

# TOWSON

FALL 2012

ONE WOMAN SHOW 12  
WALKING ON THE WILD SIDE 14  
IN OTHER WORDS 18



★ From Combat to Classroom ★

## **The Roar of the Tigers**

Justine Hoerning, a music major and Honors College alumna, climbed atop the 700-pound bronze tiger near Towsontown Boulevard to let out a celebratory roar after May's Commencement. The roaring tiger is the newest of a trio of metal mascots, gifts from the TU Alumni Association.





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In the transition from combat to the classroom, Towson University serves those who have served.

**ONE WOMAN SHOW 12**

Baltimore theater icon Vivienne Shub takes the stage to receive TU honorary degree.

**WALKING ON THE WILD SIDE 14**

Jamie Rappaport Clark '79, president and CEO of Defenders of Wildlife, fights for America's native species.

**IN OTHER WORDS 18**

Taking Spanish out of the classroom and into the community.



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\*Available only at  
[www.towsonalumnimagazine.com](http://www.towsonalumnimagazine.com)





“ Nancy Grasmick '61 became TU's Presidential Scholar for Innovation in Teacher and Leader Preparation. ”

**A**s I conclude my first semester, I thank all students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters for the privilege of working with you.

Thanks to your advocacy, the governor and legislature have reaffirmed their commitment to higher education. While some cuts were made to the budget of the University System of Maryland and all schools will have a small tuition increase, I am happy to report that our two major capital projects were funded. The pedestrian walkway over Osler Drive, and the renovation and addition to Smith Hall will move forward on time.

We are also celebrating many other accomplishments:

- *The Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges: 2012 Edition* selected TU as one of the country's most environmentally responsible campuses;
- The Maryland Higher Education Commission approved TU's building in Harford County, which will help us serve Harford County students in our 2+2 programs;
- Nancy Grasmick '61 became TU's Presidential Scholar for Innovation in Teacher and Leader Preparation. Nearly \$3 million has been raised to support this work. This includes a \$2 million grant from the National Math and Science Initiative and the Maryland State Department of Education to create a UTeach program at Towson that will prepare students to become science, technology and mathematics teachers;
- In May, more than 3,400 students graduated and we awarded two honorary degrees.

The fall semester promises excitement with the activities of Inauguration Week, including the debut of our International Flag Walkway, the grand opening of the Institute for Well-Being in Towson City Center, and more.

Please join in the excitement. Visit the campus. I am sure you will be amazed by the stunning new views. You may even want to pose for a picture on the new bronze tiger donated by the Alumni Association at the gateway entrance on Towsontown Boulevard. I hope to see you soon.

Maravene Loeschke

President

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Using this combination of papers saves the following:



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GREENHOUSE GASES: 6,431 LBS CO<sub>2</sub>

WASTEWATER: 29,000 GALLONS

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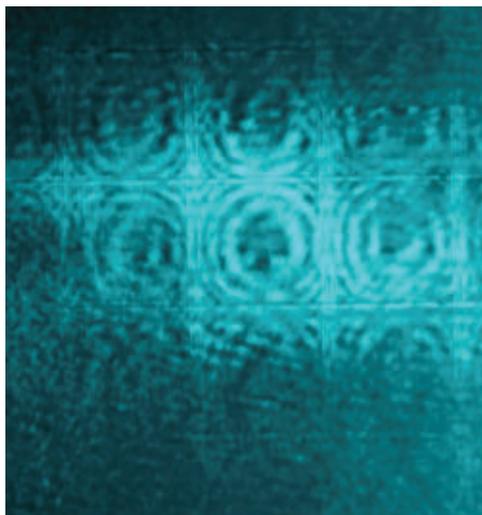
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The *Towson* text pages are printed on forest-friendly Utopia Dull paper. The cover is printed on Utopia Gloss using Eco-Pride inks.



## Cloaks of Invisibility

PHYSICS PROFESSOR TRAPS LIGHT TO MAKE OBJECTS "DISAPPEAR"



Cloaked areas appear as dark circles surrounded by concentric rings. (Image courtesy of Vera Smolyaninova.)

A Towson University professor has published a research study that would make J.K. Rowling proud.

Vera Smolyaninova, in collaboration with colleagues from TU and the University of Maryland, has successfully created a first-of-its-kind collection of 25,000 "invisibility cloaks," each measuring just 30 millimeters in diameter, which can slow down and harness light.

The result is a "trapped rainbow," which can be used to effectively make an object appear invisible.

Inspired by researchers published in *Physical Review B*, who first wrote about positioning microscopic cloaks on a two-dimensional grid, Smolyaninova and her team have turned an abstract concept into a physical product.



### Take another look at Towson online.

We have links to websites and emails contained in the stories. You'll also find Web extras, including Melanie Rowland, who finished 65th at the Olympic Swimming Trials, information about Cook Library housing the Ehrlich Collection for Public Leadership Studies and graduation speeches from May's commencement.

To achieve this, the team coated a microlens array—which comprises many minute lenses—with a thin film of gold and arranged it above a sheet of glass also coated in gold. When a laser was directed between the two layers, its light was manipulated around each lens, thereby creating a cloaked zone in each.

The effect is to slow or even stop the light, creating a trapped rainbow.

"In our array, light is stopped at the boundary of each of the cloaks, meaning we observe the trapped rainbow at the edge of each cloak," explains Smolyaninova, an associate professor in the Department of Physics, Astronomy and Geosciences. "This means we could do 'spectroscopy on-a-chip' and examine fluorescence at thousands of points all in one go."

## Light from a laser was manipulated around each lens, creating a cloaked zone.

The applications of this research, which was recently published in the *New Journal of Physics*, are wide ranging, and include camouflage, biomedicine and sensing.

Read the research paper and see a video—  
<http://iopscience.iop.org/1367-2630/14/5/053029>



### INAUGURATION WEEK

SEPTEMBER 9–15

THE INAUGURATION OF  
DR. MARAVENE LOESCHKE  
AS THE THIRTEENTH PRESIDENT  
OF TOWSON UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER 14 • 2 P.M.  
TOWSON CENTER ARENA

The inauguration of Dr. Maravene Loeschke is an action-packed week, beginning with the play "Love Letters" on Sept. 9. It features Dr. Loeschke and her husband, C. Richard Gillespie. Other events include the dedication of the International Walkway, a concert, pep rally, Japanese tea ceremony, art exhibits, the ribbon cutting for the Institute for Well-Being, Ailey II Dance Concert, a football game, and the formal inauguration ceremony.

For a full schedule of events,  
please visit [www.towson.edu/](http://www.towson.edu/inauguration)  
[inauguration](http://www.towson.edu/inauguration) or [events.towson.edu](http://events.towson.edu).



**3 NOTEBOOK**

**Pedal Pushers**

When TU rolled out its bike rental program in March, Rob Cockey was in line.

“Even though I had the shuttle system as an option, it was convenient to have a bike so I could travel to campus on my own time,” says the TU junior.

Other students must have echoed his sentiments, because all 25 bicycles in

the pilot program—free use of a bicycle for the semester—were quickly booked, according to Nicole Kazanecki<sup>’11</sup>, coordinator for civic engagement. “We had a waiting list,” she adds.

The bike rental program offered students a more affordable method of transportation. It also eliminated parking hassles and promoted healthy lifestyles, Kazanecki says.

The program was so popular, bikes were rented during



the summer, and this fall, 10 additional cycles will be available for hire.

Despite the small number of bikes, Cockey says, “it’s a start in reducing the carbon footprint of students at TU” and hopes

**“It was convenient to have a bike so I could travel to campus on my own time.”**

—Rob Cockey, TU junior

more bicycles will be made available in the future. In fact, Cockey “can’t wait until next semester to rent a bike again.”

**Goal Oriented**

Students Helping Honduras, featured in the fall 2011 *Towson* magazine, surpassed its \$50,000 goal, raising \$53,000 last semester, according to Santiago Solis, faculty adviser. In the last three years, the group has raised over \$100,000 to build a learning center, children’s home, and bilingual school for orphaned and vulnerable children in Villa Soleada, Honduras.

**Hackers Beware**

Rack up another victory for Towson’s cyber defense team. TU students took first place in the annual CyberWatch Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition in a two-day competition last March,

continuing a streak of triumphs.

Of the last five major regional competitions, the Towson team has won four, including the 2010 Mid-Atlantic Regional, the 2010 CSC Cyb3rBattl3ground Competition and the 2011 Maryland Cyber Challenge.

In its latest battle, the TU team successfully defended a simulated hospital IT system from hacker attack, earning them the right to

**Of the last five major regional cyber competitions, the TU team has won four.**

advance to the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition, in San Antonio April 20-22. The defending champions from the University of Washington took first place in that contest.

**No Arguments**



TU seniors Ben Morgan and Ignacio Evans were ranked among the Top 20 debate teams in the country after beating highly ranked teams from Harvard and Emporia University at the Fullerton Winter Tournament

Kathryn Klassic in California. The victories earned them one of 40 national spots at the National Debate Tournament held at Emory University in Atlanta last spring.

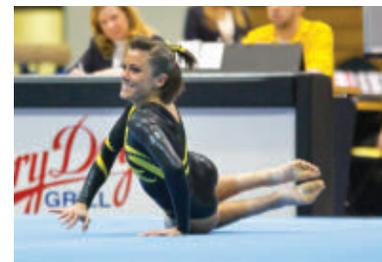
While the pair was eliminated in the preliminary rounds, Morgan says, “The tournament is the pinnacle of college debate. As a senior, I’m thinking about the legacy we leave for upcoming debaters.”

Kudos also goes to Kevin Whitley, who won third place varsity speaker at a debate tournament held in West Point, N.Y.

**0-9 SPORT SHORTS**

**Landing Awards**

TU senior Kacy Catanzaro, who was selected five times



as the Gymnast of the Week by the Eastern College Athletic Conference, earned top honors as the ECAC Gymnast of the Year.

TU coach Vicki Chliszczyk was honored as the ECAC Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season.

**CAA Lax Champs**

The Tiger women’s lacrosse team beat James Madison 8-7 for the

Colonial Athletic Association Women's Lacrosse Championship.

It was the Tigers' fourth CAA title since 2005.

Towson coach Sonia LaMonica was named the Colonial Athletic Association Women's Lacrosse Coach of the Year for the second year in a row.

A 15-5 win over Monmouth in a play-in game gave the Tigers a berth in the NCAA Tournament, but they lost to Penn State 15-8 in the first round.

**NUGGETS**



**Eco-friendly TU**

For the third consecutive year, Towson is listed in the Princeton Review's *Guide to 322 Green Colleges* for being one of the country's most environmentally responsible campuses.

Among its many green programs, the university was recognized for its carbon neutrality policy, single-stream recycling system, participation in RecycleMania, the "Go Green" orientation campaign and the annual Stream Clean-Up.

Dining Services was also given special recognition for its use of products like antibiotic-reduced pork and chicken, cage-free eggs and

fair trade coffee. Dining Services is also working to reduce water consumption

**Dining Services is working to reduce water consumption and waste with its "Trayless Tuesdays" program.**

and food waste with its "Trayless Tuesdays" program.

**Well-suited**

More than 250 students got interview suits for free. Last spring, they combed the racks of donated items from Towson faculty, staff and alumni during the Career Center's Dress for Success Closet Business Suit Drive.

**Improving Geospatial Data**

TU's Center for GIS (CGIS) received two grants from the Federal Geographic Data Committee to enhance the accessibility and delivery of geospatial data and services in Maryland.

CGIS will work with state and local government to populate Ramona, the national GIS inventory system, with data on transportation and utilities.

Additionally, CGIS will work with Maryland

Department of Natural Resources to assess the potential benefits of hosting the state's base-map in Amazon's Cloud.

"Both projects address the need for jurisdictions to quickly find accurate geographic information for daily operations and for emergency events," while aiming to reduce costs and improve services, says Mark Helmken, CGIS director.

**Veterans Memorial**

When Kevin Miksis transferred to TU, he brought more than his college credits from Harford Community College. The junior political science major moved his commitment to military veterans to the Towson campus as well.

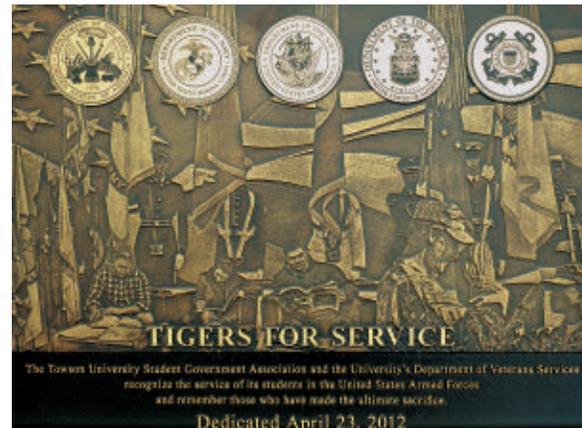
As president of the SGA at HCC, Miksis visited Aberdeen Proving Ground and came to understand the difficulty of going from combat to classroom. So, he organized a veterans memorial to recognize the service of student veterans and wanted to do the same at Towson.

"When I saw the walkway for international flags, I wanted to have an American Flag and a veterans memorial there, too," he says.

Miksis, a TU SGA senator, got to work, and this spring more than 200 people were on hand for a ceremony which dedicated a plaque that was later placed in the garden between the College

of Liberal Arts building and Burdick Hall.

The plaque depicts a color guard, students in TU's Veterans Center and Towson's ROTC program. "It commemorates veterans of the past, present and future," Miksis says.



**Recognition**

Steven Phillips, professor of history, and B. Blair Taylor, clinical assistant professor of computer and information sciences, received 2012 USM Regents' Faculty Awards for public service and teaching respectively.

Phillips was a content specialist for the Fulbright Group Project abroad to enhance the teaching of Asian studies in Maryland public schools. Taylor educates students about cyber-security, an area in which she is a national leader in curriculum development. She also received a National Science Foundation award to develop curriculum in that field.

## German Ties

THE 25-YEAR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TOWSON AND OLDENBURG THRIVES ON MUSICAL NOTES



TU is celebrating its 25-year partnership with Oldenburg University in Germany by adding a Cuban flair.

“We will bring together students from Germany, the U.S.A. and Cuba around a universal language—music and

rhythm—and a universal theme—love in its myriad expressions,” says Phillip Collister, TU assistant chair and associate professor of music.

The Cuban connection will add a choral and percussion influence from the Instituto Pedagógico in Havana, which has collaborated with Oldenburg for six years. “Our hope is that a cultural exchange among the U.S., Germany and Cuba can further open up a world-view to students from these nations,” Collister adds.

This musical revue will continue the 25-year tradition of performances and

exchanges between Towson and Oldenburg University—TU’s oldest international exchange program.

The partnership developed after a chance meeting between Towson faculty and staff, and representatives from German universities eager to learn about public universities in the United States, notes Armin Mruck, coordinator of the Oldenburg Partnership. The TU history professor emeritus was present when the original agreement was signed.

The formal accord began in 1987 and has included not only student and faculty exchanges in 15 to 20 academic departments but also administrative staff exchanges.

“Since that time we have had regular exchanges of students, faculty and staff as well as common programs—

women’s studies and university/state relations,” Mruck says.

This year, two faculty from audiology will visit OU and TU’s College of Education will host two OU professors.

“While the number of exchanges has diminished over the years, the music and theatre departments have taken up that slack in part because of the friendship between Peter Vollhardt at Oldenburg and Phillip Collister at TU,” he explains.

“Faculty teaching and performance exchanges between the two departments of music have occurred consistently over the 25-year partnership and have included a variety of music faculty from Oldenburg coming to Towson and vice versa,” Collister says.

Three successful projects since 2000 between Towson and Oldenburg include the “2000 Kurt Weill Revue,” produced in Oldenburg and performed in Towson; concerts and lectures by both faculties and a 2007 performance of the Oldenburg musical revue “Exiled Composers in Hollywood,” which took

place at Towson with TU students participating.

In 2010, the two universities presented a week-long celebration of

“The partnership is a significant part of globalization. People of different nations have come to appreciate each other by working together.”

—Armin Mruck, Oldenburg coordinator and TU professor emeritus

the life and legacy of German composer Kurt Weill at Towson, accompanied by workshops, lectures and concerts of the faculties of both schools as well as other professionals from the Baltimore/Washington area. The highlight was a bilingual production of “The Threepenny Opera” (Weill/Brecht). Other events included formulation of the dramaturgy by students from both universities and performances with mixed ensembles in Oldenburg and Towson.

“The partnership is a significant part of globalization which most universities subscribe to,” Mruck says. “Academic and personal relationships have been formed, friendships and even marriages. People of different nations have come to appreciate each other by working together.”



Four seniors in the College of Business and Economics took first place at the regional Global Investment Research Challenge.

## What's New



### Dance Champs, Again

They don't think they can dance. They know it and prove it every year. The 27 women on TU's Dance Team took home the 2012 National Dance Alliance Collegiate National Championship trophy, marking the team's fourteenth consecutive victory. "The team spirit and cooperation of this group of young women makes them champions. I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of our team," says Coach Tom Casella. TU's Dance Team was the top seed going into the competition, held in Daytona Beach, Fla. Nearly 5,000 student-athletes and 15,000 supporters and spectators convened for the competition of technical skills, breathtaking choreography, crowd pleasing showmanship, synchronization and teamwork.



### Harford County Project

Towson University is stepping up to meet a regional need by constructing a new building on the campus of Harford Community College. The \$28 million project, approved by the state's interim secretary of higher education in March, gives access to four-year degrees to students in the growing northeast region of the state. The new building is where HCC students can pursue TU bachelor's degrees in education, business and psychology without having to travel to Towson's main campus. Instead, their final two years of classes will be taught in the new Harford County facility. Construction will begin this fall with students slated to begin taking classes in the fall of 2014.



