

Alumni Relations  
Towson University  
8000 York Road  
Towson, MD 21252-0001



Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Towson University

Change Service Requested

Pass along any duplicate copies to a friend and advise us of error by sending back your mailing label. Thank you.

Parents: If this issue is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer maintains an address at your home, please send the correct address to Alumni Relations, Towson University, 8000 York Road, Towson, MD 21252-0001.

## FACE-OFF FUN

### ALUMNI HOSPITALITY AREA SCORES WITH LAX FANS

Join in the fun when the Alumni Association hosts Tiger lacrosse fans at the Alumni Pavilion before these three men's games.

**MARCH 14 / vs. Hobart College**

**MARCH 28 / vs. University of Massachusetts**

**APRIL 18 / vs. Hofstra University**

Light fare and a cash bar are available two hours before the games begin at noon\* in Unitas Stadium.

\*Please check [www.towsontigers.com](http://www.towsontigers.com) for game times, which are subject to change.



# TOWSON

UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE / WINTER 2015

Deanna Brown Thomas '90 leads her father's foundation



THE DAUGHTER &

HIS

LEGACY



## Weed Eaters

Last fall 18 goats ate their way through the Glen, feasting on pesky English ivy and other invasive groundcover. James Hull, director of the Glen Arboretum, called the voracious landscapers “environmentally safe and effective.” The goats welcomed folks who headed out to pet them. The friendly herd also logged more views and “likes” on TU’s official Facebook page than when TU running back Terrance West was drafted by the Cleveland Browns. All in all, not a b’aad way to remove invasive species.

You can watch the goats munching at, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2OW5\\_DYpnY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2OW5_DYpnY).

## FEATURES

### THE GODFATHER’S DAUGHTER 8

Deanna Brown Thomas '90 honors her father’s legacy through charitable outreach and music education.

### COUNT SHEEP, NOT CALORIES 12

TU professor finds sleep, or the lack of it, plays a major role in weight management.

### CODEWORD: KIDS 14

Elementary and middle school students learn the ABCs of computer programming.

### CALCULATED SUCCESS 18

TU and the College Board partner to help more high school students pass Advanced Placement calculus.

### THE REEL THING 22

Horror makes Mike Flanagan '02 a hit Hollywood producer.



## DEPARTMENTS

### PRESIDENT’S LETTER 2

### NEWS AND NOTES 3

### ALUMNI NEWS 25

Fenwick Island Fete  
Top Volunteers  
Young Alumni Awards  
Homecoming Wrap-up

### PHILANTHROPY 32

Tribute to Mary Lee Farlow  
The Hussman and Weinman Foundation Challenges

### CLASS NOTES 36

Rapping it Up  
Peace Corps Volunteer  
Trading Places

➔ **FIND MORE ONLINE**  
[magazine.towson.edu](http://magazine.towson.edu)



*“TOWSON PRODUCES A SIGNIFICANT RETURN ON THE STATE’S INVESTMENT IN OUR OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL BUDGETS.”*

As Towson University soon celebrates 150 years as a higher education institution, this landmark year also promises new opportunities to deliver future academic excellence.

The rich history that has guided Towson through a century and a half of distinction provides a solid foundation where we can honor our past, yet keep our focus on the prospects that lie ahead.

We look forward to working with Gov. Larry Hogan and the Maryland General Assembly to convey Towson’s strengths and offer solutions to the challenges facing our state.

Another essential priority is to communicate the fundamental value of our campus community to our state legislators. Towson produces a significant return on the state’s investment in our operational and capital budgets. Our ability to maintain quality helps drive the state’s economy in a positive direction.

From our roots as a State Normal School in 1866 with an inaugural commencement of 16 graduates to the more than 5,000 degrees conferred last year, Towson has proven itself both capable and committed to meeting growing workforce demands.

Over the next year, we will be engaging the campus, our alumni and supporters in an important dialogue about Towson’s next era of excellence and distinction. We believe that focusing on student success, partnerships and fundraising, and applied research and entrepreneurship will take us there. We know these areas contribute to the unique Towson experience and are among the differentiators that give our students and alumni a distinguishable and meaningful advantage.

While President Maravene Loeschke’s timely and sad medically driven retirement fell heavily on our hearts last December, she can be proud that a vibrant and thriving institution remains poised and ready to build upon her strong leadership and continue its momentum in the year ahead.

I look forward to working together with faculty, staff, students, alumni, partners and our entire community of supporters to celebrate our past and move Towson toward another successful 150 years.

—*Timothy Chandler*  
INTERIM PRESIDENT

## Lending a Hand to Science Students

Via TU’s Center for STEM Excellence, the Maryland Loaner Lab lends lab kits and equipment to middle and high school students



Students use cutting-edge lab kits, giving them a chance to extract DNA, diagnose a disease, be introduced to genetic engineering or practice wildlife forensics.

Whether it’s extracting DNA or diagnosing a mystery disease, middle and high school science students are getting hands-on experience in Maryland classrooms, courtesy of the Maryland Loaner Lab. A part of the Towson University Center for STEM Excellence, the lab supports statewide science standards, fosters inquiry-based doing and thinking, and saves schools money.

Located in the Columbus Center in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor, the Maryland Loaner Lab maintains eight different laboratory kits and also offers monthly training sessions to train teachers how to use them.

“Teachers love the kits because they’re self-contained,” says Mary Stapleton, Ph.D., who directs the lab.

One biology teacher could scarcely contain her enthusiasm for one of the kits she’d borrowed. “Dear Dr. Stapleton,” she wrote, ‘Mystery of the Crooked Cell’ was not only a big hit with the kids, but also the precursor to the best performance on their end-of-unit assessment. [It] was the best I’ve seen in three years here—no doubt because they had done the procedure themselves!”

The lab also loans equipment to middle and high schools, enabling students to gain experience they might not get until college. The loans serve 10,365 students per year, says Stapleton.

TU’s Fisher College of Science and Mathematics has supported the lab since 2010.

“It’s unusual to see a university support this kind of outreach,” Stapleton adds. “Towson provides us with a solid foundation that enables us to focus more on our mission. These types of partnerships between universities and K-12 education systems are needed to help prepare students for higher education.” ■

## Cyber Sentries

TU’s cyberdefense expertise recognized by an NSF grant and designations from NSA and DHS

When criminals target the cyber world, TU’s Department of Computer and Information Sciences is on the case. It trains students while earning prestigious research grants to prevent cybersecurity breaches and develop cyberdefense systems.

Last summer, Wei Yu, assistant professor of computer and information sciences, received an Early Career Development Award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The \$436,453, five-year grant will advance scientific understanding and develop countermeasures to cyber-attacks on smart grids—“electricity supply networks that use



Wei Yu

**The \$436,453 grant will develop countermeasures to cyber-attacks on smart grids.**

digital communications to detect and react to local changes in usage.”

Yu and his research team of undergraduate and graduate students will investigate the impacts of cyber-attacks on the smart grid and develop innovative responses to protect it. Minority students will be encouraged to participate.

In addition Towson University was one of only 13 colleges in the nation to be named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Operations by the NSA.

Among the benefits of the designation, the NSA will reserve a number of internships for Towson’s cyber security students, greatly enhancing their career prospects.

What’s more, the NSA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have re-designated Towson as a Center of Excellence in Information Assurance/Cyber Security Education from 2014 through 2021. TU first received the designation in 2002 and has been re-designated continuously since. ■

### ECO BOX

Using 50,716 lbs. of Utopia Two sheets saves the following:

SAVED: 51 TREES

NET ENERGY: 23 MILLION BTUs

GREENHOUSE GASES: 4,379 LBS CO<sub>2</sub>

WASTEWATER: 23,372 GALLONS

SOLID WASTE: 1,587 POUNDS

Environmental impact estimates were made using the Environmental Defense Paper Calculator.

Both the cover and text pages of *Towson* are printed on forest-friendly Utopia Two paper, using Eco-Pride inks.



## TOWSON

**Timothy Chandler**  
Interim President

**Ginny Cook**  
Editor

**Lori Armstrong**  
Associate Vice President,  
Alumni Relations

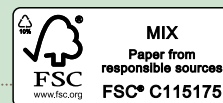
**Lori Marchetti**  
Art Director/Designer

**Kanji Takeno**  
Staff Photographer

**Assistant Photographer**  
DeCarlo Brown

**Contributors**  
Christine Collins, Nancy  
Grund, Daryl Lee Hale, Kyle  
Hobstetter and Jan Lucas

**Office of Alumni  
Relations**  
410-704-2234 or  
800-887-8152



Published three times a year by the Division of Marketing and Communications for Towson University’s alumni, faculty, staff and friends. Please send comments and contributions to *Towson*, Marketing and Communications, Towson University, 8000 York Rd., Towson, MD 21252-0001. Telephone: 410-704-2230. Please send address changes to Alumni Relations, Towson University, 8000 York Rd., Towson, MD 21252-0001 or email [alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu).

[www.towson.edu](http://www.towson.edu)  
[www.towsonalumnimagazine.com](http://www.towsonalumnimagazine.com)  
<http://magazine.towson.edu>



## NOTEBOOK

### Gleaning

TU senior Alexiana Gaither likes to pick up after others.

Along with the 15 to 20 other members of Towson's Student United Way, the mass communication major spends many



weekends gleaning—gathering leftover produce on farms after a harvest.

"We pick the produce and then it gets donated to food banks," says Gaither, president of Towson's chapter. "It's one of our most popular events because it's very hands-on and it's fun to get outside."

**"We pick the produce and then it gets donated to food banks."**

—Alexiana Gaither

In May, the two-year-old organization received the Income Promising Practice award from United Way Worldwide. They provided Thanksgiving meals to needy families through a

campaign that allowed students to donate money via their campus meal plans.

"United Way Worldwide said it was a really creative way to raise money," Gaither explains. "Sometimes students don't have cash, but they always have a meal on their OneCard."

### Rocking It

Gabriel Brandao took the Google challenge and won.

The senior computer science major developed a music app, Headphone Connect, which won Google's AdMob Student App Challenge for the North American region.

### Headphone Connect won a Google award.

The Android app is a fast, convenient way to access music. "Plug in your headphones and launch the app you want," Brandao says. "There is also less fiddling with your phone while walking from class to class, so you don't bump into people. I've done that before."

Brandao, founder and CEO of Skytrait, a mobile app company, never planned to market this app, but after friends liked it, "I cleaned it up for the Google Play market," he explains. Winning, he adds, was "the best feeling ever."

### Drought Studies

A lot of people talk about the weather. Senior Nick Sokol spent last summer studying it.

For two months, Sokol, president of the TU Geographical Society,

worked for the Sustainable Climate Risk Management research network, a group that studies ways to manage climate risks. At Penn State University, he studied with scholars from 19 American and international universities, focusing on whether El Niño patterns cause drought in the southeastern United States.

The results showed that El Niño is not the only factor responsible for drought in the southeast. The area's significant agricultural industry and high number of tourists also play a role, says Sokol.

"The draw on water has to be growing," he adds, concluding that scholars should evaluate water usage and filtration speed in the southeast to see if they contribute to dry agricultural conditions.

### Seventeen Intern

Danielle Frater spent last summer as a graphic design intern at *Seventeen* magazine in New York City. The TU senior worked on events, designed signs and promotional items, and updated an app design for the teen fashion magazine.



"People think it's like 'Devil Wears Prada,' but it's not," Frater says. "Everyone was in jeans, low-key and really friendly."

"I worked on a Keds Bravehearts event and though I wasn't able to make it to the event, I saw it on Instagram," Frater recalls. "All of my posters, fliers and even water bottles I designed were there. It was amazing."

### Theta Chi Honor

In its first trip to the Theta Chi National Convention, TU's Iota Sigma chapter walked away with the highest honor: The Howard R. Alter, Jr., Award for Chapter Excellence.

Presented last fall in Minneapolis to only three chapters out of 140 nationally, the Alter Award represents excellence in scholarship, recruitment, community service, philanthropy, and other areas.

Formed just two years ago, Towson's fraternity has more than 100 members. Kevin Kutner, the treasurer, says many of Theta Chi's members are leaders in other organizations on campus. This includes Kutner, who is Towson's Student Government Association (SGA) President.

**"We have guys who want to make a difference in our Towson community."**

—Kevin Kutner

"This award just shows the quality of men we have in our chapter," Kutner says. "We have guys who want to make a difference in our Towson community and show Towson students what it is to be a leader. That's everything Theta Chi is about: being a better man, being a leader and being part of a business organization."

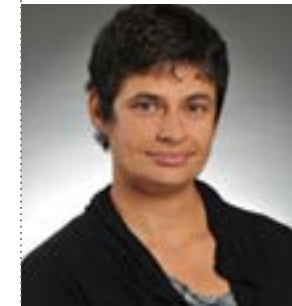
## NUGGETS

### Fulbright Researcher

TU professor Sam Collins brought a new networking research method to Korea, the most wired nation on Earth.

The cultural anthropologist is a Fulbright senior researcher, teaching at Hanyang University this year and researching how high levels of connecting with social media affect social parameters and the way people live.

### Fisher Endowed Professor



Elana Ehrlich

Elana Ehrlich, an assistant professor of biological sciences, researches the activity of certain viral proteins and how individual genetic factors relate to the effectiveness of chemotherapy for breast cancer. She is the ninth Jess and Mildred Fisher Endowed Professor in the Biological and Physical Sciences.

During her three-year term, she will receive \$15,000 every year for three years. The money may be used for a summer faculty stipend, professional travel, research equipment and supplies, and undergraduate student research support.

In addition to teaching cell biology and molecular biology, Ehrlich has mentored nine undergraduate students and four master's students. She encourages women to study science, in particular women of color—a reflection of her deep commitment to increasing diversity in the sciences.

