Reaching New Heights
THE UNION OF MARKETING, SCIENCE AND SOUL IS KEEPING CRAFT BREWERIES HOPPING
Let’s start with the obvious. Even having only reached page one, you’ve noticed that the magazine you’re holding bears little resemblance to its predecessors. Both in the number of pages and the size of them, the new TU Magazine is definitely bigger. Since we began redesigning it late last year, the trickier part always was making it better as well.

TU has a proud and accomplished history, one we wanted to honor while focusing on the momentum of the present and future through a more engaging approach to storytelling. We know you’re busy; we don’t take for granted the time you choose to spend with us. That’s why we’re committed to writing sophisticated stories that will entertain, inform and move you. It’s hard to read Rebecca Kirkman’s tasty piece on the craft brewery business without reaching for a cold one. I hope my story about the life of alumna Marisa Harris tugs at your heartstrings as it did mine. Adjunct professor and alumnus Ron Snyder’s essay will make you pause to ponder what’s truly important in life.

We set out to create a publication with a contemporary look and feel. We wanted to incorporate more illustration and to present some information in shorter, more easily digestible formats. Striking photography also was a priority. In this issue, freelancer Justin Tsucalas, a regular contributor to Baltimore magazine, TU adjunct professor and alumnus Mark Hendricks, and our staff photography team of Kanji Takeno and Lauren Castellana all captured memorable images for the pages that follow.

Don’t worry, we’ve kept sections that we know you love, like Class Notes, while adding plenty of new features throughout. Everything we’ve changed we’ve done with you—the reader—in mind. We’d love to hear what you think. Please feel free to complete a short survey online (https://www.towson.edu/MagazineSurvey) or email me at munger@towson.edu.

We think the new TU Magazine is both bigger and better. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed reimagining it.
President’s Letter

In my fourth year as Towson University’s president, I’ve come to excitedly anticipate a few constants from our commencement ceremony:

One is a feeling of awe and inspiration that the accomplishments of our talented graduates bring to the entire campus community. I look forward to the outpouring of cheers (and often tears) from family and friends beaming with pride as their beloved graduates cross the SECU Arena stage. I get to see firsthand and smile as high-fives and hugs are shared by faculty and students throughout the commencement celebration. Our richly diverse graduating class comes from all corners of the globe, bound together by the shared goal of earning a nationally renowned TU degree. Their excitement about what they have achieved and what comes next is evident on all their faces. It’s in their broad smiles, their exaggerated fist bumps and their fairly contained shows of joy. They know they have completed their TU education and earned a TU degree that will positively impact the rest of their lives. Their celebration and endurance are truly wonderful to share.

Whatever the future holds for Towson University’s class of 2019, I know they are fully prepared by the remarkable array of experiences afforded by theirTU education: enriching mentorship and research, study abroad semesters. Our proud graduates have all completed their TU education and earned a TU degree that will positively impact the rest of their lives. Their celebration and endurance are truly wonderful to share.

Alex Storrs’ Smith Hall office is home to an eclectic assortment of teaching tools collected during his long career as associate professor of astronomy and director of TU’s Watson-King Planetarium and Observatory. For starters, there’s the vivid green doctoral gown from his alma mater, the University of Hawaii, ready for semiannual commencement processions. A solar system mural—created by the professor and his students—spans the length of the narrow room. But the most eye-catching décor element is Storrs’ whimsical astronomy quilt, a 2003 gift from his wife, Jean. Working intermittently over a two-year period, Jean Storrs combined traditional patterns and techniques with astronomy-themed fabrics to design and create a unique keepsake.

“She intended it to be a wall hanging,” Storrs says, adding that he chose instead to drape it over a low chair facing the doorway. “When students come to see me, they’re usually apprehensive,” he explains. “I want this space to be welcoming, not forbidding, so having this colorful quilt helps.” Jean Storrs, a part-time librarian and avid quilter and crafter, says the idea for an astronomy quilt came easily. She began by collecting fabrics featuring stars, planets and spacecrafts. Her proud husband points out that, like all quilters, she maintains a huge stash of fabrics (on the outside lining alone) 260 planets, 370 stars, 40 spaceships, 10 moons. (on the inside lining alone)

TREASURES

A Star Quilt
Top 100 Woman
President Kim Schaal was named to The Daily Record’s “Top 100 Women” list for the second time in three years. She and the other winners were recognized at an event in April.

“[I’m] tremendously honored by this,” she said. “It is included as such a wonderful group of dynamic women who have achieved amazing things not only in their own careers but also as leaders in the community and as mentors, is an incredible honor.”

The Top 100 Women list recognizes outstanding achievements via professional accomplishments, community leadership and mentoring. Those listed were selected by a panel of leaders and past honorees.

Innovations in Dance
Vincent Thomas knows how to move, but perhaps even more importantly, he knows how to inspire others to do so as well.

The long-time TU dance professor received a 2019 University System of Maryland Board of Regents Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship, Research, or Creative Activity. The honor, which recognizes exemplary faculty achievement, is given to up to 17 recipients each year across five categories. The scholarship, research, or creative activity category recognizes a member of the USM faculty for professional accomplishments in his or her field that extend or deepen the bounds of knowledge or are recognized as an innovation within the recipient’s discipline.

An educator, choreographer and dancer known as much for his boundary-pushing performance projects as his popular dance department course for non-majors, DANC 105: In Motion, Thomas was “simultaneously ecstatic and humbled” to receive the award. “I have a passion for dance and a passion for teaching,” he said. “When these two are combined, it is an opportunity to give back to the community [and] humanity in ways that I hope will shift the world.”

Our New Front Door
The former Maryland National Guard Armory will serve as the home for a number of TU programs and offices focused on community engagement and outreach, entrepreneurship, continuing education and workforce development, President Schaal announced in March.

The building adjoins more than 1 million square feet of new development at Towson Row, the $190 million mixed-use destination and new gateway to downtown Towson. TU, in partnership with Towson Row developer Greenberg Gibbons, plans to begin using the space in 2020; after approximately a year of interior remodeling.

The move is a victory for President Schaal’s Together Towson initiative.

“The armory gives TU a true home in the bustling, upward area of our county seat,” she said. “I’m excited to see new partnerships created and existing ones re-energized as critical conversations for our region unfold inside the walls of this historic space. Pulling together all the assets of our university to support the community, we see the building as a problem-solving space.”

The TU campus and surrounding communities will have opportunities over the next year to express opinions about the vision for the building. Members of the Baltimore-Towson University (BTU) team will lead the effort. Plans call for support from the TU Foundation and Office of Partnerships and Outreach to utilize some of the space. Other TU- and community-oriented events may be held in the building, which will maintain a very open space design.

The armory features more than 21,000 square feet of space in a building dating to 1933. It is adjacent to Baltimore County Transportation Services.

A Fine Canned Food Drive
TU’s Parking and Transportation Services and the FoodShare program received 2,608 donations during December’s “Can Your Crank Drive.”

The program—which students could have their parking fines reduced or waived by donating non-perishable food items—filled the food insecurity pantry for Your Citation Food Drive.”

Never have so many parking tickets resulted in so many smiles.

In January the university unveiled a new brand mark. Inspired by the bold pattern of Maryland’s state flag, the new mark takes on a black TU style with both a consciousness and depth that distinguishes the mark as an icon itself.

