

Parent Pride

A Magazine for Parents and Families
of Towson University Students

Spring 2011

HAWKINS HALL

**2010 Dabrowski
Scholarship
Awardee**




TOWSON
UNIVERSITY
Thinking Outside

FROM THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Greetings Parents, Families, Friends,

As you can imagine, there's never a dull moment here at Towson. As our university grows, we seek to maintain balance between areas of strength and growth. While we continue to support students in their education and development, we also look to build a university that will be sustainable for future generations. We realize that change and transformation are exciting for not only prospective students, but current students and alumni as well.

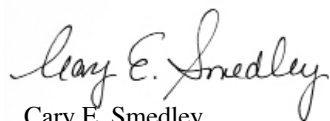
Part of healthy growth and transformation includes construction. The master plan for Towson University is focused on making the campus more accessible to and supportive of students' experience. Currently under construction is a campus gateway, off of Towson Boulevard, near Burdick Hall. This will serve as the main entrance to campus and is expected to be completed in the winter of 2012. Also in development are new housing, common space and parking in the West Village, in addition to the expansions of the College of Liberal Arts building and the Towson Center. Where possible, we are seeking LEED certification.

Another area of change lies in the face of the university. While we begin the search for a new university president, which should be complete within six months, we also launch a new strategic plan, Towson University 2016. The plan has five themes: academic achievement, student engagement, resources, partnerships and sharing Towson University's success stories. Faculty and staff are pleased that part of this plan focuses on the nourishment and development of existing programs.

I invite you to visit campus and view the changes at Towson for yourself. As we grow, we will also look to improve the Parents Association. This summer we encourage you to serve on a panel during our Parent Drive-In program for families of new students. Who better to help new families through the transition to the university than those who have experienced it recently? If this is of interest to you, please e-mail newstudentprograms@towson.edu.

Thank you for your continued support of your student and his or her Towson University experience.

Sincerely,



Cary E. Smedley

President, Parents Association



THE COVER:

Kelsey Allen '12, winner of the 2010 Parents Association Dabrowski Scholarship, pictured with her mother Luanne. Read more on page 6.

Spring 2011

Parent Pride

Published twice a year by the Office of Campus Life for Towson University's parents and families. A special edition is published each summer for parents of new students.

Please send questions, comments or contributions to:

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Towson named a top 100 “best value” public university by Kiplinger’s

Ranking determined by TU’s high academic quality coupled with its low cost

Kiplinger’s Personal Finance selected Towson University as one of its 100 “best values in public colleges,” a list ranking four-year institutions that deliver a stellar education at an affordable price. Towson is ranked at 78, a 19-place improvement from last year’s ranking.

In compiling the list, Kiplinger’s analyzes more than 500 public schools for both academic caliber—including admission data, test scores of incoming freshmen and graduation rates—and for total cost of tuition, fees, room and board.

Recently, tuition at private colleges has cost an average \$36,000 a year—a sharp contrast to Towson’s current tuition and fees of just over \$19,000 for out-of-state students and \$7,656 for Maryland residents.



“Towson University is committed to providing high quality education at an affordable price, and it is a pleasure to be named among the country’s ‘Top 100 Best Values’ by Kiplinger’s Personal Finance,” says Towson University President Robert L. Caret.

The complete public school rankings appear in *Kiplinger’s* February 2011 issue and online at www.kiplinger.com/tools/colleges.

Towson competes in RecycleMania 2011

Campus-wide recycling challenge returns, aims to reduce overall waste

This spring, Towson University is competing against more than 600 other colleges and universities in RecycleMania, a national recycling and waste minimization competition,

The competition began February 6 and will continue through April 2. Participating colleges and universities compete in a number of categories including recycling rate, recycling rate per capita, total amount recycled and overall waste minimization.

This year, Towson’s goal for the competition is further improvement in waste minimization and overall conservation.

Towson has participated in RecycleMania since 2006. In last year’s competition, TU recycled nearly 140 tons of material—marking a 23 percent increase over the previous year—and placed first in the state in both the Grand Champion and Waste Minimization categories.



TU construction map allows commuters, visitors to avoid delays

Campus map now features construction advisories, road closures, alternate routes

Construction is a fact of life at any expanding university. But headaches don't have to be. Towson is working to alleviate the growing pains of campus construction with its new online construction map, an interactive tool that allows users to view up-to-date information on construction areas, anticipate bottlenecks and avoid travel delays on campus.