### Smart Move

When WTMD 89.7 FM shifted its popular First Thursdays Concerts in the Park series from Mt. Vernon to Canton Waterfront Park last summer, *Baltimore* magazine took note.

It gave the radio station the best "Change of Scenery"

award. The August issue raved: "Now the concert series (featuring acts like The Hold Steady and Joan Osborne) has the feel of a bona fide music festival—all still for free."

### 2016: Move-In Date

Construction began on two residence halls last fall that will add 700 student beds to campus when they open in summer 2016.

"The project will increase the total percentage of undergraduate students staying on-campus and help ease some of the demand for off-campus housing," says Jerry Dieringer, assistant vice president for Student Affairs.

Located in West Village, which already contains six residence halls, the new buildings will feature apartments with a mix of two- and four-bedrooms for upper-level students. The project is being funded with \$85 million in auxiliary bonds and is expected to achieve LEED Silver certification.

### Rubys Artists

Two faculty members in TU's College of Fine Arts and Communication received 2014 Rubys Artist Project Grants from the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (GBCA).

Amanda Burnham, associate professor in the Department of Art + Design, Art History, Art Education, received a \$10,000 grant for *RFP*, a "living drawing" installation and art book.

Her design will incorporate responses from Baltimoreans who will be asked to describe their visions, ambitions and ideas for the city's future.

Lola Pierson '13 MFA and an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Theatre Arts, received a \$5,749 grant to support "A Day by Yourself," a collection of 12 short stories that embrace action, tone and other theatrical elements as expressed through language.

## SPORT

### Soccer History

For the first time in program history, the Towson women's



soccer team earned a spot in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) post-season tournament. But the Tigers fell victim to Hofstra, losing 3-0 in the quarter finals in Hempstead, N.Y.

## BY THE NUMBERS

TU is ranked:

**15** Top Public Schools Regional Universities (North); Ranking shared with College of Brockport—SUNY. (46 rankings; many shared.)

**21** Best Colleges for Veterans Regional Universities (North) Ranking shared with Gannon University. (49 rankings; many shared.)

**60** Regional Universities North; Ranking shared with four institutions. (135 rankings; many shared.)

Source: 2015 U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges



# HAVE IT ALL CLOSE TO HOME

Students can earn an A.A. degree at Harford Community College, then cross the street for a bachelor's from TU in Northeastern Maryland.



## ADDING UP

It's simple arithmetic. The "2+2" program lets students take their first two years of classes at Harford Community College (or Cecil College); then as juniors attend classes in Towson's building to finish their bachelor's degrees. They don't have to commute to TU's main campus in Baltimore County, saving time and transportation costs. While tuition is the same, fees are lower and parking is free.

## IT'S ACADEMIC

Students began attending classes at Towson University in Northeastern Maryland last fall, pursuing bachelor's degrees in business administration with a management concentration; elementary/special education; early childhood/special education; information technology; psychology; or sociology with a criminal justice concentration.

Next fall, a degree in family studies with services to children and youth track will be added.

Future programs will be geared toward workforce demand in the region. "We are looking at the health care and social services sector, along with additional liberal arts majors," says John Desmone, executive director of TU in Northeastern Maryland.

## ROOM and a VIEW

The new \$28 million, 55,000 square-foot facility was built on the Harford Community College campus at 510 Thomas Run Road in Bel Air.

The three-story building houses computer labs, wet labs, lecture and seminar classrooms, conference rooms, breakout meeting rooms, common study areas and faculty/staff offices, a café, roof deck and an open design from the ground floor up through the third floor.

"I personally like the open concept between the three levels of common space," says Project Manager Jonathan Lindhorst. "From the lowest level in the café, you can see straight through to the glass windows on the third floor. This really makes the building feel much larger."



**"IT'S ONE OF THE MOST ANTICIPATED PROJECTS IN THE NEAR-150 YEARS OF OUR HISTORY."**

—Timothy Chandler, TU interim president

## OFF to a GREAT START

Brittany Martin, a psychology major who spoke at the grand opening Oct. 10, is among the first 218 full- or part-time students studying at the northeastern location.

"As you take the tour around here today, you'll see that we have everything we could possibly need," she told the crowd of about 300.

"It's going to give me a new family," Martin said. "There's a definite connectedness here. I think our budding relationship is off to a great start. I feel taken care of."



## What's New

### Elkins Professor New CHP Dean



Lisa Plowfield joined Towson in August as dean of the College of Health Professions.

She previously served as chancellor at Penn State-York, and had been dean of the College of Nursing at Florida State and director of the University of Delaware's School of Nursing.

Plowfield began her career as a nurse with a two-year degree, eventually pursuing a bachelor's

Rajeswari M. Kolagani, TU professor of physics, is the 2015 Wilson H. Elkins Professor, an honor bestowed by the University System of Maryland.

Kolagani created TU's Professional Science Master's Program in applied physics and serves as its graduate director.

The Elkins Professorship includes \$79,760 to engage graduate and undergraduate students in applied condensed matter research in her laboratory; strengthen the Professional Science Master's Program in applied physics by developing its advisory board; investigate professional science master's programs expansion at TU; and explore collaborations with other USM institutions in a five-year B.S./M.S. program.

Her research field is condensed matter physics. She focuses on perovskite metal oxide thin films and their potential energy applications, including thermoelectric materials and catalytic materials for hydrogen fuel generation. Since joining TU's faculty she has received over \$1 million in extramural support.



degree and specializing in trauma and critical care nursing at the University of Maryland at Baltimore. "It was a phenomenal experience, but I still wanted to teach," she explains about going back to school to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.

Her goals for the college include bolstering opportunities for undergraduate research. "I'm looking for mechanisms for which our college can enhance our current education programs through student and faculty research. It's an area of great need, and I've had great success working with undergraduate research in the past," she says. Plowfield also wants to make sure faculty achieve a work/life balance, something she says is not stressed in higher education.



## The Connector

The West Village Bridge opened to pedestrian traffic Aug. 22.

More than 700 students, faculty and staff members were on hand for a ribbon cutting, followed by a ceremonial first march over the span led by TU's Marching Band.

The \$16 million bridge built over Osler Drive will provide students with safe passage to and from the West Village and the main academic precinct of campus. An estimated 3,500 students will cross the bridge every day. "This bridge has both great practical value and powerful symbolic significance for us on this campus," Interim President Timothy Chandler says. "For while it removes barriers and provides a pathway it also facilitates connections and enhances relationships."

## Studying Abroad

Towson University has joined the Institute of International Education's Generation Study Abroad initiative to increase the diversity and number of American students who study in other countries.

By 2020, Towson's goal is to boost the number of students who study abroad by 40 percent. It joins more than 240 higher education



institutions throughout the nation participating in the program.

To hit the mark, TU's Study Abroad Office has three key initiatives to expand the number of students who will participate—curriculum integration, funding and scholarship, and access and diversification. Plans include a Global Perspectives certificate program, fundraising to support a new 'Generation Study Abroad' scholarship for underrepresented and incoming first-year students, along with outreach to low-income students, first-generation students, minorities and athletes.



# The Godfather's Daughter

BY JAN LUCAS

## Deanna Brown Thomas '90

honors her father's legacy through charitable outreach and music education.

**R**each the voicemail of Deanna Brown Thomas, and you're treated to a few bars of the late James Brown's soulful "Try Me."

It's an electrifying taste of the artistry that took Brown from a one-room shack in rural South Carolina to riches and worldwide acclaim. Known to millions as "the Godfather of Soul," "Mr. Dynamite," and "The Hardest Working Man in Show Business," he was one of the most influential entertainers of his—or any—time.

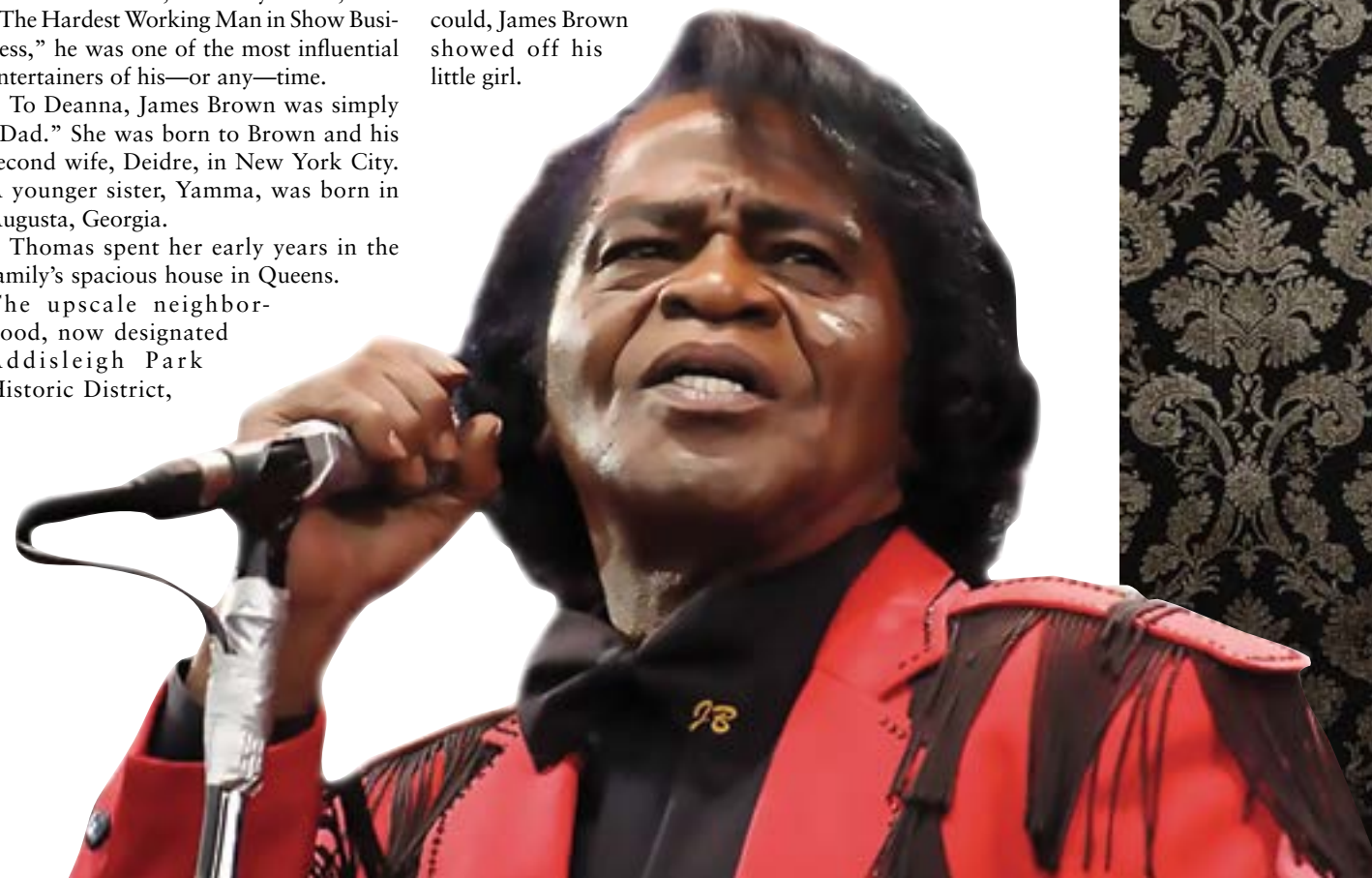
To Deanna, James Brown was simply "Dad." She was born to Brown and his second wife, Deidre, in New York City. A younger sister, Yamma, was born in Augusta, Georgia.

Thomas spent her early years in the family's spacious house in Queens. The upscale neighborhood, now designated Addisleigh Park Historic District,

was home to many prominent African Americans. In addition to the Browns, residents once included Jackie Robinson, Lena Horne, Count Basie, W.E.B. Dubois and Ella Fitzgerald.

"My father was away a lot of the time," Thomas says of her childhood. "We did go on the road with him, but having him gone was normal for us."

But whenever he could, James Brown showed off his little girl.



Dad and daughter duo: Deanna Brown, age 3, joined her famous father on stage at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre in Washington, D.C. The photo originally appeared in *Jet* magazine.



**“My father knew what it was like to be poor. He wanted to help people, and the foundation enables us to keep doing that.”**

—Deanna Brown Thomas '90



“As soon as I could stand up, I was on stage,” she recalls with a laugh. “He’d lift me up onto the tables at the Cotton Club when he performed there.”

Despite her showbiz roots, Thomas says her father discouraged her from following in his impeccably choreographed footsteps. “Daddy said everybody can’t be a star—that some people are better at handling business.

“I don’t sing and dance,” she adds, “so I keep his legacy going by working with children.”

When her parents separated near the end of the '70s, Deirdre Brown moved with her daughters to Baltimore, her hometown. Thomas attended Old Court Middle School, later graduating from Archbishop Keough (now Seton Keough) High School.

She spent two years at Wesley College in Delaware before transferring to Towson, where she earned a B.S. degree in business administration (marketing). After graduation she accompanied her father on tour, worked as an account executive at *The Wash-*

*ington Times*, and enrolled at the Columbia School of Broadcasting. Her training and a Federal Communications Commission broadcaster’s license helped her land a show of her own at WWIN-FM in Baltimore.

That experience launched a career in radio and television that took Thomas to Georgia, then to South Carolina to be a program director and on-air personality at one of Brown’s radio stations. She also

worked for Clear Channel, Radio One and CBS affiliate WRDW-TV in Augusta.

Later she worked behind the scenes—and out of the limelight—as executive vice president of James Brown Enterprises.

And along the way she met her future husband, businessman Shawn Thomas. They wed in 1997, with a beaming James Brown escorting his daughter down the aisle.