“This contemporary identity node to our history, but also clearly states what Towson University is today. Our momentum is strong, and growing even stronger,” President Kim Schaal said.

TU’s marketing and communications division used a research-based identity audit to identify TU’s distinction and bridge the gap between institutional pride and the reality of TU’s growth.

Research began in fall 2016 with interviews and conversations with more than 2,000 stakeholders. A visual expression of the brand and a new brand mark was identified in 2018 by the university’s agency of record, Mission Media, in partnership with TU’s in-house design team and creative professionals.
Religion in the Constitution

Professor Jack Fruchtman, author of American Constitutional History: A Brief Introduction, explains how the Supreme Court has dealt with faith

The themes of our Constitution very clearly did not want to have an established religion, because in Britain to be a full citizen—that is to have the right to vote, to hold public office, to go to the great universities—you had to belong to the Church of England. If you were Catholic, Jewish, Presbyterian, Methodist, Quaker, you were a second-class citizen. Britain had religious tolerance. We wanted religious liberty. Religion is mentioned in the Constitution a couple of times, but mainly in the First Amendment. There are two religion clauses. One is a religion liberty, which is pretty broad in the sense that it established the freedom of religion as opposed to religious tolerance. There was no overruling religion and everything else was tolerated.

Which leads to the second clause, which is the establishment clause, which prohibits the government from establishing a religion. That is not defined, but the Supreme Court has defined it in the last 250 years in decision making. Four Amendment cases really didn’t get focused on until the 20th century. In the 19th century the court is really more concerned with economic and financial issues, with the nation expanding toward the West and transitioning from agriculture to industry.

A landmark case was Everson v. Board of Education in 1947. It had to do with government funds in Swanson Township, New Jersey, paying for school buses and school bus drivers. The government was paying for school buses and school bus drivers. The court held that this violated the establishment clause, but not the free exercise clause.

In 1980, in Walz v. Tax Commissioner, the court ruled that the government could pay for school buses and school bus drivers. In 1985, in Schempp v. Abington School District, the court held that the government could not require students to recite the Lord’s Prayer in school. In 1985, the court ruled that the government could not require students to recite the Lord’s Prayer in school. In 1985, the court ruled that the government could not require students to recite the Lord’s Prayer in school. In 1985, the court ruled that the government could not require students to recite the Lord’s Prayer in school. In 1985, the court ruled that the government could not require students to recite the Lord’s Prayer in school. In 1985, the court ruled that the government could not require students to recite the Lord’s Prayer in school. In 1985, the court ruled that the government could not require students to recite the Lord’s Prayer in school. In 1985, the court ruled that the government could not require students to recite the Lord’s Prayer in school. In 1985, the court ruled that the government could not require students to recite the Lord’s Prayer in school. In 1985, the court ruled that the government could not require students to recite the Lord’s Prayer in school. In 1985, the court ruled that the government could not require students to recite the Lord’s Prayer in school. In 1985, the court ruled that the government could not require students to recite the Lord’s Prayer in school. In 1985, the court ruled that the government could not require students to recite the Lord’s Prayer in school. In 1985, the court ruled that the government could not require students to recite the Lord’s Prayer in school.

The jurisprudence of the court, in terms of religion, is really muddled.

A person, place or thing can make all the difference

CLARK RACHFAL
Director of advocacy and governmental affairs, American Council of the Blind Para-cyclist

I was first diagnosed as legally blind at age four. As my vision slowly got worse, by the age of 13 I had to make the tough decision to no longer ride a bike. Labor contractual arrangement is a degenerative retinal condition that causes vision to slowly deteriorate. As a result, my central vision has been reduced to light and shadows. My peripheral vision is better, but I can only see colors, shapes, outlines— and no fine detail.

I knew I wanted to study abroad before I even applied to TU. I’ve always been fascinated by Australia, and my experience there my junior and senior years of college exceeded my wildest dreams. The first time that I tried surfing was in Byron Bay. I love beaches and the ocean, and what better place to practice for the first time than an iconic Australian beach? By no means have I ever surfed large waves, but I enjoy feeling the surge of the ocean beneath me and straddling to find a point of balance and harmony atop the board and on the wave. The hardest part about surfing is timing the approach of the wave. Once on a wave, surfing is more about balance and less than vision, so being blind is irrelevant. Friends who were raising money for a mission trip to the Solomon Islands asked me if I wanted to do a charity bike ride through New South Wales with them. I told them that if they found a tandem, I would. This turned out to be a great adventure. We endured several long hot and rainy days in parts of Australia that I would not have visited on my own. It was in Australia that I was introduced to a member of the Australian blind cricket team who first told me about the U.S. Association of Blind Athletes (USABA). When I returned home, I ultimately made the decision to pursue tandem cycling. I do not know when I began to think about the Paralympic Games, but having something to train for provided structure and purpose to my life post-Towson. For years, I worked during the day and trained at night on a stationary bike in my basement. In 2009, my tandem pilot and I qualified for our first World Championship.

I have raced for Team USA on three continents and 11 countries—including Australia, where it all began. Australia allowed me the opportunity to take stock of who I was, and who I wanted to be. Traveling half the world away provided me with a clean break from the coping mechanisms that I had developed. In many instances, even to this day I feel like an entrant trapped in an introvert’s body. In large part, this is due to the isolation and inability to communicate visually with those around me. During my time in Australia, I became more open to new experiences. As a result, my peers were more accepting of who I was. I am thankful for this life-changing experience, and that I had the opportunity to make friends who traveled to stand up on my behalf at my wedding.
It has become a rite of summer in Baltimore: Each month from May through September, live music lovers descend on Canton Waterfront Park for WTMD's First Thursday Festivals, presented by Brewers Hill. Grassy spots are claimed, camp chairs are untied and blankets are rolled out by everyone from hipsters to families with young kids. When the music starts, all dance and mingle as six bands perform on two stages at the region's biggest free concert series. Thursdays weren't always so hectic. The soirees began about 15 years ago as intimate events staged near the Washington Monument in Mt. Vernon Place, for an audience of just a few hundred. They grew over the years until the crowd spilled out from the park onto nearby streets. In 2014, WTMD relocated it to Canton Waterfront Park; in 2017, a second stage was added. Over the years, an impressive roster of bands has performed, including Los Lobos, the Mooresville, Marcus King Band, Joan Osborne, Lake Street Dive and More Tone. An average of 12,000 concertsgoers meander through the park, stopping to see some of the 50 local vendors and grilling local food from vendors like Jimmy's Famous Seafood and Blue Point BBQ. Every city local beer and wine and specialty cocktails, and this year WTMD has added an outdoor wine bar. It has become a rite of summer in Baltimore: Each month from May through September, live music lovers descend on Canton Waterfront Park for WTMD's First Thursday Festivals, presented by Brewers Hill. Grassy spots are claimed, camp chairs are untied and blankets are rolled out by everyone from hipsters to families with young kids. When the music starts, all dance and mingle as six bands perform on two stages at the region's biggest free concert series. Thursdays weren't always so hectic. The soirees began about 15 years ago as intimate events staged near the Washington Monument in Mt. Vernon Place, for an audience of just a few hundred. 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But after junior Nukiya Mayo calmly made two free throws with five seconds left to seal TU’s historic 53-49 victory over Drexel, the reality of what the future looks bright for this team, which returns four of five starters, six of its top seven scorers, five of its top six rebounders, its top four steals leaders and its top three assists leaders.

