President’s Message

Dear Colleagues:

The big news this spring is the opening of the TURFA Center in the Enrollment Services building. The Center includes a lounge/gathering space, a conference room, and a tech-supported room where members can work on their laptops. The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the TURFA Center is scheduled for Monday, April 17, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Please do plan to be there!

In this, the second year of TURFA’s existence, we promised to begin initiatives to engage TURFA members with the students and current faculty. As first steps in that direction, we have TURFA representatives on two important university task forces: one task force is revising the ART (Appointment, Retention, and Tenure) document, and our input there is focused on strengthening the process and perks of emeritus/emerita status; the other task force is proposing the development of a much-enhanced Faculty Development Center/Program. Faculty will soon be surveyed by that task force, and we have asked that TURFA members be included in the survey. A re-envisioned Faculty Development program and center can be a wonderful vehicle for TURFA members to support and mentor current faculty. Later this month I’ll be meeting with the Provost to explore yet more ways for TURFA to be active in the life of the university.

I am very grateful to the President and the Provost for their support of TURFA. They truly do value the retired faculty, and that shows.

While our initiatives this year are in some ways “behind the scenes” as a new center or program is being conceived, TURFA is also busy with programming for our members. The fall tea at the Auburn Pavilion was well attended, and the history and subsequent tour of the Auburn House were fascinating. We have an ongoing writing group, we are forming a reading group, and we’ve had tours of the Evergreen House and the Peabody Library.

Remember, TURFA is your organization and it exists to help you stay involved in the university that has been the focus of your professional life for so long.

Sincerely,

Annette Chappell
President of TURFA
Committee Report
Programs/Events, Florence Newman, Chair

The Programs and Events Committee has organized a number of fall and spring activities for TURFA members. In November, courtesy of Jan Wilkotz, a group of TURFA members received a private tour of the Peabody Library and the Edgar Allen Poe in Baltimore exhibit on display there. In December, John Manlove arranged for a post-performance discussion with the director and actors of the TU Theatre Department’s presentation of Carson Kreitzer’s *Freakshow*. On February 28, Kris Phillips, Director of Facilities Planning, gave TURFA members a preview on PowerPoint of plans for the new Science Building to be constructed on York Road during 2017-2019.

Upcoming events include:

- April 17, 3:00 p.m. Opening and Ribbon Cutting for the new TURFA Center, ES 207.
- April 19, 10:30 a.m. Poe House Tour
- May 17, 11 a.m. Greenmount Cemetery Tour

Suggestions for other activities and events are welcome. Please contact Florence Newman (fnewman@towson.edu).

Rendering of proposed science building (Stephens Hall is at right)

On Barbara Bass

This issue’s focus article – the first in a series in the *Advocate* – features Barbara Bass, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Maryland Writing Project. Barbara retired in June 2016 and joined TURFA soon thereafter.

During her career at TU, she specialized in teaching courses in writing and American Literature. She served on the English Department Steering Committee and the English 102 Committee.

In her new role as a retiree, Barbara has pursued a number of new activities, including traveling to Italy, knitting, participating in the TURFA Writing Group, and attending TURFA events.

While she does not miss grading papers, Barbara does miss working with students and teaching writing. To continue using and enjoying her teaching skills, she has started her own tutoring business, the Chesapeake Writing Coach; in this capacity, she sees middle and high school students for writing enrichment. (The website is chesapeakewritingcoach.com.)

Echoing what many retirees have been heard to say, Barbara’s favorite aspect of her new status is simply that “All of my days are my own -- the best part is looking at my calendar and seeing all of those blank squares.”
It’s a Family Affair

Charlotte Cook-Fuller, Health Sciences Department, and her daughter Lynette have once again combined their artistic talents to create a mother-daughter exhibit of paired works. Independently created, each work interprets a single photograph of an iconic San Francisco scene, using separate mediums: Lynette’s acrylics on canvas pair with Charlotte’s textile pieces. The two have exhibited previously in Baltimore and in Palo Alto. Charlotte’s works combine fabric appliques with embroidered details, using other items such as beads when appropriate. This process generates a three-dimensional effect.

The exhibit is now on display at the Christian Daniels Gallery in San Francisco. All of Charlotte’s and Lynette’s pairings can be viewed at http://christiandanielsgallery.com/artists-2/.

