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

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

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 and Hemm’s team aims to implement the Towson University-Research Enhancement Program (TU-REEP) 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.

“We hope to involve students as early in their academic careers as possible. The program will focus on undergraduate and graduate student engagement. It is designed to complement the Research Enhancement Program and the existing Renaissance Scholars Program.”

“This grant will move us closer to our student success goal,” says David Vanko, dean of the college.

“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.”

Nadim 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 maggots.

“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.”

This year, TU students Shaina Furman and Noor 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 maggots.

Published three times a year by the Division of Marketing and Communications for Towson University’s alumni, faculty, staff and friends. Please send comments and contributions to: Towson Marketing and Communications, Towson University, 8000 York Rd, Towson, MD 21252-0001. Telephone: 410-704-2230. Please send address changes to Alumni Relations, Towson University, 8000 York Rd, Towson, MD 21252-0001 or email alumni@towson.edu.
Award. Last spring, TU’s #WastED about making waste composted. “This and trivia contests at the Hollofield of Patapsco Valley State Park and the state park service to write grants for the first fully accessible playground at the Hollifield area. Their work helped raise more than $17,000 for the park, off Route 40, that opened last summer after a six-year collaboration.

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,ural arts 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, which teaches ballet and master classes to children and adults worldwide. She and Mann, professor dance, each received $1,000 awards. Mann has visited more than 20 works in four different genres: ballet, modern, dance for the camera and aerial dance.

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 individu- als 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 become one of your top eight priorities.”

“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 Towson that is deeply committed to advancing the university’s top eight priorities.

“Prior to your leadership at Towson University,” Bell-McKoy added. “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 Towson that is deeply committed to advancing the university’s top eight priorities.

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**SPORT SHORTS**

**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.

**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.”

**WITH HONORS**

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

**COACH’S BOX**

Mike Gottfried ’80 concluded his 35-year baseball coaching career at the end of last season. He compiled a 733-821-1 record and led TU to all three of the school’s major conference titles: the Atlantic 10 title in 2001, the 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 (146).

TU competitors won six medals on day one, along with setting a school record. The Tigers recorded 163.5 points to earn the first-place finish, followed by Elon (158) and James Madison (146).

The next day the Tigers added seven more 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”). Zhaune Washington captured bronze in the triple jump with a personal best of 11.83m (38’10.50”). The Tigers’ 4x100m relay team of Jaina McLean, Zamae Freeland, Jamila Brown and Liz Reid timed 46.28 to win silver.

Freeland continued her day by winning the 400m dash (54.87) and the first Tiger sprinter to capture the 200m dash title (24.34). Megan Kelly became the second Tiger to capture the 400m hurdles (1:06.66). 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 team that timed 10:34.66. 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 served as a sales intern for Athletic 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.
**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 2000 John F. Kennedy Center Fine Arts Award, 2009 Baker Artist Choice Award (B Grant), three Metro DC Dance Awards, a 2012 Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Dance Awards, and a 2006 Kennedy Center Local Dance Commission Project Award.**

He received rave reviews for his collaborative choreographic endeavors. He was selected for the 2012 National ACDFA Festival at the Kennedy Center Dance Institute Incubator Artist (Maryland) and was teaching at Towson University when he was approached by a student about conducting a master class. Although he had never heard of Towson University, he had a great time. The students were fantastic and the Department of Dance seemed so vibrant. In 2002 he accepted an offer to join the faculty as a visiting guest artist.

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

**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 ballet in 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.

**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 choirs 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.

**HOW DID YOU COME TO TU?**

I was a drum major in high school and was 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.

**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.

**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. At 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, “I don’t know how to fall.”

He’d gained a greater awareness of his body and how to protect it. A criminical justice major who’d been dancing with me for 2½ 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 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

**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 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.

**WE ASKED**

**MEN IN MOTION**

**Q&A**

**Vincent Thomas**

**MEN IN MOTION**

**Q&A**

**Vincent Thomas**
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. Mosquitoes 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.
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 screeched 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

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 mosquitoes 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/

Rushaga Gorilla Camp
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.”
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

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

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.
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.

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.

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 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.
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

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.

Harriett’s qualifications were never in ques-
tion. After all, she’d graduated third in her high school class of 401. Tanisl 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.”

Harriett had aspiration to become a teacher since childhood. Now she was a “dayhopper” (commuter) majoring in elementary edu-
cation 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 expo-
sure 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 Hill 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 interested.

Mrton 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 Tanisl, who explained that Barnes would be admitted if she passed a comprehensive test. Tanisl 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 Tanisl 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 re-
calls, “and I was so afraid when I turned it in.”

Evidently surprised, Tanisl asked if she had finished. “Are you sure?” she persisted.

