

# TU

MAGAZINE SUMMER 2019



## Reaching New Heights

THE UNION OF MARKETING, SCIENCE AND SOUL IS KEEPING CRAFT BREWERIES HOPPING

MEET THE  
NEW PROVOST

9

WHAT A SEASON FOR  
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

10

AN INSIDER'S GUIDE  
TO NEW YORK CITY

32



Feature | 26

# Shooting To Save

The weapon Mark Hendricks '10 relies on in the wild is a camera.

TU MAGAZINE // SUMMER 2019

## Contents

|    |                                   |    |                        |
|----|-----------------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 02 | Contributors                      | 31 | TU Proud               |
| 02 | President's Letter                | 32 | My Town                |
| 03 | Treasures                         | 33 | Alumni News            |
| 04 | Campus News                       | 34 | Alumni Events          |
| 06 | Office Hours                      | 36 | Class Notes            |
| 07 | The One Trip That Changed My Life | 42 | Rearview Mirror        |
| 08 | WTMD - Rock On                    | 43 | In My Queue            |
| 09 | Coffee With...                    | 44 | From Towson, With Love |
| 10 | Athletics                         | 45 | Philanthropy           |
| 12 | Features                          | 48 | Our Town               |



Cover Story | 12

### From Grain To Glass

Matthew Pirmann '97 of Baltimore's Peabody Heights Brewery is one of several alums thriving in the brewery business.



Feature | 18

### The Sky Was Her Limit

Marisa Harris '17 lived each of her far too few days to the fullest.



Essay | 24

### You Can't Win 'Em All

Ron Snyder '00 examines a topic each and every one of us has experienced: losing.

Cover Photo: Justin Tsucalas

# From the Editor's Desk

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](mailto: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.

MIKE UNGER,  
EDITOR

## CONTRIBUTORS

**Kim Schatzel**  
President

**Mike Unger**  
Editor

**Jan Lucas**  
Copy Editor

**Lori Marchetti**  
Art Director/Designer

**Kanji Takeno**  
Staff Photographer

**Lauren Castellana**  
Assistant Photographer

**Tasha Lloyd**  
Production Manager

**Contributors**  
Alison Armstrong '09/'13  
Megan Bradshaw  
Kyle Hobstetter  
Felicity Knox '94  
Briana Richert '20  
Sam Sessa  
Chandler Vicchio  
Sean Welsh '05

**Lori Armstrong**  
Associate Vice President,  
Alumni Relations

**Marina Cooper**  
Vice President,  
University Marketing  
and Communications

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

[towson.edu](http://towson.edu)  
[towson.edu/magazine](http://towson.edu/magazine)

*Published three times a year by the  
Division of Marketing and Communications  
for Towson University's alumni, faculty, staff  
and friends. Please send comments and  
contributions to Towson, Marketing and  
Communications, Towson University,  
8000 York Rd., Towson, MD 21252-0001.  
Telephone: 410-704-2230.  
Please send address changes to Alumni  
Relations, Towson University, 8000 York  
Rd., Towson, MD 21252-0001 or email  
[alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu).*



# President's Letter

In my fourth year as Towson University's president, I've come to excitedly anticipate a few constants from our commencement ceremonies.

One is a feeling of awe and inspiration that the accomplishments of our talented graduates bring to the entire campus community. I so 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.

There are some very special moments that make that large arena seem so personal for everyone—such as last year when one of our newest Ph.D.s, while being hooded and recognized on stage, could not hold back the tears as her dissertation title was read and she was introduced, for the first time, as “Doctor.”

We know that the lives of each of our graduates have been transformed during their studies at Towson University. Almost 80 percent of TU graduates have completed an internship that advances their career goals, conducted research with a faculty mentor, studied abroad in one of TU's dozens of international programs, or participated in some other experiential learning that augmented and integrated their classroom studies. Over 88 percent of TU graduates crossing the commencement stage have already accepted jobs with leading regional and national firms or have earned admission to prestigious graduate schools to further their academic careers.



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 barely contained shouts 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 exuberance 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 their TU education: enriching mentorship and research, diverse conversations and debates, affirming community service opportunities and eye-opening study abroad semesters. Our proud graduates have all the ingredients for a vibrant career and a meaningful life. Now, they get to go out and create it.

**KIM SCHATZEL,**  
TOWSON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT



## TREASURES

# A Star Quilt

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 spaceships. (Her proud husband points out that, like all quilters, she maintains a huge stash of fabrics at home.) Completing one block at a time, she added to a growing pile. Eventually there were enough to begin assembling the quilt. Now, after more than 15 years on display in Alex Storrs' office, he can attest to its effect. “I'm always battling students' fear,” he says. “I think the astronomy quilt has a softening effect that makes visitors feel at ease. It's creative and awe-inspiring—but homey.”



|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>PLANETS</b>                             | <b>260</b> |
| <b>STARS</b> (on the outside lining alone) | <b>370</b> |
| <b>SPACESHIPS</b>                          | <b>40</b>  |
| <b>SUNS</b>                                | <b>10</b>  |
| <b>MOONS</b>                               | <b>34</b>  |

# Campus News



## Having a Blast

The Baltimore Blast announced it will hold its professional indoor soccer games at SECU Arena through August 2025.



## Seeking Input

The new Diversity Task Force held its first focus group in March. It will host focus groups about education and scholarship, recruitment and retention of faculty, staff and students, as well as campus climate. It also will assess internal data and results of campus climate surveys, external data and other universities' best practices.



## New Chief

Col. Charles "Joe" Herring was named chief of Towson University Police Department in December after a national search. Herring had served as the interim chief for six months, and has been a member of the department for 17 years.

## Top 100 Woman

President Kim Schatzel 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. "To be included in such a wonderful group of dynamic women, who have achieved amazing things not only in their 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.

## Brand New

For the first time in more than 20 years, Towson University has a new identity—complete with key messages, a logo redesign and a renewed sense of pride.

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 block TU style with both a connectedness and depth that distinguishes the mark as an icon itself.

"This contemporary identity nods to our history, but also clearly states what Towson University is today. Our momentum is strong, and growing even stronger," President Kim Schatzel 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.



## 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 longtime 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 nominee'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: Movement Skills for Men, 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."

55

percent of students who participated in Campus Rec activities last year.

120

Number of faculty and staff regular attendees at Burdick Hall in 2018. The new 94,000-square-foot addition to the campus recreation center proved wildly popular.

1,700

The average number of students who visited Burdick daily.

2,300

guests used Campus Rec facilities last year, an 84 percent increase over the previous year.

393,000

Total visits to the new fitness center during its first year of operation.



## 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 Schatzel announced in March.

The building adjoins more than 1 million square feet of new development at Towson Row, the \$350 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 Schatzel's Together Towson initiative.

"The armory gives TU a true home in the bustling, uptown area of our county seat," she said. "I'm excited to see new partnerships created and existing partnerships re-energized as critical conversations for our region unfold inside the walls of this historic space. Pulling together 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 staff for the TU Incubator 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 government headquarters. In addition to TU space, developers have allocated space in the building for a café or coffee shop.

## Half-Mill Milestone

The Mid-Atlantic CIO Forum scholarship has awarded over \$500,000 to students in business, economics and the computer information sciences since its inception in 2003, when TU's Division of Strategic Partnerships and Applied Research developed a relationship with information technology executives in the region. Its mission is to foster excellence in business and information technology in an environment that promotes educational and networking opportunities for CIOs facing similar challenges and issues.

## Book Smart

Joyce Garczynski, assistant university librarian for development and communications, received the 2019 Association of College and Research Libraries Education and Behavioral Sciences Section Distinguished Education and Behavioral Sciences Librarian Award. The award honors an academic librarian who has made an outstanding contribution as an education and/or behavioral sciences librarian through accomplishments and service to the profession.

## E-Nnovative

TU received \$500,000 from the Maryland Department of Commerce for its first E-Nnovation grant to establish the Towson University E-Nnovation Endowed Professorship in the Department of Computer and Information Sciences. The grant will also fund the creation of a Center for Cybersecurity Education and Research to pursue novel solutions to cybersecurity challenges.

## A Fine Canned Food Drive

Never have so many parking tickets resulted in so many smiles. TU's Parking and Transportation Services and the FoodShare program received 2,606 donations during December's "Can Your Citation Food Drive."

The program—in which students could have their parking fines reduced or waived by donating canned or non-perishable food items—filled the food insecurity pantry for the spring semester.

The donations resulted in action on 163 citations—meaning \$11,605 in fines were either reduced or waived by Parking and Transportation Services.





OFFICE HOURS

## 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 framers 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 religious liberty, which is pretty broad in the sense that it established the freedom of religion as opposed to religious tolerance. There was no overbearing 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 230 years in decision making.

First 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 Ewing Township, New Jersey, going to provide safety for children to get to school. Mainly for bus transportation. It covered all children, whether they went to public school or private school, and the private school could be secular or religious. A guy named Arch Everson objected to money going to Catholic schools, primarily. The court, in its decision, said actually funding for public safety for children is constitutional because the government has a duty to provide protection, especially for children.

But in the course of saying that, the justice who wrote the opinion, Hugo Black, wrote what the establishment clause means is the "separation of church and state." That's the first time we'd seen that phrase in case law. It had been used earlier. Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to the Danbury Baptist Church in 1803, wrote about the high wall of separation between church and state. That's where we get the wall of separation metaphor—a different kind of wall.

The way I like to characterize Black's opinion is that he basically constitutionalized the concept of the separation of church and state as what the establishment clause means. It's now part of the constitution, and everything else has resulted from that.

The jurisprudence of the court, in terms of religion, is really muddled. On the one hand they've tried to set forth general policies, but when you try to apply them to specific instances or events, it doesn't work.