“I’m very proud, and I think we’re all very proud,” junior Q. Murray told The Sun. “When we saw that [poll] in the beginning of the season, we took that as motivation because we knew what we were capable of, and we knew that with the talent that we had, we just had to put it all together. We did what everybody said we couldn’t do.”

Turns out, everybody was wrong.

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An Epic Slam

Layup! Yes! for Nukiya Mayo. In warmups before the February 17 game, the 6-foot-3-inch junior dangled. Student manager Jeff Findlater captured the moment on video, and it was shared on social media. Mayo went viral in less than 48 hours, and by the end of the season the clip had 1,094,921 views on Twitter and Instagram. The dunk was retweeted by SportsCenter and got a flame emoji from Miami Heat legend Dwyane Wade.

A ZACH GOODRICH was chosen by Boston with the third overall selection of the MLL draft.\n
EMILY WILSON was the nominee for the women’s award. The award recognizes in sports management.

RICHARD KELLER was TU’s nominee for the CAA Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year award. The nominee hopes to become a marine mammal veterinarian.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Aloha to a New Mark

Friedman Jordan

Cornellias chased a final-round 68 at the Blaineville Resort Kings’ Course in Honolulu to tie the school record for the lowest round. She was two under par on both the front nine and the back nine, which included an eagle on 16. She finished tied for 10th overall, and TU finished sixth at the Alascan Spring Break Classic.

Broken Record

Jack Saunderson set a new CAA record at the NCAA Championships in March. The senior seven times of 144.97 in the 200-yard individual medley preliminaries. Later in the meet he finished seventh in the 200-yard butterfly to become a four-time All-American. “When he is pushing himself, he can make swimming look effortless,” TU coach Jake Shrum says.

We’re No. 1

On March 4, for the first time in the program’s Division 1 history, the men’s lacrosse team ranked first in all three national polls. TU occupied the top spot in the USILA Warrior/New Balance Division 1 Coaches’ Poll, the Inside Lacrosse Media Poll and the Nike/US Lacrosse Magazine Top 20 following its 12-10 win over then-No. 1 Loyola at Johnny Unitas Stadium.

Coach of the Year

In just her second season, Diane Richardson was named the Colonial Athletic Association Coach of the Year. TU more than doubled its win total from a year ago. In the conference tournament, the Tigers calmly took down Delaware and Hofstra before edging the second-seeded Dragons in the title game. Mayo was named the Most Outstanding Player.

TU’s reward? A date with the sport’s ultimate Goliath, the University of Connecticut, in the first round of the NCAAs. Taming the title game. Mayo was named the Most Outstanding Player.

The First Dance

“...we won a championship. So it’s just great to be a part of something that’s never happened before.”

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The win punched TU’s inaugural bid into the NCAA Tournament and was chosen by Boston with the first pick in the MLL draft.

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TU finished sixth at the Nike/US Lacrosse Media Poll and the USILA Warrior/New Balance Division 1 Coaches’ Poll, the Inside Lacrosse Media Poll and the Nike/US Lacrosse Magazine Top 20 following its 12-10 win over then-No. 1 Loyola at Johnny Unitas Stadium.
Several hundred people crowd around a 40-foot pinewood derby track inside Union Craft Brewing’s Baltimore taproom as hand-crafted race cars whizz past. It’s a brisk Sunday afternoon in February, and 146 racers are competing in speed and style, with several creative entries—from a miniature recreation of the brewery’s outdoor space (down to the string lights and vibrant mural) to visual representations of its beers AM Gold Cream Ale and Duckpin Pale Ale—paying tribute to the brewery itself.

The success of the event, in which unpowered miniature cars crafted from a block of pine are pitted against each other on a steeply sloping track, is testament to the strong brand and tight-knit community Union has built since opening in 2012, when the total number of breweries in Maryland hovered around 20. Today, that number is over 100 (with a dozen more in the planning stages), and Towson University alums are playing key roles in all aspects of the industry.

Much of this bubbling beer community grew from the vision of Jon Zerivitz ’04, Union’s creative director and one of its three founders. The company now employs more than 50 people.

“The kind of community we were trying to create was based around hometown pride, and to be providing not just a product that people from Baltimore could be proud to say is made there, but also to be this open-armed, welcoming place for people to gather and have a good time,” Zerivitz says. “That is as much about community as it is about brand building.”
“Building a Baltimore Brand”

Turned into an industrial corner of Baltimore’s Medfield neighborhood, the Union Collective is a 35,000-square-foot former Sears warehouse that is now home to several local manufacturing companies in addition to Union Craft Brewing.

From a green velvet couch in the brewery’s industrial-yet-cozy, 7,500-square-foot taproom, Zerivitz shares his inspiration for the Union Collective is a 150,000-square-foot former Sears warehouse that is now home to several local manufacturing companies in addition to Union Craft Brewing.

A chance encounter with fellow beer enthusiast Adam Benesch at a mutual friend’s wedding set the dream into motion. The two brought on Benesch’s friend’s wedding set the dream into motion. The two brought on Benesch’s friend’s wedding set the dream into motion.
There’s a lot a can go wrong in beer-making. Mistakes flowing through the air can contaminate a batch of beer with off-flavors. Residual sugar left in the can after packaging can continue to ferment, causing it to explode. But with a simple lab and quality-control processes, breweries can better understand what’s going on in their beer and hold their products to the highest quality.

“There are a lot of variables in beer,” and minimizing variation is really important,” says Kyle Wheatley ’12, “because you might like a beer one time, and if you try it the next time and it’s different, that’s really bad for the brand.”

It was a field trip during his senior year at Tu that led Wheatley to connect the dots between his chemistry major and the beer industry. “I was president of the TU Student Affiliate of the American Chemical Society, and we took a trip to Heavy Seas Brewery in Baltimore,” he explains. “They talked about quality control, their lab, and what they had to do with applied science. It was really eye-opening to see that we could use some of the stuff we were learning in the real world.”

When Wheatley returned home to the Ocean City, Delaware, to get a master’s degree in teaching at Salisbury University, he worked at nearby Evolution Craft Brewing and then Wild Brewing in Cambridge. In addition to helping out in the brewhouse and behind the bar at Wild, Wheatley used his chemistry knowledge to help set up its quality control laboratory.

He began with a microscope and a hemocytometer. “It’s technically used for counting red blood cells in medical labs, but it works really well for yeast as well,” says Wheatley, who now works as a science teacher at Stephen Decatur Middle School in Berlin, Maryland, and occasionally helps out at BAI in his spare time.

“Working in beer is really rewarding,” he says. “It was really awesome knowing your hard work is paying off and bringing happiness to a lot of people.”

Back at Union, patrons watching the pinewood derby beneath fluttering checkered racing flag pennants pump their fists, clap and cheer as cars fly past the finish line. The energy is palpable, and winners and losers alike past the finish line. The energy is palpable, and winners and losers alike wave raincoats.

Abbeke Elkmann is a communications strategist at University Marketing and Communications, a Baltimore magazine contributing writer and former associate editor of BeerAdvocate.
The Sky Was Her Limit

There has been much media attention paid to how Marisa Harris '17 died, but precious little to how she lived.

