

Alumni Magazine for Towson University • Summer 2009

# towson

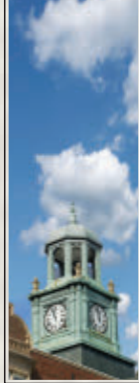
## Escape from the Taliban

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# Growing a university

THE CAMPAIGN FOR TOWSON

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**Make a lasting impression.**  
*Etch your name in Towson's future.*

The opportunities to make a difference at Towson University are everywhere. From the new Liberal Arts building to the Child Care Center to the Center for the Arts, the university has a wide variety of naming possibilities throughout campus. Please consider lending your name or honoring someone special, while supporting the project or program of your choice.

Your gift will make a lasting impression in the lives of our students, the university and the larger community.

For more information on naming opportunities or other university priorities, contact the Development Office at 1-866-301-3375, or e-mail [dmayer@towson.edu](mailto:dmayer@towson.edu).

*Help us grow.*



John Blair Mitchell, Ph.D. joined the art faculty at Towson in 1949 and spent 47 years teaching, mentoring and inspiring students. Through a generous gift from the Mitchell family, the printmaking studio in the Center for the Arts bears his name.

*John Blair Mitchell, Self portrait, drypoint etching, 1994*





**on the cover:** Zareen Taj '04/'08 stands above the Bamian valley in central Afghanistan, home to the Hazara ethnic group. The area is also where two ancient statues of Buddha were destroyed in 2001 because the Taliban leadership viewed them as anti-Islamic.

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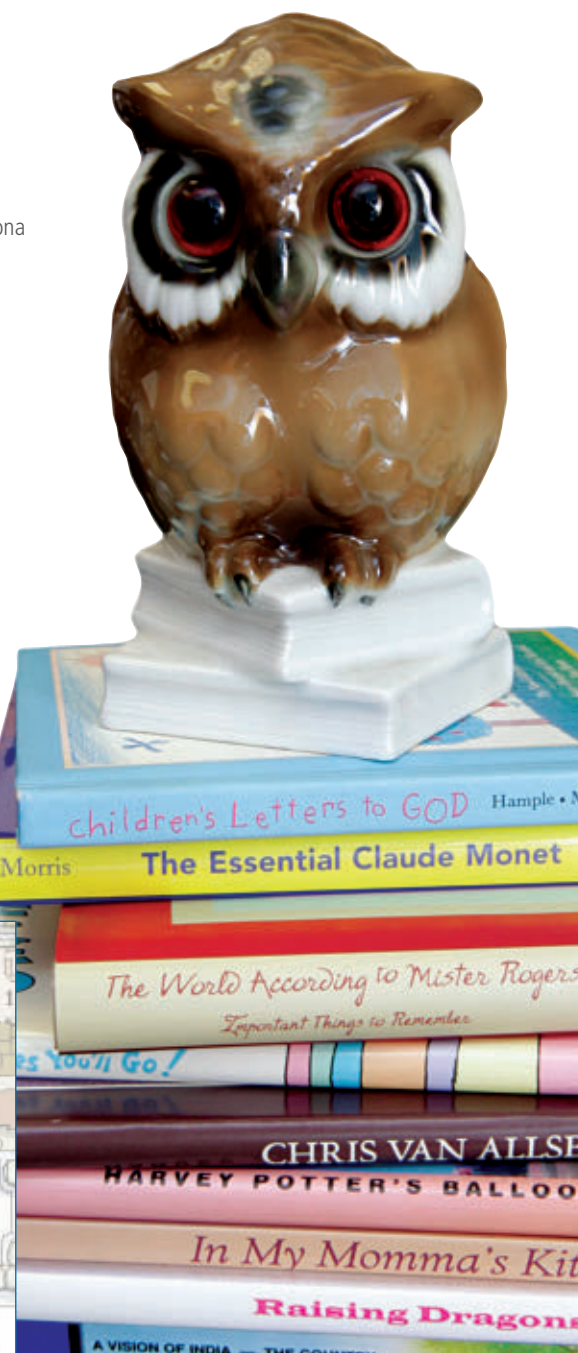
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■ to our readers



Approximately 2,874 bills were submitted during this year's Maryland General Assembly session, but only a fraction of them passed. Much of the legislation involved higher education, making the support of our Towson University alumni and friends more important than ever.

Senate Bill 402-Review of Duplicative Academic Programs would have had a direct impact on the thriving Towson University/University of Baltimore MBA program. Thanks to your advocacy and the 28 senators who voted against it, this bill did not pass.

Despite the fiscal difficulties facing our state and nation, the Governor, the General Assembly and the USM Board of Regents cited higher education as a priority. Compared to higher education cuts across the nation, the University System of Maryland received a nominal \$5.8 million cut to general funds and a \$9 million reduction in the USM's fund balance for FY2010.

With the limited cut to the general fund and the aid of federal stimulus funds, the Board of Regents voted to extend the tuition freeze for another year, keeping higher education affordable for our students for the fourth consecutive year. Towson also celebrated when potential cuts to the USM Hagerstown Center were restored, allowing our nursing program to continue to thrive in Western Maryland.

Campus construction is a key component of *Towson University 2010: Mapping the Future*, our strategic plan, and this funding keeps us on track to accomplish our goals. Towson received approval for \$35.7 million to build phase two of the new College of Liberal Arts complex. Phase one opens this fall.

Be sure to tell your legislators about your connection to the university and that we appreciate their support. It enables TU to continue to serve the state as the "designated growth institution" and produce nearly 5,000 workforce-ready graduates each year.

