

# Tower Talk

Barbara Floyd, editor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Twenty five years ago this month, a group of retired faculty and staff from The University of Toledo met under the sponsorship of the UToledo Alumni Association to create an organization that today is known as UTRA, the University of Toledo Retirees Association.

At present the organization has grown to more than 700 members, now representing faculty and staff from UToledo and UTMC/MCO. Throughout its 25 years, many individuals have stepped forward to leadership positions and each of those individuals has had the comfort of knowing that guiding them along was Dan Saevig, the director (and most recently, associate vice president) of Alumni Engagement. It was under Dan's guidance that the first seeds of UTRA were sown, and one of his many legacies at UToledo will be the vibrant organization it has become.

So, in March we sadly said goodbye to Dan with heartfelt thanks and admiration for all he has done for UTRA and the UToledo community as a whole. However, we expressed that knowing that while retiring from the University, Dan will instantly become a UTRA member! So now while he attends our functions, he can truly enjoy them with the rest of us and let others worry about all the details!

To recognize the critical role Dan had in the creation and vitality of UTRA, the UTRA Board at its January meeting voted to make a contribution to the Gene and Donna Saevig Medical Mission Scholarship in honor of his retirement. Dan, enjoy your new adventure!

As I sat at the head of the table for that UTRA Board meeting, I was humbled to realize that I was surrounded by individuals whose careers have been characterized by outstanding and dedicated service to the University, its students and patients. What a pleasure it is to work with these colleagues!

As you read this newsletter, I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities afforded to you as a UTRA member. Whether it is traveling to Chelsea, Mich. for a theatre event in July, to Vermont in August, or to learn more about establishing your garden in May, you are welcome to join in. Also, reserve a place on your calendar for our Annual Luncheon at Belmont Country Club in June. There are also groups that meet regularly for meals, for bridge and card games, and to discuss books.

As a UTRA member, you are invited to stay in touch with your University colleagues and friends through any or all events! I hope to see you at one of our upcoming functions!

Go Rockets!

Sincerely,  
**Curt Black**  
UTRA President



## UTRA: 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO MEMBERS

By Barbara Floyd

"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, in 2003 President Dr.

Richard Perry summarized the significance of the University of Toledo Retirees Association in an article appearing in *Tower Talk*. As we celebrate UTRA's 25th anniversary in 2020 (and what would have been the Medical University of Ohio Retirees Club 30th 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

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# FINDING FULFILLMENT THROUGH OPERA

By Shirley Joseph

*Editor's note: This is another essay in a continuing series about the ways UTRA members contribute to our community. If you would like to tell us about how you continue after retirement to make a difference, please contact me at Barbara.floyd@utoledo.edu.*

Even as a teenager, I believed in helping others through volunteering in one's community. I got married in 1964 and moved to Toledo from the Pittsburgh area. When my sons were in grade school, I decided that I would get involved in a local organization that needed assistance. I chose the Toledo Opera because other organizations always had more support than the opera. Reasons for this are that many people were unfamiliar with opera and some believed that opera was only for the elite. Lester Freedman, founder of Toledo Opera, promoted the opera as "the people's opera" and praised the importance of community volunteers.

I began my almost-45-year journey with the opera by joining the Toledo Opera Guild in the mid-1970s. The Guild is an adjunct of the Toledo Opera Association, and I believed in its mission "to promote opera awareness, education, company service and financial support for Toledo Opera."

I became a Guild Board member and was elected President in 1981. I also was invited to be a board member of the Toledo Opera Association. I was a stay-at-home mom at that time; therefore, I was "on call" for the opera when they needed assistance. I learned how to be creative in fundraising, event planning, opera education, promotion, and how to network to expand our audience and raise funds to support this special art form.

I picked up international opera stars at the airport, took them shopping, took them to the doctor if they became ill (including Renee Fleming), took them into the schools to perform, etc. I met with CEOs of major corporations to request support. I was timid, but they were always very kind to me. These experiences and being a member of the Toledo Opera Association Executive Board boosted my self-confidence. I met so many wonderful people, some

of whom became "forever" friends.

Volunteering for the opera also opened up doors for me and confirmed the importance of networking in the community. For example: I met the wife of the Vice President of Academic Affairs at MCO through the Opera Guild. She offered their home in Perrysburg to host the "kick off" for the Sapphire Ball, the premier social event

and according to the Opera Office, "is the only professional company in the region that provides high-quality opera productions and educational programs that are affordable and accessible."

Its main-stage operas are produced in Toledo, drawing vocal artists, conductors, stage directors and designers internationally while also involving local resources, such as members of the



Photo courtesy of Toledo Opera

The Toledo Opera's educational outreach program brings opera to young students, helping them to gain appreciation for the art form at an early age.

in Toledo and the opera's largest fundraiser. I was one of four who planned this party.

Several months later, I saw an ad in the *Blade* for an executive assistant for the same vice president. It sounded interesting, and I applied. He called me a few days later and said he and his wife thought I would be perfect for this position, and quickly offered me the position. I responded, "Don't you want to check my references?" He replied, "I have already seen you work!" I held that position for 25 years until I retired in 2011.

In the past years, several opera companies have closed. One of the most fulfilling aspects of my affiliation with Toledo Opera is that it has flourished,

Opera's Adult and Children's Choruses, orchestra musicians, costume advisors and stagehands. The opera is important because it makes a significant contribution to the cultural life of Toledo and enhances its reputation as a city that values and supports the arts. The Toledo Opera also helps support the Toledo Symphony Orchestra and the Valentine Theatre.

Why do I like opera? Of all the art forms, opera feels the most complete. Opera gives us "the works" in a performance—not only beautiful music but also theater, including interesting wigs, exaggerated makeup, incredible costumes, great set designs that complement the drama, and sometimes ballet.

