

UT surpasses capital campaign goal of \$100 million

By Jon Strunk

With five months yet to go in The University of Toledo's "The Time is Now" capital campaign, officials have announced that UT has exceeded its goal of \$100 million.

More than 40,000 University employees, alumni and friends donated to the campaign, which now stands at more than \$102 million, according to Vern Snyder, vice president for institutional advancement.

"This is an achievement that anyone who cares about The University of Toledo can share in and be proud of," Snyder said. "We asked for help transforming this University into a more powerful academic entity, a more powerful economic development engine, a more modern and compassionate health-care system, and our friends responded with incredible generosity."

UT President Lloyd Jacobs stressed now that UT's endowment has grown larger, more will be expected of the institution, both internally and when engaging external communities.

"Additional resources are certainly key to advances in research, instruction and learning, but even more important is the wisdom with which this University puts those resources to use to carry out our strategic plan, to enhance the learning experience for our students, and to continually strive for the excellence these gifts demand," Jacobs said.

Meeting with community leaders and alumni across the country in 2002 as the campaign was being planned and developed, Snyder said UT decided to focus the campaign on specific areas: endowed chairs and professorships, scholarships and student aid, capital projects and research.

As a basis for comparison, UT's previous capital campaign, UT40, raised \$50 million in the mid-1990s. Further, a report from a consultant asked to conduct a campaign feasibility study suggested that \$60 million was the best UT could expect this time.

UT officials had a better sense of what

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UT Medical Center readies for accreditation visit

By Jim Winkler

UT Medical Center physicians, nurses, therapists, administrators and other employees are getting ready for an accreditation visit from the Joint Commission — formerly the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations — that could occur anytime during the next two months.

Every three years, medical institutions are rigorously evaluated by the national nonprofit group that scrutinizes patient-care safety and quality — from communicating critical test results and eschewing unapproved abbreviations in patient charts to documenting the use of national patient safety goals and properly verifying patients' identity — before awarding accreditation.

The inspections are unannounced, intense, four-day visits to decide whether medical institutions meet the commission's roughly 250 standards that contain more

than 1,100 elements. Generally, hospitals will have just a 30-minute warning before the surveyors arrive.

Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, Health Science Campus provost, executive vice president for health affairs and College of Medicine dean, met with physicians on the hospital's medical staff Wednesday night and reminded them they have an indispensable role in the success of the visit and need to stay on their toes. It was the fourth talk he has given in the last two weeks to attending physicians, residents and students about the importance of a successful accreditation visit.

The hospital was last inspected in 2005, before the merger between UT and the former Medical University of Ohio, when it earned almost a perfect score with only four

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Photo by Jack Meade

EYE-CATCHING COLOR: Elise Gallerno, a sixth-grader from Perrysburg Junior High School, checked out paintings and a photo that were available to bid on during the silent auction at the UT Alumni Association's Kick-Off Gala that preceded Art on the Mall. About \$5,000 was raised to benefit the UT Alumni Association during the gala. Some 15,000 attended the 16th annual juried art fair.

UT selects new student health insurance carrier, offers expanded benefits

By Jim Winkler

The University of Toledo has selected a new health insurance carrier — Aetna Student Health — to replace two current providers and to offer more comprehensive coverage for students on Main and Health Science campuses.

Aetna will provide one plan for undergraduate, law and graduate students from all campuses and a separate plan for medical students. Last year, Maksin was the provider for students on Main Campus — which includes students on Toledo Museum of Art and Scott Park campuses — and Health Sciences Assurance Consulting/Medical Mutual of Ohio was provider for Health Science Campus students.

Aetna Student Health was selected because it will provide coverage for all UT students at a substantial savings compared to the quotes the University received from last year's companies with a guaranteed flat rate for both the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 academic years.

In addition, all students will have better prescription coverage, including vision and discount dental coverage, and they will be reimbursed 100 percent at the UT Medical Center and the student health centers on

both campuses, according to Dr. Patricia Metting, vice provost for student affairs on Health Science Campus and a member of the Student Health Insurance Advisory Committee (SHIAC) that recommended Aetna as the new provider after three months of study.

Like many other universities, UT requires students to have health insurance if they are enrolled for six or more on-campus hours. International students enrolled for one or more credit hours are mandated by the federal government to have insurance in order to attend UT. In addition, all medical students are required to have health insurance according to the accreditation standards for the program.

Students who are required to have health insurance are billed for the premium on their student account unless they prove that they are insured under their parents, spouses or employers or that they have another plan that offers comparable or better coverage than their respective Aetna Student Health plan sponsored by the University. An online waiver system has been set up through the self-services tab in the myUT

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Trustees advance two major endeavors

By Tobin J. Klinger

"Twenty-four months from today," responded Charles Lehnert, vice president for facilities and construction, when asked when the new home of the College of Pharmacy would open to students once approved by the Board of Trustees. And with last week's vote, the path was cleared for the next phase of work.