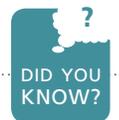
### UTeach at TU

Towson University was awarded \$2 million to start a new program that aims to increase the number of teachers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The project is modeled on the innovative UTeach program begun at the University of Texas, Austin. Towson is the 30th university in the nation and the first in Maryland to implement the program, which attracts STEM majors into teaching careers and provides professional development tools to keep them at the head of the class. TU received \$1.33 million from the Maryland State Department of Education and \$680,000 from the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation. The University System of Maryland earmarked \$300,000 a year to operate UTeach at Towson.



### WTMD's New Home

TU's radio station, WTMD 89.7 FM, will move to 8,000 square feet in the new Towson City Center this winter. WTMD's facility will have an on-air studio overlooking the roundabout and downtown Towson, two production studios and a performance studio. Stephen Yasko, WTMD's general manager, says the new facility will be more than just a radio station. "We've designed this space to be a combination: a music lovers' clubhouse, community meeting space and education center. Our listeners and the public will be invited into WTMD every day to experience the best in national and Baltimore bands." The station will also screen movies from Baltimore filmmakers and TU students.



Towson University earned a spot on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll last March.

# COMING

*In the transition from combat to*

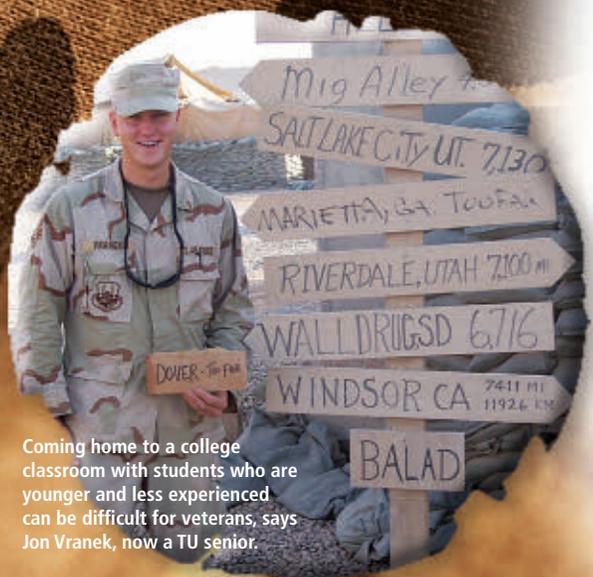


Kellie Clark, pictured here with Iraqi children, chose Towson because of its Veterans Center.

**A**s Leif Collins '10 emerged from the gate at BWI airport in 2006, he carried far more on his shoulders than the weight of his Army-issued rucksack.

Just 24 hours earlier, Collins had been on the ground in Iraq. It was his second deployment in a war that had been raging for nearly three years. But now, he found himself suddenly transported home—a surreal return to a place where the Green Zone was a *Newsweek* infographic and IEDs disappeared simply by turning off the TV.

That night, he struggled to have a conversation with his fiancée and family. They didn't know what to ask. He didn't know what to say.



Coming home to a college classroom with students who are younger and less experienced can be difficult for veterans, says Jon Vranek, now a TU senior.



Leif Collins '10 at TU Commencement, with wife Meagan and daughter Makaila.



# HOMIE

By Dan Fox

*classroom, Towson University serves those who have served*

“I felt detached,” recalls Collins. “How could I explain my daily life in a way that anyone could ever understand? I didn’t talk much at first.”

In the year following his discharge, Collins couldn’t completely shake the culture shock of reentry. His decision to attend community college in 2007 only brought more barriers.

“It was my first experience since Iraq where I was dealing with numerous people every day—people who were much younger than me,” he says. “It was hard to relate to them, and I harbored a lot of resentment about it. I was constantly agitated.”

But something changed for Collins in 2008 when he transferred to Towson. Veterans were flocking to the university and this vibrant community started to coalesce. He soon met other vets on campus who shared his experience. It made all the difference.

Right before Collins’ eyes, Towson was becoming one of the most forward-thinking, veteran-friendly campuses in the region—possibly even in the country.

## TOUGH TRANSITIONS

The transition from military to civilian life isn’t easy. It’s even tougher on a college campus. The jarring shift from a highly regimented, always-alert lifestyle can leave veterans feeling directionless and overwhelmed in the civilian world. And differences in experience and maturity levels create a rift between vets and traditional students.

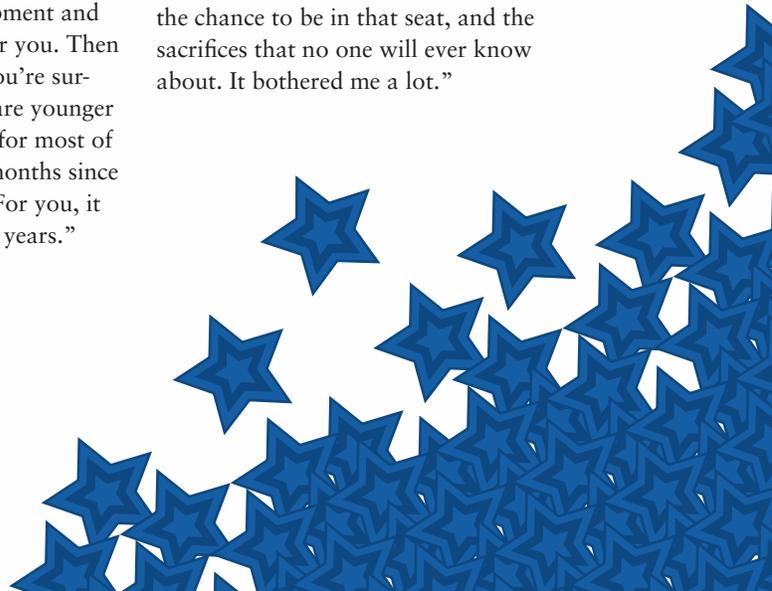
“At a minimum, vets who enter college as freshmen will be four years older than traditional freshmen,” explains Jon Vranek, a TU senior and non-combat Air Force veteran who served in Iraq. Factor in the responsibilities of military life and the stresses of combat, he adds, and the maturity gap can seem insurmountable.

“Most vets have adjustment issues in college,” Vranek says. “In the military, you might have been in charge of millions of dollars of equipment and had 10 guys working under you. Then you come to college and you’re surrounded by students who are younger and less experienced. And for most of them, it’s just been a few months since they were in a classroom. For you, it might have been five or 10 years.”

The list of stressors for vets goes on. Undeveloped or out-of-practice study skills cause serious challenges to academic success. Insensitivity about the military from classmates leaves vets feeling ostracized. The nexus of academy and bureaucracy can bring even more anxiety for vets who are habituated to the black-and-white military command structure. And for combat vets, harrowing experiences in battle often bring insight and perspective not shared by other students.

The concerns of traditional students, says Collins, “can seem frivolous.” He recalls men in his unit who saw the Army as their way of earning the privilege to one day attend college. They didn’t all return home.

“When classmates would complain about writing three pages or finding a parking space nearby, it would drive me nuts,” he says. “I’d think about guys who gave their lives for the chance to be in that seat, and the sacrifices that no one will ever know about. It bothered me a lot.”



## 'A SAFE SPACE'

Towson opened its Veterans Center in 2010, becoming the first university in Maryland to establish such a resource.

But give Tracy Miller '93 M.S., program manager for academic advising at TU, credit for its genesis. Miller's son, Marine Cpl. Nick Ziolkowski, was killed in Falluja, Iraq, in 2004. The tragedy mobilized Miller, who helped initiate a 2006 college fair aimed at assisting veterans who wanted to return to school. She understood their issues.

"When I realized there was nothing I could do for Nick, I wanted to do anything I could to support the ones who did come back," she says. "The military makes them different from other students—more driven but also isolated. They need a place to call their own."

## "THE VETS NEED A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THEM AND KNOW WHAT THEY'RE GOING THROUGH."

Patrick Young '10  
Veterans Center Coordinator

The Veterans Center was a natural outgrowth, created as a sanctuary for veterans on campus. So naturally, stepping inside is a little like entering another world.

Tucked away in an L-shaped former classroom on the ground floor of the Psychology Building, the center is equal parts resource and refuge. Flags from each of the armed services flank the doorway. Uncle Sam points a stern finger from the wall, though the iconic "I Want You" tagline has been replaced with a more colorful, not-safe-for-print variant. In the center of the room, two Ravens-purple couches—donated from an M&T Bank Stadium suite—divide the space.

You're equally likely to find vets quietly tapping away on the center's computers or engaged in boisterous conversation—serious war stories and eccentric parodies of old drill instructors performed in equal measure.

The center is also home base for the Veteran Student Group, an SGA-sponsored student organization that serves as a social and service outlet for the vet community. The group engages veterans with programs such as an annual care-package drive for troops overseas and a veteran-sponsored revitalization of Baltimore's Oliver neighborhood.

The center's coordinator, Patrick Young '10, oversees the operation. A former Marine and combat veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Young was one of the founding members of the Veterans Students Group in 2008. When the university opened the search for a full-time veteran services coordinator, his fellow vets urged him to apply.



Patrick Young '10 (left), coordinator of veterans services, works with student vets during a package drive for troops overseas.

"They pretty much threatened to make my life hell if I didn't go after the job," he jokes. His experience as a modern combat vet, and his standing rapport with many in the TU veteran community, made him the perfect choice.

Young serves as a first point of contact for vets with questions about VA benefits, the application and admissions process, and any reentry issues that arise. He keeps the center running smoothly, ensuring it serves as

an educational resource and—perhaps even more significant—a space for vets to unwind.

"It's important to let folks blow off steam here. The vets need a place where people understand them and know what they're going through," he says, "especially as the community gets larger and larger."

Towson's veteran population was about 100 in 2006. Today, that number has more than tripled and continues to rise. National factors such as the end of combat operations in Iraq and the inception of the Post-9/11 GI Bill—which amounts to a full scholarship for service members—are major contributors to the enrollment uptick. But thanks to the work of Young and other vets, Towson is also positioned as a model of veteran services on campus. And word is getting out.

Kellie Clark, an Army reservist studying computer science, chose Towson specifically because she'd heard about the Veterans Center.

Formerly deployed to Iraq as an intelligence analyst, she spent months poring over scraps of data—intercepted signals, communications, imagery—to locate and capture suspected terrorists. Immediately after leaving active duty, she felt frustration and isolation. She sought out the Veterans Center for support, and now serves as president of the Veterans Student Group.

"When you're in the military, you're in it 24 hours a day, every day. It's a lifestyle. So when you leave the service, you're left with this hole," she says. "The Veterans Center and Veterans Student Group help fill that hole. It's a safe space for us."

Young concurs. "When you're not connecting with the campus, it's too easy to let one stupid misunderstanding with a classmate ruin your day—one insensitive question or negative comment about the military can be all it takes. But at the Veterans Center, you can come in and vent to people who've had the same experiences, and then you're laughing it off."

"It's not just yours to bear anymore," he says. "It's all of ours." ■

Dan Fox is a senior editor in University Relations.

# A WAR STORY

## *Being at the “Tip of Spear” during two tours in Iraq*

Leif Collins '10 was among the first American soldiers in Iraq in 2003. He'd go on to serve two combat tours, his second as part of the military's controversial stop-loss program.

A combat engineer with the Army 3rd Infantry Division, his job during the initial invasion was to keep ahead of the charge—in front of the infantry, the tanks, everyone—to clear whatever obstacles blocked the path to Baghdad.

“That first push was indescribable,” he says. “Out in front of everything, it was all lights and noise.”

His unit marched 300 miles from Kuwait to the Iraqi capital in just 21 days. The fall of Saddam Hussein's regime was swift and decisive. So swift, in fact, that Collins' unit wasn't properly equipped when the invasion gave way to the security duty that would define the war for years to come.

“My unit was worn down—lost weight, broken equipment,” he says. “We lived in the dirt along the outskirts of Baghdad. My bed was a piece of plywood on cinder blocks. We didn't have tents so we pulled some tarps off the back of a tractor trailer. And obviously tarps don't do a damn thing against enemy fire, which came in pretty much every night.”

Collins recalls the Iraqi family that looked after him in those early days of the war. Hussein's forces had come to the village just before the Americans arrived, attempting to impress the men and boys into service against Coalition forces. The family's seven sons resisted. Six were executed on site. One was arrested.

“Despite their mourning,” says Collins, “this family invited me into their home. They gave me tea and fresh bread every day.” He and the family soon formed a close relationship. And when their only remaining son eventually made it home, bearing terrible scars as evidence of his brutal torture in an Iraqi prison, he joined Collins on patrols in the village.

When Collins was redeployed in 2005, the atmosphere had changed dramatically. By then, the word “quagmire” was embedded in public discourse of the conflict, and monthly troop casualties hit triple digits.

“Oh yeah, it sucked,” he chuckles. “I was supposed to be getting out in a few months, and instead they extended my service by a year. It was devastating.”

Faced with another long year in the desert, Collins stepped up to the challenge. He made sergeant. He had men reporting to him. But despite his attempts to make the best of a bad situation, Iraq was a changed place.

“Night and day difference,” he says. “The infrastructure seemed a little better. We had beds and air conditioning. But the whole relationship with the people had crumbled. We were no longer allowed informal contact with the population—instead we were sequestered behind walls on base. We felt more like outsiders.”

In the dark moments of his second tour—which Collins admits were frequent—he often thought of the Iraqi family who had treated him as a son in the summer of 2003. In a war with unclear objectives and no end in sight, he took heart in the resilience of a family that lost so much, and still had more to give.

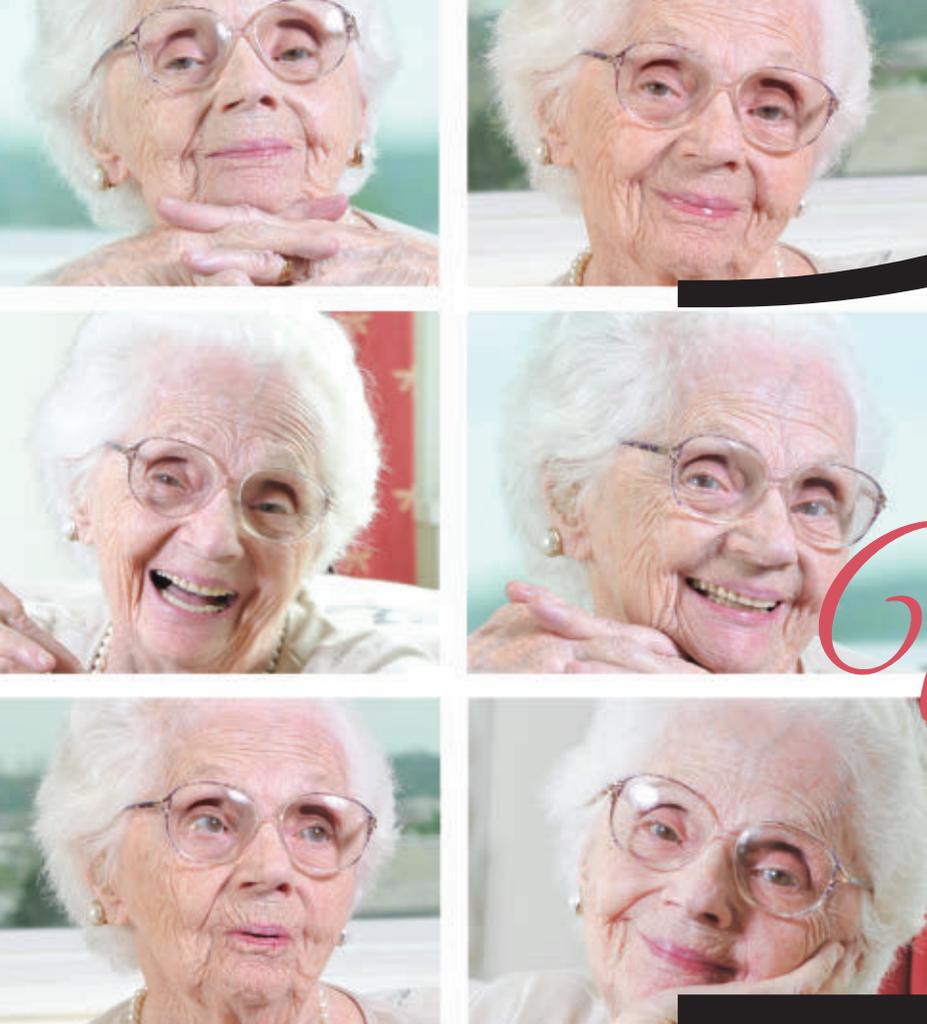
He doesn't know what became of them after his unit left Baghdad. He probably never will. “I'll never forget what they did,” he says. “It's the kind of thing you always keep with you.”

—Dan Fox



Collins sits with the Iraqi family that looked after him in their village in 2003. He wears the patriarch's *keffiyeh* headdress at the family's insistence—a symbol of their trust and respect.

**IN THE DARK MOMENTS OF HIS SECOND TOUR, COLLINS OFTEN THOUGHT OF THE IRAQI FAMILY WHO HAD TREATED HIM AS A SON IN THE SUMMER OF 2003.**



# ONE *Woman* SHOW

By Wanda Haskel • Photography by Kanji Takeno

Baltimore theater icon **Vivienne Shub** takes the stage to receive TU honorary degree



*V*ivienne Shub's cane is not just a walking stick. It's a prop.

The tiny 93-year-old wields it as a pointer during a tour of her north Baltimore high-rise apartment, indicating family-made works of art.

"My rod and my staff," she intones, hoisting the crook high above her head.

It's no wonder she has enjoyed a non-stop professional acting career spanning more than half a century. Vivienne Shub may be a little person, but she has a big presence.

Chatting with Shub is like visiting with your very sharp grandma. She's warm, welcoming and adorable with her white hair and string of pearls.

But when she recites lines from plays, she transforms, revealing a stillness and intensity which belies the fidgeting little old lady exterior. Her sonorous voice fills the room. There's nothing to do but watch and listen.

That's just what audiences in the Baltimore/Washington area and beyond have been doing since Shub was a teenager in the 1930s—watching and listening with rapt attention to her countless performances in plays, films and on television.

It's what folks in the Towson Center did on May 25 when Shub accepted an honorary degree,

presented to her at the commencement for Towson University's College of Fine Arts and Communication.