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# NEWS FROM COLUMBUS

James Lapp, Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees Representative

At its January meeting, the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System Board of Trustees voted to adopt changes to health care coverage for Medicare and pre-Medicare retirees. The changes, effective January 1, 2022, will extend the life of the health care trust fund from 11 years to almost 19 years. In addition, preliminary 2019 investment returns of 19 percent will further extend solvency to nearly 23 years.

OPERS receives no dedicated funding for health care. By law, employer contributions must first fund pensions. If funding allows, OPERS can then provide a discretionary health care program. Member contributions fund pensions only and, unlike Social Security, are always 100 percent guaranteed to the member and cannot be used to fund health care. Currently, the pension fund requires all employer contributions for funding for the foreseeable future.

OPERS' objective is to continue to offer health care coverage. To do so, it must implement changes to the current program. These changes will allow it to increase the solvency period of the fund and provide access to coverage for a longer period of time. The overall goal is to design a flexible, but predictable, health care program that can provide access to coverage based on available funding.

Pre-Medicare coverage: The biggest change for those under 65 is the discontinuation of the OPERS-sponsored Medical Mutual PPO plan. Beginning in 2022, those enrolled in the OPERS pre-Medicare plan will instead enroll in the health care plan of their choosing. OPERS will partner with a service provider to help pre-Medicare participants

find the best plan for their needs, in a manner similar to the OPERS Medicare Connector. OPERS will provide funding (a monthly allowance) to help participants pay for that coverage. This allowance will be a percentage of a base allowance amount. Each retiree's allowance percentage is determined by their qualifying service credit and their age when initial coverage begins. The base allowance amount will begin at \$1,200 per month and will remain at that level for three years, before it could be adjusted, subject to the Board's review. You can find the allowance percentage chart on the OPERS website ([opers.org/healthcare/allowance](http://opers.org/healthcare/allowance)).

Medicare coverage: OPERS will continue to offer the OPERS Medicare Connector for those age 65 and over who qualify for Medicare parts A and B. The biggest change for the Medicare-eligible population is that the base allowance will be reduced from \$450 to \$350. This allowance is based on a market analysis that shows the average Medigap medical and drug supplemental plan costs \$275 per month. Changes to prior grandfathering will also affect some current retirees.

Impact on previous grandfathering (for both Pre-Medicare and Medicare retirees): Over the years, when changes were made to health care coverage, OPERS used grandfathering to protect some retirees from the full impact of those changes. Under the new health care program, a current retiree's eligibility for health care coverage is "grandfathered," but the allowance amount is not. Depending on age and years of service when the member

retired and first enrolled in the OPERS health care plan, previous grandfathering status could change come 2022.

- Members who retired and enrolled prior to 2015 with 20 or more years of service could see an impact on their monthly allowance. Specifically, this will impact retirees who had an allowance percentage on the table less than 75% but who were grandfathered at 75%. The new allowance will be reduced based on one's actual position on the allowance table with a floor of 51%.

- Members who retired and enrolled prior to 2015 with less than 20 years of service were subject to the 75% allowance grandfathering. That allowance percentage will be reduced to 51%.

- Future Retirees: Future retirees may have to work longer to be eligible for health care benefits. Members retiring under age 65 after January 1, 2022 will be eligible to participate in the health care program only with 30 or more years of service. To participate with fewer than 30 years of service, members will need to be age 65 with 20 years of qualifying service.

- Disability Recipients: The current eligibility conditions will continue to apply to current OPERS disability recipients. Grandfathering conditions outlined above apply to disability recipients.

Please read the information OPERS sends on these upcoming health care plan changes. Coming soon, OPERS will also have a new Health Care 2022 website. And, of course, you can always contact OPERS directly with your questions.

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## GOT RECORDS?

As part of the 25th anniversary of the University of Toledo Retirees Association and what would have been the 30th anniversary of MUOR, UTRA historian Barbara Floyd is looking for records documenting

the history of both groups.

If you were an officer in either group and may have records such as minutes, agenda, financial reports, committee reports, or photographs, please contact

Floyd at [Barbara.floyd@utoledo.edu](mailto:Barbara.floyd@utoledo.edu).

Articles on the history of both groups will continue in the fall 2020 issue of *Tower Talk*.

# DAN SAEVIG, WHO HELPED TO FOUND UTRA, RETIRES

Dan Saevig has been part of The University of Toledo every day for more than half of his life, first as a student and then as an employee at the institution he loves. That changed on March 2 when the associate vice president of alumni engagement and executive director of the UToledo Alumni Association retired.

"I love The University of Toledo; I know its life-changing powers," Saevig said. The native of Oregon, Ohio, received a BA in communication and an MBA degree from UToledo in 1984 and 1989, respectively.

Then Saevig joined the staff at his alma mater as assistant director of alumni relations in 1990. Three years



Dan Saevig

later, he was promoted to executive director of alumni relations. He left the University in 1999, but returned to campus in 2002 as associate vice president of alumni relations.

In 1995, Saevig was one of four university employees who helped some interested retirees create the UToledo Retirees Association. To thank him for his efforts in creating the group, the UTRA board at its January meeting approved giving Saevig a lifetime membership in the organization, and donating \$300 to the Gene and Donna Saevig Medical Mission Scholarship fund, named after Dan's parents. The fund supports students with medical mission activities, leadership in organizing medical missions, and academic achievement.

"Dan has dedicated his life to The University of Toledo. With his Rocket passion and energy, he has helped grow UToledo's alumni participation, as well as alumni programs and donations," President Sharon L. Gaber said. "We thank Dan for his tremendous service to the University for 27 years." [William] Billy Pierce, senior director of alumni engagement, has succeeded Saevig.

