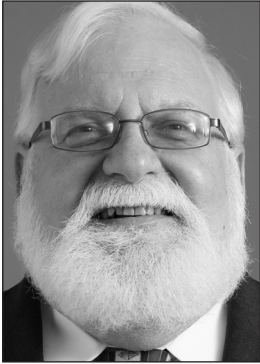


Tower Talk

Barbara Floyd, editor
Vicki Kroll, assistant editor
Cynthia Nowak, assistant editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



UTRA President
Andy Jorgensen

Happy Fall, UTRA Members!

Let me first welcome the latest group of UT Retirees. Approximately 40 employees joined our numbers during the last few months. As you know, we offer new retirees one year of free membership in our organization. After that year, you are invited to join as a continuing member at the modest cost of \$20 per year. A better deal is life membership for \$200! Given increased

costs, including the preparing and mailing of this newsletter, we are considering changes in these amounts, so all new and continuing members are encouraged to become life members before the change.

This issue will summarize various activities of UTRA in the recent past plus plans for more exciting events in the future. Please note the change in format for our December Holiday Meeting described in a separate article. This change should allow you to more easily

interact with other members of our group. I hope that you put this celebration on your calendar and make your reservation when the invitation arrives.

If you read the local newspaper, you will no doubt notice articles about one or more of the state of Ohio retirement programs for former employees. The situation is rather complex, and, in the case of STRS, may change significantly in the future. Board member and past UTRA president Jim Lapp diligently monitors the retirement situation as our representative to the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees, a group consisting of retirees from other public organizations from around the state. Jim regularly reports to our Board on various decisions that can affect us as retirees. This includes elections of the retirement boards, decisions they make about the pension plans, medical insurance changes, and various other pieces of news. I encourage you to read his report in this newsletter. You may also request his more complete bimonthly report.

Continued on page 8

TOURING THE LATHROP HOUSE

By Kathy Wilson

History came alive on Wednesday, Sept. 11, when approximately 40 UTRA members toured Lathrop House on Main Street in Sylvania.

The afternoon began with a discussion of abolitionists of the 19th century — Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, the Grimke sisters, Harriet Tubman and many others.

Lathrop House, the only Underground Railroad site in northwest Ohio open to the public, is one of a vast network of Underground Railroad “stops” across the

state where men, women and children fleeing slavery found safety and shelter as they made their passage to Detroit and then into Canada. Lucian Lathrop was a Universalist Unitarian minister, descended from a long line of abolitionists. His wife, Larissa, was raised in the Quaker faith, a denomination also known for anti-slavery sentiment. Aiding runaway slaves was illegal after enactment of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.



Lathrop House tour guide Michele Alexander told the story of a slave on a plantation in the South built a box and mailed himself to Philadelphia and freedom.

Continued on page 8

UTRA MEMBERS COME TOGETHER FOR ANNUAL MEETING

William “Billy” Pierce, University of Toledo associate vice president of alumni and engagement and annual giving, told UTRA members that the University’s retirees “are the backbone and shoulders” upon which current employees stand. Pierce made his comments as the keynote speaker at the UTRA annual meeting held at the Belmont Country Club on June 12.

Pierce said UTRA members should be commended for remaining engaged in the University. He said it was particularly important to have such support during this challenging time in higher education. Current issues include enrollment declines coming out of the pandemic, the need to cut academic programs, demands to end diversity programs, and the transition of presidents.

“UT is resilient,” Pierce said. He expressed certainty that the institution could overcome all these challenges, just as it has overcome other challenges throughout its 150-year history.

Pierce recounted how he had come to work in higher education. Education was stressed in his family. His father attended Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, as part of a diversity program in law enforcement. His mother attended graduate school at Central State University. Pierce himself was a three-sport athlete at UT and considered himself lucky to work in admissions under longtime director Richard Estop.

Pierce noted that when he began at UT, he was an introvert, and the University gave him the confidence to speak before large groups and grow both personally and professionally. He noted his current position in Alumni Relations provided him the opportunity to make a national impact by working with alumni groups throughout the country.

Despite current challenges, Pierce said there is much to be proud of, and he especially noted the impact alumni and retirees can have on helping to grow enrollment. “We need to be ambassadors for our University,” Pierce said. Pierce thanked UTRA for supporting scholarships for both Main Campus and Health Science Campus students.

