

TU

Flight Path

LEARNING TO FLY CHANGED TERRY CARBONELL '81 FOREVER. NOW SHE'S USING HER PASSION FOR AVIATION TO TRANSFORM OTHERS' LIVES.

MAGAZINE SPRING 2022



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ENGAGED IN GIVING

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A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

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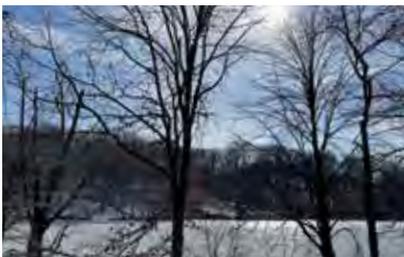
Female Flyers

May 21 of this year marks the 90th anniversary of Amelia Earhart's historic solo trans-Atlantic flight. One of the founders of the Ninety-Nines, her legacy can be found in its vice president, Terry Carbonell '81.

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48 OUR TOWN



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Out of the Shadows

Intimate partner violence skyrocketed during the pandemic.



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Engaged in Giving

Fran Soistman '79, '15 (hon.) continues his philanthropic journey.



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A Catalyst for Change

Catalina Rodriguez Lima '06 saw the need for an office of immigrant affairs in Baltimore.

ON THE COVER



Photographer Lauren Castellana '13 (pictured left) got a day's worth of great shots during her time in—and above—south Florida with pilot Terry Carbonell '81. But she still didn't think she had "the one." So Castellana waited until sunset to capture

the cover shot, which was taken 10 hours after she, writer Rebecca Kirkman (pictured right) and Carbonell arrived at Miami Homestead General Aviation Airport. "It came together perfectly," Castellana says. "The blues of the sky, the soft evening light, Terry's polo and the Ninety-Nines' compass rose on the tarmac."

CONTRIBUTORS

Kim Schatzel
President

Mike Unger
Editor

Lori Marchetti
Art Director/Designer

Megan Bradshaw
Copy Editor

Lauren Castellana '13
Alexander Wright '18
Photographers

Tasha Lloyd
Production Manager

Contributors

Megan Bradshaw
Elizabeth Braungard
David Calkins '93
Rebecca Kirkman
Felicity Knox '94
Chandler Vicchio

Lori Armstrong
Associate Vice President,
Alumni Relations

Sean Welsh '05
Vice President,
University Marketing
& Communications

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

towson.edu
towson.edu/magazine

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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.

President's Letter

Student success at Towson University is one of my favorite stories to tell.

Whether I'm meeting alumni at a crab feast before an O's spring training game in Sarasota, Florida, or parents during Move-In or Commencement, I beam with TU pride whenever I get the opportunity.

Towson University's story is one that continues to evolve, to solve the problems that face our state and our world. From its origins as a teacher preparation school to the anchor institution it is today, TU has always served as a workforce provider for our state. As we endeavor toward attaining a Carnegie Classification of R2—recognizing high research output—TU is merely continuing its natural evolution.

As our community and mission grow, our impact only continues to gain momentum. We're now home to 20,000 focused learners, who are learning and achieving inclusively. TU is one of only a handful of universities nationwide that has zero achievement gap: Our minority student population achieves the same academic success as the entirety of our student population. TU is a national leader in social mobility, helping to change the trajectory of generations of Tigers through an inclusive and excellent learning environment.

That is the impact of a Towson University education.

This edition of *TU Magazine* captures so much of that. There are news items about student and alumni success, our pair of 20-win basketball teams and how TU Foundation grants are funding interdisciplinary research opportunities for undergraduate students. There's also a glimpse



at our Campus Master Plan, which lays forth the blueprint for how physical campus will continue to evolve to match our promise for our state and our future students.

You'll find stories on those who give of themselves to support the university's success—like inaugural Leader-in-Residence Linda Singh—and those who give philanthropically—like Fran Soistman, co-chair for RISE, the Campaign for Towson University and the benefactor behind the largest alumni gift in TU's history.

You'll meet an alum who is a pioneer among aviators and creates opportunities for other women to fly and faculty and alumni experts who share their insight to help victims of intimate partner violence.

Through those stories, we can see how student success at TU has a national impact. As we enter the time of year where we celebrate our latest graduates, there is so much to celebrate at Towson University, and there are indeed even greater things ahead.

It is a great time to be a Tiger!

KIM SCHATZEL, PH.D.
TOWSON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

TREASURES

Press Past

Baseball has always been Sean Welsh's favorite sport. TU's vice president for university marketing & communications first picked up a glove when he was about 5, and, though his playing career ended in junior college, he transferred to TU hoping to fashion a career covering the sport in the media. He'd eventually accomplish that, thanks, he says, in large part to the experience he had here. In professor John Turner's sportscasting class, he got to call a few innings of an Orioles game at Camden Yards into a tape recorder. The students later critiqued themselves.

"You go into the broadcast booth with one of your classmates, and you do color while the

other one does play-by-play," says Welsh '05. "It was like a real broadcast."

After graduating, Welsh interned for the minor league Aberdeen IronBirds. The team's announcer, Steve Melewski '83, allowed him to call three innings during radio broadcasts of home games. Welsh eventually landed a job with the *Baltimore Examiner*, where he was a member of the Baseball Writers' Association of America as the newspaper's Orioles beat writer. Among the events he covered were Cal Ripken's induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2007 and the last game at Yankee Stadium in 2008.

"For a kid a year and a half out of the communication school here at TU, it was like a dream came true for me pretty quickly," he says.

Welsh moved on to the *Baltimore Sun* as an editor, where he was part of the team that covered the death of Freddie Gray and its ensuing impact. In 2018, he returned to his alma mater as director of media relations and, in December 2021, was appointed to his current position by President Kim Schatzel.

"This job enables me to do a lot of the things I loved about journalism, like working with creative people to tell stories," he says. "That I'm doing it at a place I love is icing on the cake."



Campus News



TU Runs on Dunkin'

The newly renovated Union Food Market now has full-service Dunkin' Donuts and Chick-fil-A locations in addition to five other dining options.



TU in the House (and Senate)

When the Maryland General Assembly began sessions on Jan. 12, 13 alumni took their seats in the House (9) and Senate (4).



Top Honors

TU's College of Education ranked No. 46 in *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Online Master in Education Programs. The master's in applied information technology ranked No. 64 in the Best Online Master in Computer Information Technology Programs. The website Poets & Quants ranked CBE No. 27 on its list of best U.S. public undergraduate business schools and No. 4 with the highest percentage of minority and international students.

Reduce, ReUSE, Recycle



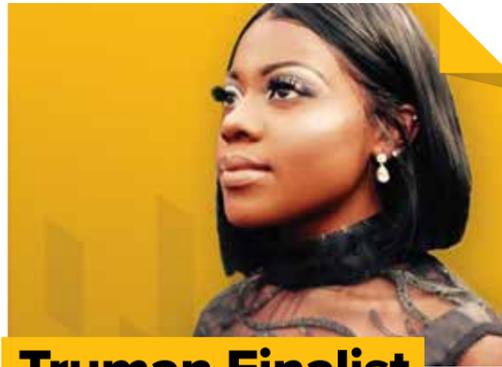
As TU continues to grow, so does the need for furniture for faculty and staff. The Facilities Management office has come up with a cost-effective and sustainable solution: the TU ReUSE shop, which enables departments to quickly, sustainably and affordably purchase used furniture for campus buildings. The shop also embraces TU's commitment to sustainable practices, responsible management and efficient use of all resources.

Towson Trills Thrill

In 2015, a group of friends formed the a capella group Towson Trills. In 2021, the group signed a management deal with Underscore Talent and released its first EP, *Like it's Christmas*.

The Trills feature five alumni—Aaron Bayne '19 (vocal percussion), Leroy Hyson '19 (bass), Will Damanka Jr. '19 (tenor) Kathryn Marie '19 (soprano) and Nick Zuelsdorf '21 (baritone)—and one current

student—Missy Melkonian '22 (alto). On Dec. 19, 2021, they performed the national anthem in front of 70,000 at the Baltimore Ravens game against the Green Bay Packers. The group has also been making a name for itself on social media. Its TikTok (thetrills) now boasts more than 3.6 million followers and went viral after showcasing their takes on sea shanties.



Truman Finalist

Kaila Hodge '23 is the second student in university history to be named a Truman Scholarship finalist. She is one of 189 finalists chosen from more than 700 nationwide applicants and one of just six finalists from Maryland.

"We are extremely proud of Kaila being named a finalist for this prestigious award," says Melanie Perreault, provost and executive vice president for academic and student affairs. "It is testament to her hard work and diligence and also to the excellence of our academic programs."

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation awards merit-based scholarships to college juniors who plan to pursue careers in government or public service. Winners receive up to \$30,000 for graduate or professional school, participate in leadership development activities and have special opportunities for internships and employment with the federal government.

"At a young age, I realized my agency through political communication and its various forms," Hodge says. "I hope to inspire other young people to do the same."

Nominees must be in the upper quarter of their class and should have an extensive record of public and community service, outstanding leadership potential and communication skills and a commitment to a career in public service.

Hodge checks all those boxes—and more.

LET'S EAT

7

new options at the renovated University Union Food Market

21

dining options on campus

1,413

coffees sold at Dunkin' during the first week of the spring term

5,950

meals sold by Chick-fil-A during the first week of the spring term

430,000

meals swiped in all locations during the spring term



Linda Singh concludes tenure as TU's leader-in-residence

When asked how she defines leadership, Linda Singh doesn't hesitate: It's a quality, not a position or a destination.

Those aren't empty words. Singh's journey through her 38-year career with the Maryland National Guard and her recently concluded two-year tenure as TU's inaugural leader-in-residence embodies that philosophy.

She enlisted in the National Guard in 1981 but took medical leave for several years. During that time, she worked a variety of jobs—McDonald's, a department store, temp jobs—before she returned to the reserves where she stayed for six years before returning to the Guard full time.

A turning point for her was when she rose through the organizational chart at a job with a defense contractor as a reservist. With each role, her experience and confidence grew. Singh earned a business degree and followed the advice of a first sergeant who suggested she enroll in Officer Candidate School.

After receiving her commission in 1991, she was deployed to Kosovo and did a combat tour to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Singh was named the 29th adjutant general of the Maryland National Guard on Jan. 21, 2015—the first Black woman to hold the position. She commanded more than 5,500 soldiers and airmen and more than 1,000 full-time federal and state employees who responded to emergencies and disasters. Singh advised Gov. Larry Hogan and oversaw the state's efforts become one of the National Guard's cutting-edge cybersecurity leaders.

"Sometimes we have to put it all on the line for people we believe in," Singh says. "The things that I believed in over my career, I knew because of leaders that came before me. When you believed in your people, you put it all on the line. That truly is what I founded my leadership as adjutant general on."

She retired in 2019 as a highly decorated officer with a new doctorate in organizational psychology. Singh began looking for a role that was affiliated with a university and put her in a position to impact others.

When she began her job as TU's leader-in-residence in 2020, her understanding and practice of leadership was almost immediately tested.

The COVID-19 pandemic abruptly shifted her plans from in-person events and seminars to focusing on a strategic examination of leadership development opportunities across campus.

"My thought was, 'How can we bring synergy to leadership programs and events across campus and tie that to the culture? How do we make those competencies part of the culture not just for students but for everyone?'" she says.

Singh's leadership journey has evolved even further over the last two years, as she focused on how to prepare students for life after graduation.

"That's probably been the biggest growth point to say, 'Pandemic or no pandemic, I've been through worse things.'

So how do we keep a level of faith, confidence and being relentless about how we're going to come out of this?" she says.

Singh is now going to center her efforts on her consulting business, Kaleidoscope Affect, but she intends to remain a Tiger.

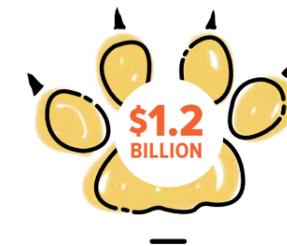
TU, she says, is "always going to have a place in my heart."

"As she has done at every stop in her distinguished career, Linda Singh leaves Towson University a better place

for her presence," President Kim Schatzel says. "As our inaugural leader-in-residence, General Singh contributed greatly to TU's innovative approach to leadership development."

"Towson's always going to have a place in my heart."

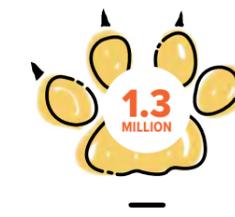
—LINDA SINGH



Proposed investment in campus buildings in the 2030 Campus Master Plan



Priority projects outlined in the plan



Gross square footage of new and renovated space in the plan

Blueprint for the Future

TU is ready for its next evolution. The newest Campus Master Plan features strategic new construction, renovations of key and historic facilities, as well as campus safety and accessibility projects that support student success and our goal of earning a Carnegie Classification of R2 (high research output). For a glimpse into the future of your TU, turn to the next page and visit towson.edu/masterplan.

Building for the Future

After thorough research and extensive community outreach, TU has drafted its 2020–30 campus master plan, the document that will guide future decision-making regarding on-campus improvements. For the first time, TU's master plan is in direct alignment with the university's strategic plan and its Self-Study for Middle States Re-Accreditation, which ensures a focused and comprehensive vision for the university.

The master plan outlines a long-term framework for sustainable development of academic, research and student life buildings as well as landscapes and infrastructure to connect and support them.

Some of the major projects envisioned in the plan include updates to core areas of campus and renovated and new infrastructure to support TU's goal of achieving

a Carnegie Classification as an R2 Doctoral University with High Research Activity. The plan also maps out the creation of a North–South Campus Greenway as part of a larger connection between South Campus (SECU Arena, the Auburn House) and downtown Towson and calls for developing and refining the edges of campus to enhance engagement between TU and the surrounding community.

While construction timelines and building designs will fluctuate over the years, these renderings demonstrate the transformation taking place on campus now and provide the starting point for imagining the future of TU.

For more information, visit towson.edu/masterplan.

Pedestrian Bridge

As part of the proposed North–South Greenway, a new bridge over Osler Drive and Auburn Drive connects the campus life center and academic core to the athletics district with an accessible route. The network of paths would run from South Campus (Auburn House, athletic fields) through campus to the new College of Business & Economics building at the corner of York Road and Burke Avenue.



West Village

New housing is planned for the West Village residential district, with the addition of open space to replace the Enrollment Services building. Currently housing options in West Village include Barton, Tubman and Douglass houses; West Village 1 and 2, Marshall Hall, Towson Run and Millennium Hall.



College of Business & Economics

The construction of a new academic building for the College of Business & Economics at York Road and Burke Avenue redefines this gateway to campus. Regrading the hillside connects the campus to downtown Towson in a more meaningful and accessible way.



OFFICE HOURS

Word Games

Chris Cain, chair of the Department of English, explains why they endure.

Word games like Scrabble and Bananagrams and language activities like Hangman hold linguistic interest for me. I think word games are attractive because they engage two fundamental primitive instincts that people have. One is play; the other is manipulating language.

