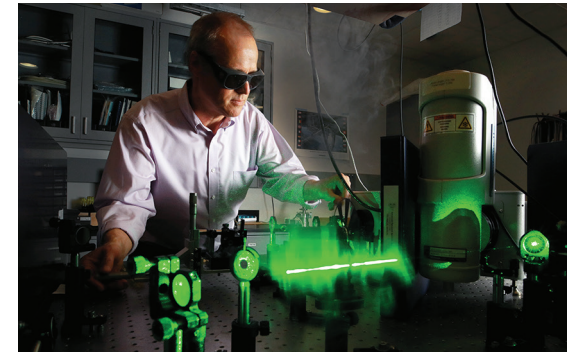


- Andrea Grove-McDonough is named director of cross country and track and field. She will serve as the head coach for men's and women's cross country and as the head coach for women's track and field.
- Dr. Jason Rose, associate professor of psychology, and Dr. Matthew Tull, professor of psychology, receive a two-year, \$80,000 grant through the American Orchestras' Future Fund to study if classical music could be a useful addition in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder.



AUGUST

- The U.S. Air Force awards a team of UToledo physicists \$7.4 million to enhance the reliability and efficiency of lightweight power to improve the safety and effectiveness of Department of Defense missions. Dr. Randall Ellingson, professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, and the UToledo Wright Center for Photovoltaics Innovation and Commercialization will lead the five-year contract to develop solar technology that is lightweight, flexible, highly efficient and durable in space so it can provide power for space vehicles using sunlight.



- A ribbon-cutting ceremony is held to mark the opening of the Center for Administrative Support, which is home to nearly 40 employees, including Human Resources and Environmental Health and Radiation Safety.
- Savage Arena unveils a new design on Bob Nichols Court for women's volleyball and men's and women's basketball seasons.
- Dr. Sujata Shetty, professor of geography and planning, and interim director of the Jack Ford Urban Affairs Center, presents to Toledo City Council a report detailing poverty in the city and offering recommendations based on successful practices demonstrated in other cities.
- The University receives the 2018-19 MAC Institutional Academic Achievement Award. UToledo student-athletes post a school-record grade point average of 3.277 for the past academic year.
- UToledo welcomes a freshman class with a record high academic profile with an average ACT score of 23.03 and average GPA of 3.48.
- Kayaks are launched on Ottawa River, and a new pedestrian bridge leading to Savage Arena opens. The steel truss features a redesigned plaza with a seating area at the north end overlooking the Ottawa River.



- University alumnus and donor Paul Hotmer cuts the ribbon during a pregame ceremony on the new soccer field named in his honor Aug. 29. The Paul Hotmer Field is located inside the outdoor track west of Savage Arena.



- UToledo is among 29 universities and organizations across the country to receive a total of \$40 million from the U.S. Department of Energy for new projects focused on using hydrogen as fuel. Dr. Yanfa Yan, professor of physics, and Dr. Zhaoning Song, research assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, will use \$750,000 to develop low-cost photoelectrodes for more efficient photoelectrochemical water splitting using innovative material from their highly successful perovskite solar cells.

## SEPTEMBER

- President Gaber and Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz kick off the start of “Rocket Week” with a ceremonial raising of the UToledo flag outside One Government Center. Rocket Week is a series of special events the first week of the academic year leading up to the home-opening football game.
- Dr. Angela Fitzpatrick starts her new job as director of the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women.
- Vicky Kulicke is named director of Title IX and compliance.
- Visual literacy expert Sunni Brown, author of “The Doodle Revolution,” speaks in the Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle as part of the Jesup Scott Honors College Distinguished Lecture Series.



- The National Science Foundation awards \$999,984 to UToledo for GEARSET – Greater Equity, Access and Readiness for Success in Engineering and Technology. The program supports academically talented and low-income students who want to pursue an engineering degree.
- The Dr. Nina McClelland Laboratory for Water Chemistry and Environmental Analysis in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics is dedicated in Bowman-Oddy Laboratories. The

University honors the successful alumna who focused her life’s work on improving water quality and the preservation of safe drinking water around the globe. McClelland, UToledo dean emerita, attends the ceremony.



- Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine appoints Richard S. Walinski, a lawyer who practices in the areas of contract, corporate and commercial litigation, and Dr. Eleanore Awadalla, who leads Awadalla Dental, to the University’s Board of Trustees.

## OCTOBER

- For the first time, the University hosts National Lab Day to connect students and researchers with scientists from U.S. Department of Energy national laboratories and explore opportunities for additional partnerships.



