

Tower Talk

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



*UTRA President
Dr. Lance Talmage*

As the new President of UTRA, I am honored to represent such a distinguished group of people who have given so much to the education of our youth. While our membership is only a fraction of those eligible to join, those who do belong have contributed greatly to the vitality of this organization.

As retirees, it is essential that we keep our minds active and our bodies engaged—and that is exactly what UTRA offers. Pathfinders combines walking with explorations of local history and culture. Book

Buddies engages serious readers, often including Zoom sessions with authors for deeper insights into contemporary literature (the desserts are a sweet bonus!).

Our monthly lectures and site visits explore local history, culture, travel, and other subjects of interest. We also sponsor an annual five-day bus trip to visit historic areas within a comfortable distance of Toledo.

I encourage you to join us for the interdisciplinary exchange, diverse intellectual stimulation, and warm camaraderie that define UTRA. Spread your wings beyond your area of specialization—and even better, share your own knowledge and experiences with the rest of us.

UTRA CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY AT ANNUAL MEETING

UTRA kicked off its 30th anniversary celebration at the annual meeting held at the Belmont Country Club on June 11.

The meeting opened with a presentation honoring the past presidents of UTRA and the MUO retirees association, which was assembled by the UTRA 30th anniversary committee, chaired by Lynn Hutt.

Matthew Schroeder, interim president, gave the keynote address. Schroeder began by noting that like members of UTRA, he too had deep roots at The University of Toledo and the former Medical College of Ohio, spending half of his career to date on each campus. His talk provided an overview of activities at the University over the 13 months of his interim administration, and how he had worked to transition the University to its new president, Dr. James Holloway, who began his tenure on July 15.

Schroeder stated that among the University's achievements of the last year was receiving the Carnegie Foundation Research 1 classification, making UT the only university in northwest Ohio with such a designation. The process to achieve Research 1 status required many years of building the research endeavor. "This could not have been done without our faculty," Schroeder added.

He noted that one of the most important UT research facilities is the Lake Erie Research Center, which has been at the forefront of efforts to protect the region's water supply. Schroeder said a clean water source will lead to a resurgence in northwest Ohio's economic development and ensure healthy living conditions.



UTRA's 2025 executive committee members.

NEWS FROM COLUMBUS

By James Lapp

STRS OHIO

The composition of the STRS board of trustees is changing. As conferees from the Ohio House and Senate met late June to reconcile their different versions of the state budget bill, a last-minute provision regarding STRS was inserted, reportedly by representative Adam Bird (R), chair of the Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC).

The provision changes the makeup of the board from seven elected members (five contributing teachers and two retired members) and four appointed members to three elected members and eight appointed members. Two of the elected seats will be for active members and only one for a retiree member. Four new seats will be filled with additional appointed members. Currently, the Governor, Treasurer of State, and Director of the Department of Education and Workforce each appoint one member, and the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate jointly appoint one. The four new appointed members will be chosen by the Chancellor of Higher Education, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, and a second member by the Treasurer of State.

Elected members currently on the board will be able to finish their term, but once those terms end, only three seats will be refilled. Also, elected members (members with contributions in the pension fund) will no longer be able to serve as either board chair or vice chair. The newly appointed members can have no such contributions on deposit in the fund. Two other items in the provision specify that appointed members serve at the pleasure of those who appoint them, and appointed members are to receive \$200 for each regular board meeting they attend plus healthcare.

The motivation for these changes seems to stem from legislative concerns over the turmoil and unfavorable publicity surrounding STRS, and by the possibility that elected board members could vote to hire an outside company with a limited track record and an unproven investment strategy to manage much of STRS's investments.

At its June meeting, the board voted to select Steven C. Toole as the next permanent Executive Director of STRS Ohio. The vote was 6-5 in favor. He started July 14, and replaced Aaron Hood, who had served as interim Executive Director since November 2024. Toole previously managed the public pension

systems in North Carolina and was most recently a senior product manager for Principal Financial Group in Iowa.

In other action, the board approved healthcare premiums for calendar year 2026. Aetna will continue to be the plan administrator for all enrollees and CVS Caremark will continue to provide prescription coverage. Benefit recipients receiving the maximum subsidy will have a monthly premium charge of \$37. Non-Medicare recipients receiving the maximum subsidy will pay \$340 monthly. Additional details are available on the STRS website.