Language and word games take two forms: encryption and decryption. That two-way street is essentially the thoroughfare on which people seem to be most interested in language play.

Spoken language games tend to be about encryption, because it's about play, and sometimes it serves an in-group with the level of secrecy.

English cant is an example. It was a sort of secret language that started in the late 17th century in central London and was used primarily by pickpockets to facilitate their activities. It was about keeping secrets and in-group identification.

Language games have rules. In Pig Latin, you take the onset (the first consonant) of the first syllable, you move it to the end and then you add A. But word games seem to be about decryption. Scrabble is essentially a decryptational game. So is Wordle.

Wordle is interesting because you can only access it once a day, so it also creates stakes. If you don't decrypt the word, you wait until the next day to play again. Engagement with play, engagement with language and these once-a-day, elevated stakes have made Wordle successful. It has an in-group element as well, with people capturing their squares and sharing them on social media.

When someone plays a game like Wordle, they use strategy, even if they don't realize it. One of the main ones is syllable structure. In the English

language, you can, for example, have RH as an onset. But not HR.

The game may start with a guess: "Let me try to get as many vowels in a single word as possible to increase the chances that the next row is going to tell me where letters should go." Players go on from there, using their implicit knowledge of English to place letters correctly.

People have an intuitive sense of that without thinking about it. And word games, to some extent, make these things explicit, just like taking a course on the structure of English

“So Wordle is not really just a guessing game. It engages some deep intuitions that speakers use to compute English.”

makes explicit what English speakers already know.

I teach a class called The Structure of the Language. On the first day I'll say, "If you're a native speaker of English, you're an expert on English. If you're a native speaker of Farsi, you're an expert on Farsi. You already know everything we're going to talk about in this class."

"Drink" has been a Wordle solution. English speakers already know that

in a one-syllable word there are constraints on the sequence—you can't have rdink or drkn or drkin or most other arrangements. The spelling matches constraints on syllable formation in which the onset consonants (d and r) have to be progressively more sonorous—or louder—until the vowel.

So then the coda (final) consonants (n and k) have to be progressively less sonorous. R is more sonorous than d; n is more sonorous than k. So Wordle is not really just a guessing game. It engages some deep intuitions that speakers use to compute English.

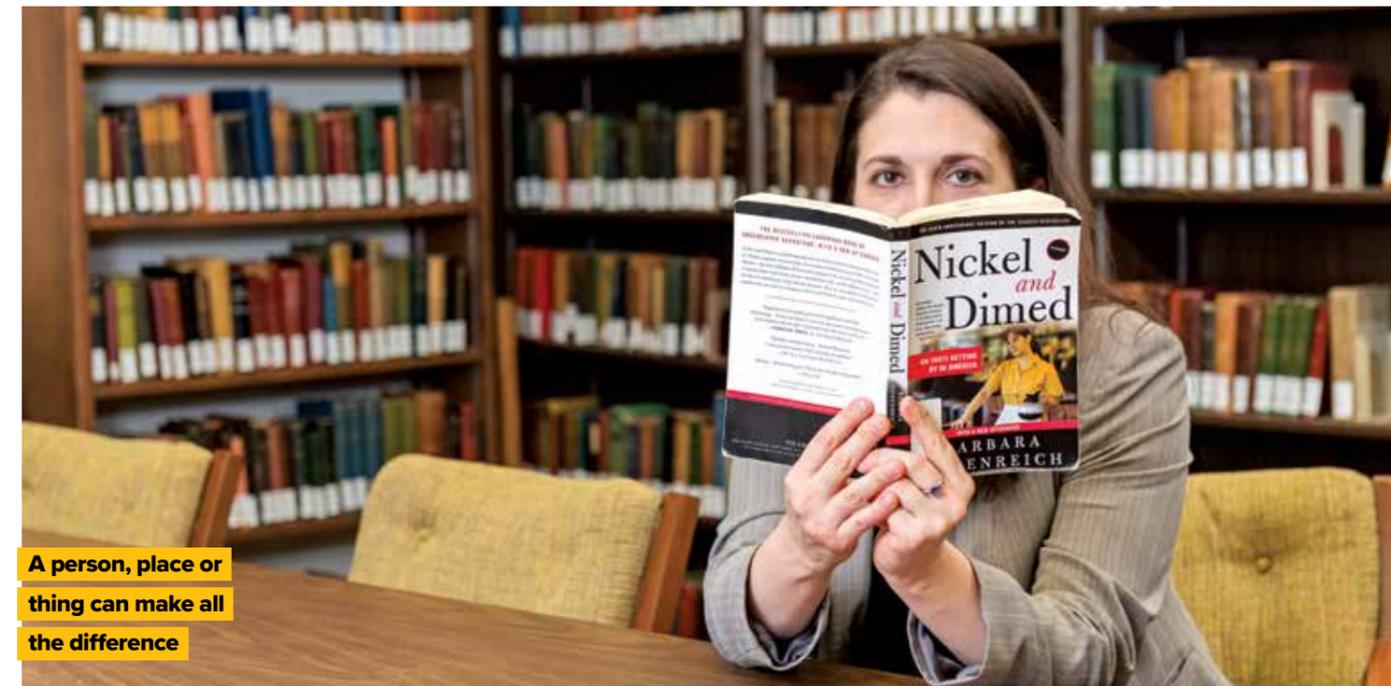
If the Wordle square were seven or eight across, that would be really, really tough because then you're getting into this territory that English explores that lots of languages don't: lots of onset consonants and lots of coda consonants.

Depending on the word game, a player's outside knowledge or vocabulary can be a benefit. When you play Scrabble, it's an advantage to have an expansive lexicon. That's not the only thing that matters, but obviously it helps. In crossword puzzles, you have a series of clues, and sometimes those clues are things that don't necessarily engage one's vocabulary but one's knowledge of movie titles, authors or actors. It's not all about word power in the traditional sense, but word power plus cultural

knowledge plus a native speaker's linguistic intuitions.

If you speak the language, you're an expert on that language, and so you can do language games. My advice to new word game players is to start small. Try something like Wordle first because it's not going to take up a ton of your time. If it's not your thing, then forget it. And if it becomes your thing, then there's no bottom to what you can do with it.

The One **BOOK** That Changed My Life



A person, place or thing can make all the difference

SUZANNA CONRAD

Dean of University Libraries

After I graduated college, I started working for corporations selling mobile content and games. Even though the job paid the bills, I wanted something more fulfilling—something that would make a difference in other people's lives. So I decided to get my master's in library science. After graduating, I found my passion for academic librarianship, and I dedicated my career to creating resources and services to help meet the needs of traditionally underserved student populations.

One day I was having a conversation with a friend who read *Nickel and Dimed* for a college course. We had a really interesting

discussion about the cost of healthy food for those paid only minimum wage, and our interaction piqued my interest in the book. The book really changed my understanding about how close to poverty so many people are and how companies do not do enough to pay fair wages and benefits.

The author, Barbara Ehrenreich, is a researcher, and her premise is that she wants to find out whether you can live on minimum wage. So she goes to different locations that aren't major urban centers and gets low-paying jobs.

She works as a waitress first, then as a cleaning lady. She ends up at Walmart. She tries to live—but it's tough. Now she has some privilege coming into it. For example, she gets herself a Rent-A-Wreck car, so she's already better off than some people might be. I think *Nickel and Dimed* is a good representation of the fact

that a lot of people live job-to-job. If something happens with their car or their health, they can go completely under. We don't always think of that if we've had any sort of financial support from parents or if we've just been well positioned. I definitely think this book created more understanding in me for some of the struggles our students face.

It was a very frank book, and it was also well researched. She approached it as a scientist thinking about what it means to not have a lot of money in America.

Reading *Nickel and Dimed* not only opened my eyes to the challenges others face; it drove me to want to do something about them. When this book was first written in 2001, the information economy was in its infancy. Now, having access to information can make a tremendous impact on someone's life. It can mean the difference between being

able to apply for a job or not, being able to find a doctor or not, and, on a university level, even graduating or not. By making information available to everyone in their communities, academic libraries can play a significant role in addressing the challenges that have persisted since Ehrenreich first researched them.

In my role as dean of university libraries, I've been involved in initiatives to make more course materials available to students for free through our Library Textbook Fund. We're also building an academic commons where students can get research help, advising, tech help, tutoring and writing assistance. Our relationship with information continues to evolve, as do the roles of academic libraries, but *Nickel and Dimed* remains as a professional call-to-action for me. That's why I recently checked it out of our library here, so I can read it again.



Moving On Up



TU has sparked countless innovators. These are their stories.

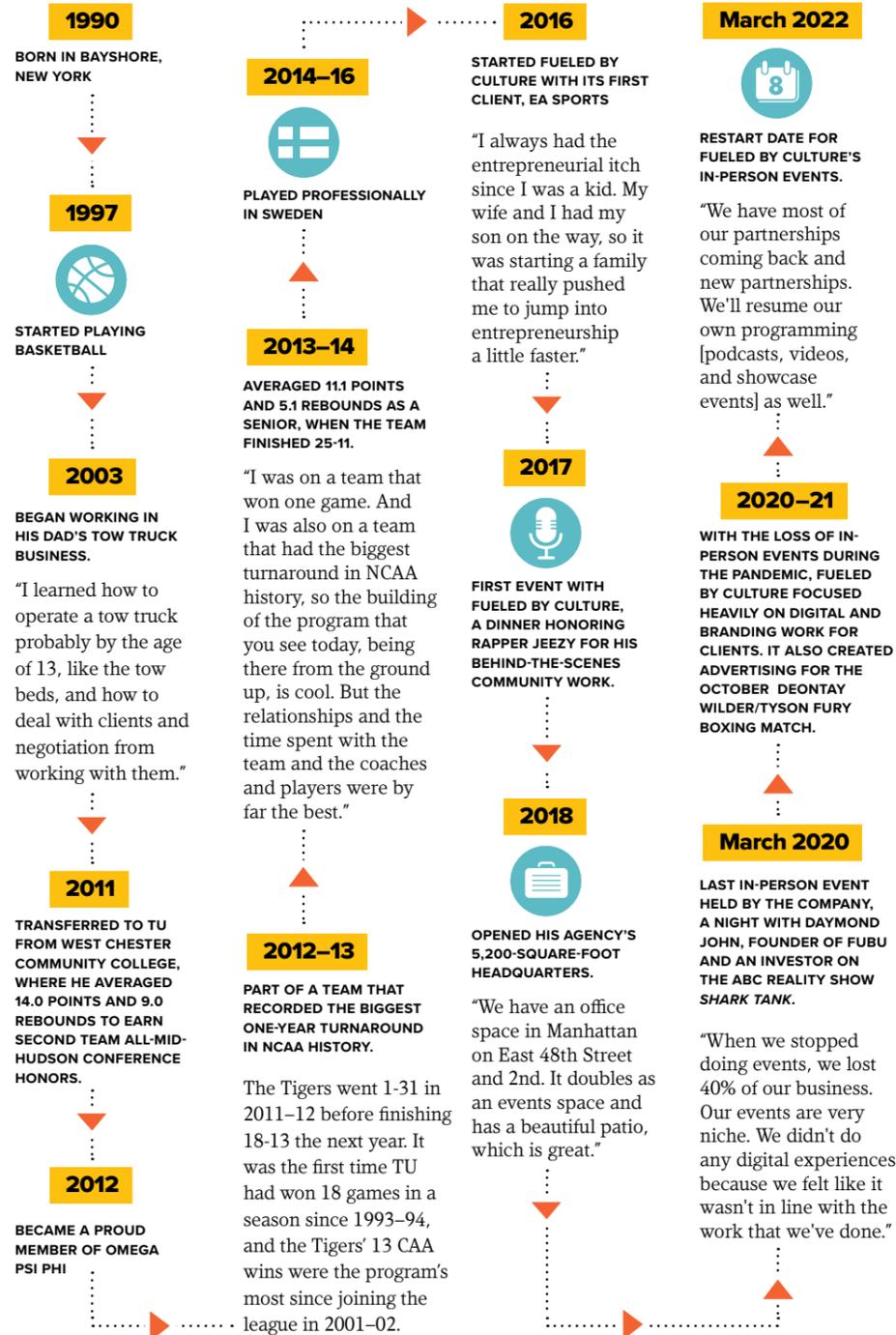
Marcus Damas '14

Founder, Fueled by Culture

In 2016, former TU men's basketball player Marcus Damas '14 found art imitating life.

After concluding a two-year professional basketball career in Sweden, he was working with EA Sports, reenacting player movement to be copied for the company's video game NBA Live.

Damas also found a business idea: Fueled by Culture, a cultural marketing firm based in New York City. In the agency's first nine months, Damas and his staff of seven connected then-Detroit Pistons forward Tobias Harris to Pure Barre, rapper 2 Chainz to Lyft and then-Golden State Warriors shooting guard Nick Young to Postmates for events and brand activities. Now, the agency offers services like brand strategy, event production and digital and social media strategy to clients like *Forbes* magazine, Chase Bank and HBO.



Coffee With... Patricia Bradley

We sat down with TU's new(ish) vice president for inclusion and institutional equity to discuss the importance of diversity on campus.

LOCATION:
StarTUP at the Armory

IN HER CUP:
Flat White from the Starbucks in the building

ADDICTION LEVEL:
At least two cups a day

Q: When would you say you first became aware of issues like inclusion, equity and diversity?

A: I think my first real awareness began in high school. North Carolina-Chapel Hill was my No. 1 school. We had a college recruitment day, and I was talking to the recruiter about UNC. Some of my friends walked up, and they were all African American. It was that point that the admissions director realized that I wasn't who

he thought I was. He thought I was white. When he saw that my friends were African American, and that I may be too, he started telling me that I should consider North Carolina Central or North Carolina A&T. He named almost every HBCU in the state. It changed my outlook on everything, which is part of the reason I chose Howard University. I wanted to be where I was wanted.

Q: We use these terms diversity, equity and inclusion. What do they actually mean?

A: I could write a book about that. A lot of times people think about numbers. What is the population? What are the demographics? Oftentimes people think diversity: It's black and white. It's not. Diversity is not only racial diversity, it's diversity in ability, it's diversity in thought, it's diversity in gender. It's having people with different appearances, opinions and thought processes.

Equity is making sure that the resources are available so that when you create a diverse environment, everyone has opportunity and access to the programs and resources that are available. A lot of times people confuse equality and equity. Equity doesn't mean that resources are distributed equally, it just means that educational or financial resources are distributed to give everyone a fair chance and opportunity and that systems are put into place to remove barriers to that access.

I tell students all the time that Towson is very diverse now. But in terms of inclusion, while we've

all been invited to the party, we're not all dancing together. That's something we're working on now.

Q: How do we achieve a more inclusive situation?

A: I think it's about having conversations and dialogue. A lot of times when you have students that are coming into an environment that's as diverse as ours, it's the first time they've ever been around someone that doesn't look like them, that doesn't think like them. So you have to open up opportunities for dialogue so the students can get to know each other [and] understand diverse backgrounds.