The board approved nearly unanimously \$25 million in funding for the pharmacy building, to be located between the Block Science Building and the Health Education Building on Health Science Campus.

Additionally, trustees voted to approve \$11 million in expenditures to go toward an indoor practice facility adjacent to Savage Hall Arena.

"These are two key facilities for the future of this great University," said President Lloyd Jacobs. "While there is still much work to do in terms of physical and financial planning, we are thrilled by our trustees' endorsement of moving these projects forward."

New title designed to more accurately reflect vice president's role

By Tobin J. Klinger

The scope of Lawrence J. Burns' work goes well beyond enrolling students, marketing the University and serving as chief spokesperson. He is often the primary public face of the University, getting involved in economic development initiatives, developing relationships with educational leaders around the region, and engaging the minority community.



Burns

the critical role he plays for the University."

Jacobs added, "Larry leads one of the most active and aggressive divisions of The University of Toledo, and we hope that this broader view of his role enables his group to help have positive impact on a larger number of strategic University initiatives."

"We have tremendous expertise across Enrollment Services, University Marketing, Health-Care Marketing, University Communications and the Center for Creative Instruction," Burns said. "And my division is eager to bring this knowledge to bear for the benefit of the entire University."

The title change was approved by the Board of Trustees July 28.

As a result, President Lloyd Jacobs has modified his title from vice president for enrollment, marketing and communications to vice president for external affairs.

"Larry is among our greatest institutional ambassadors," Jacobs said. "He is certainly one of our finest leaders and this new title is a more accurate description of

Capital campaign

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the University meant to so many alumni and community members.

"The result we are celebrating now is due to donors like Judith and Marvin Herb and their family, Chuck and Jackie Sullivan, Bob and Sue Savage, and Jack and Joan Jacobson, and so many others who know and have experienced what a UT degree can offer," Snyder said, highlighting just a few of many donors.

"But it's also thanks to the staff in Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations who have given so much of themselves and their time these last six years," he said.

Jacobs said UT President Emeritus Dan Johnson deserves much of the credit for the

successful campaign.

"This is not the first time, nor do I expect it to be the last, when I find myself at the conclusion of an initiative based on Dan Johnson's efforts and vision," Jacobs said.

"We have reached our goal and we will celebrate that achievement," he said. "But there is also more work to do, more places where an investment in a particular area of this University can mean the difference between good and great."

A celebration is scheduled in the newly renovated Memorial Field House Friday, Sept. 26, and another the following day at the UT vs. Florida International football game.

Accreditation visit

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requirements for improvement (RFI).

The longest hospitals can qualify for accreditation is three years.

The survey uses a method known as "tracer methodology" that gives the commission a view of a patient's stay in the hospital from the minute the patient enters to when he leaves and scores how the hospital processes functioned during the stay. Joint Commission surveyors will examine equipment, go through drawers and cabinets on patient-care units, review patient charts, and quiz staff about protocols, National Patient Safety Goals and staff responsibilities.

When hospitals do not meet one of the commission's standards, they are issued a "requirement for improvement" in that category. Hospitals with nine or fewer RFIs generally are accredited, while facilities with 16 or more are given a "preliminary denial" — and told to implement corrective measures.

Gold reminded the physicians of the importance of following critical protocols such as making sure patients list their medications when they are admitted, taking time out to verify a patient's identity and procedure and documenting that fact, documenting at set intervals whether patients on pain medication improve, communicating critical test results quickly, tracking patients' medications during transitions in care from an emergency room visit to admission to the ICU and subsequent transfer to a patient floor, washing hands between patient encounters, completing medical records in a timely manner, and avoiding dangerous and

prohibited abbreviations that can easily be misunderstood.

"Do the right thing," Gold stressed. "Compliance equals quality of care and quality of care equals compliance. It is the care that you would want for yourself or your immediate family."

Mark Chastang, vice president and medical center executive director, told managers at a meeting last Wednesday to stay vigilant and be ready on a moment's notice to welcome the surveyors.

"We are making great progress in preparing for the visit, but we still have work to do in some areas," Chastang said. "Our goal is to have no requirements for improvement."

Senior UT Medical Center administrators are meeting daily to discuss and resolve issues and are making readiness rounds in the hospital, visiting patient-care units to make sure they are complying with commission standards. Members of the Health Information Management Department also are conducting daily patient-record audits to make sure that physicians and nurses follow proper protocols.

