President’s Message

The inaugural year of the Towson University Retired Faculty Association (TURFA) is winding down, and while it took 150 years of incubation, we are off and running. The success of the association today, and whether or not it survives into the future, is largely dependent on the current membership. Human demography underscores the need to bolster our ranks annually, and to this end I urge each of you to extend your membership and to encourage retired colleagues -- and especially currently active colleagues transitioning into retirement -- to consider joining the association.

A career in academia is like no other, and after decades of being involved with teaching, research, and the mentoring of students, most of us have formed a strong personal bond with this institution that non-academicians would be hard pressed to appreciate. Membership in TURFA provides each of us with a formal institutional recognition and appreciation of our academic achievements, as well as a venue for continued association with Towson University. The level of our involvement is strictly up to us. I suspect that for some members, membership itself will be sufficient; for others, the focus will be on activities in their home departments and attending TURFA’s biannual luncheons and brunches in order to catch up with retired colleagues from the campus at large. Still others may choose to become more deeply involved in promoting and attending professional activities on and off campus, assisting in student recruitment, working with Alumni Services, etc. Your involvement and the association’s ultimate success are up to you.

On a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as the first President of TURFA, rendered mostly painless due to the capable support of an incredible and insightful Executive Committee. As I leave office, I would be remiss if I failed to also acknowledge the unwavering support of the University’s Provost Tim Chandler and Vice-Provost Maggie Reitz. Their financial support, as well as their willingness to openly dialog with us about our goals and aspiration for a retired faculty association, has been invaluable to our success. It is through their support that TURFA members have been granted free parking on campus, as well as a number of other privileges currently detailed on the TURFA webpage.

In closing, a personal thanks to Mary T. Casterline and Hillary Giddings, my day-to-day contacts in the Provost’s Office. To these two women, no inquiry has been too trivial, no request too great—when a task needed attention, they graciously did most of the heavy lifting. Last but not least, a special thanks to Peg Benner, the intrepid editor of the TURFA newsletter--it is through her hard work and perseverance that The Advocate was born. Thank you one and all!

President of TURFA
Committee Reports

Programs / Events, Florence Newman, Chair

In January TURFA arranged a follow-up OTS training session on Office 365 and sponsored attendance for TURFA members at the TU vs. Drexel basketball game and at the January 31 Center Stage performance of As You Like It. In February, the Osher Institute offered TURFA members free attendance to two lectures on The Making of Glass Art by Howard Cohen. In March, Dr. Alex Storrs took TURFA members on a tour of the planetarium.

In the planning stages for the remainder of the spring semester are

- a day trip to Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ
- a return visit to the Texas Quarry
- an introduction to the Cook Library Archives
- April birding tour

Get dates, details, and updates on plans for these and future events, at the TURFA Events and Initiatives page at www.towson.edu/turfa.

Scholarship, Joe Topping, Chair

TURFA’s Scholarship Committee is composed of Dean Esslinger, Wayne McWilliams, Jim Paulsen, and Sharon Pitcher.

Meeting Format: We are trying to minimize the need for in-person meetings in order to eliminate the problems with parking, finding meeting rooms, and simply trying to get five people in one space at one time. Consequently, email has become the meeting format.

Committee Task: We are trying to determine how the Scholarship Committee can be most useful, given limited resources. We have reached some level of agreement that we should focus on providing small grants to support scholarly endeavors of retirees. This is not a final outcome, but represents the direction in which we are heading. If this becomes our recommended approach, the TURFA working document will need to be modified to more correctly reflect our committee’s mission.

“Happy Talk” Scheduled for June 8th Brunch!

Ellen Katz, a Baltimore native who has been teaching music for over 50 years, will be the guest speaker for this year’s Retired Faculty Brunch on June 8th. Ellen will be doing a presentation/performance of South Pacific.