Meketa, the board's investment consultant, shared results of its quarterly report on STRS's investment performance for the period ending March 31, 2025. They reported that for the five-year period as of March 31, 2025, STRS posted an annualized net return of 10.98% versus the total fund benchmark of 10.54 percent. Additionally, STRS's trailing five-year net return ranked near the top 20 percent of peers while exhibiting less risk than the median of Meketa's public defined benefit plan universe. The board also voted to adopt the system's operating and capital budgets for fiscal year 2026. The operating budget totals \$129.1 million, a 9.2 percent increase over the last fiscal year budget. The capital budget totals \$7.6 million, which is 10.9 percent lower than last year.

OPERS

OPERS has released its annual financial reports for the year ending December 31, 2024. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the abbreviated Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) provide a detailed look at the financial, investment, actuarial and demographic details of the pension system. Both are available for review at opers.org. Included in the reports:

- The OPERS defined benefit plan fund ended 2024 with a market value of \$106.9 billion.

The funded status of the pension fund was 82.8 percent. The unfunded liability of \$22.1 billion was expected to be funded within 15 years (well within the 30-year funding window).

Membership reached more than 1.32 million, including 221,498 retirees, 316,214 active members and 785,889 inactive members.

- OPERS made pension benefit payments of \$7.5 billion, up from \$7.2 billion in 2023.

- Healthcare expenses (net of healthcare

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PATHFINDERS LEAD THE WAY TO FUN AND EXERCISE

By Kathy Wilson

Whether you're into food, walking, nature or meeting new people, UTRA's Pathfinders could be a great fit.

The group walks at 10:30 a.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month (except December) in the Toledo area, choosing trails for all ability levels.

Since starting in 2021, the Pathfinders have visited every Metropark, as well as college campuses and many nature preserves. Walks last about

an hour, and future locations will include the Toledo Botanical Garden, Toledo Zoo and Fleitz Pumpkin Patch.

Walking not your thing? Meet the members at the selected restaurant at the end of walk!

For details about walks and restaurants, visit the UTRA Facebook page. We hope to see you for a future walk or meal!



Spotted on a recent Pathfinders walk.

Photo by Vicki Kroll

BOOK BUDDIES CONNECT THROUGH READING

The UTRA Book Buddies group meets at 2PM on the 1st Wednesday of every month at the Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement, 4500 Dorr Street. The group reads an assigned book, and members join in an informal discussion.

The schedule of books to be discussed during the rest of 2025 is:

- November 5 *The Bookshop*, by Evan Friss
- December 3 *Sipsworth*, by Simon Van Booy

UTRA ELECTION RESULTS

The following are the election results for UTRA leadership for 2025-2026:

Lance Talmage, president
Lynn Hutt, vice president
Jan Whitaker, secretary
Cecelia Clarke, member-at-large
John McSweeney, member-at-large
Kathy (Bielski) Wilson, member-at-large

"\$30 FOR 30 YEARS" FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

As UTRA wraps up its 30th anniversary celebration, it is continuing to collect donations as part of its "\$30 for 30 Years" fundraising campaign in support of its scholarship programs. Please consider donating \$30—or any amount—to help University of Toledo students. You can scan the QR code to link directly with the fund page, or go to tol-edo.org/UTRA30.



Scan to Donate

SATELLITES AUXILIARY VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

By Augusta Askari and Dorothea Sawicki

The Satellites Auxiliary Volunteers of The University of Toledo was founded in 1975 at the then Medical College of Ohio. In 2025, the group is celebrating 50 years of service — its golden anniversary.

The Satellites' purpose is to support The University of Toledo through education, service, volunteerism, research, and community outreach. For half a century, its mission has endured through unwavering dedication to these ideals.

Over the decades, the organization has adapted to many changes from the Medical College of Ohio to the Medical University of Ohio and now The University of Toledo while remaining steadfast in its support. Satellites' volunteers are among the University's closest allies, donors, and community advocates.

Since 1975, the Satellites have donated about \$4 million and millions of service hours to UToledo. They provide annual student scholarships and have helped fund specialized equipment for Cardiac Rehabilitation, Radiation Oncology, the Morse Center, the Emergency Department, and the

Kobacker Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital.

The Satellites also collaborate with other University groups, including UTRA, on fundraising and outreach. Volunteers and UTRA members continue traditions such as providing stuffed animals to children in UPMC and Kobacker, creating monthly tray favors for patients, and supporting the College of Medicine and Life Sciences' S. Amjad Hussein Medical History Lecture Series.



Thea Sawicki, 20th president of the Satellites, and Pat Windham, founding president.

