

Better late than never: 64-year-old to graduate

By Kim Harvey

At the age when some are settling into retirement, Hugh Johnson is just getting started.

The 64-year-old college senior will graduate this weekend with a crowd of students who could pass for his children or grandchildren. Graduation will bring part of his journey to an end, yet open many doors for him to “pay it forward.”

Ten years ago, Johnson never dreamed he’d earn a bachelor’s degree in social work or guide troubled youth. Mired in his own darkness of longtime alcohol and drug abuse, he was estranged from his two children and living in a new city with no legitimate job prospects.

“I went through some real, real hard times,” Johnson said on his last day of class with Dr. Reva Allen, associate professor of social work. While he lived in Chicago, his 15-year marriage crumbled and his work as a subcontractor dwindled. “By missing days of work, I ended up losing jobs,” he said.

The Alabama native moved to Toledo in 1998, but a new city didn’t quell old habits. His substance abuse continued until Sept. 11, 2001, when a national tragedy became the catalyst for a drastic change.

“I thought about changing things for a long time,” Johnson said. “I was sick and

tired of doing the same stuff — running the streets, drinking and drugging.

“People were losing their lives that day. I decided to change mine.”

He walked into a local rehabilitation program and asked for help. After 32 days as an inpatient, he continued rehab through a local agency and pondered his future. He was in his late 50s and hadn’t taken a class in 35 years.

His first courses were difficult, his classmates much younger. “The idea of being there with young people, you think you’re out of place,” he said.

Allen said he has succeeded due to determination and willingness to accept help.

“He works awfully hard,” Allen noted. “There are a lot of students who, when you give them feedback, they don’t do anything with it. Hugh takes the extra effort to schedule meetings and do extra work to make himself better. He’s not just skirting on the edge. He wants to learn and improve his skills.”

Johnson said his life experiences were invaluable during an internship at the Lucas County Correctional Treatment Facility. He performed intake assessments and facilitated group treatment for inmates, many of them young and eerily familiar.

“I was them at one time,” Johnson said. “I tell them, ‘I made the change and so can you.’ They have to see it, not just be told.”

Johnson will pursue certification in chemical dependency so he can continue to guide youth with substance abuse problems. He credits a relationship with God for much of his turnaround, which includes renewed family ties and financial stability.

“I have a better understanding of life now,” he said. “I’m doing positive things this time. I’ve got a little money in the bank and a little in my pocket.

“I’m trying to give back what’s been given to me,” he said.



Photo by Daniel Miller

LAST CLASS: Hugh Johnson and Millicent Appiah sat in a discussion group in the last Social Work Practice III class of the semester.

Syracuse University president, Mannheim Steamroller leader to receive honorary degrees at UT commencement ceremony in Glass Bowl on Main Campus May 3

By Vicki L. Kroll

Dr. Nancy Cantor, chancellor and president of Syracuse University, and Chip Davis of Mannheim Steamroller will be honored at UT’s commencement ceremony Saturday, May 3, at 1 p.m. in the Glass Bowl on Main Campus.

There are 2,468 candidates for degrees from the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Health Science and Human Service, Nursing and University College. There are 602 candidates for doctoral, education specialist and master’s degrees, and 1,866 for bachelor’s and associate degrees.

Cantor will address graduates and receive an honorary doctorate in science.

In 2004, she became the 11th chancellor and president at Syracuse University,



Cantor



Davis

where she also is Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Women’s Studies.

Prior to joining Syracuse, Cantor was chancellor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has held a variety

of administrative posts — from chair of the Department of Psychology at Princeton University to dean of the Graduate School and then provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Michigan.

The native New Yorker is known for her scholarly contributions to the understanding of how individuals perceive and think about social worlds, pursue

goals, and how they regulate behavior to adapt to challenging social environments.

She also is recognized as an advocate for racial justice and for diversity in higher education. At the University of Michigan,

she was involved in the institution’s defense of affirmative action in the cases Grutter and Gratz, decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2003.

continued on p. 2

The UT Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting Wednesday, April 30, to consider tentative agreements ratified by the Communications Workers of America Local 4319 and the UT Police Patrolman’s Association.

For details following the meeting, go to [UToday](http://UToday.myut.utoledo.edu) at myut.utoledo.edu.



Photo by Daniel Miller

TIME TO REFLECT: Poet Sharon Olds read one of her pieces that focused on how easily people can overlook what's around them during the 19th annual Richard M. Summers Memorial Lecture in Doermann Theater on Main Campus. The award-winning author and professor of English at New York University also took questions from the audience.

