Francis McCubbin '04 is NASA's curator of moon rocks and other space particles.
Cullen Battle went “sledding” when a bigger, better Burdick Hall opened in February. The 94,000-square-foot addition to TU’s recreation center gave the sophomore plenty of space to push a sled weighing more than 450 pounds.

The new gym also boasts “The Jungle,” a training course that mimics the obstacles on the NBC television show “American Ninja Warrior.” Runners can test their mettle on a sprint hill and simulated stadium stairs.

The $42.5 million renovation to Burdick Hall added 22,000 square feet of open floor space, two courts with rubber athletic flooring, three studios for group fitness classes and a cycling studio with sound, lights and video display. There’s also new cardio and strength machines, free weights and a “skills studio” with equipment used for boxing and skill-based training.
I was paid by NASA to collect data in research aircraft.

Avery Renshaw had her head in the clouds last summer. The environmental science and studies major spent eight weeks in NASA’s Student Airborne Research Program, a selective internship for earth science studies.

“I was paid by NASA to spend the summer in California with 31 other STEM undergrads, collecting atmospheric data in research aircraft and conducting individual earth and atmospheric science research projects,” says Renshaw, who is an Honors College student.

Airborne students were divided into four groups—atmospheric chemistry, air sampling, land ecology and oceanographic processes. Part of the oceans group, Renshaw focused on using satellites to detect and map the decline of a kelp species. Previously, satellite detection was thought to be unreliable. “I proved that wrong,” she notes.

During the first two weeks, she and the other interns attended lectures on earth and atmospheric sciences and collected data aboard two NASA research aircraft. Then they spent the next six weeks analyzing and interpreting data at University of California, Irvine.

“This was both the most enriching and unbelievably fun experience I’ve ever had,” Renshaw says.
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There are 94,000 new reasons to be proud of the opportunities Towson University offers to our students, state and region.

Earlier this year TU celebrated the opening of a bigger, better Burdick Hall. It boasts 22,000 square feet of open space with a turfed functional training area that includes a sprint hill, fitness stairs, five group fitness studios and more than 100 pieces of state-of-the art cardio equipment inside a 94,000-square-foot addition. We also broke ground on our new Science Complex, which will be the largest academic building on campus when it opens along York Road in fall 2020.

But on campus and across the region, TU is constructing much more than buildings.

We’re building partnerships. Our historic partnership with the Maryland Army National Guard is the first of its kind in the state, and will create transformational opportunities for students and guard members through high-quality internships, cybersecurity training and professional development opportunities.

We’re also building and expanding programs. TU’s Cyber Corps program won a $3.9 million National Science Foundation grant which is magnifying opportunities in our nationally recognized cybersecurity programs.

More than anything, we’re building opportunities. TU is delivering higher education that prepares our students for post-graduation success. Our institutional focus on experiential learning means three out of four TU students complete an internship before they graduate—and are thus competitively advantaged entering their fields. Indeed, almost 90 percent of our graduates are successfully employed or in graduate school when we check in on them six months after graduation. With their success, our graduates demonstrate that it is truly great to be a Tiger.

There’s much to be proud of at Towson University, and there are even more great things ahead!
Grants power TU students in cybersecurity and biomedicine

TU strengthens partnership with National Guard

Towson University and the Maryland National Guard enhanced their collaboration with a formal memorandum of understanding in January.

President Kim Schatzel and Maryland Adjutant General Linda Singh put their signatures on the document just prior to tip-off at Towson’s Military Appreciation Day men’s basketball game against Elon at SECU arena.

The partnership includes military appreciation programs at sporting events, and training in cybersecurity for TU students and members of the Maryland National Guard. It also offers joint exercises to nursing students and National Guard medics to prepare them for crises where there are mass casualties. Another initiative is the creation of the Major Robert Marchanti Scholarship, which is awarded to a TU student-athlete.

The Maryland National Guard partnership is also part of TU’s BTU (Baltimore-Towson University) initiative, which is one of Schatzel’s eight presidential priorities.

TU’s Victorian Secret

HOW CLOTHES SHAPED THE FEMALE FORM

Bustles and corsets and hoop skirts, oh my.

These and other fashions of yesteryear were part of “From the Inside Out: Building the Silhouette,” an exhibit that ran through March in the Center for the Arts, showcasing TU’s extensive historical clothing collection.

Co-curated by Julie Potter and Erin Lehman, both faculty in the College of Fine Arts and Communication, the exhibit demonstrated how undergarments and clothing shaped the bodies of the past, answering the question, “How did they wear that?”

Potter and Lehman featured apparel and advertising from the late 18th through the early 20th centuries. Earlier fashions that cinched waists or bustled skirts emphasized the architectural nature of fashion, building up the silhouette layer by structured layer. These fashions gave way to the more relaxed, freeform chemises and shifts of the 1920s, showing how clothes defined each era.

“Clothing and the silhouettes they created, emphasized and drew attention to different body parts by cinching here, poofing there, raising and lowering hems and necklines and adding or removing bustles and decorative flairs,” Potter and Lehman wrote in a handout.

“Although today we rely heavily on exercise and diet to create a pleasing armature, in the past it was the outfits themselves, and particularly the undergarments, that did the work…”

TU science students will reap the benefits from two major grants awarded to the Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics. A $3.9 million grant from the National Science Foundation will help place more TU students in vital cybersecurity jobs and a $1.3 million grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences will help advance minority students in the biomedical research field.

The five-year cybersecurity grant, a Scholarship for Service award, went to Josh Dehlinger, the late Shiva Azadegan, Sidd Kaza, Blair Taylor, Michael O’Leary and Nam Nguyen—faculty in computer and information sciences—to expand TU’s CyberCorps program.

The money will help support 32 computer science professionals and develop a pathway between TU and the Community College of Baltimore County to serve underrepresented groups in cybersecurity.

In addition, approximately $250,000 has been earmarked to host a CyberSecurity Education Workshop in collaboration with the College of Cyber at the National Security Agency.

“This grant and others speak to our excellent research, teaching and cutting-edge degree programs,” says Sidd Kaza, chair of TU’s Department of Computer and Information Sciences.

TU is one of 19 National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Operations (the only one in Maryland) and has been a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education since 2002.

Two professors in Fisher’s biology department, Elana Ehrlich and Michelle Snyder, received a $1.3 million NSF grant over five years, in partnership with the University of Maryland School of Medicine, to create a “Bridges to the Doctorate” (B2D) program.

This program pairs graduate programs at TU and the medical school to enhance diversity and increase underrepresented minorities in the biomedical profession. Underrepresented minorities are the fastest-growing populations in the United States but make up only a small percentage of the biomedical research workforce.

The $1.3 million grant from the National Institute of General Medical Science is one of 15 in the United States and the only one in Maryland.
STELLAR STATS

1. BE GONE, STINK BUG
Vonnie Shields, TU biology professor and associate dean, received $150,000 from the USDA to find a way to rid the world of stink bugs. She and her team aim to identify volatile and “green” pesticides to manage stink bug populations. Researchers hope to analyze compounds that attract, deter, repel or kill stink bugs, eventually leading to an environmentally and economically sustainable method of control.

2. SAFE CAMPUS
New crime statistics confirm Towson University is the safest in the University System of Maryland. TU has had the fewest crimes per capita of part I—more serious crimes—according to the Uniform Crime Reporting statistics.

3. LESSONS FROM PERU
Ronn Pineo, history chair, and Colleen Ebacher, foreign languages, received nearly $100,000 from the U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad programs. They led 15 U.S. educators to help participants become better teachers, but also to enhance their Spanish language competence and develop intercultural competence and knowledge of Latin American cultures. It marks the fifth time the College of Liberal Arts has received this funding.

4. NURSING GRANT
Backed by a $1.2 million grant, TU’s nursing department is expanding its clinical options for nursing students with five area hospitals. The money from the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission set up the Collaborative Partnership Program with Johns Hopkins Hospital, University of Maryland, Hospital, Howard County Hospital, Sinai Hospital and University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center. The program gives students more experience at clinical sites to prepare them for nursing careers.

5. MOTHERS’ ROOM
Towson University was named among the top 15 friendliest workplaces for nursing mothers by the Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition in November. TU, the only educational institution honored in 2017, received a silver award for its efforts to support new mothers who have returned to work. The campus has eight lactation rooms. TU in Northeast Maryland also has a room with similar amenities.

6. SEAL OF APPROVAL
TU’s College of Business and Economics got the nod of approval once again from AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business which extended accreditation for TU’s business and accounting programs. CBE is one of only three schools in Maryland to hold both accreditations. A team of outside reviewers commended TU for its emphasis on experiential learning, academic advising and career services for its students, and engagement of its advisory groups.

7. POWER OF THEATRE
Thespians in TU’s Department of Theatre Arts are using their skills to help guide younger generations through the Towson Theatre Infusion (TTI) program. The department sends teachers to high school English, theatre, and social studies classes throughout Maryland, then brings the high school students to TU’s campus for a live theatre performance. The 10-year-old TTI program serves 300 to 600 high school students each semester, with many high school teachers signing up for the program a year in advance because of its popularity.
Leslie Harrison, TU professor of English, was on the National Book Foundation’s shortlist for the prestigious National Book Award and went on to be among the five finalists for her second collection of poems, The Book of Endings. Harrison was selected from a longlist of 10 semifinalists released in September. Nearly 250 submissions were received in the poetry category alone.