A longtime UToledo donor, Saevig gave a \$150,000 parting gift to his alma mater. "The donation is a thank-you for the University's impact on me and my family," he said. "It's important for employees to give back. We are blessed to be working at UToledo. I wouldn't be who I am without the friendships and relationships I developed here over the years. I want to show my support for the institution that I love."

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## HEALTH SCIENCE CAMPUS SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Keith Schlender, Chair

Each year proceeds from the Health Science Scholarship Fund are used to award scholarships to students in the colleges located on the Health Science Campus.

Funding for the scholarships comes from three sources: income from the HSC Retiree Scholarship Endowment, contributions from HSC retirees, and fund-raising activity such as the hospital shoe sales.

This year we were able to grant \$1,500 scholarships in each of the four colleges on the HSC (Graduate Studies, Medicine and Life Sciences, Nursing, and Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences).

The recipients are recommended by the colleges based on academic excellence and valuable contributions to the campus and/or community.

The scholarship for the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science is shared by two students: Hannah Saternos and An Huynh.

An is currently pursuing a Master in Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Indus-

trial Pharmacy program. His research director is Dr. Gabriella Baki. An has assisted in "Hands on Sessions" where visiting high school students get to experience product formulations such as edible lip balm and hand sanitizer gel. He also has assisted with coordinating and supervising undergraduate projects.

Hannah is a Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics Ph.D. student in the laboratory of Dr. Wissam Abou Alaiwi. For her dissertation, Hanna is expanding her master's research on hypertension in Polycystic Kidney Disease. To support her studies, she has received an American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship. She has served on the College Research Scholarship and Graduate Education Committee and as mentor for Women of Toledo Speed Mentoring Workshops.

The recipient from the College of Nursing is Janelle (Jan) Tipton. Jan is enrolled in the MSN-DNP program. She is a Clinical Nurse Specialist in

Oncology Nursing and is the Manager of the UToledo Infusion Center in the Dana Cancer Center. She is a member of the Oncology Nursing Society's Education Advisory Panel. At the institutional level Jan serves on the UTMC Fall Committee and the Cancer Committee. She is active in community service, volunteering on a number of local cancer health committees and boards including the Lucas County Breast Cancer Health Coalition and the Lucas County Chapter of the American Cancer Society. In addition, she has participated in numerous research studies that have led to several presentations and publications.

The recipient from the College of Medicine and Life Sciences is fourth-year medical student Sara Crowell. Sara has served as secretary of the Pediatrics Club, secretary-treasurer of the Christian Medical Fellowship group, and vice president of Vocal Remedy, a HSC women's acapella group. In addition to singing, Sara

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The UTRA annual Holiday Brunch was held this year in the café at the Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement on Dec. 8. About 70 UTRA members and guests attended. UTRA President Curt Black gave brief remarks. Attendees at the Holiday Brunch included (left to right in photo at left): Judith Wilkinson, Nancy Wellman, Celia Regimbal, Kathy Jorgensen, Barbara Floyd, and Andy Jorgensen.



The UTRA Breakfast Buddies meets the first Tuesday of each month at Denny's, 6290 W. Central Ave., at 9:30 a.m. All UTRA members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Above, the group became lunch buddies for their annual holiday luncheon on Dec. 3.

# UTRA: 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO MEMBERS

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discussions with interested retirees were held. The organizational meeting for the group was held on Feb. 28, 1995, in the Schmakel Alumni Center, with Martin Robbins, vice president for University Relations; Dan Saevig, director of Alumni Relations; Billie Ogradowski, secretary in Alumni Relations; and Bud Beekman, director of Major and Planned Gifts assisting. 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.

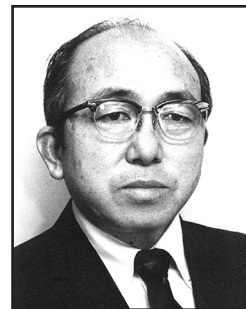
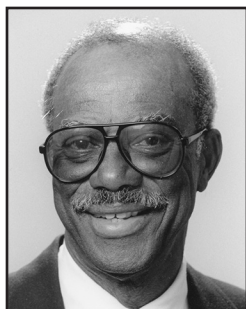
The formation of the group was announced in a press release issued on May 15, and all retirees were invited to a brunch in the Driscoll Center on June 11. Over 125 people attended that brunch, and its success led to scheduling a holiday brunch in December in the Ingman Room of the Student Union.

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 slate of officers elected by membership included President James Brunner; Vice President Lance Thompson; Secretary Willard Smith; Treasurer George

Group was organized by Lloyd Lapp to discuss retirement planning and wealth management. This group continued to offer seminars and informal discussions concerning investments and financial planning



The first officers of UTRA: James Brunner, president; Lance Thompson, vice president; Willard Smith, secretary; and George Taoka, treasurer. (Photos courtesy of University of Toledo Archives)

Taoka; Historian Lloyd Lapp; and members-at-large Bob Schlembach, Jim Thomas, Jim Arbaugh, Art Black, Helen Douglas, and Stephen Spielberg.

The first issue of the *Tower Talk* newsletter was published in October. It included an update on activities of retirees, and listed faculty and staff who had died since 1990.

Almost immediately, the UTRA board took up advocacy on behalf of its members by asking the University administration to address 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.

Also from its formation, UTRA members showed their commitment to the University by actively supporting fundraising. In May 1996, Janet Green and Curt Black, co-chairs of the UT40 capital campaign, gave a presentation on the campaign and urged support by retirees. UTRA members, in turn, pledged \$125,000 to the campaign.

