

# TOWSON

UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2017



## SOX APPEAL

Athletes worldwide wear  
alum's patented socks



# BIG PICTURE



## WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER?

John Sivey wants to know what's in your drinking water.

Backed by a \$500,000, five year, CAREER grant from the National Science Foundation, the assistant professor of chemistry in the Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics is examining chemical reactions that can result from adding chlorine to drinking water.

Chlorine, used to purify U.S. drinking water since 1902, inactivates bacteria and viruses. But chlorine can also react with natural organic matter, such as broken-down leaves, to form toxic disinfection by-products (DBPs), including compounds known to cause cancer. Sivey and his team of student researchers are on the hunt for DBPs that contain bromine, because this group of DBPs is more toxic than its chlorinated cousins.

Sivey, Kayla Martin-Culet (chemistry '18), Tyler Swanson (chemistry '18), and Garrett Taggart (chemistry '17) analyze samples of drinking water using liquid chromatography with high-resolution mass spectrometry—an instrument which separates and identifies complex mixtures of chemicals, including brominated DBPs.

The CAREER grant is the NSF's most prestigious award for early-career faculty members.

This project also includes an educational outreach program in which sixth grade math students explore how linear functions are essential to careers in science and engineering.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



“If we don’t have any pollinators, we’re losing our food supply.”

### THE CAMPUS BUZZ

Elena Sachs '18 understands the “sting” of the declining bee population.

The environmental science major, along with other TU students, established a campus garden that will attract pollinators.

Rebuilding bee populations is crucial, she says.

“Seventy percent of the top 100 crops that we eat in the whole world, which makes up about 90 percent of the human population’s food, is pollinated,” Sachs explains. “If we don’t have any pollinators, we’re losing our food supply.”

Bees also pollinate about 75 percent of all wild plants, making them vital to the stability of the ecosystem, she adds.

During April’s Big Event, volunteers planted nine native species—56 plants total—in the 17 feet by 23 feet plot atop a hill facing Lot 24 near the Administration Building.

Sachs along with members of the Student Environmental Organization will tend the garden.

The environment is a priority for Sachs; after graduation, she’s considering careers in conservation biology, restoration ecology or sustainability management. “My dream job would probably be an explorer for National Geographic,” she says.

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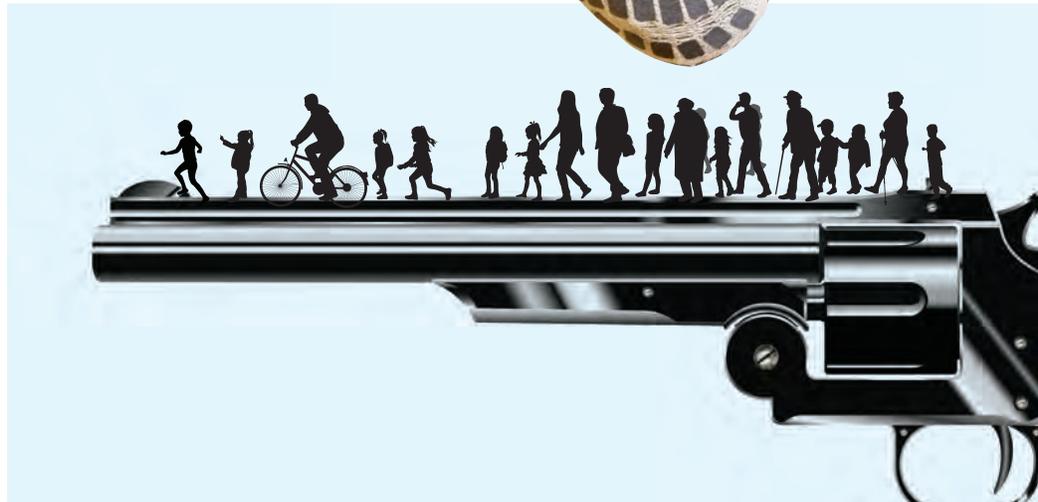
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“We began building a culture of philanthropy that will lay the foundation for Towson University’s largest capital campaign.”

## PRESIDENT’S LETTER

My first full academic year at Towson University was one of our busiest years on record. From strong enrollment growth to extraordinary progress on the Presidential Priorities, we experienced an inspiring several months.

We began building a culture of philanthropy that will lay the foundation for Towson University’s largest capital campaign. We have also completed the research phase of a multi-year identity audit that will help tell Towson University’s contemporary story and why, TU truly does matter to Maryland.

As the largest university in Greater Baltimore, Towson University is the anchor that has spurred the region’s economic and intellectual vitality for more than 150 years. Our place-making strategy in up-town Towson will help us attract and retain the best and brightest faculty, staff and students as well as create a post-college town for our graduates. That’s why in April we announced the conversion of the TU Marriott hotel to student housing to strengthen this connection and support enrollment growth.

For the first time, we earmarked eight annual events as a “Celebration of Excellence.” These distinct occasions highlighted TU’s excellence and recognized our talented faculty, dedicated staff, outstanding students and prestigious alumni. One example is the six TU faculty members, more than any other University System of Maryland institution, who received 2017 USM Board of Regents’ Faculty Awards for excellence.

In the pages ahead, you will get a closer look at our innovative faculty, prominent alumni and successful student-athletes. The men’s lacrosse team and women’s track and field team won CAA championships. And off the field, we have an outstanding African-American student-athlete graduation rate and our student-athletes led the nation in community service among men’s Division I programs. There is much to be proud of at Towson University and there are great things ahead!

**Kim Schatzel**  
TOWSON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

# TOWSON

## UNIVERSITY

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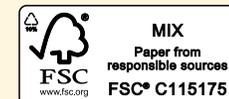
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## Working Together

BTU SHOWCASE EXPLORES PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRESS



Call it a cornucopia of collaboration.

When TU opened its doors April 24 for the 10th Annual BTU Showcase, dozens of exhibitors were on hand to explain their partnerships.

There was Project Astro, a collaboration among TU, the Maryland Science Center, and the Space Telescope Science Institute to serve Baltimore students and educators.

From MentHER, a networking initiative for college and high school women to bioinformatics analysis for the Food and Drug Administration, to finding novel biocontrol techniques against insect pests such as the stink bug, the BTU showcase exhibited the depth and breadth of the diverse initiatives and cutting-edge research between TU and its partners.

"Towson University is committed to making a difference and transforming lives in Greater Baltimore—but we don't do this work alone," says TU President Kim Schatzel. "We do it through partnerships. We do that through BTU—Partnerships at Work For Greater Baltimore."

BTU's five project areas include equitable education, community development, competitive economy, health and well-being, and arts and culture.

Sessions explored why community matters to TU and how its going commitment to strengthen TU's connections with community and business partners. The showcase provided networking opportunities and a chance to connect with leaders from TU centers, programs, and departments—all deeply involved with university-community partnerships.

"It is all about building a stronger foundation for Towson University's future and for making Greater Baltimore a better place to live, work and learn," Schatzel explains.

## TU's Elite Eight

A "CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE" COMBINES EIGHT EVENTS TO SHOWCASE THE UNIVERSITY'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST

This spring Towson University took a celebratory first step, combining a series of special events held each April and May into an inaugural "Celebration of Excellence" to showcase TU's best and brightest.

"One thing I've noticed in my first 15 months here is that we don't brag enough, among ourselves and outside the campus, about what a special place Towson University is," says President Kim Schatzel, who suggested the celebration idea. "We don't brag enough about our talented faculty, our dedicated staff, our outstanding students and our amazing alumni; or about the positive impact our university has throughout the state, and why we matter to Maryland.

"This 'Celebration of Excellence' ties together eight wonderful events and provides a perfect path toward the ultimate celebratory event on our campus, our spring commencement," she adds. "Although these events are very different, they all have one thing in common: celebrating excellence at Towson University."



The celebration ran from April 7 through May 10 and included:

- Foundation Scholars Luncheon
- Student Research and Creative Inquiry Forum
- BTU Partnerships Showcase
- Senior Colleagues Reception
- Student Affairs Leadership Award Ceremony
- Distinguished Alumni and Dean's Recognition Awards Ceremony
- Golden Paws Student-Athlete Banquet
- Service Awards Breakfast and Ceremony

## Geoscientists Should Apply

NSF GEOSCIENCES EDUCATION GRANT IS RAISING THE PROFILE OF CAREERS IN GEOSCIENCE

Two professors in the Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics not only want students to become geoscientists, they also research the best ways to recruit and retain those who choose to major in the field.

Backed by a nearly \$350,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, Joel Moore, assistant professor, and Ron Hermann, associate professor, are promoting TU's three majors—geology, environmental science-geology and earth-space science—and acknowledging the wealth of jobs that await geoscience graduates in areas from climate change, minerals and environmental remediation.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts job growth in the geosciences to be 50 percent higher than average along with a shortfall of 135,000 geoscience graduates by 2022.



Geoscientists monitor water quality.

The recruiting efforts of Hermann and Moore include expanding partnerships with area high schools and community colleges, and raising awareness of the field in grades K-12. Their menu of retention methods involves improving introductory geoscience courses to incorporate more hands-on, active learning practices, altering advising procedures, and increasing networking opportunities among students and the geoscience community.

# STELLAR STATS



## 1 SCIENCE FUNDED |

Construction on the new Science Facility begins this fall thanks to \$26 million in funding, which was recently approved by the state legislature. In fact, more than \$124 million was earmarked for the project, covering its entire cost through 2020. The Science Facility will be the largest academic building on campus, adding state-of-the-art labs, equipment and space to support TU's STEM programs and faculty.



## 2 OLD ROOMS, NEW DIGS |

To meet the strong demand for upper-division student housing and help offset a 2,000 to 2,500-bed shortage, the TU will end its agreement with the Towson University Marriott Hotel at the end of the contract in June 2018, and will convert the university-owned building to student housing by fall 2018.

## 3 BEST FOR JEWISH STUDENTS |

TU was ranked 13th in the United States and Canada by The Algemeiner as a university that is a model "for promoting Jewish culture and life." The magazine cited multiple factors, including TU as host to the Baltimore Hebrew Institute, which supports the education of Jewish-studies scholars, educators and professionals.

## 4 RISING IN THE RANKS |

*U.S. News & World Report* ranked TU's College of Education among the best online graduate education programs. TU moved from 153rd place last year to 66th place in the magazine's list of 197 private and public regional institutions offering online graduate programs.



## 5 PATRIOTIC EMPLOYERS |

Give a salute to the Office of Graduate Studies' Janet Delaney, Robin Walczak and Arlene Ceribelli, along with Rajeswari Kolagani and David Schaefer of the Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences. They received a Patriot Award from the

Office of the Secretary of Defense for supporting TU graduate student David Houston when he was deployed to the Middle East.



## 6 FOOTNOTES |

Vincent Thomas wants young men to know it's OK to kick up their heels on the dance floor. Backed by funds from the Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences, the associate professor of dance offered a residency with his VTDance studio geared to Baltimore County middle and high school male students. Dancers took Thomas's class at TU and performed in the TU Spring Dance Concert.

## 7 TUNES FOR TYKES |

"Saturday Morning Tunes," offered by WTMD, is live music just for kids. TU's public radio station launched the concert series with a test run last year, followed by monthly concerts from January through May in 2017. Baby Beats, 123 Andres, and Danny Weinkauf and his Red Pants Band were among the groups who kept tots dancing in the aisles.



## 8 GLOBAL LEARNING |

The Study Abroad Office awarded over \$32,000 in scholarships to students studying abroad during Minimester and spring 2017. More than \$16,000 of the money went to students who applied for the Inaugural TU Institutional Diversity Study Abroad Scholarship.