Whether you're just visiting TU or want to find the quickest path from the car to the classroom, the construction map will help you plan your route. It's part of the university's existing map application, and features traditional tools such as zooming, panning and locating points of interest—now with an additional layer of construction advisories, including: current construction zones; road and sidewalk closures; changes to parking areas; estimated project completion dates; and alternate routes for drivers and pedestrians.

To access the construction map, visit the on the TU website (www.towson.edu/main/maps, or click the "Maps" link in the global navigation of every page) and select the "Show Construction" option.

The construction layer is the first major addition to TU's interactive campus map since it was unveiled in late 2009. The map is maintained by the TU Design Center and based on a Google Maps application developed by the geography department's Geospatial Research and Education Lab.

See what's new on campus with Towson's virtual tour

Towson University now offers a free virtual tour that allows anyone with an Internet connection to get a first-person view of campus. The narrated tour provides a street-level perspective of Towson's grounds, as virtual visitors click their way to nearly 40 hotspots across campus, including academic buildings, residence halls, dining facilities, athletics spaces and other points of interest. The application also features a 360-degree panorama of building interiors, photo galleries and videos.

Check it out now at www.towson.edu/visitus.



Towson University is a *smoke-free campus*

Towson University is smoke-free

Towson University is the first four-year university in Maryland to be entirely smoke-free. All buildings and exterior grounds owned or operated by Towson University are designated as smoke-free, including athletic stadiums and practice fields, parking garages and open spaces.

Towson's policy aims to reduce the health risks associated with exposure to second-hand smoke and ensure that all members of the campus community have access to clean air. For those who wish to quit, the Dowell Health Center provides free smoking assessments and smoking cessation and education classes in partnership with the Baltimore County Department of Health. Free nicotine replacement therapies are also available through the Dowell Health Center.

For more information on the smoke-free policy, visit www.towson.edu/smokefree.

We need your help at the Parent Drive-In

The staff of Campus Life, a part of the Division of Student Affairs, would like to invite you to share your Towson experience and expertise with families of our new students. The

Parent Drive-In program, which will be offered five times (twice in late June, twice in late July and once in August), focuses on the key transitional issues of incoming students, general developmental issues and is specifically designed for the families that are sending a student off to college for the first time. Families who have already sent a student to college

may hear information they already know. The program is for parents and family only and is not intended for the incoming student. This allows parents to ask questions without embarrassing their student.

For more information, including dates of the programs, please visit www.towson.edu/orientation/parentandfamilyorientation. If you are interested in serving on a parent panel for any of the five dates please e-mail newstudentprograms@towson.edu.



Help build a better Cook Library... one book at a time.

For as little as \$20, you can help Towson build a better library!

Cook Library has established an Amazon wish list to help us obtain new books and other items that we do not have the financial resources to purchase.

The items have been carefully selected by the librarians who serve as liaisons to Towson's academic departments and each donated item added to the collection will include a placard recognizing the donor's contribution. Also, you can donate an item in honor of someone by simply indicating that person's name in the gift note at check out.

To learn more about the list and how you can donate, visit <http://cooklibrary.towson.edu/gifts/wishlist>.

If you have question, please feel free to contact Librarian Joyce Garczynski at jgarczynski@towson.edu.

VETERANS INITIATIVES

The Towson University Veterans

Academic success is a key factor in earning a college degree and moving on to do great things. But what if a student has already done great things?

For many veterans, the transition to college life can present unique challenges not faced by traditional students. Often, veteran students find that they don't relate to their student peers. Whether it's because of a difference in maturity level, life experience, or simply age difference, returning to school can tend to be a solitary experience for a vet.

Now, Towson University's Veterans Center aims to change all of that. Located in the Psychology Building, the Veterans Center opened 2010 to help Towson's veteran students make a smooth transition to college life and continue to achieve success while they're here.



Patrick Young, Coordinator of Veterans Services at Towson University.

Patrick Young, coordinator of Veterans Services and a former Marine with combat experience, serves as the face of the Veterans Center and liaison between the office and Towson's 375 student-veterans.

"My office is a one-stop shop for support resources for veteran students to solve various problems related to their VA education benefits," says Young. "We're the first four-year university in the state to provide a center for vets to meet and study."