Q: Why are these things particularly important on a college campus?

A: We're responsible for teaching history, science, math and various other disciplines, but we're also responsible for teaching humanity and love. People aren't born to hate. People are taught to hate. We have a responsibility not just to teach the respective disciplines but to prepare our students to function in a global society that they may not have been accustomed to. Most of our students, when they graduate, are going to be leaders in the workforce. If we don't teach them how to get along with others and how to see diverse perspectives and understand the benefits of having a diverse society, then they're not going to hire diverse candidates. They're just going to continue to hire people that look like them. So it's very important for us to develop leaders who are comfortable with differences.



Shooting Stars

★ BASKETBALL

Twenty was a big number for the men's and women's basketball teams this year.

The programs celebrated their 20th anniversary as members of the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) by each winning more than 20 games in the same season for the first time. TU was one of eight Division I schools to accomplish the feat this year.

The men finished 25-9 overall and 15-3 in the CAA to earn a share of the regular season title and the top seed in the CAA Tournament. The women reached the 20-win plateau for the second time in three years, going 24-8. In 2019-20, they won the CAA Tournament and made their first NCAA

Tournament appearance. The Tigers' 20-plus wins then were the most since the 2007-08 season.

The success of each program earned them bids to the 2022 National Invitational Tournament (NIT) as well. The men drew Wake Forest, while the women met Old Dominion in the first round.

"This team has really epitomized strength and resilience. From the very beginning of the season, they were committed to play for each other, no matter what," women's head coach Diane Richardson says.

The women's team won 11 of its first 12 games, sparking the program to its best start in 45 years. The Tigers picked up wins against Florida, Wofford, East

Carolina and American during that run. TU also strung together five-game winning streaks twice later in the season.

Aleah Nelson, Allie Kubek and Anissa "Peanut" Rivera each averaged double figures in points for the Tigers. Rivera's 227 rebounds and 30 blocks were best on the team. Nelson led TU in assists and steals. She also earned first-team All-CAA honors, while Kubek landed a spot on the third team. Kylie Kornegay-Lucas was named Sixth Player of the Year.

The women's team started strong, and the men really picked up steam at the end. They finished the regular season on a six-game win streak, winning 10 of the last 11. The men's CAA

crown was their first title since the 1994 Big South championship.

Nick Timberlake, Cam Holden and Charles Thompson averaged at least 10.0 points per game. Holden led the team in rebounds, assists and steals and Thompson was tops in blocks. Timberlake and Holden were named All-CAA First Team, while Thompson earned All-CAA Second Team honors.

"I'm incredibly proud of our group this year, especially the returners who endured a trying season during COVID-19," men's head coach Pat Skerry says. "We look forward to seeing how we can commit even further to improve our program in the expanding CAA and are excited for what the future holds."



ALEAH NELSON '23
broke the women's basketball single-season assists record in a win against Drexel on March 5. She finished the season with 170.



CAM HOLDEN '22
earned all-conference honors (first team, all-defensive) after leading the men's basketball team in rebounds per game (7.9) and finishing second in points per game (13.5).



MEAGAN CLARK '22
won her second CAA Swimmer of the Week award on Feb. 1 after winning the 1,000-yard freestyle, the 200-yard freestyle and the 500-yard freestyle.



NICK JANOWICZ '22
was a baseball preseason honorable mention All-CAA pick in 2022. He was the second starter in the weekend rotation last year, going 3-3 with 53 strikeouts in 66.2 innings.



Welcome, Steven Eigenbrot

Steven Eigenbrot was named TU's new director of athletics on Feb. 14. He joined TU from the University of South Carolina, where he oversaw fundraising, ticketing and a variety of facilities projects. "I think we're in an amazing spot to be successful for a long period of time," he says. "We have a chance to dominate the space we're in, and who doesn't want to be part of dominance?"



CONFERENCE

CAA Rookies

The Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), the conference home of TU's athletic program, will welcome Hampton, Monmouth and Stony Brook universities as members starting in July. The CAA will have expanded to 12 participant universities by the fall 2022 term.

ACADEMICS

STUDENT-Athletes

TU student-athletes stand with a 3.225 cumulative grade point average (GPA) after earning a 3.085 fall 2021 term GPA. This includes 194 student-athletes earning at least a 3.5 GPA this past term, including 34 with a perfect 4.0.

LACROSSE

Watch This Space

Fifth-year senior defenseman Koby Smith was selected to the Tewaaron Trophy Watch List, landing him among the most elite players in the country. Smith was also named Preseason Media All-America Honorable Mention by *Inside Lacrosse*.

SWIMMING

Wins By the Dozen

Sophomore Brian Benzing successfully defended his 100-yard breaststroke title at the CAA Championship meet, setting new school, league and championship meet records with a time of 52.34 seconds and extending his unbeaten streak in the event to a dozen.



Flight Path

Learning to fly changed
Terry Carbonell '81 forever.
Now she's using her passion for aviation
to transform others' lives.

BY REBECCA KIRKMAN
PHOTOS BY LAUREN CASTELLANA '13

“DO YOU WANT TO FLY IT?” asks Terry Carbonell, looking across the cabin of her 1978 Cessna 182 single-engine, four-seat plane known as Wild Mama. It's a characteristically sunny Miami morning, and Wild Mama—so named for the last two letters of her tail number, N614WM—is cruising 1,000 feet above the Everglades.

From the co-pilot's seat to her right, first-time flyer Ocheline “Oshee” Occy eagerly accepts the offer. Once Carbonell says, “your airplane,” and Occy echoes her with “my airplane”—an exchange used by pilots to indicate transfer of control—Occy is flying for the first time. With occasional guidance from Carbonell, she keeps the horizon steady in the distance and makes a left then a right turn as she steers the plane across the glinting marshland.

A flight attendant for a national carrier based in Miami, Occy is in ground school (the land-based part of pilot training), working toward a second career as a commercial pilot after leaving the nursing field during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today she

logged her first flight toward the more than 250 hours required to earn her commercial pilot license.

Twenty minutes later, the plane is back on the ground at Homestead General Aviation airport in southern Miami-Dade County. Occy is all smiles as she recalls the moment Carbonell handed control over to her. “I felt like I was at home,” she says.

Inspiring future female pilots like Occy is the purpose of Let's Fly Now!—a free, first-flight program from the Ninety-Nines, an international nonprofit organization of more than 6,000 licensed women pilots. Carbonell is its vice president.

At this morning's event, the first since before the pandemic, four volunteer pilots from the Florida Goldcoast chapter, including Carbonell, took 28 passengers up for 15- to 20-minute flights to share the joy of seeing the world from 1,000 feet above the earth. Of the day's flyers, five—including Occy—registered on the spot as new student pilots and two joined the Ninety-Nines.

“Flying people and seeing their enthusiasm for the first time, it's just

For video and
more photos, visit
towson.edu/flightpath

so energizing," says Carbonell as she hops out of the cabin after her sixth flight of the day. Wearing her signature accessory—a baseball cap embroidered with the phrase "A Woman's Place is in the Cockpit"—Carbonell retains the same wide grin and infectious enthusiasm she had for the first flight of the day. "I mean, how can you not have a good day?"

Quick witted with a playful spunk, Carbonell, 60, is clearly happiest when she's in the air or surrounded by the other women in the Ninety-Nines. Petite and spry, with wisps of hair falling around her face that have escaped her waist-length braid, Carbonell has the look of someone who does what makes them happy. But this satisfaction, or her self-described "development of wings," came later in life.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM TU with a degree in general studies, Carbonell earned a law degree from the University of Miami. Her interest in law stemmed from the mentorship of then-Towson State University criminal justice professor Marion Cockey, who taught at TU for more than 50 years beginning in 1969 and was known for bringing students into state correctional institutions for experiential learning.

"We interviewed prisoners about civil rights violations they experienced," recalls Carbonell, who graduated from TU in 1981 at 19 years old. "Going out into the world as an impressionable young woman and learning about the criminal justice system in that way, it made a huge impact on me and it's what led me to law school. I still remember the conversations I had 40 years later."

She worked as a business and real estate lawyer, but "law wasn't my favorite thing to do," she says. "I'm more of an outdoorsy person."

Practicing law, however, was a crucial step on Carbonell's journey to aviation. She met her husband, Mario, while

representing him during a real estate closing at an airpark.

After 16 years together, during which the couple built a successful demolition and contracting company, Mario was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2005. A private pilot in Cuba before escaping the revolution in 1961, Mario asked his wife to get her pilot's license so they could spend their final years together in the air. Just 46 days later, Carbonell fulfilled his wish, obtaining her private license at 44.

Over the next three years, the pair spent as much time as possible seeing the world from the sky, including visiting all the U.S. national parks, before Mario died in November 2008.

Carbonell describes her passion for aviation as a gift her late husband left for her to share with others.

"This is a way of honoring him," she says. "He loved, loved airplanes. And I would hate to think that such a wonderful man died for no reason. So him getting me to fly was something that I could share with everyone else."

A year after her husband's death, Carbonell was still feeling lost. One day, as she set out to visit his grave and ask him for advice, she got a phone call from a Ninety-Nines sister with a request. A teacher had quit in the career and technical education department at Charlotte High School in Punta Gorda, and she asked Carbonell to take over teaching about aviation.

"I saw this big, black cloud lift," Carbonell recalls. "I knew in my heart that was Mario telling me that this is what [I] have to do." In that moment, Carbonell found her new direction.

As she developed her own love for aviation, she found new ways to share the joy with the next generation. In 2007, Carbonell earned her commercial license and entered the Air Race Classic, an annual, all-female, cross-country air race, for the first time. It's also how she discovered the Ninety-Nines.

"When I read the history of the race, it talked a lot about the Ninety-Nines,"



Above: Terry Carbonell '81, right, points out instrumentation to aspiring pilot Ocheline Ocycy after the flight. Right: A Ninety-Nines logo pin with a spinning propeller indicates membership in the international organization of women pilots. Left: Carbonell flies over the Florida Keys.





Carbonell in her plane, Wild Mama.

CARBONELL JOINED THE RANKS OF THE BEST FEMALE PILOTS IN HISTORY WHEN HER TEAM WON THE 2010 AIR RACE CLASSIC.

Carbonell says. "I wanted to race, so I figured I should join the organization." She became a member on Feb. 12, 2007—exactly 15 years to the day before the Florida Goldcoast chapter's Let's Fly Now! event where Occy took her first flight.

AIR RACING OPENED to women for the first time in 1929 with the eight-day, All-Women's Transcontinental Air Derby from Santa Monica to Cleveland. Twenty women took part, with Amelia Earhart, Pancho Barnes, Louise Thaden, Bobbi Trout and other female aviators of the day bringing international attention to the event.

"To us the successful completion of the Derby was of more import than life or death," wrote Thaden, who won. "The public was skeptical of airplanes and air travel. We women of the Derby were out to prove that flying was safe; to sell aviation to the layman."

Later in 1929, the Ninety-Nines formed when 99 women pilots gathered at Curtiss Field in Long Island, New York, for mutual support, the advancement of aviation and to establish records of women in the field. Thaden was elected the group's secretary, and Earhart the first president.

"Everybody talks about Amelia Earhart. But in the piloting community, Amelia was known as not a very good pilot; she wrecked every plane she had,"

Carbonell says with a laugh. "However, she was a very good promoter of the Ninety-Nines and a very good promoter of aviation in general. She was very, very charismatic and popular. But Louise Thaden beat Earhart and won the first Air Race." The Travel Air plane Thaden flew in the 1929 race is owned by the Ninety-Nines and on loan to the OKC Science Museum.

Today, the organization is headquartered at the Will Rogers Airport in Oklahoma City. Ninety-Nines chapters across the globe sponsor several hundred educational programs each year, including aerospace workshops for teachers, airport tours for school children, fear-of-flying clinics for airline passengers and flight instructor revalidation seminars.

For many years, the Ninety-Nines have co-sponsored more than 75% of the FAA pilot safety programs in the U.S. Members have worked with the National Intercollegiate Flying Association's student flying competitions since 1948 as judges, runners and teachers as well as helping with funding. More recently, the Ninety-Nines became sponsors for the Girl Scouts of America, offering Aviation Day programs.

The organization also runs the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum in Atchison, Kansas, and the Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots in Oklahoma City, with exhibitions on women in aviation history, including the little-known Women Auxiliary Service Pilots, or WASPs, a civilian women pilots organization that tested and ferried aircraft and trained pilots during World War II.

Carbonell joined the ranks of the best female pilots in history when her team won the 2010 Air Race Classic. The achievement is shared by less than 200 women since the first race.

Starting at Page Field in Fort Myers, Florida, and ending at Frederick Municipal airport in Maryland, the nine-stop race spanned 2,483 miles. After missing placing in the top 10 at the 2009 competition by one one-hundredth of a knot (a unit of speed equal to one nautical mile per hour), Team Wild Mama—piloted by Carbonell alongside first-time competitors Ellen Herr and Laura Ying Gao—caught a tail wind on the last leg and beat 54 other teams by more than two knots.

"We crushed it. We just came screaming across the finish line," Carbonell recalls. "To be one of such a select

group, that is one of the coolest things ever. It really was a highlight of my life."

FOR MORE THAN a decade, Carbonell has been using aviation to inspire underserved youth, with a special focus on young women. In 2011, she teamed up with the Boys & Girls Club of South Alabama to launch the No Limits Girls Education Program. The six-month, afterschool program became the basis for Aviation Adventures, a nonprofit incorporated in 2012 that expanded mentorship and flight training programs across the U.S.

In 2018, she teamed up with her Ninety-Nines sister and longtime friend Myra Bugbee to host the first Let's Fly Now! event, where 24 youth from Aviation Adventures programs and the Boys & Girls Club learned about runways, aviation careers and communications before taking their first small airplane flight.

"Terry and I have been trying to think of ways to raise the 7% of licensed pilots who are female to 50% or more," Bugbee says from the tarmac at Homestead General Aviation, pausing to applaud and cheer for first-time flyers as they land. "We really are trying to reach females of flying age, 14 and older, and we're trying to plant the seed of possibilities for their future, either a career or a hobby. And we want to talk to more mature women, let them know it's not too late for them to fly. One of our members was in her 80s when she got her private license."

Minimizing disparities in the aviation field is a passion for many members of the Ninety-Nines, especially Florida Goldcoast chapter president Katie Koch. "We really need to get a lot more





women flying," Koch says from a table on the tarmac where she fills out certificates for the first-time fliers to receive when they land, along with a flight log to begin tracking their hours. She learned to fly before she could drive, flying solo for the first time at 16 and obtaining her pilot's license at 17.

Koch leads the chapter as a thank you to the women from the organization who inspired and supported her pursuit of aviation. Through events like today's, she hopes more girls get the flying bug.

"It's a really great career for women, for people of color, for people of every sexual orientation," Koch says, noting that the industry lacks a gender pay gap because pilots are paid for the hours flown. "Those are the people that we want to bring more into aviation because, right now, Black females are only 2% of the female pilot population—less than half a percent [of the total pilot population]. And there's really no reason for that other than entrenched societal norms."