According to the National Book Foundation, its National Book Awards recognize the best of American literature, raise the cultural appreciation of great writing, promote the enduring value of reading, and advance the careers of established and emerging writers. Harrison characterized her nomination as “extraordinary and unexpected and amazing. This has been a dream and a joyride.” Harrison was born in Germany and raised mostly in New Hampshire. She holds graduate degrees from The Johns Hopkins University and The University of California, Irvine. Her poems have appeared in journals including Poetry, The New Republic, The Kenyon Review, FIELD, Subtropics, Pleiades, Orion and elsewhere.

This year's winners were announced last November 15 at a ceremony in New York City, with Harrison among those present. Frank Bidart took the top poetry honor for HALF-LIGHT: Collected Poems.

The Vergissmeinnicht project gave the German teens a better understanding of their own history, says Joyce Garczyński, TU assistant librarian for development and communication. "The presentation helps make the history even more moving," Garczyński says. "The panels are pop-up banners with full-size photos of individual children. It hits you that these were real people. Because the stories are told in the present tense, you stop thinking of the children in the past tense. They have a chance to live again." Towson resident Fred Katz is one of the subjects whose wartime experience is depicted on a panel.

Cook Library displayed the panels for two weeks, then Garczyński sought a venue in the Baltimore Jewish community.

Part of one of the panels featured in the exhibit
THE KEEPER | Not much gets by Emilee Woodhall. TU’s field hockey goalie was a dominating presence in the cage, surpassing 500 career saves at the beginning of her senior season. She finished her TU field hockey career with 552 saves, the third most in CAA history. Woodhall’s highlights include 34 saves against No. 11 University of Maryland last September, breaking a school record that stood for 34 years.

RECORD BREAKERS | Junior Jack Saunderson and senior Collin Roddy shattered two program records at the 2018 CAA Swimming & Diving Championships. Saunderson won gold in the 100-yard butterfly, breaking the pool, CAA and program record with a time of 45.75 seconds. He also won another gold medal in his first 200-yard individual medley with a record time of 1:45.76. Roddy broke the school record in the 400-yard individual medley with a time of 3:53.04.

ACES | Just one. That’s all it took for Tiger golfers William Bachelor and Spencer Alexander to get the ball in the cup. Bachelor, a junior, carded a hole-in-one at the Hartford Hawk Invitational on the 158-yard, par-three seventh hole. A few weeks later at the Elon Phoenix Invitational, Alexander, a sophomore, aced the 181-yard, par-three 16th-hole. These are the first aces for the men’s golf team since Chris Scialo made one at the 2010 Colonial Athletic Association championships at the Homestead.

ALL-ACADEMIC THROWER | Lauren Coleman capped off a solid sophomore season by finishing 40th in the shot put at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field East Preliminary Championship. Her toss in the preliminary meet went 14.58m (47’10’’). She was also named a U.S. Track and Field, and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic. To qualify, athletes must have a 3.25 GPA or better and be ranked in the top 48 nationally in their event.

1 | 552
2 | 40
402 | 552

SPORT SHORTS
Jocelyn Kuilan, a TU volleyball player, spent last summer playing against some of the best volleyball players in the world.

Kuilan competed on the Puerto Rican National Volleyball Team during the 25th annual FIVB World Grand Prix—one of the biggest international volleyball tournaments. The junior outside hitter practiced with the team, then played in the team’s first round of games between July 7-9.

It was her first time with the country’s senior squad, although she has played for Puerto Rico’s junior national volleyball teams.

“I’m super proud of what I was doing, because there are people I’ve played with who have played in the Olympics,” Kuilan says. “I was just learning step-by-step next to them and trying to become a better player.”

Originally from Toa Baja, a town about 15 miles from the Puerto Rican capital of San Juan, Kuilan, 19, was the youngest player on the team—something she is used to as she was only 17 when she started her career at TU.

But her skill defies her youth. During her sophomore year at TU, Kuilan earned First-Team Colonial Athletic Association honors.

“Being the youngest one on the team, they know I have a high level of potential,” Kuilan says. “It’s great because they have given me a lot of advice and encouragement. If I’m doing something wrong, they are always there to step up and tell me, and to help me get better.”

They didn’t perform any back handsprings, double layouts or handstands. But the approximately 100 former TU gymnasts from the men’s and women’s teams vaulted into history. They came to SECU Arena in February to celebrate 50 years of women’s gymnastics (the men’s team disbanded around 1984).

George McGinty, who coached the Tigers from the program’s start in 1967 until his retirement in 1981, attended. He compiled a 104-45 record and was inducted into the Towson Hall of Fame in 1991.

Dick Filbert ’71, head gymnastics coach from 1983 until his retirement in 2010 and his wife Lynda Filbert ’94, the assistant coach for 20 years came too. During their 20 seasons together, the Filberts led Towson to 11 ECAC championships, 11 NCAA Regional appearances and three USA Gymnastics NIT titles.

In addition, Dwight Normile ’74, editor of International Gymnast Magazine, was on hand.

He qualified for the NCAA National Championships in vaulting and floor exercise, and coached the men’s team.

To celebrate the accomplishments of TU’s women gymnasts, the Department of Athletics compiled a countdown of the top-10 scorers in each event. Below are the top performers. For the other record holders, visit Towsontigers.com.

**VAULT – 10.000**
Kristen Presutti ’03; March 6, 2002

**BARS – 10.000**
Gabi Weller ’00; March 10, 2000

**BEAM – 9.925**
Mary Elle Arduin; Feb. 28, 2016

**FLOOR – 10.000**
Heather Hanson ’00; March 10, 2000
Kristen Presutti ’03; March 21, 2003

**ALL-AROUND – 39.675**
Gabi Weller ’00; March 10, 2000

**TEAM**
196.800 vs. Maryland and Pittsburgh; March 10, 2000
WE ASKED
Bethany Brand
about trauma-related disorders and her international research project, TOP DD studies.

Bethany Brand, Ph.D., professor of psychology, is the principal investigator of the Treatment of Patients with Dissociative Disorders (TOP DD) studies. She heads this international project aimed at determining whether an online educational tool program for patients with dissociative disorders and their therapists improves their response to treatment. The initial results show that patients are showing less, leading to fewer suicides and self-destructive harmful behaviors and fewer symptoms. An earlier study showed treatment was associated with decreased healthcare costs.

Brand has over 25 years of clinical experience, treating and assessing trauma-related disorders, including dissociative disorders and posttraumatic stress disorders.

A professor at TU for 18 years, her graduate and undergraduate classes include diagnostic interviewing, and assessing and treating trauma. She also directs the competitive undergraduate Clinical Focus program.

In addition to teaching, Brand has conducted extensive research on effectively treating trauma-related disorders, distinguishing feigned from genuine trauma disorders, and evaluating psychology textbooks for the accuracy and adequacy of the information they include about trauma.

Brand has received numerous research, clinical, writing and teaching awards including the Morton Prince Award, the Cornelia B. Wilbur Award and the Maryland Psychology Teacher of the Year. She also serves as a forensic expert in trauma-related cases throughout the world.
WHAT ARE DISSOCIATIVE DISORDERS (DD)?

Dissociation is an escape mechanism, a response to a traumatic event such as abuse, combat or being a witness or victim of violence. The DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) classifies several dissociative disorders including Dissociative Amnesia, Depersonalization Disorder and Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID). DID was once called multiple personality disorder; it develops from severe and prolonged abuse in early childhood. Because children cannot escape their abusers—a parent or other trusted adult—they flee instead by disconnecting from their minds, emotions and memories.

Most people know of DID from movies such as “Sybil” and “Split,” but these movies get it wrong. While patients exhibit different states and may have amnesia when doing so, they do not look so flagrantly different as the movies portray. If they did, it would be much easier to diagnose the condition. But genuine DID behaviors are more subtle, more like a change of mood.

Patients with DD also tend to have a lot of other problems such as PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), depression, drug and alcohol addiction, eating disorders, anxieties and high suicidal tendencies.

WHAT LED YOU TO SPECIALIZE IN THIS FIELD?

While I was conducting psychological assessments at Hopkins, I asked how patients’ answers would differ for those who had been abused versus those who had not. Even experienced mental health clinicians had no answers...so I was "off to the races.”

WHAT WAS SURPRISING AS YOU BEGAN TO FOCUS ON DISSOCIATIVE DISORDERS?

Two things—some people in the mental health field refuted the existence of DID. And there was very little research about the disorders and how to effectively treat them.

IS THERE STILL A CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE EXISTENCE OF DID?

For years a prominent psychiatrist at Johns Hopkins denied the validity of these disorders, and there are some people who persist in these beliefs. But we have science behind us with neurobiological evidence to support its existence.

Patients’ heart rates and EEGs—their brain waves—and other biological patterns change when shifting from one state to another. Actors cannot imitate that. In fact, students and therapists trained in psychological testing and DID could not fake the disorder.

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN RESEARCHING DD?

I headed up a 2009 review of the literature; we found only eight studies looking at DID and those were short-term—eight to 12 weeks—not nearly long enough to evaluate effectiveness in a disorder that can take years of psychotherapy. So there was a profound need for research. What’s more, insurance is reluctant to pay for therapy if treatments have not been proven effective.

