

TU RIGHTS A WRONG

May 23, 1951

Because of your present advanced stage of pregnancy, I am confident that you have no serious intentions of attempting to participate in the academic processions at Baccalaureate and Commencement. You must realize that such participation would be most unwise from several points of view.



The Plot Thickens

The corn was still green in early August when Jeffrey Bothe, an Honors College student, tended TU's vegetable garden. Bothe, graduate student Liz Schatz and faculty members Ben Warner and Shaun Johnson developed the 1,000-square-foot plot of TU land as a community agriculture project maintained by volunteers. The produce was donated to the Assistance Center of Towson Churches.

FEATURES

MAKING WAVES 8

CAA standout Aaron Krause '05 finds success in and out of the pool.

JUSTICE AT LAST 12

Forced to graduate in absentia, a 1951 alumna takes center stage at commencement 59 years later.

AMAZING JOURNEYS 14

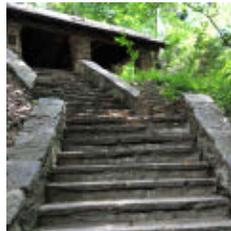
Faced with remarkable hardships, three Towson University graduates have responded with equally remarkable spirit.

FIGURE 8s 18

Natalie Terry Estelle '01, founder and executive director of Figure Skating in the City, teaches the sport—and much more—to low-income Baltimore girls.

FIVE EASY PIECES 20

Some last words on teaching, university life and what lies ahead from John Connolly, Paul Douglas, Edwin Duncan, Clarinda Harriss and Jan Wilkatz, five English professors who retired last spring.



DEPARTMENTS

PRESIDENT'S LETTER 2

NEWS AND NOTES 3

ALUMNI NEWS 25

Visit the Tents at Home Football Games
Reunions
Distinguished Awardees
Homecoming Schedules

PHILANTHROPY MATTERS 33

Challenge Grant
What's in a Club

CLASS NOTES 37

Computer Guru
The Sisterhood
Whatever It Takes



“ For fall 2010, nearly 16,000 students applied for 2,450 freshman seats. ”

Like the mercury rising with the summer heat, Towson University is turning up the dial of activity this fall in every corner of the campus and beyond.

The Princeton Review just named Towson University to its 2011 list of “Best Northeastern Colleges,” continuing the soaring demand and value of a Towson degree. For fall 2010, nearly 16,000 students applied for 2,450 freshman seats. We also saw a 20 percent increase in transfer applications.

The frenzy of campus construction is making long-admired renderings realities. A newly completed grand staircase connects the Lecture Hall Plaza to the College of Liberal Arts walkway. Builders also accelerated construction on two projects west of Osler Drive—West Village Housing Phase II and the West Village Commons.

Beyond campus borders, the 228-acre Field Station in Monkton, Md., is now a haven for hands-on research and field studies for students and faculty and a new Towson University classroom building at Harford County Community College is planned. This new facility brings a physical presence to the academic programs we have long provided in Harford County.

Last spring we concluded our strategic plan for the past decade, Towson University 2010: Mapping the Future. Based on an annual grading system, the campus earned an impressive “A-” and completed 86 action items. Now we know there is more work to accomplish. Faculty, staff, alumni and partners engaged in roundtable discussions on which avenues of opportunities Towson should pursue in the future, and I revealed the university’s new strategic direction at my annual Fall Address.

With more than 21,000 students, 3,000 employees and thousands of visitors on campus, Towson University is a town in itself, guaranteed to be bustling with activity this fall.

Bob Caret

President, Towson University

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Robert L. Caret
President

Gary N. Rubin
Vice President, University Advancement

Ginny Cook
Editor

Lori Armstrong
Associate Vice President, Alumni Relations

Lori Marchetti
Art Director/Designer

Kanji Takeno
Staff Photographer

Assistant Photographer
Desirée Stover

Designers
David Counts, Pat Dideriksen, Kathy Malanowski, Rick Pallansch and Eleni Swengler

Contributors
Shannon Arehart, Daniel Fox, Emily Koch, Melissa Kviz and Jan Lucas

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

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Going Up

TU CLIMBING GYM OFFERS ADVENTURE, EDUCATION FOR FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS



Each of the wall's 35 climbing routes ranges in difficulty from beginner to expert.

It looks easy enough. A hand here, a foot there, and pretty soon I'd be Spidermaning my way to the ceiling. "Yup," I thought, "I'll be up in the rafters in no time. No instruction necessary." And if it weren't for a couple nagging laws of physics, that would have been true.

However, I quickly learned that climbing is all about technique, more brains and balance than brute and brawn. Surely this information would have served me better while I was still on the ground, rather than dangling 20 feet above it, but this was, after all, a learning experience.

The TU climbing gym—known on campus as the Peregrine's Nest—is a series of 33-foot, simulated rock faces located in Burdick Hall.

"I quickly learned that climbing is all about technique, more brains and balance than brute and brawn."

—Dan Fox

It's managed by Adventure Pursuits, the branch of Campus Recreation Services charged with bringing the great outdoors to the TU campus, from climbing to kayaking to bike tours to backpacking.

Each of the wall's 35 climbing routes is unique and ranges in difficulty from beginner to expert. The routes are changed frequently to provide a constant challenge to climbers and magazine writers alike.

"I plan out the moves I want the climber to make based on the difficulty of the course," explains Brian Ricketts, coordinator of Adventure Pursuits and the man responsible for my vertical adversity. "I visualize the climb from start to finish. Creating a route is like creating art—like choreographing a dance."

A dance? OK, I think I understand why I'm having trouble with it.

My lack of coordination aside, Ricketts knows his stuff. The Peregrine's Nest saw more than 12,000 climbers last year and continues to attract ever-increasing numbers. The wall is on par with other professional-grade climbing gyms in the area, but one thing sets it apart: It offers a true educational experience.

"We're all about experiential learning here," says Ricketts. "You can come in, and we'll give you a harness, tie you in and belay you." (For those who don't know, as I didn't, belay is another word for 'tie a rope around you so you don't hurt yourself while acting out childhood superhero fantasies.')

"But if you want to learn," Ricketts continues, "we'll show you everything you need to

know so you can do this all on your own."

So with some helpful pointers from the student staff, and some not-so-helpful snickering from my photographer, by the end of my session I was shooting up the wall quicker than greased lightning. Not unlike a certain costumed crime-fighter, I might add.

Students, faculty and staff can use the climbing gym—and any of the fitness facilities at Burdick Hall—completely free of charge. Alumni are welcome for a reasonable annual gym fee. For complete information, visit www.towson.edu/campusrec.

When he's not climbing the walls, Dan Fox is a senior editor in University Relations.

TU IS TOPS

The university gets high marks from three national publications

- **The U.S. News and World Report 2011 America's Best Colleges** guide ranks Towson University tenth in the public Regional Universities (North) category, placing it among the best of the 46 institutions surveyed.
- Towson is one of 100 "Best College Buys" in America, according to a website feature released by *Forbes*, publisher of a national bi-weekly magazine and other business media.
- TU is also one of 218 institutions *The Princeton Review* recommends in the "Best in the Northeast" section of its recently posted website feature, "2011 Best Colleges: Region by Region." It also features Towson in its book, *The Best Northeastern Colleges: 2011 Edition*.

TOWSON—the alumni magazine—now delivered online. Please visit www.towsonalumnimagazine.com

3 NOTEBOOK

Mighty 'mites



Each year, termites cause millions of dollars worth of damage to homes and buildings in the United States and around the world. Fortunately, a team of TU student researchers is working to learn more about the tiny insects... at the molecular level.

Frank Lay, an undergraduate biology major, works with graduate students Diandra Denier and Casey Hamilton under the supervision of Mark Bulmer, assistant professor of biology, to probe deeper into the termites' inner workings.

genetic makeup and run experiments to see if different types of fungus or sugars weaken their immune systems or if the

“The more we know about termites, the easier it will be to help control them.”

—Frank Lay

proteins they make naturally offer them additional protection.”

Although the lab focuses primarily on termites, research is also conducted on other social insects such as carpenter ants and wood roaches.

“There are always new things to find and learn about,” says Lay. “Continuing to research allows us to get our ideas out into the public, which could lead to even more ideas and innovations.”

had found it on the ground and called TU.

Adams' name was etched inside the ring, so TU staff could reunite a grateful graduate with her school ring.

“What are the odds?” says Adams. “It’s undamaged and still fits, even after all this time.”

0:9 SPORT SHORTS

Making the Grades

Student-athletes at Towson University compiled an impressive 3.023 cumulative grade point average during the spring 2010 semester, bettering the 3.00 mark for the third semester in a row.

The Tiger cross country team once again led the

A dozen other athletes earned 4.0 GPAs for the spring 2010 semester: Erika Griffith, cross country, and indoor and outdoor track; Mary Tuttle, indoor and outdoor track; Ellen Meara, field hockey; Chele Lathroum and Stephanie Taylor, women’s lacrosse; Amy Lauenstein, outdoor track; Jocelyn Papciak, women’s soccer; Gabrielle LePore, Margaret Macedonia and Wendy Sharer, women’s swimming; and Andrea Samlin and Jaclyn Tamburo, women’s tennis.

... NUGGETS

Write Right

They ask. She answers when inquiring minds want to know about sentence structure, punctuation and English usage.

In fact, by the time you read this Peggy Benner’s Online Writing Support website will have recorded close to a half million hits since going live in 2003. The site now logs 3,000 to 3,500 visitors each week, up from 1,000 per week just four years ago.

Many queries come from overseas. The sheer volume of questions from non-native English speakers prompted Benner to launch an ESL (English as a Second Language) component this summer.

Benner, director of the English Department’s Writing Support Program, based the website on units she’d written for students



Brandi Gervais

field with a 3.528, the highest GPA of all TU teams. The team is propelled by Brandi Gervais, a pre-dentistry major and member of the indoor and outdoor track team. She is the only TU student-athlete with a perfect 4.0 GPA during her college career.



◀ LOOK BACK

Return of the Ring

Thirty years after it was lost in a Montgomery Ward department store, a TU class ring found its way home.

When Julia Adams '80 lost her blue topaz college ring in 1980, she believed it was gone forever. But three decades later, Adams received surprising news: an Ellicott City, Md., couple

“The more we know about termites, the easier it will be to help control them,” explains Lay. “We analyze the termites’

in her English classes at TU.

"The backbone of the site is the self-teaching modules" that help improve writing skills by eliminating run-on sentences, pronoun problems and other challenges of written English, Benner says. But there is also a 24-hour hotline for those with burning questions on grammar and usage.

Benner fields those queries herself. "Most people ask about subject/verb agreement, especially when a prepositional phrase is in between," she says, though sometimes an unusual item pops up. Once, she says, a lawyer sought her opinion, wanting to know whether

Benner launched an English as a Second Language component this summer to field questions from non-native English speakers.

a statement was absolutely clear, or ambiguous and open to interpretation.

If inquiries are especially difficult, Benner relies on a stack of tomes including *Fowler's Modern English Usage*, *Dictionary of Disagreeable English* and *The New York Times Dictionary of Misunderstood, Misused, Mispronounced Words*.

Perhaps most notable, the site was cited in a 2008

paper on computational linguistics in Nuremberg, Germany.

Visit www.towson.edu/ows/Writing_Support_Hotline.htm

Green Saves Green



"The push is on for businesses to go green, and some Baltimore firms are already finding bottom line savings, generating new revenue streams and expanding opportunities by tapping into the green economy," writes TU's Tobin Porterfield, in last winter's inaugural issue of *Baltimore Business Review*.

The assistant professor in TU's College of Business and Economics says area companies are "infusing the infrastructure with new practices and technologies that reduce negative effects on the environment."

They are finding these practices save money. He cites companies such as McCormick, which is looking at a 30 percent savings in electricity costs after installing solar panels; Diversified Insurance Industries, which netted \$10,000 by replacing paper copies of insurance documents with electronic versions; and KCI whose new green headquarters in Sparks, Md., could yield tax benefits.

\$1 million grant

The Bernard Osher Foundation has awarded a \$1 million grant to sustain the Osher Reentry Scholarship program at TU.

Reentry students are non-traditional in age and are pursuing a first bachelor's degree after having experienced an interruption of at least five years.

To date, Osher Reentry Scholarship grants have funded 92 Reentry Scholars at TU, with 18 having graduated.

Slick Studies

When oil hit the Gulf Coast Beaches, so did a group of TU biology students eager to learn about the impact of the BP oil spill on the marine ecosystem.

