President’s Message

I welcome the opportunity to serve as president of the Towson University Retired Faculty Association (TURFA) as it begins its third year. Don Forester and Annette Chappell, the first two presidents, have set a high standard of achievement for our organization. They, along with active and dedicated members of the Executive Committee and other committees, and with the support of the Provost’s Office, have already advanced many elements of our three major purposes:

- To advocate on behalf of the retired faculty and staff who are its members
- To provide programs of interest and support to its members, and
- To provide ways for TURFA to support the students and current faculty of TU.

TURFA has achieved a great deal so far. We have more than 60 members. This spring we opened the new TURFA Center in the Enrollment Services building. We have worked continuously on improving on-campus parking for members and recently obtained two TURFA-reserved spaces near the TURFA Center.

We are working to enhance benefits and to aid the pre-retirement planning of current faculty through a mentorship program. Every college has a TURFA representative who can serve as a knowledgeable and supportive mentor to prospective members. In addition, I will be going to the Council of University System Faculty (CUSF) to ask for its support in aligning our association with other such organizations in the USM system.

TURFA is committed to supporting the research and scholarship efforts of retirees. In addition, we are represented on the President’s Task Force on a Faculty Development Center. This Task Force will issue a report that includes suggestions for the mentorship role of retired faculty.

This fall, our Oral History Project, headed by Don Forester, will be starting to videotape interviews with retired faculty and to archive them with Cook Library. TURFA is also inaugurating a survey to collect data on the active lives of TU’s retired faculty. We have initiated a stronger bond with the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning at Towson: as a member of TURFA, you are entitled to all the rights and privileges of current TU faculty in joining and registering for Osher courses.

Belonging to TURFA opens up new opportunities for social and intellectual engagement with other faculty retirees. TURFA’s fall get-together is scheduled for October 26th from 2-4 p.m. in the Minnegan Room of the Unitas Center. Rodney Urand from OTS will host a team trivia contest. Consider joining our Writing Group or our Reading Groups. Attend one of our events. We have coordinated recent tours of Greenmount Cemetery, Evergreen, the Poe House, and Hampton Mansion. You are always welcome. Consider forming your own special interest group. What are you interested in? A brown-bag lunchtime lecture series? Popular science reading material? International relations? Group rates at cultural events? Let us know your interests at retiredfacultyassociation@towson.edu.

We are open to ideas and welcome your help. You can get a message to me by email msiegel@towson.edu or by calling 410-704-2980. Just leave a message if I am not answering. I am retired, after all!

Martha Siegel
Professor Emerita of Mathematics
President TURFA 2017-18

TURFA Executive Committee
Martha Siegel, President ♦ Fran Bond, President Elect ♦ Ron Matlon, Secretary ♦ Ray Castaldi, Treasurer ♦
David Larkin, Representative at Large ♦ Peg Benner, Representative at Large

Committee Chairs
Program and Events Committee, Jerry Bentley ♦ Scholarship Committee, Joe Topping ♦ Newsletter Editor, Florence Newman
Committee Reports

TURFA on Tour: Programs and Events

Florence Newman

Many of TURFA’s events this spring and summer consisted of walking tours of historical and cultural sites in and around Baltimore.

In April, David F. Gaylin, author of *Edgar Allan Poe’s Baltimore* led a tour of the Poe House for a group of about fifteen TURFA members, guiding us through the narrow stairways and cramped rooms of the two-story building where Poe lived with his aunt’s family from 1833-1835. Mr. Gaylin fleshed out those years of the writer’s life in fascinating detail, combining known facts with well-informed theories about how Poe had lived (and died) in Baltimore. After the house tour, Mr. Gaylin met some of us at Westminster Hall, Poe’s final resting place—or places, since (as Mr. Gaylin explained) Poe’s coffin was exhumed and reburied on the property twice. Ken Haddock organized this event, arranging for the Poe House to be opened especially for TURFA and for Mr. Gaylin to give the tour.