The Thomases live in Aiken, South Carolina, near the Georgia border and not far from her late father’s sprawling Beech Island mansion. The couple owns several businesses, including T&T Transportation, which serves elderly and special-needs clients in 12 Georgia counties, and DeShawn’s Seafood and Chicken, renowned for its supersized crab legs.

Aside from wife and mother, Deanna Brown Thomas’s most rewarding role is the one she assumed after her father’s death at age 73 in 2006. As director of the nonprofit Brown Family Children’s Foundation, she continues the charitable giving James Brown began in 1991. The organization supports creating music scholarships and programs, provides health awareness to impoverished families and sponsors the annual James Brown Turkey and Toy Giveaways.

“Last year we gave toys to over 800 children and turkeys to over 600 families,” Thomas notes. “My father knew what it was like to be poor. He wanted to help people, and the foundation enables us to keep doing that.”

In 2011 Thomas realized a long-held dream with the founding of the James Brown Academy of Musik Pupils (J.A.M.P!) program at C.H. Terrell Academy, a year-round K-12 fine arts academy in Augusta. Thomas collaborated with educational consultants and music educators throughout the country to create a nonprofit initiative that “motivates, educates and inspires

“Get on Up” is a feature film which depicts the many facets of James Brown’s life.



children through the universal language of music.”

J.A.M.P! students learn music theory, stage performance and discipline, she says, adding, “Discipline was my dad’s most important lesson.”

Thomas emphasizes that children from all walks of life are welcome to audition for the program, whose students and alumni have already made a name for themselves locally and beyond.

“I’d love to see J.A.M.P! satellite programs in schools around the country,” Thomas continues. “So many kids are at risk, whether it’s bullies, drugs or just being on the street. We have to nurture them and their talent.

“My father always said it was important to put musical instruments in children’s hands instead of guns. I’m committed to doing what I can to make that happen.”

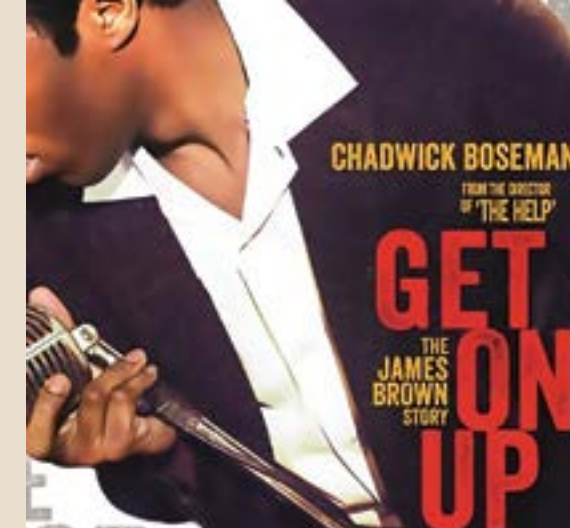
Last August members of James Brown’s extended family convened at theaters in Augusta and New York City for the premiere of “Get on Up,” a major motion picture based on the entertainer’s extraordinary life. (See sidebar.)

Thomas served as a consultant, while her son Jason worked on set as a production assistant. She’s pleased with the movie’s reception and glad to see James Brown getting the adulation and credit he deserves.

But the message Thomas hopes audiences took away is a simple one: Put in the hard work. “My dad didn’t get beyond seventh grade,” she explains. “He picked cotton and shined shoes during the Depression in the segregated South. But he believed in hard work, and that enabled him to overcome barriers, create great music and perform for queens, presidents and prime ministers.

“If there’s one thing I want people to understand, it’s that James Brown really was the hardest working man in show business.” ■

Jan Lucas is associate director of publications in University Marketing and Communications.



## The Movie Version

James Brown died in 2006 but a major motion picture based on his life celebrates The Godfather of Soul.

“Get On Up” chronicles the tempestuous life of James Brown, who propelled himself from abject poverty to the top of the charts in a career that spanned six decades.

Richard Corliss, who reviewed “Get On Up” in *Time* magazine, called it the “finest, most complex” of the rock ‘n’ roll biopic genre—“the story of a difficult man who created the funk sound, endlessly sampled by rock stars and rappers.”

The PG-13 “Get On Up” features Brown’s early Chitlin’ Circuit material as well as the Billboard hits that introduced him to mainstream audiences. The soundtrack includes “Please, Please, Please,” “I Got You (I feel Good),” “Papa’s Got a Brand New Bag,” and many others.

“Get On Up” depicts James Brown’s personal shortcomings—and there were many—but it also shows us a man who threw body and soul into his art.

Directed by Tate Taylor (“The Help”) and produced by Brian Glazer and Mick Jagger, the ensemble cast includes Chadwick Boseman as The Godfather of Soul, Dan Ackroyd as Ben Bart, Viola Davis as Susie Brown and Octavia Spencer as Aunt Honey. Singer/actress Jill Scott is Deidre “Dee-Dee” Jenkins, Brown’s second wife and Deanna Brown Thomas’s mother.

Corliss reserved his highest praise for Boseman, whose performance “lifts ‘Get On Up’ to its most impressive heights. Incarnating Brown in all his ornery uniqueness, he deserves a Pulitzer, a Nobel and instant election to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.” Boseman may be lip-synching Brown’s songs, Corliss adds, but he inhabits them.

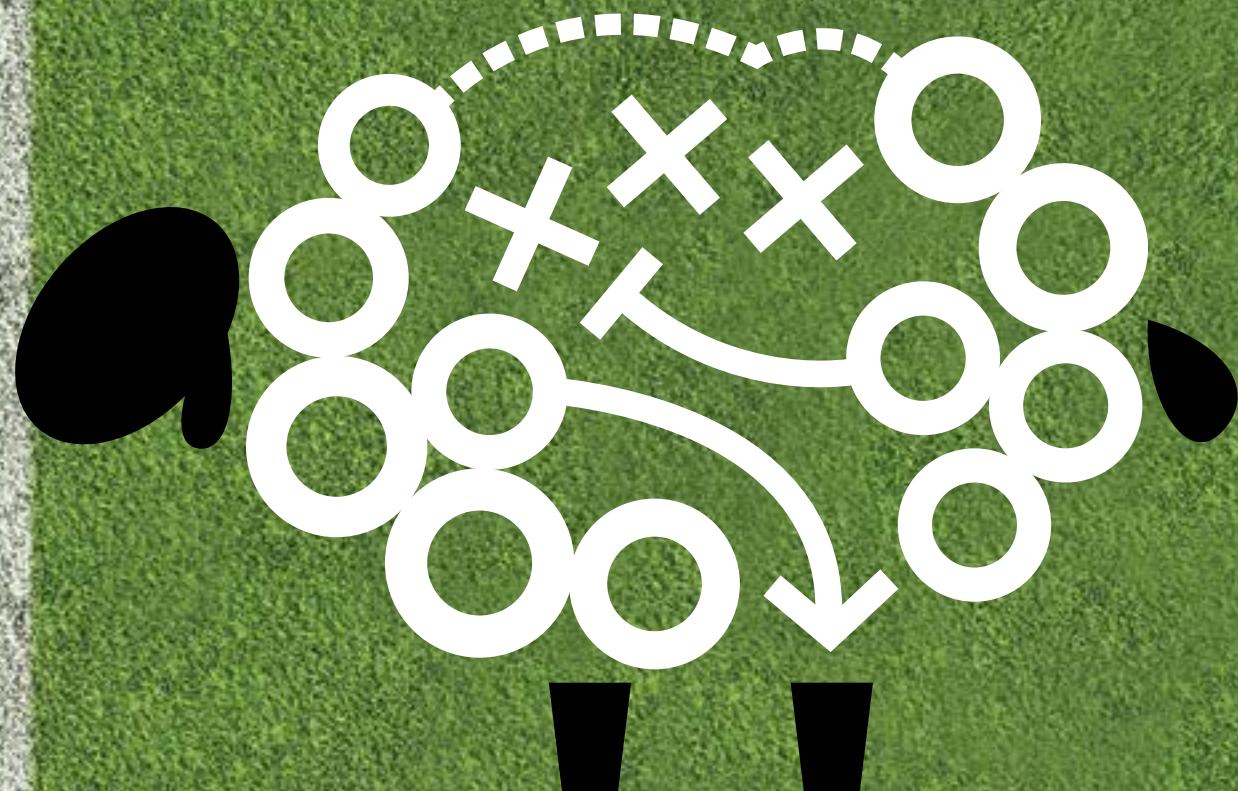
—Jan Lucas



Top: When James Brown unveiled his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1997, Deanna was by his side.

Bottom: J.A.M.P. Masters perform before a bronze statue of James Brown in downtown Augusta, Georgia.





# Count SHEEP, NOT Calories

TU professor finds sleep, or the lack of it, plays a major role in weight management.



Devon Dobrosielski

The holiday season is long gone, but the pounds put on during those last few weeks of 2014 just won't go away. Have no fear, getting back into shape this winter may be easier than you think.

Start with getting more sleep, advises Devon Dobrosielski, assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology. Dobrosielski, who has spent most of his career affirming the connections between diet, exercise and good health, recently added another variable to the equation: sleep.

"People think of hypertension as the silent killer, but there is an equally dangerous silent killer, sleep apnea," explains Dobrosielski. "The importance of sleep

behavior and treatment of sleep disorders on our health is underappreciated. Sleep can have a huge impact on health and weight loss."

The Towson professor is looking to awaken all of us, including colleagues in the medical profession, to the benefits of sleep and the major role it plays in weight management. "When a patient wants to lose weight, one of the first steps a physician should take is evaluate sleep behavior and determine if the patient has a sleep disorder," he notes.

Before joining Towson in 2012, Dobrosielski was an instructor in Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He managed clinical trials that exam-

ined the cardiovascular consequences of different diets and exercise in populations at risk for chronic disease, including older adults with sleep apnea. That research changed his career trajectory. "We know that sleep apnea reduces cardiovascular health, and we know exercise can counter those effects," he explains.

High body weight is one of the major risk factors for obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), which Dobrosielski describes as a disorder caused by an obstruction of the upper airway characterized by repeated pauses in breathing and reduced blood oxygen saturation levels during sleep. Left untreated, sleep apnea increases the risk of high blood pressure, heart attack and heart failure, stroke, obesity and diabetes.

48 percent were identified as high risk for OSA and four tested positive for sleep apnea.

"Based on our sample, we estimate the prevalence of OSA among collegiate football players to be around eight percent," notes the researcher. This translates into 5,600 NCAA football players who could suffer from sleep-disordered breathing, according to data one of his students recently presented at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine.

"The data underscore the importance of screening and treatment for the disorder in this highly conditioned, yet potentially vulnerable, group of athletes," he adds. Dobrosielski anticipates the results may

Given the correlation between sleep apnea and obesity, one of his first projects at Towson was studying a predominantly overweight population: football players.

Given the correlation between sleep apnea and obesity, one of his first projects at Towson was to collaborate with Tamara Burton, a respiratory therapist and clinical professor at Towson, in studying a predominantly overweight population: football players.

"They exhibit several risk factors for obstructive sleep apnea, including large neck circumference and high body mass index. We wanted to look at the prevalence of OSA in players on the Towson football team," describes Dobrosielski.

As part of the study, team members completed a questionnaire and their sleep patterns were monitored. Of the 51 players for whom valid results were obtained,

prompt greater efforts to educate student athletes on the signs and risks of sleep apnea. But he is not stopping there.

He is currently analyzing results of a study of the sleep habits of some 100 undergraduate students and older adults, and hopes to include sleep evaluations as a service offered through Towson's Wellness Center. "If you want people to be physically active, then treat sleep disorders. Our work will continue to explore to what degree lack of sleep impairs the ability to reap the benefits of exercise." ■

Nancy Grund is a freelance writer and editor who served as an interim communications manager in the Office of Marketing and Communications.

Trekking through the mountains of Peru, students studied the effects of high altitude on their own fitness levels.



## Altitude Adjustments

Students study themselves to learn about the impact of altitude on physiology

At 11,000 feet in the Andes, 14 Towson students participated in a unique summer project, playing the roles of both researchers and research subjects. As part of the Study Abroad Program, they were in Peru to study the impact of altitude on human physiology.

"They gained an understanding of the research process, learning how to generate hypotheses, collect data and analyze data," says Devon Dobrosielski, assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology, who led the group.

"But they also learned a little bit about themselves, their own physiology, their fitness, their sleep behavior, their physical activity, and how those are affected by high altitude exposure," he adds.

Using a three-minute step test, students demonstrated that aerobic capacity was reduced in high altitudes. They also compared their pulmonary function at high altitude to that of native highlanders in Peru, finding a strong association between aerobic fitness and lung capacity. The group also looked at the association between body composition and acute mountain sickness. Their findings indicate that belly fat is associated with increased incidence of altitude sickness.

—Nancy Grund

SEE MORE ONLINE  
<http://youtu.be/pthnwagrDWc>



Elementary and middle school students learn the ABCs of computer programming

# CODEWORD: KIDS

BY GINNY COOK • PHOTOS BY KANJI TAKENO



Charlotte Hetterick's goal is to teach children coding so they can create technology, not just consume it.

Sorry Thoreau. Walden is all but extinct.

Technology has invaded the deep woods and every other facet of life.

It wakes us up, maps our runs, links employers and employees, connects friends, calculates routes, pays bills, books flights.

Let's face it. We're wired.

Everybody uses technology. But far, far fewer possess even a rudimentary idea about how to develop it.

As a mother of two, this worries Charlotte Hetterick '92.

"We as a country are great at consuming this technology but not so great at learning how to create it," she says.

Hetterick feels compelled to change that. She wants her children and their friends to understand the ABCs of computer programming. Because no

matter what career they choose, she says, technology will be a part it.

Hetterick has been instrumental in bringing lessons in computer coding to an elementary and middle school in Carroll County, Maryland.

