



TOWSON UNIVERSITY

Alumni Relations
Towson University
8000 York Road
Towson, MD 21252-0001

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Towson University

Change Service Requested

Pass along any duplicate copies to a friend and advise us of error by sending back your mailing label. Thank you.

Parents: If this issue is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer maintains an address at your home, please send the correct address to Alumni Relations, Towson University, 8000 York Road, Towson, MD 21252-0001.

CELEBRATE HOMECOMING / SAT., OCT. 22

Join us for a high-spirited day of food, fun and football at the Alumni Tailgating Festival before the Tigers take on the University of New Hampshire Wildcats.



TAILGATING: 11:30 a.m. / FOOTBALL: 3:30 p.m.

To tailgate in the Alumni Tailgating Festival area, you **MUST** reserve a designated space. Call the Office of Alumni Relations at 410-704-2234. Reservations are first-come, first-served.

More details are inside on page 23 or visit www.tutigertracks.com/homecoming
For football tickets, call **1-855-TU-TIGER (1-855-888-4437)** or visit towsontigers.com

TOWSON

UNIVERSITY

FALL 2016



THEATRE SIGNS

The world of deaf playwright and author Willy Conley '98 MFA

BIG PICTURE

ITALIAN FOCUS

The Duomo, the Gothic cathedral in Siena, Italy, formed the perfect backdrop for Bekka Inglefield to snap a picture of her friend Marilyn Hartzell when the women took a side trip to the Tuscan city. They were among 11 students from TU's College of Education who spent more than two weeks studying in the Italian cities of Vicenza, Reggio Emilia and Florence as part of TU's Study Abroad Program. The students—most of them elementary, middle or secondary education majors—were part of the university's "Teaching with an International Perspective" program.

Photo by Peggy Ryan



FEATURES

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



“On a sunny summer day, the panels are estimated to produce as much as eight to 10 percent of the campus electrical load.”

HERE COMES THE SUN

Four years ago TU students came up with a bright idea—install solar panels to power campus buildings.

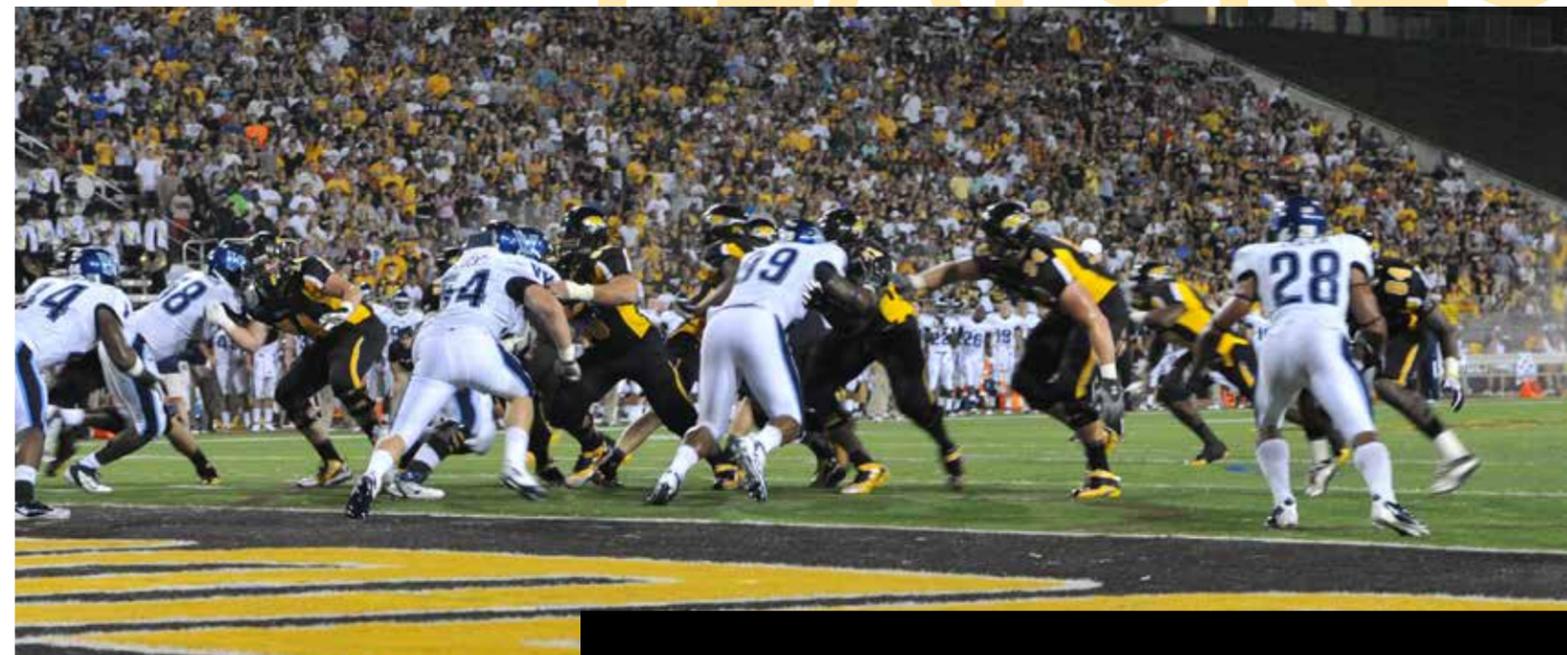
Former SGA members Samantha Figueroa '16 and Drew Voigt '16 were two key advocates who worked with campus engineers and procurement staff to ensure the project was financially and logistically feasible.

This fall, 4,000 solar panels will begin soaking up the sun on the General Services building, Barton and Douglass Houses, and the University Union and the Union Garage.

The panels are expected to produce nearly 2,000 megawatt hours of solar energy per year that will help reduce energy costs on campus.

“We were just freshman when we presented the idea, and now it’s coming to fruition,” says Voigt. “It’s been awesome to see that with passion and teamwork, students can turn big ideas into reality.”

“Being involved in the solar committee has been a really rewarding experience overall,” Figueroa says. “I honestly couldn’t think of a better way to finish out my time at Towson then with seeing a project I began working on my freshman year come full circle.”



12 | RUSHING TO THE PROS

Five Former Tigers Make the NFL.

DEPARTMENTS

PRESIDENT’S LETTER | 4

NEWS & NOTES | 5

WE ASKED | 10

Wayne H. Nelson discusses emergency preparedness.

ALUMNI NEWS | 23

Celebrate Homecoming Distinguished Alumnus and Deans Recognitions Joseph Ferrante Scholarship

PHILANTHROPY | 29

Alumni Giving Increases Robert Ward Endowed Scholarship in Creative Writing

CLASS NOTES | 32

The Right Steps An Animated Guy



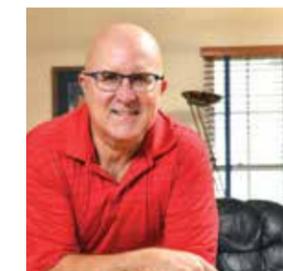
TOWSON UNIVERSITY

14 | POWERED BY THE PEN

TU’s nonprofit writing course teaches students to write grants and empower communities.

16 | HEARING EYES

Willy Conley '98 MFA, professor of theatre arts at Gallaudet University, celebrates deaf identity and culture both on and off stage.



20 | NOT IN HER BACKYARD

Activist Destiny Watford helped stop plans to build an incinerator in her neighborhood. That victory won the TU senior worldwide acclaim and a \$175,000 Goldman Environmental Prize.



| DREW VOIGT '16

MAJOR: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

EXECUTIVE TEAM LEADER, TARGET

| SAMANTHA FIGUEROA '16

MAJOR: MASS COMM

BENEFITS ASSOCIATE, WILLIS TOWERS WATSON



“We’re developing plans to create a world-class career center that engages students from internship to retirement.”

PRESIDENT’S LETTER

I am enjoying my first fall in Maryland—and soon my first Towson University Homecoming—as the academic year gets into full swing.

We welcomed more than 22,250 Towson Tigers to campus this term. Of those, about 4,840 were new students, and about half of them transferred from four-year universities or community colleges. So, we’re putting even greater emphasis on helping these new and nontraditional students launch into college life.

The momentum continued during Presidential Inauguration week where we celebrated TU’s proud history of leadership. I am honored to follow the visionary leaders who led Maryland’s first teacher-training school and guided its evolution over 150 years. Today, TU offers an exemplary comprehensive education while serving the state’s greatest workforce needs and preparing students for postgraduate study.

We take our role in workforce preparation seriously. That’s why we’re developing plans to create a world-class career center that engages students from internship to retirement. The center will enhance our career advising and job placement for students after graduation and well into their careers. Perhaps as important, it will also forge a stronger connection to the business community and highlight TU’s impact on the workforce and economic development of our state.

Finally, I firmly believe we can competitively advantage our graduates if we continue our work toward becoming an inclusive campus where all of our students can thrive and, most important, learn to support others to thrive. A national search is underway for the vice president of inclusion and institutional equity, a new position that will help us advance this institutional priority.

There’s significant opportunity ahead for TU to realize its potential as the state’s fastest-growing and second-largest university. I look forward to working with our alumni, partners, and supporters to build a better and stronger foundation for our future success. There’s much to be proud of at Towson University, and there are great things ahead.

Kim Schatzel
TOWSON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

TOWSON

UNIVERSITY

FALL 2016 ISSUE

Kim Schatzel
President

Ginny Cook
Editor

Lori Armstrong
Associate Vice President,
Alumni Relations

Lori Marchetti
Art Director/Designer

Kanji Takeno
Staff Photographer

Lauren Castellana
Assistant Photographer

Contributors
Megan Bradshaw, Christine Collins, Ray Feldmann '77, Daryl Lee Hale '16, Kyle Hobstetter, Jan Lucas and Gay Pinder

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

VISIT US ONLINE

towson.edu
magazine.towson.edu



Published three times a year by the Division of Marketing and Communications for Towson University’s alumni, faculty, staff and friends. Please send comments and contributions to Towson, Marketing and Communications, Towson University, 8000 York Rd., Towson, MD 21252-0001. Telephone: 410-704-2230. Please send address changes to Alumni Relations, Towson University, 8000 York Rd., Towson, MD 21252-0001 or email alumni@towson.edu.

TU BRINGS NEW ENERGY TO BTU COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

TOWSON UNIVERSITY’S PARTNERSHIPS AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH GREATER BALTIMORE COMMUNITIES GET A NEW FOCUS WITH BTU.

The energy that makes Towson University a leader in innovation is being converted into BTU, the new name of the outreach and partnership efforts that join TU with organizations in Greater Baltimore to make significant differences in people’s lives.

More than 9,000 students have been part of the 167 existing partnerships, according to the BTU website. One example is the community improvement and anthropological advocacy work between TU and the Sharp-Leadenhall neighborhood of Southwest Baltimore, led for 10 years by anthropology professors Matthew Durlington and Sam Collins.

There’s also a web app to help parents find the closest quality child care to their home or workplace, developed by TU’s

BTU

BALTIMORE + TOWSON UNIVERSITY

Partnerships at Work for Greater Baltimore

Center for Geographic Information Studies (CGIS), and a relationship with Building Steps, a nonprofit dedicated to helping city students graduate from college. Now, only nine percent of city high school graduates finish college, but the Building Steps

program helps 80 percent of its participants earn their degrees.

“BTU will demonstrate and represent the energy, power, and work of our university through faculty, staff and students, and invests in the Greater Baltimore region through our partnerships with our community and business partners,” says TU President Kim Schatzel. “It gives greater purpose and presence to the work already underway.”



DREAM ISLAND | Naoko Maeshiba, professor of theatre arts and director of TU’s MFA in Theatre Arts program, received the \$5,000 Board of Governors Award from the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance. The Japanese-born director and choreographer performing in “Dream Island” (2015) below. View her award winning portfolio.

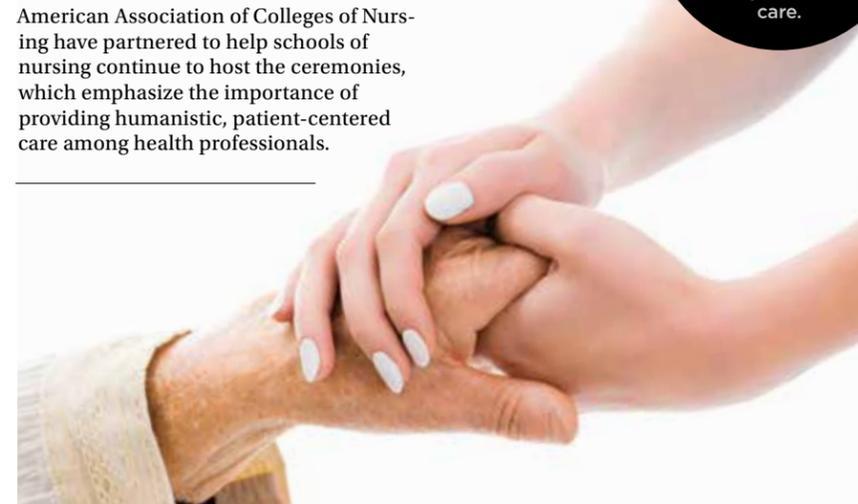
VISIT bakerartist.org/winners/naoko-maeshiba/2016/

NURSING @TU

Nursing white coat ceremonies champion compassionate care.