Message from Dr. Timothy Chandler, Provost

I am delighted for the opportunity to contribute a piece to The Advocate this spring. As I resume my role as Provost, one thing in particular that I am looking forward to is working more closely with the Towson University Retired Faculty Association, affectionately known as TURFA.

The current population of retired faculty is comprised of thousands of years of service, a rich resource of both institutional and academic knowledge. We are fortunate that so many of our retired faculty very much want to stay connected and still wish to contribute to the growth and prosperity of the students, faculty, and staff here at Towson.

The establishment of TURFA has provided an opportunity to develop and nurture a symbiotic relationship between retired faculty and the university. The Office of the Provost continues its commitment and support of the association, and we encourage further feedback and engagement from members. We want to see you back on campus, interacting with each other, as well as with current faculty, staff, and students. We hope that you continue to find ways to forge TURFA’s identity in a way that will prove to be fulfilling to you as a group and as individuals. We know that
your continued presence on campus can only enhance the university!

I look forward to further developing and nurturing the university’s relationship with TURFA, and I sincerely hope that other retired and newly retiring faculty will consider joining this remarkable association.

**TURFA Bits**

**Ron Matlon** received *The American Society of Trial Consultants’* Lifetime Achievement Award in May 2015.

The award is not given annually, but only when deserved. The terms of this award, given only to a nominee approved by ASTC’s Board of Directors, dictate that the recipient must have made a *significant contribution* to the field of litigation consulting.

In 1982, Ron, along with a few other individuals, founded the American Society of Trial Consultants in Arizona. During the Society’s first decade, he laid the organization’s foundation and shaped its character with the development of by-laws, a membership directory, a logo, a code of ethics, and well-attended national conferences. After serving as the Society’s President in its first year of operation, Ron went on to become ASTC’s Executive Director, a post he held from 1984 until June 30, 2015.

The award was presented to Ron at the ASTC 2015 Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, by Kenneth Broda-Bahm, Karen Lisko, and Charlotte Morris.

**Charlotte Cook-Fuller**, textile artist, and Lynette Cook, fine artist, have collaborated to produce a mother-daughter exhibit, *Point, Counterpoint: San Francisco through the Eyes of Charlotte Cook-Fuller and Lynette Cook*, at the Evergreen Museum and Library, 4545 N. Charles Street. Using the same photograph and individual mediums, each artist has created 13 San Francisco icons. This show ran through February 2014.

In October 2014, a popular German publishing company, Zeitgut/Berlin, published a dual biography of Hannelore Grimm and **Armin Mruck** under the *title Zweideutsche Lebenswege zwischen Diktatur und Demokratie* (translated: *Two German Lives between Dictatorship and Democracy*). Several years before, the Oldenburg University Press (BIS) had published a scholarly edition of this work. The book is selling well and can be obtained through Amazon. The book has its origins in the year 1945, when Mruck was hospitalized in Luebeck/Germany and was taken care of by a nurse, Hannelore Grimm. The two rediscovered each other sometime in 2014 through the internet and decided to tell their story to a wider audience.

Dr. Nicole Dombrowski of TU’s History Department conducted an interview with **Dr. Mruck** in 2015. The interview is available on Youtube.


During the Celebration of Athletes at the 2015 National Senior Games, Bob received the prestigious Warren Blaney Lifetime Achievement Award for state and national service. The Senior Games are the largest multi-sport event in the world for people age 50 and over; the Warren Blaney Lifetime Achievement Award is presented for innovation in Senior Games programming and promotion.

In 1980, serving as Vice Chairman of the Baltimore County Physical Fitness Commission, Bob joined with the Maryland Department of Aging to create the Maryland Senior Olympics. He was also involved with the formation of the National Senior Olympics Organization and served on the NSGA Board from 1987 through 1990 and again from 1991 through 2000.