The Illinois-based Joint Commission evaluates more than 15,000 health-care organizations and is the country's primary inspector of hospitals, nursing homes, and other medical institutions and programs. Its accreditation not only serves as a quality and safety check, but is necessary for hospitals to be able to bill the federal government for medical services.



Photo by Jack Meade

SPOT CHECK: In preparation for a visit from the Joint Commission, storage cabinets in the Urology Clinic were checked during "readiness rounds" last Friday by, from left, Norma Tomlinson, associate vice president and UT Medical Center associate executive director; Dr. Ronald McGinnis, associate professor of psychiatry, associate dean for clinical affairs, and UT Medical Center medical director; and Marge McFadden, hospital development administrator.

Center for Creative Instruction causes stir at conference

By Kim Harvey

Employees from the Center for Creative Instruction took a special guest to the New Media Consortium's annual conference in June.

The guest, a 914 PC-BOT robot named EmC (pronounced "em-cee") created a stir among participants after a presentation by Ted Ronau, manager of technology development, and Brian Szabo, software engineer. The robot, a modified version designed to be more interactive than the original, perfectly demonstrated the reason its creators were invited to present at the conference, which took place at Princeton University.

"The name of our program was 'A Dynamic Duo — Robotics and Enhanced Presentations,'" Ronau said. "We talked about how we had modified this computer on wheels so he could be used in everyday presentations to prospective students. Our goal was to make these presentations unique and different so people wouldn't walk away thinking, 'That's one of five other colleges I just saw.'"

With EmC as an ambassador, CCI has given its presentation a kick in the robotic pants. Housed primarily in Rocket Hall, EmC accompanies handler Nick Morgan, assistant director of undergraduate admission, to address potential students. CCI personnel enhanced the robot with interactive features, including a monitor with a "face" and a projector that plays video. EmC's movements are remotely controlled.

"He's brought a lot more interest to presentations," Ronau said. "The comments I hear are, 'It was neat,' 'It was cool,' 'It was different.' People even say they're going to bring their friends back to see him."

Which, Ronau pointed out, was the pur-



Photo by Daniel Miller

NOW PRESENTING: Meet EmC (pronounced "em-cee"), a 914 PC-BOT robot that gives presentations to prospective students with the help of handler Nick Morgan, assistant director of undergraduate admission.

pose of creating EmC in the first place.

Ronau and Szabo explained the art of developing innovative presentations. CCI colleague Brock Clagg, graphic designer/multimedia specialist, also discussed "Flash on Steroids," a review of how CCI stretched the software program to its engineering limits, with Szabo.

"We've worked quite a bit with the Flash program to do much more than its typical 2-D animation functions," Ronau said.

Examples included CCI's series of videos illustrating a diagnostic procedure called transesophageal echocardiogram, its *Anatomy & Physiology Revealed* program and an intranet site for the Honors Program.

The Honors Program site can be viewed at www.utoledo.edu/honors/explore.

Former Rocket headed to Beijing for Olympics

By Jennifer Gillan

Petra Teveli, University of Toledo alumna and former member of the Rockets track and field team, will represent Hungary in the marathon at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing Sunday, Aug. 17.

Teveli, 28, qualified for the event after surpassing the Olympic "A" standard in December 2007 when she ran a personal best time of 2:35:21. Teveli's time gave her a third-place ranking in Hungary, earning her the right to represent the country in the Olympics as each nation is allowed up to three participants per event if the "A" standard is met.

At UT, Teveli ranks as one of the top female distance runners in Rocket history as she helped lead Toledo to back-to-back Mid-American Conference cross country titles in 2001 and 2002. She was named First Team

All-MAC in 2001 in cross country, and she was named to the NCAA All-Region Team in 2001 and 2002. In 2002, Petra was the MAC Indoor Champion in the mile and named to the First Team All-MAC squad once again. She graduated in 2003 from University College with a bachelor of science degree in individualized programs in landscape architecture.

Teveli is ranked on the UT all-time lists in three categories: indoor mile (fourth with 4:54), indoor 3000-meter (fourth with 9:46) and outdoor 10K (fifth with 35:30).

After college, she went on to win the 2006 Hungarian National Championship in the marathon. She also finished fourth at the European "A" League Championships in the 5K with a personal best time of 16:14.



Photo by Jack Meade

UTVETS WECOMED HOME: "I present four heroes," said Mark Chastang, vice president and UT Medical Center executive director, as he joined more than 100 UT Medical Center employees to honor four UTMC staff members who recently returned from tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. The four who were saluted for their bravery at a meeting of hospital department managers were, from left, Rebecca Meyer, lab technician; Jeremy Campbell, operating room surgical technician; Terry Broshious, hospital aide in transport services; and Donald Dutridge, building operator. The veterans received certificates of appreciation, \$50 gift certificates and UT lapel pins. It was the second tour of duty in Iraq for Dutridge. At the conclusion of the presentation, the veterans received a standing ovation.