Shub attended Towson many decades ago but left before earning her teaching degree to pursue acting full-time. Little did she know that her future held two triumphant returns to Towson—first to teach in the theatre arts department, where she stayed for 24 years, and again as a nonagenarian to receive an honorary Bachelor of Arts.

In his letter to the Board of Regents recommending Shub for the honor, TU theatre arts professor Jay Herzog recounts a walk around Baltimore's annual book festival with her.

“People from all over stopped and thanked her for ... all the work she had done promoting the arts in our city and for the many plays over a very long and fabulous career.”

Her career has included being a company member at Baltimore’s Center Stage and Everyman Theatre as well as performing at venues including Arena Stage, Olney Theatre, Folger Shakespeare Library, Studio Theatre, Washington Stage Guild and Round House. Shub’s movie credits include John Waters’ *Cry-Baby*, and *Runaway Bride* with Richard Gere and Julia Roberts. On the small screen, she was in *Homicide* and *America’s Most Wanted*. She even did a commercial with shock rocker Alice Cooper.

## LIFE STAGES

Shub was born in Baltimore in 1918, the eldest daughter in a loving, Jewish family. She credits her father, a dentist who loved language, with sparking her theatrics. “My father was a storyteller,” Shub remembers. “We got a lot from him.”

“We” refers to herself and her little sister Naomi, who was her childhood acting partner. “We played all different roles,” says Shub. “I was a nurse; I was a pirate. We made up stories and we lived them out.”

In high school, Shub was active in the Forest Park drama club, nabbing the plum parts. But when it came time for college, she enrolled at then State Teachers College at Towson, with plans to become an educator. She and her family had lived through the Great Depression. Times were hard, and the 18-year-old felt she had to be practical.

But Shub couldn’t shake the drama bug, and when she heard that Ramsey Streett, who had come to Baltimore from New York’s American Academy of Dramatic Arts to start a conservatory, was accepting drama students, she was torn.

Shub remembers crying on the telephone with a girlfriend because she wanted to take acting classes full-time

but could not imagine quitting college. “My father heard me on the phone. He said, and I’ll never forget this (long dramatic pause, then she almost whispers the words), ‘How many people can realize their dream? Go to the drama school.’”

With her parents’ go-ahead, Shub left Towson to pursue an acting career. She’s been busy ever since.

Initially, Shub acted at the Vagabonds, one of the few theaters in Baltimore at that time, and then with the Jewish Community Theatre and Hopkins Playshop. But her career as a professional actress took off when Ed Golden founded Baltimore’s first professional theater, Center Stage, in 1963, inviting Shub to be an original company member.

“The plays were of such variety ... and I was in all of them,” she says. “I got born there.”

Shub remained at Center Stage for more than 20 years both as an actress and in a new role as an instructor, sharing her talents in child and adult acting workshops.

In the 1980s, Towson recruited her to be an adjunct. “I got to teach in theatre arts,” she recalls reverentially. “Maravene Loeschke.” Shub practically sings the name of Towson University’s president, who was chair of the theatre department at that time. Then she kisses her hand in a gesture of love and respect.

Dr. Loeschke included Shub in her book *Lives in Art: Sixteen Women Who Changed Theatre in Baltimore*, writing, “Likely there is not a theatre lover in Baltimore who does not know of and been touched by Vivienne Shub’s work. She brings character alive with her fertile imagination, her love of humanity, her search for honesty and her commitment to the human condition. She brings the same to her teaching.”

Her students agreed. Dr. Loeschke remembers acting students coming out of sessions that Shub taught, saying, “This woman is amazing. She is older than my grandmother, and she is the most energetic one in the class.”

## SISTER ACT

That energy has helped Shub stay on stage well past what many would consider retirement age. For the past 17 years or so, Shub has been a resident company member at Everyman Theatre, appearing in many plays, including *Hedda Gabler*, *Heathen Valley*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Buried Child*, *The Crucible* and *The Waverly Gallery*.



Actress and former TU teacher Vivienne Shub (center) displays the honorary Bachelor of Arts degree she received during May’s Commencement with her sister Naomi Greenberg-Slovin (left) and TU President Maravene Loeschke ’69/’71 (right.)

Most recently, Shub starred in two pieces written by that same sister who used to act opposite her childhood nurse and pirate, Naomi Greenberg-Slovin. *Viva La Vivienne!* chronicles Shub’s life and family history, and *The Cone Sister* is a one-woman show about Baltimore art collector Etta Cone and her sister Claribel.

“My sister is a marvelous writer,” says Shub.

She’s also a great roommate. When the sisters lost their beloved husbands, they moved in together, once again feeding on each other’s creativity. More than 80 years after play-acting in their childhood home, they’re still making up stories, and they’re still living them out.

It’s not surprising that Vivienne Shub, a grandma, is known around town as the grand dame of Baltimore theater.

Grand indeed. ■

Wanda Haskel is a freelance writer living in Lutherville, Md.



# WALKING ON THE

They're seldom described in neutral terms. Threatened to some, but threatening to others.

Fascinating or frightening.

Objects of veneration or varmints slated for eradication.

But for one Towson alumna, their well-being is the focus of a lifelong crusade.

Jamie Rappaport Clark '79, now at the helm of Defenders of Wildlife, sees the health of the planet as inextricably linked to the health of its wild animals. Whether they're imposing predators—wolves, jaguars and grizzlies, for example—or further down the food chain—think hummingbirds or toads—their numbers and habitats provide critical clues about our own species' prospects.

Since earning her B.S. degree in biology from Towson, Clark has become one of the nation's preeminent authorities and advocates for wildlife conservation. She's a force to be reckoned with, whether dealing with recalcitrant ranchers, state and federal agencies, or the U.S. Congress.

Clark says she enrolled at Towson in preparation for veterinary school. But when the self-described Army brat decided to pursue a career in wildlife biology, she discovered the university didn't offer the courses she needed. Howard Erickson, then a member of the biology department faculty, helped her design a program of independent study. "With Professor Erickson's support and guidance, I was able to focus on what interested me and get credit for it," Clark recalls.

She went on to earn an M.S. degree in wildlife ecology from the University of Maryland, College Park, then returned to Towson for postgraduate courses in environmental plan-

## Jamie Rappaport Clark '79, president and CEO of Defenders of Wildlife, fights for America's native species

By Jan Lucas

# WILDSIDE

ning. “By then I was working full-time, my mother became ill, and I just couldn’t find the time to finish,” she says.

Clark launched her career as a fish and wildlife administrator for the Department of the Army. (“A lot of people don’t realize it, but Defense has some of the most spectacular lands for conservation,” she says.) In 1989 she joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a senior staff biologist and rose quickly through the ranks of the 9,000-employee agency, receiving a presidential appointment to director in 1997. In that capacity she oversaw the management of more than 530 national wildlife refuges and 66 national fish hatcheries, the administration and enforcement of the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and other wildlife and habitat protection laws.

Her years at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service included notable conservation successes, including the recovery of the gray wolf, bald eagle and peregrine falcon, as well as the passage of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, which ensures that activities on federal wildlife refuges are consistent with sound wildlife conservation principles.

Clark moved to the National Wildlife Federation in 2001, where as senior vice president for conservation programs she partnered with the organization’s 46 state affiliates to implement conservation initiatives.

Three years later she joined the staff of the Defenders of Wildlife as executive vice president, transitioning to president and CEO in October 2011. The 65-year-old nonprofit, headquartered in Washington, D.C., boasts 150 employees and more than 1 million members and supporters. It is recognized as one of the nation’s most progressive science-based conservation advocates for wildlife and habitat.

These days Clark is developing a growth strategy for Defenders, all the while spearheading the organization’s efforts on several fronts and with many constituencies, some at odds with one another. Her biggest and longest-running challenge concerns the beleaguered gray wolf, a species virtually eradicated in the West by hunting, trapping and poisoning. “In the ‘90s Defenders developed a plan to return gray wolves to central Idaho, Yellowstone National Park and the desert Southwest,” Clark says. “Restoring wolves significantly enhanced the ecological quality of those sensitive landscapes. It was one of Defenders’ greatest achievements and the most spectacular wildlife restoration effort of the 20th century.”

Now Clark and her staff are keeping tabs on the wolves and the humans who continue to see them as enemies. Some serious issues have arisen in the past four or five years involving local ranchers and those seeking to protect the wolves.

“Children hear ‘Little Red Riding Hood’ and ‘The Three Little Pigs’ and guess who’s the villain? It’s not surprising that they grow up fearing wolves. In reality wolves fear people. They avoid us whenever they can.”

—Jamie Rappaport Clark '79

“The ranchers don’t want competition,” Clark explains, “though it’s been proven that more livestock die from lightning strikes than wolf predation.” Defenders addressed the issue by developing a way to compensate ranchers who lost stock to wolves, as well as providing incentives for them to coexist with the region’s apex predator.

Now that it’s no longer endangered in the Northern Rockies, the gray wolf population is managed at the state level, with mixed results. Clark says Idaho appears to be in a “race to the bottom,” treating the species like vermin and killing more than 400 last year. This approach nearly brought wolves to extinction decades earlier, she notes. Yellowstone National Park, however, is managing its wolf population much better, she says. “The wolves are doing well there, and beavers, trout, songbirds and elk also are coming back.”

In addition to protecting endangered or imperiled species, Defenders educates the public about how to coexist with these creatures. It isn’t always easy.

Clark admits that wolves in particular have an image problem. “Unfortunately, many people hate them,” she says. “Children hear ‘Little Red Riding Hood’ and ‘The Three Little Pigs’ and guess who’s the villain? So it’s not surprising that they grow up fearing wolves.

“In reality wolves fear people. They avoid us whenever they can.”

Humans have a fraught relationship with bears as well. “People feed grizzly bears and allow them to populate dumps,” Clark says. “But when bears and humans clash, they need to understand that humans are to blame, not bears.”

Defenders scored a coup this spring when it restored more than 60 bison to tribal lands in Sheridan County, Mont. In cooperation with the federal government, state officials and tribal groups, Clark and her staff worked through the administrative process involved in transferring the genetically pure animals. Bison are revered by Plains Indians as a tribal totem and traditional food source.



“Most bison have acquired cattle genes over the years,” Clark says. “These animals are the founder stock that will replicate the herds that were nearly wiped out at the turn of the last century.

“Some calves have been born already, so we’re getting there. It’s exciting!”

Defenders of Wildlife doesn’t restrict its efforts to big, iconic mammals. It goes to bat for frogs, pygmy owls, wild parrots, salmon, penguins, sea otters, sharks and dozens of other species threatened by human greed, ignorance or encroachment. And, more recently, it has turned its attention—and focused its clout—on climate change and renewable energy.

In 2010 Clark spent time in the Gulf of Mexico after the Deepwater Horizon disaster devastated coastal wetlands. “It’s essential to move away from dependence on oil,” she says, adding that her organization strongly advocates for the responsible development of more wind and solar energy sources. “If we can slow climate change, we can buy time,” she adds, explaining that Defenders needs time to develop integrated decision-making, land-management planning and strategic land acquisition, as well as to understand the science of climate change and adaptation.

Her years at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service included notable conservation successes, including the recovery of the gray wolf, bald eagle and peregrine falcon.

In the near term, Clark sees Defenders of Wildlife working to significantly increase the acreage of high-priority wildlife habitat managed for ecological integrity. That would include national wildlife refuges as well as national forests and other public and private lands. She'd like to see incentives offered to landowners to create havens for wildlife on private property.

"Our lawyers are instrumental in holding decision-makers accountable," she says. "We want to prevent any weakening of current policies and laws protecting wildlife and their habitat. Wild animals are important, not only for enjoyment, but for what they are telling us."

One of the more challenging dilemmas Defenders faces is population growth and urbanization. Fewer Americans interact with wild animals on a regular basis, and increased sprawl allows development in the same places inhabited by wildlife. Clark says city dwellers are less likely to understand or sympathize with the issues Defenders champions. "They're less connected to nature, so we have to redouble our efforts to reach them and other disconnected constituencies.

"Conservation also needs to count at the ballot box, she emphasizes. "We need to care about who's elected, then we have to make sure those elected officials care about the health and well-being of the planet.

"Laws that protect the environment must be held strong, especially the laws that prevent species extinction."

Clark, who lives with her husband, Jim, and son, Carson James Leopold, in Leesburg, Va., pauses to pay tribute



Photo courtesy of Defenders of Wildlife

to the late Rachel Carson, for whom she named her only child. Carson, a U.S. Department of the Interior biologist, published the bestselling *Silent Spring* in 1962. Her book revealed the devastating effects of widespread pesticide use and called for immediate action. "She's my hero," says Clark. "Rachel Carson had the courage and conviction to sound the alarm about the health of our environment and lead the way for the conservation movement."

Clark's advice to those concerned, but not involved, in protecting wildlife and habitat? "Don't just sit there—do something. Support stewardship of nature and demand solutions for the serious challenges affecting the health of our wildlife.

"I've been so fortunate to have a career I care so deeply about," she continues. "I come to work knowing what I do is important. As both a mom and a biologist, I'm convinced every day that we have a responsibility to our children to pass on a natural resource legacy at least as rich as the one we've enjoyed.

"They deserve nothing less." ■

Jan Lucas is an associate director in University Relations.





LAST SPRING A MAN ENTERED THE PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER IN GLEN BURNIE, MD., AFTER FALLING OFF A HORSE. NOT ONLY WAS HE HAVING SEIZURES, HE WAS ALSO HAVING DIFFICULTIES TELLING THE CLINIC'S PHYSICIAN ABOUT HIS MEDICAL PROBLEMS.

# *In* Other WORDS

BY GINNY COOK  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KANJI TAKENO

TAKING SPANISH OUT OF THE CLASSROOM AND INTO THE COMMUNITY

He didn't speak English.

The doctor didn't speak Spanish.

Fortunately, a TU Spanish major was on hand, making sure there was no failure to communicate.

"I used my Spanish in a practical way," says Summer Austria, a TU senior who is also majoring in business. "I was really nervous, but with my help and the help of his friend who spoke a little English, [the patient] was able to express what was wrong."

Austria and other TU students have been taking their Spanish out of the classroom and into the community for three years, translating and interpreting in legal, health care, advocacy and other organizations. It's all part of a service-learning course, Spanish 409 "Translation," developed by Colleen Ebacher, TU associate professor in the foreign languages department.

The class gives students an opportunity to not only listen to and speak Spanish, but also to connect with the local Hispanic community, Ebacher explains.

"Whether translating health and legal documents or interpreting at clinics, students take the grammar and

vocabulary they learn in class and use it in real life," she says. "Students become engaged with other cultures and begin to understand their issues and concerns."

Ebacher, who joined Towson in 1995, had long sought a practical way to enrich the learning experience of students majoring in Spanish. While classes in Spanish literature or film added a cultural flavor, something was missing from the language-learning experience.

Even a translation class, which required students to submit a five to 10-page translated document, failed to fill the gap.

"I can take a one-minute walk outside my building and use my Spanish," Ebacher says. "I automatically assumed my students would be doing the same. Most were not."

Whether reticent or just unaware, Ebacher knew her students had language talents that were being wasted. That changed in 2009 when Ebacher pursued a service-learning faculty fellowship through TU's Office of Civic Engagement, which would integrate service learning into the translation class and make learning a language come alive.





**“Students take the grammar and vocabulary they learn in class and use it in real life.”**

—Colleen Ebacher, associate professor of foreign languages



Summer Austria (left) speaks with a family at the People's Community Health Clinic. She is one of some 60 students who provided 1,500 hours in interpretation and translation services to the community since 2010.

# In Their WORDS

## TU Spanish majors discuss the value of connecting with the local Hispanic community

A service-learning course developed by Colleen Ebacher, associate professor of foreign languages, not only enhances the translation and interpretation skills of TU Spanish majors, it also increases their understanding of Hispanic cultures and connects them to other disciplines including health, medicine, sociology, psychology and ethics.

**Patrick Dickerson '12**  
Majors: Spanish/History  
Minor: Museum Studies



"At first I was nervous," admits Patrick Dickerson. He was assigned to welcome clients and patients or interpret for dentists and doctors at Esperanza and Casa de Maryland. "I was working with a bilingual staff and even though I'm fluent, I'm never quite as sure of myself as someone who grew up speaking Spanish.

"I wanted to be engaged but didn't want to miscommunicate."

The more he worked, the more he found his medical and economic vocabulary improving, in both Spanish and English, he says. More important, he forged connections to people from cultures other than his own.

Once after a doctor left the room, Dickerson began talking one-on-one with the patient. The conversation became more than "just changing the words from Spanish to English. It was a true communication—a bond," he explains. "That was such a rewarding experience."

**Luis Batlle '12**  
Majors: Spanish/Journalism



"I found that many clients had little trouble speaking English," says Luis Batlle of his experience at Casa de Maryland. "But they had no mastery of written Spanish.

"The forms or questionnaires confused them. They'd just eye the sheet," he adds. That's when Batlle stepped in, reading the information and helping people mark the boxes.

"This is far different from community service where a student volunteer is helpful but doesn't necessarily learn in the content area," Ebacher explains. "In service learning, students must increase their language skills and proficiency while making a commitment to benefit an agency or organization."

The fellowship provided Ebacher with access to other professors who had established similar courses, and a how-to on selecting agencies to work with, as well as setting up, assessing and monitoring students who would take the class.

Now Ebacher wasn't just teaching Spanish, she was connecting her students to the growing Hispanic population in Maryland with dramatic results.

"I just wanted to tell you I had a chance to speak with the manager of the clinic where the students are placed and they are doing great," Dee Davis '78, a recruiter at People's Community Health Center, wrote in an email. "They have made a difference and the patients love them.

"We feel very fortunate to have them."

In addition to the health clinic, students have worked at Casa de Maryland, Esperanza Center and the Baltimore County Department of Aging on everything from interpreting to helping clients complete paperwork to translating legal and medical brochures into Spanish. At the Baltimore City Mayor's Office, for example, they translated flyers on H1N1 flu.

Even Towson University's marketing department and food service made use of their skills.

