

# CORNERSTONES

A Quarterly Publication of The University of Toledo Foundation



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## PETE HESS MAKES PLANNED GIFT TO SUPPORT UT'S ENVIRONMENTAL ROLE

**L**iving 2,400 miles away from The University of Toledo hasn't diminished Pete Hess's appreciation for UT or his ability to reconnect with the University.

After graduating from UT in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, Mr. Hess began his career with the Ohio Department of Health and later served as Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer of the San Francisco Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Known for the 1979 creation of the first emission banking program—whose standards are the foundation of worldwide Cap and Trade programs to limit carbon emissions and reduce global warming—he

also testified in 1981 before Congress on the Clean Air Act Oversight.

His outstanding career led to his being honored in 2010 as a Distinguished Alumnus of UT's College of Engineering as well as being a keynote speaker at the College's Honors Convocation.

Since no environmental engineering disciplines existed when Mr. Hess attended UT, it wasn't a career that crossed his mind—until one particular day in 1970. "The first national Earth Day in 1970 managed to turn my attention to the environmental area," he said. "These environmental concerns were totally new at the time, and the local efforts for Earth

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Pete Hess has made a planned gift to UT's new Environmental Engineering Program.

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## HESS GIFT TO ASSIST UT'S ENVIRONMENT ROLE

Day, mostly organized by students, turned my eyes to an entirely new career."

Years later, a discussion with former College of Engineering dean Nagi Naganathan in 2014 resulted in one of his most rewarding experiences with UT. "Nagi asked me to chair a task force to develop an accredited environmental engineering undergraduate program in the College of Engineering," Mr. Hess said. "We developed a great new curriculum, with a goal of preparing graduates to be able to walk right into a job without additional training."

The newly accredited program's first two students graduated this past year, one of them a young woman who graduated summa cum laude, he noted.

Mr. Hess recently chose to support the new program by creating an endowment through his estate. His planned gift will assist faculty members and students in the program, as well as provide a symposium to bring renowned speakers to campus to address environmental issues such as waste management, water quality, and sustainability.

"I wanted the University, the College of Engineering, and the environmental program to take a leadership role in addressing environmental issues that are predominant in the area," he said. "Being born and raised in Toledo, I think it's important to help the region. What better way to assist than to help the University bring knowledge and information to benefit the Toledo area and beyond."

Mr. Hess said he subscribes to the theory of "Common Wealth." "We all live together in a hemisphere of mutual wealth and assistance, where those who have the ability should be helping those who do not," he noted. "The certainty of knowing that the 'gold' I've accumulated all these years will go to a program that will benefit many people is very rewarding."

To make a gift to the Environmental Engineering program, contact Nick Kulik, director of development, at [nicholas.kulik@utoledo.edu](mailto:nicholas.kulik@utoledo.edu) or 419-530-5428. For information about making a planned gift to UT, contact Paul Hood, director of planned giving, at [paul.hood@utoledo.edu](mailto:paul.hood@utoledo.edu) or 419-530-5303.

## SCHOLARSHIP CREATED AS TRIBUTE TO FORMER UT EMPLOYEE

Family and friends have created a \$250,000 scholarship fund for University of Toledo students in memory of Larry Hilton, a long-time mechanic and supervisor for the UT Motor Vehicle Department.

"UT was such a huge part of Larry's life, his extended family," said Debbie Hilton, his wife of 28 years. "He was proud of the fact that all three of our children and I were also proud UT Rockets."

She noted that her husband's willingness to help others and his vast knowledge made him a "go to guy" for many departments, and coworkers and students often sought his advice.

"Not only was he a supervisor, he mentored student workers as well," said Mrs. Hilton, "teaching them not just the trade but also valuable life lessons."

She said her husband, who died in 2013 at age 54, developed a special relationship with several of the students, who continue to be close to the family. "He's not here to mentor them now, but these scholarships will keep his memory and legacy alive," Mrs. Hilton said.

"Larry's mother passed away this last year, and she was so happy to hear about

the memorial scholarship," she added. "At the scholarship celebration, I don't think there was a dry eye as many co-workers and students shared their memories and stories about Larry. He truly was a special man who is loved and missed by many."

She said establishing the scholarship in his memory was an "easy decision."

"Larry is no longer here physically to help students, but we're hopeful that this scholarship will provide monetary support to assist students in reaching their educational goals."