It's all part of code.org, a nonprofit "dedicated to expanding participation in computer science by making it available in more schools, and increasing participation by women and underrepresented students of color," its website reads.

Code.org offers "a one-hour introductory course designed to demystify computer science and show that anybody can learn the basics." It's a global movement, with tutorials in over 30 languages for ages 4 to 104. Even the tech giants have endorsed the program.

"In an effort to attract more—and more diverse—programmers, the CEOs of two dozen big tech companies, including



Microsoft, Google and Salesforce.com, launched a campaign Wednesday with nonprofit Code.org to introduce computer science to 100 million students world-wide," the *Wall Street Journal* reported in an Oct. 8 article.

Hetterick had heard about Code.org the year before that story appeared. So she immediately got to work to bring the

Most of her third graders were excited about learning to code, Pittinger says, a thrill that soon gave way to frustration. "I teach highly able kids—things come easily to them. This was the first time they didn't get it right away," she explains. "They wanted to give up."

But encouraged by Pittinger, Hetterick and another mother, Lisa Barnard Bass '97, the children worked through the hour of code, and then wanted more computer challenges.

Hetterick discovered a 20-hour program through code.org that came with a bonus—a \$1,000 grant for school supplies if completed by June. Twice a month, the students gathered in the school's computer room for more coding lessons. Along with Bass, Hetterick enlisted her brother William Hetterick '93 to help the class.

"This time," says Pittinger, "the students weren't as hard on themselves. They had gained the self-confidence to work out the problems."

It took effort, but as third grader, Chris Y. says, "I learned that problem solving can be hard sometimes,

but it's worth it in the end."

Coding was also a great motivator, Pittinger adds. "The children stayed focused on their other lessons so that they would have time to get to the computer room to code."

Hetterick was impressed with their enthusiasm and their skills. "Not only were they excited during the entire program, they were also learning concepts that they had not covered in class—variables and angle degrees—and they were getting it!"

All of the students completed the 20-hour program, earning the cash prize that purchased a slew of school supplies including an easel, arts and crafts supplies, math tools, an electric hole-puncher, a rug and quills for a Colonial Day celebration.

"I see learning to code becoming a basic skill—just like learning to type is today."

—Charlotte Hetterick '92

## CODE: Club

Hetterick also brought the hour of code to her son's sixth-grade class at North Carroll Middle School with the help of Ruth Winsker '94, a guidance counselor and Jamie Kealy, the science teacher. At Hetterick's request, Firaxis, a gaming company in Hunt Valley, sent a programmer to talk with the students.

The middle schoolers dove into the lesson. Their comments are a testament to what happens after they've been engaged in a single hour of coding and a look into what's behind computer games.

"It's fun to code. I might choose coding as my job when I grow up," says one.

"I like that we figured out how people make video games. You get to know how to build your own. I use hour of code often," says another.

In fact, the middle school students found coding so appealing that Kealy started a coding club. "Students are fascinated with the technology, and it gives them a much better understanding of the applications and devices that they use every day," she says.

With coding absent from most middle and high school curriculums, "it is essential that we provide as many opportunities as possible," Kealy adds. "Our current middle schoolers will be graduating college at the same time as a massive projected deficit in graduates qualified in coding."



Charlotte Hetterick (left) and Lisa Bass volunteered to teach third graders learn the basics of computer coding.

coding course into her children's classrooms that fall—2013. "I see learning to code becoming a basic skill—just like learning to type is today," she explains.

Hetterick met with school administrators, got the green light and then approached Terri Pittinger '81, her daughter's third-grade teacher.

## CODE: Thrills vs. Frustration

A veteran with 34 years at the head of the class, 26 of them at Manchester Elementary School, Pittinger saw a great opportunity for her students that could also improve their keyboarding skills, a requirement for state assessment tests.

## CODE: TU connection

When Hetterick realized the number of Towson alumni who had helped with the project, she contacted the university for a speaker. Josh Dehlinger, assistant professor of computer science, answered the call.

He entered the third grade class with the Marshmallow Challenge. (See sidebar.) But he also wanted to show them coding is an integral part of life.

"I walked them through a real day for me," Dehlinger says—"waking up to my iPhone, running with a GPS-enabled watch, driving a Prius, which is run by mostly software."

All of those tasks or apps are run by codes similar to what they had just done in the coding lessons, he says. But what's most valuable is the critical problem-solving skills students grasp. "They learn computational thinking, the need to think of solutions—not only about how a computer would do something but from an algorithmic, logical point of view," he notes.

In December, Dehlinger helped kick off a school-wide coding event at the middle school. Hetterick, Bass and school staff were at the elementary school to initiate third- and fourth-graders in coding elements.

While Hetterick's dream is to have coding added as a required course, she understands that in Carroll County and elsewhere, schools struggle to balance budgets and implement changes to curriculum. Adding coding lessons or computer science teachers "isn't going to happen anytime soon, and probably not while my children are in the school system," she says.

But for now, she's grateful to the teachers, Towson alumni and staff who have made code for kids a reality. ■

Ginny Cook is the editor of *Towson*.



TU's Josh Dehlinger (left) showed third graders at Manchester Elementary how marshmallows and spaghetti can be a recipe for computer programming.



# Marshmallow Madness

Building a spaghetti tower teaches kids creativity and some basic programming principles.

Put one marshmallow, 20 strands of spaghetti, some tape and string into the hands of third graders.

Ask them to build the tallest, free standing structure possible, putting the marshmallow on top and you'll get a lot more than a spindly skyscraper.

What's really being created is a firm foundation for future computer programmers.

Last year, Josh Dehlinger, TU assistant professor of computer and information sciences, brought the Marshmallow Challenge, made famous in a TED talk, to students at Manchester Elementary in Carroll County, Maryland.

The youngsters met the challenge, completing the task and using the very traits indispensable to programmers.

"They didn't start building right away," says Dehlinger. "They thought. They talked as a group to figure out a solution. They tested their concepts."

This is exactly what's required to develop software. "You need good teamwork, good communications. It's not a nerd in a basement programming by himself," he adds.

Dehlinger has also used the Marshmallow Challenge in classes for undergraduate and graduate students at Towson. What's surprising is that the elementary school-age kids typically do better than college students, a fact also verified by TED, he says.

"Younger students are more likely to try things out in prototype because they have no preconceived notions," Dehlinger explains. "They don't have any tacit knowledge about the weight of the marshmallow—so they try it out pretty early on. And they know they need to build more support for it."

College students, he says, will debate the best solution rather than actually constructing anything. So when it comes time to put that light fluffy marshmallow on top, their towers topple over.

"Of the four times I've run it, the [grade school students] had the tallest tower standing of any of them, which is really amazing," Dehlinger says.

—Ginny Cook



# Calculated Success

By Jan Lucas / Photos by Kanji Takeno

TU and the College Board partner to help more high school students pass Advanced Placement calculus.

**G**ail Kaplan, TU professor of mathematics, is a teacher's teacher par excellence.

Just ask Laura Potter M.A.T. '05, who teaches mathematics at C. Milton Wright High School in Bel Air, Md.

Last summer Potter enrolled in TU's professional-development workshop, "Integrated Approach to Improve AP Calculus Scores." She was excited to learn that Kaplan would be teaching it.

"I had Gail for one of my master's classes, and I loved it," Potter explains. "She's so dynamic."

It's an apt word for Kaplan, who has devoted her career to helping students—as well as veteran teachers—become more creative and effective mathematics educators. Little wonder she was selected to play a key role in the university's All SYSTEMS Go program, a STEM-education initiative launched in 2013 by Nancy Grasmick, Presidential Scholar for Innovation in Teacher and Leader Education. (See sidebar.)

Supported by a three-year grant from The College Board, Kaplan heads a triple-pronged pilot program designed to boost the number of Maryland students who pass Advance Placement (AP) calculus examination. A passing score enables a

student to get college credits or advanced placement at most universities.

"Many students understand calculus, but they don't have the prerequisite skills," Kaplan points out. "It can be frustrating for teachers whose students comprehend the ideas, but can't do the computations needed to pass the exam."

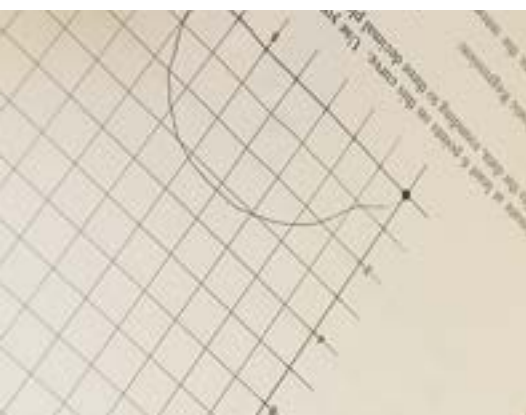
The AP calculus exam is graded on a 1-5 scale, with a score of at least 3 needed to pass. "We can't turn a 2 into a 5," Kaplan says, "but we stand a good chance of turning a 2 into a 3."

The inaugural workshop, held in summer 2013, included 20 math teachers from Baltimore County public schools. "It wasn't a typical lecture," Kaplan emphasizes. "We were training teachers how to teach in a student-centered, hands-on fashion."

Passing the AP calculus exam requires not only understanding the concepts, but also preparing for the exam itself. "The rubrics for earning points are very specific," she continues. "For example, if teachers don't know that answers require three decimals, their students won't earn points."

The support didn't end with the workshop. The Baltimore County teachers met throughout the 2013-14 academic year,

Professor Gail Kaplan (standing) uses pipe cleaners and lemon wedges to create fun challenges for mathematics teachers.





both in person and virtually, for additional instruction and advice. Five Baltimore County mentor teachers, who receive a stipend from the program, continue to work with the cohort and with new teachers.

There's ample anecdotal evidence that the 2013 workshop has bolstered both

teacher and student performance. Kaplan says several workshop participants emailed to tell her their students earned higher scores on the 2014 exam. One even reported that his school's pass rate had gone from 10 to 80 percent. Kaplan says she's still gathering data to present

to the College Board, but she's confident the program is having a positive impact.

Last summer teachers from Anne Arundel and Harford counties focused their calculus skills on a variety of interesting—and fun—challenges. Using pipe cleaners, lemon wedges and other inexpensive, easy-to-find materials, Kaplan demonstrated innovative ways to put ideas across to students.

Andrew Bleichfeld, M.Ed. '97, who chairs the Mathematics Department at Harford Technical High School, enjoyed Kaplan's creative approach. "These are the kinds of things I'm always looking for," he said shortly after completing the workshop. "I've already passed workshop materials and several ideas on to new teachers."

Kaplan says another part of the program involves training secondary mathematics education majors to teach AP calculus. "Nobody expects someone to graduate from college prepared to do this," she says. "We expect our students to be very successful."

"Towson is the only university in the country that offers an undergraduate seminar in how to teach AP calculus," she continues. "The College Board is extremely interested in this aspect of our partnership because so many calculus teachers are at or beyond retirement age."

Kaplan says Teaching AP Calculus grew out of the College Board Advanced Placement Summer Institutes, which are offered all over the country. About eight years ago she brought the concept to TU and began offering it to in-service teachers enrolled in the university's graduate program in secondary mathematics education. "They really liked it," she adds.

The program's third component is a two-week summer AP calculus boot camp at an area school. The inaugural camp took place last summer at Milford Mill High School, where the exam's pass rate lagged behind other Baltimore County schools.

TU's team included a master teacher, Kevin Dalsimer, a member of the Towson High School faculty, assisted by a pair of TU seniors, Sean Selba and Michelle Tarr. Selba, a secondary mathematics educa-



"We were training teachers how to teach in a student-centered, hands-on fashion."

—Gail Kaplan



tion major from Dundalk, Md., served as the camp's data analyst. A lifelong math enthusiast who has always wanted to teach, Selba says he reviewed the results of daily tests to determine whether the students had mastered—and retained—what Dalsimer taught them.

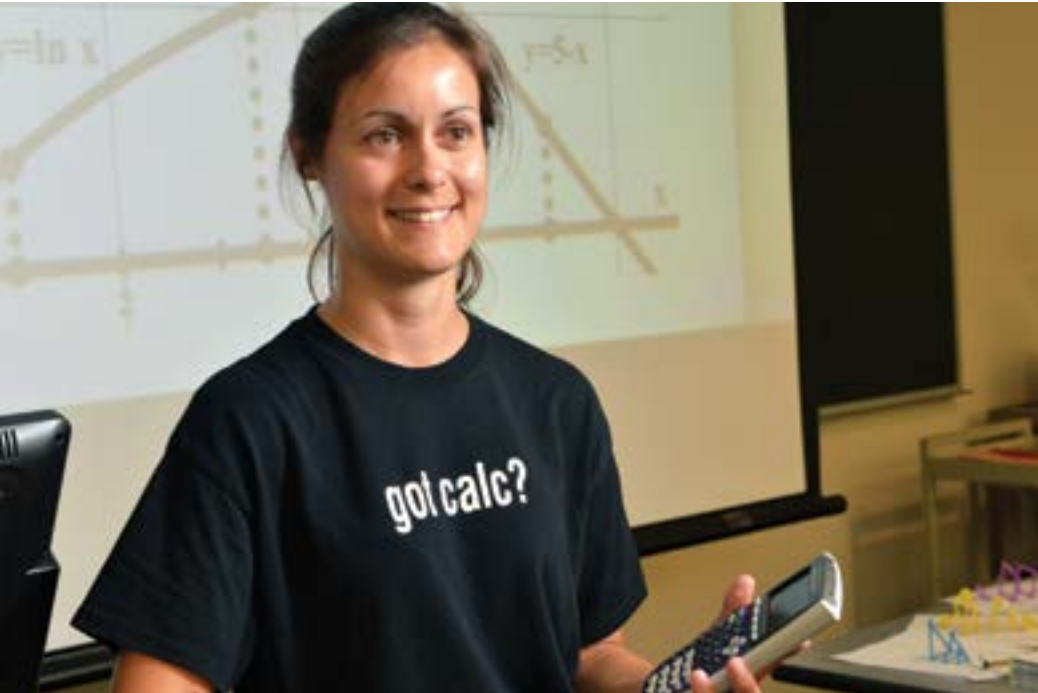
Both Selba and Tarr honed their AP calculus skills as juniors in Kaplan's seminar. "Michelle and I are well prepared," Selba says. "Being a part of the AP Calculus boot camp lets us practice our craft."

