

CORNERSTONES

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
FOUNDATION

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BILL SHORT HONORS WIFE'S LEGACY THROUGH UT LAW SCHOLARSHIP

When Bill Short remembers his late wife, Nancy Jean (Law '71), he recalls her eloquent speaking abilities, her cooking skills, and especially, her intelligence.

After graduating from St. Ursula Academy and the former Mary Manse College—both on full scholarships—and four years of teaching high school English and art in Toledo, Mrs. Short was admitted to PhD English literature programs at several outstanding Midwestern schools.

“Instead, in August 1968, she walked into the UT Law College on almost a whim, filled out an application, and was accepted—with a full scholarship,” he said. “She ended up graduating first in her class.”

Her professors, some of whom were Yale Law alumni, realized how bright she

was. They helped secure a Yale scholarship for her to pursue a Master of Laws degree, plus a stipend for her living expenses.

After graduation, Mrs. Short taught corporations, securities regulation, and corporate finance at Rutgers Law School before embarking on successful careers of practicing securities law and, eventually, legal publishing. Before she died in 2014, she had enrolled at the New York School of Interior Design, hoping to combine her interests in art and design with her legal expertise, advising interior designers in New York's competitive market.

“We lived in the epicenter in Manhattan, which was such a contrast to the struggling Toledo neighborhood in which she grew up,” noted Mr. Short. However, she never forgot her roots or the source of her accomplishments.

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Bill Short established a \$1 million scholarship fund in memory of his wife, Nancy, for students in The University of Toledo's College of Law.

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BILL SHORT HONORS WIFE THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP

He chose to honor his wife's memory by making significant contributions to the institutions that provided those opportunities, including St. Ursula Academy, the Toledo Museum of Art (in lieu of Mary Manse College), Yale, and the UT College of Law.

While acknowledging that endowments—which preserve principal and allow disbursements through earnings only—have their purpose, he chose to make his contributions nonendowed and fully expendable. His \$1 million gift to the UT Foundation will provide full scholarships annually to three outstanding law students. “I decided this could make a bigger impact on the cost of education for these students,” he said.

Mr. Short, who graduated from Duke University, the University of Pennsylvania, and New York University—and has had a successful career in and around the evolving power industry—noted he was fortunate his parents paid for his private boarding school and most of college. “My wife could not have afforded her amazing education experiences if it were not for scholarships. She was shaped by the four institutions she attended—all on full scholarships. I am struck by the role that scholarships played in her life and career.”

When he has visited their alma maters, he has been dismayed to learn of the significant financial burdens so many students are forced to assume. He believes his gift to UT would please his wife, who benefited greatly from her financial assistance and experiences here.

“Only after time are you able to look back and connect the dots and recognize just how far you have come and how you ended up where you are. Most important, you realize how ‘small breaks’ materially influence your life,” he said. “Nancy went to law school at Toledo, and a whole world opened up for her, and everything in her life changed. And this was all made possible, essentially, from her attaining merit-based scholarships,” he said.

“By creating this scholarship,” said Mr. Short, “my ultimate hope is to make a true impact on the lives of many students.”

ANONYMOUS GIFT LEADS TO GRANT FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

Without treatment, more than 40 percent of precancerous breast lesions could develop into invasive breast cancer.

But what if scientists could more accurately predict which lesions are likely to become cancerous, or better yet, provide women a way to prevent the lesions from forming in the first place?

Dr. Saori Furuta, assistant professor in UT's Department of Cancer Biology, believes that might be within reach.

Dr. Furuta has spent years exploring the role nitric oxide plays in the development of precancerous lesions. Nitric oxide is a signaling molecule produced throughout the body, and abnormal levels of it in mammary cells have been implicated in the formation of early-stage cancer.

Now, she is investigating how nitric oxide, in its proper concentration, can suppress tumors from forming, and whether its abnormal concentrations might be able to be used as a biomarker that identifies women with or at risk of developing early-stage cancer.

Her research is being funded by a multi-year \$792,000 research grant from the American Cancer Society. The study