Bob Caret

President, Towson University

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“ Towson received approval for \$35.7 million to build phase two of the new College of Liberal Arts complex. ”

## Letters

### "I DIDN'T THANK YOU" TREE

I am taking this opportunity to thank three special people.

In 1961, at the age of 43, I decided to go to college.

I did not pass the entrance exam and wrote asking to enter Towson on probation. The delightful Orville Murphy, dean of students, arranged for my entry. I thank Dean Murphy.

During my first college exam (English) I took one look at the blackboard, burst out crying and left the room. Later Mrs. Elliott, my delightful English professor, told me about one of her former students whose problems made my problems look like a picnic. Mrs. Elliott arranged for me to take the exam later in the week. I thank Mrs. Elliott.

After [an operation] I lost quite a bit of time and thought my college career was finished. Ella Bramblett, my delightful elementary education professor, sent me a note and told me to take up where I had left off. I thank Ella Bramblett.

If it had not been for these three people I would never have known John B. Mitchell— and his extraordinary painting classes—nor my other great teachers and friends.

I got my B.A. at age 50 and taught second grade for 10 years with Baltimore City public schools. I was 92 in April and my years at Towson and years teaching make for wonderful memories.

Thank you Taylor Gilbert for your tree.

**Dorothy Perkins Brown '67**  
Baltimore, Md.

### BROTHERLY LOVE AND REFLECTIONS

Alpha Omega Lambda was not Towson's first fraternity. That honor belongs to Alpha Phi Omega, whose Iota Gamma chapter was the only fraternity permitted by President Hawkins. I joined as a freshman in 1950.

I was delighted to find the article on Phineas Wright.

He was a fine teacher, with a delightful, dry sense of humor. If memory serves, Mr. Wright served as a faculty advisor to Alpha Phi Omega. I recall a meeting at a member's home where he enjoyed the fruit of the barley, something I gathered was not encouraged by his spouse. When I returned to Towson after an eight-year hiatus to complete my junior and senior years, I chose him to be my faculty advisor.

**Jim Doran '62**  
Parkville, Md.

The enjoyable piece featuring Phineas Wright brought back lots of memories for alumni who knew that he was telling it exactly as it was!

I have written a letter to Mr. Wright, just because I wanted him to know that there are, as he speculated, a "few dozen students, well in their years" who remembered, along with him, the Towson of the '50s.

Thank you for your article and also for the courtesy of sending my letter on to Mr. Wright.

**Julia Pohlman Persky '56**  
Bel Air, Md.

## GREEN SCENE

### RecycleMania

TU took top state honors in two of four categories in a national recycling competition.

The campus placed first among several Maryland schools in the Grand Champion and Waste Minimization categories in RecycleMania, a national recycling and waste minimization competition for colleges and universities. At the national level, TU ranked among the top 25 percent of all schools in these two categories.

The Grand Champion category tallies both cumulative pounds of recycling and waste produced by an institution. The Waste Minimization category adds up waste generated per capita at an institution. TU produced 33.08 pounds of waste and 12.06 pounds of recyclables per person during the 10-week competition.

This year's results mark a 25 percent increase over the total amount of recyclables TU collected during last year's competition. In all, students, faculty and staff recycled nearly 114 tons of material between January 18 and March 28.

Overall, 410 schools participated in Recycle

Mania 2009, with 4.7 million students and 1.1 million faculty and staff members recycling or composting 69.4 million pounds of waste.

### Green Numbers

- **2,800** recycling containers were added on campus as part of the new RecycALL program
- **332** pounds per student were recycled in 2007
- **21** percent of the university's total waste stream was recycled in 2007
- **15** acres of campus have gone into perpetual easement for conservation since 2001
- **3** electric vehicles are in the campus fleet
- **3** campus buildings are slated to be LEED Silver-certified

Source—President Caret's March 2009 testimony to the legislature.





**NUGGETS**

**A Parade of News**

TU's Marching Band struts its stuff at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Nov. 26 in New York City. The band was selected out of approximately 200 applicants to perform for 3.5 million people lining the parade route and more than 50

**TU's Marching Band will strut its stuff in NYC at the Macy's Parade on Thanksgiving.**

million television viewers. Anyone wishing for a front row seat is invited to attend a brunch hosted by the Alumni Association from 8 a.m. to

noon at the Marriott Marquis on Broadway. A private room will overlook the parade. Cost: \$75/adult, \$25/child.

Former band members and others who want to find out more should contact the alumni office at 800-887-8152 or [alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu)

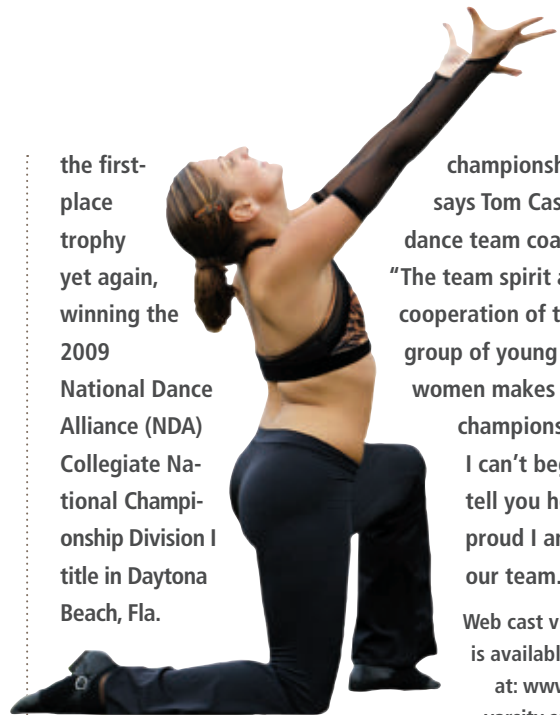
The marching drills and musical arrangements will include TU's new fight song scored by Jeff Hosier '07. The music education major won the competition to compose a new fight song for TU's Marching Band. He penned the melody—a contest to write the lyrics is in the works.

