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A total of 743 bobblehead dolls of Football Coach Tom Amstutz have been given out to fans who renewed their season tickets or purchased new season tickets as of Sept. 5, according to Sean Briner, assistant athletic director of marketing and sales. The promotion helped set a record-breaking 10,764 football season tickets this year.
Part of Toledo’s information revolution documented

By Karenza Fishley

Historic holdings: Barbara Floyd, Dr. Abdul Alkalimat, center, and Dr. John Gaboury with some of the 47 volumes that document part of the Glass City’s foray into the cyber world.

T
he Industrial Revolution changed how the world did business from manual labor and tools to machines. In the latter part of the 20th century, the information revolution transformed socialization in the world. Dr. Abdul Alkalimat, director of UT’s Africana Studies Program, is taking steps to ensure that a small part of Toledo’s entrance into the information age is documented.

Alkalimat and students in the Africana Studies Program provide educational support to the W.J. Murchison Community Center in central Toledo. According to its Web site, the Murchison Center’s mission is to educate and provide community support, with its main tool for change being community-based cyber power, which provides empowerment and organization using computers and the Internet.

Forty-seven volumes of documentation and works from Africana Studies and the Murchison Center were donated to the Ward M. Canaday Center last month.

“After the first year, we put together a volume of our things — a documentation of Africana Studies, proposals, notices of events, etc.,” Alkalimat said. Those documents, along with papers detailing the beginnings of a computer-training center at the Murchison Center, are part of the Canaday Center holdings. “If you think about the history of this town being a building, we’re adding some bricks,” Alkalimat said about the project.

“Well as people study the origin of the Industrial Revolution, they should study the origin of the information revolution — at least from one microscopic view,” Alkalimat said. He believes this is the first such archive of primary documentation from a grass-roots, inner-city organization in the country.

“The information revolution is the process of social transformation based on computers and the Internet,” Alkalimat explained. “Social change is taking place on a scale similar to the Industrial Revolution, impacting how people communicate, organize their social life, how organizations are structured, and how science and education are done. This revolution is changing the meaning of time and space, creating a new historical period of globalization — we can connect with each other by audio and video everywhere in the world in real time as well as via the World Wide Web. Already, the tools of information technology dominate the global economy, the organization of libraries and institutions of higher education, and all forms of communication.”

Barbara Floyd, director of the Canaday Center and University archivist, said it’s not often that an archival repository has holdings such as the ones from Africana Studies and the Murchison Center. “We’re always looking to document the history of a community. It’s wonderful that a community organization is involved in a cutting-edge subject,” she said.

Dr. John Gaboury, dean of University Libraries and professor of library administration, said of the donation, “This is a continuation of our partnership with the Toledo community. It complements President Johnson’s community outreach.”

UT faculty and administrators are a potential audience for the records that have been catalogued, but the information is available for a wide audience.

Service allows users to chat live with a reference librarian

By Karenza Fishley

T
here’s a new way to do research at the library, and you don’t even have to leave your home. All you need is Internet access.

The “Chat With a Librarian” service through the OhioLINK program allows students, faculty and staff to communicate live with a librarian. “The same way you would use AOL Instant Messenger or MSN Chat, you can use a similar chat program to present a research question to a reference librarian,” explained Wade Lee, associate professor at Carlson Library. The OhioLINK program is a consortium of the libraries of 83 Ohio colleges and universities.

There is a minimum of two librarians staffing the service at all times, and the free service is open to anyone associated with any of the universities and colleges in Ohio. “We help people all over the state,” Lee said. For example, a UT librarian could answer a question from a student at another college. Lee said that’s because in Ohio, the libraries use the same software for the catalogs, and they share many databases.

During the chat, the librarian can send Web pages to the user’s computer. “There’s also a way to work together so you’re both looking at the same page. That way, you not only learn your answer, you learn how you got it. Or the librarian can start you off. It’s the same thing we do in person, but now we’re able to do it online,” Lee said.

He said the service could be used for a question that can be answered with a few words or where the librarian could direct you to a particular resource. “It can also be used for more in-depth research because we can get you started. For research work you may need several different databases or sources, you may want to schedule an appointment with a librarian,” Lee said.

According to Lee, about 4,000 questions were answered through the OhioLINK chat service last spring. Lee said the UT library system wants to get word out about the valuable service: “I realize these days you can do a lot of yr library research without ever coming to the library. Our catalogs are online, and more journals, magazines and even books are online. This is a way for us to take our reference desk to where some of the research is being done.”

In order to chat with a librarian, visit the University Libraries home page at www.library.utoledo.edu and click on the Ohio Link Home Page. In the “Welcome to OhioLINK” column, click on the “Chat With a Librarian” icon or click on “Help” in many OhioLINK databases.

Going the distance: Sandy Kosyna, program coordinator in the Catharine S. Ebery Center for Women, and Dr. Tyrone Bledsoe, vice president for student life, gave presentations last week during the Learning Enhancement Center’s third annual Olympiad. Kosyna offered students advice on how to handle stress, and Bledsoe talked about finding the right path in life. A total of 975 students attended sessions during the four-day event.

Photos by Bi Hartough
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By Kimyette Finley

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Alkalimat said. He believes this is the first such archive of primary documentation at least from one microscopic view," the origin of the information revolution - Industrial Revolution, they should study building, we're adding some bricks," about the history of this town being a Canaday Center holdings. "If you think at the Murchison Center, are part of the beginnings of a computer-training center documents, along with papers detailing the events, etc.,” Alkalimat said. Those documents, along with papers detailing the beginnings of a computer-training center at the Murchison Center, are part of the Canaday Center holdings. “If you think about the history of this town being a building, we’re adding some bricks,” Alkalimat said about the project.

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