President’s Message

In its first year, under the able leadership of Don Forester, the Towson University Retired Faculty Association made a strong start, and with your help I expect continued progress in TURFA’s second year. TURFA really has three 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 members to support the students and current faculty of TU.

In our first year, we have focused on the first two of those purposes. We have organized, and we have achieved some important understandings with university administration, including revitalized parking and OneCard privileges, and renewed attention to the appropriate use of emeritus/a status. We have held two outstanding lunch/brunch meetings and a number of well-received programs for members, programs that range from the arts to history to athletics. We are about to open a TURFA members-only workspace in the Enrollment Services Building. These are major steps in a short period of time.

However, much remains to do. Did I hear the dreaded word “parking”? Yes, we are still in negotiation to improve the on-campus parking situation for TURFA members. We are also looking at ways to support and enhance the research of TURFA members. And, of course, we hope to expand programming across a broad spectrum of activities. In addition, we will begin to address the third objective, involving TURFA members with the students and current faculty.

We welcome YOUR involvement and YOUR suggestions in all these efforts. 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.

It is a privilege to have been elected president of TURFA for 2016-17. I look forward to the continued growth of programs and collegiality in our organization in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Annette Chappell
President of TURFA
Committee Reports

Programs / Events
Florence Newman, Chair

On March 17, the Astronomy Department’s Dr. Alex Storrs gave TURFA members a “tour” of the universe in the TU Planetarium in Smith Hall.

On April 16, a group of TURFA members took a day trip to Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, New Jersey: the group explored the indoor galleries as well as outdoor exhibits on the museum’s 42 landscaped acres.

On May 13, Library Associate Felicity Knox led a tour of Cook Library’s Special Collections and Archives, at the end of which she invited TURFA members to submit their publications to the library for digital archiving. In mid-September, a number of TURFA members were given a guided tour of Evergreen House, a Gilded Age mansion built and inhabited by the Garrett family of Baltimore.

On Sunday, October 16, TURFA members attended a matinee performance of Toni Morrison’s The Bluest Eye at the Mainstage Theatre in TU’s Center for the Performing Arts.

Future activities being planned by the Programs and Events Committee include group attendance of a performance of Freakshow in December; tours of Greenmount Cemetery, the Poe House, and Peabody Library; and a spring excursion to the new African-American Museum in Washington, D.C.

Scholarship
Joe Topping, Chair

In the spring, the board approved our plan to focus on providing support for TURFA members’ scholarly activities. Our next step is to find a revenue stream.

New TURFA Group Formed
Jo-Ann Pilardi

The TURFA Program and Events Committee is offering members the opportunity to join a new reading group on social issues. To be facilitated by Jo-Ann Pilardi, Professor Emerita, Philosophy and Women's Studies, the group will meet monthly to discuss a non-fiction book. Meetings will be held in the early afternoon and will last 1.5--2 hours. The two possible readings for the first meeting are 1) Jane Jacobs' classic, The Death and Life of Great American Cities, published in 1961 as a critique of the urban redevelopment programs of the 1950s, and now possibly becoming relevant all over again; OR 2) Isabel Wilkerson's multi-prize winning The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration (2010), a study of the migration north of African-American southerners. In the future, books could be drawn from the National Book Award nominees for the non-fiction prize.

This group will be limited to eight people. Note: this is an interactive group; members must procure the book, read it, and be willing to discuss it. Please contact Jo-Ann Pilardi (jpi-lardi@towson.edu) if you're interested in joining; also let her know your preferred reading choice: Jacobs or Wilkerson. Other reading groups could form in the future, depending on TURFA members' desires and someone's willingness to facilitate the group. Once formed, the group will choose a regular monthly meeting day (e.g., first Thursdays).

AROHE Conference Report
Florence Newman

The Eighth Biennial Conference of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) was held at the University of Washington in Seattle, August 14-16. The conference had nearly 135 registrants, representing 75 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada, making it the largest AROHE conference so far. Its title was “Transforming
Retirement: Rewriting Life’s Next Chapter.” There were two plenary addresses, one by Fernando Torres-Gil, Professor of Social Welfare and Social Policy and Director of the Center for Policy Research and Aging, UCLA, who spoke on “The Big Picture: What’s Coming and Why,” and one by Carole Goldberg, UCLA Past Vice Chancellor for Academic Personnel, who spoke on “Colleges and Models, Facilitators, and Champions of Reformed Retirement.” There was also a plenary panel on “Visions of the Future: Higher Education and Retirees in 2030.” Claire Van Ummersen, retired Senior Advisor to the American Council on Education, who addressed TURFA’s inaugural meeting last year, participated on that panel. In addition, there were nine sessions on topics such as “Rewriting Association Programs and Services’ and “Developing and Growing a Campus Retirement Organization.”