TLC | The College of Health Professions is one of just 50 schools nationwide—and the only one in Maryland—to receive funding to host nursing white coat ceremonies that champion compassionate care.

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing have partnered to help schools of nursing continue to host the ceremonies, which emphasize the importance of providing humanistic, patient-centered care among health professionals.



Just Sayin’



“I got enough of a nugget that I was hooked. I knew I wanted to expose this richness to the United States.”

Catherine Horta-Hayden, TU dance professor and outgoing president of CORPS de Ballet International, regarding her visit to the National Ballet School of Cuba in Havana and her exposure to its unique training system.

Sarasota Herald Tribune online
June, 2016

STELLAR STATS



1
TOP 100 | TU's College of Education was ranked as one of the Top 100 Best Graduate Schools in Education for 2017 by *U.S. News and World Report*.



2
NORTHERN EXPOSURE | *Contesting The Arctic: Rethinking Politics In The Circumpolar North* is the new book by Jeremy Tasch, associate professor of geography and environmental planning.

3
AMERICA'S DRUG PROBLEM | Tom Carr, the executive director of the Baltimore-Washington High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, discussed the drug crisis and its "Persistent Threat to Homeland Security" as part of the Edward V. Badoiato Distinguished Speaker Series in Homeland Security.



4
YOUR RIDE IS HERE | Parking & Transportation Services implemented an enhanced shuttle tracking system so riders can better track buses, get real-time predictions, view routes and access other services from phones, tablets and computers.

VISIT towson.edu/parking



5
GIVE THEM CREDIT | The TU Police Department is the first from a four-year institution in Maryland to receive accreditation by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Agencies. The review process also took into account the police department's accreditation by the Commission on the Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, which measured the TUPD against the same high standards set for municipal, state and campus police departments.

6
YOU'RE HIRED | William Newman won CBE's 2016 "Associate" competition, earning a position with Vantage Realty. The Millersville, Md., native was president of the TU American Marketing Association, a member of Alpha Kappa Psi and a marketing intern for CBE's Student Academic and Career Services Office.



7
A CLINICAL INNOVATOR | Charlotte Exner, director of TU's Hussman Center for Adults with Autism, won the 2016 Patricia Buehler Legacy Award for Clinical Innovation from the University of Southern California's Chan Division of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy in February.

8
SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD | Jonathan Lazar, TU professor of computer science, picked up another accolade for his research in unlocking the internet for users with disabilities. He received the SIGCHI Social Impact Award at the Computer-Human Interaction conference.



9
WHERE A'S BEGIN | When the next phase of Cook Library's renovations is completed by the fall, one of the most anticipated new spaces will be a 50-seat, 24/7 study zone.

10
TELLING ABOUT SELLING | Sarah Magnotta, assistant professor of marketing, received the AMA Sales SIG Doctoral Dissertation Award for her dissertation, which examines why multi-line salespeople may recommend particular products to their customers. The award is sponsored by the Steve Stagner Sales Excellence Institute at the University of Houston.



11
B'MORE'S BEST | WTMD-FM 89.7, TU's public radio station, was selected by *Baltimore Magazine's* Readers' Poll as the best radio station in Baltimore; Alex Cortright was selected as a runner-up for the "Radio Show Host" category.

TU'S PRESIDENT INAUGURATED

THE 14TH PRESIDENT OF TOWSON UNIVERSITY, KIM SCHATZEL, PH.D., IS FORMALLY INSTALLED SEPT. 16

Kim Schatzel, Ph.D., was formally inaugurated as the university's 14th president on Sept. 16 as the culmination of a weeklong series of special events on campus.

Inauguration Week began on Sat., Sept. 10 with a faculty-staff picnic, followed by TU's football home opener against St. Francis in Unitas Stadium, which honored first responders. The week concluded with an Ailey II Dance Company performance at Stephens Hall Theatre on the following Saturday evening.

The week's activities included inaugural speaker Andrew Solomon, author of *Far From the Tree: Parents, Children and the Search for Identity*. There was also a lecture, "Battlefields and Homefronts: World War I and Modern Life" and the Taste of Towson event at SECU Arena.

Longtime associate professor of sociology, anthropology and criminal justice, Victor B. Fisher, served as the inaugural ceremony's grand marshal. The ceremony included musical performances by the university's Symphonic Band, Chorale, and Marching Band Drum Line.

A variety of special guests, including U.S. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents Chair James T. Brady, Board of Visitors Chair Francis S. Soistman and SGA President Taylor James, delivered remarks. Afterward Brady and USM Chancellor Robert Caret performed the formal investiture.

Schatzel then delivered her inaugural address, followed by the Chorale's performance of the university's new alma mater. "I view this inauguration as a celebration of the proud 150-year history of Towson University and a look ahead at the next 150 years," Schatzel said of her inauguration. "It is truly a celebration of the university, its many contributions to Maryland, and its people."

To involve as many individuals and groups in the inauguration event as possible, the processional party included representatives of TU student leadership organizations, distinguished TU alumni, TU faculty, and presidents and delegates from other institutions of higher learning.



UNITING US

Andrew Solomon lectured on, "How Differences Unite Us," Sept. 13 as part of a weeklong series of inaugural events. Solomon is an author, lecturer and an activist in LGBT rights and mental health. He dedicates his life to reaching out to the world with love and compassion and encouraging people to look outside of themselves.



"It's showing that the place where they lived honors them."

Tracy Miller '93, manager of TU's Transfer Advising Program, regarding a memorial for those who served and died during Operations Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom to be built near the courthouse in Towson. Her son, U.S. Marine Corporal Nick Ziolkowski, will be among the 26 men and women remembered.

The Sun / May, 2016

LAX TEAMS CAPTURE CAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

SPORT SHORTS



4.0

IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER

Four Tiger swimmers, Sean Patterson, Olivia Evans, Emily Rezac and Hannah Snyder, earned perfect 4.0 GPAs for the spring term. What's more, the men's team tallied a 3.01 GPA for the spring term while the women's team posted a 3.51 GPA.

32

THE STEALER

Don't leave the bases unattended around Tiger second baseman Richie Palacios. He set the single-season record with 32 stolen bases, while also setting a freshman record with 74 hits.

10+

SLUGGERS

Four softball players hit at least 10 home runs last season (Shelby Stracher - 15, Holiday Cahill - 12, Brook Miko - 11 and Daria Edwards - 10). Cahill became the first Tiger to slug three home runs in a single game. All told the team sent 70 balls "over the fence" for a single-season record.

6.89

SIMPLY THE BEST

Redshirt senior goalkeeper Tyler White ranked first in the country with a goals-against-average of 6.89. White reset the lacrosse program's single-season goals-against-average record, besting his 2015 mark of 7.57. He is the only goalie in program history with a goals-against-average below 7.00 in a single season.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S LACROSSE TEAMS RULE THE CAA

The men's lacrosse team set a school record with 16 wins and won the CAA Tournament for the third time in the last four years—the most CAA crowns for a single program. The team also ranked first in two national statistical categories: scoring defense (7.26 goals allowed per game) and turnovers per game (10.32).

Kudos goes to Ryan Drenner, the CAA Player of the Year, Mike Lowe, the CAA Tournament's Most Outstanding Player and Head Coach Shawn Nadelén, the CAA Coach of the Year

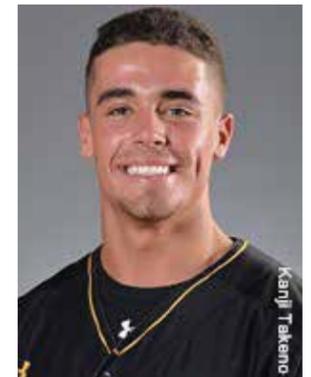
Oh, and did we mention that during the NCAA tournament, the Tigers knocked out the defending national champion University of Denver Pioneers in the first round?

The women's lacrosse team had its own storybook season, capturing the CAA championship for the seventh time, with a 14-6 win over James Madison University. It was their fourth CAA title in the last five years under Head Coach Sonia LaMonica.

Senior midfielder Breanna Hamm, an Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) All-Region honoree, was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player after posting two goals, five ground balls, four caused turnovers and a draw control in the championship game. The Tigers were led this season by CAA Rookie of the Year Natalie Sulmonte (31 goals, five assists and 51 draw controls) along with Hamm and Kaitlyn Montalbano, another IWLCA All-Region honoree.

PLAY BALL

POLICELLI DRAFTED BY THE DETROIT TIGERS

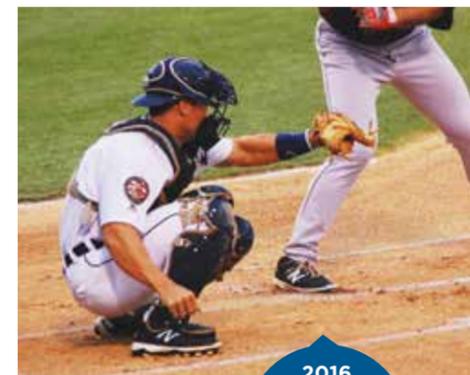


Brady Policelli will trade one tiger uniform for another. The TU junior was drafted as a catcher by the Detroit Tigers in the 13th round of Major League Baseball's 2016 First-Year Player Draft in June.

Policelli finished his junior year by hitting a CAA-best .375 with 14 doubles, four triples, nine home runs and 45 RBIs. He also drew 45 walks and was 22-for-25 in stolen bases.

Over his three-year career, Policelli hit .302 with 32 doubles, eight triples, 21 home runs and 97 RBIs. He also scored 105 runs and drew 89 walks.

His postseason honors include First-Team All-CAA, the Rawlings/ABCA All-Region Second Team and Second-Team All-ECAC honors.



2016
MLB DRAFT
Rd 13th | Pick 385

BEING READY

TU gets lessons in disaster preparedness

WE ASKED **H. Wayne Nelson** about the need for universities to conduct annual, large-scale, multi-agency Field Training exercises, such as TU's Operation STAT.

FACULTY Q&A

H. Wayne Nelson, professor and chair of the Department of Interprofessional Health Studies in the College of Health Professions, is a retired colonel in the Maryland Defense Force of the Maryland Military Department. The former deputy commander of the 10th Medical Regiment served during Hurricanes Katrina and Irene. He has more than 25 years of experience in disaster preparedness, including flying 20 U.S. Air Force search and rescue missions with the Civil Air Patrol. He teaches Health Disaster Preparedness at TU.



IS TU PREPARED TO RESPOND TO A MAJOR DISASTER? |

The terrorist attacks of 9/11 and, later, Hurricane Katrina, pushed disaster preparedness forward for many who never thought about public emergencies. Many organizations, including TU, have performed vulnerability analyses; developed or updated their disaster response and continuity of operations plans (COOP); built mutually supportive relationships; and conducted coordinated disaster management training derived from a national model.

I've noticed a major uptick in faculty awareness, concern and even scholarship about general emergency preparedness and disaster safety compared to pre-Katrina days when unawareness or apathy ruled. TU hasn't flinched, even when the necessary preparation can be disturbing—the TU Police Department's enthusiastically received (if grim) Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events training, for example,—which is state of the art and rolled out just before Orlando.

Disaster readiness is on the student radar as well. It comes up in Health Care Management and Long-Term Care classes where it simply would not have before.

WHAT IS THE MAJOR GOAL OF DISASTER DRILLS? |

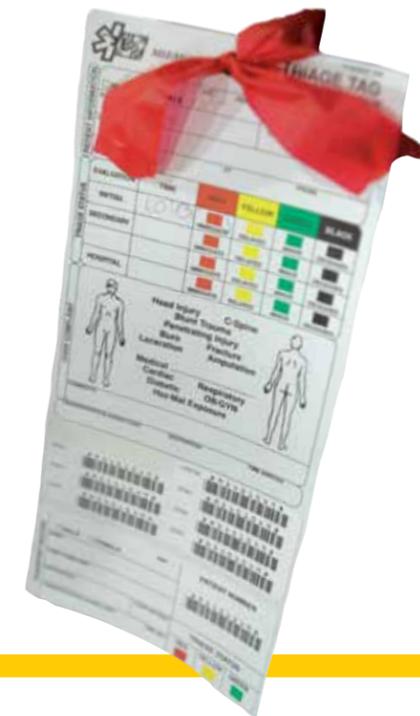
These drills test the ability and capacity of first and surge responders, and volunteers to respond and operate together as a team, while identifying what needs to be improved.

TU's OPSTAT educational goal is to expose nursing students and other healthcare students to a simulated mass casualty event, giving them some basic "comfort" with triage and



(Left) Nursing students treat a "victim" during a mass casualty exercise at TU.

(Below) A color-coded triage tag classifies a patient's injuries from minor to life-threatening.



treatment under austere conditions should they find themselves on the front lines. It also exposes TU students to Incident Command principles and functions—a core concept for all disaster planners and participants. This helps fill the dearth of disaster education in undergraduate nursing that is so frequently noted in the literature.

