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# TOWSON

UNIVERSITY

FALL 2017

## TOWSON UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

### THE ZOO ZOOM 8K RUN NOVEMBER 12, 2017 • 8:30 a.m.

Whether you have the speed of a cheetah or pace of a tortoise, join The Maryland Zoo for this wildly popular annual event—sponsored by TU—with an all new course. Choose from either the 8K race or 1 Mile Family Walk/Fun Run. Both courses run right through the center of the zoo alongside the animals. Registration includes all-day admission to the zoo.

#### ENTRY FEES VARY FROM \$20 TO \$45

TU faculty, staff and students receive a \$5 discount.  
 Use code TowsonZoom  
 Registration and details: [www.marylandzoo.org/zoozoom](http://www.marylandzoo.org/zoozoom)

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## The Trailblazers

**Marvis Barnes '59** and **Myra Harris '59**  
 overcame segregation to become the first black graduates of the State Teachers College at Towson.

# BIG PICTURE

## PHOTO OP

Assemble 2,771 freshmen, 2,330 transfer students, 560 graduate students and President Kim Schatzel and you literally get TU. Students from one of the largest freshmen classes, the most diverse and academically prepared took a group photo on the Uritas Stadium field during Convocation ceremonies. Seventy-nine percent of TU's freshmen hail from Maryland with the others coming from 25 states and 14 countries.





## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



“Goalball can bridge the gap between the sighted and those with vision impairments.”

### GOALBALL ROLLS INTO TU

Tim Utzig and Muhammad Waheed brought their vision of a new club sport to TU.

The duo started goalball, a sport designed for blind athletes, which both played while attending the Maryland School for the Blind.

“Goalball is like their college football team,” Utzig explains. “Everyone comes out to see it.” Now, when TU spectators watch the sport, he says “it’s really cool to see their reactions.”

Anyone can play because all participants wear a blindfold. Tactile markings on the court allow players to determine their location as they try to throw a ball embedded with bells into the opponent’s goal. Silence is imperative so opposing players can hear the ball and try to block it.

Begun in 1946 to help visually impaired WWII veterans, goalball has been played in the Paralympic Games since 1976.

Utzig and Waheed got the goalballs rolling at TU by partnering with Campus Recreation; Disability Support Services stepped in to buy the equipment.

Waheed is overwhelmed with the university’s support. What’s more, he’s grateful for the opportunity to play a sport that can, he says, “bridge the gap between the sighted and those with vision impairments and encourage more vision-impaired students to go to college and get involved.”

Muhammad Waheed

## DEPARTMENTS

PRESIDENT’S LETTER | 4

NEWS & NOTES | 5

WE ASKED | 10

Vincent Thomas about his art and his mission to introduce men to the joy of dance.

ALUMNI NEWS | 26

Distinguished Alumni and Deans’ Recognition Awards  
50th Reunion of the Class of 1967  
John Schuerholz ’62 Inducted into National Baseball Hall of Fame

PHILANTHROPY | 33

Paws for Thanks  
John Yingling ’71 Gives to Athletics  
Partners in College Readiness and Environmental Justice

CLASS NOTES | 37

The Humanity of Expression  
No Excuses



# FEATURES



**12 | GORILLAS IN HER MIDST** Wildlife photographer Kathleen Hertel Ricker ’04 captures animals in their natural habitats.

### 17 | THE ROOTS OF TU SCIENCE

George LaTour Smith laid the foundation for the study of the sciences at the Maryland State Normal School; The new Science Facility will expand that legacy to support the next generation of TU science students.



### 18 | THE TRAILBLAZERS

Marvis Barnes ’59 and Myra Harris ’59 overcame segregation to become the first black graduates at the State Teachers College at Towson.



### 23 | ROAD WARRIOR

Greg Slater ’97 keeps Marylanders moving.



“We welcomed an incoming freshman class that is one of the largest, most academically prepared and most diverse in TU history.”

## PRESIDENT’S LETTER

There is nothing like fall on Towson University’s campus. I loved scooping Rita’s Italian Ice for new students and their parents during move-in weekend, cheering on the Tigers at football games, and watching the leaves turn colors over historic Stephens Hall.

This fall has been an especially good one for TU. Last month, we earned one of our highest spots ever in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, placing in the top 10 public regional universities in the north and coming in first among the six regional USM institutions. We welcomed an incoming freshman class that is one of the largest, most academically prepared and most diverse in TU history. And we gladly accepted incoming transfer and graduate classes that are 10 and 12 percent larger, respectively, than just a year ago.

Did I mention our projected fall 2017 enrollment is now 22,700 students—its highest ever? Yes, it’s been a *very* good fall.

You will find more good news in this issue, including a \$1 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, national honors for four College of Health Professions faculty, and TU research to save millions of dollars for U.S. agriculture.

You can also read a feature on two people that personally inspire me. Myra Harris ’59 and Marvis Barnes ’59 were the first black students to earn bachelor’s degrees at Towson University. Their story of leadership and resilience contains important lessons for all of us as we embark on a new season and new academic year. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

**Kim Schatzel**  
TOWSON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

# TOWSON

## UNIVERSITY

### SUMMER 2017 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**  
Alison Armstrong ’09/’13,  
Megan Bradshaw,  
Ray Feldmann ’77, Kyle  
Hobstetter, Joseph Hockey  
and Jan Lucas

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

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**magazine.towson.edu**



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## National Honors

FIVE FACULTY IN HEALTH  
PROFESSIONS RECOGNIZED



Marlene Riley received the first Emerging and Innovative Practice Award from the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). The clinical associate professor was one of only six occupational therapists in the nation to earn the honor, which “recognizes occupational therapy practitioners ... who have developed innovative and/or non-traditional occupational therapy practices for underserved populations...”

Riley has helped develop two service-learning courses and directed students in outreach programs that serve at-risk children and adults.

The AOTA also recognized four others in the College of Health Professions. Faculty members Roxanne Castaneda, Lisa Crabtree, Barbara Demchick and Sonia Lawson were named AOTA fellows.

This distinction recognizes “occupational therapists who through their knowledge, expertise, leadership, advocacy, and/or guidance have made a significant contribution over time to the profession with a measured impact on consumers of occupational therapy services and/or members of the Association.”

## Fisher College receives \$1 million from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute

GRANT WILL TRANSFORM UNDERGRADUATE, MINORITY STUDENT SUCCESS IN STEM

Towson University Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics faculty members Laura Gough, Matthew Hemm and their team will receive \$1 million over five years from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) as part of their inaugural Inclusive Excellence initiative.

The TU proposal was one of over 500 submissions, one of 90 invited full proposals and one of just 24 grants awarded.

Gough’s and Hemm’s team aims to implement the Towson University-Research Enhancement Program (TU-REP) to bring authentic research experiences to a large, diverse group of students early in their undergraduate science careers. The program will recruit students—specifically transfer students and members of underrepresented minorities—who are interested in science; create a curriculum and support system that promotes participation in multiple authentic research projects; and provide assistance in continuing research at TU and beyond.

“Research shows that undergraduates engaged in authentic research are more likely to persist in science and math classes, to graduate and to pursue STEM careers,” says David Vanko, dean of the college.

“The Howard Hughes Inclusive Excellence grant provides us with an opportunity to truly transform how we encourage and engage students in undergraduate research.”

The initiative’s broad objective is to help colleges and universities encourage participation

and cultivate the talent of students in the natural sciences, particularly those of diverse backgrounds and pathways.

“The Fisher College of Science and Mathematics is strongly committed to the success of our minority students and those who are the first from their families to attend college,” Vanko adds. “Without every student succeeding, we can’t easily deliver on our obligation to provide a qualified STEM workforce for Maryland. This grant will move us closer to our student success goal.”



Fisher College associate professor Matthew Hemm, one of the lead investigators on the grant, instructs students in his lab.

## He Minds the Maggots

USDA GRANT FUNDS TU RESEARCH TO STOP CROP LOSSES

Each year the sugar beet maggot causes millions of dollars in losses to U.S. agriculture. TU’s Nadim Alkharouf is hoping to stop the destructive pest.

Backed by a \$40,000 grant from the USDA, Alkharouf, associate professor of computer and information sciences in TU’s Fisher College of Science and Mathematics, is analyzing data using bioinformatics tools.

Alkharouf and his colleagues will pinpoint genes within sugar beets that can be turned on or off to make them more resistant to the maggots or, alternatively, kill the pest before it invades the plant.

The long-term goal is to produce plants that are resistant to the maggot.

This year, TU students Shaina Furman and Cherokee Lake are working at the USDA in Beltsville, Maryland.



Nadim Alkharouf with students.

# STELLAR STATS



## 1 WORDS WORK

"Students love writing for real causes," says TU professor Zosha Stuckey. Her English class partnered with Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park and the state park service to write grants for the first fully accessible playground at the Hollofield area. Their pleas helped raise more than \$77,000 for the park, off Route 40, that opened last summer after a six-year collaboration.



## 2 A GREEN AWARD

TU's #WastED campaign won the RecycleMania Case Study Competition Education and Awareness Award. Last spring, students led six innovative games and trivia contests to help their peers identify campus items that could be recycled and composted. "This campaign was all about making waste education fun," says Patricia Watson, campus sustainability manager.

## 3 KUDOS TO TU

Make room in TU's trophy case. *Money* magazine ranked TU 150th in its 2017 *Best Colleges for Your Money* list, outperforming 79 percent of the competition. TU holds the No. 181 spot in *Forbe's* 2017 Best Value Colleges ranking. TU was also ranked fourth on BestColleges.com. Only Johns Hopkins, University of Maryland College Park and St. Mary's College ranked ahead of Towson University.



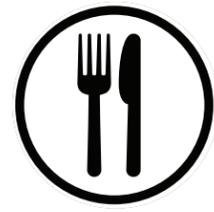
## 4 TOP 10

With light sensors, smart meters and other innovations, TU became one of the top 10 institutions in the nation for energy savings. Six major projects and many smaller improvements helped the university achieve its Better Buildings Challenge goal three years ahead of schedule. Energy consumption on campus is down 20 percent since 2010, saving "roughly \$1.5 million a year in energy costs," says TU Energy Manager Steve Kolb.



## 5 ANCIENT INSTINCTS

Tavia La Follette received The Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance 2017 Rubys Artist Project Grants in media arts and performing arts. The assistant professor of theatre arts evoked instinctual responses in *Ancient Instincts*, a performance that investigated ecology, perception and the psychology of sound.



## 6 MAKE IT TWO

For the second year in a row, CBE's Enactus chapter placed second in a national competition, winning the R.W. Plaster Free Enterprise Challenge. Enactus, a student entrepreneurial team, took home the \$5,000 prize in the National Enactus Competition for its café project. The café, located in the basement of Stephens Hall, was judged on its profits—\$11,000 last year—scalability, sustainability and clarity, among other criteria.

## 7 "X" MARKS THE AWARD

TU won a 2017 X Award from Target X, a provider of higher education student life solutions. The university was honored for removing barriers in its graduate online application. TU consulted with vision-impaired students and conducted user testing "so that prospective students who rely on a screen reader can successfully apply to TU."



## 8 TECHNO-AWARD

EduCycle® nabbed the Campus Technology Impact Award, an international honor that recognizes universities that make an extraordinary impact on campus technology. TU's innovative OTS program, created in the College of Liberal Arts by Theresa Jenkins, manager for technology, facilities and events, has saved \$2.8 million and repurposed 2,800 computers for use on campus and in area high schools. Previous award winners include Duke University and Harvard Business School.

## Five TU faculty recognized by the Maryland State Arts Council

AWARDEES CHOSEN FROM MORE THAN 348 APPLICANTS



"Satan owns the fallen world," by TU's Jim Condron, Maryland State Arts Council winner.