Members of both Satellites and UTRA include Amira Gohara, Augusta Askari, Cheryl Baker, Laurie Flowers, Lois Hupp, Lena Jhunjhunwala, Mary Fran Liebherr, Beverly McCarthy, Carol Okenka, Deb Pfann, Roberta Raeder, Thea Sawicki, Keith Schlender, Kathy Sbrocchi, Cathy Taylor, Pat Windham, Sue Winterhalter, and Kay Langenderfer. Other UTRA members are welcome to join by contacting Thea Sawicki at Dorothea.sawicki@utoledo.edu.

As the Satellites mark their golden anniversary, they remain committed to serving and supporting The University of Toledo, its students, retirees, and the broader community for years to come.

NEWS FROM COLUMBUS CONT.

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receipts) for 2024 were \$0.5 billion, about the same as the previous year.

- The OPERS defined benefit fund returned (net of fees) 8.82 percent, above the assumed rate of return of 6.9 percent. The healthcare portfolio returned 10 percent, above its assumed rate of return of 6 percent. Total portfolio return, combining the returns of the pension and healthcare funds, was 9.08 percent.

- For retirees in the traditional plan, the average age was 71.5 years, the average service credit in years was 23.4, and the average annual benefit was \$33,369.

- Last year, OPERS had 80 members who were more than 100 years old, with the oldest being 109.

- OPERS is good for members and good for Ohio. It is the largest public pension fund in the state,

and the 14th largest in the United States. For every dollar received from public employers in 2024, \$3.04 was returned to the Ohio economy through pension and healthcare payments made to retirees. OPERS invests \$2.1 billion of assets with Ohio-based companies.

Cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) have been determined for 2026. Those retirees with a benefit effective date prior to January 7, 2013, will receive an automatic 3 percent COLA. The COLA for those who retired after that date is based on the CPI-W from the end of June 2024 to the end of June this year, with a maximum adjustment of 3 percent. For 2026, the OPERS CPI-based COLA will be 2.6 percent. OPERS uses the same index as Social Security, but the time period is different, so the adjustments may not always match up.

UTRA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

By Pete Papadimos, UTRA Scholarship Committee Chair

The Scholarship Committee reviewed the applications submitted this year for UTRA scholarships, which are earmarked for descendants of UTRA members. This year the committee reviewed the applications from four qualified students. Based on their academic record and essays, three students were awarded scholarships. The students selected for the 2025–2026 UTRA scholarships are:

- Katherine Bode will be a junior pre-nursing major in the College of Health and Human Services. Bode's goal is to obtain a bachelor of science degree in nursing to work in emergency room medicine. Her career choice was inspired by the medical care her family members received after an accident. Bode is a descendant of Linda Bode and Gerald Heuring. She will receive a \$1,500 scholarship.
- Margaret Bode will be a senior marketing/management dual major in the College of Business and Innovation. Bode seeks a career in sports management with a goal to break down gender barriers that persist within the field. She is also a descendant of Linda Bode and Gerald Heuring. Bode will receive a \$1,500 scholarship.
- Allison Organ will be a junior early childhood education major in the Judith Herb College of Arts, Social Science and Education. Organ seeks a career in teaching focused on a safe and inclusive environment where no child is left behind. She is a descendant of Billie Orgrodowski. Organ will receive a \$500 scholarship.

The Scholarship Committee would like to remind UTRA members that donations to the UTRA Scholarship Fund are accepted by the UT Foundation at any time. Recent donations have permitted us to increase the total amount of dollars awarded this year to \$3,500. The UTRA Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$93,863.71 with \$73,473 of this as endowed funds. Also, if your children are attending The University of Toledo, please encourage them to include the UTRA Scholarship as one of the financial aid programs on their annual application.

A special thanks to Augusta Askari, Celia Regimbal, Jim Lapp and Andy Jorgensen for serving on the 2025 Scholarship Committee.

WELCOME THE NEWEST RETIREES AND UTRA LIFETIME MEMBERS

NEW RETIREES

Denise Alexander
Elizabeth Anderson
William Ankney
Armando Bejarano
Pamela Bettinger
Mark Billmaier
Robert Bruno
Emaline Bunting
Kelly Burgin
Dr. Mark Camp
Tonya Crawford
Sharon Dietrich
Lynne Downes
Dr. James Ferris
Cynthia Fisher

Sandra Marie Frantz
Llewellyn Gibbons
Ricky Gonzales
Jefferey Hammer
Jeff Hartford
Renee Hartford
Teresa Hayes
Jodi Hess
Jeffrey Jacobs
Joy Kauzlick
Lisa King
Richard Kruzel
Ann Lopez
Dr. Randa Mansour-Shousher
Lisa McKay