"The education and mathematics faculty have been phenomenal," he continues. "Without their guidance I wouldn't be anywhere as good as I am now."

College Board consultants will meet with the Milford Mill students five times during the 2014-2015 academic year to enhance their understanding and improve their scores on the spring exam.

Now entering its third year, TU's AP Calculus pilot is clearly a hit with classroom teachers, aspiring teachers and high school students. "Passing the AP calc exam is a collaborative effort," Kaplan says. "The Towson-College Board partnership supports the effort on all fronts, and that's essential for continuing success." ■

Jan Lucas is associate director of publications in University Marketing and Communications.



Laura Potter, M.A.T. '05 and Andrew Bleichfeld, M.Ed. '97, were among the Anne Arundel and Harford county teachers who enjoyed creative approaches to teaching AP calculus at last summer's workshop.

# Succeeding in STEM

"Towson is taking the lead in STEM education," says Nancy Grasmick, TU Presidential Scholar for Innovation in Teacher and Leader Education. "Not only are we working with current high school teachers and students to assure their success in higher-level STEM courses, but we are preparing our future classroom teachers to train the next generation of scientists, technology experts, engineers and mathematicians. STEM education on the Towson campus is All SySTEMs Go."

All SySTEMs Go is a coordinated, fully integrated, research-based approach to launching every Maryland student on a college and career pathway rich in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and boosting student competitiveness in the 21st century global marketplace. The All SySTEMs Go approach pulls together three Towson "firsts" and moves Maryland students through a successful trajectory from elementary school to college and career.

- Towson University is offering the first Maryland STEM-certification for elementary school teachers, preparing them to give young students a strong foundation in critical STEM concepts.
- Towson has implemented Maryland's first UTeach model.
- Towson, in partnership with the College Board, is training veteran classroom teachers and pre-service teachers to teach Advanced Placement calculus courses.

The All SySTEMs Go approach creates a multiplier effect: more effective teachers produce highly successful students who are competitive in the global marketplace, or who return to the classroom to train the next generation of successful students.

Courtesy Office of the President, Presidential Scholar



# THE REEL THING

By Nancy Grund / Photos by Kanji Takeno

## Horror makes Mike Flanagan '02 a hit Hollywood producer

Mike Flanagan once had 300 rejection letters pinned to his wall. Then in 2005 he produced "Oculus: Chapter 3," a short, spine-tingling film about a haunted mirror that was to be the first of a series.

People watched it. Film festivals worldwide showered it with awards.

"Oculus" was the beginning. Since then Flanagan wrote and directed the critically acclaimed "Absentia," shot on a shoestring budget of \$70,000.

He expanded "Oculus" into a feature film—one of the most streamed movies on Netflix.

His latest film, "Somnia", starring Kate Bosworth and Thomas Jane, will be released this year.

On a recent visit to campus, he discussed how his experiences at Towson laid the groundwork for his success and offered advice about how to succeed in Tinseltown.

**Q:** Did you always want to make films?

**A:** When I started college, I wanted to be a high school history teacher. But I had always made movies, starting in my backyard as a kid, just never thought of it as a possible career. Then I took Film 1 with Barry Moore. My teachers, most notably Moore, Greg Faller, Tom Brandau and Steve Yeager, who produced my first movie, made filmmaking seem less like a pie-in-the-sky dream and more like a viable career. I learned about the mechanics of film production and the business of filmmaking.

The university gave me access to equipment, talented students and faculty who participated in my movies. Maravene Loeschke [then dean of COFAC] acted in the second movie that I made here, "Still Life." [President] Hoke Smith, was in my first movie, "Makebelieve," which Steve Yeager produced and helped get screened at the Maryland Film Festival. That's going above and beyond, and



Mike Flanagan says the professors in Towson's theatre department interact with students one-on-one and allow them to pursue their interests.



whelming that if you aren't properly challenged during your education, that discouragement could send you home. But persistence was really reinforced here. And as the filmmaking got harder and your ambition grew, so did the level of critique and the expectations of the instructors.

**Q:** When did you shift from relationship films to horror films?

**A:** My move to horror films came way too late. When you first get into making movies you want to tell a story that's personal. I kept making college relationship movies, which were not terribly interesting to a paying audience. And I didn't really have many profound things to say about relationships and love at 19 years old. It took me a really long time to realize that if I wanted to become part of the industry, I needed to start understanding what type of film, what product, makes it.

that's certainly not the experience of students at UCLA [University of California, Los Angeles] or NYU [New York University], which have larger departments and more money.

Horror is the one genre that can be hugely profitable without much initial upfront investment. Films are either less than \$5 million—low-budget movies—or \$200-plus million dollar blockbusters. I'm not a huge risk if I [ask] someone for \$5 million for a horror movie. They are trying to make these movies all the time. The horror audience doesn't care how the movie looks or who's in it, as long as it's scary. A movie made for peanuts can be a huge hit.

**Q:** How did Towson foster your filmmaking qualities?

**A:** Tenacity and almost an unreasonable level of stubbornness are required to get through the defenses of the film industry. That stubbornness was encouraged here. Faculty basically said, 'You want to make a project? Go make a project. We'll critique it, and we're going to hold you to more ambitious standards.'

That was very useful because the amount of discouragement that you bump into when you knock on the door of the industry is so over-

I knew other Towson graduates in Los Angeles who were all struggling. We got together and spent four days and \$1,000 making "Oculus." That short worked in a way that none of my other movies had. Suddenly the festivals were calling and it was screening. People wanted to see the movie, and they were asking about a feature film. That short got me a manager, a lawyer, agents and meetings. They felt the film was a perfect candidate for 'found footage,' where the camera is the independent observer. For seven years I would have that conversation.



Unlike other horror movies, Mike Flanagan's films draw on his theatre background, emphasizing character and performance.

But that format was not what I had in mind. There were days that I felt like it was a huge mistake, that I should have grabbed the money and let them do a found footage movie. Was I insane or tenacious? But I kept trying until finally someone agreed with me.

## Q: How did you make a living during those seven years?

A: I was editing reality TV. I used to go into work every day surrounded by other editors working on bad TV. At one point I was selling possessions out of my apartment to have money to pay the rent, editing 'Boys Gone Nuts,' which was drunk guys flashing a camera. I wanted bigger things. I had an idea for a movie, a short film. Everybody did. Nobody had moved to LA to edit reality TV.

## Q: What makes your films different from other horror movies?

A: Horror movies tend to not care about the quality of the performance. Because I came up in theatre, doing drama, acting is important to me. My movies are generally classified as slow burns—they take their time. They're about what happens in your head, not about the explosive or terrifying imagery. It's about trying to make you conjure up your own imagery, which I think is way more scary. Hardcore horror fans tend to find them slow, to be disappointed by the lack of gore and the jump-scare factor.

I want my movies to be smarter, to reflect some psychological issue. The horror should be an extension of something that characters are dealing with.

"Absentia" was about dealing with an unexplainable loss and how people grieve. "Oculus" was about childhood trauma and abuse and how that is visible on the psyches of adults. "Somnia" is about the experience of losing a child and how difficult it is to understand and reconcile this very unnatural event for a parent. Complicated family dynamics keep me interested in the project. I prefer that the scares and horror elements grow organically and be metaphorical.

## Q: You spent a good deal of time with students during your visit. Why is that important to you?

A: People always helped me. I would send cuts of movies I was making to faculty. They would give me notes, critique them, and help get them into a film festival. There was a lot of support from Towson, and faculty remain supportive.

For me, it's not only a duty, but a privilege for those of us in the industry to share our experiences with students. I listened to speakers when I was a student, and it made a huge difference. The industry changes, and everyone has a different experience about how to get in because it's so nebulous. There are no clear answers. I adore talking to students mostly because I remember so vividly that level of energy and passion. The university gave me so much, anything I can do to pay that forward is an honor. ■

Nancy Grund is a freelance writer and editor who served as an interim communications manager in the Office of Marketing and Communications.



.....

**"I want my movies to be smarter, to reflect some psychological issue."**

.....





*“You will always be part of the growing Towson alumni network.”*

FROM OUR ALUMNI PRESIDENT

I hope you enjoyed the holidays and were able to spend them with friends, family and other Towson University alumni.

It is always important to stay connected, which is why the alumni association hosted gatherings in Fenwick, Del., New York City and West Virginia when the Tigers faced West Virginia University on the football field. We also celebrated another exciting event—the first annual Young Alumni Awards. These awards recognized the successes of Towson alumni who recently graduated. They may not be eligible for the Distinguished Alumni and Deans Recognition Awards, but their accomplishments and talents are representing the university well.

Upcoming events include a trip to the West Coast to celebrate with alumni in Los Angeles and San

Francisco, and a trip to Sarasota, Fla., to enjoy crabs at the opening game of the Baltimore Orioles during spring training. If we haven't made it to your area yet, stay tuned, because we are on the way.

Remember, you may not be on campus but will always be part of the growing Towson alumni network, and the Alumni Association can help you stay connected. We look forward to hearing about your accomplishments and successes. I invite you to visit or just email us so we can include your news in Class Notes. I hope to meet as many of you as possible at future events as we continue to support our alma mater.

**Lance Johnson '93**  
President



## Hire A Tiger

Career Center connects alumni and students with employers

Whether you are recruiting for internships, entry-level positions or experienced professionals, Towson University has what you need. The TU Career Center can connect you with a talented pool of 22,000 + students and 139,000 + alumni to fill your positions today and in the future. Hire a Tiger by visiting [www.towson.edu/hireatiger](http://www.towson.edu/hireatiger).



Brett Heit '92, Ida Martin '10, Ivette Ortiz '10, Danielle Tieman '10, Mark Crusante '04 and Lisa Heit

## New York! New York!

Alumni gather in the Big Apple

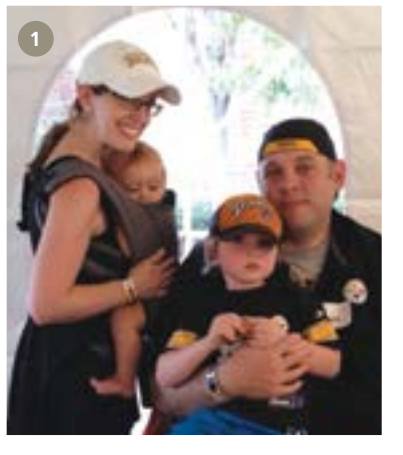
On Sept. 20, Keith Ewancio '94/'07, vice president of the Alumni Association and Gary Rubin '69, vice present of advancement, hosted a reception at Club Quarters Midtown in New York City to honor Brian Stelter '07, senior media correspondent and host of CNN's "Reliable Sources."



## Road Game

Tigers tackle West Virginia Mountaineers

Tiger fans gathered at the West Virginia University Alumni Center for pre-game festivities Sept. 6. Then it was on to Milan Puskar Stadium. Despite the 54-0 setback, alumni and friends celebrated the camaraderie of being Tigers.



1

Mary Ann Maurer '99, J.P. Maurer '99 and family



2

Rick White '81, Paul Brock '97, Dan Crowley '01, Lance Johnson '93 and Christine Bower '06



3

Paul Brock '97, Matt Leahy '97 and Joe Bailey

## Forever Summer

Alumni gather at the beach

The Alumni Association kept summer alive by hosting a reception at the Ropewalk Oyster House on Oct. 18 in Fenwick Island, Del. Marc McFaul '95 told guests how his TU education contributed to his success, which includes opening another restaurant next spring—The Ropewalk Seafood Company located between 85th and 86th Street bayside in Ocean City, Md.



1

Elizabeth Veader '72 and Jack Levering '73



2

Dorothy Dobbyn '72 and Al Allen



3

Raymond White '10 and Eric Davis '97

## Top Volunteers

The 2014 Alumni Association Volunteer Recognition Reception

The Alumni Association honored its most outstanding volunteers, faculty and staff on Oct. 16 in the University Union.



1

Spirit of the University Award  
Dennis J. Lane



2

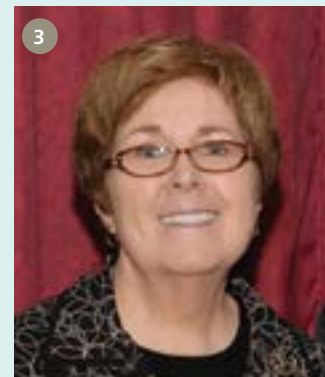
Alumni Association Volunteer Service Award  
Gerard J. Gaeng, Esq. '81

Faculty Alumni Volunteer Service Award  
A. Karen Blair '74

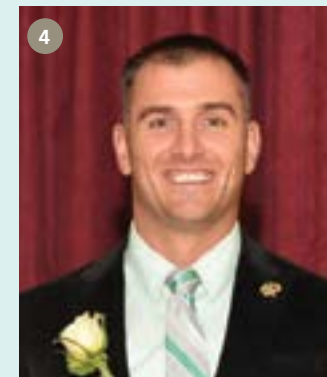
Staff Alumni Volunteer Service Award  
Dave Fedorchak

University Alumni Volunteer Service Award  
Mike Waltz '78

Athletic Alumni Volunteer Service Award  
Bill Wood '87



3



4



5



6

\* To nominate worthy alumni, staff or faculty for the 2015 awards, visit [www.tutigertracks.com/volunteernomination](http://www.tutigertracks.com/volunteernomination). Nominations will be reviewed by the Alumni Association Community Relations and Outreach Committee.