**Dance Wins 11th**

Winning just seems to be part of their

routine. For the eleventh year in a row, the TU Dance Team combined their hip-hop, jazz, funk and pom routines into a winning number. The dancers took home

the first-place trophy yet again, winning the 2009 National Dance Alliance (NDA) Collegiate National Championship Division I title in Daytona Beach, Fla.



championships," says Tom Casella, dance team coach. "The team spirit and cooperation of this group of young women makes them champions.

I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of our team."

Web cast video is available at: [www.nda-varsity.com](http://www.nda-varsity.com).

Almost 5,000 student athletes and 15,000 supporters and spectators convened for the competition of technical skills, breathtaking choreography, crowd pleasing showmanship, synchronization and teamwork. The 2009 NCA/NDA Collegiate Championship is the largest College Cheer and Dance Championship in the world.

The TU Dance Team was the top seed going into the competition, winning the Division I competition beating Harvard, James Madison, Columbia University, Boston University and more.

"We're extremely excited and proud to represent Towson University once again at the national

**NOTEBOOK**

**Smartpen**

A TU senior in theatre production and design is getting some hands-on training in marketing and a leg up in his studies.



**"There are three things you don't lose: your cell phone, your car keys and your Smartpen."**

—Adam Burke '09

Adam Burke is using the Smartpen, which is basically a computer in



a pen that records lectures or classroom discussions. A self-described techie, Burke was one of 30 students selected nationwide by Livescribe, the pen's developer, to use the device on campus and tout its benefits to his peers.

"There's a recording device that lets you devote 100 percent of your attention to lectures, as opposed to frantically trying to take notes and missing half of what was said," Burke explains. "Then you can upload your notes and create keyword-searchable study guides with audio."

He says the pen is more convenient than a notebook computer and makes studying more efficient. "You have to use one to really appreciate what it can do," he adds.

Burke, who uses the Smartpen every day, says fellow students are curious, wanting information and a demo after class. He also markets the pen via Twitter, where professionals ask about future applications of the device.



### Chalk It Up

The brick sidewalk outside the library became a canvas last April for TU students who wanted to celebrate

**Last year more than 400 TU students studied outside the U.S.**

their heritage, nationality or favorite country.

The Study Abroad Office furnished the chalk for budding Picassos or just plain scribblers to color in flags of foreign countries that included Botswana, France, Cuba and Sweden.

Last year more than 400 TU students studied outside the United States through study-abroad programs, exchanges and faculty-led programs

While Italy and the United Kingdom remain popular choices, TU study-abroad participants also traveled to

many other countries, including Australia, South Africa, Peru, Panama, Russia, Greece and Costa Rica.

### Chords

Diane Luchese struck a chord last winter. In fact, the associate professor of music struck organ chords for 15 hours in the concert hall of the Center for the Arts. Luchese was performing the John Cage piece, "Organ2/ASLSP (as slow as possible)" to celebrate the International Year of the Organ.

### SPORT SHORTS

### CAA Champs

The TU women's lacrosse team earned their second straight Colonial Athletic Association title with an 8-7 victory over Delaware in May.

The Tigers held off a late comeback from the opposition to win, marking the first time in CAA history that a fourth-seeded team (the Tigers) beat a second-seeded team for

the conference championship.

The win gave the Tigers an automatic berth and their second straight appearance into the NCAA® Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship.

### LOOK BACK

### Keys

When 84 seniors graduated from then Towson State College on June 14, 1949, they left behind some vital keys for those who followed. "As their parting



gift, the class presented the college with two new typewriters to be used by the students," reads the 1949 yearbook.

## A Yen for Education

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR FROM TU'S COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SPENDS TERM ABROAD IN JAPAN



Once in the classroom, Kenreich wondered how students would react to his American teaching style. "Japanese university students are accustomed to being lectured to and taking notes," he says. "I wanted them to consider developing a broader repertoire of teaching skills, such as what my TU College of Education colleagues and I try to foster in the next generation of Maryland teachers—active listening skills, open-mindedness and consideration of opposing viewpoints."

Kenreich also wanted to foster classroom debates, a difficult concept for Japanese students who were not used to speaking in class, felt they did not have well-informed opinions and worried about defying consensus-thinking.

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**Kenreich wanted to foster classroom debates, a difficult concept for Japanese students who were not used to speaking in class.**

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"My students participated in several debates, and over the weeks became more comfortable in voicing their positions in front of the group," Kenreich explains. "Many told me they'd never done anything like this in class."

Kenreich says the educational exchange of being a Fulbright scholar was one of the best professional experiences he has ever had. Personally, he and his family experienced the "feeling of a common humanity" that motivated the late Senator J.W. Fulbright to establish the program. "Initially my wife and I had reservations about enrolling Casey, our four-year-old son, into the local elementary school rather than an international school," he says. "We didn't want him to feel alienated."

"Our qualms were unfounded—Casey's kindergarten teacher embraced him, and he was warmly accepted into the class."

Growing up in Columbus, Ohio, Todd Kenreich recalls 1982 when the Honda Motor Corporation set up the first Japanese car plant in America, in nearby Marysville.

"Our community, like many across America, began debating what we could learn from Japanese businesses, and how our schools could learn from their student achievements in science and math," says Kenreich, an associate professor in TU's Department of Secondary Education. As one who trains the next generation of teachers, Kenreich says he always wanted to "keep a finger on the pulse of Asian education."