BY MIKE UNGER

MARISA HARRIS found comfort in writing her favorite inspirational quotes on Post-it Notes, then covering her desk with the yellow, green and blue stickies. She began this ritual in middle school, which hinted at her intellectual maturity, and wrote her last one in college, by which time it was apparent for all to see.

Her mother, Leigh, has a fondness for the one above, which she says captures the spirit with which her daughter navigated the world. "Although I can say with 100 percent confidence that Marisa had no sense that her life would be cut short, many of the quotes she transcribed reflected an urgency to live each day to the fullest, to help others in need, to be a good person, and speak to a legacy Marisa may have wanted for herself, whether knowingly or unknowingly," she says.

Just 22 years old when she was killed in what her parents call an incident, rather than an accident, Harris' short journey had already led to love, happiness, and a clear calling. Alternately outgoing and reserved, silly and serious, daring and practical, Harris '17 graduated summa cum laude from TU with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She'd known exactly what she wanted to do professionally since she spent her sophomore spring break in Mexico—not partying in Cancun, but working with the kids of single mothers and victims of domestic violence at a free daycare program in San Miguel de Allende. The trip was a game changer for Harris, who knew little Spanish yet traveled by herself for the first time to get to the city in the far eastern Mexican state of Guanajuato.

"This experience, although short in time, stuck out from all the rest," she wrote in a personal essay she submitted with her graduate school application. "I learned a lot about multiculturalism in the helping field, as well as the importance of understanding that a person who needs help is not inherently helpless. My time there also solidified my interest in specifically working with children."

From her earliest days she'd always treasured her time with kids, no matter whether they reciprocated her affection. At TU she worked with children both as a neurobehavioral outpatient intern at the Kennedy Krieger Institute and in the burn unit at Johns Hopkins Medicine. Sometimes, the kids would pull her hair or even spit on her, yet when she returned home she'd talk for hours about the empathy she felt for them and her desire to help them improve their lives.

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By all accounts, Harris thrived at TU. She enjoyed the walkable campus and its proximity to Baltimore and Washington, where she traveled often to watch baseball games. Never a morning person, her grades soared after she was able to schedule mostly afternoon classes. She spent a semester abroad in Italy, studying in Florence and traveling to a dozen cities in that country as well as France.

Before her junior year, she was one of only a dozen students admitted to the Clinical Focus in psychology program. Its director, psychology professor Bethany Brand, taught her in three classes, including one in which students learn to lead a diagnostic psychological assessment of a prospective patient.

"She was an incredibly kind, compassionate person, and those are the sorts of traits that a really good therapist needs," Brand says.

It was also during her junior year that she met Muth. Introduced by friends, they started dating in October 2015. The Charles Village Pub became their spot, but Harris seemed to have time for bars and parties than he did.

"I actually had very bad grades before we started seeing each other," says Muth, who now works for the Military Officers Association in Alexandria, Virginia. "I didn't want to go to CVP if she was just going to stay in all night, so I would end up staying in working on a paper that wasn't due until the next week and end up getting a good grade on it. (Knew how that happens.)"

Harris was comfortable in her own skin, which Muth found attractive. She could seamlessly fit into a group, but also thrive by herself. She would talk to him about her desire to become a child psychologist, and her kind, patient demeanor around kids was evident to him. One day after taking in a baseball game in Washington, they strolled to the National Mall, where Marisa promptly parked herself on a bench and struck up a half-hour conversation with a 5-year-old. When it was over, Harris, the child and the youngster's parents all posed for a picture together.

Harris and her aunt grew even closer during this time. The two hung out at homecoming in 2016. They went to the football game, and Wandless took her niece to an alumni event at CVP.

"I just knew going forward we would be attending alumni events together," she says. "It was unspoken between us, but I knew in my gut it would happen.

Graduation day was another joyous milestone for the family. After watching the ceremony from the nosebleeds, they went to P.F. Chang's, Marisa's favorite restaurant. Two months later, Muth and Harris visited Wandless at her home in Chicago. They are dinner at a Cuban restaurant, went on an architectural boat tour, and crossed watching a Cubs game at Wrigley Field off their bucket list.

"She was patient and kind and always thought about others. She was a true friend who was always there when you needed her," says Wandless. "Marisa was the best thing that ever happened to me and my family. She was the best thing that ever happened to all of us."
For Marisa’s parents, there are two distinct periods of life—before October 28, 2017, and after it. Patrick and Leigh hadn’t talked to their daughter that day, when in the late afternoon Muth’s mother called. There had been an accident.

As they raced toward Inova Fairfax Hospital, Patrick held out hope, while Leigh feared the worst. When they arrived, Marisa was already gone.

In the following days, as media coverage of the incident intensified, both the Virginia State Police and Fairfax County prosecutors concluded that the 12-year-old boy had purposely jumped off the overpass. But the boy’s family didn’t allow him to be interviewed by law enforcement, and the police could not compel him to do so. In December 2018 The Washington Post reported that authorities at his school were advancing a theory that he accidentally fell over the overpass’ three-foot guardrail.

For Harris’ parents, this ripped open a still-raw wound. No charges were filed against the boy, and Patrick and Leigh didn’t advocate for any. Their concern now is simply that the boy—the jumper—receive the help that he needs.

“It’s what Marisa would have wanted.”

“I always think about the different scenarios that could have happened on that day,” Leigh says. “If she had survived and the boy didn’t think she would have been devastated. If she had survived and the boy had survived, she would have made it a point to do whatever she could to help him. Maybe she would have tried to reach out to the family. But you can’t go down the what-if road.”

For Marisa’s father, details about the tragic incident are all background noise anyway. His daughter is gone, and nothing can bring her back.

“I always tell people that she did more in her 22 years than I did in my 54,” says Patrick, while petting the family’s energetic 8-year-old soft-coated Wheaten terrier Max, whom Marisa cherished. “She just grabbed on to life and rode it through whatever direction it was going to go. My regret is over the potential that’s lost.”

Life lurches forward. It’s different for Patrick and Leigh since October 28, 2017. Emptier. But they’re enduring. They started a fund in Marisa’s memory at the National Alliance on Mental Illness, where her application to work as a volunteer was submitted days before the incident. To date, it’s raised $9,660. Last summer they held a memorial service for Marisa, which they called a celebration of life, at a nature preserve in Delaware. Patrick made a slideshow for it that starts on the day of her birth, June 7, 1995, and progresses through her childhood into adulthood. In each successive photo, whether she’s posing with her boyfriend, a dog, a girlfriend, a relative or by herself, her smile radiates more than the last.

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Playing in the sand at the beach as a toddler. Standing in front of the Washington Monument as a teenager. Picking pumpkins with Muth, “pushing” the Leaning Tower of Pisa as a beautiful young woman. These are the experiences that constitute a life well lived, even if it ended far too soon.
Win ’Em All

ROBERT SNYDER ’81 is the author of the new book, A Season to Forget: The Story of the 1988 Baltimore Orioles. Until last season’s team.train, that team was the worst in the franchise’s 65-year history. Snyder, an adjunct professor in the Department of Mass Communication, was 9 years old when he watched in agony as the hapless Birds lost their first 21 games. More than three decades later, his perspective on winning and losing has changed, as he shares in this essay.