## Emerging Talent

Alumni Association recognizes young alumni

At a dinner in the University Union Oct. 23, the Alumni Association Young Alumni Awards tipped its hat to four recent graduates, recognizing each of their achievements.

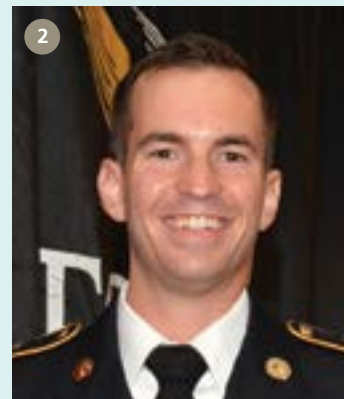
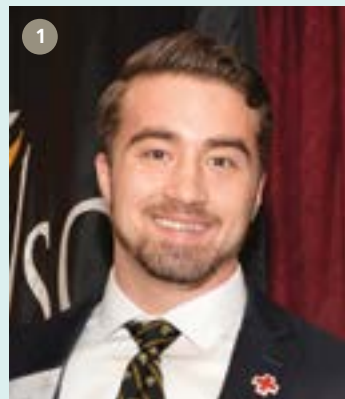
Outstanding Recent Graduate  
Matt Sikorski '12

Young Alumni Service Award  
Ryan P. Hirsch '10

Young Entrepreneur  
Alumni Award  
Elizabeth B. Borowsky '05

Distinguished Young  
Alumni Award  
Crystal J. Neely, Ph.D. '06

Contact the Alumni Office ([alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu)) to donate to the Alumni Association scholarship and grant programs.



## Hats Off to Scholars

Alumni Association hosts scholarship luncheon

Towson's best and brightest packed the Minnegan Room for the scholarship luncheon Oct. 28. Keith Ewancio '94/'07, vice president of the Alumni Association, recognized the achievements of the 2014 recipients. Then Steven Dembo '78 discussed the results of his project, which helped returning veterans and others resolve emotions through photographs.

## Paying Tribute

Annual fundraiser for Honor Elizabeth Wainio '95

On Oct. 25 we celebrated the life of Honor Elizabeth Wainio '95, who perished on Flight 93 on 9/11. At the annual fundraiser at Ropewalk Tavern in Federal Hill, more than \$22,000 was added to the scholarship established in her name. A special thank you to Esther Heymann '72, Ben Wainio, Sarah Wainio, Linda and Marc McFaul '95, proprietors of Ropewalk Tavern, and the Alumni Association Community Relations and Outreach Committee. Thanks also to Taylor Lutz, a 2014 Wainio scholarship recipient and Cynthia Cooper, chair of mass communication.



To make a gift to the Honor Elizabeth Wainio '95 Scholarship Endowment, please visit [www.towson.edu/supportTU](http://www.towson.edu/supportTU).

1 Ben Wainio, Steve and Mollie Hasenei, and Carrie Smith

2 Ann Heavner and Esther Heymann '72

3 Paul Bird, Peter Fitzpatrick, Michelle Baldwin '95 and Patrick Baldwin

4 Anne Marie Brokmeier and Elisabeth Pallia

## The Network

Alumni Association links up with the Student Government Association and the Career Center

Sept. 9 marked a collaborative reception among the Alumni Association, the Student Government Association, the Career Center and TU's corporate partners. Lance Johnson '93, Alumni Association president and Kevin Kutner, SGA president, delivered remarks.



1 Taylor Simone James, Samantha Murray, Michelle Harrison, Mary Rose Pedron and Raphael Jordan

2 Taylor Sevik, Harrison Hart, Trevor King, Kevin Kutner, Joseph Gros, Daniel Leon and Alex Wentz



# Black and Gold Celebration

Alumni enjoy Homecoming

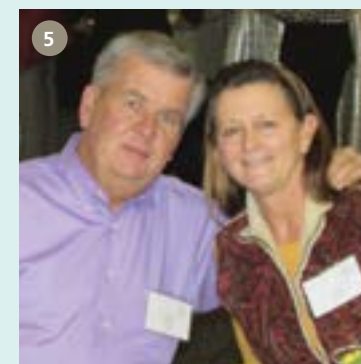
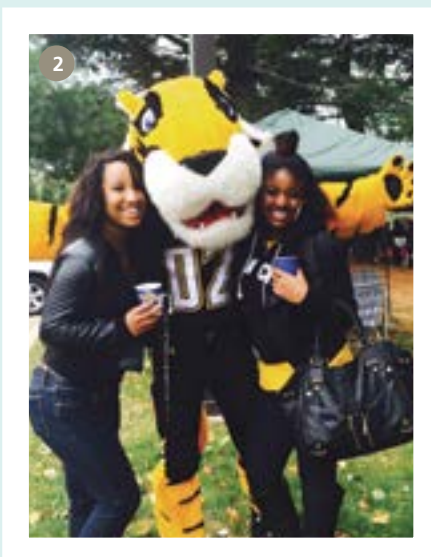
Alumni and friends braved the cold Nov. 1 for an afternoon of tailgating with friends. They enjoyed complimentary snacks, hot chocolate and the photo booth. Fans then celebrated a 21-19 Tiger victory over Elon University.

# Happy Holidays

Holiday Party supports the Alumni Association Professional Development Grant

Guests enjoyed the vocals of Gary Rubin '69 accompanied by Brent Hardesty '83 /'04 on piano at the Alumni Association's holiday party Dec. 5. The event supports the Professional Development Grant, which provides a Towson graduate with financial assistance for conference registration, membership fees in a professional organization or other career enhancements.

- 1 A fun time was had by all at Homecoming 2014!
- 2 Doc hanging out in the Alumni Tailgate
- 3 Alumni of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority
- 4 The photo booth was number one with TU alumni
- 5 Alumni ham it up for the photo booth in the Alumni Hospitality area
- 6 TU senior Victoria Brun designed the winning T-shirt in the Alumni Association's contest. Look for these shirts at spring athletic events.



- 1 Molly Shock '75 and Lou Dollenger '74
- 2 Keith Ewancio '94/'07, Brian Dempsey '95, Erika Moore '93/'00 and Louise Miller '10
- 3 Holiday greetings from the Office of Alumni Relations: Shirley McCue, Margaret Paulson '11, Jenna Mills '09, Domenica Griffonetti, Lori Armstrong and Olivia Orth
- 4 Patricia Hoge '81/'82, Timothy Chandler, interim president, Bill Murray '08/'11, Ingrid Carolan and Margaret Chandler
- 5 Al '66 and Suzie Henneman





*“All of our success would not be possible without donors like you.”*

TOWSON UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

The Towson University Foundation is committed to being a good steward of our donors' generous support. As reported in our Audited Financial Statements as of June 30, 2014, we manage over \$68 million in assets, which comprise approximately 800 separate funds. Three hundred seventy of these funds are endowments that provide perpetual support for scholarships and academic programs or initiatives.

Due in large part to the discipline and hard work of the TU Foundation Board's Investment Committee, we've been able to generate ever-increasing amounts of endowment spendable income each of the past five fiscal years, growing the spendable amount

from \$472,000 in FY '12 to almost \$2 million for the upcoming FY '16. The June 30, 2014, one-, three- and five-year investment returns for our endowment portfolio were an impressive 17.4 percent, 11.0 percent and 14.6 percent, respectively. During FY '14, the TU Foundation was able to provide 711 scholarships to support students.

All of our success would not be possible without donors like you contributing to our mission. Thank you for building on our strengths and supporting Towson University's future.

**John Mease**  
Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

## Recognizing Philanthropy Leaders

Fall events honor generosity of donors



Cooper Beeson, Keaton Beeson, Jeff Beeson '01/'11, Diana Beeson '13



Jerome Cohen '62, Atiya Afsana, Jacqueline Gratz, Shidan Chen '09/'11, Eric Gratz

## A Tribute

Remembering the compassion and guidance of Mary Lee Farlow



Mary Lee Farlow

A faithful servant to Towson University's residence programs for 35 years, Mary Lee Farlow's memory lives on in the lives she touched. More than 80 family members, friends, co-workers and former students came together on Nov. 1 to reminisce about her spirit and friendship as well as raise funds for the Mary Lee Farlow Outstanding Students Scholarship.

Farlow, who died Jan. 8, 2014, was the director of residence from 1960 to 1995 and lived on campus throughout her tenure. She is remembered as being a compassionate, fair, respectful and visionary colleague and adviser. Most notably, she helped to guide the lives of students in the residence halls. Farlow's commitment to students "included advising, consoling, challenging and encouraging hundreds of students with their personal and academic struggles and dilemmas," says Art Taguding '76, former assistant director of residence who served under Farlow.

Her three-decade tenure also saw many societal changes that required a tolerant but principled disposition. "She had to adapt to the various challenges of the times such as student activism, panty raids, drinking-age changes, streaking, bereavement from losses during the Vietnam War, health scare issues and racism," Taguding remembers.

In 2000, the Mary Lee Farlow Outstanding Students Scholarship was established in her honor. "This scholarship will represent and preserve Mary Lee's legacy as a professional who committed her life to the success of young men and women in the Towson residential and academic community," says Taguding. Her scholarship is awarded to students whose work in Student Affairs demonstrates an exceptional dedication to the TU student experience. ■

To support this scholarship fund, visit [towson.givecorps.com](http://towson.givecorps.com) or call the Development Office at 1-866-301-3375.

### FACULTY/STAFF PRE-GAME RECEPTION

On Aug. 30, more than 150 faculty and staff donors and their families attended the President's Pre-game Reception, the annual event to show appreciation for employee donors.

Interim President Timothy Chandler spoke of the importance of employee giving. "As faculty and staff, your gift is truly special because it comes not only with a deep knowledge of Towson's great strengths, but also a real sense of its greatest needs."

Presidential Ambassadors Allen Meyers, Kelly Langford and David Raymond also spoke about how faculty and staff gifts affect their experiences as students. Langford told the audience, "Thank you for always encouraging us in the classroom, answering administrative questions and contributing to your faculty and staff campaign that supports our financial assistance as well as our academic and athletic programs." ■

### DONOR RECOGNITION RECEPTION

Towson's Donor Recognition Reception, traditionally held at Hidden Waters, the University System of Maryland chancellor's home, came home to Towson University due to a growing donor population.

At the Nov. 14 event, the College of Liberal Arts Building was transformed from an academic space into a reception hall. The building's beautiful cathedral ceilings and pendant lighting gave an ethereal feel to the evening.

"Tonight we have the honor of hosting our most loyal and generous philanthropists who contributed over \$8.6 million in private support last year, exceeding our goal by nearly \$1 million," said Gary Rubin '69, vice president for University Advancement.

Guests included members from the Founders Society, Founders GOLD, Tower Light Society and Golden Tigers, who have given for 20 or more consecutive years.

"We thank each one of you for taking an active role in Towson's philanthropy and being an example to others," Interim President Timothy Chandler told the crowd. "Next year is Towson University's 150th anniversary. As we celebrate this milestone, we very much hope that you will continue to support and advocate for others to be donors to Towson. We need many more donors like you to ensure our success for another 150 years." ■



Timothy Chandler



Elliott Plack '09, Meredith Plack '12, Howard Budner



# Meet the Director of the Annual Campaign

Brittany Shaff is moving Towson forward



Brittany Shaff

Brittany Shaff, TU's director of the annual campaign, joins the development team with almost eight years of experience in development. She has had the opportunity to work in a number of facets of development including database management, major gifts, planned giving and annual campaigns. Her role is to oversee TU's annual campaign, which raises funds to provide more opportunities for our students and enhances their educational experience. She also helps to align the needs of our students and faculty with the generosity of our parents, friends and alumni.

## Why did you choose TU?

I chose Towson because of the energy and spirit of the institution. It is exciting to see the growth over the years, and I am excited to contribute moving forward. TU is a unique place that provides students with a superior education and a wide range of opportunities that set us apart from all other schools.

## If someone hasn't given to TU before, why give now?

Towson instills in students the skills they need to be productive and visionary members of society. Money should not hinder students from having an impactful experience at TU. A gift of any amount can provide possibilities such as studying abroad, participating in theater or pursuing an internship. Private gifts also help us provide financial support to students. Last year, the Towson University Foundation awarded 711 scholarships.

## What if a donor cannot give a large amount? Can small amounts really make a difference?

Absolutely! Every gift truly makes a difference. Last year gifts of \$150 or less totaled \$350,000! This year even our students are making a difference with their campaign, Gold and Black Giving Back. Their goal is to garner as many student gifts as possible, no matter the size.

## Towson's highest philanthropic priority is the Towson Fund. What is the Towson Fund, and why should donors support it?

The Towson Fund supports the overall growth and long-term future of our university and is considered the university's general fund. Each gift to the Towson Fund has an influence on every aspect of campus. Towson Fund gifts go toward scholarships, faculty research and recruitment, the campus life experience and Towson's impact in the greater community. Giving to the Towson Fund means that you are a part of Towson's growth.

## What changes do you expect at TU in the next five years?

Over the next five years, I am confident that we will see an increase in our alumni, faculty, staff and student gifts. Towson will continue to educate our students on philanthropy and why it is important to give back. Towson will also approach educating, soliciting and thanking our donors in new, inventive and strategic ways. ■

To learn more about the Annual Campaign, contact Brittany Shaff at 410-704-3869 or [bshaff@towson.edu](mailto:bshaff@towson.edu).

# Increasing Awareness, Challenging Others

Foundations support innovative programs

## THE HUSSMAN CHALLENGE

The Hussman Center for Adults with Autism creates life-changing opportunities for Towson University students to learn about interacting with adults with autism. Its innovative focus on reciprocal peer learning allows Towson students to have first-hand experience working with and mentoring adults on the autism spectrum while participants with autism learn key skills through interpersonal, well-being and work experiences.

