President’s Message

I am honored to serve as TURFA’s president for 2019-2020 and to follow in the strong foundation laid for the Association by past presidents Don Forester, Annette Chappell, Martha Siegel, and Fran Bond. As I consider the year ahead for our organization, I am struck by new member Douglas Ross’s slogan for us: “TURFA: it’s better to be in it than under it.” It’s definitely better to be in TURFA for a number of reasons.

Certainly, TURFA provides activities during which members can come back to campus and interact with their peers and former colleagues, but also we provide lobbying for our benefits both in Maryland and at Towson University. We also provide support for current faculty, staff, and students.

The Executive Committee has been participating actively on several search committees to ensure that the eventual new TU people are cognizant of their retired constituencies. We are working to clean up various databases and websites, so that TURFA information is easy to find and easy to use.

As we work with the Provost’s Office, we are increasingly grateful for the support of Provost Melanie Perrault, Associate Provost Maggie Reitz, Jerri Sumwalt, and Michele Frazier. They manage many of the arrangements for our functions.

Our first all-campus event is the Fall Lecture on October 10 at 2:00pm in the South Campus Pavilion: Jacqui Hedberg will discuss slavery on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, the topic of her recent book, Plantations, Slavery and Freedom on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Let Peg Benner (mbenner@towson.edu) know if you plan to attend. The event is free, and Ms. Hedberg will have copies of her book to autograph and sell.

Also coming up: TURFA has booked a visit to the Visionary Art Museum and guided tour for Friday, October 25th, at 1:00 pm. If the group is at least ten persons, the price is discounted to $10 per person and the tour is free. Each participant will pay at the desk when we arrive. We will meet either at the Museum at 12:55 pm OR from Towson we would car pool from the Osher Lot leaving at 12:10 pm. To be added to the list of participants please email Jim Paulsen at jpausen@towson.edu and indicate if you can be a driver. Jim Paulsen can accommodate six additional persons in his vehicle.

Finally, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute has once again partnered with TURFA to provide discounted membership and tuition. That discount alone more than pays for TURFA dues, so be sure to take advantage of some of the fun and interesting classes Osher offers.

I plan to send a monthly update about TURFA events, activities, and lobbying efforts. We are moving fast!

Sincerely,

Tracy Miller
Retired Faculty Brunch: Food, Facts & Fun

Florence Newman

The Annual Retired Faculty Brunch, sponsored by the Provost’s Office and co-hosted by TURFA, featured as entertainment a TU trivia contest, introduced the University’s new provost to faculty retirees, and reminded retirees that they were still a vital part of the university community and its mission. The brunch took place on June 27 at the South Campus Pavilion, where round tables were filled with 96 attendees, the happiest of which, it was pointed out, were those who had just retired.

An official welcome was extended by University President Kim Schatzel, who summarized some of the positive changes that made this a big year for TU, one of the most significant of which, she said, was the arrival of the new provost, Melanie Perreault, who stood out among a highly competitive field of over 150 applicants and had already become “a fantastic leader, asset, and partner” for the administration. The building of the new Science Complex, the extensive renovation of the University Union, and the prospective ground-breaking for a new Health Professions building also illustrated the forward momentum of TU. President Schatzel described the extension of the university into uptown Towson as part of the progress taking place. Towson University is turning the old Towson armory into a business engagement center, which will open at the end of the year. The University is looking to purchase the building across from the courthouse to accommodate more non-academic personnel close to, but not on, campus. In all Schatzel noted, TU and various businesses are investing $1.7 billion in the greater Towson area. She concluded by emphasizing the importance of retired faculty support for the University’s “culture of philanthropy” and expressing “excitement and gratitude for all you’ve done and are doing.”

Following Schatzel’s remarks, guests tucked into a sumptuous meal of eggs Benedict, fingerling potatoes, and asparagus, with yogurt, grapefruit, and an assortment of biscuits and muffins on the side. Next, Jim Paulsen, co-chair of the Programs and Events Committee, conducted a contest pitting the tables of attendees against one another on their knowledge of TU trivia. Who was Smith Hall named for? How many female leaders has TU had and who were they? What railroad once ran through campus? What was the first name given to Towson’s mascot? Correctly answering such questions won Dean Cooney’s table and the runners-up several bags full of TU-branded merchandise.