On an unseasonably hot day in May, Baltimore tour guide Wayne Schaumberg offered TURFA a tour of Greenmount Cemetery that he called “Big Names under Big Trees,” because he limited most of his stops to grave sites where there was plenty of shade. Among the “big names” whose histories he recounted as we strolled from one memorial stone to another were Enoch Pratt, Johns Hopkins, Henry Walters (of the Walters Gallery), and Betsy Patterson Bonaparte (who married Napoleon’s younger brother and spent her later years lobbying for legal and social recognition from France for herself and her son). Barbara Bass organized this tour for the group, which left the cemetery with an overview of Baltimore’s history, seen via some of its most influential, colorful, and deceased citizens.

In mid-July, eighteen TURFA members and their guests toured Hampton Mansion, the Georgian summer home of six successive generations of the Ridgely family. The guided tour, arranged by Larry Boucher, took in several of the mansion’s opulent rooms, with their original period furnishings, and introduced the stories of many Ridgely family members, which intersect in interesting and important ways with Maryland’s history from the Revolutionary War, through the Civil War, and into the twentieth century. A number of those who took part in the tour said that they planned to return and (on a cooler day) explore the estate’s outbuildings and slave quarters.

On August 17, a small but enthusiastic group of TURFAistas met at Ladew Topiary Garden in Monkton, Maryland, for a garden and manor house tour organized by Jerry Bentley and overseen by Cinda Raley, who also reported on the event. The 22 acres of gardens were designed by
Harvey Ladew (1887-1976), a self-taught designer, gardener, artist, and horseman, who also furnished the manor house with photos, paintings, rugs, and knick-knacks that showed his love of fox-hunting. The highlights of the tour were the manor house and the Butterfly House, filled with various species of butterflies native to Maryland and about twenty varieties of host plants that butterflies love to eat. After the tour, some of the group themselves ate at Ladew Café, the converted stables for Mr. Ladew’s many treasured horses: the café is probably the only place in Maryland where you can dine in a horse stall.

Next month, a group of TURFA members plans to visit the Museum of African-American History and Culture in D.C. If we keep traveling together like this, we may need to order TURFA tee-shirts, so that members will be easily recognized.

Towson University Survey of Retired Faculty and Librarians

Ronald J. Matlon, Ph.D., Chairperson, Retiree Survey Task Force

The Towson University Retired Faculty Association (TURFA) is conducting a survey in order to compile an inventory of activities and contributions of retired Towson University faculty and librarians.

We are aware that many faculty/librarians remain active after retirement, often through travel, hobbies, involvement in community volunteer work, and/or involvement in their academic field, such as teaching, doing research, and/or mentoring. We would like to create an inventory of these activities and contributions.

So, we are asking all TU retired faculty/librarians (approximately 380 of them) to take a few minutes to participate in this survey. The aggregate information from the survey will be shared both with Towson University and with a wider academic audience and the community at large.

We are confident that this survey’s findings will not only be impressive but will also positively impact our efforts to increase the benefits that Towson University offers to faculty and librarian retirees. When the survey results have been compiled, they will be available on TURFA’s website: [www.towson.edu/turfa](http://www.towson.edu/turfa). The survey has been sent, with a return date of October 6. So, please watch for it, fill it out, and return it promptly: your participation matters. Thanks in advance for your help!

**Oral History Project**

*Donald Forester*

Did you know that a Towson faculty member participated in a zoological expedition to West Africa in 1967 to procure Pygmy Hippos for the, then, Baltimore Zoo; or that the TU Museum of Zoology once housed a collection of preserved Liberian birds that was the envy of the Smithsonian Institution? Did you know that during the late 1960s there was a faculty-sponsored chapter of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) on campus that protested the Vietnam War and racism in America? These and other stories are part of the History of our Institution that make up the institutional fabric that has helped to make Towson University what it is today.