Conference speakers emphasized important changes taking place demographically and academically that are going to affect the future of university retirees and retirement organizations. The proportion of the American population of retirement age is increasing as Baby Boomers become seniors, and those seniors are living, for the most part, longer and healthier lives. More people than ever are facing the prospect of a third (and even a fourth) phase of life after their initial careers. Simultaneously, colleges and universities are under growing financial pressures as traditional sources of funding for higher education dry up. Institutions have an economic interest in encouraging older, more highly paid faculty to retire; they also have, arguably, an ethical responsibility to make way for younger faculty, whose diversity reflects that of American society at large. Given the tenure system and the absence of mandatory retirement, colleges and universities can only prevent a “bottleneck” in the faculty pipeline by offering incentives to those who may be hesitating to take the next step.

Why are some faculty reluctant to retire? Many surveys show that professors cite concern about financial security post-retirement as one reason, but their primary reasons, it turns out, are psychological and professional. Many fear a loss of purpose and identity: “Who am I if I no longer do what I have done for the past thirty, thirty-five, forty years?” Many do not want to lose access to professional resources provided by the university. Some believe that their academic discipline or sub discipline will suffer if they retire and the institution does not replace them with someone with that same specialization.

Thus it is advantageous to both senior faculty and academic institutions to ease the transition into retirement and retain the retired faculty members’ engagement with the university. Retirement organizations such as TURFA can help their institutions to make retirement more attractive (for instance, by positing retirement as a reconfiguration of the employee’s relationship to the employer, rather than a severance of that relationship) and to alleviate anxieties about retirement (for instance, by offering workshops that address both financial and psychological aspects of retiring, as is done at several University of California campuses). As for retaining the retirees’ engagement with the university, in her plenary address Carole Goldberg described emeriti faculty as a “magical resource” that universities can draw upon by shifting some faculty onto the retirement system, then recapturing the work that they want to do in terms of teaching, research, and service, and, in the process, freeing up funds to hire new faculty.

Conference sessions and speakers also explored ways to increase the influence and recognition of retirees and retirement organizations on campus and off. We need to cultivate influence with state and national legislatures, who have the power to make pension and Social Security changes affecting current retirees and to make decisions affecting higher education generally (in this respect, the AAUP serves as a possible model and ally). We can open crucial lines of communication with the Board of Regents, as more USM create AROHE-affiliated retirement organizations: in Georgia, 29
USG campuses have representatives comprising a Retirement Council that meets regularly with the system Chancellor and the Vice Chancellors for Academic Affairs and Human Resources and that works with Board of Regents staff on issues relevant to retirees.

Retirement organizations can create alliances with the alumni associations at their institutions, with whom they share common causes. On many campuses, members of retirement organizations serve on the Faculty Senate and university-level committees, bringing to them their experience and deep institutional knowledge. At U.Cal. Berkeley, the retirement organization’s Executive Committee regularly invites campus leaders (the Chancellor, the deans, the HR director, etc.) to meet for coffee, to hear what is on their minds and to find ways to help them advance the university’s mission. Goldberg emphasized the importance of recognizing retired faculty’s continued contributions to their institution, in order to remind the university of their value and in order to reward those retirees who go “above and beyond.” The U.Cal. system conducted a survey of its retired faculty, the results of which are recorded in “A Virtual Eleventh Campus: An Inventory of University of California Emeriti Activity” (http://cucea.ucsd.edu/documents/AVirtualEleventhCampus.pdf). The survey revealed the impressive number of retired faculty who are publishing books and articles, teaching courses, and volunteering in their communities. U.Cal. Davis asks retirees to participate in the Living History Project, in which their interviews are filmed for preservation in the university’s archives, for broadcast on public radio, for posting to YouTube, and for documentary presentations attended by students, faculty, and administrators. Finally, retirement organizations can maintain a high profile on campus by sponsoring student scholarships and by mentoring undergraduates, graduate students, and/or younger faculty.

The AROHE Conference generated a lot of food for thought, including ideas that TURFA members and the TURFA Executive Committee will be considering in the coming year.

Ellen Katz: A Showstopper!
Peggy Benner

Costumed in full sailor gear, Ellen Katz sang “I’m in love with a wonderful guy” as she danced her way to the podium at this past June’s retired faculty brunch. Her topic was the musical, South Pacific, and her talk/performance electrified the audience.