The Maryland State Arts Council, an agency of the Maryland Department of Commerce, recognized five members of TU's College of Fine Arts and Communication. Jim L. Condron, Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell, Diane Luchese, Naoko Maeshiba and Susan Leslie Mann, received 2017 Individual Artist Awards.

During a June ceremony at the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore, each received grants of \$1,000, \$3,000 or \$6,000 for their outstanding achievement and to support of their artistic growth.

Condron, an adjunct II in the Department of Art, received \$6,000. His pieces "express humor, absurdity and beauty through the combination and interaction of everyday objects, castoff remnants and paint," according to the artist statement on his website.

Luchese, professor of music, and Maeshiba, associate professor of theatre, each received \$3,000 awards. Luchese, a music theorist and organist who teaches music theory, aural skills and counterpoint, performs recitals throughout the northeast. Maeshiba, a performer, director and choreographer conducted an artist residency at Kud Mreza, Slovenia, in March 2016, unlocking the connection between voice, body and emotions.

Fisher-Harrell, associate professor of dance, is a former member of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, who teaches ballet and master classes to children and adults worldwide. She and Mann, professor of dance, each received \$1,000 awards. Mann has created more than 20 works in four different genres: ballet, modern, dance for the camera and aerial dance.

## "Champion for More in the Middle"

ASSOCIATED BLACK CHARITIES HONORS PRESIDENT SCHATZEL

Recognizing her strong national leadership in the areas of diversity and inclusion, President Kim Schatzel received the 2017 "Champion for More in the Middle" award from the Associated Black Charities (ABC). ABC President and CEO Diane Bell-McKoy presented the award to Schatzel at the organization's annual gala held at Martin's West in June.

Bell-McKoy said the "Champion for More in the Middle" award is set aside for local individuals or organizations that are bringing greater economic equity in the region.

"Prior to your leadership at Towson University," Bell-McKoy said, "the university had struggled with issues of inclusion, diversity and equity. Under your leadership, diversity, inclusion and cultural competency became one of your top eight priorities.

"As a priority," she continued, "you instituted a very clear and transparent strategy to bring about measurable change. We look forward to your continued leadership and continued changes at Towson as a regional employer.

"Your unwavering commitment to this as a core part of your educational agenda is to be applauded," Bell-McKoy added.

Schatzel said she was pleased to receive the award on behalf of Towson University.

"This is a wonderful honor," the university's 14th president said. "I am very humbled and accept it on behalf of the incredible team at TU that is deeply committed to advancing thriving inclusiveness across our campus community.

"We work hard to foster a diverse and inclusive campus and educational experience that ensures every one of our students thrive and reach their fullest potential at Towson University," Schatzel added. "We strive for thriving inclusiveness of all races, ethnicities, religions, gender identities, sexual orientation and levels of ableness."

According to ABC's website, "More in the Middle" is the framework the organization uses to advocate and promote the need to address issues associated with structural race-related barriers that limit opportunities for citizens of color. "In limiting the opportunities and not addressing the systemic barriers faced by people of color, we seriously harm the collective future of the state," ABC said.



## CLASSROOM DIVERSITY

Diversity has become a hallmark of the university under Kim Schatzel's leadership. In March, she spoke on "Campus Leaders Creating Healthy Campus Climates" at a joint session of the American Council on Education and the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education.

"It is great educational organizations and leaders like you that help create more access and opportunity as a result of your advocacy," ABC said to Schatzel. "Towson University models excellence in leadership and understands the value of contributions to the community. We salute you!"

# SPORT SHORTS



2

## TOP THROWERS

Two members of TU's outdoor track and field team took their best shots last May, competing in the 2017 NCAA Women's Outdoor Track and Field East Regional Preliminary Championships at the University of Kentucky. Sophomore Lauren Coleman competed in the shot put while junior Ksenia Safonova participated in the hammer throw. To qualify, each had to rank in the top 48 for her event in the NCAA East region.

4

## THE DRIVER

John Hulede concluded his TU golfing career in May by finishing fourth at the PGA Minority Collegiate Golf Championship in Florida. It was the 31st edition of the 54-hole, stroke-play event. He shot a 228 for the weekend, scoring a two-over 74 in the first and third rounds. "It was awesome," Hulede says. "Being able to represent your school at an event that promotes the advancement of minority collegiate golfers is something I always took very seriously."

13

## WITH HONORS

The list is 13 names long. These TU outdoor track and field teammates earned All-Colonial Athletic Association honors—Zanae Freeland, Megan Kelly, Skyler Duncan, Tymia Joseph, Lauren Coleman, Brynn Warrington, Courtney Rose, Jaina McLean, Liz Reid, Jamila Brown, Ksenia Safonova, Zhane Washington and Allison Marella. In addition, head coach Mike Jackson was named the CAA's Women's Track and Field Coach of the Year.

30

## COACH'S BOX

Mike Gottlieb '80 concluded his 30-year baseball coaching career at the end of last season. He compiled a 733-821-10 record and led TU to all three of the school's NCAA Division I Tournament appearances (1988, 1991, 2013). Matt Tyner, who spent the previous four seasons as the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at the University of Richmond, took the helm for the Tigers.

## WE'RE NO. 1

TRACK AND FIELD WINS ITS FIRST CAA TITLE

After winning 13 medals over the two-day meet, the TU outdoor track and field team captured its first Colonial Athletic Association Outdoor Track and Field Championship title last spring. The Tigers recorded 163.5 points to earn the first-place finish, followed by Elon (158) and James Madison (140).

TU competitors won six medals on day one, along with setting a school record. The Tigers recorded 68 points to lead the eight-team field after the first day.

Freshman Skyler Duncan became the second Tiger in program history to win gold in the javelin throw. Classmate Tymia Joseph captured the long jump title for the first time in TU history. For a second-straight year, TU won two medals in pole vault. Brynn Warrington brought home gold and Courtney Rose took bronze. Senior Allison Marella won bronze in the 10,000-meter run.

The next day the Tigers added seven medals, including four gold, one silver and two bronze.

Sophomore Lauren Coleman became the first Tiger to win shot put, recording a school record of 15.29-meters (50'2"). Zhane Washington captured bronze in the triple jump with a personal-best of 11.85m (38'10.50"). The Tigers' 4x100m relay team of Jaina McLean, Zanae Freeland, Jamila Brown and Liz Reid timed 46.28 to win silver. Freeland continued her day by winning the 100m and 200m dashes. She is now the two-time CAA champion in the 100m dash (11.89) and the first Tiger sprinter to capture the 200m dash title (24.34). Megan Kelly became the second Tiger to capture the 400m hurdles (1:00.66).

Freeland became the second Tiger in program history to be named Co-Most Outstanding Track Performer of the Meet, according to a vote by the league's head coaches. She shared the vote with James Madison's Kennedy King.

## SUCCESSFUL RUNS

KNOBLOCK WINS POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP



Megan Knoblock '17 received the 2017 Maryland Association of College Directors of Athletics (MACDA) Post-Graduate Scholarship Award.

A four-year member of TU's cross country and track and field programs, Knoblock graduated with a bachelor's degree in exercise science in May. She began studies a graduate program in sport management at the University of Florida in the fall.

An impressive student-athlete, Knoblock graduated from TU with a 3.92 GPA and made the dean's list every semester. She also received the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry Research Grant.

Knoblock helped guide the Tigers to their first CAA Championship in track and field last spring, placing fifth in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the 2017 conference meet. She set four TU records as part of the track and field programs. She posted a program-best of 9:55.16 in the indoor 3,000m run and was a member of the indoor distance medley relay that timed 12:14.66. Knoblock ran the 3,000m steeplechase in a program-record 10:41.89 and helped the outdoor distance medley relay team finish with a time of 12:19.40.

Knoblock participated in multiple community service and volunteer programs. She worked as a sales intern for Athlete Network and as a counselor for the Nike Green Mountain Running Camp. Knoblock coached the West Towson Elementary Girls Running Club and tutored fellow student-athletes in math and chemistry.

## MEN IN MOTION

WE ASKED **Vincent Thomas** about his art and his mission to introduce men to the joy of dance despite persistent obstacles.

## FACULTY Q&A

Vincent E. Thomas, professor of dance, is an award-winning dancer, choreographer and teacher. He has danced with Dance Repertory Theatre, Randy James Dance Works, EDGEWORKS Dance Theater and Liz Lerman Dance Exchange. His choreography has been presented at various national and international venues. Among his numerous awards are a 2009 Best of Baltimore-Choreographer Award, 2009 Baker Artist Choice Award (B Grant), three Metro DC Dance Awards, several Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Dance Awards, and a 2008 Kennedy Center Local Dance Commission Project Award. He received rave reviews for his performance of "iWitness" at the 2014 Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. His work "We Hold These Truths..." was selected for the 2012 National ACDFA Festival at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He premiered "F.E.A.R. Project" with Annika B. Lewis in Denmark and the United States in 2016. He was a 2012-13 American Dance Institute Incubator Artist (Maryland), an Urban Bush Women BOLD facilitator/faculty member for the UBW Summer Institutes (New York), and artistic director for the Marvin Gaye Project Company. He is the founder of *VTDance*, a Baltimore-based dance company that provides an outlet for solo, group and collaborative choreographic endeavors.



### DID YOU STUDY DANCE AS A CHILD? |

There was no place to study dance in my hometown of Edgefield, South Carolina. I danced in my living room, at the community center, and at family barbecues and reunions. I was influenced by TV shows, especially "Soul Train", where I saw people like me dancing. A cousin and I sang at talent shows, and I choreographed our duets. I was a drum major in high school and very active in choir and musical theater. But it never occurred to me that I could be a professional dancer. I didn't really discover my love for dance until I was 18 and majoring in music education at the University of South Carolina.

### WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE DANCE PROFESSIONALLY? |

As a freshman I took my very first dance class and fell head-over-heels in love after the first head roll. When I ran out of elective classes, I studied ballet, jazz, tap and ballroom off campus. I earned my bachelor's degree and taught choral music, but continued to study dance. I found modern dance at Columbia College, a women's college in Columbia, South Carolina. The teachers sneaked me in to take classes with the dance majors, and it was just mind blowing. Eventually I decided "I've got to follow this" and enrolled at Florida State University to pursue an MFA in dance.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO TU? |

Catherine Horta-Hayden (TU professor of dance) was a fellow graduate student at Florida State. After receiving my master's degree, I danced with Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, then taught dance at a high school in Virginia and as an adjunct at George Mason University. Catherine, who was teaching at TU, approached me about conducting a master class. Although I had never heard of Towson University, I had a great time. The students were fantastic and the Department of Dance seemed so vibrant. In 2002 I accepted an offer to join the faculty as a visiting guest artist.

### WHY ARE YOU SO PASSIONATE ABOUT INTRODUCING MORE MEN TO DANCE? |

I feel that one of my missions at TU is to bring men into the fold of dancing—and to show them it's OK to dance. We are socialized to think of men and masculinity in certain ways, and that affects men who want to move. They may redirect their interest to other activities or athletics because that's how they've been socialized. In many cultures men play a vital role as dancers, so I let men know that it's their birthright to move. After all, we move before we speak or walk—the body is a moving thing.

work with male students in the Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) and to create the BCPS Men's Ensemble, which is composed of middle- and high-school students. I see them weekly to work on technique and to create a new work. They've toured the Center for the Arts and taken classes with the non-majors in my Movement Enhancement for Men class. The BCPS Men's Ensemble has performed with dance majors in the TU Dance Company and in some of my company's projects. I'm committed to showing them what's possible, and of course I hope they get excited about dance and enroll at TU.