At the business portion of the meeting, treasurer Celia Regimbal noted budgetary issues facing UTRA. Because the organization has committed in recent years to subsidizing members’ meals at the annual meeting and holiday brunch, the treasury has taken a hit. As of June, the treasury had \$28,700 in reserves.

Sarah Metzger, UTRA’s Alumni Relations contact, noted the need to increase membership in the coming year.

UTRA President Andy Jorgensen introduced the two newly elected members of the Executive Committee – Deborah MacDonald and Maria Villagomez, who will serve two-year terms as members-at-large. In addition, Cecelia Regimbal was re-elected as treasurer, and Peter Papadimos was re-elected as a member-at-large.

Jorgensen urged members to make sure they are receiving emails about UTRA programming. If you are not receiving regular emails about UTRA events, please contact Sarah Metzger in Alumni Relations at 419-530-2586. Information on upcoming programs and photos from past programs can be found on the UTRA Facebook page as well.



UTRA current and incoming executive board members posed for a photo at the annual meeting.

Attendees demonstrated UTRA’s continued commitment to philanthropy by donating stuffed animals to be given to children whose family members are being cared for at the University of Toledo Medical Center. In addition, attendees donated more than \$1,600 for UTRA/HSC scholarships and the Rocket Fuel student food pantries, which provide assistance to students with food insecurities.

UTRA WELCOMES NEW RETIREES

Judith Aldrich
 Mary Almanza
 James Anderson
 Michael Anderson
 Dr. Jon Bjorkman
 Dr. Karen Bjorkman
 Dr. David Black
 Stacy Bowers
 Dr. Michael Boyd
 Carol Bryan
 Dr. Wesley Bullock
 Robert Calabrese
 Dr. George Cicila
 Larry Cook
 Charles Davis
 Dr. Jenny Denyer
 Scott Dibling
 Mona Dokurno
 Dr. Michael Dowd

Henrietta Edmonds
 Nora Evarts-Benner
 Arlene Fell
 Maureen Gilmore
 Susan Guess
 James Haack
 Jeffrey Hart
 Melony Hiles
 Howard Hillard
 Dr. James Hofmann
 Dr. Margaret Hopkins
 Ruth Jacobs
 Dr. David Jex
 Eric Johnson
 Roberta Jordan
 Dr. Timothy Ray Jordan
 Trudi Joseph
 Dr. Victor Karpov
 Dr. Paulette Kilmer

Andrea Korsnack
 David Kujawa
 Debra Kuron
 Judy Lambert
 Cynthia LaPlant
 Barbara Legros
 Dr. Linda Lewin
 Michele Lovett
 Nancy Maenle
 Patsy Militzer
 Mark Monroe
 Holly Diane Monsos
 Sandra Mroz
 Karin Nagy
 Henry Okonta
 Tera Otto
 Charlene Pluciniczak
 Michael Prior
 Maria Ribas

Ellen Richardson
 Catherine Rutherford
 Ezzatollah Salari
 Patrik Sieja
 Geraldine Sieminski
 Sheryl Stevens
 Dr. Pamela Stover
 Bradley Tansel
 William Tapper
 Kenneth Vellequette
 Angela Walker
 Susan Welch
 Dr. Raymond Witte

LIFETIME

Janice Whitaker
 Celia Regimbal

2024 UTRA BUS TRIP TO MACKINAC ISLAND AND NORTHERN MICHIGAN



UTRA on a historic island tour on Mackinac Island.



If you're on the bus trip, you've got to play "Bus Trip Bingo"!



Our intrepid travelers departing from CADE.



Mary Richards, Karen Bell & Chris Spengler relaxing on the front porch at the Grand Hotel.

NEWS FROM COLUMBUS

By James Lapp

STRS has been under fire from many members upset about the lack of a COLA, the way STRS is investing assets, the performance-based incentives (PBI) paid to certain members of its investment staff, and what some consider a lack of transparency. Led in large part by the efforts of the Ohio Retirement for Teachers Association (ORTA), reform-minded candidates have been winning elections to the STRS board, and now constitute a majority on the board.

