Towson University Academic Affairs Points of Pride

Albert S. Cook Library

- **Collaborative Work Zone** created on the 2\textsuperscript{nd} floor houses a suite of 9 small group study areas with a glass front, new furnishings, and whiteboard walls allows students to work collaboratively on projects and presentations.

- **Professional Leadership and Scholarship** demonstrated as 16 librarians gave more than 25 presentations and published 4 articles or book chapters on topics including: information literacy assessment strategies, rubrics, and norming; using government publications; universal design for learning; flipped classrooms; tablets in library instruction; academic library and retention of STEM students; and library space and “knowledge commons.”

- **Albert S. Cook Library Leadership Institute for Students (A-LIST)** established to offer students experiential learning opportunities in leadership, research, writing, teaching and outreach. A-LIST students serve as peer research coaches within the library and in residence halls; support the instant messaging reference service; and participate in the library’s outreach initiatives.

College of Business and Economics

- **Distinctive Programs** including the only ebusiness undergraduate degree in the University System of Maryland, the first M.S. in Supply Chain Management degree, and a newly redesigned curriculum in the UB/Towson MBA. The Business Administration and Accounting program are accredited by AACSB International.

- **New Marketing Behavior Lab** providing eye-tracking technologies to aid faculty and student research.

- **Panama program** offering a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Management is one of the largest international programs at TU with nearly 200 students from Panama participating.

- **M.S. in Marketing Intelligence** program will begin offering courses in Fall 2015. The program is an interdisciplinary effort between the College of Business and Economics and the Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics.
• **The Associate Competition**, which is TU’s rendition of ‘The Apprentice,’ provides students with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to show their business acumen and learn invaluable lessons from successful business leaders while competing for a job offer.

**College of Education**

• **NCATE/MSDE Accreditation site visit leads to continued accreditation until 2021.** The College of Education hosted a team of national and state accreditors for its joint NCATE/MSDE accreditation site visit. ALL national initial and advanced preparation program standards and Maryland Professional Development School standards were met without conditions. The Unit Accreditation Board for NCATE met to certify the review team’s findings and Towson’s Professional Education Unit continues its national and state accreditation until 2021.

• **Maryland Writing Project (MWP)** created a three-year plan for training 90 teacher consultants who will provide professional development for at least 600 teachers in cutting edge writing instruction and influence writing experiences for over 22,000 Maryland students. The MWP partnered with the National Park Service to develop writing assignments using the Hampton Historical Site as a research source. The MWP is leading a Summer Institute for Baltimore County teacher leaders focused on writing instruction strategies including digital literacies. A third partnership with Ivymount School, a “nonpublic” school that serves children with autism and severe learning challenges, supported the development of writing instruction to enhance students’ writing processes and experiences.

• **Teacher Academy of Maryland (TAM)** held its 10th annual Summer Institute in the College of Education. This two-week institute trains high school TAM teachers on the curriculum and allows them time to network with TAM teachers from across the state. One group of TAM teachers began work on the development of a new TAM website to help promote the program across the state. The TAM program is so innovative that a group of teachers from Delaware came to learn how to establish a program in their state.

**College of Fine Arts and Communication**

• **TU Debaters** Kevin Whitley and Troi Thomas won the national Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA) championship in 2015. This is the second TU win in two years. In 2014, Ameena Ruffin and Korey Johnson became the first black women to win the national CEDA championship.
New Master of Arts-Interdisciplinary Arts Infusion program is a one-of-a-kind graduate program designed for classroom teachers, arts specialists, teaching artists, administrators and arts entrepreneurs and blends professional development coursework with advanced, trans-disciplinary arts practice.

AileyCamp Baltimore welcomed 50 middle-school age campers to the Center for the Arts for two weeks in 2014 to explore their creativity, master their bodies, and strengthen their respect for themselves and others within a supportive framework. The camp repeats this year with 64 middle-school age campers.

The Towson University Mace was designed and constructed by Art + Design faculty members Josh DeMonte, Jenn Figg, John Lundak, and Kim Hopkins for the 150th anniversary of the university. It was unveiled at the Spring 2015 Commencement ceremonies.

College of Health Professions

- Deaf Studies program is one of only six in the Nation.

- Occupational Therapy program is the only accredited program of its kind in Maryland.

- B.S. in Athletic Training is one of three accredited programs in the state of Maryland.

- Community College Collaborations in programming include the Associate to Baccalaureate Nursing degree allowing seamless and accelerated professional education of nurses with the Hagerstown Community College and the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC), and the Physician’s Assistant program (one of three in Maryland) in collaboration with CCBC.

College of Liberal Arts

- Writing Center provides tutorial sessions for students and workshops for faculty and has established regular sessions in Cook Library and offers remote service for Towson University Northeast Campus students.

- Inside Out program was launched by two Criminal Justice faculty members based on a similar program at Temple University in which Towson students participated in a summer course jointly with inmates from a Baltimore County Correctional facility.

- Grub Street, Towson University’s student literary and arts magazine, was awarded the College Magazine Silver Crown Award in 2014 and the Gold Medal Collegiate Crown.
Award in 2015 from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. Students were involved in every aspect of the publication from decisions about format and design to the evaluation and selection of content.

- **Networked Anthropology: A Primer for Ethnographers** was recently published by Drs. Matthew Durington and Sam Collins as a result of their NSF grant working with students from community colleges on the uses of anthropology and film in ethnography and community development.

**Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics**

- **Recognized as a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Operations** from the National Security Agency as only one of 13 designations nationwide.

- **Recognized as a Center of Actuarial Excellence** from the Society of Actuaries for the TU Actuarial Science and Risk Management Program; one of only 15 programs recognized nationwide.

- **Wilson H. Elkins Professorship** awarded to Dr. Raj Kolagani from the Physics, Astronomy and Geosciences Department in recognition of her “longstanding impact on students at Towson and beyond.”

- **Annual output of STEM graduates** has increased by 39% over the past 7 years.

**Office of Graduate Studies**

- **Granted $50,000 in research awards** to over 100 graduate students to support their research, conference presentations, and artistic productions.

- **Distributed $3M in graduate assistantships** to over 400 students.

- **Collaborated with UMBC and UMCP to procure PROMISE AGEP grant** to support professional development and career pathways for underrepresented students in STEM graduate programs within the USM.

- **Launched Grad 360** in collaboration with University Marketing and University Admissions to provide college specific open houses to recruit students interested in graduate education