I was in the right place at the right time. With the proliferation of the internet and the help of Frank Putnam, a legend in the field, we launched an online study so we didn’t need millions to fund it. The first TOP DD study recruited nearly 300 therapists and their patients in 19 countries. It not only showed psychotherapy can help patients with DD, it also identified the best treatment modalities for each stage of treatment.

HOW DID THE TOP DD STUDY EVOLVE?

In the next phase, the TOP DD Network study, we developed 45 videos to teach patients and their therapists about symptoms and how to stabilize them. Patients can watch these 10- to 12-minute videos whenever they want for free. We all need repetitions to learn but especially these folks who may have memory problems. What’s more, in Norway, for example, the videos can reach patients in remote areas who cannot find DD experts available within a reasonable distance.

Our goal in this randomized, controlled study is to determine whether the videos, along with keeping a journal and individual psychotherapy, would minimize self-destructive behaviors and improve treatment more than psychotherapy alone.

Though we are still finalizing the analyses, evidence so far shows patients become more stable. They are having fewer nightmares and flashbacks. They are less fragmented and less at war with themselves. They feel more self-compassion and that seems to help them be less self-destructive.

WHAT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE TREATMENT FOR PATIENTS WITH DD?

Patients must be stabilized first. They need carefully paced, trauma-informed treatment to stop self-destructive behaviors and manage their PTSD symptoms so they can sleep. They blame themselves for not preventing the abuse, and these beliefs must be changed so they can stop harming themselves or self-medicating with drugs or alcohol.

We do not have them talk about the trauma early on in treatment—this tends to make them more suicidal. Once patients are stable, only then can we begin to deal with actual abuse.

WHAT DO YOU WANT jugEES AND JURIES TO TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR TESTIMONY AS AN EXPERT WITNESS DURING TRIALS?

I want them to understand these disorders are inaccurately portrayed. These are people who are not all that different who found an amazing way to survive trauma. They are not typically violent. They need treatment, understanding and support, just like people with any other disorder.

WHAT’S NEXT FOR YOU PROFESSIONALLY?

Last fall I gave a presentation as a master clinician, an honor I never expected in my career. This talk became an article that I will submit with my colleagues to a top trauma journal about how to treat DD based on our study.

I’ll also be giving presentations on the TOP DD Network study in Norway and Amsterdam this year. And I am writing a book on DD for Oxford University Press.

Visit http://www.isst-d.org/ for more information on DD or to support The TOP DD Studies.

The painting held by Brand, the work of a patient with DID, shows the emptiness of the dissociated self and the shame and pain of the traumatized self left behind.
Francis McCubbin ’04 has a job that’s out of this world—he’s the curator of moon rocks, stardust, and meteorites at NASA’s Johnson Space Center.

Francis McCubbin, chief curator at the Johnson Space Center, studies and protects the greatest collection of rocks and samples from the solar system.
A different kind of rock star

Few people get to actually hold a moon rock or other space particle in their bare hands. Even McCubbin handles most samples through a glove box. But a number of lunar touchstones are on display at museums and other public showcases, including one at the Johnson Space Center.

And every country in the world received a piece of the moon as a goodwill gesture following 1972’s Apollo 17 mission, McCubbin explains. Over the years some of those keepsakes were lost or misplaced. “Every now and then,” he notes, “we get an email asking if a sample is from the moon, including a recent query from the Cambodian embassy. Turns out it was one of the lunar samples.”

So what’s it like to touch the moon? “Moon rocks feel much like any other rock,” McCubbin says. But he admits there’s an aura surrounding the experience, “because you know where it came from.”

McCubbin and his staff—10 curators and about 30 processors—can pinpoint the exact location or origin of each rock, sliver or dust grain in Building 31, the home of all samples from NASA-led space missions. They conduct preliminary examinations of these specimens, cataloguing and documenting each piece.

The information helps scientists tailor their requests for specific samples to study. Each year the Johnson Space Center receives some 400 applications from researchers worldwide who want a piece of a rock or other interstellar object. Each of these research proposals is vetted by CAPTEM (Curation and Analysis Planning Team for Extraterrestrial Materials), and even McCubbin must receive CAPTEM approval before he can pursue research on astromaterials.

Inside Building 31, each type of sample is housed within a separate vault. Some 100,000 rocks from Apollo moon missions 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 occupy one of the vaults, catalogued in stainless steel cabinets. Other vaults house particles from the Genesis collection (atoms from the sun implanted in various substrates), particles from NASA’s Stardust probes and cosmic dust collectors, or meteorites found in Antarctica.

And while the staff does not wear spacesuits, they follow rigid clean-room procedures. They must don booties, surgical gowns and hats before being blasted by a wind-tunnel of sorts to remove any dust particles before entering the vaults. Once inside, they handle most samples through glove boxes. “We must ensure that the samples are never contaminated,” McCubbin says. “These stringent protocols keep the rooms and precious samples ultra clean.

“The vault with the meteorites is not required to be as clean,” he adds, “because these rocks have already been exposed to the earth and its atmosphere.”

“Rocky” road to NASA

McCubbin never imagined he’d be reaching for the moon and the planets in 2000 when he began studying at TU’s Fisher College of Science and Mathematics.

He’d always had an avid interest in science, but it wasn’t until he took an introductory course from Jon Filer, a former geology professor, that he began to focus on geology.

By the time he finished a course in planetary science, McCubbin was hooked on the geology and chemistry of the cosmos.

When it came time to select a doctoral program in 2004, he followed in the footsteps of another former TU geology professor, Steven Lev, (now deputy assistant director – Resources, Science and Industry Division at Congressional Research Service).

“I went to Stony Brook guided by Lev, who received his Ph.D. there,” McCubbin explains, “I had the opportunity to do something totally new,—look for water on Mars.”

His doctoral research analyzed meteorites that had crashed on earth after being jettisoned from the red planet, and he soon discovered hydrated minerals within their crystals.

By 2009 McCubbin had earned his Ph.D. in geosciences. His dissertation, “The role of magmatic volatiles in igneous systems on Mars: Inferences from martian meteorites and experimental investigations,” would inform the next phase of his research, first as a postdoctoral fellow at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Geophysical Laboratory, and two years later at the University of New Mexico.

“This type of data is vital to our understanding of the origin of water and the timing of the formation of the moon and the planets,” he explains.

McCubbin continued to explore the role of water and other volatiles—substances easily evaporated—in moon rocks and meteorites as well as earthly compounds that were simulated to chemically behave like those found in space.

Specifically, he focused on apatite, a mineral found in many moon rocks, which appeared to contain substantial amounts of hydrogen, suggesting that the moon was not a bone-dry dustbin but wetter than originally thought.

“For the past 40 years, the moon has been described as nearly devoid of indigenous water; however, evidence for water both on the lunar surface and within the lunar interior have recently emerged, calling into question this long-standing lunar dogma,” McCubbin wrote as first author of a 2010 paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. “The presence of hydroxyl in apatite from a number of different types of lunar rocks indicates that water may be ubiquitous within the lunar interior, potentially as early as the time of lunar formation.”

This research catapulted him into the White House in 2011 as a winner of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. “The award represents the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on scientists and engineers beginning their independent careers,” according to the National Science Foundation website.

The White House ceremony, along with meeting then President Barack Obama, held as much fascination for him as interstellar rocks and stones. “It was really cool,” McCubbin recalls. “He was a larger-than-life figure.”

Some three years later, McCubbin and other scientists collaborated on a study that reevaluated the abundance of water on the moon. Thanks to advanced technology, measurements were more precise, pointing to less lunar water than originally proposed, he says.

McCubbin’s “work on lunar apatites is interesting but reconfirms our classical (post-Apollo) understanding of the moon as rather volatile poor,” Alex Storrs, TU professor...
Researchers collect meteorites exposed on the blue ice fields of Antarctica. Curators handle moon rocks through glove boxes to prevent contamination. McCubbin’s research interests include studying the geological composition of Mercury’s surface using data from NASA’s Messenger mission. Scientists at Johnson Space Center examine the aerogel tray from Stardust, a NASA mission that returned samples from a comet and interstellar space.

He’s yet to be part of the quest because the expedition is about six to eight weeks long and encompasses Thanksgiving and Christmas. McCubbin is content to stay home with his wife and 2-year-old daughter.

But the trip is on his bucket list. He knows firsthand the excitement of discovery. In 2011, he was part of a research team at the Institute of Meteoritics in New Mexico that investigated the first breccia from Mars—“sent to us by a Bedouin sheep herder in Morocco,” he says. The rock generated animated scientific debates about its origin.

For now, research and guarding the geological gems from outer space keep him occupied. “It’s a job,” he says, “that never gets old.”

Ginny Cook is the editor of Towson.
When Gary Homana invited Evelyn Chatmon to share her story of growing up and living through legal segregation in Baltimore with his class, the TU professor in the College of Education got way more than a guest speaker. Her lecture to students in Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on America's Urban Education became the impetus for the film documentary, *Voices of Baltimore: Life under Segregation.*

*Voices of Baltimore* preserves the rich oral histories of a quickly diminishing population of African-Americans who lived through the era of legal segregation—Jim Crow laws. It documents the lives of those who attended segregated schools or experienced desegregation before and after the historic 1954 Supreme Court Brown v. Board of Education ruling.