"I had a football player in the class who told me, 'Now I know how to fall'."

—Vincent Thomas

### HOW POPULAR ARE YOUR NON-MAJOR DANCE CLASSES FOR MEN? |

Movement Enhancement Skills for Men has grown from an initial enrollment of six to about 25-30 in each of two sections. I require the students to attend a couple of dance concerts and write a paper about the experience. A least 90 percent of these men have never seen a professional dance concert, and they often can't wait to go to another one. A few years ago I had a football player in the class who told me, "Now I know how to fall." He'd gained a greater awareness of his body and how to protect it. A criminal-justice major who'd been dancing with me for 2 1/2 years said he wanted to find a way to bring movement and dance to law enforcement.

### WOULD YOU EXPLAIN HOW YOU WORK WITH MIDDLE- AND HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS? |

I'm in the third year of a grant received from the Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences to

### WHAT IS VTDANCE? |

*VTDance* is my solo-based company, though I audition and bring in other artists and performers based on the project. We're taking "What's Going On," which looks at life, love and social justice through the music of Marvin Gaye, to Ohio and Montana before returning to DC Dance Place this fall. "In the Company of Men Part III" is scheduled to premiere in 2018. We're building audiences, literacy and appreciation, as well as promoting the idea that all people have some kind of art within. Through art, we connect to our deepest humanity. ■



# GORILLAS

## IN HER MIDST

Wildlife photographer  
**Kathleen Hertel Ricker '04**  
captures animals in their  
natural habitats.

BY KATHLEEN HERTEL RICKER '04

Our guides swung machetes back and forth, making a path through the jungle. Sweat dripped down my face. My knees shook with pain as I tried to balance myself in the mud. Mosquitos and stinging nettles attacked my bare skin. We had been hiking for over two hours, but it seemed like forever.

But this is what I craved. Four years ago I set a goal—to see wildlife in their natural habitat and use my photography to educate others about animals in the wild, not behind bars in a zoo.

Since then, I have been to all seven continents, swum with orcas in Norway, encountered penguins in Antarctica and been surrounded by elephants and lions. This was my fifth trek to see gorillas in Africa and my second trip to Virunga National Park—one of the few places to spot mountain gorillas in the wild.

This part of Congo still has problems with poaching. Gorillas are killed mostly for meat but also for their land.

Today I was going to meet a family of nine gorillas—three silverbacks, four little ones and two females.

The family was just around a bend. Our group donned face masks to prevent the transfer of germs between us and the gorillas. Humans and gorillas are so close genetically that even a small cold can be transferred back and forth between the two species.

I readied my three cameras—one with a lens for close-ups, another for portraits and a third point-and-shoot model for video. We had to stay a minimum of six feet from the gorillas, but the gorillas can move as freely as they please. The little ones, like all children, are often curious and will venture a bit closer.

We started toward the family when we heard the grunt of a silverback in the bushes. He was making his presence known. Our guide grunted back, letting him know it was safe.

As we turned the corner, we saw the beautiful Munyaga Group lying under the trees. Bilali, the oldest female, was in the center watching over three wrestling babies.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TREKKING WITH GORILLAS

There is a 98 percent chance you will see gorillas but no guarantee.

Treks may be an easy 15-minute walk or an intense eight-hour hike.

Permits are required from the parks. Fees vary. Visitors must be 15 or older. You will also need a Visa for each country.

Expect mosquitos and stinging nettles (a plant) on the journey.

Guides travel with a rifle to scare off wild animals. In the DRC, armed rangers accompany groups to keep poachers away.

### TREKS I RECOMMEND

Saso Uganda Safaris  
[www.gorillatrips.net/](http://www.gorillatrips.net/)

Rushaga Gorilla Camp  
[www.rushaga.com/](http://www.rushaga.com/)



Kathleen Hertel Ricker (above) pauses with her guides during a recent trek. A wedding photographer and an animal advocate, she hopes her photos from adventures to Africa, India and other global destinations will “educate people about how they can save the planet.”

She was so beautiful. Her facial expressions reminded me of all tired mothers whose youngsters refuse to nap. I watched as her eyes grew heavy and closed for just a minute until one of the little ones jumped on her. Then Bilali and I made eye contact, staring at each other. I just melted into her big brown eyes wondering what was going through her mind.

These gorillas are habituated—familiar with humans—but still extremely wild. Those not habituated typically just move or hide when humans are nearby. Many gorilla families associate humans with poaching or kidnapping their babies, which end up in zoos.

Yet even habituated groups are extremely protective of newborns. While trekking with gorillas in Uganda, our guide got too close to one of the infants. The mother screamed in alarm and within seconds the silverback crashed through the brush, ran up the hill and started swiping at our guide. Our guide was able to calm the silverback so we could continue our experience, but the male gorilla eyed us constantly, making sure his family was safe.

Habituation takes two to three years, a process where researchers come across wild gorillas and essentially join the family. Trekkers eat like them, travel with them, behave like them. They learn about each gorilla in

the group—their behaviors and characteristics—and give them a name based on their personalities. When the mountain gorillas become accustomed to the humans, other scientists, conservationists or journalists are brought for visits. If everything goes well, the treks are made available to the public.

There are fewer than 880 mountain gorillas left on our planet, according to the World Wildlife Fund. They are found only in the Virunga volcanos that span the borders of Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda.

I’ve seen see gorillas at each location but the Virunga Park in the Congo is my favorite



Raha's antics—jumping around the trees and pounding his chest—made him the center of attention. He would eventually run over and touch Ricker's leg.

spot. Bwindi National Park, home to 480 gorillas, is a close second with its beauty and tropical feel.

Twice in nine months I visited Bwindi's Nshongi Group, named after the Nshongi River, where this group was first found. This is the largest family of gorillas in Bwindi, with about 18 members that often split off into smaller families.

In June 2016, while trekking with the Nshongi Group, I met a little guy, Raha (which means "enjoys"), who was about three or four years old. He was jumping around in the tree tops banging his chest and then falling down rolling in the leaves laughing.

Raha loved our attention. He climbed from tree to tree making sure that we were watching him.

In March 2017, I was back with the Nshongi group and within minutes I saw Raha again.

Tired from the uphill trek, I sat in the brush and photographed one of the mothers and her baby as she cuddled him. Suddenly, I saw Raha coming right at me. I stayed still to see what he would do. My guide told me to pick up my camera so he wouldn't grab it. Raha moved right in front of me and reached

for the camera, but I got it before he had a chance to grab it. Then he reached out and touched my leg. My heart was racing. Then he did it again!

As he moved to sit right next to me, I was teary and barely breathing. For an animal lover this was the ultimate moment. I felt like I was Dian Fossey, a zoologist and gorilla researcher, who lived and died with her gorillas.

Each trek with these beautiful animals has been different and magical. The one hour I get to spend with the gorillas is never enough time. I could watch them all day. The more I look at them the more similarities I find between gorillas and humans, from the way we move our hands to the way we interact with our young. The idea of a world without gorillas is heartbreaking.

We must spread the word and educate people about how precious these animals are and how vital their habitat is for their survival. My hope is that in five years we will have 1,000 gorillas, until some day they will no longer be endangered. ■

**Kathleen Hertel Ricker '04 is a wedding and wildlife photographer, and an adventurer.**

[www.KathleenHertel.com](http://www.KathleenHertel.com)

“The one hour I get to spend with the gorillas is never enough time. I could watch them all day.”

KATHLEEN HERTEL RICKER '04



Ricker, who has been to all seven continents, 48 countries and 42 states, trains her lens on gorillas in Africa and penguins in Antarctica. For more pictures and information, visit [towson.edu](http://towson.edu).



# THE ROOTS OF TU SCIENCE

**George LaTour Smith** laid the foundation for the study of the sciences at the Maryland State Normal School; the new Science Facility will expand that legacy to support the next generation of TU science students.



George LaTour Smith



#### MAGNIFIED |

Smith's microscope is on permanent display in the archives.

#### The man behind the name of Smith Hall

George LaTour Smith, the first faculty member to specialize in the sciences, was hired by the Maryland State Normal School in 1875 as an assistant professor to teach physics, chemistry and natural history. He became the namesake of Smith Hall, TU's first science building, constructed in 1965.

Smith, a Cornell graduate, worked with the U.S. Coast Survey to build lighthouses along the Atlantic coast before coming to the MSNS. His background lacked teaching experience, so he spent his nights in the school's laboratory, studying just as much as the students he taught during the day.

His efforts made him a beloved professor. "Not only was he a truly great instructor, but there was never anyone who found more real joy in teaching," Minnie Lee Davis, Class of 1877 wrote in *75 Years of Teacher Education*.

Outside of teaching, he was superintendent of the Samuel Ready School, a school for orphaned Maryland girls. He was a member of the Botany Club of Baltimore and secretary for the Photographic Society of Baltimore. And he became a member and curator for the Maryland Academy of Sciences, the precursor to the Maryland Science Center.

To read more about Smith, visit [tuspccoll.blogspot.com/](http://tuspccoll.blogspot.com/)

#### Groundbreaking Education and Research Starts Here

Bring out the shovels. Construction of the new Science Facility — which will be the biggest building on campus — began this fall.

To be built on York Road, between Stephens Hall and the 7800 building, this new building will have 50 teaching laboratories, 30 research labs, 50 classrooms, 10 student lounges and collaborative areas, eight lecture halls, and an outdoor classroom leading to the Glen.

The facility will also include a rain garden for stormwater control, a planetarium, observatory rooftop greenhouse and a museum and vivarium.

The Science Facility will place equal value on teaching and research.

"At TU, undergraduate and graduate students work closely with faculty to explore real questions and solve real problems—replacing the 'cookbook' labs in which students replicate experiments with known outcomes," says David Vanko, dean, Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics.

In addition, the facility will be a powerful launchpad for new community collaborations—in business, technology and education.

Completion of the \$124 million project is scheduled for 2020. ■

**Ginny Cook, editor, Felicity Knox '94, archives librarian, and the Fisher College contributed to this story.**

# The Trailblazers

When a Supreme Court decision opened the door to educational opportunity, **Marvis Barnes '59** and **Myra Harris '59** stepped through to enroll at the State Teachers College at Towson. Their arrival signaled the beginning of a determined, rewarding—and at times hurtful—journey.



BY JAN LUCAS / PHOTO BY KANJI TAKENO

The decision would alter the course of millions of lives, black and white alike. On May 17, 1954, a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*, overturned state laws establishing racially segregated public education.

For more than 50 years Maryland stipulated that its black citizens attend “separate but equal” schools. They were separate, but too often *unequal*.

Following *Brown v. Board of Education*, formerly all-white public schools and colleges across the country opened to black and other nonwhite students. Some complied with the decision promptly and without incident. Others resisted, especially in the Deep South. For years afterward, violence marred attempts at racial integration.

The 1,164-student State Teachers College at Towson had already eliminated the color barrier peacefully with the admission of four Morgan State College (now Morgan State University) graduates into its one-year teaching-certificate program.

Harris and Barnes, both stellar high-school graduates with glowing recommendations, were to become the first black students to

earn bachelor’s degrees from the college. For four years they (and the pioneering black students who followed them) brought a dab of diversity to the overwhelmingly white campus.

Myra Harris, then a recent graduate of Baltimore’s Frederick Douglass High school, had already been accepted at the historically black Coppin State Teachers College (now Coppin State University).

Later she found herself at a meeting listening to Rebecca C. Tansil, director of admissions at the State Teachers College at Towson. Harris says she approached Tansil afterward to ask who could attend the college. The firmness of her response had an impact, Harris remembers. “Towson,” Tansil said, “is open to everyone.”

