

CORNERSTONES

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
FOUNDATION

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EBERLY CENTER HONORS LEGACY OF PAST WHILE LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Catharine S. Eberly, a member of The University of Toledo’s Board of Trustees in the 1970s, served as an advocate for women. In 1978, she helped to establish a campus women’s center and sat on its advisory board.

The following year, Dr. Eberly died in a tragic car accident. In 1980, the Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women was named to honor her legacy.

“I never met my grandmother, but from the stories I hear she was a remarkable woman – kind, thoughtful, and generous,” noted her granddaughter, Sloan Eberly Mann. “At her funeral, John Straub, president of The University of Toledo Board, stated, ‘I believe Kate’s most lasting contribution...is her pressure on us for sensitivity to the goals and aspirations of women. She did this by example, by her calm logic and, when necessary, with forceful, but always polite, persuasion.’”

Focusing on advocacy, education, empowerment, and student financial

assistance, the Center has evolved through the past 40 years to reflect the changing needs of women on campus and in the community. Current programs include:

- Kate’s Closet: professional women’s clothing at no cost
- Courageous Café: community dialogue series on gender
- Monthly Teach-Ins: exploring personal, professional, and political issues that impact women
- Day of Service: March 13 in partnership with Beach House Family Shelter
- Women’s History Month keynote and workshop: March 28 in partnership with the Toledo Lucas County Public Library
- Suffrage Summit: Sept. 16-17 in partnership with League of Women Voters
- Scholarships: for women in STEM careers, seeking a second degree, impacted by domestic violence, and those who are single parents

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Dr. Angela Fitzpatrick serves as the new director of The University of Toledo’s Catharine S. Eberly Center for Women.

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CENTER HONORS PAST AS IT LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Ms. Eberly Mann's father, Michael, who died in August 2018, also served on the Center's advisory board. Now, she fills that position. "My grandmother and my father believed education is the key to equality," she said, "and I will continue to honor both of their legacies as best I can."

This fall, the Center welcomed a new director. "Dr. Angela Fitzpatrick is shaping a strong vision for the Center's future," Ms. Eberly Mann said, "which honors the legacy of the past but also recognizes the importance of meeting needs of women today."

"It is a remarkable time to be a woman," said Dr. Fitzpatrick. "Over the last few years we have seen a powerful resurgence among women mobilizing to end social and political inequities." She said the Center is "tapping into this power by creating spaces where women feel empowered and valued, and can develop the tools for personal and professional growth."

Despite the gains women made in the past century, significant inequities still exist in political office, student loan debt, and wage gap. "I believe it is our responsibility to advocate for gender equitable practices and policies," she said, "and assist women in reaching their full potential."

As a first-generation college student who was a very young mother, Dr. Fitzpatrick noted that, "Sometimes we need someone to remind us of our strength and to help us find the way forward. I feel passionate about using my position here to open doors for women and remove barriers that might prevent them from walking through those doors."

The Center is currently developing its strategic plan, exploring the needs of women on campus and in the community, and making data-driven decisions about programs and services to best address those needs.

"I am a firm believer in collaboration and building power together," said Dr. Fitzpatrick. "Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you want to partner."

For more information about the Center, or to make a financial contribution, contact Dr. Fitzpatrick at angela.fitzpatrick@utoledo.edu or 419.530.8574.

REACH OUT AND READ PROGRAM PROMOTES CHILD LITERACY

More than 65 percent of children grow up in families that do not read aloud to them daily. By age 3, low-income children have heard 30 million fewer words than their higher-income peers. And, about 80 percent of brain growth occurs *before* age 3.

Research shows, however, that when pediatricians promote early literacy among ethnically and economically diverse families, it significantly improves parental behavior and attitudes toward reading aloud – as well as boosts language scores of young children.

Reach Out and Read of Northwest Ohio gives young children "a foundation for success by incorporating books into pediatric care and encouraging families to read aloud together," according to Lori LeGendre, program director.

Housed within the UToledo Department of Pediatrics, the program includes screening, guidance, and surveillance by pediatricians trained in early literacy development, and also provides books from infancy through age 5.

Locally, the program started with one clinic location in 1998, and has grown to 25 locations in Lucas and Wood counties, with more than 100 doctors participating. Nearly 15,000 area children benefit, with 29,000 books and literacy advice distributed annually.

"Reach Out and Read is about nurturing minds and relationships beginning at birth," said Ms. LeGendre.

"Taking time to snuggle with a child, free from screens and other distractions while sharing a story together, benefits everyone." Not only can it increase school readiness, but it can also enhance the parent-child relationship and be the antidote to many and varied adverse childhood experiences.

"Reach Out and Read is a great way for us to gauge a child's development," said Valarie Stricken, associate professor and medical director of Rocket Pediatrics. "Can they point, can they name colors, can they turn pages, can they sound out words? There are many developmental milestones we can glean from just handing them the book."

She noted that reading is the cornerstone for language development. "That is why we provide books at 6 months, before they can even talk. It teaches the rhythm of language and speech patterns," she said. "It's also a great bedtime routine and a way for parent and child to connect."

"The value of early childhood reading can't be overstated," said Dr. Francis Rogalski, PediatriCare Associates. "Reading and talking establishes bonding, promotes brain development, and provides a tactile experience with a book, all resulting in a multi-sensory experience. In addition, reading promotes greater success with learning, creativity and literacy."

Financial support is the key to the organization's continued outreach. "With additional support, we aim to continue to serve these sites and potentially increase our presence in Northwest Ohio."

To support Reach Out and Read of Northwest Ohio, contact Jennifer Schaefer at jennifer.giesige2@utoledo.edu or 419-383-5071.



Reach Out and Read benefits 15,000 area children annually through literacy development and books.

visit us at utfoundation.org

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PACKO PARTIES SET FOR TAMPA AND FORT MYERS

Your University of Toledo Alumni Association is coming to Tampa and Fort Myers and would love to see you there!

Join fellow UToledo graduates for an evening with Head Football Coach Jason Candle and enjoy world-famous Tony Packo's hot dogs. A cash bar will also be available.

The two Florida events are set for:

- **Tampa:** Feb. 15 from 5-7 p.m. at Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club
- **Fort Myers:** Feb. 16 from 6-8 p.m. at The Club at Grandezza

Tickets are \$15 per person and registration is required.

Visit toledoalumni.org/events/ for reservations.



UToledo alumni and friends enjoyed last year's Tony Packo's party in Fort Myers, Fla.

WHY I GIVE: CHARLES TERBILLE



Name: Charles (Chuck) Terbille

Profession: Retired librarian, scholar, and teacher

Residence: Toledo, Ohio

UToledo Degrees: Bachelor of arts in classics, 1965; master of arts in library and information service, 1975

Best UT Experience: Studying Horace with Frederick M. Wheelock and the history of ancient Greek philosophy with George P. Guthrie; the series of noon hour concerts, lectures, and events called "University

Convocations," long philosophical discussions with mentors and later librarian colleagues Terry Crowley and Angelo Wallace.

UT Areas of Support: George P. Guthrie Scholarship in Philosophy

Why I Give: I would like the University to continue to offer students the opportunity to engage with the sources of the humanities tradition in a careful, respectful, yet critical way.

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Sheri L. Bokros is a principal at The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc. (MSG) and serves as the firm's vice president of business development. She graduated from The University of Toledo in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in communication with a concentration in public relations, as well as a minor in psychology.

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