

# Tower Talk

Karen Papadakis, editor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is an honor to be serving my second year as President of The University of Toledo Retirees Association (UTRA). I am looking forward to working with all of you and to continue the work accomplished over the past year.

I would like to thank our outgoing board members: Dave Ellis, Chuck Lehnert, and Judith Wilkinson. We appreciate Dave Ellis' years of service to the board. I would also like to thank Samir Abu-Absi for serving as Vice President during the past year. We are also sorry to say goodbye to Robert Niedzielski who has decided to step down as a member of the board.

Our new Vice President, Curtis Black and I look forward to working with several other new UTRA board members. We are pleased to have Brenda McKinley serve as Treasurer, as well as continue as chair of the UTRA Scholarship Committee. We also welcome Chris Spengler and Barbara Floyd as Members-at-Large. Barbara has also agreed to be Historian for UTRA. Judith Wilkinson has agreed to chair the Benefits Committee as Jim Lapp steps down.

Your UTRA Executive Board is off to a great start this year in the planning and implementation of many programs and activities for 2018-2019. We just returned from our annual trip. This year we went to Washington, D.C. and had a wonderful time. Next year (August 2019) we will be going to Chicago, look for details about the trip to be announced in January. Hope you will join us!

We will continue to have a wide range of entertaining and educational events for our membership. If you have any



suggestions for activities, I encourage you to contact me, or one of our Board members.

If you would like to become involved in one of our committees (Benefits, Membership, Program (events), and/or Communications), feel free to contact me via email at [dhaar67@gmail.com](mailto:dhaar67@gmail.com) or phone/text at 419.277.9176.

Looking forward to a great year!  
Go Rockets!

Sincerely,

*Donna Haar*

UTRA President

## DAY OF GIVING

By Laurie B. Davis

The number of donors who participated in the second annual University of Toledo Day of Giving on Oct. 16-17 more than doubled last year's participation, with 3,156 donors giving this year. Alumni and friends, faculty and staff members, and students came together to support Rocket Forward: You Launch Lives, contributing a total of \$717,375.

The goal of the 36-hour campaign was to create awareness of the impact of philanthropy at UT and to increase private support among our students,

faculty and staff, and alumni and friends.

This year, activities took place on both the Health Science Campus and Main Campus, including a carnival-style event on Centennial Mall with student organizations.

"We want to thank all of our University of Toledo students, alumni, and friends who participated in Day of Giving 2018," said Cheryl Zwyer, Senior Associate Vice President for Development at The University of Toledo Foundation. "Every person's gift makes a difference. It is wonderful to see Rockets come together to support so many

important programs across campus."

Through the Give Campus website, UTRA raised \$1380; this amount will grow as more gifts coming in via USPS are processed.

Contributions will help students launch college careers and complete their degrees through scholarships; help faculty continue research that impacts the Northwest Ohio region and beyond; fund new drug therapies and medical advancements to improve patient care; and support many UT programs across campus.

# REMEMBERING JIM RICHARD

By Augusta Askari

Jim Richard, (September 7, 1922 – April 20, 2018) was the kind and helpful person who served as Director of Communications and was the public relations voice for the Medical College of Ohio (MCO) from 1978 to 1989. He announced our area's first heart transplant at MCO.

He relayed news about the transfer of patients from the old Maumee Valley Hospital to the then newly constructed Medical College Hospital. As part of his diverse duties at MCO, Jim wrote news releases, supervised MCO publications, managed outside programs about MCO, organized TV feature events, and MCO faculty presentations to the Toledo community.

Jim Richard was the founding President of the MCO Retirees. When MCO merged with The University of Toledo, Jim Richard was the founding president of the merged University of Toledo Retirees Association (UTRA). He represented UTRA at the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees

(OCHER) meetings in Columbus, Ohio. Eventually, Jim Richard also served as President of OCHER. His voice and views made significant contributions to higher education throughout Ohio. During World War II, Jim Richard served as boatswain with the US Merchant Marines from 1942 to 1946 in the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and Pacific war areas.



Jim Richard

One of Jim's legendary stories was about how he spent his 21st birthday being shelled and strafed while traversing the Atlantic Ocean. As Jim put it, "It seemed doubtful that I would live to celebrate my 22nd birthday."

Jim Richard started his professional career at The Toledo Blade as a sports writer and columnist, serving in those positions from 1946 to 1955.

He then served as public relations director for the international Detroit UAW.