Last year he went to the heart of that instructional system in Japan on a Fulbright scholarship. As a visiting lecturer in American studies from September 2008 to January 2009, Kenreich became fully engaged with the Japanese education system, teaching in the Department of English Education at the Kansai University of International Studies in Miki City, northwest of Kobe.

In his "Cross-Cultural Communication" course, Kenreich helped students understand some of the differences between Japanese and Americans, such as the status of women, youth culture and commuting to school.

"My 75-minute commute included a short train ride to downtown Kobe and a transfer to a university faculty/student bus for a 40-minute ride," he says. "Unlike TU, few if any faculty, staff or students live in and around Kansai University, let alone drive and park there."



A two-year grant from the National Science Foundation will allow five TU researchers to investigate barriers to recruitment, retention and advancement of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.



## What's New



### Winning Strokes

Meredith Budner's record-setting season ended with a splash. The Tiger sophomore was named the 2009 Colonial Athletic Association Women's Swimmer of the Year. No wonder. She led the Tigers to their second straight conference title and was the CAA champion in the 500-yard freestyle (4:45.31), the 400-yard individual medley (4:15.08) and the 1,650-yard freestyle (16:16.50), setting school and CAA records in all three events. Budner also placed 11th in the 1,650-yard freestyle at the 2009 NCAA Division I Women's Swimming and Diving Championships this year, with a time of 16:06.82, which shattered her own previous record. Her performance made her the first Tiger swimmer to earn All-American status.



### Teaching Chinese

Towson University in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education, has received a \$517,608 grant from the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban) to establish an Institute for Chinese Language Teaching, the first of its kind in the United States. The institute will provide Chinese language teachers in grades 7-12 with a program to obtain a Master of Arts in Teaching. Graduates can be certified to teach in Maryland schools and in other states that share reciprocity with Maryland. Less than half of Maryland's 24 school districts offer Chinese language courses. The institute will recruit candidates from a pool of native Chinese language speakers who are already living in Maryland and nearby states.



### Autism Studies

TU is answering the call to help those with autism and their families. This fall the College of Health Professions will introduce its post baccalaureate certificate in autism studies, a 16-credit interdisciplinary program, which will prepare professionals to work with the ever growing number of autistic individuals and their families. TU will be the only public institution in Maryland to offer the program. The training is designed to produce professionals who can serve people with autism spectrum disorders, whether children or adults, in a variety of settings, including home, school and work. Students can complete their postbaccalaureate concurrently with a master's degree program in related subjects.



### Satellite Campus

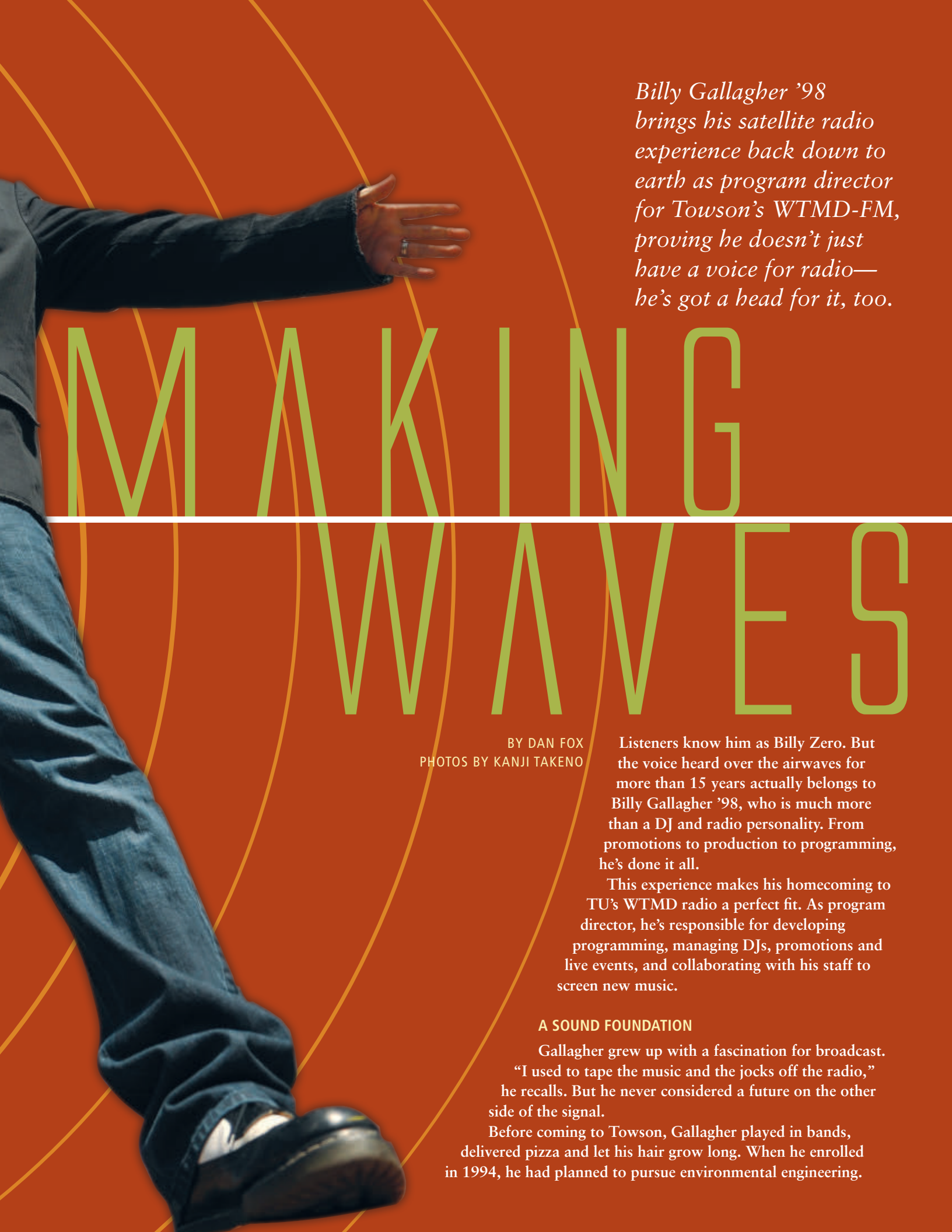
TU is set to build new classrooms adjacent to Harford Community College in a 30,000 square-foot building that would open in 2011. This would be the first undergraduate degree program in the Harford County region, an area expected to see an influx of new residents because of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) initiative. Students would spend their first two years at HCC, then finish their bachelor's degree in programs including education, business, criminal justice, science and technology next door at TU's satellite building. TU and HCC officials signed a memorandum of understanding in March.