Click on each artist’s name to access all works. Charlotte Cook-Fuller began teaching at TU in 1978 and retired in 2000.

Martha Siegel Receives National Mathematics Award

Martha Siegel, Professor Emerita in the mathematics department and TURFA’s president-elect, won the 2017 Mathematical Association of America (MAA) Gung and Hu Award, which recognizes “service to mathematics that has been widely recognized as extraordinarily successful, influencing the field of mathematics or mathematical education in a significant and positive way on a national scale.” The award was presented to Siegel on January 5, 2017, in Atlanta, Georgia.

She was cited for her “remarkable leadership in guiding the national conversation on undergraduate mathematics curriculum.”

Co-author of two textbooks, Finite Mathematics and Its Applications (now in its 11th edition) and Functioning in the Real World, Siegel has also directed numerous grant-funded projects and received national recognition for her work.

At TU, Siegel received a 1981 NSF grant, through which she founded the TU Applied Mathematics Laboratory, “. . . one of the first undergraduate courses in the U.S. featuring student teams working on applied mathematics projects for business, industry, or government clients.” The AML has now operated continuously for 35 years.

As a TU faculty member, Siegel received the CONAMS Outstanding Faculty Award (1989) and the President’s Award for Outstanding Service to the University (1991). served on the Senate, represented TU at the Council of University System Faculty of the USM, and led the CoSMiC Scholars Program.
Executive Committee Meets with President and Provost

Peg Benner

On November 14, 2016, the TURFA Executive Committee met with President Schatzel and Provost Chandler to discuss ways that TURFA and TU can cultivate their mutually beneficial relationship.

Provost Chandler opened the conversation with a discussion about President Schatzel’s initiative to plan and implement a Faculty Development Center. Chandler met with the co-chairs of the committee charged with looking into the center’s philosophical and physical form and indicated a strong interest in having TURFA members play a role in mentoring current faculty in areas such as research, promotion and tenure, and retirement. He asked that a TURFA representative meet with the co-chairs to offer valuable input gained through experience and to give perspective into this “21st century-oriented . . . cutting-edge” center. He referred to *The Hundred Year Life*, a scholarly new book which posits that as people are now living longer lives with greater quality of life, the characteristics, borders, and transitions of the traditional three-part life stages of education-employment-retirement are changing. The new center should help faculty work with and through these stages. TURFA should have both a physical and administrative place in the new center.

Schatzel noted that there is currently very little research done on faculty development, and she would like to use the center to offer “support for faculty in a deliberate way” at all stages of their careers. Chandler asked that TURFA participate in focus-group activities now underway to shape the final product. Schatzel proposed that Towson University could be a “thought leader” in this area and could both retain and recruit faculty on the center’s strength. TURFA’s involvement, she noted, “would mean a tremendous amount.”

Florence Newman mentioned the recent AROHE conference she attended, “Transforming Retirement: Rewriting Life’s Next Chapter.” There, she learned a good deal about how retirement organizations can make retirement more attractive, positing retirement not as a severance between faculty and institution, but as a reconfiguration between the two. Surveys have shown that retirees and prospective retirees worry more about losing continuity with their institutions of higher learning than about getting by financially. A number of Southern California institutions hold workshops to address psychological concerns of retiring faculty.

Annette Chappell narrated a PowerPoint presentation that laid out the definition, objectives, and accomplishments of TURFA.

With the founding of TURFA in May 2015, Towson is the only public university in Maryland with a retired faculty association that is tied to the National Association of Retired Faculty; therefore, TURFA believes that it could be a resource within the University of Maryland System.
She outlined TURFA’s objectives:

- To advocate on behalf of the retired faculty and librarians who are TURFA members
- To provide programs of interest for the members
- To provide ways for the members to support current faculty and students

Chappell then reviewed TURFA’s accomplishments in its first 1 1/3 years:

