

First Solar VP to address graduates Dec. 19

By Vicki L. Kroll

Dr. David Eaglesham, vice president of technology and chief technical officer at First Solar, will speak at The University of Toledo's commencement ceremony Saturday, Dec. 19, at 10 a.m. in Savage Arena.

In case of severe winter weather, the ceremony would take place Sunday, Dec. 20, at 10 a.m.



Eaglesham

There are 1,968 candidates for degrees from the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Engineering,

Health Science and Human Service, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and University College Degree Programs. There are 724 candidates for doctoral, education specialist and master's degrees, and 1,244 for bachelor's and associate degrees.

An honorary doctorate in science will be presented to Eaglesham during the ceremony, which will be webcast live at <http://video.utoledo.edu>.

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Photo By Daniel Miller

FEELIN' FESTIVE: Student Mike Trimble bought a Santa figure from Sylvia Mutchler's booth at the holiday craft show Friday in Rocket Hall.

UT to graduate first PhD in Biomedical Engineering

By Jeffrey Romagni

After successfully defending her dissertation, Archana Bhat will become the first graduate of UT's joint doctoral program between the colleges of Engineering and Medicine.

Originally discussed by the Medical University of Ohio and UT prior to 2006, the Biomedical Engineering Program is an example of one of the many positive academic progressions made by the University following the merger of the two institutions.

The doctor of philosophy in biomedical engineering is designed for students with either master's degrees in engineering or in science fields and centers on several core course requirements in mathematics, engineering and the biomedical sciences. The curriculum also contains an entrepreneurship component. Students take two courses on intellectual property and strategic planning from the College of Business Administration and develop a business plan to commercialize ideas born from their dissertation research.

The curriculum also offers a PhD program for MD students that are interested in pursuing a dual degree and careers as physician scientists.

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New look of UT homepage aims to bolster brand, improve user experience

Visitors of The University of Toledo's homepage will find a new, streamlined look to the site when they visit the page Wednesday afternoon. And it's one that the Division of External Affairs hopes will resonate with perspective students.

The new look of the page, utoledo.edu, was conceived in an effort to better integrate the UT brand identity, while incorporating data collected about user habits and information needs.

"We have leveraged the power of the 'More' campaign in a way we hope gives us

the ability to highlight the many great things happening at the University," said Lawrence J. Burns, vice president for external affairs and interim vice president for equity and diversity. "The flexibility of the layout and imagery will allow us to adapt for any situation, while providing the users with an enhanced experience as they explore all UT has to offer."

The project was driven largely by the Division of External Affairs, which includes the Center for Creative Instruction, Enrollment Services, Health-Care Marketing, University

Marketing, University Communications and Diversity Recruitment.

Among the new features of the page are the integration of social media tools like Twitter, Facebook, UT journals, and quick links to majors, colleges and online applications.

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UT Homepage

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“Our research showed us that without a doubt, prospective students visiting the site were primarily interested in what majors we offer, as well as how to begin the application process,” said Kathleen Walsh, director of Web development. “By modifying our layout, we were able to make these user priorities more prominent, while showing the breadth of opportunities available inside and outside the classroom.”

Understanding that current members of the UT community are also a primary audience for the homepage, developers integrated an “A-Z” link, through which users can quickly link to any page.

“While we encourage our faculty, staff and current students to utilize the myUT page as their primary UT homepage, we know that often they, and some of our external audiences, need a way to rapidly find a variety of pages,” Walsh said. “We hope this tool meets that need.”

“This page represents a great collaboration between Web designers, marketing professionals, communications strategists, enrollment experts, diversity leaders and beyond,” said Tobin J. Klinger, senior director for university communications. “It would not have been possible without their hard work and commitment to taking our Web presence to a new level.”

“The UT homepage is the primary face to the external community,” Burns added. “This is our primary landing page for prospective students, their parents, potential patients, our alumni and the community, and we hope we have created an exciting gateway to welcome them to The University of Toledo.”