Harris decided to transfer. When Coppin State balked at releasing her records, the staff at Frederick Douglass High, glad to help an illustrious graduate, provided her transcripts and other records in a sealed envelope. Harris and her mother then carried the envelope to a meeting with Tansil and Orielle Murphy, dean of students, on the Towson campus.

Barnes and Harris, both stellar high-school graduates with glowing recommendations, were to become the first black students to earn bachelor's degrees from the college.



Marvis Barnes



Myra Harris

“There were eight other girls on the floor, and they were so accepting that we bonded right away. We were close, like sisters.”

—Marvis Barnes '59

“The exposure to people who weren't like me was better for me than being in a segregated environment.”

—Myra Harris '59

Harris's qualifications were never in question. After all, she'd graduated third in her high school class of 401. Tansil confirmed the young woman's distinction as the college's first black freshman. Then, Harris recalls, she said, “Myra, if you have problems, please don't hesitate to call me.”

Harris had aspired to become a teacher since childhood. Now she was a “dayhop” (commuter) majoring in elementary education at the state's largest teachers college. September 1955 marked the beginning of a college career distinguished by success both in and out of the classroom—as well as exposure to bias and bigotry.

### Mr. Morton's plan

Marvis Barnes (then Marvis Brown) grew up in Turner Station, a close-knit community near Dundalk, Maryland. “It was an isolated, segregated neighborhood,” Barnes explains. As a top-notch student at the all-black Sollers Point High school, she knew Towson only as a “white school.”

“I didn't know I could go there,” she says.

Mr. Morton knew otherwise. Barnes remembers him fondly as a “big, tall man” who taught high-school mathematics and challenged her and her classmates every day.

He was determined to see his star student enroll at the State Teachers College in Towson.

Barnes already had been admitted to two historically black colleges: Morgan State College (now Morgan State University) and Howard University. She'd been offered some scholarship money and was in the process of deciding between them when Mr. Morton interceded.

Morton told Barnes's mother that if her daughter aimed to be a “big-time teacher,” she needed to send her to the State Teachers College at Towson.

The math teacher then obtained an application and asked Barnes's mother to complete and mail it.

“Someone from the State Teachers College phoned my home and told me I had to take a test as part of the admission process,” Barnes remembers. “I had mixed feelings, but my mom urged me to go ahead and try. She said, ‘Be yourself and you won't have any trouble,’ so I took the long streetcar ride to the Towson campus.”

She was met by Rebecca Tansil, who explained that Barnes would be admitted if she passed a comprehensive test.

Tansil then escorted her to a large room in Stephens Hall—Barnes thinks it was the music room—and instructed her to leave the

test with the custodian when Tansil had gone for the day.

“It was not the SAT,” Barnes emphasizes. “I had already taken that.” She remembers the test as a basic assessment of reading, math and English skills.

“I finished it in a couple hours,” Barnes recalls, “and I was so afraid when I turned it in.” Evidently surprised, Tansil asked if she had finished. “Are you sure?” she persisted.

But when the director of admissions examined Barnes's answers, her doubts evaporated. “Congratulations!” she exclaimed. “You're admitted.”

Barnes then explained that she lived in Turner Station and would have to make a grueling streetcar commute every day. Tansil seemed to take that in stride. “Congratulations!” she repeated. “You have a room in the dorm.”

“That's how I ended up at the State Teachers College,” says Barnes, who majored in secondary and middle school education.

“Glory to Mr. Morton.”

### Dayhopping to Towson

Myra Harris remembers getting up early every morning to catch the No. 8 streetcar. “I'd always try to sit with other students and

exchange ideas,” she says. “We learned about each other that way.”

Harris says she didn't encounter blatant racism on the Towson campus. There were no ugly taunts, racial epithets or threats, and in fact many students, faculty and staff seemed receptive to integration. But at times she found herself on the receiving end of what are now called microaggressions—subtle words or behaviors meant to let her know she was an outsider.

Harris endured the slights and kept on going. “I'd pray over it,” she says.

Sometimes the rejection wasn't so subtle.

For example, during her freshman year Harris was assigned to observe classes in a Baltimore City elementary school. “When the teacher there found out I was black, she had an excuse,” Harris recalls. “She said she was ‘not ready to accept me at that time.’”

One professor continually doled out A's to white students while making Harris—who thought her work equaled theirs—make do with A minuses. “I asked what I could do to raise my grade, but never got much of an answer,” she says. “Even the other students noticed that their grades were always higher than mine.”

She decided not to make an issue of the biased grading.

Once some of her classmates shunned her. “When the professor asked us to break into groups, it was clear that some students didn't want to be with me,” Harris recalls. She says Orielle Murphy resolved the problem by forming the groups herself. “She assigned those same students to sit with me,” says Harris with satisfaction. “She wanted us to get to know each other.”

When the time arrived for student teaching, the college assigned Harris to a nearby elementary school. But she subsequently learned that it, too, was “unready for integration.” “I was very disappointed,” she recalls.

Instead she did her student teaching on campus at the Lida Lee Tall School, a site ordinarily limited to resident students.

Although her student-teaching supervisor seemed cordial, at times her actions suggested darker motives. “We were required to keep a log book,” Harris says. “The supervisor collected the books every week, graded them and returned them to us.

“One week as she returned my partner's book, she said, ‘Myra, I don't have your book.’ She kept forgetting to return it. I knew that if I

didn't keep a log, I'd get behind. I was not going to get behind, so I started a second book.”

Then one day the supervisor approached her with a plan. “I'm going to take you home with me,” she insisted. “That way I'll see the book and return it to you.”

Harris asked the supervisor if she would take her home afterward, and the supervisor agreed. After phoning her mother to say she'd be late, Harris accompanied the woman to her house in a suburb north of Towson.

“She gave me a room-by-room tour, which I thought was unnecessary,” Harris says.

“When we got to the bedroom, she said, ‘Myra, here's your book!’”

Then she drove her student back to Baltimore.

As they pulled up to the curb, Harris says the supervisor exclaimed, “Oh, Myra, you live in a beautiful house.”

The woman's stratagem didn't fool Harris for a minute. “I think she just wanted to see where I lived,” she says. “But I did get a good grade in student-teaching.”

Harris emphasizes that good came of the hurtful experiences. “They made me a strong person,” she says.

As an upperclassman, she became a member of the college's Freshman Advisory Council. By then there were a few more black students, and she enjoyed sharing the insights she'd gleaned. She coached these young men and women on how to keep moving forward despite occasional setbacks, saying, “You can't worry about everything. Deal with it and put it behind you.” Later they'd tell her how much they appreciated the advice.

### Nine white sisters

Resident student Marvis Barnes says the top floor of Richmond Hall became her home away from home.

“I had a handpicked roommate, a junior named Katherine “Kathy” Smith, who was the nicest person on earth,” Barnes says. “There were eight other girls on the floor, and they were so accepting that we bonded right away. We were close, like sisters.”

Her new roommate shared her deep religious faith. “We had Bible study and devotions every night before we went to sleep,” she recalls.

“Our group eventually moved to Newell Hall, and we lived together until we all graduated. It was a delightful experience.”

Although Barnes's friends had her interests at heart, she says a couple of faculty members did not. “They would go down the row asking

## Living Legacies

### The Barnes-Harris Scholarship Endowment

When Marvis Barnes and Myra Harris enrolled at the State Teachers College at Towson, financing their education wasn't a concern. In those days the state waived tuition for students who pledged to teach in Maryland's public schools for two years after graduating. Barnes and Harris repaid the favor many times over during their long and illustrious careers.

Decades of cuts in state support for public colleges and universities have left many students struggling with debt. The Barnes-Harris Scholarship, founded more than 20 years ago to honor TU's first black

graduates, helps these young men and women at the outset of their TU careers.

The Barnes-Harris Scholarship is awarded annually to an incoming freshman who possesses “a strong allegiance to the African-American culture.” Recipients must be graduates of a metropolitan public high school, enrolled full-time (12 or more hours) and with demonstrated financial need. All applicants must submit an essay of no less than one page, double-spaced.

**For details or to make a gift to the Barnes-Harris Scholarship, go to [www.towson.edu/studentdiversity/scholarships/barnesharris.html](http://www.towson.edu/studentdiversity/scholarships/barnesharris.html).**

questions,” she says. “When it was my turn, they’d skip over me.”

Not one to be ignored, Barnes answered anyway.

There were times when her mere presence excited unwanted attention. “My friends and I used to walk up to Hutzler’s [department store] after dinner,” she says. “White people driving past on York Road would actually slow down to look at us.”

She was a young black woman clearly on equal terms with her white classmates, and their easy comradery turned heads wherever they went.

Today Barnes shrugs off those disquieting moments. “They were little things,” she insists.

“My friends were protective and Dr. Tansil and Orielle Murphy always asked me how I was doing.”

Barnes says student-teaching was a rewarding experience for her, most likely because the college had scouted local schools to identify which ones would welcome her. Every day she rode a campus bus to and from a Baltimore County middle school. There she says she worked with “a fantastic teacher who taught me a lot.”

Still, neither Barnes nor Harris took chances with their personal safety.

“I never feared for my life,” Barnes explains, “but I never went anywhere alone. I took precautions.”

Harris recalls having to leave campus after dark, something she’d always managed to avoid. As she waited alone at the York Road streetcar stop, a carful of unruly men sped by. “They were yelling at me,” she remembers. “I was frightened. Thank the Lord the streetcar came right away.”

## Exemplary educators

After earning their bachelor’s degrees in 1959, both women went on to illustrious careers, initially as classroom teachers and later in administrative roles.

Myra Harris taught elementary school and supervised student teachers. She served as assistant principal and later principal at Harlem Park Elementary as well as at Madison Square Elementary in Baltimore City.

She earned a master’s degree from Columbia University and took postgraduate courses at Johns Hopkins and Loyola universities.



“Myra, if you have problems, please don’t hesitate to call me.”

—Rebecca C. Tansil

The local Jaycees chapter recognized her contributions with Outstanding Elementary School Principal and Outstanding Educator of the Year awards. In retirement, she continues to be involved in her church, saying her work there helps to keep her mind focused.

In retrospect, Harris doesn’t hesitate to credit the State Teachers College for her professional achievements. “The exposure to people who weren’t like me was better for me than being in a segregated environment,” she explains. “Towson was a treasured experience that helped to make me who I am. I would do it again.”

Marvis Barnes began by teaching core social studies and English at Garrison Middle School, where she found innovative ways to encourage boys to read. (She made them buy and read a newspaper every weekend.)

She married a Morgan State graduate, reared two sons and earned a master’s degree from what is now Loyola University Maryland.

At Northwestern Senior High School she served as department chair and assistant to the principal. “After I retired, the principal phoned and asked me to come back.” She relented and returned to Northwestern for another four years. “I loved every day of it, but after 54 years I needed to learn how to rest,” she admits.

Now retired, she remains active in her church and loves spending time with her four grandchildren. Today she recalls her undergraduate years as a wonderful, formative experience. “Towson made me a teacher,” she says.

Myra Harris and Marvis Barnes made TU history, though they didn’t recognize that at the outset. The two women integrated the State Teachers College only three months before Rosa Parks refused to surrender her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus. By the time they graduated, the Civil Rights Movement was in full swing under the leadership of Martin Luther King Jr.

And make no mistake: Harris and Barnes are proud alumnae who excelled academically, socially and professionally. Both say the State Teachers College at Towson provided an excellent foundation for long and rewarding careers. They remain grateful to Rebecca Tansil and Orielle Murphy for their unstinting guidance and encouragement. And although they agree that although most members

of the campus community were receptive to integration, some were not. That, they agree, was an unfortunate fact of life.