College of Pharmacy to hold commencement May 2

By Jim Winkler

The first-ever independent commencement for the College of Pharmacy will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, May 2, at Stranahan Theater, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd.

There are 255 candidates for pharmacy degrees this spring and summer in five programs — doctor of pharmacy, bachelor of science in pharmaceutical sciences, master of science and PhD in medicinal chemistry, and master of science in pharmaceutical sciences. Student achievement and faculty teaching awards also will be presented.

The commencement speaker will be David M. Boyer, president of the Ohio Pharmacists Association and a staff pharmacist for Summa Health System in Akron.

Boyer is a 1973 UT pharmacy graduate. In 2000, he received the UT College of Pharmacy Norman F. Billups Distinguished Alumni Service Award. He is a past president of the Ohio Society of Health-System Pharmacists, which awarded him its highest honor, the Walter M. Frazier Award. Boyer

also holds membership in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

The college also will confer its first honorary doctor of science degree to Parviz Boodjeh, a 1954 UT graduate and founder, chairman and CEO of Medina-based Discount Drug Mart Inc. The company is comprised of 67 retail drug stores in Ohio and ranks eighth nationally in drug-store retail sales. The successful businessman established the first Discount Drug Mart in Elyria in 1969, and his idea of providing one-stop shopping and a wide variety of products led to the chain's spectacular growth.

There will be two valedictorians at the ceremony — Lindsay Snyder for the PharmD graduates and Carrie Zachar for the undergraduate bachelor of science in pharmaceutical sciences program.

Dr. Johnnie L. Early II, dean of the College of Pharmacy, will preside over the ceremonies.

Commencement

continued from p. 1

She received her undergraduate degree from Sarah Lawrence College in 1974 and her doctoral degree in psychology from Stanford University in 1978.

Davis will be presented with an honorary doctorate of music.

He was born in Holgate, Ohio, and grew up in Sylvania, where by age 6 he was composing music about his dog, Stormy. After graduating from Sylvania High School, he went to the University of Michigan and received a bachelor's degree in music in 1969.

Then he hit the road, touring with the Norman Luboff Choir, and later started writing jingles for an ad agency in Omaha, Neb. What started as commercials featuring fictional trucker C.W. McCall turned into a record contract and the 1975 hit "Convoy." Davis was named Country Music Writer of the Year in 1976.

Shortly after, he began to experiment with what he called "18th century classical rock," using electric bass and synthesizers. To help sell this new sound, Davis co-founded the group Mannheim Steamroller and formed American Gramophone to distribute its albums. The band's first release, *Fresh Aire*, became a hit in 1975.

In 1984, *Mannheim Steamroller Christmas* was released, and Davis and company became a seasonal mainstay, producing seven more holiday records and selling 27 million Yuletide discs in the United States, according to the Recording Industry Association of America.

The New Age music maestro also raised more than \$500,000 from a tour and sales of *Yellowstone: The Music of Nature* to benefit the National Park Service following fires in 1988.

Alumnus to speak at law commencement

Joseph J. Farnan Jr., judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware, will return to his alma mater to address UT College of Law graduates Saturday, May 3, at 1 p.m. in the Student Union Auditorium on Main Campus.

There are 132 candidates for law degrees this spring and summer. Jeanne Whalen of Livonia, Mich., is the valedictorian of the class.

Farnan graduated from the College of Law in 1970. While at UT, he was editor of the *Law Review* and awarded the alumni scholarship for academic achievement.

After graduating from UT, Farnan moved to Delaware and served as dean of students and director of the Criminal Justice Program from 1970 to 1973 at Wilmington University, where he taught as an adjunct faculty member until 1981. He also was in private practice and served as a part-time assistant public defender from 1972 to 1976.

In 1976, Farnan was appointed county attorney for New Castle County, Delaware. He served in that position until 1979 when he was appointed the chief deputy attorney general for the state of Delaware.

President Ronald Reagan appointed Farnan U.S. attorney for the District of Delaware in 1981. The UT graduate was responsible for the investigation and prosecution of Frank Sheeran, president of the Delaware Teamster Union, who admitted to the murder of Jimmy Hoffa.

In 1985, Reagan appointed Farnan to the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware, where he served as chief judge from 1997 to 2000. He has presided over and decided high-profile corporate disputes and patent infringement actions, including the Pantry Pride/Revlon securities case, the Diet Coke pricing case, the DaimlerChrysler merger case and the Lipitor patent case. He is presiding over the Intel antitrust case.

UT employees may schedule graduate photos

UT faculty and staff or members of their families who will graduate from the University in May or June can contact the University Communications Office if they wish to have a photo taken and published in UT News.

