

Alumni Magazine for Towson University • Fall 2009

# towson

**REBEL  
WITH A  
CAUSE**

**14** Analyze This

**17** Not Just Bricks  
and Mortar

**20** Winning Words

**I have a wonderful life and I am forever grateful for that, so I give back. Maybe I can help somebody else along the way.**

After putting her children through college, Connie Kihm '95 decided it was her turn to earn a bachelor's degree. She had had a successful career as a retail buyer, but still wanted "that piece of paper." At the age of 48, she started her degree at Towson University, and has wanted to give back ever since.

*"I give back to the school that has given me so much. Nothing in life is free. If you have been blessed, I believe you need to give," Kihm says.*

Amid difficult economic times and declining state support, Kihm realizes how important it is to give to the Towson Fund, TU's campaign for annual operating support that provides students and faculty with vital funding. Most recently, in addition to her annual gift, Kihm focused her support on the new College of Liberal Arts building. As an English major, Kihm was excited to help her alma mater with its beautiful addition.

"My husband, Jim, and I donated a classroom in honor of emeritus Professor George Friedman, who inspired me as a student. Although Jim is not a TU graduate he's a big supporter because of how happy the university made me. His company matches whatever I give," she says.

Join Connie and the many others whose lives have been touched by their experiences at Towson University. Make a gift and watch it open doors and change lives.

For more information on contributing to the Towson Fund, contact Meghan S. Culbertson, Director of the Annual Campaign, at 410-704-3375 or [mculbertson@towson.edu](mailto:mculbertson@towson.edu)





**on the cover:** In 2004, Ken Shapiro '75 launched Semites on Bikes—the SOB—which has a penchant for riding, eating and raising money for good causes.

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■ to our readers



As another academic year gears up, our excitement of the past few years continues.

The word is officially out on the incredible value and quality of a Towson University education. Earlier this year the *Princeton Review* cited TU as a “Top 50 Best Value Public Institution.” More recently, it named Towson a “2010 Best Institution in the Northeast Region.”

This fall Towson welcomes more than 2,400 new freshmen from 21,000 applicants. While our enrollment remains steady, we have expanded online courses to meet increased demand and will soon break ground on a new academic building in Harford County in partnership with Harford Community College. This satellite campus will offer four-year programs in the growing northeast region, and we continue to expand our offerings at regional centers in Hagerstown, La Plata and Shady Grove.

Each of our entering freshmen will take at least one class in the newly completed first section of the College of Liberal Arts Building—our first new academic building on campus in 30 years. With West Village Commons construction also underway, future students will have another gathering place which will be the size of the University Union.

This summer TU and Baltimore Hebrew University integrated academic programs and established the Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University. This addition not only bolsters our academic offerings in Jewish Studies and enhances the student experience at TU, but also incorporates the holdings of BHU’s Joseph Meyerhoff Library into Towson’s Albert S. Cook Library. With more than 70,000 volumes and an important rare book collection, this is the region’s largest independent Judaic library.

Our busy summer is giving way for an exciting fall. Please make plans to visit the campus soon to see all the changes underway.

Bob Caret

President, Towson University

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“Each of our entering freshmen will take at least one class in the newly completed College of Liberal Arts Building.”

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## Letters

### WINNING STROKES

Congrats on another great issue of the alumni magazine. Having been a member of Towson's men's swim team back in 1981 to 1985, I enjoyed reading about Meredith Budner's exciting accomplishments at the CAA Conference Championships and at the NCAA Division I Championships, where she earned All-American honors in the 1,650-yard freestyle.

While she is the first Tiger swimmer to earn All-American honors in Division I, I thought that my former teammate and captain Miguel Ferrer was the first Tiger swimmer to earn All-American honors when Towson competed in Division II in the late 1970s.

I remember seeing his picture and framed All-American honors certificate(s) in the glass showcase in the hallway right outside the swimming pool at Burdick Hall.

**Marc LeGoff '86**  
Washington, D.C.

*Editor's note: Miguel Ferrer '83 was an All-American Division II swimmer in 1978-79. He is serving his first term as president of Towson's Athletic Hall of Fame.*

## NSF Award Establishes Scholarships

PROGRAM WILL TRAIN SCIENCE, MATH, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING TEACHERS

TU is coming to the rescue as school systems scramble to find qualified math and science teachers.

With a \$900,000, five-year grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), TU will establish the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program.

The scholarship will focus on preparing students to teach science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in secondary schools and offers scholarships to meritorious undergraduate juniors and seniors. The program also aims to recruit STEM professionals who want to obtain teacher certification. For every year of support they receive, recipients are committed to teach in a high-needs school district such as Baltimore City or Baltimore County for two years.

The recruitment phase of the program targets students with academic potential and financial need. It will rely heavily on coordinated efforts with other NSF programs and activities at TU, including the following:

- Towson Opportunities in STEM (TOPS), a program geared toward supporting underserved students with the transition to higher education and STEM curriculum;
- CoSMiC Scholars Program (Computing Sciences and Mathematics in College), which offers scholarships to disadvantaged students interested in pursuing degrees in STEM disciplines;
- Hackerman Academy of Mathematics and Science, which currently provides outreach activities to students while offering Maryland teachers ongoing professional development.

"What's really appealing about this program is that it will support our graduates beyond the preparatory phase," says David Vanko, acting dean of the Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics and the project's principal investigator. TU will monitor and mentor Noyce scholars for six years beyond certification.

"By tracking their progress and setbacks in the teaching field," says Vanko, "we will be able to assist graduates with additional resources and support which are so critical in the early years."

## Who Will Care?

\$1 Million Grant Addresses Maryland's Nursing Shortage



TU received a \$1.1 million grant from the Who Will Care? program, a coalition of health care industry leaders who want to ease the nursing shortage in Maryland.

The money will allow Towson to increase the number of faculty and students, and invest in clinical technology. One TU goal is to increase its nursing graduates by 16 each year through expanded enrollment at the USM Center at Hagerstown.

Across the state, grants to other nursing schools will increase the number of nurses graduating in Maryland by 300 and add 20 faculty positions.

At TU, the money will also be used for a comprehensive Nursing Retention and Success Program. "Not only will this grant permit Towson to expand its current program but it will provide the means to support and retain our current students as our program grows," says Jacquelyn Jordan, TU nursing department chair and project director.

**NUGGETS**

**Film Scholars Award**

The news came via phone not in the proverbial “envelope, please.”

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was on the line, naming Peter Lev, TU professor of



electronic media and film, one of two recipients of the \$25,000 Academy Film Scholars award.

Lev won for a book proposal on the history of Twentieth Century-Fox from 1935 to 1965. The book, his sixth on film history, examines the economic, political and social sides of movie-making with topics that could easily become movie trailers.



◀ Peter Lev won a \$25,000 award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

• Young film studio makes a splash with Shirley Temple movies.

• Studio grows up as World War II rages, using pinup Betty Grable to bolster troop morale, while defying a Congressional mandate to make films that foster U.S. isolationism.

• Headed by not one, but two, power brokers—Darryl Zanuck in Los Angeles and the lesser-known Spyros Skouras in New York—who communicated constantly through a dedicated telegraph line.

“Skouras,” Lev says, “was the driving force behind CinemaScope, Fox’s key technological innovation of the 1950s which was quickly adopted by most of the film industry.”

Zanuck, who served in the Signal Corps during WW II, retained enough influence to muster 250 U.S. troops for the filming of “The Longest Day” in 1961, despite the Berlin crisis. “Zanuck knew all the generals,” Lev explains.

Lev will get an intimate look at both men, thanks to an interview with producer Sid Ganis, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, who knew them from a long career in the film industry that started in the publicity department of Fox’s New York office.

Lev’s research includes watching more than 200 of the 1,000 films produced by Fox during those 30 years, and combing archives and film libraries at Stanford, UCLA and USC.

**NOTEBOOK**

**TU’s Student Regent**

Although she has yet to finish her undergraduate degree, former senators and members of congress are already looking to Sarah Elfreth for



“I’m asked for my opinion before I have a chance to raise my hand.”

—Sarah Elfreth, TU senior and USM student regent

insight and information.

As the newly appointed student regent to the University System of Maryland Board of Regents, the TU senior provides a

student perspective and acts as an informal liaison between board members and USM students.

“Most students have no idea what the board is, or even that they’re represented by a student regent,” she explains. “One of my goals is to break this communication barrier so that students know they have someone to voice their concerns to.”

During her one-year term, Elfreth will attend six board meetings, sit on four committees and attend events on each USM campus.

“To sit in a room with such successful people is daunting, but their attitude toward me has been more welcoming than I ever could have imagined,” she says. “I am truly one of their own, and more often than not, I’m asked for my opinion before I have a chance to raise my hand.”

**Musically Inclined**

With three albums already released, Jordan Tice has been hitting all the right notes.

A largely self-taught musician, the TU senior in music composition has a passion for a wide variety of music, from bluegrass to jazz to classical.

His musical tastes have helped him to compose distinctive pieces for his albums, including his second solo project, *Long Story*.

“I think I intuitively grab a little bit of everything from each style of music,



and I just let all the influence settle into something that I can call my own," he says.

Tice has performed with musicians all over the country and has traveled to Ireland and Australia for various festivals and tours.

Now forming his own musical group, Tice recognizes the value of appreciating different styles of music.

In order to switch gears from one musical style to another, he says, "You have to have a concept of what makes each style into something that's worth listening to."

## OUTREACH

### Getting There

Chinquapin Middle School sits a mere three miles away from Towson University, but for many students the journey seems impossible.

Now thanks to a \$59,000 grant from the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), some students might be able to find their way to TU and other institutions of higher learning.

The money will help TU provide much needed

after-school programs, summer programs and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities, as well as college-awareness services, according to project leader Barry Evans, outreach specialist in the Department of Enrollment Management.

He knows the task is huge. More than half of

**"We're seeking to create a learning environment which sets high expectations for student achievement."**

—Barry Evans

the students at Chinquapin scored at or below the level of basic proficiency in reading and math. Nearly 21 percent of students' families are living in poverty and 61 percent are eligible for free and reduced meals.

Last summer TU faculty held some classes at the school or hosted students in laboratories on TU's campus. One interactive lesson had students estimate their daily water use, then race to fill a 35-gallon trash can with water, one gallon at a time.

"They not only had a lot of fun, but learned how much work it takes to fill up the cans," Evans says. "The kids soon had a greater appreciation for how much water they use."

The outreach continues this fall as TU staff work with Chinquapin's principal to tailor programs to the school's curriculum and identify students who will participate.

## SPORT SHORTS

### Hall of Fame

The TU Athletic Hall of Fame will welcome four new members Oct. 16 at a dinner in the University Union during Homecoming weekend.

The 2009 inductees are Michael J. Bruno '76, soccer; Carrie A. Leger '96, gymnastics; Mark F. Orlando '95, football and Meilani M. Snellenberger '96, swimming and diving.

The Hall of Fame will also recognize the 1976 football team.

### For the Birds

The Baltimore Orioles signed two Tiger baseball players last spring.

Gary Helmick '09, a first team All-Colonial Athletic Association shortstop as a senior, joined the Bluefield Orioles of the Pioneer League.

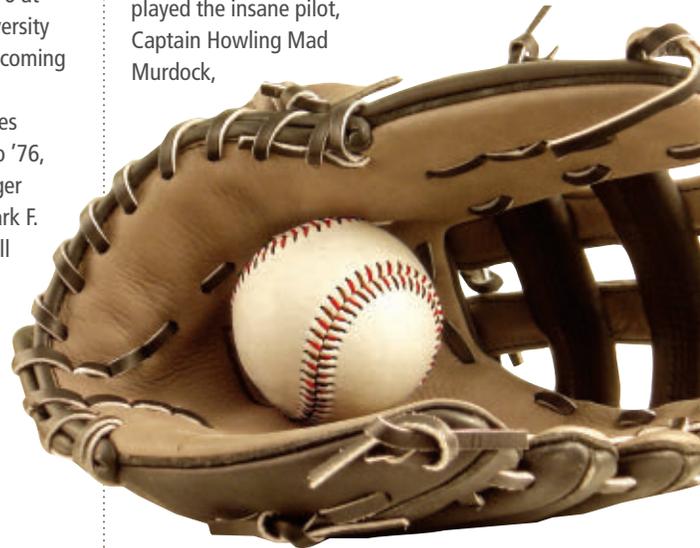
Jason Stiffler '09, a two-year starter at catcher, will play for the Aberdeen Ironbirds of the New York-Penn League.

## LOOK BACK

### Fame

It may not have been his plan, but it all came together for Dwight Schultz '69. First he starred in TU's theatre department productions such as the one pictured below where he plays Mick in a 1969 production of Harold Pinter's "The Caretaker."

Then in the 70s, Schultz played the insane pilot, Captain Howling Mad Murdock,



on "The A-Team." He was also in "Star Trek, the Next Generation."