- Officially recognized by Provost Chandler
- Created a mission and by-laws
- Elected officers and formed the executive committee
- Created a website and a newsletter
- Built membership to approximately 70 members
- Hosted Claire Van Ummerson from ACE at the Fall 2015 luncheon as speaker
- Sponsored more than a dozen programs and events
- Built and maintained an ongoing relationship with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
- Worked out complimentary on-campus parking for TURFA members
- Negotiated reduced ticket prices for campus cultural and athletic events
- Met with OHR to discuss retirement records and benefits
- Met with provost’s office to assist in clarifying the meaning of professor emeritus/emerita and bring about consistency throughout the university and continued recognition of these titles
- Established a TURFA writing group and a reading group
- Contributed to TU by providing seminar speakers and mentoring students engaging in research

There was a good deal of discussion about the importance of continued inclusion of retired faculty in university information dissemination. Both President Schatzel and Provost Chandler agreed that the relationship between the university and its retired faculty should be focused on a “continuing academic relationship” rather than on a “separation by employment status.” While faculty may stop teaching as they retire, they may continue their research after retirement and should be considered a vital part of TU’s recognition as both a “teaching” and a “research” institution.

Chappell noted that criteria are currently being developed for TURFA members to create and support research and that the Executive Committee is in the process of developing closer ties with the deans and department chairpersons. Space for TURFA members is currently being designed.

Ron Matlon suggested the possibility of having a TURFA member serve as a voting member of the University Senate; the Provost noted that the Senate is in the midst of a self-review and a review of its constitution, so this may be a good time to raise this issue. He offered to bring the issue to the current University Senate chair, Jennifer Ballengee, so that the senate task force could discuss this possibility. The Provost thanked TURFA for offering to be involved in the ongoing work of the institution. He also reaffirmed the importance of “continuity” instead of “separation” as faculty retire and to somehow “hard-bake” this reconfiguration into the official actions of the university. He said that the university benefits from the continued involvement of retired faculty and that it made no sense to him that retired faculty should be characterized as no longer employed and, therefore, no longer a part of the university.
Other areas of discussion:

- Martha Siegel addressed problems with identifying retired faculty because of the university database problems. The president and provost agreed to work on this.
- Florence Newman asked whether an award for an outstanding retired faculty member could be established. The provost agreed to look into this possibility.
- Provost Chandler recognized three major areas of focus initiated by President Schatzel and stressed the value of retired faculty’s input in them: 1) the Tiger Way – how the university deals with enrollment in general, especially with transfer students, who now makes up about 50% of new enrollment; and with a lower-than-ideal number of international students and a decline in graduate students over the past 6-7 years 2) BTU Baltimore Towson University partnerships – now about 160 of them, and the university is now inventorying them and categorizing them to clarify the impact that TU is having in the greater Baltimore area; 3) Career Development - the building of a world class career center.
- The provost also noted the important role retired faculty could play in a re-vamped advising system.

At the conclusion of the meeting, President Schatzel reaffirmed the university’s support for TURFA: “You are a valuable group of folks that we want to stay close to.” The Provost echoed her words, stating, “In the long run, I think this (TURFA) will become a hugely important part of the Towson community.”

Remembrance of Things Past

Don Forester

Recently, I drove into Towson University where I attended an Executive Committee meeting of the Towson University Retired Faculty Association (TURFA). The meeting was held in the recently completed TURFA office suite located in the Enrollment Services Building. I parked in the West Village Parking Garage on the edge of campus, and as I began the quarter mile walk to Enrollment Services, I couldn’t help but marvel at newly constructed student housing units and the sparkling West Village Commons building.

As I strolled along the expansive brick walkway, through this canyon of multistory building bearing the names of prominent American civil rights leaders and political figures, I was suddenly overwhelmed with nostalgia. I suddenly realized that I was walking on top of the university’s old faculty gardens where, in simpler times, my wife and I had tended a vegetable plot in order to help make ends meet for our young family as we struggled to sur

vive on my $11,910 dollar starting salary as an assistant professor. I passed beside a massive dormitory that bore the name “Towson Run” sitting squarely atop the site where a small stream had once emerged from a series of old spring boxes, providing a reliable source for the female dusky salamanders and their eggs used in my research.

Today, the salamanders are gone and that water is more than 15’ below the surface, draining in darkness through a complex of unseen concrete pipes. Times change, new students are born, buildings are built to accommodate them and young professors grow inexorably older!