WHAT TYPES OF INJURIES DO STUDENTS ASSESS OR TREAT DURING DRILLS? |

Students are presented with scripted "smart" victims with a range of injuries and problems. They assess what they see, classifying patients according to START (Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment) color codes. Green is for the walking wounded—minor injuries requiring only basic first aid; Yellow is for patients who can wait a bit even though they have more complex injuries—broken arm, internal injuries—but still need to be watched for indications of deterioration. Red means patients are at risk of death within an hour, roughly. These are the first priority for immediate treatment or transportation. Black indicates that

a patient is beyond help and receive only palliative care. They are marked as dead so that resources can be spent on those with a chance to survive.

WHAT HAS EMERGED FROM THESE DRILLS? |

Students appreciate the exposure and the skills acquired in even a short burst of realistic training as opposed to text-book coverage of the same material—although, of course, both knowledge and practice-honed skills are needed.

The drills have also revealed the need to improve ICS (Incident Command System) problems—the hierarchy of who is in command during the crisis, but we're not alone in this and improvements have been strong. Communication issues have been hugely improved if not eliminated.

We've come a long way since 9/11 when untrained volunteers or healthcare professionals without credential vetting (Yes, fake doctors and nurses, etc. have reported for duty.) or those without adequate mental preparation became part of the problem or even casualties. Since then opportunities have blossomed to include the

nation's Medical Reserve Corps that TU sponsors and I coordinate. New training partnerships have been forged such as Operation STAT and countless others. Full-blown academic programs—TU's Integrated Homeland Security Management master's program, and Homeland Security and Disaster Management—have engaged professionals to sharpen their theoretical and practical knowledge.

DO THESE DRILLS ALTER WHAT YOU TEACH? |

I have introduced basic preparedness concepts into several classes, including the comparative risks of sheltering in place or, in my long-term care and ethics classes, evacuating frail older residents. I introduced a lecture on disaster preparation, including a quick overview of the National Incident Management System in the public health component when I taught U.S. Health Systems, and address patients' legal rights in disaster evacuation case studies in my long-term care ethics course. Other faculty involved in the exercise have done the same and have produced valuable scholarship on the subject. ■

RUSHING TO THE PROS



Ryan Delair, Carolina Panthers



Tye Smith, Seattle Seahawks



Photo: Shawn Hubbard of the Baltimore Ravens

Five Former Tigers Make the NFL

When the 2016 NFL season kicked off this season, Towson University had four former members of its football team suiting up. Three of the four players played under current head coach Rob Ambrose '93.

The veteran of the group is offensive lineman Jermon Bushrod '07, who is in his first season with the Miami Dolphins. Running back Terrance West is in his second season with the Baltimore Ravens, Ryan Delaire '14 is back with the Carolina Panthers and Jordan Dangerfield is in his first year on the active roster with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

In addition, cornerback Tye Smith '16 has been signed to the Seattle Seahawks practice squad.

Bushrod was drafted by the New Orleans Saints in the fourth round of the 2007 NFL Draft. He played for the Saints for six years, winning Super Bowl XLIV. He was selected to the Pro Bowl following the 2011 and 2012 seasons.

Bushrod signed as a free agent with the Chicago Bears following the 2012 season, playing three years with the Bears. He signed as a free agent with the Miami Dolphins on March 10 and was listed as the starting right guard for the Dolphins in the season opener.

West was selected by the Cleveland Browns in the third round of the 2014 NFL Draft. After one year in Cleveland, West was traded to the Tennessee Titans in 2015. He ultimately ended up on the Baltimore Ravens practice squad, before joining the active roster for the final six games of the season. He was listed as the backup running back on the team's Week One depth chart.

Delaire was signed as an undrafted rookie by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2015. After being one of the final cuts by the Bucs, Delaire would spend time on the practice squads with the Washington Redskins and Carolina Panthers.

Delaire got some payback against the Bucs as he had a memorable NFL debut, registering five tackles and 2.5 sacks in the victory. He is listed as the number three right defensive end on the depth chart.

Dangerfield made his first NFL roster after spending the previous two seasons on the Steelers practice squad. He originally signed as an undrafted rookie with the Buffalo Bills. He is listed third on the depth chart at both strong safety and free safety. ■

Story courtesy of Athletic Media Relations



Jermon Bushrod, Miami Dolphins



Jordan Dangerfield, Pittsburgh Steelers

Terrance West, Baltimore Ravens

POWERED BY THE PEN

BY JANA E GRIFFIN '09
PHOTOS BY KANJI TAKENO



Zosha Stuckey teaches students to write words that make a difference.

TU's nonprofit writing course teaches students to write grants and empower communities

If the thought of writing grants sounds about as riveting as standing in an airport security line, you've never enrolled in one of Zosha Stuckey's classes.

Her classes change lives—for the students who string the words together and for the organizations they champion.

Stuckey, an assistant professor, teaches a nonprofit grant-writing course for TU's Professional Writing program in the Graduate School. She understands the power of words and teaches students to wield them to make a difference.

"As part of the larger Baltimore community, our lives become more meaningful when we feel connected and engaged to its livelihood," Stuckey says.

Her classes help students gain practical wisdom, not only in writing grants but also in advocating for small, community nonprofits in Towson and Baltimore City. By forming relationships with outside organizations (also called "community partners"), her students use class time to secure funds for their organization's social change initiatives.

"We look at the social situations of folks [who] are served by nonprofit organizations and try to understand how our professional lives—and our writing lives—fit into the picture," Stuckey says.

Over the last three years, the classes have raised more than \$140,000 for community advocacy projects. Beneficiaries include Friends of Patapsco State Valley Park, Higher Achievement, Asylee Women's Enterprise, TU's Center for Student Diversity and Dan Keplinger '98/'07 MFA aka King Gimp, the subject of an Academy Award-winning documentary. Through grant writing and teamwork, Stuckey's class teaches Towson graduate and undergraduate students how to effectively communicate the needs of an organization to receive grant funding from foundations and government agencies.

A firm believer in students making their own connections outside of her course, Stuckey facilitates team-building and self-reflection exercises to enlighten students about how their goals and interests can contribute to underprivileged communities. "Everyone seems to want to make room in their lives for doing good," says Stuckey.

"The work we did in Dr. Stuckey's class was realistic and covered the basics of grant writing," says Mark Talbert '15 M.S. Talbert and other students wrote grants for Friends of Druid Hill Park, an organization that works to reinvigorate Druid Hill Park as a recreational, cultural, and educational institution. "There were two assignments in particular that I

OVER THE LAST THREE
YEARS, THE CLASSES
HAVE RAISED MORE THAN
\$140,000 FOR COMMUNITY
ADVOCACY PROJECTS.

thought were super valuable: finding funders that would be interested in your project, and writing a proposal using the Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers Common Grant Application format," he says.

The project gave Talbert the skills he needed to aid him in his current role as grants and restricted fund manager at the Parks & People Foundation. He spends about 25 percent of his time finding funders, 50 percent writing and submitting proposals, and 25 percent managing contracts and writing letters after receiving a grant. "The class really helped prepare me," he says. So far, he's written about 50 proposals.

Grantwriting students have also enhanced the social media presence of their community partners. They've created Twitter accounts, hashtags, and have launched crowdfunding campaigns that raised money for women seeking asylum in the United States.

Nia Nyemweya and Rosemary Meister, who took the class in spring 2015, launched a successful GoFundMe campaign that raised \$800 for Asylee Women's Enterprise (AWE), a nonprofit in Towson. The campaign, "#AWE365," gained popularity on the internet and helped bring awareness to the needs of refugee women who endure the yearlong process it takes to transition to living in the United States.

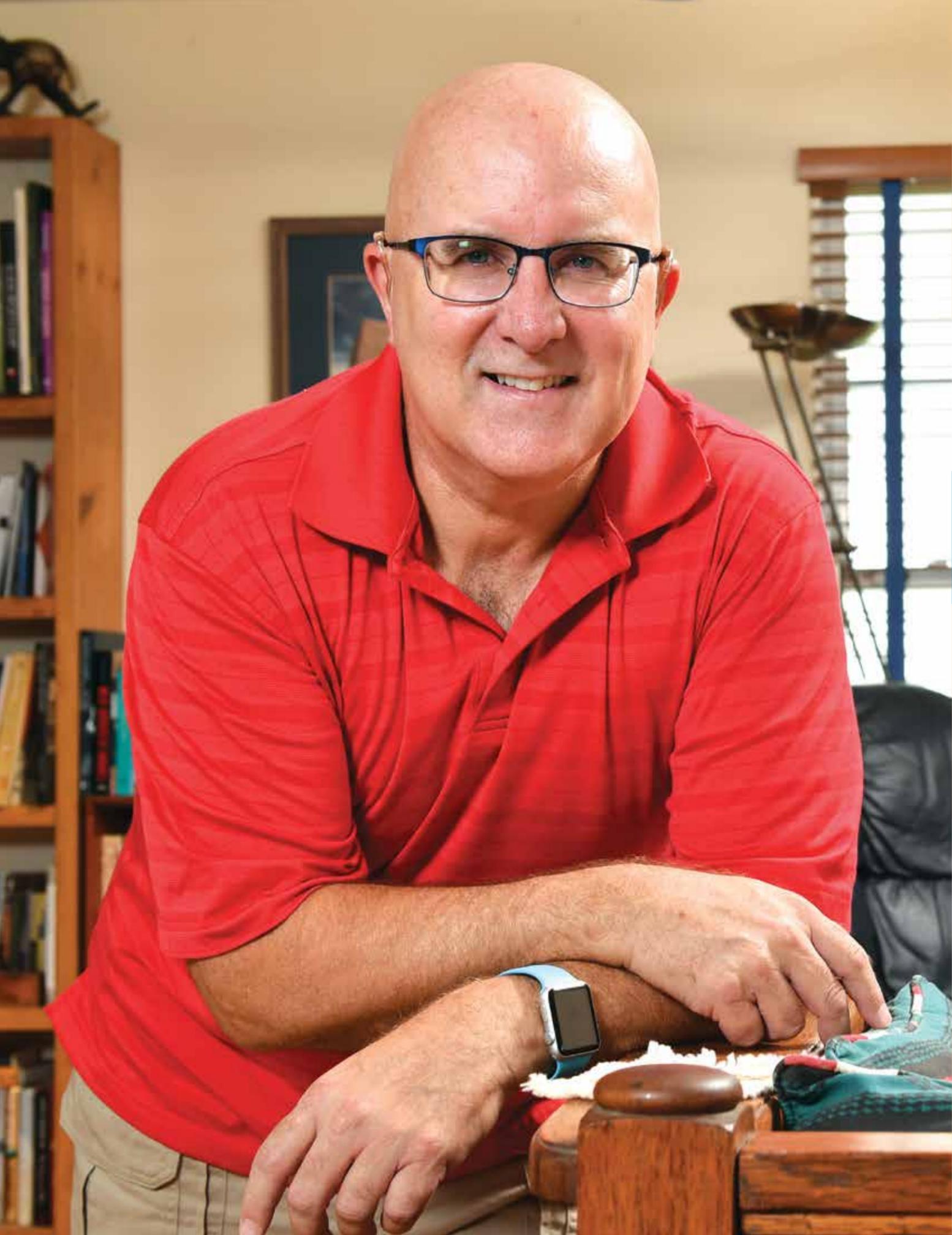
"The funds raised by the #AWE365 Campaign were used for our Asylee Fund to help cover the cost of food, medication, education and legal expenses for the women asylum seekers," says Molly Corbett, AWE executive director. "Nia and Rosemary submitted one grant for AWE but were able to use the Common Grant Application, so we were able to use the application as a template for future grants."

Many of Stuckey's students applaud the course because it gave them the courage to explore careers in activism that they may have never considered before. It also helped them gain lasting friendships and find corporate partnerships. ■

Janae Griffin '09, a former intern in the nonprofit writing program, is pursuing her master's in professional writing at TU.

Mark Talbert's grant writing helped secure funds for a stream project in Gwynns Falls Forest where children can catch crayfish and learn about water quality.





HEARING EYES

BY JAN LUCAS
PHOTOS BY KANJI TAKENO

Willy Conley '98 MFA,
celebrates deaf
identity and
culture both on
and off stage

Willy Conley is a professor
of theatre arts at Galludet
University.

Willy Conley grew up hating theater.

That's a jaw-dropping revelation from an award-winning playwright, actor, director, scholar, teacher, poet and—most recently—novelist.

But for a deaf kid in 1960s Baltimore, plays were just another exercise in exasperation.

"One of my earliest memories is seeing an outdoor production of "The Lost Colony" in North Carolina," Conley recalls. "My parents and I were so far back in the amphitheater that the actors were practically the size of ants.

"Try lip-reading an ant," he quips.

Diagnosed at age 3 as profoundly deaf in both ears, Conley communicated through pantomime, gestures and lip-reading. "The audiologist thought I had enough residual hearing to take advantage of hearing aids, which would enable me to attend public school and learn to speak," he says. (The Conleys were strongly advised against sending their son to a deaf school.)

Willy Conley now says of his mainstreamed K-12 years, "I don't know how I got by. There were so many gaps in my educational and social upbringing."

Decades later he'd create a performance piece at TU about how he'd once misunderstood the Pledge of Allegiance, an experience professor emerita Juanita Rockwell remembers as "heartbreaking, yet absurdly comical."