- UToledo and Oak Ridge National Laboratory representatives sign a memorandum of understanding for their institutions to team up to research, design and manufacture lightweight, strong, intelligent materials for the automotive industry.
- The Carlson Library Prairie is dedicated.



- A total of 2,778 donors contribute \$859,990 to support “Rocket Forward: You Launch Lives,” the third annual Day of Giving fundraising campaign.
- More than 60 UToledo members start preparing for the Higher Learning Commission accreditation.
- UToledo law graduates have their strongest showing in the Ohio Bar exams in 10 years: The first-time passage rate for University law graduates taking the bar exam is 89%, up from 84% in July 2018.

- The Military Times awards the University the Best for Vets 2020 designation, ranking UToledo No. 80 out of 134 four-year institutions. The University ranked 123 out of 208 in 2019.

## NOVEMBER

- The U.S. Department of Energy awards the University \$5.7 million for two solar energy technology research projects. Both projects involve the University collaborating with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and First Solar, one of the world’s largest manufacturers of solar cells and a company that originated in UToledo laboratories.
- A new Student Food Pantry opens in Health Education Building Room 112 to provide convenient and healthy options to students on Health Science Campus.



- Leaders from the University and the Ohio State Highway Patrol break ground Nov. 15 for a new \$6.5 million shared police facility on the southwest corner of Dorr Street and Secor Road.
- Jeanne White-Ginder visits UToledo to speak at the opening of the AIDS Memorial Quilt exhibition. More than a dozen panels are featured in the exhibit in the Center for the Visual Arts. White-Ginder is the mother of Ryan White, an Indiana teenager who contracted HIV in the mid-1980s following a blood transfusion.



- Nearly 150 submissions are received for the University’s Good Idea Initiative, a new program that awards employees’ suggestions. The winning ideas suggest having the Division of Enrollment Management and colleges coordinate to invite science, technology, engineering and math teachers from area high schools to visit campus during High School Professional Days, and an intensive training session, or boot camp, for business managers and administrative professionals who work on budgets and finance and human resource issues.

## Opioid Epidemic

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benchmark to evaluate the effectiveness of our community's ongoing response."

Among the report's key findings:

- Fatal opioid overdoses directly resulted in \$1.27 billion in lost economic output in 2017.
- Each overdose death costs the economy \$8.67 million.
- The indirect, or spillover, effects of fatal opioid overdose were \$329.2 million in 2017.
- Premature deaths caused by the opioid epidemic cost metropolitan Toledo the equivalent of 2,082 jobs in 2017.
- While Narcan is relatively expensive at approximately \$130 per dose, there is clear evidence the economic benefit outweighs the cost of administering the drug.

"These new findings add valuable context to our understanding of and response to the opioid epidemic," said Dr. Amy Thompson, vice provost for faculty affairs, professor of public health, and co-chair of the UToledo Opioid Task Force. "The research can be used to advocate for funding that goes toward prevention efforts and treatment of opioid

use disorder. It also can be used to inform local businesses how this epidemic is affecting the job market and creating financial loss in the community."

The report's calculations are based on data from the Ohio Department of Health's Ohio Public Data Warehouse, which documented 147 fatal opioid overdoses in Lucas, Wood, Fulton and Ottawa counties in 2017. Data from 2017 is the most recent finalized figures available.

State records show those four counties had 22 deaths attributed to opioid overdose in 2007. The state data relies on the official cause of death listed on state-issued death certificates and differs slightly from fatal overdose data from local sources.

"While it may seem morbid to put a price on human life, there are established economic models that show how an individual's premature death ripples through the economy," Smirnov said. "This report shows just how costly each death is to our entire community, on top of the personal loss of a friend, brother, sister or parent. The opioid crisis may appear hidden to some, but it affects all of us."

To calculate the economic cost of a fatal opioid overdose in metro Toledo, researchers began with a federally established finding that a premature death has an economic cost of \$9.4 million. By adjusting for northwest Ohio's lower per-capita income and lower cost of living, they arrived at a figure of \$8.6 million per premature death and \$1.27 billion in lost economic output in 2017.

Each fatal overdose also hurts the economy indirectly. As spending and demand for goods and services shrink, employers may begin to reduce staffing. In turn, individuals who have lost their jobs cut back on their own spending. UToledo researchers calculated those indirect, or spillover, effects cost the local economy \$329.2 million in 2017, while reducing full-time equivalent employment by 2,082 jobs.