Provost Perreault began her brief address by introducing two new assistant provosts, Shauna Payne Gold, overseeing diversity and inclusion, and Trish Westerman, Assistant Provost for the Faculty Academic Center for Excellence.
at Towson. She also named and thanked those responsible for arranging the brunch. “The heart and soul and brains of a university,” she said, “are its faculty.” Administrators, she joked, are “lifeless automatons.” While students don’t know who administrators are or what they do, faculty “are why students come, thrive, and stay.” Retired faculty, said Perrault, are “always going to be part of the university: once a Tiger, always a Tiger.” The Provost concluded by asking which retired faculty member had been at the university the longest (one suspects that she already knew the answer). Newly retired Vic Fisher, of Anthropology and Sociology, at 58 years, reluctantly acknowledged his achievement.

Ron Matlon then invited to the stage outgoing TURFA President Fran Bond, who claimed to have been anxious when she came to the job but found her tenure to be exciting and “some days, even fun.” She recognized and thanked members of the Executive Committee and other active TURFA members for their support, then turned to a few of TURFA’s accomplishments during the year. Tracking the status of the Maryland State Retirees’ prescription plan, she said, was invaluable: TURFA not only kept members informed but made an impact in addressing the drug dilemma. TURFA benefits over the years, Bond went on, included free parking, exciting trips, special groups and special events, such as Martha Kumar’s talk on White House reportage at the Fall TURFA meeting. The last accomplishment and ongoing endeavor Bond emphasized was the TURFA Oral History Project, which was close to her heart, she said, because it “epitomized what TURFA was all about”: “retired faculty telling their stories.” Inspired by the College of Education oral histories (more than 20 interviews still posted on YouTube), Don Forester has taken the lead to have every college on campus present their stories. In 2017-2018, he arranged video interviews of retired faculty members Henry Chen, Howard Erickson, and Doris Lidke. Over the next few years, the goal is to interview 2-3 faculty members from each college. At a price tag of $1,500 per video (!), the project is an expensive one. The Dean of the College of Business, Shohreh Kaynama, has funded an interview of Ray Castaldi, and the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Terry Cooney, is funding three interviews. “We want new generations of students, faculty, and administrators to know the impact that faculty have had over the years.” Bond ended her last speech as TURFA president urging members to become active and involved and, she added, “let us know how we can serve you.”

Annette Chappell then directed the business part of the TURFA meeting, in which two amendments to the by-laws (including an article about the election of a TURFA representative and alternate to the Academic Senate) were passed and new officers were elected: Ron Matlon as President Elect, Jane Wolfson as Secretary, Ray Castaldi as Treasurer, and Jim Paulsen as Member-at-Large.

Incoming President Tracy Miller concluded the meeting by introducing herself, saying that some might know her name from various positions and roles she has filled at TU, but noting that her background included forty years as adjunct faculty. She alluded to the song lyric “You don’t know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone” to make the point that TURFA is working on preserving what we’ve got as Towson University faculty, albeit retired. She ended the brunch by welcoming new TURFA members, some of whom are just beginning the new phase of their personal and professional lives known as retirement.
Oral History Update

Don Forester

Through the generosity of Dr. Shohreh Kaynama, Dean of CBE, the Oral History Project is back in operation after a 6-month hiatus. Following a meeting with the Oral History Committee during the late fall, Dean Kaynama offered to make her College videographer Jeremy Farkas available to produce an oral history featuring CBE Professor Emeritus Ray Castaldi. Ray joined the faculty in 1970, and he helped to develop the Business Administration Program (BUAD) at Towson State College. Business Administration eventually evolved into the College of Business and Economics (CBE) when Towson became a university and reorganized into six colleges in 1982. At that time, Castaldi became chair of the newly formed Accounting Department, a position he held for more than a decade.

TU once supported numerous American Elms, perhaps most notably, the two located on either side of the walkway to the Auburn House. Planted in the late 18th Century, those specimen trees succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease during the 1980s. The tree planted on Arbor Day was obtained from a disease-resistant parent discovered in the wild and purchased from a commercial nursery. As a testament to Dr. Hull’s efforts and the university’s commitment to silviculture, Towson University has been designated as a “Tree Campus USA” by Arborday.org.