## 9 FULBRIGHT WINNER |

Sonali Rajee, associate professor of chemistry in the Jess & Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics, received a 2017 Fulbright U.S. Scholar grant. She will examine how chemistry faculty at the Homi Bhabha Center for Science Education in Mumbai, India, prepare undergraduates for a chemistry "Olympiad." Rajee wants "to translate that experience to my chemistry content teaching and mentoring student teachers at TU."

## Hearts and ZZZs

NIH GRANT WILL CHART THE IMPACT OF A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP ON HEART HEALTH



Devon Dobrosielski

Tossing and turning all night might do more than make you cranky. It could adversely affect your heart.

Backed by a grant from the National Institutes of Health, an assistant professor in the College of Health Professions is conducting a study to see if there is a connection between sleep and heart health.

Devon Dobrosielski, assistant professor of kinesiology, received an Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) grant of \$446,000 from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. The three-year project will examine the impact of sleep apnea on an individual's ability to improve cardiovascular health with exercise.

"The importance of sleep behavior and treatment of sleep disorders on our health is underappreciated," Dobrosielski says. "Sleep may have a huge impact on our ability to improve health and well-being with lifestyle change." His research will evaluate whether the beneficial effects of exercise on vascular function are reduced in obese people who suffer from untreated obstructive sleep apnea.

Dobrosielski is recruiting 60 men and women between the ages of 30-65 who are overweight and sedentary, or snore heavily. They will participate in an overnight sleep study, cardiovascular testing and six weeks of exercise.

Dobrosielski has spent most of his career affirming the connections between diet, exercise, sleep and cardiovascular health.

Before coming to Towson University in 2012, he managed clinical trials examining the cardiovascular consequences of different diets and exercise in those who suffer from chronic diseases. One of his first projects at TU examined the relationship between physical activity, vascular health and self-reported sleep quality.

## Bringing Words to Life

READING CLINIC OBSERVES 50TH ANNIVERSARY AS TU LITERACY CENTER EXPANDS OUTREACH

At TU's Reading Clinic, everyone from first graders to grandparents can acquire the skills they need to flourish in the classroom, in the workplace and in their everyday lives.

"Entire families learn strategies that help them continue to develop literacy skills," says Shelly Huggins, director of the Reading Clinic and the TU Literacy Center. "The clinic is the oldest outreach effort on campus and the most diverse."

Founded in 1957 and opened in 1958, the Reading Clinic provides internships for TU graduate students—primarily experienced classroom teachers. They are in the final stages of the university's graduate reading education program and these internships enable them to hone the teaching skills they'll need as reading specialists while benefitting people from all walks of life.

Today, under the umbrella of services now called the TU Literacy Center, the clinic continues the work educators initiated a half-century ago.

"People find us through recommendations or teachers, many of whom are Reading Clinic alumni," Huggins explains. "We have great word-of-mouth."

An \$80 fee covers at least 10 sessions, and Huggins says low-income families can apply for scholarships supported through the clinic's foundation account.

Huggins points with pride to former clients who recount how the Reading Clinic changed their lives. "They often identify a reading strategy they learned here and still use," she says. "They date their academic confidence to that time."

She also tells of a man who worked construction but lacked the literacy and test-taking skills to obtain a driver's license. "He wanted to grow his drywall business, but had to take public transportation to job sites," she explains.

"With the help of the Reading Clinic's literacy tutors, he accomplished his goal in one 10-week

session," Huggins says. "We have a photo of him at the MVA with his driver's license.

"Experiences like that affirm our belief that we change lives through literacy every day."

With the establishment of the TU Literacy Center, Huggins says the College of Education allows the expansion of services to children and adults at schools and other sites.

"The Reading Clinic is tied to enrollment in the graduate program, and that limits it in terms of outreach," she says. The TU Literacy Center allows them to go off campus and reach a more diverse population.



### READY TO READ

The Reading Clinic provides up-to-date techniques; one-on-one evaluation and tutoring; one-hour sessions; family literacy initiatives; home activities; a lending library; the opportunity to discuss concerns with education professionals; an end-of-term list of recommendations; and opportunities to meet parents/guardians with similar concerns.

"Through the TU Literacy Center, we've been able to work with people with dysgraphia (the inability to write coherently) and autism," she continues. "We've also assisted refugees who are learning to read English."

The TU Literacy Center commemorated the clinic's 50th Anniversary with events including reminiscences of faculty and students at the State of Maryland International Reading Association conference and a book celebration corner in Hawkins Hall.

# SPORT SHORTS



4

## LAX LIST |

Four Tiger lacrosse players were among 50 student-athletes named to the Tewaaron Trophy Watch list, an award presented annually to the top men's and women's player in the nation across all divisions. They are junior midfielder Kaitlyn Montalbano, senior defensive midfielder Jack Adams, senior attackman Ryan Drenner, and sophomore faceoff specialist Alex Woodall. Finalists are announced June 1.

6

## THEMATIC |

Six TU teams held theme days throughout the 2016-17 season to promote their sports while honoring fans and organizations. Football, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's lacrosse, and gymnastics hosted Military Appreciation Day, First Responders Day, Autism Awareness Day and honored teachers, the Girl Scouts, TU colleges and neighborhoods surrounding campus, as TU's student-athletes displayed their competitive spirit.

20+

## FINAL FORE |

Brian Yaniger, men's golf coach, retired after over 20 years. He led the program to four conference championships, four NCAA Tournaments and 12 regular season tournament titles. He says watching his student-athletes "graduate and go on to lead productive lives has been an honor. I am not sure a coach could ask for much more than that."

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## MAKING THE GRADE |

According to an October 2016 report, Towson University has a student-athlete graduation rate of 71 percent—the highest for any Division I public institution in Maryland. TU is also ranked in the top 5 percent nationally in African-American male student-athlete graduation rates, according to the Federal Graduation Rate.



## GYMNAST SPLITS HER TIME

CAHALAN SELECTED TO ATTEND NAVAL ACADEMY FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

TU gymnast Lauren Cahalan is an “all around” student-athlete.

A balance beam and floor exercise competitor, Cahalan is also an ace in the classroom. She was selected to attend the 57th Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference (NAFAC) in Annapolis, Maryland. She joined 149 other undergraduates from the United States and a dozen foreign countries at the three-day conference last April.

The NAFAC has featured speakers as notable as former President George H.W. Bush and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

“It truly was a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” she says. “I learned just as much from my civilian college peers and midshipmen as I did from the speakers.”

Cahalan is double majoring in economics and political science, along with a minor in business administration, and is a member of TU’s Honors College. During her 2016 gymnastics season, she competed on the balance beam in all 11 meets, made nine floor exercise appearances and finished in the top 10 12 times during the season.

Outside the gym, the TU junior has done extensive research on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and spent last summer as an intern in the Maryland Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives.

Her invitation to the Naval Academy conference gave her “more of a military perspective on foreign affairs; it changed my whole perspective on foreign relations,” Cahalan explains. “It was like nothing you can learn in a classroom!”

The NAFAC invites a select list of institutions to send one student representative, who is assigned to discuss specific aspects of the conference theme.

Cahalan’s assignment was how nations respond to pressing security and humanitarian concerns, from refugee crises to nuclear non-proliferation agreements, under the theme “Great Power Cooperation and the Role of International Organizations and Agreements.”

“I am specifically focusing on the various problems the IMF faces with its efforts to combat corruption, money laundering and terrorism financing. I’ve really enjoyed the research,” Cahalan says.

## WATER WINGS

SAUNDERSON, WHO SWAM BUTTERFLY IN THE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS, IS CAA SWIMMER OF THE YEAR



To cap off a highly successful 2016-17 swimming season, TU sophomore Jack Saunderson added the accolade of being the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Men’s Swimmer of the Year.

He also set a school record (1:41.84) in the 200-yard butterfly trials at the 2017 NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships in March. He finished 16th in the 200-yard butterfly finals en route to earning Honorable Mention All-America honors.

Saunderson is just the second member in the history of the men’s program to be selected to the national meet and the first to qualify in the butterfly. (He joins TU’s Aaron Krause, who competed at the 2003 NCAA Division I Championship in the 100- and 200-yard backstrokes and was also the only other men’s swimmer to earn CAA Swimmer of the Year in 2003 and 2004.)

Saunderson is the first in the program’s history to qualify for an event final and to receive All-America honors. The Laurel, Maryland native is the first CAA student-athlete to win CAA Rookie and CAA Swimmer of the Year honors in back-to-back seasons since Tom Koucheravy accomplished the feat for George Mason in 2004-05.

During the 2017 CAA Championship, Saunderson was named the league’s Most Outstanding Men’s Swimmer of the Meet after winning seven medals, setting five school records, two conference meet records and posting a pair of NCAA ‘B’ times to help TU finish third overall at the conference meet.

## CAN WE BORROW YOUR PHONE?

## FACULTY Q&A

William Smith, professor of management, teaches business ethics and international business in the College of Business and Economics. His research has evolved from studying Facebook tags and employee emails to examining the brave new world of policies that focus on the legal and ethical issues that employees and employers face when workers use their own devices in the workplace. The following is adapted from Smith's paper, "Can we borrow your phone?"

Employee privacy in the BYOD era" published in a forthcoming 2017 issue of the *Journal of Information, Communication and Ethics in Society*.

WE ASKED **William Smith** about privacy issues and other pitfalls when employees use their personal computing devices at the office.

### HOW WIDESPREAD IS OFFICE USE OF PERSONAL DEVICES?

Processing power, functionality, and storage now sit comfortably in a person's hand. Employees can collaborate and share data from any location and at any time. According to a 2015 report from the Poneman Institute, which conducts research on privacy, data protection and information security, 68 percent of IT managers reported their organizations support BYOD (bring your own device). A survey by Tech Pro Research found that 74 percent of organizations either were already using or planning to allow employees to bring their own devices to work. And Willis, an insurance firm, says that by 2017 half of all employers will require employees to provide their own devices as part of their job.



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH USING A PERSONAL DEVICE? |

Without a doubt, information security is one of the hazards of BYOD programs. A company's proprietary information can now be copied, altered, transferred and deleted from a wide variety of non-company devices. Information on personal devices also becomes more vulnerable if the device is lost or stolen and may be particularly susceptible to malware and virus threats. Another dilemma is how to protect confidential information and trade secrets when employees leave the company.

## HOW CAN DATA BE PROTECTED? |

Two common approaches of assuring information security are Mobile Device Management (MDM) and Mobile Application Management (MAM). MDM solutions involve registering and approving all devices with access to company information. MDM systems can also generate reports detailing the analytics of device use. A MAM solution installs a partition that restricts the use of applications based on the role of the user. Both systems should limit privacy compromises or unauthorized access of data.

## DO EMPLOYEES FORFEIT THEIR RIGHT TO PRIVACY WHEN USING THEIR OWN DEVICES AT THE OFFICE? |

Employers retain some ability to access an employee's device, so there is a need for clear boundaries. Personal data can be subject to exposure, alteration or deletion when applications are shared with the employer. Sensitive information about employee location (GPS tracking), health or credit records also may be accessible to employers. Workers are already aware of this issue. Just 61 percent of the more than 3,500 mobile workers surveyed in 2015—respondents came from the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain and Japan—said that they believed employers could keep employees' personal information private.

## CAN POLICES PREVENT INAPPROPRIATE USE OF DEVICES BY EMPLOYEES OR EMPLOYERS? |

In most legal cases regarding email and text messaging, policies existed about appropriate use and monitoring.

Sometimes these policies were ignored; other times they presented a bit too much "wiggle room." But policies are just that, a formal statement of expectations. Without serious enforcement and culture change, policies inevitably fall short of their desired effect.

A modest degree of malfeasance may be all it takes before an employee's or manager's casual curiosity crosses a line into a serious intrusion. The rapid pace of innovations makes it nearly impossible for managers to respond to, let alone anticipate potential liabilities. In the case of BYOD environments and employee privacy, we cannot predict how or where the thin membrane between employee privacy and problematic access might occur.