In memoriam

Jerry Bishop, Toledo, who worked at UT 23 years, died July 28 at age 81. He was hired in Maintenance in 1969 and that year began police training. He became a policeman in 1970 and retired from the University in 1992.

Jacqueline Hill, Toledo, who worked in Housekeeping at the former MCO Hospital, died July 28 at age 56.

Franklin C. "Buddy" Wallace Jr., Toledo, a custodian at UT from 1984 to 1988, died July 25 at age 50.

Law faculty member receives Fulbright, will teach in China

By Kathleen M. Amerkhanian

Law Associate Professor Bruce Kennedy has been chosen to receive a Fulbright Scholar grant to teach in China. He is the second College of Law faculty member in two years to receive that honor.

Kennedy will teach from February through mid-July 2009 at Xiamen University School of Law, which is located in a port town between Shanghai and Hong Kong situated across from Taiwan. During his time there, he'll teach a graduate class in American property law and an undergraduate course in legal research, and also assist the school in developing its law library.

He looks forward to the experience. "I'm honored to join the growing number of UT law professors to teach in the Fulbright program," Kennedy said. "I am very grateful for this opportunity to explore China's legal culture and to collect ideas and insights that will enrich my teaching at home."

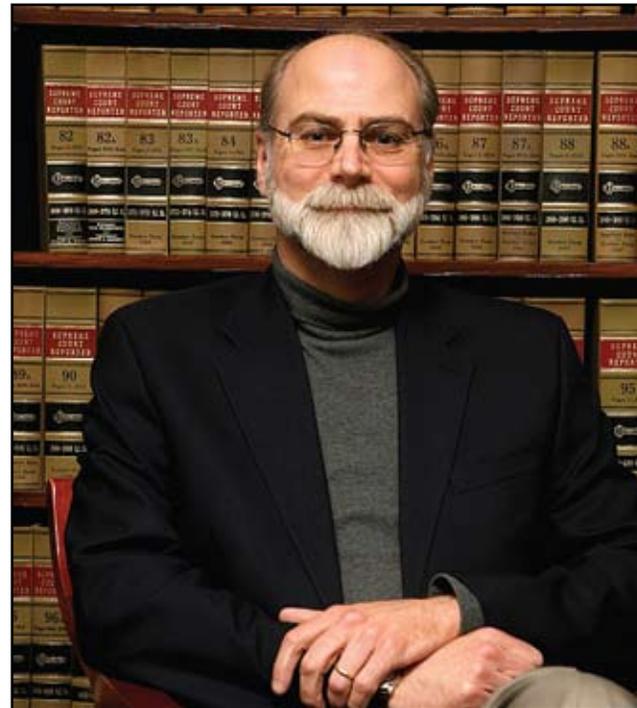
Kennedy, a faculty member since 1993,

joins three other College of Law faculty members who have received Fulbrights — Professor Llewellyn Gibbons, who taught in China in 2007-2008, Associate Dean Daniel Steinbock, and Charles W. Fornoff Professor of Law and Values Rebecca Zietlow.

Kennedy is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Minnesota. Prior to joining the UT faculty, Kennedy held positions at the Cornell and Georgetown law libraries. While in Washington, he testified before Congress and federal agencies on a wide range of information policy matters.

He has been active in a number of professional organizations, including the American Association of Law Libraries. He previously served as director of the LaValley Law Library in the UT College of Law.

In addition, Kennedy has published in the fields of privacy law and information policy. For six years, he was a member of and principal draftsman for the American



Kennedy

Association of Law Libraries Citation Formats Committee, which is designing uniform citation standards for citing legal materials in printed and digital formats.

About 800 U.S. faculty and professionals are chosen every year to participate in the Fulbright Scholar Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. The program was established in 1946 by the U.S. Congress to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries.

Student health insurance

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portal for students to request a waiver.

Aetna Student Health also will provide coverage to all eligible students who wish to enroll their spouses, domestic partners or children. Students can elect options through the waiver Web site and will be responsible for paying the additional premium directly to the insurance company.

Metting stressed that mandatory health insurance coverage for UT students is consistent with the University's mission "to improve the human condition," and its core values of wellness, healing and safety aimed at promoting students' physical and mental well-being and safety.

"The risk of some health problems, including respiratory infections, accidents and sexually transmitted diseases, is higher in the college population, so it's crucial that students have coverage," Metting explained. "Experience has shown that illness or injury can leave uninsured students with crippling medical bills that often force them to drop out of school. Uninsured students who become sick or injured and are forced to drop out also hurt the University's retention rate."