On May 9, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost announced that he is opening an investigation into a 14-page anonymous memo from STRS staff that STRS is in danger of a “hostile takeover” by private interests. Gov. Mike DeWine forwarded what he characterized as these “disturbing allegations” to the Ohio Ethics Commission, the Ohio Retirement Study Council, State Auditor Keith Faber and others. The allegations seem to revolve around an investment pitch from a private entity named QED Systematic Solutions that has been promoted by some board members but earlier rejected by STRS staff and their investment consultant as unproven and too risky. Citing a provision in state law allowing him to take civil action to remove members of public pension boards who violate their fiduciary responsibilities, Yost indicated that he would “take whatever action is necessary to protect teachers against private interests attempting to hijack their retirement accounts.” DeWine mentioned consulting firm Aon’s decision to end its contract with STRS early. It had been hired last September to provide the board with corporate governance guidance. He called this “a huge red flag, calling into question how STRS is operating and providing oversight.”

The following week, Yost sued to remove board members Wade Steen (appointed to the STRS board by DeWine as an investment expert) and Rudy Fichtenbaum (retired teacher member). According to the suit, the pair sought to invest as much as 70% of STRS assets, about \$65B, with a “shell company (QED Systematic Solutions) that lacks any indicia of legitimacy and has backdoor ties to Steen and Fichtenbaum themselves.” Lawyers for both have denied the allegations. Regardless of the lawsuit’s outcome, Steen’s term expires late September, likely shifting the majority on the STRS board as DeWine appoints his successor.

At a July special meeting, the board approved an amended version of the PBI policy approved the previous month. It includes potential reductions

to the incentive payments for senior investment staff depending on certain metrics. At the August board meeting, healthcare premiums for 2025 were approved. More than 90% of current plan enrollees will have no premium increase. Aetna will continue as the plan administrator, and CVS Caremark will continue to provide prescription coverage.

STRS posted a net total return of 10.5% for the year ended June 30, 2024. For the five-year period ending June 30, 2024, STRS’s total fund earned a net annualized return of 8.8%. Its performance ranked in the top 8% of pension funds across the country.

OPERS

This past spring the OPERS board approved raising the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) monthly base allowance from the current \$350 to \$400 starting January 2025. Retirees receive varying percentages of the base allowance depending on years of qualifying service credit and their age at retirement. The board also voted to keep the pre-Medicare allowance at its current level, \$1,200 per month, in 2025. Both allowances are expected to remain at this rate through 2030. OPERS also announced COLAs for 2025. Those retirees with a benefit effective date prior to January 7, 2013, will receive an automatic 3% COLA. The COLA for those who retired after that date, based on the CPI-W but not to exceed 3%, will be 2.9%.

OPERS has released its latest annual financial reports — the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the abbreviated Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) — that provide a detailed look at the financial, investment, actuarial and demographic details of the pension system. They are available for review at opers.org. Included in the reports:

- OPERS maintained a total net position of \$114.7 billion at the end of 2023, up from \$106.8 billion a year earlier.
- Membership reached nearly 1.29 million, which included 220,876 retirees, 308,456 active members and 756,757 inactive members.
- OPERS made pension benefit payments of more than \$7.2 billion, up from \$7.0 billion in 2022, reflecting demographic changes in the retiree population and an annual simple cost-of-living adjustment. Pension payments have grown more than 41% in the past 10 years, from \$5.1 billion in 2014 to \$7.2 billion in 2023.

- Healthcare costs declined in 2023. Healthcare expenses (net of healthcare receipts) were \$0.5 billion, compared to \$0.6 billion in 2022, a result of a decline in the number of retirees enrolled in the HRA program and claims submitted for reimbursement.
- The OPERS defined benefit fund returned 11.26%, above the assumed rate of return of 6.9%. The healthcare portfolio returned 13.97%, above its assumed rate of return of 6.0%. Total portfolio return, combining the returns of the pension and healthcare funds, was 11.72%.
- The December 31, 2023, funded valuation status of the pension fund was 83.3%. The unfunded liability of \$20.3 billion is expected to be funded within 15 years (well within the 30-year funding window).
- For retirees in the traditional plan, the average age was 71.1 years, the average service credit in years was 23.2, and the average annual benefit was \$32,439.
- Last year, OPERS had 83 members who were more than 100 years old, with the oldest being 108.
- OPERS is good for Ohio. For every dollar received from public employers in 2023, \$3.14 was returned to the Ohio economy through pension and healthcare payments made to retirees. Almost \$2.6 billion of the OPERS portfolio was invested in Ohio-based companies.