They had a chance last year in a case called "Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission." A very devout Christian baker did not want to make a cake for a same-sex wedding based on his religious

principles. I thought maybe the court would come up to an answer to the question of how far can you go in terms of your religious principles, but they dodged the issue. They sent it back down for re-argument.

On February 26 the court heard arguments in "The American Legion v. American Humanist Association." The question in that case is whether a 40-foot-high cross, which was erected in a busy Bladensburg, Maryland, traffic circle in 1925 to honor 49 local soldiers killed in World War I, is an unconstitutional violation of the establishment clause.

Can you actually take out Christian symbolism from the cross? At the time they did this, it was clearly done with a Christian spirit. There were prayers, there were clergy there who dedicated it. They made no bones about it then. You're talking about the 1920s, which was a long time ago.

The court has come up with a whole bunch of different ways of looking at these issues. One is, does this really advance religion? Some people would say no, it's been there so long people hardly notice it. Another is, does this endorse religion by government? Is there something coercive about this? After all, you can't miss it—it's 40-feet tall.

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

Then there are the people who say we're a longtime religious people, we have to accommodate religion in the public sphere.

I expect a decision by June 30. To project how the court will rule is always a gamble, but I think they will say this cross has been there for almost 100 years now, it's fine, and it will get a substantial majority. It's a question of what is the rationale behind that? Is it only because it's old? What if this was put up next week?

These questions are moving targets, so they're always fascinating.

# The One **TRIP** That Changed My Life



**A person, place or thing can make all the difference**

## CLARK RACHFAL '05

**Director of advocacy and governmental affairs, American Council of the Blind**  
**Para-cycler**

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. Leber congenital amaurosis 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'd 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 surf 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 striving to find a point of balance and harmony atop the board and on the wave. The hardest part about surfing blind is timing the approach of the wave. Once on a wave, surfing is more about balance and feel 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 extravert 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.



# Rock On



## A Musical Gift To Baltimore

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 unfolded 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 rockin'. The festivals 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 Mavericks, Marcus King Band, Joan Osborne, Lake Street Dive and Moon Taxi. An average of 12,000 concertgoers meander through the park, stopping to see some of the 50 local vendors and grabbing food from favorites like Jimmy's Famous Seafood and Blue Pit BBQ. Dooby's serves local craft beer, wine and specialty cocktails, and this year WTMD has added an Artists' Alley, showcasing works by 10 Maryland artists.

"This is our musical gift to the city of Baltimore," says Scott Mullins, WTMD's general manager/program director and First Thursday producer. "We believe that First Thursdays enrich the cultural life of the city and help make Baltimore a more vibrant place to live. It's free, and over the course of the summer, tens of thousands come and enjoy the adventurous music line-ups that reflect WTMD's Music Discovery format."

Great food, drinks, art and a wonderful sense of community certainly don't hurt.

## Tales From The Wall



Among the hodgepodge of amps, drums and chairs backstage at WTMD's performance studio is a long stretch of white wall covered in more than a thousand signatures. Called WTMD's Wall of Scrawl, it bears the name of nearly every musician or band who has played a show or given an interview at the station in the past four and a half years. These are their stories.

The first person to sign the wall was also one of the most famous. Jazz and pop star Norah Jones brought her trio Puss 'N' Boots in for a free, hour-long Live Lunch set in October 2014. Jones shared the spotlight with drummer/singer Sasha Dobson and bassist/singer Catherine Popper for a set of originals and cover songs. When Jones sang, a hush fell over the studio audience. Everyone in the room knew that voice, and remembered a time when her soft and breezy singles "Come Away With Me" and "Don't Know Why" ruled the airwaves. After the show, Jones hung around to meet fans and sign autographs, and before she left the station, she grabbed a black Sharpie and left her signature—a looping cursive one, with the final "s" drawn out to underscore the rest of her name, ending in a curl. It was a lone patch of black on a blank canvas—but not for long.



**WTMD'S FIRST THURSDAY FESTIVALS AT A GLANCE**

**When:**  
Music runs 5:30 p.m.-10 p.m. the first Thursday of every month, May through September — except for this year's July festival, since the first Thursday falls on July 4th

**Where:**  
Canton Waterfront Park, 3001 Boston St. in Baltimore  
First Thursdays are rain or shine. No coolers, outside alcohol or glass containers permitted.

**WTMD'S 2019 FIRST THURSDAY FESTIVALS LINEUP**

**July 11:**  
Soccer Mommy, Van Hunt, Black Pumas

**Aug. 1:**  
Bailey, Steve Gunn

**Sept. 5:**  
Strand of Oaks, (pictured below)  
More TBA

**MORE INFO:**  
[WTMD.ORG](http://WTMD.ORG)




## Coffee With... Melanie Perreault

### We sat down with TU's new provost in March, about a month after she started the job

**LOCATION:**  
Cunningham's Café

**IN HER HAND:**  
Regular coffee, with a bit of cream

**ADDICTION LEVEL:**  
"I start every day with two or three cups. I'm ashamed to admit that on a bad day I'll have five or six."

**Q: You're a history professor. What attracted you to the subject?**

**A:** When I started college I was an English major. I didn't care for history in high school, but I took a history class just for Gen Ed. I still remember the book list I got. There were books on witchcraft and women in history, and I thought, you can do history of this? It completely opened my eyes to understanding the history of average people. It just blew me away.

**Q: Why did you decide to pursue an administrative path in your career?**

**A:** The dark side? This is going to sound kind of cheesy, but I'm from Wisconsin so that's OK. I had a student who had a problem with graduating come to me when I was a department chair. They took a class that turned out not to transfer. I called the registrar's office and asked if there was anything we could do for this kid. She said, 'As department chair you know you can waive that requirement.' So I did and the student graduated. What it really showed me is that in administration you have the ability to do something that maybe you couldn't as a faculty member to really help move students forward.

**Q: Some people only have vague idea of what a provost actually does. How do you define the job?**

**A:** It's to create conditions where others might succeed. Your job really is to get in there and problem solve on a large, university-wide scale. You're looking at some of the day-to-day academic functions—not the minutiae, but what are the systemic things that might improve the lives of students, faculty and make the academic endeavor smoother and stronger?

**Q: What have you learned about TU in your first month?**

**A:** When I started I had 118 faculty binders that I had to review. These were tenure, promotion, and five-year reviews. I thought, what basis am I going to have

to assess these? It felt like a strange start, but as it turned out it was a brilliant way to start because I was able to see the terrific work that's happening on this campus. I was incredibly impressed with both the scholarship and creative activities the faculty were engaged with, but also the real commitment to teaching. What you discover at Towson is that the faculty are tremendous scholars, but they're also paying great attention to what happens in the classroom.

**Q: What do you like to do outside of work?**

**A:** If I have time, I like to golf, but I would not call myself a golfer. I'm a duffer.

**Q: What else should we know about you?**

**A:** I was on *Jeopardy*. I had a spectacular bet-it-all, lose-it-all moment on the final question.

**Q: Do you remember the final question?**

**A:** Of course I do, I lost \$23,000! It's a question that's haunted me ever since. Remember, you're nervous and Alex Trebek is staring you down. The category was 'word origins'. I was in first place and I bet everything. 'This term for infidelity comes from a practice of a bird that puts its eggs in other birds' nests.' I had no clue. Apparently, the cuckoo bird does this, so the word is 'cuckold.' We all got it wrong, so the third place person won \$500 or something like that. Of course I knew the Final Jeopardy questions that were on the rest of the week.



# The First Dance

## ★ WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Before the final seconds ticked off the clock in the championship game of the Colonial Athletic Association women's basketball tournament on March 16, you could count the number of times the Tigers had qualified for that bigger tournament—the Big Dance—on no hands.

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 they had accomplished began to hit the players. For the women's basketball program, never won't last forever.

The win punched TU's inaugural ticket to the NCAA Tournament and capped a 20-win season—the program's first since 2008. Picked to finish ninth in the CAA's preseason poll,

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 NAAs. Taming the 11-time national champion Huskies turned out to be too tall a task for the team, but even the 110-61 loss only put a slight damper on what was an incredible season.

"We won 20 games, and [the current group has] never done that before," Mayo told *The Sun*. "And we won a championship. So it's

just great to be a part of something that's never happened before."

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.



"We did what everybody said we couldn't do."

Q. MURRAY



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



**EMILY WILSON** was the nominee for the women's award. The diver majored in sports management.



**ALEX WOODALL** was Ohio's choice with the first overall selection of the Major League Lacrosse draft.



**ZACH GOODRICH** was chosen by Boston with the third pick in the MLL draft.



## An Epic Slam

Layups? Not for Nukiya Mayo. In warmups before the February 17 game, the 6-foot-3-inch junior dunked. 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 1,654,901 views on Twitter and Instagram. The dunk was retweeted by SportsCenter and got a flame emoji from Miami Heat legend Dwyane Wade.



## WOMEN'S GOLF

### Aloha to a New Mark

Freshman Jordan Cornelius shot a final-round 68 at the Waikoloa 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 18. She finished tied for 10th overall, and TU finished sixth at the Anueue Spring Break Classic.

## MEN'S SWIMMING

### Broken Record

Jack Saunderson set a new CAA record at the NCAA Championships in March. The senior swam a time of 1:44.97 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.

## MEN'S LACROSSE

### We're No. 1

On March 4, for the first time in the program's Division I 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 I 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.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

### 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 the year before and posted its first winning season since 2012. The postseason was magical for Richardson and the Tigers—she led the team to the CAA tournament title and its first berth in the NCAA Tournament.

# FROM GRAIN TO GLASS

THE CRAFT BEER REVOLUTION  
HAS MATURED IN MARYLAND

WORDS BY  
REBECCA KIRKMAN



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN TSUCALAS

**S**everal 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."

*Jon Zerivitz '04  
co-founder and creative director, Union Craft Brewing*





### BUILDING A BALTIMORE BRAND

Tucked into an industrial corner of Baltimore's Medfield neighborhood, 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.