The group, led by Jay Nelson, professor of biology, witnessed science in action in three states that border the Gulf of Mexico. "This trip put our students on the front lines of ongoing research into an unprecedented disaster with severe environmental consequences. They will remember this experience long after they've forgotten most of their classroom material," Nelson says.

The Dauphin Island Marine lab in Alabama was the first stop for students Sarah Buhlman, Kimberly Hackett Watkins, Karey Harris, Kevin Kelly, Genine Lipkey and Ryan McDonald.

Here they saw experimental oyster beds, a project headed by Bill Walton of Auburn University, that may become an indicator of how much damage the oil causes up and down the coast. Walton and other researchers will track survival rates, growth rates and levels of contamination in oyster beds extending from Mississippi to Florida.

Next the students visited the Louisiana bayous, where Fernando Galvez of Louisiana State University studies how fish adapt to environmental stresses and scientists at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium laboratory assess the impacts of the oil spill and dispersants on marsh fishes.

The group's final visit was to the University of West Florida in Pensacola where professors Wade Jeffrey and Richard Snyder have a long history of studying the chemistry of water and sediment. "We visited sites along the beautiful, but oiled, Florida beaches where students were taught techniques about taking water and sand samples," Nelson says.

Oysters are especially sensitive to oil and dispersants in the Gulf of Mexico.



Let's Get Physical

PROFESSOR DIRECTS STUDY ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION POLICY IN PUERTO RICAN MIDDLE- AND HIGH SCHOOLS



Alexander Vigo-Valentin, Ph.D.

Today's teenagers have a lot to learn.

When they aren't sleeping till noon, most are content to while away the hours imbibing saturated fat and video games. So it should come as no surprise that at least 155 million school-age

children worldwide are overweight or obese, according to the International Obesity TaskForce.

That percentage is even higher in Puerto Rico, where

and facilities, and collected the evidence he believes will open the eyes of national policymakers.

"Once we have the behavioral data and know exactly what is going on in the schools, we can attempt to create informed policy that will change student behavior and improve the school environment," he explains.

Titled "Physical Activity Policies and Opportunity for Hispanic Adolescents," his study is the first of its kind in Puerto Rico, and will comprise direct interviews with school administrators, surveys of physical educators and a comprehensive analysis of school facilities, inside and out.

"We want to see if the environment—both in the school and around it—motivates students to be more physically active. There are no laws in Puerto Rico, like here in Maryland, that compel schools to provide space for physical education. Our research will focus on environment and laws, and how we can use them to provide safe, open, clean places for our children to play.

"There are no laws in Puerto Rico, like here in Maryland, that compel schools to provide space for physical education."

—Alexander Vigo-Valentín

Alexander Vigo-Valentin, Ph.D., was born and raised. "Eighty percent of the adolescents in Puerto Rico don't meet physical activity recommendations" he explains. "That is huge."

Now an assistant professor of kinesiology at Towson University, Vigo-Valentin knows healthy behavioral habits in students can be taught in school, and last summer he led a study to prove it.

Armed with a team of four researchers and a grant of more than \$71,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Vigo-Valentin traveled to Puerto Rico and, over the course of two weeks, evaluated school policies

"And this policy has to go beyond school borders into the home," he continues. "We can't just target bad behavior; we have to increase knowledge and teach adolescents how to be healthy on their own, not just in gym class."

While journal publication would be a happy benefit, Vigo-Valentin's main priority is helping the children. "The most important thing for us will be to send the information we collect to the people of Puerto Rico and get started right away, because it is going to take time."

Making a difference often does.



Nearly 1,200 athletes competed in 30 sports at TU in June during the Maryland Special Olympics.

What's New



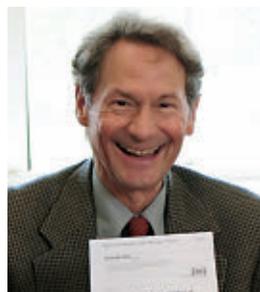
Major Award

Jonathan Lazar, professor of computer and information sciences and director of the universal usability laboratory, received a Dr. Jacob Bolotin Award from the National Federation of the Blind (NFB). The \$5,000 award recognizes Lazar's research in improving web accessibility for blind users. For almost a decade, he has collaborated with the NFB and has published numerous studies that examine levels of website compliance with accessibility guidelines, including those of government sites, which by law must be accessible but often are not. Lazar also led a research project that documented how blind users are unlawfully charged higher prices for airfare when airline websites are inaccessible.



NBA Bound

Gary Neal '07, who broke 14 TU records during his two-year career with the Tigers, has signed a three-year contract with the San Antonio Spurs following an eye-opening NBA Summer League performance. After his collegiate career ended in 2007, Neal played overseas in the Turkish Basketball League, the Spanish League and the Italian League, earning All-Italy and All-Euro-league honors. At TU, Neal scored 1,254 points and was among the top five scorers in the nation each year. In his senior year he led the Colonial Athletic Association in scoring with a 25.6 average and was a first team All-CAA selection. Neal becomes the second Tiger to play in the NBA. Kurk Lee '90 played one season with the New Jersey Nets.



Regents' Honoree

Jack Fruchtman Jr., professor of political science, received a University System of Maryland 2010 Regents' Faculty Award for research last spring. An internationally recognized scholar on Thomas Paine, Fruchtman, founder and director of TU's Law and American Civilization Program, has investigated the constitutional, political and historical foundations of Anglo-American and European republican ideas for 30 years. He has written six books, annotated or edited five others, published 18 journal articles, 22 encyclopedia articles and more than 75 essays in popular journals. He co-edited the UK's highly regarded book series, *The Enlightenment World: Political and Intellectual History of the Long Eighteenth Century Series*.



Teaching Well

Susan Lynn '05 MAT was one of five finalists in the search for America's top teacher by "ABC's Live!" with Regis and Kelly. Lynn, a kindergarten teacher at North Bend Elementary School in Jarrettsville, Md., appeared on the show after being chosen from more than 10,000 nominations nationwide. A video attests to kids who adore her because she's "fun" and colleagues who speak of her devotion and creativity. In her letter nominating Lynn, Amy Miller, president of the North Bend PTA, writes that Lynn makes learning fun. "She has given these children a foundation that could support a New York City skyscraper." Lynn appeared on the show in May and was treated to a weekend in New York City, a Caribbean vacation and \$10,000 in Crayola supplies for her school.



TU's WTMD-FM was voted "Best Radio Station for Music" by *Baltimore* magazine's 2010 readers' poll.



making waves

CAA STANDOUT AARON KRAUSE '05 FINDS SUCCESS IN AND OUT OF THE POOL

By Ginny Cook

Aaron Krause '05 always loved the water. As a kid, he was the first one in the pool when it opened—and the last to leave at closing time. “Lifeguards hated me,” he says. Not so, his college swim coach.

“Aaron has had the greatest impact on our men’s program in the last decade and maybe even in the history of the program,” says Towson Coach Pat Mead. “His work ethic and understanding of what it took to be great set an example for our swimmers long after he graduated.”

A two-time CAA Swimmer of the Year who competed in backstroke, free style, butterfly and the individual medley, Krause qualified for the NCAA Championships as a junior and senior. He also set five individual school records and three CAA marks in his career.

Now he’s earned a spot on the Colonial Athletic Association’s 25th Anniversary Men’s Swimming and Diving team. He was one of 20 TU athletes selected to the CAA’s anniversary teams in 21 sports. (See sidebar.)

As athletic competitions go, swimming races are brief. A dive, a splash, and a few seconds to a few minutes later a hand touches the wall and a fist is raised in victory (perhaps). Training, however, is extensive and repetitive—hours and hours in the pool, lap after lap after lap, stroke after stroke, day after day.

Krause never tired of the drills, displaying a dogged devotion to the rigors of practice. “He’s a talented athlete, no doubt,” says Mead. “But a lot of kids have talent.” What Krause had—what he still has—is focus, and an incredible ability to exert himself.

“Aaron worked his tail off, and that made him successful at swim meets,” Mead says. “Now he’s applied that same work ethic to running a business and other facets of his life.”

Different strokes

Truth be told, it’s somewhat surprising that Krause ever got his feet wet in a Division I pool.

“My swimming career was unconventional,” he admits.

He began competitive swimming only because his older brother swam in a Baltimore-area summer league. So because he was at a pool anyway for meets and practices, he decided to get in.

Later in high school—a boarding school in Buffalo, N.Y.—he ignored the advice of coaches who, he says, “want you to quit everything else and focus on one sport.” Instead, Krause played soccer in the fall, tennis in the spring and “bamboozled my way into two winter sports—skiing and swimming,” he explains. “I was very busy.”

But being *that* busy left him ignored by college recruiters. When Krause chose Towson, he ended up on the swim team as “a glorified walk-on,” he says. “I was athletic but definitely *not* in swimming shape.”

Coach Mead remembers the day Krause walked into his office wearing a shirt and tie to ask about tryouts. More than his attire, though, “some kids just stand out,” Mead says.

Mead offered him the opportunity to swim, but was also clear about the obstacles—three faster swimmers in the events Krause swam and a training regimen that would consume the summer between high school and his first semester at college.

Krause did more than listen. He trained—hard.

Once he hit the water his freshman year, Mead noticed the difference, immediately turning to an assistant coach, saying, “You watch. He’ll be beating the veteran swimmers and winning conference titles.” Mead was right.

Krause shaved 12 seconds off his best time, an eternity in a sport where victories or defeats are measured in hundredths of seconds.

Mead had plotted out a training strategy for Krause along with goals—something he does for every swimmer. “The challenge is for kids to stay committed,” he notes.

Krause exhibited a commitment to practice that Mead has witnessed barely a half dozen times in his 12-year coaching career. And that trans-

lated into swimming history for Krause and the Towson men’s team. Some highlights:

2001-2002

- At the CAA Championships. Krause took first place in the 100-yard backstroke, the 200-yard backstroke and the 200-yard freestyle.
- He was a member of the relay team, which placed first in the 200-medley relay and the 400-medley relay.

2002-2003

- The season was highlighted by Krause—TU’s first swimmer to qualify for the NCAA Championships in Division I.
- He finished 23rd in the NCAA 100-backstroke and 25th in the 100-backstroke at nationals.

2003-04

- Krause was named as the CAA Championship’s Most Outstanding Performer for the second straight year.
- He won individual titles in the 200-individual medley, the 100-backstroke and the 200-backstroke.
- He was also part of the Tigers’ 400-medley relay team and the 800-free relay teams, which finished first and broke the school records.

Timing isn’t everything

As Krause piled up accolades and winning times, he also brought out the best in fellow swimmers.

“Aaron could have been a great swimmer even without working as hard as he did,” says teammate David Adkins ’02. “His work ethic in the water inspired me and everyone who swam with him to try harder to be better. We all looked up to him and what he accomplished in the pool.”

As skilled as he was in the water, Krause sometimes struggled in

the classroom, and credits Adkins with “really helping me academically.” He would meet Adkins in the athletes’ study hall or pop up to his apartment—they were neighbors—for advice. But Adkins, now an attorney with the Federal Elections Commission, says he did little but give tips or help set goals.

Krause hit the books like he hit the water. “I was older and may have guided him,” Adkins says. “But Aaron did whatever it took to succeed. His work ethic defines everything he does.”

When that work ethic in the pool qualified him for the NAAs, Adkins made good on a promise to watch his friend compete. Then a first-year law student at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Adkins traveled to Austin, Texas, for the meet. “I was cheering for Aaron, for Pat [Mead] and for the Towson swim program,” he notes. “I was gratified to see them on that national stage.”



AARON HAS HAD THE
greatest impact

ON OUR MEN’S PROGRAM

IN THE LAST DECADE AND

MAYBE EVEN IN THE HISTORY

OF THE PROGRAM.

—TU SWIM COACH PAT MEAD

HIS **work ethic**
inspired me

AND EVERYONE WHO

SWAM WITH HIM TO

try harder

to be better.

—DAVID ADKINS '02

A successful fish out of water

Though he lives close to the water, Krause rarely goes in it now. The communications graduate has plunged into the retail arena, running Quiet Storm, a surf and clothing store he owns in Hilton Head, S.C.

Much like his swimming career, Krause's entry into the business world was a bit unconventional. "All through college I wanted to be a lifeguard at the beach," he says. So after graduation, he moved to Ocean City, Md., eventually working at the Quiet Storm location there during the off-season.

Several moves to other states and a succession of jobs with increasing responsibility in the retail industry followed. "Then," Krause says, "the opportunity was there to buy the store in Hilton Head."