After the busy first two years, UTRA settled into its work of assisting members and providing social activities. In 1997, a Financial Interest

for many years. By the end of that year, UTRA members also had continued to show their support for the capital campaign, and the total pledged by members increased to nearly \$370,000. Almost 40 percent of all faculty and staff pledges to the campaign were from UTRA members.

Another early activity of UTRA was membership in the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees, a state-wide group that collaborated on items of interest to all state university retirees, particularly the benefits provided by STRS and OPERS. In May 1998, the group held its first state conference in Columbus, with the theme of “Retirees Helping Retirees.” UToledo representatives to this organization have worked diligently over the past 25 years to monitor the actions of the state pension boards and to advocate on behalf of its members.

In 1999, the group further collaborated with retirees from other state universities by inviting members of retiree groups at Bowling Green State University and the Medical College of Ohio to a joint meeting. They met at the Inverness Club, and the topic of the presentation at the group meeting was the internet. Also that year, UTRA welcomed UToledo’s new president, Dr. Vik Kapoor.

# UTRA ANNIVERSARY

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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 UToledo careers and comment on their contributions to the University. The project would continue for several years, and the collection currently contains interviews with several dozen retired faculty, which are preserved in the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections in Carlson Library.

After the short-lived presidency of Dr. Kapoor, UTRA board members were invited to play an active role in the selection of the next UToledo president in 2000. They met with the chair of the search committee for what was described as a “spirited” discussion and also were invited to the open forums held with the finalists for the position. All UTRA members were encouraged to attend the presidential inauguration of Dr. Daniel Johnson.

In 2004, UTRA undertook a major service activity when it created a UTRA Scholarship Fund. The intent of the fund was to award scholarships to direct descendants of UTRA members or deceased members. The first recipient of the scholarship was announced the following year: Lynn Johnson, granddaughter of Millie Allred. UTRA continues to raise funds and award such scholarships today.

With the proposed merger of the University of Toledo and the Medical University of Ohio announced in 2006, the board of UTRA and MUOR appointed a task force to see how the two groups might merge. In May, the task force report was presented and 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. Membership files were merged, and historical records of MUOR were added to the archives of UTRA. 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.”

In 2007, UTRA saw the passing of its first president, James Brunner, who died on Feb. 3 at the age of 83. Also that year, UToledo announced that the dental and vision group plans that had served as one of the major reasons for forming UTRA in 1995 would no longer be available, and only currently enrolled members would be able to maintain the insurance. These benefits were now part of the STRS and OPERS health insurance programs.

Two important charitable activities were undertaken in 2008 and 2009. In 2008, Augusta Askari asked each UTRA member attending the UTRA holiday brunch to bring a stuffed animal for children admitted to the University of Toledo 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 UToledo main campus. The plaque read: “With Gratitude/ The University of Toledo Retirees Association/In Memory of All the men and women who have served in the armed forces to preserve our safety, or national security, our freedom, and democracy.” 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 two additional times—in 2014 and 2019. The 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 also were noted as a reason for the award.

In 2014, a new activity called Book Buddies was started, and the first book selected for discussion was *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie. In 2016, UTRA’s new Facebook group was announced. 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 addition to these historical mileposts, UTRA has offered countless seminars, lectures, social events, and bus trips throughout its 25 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, among other locations. The bus trips have provided opportunities for UTRA members to experience travel companionship at reasonable prices.

Other activities are too numerous to mention, but regular groups have included a lunch bunch, cards and games group, and a breakfast group.

And *Tower Talk*, UTRA’s newsletter, continues to be published twice a year to keep members informed of activities and the work of their colleagues.

As UTRA celebrates its 25th anniversary, it is led by Curt Black, son of Art Black, one of the founders of the organization back in 1995. And UTRA continues the mission established by those founders 25 years ago.

# FINDING FULFILLMENT THROUGH OPERA

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Opera can be a theatrical drama or comedy told in music through powerful, classically trained, magnificent voices using no microphones; it is vocal artistry at the highest level. These artists train for years and must care for their voices as precious instruments. While singing, they must convey the power and emotions of their characters. I also enjoy watching the maestro who holds the opera together making sure the singers and musicians are perfectly in sync and able to enchant the audience. I love the experience of being able to enjoy so many fantastic elements at the same time, to feel the emotions on stage and be part of it. I love the escape from the real world to the wonders of the opera stage.

I want to share this experience, and Toledo Opera offers this exhilarating art form in a variety of experiences inside and outside the opera house for people of all ages. During each season, audiences can enjoy the classics and contemporary, as well as cutting-edge American works such as the 2018 premiere in Toledo of *I Dream* about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Toledo Opera spreads throughout

the region to children and youth, with its educational programs An Opera Is a Story (Head Start classrooms), Opera on Wheels (elementary schools), and Student Night at the Opera, when middle and high school students are invited to attend the final dress rehearsal of the season's productions. These programs reach over 20,000 students annually.

The Toledo Opera Association is reaching out to more people in the community by offering alternative opera experiences. The first, "Bon Appetit," held recently at the Registry Bistro was a comedic musical monologue about Julia Child baking a chocolate cake and was a smashing success. The Guild is pleased to have younger members who bring new ideas and friends to opera; therefore, we are attempting events that target groups of people who have specific interests. For example, as a nationally certified and registered yoga teacher, I put together a new fund raiser in 2018 called "Yoga, Opera and You."

The operatic tradition is alive and well in Toledo. New artists and composers are creating masterful contem-

porary works that present new ways to see the world. Opera companies everywhere are exploring new ways to collaborate and reach new audiences.