Robert Rook, TU history professor, delivered a series of lectures for 10 days on Middle East security strategies, cultural awareness and diplomacy aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower.







*Billy Gallagher '98  
brings his satellite radio  
experience back down to  
earth as program director  
for Towson's WTMD-FM,  
proving he doesn't just  
have a voice for radio—  
he's got a head for it, too.*

# MAKING WAVES

BY DAN FOX  
PHOTOS BY KANJI TAKENO

Listeners know him as Billy Zero. But the voice heard over the airwaves for more than 15 years actually belongs to Billy Gallagher '98, who is much more than a DJ and radio personality. From promotions to production to programming, he's done it all.

This experience makes his homecoming to TU's WTMD radio a perfect fit. As program director, he's responsible for developing programming, managing DJs, promotions and live events, and collaborating with his staff to screen new music.

## A SOUND FOUNDATION

Gallagher grew up with a fascination for broadcast. "I used to tape the music and the jocks off the radio," he recalls. But he never considered a future on the other side of the signal.

Before coming to Towson, Gallagher played in bands, delivered pizza and let his hair grow long. When he enrolled in 1994, he had planned to pursue environmental engineering.



## SATELLITE RADIO ALLOWS LISTENERS TO NEW A

**Billy Gallagher hopes to one day bring WTMD's programming to a national audience.**

At first undeterred by the downsizing and restructuring, Gallagher lobbied hard for local artists to get time on air and on stage. In 1996, he created the “locals only” stage at WHFS's annual “HFStival” concert, gaining approval from station management on the sole condition that it wouldn't impact the financial bottom line. When the stage debuted that summer, it didn't just break even—it made a profit. Two local bands featured on the stage, Jimmie's Chicken Shack and Good Charlotte, soon made national major-label debuts. The groundbreaking locals-only model was so successful it was replicated at other music festivals across the country.

Despite these successes, the reality of hyper-commercial radio eventually turned him away. In 2000, he made the decision to leave WHFS.

“I knew it was the end. I'd play a Red Hot Chile Peppers song, and then three hours later, I'd have to play the same song again,” he recalls. “That's not why I got into radio.”

After WHFS, he took a short stint in ad sales with Baltimore-based Advertising.com. Within a few months, Gallagher heard from a headhunter. A company called XM—out to revolutionize radio—wanted him in on the ground floor.

### THE BEAT GOES ON

XM satellite radio had the potential to bring a new order to the commercial model. With over 100 dedicated digital channels for music, sports and news, XM offered the diversity and freedom that terrestrial radio lacked.

So in late 2000, Gallagher left Advertising.com and began to prepare XM for release to the public. One of his first posts was music director for XM Unsigned, where he worked with Pat DiNizio of The Smithereens to bring up-and-coming acts to the national airwaves. In its infancy, XM Unsigned's playlist relied entirely on 600 unsigned and independent albums that Gallagher had accumulated during his time at WHFS. His professional ties eventually brought thousands of other albums into the fold.

He went on to help build the XM alternative-music channel, Fred, as well as Big Tracks, which focused on cuts from classic rock albums. He was later tapped to rehabilitate the struggling alternative-indie channel, XMU.

**Many other WTMD employees are also TU graduates. (Pictured left to right) Ryan “Bug” Glaeser '09, Andrew Lovett '07, Nick Jackson '07, Tyler Laporte '07.**

But at freshman orientation, as students broke off into groups of their intended major, the mass communication crowd looked a lot more fun. So he switched.

The spontaneous decision paid off. His interest in communications soon led him to the student radio station, XTSR. Within weeks, he moved to an on-air spot at WTMD, the TU-owned radio station serving the Baltimore area.

At that time, WTMD was known as *The Breeze* and followed a contemporary jazz format that Gallagher admits wasn't his forte. So just three months later, when progressive-rock powerhouse WHFS put out a call for interns, he jumped at the opportunity.

Gallagher had grown up listening to WHFS, which in the '80s and early '90s was a springboard for new artists who weren't getting play anywhere else. The “music for music's sake” attitude of the station drew him in.

As an ad sales intern, Gallagher made his mark by filling in for DJs—ad-libbing on the mike at live events whenever the regular DJs arrived late. His ambition turned heads among station veterans, and his hard work was rewarded with a full-time gig: first in sales and promotions, then engineering and eventually on-air.

Unfortunately, Gallagher saw major changes at the station shortly after he signed on. Ownership changed hands four times throughout his tenure. With each transaction, playlists shrank and DJs were granted less autonomy over what they could put on the air.