Since 1866, thousands of faculty, librarians and administrators have served Towson University, but sadly first-hand accounts of their time at Towson have largely been lost to history. The goal of the Oral History Project is to produce a series of 20- to 30-minute videotaped interviews focusing on a diverse cross section of our membership. We hope to tap their collective institutional memories for inclusion in the University Archives. If all goes according to plan, we intend to produce a pilot video during the Fall Semester of 2017.

The committee is composed of Don Forester, Fran Bond and Ellie Hofstetter. We have developed a series of interview questions and are presently pursuing collaboration with the Department of Communication and Communication Sciences in order to secure the services of student videographers to assist with the project.
Retired Faculty Brunch: TU Plans Ahead

Over 90 people attended Retiree Brunch on June 20, among them seven new retirees whom Provost Tim Chandler referred to as “the Class of 2017.” Provost Chandler and Kris Phillips, Director of Facilities Planning, were the featured speakers at the lunch.

Dr. Chandler addressed current developments in academic affairs at the University, focusing on four task forces created by President Schatzel, one to design a Faculty Development Center; one, called the Tiger Way, to study enrollment patterns; one to develop a “world-class” Career Center on campus; and the fourth a committee to review the Common Core requirements.

The task force report on the Faculty Development Center emphasized that the center needs to be led by faculty and to have a physical space. The Center would concentrate on learning and teaching, development across the faculty member’s life span, and technology. The Tiger Way looked in particular at increasing graduate enrollment, which has dropped in part because of concern about mounting student debt (on average, our students leave TU with $28,000-$30,000 of debt). The task force determined that the university needs to do more to invest in graduate education, ideally reaching a ratio of 20% graduate students to 80% undergraduate students (currently, graduate students comprise 14% of enrollment).

The cutting-edge Career Center that the third task force envisioned will be centrally located in the renovated University Union, reflecting the importance that TU places on launching its students into fulfilling careers. The fourth task force, the Core Curriculum Committee, considered, among other things, improvements to student advising, such as a better ratio of advisers to advisees and up-to-date technology allowing us to follow, keep on track, and communicate with students.

Dr. Chandler observed that we are already “doing really well” in this respect. He ended his portion of the program by explaining the rationale for converting the Marriott Hotel into a student residence hall, that is, to meet student demand for on-campus housing and to earn money rather than to lose money on the property. He assured the audience that the University would find a replacement for Nathan’s Pub, where people could go at the end of a long week (or day) to socialize.

Kris Phillips addressed the development of Towson’s physical facilities over the next five to six years. The job of Facilities Planning, said Mr. Phillips, is easy: “To build buildings you like and to stay away from those you don’t.” Using slides to illustrate, he pointed out that the campus had changed dramatically between 1998 and 2017 and that it is continuing to change, at least in part in response to the growth in enrollment, which is predicted to reach 25,000 students by Fall 2029.

There are currently four buildings under design or construction: the Burdick Hall Expansion (scheduled for completion on Nov. 1 of this year); the Residence Tower Renovation (also to be completed in 2017); the University Union Renovation and Expansion (Aug. 2018-Apr. 2021); and the new Science Building, to be located between 7800 York Road and Stephens Hall (Nov. 2017-2020).

The long-term plan also includes a $50 million make-over of Glen Towers (July 2020-July 2023), a new College of Health Professions Building to be located where Glen Esk is today (July 2021-July 2023), and the replacement of...
dormitories at the corner of Burke and York with a new building for the College of Business and Economic Development (2024-2028). Smith Hall, the “old” Science Building, will be repurposed to house Visual Communication and Technology between Feb. 2025 and Apr. 2027.

One overriding goal in all of these constructions and renovations, according to Mr. Phillips, is to create a unifying “visual identity” for TU’s buildings, so that they more closely resemble a “family of buildings,” using a similar vocabulary of materials and designs.

Following Provost Chandler’s and Mr. Phillips’ presentations, incoming TURFA President, Martha Siegel oversaw the election of the Association’s officers for the next year: President-Elect Fran Bond, Secretary Ron Matlon, Treasurer Ray Castaldi, and Member-at-Large Peg Benner. President Siegel expressed the Association’s gratitude to Annette Chappell for her leadership over the past year and to Peg Benner for her service as editor of The Advocate.