The total economic burden in UToledo's report does not include calculations from non-lethal overdoses. While those incidents do have costs associated with them - emergency room visits, criminal justice proceedings and mental health services, for example - the spending stays within the local community.

The report also offers some hints that the region's response to the opioid epidemic is making a difference.

For example, a comparison of overdose-related 911 calls received by Lucas County dispatchers in 2016 and 2017 to the total number of overdose deaths in those years found the mortality of opioid overdoses declined from 8% in 2016 to 6% in 2017.

Researchers attribute that to first-responders dealing with opioid overdose more effectively, particularly with the use of naloxone.

UToledo's research also supports the notion that the expanded use of naloxone prevents not only additional deaths, but also significant damage to the local economy.

While first responders in Lucas County administered an estimated \$1 million-plus worth of naloxone in 2017, a single premature death would have cost the regional economy \$8.6 million.

Access the full economic impact report online at [utoledo.edu/economic-impact/opioids](http://utoledo.edu/economic-impact/opioids).



**UTOLEDO CARES 2019**

**PLEDGE BY Friday, Dec. 13**

**For complimentary scarf**

**There's still time to make a difference!**

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## UTOLEDO NEWS

UT News is published for faculty, staff and students by the University Marketing and 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 UToledo community are welcome. Send information by campus mail to #190, University Marketing and Communications Office, Vicki Kroll. Email: [vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu](mailto:vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu). Fax: 419.530.4618. Phone: 419.530.2248. Mailing address: University Marketing and Communications Office, Mail Stop 190, The University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606-3390.

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## UToledo Cricket Team Continues Winning Tradition

By Bailey Sparks

The University of Toledo Cricket Club has won the Michigan Cricket Association's Division I Championship this fall, besting 24 teams from across the Midwest.

The club finished the season with an 11-1 record.

"The club has been a part of Toledo and the surrounding areas for the last four years," said Akshay Chawan, captain of the club and associate network engineer in Information Technology. "Our organization's goals are to build a proud tradition of developing cricket and life skills, with a dedication to teaching teamwork, sportsmanship and a competitive spirit."

Chawan is among UToledo alumni on the team, along with Keyur Kulkarni, Club President Mohammad Majid and Sai Hitesh.

UToledo students on the team are Sahil Patel, Hassan Sajwani, Hitanshu Dudeja, Akshay Roge, Gandhar Yedsikar, Shardul Sawant, Abhijeet Thakur, Saaj Aryamane, Shubham Gaikar, Vighnesh Nayak and Rohit Jadhav.

Community members Rodcliff Hall and Chinmay Kushare also play for the club.

"The University of Toledo Cricket Club has been able to showcase its talent and achieve some accolades in the last three years. We are very proud of our achievements and the hard work of a lot of people connected with the club that has led to on-field success," Roge said.

"Each and every player aspired to be best for the team and not to be the best on the team," Kulkarni said. "In the past three years, this commitment has yielded the UToledo Cricket Club with many accolades."

Last year, the team won the Greater Toledo Cricket Club Championship. In 2018, the club was Division II runner-up, which led to competing in Division I this year. In 2017, the club reached the semifinals in the Michigan Cricket Association Division II. And in 2016, the team won the American College Cricket Midwest Championship and competed in the national tournament in Florida.

Highest runs this season for UToledo were community member Israr Ul Haq with 231 and Chawan with 190. Highest wickets for the club were Chawan with 16, Aryamane with 14 and community member Adeel Ahmed with 7. Chawan was named man of the match in the championship game, while Hitesh and Roge received that honor during the semifinals.

Then came victory at the Michigan College Cricket Championship this season. The team began by beating Wayne State and Saginaw Valley State University in league play before a semifinal win against the University of Michigan at Dearborn. They lost a rematch with Wayne State in the final round, but the UToledo Cricket Club brought the runner-up trophy back to campus.

UToledo alumni Rohan Kapkar and Arjun Ajbani joined the team during the college cricket championship, and Ajbani was named the most valuable player of the tournament.

"The UToledo Cricket Club is an emerging and highly respected team in our area," Majid said. "We would love the University community to support its cricket club and learn more about the sport."

For more information, visit the UToledo Cricket Club Facebook page at [facebook.com/toledocricket](https://facebook.com/toledocricket) or contact Chawan at [akshay.chawan@utoledo.edu](mailto:akshay.chawan@utoledo.edu).



CHAMPIONS! The UToledo Cricket Club celebrated after winning the Michigan Cricket Association's Division I Championship this season.



The UToledo Cricket Club also won the runner-up trophy at the Michigan College Cricket Championship this year.