President’s Message

I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve as president of the Towson University Retired Faculty Association this year. The organization has grown steadily since its founding four years ago with 36 members. TURFA now has a membership of 92 retired faculty/staff. The three previous presidents, Don Forester, Annette Chappell and Martha Siegel, along with a committed executive committee, have acquired significant benefits for TURFA members. We are also fortunate to have had continued support and assistance from the Office of the Provost.

Since its inception, TURFA has focused on three major purposes: to advocate on behalf of the retired faculty and staff who are TURFA members, to provide programs of interest and support to its members, and to provide ways for TURFA to support current students and faculty of TU. One of my goals this year is to have TURFA members become actively involved in supporting the organization’s purposes. If you have ideas for events and programs, ways to advocate for retired faculty, or suggestions for supporting faculty and students, please share them with me or members of the executive committee.

We are excited about the upcoming TURFA events, especially the Annual Fall Event/Meeting. This will be held on October 10 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in the South Campus Pavilion. The guest speaker is Professor Emerita of Political Science, Martha Kumar. Ms. Kumar serves as Director of White House Transitional Projects and is a scholar of the presidency and the media. She has spent two decades documenting the relationship between journalist and the presidency. Ms. Kumar will talk on “Studying the White House: The View from the Basement.” There is no cost for the event; however, seating is limited and all attendees must register. Immediately following the event, there will be a meeting and reception with Ms. Kumar in the Auburn House. This meeting and reception is for TURFA members only.

On November 2 between 1-4 p.m., TURFA will be sponsoring, with OTS, a technology tune-up. Last year’s tune-up was so successful that members requested a repeat performance. At the tune-up, a representative from AARP will present information on fraud and identity theft.

On-going monthly events for TURFA members include the Writing Group and the Book Club. Additional information about these activities are included in this newsletter. If you have a special interest that you would like TURFA to explore, please let us know. The TURFA Center in the Enrollment Services building is available for meetings.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Center continues to work with TURFA members offering reduced (half price) registration and course fees to TURFA members, a value greater than TURFA membership dues.

We are delighted that you are a TURFA member. We value your support and suggestions and look forward to seeing you at many of the TURFA events and activities.

Sincerely,

Fran Bond
The Retiree Brunch: Building for the Future

Florence Newman

The annual TU Retiree Brunch was held on June 28 in the University Union’s Potomac Lounge. Outgoing Provost Tim Chandler addressed the group, praising retirees “for all [they] continue to do for the University, its faculty, and its students” and noting the “relational” dynamic that has always characterized the campus. After his remarks, TURFA president Martha Siegel presented Dr. Chandler with a plaque expressing the association’s “gratitude for his encouragement and support of the Towson University Retired Faculty Association in its formative years.” TU President Kim Schatzel then reported on some of the positive developments taking place at the University, including increased enrollments and new and renovated buildings, totaling over $700 million of investment in the institution over the next several years, “more than in the previous twenty years combined.” Moreover, businesses are planning $2 billion of investment within a quarter mile radius of campus, with two hotels and more student housing on the way. Noting that the University’s growth and success are “a testimony to the foundation established” by the cohort of retired faculty represented at the brunch, President Schatzel concluded, “It’s an exciting time to be a Tiger.”

Following an interlude for eating (a pleasantly well-balanced) breakfast and catching up with one another, the guests heard again from Dr. Siegel, who introduced the chairs of TURFA’s committees and programs and invited new and rejoining TURFA members to participate in the organization’s activities (such as the TURFA Writing Group, which provides feedback and support for faculty engaged in writing projects, whether academic or personal). Dr. Siegel went on to enumerate other opportunities open to TURFA members, such as the TURFA suite in the Enrollment Services building, two TURFA-designated parking places in the ER parking lot, a campus-wide parking voucher system, a discount on membership and courses at the Osher Institute, extensive library privileges, OTS technology workshops, representation on the Faculty Senate currently under consideration, and a possible discount on access to Burdick Hall’s renovated recreation facilities. Siegel announced several upcoming events of interest to retirees: the TURFA Fall Meeting on Oct. 10, where Prof. Emerita Martha Kumar of the Political Science department, Director of the White House Transition Project, will be the keynote speaker; the 2018 AROHE Conference, which Don Forester will attend on behalf of TURFA; and a Sept. 7 workshop with representatives of Medicare, who will explain the hows and whys of signing up for Medicare Part D to state retirees 65 and over who are now required to choose a prescription coverage plan.