Siegel concluded the brunch by describing some of the group’s activities and initiatives (the Writing Group, the Reading Group, Osher affiliation, monthly tours, an Oral History Project, the creation of a USM-wide network of retirement organizations) and by encouraging members to share their ideas and become more involved in an already dynamic TURFA.

**What are the University’s Strengths? Personal Reflections on the Annual Retired Faculty Brunch**

Jo-Ann Pilardi, Professor Emerita, Philosophy and Women’s Studies

At this year’s retired faculty brunch, it was a special treat for me to see the baton passed from President Annette Chappell (English Professor Emerita, Dean, then Provost) to President Martha Siegel (Mathematics Professor Emerita and recipient of the President’s Award). I’ve known these colleagues for many years and have admired them for their intelligence and progressive thinking.

The first speaker, Provost Chandler, spent time explaining President Schatzel’s current initiatives and added some remarks about the planned conversion of the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center into student housing, though with the enrollment growth projected, though I, this will make only a small dent in the need.

Kris Phillips, Director of Facilities Planning, followed the Provost, providing a more detailed report on plans for new and renovated facilities over the next five years. I think I speak for many of us when I say I was overawed by the plans for campus structures: the new buildings being constructed or in the pipeline; the old ones being renovated. I confess to being concerned that the 20,000 student limit promised TU a few years ago by the USM has now risen to 25,000 (and one wonders if that will be the final number). With it comes, of course, an enormous need for more campus housing for students, as well as additional spill-over of students into area neighborhoods, not always a match made in heaven. (I speak from experience.)

In the Q&A at the end of the program, History Prof. Emeritus Ed Hirschmann asked why we had not heard anything about the academic component of the university, and plans for its future, or even a report on its present state, amidst the talk of all those buildings. Provost Chandler’s reply was to assure Ed that Towson’s excellent academic programs will be promoted and advanced. He gave as examples the programs in Cyber-Security, Nursing, and O.T.; I believe he also mentioned Education. I was surprised and disappointed not to hear the liberal arts or the fine arts mentioned. I am sure the Provost, whose help has been so critical to the creation of TURFA, knows that there are ground-breaking and nationally (even internationally) known programs in CLA and COFAC. But I’m concerned that these fine programs, which have laid the foundation—along with Education—of the solid reputation TU has,
will decrease in meaning to the university, as it responds to 21st century pressures of an emerging workforce. Will TU increase and enrich only those programs which (supposedly) produce immediate job placement? I hope not.

With a granddaughter in college, I certainly know that students are job-conscious and tuition-debt-laden, but will we be doing TU students a service in turning their thoughts immediately to “applied” fields while underestimating the need for critical thinking, writing, and the creative processes of the human being? There are reasons why the liberal arts and fine arts have existed and thrived from ancient times to the present. I won’t reiterate that history here, but I want to take a moment to note what many of us read regularly in newspapers, magazines, and journals: most employers, including corporate for-profit employers, are very interested in liberal arts graduates for their critical thinking skills and their ability to communicate well, and that includes the all-important skill of writing. In fact, in this internet-saturated world, writing is more important than it was a couple of decades ago.

A quick Google search produces innumerable testimonials from the business world about its desire for the skills of liberal arts majors. Here is just one passage, from an article summarizing a number of other sources: “‘Many of the Fortune 1000 and federal agency employers who advertise their jobs on College Recruiter have told us that they greatly value students and recent graduates with liberal arts degrees because those candidates tend to have good critical thinking skills,’ explained Steven Rothberg, president and founder of College Recruiter, a leading niche job board for college and university students searching for employment. ‘It is often easier for an employer to teach a hard skill like coding than a soft skill like critical thinking.’”