I am grateful that I have had the privilege and opportunity to be a part of the Toledo Opera Association and Toledo Opera Guild for almost 45 wonderful years, and for all the experiences we have shared. Through the hard work of volunteers and others who have donated time, energy, and money, Toledo Opera celebrated its 60th anniversary last year. I am honored and humbled to be a Toledo Opera Association Honorary Board Member and to have received an award a few years ago "for over 40 years of tireless dedication and enthusiastic support of opera in our region."

The last opera production for the 2019-20 season is a double bill of comic one-act operas on April 17, 18, and 19: Derrick Wang's "Scalia/Ginsburg" and Gilbert and Sullivan's "Trial by Jury" at the Valentine Theatre. Information about the Community Events for these operas is at: [toledoopera.org](http://toledoopera.org). Order tickets online or call the Opera Office at 419-255 7464.

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## HEALTH SCIENCE CAMPUS SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

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also has arranged a piece that will be performed in her final performance with them this spring. Sara was selected to serve three years on the Medical College Admission Committee, helping to choose the physicians of tomorrow.

After completion of medical school, Sara will enter a Pediatric Residency program. She attributes her initial interest in pediatric medicine to her mother, an early childhood educator. Her interest in pediatrics was further nurtured by working summers with soon-to-be fourth graders in an elementary school and volunteering with children's programming at her home church in Cincinnati.

The recipient from the College of Graduate Studies is Darren Gordon. Darren, an MD/Ph.D. candidate, is cur-

rently completing the Ph.D. portion of his training in the Molecular Medicine track. His major advisor is Dr. Terry Hinds, Jr. Darren's research focuses on the molecular actions of bilirubin, a naturally occurring compound, which recently has been shown to reduce obesity and the incidence of insulin-resistant diabetes (Type 2).

He was selected to present his research results in the *Toledo Blade's* series on outstanding graduate students at UToledo. Darren has shown much promise toward becoming an outstanding physician scientist. In addition to his own academic and research success, Darren has a commitment to the success of students coming from varying backgrounds. Realizing his potential to overcome the social and

educational barriers he faced, Darren has vowed to help other students also overcome their obstacles.

He currently serves as the National Speaker of the House of Delegates of the Student National Medical Association, in which he facilitates the training and education of fellow students to recruit applicants and retain students from communities underrepresented in medicine.

The Health Science Scholarship Committee has members from each of the four colleges on the Health Science Campus. The members of the committee are: Ruth Alteneader, RN, Ph.D.; Augusta Askari, Ph.D.; Donna Haar; A. John McSweeney, Ph.D., J.D.; Thomas Mehelas, M.D.; Carol Okenka, RT-T; MR, and Roberta Raeder, Ph.D.



# VISIT BEAUTIFUL, SCENIC VERMONT WITH UTRA

"Moonlight in Vermont," sung by Frank Sinatra, is the most popular ballad about the state of Vermont. Experience a few of those nights on the University of Toledo Retirees Association's six-day, five-night motorcoach trip from Aug. 3-8, 2020 (Monday-Saturday). The incredible price is only \$649 per person (double occupancy) and includes the following: motorcoach transportation, five nights lodging, and eight meals (five breakfasts and three dinners).

Three tours are included. One is a fun tour of the Morse Farm Sugarworks. With operations dating back 200 years, guests can see how real Vermont maple syrup is made. This visit also includes its "Sugar & Snow" experience. Another is a tour of the spectacular Rock of Ages Granite Quarry

(the largest one in the world), where you can watch talented sculptors transform granite into lifelike statuary. Lastly, there is a tour of the world-famous Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory. Nestled in Vermont's Green Mountains, this fully guided tour will show the complete ice cream making process and, of course, a stop by the flavor room to try samples of freshly made ice cream after the tour.

Visits have been planned to the following places: Montpelier, the State Capitol of Vermont; the Cold Hollow Cider Mill (one of the leading New England producers of fresh apple cider); and Stowe Valley, a charming New England village. Enjoy a dinner cruise on beautiful Lake Champlain with entertainment and dance floor; and admission to Shelburne Museum, a unique

outdoor museum that spans 45 acres with 39 antique buildings. A shuttle circumnavigates the museum campus all day. The buildings are arranged to welcome visitors and tell informal stories. It has a collection of 150,000 items including circus pieces, toys, carriages, furniture and more.

On day five of the trip, visitors will go to downtown Burlington's Church Street Marketplace. This award-winning open air mall is a hub of activity where you'll find architecture and over 100 places to shop and dine.

For more pictures, video and information visit: [www.GroupTrips.com/UniversityofToledo](http://www.GroupTrips.com/UniversityofToledo).

For additional information and to register, contact: Sarah Metzger @ (419) 530-2586.

## UTRA PROGRAM COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

April – December 2020 (dates and times to be announced.)

April — Tour of Toledo Public Library's main library

May — Hoen's Nursery Container Gardening Activity

June 9 — Luncheon and Annual UTRA Meeting, Belmont Country Club

July 16 — Purple Rose Theater, Chelsea, Mich., with lunch at the Common Grill prior to performance

Aug. 3-8 — Bus Trip to Vermont

Aug. 15 — UTRA 25th anniversary picnic at the CADE

September — Sandpiper Cruise on the Maumee River

October — Tour of the National Museum of Great Lakes; Wine Tasting Event

November — Hollywood Casino Luncheon

Dec. 6 — Holiday Brunch at Heather Downs Country Club

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee would like to invite all retirees from both the Main and Health Science campuses to join UToledo Retirees Association.

Currently, we have over 750 members. UTRA offers several opportunities throughout the year to interact with former fellow retirees and to meet new friends.

A few benefits to being a member include exciting activities and trips; discounts to athletic, arts and other events on campus; and discounted membership to UToledo's rec centers. We share the same discounts as UToledo alumni and those can be viewed on

the Alumni website.