Don Forester, director of the Oral History Project, gave a brief presentation on the three videotaped interviews of retired faculty completed so far and showed a compilation video featuring the in-
viewees (Howard Erikson, Henry Chen, and Doris Lidke), Dr. Forester, and librarian Ashley Todd Diaz. The video, which Dr. Forester will present at the AROHE conference, illustrates the value of preserving the memories, experiences, and perspectives of people who joined the TU faculty four decades or more ago, when the campus and academic culture were very different.

Fran Bond, incoming TURFA President, concluded the brunch by praising her predecessors in that position and all that they have accomplished and by inviting attendees to be not just passive parties to TURFA’s tours, gatherings, and special interest groups but an active part of the organization, initiating programs, offering ideas, and assuming leadership roles. Dr. Bond then oversaw TURFA’s annual election, which chose by acclamation Tracy Miller to be 2018-2019 President Elect and by vote Jane Wolfson to be 2018-2020 Member-at-Large.

The brunch program’s guest speaker was Grady Sheffield, Director of TU’s Campus Recreation since 2010. Mr. Sheffield recounted the history of the recently completed Burdick Hall expansion and described the changes made, illustrating them with PowerPoint slides and a video whose dramatic background music recalled that of a WWII newsreel. The 14,000-square-foot addition features a fitness center with 100 new cardio machines and weight training equipment, a Ninja Warrior-style agility course called “The Jungle,” two large multi-use courts, five studios for group fitness classes, a 20% grade sprint hill, and a set of fitness stairs. Campus Recreation has also created a new outdoor adventure center that rents out equipment for paddle-boarding, kayaking, rock climbing, and the likr. The renovated building opened in January 2018 and is arguably “the most comprehensive recreation facility in the state.” Use of Burdick Hall’s resources has been free to TU faculty and staff, but administration is now considering imposing a fee. Mr. Grady indicated that if a fee is instituted, the Recreation Office would be open to discussing a discount for TURFA members and, if use of the facility remains free to active faculty and staff, the Office would consider extending that benefit to TURFA.

Jim Paulsen retired from the TU Art Department in 2012 after 43 years, having taught thousands of students, served as the Program Coordinator for 3D and Sculpture, and planned and set up the sculpture facility for not one, but two new buildings (1973 and 2005). In addition to his teaching career, Prof. Paulsen maintained a parallel, at times intersecting, career as a nationally and internationally recognized sculptor, with public works in England, Scotland, Germany and China. He has produced various series of works including “Lifescapes,” “Sentinels,” and “American Landscape” (characterized by anvil and hotdog motifs), as well as “tangents”
(individual pieces not part of a series) such as a literal eye-on-the-ball and a statue of Richard Nixon dressed as Lady Liberty. Paulsen’s more whimsical side also found expression in the entries that he and his students created for the Visionary Art Museum’s Kinetic Sculpture Race, one of which won the contest’s prestigious “Me-diocre Award,” qualifying it for national competition.

The three most important periods of his artistic development, Prof. Paulsen says, were his MFA program at the University of Delaware and his two stints in the Fulbright Teacher Exchange, the first at the University of the West of England, in 1992-93, where he met his wife, the artist Leigh Maddox, and the second divided between England and Oldenburg University in 1997-98. The Fulbright exchanges were particularly influential because they immersed him in completely new environments. “Until you put your feet under the table, buy your groceries, and pay your bills” in a foreign country, according to Paulsen, “you don’t really understand a culture.” He strongly recommends that faculty occasionally “get out of town” to become better teachers and scholars.