**"A modest degree of malfeasance may be all it takes before an employee's or manager's casual curiosity crosses a line into a serious intrusion." —William Smith**

## ARE THERE ANY DIFFERENCES IN PRIVACY ISSUES BETWEEN FOR-PROFIT COMPANIES VS. NONPROFITS OR GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS TU? |

Legally, there is little difference between the rights/duties of employers and employees in for-profit and nonprofit firms. For public sector/government organizations, like TU, things change a bit. Public employers, like Towson University, have duties to respect the constitutional rights of their employees. Specifically, fourth amendment protections from "unreasonable searches" place extra burdens on government employers not to invade their employees' privacy and property with the exception of fraud or misconduct investigations.

Beyond just the legal considerations, public and nonprofit organizations answer to a broader range of stakeholders and over a broader range of issues. Towson University, for instance, is accountable to the state

of Maryland, the Board of Regents, students, alumni, communities and various professional academies. These stakeholders expect a high degree of responsiveness and engagement with the university. Due to its mission and culture, an employer like TU probably grant a bit more respect to employee privacy claims than would a typical for-profit company.

## WILL CLOUD-BASED COMPUTING AFFECT DATA SECURITY? |

We should remain mindful when it comes to our conception of "device." The vast majority of our information will be stored and accessed through cloud-based services. In the grand network of information, "devices" are just clumsy conduits to our photos, personal history, communications, documents and other potentially sensitive data. Access into or through a device can open a pathway to virtual medicine cabinets, closets, and bookshelves (Dropbox or GoogleDrive). Though the risks of authorized access can be minimized, the consequences become more severe.

## WHAT TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS ARE ON THE HORIZON? |

Devices of the future will be more powerful, more functional and more integrated into our surroundings. From fitness bands that can track our physical activity and monitor health data to smart watches that manage appointments, contacts and messages, data input will become less dependent on keyboards and driven more by voice and sensory monitors.

Devices will be connected to an expanding network containing other devices, also known as "IOT" or "internet of things." Homes, automobiles, and household appliances will be connected, monitored and adjusted as part of larger network systems. There's even a "smart toilet" that will monitor important health data from urine and stool. These trends point to expanding numbers of devices linked to data networks. For employees and employers that share platforms, it will be increasingly difficult to keep their information domains separate. ■





# SOX APPEAL

After some initial slip-ups, TruSox, a company founded by **Jim Cherneski '97**, is gripping the feet of athletes worldwide.

BY GINNY COOK

**J**im Cherneski '97 just wanted happy feet.

His weren't.

In high school, in college and in a various semi-pro and professional leagues, his feet slipped in his soccer cleats. He couldn't cut and run like he wanted. He felt unstable in his shoes.

Cherneski tried various DIY remedies—wearing shoes that were too small, shrinking his cleats in hot water, using sticky sprays to adhere his socks in his shoes. Nothing worked.

One night in 2007 he came home particularly frustrated after playing in a semi-professional game. He had gone up for a header and felt his foot rotate in his shoe as he landed. "I can't stand it," he told his wife.

"You've been complaining about this since 1993," she replied. "Why don't you do something about it?"

So the former TU soccer player resolved to put his feet first. Eventually he fashioned socks with nonslip gripping pads—inside and

out—that anchor feet in shoes and give athletes more stability when changing directions.

His company—TruSox—now sells its patented socks worldwide to runners, boxers, and soccer, rugby, cricket and baseball players. "We had \$3.2 million in sales in 2015," he says. And, he adds, some of the world's elite players wear his socks.

But his quest for the perfect sock was filled with side steps, missteps and stumbles. Through it all, Cherneski persevered with the tenacity, determination and the will to win that he'd honed on soccer fields.

His story just might knock your socks off.

## SOCCER YARNS

Cherneski is on the phone from Manchester, England, where he lives with his wife and two sons.

Pretty much weaned on a soccer ball, he has a vivid childhood memory—at age 5—of asking his dad, "What is the most popular sport in the world?"

(Left, top to bottom) Among the pros who wear TruSox are Barcelona's Luis Suarez, MLB's Miguel Cabrera and the NFL's Mohamed Sanu, who wore them in Super Bowl 2017.

“When he said, ‘soccer,’ that’s what I wanted to play.”

He did, and early on was coached by some of the greats in the sport. Peter Mellor, who played professional soccer in England for three decades, was the father of a classmate and his youth coach. Tony Frankovich, former pro player and executive director of FC Red Star, a soccer academy, also recruited and coached him.

Cherneski built an impressive soccer resume in school, on club teams and at TU. From 1993 to 1996 he wore a Tiger uniform, choosing the school not because both parents are TU graduates, but because he liked the coach.

“I visited a few schools but I liked Frank [Olszewski,]” he says. And he’s quick to admit he preferred the pitch to the classroom. “I went to Towson to play soccer. I wanted to play professionally.”

He majored in business because most of his teammates did. “It was great to have older players to guide you about which courses or professors to take—or avoid,” he laughs.

With Cherneski on the team, TU earned a final No. 20 ranking in 1995 when the Tigers went 14-4 and were America East runners-up.

“Jim was an important part of our program,” says Olszewski, now head coach at Davis & Elkins College. “His work ethic and drive to improve every day are what allowed him to be, and continue to be, successful. His optimism and passion were examples and inspirations for his teammates.”

Cherneski was rookie of the year in ‘93 and team captain in ‘96, his senior year, but for him, his finest hour was beating third-ranked Maryland as a junior.

He also met his wife at TU during freshman year. (Erin Shanley Cherneski ‘97, a gymnast, was elected to the TU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007, owning school records on vault, floor and all-around when she graduated. She was the fourth Tiger gymnast to qualify for nationals.)

## THE OTHER PITCH

After graduation, Cherneski played for the Delaware Wizards, a semi-pro team. The minimal pay translated into “playing for the love it,” he notes.

To make ends meet, he coached on the side and worked full time for MCI/World Com, selling phone services after the breakup of AT&T.

He researched nonslip hospital socks, melted thermoplastic elastomer pellets, visited or picked the brains of sock and clothing companies from North Carolina to Colorado.

“I had a desk, a phone and a pitch book,” he says. “I made 50 cold calls every day. I hated it.”

But his training as an athlete gave him the drive and persistence to keep dialing number after number. “That is key,” he stresses. “You don’t give up. You review what you did wrong and learn from your mistakes.”

He never quit—not MCI; not soccer. He racked up seasons with multiple teams, moving to MCI’s offices in Massachusetts so he could play with nearby pro teams in Rhode Island or New Hampshire, eventually returning to Baltimore in 2005.

Two years later Crystal Palace, a professional soccer team in England’s Premier League, expanded to the United States. Cherneski became player/coach of the minor-league Crystal Palace USA, which launched in Baltimore.

He was in soccer heaven—when the team won. “Every game mattered,” he says.

In addition to feeling the pressure of competition, Cherneski noticed that the higher level of play in the league increased the movement he felt in his shoes. It upped his frustration.

On the hunt for a solution, he saw potential in the waistband of his uniform shorts—a tacky yarn that perhaps could be woven into a sock. With years of MCI cold-call experience, Cherneski got to work telephoning sock manufacturers to explain his idea. Finally, a sock mill in Alabama listened.

He would soon visit the mill, learn more about socks than he ever dreamed and walk out with a prototype. “I gave the socks to a few guys at Crystal Palace. Initially, they worked,” he says, but after 15 to 20 minutes, their feet began to perspire.

Cherneski headed back to the drawing board in search of a solution for wet and dry conditions.

Still, he knew he was on to something and began the drawn-out process of obtaining a patent.

During the next three years, he played and coached full time. There was no time for socks.

By 2010, however, Crystal Palace USA was insolvent. Cherneski wasn’t getting paid and was living off his credit cards. Then the patent attorney needed another \$1,500 for a filing and he couldn’t come up with the cash.

Eventually, his brother and two Crystal Palace accountants came to the rescue in exchange for part of the patent.

For the next year or so, Cherneski’s house became a lab where he tinkered with various sock iterations. The following morning, he’d try them out while training with fellow soccer players. He was staying in shape, hoping to play for another club.

He researched nonslip hospital socks, melted thermoplastic elastomer pellets, visited or picked the brains of sock and clothing companies from North Carolina to Colorado. Call after call, idea after idea, sock after sock resulted in mounting failures, along with mounting debt.

He was behind on his mortgage. His mortgage was “underwater.”

Cherneski was undeterred. He just kept kicking. “If I fall I get up again; it’s not acceptable to lose. If I do, I figure out a way to win,” he explains.

His victory came in November 2011—a sock that gripped, stretched and recovered. And when it got wet, it gripped even more.

## ONE FOOT AT A TIME

Now the real crusade began.

“No store was going to carry a no-name product,” Cherneski explains. “Plus the socks were super expensive—\$9 to make; \$29 to \$39 retail.”

He knew he had to get them onto the feet of the highest-level professionals. Then folks would see the telltale rows of trademark squares that snake up from the heel of the TruSox brand.

Once again, Cherneski worked the phones, calling contacts at home and abroad to give away his socks to prominent players. He even flew to England.

Victor Moses, a former Palace player, was the first to put them on, like them and request more socks for other players. The Nigerian National Team player still wears them in the Premier League where he plays for Chelsea. Now, Cherneski says, a quarter of Premier League players wear TruSox.

Cherneski repeated the tactic, employing former athletes to reach out to players of their respective sports. Top cricket and rugby players worldwide wear the product, as does baseball's Miguel Cabrera and the NFL's Mohamed Sanu, who sported them in the 2017 Super Bowl, Cherneski says.

Based on Cherneski's sales figures, the giveaway idea worked. He reports sales totaled \$70,000 in 2012, \$500,000 in 2013 and \$1.9 million in 2014 with 15 percent of World Cup players wearing his socks.

Cherneski's former TU coach Olszewski says if he were still playing, TruSox "would definitely be a part of my equipment. Every player wants the consistency that the product brings. In our game the feet are the instruments to produce the music on the field."

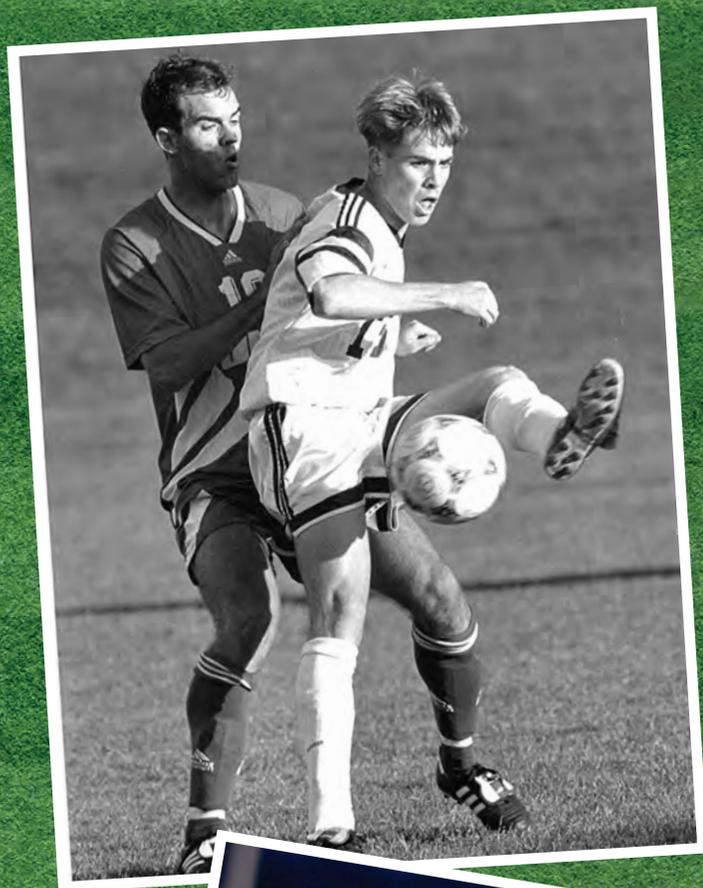
Olszewski's players at Davis & Elkins College wear TruSox. "Did it make a difference in us winning the GMAC championship this past year?" he asks. "I would say it certainly played a part in maintaining on-field confidence."