This fall nearly 100 adults with autism accessed one or more of our offerings and more than 80 TU undergraduate and



graduate students engaged in mutual learning experiences through mentoring and clinical experiences with these adults.

The growth of these programs and the impact through this work depends upon having resources and specially trained staff who can mentor students in their learning experiences and simultaneously support skill development in the adults with autism.

John and Terri Hussman, generous philanthropists to the center, are encouraging awareness and support of the center's pioneering programs through a challenge gift: They call on the Towson University

and Hussman Center communities to raise \$100,000 by June 30, 2015. They will match those funds with an additional gift of \$100,000. ■

To support the Hussman challenge, visit the center's GiveCorp page at [towson.givecorps.com](http://towson.givecorps.com).



## WEINMAN FOUNDATION CHALLENGE

The Toby and Melvin Weinman Foundation has established a \$60,000 matching challenge over the next three years to encourage students studying supply chain management to develop innovative solutions and networking opportunities with experts and professionals in the supply chain field.

Supporting the challenge will fund case competitions in supply chain management as well as the annual Supply Chain Forum. "The challenge grant has motivated us to dream bigger and actively seek additional supporters who are excited about the opportunities for graduate business education at Towson," says Tobin Porterfield, associate professor of e-business and technology management.

Towson University is home to Maryland's only graduate program in supply chain management. The Weinman Foundation hopes to raise interest in this program as well as the growth of Towson's graduate business education. ■

To support the Weinman Foundation challenge, visit the Graduate Business Programs Excellence Fund at [towson.givecorps.com](http://towson.givecorps.com).

Left: Peer learning at the Hussman Center for Adults with Autism.

Above: Presenters at the Supply Chain Management forum

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you or your significant other is a graduate of Towson University and you both are donors, we would like to feature you in future Development Office publications. If interested in sharing the story of why you give to Towson University, please email your contact information and story to [donorrelations@towson.edu](mailto:donorrelations@towson.edu).



## 1960

**LOUIS KAMM '62. '66 M.S.** was inducted into Glen Burnie High School's Wall of Fame for his work with Anne Arundel County Public Schools and his service to the community after retirement. Kamm, a teacher and then principal of Marley Elementary for 20 years, served as a home and hospital teacher for a deaf child after he retired. He also founded a scholarship at a church, which has given financial aid to more than 50 students.

**BILL EGGERT '69** retired after working 37 years as an educator in Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties. Eggert, of West River, Md., was an assistant principal at Broadneck High School the last 17 years. Last year, he published his first book, *Gentlemen of the Harbor: Stories of Chesapeake Bay Tugboats and Crews*.

## 1970

**LOU DOLLENGER '74** along with brothers from Alpha Omega Lambda, once again gathered in October for a golf tournament. Proceeds support the Joseph Ferrante Memorial Scholarship, designated for a TU junior and unsung hero on the lacrosse team. Those who attended included "General" Mike Jones '76, Andrew Tignanelli '79, Mike Fell '77, Doug Schweinhart '76, Frank Berry '74, Mike John Antonelli '78, Mark Cerbo '79, Gerard McDonald, Kevin "Tank" Furnary '78, Rick Weber '78, Bob McMurrer '79, Byron Hall, David Nutter, Mike Joseph '77, Donnie Knight '76, Ken Bromfield '73, Chris O'Shea '82 David Rossetti '79, Bill O'Shea '79, Kevin Hessler, Mark Maloney '80, Paul Cotton '77, Micky Mauk and George Phil Reed '74.

**JOE HEIDELMAIER '77 BUAD** became the executive vice president of Sunnyvale Seafood Company, the U.S. division of Gou Lian, China. He develops domestic seafood sales from Gou Lian company-owned plants and makes connections for food companies in the U.S., Europe and Canada to export to China.

**ANNA VITALE LYBROOK '79 ACCT** was reelected treasurer of the Ed Block Courage Award Foundation. She also serves as a member of the Executive Committee for the foundation, which is dedicated to raising awareness and prevention of child abuse. Lybrook, CPA, is a shareholder of Stoy, Malone & Co., P.C. in Towson and resides in Ellicott City, Md.

**JOHN REISINGER '79 BUAD** won gold medals from the Global eBook Awards for two of his books. *Death and the Blind Tiger* won first place in the Mystery Fiction

## IN MEMORIAM

## alumni

**Frances Diller McLean '30**  
December 12, 2001

**Lillian E. Eglehoff '32**  
February 26, 2011

**Anna Shegogue Jay '34**  
August 30, 2014

**Herman C. Bainder '35**  
July 18, 2014

**Helene Ziegler Scott '35**  
June 22, 2014

**Eleanor Goedeke Zimmerman '35**  
November 10, 2014

**Doris Cohen Gresser '39**  
July 25, 2014

**Sydney J. Baker '40**  
June 14, 2014

**Ralph G. Barrett '43**  
July 21, 2014

**C. Louise Gettier Todd '43**  
June 5, 2014

**Mary Merryman Earl '45**  
September 29, 2014

**Reita Friedman Dovner '46**  
October 22, 2014

**Harry Zemel '46**  
August 25, 2014

**Joseph H. Clark '48**  
June 10, 2011

**Virginia Evans Dorsey '48**  
February 9, 2011

**Howard M. Gamse '49**  
August 11, 2014

**June La Motte Gwyn '49**  
November 2, 2014

**Marie Sanderson Fiege '50**  
November 1, 2008

**Helen E. Lloyd '50**

**Phyllis Stroheckler Thurlow '50**  
April 08, 2014

**Earl Gerber '52**  
May 19, 2014

**Anne Spencer Von Schwerdtner '52**  
June 3, 2014

**Leona Raftery Clark '54**  
May 27, 2014

**Dolores Deardorff '54**  
October 17, 2014

**Curtis B. Wolf '54**  
July 14, 2014

**Marjorie Canino Reese '55**  
August 19, 2014

**Robert M. Garriques '56**  
July 18, 2014

**Pierce B. Hamilton '57**  
August 11, 1999

**Merreen E. Kelly '57**  
August 17, 2014

**Margaret Charlton Powers '59**  
June 2, 2014

**William F. Hoffacker '60**  
July 30, 2014

**Betty Miller Hayes '61**  
September 27, 2014

**Patricia Richardson Tudor '61**  
May 31, 2014

**Susan O'Dell Tuder '61**  
May 19, 2014

**Lydia Krout Heitt '63**  
October 22, 2014

**Lois Rice Langley '63**  
May 31, 2014

**Marian Spikloser Gordon '64**  
October 20, 2014

**Ruth V. Borofka '65**  
September 20, 2014

**Peggy W. Brauning '65**  
November 13, 2014

**Richard G. Entrekin '67**  
July 18, 2014

**Lynn A. Taylor '67**  
May 10, 2014

**W. Wesley McDonald '68**  
2014

**Charles D. White '69**  
October 18, 2014

**William L. Littman '70**  
November 6, 2014

**Charlotte Purdum Vieta '70**  
May 5, 2014

**Charles A. Baynes '71**  
November 4, 2014

**Christie James Lawrence '71**  
July 18, 2014

**Brian R. Migliarini '71**  
August 16, 2014

**Lois O'Brien-Cronin '71**  
June 19, 2014

**Jay B. Onion '71**  
February 3, 2014

**Raymond B. Quigley '71**  
November 7, 2014

**Gloria P. Roeger '71**  
August 29, 2014

**Bryan C. Bawtinheimer '72**  
December 23, 2012

**Michael Patrick Cannon '72**  
June 24, 2014

**Anne M. Butler '73**  
November 10, 2014

**Gertrude Souders Dovell '73**  
May 29, 2014

**David G. Grabowski '73**  
May 16, 2014

**Bessie M. Neild '73**  
July 8, 2014

**Joan Cobb Sampselle '73**  
August 25, 2014

**Priscilla Chapman Coffman '74**  
May 28, 2014

**Catherine H. Gemmill '74**  
November 25, 2011

**Scott W. Parslow '74**  
March 3, 2013

**Regina C. Provenzano '74**  
December 15, 2013

**Nancy L. Widmaier '74**  
August 28, 2014

**Richard Holley '75**  
April 19, 2010

**Elizabeth Davidson Rothman '75**  
September 10, 2014

**Clara Hylton Simmonds '75**  
2009

**Gertrude Merr Surosky '75**  
June 10, 2014

**Milton E. Amos '76**  
July 1, 2014

**Barbara Perrier Dreyer '76**  
September 2, 2014

**Mark P. Isherwood '76**  
December 2013

**George L. Keller '76**  
November 1, 2014

**A. Thomas Rochfort, Jr. '76**  
August 25, 2014

**Rhoda C. Siegel '76**  
September 9, 2014

**Joline E. Wilson '76**  
June 10, 2014

**Eileen Marzullo Deveaney '77**  
October 2, 2014

**Dyane M. Fancey '77**  
April 13, 2014

**Keith Hennessee '77**  
October 5, 2014

**Helen W. Wasileski '77**  
November 14, 2004

**Samuel Thomas Wilson '77**  
September 14, 2014

**Mary Gray Booker '78**  
January 9, 2014

**Freya Bosky '78**  
November 8, 2014

**Robert Fowler '78**  
June 13, 2014

**Ruth Ann Leftridge '78**  
September 21, 2014

**Lynn K. Witzten '78**  
September 3, 2014

**Robert J. Lyden, Jr. '80**  
August 29, 2014

**Thomas F. Tracy '80**  
October 17, 2014

**Doris Capelle Ashmore '81**  
June 12, 2014

**Mary Shanahan Knott '81**  
June 4, 2014

**Peggy A. Cote '82**  
August 13, 2014

**Virginia Spicer Golden '82**  
August 9, 2014

**Bud Reott '82**  
October 24, 2014

**Marion H. Hessman '83**  
September 17, 2014

**Estelle D. Price '83**  
October 28, 2014

**Paul Jerome Brown Jr. '84**  
April 28, 2014

**Joseph Kasimir Wisnieski '84**  
December 6, 2005

**Nicholas Brice Medairy '86**  
September 19, 2014

**Stephen I. Smith '86**  
February 9, 2011

**John P. Bosley '88**  
May 27, 2014

**Patricia Troutman Glauber '89**  
August 17, 2014

**Joel Goodman '90**  
May 31, 2014

**Judy Dorsey Harrison '91**  
June 6, 2014

**Daniel Kreiner '91**  
July 31, 2014

**Timothy Lee Greenwood '94**  
August 12, 2014

**Mary G. Nichols '95**  
February 3, 2014

**Nyann Smith '95**  
September 7, 2014

**Edwin Oliver Wenck '95**  
July 3, 2014

**Helen Jean Burn '98**  
September 16, 2014

**Andrew Renzi '98**  
July 8, 2014

**Paul A. Mecinski '03**  
November 11, 2014

**Natasha Matveeva '04**  
June 20, 2014

**Dominic Carlos Selvi '05**  
November 14, 2014

**Abigail A. Chason '06**  
July 10, 2013

**Karen Y. Zorn '06**  
2014

**Stephanie M. Stanley '10**  
October 21, 2014

**Olivia R. Bowman '12**  
August 4, 2014

**Jessica Ann OShaughnessy '12**  
April 21, 2012

**Jakob C. O'Connor '13**  
July 2, 2014

**Mark Eric Frazier '14**  
July 15, 2014

## students

**Waverly K. Roberts**  
July 4, 2014

**Jason J. Fox**  
July 14, 2014

**David Arthur**

staff/  
faculty

**Edward L. Bevins**  
September 20, 2007

**Eva J. Hester**  
July 30, 2014

**Vivienne Shub**  
September 18, 2014

## SEND US YOUR NEWS!

We'd like to hear from you about what's happening in your personal and professional life.

## SEND MAIL TO:

Alumni Relations,  
Towson University,  
8000 York Rd. Towson, MD  
21252-0001

## EMAIL:

alumni@towson.edu

## Bill Eggert '69

published *Gentlemen of the Harbor: Stories of Chesapeake Bay Tugboats and Crews*.



## Mary B. Harlee '83

was appointed president of Baltimore Equitable Insurance.

## Vicki Dodson '84

studied in Costa Rica via Miami University's Earth Expeditions.



Brothers from Alpha Omega Lambda gathered for a golf tournament to support the Joseph Ferrante Memorial Scholarship.





**Johnathan Small '88**

was a panelist at a discussion hosted by Modern Healthcare in New York City in November.

**Jessica Shuff Smith '12**

marriage ceremony had four bridesmaids who were TU alumni.



category and *Flanagan and the Crown of Mexico* won first in the Historical Literature Fiction category.

**BETH SONBERG THOMPSON '79** was named State Elementary Art Educator 2014 by the Maryland Art Education Association. Thompson teaches at Dundalk Elementary School in Baltimore.

**1980**

**LAURA OLSZEWSKI '81** became manager of the Education Solutions Team for Elekta in July. Elekta seeks innovations and clinical solutions for treating cancer and brain disorders.

**TIM THOMAS '81 MCOM** was named publisher of Capital Gazette Communications, which includes The Capital, the Annapolis daily paper, *Bowie Blade News*, *Crofton-West County Gazette*, *Annapolis Style* magazine and capitalgazette.com. Thomas also serves as senior vice president of targeted media for the Baltimore Sun Media Group.

**MARY B. HARLEE '83** was appointed president of Baltimore Equitable Insurance. Harlee is the 15th president and the second female president of the 220-year-old company.

**JOANNE BEERS '84** showed her Tiger pride with a TU cycling shirt while riding in her fourth Seagull Century Ride in Salisbury, Md., last fall. "Many of the 6,300 cyclists who came up to me were TU parents and TU Alumni who weren't aware that these great shirts are available," she writes. She hopes Tiger fans will order one from the University Store and join her next ride, Oct. 3, 2015.