After Jim's return to Toledo, he became a partner in several Toledo area Public Relations firms before joining MCO. After retirement from MCO, Jim continued to teach communications part time at The University of Toledo until 1992.

Jim Richard generously donated his time and talents to advance the well-being of our Toledo community. He was President of the Newspaper Guild, a member of the Toledo Area of Commerce, a long-time member of the downtown Kiwanis, and served Meals-On-Wheels.

He also was a Eucharistic Minister at Flower Hospital, and he wrote articles for Mature Living and the Catholic Chronicle. He volunteered at Queen of Apostles School in Toledo, participated as an Old Newsboy, belonged to several golfing leagues, and was a stalwart member of many more organizations.

Jim Richard left a legacy of caring for all of us.

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## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

By Kathy Sbrocchi

The UTRA Membership Committee planned a reception on September 19, 2018 to welcome recent retirees. However, due to low RSVP responses, that reception date was cancelled. UTRA membership is available to all retirees

from the UT main and Health Science campuses. At the new retirees receptions, we share what activities, benefits and events are available to members of UTRA. It is also a chance to get to know each other and to gather input.

The Membership Committee had a table at this year's Art on the Mall held

at UT's Main Campus Sunday, July 29th. We enjoyed acquainting ourselves with attendees.

If you have any questions or need to update your contact information, please contact the UT Alumni Office at 419.530.5378 or Kathy Sbrocchi at [ksbrocchi@yahoo.com](mailto:ksbrocchi@yahoo.com).

## HEALTH SCIENCE CAMPUS SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

By Keith Schlender

This past academic year the Health Science Scholarship Fund was able to award \$1,500 scholarships in each of the four colleges located on the Health Science Campus.

The recipients in the College of Graduate Studies, College of Medicine and Life Sciences, College of Nursing and the

College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences were featured in the Spring 2017 issue of Tower Talk.

The scholarships are funded by income from our endowment, contributions from health science campus retirees, and the hospital cafeteria shoe sale fundraisers.

In August we completed another very success sale, and we'd like to thank all of our many volunteers who kept the

sale open over 40 continuous hours. Our endowment is now over \$55,000.

The Health Science Campus Scholarship Committee is pleased that this year we will again be able to award \$1,500 scholarships to doctoral or master's students in each of the four Health Science Campus colleges.

# SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

BY Brenda McKinley

The UTRA scholarship application process went electronic this year, and the Scholarship Committee was pleased with the increased number of applicants. We look forward to this trend continuing!

For the 2018/2019 academic year, the committee selected three young women to receive a \$750 UTRA scholarship: **Morgan Dembowski, Magdalene Nigro, and Regan Simon.** While all three, coincidentally, are Exercise Science majors in the College of Health and Human Services, they have all brought unique experience and talents to their study in that field. They all look forward to careers in Physical Therapy.

**Morgan Dembowski** will be in her sophomore year in the 2018/2019 academic year. She has been a cross-country athlete in both high school and college, and is passionate about helping people. While working as a student technician and assisting physical therapists at the University of Toledo Medical College and in the Orthopedic Center of the University of Toledo Medical Center, she has become fascinated with the individualized process carried out in the care for each patient. The combination of her passion for athletics and helping people has led her to the decision to pursue a career in the exercise science and physical therapy fields.

**Magdalene Nigro** is a UTRA scholarship recipient for the third year. She will be a senior in the 2018/2019 academic year. Her interest in physical therapy as a career began when she underwent physical therapy for an injury she suffered in her sophomore year in high school. She has held the position of Physical Therapy Tech Aide for a local physical therapy clinic, and as a result has established working relationships with many professionals

in the field, some who have become her mentors. In the spring of 2017 she worked as a supplemental instructor for nursing students in Anatomy and Physiology II, which has developed her confidence, leadership, and public speaking skills. She is a member of the physical therapy fraternity, Delta Rho Tau, and plans on attending graduate school after her graduation.

Like Magdalene Nigro, **Regan Simon's** interest in the field of physical therapy started during her own experience with physical therapy after injury. Regan, who was a ballet dancer all her life until she graduated from high school, was treated by a physical therapist specialized in dance related injuries and combined his love for dance with his passion for helping people. This helped Regan discover the vision of her "dream job", to work as a physical therapist with a professional ballet company.

If that doesn't materialize, she would like to focus on therapy for younger patients or athletes, with the objective of making physical therapy seem less like a punishment, and more enjoyable. Regan will be a junior in the 2018/2019 academic year. Congratulations to these three 2018/2019 scholarship recipients. UTRA wishes you a productive and inspiring academic year!