In retirement, Prof. Paulsen has continued to teach and mentor students of all ages. For several summers he has led a week-long sculpture workshop for Common Ground on the Hill at McDaniel College, he is currently teaching a 10-week course for seniors at the Bykota Center in Towson, and next spring he is scheduled to participate in a symposium/workshop in Guilin, China. Throughout, of course, Paulsen has continued to produce works of his own: “If you’re an artist, you never give up making art.” Since leaving TU, he has held a show in Yorkshire, England, as well as three shows in the Baltimore-Washington area. He especially enjoys public placement of his pieces, some of which are 20-30 feet tall, and he has loaned sculptures for display in Charlottesville, Virginia; Columbia, Maryland; Kingsport, Tennessee; and Greenville, South Carolina.

Prof. Paulsen remains very active in Baltimore Sculptors, an organization that he helped create in 1983. Leigh Maddox is its current president. For recreation, Paulsen plays team basketball (despite double knee replacement a couple of years ago). Maintaining their home, garden, and the rest of their two-plus-acre property in Pikesville occupies much of Paulsen and Maddox’s “free” time. (Paulsen’s home studio is temporarily off limits to guests, being filled with materials and works in progress: “If you’re a sculptor, it’s hard to throw anything away, because everything, everything, is a sculpture waiting to be set free.”)

Although he is busy, Prof. Paulsen is reluctant to say, as many faculty retirees do, that he is busier than he was when he was teaching—“I don’t want to be that busy.” Still, he believes that the people who struggle in retirement are those who have too little to do. “If you don’t already have hobbies,” he advises, “find them. Otherwise, retirement is going to be torture for you.” The opposite is true for Jim Paulsen: “As much as I enjoyed my job—and I enjoyed my job very much—I enjoy retirement more.”
TURFA and the Osher Institute: Friends with Benefits

Martha Siegel

The Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning at Towson University has grown into a thriving community of about 800 individuals, age 50 and older, learning, traveling, and socializing together. Tracy Jacobs, director of the Institute since early 2018, has been working with TURFA to enhance the experiences of retired Faculty at Towson. One clear benefit of TURFA membership is a negotiated 50% reduction in Osher membership fees and course tuition charges currently available to TURFA members. TURFA members should be sure to alert Osher staff when enrolling.

Jacobs reports that the Osher pricing structure is under review currently. Since the Osher membership year is January to December, TURFA members should be sure to consult the Osher and TURFA websites about cooperative pricing when enrolling in the spring.

Several TURFA members are teaching or have taught Osher courses. And many TURFA members are Osher students as well. Each course meets once a week for 75 minutes for one or two four-week sessions. There is no homework, though most courses have a reference list to allow the opportunity for further exploration. The courses run the gamut—literature, art, mathematics and science, religion, history, politics, and more. Film courses are also popular. The summer session has a different format, but is very appealing and low-cost.

In addition to excellent course offerings with extremely knowledgeable and talented teachers, Osher offers book clubs, writing clubs, lunches, and travel experiences. It is a welcoming atmosphere, enhanced by lifelong learners who bring their life experiences (many are professionals) to the group. They are generally well-traveled, well-read, and articulate.

TURFA members are encouraged to explore the possibility of teaching a course of their own. If you are interested, make an appointment with Tracy Jacobs. It could be a course in your doctoral/research area or it could be a course in your most passionate hobby/non-curricular interest. The Osher website is www.towson.edu/Osher, and Tracy can be reached at tjacobs@towson.edu.
Programs and Events: Points of Interest

Florence Newman

**Point 1:** Peter Lev and David Larkin led a bird walk for TURFA members at the Cromwell Valley Nature Park on the morning of May 3rd. That morning was cool and sunny, ideal for a bird walk. The walk lasted for about three hours, during which a total of 35 species were observed. Early May is the height of the Spring Migration and the morning did not disappoint. Among the migrants seen were the Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Blue Grosbeak, Warbling Vireo and Palm Warbler. The group was also entertained by a pair of noisy Belted Kingfishers who had a nest hole in the bank of a stream. Two TURFA members came out for the walk, which began at the crack of dawn.