The plans are the result of work by the SHIAC, which consists of students, faculty, staff and administration representing all campuses and both student health centers. The committee sent out requests for bids last March, evaluated coverage and costs

contained in proposals submitted by five companies, and recommended Aetna Student Health to President Lloyd Jacobs and other senior administrative officials. Aetna Student Health's proposal was best in terms of price and coverage.

Metting said the new plan will benefit students because of the improved array of services, including easy referral to inpatient and outpatient health services offered by the UT Medical Center and other Toledo-area hospitals in the Aetna network of provider hospitals, and a two-year fixed rate.

"The fixed rate will be very beneficial for our students, given the double-digit increases in premiums both campuses endured last year and the national trends of increased medical and prescription costs, which are running an average of 10 to 12 percent annually for student plans," Metting said.

Because Aetna is a nationwide network, the health insurance will work in the other parts of the country.

Aetna Student Health also will administer all aspects of the plan, including the waiver process, with no broker and third-party parties involved, saving money.

For single undergraduate, law and graduate students on all campuses, premiums for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years will cost \$1,565. The quote by the University's current student health insur-

ance provider — Maksin — was \$1,704, a 29 percent increase over its 2007-2008 premium rate of \$1,325.

The Aetna policy also includes a \$1,000-a-year prescription benefit, up from \$750, eliminates a \$3,000 cap on inpatient/outpatient hospital miscellaneous expenses, covers the entire cost for treatment at the UT Medical Center, and eliminates the deductible for care rendered by members of University of Toledo Physicians Inc., the UT physicians' practice plan.

It also provides free screening for chlamydia and gonorrhea, physiotherapy for non-injury related conditions, full vision plan, an optional discount dental plan for \$25 a year, and medical evacuation and repatriation coverage for international students.

The plan, however, does not cover immunizations.

Premiums for students with spouses, domestic partners and children are higher.

By comparison, the annual premiums in 2008-2009 for students at the University of Michigan, Ohio State University and the University of Cincinnati are \$2,350, \$2,060 and \$1,736, respectively. Students at Cleveland State University, Bowling Green State University and Ohio University have lower premiums.

Under the basic plan for medical

students, single students will pay a \$2,006 annual premium, which is \$438 less than \$2,444 premium proposed by current provider Health Sciences Assurance Consulting/Medical Mutual of Ohio. The new basic plan also includes full vision and discount dental coverage, no co-pays for office visits to University Health Services, 100 percent reimbursement for all services obtained from the UT Medical Center and UT physicians, and replacement of the required mail order for prescriptions with pharmacy services at UT Medical Center and Student Medical Center pharmacies. The policy will pay \$1,000 per year for well child-care visits, up from \$500. Medical students can opt for an enhanced plan, which offers the same benefits as the basic plan but with 100 percent reimbursement for in-network charges. The annual premium for single coverage for the enhanced medical student plan is \$2,213, which is \$754 less than the proposed \$2,967 premium of Health Sciences Assurance Consulting/Medical Mutual of Ohio.

Metting said the committee worked very hard to keep premiums as low as possible for students while providing the most benefits.

Couple's support recognized in Driscoll Alumni Center

By Kim Harvey

The University of Toledo Foundation boardroom in the Driscoll Alumni Center has been renamed in honor of two longtime benefactors.

The recently renovated Dorothy and Ashel Bryan Boardroom honors a philanthropic couple whose legacy begins at the former Medical College of Ohio.

"The Bryans have been people of vision, and their generous gifts have signifi-

demically enhanced health education, research and patient care," said Jennifer Schaefer, director of development in Institutional Advancement. "Their steadfast support has helped the Health Science Campus change the lives of hundreds of students, patients, faculty, staff and community members."

Mr. Bryan, a retired banker, was a member of the Medical College of Ohio Board of Trustees from 1976 to 1985, serving as chairman for four years. "During his service, the former Medical College campus underwent a period of vibrant growth," Schaefer noted. "The hospital facility, Dowling Hall, the Lenore W. and Marvin S. Kobacker Center and the Eleanor N. Dana Conference Center all were built during this time."



Photo by Jack Meade

PICTURE OF GENEROSITY: Ashel Bryan, right, his son, David, a Toledo attorney and 1976 graduate of the College of Law, and his wife, Myrna, looked at the oil painting of he and his late wife, Dorothy, which was unveiled Sept. 24, 2003, at the dedication of the Dorothy and Ashel Bryan Boardroom in the former MCO Foundation building on Health Science Campus. The painting now hangs in the renamed Driscoll Alumni Center Dorothy and Ashel Bryan Boardroom.

Mr. Bryan, a retired banker, was a member of the Medical College of Ohio Board of Trustees from 1976 to 1985, serving as chairman for four years.

