Towson University Academic Affairs Points of Pride
(Updated December 2015)

Albert S. Cook Library

- **Residency Librarian for Diversity and Innovation.** Cook Library recruited and hired its fourth Residency Librarian for Diversity and Innovation, a 2-year faculty librarian appointment designed to provide new academic librarians from under-represented groups with experience across research and instruction, technical services and content management, and special collections and university archives.

- **Institutional Repository.** Cook Library is one of the founding members of the Maryland Shared Open Access Repository (MD-SOAR), a collaborative institutional repository for FSU, MSU, SMCM, SU, TU, UB, UMB, UMBC, UMCP, Goucher, Loyola/Notre Dame, and MICA. MD-SOAR will host scholarly works by students, faculty and staff and be accessible to researchers worldwide.

- **Latino Americans: 500 Years of History.** One of 55 U.S. libraries and the only academic library in Maryland, Cook Library received a $10,000 grant from National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association to offer public programming about Latino history and culture. Events include a 6-part PBS documentary film series, book discussions, lectures, and a photography exhibit of unaccompanied minors immigrating to the U.S.

- **Towson Seminar Information Literacy Award.** Cook Library established and launched the TSEM Information Literacy Award to honor one student each semester for demonstrating outstanding information literacy skills in the Towson Seminar research paper.

- **150th Anniversary Commemorative Book.** Cook Library’s Library Associate in Special Collections and University Archives was second author and contributor to Towson University, the First 150 Years, a new publication commemorating the 150th anniversary celebration of the institution.

- **150th Anniversary Visiting Scholar.** Cook Library hosted Dr. Christine A. Ogren (Associate Professor of Educational Policy and Leadership Studies at University of Iowa) to present highlights of her research on the history of teacher education and normal schools in the U.S.

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 AACSBI 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**

• **New “Answering the Call” Scholarship.** In celebration of Towson University’s 150th Anniversary and in response to a great need in the field, the College of Education announces a new scholarship initiative to encourage and equip future teachers to answer the most challenging calls in public education including the need for more teachers better prepared for the unique needs of vulnerable populations, the need for a broader representation in the profession to better reflect changes in our nation’s demographic profile, and the need for more clinical field experiences in diverse settings that broaden the socio-cultural paradigms of our candidates.

• **Breaking the school to prison pipeline.** On November 9th, the College sponsored a panel discussion to focus on the educational climates in today’s schools and how educators can break this cycle. The panel featured the region’s top community and youth educators sharing critical insight on the dynamics of the epidemic, national and local trends and the important role the educational environment plays. The speakers also discussed the role that the educational climate played during this spring’s uprising in Baltimore and how educators can offer students a more positive environment.

• **Outstanding Middle Level Teacher Education Program Award** received by the Secondary and Middle School Education Department from the National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education on Friday, Oct. 16th at their annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

• **Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Outstanding Service to Kappa Delta Phi and Education awarded to Dr. Marilyn Nicholas** in October from Kappa Delta Phi. She is also one of the first members of the Towson Faculty to earn Quality Matters Certification and serve in a pilot study to ensure online courses meet Quality Matters Standards.

• **Maryland Writing Project** ([www.marylandwritingproject.org](http://www.marylandwritingproject.org)). During the 2014-2015 school year the MWP was awarded two grants this year from the National Writing Project. One grant awarded to Amanda Portner (Frederick County Teacher of the Year) provided funds for a professional development opportunity for fifty teachers. The MWP also received funding for a partnership with the National Park Service at Hampton Mansion to provide a week-long workshop for 15 middle and secondary history teachers from Baltimore City, Frederick County and Anne Arundal County. Additionally, MWP partnered with Baltimore County Schools to design a summer institute for Baltimore County teachers that focused on writing instruction pedagogy and strategies, including the incorporation of digital literacies.

• **The TU Reading Clinic** continues its outreach to families in the community offering one-on-one tutoring with individualized programs of study. While children work with graduate students, parents attend workshops led by students from the advanced clinic course.

• **Eye Movement Miscue Analysis Lab.** Researchers in Elementary Education are studying eye movement miscue analysis to examine how various participants read a variety of multimodal texts.
College of Fine Arts and Communication

- **AileyCamp Baltimore** in its second year welcomed 64 middle-school age campers to the Center for the Arts for two weeks in 2015 to explore their creativity, master their bodies, and strengthen their respect for themselves and others within a supportive framework.

- **Professor of Music Jonathan Leshnoff** ranked #7 in most performed living composer by US orchestras in 2015-16, according to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

- **Cylor Spaulding**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mass Communication and Communication Studies, was selected as the 2015 Educator of the Year by the Public Relations Society of America Maryland Chapter.

- **The 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 and advanced, trans-disciplinary arts practice.

- **Amy Schumer '03** earned an Emmy Award and wrote and starred in the summer blockbuster film *Trainwreck*.

- **Ruby Artist Project Grants** were awarded to Theatre Arts Associate Professor **Naoko Maeshiba**, Professor Emerita **Juanita Rockwell**, and MFA alumnus **Mara Neimanis** from the Greater Baltimore Culture Alliance.

- **TU Debaters** Kevin Whitley and Troi Thomas won the national Cross Examination Debate Association 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.

- **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.
The Maryland Geographic Alliance will be housed at Towson University. Virginia Thompson of Geography and Environmental Planning and Todd Kenreich, Director of M.Ed. programs in elementary and secondary education, will lead the alliance. The Alliance, supported by the National Geographic Education Foundation, works to improve teaching, resources, and awareness about the world through geographic education.

Cooperative Agreement with the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, for a project titled “Rapid Ethnographic Assessment and Networked Anthropology for Potomac Heritage Trail.” This is an extension into new territory for the anthropological work pioneered by Matthew Durington and Samuel Collins that has won them national attention.

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.

Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics

Recognized as a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cyber Defense Education and 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.

Towson UTEACH program is based on a nationally recognized program to develop outstanding high school science and math teachers.

B.S. in Forensic Chemistry and M.S. in Forensic Science are the only accredited forensic programs in the state of Maryland.

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