Harris and Barnes dealt with it, finding solace in friends, family and faith. They pressed on, eyes on the prize, with the support of those who wanted them to succeed.

And they did. ■

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

# ROAD WARRIOR

**Greg Slater '97** keeps Marylanders moving

BY GINNY COOK  
PHOTOS BY KANJI TAKENO

**S**tuck in traffic? Stalled by road construction? Stymied by snowstorms?

Greg Slater '97 feels your pain. As administrator of Maryland's Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA), he understands the frustration of commuters and is committed to addressing traffic woes and keeping folks and vehicles on the move.

This road warrior battles antiquated systems that govern state transportation and fights the entrenched impression of the civil servant who is anything but civil or obliging.

Whether it's clearing snow-covered roads, maintaining bridges, designing highway improvements, protecting the environment or something as simple as responding to phone or email complaints, Slater says the highway administration has to "rethink the way to do business."

to drivers—his customers—in detours, delays and frustration from road construction projects that can sometimes go on for years. He points to recent projects, including work on MD 32 that beat its completion date by a year, and I-270, an estimated four-year project that took 2 1/2 years.

Anyone who drove to the beach via MD 404 this summer can testify to the gridlock along the route. But the road construction will be complete by November, about one year after

can sometimes be secured in hours, giving a boost to port business and Maryland's economy. "Freight that would have come to surrounding ports now comes to Baltimore," Slater explains.

An automated bid process and electronic management of construction activities are two other innovations that Slater says "are bringing out a broader, more competitive environment" to SHA's operations.



SHA brought in the expertise of researchers in TU's biology department to study the effectiveness of the relocation of 900 turtles from a highway construction area.

"Transportation is a quality-of-life issue. My job is to enhance the system for our entire state ... and getting there can be painful," he admits.

His challenges include managing safety and infrastructure changes while modernizing an organization that he says, "from a policy perspective hasn't changed in decades."

Slater and the SHA are already doing more than lending bureaucratic lip service to problems. Streamlining freight-hauling permits at Baltimore's port, instituting e-bidding and e-construction processes, protecting wildlife and the environment, and balancing construction costs with expediency are just some of the SHA's recent innovations.

## Time is money

It might seem like heresy for a state institution, but Slater's agency doesn't always award highway construction contracts to the lowest bidder. He wants bids that "provide the best price and value in the shortest amount of time," he says.

When selecting speed over lowest price, Slater knows he must still be a steward of state tax dollars. But he also factors in costs

work began, another example of an accelerated construction contract. "I can't wait to pay that last installment," Slater says, noting that vacation travelers were inconvenienced for only one season.

What drivers may not notice is the SHA's commitment to protecting wildlife. "We work to understand the habitats of various species," Slater says.

Mussels in a stream at Rocks State Park in Harford County were relocated during a construction project and then reintroduced to their former home when it was safe to return. Special fencing prevents deer and other animals from crossing major highways while some culverts and bridges are designed for their safe passage. SHA also brought in the expertise of researchers in TU's biology department to study the effectiveness of the relocation of 900 turtles from a highway construction area.

Baltimore's port is also benefiting from a time-saving process developed by SHA in cooperation with a number of other state agencies. It used to take days or weeks to receive a freight-hauling permit to move goods out of the Port of Baltimore, Slater says. Now with a simplified, automated process, permits

## The road he traveled

Slater started out at TU as a business major, but soon switched to geography and environmental planning, a choice that would eventually propel him to leadership in Maryland's transportation departments.

His background is dichotomous—an analytical side from his father, an engineer, and a creative side from his mother, an artist. (Both parents are TU graduates.)

"Early on I thought differently from everyone else," he explains. "I came at things from a different angle." But it was always systems—how they operated and how they can be improved—that fascinated him.

Two geography classes would build on that appeal, he adds. The first with Professor John "Jay" Morgan combined mapping and technology. Another examined how railroad networks shaped the country's development.

After graduation, Slater spent his first two years in private industry before spending the next 18 with MDT SHA. He most recently served as deputy administrator for planning, engineering, real estate and environment with seven years prior to that as planning director.

"I want everybody out there working to make things better for the commuter."

—Greg Slater '97



Slater (left) returned to campus in August to lend his expertise to Joe Oster (right) vice president of administration and finance, and other campus officials, about rerouting foot and vehicle traffic when construction begins on the new Science Facility along York Road.

As SHA's head, Slater manages an annual budget of \$2 billion and oversees nearly 3,000 employees at its Baltimore headquarters, a complex in Hanover, more than two dozen maintenance shops and seven districts throughout the state.

"Greg Slater is an innovator, who brings great energy and new solutions to the table that meet the changing dynamics in the transportation world," Gov. Larry Hogan said in a press release announcing his appointment.

Slater's first day on the job, March 13, began in sunny Annapolis. One moment he was receiving congratulatory handshakes; the next he was thrown into crisis mode, managing a snow emergency as a blizzard tracked up the East Coast.

Someone handed him a yellow operations coat with his name scrawled on duct tape. During the next 27 hours, he hunkered down in an operations center to monitor pavement temperatures or drove around in an SUV to get firsthand information. Most of all, he wanted to make sure "those who really do the work," he says, got the sleep and food they needed.

"I was fortunate that the director of maintenance had 35 years of experience," Slater explains. "I could be helpful but also get out of the way."

## Road signs

Slater knows there are few long, lonesome highways in the state. Motorists in Maryland traveled some 58 billion miles last year, he says.

They drove over 2,567 bridges, of which only 67 need repair. That 67 is a number he's proud of, noting Maryland has one of the lowest numbers of bridges that require work of any state in the country.

When an eight-lane bridge over the Mississippi River in Minnesota collapsed 10 years ago, "It changed the conversation about bridge safety," Slater says. In Maryland, regular inspections and engineering analysis, along with timely overhauls, have kept the state's bridges safe and off his list of things to worry about.

What does keep him up at night is the number of deaths on Maryland's roads.

Slater is notified whenever there is a fatality—grim statistics he can cite from memory. Last year 523 people died in traffic accidents, 20 percent of them pedestrians and six in road construction work zones.

He wishes he could do more to enhance safety and urges drivers to slow down, reminding them that "every person who died is someone's loved one."

## All roads lead to service

Slater's compassion and drive come from an ingrained commitment to serve. When faced with tough decisions, he even refers to a list of attributes he keeps on a tablet. Among them are integrity, trust, dedication and dependability.

These guide his vision of an organization that delivers service to its customers. In fact, he invokes Nordstrom, the department store, as the customer service model he wants to emulate.

"People's expectations are higher than ever," Slater says. "The nature of what we do is that everybody's an expert. Everybody drives; everybody walks; There are a lot of amateur engineers and amateur planners out there. "Whether it's a call or a [message] on Facebook or Twitter, they want to understand what we are doing. They are very personal, very direct.

"When they are stuck in traffic, it's my fault. A pothole is my fault."

Slater is willing to shoulder the blame. He's been known to pick up the phone, listen and respond to commuters' complaints.

"Everybody has something that is important to them and it's important that we show that what's important to them is important to us," he says. It's one way of meeting future transportation needs. He says, "It's how we can make getting to work easier for you." ■

**Ginny Cook is the editor of Towson.**



Anthony Hamlett '76

“Our outreach will be consistent with the university’s strategic plan.”

Having recently been elected president of the Towson University Alumni Association, I am extremely honored to serve alumni and students, and to help the university achieve its goals and objectives. I greatly appreciate the confidence expressed as I follow in the successful footsteps of our long-serving Alumni Association President Lance Johnson '93.

I will continue and accelerate efforts initiated by consultants to have the Alumni Association function as a more self-directed, transparent entity. This will facilitate clear and consistent communication with a focus on greater outreach and service to all TU alumni in a structured, programmatic way. We intend to help all alumni achieve their academic, professional and personal goals. I believe the key to building and/or re-building long-term relationships with our alumni is to connect and engage with them on a personal level with a high degree of consistency and predictability.

TU has distinguished itself as a jewel in the University System of Maryland crown through academic and social achievements regionally and nationally. As we strive to serve and expand our alumni base in various regions around the United States, our outreach will be consistent with the university’s strategic plan. These efforts have proved to be effective, and will continue with upcoming alumni events in Atlanta, New York and Los Angeles.

As the evolution of Towson University continues, I am excited about the opportunity to be directly involved and to favorably impact TU students, alumni and other stakeholders. I look forward to seeing many of you on campus in the near future.

In the meantime, feel the roar of the Tiger.

Anthony Hamlett '76  
PRESIDENT, TU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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**FOUR YEARS LATER**

**Congratulations to the Class of 2017**

Members of the Alumni Association raised their glasses to TU’s graduates at the Toast to Graduates in West Village Commons on May 22. Cosponsored by the Office of the President, the Provost’s Office and the Office of Student Affairs, we celebrated with 686 seniors and their families as our newest alumni joined the ranks of over 160,000 alumni worldwide.

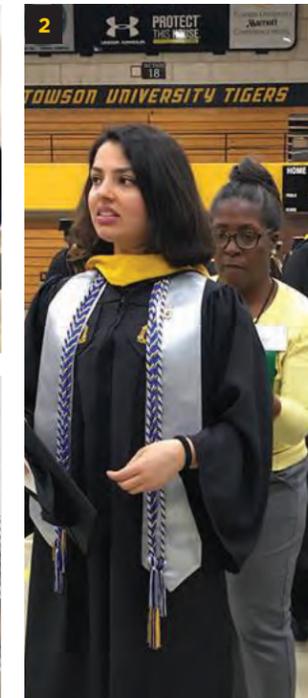


1 Phillip Ross III '77 with his daughter Diana Ross '17  
2,3 Smiles are the order of the day as happy parents and other family members enjoy spending time with their graduates. 4 TU Tigers Taylor Lutz '14/'17 M.S., Cindy Lutz '87, Tony Lutz and Carly Lutz '17 celebrate.

**THE ROBING ROOM**

**Alumni volunteer at the spring 2017 Commencement**

The robing room was bursting at the seams when 36 TU alumni volunteered for May’s Commencement. They helped the newest graduates with their regalia and shared in their excitement.



1 Many alumni volunteered to help graduates in the robing room before commencement.  
2 Robin Pettiford '94 helps a graduating student with her hood before the College of Liberal Arts ceremony. 3 Doc shares his commencement excitement with alumni volunteers.

## 2017 AWARDS BANQUET

Alumni receive Distinguished Alumni and Deans' Recognition Awards

TU's finest were recognized May 5 by the TU Alumni Association at the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Deans' Recognition Awards Banquet.



### 1 Distinguished Alumni Award

Mark P. Becker '80, president of Georgia State University, is leading the institution through a dynamic period of growth and advancement. He was executive vice president for academic affairs and provost at the University of South Carolina and dean of the School of Public Health.

### 2 Distinguished Young Alumni Award

Emily J. Taylor Au.D., FAAA '13 opened her audiology practice, Taylor Listening Center, two months after her TU graduation. She specializes in diagnostic audiology and strives to create an atmosphere where people feel at ease and look forward to appointments.



The Deans' Recognition Awards honor alumni from each college.

### 3 College of Business and Economics

Salvatore Correnti '82 rose through the ranks of the former USF&G Corporation to launch its investment startup, Falcon Asset Management. He was later CEO of Conning Asset Management.

### 4 College of Education

Delegate Kathy Szeliga '94 is the Republican representative for District 7 and serves on the Health and Government Operations Committee. She is the highest-ranking Republican woman in Maryland.