Debra Miller
Holly Monsos
Richard Mulac
Dixie Newell
Katherine O'Connell
Michelle O'Neil
Heidi Parrill
Richard Rauser
Dr. Pamela Rogers
Dr. Linda Rouillard
Myrna Rudder
Dr. Constance Schall
John Setlock
Vanessa Smith
Dr. Berhane Tecle-haimanot

Dr. Mark Templin
Scott Thompson
Dr. Kathleen Thompson-Casado
Kelly Tipton
Sherry Tripepi
David Weis
Ames E. Williams
James Williams
Miranda Lam Yeung
Brenda Young
Karen Zawisza

LIFETIME

Dr. James LeSage
Mary Beth McCreedy

UTRA: 30 YEARS OF WORK AND NOT READY TO RETIRE

By Barbara Floyd, editor of *Tower Talk*

Editor's Note: This is an updated version of the article that appeared in the Spring 2020 *Tower Talk* that detailed the history of UTRA at 25.

"The UTRA organization is a valuable, indeed critical, organization for the University. Its membership provides an active living memory of personal contributions to the building of The University of Toledo.... There is no substitute for the knowledge that the faculty and staff retirees carry with them about what the University has meant to the many lives of the students and employees of the University, as well as the citizens of Toledo and northwest Ohio."

With these eloquent words, UTRA President Dr. Richard Perry summarized the significance of the organization in an article appearing in *Tower Talk* in 2003. As we celebrate UTRA's 30th anniversary in 2025 (and what would have been the Medical University of Ohio Retirees Group 35th anniversary), it seems like an appropriate time to take a step back and examine the legacy of these groups in serving those who served the University through a lifetime of work.

The roots of UTRA date back to 1994, when initial discussions with interested retirees were held. The organizational meeting for the group was held on February 28, 1995, in the Schmackel Alumni Center. It was decided then that the group should be named UTRA, and following a series of additional planning meetings, bylaws for the group were approved on April 17. The formation of the group was announced on May 15, and all retirees were invited to a brunch in the Driscoll Center on June 11 (coincidentally, the same date as the UTRA annual meeting in 2025). More than 125 people attended that brunch, and its success led to scheduling a holiday brunch in December in the Ingman Room of the Student Union (another tradition that continues today).

The mission of the organization as stated in the bylaws was to work for the well-being of its members by providing or promoting: ways to improve the economic conditions of members, ways to improve the health of members, opportunities for continuing service to the University, assistance or information to surviving spouses or family in the case of illness or death,

social and recreational activities, and involvement in community volunteer activities.

The initial Retired Faculty/Staff Committee Roster included Jim and Marilyn Arbaugh, Art and Virginia Black, Jim and Eleanor Brunner, Helen Douglas, Ed and Dorothy Ebert, Tom and Ellen Gibney, Lloyd and Betty Lapp, Leslie and Ruth Lahti, George Murnen, Bob and Mary Niedzielski, Richard Perry, Bob and Mary Schlembach, Willard and Nadine Smith, Stephen Spielberg, George and Jane Taoka, Jim Thomas, Lance and Naomi Thompson, and Bill and Joan Wiersma. The first officers were President James Brunner; Vice President Lance Thompson; Secretary Willard Smith; Treasurer George Taoka; Historian Lloyd Lapp; and members-at-large Bob Schlembach, Jim Thomas, Jim Arbaugh, Art Black, Helen Douglas and Stephen Spielberg.

Almost immediately, the UTRA board began advocating on behalf of its members by asking the University administration to provide access to dental and vision care insurance — insurance then unavailable through the state retirement systems. In the fall, the University agreed to allow UTRA members to purchase such insurance at a group rate, a benefit that they retained until 2007.

After the busy first two years, UTRA settled into its work of assisting members and providing social activities. UTRA joined the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees, a statewide group that collaborates on issues of interest to all state

university retirees, particularly the benefits provided by STRS and OPERS. In May 1998, OCHER held its first state conference in Columbus, with the theme of "Retirees Helping Retirees." UTRA's representatives to this organization (particularly Jim Lapp) have worked diligently over the past 30 years to monitor the actions of the state pension boards and to advocate on behalf of its members.

Dr. Richard Perry organized a project in 2000 in conjunction with University Archives to record oral history interviews with UToledo retirees. Working with faculty in the College of Education, the project encouraged retirees to record audio interviews that would detail important events in their careers and comment on their contributions to the University.



*Outgoing UTRA President
Andy Jorgensen, and
incoming President Lance
Talmage.*

In 2004, UTRA undertook a major service project when it created the UTRA Scholarship Fund. The intent of the fund was to award scholarships to direct descendants of UTRA members or deceased members.