"Now stores call me to stock the product," Cherneski says, and he worries about how to keep expanding sock sales and develop new products, including shoes, while managing cash flow.

Whatever happens, one thing is certain.

Jim Cherneski will be putting one non-slipping foot in front of the other. ■

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



(Top) When he wore a Tiger uniform, Cherneski was rookie of the year in 1993 and team captain in 1996. (Bottom) Cherneski played and coached at Crystal Palace USA, when the English Premier League team launched in Baltimore.



BY JAN LUCAS

**Lori Toscano '96**  
works with communities across the nation to treat violence as a health issue

Ask Americans to name a public health issue, and most point to the usual suspects: disease outbreaks, environmental pollution or addiction.

They're overlooking a potential killer, says Lori Toscano '96.

Violence, she explains, is a public health epidemic too few recognize as such.

The Baltimore-based executive director of U.S. programs for Cure Violence, Toscano explains that violence typically is seen as a problem for law enforcement, not health workers.

"People tend to associate violence with bad people," Toscano says. "Cure Violence focuses on violence as a behavior that can be unlearned—and it's working."

#### VIOLENCE IS AN EPIDEMIC

The 17-year-old nongovernmental organization was founded by Gary Slutkin, M.D., professor of epidemiology and international health at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health.

Slutkin recognized that violence bore striking similarities to the epidemics he'd helped reverse as an infectious disease control specialist in Africa and Asia. He went on to develop the public health model of reducing violence that drives all Cure Violence programs.

Imagine violence as a plague or being like the flu, for example, and it's easier to see how it can be addressed through public health

interventions: detection and interruption, treating people with the highest risk, and changing social norms to prevent recurrence.

The outcomes can be astounding, Toscano says, with documented reductions in violence of up to 70 percent in some communities.

"This model uses health approaches to reduce violence," Toscano adds. "Like many other health issues, violence is a learned behavior.

"We know that exposure to violence perpetuates violence."

From an office in Baltimore's Station North neighborhood, Toscano oversees the implementation of violence-prevention programs involving over 400 people at over 50 sites in 25 U.S. cities, including Baltimore, New York, Chicago, New Orleans and San Antonio.

Cure Violence programs are supported by a variety of sources, including charitable foundations and municipalities, she says.

Toscano's job takes her all over the country to conduct site assessments and explain the Cure Violence model to community stakeholders. She also provides training and technical assistance to existing sites, analyzes data to increase effectiveness and efficiency, and works with violence-prevention program managers, outreach worker supervisors, outreach workers and violence interrupters.



Lori Toscano '96

“Like many other health issues, violence is a learned behavior.”

# VIOLENCE

## CHANGING BEHAVIOR

The staff is critical to a program’s success, says Toscano. Many workers come from communities disproportionately affected by violence and have experienced violence firsthand. Some are ex-offenders.

“They know their neighborhoods better than anyone,” she adds. “They know the residents, the history, the issues. With training and oversight, they can make a real difference in preventing and reducing violence.

“For example, if violence interrupters hear about bad blood between two groups, they can intercede, mediate the conflict and persuade the rivals to stand down.”

The next move is to identify and treat those at highest risk for involvement in violence. “They work with these individuals, providing new skills and information aimed at reducing their risk for future violence.”

Program workers connect people with appropriate services, including education, job training, housing and mental health. They also direct efforts to change group and community norms, thus helping residents understand that violence doesn’t have to be an inevitable part of their lives.

Toscano handles enormous responsibility and a frequent-flier lifestyle with aplomb. “I’ve been in Baltimore for a couple of weeks, and it feels strange,” she admits with a laugh.

Yet it’s hard to imagine anyone better qualified for the job. Toscano graduated from TU with a B.S. in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in law enforcement, then

earned her M.S. in criminal justice from the University of Baltimore.

Before joining Cure Violence, she spent nearly seven years with the Baltimore City Health Department, first as a community liaison and later as director of Safe Streets, Baltimore’s Cure Violence program.

During her tenure the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health evaluated Safe Streets and found significant reductions in homicides and nonfatal shootings in three out of four of Baltimore’s highest-risk neighborhoods.

Her honors include the Baltimore City Mayoral Certificate of Recognition in 2013 and the Baltimore City Health Department Commissioner’s Commendation in 2012.

## FROM INMATE TO INTERRUPTER

Toscano is incredibly good at what she does, says Ricardo “Cobe” Williams.

He would know.

Williams, a national director with Cure Violence, learned about violence firsthand on Chicago’s tough South Side. In those days his future seemed anything but promising: He was a former gang member and served three prison terms.

But when Williams decided to turn his life around, his local Cure Violence program stepped up with a job as a violence interrupter.

Against all odds, he found his calling as a peacemaker.

Ten years on, Williams travels to train interrupters and outreach workers at

Cure Violence program sites throughout the United States and abroad.

“I’ve known Lori Toscano for about seven or eight years, ever since she was directing Safe Streets in Baltimore,” he recalls.

“Lori and I worked hand-in-hand to make sure the Baltimore program was ‘on model.’ And just last month we went to Louisville, Kentucky, and Omaha, Nebraska, to talk with people there who want to start a Cure Violence program. She did an assessment and explained the Cure Violence model, and I talked about what violence interrupters do.”

Williams says Toscano brings passion and commitment to a very demanding role. “On top of everything else, it takes good communication skills,” he insists. “Lori can explain things, break it down for people. That’s important, because they don’t always get why we see violence as a disease.”

For Lori Toscano, any given day brings at least 10 inquiries from city officials or concerned citizens who want to implement the Cure Violence model.

“We’re a small office, and sometimes it’s difficult to manage so much interest from all over,” says Toscano. “The upside is that we know Cure Violence works, that it’s the pre-eminent strategy for reducing violence and changing behavior.

“That gives us the impetus to keep doing what we do.” ■

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

# HIS BROTHER'S **KEEPER**



# For Evan Zemil '85, Afghan and Iraqi Refugees Have Become an Extended Family

BY JAN LUCAS

There's one thing Evan Zemil wants the world to know: These men are heroes.

"They put their lives on the line for this country," Zemil explains. "They left everything they knew—and most of what they had—to come here."

He's referring to the Afghan and Iraqi combat interpreters and other allies who worked for the United States in their war-torn native countries, often at great risk to themselves and their families. Thousands later qualified for the State Department's Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) and sought refuge here. Thousands more are waiting to emigrate; some have died waiting.

In 2015 Zemil decided to get involved.

Fast forward to 2017, and he's known to practically every Iraqi and Afghan family on Chicago's Far North Side, functioning as a combination of village elder, go-to guy and life coach. It's like the word-of-mouth reputation he earned as a small-business owner willing to tackle tough projects, except that now he's also using that can-do spirit to help resettled former interpreters.

Until fairly recently the Pikesville, Maryland, native could never have imagined himself in this role. "I majored in business at TU and worked at Montgomery Ward after graduation," he says. Two years later Zemil left his hometown for a position at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. In 1989 he launched Kitchen Concepts, a company specializing in remodeling, windows, doors and household repairs.

Along the way Zemil married, had a daughter and grew his business. He invested in residential real estate, assuming a landlord's duties.



Evan Zemil (far left), on a bridge on the Chicago River near his home, says helping former interpreters settle here "isn't about religion—it's about being human."

## Reaching out to refugees

He says his life changed in 2015 after watching a five-part series about the Afghan and Iraqi interpreters on the VICE News channel. “At first I offered money,” he recalls. “Then I volunteered with the Chicago chapter of No One Left Behind.” Founded by former U.S. Army Capt. Matt Zeller, whose Afghan interpreter saved his life, No One Left Behind helps wartime allies with special visas resettle safely in the United States. The nonprofit also provides assistance with housing, employment and cultural adaptation.

No One Left Behind directed Zemil to local social-service agencies, which in turn steered him to five refugee families in need. Those five quickly became 15, then 20. Now he estimates he’s helped more than 50 Afghan and Iraqi families put down roots in America. “If the interpreters haven’t met me, they’ve probably heard about me,” he says.

Zemil says these refugees receive a green card on arrival, plus short-term financial aid and help finding an apartment. Then he takes over, rounding up donated furniture, bedding, dishes, cooking utensils—even computers and bikes. “The program allows only two suitcases per person,” he points out. “When they get here, they need just about everything.”

Zemil notes that while No One Left Behind and other private and public agencies can smooth the way, newcomers are expected to be self-supporting within a few months. “Often there’s only one breadwinner per family, so it’s a struggle,” he says.

The former interpreters have an edge over non-English speakers; even so, jobs are scarce. Zemil knows a man who started a successful painting business, but says most take entry-level service jobs. Many drive for taxi or ride-sharing companies, working seven days a week to make ends meet.

Sometimes Zemil finds himself delivering brotherly, if blunt, advice on how best to overcome the challenges they face daily. “Work hard,” he urges. “It’s up to you to make it happen.”

Zemil left No One Left Behind after a year, continuing the outreach he began during his affiliation with the chapter. “I work *through* No One Left Behind, just not *with* them,” he emphasizes. Now a one-man aid operation, he’s renowned for his ability to persuade people to part with useable secondhand goods. He scopes out deals on small, high-demand items, often paying out of pocket.

“It’s amazing how he can have a refugee family all set up in a couple of days,” says Pat Barth, who met Zemil when both were volunteering with No One Left Behind.

“Evan knows what benefits they’re entitled to and which agencies might be able to lend a hand.

“And if he doesn’t know, he finds out.”

Barth says she was among the volunteers who helped Zemil salvage furnishings from a condo. “A member of his synagogue invited us to clean it out, so we hauled away whatever the refugees could use,” she recalls.

“Evan owns a truck and has a garage crammed with stuff”

## Bridging cultural divides

Zemil doesn’t see any irony in the fact that he’s a Jewish benefactor to Muslim refugees. “They all know I’m Jewish,” he says matter-of-factly. “This isn’t about religion—it’s about being human. I have a responsibility to stand up for those who stood up for us,” he insists. “I feel like I’ve become a part of the interpreter community.”

At times the gratitude brings tears to his eyes.

One refugee told Zemil he’d done more for the resettled interpreters than any Muslim. A cabbie gladly obliged a request to pick up Zemil’s daughter after school one day—then refused to take his money. A man phoned from Afghanistan to inform Zemil that he possessed “the biggest heart of anyone I know.” Another, hearing Zemil was no longer working with No One Left Behind, told him, “Brother, I don’t care as long as you’re still my friend.”

Former interpreter Hamat Aziz says he observed Zemil’s selflessness firsthand. “I heard about this guy, Evan, then I got to know him when he was helping a family,” Aziz remembers. “There were seven or eight people, including little kids, and the father could not support everyone. The landlord was going to evict them.

“Evan did a lot, including getting two months’ rent through No One Left Behind,” he says. “This family didn’t have furniture or any of the basic things, so Evan got people to donate what they needed.

“Evan is doing all of this and running a business too,” Aziz adds. “It’s an incredible job that he does for the interpreters.”



Zemil rounds up donated furniture, bedding, dishes, cooking utensils—even computers and bikes.

Reviewing his remarkable accomplishments, Zemil says he never in his wildest dreams thought it would turn into this. “There are lots of other things I could be doing,” he admits, “but how could I say no? “To get to the United States after all these guys have gone through and to find somebody they can count on—that can make all the difference.”