UTRA ELECTION RESULTS

By Donna Haar, Election Committee Chair

The following were elected to the UTRA Executive Committee in the spring election. The Nominating Committee extends its thanks to all who agreed to run for office and to all members who voted in the election.

Celia Regimbal was elected as treasurer. She retired in 2017 after serving as a faculty member for 31 years in the College of Education, where she taught Physical Education and Teacher Education courses, as well as classes in Early Childhood Education. Celia served on numerous committees, including the Beautification Committee and Faculty Senate, and she was the Faculty Athletic Representative.

Debbie MacDonald was elected to a two-year term as a member-at-large. She retired from the University in 2012 after 32 years of service. During the last 12 years of her career, she was secretary in the Department of History. In her final year, she was the secretary for both the History and Philosophy Departments. Earlier in her career, she worked for

the Department of Physics and Astronomy and the Department of Foreign Languages.

Peter J. Papadimos was re-elected to a two-year term as a member-at-large. He retired from the University after 24 years of service in the Office of Legal Affairs. He began his career at UT as an associate general counsel in 1995 and was promoted to vice president and general counsel in 2007. Positional responsibilities included the Health Science Campus and UTMC.

Maria Villagomez was elected to a two-year term as a member-at-large. She began her career at UT in 1975, and she retired in 2011 when working in the Office of Institutional Research. Maria graduated in 1973 from ComTech with a degree in business technology,

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November

UTRA Presents: The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald

2:00 pm

Thursday, November 7

Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement

4510 Dorr Street

Join us for an afternoon of reflection and remembrance as we honor the legacy of the Edmund Fitzgerald. You will have the unique opportunity to hear the story of the Edmund Fitzgerald. Former Editor and Vice President of The Blade, Tom Walton, will share his insights on

the ship's tragic sinking in November 1975. Walton draws from his personal experiences working aboard the vessel for a season. This poignant presentation holds special significance for Mr.

Walton, whose uncle was among the 29 lives lost in that fateful tragedy.



Light refreshments will be served.

NEW VENUE CHOSEN FOR HOLIDAY BRUNCH

The UTRA Holiday Brunch, traditionally held at Heatherdowns Country Club, will be held this year at the Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The change in venue is due to increasing costs, which may have limited the ability of some members to attend. For the past two years, UTRA has helped to cover a significant portion of the brunch, but that has contributed to a decline in the treasury that could not be sustained.

The program will be less formal than in previous years, but will include an introduction of the UTRA Scholarship winners, as well as live entertainment from Ben DeLong, delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Please check your email for more information and a link to register later this month. The UTRA Board hopes you will set aside this time for fellowship with your UToledo friends.



PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE REPORT

By Lynn Hutt

The Philanthropy Committee would like to thank all the members who participated in the Annual Meeting in June. Those who provided stuffed animal donations were responsible for the enormous success this year, with elephants, monkeys, dogs and other huggable critters decorating the table. The Philanthropy Committee donated the stuffed animals to The University of Toledo Medical Center Satellites for children whose family members receive emergency services at The University of Toledo Medical Center.

The funds from the 50/50 raffle held at the Annual Meeting were a contribution to the scholarship fund.

Please consider donating either in the form of cash or a stuffed animal. You can make donations at any time by dropping off funds at 4510 Dorr Street #830, Toledo, Ohio, or stuffed animals at the UTMC Satellite Gift Shop. You can also follow The University of Toledo Retirees Association on Facebook.

The Philanthropy Committee met in September to discuss the Holiday Party and how to raise funds in 2025. Funds raised by the Philanthropy Committee are for the benefit of UT students. Please feel free to send suggestions to lynn.hutt@utoledo.edu.