**VICKI DODSON '84** participated in Miami University's Earth Expeditions global field course in Costa Rica last summer. She studied biotic, physical and cultural forces that

affect tropical biodiversity at Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve and La Selva Biological Station. Dodson is the art director of *Baltimore* magazine.

**MICHAEL PETR '85 BIO** returned to Towson's campus to see a chestnut oak tree he donated to Professor Fritz Morsink for a botany class and later planted. Now the tree is over 40 feet tall and he's requested acorns so he "can plant new trees for my children to watch grow." Petr is a neurosurgeon in Jacksonville, Fla.

**JOHNATHAN SMALL '88 BUAD** vice president of human resources at Memorial Health of Savannah, Ga., was a panelist at a discussion hosted by Modern Healthcare in New York City in November. The theme was "Integrating Benefits as a Strategy for Cost Containment." Small leads Memorial's

talent acquisition, organizational development, benefits administration, employee health and human resources information system initiatives.

**1990**

**SCOTT ADAMS '92** was elected sheriff of Cecil County, Md., last November, receiving 74 percent of the votes. He has been with the sheriff's office since 1993, most recently as the supervisory sergeant to the School Resources Unit.

**JERRY SCOTT '93 BUAD** was hired as the director of lacrosse products at True Temper Sports, where he will oversee strategic planning, product direction and expansion of the lacrosse division in North America. Previously, he was the general manager at Lax World and has worked in the industry for more than 20 years.



MIKE HILTON '74

**Trading Places**

Former banker begins second career as lacrosse coach

Mike Hilton '74 BUAD is proving that it is never too late to follow your dreams.

Last year, the 62-year-old became head coach for the women's lacrosse team at Urbana University in Ohio—after spending 27 years in mortgage banking.

"To be able to live out a dream that was something I thought I could only do as a hobby has just been exciting," Hilton says.

Hilton previously coached the women's lacrosse club team at Dayton University in Ohio. But when the opportunity to become head coach at Urbana emerged, he says he just couldn't pass it up.

During his first year, Hilton learned that having a business background is a valuable asset in coaching.

"Coming from the real world, I know I have a lot to offer young coaches, as well as the kids I coach, because most of the young coaches don't have real world experience," Hilton says.

One of his strategies is planning. As the Division II women's lacrosse program at Urbana enters its fifth year, Hilton says his goals are to expand the program and grow the number of players.

In addition to his career in mortgage banking, Hilton was involved in athletics throughout his life. While a student at Towson, Hilton played football for the Tigers and even spent a season on the lacrosse and wrestling teams. He later taught lacrosse to his own children, which got him interested in coaching.

Hilton hopes that he will be able to have an impact on students the same way that his coaches impacted him.

"I use my athletic experience as well as my academic experience from Towson every single day," Hilton says. "My coaches both in high school and at Towson were very influential in my life and I've been able to use the gifts that have been given to me to help young people." ■

—Daryl Lee Hale

**JOHN BAILER '95 BUAD** created the new financial technology program Stock Market Engine, which offers tools to help users trade successfully on the NASDAQ and other markets.

**ROBB LYNCH '95 PHED** graduated in May from Missouri Bishop University with a degree in Christian Ministry and a 4.0 GPA. Lynch works full time at Joyce Meyer Ministries and volunteers as a youth pastor at his church in Fairview Heights, In.

**JEN SHENKUS MALONE '95** published her debut novel for children, *At Your Service*, with Simon & Schuster. Malone will also launch a new series with Simon & Schuster next year and has three young adult titles to be published with Harper Collins.

**AILEEN ESKILDSEN '96 ACCT** received a Maryland Association of Certified Public Accounting's 2014 Women to Watch award. Eskildsen is a director with Ellin & Tucker, a Baltimore-based public accounting and business consulting firm.

**DAVID CURRY '97 MAT** an attorney with Farrell Fritz, was selected to the 2014 New York Metro Rising Stars list.

**TRISTAN HIEMSTRA '98 ACCT** became chief financial officer for The Highlands School in Bel Air, Md.

**HEATHER WENDE PETRELLI '98 M.A.** chief assessment officer and associate dean for student affairs and assessment at the University of South Florida, received her Ph.D. in educational leadership, higher education administration from Barry University in Miami, Fla.

**HEATHER RITGER WOJCIK '98 PSYC, SOCI** became executive director at Brightview Towson, a senior community. She is responsible for hiring, providing high-quality resident service and care, and managing overall resident satisfaction. Wojcik has over 16 years of experience in the senior-living field.

**CLAIRE CARBERRY HADLEY '99 PSYC** was awarded TIVA-DC's highest honor—the Peer Gold Award for Acting on Camera—Dramatic, Female for her work in the short film "Distilled." Hadley has been a professional actor and model since 2009 and advises companies on using video to convey their corporate message.

VISIT US ONLINE  
magazine.towson.edu

**2000**

**JAMIE SMITH '00 BUAD** received the Top Gun award from the Mr. Rooter Plumbing corporate office. Smith, owner of Mr. Rooter Plumbing of Greater Baltimore, won for being in the top 10 percent of the franchise's owners across North America.

**GINA ZUK '00 MCOM** director of client services at Abel Communications, was elected president of the Baltimore Public Relations Council for the 2014-15 term.

**STEVEN E. NOEL '01 COSC** became information systems manager at Allegis Group in Hanover, Md., the largest recruiting and staffing firm in the country. Noel resides in Baltimore with his wife Pamela and three daughters.

**RICHARD POLYNIAC '01 MCOM** and **KIMBERLY BLAHUT POLYNIAC '01 MCOM** welcomed their son, Zachary Richard, in December 2013. The family, including big sister Emma, lives in Anne Arundel County, Md.

**TONYCE THOMPSON '02 DFST** earned a master's degree in public health from Walden University and will begin a registered nursing program at Anne Arundel Community College.

**BARBARA E. LITTLE '03 M.S.** joined Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP's Trusts & Estates Department. Little will maintain offices in Philadelphia and Cherry Hill, N.J.

**TERRANCE SPENCER '04 DANC** portrayed the characters of Bill and Lucentio in The Pasadena Playhouse's production of "Kiss Me, Kate" last fall.

**MURTAZA AHMED '05** was selected as one of Federal Computer Week's 2014 Rising Stars for his work as a portfolio manager in Information Systems & Global Solutions at Lockheed Martin.

**STEPHANIE CHALL '05 ART** became event sales manager for the National Aquarium in Baltimore, where she will establish and execute sales plans and develop customer relationships.

**Rapping It Up**

Former Tiger wide receiver scores with music

Tamba Tongu '10 kicked off his dream to become a rap performer with a little help from the Tiger football team.

The mass communication major, who goes by the stage name "Tamba Tongue," is an LA-based rapper whose music draws influence from hip-hop and pop. But for four years—2006 to 2010—Tongu was a wide receiver and a special teams standout for the Tigers.

The experience, he says, helped define him as an artist.

"I'm really detail-oriented when I write my songs and that just comes from playing football and having to wake up early and go to class and balance school, sports and a social life," Tongu says. "I do that with my music too, to get different sounds to really balance out."

For his recent song "Blood Sweat Roar," Tongu drew inspiration from the winning season of Tiger football, referencing the team's journey to the NCAA FCS National Championship last year.

"As I was watching them, I was just inspired more and more every time they won and by all the accolades players were getting," Tongu says.

The song's lyrics include "Started with a dream, we played it to reality. Ain't no 'I' in team, but the eye of the tiger never leaves."

Despite a busy college schedule that included being on the team—often serving as team captain—and being a member of TU's Student-Athlete Advisory Board (PAWS,) Tongu still found time to devote to music, writing on the side with his brother. It wasn't until he graduated that he realized he wanted to pursue music full-time.

Now his goal is to sign with an independent or major record label in addition to pursuing his career as an actor.

But no matter how far he makes it, Tongu says his alma mater will always influence his work.

"I always check in with Towson and see how it's doing with all the sports," Tongu says. "I feel like it gives me a little extra energy when I'm doing my thing." ■

Learn more about Tongu's music at [tambatongue.com](http://tambatongue.com).

—Daryl Lee Hale

TAMBA TONGU '10



**JOSEPH C. RECTOR '06** was honored by the Living Classrooms Foundation and the Baltimore Business Journal as a 2014 Rising Star, which recognizes outstanding young leaders for their achievements and philanthropy. Rector will be raising money to help Living Classrooms provide hands-on education and job training to underserved youth and adults in the Baltimore and Washington D.C. areas. He is co-founder and partner of Pelican Property Management and is active with the Building Owners and Managers Association, Maryland Art Place and Business Network International.

**KATE '06** and **MARK RICHA '05** welcomed their son Nathan Lee on May 23, 2014.

**IGOR DAVIDSON '08 ACCT** was promoted to senior accountant in the Family Office Services Group at Arthur Bell CPAs. Davidson has worked at the firm for two years and has over four years of experience in the field.

**KATHRYN YABLONSKI '08 MAT** a teacher at Vincent Farm Elementary, received a 2014 Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce Award of Excellence for the northeast area. She was one of five first-grade teachers nationally to develop model lesson plans for the Next Generation Science Standards, which prepare students for college and careers. She also created a popular Edmodo website to allow first-grade teachers in Baltimore County to share resources and communicate more effectively.

**MICHAEL BRUSH '09 ENGL** cofounder of Charm City Fringe, a nonprofit that connects Baltimore's theater community to educate Baltimore City students about the performing arts, celebrated the third annual Charm City Fringe Festival in November.

**KIMBERLY ANN CREA '10 ACCT** passed the CPA certification exams and was promoted to senior associate at the New Jersey offices of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**LIZ MILLIGAN '10 ACCT** was promoted to semi-senior accountant at Gross, Mendelsohn & Associates in Baltimore.

**BINTU MUSA '10 POLI** received a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant to Rwanda for an English teaching assistantship. Musa is one of more than 1,800 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2014-2015 academic year through the Fulbright program. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential.

## CHRISTINE CORKRAN '14



# The Volunteer

Peace Corps worker addresses HIV education in Swaziland

Christine Corkran '14 lacks a toilet that flushes, a sink to wash dishes and access to Chipotle. But she does have the ability to make a difference.

The exercise science major moved to Swaziland, a small country in Southern Africa, as a Peace Corps volunteer in June, just one month after graduating. Since then, she has learned to bathe in a bucket, fetch water from a river and identify all sorts of bugs in her home—a hut called a “rondavel.”

But her focus is less about personal comfort and more about teaching the population about HIV and other public health issues.

“Swaziland is so small but has the highest AIDS rate in the world” Corkran says. “My courses at Towson discussed several public health issues that gave me a basis for how I think I can go about facilitating change here.”

During her first eight weeks in Swaziland, Corkran underwent intensive training in language, culture and programming.

Now, Corkran is in the “integration” portion of her two-year stint with the Peace Corps.

She's getting to know her community and performing a needs assessment to develop projects, she explains.

“I live in a community very close to the capital...with a small family that consists of Gogo (grandma), Mkhulu (grandpa) and relatives that come and go,” Corkran says.

She's also been assigned a Swazi name—Khanysisile, which means “the one who brings brightness.”

“I open my door to leave for the day and hear a random someone yell ‘uyaphi Khanyi?’ (where are you going, Khanyi?) from across the dirt road, making me feel like I'm a part of their community,” she says.

In the future, Corkran hopes that she will be able to complete projects that impact Swaziland on a large scale. But for now, she is happy she can affect the lives of those around her, whether by telling them about the importance of women getting an education or discussing the effects of HIV.

“I have had a lot of little moments where I know in my heart I'm making a difference,” Corkran says. “It really feels like Swaziland has become my home.” ■

—Daryl Lee Hale

**CLAIRE GIRODIE '11/'14 MFA** was selected for a special commission to create a work of art for the inaugural Women in Cyber Security event held at the Inner Harbor on Nov. 12. Girodier was chosen by a committee drawn from Maryland Art Place and CyberPoint International.

**PHILIP TALERICO '11** a CPA, joined ParanteBeard's business advisory team as an associate in the forensic, litigation and valuation services group. He previously worked at the Maryland Insurance Administration where he conducted financial examinations, evaluated financial processes to ensure system reliability and evaluated audit evidence.

**KATIE DELL '12** participated in Miami University's Earth Expeditions global field course in Baja last summer. Dell, an eighth-grade science teacher at Windsor Mill Middle School in Randallstown, Md., studied the ecosystems, desert plants and diversity of life at the Bahia de los Angeles UNESCO World Heritage site.

**THAO M. KHUU '12** a tax accountant with Stoy, Malone & Co., passed the CPA exam and also serves on the board of the Women's & Diversity Initiatives Task Force of the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants. She resides in Cockeysville, Md.

**JESSICA SHUFF SMITH '12** married Curtis Smith, a 2012 graduate of James Madison University, in May. Her bridesmaids were Allyson Dudman '12, Jennifer Mahan '14, Jessica Cherewich '13, Alexandra Kapustin and Erin Martinsen '11.

**NICOLE COURTNEY '13 ART** was promoted to designer at the Baltimore office of Weber Shandwick, a public relations firm.

**KEVIN CONNELLY '14 ACCT** earned the QuickBooks 2014 ProAdvisor Certification designation. Connelly is a staff accountant at Gross, Mendelsohn & Associates, P.A.



# I need your help to be a **TIGER** *forever.*

More than half of our undergraduates  
need financial aid to get from application  
day to graduation day.

Maybe you were one of them.

Help them be one of us.

Go to [towson.edu/giving](http://towson.edu/giving) or  
contact the Office of Development  
at 1-866-301-3375.

#tigerFOREVER

**Chris Bifulco**

Major: Exercise  
Science