SEEING IS BELIEVING

Conley's aversion to theater persisted until he was in college and saw a play he actually understood: a sign-language production of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" with an all-deaf cast. "I was able to see the language of theater for the first time, and it moved me," he explains. The love of deaf theater led to love of deaf culture and the formation of his own deaf identity.

While pursuing a bachelor's degree in biomedical photography at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), Conley made time for sign-language plays and theater-related literature courses.



Conley is the most widely produced, living deaf playwright, with 13 plays and nearly as many awards and nominations to his credit.

The idea of a career in the fine arts hadn't yet entered his mind.

Then, toward the end of his senior year in 1981, a casting director came to RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) to audition deaf talent for a national tour of "Children of a Lesser God," then a wildly successful Broadway play about the love affair between a hearing teacher and a young woman who is deaf.

"I auditioned for a role and got a callback on Broadway," Conley says. "But then I graduated. When a couple weeks passed without any word from them, I accepted a job offer in Texas."

Later he heard that the producers had called NTID to offer him a role.

Conley devoted five years to biomedical photography, first at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and later as senior medical photographer at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Beverly Hills.

The skills he honed while creating a photographic record of surgical procedures, hospital patients, body parts and autopsies may seem too clinical to apply in the theater, but he's happy to refute that notion.

"Photography requires thinking in pictures, color, sequences, balance and composition, focus, and mise-en-scène," he explains. "That visual aesthetic still informs my work."

While working in hospitals—and navigating a sometimes-clueless hearing world—Conley wrote, taught and stayed involved with deaf theater. He landed a small role at Galveston's Strand Street Theatre and took American Sign Language (ASL) scene study courses and deaf acting classes in Los Angeles.

But the theater eventually claimed him.

The emergence of automatic cameras and the digital revolution—along with the realization that he'd hit a glass ceiling—marked a turning point in Conley's life. "When photography became a lot easier, everyone became a photographer," he says matter-of-factly.

He resigned his job at Cedars-Sinai, enrolled in the National Theatre of the Deaf's summer professional school in Connecticut, and was chosen to join the company following a second season in training. He spent three years on the road, then studied creative writing and playwriting at Boston University, earning his M.A. degree in 1991.

EXPLORING THE VISUAL AT TU

By the time Conley applied to Towson's MFA in Theatre Arts program in 1995, he was a member of Gallaudet's theatre arts faculty and a renowned playwright. "I was on tenure track and needed a terminal degree," he says. "I saw that Towson had a brand-new MFA

program directed by Juanita Rockwell that focused on intercultural/interdisciplinary theater. They were into nontraditional theater forms, particularly visual and nonverbal types of stuff."

Conley was the first deaf student to pursue an MFA in theatre at Towson, says Rockwell, now freelancing full-time in retirement. The university provided interpreters, as required by law.

"Willy Conley came into our program an accomplished performer and playwright, with a keen interest in experimental work," she recalls. "Our program—with its expansive definition of what theater is and can be—was much friendlier for artists of differing abilities, cultures and approaches."

Rockwell describes Conley as "an extraordinary gift to the MFA in theatre program and those of us who got to work with him." She cites as an example the conference he co-produced, Visual Playwrights Retreat, which brought together deaf, hard-of-hearing and hearing artists to ask themselves how they could create theater that begins with the visual, rather than theater that adds the visual as a translated afterthought.

"It was a revelatory few days," the former director says.

Conley was impressed with Rockwell's vision, leadership and teaching. He also was

"Willy Conley's novel is rich and gripping, handsomely capturing the deaf aspect of human experience."

—David Hays, founding artistic director of the National Theatre of the Deaf



The Deaf Heart, a novel by Willy Conley, chronicles a year in the life of Dempsey "Max" McCall, a deaf biomedical photography resident at a teaching hospital in Galveston, Texas.

"Whether deaf or hearing, I would like readers to absorb 'the deaf experience' from Max's unique worldview," Conley says. "I also want them to realize the universal human experience of overcoming obstacles and prejudice."

Conley tells Max's story through a series of quirky, irreverent short stories and

letters home during the early 1980s. Outgoing, confident, and with a sharp wit, Max brings the reader along on his journey through friendship, dating and loss—and sheds light on what it means to be deaf.

"It never ceases to amaze me how little the general public knows about the various types of deaf people in the world and their struggles and joys in everyday life," Conley adds.

"This book has truly been a labor of love."

Source: Gallaudet University Press

pleased to find that one of his TU professors, Jay Herzog, knew ASL. "With Juanita's acceptance, plus Jay's knowledge of ASL and deaf culture, I felt comfortable and inspired during my three years at Towson," he says.

Both Conley and Rockwell point to producing Conley's thesis play, "Falling on Hearing Eyes: a Museum of Sign /Anguish for People with Communication Disorders," as particularly memorable. "I was so lucky to have Juanita direct it," Conley says, "and to have fellow student Eric Beatty as an artistic collaborator/actor in developing the play with her."

That year Conley and his collaborators were invited to bring the play to the National and Worldwide Deaf Theatre Conference. Rockwell says of the conference, "Willy and Eric were wonderful performers, and learning about the history of deaf culture was a profound experience for me."

Since graduating from TU, Conley attained the rank of full professor in Gallaudet's Theatre Arts Department, where he continues to teach while working on his craft. He is the most widely produced, living deaf playwright, with 13 plays and nearly as many awards and nominations to his credit.

Conley recently added his first published novel, *The Deaf Heart*, to an already dazzling resume. (See box above.)

A UNIQUELY DEAF PERSPECTIVE

Still, he remains acutely aware of being an outlier—a deaf man determined to enlighten as well as entertain.

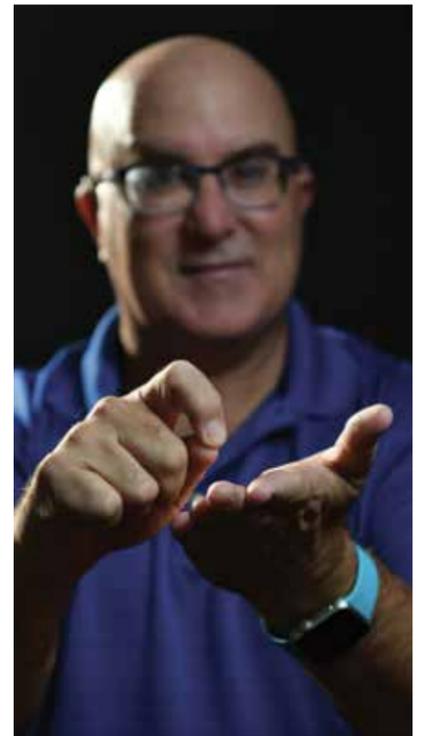
"As a deaf playwright, I incorporate the authentic viewpoint of a deaf person," he says. "A deaf playwright introduces nuances, sign play, believable deaf and hard-of-hearing characters, and ASL poetry. And a deaf playwright includes a larger number of deaf characters or characters than can easily be performed by deaf actors."

Most of Conley's characters are deaf males, a rarity in plays, film or TV. "Audiences seem to be more sympathetic/empathetic with deaf females as ingenues, victims or so on," he adds.

But he's also quick to point out that his plays are "consciously and painstakingly written with both deaf and hearing audiences in mind."

"I wish hearing playwrights would work as hard to make their plays accessible to deaf audiences." ■

Jan Lucas is associate director of publications in University Marketing and Communications.



Conley, who is signing "write," has both deaf and hearing audiences in mind for his plays.

NOT IN HER BACKYARD



BY JAN LUCAS
PHOTOS BY KANJI TAKENO

Activist Destiny Watford helped stop plans to build an incinerator in her neighborhood. That victory won the TU senior world-wide acclaim and a \$175,000 Goldman Environmental Prize.

TIME MAGAZINE LISTED WATFORD AS ONE OF "10 MILLENNIALS WHO ARE CHANGING THE WORLD."

It's not as if Curtis Bay needed another problem. The working-class enclave is a scant five miles from Baltimore's Inner Harbor, but a far cry from its glitz. This is the heart of Baltimore's industrial waterfront, where residents contend with more than their share of urban ills.

In 2010, the city proposed building the country's largest trash-burning incinerator on the site of an old chemical plant in the close-knit south Baltimore neighborhood. Promoted as a clean-energy initiative, the facility would generate electricity from 1.5 million tons of waste that would otherwise have gone to landfills.

Albany-based Energy Answers, the project developer, had clients ready to buy the power—including Baltimore City Public Schools and other municipal agencies and nonprofits. State and city officials lauded the Curtis Bay incinerator as a win-win, generating renewable energy as well as badly needed jobs.

According to Energy Answers, the Curtis Bay incinerator would consume 4,000 tons of trash per day—household waste as well as rubber, vinyl, plastic and metal. Permits allowed it to release as much as 240 pounds of mercury and 1,000 pounds of lead into the air annually in addition to particulate matter and other toxic pollutants. (Studies showed Curtis Bay already ranked first or second on nationwide lists of areas releasing toxic air pollutants.)

The Maryland Public Service Commission approved the project as an energy plant, skirting state environmental regulations that prohibited building incinerators near schools.

Even with the planning and permit phase completed, few in Curtis Bay knew much about the project until 2012. Some welcomed

TU senior Destiny Watford and others hope to have the site of a proposed incinerator developed as a solar farm and recycling center.

THE GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE

When the Goldman Environmental Foundation representative called Destiny Watford last spring to tell her she'd won a \$175,000 prize in an international competition, she thought it was "some kind of a scam."

It wasn't.

The TU student had been chosen to receive a 2016 Goldman Environmental Prize, one of only six recipients worldwide and the third-youngest in the history of the award.

Established in 1989 by Richard and Rhoda Goldman, the Goldman Environmental Prize recognizes ordinary people working at the grassroots level. They are often women and men from isolated villages or inner cities who choose to take great personal risks to safeguard the environment.

Each year an international jury selects recipients from Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands and Island Nations, North America, and South and Central America.

In addition to a 10-day tour of San Francisco and Washington, D.C., winners of the Goldman Environmental Prize take part in award ceremonies, media interviews, funder briefings, and meetings with political and environmental leaders.

The Goldman Prize provides these grassroots leaders with international recognition that enhances their credibility, worldwide visibility for the issues they champion, and financial support to pursue their vision of a renewed and protected environment.

Source: Goldman Environmental Foundation

the anticipated jobs; more fretted about the health impacts of another major polluter in their midst. Many, feeling helpless, initially seemed resigned to the inevitable.

But at Benjamin Franklin High School, a nucleus of resistance was taking shape. In classrooms and corridors less than a mile from the proposed construction site, students were asking why Curtis Bay was being dumped on again. Among the more outspoken was Destiny Watford, a self-described "shy teenager" who'd noted the disproportionate number of residents suffering from airborne pollution-related illnesses.

"It seemed so unfair and unjust," Watford, now a TU senior, recalls. "We decided to fight because our families live here, our friends. We go to school here. We love the community."

A FOUR-YEAR FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL

Watford and a classmate founded Free Your Voice, a grassroots organization compris-



When Gary Surosky (right) spied Watford during a photo shoot for this article, he hopped out of his van to thank her for saving the neighborhood.

ing 10 students intent on raising awareness and mobilizing opposition to the Curtis Bay incinerator project. The group's research unearthed the legacy of exploitation and injustice that had persisted through generations.

"Historically, people in this area have been displaced to pave the way for polluting developments like the incinerator," Watford explains. "Just because of where they live, they're more likely to die of lung cancer and respiratory disease, and to suffer from asthma.

"Keeping the incinerator out of Curtis Bay was a matter of survival."

Watford and other Free Your Voice members made the rounds knocking on doors, galvanizing opposition by informing residents, organizing protests and circulating petitions. Students designed websites and developed a media campaign to reach a broader audience.

Word spread, and residents began rallying to the cause. Franklin High School, which strongly supports community engagement, provided a shuttle bus to shield protesters from truck traffic during a December 2013 march to the incinerator site. Teachers spoke out.

A DONE DEAL COMES UNDONE

In 2014 Free Your Voice members took their case to the Board of School Commissioners, where Watford lambasted the proposed incinerator as an example of "failed develop-

ment' and presented evidence that it posed a serious health threat to Curtis Bay. The commissioners got the message. As 2015 drew to a close, Baltimore City Public Schools and 21 other incinerator customers had cancelled their contracts with Energy Answers.

With its market gone, the project stalled. That wasn't enough for Watford and other incinerator foes. "Energy Answers still had its permit," she says, "so we decided to force the issue." Along with the Environmental Integrity Group, Free Your Voice members claimed that because construction hadn't begun, the project's permit had expired. They gave the Maryland Department of the Environment 30 days to respond. When the deadline passed without comment, they organized a rally outside the department's Baltimore headquarters.

Watford, with five other Free Your Voice members, entered the building, declared a civil action and refused to leave until officials rescinded the permit. Charges were filed for

arrests, and the protesters spent the night in jail. (Later the charges were expunged.)

In March the Maryland Department of the Environment declared Energy Answers' permit invalid. What had once been a done deal had at last come undone, thanks to Destiny Watford, her fellow activists and the hard-working citizens of Curtis Bay. They've begun pushing to get the proposed incinerator site developed as a solar farm and recycling center.