That was three years ago. "I enjoy the business," says Krause, who spends

almost as much time in the store as he used spend in the pool. "I'm there most days from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.," he adds, "but that is nothing compared to when I had swimming practice, meets and classes."

Those long hours as a D-I athlete have left Krause well prepared to deal with the demands of his business and last year's dour economy. "Athletics," he says simply, "teaches perseverance."

When word reached Krause of the CAA award, "it was an honor, to be honest," he says. But he's quick to point out that the real honor was being able to swim for Towson, for

Mead and with his teammates. "The award is a tribute to all of them," Krause says. "I never would have made it, if not for them." ■

Ginny Cook is the editor of *Towson*.

A TWO-TIME CAA

swimmer of
the year,

KRAUSE QUALIFIED FOR THE
NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS
AS A JUNIOR AND SENIOR.

best in the league

TWENTY TIGER ATHLETES NAMED TO THE CAA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY TEAMS

GET OUT THE CONFETTI.

As the Colonial Athletic Association celebrates 25 years of collegiate competition, it asked current and former coaches to select athletes in 21 sports for its 25th Anniversary Teams.

The task was huge.

According to the CAA, their rosters have been filled with more than 50,000 athletes over the last two and a half decades. Towson University has been part of the CAA for a mere nine years, but 20 TU athletes made the cut, earning spots on the 25th Anniversary Teams.

- **Men's Golf:** Jeff Castle '07 and Billy Wingerd '07
- **Men's Lacrosse:** Casey Cittadino '06, Danny Cocchi '03, Ben DeFelice '04, Jonathan Engelke '08 and Reed Sothoron '05

- **Women's Lacrosse:** Becky Trumbo '06 and senior Hillary Fratzke
- **Softball:** Jeanne Bosch '05, Brooke Clyde '02, Katie Mumbauer '06, Nina Navarro '08 (?) and Jessica Wides '06
- **Men's Swimming:** Aaron Krause '05
- **Women's Swimming:** Jen Irby '05, Liz Lebherz '07 and junior Meredith Budner
- **Volleyball:** Mary Clare Coghlan '05 and Liz Goubeaux '05

To find out more about their record-setting accomplishments visit, http://www.nmnathletics.com/ViewArticle.dbml?db_oem_id=21300&ATCLID=204868717&KEY=&DB_OEM_ID=21300&DB_LANG=&IN_SUBSCRIBER_CONTENT=



JUSTICE AT LAST

Forced to graduate in absentia, a 1951 alumna takes center stage at commencement 59 years later.

By Ginny Cook • Photos by Kanji Takeno and Desirée Stover

In 1951, Susan Fedder Garten rode three buses and a streetcar to get from her home in Windsor Hill to 8 a.m. classes at Towson.

But she couldn't walk across the stage to get her diploma at graduation.

It's not that she didn't want to. She wasn't allowed because she was pregnant.

Married and soon to deliver her first child, Garten received a stinging letter from her adviser at what was then the State Teachers College. Shocking today, but probably standard practice at the time, it banned her from participating in graduation.

"Because of your present advanced stage of pregnancy, I am confident that you have no serious intentions of attempting to participate in the academic processions at Baccalaureate and Commencement," reads the

letter. "You must realize that such participation would be most unwise ... Consequently, necessary arrangements will be made for you to receive your degree in absentia, as it were.

In making plans for the academic processions and related matters, no place will need to be made for you."

"My mother was the most disappointed," Garten recalls. "She wanted all her children to have the education she could not, and was looking forward to my graduation."

Now nearly six decades after earning that TU teaching degree, Garten '51 donned a cap and gown, and sat on the stage during the commencement ceremony for the College of Education in May.

TU President Robert Caret read the letter she had received, then introduced her to the audience saying,

"Walking the stage at commencement is a symbolic capstone that every graduate deserves."

The 2010 graduates responded with a standing ovation.

Garten says she is delighted with the recognition, noting several newspapers have interviewed her and run her story.

But even in 1951, she held no grudge against Towson.

"My classmates were always warm and welcoming," she says. During her junior year, they threw her a wedding shower, according to the 1951 yearbook.

By the fall of her senior year, when Garten learned she was pregnant, she met with a campus official who said continuing her studies would not be a problem. But he was replaced that winter by a woman with a decidedly

different attitude. “She told me, ‘Your pregnancy is unsightly and you should not subject your classmates and teachers to this,’” Garten recalls.

But Garten never experienced any hostility from peers or professors. “Students and instructors were nice and supportive,” she says. The school year progressed without incident and the shock of being excluded from graduation “happened suddenly at the end,” she notes. Her husband, Herbert Garten, a law student who was in the military reserves, came down from his post in Pennsylvania to plead her case. “But we hit a brick wall,” she says.

Garten and her mother later picked up her diploma, “which was tossed across the desk to me,” she says. “But I didn’t dwell on any of it.”

Her first of five children was soon born. Her husband became a lawyer and Garten would eventually run a jewelry store, Heirloom Jewels, for some 35 years in three different locations around Baltimore. She never became a teacher.

When she recalls Towson, it is with fondness. In fact, she and her husband have raised money for the university and donated antiques to furnish its historic Auburn House.

During one of those recent fundraising meetings, her youngest son, Maury Garten, brought the infamous letter to President Caret’s attention.

And soon an old wrong was made right when the former TU student stood on stage at graduation. ■

Ginny Cook is the editor of *Towson*.

(Opposite page) On stage at the College of Education’s Commencement in May, Susan Garten receives a standing ovation from the 2010 graduates. (Right) Susan Garten at home and in a 1951 yearbook photo.



We’ve Come a Long Way

In 1951, most drivers still used their hands to signal a left or a right turn—automatic turn signals were an option in cars.

In 1951, a woman’s place was in the home. And a pregnant woman had no place on a graduation stage.

The letter Susan Garten ‘51 received in 1951 makes it clear that a mother-to-be was not welcome at commencement ceremonies. Yet a search of the archives at Towson University failed to unearth any specific policies that prohibited women from participating in graduation if pregnant, or against pregnant students in general.

Librarians and others speculate that perhaps any damning correspondence or policies were purged from the official papers of former presidents or deans, or that procedures were implied—those who lived during the era knew what was expected. After all, discrimination against pregnant and married women had existed for decades and was not unique to Towson.

It wasn’t until 1931 that the Maryland State Board of Education ruled “marriage alone is not sufficient cause for the dismissal of a woman teacher,” according to a Dec. 22, 1931 story in the *Baltimore Sun*.

Yet even in 1938, Clarinda Harriss, TU professor of English, reports that her mother, Margery Harriss ‘29, “pregnant with me, was thrown out of her public-school teaching job.”

As late as 1974, the Supreme Court ruled (*Geduldig v. Aiello*) that discrimination on the basis of

TU made positive history in the arena of women’s rights by opening a student daycare center in 1972—only the second university daycare center in the country that catered to children of college students.

pregnancy in the workplace did not violate the Constitution. In fact, it would take four more years (1978) until an amendment to the 1964 Civil Rights Act gave pregnant women insurance benefits, job and seniority protection, and other rights on the job.

Despite banning a pregnant woman from graduating in 1951, TU eventually made positive history in the arena of women’s rights and students with children. In 1972, the TU Student Day Care Center opened with eight children in Newell Hall and at the time was only the second university day care center in the country that catered to children of college students.

Now in a free-standing building on Auburn Drive, the center continues its 38-year tradition of quality care and on-site support for students, faculty, staff and the community.

Ginny Cook with thanks to Felicity Knox, library associate to the archives, for research assistance

A photograph of a stone staircase leading up to a stone building in a forest. The stairs are made of large, flat stones and are flanked by stone walls. The building is made of rough-hewn stone and has a dark roof. The surrounding area is filled with lush green trees and foliage, creating a dense forest atmosphere. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

Amazing Journeys

Faced with remarkable hardships, three Towson University graduates have responded with equally remarkable spirit. Here are their stories.

By Bill Sheridan

Everyone faces adversity from time to time.

What defines us is how we respond.

Three Towson University graduates have set the bar incredibly high. Each has faced a lifetime of hardship, and each has overcome that hardship with an inspiring combination of courage, hard work and sheer will. Their stories leave us with few complaints and much to emulate.

Erin Williams '09: Inspired, and inspiring

Fifty major reconstructive surgeries in 24 years. A lifetime of doctor's appointments and operating rooms. A world full of "cruel, judgmental people."

Welcome to Erin Williams' world.

Williams was born with Treacher Collins Syndrome, a rare disorder characterized by facial deformities—in her case, an underdeveloped bottom jaw, cheekbones and ears. It occurs once in every 10,000 births. The odds, though, were stacked particularly heavy against Williams. The disorder is genetic in nature, but no one in her family has it; hers was caused by a genetic mutation.

The condition took a heavy toll from the very beginning.

When she was 4 months old, her unusually small airway caused Williams to go into full respiratory and cardiac arrest. Doctors told her family she likely wouldn't live through the night, and if she did, she would suffer from severe neurological damage.

They were wrong. Still, Williams would live with a tracheostomy tube for the next 21 years—not to mention surgeries to correct scoliosis and to reconstruct her eyes, ears, chin and cheeks.

Many might bemoan the cruelty of such a life. Williams celebrates its spirit.

"I wouldn't change anything I've been through," she says. "It's who I am. It's a part of my life and has made me stronger."

She was a recipient and keynote speaker at TU's Foundation Scholars luncheon in 2008. She also received the 2008 Patients of Courage: Triumph Over Adversity Award from the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.

It has defined her in other ways as well. Consider her career.

With a degree in special education, she teaches second- and third-graders with severe learning disabilities at Jacksonville Elementary School in Phoenix, Md.

She loves her students not only for who they are, but for the progress they are making under her care. And much of that, she says, comes directly from her own background.

"I love what I'm doing. How many people can say that?" Williams asks. "I'm passionate about my job, and I think a lot of that has to do with where I come from. I constantly encourage my

students and let them know they can do it. It's been a rewarding experience to see where they started and how far they've come."

Then there's Kevin.

Specifically, Kevin Richmond, her fiancé. They were classmates at Pine Grove Middle School. They took a few classes together, signed each other's yearbooks, nodded in the hallways and went their separate ways for high school.

Then, in 2005, Kevin stumbled upon Erin's MySpace page and contacted her. A friendship bloomed, and then ... something more.

"I went through most of my life feeling like I would never fall in love because I looked different," Williams said. "I never knew if I was going to find that special person who could understand what I've been through and what I might have to go through in the future, who could look beyond what's on the outside. Kevin is an incredible person, and I'm lucky to have him in my life."

Kevin proposed in June 2009. They are planning a June 2011 wedding.

As inspiring as her story is, Williams turns to others for inspiration. Her family, her friends, her doctors, her students—they are the folks who keep her going.

"They inspire me to wake up every day and do what I do and try to make a difference," she says. "The teachers I had growing up, the kids I work with—they inspire me and got me to where I am. And I think I was put here to inspire others, too."

And what does that message boil down to?

"Everyone has a story to tell and a reason to tell it," she says. "I hope that people will always follow their dreams. Good things do happen to people who work hard and believe in themselves."



Photo by Kanji Takeno

Erin Williams '09, recipient of a TU scholarship and the 2008 Patients of Courage: Triumph Over Adversity Award, teaches elementary school children with severe learning disabilities.

Clark Rachfal '05: Blind ambition

In his first year of international competition, Clark Rachfal '05 (left) and cycling partner, Dave Swanson, won the men's gold medal in tandem at the 2009 UCI Track World Championships.

When you're as driven to win as Clark Rachfal, you're not going to let something like blindness stand in your way.

"Winning inspires me," says Rachfal, 26. "I'm a competitive person across the board. That has taken different forms as I've gotten older. When I was younger, I played every sport under the sun. In high school and college, I started competing in academics. For me, life has always been about finding new challenges."

The challenges often find him. Rachfal was diagnosed at age 4 with a degenerative retinal condition whose definitive identity eluded experts. "My mom always said I was a square peg in a round hole," he says. "They never had a good idea of what it was, exactly."

What they did know was that it would get worse over time. When reading, for example, Rachfal went from regular text books to large-print books, then to magnifiers and closed-circuit magnifying TV, then on to books on tape and MP3s, and finally to text-to-speak software. "I've been fortunate that technology has advanced as my vision has deteriorated," he says.

Today, he can still see colors, shapes and outlines, but his vision lacks fine details.

That hasn't limited his ambition, though—or his talent.