Main Campus tobacco policy vote

Go to <https://my0.utoledo.edu/survey/login.asp?hidSurveyID=77>.

Enter your UT e-mail user ID and password and click on “submit.”

Choose which option you would like the University to consider implementing:

- Establish a tobacco-free campus;
- Designate four outdoor areas for tobacco use; or
- No change from UT’s current policy affecting Main Campus, which prohibits tobacco use in buildings but allows it outdoors 30 feet from these structures.

Deadline to vote: Friday, Dec. 18

UT Medical Center recognized for high organ donation rate

By Kim Harvey



Photo By Daniel Miller

Mark Chastang joined, from left, Kristen Calkins, Cindy Schneider and Norma Tomlinson to accept Silver Medals of Honor from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for increasing the number of organs available for transplant. Carolyn Ruge of Life Connection of Ohio, far right, also attended the ceremony.

For the second consecutive year, The University of Toledo Medical Center has been recognized for its success in increasing the number of organs available for transplantation.

Members of the UT team, including Kristen Calkins, registered nurse and director of trauma services, and Cindy Schneider, registered nurse and transplant administrator, joined Mark Chastang, UTMC vice president and executive director, and Norma Tomlinson, UTMC associate vice president and associate executive director, in accepting Silver Medals of Honor during a recent operational leadership team meeting on Health Science Campus.

The medals, given by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, recognize UT’s success in increasing the number of organs available for transplant.

UT Medical Center was recognized for having eight or more eligible organ donors during a 22-month award period ending in April and for meeting one of three additional criteria: improving donation rates, increasing the number of organs donated per individual donor to 3.75 or higher, and expanding clinical processes for recovering organs.

“As a transplant center, we strive to be good leaders in the area of organ donation,”

Tomlinson said. “It’s a compilation of teamwork from everyone in the program — from our staff, to our physicians, to organizations such as Life Connection — working together at a time that is very difficult for donors’ families.”

UTMC, she continued, has made a commitment toward best practices in organ donation by taking part in state and national collaboratives on organ donation and applying those best practices. The medical center was the first medical facility in greater Toledo to enact policy and procedure based on cardiac death criteria.

Carolyn Ruge, chief operating officer of Life Connection of Ohio, which works closely with local organ procurement and transplantation programs, was on hand when UT’s team received the medals.

“Organ donation is an important part of the end-of-life process,” Ruge said. “There are roughly 25 organ donors each year in northwest Ohio. People are usually surprised and think the number should be much higher. It could be if discussion about organ donation and peoples’ wishes were addressed at times other than those of great loss.”

Ohio citizens can get information about donation and enter the state’s organ donor registry at www.donatelifelifeohio.org.

PhD

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The University’s goal for the program is to recruit at least six students per year — a goal that UT is more than likely going to surpass, considering 18 students have enrolled over the program’s three-year history.

For her PhD, Bhat elected to follow the entrepreneurial option, completing two business courses and developing a business plan to commercialize her research on developing artificial bones.

In her business plan, Bhat outlined the steps involved to develop a commercial artificial bone product, which includes development and testing, U.S. Food and Drug Administration licensing, and manufacturing and funding.

“It gives me great pride to be the first graduate of the Biomedical Engineering Program,” Bhat said. “Coming from an engineering background would have made grasping the biological techniques difficult. However, the faculty and staff on the medical campus made learning easier.”

Bhat has accepted employment as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California and will begin her research there this month.

“Archana Bhat’s exceptional abilities point to great success in her new role and bright future as a biomedical engineering researcher,” said Dr. Nagi G. Naganathan, dean of the College of Engineering. “It is worth noting that Bhat’s research on artificial bone development will be continued by another gifted student, Hoangha Dao, who joined the Biomedical Engineering PhD Program this fall. Dao has just been awarded a National Science Foundation doctoral fellowship for carrying out this research.”