The physical space of the Veterans Center features two

computer stations, free printing, study areas, two large white boards for group work, a TV and couches for meeting space. Student-veterans can get help with admissions, scholarships, financial aid, counseling, disability support, academic advising and student activities.

The Veterans Center had humble beginnings as a grassroots effort by university faculty and staff. In 2008, a group of Towson employees formed the Veterans Concerns Committee to address the growing needs of Towson University's veteran community. A modest group of dedicated and enthusiastic professionals, chaired by James Spivack, director of the Towson's Counseling



Lt. Governor Anthony Brown and Tracy Miller talk before the grand opening ceremony of Towson's Veterans Center.

Center, went to work assessing the needs of student veterans, advocating for veterans issues and setting the ground work for future endeavors.

Also in 2008, Towson's student veterans formed the Veterans Group of Towson University. The group's president was invited to join the Veterans Concerns Committee meetings and provide a student voice and perspective. By consulting the veterans directly, the committee realized that the most effective way to meet the needs of this growing population would be through a service center and a full-time staff member dedicated to supporting veteran students.

Piece by piece, the project came together, due in large part to the charitable donations of Towson's faculty and staff. The space for the center was made available in the College of Education complex. Former Towson professor Jim Furokova donated money to furnish the center and the university raised a considerable amount of money by hosting a National Guard conference on campus. The President's Office, in association with the vice president of student affairs, worked together to allocate funds to hire the Veterans Coordinator. By the summer of 2010, the center was ready for business.

Patrick Hunt, TU senior and current Veterans Group vice president, is mindful of the importance of a veteran student's voice. "The veteran population at Towson is a truly unique group whose concerns are not easily addressed through normal avenues of administration. It's so important that this group has been given an opportunity to shape, and be shaped by, the university community."

For any student—veteran or not—getting involved on campus and connecting with others through university activities and programs can play a major role in the overall success of one’s college career, says Tracy Miller, TU academic adviser. “Our veterans are older than typical undergrads, yet taking the same classes and having to meet the same standards. We know that students who are involved on campus bond to the institution and we wanted to give veterans the same opportunity to participate and interact with their peers.”

Since its opening in July, Towson’s Veteran Center has been striving to set the standard for innovative veteran-oriented programming. During the week of Veterans Day, for example, the center sponsored a number of activities designed to spread awareness of veterans on campus that, including a fundraiser for a local veterans organization, a campus-wide care package drive, a veterans tailgate, and a “Voice of the Veterans” event that featured recorded interviews with Towson veterans recalling their experiences in the military and showcased the personal effects that they carried throughout their time in the service.

The center is constantly evolving, always looking for better ways to serve Towson’s veteran population. The center is currently creating an orientation program for incoming veteran students that will accompany Towson’s traditional program to highlight student veteran’s issues with the GI Bill and Veterans Administration, and, of course, introduce them to the center.

“It’s important to remember the sacrifice that many of these men and women have endured and look to it for inspiration as we serve them,” says Miller. “Their success in the future is linked to their success at Towson, and we owe it to them to continue to do our best to assist them in that endeavor.”



Colonel Sean Casey poses with one of Towson’s graduating veterans



Lt. Governor Brown talks with some of Towson’s Veterans.



Lt. Governor Brown, Colonel Casey, and MD Secretary of the VA Edward Chow pose with Towson students and staff at the grand opening of the Veterans Center.

TU PARENTS ASSOCIATION SCHOLASHIPS

The Parents Association awards two \$1,000 scholarships annually to full-time TU students whose families are members of the association. The scholarships, which are endowed by Parents Association dues and contributions, honor the memory of two men who were great supporters of the university: Parents Association member Bernard Dabrowski and TU alumnus Jordan Feder '02.

The recipient of the 2010 Feder Scholarship is Brian Kilbane '12, son of Edward Kilbane, of Annapolis, Md.

The 2010 Dabrowski Scholarship is awarded to Kelsey Allen '12, daughter of Rich and Luanne Allen, of Millerville, NJ.

The Allen family is featured on the cover of this issue of *Parent Pride*. The Kilbane family was not available for a photo at press time.

The Parents Association extends congratulations to Brian, Kelsey and their families.

CLUB CORNER

TigerTHON

TigerTHON is an annual, student-run philanthropic event at Towson University that raises money to benefit the Johns Hopkins Children's Center through its partnership with Children's Miracle Network (CMN).