“There was a striking sense of power in Evelyn’s story which touched my soul,” says Homana. “It was transformational—a realization that this and other stories like it needed to be preserved—for their value, courage, commitment and dedication—not only for the individual but for the community. Perhaps more important, it was a recognition of those who came before and their lived struggles for rights as human beings.”

Homana, along with Morna McDermott McNulty, TU professor of education, and Franklin Campbell Jones, professor emeritus, produced and directed the film that asks the question, “Where have we been, and where are we going?”

The most empowering takeaway from working on the project, according to McDermott McNulty, was “being part of a powerful narrative that hopefully will affect people to re-examine what they have been taught and subsequently empower them to take part in fighting institutional opposition in the present and future.”

These stories—of individuals who never expected their lives to become a testament of resilience and an enduring legacy against oppression—speak volumes about how our nation and its people can become a more tolerant and equitable society.

“I need to stand up for what is right,” Chatmon says in the film.

According to Homana, Chatmon, former assistant school superintendent in Baltimore County, was central in identifying others to include in the film. McDermott McNulty knew Walter Gill, an adjunct professor in the Department of Early Childhood Education, who serves on the Citizens Review Board in Baltimore City.

Through recommendations of Chatmon and Gill, the other participants were identified: Chief Judge Robert Bell of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals; Louis Diggs, an
author who served in the all-Black Maryland National Guard during the Korean War; Elizabeth Frances Nichols Gill, who was a supervisor at AT&T; Treopia Green Washington, director of special initiatives in the College of Education at Bowie State University; and Patricia Welch, dean of education at Morgan State University.

After initial conversations, four themes emerged, reflecting remarkable consistency across the conversations.

The producers/directors chose film as the research vehicle because “I wanted to be part of a project that uses nontraditional forms of inquiry,” McDermott McNulty says.

“Using film as an alternative medium to traditional research to capture these stories was essential in the process,” adds Homana.

Homana, McDermott McNulty and CampbellJones are developing an accompanying curriculum guidebook for use with the film that could be used in a core course offered by TU’s College of Education.

“The purpose of the work is to serve as a way for students to critically analyze the continuing struggles around issues of equity, power, privilege, segregation and social justice faced in schools and neighborhoods across the country,” Homana adds.

Voices of Baltimore premiered as part of TU’s Black History Month on Feb. 16 to a packed house in Stephens Hall Theatre.

TU President Kim Schatzel and COE Dean Laurie Mullen spoke. A panel discussion featured six of the seven people profiled in the film—Diggs, Elizabeth Gill, Walter Gill, Washington and Welch. (Bell was absent due to illness.)

In addition to the TU screening, the film was shown at Bowie State University as part of Black History Month and organized by Green Washington. It was presented at the National Council of Teachers of English Assembly for Research conference held at TU in March; the 14th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry conference (May 2018 in Urbana, Illinois); and the National Council for the Social Studies conference (November 2018 in Chicago).

Homana has been approached by colleagues at Brandeis University, Tufts and the University of Maryland College Park, as well.

“We intend to use Voices of Baltimore to build partnerships across our diverse community working with schools and organizations,” Homana says. “These partnerships will enable increased use of the work and promote ongoing thoughtful discussions and critical analysis of the various social, cultural, and political forces surrounding segregation and integration—and how they exist in schools and society today.”

Sedonia Martin is a senior communications manager in marketing and communications.
owson’s forgettable 2011-12 season is arguably one of the worst in NCAA Division I basketball, but the team’s leading scorer, Marcus Damas ’14, rose above it and continues to benefit from those lessons learned while overcoming loss after loss.

“That was painful,” Damas recalls of the 1-31 record. “We didn’t expect to be great that year but we didn’t think it would be that bad either. The coaches kept telling us to hang in and look to the future. That’s one of life’s lessons.”

Today the 27-year-old Damas is the CEO of his brainchild, Fueled by Culture, a Long Island, New York-based marketing firm that connects sports and entertainment celebrities with brand-name companies. It’s a business where one knocks carefully on tough doors and when they don’t open, knocks again. It’s much like picking yourself up after a disappointing setback on the basketball court.

The cavalry arrived for the 2012-13 season in the form of players like Jerelle Benimon and Rafriel Guthrie. Bolstered with reinforcements the Tigers again made history, going 18-13 to record college basketball’s largest season turnaround.

Damas, the squad’s resilient leader, was a starter in 96 of 98 games. His 1,140 career points earned him membership in the Tigers’ exclusive 1,000-point club. “It taught all of us that you can succeed with patience, perseverance and energy.”
Head coach Pat Skerry couldn’t imagine his first year as Towson’s head coach without Damas, who was the new skipper’s first scholarship player.

“Marcus took a chance on us and bought into our vision for the program,” Skerry says. “He was our emotional leader. He was as tough a player as we’ve ever had here. He’s really responsible for a lot of the success we’ve been able to have. I’ll say this—in my 26 years of coaching he’s right at the top, one of the greatest guys I’ve ever been associated with.”

After a shoulder injury curtailed Damas’ first season of college basketball, the McDonald’s All-American candidate out of Bay Shore (N.Y.) High School arrived at TU following a year at Westchester Community College (14.0 ppg, 9.0 rpg) where he caught the eye of a number of Division I schools.

“I had a few Big East looks too, but none of them felt like home,” Damas says. “Skerry was pitching family and being part of Towson for a lifetime. That sold me immediately.”

Since childhood Damas had dreamed of playing professional basketball. After graduating with a degree in communications studies, his agent, Noah Croom (currently the assistant GM for the Minnesota Timberwolves), found an opportunity for him with the Solna Vikings in the Swedish League.

“EA Sports was the driving force to get me going,” Damas confesses. “It wasn’t long until I wanted to step out on my own. After watching the markets and gauging their needs, I came to the conclusion everything Damas did when he sought his agent’s help to muster out of basketball into the business world.

“EA Sports was the first time that one of his players had ever approached him about wanting to stop playing basketball, but he was committed to helping me,” Damas recalls. “He connected me with EA Sports and I hit the ground running.”

A leading publisher of sports video games, EA Sports is a subsidiary of the parent company Electronic Arts, Inc. Damas served as a consultant, assisting with its motion capture, game soundtracks and advising the company on the urban culture—what kids might or might not like. He also began connecting EA Sports with NBA players.

Damas surprised Croom when he sought his business Fueled by Culture, which now has 10 employees and 15 clients.
is fueled by culture. For instance, look at the path Adidas took after the hip-hop group Run DMC came out with “My Adidas.” It turned that company around. Or like Nike, which was struggling until it connected its brand to Michael Jordan.”

What Damas needed was an event to launch his idea. With the help of social and digital media marketing strategist Karen Civil, a private dinner was arranged between an odd couple—rapper Young Jeezy and Fortune magazine.

“At the time I didn’t know Jeezy,” admits Damas, by then independent and a full-time entrepreneur. “I reached out to him. I sold him and Fortune magazine on the concept of bridging the gap between urban culture and a respectable media outlet with a long history. Up to that point Fortune hadn’t paid much attention to hip-hop or the individuals who have found success in it. We changed that.”

The event, which honored Jeezy for his community service, also drew singer and songwriter Alicia Keys, actor and television personality Terrence J and Cleveland Cavalier Iman Shumpert. The affair attracted the esoteric attention Damas had hoped to grab. He had liftoff.

In a little over a year his company has sprouted, connecting a number of athletes and rappers to big-name companies for brand activation. The clientele includes Los Angeles Clipper Tobias Harris to the fitness studio Pure Barre, Golden State Warrior Nick Young to Postmates and rapper 2 Chainz to Lyft. The agency’s workforce numbers 10 and currently handles 15 clients.

“Marcus persevered,” says Skerry. “He’s a lot tougher than he looks. He’s a great example for some of our guys who are getting ready to go out into the real world soon. He didn’t love it here every day, but what we asked him to do, he did. He got through it. Those experiences no doubt are continuing to help him. If you called him today and asked him about it, he would be as good a salesman as we’ve ever had. And I know he’s appreciative of what Towson did for him too.”

As for the future, Damas is determined to stay ahead of the game, know where everyone’s eyes are and be smack-dab in the middle of any conversation about what they’re looking at. He’s also focused on what lured him back home—his family. He and his wife, Morgan, reside near his old Bay Shore neighborhood with their children, Maxwell, 6, and Madeline, 6 months.

Pete Schlehr ’71 is TU’s sports information director emeritus.

Damas scored 1,140 points during his TU career, earning him membership in the Tigers’ exclusive 1,000-point club.
t’s nearing 9 a.m. on a brisk Wednesday in March, and once-bustling corridors at Graceland Park/O’Donnell Heights Elementary/Middle School are silent. With teachers and children dispersed to classrooms, the TU student interns become more obvious. Gathered in the lobby near the school’s tiny koi pond, some stand chatting while others perch on kid-size chairs. They’re awaiting the arrival of Kerianne Croce, associate professor of elementary education and their ELED 357 instructor.

As Croce enters, the interns stir in anticipation. Within seconds, they’re en route to teach, each with an assigned English language learner.

ELED 357 (Linguistically Diverse Learners in the Classroom) is the first course they’ve taken in the screened major and, for most, this weekly internship marks their introduction to teaching. Now three weeks in, they’re gaining confidence and a better understanding of their role as teachers.