Using audio recordings and videos of scenes from the movie version and interviews to illustrate her words, Ms. Katz spoke about the musical’s origin in James Michener’s Tales of the South Pacific, which he wrote after his World War II military service on the island of Espiritu Santo, one of the New Hebrides islands in the South Pacific. She traced the evolution of the musical South Pacific from novel to Broadway play in 1949, to motion picture hit in 1958, to a Lincoln Center production in 2008.

She examined four themes in the novel and productions: racial discrimination, gender roles, older-man-younger-woman romance, and the triumph of good over evil. Punctuating her words with songs from the productions, she called South Pacific “a part of our American heritage” and praised it as “a super musical with a brilliant blend of song and story” that ranks as a “cultural and artistic achievement.” Her talk wove a rich tapestry of historical and stage production details and culminated in a rousing applause from her audience.
Focusing on courses about the history of Broadway since 1890, Ms. Katz has taught at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute for seven years. This fall, she is devoting four weeks to four musicals: La Cage, Chicago, Fiddler on the Roof, and Jersey Boys. For each class, she will beguile her students with a costume depicting that week’s musical and an enthusiasm that belies her 50 years in the classroom.

For further information about Ms. Katz’s work, contact her at www.ellenkatzbroadway.com. Find out about her offerings and other food for the mind at www.towson.edu/oshers.

**TURFA Bits**

In June **Armin Mruck** traveled to Germany and Poland. In Germany at TU’s partnership university, he presented a lecture about the presidential elections in the USA.

Before the lecture, Dr. Finke introduced a new book published by the Oldenburg University Press. This book includes major contributions from Professor Mruck. Written in German, the title of the book translates to *The German Question and the Barsinghausen Talks-1958-1967*. Next year, TU can look back on thirty years of active cooperation in many areas with its oldest university partnership, the Carl von Ossietzky Universitaet Oldenburg.

After his stay in Oldenburg, Dr. Mruck visited his homeland in the former German East Prussia, which has been a part of Poland since 1945.

**Frances Torino Bond** was recently awarded the Mother Generosa McCafferty Distinguished Alumna Award from The Catholic High School of Baltimore. The award is given annually to a Catholic High alumna in recognition of her outstanding individual achievements, her contributions to her profession, her service to the community, and her loyalty to Catholic High.

The Committee on the **Yueh-Gin Gung and Dr. Charles Y. Hu Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics** has recommended **Martha Siegel** as the recipient of the 2017 prize. This award, the most prestigious prize for service offered by the Association, honors 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 committee’s recommendation, approved by the MAA Board of Governors on June 29, 2016, cites Dr. Siegel for her remarkable leadership in guiding the national conversation on undergraduate mathematics curriculum, particularly as it is affected by fields in applied mathematics, and especially from the perspective of the Mathematical Association of America and its mission. Dr. Siegel founded the Towson University Applied Mathematics Laboratory.

**In Memoriam**

**Herbert D. Andrews**, Department of History, August 3, 2016, following a brief acute illness. For over 30 years, Herb taught a wide array of courses in European History at Towson. He received numerous honors and awards, including a Fulbright Scholarship for research in Marburg, Germany, in the early 1960s. Herb retired from teaching in 1991 but continued his association with Towson, working as the university archivist.

**Georgia O’D. Baker**, Department of Theater Arts, September 17, 2016. Her costume design was a mainstay of theater productions at TU for over 40 years. Georgia worked at Center Stage before joining the Towson faculty in 1966; at TU, she taught her signature course, *Costume, Dress and Society*, and designed costumes for more than 150 stage productions. Her collection of clothing, a major contribution to the theater department, has now grown to more than 2,000 pieces.

She also designed costumes for off-Broadway plays and regional theater shows. In addition, she did work for Maryland Public Television, served...
on the development committee for the restoration of the Hippodrome Theatre, and guest curated exhibitions at the Baltimore Museum of Industry, the Maryland Historical Society, and the Cloisters Children’s Museum. She was an active member of the Costume Society of America and the United States Institute of Theatre Technology. She retired in 2010.

Emily Boone, daughter of Steven Boone, Department of Educational Technology and Literacy, July 20, 2016, at age 30. Emily enjoyed sports and was particularly good at basketball. She also loved to sing and had a beautiful voice. She especially enjoyed singing tunes from Charlotte Church’s CD, Voice of an Angel. She worked in the restaurant business and enjoyed working as a hostess at the Rain Forest Café, formerly in the Towson Town Center. Emily was an organ donor, and her family takes consolation in the fact that through her death, four people’s lives were saved.