We would like to be able to assist additional deserving young scholars, and one way to do so is to increase contributions to the UTRA scholarship endowment fund. To that end, this Fall UTRA will participate in the UT Day of Giving on October 16-17.

As a UTRA member, you will receive an email (or letter if no email address is on file) telling you about the Day of Giving and giving you the opportunity to support the UTRA scholarship fund with a donation. If you don't think your contribution will make a difference, please read the

words of one of last year's scholarship recipients, taken from an email she sent me this past May.

"I wanted to make sure that the UTRA is aware of how thankful I am for their generosity. Were it not for the UTRA scholarship last year, it would have been much more difficult, maybe impossible, to fund my study abroad trip to Accra, Ghana in Fall 2017.

I learned so much about the world and myself when I was in Ghana; I picked up many new life skills and made some wonderful friends. Although the cost of living is lower in Ghana than in the U.S., staying on a university campus and living in the dorms was still a concern of mine financially; the UTRA scholarship helped make my study abroad possible. I am incredibly grateful and appreciative to you and the rest of the UTRA for their generosity and interest in helping UT students. Thank you again! Sincerely, Isabel Abu-Absi"

When you receive your communication about the UT Day of Giving this year, stop to think about how much a scholarship can help a student meet financial needs and give them opportunities that they otherwise may not have. Please believe that your donation can make a difference!

Speaking of making a difference, I have the very best members a scholarship committee can have.

They offer valuable advice and insights. Current committee members are Jim Lapp, Keith Schlender, Samir Abu-Absi, and Judith Wilkinson, with input also coming from this year's UTRA President Donna Haar and Vice President Curt Black, and I would be remiss if I didn't mention the great team of professionals in the Alumni Relations office who supports UTRA.

Thanks to all, and GO ROCKETS!

# NEWS FROM COLUMBUS

BY James Lapp

Health care premiums for STRS members for 2019 have been approved by the STRS Board. Thanks to lower than anticipated health care claims, 92% of plan enrollees will have no premium increase (including all Aetna Medicare Advantage plan enrollees and non-Medicare retirees with 30 or more years of service). Rates are available on the STRS website ([strsoh.org](http://strsoh.org)). The Medicare Part B reimbursement of \$29.90 that was to have ended next year has instead been extended for a least one more year.

STRS is keeping an eye on multiemployer pension plan solvency reform. They are monitoring this at the federal level as to whether any action taken on private plans is applied to public plans. Specifically, they are watching for any PEPTA-like legislation or the Hatch patient care act.

It does look as though the Public Employee Pension Transparency Act (PEPTA) will be introduced again by Congressman Devin Nunes (R-CA). The legislation would appear to be the same as has been introduced in the last several Congresses. It would:

- Require state and local government pension plans to report their unfunded liabilities to the U.S. Treasury Department using “risk-free rates of return on U.S. Treasuries;”
- This information would be available to the public through a searchable website maintained by the Treasury Department; and
- Failure to comply with disclosure requirements would result in plan sponsors’ loss of the ability to issue Federally tax-exempt bonds.

Last Spring’s Supreme Court’s ruling in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 31*, held that although unions are required to represent

everyone in a bargaining unit equally, whether they personally belong to the union, they can no longer require everyone to pay for the costs of bargaining and representation on employment conditions (but not political campaigns). Millions of workers in 22 states now have the opportunity to stop paying union fees. Workers in the other 28 states, which have “right-to-work laws,” already had the option to not pay fees.

The Supreme Court’s decision to make “fair share” fees illegal in the public sector will have a major impact on unions representing teachers and other public employees. The National Education Association (NEA) says they are expecting a nearly 14 percent membership loss and a \$50 million budget reduction over the next two years as a result of the *Janus* decision.

Others are warning this decision will adversely affect pensions, leaving unions with a weaker say on salary and benefits negotiations, and undercutting opposition to pension reforms that had been successfully defeated in the past with strong union support.

OPERS released (early Summer) its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the year ended December 31, 2017. Some of the interesting facts included in the report are:

- OPERS had a net position of \$101.4 billion at the end of 2017, the first time in its history that net position topped \$100 billion.
- The system’s funded status at year-end was 81 percent.
- OPERS is able to pay off its unfunded liabilities within 18 years, 12 years sooner than mandated by Ohio law.
- Health care expenses in 2017 were \$1.0 billion.
- The OPERS defined benefit investment portfolio returned 16.82 percent for the year; the health care

portfolio returned 15.25 percent; the defined contribution portfolio returned 17.39 percent.