Bhat

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YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY

- Dr. Patricia Komuniecki, professor and chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, starts her new job as vice provost for graduate affairs and dean of the College of Graduate Studies.
- The Main Campus Medical Center opens to treat employees who now have access to UT Medical Center physicians.
- The \$27 million renovated Memorial Field House opens for classes spring semester.
- At the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Day Celebration, President Lloyd Jacobs announces the UT Guarantee scholarship program will be expanded to include 15 more cities.
- Administrators are asked to prepare 2010 budgets using 7 percent and 15 percent reduction scenarios.
- UT's enrollment rises for the sixth consecutive semester with spring's 20,775 a 5.4 percent increase from spring 2008 across all campuses.
- The Joint Commission grants the UT Medical Center hospitals and clinics full accreditation for the next three years.

FEBRUARY

- Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, Health Science Campus provost, executive vice president for health affairs and College of Medicine dean, announces 30 positions will be eliminated at UT Medical Center.
- Emily Stinehart, a junior majoring in history, wins UT's first Jefferson Award for her community service work.
- A streamlined student portal goes live at myUT.utoledo.edu.
- The Office of LGBT opens to provide programs and services for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning communities.
- Ohio Sen. Ray Miller gives the keynote address at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Benefit Dinner.
- Toledo guard Naama Shafir is featured in a USA Today sports story that said the freshman is believed to be the first Orthodox Jewish woman to play a Division I scholarship sport in the United States.



MARCH

- Students show more than 1,000 signatures supporting a smoking ban on Main Campus during a tobacco debate.
- Hundreds take swings at the Student Classroom Annex, formerly known as the Sociology and Anthropology Building, during a demolition party for the temporary structure that was home for classrooms, departments and offices for more than 40 years.
- Dr. Michael Rees, professor of urology, director of renal transplantation at UT Medical Center, and medical director of the Alliance for Paired Donation, explains the world's longest chain of kidney transplants made possible by altruistic kidney donors in the March 12 edition of the New England Journal of Medicine. He appears on the "CBS Evening News With Katie Couric."
- Dr. Gold receives the American Heart Association's Legacy Life Award, which recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to the organization's mission to reduce death and disability from cardiovascular disease and stroke.
- The bookstore on the Scott Park Campus closes.
- Senior Kylie Gamelier is the first UT swimmer to compete at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships. She swims the 100 and 200 breaststroke events at Texas Tech in Lubbock.
- Women's Basketball Coach Tricia Cullop is named co-Coach of the Year in the Mid-American Conference.
- At a Board of Trustees meeting, Dr. Rosemary Haggett, Main Campus provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, shares data collected on the College of Arts and Sciences by the Learning Alliance, an external group the University partnered with for an assessment.
- UT Medical Center ranks 45 out of 857 U.S. hospitals in 2008 for its "door-to-balloon" time with STEMI heart attack patients, placing it in the 96 percentile.
- Workers begin to take down the Army ROTC Center on Main Campus.

- It's announced UT will lead the collaboration with BGSU and Owens, Terra and Northwest State community colleges to create a unified program in renewable energy and sustainability to augment science, technology, engineering and math degrees with a five-year \$1.5 million grant from the state's Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program. Matching funds from the participating schools brings that total to more than \$3 million.

