



THE ADVOCATE

Newsletter of the Towson University Retired Faculty Association

Fall-Winter 2023-2024

President's Message

Welcome to the Fall-Winter 2023-24 issue of *The Advocate*. I think you will find interesting stories in this issue, stories about TURFA activities and other stories about the activities of TURFA members. This semi-annual electronic magazine and the more frequent (not quite every month) President's Newsletters are our way of keeping the TURFA membership informed.

As I said in a recent President's Newsletter, my two aims for TURFA are that it help TU retired faculty have a good retirement and that it help TU retired faculty have fun. The "fun" part is in our many activities, providing a variety of ways to enjoy one another's company. For the "good retirement" part, the TURFA Executive Committee works to maintain working relationships with TU administration, facilitate members' roles as good citizens of the university, and preserve and enhance the rights and privileges we were granted at retirement.

At present, I think the most important and consequential thing the TURFA Executive Committee is doing is acting to preserve the prescription benefits we were promised, which the state is now trying to abolish. I am so grateful that Jim Roberts, TURFA president-elect, is spearheading our efforts in this regard. Jim's expertise as a political scientist is invaluable, and he is forging alliances beyond the university to further the cause. Read more in this issue (See page 5).

Finally, I want to repeat what presidents before me have said: TURFA *is* you and TURFA *needs* you. Enjoy TURFA activities, volunteer your ideas and your time to make TURFA better, and enjoy your retirement.

Annette Chappell, Professor Emerita (English), Dean Emerita (CLA)



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TURFA Events and Activities

The TURFA Bike Club



After a summer hiatus, the TURFA Bike Club launched its fall 2023 ride along the Northwest River Trail between Marietta and Bainbridge, PA. The trail meandered along the eastern edge of the Susquehanna River through tree-covered paths, and past old iron furnaces, a limestone quarry, and cornfields. The 11-mile excursion ended with lunch at the McCleary's Irish Pub in Marietta. The next ride is scheduled for late October between Marley Station and Annapolis. Contact Jim Paulsen at jpaulsen@towson.edu if you would like to join the Bike Club for its next pedaling journey. All are welcome to participate. Current cyclists range in age from mid 60s to late 80s.

Non-Fiction Book Group

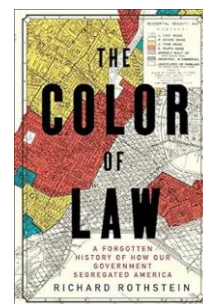
Jo-Ann Pilardi

The TURFA Non-Fiction Reading Group (i.e., Book Group) includes Towson retired faculty from a wide range of disciplines, a range reflected in our selection of books and our discussions. Collectively, we can discuss a work in its historical context, evaluate statistics, examine stylistics, and discover more about the world we share. We read approximately one book per month. Since our last report in the Advocate (September 2022) we have covered 15 books on topics ranging from algorithms to utopias.

For late September 2022, we read *River of the Gods: Genius, Courage, and Betrayal in the Search for the Source of the Nile*, by Candice Millard, a former writer and editor for National Geographic

magazine. The group was not impressed with the book and felt it focused excessively on a couple of individuals, quirky though they were. (Millard is also the author of *The River of Doubt*, a terrific book about President Theodore Roosevelt's nearly fatal – to him – expedition to explore the river, an important tributary of the Amazon.)

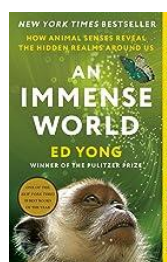
There was no meeting in October, but in November, we discussed *Spies, Lies, and Algorithms: The History and Future of American Intelligence*, by Amy B. Zegart. In December, we read Richard Rothstein's *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*. The thesis of this book, one focus of which was housing and property ownership, was that the U.S. government not only allowed racial segregation, but its official policies encouraged, even demanded, it.



The new year started with a January 2023 book on climate change and related water issues: *Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore* by Elizabeth Rush, part personal memoir and part environmental science.

February was for *Who We Are and How We Got Here: Ancient DNA and the New Science of the Human Past* by noted researcher David Reich. In March, we read *Growing Up Human: The Evolution of Childhood*, by Brenna Hassett, an American British bioarchaeologist teaching in London; it's a scholarly, absorbing, and often funny story of, as one review put it, "the ape who stayed young,"—which would be all of us.

April's book, *An Immense World: A Journey through the Animal Kingdom's Extraordinary*



Senses, by Ed Yong, was enlightening and a delight—and we highly recommend it. In May, we were shocked by what we learned in Max Fisher's *The Chaos Machine: The Inside Story of How Social Media Rewired Our Minds and Our World*. Things are even worse than

we thought.

Our June book, the new biography of Harry Truman, A.J. Baime's *The Accidental President: Harry S. Truman and the Four Months That*

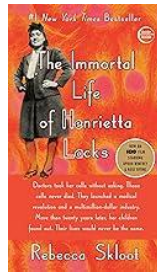
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Changed the World, described the immensely important first four months of his presidency following the death of FDR in April of 1945. Most of us were surprised to learn of Truman's humble beginnings and admired his ability to step into the office, though some of his decisions were not universally admired.

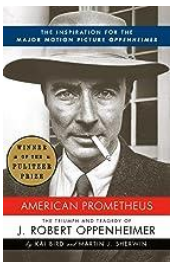
Our next book, *An Assassin in Utopia: The True Story of a Nineteenth-Century Sex Cult and a President's Murder*, by Susan Wels, gave us to a close look at the Oneida Community of upstate New York and the assassination of President James Garfield. It's a unique trip through 19th century American history.

In August we read a moving book that's fast becoming an American classic in the field of history of science and race: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot. Lacks was a Baltimore County (Turner Station) resident whose family recently won a long-sought settlement from a bio-tech company that sold her "HeLa" cells.



September's book, Patrick Radden Keefe's *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland*, was deeply moving as well. It's a well-crafted examination of the Troubles in Northern Ireland and how that eventually ended due to the Good Friday Agreement, 25 years ago.

The year will end with three more books: 1) October: *Once Upon a Prime: The Wondrous Connections Between Mathematics and Literature*, by British Mathematics professor Sarah Hart; 2) November: *Poverty, by America*, by Matthew Desmond. (Desmond's book, *Evicted*, winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Non-Fiction, was one of the earliest books our group read); 3) December: the book that's the basis for the movie *Oppenheimer* which has been in theaters recently:



American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer, by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin.