- In 2017, member and employer contributions in all OPERS pension plans totaled \$3.4 billion, compared with net income from investing activity of \$14.6 billion.
- Of the 347,730 active members in the OPERS system, 94.4 percent have chosen the defined benefit plan, 3.3 percent the defined contribution plan and 2.3 percent the hybrid plan.
- New retirees’ average monthly pension was \$2,285.
- Of the 210,868 retirees in OPERS, 89 percent remained Ohio residents as of Dec. 31, 2017.
- OPERS made \$5.3 billion in pension benefit payments last year to Ohio residents.

Both the CAFR and the condensed Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) are available at the OPERS website ([opers.org](http://opers.org)). I encourage all OPERS retirees to take a look at the PAFR to see just what, and how, your retirement system is doing. I know you’ll find many items of interest in the report.

Incidentally, OPERS has recently redesigned its website. If you haven’t looked at their site for a while you should to check it out.

At the May 2018 meeting of the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER), officers were elected for the 2018-19 year. Officers elected were: President, Steve Howe (UC); Vice President, Jerry Feezel (KSU); Secretary, Michele Hobbs (OSU); Treasurer, Jim Lapp (UT).

OCHER meetings for the 2018-19 year will be held in Columbus on, November 27, 2018, March 26, 2019, and May 21, 2019.

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## LAKE ERIE CENTER TOUR, MAY 16, 2018



The Lake Erie Center is a research and educational facility focused on environmental conditions and aquatic resources in Maumee Bay and western Lake Erie as a model for the Great Lakes and aquatic ecosystems worldwide. Dr. Thomas Bridgeman, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences, gave an informative talk and provided a tour of the facility, focusing on Lake Erie's harmful algal blooms.

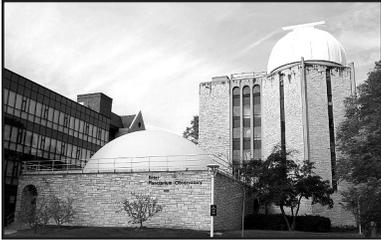
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## 2018 UTRA ANNUAL MEETING



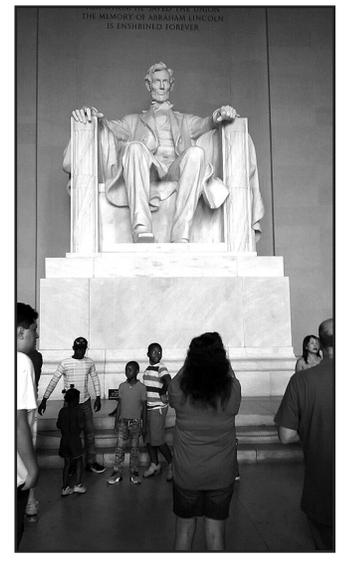
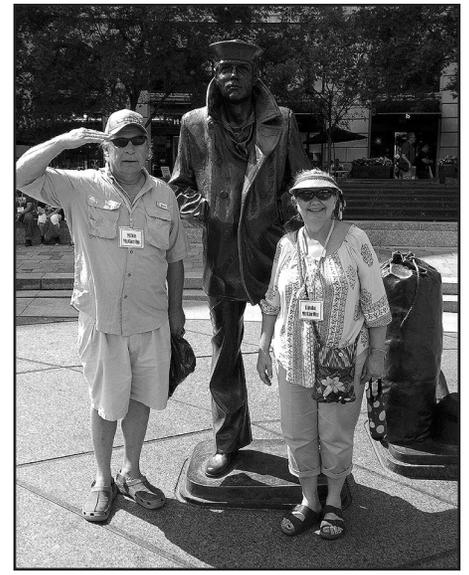
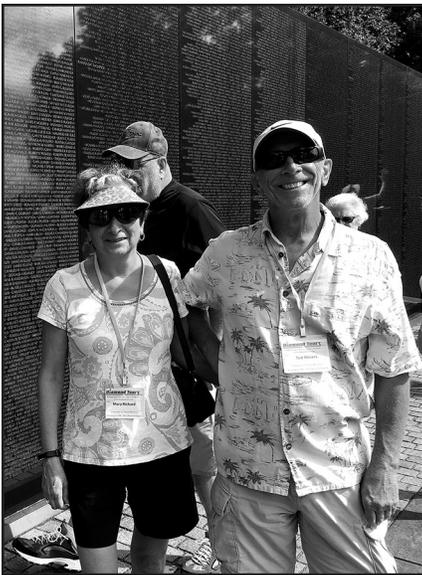
UTRA held the annual meeting at picturesque Belmont Country Club on Wednesday, June 13. As usual, a delicious luncheon was served and enjoyed by all, after which a short business meeting was held to present new officers and board members, and to recognize outgoing board members and members-at-large. A 50/50 raffle to raise money for the UTRA Scholarship Fund was held. Stuffed toys were also collected for the children at the UT Medical Center to comfort them during their hospital stay.