"Ten percent of our workforce speaks Spanish," says John Brady, director of operations for TU's Dining Services, who called on Spanish majors to translate a number of manuals and brochures on food, environmental and worker safety for employees of Chartwells.

Brady also uses student interpreters during question-and-answer sessions designed to open the lines of communication between management and staff and to let employees know how much they were appreciated.

"While the students get real-world experience, we get a valuable service," says Brady. "By using an interpreter and having back-and-forth-conversations, our Spanish-speaking associates can see we are making an effort to connect to them and their needs."

Some 60 students have participated in the service-learning class since its inception in 2010, providing approximately 1,500 hours in interpretation and translation services to the community.

But before any student turns Spanish into English and vice versa, Ebacher must do her homework. She rates the Spanish abilities of each student using a proficiency test so that students are placed in positions appropriate to their Spanish levels.

For example, some students may speak so well that they can interpret directly for a doctor or food service workers

A native Spanish speaker whose parents hail from Uruguay, Batlle says the service-learning course was “a fantastic experience. I had an integral and fulfilling role that made a difference in Baltimore’s Hispanic community.”

He also helped in a way he never could have anticipated. “A woman came to Casa who really didn’t need an interpreter,” Batlle explains. “But the appointment was long and drawn out, and her pre-school age son, who didn’t speak English, was tired and started crying.”

Batlle talked with the child, soon discovering they both shared the same first name. “I was able to comfort him, to stop him from crying.” In the process, Batlle says, he learned a lesson he would never find in a textbook—being responsive to the needs of another community.

**Priscilla Soto**  
**Junior**  
**Major: Foreign Languages**



“I thought my English was pretty good until I stepped into a supermarket and the clerk said, ‘paperorplastic?’” says Priscilla Soto.

“I had no idea what she was saying,”

recalls Soto, describing how the words all ran together. “It was a little intimidating.” Soto had just come to the United States from Costa Rica to participate in an English study program while in high school.

Now, five years later, Soto’s English is flawless, and she has great empathy for those in this country with little or no English language skills. “I understand how people can feel excluded if they do not understand what is being said around them,” she explains.

So she was especially happy to translate at an annual meeting for Spanish-speaking employees who work for TU’s food service, Chartwells. “It was all about diversity and inclusion,” she says. “It let the workers know they were part of the community.”

Soto also translated for patients at a medical clinic, where she stressed the necessity of understanding the diagnosis and not being afraid to ask questions. “I told one woman, ‘Never go home with doubts. Always ask,’” because the consequences of staying silent could be life threatening, she notes.

Soto’s translating experiences opened up her eyes to the problems faced by Hispanics but “made me feel as if I was part of the solution.”

—Ginny Cook

during a live session with Chartwells. Intermediate speakers may be better suited for conversing in reception areas or helping people fill out forms.

Whatever their task, Ebacher visits the agencies to ensure that students will find academic rigor in the experience and not just be somewhere “filing papers.”

“We want students to accomplish the five Cs of language learning—communication, cultures, connections, comparisons and community,” she says.

“This is accomplished through a very practical course,” Ebacher adds, “but one that also demands commitment.” Before designated as an interpreter for People’s, for example, students must undergo a background check, drug testing and a three-hour orientation.

“They don’t receive credit for service hours. They receive credit for learning,” she says.

Ebacher, too, puts in additional time. “The translation process is a lot of work for me. I can’t send a document that would get a “C” into the community. Every document must be of publishable quality and, at times, that requires me to push a student through multiple rounds of revisions.”

The rewards, however, outweigh any headaches.

Some former students have used the experience to land jobs. Others are in graduate school working on master’s or Ph.D. degrees in Spanish translation.

The common denominator for all of them is a desire to

stay engaged with the Hispanic community.

Ebacher recalls students who have volunteered to interpret for Chartwells, not because they are missing required hours, but because they “want to do more.”

Others become so involved, they perform well beyond expectations, including one student who was supposed to interpret before a patient had surgery but stayed for hours in the waiting room. “He just couldn’t leave the patient,” Ebacher says, “but needed a note from me because he’d missed another class.”

Reflection essays about their experiences, another class requirement, echo this type of dedication. One first-generation Spanish student wrote, “The community—no—my community needs me. I’m very bilingual and had never done service. I can offer this. It is so easy and inexpensive.”

Austria, the student at People’s, brought her Spanish skills to several organizations during the semester. She experienced a new role for herself, one which challenged her to “stop thinking about her Spanish, and to listen and use it. That’s when I became more comfortable speaking Spanish,” she notes.

Perhaps more important, Austria came to understand the significance of helping those who need it. She says, “Through interpreting, I could give people knowledge, and knowledge gives power.” ■

Ginny Cook is the editor of *Towson*.



from the



## alumni president

Dear Friends:

It is with great humility I will be serving you this year as president of the Towson University Alumni Association. As an experienced member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and a proud graduate, I am honored to be representing the more than 125,000 alumni who have graduated from this remarkable institution. As a member of the men's soccer team, I represented the university academically, athletically and in the community. Each graduate has a success story that was achieved as a result of attending Towson. My own story would not have been possible without the education, experiences and connections I made here.

If you haven't had the opportunity, please come back to campus to witness the expansion or experience an exciting event. The alumni community has been busy planning Homecoming, hosting presidential receptions, unveiling the Tiger, hosting the Distinguished Alumni and Dean's Recognition event, manning the Lacrosse Hospitality area, and overseeing the TU Field Station open house.

Remember, you will always be a part of the growing Towson alumni network, and we want you to stay connected to your alma mater. The Alumni Association will help you do this, and we look forward to hearing about your accomplishments and successes.

Lance Johnson '93  
President  
Towson University  
Alumni Association

# The Benefits of Being a TU Graduate

### Check out the online resources for alumni

- **Twitter@TowsonUAlumni**
- **Facebook**  
Join the Towson University Alumni Association Facebook Fan Page today for news, updates and invitations at [www.facebook.com/towsonalumni](http://www.facebook.com/towsonalumni).
- **LinkedIn**  
Join the "Towson University Office of Alumni Relations" LinkedIn group.
- **Tiger Tracks, the TU Alumni Online Community**  
Exclusively for TU alumni, look up TU alumni, update contact information, view the alumni calendar, catch up with TU news, and sign up for the monthly e-newsletter. Blog space is available. Access Tiger Tracks by going to [www.tutigertracks.com](http://www.tutigertracks.com) and using your last name as your username and your 10-digit ID above the address label on the back of this magazine as your password.
- **Free Alumni Email Accounts**  
Take advantage of this free email account by signing up on Tiger Tracks.

### Other benefits

#### Auto & Home Insurance

Liberty Mutual and the TU Alumni Association provide group rates for auto insurance to qualifying alumni. Call Liberty Mutual at 888-704-2146 for more information.



#### Burdick Fitness Center Membership

Purchase an alumni membership to stay in shape at your alma mater.

### Bank of America



#### Towson University Credit Card

Apply today for the Towson University Alumni Association WorldPoints® Platinum Plus Master Card® credit card. Apply by phone at 800-932-2775 and please mention priority code UAA4KW.

#### Short Term Health Insurance

To receive more information on GradMed for TU alumni, call 800-922-1245.



### TU Merchandise at the University Store

Present your membership card to receive a 10 percent discount on regularly priced merchandise (excluding textbooks, software, calculators, class rings and commencement regalia).

### Brick Buy Brick Program

Purchase a personalized engraved brick to be placed in the walkway around the historic Auburn House.



### TU License Plates

Special TU license plates for Maryland are available.



### Alumni Admissions Nomination Program

Once annually, alumni can waive the application fee for a student applying for undergraduate admission to TU.

### Cook Library

Access Cook Library's resources by showing your alumni card at the reference desk.

### Discounts to Athletic and Fine Arts Events

Present your membership card to receive discounts to selected athletic events and fine arts events.

### Fall Football Hospitality Area

The Alumni Hospitality area is open for Saturday home football games. Lite fare and a cash bar is available. The hospitality area opens one and one half hours prior to game time, and closes one half hour after the game starts.

Fall 2012 includes:

9/15/12, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Game: noon, TU vs. William and Mary

9/22/12, 3 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Homecoming game: 7 p.m., TU vs. St. Francis

10/13/12, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Game: 7 p.m., TU vs. University of Maine

10/20/12, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Game: 7 p.m., TU vs. Old Dominion University

11/10/12, 2 p.m.– 4 p.m.

Game: 3:30 p.m., TU vs. University of Rhode Island



## Reunion Luncheon



< **The classes of 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1967, 1972 and 1977 connect**

They came eager to reminisce, tour, enjoy a display of memorabilia and dine. On May 4, alumni from 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957 and 1967, 1972, 1977 celebrated their reunions. Gary Rubin '69, vice president of University Advancement, gave an update on campus happenings.



- 1 Class of 1952
- 2 Class of 1977
- 3 Class of 1942
- 4 Class of 1967
- 5 Class of 1972
- 6 Class of 1957



## 50 Years

### Class of 1962 celebrates its 50th reunion >

More than 90 graduates from the Class of 1962 gathered on May 5, 2012 to celebrate their 50-year reunion and tour the new buildings on campus. The group dined at Auburn House and heard updates about their alma mater and the College of Education from President Maravene Loeschke '69/'71, Ray Lorion, dean of the College of Education, and Keith Ewancio '94, Alumni Association Board secretary, and chair of the Governance Committee. The Alumni Association salutes the 1962 graduates who have raised more than \$23,380 for a College of Education scholarship.

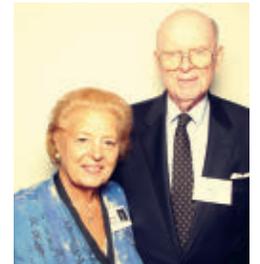
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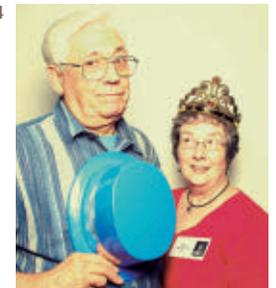
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3



4



5



1 Class of 1962 2 Back: Linda Himmelheber, Wanda Anastasi, JoAnn Scott and Phyllis Beardmore; Front: Jayne Astle Fran Francis 3 Shirley and Sean McCarthy 4 Frederick William Abt III and Olive Abt 5 Connie Cooke, John Schuerholz and Jillian Rickerd



## 2012 Distinguished Alumni and Deans Recognition Awards Banquet



### Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Fran Soistman '79 is executive vice president and CEO for Jessamine Healthcare, Inc.

### < 2012 Distinguished Alumni and Deans Recognition Awards Banquet

Each year, the Alumni Association honors seven alumni for their outstanding achievements at its annual awards banquet.



#### College of Business and Economics

Kenneth V. Moreland '78 is the chief financial officer, treasurer and vice president of T. Rowe Price Group, Inc.



#### College of Education

Thomas Proffitt '69 is associate dean of TU's College of Education.



#### College of Fine Arts and Communication

Steve Mister '85 is president and CEO of the Council for Responsible Nutrition.



#### College of Health Professions

Frank Mezzanotte '73 is coordinator of Magnet Programs for Harford County Public Schools.



#### College of Liberal Arts

Lone Tidemand Azola '68 is president of Azola Building Services, LLC.



#### Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics

Michele Cooper '91 is a board-certified plastic surgeon in New Orleans, La.

## A Winning Combination

### A crab feast and an Orioles game >

On Thursday, March 8, 2012, over 100 alumni and friends gathered at Ed Smith Stadium in Sarasota, Florida for a traditional Maryland crab feast, catered by The Pincher Crab Shack and Camden Concessions. After devouring the steamed crustaceans, guests cheered for the Baltimore Orioles who faced the Atlanta Braves. A special thanks to the Oriole Bird and Dan Duquette, Orioles executive vice president of baseball operations, for visiting.



1 Dan Duquette, executive vice president of the Orioles, John Schuerholz '62, president of the Atlanta Braves, and Gary Rubin '69 2 Heather '98 and Jonathon Petrelli 3 Back row: Simon Ruppert and Nate Sherman; Front row: Tom Herbert '74, Dylan Wood and Anthony Jackson 4 Back row: John Gillis '74 and John Hall '75; Front row: Frank Mezzanotte '73 and Gary Tarr '74 5 Sue and Art '72 Grinath 6 Thomas McAuliffe '58 and guest



## Beautiful Beast

### < Alumni Association unveils a new tiger

On a windy afternoon in April, a 700-pound bronze tiger was unveiled at TU's new grand entrance on Towsontown Boulevard. The roaring tiger is the third bronze beast to take up residence on campus, courtesy of the Alumni Association. One lives outside Cook Library; another on the lawn in front of Stephens Hall. The tigers have become the backdrop for photographs of Towson graduates with their families and friends. Lou Dollenger '74, then Alumni Association president, said, "As a tradition begins on our fine campus, we hope that you will be photographed with the statue, sit in his shadow, and that he will provide a destination of pride, and a unique gathering place for many years to come."



1 President Maravene Loeschke '69/'71, SGA President Matt Sikorski '12 and Doc 2 The new tiger  
3 The 2011 men's soccer team 4 Alumni Association Board and Doc

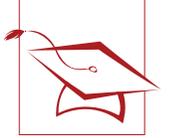
## Into the Woods

### TU Field Station hosts an open house >

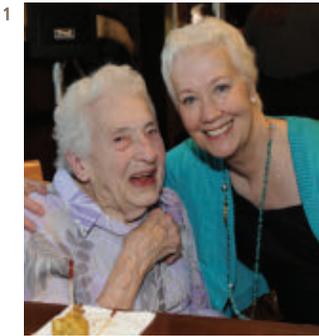
Nature walks, animal displays and portable planetarium presentations were among the activities guests could enjoy on May 12 when the TU Field Station of the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics hosted an open house. The Field Station is a 228-acre research outpost being used by TU faculty and students for long-term ecological and biological studies. Recently, the College of Fine Arts and Communication held classes there, too. A special thanks to Al Henneman '66 and his wife Suzie for making these enriching experiences possible on their Monkton, Md., property.



1 Vanessa Beauchamp, assistant professor of biology, shares some research. 2 Brody Callaghan, Karly Ryva, Eric Ryva and Jack Callaghan 3 Back row: Gina and Warren '77 Riefner; Front row: Suzie and Al '66 Henneman 4 A future herpetologist 5 Vonnie Shields, professor of biology, prepares a demonstration on the Gypsy moth.



## Meet the President I



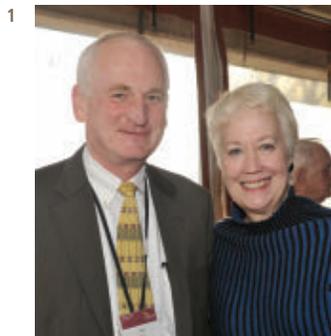
- 1 Edith Kilby '38 and President Loeschke
- 2 Rabbi Kushi Schusterman and Jerome Strausberg '75
- 3 Dan Plakatoris '83, Marc McFaul '95 and Gary Rubin '69
- 4 Don Johnson and Ira Cox '88



### < A Welcome from Harford and Cecil counties

On May 16, Frank Mezzanotte '73, a Harford County native, welcomed President Maravene Loeschke and her husband, Dick Gillespie, to the Dark Horse Saloon in Bel Air, Md. Proprietor Marc McFaul '95 outdid himself with the warm welcome and fine cuisine. Alumni from these counties have raised over \$ 100,000 this year for TU.

## Meet the President II



- 1 Ted Zaleski '97 and President Loeschke
- 2 Junko and Wayne Mc Williams, and Lori Armstrong
- 3 Baldwin Station Pub Sign
- 4 James Hottes '52 and President Loeschke
- 5 Terry Cooney, dean, and Jeremy Robbi '93



### < A Welcome from Carroll, Frederick, Montgomery and Howard counties

Who better to welcome Towson's new president than her former elementary school teacher, James Hottes '52? He joined Alumni Association President Lou Dollenger '74 at Baldwin Station in Sykesville, Md., on March 29 for a gathering of donors, alumni and friends from Carroll, Frederick, Montgomery and Howard counties. Baldwin's proprietor, Stewart Dearie is also a TU advocate and a supporter of WTMD-FM, TU's radio station.

# LEGENDS

TOWSON UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING 2012



## MILLENNIUM REUNION HAPPY HOUR

Friday, September 21, 2012

7–10 p.m.

Charles Village Pub (CVP)  
19 W. Pennsylvania Avenue  
Towson, Md., 21204



Homecoming Happy Hour for the classes of 2000-2012

The first 20 attendees will receive a free drink ticket. The \$10 fee includes one drink and a variety of appetizers. All attendees must be 21+. RSVP/Purchase your tickets at: [www.tutigertracks.com/millennium2012](http://www.tutigertracks.com/millennium2012) or call Jillian Rickerd in the Office of Alumni Relations at 410-704-2234 or email [jrickerd@towson.edu](mailto:jrickerd@towson.edu).

## HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Friday, September 21, 2012

West Village Ballroom

Call 410-704-3284 for tickets and more details.

Andrew Hollingsworth '01, Football    Lisa Pollock '01, Softball  
Todd Hicks '97, Men's Soccer        Tina Steck '01, Women's Soccer

The 1989, 1990 and 1991 men's soccer teams will be honored as Teams of Distinction.

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





## Homecoming 2012

### ALUMNI TAILGATING FESTIVAL

**Saturday, September 22, 2012**

**3 p.m. – Set-up**

**4 p.m. – Tailgating begins**

Alumni Groups: Reserve your space now

Alumni groups MUST pre-reserve a designated tailgating space through the Office of Alumni Relations to access Lot 21 on Homecoming Day. Spaces are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis, and space is limited. Homecoming Packages include reserved parking spaces, football game tickets, signs for your group and a tailgating survivor pack. Bring your neighbors and friends or meet past classmates and colleagues for tailgating festivities. Enjoy an afternoon at your alma mater, and stay to watch the Towson Tigers take on the St. Francis University Red Flash. Be sure to stop by the Alumni Hospitality Area at the Auburn House Pavilion for refreshments and Homecoming giveaways. This event is rain or shine.