While there is a high financial cost to earning a pilot's license, Koch says, the career pays for itself with the first job. To help lower the financial barrier, the Ninety-Nines' Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Foundation funds academic scholarships, advanced flight training, research scholarship grants and new pilot awards. Since 1941, it has awarded more than 500 scholarships.

"Days like today are important because it's free. There's no obligation or anything," Koch adds. "It's like, 'Just try it and see if you like it.'"

Bugbee and Koch count Carbonell as a mentor and one of the organization's strongest supporters.

"She's really present at every single Ninety-Nines event—and all over the country, too. She takes her plane and flies to all the different chapters and goes to their meetings," Koch says. "And she is always one of the first to [volunteer to fly] at any one of these discovery flight days."

"I've flown around the country with her a few times and learned a lot," says Bugbee, who recently landed Mojo, her RV14A experimental aircraft that she built with her husband, in all 48 contiguous states. "I probably would not have done that without knowing her."

Despite her long list of accomplishments and licenses including instrument, commercial, tail wheel and sea plane ratings; ground instructor certificates; and certified flying instructor (CFI) credentials for single- and multiengine aircraft, Carbonell's curiosity never stops.

In March, she began ground school to learn to fly Special Kay, a 1944 Douglas B-26K Counter Invader flown in the Vietnam War. The last remaining airworthy bomber of that model, the plane is being restored to perform in airshows across the country this summer.

"One engine on that plane is 10 times the power of what I'm flying," Carbonell says. "To fly that plane and be a part of history would be so cool."

This year, she's also running for president of Ninety-Nines International and working on converting her nonprofit organization, Aviation Adventures, into a Ninety-Nines-branded educational center based in Oklahoma City with workbooks and educational materials that she edited.

Carbonell jokes that her friends say she suffers from a "terra firma phobia" because she spends so much time off the ground. While the average private pilot flies about 50 hours per year, Carbonell logs an average of 300.

"Flying opens up the whole world," she says. "There's nothing like seeing the world from 1,000 feet in the sky." **TU**

Rebecca Kirkman is assistant director of strategic communications in University Marketing & Communications and a contributing writer at Baltimore magazine.

TRIGGER WARNING: This article discusses multiple forms of trauma, including sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, physical violence and identity-based discrimination and harassment.

OUT OF THE SHADOWS

Hidden within the public health crisis of COVID-19, a twin pandemic arose: intimate partner violence.

BY MEGAN BRADSHAW

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID CALKINS '93

Kendall Ann Combs was a split second away from being a statistic.

After a promising relationship with a man she met online descended into abuse over the course of 21 months, Combs '03, '08 had finally decided she wanted out.

Supported by a cousin, she signed a lease for a new apartment and returned to her old one to retrieve her laptop and her dog, a 100-pound golden doodle named Ozzie.

Combs calls what happened next a "21-minute, real fight for my life."

"He was on top of me in the kitchen, and he was smacking my head against the linoleum floor," she recalls. "I was starting to see black dots, and I was losing my peripheral vision. I was so afraid that he was going to kill me and that my mom and dad were never going to know what happened to me."

Running out of strength, Combs called for Ozzie, barrel-chested and as tall as a great Dane, who bounded into the room and rushed her attacker. That gave her the time to get out—with Ozzie.

"I had blood all over me, and it was terrifying," she says. "It was in those minutes that I truly understood that I was a survivor of domestic violence."

Intimate partner violence (IPV) has happened for millennia. But over the last two years, evidence of incidents has increased dramatically in the U.S. and globally.

The United Nations published a report late last year shining a light on what it called "the shadow pandemic"

of violence against women occurring amid the public health crisis. The pandemic intensified many of the conditions that can fuel intimate partner violence, with many families facing economic tension along with the stress and uncertainty created by COVID-19.

"[The signs of] intimate partner violence [are] something that [can be] pretty hidden, in terms of how obvious it is to people that aren't in the relationship," says Jelilat Williams '16, a therapist at Syracuse-based Vera House, an organization that aims to prevent and respond to abuse. "But the pandemic made something that was



KENDALL ANN COMBS '03, '08



TINA DARDIS

already shrouded even more difficult to pick up. I don't remember a time [in the last two years] when there wasn't a waitlist [for services]."

TU psychology professor Tina Dardis defines IPV as any type of violence that can occur between individuals in a relationship. Typically, there are four types—emotional or psychological, physical, sexual and stalking—and all can occur face to face and/or online.

"They form a nexus of what we often refer to as coercive control, a pattern of behaviors that's designed to increase one's power and control over their partner," says Dardis, who researches IPV.

The statistics are eye opening. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 16% of homicides are perpetrated by a partner. A staggering 25% of women and 10% of men experience some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetimes. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. And a report from the *American Journal of Emergency Medicine* said domestic violence cases increased by 25–33% globally in 2020.

Violent domestic crime rose 31% year over year in Baltimore City, from 354 incidents in the first three months of 2020 to 462 in the first three months of 2021, according to Baltimore Police Department (BPD) data. Among those incidents, domestic aggravated assaults increased 35%, from 266 to 359 during that period. Total reported cases of IPV swelled from 1,376 in 2020 to 1,499 in 2021.

The city's first homicide of 2021 was domestic, according to the BPD. Investigators charged Lakeyria Doughty, 26, a dirt biker known as "Wheelie Queen," who was featured in the HBO movie *Charm City Kings*, with fatally stabbing



her partner, 33-year-old Tiffany Wilson on New Year's Day.

There are plenty of stereotypes when it comes to IPV victims. Tall, confident and in her late 30s, Combs now bears no outward signs of having been in an abusive relationship.

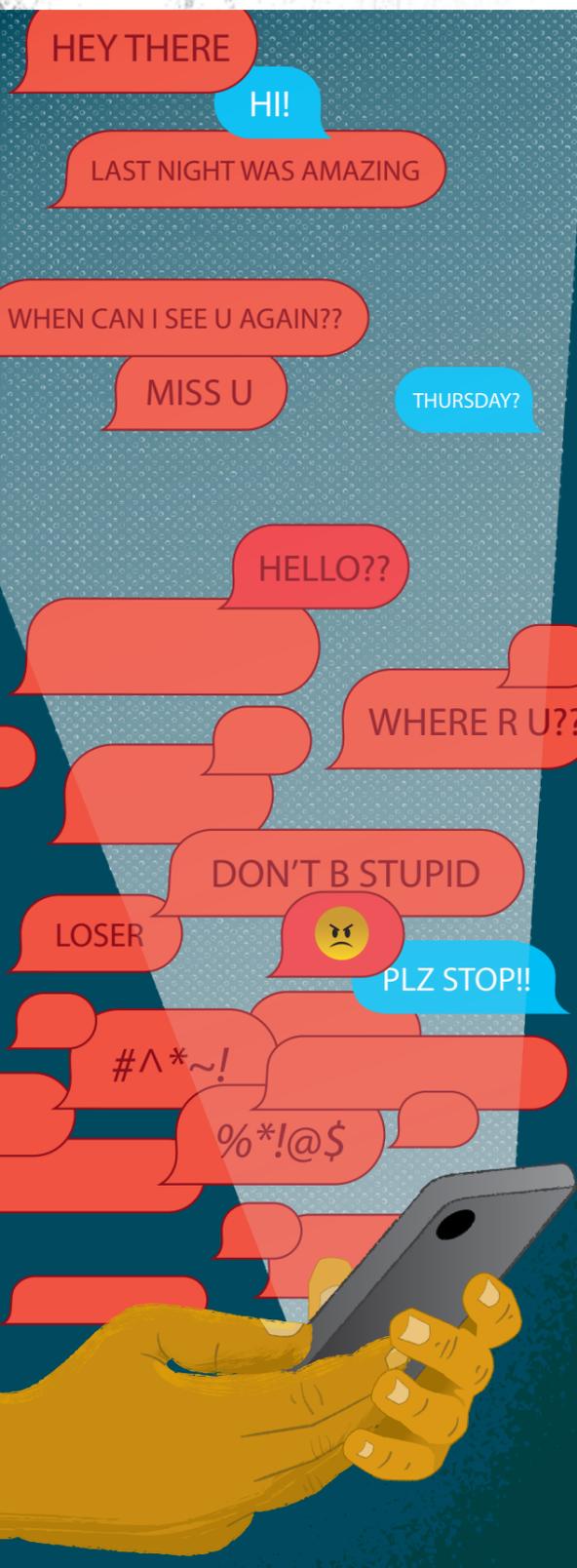
"You wouldn't expect someone who's an extrovert and successful to be a survivor of this type of abuse," says Combs. "It's a fallacy that it only happens to meek women."

Another misconception is that IPV only happens to those who identify as women.

"We know from a lot of research women can absolutely be perpetrators," Dardis says. "People of any gender can be perpetrators. And people of any gender can be victims. Arguably, a lot of male and LGBTQ survivors can face significant barriers [to seeking help] because it may be there's this self-judgment—I can't be a victim—and feeling the shame about that as related to one's masculinity. And there are literally fewer supports and services available for male survivors."

During the pandemic, marginalized communities were affected more severely.





“While one in three white women reported having experienced domestic violence [during the pandemic], the rates of abuse increased dramatically to about 50% and higher for those marginalized by race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, citizenship status and cognitive physical ability,” Erika Sussman, executive director of the Center for Survivor Advocacy and Justice, told *TIME* magazine.

Intimate partner violence occurs in LGBTQ couples at rates equal to or even higher than the rates in cisgender male-female partners. According to research by advocacy group Human Rights Campaign, members of the LGBTQ community are likelier to be employed in highly affected industries like education, restaurants and retail. The economic challenges of the pandemic have hit those sectors especially hard. That means higher stress and a higher likelihood that that stress will explode into violence.

Isolation has always been one of the most powerful weapons in the abuser’s arsenal, and with the arrival of the pandemic came the introduction of lockdowns.

“What we see with intimate partner violence is that, very often, the safest place for victims to be is outside of their home,” Dardis says. “If they live with their perpetrator, the safest place might not be at home. [Lockdown] increases the amount of time spent with their partner, which can therefore increase the risk of injury exponentially. It also can compound the isolation.”

Being stuck indoors during the pandemic meant opportunities to disclose abuse—at doctor’s appointments, lunch with friends—went unheeded, and the signs of abuse (often subtle) went unnoticed.

“The abuse was very, very slow,” Combs says of her relationship. “Your

abuser doesn’t call you a bitch or fat right away. They start to say things like, ‘You’re stupid.’ Then it goes on to calling you names. And now the person is screaming names at you.”

Combs’ reflection on her relationship revealed many red flags she didn’t see then: how quickly her relationship moved and how much information she gave him without receiving the same; “future faking,” where the abuser learns what you want most and paints a rosy picture of your future together; and gaslighting—Combs recalls how her perpetrator would reframe incidents of his abuse that put her in the wrong.



JELILAT WILLIAMS '16

Williams advises that people pay attention to what they’re not hearing.

“A not-so-obvious sign is they never talk about this person. Or they get defensive,” she says.

“Maybe they are wearing different things or have a significant change in personality. There’s also a change in resources. This person may [have been] able to afford things for themselves. Or say, ‘Oh, they don’t like me to wear that.’ Or, ‘They don’t like me to buy those things anymore.’”

Despite the trauma survivors endure, many are reluctant to report incidents of IPV.

Dardis’ research on IPV revealed a 3–4% reporting rate among TU students she surveyed who’ve experienced sexual violence—mostly to family and friends. A recent UN report noted less than 40% of women globally who experience IPV seek help of any sort, and very few look to formal institutions. Less than 10% of those seeking help appealed to the police.

Some of Williams’ clients tell her they are afraid of retaliation by the abuser or that no one will believe them.

“They have called the police multiple times. And the police have sided with

The pandemic has made connecting with resources, shelters, mental health services and law enforcement even harder.

the abuser. So they wonder, ‘Who will I go to?’” she says. “The abuser is very strategic, cutting off supports, finances. Trying to leave is you leaving your life.”

Jessica Hessler, a coordinator of trauma services and staff psychologist at the TU Counseling Center, believes IPV may be underreported because of American culture.

“Misogynistic, patriarchal norms and the red flags we might see within relationships are so often normalized,” she says. “It’s called rape culture. What we don’t



JESSICA HESSLER

have is a normalized way to check on people who may be experiencing abuse. I don’t know that in all spaces we have protocols to ask the questions or know what questions to ask or what to report.”

Combs only called the police once, after her partner strangled her during an argument two months before their wedding, leaving handprints on her neck.

Even then, she couldn’t bring herself to press charges.

“That was too upsetting for me, because this was still a person I loved,” she says. “Because sometimes, he was back to the person who I started dating. Now, I know that’s not my fault at all. You strangle someone, you deserve to go to jail.”



Leaving an abusive relationship isn’t as simple as walking out.

One of the reasons Dardis decided to research IPV was a client she worked with in graduate school. When the woman came to Dardis, telling her the man was watching the client’s Facebook check-ins and showing up, Dardis didn’t know what to do. And, at the time, there was essentially no research on cyberstalking.

A frequently quoted statistic is, on average, survivors return to their abusive relationships seven times before they leave for good. And the pandemic has made connecting with resources, shelters, mental health services and law enforcement even harder.

“When people leave an abusive relationship, it can be the most dangerous time,” says Dardis. “There’s a lot of research documenting that when you

first leave, there’s often an increase in violence from that person. That’s probably because this person is losing that grip of power and control. And if that’s the motivation, then they’ll escalate the behavior to try to reestablish it.”

Leaving an abusive relationship requires a lot of the survivor: hiding money, surreptitiously removing belongings, collecting important documents and, if there are children involved, finding new schools and a shelter that accepts them, if there’s nowhere else to go, she says.

There are many ways people can help survivors of IPV. The first is education.

Hessler and Karli DeGraw, assistant director of health education & promotion at TU’s Health Center, are taking aim at that issue.

“[Some people don’t know they are]

“What is really needed is for someone to be willing to listen, to say that they believe the survivor...”

—TINA DARDIS

experiencing sexual violence,” DeGraw says. “We live in a culture that normalizes those behaviors so intrinsically that they might not notice, ‘That’s coercion.’ That’s sexual violence.’ The society this country has built is not survivor friendly.”

She develops sexual health and violence prevention workshops and awareness campaigns as well as oversees two programs: the Sexual Assault Peer Education Program, a group of students committed to preventing sexual violence; and the Sexual Health Awareness Group, a group of students who provide non-judgmental, inclusive sexuality education to the campus community.

The Health Center also offers free services for survivors: emergency contraception, exams and certain testing and lab work. The Counseling Center offers a same-day service model for the campus community; people can call and be seen by a clinician. The center expanded services to virtual visits during the pandemic and, while in-person has resumed, people can still be seen virtually. There are also group counseling sessions, a variety of workshops and outreach initiatives, and a 24/7 crisis support line.