# BLACK HOLES, THE OTHER SIDE OF INFINITY



According to NASA, “a black hole is a place in space where gravity pulls so much that even light cannot get out. The gravity is so strong because matter has been squeezed into a tiny space. This can happen when a star is dying.” The presentation features striking, immersive animations of the formation of the early universe, star birth and death, the collision of giant galaxies and a simulated flight to a super-massive black hole lurking at the center of our own Milky Way Galaxy.

## UTRA BUS TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C., AUGUST 3-7, 2018



It was a whirlwind trip to Washington D.C.; we visited several war and iconic memorials, monuments and museums, and viewed and visited historical buildings and areas of D.C. Our tour included the Kennedy Center; the U.S. Capitol; The White House; Arlington Cemetery and its awe-inspiring sites; the very interesting African American History Museum; and the opportunity to visit additional Smithsonian museum(s) on our own. Just to name a few sites, we saw or visited Embassy Row; Georgetown; the National Archives building; the Vietnam, WWII, Iwo Jima, Lincoln, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. memorials; the Smithsonian's Natural History and American History museums, and of course the Washington Monument, which served as a landmark to find our way to the bus at least once!

# JOIN A UTRA GROUP THAT MEETS MONTHLY

## CARDS AND GAMES

Hey! Shhh! Do you like playing cards? I'll let you in on a little secret — there's a card game going on every 2nd Tuesday of the month from 2-4 p.m. Where? The players meet at the 31 Hundred restaurant, at the Radisson Hotel located on the UT Health Science Campus. Psst! There is plenty of free parking adjacent to the restaurant.



Meet some old friends; make some new friends. Invite others to come play euchre, bridge, or make this your usual spot to play a few hands of your favorite card game or whatever game you like to play.

The space is comfortable with a nice view and great hospitality. Another perk, the restaurant is conveniently open for lunch (optional) prior to the start of games. For more information or if you have a question, please contact Sandy Koepke at 419.865.9621 or send an email to Sandra.Koepke@utoledo.edu.

## BREAKFAST GROUP

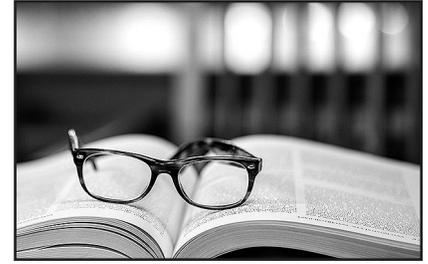
Our breakfast group meets the first Tuesday of each month at Denny's, 6290 W. Central Ave., at 9:30 a.m. with one exception. Traditionally, instead of breakfast on the first Tuesday in December the

group will meet at Red Lobster on Monroe Street for a luncheon at noon. If you plan to attend the luncheon December 4, 2018, please RSVP to Marge Dell at 419.346.5780. All are welcome, come join us!



## BOOK BUDDIES BOOK CLUB

UTRA "Book Buddies" book club meets the first Wednesday of each month from 2:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. We meet at the 31Hundred Restaurant inside the Radisson Hotel located on the UT Health Science campus. There is ample free and convenient parking.



Anyone who loves to read is welcome to join our group. Each month a different member selects a novel and helps lead the discussion. It is also a great opportunity to meet new people. If you have any questions, contact Kathy Sbrocchi at ksbrocchi@yahoo.com.

### UPCOMING BOOKS

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 11/07/18 | The Seven Story Mountain, by Thomas Merton |
| 12/05/18 | Tattoos on the Heart, by Greg Boyle        |
| 01/02/19 | Being Mortal, by Atul Gawande, MD          |
| 02/06/19 | Mrs. Sherlock Holmes, by Brad Ricca        |

## LUNCH BUNCH

Schedule for October 2018 – July 2019  
The Lunch Bunch group meets the third Thursday of each month.

