Introduction
The Towson University Retired Faculty Association (TURFA) has moved forward despite COVID-19. We are an integral part of Towson University. Among our most significant contributions this year have been checking in with members early in the pandemic, hosting campus-wide speakers and introducing online membership registration to our website.

SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS
With the help of a talented executive committee and great partners, TURFA has had a great year. We began the year by mentoring students transferring to TU, working with them throughout the academic year as they sought assistance.

Our October fall lecture by Jacqui Hedberg about slavery on Maryland’s Eastern Shore was well attended, inducing some attendees to inquire about TURFA membership. Retired and active faculty and staff, as well as members of the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning were in attendance.

In November, we invited Jack Fruchtman to give a timely lecture on presidential power and the impeachment process. This talk gathered just under 100 current faculty and students, as well as retired individuals and Osher members. Plans for speakers continue for fall 2020, but the talks will be virtual because of the pandemic.

Thanks to President-Elect Ron Matlon and Online Information Coordinator Peg Benner, the website and SharePoint sites were overhauled and now function as intended.

Tech Tune-Ups allowed members to update their computer skills, learning about the new software, hardware and techniques.

Don Forester and the Oral History Committee now have added interviews of Ray Castaldi, Jo-Ann Pilardi, and Annette Chappell, as well as active faculty member George Hahn to the archive. We are grateful to Deans Vanko, Kaynama, and Cooney for their support.

Our Research and Scholarship Committee, chaired by David Larkin, revised its application to award grants through the TU Foundation. The committee awarded a grant to its first applicant, Precha Thavikulwat, who used the funds to attend a conference and present his research.

On Dec. 10, we hosted the UMBC Wisdom Institute members at our TU basketball game with the crosstown rival Retrievers. They had hosted us last year.

In addition, we organized phone calls to TURFA members during the COVID-19 pandemic and plan to stay in touch moving forward.

We have adapted to the virtual world and hold meetings using WebEx and Zoom.

TURFA’s membership grew during 2019–20 from 106 to more than 123 members.

We funded a member’s attendance at a conference after he applied to our Research and Scholarship Committee for a grant; we also recorded four oral histories. Several deans contributed money for the recordings, and we matched their contributions.

RETIRED FACULTY BENEFITS
- Annual retired faculty brunch or luncheon in the spring
- Access to The Advocate (biannual TURFA newsletter)
- Term-long loan period on Cook Library items and additional borrowing privileges for items from other USMAI libraries
- Interlibrary loan and document delivery service as well as remote and onsite access to library journal and database subscriptions
- Golden ID Tuition Waiver Program
- Campus and community service opportunities
**Additional TURFA Membership Benefits:**
Each member pays modest dues to belong to TURFA. In return, they receive:
- Annual program and social get-together in the fall
- Special programs and events held monthly throughout the academic year
- Access to the TURFA Center in Enrollment Services 207 (meeting space, lounge, computers)
- Free on-campus parking and additional OneCard benefits and convenience
- Reduced ticket prices to on-campus cultural and athletic events
- Opportunities to seek TURFA financial support for ongoing research and scholarship
- Special interest groups such as a nonfiction reading group and a writing group
- Mentoring of newly retiring faculty
- Reduced fees for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute classes and activities
- Access to the national AROHE Matters newsletter
- Access to the Faculty Academic Center of Excellence at Towson (FACET)

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**
Our funds are managed in the TU Foundation. We have our primary account as well as accounts for our Oral History and Research and Scholarship committees. Our cash balance went from $5,657.00 in July 2019 to $2,370.18 the same time the following year. The pandemic arrived in March 2020, so the mailing for 2020–21 renewal and new memberships did not go out until June. This year, the Finance Committee recommended several policy changes, and Brian DeFilippis, vice president for advancement, worked with us, implementing online credit card payment of dues and allowing members to add tax-exempt contributions to TURFA. The above figure of $2,370.18 does not include new membership payments, which will be added by our renewal date of Aug. 31.

**HOW RETIRED FACULTY MEMBERS BENEFIT TU**
- Contributions of more than $4 million to the TU Foundation
- More than 100 skilled and knowledgeable faculty members mentoring other faculty and students
- TURFA-sponsored speakers and events for the entire campus and community
- Alliances with the TU Alumni Association and the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning

**CONCLUSION**
We are grateful for the university’s support. We look forward to the coming months and will work hard to serve our members and the university in this highly unusual and undoubtedly difficult year ahead.