In April Watford learned she'd won the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize for spearheading the grassroots campaign against the incinerator. (See sidebar.) She'll leave TU in 2017 with a degree in English and mass communication, and plans to use some of her prize money to continue her work in Curtis Bay.

Watford says Free Your Voice—now affiliated with United Workers—will turn its attention to fair development, especially community land trusts. "We recognized early on in the campaign that it wouldn't be enough to just stop the incinerator," she emphasizes. "We must change the way that development happens in our city. Curtis Bay isn't destined to be a dumping ground. Together we can make it a model for the right path forward." ■

Jan Lucas is associate director of publications in University Marketing and Communications. Gay Pinder, director of media relations, contributed to this story.

ALUMNI NEWS



“We will use the results of the survey and the consultant reports in our strategic planning session.”

I hope you enjoyed your summer vacations and were able to take a break from your busy lives to reflect and recharge. The Alumni Association is also reflecting, going through a process to make it better than ever.

We've recently been involved in transitioning the board from a “working” entity into a more strategically focused board that continues to support the goals and mission of the university. To help us with the transition, we have been working with consultants to review the board structures and best practices of other alumni associations.

I want to personally say “Thanks” to all of you for assisting us. If you completed the alumni survey, you were directly involved in this process. We will use the results of the survey and the consultant reports in our strategic planning session this fall to set the foundation of a board that has a more active role in the university’s direction.

Remember, you will always be a part of the Towson University alumni network, which has more than 154,000 graduates and continues to grow. We want you to stay connected to your alma mater, and the Alumni Association can help you do this. We look forward to hearing about your accomplishments and successes.

Lance Johnson '93
PRESIDENT, TU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

BANK ON IT

SECU HOSTS FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASS

TU alumni and students learned how to navigate the challenges of financial literacy and fiscal responsibility when SECU experts presented a class in the Minnegan Room on April 21. Discussions included the facts and fallacies of credit scores and the impact those scores can have on loan interest rates, terms, approvals and more. The class aimed to help people make smart financial decisions.



Thomas Slemp '14, SECU community outreach specialist, discusses the elements of finances.

TOWSON UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING

2016

OCTOBER 22

Hey, Tiger fans. Join us for a high-spirited day of food, fun and football at the Alumni Tailgating Festival on Sat., Oct. 22, before the Tigers take on the University of New Hampshire Wildcats.

Tailgating: 11:30 a.m.
Football game: 3:30 p.m.

Alumni groups MUST pre-reserve a designated tailgating festival space through the Office of Alumni Relations to access one parking space for drop-off in Lot 19 and a tailgating festival space on the Lower Practice Field.

Tailgating Festival Package \$200

- 1 parking permit for Lot 19
- 1 reserved group space (approx. 20'x20')
- 1 official TU 10'x10' tent (group may choose to keep the tent at no additional cost)
- 1 6-foot table
- 1 grill with charcoal
- 5 Homecoming football tickets
Complimentary loading and unloading assistance

- * No personal grills or fryers permitted
- * Additional football tickets are \$10/ticket when purchasing the package.
- * Tickets are \$25 at the door on game day

Tailgating Festival Reservations

To reserve your Alumni Homecoming Tailgate Festival parking permit and space, please call the Office of Alumni Relations at 410-704-2234. Reservations are first-come, first-served.

More details:
www.tutigertracks.com/homecoming

For football tickets:
1-855-TU-TIGER (1-855-888-4437)
or visit towsontigers.com

TOURNAMENT TIME

Men's basketball team competes in the CAA Championships

The Office of Alumni Relations hosted a pre-game reception at the Pratt Street Ale House on March 5 before the Tigers played the Northeastern Huskies during the CAA Championships in Baltimore. Despite a valiant effort, our team lost 71-60.



1 Dan Mills, Bev and Dave Glatfelter, and Jenna Mills '09/'16 | **2** Tamra Jackson '00, Christopher Perkins Jr. and Christopher Perkins Sr. | **3** Dan Crowley '01, TU President Kim Schatzel and Sean Landeta, former NFL and TU football player | **4** Ryan Meehan '06, Jamie Bauer and Doug Reaves '90

ALUMNI EVENTS

REMEMBERING JOSEPH FERRANTE '77

Tyler Mayes receives memorial lacrosse scholarship

The brothers of Alpha Omega Lambda established a scholarship 18 years ago to honor their Tiger lacrosse teammate Joseph Ferrante. Tyler Mayes, a TU junior, received the award April 23 at a reception in the Auburn Pavilion before the Tigers defeated Fairfield University 18-11.



1 Bryan and Sue Mayes | **2** Lou Dollenger '74, Frank Mezzanotte '73 and Mark Maloney '80 | **3** Alpha Omega Lambda brothers and former lacrosse players present the 2016 Joseph Ferrante scholarship to Tyler Mayes.



AT THE WATER'S EDGE

Alumni gather at Ropewalk Tavern in Ocean City

Last April, we welcomed alumni and friends to the newest Ropewalk Tavern of Marc McFaul '95. The Ocean City, Md., restaurant was filled with graduates from the Eastern Shore and Delaware. Donna Abbott '79, director of tourism for Ocean City, presented the Key to the City on behalf of Mayor Rick Meehan to university representatives.



1 Susan Jones '90, Donna Abbott '79 and Tara Zaiser Miller '88 | **2** Linda and Amber Baines '14 | **3** Norma Gaunt '77 and Bill Gaunt

ALUMNI EVENTS

TIGERS FOREVER

Congratulations to the Class of 2016

On May 2, the Alumni Association hosted Graduation Station. This one-stop shop for graduates gives our newest alums a chance to discover the benefits and services they receive long after they walk off the stage. The service is funded by a grant from Alumni Association International.



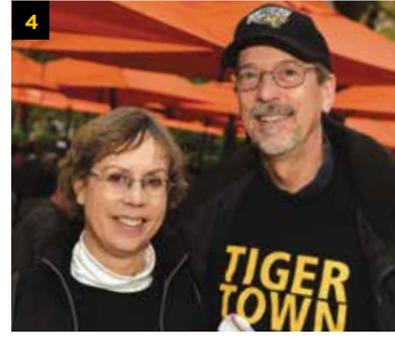
1 Doc congratulates two TU seniors | **2** Staff at information stations gave TU seniors important information | **3** Each senior received a T-shirt with their graduation year. | **4** With caps and gowns in hand, TU seniors are ready for commencement.



TIGERTOWN IN BIRD LAND

TU cheers for the Birds

Towson University Orioles fans celebrated the university's 150th Anniversary with a picnic and a baseball game at Camden Yards on May 5. The O's treated TU fans to a 1-0 victory over the Yankees.



1, 2, 3 TU Tigers celebrate the university's 150th anniversary at an O's game. 4 David Vanko, dean of the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics, and his wife Carol.

ALUMNI EVENTS

LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

TU Field Station flourishes with teaching, student research and community engagement

Outdoor learning and family fun marked the celebrations May 7 at the TU Field Station. Events included a petting zoo, pony rides, fly-fishing lessons, hikes and presentations by TU professor Alex Storrs in a portable planetarium. The Monkton, Md., property, a research site for TU faculty and students, is preserved in partnership with Al Henneman '66, and the Office of Alumni Relations, and directed by the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics.



1 Suzanne and Al Henneman '66, the owner of Camp Running Bear and Camp Dancing Bear 2 Fly-fishing Instructor Micah Danmeyer teaches guests about fishing techniques. 3 Goat enjoys being petted by Towson Tigers 4 Future tigers enjoy a nature hike.



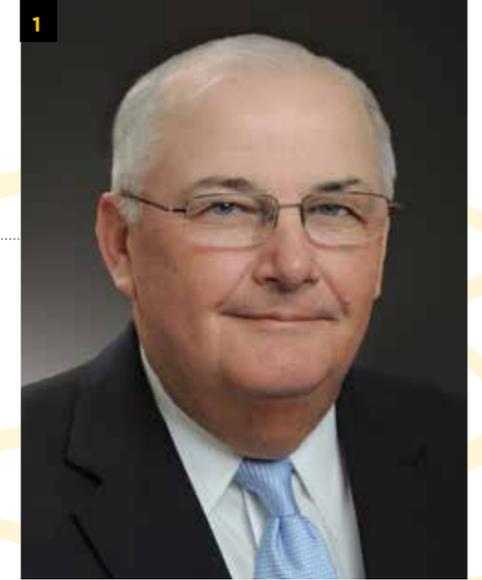
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AND DEANS' RECOGNITION AWARDS

Alumni Association recognizes the 2016 honorees

Chancellor Robert L. Caret introduced the 2016 Distinguished Alumnus, Daniel J. McCarthy '75/'83. Established in 1958, this award is the highest honor bestowed by the Alumni Association.

1 Distinguished Alumni Award

Daniel J. McCarthy '75/'83 has devoted much of his career to higher education, including being past vice president of the University of Maryland College Park Foundation, executive vice president and president for the TU Foundation as well as vice president for Institutional Advancement.



2016 AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Deans' Recognition Awards honor alumni from each college for their personal and professional accomplishments.

2 College of Business and Economics Samuel R. Polakoff '86 is the president, CEO and third-generation owner of Nexterus, a supply chain engineering and technology firm.

3 College of Education Glenda Kilgore Johnson '64 spent 40 years in education as a teacher or administrator in Carroll and Baltimore County public schools, and later a faculty member at Loyola College and TU.

4 College of Fine Arts and Communication Mike Flanagan '02, a former television editor and producer for Discovery and ESPN, now produces feature films including "Occulus" and "Ouija 2."

5 College of Health Professions Jean M. Seifarth, Ph.D., R.N. '76, a nurse and clinical instructor, is education and project management coordinator for Western Maryland Health System.

6 College of Liberal Arts Jason Goldsmith '97 is co-founder, chairman and CEO of CARCHEX, which provides consumers with vehicle protection products and services.

7 Fisher College of Science and Mathematics Richard E. Burdette III '96, U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major, served in Afghanistan and has held multiple leadership posts and received numerous awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star and Defense Meritorious Service Medal.



BREW AT THE ZOO

It happened at the zoo

Tigers dominated the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore on Memorial Day Weekend. Almost 200 alumni and friends gathered for Brew at the Zoo, enjoying craft brewery tastings, music and a day with the animals.



- 1 Doc with Lauren Siford and Mike Pivec '14
- 2 Brian Young, Doc and Ariel Eldredge '12
- 3 An Eastern screech owl
- 4 Marc Fink, Doc and Jessica Brown '14

ALUMNI EVENTS

GOLDEN TIGERS

Class of 1966 celebrates its 50th Reunion

Graduates from the Class of 1966 returned to campus on June 4 for a bus tour highlighting the changes to campus since their graduation. After the tour, Felicity Knox '94, library associate, displayed some rare memorabilia, including the 1966 telephone book.



PHILANTHROPY



“With your support, Towson University has raised nearly \$100 million during my 15-year tenure and has grown its endowment to \$55 million.”

Now that I have officially retired as vice president of University Advancement, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your philanthropic support of Towson University. Your investment and commitment to the future of this remarkable institution is deeply appreciated and vital in our ability to offer an enriching and enhancing university experience for our students. With your support, Towson University has raised nearly \$100 million during my 15-year tenure and has grown its endowment to \$55 million. These dollars are the lifeblood of the institution where limited state support provides only a portion of the financial resources needed. Every gift, no matter the size, is critical in achieving our academic goals and providing an environment where students can flourish and grow. Each gift ensures the strength of the region and its future. At Towson University, 80 percent of our graduates remain in the area. This institution is a major player in producing the human capital necessary to be at the cutting edge, whether it be in science and technology, the arts, health professions, education or business.

In the development field, one of the key factors ensuring a high philanthropic profile is the support of alumni and friends who consistently demonstrate loyalty and continued connection to the institution. So many of you have shown that level of commitment, best exemplified in our 150th anniversary year and the largest increase in alumni giving participation from the previous year. I am thankful for this support and for the relationships that have developed between so many of you and myself. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to share in your personal joy in making a difference as a result of your largesse. And I am grateful for the sense of pride and appreciation of our students as they thank the donors who have generously made it possible for them to attend Towson University.

On a personal note, I feel fortunate to have served this institution and to have played a small part in ensuring its future and its vitality. Thank you so much for that opportunity. It was not taken for granted.

I only wish TU the best in the years ahead and am confident that its promise will be fulfilled as it continues to maintain a robust and enthusiastic level of support from its alumni and friends.

Gary Rubin '69
FORMER VICE PRESIDENT
OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT



HONORING A FALLEN HERO

THE WARDELL TURNER FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTS A TU PLAYER

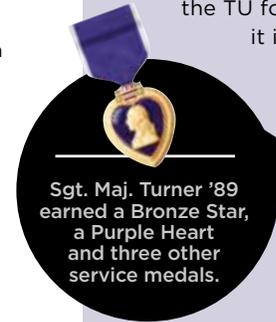
Sgt. Maj. Wardell B. Turner '89 learned discipline and sacrifice on the TU football field. He put it into practice serving in the U.S. Army for 21 years, earning a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and three Meritorious Service Medals across multiple deployments to Bosnia and Iraq. But in fall 2014, he was killed in action in

Kabul, Afghanistan, while serving as an adviser on a NATO mission to train Afghan troops. It was a devastating loss, but his memory provides an opportunity for a current Tiger football player to follow in his footsteps as a leader and a representative of TU.