If for some reason you are not receiving our emails announcing current events please verify your email with the Alumni office. If you know a retiree who did not receive a complimentary first year membership or you have a question regarding the status of your membership, please contact the Alumni office. Their contact number is 419-530-2586. UTRA membership fees: \$20 per year or \$200 for a lifetime membership. If you are interested in serving on one of our committees or have a suggestion please contact Kathy Sbrocchi at [ksbrocchi@yahoo.com](mailto:ksbrocchi@yahoo.com).

## BOOK BUDDIES

The UTRA book club, "Book Buddies" meets the first Wednesday of each month from 2-3:30 p.m. We meet in the cafeteria in the Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement, located at 4510 Dorr St., Toledo 43615, adjacent to Welltower, Inc. Parking is available in the visitor parking spaces in front of the building.

Anyone who loves to read is welcome to join our group at any time. Each month, a different member selects a novel and helps lead the discussion.

It's a great opportunity to meet new people. If you

have any questions, please contact Kathy Sbrocchi at [ksbrocchi@yahoo.com](mailto:ksbrocchi@yahoo.com) or Jan Whitaker at [janwhitaker@aol.com](mailto:janwhitaker@aol.com).

## UPCOMING BOOKS

4/1/20 *Thinking in Numbers*, Daniel Tammet  
5/6/20 *Where the Crawdads Sing*, Delia Owens  
6/3/20 *Rising Out of Hatred*, Eli Saslow  
7/1/20 *The Last Castle*, Denise Kiernan  
8/5/20 *The Pioneers: The Heroic Story...*, David McCullough

## CARDS AND GAMES

The UTRA Cards and Games group meets every second Tuesday of the month from 2-4 p.m. in the cafe in the Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement, located at 4510 Dorr St., Toledo 43615, adjacent to Welltower, Inc.

Parking is available in the visitor parking spaces in front of the building.

For more information, contact Sandy Koepke at 419-865-9621, or email at [Sandra.koepke@utoledo.edu](mailto:Sandra.koepke@utoledo.edu).

# IN MEMORIAM

**The Rev. Langston C. Bannister**, Toledo, professor emeritus of education, died Nov. 22 at age 85. He joined the faculty in 1971 and retired in 2002.

**Josephine A. "Josie" (Welch) Berry**, who worked in records on the Scott Park Campus for more than two decades, died July 18 at age 93.

**Nadine M. (Bieniek) Bethel**, Toledo, who was a medical transcriptionist at MCO from 1993 to 2003, died Nov. 16 at age 61.

**James C. Buechele**, Ottawa Lake, Mich., died Oct. 26 at age 94. He retired in 1989 after working at the University 27 years.

**Frances L. "Frankie" (Bird) Campbell**, Perrysburg, a University employee for more than three decades, died Nov. 17 at age 70. She joined the staff in 1968 and worked in the College of Education. In 1996, she was named a program assistant and one year later became an administrative assistant. Campbell retired in 2001, but returned to work as a seasonal employee in the College of Law for five years.

**Dr. Alfred A. Cave**, Toledo, who served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for 16 years and professor emeritus of history, died Sept. 8 at age 84. He joined UToledo in 1973. During his tenure as dean, the college established the Writing Center, the Master of Liberal Studies Program, exceptional merit awards for faculty performance, and a baccalaureate nursing program in collaboration with the Medical College of Ohio. Cave also founded the Humanities Institute and worked to expand the Honors Program. He also formed committees on women's studies, the forerunner to the program and department, and writing across the curriculum. Cave also helped found an exchange program with the Salford University in Manchester, England. In 1990, he returned full time to teaching and conducting research. Cave made substantial contributions to Colonial North American history. His research influenced the view of interactions between colonists and Native Americans in seventeenth-century North America. His 1996 book, *The Pequot War*, was hailed as the definitive work on New England's first armed conflict between

colonists and Native Americans. He also was a recognized authority on Jacksonian America. In 1997, he received one of the University's Outstanding Researcher Awards. In 1990, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of letters from Salford University in England. He retired from the University in 2007.

**Dr. Virginia Chambers**, Toledo, professor emerita of music, died Sept. 13 at age 88. She joined the University as an associate professor in 1975 and was promoted to professor in 1979. Chambers taught classes for music education majors and elementary education majors, as well as first-year music theory for all music majors. Among her published works were *Reading Tonal Patterns and Tometics: Music for the Classroom Teacher*, which she co-wrote with Dr. Robert DeYarman. Her service to the University included the President's Commission on Enrollment and the Arts and Sciences Council. Chambers was named professor emerita when she retired in 1992.

**Dolores I. "Dolly" (Whitmore) Corbin**, Temperance, Mich., a patient care aide in Medical Intensive Care at the hospital from 1997 until her retirement in 2005, died Oct. 29 at age 77.

**Patty Belle (Tilley) Dempsey**, Swanton, a library media technical assistant who retired from the University in 1996, died Dec. 18. She was 83.

**Dr. Kathleen M. Ferguson**, Las Cruces, N.M., who worked at her alma mater for 20 years, died Aug. 4 at age 74. She was an instructor in the English Department and taught composition and organizational report writing. In 1985, she was named associate director of the Upward Bound Program. Ferguson received bachelor of arts degrees in English and communication in 1981, a master of arts degree in English in 1984, and a doctorate in English in 1996.

**Fred Folger**, Toledo, who taught local history classes at the University from 1976 to 1992, died Dec. 6 at age 80. The UToledo alumnus received a bachelor of education degree in 1961 and taught social studies for 31 years in Washington Local Schools in Toledo.