Each year at TigerTHON, Towson students raise money for the children receiving services at Hopkins Children's Center by participating in a 12-hour dance marathon. The celebration includes a live DJ, food, fun and prizes. Miracle families from Hopkins Children's Center attend the event, share their personal stories and dance the night away. Last year Towson University proudly raised more than \$16,000 for Hopkins Children's Center.

If you or your student has an interest in getting involved in next year's TigerTHON, please visit <http://www.helpmakemiracles.org> and look for Towson University's TigerTHON under Maryland events.



TU PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Towson University Parents Association has many opportunities for parents of current students to get involved.

The Parents Association now has two membership options: a \$50 annual membership which is renewable in the summer of each year and a \$125 four-year membership (a savings of \$75). To become a member, simply fill out the following information and mail with a payment made payable to the Towson University Parents Association.

For questions or further information, contact Dr. Teresa Hall, associate vice president for campus life, at 410-704-2332 or via e-mail at thall@towson.edu.

Parent Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Street Address: _____ City/State/ZIP: _____

Student(s) Name: _____ Expected Year of Graduation: _____

Check / Cash / Visa / MasterCard (circle one) Amount: _____

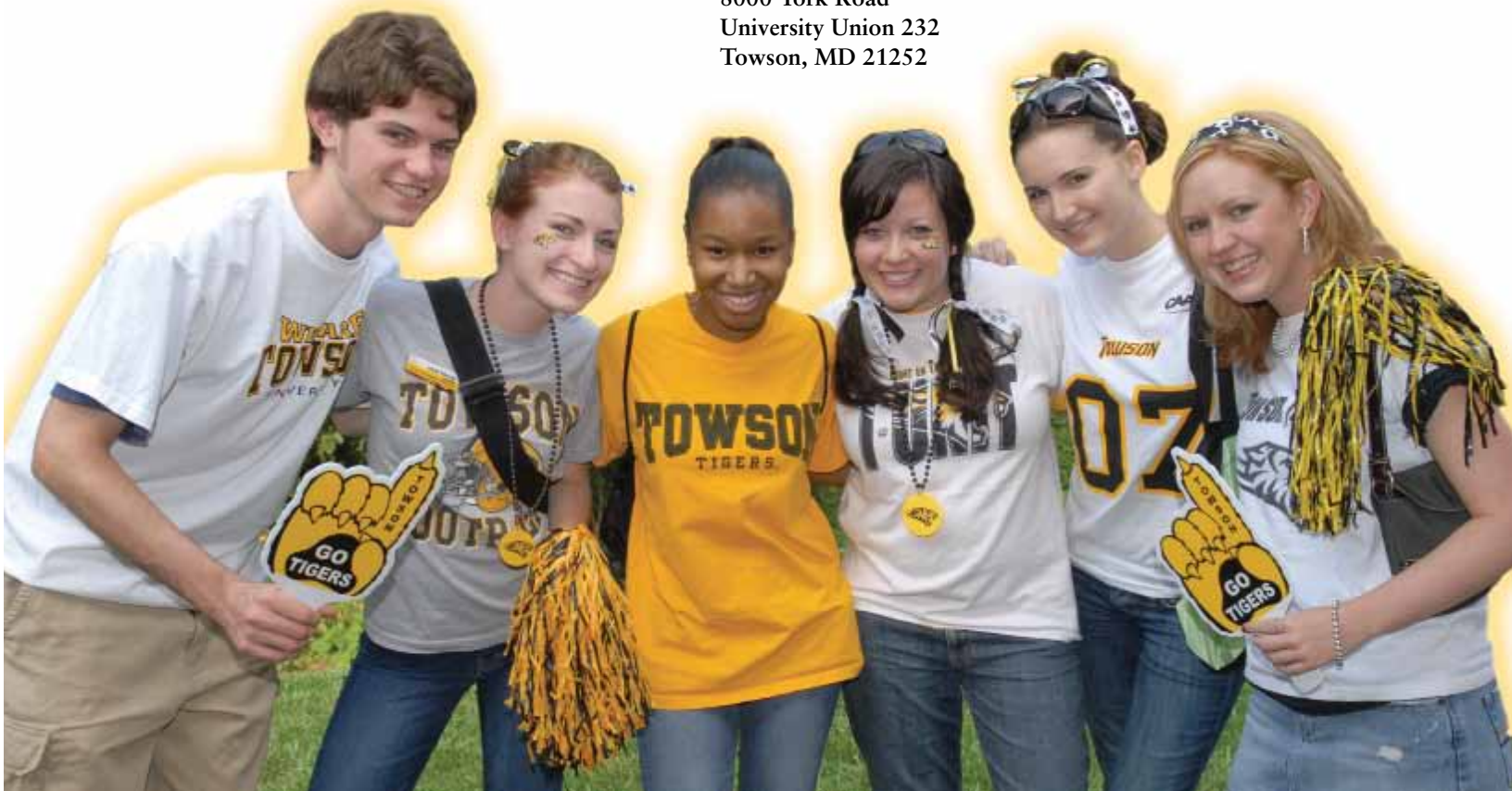
Credit Card Number: _____

Name on Card: _____

Expiration Date: _____ 3-Digit V Code on back of card: _____

Your contribution will benefit Towson University and will be administered by the Towson University Foundation, Inc. Gifts to the Foundation qualify as charitable contributions to an IRC 501(c)(3) public charity for federal income, estate and gift tax purposes

Return the completed form and payment to: Towson University
Attn: Dr. Teresa Hall
8000 York Road
University Union 232
Towson, MD 21252



[footprints talk]

From the first time they stepped on campus as you waved goodbye to the day they pick up their diploma while you snap countless photos, Towson students walk a lot of miles here.

Whether your Towson student makes his or her mark as a student leader, athlete, artist or math geek, those Towson footsteps will establish a path to career or graduate school success.

Make a gift to honor your student's Towson legacy. Support a department, program, or even name a space where your student walks on campus. You can personalize a brick on the Auburn House walkway, name a seat in Stephens Hall, Unitas Stadium, or one of a number of theatres, or name collections shelving in Cook Library.

For more information about how you can be part of TU's historic \$50 million Growing a University campaign, check your mail, open your email, pick up your phone when we call, visit www.tutigertracks.com/footprints, or call us at 410-704-3375.