In his first year of international competition, Rachfal and his partner, Dave Swanson, won the gold medal in the men's tandem cycling four-kilometer pursuit as part of the 2009 UCI Track World Championships. Tandem racing events feature two-person teams on tandem bicycles. A sighted pilot (in this case, Swanson) occupies the front seat, while a vision-impaired "stoker" (Rachfal) takes the rear seat.

The victory surprised even the ultra-competitive Rachfal.

"It was a bit overwhelming," he says. "I had hoped to win a world championship eventually,

but I didn't think it would come in our first year of competing internationally."

Rachfal's journey to the world title started in 2004. He was studying abroad in Australia when he and a friend mounted a tandem bicycle for a 270-kilometer, three-day fundraising ride. "We raised a good bit of money, and had way more fun than should have been allowed."

Rachfal returned to Australia the following year and made the ride again. This time, he met a member of the Australian Blind Cricket team who told him about the U.S. Association for Blind Athletes. After returning to the states, Rachfal contacted the USABA and learned of a tandem racing development camp slated for June 2006 at the Olympic training center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"I weaseled my way into that event and got the bug," he says.

Rachfal met Swanson at the camp and soon after they began training together. In 2008, the pair competed in the Paralympic Nationals and barely missed qualifying for the 2008 Paralympic Games.

Following their 2009 gold medal win, Rachfal has his sites set even higher. His goal is to qualify for the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, but he's not discounting a run at the 2016 Games in Brazil, either.

Paralympic athletes are not salaried, so Rachfal funds his athletic endeavors through his job in the public policy office of Verizon Communications in Washington, D.C. Verizon has supported his training and competition schedule and even offered financial support through its Verizon Foundation.

"They've been very supportive," he says, "not only monetarily, but everyone in the office has been willing to work with me and my schedule. That means a lot."

Chances are they find Rachfal's story inspiring. Inspiration isn't what he's selling, though.

"It's very common for me to hear that people find me inspirational. That's nice, but it's not what I'm striving for," he says. "I want people to think of me as someone who gets into it, someone who wants to be the best he can be and have fun doing it."



Marcus Harris '97: Making a difference

Marcus Harris has spent his life staring at death.

The Towson business graduate has cystic fibrosis, a chronic and fatal disease that attacks the lungs and digestive systems of as many as 30,000 Americans and 70,000 people worldwide. Mucus clogs the lungs and pancreas of the disease's victims, leaving them susceptible to serious infections.

He discovered that his illness was fatal when he was 8, and in the cruelest of ways. His parents had recently received the diagnosis and hadn't yet told him how severe it was. They broke the news to their friends, who told their children, who then told Harris himself.

"It was an absolute shock," he says. "At the time, the average life expectancy (of those with CF) was about 11. I didn't understand the concept of 'average' yet. I thought 11 was it—the end of the cliff."

But a funny thing happened. He turned 11 ... and nothing happened. In fact, thanks to advances in technology, by the time he turned 11, Marcus discovered that the average CF life expectancy had risen to 14.

"This has been going on my entire life," he says. "I'm 35 now, and this year the average life expectancy is 37."

As long as he keeps chasing that barrier, everything will be OK.

Outside of his immediate family, though, no one in Harris's life knew about his condition—not his closest friends growing up, not his girlfriends. That's the way he wanted it. It was his burden and, eventually, his family's burden.

Then another funny thing happened, and it changed his life.

A financial planner, Harris worked for a company that was trying to grow in the Maryland marketplace. In doing so, officials became involved in a number of local charities.

One night Harris was asked to take his boss's place at a board meeting for a local charity.

"Sure," Harris said. "What organization is it?"

"The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation," his boss answered.

Harris recalls, "It was such a shock. I was so paranoid that someone at the meeting would recognize me, because there are only so many people in Baltimore who have (CF).

"But I went, and things went well. I thought that was God's way of telling me to get out there and do some work and be an inspiration for other kids who are going through what I went through. It was clear that I needed to tell everyone and get involved and try to make a difference."

That's exactly what he's done. Harris now sits on the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's board, and in November 2009 he and three friends organized a benefit concert that drew about 125 people and raised more than \$8,000. Harris also helped organize a recent "Cycle for Life" event in Hunt Valley that raised a couple thousand more dollars for the cause.

His charitable work doesn't end with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Harris also works closely with Habitat for Humanity, the Ronald McDonald House and his church, to name just a few.

Reminders of his condition are everywhere. He was hospitalized recently with the worst CF-related episode of his life—a nearly 25 percent drop in lung capacity almost overnight. It scared him.

It also reinforced the notion that Harris leads what he calls "a rushed life." There are things to do, places to see and, because he has no life insurance, money to be made to protect his family down the road. And because time is short, he's in a hurry to do all of that now.

But Harris says his charitable work drives home another important point: It's not just about him.

"I feel that I'm lucky, and I have an inclination to give something back," he says. "There's also this feeling that I want to be closer to God, and working on behalf of others opens you up to a closer spiritual relationship.

"I'd like my legacy to be that I had a positive impact on the greatest number of people possible, that I somehow made a difference in this world." ■



Photo by Kanji Takeno

Advances in medical technology have allowed Marcus Harris '97 to beat the odds, giving him time to focus on charitable events and help others with cystic fibrosis.

Bill Sheridan's last story for the magazine, "Weighty Matters," appeared in the Summer 2010 issue.



Figure & S



Natalie Terry Estelle '01, founder and executive director of Figure Skating in the City, teaches the sport—and much more—to low-income Baltimore girls.

By Jan Lucas

At an age when most little girls were cooing over My Little Pony and Cabbage Patch Kids, Natalie Terry Estelle '01 fell in love with figure skating.

The Milwaukee-born Estelle first laid eyes on a skating rink during a trip to a local shopping mall. Transfixed by the sight of people skimming across the ice on flashing steel blades, the 5-year-old asked her mother, “Can I try that?”

Her simple request launched a 14-year skating career under the guidance of three coaches, one in Milwaukee and two in Baltimore following her family’s move. Estelle began competing professionally at age eight, which took her up and down the East Coast and all the way to the 1996 national championships, where she won a medal in the freestyle category.

She gave up competitive skating during her sophomore year at Towson, preferring instead to teach skating at an ice rink in Baltimore’s Mt. Washington area. After earning her bachelor’s degree in art, she pursued a master’s in publication design at the University of Baltimore, then established a home-based graphic-design business.

But figure skating beckoned. “I wanted to exercise, but I don’t like gyms,” she says with a laugh. “So I asked myself, ‘Why don’t I get back into skating?’ I enjoy it, and it burns a lot of calories.”

This time Estelle returned to the ice with a mission, approaching figure skating on a more ambitious—and generous—scale.

“Baltimore didn’t have a program to teach low-income middle-school girls

how to skate,” she says. “And in general the schools didn’t provide much in the way of diversity, nutrition or physical education.

“I wanted to introduce figure skating to girls who ordinarily wouldn’t have access to it, but I also wanted to use the sport to build self-confidence, strengthen academic achievement and promote physical well-being in underserved communities.”

Estelle says she took the idea to local schools, eventually teaming with Patterson Park Public Charter School and Baltimore City Parks and Recreation. Together they established Figure Skating in the City, Maryland’s first ice skating and education program.

It was crucial to be able to work with a school near the Patterson Park ice rink, where the fledgling program would be based. “I didn’t want anyone excluded for lack of transportation,” Estelle explains. “Girls who lived in the area could walk to and from the rink.”

After securing the blessing of the charter school’s vice principal, Estelle designed a flier explaining the program’s objectives and asking parents and teachers to refer their daughters or pupils. In addition to an interest in figure skating, applicants needed proof of residency and decent grades. Once admitted to the program, all pledged to maintain a B average in school.

“Some of the girls had previous skating experience,” Estelle notes, “but not the kind of full instruction I was offering.” She assembled a group of 15 to 20 for Figure Skating in the City’s inaugural session last March. Most were African American, though Estelle says she would have liked to have had a more diverse group.

Figure Skating in the City’s 7-10 week program offered instruction and enrichment activities, as well as injury insurance via membership in the U.S. Figure Skating Association.

Despite a minimal fee, Estelle believes lack of funds sidelined some

would-be participants. “Parks and Recreation covered the cost of using the Patterson Park ice rink, and the girls used rental skates at no charge,” she adds. “Still, I’d like for them to not have to pay anything at all.”

This season the program will be required to pay for ice time and skate rentals, and Estelle is seeking donors to cover the costs.

Estelle convened the group each week for 90 minutes. Sessions got under way with a full hour of instruction, followed by a half-hour program



“The girls who take part in Figure Skating in the City acquire skills and attitudes that will help them throughout life.”

— Natalie Terry Estelle '01

that alternated tips on preparing healthful, affordable food with yoga and belly-dancing lessons.

She recalls the trepidation of some first-time skaters as they set foot on the ice. “Lesson one is falling down and standing up,” she told them. “There are correct and incorrect ways to do that. Then you need to know how to stop.” With Estelle’s coaching, her students gained confidence and learned the basics of a once-exotic sport.

“As they saw how much fun figure skating could be, they got excited,”

Estelle says. One girl showed exceptional promise, she says, adding, “I hope to take her under my wing.”

But of course Estelle is more than a coach: she talks to the girls, nurtures them, gets them to open up about issues they might not ordinarily discuss with an adult, or about subjects their parents don’t have time to discuss with them. If they’re discouraged or doubtful, she urges them on with “If I can do it, you can do it.”

With another session planned for October, Estelle is hard at work assembling a Figure Skating in the City board of directors and fundraising. “So much depends on the kind of response I get,” she says.

“I want this program to become a Baltimore institution,” she continues. “It would be great to have individuals and corporations fund a program that promoted confidence, academic achievement and physical fitness in addition to having fun and learning something new.

“The girls who take part in Figure Skating in the City acquire skills and attitudes that will help them throughout life.”

Estelle acknowledges a debt of gratitude to her parents, who supported her in an expensive and time-consuming sport. Years of coaching, discipline and practice brought her national recognition and opportunities to perform with such figure-skating legends as Kristi Yamaguchi and Paul Wylie. Not surprisingly, she describes her years on the ice as “an awesome experience I’ll never forget.”

Now she’s determined to bequeath to others what skating has given her, even if most of her protégés never move beyond the novice stage. “I want them to believe in possibilities,” she says.

“To be able to say ‘I can ice skate’ is a big deal.” ■

Jan Lucas is an associate editor in University Relations.

Five Easy Pieces

Some last words on teaching, university life and what lies ahead from John Connolly, Paul Douglas, Edwin Duncan, Clarinda Harriss, and Jan Wilkatz, five English professors who retired last spring.

Photos by Kanji Takeno



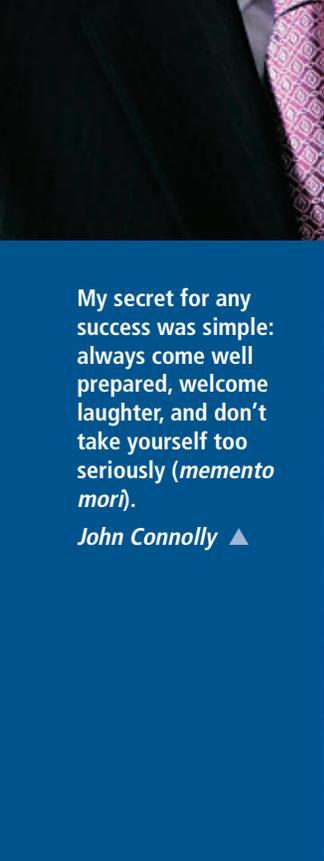
Perhaps a student, or two or three who will remember something valuable or interesting from one of my classes and will think about how their education influenced them in small, but sometimes meaningful, ways.

Paul Douglas ▼



I love teaching. It is my calling, perhaps even more than writing and editing.

Clarinda Harriss ▼



My secret for any success was simple: always come well prepared, welcome laughter, and don't take yourself too seriously (*memento mori*).

John Connolly ▲



I will miss the daily interaction with intelligent young people happy to be engaged in intellectual discourse and eager to increase their understanding of the subjects that I've taught and love.

Edwin Duncan ▲



We hoped that women's own imaginative accounts of female experience would illuminate for students the realities that history and sociology document.

Jan Wilkatz ▲

Clarinda Harriss

Dylan, I'm going gentle... but not into "that good night." Rather, into running my venerable off-campus publishing company, BrickHouse Books, Inc., in a manner that makes "non-profit" less literal than it has been since it incorporated in the mid-'70s; writing more and better; traveling at times of year not dictated by the academic calendar.