Now fans may recognize his voiceovers in video



games and cartoons, including roles as Eddie the Squirrel on Nickelodeon's "CatDog" and Maechen in the Final Fantasy X-games.

## The Russians are Coming

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE TO PLAY PIVOTAL ROLE IN NEW RUSSIAN DRAMA PROJECT



Yuri Urnov will direct "Tanya – Tanya" this fall.

Nearly two decades have passed since the Cold War ended, yet cultural misunderstandings still cloud relations between Russia and the United States, says Yuri Urnov, Russian theatre director, educator and administrator. Urnov, who is coming to TU as a 2009-2010 Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, hopes his participation in the New Russian Drama Project will provide Americans with a clearer view of modern Russian society.

Spearheaded by TU associate professor Robyn Quick, and sponsored jointly by the Department of Theatre Arts and the Center for International Theatre Development (CITD), the New Russian Drama Project will introduce American audiences to the new wave of dramatic writing that has emerged in Russia over the past decade. Urnov and his Towson colleagues will translate and produce a selection of Russian plays depicting the social and political experiences of a generation of playwrights coming of age in post-Soviet Russia.

Three plays—*Tanya-Tanya* by Olga Mukhina, *Martial Arts* by Yury Klavdiev and *Frozen in Time* by Vyacheslav Durnenkov—will be full-scale productions. Other works will be staged in workshops and readings.

"The playwright's role became more important during these years," explains Urnov. "Soviet theatre very much avoided contemporary writing and produced almost exclusively a classic repertoire. In contrast, works by

Russia's new playwrights represent people living in a time of great changes. The topics they chose and even the language they use are very different from those before. These plays require a different approach to directing and acting."

Urnov first became acquainted with Towson in 2006 through TU's Philip Arnoult, founder and director of the CITD, who arranged an East Coast theatre and university tour. The following year, Urnov and the Department of Theatre Arts began developing a proposal for what became the New Russian Drama Project. From 2007 to 2009, Urnov taught directing and translation methods at TU.

He will continue to teach courses in dramaturgy and

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"Works by Russia's new playwrights represent people living in a time of great changes."

—Yuri Urnov

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acting this fall, but also plans to reach out to other departments during his Towson residency. "I've had great experiences interacting with the political science, language and film departments," he says. "I hope to continue those dialogues and to talk with more people at Towson, attracting their attention to contemporary Russia and its art."

Urnov sees his year at Towson as an opportunity to use theatre to break down long-held cultural barriers. "We make many decisions based on personal experiences and knowledge. [Russians and Americans] need to study each other more than we do now," he says.

"Otherwise, the myths of Russian bears and American burgers will prevent us from coming to a real and deep understanding of what is similar and what is different in our cultures."



David Bergman, professor of English, wrote a poem, "Death and the Young Man," which was set to music and premiered by mezzo-soprano Susan Graham at Carnegie Hall in May.

## What's New



### Top Scientist

John S. LaPolla, an assistant professor in TU's Department of Biological Sciences, won the 2009 Maryland Outstanding Young Scientist award. Sponsored by the Maryland Academy of Sciences, the award was established in 1959 to recognize and celebrate extraordinary contributions of young scientists in Maryland. La Polla, an entymologist, examines the complex evolutionary relationship between *Acropyga* ants and mealybugs. He is also completing a revision of a large genus with over 140 species of ants, including many species that invade crops. Defining these species will help produce biological methods that can control the pests rather than relying on chemicals.



### Jewish Studies

Last summer the programs of Baltimore Hebrew University, a 90-year-old institution of Jewish learning, became part of Towson University. The Master of Arts degree programs in Jewish studies and Jewish communal services will be housed under the College of Liberal Arts, while the master's in Jewish education will be offered through the College of Education. In addition to degree programs, the new arrangement will provide opportunities for non-degree-seeking students as part of life-long learning and continuing education programs. The academic programs began this fall.



### Music of Rio

Christina Magaldi, Department of Music, is TU's first recipient of a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The money took her to Rio de Janeiro for two months where she continued her research and writing of her book, *Sounds of Civilization and Progress: Music and Cosmopolitanism in Rio de Janeiro at the Turn of the 20th Century*. This is the second book for the specialist in Latin American music, music of the Americas and popular music. In 2005, her book *Music in Imperial Rio de Janeiro: European Culture in a Tropical Milieu* received the Robert Stevenson award from the American Musicological Society for the best publication on an Iberian topic.



### New Provost

Marcia G. Welsh became TU's provost and vice president for Academic Affairs in August. A former provost and senior vice president at Adelphi University, she earned a Ph.D. from the University of Texas, Health Science Center at San Antonio. Her extensive service record includes chair of the University of South Carolina (USC) Faculty Senate; faculty representative to the USC Board of Trustees; member of the Commission on the Status of Women; and member of the USC Faculty Legislative Liaison Committee. She was voted Teacher of the Year in the USC School of Medicine; received the Gender Equity Award from the American Medical Women's Association; and was selected one of Long Island's Top 50 Women in 2007.



You can follow all the news about Towson University on Twitter at [twitter.com/TowsonUNews](https://twitter.com/TowsonUNews).



# His Beautiful Balloon

Balloonist and entrepreneur Matt Lidinsky '08 has been flying high most of his life

By Jan Lucas • Photos by Kanji Takeno

A brief flight on an advertising balloon—an opportunity connected to his father's business—altered the course of Matt Lidinsky's life. "That was it," Lidinsky recalls. "I was hooked."

He was six years old.

From that day forward Lidinsky set his sights on becoming a hot-air balloonist. He helped other balloonists operating in the area and took lessons. At 14 he passed a written test to earn his student pilot license. By 16 he was a licensed private pilot, and at 18 he qualified for his commercial pilot license, which authorized him to charge passengers for rides.

Now a full-time MBA candidate at Towson, he's also the pilot-proprietor of Up Up Away, a Baldwin, Md.-based hot-air balloon company. Lidinsky is the brains behind the operation, but the undeniable beauty is "Windswept," an enormous red, white and blue balloon equipped with a propane burner and a wicker basket for the pilot and passengers.

Today, 18 years after his inaugural flight, Lidinsky retains a boyish enthusiasm for hot-air ballooning. "It's an amazing experience," he says. "You're not enclosed. It's quiet; there's no engine noise. And the views from 2,000 feet are spectacular."

Windswept's envelope, which is constructed of rip-stop nylon fabric, weighs in at about 250 pounds. When not in service, Lidinsky stores it in a bag kept in a 6-by-10 trailer emblazoned with the company name.

Up Up Away customers run the gamut, he says. Many are celebrating engagements, anniversaries or birthdays. For others, a balloon ride is a bucket-list item or just something they've always wanted to try.

Lidinsky says the flights—which are limited to no more than three passengers—typically last 45 minutes to an hour, though the entire experience takes three to four hours from start to finish. Up Up Away charges \$220 per person for its champagne flights and \$575 for a romantic flight for two.

**"It's an amazing experience. You're not enclosed. It's quiet; there's no engine noise."**

—Matt Lidinsky '08

Windswept launches from a site near Monkton, Md., or near Shewsbury, Pa., depending on wind direction. Time spent aloft is limited to Northern Baltimore County, because it offers more open space on which to land. Lidinsky says he often ends flights in open fields, though he's careful never to damage crops. He's also landed in residential neighborhoods, to the delight of all children and the vast majority of adults.

"Once in a while I meet people who aren't thrilled to see a balloon on their property, but 99 percent are excited," he says.

Lidinsky explains that the company truck tracks each flight to its eventual landing site. "From the moment the balloon touches down, it takes only another 30 minutes to pack up and leave."

Not surprisingly, Lidinsky says weather is the biggest factor affecting hot-air ballooning.

"I fly only when the wind speed is under 7 mph," he says. "During the summer, the possibility of pop-up thunderstorms means I have to watch the radar constantly." Fog is also an issue, since balloon pilots navigate visually.

"Precautions are an essential part of flying," Lidinsky emphasizes. "We're dealing with mother nature up there. We have to watch the sky, see what's coming and put the balloon down in time.

"Balloon accidents make headlines," he adds, "but in fact they're very rare."

Although he's unsure what he plans to do once he's earned his MBA, Lidinsky says he'll continue hot-air ballooning. "It's fun, and I've met a lot of nice people from all over the country." ■

**Jan Lucas is an associate director in University Relations.**

*To see a balloon ascent from start to finish, turn the page.*

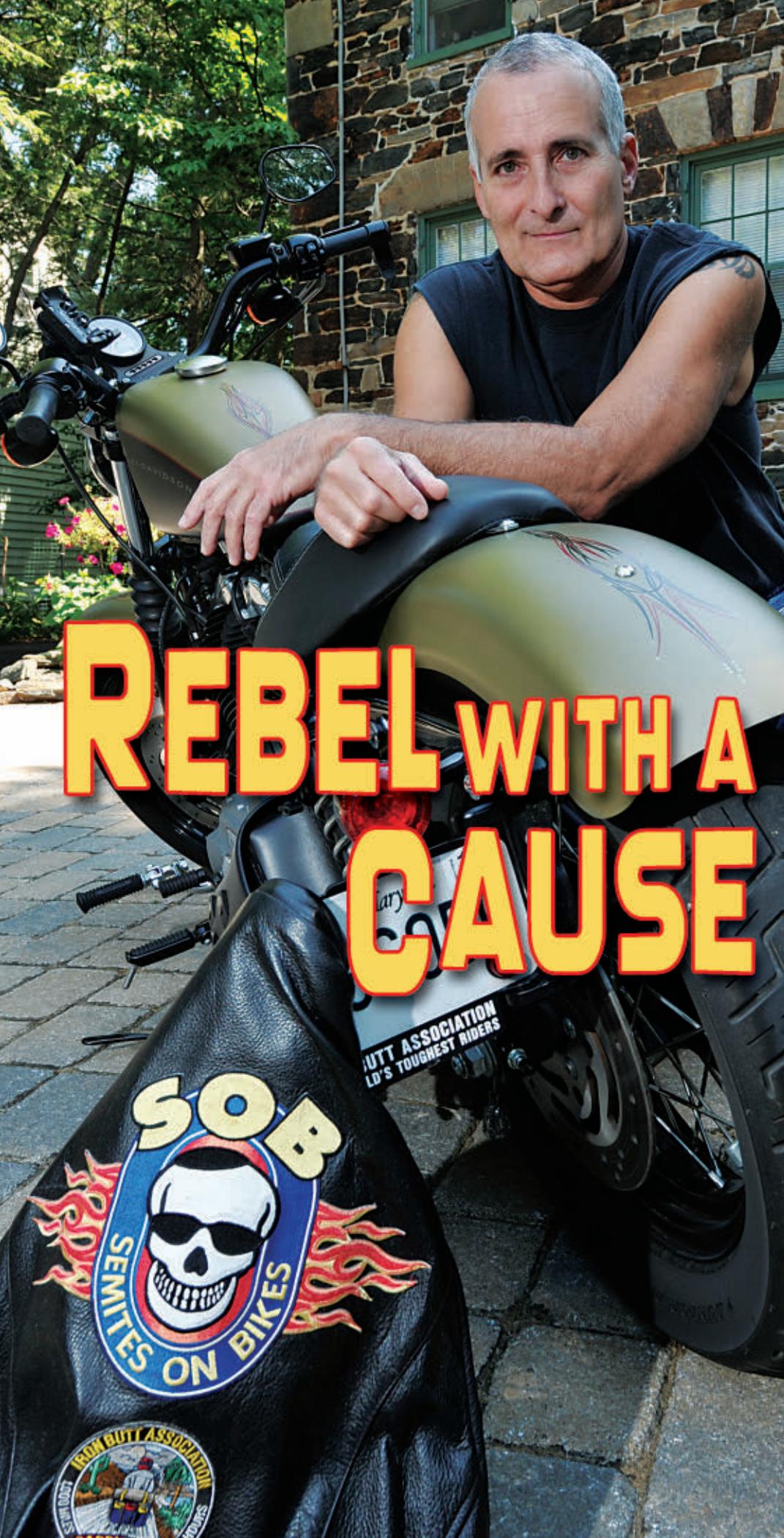
# Going Up

**Matt Lidinsky '08 brought his balloon to campus for a tethered ascent in front of Stephen's Hall last spring.**

1. From end to end, the red, white and blue balloon called Windswept measures 60 feet, roughly the height of a six-story building. Empty, the balloon envelope weighs 253 pounds.
2. After the 249-pound basket is attached to the balloon, a gas-powered fan blows air into the balloon for about 10 minutes to inflate it.
3. Bursts of propane gas cause the balloon to rise.
4. The balloon is fueled by two 18-gallon tanks of propane using a dual Aerostar Zone V burners with total output of 19.3 million BTUs an hour at 120 psi.
5. & 6. The balloon rises quickly giving Lidinsky (right) and a friend a bird's eye view of the lawn in front of Stephen's Hall.
7. What goes up must come down and be packed away. Volunteers walk the length of the balloon, squishing out the air.
8. The tank assembly is removed from the basket.
9. A critical mass forces out the remaining air so the balloon will fit in a carrying pouch.
10. Thirty minutes after landing, the balloon, basket and propane tanks are loaded into the truck, ready for the next launch. For more information, go to [MarylandBalloonFlights.com](http://MarylandBalloonFlights.com)







# REBEL WITH A CAUSE

## KEN SHAPIRO '75, FOUNDER OF SEMITES ON BIKES, BLENDS NONCONFORMITY WITH CHARITY

By Jan Lucas  
Photos by Desiree Stover

Asked to imagine a retired male kindergarten teacher, most of us would conjure the late Fred Rogers of “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” fame. Least likely to spring to mind would be Parkville, Md., resident Kenneth Shapiro, a rugged, tattooed man astride a Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

Shapiro, also known as King Ken, is a professed “nonstereotypical Jew” and the founder of Semites on Bikes (SOB), a motorcycle club for like-minded enthusiasts.