UTRA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2023-2024

President

Andy Jorgensen
419-344-0768
andy.jorgensen@utoledo.edu

Vice President

Lance Talmage
419-304-1872
latalmage@bex.net

Secretary

Jan Whitaker
419-475-1265
jan.whitaker@aol.com

Treasurer

Celia Regimbal
419.535-0632
celia.regimbal@utoledo.edu

Members-at-Large

Cecelia Clarke
419-350-8446
cecelia.clark@utoledo.edu

Laurie Flowers

419-297-8372
flowerskeeler@gmail.com

Thomas Mehelas

419-277-6342
tmehelas@aol.com

Debbie MacDonald

Chair, UTRA Scholarship
Committee
419-867-9150
djm2212@att.net

Pete Papadimos

Co-chair, Benefits Committee
419-283-0923
peter.papadimos@utoledo.edu

Maria Villagomez

419-385-4780
maria.villagomez@utoledo.edu

Past Presidents:

Augusta Askari

419-531-7559
aaskari@bex.net

Curtis Black

419-297-8631
curt.black@utoledo.edu

Donna Haar

419-277-9176
dhaar67@gmail.com
Chair, Nominating Committee

James Lapp

419-360-0229
jlapp@bex.net
OCHER Representative
Co-chair, Benefits Committee

Keith Schlender

419-705-8970
keith.schlender@utoledo.edu
Chair, HSC Scholarship
Committee

Chris Spengler

419-351-9936
chris.spengler@utoledo.edu
Chair, Program Committee

Committee Chairs:

Barbara Floyd
419-536-9747
barbara.floyd@utoledo.edu
Historian/Newsletter Editor

Lynn Hutt

419-215-7901
senioraudit@yahoo.com
Chair, Philanthropy Committee

Judith Wilkinson

419-882-5707
Judith.wilkinson@utoledo.edu
Chair, Membership Committee

Alumni Relations Staff

Sarah Metzger
Executive Assistant for Alumni
and Engagement
UTRA Liaison
419-530-4237
sarah.metzger2@utoledo.edu

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued from page 1

UTRA's Program Committee continues to organize one or more activities each month. Some of these are presented in the CADE building, while others take us to locations in our community. If the program is a talk in the CADE auditorium, it will be streamed on the Web so you can watch and listen you're your couch or home office. I have learned much about the interests of our members as well as interesting information about our community from these sessions. Follow the schedule via emails or on the UTRA Facebook page.

Also keep in mind our regularly scheduled events and plan to attend those of interest to you. These include the Breakfast Bunch (first Tuesday mornings), the Book Club (first Wednesday afternoons) and the Pathfinders walking group (alternate Wednesday mornings). At these sessions I often meet someone new, and you might do the same. I just read an interesting article about the importance of making and maintaining friendships, especially in our senior years. It has been shown

that this practice has a positive effect on our well-being. Do note that all of our committees, which are listed elsewhere in this mailing, welcome additional members. You need not be elected to the UTRA Board to participate. Just email me (andy.jorgensen@utoledo.edu) or Sarah Metzger (sarah.metzger2@UToledo.edu) to receive a message on the group's next meeting — you are always welcome!

Finally, if you have received this newsletter by U.S. mail, but do not receive the regular UTRA emails, please send your email address to Sarah Metzger so you can be added to that distribution. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions for future activities, please write to me, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Andy Jorgenson, UTRA President

TOURING THE LATHROP HOUSE

Continued from page 1

Despite passage of this law and inherent risks to their families and livelihood, the Lathrops and many others continued to shelter runaway slaves while arranging for safe passage to the next stop.

Attendees were able to visualize how fleeing slaves would hide in an area of the fireplace in the Lathrop kitchen, accessed through a brick oven. We also heard the dramatic story of a slave who built a box and mailed himself from a plantation in the South

to Philadelphia, eventually relocating to London, England, marrying and returning to the U.S.

Many thanks to Lathrop House tour guides, Sallye Miyara and Michele Alexander.

For those unable to attend the program, the Lathrop House is open most Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. through mid-November.



IN MEMORIAM

Carol M. (Cochran) Albright, Sylvania, who worked at MCO/MUO/UTMC 28 years, died Sept. 21, 2023, at age 85. She received a degree in nursing from UT in 1980 and joined the MCO staff one year later as a study coordinator in medicine. Until her retirement in 2009, Albright held several titles, including staff nurse, research nurse and research coordinator.