Call Joanne Gray at 419.530.2675 to schedule an appointment by Friday, May 23. Photos will appear in an upcoming issue of the paper.

**Look for the next issue
of UT News May 12**

College of Medicine graduation ceremony

Friday, June 6, at 2 p.m.
Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle Theatre

Human Resources centralizes, begins period of transition

By Tobin J. Klinger

Since the merger of the Medical University of Ohio and The University of Toledo in 2006, the Human Resources Office has been in “triage” mode to try to address the day-to-day personnel issues that were created. Now the department is centralizing in one location and truly merging its staff in an effort to better meet the needs of the UT community.

“As of Friday, we are housed together under one roof,” said Bill Logie, vice president for human resources and campus safety. “This is not only symbolic of a unified HR, we also believe it will enhance our ability to serve our customers.”

The Human Resources Office will be housed in the Transportation Center on Main Campus for the time being, with a goal of moving permanently to the Scott Park Campus in the coming months. A single phone number, extension HRHR (4747) can be dialed from any campus to reach the department’s front desk.

“There’s going to be a bit of ‘pardon our mess’ for a period of time as we bring the staff together and sort through associated technology issues,” Logie said. “We appreciate everyone’s patience as we now tackle an important piece of the merger process.”

The office will retain the hours of operation that were held at the Health Science

Campus office, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. This marks an expansion of hours for Main Campus staff and enables all employees to receive service, regardless of their shift.

“We’ve had tremendous support from our colleagues in Information Technology, Facilities, the Center for Creative Instruction, and others as this transition has unfolded,” Logie said. “I have to thank our partners, as well as our HR staff for helping us get to this point on such a rapid timetable.”

With two union contracts designed to create parity between all campuses ratified by the bargaining units and awaiting board approval, Logie believes this is a natural next step in “leveling the playing field” relative to services offered to employees.

“We’ve been working hard to make sure all employees have been treated equally, and our new centralization and structure will help us live that value,” Logie said. “We are not eliminating any services, we are simply streamlining operations to better meet the needs of the campus community.”

Additional details, frequently asked questions, maps, forms and other information are available on the Human Resources Web site at <http://www.utoledo.edu/depts/HR>.

Nominations for staff awards due May 16

Take a few minutes and nominate that special UT employee for the 2008 Outstanding Staff Awards.

It’s time to recognize those staff members who exceed expectations and enhance the University environment for students, patients, staff, faculty and the community.

Eligible nominees must have at least two years of service at the University and be non-union staff members or from the Communications Workers of America Local 4319, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2415, Professional Staff Association or UT Police Patrolman’s Association. The president’s cabinet members and previous award recipients are ineligible.

All nominees will be acknowledged at an awards program Thursday, June 12. In addition, 10 employees will receive plaques

and \$1,000 checks.

Nominations are confidential and will be accepted from faculty, physicians, staff, students and patients. A committee composed of peers will select award recipients.

The selection committee will consider:

- Career accomplishments and outstanding contributions on the job;
- Service to the University community, commitment and innovation;
- Leadership and loyalty to the University community; and
- Positive and professional impacts.

Friday, May 16, is the deadline to submit nominations to Rubye Johnson, College of Law, Mail Stop 507. The nomination form will be online at <http://utpsa.utoledo.edu/>.

Letter

The scientific field of biology has been revolutionized by the expanding capabilities brought on by the digital age. Many experiments once performed with latex gloves and white lab coats are done today with computers and blood-shot eyes. Common in the field of biomechanics and engineering for many years, the computer technique called finite element method (FEM) is a significant tool for researchers to predict how complex 3-D geometries and chemical reactions might operate in the real world. The laboratories at the UT Department of Bioengineering are no strangers to FEM and harness its power to model everything from forces acting on artificial spinal discs to controlling implantable insulin pumps. The software and algorithms of FEM are taught in the course Applied Finite Element Method in Engineering by Dr. Ganapathy Narayanan, assistant professor of engineering technology. The course focuses on the methodologies used by all commercial software packages, including the program used in the course, COMSOL. The goal of the course is to provide students with knowledge to create a unique model from their own areas of interest. FEM analysis is an excellent supplement to any research and design and will only be more essential as humans continue to push the limits of technology and their own imaginations.

I wholeheartedly encourage all researchers and students of all disciplines to explore FEM and its applications with COMSOL, and especially with the course, BIOE5980: Applied Finite Element Method in Engineering.