"During his service, the former Medical College campus underwent a period of vibrant growth," Schaefer noted. "The hospital facility, Dowling Hall, the Lenore W. and Marvin S. Kobacker Center and the Eleanor N. Dana Conference Center all were built during this time."

The Bryans' generosity has been most keenly felt on the Health Science Campus, where their donations supported an aca-

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Photos by Daniel Miller

CLAY CREATIONS: "Red Moon" and "My Tribute to the First Moon Shot" are part of the exhibit titled "The Work of Edith Franklin, A Life With, of, About, Around, in Clay," which is on display in the Center for the Visual Arts Gallery on the Toledo Museum of Art Campus. The free retrospective of the Toledo potter's work can be seen Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. through Sunday, Aug. 17.



Photo by Dan Adamski

NEWBORN NIGHTHAWK: Birdwatcher Dan Adamski, manager of mechanical and general maintenance on Health Science Campus, took this photo of the nighthawk that was nesting on the UT Medical Center roof and her chick. He reported that both eggs hatched, but one chick was camera-shy and hid underneath mom.

Why broad, general education?

By Dr. Lloyd A. Jacobs



An unintentional and largely salutatory consequence of the flattening and shrinking of our world is the intensifying debate about the role of education in our society. For decades, we have been complacent in our confidence that the American Dream was secure and that our educational system could withstand any onslaught from abroad. Not any longer! The flattening and shrinking have changed the economic balance between us and the rest of the world and caused a nearly panicky reassessment of higher education to see what's wrong.

The positive side of this reaction is that new attention is being given to the state of higher education, and in some instances at least, new funds have been appropriated to improve it. The great danger, however, lies in the potential for overemphasis of disciplines, which seem, at first glance, to have a greater impact on and more immediate connection to economic development.

The so-called STEM disciplines — science, technology, engineering and math — have received most of this emphasis in reports reinforcing the connection between education and economic development. Characteristic of such writing is the Commission for Higher Education and the Economy report issued by the state of Ohio in April 2004, which stated in part: “Ohio will achieve higher education’s full potential to create more and better jobs ... and full economic growth.” This seems to me to be a clear statement of the view that an important goal of education is the prosperity of Ohio. This conjecture is supported further in the report with the statement: “Ohioans’ participation and success in postsecondary education will improve the state’s economic vitality and competitiveness.” Finally, this train of logic is completed by the recommendation that Ohio should “increase the number and proportion of Ohioans with mathematics and science knowledge, skills and degrees.”

This thinking and the controversy raised by it is not limited to Ohio. On June 11, 2008, the Chronicle of Higher Education reported that the “Spellings team fought over emphasizing liberal arts,” and that the Department of Education in Washington, D.C., led by Margaret Spellings emphasized only “economically measurable” outcomes for higher education. This controversy caused the resignation of Assistant Secretary Diane Auer Jones, who believed it impossible to soften this view. The most important message from her resignation is that the STEM/economic development debate is widespread and unresolved.

One reaction to that debate is to construct an argument that the arts and humanities also contribute to individual and societal prosperity. Perhaps the best recent exposition of this position is the document, “Arts and Economic Prosperity III.” In it, Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts, states that those who “invest in the arts, reap the additional benefits of jobs, economic growth and a quality of life that positions those communities to compete in our 21st-century creative economy.” While this is to my mind undoubtedly true, it fails to address the question of the intrinsic value of these disciplines.

There are other ways of justifying a societal role for the arts and the humanities. Norman Mailer in *Advertisements for Myself* wrote: “I feel that the final purpose of art is to intensify, even, if necessary, exacerbate, the moral consciousness of people.” He fails in the interview quoted, and anywhere else, to my knowledge, to expand upon this thesis. Still, the message seems clear; the arts and humanities contribute to society by creat-

ing or honing moral consciousness and therefore teamwork, philanthropy and perhaps by extension the prompt paying of one’s taxes. Probably true, but a bit of a stretch, in my opinion, and probably an inadequate argument for arts and humanities to be taught in a state-supported university.

Yet another argument consists of the assertion that broadly educated people are more adaptable. Tim Dunne of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland analyzes “The Growth of Cities in the Fourth District,” observing that cities with more educated work forces have enjoyed greater growth. One hypothesis he discusses is that in rapidly changing environments, such as the change from a manufacturing economy to a knowledge economy, flexible people who are more adaptable workers are more likely to survive and thrive. He discusses the possibility that Rust Belt cities most of all require a work force able to reinvent itself and that this ability is enabled by higher education. My intuition is that this hypothesis is almost certainly correct and it does support a societal role for the arts and humanities.