Tailgating Packages\*

\$60 per group

(5 parking permits/spaces & 10 game tickets)

\$120 per group

(10 parking permits/spaces & 20 game tickets)

**\*No more than 10 parking permits/spaces may be reserved by one alumni group.**

- The parking permits and tickets will be distributed to reserved alumni group leaders PRIOR to Homecoming Day. Guests without LOT 21 parking permits may park in the Union, Glen, or Towsontown garages and walk or take a shuttle bus to the athletic corridor.

TU buses will provide transportation from these locations to the athletic corridor (GOLD ROUTE) beginning four hours prior to game time, and continuing until two hours after the game concludes.

- Alumni guests with Lot 21 parking permits enter from Auburn Drive South to gain access to Lot 21 (Auburn Drive South is the entrance to the Athletic Corridor closest to Stevenson Lane).
- All handicapped parking arrangements must be made through the Office of Alumni Relations, no later than Friday, September 7, 2012.
- Pre-reserved parking spaces are first-come, first-served for alumni, and are assigned upon registration and receipt of payment. We cannot honor requests to be located adjacent to other groups or in specific areas of Parking Lot 21.
- If you do not have a pre-reserved parking permit, you will NOT be permitted to drive into the Auburn Drive South entrance to Lot 21.
- All tailgating materials must be in the vehicles arriving and parked on site. There is no drop off or delivery service of tailgating materials to Parking Lot 21, unless the vehicle has a valid parking permit.
- This is a 21+ event. Anyone under 21 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- Campers, trailers or RV's are not permitted.
- All tailgating participants must abide by University Tailgating Policies and Procedures as stated in Article 06-09.02. It is your group leader's and members' responsibility to distribute, review and abide by the tailgating rules.
- It is recommended that you plan/coordinate ahead to determine how many vehicles you actually want to park in your allotted spaces (i.e., if you have a five-space section of Lot 21 and use all five spaces to park cars, you won't have room to put chairs and grills etc.).

**To reserve your Alumni Homecoming Tailgate Festival parking permits/spaces, please email [jrickerd@towson.edu](mailto:jrickerd@towson.edu). If you have any questions, please call the Office of Alumni Relations at 410-704-2234.**



**Football Game  
September 22, 2012  
Unitas Stadium  
7 p.m.**

**Towson Tigers vs.  
St. Francis University  
Red Flash**

**Tickets:**

Adult: \$18

Youth (ages 2-12): \$12

Senior (ages 65+): \$10

Student Guest: \$10  
(limit of 4 tickets per student)

Groups (of 10 or more): \$5

Call 1-855-TU-TIGER  
(1-855-888-4437) or visit  
[www.towsontigers.com](http://www.towsontigers.com)

**Hotel Accommodations:**

Towson University Marriott and  
Conference Center

10 West Burke Avenue

Towson, Md., 21252

410-324-8100

Sept. 21- Sept. 23

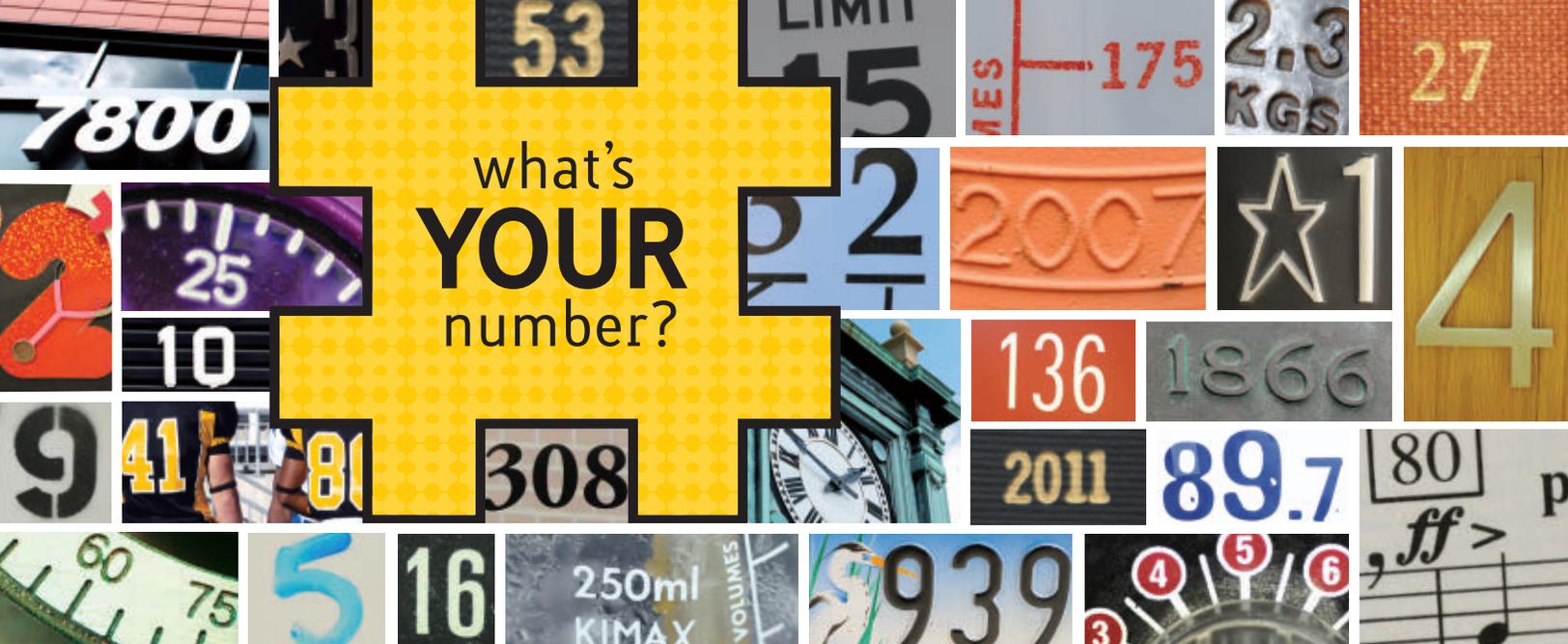
Limited rooms available at

\$99/one-bedroom suites

+ applicable state and local taxes

For reservations, visit, <http://tinyurl.com/cbhh55b>





what's  
**YOUR**  
number?

## WE'D LIKE TO GET YOUR NUMBER—THE NUMBER ASSOCIATED WITH TOWSON THAT MEANS THE MOST TO YOU.

Maybe it's your graduation year, the digit on your sports jersey, the number of your dorm room or the count of exams you aced. Whatever your Towson magic number may be, let us know. We'll keep a tally so you can find the numbers of fellow TU graduates, including those featured here, and see how everyone is connected to Towson. Visit [www.whatsyourtunumber.com](http://www.whatsyourtunumber.com).



**# 102784**

DAN '83 & CATHY '83 PLAKATORIS

"We owe our marriage and our children to Towson University," says Dan Plakatoris '83, who first met his wife, Cathy '83, in a business class in the fall of 1981. Class by class in the College of Business and Economics their friendship grew, and by graduation in spring 1983, they knew marriage would be their first joint venture.

In honor of their wedding anniversary, Dan and Cathy Plakatoris consider their TU number to be 102784. Since that date, Cathy's business career has flourished, while Dan has dedicated his time to raising their three daughters, Michelle, Kimberly and Lauren. A member of the alumni board, Cathy is vice president of global diversity and inclusion at T. Rowe Price, which is sponsoring a new finance lab on campus.

When the couple got a call from the university asking for their support, they didn't hesitate, especially since they knew T. Rowe Price would match their gift.

"Sometimes you just have to ask people to step up. It was not a hard decision," Dan says. "We were able to pinpoint our gift to the finance lab—that was a big thing for us. We think that understanding finances and how to invest is so important for the future of your family."

The T. Rowe Price Finance Laboratory, slated to open in fall 2012, will provide a real-time trading environment, giving students an opportunity to conduct financial research and analysis.

While the couple has personal reasons to support their alma mater, they also encourage other alumni to give back to the university that continues to make them proud. Dan partly attributes TU's growing reputation to alumni support.

"I believe Towson has come a long, long way since we graduated from there. It takes money. It takes gifts from alumni like us," he says.

## # 5

## DEE '60 &amp; RAY '60 D'AMARIO

Dee and Ray D'Amario '60 are a true TU love story. They met at freshman orientation for the class of 1960, graduated together on June 11, and married seven days later.

Not only does Towson represent the place that brought them together, but it also is a family tradition, leading to their TU number, 5. Five people in the D'Amario family are Towson graduates, including Dee and Ray, their daughter, Amy, granddaughter, Alex, and Ray's older sister. Five also represents the number of decades they've been married.

Although Dee has since retired from teaching, Ray, who taught high school history for 30 years, still teaches courses in history at local colleges. They credit Towson with preparing them for their successful careers in education, as well as preparing them for life in general.

"Towson, in its philosophy of education and how we can improve the life of children and students,

had a direct impact on how we raised our children," says Dee, who taught for decades in Baltimore County elementary schools.

While the D'Amarios have always supported the university, they recently stepped up their giving to honor how instrumental the College of Education is in the preparation of the state's teaching workforce. As the largest education school in Maryland, TU has trained thousands of educators working in classrooms across the country. The D'Amarios hope their support will help TU sustain that tradition of preparing teachers as well as other professionals for success.

"People ought to give to Towson, because Towson gave to them," Ray says. "Towson gives to the community by turning out quality graduates. TU has provided leadership and people should support that."

They hope that other alumni continue to step up and support the school that helped prepare them, and perhaps even introduced



them to their own family traditions.

"I'm sold on Towson," Ray says. "I always think of it as a college that makes you an educated person, rather than just trains you for a job. Towson is interested in the whole person."



## # 7

## TRAVIS COOK '02

For Travis Cook '02, his TU number represents the hard work he put in to earn his degree.

"Seven is always the number I'm going to remember. For the majority of my college career, I worked this job that was 7 at night to 7 in the morning. I worked a Wednesday-to-Sunday shift, then went to school Monday to Wednesday and Saturday," he says. "I was working and going to school seven days a week."

All those hours helped shape the person Cook was to become. "When I look back and reflect that is what made me who I am today. That's a lot of character building and triumph," he says.

Scholarships helped him afford college and earn his degree in computer information systems. He now

works as a system administrator at a Canadian-owned biopharmaceutical company based in his hometown of Baltimore.

In his spare time, Cook devotes his energy to his alma mater, attending events. Now as a volunteer for Founders GOLD, he is hoping to encourage other alumni to give back to the university because he wants to help people who are just like he was.

"The benefit of giving is the knowledge that you're giving back and trying to help somebody who was once like you, struggling to make it through, whether working tirelessly to pay for college or studying extra hard on weekends to make the grades, or trying to squeeze in life," he says. "When you needed help, someone helped you."

## Celebrating Scholars

DONORS AND RECIPIENTS MEET AT THE ANNUAL FOUNDATION SCHOLARS LUNCHEON



(Top row, left to right) Marie Lilly, associate director of Women's Resources, Patricia Dorroh, former Provost Marcia Welsh and Thomas Wilfrid. (Bottom row, left to right) Denise Moreland, Ellen Poorman and Diane Wilfrid.

The eighth annual Foundation Scholars Luncheon, an event celebrating philanthropy and the accomplishments of student scholarship recipients, took place Friday, April 20 in

West Village Commons. Attended by more than 260 donors, students and university leaders, the event offered the opportunity for donors to meet the beneficiaries of their gifts and to share how their experiences led them to support Towson.

Emceed by Gary N. Rubin '69, this year's event featured a keynote address by Thomas Wilfrid, executive director of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation. He spoke about the foundation's commitment to ensuring that non-traditional-aged students have the opportunity to receive a college education. Student speakers included:

### **Sarah Denton '12**

Recipient of the Osher Reentry Scholarship and the Donald D. and Margaret M. Cooper Scholarship.



President Maravene Loeschke with student speakers Sarah Denton and Robert Eubank.

### **Robert Eubank '12**

Recipient of the Rising Star Scholarship, Kathryn H. Gerling Scholarship, CBE Board of Advisors Scholarship and Student Leadership Initiatives Scholarship.

To view more event video and photos, visit [www.towson.edu/foundationsscholars](http://www.towson.edu/foundationsscholars).

## Flying the Flags

INTERNATIONAL WALKWAY WILL WELCOME STUDENTS AND ENCOURAGE STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES



Study abroad programs like the Israel trip organized by Hana Bor, director of master's programs in Jewish education and communal services, provide invaluable experiences for Towson students, allowing them to

develop knowledge and skills to become more productive and successful members of the global community. Study abroad is a rewarding, life-transforming experience for students that enhances their perspectives on world cultures.

One way to support study abroad programs at the university is through the International Walkway initiative announced in March by President Maravene Loeschke '69/'71. Flags representing the home countries of international students studying at the university will line the walkway near the College of Liberal Arts. "The walkway will be a familiar symbol of home for our international

students as well as a reminder to all that our world extends beyond Towson," Loeschke says.

For a \$5,000 gift, an individual, family or organization can sponsor a flag to fly on the International Walkway, which will include a plaque with the donors' names. A portion of this gift will help to support the study abroad program and will allow the university to reduce the out-of-pocket cost for TU students studying internationally.

For more information on sponsoring a flag and other ways to support the Study Abroad Program, contact Crickett Kasper at [ckasper@towson.edu](mailto:ckasper@towson.edu) or 410-704-4528.

## Studying in Israel

BEN & ESTER ROSENBLUM FOUNDATION AND THE CHARLES CRANE FAMILY FOUNDATION HELPED STUDENTS HAVE A "LIFE-CHANGING" EXPERIENCE

Study abroad programs are more than just a complement to academic coursework. These experiences shape lives and contribute to students' personal growth and professional aspirations.

As Hana Bor, director of master's programs in Jewish education and communal services, began

planning the inaugural Israel Study Abroad course, she wanted to make the trip affordable so all students could take advantage of this opportunity. Aware that the Ben & Ester Rosenbloom Foundation and the Charles Crane Family Foundation value the transformational power of study abroad experiences, Bor appealed for help to reduce the cost of the trip for students.

Both foundations responded generously, and during the winter 2012 minimester, Bor led a group of 14 TU students to Israel to learn firsthand about Israeli education, communal service, and social, health and welfare programs, while enjoying the beauty and culture of the country.

"Each organization, place and city we visited in Israel only further enhanced my perspective

on world culture and really opened my mind and enhanced my desire to explore other countries and cultures," says graduate student Rich Dinetz.

As they traveled to 13 cities and towns over three weeks, the diverse group of students explored cross-cultural education and social services and gained knowledge that they were able to apply to their areas of study.

Shifrah Hill,

a Jewish education major, says, "The trip was truly life-changing. It enabled me to feel more confident in teaching about Israel and making sure that supporting Israel is a cornerstone of my career."

Christina Terranova, a health science and family studies student, came back from the trip eager to practice what she experienced in Israel. "This trip made me more passionate about being active in making change for the better in social service and education programs offered here in Baltimore."

The student travelers shared photos and stories of their travels with representatives from the Rosenbloom Foundation and Crane Family Foundation upon their return home. Larry Katz, president of the Crane Family Foundation, says, "I was very impressed by the students'



## Stay up to Date on Towson news and events

### Fall Arts & Culture Events

[WWW.TOWSON.EDU/ARTSCALENDAR](http://WWW.TOWSON.EDU/ARTSCALENDAR)

### Become a Career Mentor

[WWW.TOWSON.EDU/CAREERCENTER](http://WWW.TOWSON.EDU/CAREERCENTER)

### Alumni Online Community

[WWW.TUTIGERTRACKS.COM](http://WWW.TUTIGERTRACKS.COM)

### Youth Programs and Kids Camps

[WWW.TOWSON.EDU/KIDSCAMPUS](http://WWW.TOWSON.EDU/KIDSCAMPUS)

### Tiger Athletics

[WWW.TOWSONTIGERS.COM](http://WWW.TOWSONTIGERS.COM)

### Make a Gift

[WWW.TOWSON.EDU/SUPPORTTU](http://WWW.TOWSON.EDU/SUPPORTTU)

### TU Newsroom

[WWW.TOWSON.EDU/MAIN/ABOUTTU/NEWSROOM/](http://WWW.TOWSON.EDU/MAIN/ABOUTTU/NEWSROOM/)

presentations about what they learned during their time in Israel, and their enthusiasm for how they will carry that knowledge forward in their lives and careers. The Crane Foundation is proud to support programs which expand students' worldview and confidence in their own abilities to affect change."