So when the calls come, Evan Zemil says, “Welcome, brother. I’m here. What do you need?” ■

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

# A FANTASTIC S

By Ginny Cook, editor with assistance from John C. Stark,  
assistant director of athletic communications



Senior Ryan Drenner, who was named to the NCAA Division I All-Tournament Team, is pictured above during the NCAA semifinal game against Ohio State on May 27.

## Kudos to Nadelen

“It was an honor to play under Coach Nadelen. Besides my parents, there are few people who have made a significant impact on my life like Coach Nads has. He tells us, ‘Always leave something better than you found it.’ There is no doubt that I am a better person than I was four years ago because I played under him. He taught me a lot of valuable lessons over my career both on and off the field. I can’t thank him enough for all that he has done.”

**Attacker Tyler Konen, biology major**

“Playing for Coach Nadelen was a huge honor. He’s taught us not only lacrosse skills but also life skills. How to handle adversity and how to hold each other accountable is definitely something he [conveyed] to us over four years.”

**Midfielder Mike Lynch, sports management major**

# EASON

LAX players discuss a stellar season, the road to the NCAA Championship and the heartbreaking loss to Ohio State, 11-10, in the semifinals.

## A Pivotal Moment

“Beating [sixth-ranked] Hopkins was really good for us [as a No.17 team.] The [back-to-back] home wins this year really fired us up.”

Long stick midfielder Tyler Mayes, business administration major and 2016 Joseph Ferrante scholarship winner

## The Senior Squad

“These guys really showed me their fight, their willingness to just, regardless of the circumstances, regardless of the adversity, push through. This senior class definitely is a special one in our hearts as a staff.”

Head Coach Shawn Nadelen as told to *Inside Lacrosse* May 27.

## CAA Threeppeat

The team claimed its third-straight CAA crown when the top-seeded Tigers (10-4) knocked off fourth-seeded UMass 9-4 May 6 at Unitas Stadium. The win also gave the team a ticket to the NCAA Tournament for a third straight season.

## Team Chemistry

“This was by far the closest team I have ever been a part of. I love all these guys and would do anything in my power to help them out, and I know they would do the same for me. This mutual understanding was established over the course of the fall both on and off the field and it is definitely why we were able to be so successful this year. We all just trusted each other to do the right thing and go all out on the field. It gave us some real confidence heading into the postseason. I would give anything to have another year with these guys.”

Attacker Tyler Konen, biology major

## Major League Draftees

Six of the 11 senior class members from the 2017 squad were drafted to various MLL franchises: Jack Adams/ Charlotte Hounds; Ryan Drenner/ Florida Launch; Joe Seider/ Ohio Machine; Tyler Mayes/ Charlotte Hounds; Tyler Young/ Charlotte Hounds and Mike Lynch/ Florida Launch.

## The Underdog Mentality

“The underdog attitude that every day we had to prove how good we were and that we really are a legitimate program definitely helped us achieve the things we did. That kept us on track, kept us motivated to keep working hard. The results paid off in the end with the championship weekend appearance.”

Goalie Matt Hoy, business administration major

## Heartbreak

“A missed opportunity against Ohio State was a real stinger. We could have pulled the game to one point ... that in the end could have been a wonderful tie game in the last play of the game when we were on offense. That is something I'm going to remember for the rest of my life.”

Midfielder Matt Wyly, international business major





Lance Johnson '93

“It has been an honor to serve as the Alumni Association president for the last five years.”

It has been an honor to serve as the Alumni Association president for the last five years. What was supposed to be a two-year term turned into an extended stay to help with the transition of several TU presidents.

Many people deserve my thanks for supporting the Alumni Association, including the late President Maravene Loeschke, Interim President Timothy Chandler, President Kim Schatzel and all past and current board members. I especially want to thank Lori Armstrong, associate vice president of alumni relations, for her leadership.

I extend best wishes to the new Alumni Association president, Anthony Hamlett '76. He will head a board that has evolved into an organization that will improve its efforts to advance and engage alumni, while supporting TU's mission. In my last letter, I discussed how your input was an integral part of shaping these developments. Now, in my final

letter to TU's alumni, I am happy to announce the process has been launched and you will see evidence of these changes in the coming months.

As a member of the Alumni Association board of directors and a proud graduate of the Class of '93, I was honored to represent our alumni who graduated from this remarkable institution. As a member of the men's soccer team, I represented the university academically, athletically, and in the community. Each alumnus has a story to tell about their success as a result of their TU education. My own story would not have been possible without the education, experiences and connections I made at TU.

All the best,

**Lance Johnson '93**

PRESIDENT, TU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## NEW BOARD ELECTED

The Towson University Alumni Association welcomes its Board of Directors for 2017-2018

### Officers

**Anthony Hamlett '76**  
*President*

**Stephanie Johnson '95**  
*Vice President*

**Brittany Larkins '10**  
*Vice President*

**Bill Stetka '77**  
*Vice President*

### At Large Members

Joan Cox '91  
Sharon Mary Curran '79/'06  
Karen DiGiovanni '03  
Tierra Fields '10  
Linnita Hosten '11  
John Kenneally '79  
Taylor Lutz '14  
Darren Margolis '92  
Edward McDonald '78  
Brandon Moore '08  
Maria Morales '94  
Glenn Ross '81  
Karen Schafer '68/'75  
Matt Sikorski '12  
Tanisha Taylor '04  
James Torrence '10  
Patrick Young '10  
Bob Zhang '07

### Ex-Officio Members

**Kim Schatzel**  
*President, Towson University*

**Brian DeFilippis**  
*Vice President,  
University Advancement*

**Lori Armstrong**  
*Associate Vice President,  
Alumni Relations &  
Executive Director,  
Alumni Association*

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION RECEIVES GRANT

Candance Hall '87, president-elect of Alumni Association International, presented a \$4,000 check to the TU Alumni Association to fund TU's Graduation Station, the one-stop shop for Towson University graduates.

## IN LOVING MEMORY



Louis Adam Dollenger '74, past president of the TU Alumni Association, died March 9, 2017. He was a longtime TU advocate, whether he was fundraising, cheering on Tiger lacrosse, or attending events with his many friends and fraternity brothers of

Alpha Omega Lambda. Dollenger worked in the professional audio and recording industry, including on the sound systems for Camden Yards, the Strathmore Concert Hall and the Hippodrome Theater among others. To make a contribution to the scholarship fund in Lou's memory, please visit [www.towson.edu/loudollengermemorial](http://www.towson.edu/loudollengermemorial).

## A WINTER ADVENTURE

### Alumni break the ice at Pandora Rink

The cold temperatures didn't stop intrepid alumni and friends from lacing up their skates Jan. 15. With hot chocolate in hand, they glided across the ice at Pandora Ice Rink in Baltimore City, enjoying an old-fashioned ice skating experience.



1 Conor Anderson '12 and Erica Anderson '12  
 2 Laura Slemph '15, Jessica O'Brien '03, Jenna Weyant and Thomas Slemph '14  
 3 Yosok Pun '13, Sapana Pun and daughter

## A TOAST TO THE FUTURE

### Celebrating the Lunar New Year

TU's Asian Pacific alumni, faculty and staff celebrated the Lunar New Year Feb. 4 at Hunan Taste in Catonsville, Maryland, and received a citation from Maryland's governor, the Hon. Larry Hogan.



1 Alumni and guests truly enjoyed the celebration | 2 Lori Armstrong, Keith Ewancio '94/'07 and Bob Zhang '07 | 3 Student Lili Liu and Yang Li

## FACE OFF

### Men's lacrosse team beats Hopkins

Fans were roaring when the men's lacrosse team beat the Johns Hopkins Blue Jays on March 11 at Unitas Stadium. A special hospitality tent on the track, sponsored by the Alumni Association, warmed up alumni and friends so they could cheer the team to victory.



1, 2, 3 TU's LAX fans in the tent and on the field.



## FERRANTE SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

### Two lacrosse players honored this year

More than 50 Alpha Omega Lambda brothers, friends and donors gathered April 29 to present the Joseph Ferrante Memorial Scholarship to two "unsung heroes" on the team—Charles "Calvin" Livingston, defense, and Cole Robertson, midfielder. Established in 1998, the scholarship honors the late Joseph Ferrante.



1 Alpha Omega Lambda fraternity brothers, previous scholarship recipients and this year's scholarship recipients Calvin Livingston and Cole Robertson with their families | 2 Tom Ferrante, Jon Ferrante, President Schatzel and Domenic Ferrante | 3 Alpha Omega Lambda brother Byron Hall and Sarah Hall

## BIRDLAND

### Crab feast and Orioles baseball are always a hit in Sarasota

More than 225 alumni and friends were on hand to enjoy crabs and two Orioles spring training games at Ed Smith Stadium on Feb. 26 and 27. Thanks to Pinchers Crab Shack for steaming up the classic Maryland crabs.



1 Esther Heymann '72, President Kim Schatzel and Ben Wainio | 2 Mary McCarthy, Dan McCarthy and Barb Barrett | 3 Scott Lenz '01, Natalie Harris Lenz '98 and Mandy Hughes '92/'02 | 4 Sonia Velasco '88 and Jeffrey Mehler | 5 Barton Hedges '87 and Lance Johnson '93 | 6 Lori Armstrong, Lance Johnson '93, O's Bird and Brian DeFillippis

## HOOPS

### Tigers faced the College of Charleston in the CAA Basketball Tournament

Alumni and friends took a road trip to cheer for the TU men's basketball team at the North Charleston Coliseum in Charleston, North Carolina. Unfortunately, the Towson Tigers lost 67-59, but there's always next year!



1 Alumni and parents of student athletes join President Schatzel and her husband, Trevor Iles, before the game. 2 Rich Farrell and Jane Farrell '80 3 Rob Betz '99, Marie Betz '88 and Tim Leonard



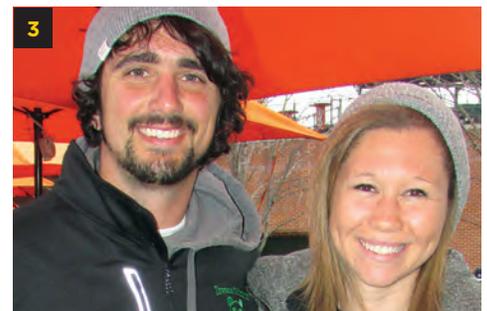
## LET'S GO O'S

### Alumni gather at Camden Yards

Alumni and friends grabbed their Orioles gear to celebrate the April 7 beginning of the baseball season. More than 125 Tiger fans descended on Camden Yards for a bullpen picnic and then a game against the Yankees as Manny Machado and Seth Smith hit homers to clinch a 6-5 O's victory.



1 Alumni and guests enjoy the pre-game picnic. 2 Newlyweds Jessica Dabney Hueitt '09 and Rodney Hueitt 3 Clay Collins '14 and Marie Cutler '14



## COMMOTION AT THE OCEAN

The Ropewalk Tavern in Ocean City, Maryland, welcomes alumni

We went “downy ocean, hon” to network and catch up with our Eastern Shore and Delaware alumni. At this annual spring event, held April 1, over 80 alumni and guests gathered at the Ropewalk, owned by Marc McFaul '95. Donna Abbott '79, director of tourism for Ocean City, presented the key to the city to President Kim Schatzel.



| 1 Desiree Moore '87 and Terrence Moore | 2 Norma Gaunt '77 and Bill Gaunt | 3 Vickie Demos '69 and Fred Peterson | 4 President Kim Schatzel, Donna Abbott '79 and Keith Ewancio '94/'07

## MOVING FORWARD

### Towson Black Alumni Alliance hosts summit

Jolene Ivey '82 was the keynote speaker when the TU's Black Alumni Alliance presented "Moving Forward: Empowerment Through Community" at the University Union on April 22. Panel discussions addressed the state of black America and achieving financial wellness.