### 5 College of Fine Arts and Communication

Ian Belknap '06 is the artistic director of the Acting Company in New York City. The *New York Times* has called his work "a stroke of curatorial inspiration."

### 6 College of Health Professions

James R. Churilla '89 is an associate professor and graduate program director of the Exercise Science and Chronic Disease Program at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

### 7 College of Liberal Arts

Michael Edward Ranneberger '71 had a distinguished diplomatic career in Latin America, Africa, Europe and the Middle East. He also was the State Department's senior foreign policy adviser to three commanders of the U.S. Central Command.

### 8 Fisher College of Science and Mathematics

Christopher M. Young '80, an engineer and entrepreneur, has founded seven companies over the past 30 years. These include Government Services Group (GSG), as well as ProObject, Secure Offices, The Yellowstone Group and MECH Recruiting.



## GOLDEN GRADS

Class of 1967 celebrates its 50th reunion

The Class of 1967 needed three days to celebrate their return to campus and their five decades as graduates. Their fun-filled weekend began on Friday evening, June 2, at Souris' Saloon. The next morning they met President Kim Schatzel for breakfast and then spent a whirlwind day filled with a campus tour, a look at memorabilia from the library's archives, classes and a banquet. The festivities concluded on Sunday as the group watched the Orioles take on the Red Sox at Camden Yards.



1 The class of 1967 celebrates its 50th reunion. 2 Dean Terry and Sally Snell 3 The class of 1967 gathered outside of Stephens Hall. 4 Patricia Walker Fielder, Ruth Cullison and Bonnie Robertson 5 Tom McDade, James Watkins, Henry Chen (retired faculty member) and Alan Diem

## ALL HANDS ON DECK

### Alumni set sail on a pirate cruise

TU Tigers unleashed their inner pirate during a cruise of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. The voyage on June 24 featured a swashbuckling adventure aboard the Fearless with games, grog and a limbo contest.

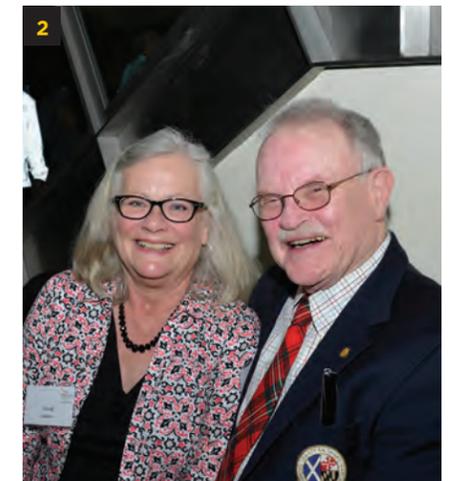


1 Brendan '11 and Kaitlyn '13 Maltese | 2 Kirsten Cerbone '16, Susan Johnston and Ashley Chouinard '15 | 3 Brian Jensen '16, Sequoia Hutt '15, Victoria Wright '16 and Tiara Caneff '15 | 4 Steve Bilsky '11, Jerianne Lombardo '12 and Laura Twohig '12 | 5 The crew of TU pirates are ready to set sail.

## CABARET

### Alumni gather for student production

Alumni and friends were welcomed to the infamous Berlin Kit Kat Club in 1930 during a student performance of *Cabaret* presented by the Department of Theatre Arts and the Department of Music. The May 4 event included refreshments, networking and a visit to the annual pottery sale.



1 Jackie and Edward '00 Molen with Judy '65 and Louis Kistner | 2 Verna Scheeler and Alan Scott

## "SPACEBALLS"

### TU Planetarium screens wacky comedy

"Spaceballs," the comic science fiction movie directed by Mel Brooks, found a home July 15 at TU's Watson-King Planetarium. Alumni and friends relaxed in the Smith Hall venue to watch the "Star Wars" parody.



1 Nicole '16 and Clark '07 Adelman, Sienna Klima, Glendene Strickland, Stacey Klima '14 and Tamera Kirby | 2 Keshia Monroe '13, Anicia Cote '12 with her twin sons and Erica Johnson '13 | 3 Keri McClelland and Jim Boyce '15 get ready to "get jammed!"



## JOHN SCHUERHOLZ '62 INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

### John Schuerholz '62 Inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame

More than 40 Towson alumni—James Gede '53, Mike Gill '74, Gary Gill '74, Bill Stetka '77, George Henderson '62 and Molly Shock '75—along with several teammates and relatives, made the trek to Cooperstown, New York, to honor John Schuerholz '62 as he was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. The chairman of the Atlanta Braves and former TU baseball player has spent more than 50 years in Major League Baseball beginning with the minor league department of the Baltimore Orioles, then with the Kansas City Royals and the Atlanta Braves.



## The Plaque Reads

### JOHN BOLAND SCHUERHOLZ JR.

*Gifted team builder whose steady eye for talent consistently produced winning results. Learned his craft in the player personnel department of the mid-1960s Orioles before joining the expansion Royals. Developed talented Kansas City nucleus into an A.L. powerhouse, advancing to the post-season seven times in a 10-year stretch. Named general manager in 1981 and led franchise to first World Championship in 1985. Took over as Braves' general manager and constructed rosters that would qualify for 14 straight post-seasons, winning five N.L. pennants and the 1995 Fall Classic. First GM to win World Series titles in both leagues. Continued as club president and vice chairman following his days as primary team architect.*



1 Missy Dudley, Gary Gill '74, John Schuerholz '62 and Mike Gill '74 | 2 John Schuerholz and AVP of Alumni Relations Lori Armstrong | 3 A placeholder held the spot for the future home of John Schuerholz's Plaque Postcard | 4 Susan Henderson '64, Jim MacDonald, George Henderson '63 and Bill Steka '77



“Everyone in our community feels the impact of your philanthropy.”

Recently, I had the pleasure of welcoming a number of our new students and their families at orientation. That opportunity allowed me to reflect on my first six months at Towson University and to look forward to the start of a new academic year.

I offered the following advice to the newest members of our university community: fully immerse yourself in the Towson University experience. I also had the opportunity to highlight the many ways in which private philanthropy enhances this terrific institution and provides support for our many academic, co-curricular, athletic and cultural programs.

Thank you to all of the alumni and friends who support Towson University. Everyone in our community feels the impact of your philanthropy.

During the coming year, I hope that you, our alumni and friends, will also take advantage of the myriad ways to reconnect with the university. Support our Tigers at athletic competitions; enjoy the artistic and cultural talents of our faculty, staff and students; mentor a student or attend an alumni event. We look forward to seeing many more alumni and friends return to Towson University in the coming months.

**Brian J. DeFilippis**  
VICE PRESIDENT  
UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

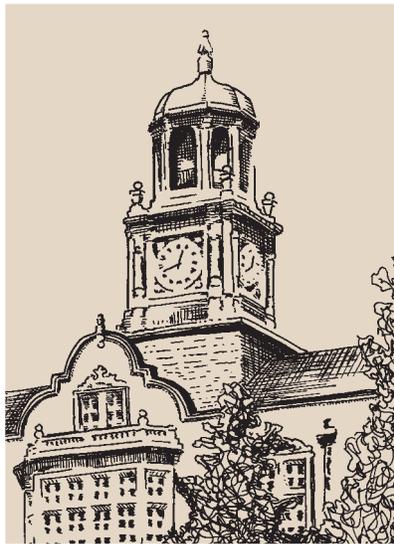
## Legacy Giving is Thoughtful Planning

TOWER LIGHT SOCIETY MEMBERS MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE

Did you know you can make a legacy gift to support your alma mater that costs nothing during your lifetime? Including Towson University in your will or trust is a thoughtful way to make a real difference in supporting the university. A planned gift through your will or living trust is one of the easiest ways to make a special legacy gift. Why?

### It's revocable

A bequest doesn't take effect right away. It is a gift that doesn't affect your current asset balance or cash flow. If your plans or circumstances change, you can easily revise the bequest.



### It's simple

One paragraph in your will or trust can set up your legacy gift.

### It's flexible

You can leave a specific amount, a specific asset or a portion of your estate; and you may choose exactly how your legacy gift will be used.

Your thoughtful planning can make a tremendous difference in our future planning. Membership in the Tower Light Society is offered when donors let us know that they have named the Towson University Foundation, Inc., as a beneficiary in their will, trust, life insurance, retirement or other estate plan. Other members qualify through charitable gift annuities.

To learn more about planned giving options available to you, contact **Kathleen Hider, director of planned giving and major gifts**, at 410-704-6287 or [khider@towson.edu](mailto:khider@towson.edu).

## Paws for Thanks

TU COMMUNITY THANKS DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY

Last April, students, faculty, staff, administrators and TU President Kim Schatzel gathered outside of the University Union for Paws for Thanks. The Marching Band blasted TU's fight song as students lined up to enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers. This gathering, which at first glance could be mistaken for a pep rally, was actually Towson University's annual donor appreciation event.

During Paws for Thanks, people from every corner of campus come together to thank our generous donors by signing a

giant "Thank You" banner. What makes this event unique for a day of donor appreciation is that many of the students, faculty and staff who attend are donors themselves. Students who have made a gift to Towson University have the opportunity to talk about why they chose to donate and what impact they hope to have on the institution.

As TU continues to build a culture of philanthropy on campus, events such as Paws for Thanks will become increasingly important to allow our community to thank those who have given back and made a difference.



Grateful students deliver messages of thanks while being serenaded by the TU marching band.



## Addressing Student Substance Abuse and Recovery

COLLEGIATE RECOVERY COMMUNITY SUPPORTS STUDENTS

Substance abuse is a challenging and growing problem, especially on college campuses where it's perceived as the norm.

Towson University's Collegiate Recovery Community (CRC) hopes to ease stressors for students in recovery or struggling with substance abuse. CRC "gives students a chance to connect with peers and have a genuine college experience while sharing common goals and values," says Emily Sears, manager of substance education, treatment and prevention services. "Members can attend support meetings, social events, or engage in service or advocacy opportunities."

Towson received a grant from Transforming Youth Recovery, a national leader in the youth recovery movement in January 2016 to build an active program for students. This grant put TU a step ahead of legislation passed last spring which required all University System of Maryland institutions to provide recovery support and services to students in need.

To support Towson's students in recovery, visit [towson.edu/GiveToStudentRecovery](http://towson.edu/GiveToStudentRecovery).

## Giving Back to Athletics

HONORING THE PAST WITH A GIFT FOR FUTURE STUDENT-ATHLETES



ROW ONE: Chris Ramer, Alvin Massey, Joe Stradauskus, Ray Groszkowski, John Bickley, Bill Konow, Don Phelps. ROW TWO: Bob Frank, Ron Cadorette, Randy Canal, Clint Gosnell, Joe Zanelotti, Bob Lobos, Darrell Freels, Bob Rometo, Coach Al Kouneski. ROW THREE: Head Coach Cari Runk, Rick Millard, Jack Stewart, Stan Boone, Joe Cieslak, Joe Yielding, George Petrides, Al Dodds, Ernie Gonzales, Bob Worthington, Bruce Saper, John Yingling, Coach Phil Albert. ROW FOUR: Jim McNicholas, Bruce Hart, Jim Tessier, Bob Pater, Glen Chapman, Dan Ross, Dennis Schreiber, Bob Roach, Dennis Champney, Pete Regala, Dave Mahoney.

TU's 1969 football team members (above) in 2014 and (below) in 1969.

Nearly 50 years ago John Yingling '71 donned a Tiger uniform and stepped onto the field as a member of Towson University's first football team. Now the insurance executive is taking steps to ensure that TU student-athletes will have a new practice field as well as scholarship support.