Here is another: “A good liberal arts curriculum . . . tries to help us understand our place in the world and our relationships with each other (and) . . . forces students to see multiple viewpoints and continually challenge their own . . . It also introduces students to the pleasures of debate and the ever-expanding world of ideas . . . It bends toward openness instead of containment . . . In times of great division, the capacity to see others’ viewpoints and the imperative to assess one’s own become more and more important.”

At TU, an outstanding example of the broad scope and usefulness of a liberal arts perspective came in a recent news item in TowsonTigerstoday (July 28, 2017): “For the fifth time, faculty members from the College of Liberal Arts were awarded a near $100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad program. The TU faculty used this grant to develop the ‘Partners in Education: Working Together to Enhance the Teaching of Latin America — Peru, 2017.’ TU faculty members Ronn Pineo — chair of the department of history — and Colleen Ebacher — associate professor in the foreign languages department — have been leading the experience in Peru for 15 in-service educators from different states and subjects and grade levels — including Spanish, social studies, English as a second language, and even kindergarten.” As a result, the curriculum created by these teachers, over five years and for thousands of students, has been influenced in some way.

What inspired the project? We discover the answer as the article continues: “Throughout his professional experiences Pineo has witnessed stereotyped notions of Latin America, including people who don’t understand why people are fleeing Honduras or El Salvador to come to the U.S. They don’t really understand the cultures of what Pineo is calling the largest growing minority in this country. ‘To not understand other people and their background is to not only to disrespect them, but it’s also dangerous,’ Pineo said. ‘It’s toxic to democracy. People have a lack of understanding of other folks, and they may be fearful of them or misunderstand their intentions. Diversity is not just being politically correct. We’re stronger as a democracy, as people and as an economy for the diversity that we bring.’”

Could an educational project be any more useful? I doubt it. More than ever, during this period in our country’s history when divisiveness, uncivilty, and increasing violence are rampant, we need
the breadth and critical skills, the sensitivity to humanity, and the communicative powers of the liberal arts. I sincerely hope that Towson’s administration keeps that insight always at the forefront of its vision of what a complete education should be—and must be.


The TURFA Center Opens its Doors

On April 18, with a quick snap of some very large scissors, TURFA President Annette Chappell and Provost Tim Chandler opened the new TURFA Center to the association’s members. The Center, located in Suite 207 of Enrollment Services, consists of a comfortable lounge, a conference room, and a computer room equipped with several computers and a printer. This on-campus space for TURFA members was built under the auspices of CFO Joe Oster and Director of Facilities Management Kris Phillips and made possible through the generosity of the Provost’s Office.

At the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Don Forester, 2015-2016 Association President, thanked Provost Chandler for being instrumental in supporting TURFA during his time as Towson’s Interim President as well as Vice Provost Maggie Reitz for her “day-to-day effort” in the formation of TURFA and the construction of the TURFA Center. In his remarks, Provost Chandler joked that his motive in backing the TURFA Center was “self-interest”: “When I retire, I’m going to need some place to go. And I suspect it might be right here.” In a more serious vein, he said that it was “exceedingly important” to keep retired faculty at the university, “contributing to the institution in ways that you have done for many, many years.” He added that he hoped that the Center would be “a place where you can interact with each other” and from which “you can interact with students, who can gain so much from you and from your wisdom and experience.” Following Provost Chandler, Vice Provost Reitz said that her background in Occupational Therapy had led to an interest in facilitating the transition of individuals from full-time employment to retirement. Consequently, she had “very much enjoyed” working on the project. She thanked Joe Oster, Kris Phillips, Hillary Giddings, and Mary T. Casterline for making the Center a reality.

Before joining Dr. Chandler in cutting the ribbon, Dr. Chappell added her thanks to current TU President Kim Schatzel and to the Provost’s Office. She went on to admit that “it was kind of a wrench” to walk into the space for the first time and to find that the conference room was her old office when administrators were housed in Enrollment Services: “So it’s really kind of a homecoming.” Ideally, the Center will serve as a home—or a home base on campus—for all of TURFA’s members.
TURFA MEMBER FOCUS: JIM ANTHONY

In an ongoing series, this issue of the Advocate focuses on Professor Emeritus Jim Anthony, who retired from full-time teaching in the Music Department in May 2014. Over his 42-year career at Towson, he taught more than 20 courses in a variety of subjects, from Early Music History (his area of specialization) to Music Appreciation and Using Information Effectively in Music.