APRIL

- The Joan and Julius H. Jacobson II Center for Clinical and Translational Research is named in honor of the 1947 UT alumnus known as "the father of microsurgery."
- Four Army Junior ROTC cadets at Detroit Northwestern High School receive full college scholarships through the Army and sign letters of intent to use them at UT.
- President Jacobs outlines the role universities are being asked to play in strengthening their regions during his annual address to the community.
- The Board of Trustees approves a resolution to create a School of Solar and Advanced Renewable Energy.
- More than 1,000 come to Savage Arena to hear Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison give the Edward Shapiro Distinguished Lecture.
- Gov. Ted Strickland appoints Joseph High, senior vice president of human resources for Owens Corning, to the Board of Trustees.
- Baseball, women's soccer and women's volleyball receive NCAA Public Recognition Awards, which are given to programs that rank in the top 10 percent in the nation in their respective sports when it comes to academics.
- President Jacobs announces the University will lay off 100 employees to help fill a \$16 million deficit for the 2010 fiscal-year budget.
- Dr. Azedine Medhkour, associate professor of surgery and neurosurgeon at UT Medical Center, performs free surgery on a 14-month-old boy from Algeria after seeing a plea for help from the child's mother on YouTube. UTMC plastic surgeons Drs. Marlene Welch, Timothy Janiga and Brian Smith, resident, also donate their services.
- The College of Business Administration receives \$900,000 from the Kresge Foundation toward constructing and equipping the Savage & Associates Complex for Business Learning and Engagement.

- The University and the Hussain family establish the S. Amjad Hussain Endowed Professorship in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery in honor of the trustee and professor emeritus.

MAY

- UT offers a new online graduate-level certificate program in elder law.
- There are more than 2,900 candidates for degrees from UT's nine colleges for spring commencement.
- Greg Smith, top assistant coach at Notre Dame, is named head women's volleyball coach.
- Trustees approve a \$781 million operating budget for fiscal year 2010. The budget freezes undergraduate tuition and general fees for the third straight year and approves graduate tuition increases ranging from 2.5 percent to 7 percent.
- More than 600 scientists, researchers, educators and students attend the 52nd Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research; the event is hosted by UT and the International Association for Great Lakes Research.
- A celebration marks the opening of the Heart and Vascular Center.
- Belle and Allen, peregrine falcons that nest on University Hall clock tower, have four chicks.
- Student-athletes earn a collective grade point average of 3.157 spring semester, the highest GPA since the department began keeping records in 1991.
- UT hosts the 2009 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championships at the Inverness Club. Jack Nicklaus speaks at the tournament dinner in Savage Arena. Texas A&M wins the tourney on the final hole.
- A groundbreaking ceremony kicks off construction of the Fetterman Training Center, a multipurpose athletics practice facility to be connected to Savage Arena.

JUNE

- Sir Bruce Keogh, former cardiac surgeon who serves as medical director of the National Health Service in England, addresses nearly 200 candidates for degrees and graduate certificates during the College of Medicine commencement ceremony.
- Toledo posts one of the largest attendance increases in the country in the 2008-09 men's basketball campaign with its MAC-best 5,610 fans per game. The Rockets rank 16th in the nation with their increase of 1,006 fans per game.





- The BP gas station at the corner of Dorr Street and Secor Road is razed. The southwest corner of Main Campus is converted to green space.
- UT signs an agreement with BottomLine Resource Technologies of Columbus, Ohio, to serve as a consultant in the transformation of its Scott Park Campus into a Campus of Energy and Innovation. UT is the only university in the country to commit an entire campus to advancing renewable, alternative and sustainable energies.
- A new Rocky logo is created in collaboration with the Collegiate Licensing Co.
- Construction crews replace the façade of Snyder Memorial Building with lannon stone taken from the demolished Army ROTC Center. The stone matches the Gothic architecture of other buildings on Main Campus.
- Trustees approve a faculty workload policy.
- UT Medical Center launches MedTV, a monthly education program that showcases UT health professionals as they define health issues, risk factors and prevention recommendations.
- The Clean and Alternative Energy Incubator is recognized by Entrepreneur Magazine, which states it is one of 10 incubators in the country that “caught our eyes and might help you get your business started.”
- Dr. Jerri Nielsen, best-selling author and 1977 MCO graduate, dies June 23 at age 57. She gained international attention in 1999 when she developed breast cancer while serving as the sole physician at Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. She wrote about the experience in *Ice Bound: A Doctor’s Incredible Battle for Survival at the South Pole*.
- Detroit’s WJR Radio and UT form a partnership to produce a new program, “Environmentally Sound,” that debuts June 25. The monthly, hour-long program focuses on sustainability, the environment and alternative energy.
- John Nance, author of the best-selling book titled *Why Hospitals Should Fly — The Ultimate Flight Plan to Patient Safety and Quality Care*, visits Health Science Campus for two days to give educational sessions.
- standards from the U.S. Green Building Council.
- Some 20,000 people attend the African-American Festival on Scott Park Campus. UT hosts the two-day event that features live jazz, a parade, food vendors, rides and a health fair.
- Tarrah Beyster, an All-American at Oregon State University from 1997 to 2000 who was head coach at the University of Vermont, is named head softball coach.
- UT Medical Center is listed in the U.S. News & World Report for receiving a Get With the Guidelines Gold Sustained Performance Award from the American Heart Association for stroke care.
- Art on the Mall draws some 15,000 to the juried annual event.
- Dr. Thomas Switzer, dean of the Judith Herb College of Education, steps down.