Graceland Park/O’Donnell Heights Elementary School/Middle School, on Baltimore’s industrial southeast side, serves a majority Hispanic/Latino enrollment in pre-K through 8th grade—and it’s far from alone. Maryland schools enroll nearly 70,000 children who speak a language other than English at home. And although Spanish speakers predominate, more than 200 languages are represented among students statewide.
“There’s an enormous need for teachers who can work with multilingual students,” says Croce, who developed ELED 357 four years ago in response to the College of Education’s strategic goal of expanding involvement in urban education, both locally and across the state.

**An innovative approach**

ELED 357 combines classroom instruction with off-site teaching, an approach that enables students to apply what they’ve learned in weekly visits to participating schools.

Since 2016 Croce and her interns have partnered with a small group of Baltimore City schools, working one-on-one with English language learners. From the outset she aimed to establish strong relationships with school faculty, staff and students. “We approached them and asked how we could help,” she recalls. “Our success depends on knowing what the school and community need.”

Ashley Kurdziolek, a junior from Mount Airy, Maryland, remembers her first day as an intern at Graceland Park/O’Donnell Heights, noting that “the faculty and staff were very welcoming and excited to have us there.”

Kurdziolek says she and her classmates were ready for their first foray into the classroom. “Dr. Croce really prepared us,” she says. “On campus we learned all kinds of activities and creative approaches to teaching English. At the school, she was always there to help us figure out what to do if we got stuck.

“Sometimes it’s hard to tell if I’m succeeding—whether the child is grasping the concept,” Kurdziolek continues. But after three weeks, the intern could tell she was making a difference. “It’s amazing to see my student grow and understand,” she says.

Her classmate Kori Harris, a junior from Baltimore, says she and her first-grader began by reading Spanish-language books. “Spanish is her comfort zone,” Harris explains, “so I’d ask her to translate the words to English. Now we’re reading only English-language books.

“We talk about the plot and the characters. Learning another language is stressful, so I mix things up and try to make it fun for her.”

A Graceland Park/O’Donnell Heights kindergarten teacher notes that the weekly one-on-one attention from an adult is really important for younger children. “They don’t always get that from the regular teachers,” Guienen Behrle says, “and it helps them build confidence and brings them out of their shells.”

“They also learn that it’s OK to make a mistake and that everyone is learning together.”

**Meeting other needs**

Teaching children English isn’t the only need being addressed at Graceland Park/O’Donnell Heights.

The Maryland-based Kahlert Foundation established a special collection of much-needed ELL books for the school library as well as a multicultural ESL resource library in TU’s College of Education.

A Kahlert Foundation grant has also enabled Croce to offer the school’s faculty on-site TU graduate courses in teaching English as a second language (ESL). (See related story, page 34.)

In addition, she teaches a GED math class there for Spanish-speaking parents.

“These initiatives benefit everyone involved,” Croce says. “The courses help prepare Graceland Park/O’Donnell Heights faculty for the PRAXIS exam in ESL. Parents earn their GEDs and our interns gain valuable insights and experiences.

“What’s more,” she adds, “Graceland Park/O’Donnell Heights enhances its reputation as a community hub offering a variety of resources to children and their families.”

Six semesters of Baltimore City placements have established a pipeline of ELED 357 TU alumni to Maryland schools, and Croce says she couldn’t be more pleased. “Our graduates enter teaching knowing how to work with English language learners and classroom teachers,” she says.

**Maryland schools enroll nearly 70,000 children who speak a language other than English at home.**

For Kori Harris, ELED 357 has been personally as well as professionally rewarding. Harris says she and her first-grade student got to know each other through the internship. “I was sick and missed a Wednesday,” she recalls, “and when I returned she wanted to know where I’d been—she’d missed me.

“One day we were walking around the building, and I explained why reading mattered so much. I told her that doing well in school is important and that education gives you a better life.”

For Harris, the advice came straight from the heart. “This is why I want to teach,” she says.

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

“The Maryland-based Kahlert Foundation established a special collection of much-needed ELL books for the school library as well as a multicultural ESL resource library in TU’s College of Education.”
(Clockwise from top left) TU interns, Samantha McElroy, Kyle Marciniszyn, Ashley Kurdziolek and Kori Harris apply what they’ve learned in their classes during weekly visits to students at Graceland Park/O’Donnell Heights Elementary School.
Since last fall, the TU Alumni Association has been busy, hosting more than 14 events from coast to coast. Whether we were toasting young alumni on campus or visiting graduates in Atlanta, California or Florida, one universal truth was evident—alumni have a strong affinity to their alma mater.

Some of them traveled hundreds of miles to reconnect with their friends, demonstrating strong ties to TU no matter where they may now live and work. As president of the alumni association, I want to continue to build and strengthen these alumni bonds. This is a key part of the outreach strategy of the Alumni Association board of directors, which aligns with the university’s strategic plan.

Two initiatives already underway are designed to create and facilitate ease of access to the many benefits of being a TU alumnus. We are leveraging technology by upgrading the platform of TU’s Alumni Online Community. This will provide more timely, consistent and efficient communication with our graduates, allowing us to connect with multiple alumni groups based upon profession, culture or ethnicity.

We are also coordinating with the TU Career Center as it implements its career and networking platform, Handshake.

This will assist alumni not just when they are searching for that first job, but throughout their careers.

As president, my goal is for the alumni association to facilitate our outreach efforts locally, regionally and nationally, and continue to engage strategically with various alumni groups. I continue to believe that the key to building long-term relationships with alumni is to connect and engage personally. So I invite you join us for an upcoming event.

Together we can roar, “Go Tigers!”

Anthony R. Hamlett ’76

PRESIDENT, TU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

THE 2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENTIAL PORTRAIT UNVEILED

Painting will hang in the Auburn House

TU President Kim Schatzel’s official portrait was unveiled Nov. 16 at a reception in the Auburn House, where the portrait will hang alongside those of past presidents. Commissioned by the Alumni Association, the portrait was painted by Ned Bittinger, who also painted then TU president and now USM Chancellor Robert Caret’s portrait in 2007.
FOOTBALL AT COLLEGE PARK
Tigers versus Terps

More than 300 students, alumni and friends tailgated at College Park Sept. 9 and then watched TU freshman quarterback Ryan Stover throw a pair of touchdowns in his first career start. It wasn’t enough, however. TU lost the game 63-17, but we won on enthusiasm and spirit.

1 Chancellor Robert Caret with Rene and Frank ’73 Mezzanotte   2,3,4 Tiger fans of all ages brought roars of support at the tailgate and during the game.

BASEBALL IN ATLANTA
Watching the Braves at SunTrust Park

John Schuerholz ’62, MLB hall of famer and chairman emeritus of the Atlanta Braves, hosted over 200 alumni and friends from TU and other USM schools, Sept. 19 at SunTrust Park, when the Braves faced the Washington Nationals.

1 Terry Brown ’87 and Lori Armstrong   2 Lewis ’75 and Ramona Hayden   3 Karen Schuerholz, John Schuerholz ’62 and President Schatzel
TOP 20
Celebrating “20 Tigers in their 20’s”
the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

The Alumni Association celebrated TU’s young alumni at the “20 Tigers in their 20s” event on Oct. 5 at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore.

TOP VOLUNTEERS
Recognition awards honor those who give back

The TU Alumni Association celebrated its top volunteers on Oct. 19, recognizing alumni and friends for their volunteer efforts. Special thanks to the Alumni Association Community Outreach and Engagement Committee members Laura Concannon ’83, Taylor Lutz ’14/17, John Kenneally ’79, Glenn Ross ’81, Matt Sikorski ’12, Tanisha Taylor ’04 and Bob Zhang ’07.

We also celebrated recipients of the Alumni Association’s Professional Development and Community Grant—Kylsin Aung ’09, Margaret K Calvert ’73, Tamatha Flowers ’88, Rachel Leach ’01/’06, Preston Mitchum Jr. ’97 and Rebecca A. Shindledeker ’08

The 2017 recipients are Chris Acker ’14, Daniela Beall ’14, Danielle Calogera ’12, Ryan Everett ’13, William Fadely ’14, Allison Fisher ’16, Darryl Glotfelty ’11, Brandy Hall ’13, Shane Henise ’15, Angie Hong ’12, Muneer Kirmani ’10, Paige Lawal ’12, Andrew Lingelbach ’14, Christopher Markomanolakis ’12, Steven Novotny ’11, Abiola Ojo ’13, Marieke Oosterwijk ’15, Rachael Pashkevich ’11, Phylicia Porter ’10 and William Stafford ’10.
WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN
Celebrating Honor Elizabeth Wainio ’95

The annual fundraiser for Honor Elizabeth Wainio ’95 took place Oct. 14 at the Ropewalk Tavern, owned by Marc McFaul ’95. Wainio perished on Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, on 9/11. A scholarship established in her memory by her employer Discovery Communications as well as family and friends, supports a TU student in the communications field. To date, students have benefited from 31 scholarships totaling over $98,000. A special thanks to the family of Elizabeth Wainio, Esther Heymann ’72, Ben Wainio and Sarah Wainio.