Thank you for supporting TU!

2011 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

SPRING 2011

Sunday, March 20– Sunday, March 27	Spring Break (Saturday, March 19 classes will meet, but Saturday, March 26 classes will not.)
Monday, March 28	Classes resume; Mid-term and end of first seven-week courses
Tuesday, March 29	Second seven-week courses begin
Friday, April 1	Last day to drop or add a course for second-seven weeks
Wednesday, April 6	Last day to purchase cap and gown for May ceremony
Monday, April 11	Last day to withdraw from a semester course with a grade of “W” and last day to change a to Pass or Audit grading options
Thursday, April 28	Last day to withdraw from second seven-week courses
Tuesday, May 17	Last day of classes
Wednesday, May 18	Final examinations begin
Tuesday, May 24	Last day of examinations and end of term
Wednesday, May 25	10 a.m., College of Education Commencement Ceremony 2 p.m., College of Fine Arts and Communication Commencement Ceremony
Thursday, May 26	10 a.m., The Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics Commencement Ceremony 2 p.m., College of Liberal Arts Commencement Ceremony
Friday, May 21	10 a.m., College of Health Professions Commencement Ceremony 2 p.m., College of Business and Economics Commencement Ceremony

SUMMER 2011

If you are interested in serving on a Towson parent panel during the Parent Drive-In programs for families of new students, please e-mail newstudentprograms@towson.edu. These sessions will take place in late June, July and August.

FALL 2011

Saturday, August 27	New student move-in and Welcome to Towson orientation begins
Sunday, August 28	Returning students may move in to residence halls
Wednesday, August 31	Classes and change of schedule period begin
Monday, September 5	Labor Day Holiday—no classes

Campus Life

Towson University
8000 York Road
Towson, MD 21252-0001



NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TOWSON UNIVERSITY

To the family of:



STUDENT LIFE LINE 410-704-LIFE (5433)

The Division of Student Affairs offers the Student LIFE Line, a telephone line to assist students with any questions they may have about the university. LIFE Line is staffed and ready to assist callers Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. After these hours, callers can leave a voice mail message that will be responded to the next business day.

The Division of Student Affairs also has an e-mail account where any question relating to departments within Student Affairs can be directed. The e-mail address is: studentaffairs@towson.edu. We will respond to all inquiries promptly.

Towson University's policies, programs and activities comply with federal and state laws and University System of Maryland regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, disability and sexual orientation.

Towson University is a smoke-free campus.

DC0211.072

PRINTER PLACE
FSC LOGO
HERE