Former teammate, Jay Wasserman '87, led an effort in the fall of 2015 to establish the Wardell Turner Football Scholarship Endowment. To date, over \$50,000 has been contributed to the scholarship fund that provides financial support to a deserving student-athlete.

Sophomore and Towson defensive back Monty Fenner was awarded the inaugural scholarship at the team's annual banquet last spring. Fenner received the award from Head Coach Rob Ambrose '93, Katherine Turner, Sgt. Maj. Turner's widow, and Turner's youngest son, Xavier.

To support the Wardell Turner Football Scholarship Endowment, visit towson.edu/givetowardellturnerscholarship or call the Development Office at 1-866-301-3375.



Sgt. Maj. Turner '89 earned a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and three other service medals.

THE WRITE WAY

TV WRITER AND NOVELIST ROBERT WARD '65 ENDOWS CREATIVE WRITING SCHOLARSHIP AND BEQUEATHS MANUSCRIPTS AND SCREENPLAYS TO THE LIBRARY



"I've had an amazing career," Ward admits, crediting TU with giving him the building blocks to pursue his craft. "When I got to Towson I had three teachers who told me I had talent as a writer if I would just work harder: Frank Guess, Donald Craver and Raymond Franke," Ward says. "They insisted I learn how to shape an essay, back up what I had to say with research and be tough minded. They believed in me.

"My idea for the graduate scholarship is to kick start a student's talent. It's

a way of saying 'You have the goods. Your school believes in you. Now get to work and create terrific original writing.' Having people believe in you is everything to a young writer."

"Robert Ward is enriching the context for writing at Towson with both the scholarship and the donation of his manuscripts for students and scholars to examine," says Terry Cooney, dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Ward followed a circuitous path to success. After graduating from TU with a degree in English, he was a social worker in Baltimore, won a scholarship to the Univer-

sity of Arkansas Writer's program, moved to San Francisco, where he was sidetracked by 1960s distractions, returned to Baltimore, witnessed the 1968 riots, and wrote a novel, *Shedding Skin*. Published in 1972, the semi-autobiographical account of living on the wild side received rave reviews from the *New York Times* and *Publishers Weekly*. Later his career flourished with writing assignments for notable magazines such as *Rolling Stone*, *GQ* and *Esquire*. In 1978, Ward published *Cattle Annie* and *Little Britches*, a novel made into a film starring Burt Lancaster and Diane Lane. Ward wrote the screenplay.

When he began writing scripts for TV's "Hill Street Blues," he worried about being fired.

He wasn't. Within three years, he graduated from story editor to co-executive producer—a meteoric ascension in Hollywood.

He later worked on other shows, including "New York Undercover" and "NYPD Blue."

Ward has acted in four films, one of which, "The Bronx Is Burning," a miniseries about the New York Yankees, aired on ESPN in 2007. That film will also be included in the Cook Library collection.

His third book, *Red Baker*, turned down by 30 publishers, won the 1985 Pen West Award.

Ward recently returned from Italy where he was on a reading tour of *Red Baker*, which is popular among Italian youth.

Robert Ward '65 is a man of many words.

He has penned award-winning novels, scripts for hit TV shows—"Miami Vice" and "Hill Street Blues"—and magazine profiles of some of the biggest names in entertainment and sports, including Clint Eastwood and Reggie Jackson.

Now the novelist and television writer-producer has created the Robert Ward Endowed Scholarship in Creative Writing for TU graduate students with a \$30,000 gift. He has also pledged to bequeath his manuscripts and screenplays to the Albert S. Cook Library.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES AND ACHIEVING DREAMS

DONORS AND STUDENTS MEET AT FOUNDATION SCHOLARS LUNCHEON

At the 2016 Foundation Scholars Luncheon on April 22, more than 130 students met the benefactors of their scholarships and shared their heartfelt messages of gratitude.

Chad M. Gobel '93, the keynote speaker and donor to the Marion B. Hoffman Ethical Leadership Award, reflected on his gratitude—to his family, to his parents, who financed his college education, and especially to the late Marion Hoffman, former TU dean of student affairs, who transformed his life.

Gobel, a member of the SGA, would visit her office, discussing life, Towson, and his hopes and dreams for the future. He supports the scholarship honoring her memory because he understands

the importance of financial assistance. It gave him the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities because he did not need a part-time job.

"Sometimes we forget the transformational impact that philanthropy can have," he says.

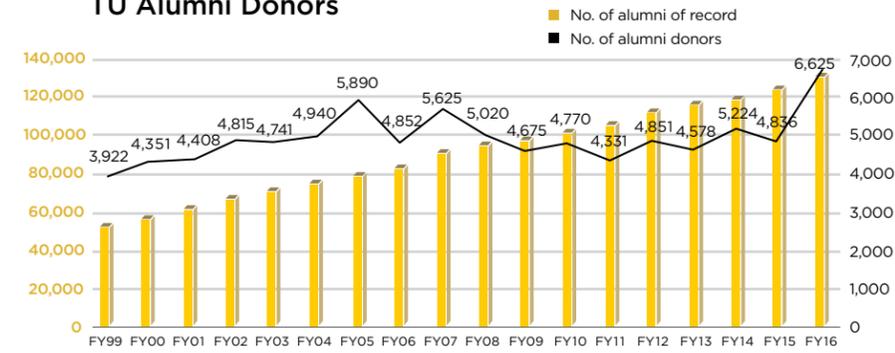
Student speakers Aysha Ameen, recipient of the Michele M. Cooper, M.D., Scholarship, Jillian Eisdorfer '16, recipient of the Ira and Mary Basler Scholarship, and Min Park, recipient of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Endowed Scholarship for Mature Women and Men, expressed their gratitude to donors for helping them overcome obstacles to pursue an education.



Student speakers Min Park '17, Jillian Eisdorfer '16 and Aysha Ameen '19

For event videos and photos from the 2016 luncheon VISIT towson.edu/ScholarsLuncheon

TU Alumni Donors



GOING UP

ALUMNI GIVING INCREASES

Towson University alumni have accomplished something impressive—they have made a dramatically stronger show of financial support for their alma mater.

Over the past two years, more alumni have responded to TU's need for support than ever before. Aiding this increase is TU's new, interactive website: towson.edu/giving. This searchable website gives users instant access to all 600+ funds maintained by the Towson University Foundation. Alumni can quickly and easily support a fund or scholarship that's most meaningful to them.

"More and more alumni are giving back to their major, athletics and campus life by supporting funds such as Leadership, the Black Student Leadership Conference and the Food Insecurity Support Fund, which gives students in need an opportunity to discreetly receive a meal at a campus dining hall," says Brittany Shaff, director of the Annual Campaign.

TU's student philanthropy campaign, Gold and Black Giving Back, has also helped increase alumni giving. Created in 2014 and led by and for students, the campaign educates students on the importance of philanthropy at TU. Because early philanthropists are more likely to become

lifelong supporters, this campaign focuses more on the importance of giving than on dollars donated.

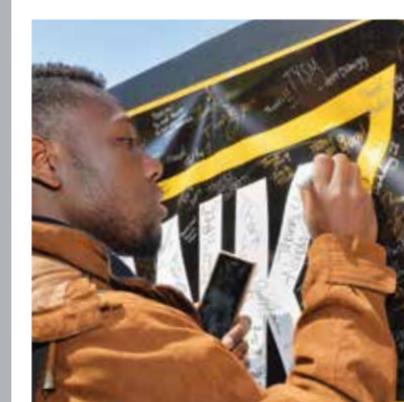
It's working. To date, 70 percent of student participants in the Gold and Black Giving Back campaign have continued to give as alumni. Those new graduates are among the more than 6,600 alumni who donated to TU last year, an increase of 1,700 from the previous year. "That's the highest year-to-year increase in the past 18 years," says Shaff.

Overall, this support improves TU's alumni philanthropic participation rate to just above 5 percent, which, according to Shaff, is close to the 6 percent average for universities of TU's size.

Every donation to Towson University makes a difference. Last year, more than \$300,000 came in donations of \$25 or less.

Publications, such as *U.S. News & World Report*, rank universities based on alumni giving participation. State lawmakers also consider participation rates when allocating public institution funding. With an enrollment of more than 22,000 students and a state model that gives TU less funding per student than any other University System of Maryland institution, TU's need for alumni philanthropic support is greater than ever before.

PAWS FOR THANKS



In April Towson Tigers took a moment to "paws" and show their gratitude to the 15,000 donors who supported TU last year.

"Paws for Thanks educates students about giving back and demonstrates how private support influences the quality of their education," says Brittany Shaff, director of the Annual Campaign.

A thank-you banner quickly filled with messages of appreciation, and hand-signed thank-you cards were packed up to be mailed to donors. Around campus, oversized gift tags marked facilities and resources made possible by generous donors.

"The gift tags are a visual reminder of the support we receive from donors," Shaff explains.

IAN BELKNAP '06

artistic director of The Acting Company, identified TU as a regional anchor for this touring model.

ENRICHED BY THE ACTING COMPANY

RESIDENCY PROGRAM CONCLUDES WITH TWO PLAYS

Since 2014, Towson University's Department of Theatre Arts has participated in a new, three-year touring residency program offered by The Acting Company, America's leading national touring repertory theater. Now in its final residency year, the program will culminate with March productions of Marcus Gardley's new play about the assassination of Malcolm X and Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar."

Ian Belknap '06, artistic director of The Acting Company, identified TU as a regional anchor for this touring model, which supports the artistic collaboration of students, faculty and theatre practitioners.

Throughout the residency program, the Department of Theatre Arts has raised over \$14,000 from alumni, friends and community partnerships to help support workshops, guest lectures and professional development opportunities for TU students.

"This professional partnership has already enriched the education of theatre students and enhanced the national reputation of our university in the arts and arts education," says Robyn Quick, chair of theatre arts. "With the performances of "Julius Caesar" and "X," we look forward to expanding learning opportunities across our campus and into the community."

To support the Department of Theatre Arts, visit towson.edu/givetotheatrearts or call the Development Office at 1-866-301-3375.

CLASS NOTES

LINDSAY WAITE '71/'96/'04 cycled throughout the United States to support nonprofits that reduce crime and aid crime victims.



1960

EDWARD CALLARY '61 had his fifth book, *Wisconsin Place Names*, published by the University of Wisconsin Press. He is professor emeritus of linguistics at Northern Illinois University and lives in Austin, Texas, with his wife, daughter and grandchildren.

NANCY S. GRASMICK '61 EDEL is an inaugural inductee in *The Sun's* Baltimore Business and Civic Hall of Fame. Grasmick served on TU's Board of Visitors for more than a decade and was named the TU Presidential Scholar for Innovation in Teacher and Leader Preparation in 2012.

JOSEPH LEE BOYLE '68 published his 25th genealogy book, *Much given to Liquor, and chewing Tobacco. White Pennsylvania Runaways, 1763-1768*. Boyle "has combed scores of 18th-century newspapers for references to missing servants," according to Genealogical.com. His other works include three books on Maryland's runaway servants and one on Delaware's as well as a number of other volumes on deserters in the American Revolution, and the New Hampshire and Rhode Island regiments at Valley Forge.

1970

ROBERT J. KREBS JR. '70 was one of the Vietnam veterans interviewed by Maryland Public Television for a three-part documentary, "Maryland Vietnam War Stories." He was "in country" from Jan. 1972 to Feb. 1973. He writes, "I was there when the Paris peace treaty was signed and I left 10 days after the signing."

JAY RHODES '71 BUAD was elected to the city council in Kings Mountain, North Carolina. He retired after 11 years as a head basketball coach at Limestone College in Gaffney, South Carolina. He also worked in banking and financial services. Rhodes has been married 43 years and has two sons and three grandchildren.

LINDSAY WAITE '71/'96/'04 cycled in the U.S. Southwest and Southeast, then up the coast to Baltimore to support nonprofits that reduce crime, prevent future crime victims and save tax money. Waite grew up in the Baltimore area and practiced law until 2004. She started the trip in Albuquerque, where she has lived since 2014.

MARTY DELANEY '73 was inducted into the Greater Baltimore Chapter of the U.S. Lacrosse Hall of Fame. "I have always been proud to be a Tiger," he writes.

CAROL JEAN FENCHAK '78 ART celebrated her 13th year as an art and photography teacher at Burns Junior/Senior High School in Burns, Wyoming. Appointed the junior class faculty adviser for the 2016-2017 school year, she is responsible for overseeing the junior prom.

SUSAN HILL GEBHARDT '78, a Tiger swimmer and field hockey player, who was inducted into the TU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1994, competed in the World Triathlon Championships in Cozumel, Mexico, as a member of Team USA in September. "I believe that my successful experience on the Towson swim team under the coaching of Ray Riordan and George Kropp back in the late '70s had a direct impact on me getting to this point at 60 years old!" she writes. "I want to thank the professors at Towson University and my coaches for instilling in me the values of hard work, commitment, teamwork and dedication."

1980

GERARD J. GAENG '81 PHIL received the 2016 Leadership in Law Award from *The Daily Record*. Gaeng is head of the litigation group at Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP. He is also president emeritus of the Towson Alumni Association.