1 Glenn Ross ’81, Debbie Ross, Ben Wainio and Gary Rubin ’68  
2 Tracy Smith ’17, this year’s scholarship recipient  
3 Wendy Muher and Michele Baldwin ’9  
4 Esther Heymann ’72 and Richard Vatz  
5 Grace Toeneboehn ’10, Esther Heymann ’72 and Brian Toeneboehn
CRABS AND BASEBALL
Spring training tradition gathers alumni on both coasts of Florida

Maryland crabs were back in Florida and so were TU alumni, who flocked to Ed Smith Stadium in Sarasota for two Orioles games on Feb. 26 and 27. Thanks to Pinchers Crab Shack for steaming up the classic Maryland treat. The next day the Alumni Association joined alumni in West Palm Beach at the new Space Coast Stadium of the Washington Nationals.

1 Olivia Lorenz, Sonia Velasco ’88, Jeffrey Mehler  
2 Bertha Debaugh ’51, Rebecca Kugel, Robert Hurst  
3 Fran Soistman ’79 and President Schatzel  
4 Claiborne Christian ’92 and family
VOICES IN ANNAPOLIS
Alumni and students advocate for TU during the legislative session

The TU Alumni Association was back in action Jan. 10, promoting higher education initiatives during the first day of the Maryland General Assembly. Students and alumni returned to the state’s capitol Feb. 28 to meet with legislators for Tiger Pride Day.

1 Gloria Starghil ’92 and Kyle Starghill
2 Gordon Schaaf, Virginia Schaaf ’57, Jayne Astle ’62 and John Astle

BIG APPLE TIES
NYC and Long Island alumni alliances launched

The Terrace Club was the networking scene as alumni joined TU President Kim Schatzel to inaugurate special TU groups in New York City and Long Island. Special thanks go to Sean Fetcho ’05, Adam Lang ’05 and Nils Bosch ’03 for their volunteer spirit in setting up the Nov. 2 event.

1 Shawn Fetchco ’05, Samantha Castro ’06 and Justin Hecht ’05
2 Obsetee Korme ’03, Tracy Wright ’99 and Christine Hollingsworth ’98
3 Joyce Moorehead ’06, Maggie McCarthy ’06 and Anthony Mangine ’06
HOMECOMING 2017
A race, a party and a come-from-behind victory

Close to 150 runners raced through campus during the third annual Tiger Trot 5K, which kicked off the Oct. 28 Homecoming celebrations. Next the Alumni Association gathered at the Tailgating Festival across the street from Unitas Stadium with 50 alumni groups totaling more than 3,000 alumni and guests. These fans got to celebrate a last-minute Tiger touchdown to beat Delaware 18 – 17.

1 A Tiger balloon marks the spot against an October sky. 2 Runners take their marks at the start of the annual Tiger Trot 5K. 3,4 Tiger tailgaters turned out with cheerleading gear and beverages to get ready for the game.
Fans are all smiles as they gather on a perfect fall day for Homecoming. Shane Leatherbury carries the ball. The Tigers carried the day beating Delaware in the final seconds. Wide receivers Ryan Rutkowski, Nick Gray and Sam Gallahan were ready to take on Delaware. The TU Marching Band fires up some tunes.
LIVING LEGACY LUNCHEON

Luncheon honors TU’s first African American graduates

Alumni, friends and family assembled Oct. 29 in the Chesapeake Room to honor Marvis Evon Barnes ’59 and Myra Ann Harris ’59, the first African American graduates of Towson University. A scholarship honoring them provides assistance to incoming freshmen from metropolitan high schools who demonstrate financial need, with nearly $5,500 awarded in the last five years.

WEST COAST WONDERS

Two receptions bring together alumni in California

Brunch and networking were the order of the day as Tony Hamlett ’76, president of the TU Alumni Association, greeted guests Jan. 27 at Citizen in Beverly Hills followed by an electrifying Jan. 28 event on the water at Herringbone Santa Monica at The Seychelle.
For over two decades I have lived within one mile of Towson University. While shopping, getting a haircut or just having a bite to eat, I have met countless TU faculty members, employees and students. My view of TU has been from the outside, until now.

Since joining the University Advance- ment team in October, I have made it a point to get out of my office, walk the campus and get a feel for TU’s vibrant and beautiful people and culture. My outsider’s perspective of the greatness of this institution has only been reinforced. The people aren’t just friendly; they’re genuinely interested in connecting. The education isn’t just a series of classes; it consists of inter- related student life, leadership, community engagement and academic development experiences.

Our students, faculty and staff thrive at TU, and we have big plans to make this institution even greater. I invite all our alumni, parents and employees to turn their passion into action and join us for each step of the journey into the future.

Go Tigers!

Todd R. Langenberg
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT
DEVELOPMENT

“Our students, faculty and staff thrive at TU and we have big plans to make this institution even greater.”

Doc, dressed in a two-piece suit and angel wings, may not seem like a common sight on campus. During the week leading into Valentine’s Day, however, it has become a welcome tradition as a part of the Doc Hug-A-Thon campaign.

During this fundraiser students, faculty members, staff and families of current students are able to send fellow members of the TU community a Valentine’s note, delivered with a hug by our very own Cupid for-the-week, Doc the Tiger.

Friends and family send students words of love and encouragement, while staff members show their appreciation for a colleague’s hard work. Even President Kim Schatzel received Valentine’s Day cards during the weeklong fundraiser.

While Doc Hug-A-Thon is a great opportunity to spread the love on TU’s campus, it also benefits our university as a fundraiser supporting the Towson Fund, which serves the areas of greatest need on campus.

To support the Towson Fund, visit www.towson.edu/TowsonFund.
Prepared English Language Learners

THE KAHLEERT FOUNDATION CREATED THE ELL STUDENT SUCCESS FUND

Roberta Kahlert ’69 has fond memories of her 28-year career teaching English in Baltimore County Public Schools, including one student breakthrough that left a lasting impression. While teaching a Korean student with limited English-speaking ability, Kahlert was motivated to see the student succeed, so she provided extra assistance and guidance that helped the student earn a high school diploma. Now that Roberta and her husband, Greg Kahlert, are in a position to help others through their family foundation, they want to make a positive change for other English Language Learners (ELL).

The Kahlert’s understand that today’s public schools teach more ELL students than ever before. In order to enhance ELL instruction and classroom resources for students and educators within Maryland school systems, the Kahlert Foundation created the ELL Student Success Fund at TU. “We hope the next generation of teachers are better prepared to support Maryland’s diverse student body,” say the Kahlert’s.

The ELL Student Success Fund supports two bilingual libraries with dual-language and wordless picture books to nurture a love of reading in children. One library is at Graceland Park/O’Donnell Heights Elementary/Middle School in Baltimore City, where students can check out books and take them home. The second library, on Towson University’s campus, is for undergraduate interns to enhance their student teaching instruction.

The Kahlert’s fund is further enhancing instruction by covering the cost of professional development graduate courses for Baltimore City educators. After a three-course series of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) training and testing, these teachers become ESOL certified and are better equipped for diverse learners. The ELL Student Success Fund also extends into the community, funding a GED program for non-native English speaking parents of Graceland Park students and encouraging literacy within a Head Start Program at College Gardens Elementary School in Rockville, Maryland.

The Kahlerts feel encouraged by what the ELL Student Success Fund has accomplished so far, saying “it has enabled Towson University to effectively support teachers, students and families in the community.”

To support the preparation of ELL educators, visit www.towson.edu/GiveToELLStudentSuccess.
Mildred Murray’s Legacy of Equality

TRAILBLAZING EDUCATOR LEAVES PLANNED GIFT

Towson University celebrates the legacy of Mildred Murray, a true trailblazing professional, who died in March of 2017. Murray spent her career advocating for women’s athletics as Baltimore County Public School System’s coordinator of physical education and athletics. She sought equality and educational opportunities for all, which is why when Title IX became law in 1972, Murray’s advocacy ensured Baltimore County athletics programs were already compliant.

Murray was the first woman to head a county high school athletics department in Maryland, the first female president of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association from 1978 to 1980 and oversaw the first women’s state championships in field hockey, softball, volleyball, basketball and lacrosse. Murray’s family and friends remember her as an educator and leader “who developed and cultivated mentally and morally.”

During her career, Murray strategically placed Towson University’s physical education student teachers with the most suitable Baltimore County mentor teachers. She had such an appreciation for the quality of educators Towson University generated that in 1999 she established an endowed scholarship in her name, the Mildred Murray Scholarship Fund, which has supported over 20 physical education teacher education students in the Department of Kinesiology. Murray left Towson University a generous estate gift to ensure her legacy continues to benefit future generations.

To support the Mildred Murray Scholarship, visit www.towson.edu/GiveToMildredMurrayScholarship.
Finding Purpose While Searching for Answers

FUNDS IMPROVE THE FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY EXPERIENCE AT TOWSON UNIVERSITY

Maryland native Michael Hogan went missing in Vermont in 2005. Four years later, police identified his remains, but Michael’s parents, Sandy Hopkins and Mike Hogan, were dissatisfied with Vermont authorities’ investigation and evidence collection.

The parents sought the expertise of Dana Kollmann, TU professor of anthropology, whose response to their son’s case was unexpected. “Dr. Kollmann put together a group of students, faculty and local experts to go to Vermont to do a comprehensive search of the area where Michael’s remains were discovered,” Hopkins recalls. As a result of the search, most of Michael’s remains were found, fractured vertebrae were identified that could have contributed to his death, and the parents had answers they would not have known otherwise.