The Office of Inclusion & Institutional Equity (OIIE) assists members of the TU community by coordinating university compliance with Title IX and responding to reports of sexual misconduct. OIIE provides outreach, resources and investigations as part of that response. Individuals can make a report or find sexual violence survivor resources on their website (see Resources box on next page).

Another way to help is to be mindful of unintended consequences of your offer to assist. Approaching someone you suspect is experiencing

IPV is best done cautiously, Dardis warns, because their abuser could overhear or review text messages received.

“You might not want to reference abuse specifically,” she says. “You might want to say, ‘I haven’t been talking to you as much. I’m worried.’ And then you’d want to ask, ‘What is a good way to contact you? I don’t want to make you unsafe, so let’s make a plan.’” She advises people to listen with an open mind and not initially offer solutions.

“What is really needed is for someone to be willing to listen, to say that they believe the survivor, to not make light or minimize what’s happening to that person and to be willing to be available repeatedly,” Dardis says. “Disclosures like this are not a one-time process.”

Hessler says a first step might be establishing a safe space for the individual experiencing abuse, not pressuring them to act in any ways they’re not ready for.

“But it’s important, as a support person, to recognize no one person should be expected to know everything or have all the answers,” she says. “There are so many resources available, and it may be a matter of connecting that individual to those supports.”

Organizations like Vera House offer many resources to their clients, including therapy services, shelter, advocacy services (like helping survivors get connected to the resources that they need to transition safely out of the relationship) and legal services.

Combs had a victim’s rights advocate with her when she went to court to get a restraining order.

“She sat with me and said, ‘OK. Tell me what you’re going to say when you get up there,’” she says. “It felt like this woman was on my side, and she was going to help me, and she really did.”



KARLI DEGRAW

RESOURCES

ON-CAMPUS:

TU Counseling Center
410-704-2512
towson.edu/counseling

- Individual, same-day appointments
- Crisis support
- Group counseling
- Workshops and outreach

Office of Inclusion & Institutional Equity (OIIE):

- towson.edu/inclusionequity
- Title IX coordinator: 410-704-0203
- Submit an online report: towson.edu/reporttitleix

OFF CAMPUS:

- You can seek care at any local hospital even if you think you don’t want to press charges.

Sexual Assault Forensic Exams (S.A.F.E.)

- The exam must be completed as soon as possible after the assault (typically within 120 hours).

Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC)
6701 N. Charles St.
Towson, MD 21204

443-849-3323
gbmc.org/safe

Mercy Medical Center
345 St. Paul Pl.
Baltimore, MD 21202

410-332-9499
bmoresafemercy.org/services/

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)

1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
CHAT: thehotline.org/#
Text “START” to 88788

House of Ruth
410-889-RUTH (7884)
hruth.org/
CHAT: hruth.org/contact

For more IPV resources, visit
towson.edu/outofshadows



Combs knows how lucky she was to have the support of her family, a job, her own bank account and health insurance to pay for therapy. So she decided to use her experiences to advocate for others.

In 2018, she started a podcast called *High Heels and Heartache*. It has been downloaded in 65 countries.

“It dawned on me, ‘What if I took the things that I had learned in therapy and interviewed experts on those things?’ So that way, people had the same resources that I had,” she says.

The first episode was on a topic Combs felt was vital: red flags to look for in your own relationship. Other episodes have focused on narcissism, gaslighting and how PTSD affects survivors of IPV. Between April and September 2020, the episode on gaslighting was downloaded four times as much as it was when it premiered. The episode on narcissism had a similar bump, receiving three times as many downloads as its premiere.

In each episode, Combs interviews an expert in the topic at hand. One of them, Amelia Kelley, became her co-author on their Amazon-best-selling book, *What I Wish I Knew: Surviving and Thriving After an Abusive Relationship*. The book explores many common abusive tactics and offers suggestions on how a survivor can thrive after an abusive relationship by offering research-backed strategies and prompts, lists and other opportunities to explore their own feelings and experiences.

“As soon as I started speaking up, other people started speaking up,” says Combs, who, in addition to her full-time job and time with her tight-knit family, has become an active advocate for survivors of IPV. “That’s one of the reasons why I wrote the book, because you can take this thing that happened that was so terrorizing and traumatizing, and you can help other people who have gone through that same thing.” **TU**

Engaged in Giving

BY
MEGAN
BRADSHAW

Some returning to campus these days might not believe their eyes: New and renovated buildings are popping up seemingly everywhere. Academic programs are growing even richer. Student life is thriving like never before. What visitors may not see is Fran Soistman's contribution to that growth. And that's exactly how he wants it. "[Being] behind the scenes gives me great pleasure, because I don't need the attention," he says. "I just like looking at the results."

In November 2020, Soistman '79, '15 (hon.) made a \$5.4 million gift to TU—the largest from an alum in school history. The scope is expansive, benefitting athletics, the College of Health Professions, the College of Business & Economics and programming to advance equity, diversity and inclusion.

Soistman has supported many projects and initiatives across the university by donating more than \$6.1 million since making his first gift to TU in the late 1980s. He was honored last October as Maryland's 2021 Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Maryland Chapter.

"In giving of his time, resources and expertise, Fran's leadership on behalf of our students and his alma mater has been extraordinary," President Kim

Schatzel says. "He set the tone for the successful launch of the RISE campaign, which he now co-chairs. I am grateful for his inspiration, generosity and friendship."

Soistman's understanding of philanthropy has evolved throughout his life, he says. Growing up in a middle-class family living in Towson's Loch Raven neighborhood, his only exposure to it occurred during the weekly collections at his church.

Soistman credits his education in giving to Megan Rock, the former associate vice president of the Office of Development who first approached him in the mid-1990s.

"She showed me what my contribution could do to the betterment of Towson University and the students. She got me engaged," Soistman says.

A few years later, he joined the TU Foundation board, which started a long-term relationship with his alma mater. It was around this time that he made what he calls his "first real gift" to the university: \$50,000 to start an endowment for faculty excellence.

"The academic and professional success I've enjoyed really goes back to the professors I had," Soistman says. "Good professors, good teachers change lives. They inspire, they influence, they mold you at a very impressionable time in your life. I wanted to acknowledge that.

FRAN SOISTMAN'S
RECORD-SETTING
GIFT IS THE
LATEST IN HIS
PHILANTHROPIC
JOURNEY.

"My first semester, I didn't do well adjusting to my newfound freedom. It was pretty bad," he continues. "I was an honor student in high school, so I knew I had to get my act together. I did in the second semester. I buckled down, really focused and I became more and more enamored with the professors I had."

As a nationally recognized expert and top executive in the health care management sector, Soistman has built a successful career in a field that helps others. He is the CEO of eHealth, an online insurance broker, and the founder and president of Healthcare Management and Transformation Advisory Services LLC. He retired as CVS Health-Aetna's executive vice president and president of government services in 2019 after serving as executive vice president at Coventry Health Care and president and CEO at HealthAmerica.

He has been a member of the university's Board of Visitors since 2002. (Soistman served as chair from 2016–18.) His latest two roles have been critical to TU's future: co-chair of TU's \$100 million RISE campaign and co-chair of the university's national search for its new athletic director (see page 13).

So Soistman understands the need to take a top-down view when making decisions. His giving covers a broad swath of campus life, but his main



Photo: Lauren Castellana '13

motivation is meeting the specific needs he sees.

In 2019, an impromptu conversation with Elysa Newman, TU's director of academic achievement, during the football team's trip to play the University of Florida revealed a need for 20 laptops. His gift purchased the computers, which aided the players in reaching a team GPA goal that term.

"That was easy to do. Address the need. No fanfare," he says. "I could have just stood there [while waiting for the team] and worked on emails. But I knew she was part of the program. It was an opportunity to not only understand the need but actually do something about it."

Soistman's record-setting gift will broaden academic support for student-athletes. Renovations are currently underway in the fieldhouse to transform several classrooms into a large student-athlete academic achievement center that will accommodate more than 520 student-athletes and support on-site technology for project work, tutoring and academic advising.

"It will provide our student-athletes first-class resources to maximize their academic growth while pursuing athletic excellence," says Shawn Nadelen, head coach of the men's lacrosse team. "Our players will be able to study and access technology in the same building where they prepare for practice and games. This truly unifies

the student-athlete experience by combining the resources to win in the classroom and on the field."

In the latest graduation success rate (GSR) data for Division I (DI) schools, TU earned a 91% GSR—its highest ever. That mark is the highest among all DI University System of Maryland (USM) institutions, and TU has the highest single-year GSR among the USM DI schools at 75% for the 2011–14 cohort. Six Tiger teams earned a perfect 100% GSR in the latest report: field hockey, men's golf, gymnastics, women's lacrosse, men's swimming & diving and tennis.

"Gifts of all sizes can make a difference in the classroom and on the court or field and support professors

with professional development," Soistman says. "And, of course, contributions to existing scholarship endowments could be the difference for a student's ability to attend college in the first place."

Soistman is aware of the many gifts in his life: family, friends and being in a position to help others. He firmly believes "a life fulfilled leaves few intentions on the table." "When you're blessed with good fortune, there's a responsibility that goes with it," he says. "I have a son and two daughters, and knowing that children watch everything you do and listen to every word, it's important to model this kind of support." **TU**

A Catalyst for Change

When
**Catalina Rodriguez
Lima '06** saw
the need for
an office of
immigrant affairs
in Baltimore, she
did what she's
done her whole
life: She acted.

BY MIKE UNGER

Catalina Rodriguez Lima is sitting in Teavolve in Fells Point, sipping a warm mocha latte on a chilly January afternoon. The cafe is about a mile east of Baltimore's City Hall, where her professional career has been shaped; about a mile west of her house near Patterson Park, the beloved neighborhood she and her husband call home; and more than 2,900 miles from Cuenca, the Ecuadorian city where her unlikely journey began.

"Immigrants are here to have a better life," she says. "That's part of the reason why they've left their countries of origin. They're extremely resilient, but they have barriers, and those barriers are challenging to address."

She's not talking about herself, but she very well could be. Rodriguez Lima's story is similar in many ways to the millions of immigrants who come to this country every year. At 18, she left the only home she'd known in search of opportunity. But her remarkable accomplishments, achieved in such short order, differentiate her from the people she's dedicated her life to serving. In 2014—at just 33 years old—she led the successful effort to establish the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA). She's the only director it's ever had.

In 2013, she was named one of 50 women to watch by *The Baltimore Sun*, and, a year later, she was on the *Baltimore Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 list. Rodriguez Lima, 41, appreciates the recognition but doesn't let it distract from her singular focus: improving the quality of life for Baltimore's immigrant population.

"What I am trying to do is carve out a space at a local level where we can think about the realities of these people that are trying to build a life like you and I."

Cuenca is a city of about 660,000, perched more than 8,000 feet above sea level in the Andes Mountains. Rodriguez Lima was born and raised there and has fond memories of it (especially its mild climate). Her parents and younger brother still live there.

But during her teenage years, Ecuador was experiencing a bank crisis and inflation, making young people like Rodriguez Lima nervous about their futures.

"It was grim," she says, "especially for someone who had just finished high school and was thinking about their next move."

Rodriguez Lima had an aunt and uncle who lived in Baltimore County, so at the age of 18, she went to visit them for a summer. Her plan was to improve her English, so when she returned to Ecuador, she could find a job in the tourism and hospitality sector.

Although her language skills turned out to be not quite as proficient as she would have hoped, she became enamored with the United States and decided to move here at age 20. She lived with her family, attended Essex Community College and worked as a waitress. That experience changed her mind about the service industry, and she decided to get a student visa and transfer to TU.

TU, Rodriguez Lima says, was transformational for her. She majored in international studies, minored in Spanish literature and volunteered for several nonprofits, including Education Based Latino Outreach in Baltimore.

"That was a very important moment in my life because I realized how much need existed in the city and how communities were really struggling," she says. "That was the first peek where I thought, 'My career needs to be public service or nonprofit or community driven.' It felt right."

But for an immigrant without citizenship or permanent legal status, long-term planning is an unaffordable luxury.

"There's always a constant reminder



that you have until X-date until your visa expires," she says. "I remember coming back to Ecuador to renew my student visa. I had a car, I had an apartment, I had school, and I remember going to the

U.S. embassy and thinking, 'Oh my god, what if I don't get a renewal? What am I going to do with all my stuff? But you're young, and you take risks.'"

That one paid off. Her student visa was renewed, and when she returned to Baltimore, she landed an internship in the office of then-Mayor Martin O'Malley. Eventually, her stellar work caught the eye of Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, then president of the city council, who hired her as a Latino liaison on her staff.

When Rawlings-Blake became mayor in 2010, Rodriguez Lima accompanied her to her new office in City Hall.

"When I met Catalina, I knew she had the spirit of a servant—she wanted to help people. I could tell that immediately," Rawlings-Blake says.

Left: Rodriguez Lima in front of Baltimore City Hall.

Right: Catalina and her brother, Geovanny, in their hometown of Cuenca, Ecuador.

Photo: Lauren Castellana '13

“Catalina has a strong moral compass and is incredibly passionate about her role as a public servant.”

—BALTIMORE MAYOR BRANDON SCOTT



Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott and Rodriguez Lima canvassing city neighborhoods in April 2021.

Photo courtesy of the mayor of Baltimore

philanthropy and immigrant communities, examined the systematic issues government had in dealing with immigrants and tried to come up with solutions that made government more accessible.

“Language barriers impact every single system that you can think of in the city, especially for public-facing services,” she says. “Your water, your police, your permits, your parking tickets. Think about all the systems that are public facing that are not necessarily accessible to people because they don’t speak the language.”

“A lot of programs are not designed for immigrants who are perhaps in mixed-status households, meaning they have a U.S. citizen child and parents who are undocumented. Because of that, agencies may not necessarily know whether the family qualifies. They may not know the types of alternative documents that immigrants, who perhaps don’t have a birth certificate or a passport, may have.”

MIMA was created to help solve some of those problems. The office does not deliver direct services to citizens; its focus is on overseeing the city’s compliance with federal regulations related to serving the immigrant population and improving the way city agencies work with immigrants.

“Catalina has a strong moral compass and is incredibly passionate about her role as a public servant and director of MIMA,” Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott says through a spokesman. “She takes pride in what she does and uses it as a platform to bring people together to do greater things. Her sense of humility and resiliency inspire others to focus on goals beyond their own

self-interest. Most importantly, she loves our city and cares deeply about the people who live here.”

Along with leading an office that’s grown from two to six staff, Rodriguez Lima facilitates relationships between the city and nonprofits. In 2015, she helped convince the Washington-based Latino Economic Development Center to come to Baltimore. Since opening an office in Highlandtown, the organization has offered almost \$2 million in loans to small businesses and for home ownership to more than 600 (primarily Latino) residents.

“Because of the need, at some point we would have figured it out, but Catalina was very instrumental in connecting us to the right organizations in Baltimore,” says Omar Velasco, chief of small business services and lending for the group. “She is able to engage all the stakeholders and be a mediator so each party can talk to each other and collaborate and get the resources they need.”