Dr. Gary F. Bennett, Sylvania, professor emeritus of bioengineering, died May 12 at age 88. In 1963, he started teaching at the University as an assistant professor. Bennett was promoted to associate professor in 1966 and to professor in 1972. He received the Golden Apple Award for outstanding teaching in 1972 and 1974. He served as coordinator of continuing professional technical education courses from 1968 to 1988. In 1987, he was named an adjunct professor of industrial hygiene at MCO. Bennett served on myriad college and University committees and was a Faculty Senate member. He retired from the University in 1992 and returned to teach from 1997 to 1999.

Dr. John "Jack" F. Brunner, Toledo, a former MCO faculty member, died July 8 at age 97. When MCO opened, he helped with the endocrine curriculum as a clinical faculty member. Brunner received the Golden Apple Award for teaching in 1972 and 1974. He was a clinical assistant professor of medicine who was a volunteer from 1990 to 1996 and joined the faculty from 1997 to 2000, when he retired. He was a volunteer faculty member from 2000 to 2004. The UT alumnus received a bachelor's degree in 1953.

Clementine "Tina" C. (Wielinski) Carpenter, Toledo, a former MCO employee, died March 13 at age 91.

Dr. Lachman V. Chablani, Chicago, clinical professor of pathology from 1970 to 2019, died July 25 at age 86. He was a founding member of the Hindu Temple and Heritage Hall of Toledo.

Diane K. (Homer) Cline, Toledo, died April 30 at age 66. She joined the UTMC staff in 2008 and retired as lead resource utilization coordinator in outcome management in 2023. She received an associate of applied science degree in nursing from the University in 1984.

Helen V. (Jordan) Cohen, Toledo, a former UT employee, died April 5 at age 98. She received a master of education degree from the University in 1973.

William "Bill" G. Connolly, Toledo, a UT employee for 10 years, died July 5 at age 79. In 2005, he worked in the Visitor Center and three years later moved to Financial Aid, where he was a direct service provider. He retired from the University in 2015. Connolly received a bachelor of science degree from the University in 2003 and was an avid Rocket football and basketball fan.

Dr. Clyde A. Dilley, Maumee, died Feb. 22 at age 92. In 1971, he joined the UT faculty as an assistant professor of education and was later promoted to associate professor. In 1983, Dilley with his wife, Elaine, and three other partners opened Thackeray's Books in Toledo.

Norma Jean Eastop, Toledo, who worked and taught at the University, died May 18 at age 81. She received a bachelor of science degree in nursing from UT in 1979. Eastop was a staff nurse at the Medical College of Ohio for seven years and went back to school and received a master of

science degree in nursing from MCO in 1982. Eastop joined the faculty as an assistant professor of nursing in 1994 and retired in 2011. Eastop was an ardent Rocket football and basketball fan. She is survived by husband Richard Eastop, longtime UT administrator.

Aman'u'llah Farahmandnia, Toledo, a former instructor of mathematics, died June 23 at age 73.

Rexford "Rex" J. Fogt, Coronado, Calif., professor emeritus of art, died March 29 at age 81. He joined the faculty as an assistant professor in 1987 and was promoted to associate professor in 1988 and professor in 1998. From 1972 to 1987, Fogt taught at the Toledo Museum of Art. The award-winning artist known for his colorful ceramics retired from the University in 2012.

Dr. William N. Free, Toledo, who taught English and served as an administrator during his 53 years at the University, died May 9 at age 90. In 1966, he was named an associate professor in the English Department, where he specialized in 18th-century literature. He was promoted to professor in 1971. During his career, he also served as department chair from 1972 to 1979, vice president for academic affairs from 1979 to 1989, director of graduate studies in English from 1989 to 1995, and interim provost and vice president for undergraduate and graduate education from 2000 to 2001. Free retired in 2019.

Donald W. Gagnon, Sylvania, a former chemist at the University, died March 23 at age 87.

Norman S. Giddan, Carrollton, Texas, a clinical psychologist who led the UT Counseling Center and was an adjunct professor of education, died Feb. 21 at age 90.

Continued on page 10

IN MEMORIAM

Continued from page 9

He joined the University in 1976 as director of the Counseling Center. He spent 19 years establishing an array of innovative mental health services at the University. His paraprofessional training programs included career counseling, resident adviser identification of troubled students in on-campus housing, and academic and campus life tutoring for student-athletes. He promoted mental health awareness in the Division of Student Affairs and in the interfaith community to assist at-risk students. He helped computerize the Career Center and the Testing Center, and he landed grants to focus on drug abuse and depression. Giddan wrote numerous academic and non-fiction books.