In May 2011, Hopkins and Hogan expressed their gratitude to Kollmann and TU by creating the William Michael Hogan & Dr. Dana Kollmann Student Professional Development Fund in Compassionate Forensic Science, which supports student professional engagement and training. “We wanted to recognize annually one of the many outstanding students who demonstrates passion and aptitude for forensic anthropology and a sensitivity to the lives of those whose physical remains form the subject of study,” Hopkins explains. The first recipient is Jake Arnold ’18, who will attend Shooting Incident Reconstruction Training at the Madison Police Training Center in Madison, Wisconsin, to enhance his post-graduation employment candidacy.

According to Kollmann, word-of-mouth has spread awareness of TU’s forensic search services throughout the law enforcement community, increasing the number and geographic area of requests, requests that can only be fulfilled because Hopkins and Hogan turned the heartache of losing their son, Michael, into a generous movement to help others.

Hopkins and Hogan further advanced experiential learning for TU students earlier this year by creating the William Michael Hogan & Dr. Dana Kollmann Student Professional Development Fund in Compassionate Forensic Science, which supports student professional engagement and training. “We wanted to recognize annually one of the many outstanding students who demonstrates passion and aptitude for forensic anthropology and a sensitivity to the lives of those whose physical remains form the subject of study,” Hopkins explains. The first recipient is Jake Arnold ’18, who will attend Shooting Incident Reconstruction Training at the Madison Police Training Center in Madison, Wisconsin, to enhance his post-graduation employment candidacy.

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To support forensic searches and student professional development, visit www.towson.edu/HoganKollmannForensicScience or www.towson.edu/HoganKollmannStudentDevelopment.
1950
ALICE LAZARUS HABER ’55 wrote Taking My Turn: Reflections, Convolutions and Honey the Talking Cat, a romp inside her inventive, opinionated and colorful mind.

1970
CHARLES A. JOHNSON ’70 became professor emeritus of political science and dean emeritus of liberal arts when he retired from Texas A&M University. He lives in College Station with his wife, BARBARA WALKIEWICZ JOHNSON ’70.

JAY RHODES ’71 retired after a dual career in bank management and coaching basketball. The former TU MVP basketball player and 1971 unsung hero serves on the city council, a hospital board and as a church deacon in Kings Mountain, North Carolina. He has been married for 45 years and has two children and three grandchildren.

WILLIAM OWINGS ’73, professor of educational leadership at Old Dominion University, and his wife, published their 10th textbook, Organizational Behavior for School Leadership.

PHILIP RUBIN ’74 retired after 41 years in civil service as a deputy chief investigator. He now works with his local rescue squad and spends time with his granddaughter.

CARMEN STROLLO ’78 MUED was inducted into the Maryland Entertainment Hall of Fame for being a member of The Admirals and The 2nd Coming, and for individual merit.

1980
Dancers DONNA REESE ’81; KEN SKRZESZ ’86, DAVID UNDERWOOD ’88, SANDY FLYNN, DINA REYES ’88; LINDA BOWEN HILDEBRAND ’89, DENISE LAUNAIS TAFF ’89, SUZANNE MILLER-CORSO ’89, SHARI VAZQUEZ BICKEL ’91, JERRI-LYNN PILARSKI ’91, KAREN CAMPBELL KUEBLER ’91, KRISTIN ALESSANDRONI ’92, DONNIEE UPSON-TYLER ’92, LINDA CORMIER WHITE ’92, SANDRA PREHODA HARRIS ’92, CRAIG YOCHEM ’92 and TRACIE BURTON HOOPER ’93 attended the Maryland Dance Education Association conference to see Helene Breazeale, TU professor emerita and founder of the TU dance program, receive the 2017 Living Legacy Award.

DORTHEY DANIELS ’81 MCOM celebrated 30 years with WSB-TV, the ABC News affiliate in Atlanta. An Emmy-winning producer, she is an executive producer of local programming.

DENNIS E. WHITMORE ’82, a pastor, author and radio host in Washington County, published Ponderings of a Pedaling Pastor, a book about his bicycling adventures across 13 states over 40 years.

DAVID REY ’84 BUAD, executive vice president at Salesforce, received an industry leadership award from the 2017 FedScoop 50 Award program.

ROB WRIGHT ’84 MCOM, a lead 3D artist and senior compositor for CNN, received a News and Documentary Emmy Award for Outstanding Scenic and Lighting Direction for CNN Heroes, “The 10th Annual CNN Heroes All-Star Tribute,” broadcast in 2016.

WILLIAM C. O’MEALLY ’85 was appointed assistant professor of family and community medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He will be coordinating a family medicine residency rotation in the emergency department at the Midtown campus.

SAM POLAKOFF ’86 BUAD published Hiatus, a sci-fi thriller about reuniting with deceased loved ones once a year for 24 hours.

KAREN K. DAVIS ’87 was named associate vice president and chief nursing executive for the University of Rochester Medical Center.

PAUL J. RYAN ’87 co-authored The Essential James Garner, about the actor’s television and movie career. He also obtained Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification.

ALISON BOSSERT ’89 published Think before You Ink and Other Cautionary Tales, a collection of humorous essays and stories which explore her life, travels and kooky thoughts.

SETH JEFF CHANOWITZ ’89 published his second novel, Russia Rising, a spy thriller based on his experiences as an international journalist and U.S. intelligence official between 1988 and 2016.

1990
ROBERT FORDI ’90 ECON, CEO and managing partner of Realterm Logistics, was appointed to the board of trustees of the Gunston School in Centerville, Maryland.

LEE GOLDMINGER ’91 opened Swamilee’s Sports Cards & Outlet in Pennsauken, New Jersey. NFLer SEAN LANDETA ’84 and KRISTIN ALESSANDRONI ’92 attended the opening.

ROY VARGHESE ’91 BUAD is the chief information officer for fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

DON DUNBAR ’92, creative director at gyro, joined the board of directors of Girls in the Game, in Chicago.

KATHLEEN PIERSON ’92 continues composing and playing for ballet and modern dance classes, currently at Bryn Mawr College.

KELLY SHERIDAN ’92 is the scholarship administrator for the Delaware Community Foundation. She is also the donor services administrator for southern Delaware.

ALICE LAZARUS HABER ’55 wrote Taking My Turn: Reflections, Convolutions and Honey the Talking Cat.

SAM POLAKOFF ’89 published Hiatus, a sci-fi thriller.

LAUREN DOYLE OWENS ’00 released her debut novel, The Other Side of Everything.

ERIC DAVIS ’97 earned his 2nd degree black belt and was awarded the rank of Kyosei in Nihon Itto-Tenshin Ryu Kenjutsu.
HIS DREAM NEVER DIED
JOHN CAREY JR. ’17 FOUND A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY AT TU IN NORTHEASTERN MARYLAND

For two years he lived in a car, tormented by undiagnosed mental illness. Now he looks forward to graduate school and a career dedicated to helping others who are as down on their luck as he was half a lifetime ago.

In December John Carey Jr. ’17 graduated from TUNE (Towson University in Northeastern Maryland). The 62-year-old psychology major, who excelled academically at the Bel Air, Maryland, campus, became a friend and role model to students young enough to be his grandchildren.

With the support of TUNE faculty and staff, he’s set his sights on earning a master’s degree in social work from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. “I want to help homeless vets because I was one,” he says simply.

He didn’t always have such confidence. After serving in the Navy for 12 years, he was honorably discharged but mental-health issues he attributes to extreme stress soon landed him on the streets of Huntington, West Virginia.

Driving other homeless people to the liquor store or hospital provided a meager income.

Most of the time, he hid. “I was really afraid,” he explains. “I didn’t know what was wrong with me.”

After two years of homelessness, Carey was diagnosed with severe manic depression and agoraphobia (fear of public places).

With medical care and Veterans Administration supervision, he was able to get a job and a disability check from the federal government.

The years that followed included becoming an education major in 1993 at Marshall University in Huntington along with doubts about being able to teach with his disability. He left without graduating.

A major medical setback followed. But by 2016 he was living in Bel Air with his husband and applied to TUNE. His goal was to follow in the footsteps of those who’d reached out to him in his darkest hour. “They say people major in psychology because they want to understand themselves better,” Carey says with a chuckle.

Marjorie Tversky, TUNE’s director of Student Services, remembers when Carey began taking classes. “He was uncomfortable at first,” she says. “But as the months passed he seemed to blossom here.”

Mark Chachich, who directs TUNE’s psychology program, is a staunch admirer. “John is brilliant, a fantastic student and one of the nicest guys you’ll ever meet,” he says.

“ar time at TUNE really invigorated me,” says Carey. “Everyone treated me with respect and dignity, and there was never a discouraging word. It was always a pleasure to be there.”

—JAN LUCAS

GAYLE MYRTA ’93 M.A., GEOG retired after 21 years with the Department of Defense as a strategic industries analyst, researching foreign mining and metal industries.

KURT SCHERTLE ’93, COO of Weis Markets, was named the Pete Manos Retail Executive of the Year by the publishers of Food World and Food Trade News in November.

KEITH L. EWANCIO ’94/’07, a human resources specialist at Social Security, received the 2017 Excellence in Federal Career Silver Award from the Baltimore Federal Executive Board for volunteer service.