Mark Skopin

PhD Candidate, Department of Bioengineering

UTNEWS

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Photo by Daniel Miller

THANK YOU: Vern Snyder, vice president for institutional advancement, right, shared a laugh with Dr. Barbaranne Benjamin, associate dean and professor in the College of Health Science and Human Service, and Dr. James Benjamin, professor and chair of communication, at the thank-you lunch on Main Campus held last week for donors to the Faculty and Staff Campaign. So far 567 employees have given \$592,500 to the campaign. Gifts will be accepted through June 30. Online and traditional giving methods are available. Visit the Division of Institutional Advancement’s Web page at <http://www.utoledo.edu/offices/advancement/facultycampaign/index.html> for more information.

March Students First Award winners announced

By Liene Dekere

In the third month of the year, three Students First Award winners were selected.

March winners were Dr. Carol Bresnahan, vice provost for academic programs; Dr. Constance Shriner, associate dean for faculty development and curriculum evaluations in the College of Medicine; and Barb Snavelly, director of student services in the

rial Field House April 8 to give Bresnahan the award, she was completely surprised.

“As a faculty member and as an administrator, I believe I am responsible for helping carry out UT’s primary mission: teaching and learning with our students,” she said.

“I have never regretted putting students

on educational research projects. She applies the principles of student centeredness to her work whether she is teaching students or serving in her administrator’s role.

“This is an excellent program, we have many fine faculty and staff members, and it is nice to see their commitment to education recognized. And it is even nicer to be

but I would have to say that’s still my response to receiving the Students First Award.”

She added, “I truly believe in what this award stands for, and I’m glad UT is recognizing faculty and staff who are doing their part.”

Snavelly’s nominators described her



Photo by Daniel Miller

President Lloyd Jacobs surprised Dr. Carol Bresnahan with the award during the town hall meeting in the Memorial Field House.

College of Business Administration.

Bresnahan’s nominators noted that she always listens to students and, more importantly, she acts.

“You can count on one thing: If you take a concern to her office, she will address it and she will fight for students’ rights,” wrote one of Bresnahan’s nominators.

When President Lloyd Jacobs interrupted the town hall meeting in the Memo-

first, and so this award is very meaningful to me. In fact, I doubt I will ever receive an award that will mean more to me,” Bresnahan added.

She will begin her new job July 2 as provost and executive vice president at the College of New Jersey.

Shriner works with first- and second-year medical students in a variety of capacities, including curriculum development and

included,” Shriner said.

Her nominators wrote that Shriner is always open to constructive criticism from students and that she creates a more efficient learning environment for all medical students.

Snavelly said, “When I received the Outstanding Adviser Award back in 1995, they quoted me as saying, ‘This is so cool.’ Of course, everyone teased me about that,

as a student advocate who provides an exceptional service to UT students. They also said that she puts in extra time, attention and hard work in order to make sure that students graduate on time.

Each winner received a \$75 gift card from Barnes and Noble and a \$25 gift card from Starbucks. At the end of the academic year, one winner will be chosen to receive a \$1,500 prize.



Photo by Jack Meade

The president delivered the prize to Dr. Constance Shriner.



Photo by Daniel Miller

Jacobs read what nominators wrote about Barb Snavelly when he told her of the award.



Photo by Daniel Miller

FRAMING SPRING: University Photographer Daniel Miller took this shot of two students chatting at one of the courtyard entrances of University Hall with the magnolia trees blooming in the background on Main Campus.

In memoriam

Linda Graves, Toledo, who worked in Central Distribution at the former MCO for 29 years, died April 17 at age 58. She was hired in 1974 and retired as storekeeper supervisor in 2003.

Frank C. Clemons, Toledo, a star UT athlete who stayed involved with his alma mater, died April 21 at age 88. He lettered in football, basketball and track. Clemons excelled on the court; he led the Rockets to an appearance in the 1942 National Invitational Tournament and was selected to Converse Magazine’s Madison Square Garden All-American Team that year. Clemons put his collegiate career on hold and enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II. He received the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement while serving in combat operations in the Philippines. Following the war, he returned to Toledo and graduated in 1949 with a bachelor’s degree in education. In 1981, Clemons was inducted into the Varsity T Hall of Fame. And he continued to make history at the University, becoming the first African-American president of the UT Alumni Association in 1993 and receiving the Minority Alumni Affiliate’s Outstanding Alumnus Award that year. In 1995, Clemons was presented the UT Alumni Association’s Blue T Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the progress and development of the association and the University. He served on the former Medical College of Ohio Board of Trustees from 1981 to 1986, and he was a former member of the UT Foundation Board of Trustees.