## In Memoriam

### Alumni

**Sean N. Bass '90**  
March 14, 2012

**Dorothy Z. Benbow '83**  
2009

**Gary E. Bindok '91**  
March 10, 2012

**Don W. Bost Jr. '82**  
March 14, 2010

**Edward W. Brumbaugh '36**  
May 13, 2012

**G. Wayne Burgemeister '79**  
March 1, 2012

**Robert D. Calp '76**  
March 1, 2012

**Barbara H. Chilcoat '40**  
March 31, 2012

**Eugene H. Childs '54**  
February 28, 2012

**Joe A. Cieslak '71**  
February 25, 2012

**Ann O. Colder '59**  
April 24, 2012

**Eleanor A. Crawford '66**  
November 16, 2010

**Elnor L. Crickard '64**  
May 12, 2012

**Stacey K. Del Bene '82**  
February 12, 2012

**Charlene Dieter '83**  
2011

**Pamela Engel '06**  
May 16, 2012

**Bonnie B. Faber '83**  
November 22, 2010

**Theresa A. Fatzinger '89**  
February 28, 2010

**Margaret A. Fenton '35**  
April 6, 2012

**John C. Fiege '57**  
March 2, 2012

**Lyndell A. Ford '74**  
March 24, 2012

**Richard H. Frese '58**  
January 21, 2012

**Helen W. Gladhill '36**  
April 22, 2012

**Naecarma L. Goldschmitt '44**  
February 12, 2012

**Helen E. Hildenbrand '45**  
January 8, 2012

**Christopher B. Hodge '84**  
March 17, 2012

**Karen D. Jacobsen '55**  
April 6, 2012

**Mary A. Jameson '52**  
May 6, 2012

**Jean E. Juchs '54**  
April 7, 2012

**Kathaleen V. Kennedy '30**  
August 3, 2010

**Paul Larson '70**  
February 23, 2012

**Esther R. Lentz '40**  
April 26, 2012

**Amy S. Loucks '95**  
May 18, 2012

**Robert J. Marchanti '89**  
February 25, 2012

**Michael B. McGrath '93**  
February 27, 2012

**Thomas F. Nibali '71**  
May 3, 2012

**Roseanna Perkins '72**  
March 27, 2012

**Bernice C. Pojunas '45**  
May 10, 2012

**Carole D. Pruss '61**  
February 22, 2012

**Ann B. Ramsay '64**  
February 21, 2012

**Helen I. Rigler '39**  
March 10, 2012

**Paula A. Roberatory '87**  
January 4, 2012

**Paul W. Ruppert '91**  
November 26, 2010

**La Rue B. Schneider '07**  
March 9, 2008

**Julia R. Shriver '45**  
July 12, 2010

**Joan F. Silber '53**  
April 13, 2012

**David J. Simmons '74**  
October 31, 2011

**Lee Lewis Smith '52**  
October 14, 2011

**Gregory A. Sopp '96**  
March 17, 2012

**Betty Isaacson Surasky '62**  
February 29, 2012

**Kenneth C. Taylor '62**  
May 11, 2012

**Robert G. Taylor '57**  
January 23, 2012

**Dolores J. Wehrman '57**  
February 3, 2012

**Genevieve Williams '82**  
May 2, 2012

**James H. Wirth '53**  
February 4, 2012

**Stan F. Wisniewski '57**  
May 15, 2012

**John M. Young '50**  
April 10, 2012

**Dorothy M. Yox '35**  
March 30, 2012

**Manuela B. Zipperer-Pfeiffer '03**  
March 23, 2012

### Faculty & Staff

**Billy D. Hauserman**  
May 26, 2012

**Nancy L. Marvel**  
April 3, 2012

**Donald R. Windler Ph.D.**  
March 11, 2012

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## Before 1960s

**Edith Paul '48 EDUC** was the inspiration for a novel written by her daughter, Betsy R. Rosenthal. The book, *Looking For Me In This Great Big Family*, tells the story of Edith, one of 12 siblings growing up in Depression-era Baltimore. Paul still lives in the San Francisco area with her husband, Leon.

## 1960s

**Nancy Grasmick '61** has been elected to the board of directors for the Washington, D.C.-based SEED Foundation, which partners with urban communities to prepare underserved students for college and beyond.

**Joseph '62 and Connie '62 Glass** have been married for 50 years and have four children. Joe has been practicing law for 40 years in Towson. His practice has allowed him to travel all over the United States and Europe. In his spare time he has run more than 50 marathons. Connie has been teaching pre-school for 25 years.

**Harriet Dorfman Porton '65**, a supervisor at Notre Dame of Maryland University, published *Helping Struggling Learners Succeed in School* in May 2012. The book offers a comprehensive approach to help students believe in themselves and their ability to succeed in school. Porton brings 40 years of teaching experience to the text, which is designed to help teachers, administrators and local school systems reach and teach the students who are among the most likely to drop out of school.

**Edward Lorenz '66 HIST**, the Reid-Knox professor of history and political science at Alma College in Michigan, wrote *Civic Empowerment in an Age of Corporate Greed*. It was published by Michigan State University Press.

**George "Lonnie" McNew '68**, TU's senior vice president for enrollment management, retired in July. A resident assistant while a student at Towson, he later became a national leader in enrollment services. TU Provost Marcia Welsh wrote, "It is a credit to Lonnie's leadership that Towson University was recognized by the Education Trust as one of a select group of colleges where black and Hispanic students are as likely to graduate as whites, with no graduation 'gap' for either minority group."



## The Organizer

**John T. Strekel '78**

His business brings order to 'the stuff' in garages

A two-car garage holds just about everything but automobiles these days.

Just ask John T. Strekel '78, who has been making order out of garage chaos since 2003 when he opened Garage Design Solutions, a business that organizes garages and storage spaces in Maryland, Delaware and Northern Virginia.

Garage Design Solutions, based in Berlin, Md., offers a variety of installations to make the most cluttered garage not only organized, but also appealing to the eye. Clients can choose from cabinets, adjustable wall panels, custom flooring and more.

Strekel also offers some high-end solutions, such as a motorcycle lift. "It can suspend a 1,200 pound bike up to six feet in the air," he says, "so you can park a car under it, or keep it at a comfortable height for repairs."

Through the years, Strekel has witnessed the enormous amount of clutter that piles up in garages, from sporting goods to lawn and garden equipment to coolers, fish tanks and countless other odds and ends.

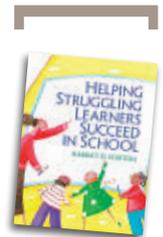
"People often keep junk in their garages for five, maybe 10 years," he notes. So the first order of business is find a trash bin or a yard sale. "We tell clients to use the two- to three-year rule," he says. "If you haven't used something within the past three years, get rid of it."

Once the castoffs are pitched, Strekel's company creates custom garages to suit any client's needs. "Why not make your garage look just as nice as the rest of your house?" he asks. However, this kind of project is no small undertaking. It may require anywhere from two days to a full week to complete, and costs start at about \$4,000.

While other franchises provide similar services, Strekel also has a home improvement license, making his company versatile and competitive, an advantage in today's economy.

Strekel may expand his business in the future. But for now, he'll continue doing what he does best: making the world a more organized place, one garage at a time.

—Hannah Kaufman



Harriet Dorfman Porton '65, a supervisor at Notre Dame of Maryland University, published *Helping Struggling Learners Succeed in School*.

**Lawrence G. Martin '69** retired from the Maryland Park Service where he served as the statewide volunteer coordinator. In 2003, he retired from the U.S. Department of Defense as a specialist in cyber security. He was recently elected to the board of directors of the National Association of Zoo and Aquarium Docents.

## 1970s

**Bill Owings '73**, professor of educational leadership at Old Dominion University, and his wife, Leslie Kaplan, published the second edition of *American Public School Finance* in April. It is the tenth book they have published in the field of education.



Rachel Ellis '95 M.S. is a vice president and marketing manager at Gannett Fleming.

**Albert F. Kelly '76** and his wife, Terese, moved from Charlotte, N.C., to Boston, Mass., more than two years ago. They enjoy living close to their son, his wife and two grandchildren. Kelly coaches at Wayland High school.

**John Lowe '76**, who started Be Compelling Now, a firm that focuses on making business presentations powerful and visually stimulating, was named to the Board of Advisors of the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce in N.C.

**Judith Hoffman Fey '76 M.Ed.** wrote *Dance Unite for Middle School*, published by Human Kinetics. The book features scripted lesson plans and includes a music CD and demonstrations of skills on a narrated DVD.

**Mike McIntyre '78 MCOM** headed Chesapeake Systems' audio/visual, high-definition upgrade to TU's Department of Electronic Media and Film.

## 1980s

**Michael Cather '83**, former vice president and director of development for Union Memorial Hospital, was appointed TU's associate vice president for development.

**Ann Kolakowski '84** became TU's director of major and planned gifts in July. She has a strong background in planned giving and communications, most recently working in the Office of Gift Planning at Johns Hopkins.

**Kimberly Wilmot Voss '88 M.A.** earned tenure and promotion to associate professor at the University of Central Florida in May 2012. She is area coordinator of journalism in the Nicholson School of Communication. She also gave birth to a son, Paul Jacob, in May. He joins big brother, Curtis James.

**Ed Thompson '89**, director of Gross, Mendelsohn & Associate's manufacturing and wholesale distribution group, was named partner in July. Thompson specializes in providing audit, tax and consulting services to family-owned businesses, including manufacturers, distributors and construction contractors.

**James Thomas Odom Jr. '89 MCOM** married Lynn Kilchenstein in 1994. Their daughter, Victoria, was born in 1998. In 2000, he woke up after four months in a coma. He later published his first novel, *Going to the Dogs*.

## 1990s

**Lisa Kane '90 BUAD** launched Lemongrass Home Cleaning, a "green" home-cleaning business in Sparks, Md. She uses "100 percent non-toxic and eco-friendly products," part of her commitment to the environment. "Your home is truly treated like a four-star hotel, but without the heavy price tag," she writes.

**Jim Bigwood '91 M.A. MCOM** won a regional Emmy in the audio crafts category for his work recording and mixing the Morgan State University Choir's "Lift Every Heart" concert for Maryland Public Television. Bigwood manages MPT'S audio department and shared the award with David Wainwright and **Gordon Masters '76**.

**James Douglas Hill '92**, an associate broker in the Phoenix metropolitan market, was named the number one Realtor in Arizona for Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in 2011. He has also been named by *The Wall Street Journal* as one of the Top 250 Realtors in the nation for the last two years and has been featured on HGTV's *House Hunters*.

**Renee Foose '93** became superintendent of Howard County Public Schools in July—the first female superintendent in the system's history. Foose began teaching in 1996 and received a master's degree in curriculum and instruction in 1997. She later became a principal in Frederick County and earned a doctorate of education in 2004. In 2010, she earned a master's degree in business administration.

**Rachel Ellis '95 M.S.**, who was named vice president of Gannett Fleming, is a marketing manager for the firm's Delmarva Region. She has 15 years of experience with the firm and supervises a staff of marketing specialists who provide marketing support for conferences and other publicity efforts.

**Ann-Marie P. Monroe '95** has spent the last 15 years in banking, most recently working as a commercial lender for Northwest Savings Bank, based in Pennsylvania. Her primary responsibility is to help businesses stay healthy and grow.

**John Pettit Jr. '95 and Julie Slevin Pettit '99** celebrated the birth of their son, Jake Martin, on March 12, 2012.

**Amy Rovere '96** had her first book published by the American Cancer Society in June. *And They Still Bloom: A Family's Journey of Loss and Healing* is a picture book written to help children through the grief process after losing a parent to cancer.

**Lynne Zink '96** is a benefit auctioneer specialist. "So far this year, I have helped nonprofits and schools raise over a half a million dollars in just the silent and live auctions alone," she writes.

**Michelle Strotman Gaffney '96** started an editorial consulting business in October of 2010. She handles manuscript processing, peer-review, marketing and logistics for medical journals, as well as perform ad hoc projects for larger publishing firms.

**David A. Campaigne '97 ECON** became a principal (partner) at Ronald Blue & Co., an independent, fee-only financial planning and investment advisory firm. He works out of the Hunt Valley office that serves clients throughout the mid-Atlantic and Northeast states.

**Brad Dunnells '97, Laura Hein '96, Jeff Malcom '97** and Marianne (Skye) Sadowski (Malcom), who started a Baltimore-based Irish/American roots rock group, Donegal X-Press while students at TU, recently released their sixth studio album, "Paid Off the Boom." They credit TU's theatre and music programs with giving them the "chops to keep the dream alive."

**Christine Plumb Crawford '98** and her husband, Patrick, announce the birth of their twins Avery Michelle and Brock William, born on March 30, 2012. They joined big brother Kyle, 5.



## Note Worthy

The a cappella sounds of Katie Gillis '11 and TU students Katie Macdonald, Ali Hauger and Amanda McNutt make award-winning music

Put four voices together and you'll hear the award-winning pitch and harmony of GQ (Girls Quartet), an a cappella group of Towson University women.

Katie Gillis '11 and TU students Katie Macdonald, Ali Hauger and Amanda McNutt formed the group in July 2011 and, despite their brief time together, have dazzled audiences and judges across the country with their unique blend of sounds.

"We're excited about the positive feedback we've gotten," Gillis says.

In February, GQ entered its first competition—the Mid-Atlantic Harmony Sweepstakes at the Birchmere in Alexandria, Va. They won three of four awards, including Audience Favorite, Judge's Favorite and Best Original Arrangement for the song "Timshel," written by Macdonald and Gillis. The victory earned them a berth at the Harmony Sweepstakes, a national competition held in San Francisco in May. They took second place and won Best Original Arrangement, again for "Timshel."

In March, the women took first place at NBC's SingStrong A Capella Idol Competition.

The four women come from different musical backgrounds—jazz, pop, barbershop and musical theater. They do their own arrangements, mixing sounds that are a cross between contemporary rock and barbershop, according to their Web site.

"We think of songs we all really like or have an emotional connection to, and then arrange them ourselves," says Gillis, who also sings at weddings with the band Retrospect.

Gillis, a jazz and commercial music major, met Macdonald, Hauger and McNutt while at TU. They sang in classes and in jazz choirs with TU music instructor Jeremy Ragsdale.

Now that the California competition is over, the women are busy writing music and preparing to make a CD.

"We'd also really like to connect with kids who are into singing and a cappella music," Gillis says. "We would like to incorporate music education as part of what we offer."

Listen to GQ at <http://www.girlsquartet.com/media/listen/>

—Hannah Kaufman

### Jamie Langhorne Johnson '98 EDUC

has been a teacher in Baltimore County public schools for 13 years and teaches first grade in Towson. She lives with her husband, Stephen, 13-year-old step-daughter, Alicia, and 17-month-old-daughter, Savannah.

**Tim Smelcer '98 BUAD** became president and CEO of MED Cloud, a medical technology company that provides Electronic Medical Record (EMR) solutions to medical practices. Smelcer, a U.S. Air Force veteran, has more than 20 years of IT experience. He is also the founder and president and CEO of RedBird Technology.



David Campaigne '97 is a partner at Ronald Blue & Co., a financial planning and investment advisory firm.

## 2000s

**Kimberly Gill '00**, an associate in Morris Nichols' Trusts, Estates and Tax Group, is on the 2012 *Delaware Rising Stars* list published by Thomson Reuters/*Super Lawyers*. Gill, an annual speaker at the Delaware Tax Institute, was elected chair of the Delaware State Bar Association, section on estates and trusts, and is a past chair of the Delaware State Bar Association's section on taxation.

**Helen Janc Malone '01** recently wrote a piece in *Education Week* about her experience as an ESOL student in America. Malone donated a dictionary along with a few photos from her ESOL days to the Smithsonian for their permanent education collection and for an upcoming exhibit on immigration.

**Yi Shrestha, '02**, a supervisor at Stoy, Malone & Company, P.C., recently earned an MBA in finance from Loyola University Maryland. A CPA, Yi joined the firm in January 2003. She and her husband, Gaurav Shrestha, and their two children live in Nottingham, Md.

**Steven Cole '02** and his brother **Daniel Cole '05** won first place in TowsonGlobal's business plan competition for emerging companies. The brothers beat out medical companies with Tool-Spinner, an online tool rental site that connects tool owners and potential renters. The prize money will help finance website design and marketing.



Kimberly Gill '00, an associate with Morris Nichols, is on the list of *Super Lawyers, 2012 Delaware Rising Stars.*

**Eric Rhew '05** was named the sports information and communications specialist at Goldey-Beacom College after working for nearly six years as the assistant director of athletics media relations at TU.

**Amanda Benedict '06 ELED** and husband Erik welcomed their first child, Kyle, on February 22, 2012.

**Daniel Michalowicz '06** completed eight weeks of U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

**Brian Stelter '07**, a reporter and Web writer for the *New York Times*, came to campus for a screening of "Page One," a documentary film in which he appears. The film chronicles a year in the *Times'* newsroom.

**Rachelle Bell '07 ACCT** has been promoted to supervisor in the audit, accounting and consulting department of Ellin & Tucker, a certified public accounting business and consulting firm.

**Cory B. Chaney '07 BUAD** was named chair of the medical practice services group at KatzAbosch, an accounting and consulting firm in Timonium, Md. His professional memberships include the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Maryland Medical Group Management Association.

**Jennifer Long '08 and Matthew Laumann '08** were married at the Delaplaine Visual Arts Center in Frederick, Md., on May 19, 2012. Matthew is a graphic designer in the marketing and public relations department at Stevenson University. Jennifer is a graphic designer in the publications department at the Humane Society of the United States.

**Kiel McLaughlin '09** left Johns Hopkins University's marketing department for TU, where he is the Web content editor in university relations.

**Matthew Bohle '10** is the assistant director of the annual campaign for Towson University. He recently worked in Annapolis as special assistant to the Maryland Senate majority leader.

**Liz Milligan '10** was promoted to staff accountant at Gross, Mendelsohn & Associates, P.A., and is pursuing a master's degree in accountancy and business advisory services.

**Brandon L. Schwarzenberg '10** completed eight weeks of U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

**Michelle Bancroft '11**, who interned with *Girls' Life Magazine* in the advertising and marketing department, joined *Baltimore* magazine as the advertising traffic coordinator.

**Tony Fazio '11** joined the Baltimore public relations firm Himmelrich PR as an account associate, providing media and client relations' support.

## 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 email [alumni@towson.edu](mailto: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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**Here's my news** (please use a separate sheet of paper if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

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## Library To House Ehrlich Papers

EHRlich COLLECTION FOR PUBLIC LEADERSHIP STUDIES WILL BE DIGITIZED AND AVAILABLE ONLINE



The Albert S. Cook Library at Towson University has been chosen to house the Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. Collection for Public Leadership Studies. The collection contains materials from Ehrlich's years of public service as a member of the Maryland General Assembly (1987-1995), United States Congressman (1995-2003), and as governor of Maryland (2003-2007).

Items in the collection include speeches, records, correspondence, photographs and assorted memorabilia that document his work on public issues such as fiscal responsibility, education, health and the environment, public safety and commerce.

"This collection is a reflection of Gov. Ehrlich's leadership and highlights the policy issues and debates that marked his tenure in public office," said Gary N. Rubin '69, vice president for University Advancement.

Private funding for the Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. Collection for Public Leadership studies will help process the collection to ensure its long-term preservation and to prepare documentation for use by researchers at the university and throughout the community. Funding will also support initiatives related to the collection, including invited speakers.

The digitization, description and display of the collection's public domain materials in the library's online digital collections database will allow free and unlimited access to a world-wide audience.

For information on how to support this initiative, contact the Towson University Office of Development at 410-704-3375.