**Neil Frankenhauser**, Toledo, who taught art classes at the University, died

Sept. 18 at age 79.

**Dr. Carmen R. Gillespie**, Lewisburg, Pa., a former faculty member in the Department of English Language and Literature from 2002 to 2007, died Aug. 30 at age 54. She joined the faculty as an associate professor; two years later, she added director of the Arts Living and Learning Community to her title. From 2004 to 2007, Gillespie was a Senior Fellow with the Humanities Institute. She served on the Arts and Sciences Council and the Arts and Sciences Diversity

**Dr. Irwin A. Horowitz**, Corvallis, Ore., a faculty member in the Psychology Department for 28 years, died Dec. 23 at age 80. He joined the University as an assistant professor in 1966. Four years later, Horowitz was promoted to associate professor and received tenure. He was a professor when he left in 1994. His research supported by the National Science Foundation focused on jury selection and jury nullification, as well as the effect of group norms on bystander intervention.

**David N. Gillmore**, Houston, a former instructor in the Communication Department, died Oct. 30 at age 82. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in education with a speech major from the University in 1960 and 1965, respectively. He taught television and broadcasting classes from 1963 to 1966.

**Inez E. (McNutt) Gorsuch**, Maumee, a radiology technician who retired from MCO, died Aug. 20 at age 83.

**Betty Lou (Botjer) Heiny**, Toledo, a vehicle operator at the University from 1995 to 2006, died Aug. 3 at age 85.

**Cindy E. Klostermeier**, Toledo, who worked at the University 28 years, died Dec. 19 at age 63. She was hired at MCO in 1982 and retired from UToledo in 2010 as housekeeping manager in Environmental Services.

**Dr. Christa M. (Sager) Koffel**, Perrysburg, a former clinical manager in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at MCO, died Aug. 31 at age 63.

**Carol F. (Hopple) Krause**, Toledo, a former secretary at the University, died Oct. 11 at age 72.

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# IN MEMORIAM

Continued from Page 10

**Dr. Leslie E. Lahti**, Sylvania, who as dean helped grow the College of Engineering, died Aug. 17 at age 87. He joined the faculty as an associate professor of chemical engineering in 1967. Five years later, Lahti became chair of the department. In 1980, he was tapped as dean of the College of Engineering. Under his leadership, the college doubled its faculty and staff, increased its research base from \$250,000 a year to \$2.5 million annually, and tripled the number of students. Lahti stepped down as dean in 1988 and returned to teaching until he retired in 1990; he was named professor emeritus and continued teaching part time for another five years. Lahti also assisted with the development of the College of Engineering graduate program, the pre-engineering program, the Office of Applied Research and the Polymer Institute. He was president of the Faculty Senate from 1976 to 1977. In 1977, Lahti was honored as the Outstanding Engineering Educator of the Year by the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers. In 1986, he was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

**Deborah K. "Deb" Madison**, Toledo, an employee at MCO/MUO/UTMC from 2000 to 2015, died June 1 at age 48. She was a hospital aide and worked in sterile processing and transportation.

**Dr. Bernice C. (Cleland) Marti**, Bloomfield Hills, Mich., professor emerita of communication, died Aug. 3 at age 93. She taught part time for four years before being a full-time instructor in the Speech Department in 1969. Marti designed and developed the Speech and Hearing Therapy Program, which she directed from 1972 to 1982. She was promoted to associate professor of communication and received an emerita citation when she retired in 1983. A UToledo alumna, she received a doctor of education degree in 1977.

**Linda S. (Wilson) Milks-Pond**, Temperance, Mich., who worked in the Trauma Program at UToledo Medical Center from 2008 to 2018, died Aug. 31 at age 61.

**Paula L. (Dunbar) Mitchell**, Holland, Ohio, who worked at the University 30 years, died Oct. 25 at age 72. She joined MCO in 1979 as associate director of

sponsored programs in the Research and Sponsored Programs Department. Mitchell retired in 2009 as associate director of research and sponsored programs.

**Dr. Harry E. Murtiff**, Delta, Ohio, died Nov. 5 at age 80. He was a community-based clinical faculty member in family medicine from 1994 to 2012. A UToledo alumnus, Murtiff received a bachelor's degree in 1975.

**William J. O'Keefe**, Toledo, a former adjunct faculty member in the College of Pharmacy, died Sept. 25 at age 81.

**Dr. Raymond Otto**, Toledo, a longtime area dentist who was a clinical assistant professor at MCO/MUO from 1980 to 2006, died Nov. 15. He was 91.

**Dr. John A. Pigott**, Toledo, a local pediatrician who was a clinical associate professor at MCO/MUO/UToledo from 1970 to 2009, died Dec. 1 at age 85.

**John C. Rider**, Toledo, a former MCO/MUO employee who retired in 2006, died Nov. 24 at age 80.

**Marilyn Ritter**, Metamora, Ohio, a staff nurse and research nurse at MCO/MUO/UTMC from 1992 until her retirement in 2011, died May 21 at age 72. She was a union representative as well as a member of the executive board of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2415.

**Dr. Temoleon G. "Tim" Rousos**, Columbus, professor emeritus of technical science and mathematics, died Sept. 22 at age 86. He began as an instructor in 1965 and was named an assistant professor of community studies and coordinator of data processing and computer programming. Rousos was promoted to associate professor in 1969 and professor of basic, technical and general education in the Community and Technical College in 1979. He co-authored several textbooks on general mathematics, statistics, and consumer and business mathematics. Rousos served as chair of the Faculty Senate and was a faculty representative to the Joint Commission on Student Rights and to the UToledo Board of Trustees. The Army veteran was a UToledo alumnus; he received a

bachelor of education degree in 1954, an education specialist degree in 1974, and a doctor of education degree in 1979.

