

# CORNERSTONES

A Quarterly Publication of The University of Toledo Foundation



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## LEIDICHS SUPPORT NEW PROGRAM IN ENERGY ENGINEERING

**H**igher education has long played a leading role in transforming the world. Through education and research at The University of Toledo, faculty members continue to make strides in fields such as science, medicine, business, communication, and industry.

That success often is also due to the foresight and support of alumni and donors, like Gary Leidich (Eng '72, MEng '74) and his wife, Eileen (Ed '72). With their recent \$500,000 gift, the Leidichs have joined forces with UT to create a new graduate program in energy engineering, which will be rolled out next fall.

"My education included several technical courses in the power systems specialty area, primarily focused on electrical engineering," said Mr. Leidich,

retired executive vice president and president of FirstEnergy Generation and FirstEnergy Corp. "It prepared me well when I began my career."

The challenges surrounding energy consumption, however, have changed immensely over the years. "As technology grows and energy needs become more significant, we are depleting more natural resources to achieve those needs," Mr. Leidich said. "The growth is global, and the strain on our resources is very real."

In addition to oil, gas, and power systems, renewable resources like solar and wind have become an important part of the mix. "A quarter of the world's population does not even have access to

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Dr. Nagi Naganathan, dean of UT's College of Engineering, honors Gary and Eileen Leidich for their \$500,000 gift in support of the new energy engineering graduate program.

## LEIDICHS SUPPORT ENERGY ENGINEERING PROGRAM

electricity,” he noted. Exposing students to these issues, both technically and economically, will be fundamental in UT’s new program and will position students for wide-ranging job opportunities.

Such an initiative at UT is fitting, considering the Toledo area has been an important part of the energy picture, from the early days of oil refining and solar cell inventions, to the recent relicensing of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Plant. “The engineering program at Toledo is also among the best in the country,” said Mr. Leidich, who has chaired a task force to develop the new program. “Dr. Naganathan’s leadership and the progressive faculty have been integral to Eileen’s and my decision to support initiatives in the College.”

In addition to their recent contribution, the Leidichs also established an endowed scholarship in 2010 to assist UT engineering students from Northeastern Ohio.

Mr. Leidich, who currently serves as a consultant for the electric utility industry and as chairman of the board of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council, said that becoming involved in UT through volunteer efforts and financial support has been an easy decision. “The University gave me an excellent foundation for my career. I have been blessed with the opportunity to chair the UT Foundation, and I truly enjoy working with the leadership of the University on a variety of fronts.”

“The success of the UT College of Engineering and our graduates is directly tied to the strong relationships we have with leaders like Gary Leidich and the corporations they represent to be sure our curriculum is current, relevant and engaging,” said Dr. Naganathan, dean of the College of Engineering. He noted an increased need for uniquely qualified engineering professionals who understand the energy portfolio not only technically—but also with a good knowledge of complementary topics in management, law and social sciences.

“Thanks to Gary and Eileen’s generosity and the support of other alumni and corporate partners,” he added, “we can now launch a program to produce a new cadre of graduates who will be innovative leaders of energy portfolios in the future.”

## DR. ROBERT WALDEN: A PIONEER IN MENTAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Over his 22-year career with the former Medical College of Ohio (now The University of Toledo), the late Dr. Robert Walden was a man of many firsts. Recruited to join the new college in 1968 as one of its founding faculty, he became MCO’s first African-American faculty member, helped create the curriculum for the charter class of medical students, and developed the hospital’s first clinical psychiatric unit.

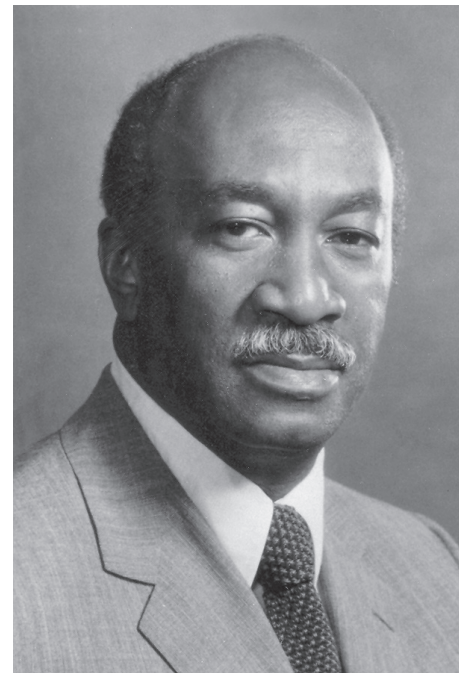
Regarded as a trailblazer in mental health and community medicine, Dr. Walden pioneered health screening programs for the underserved population in Toledo. In addition, he was the founding physician and CEO of the Cordelia Martin Health Center, which continues to provide a range of free healthcare services.