- 1 TU student athletes and Will Huff at the summit.
- 2 TU athletes present \$500 to benefit the Barnes-Harris Scholarship Endowment. The money came from basketball ticket sales on Feb. 18 that celebrated black members of TU's Hall of Fame.
- 3 Towson Black Alumni Summit organizers and TU staff with Marvis Barnes '59, one of TU's first black graduates

## SCIENTIFIC ASSETS

### Reception for actuarial science club members and board

The TU Alumni Association, the Actuarial Science and Risk Management Board, and the Actuarial Science and Risk Management Club held a panel discussion March 31. Students, friends and industry leaders heard from Matt Deveney '01, Katherine Gavin '98, Virginia Jones '09, Amy Ovuka and Gary Viener.

This inaugural event was inspired by a fundraiser last year to honor Ohoe Kim, professor of mathematics, for his 30 years of service to TU. To make a gift to the Dr. Ohoe Kim fund, please visit [www.towson.edu/asrmendowment](http://www.towson.edu/asrmendowment).



- 1 Heesoo Jean, Michelle Lin, Maryam Jazayeri '14 and Rachel Redmond '16
- 2 Ohoe Kim, professor, and David Vanko, dean
- 3 Ilya Usik '15, Fulvie Djatchd '16, Ge Han, Vicky Le '15

## IN SEARCH OF

### Event helps students find internships and jobs

Students had a chance to network and look for internships and jobs at the ninth annual Corporate Internship Partner Reception, a joint venture of the Alumni Association, Student Government Association and the Career Center.



**1** Tom Benner '98 and Mook Phawapoothanon, SECU partner and freshman council representative  
**2** SGA Senator Abigail Collins, SGA President Taylor James and SGA Assistant Director of Civic Engagement Summer Hagelin  
**3** Eden Parks, member of the Graduate Student Advisory Panel, Alice George, President Kim Schatzel, Elnatan Amare, Janet DeLany, dean of Graduate Studies, Kalia Green and Danvic Royer

## THE BIG EVENT

**Over 2,000 work their volunteer magic at 200 sites**

For the second year, TU alumni joined students for the Big Event on April 22—TU's largest day of community service. Volunteers planted flowers and helped clean up the campus and surrounding neighborhoods. Other community service events—supporting soup kitchens or cleaning up parks—coincided with the Big Event in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York and Los Angeles.

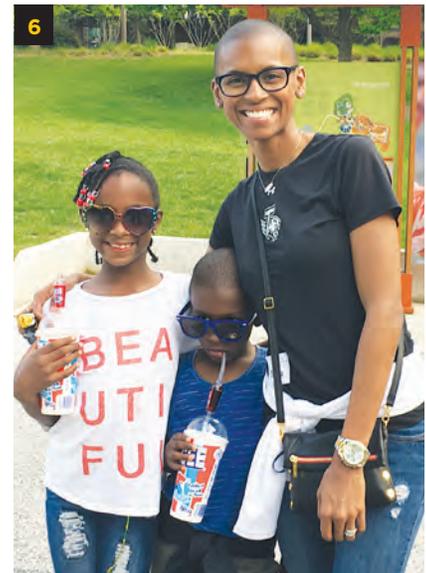


**1** Marlene Riley '80, Hailey Apperson, Jay and Charity Apperson '85 | **2** Porshia Bernard '11, her son Michael Grimes and Pei Ge '15 | **3** Stephanie Johnson '95 and Keith Ewancio '94/'07

## THE VIEW AT THE ZOO

### Baltimore's Zoo welcomes the USM

Towson University had a wild time April 29 at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, which welcomed students, alumni, faculty and staff from schools in the University System of Maryland. More than 2,700 guests had a chance to meet Willow, the baby giraffe, and join in the fun of a scavenger hunt, free rides and discounted drinks and cuisine.



1 Doc, TU President Kim Schatzel, FSU mascot, FSU President Ron Nowaczyk, SU mascot Sammy Sea Gull and USM Chancellor Robert L. Caret | 2 Janet Gardner '78 takes a break and relaxes with her family. | 3 Taking a break from taking pictures | 4 Students find a familiar tiger at the zoo | 5 Alumni, family and friends enjoy the zoo | 6 Marina Cooper and her children Olivia and Lucas



“This institution enjoys immense possibilities, visionary leaders and a deeply passionate community.”

Throughout my life I have been fortunate to experience, firsthand, the powerful impact of philanthropy. As a college student I was privileged to receive an alumni scholarship. Without the support of that selfless alumnus, my life would have taken a very different course.

Having directly benefited from the generosity of others, I ultimately discovered a calling for fundraising. For nearly two decades, I have been rewarded with innumerable opportunities to pay it forward by securing gifts, many of which have, in ways both large and small, altered countless lives.

In just a few months I have become familiar with many exceptional members of the Towson University community—our diverse, talented and dedicated students,

faculty, staff, alumni and friends. Their collective passion for Towson University is evident each and every day, and the opportunities to celebrate our achievements and expand our impact are present across the institution.

It is an honor to lead Towson University's advancement efforts. This institution enjoys immense possibilities, visionary leaders and a deeply passionate community. I look forward to working with everyone to build upon our strong foundation and to realize our tremendous potential.

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

## The Perfect Gift

HIS CHILDREN TOAST REX REHFELD'S 90TH YEAR WITH AN ENDOWMENT FOR OSHER

It came unwrapped. But Rex Rehfeld's children—Andrew Rehfeld, Carla Rosenthal, Edward Rehfeld and Lore Rosenthal—delivered the ideal 90th birthday gift to their father.

It was a perfect fit for a World War II and Korean War veteran, a man who has witnessed life's depravity and resilience, has traveled the world and has taught various subjects at Towson University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute since 2008.

Rehfeld's children knew how much he enjoyed teaching at Osher. His interest in history, politics and economics spurred them to celebrate his 90th birthday by creating the R. Rex Rehfeld Endowment, which provides funding for courses in these subjects.

“Rather than taking substantial dollars and purchasing some nice object or experience for him, it seemed more meaningful to invest in what is meaningful to him—learning, ideas, teaching—and in a way that would give back to his memory for a long time,” Andrew Rehfeld explains.

Edward Rehfeld hopes these courses “spur the kind of discussions that Rex is fond of engaging in with family and friends.”

Their father considered his children's gift priceless. “It was a total, total unexpected shock,” Rex Rehfeld says.

“I couldn't have come up with anything better.”

Rehfeld makes his own investment in Osher when he prepares his courses. He enjoys reading and researching his subjects, and delights in the people who take his classes. “Mature and often very knowledgeable about the subject, and with a great deal of interaction, they make teaching great fun,” he says.

In turn, he is highly regarded by his students. Rehfeld's “research is impeccable, his course material very



Rex Rehfeld and wife, Ellen O'Brien

well organized, and his PowerPoint presentations outshine those of most other teachers,” says Jacqueline Gratz, director of Osher.

What's more, teaching has become a family affair. His wife, Ellen O'Brien, teaches theology-related courses at Osher.

**To support this fund,  
visit [www.towson.edu/  
GiveToRehfeldEndowment](http://www.towson.edu/GiveToRehfeldEndowment)**

## A Chance Meeting Changes Lives

SCHOLARSHIP AIDS GRADUATE STUDENTS AT HUSSMAN CENTER FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM

A serendipitous encounter turned into philanthropic support for those working with young adults on the autism spectrum.

When Elesha and Matthew Bridgers met Michael Cather '93, associate vice president of development, at a dinner in 2014, their conversation led to a campus visit to one of the strong programs aligned with TU's Institute for Well-Being. Less than two years later the couple established the Bridgers-Moore Endowed Scholarship.

"I shared my thoughts regarding starting a program to help young people, like our son on the autism spectrum, transition to adulthood with key life skills," Elesha Bridgers says. "As I've watched my son grow and interact with the world around him, I've come to realize autism is an area of behavioral and medical science that is not well understood by most people. Michael mentioned there was a program at Towson University's Hussman Center for Adults with Autism, and I should come visit."

After a tour of the Hussman Center, the Bridgers knew they wanted to help support the social, educational and fitness programs that help adults with autism develop the tools needed to lead meaningful and engaged lives. They created a scholarship to support graduate students pursuing a career working with people on the autism spectrum.

"If we can do just a little to advance the education of those students learning to improve the lives of young adults on the spectrum, it is money well spent," Bridgers says. "I hope students are reminded that it only takes a little time, a little love and a little help to change someone's life."

To support the Bridgers-Moore Endowed Scholarship, visit [www.towson.edu/GiveToBridgersMooreScholarship](http://www.towson.edu/GiveToBridgersMooreScholarship)



Elesha and Matthew Bridgers created a scholarship for graduate students who work with those on the autism spectrum.

## Food Insecurity Fund: Solving a TU Problem

FUND PROVIDES MEALS VIA DEPOSITS ON ONECARD



Over 5,000 Towson University students are food insecure. Food insecurity means "consistent access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources at

times during the year," according to a definition from the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Food Insecurity Support Fund, created by the President's Leadership Institute Class of 2015-2016, helps lessen some of this burden for TU students. The fund deposits up to \$50 on a student's TU OneCard, which they can use to purchase a meal in campus dining halls.

"So far, we have served 23 students and provided \$900 in meals," says Christina Olstad, assistant to the vice president for student affairs, who manages the

fund. "Providing support to food-insecure students has an immediate impact on students and their Towson University experience."

Students who approach Olstad for meal assistance are also referred to FoodShare, a Towson University food bank, for long-term assistance. "I would like every member of our campus community to know about the Food Insecurity Fund and to refer students who are experiencing food insecurity. Ideally, I hope we can alleviate food insecurity from our campus," Olstad says.

To support this fund, visit [www.towson.edu/GiveToFoodInsecuritySupportFund](http://www.towson.edu/GiveToFoodInsecuritySupportFund)

## Celebrating 30 Years of Building Bridges

CLA STUDENTS WHO STUDY ABROAD WILL BENEFIT FROM THE DR. ARMIN MRUCK ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP



Command Sgt. Maj. Richard E. Burdette III '96 and Armin Mruck, professor emeritus

In 1987, Armin Mruck was instrumental in forming the Towson University partnership with the University of Oldenburg in Germany. Now, 30 years later, Mruck, history professor emeritus and TU's "grandfather" of study abroad programs, is being honored for his legacy of building cultural bridges with the Dr. Armin Mruck Endowed Scholarship.

Command Sgt. Maj. Richard E. Burdette III '96 and his wife, Allene, endowed the scholarship to pay tribute to his former professor. While studying in Germany, Burdette bonded with Mruck and still recalls the benefits of spending time in another country. "Exposure to different cultures, different ways of thought, makes us more adaptable, makes us more successful in the long run," he says.

The scholarship is earmarked for College of Liberal Arts majors who

are studying abroad. "You can't have fun if you're worried about money," Burdette says. "I want students to enjoy their study abroad experience, to immerse themselves in it; otherwise, they're not getting the best out of it."

What began as a small global partnership with one university in Germany has evolved into a study abroad program with more than 60 countries. "Now, more than 500 TU students participate in an educational experience outside of the United States each year, broadening their worldview and enhancing their global competencies to succeed in the 21st century," says Liz Shearer, TU director of study abroad.

To support this fund, visit [www.towson.edu/GiveToMruckScholarship](http://www.towson.edu/GiveToMruckScholarship)



### IN SEARCH OF

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES  
SEEKS ARTIFACTS FROM  
LIDA LEE TALL SCHOOL

Former students need no introduction to the Lida Lee Tall School. They know it was an elementary and middle school as well as an observation lab for those training to be teachers. The school, formerly located on Towson University's campus, closed in 1991, but was renowned for its focus on student engagement and learning. TU's Special Collections and University Archives continues to celebrate the more than 100-year legacy of the Lida Lee Tall School by collecting and sharing artifacts from the school.