With the proposed merger of The University of Toledo and the Medical University of Ohio announced in 2006, the boards of UTRA and MUOR appointed a task force to see how the two groups might merge. In May, the task force report was accepted by the boards of both groups. Committees were appointed to look at specific issues, including benefits, social activities, finances and scholarships. On September 19, 2006, the merger became official. MUOR president Roberta Raeder expressed the sentiment of many when she stated in *Tower Talk*, "As retirees, we should be very proud of our gifts to the institution and should now carry these gifts forward to be a part of the evolution of this great institution — The University of Toledo."

Two Important charitable activities were undertaken in 2008 and 2009. In 2008, Augusta Askari asked each UTRA member attending the holiday brunch to bring a stuffed animal to be given to children admitted to the UT Medical Center to provide comfort in a time of stress. In 2009, UTRA agreed to purchase a plaque for the new Veterans' Plaza on the UT Main Campus. The initiative was spearheaded by Dr. Richard Perry, past UTRA board president.

The success of UTRA was recognized in 2012 when the organization was named UToledo Alumni Affiliate of the Year for the first time. It would be recognized as such three additional times — in 2014, 2019 and 2024. The first award was presented to the group at the groundbreaking for the William and Carol Koester Alumni Pavilion. It was noted that UTRA was one of the most active of alumni groups, with more than 40 events throughout the year. The scholarship funds (both the UTRA and the Medical College retirees scholarships) were also noted as a reason for the award.

In 2014, a new activity called Book Buddies was started. In 2015, *Tower Talk* included an article in honor of the 40th anniversary of the UTRC Satellites Auxiliary, which noted that the group had donated more than \$5 million and thousands of volunteer hours to MCO and UTRC throughout its history. In 2016, UTRA's new Facebook group was announced.

In addition to these historical mileposts, UTRA has offered countless seminars, lectures, social events and bus trips throughout its 30 years. The first bus trip was to Grand Rapids, Mich., in 2000. Since that trip, UTRA members have had the chance to visit Chicago, Washington, Boston,

Branson, Toronto, Cape Cod and Montreal, and most recently Mackinaw Island and Colonial Williamsburg. The bus trips have provided opportunities for UTRA members to experience travel companionship at reasonable prices.

Since celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2020, UTRA has continued its service to members. Educational programming continued throughout the pandemic by moving presentations to a virtual setting, including the annual wine tasting offered by Jim Sautter of Sautter's market, a firsthand account of 35 years of research in Egypt by UT retiree Dr. James Harrell, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Toledo Zoo. Recent in-person programs have focused on subjects as broad ranging as the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald, a history of Civil War medicine, and a look at white supremacy groups.

In 2021, UTRA fought hard to maintain free on-campus parking for retirees, but was unsuccessful. UTRA leadership will continue to advocate for this benefit.

The Philanthropy Committee was established in 2024 to raise funds for UTRA projects. A "\$30 for 30 Years" special emphasis solicitation tied together UTRA's anniversary focused on raising money for the UTRA and Heath Science Campus Retirees scholarships. The Philanthropy Committee has also focused on raising funds for the UToledo Rocket Fuel Pantries.

A new activity group called the Pathfinders was established two years ago. The group meets twice a month for a pleasant but invigorating walk, followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant.

UTRA also participated in the celebration of the University's 150th anniversary in 2022. UTRA member Barbara Floyd, former university archivist, researched and wrote the 150th history of the University, *An Institution for the Promoting of Knowledge: The University of Toledo at 150*.

In addition, UTRA at 30 continues what it has always done: updating members on the state retirement systems through regular reports from the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (including the most recent controversial events surrounding STRS); organizing the annual meeting and holiday brunch; and publishing the *Tower Talk* newsletter twice a year, which includes notices of the passing of colleagues, compiled by UTRA member Vicki Kroll.

As UTRA wraps up its 30th anniversary celebration, members should be proud to know that the group continues its mission of service. Even if it has been working for 30 years, UTRA is not ready to retire!

UTRA CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY AT ANNUAL MEETING

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On the downside, Schroeder noted that all academic institutions are facing strong headwinds, with economic pressures at both the federal and state governments. To ensure viable academic programs, the University has implemented a rigorous program review requirement, and some programs were merged or eliminated as a result of Senate Bill 1, which established minimum numbers of graduates per year. The law also included new limitations on how curriculum could be presented in the classroom.

Not only are academics undergoing rapid change, so too are athletics. Schroeder noted that the requirement to pay student-athletes for use of their images has meant that some are being represented by talent agents, who can take advantage of them. Schroeder said the University is focused on graduation rates to ensure student-athletes are successful in their post-university lives.