Joseph Goldberg, Fort Myers, Fla., a former UT employee, died April 1 at age 89. He received a law degree from the University in 1963.

Dr. William M. Gray, Sylvania, professor emeritus of foundations of education, died March 29 at age 81. He joined the UT faculty as an associate professor in 1975 and was promoted to professor in 1981. In the College of Education, Gray was named interim associate dean for graduate studies and research in 1999 and became associate dean for graduate programs and research in 2004. He helped build libraries in the college by donating academic journals and teaching materials. Gray retired from the University in 2013 and taught as a part-time instructor until 2016.

Dr. William L. Henrich, San Antonio, a former MCO faculty member, died March 14 at age 77.

Norma Jean Johnson, Toledo, who worked at MCO for 30 years, died June 29 at age 85. She joined

the staff in 1975 and retired as a hospital aide in Sterile Processing in 2005.

L. Edward Kime, Perrysburg, a former UT faculty member, died June 22 at age 92. He was one of the first to teach computer-aided design at the University, where he was in the classroom from 1973 to 1998.

Katherine "Katie" A. Koffman, Washington, D.C., who worked in the UTMC Neurology Department from 2008 to 2012, died March 9 at age 32. She is survived by her father, Dr. Boyd Koffman, UT professor of neurology.

Nancy L. (Middleton) Kohl, Concord, Mass., a former UT employee, died June 24 at age 83. She worked in the Computer Center and taught business courses at the former Community and Technical College.

David M. Kraemer, Northwood, who was an MCO employee for 38 years, died April 5 at age 69. He joined the staff in 1977 as a building operator in the Power Plant. During his time on campus, Kraemer also was a stationary engineer. He retired in 2015.

Geraldine A. (Teszner) Kujawa, Memphis, Tenn., who worked at MCO/MUO/UTMC for more than 20 years, died June 30 at age 78. She joined the staff in 1983 and worked in graphic design. In 2002, Kujawa became a records management officer in the Registrar's Office. Two years later, she became a secretary in Psychiatry and later moved to Outcome Management. She was a clerical specialist in Endoscopy in 2006 when she retired.

Sally Blakelock Kuzmanov, Oregon, an MCO employee for more than two decades, died April 23 at age 88. She retired in 1996.

Viola E. Lofton, Charlotte, N.C., died March 15 at age 72. She graduated from UT in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in business and worked at her alma mater in accounting for a time.

Alexander T. Mak, Toledo, who worked at the University for more than three decades, died June 4 at age 61. He started studying astronomy at UT in 1981 and joined the staff in 1989 as assistant director of Ritter Planetarium. During the 1990s, Mak served as assistant director of the Science, Mathematics and Technology Education Center, and he was an instructor for the Support Program for International Competency in Astronomy from 1990 to 1993. In 2008, Mak was named associate director of the planetarium. He wrote the script for "Santa's Secret Star," an original production of The University of Toledo FullDome Studio. The holiday favorite tells the story of how Santa and Rudolph use the night sky to navigate back to the North Pole. Mak retired in 2021.

Sylvia J. McCracken Pinkerman, Florence, S.C., who was an advisor and counselor at UT from the early 1990s until 1999, died April 4 at age 85.

James J. McDonald, Toledo, an assistant men's basketball coach from 1970 to 1982, died April 30 at age 90.

Monica McLemore, Toledo, who worked at MCO/MUO/UTMC, died May 2 at age 61. She joined the staff in 2001 as a food service worker in Food and Nutrition. Seven years later, she became a custodial worker and in 2013 a hospital aide in Sterile Processing. McLemore retired in 2019.

Dr. Lewis B. Morrow, Seattle, a former faculty member at MCO, died Nov. 28, 2023, at age 89.

Continued on page 11

IN MEMORIAM

Continued from page 10

He was a professor of medicine who received tenure in 1979. From 1995 to 1996, Morrow served as associate dean for undergraduate and graduate medical education.