The Larry Hilton Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to two student workers, one in Plant Operations Ground/Facilities and one in Athletic Facilities. The College of Engineering Scholarship Committee and the Athletic Department Scholarship Committee will each choose a deserving recipient.

"We are extremely appreciative of this gift from the Hilton family," said UT vice president and athletic director Mike O'Brien.

"When you come to a Rocket event and see a student employee in action, you will see the legacy of Larry Hilton through this scholarship."



A UT employee and mentor, Larry Hilton considered The University of Toledo part of his family, and was pleased that his wife and three children were proud UT Rockets. From left to right is Dan Hilton, Paul Hilton, Colin Freeman, Kristi Freeman, Debbie, and Larry.

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# DONORS SHOW SUPPORT THROUGH UT'S INAUGURAL DAY OF GIVING

More than 1,600 alumni and friends supported The University of Toledo's first annual Day of Giving, contributing a total of \$453,837.

The inaugural event was held Thursday, Oct. 12, coinciding with UT's 145th Founder's Day. The goal of the 36-hour campaign was to provide a designated time for raising awareness and funds for UT's needs and opportunities.

This year's theme was "Rocket Forward: You Launch Lives!" Activities were held on both the health science campus and main campus, and included a challenge to free Rocky and Rocksy from a University Hall balcony, as well as a dog petting station.

Gifts, designated for a wide variety of uses, were made by faculty and staff,

students, alumni, friends, and others throughout the University community.

"Our first Day of Giving presented opportunities for everyone to celebrate and support UT in their own way," said Michael Harders, UT vice president for advancement.

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

"The University of Toledo began with a single gift from Jesup Scott in 1872," Mr. Harders said. "It is heartwarming, 145 years later, to see all of Rocket Nation come together to support this great institution."

## HONORROLL

The following donors have become eligible for special recognition:

### Presidents Club

Battle Creek Community Foundation  
Jason A. and Michelle K. Bissell  
Dr. Karen S. Bjorkman and Dr. Jon E. Bjorkman  
Celeste Clark  
Matthew DeWitt  
David W. and Elaine M. Dmytryka  
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NEMT International, Inc.  
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Orlena Klickman Thornton  
Lance L. and Wanda Tyo  
Elizabeth A. Wagoner

### Heritage Oak Society

Dr. James S. and Susan E. Hatfield  
Rick and Debbie Rump  
The Estate of Charlotte L. Shaffer

*as of Oct. 23, 2017*

## WHY I GIVE: MATTHEW NAGEL



**Name:** Matthew Nagel

**Profession:** Managing Director of Public Affairs, New York University

**Residence:** Westfield, New Jersey

**UT Degree:** Bachelor's degree in Broadcast Communications and Political Science in 1996

**Best UT Memory:** I was able to travel to the 1995 Las Vegas Bowl, go to Hawaii to cover the men's basketball team, and cover several women's basketball championships. By far the best memories are of the friends I made during

my four years, which have stood the test of time, and the education that laid the foundation for a career I'm passionate about.

**UT Areas of Support:** Don Reiber Student Production Fund

**Why I Give:** During my freshman year I was fortunate to meet Don Reiber, a professor who gave so many students the opportunity to pursue their dreams in broadcast communications. Don's dedication, selflessness and ability to connect with his students was apparent. What many did not see were the countless hours he spent outside of work hours to allow his students to gain real world broadcast experience. This experience gave us an advantage and launched our careers down a successful path. I give to pay it forward to the next generation. I give to honor a man whom I admire more than ever 20 years after I last worked for him as a student. I give in the hopes that The University of Toledo can continue to inspire its students to dream big. I will forever hear Don directing a live football game in my head, "Ready camera, one. Take camera one. Ready camera two. Focus 3. Where's the ball 2? Take 2."

## UTF OFFICE OBSERVING WINTER BREAK HOURS

The University of Toledo Foundation offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Dec. 26.

Office hours for Dec. 27-29 will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



# CORNERSTONES

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## MEET OUR BOARD



Susan Farrell Palmer is the former director of development for the Toledo Museum of Art, where she previously served as coordinator of docent education. She graduated from UT with a bachelor's degree in education in 1970 and a master's in education in 1972.

To make a gift, contact a member of the fundraising staff:

### VP, Advancement

Michael Harders: 419-530-4249

### Associate VP for Central Development

Brett Loney, JD, ACFRE:  
419-530-2408

### Executive Director, Donor Engagement

Barbara Tartaglia-Poure,  
ACFRE: 419-530-2713

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### UT Libraries

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