Or so I hope, as I reflect that

- the academic calendar was good to me for decades, keeping me more or less lined up with the school schedules of my children and grandchildren;
- I was part of a department which the late Dan Jones, its legendary chair and shaper, had made exceptionally hospitable to writers;
- I love *Grub Street* (the TU literary magazine which I advised for several decades) with a fierce mama-bear love, and will miss watching how, each year, its staff changes personnel and personality;
- *I love teaching*. It is my calling, perhaps even more than writing and editing.

I heard "the call" in 1960, while I was beginning graduate school. I taught full-time at Forest Park High, and from my first day of classes (both honors juniors and cool vo-tech guys) I knew that teaching was what I was supposed to do. Ten years and two children later—in fact, with the latter of the two an infant in a basket—I marched (baby and basket in hand) into Linthicum Hall to inquire about adjunct teaching. My personal, imagination-embellished legend of that day is that somebody had just died—I hope this is not true—and so I started teaching English 102 immediately. That was the winter of 1971. I never left.



For 39 years Professor Clarinda Harriss taught poetry, poetic structure and editing, and, for decades, has been the faculty adviser to *Grub Street*, TU's award winning literary magazine. She is editor/director of BrickHouse Books, Inc., Maryland's oldest literary press.

Well, not till now, anyway. Today, Bakari Johnson, a terrific member of my spring 2010 poetry class and a first-generation college graduate, is helping me move books out of my Linthicum office, from which I enjoyed watching the "new building" rise so near my window the workmen used to wave "Good morning" when I turned on my desk lamp. Bakari once admired my many books, and I told him he could have them—all. All but the editions whose text I have almost obliterated with years of my teaching-notes. In a way, this is a metaphor for teaching itself: you get to keep your stuff by giving it away.

I'm keeping TU students, too. BrickHouse Books has always used student interns as assistant editors, for course credit and professional experience, and they will find the BHB office (my midtown Baltimore house) a place where the parking is easy. Three showed up there this summer, and they, along with my beloved colleagues, will keep me connected to campus. As always, I'm eager to know what comes next.

Edwin Duncan

Unlike my fellow retirees, who have spent all or almost all their careers here at Towson, I've done a fair amount of bouncing around. Since 1969, I've taught at two universities and one Buddhist monastery in Thailand and at five universities in the United States: Humboldt State University in northern California, the University of Texas at Austin, Lamar University in southeast Texas, the University of Akron, and finally, since 1993, here at Towson University.

Since I began, many aspects of university life have changed. The former student ratio of 60 percent males to 40 percent females has been reversed, and advances in technology have transformed the campus. In the library's reference room, where card catalogs and shelves of encyclopedias and bibliographies once stood, there are now rows of computers, each with a student behind it. Today's students exit classes with cell phones glued to their ears, while those waiting for the



Professor Edwin Duncan, English department chair since 2004, taught linguistics and medieval English literature. In 2002, he received the University System of Maryland Board of Regents' Award for Teaching Excellence.

next class to begin text away with thumbs tapping. In the classroom, the blackboard is giving way to the computer projector, and student work is increasingly submitted electronically.

And yet, it's amazing how some things never change. One example is the excuses professors get for missed exams or late papers. It is just as true today as it was in the '70s that on the due date for research papers, grandmothers suddenly become deathly ill, necessitating bedside vigils by concerned grandchildren who reluctantly have to postpone work on their essays. Other students are beset with unspecified "personal problems," too private and traumatic to discuss with anyone, even the professor. I even sometimes still get "My pet (insert *rabbit, goat, puppy*, etc.) ate (*destroyed*) it," although I'll admit it's been a while.

Student bloopers on essays are also just as frequent as ever. Recent examples include one student complaining about a particular professor who was "diamond earring," another who was concerned about the "cattle racks" in his grandfather's eyes, and yet another who insists that a proper dinner party includes the serving of "orbdurbs" before the main course.

On a more serious note, I don't suppose I'll miss the lame excuses or the bloopers, but I will miss the daily interaction with intelligent young people happy to be engaged in intellectual discourse and eager to increase their understanding of the subjects that I've taught and love. I'll also miss my colleagues at Towson with whom I've shared so much of my life for the past 17 years. All things considered, it's been a great ride, and I feel privileged to have been a part of it.

John Connolly

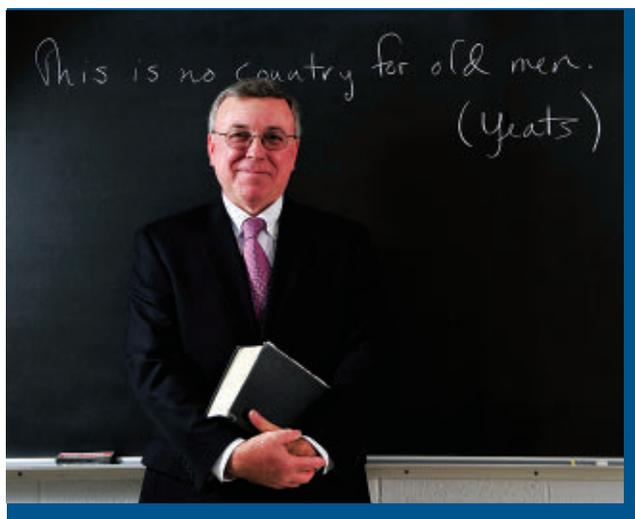
When I came to Towson State College in 1970, I wasn't much more than a student myself. In fact, students occasionally invited me to their parties. Then 40 years passed—at warp speed,

it now seems. No kegger invitations lately. YOUNG TEACHER GUY had been transformed into RETIRED MAN. Seize the day.

Some of my colleagues and students have wondered why I decided to retire. Let me assure my British literature students that it was not because at last no one in the class could readily identify George "The Animal" Steele, my modern (from my point of view, that is) counterpart for Chaucer's wrastlin' Miller.

Nor was it because after the first class of the semester, an 18-year old student approached saying, "My grandmother said hello. She was your student once upon a time." The truth is that I came to realize that this is no longer a country for this teaching dinosaur. So now I will sail on to a world of gym and jazz and chess, to a world where I look forward to enjoying good books, fine fare and the finest of families.

I will, however, miss teaching in the classroom, the great joy of my profession. I hope that many of my students feel that I taught with some success and that the successful classes were not only instructive but also fun.



Professor John Connolly spent 40 years teaching British literature to 1798, tradition and form in western fiction, and writing for business and industry. His research interests range from Shakespeare to James Joyce.

My secret for any success was simple: always come well prepared, welcome laughter and don't take yourself too seriously (*memento mori*).

To my colleagues in the English department who have unwaveringly supported me for 40 years and to my many students, best wishes. As the Irish saying goes, may the wind be at your backs.

Paul Douglas

There have been numerous Hollywood films about inspirational teachers who dramatically change the lives of their students. Think of *Mr. Holland's Opus*, a film in which one of this teacher's most challenged students becomes the state's governor, and his former students perform the premiere of his musical opus. And of course there are the students in *Dead Poets Society* supporting their fired literature teacher by standing on top of their desks and reciting Walt Whitman's "O Captain! My Captain!"

Unlike these imaginary teachers at the end of their careers, I've had a more mundane experience over the past month: cleaning out an office with a 40-year detritus of lecture notes, 35mm slides, audio and video tapes, compact discs, photographs, painted window screens and objects such as the illegal heating coil used by a prisoner at the Western Maryland Correctional Facility. I've experienced no cheering students remembering inspiring moments in the classroom, no letter from a student who later became a Nobel Prize winner, no teary reunions with a promising student who became a governor.

Instead I've found former student Katie M's recording of her 88-year-old Irish grandmother, Gwen G's photographs of Pennsylvania-German gravestones, Ann M's paper on Eastern Shore workboats, Sam F's video of decoy carvers, Sarah R's painting of Scheherazade and Wilma R's taped interview with her Vietnam-veteran uncle. When I handle these materials, I remember my students and hope that they might remember something that they learned from me.

A poem by Charles Wright, "It's Sweet to Be Remembered," captures my feelings about whatever influence—unknowable but I hope positive—I may have had during my teaching career. Wright says that "No one's remembered much longer than a rock/is remembered beside the road/If he's lucky." He then observes that it's "nice to imagine some kid someday/picking up that rock and holding it in his hand/Briefly before he chucks it/Deep in the woods in a sunny spot in the tall grass."

In my imaginings, the "kid someday/picking that rock and holding it in his hand" is one of my students who saw or heard something in my class and thought "that's interesting." Perhaps the "kid" is a 50-year-old accountant who remembers Ken Kesey's criticism of 1950s conformity. Perhaps he's the father of a teenager who wants to join the military to fight in Afghanistan. Will the father remember Tim O'Brien's novel *The Things They Carried* and the main character's revelation that fleeing to Canada to avoid going to Vietnam would have been an act of bravery, while following the patriotic exhortations of his family and friends was a form of cowardice? Will my former student share with his son what he remembers from our



Professor Paul Douglas taught world folklore, folklore and literature, and American studies for 41 years. A Fulbright Fellow, he has taught and represented TU at universities in Turkey and China, and published articles in *National Geographic Magazine* and *The Smithsonian Journal of History*.

class discussion about the ambiguities of combat? Or perhaps there is a former student vacationing with her husband and children in New England and pausing at a Puritan cemetery to explain to them the meaning of the skull and wings on the gravestones, or another mother thinking about the family folkways that she is continuing when she makes a traditional wedding soup for her new daughter-in-law.

I will never really know what influence I have had, or even if I have had much, but I hope that there will be some rock, "deep in the woods in a sunny spot in the tall grass"—perhaps a student, or two or three who will remember something valuable or interesting from one of my classes and will think about how their education influenced them in small, but sometimes meaningful, ways.

Jan Wilkatz

I came to Towson State College in 1973, as Towson's Women's Studies Program, one of the nation's earliest, was first offering pioneering courses. The culture shock of life in suburban Maryland after 12 years—yes, the '60s—in Berkeley bewildered me and my family to the extent that I almost didn't realize my tremendous good luck in finding such brilliant, generous colleagues in Women's Studies and the English department (the co-directors of Women's Studies were Elaine Hedges and Sara Coulter in English, who were supported by Dan Jones, their chair).

I did, however, enjoy that luck. I could not have had better mentors and friends than the multi-disciplinary committee that worked together to find new kinds of thinking and teaching. I had just finished a dissertation on the novels of Virginia Woolf; Elaine, Sara and Annette Chappell proposed that I join them in team-teaching an upper-level English course in women writers for the spring of 1974. We hoped that women's own imaginative accounts of female experience would illuminate for students the realities that history and sociology document. And we all worked hard on that course, but I have to take full responsibility ("credit" is hardly the right word) for including among other books on the syllabus the 19th century novel *Middlemarch* (nearly 900 pages) by George Eliot, born Mary Ann Evans; Doris Lessing's 1962 masterwork *The Golden Notebook* (not even 700 pages!); and Virginia Woolf's relatively short although lyrically dense *To the Lighthouse*.

As we planned the class, we were fascinated by the chance to discover and reconstruct forms of women's



Professor Jan Wilkatz taught a variety of courses in her 37 years at Towson including *Women's Words, Women's Lives* and the *20th-Century British Novel*. Her chapters, reviews, and nationally presented papers concern film adaptations of literary works, feminist pedagogy, and authors such as Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf.

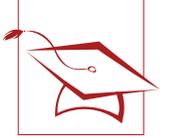
literary history, but I was the only one to assume that our students would read as I did, loving fiction so much that a long great novel would be even better than a short one and that prose both beautiful and difficult could only add to the fun. I learned a lot from teaching that course.

Students continued to teach me. They nagged me to design an advanced writing course, *Women's Words, Women's Lives*, and from the first semester through May of 2010 that class drew me into many of my most difficult and happy experiences in teaching. Students created wonderfully interesting work from their own hands and minds in *Women's Culture and Creativity*, a course I inherited from Elaine Hedges when she retired, and in the 21st century, after Elaine's

untimely death in 1997, I began the course with the entry that summarizes her life and contributions in volume five of Harvard University Press's splendid biographical series *Notable American Women*, so that students at Towson University could claim a history of their own.

As people of retirement age perhaps too often comment, times have changed, even while some constants, reassuring or maddening, remain. Women's Studies at Towson became a department, and then added a master's program that has attracted students from across not just the nation, but the world. Virginia Woolf, whose work was trivialized by most critics when I was a student, is now voted an automatic place among the great 20th-century writers in English.