From a green velvet couch in the brewery's industrial-yet-cozy, 7,500-square-foot taproom, Zerivitz shares his inspiration for the Union brand as the first patrons of the day trickle in around noon. He's surrounded by his vision come to life, from branded beanies and five-panel caps hanging on the wall behind him to the gear-shaped logo topping each tap handle behind the bar. There's even a vintage trailer-turned-photo booth parked in the taproom.

As Union's creative director, Zerivitz

has a hand in "everything you can see and touch with our brewery's brand," he says. "I write all the copy, I art direct all the graphics, signage, can design. I name all the beers, for the most part. There are just so many cool visuals in this industry, which is what attracted me to it in the first place."

After graduating from TU with a degree in English, Zerivitz went on to study graphic design, eventually working as an in-house designer for T. Rowe Price. But the need for a creative outlet from his nine-to-five office job led Zerivitz to beer-centric hobbies like collecting and trading sought-after beers from across the country and homebrewing.

"That's when I started to really think, Could I possibly open my own brewery?" the Baltimore native recalls. "A lot of this was through the lens of wanting to develop my own brand."

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 college roommate, professional brewer Kevin Blodger, to helm Union's brewhouse. Its first beers—a hoppy pale ale and malty altbier—hit the market in June 2012.

With beer names like Duckpin Pale Ale that pay homage to local culture (the variety of bowling with smaller balls and pins was invented in Baltimore), Charm City is at the heart of Union's brand.

"A lot of the look and feel of the brewery stems from this sense of place. Baltimore has this rich culture, and is a blue-collar town. Natty Boh is this legacy brand that everyone loves and can't let go of," Zerivitz says. "We wanted our beers, which would be modern and crafty, to feel like they have always been here. To feel vintage, classic looking, and right at home in the Baltimore native's hand."

From Baltimore roots, the brewery's cofounders hope to grow into a regional brand. "We would like to be able to sell beer to five states around us," says Zerivitz, noting that Union currently distributes to all of Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia. "We'd like to continue to grow, provide more jobs, and see the Union Collective grow as well."

### ADVOCATING FOR LOCAL CRAFT

Recently, the brewing industry has seen explosive growth, with the number of breweries in the United States hitting 7,000 in October. Most of them are craft breweries, which the Brewers Association, a national trade organization, defines as small (annual production of 6 million barrels or less) and independent. To put that in context, Maryland's largest brewery, Flying Dog, produced just 100,000 barrels of beer in 2018.

"The growth in craft beer has been seemingly unrestricted," says Jim Bauckman '11, communications manager for the Brewers Association of Maryland (BAM). "For three or four years now, it's just been explosive." In Maryland, roughly 100 breweries produce nearly 300,000 barrels of beer per year and create an \$826 million economic impact.

Bauckman first entered the beer industry while studying business management at TU. For his senior capstone and internship requirements, he developed a marketing program for Brewer's Alley in Frederick, Maryland, where he worked as a bartender. When he graduated, he was hired full time to do marketing and sales for the brewpub, eventually helping launch Monocacy Brewing Co., an expansion of Brewer's Alley, in 2012.

At BAM, Bauckman advocates for and elevates the visibility of local beer-makers through events, media coverage, and lobbying in Annapolis.

"The consumer has been driving a lot of demand," Bauckman says of craft beer's growing market share. "There's an intrinsic artistic component to craft beer, this idea of expression you don't find when you go and buy a six-pack from a national company. They can't tell a story about local agriculture. They can't talk about the things they are doing to make an impact positively on your neighborhood."





### PACKAGING POWER

On a packaging day at Peabody Heights Brewery near Baltimore's Charles Village neighborhood, general manager Matthew Pirmann '97 (pictured below) arrives early—usually around 6:30 a.m. “On my production days, it can be a little hectic,” he says.

Standing to the right of a towering depalletizer machine in the cavernous production space, Pirmann watches as cans are unpacked from pallets on his left, put on a conveyor belt, and swirl down a twist rinse over his head for cleaning.

When the cans arrive at the filler on his right-hand side, Pirmann monitors the volume and pressure on the beer tank, ensures that the filler heads are adjusted to the correct height and

aren't leaking, that there are enough lids, and that the seamer heads are aligned correctly to avoid wrinkled cans.

“It's literally 12 to 15 things going on at the same time,” he says with a laugh.

Overseeing a line that can fill 100 cans per minute, Pirmann's largest run in a single day was 27,000 cans of Thirstay, a pale ale with notes of orange sherbet, papaya and grapefruit. And like monitoring the canning line, much of Pirmann's job at the family-owned Peabody Heights involves wearing multiple hats—from overseeing packaging schedules to kegging and vendor deliveries.

In his two-plus years at Peabody, Pirmann has become a member of the local beer community. “Here, since it is family owned, you become part of the family,” says Pirmann. “The owner Dick [O'Keefe] relies heavily on me... whenever he needs something, he just comes running through the building, yelling 'Matt!'”

### BEHIND THE SCENES

From managing Flying Dog Brewery's beer production and release schedules to coordinating marketing and sales materials, Stephanie Betteker '03 (pictured upper right) is a problem solver people can rely on. “Everything I do is making sure our materials are

readily available for our sales team to sell beers in the market and making sure everything is on track for our beers to hit the market,” says the marketing program manager at the state's largest craft brewer.

After graduating from TU's mass communication program with a concentration in strategic public relations, Betteker worked at Baltimore ad agency TBC for several years before seeking a job in her native Frederick. She set her sights on Flying Dog after falling in love with the company's culture. The brand is known for its staunch protection of free speech and its use of artist Ralph Steadman's “gonzo” pen-and-ink illustrations in its beer labels.

“I wanted to work for a company I believed in,” she says.

In a typical day, Betteker has her hands in all aspects of the beer-making business, from creating and overseeing production schedules to getting approval from the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau for each label design.

“There are so many people that are very passionate about beer, whether it be the small guys opening up neighborhood shops or people that have taken it to the next level,” she says of the industry's growth. “The behind-the-scenes of what it takes to get a beer on the shelf is what I love about the industry.”



Courtesy of Flying Dog



### QUALITY THROUGH SCIENCE

There's a lot that can go wrong in beer-making. Microbes floating through the air can contaminate a batch of beer with off flavors. Residual sugars 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 Affiliates 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 Eastern Shore to get a master's degree in teaching at Salisbury University,

he worked at nearby Evolution Craft Brewing and then RAR Brewing in Cambridge. In addition to helping out in the brewhouse and behind the bar at RAR, Wheatley used his chemistry knowledge to help set up its quality control laboratory.

He began with a microscope and 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 RAR 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 raise a pint.

Rebecca Kirkman is a communications strategist in University Marketing and Communications, a Baltimore magazine contributing writer and former associate editor of BeerAdvocate. **TU**



## YOUR BEER IS BORN

FOLLOW THE HOPPY BEVERAGE'S JOURNEY FROM RAW INGREDIENTS TO YOUR HAND

WATER + MALT

MASH TUN

Inside a vessel called a mash tun, milled malt and water are heated, converting starches to sugars. Then, spent grain is separated from the resulting liquid, known as wort, in a process called lautering.

WORT + HOPS + OTHER FLAVORS

BREW KETTLE

After the wort is brought to a boil in the kettle, hops are added—early for bitterness, and later for flavor and aroma.

WORT + YEAST

FERMENTOR

After the wort moves to the fermentation tank, yeast is pitched to convert sugars into alcohol. This process can take days to weeks depending on the beer style.

BRIGHT TANK

After primary fermentation is complete, beer moves to conditioning vessels to clarify and for flavors to smooth.

KEGS, CANS OR BOTTLES

Your favorite bars, restaurants and retail stores

Tap Room

CHEERS!



# 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



Life is a  
daring adventure  
or nothing at all.  
- Helen Keller

**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.

Harris was in graduate school at Marymount University pursuing a master's in clinical mental health counseling when she and her boyfriend, Perry Muth '17, were driving on I-66 in northern Virginia. The couple, who met as juniors when they were neighbors at The Colony apartments, had passed the afternoon at Burke Lake. They enjoyed spending time together outdoors, and at TU they'd often hike at Oregon Ridge State Park or Loch Raven Reservoir, or even steal a quick getaway to the dog park at Lake Roland. They'd stayed together after graduation, and on what was a lovely sunny Saturday in October 2017, life couldn't have been much sweeter.

As her Ford Escape emerged from a highway overpass—Harris behind the wheel, Muth in the passenger seat—tragedy fell on them from the seemingly clear blue sky, ending Harris' life and changing numerous others forever.

A 12-year-old boy, police say, attempted suicide by jumping from that overpass—at the exact moment Harris' SUV came out from under it. He landed on the windshield of the vehicle, which police estimate was traveling 55 miles per hour. She was killed, while miraculously, Muth was not hurt. The boy, probably the exact kind of kid Harris wanted to dedicate her life to helping heal, survived as well.

"You're angry that she's gone, but we were never angry at him," says Harris' father, Patrick. "Nothing's going to bring her back. What we hope for is what I think Marisa would want us to hope for. If this boy was or is still having issues, that someone gets him the help he needs."

Photos of Marisa dot the Olney, Maryland, townhouse where she grew up and her parents, married for 28 years now, still live.

"That picture (*opposite page*) of Marisa and her grandfather—my father—Marisa loved that picture," Patrick says. He's sitting on the couch looking at a shelf next to the TV. Above the framed photo sits an urn that holds his daughter's ashes. "That day made my dad so happy because Marisa was his pride and joy. I look at that and see two very happy people."