JOHN BOHANAN '81 received an honorary Doctorate of Human Letters from St. Mary's College of Maryland, an award that recognizes his service to the country and the state of Maryland. A senior consultant at Cornerstone Government Affairs, a lobbying firm in Annapolis, Bohanan was named one of "The Top 20 Most Influential Maryland Legislators" by the *Maryland Gazette of Business and Politics* in 2010.

BEN FOWKE '82 ACCT was appointed as a member of the National Infrastructure Advisory Council by President Obama. Fowke has served as chairman, president and CEO of Xcel Energy since 2011.

JAMES WARRING '83 BUAD joined the board of directors at Olney Theatre Center, Maryland's longest-running regional producing theater. Warring is founder and CEO of

IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI

Gladys Quatman Porter '33
July 17, 2016

Bernice Parker Murphy '34
June 14, 2016

Mary McClean Mulquin '38
July 28, 2016

Doris Kehm Hay '42
June 23, 2016

Frances Shores Meginnis '42
July 7, 2016

Lillian Scheinker Wilen '43
April 8, 2016

Harvey C. Refo Jr. '44
July 12, 2016

Doris Gutman Kummerlowe '46
Aug. 4, 2016

Eva M. Wolf '46
July 15, 2016

Elmer L. Zick '48
April 24, 2016

Irene Goldstein Ellin '50
May 3, 2016

Albert H. Naeny Jr. '50
June 28, 2016

Shirley D. Zimmerman '52
March 26, 2016

Janet Wright Champness '54
April 16, 2016

Doris Exline Kesecker '54
June 29, 2016

Hallie G. Odgers '54
May 18, 2016

Barbara A. Chapple '55
Aug. 11, 2016

Patricia E. Murray '55
July 13, 2016

Nancy Murphy Walker '56
June 21, 2016

Joan Walter McGuire '57
March 28, 2016

Mary Ann Vetter '59
March 13, 2016

Trudy Forsythe Cox '60
June 14, 2016

Jacquelyne H. Gano '62
April 6, 2016

Mary Foreman Jamison '62
May 17, 2016

Mary R. Wooten '62
March 10, 2016

Mary C. Van De Weghe '63
June 9, 2016

Barry S. Losinsky '64
May 25, 2016

Margaret Kiser Myers '64
April 27, 2016

Peggy Wilson Ratsch '65
March 18, 2016

Richard E. Menikheim '66
June 7, 2016

Robert Edward Talbott '66
February 12, 2016

Gwendolyn L. Gibson '67
May 21, 2016

Sharon L. Hopkins '67
March 20, 2016

Sharon J. Victorine '69
Jan. 1, 2016

Catherine M. Arnold '70
April 19, 2016

James A. Gabor '70
Feb. 17, 2016

Helen M. Woesche '70
July 18, 2016

James E. Woods '70
May 23, 2016

Richard D. Neidig '71
July 24, 2016

Ida R. James '71
June 13, 2016

Richard D. Neidig '71
July 24, 2016

Margaret L. Mason '71
Oct. 2, 2015

Charles E. Sunderland '73
April 29, 2016

Carmen C. Fernandez '74
May 29, 2016

Ron E. Head '74
July 16, 2016

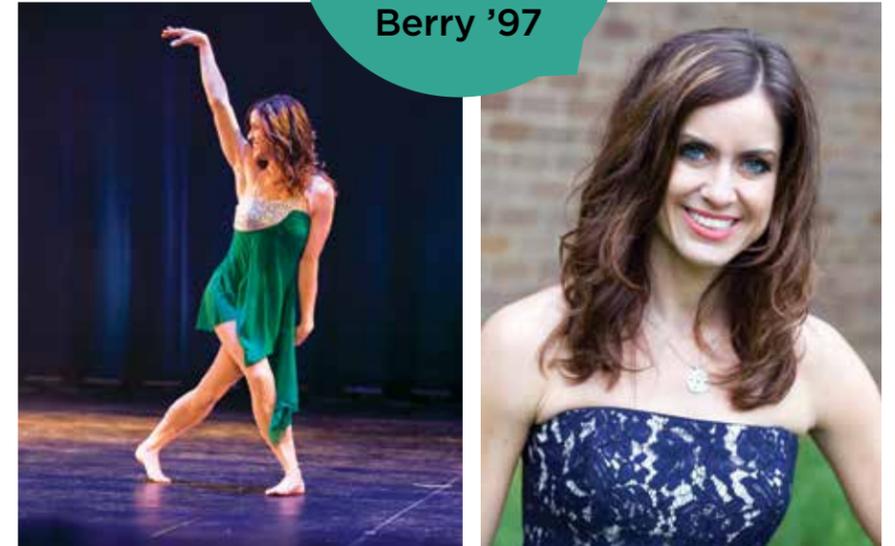
Hope Wiley McFadden '74
Dec. 6, 2015

Martharine A. Scott '74
July 6, 2016

Michael C. Weaver '74
Feb. 12, 2016

ALUMNI PROFILE

Maureen Berry '97



THE RIGHT STEPS

TEELIN IRISH DANCE SCHOOL GARNERS AWARDS

Maureen Berry '97 began her dancing career not with a bang, but with a click and a clack—a resounding click and clack.

"Irish dancing is very loud, so after I opened my first studio, they evicted us because we were too noisy," recalls the dance performance graduate. "We had to start over a few times to figure out a way to soundproof."

Now, Berry has found success through the Teelin School of Irish Dance and the Teelin Irish Dance Company in Columbia, Maryland, where she has served as owner and director for 18 years.

Though she has trained in an array of styles, Berry's interest in Irish dance stems from her heritage. Her parents are from Ireland and she has visited the country 21 times.

She co-owns Teelin with one of her sisters, while the other serves as event coordinator. Irish culture "stays in the family," she says.

Berry also performs in, produces and choreographs feature-length stage shows for the company and teaches at the school, which hosts over 270 students.

"When I'm teaching, I'm very hands-on," Berry explains. "I have a great education

from Towson so I am very knowledgeable about anatomy. I really have a gift for getting dancers to understand their bodies."

Berry's efforts paid off in the spring, when one of her students won a world championship title in Scotland.

"Getting my first world champion is, as a teacher, the highest reward I can ever receive," she says.

Her achievements don't stop there. The Howard County Arts Council honored Berry with the 2015 Outstanding Artist award for her work with Teelin. In 2009, she received the Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award for Dance Choreography.

Though she's been garnering awards, Berry says the highlight of her career occurred right at Towson University.

"We actually brought our show to Towson in 2007 and we sold out," Berry recalls. "It was a big honor to come back to Stephens Hall Theatre and work with some of the people in the Department of Dance."

Berry credits her professors for not only instilling good technique, but also the ability to dance "with heart."

"This is more than a job," Berry says. "It's definitely a lifestyle and passion." ■

—DARYL LEE HALE '16

PETER O. NWSU '87

is provost and vice president for academic affairs at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia.



EagleStone Tax & Wealth Advisors, which offers portfolio management, tax preparation and tax planning, and private trust, estate administration and fiduciary oversight services. Warring was a member of Towson's golf team and has supported the theatrical arts since taking an acting class at TU.

PETER O. NWSU '87 MA LIBERAL STUDIES was selected as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. Nwsu is a tenured professor, a Fulbright Scholar, an American Council on Education Fellow and a graduate of the Institutes for Higher Education at Harvard University. He is also the author of three books and more than 80 scholarly publications. Previously, Nwsu served as vice president for academic programs at California State University - Fullerton.

MELISSA "MISSY" FANSHAW '89 EDEL, principal of Rodgers Forge Elementary, was named Elementary School Principal of the Year by Baltimore County Public Schools in April.

STACY AKERS ALFORD '89 MCOM is the executive director for the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Maryland. She has 17 years of experience in fundraising management for nonprofits throughout the United States and in management of regional programs, including Special Olympics of Maryland. She obtained her MBA in '05.

1990

COURTNEY KRAEMER BOND '93 received the 2016 Edward P. Gilligan Award for Innovation, which recognizes entrepreneurial spirit and those who power the future at American Express. As manager of Global Recruitment Governance and Policy, she has transformed hiring and recruiting.

SHERRY KOPP MOBLEY '93 MCOM launched a small business, Bricks to You!, which specializes in mobile, LEGO-themed birthday parties, special events and educational activities in Baltimore and surrounding counties. The business participated in the Old Bay 5K in April.

STACEY SCHIANO '93 CCMM joined

Oak Crest, a retirement community, as philanthropy manager. Schiano has more than 18 years of fundraising experience.

TEQUILA TERRY '94 SOCY, vice president of policy implementation for DentaQuest, was selected for the 2016-17 Disparities Leadership Program, a yearlong executive program that addresses racial and ethnic disparities in health care. Terry is one of only 38 people from the United States selected for the program.

ROB SHEK '94, a former Tiger midfielder, was inducted into the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame. An All-American in the 1990s, he helped Towson win three consecutive conference titles from 1989-1991. Shek won two world championships as a member of Team USA, capturing gold in 1994 and 1998. He also played seven seasons indoors for the Philadelphia Wings and Baltimore Thunder, and four seasons outdoors with the Washington Power and Baltimore Bayhawks.

RICHARD J. HOLLEY '96 was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for his work with the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. The Department of Defense program connects National Guard and Reserve members, and their families and communities with resources throughout deployment. MOVSM recognizes members of the military, including active duty, reserve and National Guard, who show commitment to volunteer work and go above and beyond the duties required as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces.

MATT KOVALAKIDES '97 MCOM is the lead creative strategist at Google's YouTube. He teaches creators how to grow a fan base with their channels and is focused on writing best practices around using 360 and VR video.

DARREN PEYTON '97 BUAD is the small-business consultant in Carroll County, Maryland's ASBDC (America's Small Business Development Center.) He has worked in hospitality and customer service management in the United States and Europe for more than 20 years.

JACK S. MONELL '97 MCOM received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. award from Winston-Salem University and Wake Forest University for his social justice and community service work.

JEFFREY M. LAWSON '98 ACCT, a shareholder for Stoy, Malone & Co., P.C., was appointed chair of the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants State Tax Committee.

TANIKA L. SMITH '99/'01 M.A., assistant professor at Prince George's Community College, has her content for students and educators featured in supplements and companion sites of textbooks, including *Understanding Human Communication* (12th Edition, 13th Edition pending), *Essential Communication* (2015, 2nd Edition pending), *Invitation to Human Communication* (2016)

IN MEMORIAM

- Mark L. Howard '75**
June 16, 2016
- Terry L. LaPorte '75**
April 16, 2016
- Michael D. Byers '76**
March 6, 2016
- Nicholas C. Rego '76**
April 19, 2016
- David A. Daniel '77**
June 16, 2016
- Sherry W. Schindler '77**
Jan. 9, 2016
- William R. Desandro '79**
March 20, 2016
- Jean H. Fino '81**
April 26, 2016
- Jeanne L. Guay '81**
July 10, 2016
- Anita L. Joerdens '80**
July 5, 2016
- Donnell E. Redman '81**
July 13, 2016
- Brian A. Schiner '81**
July 3, 2016
- Elfriede R. Starkey '81**
May 23, 2016
- Thomas J. Heffernan '82**
Feb. 29, 2016
- Mary M. Henry '82**
Jan. 20, 2016
- Linda Stelmack '82**
Aug. 2, 2016
- Stephen P. Gencel '84**
Feb. 24, 2016
- Wilma Lawson Padgett '84**
March 10, 2016
- Kirk Wilborne '88**
July 14, 2016
- Joan Hammond '90**
April 22, 2016
- Karen L. Adams '91**
March 7, 2016
- Catherine R. Lansdell '91**
March 14, 2016
- Alex P. Miller '91**
October 18, 2015
- Angela T. Williams '91**
March 16, 2016
- Sharon Simon Scheiner '92**
March 20, 2016
- Stephen Harrison '93**
Sept. 27, 2013
- Steven C. Forrest '94**
May 21, 2016
- Cynthia Cocke '95**
July 21, 2016
- Joyce Mach-Geils '95**
July 11, 2016
- Jane A. Watts '95**
May 9, 2016
- Amy C. Nemeč '97**
May 16, 2016
- Kathleen Susan Glascock '99**
July 12, 2016
- Andrea Ayers Straka '02**
March 28, 2016
- Bruce Lee Simmons '05**
May 7, 2016
- Sari N. Kent '06**
Feb. 15, 2016
- Dennis S. Mattingly '06**
July 12, 2016
- James M. Dubel '07**
March 30, 2016
- James Marousek '08**
May 24, 2016
- Ryan M. Shupert '08**
May 29, 2016
- Jessica Price Parsons '09**
April 8, 2016
- Phillip C. Lee '11**
July 4, 2016
- Kevin Patrick Magid '14**
May 13, 2016
- Michael Patrick Stewart '15**
March 2, 2016

**STUDENTS/
FACULTY/
STAFF**

- Herbert D. Andrews**
Aug. 3, 2016
- Dorothy N. Fix**
July 11, 2016
- Charles C. Flippen II**
May 4, 2016
- Cynthia Mellerson**
Aug. 8, 2016
- Harold E. Muma**
July 2, 2016
- Samuel Penn**
April 18, 2016
- Reza Sarhangi**
July 1, 2016
- Mark David Scarinzi**
July 22, 2016
- W. Michael Seganish**
July 14, 2016
- Dan Singer**
June 14, 2016
- Patricia Waters '57**
May 4, 2016

**ALUMNI
PROFILE**

**Kaya
Savas '09**



AN ANIMATED GUY

ASSET COORDINATOR FINDS A "WEALTH OF CREATIVITY" AT CARTOON NETWORK

Kaya Savas '09 works with some of TV's biggest stars, but you won't find them on the red carpet. Savas works at Cartoon Network, where all of the programs are animated, there's an arcade in the office, and no two days are alike.