“It was sort of the end of the glory days at WHFS,” he explains. “I got there right before the station was sold, and over the next few years I had a front-row seat to the buying and selling of the airwaves that's now commonplace.”



# VED GALLAGHER TO INTRODUCE ARTISTS AND NEW SONGS EVERY DAY

“XM was such a breath of fresh air,” says Gallagher. “At a traditional radio station I’d say, ‘OK, here are the 400 songs we can play this week.’ But at XM I’d say, ‘Here are 400 *new* songs we’re *adding* this week.’”

Satellite radio allowed Gallagher to introduce listeners to new artists and new songs every day. He didn’t just have to play the hot new single; he was free to broadcast whatever he and his listeners appreciated. The medium was fresh, complex and diverse. It was just the kind of radio that he’d always set out to deliver.

He is unequivocal in describing the value of his time at XM. “It was a way for the community and the country to experience music that it had been missing—thousands of songs, thousands of artists, people would never otherwise hear. That was the gift of music to me.”

Unfortunately, the gift had a price. Satellite radio is a paid subscription service and, spurred by declining profits, XM merged with sole competitor Sirius Satellite Radio in late 2008. Many XM employees, including Gallagher, were laid off.

During his last week at XM, he was invited by John Turner, TU associate professor of electronic media and film, to speak to a class on campus. During Gallagher’s visit, Turner tipped him off to a job opening at WTMD.

“I went over there and met with the station manager and the staff. I instantly loved what they were doing. They’re all so knowledgeable and put the music first,” says Gallagher.

According to WTMD station manager Steve Yasko, the feeling was mutual. “Billy walked in with a deep understanding of how music fits into people’s lives,” Yasko says. “His experience at WHFS and XM complement the fervor and tenacity that we embody at WTMD.”

So it was, once again with equal parts talent and timing that have been the hallmark of his professional career, that Gallagher found his way back to WTMD.

## “MAKE THE MUSIC HAPPEN”

It’s no surprise that Gallagher wound up at WTMD. The station has become a refuge on the FM dial for the pop-weary and world-aware, in many ways a microcosm of the satellite radio ethos that Gallagher found so energizing. An extensive, sophisticated playlist, strong support for local and unsigned acts and an incredibly knowledgeable staff all contribute to what Gallagher calls “the youthful love of music” that permeates the studio.

With 15 years of experience to his credit, Gallagher wants to bring the lessons learned in satellite and terrestrial radio home to WTMD. “To have the promotional muscle of commercial radio and the creativity of XM. That’s the goal, and we build from there,” he says.

But WTMD is public radio, and building isn’t always easy for a station that relies on public support. Research shows that public radio listeners wait three to five years before making their first contribution, and less than five percent of WTMD listeners will contribute at all.

“The dollar is definitely the biggest challenge I face,” says Gallagher. “How do we expand our audience and our membership? How do we entice listeners and help them realize that this is valuable to them?”

The value is there. The station’s flexible AAA (Adult Album Alternative) format translates to freedom for Gallagher and the DJs, who deliver a robust catalog of blues, indie rock, reggae and folk, among others. Add to this over 200 live studio and station-sponsored events each year, such as the First Thursday free summer concert series, and it becomes hard to ignore WTMD’s unique place in Baltimore’s aural landscape.

One day, Gallagher hopes for WTMD to follow in the footsteps of public-radio heavy-hitters like Philadelphia’s WXPB (producer of the highly regarded *World Café*), and create programming that’s broadcast nationally.

For now, however, WTMD is focusing locally, and a big step forward occurred in February with the arrival of WTMD’s HD-2 channel. Called The Baltimore Channel, this high-definition broadcast brings local artists to the airwaves—local artists that probably aren’t played anywhere else.

“We’re supporting our local artists and we’re getting our local programming solid. WTMD is about community. The community of artists, the community of listeners and the community of members.”

“The mission is simple,” he says. “Make the music happen.” ■

Dan Fox is a senior editor in University Relations.



# A Place to Call Home

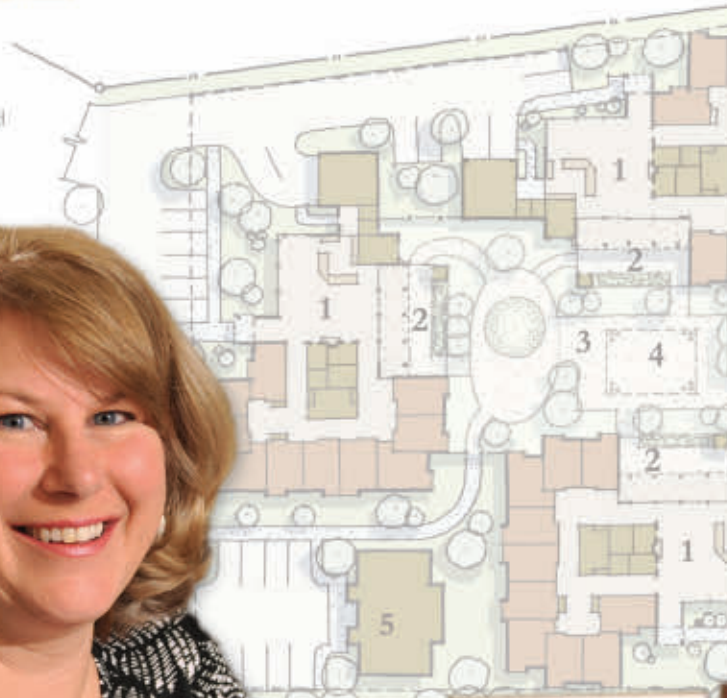
*An award-winning design team combines occupational therapy and architecture to recreate the traditional nursing home.*

By Jan Lucas / Photo by Kanji Takeno

## site plan

© 2008 American Occupational Therapy Association

- 1 Greenhouse
- 2 Greenhouse Patio
- 3 Common Courtyard
- 4 Common Pavilion
- 5 Administration



## Lisa Fagan '87/ '01 M.S. is

one of a growing number of professionals working across disciplines to create a new kind of nursing home: one that offers residents a lifestyle emphasizing *life*.