Shapiro has spent the better part of a lifetime playing against type. During his undergraduate days at Towson he was one of only two men majoring in early childhood education. After graduation he taught second grade at Deer Park Elementary School in Owings Mills, Md. A master’s degree in counseling from Johns Hopkins paved the way for a five-year stint as a school guidance counselor.

His career path took a sharp turn during the early ’90s when he was reprimanded for leading a movement to oust a controversial superintendent of schools. “The system decided that I had too much discretionary time on my hands,” he says dryly.

The sentence: reassignment to kindergarten teacher.

“They probably thought that putting a 40-year-old guy in charge of 4- and 5-year-olds would be humiliating,” he says. “I taught kindergarten at Deer Park for the next 15 years. It was the best job I ever had.”

As retirement loomed, Shapiro considered starting his own motorcycle club. He’d been riding since 1969 and had participated in some outings with a Washington, D.C., based Jewish motorcycle club called Hillel’s Angels. But it wasn’t a good fit, he says. “They didn’t ride on the Sabbath, and they ate only at kosher restaurants.”

In 2004 Shapiro launched Semites on Bikes, anointed himself King Ken, and proceeded to recruit other nonstereotypical Jews by placing an ad in the Motorcycles for Sale section of *The Baltimore Sun* classifieds. *Sun* columnist Kevin Cowherd spotted the ad and devoted a column to SOB, thus boosting interest in the fledgling club.

SOB now boasts about 40 active members, comprising both male and female bikers. (Although it remains predominantly Jewish, Shapiro says about a fifth of the members are non-Jews.) The club motto is “Eat to ride; Ride to eat.” Its emblem, a grinning, yarmulke-topped skull, is revered as “Skullberg.” (Shapiro even sports a Skullberg tattoo on one bicep.)

Membership qualifications are stringent, if tongue-in-cheek. The first criterion for SOB aspirants, Shapiro says, is to be “a ‘reasonable facsimile of a biker’ or RE-FOB.” Other qualifying traits—there are 14 in all—include “works with hands,” “lip syncs Kaddish at funerals,” “enlisted in the military,” “has a tattoo that won’t wash off” and “has been arrested at least once.”

“It also helps to be a right-wing conservative,” quips King Ken.

Club members meet for breakfast or to nosh at a favorite Hunt Valley, Md., restaurant. Official activities include monthly rides that culminate with meals (“Ride to eat”) as well as competitions, charity events and other group ventures.

They’ve encountered the merely curious (“What is a Semite?”) as well as members of outlaw motorcycle gangs who refer to themselves as “1 percenters.” (Ninety-nine percent of bikers are presumed to be law-abiding citizens.) Shapiro tells of a ride to Ocean City, Md., recalling his discomfort as he realized that a burley 1 percenter was staring at him. “This was one mean guy,” he says.

The biker finally ambled over and gestured toward Shapiro’s Skullberg patch. “Hey!” he barked. “What’s Semites on Bikes?” Shapiro shot back, “It’s Harley-Davidson spelled backward.” The 1 percenter pondered this news for a moment. “Cool, man,” he said.

Good guys 1, bad guys 0.

SOB’s penchant for good works may be one of the few areas in which its members conform to type. Two years ago, 31 participated in Dick Gelfman’s annual Ride Across Maryland and raised \$70,000 for breast cancer research. “We raised more than any of the other motorcycle clubs,” Shapiro notes with pride. “And some of the other clubs were much bigger.”

The following year Shapiro hatched a plan to help The Humane Society of Baltimore County, which was seeking donations to construct a special facility for cats. “The idea came from the movie, *Calendar Girls*,” he says, recounting the story of a



group of middle-aged Englishwomen who posed nude—tastefully, of course—for a calendar to fund cancer research.

Shapiro’s brainchild, the 2009 Cat House Calendar, showcased 12 unclothed SOB members in varying states of fitness, most atop their bikes and holding strategically placed felines. King Ken was Mr. January, his cat Bandit in his lap.

The club sold 800 calendars and raised \$16,000 for the Humane Society.

SOB intends to outdo itself with the 2010 calendar, this time to benefit Pet Rescue of Maryland. The no-kill organization doesn’t operate shelters, Shapiro explains. “It consists of about 70 volunteers who take dogs and cats that shelters would ordinarily euthanize. They foster them in their own homes and eventually place them with new owners,” he says. “They’re very discriminating in terms of whom they allow to adopt these pets.”

Proceeds from calendar sales will help offset Pet Rescue’s large veterinary bills, he adds.

The “PG-13 rated” SOB calendar features 11 male and two female models, each wearing nothing except the critter of his or her choice. Shapiro says this year’s menagerie includes not only cats and dogs, but also parakeets, a guinea pig in a motorcycle helmet and a goat.

A goat?

“One of the guys located a goat farm, knocked on the door to explain why he needed a goat, and asked to borrow one for the photo shoot,” he says.

“The farmer was OK with it.” ■

To order the 2010 Semites on Bikes calendar to benefit Pet Rescue of Maryland, go to [www.petrescueofmd.org](http://www.petrescueofmd.org).

Jan Lucas is an associate director in University Relations.



**THE ‘PG-13 RATED’  
SOB CALENDAR FEATURES  
11 MALE AND TWO FEMALE  
MODELS, EACH WEARING NOTHING  
EXCEPT THE CRITTER OF HIS OR HER CHOICE.**



# Analyze This

By Laura Lewis Brown ■ Photos by Kanji Takeno

*Theresa M. Long '80 directs the Maryland laboratories that evaluate fingerprints, DNA, firearms and other evidence to help bring the guilty to justice.*

**A**fter more than two decades of getting her hands dirty as a forensic chemist, Theresa M. Long '80 has a much cleaner, yet busier, job running the show at Maryland's crime labs.

As director of the Forensics Science Division of the Maryland State Police, Long oversees 82 employees in the full-service lab in Pikesville and two satellite labs in Berlin and Hagerstown. Unveiled in October 2006, the \$30 million Pikesville lab is a hub of scientific tests that aids police investigations and criminal prosecutions. Here technicians analyze DNA samples, controlled dangerous substances and toxicology samples. They identify firearms, tool marks and fingerprints, and examine other evidence from crime scenes. The lab is also a storehouse for evidence in open and cold cases with its Central Evidence Repository.

"Now that I'm a director, my job is mostly administrative and managerial," says Long, who misses sitting at a laboratory bench but welcomes the challenges of being in the director's chair. "It's quite a juggling act to make sure the staff has

the resources they need to do the job well.”

That juggling act involves working with state’s attorneys, judges, police detectives and investigators to make sure the lab completes analyses in time for court. The lab receives cases from 23 counties and Baltimore City, and submissions have increased significantly since it opened its doors.

In 2008, Long’s staff of state police crime scene technicians conducted more than 1,200 forensic investigations. The lab handled more than 20,650 criminal cases, including more than 650 DNA samples.

“It’s very exciting, the work we’re doing. We have a new fingerprint technology in place, and the latent print unit is making a lot of hits on cold cases,” Long says. The lab’s Automated Fingerprint Identification System can identify a crime scene fingerprint in seconds, if a known print is in the computer files. “Anything you can do to provide one piece of information to give a detective a new lead is rewarding,” she adds. “Above all, we get to help the community.”

A large part of her job is overseeing the state’s DNA database, which has expanded since 1994 when the state’s first DNA law went into effect. Modified in 1999, 2002 and earlier this year to include more criminals, the law now requires that each person charged with a crime of violence or burglary in the first, second or third degrees submit a DNA sample to Maryland’s DNA database. The lab must wait until there is an arraignment date to conduct the analysis; if the person is acquitted, his or her sample must be expunged.

“Once we collect the sample and run it, any unsolved crime in the database could be solved. If you make that link, then it could prevent future crimes,” says Long, who has years of experience in DNA analysis.

In 1988, she was selected to be a visiting scientist at the FBI’s training and research center in Quantico, Va. There she learned the latest DNA testing technology, then returned to Maryland to set up the first DNA analysis program at the state lab. Long also served as the liaison between local, state, and federal crime laboratories when the first DNA database law took effect.

With the implementation of a new DNA law, Long is busy making sure her staff has the resources to get the work done. She hired 10 more scientists and support staff

In 2008, the lab handled more than 20,650 criminal cases, including more than 650 DNA samples.

to help carry the load of increased DNA work, and she worked closely with the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention and other state agencies to establish protocols, training and collection procedures.

Despite the increased staff, forensic analysis doesn’t happen overnight, especially with a constant flow of samples to be tested.

“We are backlogged. Once the case gets in here, it’s averaging six months. Some cases are more complex than others. Sometimes we have to wait for reference samples,” she explains. “One of my jobs is to educate people about the time it takes, what the results mean, and explain the results to the jury in layman’s terms.”

It’s not as simple as what is presented on TV shows, Long says. “We have the CSI effect. Because of the popularity of forensics in general and on TV shows, judges and juries expect forensic analysis to be done in an hour with a commercial in between.”

The plus side of the CSI effect is that there are now more young scientists ready and trained to work in the field.

“Schools like Towson have opened programs, and we get to choose the best of the best,” Long says. “When we have job openings, we have such a great selection.”

While many people may imagine a DNA analyst works solely with a microscope and slides, Long explains that the job is much more complicated, requiring not only a strong scientific background but also excellent written and oral communication skills. A forensic chemist who works in the controlled dangerous substance unit may receive a batch of cases, take notes on the packages and what the materials look like (note taking must be very detailed because the case may not go to court for another five years), look at the sample under the microscope, perform screening tests and spectral analysis, type the report, give the case to another analyst for review before the report is released. In the meantime he or she fields calls from state’s attorneys, who are looking for results and trying to line up the scientist to appear in court as a witness. A forensic scientist also needs to be able to speak in court and present the evidence in a manner the jury can understand.

“Most people go into science because they are interested in the lab work,” Long says. “All your science skills cannot necessarily help you manage people. People who



want to move up in science should invest some time in personnel classes.”

Forensic scientists at the state lab normally train for six months before doing independent casework, and Long makes sure they give tours and presentations at the facility to practice talking to groups.

It’s hard work, but it’s also rewarding and even creative. “You get to use your creative side to try to figure out what piece of evidence might make the link between the suspect and the victim and the crime scene,” Long says. “You get to deal with different groups: police investigators who see things one way, state’s attorneys who see the legal side, and peers who see the science.”

While it can be difficult to see horrific images of victims of sexual offense and murder, Long says it’s about “just the facts.”

“We are scientists. You do get some of the storyline, but you’re not personally involved in the case,” she says. “Your job is to do a professional analysis and make the evidence tell the story.”

Just as a forensic chemistry can take weeks, months and even years to help solve a crime, Long’s climb to the top is the result of years of dedication and hard work. She has worked her way up the state police ladder over the years, holding the titles of forensic scientist, forensic chemist manager, assistant director, deputy director, acting director and director in January.

“I’ve been really fortunate in the opportunities I’ve gotten. I came in on the ground floor. I got a lot of opportunities to be trained. To come in the beginning of DNA technology was so exciting. It’s been very rewarding to help the lab grow and become what it is now,” she says.

Long first became interested in forensic science when she worked at her dad’s country grocery store in Waynesburg, Md.

“A state police crime scene tech would stop at the store and see me studying biology,” Long recalls. “He started talking up forensic science.”

As she headed toward graduating with honors from Towson with a biology degree, Long kept calling the state police once a week looking for a position. In the meantime she worked at the Johns Hopkins University biochemistry laboratory performing tests for a Ph.D. candidate, until she finally heard from the state police and started as a forensic chemist.

Since then she has continued her education, earning a master’s degree in biological sciences from the University of Maryland in 1993. A year later, she received a Governor’s Citation for her dedication, outstanding ability, professionalism and loyal service.