Growing up, my twin brother Paul (TU Class of 2009) and I tended to hug on Saturday mornings. Four years in a row—from fourth through seventh grades—we qualified for the championships only to lose at the last minute each time to teams we should have beaten. When we finally won that elusive title in eighth grade, emotion poured out as all of those years of frustration were erased by that sense of pride because I had to work twice as hard to get as far as some of my more talented teammates.

We need losing to appreciate winning. That’s true not just in sports.

My wife Lori (Class of 2000) and I learned this firsthand. In 2004, when our 15-month-old son William was diagnosed with brain cancer. One minute you’re surrounded by all the love and support from family and friends. The next minute you're facing sudden-death overtime in a field hockey game or being prepared to cut open our son’s skull and perform a 12 1/2-hour surgery to remove the tumor.

William got through the surgery only to suffer a stroke and go into a coma. Four weeks later, on Feb. 15, 2009, he was able to sit up and take his first steps. It was painful, but I came out of it a better person. I rebuilt my career and can now enjoy watching my children deal with losses and losses in sports or in their life. It is a lot more stressful teaching my daughters than facing sudden-death overtime in a field hockey game or being prepared to cut open our son’s skull and perform a 12 1/2-hour surgery to remove the tumor.

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The high point of the season came on the Orioles’ next home game after their first win, when an announced crowd of a new reality of hospitalizations, surgeries, chemotherapy, strengt, and dealing with enough prescriptions to open your own CVS. Nothing changes a parent’s life more than losing your child’s battle. William’s tumor was the size of a tennis ball and put so much pressure on his brain that it was bin to a chip. Some doctors told us to take lots of photos, because he would be dead in two months. But this was one battle we were not going to lose. On the day we supposed to leave for a dream family vacation—that we’d never had—we were instead meeting with a neurosurgeon, who was preparing to cut open our son’s skull and perform a 12 1/2-hour surgery to remove the tumor

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One of these传导 way too close to me at Shenandoah National Park. Luckily the mother just bolted at the same time I did. I've gone back, back and left my equipment alone.

Mark Hendricks' love for animals started in a great comic book, his childhood home in Southwest Baltimore. Wildlife in that part of the city doesn't sit well for foxes, squirrels, and, yes, the occasional rat. But his mother was determined to show her sons another side of the natural world. She'd order him and his two bothers to put down their video games and go outside, which was no easy task. Peckaugh State Park became a haven destination, as did the Maryland Zoo and National Aquarium.

Hendricks' 15th birthday included a visit to the aquarium at the age of 15, and after college worked there full time. "I had two dreams as a kid," says Hendricks, 36, who used to get coffee to make ends meet. "I wanted to work with marine mammals, and I wanted to photograph for National Geographic." Still, he wasn't until he was writing a paper for a graduate school class at Tufts University when he was in the experimental psychology program focusing on animal cognition, that he had an epiphany. "What's going to read this?" he thought. "How do you make people understand conservation when you have almost 8 billion people on this planet?" he says. "Many people are just doing the work of the world: they don't have time to think about these things. So how do you engage people? I realized photography is the way you can do that in an instant."

From the time he picked up his first rectangular 110-millimeter camera and loaded it with a roll of Kodak film, Hendricks has been fascinated with photography. But he never considered it as a potential job until that moment. "I turned around and there was a bobcat staring straight at me. I looked at it and it looked back, and I thought, 'Oh my God, this one is staring back at me.' I started clapping saying, 'It's a black bear walking right toward me,'" he recalls. "I said 'I'm taking a picture.' It was just me, a human. Thankfully I turned around and went back down the mountain."

It was also in Virginia where Hendricks finally came face to face with a bobcat, an animal he's been pursuing for years. On a foggy hiking trip he was taking to a waterfall when one wandered onto the trail. "I thought I was going to look like an avalanche."

On occasion, Hendricks has witnessed that wildness a bit too closely for comfort. In Shenandoah National Park he was on assignment for Earth Island Journal photographing a rare salamander that lives on an avalanche slope when he heard a noise that sounded like an avalanche. "I turned around and there was a black bear walking right toward me," he recalls. "I said 'I'm differentiating. It's just me, a human.' Thankfully I turned around and went back down the mountain."

Hendricks has explored Assateague Island, an 18,000-acre barrier island off the Maryland and Virginia Eastern Shore, where he spends much of his time. The Chesapeake Bay Watershed has always been fascinating to me because it is the largest estuary in the world. We live in a world where it's all I can possess.

Hendricks' latest project focuses on Appalachia. Four of the five major rivers that flow into the Chesapeake Bay originate in the mountain range, which is where he spends much of his time these days when he's not teaching in Tufts' Department of Psychology. "I had been hiking through the forest among the mama bears sneaking back and forth, armed with a camera and unrelenting curiosity, is where Hendricks finds most at peace. No one needs to force him outside now.
When Mark Hendricks went to Africa in 2016, he didn’t want to stay at a Hilton outside a game reserve.

“I wanted it to be an adventure,” he says. Traveling on their own through Kenya and Tanzania, Hendricks and his wife, Carolina Giraldo ’09, encountered lions, hippos, cape buffalo and elephants. He photographed two of the remaining 30 or so black rhinos in the Serengeti for Africa Geographic, and snapped thousands of images of animals in their natural environments. At night they heard elephants, lions and hyenas sniffing around their tent. Not exactly white noise.

The most transformative part of the trip came in Rwanda, where he photographed mountain gorillas.

“The gorillas would have been lost if it wasn’t for responsible ecotourism,” he says. “You have the bush meat trade and other poaching issues. But 20 years post-genocide they’ve really been able to transform part of their economy. Ecotourism creates jobs. People that used to be poachers are now porters. Now the mountain gorilla is a revered animal in Rwanda. That really inspired me to think about how we can do more of that type of conservation here.”

“Everyone called this old mare Patty. She passed away in the winter.” Photographed on Assateague Island.

“These very territorial gulls started going at it on a nesting island in the Chesapeake Bay.”

“This was in July, when timber rattlesnakes start breeding and are more aggressive. I was documenting another species on the mountain that shares habitat with rattlesnakes. This one surprised me on a climb. I decided to go the long way around.” Photographed in Garrett County, Maryland.

“The best time to see harp seals on Assateague is during the winter months when they’re migrating.”

“This black bear sow is one Hendricks knows intimately and photographed, with two different sets of cubs, over many years. “It takes a long time to study individual animals, but documenting their life can hopefully inspire others to behave properly on this planet we share with them.”

“I spent three days with her as she hunted ducks. She eventually became fixated on me like I was on her.” Photographed on Assateague Island.

“Everyone called this old mare Patty. She passed away in the winter.” Photographed on Assateague Island.

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It’s a Jungle in There

The Jungle Fitness Course inside Burdick Hall is a Ninja Warrior-inspired course designed to incorporate jumping, climbing, and balance into an engaging workout. The course covers over 1,250 square feet and compliments the functional training area with a three-truss frame system. Senior Patrick Sykes uses it several times a week.

SEVEN
“I documented this piping plover outside an exclosure on Assateague that’s designed to keep predators out of the birds’ nests. They’re really tiny. They blend in remarkably well.”