**Point 2:** On Saturday, April 21, Jim Paulsen took a group of TURFA members and other art lovers on a day trip to Grounds for Sculpture in Trenton, New Jersey. The thirty-five acre park contains over 230 sculptures surrounded by landscape and various architectural elements. The group toured outdoors among the trees (representing 200 species), ornamental grass (40 species), shrubs, and roses, as well as inside the Domestic Arts Building, the site of changing art exhibits, a café, and a restaurant. The beauty of the park, both natural and man-made, proved both stimulating and restorative. The park’s mission is to make contemporary sculpture more accessible to the public, a mission of which the tour group took full advantage.

**Point 3:** On April 24, ten TURFA members and their guests visited the Baltimore Museum of Industry, a multi-tiered building near Fort McHenry divided into rooms replicating the workplaces that made Baltimore one of the most productive cities in the U.S. throughout the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. The tour was organized by Jane Wolfson and led by Del Riemer, a museum guide whose habit of narrating past events in the present tense gave his lectures a you-are-there immediacy. The tour began in a brick-walled oyster cannery that is the museum’s core. There Mr. Riemer, surrounded by authentic tools and equipment, described the processes of oyster shucking, can making, and canning in the mid-to-late 1800’s, much of which was carried out by women and children. Except for oyster shucking, these activities were gradually automated, displacing the majority of workers and resulting in the closure of Baltimore factories as the industries consolidated elsewhere. This sequence of events was repeated with other factory work represented in the museum, intensifying the visitors’ sense that they were witnesses to a vanished era.
The next stop on the tour was a completely equipped forge, exactly as it would have been in the late nineteenth century. While discussing Baltimore’s canneries and the immigrants who labored there, Mr. Riemer had “digressed” to discuss the pattern of ethnic settlement in the city. Similarly, the fireman’s lathe among the sprawl of machines in the forge area prompted an account of the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904, when hoses brought from D.C., Philadelphia, and New York failed to fit Baltimore’s fire hydrants. Displays of advertisements and package labels in the next room led to the revelation that at its peak, Eskay was slaughtering more than 800 pigs an hour and that Domino Sugar once processed 14% of all U.S. sugar at Locust Point. At the room laid out as a garment factory, guests learned that Baltimore supplied uniforms for both sides in the Civil War and that the average man of the time stood 5’7”. During WWII, however, Baltimore’s manufacturers were asked by the government to concentrate on ships, steel, and aircraft, meaning that the city’s garment industry failed to modernize and consequently lost its competitiveness nationwide. Such facts, generously conferred by Mr. Riemer, turned the artifacts of Baltimore’s industrial port into windows through which the busy, productive lives of the city’s previous residents could be viewed. Those lives were not always easy—working conditions for seamstresses, Mr. Riemer pointed out, could be horrible: under pressure to produce garments quickly, women would sew their fingers together and, on occasion, workers would be locked inside to prevent them from taking off holidays.