AUGUST

- Dr. Thomas Brady, chair, CEO and founder of Plastic Technologies Inc., begins his appointment as interim dean of the Judith Herb College of Education.
- A new vacation policy designed to increase parity between non-union employee groups on all campuses, takes effect.
- The University sets an institutional record in fiscal year 2009 for sponsored-research funding, bringing in more than \$70 million.
- The College of Business Administration is one of 12 new members from eight countries admitted to the Graduate Management Admission Council.
- President Jacobs outlines a financial adjustment that calls for a spring semester tuition increase, a university-wide furlough program and some layoffs to fill the \$8 million gap state cuts left in UT’s 2010 fiscal budget.
- UT establishes the Dr. John M. Howard Endowed Professorship of Pancreatic Surgery in honor of the MCO medical pioneer.
- Xunlight Corp., a technology spin-off company from the University, makes its first thin-film silicon solar module off the production line. Some of the flexible, lightweight solar modules will be installed on the Scott Park Campus of Energy and Innovation.
- Administrators prepare for the possibility of an H1N1 outbreak.

JULY

- The renovated Memorial Field House receives a gold rating for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

SEPTEMBER

- The Canaday Center for Special Collections receives the Society of

American Archivists' Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award for the exhibit and catalog titled "From Institutions to Independence: A History of People With Disabilities in Northwest Ohio."

- President Jacobs launches "Rocket Fridays" with a proclamation encouraging students, employees and community members to wear midnight blue and gold.
- A total of 23,064 students are enrolled for fall semester. The figure is a 3.3 percent increase over last fall's 22,324 and represents the seventh consecutive semester of enrollment growth.
- The University, Toledo Public Schools and several supporting partners receive a \$5 million grant from the National Science Foundation for Leadership for Educators: Academy for Driving Economic Revitalization in Science. The program is designed to make K-12 science education more interesting by incorporating hands-on lessons linked to renewable energies industry and its environmental impacts.
- The Rockets zoom past the Colorado Buffaloes, 54-38, in the football home-opener televised nationally on ESPN.
- UT begins preparing for its 10-year institutional accreditation visit from the Higher Learning Commission that will take place in 2012.
- Work begins on the Veterans' Plaza between University Hall and Memorial Field House.
- The College of Pharmacy breaks ground for its \$25 million facility on Health Science Campus.
- The Scott Park Campus of Energy and Innovation is dedicated. A 100-foot wind turbine and a 10-kilowatt solar array from Xunlight are among the highlights.
- Jon Meacham, editor of Newsweek and winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Biography for *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*, addresses a capacity crowd in the Student Union Auditorium as part of the Edward Shapiro Distinguished Lecture Series.
- Best-selling humorist P.J. O'Rourke talks about "The Invisible Hand of the Market vs. the Government's Visible Fist" for the College of Law's Stranahan National Issues Forum.
- The Minority Incubator celebrates its grand opening on the Scott Park Campus of Energy and Innovation.

OCTOBER

- Dr. Gold gives the first S. Amjad Hussain Visiting Lectureship in the History of Medicine and Surgery.