Perhaps one reason Rodriguez Lima is such an effective leader in the immigrant community is because she has never forgotten that she is one herself. While she became an American citizen in 2019, she says will always consider herself Ecuadorian—and an immigrant—as well.

But these days, Baltimore is home.

“I love this city,” she says. “This city welcomed me. I love how quirky it is. I love its sense of community. I love how progressive it is. I love its people. I love how it is rough around the edges, and it’s not perfect. Because life is not perfect.”

Rodriguez Lima has no plans to leave the office of immigrant affairs, but in a strange way, she hopes that one day it will leave her.

“Ideally, agencies have all the tools to serve immigrants,” she says. “Ideally, we wouldn’t exist because people are thinking about this population. But that’s not the case. They’re often an afterthought.”

Not to Catalina Rodriguez Lima. **TU**

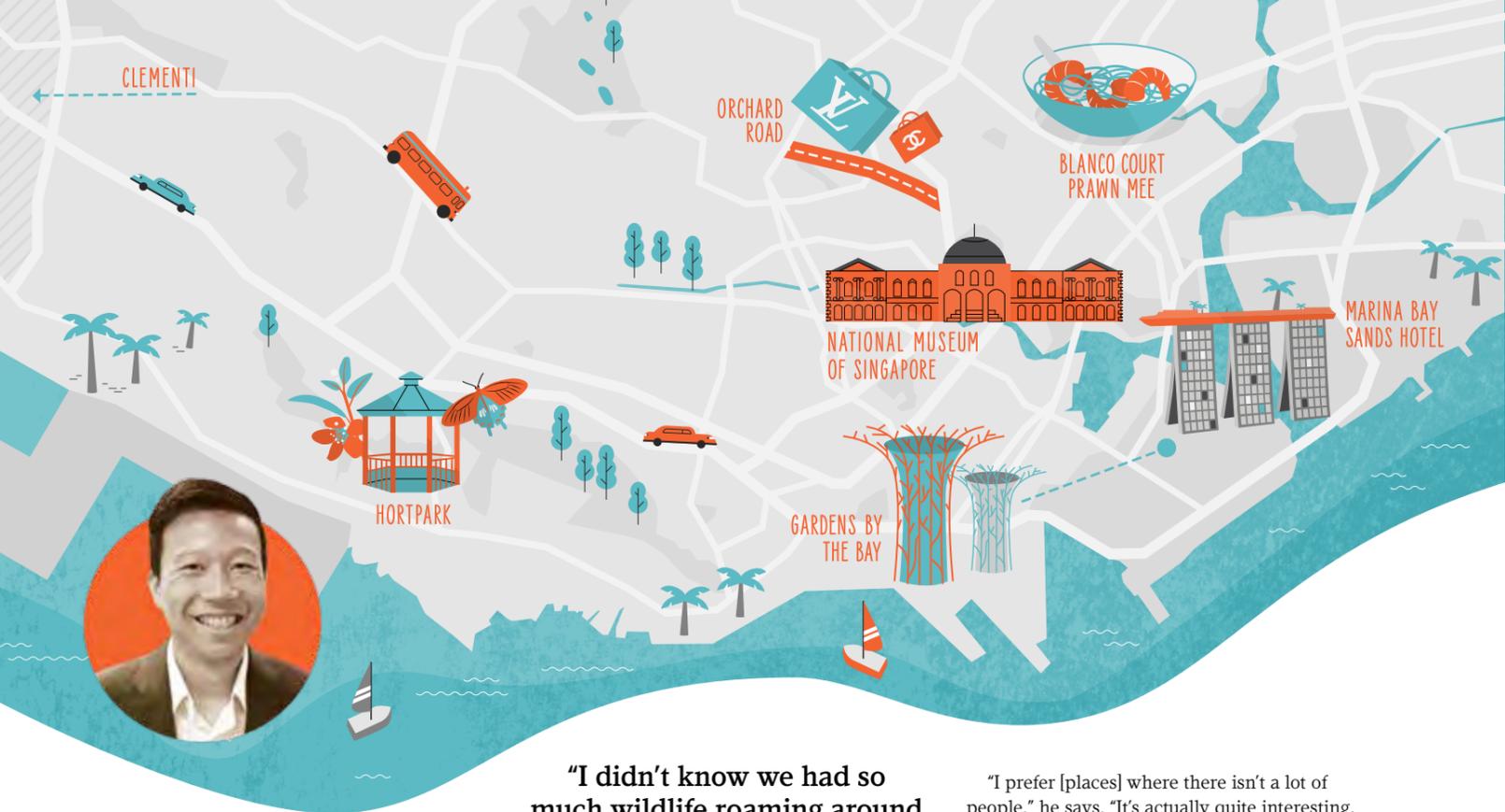
#TU proud



Beating the Odds

Shodekeh, the College of Fine Arts & Communication’s innovator-in-residence, made history on Dec. 11, 2021, when he became the first professional breath artist and beatboxer to present a compositional work at New York’s legendary Carnegie Hall. He debuted his compositional piece with Sō Percussion. Earlier this year, he became the first hip-hop artist in Maryland to have an archive of his work, which can be found at TU’s Albert S. Cook Library.

Photo: Steve J. Sherman



MY TOWN

Nick Joo '07 Singapore

LANDMARK
Marina Bay Sands Hotel and its infinity pool

HIDDEN GEM
Sembawang Hot Springs

MUSEUM
National Gallery Singapore

MOVIE BASED IN SINGAPOREAN CULTURE
Liang Por Por

TOURIST ATTRACTION
Newton Hawker Centre

If you find yourself in Southeast Asia with a few days to spare, consider visiting Singapore. Perched on the tip of the Malay Peninsula between Malaysia and Indonesia—85 miles north of the Equator—the city-state is half the size of Rhode Island and home to 5.45 million people—the second-greatest population density in the world.

But where Singapore really packs a punch? The food.

"I consider us the food capital of the world," says Nick Joo '07. "I take visitors to check out different restaurants or food places to give them a taste of Singapore. [The food area] **Newton Hawker Centre** is always touted to tourists. I think that's way overrated. So I tend to take them to more of the

"I didn't know we had so much wildlife roaming around in some of these parks. I like **HortPark**, because there's a lot of floral diversity there."

local haunts where I think it's cheaper, and it's better as well.

"We are a predominantly Chinese culture, so there's plenty of Chinese food around. There is a lot of very, very authentic and good Japanese food. In fact, I dare say that the quality of Japanese food can sometimes be even better than what you find in Japan itself."

But Joo's favorite cuisine is street food. "I grew up eating prawn noodles at **Blanco Court Prawn Mee**, because my mom's office used to be literally right opposite the store," he says. "She would always take us kids on the weekends because she had to work."

Joo was born and raised in the western half of the republic and is proud to still live in that region, in an area called **Clementi**. He and his wife Ng Kai Lyn live five minutes from his parents. "It's not as densely packed compared to other parts of Singapore," he says. "You still can find your own tiny pockets of peace and quiet here."

Despite saying he's "not really an outdoor person," Joo has become more interested in the parks in his area, taking to the paths with his wife to walk his dog.

"I prefer [places] where there isn't a lot of people," he says. "It's actually quite interesting, because I didn't know we had so much wildlife roaming around in some of these parks. I like **HortPark**, because there's a lot of floral diversity there. The other one is **Labrador Park Nature Reserve** because it's right by the sea. We get the nice breeze, the calmness of the sea."

Joo, strategy director for Helen O'Grady Asia, and his wife, a doctor, are very careful when it comes to socializing during COVID-19. In addition to dog walking and strolling **Orchard Road**—Singapore's retail heart—to see the city lights at night, the pair wander through the **Singapore Botanic Gardens** as well as the **Gardens By The Bay**. They also visit Singapore's museums, taking in exhibitions at the **National Museum of Singapore**, the **Asian Civilisations Museum** and the **National Gallery Singapore**.

Joo notes that despite its small size—"I can get end to end within 30 to 45 minutes of driving"—Singapore has something for everyone.

"If you are into wildlife, we have the zoos and aquariums. For kids, there's **Eco Park** with cycling and watersports. If you're more into architecture, we have **the Supreme Court**, **Asian Civilisations Museum** and the neighborhoods where we have preserved the old buildings, to see what Singapore was like 40, 50 years ago.

"But I think if you were to ask what landmark encapsulates Singapore, I'd say the **Marina Bay Sands Hotel**. [As a high-rise,] it represents Singapore quite well, because we are very densely populated, and the building is an architectural beauty."

Alumni News



Accepted Student Cookouts

Catch up with fellow Tigers and help us welcome new students at one of several cookouts this summer. Visit alumni.towson.edu/cookouts.



Grants Application Deadline

Community and professional development grants applications are due May 3. Find applications on Tiger Connect in the scholarships and grants section under the resource tab. Email applications to mpaulson@towson.edu.



Upcoming Events

- APRIL**
The Big Event, April 30
- MAY**
Ocean City Reception, May 7
Japanese Cooking Demo, May 13
Commencement Volunteering, May 25–27
- JUNE**
Atlanta Reception, June 3
50th Reunion Weekend (Classes of '70, '71, '72), June 11–12



From One Tiger to Another

For the past five years, alumni have answered the call to welcome newly admitted students to TU through personalized congratulatory postcards. In February, more than 220 alumni volunteered to write heartfelt messages to more than 2,200 accepted students. Although the program has been popular since its inception, participation the past two years has been tremendous. At a time when on-campus, in-person interaction was limited, especially for out-of-state students, alumni continued to provide friendly, firsthand glimpses into what it's like—and what it means—to be a Tiger. We are #TUProud to see the enthusiastic support for this important program year after year.

Novel Idea

Since launching May 2020, the TU Alumni Virtual Book Club has grown to nearly 300 members and has featured 10 wide-ranging bestsellers across multiple genres—all chosen by participants.

Brandy Reazer '97 (top photo) joined the book club "to have another outlet during the pandemic," but she says she remains an active member because she enjoys the page-turners selected each period and comments made by fellow Tigers. Cindy Candelori '73 (bottom photo) says it's been "a great way to connect with other alumni and gain insight into what they think about the books we are reading." And, for Candelori, it's also been the perfect platform to collect new recommendations for her must-read list.

If you're interested in joining the book club, you can find it on Tiger Connect under the virtual resources tab. The next reading period will run from May 27 to July 29.



2021–22

Alumni Association Board of Directors

President
Edward McDonald '78

Vice Presidents
Courtney Cox '12, '14
Jonas Jacobson '90
Tiana Wells-Lawson '98

At-Large Members

- Amanda Allen '14
- Kara Ball '08
- Duncan Brooks '03
- Van Brooks '12
- John Dragunas '97
- Susan Hall '96
- Migara Jayawardena '93
- Christine A. Johnson '06
- John Kenneally '79
- Joseph M. O'Rourke '11
- William Stetka '77
- Brandon Wharton '17
- Patrick Young Jr. '10
- Bob Zhang '07



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HONOR ELIZABETH WAINIO '95 FUNDRAISER: Alumni, family and friends gathered Oct. 23, 2021, at Ropewalk Tavern in Federal Hill to raise nearly \$20,000 for the Honor Elizabeth Wainio '95 Memorial Communications Scholarship. Since 2005, the scholarship has awarded more than \$160,000 to 37 students.

1. Marc McFaul '95, Linda McFaul, Esther Heymann '72, Ben Wainio and Sarah Wainio
2. Jason Rubin, Jeremy Stiffler '94, Michael Johnson, Faith Johnson '98, Joel Seledede and Stephen Altshuler
3. Jenna Mills '09, '16, Lori Armstrong and Margaret Paulson '11
4. Denise and Douglas Kaiser '97



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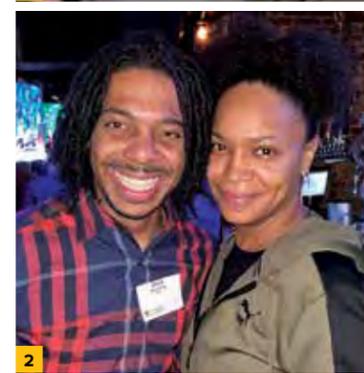
4

CLASS OF 1970 REUNION DINNER: Members of the Class of 1970 met for a mini reunion in South Campus Pavilion on Oct. 29, 2021. The intimate dinner served as a precursor to a larger, long-awaited 50th reunion celebration planned for June.

1. Top: A. Marian Lipinski '70, James Haupt III '70, Dianne Friel '70, Rick Brown '70, Sharon Bay '70, Ronald Bay '70, John Swivel '70; Bottom: Deborah Cole '70, Charlene Haupt, Patricia Fielder '70, Debbie Young '70 and Gloria Lang '70, '88
2. James Fielder and James Haupt III '70
3. Ronald Bay '70, Sharon Bay '70, A. Marian Lipinski '70, John Swivel '70, Gloria Lang '70, '88 and Rick Brown '70
4. Patricia Fielder '70, Dianne Friel '70 and Charlene Haupt



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D.C. METRO ALLIANCE KICKOFF: Tigers living or working in and around the greater Washington D.C. metropolitan area got together Dec. 4, 2021, at Sauf Haus Bier Hall & Garten to celebrate the much-anticipated launch of the D.C. Metro Alumni Alliance.

1. Bear Bruun '14, Cherie Nicols '99 and Keith Cohen '08
2. David Butler-Sims '07 and Lea Dean '05
3. Ashley Ashman '14 and Emily Sessa '15
4. Michael Crino '94, '01, Edward Rehfeld '87, Bear Bruun '14 and Danielle Neal



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LAMBDA ZETA CHAPTER OF KAPPA ALPHA PSI CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY: Exactly 40 years after the Lambda Zeta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi was chartered on TU's campus, nearly 80 members of the fraternity gathered to celebrate the milestone anniversary Feb. 27.

1. Members of Lambda Zeta sing "In the Year 1911" in West Village.
2. Chapter founder Charles (Chuck) Hagar Jr. '80 and Barri Hutchins
3. Chuck, also known as "The Seed," cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the chapter's bench dedication.
4. The youngest members of Lambda Zeta pose for a photo before dinner and a celebratory program in the West Village Ballroom.

Class Notes

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

We'd like to hear about your personal and professional lives.

SEND MAIL TO:

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

EMAIL:

alumni@towson.edu

WEB:

alumni.towson.edu/classnotes

Tiger Connect:
alumni.towson.edu

Facebook:
Towson University Alumni Association

Twitter:
@towsonualumni

Instagram:
@towsonalum

Tag your posts:
#TowsonUAlum

1950s

ALICE HABER '55 attended a rally for abortion rights outside of the Frederick County Courthouse on Dec. 1. *The Frederick News-Post* reported on the story and quoted Haber. "Seniors have strong voices, and our ranks are increasing," she said. "We want seniors all over the country to make sure that they're engaged and they're heard."

1970s

EDDIE APPLEFELD '70 has been associated with Baltimore media and public relations since graduating. He was marketing director of Lexington Market and a



part-time instructor at TU teaching public speaking. Now he is promotions director for Talk Radio 680 WCBM.