## Tiger Gymnasts Score Big

TEAM WINS ANNUAL SHELLI CALLOWAY MEMORIAL INVITATIONAL



Dr. Maravene Loeschke with alumni from the Towson gymnastics team at the Shelli Calloway Memorial Invitational.

The Tiger gymnastics team won the 26th annual Shelli Calloway Memorial Invitational by edging Temple and Penn with a season-high score of 194.10.

"This year's alumni meet was more special than previous ones," Avis Hixon, a co-captain of the gymnastics team, blogged. "After all the teams were introduced, we introduced the alumni gymnasts and they participated in the march-in. The alumni lined up next to us they did a cheer with us before the first event. The Tiger gymnastics program has a very rich tradition and it means so much to have the alumni return to cheer us on.

We got the chance to meet and talk to some alumni after the meet at the alumni reception and I had the pleasure of meeting recent Hall of Fame inductee Liane Williams '99.

## TU Rising Junior Finishes 65th at Olympic Swimming Trials

MELANIE ROWLAND IS THE SECOND TIGER IN HISTORY TO COMPETE IN THE TRIALS



Melanie Rowland became the first Towson University woman to compete in the United States Olympic swimming trials. She finished finishing 65th in the 200-meter butterfly with a time of 2:16.62 during the June meet held in Omaha, Neb.

Rowland joined men's swimmer Aaron Krause '05 as the only Tigers to ever qualify for the well-known trials. Krause accomplished the feat in 2004.

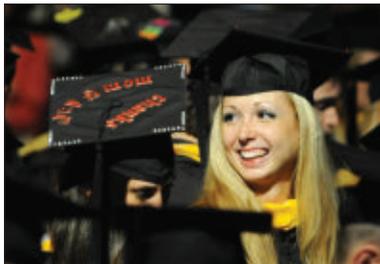
"I am very proud of Melanie," said Towson Coach Pat Mead, who accompanied Rowland to Omaha. "She swam her second-fastest time ever and had a great race. In 2016 we expect to have many more Tigers at Trials. Melanie can take pride in knowing she led the way for our women being the first female to represent Towson University at such a prestigious athletic event."

Rowland, who will be entering her junior season in the fall for Towson, was the runner-up in the 200-yard butterfly to Tiger teammate Cari Czarnecki at the 2012 Colonial Athletic Association Championships with a time of 1:59.97. Rowland's time was the fourth-fastest time in the history of the school. She also excelled in the 100-yard butterfly as a sophomore, with her best time of the season (55.73) in that event coming at the Terrapin Cup.

Rowland qualified for the Olympic trials with a time of 2:15.76 at the Speedo Sizzler Meet in early June. Her time was over a half-second faster than the required 2:16.49 time in the event.

## Towson University Awarded 3,421 degrees on May 23, 24 and 25

BILL OWENS '88 RECEIVED HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS DEGREE AT 147TH COMMENCEMENT



Towson University awarded 2,692 baccalaureate degrees, 715 master's degrees and certificates, and 14 doctoral degrees at its 147th Commencement on Wednesday, May 23; Thursday, May 24; and Friday, May 25, on campus at the Towson Center.

Bill Owens '88, an award-winning executive editor of *60 Minutes*, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at the May 25 exercises for the College of Fine Arts and Communication. He was profiled in the winter 2011 issue of the alumni magazine, *Towson*.

Baltimore resident and renowned actress Vivienne Shub was awarded

an honorary Bachelor of Arts degree at the May 25 exercises for the College of Fine Arts and Communication. She is profiled in this issue on page 12.

One hundred twelve students will graduate from the Honors College this spring. Latin honors will be awarded based upon final grade calculations.



### Amy McDowell

Throughout my life, I discovered that there are no perfectly laid plans. Success comes from learning from the moment when your plan takes a sharp, unexpected turn. My arrival at Towson was an unexpected turn—and in fact a turnaround moment in my career. I began my graduate experience at Towson as a transfer student with the hope to complete my studies as quickly as possible. But now as a result of the devoted faculty in my Early Childhood Education program such as Dr. Wheeler and Dr. Berkeley who believed, motivated, inspired, and encouraged me to excel and persevere, I am now considering a doctoral program. After spending many late nights studying and researching to complete this degree, I have an even greater desire to be a better professional to children, their families, and to the community at large.

My experience at Towson has challenged me and taught me to broaden my expertise in education so that I can effectively advocate for children and their educational needs.

Family and friends of graduates, I thank you on behalf of your beloveds. You gave us guidance and support along our journey. I would especially like to thank my own parents, my husband, Tim, my stepsons, Austin, and Brennan, and my daughter, Madison, for the

support they have given me to make this day possible.

Finally, I leave you with a quote from the Roman poet, Horace, that was made popular in the movie "Dead Poet's Society," "*Carpe Diem*"—"seize the day." Graduates, remember each day is new and each day is what you make of it in your journey.



### Ashlee Harrington Vandiver

I would like to thank my parents, grandparents, husband and extended family for always supporting me in my journey toward a doctoral degree. You have all been there from the beginning, when I was playing school before I was old enough to go—and now here I am, after 22 years of being a student, about to step into the next stage in life. So, thank you. When I discovered I was being asked to speak at Towson University's 2012 commencement, I was beyond shocked, extremely honored, but mostly terrified. My husband remarked how great it was going to be to see me in front of thousands of people turning bright red and smiling nervously—so Wesley, I hope you get a picture.

Everything happens for a reason. We've all heard this at some time or another throughout our adult lives, but at the time it's usually being said to us is the last possible moment we want to hear it, or can even fathom why certain events may occur. Nine years ago I started my bachelor's degree at the University of Maine, and as I stand before you today, I have ventured so far from my initial educational goals that I barely recognize that 17-year-old's aspirations. Now, I've been told that I'm stubborn, so if back then I was told I would ever consider changing

my major from pre-medicine to communication sciences and disorders, I would have laughed. Mostly because I couldn't even tell you what communication sciences and disorders meant, was, or where it could take me; but most importantly because that was not my "plan." I never would have thought four years ago I would leave my home state of Maine to venture to this big city in Maryland to pursue a doctoral degree in audiology. I knew not a single person in the area. I was 548 miles away from my family and living in a city that has approximately 3/4 the amount of people as the entire state that I grew up in. I almost changed my mind about Towson to attend a university closer to home. But something about Towson and the people I had met in my few days visiting tugged at my heart. Today I can gladly say that Towson University was the right choice for me, and not just educationally. Towson University introduced me to my two best friends, the most incredible mentor a person could ask for, and set me up for the career of my dreams.

I never would have thought that in the past year I would successfully defend my dissertation, complete my doctoral coursework, clinical hours and externship, marry my best friend, and just nine weeks ago welcome our first child, Coleton. But here I stand, having done all of those things, and realizing that everything seems to fall into place just exactly as it should and life has a way of making sure you are where you need to be. That's the point of all of this—I never expected to be in the position I am today, to have strayed so far from my "life-plan." To be in a place I never would imagined standing before so many people I have never met. I've always said that everything happens for a reason, and as I stand before you today, I can finally see that this truly is so. I chose Towson University for my doctoral degree four years ago because of the amazing professors I met on my university visit, and because of this decision I now have more than I would have ever thought possible

in just four short years: my doctoral degree, an amazing career before me, and my very own family. So, today I want to remind you all that although life doesn't always bring you where you had planned, just remember you are, at any moment in time, exactly where you are supposed to be, and life is going to be so much richer and fuller than you could have ever imagined.



### Courtney LaSpina

I am humbled and honored to be speaking here today. It seems only appropriate to begin by thanking my family, friends, mentors, professors, supervisors and all of those who have supported me through my journey of being an undergraduate at Towson University. I would not be here today without all of your love, support and encouragement.

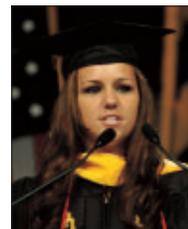
I always thought that I wanted to become a lawyer, I even applied as a pre-law major. But by the second semester of freshman year I made the phone call home to my parents and told them that I needed to follow my heart, my instinct, and what I felt I was born to do, and that was to become a teacher, more specifically a special educator.

Someone once said "Teaching is the profession that teaches all other professions" and I couldn't agree more. While respected by many, the teaching profession is often underestimated. However, it is the most challenging, rewarding but above all most important profession impacting society today. I think it takes a special type of person to become a teacher. I ask my fellow graduates to always remember why they chose to become an educator. It may be a love we have for a particular

content area, a love for children, or a passion for school. Whatever it may be, as future educators we all have the tremendous pressure and opportunity to lay the foundation and shape the future. We can all reflect on our favorite teacher or professor, who pushed us to reach our potential and gave us the motivation to strive for greatness in all that we do, and now we'll have the same opportunity to be that inspiration for our students.

I feel privileged to be a graduate of Towson University's College of Education program. Its deep and rich history of educating educators is apparent with the outstanding faculty who are veteran teachers themselves.

This may be the end of being undergraduate students at Towson, but it is also just the beginning to something much bigger—our lives and our careers. We can now all take a deep breath, because we did it! I wish my fellow graduates all the best of luck with their teaching careers or whichever road they chose to travel from here. Thank you.



### Loren Fierstein

First, I would like to congratulate all Towson University's 2012 graduates. It is such an honor to be speaking to you today. When I was asked to speak at today's commencement I was terrified. What could I possibly say that would represent the feelings of so many different members of my class? But after thinking back over the events that brought me here, I knew exactly what I was going to speak about, something we all can relate to—reflection. A reflection is a thought or an opinion resulting from such consideration. So embrace this word and truly reflect

on where you came from, how you got to this ceremony today, and where you will go next.

I am from a small, rural town in southern Maryland. I grew up riding four wheelers around our 130-acre family farm. Towson seemed like a perfect option for me. It was close to home yet a completely different, crowded atmosphere. And so I began the Towson journey, putting in countless hours to complete a triple major in four short years.

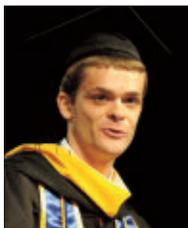
I am sure we can all remember the hard work we have put into becoming a Fisher College of Science and Mathematics graduate. Many of us had labs in addition to lectures two, three or even four times a week. At times, we felt like we were struggling to win an impossible battle. These feelings of doubt could quickly be overcome by a feeling of success 16 weeks later when we passed “that” class. And so today all of the hard work and never-ending hours has finally paid off. We should be proud of ourselves.

As is typical of the Towson student, in addition to my vigorous course work, I found time to volunteer at In Balance Physical Therapy and Wellness center. At In Balance I found my passion and discovered what I want to do for the rest of my life. And so in five days I will begin my next journey at the University of Maryland School Of Medicine to become a doctor of physical therapy. Today, I will become the first member of my immediate family to have completed an undergraduate education. Looking back I know Towson was the right decision for me. Beyond a rigorous but rewarding course load, I was given opportunities to put what I was learning in the lab and classroom to work. These experiences, above anything else, prepared me for my future endeavors.

Everyone in this room has had different experiences, challenges and obstacles. If you reflect back you can slowly rekindle all the emotions from anger, to sorrow, to fear, to joy. We have all made it to graduation; how-

ever, this end result is not as important as the journey itself. The paths we have taken to get here and the experiences we have shared is what matters. Nothing is stationary and permanent. Stay true to yourself and never doubt your decisions. Follow your passion, follow your heart and be excited.

So for those graduating today I ask that you please reflect on your life. Reflect on how far you have come. And, thank all those who helped you get to where you are today. Decide what you want to do with your life and what makes you happy, whether this entails continuing on with education or beginning your journey in the work force. If you believe anything is possible you all will do great things. What I wrote for my sister’s senior yearbook seems particularly fitting for today, “When you leave, never forget why you came. Enjoy the best time of your life, continue to dream big and reach high.” Once again, congratulations, class of 2012!



### Mark Hammond

21,000 students;  
1,600 faculty;  
113 degree programs.

That’s Towson University by the numbers.

12 semesters;  
3 majors;  
37 miles from my hometown.

That’s Towson University by my personal numbers.

But Towson University is more than just boring statistics. To my fellow graduates, Towson might be where you found the confidence to be a leader, or it might be a place where you discovered your passion and career interests.

To the families of graduates, Towson University might be a place where your child learned to live on his or her own, gained the skills necessary to secure a job, or, maybe, it’s a place that managed to get your beloved child out of the house for a few years only to have him or her returning tomorrow. My point is that this school means something different to each of us and to the people who helped us get here.

For me, Towson University changed my perspective of the world and of my place in it. I use to believe that my success depended solely upon my efforts. My years at Towson have made me realize this is a naïve belief. I was overlooking a key fact: that my success also depends on others.

Developmentally, my parents have been a constant, positive force throughout my life. Intellectually, the faculty of the finance, economics, and music departments taught me the knowledge and skills from their disciplines. Professionally, employers gave me the opportunity to complete internships, and my two mentors in New York advocated for me within their investment banks. And these people are just the first few entries on a very, very long list.

So my experience at Towson University has made me realize that I live in an interdependent world. Yes, individual effort is necessary, but I now recognize the roles that others play in my life.

While your story is likely to be different than mine, I encourage you to recognize and thank the people who helped you get here. And when you thank them, those people may say that you did it all on your own. In my case, I know that’s not true, so those people are a bunch of no-good, well-intentioned, awesome liars.

The bottom line is that I would not be here, graduating from this 21,000-student school after 12 semesters, without the efforts of people like my family, teachers, employers, mentors, and friends. So thank you all, and congratulations class of 2012.



### Mary Stroupe

When thinking about how to share my “Towson story,” I honestly didn’t know what to say. My graduate experience has been very different than when I went to undergrad seven years ago at Macalester College in Minnesota.

As a graduate student at Towson I basically lived in the arts building, and didn’t feel like I really participated in the world of “Towson.”

But while I have limited experience in the world of campus life, my Towson experience has connected me to a much larger world of theater.

My first year was the “Russia season” in the theater department—people from all over the country and from halfway around the world came to Towson to see and work in our theater.

Through opportunities created by the faculty and my graduate assistantship, I spent extensive time in Bulgaria, Hungary, Russia, Los Angeles and New York, and have interacted and worked an amazing number of theater artists from around the world, often within the walls of the theater department.

On the other hand, while my journey at Towson was often looking to the outside world to educate me, I found a large theater department that acted like a small theater department—this is a good thing—my undergraduate theater department had five majors and three minors in my class, and the closeness that I felt in that small department I also felt here, in a much a larger department.

There is feeling of community here rather than competitiveness, and I don’t know if you know how lucky you are to have that—the outside world of the arts can be, sorry to say this with your parents here, pretty difficult. Our work

doesn’t usually pay well; you’re busy ALL the time, and politics right now seem particularly hostile toward the arts, with arts funding always on the chopping block first.

So what that leaves us with is each other. This is a not career path you can or have to walk alone. In the arts, we help each other—we have to, that’s how we survive and thrive. And the faculty of this university, at least in my experience, is educating their students to be the kinds of artists who look out for one another, who support each other’s work and who want their fellow artists to succeed.

So I want to thank my parents for being continuously supportive of this unpredictable career choice, the faculty of the theater department for making sure I stayed connected to the outside world, and especially I want to thank the students, both my classmates in the MFA program, and the undergrads I’ve come to know for the past three years, for reminding me that what’s most important in our line of work is not money or fame, but the investment we make in each other.



### Nusinyo Kakrada

During my four years at Towson, I have had a lot of fun and exciting experiences, but I’ve also had challenging days. I’ve discovered my personal identity during my time at TU and through my experiences with faculty, staff, and fellow students I found that I am compassionate, empathetic, helpful, and curious.

But perhaps what I will take away the most from these past four years are the valuable lessons I learned both in and out of the classroom.

**First, Don’t be afraid to ask questions and for help when you need it.**

I originally majored in chemistry. During my first semester as a freshman I had a quiz in my introductory chemistry class. I failed the quiz. The moment I received my grade I lost all hope that I would even pass the class. But after a little pity party, I talked to other students in my class to find out how they were studying. Unbeknownst to me, Towson offered free tutoring for many classes including chemistry. Looking back, I’m so thankful this did happen those first few weeks because I learned to independently seek out helpful resources.

**Second, Effective communication is essential—in life AND work.**

I lived on campus for three years. Each year I had a random roommate. Getting the email with my future roommate’s contact information was always an exciting yet nerve-racking experience. Living with someone I didn’t know taught me a lot about myself and the importance of communication. I learned that I can be assertive but not pushy. I learned that it is important to express your concerns before they turn into problems.

Assertiveness and good communication skills will be necessary in both our personal and professional lives. My recent internship at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center taught me about the importance of these skills in the workplace. As we enter the work force we may feel obligated to accept every task and project that is given to us but we have to effectively communicate our limits with our colleagues and supervisors to ensure that we are successful. The constant connectivity that technology provides may make it harder for us to say no but are we sacrificing quality in an effort to “do it all.”

**Third, Never underestimate how important listening is.**

Empathy plays a large role in health care. We will encounter patients who are facing devastating illnesses and the clinical staff who are trying to heal and provide hope for these patients.

Patients or your colleagues may just need a person who will listen. Being sensitive to the thoughts, feelings, and experiences of another person will play a crucial role in our health care careers.

Looking back at these four years, I have come to realize that while the degree is perhaps the most visible sign of accomplishment, I am most grateful for Towson University's role in instilling the confidence I have about the person I am and what I can contribute to my community and the field of healthcare.

As Aristotle said, "The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet." We have all overcome the bitter roots of education. It is time for us to enjoy the sweet fruit. Carry with you the lessons you have learned at Towson as you begin to enjoy the sweet fruit of life.



### Olivia Obineme

"Do what you can, where you are, with what you have." It was the late United States President Theodore Roosevelt who said that, and to me, I'm hoping this saying resonates with the graduating class.

We have been labeled as the starving artists, the slaving muckrakers, but we are the doers, the go-getters, the risk-takers, the movers and the shakers. We are people of action—and we stop at nothing to get our message across.

We have the vision, the creativity and the unique ability to make something out of absolutely nothing. Cherish and take pride in this precious talent that was honed here at Towson University.