Outside the lab, science is still a big part of her life, although she enjoys taking a break at the beach or with her daughter’s activities. In 1993 she married a now-retired Maryland state trooper, who was a crime scene technician. They have a 14-year-old daughter who jokes that she lives in a “house of science.” Science is definitely in the genes, as she is focusing on environmental science.

As Long’s duties have shifted and expanded over the years, she looks forward to the future of forensic science and how it will change. She expects DNA technology to continue to evolve, likening it to computer software changing every year. While budget restraints make it harder to keep staff trained with new technologies, Long thrives in this challenging environment.

“I’ve been always challenged, always learning new things to expand the lab and help the lab. Before I was expanding my own horizons; now I’m working to expand the lab,” she says. ■

Laura Lewis Brown is a former University Relations editor.



Theresa Long, shown here and on page 14 in the Maryland State Police forensics lab in Pikesville, set up the state’s first DNA analysis program.

“Your job is to do a professional analysis and make the evidence tell the story of what happened.”

— Terry Long '80



# Not Just Bricks and Mortar



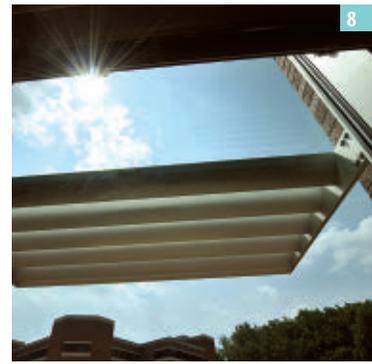
## Welcome to the new College of Liberal Arts Building, featuring innovation, technology and greenness

■ When classes began in August, there was a new building on campus—TU's first entirely new academic building in 30 years. The first phase of the College of Liberal Arts Building is a \$51.5 million, 100,000-square-foot techno-hub of learning with innovative use of interior spaces and green measures that should make it LEED silver certified in the near future. Women's studies, foreign languages, philosophy and psychology, with the exception of animal care facilities, moved in for the fall semester.



### ■ Phase Two

Phase Two is underway and slated for completion in fall 2011.



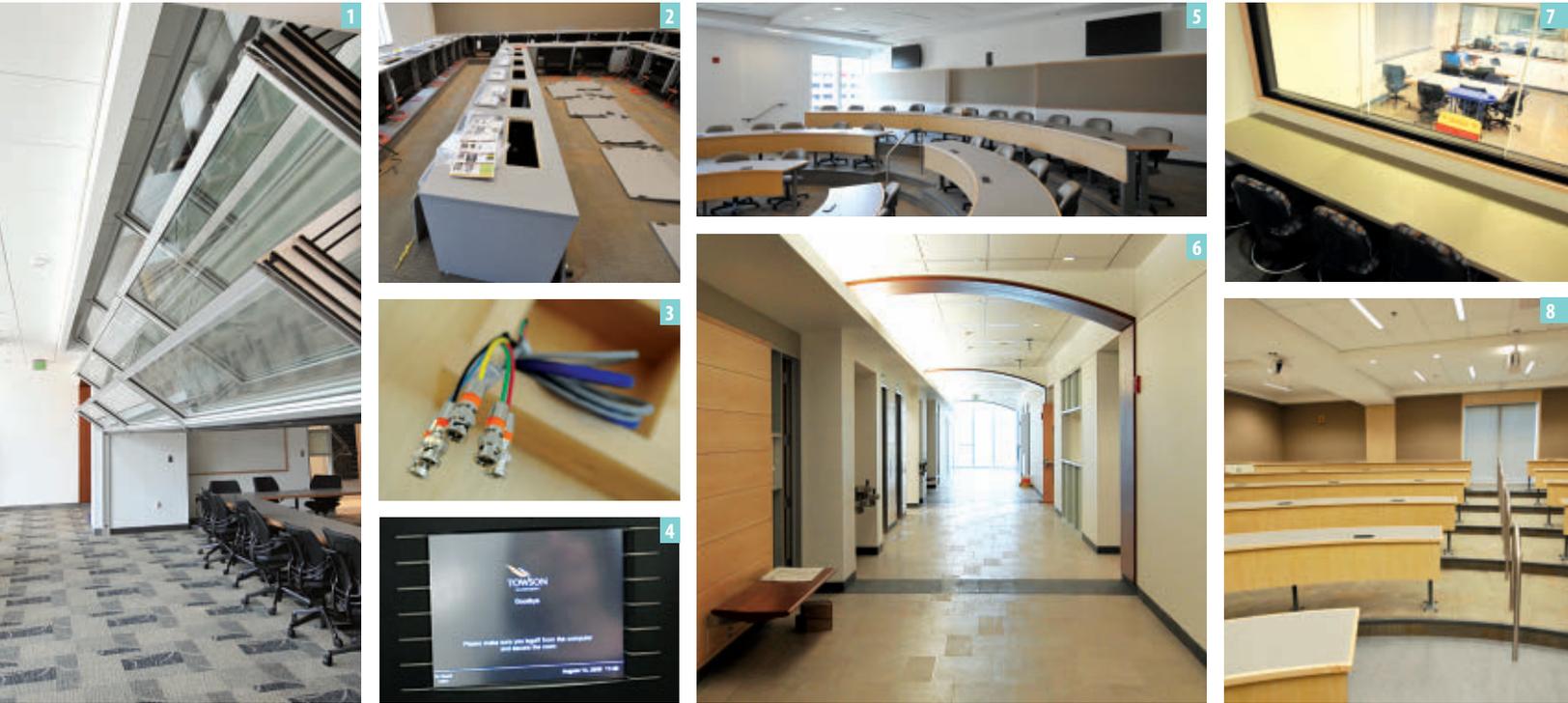
## ■ A Green Building

**1** Spillways transfer excess water from the roof into drains. **2** Carpet tiles, manufactured with 50 percent recycled materials, emit no harmful chemicals and can be easily replaced in high traffic areas. **3** Sensors control the amount of light in each room by monitoring not only daylight, but motion and carbon dioxide. **4** "Fritting" inside window panes filters out UV rays. **5** Countertops in bathrooms and on top of recycling bins are made with recycled glass. **6** Those who want to save gas by biking or walking to campus can shower in the basement locker room. **7** Up on the roof is mostly dirt, planted with rows of Stonecrop, a full-sun perennial that lessens the impact of runoff and insulates against the heat, keeping the building cooler in summer. **8** Ledges on the building's south side are angled to reflect the summer sun or let in more light during the winter.



### ■ Air Supply

Dyson hand dryers rapidly blow filtered air, drying hands in 12 seconds and using up to 80 percent less energy than other hand dryers.



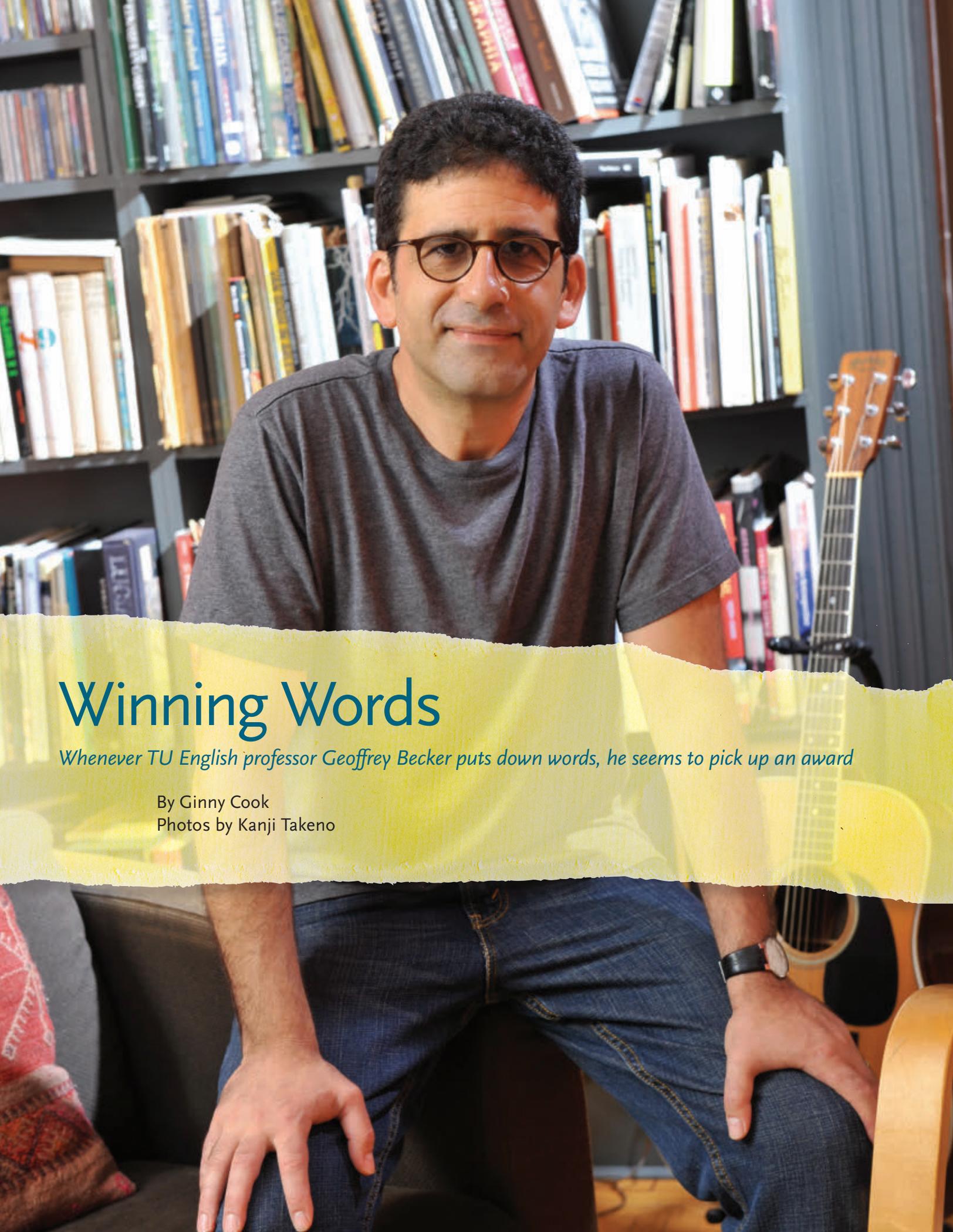
## ■ High Tech, Close Collaboration

**1** An “alternative learning space” is a shape-shifter that can be reconfigured with a sound-proof partition that turns a meeting place into classroom space at the flip of a switch. **2** With the push of a button, computer consoles in the Language Lab retreat below the desk surface to facilitate unobstructed, seminar-style discussions. **3** Space is wired for digital video cameras to archive the day’s lecture. **4** There’s cutting-edge technology in every corner—but it’s all controlled from a central, simple control on the professor’s podium. **5** A series of flat-screen TVs pipe in real-time images of students from satellite classes. **6** The building’s design increases chance encounters between professors and students. **7** Observation rooms fitted with two-way mirrors adjoin psychology classrooms for ongoing studies of children at play and aging-adult cognition to give students a front-row seat to research. **8** Unlike the traditional “sage on the stage,” with a professor at the head of the class, a collaborative design allows students to face each other while the professor roams a central aisle.



### ■ The Scoop

There’s something cool in TU’s Disordered Eating and Body Image Lab—freezers full of ice cream. One study, headed by lab director and Assistant Professor of Psychology Alix Timko, serves up gallons of the frozen confection in an investigation of adult eating habits.

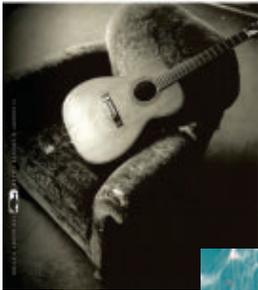
A man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a grey t-shirt and blue jeans, is sitting in a chair. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. Behind him are several shelves filled with books. To his right, the neck and head of an acoustic guitar are visible. A yellow, torn-edge paper banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the title and author information.

# Winning Words

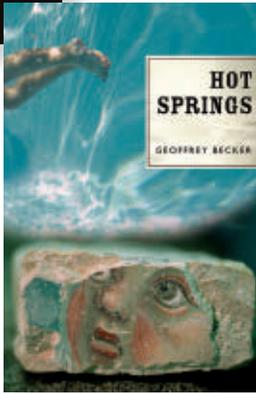
*Whenever TU English professor Geoffrey Becker puts down words, he seems to pick up an award*

By Ginny Cook

Photos by Kanji Takeno



Becker's *Black Elvis*, which comes out in October, won last year's Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction. His novel *Hot Springs*, due out in February, earned him the \$15,000 Parthenon Prize.



"You can't just wait for inspiration. You must show up to write like you would for any job."

—Geoffrey Becker

You could write a book about how Geoffrey Becker, TU English professor and director of the graduate program in professional writing, became an author.

First, there is the precocious kid who reads Dickens. Then comes the guitar-playing college graduate who seeks his musical fortune in New York City clubs and on the streets of Europe.