Dr. Charles L. Quick, Temperance, Mich., professor emeritus of biology, died April 30 at age 93. A UT alumnus, he received master and doctor of education degrees in 1963 and 1971, respectively. Quick joined the former ComTech faculty as an assistant professor in 1967 and was promoted to associate professor in 1971 and professor later. He served as chair of the Department of General Studies from 1973 to 1978 and chair of the Department of Technical Science and Mathematics from 1978 to 1980 and had another stint beginning in 1981. Quick taught biology and life sciences at his alma mater for nearly three decades; he was named professor emeritus in 1996 and retired in 1997. He was a member of Faculty Senate and taught wine appreciation classes through the UT Division of Continuing Education.

Timothy Rice, Port Clinton, who was an English and composition instructor until 2001, died July 7 at age 66. The UT alumnus received bachelor's and master's degrees in English in 1985 and 1987.

Pinches "Paul" Schoenfeld, a former UT music instructor, died April 29 at age 77.

Eldonna "Ducky" Shields-Kyle, Vermillion, Ohio, who was an associate professor of nursing at MCO from 1986 to 1991, died Aug. 3 at age 84.

William J. Skeel Rinehart, Sylvania, died May 10 at age 83. As an instructor, he taught information systems and database management classes for a time.

Sherre J. Owens Smith, Toledo, a former instructor who taught English and art classes, died May 4 at age 85.

Dr. William A. Sodeman Jr., Toledo, professor emeritus of medicine, died May 12 at age 88. He joined the MCO faculty in 1989 and was named professor emeritus in 2001. He continued to teach through 2014. Sodeman received a law degree from UT in 1997.

Dr. Mary James (Sheets) Stahl, Toledo, a former instructor who taught computer science at the University from 2007 to 2010, died June 18 at age 79. She was a UT alumna, receiving a master of education degree in 1969 and a doctorate in education in 1986.

Mary Sue (Hierholzer) Szykowny, Sylvania, a former UT employee, died April 2 at age 77.

Wallace "Bud" Tapola, Bozeman, Mont., a former track and cross-country coach at the University, died April 7 at age 96.

James E. Thomas, who was on the staff at the University for more than 30 years, died April 28 at age 94. He was hired as a truck driver in 1954 and began working in the paint shop one year later. Thomas retired as maintenance superintendent in 1987. He became involved with the UT-MCO Federal Credit Committee Board of Directors in 1975.

Katherine Bennett Vines, Toledo, a former UT instructor, died May 14 at age 84.

Dr. Harvey Wolff, Toledo, professor emeritus of mathematics, died Sept. 9 at age 82. He joined the UT faculty as an assistant professor in 1975. Wolff was named associate professor in 1977 and professor in 1980. He was a longtime chair of the department. He was a member and former

chair of the Arts and Sciences Council and was known for his campus involvement, which included the University Benefits Committee, Executive Enrollment Management Council, Fiscal Advisory Committee, Master Plan Committee and Facilities Planning Council. Wolff was a past president of the UT-AAUP and served as chair of Faculty Senate. In 1994, he was named Easter Seals Volunteer of the Year in the state of Ohio. Wolff was the local coordinator of the Ohio Teachers of Mathematics statewide examination. He retired from the University in 2010, returned to teach part time from 2011 to 2013, and was named professor emeritus in 2015.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TOLEDO
1872

Center for Alumni and Donor Engagement
4510 Dorr St.
Toledo, OH 43615-4040

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TOLEDO, OH
PERMIT NO. 242

UTRA Tower Talk



UTRA Board

First row: Jim Lapp, Lance Talmage, Andy Jorgensen, Jan Whitaker, Barbara Floyd, Chris Spengler, Cecelia Clarke, Laurie Flowers

Second row: Curt Black, Judith Wilkinson, Lynn Hutt, Maria Villagomez, Debbie MacDonald, Celia Regimbal, Tom Mehelas

2024 HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

What a weekend for the University of Toledo! During all the festivities -- various reunions, the Gala, the parade, pre-game activities and the football game, members of the extended Rocket family had great camaraderie. UTRA President Dr. Andy Jorgensen represented retirees during the annual Edward C. and Helen G. Schmakel Homecoming Parade and distributed plenty of candy. And the weekend was capped off by the 94th Homecoming Game, during which the Toledo Rockets took on the Miami Red Hawks at Glass Bowl Stadium. Toledo led the entire way and took home a 30-20 victory, cheered on by a crowd of more than 25,000!