While remembered largely for his professional accomplishments, Dr. Walden is also recalled as being a man who truly cared about people, whether they were his coworkers, students, patients, or needy Toledo residents.

“It was really a privilege for me to observe Dr. Walden conduct rounds when he was the psychiatry inpatient director at our hospital,” said Dr. Marijo Tamburrino, chair of UT’s Department of Psychiatry. “He was a man of dignity and high professionalism, as perceived by the many students whom he taught and mentored.”

Her sentiments were echoed by Dr. John McSweeney, interim chair of Psychology and professor emeritus of Psychiatry and Neurology. “The words that come to mind first when thinking of my friend and colleague are ‘quiet dignity,’” said Dr. McSweeney. “Bob would usually listen to what others said first and then make his own carefully considered remarks. At the same time, he was appropriately self-confident. That confidence allowed him to remain calm in difficult situations involving patients or residents.”

Dr. Walden was one of those rare people who was well-liked by everyone, partly due to the fact that “he treated everyone well no matter what their position at MCO or in society,” said Dr. McSweeney. “Bob was an old-fashioned gentleman. I never heard him raise his voice in anger. He was one of those people who built bridges rather than tore them down.”



Dr. Robert Walden

Dr. Walden was an accomplished teacher and physician, but perhaps more importantly, said Dr. McSweeney, he “served as an example of how we should treat others in our daily affairs.”

After his death in 2012, Dr. Walden’s wife, Ethel, honored him through the creation of the Robert E. Walden, M.D., Endowed Award. The fund will assist graduating medical students accepted into a psychiatry residency, with preference given to African-American students with an interest in community health.

“Dr. Walden was an innovator of humane treatment and therapy that centered on recovery and reintegration into the community, as well as providing healthcare to needy residents in Toledo,” said Howard Newman, UT’s associate vice president for development. “His legacy will continue through this scholarship fund as well as through the enduring improvements he made in healthcare delivery in the community.”

To make a gift to the Robert E. Walden, M.D., Endowed Award fund, contact Howard Newman at [howard.newman@utoledo.edu](mailto:howard.newman@utoledo.edu) or 419-383-6840.

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## WHY I GIVE: DR. PATRICIA HOGUE

**Name:** Patricia Hogue, Ph.D., PA-C

**Profession:** Associate dean of diversity; department chair and associate professor, UT Physician Assistant Studies

**Residence:** Toledo, OH

**UT Degree:** Certificate of contemporary gerontological practice, 2005, and doctor of philosophy, 2007

**Favorite UT Experience or Memory:** My best UT experience was when I became faculty advisor for the Student National Medical Association early in my tenure. This provided me with the ability to provide guidance and make an impact on the small number of African-American students' lives, diversify the medical school and the physician assistant program, and to be appointed later as assistant dean of diversity for the College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

**UT Area of Support:** Frances and Robert Hendley Student Fund in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences

**Why I Give:** I give because there is a verse in the bible that states: "To whom much is given, much is expected." I inherited my mother and father's spirit of reaching down and helping others. This is what drives my dedication to an emergency fund for students of color in medicine, physician assistant, nursing, public health and pharmacy education. My hope is that they will pay it forward once they graduate and become successful in their respective disciplines.



Bubble Tea opened Jan. 11 at Gateway Toledo, on the corner of Dorr Street and Secor Road. Co-founded by University of Toledo alumni Prakash Karamchandani (Bus '08) and Hochan Jang (CALL '09), the restaurant is a spin-off of their Balance Pan-Asian Grilles. Bubble tea is a hand-shaken, Asian specialty drink that contains flavored tea and tapioca balls or fruit juice bubbles. The restaurant will be open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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# CORNERSTONES

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Kevin Lent is a Toledo-area business entrepreneur, whose ventures include franchises for Panera Bread, Sonic Drive-In, SOLA Salon Studios, and City Barbecue, as well as Toledo area shopping centers. He received a bachelor's degree in communications from The University of Toledo in 1989.

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