- The College of Business Administration is featured in the 2010 edition of Princeton Review's *The Best 301 Business Schools*.
- President Jacobs and Dr. Gold announce more layoffs at UT Medical Center.
- UT publicizes the Scholarly Savings Account Program, which will make annual deposits of \$2,000 into individual student scholarship accounts beginning with the successful completion of the eighth grade and for each successful year in high school. Students at partnering schools will be able to apply those funds toward tuition at the University.

- Gov. Strickland announces UT has been named a Center of Excellence in Advanced Renewable Energy and the Environment.
- Faculty Senate votes to suspend the institution's attendance policy for the academic year due to H1N1 and flu outbreaks.

NOVEMBER

- The College of Business dedicates the Savage & Associates Complex for Business Learning and Engagement, a

54,000-square-foot expansion to Stranahan Hall.

- The collected papers of internationally renowned peace scholar and educator Dr. Betty Reardon are preserved in the Canaday Center for Special Collections.
- Some 700 people attend the dedication of Veterans' Plaza on Veterans Day.
- Dr. Nina McClelland, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences since August 2008, receives a contract extension through 2010-11 academic year and interim is dropped from her title.
- The Main Campus community is asked to vote on tobacco use; the deadline to cast a ballot is Friday, Dec. 18. Health Science Campus banned tobacco use in 2008.
- The women's basketball team defeats New Mexico, 62-56, to win the Holiday Inn & Suites Express Midtown Thanksgiving Tournament in Albuquerque.
- Dr. Rees and the altruistic kidney donor chain is the lead story in People Magazine's "Heroes of the Year" section in the Nov. 30 issue.

DECEMBER

- The Confucius Institute holds its opening ceremony.
- Senior safety Barry Church makes first-team all-MAC for the fourth consecutive year. He is the first Rocket and only the third player in MAC history to earn first-team honors four times.
- The College of Engineering celebrates \$5 million in renovations to the North Engineering Building that will allow the Department of Engineering Technology to move from Scott Park Campus to be with the college's five other departments on Main Campus.
- U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Congresswomen Marcy Kaptur visit UT to announce a \$20 million grant for Red Lion Bio-Energy, which has a plant on Health Science Campus. The University has been partnering with Red Lion to investigate ways to transform agricultural waste into useable fuels.
- Freshman wide receiver Eric Page is named first team Freshman All-America by CollegeFootballNews.com and Phil Steele's College Football Magazine.
- The Toledo women's basketball team overcomes a 19-point second-half deficit for a thrilling 68-65 victory against No. 20 Dayton in Savage Arena.

Contract extended for UT athletics director, now VP

By Tobin J. Klinger

The University of Toledo will continue to have a familiar face leading its Athletic Department for the next several years, while elevating the role to a vice presidency.

President Lloyd Jacobs announced Friday that Mike O'Brien, director of athletics, has received a new four-year contract and will be elevated to vice president and director of athletics. The extension runs through July 31, 2014.

"The landscape of Rocket athletics has changed significantly for the better under Mike O'Brien's leadership," Jacobs said. "As [he is] the architect of numerous positive and transformational efforts, we are thrilled that he will be with us for many years to come."

During his tenure at UT, O'Brien has helped to foster record academic achievement among student-athletes, brought about the renovation of John F. Savage Arena/Charles A. Sullivan Athletic Complex, oversaw the construction of the soon-to-open Fetterman Training Center, hired top-tier new coaches in several key programs, and gained a track record of significant success in fundraising.

"The profile of UT's athletic program has risen to new heights with Mike O'Brien at the helm," Jacobs added. "Not only are we enjoying new facilities and marquee opponents thanks to his efforts, he's also placed a new emphasis on the academic achievement that is critical to the success

of our student-athletes."