ANN BRACKEN '74 recently published her

third collection of poetry. *Once You're Inside: Poems Exploring Incarceration* details Bracken's experiences working in prison-based writing programs. Readers will meet memorable characters living in harsh and



inhumane conditions whose main desire is to make a positive contribution to their communities.

1980s

SCOTT RUSSELL '82 earned his master's in education administration from Shenandoah University. Russell is a high school teacher in northern Virginia.

HOPE C. TARR '82 wrote "She's Got the Beat," a story about Go-Go's drummer and Dundalk, Maryland, native Gina Schock, for *Baltimore* magazine. Tarr also interviewed legendary filmmaker John Waters for the magazine.

PAUL J. RYAN '87 is a business consultant, corporate trainer, author and TU mentor. He published his second book, *Raise or Repair & Retain a Great Credit Score* and is writing his third book about humor in the workplace.

DONNA (BRUGGER) DREHMANN '89

published a children's book based on her dog, Lady. *Things Lady Likes* is available on Amazon. It is intended to inspire conversations with young readers.

1990s

MARK BROWN '90 received the Presidential Rank Award, a highly selective honor. Brown is one of only 11 recipients across the entire U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). He was acknowledged for his work at HHS, his prior service at the Department of State, at the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services and in the Army National Guard.

"We find our work satisfying because as occupational therapists, we believe in helping individuals achieve their fullest potential despite illness and injury."

ANDREW MYERS '12



JACKIE COHEN '65

History, in First Person

Jackie Cohen was just three weeks old when her father, Leon Bloomberg, left for basic training in fall 1944.

And if it weren't for a school project, she may never have realized the trove of family history she had stashed in two battered shoeboxes.

Her parents never opened the boxes, and neither did Cohen until after her father died in 2014.

Later that year, her then-7-year-old granddaughter came to the graduate of Towson State Teachers College and former sixth-grade teacher for help researching Bloomberg's World War II service. Cohen started reading the nearly 300 letters her father sent to her mother during his time with the U.S. Army 94th Infantry, from September 1944 to February 1946.

"Each one starts by calling my mother something else—'hon,' 'sweetheart,' 'Es' for Esther, 'babe,' 'baby'—each one is so different in many ways, but they all contain personal

sentiments and the everyday of what he had to do, whether it's shining his shoes for an inspection or the rigors of basic training," Cohen says. "Not only is it a picture of my father at that time, but it's an opportunity to see a regular person at war and what he thought during that time."

The letters, postcards and other correspondence detail the Nuremberg trials, the death of President Franklin Roosevelt, VE Day and VJ Day and Bloomberg's daily routine, troop movements and personal travels.

Cohen shared her family correspondence with Special Collections and University Archives, recently digitized as the Leon Bloomberg Papers.

"My father would be thrilled that whatever he wrote might be interesting for future generations," she says. "And he would be thrilled that they're at Towson."

For video and a link to the collection, visit towson.edu/historyfirstperson.



CHRISTIE VAZQUEZ '08

Looking on the Brightside

Sitting in the Towson location of Brightside Boutique, her clothing and accessory store, Christie Vazquez can't help but reminisce.

"It is full circle for me," she says. "This location used to be a Barnes & Noble. When I went to the store [as a TU student], I used to buy fashion magazines every day, sit there and read them."

Looking around her newest store, located on the circle in Towson between Shake Shack and Urban Outfitters and filled with on-trend clothing, licensed items from local universities and occasionally foul-mouthed giftware, Vazquez can draw a straight line from her time at TU to the present.

She says of her professors, "They really did a good job preparing a student for the real world. We had to practice interviewing. We had to make resumes and cover letters. That's good, because you go into the real world, and that's what you have to do."

Vazquez's confidence led her to post-graduate jobs at New York City fashion icons Diane Von Furstenberg, Nanette Lepore and rag & bone. It also came in handy when she decided to branch out on her own. After generating an income and a social media following creating jewelry and remaking vintage clothing, Vazquez decided to open her own shop. She chose Federal Hill in 2011, and stores in Fells Point; Hampden; Annapolis; Washington, D.C.; and now Towson followed.

"I love what I do," she says. "I had this goal, this dream. And I wasn't scared to do it. Now I'm sitting in that spot where I used to read fashion magazines. It's crazy but also really amazing, because the biggest thing I felt was missing here when I was a student was a place like Brightside. People want to go into a store, have an experience and feel really good about their purchase, like, 'Oh, I got it from Brightside.'"

AMY SNYDER THORNE '94 moved to St. Augustine, Florida, with her husband, Charlie, in August 2020. The last time she was on campus, it "looked amazing and continues to look more and more beautiful!"

GREG SLATER '97 is the former Maryland transportation secretary.



The Tampa Hillsborough County Expressway Authority selected him as its next executive director and CEO.

2000s

MATTHEW PAPUCHIS '03 recently published a nonfiction book, *A Little Birdie Told Me...* The book references his days at TU and his time at *The Towerlight*.

DIANE E. DIBLASIO '07 was named partner by Niles, Barton & Wilmer, effective Jan. 1. DiBlasio concentrates her practice on insurance coverage litigation, property insurance law, related first-party insurance matters and commercial litigation.

KERIANNE P. KEMMERZELL '09 was named a partner with Baltimore law firm Tydings. Kemmerzell practices in the areas of employment law, immigration, estate litigation, general litigation and family law. She counsels small- and medium-sized companies on a wide range of labor, employment and immigration matters. In her family law practice, she

represents clients in divorce cases as well as disputes



involving custody, alimony and child support and division of assets.

2010s

JENNA A. FLORIO '10 was promoted to partner with Goldberg Segalla.

AMY WEISS '12 is director of Jewish communal engagement and learning at OLAM in Washington, D.C. She has been selected as part of Class 6 of the Wexner Field Fellowship, which was created in 2013 in partnership with the Jim Joseph Foundation to focus on developing promising Jewish professionals' leadership skills while enveloping them in a rich network of Jewish colleagues.

ANDREW MYERS '12 and **KATIE SWINSON '15** are occupational therapy alumni working together. Swinson is a real estate agent focused on helping older adults and families with children with disabilities find a home that they can safely live in. Myers started UHome Consulting, where he engages homeowners, contractors and related service providers to enable individuals to remain in their current home via home modifications and getting the right support system in place. "We make a good team because we are both addressing a gap in the housing market for individuals with disabilities," Myers says.

In Memoriam

Alumni

Teresa Bosco '38
Aug. 14, 2021

Maxine (Batie) Cunningham '42
Oct. 22, 2021

Madeline (Jackson) Best '43
April 17, 2021

Dorothy (Patrick) Holt '45
Jan. 15, 2022

Dorothy (D'Amario) Ellison '48
Aug. 23, 2021

Iva (Shipley) Wehland '50
Feb. 20, 2021

Thelma (Koontz) Grimes '51, '73
Oct. 21, 2021

Philip Rhoads '51
Jan. 11, 2022

Virginia Slattery '51
Jan. 27, 2021

Lorna (Virts) Smith '52
Oct. 16, 2021

Anne (Placht) Blum '53
Aug. 31, 2021

Francis French '53
Jan. 3, 2022

Margaret (Dix) Levee '53
Feb. 1, 2022

Ocie (Holsinger) Bernstein '54
Sept. 13, 2021

Kathryn De Fries '54
Feb. 3, 2022

Carol (Himmelfarb) Cummins '55
Oct. 20, 2021

Theodore Venetoulis '55
Oct. 6, 2021

Frances (Scarfone) Alvaro '56
Oct. 27, 2021

Nancy (Strigle) Porter '56
July 16, 2021

Elinore (Gareis) Barclay Turner '57
Feb. 1, 2022

Walter Dashiell '57
Dec. 9, 2021

Beryl (Rabinowitz) Gottesman '57, '77
Feb. 8, 2021

Ellen (Placht) Heemann '57
Nov. 29, 2021

Margaret (Carr) Kuypers '57
June 1, 2021

Eleanore (Cadle) Ridout '57
Oct. 28, 2021

Griffith Dorn '58
Oct. 29, 2021

Larry Feeley '58
March 1, 2021

Catherine Barnes '59
Nov. 5, 2021

Robert Barnes '59
Jan. 19, 2021

Gail O'Leary '59
April 26, 2021

Eileen (Broderick) Walker '59
Aug. 5, 2021

Raymond Benser '60
Feb. 20, 2021

Donald Pace '60
Dec. 8, 2021

Robert Anastasi '61
Feb. 17, 2021

John Edwards '61
Oct. 7, 2021

Marcia Hahn '61
Oct. 28, 2021

Joan (Germer) Schaefer '61
March 11, 2021

Barbara (Willing) Macken '62
Nov. 30, 2021

Judy (Fickes) Woolston '62
July 11, 2021

Richard Carl '63
June 23, 2021

Catherine (Elder) Deibel '63
Sept. 3, 2021

James McCallister '64
Jan. 16, 2021

Joan (Rosen) Zaiantz '64
Aug. 31, 2021

Carole (Michelfelder) Cascio '65
2021

George Tussing '65
Nov. 8, 2021

Katherine Henderson '66
Feb. 6, 2021

Joe Koehler '66
Nov. 3, 2021

Victoria (Brandy) Kalabokos '67
Jan. 22, 2022

Eleanore (Strode) Schoenian '67
Oct. 1, 2021

Barbara Walker '67
Feb. 3, 2021

John Roth '68, '75
March 22, 2021

Daniel Tuckerman '68
Oct. 14, 2021

Elmer Redinger '69
Dec. 28, 2021

Richard Rogers '69
April 4, 2021

Joyce (Williams) Weddle '69
March 31, 2021

Elizabeth (Harris) Adams '70
July 24, 2021

Robert Barber '70
Jan. 25, 2022

Victoria (Reed) Gallagher '70
Oct. 20, 2021

Eileen (Greenberg) Lesser '70
July 14, 2021

Nancy (Shores) Manuel '70
Jan. 29, 2022

Edward McCleary '70
Jan. 10, 2022

Susan (Whattam) Wilson '70
Oct. 26, 2021

Joyce Brock '71
Aug. 4, 2021

Dennis Johnson '71
Oct. 25, 2021

Gail (Thomson) Ensor '72
Feb. 9, 2022

Matthew Gaver '72
Oct. 19, 2021

Julia Reynolds '72
Nov. 7, 2021

Susan Sosnowski '72
March 15, 2021

Joyce Willen '72, '85
Oct. 6, 2021

Richard Williams '72
Jan. 13, 2022

John Broglie '73
Nov. 11, 2021

Henry Cook '73
Nov. 27, 2021

Marjorie Cox '74
April 20, 2021

Christyne Ivey-Gilliam '74
Oct. 19, 2021

Lynn (Diduch) Lloyd '74
Oct. 4, 2021

David McCorkle '74
Jan. 23, 2021

George Oakjones '74
March 7, 2021

George White '74
Aug. 6, 2021

Patricia (Mansfield) Richards '75
Nov. 21, 2021

Howard Smith '75
Oct. 9, 2021

Mark Harris '76
June 7, 2021

Debra Klar '76
Oct. 6, 2021

Joyce Shriver '76
Jan. 1, 2021

Frank Sladko '76
Feb. 1, 2021

Thomas Bender '77
Oct. 20, 2021

Tanya Justice '77
May 23, 2021

Donald Kilby '77
Nov. 12, 2021

Rodney Truscott '77
Dec. 3, 2021

Rondall Berry '78
Jan. 4, 2022

Steven Strawbridge '78
Jan. 19, 2022

Robert Washington '78
Jan. 12, 2022

Sally Bartenfelder '79
Oct. 10, 2021

Ruth Bukatman '79
August 2021

Dorothea Dalbke '79
Feb. 7, 2022

Robert De Lisle '79
April 28, 2021

Paula (Steinberg) Farbman '79
July 19, 2021

Philip Kirby '79
May 10, 2021

Thomas Scott '79
April 1, 2021

Brian Sill '79
Jan. 9, 2021

Anthony Gallina '80
Nov. 20, 2021

Ann (Swomley) Harden '80
Jan. 14, 2022

Honora Scheck '80
Jan. 31, 2022

Michael Bluestein '81
Feb. 4, 2022

Helene King '81
Nov. 26, 2021

Veris Lee '81
Sept. 22, 2021

Joseph Roach '82
May 26, 2021

Harold Fairchild '83
April 9, 2021

Rosemarie (Avello) Greenwald '83
April 1, 2021

Elaine (Fabian) Barrett '84
March 22, 2021

Michael Kearney '84
March 19, 2021

Lisa Armstrong-Yim '85
Dec. 20, 2021

Theodore Buck '85
Feb. 24, 2021

Danielle Roskes '85
Oct. 12, 2021

Richard Cutler '86
Sept. 22, 2021

Cary (Brady) Dion '86
Dec. 16, 2021

Kenneth Gerstley '86
Jan. 30, 2021

Fred Craven '87
Oct. 23, 2021

Elliott Robinson '87
Jan. 20, 2021

Regina Ecker '88
March 3, 2021

Charlotte Drechsler '90
Nov. 17, 2021

Deborah (O'Connell) Verbillis '90
Dec. 9, 2021

Shari (Hawley) Boyd '92
Jan. 14, 2022

Sherry Chambers '92
Jan. 13, 2022

Dawn Dawson '92, '07
Sept. 6, 2021

Thomas Delaney '92
Jan. 25, 2022

Michael Hess '92
Oct. 31, 2021

Christopher Newell '92
March 28, 2021

Melanie Elliott '93
Nov. 11, 2021

Sondra Hemler '93
Aug. 3, 2021

Sheila Peksenak '93
Jan. 4, 2022

Judi Biggerman '94
Jan. 22, 2022

Patti Jensen '94
Sept. 17, 2021

Alicia (Hayward) Gauger '00
Oct. 2, 2021

Nancy Cassell '02
Jan. 24, 2021

Joan Ilgenfritz '04
Jan. 16, 2022

Will Lugo '07
Feb. 17, 2021

Tyler Groton '09
Oct. 6, 2021

Katherine (Doane) Mueller '12
Dec. 27, 2021

Michelle Speiser '15
Nov. 3, 2021

Faculty & Staff

Mercedes (Johnson) Calkins '00
Jan. 22, 2021

Elizabeth Carpenter '70
Jan. 9, 2022

James Curran '99
Jan. 16, 2022

Harry Hansen '68
July 6, 2021

Irene Hanson
Dec. 24, 2021

Susan (McCulloch) Lidard
July 2021

Donald McCulloh
Nov. 7, 2021

Robert Sims
Nov. 19, 2021

Carol Warner
Nov. 8, 2021

Rearview Mirror

FROM THE DESK OF FELICITY KNOX '94, Library Associate to Special Collections and University Archives



ASK AN ARCHIVIST

Hey Felicity...

Q: What was the Junior College?