He works a string of odd jobs—waiter, tax preparer, record seller—goes to graduate school and then lands in academia. There are papers—the ones he must grade, the manuscripts he writes, the rejection slips that come in the mail.

But don't forget the chapter that covers his awards for books and short stories, because he has won many.

Becker's most recent honors are the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction and the Parthenon Prize, both awarded in 2008.

The Flannery O'Connor Award, established in 1983, is "a showcase for the talent and promise that have brought about a resurgence in the short story as a genre," according to the contest's Web site. The annual competition attracts as many as 300 manuscripts.

Becker won with *Black Elvis*, a collection of short stories he says "I had been putting together for 10 years." He received \$1,000 and a publishing contract. The book comes out in October.

His novel *Hot Springs* brought him the second-ever Parthenon Prize. Begun in 2007 by John Spence, a Nashville, Tenn., businessman, the national contest aims "to find and publish excellent literature."

The prize comes with \$15,000, which Becker accepted, and a publishing offer, which he declined because he soon found a more favorable deal with Tin House Books, which will publish the book next February.

*Hot Springs* the novel sprang from one of Becker's short stories of the same name. And for a time it languished.

"My agent had been sending the manuscript around but hadn't found a publisher," Becker says. "So I found out about the Parthenon contest and thought,

'Why not enter?'"

Why not, indeed.

Some 40 judges read through the submissions and in the end selected as the winner what Becker describes as his "somewhat comic, messed up love story of a woman who had given up her baby for adoption." Four years later she has second thoughts and plots to kidnap the child, aided by a live-in lover who never really believes she is serious until he finds himself helping her commit the crime.

"It's fast moving with a sense of danger, and characters I think are interesting and psychologically complex," Becker adds.

When he flew to Nashville last October to accept the award, Becker was somewhat surprised and overwhelmed by the number of entrants. "I entered a room which was piled high with the manuscripts," he says. "Mine was short," he laughs, "300 pages."

While the volume of new works may have amazed him, Becker is no stranger to producing words that win awards. Here are just a few he has won: 2002 and 2004 Maryland State Arts Council Fiction Award; Best American Short Stories 2000 selection judged by E.L. Doctorow; and the Great Lakes Colleges New Writers Award for Best First Book of Fiction in 1996.

## Snow days

His path to literary glory may well have begun on a ski slope.

A music major at Colby College in Maine, Becker wanted nothing more than to ski during the winter break of his sophomore year. With the resourceful eye of an 18-year-old, he found a creative writing course offered during the college's minimester that fit perfectly into his plans.

"I only had to meet with the professor once a week and turn out two stories," he says. That syllabus left him with plenty of time to do what he really wanted—schuss down the slopes.

Becker, however, found a few surprises at the end of the run—compliments from his teacher and a newfound passion for writing. He soon switched his major to English, enrolled in creative writing classes in his junior and senior years and, he says, "got serious."



Becker, who played in a college band and toured through Europe as a street musician, says music came before words.

“One always responds to what one admires in other’s work.”

—Geoffrey Becker



A short story, “Big Grey,” about human and canine misfits, was inspired by Becker’s late-night walks with his dog in a Brooklyn, N.Y., park during the 1980s.

It wasn’t that much of a stretch given another lifelong hobby—reading.

“As a kid, I read voraciously,” he says. “I read Dickens when I was 9, although I’m sure I didn’t get much out of it.” He also devoured books by Ian Fleming, J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis.

Later his tastes turned to books by Philip Roth, Stuart Dybek, Flannery O’Connor, Denis Johnson and others. He also mentions the influence of his late friend and colleague, Fred Busch, an author who gained critical though not popular acclaim. His “poetic novels and stories delved into the seemingly unspectacular but ultimately profound experiences of people and families grappling with existential crises,” wrote *The New York Times* in Busch’s 2006 obituary.

Writers such as these helped nurture Becker’s imagination. “One always responds to what one admires in other’s work,” he notes. He also finds inspiration and story ideas from news stories that “have an emotional connection that I could transplant to a character.”

Some stories are “vaguely autobiographical,” he says. Take, for example, “Big Grey,” published in *Dangerous Men*, Becker’s 1995 collection, which won the Dru Heinz Literature Prize. A tale of human and canine misfits, “Big Grey’s” genesis came from Becker’s late night, lonely walks with his dog through Brooklyn’s Prospect Park in the late ’80s. “A pack of stray dogs roamed there,” Becker says. “One—the alpha male—even had a busted paw like the one in the story.”

But even with an idea, the words don’t just flow on to the paper or computer monitor. Writing requires “creating a regular routine for yourself,” Becker says. “You can’t just wait for inspiration. You must show up to write like you would for any job.”

It’s advice he gives to students when he appears in the classroom to teach aspiring writers.

He says anyone can learn some aspects of the craft, such as writing descriptions or dialogue, “but you can’t teach imagination.”

And some students are writing-challenged, having grown up with television and movies as their sole story diet. “They don’t know how to write with a point of view,” Becker explains. “They have only seen stories presented visually.”

During his 22 years teaching, Becker has encountered many talented writers, including TU students and, at Colorado College, Kai Hart-Hemmings, who went on to write two books of fiction, *House of Thieves* and *The Descendants*, as well as book reviews for *The New York Times*. “She was extremely promising. There was no question she would become a published author,” he says.

## End notes

This summer Becker is reviewing editor’s notes on *Hot Springs* and making final revisions before the book goes to press. But he always finds time for other notes—the musical ones.

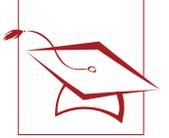
He says music came before words. He played guitar in a college band, Pearl, and after graduation moved to New York City, strumming bluegrass and performing with bands at The Lone Star Café, O’Lunney’s Country Music City and the Eagle Tavern.

He even toured through Europe as a street musician. He never got his musical break, but he did get story ideas from his travels, he says.

Becker still picks up the guitar. He played for the audience in Nashville after receiving the Parthenon Award.

And at a recent Colby College reunion, he reunited with band members from Pearl for a one-night gig. “There were six of us,” he says. “We had three quick rehearsals and gave a show. The music was so good that people from other reunion years were sneaking in to hear us.” ■

Ginny Cook is the editor of *Towson*.



from the



## alumni president

Engagement has become a popular buzzword in many types of organizations—and for good reason. Whether you are a major corporation or a small non-profit, it's more important than ever that your stakeholders feel involved in and dedicated to your mission.

It's no different at Towson University. Over the past several years, we've worked hard to create an environment that promotes engagement among our students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Last year alone, nearly 5,000 alumni participated in events sponsored by the Alumni Association. This year, we are again offering a variety of ways to reconnect with your alma mater.

On Nov. 4, in partnership with the TU Career Center and Berkshire Marriott, the Alumni Association will host a career fair, packed with networking and educational opportunities to help you make your next professional move. In addition, we're hosting a wine tasting in September, planning a fantastic Homecoming Festival in October, and getting ready to cheer on Towson's marching band when they perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. We'll also be traveling to special alumni events in Atlanta and Florida.

You can also engage with Towson by giving back. One way to do this is by attending the Sept. 10 fundraiser for Honor Elizabeth Wainio '95, who was killed Sept. 11 on Flight 93. The event will be held at the Ropewalk Tavern in Federal Hill. Part of the proceeds support a scholarship for a student majoring in mass communication.

I hope to see you soon,

*Kim Fabian*

Kim Fabian '88  
President  
Towson University Alumni Association

## Alumni Events

### Alumni Career Connections Wednesday, November 4, 2009

**2:30–5:30 p.m.** Job fair hosted by the Towson University Career Center  
**5:30–8:30 p.m.** Alumni Career Connections event

- Resume and cover letter review
- Interview tips and preparation skills
- Create your LinkedIn profile
- Network with fellow alumni
- Career presentations and roundtable discussion groups
- Learn about job searches in a down economy

All alumni are welcome to participate in this exciting career resource event.



### We Have Not Forgotten

Honor Elizabeth Wainio '95 Scholarship Fundraiser  
Thursday, September 10, 2009  
Ropewalk a Federal Hill Tavern, 6-8 p.m.  
\$50 per person; \$35 is a tax deductible contribution



### Wine Tasting with a Twist

Friday, September 25, 2009  
Basignani Winery, 6-9 p.m.  
\$30 per person

### Atlanta Alumni Reception

Tuesday, October 13, 2009  
Capital City Club, 6-8 p.m.

For more details, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800-887-8152 or [alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu). To RSVP, go to [www.tutigertracks.com](http://www.tutigertracks.com).

## Support the TU Marching Band at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Go to [www.towson.edu/bands/alumni](http://www.towson.edu/bands/alumni) for more information.



## Celebrating

### Oak Crest and Charlestown Luncheon >

Nearly 50 alumni and guests gathered at the retirement community of Oak Crest March 17, 2009 for an annual luncheon. Gary Rubin '69, vice president of University Advancement and Ray Lorian, dean of the College of Education delivered campus news, while alumni told stories about their experiences at Towson.



### Reunion Brunch >

Alumni from the classes of 1940-1958 celebrated at a luncheon on May 1, 2009. An archives display with yearbooks, photos and the *Towerlight* from those years was available for review. Kim Fabian '88, president of the Alumni Association, reviewed the changes on campus before alumni took a tour to get a look at what's new since their last visit to TU.



- 1 Ruth and James '50 Wetzel
- 2 Irma Seitz, Alvin Pasquinelli '56 and Deane Cody '52
- 3 Teresa Bosco '38 and Louise Fitzell '38
- 4 Eugene '59 and Charlotte Langbehn and Gary Rubin '69
- 5 Members of the Class of 1945
- 6 Tess Paros '51 and Patricia Edwards '51



## Golden Years



### < 50 Years Later

The class of 1959 gathered on May 2, 2009 to celebrate their 50-year graduation milestone. The group spent the weekend partying with alumni and friends at Towson University and then extended the good times by taking a trip to Ocean City, Md. Classmates Mike Devita and David King presented wonderful memories from Towson State Teachers College. The weekend was filled with music, laughter, good food and great company.

- 1 Herb Lang, Marcia Storm Lang '59 and Myra Harris '59
- 2 Ray Davis, Jr. '61, Jean Rogers Davis '59 and Dave King '59
- 3 Classmates, Charmagne Kessler Holt, Carole Brydon Patschke and Dorothy Dunn Deluca
- 4 Margaret Powers '59 and Edith Jackson Fafard '59
- 5 Members of the Class of 1959 posed for a class photo on the steps of the Auburn House.
- 6 Earl Myers '59, Barbara '59 and John Huesman



# WILD WITH PRIDE

## HOMECOMING 2009

TOWSON UNIVERSITY

### Office of Alumni Relations

800-887-8152 • 410-704-2234  
alumni@towson.edu  
8000 York Road • Towson, MD  
[www.tutigertracks.com](http://www.tutigertracks.com)

### October 12, 13 & 14

#### Homecoming Blood Drive 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Oct. 12, 13 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., Oct. 14

Potomac Lounge, University Union  
Alumni are welcome to donate blood. Visitor parking and metered spots are available in Lot 11 next to the Union Parking Garage.

### Thursday, October 15

#### Volunteer Recognition Reception 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Auburn House Pavilion  
The Towson University Alumni Association is proud to honor their most outstanding alumni, faculty and staff volunteers. Recipients of the Alumni Association Scholarship and Grant program will also be recognized at the reception. Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800-887-8152 or [alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu) for more information.

#### Spirit of the University Award Daniel J. McCarthy '75/'83

#### Alumni Volunteer Staff Service Award Louise Shulack

#### Alumni Association Volunteer Service Award Barbara Eckley '77

#### Alumni Volunteer Faculty Service Award James Anthony

#### University Alumni Volunteer Service Award Janet Kines '80

#### Alumni Volunteer Athletic Service Award Tony Seaman

### Friday, October 16

#### Millennium Reunion 7 – 9:30 p.m.

Classes of 2000-2009  
Charles Village Pub  
The TU Alumni Association says, "Welcome back." Reconnect, network and enjoy the kickoff to Homecoming weekend with entertainment, food and a cash bar. RSVP online at [www.tutigertracks.com](http://www.tutigertracks.com), on the Alumni Association Facebook page, by calling 800-887-8152 or e-mailing [alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu).

#### Golf Outing for Alumni and Friends 9 a.m. – Continental breakfast

10 a.m. – tee off; 18-hole scramble  
Chestnut Ridge Country Club, Lutherville  
\$150 per person includes ticket to the TU-Delaware football game. For reservations, contact golf coach Brian Yaniger at 410-704-3578 by October 5, 2009. All proceeds go to the TU men's and women's golf programs.