Arbor Day Event

Don Forester

On Arbor Day, TURFA member Jim Hull, Director of the Glen Arboretum, participated in the planting of an American Elm tree (Ulmus americana) between Smith Hall and Cook Library. During the ceremony, TU was designated as “A Tree Campus USA” by the National Arbor Day Foundation. With student volunteers and generous funding from BG&E, Dr. Hull is working to make certain that every species of tree, native to Maryland, is represented on campus.
Even members of the Towson University community who do not know Dean Esslinger personally know him by reputation, as an Associate Vice President for Academic Programs, for International Education, for Faculty Development and Research, and for International Programs over the course of two decades in TU administration. Others may also be familiar with his scholarship on the region and its institutions, including the books *Towson University, Maryland: A History of Its People*, and *Friends for 200 Years: A History of Baltimore’s Oldest School*. Despite keeping a slightly lower profile after retiring in 2006, Dr. Esslinger has served as chair of the Maryland State Sister State Board of Directors and has worked with President Burnett of Coppins University on developing academic programs in Shanghai. It might be said that Dean Esslinger has made a name for himself as an emissary from Towson University to the larger world.

With characteristic modesty (and humor), Dr. Esslinger credits his success in academia to “being in the right place at the right time.” That at Notre Dame he was the first graduate student to write a History dissertation using computers to analyze geographic and demographic data—a dissertation subsequently nominated for the Allan Nevins Prize in American History and quickly turned into a book by Kennicat Press—came about because, he says, he was casting about for a dissertation topic in urban history when a faculty member asked him to investigate the patterns of immigrant settlement and employment in North Central Indiana. Was it because he was already proficient in using computers? No, he had to teach himself. He just happened to be “in the right place at the right time.” Similarly, his second book, a history of Friends School, was the result of a casual conversation with John Bowles, editor of the *Journal of Southern History*, who asked if he would be interested in writing such a history for a popular audience. Esslinger agreed, but only on the condition that it would be a serious academic study. To hear Dr. Esslinger tell it, such publication opportunities just fell into his hands, but one suspects that his considerable intellect, ability, and effort played at least as important a role as luck.

Dr. Esslinger, who joined the Towson State History Department as an Instructor in 1968 but was already an Associate Professor four years later, became part of a movement to revitalize teaching and research at the university, which was eventually formalized as Faculty Development. Thus in 1985, when a contingent of 9-10 administrators from around the country were selected to start a faculty exchange with China, he was in a good position to participate. And at just the time when money was needed to fund a Study Abroad program at TU, an otherwise unallocated $3,600 conveniently turned up in the budget. Enrollment of international students at Towson grew substantially, as did the number of Towson students studying abroad. Observing this rapid and impressive outreach of the somewhat insular institution, Jack Fruchtman of the Political Science Department remarked to Dr. Esslinger, “Dean, for the first time Towson is looking like a university.” While being in the right place at the right time can account for a portion of Esslinger’s ac-
complishments, being the right person (or the best person) for the job also helps.

Given Dr. Esslinger’s deep involvement with International Studies throughout his administrative career, one might expect that—as for many retirees—world travel would be part of his post-retirement plans. But Esslinger says that he and his wife, Sandy, did enough of that previously and that visits to children and grandchildren here in the U.S. are enough to satisfy their wanderlust. His activities have also been somewhat curtailed by his diagnosis with Parkinson’s Disease in 2014. The biggest change in his life since retiring, he says, is no longer driving a car. On the other hand, he has discovered a new community of Parkinson’s patients who support one another, work out together (exercise, says Esslinger, is “the best thing you can do for Parkinson’s”), even attend boxing classes together (they do not hit one another, he clarifies with a smile, only punching bags). Dr. Esslinger maintains his ties to the University primarily through TURFA these days: he enjoys keeping up with old friends and colleagues, and he appreciates getting special updates from the Association. While developing Parkinson’s has not been fortuitous (“being in the wrong place at the wrong time?” he wonders), his strong friendships and loving family make him continue to feel like a lucky man.

Programs and Events: Beautiful Sights Outside and In

Jane Wolfson

On April 2, a dozen people went on the TURFA excursion to the UMUC Art Gallery, which includes one of the largest collections of works by Maryland artists in the state. The trip was arranged by Ron Matlon, TURFA Secretary and current President-elect, and by Liz Zoltan. We began at 11:00 with a guided tour of the art gallery, followed by a lunch break at the Common Restaurant at UMUC. After lunch, those attending continued on their own, admiring ancient and modern Asian art and works by international artists, all part of this wonderful University of Maryland System asset.