Decades ago, when actress Bette Davis declared that old age was “no place for sissies,” her blunt assessment resonated with older adults facing the prospect of spending their final years in nursing homes. It wasn’t only physical and mental decline they dreaded, but also the social isolation and loss of independence that too often accompanied it.

That dreary scenario is less likely nowadays, thanks to Fagan and others dedicated to re-imagining and recreating the traditional nursing home.



Lisa Fagan was part of a team that won first place in the Design for Aging Competition.



She and her professional partner, architect Quinn deMenna, are part of a national movement to transform nursing homes into comfortable, welcoming places that support social relationships and create a sense of community.

Fagan, a visiting instructor in TU's Department of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science, is no stranger to nursing homes. The West Chester, Pa., native spent several years working in them after earning her bachelor's degree in 1987.

She later directed regional operations for a company that provided rehabilitation services to about 20 nursing homes in the Philadelphia area. Along the way, she met and married the executive director of a continuing-care community.

But it was a professional relationship that altered her career path.

"I met Quinn deMenna when my husband took a position managing a new continuing-care community in New Jersey," Fagan recalls. "Quinn designed the buildings, and I got involved with designing the rooms and features."

As Fagan and deMenna interacted, each began to appreciate the insights and expertise the other brought to the project. "Architects understand the environment," says Fagan. "Occupational therapists understand the relationship between the environment and those who use it. They intervene when necessary to help people do what they need to do independently and safely.

"Quinn understood that we could blaze trails by collaborating," she adds.

The two won their first award in 2001, the same year Fagan completed her M.S. at Towson. (She is now pursuing a doctorate at TU in occupational science.) Their design, a sink for older adults with disabilities, greatly improved on the standard model, Fagan says. "It used contrasting colors that made it much easier to see the bowl. Quinn also incorporated Corian® grab bars for support."

Last year Fagan and deMenna took on another challenge: the first Green House® design competition, sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and NCB Capital Impact.

The Green House Project is a movement dedicated to establishing smaller, more inviting and community-focused nursing homes or assisted-living facilities.

Green House® certified homes integrate architecture with services to offer "privacy, autonomy, support and enjoyment" for six to 10 residents.

**"Architects understand the environment. Occupational therapists understand the relationship between the environment and those who use it."**

—Lisa Fagan



"Not every facility aims for Green House certification," Fagan emphasizes. "But the movement has done a lot to support people's thinking about how we need to change nursing homes.

"The smaller-scale facilities provide amenities like fireplaces and kitchens," she adds. "Most offer private bedrooms with baths, and some even have adjoining rooms for couples or family members." Exteriors are distinctly un-institutional as well: many resemble large family dwellings with attractive landscaping and outdoor seating areas.

Upon entering the Green House competition, organizers assigned Fagan and

deMenna a category and a hypothetical building site—as well as a daunting number of specifications and considerations. Of all those vying for design awards—more than 30 teams in all—Fagan was the only OT.

"We were asked to design a rural Green House," she says. The "site" was a 40-acre parcel of land located between Denver and Cheyenne, Wyo., that included views of the Rocky Mountains. Low-income housing bordered the property on one side, with open pasture on another.

The pair had six weeks in which to complete their submission, Fagan recalls.

While deMenna designed the structure, Fagan concentrated on individual bedroom and bath layouts in keeping with Green House criteria. She also addressed the requirement for an enclosed backyard.

"I proposed raised flower beds in place of a fence," she explains. "Raised beds create enough of a barrier to keep residents with dementia from wandering away, and they offer opportunities for gardening."

In retrospect, Fagan says this "OT touch" brought her team's submission to the judges' attention and played a crucial role in their decision to award a first-place prize.

She hopes this national recognition of her work will attract other occupational therapists to the challenges associated with developing quality residential facilities for

older adults. "Not too many are involved right now, but it's a huge opportunity," she says.

Fagan stays in touch with deMenna, noting that the architect has traveled from Lancaster, Pa., to speak to her classes. She says their partnership may lead to additional projects.

"It's rewarding to know that Quinn and I have had an impact in a field where so much needs to be done," she adds. ■

**Jan Lucas is an associate director in University Relations**

Site plans and rendering courtesy of Reese, Lower, Patrick & Scott, Ltd.

# Still TEACHING

**Rick Bavaria '70** may have left the classroom, but his lessons for students, parents and teachers can be found on his blog.

**R**ick Bavaria '70 may not be teaching in the classroom anymore, but he's still the teacher to turn to for advice on all educational matters for preschoolers and high schoolers alike.

As the senior vice president of Sylvan Education Inc., Bavaria is the voice and face of the company. It's his job to reach out to the country and talk about education, which he does through [DrRickBlog.com](http://DrRickBlog.com). Through this free site, students, parents and teachers of all ages and levels can tap into Bavaria's more than 40 years of teaching experience in a friendly, accessible forum.

Bavaria finds that people most often come to the site in search of practical information. They want tips on helping students succeed, raising grades, improving attitudes and study habits, and gaining confidence to learn.

Bavaria writes frequent opinion pieces about the state of education, including a February 2009 piece that commented on Maryland schools being ranked as the best in the nation.