EIGHT
A camera trap Hendricks set up near Savage River State Park in Maryland’s Garrett County captured this image of a bobcat around 2 a.m. “You get a lot of false positives with camera traps. I have more pictures of leaves in the wind than you would believe. Probably only second to my daughter!”

NINE
“I’m currently documenting urban peregrine falcons that nest near my home in Baltimore. They are a former endangered species and are now thriving in urban environments.”

TEN
“I do a lot of white-tailed deer photography. My approach in June is going to be a lot different than November. The only thing they’re thinking about in the fall is breeding and fighting. Here’s a buck who actually won a fight. How he did that, I’m not really sure.” Photographed in Virginia.

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If you haven’t logged in to Tiger Connect lately, you might be missing out. In addition to registering for events, joining groups and reading the latest news, alumni also have exclusive access to discounted tickets and memberships, and we are always adding new deals.

Are you a thrill-seeker? You can save nearly $23 on tickets to Hersheypark purchased before August 1. If theater is more your style, take advantage of discounted tickets at the Hippodrome before they go on sale to the general public. Trying to slow down and recharge? YogaWorks offers 15 percent savings on in-studio memberships and class packages when purchased online. For animal lovers, we still offer reduced tickets to both the Maryland Zoo and National Aquarium.

For a complete listing of benefits and services, log in to your Tiger Connect account at alumni.towson.edu and click on the Resources tab.
WEST COAST TOUR: In early January, the Alumni Association visited several cities in Southern California. The trip began in Los Angeles, where attendees got an exclusive look at the internationally touring King Tut exhibition at the California Science Center. Following a brunch with alumni in Santa Monica, the tour continued with receptions in San Jose and San Francisco.

2. Alumni catch up at Village California Bistro & Wine Bar in San Jose.
3. Enjoying hors d’oeuvres before exploring the King Tut exhibition.
4. Just a few of the 150-plus artifacts on display.

FLORIDA ADVENTURES: The Alumni Association headed south to Florida in February to not only host a reception in West Palm Beach, but also to take in a couple of Orioles spring training games in Sarasota.

1. David Nevins ’76, Lori Armstrong and Suzie Nevins ’79
2. Tarja Geis ’67, ’70 and Michael Heiserman
3. O’s fans enjoy a pre-game crab feast.
4. Pinchers does Baltimore proud with a fantastic spread.

HOMECOMING 2018: November 3 was a picture-perfect day for the Homecoming Festival. Fifty groups totaling more than 3,000 alumni attended the event before watching the Tigers football team take on Maine.

1. Georgeine Smith ’86, Alison Leonard-Leach ’85, President Schatzel, Edna Primrose ’84 and Adrienne Barron McMillan ’84
2. Every cookout needs a great grill-master.
3. Doc livens up the festivities.
4. Towson Teachers alumni practice their cheers.

URBAN AXES: Young alumni got in on the axe-tion by visiting Urban Axes in Baltimore on March 22. At the first-time event guests received both group and one-on-one instruction before competing in a friendly tournament.

1. Participants work on their form.
2. The tournament begins.
3. Towson alumni compete.
4. The group escapes unscathed.
“The tenor sax, which is my primary instrument, is very close to the human voice. The saxophone has been my ticket out. Once I was accepted into the Navy Band the saxophone took me all over the Atlantic side of the world. The saxophone, and the tenor sax in particular, just has this sexy sound.”

JOE WRIGHT '78 was selected by the board of directors of the American Planning Association (APA) as the chief executive officer of APA and the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

RICHARD L. COSTELLA '87 has joined Baltimore law firm, Greenspan & Rosenberg LLP, as a partner in the bankruptcy and creditors' rights department.

SETH CHANDRAWIT '97 has published his second novel, Return to Little Russia. The book is inspired by true events based on his work for the U.S. government’s Political ARGS/Brigades Program at Radio Finland in Finland, as well as his work in the U.S. intelligence community.

FRANK ROTHWELL '90 was named executive producer of Mortal Kombat: History within Maryland Public Television’s Content Division. He is responsible for commissioning and overseeing all production with environmental, natural/human and history themes, including MPT’s popular original series Outdoors Maryland and Maryland Form & Function, as well as the network’s annual Chesapeake Bay Week slate of programs.

“For well over a decade, we have partnered with Towson University as a Professional Development School. During that time, we have worked with dozens of interns in several disciplines. The TU interns challenge our teachers with their energy, enthusiasm, academic and pedagogical curiosity.”

ANTHONY BESS '98, '01

ROBIN GARVICK '96

Painting Playwriting Producers

Robin Garvick always had a passion for performing, but a chance meeting nearly two decades ago redirected her filmmaking path—ultimately shifting her from in front of the camera to behind it. While working on the crew as a photo double for Melanie Griffith in John Waters’ Cecil B. DeMille in Baltimore, the theater major met Adrian Grenier—the future star of Entourage—who played Kyle in the film. A year later, she hopped into him shortly after moving to New York City—this time at a physical therapist’s office—and he remembered her.

“At the time, I was pretty new to the city and didn’t know any guys,” Garvick said. “He asked if I liked playing paintball, which I did, and asked if I wanted to work on the film as a gaffer to the camera crew.”

She accepted the invitation despite not knowing anyone, sparking a friendship with Grenier that eventually led to their producing partnership at Beckett Productions in Los Angeles. Ten years and five documentaries later, the pair have most recently collaborated on their first narrative feature film, Beyond the Night. The thriller, written and directed by Baltimore native Jason Noto, was released last year.

“Whether it’s on stage or behind the camera on set, my goal has always been to tell stories that create or continue important and compelling conversations,” said Garvick. “My hope is that just the way producing sort of found me, my next project will as well.”

For more on Garvick, visit alum.towson.edu

Photo: Will Taylor
“Traveling to Europe has allowed me to explore customs and cultures in a way no textbook or documentary ever could. When I was in school, my travel helped me better understand historical and cultural material. Today, I use my experiences to help enrich my first grade classroom and my students’ experiences.”

— KARA SHORT ’15

Entrepreneur of the Year Award and appeared on the cover of Entrepreneur Magazine.

MICHHELLE ViSSEr ’93 is the author of “Sweet Maple Brookport Sugarmaking from Tip to Toe.” She learned to tap trees and make maple syrup.

GEORGE BROwN ’96 was named Best Lawyer in the area of construction litigation by the legal ranking guide, The Best Lawyers in America, upplying legal expertise, ethics, and professionalism in the highest standing. Brown is also a principal at the Maryland law firm Kramon & Graham.

KAREN CAMPBELL KUEBLER ’95 is finishing her 20th year as a dance and French educator at Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS). She works at West Towson Elementary School as a dance integration teacher, a program she started in 2005.

MICHELLE SAURI ’92 is the co-founder and president of Trinitas21 Design - Build, and a member of the 2018 NARI Metro D.C. board of directors. She also won the national 2018 Fred Case Remodeling Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

MICHAEL TRAINOR ’96 was named Best Director in 2018 for the film “Flowers by the Roadside,” as the composer and guitarist alongside singer songwriter Whitney Tax and producer Tim Jaworski.

ERIK HANs ’96 was featured on CBS This Morning on March 15. The story centered around his work as an executive director of the nonprofit Clevelanders Classical Guitar Society, which teaches and mentors 250 students in the city of Cleveland. The piece reached an estimated one million viewers.