**Rebecca A. Rynn**, Maumee, who worked at MCO/MUO/UTMC from 1981 to 2009, died July 12 at age 61. Her titles included manager of the Glendale Medical Clinic.

**Jean (Killian) Schaefer**, Toledo, a secretary in the College of Business from 1971 to 1985, died Oct. 29. She was 99.

**Georgene M. Shock**, Toledo, who worked at MCO/MUO/UTMC until her retirement in 2006, died Dec. 14 at age 82. She was a volunteer with the Satellites Auxiliary.

**Dr. Dorothy C. Siegel**, Toledo, professor emerita of linguistics, died Sept. 22 at age 72. She joined the Department of English in 1977 as an assistant professor and was promoted to associate professor in 1981. Students noted her dynamic presence in the classroom; she assisted many in applying to graduate programs in linguistics and advised on their careers. Her research focused on lexical morphology; phonological words and phrases; the structure of English words; and linguistics and aphasia. Her book, *Topics in English Morphology*, revolutionized notions of the interaction between the morphological component of grammar and its phonological component. Among the highlights of her career were an NEH Summer Fellowship at Georgetown University. She served on several University committees, including the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate and the Arts and Sciences Council. Siegel was named professor emerita when she retired in 2010.

**Joan (Gibbs) Sigurdson**, Oregon, who was a bus driver at MCO, died Aug. 27 at age 79.

**Lorraine K. Smith**, Perrysburg, who worked at the University from 1977 to 2010, died Nov. 23 at age 66.

**Jacqueline A. "Jackie" (Wineke) St. Arnaud**, Perrysburg, a clerical specialist at MCO/MUO/UTMC from 1974 until her retirement in 2017, died Aug. 3. She was 71.

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## UTRA Tower Talk

### IN MEMORIAM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

**Dr. Eric J. Summons**, Sylvania, died Oct. 7 at age 75. He was a member of the College of Engineering Advisory Board and served as an Executive in Residence for the College of Business and Innovation, where he was named the Edwin Dodd Distinguished Lecturer in 2012. A UToledo alumnus, Summons received a Ph.D. in psychology in 1979.

**Denise M. (Niesy) Terry-Cook**, Toledo, an instructor at the University from 1997 to 2002, died Sept. 7 at age 46.

**Mary Ann (Pietras) Thor**, Toledo, who worked in registration at MCO, died Aug. 29 at age 79.

**Patricia A. (Reamsnyder) Toepfer**, Toledo, a former nurse at MCO, died Sept. 6 at age 92.

**Barbara A. "Bobbi" Weber**, Toledo, who worked at the University for two decades, died Sept. 17 at age 69. She joined the staff in 1973 and was a clerical specialist in the Publications Office through 1993.

**Raymond J. Whelan**, Lambertville, Mich., a former karate instructor at the University, died Sept. 14 at age 76.

**Dr. Peter White**, Toledo, a longtime faculty member who helped shape and grow the Medical College of Ohio, died Nov. 16 at age 89. He was recruited as one of the early MCO faculty members, and joined the faculty in 1969 as deputy chair of the Department of Medicine and set up a Division of Hematology; his research focused on heme, a compound

in blood cells, and his work advanced the understanding of blood cell biology. He developed the Department of Medicine's research, clinical and residency training programs; in addition, he recruited area physicians to serve as volunteer faculty. White helped develop the medical curriculum. He served as chief of the medical staff of the MCO Hospital in 1975. During the 1990s, he provided administrative leadership for the college's Area Health Education Center Program, which worked to increase the number of primary care and other health practitioners in medically underserved areas. White left MCO in 1977, but returned to the institution in 1985. He retired in 2004 and was named professor emeritus. The recipient of several Golden Apple teaching awards given by graduating medical students, White also was honored with the MCO Faculty Club Award. In 2005, the Department of Medicine residency training program established an award in his name for scholastic excellence by resident physicians, the Peter White Award for Excellence in Scholarly Activity. White was one of four editors of the book *A Community of Scholars, Recollections of the Early Years of the Medical College of Ohio*, published in 2011.

**Michael D. Wilkins**, Blacklick, Ohio, who was executive director of the MCO Foundation from 1995 to 2001, died Sept. 25 at age 50. A UToledo alumnus, he received a bachelor's degree in business administration majoring in accounting in 1990 and a master of business administration degree in administration in 1997.

**Dr. Robert L. "Bob" Wilhoite**, Toledo, a faculty member in the College of Education for more than three decades, died Nov. 10 at age 94. He joined the University as an assistant professor of education in 1965, was named an associate professor in 1968, and chair of the Department of Educational Theory and Social Foundations in 1971. Wilhoite received one of the University's Outstanding Teacher Awards in 1972. He was named professor emeritus when he retired in 1997.

**Dr. Arthur S. Winsor**, Rancho Bernardo, Calif., a faculty member in the Department of Music for more than 40 years, died Aug. 22 at age 89. He joined the University in 1958 as an instructor. The pianist was promoted to associate professor in 1968 and professor in 1976. For 10 years, Winsor served as chair of the department. In 1962, he founded the Madrigal Singers and was conductor of the group for 10 years.

**Suzanne M. (Stahl) Wolfe**, Toledo, an employee at MCO for 31 years, died Oct. 28 at age 78. She joined the hospital in 1970 and worked in the Patient Financial Services Department until her retirement in 2001. She worked in admitting until 1999 when she became an account clerk. In 2000, she became a collection specialist.

**Sister Ann Rita Young**, Sylvania, who was chaplain at the University Medical Center from 2008 until her retirement in 2016, died Aug. 14 at age 79.