Feb. 21, 2019, Al Smith's, 1 p.m.  
3550 Executive Pkwy., 419.531.0600

Oct. 18, 2018, Ruby's Kitchen, 1 p.m.  
805 N. Reynolds Rd., 419.578.5388

March 21, 2019, The Blarney Irish Pub, 1 p.m.  
601 Monroe St., 419.418.2339

Nov. 15, 2018, 5th Street Pub, 1 p.m.  
5577 Monroe St., 419.517.5311

Apr. 18, 2019, Greg's Grill, 1 p.m.  
840 N. Summit, 419.214.0826

Dec. 20, 2018, Capers Pizza Bar, 1 p.m.  
2038 S. Byrne Rd., 419.389.9900

May 16, 2019, Manhattan's Pub 'n Cheer, 1 p.m.  
1516 Adams St., 419.243.6675

Jan. 17, 2019, Charlie's Restaurant & Pub, Brunch 10 a.m.  
1031 Tollgate, Maumee, 419.794.7870

June 20, 2019, Briarfield Cafe, Brunch 10 a.m.  
3220 Briarfield, Maumee, 419.865.7260

July 18, 2019, Saba's Bistro, 1 p.m.  
1705 Tollgate (Holiday Inn), Maumee, 419.283.4864

# UT chemists discover how blue light speeds blindness

BY Christine Billau

Blue light from digital devices and the sun transforms vital molecules in the eye's retina into cell killers, according to optical chemistry research at The University of Toledo.

The process outlined in the study, which was recently published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, leads to age-related macular degeneration, a leading cause of blindness in the United States.

"We are being exposed to blue light continuously, and the eye's cornea and lens cannot block or reflect it," Dr. Ajith Karunaratne, assistant professor in the UT Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, said. "It's no secret that blue light harms our vision by damaging the eye's retina. Our experiments explain how this happens, and we hope this leads to therapies that slow macular degeneration, such as a new kind of eye drop."

Macular degeneration, an incurable eye disease that results in significant vision loss starting on average in a person's 50s or 60s, is the death of photoreceptor cells in the retina. Those cells need molecules called retinal to sense light and trigger a cascade of signaling to the brain.

"You need a continuous supply of retinal molecules if you want to see," Karunaratne said. "Photoreceptors are useless without retinal, which is produced in the eye."

Karunaratne's lab found that blue light exposure causes retinal to trigger reactions that generate poisonous chemical molecules in photoreceptor cells.

"It's toxic. If you shine blue light on retinal, the retinal kills photoreceptor cells as the signaling molecule on the membrane dissolves," Kasun Ratnayake, a PhD student researcher working in Karunaratne's cellular photo chemistry group, said. "Photoreceptor cells do not regenerate in the eye. When they're dead, they're dead for good."

Karunaratne introduced retinal molecules to other cell types in the body, such as cancer cells, heart cells and neurons. When exposed to blue light, these cell types died as a result of the combination

with retinal. Blue light alone or retinal without blue light had no effect on cells.

"No activity is sparked with green, yellow or red light," Karunaratne said. "The retinal-generated toxicity by blue light is universal. It can kill any cell type."

The researcher found that a molecule called alpha tocopherol, a vitamin E derivative and a natural antioxidant in the eye and body, stops the cells from dying. However, as a person ages or the immune system is suppressed, people lose the ability to fight against the attack by retinal

ing out of your cell phone, it's not great but it seems tolerable," Dr. John Payton, visiting assistant professor in the UT Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, said. "Some cell phone companies are adding blue-light filters to the screens, and I think that is a good idea."

To protect your eyes from blue light, Karunaratne advises to wear sunglasses that can filter both UV and blue light outside and avoid looking at cell phones or tablets in the dark.



Dr. Ajith Karunaratne examined toxic oxygen generation by retinal during blue light exposure.

and blue light.

"That is when the real damage occurs," Karunaratne said.

The lab currently is measuring light coming from television, cell phone and tablet screens to get a better understanding of how the cells in the eyes respond to everyday blue light exposure.

"If you look at the amount of light com-

"Every year more than two million new cases of age-related macular degeneration are reported in the United States," Karunaratne said. "By learning more about the mechanisms of blindness in search of a method to intercept toxic reactions caused by the combination of retinal and blue light, we hope to find a way to protect the vision of children growing up in a high-tech world."

# IN MEMORIAM

Pat A. Ambrose, Tiffin, Ohio, emergency medical services education coordinator, 1993 to 2014, died March 1 at age 64.