No matter what her age, Maria's magnetic smile usually shone through in photos. An only child, she was always up for playing with her younger cousins.

"I saw that in her early on," says her aunt, Jane Wandless '93. "She and my son are eight years apart, but just the way she would interact with him when he was 1 or 2 years old, even at that age I could see how special she was in the way she related to children."

Harris played field hockey and flute while growing up, but she was a bit more academically inclined. A ravenous reader from elementary school on, she'd come home from book fairs with armfuls of paperbacks.

Her parents took her to visit several schools before she sided with her aunt's alma mater over her parents', the University of Delaware.

"We were very close, so I'd like to think that my influence was significant," says Wandless, laughing. "I put Towson in the best light for her and just told her about my experience and how positive it was. I think it definitely had an impact, but in the end I think she made the decision that was best for her."

By all accounts, Harris thrived at TU. She enjoyed its 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 travelling 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 less 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." (Crazy how that happens.)

Harris was comfortable in her own skin, which Muth found attractive. She could seamlessly fit into a group, but also thrived 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.

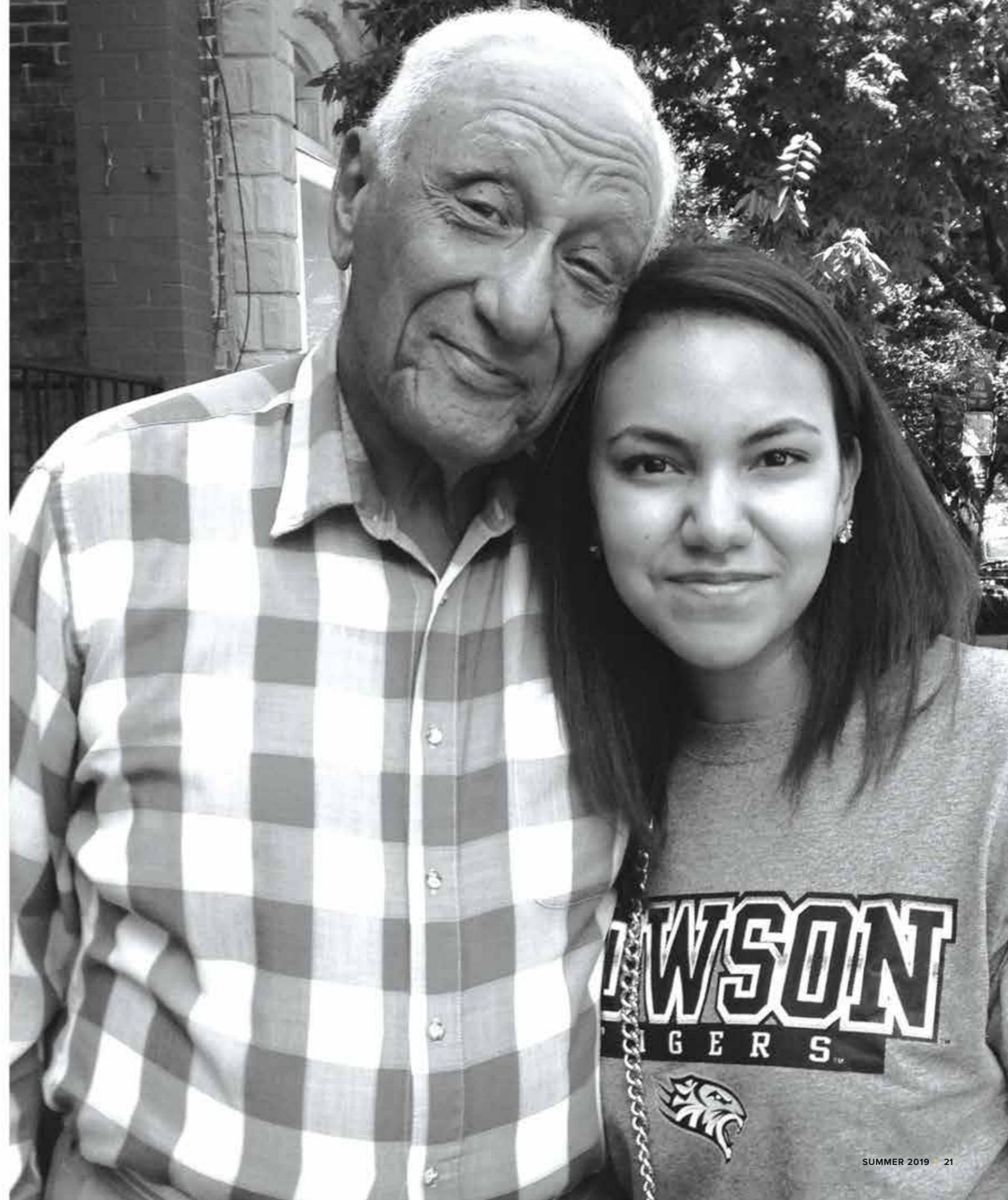
Harris and her aunt grew even closer during this time. The two hung out at homecoming in 2016. They went to the football game, and Wandless took her niece to an alumni event at CVP.

"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 ate dinner at a Cuban restaurant, went on an architectural boat tour, and crossed watching a Cubs game at Wrigley Field off their bucket list.

"As an aunt the relationship changes over the years, from her being to a baby, to a toddler, to a teen, to an adult," Wandless says. "We had really gotten to that sweet spot where we would go out and have a few drinks together and talk about hopes and dreams and relationships. Unfortunately it just didn't last long enough. Other than it being heartbreaking and devastating that she's not with us, I also mourn that fact."

The bitterest  
tears shed over  
graves are for  
words left unsaid  
and deeds left  
undone.  
- Harriet Beecher  
Stowe





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 purposefully 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 I 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

What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains, and is immortal  
- Albert Pine

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. Empty. 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.

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. **TU**



"SHE JUST GRABBED ON TO LIFE AND RODE IT THROUGH WHATEVER DIRECTION IT WAS GOING TO GO."



ESSAY

# YOU CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL

**RON SNYDER '00** is the author of the new book, *A Season to Forget: The Story of the 1988 Baltimore Orioles*. Until last season's train wreck, 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 2001) and I bowled in leagues on Saturday mornings. Four years in a row—from fourth through seventh grades—we qualified for the championships, only to come up short 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 singular win.

Although I was never a great athlete, sports have always been a part of my life. I wrestled all four years in high school. It took a lot for me just to have a shot at the starting lineup. There were a lot of losses in wrestle-offs for the chance to compete. But as a senior when I was able to contribute and even win a few matches, there was a sense of pride because I had to work twice as hard to get half 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 too well on Sept. 9, 2004, when our then 15-month-old son William was diagnosed with brain cancer. One minute you are stressed about all that comes with caring for an infant—diaper changes, feedings, bathing and no sleep. The next minute that doesn't seem so bad when you're faced with a new reality of hospitalizations, surgeries, chemotherapy, seizures, and dealing with enough prescriptions to open your own CVS.

Nothing changes a parent's life more than hearing your child has cancer. William's tumor was the size of a tennis ball and put so much pressure on his brain stem that it was

bent into a C shape. 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 were supposed to leave for a dream family vacation—that we'd saved years for—we were instead meeting with a neurosurgeon, who was preparing to cut open our son's skull and perform a 12 ½-hour surgery to remove the tumor.

William got through the surgery only to suffer a stroke and go into a coma. He awoke six days later on Lori's birthday. But his battle was just beginning. The delay in chemotherapy led to his cancer spreading down his spine. Doctors talked about hospice but agreed to one round of chemotherapy. It worked. William's scans have been clear since that first round of treatment.

However, the months and years that followed brought dozens more surgeries and chemo treatments. There were Medevac flights, countless ambulance trips, stays of weeks at a time in the hospital and more near-death experiences than any child should have to endure or any parent should have to witness.

William has won his battles with cancer so far, but in many ways we're never really done fighting. He deals with seizures, learning disabilities, hearing loss, cognitive delays and balance issues among a host of other health problems. Through all of it, he maintains a positive outlook and loves life as much as any person we have ever met.

Such a life-altering event makes you realize you were already a winner. I'm glad to report that William turns 16 this year and is still cancer-free. Still, his medical issues

can leave us utterly exhausted as we fight every day to make sure he has everything he needs in life to succeed. When that exhaustion kicks in, we often take a minute to reflect on the losses many of the parents face who had children in the oncology unit with William. They would deal with all of the medications, learning disabilities, hearing loss and seizures in a heartbeat if it meant their babies were still here. There were at least a half dozen children with whom William underwent treatment who have since passed away.

We were excited to see our family grow when our twin daughters, Megan and Marissa, entered the world in 2006. We felt like winners again. Our children were doing well, and professionally I was on top of the world covering the Ravens for *The Baltimore Examiner*. Then, on Feb. 15, 2009, the paper closed. I was out of work in the greatest economic downturn since the Great Depression with a wife and three kids to care for.

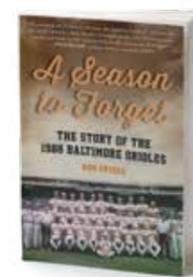
It took a lot for me to get up. I had to reinvent myself professionally. I learned about digital and social media as I filed for unemployment for the first time in my life. I mowed lawns. I held yard sales. I spent time as Mr. Mom; Lori had to return to work as a nurse after five years at home. I went on countless interviews while doing anything I could to help keep food on the table and a roof over my family's head.

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 wins and losses in sports on their own. It's a lot more stressful watching my daughters face sudden-death overtime in a field hockey game or William competing in swimming and bowling at the Special Olympics than when I was a competitor myself. I also make sure that even in defeat, they take something positive away so they can come out stronger than before.

Dealing with such struggles as a parent and professional changed my perspective as a lifelong sports fan. I still get excited when my teams win and frustrated when they lose, but it's no longer a life-or-death feeling with each victory or defeat.