The reading group now has a regular meeting time and day: **the Second Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m.** Meetings continue to be virtual, and announcements are sent to the general

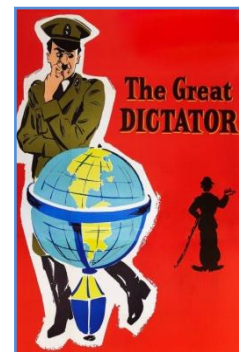
membership weeks in advance of each meeting in hopes that more TURFA members will read the book and join in the discussion. The TURFA book group always looks forward to the meetings for lively--and enlivening--discussions.

The TURFA Film Club

In June, the TURFA Film Club discussed "The Piano" (1993) directed by Jane Campion, New Zealand. The action takes place in the mid-1800s. Holly Hunter stars as Ada McGrath, a Scotswoman who arrives in New Zealand with her daughter (Anna Paquin) to marry a man she has never met. Ada has not spoken since the age of six; she uses sign language, with her daughter translating. Much of the film is about sexual tension between Ada, her husband (Sam Neill) and a neighbor (Harvey Keitel). This film was nominated for eight Academy Awards and won three, for Best Actress (Hunter), Best Supporting Actress (Paquin) and Best Original Screenplay (Campion). *Sight and Sound* recently named it one of the 100 best films of all time.



September's film for discussion was "The Great Dictator" (1940), written, directed, produced, and starring Charlie Chaplin. Chaplin, a British citizen working in Hollywood, was strongly anti-Nazi even before World War II began in 1939. His character "Charlie" had a strong physical resemblance to Hitler, so it was perhaps not surprising made a Hitler. In a double barber and Adenoid himself was Paulette Hannah, the interest.



that Chaplin satire about the film he plays role, as a Jewish the dictator Hinkle. Chaplin not Jewish. Goddard plays barber's love Critic Annette

Insdorf comments "There was something curiously appropriate about the little tramp impersonating the dictator, for by 1939 Hitler and Chaplin were perhaps the two most famous men in the world."

In October, the club discussed virtually the film "Farha," (2021) directed by Darin Sallam,

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about the war between Jews and Arabs in Palestine, 1948. The director of *Farha* is Darin Sallam, a Palestinian woman born in Kuwait, 1987. The title comes from the name of the main character, a 14-year-old girl. *Farha* is a war film without blood and guts, but there is one long scene that is very difficult to watch. The director says, “it’s a universal and timeless story that can happen anywhere, anytime.” But she also describes it as “the truth” of the 1948 war and the resulting Palestinian exile. Whether *Farha* is fact or fiction is controversial. It is supposed to be the story of a real woman, but the director has never met this woman or her family and bases the film on a story passed down through generations. Views of *Farha* also reflect the enormous divide between Israelis and Palestinians on the 1948 war. Israelis call it The War of Independence; Palestinians call it The Catastrophe.

Please contact Peter Lev (plev@towson.edu) if you’d like to participate in upcoming film discussions.

The Outreach Committee

Jane Wolfson

Keeping TURFA members active and engaged as a community is the priority of many of the TURFA initiatives. The Outreach Committee has a slightly different task: keeping TURFA members engaged with the *larger* community on campus and off. The skills and talents that served us so well as professionals on campus are valuable assets that can be a phenomenal asset to an organization that needs volunteers. The TURFA website’s Volunteer Opportunity page (click [here](#) for the link) provides a listing of organizations and offices who want us! How nice to be told you are needed. The Personal Enrichment page on the TURFA website (click [here](#) for the link) gives you resources through which you will find concerts, plays, lectures, etc. If you discover additional organizations that should be included on these lists (or errors in the listings) please let me know (jwolfson@towson.edu).

As I mentioned in the last edition of *The Advocate*, the Outreach Committee is always looking for your input and ideas. It was brought to our attention that while almost all of us enjoyed not

receiving all those departmental and college emails when we first retired, after a while one begins to miss former colleagues and hearing about how projects were progressing. Pre-retirement, it was nice to be kept informed about major departmental or college initiatives and student successes. Post-retirement, is it possible to find a way to still be kept abreast of important goings on but not to receive all the messages about department meetings? Just maybe we have solved that problem. The Deans of the Colleges were asked via email whether they were interested in contact information for ‘their’ TURFA-member retirees, so that they could share college highlights with that group as they shared information with other important constituents. Many Deans were very interested. Look forward to receiving such information. Of course, if you do not want to receive the updates, just let your college’s Dean know.

Meet CBE’s New Dean, Aneil Mishra



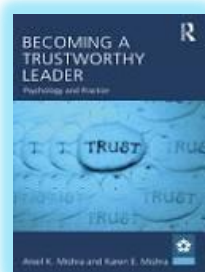
Dr. Mishra joins TU after most recently serving as the Dean of the School of Management at the University of Michigan-Flint where he helped secure more than \$250K for scholarships and internships. His previous posts include serving as the Thomas D. Arthur Distinguished Professor of Leadership at the College of Business at East Carolina University, where he helped spearhead more than \$6M in philanthropy to endow the College’s graduate programs and student success center, as well as helping win a \$2MM NSF grant to foster innovative teaching. He’s also served as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at North

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Carolina Central University, and VP of Curriculum and Faculty Relations for 2U Inc., where he helped successfully develop and launch the UNC-Chapel Hill Kenan-Flagler School of Business online MBA program, MBA@UNC. Dr. Mishra also has been an award-winning faculty member at Wake Forest, Duke, Penn State and Michigan State.

Dr. Mishra's impressive career in academia includes published research in many leading management, healthcare and medical journals, with 16,000+ Google Scholar citations to-date; his work is regularly profiled by leading news outlets. He



has served as an associate editor or editorial board member of several leading research journals, and currently is on the board of the *Journal of Applied Behavioral Science*. Dr. Mishra is the also the coauthor of three books on leadership.

Dr. Mishra earned his A.B. *cum laude*, in economics, from Princeton University. Prior to earning his Ph.D. in business administration from the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan, he worked for the General Motors Corporation as a manufacturing engineer and human resource specialist.

Dr. Mishra is a member of the Academy of Management. He also consults with a variety of startups, Fortune 100 firms, financial institutions and health care organizations, as well as leading associations and nonprofits around the globe on building trust-based cultures, leadership development, and strategy and innovation development. He has been a faculty member of the Wharton School/American Bankers Association's Stonier Graduate School of Banking since 2017, and a finals judge for the Entrepreneurs' Organization Global Student Entrepreneur Awards since 2016. He also serves on the board of the Carolina Headache Foundation.