Randolph A. "Randy" Baker, Toledo, former MCO employee, died April 19 at age 62.

Joanne B. (Roush) Bast, Toledo, tutor at UT from 1996 to 2001, died July 5 at age 81.

Carolyn R. "Gigi" Boyle, Toledo, secretary, Department of Theatre and Film from 1989 until 2012, died March 6 at age 55.

Shirley J. (Veith) Carpenter, Toledo, public inquiries assistant in Telephone Services at MCO from 1980 until her retirement in 2003, died July 8 at age 83.

Charles D. Cobau, Toledo, volunteer clinical professor of medicine at MCO/MUO/UT from 1970 to 2007, died July 5 at age 88.

Eva L. Coleman, Toledo, custodian at UT from 1977 until her retirement in 2010, died May 1 at age 87.

Marjorie Jo Culbertson, Fort Wayne, Ind., assistant professor of nursing from 1995 to 2003, died Feb. 21 at age 73.

Gary A. Dutridge, Jensen Beach, Fla, former MCO employee, died May 7 at age 56.

John H. "Jack" Esbin, Toledo, former director of college computing at UT, died April 13 at age 82.

Donald J. Ewing, Toledo, professor emeritus of electrical engineering. In 1954 Ewing joined the UT faculty as an instructor. In 1978, he was named chair of the new Computer Science and Engineering Program. Ewing retired in 1991, died March 9 at age 87.

William M. Feltman, Toledo, instructor at the former Community and Technical College for several years and then became director of the Computer Learning Center, a position he held for 22 years, died July 31 at age 82.

Marilynn K. Fulton, Toledo, worked in the MCO/MUO/UTMC Pharmacy from 2000 until her retirement in 2009, died June 27 at age 83.

Amy L. (Burdasz) Geiger, Toledo, nurse at MCO/MUO/UTMC from 1992 to 2007, died March 27 at age 48.

June E. (Pier) Graf, Monclova, Ohio, who was a secretary at MCO/MUO, she retired in 2006, died April 22 at age 89.

Shirley A. Harris, Toledo, worked at MCO 28 years until her retirement in 1997, died May 16 at age 75.

Virginia M. "Ginger" Hart, Curtice, Ohio, nurse at MCO/MUO/UTMC from 1994 to March 2018, died May 3 at age 76.

Brenda L. (Carrol) Hoot, Waterville, Ohio, former MUO employee, died May 22 at age 58.

William A. "Bill" Jones, Hilliard, Ohio, mechanic at UT from 1990 until his retirement in 2008, died June 20 at age 75.

Theresa A. (Hamp) Kleman, Toledo, former UT employee, died April 22 at age 67.

Susanne S. (Orzechowski) Koder, Mequon, Wis., nurse at MCO from 1974 to 2000, died July 11 at age 76.

Frank G. Kohlhofer Sr., Swanton, maintenance worker at MCO, retired in 2004, died April 5 at age 65.

Rodger D. Kokensparger, Toledo, joined MCO in 1979, retired in 2005 as a manager in facilities maintenance, died April 6 at age 68.

Benjamin Koo, Toledo, professor emeritus of civil engineering, joined the UT faculty as an associate professor in 1965 and was promoted to professor in 1973, he retired from the University in 1989, died March 1 at age 97.

Joann R. (Speweik) Kurth, Toledo, worked in housekeeping at MCO, retired in 1989, died March 10 at age 83.

Nelda L. (Smith) Langenderfer, Swanton,

Ohio, former nurse at MCO, retired in 1982, died July 16 at age 92.

Daniel Leal, Delta, Ohio, former registered nurse at UT Medical Center, died May 8 at age 62.

Coletta J. Watchell Lewandowski, Melbourne Victoria, Australia, secretary in the Counseling Center for 15 years until her retirement in 1989, died May 25 at age 93.

Ollie Jean Means, Toledo, worked at MCO for 28 years, in 1986 retired as central supply clerk, died April 4 at age 78.

Donna J. (Gorsuch) Mitchell, Toledo, worked in the MCO/MUO Dietary Dept. for 20 years, retiring in 2006, died April 19 at age 87.

Louis W. Nadolny Jr., Oregon, Ohio, worked at UT as a painter in Maintenance, retired in 1995, died July 22 at age 80.

Joseph J. O'Connor, Atlantic Beach, Fla., a 40-year newspaper veteran who worked and taught at UT for more than a decade, died May 1 at age 92.