Whether it was the art majors creating masterpieces from everyday items,

the film majors creating iPhone videos, or my fellow journalists scraping together stories by deadline, we did what others could not even fathom, and we did it with excellence.

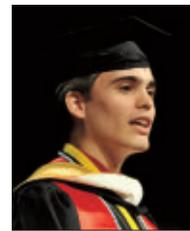
Take not only today, but also the rest of your lives to appreciate and remember the invaluable gift of what our education has given us access to do and to know. During the last day of my Social Media Strategy class, my professor and mentor, Dr. Stacy Spaulding, left me and my fellow classmates with something along the lines of this, "Whatever path calls you, be brave. You have to nourish the soul and follow."

I live and breathe journalism—the art of communication, of storytelling, of using one's words to engage the world. It is my passion. You all have spent these last several years not just studying, but exploring our passions. Do not let the fear of the unknown take away the love for something you have dedicated your whole life to doing. "Do what you can, where you are, with what you have," and you will find that you will accomplish even more, welcoming the struggles and mistakes along the way and learning from them, taking steps towards success.

It is not us, who should be fearful, but it is our competition that will rue this day, the day Towson let loose several thousand tigers hungry for the challenges and hungry for success. Show the world you will stop at nothing to make your goals a reality.

I would like to thank the entire faculty who supported me during my time here at Towson, especially Dr. Stacy Spaulding and Dr. John Mackerron. I would also like to thank my friends who gave me endless encouragement, Alex Rever, who has become such a great friend, thank you. And to my family for dealing with the late nights—the all-nighters—I could not have gotten through this without you.

Congratulations Class of 2012.  
Go out and do your thing.



### Patrick Dickerson

They say that when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. What happens, then, when life gives you lemonade? I say build a lemonade stand.

Opportunity calls, they say, but what does that really mean? Is it taking that next step in a career? Is it finding the right person? Is it helping someone in need? Is it having hope when change is coming? Most importantly, what does it mean for Liberal Arts graduates?

I believe opportunity can be all of these things, especially for us liberal arts graduates, whether we are historians, linguists, anthropologists, psychologists, or other "ists." Sometimes circumstances provide us with opportunities, but more often than not, we are left to create opportunity for ourselves.

As an historian, I looked for a historical figure who made the best of a difficult situation and a woman named Mary Elizabeth Garrett came to mind. Born in Baltimore in 1854, she was the daughter of John Work Garrett, the railroad pioneer and industrial giant of the nineteenth century. Throughout her childhood, Mary always stayed close to her father, watching how he managed the famous Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. With Garrett's guidance and encouragement, she developed her own keen business sense. Unlike many other women of her time, she looked forward to a college education and to leading the family business that fit her talents perfectly.

Yet, after her father died, her elder brothers inherited the railroad, the family businesses, and the family glory. John Work Garrett left his daughter a share of the wealth, but not of the

opportunity for which he had trained her. Not discouraged, she turned the negative into a positive. She took her inherited wealth to create opportunities for women. In 1892, she approached The Johns Hopkins University about creating a medical school. She promised to raise \$100,000, which at the time was a significant sum of money, for the project on one condition: that women would be admitted and trained on the same terms as men. She also founded and continually supported the Bryn Mawr School for Girls in Baltimore, right across the street from the storied Gilman School for Boys.

What we learn from Mary Elizabeth Garrett is that we can create opportunities for ourselves and others by thinking outside, as Towson has encouraged us to do. She looked beyond the limitations imposed on her by society and made the advancement of women her mission. She had resolve, knowledge, and the ability to think critically about cultural expectations to make a difference. Fortunately for us, as Liberal Arts graduates, we have the same gifts, but perhaps not her financial resources. We learn to question, to analyze, to articulate what we know, and most importantly, to listen to the voices of others.

These are the building blocks for creating opportunity. My own realization of the many opportunities offered by my education came when I pursued internships, where my informed questions and listening ear gave me more opportunities to excel and make professional connections. Not only did I have an amazing internship experience at The Maryland Historical Society, but I will continue to expand my interests as I begin my graduate program in Cooperstown, New York in Historical Museum Studies. In addition, I found that by studying three languages, I could expand on the many ways in which we communicate. Working with a diverse group of people in the classroom, in the professional world, and abroad in Spain has taught me how to work cooperatively with any group of people.

We have all known that creating opportunities often requires support from others. Professors and peers have always been there to lead me in the right direction. I valued their suggestions about everything from topics for a research paper to what kind of tie to wear for that big interview. I would come to my best friend Emily with a dilemma, and instead of hearing a “you’ll get through it,” or “here’s what you should do,” she would ask, “What is the outcome you’re looking for?” “What are the options?” When life gets overwhelming, questions like hers helped me to think straight again. I am certain all of us have someone in our lives who asks us to consider such questions and prompts us to find a different point of view.

Opportunity does not simply come out of nothing. Each moment of our lives is filled with circumstances, good and bad, that invite us to make choices. We can wait for lemonade, or we can choose to build that lemonade stand! Whether we can seek fulfillment through a career, family, self-expression, social action, or meaningful relationships, none of these opportunities come to fruition without our willingness to take the time to choose wisely.

We are here today because we have made good choices. We have been taught that hard work should pay off, that life should be fair, right? Yet, many of us know that with an uncertain job market, our assumptions about what we can accomplish may be a bit unrealistic.

However, right here, right now, we have an advantage. As Liberal Arts graduates, we have learned to see opportunities that others may have overlooked. We know how to think critically, to ask the important questions, and to listen to others who may offer us some valuable ideas. These are the tools we need in order to seek, find, and create our own opportunities.

Then, like Mary Elizabeth Garrett, we must act. There is always room for one more lemonade stand, for one more way to make the world a better place than how we found it. May each

of us see the opportunities in the challenges of each moment, and make choices that honor our university, our communities, our families and ourselves.

Congratulations Class of 2012!



### Ron Erdman

Welcome...to the first day of the rest of your life. Yes, I know that’s true every day, but today is anything but just another day. For the graduates, it’s a chance to celebrate years of hard work, to thank those who made it possible, and to plan for the next exciting phase of our lives. For our professors, who’ve invested their time and energy into us, it’s a day of great satisfaction. And for many parents, today is a day of pride and perhaps even long-overdue relief.

And while today is an important milestone—and one we should take time to savor and remember—I’m going to talk about the second day of the rest of your life—tomorrow.

The Greek philosopher Socrates once said, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” When he said this, he faced the choice between a death sentence and a life of imprisonment, but over the centuries his words have been interpreted to mean different things. One common translation says that if we don’t take the time to reflect on our past, we stand little chance of reaching our full potential. His quote is a sobering thought, especially in today’s busy world, where we barely have time to meet our most critical obligations, let alone time to reflect. As the father of four active, overachieving young children, the spouse of a busy physician and an owner of several businesses, time really isn’t something I have much of. And to be honest, at the tender age

of 41 I've already forgotten much of what there is to reflect on. But when today is over—when all of the fanfare and excitement dies down—I would challenge each of you to do exactly that—put your busy life on hold and take a moment to examine the past. Ask that age-old question: Who am I and why am I here? Think critically about your accomplishments—not as a scorecard of past success, but as insight into what makes you exceptional, and uniquely able to contribute to the lives of those around you. Embrace your failures—don't dwell on them with a sense of loss, but learn from your missteps and resolve not to repeat them. Recognize that your many achievements haven't come easily, quickly or without the help and support of others. Reflect on the many people who invested in you, inspired you, demanded the best from you and helped you to attain it. And when you're done reflecting, and you've learned all you can from the past, reach out to those same people in the present, and thank them—because more than anything, acknowledging the value others add to your life is what inspires them and adds meaning to theirs.

For me, inspiration comes from many people. Like my mother—who despite very humble roots and many challenges in life, has persevered with faith, conviction and dignity to define a life worthy of admiration. Or my father, a young Marine wounded in Viet Nam and told he'd never have use of one arm, who defied the odds and took a job loading trucks to overcome his disability. Or my wife Laura, who somehow manages to be a committed and involved mother, a successful obstetrician and a loving and supportive wife—and does it all with the same level of excellence, as if each of these roles were the most important one in her life. Unsung heroes like these, whose lives motivate us to do our best and accomplish great things, are no doubt part of your Towson story as well.

So as this chapter of my story comes to a close, I'll be celebrating our collective accomplishments with you today. And tomorrow, as I hope will be the case with each of you, I'll be reflecting on my time here at Towson—calmly, critically, constructively and fondly. I'll be reaching out to a couple of the people who've inspired me and made a difference in my life, and offering them my sincere gratitude. And then, like each of you, I'll be taking up the next leg of the journey, to wherever it may lead. And with some luck, somewhere along the way we'll cross paths again with the many friends we've made at Towson and continue to inspire one another in ways that make life worth living.



### Joshua Parker

Good morning. It's good to be home. It is an honor to be at my alma mater—the place where I met my wife, who is here today; the place where I met my best friend; the place where I came face to face with experiences that would radically change my life. It is such an honor to be here. I want to bring greetings to distinguished guests, Dean Lorion, my beautiful wife, family and loved ones and most importantly—the class of 2012. Also, I would like to say hello to the wonderful class of 1962—thank you for your over 400 years of combined service and experience. Good morning and congratulations to all the teacher candidates, this is your last chance, are you sure you want to do this? I'm only joking, but I do want to acknowledge that you are now graduating from being in the band to being a drum major. How many of you all are familiar with marching bands? Well, in a marching band

there are several sections and there is a conductor that leads the band. In most marching bands, there is one or a duo of members that are the drum majors. How many of you have seen one? They are usually active and energetic and enthusiastic and they lead the band out on the field—that energetic lightning rod of a person after today is you. You are now the drum major in your classroom. You are the enthusiastic leader of several young, precious children that line your classroom. But, what will you be a drum major for? I want to speak from the subject of—A Drum Major for Service. This transition that you are about to embark upon is not a transition that you haven't undertaken before. In fact, this is a transition that is a product of everyone's desire to be great. Everyone has, as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said in his famous “Drum Major Instinct” speech, the desire to be significant—the desire to stand out and the desire to be great at something. This is that drum major instinct and you all have it already, but I want to give you some things to think about as you go on your quest for greatness in education. The first point is that the path to greatness is paved with stones of obstacles. The poem “If” by Rudyard talks about keeping your head when others are losing theirs and being lied to and not dealing in lies, amongst the issues you have to contend with on your journey.

No doubt, when you begin your teaching career, you will go through challenges. I remember my first year. I was hired three days before school began at a comprehensive needs school in Baltimore. I never had student teaching or any educational training. There were some obstacles that year. But through it all, I used my faith and my belief in the potential of students to meet success. I remember one student named Dyeshawn. I called her Ms. Tanner. She would give me large doses of attitude on a daily basis—I think she thought it would act as medicine for me. After countless phone calls home, (her mother and I became friends), we

had a heart to heart. I sat down and let her know how her attitude would determine her destiny and that she needed to enact some impulse control and wouldn't you know it—she began to ask me whether her tone was appropriate when responding to me from that point on. These are the small victories we live for. These small victories soon lead to great achievement, which leads me to my second point—when achievement expands, so does responsibility.

You are here because you have achieved—at the conclusion of this ceremony, you will be college graduates. But now, since you are graduates from the college of education of Towson University, you have more responsibility. You have the responsibility to be excellent teachers because your performance reflects on this university. You have the responsibility to be excellent teachers because students need you and are depending on your success. You have the responsibility to be excellent role models because, as my principal Debbie Phelps says, you are always teaching. Embrace your many responsibilities. Every time I wait outside my door in the hallway for students to come in in the morning, I embrace the immense responsibility we have because this responsibility is a great opportunity. What other profession gets the chance to do what we do—we affect eternity. We affect communities. We change lives. We teach children. We build self-esteem where none was there before. We comfort those in need of care. We console the child without a father. We nourish their souls with love and attention. Who, but a teacher, has all of these responsibilities? We are drum majors of responsibility. This brings me to my third point—we cannot become great teachers, if we don't embrace truth.

Your relationships with truth impacts the quality of your decisions, so decisions, then, are the fingerprints of knowledge. The way you relate to what you know to be true will determine how effective your decisions are. When you administer a test, look at the data for your students. If they are

not getting the concept, hold close to that truth and adjust your practice. If a student is acting out, get to know that student's background and see what his/her truth is. The why of the behavior is just as important as the what. The truth that you get from the context of that behavior will radically alter how you approach helping that child. Get to know the truth about your precious children, not rumors spread in the faculty room or assumptions based off of stereotypes—develop a deep relationship with the truth about your praxis and your students—be a drum major for truth. And when you become a drum major for truth—you inevitably will become a servant. We all want to be great at something—the path to greatness is paved with stones of obstacles. When achievement expands, so does responsibility, your relationship with truth impacts the quality of your decisions and finally, your desire to serve will shape your legacy. At the end of my life, I just want to be known as someone who helped people and solved problems. I want to be known as someone that served students and people with my whole heart. I want to be known as someone who was always ready to serve because service is the foundation of greatness. I have the drum major instinct. You have the drum major instinct—let's be drum majors for service. Let us graduate to serve our students. Let us leave this place to serve the communities where we teach. Let us graduate to serve parents who send us their very best. Let us depart to serve the needs of humanity through teaching. Let us advance to be builders and not wreckers:

#### Builder or Wrecker (Anonymous)

I watched them tearing a building down,  
A gang of men in a busy town.  
With a ho, heave, ho and a lusty yell  
They swung a beam and a wall fell.  
I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled?  
Like the men you'd hire if you had to build?"  
He laughed as he replied,

"No, indeed.

Just common labor is all I need.  
I can easily wreck in a day or two  
What builders have taken years to do."

I asked myself as I went away  
Which of these roles have I tried to play?

Am I a builder who works with care,  
Measuring life by rule and square?  
Or am I a wrecker who walks the town

Content with the labor of tearing down?

Thank you.



#### Tiana Krum

I received my bachelor's from Towson University, and if you're like I was as an undergrad, Towson University was your first choice. It was an ideal situation for me, and getting connected to a school that I chose from the top of my list was very easy, so I had no problem finding many ways to make the most of my undergraduate career.

But what about for those times when the situation seems less than ideal? That's the real challenge.

When I graduated two years ago with my Bachelor's I had my sights set on a Ph.D. and I applied to eight programs. But as the "We regret to inform you" letters started piling up I went into crisis. I had no backup plan, no job, the lease on my apartment was ending, and my parents started to prepare my childhood room for my return—which they were really excited about. I was less so. When my thesis advisor, Dr. Galupo, suggested that I stay at Towson and complete my master's degree, I wasn't all that thrilled by the idea at first and it took some

time before I realized, “Wait a minute, I really love Towson; there’s a silver lining here.”

I realized, I get to stay at the school that I’ve loved for four years, I have friends and colleagues here already, I don’t have to form a new working relationship with my advisor; Think of all the research I’ll get done! OK, I was sold. But, I thought, if I’m going to stay for two more years for my master’s I’m going to make the absolute most of it! I exceeded the full-time course load three out of four semesters so that I could do three different teaching assistantships. I got involved in my advisor’s research lab. I took on additional research projects outside of the lab. I worked a full-time graduate assistantship for the Housing and Residence Life department. I presented at dozens of conferences, and published two manuscripts with three more on the way. Looking back now, I realized that making the most out of a situation that seemed less than ideal at first has led me to accomplishments I’d never thought possible such as speaking at commencement, for example.

Making the most out of my undergrad career got me to the master’s program, and making the most out of the master’s program got me a job teaching here at Towson in the fall, a big step toward my ultimate career goals. Obviously, those of us here today graduating, we have made the most of it because we’re getting a degree that we’ve worked so hard for; and Towson has helped us make the most of it by giving us the opportunity to join the ranks of the fewer than 18 percent of the U.S. population with a bachelor’s degree and fewer than 2 percent, if you’re receiving your master’s. In moving forward, I challenge you all to find the potential in every situation, good or bad, and make the most of it; you never know when a less-than-ideal situation will lead your life to big things.



## Reunited

Kathy Browne Power '57, Dean Creswell Cody '52 and Lynda Houston Walker '61/ '77 M.S. (pictured left to right above) “grew up only doors away from each other in our city row-house neighborhood,” Walker writes.

The trio attended what was then Towson State Teachers College but lost touch over the years. “With such disparate [graduation] dates we never dreamed we would see each other at a reunion,” she adds. “What a nice idea to have the luncheons with many different years being invited.”



**Bring the world to Towson and  
send our students into the world.**

## **International Walkway — A Presidential Initiative**

To celebrate the rich diversity of the Towson community, encourage study abroad opportunities and enhance campus beautification, President Maravene Loeschke is creating an International Walkway. The walkway will feature illuminated flagpoles flying international flags that represent the home countries of students attending Towson University. The site for the International Walkway is an expansive landscaped area located between the College of Liberal Arts and the Psychology Building.

While gifts in any amount may be made to this initiative and will support opportunities for Study Abroad, name plates will be affixed to flagpoles to recognize those friends who contribute at the \$5,000 level or above. Additionally, donors will be recognized as members of the Founders Society, the university's annual leadership recognition program.

For more information, call 410-704-4528 or 1-866-301-3375, visit [www.towson.edu/YourNameHere](http://www.towson.edu/YourNameHere) or email [ckasper@towson.edu](mailto:ckasper@towson.edu).

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# LEGENDS

TOWSON UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING 2012

**Alumni Tailgating Festival • Saturday, Sept. 22, 2012**

**Games • Giveaways • Activities for Children • Food • Football Game**

**Tailgate set-up • 3 p.m.  
Lot 21 and the Auburn Pavilion**

**Tigers vs. St. Francis Red Flash  
7 p.m. • Uinitas Stadium**

**To reserve your Alumni Homecoming Tailgate Festival parking permits/spaces, please email [alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu) or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 410-704-2234. Visit [www.towson.edu/homecoming](http://www.towson.edu/homecoming) for more information.**

**For more information on all alumni news and events, visit [www.tutigertracks.com](http://www.tutigertracks.com).**

**Look for more Homecoming details on pages 30 & 31.**