The State of Maryland Wants to End Your Prescription Benefits

Jim Roberts

April 4, 2011 was a grim day for state retirees. On that day, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2011 (HB72). Buried deep within the 144 pages of this bill was an obscure provision that removed State supported prescription benefits for Medicare-eligible state retirees and moved those benefits to the Federal Medicare Part D prescription program.

If you were hired before 2011, the State prescription benefits in retirement were promised to you when you were hired. They may even have influenced your decision to enter state employment. The State claims that the prescription plan is too expensive and that it could harm the State's triple-A bond rating. Yet, the retiree prescription plan represents less than .02 percent of the State's annual General Fund budget and no state ever had its bond rating downgraded due solely to its non-pension retirement obligations. These changes were scheduled to go into effect in 2019, but the State made no effort to inform employees or retirees until 2018.



In 2018, Ken Fitch, a State retiree, filed a complaint with the Baltimore City Circuit Court (*Fitch et al. vs. Maryland et al.*) to force the State to reinstate prescription benefits. The case was moved to Federal court at the State's request where U.S. District Court Judge Peter Messitte granted a preliminary injunction in favor of the retirees, enjoining the State from terminating its prescription drug benefits. The complaint claimed that the State's promise to retain prescription benefits for retirees at the time they were hired constituted a contract that the State

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was trying to break. The Court of Appeals ruled that the promise did not constitute a contract with retirees. However, U.S. Circuit Court Judge Messitte stated that:

“As an employer, Maryland made a clear and definite promise to certain of its retirees that if they fulfilled certain conditions, they would enjoy prescription drug benefits coextensive or pro-rated with those provided to active employees.”

The State asked for a summary judgment in the case last June. Judge Messitte removed the injunction but continued the case. This means that the State is now free to remove our prescription benefits. The earliest they could do this is January, 2025.

Moving our prescription benefits to Medicare Part D would mean:

- You would have to select a Part D plan on the open market just like millions of other retirees.
- The Part D plans vary significantly in what they cover and what they cost.
 - This means you could end up with a plan that does not cover prescriptions that you depend on for your best health.
 - This also means that you may pay higher premiums for your prescription plan.
- Part D requires retirees to use the preferred pharmacy for the plan they choose. The State plan does not require retirees to use a preferred pharmacy.
- Many Part D plans have a deductible amount that you must pay before you get benefits. The State plan does not have a deductible.
- Medicare Part D is an individual plan while the State offers a family plan. If we move to Part D, you and anyone on your current family plan will have to get separate prescription plans.

Although the complaint continues in the courts, its likelihood of success is limited. Therefore, we must seek a remedy in the General

Assembly. Two bills that were introduced in the 2022 legislative session never made it out of committee. TURFA created a Task Force of members and others to pressure legislators to pass bills in the 2024 session that would restore our prescription benefits. We need your support if this effort is to succeed. Please contact members of the House of Delegates, members of the Senate, and the Governor to demand legislation that will remedy this injustice. Information about making these contacts is listed below.

We are not alone in this effort. There are two online groups that are also working to restore our benefits. The Facebook group *Maryland State Government Retirees & Employees* tracks information regarding this and other issues important to Maryland State retirees (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MdSGR>). The group *United We Matter* (<https://www.unitedwematter.com/>) provides support for the *Fitch et al. vs. Maryland et al.* complaint.

You can find your representatives at the web site for the General Assembly. <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebwebsite/Members/District>

You can send a message to the Governor at: <https://md.accessgov.com/governor/Forms/Page/cs/contact-the-governor/1>

If you have questions about the State's efforts to remove our prescription benefits, please contact Jim Roberts (jroberts@towson.edu).

(Members of the TURFA Task Force contributed information for this article. The Task Force members are Michael Bachman, Tracy Miller, Jim Roberts, and Jane Wolfson from TURFA; and William Kahn formerly with the Maryland Attorney General's office; Kathlyn Miller from the UMBC Wisdom Institute (UMBC's retired faculty association); and Peta Richkus, former Secretary of the Maryland Department of General Services.)



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The Oral History Project

Ron Matlon

The newest TURFA Oral History Project interviews feature three retired faculty from COFAC- Dr. James Anthony (Music), Jim Paulsen, MFA (Art), and Dr. Peter Lev (Electronic Media and Film). Dr. Ron Matlon (Mass Communication and Communication Studies) had the privilege of interviewing each of these stellar faculty and artists/art historians - all exemplary representatives of Towson University. The link to these videos is [Browse All Materials \(towson.edu\)](https://www.towson.edu/browsematerials)

Thanks to COFAC Dean Regina Carlow and Associate Dean Greg Faller for their support and financial backing.

In the year ahead, the Oral History Project Committee plans to interview three retirees from the College of Health Professions. Stay tuned!

The Provost's Retired Faculty Brunch: To R2 Status (and Beyond?)

Florence Newman

On June 26, in the South Pavilion at Auburn House, the Provost's Office hosted its annual brunch honoring faculty retirees. Assistant Provost Bethany Pace welcomed guests before turning the podium over to Interim President Melanie Perreault, who delivered introductory remarks. Perreault



congratulated recent retirees, thanking them for their service and inviting them to join TURFA, to “take an active role in University events,” and to come to campus as often as they would like.

That campus, she observed, is itself in the process of ongoing change. TU is nearly two years into the construction of the new Health Sciences building, expected to open in June 2024, and is about to embark on the renovation of Smith Hall as the new home of Mass Communications, a “state-of-the-art building” designed to suit its new purpose. In addition, the TU Cyber Center—aka the Center for Interdisciplinary and Innovative Cybersecurity—opened at 10 West Burke Avenue in November 2022, bringing together faculty and students throughout TU, along with government and industry leaders, to address existing and future cybersecurity issues and to train tomorrow’s cybersecurity experts.

On the academic side of the University’s progress, Perreault pointed out that, for the first time, a TU grad has been named a Gates Cambridge Scholar, one of just 23 students nationwide to receive a full-cost scholarship to the University of Cambridge. In March, six Towson students were named Fulbright semifinalists, the most in the University’s history, reflecting TU’s status as a top Fulbright Producing University, as determined by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. And this spring, two TU grads received National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships, awarded to only about 16 % of more than 12,000 applicants.