"We are thankful for the opportunity Dr. Jacobs, the Board of Trustees and the senior administration of Toledo have given us and the support they have shown to The University of Toledo athletics program," O'Brien said. "The staff and coaches at Toledo have been tremendous to work with. In my seven years, I have been fortunate to be around student-athletes who have been successful academically, while competing at a high level and conducting themselves in a positive manner in the community. The number of alumni, donors and fans who have responded to the performances of our coaches and student-athletes has been outstanding.

"We have a lot of work to do as we continue to improve the Rockets athletics program, but due to the efforts of many, progress has been made," O'Brien added. "We look forward to continued success in the classroom and on the playing fields with our Rocket student-athletes."

O'Brien assumed the position as The University of Toledo's 13th athletic director



O'Brien

Jan. 22, 2002. Since that time, the Rockets have won or shared MAC titles in football, men's basketball, women's basketball, women's cross country, men's golf and women's soccer. In that same span, UT has made three bowl appearances in football and two NIT appearances in men's basketball. In addition, women's soccer advanced to the NCAA Tournament in 2006, 2007 and 2008, while men's golf competed in the NCAA Championships in 2002 and 2004. UT women have qualified for the NCAA Championships in either track or cross country a total of 10 times and made All-America six times since 2002.

In the classroom, UT has produced overall department grade-point averages of above a 3.0 in six of the last eight semesters. In the 2009 spring semester, UT student-athletes achieved a combined GPA of 3.159, the highest in school history. More than one-third of student-athletes received at least a 3.5 GPA, with more than half earning a 3.0+ GPA, the 11th consecutive semester above the 50 percent mark.

O'Brien also has helped lay the foundation for future success for the department. He secured significant funding for the Athletic Department's capital campaign for the new Charles A. Sullivan Athletics Complex and Savage Arena renovation project, including a \$5 million gift from Chuck and Jackie Sullivan. The \$30 million facility debuted last December.

Soccer team ranks second nationally in team GPA in 2008-09

By Brian DeBenedictis

For the fourth consecutive year, the Toledo women's soccer team has been recognized for having a top 10 team grade-point average in the nation.

The Rockets posted a 3.63 overall GPA during the 2008-09 academic year to rank second among Division I programs, according to a release by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Toledo was one of three Mid-American Conference teams to rank among the top 10, along with national leader Central Michigan (3.73 GPA) and No. 8 Kent State (3.52 GPA).

UT also finished third nationally in 2005-06, tied for second in 2006-07 and 10th in 2007-08.

Toledo has posted team grade-point averages above 3.0 in each of the last 16 grading periods. In spring 2009, the team carried a school-record 3.685 GPA, best among UT's sports programs for the fifth time in the last eight semesters.

On an individual basis, senior Ali Leak was named to the 2009 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District IV University Division Team for a squad-record second time.

First Solar VP

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He joined First Solar in 2006 and is responsible for the technology road map and technology partnerships for the company that has corporate offices and manufacturing locations in North America, Europe and Southeast Asia.

First Solar is the largest thin-film solar module manufacturer in the world. It maintains the lowest manufacturing cost per watt in the industry — 85 cents per watt. In 2008, First Solar posted revenues of \$1.2 billion, an increase of \$498 million over 2007. The company employs more than 4,000.

Prior to joining First Solar, Eaglesham was director of advanced technologies at Applied Materials in 2005. From 2002 to

2004, he served as chief technologist and deputy associate director of chemistry and materials science at Lawrence Livermore National Lab in Livermore, Calif. He also worked at Bell Labs in Murray Hill, N.J., from 1988 to 2001, and taught as a lecturer in the Department of Materials Science at the University of Liverpool in England from 1985 to 1988.

Eaglesham is a fellow of the American Physical Society. In 1994, he was named Outstanding Young Investigator by the Materials Research Society and served as that organization's president in 2005.

He received bachelor's and doctoral degrees in physics from Bristol University in England in 1982 and 1985, respectively.