The tour concluded in a room devoted to the printing business, the hands-on character of which remained unchanged throughout the twentieth century, as illustrated in the recent movie The Post, in which typesetters for the newspaper frantically set the lead type into rotary beds in order to publish the Pentagon Papers on short notice. An Acorn press and a linotype machine dominated the room’s space, but everywhere else wooden tables covered with metal typeface and other tools of the trade reinforced an awareness of how much stuff was required to disseminate information prior to the advent of computers. The dark wood and metal objects throughout the room gave it a warmth and solidity rarely found in modern workspaces. Most of the Museum of Industry’s interior, in fact, with its shop-like rooms in shades of tan, brown, and black, has an atmosphere of intimate enclosure. Until, that is, the labyrinthine corridors open out into the spacious, high-ceilinged hangar where the museum hosts weddings, reunions, cocktail parties, and other large gatherings. A series of wall panels in that area highlight the history of current Baltimore businesses such as Black and Decker, and, on the floor, a transport trolley and an avocado-colored Packard Clipper usher tourists back into the twenty-first century.

Point 4: On June 6, TURFA members were hosted by USM Chancellor Bob Caret and his wife, Liz Zoltan, at Hidden Waters, the chancellor’s official residence, set on 120 acres just off of Old Court Road in Pikesville. Caret and Zoltan personally welcomed their guests in the formal center hall of the three-story Georgian mansion, at the foot of an elegantly curved staircase that leads to the family’s private quarters. In the dining room to one side of the hall, a table was laden with catered appetizers, and on the other side of the hall was a drawing room where...
guests were treated to an open bar. The tea-time event allowed TU retired faculty to enjoy the Chancellor’s hospitality and to become reacquainted with him. Another purpose of the gathering was to offer participants a tour of some of the artworks on loan to Hidden Waters from the collections of University of Maryland University College. Most of the works on display were created by artists who were born in, studied in, and/or lived in Maryland. A large colorful painting by Grace Hartigan hangs in the center hall, as does a smaller screen print by Andy Warhol. The artist Trace Miller and the sculptor Clifton Santiago, both present for the tour, also have pieces in the foyer. Our guide to the artwork was Eric Key, director of the UMUC collection, who provided knowledgeable commentary on the works, the artists, and their influences. Among the many striking paintings, photographs, and prints are The Deer’s Cry, featuring a myth-like trinity of child, deer, and horse, pale forms set amid strokes and swirls of yellow and blue; Fat Sam, a hand engraving by Ron Adams of a barefoot black guitarist hunched over his instrument, absorbed in the music; and Franz Janetz’s evocative C&O Canal, Mile 12: Storm Clouds and Wind on the Potomac River over Sherwin Island, a brown-toned print of a ruffled stretch of water, its surface and the trees along the shoreline illuminated diagonally by clearing skies. Surrounded by such extraordinary works of art and sumptuous décor, lingering unhurriedly over pastries and fruit, serenaded by the tinkle of wine glasses and the murmur of polite conversation, it wasn’t hard to imagine that we were ourselves figures in a painting of high society, perhaps one by Manet or Renoir. Exiting the grand hall to survey the landscape, a sweep of green lawns and ancient pine trees, did nothing to dispel the illusion.

Preserving our Past

Megan Bradshaw (reprinted from T3, August 15, 2018 with author’s permission)

TU Retired Faculty Association (TURFA) Oral History Project safeguards institutional knowledge for future generations. Every year, Towson University holds a service awards breakfast to honor faculty and staff for their years of dedication to the university. The number of individuals honored decreases as the decades of experience recognized mounts, but each year there are faculty and staff honored for 30, 40, 45 and even 50 years of service. “Students graduate in cycles, but often the same faculty remains through generations of students,” said Don Forester, former TURFA president and professor emeritus in the Department of Biological Services, part of the Jess & Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics.

Even after many decades of service, TU faculty and staff are eager to remain active members of the community after retirement. Many do so as members of the TU Retired Faculty Association (TURFA), an initiative supported by the Office of the Provost, to foster an ongoing relationship between retired faculty/librarians, the university and the community.

To capture the institutional memory developed by those long-serving faculty, Forester and fellow TURFA members decided to start the Oral History Project. The project committee consists of Forester; Fran Bond, the current TURFA president; Ellie Hofstetter, a former librarian; and Peggy Benner, a former Reading Clinic staff member.