MICHAEL TRAVAGLIO ’96 works in Hollywood as a musician. He recently released the title track, “Flowers by the Roadside,” as the composer and guitarist alongside singer songwriter Whitney Tax and producer Tim Jaworski.

**TRIANGLE UNION**

Running the Brigade

G.J. Brigance was not the most naturally gifted athlete when he played for the Baltimore Ravens, but he was among the team’s hardest workers. Stephanie Chall can relate. A former TU cheerleader, Chall is director of the nonprofit foundation Brigance and his wife, Chanda, started after he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a debilitating neurological condition also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease. The Brigance Brigade supports people with ALS and their families through financial aid, and connects patients and caregivers with resources. A large part of its fundraising comes from a Fall gala that this year closely coincides with Brigance’s 50th birthday.

“When he got his diagnosis 12 years ago they weren’t sure if he would make it to 40,” Chall says. “Chall came to the foundation in January from the National Aquarium, and she’s been inspired by its mission since her first day on the job.

“We help people living with ALS live with as much dignity as any person,” she says. “I think that’s really the powerful part of what we do—we help people live.”

**HARRISON VAN WAES ’14**

All Aboard

Locomotives, cabooses, and all manner of train cars in between may be the biggest attractions at Baltimore’s B&O Railroad Museum, but Harrison Van Waes ’14 also has an eye for the lesser ones.

As the museum’s curator, Van Waes manages the B&O’s entire collection of train artifacts, or specializes in working with many of its 8,000 smaller objects. He designs exhibits, acquires new artifacts, and films documentary, radio and television segments on the history of the railroad. In addition, people often contact him to ask about trinkets he calls “railroadandia,” everything from lanterns to spikes to china that once were a part of the railroad.

“The work is fun because the collection is so diverse,” he says. “Some days I am cataloging buttons, other days I am surveying locomotives that weigh over 1 million pounds.

The museum, which opened in 1953, is housed on 40 acres in what once was the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad’s Mount Clare Station and adjacent roundhouse. It’s a mecca for railroad fans, who come from as far as Europe to see the largest collection of 19th-century locomotives in the U.S. The museum focuses on a particular industry and a particular company,” Van Waes says. “But because they were the first commercial railroad, their company stories are interwoven with our own American story. Delivering Lincoln to give his first inaugural address, that’s the B&O.”

Ensuring that the public has a world-class museum to learn about it all, Van Waes Harrison Van Waes.
JEROME BUSCHROD '07
A Profile of Courage

When Jerome Bushrod re-signed with the New Orleans Saints for the 2018 season, he never could have anticipated the personal battle that lay ahead.

On October 18, 2018, his newborn daughter Jyonna Lynn passed away only a week after her birthday. Following a month of mourning, Bushrod benefited from the support of his family, his team, and his teammates for support. It wasn’t long before he stepped up to fill the starting role, helping the Saints win four out of five games.

In response to Bushrod’s dedication during such a trying time, his teammates voted him their 2018 Ed Block Courage Award winner, which is given annually to one player from each NFL team who has persevered through adversity.

Bushrod accepted the award March 2 at a ceremony in Baltimore. “You know, when the good times happen, you praise the Lord, but when adversity strikes, you’ve got to lean on Him,” he said. “And that’s just what happened between my faith and Lady Luck.”

PHOTO: Jerome Bushrod
WHAT'S NEW
Robert Ward Donation
This year, the Special Collections and University Archives department was honored to receive a donation of material from 1965 graduate, Robert Ward. An award-winning author and screenplay writer for movies and television shows including *Hill Street Blues* and *Miami Vice*, Ward has donated his manuscripts, reviews, and other related papers. Included are items like the screenplay for the 1981 movie *Cattle Annie and Little Britches*, based on the book of the same name that Ward wrote. The movie starred Burt Lancaster, Rod Steiger, Diane Lane and Amanda Plummer.

Hey Felicity...
Q: What is the oldest item in Special Collections and University Archives?

A: The oldest items are perhaps also some of the most unexpected. In the late 1930s, a State Teachers College at Towson (STC) history professor named Lena C. Van Bibber acquired a collection of cuneiform tablets for STC from the American Consul in Iraq. Cuneiform is an ancient writing system, and the tablets note the payment of taxes, in the form of goats and sheep, to a temple. One tablet even holds the seal of the scribe who made it. The tablets were used as teaching aids, and still are today. Classes discuss the value of the tablets in their past form as receipts for payment and in their present form as pieces of ancient history. We also deliberate the concerns they raise about cultural heritage and repatriation of artifacts. These tablets are about 4,000 years old.

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

In My Queue
Mike Flanagan's career has been on a scary tear. When the horror series he wrote and directed, *The Haunting of Hill House*, hit Netflix last year, viewers screamed and critics swooned. The recipient of the College of Fine Arts and Communication's 2016 Deans' Recognition Award, Flanagan's recent directing credits include *Gerald's Game*, *Hush* and *Ouija: Origin of Evil*. His next film, due for release in January, is *Doctor Sleep*, a sequel to Stephen King's *The Shining*.

In 2002...
An amateur filmmaker and an avid consumer of novels and films from a young age, Flanagan says he entered TU with plans to become a high school history teacher. It was an elective film course that inspired him to pursue filmmaking as a career. Here's what he was into back then.

Road to Perdition
Sam Mendes’ gorgeous adaptation features one of my favorite Paul Newman performances. We didn’t know who Daniel Craig was when this came out.

Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers
I remember seeing this with my roommates opening weekend. These movies were a huge deal.

28 Days Later
One of the best zombie movies ever made. It really forecast a new era of digital filmmaking.

Bowling for Columbine
Michael Moore’s documentary was timely and powerful then, and it’s interesting how nothing has really changed since.

Gangs of New York
There was a lot of anticipation for this Scorsese film, and Daniel Day-Lewis is outstanding in it.

In 2019...
Flanagan works so hard that finding time to see a movie right when it comes out is a challenge. But he did spare a few minutes to list for us five of his favorites from the last year.

Leave No Trace
Probably my favorite movie of last year.

If Beale Street Could Talk
A gorgeous piece of work in every aspect.

The Favourite
Wicked fun, beautifully made.

Annihilation
Truly elevated science fiction. I don’t know why it didn’t get more fanfare.

Won’t You Be My Neighbor
I cried like a baby. One of my favorite documentaries of all time.
From Towson, With Love

Robert Padgett ’06

We had a class together, but I never talked to her. I still remember seeing her there, but we never interacted. We had a mutual friend in a TV production class that next semester who organized a group. We got to know each other a little bit, but there was no real love interest. After our projects were done I suggested the whole class that we celebrate. We ended up going out one Thursday night to Padonia Station.

There was one moment when I was up on the stage and LL Cool J’s ‘Don’t Be ’ came on. We started dancing and the spark hit. I noticed the way that she moved.

‘Doin’ It’ came on. We started dancing and the sparks hit. I noticed the way that she moved. It took her a very comfortable.

I decided to propose at Towson. It was such a nerve-racking day.

Kimberly Padgett ’07

Robby and I met in a video production class but we didn’t really know each other. The following semester we had another class together and we had to form a project group. A mutual friend said, ‘Row about Robby?’ and I actually said, ‘Who is Robby?’ She said, ‘He was in our class last semester,’ and I said, ‘OK, I don’t care.’