*Format: 2 low nets / foursome individual best score (gross) will determine the 2009 Tiger Golf Alumni Champion*

#### Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Dinner

6 p.m. – cocktails  
7 p.m. – dinner  
Chesapeake Room, University Union  
\$75 per person

#### Come celebrate the 2009 inductees:

Michael J. Bruno '76, soccer  
Carrie A. Leger '96, gymnastics  
Mark F. Orlando '95, football  
Meilani M. Snellenberger '96, swimming and diving

The accomplishments of the 1976 football team will also be recognized.

For more information or to R.S.V.P., contact the Athletics Office at 410-704-3284.

### Saturday, October 17

#### Alumni Homecoming Festival & Reunion Row

Noon – 7 p.m.  
Sponsored by **GEICO**  
Burdick Field

Alumni get "Wild with Pride" at the fifth annual Alumni Homecoming Festival. Get ready to celebrate Homecoming with fellow alumni, friends and family for a day of food, fun and more.

For detailed information on alumni and student events, please visit:

[www.towson.edu/homecoming](http://www.towson.edu/homecoming)



### Festival Highlights

- Fun, family atmosphere with games for kids
- Reunion Row tents available (see below for more information)
- Stop by the Alumni Association tent for goodies and a chance to enter the alumni raffle
- Campus tours
- Watch TU's championship dance team
- Hear the TU Marching Band
- Free food at the GEICO hospitality tent with expanded family picnic area
- Free shuttle to Unitas Stadium for the Homecoming football game

### How do I make a Reunion Row reservation?

Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu) or 800-887-8152 for a reservation form or print the form at [www.towson.edu/homecoming](http://www.towson.edu/homecoming).

### What is Reunion Row?

Reunion Row is an opportunity for you to plan a mini-reunion of fellow alumni and friends at the Alumni Homecoming Festival. Groups range from five people to 200 people and can be informal or organized gatherings. Last year 38 alumni groups participated in Reunion Row. With nearly 2,500 alumni and friends attending the Alumni Homecoming Festival and Reunion Row, you'll be sure to see someone you know.

### What does a Reunion Row Reservation include?

- one 10x10 canopy tent on Burdick Field
- two six-foot tables
- Sign for your tent
- Access to festival entertainment, games and food
- Parking permits
- Optional grill rental available

### What is the cost?

**\$100 per tent**

**\$80 per grill** (includes 5-foot grill with charcoal and lighter fluid)

### What can I bring?

Outside food and beverages are permitted. You may bring your own grill. No one under the age of 21 will be admitted without parent or guardian. No drinking games permitted.

*Be sure to get your TU alumni gear at the University Store in the University Union*

#### University Store Hours:

Friday, October 16: 8:30 a.m.–5p.m.

Saturday, October 17: 11 a.m.–7p.m.

### Marching Band Tailgate

The TU Marching Band invites alumni from the band to parking lot 21 (near the Towson Center) for a cookout before the Homecoming football game.

For more information please contact Jackie Blinke at [TUMBAlumni@gmail.com](mailto:TUMBAlumni@gmail.com) or visit the Marching Band Web site at <http://www.towson.edu/bands/alumni/>.

### Homecoming Football Game

**3:30 p.m.**

#### Towson University Tigers vs. University of Delaware

Johnny Unitas® Stadium

**Tickets can be purchased through the Athletics Box Office at 410-704-2244**

For more information on Tiger football or other Tiger teams go to [www.towsontigers.com](http://www.towsontigers.com).

### Nancy Romita

**25 Years of Moving at TU  
4 p.m .and 7:30 p.m.**

Center for the Arts, Dance Studio Theater

Nancy Wanich Romita celebrates 25 years with TU as her artistic home. This performance is a retrospective of her unique blend of humor and humanism through dance. Each dance will be performed by alumni and area dance companies. All proceeds will benefit the TU Dance Department Endowment.

For information go to [www.towson.edu/artscalendar](http://www.towson.edu/artscalendar) or call 410-704-2787.

## Sunday, October 18

### Classical Music Benefit for The Center for Adults with Autism

**2 p.m. – Reception and silent auction**

**3 p.m. – Welcome and concert**

Center for the Arts,  
Harold J. Kaplan Concert Hall

**\$100** – adults, premiere seating

**\$50** – adults, general seating

**\$15** – TU students/children

Enjoy an afternoon with music by pianist Reynaldo Reyes, violinist Zoltan Szabo and vocalist Monica Szabo. Presented by the College of Health Professions to benefit TU's Center for Adults with Autism.

To order tickets call 410-704-3375 or visit [www.tutigertracks.com/autismevent](http://www.tutigertracks.com/autismevent)

### Hotel Rooms

#### Burkshire Marriott Conference Hotel

10 West Burke Avenue • 800-435-5986

A block of rooms has been reserved for October 16 and 17, 2009. To receive the block rate, please make your reservation no later than September 18, 2009 indicating you are part of the "Alumni Homecoming Room Block". The special block rate is \$129 plus tax for a one-bedroom suite and \$159 plus tax for a two-bedroom suite.

For a list of additional area hotels, go to [www.towson.edu/homecoming/accommodations.asp](http://www.towson.edu/homecoming/accommodations.asp).



## Awards Banquet



### Distinguished Alumni and Dean's Recognition Awards Banquet >

Seven alumni were honored for their outstanding achievements at the annual awards banquet.

### Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Gary T. Gill '74



**College of Business and Economics**  
Vincent Talbert '90



**College of Education**  
James B. Binko '59



**College of Fine Arts and Communication**  
Dianne Benson '68



**College of Health Professions**  
Carmen E. Aldinger '96



**College of Liberal Arts**  
Richard F. Blue, Jr. '78

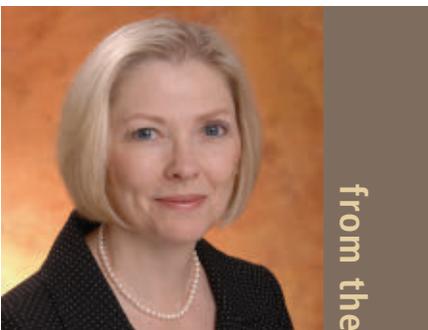


**Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics**  
Linda R. Wilbanks '73



# Growing a university

THE CAMPAIGN FOR TOWSON



from the

## campaign chair

Towson donors are inspiring. Despite the economic realities that all of us are facing, many individuals and organizations continue to make Towson University a priority. While our students have never been more challenged to come up with funds for their education, you contributed more than \$2.5 million in scholarship support. The need for funding academic and community programs with long-term economic and social impact is ongoing; you answered the call with more than \$4 million in contributions.

With your help, we continue to make great headway toward our seven-year campaign goal of \$50 million. With two years remaining, we have already reached 76 percent of our goal. The immediate impact of what has been raised to date—from STEM scholarships to visiting artists—is outstanding, and it energizes us to know how much more can be accomplished with your generosity.

On behalf of the campaign committee, the TU Foundation, the development office and the university, thank you. Thank you for picking up the phone to a TU student caller, for opening that envelope, for making your gift online. Large or small, your gift is having an impact; you are making a difference.

*Molly Shock*

Molly Shock '75  
Campaign Chair  
Growing a University—  
The Campaign for Towson

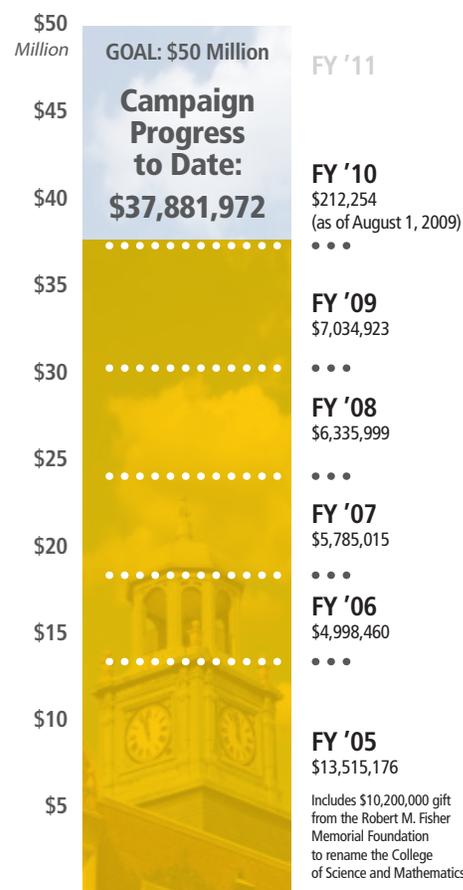
## Giving Highlights

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REACHES \$37.8 MILLION

The university has reached historic levels of philanthropy, thanks to the great generosity of individuals and organizations choosing to support Towson scholarships, academic and athletic programs, and more. Even in this difficult economic period, Towson donors stepped forward to provide crucial support to keep our students achieving. Thank you for your gift in 2009.

Following are just a few highlights of the 2009 fiscal year (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009).

- Towson has raised a record-breaking \$37.8 million toward the \$50 million capital campaign goal.
- Total contributions from alumni, faculty, staff, parents, friends, corporations and foundations totaled more than \$7 million, a 9.5 percent increase over the previous year.
- Three \$1 million gifts were received this year, two for scholarships for Towson students coming from Baltimore high schools and one to establish an endowment for the Osher Lifelong Learning Center.
- The numbers of donors who gave online increased 14 percent.
- Of the nearly 12,000 donors this fiscal year, more than 4,500 were TU alumni.
- Membership in the Tower Light Society increased by 6 percent as more of you added the Towson University Foundation as a beneficiary of your estate plans.



## First Hackerman Scholarships Awarded

A \$1 MILLION GIFT ALLOWS BALTIMORE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE GRADUATES TO ATTEND TU TUITION-FREE



Willard Hackerman

The first recipients of the Hackerman Presidential Polytechnic Scholarship are attending TU this fall, thanks to the generosity of Willard Hackerman.

Hackerman, a 1935 graduate of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and president of the Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, recently gave \$1 million to Towson

for scholarships to enable qualifying Poly graduates to attend the university tuition-free. He designated his gift to benefit Poly graduates who intend to enroll in a major in the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics at Towson. Selection will be based on financial need and academic achievement.

This gift continues Hackerman's support and long standing interest in science and technology. He previously contributed \$1 million to establish the Willard Hackerman Academy of Mathematics and Science at Towson University.

"It is critical that we attract more students into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) majors and prepare teachers who will be energized to teach in area schools in these much-needed disciplines," Hackerman says about his most recent philanthropy. "Poly graduates are especially well-suited to meet these needs, and it is my wish to give them the opportunity to develop their gifts at Towson University."

Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, established in 1883, is a co-ed college preparatory school emphasizing science, technology, engineering

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"Poly graduates are especially well-suited to meet these needs, and it is my wish to give them the opportunity to develop their gifts at Towson University."

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and mathematics. The first students to receive this scholarship began classes this fall. One intends to major in biology, while the other is planning to pursue computer science.

Both were excited to begin their collegiate careers at Towson. "It was an honor attending Poly, and I believe that Towson University will have the same impact on me," says one of the recipients. "I hope to make Towson University—and Mr. Hackerman—proud."

Polytechnic Institute director Barney J. Wilson says, "Mr. Hackerman believes in the potential of our young people and has a strong tradition of supporting them financially and spiritually. His actions speak to who he is and where his heart is. We are truly honored that he is a graduate of the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute."

### THE ANNUAL REPORT IS GOING ONLINE

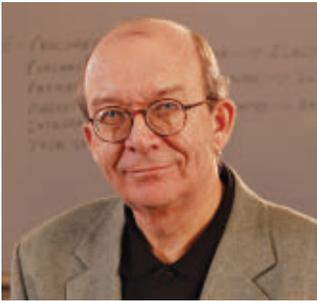
Towson is committed to being a good steward of university resources and natural resources. To this end, the 2009 annual report of donors soon will be in a new online format on the Towson University Web site. Look for your name among those who have led the way in supporting Towson with contributions for students and programs.

If you have questions or comments about this initiative, e-mail [sarehart@towson.edu](mailto:sarehart@towson.edu) or call 410-704-3425 to speak to Shannon Arehart, manager of stewardship programs and donor relations.

**Thank you for your gift.**

## The Jazzman

BILL MURRAY '08 HELPS BRING ARTISTS TO CAMPUS



Bill Murray '08

Bill Murray '08 has always been drawn to jazz. His mother, a music teacher, taught him piano, and by age five his fingers were plying the ivories. By the time he was in eighth grade, Murray was performing in dance bands. Though he went

on to pursue an education and successful career in business, he never lost his love for music.

As his retirement neared, Murray decided to pursue his passion at Towson University. Murray auditioned, was accepted to Towson's respected jazz program in 2002 and received his undergraduate degree in May 2008.

Over time, Murray, who is a director on the Towson University Foundation Board, and his wife Helen became interested in finding ways to assist the mission of the jazz program. "It is what we do," Bill Murray explains. "It is in our nature to look for ways to help." Murray has a particular interest in kick-starting vital projects with the necessary funding. According to Dave Ballou, director of TU's jazz and commercial studies division in the Department of Music, there is a great need for talented musicians to mentor TU students.