Dr. Perreault announced that in April the University successfully concluded its \$100 million fund-raising campaign (meaning, she added with a smile, that it was about time to begin the next campaign). The Colleges of Science and Mathematics and of Business and Economics, she continued, will have new deans this coming academic year. TU is on track to achieve R2 status by 2027. And this fall, TU welcomes its largest freshman class ever. Those students, Perreault pointed out, probably won’t be able to name their University’s President or Provost, but they will be able to name their faculty instructors—even many years after they graduate.

Bethany Pace then introduced the brunch’s featured speaker, Dr. Sidd Kaza, Associate Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies. His presentation, titled “Evolution to High Research Activity: Criteria, Status, and Upsides,” explained what it meant for a university to achieve R2 status

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and how Towson University planned to get there. He began with an overview of Towson currently. At the time of the brunch, Towson had 19,793 undergraduate and graduate students and offered 67 undergraduate majors, 49 Master's programs, 40 graduate certificates, four certificates of advanced studies, and seven doctoral programs. The Carnegie

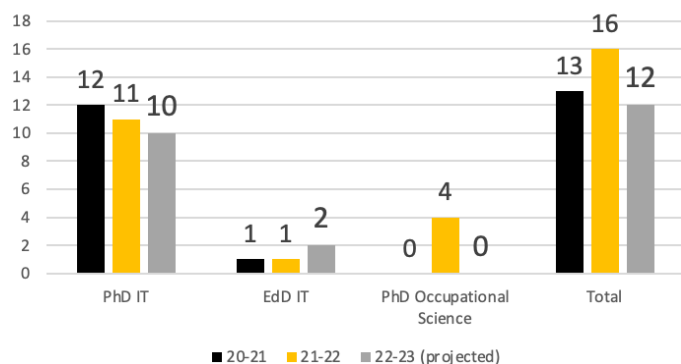


classification of institutions of higher education in the U.S. recognizes several basic categories, two of which represent schools with graduate programs: Doctoral-granting (R1, R2, and Doctoral/Professional or D/PU) and Master's-granting (M1,

M2, and M3). To become a Doctoral/Professional university, an institution must confer at least 30 professional doctorates per year. To become an R2 university, an institution must confer at least 20 research doctorates per year and expend at least \$5 million on research per year. There are 187 D/PU and 133 R2 universities in the nation at present. UMBC, for instance, just received R2 categorization. Dr. Kaza describes Towson University's achievement of R2 categorization as "a natural progression." TU is currently an M1 institution, conferring over 900 Master's degrees in 2021 (M1 institutions need to confer at least 200). TU conferred 16 research doctorates and 41 professional doctorates in 2022, putting it on track to achieve D/PU status in 2024. Its goal is to reach R2 status in 2027. (Carnegie status, Dr. Kaza was quick to point out, does not define an entire university.)

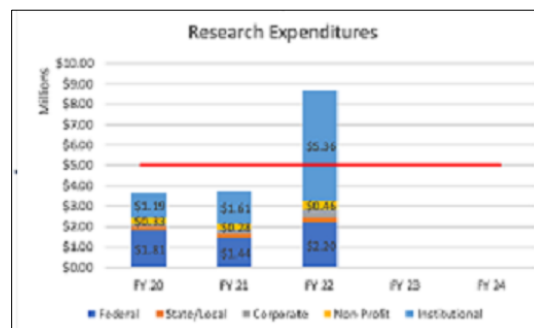
Research Doctorate Conferrals

(Need 20 for R2)



Current TU programs offering research doctorates are Information Technology, Occupational Science, Autism Studies, and Instructional Technology (Ed.D. with a Ph.D. in Fall 23, which is pending). Two new doctoral programs are in the works: a Ph.D. in Business Analytics and a Ph.D. in Sustainability and Environmental Change. (Note: the Ph.D. program in Business Analytics has been contested by Morgan University and its implementation has been delayed.) Doctoral conferrals, said Kaza, have increased from last year, with professional doctorate conferrals placing us in the D/PU category. Three years from now, we can move out of that category into the R2 category.

TU's strategy for increasing the conferral of research doctorates includes creating new faculty lines, increasing undergraduate research funding, supporting feeder MS programs that lead to doctorates, increasing support for graduate students (e.g., by better compensation), and building research infrastructure (space, staff, internal grants). As for the \$5 million research expenditures required for R2 status, TU has experienced a jump from \$1.6 million to \$5.36 million in the past year, in part due to increased funding and in part due to better calculation of R&D funds already in place.



That funding, Kaza pointed out, can be directed toward either basic research (to acquire new knowledge), applied research (to acquire new knowledge but with a specific practical goal or objective), or experimental development (to produce new products or processes or to improve existing ones.)

Towards the end of his presentation, Dr. Kaza addressed the question that must have been on many people's minds: Why is achieving R2 status important for TU? The answer, argued Kaza, is that being an R2 institution will enable TU to grow

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(more faculty, more undergraduate research, more grad students and post-docs, as well as more internal and external grants); to increase student learning; to retain students, faculty, and staff; to gain greater national importance; and to inspire philanthropy and student/alumni participation in the life of the University. For faculty members in particular, R2 status would affect faculty and staff salaries, overall budget, staff numbers, and research space allocation.

During the Q&A session following his presentation, Dr. Kaza was asked how TURFA members could help the R2 effort. Possibly by writing grants, said Kaza, but also by talking in the community about the importance of Towson's research and by cultivating personal and professional connections that would encourage philanthropy. "How do we maintain equity across colleges, since some disciplines at TU do not lend themselves to Ph.D. programs?" Dr. Kaza answered by pointing out that many programs feeding into Ph.D. programs are interdisciplinary, and hence require resources as well. Furthermore, six colleges are represented by the ten current and projected Ph.D. programs: "Everyone," Kaza said, "gets to play."

After thanking the speaker, outgoing TURFA President Larry Shirley offered a preview of the Association's End of Year Report. He noted that TURFA is best known for its most visible offerings to members, its events and activities. This spring, he observed, we held gatherings for film, non-fiction books, bike rides, and happy hours. Before that, during last summer and fall, TURFA hosted a potluck dinner, offered tours of an art exhibit and the Mormon Temple in D.C., and sponsored the Fall Forum, with Dan Rodericks as featured speaker. Less visible, said Dr. Shirley, are TURFA's service projects, such as tutoring undergraduates and outreach to other service organizations. TURFA also lobbied for continued state prescription coverage for retirees, for free parking for retirees on campus, and for a clearer, more supportive path to faculty retirement, addressing social, familial, psychological, as well as financial concerns. TURFA's success has offered a model and ally for retired TU staff, who have been discussing among themselves and with the administration the possibility of a similar

association for retired staff, a "TURSA" alongside TURFA.