We just did schoolwork for the whole semester until right before we let out for winter break. We as a class went out one night to Padonia Station. Typically my savings were with my dance team friends, but I figured why not. I’ll go and meet new people.

He started dancing, and he had rhythm, which a lot of guys do not, so that piqued my interest. He was also really nice. It was different to see him out in the world, not in a class setting.

Over the next few weeks we hung out a little bit more, and then right before we let for Christmas he officially asked me to be his girlfriend.

I ended up dancing for the Knicks for the past three years—and we dated long distance. In the very beginning we took Greyhound buses probably once every two months. Neither one of us really had money. It was as frequent as we could make it.

I would call him every day—it took a little bit for me to get used to picking up the phone and talking to somebody every day. I wasn’t necessarily a phone person before him.

He proposed to me outside Stephens Hall during my last season on the Knicks. To be honest I don’t even remember what he said. I just remember him putting on a ring and proposing.

He would call me every day—he wouldn’t get hold of her. I know that I was going to marry her when we were at my apartment before she was heading to the airport. I actually had a seizure.

When I woke up in the hospital, I saw her and I knew that she was supposed to be on a plane.

I decided to propose at Towson. It was such a nerve-racking day. I remember sweating profusely and trying to make it seem like I was not nervous.

We went and sat in Stephens Hall and watched the dance team practice. When I got her outside I got down on one knee. It took her a solid 15 to 20 seconds to realize what was going on. Then she jumped up and down. She was the one that can make me laugh the most. I can stay at home and sit on the couch with her and watch TV, that’s the best night for me.

Some of my favorite little moments are when she passes out on my shoulder and a tiny little bit of drool gets on my shirt. It’s silly, but that’s the kind of stuff that I love.

KIMMY’S STORY

ROBBY’S STORY

Philanthropy

Hoffman Room Dedication

The Marston Hoffman Room, which houses the assistant vice president for campus life, was dedicated on December 14. It recognizes the generous support of Chad Gobel, a 1995 graduate and former Student Government Association president who wanted to honor the impact the late Marston Hoffman had on his life. Hoffman served as TU’s first assistant dean for student development. Gobel’s gift has created the Marston B. Hoffman ’74 Ethical Leadership Endowment, which awards scholarships to students who demonstrate integrity in their decision-making as leaders and who have shown communal leadership and service to the university through student organizations, university committee participation, academic achievement and outstanding contributions to campus life.

“Without this scholarship, I do not think I would have built the incredible connections that I have with my peers and professors. My TU experiences have in no doubt boosted my confidence, independence, and responsibility within me as I continue to mature as an individual. Without your generosity, I believe I would not be the same person I am today.”

BRITNEY TETTER ’20, Request, Accounting Advisory Board Scholarship

“The Accounting Advisory Board Scholarship has meant a lot to me being recognized for what I have achieved so far in returning some financial stress from my family. Being recognized for my academic success is very reassuring and pushes me to be the best version of myself every day.”

ZACHARY AL-RADIDDEH ’19, Reipient, Peggy Fredrimond Gordon Music Competition

“Thank you so much for making the Peggy Fredrimond Gordon Music Competition a possibility. The assistance I have received through this competition has allowed me to focus my limited finances on preparing for graduate school applications and auditions, which will in turn allow me to grow as a musician and educator.”

GRATEFUL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

3 Ways You Benefit From an IRA Charitable Rollover

1. Your gift reduces your taxable income.

2. Your gift counts toward satisfying the annual RMD.

3. You gain satisfaction knowing you supported TU.

To learn how you can establish an IRA charitable rollover to benefit your family, your community and Towson University through a planned gift, go to www.towson.edu/planleg. For more information, please contact Kathleen Hider, director of planned giving and major gifts, at 410-704-6201 or khider@towson.edu.
Julius Chapman

Julius Chapman became Towson State College’s first dean of minority affairs a half-century ago. During his 12-year career, he recruited and mentored African American students while helping to establish the Black Student Union, the Black Faculty and Administrators Association and the Black Cultural Center. Chapman was also the father of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity’s TU chapter, founding a brotherhood for African American male students. His dedication to African American student success was instrumental in helping students complete their TU degrees, and his influence has forever enriched their lives.

Last fall, alumni impacted by Chapman’s leadership decided to honor his contributions to the African American student experience at TU by making a gift. Some of Chapman’s most dedicated supporters purchased a campus bench overlooking Van Bokkelen Hall, where Chapman’s office was located.

Alumni and campus leadership surprised Chapman with a bench dedication during homecoming. At the event, Kenneth Abrams ’92, Towson Black Alumni Alliance president, spoke to what Chapman contributed during a trying time in TU’s history, “You stayed and persevered and made certain that the Center for Student Diversity exists today. We so appreciate what you have done. It is our job to pay it forward to continue your legacy.”

In addition to the bench, the Dean Chapman Honoreeum was created with the goal of raising $5,000. To support the Dean Chapman Honoreeum, visit http://www.towson.edu/HonoringDeanChapman.

DONOR PROFILE

Barbara Hill and Ancelmo Lopes

The Hill-Lopes Scholars Program at TU was recently created and funded by Baltimore couple Barbara Hill and Ancelmo Lopes to advance and retain women in the STEM workforce. Each are retired with backgrounds in health care management and administration, and both remain active on various boards. To learn more about this program, visit www.towson.edu/Hill-Lopes.

WHY WE CHOSE TU

While trying to decide which universities to approach with this program, we were driving up York Road and saw the sign for the Science Complex being built. We didn’t know TU had a science program or how much the university already had going on in STEM. It was the construction sign that made us pick up the phone and call. We’re very happy to have connected with TU to have realized the amount of exciting programmatic work going on and to have met all the talented people here.

WHAT WE ENJOY MOST ABOUT WORKING WITH TU

The faculty didn’t design our program and present it to us; we feel as though we designed it together. It was a very welcoming, positive experience. The excitement and the passion from faculty in support of this program is palpable.

WHAT WE HOPE STUDENTS GAIN FROM OUR PROGRAM

We want to create a community for women interested in STEM that makes them feel supported and encouraged, and introduces them to all kinds of exciting activity. It will be wonderful to see graduates with STEM degrees use this program to propel themselves into interesting jobs or into postgraduate programs.
Memorial gifts create a lasting legacy.

Memorial gifts, like the Mary Daniels Taylor Memorial Internship Scholarship, allow family and friends to honor loved ones while continuing their legacy through a gift with a targeted purpose.

This endowment honors the life of an educator with a passion for promoting children’s literacy and assists graduate students pursuing an internship for an M.Ed. in reading.

To make a memorial gift, contact Kathleen Hider at khider@towson.edu or 410-704-6287.
CELEBRATE

HOMECOMING

SATURDAY

OCT. 19

Return to campus for food, fun and football.

Towson Tigers

VS.

Bucknell Bison

Join us for the Tiger Trot 5K and Alumni Homecoming Festival.

Reservations for festival space must be made in advance and will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration for both events will open in July at alumni.towson.edu/events.

For football tickets, call 1-855-TU-TIGER (1-855-888-4437) or visit towsontigers.com