The collection is limited to administrative documents and a few examples of student work. TU's Special Collections is looking for items such as class projects, photographs, publications and yearbooks. To donate materials or for more information, please contact Ashley Todd-Diaz, head of Special Collections and University Archives, at [atodddiaz@towson.edu](mailto:atodddiaz@towson.edu) or 410-704-2398. There is also a fund dedicated to preserving the collection, [www.towson.edu/GiveToLidaLeeTallLeg](http://www.towson.edu/GiveToLidaLeeTallLeg)



## Celebrating Scholars and Donors

FOUNDATION SCHOLARS LUNCHEON CELEBRATES OPPORTUNITY AND GRATITUDE



Heidi Stasiowski '17, Michael Boyle '17 and Carmen Gilliam '17 were the student speakers.

Foundation scholarship donors, recipients and campus leaders gathered April 7 for the Foundation Scholars Luncheon. The annual event is an opportunity for donors to meet the beneficiaries of their gifts and to share how their experiences led them to support Towson University. Students have a chance to meet donors and thank them for their support.

"Few events exude the warmth, generosity and gratitude in this room," Timothy Chandler, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, told the crowd.

Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Burdette III '96, a former study abroad student who endowed the Dr. Armin Mruck Endowed Scholarship, was the keynote speaker. Student speakers concluded the program.

For photos and videos of this event, visit [towson.edu/ScholarsLuncheon](http://towson.edu/ScholarsLuncheon).

**"I'm able to do what I love and work towards securing a job post-graduation because of this scholarship. Thank you again for allowing me to have this opportunity."**

—Heidi Stasiowski '17, recipient of the Elizabeth Wainio Communications Scholarship Endowment

**"I want every donor to know that you do more than contribute financially. You give students the opportunity to spend less time working, and more time studying. You give all of us the confidence to pursue our dreams."**

—Michael Boyle '17, recipient of the Robert H. & Ruth S. Sander Distinguished Presidential Scholarship

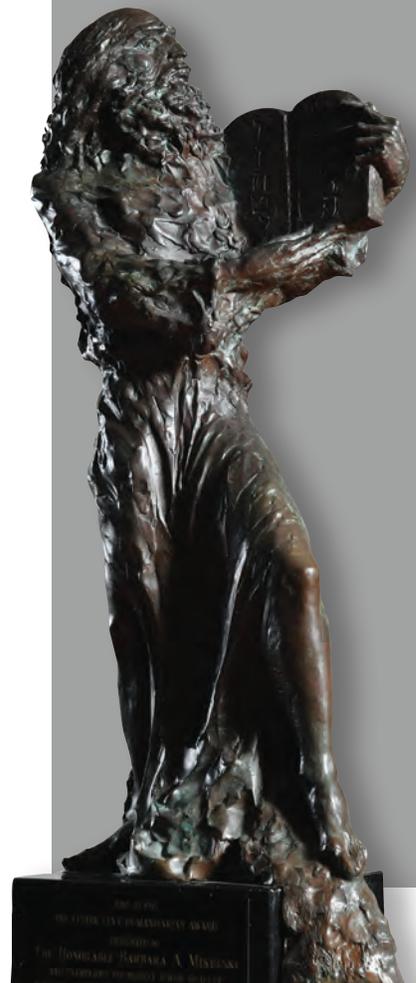
**"You, Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar, are now a source of my daily motivation. You allow me to say with pride that I want to be like you. I want to continue to give back to my community, make a difference in others' lives, and inspire others in the way you have inspired me."**

—Carmen Gilliam '17, recipient of the James L. Dunbar Jr. Memorial Scholarship Endowment

### MIKULSKI GIVES TO BHI

Former U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski donated a beautiful sculpture of Moses by Dmitry Gerrman to the Joseph Meyerhoff Judaic Collection of the Baltimore Hebrew Institute. The sculpture is displayed in the second-floor lobby of Cook Library.

To learn more about this collection, visit [libraries.towson.edu/bhi/special-collections](http://libraries.towson.edu/bhi/special-collections)



**HELEN GRAHAM TURNER '26**  
(Maryland State Normal School)  
celebrated her 110th birthday  
April 1.



## BEFORE 1960

**HELEN GRAHAM TURNER '26** (Maryland State Normal School) celebrated her 110th birthday April 1, putting her in the rare company of supercentenarians and perhaps the only one with a Facebook page. A resident of New Jersey, Turner is a former schoolteacher who has two children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She enjoys playing the game Rummikub, dancing at Friday afternoon happy hours, knitting and spending time with friends.

## 1960

**DIANA THOMPSON '65** presented a one-woman presentation of the life of Harriet Tubman last March in Cambridge, Maryland. The former human resources executive is founding president and chair of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway board of directors of Dorchester and Caroline counties of Maryland.

**TOM SUPENSKY '68 M.ED.** won Best in Show at the North Augusta Arts and Heritage Center in South Carolina for his clay sculpture "Before and After."

## 1970

**EDDIE APPLEFEL '70**, promotions director of Talk Radio 680 WCBM since 2001, can also be heard on Rouse & Co. radio show on Q1370.

**WILLIAM O. CARR '70 ENGL** retired in May after 33 years of service as a judge on the Harford County Circuit Court.

**WILLIAM RICHARDSON '70** received the Distinguished Performance in Art award from Morgan State University. He taught art in public schools for 25 years and received numerous art-related awards, gifts and prizes. He has been happily married for more than 30 years.

**DENNIS MATHER '72 BUAD** earned the certified residential specialist designation as a sales associate with Long & Foster Real Estate.

**ANN BRACKEN '74 SPPA** read from her new book of poems, *No Barking in the Hallways*, at April's Speaking Up and Speaking Out, sponsored by TU's College of Education and the Maryland Writing Project.

**PAMELA OLSZEWSKI '75** celebrated her 15-year anniversary as a faculty member of Salisbury University's art department.

**DEB TILLET '76**, president and CEO of Emerging Technology centers, is on *The Daily Record's* list of 2017 Influential Marylanders for her contributions in the technology field.

## 1980

**MICHAEL BURNS '80 HIST** left his post as a judge at the Maryland Office of Administrative Hearings to become executive director of the Maryland Uninsured Employers' Fund.

**MARY PETERS DIBARTOLO '81 NURS** was awarded the first Fulton Endowed Professor of Geriatric Nursing at Salisbury University. She was also recognized with SU's Distinguished Faculty award in August 2016.

**LAURA OLSZEWSKI '81** has joined Keller Williams in Wilmington, North Carolina, as a real estate broker.

**REESE A. SCHUYLER NANK '82 MCOM** published *Small Town Scandal*, a memoir of forbidden love.

**DAVID JONES '85 BIOL** published an e-book, *The Grand Canyon to Yellowstone: A View from a Busy Mind*, in the nonfiction travel genre.

**MARY HASTLER '88**, CEO of Harford County Public Library System, is on *The Daily Record's* list of influential Marylanders for her civic leadership.

**SETH CHANOWITZ '89 CCMM** published a spy thriller, *Russia Rising*, featured in Finland's largest circulation publication, *Helsingin Sanomat*.

**DENNIS KANE '89 BUAD**, president and CEO of Kane Construction, had four company projects receive excellence awards from the Baltimore Chapter of Associated Builders & Contractors.

**PATRICIA RHODES '89**, associate director, retired after 38 years with TU's financial aid department.

## CLASS NOTES



### KELLY SMITH '00 ACCT

was admitted as a member of the full-service certified public accounting and consulting firm Smith Elliott Kearns & Company, LLC.

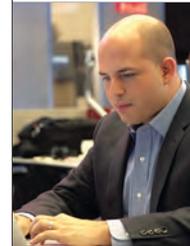
### ALLYSON LESTNER '01

is vice president and director of development for the Community Foundation of Howard County



### BRIAN STELTER '07 CCMM

won the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Television Political Journalism.



### TOM SUPENSKY '68 M.ED.

won Best in Show at the North Augusta Arts and Heritage Center.



## ALUMNI PROFILE

Sarah Cooksey  
'78/'84 M.S.



## ROOTED IN NATURE

NATURE CONSERVANCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR HELPS PROTECT THOUSANDS OF ACRES IN DELAWARE

Sarah Cooksey '78/'84 M.S. has always had a profound connection to nature, and her successful career in environmental conservation is deeply rooted in that bond.

She was recently appointed director of conservancy programs at The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Delaware, a nonprofit that since 1989 has helped protect more than 30,000 acres and manages more than 5,000 acres in its Delaware preserves.

Her background includes 20 years as the environmental program administrator for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. While there, she chaired the state's Sea Level Rise Advisory Board that produced the state's first major report on its susceptibility to sea level rise and represented Delaware in the development of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Plan, according to TNC.

Cooksey followed in her parent's footsteps as public servants, focusing primarily on water issues so she could really make a difference.

"I knew I wanted to be a scientist and study biology," she says, recalling the environmental protection laws in the 1970's and the first Earth Day. "Through those experiences I learned that, unfortunately, most people won't voluntarily protect and conserve the environment," she says.

Cooksey is responsible for overseeing restoration projects at TNC and managing other initiatives such as "large-scale land protection, the establishment of a water fund in the Brandywine-Christina and an increased effort to make conservation more relevant to urban audiences," according to TNC.

"I love my new job. Coincidentally, my TU education is being directly put to use—I literally have dusted off my old botanical keys to help refresh my mind and move back into the study of terrestrial ecosystems. Moving from government to the not-for-profit world has been a huge change, but TNC values are directly in my line of thinking, so I feel grateful to be in a place with so many like-minded people," she explains. ■

—HEIDI STASIOWSKI '17

## 1990

**KEVIN DAVIS '91**, police commissioner for Baltimore City, is on *The Daily Record's* list of influential Marylanders for his civic leadership.

**SHERRI THOMAS '92 BUAD** was promoted to vice president of auto operations for the non-catastrophe division of Eberl Claim Service.

**KEITH L. EWANCIO '94/'07 M.S.** received the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year award from the Community College of Baltimore County. He is only one of eight graduates to be selected in the college's 60 years.

**AILEEN ESKILDSEN '95 ACCT** was one of 40 women mentors at *The Baltimore Business Journal's* fourth annual Mentoring Monday held April 3.

**JEFF NEWMAN '95 BUAD** was promoted to senior vice president and chief human resources officer at TEGNA, a company with a portfolio of media and digital business.

**AGISI MAKRODIMITRIS '96** earned a Certificate of Added Qualifications in emergency medicine from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

**TRACY SCHEFFLER HART '97 MCOM**, host of Q1370 Rouse & Co. Morning Show, has an additional radio show, Hart & O'Neill, on Saturdays from noon-2 p.m.

**HEATHER PLOTT '97 MCOM** won the Makeup Artists & Hairstylist Guild Award for Best Period and/or Character Makeup for a limited series for "American Crime Story: The People v. O.J. Simpson." She was also nominated for a Primetime Emmy for makeup for the series.

**DENNIS M. ROBINSON JR. '97 PSYCH**, a partner at Whiteford, Taylor and Preston since 2006, was appointed by Gov. Larry Hogan to the Baltimore County Circuit Court.

**GREGORY SLATER '97 GEOG** was appointed by Gov. Larry Hogan to lead the State Highway Administration. He spent 18 years with SHA recently as deputy administrator for planning, engineering, real estate and environment.

**CASEY BAYNES '98**, founder of Casey Cares, is on *The Daily Record's* list of influential Marylanders for philanthropy.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Quinton "Q. D." Thompson '42**, longtime advocate and volunteer of Towson University, died May 20, 2017. He was 95. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, for a time aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise, rising to the rank of lieutenant. Upon discharge he worked at McDonogh, spending 32 years as its middle school head. Thompson was inducted to the TU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1968 and received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1981. He is credited with securing TU's first million dollar gift.