The idea of adaptability may go deeper for the individual. In his groundbreaking book, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Thomas Samuel Kuhn stresses the dependence of scientific advancement on sudden “paradigm shifts” from conventional thinking. It seems to me that the broadly educated person is more likely to experience such shifts. Modern thinking about creativity stresses the importance of water cooler conversations and transdiscipline and even transcultural experience. I am convinced that the ability to think game-changing thoughts is fostered by broad exposure to visual and performing arts, literature and the social sciences. Furthermore, never in our history have “paradigm shifts” been such a necessity; our very survival depends on our ability to think new thoughts.

I believe that the arguments above, taken in the aggregate, are convincing that the arts and humanities create societal value, economic and otherwise, and therefore deserve a significant place in the curriculum of state universities. They do much more than simply play a subservient role to the “Holy Grail” of economic prosperity.

Nevertheless, why should an individual need to devote his or her life to one of these disciplines? Ultimately, it is the degree to which these endeavors illustrate, perhaps only metaphorically, the ineluctable realities of the human condition and the mystery of being and death that makes these studies essential to a truly lived life. Ralph Waldo Emerson “On being asked, whence is the flower?” did not reply in botanical terms, nor by saying that flower gardens attract economic growth. He replied in the poem titled “The Rhodora” that “Beauty is its own excuse for being.” I take this to mean that it enhances human life as a fundamental value, which is a given in our universe. Excellence in the arts and humanities are to be valued similarly.

Jacobs, M.D., is president of The University of Toledo.

Next month, the second issue of The University of Toledo’s newest publication, *Improving the Human Condition*, will be circulated to higher education opinion leaders around the country. The essays on pages 6 and 7 will be published in that issue.

If you are interested in submitting an essay for consideration for inclusion in *Improving the Human Condition* or *UT News*, contact Tobin J. Klinger, senior director of university communications, at tobin.klinger@utoledo.edu.

On ‘The Human Condition’

By Dr. Ben Pryor



A prospective student and his father sit across from me around my book-strewn office table to talk about UT’s undergraduate major in philosophy. The father asks, “What can one do with a degree in philosophy?” We get this question a lot in our discipline, and so my answer is as practiced as it is heartfelt: Philosophy imparts skills in critical thinking, trains students to develop sensitivity to the power and peril of good and bad arguments, and gives the undergraduate the intellectual tools necessary to adapt and learn in an ever-changing, highly technical job market in which lifelong learning skills are no longer a luxury. I conclude with this: “Philosophy is the discipline that is concerned with the human

condition, with making sense of our world, our language and our ethical choices.” So far, so good.

Then I forget myself and say just one more thing: “More than anything, philosophy reminds us that the only way to improve the human condition is by going beyond it.” I look down at my tabletop and stare at the gap between the glass and the wood and the milky design left by the evaporating varnish, and I take a deep breath.

“Going beyond” our own condition is not an easy thought, but it is really an important one for philosophy, old and new. If the human condition is fixed in place, we risk a portion of our freedom, for human dignity is bound up with being able to create a new kind of life, to fashion new concepts and ways of thinking that come from experience and that transform the world. When we decide in advance what the human condition is by reducing it to our lives as workers or earners, for example, we put that freedom at risk. But this has not stopped philosophers — or anyone speaking in a philosophical idiom — from trying to fix the human condition, and they always botch it. Plato’s “noble lie” — that we are born into a hierarchy — is an early reminder that this fixation is connected with power and a forgetting of the perspectives that make up a complex democracy. Descartes decided that he was a “thinking thing” and then struggled to recover his belief in his own body, oblivious to the pleasure of sitting in his pajamas in front of a blazing fire. We lose perspectives if we fix too firmly on this or that conception of “the human condition” and what it would take to improve it.

That is not to say that various disciplines and professions — philosophy included — should not attempt to address or fix our society’s problems. Doctors heal, lawyers argue, engineers build, planners plan, and many practitioners are informed by views of “the human condition” that motivate or sustain them. Sometimes the vision of the human condition is uplifting, and sometimes it is skeptical (as in, “people are basically selfish” or “we are all sinners”), and sometimes it is undefined or formed in an abusive context that has a distorting effect. From a philosophical perspective, the danger is when these hopeful or skeptical visions block out a real appreciation of the complexity of life.