**Frances Bond**, retired from the College of Education in 1994, received the highest recognition at
the Towson University Volunteer Recognition Awards Banquet in October 2015. Fran was awarded the Spirit of the University Award to recognize her many contributions to the University and to the Alumni Association. She has served on the Alumni Board for ten years and currently serves as treasurer of the Alumni Association.

**From AROHE Central**

The following is a reprint of an article and accompanying photographs published in *AROHE Matters* (newsletter for the national Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education) this past fall.

**Towson University Inaugurates a Retired Faculty Association**

Towson University (Towson, Maryland), a new affiliate of AROHE, recently launched TURFA (the Towson University Retired Faculty Association). An advisory committee, working with representatives from the Provost's Office, designed by-laws as well as goals and objectives for the group. At a Founder's meeting this past April, the by-laws were approved and officers were elected. About 80 people attended this inaugural luncheon.

TURFA has two standing committees. The Programs and Events Committee will arrange seminars and workshops for TURFA members as well as on-campus and off-campus fine arts, sports and other social events. The Scholarship Committee will create and promote scholarships for students as well as arrange continued education, scholarship and research opportunities for TURFA members.

The Executive Committee, composed of the Association's officers, will soon be exploring improved on-campus parking opportunities for its members as well as seeking price discounts for various Towson University events.

On June 18, a retired faculty luncheon drew about 75 people and drafted more members into the Association. The next main event for TURFA will be on October 7 when Dr. Claire Von Ummersen of the American Council on Education will speak to the group on matters pertaining to retirement.

For further information, please consult www.towson.edu/turfa.

*Submitted by Ronald J. Matlon, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Towson University*

**Newly elected TURFA Officers and Advisory Group Members.**
In Memoriam

Karen Dugger served as a Professor and Chairperson in the Women's Studies Department, as Director of the National Center for Curriculum Transformation Resources on Women and as Director of Towson's Institute for Teaching and Research on Women (ITROW), positions she held until her illness forced her to retire in January, 2013. She died in November 2013. Karen's commitment to intersectional and global feminist approaches to scholarship and activism was evident in her teaching, her publications, her community outreach efforts with inner city youth, and in the Summer Institutes for faculty she organized through ITROW. As chair, she insured that every academic year included a rich series of talks, films, and programs on issues involving women and gender. Her intelligence and creativity never faltered.

Dennis Muniak, a member of the Political Science department, passed away on February 22, 2016 after battling pancreatic cancer for nearly three years. Dennis was a faculty member in the Political Science department at Towson University for more than twenty years, where he also co-founded the Metropolitan Studies program. After his retirement, he returned to Buffalo, a city he loved dearly, to receive cancer treatment.

Reynaldo G. Reyes, a member of TU's music department for more than 50 years, died Feb. 15 at age 82. Professor Reyes, was still teaching at the time of his death. An internationally-know concert pianist, Mr. Reyes won many prestigious contests, including the International Piano competition in Rio de Janeiro, the International Piano Competition in Bolzano, Italy, and the Marguerite Long-Jacques Thibaud Internationale Piano Competition in Paris. When he celebrated his 40th year at Towson, the university established the Reynaldo Reyes Scholarship Endowment in the Department of Music.

Patricia W. Romero, Ph.D. (81) Department of History. Pat was an active member of the University community until her retirement at the end of the 2011 academic year. At that point she accepted an adjunct position at Johns Hopkins University, where she served until her death in December 2015. Her academic interest focused on the plight of women, especially in Africa. She was the author of several research volumes, including: Profiles in Diversity (Women in the New South Africa) in 1998, and African Women (A Historical Panorama) in 2015.

Robert F. Smith, former chairperson of the Department of Elementary Education, passed away at the Stella Maris Hospice in Timonium on January 7, 2016. After his retirement, Dr. Smith served as an adjunct faculty member at TU, teaching undergraduate core curriculum diversity requirement classes until spring of 2015. He is survived by his two sons and a grandson. Dr. Smith was laid to rest in New York City near his birthplace.