Dr. Shirley then proceeded to the "pleasant job" of presenting the TURFA Executive Committee for the coming year. He introduced each member with a brief summary of their academic roles and accomplishments (which are numerous and impressive, but which will be omitted here in the interests of brevity).

President: Annette Chappell

Past President: Larry Shirley

President-elect: Jim Roberts

Treasurer: Rod Stump

Secretary: Janet DeLany

Faculty Senate Representative: Martha Siegel

Alternative Faculty Senate Representative: Deitra Wengert

Members at Large: Pat Alt and Virginia Thompson

FACET Representative: Michael Bachman

Dr. Shirley extended congratulations to the group, wishing them "the best as you lead TURFA into the next year." After the copious applause from the audience had died down, he thanked the speaker again and thanked the listeners for attending: "I encourage you to participate in all that TURFA has to offer you."

TURFA BITS

Lena Ampadu, Prof Emerita, English, was invited to serve on an advisory committee to plan and organize a webinar, "Teaching in Times of Violence: Strategies for Threatened and Targeted Teachers of Writing," sponsored by the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), for fall, 2023. Its purpose is to support English teachers and writing professionals targeted or threatened by anti-diversity and anti-critical race theory legislation by providing them with legal information and resources to ensure their continued intellectual academic freedom. CCCC is the higher education arm of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), the largest international organization of English teachers, K-university level.

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Kent Barnes has been doing research on historical and contemporary outbreaks of bubonic and pneumonic plague. Dr. Barnes had an article published online and in print in the journal *Environmental Hazards*. The specifics of the publication are Barnes, Kent B. 2023. The gendered dimensions of London's last bubonic plague epidemic 1665-1666. *Environmental Hazards*. 22(4): 309-333.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/17477891.2022.2141181>.

Published online 03 Nov 2022. At present he is finishing up a manuscript for submission that explores place vulnerability and plague mortality in 1665 London. Also, he continues research on place vulnerability and the gendered nature of plague morbidity and mortality during 20th and 21st century outbreaks of plague in different geographical, historical, and political settings, including British India, Hong Kong, Australia, San Francisco, and southern Africa. On a personal note, Dr. Barnes shared "My wife Jan and I spend lots of time visiting our children and grandchildren in New England and we recently returned from a trip to Scotland.")

Peg Benner would title a recent accomplishment "The English Verb Expansion Rule Travels to Nigeria." This past summer, the Towson University Online Writing Support website (OWS) was cited in a master's thesis written by Panshak Titus Danyang, a graduate student at University of Jos in Nigeria. The thesis, titled "Syntactic Study of the Use of Verb Group by Nigerian ESL Students of Selected Secondary Schools in Barkin Ladi Lga, Plateau State," referenced the "verb expansion rule" text, exercises, and self-teaching unit in the OWS website (www.towson.edu/ows). This is the site's second reported academic citation outside the United States. An earlier reference to the website came from a PhD dissertation at the University of Heidelberg.

The TU OWS website was created by Peg Benner with the help of a Fall 2001 CIAT faculty grant. With over 28,000 internal links, the website contains materials designed to help students with grammar, syntax, usage, and punctuation. Its features include instructional text with helpful examples; exercises with interactive answer keys; self-teaching units with embedded exercises and

post-tests; and a "grammar hotline." All materials on the website can be accessed by anyone who visits the site. It is used regularly by individual students and classes around the world; its "grammar hotline" has received questions from every continent except Antarctica.

After thirty-four years serving as the director of TU's Writing Support Program and as an adjunct faculty member in the English Department, Peg retired in 2013. She is now an active member of TURFA and continues to monitor the OWS website.

Jack Fruchtman, political science emeritus, is currently preparing the fourth edition of his book, *The Supreme Court and Constitutional Law*, and writes a column on law and politics for a New England newspaper.

Bob Hanson presented "COACHING by Collaborating, Coaxing, Communicating, Challenging, and Cajoling Using Conway's Triangle" at the MCTM Coaching Conference on June 2, 2023. He conducted pool-side presentations on Conway's Triangle and Pascal's Lines to selected lifeguards and guests at a community pool during the summer of 2023. Dr. Hanson forwarded announcements of pertinent Museum of Mathematics (MoMATH) Online Events and guidelines to a selected audience of around 30 educators, students, and parents during the past year. And he was facilitator for two condo book club discussions on the latest book on Ernest Shackleton and *The Wager* by David Grann. In each, he incorporated his experiences as a cruise lecturer on topics related to the book contents and methods and instruments of navigation.

Clarinda Harriss is pleased to announce that Brick House Books, Inc celebrated 50 years of continuous publication at the Ivy Bookshop in July. "It's Maryland's oldest literary press and going strong!"

Sharon Jones-Eversley has 39 years of professional experience in human services and public health. Before retirement, Dr. Jones-Eversley was a tenured Full Professor and Social Epidemiologist in the Family Studies and Community Development Department. She earned a Doctorate in Public Health from Morgan State

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University School of Community Health and Policy. Her interdisciplinary research expertise includes social epidemiology, legal epidemiology, family science, ethics, public policy, nonprofit management, and community capacity-building. Her scholarship primarily highlights the lived experiences and exposures to persistent deprivation, injustice, illness, violence, and preventable deaths among Black families and communities. She is a member of several professional organizations: International Collaboration for Participatory Health Research, American Public Health Association, American Evaluation Association, Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, and Maryland Genealogical Society. She is also on the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Baltimore-Cambridge and the Myrtle Tyler Faithful Fund. Below are her post-retirement scholarship and service. Her current scholarship includes:



communities. She is a member of several professional organizations: International Collaboration for Participatory Health Research, American Public Health Association, American Evaluation Association, Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, and Maryland Genealogical Society. She is also on the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Baltimore-Cambridge and the Myrtle Tyler Faithful Fund. Below are her post-retirement scholarship and service. Her current scholarship includes:

In Press

- Jones-Eversley, S. D., Rhoden-Trader, J. & Rice, J., “Examining Homicide Through the Spatial, Criminological, Social, and Legal Lenses of Epidemiology.” In Parker K.F. (Ed.), *Taking Stock of Homicide: Trends, Emerging Themes, and the Challenges*. Temple University Press. Order Now: <https://tupress.temple.edu/books/taking-stock-of-homicide>
- Robinson, M., Jones-Eversley, S. D., Sterrett, E., Miller, S., Moore, S. E., & Adedoyin, A. C. “Navigating Microaggressions in Social Work Practice with Black Clients.” In Ashley, W. (Ed.), *Antiracist Social Work Practice: Beginning and Advanced Knowledge, Skills and Techniques*. [First Edition]. DIO Press.