Roberta (Espen) Oswald, Toledo, nurse at MCO from 1982 to 2000, died Feb. 23 at age 62.

Ben Pansky, Toledo, professor emeritus of surgery and noted medical author and illustrator, joined the faculty in 1970, one year after his book, "Review of Gross Anatomy," was published. Pansky drew more than 1,000 illustrations for the reference book that medical students used for decades. Many of Pansky's books have been translated into several languages. At his retirement in 1997, he received the emeritus designation. He became a volunteer faculty member after his retirement and worked out of an office on Health Science Campus until 2004. He died July 5 at age 90.

Frank J. Parker, Temperance, Mich., former carpenter at UT, died June 7 at age 85.

Continued on Page 11

# IN MEMORIAM

Continued from Page 10

Geraldine E. (Purdy) Paulson, Toledo, worked at UT from 1977 to 2002 when she retired, died July 15 at age 82.

Kathy L. Pawloski, Toledo, former secretary of UT Medical Center, she retired in 2015, died June 16 at age 62.

J. Carolyn Pupos, Toledo, secretary at MCO from 1977 until her retirement in 2002, died April 16 at age 79.

Anthony Quinn, associate professor of biological sciences and assistant dean for diversity and inclusion in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, he joined the UT Department of Biological Sciences in 2001 and was a renowned immunologist known for his work in deciphering the interplay between diabetes and immunity. Quinn was passionate about the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minority students and created the We Are STEMM Initiative, died March 14 at age 59.

Thomas S. Raschke, Toledo, former registrar systems specialist at UT, died July 20 at age 70.

James J. "Jim" Richard, Toledo, died April 20 at age 95. Please see article "Remem-

bering Jim Richard" on Page 2.

Frank P. Saul, Toledo, professor emeritus of anatomy and associate dean emeritus, joined the MCO faculty in 1969 and taught until 1990. Saul then served as associate dean for continuing medical education until his retirement in 1994. The internationally known forensic anthropologist created a term to describe the interpretation of lives from bones: "osteobiography." Died June 16 at age 87.

Martha S. (Harmeyer) Schnetzler, Toledo, MCO employee from 1977 to 2006 when she retired as an administrative assistant in Mulford Library, died July 23 at age 81.

Judith (Judy) Schoonmaker, Toledo, in the 1970s, she was a secretary in Radiology when she decided to become a physician. Schoonmaker joined the general medicine faculty at MCO in 1988 and retired as an associate professor in 2004. Died June 11 at age 70.

Shirley Jean Vartice Walker, Toledo, worked at UT from 1994 to 2002, died March 18 at age 90.

Debra A. (Byrd) Walton, Toledo, worked at MCO for more than two decades, worked as an EKG and ultrasound

technician, died May 8 at age 60.

Ernest W. Weaver Jr., Toledo, professor emeritus of environmental engineering. The UT graduate received a bachelor of engineering degree in 1943, served three years as a Navy officer on a destroyer in the Pacific before joining the faculty at his alma mater in 1946. In 1964, Weaver became associate dean of the college and held that position until his retirement in 1986. He died March 5 at age 97.

Margaret A. Weber, Sylvania, faculty member of the Music Dept. as well as a notable composer, died June 15 at age 101.

Janice E. Wessendorf, Toledo, former secretary at UT until her retirement in 1995, died June 24 at age 88.

Edson A. Whipple, Toledo, a noted newspaper veteran was a member of the Communication Dept. from 1968 to 2005, died July 22 at age 86.

Helen Marie (Majka) Wodarski, Toledo, worked in the College of Education and the American Language Institute, retiring from UT in 1994, died May 29 at age 85.



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## **UTRA** Tower Talk

### WELCOME NEW RETIREES AND LIFETIME MEMBERS

#### **NEW RETIREES:**

Terrell Allen  
Thomas Barden  
Mary Barnt  
Linda Bilby  
Freddie Douglas  
Amy Dugan  
Kim Dusseau  
Michael Hiser  
Mylo Jennings  
Bruce Kennedy  
Thomas Lawrence  
Christopher Lynn  
Richard Marciniak  
Julia Mosher  
Karen Neill  
James Randle  
Randy Randle  
Theodor Rais  
Limmie Reynolds  
Cynthia Stengle

#### **NEW LIFE MEMBERS:**

Karen Bell  
Bruce Groves  
Andrew Jorgensen  
John Kovacs  
Christopher Lynn  
Stanley Sawicki  
Keith Schlender  
Christine Spengler  
Thomas Swiergosz