Writing *A Season to Forget* came after a lot of losing. It took 10 years and countless pitches to get a publisher to even consider one of my proposals. But when you've experienced as much as our family has gone through, you realize being rejected by a publisher is not that horrible. Life is too short to let your dreams be derailed by a loss or two.

“ NOT EVEN THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE BASEBALL EXPERTS THOUGHT THE ORIOLES WERE GOING TO BE HISTORICALLY BAD. THEY WERE WRONG.”



## AN EXCERPT

**HEADING INTO THE** 1988 season, the Orioles expected to struggle after a 95-loss season the year before and subpar seasons the two previous years. Not even the return of famed manager Earl Weaver in 1985 and 1986 was enough to correct the Orioles' path. The franchise attempted to revamp its roster in 1988 by bringing in 14 new players.

While not expecting to compete for a playoff spot, not even the most knowledgeable baseball experts thought the Orioles were going to be historically bad. They were wrong. Baltimore opened that season with a record of 0–21, shattering the record for futility to start a season by eight games.

From a 12–0 Opening Day loss to the Milwaukee Brewers in front of a then-franchise-record 52,395 fans at old Memorial Stadium to a 4–2 loss against the Minnesota Twins at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, the Orioles found different ways to lose each night. It got so bad that even President Ronald Reagan sent a message of support to the loveable losers from Charm City. Religious leaders, psychics and mental health professionals even offered to help the team find a path to that elusive first win.

By the time they finally won a game—a 9–0 victory against the Chicago White Sox at old Comiskey Park on April 29, 1988—the damage was already done. The Orioles were already 15 ½ games out of first place in the American League East before May 1. They went on to finish the season with a 54–107 record, 34 ½ games out of first and 23 ½ games behind the next worst team in the division (the 78–84 Cleveland Indians).

The high point of the season came on the Orioles' next home game after their first win, when an announced crowd of 50,402 came out to support the team on "Fantastic Fans Night." That was also the date that then-Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer announced a 15-year lease agreement between the Orioles and the Maryland Stadium Authority to house the team in a new stadium in downtown Baltimore (which would eventually become Oriole Park at Camden Yards). **TU**

“ONE OF THESE GOT WAY TOO CLOSE TO ME AT SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK. LUCKILY THE MOTHER HUFFED AT HIM AND MADE HIM COME BACK. I BACKED UP, AND LUCKILY HE WENT BACK AND LEFT MY EQUIPMENT ALONE.”



# Shooting to Save

Wildlife photographer Mark Hendricks' ultimate goal is conservation of the animals whose images he captures

WORDS BY MIKE UNGER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK HENDRICKS



Mark Hendricks' love for animals started in a most unlikely locale: his childhood home in Southwest Baltimore.

Wildlife in that part of the city doesn't stray far from feral cats, 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 brothers to put down their video games and go outside, which was no easy task. Patapsco State Park became a favored destination, as did the Maryland Zoo and National Aquarium.

Hendricks '10 began volunteering at 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-table books about rain forests, the oceans, and wildlife. "I wanted to work with marine mammals, and I wanted to photograph for *National Geographic*."

Still, it wasn't until he was writing

a paper for a graduate school class at TU, where he was in the experimental psychology program focusing on animal cognition, that he had an epiphany. "Who's going to read this?" he thought.

"How do you inspire people about 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 inspire 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.

Fast forward to today. Large plastic bins packed with photography equipment—tripods, duct tape, zoom lenses and Canons—crowd his office in the North Baltimore apartment he shares with his wife, Carolina Giraldo '09, and their 1-year-old daughter, Liliana. A framed photo of a beautiful lion icily staring straight at him hangs on one wall, a shot he took during a career-changing trip to Africa in 2016 (see sidebar on page 29).

Propped on a bookshelf is a copy of *Natural Wonders of Assateague Island*,

his very own coffee-table book, which was released in 2017.

Hendricks' writing and photography have been published in numerous magazines, including *National Parks Traveler* and *Nature Photographer*, although that *National Geographic* assignment has remained elusive. He's particularly interested in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, which is what led to the book project.

"Eighteen million people live in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Most people hear Chesapeake Bay and think of a bridge going over a body of water on their way to the beach. The Chesapeake Bay Watershed has always been fascinating to me because it is the largest watershed in North America. It's the third-largest in the world. And we live in it," he says as if he's astonished that it's actually true.

Hendricks has explored Assateague Island, an 18,000-acre barrier island off the Maryland and Virginia Eastern Shore, by foot, air, surf and kayak. Although the cover of his book features an image of the island's iconic wild horses—which are non-native, he's quick to point out—inside he concentrates more on lesser known animals like the threatened piping plover, one of 300 bird species that nest or feed there. He spent countless hours tracking

down a cagey river otter, and turned his lens on foxes, seals, horseshoe crabs and snowy owls.

Patience, Hendricks says, is the most important virtue a nature photographer can possess.

"I don't lure or bait my subjects," he says. "When they get close to me, it's on their own accord. Could I make quicker money selling to calendars by going to a game farm? I guess you could, but you don't see the wilderness in their eyes."

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 a mountain 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 started clapping saying, 'It's just me, a human.' Thankfully he turned 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 spring day he was hiking to a waterfall when one wandered onto the trail.

"Usually if you're lucky enough to see a bobcat, it takes off," he says. "This one just looked at me, I looked at it, and it went back to stalking. I let it get ahead of me about 10 yards or so before I got on my hands and knees and crawled through the woods. When it would stop I would stop. When it went on I would go on. It let me follow it. All of a sudden it turned and hopped over a log, got some type of rodent, and then it was off. I never saw it again."

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 TU's Department of Psychology.

Roaming through the forest among the mammals, reptiles, birds and insects, armed with a camera and unrelenting curiosity, is where Hendricks feels most at peace. No one needs to force him outside now.



1



4

**ONE**

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

**TWO**

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

**THREE**

“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.



2



5



3



6

**FOUR**

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

**FIVE**

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.”

**SIX**

“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.

# 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.”





7



8



9



10

### SEVEN

"I documented this piping plover outside an enclosure on Assateague that's designed to keep predators out of the birds' nests. They're really tiny. They bled 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 1 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. **TU**

#TUProud



### 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.

MY TOWN

# Joanna Katz '06 New York City

**BEST STEAK**  
The porterhouse at Peter Luger

**PARK**  
The High Line

**MUSEUM**  
Metropolitan Museum of Art

**MUSIC CLUB**  
The Groove

**ROOFTOP BAR WITH A VIEW**  
230 Fifth

Take one look around Joanna Katz's bar in the West Village section of Manhattan and it's apparent that she still considers herself a Marylander at heart. Towson Tigers, Washington Capitals (and yes, Maryland Terrapins) swag adorn the walls of **JoJo's Philosophy**, the sports bar she opened on Bleecker Street 2 ½ years ago. The menu features Camden Yards crabcake sliders and a Maryland crab pretzel. She may have grown up in Montgomery County and attended TU, but Katz is a New Yorker now.

"I always wanted to live in New York," she says. "There's always something to do, there's always something going on. The possibilities are endless."

When she's not working at her own establishment—which admittedly is a rarity—Katz enjoys eating and drinking her way around the city. Among her favorite restaurants is **Beauty and Essex** on the Lower East Side. "It's actually a working pawn shop, but when you go through it opens into a huge restaurant. Kind of like a speakeasy," she says. One with tuna sashimi and roasted beet cucumber carpaccio on the menu. It's hard to beat a cold drink

on a warm day, which is why she digs **The Frying Pan**, a bar on an historic lightship anchored at Pier 66. Order the sangria, she suggests, then go bowling, rock climbing, or hit some golf balls at Chelsea Piers.

Katz is a museum buff who has a membership to the **Whitney Museum of American Art**. The West Side institution hosts over 23,000 works by more than 3,000 artists. When friends come to town, they usually want to go to the **9/11 Memorial and Museum**. "They were still digging up debris when I moved here," she says. "If you live in New York, it's always a part of your life."

Music and comedy clubs are a staple of Greenwich Village, where Katz lives and works. She's a fan of **Terra Blues**, where legends like Hubert Sumlin and Little Milton have graced the stage. Several A-listers, including Jon Stewart, started their careers at the nearby **Comedy Cellar** and occasionally drop in unannounced to perform. After their sets many comedians stop by JoJo's Philosophy, where undoubtedly more than one has devoured an order of Old Bay wings.



**"You can go to a different neighborhood and do a different thing every single day and every single night and still not see everything there is to see in New York. It doesn't get old."**



# Alumni News



## Tigers Take on the Gators

Join us for a Tigers tailgate September 28 at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium in Gainesville prior to the TU-Florida football game.



## Continuing a Legacy

Save the date for our annual Honor Elizabeth Wainio '95 Scholarship fundraiser, which will take place October 5 at Ropewalk Tavern in Baltimore.



## Coming to a Park Near You

Join fellow alumni and new TU students at one of several cookouts in Maryland:  
7/14 - Prince George's County  
7/21 - Anne Arundel County  
7/28 - Montgomery County  
8/4 - Howard County  
8/11 - Wicomico County

For more details visit: [alumni.towson.edu/cookouts2019](http://alumni.towson.edu/cookouts2019)

## Diversity Works

The Office of Alumni Relations teamed up with the Career Center on March 28 to host Diversity Works—a networking reception linking talented students and young alumni from diverse backgrounds with employers committed to supporting diversity in the workplace. Among the participants were 30 businesses, 65 students and young alumni, and several leaders from five of TU's Alumni Alliances.



A TU student learns about Alumni Alliances and how to stay connected after graduation.



## Alumni Benefits

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](http://alumni.towson.edu) and click on the Resources tab.