In Process: Book Chapters

- Jones-Eversley, S.D. “Power, Privilege, & Public Health.” In Dean, L & Jacques, K. (Eds.), *Critical Race Theory, Antiracism, and Applications for Health*. Oxford University Press.

Presentations

Jones-Eversley, S. D. (Presenter). “The Relentless Pursuit of Culturally Relevant and Justice-Infused Participatory Health Research.” International Collaboration for Participatory Health Research Annual Meeting. June 17, 2023. Limerick University, Limerick, Ireland.

Susan Kirchner has co-written a chapter with Katherine Horta- Hayden that is out for peer review. The chapter is titled “Chapter 8. Sharing Grace in Action: Advancing a Healthy and Thriving Dance Unit” (pp 136- 153) in the book *Stories We Dance/Stories We Tell: Our Lives in Higher Education*. Kirchner’s personal life activities include ballet bar in pool five days a week, hiking, cooking for friends, and volunteering for Cacapon Resort State Park and Morgan Arts Council in West Virginia.

In addition to volunteering, networking, and continuing education, **Joanna Maxwell** has been presenting papers at annual transcultural conferences held in various cities in the USA. In 2021, her paper focused on finding solutions for “Elderly Refugees in the USA.” In 2022, she presented on the resettlement of Afghan refugees. This year, her paper will focus on identifying the social determinants of health through a comparative analysis between refugees and immigrants from less developed countries. In early 2023, she was the second author on a white paper titled Integration of population health, social determinants, and social justice in transcultural nursing and culturally competent care: White paper by the scholar’s education interest group. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 34(3), 1-3.

Dr. Maxwell has also been involved in leadership activities, serving in elected offices in the Transcultural Nursing Society (TCNS). This year, she is completing her role as the director of the TCNS Scholars, a group of high-performing society members. She is currently working with fellow Scholars on an education-based project through a Special Interest Group. In addition to managing the group, she reports to the Scholars, and to the general membership. Additionally, she publishes briefs in the *Journal of Transcultural Nursing* and

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contributes to the organization's newsletters. She has been a member of the Transcultural Nursing Society since 1980. "It has been instrumental in educating me about culturally competent care in my teaching, practice, and scholarship. I am grateful to Towson University for supporting my efforts throughout my tenure."

Mark McTague recently wrote and published the novel *A Cold Day in May* (2023). *A Cold Day in May* is a suspense thriller set in Korea in 1979-80, from the assassination of President Park (October 1979) through the Gwangju Rebellion (May 1980). The main character, Nate Carter, is haunted by the brutal murder of the woman he loved and thirsts for vengeance, but after years pursuing her killer across Asia, the trail has gone cold. In Seoul he finally gets a tip that the murderer could be in Korea, yet this comes with unforeseen complications. He must deal with Madame Mho, a woman trapped by the fate of her mixed race, and one other person who could lead him to the killer but won't – a priest whose faith will never let him sanction murder. *A Cold Day in May* is thus a novel of revenge and redemption, and the price one pays for each.

https://www.amazon.com/Cold-Day-May-Novel-Korea-ebook/dp/B0C93GXMVY/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2AGSR4K9426IC&keywords=a+cold+day+in+may+a+novel+of+korea&qid=1692656695&s=books&sprefix=a+cold+day+in+m%2Cstripbooks%2C86&sr=1-1



Armin Mruck wrote an article for TU's partnership university in Germany, the Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg. The Festschrift article (Festival publication) deals with their 50th anniversary and the myriad activities of the University which was founded in 1973. The Festschrift will be published in November.

Dr. Mruck has also published an article in the *Osterode Zeitung*, a German publication that deals with the history of Germans who lost their East Prussian homes at the end of World War II: "Professor Mruck erzählt aus seinem Leben"

("Professor Mruck tells of his Life"), *Osterode Zeitung*, Mai 2023. He regularly writes for that publication and is currently writing another article for them to be published in November. On July 20 this year Dr. Mruck lectured at the Blakehurst Retirement Community about the "German anti Hitler Resistance." The lecture was well attended. 45 years ago, as a young faculty member at Towson State University, **Jim Paulsen** created and installed a 13' welded bronze sculpture at General Wolfe elementary school in the Fells Point area of the city. The work has held up very well over the years but has acquired some scars that need attention. Now as an 80-year-old retiree, he is working on making repairs to the sculpture. Check it out at the corner of Wolfe and Gough streets in Fells Point.

Jo-Ann Pilardi has always loved reading, so she enjoys coordinating the monthly TURFA Non-Fiction book group. ("I called it a 'group,' not a 'club,' when I set it up, to show that it's free-floating; everyone is welcome.") The group just had a powerful discussion of Patrick Keefe's *Say Nothing*, a book about The Troubles in Northern Ireland. Pilardi's other reading includes novels, online news, and of course *The New Yorker*. She is also in a monthly study group of longtime Baltimore colleagues "on the Left," mostly academics. Here the reading is about policy and current political issues, including U.S. policy and sometimes larger topics: China, Africa, Climate Change, Health Care. On most Fridays, Pilardi attends the Hannah Arendt Virtual Reading Group, from Bard College. The community of approximately 75 participants--scholars, artists, etc.--is a focused and inspiring group.

Last spring, under TURFA's sponsorship, Dr. Pilardi coordinated a virtual panel of retired faculty to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Women's Studies at Towson University, a department now called Women's and Gender Studies. The recording is available on TURFA's website; in addition, and the department launched its Digital Archives in an event at the Peale Museum this October. And Pilardi serves on CLA Dean Chulos' "Commemorative Moments Committee," as TURFA's representative. Dr. Pilardi is part of a dining group of ten long-time friends and takes Osher classes every month.

