President’s Message

It seems like only yesterday that I was sitting in a room full of newly minted Ph.D. scholars in the University Union, listening to Provost “Buz” Shaw welcome us to the Towson State College faculty. I can remember being simultaneously excited and apprehensive about what lay ahead. Fast forward four decades and I now find myself experiencing the same excitement and apprehension as I begin my duties as the first president of the nascent Towson University Retired Faculty Association (TURFA).

I have witnessed a great deal of change in the Institution over the years. Towson has mushroomed in size from 9,200 students in 1974 (the year I arrived) to more than 23,000 today; and along the way it has metamorphosed from a State Teacher College into a Comprehensive University with a number of regionally and nationally recognized programs.

I, like most of you, am proud of my contribution to the evolution and maturation of Towson University and I look forward to maintaining my affiliation with the institution as an active member of TURFA. The Association is the perfect venue by which to keep in touch with retired colleagues and to participate in programs and activities of our vibrant institution.

President of TURFA

TURFA Fall 2015 Event and Meeting

The TURFA Fall General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Chesapeake Rooms of the University Union (third floor). The luncheon meeting will feature widely acclaimed guest speaker, Dr. Claire Van Ummersen.

The luncheon will be free for current TURFA members and $15 for guests and potential TURFA members. Details regarding meal choice and parking will be posted on the TURFA website (www.towson.edu/turfa).

Dr. Claire Van Ummersen
By Peg Benner

A distinguished scholar, Dr. Claire Van Ummersen served as both faculty member and administrator during her academic career, which included a position as Vice Chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire from 1986 to 1992. After leading Cleveland State University from 1993 to 2001, Dr. Van Ummersen retired as President Emerita.

In 2001, she joined the American Council on Education, assuming leadership positions as Vice President and Director of the Office of Women in Higher Education and as Vice President for the Center for Effective Leadership.

Author of numerous publications on subjects ranging from microwave radiation, to women leadership roles in higher education, to options for faculty career flexibility, Dr. Van Ummersen has
most recently edited Faculty Retirement: Best Practices for Navigating the Future, a collection of essays examining important issues for both institutions and faculty as “baby boomers” come to the close of their careers.

At the October luncheon, Dr. Van Ummersen will address “The Increasing Importance and Value of Emeriti/Retiree Organization.” The luncheon begins at 11:00 a.m. and runs until 2:00 p.m.

Committee Reports

For updates on committee plans and future events, please refer to the TURFA homepage at www.towson.edu/turfa.

Programs / Events, Florence Newman, Chair

TURFA has a number of exciting activities lined up for the fall months.

- On Friday, September 25, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in Cook Library Room 404A, TU’s Office of Technology Services is offering a training session in Office365 exclusively for TURFA members.

- On Wednesday, October 7, Dr. Claire Van Ummersen of the American Council on Education will address the Fall General Meeting, which runs from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

- On Sunday, November 8, 3:00 p.m. at Stephens Hall, TURFA will be hosting a group attendance of “Opera! Opera!” This exciting program of well-known opera arias, scenes, and overtures is directed by Dr. Phillip Collister and performed by students of Music for the Stage and the University Orchestra. Preceding the performance, Professor Collister will give a brief talk about opera and the musical pieces in the program. This performance will be a perfect opportunity to introduce a new generation to the art of the opera and to enjoy some of opera’s “greatest hits.” The box office is giving TURFA members the Faculty/Staff rate of $10 for this concert (with your TURFA membership card).

- TURFA is reserving seats for TURFA members and guests to attend the TU vs. UDel home football game on October 31st. E-mail Don Forester (dforester@towson.edu) for more information. Please include in the subject line “TURFA Football Tickets.”

Looking ahead to spring, TURFA is planning to sponsor an outing to the theater, attendance at a TU home basketball game, and a tour of Texas Quarry in Catonsville, depending on member interests. The Programs and Events Committee welcomes your suggestions for other activities and events.

If you are interested in helping to organize a future event or would like further information about any of the events listed above, please contact the chair of the Programs and Events Committee, Florence Newman, at fnewman@towson.edu.

In the first of what will hopefully be several ongoing programs, Carolyn Hill, Professor emerita from the English Department, is recruiting participants for a retired faculty writing group in which members can share their work and give and receive peer feedback. Please email her (chill@towson.edu) for information about how to become involved.

Scholarship, Joe Topping, Chair

The committee is defining its mission and will report new developments as they occur. Look for updates in coming editions of The Advocate.
Guest Column

*Enrich Your Retirement with TU’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute*

By Jackie Gratz

Stay connected with Towson University by becoming a student and/or teacher with the Osher Institute. Take courses in fields of study that you know little about and had no time to pursue during your years of teaching. Continue sharing knowledge of your own subject matter by offering brief courses, lectures, or workshops. Osher offers a rich and diverse curriculum in the fine arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural and physical sciences. Languages, film series, book clubs, and discussion groups are also a part of the program. Day trips to museums or historic places enhance learning from courses offered. Courses are four or eight weeks in length during the spring and fall semesters. Each course meets once a week for one hour and fifteen minutes. There are no grades or homework. During summer and winter break, Osher offers single lectures, workshops, poetry readings – a potpourri of stimulating experiences. Students are 50 and older and hail from all walks of life.

For more information on how you can participate, contact Jackie Gratz at jgratz@towson.edu, or at 410-704-3437. Visit Osher’s website to learn more: www.towson.edu/osher.

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Osher Calendar of Events

*Fall 2015 Semester*

Session I: September 21-October 15
Session II: October 26-November 19

**Book Discussion**

*Latino Americans: The 500-Year Legacy that Shaped a Nation*

Discussion leader: Professor Lea Ramsdell
Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at 1 p.m.
7400 York Road, Rm. 113

**Special Lecture**

*Comparative Healthcare-Cuba and Latin America*

Discussion leader: Professor Ronn Pineo
Wednesday, November 11, 2015, at 1 p.m.
7400 York Road, Rm. 101

Osher “students” enjoying lifelong learning at Osher’s classes and events.
TURFA Bits
By Peg Benner

- Don’t forget to renew your new OneCard at Auxiliary Services, Room 216 in the University Union (across from the TU Bookstore). You may wish to have a new photo taken.

- Send in your RSVP and attend the TURFA luncheon on October 7, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Chesapeake Rooms of the University Union.

- Do you have news about yourself – personal or academic – that you would like to share with fellow TURFA members? Please send tidbits to mbenner@towson.edu for publication in the next issue of The Advocate by December 31, 2015.

- If you are not yet a member of TURFA and would like to join, go to the TURFA membership page for directions on how to sign up.

In Memoriam

Robert E. Shoemaker, Ph.D. (75) Biological Sciences. Bob served on the TU faculty from 1967 until his retirement in 2003. In retirement Bob was an avid collector of stamps and coins as well as an accomplished photographer. He died at his home in Cockeysville, MD on December 31, 2014.

Mara B. Lauterbach, M.S. (74) Biological Sciences. Mara served on the faculty from 1966 until her retirement. Following retirement, she returned to the Biology department as a part-time administrator and student advisor until her death in an automobile accident on July 2, 2015.

Maravene Loeschke, Ph.D.

Dr. Loeschke knew Towson as well as any person in the 150-year history of the institution. Collectively we remember her as a student, a professor, a dean and a president. Her dedication and enthusiasm will be missed.