"It's not a boring office, that's for sure," says the electronic media and film alum.

Savas is the studio's production asset coordinator, managing and tracking production assets for shows including "Adventure Time," "Regular Show" and "The Powerpuff Girls." He's also responsible for creating workflows and timelines.

His role is to develop a plan for any assets the shows may spawn.

"If marketing needs to do a promo or if consumer products are working on a toy or building a digital mobile game, that is my area," Savas explains. "I will talk to the show team, the producers and the creators and curate the content for those projects."

Another part of his job entails meeting with the production team to review asset schedules. Production on just one episode of an animated series can take nine months to a year.

"We have everything mapped out and we have constant check-ins," he says.

Working directly with the network's creative teams, producers and executives is Savas's favorite part of the job—the arcade and game station on his office floor are just added perks.

"We produce the content here," Savas says. "All of the voices are recorded here; the dialogue is recorded here; and all of the model sheets and animatics are built here."

The atmosphere is a "wealth of creativity," according to Savas, who one day aspires to work in show development.

Savas flexes his creative muscles outside of the workplace. He runs Film.Music. Media, a website where he writes reviews, interviews film composers and manages a team of writers. Typically, he dedicates a few hours each night to the website after he gets home from his day job

"In filmmaking, the directors and the actors get the glory and composers rarely get a platform to speak," Savas says. "I'm really trying to build a library of great content for people to explore." ■

and *The Public Speaking Playbook* (2nd Edition).

ELLIS CARR '99 ACCT was named president and CEO of Capital Impact Partners in May. Carr previously served as CFO of the organization, which works to transform underserved communities into "strong, vibrant places of opportunity."

2000

DIONNE NICOLE CURBEAM '00 M.A., director of instructional technology at Coppin State University, was named to *The Daily Record's* 2016 VIP List—Very Important Professionals Successful by 40 awards. The list recognizes professionals 40 and younger, who have been successful in Maryland, based on accomplishments, community service and the impact of their achievements in the community.

AYANO KUMADA SUGIYAMA '02 has worked for the overseas sales division of Honda Motors for 10 years. She also met her husband at the company. The couple will be moving to Nairobi, Kenya, where her husband will work for Honda Motors Kenya and she plans to apply to graduate school.

JESSICA T. PEARSON '02 DANCE is in her third year as an assistant professor at Rhode Island College in Providence, where she will choreograph, teach residencies and present an evening of her work. Last February, she had her Boston premiere with Urbanity Dance Company and spent this summer presenting her choreography at Collective Thread (NYC), *The Series Vol. 1* (NYC) and Southern Vermont Dance Festival.

JUSTIN DOESCHER '02 won the first Amazon Video Direct Stars contest for his horror film, "The Break-In." The program awards royalties based on minutes streamed. Visit <http://mashable.com/2016/07/27/amazon-video-direct-stars-program-winner/#bnXlkgMGRSQQ> to watch.

LISA BRICKER '03 PSYC, chief talent officer at Celebree Learning Centers, was inducted into the VIP Woman of the Year Circle by the National Association of Professional Women for her leadership in social services and child care.

GIOVANNI ALBERTANZA '05 POLI became a partner of the law firm Rosenberg Martin Greenberg in July. He represents people and businesses throughout all stages of civil and criminal federal and state tax controversies, including litigation in federal and state courts.

KELLY MAYS GRAMM '05 and her husband, Warren, announce the birth of Matthew James, born Nov. 12, 2015. He joins big sister Catherine.

—DARYL LEE HALE '16

CLASS NOTES

GIOVANNI ALBEROTANZA '05

became a partner of the law firm Rosenberg Martin Greenberg in July.



COURTNEY BRUST '08

joined Kaler's Estates and Trusts Practice as an associate.



MEGAN DIGREGORIO '10

a former Tiger cross-country runner, has run six ultra marathons—50-mile courses.



CHRIS F. ARAJ '11

opened an audiology practice, Pearland Hearing Aids & Audiology, in a suburb of Houston.



ELIZABETH B. BOROWSKY '05 MUSC and **FRANCES GRACE BOROWSKY '11 MUSC** toured Lithuania with their family in April. The group performed concerts and gave master classes and lectures under the theme "Music: The Best Bridge for All People."

ERIC MOUYAL '07 BUAD got married in 2015. He is a police detective, who will be commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in January, and plans to pursue a career in the security forces.

CHRISTINA JOHNSON '07 and **ANTONIO GARGIULO '07**, who met while students at TU, married March 19 after 10 years of being together. Christina is a school counselor for Baltimore County Public Schools and Antonio is the director of career services at Brightwood College in Baltimore.

COURTNEY BRUST '08 SPAN joined Kaler's Estates and Trusts Practice as an associate in the Estates and Trusts Group, representing individuals and families in estate planning and administration.

JILL SPIEGEL '08 received the James McBride Teaching Award from the Jonathan D. Krist Foundation. The award recognizes excellent teachers in under-resourced communities. Siegel is an English teacher, team leader and department chair at Foundation Academies in Trenton, New Jersey.

SCOTT STAUBER '08 BUAD is the executive chef at Points South Latin Kitchen on Thames Street in Fells Point. He "brings a gutsy, trained-on-the-job finesse to the kitchen, enhanced by growing up with his grandmother's Panamanian cooking," according to an article in the *Baltimore Sun*.

PATRICK SMITH '09, photographer for Getty Images, won a first place award from The White House News Photographers Association in the category 2016 Eyes of History: Still Contest: Picture Story/Sports. The award took him to the White House where he shook hands with President Barack Obama. Smith's work has been recognized with many prizes, most recently, according to his website, as the 2016 runner-up 'Sports Photographer of the Year' by both the NPPA Best of Photojournalism and Pictures of the Year International.

2010

EREK ZIMMERMAN '10 and **DANIELLE PARADISO '10** were married on Oct. 1.

MEGAN DIGREGORIO '10 posted a time of 39:57, making her the female winner of the Arbutus Firecracker 10K on July 4. The former Tiger cross-country runner has placed first in a number of local races and has run six ultra marathons—50-mile courses.

CHRISTINA KRAMER '11 M.A. was promoted to program expert at the Social Security Administration in Woodlawn, Maryland. Kramer has worked at the SSA since 2007.

CHRIS F. ARAJ '11 AU.D opened an audiology practice, Pearland Hearing Aids & Audiology, in a suburb of Houston. He is president-elect of the Texas Academy of Audiology. He and his wife Rund have been married for three years and welcomed their first child, Andrew, this year.

WILL STAFFORD '11 ECON is an agriculture policy adviser for U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kansas), chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Previously, Stafford was director of government affairs for the National Association of Wheat Growers, representing family wheat farmers and focusing on policy in international trade, research and transportation. He lives on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

RONALD POOLE '11/'13 M.A. and **REBECCA BUESGENS '13 BIOL** married in June at Belmont Manor in Elkridge, Maryland. The couple met through the TU Marching Band, when Poole was section leader of the saxophone section and Buesgens was a freshman saxophonist. They live in Timonium with their cat Molly and both work for Baltimore County Public Schools.

ROBIN SU '12 BUAD joined the tax department of Gross, Mendelsohn & Associates, P.A.

BRIANNA MORGAN GARRISON '14 graduated from the Baltimore County Police Academy and is assigned to the Dundalk precinct for the next two years. She was among 43 recruits to graduate, and one of 14 women.

KYLE FLENS '14 MUSC performed a concert of new music for flute and percussion at the Northern Illinois University School of Music where he is a graduate student. A multifaceted percussionist, Flens is a member of Projeto Arcomunist and has performed at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, the Instituto Inhotim in Brazil and throughout the Chicago area.

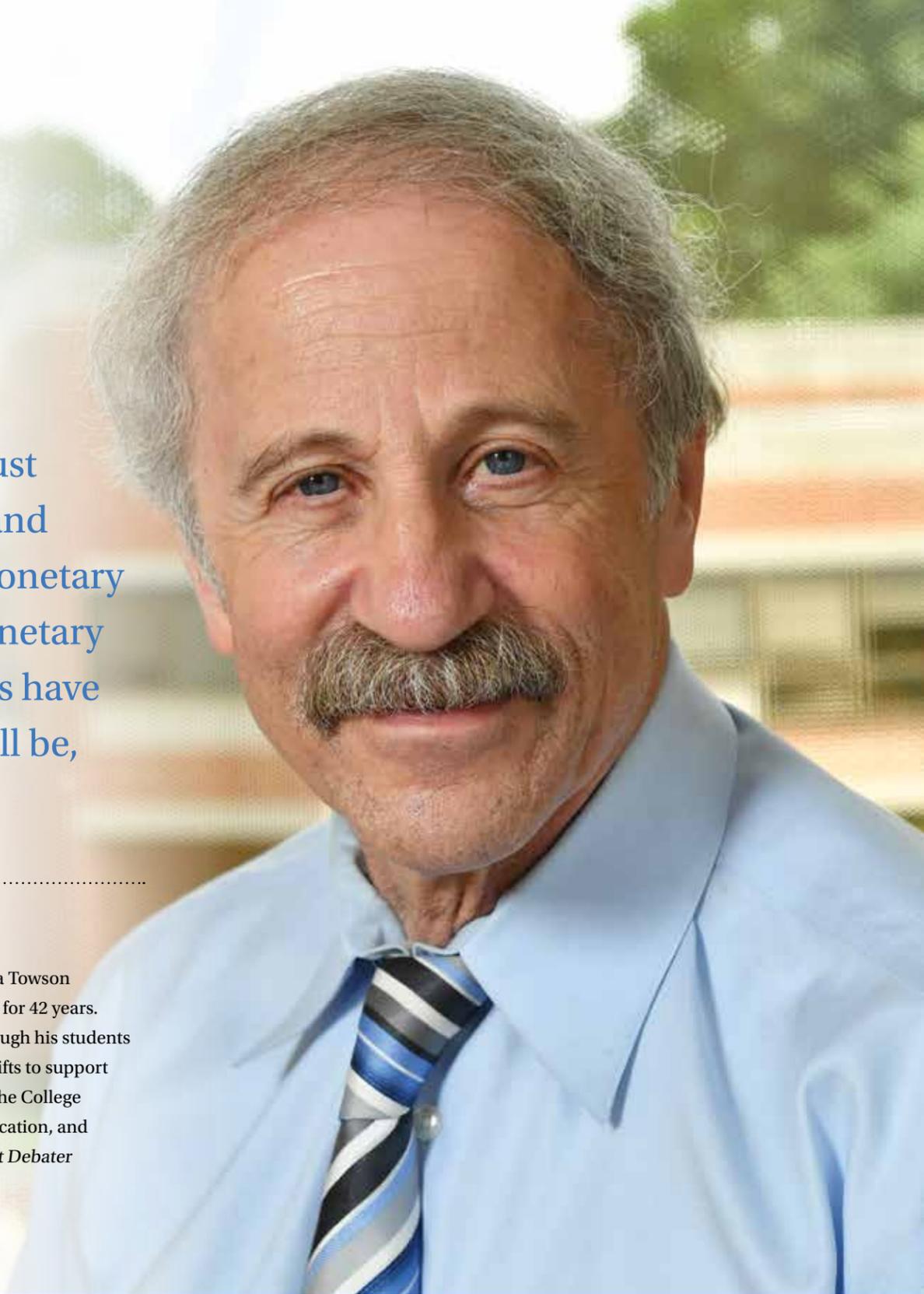
ZOEY WARECKI '14 PHYS was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship for her "demonstrated potential to contribute to strengthening the vitality of the U.S. Science and engineering enterprise." She is enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the Materials Science and Engineering at University of Maryland, College Park.

MAX RADBILL '15 began filming "The Sisterhood of Girls Who Won't Date Me," financed by \$25,000 from a Kickstarter campaign.

REBECCA ANDERSON '15 was accepted to Columbia University's Master of Science program for journalism.

WE HEARD YOUR ROAR!

Thank you to those who participated in our TU Alumni Association Survey. In the coming months and in the next issue, we'll share with you what we've learned and how we're going to act on it to make it even better to be a #towsonALUM

A portrait of Dr. Richard Vatz, an older man with a mustache, wearing a light blue shirt and a striped tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a building.

“Teaching is just
a joy to me, and
I hope my monetary
and non-monetary
contributions have
been, and will be,
salutary.”

Dr. Richard Vatz has been a Towson University faculty member for 42 years. His TU legacy extends through his students and through his planned gifts to support the College of Education, the College of Fine Arts and Communication, and the *Dr. Richard E. Vatz Best Debater Award Endowment*.



TOWSON
UNIVERSITY

To make a planned gift, contact the
Development Office at 1-866-301-3375.