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Jim Roberts retired from the Department of Political Science on July 1, 2022. Jim spent most of the first year of his retirement getting his two knees replaced. He is up and moving again. Although retired from teaching, Jim continues to be an active scholar. He is working on an edited volume on public goods and international migration for Palgrave Press. His two co-editors are in Poland on the front lines of the refugee crisis created by the Ukraine war. He continues to do research in global public goods and international relations theory. He is working on an article on the intertext between constructivist international relations theory and music that derived from his 2022 Belgrade Lecture and on an article that revises and extends his formal game-theoretic model of global public goods published in his 2019 book. Jim continues to review articles for journal publication and served as a chair and discussant for two panels at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting last spring.

Jim is currently the president-elect of TURFA and looks forward to serving retired faculty as president next year. In this role, Jim is leading TURFA's efforts to get the Maryland legislature to restore State prescription benefits to retirees. The General Assembly voted to remove these benefits in 2011 with the intent of moving retirees to Medicare Part D. A court injunction prevented the State from moving forward until now but the injunction was lifted in July. "It is imperative that we work to get the legislature and the Governor to reverse their decision."

In collaboration with Dr Steve Kimble in the Department of Biological Sciences, Dr. **Richard Seigel** was awarded two new grants from Amtrak this year, totaling approximately \$50,000. Both



awards go to continue the long-term research program on the endangered Northern Map Turtle in the Susquehanna River. This work began in 2008 and has trained literally dozens of Towson undergraduate and graduate students in wildlife ecology, conservation biology, and population genetics. North Map Turtle pictured.

In July, **Larry Shirley** completed his term as TURFA President, though he still has some responsibilities as Past-President. During the Covid restrictions and his TURFA President term, he did not travel far. Finally, in August, he was able to make a trip to Ghana which had originally been scheduled for March 2020. Nearly all of his late wife's family are there, so he visited with her 90+ year-old aunt as well as his 2-year-old step-great-grandchild. He stayed with his stepdaughter in Koforidua, where he checked on the progress of a new house he and his family are building, and also praised the residents of their old house for the major renovations they made. The closest he came to academic work was a visit to the Kwame Nkrumah Museum in Accra.

Rick Vatz last month published in the *Times of Israel* a piece titled "The Tree of Life Mass Murderer Deserves His Sentence."

<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/the-tree-of-life-mass-murderer-deserves-his-sentence/>

In August, he published in *The American Thinker*, "Student debating, once a bastion of logic, has been invaded from the left."

<https://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2023/08/student-debating-once-a-bastion-of-logic-has-been-invaded-from-the-left.html>

Dr. Vatz also published "Baltimore City's Brooklyn Day Groundhog Day—What to Do?" *Baltimore Post-Examiner*, August 11, 2023. <https://baltimorepostexaminer.com/baltimore-citys-brooklyn-day-groundhog-day-what-to-do/2023/08/11>

That same month Rick Vatz was named to the *Marquis Who's Who*. (And a personal note: "I am dashed by the injuries to Bautista and J.K. Dobbins.")

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On Jerry Bentley

Florence Newman



Jerry Bentley has lived in seven states, worked in six, and she says that, in each place, she has “been blessed to have a strong community and families” who made others feel accepted and valued. In many cases, it seems, she has helped create those communities because, as she learned from her grandmother, “to those to whom much is given, much is required” (Luke 12:48).

Bentley grew up in such a community in the then segregated town of Swainsboro, Georgia, where she was raised by her grandmother: “People took care of one another, people with physical and mental disabilities were supported, [and] no one was homeless, because someone would always take them in.” A first-generation high school graduate, she attended South Carolina State College (now University) not long after the Orangeburg Massacre, when highway patrolmen opened fire on a group of students protesting whites-only business policies. Three young men were killed and 28 people were wounded. “I went to school with people who still had bullets in their bodies,” says Bentley. Her college experiences contributed to her lifelong commitment to, and activism in, the cause of social justice. At South Carolina State, she immediately joined the Black Awareness Coordinating

Committee (BACC), an activist student group. Later she joined the college chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA), an international service organization and the oldest Greek-letter organization established by Black college-educated women. And at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she earned her Master’s in Occupational Therapy, she co-founded the Black



Occupational Therapy Caucus (BOTC), a national organization established to identify, and resolve issues of discrimination in employment, student recruitment and professional participation while providing support and

networking opportunities for Black members of the profession. Bentley has remained active in the Caucus throughout her career, serving as its president and chairing its Professional Action Committee.

Ms. Bentley’s first job was in Philadelphia as a staff therapist at the West Philadelphia Community Mental Health Center. From there she moved to St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Washington, D.C., where she was promoted to mental health supervisor in 1980. Her concerns for the mentally ill extended beyond the walls of the hospital, however. She developed a partnership between St. Elizabeth’s and her church missionary society to care for mentally ill clients in surrounding



neighborhoods. From 1981-1986, Bentley directed several community mental health programs, and, in 1986, joined the D.C. Commission on Mental Health and acted for three years as Special Assistant to the Commissioner.

In 1991, Ms. Bentley moved to Los Angeles, California, with the intention of pursuing a Ph.D.

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Instead, she earned her ‘Mom’ at the age of 42. During the five years she spent there, Ms. Bentley observes, California experienced “every disaster known to man and God”: an earthquake, floods, a major fire, and the Rodney King riots. Still, for two of those years she directed Rehabilitation at Kedren Community Mental Health Center, designing comprehensive psychosocial and clinical education programs. She helped revive the Southern California BOTC, which established scholarships for students preparing to be occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants. And she served as Membership Chair and Chapter Director of the California Occupational Therapy Association (OTAC). Reaching out and drawing in others seems to be built into Ms. Bentley’s DNA.

Back on the East Coast, Bentley joined the Howard University faculty and taught there for seven years, specializing in group dynamics and psychological theory. She also coordinated Howard’s student fieldwork, which made natural her transition to Towson University, where she assumed the position of Academic Fieldwork Coordinator while teaching group dynamics as an adjunct.



Ms. Bentley soon became an active member of the TU Black Faculty and Staff Association. At the national level, Bentley helped initiate the Minority Affairs Program of the American Occupational Therapy Association. When she was named one of “100 Influential People” by AOTA in 2017 (she had already received AOTA’s Roster of Fellows Award in 2002), the announcement noted that her “efforts resulted in major contributions to the seminal report for AOTA on how to address minority recruitment for the profession and how to ensure nondiscrimination within professional documents.”