But when the director of admissions exam-
ined 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. Tanisl 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. 6 streetcar. “I’d always try to sit with other students and exchange ideas,” she says. “We learned more 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 d ruled out as to white students while making Harris—who thought her work equal to theirs—make do with A minutes. “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.”

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 to 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 Endowment

Living Legacies

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 metropol-
itan 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.

When Marvis Barnes and Myra Harris attended the State Teachers College at Towson, they were welcomed. “I 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.

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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.

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 admits. "I loved every day of it, but after 54 years I needed to learn how to rest," she says.

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.

“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.
Stuck 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.”

“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 value and price 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 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 1 ½ years. Anyone who drove to the beach via MD 604 this summer can testify in 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.

“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, not worry about. That’s important to them and it’s important that we show that what we are doing. They are very personal, very direct. When they see something, it’s their 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.”

Gleny Cook is the editor of Towson.
SU 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

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

CHARGE WITH “NO CHARGE”

SECU’s Visa card for alumni has no annual fee

SECU, a partner of Towson University and the Towson University Alumni Association, offers the SECU Visa Signature® Card for Towson University alumni, an exclusive card available only to TU graduates. The SECU Visa Signature Card provides access to valuable benefits, exclusive perks and VIP features, including no annual fee, no international fee, EMV chip technology and complimentary concierge service, all with special, custom card designs available only to TU graduates. Whether the design is Stephen Hall or Tiger Athletics, the cards display TU colors while users enjoy all the benefits that the SECU Visa Signature Card has to offer.

It’s an elite card experience wrapped in TU pride.

To learn more or to apply, visit secumd.org/towson.

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.

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.

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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 other family members enjoy spending time with their graduates.

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. Dave shares his commencement excitement with alumni volunteers.

Our outreach will be consistent with the university’s strategic plan.”
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, classes and a banquet. The festivities concluded on Sunday as the group watched the Orioles take on the Red Sox at Camden Yards.

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.
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.

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.

“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.
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 Stetka ’77
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

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

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.
Paws for Thanks
TU COMMUNITY THANKS DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY

TU Community thanks donors for their generosity with a day of appreciation. A gathering last April gave students, faculty, staff, and TU President Kim Schoettler an opportunity to connect with donors and express gratitude for their support.

Last April, students, faculty, staff, administrators and TU President Kim Schoettler 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.

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 and former Towson football player is taking steps to ensure that TU student-athletes 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, and 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 Athletics, visit towson.edu/GiveToAthletics. To support the practice field project, visit towson.edu/GiveToCapitalProjects.
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.
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 TowsonUTeach. 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 under-served 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.
CONSIDER COLLEGE AS A PLAN, NOT JUST A DREAM
when they grow up—and next they conduct futures, Sciegel requires them to make will take them to college after high school," not just dream about it.

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 Wither ‘99 and his wife, Penny, welcomed their first child, Robbie June, on March 18, 2017.

Ronen Snyder ‘00 COMM wrote Wrestling’s New Golden Age: How Independent Promoters are Rediscovering One of America’s Favorite Sports, which examines wrestling’s beginnings and how the industry has become superstars.

The Super Safe Kids Museum as it continues educating and consulting firm, Porter will help guide the Museum of Industry. A CPA and director at Stuckey has a series of securities licenses and resides in Hampstead, Maryland. He and his wife, Jen, were married in 2016 and welcomed their first child, Amelia Vaughn, on June 9, 2017. JENNIFER DUGENT WOLFF ‘04 ART was appointed dean of student engagement at Towson University. Perhaps one of the best-known alumni of the university, Dugent-Wolff has served as a faculty member in the Department of Fine Arts and has taught courses in graphic design, print, multimedia, communications and social networking.

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

Tiffany Fountain Boykin ‘01 MS was appointed dean of student engagement at Ann 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 Delario Elementary in North Carolina. Prentiss Peirson ‘98 was promoted to director of player personnel for the football team at The U.S. Naval Academy.

2010
Bryan Porter ‘10 MUS has been appointed to the board of trustees for the Baltimore Museum of Industry. A CPA and director at Elin & Tucker, an accounting and business consulting firm, Porter will help guide the museum as it continues educating and engaging the community.

Laura Gilman ‘10 MA, a management professor at Towson University for Jewish Family Services, received the Field Instructor of the Year award for Avila University’s social work program.

Thomas A. Cosentino ‘11 MUS, an assistant professor of music and director of choral activities in Owings Mills, Maryland, passed away this past year. He was a significant force in the creation and development of Towson’s music program.

Matt Stuckey ‘11 Bifold 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.
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 Picchu. 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.

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.

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
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.

“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.”

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