A: For almost 100 years, the mission of the Maryland State Normal School (MSNS) and then the State Teachers College at Towson (STC) was to train teachers. However, just after World War II, the school created the Junior College, which was a way for students to earn general studies credits that they could then use to transfer to other educational institutions like liberal arts colleges. This was meant to also attract students with GI Bill money who might otherwise not have attended STC. Ultimately, it paved the way for STC's transition to Towson State College in 1963.

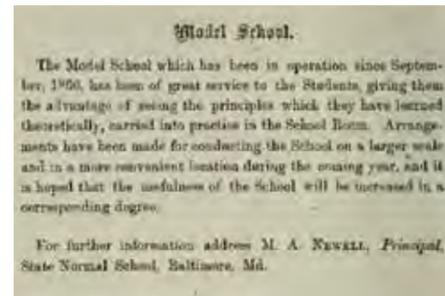
Have a question for Felicity? Email her at fknox@towson.edu.

WHAT'S NEW

Bishop Collection

In spring 2022, Special Collections and University Archives received a donation of records from the family of John Joseph "Jack" Bishop Jr. and John Joseph Bishop III. Jack was a Maryland senator from 1966 until 1981, when he was named to the Court of Special Appeals by then-Gov. Harry R. Hughes. He served as a judge until his retirement in 1996. John served in the Maryland House of Delegates for District 9 from 1987 until 1995 and later ran for state Senate and Baltimore County executive. The records focus on political party issues, local matters of public concern, legislative work, court decisions and election materials and are rich with local history and research opportunities.

PAST



1866

Elementary classes were established by the Maryland State Normal School (MSNS) to teach young children using the most current methods as well as model proper teaching to MSNS students.



1934

The first building constructed expressly for use by the elementary school opened on campus. First known as the Campus Elementary School, it was re-named the Lida Lee Tall School in 1942. The building is now known as Van Bokkelen Hall. By 1934, elementary school students were encouraged to participate in their own learning, creating student-led projects for the class, such as these students constructing a boat in their classroom.



1960

The new Lida Lee Tall School building opened. Besides being more modern in design, it also allowed researchers to observe classes in action. The elementary school ceased operations in 1991, and the building was demolished in 2006 to make way for the new College of Liberal Arts building.

PRESENT

In My Queue

JOHN BENAM, CLASS OF 1997

At National Geographic, John Benam worked on documentaries starring insects like bees and ants. He loved it but switched course in 2009 when he became a freelance documentary filmmaker and director of photography (DP). "I was very much compelled by the advent of social justice documentaries," says Benam, who was the DP on the hit Netflix series *The Keepers*. "I'm very mission oriented. I choose projects now based on whether they have a clear mission of doing right by somebody."



In 1997...

Teaching—not filmmaking—was Benam's focus when he came to TU, but that changed when he took a film course with a group of friends. These are among the documentaries that impacted him after he made the switch.



Hoop Dreams

I loved the amount of time they took to tell the story of these two young basketball players growing up. It was a commitment of years.



Microcosmos

I've always been a nature nerd. This is a very artistic and abstract movie about nature.



Baraka

It follows the progression of how nature turns to modernism and industrialization. Basically, it's about the scourge of humans on the planet. I think it's one of the best documentaries ever.



Hearts of Darkness

In my college days, two of the most influential films that I watched were *Easy Rider* and *Apocalypse Now*. That led to *Hearts of Darkness*. I love seeing how the movie actually gets made.

In 2022...

These days, Benam is working on a documentary about a group of people in Baltimore who built a spaceship in their garage in the 1920s in the hopes of flying it to Venus. He's also doing one for PBS about Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott.



Honeyland

It follows the life of a beekeeper in Macedonia. It's like an ethnographic, but it's very much a conservation film too.



The Biggest Little Farm

A group of people bought an old farm, and they brought it back to life by working in rhythm with nature. It changed their entire lives. It feels like you're on a journey of discovery with them.



Spaceship Earth

There's this place in Arizona where they did a two-year test, putting people into a dome as if they were on Mars. Could they live in this dome cut off from everything and survive? It has a very intriguing political element as well.



Dick Johnson Is Dead

I think Kirsten Johnson is one of the living geniuses of the documentary world. It's about her father starting to lose his mind to dementia. She tries to capture him in a way that lasts forever. Having worked on the film, I'm admittedly a little biased.

From Towson, With Love

At TU, thousands of romances have blossomed in dorm rooms, dining halls and at dance parties—no swiping right necessary. Tell us about yours by emailing munger@towson.edu or tweeting using the hashtag #JUSTTHETUOFUS.



♥ CHARLOTTE'S STORY

Charlotte (Ridgeway) Sikorski '14

I visited Towson as a high schooler; it must have been around 2009. I took a tour, and there was a Q&A panel with current students after. Matt was on that panel. He was charming, very cute and made everyone laugh, so I instantly had a crush on him.

But I had to apply to the school and get in, so it was years before I actually met him. We both ended up joining student government. I was a senator sophomore year, and he was president his senior year. We became really good friends, but we were both dating other people. He went on to grad school, and I moved to Colorado. We stayed in touch maybe once or twice a year.

Then we both became single. He lived in Nashville, so we started dating long distance for like six months beginning in 2015. The day we sat down and confessed everything, we were at a Taiwanese boba tea place in Colorado. That's when we say everything changed.



He moved to D.C., and we ended up living together for a couple of years in Bethesda, Maryland. I was a Latin American studies major and had a lifelong dream to take a trip to South America, so in 2017, we quit our jobs, put everything in storage and spent six months backpacking in South America.

When he proposed, he made a scavenger hunt. He sent me around the neighborhood in San Diego where we lived. One of the clues was in my

favorite book in our local library. It ended with me coming back to the apartment and him on one knee. It was very cute, but I didn't even have my nails done. If I had suspected it, I would have had a manicure.

We were supposed to get married in September 2020, but we decided to push it back a year because of COVID. We got married in San Diego, and it was officiated by Chris Rindosh, the student organizations coordinator at TU. He was the SGA adviser.

We went to Greece on our honeymoon. It was great—there was no one really there.

♥ MATT'S STORY

Matt Sikorski '12

As gorgeous as I think she is, I don't remember seeing her in the crowd back when I was on the panel. My first memory of meeting her is when I was elected student government president, and she was an SGA senator. Before you start the school year, you go on an SGA retreat where you meet everyone. We had four, 12-person vans that drove to the retreat. I drove one of them, and she was in my van, so whenever we went anywhere, I got to talk to her. She has orange hair, so whenever I looked in the rearview mirror, I spotted her.

We got to socialize a lot over the course of that school year. The first several years of our friendship, we were always dating other people, so we built a true friendship. I liked how she spent a lot of time in service to others. She helped in Haiti after the earthquake; she helped build a school in Nicaragua. She was just really interesting to be around.

For the proposal, I told her I had a scavenger hunt for her like our first anniversary, which wasn't suspicious at all since I had



done it before. I sent her around our neighborhood in San Diego so I'd have enough time to prepare for the actual proposal when she got back to the apartment. She says that she didn't really know I was going to propose until the last clue. I'm pretty proud that I was able to still make it a surprise even though we'd already talked about getting engaged at some point in the near future.

I think knowing her as just a person for four years before anything turned romantic allowed me to gain a really good friend who has similar interests, similar goals in life and those sorts of things. That was the best foundation we could have possibly hoped for in our marriage. We both say this: If we had started dating in Towson when we first met, we're not sure how things would have played out or whether we still would have gotten married. Our journey almost had to play out the way that it did for us to be where we're at now.

Philanthropy



TU Launches New Giving Society

Photo: Harrison Hart '16

The Tall-Wiedefeld Society, a new and growing collective that supports positive change through philanthropy and education, launched on March 8. It was no accident that the launch coincided with International Women's Day. Named for two of TU's exceptional past leaders—Lida Lee Tall and Mary Theresa Wiedefeld—the Tall-Wiedefeld Society combines knowledge and passion with a commitment to creating a permanent legacy that addresses the needs of women at TU.

"We want this society's membership to grow beyond women philanthropists," says Brian DeFilippis, vice president for university advancement. "We welcome all members and recognize our collective giving power and ability to make a difference for Towson University and our students." The society will fund projects through a member-driven, competitive grant process to benefit innovative and creative thinking.

Co-chairs of this new giving society are Tricia Turley Brandenburg, deputy director of athletics/SWA, and Donnice E. Brown '91, '94, assistant director/chief of youth services in the Mayor's Office of Employment Development in Baltimore.

For more information on the society, or to join, visit towson.edu/womensgiving.



Through mid-March, the RISE campaign has raised more than \$80 million toward its \$100 million goal.

Meet the Society Namesakes

Lida Lee Tall was the head of the Maryland State Normal School (MSNS) from 1920–38. After merging with the Baltimore Teacher's Training School in 1924, MSNS was poised to become the largest educator of certified Maryland teachers, a distinction that TU still holds today. In 1934, the school was granted the ability to award four-year Bachelor of Science degrees in education and was renamed the Maryland State Teachers College at Towson (STC).

Mary Theresa Wiedefeld, a 1904 graduate of the MSNS and faculty member in the Model School, was named president of STC in 1938. She led the school through World War II, rallied the campus to support community members who were serving and created a campaign to raise money by buying war bonds for school projects. She also started a junior college (see page 42) to attract more individuals to campus after the war, essentially creating TU's liberal arts programs in the process.

3 Ways To Make a Gift

1
ONLINE
WWW.TOWSON.EDU/GIVING

2
BY MAIL
USING PRE-PAID ENVELOPE ON PAGE 33

3
PHONE
TOLL FREE 1-866-301-3375

Grants Awarded by Towson University Foundation



For the fourth consecutive year, the Towson University Foundation (TUF) has awarded nearly \$100,000 in grants to TU projects. The foundation received 22 applications requesting more than \$500,000 in funding. Established in 1970 as a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation, TUF enables donors to make tax-deductible contributions to TU scholarships and fellowships, faculty development, research, outreach projects and academic and other programs.

The 2022 grant recipients include projects focusing on secure elections, mental health awareness, curriculum preparation for Living Learning Communities and urban history/cultural teaching in today's classroom.

EMPOWERING SECURE ELECTIONS

This project will research, develop and validate online training modules to educate more than 30,000 poll workers on the threats to mail-based voting processes, enable them to identify and mitigate the threats and build stronger awareness of potential election threats and what is being done to protect the integrity of votes. Students will play a key role in the research. To date, 17 students have contributed to research efforts, and 10 have co-authored work.

“This grant support will provide students with authentic research experiences that directly contribute to the betterment of our local, state and national election processes.”

Josh Dehlinger, professor, Department of Computer & Information Sciences

HEALTHY MINDS, HEALTHY TIGERS

The project will educate the campus community on mental health awareness and response through mental health first aid (MHFA) training. It will also remove mental health stigmas and treatment barriers by providing trauma-sensitive programs for students at the Campus Recreation Center. The program anticipates training 125 people in MHFA and four as MHFA instructors to expand the program.

“We are addressing the mental health needs of our students through education and awareness-building that equips faculty, staff and students to care for students’ mental health and increases their ability to graduate and serve as effective, ethical leaders and engaged citizens.”

Grady Sheffield, director of campus recreation

HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE LEARNING COMMUNITY

An Office of Housing & Residence Life and Division of Academic Affairs partnership, this residential curriculum and onboarding process for new Living Learning Communities will increase first-year student exposure to faculty and academic peers and improve academic performance, engagement and retention rates. Lessons learned will be applied to future operations with a goal of 30–50% of first-year residential students actively engaging in learning communities.

“We are committing the combined resources of academic affairs and student affairs to offer more high-impact, co-curricular living learning experiences for our residential students.”

Malinda Jensen, director of housing & residence life

VOICES AND PLACES OF BALTIMORE: EXPLORING LIFE UNDER SEGREGATION AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH AN EDUCATION-BASED IMMERSION STUDY

Understanding the impact of urban history in teaching cultural awareness is critical to learning at the K–12 and postsecondary levels. This project brings together K–12 educators from Baltimore City and County with TU faculty and students for remote workshops and in-person, immersive field trips and community experiences. The goal is to prepare seasoned K–12 teachers and TU faculty and students to teach issues of social justice, inclusion and equity.

“Increasing our awareness of the cultural richness of historic Black communities and businesses in Baltimore will transform our own classroom practices.”

Morna McNulty, professor, Department of Elementary Education

John Eubank IV '09

John Eubank IV is the youngest alum to endow a scholarship at TU. The vice president of cyber growth for Black Horse Solutions, Eubank says he is thankful for the people, experiences “and even the failures” that have been foundational to his success.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE THE YOUNGEST TU ALUM TO ENDOW A SCHOLARSHIP AT TU?

Being the youngest has been a pattern in my life. I started college at 15, and, across my career and personal life, I have frequently been the youngest person in the room. This has shaped a lot of who I am. You don't have to wait until later in life to make a difference; it is something that can be done throughout your life and career.

YOUR FAMILY IS A TU LEGACY. DID THEIR DEEP CONNECTIONS TO TU INFLUENCE YOUR COLLEGE DECISION?

The maternal side of my family goes back several generations to the original Maryland State Normal School. My older sister and younger brother attended TU. For me it was the dual degree in business administration and computer information systems that aligned with my career focus. And TU was affordable. I had to pay my own way through school, lived at home and commuted while working multiple jobs.

HOW DO YOU HOPE YOUR GIVING INFLUENCES OTHERS?

I got through college thanks to scholarships and grants. In part, my current success is because of those who established scholarships. I want to provide that same opportunity to other students, and I hope that the recipients of my scholarship are one day in a place where they can also give back.

Read more about Eubank's memories of TU and his views on success and life at towson.edu/RISE.





OUR TOWN

Lake Roland

As the head park ranger at Lake Roland, **Jonathan Wood**'s office is more than 500 acres of trails, water and woods that are home to deer, coyotes, beavers, otters and a bevy of birds. The park, which is operated by Baltimore County, attracts more than 300,000 people a year. They come to fish, hike, canoe, kayak or simply picnic. "You've got diversity of history, nature and recreation here," says Wood '11. "You get a diverse population of people who come here as well, which is awesome."

Make an Impact.

Philanthropic support is vital to helping our community reach its greatest potential.

The TU Fund, with your support, fuels our momentum. This annual giving fund targets your gift where it's needed most: the programs and people who are making a difference in every corner of our campus and beyond.

**Every gift matters.
Every day.**

For more information, contact:

Nky McGinnis

Director of the Annual Campaign

PHONE | **410-704-3869**

EMAIL | nmcginnis@towson.edu





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Towson, MD 21252-0001

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8000 York Road, Towson, MD 21252.

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SAVE THE DATES

VIRTUAL

GLOBAL ALUMNI REUNION

Aug. 18 – Aug. 21

If you were an international student, study abroad participant or if you are an alum from the U.S. living abroad, join us for our first global reunion.

The weekend will feature a series of virtual events, including a tour of TU's campus, Baltimore-themed cooking class, scavenger hunt and wine tasting as well as opportunities to network with other alumni and connect with TU's international students.

Visit alumni.towson.edu/globalreunion to learn more.