Jerry Bentley retired after thirteen years at Towson (“the longest I’ve ever worked at one place”). And, of course, she promptly joined TURFA, an organization dedicated to fostering ties between retired faculty and between retired faculty and the University. Since Bentley moved to Columbia, South Carolina, four years ago, she has not been as involved in TURFA events and activities. But the communities and families she has helped create in the past have stayed with her. She participates in the South Carolina State Alumni Association, co-chairs the Scholarship Committee for the nonprofit “Bulldogs on the Run,” which provides scholarships for students who choose to enter the health professions. She volunteers with MORE Justice, a network of 27 diverse religious congregations that addresses community problems such as food insecurity, lack of affordable housing, the criminalization of mental illness, and the rise in gun violence. MORE Justice hopes to persuade Richland County Council to establish a housing trust fund to keep affordable housing sustainable into the future. It has succeeded in having the sheriff provide crisis intervention training to police officers and detectives in order to prevent mental health crises from escalating into use of force. In addition, Bentley is the Local Faith Lead for the Midlands Chapter of Moms Demand Action, a grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence.

Bentley is also helping plan the 50-year anniversary of BOTC, the organization she co-founded as a graduate student. She stays in touch with seven former OT students, whom she refers to as “daughters” (owing to her mistaken identification as the mother of one of them at scholarship ceremony). This coming February she is traveling to Cameroon with a daughter’s family—her first-ever trip to the “Motherland.” Even with her active community efforts, Bentley’s priority has always been her daughter, who recently moved from one hour to nine hours away, which opens a new community to explore.

Jerry Bentley regularly gets together with classmates from South Carolina State who live in the area; one of them and her husband are godparents to her daughter. And on August 25, she celebrated 55 years of friendship with the first

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person she met when she arrived at the SC State campus as a freshman. Bentley tells the story of coming to Orangeburg by bus—the grandmother who raised her didn’t have a car. She stayed overnight at a hotel and took a cab to campus. The mother and aunt parent of the girl she had just met offered her a ride to pick up her things from the hotel and they helped her move into the dorm. She and her first campus friend have “been through marriage, births, deaths, and divorce” together, all because some strangers opened their hearts to her. “To those to whom much is given, much is required.” Jerry Bentley has enacted the lesson of those words everywhere she has lived and with everyone she has pulled into her orbit.



In Memoriam

Dean Esslinger (History), September 5, 2023. Dean Esslinger joined the History Department in the late 1960’s. He taught for twenty years and then held Administration positions until his retirement several years ago. A native of Kansas, he received a bachelor’s degree from its state university and a PhD from the University of Notre Dame. His doctoral dissertation, a study of a Midwestern city, pioneered with a kind of quantification methodology new to the discipline. At Towson, he taught courses in American urban and social history. He also had an interest in novel pedagogical approaches to the Department’s introductory courses and was in a team that combined lectures and carefully selected video materials. His scholarly interests led him to research and write a history of the University and *Friends for Two Hundred Years: A History of Baltimore’s Oldest School*.

Within Administration, he held positions to help faculty broaden their intellectual experiences beyond their graduate school training. He was Director of Faculty Development. It funded faculty research and new course preparation. He spearheaded a professor exchange program with institutions outside the United States and held the position of Associate Vice President for International Programs. His retirement years were marked by a long battle with Parkinson’s disease.

Karl Larew (History), May 18, 2023. Karl Larew joined the History faculty in 1966 and retired thirty-five years later. Born in 1936, he was a graduate of the University of Connecticut (History and French major) and Yale University with a PhD. Prior to his service at Towson, he had been an Army Intelligence officer and a civilian historian with the Department of Army. At Towson, his research field was military history, especially World War I and II and Korea. However, he taught multiple European history courses, including Intellectual history. He was known—and appreciated—by his colleagues for his willingness to teach a range of subjects. He was a faculty sponsor of Phi Alpha Theta, the History honorary society, and a contributor to its *Journal of Historical Studies*.

Apart from history, he had great interest in writing and self-publishing novels, genealogical works, poems, and comic strips. He once wrote a book on “student bloopers” derived from his Towson experiences. He taught part-time for ten years after retirement and died in May 2023. He is survived by his wife Marilyn Larew, herself an historian and former Towson student.

Roger Luc Poirier (Modern Languages), July 21, 2023. Roger was born in Paris in 1936, his mother a civil servant, his father an artist. He grew up during the German occupation and witnessed its liberation by the Allies. He took his A.B. degree at the Sorbonne (then the University of Paris) before joining the French army and fighting in Algeria. After the war he came to the U.S.A., where he taught school and earned an M.A. at Case Western Reserve and then another M.A. and the Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins.

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I met Roger in 1968 when he came as an instructor to what then was Towson State College. We soon became fast friends, playing tennis, sipping martinis at the Owl Bar, and sharing our scholarly interest as “naturalized citizens” of the 18th century.

One course that we jointly taught was the British and French novel of the 18th century. Roger lectured eloquently, with humorous throw-away lines on the three French novels in the course. He would listen intently to students’ questions, none of which he’d let pass without returning a rhetorical question in contrast as clouds of students’ cigarette smoke rose. (Yes, ashtrays, pipes and even cigars were standard fixtures and practices in Linthicum Hall.) Then, like Jean-Paul Belmondo in a Godard film, Roger would puff a plume of his own cigarette smoke, narrow his eyes, throw back his head, and wait for a response, which, seldom coming, he’d then answer definitively. It was like watching an intellectual tennis match with himself, instructing, and entertaining in the best Socratic manner.

Although an avid fan of mystery novels, Roger was always the consummate scholar. Prominent among his scholarly articles, papers, and three books is his 2002 biography, *Jean-François de Saint-Lambert*. Saint-Lambert was a soldier, poet, scholar, friend of Voltaire and Diderot, and a presence in the French Enlightenment. In parties at his home, Roger was the perfect host, chef, and dancing master. The floor would clear to watch as he’d dance a tango with a lucky woman whom he’d invited.

I’ll always remember Roger after his decidedly making a literary or political point, in public or private, his head back and his cigarette raised to a high angle, a Roland, silently but victoriously sounding his horn.

Roger is survived by his devoted wife, Sophia Swope, a retired Assistant Attorney General of Maryland, and his daughter, Lucie, both of Baltimore.

Ave atque vale.

In Memoriam of Roger Luc Poirier by H. George Hahn, English Department

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