They worked to film the interviews of Howard Erickson, a biological sciences professor who began teaching in 1959; Henry Chen, a physics pro-
professor who started in 1964; and Doris Lidtke, a mathematics and computer science professor hired in 1968.

After the videos are produced, they will be stored in the University Archives and Special Collections, overseen by Ashley Todd Diaz. According to Diaz, only a small percentage of archives the university stores is audio/visual. TURFA’s oral history project is just the second undertaken after a teacher education project spearheaded by College of Education professors.

Storing A/V archives is surprisingly challenging. One would think storing boxes of paper would present more of an obstacle, but Diaz explained that the file size of audio and video and the number of formats required for viewing makes preserving A/V archives more difficult. “But the plus is an interaction level much higher than that of print materials,” she said. “It is more engaging to use materials that have an A/V component. We’ve become such a digital culture, and students from now on will be much more familiar with digital materials.”

The College of Liberal Arts is next on the committee’s radar. The members will identify likely candidates, develop questions and raise funds to pay for the video production.

**TURFA Bits**

Fran Bond, Ph.D, will be inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame on October 25. The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame recognizes, acknowledges, and honors the volunteer civic and humanitarian accomplishments and achievements of individual Maryland Seniors. This year the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of fame will honor 40 individuals throughout the State who have made outstanding volunteer contributions affecting the lives of people in the State of Maryland.

**TURFA offers two on-going programs:** the TURFA Writing Group and the TURFA Nonfiction Reading Group. The Writing Group provides a venue for members to share their writing, either academic or personal, and to receive and give thoughtful feedback in a supportive environment. Contact the group organizer, Carolyn Hill (chill@towson.edu), for more information about the group and its next meeting date. The Nonfiction Reading Group meets monthly to discuss significant and culturally relevant works of nonfiction. The club will next meet on Monday, October 15, at 1:00 in the TURFA suite. *Red Notice* by Bill Browder is the book being discussed. This is a nonfiction book “that reads like a thriller and tells why Russia expelled Browder.” Contact MSiegel@towson.edu for additional information.

### In Memoriam

**John R. Alexander, Jr.,** Computer and Information Sciences, April 15, 2018. Prof. Alexander held a B.S. degree from Columbia University, an M. S. from Johns Hopkins, and a PhD. from UMBC. After retirement from the Air Force, he taught at Towson for over 26 years. Siddharth Kaza, Chair of the Computer and Information Sciences Department, said of Prof. Alexander, “He was known to be a kind teacher and a collegial colleague, and a friend to many.” As an Air Force officer, he was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

**John L. Buchanan,** Biological Sciences, September 9, 2018. Prof. Buchanan earned his undergraduate degree from Shippensburg State College and later his Masters of Education from University of North Carolina in 1963. He retired from Towson University in 1999 after a 29-year teaching career. Prof. Erik Scully, who was a colleague of Prof. Buchanan from 1978 until his retirement, says of him, “John was a dedicated teacher and a great colleague. He was a mild-mannered individual, and could be relied upon whenever service to the department and University required his time and effort. I have no idea of...”
the number, but a large cohort of science teachers were mentored by John over the years.”

**Michael L. Mark**, Department of Music, May 10, 2018. Dr. Mark became dean of Towson University’s Graduate School in 1981, after teaching in Prince George’s County public schools from 1958 to 1966, serving as director of music for the Elmira, N.Y., school district, and being an associate professor of music at Catholic University from 1973-1981. He held master’s degrees from the University of Michigan and George Washington University and received his doctorate from Catholic University. As dean of TU’s Graduate School, he oversaw 25 master’s degree programs in arts, humanities, education, and life and social sciences. Dr. Mark also served as Professor of Music from 1981 until his retirement in 1998. James Anthony, Associate Professor of Music Emeritus, said that Dr. Mark was “a scholar of music education and also a leader in that field. He was a gentle and pleasant person.”