JONATHAN B. MYERS ’94 joined Barton & Loguidice as a senior managing engineer at the Lanham, Maryland, office.

DIONNE WALLACE OAKLEY ’94 M.S. was promoted to vice president of human resources and strategy at Erie Insurance in Pennsylvania.

APRIL FORCE PARDOE ’94 celebrated the 10th anniversary of her interior design studio. Her projects have been featured in magazines and won awards. She is also on the 2018 advisory board for the Women’s Giving Circle of Howard County.

KAY ALBOWICZ STIMSON ’95 is vice president of government affairs for Dominion Voting Systems, a firm that provides voting systems to more than 1,200 jurisdictions in the country.

GEORGE E. BROWN ’96, of the Maryland law firm Kramon & Graham, was recognized by The Best Lawyers in America 2018 for his experience in construction litigation.

ERIC DAVIS ’97, owner of Ocean City Appraisals, earned his 2nd degree black belt and the rank of Kyosei in Nihon Itto-Tenshin Ryu Kenjutsu from the Delaware Budokan Dojo. He is also president of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge #4528.

JACK S. MONELL ’97 earned his tenure and promotion to associate justice and program coordinator of justice studies at Winston-Salem State University.

ELIZABETH ROSALES ’97 and JASON MDUFFIE ‘04 married on October 4, 2017.

REBECCA GIBSON ’98 M.ED., assistant professor of education at McDaniel College, teaches in the Department of Education and in the master’s degree program for reading specialists.

FRANK DESANTIS ’99, vice president of breakthrough innovation at Stanley Black and Decker, is a member of the SHIFT Society, which creates change and solves problems.
**ALUMNI**

Libby Blumenthal Goldstein ’57  
February 15, 2017  
Marjorie Cohen Strasburger ’40  
October 10, 2017  
Sarah Plakoff Shane ’41  
February 27, 2018  
C. May Diekmann ’42  
April 1, 2017  
Kenneth E. Mays ’42  
February 17, 2018  
Agnes Kernan Samek  
February 17, 2018  
Marlyn Berkenfeld Baida ’52  
January 14, 2018  
John L. Napp ’51  
January 20, 2018  
Norval H. McDonald Jr. ’50  
December 23, 2017  
Jane Dove Diefenbach ’49  
November 28, 2017  
Edith Paul Rosenthal ’48  
December.  
Margaret Hennlein Porter ’48  
October 10, 2017  
Eugene M. Cherewko ’61/’71  
September 3, 2017  
Frances Joska Seibert ’58  
January 11, 2018  
Linda Kumkumian ’80  
September 29, 2017  
John H. Jordan Jr. ’79  
January 28, 2018  
Dena M. Watson ’79  
May 19, 2017  
Edith Paul Rosenthal ’48  
December.  
Margaret Pennington  
April 11, 2017  
Ann E. Rountree ’53  
February 25, 2018  
Iven J. Rathbone ’53  
March 21, 2018  
Mary Jo Ellis VanAntwerp ’78  
August 31, 2017  
Joyce Helfrich ’79  
April 9, 2017  
John H. Jordan Jr. ’79  
January 28, 2018  
Desiree E. Melnychenko ’79  
January 9, 2018  
Kenneth E. Mays ’42  
February 17, 2018  
Steve A. Renbaum ’56  
February 17, 2018  
Anne Garthe Callaway ’43  
February 17, 2018  
Agnes Kernan Samek  
February 17, 2018  
Harriett Brohawn Arnold ’51  
January 26, 2018  
Sarah Pliako Shane ’41  
February 6, 2018  
Margaret Pennington  
April 11, 2017  
March 14, 2018  
Carmela Mick Riley ’69  
March 14, 2018  
P. Michael Gaehagan ’70  
October 8, 2017  
Henry A. Groff Jr. ’71  
April 21, 2017  
Ronald R. Hammond ’71  
January 23, 2018  
Diane Geary Linton ’71  
October 13, 2017  
John W. Bereska ’72  
September 22, 2017  
Bruce W. Byron ’73  
May 2, 2017  
George E. Milbert ’73  
October 7, 2017  
Carol Walker Powell ’73  
January 5, 2018  
William Hall ’73  
May 2, 2017  
William L. Beckwith ’74  
May 19, 2017  
Robert C. Novak  
November 14, 2017  
Alice H. Nida  
November 14, 2017  
Robert C. Novak  
November 9, 2017  
William B. Oxnard Jr.  
December 30, 2017  
Jane Dove Diefenbach ’49  
November 28, 2017  
Nancy D. Chilton ’57  
October 30, 2017  
Walter Shaeffer Mayr ’59  
February 3, 2018  
Patricia Vecchio Beat ’73/’76  
November 6, 2017  
Edward Beck ’74  
November 24, 2017  
Jeffrey S. Todd ’74  
March 5, 2018  
Gary N. Bowen ’75  
December 25, 2017  
Frederick H. Fusting ’76  
December 22, 2017  
Robert L. Lacey ’76  
January 17, 2018  
Bunny Hayden ’77  
January 31, 2018  
Michael W. Lee ’77  
August 9, 2017  
Susan L. Littleton ’77  
March 18, 2018  
Mark P. Loechel ’77  
February 12, 2017  
Richard J. Young ’77  
January 12, 2018  
Marcia J. Tarr ’77  
February 12, 2017  
KARA BALL ’08 was a finalist for the Department of Defense Education Activity’s 2018 Teacher of the Year in Washington, D.C.  
**FACULTY/STAFF**

Shiva Azadegan  
February 7, 2018  
Bette Hankin  
December 25, 2017  
Alice H. Nida  
November 14, 2017  
Robert C. Novak  
November 9, 2017  
William B. Oxnard Jr.  
December 30, 2017  
Ruth C. Schwall  
May 5, 2017  
**2000**

LAUREN DOYLE OWENS ’00 ENGL released her debut novel, The Other Side of Everything, which explores the vulnerability of living in an increasingly dangerous and fragmented world.

MATTHEW NEIN ’01 PHED, head sports performance coach at Salisbury University, was named the 2018 College Strength and Conditioning Coach of the Year by the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

BRIAN LEVIN ’02, writer for Spike TV, Comedy Central, Disney XD and Awesomeness TV, and producer of multiple films including “Flock of Dudes,” is pursuing funding to produce movies locally in Maryland.

DELORA SANCHEZ ’02, senior vice president of Cornerstone Government Affairs, was featured on the cover of The Daily Record’s Path to Excellence, a magazine that focuses on successful women in business.

JODY BENEDICT BERINATO ’04 is president of the Maryland Dental Hygienists’ Association.

CHRIS LAMARTINA ’07, a filmmaker and screenwriter, joined A. Bright Idea Advertising and Public Relations as director and producer of verbal and visual storytelling.

JOANNE BROPHY MCGARRY ’07 became a Nationally Board Certified teacher in December.

KARA BALL ’08 was a finalist for the Department of Defense Education Activity’s 2018 Teacher of the Year in Washington, D.C.  
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November 9, 2017  
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December 30, 2017  
Ruth C. Schwall  
May 5, 2017  
**2010**

NYASIA MAUCHAZA ’11 qualified for the Sanderson Farms Championship at the Country Club of Jackson in Mississippi.
TRUST YOUR DOG
POLICE OFFICER RELIED ON, AND RETIRED WITH, HIS BEST PARTNER

Dave Nails ’84 has always been an animal lover. When he began working as a K-9 officer at the Dallas Police Department in Dallas, Texas, his commitment to these furry friends became the final stage of his career.

After serving as a patrol officer, a detective, undercover officer and airport officer, Nails found his calling and it found him in the form of a dog.

But after 33 years in law enforcement, Nails recently retired with his K-9 partner—Baron. Most officers do not get to take their dogs with them when they leave. But Baron’s age and chewing habits gave Nails the privilege of leaving the force alongside his four-legged partner. Now, man and canine spend their time relaxing after some eight years in the field.

“Trust your dog” was the phrase that Nails remembers hearing constantly within the K-9 unit. And in more times than not, the phrase was true. The bond the two formed together was built on trust and hard work.

Baron’s talents were varied. He was trained to search buildings, to bite and hold, to sniff out narcotics and to track. Nails remembers with pride one particular occasion when Baron’s insistence led the unit to catch an armed car thief.

Like a human partner, however, Baron had a quirk or two in his personality, Nails says with a laugh.

On a call to a large grocery store, Nails recalls “Baron began going down aisles on one side and I started on the opposite. Next thing I knew, Baron comes out with a 10-pound ham hanging from his mouth.”

With Baron’s fun-loving and dedicated personality, Nails wishes he had begun working as a K-9 officer sooner.

“Dogs are just such amazing animals,” says Nails, who trained Baron as a four-month-old puppy and then became his official partner, working side by side to form a perfect team. “Seeing him come into the program was amazing,” he adds. 

—REIKO GALLO
Christopher Hicks has participated in the Hussman Center for Adults with Autism for seven years. His time at the Hussman Center has taught him to grow in his own talents and make friends while sharing his experiences with others.

“I know the better parts of myself, and I go above and beyond the call of duty because of the Hussman Center.”

To support the Hussman Center and its participants’ continued growth, visit www.towson.edu/GiveToHussmanCenter.
Pass along any duplicate copies to a friend and advise us of error by sending back your mailing label. Thank you.

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