Upcoming TURFA Election

Don Forester, Nominations Committee

Four positions are presently open on the TURFA Executive Council: Representative At-Large, President-elect, Treasurer, Secretary. In accord with the TURFA by-laws:
“Officers shall be elected annually in the spring, and shall take office on the following July 1.

The initial slate of nominees for office shall be prepared by the TURFA Advisory Group. After the first election, nominations shall be presented by a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be made up of the immediate Past President plus two other members appointed by the current President. The list of nominees shall be circulated at least two weeks in advance of a spring general meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Election to each position shall be by majority vote of the members attending and voting.”

Duties of Elected Officers:

“The President-Elect shall perform the duties of the President in the event the President is unable to do so. The President-Elect shall automatically become president after one year. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining a list of members, keeping a file of the Association's records, sending out notices and agendas of all meetings, and recording the minutes of meetings of the Association and of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall be in charge of the financial transactions of the Association. The Association's financial records shall be maintained by the Office of the Provost in conjunction with the Towson University Foundation office. The representative “at-large” will attend the regularly scheduled meetings of the Association and serve as a full voting member of he Executive Committee.

Individuals interested in being considered for any of the above positions should submit their name to Don C. Forester, Past President, (dforester@towson.edu) or Hillary Giddings (hgiddings@towson.edu) in the Provost’s Office.

TURFA Bits

From Ray Castaldi, TURFA Treasurer . . .

A reminder that the next fiscal year for TURFA begins on July 1, so annual dues of $25 will be payable at that time, except for lifetime members.

From Hillary Giddings, Provost’s Office . . .

Are you receiving your daily edition of Towson Tigers Today (T3) in your email? If not, contact Hillary Giddings in the Provost’s office at hgiddings@towson.edu or by telephone at 410-704-5384.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new TURFA Center suite in Room 207 of the Enrollment Services building will take place on April 17, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

From Jackie Gratz, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute…

Osher’s spring 2017 semester is underway – Session I: March 6 – 30; Session II: April 10 – May 4. Registration is still open for Session II classes. A few are filled, but there are still many open.

You may access our complete catalog at the link below or you may phone Tracy Jacobs at 410-704-3688, tj Jacobs@towson.edu for a spring catalog. We have an array of interesting courses in the Fine Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences and Mathematics. We’d love to have you join us. If you might be interested in teaching for Osher in a future semester, please contact Jackie Gratz at 410-704-3437, jgratz@towson.edu. Retired Towson University teachers find it rewarding to teach the adults in our program, who have a lifetime store of knowledge from all walks of life, and with no grades or homework required. Be on the lookout for our series of summer lectures that will be posted on our website by May.

From the Provost’s Office . . .

The Office of the Provost is pleased to announce the establishment of a "Commencement Closet." This loan program will enable faculty who do not own regalia to participate in commencement activities. We are currently seeking regalia donations for faculty use beginning in May 2017. Donations of gowns and hoods will be accepted and are tax-deductible. For more information about this program, please contact Bethany Pace at bpace@towson.edu or 410-704-4498.

In Memoriam

Harry Zhou, Computer Science Department, January 7, 2017. Arriving at Towson University in 1989, Harry taught computer sciences courses for twenty-six years before retiring in 2016. He was well loved and respected by both students and colleagues, who are deeply saddened by his passing.

Wayne Schelle, former Vice President for Business and Finance, January 10, 2017. During his tenure at Towson – approximately 10 years from 1967 to 1978, Wayne was responsible for a number of construction projects on campus, including the renovation of Stephens Hall and the acquisition of thirty-five acres and the subsequent construction there of the stadium and the Towson Center. His responsibilities also included implementing many important business procedures at TU.

Tom Meinhardt, Department of Kinesiology, February 17, 2017. Both faculty member and coach, Tom came to TU in 1970, serving as the university’s sixth athletic director. He guided TU’s transition from NCAA Division III to Division II and led lacrosse, football, basketball, and tennis teams to winning seasons and national ranking. He was involved in the planning of both the Towson Center and the Johnny Unitas Stadium. The recipient of two Coach of the Year awards, he was inducted into the university’s Hall of Fame in 2003. He retired in 1996 but continued to coach the men’s tennis team until 2002.

Save the Date!

April 17, 2017: Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new TURFA center. The festivities will take place at the Enrollment Services Building, Room 207. Expect an invitation with details soon!