Emily is survived by an eight-year-old son, Andrew Mac Donald, Jr., whom she loved dearly.

Dorothy Fix, Department of Art and Design, July 11, 2016. Most remembered for her expertise in fiber art and surface design, Dorothy taught courses in fabric design and 2-D design. She had the ability to motivate her students to research beyond themselves to become better artists with an emphasis on fine craftsmanship. She joined the Towson faculty in January 1975 and retired in August 1987.

Richard “Dick” Gillespie, Department of Theater Arts, April 2, 2016. Dick began his career as an actor, but when he came to Towson in 1961, he found his true calling in teaching and stayed for 37 years. He founded undergraduate academic theater major in 1963. While at Towson, Dick also served as the director of theater, vice-president and dean of students, and chair of the Department of Theater Arts. He helped to establish the Black Student Union, the Women’s Center, and the MFA in Theater Arts; he also led the president’s taskforce on computerizing TU. He retired in 1998.

Earlier, Dick served in the U.S. Army as a motion picture cameraman in Korea, earning numerous service medals for his work. He was married to Maravene Loeschke, a TU Theater Arts graduate and Towson University’s 13th president.

Harold E. “Hank” Muma, Department of Biology, July 2, 2016. Hank joined the TU faculty in 1956 and specialized in teaching human anatomy and physiology courses. He served as president of both the local and state chapters of the AAUP. He also served as president of Towson’s faculty association and as a member of its faculty senate. He retired in 1984.

An accomplished watercolorist, Hank served as the Baltimore Watercolor Society’s president for two years and as a board member for 13 years. He was a member of the Art Gallery of Fells Point, where he served on the board for 15 years and earned numerous awards for his paintings. He was also an avid sailor who continued to race small boats into his 80s; he founded the Red Cross Sailing School located at the Inner Harbor for a decade.

Reeza Sarhangi, Department of Mathematics, July 1, 2016. Reza came to TU in 2001 and was an active faculty member at his death. He was the founder and president of the Bridges Organization, which oversees the annual Bridges Conference on connections between art, music, and mathematics. Universities around the world compete to host these conferences, which have attracted Nobel Prize laureates, the secretary of the International Mathematical Union, and the recipients of many mathematical prizes, as well as artists, historians, educators, and students. Several exhibits at the Museum of Mathematics in New York City can trace their origins to the conferences in one way or another. Reeza enthusiastically focused a variety of audiences on the beauty of mathematics. His untimely passing is a loss not only for Towson University, but also for the
large international community he helped to bring together.

**Mark David Scarinzi.** Department of Physics, Astronomy & Geosciences, July 22, 2016. The long-serving operations manager in PAGs, Mark worked with a succession of students, staff, faculty and department chairs. He was known for his friendliness, good humor, and exceptional competence and accuracy. A true professional, Mark exhibited a strong work ethic and always placed others before himself.

**Michael Seganish.** Legal Studies, College of Business and Economics, July 14, 2016. As the second person hired into what was then the Business Administration Department, Mike played an integral role in the early growth of CBE by helping develop the business minor, the legal studies program, and courses in business law and elder law. As chair of the Business Administration Department in 1982, he restructured marketing as a separate concentration and put together the first curriculum for the College’s move toward accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

During his 45 years at Towson, he remained an active member of the bar, published many articles, and served on a variety of university and college committees. However, his true passion remained in the classroom where he integrated academic teaching with professional experiences, and engaged students with fascinating stories to teach them about law.

**Dan Singer.** Department of Finance, CBE, June 14, 2016. At CBE for almost 26 years, Dan was a dedicated teacher and mentor as well as a tireless scholar who published numerous articles in high-ranking journals on subjects ranging from banking and financial policy to course design.

His accomplishments and experience extended far beyond academia. He worked as a licensed real estate agent and president of a consulting firm, and even founded a successful chain of taco restaurants in Illinois.

Bharat Jain, a fellow finance professor, described him as, “. . . one of the most decent human beings I have had the pleasure of knowing. I know we will all deeply miss his presence and the cheerful way he greeted each of us as he made his way around the office.”

**Lucille Ann (Lucy) Topping.** May 18, 2016. The wife of Joe Topping (Department of Biology), Lucy attended Towson University, with concentrations in art history and early childhood education. She taught at the Govans Presbyterian Nursery School and then worked as an account representative at CareFirst/Blue Cross Blue Shield for more than twenty years, retiring in 2011.

Lucy was an avid reader who also enjoyed art and museums. She served on the Cedarcroft neighborhood board and on the Trinity House Camp board, an association that provided opportunities for underprivileged children to attend summer camp in New Hampshire.