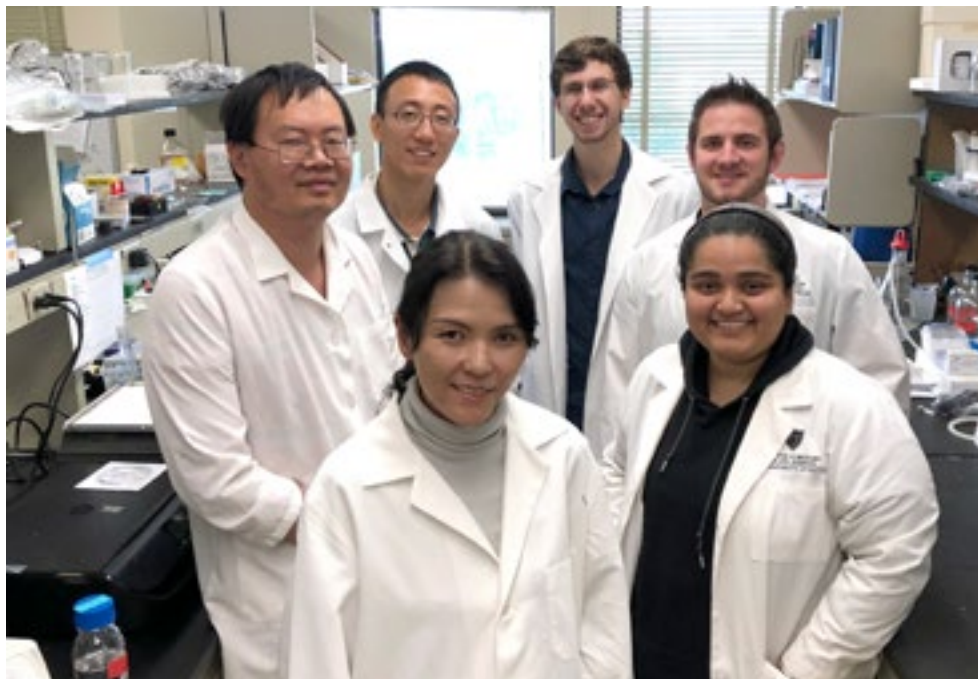
was one of 74 the Society funded across the United States earlier this year.

The grant was preceded by an anonymous \$50,000 gift from a member of The University of Toledo Medical Research Society, to begin preliminary research.

That donation made all the difference. “Utilizing the donation, we finished some of the critical experiments and re-sent our proposal,” Dr. Furuta said. “Without that generous support, this would have been impossible.”

“We have made great progress in diagnosing and treating breast cancer, but it remains a lethal disease. One in eight women will get breast cancer during her lifetime, making it the second leading cause of cancer death among women,” Dr. Furuta said. “The hope is that this study will not only advance our understanding of the cause of breast cancer, but also contribute to the development of new approaches to prevention and early detection methods. Taken together, those methods could save lives.”

To support Dr. Furuta's research, contact Jennifer Schaefer at jennifer.giesige2@utoledo.edu or 419.383.5071.



Dr. Saori Furuta, front left, received a \$792,000 grant from the American Cancer Society to study precancerous breast lesions with her team, from left, Dr. Xunzhen Zheng, postdoctoral researcher; Dr. Gang Ren, graduate student in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics; Matthew Bommarito, research technician; and Joshua Letson and Yashna Walia, graduate research assistants.

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WHY I GIVE: DR. PATRICIA MURPHY



Name: Patricia A. Murphy, PhD

Profession: Part-time online instructor for UT's Department of Women and Gender Studies and Master in Liberal Studies Program

Residence: Santa Fe, NM

Degrees: Bachelor's in English literature and humanities from the University of Minnesota, master's in vocational rehabilitation counseling from St. Cloud State University, PhD in feminist disability studies from the Union Institute and University, and a John D. and Catharine T. Mac Arthur post-doctoral fellowship in women's health policy at the University of Illinois-Circle Campus

Best UT Experience: While serving as director of the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women, I searched for communities of women at UT and found Shelley Papenfuse at the Ability Center of Greater Toledo. As a result, Shelley and I created, with a nearly \$2 million dollar grant from the Ability Center, the first Disability Studies Program in a liberal arts college in the nation. We also created the Disability History Archive at the Canaday Center in UT's William S. Carlson Library.

UT Areas of Support: Disability Studies (DST) and Disability History Archive

Why I Give: I give because the scholarship developed for the DST and the Archive need to get to the \$25,000 level to create an endowment. We need to support the extraordinary students with disabilities who have been invited, finally, to the higher education party and those students without disabilities who wish to explore the richness and depth of the human experience of disability.

HONORROLL

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as of March 27, 2019



UT medical students Bobby Easterling (left) and Ricky Voigt (right) are cycling roughly 3,267 miles across America—from coast to coast—to raise money for UT's CommunityCare Clinics. Their trip began on March 20 in Los Angeles and will finish in early May in Rehoboth Beach, Del. For more information about the CommunityCare Clinics, which provide free healthcare in the Toledo community, and to support the men's project, visit their giving page: tinyurl.com/UTRICKYBOBBY.

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Rob Bleile serves as president of the UT Alumni Association Board of Trustees. The president of American Timber and Steel, he graduated from The University of Toledo with a bachelor's degree in information systems in 2004 and an MBA in 2010.

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