When Toni Morrison won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1993, she told reporters that she felt the honor belonged to America, to women and to African Americans. Doris Lessing won the 2007 Nobel Prize for literature, and *The Golden Notebook* was cited in many accounts as her most important novel. The editors of the July 2010, fiction issue of *The New Yorker* chose "20 [writers] under 40" as particularly promising, and they found that without consciously trying for gender equity, they had included 10 women and 10 men. Even while it is all too clear that universal peace and equality are a long, long way away, we have begun to value the talents of a greater proportion of our species. In 1973, I was too inexperienced and much too busy to notice what a wonderful time I was having while teachers and scholars invented Women's Studies as an outgrowth of the "second wave" of feminism. Now, however, I am still enlivened by the glow that spread from that creation. ■



from the



alumni president

Dear Friends:

This fall is filled with new initiatives. There's a new place to gather and a new way to encourage alumni to become reacquainted with Towson—"Connecting You and TU."

I'm pleased to announce the Alumni Association's newest way to have fun and meet people—the Hospitality Tent. Located near the Auburn House, the tent will be open before home football and lacrosse games. This is the perfect location to gather before the game to enjoy food, fellowship and fun. Look for dates, times and other details in the accompanying story.

If you would like a tour, do not hesitate to call the Office of Alumni Relations at 410.704.2234 or e-mail alumni@towson.edu. You will not believe the positive changes that have occurred since your graduation.

You can also get reacquainted with us through social networking opportunities—Facebook, Twitter, and the alumni online community—www.tutigertracks.com. The Alumni Association is committed to providing you with personal and professional support. So keep in touch.

I look forward to continuing to represent you this year. If you have any suggestions or ideas to share, do not hesitate to contact me through the Office of Alumni Relations.

Go Tigers!

Lou Dollinger '74
President
Towson University Alumni Association

Get Under Cover

THE ALUMNI HOSPITALITY TENT DEBUTS AT HOME FOOTBALL GAMES

We've got you covered with a Hospitality Tent hosted by the Alumni Office and the Alumni Association. Available before home football games this fall, the tent will be pitched across from the historic Auburn House on Auburn Drive—the perfect location to gather with alumni and friends. Free light fare is available—hotdogs, pretzels, potato chips, veggies and dip, cookies, soda and water—along with a cash bar. Look for the "Welcome Back Alumni" banner.

As a special incentive, we will sell game tickets to alumni in the tent for a discounted price of \$8 per person. Parking is \$10 per car. For more information, e-mail alumni@towson.edu or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 410-704-2234.

HOME GAMES AND TENT SCHEDULE

TU vs. Coastal Carolina

Saturday, September 11, 2010
Tent Open: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Game: 7 p.m.

TU vs. James Madison

Saturday, October 9, 2010
Tent Open: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Game: 7 p.m.

TU vs. Massachusetts

Saturday, October 2, 2010
Tent Open: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Game: 7 p.m.

TU vs. Maine

Saturday, November 13, 2010
Tent Open: 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Game: 2 p.m.

Get in the Game

TOWSONOPOLY AVAILABLE NOV. 8



Celebrate your connection to Towson University. Play TOWSONOPOLY.

Have you ever wanted to own Ward and West Halls or the historic Auburn House? Then get set to play TOWSONOPOLY.

It's a campus journey where you can buy your favorite TU properties, build residence halls and become a Towson superstar. But beware the pitfalls—academic probation, parking fines, lab fees.

This limited edition game created by the Alumni Association in collaboration with TU staff is available after Nov. 8, 2010. The \$100 cost includes a \$75 tax-deductible contribution to the Alumni Association to support alumni programs, benefits and services. Order TOWSONOPOLY today. It makes a great gift for a Towson graduate, friend or student. Contact alumni@towson.edu.

Celebrating

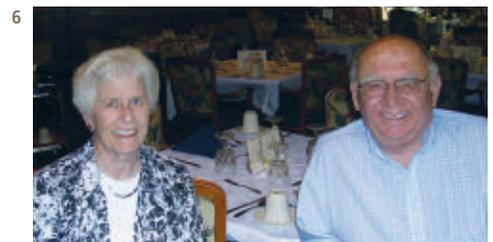
Reunion Luncheon >

Alumni from the classes of 1945, 1950, 1955 and 1965 reunited at a lunch on April 30. They enjoyed an archives display of TU memorabilia, a discussion of campus changes from Keith Ewancio '94/'07 and a campus tour.



Edenwald Luncheon >

The first reunion of alumni at Edenwald Retirement Community brought together 20 Towson graduates on June 7.



1 Members of the Class of 1965 2 Members of the Class of 1950 3 Members of the Class of 1945
 4 Members of the Class of 1955 5 Don Stegner and Edie Stegner '79 6 Elinor Turner '57 and George Hohl '55



Golden Reunion



< Class of 1960 celebrates its 50th Reunion

Over 60 alumni from the Class of 1960 gathered on May 1, 2010 to celebrate 50 years as TU graduates. They partied with classmates and friends at the Auburn House during an evening filled with music, laughter, good food and great company.

Caps and Gowns



< Graduation Station

Last May, the Alumni Association welcomed some of the 3,000 new TU graduates via a new initiative, a Graduation Station at Commencement.

1 Christine Tischer, Joe Tischer '59, Robin Smith '60, Janet Via '61 and Martha Streaker '60 2 Richard Coss, Carole Coss '60, Ray D'Amario '60 and Dolores D'Amario '60 3 Patricia Mott '60 and Richard Bradley '60 4 Members of the Class of 1960 5 Alumni Association Board member Fran Bond '55 speaks with graduating seniors. 6 Seniors enjoy the festivities at Graduation Station.

Natural Wonders

The Grand Opening of the TU Field Station >

Last May, more than 100 alumni, friends and community members celebrated the opening of the TU Field Station, a research outpost for TU students and faculty in Monkton, Md. The station is made possible by a partnership between TU and landowners Al '66 and Suzie Henneman. Guests enjoyed interactive experiments such as tracking box turtles and identifying flora and fauna on nature walks.



1 Provost Marcia Welsh, Dean David Vanko, Director Don Forester and landowners Suzie and Al '66 Henneman cut the ribbon to open the Field Station. 2, 3, 4 Guests at the Field Station had lots to see including snakes, frogs and microscopic flora and fauna. 5, 6 Biology students led guided nature tours, taught kids how to track turtles and guided guests through a portable planetarium show.



A Capitol Event



< Annapolis Alumni Reception

On June 3, 60 TU alumni and friends joined TU President Robert Caret for an alumni reception at the Governor Calvert House on historic State Circle.



1 Myesha Jordan '09, Anthony Jackson, Stephanie Wantland '03 and Michael Ross 2 Nedra Gaine and Janice Oesterle '58
 3 Linda Waldmann '66, Alicia Hardisky '66, Gordon Schaaf and Ginny Schaaf '57 4 Elyse Exposito '08, Noreen Lynch '72,
 Shelley Gallagher '77 and Kim Stinchcomb '08 5 Nick Kotsis and John Gaffhari '05



TOWSON UNIVERSITY
HOMECOMING 2010
OCTOBER 24-30
www.towson.edu/homecoming

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

Volunteer Recognition Dinner
Patuxent Room, University Union
6 - 8:30 p.m.

The Towson University Alumni Association is proud to celebrate and honor their most outstanding alumni, faculty and staff volunteers. Recipients of the Alumni Association Scholarship and Grant program will also be recognized at the dinner. For invitation information, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800-887-8152 or alumni@towson.edu.

Spirit of the University Award
 Bradley S. Callahan '90

Alumni Association Volunteer Service Award
 Keith L. Ewancio '94/'07

Staff Alumni Volunteer Service Award
 Chris Reed

Faculty Alumni Volunteer Service Award
 Nancy Wanich-Romita '00

University Alumni Volunteer Service Award
 Louise K. Fitzell '38

Athletic Alumni Volunteer Service Award
 Patrick Mead

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

Millennium Reunion
A Reunion Event for the
Classes of 2000-2010
Charles Village Pub
7:30 - 10 p.m.

The TU Alumni Association welcomes you back to your alma mater. Reconnect with classmates, network with fellow alumni and kick off Homecoming weekend with entertainment, food and fun.

Watch for reunion details at www.tutigertracks.com and the TU Alumni Association Facebook page. For questions, please contact the Alumni Office at 800-887-8152 or alumni@towson.edu

Athletic Hall of Fame Induction
Susquehanna Room,
University Union
6 p.m. – Cocktails
7 p.m. – Dinner

This year's inductees are Carl Beernink, men's lacrosse; Dan Crowley, football; Nancy Kearns, gymnastics; and Maureen Shaneman Hall, cross country, track and field. The Team of Distinction is the 1980 women's lacrosse team.

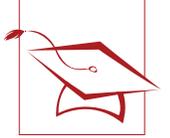
For more information, contact Shannon Witzel at 410-704-3284.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

Alumni Homecoming Festival
& Reunion Row
Sponsored by GEICO
Burdick Field
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

"All that Glitters is Gold" at the sixth annual Alumni Homecoming Festival and Reunion Row! Get ready to celebrate homecoming with fellow alumni, friends and family for a day of food, fun and more.

- ★ Fun, family atmosphere with games for kids!
- ★ Raffle prizes and alumni giveaways at the Alumni Association Welcome Tent
- ★ Free food at the GEICO Hospitality Tent
- ★ Sign up for a campus walking tour
- ★ See the TU Championship Dance Team perform
- ★ Sing along to the fight song with the TU Marching Band
- ★ Free shuttle to Unitas Stadium for the homecoming football game
- ★ Reunion Row tents available to plan your own alumni reunion



Bring the kids in their Halloween costumes for a 1:30 pm Halloween Parade around Burdick Field followed by "trick or treating" at the reunion tents. Every child will receive a trick or treat bag at the Alumni Homecoming Festival.

What is Reunion Row?

Reunion Row is an opportunity for you to plan a mini-reunion of your fellow alumni and friends at the Alumni Homecoming Festival. Groups range from 5 people to 200 people and can be informal or organized groups of alumni. With over 40 groups participating every year and thousands of alumni attending you'll be sure to see someone you know.

How do I make a Reunion Row reservation?

Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@towson.edu or 800-887-8152 for a reservation form, go to www.tigertracks/reunionrow2010.

What does a Reunion Row reservation include?

A Reunion Row reservation includes one 10x10 canopy tent on Burdick Field and two 6-foot tables. Each group will be given up to three parking permits. Optional grill rentals are 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 kegs permitted. No drinking games permitted.

TOWSON HILLEL BAR MITZVAH CELEBRATION

Potomac Lounge, University Union

8:30 p.m.

Come celebrate 13 years of Hillel. Students, faculty, staff, parents or just friends are welcome. For more information visit www.towsonhillel.org/barmitzvah/ or contact Ken Krivitzky, director, at 410-704-4671 or kkrivitzky@towson.edu

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME

Rhode Island Rams vs. Towson University Tigers

Johnny Unitas® Stadium

3:30 p.m.

*The first 500 fans in the stadium receive a free shoulder sling backpack

Ticket Information

Advance prices

Adults – \$12
Children (17 & under) – \$8

Game day prices

Adults – \$15
Children (17 & under) – \$10

To purchase tickets over the phone, please call 410-704-2244. Box Office hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. To purchase tickets online go to www.towsontigers.com.

HOMECOMING BLOOD DRIVE

Potomac Lounge, University Union

Monday, October 25 – CAA Challenge

8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Tuesday, October 26

8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Wednesday, October 27

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Alumni are welcome to participate and donate blood. Visitor parking and metered spots are available in lot 11 next to the Union Parking Garage.

HOTEL ROOM BLOCK

The Towson University Marriott Conference Hotel

(formerly the Berkshire Marriott)

10 West Burke Avenue – 800-435-5986

A block of rooms has been reserved for October 29 and 30, 2010. To receive the block rate, please make your reservation no later than October 1, 2010 indicating you are part of the "Towson University Homecoming Block." The special block rate is \$99 plus tax for standard single and double rooms.

For a list of additional area hotels, go to www.towson.edu/homecoming/accommodations.asp.

Awards Banquet

2010 Distinguished Alumni and Deans Recognition Awards Banquet >

Towson University honored seven outstanding alumni at the annual Distinguished Alumni and Deans Recognition awards banquet on May 15, 2010. Alumni Association President, Lou Dollenger assisted the deans and President Caret in presenting this year's awards.



Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Molly Shock '75



College of Business and Economics
Kathleen McQuiggan '90



College of Education
JoAnne V. Koehler '68



College of Fine Arts and Communication
Joy Lusco Kecken '94



College of Health Professions
Buzz Williams '92



College of Liberal Arts
Constance W. Kihm '95



Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics
Patricia Schriver Steeg '75



Growing a university

THE CAMPAIGN FOR TOWSON



from the

campaign chair

Dear Friends,

As I think back over the last six years as chair of the campaign, I feel privileged to have served a university in which I believe. In visits to cities across the nation, I have met alumni who have great memories of Towson and who are excited about what is yet to come for the university. I've met students who describe the outstanding education they have received at Towson, made possible only through scholarship support. I have talked with faculty who have a true passion for what they teach, and for teaching itself. I am struck by the loyalty and pride that each has for Towson. It is exciting to think of what all of us can do for the future of Towson.

If you have not stepped forward already, I encourage you to make your gift in the coming months. There are many ways to support students, programs and faculty, and now, naming opportunities exist for all giving capacities from putting a name on a brick at the Auburn House, to seats in Stephen's Hall, to scholarships, classrooms and buildings. There is so much good you can do for the people, places and programs that make up the institution you love.

Now is your chance to step forward and be counted as part of the success of Growing a University.

Molly Shock

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

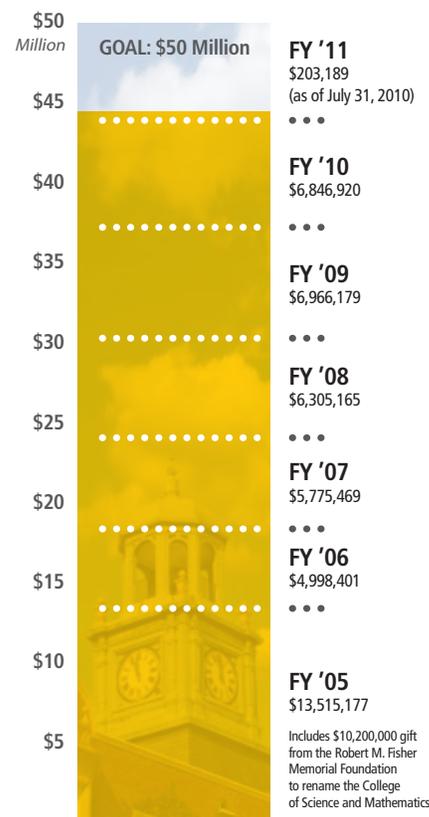
Fiscal Year 2010 Highlights

The 2010 fiscal year ended June 30, and we are pleased to report that we exceeded by 7 percent our annual goal of \$6.4 million. The credit goes to those of you who, in a challenging economy, came together with gifts large and small, to achieve positive results for our students. Below are just a few highlights of a successful year.

- The Towson Promise Scholarship was established in September 2009 to provide immediate support for students facing financial challenges. By June 30, 2010, 317 donors had contributed, and nine scholarships were awarded.
- Vince Talbert '90 issued a \$30,000 challenge grant in April 2010 to provide operating funds for the debate team. By June 30, 2010, 278 donors had contributed more than \$10,000 toward the challenge.
- The number of faculty and staff who contributed to the annual fund this year increased, despite budget cuts and furloughs, as did the number of TU parent donors.
- More than 600 people became members or renewed their membership in the Founders Society, TU's campus-wide recognition society for donors of \$1,000 and above.
- Our donors have brought the university to the \$44.3 million mark in our capital campaign—89 percent of our \$50 million goal. Thank you!

Campaign Progress to Date:
\$44,610,510

Just a few more months
to meet our goal—
Help push us over the top



No Arguments

CHALLENGE GRANT FROM TU GRADUATE IS A DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR MATCH TO BENEFIT DEBATE TEAM

When the TU Speech and Debate Team won a national title in 2008, Towson not only made headlines, it also attracted the attention of some prominent alumni.

TU debaters Dayvon Love and Deven Cooper became the first African Americans to win a national debate championship with their 7 - 4 decision against top-seeded Kansas State at the Cross Examination Debate Association National Championships in January 2008.

The impressive victory put the team in the spotlight but also underlined its funding woes.

CBE alumnus Vincent Talbert '90 learned of the team's budget concerns and stepped in this year, encouraging fellow alumni and the university to help.

"I look at speech and debate as a way for Towson to be a leader in academia and be a winner," says Talbert, vice president of Merchant Marketing with Paypal.

"The ability to communicate clearly and persuasively is valuable and will serve you throughout your career. It's a great thing to invest in. It makes the students better and gives them great sense of accomplishment. It also gives the community a great thing to be proud of, and get behind."

He created a \$90,000 challenge grant—\$30,000 for three years—which asks for alumni and university investment, and matches contributions from donors dollar-



The challenge grant established by Vince Talbert '90 will allow other TU debate team members to follow in the victorious footsteps of national champions Dayvon Love and Deven Cooper (above).



Vincent Talbert '90

Talbert created a \$90,000 challenge grant—\$30,000 for three years—which matches contributions from donors dollar-for-dollar.

for-dollar. It aims to defray the costs of travel, coaching and the team's other needs.

Steve Mister '85, a former member of the debate team and now a donor, knows how difficult it is to compete with the best teams while operating on a shoestring budget. He remembers eating bologna sandwiches on

the side of the road during 14-hour bus trips to key debates.

To be competitive on a national circuit with large schools, "you have to get there," Mister says, and sometimes a car ride isn't enough.

Like Talbert, Mister emphasizes the importance of speech and debate in one's professional life. As the head of a trade association representing the vitamin industry, Mister relies on his speech and debate experience to keep his composure while testifying before Congress.

"So much of what I have to do on a daily basis I trace back to speech and debate—all of the critical thinking, public speaking, getting my points across, dealing with the media," he says. "I give Towson a great deal of credit for where I am today."

While TU has recently earned accolades, speech and debate is not a new pursuit for

the university, which maintains its legacy of national and regional affiliations. For more than 40 years, the university has been developing public speakers through the Speech and Debate Team, including TV personality Mike Rowe '85. Director Beth Skinner and Coach Andy Ellis hope to keep the team

competitive and welcome the generosity of people like Talbert who recognize the importance of the team.

"Here is Towson excelling at what is a truly academic extracurricular activity," says Talbert. "If you're number one, you want to stay number one."

Face to Face

DONORS AND RECIPIENTS OF THE FOUNDATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM MEET AT ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The 2010 Foundation Scholars Luncheon brought together recipients of 100 different scholarships, their benefactors and campus leadership, for a celebration of scholarship May 5. The annual event is a cornerstone of the Foundation Scholars program, which facilitates communication between



Towson University and scholarship donors—and between these donors and

their scholarship recipients. It aims to preserve and share the histories and legacy of scholarship donors, and to instill the importance of philanthropy in future alumni, laying the foundation for tomorrow's gifts.

Featured speakers at this year's event included President Robert L. Caret, Provost Marcia Welsh, Gwenyth Dunbar, mother of James L. Dunbar Jr., for whom three funds are named, and Erin Fitzgerald '09, a Dunbar Scholarship recipient.

Dunbar spoke poignantly of her son who was the inspiration for creating scholarships

to support students. James Dunbar Jr. '95 had decided to pursue a degree after working in the family business at Dunbar Armored. Soon after he completed his coursework, he died of an extended illness at the age of 36. The scholarships the family established in his name have helped over 75 students over the years.

Erin Fitzgerald became the first college graduate in her family in 2009, in part through the aid she received through



Gwenyth Dunbar, donor of the James L. Dunbar, Jr. Scholarship, with recipient Erin Fitzgerald '09 (left)



Mildred Murray (left), donor of the Mildred Murray Scholarship, with recipient Cheryl Wood



Recipient of the Barnes Harris Scholarship, Kary Horne (left), with Monica Taylor, member of G.O.L.D. Associates, the donor of the scholarship



Janet West (right), representative of the Michael J. Robinson Scholarship, with recipient Matthew Jessee

the James L. Dunbar, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. She says, "I will never forget the day I was awarded this scholarship ... (I was motivated to) scribble a rough draft of my career goals: to experience life to the utmost...be a pioneer of innovation, and invest in others as others have invested in me."

To view photos and video clips of this year's Foundation Scholars Luncheon, visit www.towson.edu/foundationsscholars.

What's in a Club?

LEARN HOW TOWSON GIVING CLUBS BENEFIT YOU AND THE UNIVERSITY

Your gift to Towson may qualify you for membership in one or more of our giving clubs, which exist to recognize our donors and encourage gifts to the university. There are a number of ways to support Towson.

Founders Society

The Founders Society is a university-wide recognition program for leadership giving, honoring donors who make annual gifts to any designation at Towson. Within the Founders Society there are three giving levels: the President's Circle (\$2,500 and above); the Benefactor's Circle (\$1,000 – \$2,499); and a recognition society for graduates from the last 10 years called the Principal's Circle (\$100 – \$999 based on graduation year). Members are invited to events, receive quarterly communications and more. For the 2009-2010 fiscal year, there were more than 600 members.

www.towson.edu/founders



Members of the Founders Society are honored for their part in having a meaningful impact on the university.



Some members of the Blazer Club sport their attire at Unitas Stadium.

Blazer Club

Created in 2003 by President Robert Caret, the Blazer Club has grown to over 85 members. To join their ranks, make a \$5,000 gift commitment to the athletics program (payable over five years). Members receive certain athletic benefits and a blazer, and are invited to a number of exclusive events throughout the year.

www.towson.edu/blazerclub

Golden Tiger Society

Our Golden Tigers are those who have made annual gifts for five or more consecutive fiscal years to Towson. The Society honors the loyalty and commitment of donors who support Towson—at any level—year after year. The Golden Tiger Society has more than 1,500 members, and is growing rapidly. We now have 80 members who have been giving for 20 or more consecutive years.

www.towson.edu/goldentiger

Tower Light Society

Donors who plan for the future of Towson by leaving an estate gift to the Towson University Foundation are members of the Tower Light Society. Gifts may be restricted or unrestricted and may support the college, department or program of your choice. Members are invited to special events and recognized in perpetuity. Our Tower Light Society membership is 160 strong.

www.towson.edu/giftplanning

If you wish to make a gift to join one of the clubs listed above, or support any of our additional opportunities such as WTMD's Frontman Club, Asian Arts and Culture Center, or Tiger Club, please contact us at 1-866-301-3375 or towsonfund@towson.edu, or make a gift online, www.towson.edu/supporttu.

Before the 1960s

Bette Jackson Finch '52 ECED received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Carroll Child Care Center at its 40th anniversary celebration. A consultant and charter member, she is now a member of the Board of Directors. Finch also plays tennis, participates in a book club and spends time with her 14 grandchildren, one of whom graduated from TU in May.

1970s

Catherine McGowan '72 MUSC, who lived in Ann Arbor, Mich., for over 30 years, returned to Clinton, Md., to live with her family. She has sung with the Ann Arbor Cantata Singers, a semi-professional choir, and hopes to find or form a similar performing group. She is editing some 200 poems into three collections and is working to publish a story written by one of her sisters.

Beth Wiseman '74 ECED was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

Thomas B. Beyard '77 GEOG is a command sergeant major of the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade in the Maryland Army National Guard. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Maryland's highest military award, for service beyond the call of duty. A 28-year military veteran, he deployed to Iraq from 2006-2007. In the civilian world, he is director of planning, zoning and development for Westminster, Md. Beyard has an MBA from TUI, an online university.

Sharon Sykes '77 BUAD joined Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union as senior vice president of marketing. She brings 25 years of marketing expertise from executive marketing positions with the Maryland & District of Columbia Credit Union Association, SECU Credit Union and Tower Federal Credit Union.

Ernie Paszkiewicz '79 ACCT was elected to the Community Law Center's board of directors. An audit and accounting partner at Gross, Mendelsohn & Associates, he specializes in nonprofit organizations, manufacturers and wholesale distributors. Paszkiewicz, a member of the American Institute of CPAs and Maryland Association of CPAs, lives in Harford County, Md. His past and present professional and civic activities have included leadership positions with the Harford County Chamber of Commerce and the Hunt Valley Business Forum.



Computer Guru • Alan Marker '71

Small business owner rebuilds, donates computers to the needy

One man's trash is another man's treasure. Just ask Alan Marker '71.

Marker refurbishes old computers that would otherwise be destined for landfills, donating them to those in need, both in the U.S. and abroad.

Over the years, the owner of Alan's Affordable Computers in New York and a former music promoter has invested countless hours and thousands of dollars of his own money updating and restoring computers. The old monitors and towers come from various sources, including individuals and school systems.

Marker first took computers to veterans in VA hospitals. The technology was a diversion, he says, "to help them take their minds off things. After that, I started hearing cries from outside the country, and decided that I wanted to try to meet that need."