2019-2020

## Alumni Association Board of Directors



**President**  
Stephanie Johnson '95

**Vice Presidents**  
Brittany Larkins '10  
Edward McDonald '78  
William Stetka '77

**At Large Members**

Luis Arellano '01  
Van Brooks '12  
Mary Sharon Curran '79/'06  
Karen DiGiovanni '03  
Susan Hall '96  
Anthony Hamlett '76  
Jonas Jacobson '90  
John Kenneally '79  
Darren Margolis '92  
Karen Schafer '68/'75  
Tianna Wells-Larson '98  
Delegate Patrick Young '10  
Bob Zhang '07

**Stephanie Johnson '95, new president of the Alumni Association board of directors**

## Alpha Omega Lambda Brothers Team Up to Present the Joseph Ferrante Memorial Scholarship

More than 50 Alpha Omega Lambda brothers, friends, donors and past recipients came together on April 13 to present junior lacrosse midfielder Jack McNallen with this year's Joseph Ferrante Memorial Scholarship.

McNallen made his first TU career appearance this season against St. Mary's before winning an impressive four of six face-offs against No. 2 Cornell—a game in which he also scored his first collegiate goal. He has played a key role in developing the Tigers' face-off corps.

The Ferrante Scholarship honors the memory of the late Joseph Ferrante, unsung hero of the 1974 championship men's lacrosse team, and will provide \$6,000 toward McNallen's 2019 fall semester expenses.





1



2



3



4

**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.

1. Joy Kecken '94, Scott Kecken, Zach Book '10, Renee Gibson '09, David Stokes '10 and EMF chairperson Michael Angelella at Sonoma Wine Garden in Santa Monica.
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.



1



2



3



4

**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 Nevens '76, Lori Armstrong and Suzie Nevens '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.



1



2



3



4

**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.



1



2



3



4

**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. Kara Wyatt and tournament runner-up Patrick Pinnock '17
4. The group escapes unscathed.

# Class Notes

## SEND US YOUR NEWS!

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

## SEND MAIL TO:

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

## EMAIL:

alumni@towson.edu

 **Tiger Connect:**  
alumni.towson.edu

 **Facebook:**  
Towson University Alumni Association

 **Twitter:**  
@towsonualumni

 **Instagram:**  
@towsonalum

 **Tag your posts:**  
#TowsonUAlum

## 1960s

**JOYCE W. CLARK SACKETT '63** published her third book, *Keeping Blessing Hill: The Story of a Couple Who Converted a Barn, Created a Garden, and Celebrated Home*. Through sharing her and her husband's journey of restoration and remodeling, Sackett offers readers encouragement for their own faith journey.

**MARCIA KAPLAN BLACKER '65**, a finalist in the 2018 Silver Pen Writing Contest for her poem, "Our Blessed Celebration," has published her poetry chapbook, *The Knock that Opened Years*.

**MARCIA K. MORRISON '67** was named Ms. Massachusetts Senior America 2018.

## 1970s

**EDDIE APPLEFELD '70** has been promotions director for WCBM and WQLL radio since May 2001. He hosted the cable TV show, *Dining*

*Out*, and currently has his own YouTube channel, Eddie's Corner, which focuses on travel and restaurants.



**MICHAEL BUCCI '73** plays in the roots band, Ragged Company, with fellow TU alumni George Pappas '75 and Jay Handzo '75. Bucci was also selected as the City of Gaithersburg's 2018 Distinguished Citizen of the Year for his community involvement as a "professional" volunteer.

**JOSEPH CLOCKER '76** retired as director of parole and probation after 41 years of service with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

**LAWRENCE B. WEINTRAUB '78** retired from the U.S. Navy Atlantic Fleet Band in 2005 and currently teaches studio saxophone as an adjunct professor at Old Dominion

University. He is also a professional writer for saxophone-related websites and plays gigs with his jazz group around the Greater Norfolk area.

**MARK GRUBER-LEBOWITZ '79** published his second children's book, *Peace Pom: Ronan Makes a Difference*, with his husband Sheldon. The book, written by Mark and illustrated by Sheldon, depicts their Pomeranian teaching young readers about peace.

## 1980s

**JAY HUNDT '81** retired from teaching elementary, middle, and high school science and social studies after 37 years. He now works as a real estate agent with 20 years' experience specializing in residential real estate and relocations.

**KATHIE NEE SCRIVEN '81** has worked as a freelance Christian book editor for 20 years. She has recently completed her 80th editing assignment.

“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.”

**LAWRENCE WEINTRAUB '78**



## ROBIN GARVICK '96

### Paintball Playing 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. DeMented* in Baltimore, the theater major met Adrian Grenier—the future star of *Entourage*—who played Lyle in the film. A year later, she bumped 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 anyone,” Garvick said. “He asked if I liked playing paintball, which I did, and asked if I wanted to join a group going to the Catskills to play.”

She accepted the invitation despite not knowing anyone, sparking a friendship with Grenier that eventually led to their producing partnership at Reckless Productions in Los Angeles. Ten years and five documentaries later, the pair 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 has been 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 [alumni.towson.edu](http://alumni.towson.edu)

 Photo: Will Taylor

**JOEL ALBIZO '85** 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, Tydings & Rosenberg LLP, as a partner in the bankruptcy and creditors' rights department.

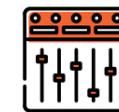
**SETH CHANOWITZ '89** has published his second novel, *Return to Little Russia*. The book is inspired by true events based on his work for

the U.S. government's Political Asylum/Refugee Program at Radio Finland in Helsinki, as well as his work in the U.S. intelligence community.

## 1990s

**FRANK BATAVICK '90** was named executive producer of *Natural History* within Maryland Public Television's Content Division. He is responsible for commissioning and overseeing all productions with environmental, natural history and history themes, including MPT's popular original

series *Outdoors Maryland and Maryland Farm & Harvest*, as well as the network's annual Chesapeake Bay Week slate of programs.



**RUSSELL FARMARCO '91** was a part of the Academy Award-nominated sound editorial crew on Christopher Nolan's *Dunkirk*. He also worked on the film adaptation of *The Hate You Give*. Farmarco is sound supervising *Booksmart*, Olivia Wilde's directorial debut.

“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**

“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

**KAREN CAMPBELL KUEBLER '91** is finishing her 28th year as a dance and French educator in Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS). She works at West Towson Elementary School as a dance integration teacher, a program she started in BCPS.



**MICHAEL SAURI '92** is the co-founder and president of TriVistaUSA Design + Build, and a member of the 2019 NARI Metro D.C. board of directors. He also won the national 2018 Fred Case Remodeling Entrepreneur of the

Year Award and appeared on the cover of *Remodeling Magazine*.

**MICHELLE VISSER '93** is the author of *Sweet Maple: Backyard Sugarmaking from Tap to Table*. The book, her first, is about her family's experience moving to New England, where 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*, signifying legal expertise, ethics, and professionalism in the highest standing. Brown is also a principal at the Maryland law firm Kramon & Graham.



**ERIK MANN '96** was featured on *CBS This Morning* on March 15. The story centered around his work as executive director of the nonprofit Cleveland Classical Guitar Society, which teaches and mentors 250 students in the city of Cleveland. The piece reached an estimated more than 3 million viewers.

**MICHAEL TRAINOR '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 Tai and producer Tim Janssens.



STEPHANIE CHALL '05

## Running the Brigade

O.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 now.”

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 littler ones.

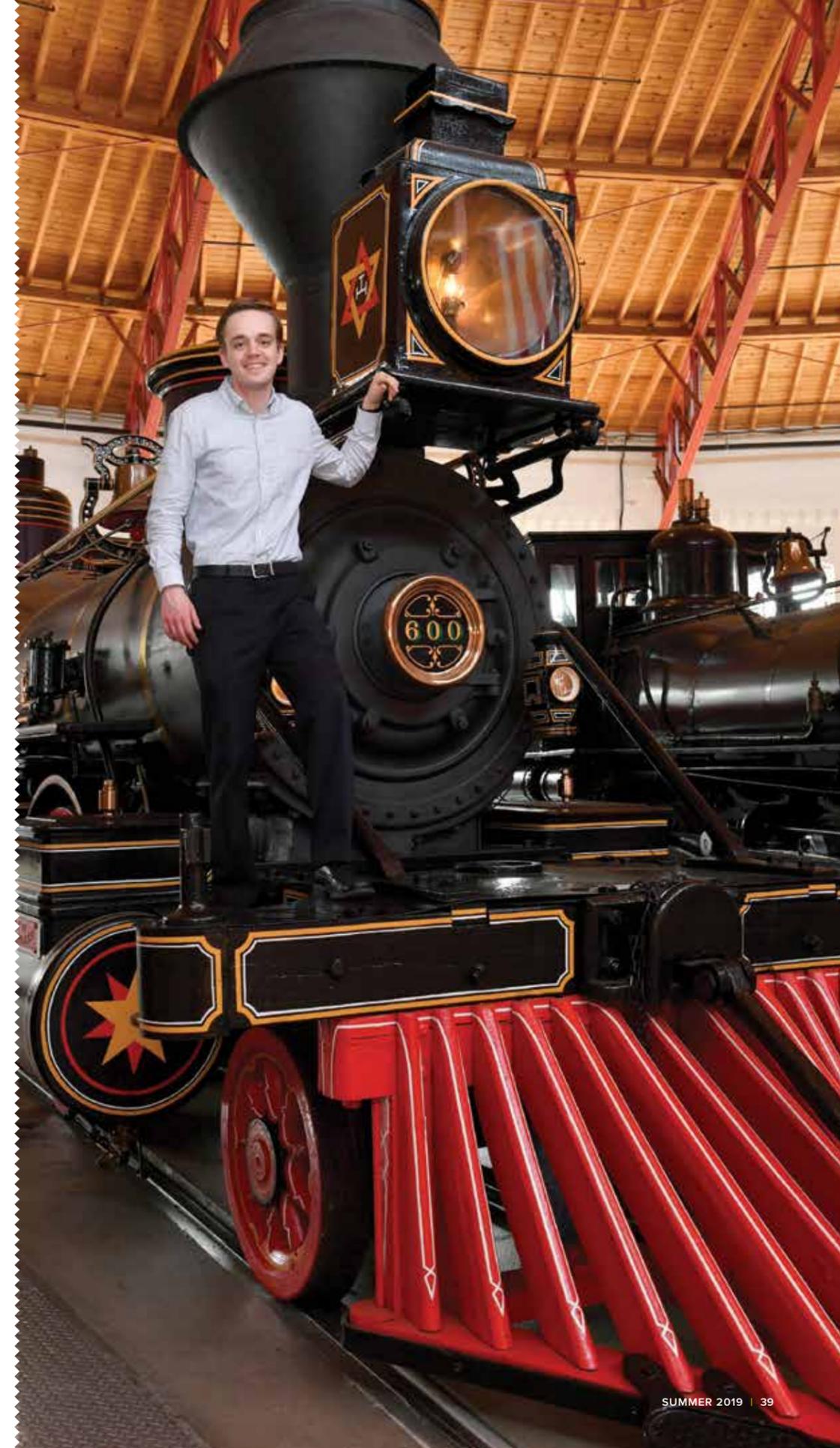
As the museum's curator, Van Waes manages the B&O's entire collection, but he specializes in working with many of its 8,000 smaller objects. He designs exhibits, acquires new artifacts, and films documentary, radio and television segments on the history of the railroad. In addition, people often contact 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. That's Harrison Van Waes.