Yingling spent two years at what is now Wesley College before transferring to TU in 1968. Many of his teammates were also junior college transfers, a similarity that united the group. Or perhaps the players knew they were the beginning of a Towson football legacy.

Yingling still feels the exhilaration of his time at Towson and remains close with some of his 1969 teammates. "There's nothing better than having those connections from 50 years ago," he says. "You can never erase those memories."

After graduation, Yingling's focus shifted. He raised a family with his wife, Sharon Yingling '71, while he worked to build Crawford Yingling Insurance, a fourth-generation family-owned business in Westminster. He also played semi-professional football for the Carroll County Chargers. All of this kept his attention away from TU until he



John Yingling '71

began working with Dan Crowley, athletics chief development officer, to reunite the 1969 football team for their 45th anniversary in 2014.

With football's 50th anniversary approaching, Yingling decided to make a significant gift to support athletics. Half of his gift supports student-athlete scholarships, while the other half is the first gift to support an athletics practice field. Crowley says Yingling, "has taken a significant first step in helping us raise funds for this project."

Now, five teams share TU's one artificial turf field, which is incredibly challenging given the class schedules maintained by our scholar-athletes. Crowley says, "Building this new facility will provide far greater flexibility to our teams, creating an optimal experience for Tigers now and in the future. It has a direct link to scholar-athlete excellence and competitiveness."

Yingling is pleased to be a part of this project. "Towson gave so much to me in academics and athletics that I have to give back," he notes. "I'm excited to be a part of moving the next 50 years of Towson athletics forward."

To support the practice field project, visit [towson.edu/GiveToCapitalProjects](http://towson.edu/GiveToCapitalProjects). To support Athletics, visit [towson.edu/GiveToAthletics](http://towson.edu/GiveToAthletics).

## Environmental Justice and College Readiness

TU PARTNERSHIP WITH SOUTH BALTIMORE BUILDS A COLLEGE PIPELINE



Shiann Newman, BFHS senior, captures fresh fruits and vegetables to show the disparity of Curtis Bay's food desert.



TU anthropology students on Baltimore's Federal Hill

Solving environmental problems within South Baltimore and introducing the prospect of college to underrepresented students is at the center of Associate Professor Nicole Fabricant's partnership with Benjamin Franklin High School (BFHS).

Under the guidance of Fabricant's upper-level anthropology students, BFHS students learn anthropological research methods such as interviewing, photo-voice and photo elicitation, narrative mapping, and visual anthropology to determine why certain communities unevenly experience environmental problems and hazards. Paired groups of anthropology students and high school students home in on a particular environmental problem within the community to research.

In addition to exploring environmental justice, BFHS students take field trips to Towson University where they attend college classes in the social or physical sciences, listen to faculty speak on environmental sciences and discuss college readiness as well as the support and resources available to ensure college success.

T. Rowe Price Foundation provided a grant to support the high school students' field trips, meals and other necessities associated with encouraging attendance. Senior Director of the T. Rowe Price Foundation Stacey Van Horn says, "I'm pleased that our grant dollars were of value to Towson University's work in the Baltimore community. Colleges and universities engage with Baltimore organizations and residents in unique and often powerful ways. The universities and our communities both benefit, which is terrific. Towson University's partnership with Benjamin Franklin High School provided a wonderful learning opportunity for teachers, faculty and students."

Fabricant is most grateful for the support. "T. Rowe Price has provided us the opportunity to bring youth from Curtis Bay to experience college, hopefully building a pipeline from South Baltimore into Towson University," she says.

**To support TU's BFHS partnership, visit [towson.edu/GiveToDiverseLearners](http://towson.edu/GiveToDiverseLearners).**



Amber Smith, BFHS senior, documents the lack of adequate trash and city services in Curtis Bay.



**MILT DIGGINS '68/ '78 M.ED.**

is the author of *Stealing Freedom Along the Mason-Dixon: Thomas McCreary, the Notorious Slave Catcher from Maryland*, a best seller for the Maryland Historical Society.

**CLASS NOTES**

**1960**

**MILT DIGGINS '68/'78 M.ED.** wrote *Stealing Freedom Along the Mason-Dixon: Thomas McCreary, the Notorious Slave Catcher from Maryland*. This story of slave catching and kidnapping is told through the nefarious activities of a Maryland slave catcher and kidnapper, and his supporters. The book became a best seller for its publisher, the Maryland Historical Society, and is in its second printing. Diggins travels throughout Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware and Washington, D.C., giving talks on the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 and its contribution to the nation's divide over the slavery issue.

**1970**

**JANICE M. IMWOLD '71**, who retired in 2014 after teaching mathematics in Baltimore County schools for 43 years, found a second career as a mathematics master teacher with TowsonU Teach. Her first students in the program will graduate next spring, she writes, "and it gives me great satisfaction to know that I had a small part in the continuing process of educating students who will educate students" in math and science.

**GERALD T. GARLAND '73 BUAD**, managing director of Incite Consulting, was appointed to RF Industries' board of directors. He has over 18 years of experience with the wireless telecommunications industry, most recently as senior vice president of solutions development and product management for TESSCO Technologies.

**WILLIAM ROWE '75** became the chief risk officer in the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. He has served as deputy to the chief of staff and liaison to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation since 2006.

**RENEE MURDOCK '78 BUAD** became corporate responsibility officer for Key Bank's Hudson Valley/Metro New York market, where she will oversee Community Reinvestment Act compliance. Murdock has more than 30 years of banking, community development and nonprofit management experience.

**1980**

**DENNIS CAPRIO '80** and his wife, Gayle, traveled to Jerusalem, Israel, last March.

**KEVIN BRISCOE '84 BS POSC** has been appointed director of corporate communications and community of Ciox Health in Georgia.

**BRETT MATTHEW SMITH '84 HIST** is the new athletic director for the Institute of Notre Dame in Baltimore City.

**JOEL D. ALBIZO '85 CCST**, CEO of the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, was elected president of the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards, where he will establish the budget, interpret bylaws and lead efforts for common sense regulations.

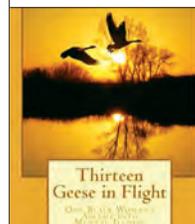
**JOE DURHAM '85** was promoted to commercial marketing executive for the Columbia Bank in Timonium, Maryland.

**CHARLIE SHOEMAKER '86** retired after 28 years as a teacher, 27 of which were at Wilde Lake High School in Howard County, where he established the alternative learning program for struggling students.

**KEN SKRESZ '86 DANC** was appointed executive director of the Maryland State Arts Council. A certified dance and theater instructor for grades 6 through 12 in Maryland, he has designed and implemented arts education and professional development programs with a special emphasis on underserved populations. Skresz most recently worked as an educational program supervisor and coordinator of fine arts for the Maryland State Department of Education.

**TODD FEUERMAN '87 ACCT**, director of Ellin & Tucker's accounting and consulting department, co-presented two sessions at the Construction Financial Management Association's 2017 Annual Conference and Exhibition last June. The sessions were "Leasing as We Know it vs. Leasing in the Future" and "Management Succession & Ownership Transfer Techniques."

**LISA ELEY '88 BIOL** published *Thirteen Geese in Flight*, a book that documents her experience coping with mental illness as an African-American woman.

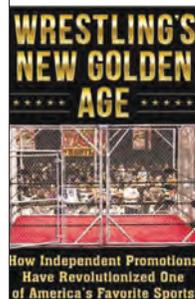


**LISA ELEY '88 BIOL**

published *Thirteen Geese in Flight*.

**CLAIRE OTTERBEIN '00**

became executive director of the Crisfield Heritage Foundation.



**RON SNYDER '00 CCMM**

wrote *Wrestling's New Golden Age: How Independent Promotions Have Revolutionized One of America's Favorite Sports*.

**TIFFANY FOUNTAINE BOYKIN '05**

is dean of student engagement at Anne Arundel Community College.



## ALUMNI PROFILE

**Kathleen Sciegel '84 M.A.**



## NO EXCUSES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO CONSIDER COLLEGE AS A PLAN, NOT JUST A DREAM

Julianna Jaramillo and Antonio Quintana are reading the Towson alumni magazine in their fourth grade class.

Their media teacher, Kathleen Sciegel '84 M.A., has not only made reading university magazines part of her lesson plan but also part of her plan to sow the seeds of higher education.

She wants her students at Park View Elementary School in Pueblo, Colorado, to know that a university education is a possibility, but only if they prepare for college, not just dream about it.

"The overall theme is to have a plan that will take them to college after high school," Sciegel says.

To get her students to focus on their futures, Sciegel requires them to make two PowerPoint presentations. First they search careers—what they want to be when they grow up—and next they conduct online searches of the colleges they wish to attend.

She even had them review TU's online application to become familiar with the admission process. "They were surprised at the out-of-state tuition for Towson," Sciegel says. But then she pointed out TU's cost "was cheaper than the in-state tuition for Colorado College, which is 40 miles from Pueblo."

Her efforts are all part of becoming a No Excuses University (NEU) school, which Park View Elementary applied for last year. Schools with the NEU designation implement six core concepts to make sure students are prepared for college if they choose to attend.

"NEU believes when these six systems are in place, all students achieve and succeed," Sciegel adds.

Now that her fourth graders are thinking about college, "Perhaps one of the students will venture to Maryland to attend Towson," she says. ■

—GINNY COOK

## 1990

**CHAD CHAPPELL '90** joined The Expo Group as national sales director. Most recently he was director of sales development for Visit Baltimore. He holds a Certified Meeting Professional designation and is a member of the International Association for Exhibitions and Events.

**ALVIN ANTON '93 ACCT** is managing director of fixed income and chair of the investment committee for Summit Financial of Hunt Valley, Maryland. Previously, he spent 13 years with CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield as the senior director of investments.

**AMBER (ERIN) RUPINTA '98 CCMM**, morning anchor for ABC 11 in Raleigh, North Carolina, hosted the 10th anniversary of the Carolina Music Awards, which honors Carolina music, spanning hip-hop, R&B, country, rock, American and bluegrass. She is a member of the Asian-American Journalists Association and the National Weather Association.

**MICHAEL HARDY '99 ECON** joined Duane Morris as a partner in the firm's Baltimore office. He has extensive experience representing private equity investors and operating companies in connection with mergers and acquisitions, debt and equity securities and other strategic transactions.

**COREY WITMER '99** and his wife, Perry, welcomed their daughter, Robbie June, on March 18, 2017.

## 2000

**RON SNYDER '00 CCMM** wrote *Wrestling's New Golden Age: How Independent Promotions Have Revolutionized One of America's Favorite Sports*, which examines wrestling's beginnings and the hurdles participants must overcome to become superstars.

**CLAIRE OTTERBEIN '00 ART** became executive director of the Crisfield Heritage Foundation in June. She manages finances, fundraising and community outreach, along with coordinating volunteers, education programs, rentals and special events.

**MARCELLA TILLI '01** and **MATT PELUSO '01** welcomed their second daughter, Giorgiana Ava, on September 26, 2016.

**KELLY HOLMES '01 CCMM** joined A. Bright Idea Advertising and Public Relations in Bel Air, Maryland, as a senior communications specialist. She has worked over 11 years working in retail and financial marketing, conducting strategic planning, project management, creative writing, graphic design and community outreach.

**KIMBERLY MCLAREN '02 KNES** married Teodoro Bordador III on July 1, 2016, in Annapolis, Maryland. They now live in Louisville, Kentucky.