Jim has continued to teach a course on Mozart each semester as a Towson Seminar. In addition to keeping his hand in teaching since his retirement, Jim performs as an organist, sometimes in recitals with his twin brother, who is also an organist and a professor. He has stayed active in several musical organizations, as a member of the American Guild of Organists and as Chairman of the Board for both the Maryland State Boychoir and the early music group, Pro Musica Rara.

Two or three nights a week, Jim can be found at some arts event: a performance by the Baltimore Symphony or the Washington National Opera, a play at Center Stage or Everyman Theater, or a student or faculty concert at the TU Department of Music. He also remains involved in his Charles Village neighborhood association. Now that he has relinquished his job as organist and choirmaster at his church, Jim is looking forward to more extended travel, such as a possible trip to Hong Kong and mainland China next spring.

Jim would advise those faculty who are contemplating retirement not to retire “too early,” before they have an idea how they will spend their time. He himself decided to retire, in part, when as a search committee member he met “an excellent young generation” of job candidates whom he felt deserved a chance to take the tenured position he occupied.

For faculty already retired, Jim recommends, “Don’t drop everything. Keep up socially with your friends; keep busy with the activities you find meaningful; keep up professionally; read books.”

TURFA Bits

OSHER Membership

TURFA members can take courses from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Towson for the same membership and course fees as other TU faculty members. Osher’s web page is http://www.towson.edu/campus/business/continuingeducation/osher/

The TURFA Center

The TURFA Center, which opened last May, is located in Enrollment Services Suite 207. The Center includes a lounge space, a conference room, and a computer room with several computers and a printer. As a TURFA member you have access through your Towson OneCard: you just need to let Mary T. Casterline (44127) know so that she can have your card activated. There are two TURFA-designated parking spaces in Lot 17, in front of Enrollment Services. In order to park in one of those spaces, you need to give Mary T. your name and license plate number and color, make, and model of your vehicle via a message to retiredfacultyassociation@towson.edu. After that information has been passed on to Parking Services, you can use your TU i.d. number (bold-faced on the OneCard) to obtain a one-day “department guest” pass from the parking kiosk to place on your dashboard.
TURFA Reading Group

TURFA’s Program and Events Committee is still hoping to create a monthly non-fiction reading group which will meet in the early afternoons for 1.5-2 hours in our new quarters on campus. Three people have expressed interest so far, but we’d like a few more before launching the group. It will be facilitated by Prof. Emerita Jo-Ann Pilardi, so contact her if you're interested in joining: j pilardi@towson.edu.

In Memoriam

Jack Isaacs, Political Science Department, August 5, 2017. Coming to Towson University in 1988, Jack taught thousands of students, most notably educating them on the nation’s complex legal system. Along the way, as teacher and advisor, he shepherded many students on to law school and careers as successful attorneys. Jack was known for his keen intellect, great sense of humor, comradeship, and love of rock-and-roll.

Ruth Caroline Schwalm, Department of Nursing, May 5, 2017. Ruth was the founding Chairperson and Associate Professor of the Department of Nursing Bachelor Of Science Program (1970-1988). Ruth’s professional nursing career spanned 50 years in which she served in the capacities of private duty nurse, nurse anesthetist (Espanola Hospital, NM); nursing instructor (Harrisburg Hospital School of Nursing); assistant professor (University of Maryland School of Nursing); nursing supervisor (Good Samaritan Hospital, Baltimore MD); and visiting staff nurse (Visiting Nurses’ Association, Baltimore MD). She retired from nursing on her 70th birthday, March 1, 1995. Ruth was granted the status of Professor Emerita in 1988.