Now, thanks to Marker, hundreds of children in Nepal, Haiti and Tibet have access to donated computers and laptops.

"The kids usually get about two hours each on a donated computer," he says. "When they use the computer the first time, you can see the awe on their faces."

When refurbishing computers for veterans, Marker emphasized games and entertainment; however, for the children overseas, the focus is learning, so each computer is loaded with educational programs.

"Most of the children don't have books, so computers are a way to get them what they are missing," Marker explains. "With a computer, education is right at their fingertips."

With more than 800 computers already donated to charities, schools and others in need, Marker's next project is to put computers in the hands of those living on a Navajo reservation in New Mexico. He also plans to continue to address the need abroad by bringing his computers to a Tibetan monastery and orphanage.

"Right now, I'm having some trouble ensuring that I'll actually be able to get into the country, but I'm not going to stop trying," he says. "If I help one person a day, and then that person helps someone else, that's the only way the world will change."

To donate old computers, contact Marker at amarker@hcv.rr.com or 845-687-9505 to find a donation center in your area.

—Melissa Kviz



Ernie Paszkiewicz '79 was elected to the Community Law Center's board of directors.

Lester C. Schott '79 BUAD joined Invotex as a managing director in insurance practice. Schott retired after 30 years with the State of Maryland, most recently with the Maryland Insurance Administration, as associate commissioner of examination and auditing.

1980s

Mark Hutchins '84 BUAD has enjoyed a lengthy career at FedEx Services, where he is corporate sales manager. Hutchins lives in Lancaster County, Pa., with his wife and three children.

Brian Joseph Early '86 BUAD returned from California for the 4.4-mile Great Chesapeake Bay Swim in June, an event he started as a TU student-athlete in 1982 to honor his late father, who passed away from diabetes complica-

tions. The 2010 swim marked the 18th year of the event, which awards student scholarships from the Cynthia Earley Educational Foundation and has raised more than \$1.7 million for the March of Dimes and other charities.

Hope Tarr '86 PSYC published her 13th novel, *The Tutor*, in July. Her novella for a Christmas anthology, *A Harlequin Christmas Carol*, is slated for release in December.

Paul Ryan '87 MGMT, a management consultant and corporate trainer in south Florida,

is married and has a daughter, Isabella, 3. He writes, "I remember a lot of good times at Towson, including pranks and also enjoyed classes, especially (believe it or not) Business Law with Michael Seganish."

Glenn Stearns '87 BUAD was named one of the "Pink Tie Guys" for the Orange County Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The title is given annually to businessmen who will advocate breast cancer awareness in the business community. Stearns is chairman of Stearns Corporation and CEO of a portfolio of financial services companies.



The Sisterhood

TU's first black sorority celebrates 35 years

On June 22, 1975, the Mu Mu chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority became the first black sorority and first black Greek-lettered organization at Towson.

More than a social club, the TU sisters of Delta Sigma Theta have spent more than three decades giving back to the school and its neighboring community, a history of service that began with the chapter's initiation of the East Towson Teen Club. Since then, the sorority's impressive public service résumé has grown to include the Delta Growing & Empowering Myself Successfully (GEMS) program, numerous seminars and forums, voter registration drives, and partnerships with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

For Donnice Brown '91, one of four Delta Sigma Theta advisers at TU, the true magic of the Deltas is in the bonds of sisterhood.

"I love the instant connection of sisterhood that I have as a Delta," she says. "It's that automatic connection. You are your sister's keeper."

This year, the TU Deltas continued that tradition by bestowing the first Hazel Parks Temperance Awards to four undergraduate Deltas. Each sister was awarded \$400 to help defray expenses and achieve their academic and professional dreams.

To celebrate their 35 years of sisterhood and service, over 170 TU Deltas gathered at a picnic, church service and brunch. The sisters will continue their anniversary celebrations at TU's Homecoming this October.

—Melissa Kviz

In Memoriam

Alumni

Lotta Lee Webster '72
October 10, 2009

Michael Brian Gold '03
November 19, 2009

Faye M. Wade '91
November 24, 2009

Dorothy Schindler Jacobs '37
November 25, 2009

Madolin Redding Keinard '63
November 28, 2009

Jacqueline Cecilia McCormack '93
December 2, 2009

Carolyn Ginsburg Potter '43
December 4, 2009

Hugh R. Eckert '77
December 12, 2009

Ethel D. Kougl '59
December 14, 2009

John Henry Fischer '30
December 18, 2009

Patricia L. Myers '90
December 19, 2009

Lynette M. Thomas '97
December 23, 2009

Rosalind H. Trieber '89
December 31, 2009

Robert H. Crowder '73
February 6, 2010

Rena Sharp Sugar '33
February 17, 2010

Alice Crane Hoen '42
April 28, 2010

Dietrich von Schwerdtner '53
April 30, 2010

James V. Simonette '76
May 21, 2010

Myra B. Koontz '46
May 26, 2010

Marion C. Krider '36
June 15, 2010

Staff

Marion Hoffman
December 2, 2009

Sonya Amartey '88 MCOM started a consulting firm, SA Consulting Services, which specializes in database management.

Kevin M. O'Neill '88 was selected as one of the "Life Sciences 50" by the Irish government and the Irish Voice newspaper. The award recognizes leadership in the life sciences industries of Americans of Irish heritage. A director of pharmaceutical operations and reimbursement for Alkermes Inc., O'Neill retired in September from the Pennsylvania National Guard after 26 years.

Mark Raines '88 MCOM published his first book, *Orange, Black and Grey*, which details a lifelong endeavor that led a childhood Baltimore Orioles fan from Chicago to TU and ultimately to a residence in Baltimore.

1990s

Michael Navarre '94 was appointed to the Board of Advisors of the National Institute of Military Justice. A special counsel attorney at the Washington, D.C., office of Steptoe & Johnson, he has a background in laws that relate to contingency operation and battlespace contracting. Navarre, a former lieutenant in the Navy Judge

Advocate General's Corp., maintains a popular military justice blog, caaflog.com.

Beth Schuler '94 HLTH joined the North Highland Company's Nashville, Tenn., office as a senior manager. A human resources consultant, Schuler specializes in employee engagement, and measurement and process analysis and redesign.

Dave Reynolds '95 M.A. graduated from Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, Va., with a doctorate of musical arts in classical guitar. He performs as a guitarist and tours with various musical groups out of Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Bethany Latham '95 MCOM graduated with a master of arts in film and television production from American University and works for the Travel Channel in Chevy Chase, Md.

David Mario Duchow '96 ACCT is an airport compliance specialist with the Federal Aviation Administration. He resides in Washington, D.C.

Richard Holley '96 OCHT was promoted to major in the U.S. Army Reserve on May 4.

Daniel Price '97 HIST is studying to become a Catholic priest at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore.

Kimberly Burton-Regulski '98 received a 2010 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching. She was one of 103 recipients named for the national award this year by President Obama. Burton-Regulski, the mathematics department chair at Eastern Technical High School in Essex, Md., received a citation signed by President Obama, an expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for an awards ceremony and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

Jeffrey M. Lawson '98 ACCT was named a new shareholder at Stoy, Malone & Company. He has been with the firm since January 1999. Lawson and his wife, Carla, welcomed their first child, Evan, on May 7.

Amanda Shyman Leyden '98 ELED and her husband, Michael, welcomed their son, Reece Parker, on March 24.

Susan Whitnall Lippold '98 BUAD/MKTG and her husband, Larry, welcomed their second child, Tyson Joseph, on September 29. The couple also has a daughter, Alyson Bailey.

Nicole Dennis '99 ECED of Riverside, N.J., welcomed a daughter, Zoey Kathryn, on December 5, 2009. She weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces.



Sharon Sykes '77 is the senior vice president of marketing at Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union.

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.

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Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Business Address _____

Employer _____

Title _____ E-mail _____

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



Whatever It Takes Jimmy Charles Krabbe '03 American Idol contestant is making his mark in Nashville

On July 14, 2009, Jimmy Charles Krabbe '03 heard four life-changing words: "You're going to Hollywood."

At his regional audition for season nine of American Idol in Denver, Colo., the singer/songwriter earned a unanimous "yes" from all four judges, including guest judge Victoria Beckham. Over 110,000 people auditioned for American Idol and Krabbe was one of only 180 to make it to Hollywood.

"It was an amazing feeling," he says. "Everyone who made it to Hollywood has this glow. You're a part of the biggest singing competition in the world."

Krabbe, who goes by Jimmy Charles in the entertainment world, had to keep mum about his success for six months and made numerous trips to California from his home in Nashville, Tenn. Although he was later eliminated from the competition, he has no regrets.

"Getting cut was a huge disappointment, but once that wore off, I put it in perspective," he says. "I got to meet all the judges. I met enormously talented people and I got to sing in the Kodak Theatre. It's definitely something to be proud of."

Now, the former TU linebacker is back in Music City performing, presenting to interested record labels, assembling his music team and writing new songs. His first single, "Whatever It Takes" (which also serves as his personal motto), has gotten national airtime and his new song, "I Miss My Maryland," is playing on Maryland radio stations.

"When I decided to move to Nashville, I sold everything I had," he says. "I didn't know anyone and I didn't have a lot of money to get started. Now, to hear my songs on the radio and to know that my songs are being played everywhere... that's just a dream come true."

—Melissa Kviz

Megan Riley '99 MCOM and her husband, James, welcomed their first child, Colin Gavaghan, on January 18. She works as a freelance editor for a scientific publisher while staying home to raise her son.

Kari Colsey Sateriale '99 BUAD and her husband, Danny, welcomed their first child, a daughter, Sydney Jean, on November 10, 2009. The family lives in Yorktown Heights, N.Y.

2000s

Karen E. Crawford '00 SOAN graduated with a master of divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in May and began the school's master of theology program. She received the Wilbur R. and Mae Closterhouse Award in Church History and Pastoral Ministry.

Sharon Ferman Sacks '00/'05 M.Ed. married in 2007 and is the proud owner of two dogs. She and her family live in Virginia.

Matthew Seaman '00 was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society in May. He has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the MBA program at University of Maryland University College.

Annamarie Lyst Coleman '02 married J.T. Coleman on May 22. They live in Laredo, Texas.

Brett E. Collier '02 BUAD received a master of fine arts from the New School for Drama in New York. Now in Los Angeles, his short film, "Women in Hats," is nominated for a Cecil Award.

Tonyce Thompson '02 DFST earned her master's degree in public health from Walden University in February.

Stephen Massoni '03 EMF works for Discovery Communications as a master control supervisor at the Broadcast Center in Sterling, Va. He manages the day-to-day operations of 25 cable networks, including Discovery, TLC and Animal Planet.

Craig Collins-Young '03 ENGL received a master of arts in writing with a concentration in poetry from Johns Hopkins University.

Seth Conley '04 was promoted to account executive with the season ticket sales and service department of the New York Yankees.

Noel Dass '04 INST coordinates social development programs across Pakistan and Afghanistan with Church World Service-Pakistan/Afghanistan, an international humanitarian non-governmental organization.

Eric Rhew '05 CCMM, TU assistant director of Athletic Media Relations, wrote and edited the TU men's and women's lacrosse guides, which received second- and third-place honors from the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Gabrielle Grande '06 POSC authored her first novel, *Rose's Gift*, published by Publish America.

Kate Richa '06 FMST graduated from Loyola University of Maryland with a master of science in pastoral counseling.

Kirby Toolan '06 INST/ECON and her husband, Sean, welcomed their second child, Kyla Faith, on June 7. The family lives in Quantico, Va.

Kaitlin Garvey '07 MCOM was named senior account executive in the Baltimore office of Weber Shandwick, a public relations agency. She joined Weber Shandwick in 2007.

Drew Martin '08 ENGL, an assistant to the dean of faculty of The Bullis School, directed a film for the Washington, D.C., 48-Hour Film Project with the assistance of several students, faculty and volunteers from the school. The film, "Chloe," screened at the AFI Silver Theatre and was placed in the "Best of D.C." showcase.

Hillary Fratzke '09 BIOL, a TU master's candidate in biology, received the Colonial Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete Award for women's lacrosse for the second time. Fratzke was also given the TU Tiger Athletic Fund Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award and CAA Commissioner's Academic Award for the fifth straight year.

Erin Gately '10 designed the program for the first I-95 Kickoff Classic when 10 high school football teams from the Baltimore-Washington area competed at Utitas Stadium in September. She also interned with Mania Music Group.

[footprints talk]

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LOOK FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ON PAGES 30 AND 31.