With Ballou's guidance, the Murrays created a visiting jazz artist endowment in 2004 that allows guest artists to come to campus to teach and perform. In 2008, the Murrays established a fund to start a jazz artist residency. The fund supports visiting musicians who can spend more time on campus conducting master classes, mentoring jazz students and participating in performances with both students and faculty.

The Bill and Helen Murray Jazz Residency Program brought its first artist to campus last fall—Drew Gress '81, a double bassist and award-winning composer.

"There is no substitute for collaborating with and hearing firsthand stories of these artists. Bill Murray is a great friend to the university and a great musician, and I'm grateful that he made a vision we've had into reality," says Ballou.

## Remembering LeAnn Foster '05

ENDOWMENT CREATED FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS IN PSYCHOLOGY



Anita LeAnn Foster '05

LeAnn Foster '05 had just embarked on a career she loved when cancer overtook her. Her parents, Marvin and Shirley Foster, are celebrating LeAnn's life and spirit by establishing an endowment in her name. The Anita LeAnn Foster Graduate Psychology Endowment will provide scholarships, research and teaching-assistant stipends to Towson

University students who are pursuing graduate degrees in psychology and intending to work in the mental health field.

Foster received her undergraduate degree from Radford University in Virginia in 1994 and an M.A. in psychology from TU in 2005. She was licensed as a counseling psychologist in Maryland later that year and employed as a mental health therapist in Baltimore.

Foster was diagnosed with breast cancer in March of 2006. She fought a courageous 18-month battle, through which her family lovingly cites her inexhaustible positive attitude and humor in the face of pain. She died on June 20, 2007, at the age of 35.

"Mr. and Mrs. Foster have chosen a strikingly appropriate way to honor their daughter and the positive experience she had as a graduate student in psychology at Towson," says Terry Cooney, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "Their gift establishes an ongoing means of assisting other students with a passion for helping others and keeps LeAnn's spirit alive within the psychology programs."



### THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our friends who make Towson University a philanthropic priority each year. To make your gift for 2009-2010, contact the Development Office at 1-866-301-3375 or visit [www.towson.edu/supportTU](http://www.towson.edu/supportTU).

## TU Rolls Out Golden Tiger Society

CONSECUTIVE ANNUAL DONORS RECOGNIZED



Cristen Grich '02 has contributed to TU each year since her graduation.

While there are many wonderful donors who have a long history of giving to TU, there is a special group who has never missed a chance to contribute.

More than 1,500 alumni,

parents, faculty, staff and friends were recognized in the rollout of the Golden Tiger Society, which honors those who have made contributions of any size to Towson annually for five or more consecutive fiscal years. These individuals continue to make the university a philanthropic priority year after year through their annual gift, even through the ups and downs of a challenging economy. Their commitment is vital to the university's students and programs.

"Donors who have achieved the Golden Tiger Society are committed to the future of Towson," says TU President Robert L. Caret. "I am grateful that we have such loyal partners in our endeavors."

Cristen Grich '02, a teacher in the Harford County Public School System, has been contributing since her graduation. "Each year I give to help support the university that gave me so much. Towson afforded me fabulous experiences and prepared me for my journey as an elementary school teacher," says Grich. "I can honestly say that Towson enabled me to become a responsible and successful adult."

**“Giving to Towson at the Founders Society level allows me to honor an important milestone in my career.”**

Mike Donahue '74 was ready for an academic challenge when he entered Towson after serving two years of active duty in the Navy. He quickly found what he needed for a successful business career.

"My TU experience was the initial trigger that got me motivated and focused. It gave me the skills and knowledge that helped lay the foundation for my career in finance," he says.

Donahue now finds that giving to CBE's Scholarship Fund at a Founders Society level is a meaningful way to help other students enjoy the same experience he did. The Founders Society, the leadership recognition program at Towson, welcomes new members annually.

"I give because I see an immediate result of giving. It's rewarding to see the profound impact my gift has on a program or a student's ability to complete a degree," he says.

Join Mike in the Founders Society and watch your gift enhance opportunities for our students today and tomorrow.

For more information, contact Wendy Neuman, director of the Founders Society, at 410-704-3375 or [founders@towson.edu](mailto:founders@towson.edu).

[www.towson.edu/founders](http://www.towson.edu/founders)



## In Memoriam

### Alumni

<b>Harrison A. Axelrad '97</b> August 21, 1997	<b>Thomas K. Czawlytko '84</b> April 26, 2009
<b>Ethel B. Weber '48</b> June 23, 2002	<b>Joseph P. Gutkoska '56</b> April 28, 2009
<b>Robert K. Dietz '70</b> November 7, 2004	<b>Michael L. Donaldson '95</b> April 30, 2009
<b>Joseph A. Morton '68</b> March 25, 2005	<b>Sharon W. Berkemeier '89</b> May 6, 2009
<b>Debra T. Morici '87</b> October 10, 2006	<b>Marty Hyatt '91</b> May 7, 2009
<b>Elizabeth G. Chalson '74</b> March 6, 2007	<b>Joseph H. Beaver Jr. '53</b> May 8, 2009
<b>Brenda J. Nesselroad '73</b> May 11, 2007	<b>Helen W. Norfolk '48</b> May 10, 2009
<b>Ann S. Zimmer '60</b> June 29, 2007	<b>Jonie Marilyn Lehmann '03</b> May 14, 2009
<b>J. Jacqueline Waryasz '60</b> September 6, 2007	<b>William P. White '92</b> May 17, 2009
<b>Louis Truskowski '59</b> July 21, 2008	<b>Esther L. Lang '40</b> May 29, 2009
<b>James S. Edelen '74</b> August 18, 2008	<b>Francis L. Hartman '66</b> June 6, 2009
<b>Morton D. Weiner '42</b> October 2, 2008	<b>Lois Stalling Appel '78</b> June 14, 2009
<b>Hirsch C. Ribakow '84</b> October 29, 2008	<b>Edward J. Novak '78</b> June 14, 2009
<b>Lloyd Y. Nyamekye '88</b> December 8, 2008	<b>Jacob Epstein '35</b> June 18, 2009
<b>Mary K. Weiss '31</b> April 2, 2009	<b>Jonathan Harding '01</b> June 19, 2009
<b>Bertha C. Flom '31</b> April 3, 2009	<b>William C. Kiszner '85</b> June 19, 2009
<b>Mildred C. Nicodemus '44</b> April 11, 2009	<b>Geraldine M. Heiss '46</b> June 20, 2009
<b>John D. Costlow '48</b> April 12, 2009	<b>Mary B. Frantz '63</b> June 21, 2009
<b>Veronica Y. Altenburg '91</b> April 14, 2009	<b>Estelle W. Bell '43</b> June 22, 2009
<b>Charles B. Schorr '71</b> April 17, 2009	<b>Evelyn Ernst Hughes '41</b> June 23, 2009
<b>Dane P. Kornick '69</b> April 20, 2009	

## Attention English Majors

The English department has posted a survey for graduates who majored in English. You can voice your opinions about the major, the courses you took and the professors who taught them. Your input will help improve the program.

Visit [www.towson.edu/english/documents/GradQuestionnaire.pdf](http://www.towson.edu/english/documents/GradQuestionnaire.pdf). There is also a link to it on the English department home page, [www.towson.edu/english](http://www.towson.edu/english).

## Before the 1960s

**James A. Addy '55 EDUC** was re-elected to a fifth two-year term as mayor of Harpers Ferry, W.Va. He ran unopposed.

## 1960s

**Sherman Silverman '63**, a geography professor at Prince George's Community College for 41 years, has a strong interest in the historical geography of North America. He has published numerous works, including two textbook editions, three workbook editions as well as journal and encyclopedia articles. Silverman received the Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award given by the National Council for Geographic Education in 1993 and the Distinguished Scholar Award presented by the Pennsylvania Geographical Society in 2001.

**Richard Sours '63** and **Charlotte Murphy Sours '64** are retiring from their respective careers as educators. Charlotte taught elementary and middle school students, and later, college students. Richard taught mathematics and computer science before becoming an administrator. He was the executive vice president and dean of Ferrum College, and most recently, was the president of William Penn University. They live at Smith Mountain Lake near Roanoke, Va.

**Prudence M. Walz '65 ELED** retired after 30 years of teaching in public elementary schools in Kentucky, West Virginia and Maryland. She and her husband of 45 years have three grown children, each with Master of Arts degrees. Two of their children are pursuing their doctoral degrees.

**Walt Bockmiller '67** retired from Volusia County Leisure Services after 21 years as recreation manager-deputy director, and facilities and operations manager. He was a city manager for two years in Florida and had a long career as director of Recreation and Parks for Carroll County, Md., Rockville, Md. and Ocean Pines, Md. Bockmiller is married with three daughters and three grandchildren.

**Cheryl C. Aydelotte '69 BIOL**, who retired from the Baltimore County Public School System in July after working for 40 years as a teacher, is looking forward to traveling in the off-season.

**John Edward Roach '69/'77 M.Ed.** was inducted into the Poly Alumni Hall of Fame by the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute Alumni Association on April 21. During his 23 years on Poly's faculty, he taught chemistry, served on many school committees, sponsored various clubs, served as president of the student activity board and was producer for the Poly Follies.

## 1970s

**Tobias Stanislas Haller '71 FREN**, a vicar at St. James Church Fordham in New York, had his book, *Reasonable and Holy: Engaging Same-Sexuality*, published by Seabury Books.

**Marguerite C. Hall '72 ELED** celebrated her 90th birthday in December 2008 with a surprise party thrown by her two sons.

**Barry W. Thomas '72**, dean of Strayer University in Owings Mills, Md., received an award at a recent management retreat. The Owings Mills campus was recognized as the Outstanding Mature Campus of 2009.

**Jeffrey Jones '73** has five grandchildren: two grandsons and three granddaughters.



Marguerite C. Hall '72 celebrated her 90th birthday in December with a surprise party thrown by her two sons.

**Bill Owings '73 ENGL/EDUC** and his wife, Leslie Kaplan, published their ninth book, *American Education: Building a Common Foundation*.

**Beth Wiseman '74** received an Advocate of the Year award from Jim Smith, Baltimore County executive, for her work advocating for senior citizen issues.

**Jeffrey Riddle '75 BUAD** retired after 35 years in the food industry, having worked for Borden Foods, Quaker Oats and ConAgra Foods throughout his career. His oldest daughter works in advertising in Virginia and his youngest daughter began medical school in Arizona this fall. He lives in Venice, Fla.

**Albert F. Kelly '76** retired in 2008 after eight seasons coaching Charlotte Catholic High School's lacrosse team in Charlotte, N.C. He and his wife, Terese, recently moved to Jacksonville, Fla., and welcomed their second grandchild, Sawyer Jon, on Feb. 24.

**Eve Golden '79 THEA** will have her seventh book, *Bride of Golden Images*, published in December, which is a sequel to her 2000 work, *Golden Images*, a collection of her magazine and newspaper articles on film stars of the 1930s through the 1960s.

**Marty Piepoli '79** is a health care regulatory consultant in South Carolina. He and his wife, Patty, recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. They have two sons, one graduating from college and one who will be beginning college.

**Jan Strevig '79**, an instrumental music teacher at Westowne Elementary School in Catonsville, Md., performed at Carnegie Hall on June 6 with her vocal sextet, the CUMCwhats. They were one of 24 groups accepted from the United States and Canada to perform as a mass choir to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Shawnee Press.

## 1980s

**Ellery Eskelin '81 MUSC** announces the release of *One Great Night...Live*. He and his band recorded the new CD during a performance

at TU last spring. "The acoustics of Towson's concert hall are fantastic and the band was firing on all cylinders," he writes. "And as fortune would have it, there was an aspiring sound engineer on the premises who seized the opportunity and captured the whole event."

**Marge Steele '82 BUAD** became TU's assistant athletics director for athletic corporate sales. She brings an extensive background in corporate marketing from jobs at PHH Corporation, MCI WorldCom and MCI Telecommunications, Inc.

**R. Duane Cespedes, M.D. '85 BIOL**, a urologist, was hired by Johns Hopkins Bayview as a specialist at the Johns Hopkins Women's Center for Pelvic Health.

**Jonathan R. Flora '85** was made a partner in the tax & wealth management department of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis in Philadelphia.

**Hope Tarr '86 PSYC** will have her 12th novel released by Harlequin Enterprises in December. *Twelve Nights* is a Christmas historical romance.

**Michele Forney '88/'04 M.S.** has been a media specialist at High Bridge Elementary School in Bowie, Md. for four years. She is also president of the Maryland Association of School Librarians, a state organization with more than 500 members.

**Patricia Mager '89 ACCT**, president of the accounting and management firm WHBG, Inc. was elected treasurer of the Maryland Society of Accountants. She is pursuing her master's degree in finance and accounting at the University of Maryland.