The University's physical environment has also undergone change over the past year.

In particular, the Academic House and the International House have been demolished, and the locations turned into green spaces. When enrollment stabilizes, new housing built with public-private partnerships will replace these residence halls.

The primary goal for the immediate future, Schroeder said, was increasing enrollment. This will be difficult with new federal regulations governing international students, who currently make up 10 percent of the student population. The University is going to focus recruitment on the local region and transfer students. "Our role as a regional public university is to educate and keep young people in our state," he said.

After Schroeder's speech, UTRA President Andy Jorgensen thanked the outgoing UTRA board members for their service, including Laurie Flowers and Tom Mehalas. President Jorgensen was also serving his last term on the board.

IN MEMORIAM

Sharon M. (Myers) Ahrens, Toledo, who volunteered with the Satellites Auxiliary, died Aug. 12 at age 94.

Dr. David C. Allison, Rossford, professor emeritus of surgery, died July 17 at age 83. He joined the MCO faculty in 1992 as professor and chair of surgery. He received tenure in 1996 and one year later received a joint appointment in the Department of Physiology and Molecular Biology. Allison retired from clinical practice in 2015 and from the University in 2017. He was rehired as director of the Advanced Microscopy and Imaging Center in 2017 and worked until 2023. Allison was named professor emeritus in 2024.

Dr. Harvard L. Armus, Toledo, professor of psychology who

taught for nearly six decades, died May 29 at age 96. He joined the UT faculty in 1960 and retired in 2009. Armus continued to teach part time until 2019.

Guy T. Barone, Toledo, died June 6 at age 78. He received a law degree in 1972 and later returned to his alma mater to teach law classes.

Mary Therese "Terry" [Murphy] Cole, Sylvania, who was a receptionist for the Athletic Department for more than a decade, died April 30 at age 92. She was an avid Rocket fan, attending football and men's and women's basketball games. She is survived by Jeff Cole, UT strategic engagement communicator and former member of the University Board of Trustees.

Dr. James Cunningham,

Indianapolis, professor of English, died May 25 at age 89. He started teaching at the University in 1998 and returned in 2010. The UT alumnus received a doctorate in 2004.

Deborah A. (Kolinski) Czechowski, Toledo, who worked at the University for nearly 50 years, died May 1 at age 73. She joined the staff in 1971. During her career, Czechowski held several positions, including manager of the Print Shop. In 2005, she became an information technology specialist in eLearning and Academic Support, where four years later she started to work as a web developer. Czechowski retired in 2019. The UT alumna received a bachelor of arts degree in 1990 and a master of liberal studies degree in 1993.

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IN MEMORIAM

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A gifted author, Czechowski wrote a play, "Your Mother Loves You," which was produced by the UT Theatre Department. She is survived by her son, Aaron Czechowski, secretary in the UT Army ROTC Rocket Battalion.

Beverly J. (Hansen) Debbe, Toledo, who worked at MCO/MUO/UTMC for 25 years, died July 23 at age 81. She was an administrative assistant in Faculty Affairs from 1987 until her retirement in 2012.

Dr. John N. Drowatzky, Toledo, professor emeritus of health promotion and human performance, died March 18 at age 88. He joined the faculty as an assistant professor of physical education in 1965. Drowatzky served as department chair for nine years. In 1993, he retired and was granted emeritus status. The UT alumnus received a law degree in 1979.

Dr. Robert I. Finkel, Toledo, who was a community-based clinical assistant professor in the MCO Department of Medicine from 1973 to 2004, died May 26 at age 85. The rheumatologist was a recipient of the Golden Apple for outstanding clinical teacher of the year.

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IN MEMORIAM *Continued from Page 9*

Elizabeth A. (Timiney) Ganshow, Toledo, who worked at the University for three decades, died May 8 at age 82. She was preceded in death by her husband, Stanley Ganshow, who she met at UT. Stanley was a plumber on campus. Together, the two worked for the CWA while at the University. She joined the UT staff in the Payroll Office in the 1960s, moved to Accounts Payable, and retired as a printing coordinator in Publications in 1997. Ganshow is survived by her sister, Margaret Dell, a longtime employee in the UT Credit Union.

Dr. Alan G. Goodridge, Naples, Fla., former provost and professor, died Aug. 8 at age 88. He became provost and vice president of academic affairs in 2002. Four years later, after the merger, he returned to the faculty as professor of biochemistry and cancer biology in the College of Medicine. Goodridge retired from the University in 2017.