**ISABELLA LOPES HAWKEN '97** was promoted to performance marketing director at Google. She earned her second master's degree at Columbia University in organizational psychology.

**ANTHONY BESS '98, '01** is the "proud principal" of Fallston Middle School, a Professional Development School partner with TU and a 2018 Maryland and National Blue-Ribbon School.

**MEGAN MOORE RILEY '99** has joined Mars, Inc., manufacturer of well-loved brands like M&M's, as a freelance proofreader of internal communications for 115,000 associates worldwide.

**REGINA WILDER '99** serves as deputy communications director for the New Jersey General Assembly Majority.

## 2000s

**LORI BLEWETT '00** earned a master's degree in liberal arts from Harvard University in May 2018. She is director of communications for the oldest church and building in downtown Austin.

**CHRIS DALEY '03** is a longtime public relations and marketing professional. He announced the launch of his new company, Whirlaway, which provides customized public relations and marketing services to companies and individuals.

**DAVID GORDON '04** has been named assistant to the general manager of the Maryland State Fair & Agricultural

Society, Inc. For the past 13 years, he has served as assistant superintendent for the Maryland State Fair's 4-H Beef Cattle Division and superintendent of the 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.

**DANIEL SHAW '06** joined Instore Products as a sales specialist in the Total Cart Management (TCM) and Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) divisions.

**VERNELL EDWARDS '08** published *Where Is It?*, a children's book written for a TU class project in 2007.

## 2010s

**CORY M. PFARR '10** is a Department of Defense analyst and U.S. history author with published works like *Longstreet at Gettysburg: A Critical Reassessment and John Quincy Adams's Republicanism: "A Thousand Obstacles Apparently Stand Before Us."*

**DANIEL RENZ '10** has been promoted from insider threat analyst with Headquarters Department of the Army (HQDA) to aviation insider threat analyst and investigator with the Federal Aviation Administration's Office of Investigations.

**CHRIS F. ARAJ '11** was named the American Academy of Audiology's 2018 Jerger Future Leader of Audiology. Araj is also the owner and founder of Pearl Hearing Aids & Audiology, an independent audiology practice in Houston.

**ALLISON (SHAFER) GROSS '11** is a full-time potter, supplying local coffee shops, breweries, restaurants, and retail stores with handmade pottery. Her husband, Daniel Gross '11, is a breaking news and public safety reporter for *The Greenville News* and *USA Today* network in Greenville, South Carolina. They were expecting their second child in May 2019.

**CHRISTINA KRAMER '11** is employed at the Social Security Administration as a program analyst, where she works on Social Security policy.

**MILA THOMAS FULLER, '13** serves as the president of the board of directors of the International Society for Technology on Education.

**JOSEPH ZACCAGNINI '13** teaches biology and forensic science at Catonsville High School. He is also the head coach of the JV soccer team that won the Baltimore County JV championships in 2017 and 2018.



**KARA SHORT '15** helps her father, who's also a teacher, run an American Council for International Studies (ACIS) educational tour group through different cities in Europe in the summer. The group visits Prague, Berlin, Amsterdam and Paris.

**JUSTIN FISHER '15, '18** recently started as a human resource engagement specialist at Global Dynamics.



**JERMON BUSHROD '07**

## A Profile of Courage

When Jermon 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 Jordyn Lynn passed away only a week after her birth. In the month that followed, Bushrod leaned heavily on his faith, his family and his teammates for support. It wasn't long before his team needed him. When the Saints' standout left tackle, Terron Armstead, was sidelined with an injury, Bushrod stepped in to fill the starting role, helping the Saints win four of their next 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 23 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 wife and I, and our two kids, and my mother, father, sister—my whole family. My Towson boys, my King George [High School] boys, my Towson family, my agents, everybody...I just wanted to say thank you to all of them because we felt their prayers, we felt the support, we felt the love."