The academic disciplines of the liberal arts (the arts, sciences, humanities and social sciences) provide scholarly and informed perspectives on how all of this fits together — and how it might fit together in a possible, better future. Specifically, philosophy reminds us that as wild, difficult and complex as the human condition will always be — and as approximate as our attempts to fix it will always be — we can through dialogue and careful thinking take small, creative steps toward understanding the present and the future in all its wildness. Given this, it might seem strange that “the human condition” remains an aspiration. We, as a university, do want to improve the human condition, to

make life more livable and sustainable for our generation and for the next ones, too. So philosophy clarifies what livability and sustainability are. Is sustainability merely persistence, learning how to “sustain” activities we know to be destructive, or does it involve a rethinking of our economic and social practices from the earth up, so to speak? Philosophy, though the quintessential “STEM” discipline, may not help build the next source of renewable energy or administer medical cures. But philosophy can help students think about questions of justice, fairness and value, and to become more sensible, humane professionals. Reasoned, critical inquiry into what we can know and what we ought to do should guide what we teach and learn at our university, because all of UT’s graduates, regardless of their academic majors, will have an important role to play in deciding how the goods of technology and the professions are distributed, and in judging their effects on our lives.

I try to say most of this to my visitors and soon realize I’m giving an unwanted lecture. I am sure I haven’t answered the “job” question. There are, after all, very few job descriptions with “philosopher” in the title. But as most business and political leaders will tell you, success and advancement in any career depend on, if not a philosophical turn of mind, a sense of freedom and a commitment to self-reflection to meet adequately emerging opportunities in the global economy. If my visitor returns, I hope he will see all of his classes as questions and his professors as willing and able partners in a dialogue that will play out through the rest of his life. Then he will have gone beyond the human condition.

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**Look for the next issue
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UTNEWS

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Photo by Jack Meade

RECOLLECTIONS: Longtime College of Medicine faculty member Dr. Haig Donabedian, professor of medicine and of medical microbiology and immunology, center, talked with department colleagues, from left, Drs. Akira Takashima, Mark Wooten, Paul Lehmann and Robert Blumenthal, at his recent retirement reception. An infectious diseases specialist, Donabedian joined the faculty of the former Medical College of Ohio in 1982 and was chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases from 1990 to 2003. Before joining MCO, he spent four years at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. Donabedian, who was born in Beirut, Lebanon, and came to the United States in 1955, won four prestigious Robert T. Tidrick Golden Apple teaching awards that are presented by the graduating class of medical students and two teaching awards given by resident physicians. In 2005, he won a service award from the Ohio Department of Health for his work with HIV/AIDS patients. "I will miss looking at microscope slides and teaching residents and students," Donabedian said. "I plan to swim, garden and read, and I will return to give some lectures to the medical students."



Photo by Daniel Miller

READY TO ROLL: Rick Seward, supervisor of grounds on Main Campus, right, shared a few laughs with, from left, Michael Kosmatak, maintenance repair journeyman, and David Schock, refrigeration mechanical journeyman, during his retirement party last week. Seward worked at UT 31 years, starting as a custodian in the Student Union and then Bowman-Oddy Laboratories. He then transferred to Grounds and worked on Main and Scott Park campuses. In 1981, he was named groundskeeper supervisor on Scott Park Campus and was reassigned to Main Campus in 2006 as groundskeeper supervisor. In June, he received one of UT's Outstanding Staff Awards. "I like the diversity of the Grounds Department and working outside. I will miss the men on the Grounds crew," Seward said. "My retirement plans include camping, fishing, hunting and riding my Harley."



Photo by Jack Meade

ALL SMILES: Carol Szkutnik, staff nurse in pediatrics and her husband, Dennis, left, enjoyed a laugh with Dr. David Krol, chairman of the College of Medicine's Department of Pediatrics, at her retirement party. Szkutnik, who joined the former Medical College of Ohio in 1978, worked 10 years in the MCO Hospital Pediatrics Intensive Care Unit, caring primarily for children who underwent surgical repairs for life-threatening congenital heart defects, and another 20 years in the Pediatric Outpatient Clinic, including seven as manager. "The Peds ICU truly impacted the lives of thousands of children," she said, recalling the skill and knowledge of the dozens of physicians, nurses, therapists and others who worked in the unit. "The decisions that we made were truly life and death. I loved taking care of those kids." Szkutnik, who earned her nursing degree from Ohio University, plans to spend time with her two daughters — Jennifer, a Flower Hospital staff nurse, and Melissa, a sophomore at Ohio University and a scholarship member of the women's volleyball team — son, Robert, who is on active duty with the U.S. Army and returned in May from a tour of duty in Iraq, and her 18-month-old granddaughter, Berkley. She also plans to go jet skiing and work on scrapbooks.



Photo by Daniel Miller

CONGRATS! Bill Logie, vice president for human resources and campus safety, congratulated Greg Sendelbach, painter journeyman, who retired last week after 29 years working at the University. He joined the UT staff in 1979 and worked in Grounds for about 10 years before transferring to the Paint Shop. When asked what he liked about working at the University, Sendelbach replied, "Getting paid," adding, "and the camaraderie of my co-worker friends." And retirement plans? "We will travel, mostly in the South, garden, decorate for Christmas — festive living!"