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. 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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Professor honored with Toastmasters International Leadership Award

By Bob Mackowiak

During the recent Toastmasters International Conference in Toledo, Dr. Clinton Longenecker, UT professor of management, received the prestigious Toastmasters International Communications and Leadership Award 2009 for his significant contributions in leadership and business communications.

Presented at the organization's district conference in November, the award recognizes a business leader who has demonstrated outstanding communication and leadership skills as defined by Toastmaster International, a nonprofit educational organization with more than 211,000 members in 10,500 clubs in 90 countries throughout the world.

"Dr. Longenecker is the recipient of this award for the difference that he has made in the lives of business leaders across the country as an educator, researcher, author, consultant and speaker," said Toastmasters spokesperson Heather Lane. "He is committed to helping others achieve their full potential and become successful as leaders."

"I am truly humbled by this recognition," Longenecker said. "I try to make people a priority in everything I do, and helping people is a particular passion of mine because I enjoy seeing the success people can achieve when they are inspired and take action toward their goals and dreams."

Lane said Longenecker's most recent book, *The Two-Minute Drill: Lessons for Rapid Organizational Improvement from America's Greatest Game*, has helped numerous organizations and business across the United States deal with economic challenges.



Dr. Clint Longenecker posed for a photo holding the 2009 Toastmasters International Communications and Leadership Award with Toastmaster officers, from left, Lt. Gov. of Education and Training Vera Johnson, International Director Kristal DiCarlo, Lt. Gov. of Marketing Robynn Diamond, District Gov. Nancy Zychowicz and Area 3 Gov. and Fall Conference Chair Heather Lane, who is an alumna of the UT College of Business Administration.

Governor appoints three UT trustees

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland has appointed three people to fill vacancies on the UT Board of Trustees.

Joseph Zerbey, president and general manager of The Blade, will replace Rick Stansley and David Huey, who both completed nine-year terms in June.

Under the terms of the merger between UT and the Medical University of Ohio, one person will be appointed to replace two retiring trustees each year in order to gradually reduce the merged board to nine members.

Linda Mansour, managing attorney for law firm Linda Mansour-Ismail, will

complete the term of Dr. Thomas Brady, which ends in 2014. Brady resigned from the board earlier this year to be considered as a candidate for interim dean of the Judith Herb College of Education, where he now serves.

Baldemar Velasquez, president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, will complete the term of Marvin Himmelein, which ends in 2011. Himmelein resigned this year for personal reasons.

President Lloyd Jacobs expressed excitement at the selections, saying he was eager to work with all three new board members to help further the University's mission.

In memoriam

Daniel E. Gribble, Perrysburg, died Dec. 5 at age 62. He was hired in 2005 as a custodial worker in Environmental Services at MUO and one year later joined Transport Services as a hospital aide, the position he held until earlier this year.

Dr. James A. Hampton, Waterville, a longtime faculty member at MCO, died Dec. 7 at age 61. In 1986, he joined MCO as a researcher in pathophysiology and later began teaching classes in his specialty in the College of Nursing and Department of Physician Assistant Studies. Hampton gained a reputation for making a difficult subject understandable and was popular with students. He became a tenured professor in 2004 and received the College of Nursing's Prism Award for teaching excellence in 2005. Hampton retired in 2007 after being diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He was named professor emeritus in the College of Nursing this year. In 2008, physician assistant and nursing students started the annual "Hampton on the Trail" run and walk to raise funds for the James Hampton Scholarship, which benefits students on Health Science Campus who excel in the pathophysiology course and exemplify Hampton's attributes of character, honesty and integrity.

Beverly A. Reynolds, Toledo, a custodial worker in Environmental Services at MCO from 1981 to 1998, died Dec. 7 at age 72.

Just a reminder: Paychecks to be distributed Dec. 31

Direct-deposit funds and paper checks will be available Thursday, Dec. 31. Employees may pick up paper checks from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Payroll Office on the second floor of the Learning Resource Center on Scott Park Campus. Checks not collected will be mailed to individuals' homes Monday, Jan. 4.