## IN MEMORIAM

### ALUMNI

**Ann S. Smithers '34**  
June 17, 2017

**Adelaide E. Brooks '38**  
September 11, 2017

**Melvin J. Sykes '41**  
May 22, 2017

**Rose M. Potter '43**  
June 4, 2017

**Catherine M. Pazdera '46**  
February 17, 2017

**Jean A. Hopkins '46**  
August 20, 2017

**Margaret W. Hubbard '49**  
May 22, 2017

**Dorothy W. Rembold '50**  
July 28, 2017

**William M. Hammerman '52**  
May 30, 2017

**Virginia M. Helm '52**  
July 26, 2017

**Sonia Isaac '53**  
May 18, 2017

**Elizabeth S. Anderson '55**  
February 26, 2017

**Mary Jo Robb '57**  
July 13, 2017

**Sara B. Kanefsky '58**  
August 8, 2017

**George C. Gott '58**  
August 31, 2017

**Majorie A. Bayne '60**  
August 12, 2017

**Ronald C. Sweany '60**  
September 15, 2017

**Joyce D. Feinberg '60**  
September 16, 2017

**Carolyn S. Owens '62**  
September 22, 2017

**Gail P. Quesenberry '63**  
June 5, 2017

**Carmela A. Triolo '63**  
July 28, 2017

**Anna L. Blais '63**  
September 11, 2017

**Annette K. Heiserman '64**  
July 14, 2017

**Thomas G. Redman '65**  
June 3, 2017

**Sarah M. Lewis '65**  
August 5, 2017

**Mary Ann J. Tolen '67**  
May 21, 2017

**Charlotte B. Weinhold '67**  
July 24, 2017

**Daniel L. Fitzell '67**  
September 14, 2017

**Douglas M. Hall Jr. '68**  
March 26, 2017

**Patricia E. Gladwell '68**  
June 29, 2017

**Susan A. Cunha-Cheesman '68**  
July 16, 2017

**Ellen S. Burton '69**  
June 15, 2017

**Catherine M. Rowan '69**  
September 8, 2017

**Barbara J. Aron '70**  
May 1, 2017

**Janie D. Barnes '70/'81**  
July 21, 2017

**Christine M. McConnell '70**  
August 10, 2017

**Ronnie H. Young '70**  
September 11, 2017

**R. Gerard Schaefer Jr. '71**  
June 12, 2017

**Carol H. Webster '71**  
August 16, 2017

**Sandra C. Hendrick '72**  
May 22, 2017

**Patricia Kucharski Kureth '72**  
July 8, 2017

**Joseph B. Yellin '73**  
June 17, 2017

**Melinda S. Frisch '73**  
July 4, 2017

**James M. Smith '73**  
July 26, 2017

**Charles D. Bowers Sr. '73**  
September 3, 2017

**Ward Wesley Smith '74**  
May 11, 2017

**Sara H. Hawley '74**  
July 9, 2017

**Sue Carnell '74**  
August 16, 2017

**Michael N. DiMenna '74**  
September 4, 2017

**Marie E. Lancaster '75**  
April 16, 2017

**Shawn P. Flannery '75**  
May 30, 2017

**Ann C. Doak '75**  
June 23, 2017

**Marilyn R. Guzinski '76**  
February 10, 2017

**Dennis R. Gajewski '76**  
April 28, 2017

**Charles T. Lusco '76**  
July 8, 2017

**Margaret S. Selby '76**  
August 6, 2017

**Peter Olejnik '76**  
September 24, 2017

**Patricia B. Leak '77**  
July 1, 2017

**Ethel M. Carson '77**  
August 30, 2017

**Arthur V. Campbell IV '78**  
April 20, 2017

**Louis E. Rusk '80/'89**  
July 11, 2017

**Michael J. Flannery '80**  
August 22, 2017

**Mary L. Naugle '80**  
August 24, 2017

**Helen B. Zdrojewsk '81**  
February 3, 2017

**Nancy R. Wancowicz '82**  
December 29, 2017

**Arnold Breidenbaugh '82**  
July 18, 2017

**Mark H. Reiner '83**  
January 20, 2017

**Wesley D. Zimmerli '83**  
May 4, 2017

**Richard M. Wilson '84**  
July 30, 2017

**Linda R. Chick '88**  
July 16, 2017

**Jeanette G. Adams '89**  
June 3, 2017

**Eleanor Ruth Ross '89**  
September 4, 2017

**Elizabeth A. Eisenman '93**  
August 25, 2017

**Joanne H. Levy '93**  
September 10, 2017

**Sherell Jacobson '94**  
July 23, 2017

**Kamari V. Groom '94**  
August 9, 2017

**Brian E. Flanagan '95**  
August 18, 2017

**David T. Koons '97**  
July 1, 2017

**Sally R. MacDonald '98**  
September 11, 2017

**Ailene Sher '00**  
July 10, 2017

**Daniel Joseph Zito '05**  
August 25, 2017

**Glenn Allen Lewis '06**  
March 16, 2017

**Jeanann Boyce '07**  
July 8, 2017

**Laura E. Wallen '07**  
September 3, 2017

**Megan M. Dasovich '11**  
July 23, 2017

**Orlando Alberto Rojas '13**  
July 28, 2017

**Zachary S. Warnick '17**  
July 26, 2017

### FACULTY/STAFF

**Mary Jo McCabe '80**  
September 3, 2017

**John G. Isaacs**  
Need date?

## CLASS NOTES

**CHARISSE MONTGOMERY '02**, whose son has a rare neuromuscular disease, has released a new self-advocacy and safety book series—*The Super Safe Kids*—to engage children and families in improving safety and quality in the home, hospital and community.

**JENNIFER DUGENT WOLFF '04 ART** was chosen from among 5,000 entries to receive a Certificate of Excellence from Graphic Design USA. Her company specializes in graphic design for print, multimedia, communications and social networking.

**SHELLEY MORRIS FERGUSON '05** and her husband, Donnie, welcomed their first child, Amelia Vaughn, on June 9, 2017.

**TIFFANY FOUNTAINE BOYKIN '05 MS** was appointed dean of student engagement at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, Maryland. She joined the college in 2016 as assistant dean of student services.

**KARA BALL FERNANDEZ '08** is the 2018 Department of Defense Education Activity Teacher of the Year for the Mid-Atlantic District. Her recognition includes entry in the National Teacher of the Year competition. Fernandez teaches third grade at Delalio Elementary in North Carolina.

**PRESTON PEHRSON '09** was promoted to director of player personnel for the football team at the U.S. Naval Academy.

## 2010

**BRYAN PORTER '10 MS** has been appointed to the board of trustees for the Baltimore Museum of Industry. A CPA and director at Ellin & Tucker, an accounting and business consulting firm, Porter will help guide the museum as it continues educating and engaging visitors and the community.

**LAURA GILMAN '10 MA**, manager of the Kansas City aging program for Jewish Family Services, received the Field Instructor of the Year award for Avila University's social work program.

**THOMAS A. COSENTINO '11 MUSC**, an accountant with Myers and Stauffer in Owings Mills, Maryland, passed each of the four parts of the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination on his first attempt. He and his wife, Jen, were married in 2016 and reside in Hampstead, Maryland.

**MATT STUCKEY '11 BUAD** joined Northwestern Mutual in Baltimore as an associate wealth management adviser with Bell Wealth Management Group. A certified financial planner, Stuckey has a series of securities licenses as well as a Maryland Life and Health Insurance license.

## CLASS NOTES

### SEND US YOUR NEWS!

We'd like to hear from you about what's happening in your personal and professional life.

#### SEND MAIL TO:

Alumni Relations, Towson University,  
8000 York Rd. Towson, MD 21252-0001

#### EMAIL:

alumni@towson.edu

**GIAVANNA PARMER GREIN '12** published a children's book, *When Nilly met Nelly, the Hungry Hungry Ele*, about a young banana farmer in India and a hungry, determined elephant.

**MATT SIKORSKI '12** and **CHARLOTTE RIDGEWAY '14** discovered TU ties run long and deep, even atop Peru's Machu Pichu. They spied a girl wearing a Maryland flag T-shirt and soon learned that **ADRIANNA MORGAN '16** and **ALIE WALLER '17** were also TU graduates.

**DAVE RYBCZYNSKI '14 M.S. MUED** is director of fine arts at Mercy High School in Baltimore. He often plays saxophone with the BSO Pops and Several Species: The Pink Floyd Experience. He also freelances on woodwinds throughout Baltimore and Washington, D. C.

**ANDREW LINGELBACH '14** directed April's Wish Race 5K that benefited Make-A-Wish, the foundation that grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. A childhood cancer survivor, Lingelbach is an ACSM certified personal trainer at the Merritt Athletic Club in White Marsh, Maryland.

**CARI ASHKIN '15 CCMM** joined A. Bright Idea Advertising and Public Relations in Bel Air, Maryland, as a communications specialist.

**KAITLIN WYNNE '15 ART** won Gourmand's "Best Culinary Heritage Book" for her cookbook, *I Nengkanno' Guåhan: The Food of Guam*. Authors from as many as 200 countries participate in the annual cookbook competition, according to Gourmand International's website.

**MICHAEL BEHRMAN '17 BUAD** has been hired by Heritage Financial Consultants as a client relationship manager.

## ALUMNI PROFILE

Gale Jamieson '94



### PRESTON PEHRSON '09

is director of player personnel for the football team at the U.S. Naval Academy.



### BRYAN PORTER '10 M.S.

was appointed to the board of trustees for the Baltimore Museum of Industry.



### CHARLOTTE RIDGEWAY '14 and MATT SIKORSKI '12

discovered fellow alumni, **ADRIANNA MORGAN '16** and **ALIE WALLER '17**, atop Machu Picchu.



### KAITLIN WYNNE '15 ART

won Gourmand's "Best Culinary Heritage Book" for her cookbook, *I Nengkanno' Guåhan: The Food of Guam*.



## THE HUMANITY OF EXPRESSION

HER ART AIMS FOR UNDERSTANDING AND DIALOGUE

Gale Jamieson's artistic expression brings her closer to understanding humanity.

"Each piece is a story, a journal of moments and an inquiry into culture, interconnections, impermanence," she says on her website.

Her most recent works are featured in a self-published booklet featuring over 20 pieces. Her favorite, *Pangea*, is a kimono made from woven strips of National Geographic maps, draped over a bamboo hanger.

*Pangea* "highlights the Westernization of our world and our subsequent loss of culture," Jamieson explains.

Jamieson has always been involved in the arts, fashioning her first creation in fifth grade. "One other student and I created an eight-foot papier-mâché owl for our school float," she recalls. From then on, she and her teacher knew art was in her future.

At TU, Jamieson was a part of the Sculpture Coalition, founded by Jim Paulsen, a

TU art professor, now retired. The off-campus group gave students opportunities to further their skills and showcase their works in exhibitions throughout Maryland.

Through the years, Jamieson's art has been in residencies from Florida to New York, and across the Atlantic in France and Ireland. Her sculpture is part of the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Museum of American Art.

She also has her own exhibit spaces in southern Pennsylvania.

"I have always had a space for art, even if it is just a back room," Jamieson says. "I now have two fairly large studios; one in York, Pennsylvania, that I have owned for seven years, and the other is right next to my house, a large 250-year-old barn I have used for 35 years."

Her ultimate goal is for her art to start conversations. She notes, "If I don't put my art out for the public to see and converse about, then I'm just talking to myself." ■

—JOSEPH HOCKEY



**“It’s a good cause to help students fulfill their education. Not all students have sufficient money to attend college, so the little bit I can donate is helping them.”**

Patrick H. O’Connell Jr., TU’s most loyal donor with 35 consecutive years of giving, pictured with his son, Brian O’Connell ’87 (left), a TU supporter for over 10 consecutive years.

To help students further their education, go to [towson.edu/giving](http://towson.edu/giving) or contact the Development Office at 1-866-301-3375.