## 1990s

**Chris Devlin '90 CCMM** played Johnny in *A Hatful of Rain*, at the Skylight Theatre in Los Angeles last summer.

**Glen Caple '91** entered the U.S. Navy in January 1993 and two years later was designated a naval aviator. For the next seven years, he traveled all over the world, visiting many different places, including Puerto Rico, Curacao, Norway, Denmark and Tunisia.

**Laurie Hennessey Manfreda '91 ELED** and her husband, Matt, welcomed their first child, James Patrick, on April 25. James weighed 8 pounds, 2.5 ounces.

**Steven Kazlowski '92**, a wildlife photographer, displayed his work in the new GHG Photos exhibit, "Visualizing Climate Change," at the Henry Gregg Gallery in Brooklyn, N.Y. His museum exhibit, "The Last Polar Bear: Facing the Truth of a Warming World," will be on display at the University of Alaska's Museum of the North in Fairbanks until October. Kazlowski was a guest speaker aboard the Prince Albert II on a trip exploring Norway's arctic.

**Delana M. Lantz '92 EDUC**, who danced the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy before going to college, has worked as a model and makeup artist for 20 years and is hoping to start dancing again.

**Jonathan Oleisky '92**, CEO of Media 924, wondered how many phone calls to the front desk it takes to get a light bulb changed in his hotel room. After two days of unsuccessful entreaties, he Twittered the question. The light bulb was replaced that day. *USA Today* picked up the Tweet and put his story on one of its blogs.

**Hemal Shah '94** earned a master's degree in aging studies from the College of Notre Dame in May 2003, and has been a medical technologist working at Johns Hopkins Hospital for 15 years. Shah has traveled to Europe, Mexico, India, Canada and the Caribbean.

**Mark '95 ECON** and **Ricci '94 MCOM Koenig** welcomed their son, Ashton Lane, on April 13.

**Robyn Columbo Locker '95 MCOM** and her husband, Erich, welcomed Wyatt Robert on April 21. Wyatt joins older brother, Ryan, 2.

**Anthony J. Castro '96**, a clinical psychologist who treats children, adolescents and adults, is the author of *Creating Space for Happiness: The Secret of Giving Room*, a self-help book "that can improve lives and relationships." He also frequently speaks to parents, colleagues and teachers in the St. Louis, Mo., area.

**Timothy V. Martin '96** and **Amy Purdum Martin '99** welcomed Alyssa Katherine on Aug. 18, 2008. Alyssa joins sister, Kaylee. Tim has been a senior financial analyst at Greater Baltimore Medical Center in Towson since March 2008.

**Kimberly MacKerron Clemens '98 MCOM/'00 ISTC** and her husband, Dan, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Katelyn Grace, on March 9, 2008. Katelyn joins big brother, Luke Daniel, 4.

**Benjamin Schmitt '98** and **Melissa Wickerson Schmitt '98** welcomed Jackson Charles on Jan. 14, who joins big sister, Jessica Kathleen. Benjamin was one of only 25 teachers nationwide to receive a grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities for a UMass Dartmouth summer program, Maritime America in the Age of Winslow.

**Frank Damian Altuna '99** is pursuing his law degree at Universidad Central de Venezuela.

**Kimberly McNair '99** was appointed to the 2009 Board of Examiners for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, a prestigious award presented to U.S. organizations for performance excellence.

## 2000s

**Tim Bibo '00** and his wife, Kristen, welcomed Anna Lindgren on March 7. She weighed 5 pounds, 15 ounces and was 18.75 inches long.

**Erin Kimes '00 HIST** and **Kim Bauguess '01 KNES** welcomed Jonathan Daniel on Dec. 9, 2008. Jonathan joins big brother, Jake, 4.

**Matt Monius '00** and **Gina Rosenberger '00** were finalists in a television dream-wedding contest hosted by "The Young and the Restless."

**Tracy L. Steedman '00**, an attorney with Niles, Barton & Wilmer, LLP, was designated as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional by the U.S. Green Building Council.

**Thomas J. Giordano Jr. '01** was elected to the board of directors of the Epilepsy Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania. He is the head of the Social Security Disability Department at the law firm of Martin, Banks, Pond, Lehocky & Wilson and has been honored as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer Rising Star in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

**Amber Rathgeber Mentz '01 MCOM** and her husband, Gerry, welcomed Grace Elizabeth on Feb. 16. Grace joins big brother, Carsyn, 3.

**Jennifer N. Albano '02** earned her doctorate in pharmacology from Temple University School of Medicine in September 2008. She is a pharmacologist/reviewer with the Food and Drug Administration in the Office of Generic Drugs in Rockville, Md.

**Rachel DiCarlo Curry '02 ENGL** is a speechwriter for Arizona Sen. Jon Kyl.

**Jeffrey Folk '02 BUAD** and **Brandi Frazee Folk '02 OCHT** have two children—Timothy, born Jan. 1, 2007, and Madison, born May 11, 2009. The family lives in the mountains in Garrett County, Md.

**Yi Ma '02 ACCT** was promoted to advanced senior accountant at Stoy, Malone & Co., P.C., a regional accounting and business-consulting firm.

**Marcia Grieb Fellows '03 CCMM** married Jonathan Fellows on Nov. 8, 2008.



R. Duane Cespedes, '85 BIOL is a urologist at Johns Hopkins Bayview.

## Send Us Your News

What's new? Your friends from college want to know. Please send news about your personal and professional life to Class Notes, Alumni Relations, Towson University, 8000 York Rd., Towson, MD 21252-0001 or e-mail alumni@towson.edu. Because of production schedules, your news may not appear in the magazine you receive immediately after submitting an item.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_ Name at Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Address (if address is new) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Here's my news (please use a separate sheet of paper if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

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## Pet Project

### Pamela Spear '00 M.S., OTR

#### Helping people cope when their pets die

Pamela Spear '00 M.S. understands the pain of losing a furry friend. When her beloved tabby cat, Sonny, died in 2006, she suffered a wrenching grief but soon discovered there was little emotional support for herself or other pet owners who had lost their companions.

Spear, a self-described "pet parent," soon turned her experience into a private practice, *Not Just a Pet: Pet Loss and Bereavement Support Services*.

Now in its second year, Spear says the practice has helped many grieving pet owners, often referred by local veterinarians, animal hospitals and pet crematory facilities.

"The emotional, psychological and physiological responses that clients have when a pet dies are much like those experienced at the death of a family member or close friend," she says. "It is no surprise that the grief and bereavement processes are similar and that the special human-animal bond must be accorded the same respect."

Spear, who began her career in occupational therapy in 2001, is also a certified grief counselor and trained as a professional pet bereavement counselor with the Association of for Pet Loss and Bereavement in New York City. She offers a range of grief counseling services either at her office in Crofton, Md., or at clients' homes "where they may feel more comfortable expressing their feelings," she says. She will also accompany pets and people to veterinary offices for hospital procedures including euthanasia.

Although Spear and her family have since welcomed two new cats into their home, she never considers them to be Sonny's "replacements."

"Everyone copes differently with the loss of a pet," she says. "I sometimes advise my clients to heed the words of Dr. Seuss: 'Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.'"

—Melissa Kviz



Randall Cooper '09, a biology major and co-captain of the Tiger men's lacrosse team, received an NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship.

**Jean Fiumara '03 M.Ed.** published *Never Too Busy for a Hug*, which provides uplifting thoughts about being a parent. Fiumara is in her seventh year as a teacher at Friends School of Baltimore.

**Danielle Mallon '03 FMST** and her husband, Tim, celebrated the birth of Kimberly Susan, on May 26, who weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces. She joins big brother, Timothy.

**Allyson M. Wynn '03** earned a master's degree in teaching-special education from Goucher College in May. She was also inducted into Pi Lambda Theta, a national honor society for educators.

**Katie Lauren Macken '04 BIOL** graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, Dental School and is completing one year of residency at Danbury Hospital in Connecticut.

**Jason McDuffie '04** earned the Microsoft Certified Desktop Support Technician credential.

**Eric Rhew '05**, athletic media relations assistant director at TU, was cited by the College Sports Information Directors of America for excellence. He wrote and edited the men's lacrosse guide, which took second place, and the women's lacrosse guide, which took third place.

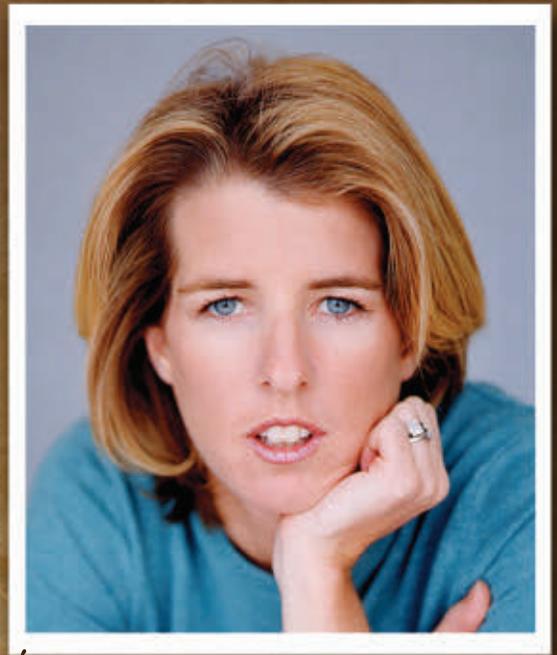
**Julie Erin Stull '07**, who does audio, camera and graphics work for QVC, married Benjamin Stull, a registered nurse, on July 19.

**Kim Cherry '09 M.S.** is the executive director of the Mathematics and Science Teacher Institute at Xavier University of Louisiana.

**Randall Cooper '09**, co-captain of the Tiger men's lacrosse team, received an NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship. The scholarships are awarded to student-athletes who excel academically and athletically and who are in their final year of intercollegiate athletics competition. A biology major with a 3.85 GPA, Cooper started 16 of 17 games for the Tigers, is a seven-time Dean's List honoree and received the Joseph Ferrante Memorial Scholarship Award last year.



**RORY KENNEDY**  
 FATHER ROBERT F. KENNEDY  
 MOTHER ETHEL KENNEDY

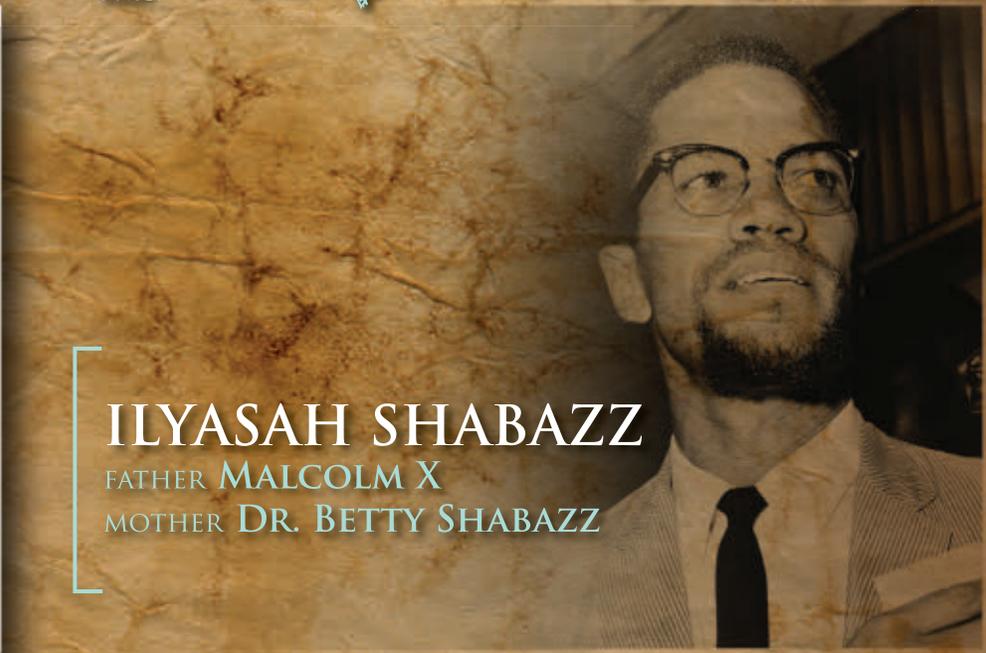


*Daughters of the Promise*

# IN OUR OWN VOICE



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7:00 PM • FREE ADMISSION • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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# WILD WITH PRIDE

HOMECOMING 2009



## Alumni Homecoming Festival & Reunion Row

Saturday, October 17, 2009 • Burdick Field, Noon – 7 p.m.

Enjoy games, music, food and activities for children.

## Towson Tigers vs. University of Delaware

Kickoff: 3:30 p.m. • Uinitas Stadium

**Reunion Row:** Do you have a group of TU friends and classmates coming back for homecoming? Reserve a tent for your group at the festival. Call the Alumni Office for more details.

For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations, 800-887-8152 or [alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu).

Detailed information inside, pages 26–27.

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