Prescription Drug Coverage Update

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has updated information regarding Retiree Prescription Drug Coverage, including a list of Frequently Asked Questions that can be found on their website: https://dbm.maryland.gov/pages/default.aspx

Please refer all questions about the updated information regarding the State’s Prescription Drug Program or any other health benefit provision to the Department of Budget and Management’s (DBM) Health Benefits Division at 410-767-4775, or Toll Free @ 1-888-373-8888.
On two different days in early May, about 15 members of TURFA enjoyed walks at a local park, exploring the trails and checking out the local birds and flowers. These walks were led by TURFA members Dave Larkin and Peter Lev, who are excellent birders, and Jim Hull, an excellent botanist. We hope to repeat these nature walks in the spring.

The Programs and Events Committee also organized the TURFA reception and garden tour at Hidden Waters and co-sponsored the Annual Retiree Brunch, major events described elsewhere in this issue of The Advocate. If you have suggestions for other TURFA activities (e.g., tours, museums, concerts), especially if you would be willing to help organize them, please contact P&E co-chairs Donna Cox (dcox@towson.edu) and Jim Paulsen (jpaulsen@towson.edu).

Emeriti Listing Announcement

Are you a TU emeriti faculty member? If so, are you listed on your department's website? TURFA is working through the Provost's Office to have all TU emeriti faculty (unless they choose not to) to be listed on their departmental websites. If you are not on your department's website, please contact your current department chairperson and ask to be included. Below you will find how many emeriti faculty are currently listed on departmental websites:

College of Business & Economics:
- **Department of Accounting** - 5 listed
- **Department of Business Analytics & Technology Management** - 0 listed
- **Department of Economics** - 3 listed
- **Department of Finance** - 0 listed
- **Department of Management** - 2 listed
- **Department of Marketing** - 3 listed

College of Education:
- **Department of Early Childhood Education** - 0 listed
- **Department of Elementary Education** - 0 listed
- **Department of Secondary Education** - 0 listed
- **Department of Special Education** - 0 listed
- **Department of Educational Technology & Literacy** - 0 listed
- **Department of Instructional Leadership & Professional Development** - 0 listed

College of Fine Arts & Communication:
- **Department of Art + Design, Art History, Art Education** - 7 listed
- **Department of Communication Studies** - 2 listed
- **Department of Dance** - 3 listed
- **Department of Electronic Media & Film** - 1 listed
- **Department of Mass Communication** - 0 listed
- **Department of Music** - 8 listed
- **Department of Theatre Arts** - 4 listed

College of Health Professions:
- **Department of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology** - 0 listed
- **Department of Health Sciences** - 0 listed
- **Department of Kinesiology** - 4 listed
- **Department of Nursing** - 0 listed
- **Department of Occupational Therapy & Occupational Science** - 0 listed

---

**TURFA Executive Committee**
Tracy Miller, President * Ron Matlon, Present-Elect * Fran Bond, Past President
Jane Wolfson, Secretary * Ray Castaldi, Treasurer * Peg Benner, Representative at Large * Jim Paulsen, Representative at Large
Committee Chairs
Programs and Events, Donna Cox & Jim Paulsen * Scholarship, David Larkin * Oral History Project, Don Forester * Newsletter, Florence Newman
College of Liberal Arts:

- Department of English - 0 listed
- Department of Family Studies & Community Development - 0 listed
- Department of Foreign Languages - 2 listed
- Department of Geography & Environmental Planning
- Department of History - 5 listed
- Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies - 1 listed
- Department of Political Science - 2 listed
- Department of Psychology - 0 listed
- Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice - 0 listed
- Department of Women’s & Gender Studies - 0 listed

Jess & Mildred Fisher College of Science & Mathematics:

- Department of Biological Sciences - 7 listed
- Department of Chemistry - 6 listed
- Department of Computer & Information Sciences - 7 listed
- Department of Mathematics - 10 listed
- Department of Physics, Astronomy & Geosciences - 12 listed