Holly L. Hill, Sylvania, who worked at MCO/MUO/UTMC for more than 20 years, died May 28 at age 52. She was hired in 2000 in Health Information Management and was named manager in 2009 and coding manager in 2011. Hill retired in 2021.

Carl H. Hirsch, Holland, died May 5 at age 90. He received a master of business administration degree in 1967 and a master of engineering degree in 1962. Hirsch returned to his alma mater as an instructor in the College of Engineering.

Adella M. (Nowak) Jakubowski, Toledo, a technical assistant in the UT Communication and TV Services Department, died July 25 at age 97. She retired from the University in 1988.

Erik Johanson (Eric G. Johnson), Toledo, a faculty member in the Music Department for more than three decades, died Aug. 13 at

age 77. A professional singer, the tenor toured with the National Opera Company and the New York City Opera Company. Johanson came to campus as an assistant professor in 1992. He was promoted to associate professor and received tenure in 1999. Johanson retired in 2024. During his career, the vocalist continued to perform regularly with the Cincinnati, Detroit, Nashville, Lexington and Toledo symphonies. He is survived by his wife, Cecilia Johanson (Johnson), who was a faculty member in the Music Department from 1997 to 2015.

Dr. Woon H. Jyung, Toledo, professor emeritus of biology, died March 29 at age 91. He joined the faculty as an assistant professor in 1964. Jyung was named chair of the Biology Department in 1976 and served in that position for 15 years. He shared his passion for biology in the classroom for more than three decades and received the emeritus designation upon his retirement.

Dr. John C. Lewton, Toledo, who taught psychology at the University for more than 20 years, died Feb. 20 at age 75. He joined the UT staff in 1973 as assistant director of the Student Union. In 1977, Lewton was named director of the Scott Park Student Center. In 1986, he was appointed an assistant professor of health and human services. Lewton received a doctor of philosophy degree in psychology from UT in 1988. He was a faculty member until the early 2000s.

Dr. Gretchen L. (McDermott) Lovett, Estero, Fla., who worked and taught at UT, died May 17, 2024. She was 83. In 1987, she was named director of retention services at the University. Lovett also taught at UT, where she worked until 1996. The UT alumna received a master of education

degree in 1982 and a doctorate in 1993.

Judy Lyons, Toledo, a custodian at UT from 2001 until her retirement in 2016, died June 2 at age 81.

Todd W. Marti, Lambertville, Mich., who worked at UTMC, died July 8 at age 68. He was hired as interim director of facility and joint commission compliance in 2015 and later that year became director. Martin retired from the University in 2023.

Lawrence P. Murphy, Toledo, a former UT faculty member who taught until the early 2000s, died March 2 at age 88.

Mary K. (Hayes) Noonan, Libertyville, Ill., a former UT employee, died April 29 at age 78.

Jacquelin S. (Murray) Nowicki, Mesquite, Nev., a nurse at MCO who taught at UT, died May 25 at age 80. She joined the MCO staff in 1985 and worked in the surgical intensive care unit. In 2007, Nowicki was a staff nurse at UTMC and later an instructor in the College of Nursing until retiring in 2014. The UT alumna received a master of science degree in nursing in 1993.

Judith A. (Krushe) Nunemaker, Lambertville, Mich., who worked at MCO for nearly 20 years, died May 19 at age 87. She joined the staff in 1980 and was a secretary in the Hillenbrand Clinical Skills Center and later in Surgery. Nunemaker retired in 1999. She took classes at the University.

Sally J. O'Connell, Toledo, professor emerita in the College of Business Administration, died May 21 at age 91. She joined the faculty as an instructor in general studies in 1966 and was named assistant professor in 1974. O'Connell, who was a member of Faculty Senate, retired in 1990. The UT alumna received a master of arts degree in 1964.

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IN MEMORIAM *Continued from Page 10*

Jesucita "Susie" (Villarreal) Padilla, Wexford, Pa., former UT employee, died June 14 at age 88.

Dr. Martha J. (Johnson) Pituch, Sylvania, MCO professor of nursing, died June 1 at age 92. She joined the School of Nursing when it formed in 1977. Pituch had a passion for bringing public health to the underserved. During the 1980s, she developed specialized programs for children with asthma and their families with the American Lung Association of Toledo. Also during the 1980s, Pituch was an early champion for HIV/AIDS patients and their families, forming a support network. In 1985, she founded a nursing clinic to provide primary care for the homeless and mentally ill; that clinic still operates at the Cherry Street Mission. Her pioneering work in public health nursing garnered numerous honors, including the Golden Lamp Award from the Toledo District Nurses Association, the Compassionate Hero Award from the Multifaith Council of Northwest Ohio, the Nursing Leadership Award from the Northwest Ohio Nurses Association, and a National Jefferson Award for Public Service. In 1991, Pituch was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame. When she retired in 1996, she took art classes at UT. She returned to teaching part time in 2004 and remained in the classroom for 10 more years.