## IN MEMORIAM

### ALUMNI

Libby H. Goldstein '37  
April 15, 2017

Mildred Rand Irvin '39  
Nov. 1, 2016

Genevieve Steinhorn '40  
March 13, 2017

Marjorie C. Radford '41  
Jan. 16, 2017

Ruth D. Vosloh '41  
Jan. 10, 2017

C. May Diekmann '42  
April 1, 2017

Agnes K. Samek '42  
April 13, 2017

Quinton D. Thompson '42  
May 20, 2017

Esta B Wolfram '43  
Dec. 4, 2016

Cecelia H. Fink '44  
March 19, 2017

Susanne M. Healy '44  
March 9, 2017

Arlene P. Magness '44  
Jan. 24, 2017

Winifred M. Kammer '45  
Dec. 18, 2016

Janice C. Scarff '47  
Jan. 1, 2017

Jessie M. Brandhoff '47  
April 11, 2017

Jane B. Monahan '47  
Jan. 5, 2017

Ruby M. Parks '48  
Oct. 31, 2016

Elizabeth F. Weiss '48  
Jan. 9, 2017

Janice M. Dagostino '50  
Jan. 6, 2017

John J. Hull '50  
Jan. 26, 2017

Rose D. Montgomery '51  
March 3, 2017

Mary E. Hoffheiser-Kelly '52  
Feb. 1, 2017

Jeanne S. Munson '52  
Feb. 18, 2017

George W. Speer '52  
Oct. 19, 2016

Gloria Cerino-Gruss '53  
Jan. 19, 2017

Betty S. Cooper '53  
March 6, 2017

William F. Myers '54  
March 17, 2017

Henry Wolpert '54  
Sept. 9, 2016

Mona E. Coberly '55  
Dec. 11, 2016

George E. Hohl '55  
Jan. 17, 2017

Marlene K. Barrell '56  
March 15, 2017

Rosalie Renbaum '56  
May 2, 2017

Peggy A. Bolender '58  
Dec. 10, 2016

Patrica E. Hinton '59  
Feb. 17, 2017

Norman J. Dean '60  
Dec. 12, 2016

W. Lee Hammond '60  
Dec. 9, 2016

Charles L. Mott '60  
Feb. 28, 2017

Alvyn I. Nacman '60  
Jan. 15, 2017

Mary Ann Flickinger '62  
Feb. 10, 2017

Sharon V. Murphy Smith '63  
Jan. 1, 2017

Richard D. O'Brien '64  
Sept. 1, 2016

Valerie R. Hall '64  
Feb. 7, 2017

Mary M. Smith '68  
Feb. 2, 2017

Joseph W. Doran '71  
July 10, 2016

Henry A. Groff Jr. '71  
April 21, 2017

Jane E. Jenkins '71  
March 30, 2017

Richard F. Schmitt '71  
August 1, 2016

Joseph J. Adams '72  
March 28, 2017

Albert M. Hess '72  
Dec. 18, 2016

Sandra R. Hittman '72  
Dec. 16, 2016

Norma J. Lambert '72  
Jan. 13, 2017

Harvey R. Tate '72  
Feb. 22, 2017

Betty Beck '73  
Feb. 5, 2016

Bruce W. Byron '73  
May 2, 2017

Jo Anne Dobson '73  
March 22, 2016

Louis A. Dollenger III '74  
March 9, 2017

Shelley P. Gardner '74  
Dec. 12, 2016

Margaret M. Dell '75  
March 26, 2017

Elizabeth Mays Benzinger '76  
March 25, 2017

Concetta F. Busick '76  
Jan. 9, 2017

Mary K. Gamewell '76  
Jan. 27, 2017

William C. Floyd '77  
Feb. 9, 2017

Thomas R. Gooley '77  
Dec. 31, 2016

David A. Newberry '77  
Dec. 24, 2016

Edith G. Blount '78  
Feb. 15, 2017

Shelda J. Bond '78  
April 29, 2017

Albert M. S. Gondo '79  
Dec. 29, 2016

Joyce Helfrich '79  
April 9, 2017

Elizabeth Edwards '80  
Jan. 21, 2017

Virginia S. Grim '80  
Dec. 6, 2016

Majorie P. Hogan '80  
Jan. 24, 2017

Linda E. Kumkumian '80  
April 20, 2017

Agnes T. Avera '81  
Feb. 26, 2017

Annette Ferebee '82  
April 22, 2017

Judith A. Weinert '82  
Nov. 6, 2016

Mildred B. Christfield '83  
Feb. 12, 2017

Martin L. Kozlowski '83  
Nov. 24, 2016

William Tait Wilson '86  
April, 2017

Michael Raleigh '88  
Dec. 11, 2016

Dorothy A. Levinson '90  
April 10, 2016

Debra L. Murdock '90  
April 17, 2017

Anita M. Hardisky '91  
March 12, 2016

Scott K. Kishimoto '91  
Dec. 20, 2016

Robert J. Belanger '92  
Dec. 30, 2016

Scott J. Wrzesien '92  
Jan. 18, 2016

Robert K. Gregory Jr. '93  
March 3, 2017

Kathryn L. Moody '93  
March 31, 2017

Marc E. Warren '93  
Dec. 21, 2016

Matthew Rike '96  
April 1, 2017

Sylvia I. Cohen '98  
March 6, 2017

Dara L. Schill '00  
March 10, 2017

Christian Carter Cannella '01  
Oct. 24, 2016

Laura E. Bonneau '04  
Jan. 12, 2017

Jessica M. Rehn '05  
July 26, 2016

Eric Avery '06  
April, 2017

Sean T. O'Brien '10  
Feb. 6, 2017

Jaïson L. M. Gugliemi '10  
April 4, 2017

Terrence Michael Grant '14  
April 3, 2017

Matthew Christopher Stupi '14  
June 8, 2016

Andrew Christopher Heiss '15  
April 11, 2017

### FACULTY/STAFF

Gail M. Price  
Dec. 19, 2016

Raymond Long  
Jan. 4, 2017

Harry Zhou  
Jan. 7, 2017

Tom O. Meinhardt  
Feb. 17, 2017

Donald L. Cassatt  
March 7, 2017

Dennis G. Bohlayer  
March 10, 2017

Diane L. Bandurchin  
March 25, 2017

Kenneth Russell  
April 7, 2017

Ruth C. Schwalm  
May 5, 2017

## CLASS NOTES

### 2000

**PAIGE BOYLE '00 BUAD** received the ATHENA Young Professional Leadership award from the Harford County Community College Foundation. It honors an emerging leader age 40 and under.

**KELLY SMITH '00 ACCT** was admitted as a member of the full-service certified public accounting and consulting firm Smith Elliott Kearns & Company, LLC.

**BENJAMIN DABROWSKI '01 CCMM** was promoted to senior asset manager for Mid-Atlantic's Office and Retail Portfolio.

**ALLYSON LESTNER '01 CCMM** was named vice president and director of development for the Community Foundation of Howard County.

**KIM TYRRELL LISTMAN '01** and her husband, Joel, welcomed their daughter Sadie Abigale on September 30, 2016.

**JULIE GEHRING CCST '03**, director of Mother Caroline Academy's Mentor Program in Boston, was chosen by the Eurasia Foundation to participate in a social expertise exchange with Big Brother Big Sister's Moscow and Saint Petersburg Russia.

**LAUREN AMBROGIO-NUTERANGELO '07 MCCM** was promoted to global product manager of Women's Guess Watches.

**HANNAH BENNETT '07** was appointed as district court commissioner for Baltimore County in March 2016.

**BURKE BOWERS '07 BUAD** joined Howard Bank as vice president and business banking relationship manager.

**MICHAEL CIRANGLE '07** was promoted to tax principal at the Baltimore-based public accounting and business consulting firm, Ellin & Tucker.

**BRIAN STELTER '07 CCMM** won the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Television Political Journalism for his CNN program, "Reliable Sources."

**LAURIE BERGLIE '08 M.A.** published her first novel, *Where the Bluegrass Grows*, an equestrian romance.

**ALEX DUNCAN '08 MCOM** is a social media account executive at Bonnie Henson Communications.

**MATT '08** and **JENN '08 LAUMANN** welcomed their first child, Brooke Vera, in July 2016.

## CLASS NOTES

### SEND US YOUR NEWS!

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

#### SEND MAIL TO:

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

#### EMAIL:

alumni@towson.edu

**ELIZABETH TERSCHUUR '08 DANC** was a guest artist in Millennial Motions of the Repertory Dance Ensemble at Coppin University.

### 2010

**ROSEMARY LEGER LONG '10 M.S.** earned a Certificate of Added Qualifications in emergency medicine from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

**RACHEL PIAZZA '10 M.S. WMST** was featured on ESPN.com in an article about her feminist self-defense workshops. She has also become a TEDx speaker on sexist language.

**KIMBERLY SCHAFFER HARMON '13 M.S.** earned a Certificate of Added Qualifications in emergency medicine from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

**SARAH KRAUSE '14 CHEM**, who is pursuing her doctorate in organic chemistry at the University of Delaware, won the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

**JOSEPH MOORE '14 EMF** is the personal photographer and videographer for rapper 2Chainz.

**MELISSA SHIRLEY '14**, who is pursuing her master's degree in sport sciences at the University of Akron, coached boys and girls middle school basketball in Cleveland.

**LORIANNE WALKER '16 MCOM** is an associate account executive at Abel Communications.

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### Diana Goldsmith '16



## THE MOBILIZER

### ASSOCIATE FOR REPAIR THE WORLD SPURS YOUNG JEWISH ADULTS TO GIVE BACK

Giving back and working with the Baltimore Jewish community defines Diana Goldsmith '16. Now she's refining that role as a program associate for Repair the World, an organization that mobilizes thousands of young Jewish adults who want to make giving back part of who they are.

Repair the World is a New York City-based fellowship program with four other "communities" in Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia and Baltimore. The Baltimore group focuses on issues of food justice and education equity, and works with the Jewish Volunteer Connection, an organization that connects its volunteers with top community partners.

Goldsmith connects young adults with service opportunities, planning volunteer events and service learning programming, and overseeing teams of volunteers.

"It involves a lot of emailing and meetings, but it is so fun and incredibly meaningful to be able to create purposeful and influential

programming for the young adult community," she says.

Goldsmith's experience includes working with the Har Sinai Youth Group and the Baltimore Educational Initiative for Teens and Reform Judaism. As a TU student, she was treasurer of Students Helping Honduras, the student director of the Honors College, and studied abroad in Costa Rica at the International Center of Development Studies in the Human Rights and Development program.

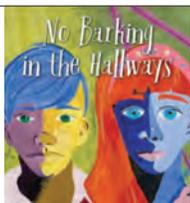
"While abroad, I learned about a variety of social issues, human rights law, and how to execute community development successfully, all of which have been extremely useful in my work, she notes.

Her plans for Repair the World include continuing to encourage other young adults to make service an important part of their daily lives and learning about and tackling social issues that are having an impact on Baltimore. ■

—HEIDI STASIOWSKI '17

#### ANN BRACKEN '74

published a book of poems, *No Barking in the Hallways*.

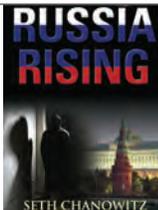


#### LAURIE BERGLIE '08 M.A.

published an equestrian romance, *Where the Bluegrass Grows*.

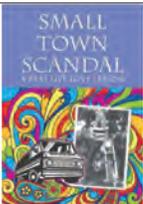
#### SETH CHANOWITZ '89 CCM

published a spy thriller, *Russia Rising*.



#### REESE A. SCHUYLER NANK '82 MCOM

published a memoir, *Small Town Scandal*.



“My scholarship provides the education I need to better educate my students.”

Michelle Bowers '17 received the Bridgers-Moore Scholarship. It is helping her earn a post-baccalaureate certificate in autism studies and dedicate her life to teaching those with autism and other profound learning, physical and psychological disabilities.



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





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