**Photo: Danette Fisher**

# In Memoriam

## Alumni

**Lucia S. Provenza '37**  
January 19, 2019

**Iona C. Dorn '42**  
February 11, 2019

**Jaqueline M. Bailey '43**  
February 15, 2019

**Jean B. Singman '45**  
October 1, 2018

**Betty T. Herndon '47**  
October 2, 2018

**Helen A. Nitkoski '47**  
November 19, 2018

**Marian S. Sause '47**  
December 14, 2018

**Charlotte D. Burkart '47**  
December 15, 2018

**Ruth G. Sutherland '48**  
October 14, 2018

**Ervin J. Dietrich '49**  
October 24, 2018

**Mary L. Mantell '49**  
December 28, 2018

**Dorothy A. Seeley '49**  
February 19, 2019

**Audrey M. Baumgardner '50**  
December 12, 2018

**John James Darnaby '50**  
January 21, 2019

**John B. Hall '51**  
October 15, 2018

**Shirley H. Bareham '51**  
October 31, 2018

**Robert S. Goodman '51**  
November 13, 2018

**Shirley M. Sapp '51**  
January 8, 2019

**Susan F. Garten '51**  
February 24, 2019

**Margaret B. McCullin '53**  
January 15, 2019

**Margaret J. Turnbull '53**  
January 15, 2019

**Thomas R. Cripps '54**  
September 17, 2018

**Phyllis R. Crowley '54**  
October 15, 2018

**Jacqueline A. Chang '54**  
October 28, 2018

**Mary Lou Brown '55**  
September 30, 2018

**Claude H. Corl '55**  
November 10, 2018

**Carolyn G. Mitchell '56**  
October 24, 2018

**Charlotte A. Smith '57**  
August 7, 2018

**Marlene C. Klingeman '58**  
December 8, 2018

**Elayne D. Hendrickson '58**  
February 18, 2019

**Stephen M. Rohr '58**  
February 18, 2019

**Bertha E. Hoppert '59**  
November 18, 2018

**Catherine M. Malley '59**  
January 25, 2019

**Elspeith M. Tremain '59**  
February 24, 2019

**E. Dolores D'Amario '60**  
October 8, 2018

**Constance A. Pindell '60**  
December 6, 2018

**Paulette H. Finck '60**  
January 25, 2019

**Carroll L. Miles '62**  
February 22, 2019

**Alayne B. Tiemeyer '63**  
August 26, 2018

**Cathleen P. Bader '64**  
January 11, 2019

**Ursula B. Krafchick '65**  
October 3, 2018

**Timothy R. Buttner '66**  
October 2, 2018

**Lawrence W. Polk '66**  
November 22, 2018

**Harvey L. Zeiger '66, '93**  
March 10, 2019

**Francine A. Leach '67**  
September 15, 2018

**Judson B. Wood '68**  
November 18, 2018

**Frank W. Gibson '68**  
December 27, 2018

**Christine M. Sigel '68, '73**  
January 6, 2019

**Sue A. Shack '69**  
November 9, 2018

**Mary R. Coleman '69**  
December 21, 2018

**Edward J. Kerns '69**  
January 16, 2019

**Linda A. Swogell '69**  
February 8, 2019

**Patricia O. Lipscomb '69**  
February 16, 2019

**Sharon M. Greensfelder '70**  
November 16, 2018

**Bruce Wayne Wynkoop '70**  
January 13, 2019

**Lillian K. Butkiewicz '70**  
March 9, 2019

**Catherine A. McMahon '71**  
September 24, 2018

**Stephen F. Stankiewicz '71**  
February 29, 2018

**Patricia Bennett SND '71**  
February 22, 2019

**Margery C. Craven '72**  
October 25, 2018

**Shirley A. Wrightson '72**  
November 8, 2018

**Cynthia B. Harkum '72**  
November 20, 2018

**Dorothy E. Schlepuner '72**  
November 20, 2018

**James D. Goddard '72**  
November 29, 2018

**Elayne R. Mitchell '72**  
December 6, 2018

**Joseph N. St. Clair '72**  
February 19, 2019

**Nancy H. Wack '73**  
October 20, 2018

**Lester D. Brubaker '73**  
December 13, 2018

**Thomas V. Boyd '74**  
June 22, 2018

**John R. Getz '74**  
October 19, 2018

**Jean L. Abbey '74**  
October 24, 2018

**Bettie L. Murray '74**  
November 14, 2018

**David M. Bogusko '74**  
November 26, 2018

**Joseph D. Mezzadra '74**  
January 31, 2019

**Robert J. Heisler '74**  
February 24, 2019

**Clara H. Goff '75**  
October 3, 2018

**Suzanne W. Schmick '75**  
March 4, 2019

**Christina H. Greene '76**  
August 30, 2018

**Leonard J. Wasilewski '76**  
September 26, 2018

**Delia S. Woytowicz '76**  
October 13, 2018

**Barbara D. Jameson '76**  
November 11, 2018

**Eugene M. Caffey '77**  
October 23, 2018

**Mazel H. Linowitz '77**  
November 27, 2018

**Kathleen J. Greenwald '77**  
January 6, 2019

**Francis T. Ciesla '77**  
February 17, 2019

**Rovern E. Goins '77**  
February 24, 2019

**Evelyn M. Hertsgaard '78**  
October 1, 2018

**J. Thomas Husted '78**  
November 16, 2018

**Marshall E. Feldman '78**  
December 27, 2018

**Michael R. Hart '78**  
January 4, 2019

**Carl F. Gottschalk '78**  
February 3, 2019

**William A. Leland '78**  
February 14, 2019

**Patricia M. Farrell '78**  
February 28, 2019

**Timothy J. Crotty '79**  
February 12, 2019

**Suzanne S. Preis '79**  
February 13, 2019

**Joseph J. King '80**  
February 16, 2019

**Walter E. Geisler '80**  
February 27, 2019

**Donna M. Heckel '81**  
November 9, 2018

**Bonnie Hause Donoho '82**  
October 24, 2018

**Nancy V. Harrington '82**  
February 4, 2019

**Paul J. Machlin '83**  
July 25, 2018

**Margaret E. Fidler '83**  
February 28, 2019

**Michael W. vonRinteln '84**  
February 21, 2019

**Kenneth Day '86**  
September 13, 2018

**Patricia L. Skebeck '86**  
October 11, 2018

**Bryan P. Fitzgerald '86**  
November 20, 2018

**James W. Hamilton '86**  
December 16, 2018

**Stephen Wittelsberger '86**  
February 12, 2019

**Jewell Ann Robinson-Douglas '88**  
September 17, 2018

**Theodora J. Betkey '88**  
September 26, 2018

**Dianne Jean Stewart '89**  
March 5, 2019

**Jennifer Mary Russell '90**  
January 21, 2019

**Donald A. Wiley '91**  
February 16, 2019

**Jeffery Alan Trudell '91**  
February 18, 2019

**Howard I. Goodman '92**  
December 13, 2018

**Robert Sears Jones '93**  
September 7, 2018

**Lynda D. Thurston '93**  
December 10, 2018

**Janice Carol Gorecki '93**  
January 3, 2019

**Ida M. Ward '95**  
February 19, 2019

**Dorothy M. Kolakowski '96**  
November 10, 2018

**Steven Halper '97**  
January 31, 2019

**Terrence A. Richmond '98**  
August 29, 2018

**James M. Stephan '98**  
October 12, 2018

**Sean K. Bowie '98**  
November 30, 2018

**Jeffrey R. Borneman '01**  
February 12, 2019

**Brian Sidney McKenzie '02**  
September 13, 2018

**Jennifer A. Betkowski '02**  
October 2, 2018

**Carl J. Tamulevich '02**  
January 11, 2019

**Charles W. Pugh '03**  
February 13, 2019

**Steven Garfinkel '04**  
September 24, 2018

**Andrew R. McCurry '06**  
October 13, 2018

**Brendon Thomas Michaels '07**  
November 8, 2018

**Marianne Manning '08**  
October 6, 2018

**Jessica V. Juron '11**  
December 31, 2018

**James Michael Fiori '12**  
January 6, 2019

**Connor Michael McCafferty '17**  
September 31, 2018

**Brent M. Cordry '17**  
October 25, 2018

## Faculty & Staff

**Lena Lee**  
March 9, 2018

**John Leslie Buchanan**  
September 9, 2018

**Patricia Senn Breivik**  
September 15, 2018

**Jean S. Pollack**  
November 4, 2018

**Patricia L. Atkinson**  
November 5, 2018

**Bertram H. Essinger**  
December 25, 2018

**Caryl E. Peterson**  
January 19, 2019

**Clifford D. Alper**  
February 27, 2019

**George C. McGinty**  
March 14, 2019

# Rearview Mirror

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



## ASK THE ARCHIVIST

### 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](mailto:fknox@towson.edu).

## 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.

PAST



### 1935

Until the 1960s, graduation ceremonies were held on the lawn near Glen Esk. This 1935 photograph commemorates the first time students graduated with bachelor degrees from the newly named State Teachers College at Towson. They are facing the orchestra, and wearing caps and gowns, while the rest of the graduates are in white.



### 1969

As the school grew larger and enrollment numbers rose, graduation ceremonies were moved to the field near Burdick Hall, as is seen in this photo from 1969. If it rained, ceremonies were held in the gym.



PRESENT

### 1970

Just a year later, the 1970 commencement was moved indoors and downtown to the Baltimore Civic Center, now known as Royal Farms Arena. Ceremonies would move back to campus after the construction of the Towson Center in 1977. Now they are held at SECU Arena.

# In My Queue

## MIKE FLANAGAN, CLASS OF '02

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 infuriating 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 astonishing 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

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



## ♥ ROBBY'S STORY

### 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 the 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 to 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 'Doin' It' came on. We started dancing and the sparks hit. I noticed the way that she moved.

Our first official date was at Applebee's in Towson. I was always someone who was awkward going up to girls, and with her it was very comfortable.

When she went to New York—that part never worried me. I would call her pretty much every day. She wouldn't always pick up the first time, but I eventually got hold of her. I knew 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 is the one that can make me laugh the most. If 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

### 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, 'How 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 outings 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 left for Christmas he officially asked me to be his girlfriend.



I ended up dancing for the Knicks for five 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.

He would call me 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 pulling out a ring and proposing.

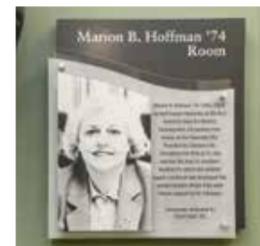
Now we live in North Hollywood, California. I'm a fitness instructor, and I'm still a professional dancer. I just wrapped a show called Sherman's Showcase that will be on IFC. He's a technical director for NBC News.

We have an adorable terrier named Ollie who we adopted two years ago. Robby is very sweet, very kind and goofy. He and Ollie together are quite the pair. They keep me laughing.

# Philanthropy



The Marion 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 1993 graduate and former Student Government Association president who wanted to honor the impact the late Marion Hoffman had on his life. Hoffman served as TU's first assistant dean for student development. Gobel's gift has created the Marion B. Hoffman '74 Ethical Leadership Endowment, which awards scholarships to students who demonstrate integrity in their decision-making as leaders and who have shown continual leadership and service to the university through student organizations, university committee participation, academic achievement and outstanding contributions to campus life. Gobel's support not only honors Hoffman's contributions to past student leaders, but it also encourages current and future student leaders to dedicate themselves to ethically serving the campus community. TU is grateful for Gobel's support in developing and encouraging sound student leadership skills that position alumni to become responsible citizens and leaders in their communities.



## 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 redirect some of your tax dollars to benefit your family, your community and Towson University through a planned gift, go to [www.towson.planmylegacy.org](http://www.towson.planmylegacy.org), or contact Kathleen Hider, director of planned giving and major gifts, at 410-704-6287 or [khider@towson.edu](mailto:khider@towson.edu).

## Grateful Scholarship Recipients



**ZACHARY AL-RADIEDEH '19**  
Recipient, Peggy Friedmann-Gordon Music Competition

"Thank you so much for making the Peggy Friedmann-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."



**BRITNEY TETTEH '21**  
Recipient, Accounting Advisory Board Scholarship

"The Accounting Advisory Board Scholarship has meant a lot to me from being recognized for what I have achieved so far to relieving 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."



**CLYDE TUBAL '21**  
Recipient, Jess Fisher, Class of 1934, College of Science and Mathematics Scholarship Endowment in Memory of Cecilia Fisher Rudman

"Without this scholarship, I do not think I would have built the intimate connections that I have with my peers and professors. My TU experiences have also instilled a boost of 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."



♥ GIVING

## 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 Honorarium was created with the goal of raising \$5,000. To support the Dean Chapman Honorarium, 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](http://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.

OUR TOWN

## The Maryland Zoo

As one of the zoo's education managers, **Sharon Bowen '04** focuses on school and teacher programs and oversees its summer camps. She also gives talks to some of the zoo's 500,000 annual visitors, often with ambassador penguins like Dawn, the one she's holding here. Located in Baltimore's Druid Hill Park, the zoo maintains the largest colony of African penguins in North America.



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.





8000 York Road  
Towson, MD 21252-0001

*Change Service Requested*

Pass along any duplicate copies to a friend and advise us of error by sending back your mailing label.

Parents: If this issue is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer maintains an address at your home, please send the correct address to Alumni Relations, Towson University, 8000 York Road, Towson, MD 21252.

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Towson University

**CELEBRATE**

# HOMECOMING

SATURDAY

**OCT. 19**

Return to campus for food, fun and football.

**Towson Tigers**  
**VS.**  
**Bucknell Bison**

**TU TOWSON UNIVERSITY**  
**HOMECOMING**

**2019**

**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](http://alumni.towson.edu/events).**

**For football tickets, call 1-855-TU-TIGER (1-855-888-4437) or visit [towsontigers.com](http://towsontigers.com)**