Janice F. (Karmol) Przybysz, Toledo, who worked at the University nearly 40 years, died July 19 at age 79. She joined the Registrar's Office in 1967. Przybysz was a data entry clerk and retired in 2007 as data system coordinator. She returned to campus as a call-in employee in the Registrar's Office from 2008 to 2011.

Joan E. (Yousey) Robertson, Toledo, who was a dietitian at MCO, died May 12 at age 90.

Dr. Constance M. Roth Sautter, Perrysburg, professor emerita of nursing, died Sept. 25, 2024. She was 88. Sautter joined the MCO faculty as an assistant professor in 1996 and was named associate professor in 2002. When she retired in 2006, Sautter was named professor emerita. A UT alumna, she received a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1975, a master's degree in sociology in 1980, a doctoral degree in education in 1991, and a master of science degree in nursing in 1997.

Pamela J. (Maidment) Schaefer, Sylvania, died July 21 at age 87. She was an administrative assistant who worked in International Studies, the College of Law, and the Departments of History and English from the mid-1990s until around 2002.

Edna D. "Robin" Smith, Toledo, a former UT employee, died May 17 at age 69.

Susan J. Snyder, Las Vegas, who worked at MCO/MUO 11 years, died Aug. 5 at age 77. She joined the staff in 1995 and retired from the College of Work Study in 2006.

William H. Stalets, Findlay, a former UT employee, died May 12 at age 88. The UT alumnus received bachelor and master of education degrees in 1974 and 1979, respectively.

Gloria J. (Stoll) Stanfa, Maumee, a secretary at the University for more than two decades, died July 4 at age 86. She joined the UT staff in 1967 and worked in the Geology Department and later in Campus Security and retired from the Physical Plant in 1990. She is survived by Sherry Stanfa-Stanley, who was a longtime UT Foundation employee.

Darlene D. Stickles, Grand Rapids, Ohio, a nurse for more than two decades, died June 7 at age 69. She joined the MCO staff in 1995 and worked as an orthopedic nurse until her retirement in 2018.

Geraldine (Spillis) Strick, Toledo, died May 26 at age 89. She joined the staff in 1995 and was a public inquiries assistant and later a clerical specialist on Main Campus. Strick retired in 2006.

Dr. Peter N. Temesy-Armos, Perrysburg, professor emeritus of medicine, died May 20 at age 81. He joined the MCO faculty in 1978 as an assistant professor specializing in cardiovascular medicine. Temesy-Armos was named associate professor in 1985, received tenure in 1990, and became professor in 1993. He served as acting division chief from 1990 to 1992 and again from 1998 to 1999, and was named division chief from 1999 to 2002. Temesy-Armos took on the role of director of clinical services in 2008 and added program director of cardiovascular medicine fellowship to his responsibilities. He was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha MCO in 2005. Temesy-Armos retired in 2010 and taught part time until 2014.

Charles R. Watson, Toledo, a former UT employee who retired in the mid-1990s, died May 5 at age 88. He was a fan of Rocket football.

Celina D. Brooks Winfield, Holland, who worked at the University for 11 years, died May 3 at age 76. She was hired in 2010 and four years later joined the Controller's Department, where she was a financial analyst. In 2015, she was promoted to senior financial analyst, the position she held upon retirement in 2021. She studied accounting at UT.



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UTRA Tower Talk

PROGRAM COMMITTEE PLANS UPCOMING EVENTS

While it may still be warm outside and the thought of the holidays far off, the UTRA Program Committee is already at work on the details for the UTRA holiday party. The reception will be held December 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement. The menu will include delicious appetizers, and live entertainment will be provided. Cost of the event has yet to be determined.

Check your email for registration information in the coming months.

Many topics for upcoming educational programs are in the planning stages. Among the topics being considered are: financial and wealth planning for retirees, cybersecurity, a glass-blowing demonstration, and creating a Christmas wreath.

Programs for 2026 may include a lake cruise to the Toledo lighthouse; a wine tasting; a day trip to the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich.; and a talk on how aging affects the brain.

More information will be sent via email as these plans are finalized. Comments and additional ideas for programs can be directed to Program Committee Chair Chris Spengler at chris.spengler@utoledo.edu.