Hidden Waters Found

*Florence Newman*

On Monday, June 3, TURFA members were hosted for a second time at Hidden Waters, the residence of the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland. After light refreshments, the group was addressed by Chancellor Bob Caret; his wife, Liz Zoltan; and Joanne Boughman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs. Dr. Caret explained that Hidden Waters was named for two underground streams on the property, one of which empties into a pond and the other of which empties into another stream near the Baltimore Beltway—both effluents are indeed hidden, or at least not visible from the residence. Caret pointed out that the state originally bought 120 acres, putting most of it into a land conservancy, assuring that it would remain undeveloped. 25 acres are, however, scheduled to be developed in the near future. The estate was landscaped by a world-renowned landscaper: the trees on the property were planted before the house was built, then allowed to mature, whereupon the house was situated in relation to the plantings. Dr. Caret then turned the subject to the successes, challenges, and changes for the USM, including base increases in funding ($20 million for 2019; $32 million for 2020) from the governor and legislature. He called attention to the new and renovated STEM buildings on the Towson campus. And he described changes toward greater transparency in the operation of the USM Board of Visitors, following the tragic death last year of a football player at College Park. The size of the Board is increasing by four new members, from seventeen to twenty-one. One member is appointed by the Senate, one by the Speaker of the House. The Secretary of Commerce is a member, and a second student member will be appointed. The State is also looking into the possibility of video-streaming the Board’s meetings. There will be a third regional university senate, UM University is being renamed the University of Maryland Global University to better reflect its mission, and the USM is planning to work with the new Amazon center in southern Maryland in order to advance the interests of its graduates.
Joanne Boughman then spoke to some faculty issues closer to home, assuring TURFA members that the voices of retirees had been heard in the legislature’s discussions of retiree prescription coverage, resulting in a better outcome than the original bill provided. Dr. Boughman also spoke to diversity, free speech, and faculty-student relations on campus. While TU’s student body is one of the most diverse in the USM, its faculty is lagging in diversity. The goal is to get some TU graduates with Ph.D.s to come back to teach here. Boughman acknowledged challenges regarding free speech both in the classroom and out, observing that the faculty who see students every day, as well as the Office of Student Affairs, can play a role in setting the tone on campus. In the same vein, faculty should be trained in promoting civil discourse in the classroom and in recognizing mental health issues and referring students to the best resources. “Towson is in great hands,” she concluded, with its new provost and (relatively) new president.

Liz Zoltan then introduced Donna Anderson, manager of landscaping for TU, who brings a team of four to Hidden Waters every year to plant annuals and help with the vegetable and flower gardens. Anderson took over to guide attendees on a tour of the grounds and gardens.

Ms. Anderson began by showing us the boxwoods planted in urns outside the doorway to complement the traditional, historical house, built in 1916. The TU landscaping team also planted the flowering annuals beside the entranceway, species chosen for their resistance to, or lack of attraction for, the “ferocious” deer that roam the gardens—a theme that repeated itself throughout the tour. Ms. Anderson also introduced us to some of the trees around the house: barberry, weeping hemlock, beech, American holly, and weeping cherry. In the brick-walled garden, the team had also planted purportedly “deer-resistant” plants: Shasta daisies, ostrich ferns, and salvia were the only ones that survived. This year, they were making an effort with dahlias, yellow daisies, a different kind of salvia, and peonies. The garden also contained a highly productive pumpkin patch. The pumpkins last fall were cooked or given away to children. The vegetable garden, for reasons that will now be obvious, was completely enclosed, sides and top, with wire mesh. Yellow and pink rose bushes were likewise guarded with wire. A group of Chesapeake holly shrubs were hung wi garlic clips to ward off (you guessed it) deer. A bed of deer-resistant coreopsis had been partially eaten down. The row of boxwoods, on the other hand, had defied the predations of wildlife: if they looked a little worse for wear, it was because they are over 85 years old. The tour ended with TURFA members socializing in the sunshine by the house’s brick patio. Somewhere, down the rolling lawn and beyond a field of new-grown corn, there was an orchard, a pond, a dock, and a boat marking the site originally called “Hidden Waters.”
In Memoriam

Jim Lawlor, Secondary Education, April 13, 2019. Known to colleagues as "Jim" and to family and friends as "Sheamus," he had a passion for knowledge and learning. He graduated from Towson State College and earned a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D. from the University Maryland. Following graduate studies, he joined the faculty at Towson University where he served as Professor and Department Chair of Secondary Education. He was the consummate professor, always following current topics and researching pertinent facts to enrich teaching experiences or just to pursue curiosity. In addition to campus teaching, he provided professional resource to educators in the Philippines and taught graduate studies in Shanghai, China. Following retirement, he relocated to Bethany Beach, Delaware, and Sanibel, Florida, with his loving partner, Barbara Ellis.

Adapted from The Baltimore Sun, Apr. 28, 2019