The site also offers forums for visitors to sound off about anything and everything education. It's not exactly the classroom, but the blog is a great way to teach even more people.

"I'm a teacher at heart. I always miss teaching. When I left the classroom several years ago, that was a big withdrawal," he says. "But now I feel like I'm helping the next generation of teachers become better teachers."

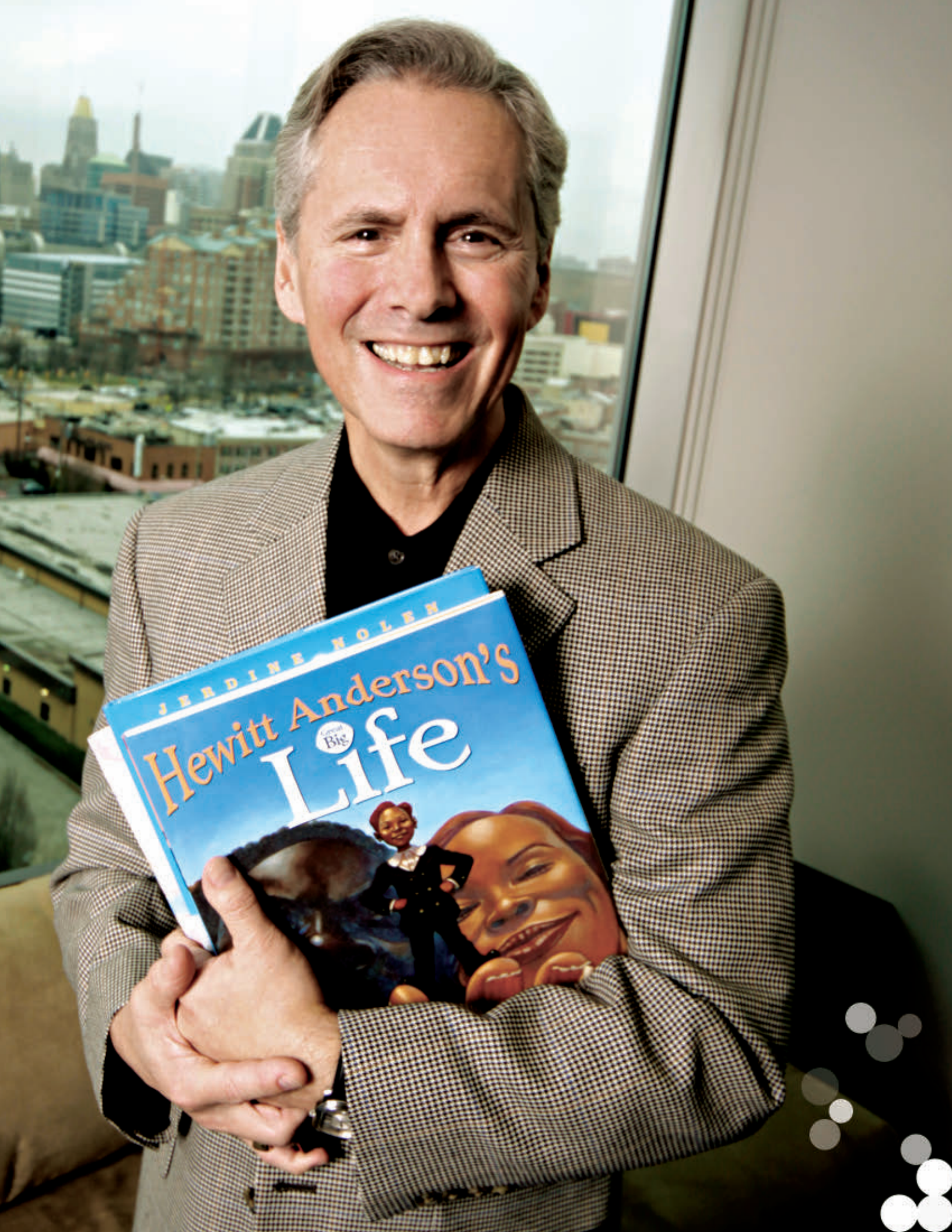
When Bavaria first walked the halls of Parkville High School as an English teacher in the '70s, he never expected to top off his career as Dr. Rick, education expert. Back then, his Baltimore County students simply called him Mr. B., relying on him to learn and admiring him so much that years later he was included in their personal events, such as weddings and children's baptisms.

But Dr. Rick didn't become a household name overnight. After graduating from Towson, he earned his master's in liberal arts from Johns Hopkins University and his Ph.D. in English curriculum and instruction from the University of Maryland.

By Laura Lewis Brown ■ Photos by Kanji Takeno







JERDINE HOLEN  
Hewitt Anderson's  
Big  
Life





From  
Dr. Rick's  
Blog

## Win the Homework War

Tips for parents to tackle one of the most common battles

- **Be a homework manager.**

Don't do your child's homework, but provide the structure and tools to complete assignments.

- **Know your child.**

Each child has different learning styles and academic needs, so personalize the work schedule and study environment.

- **Break long-term assignments into smaller segments.**

Larger projects will be less overwhelming when viewed as a series of incremental tasks.

- **Set milestones.**

Teach your child to display completion dates on a calendar to help stay on track and complete projects on time.

- **Celebrate success.**

Give your child a sense of accomplishment and pride.

Visit [DrRickBlog.com](http://DrRickBlog.com)

Along the way, he moved his way up in the county school system, from English teacher to director of public information to assistant superintendent for the system's Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

Bavaria has also been honored for his accomplishments and dedication. In 2002, Towson awarded him the Distinguished Alumni Award for the College of Liberal Arts. The Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA), the umbrella organization for school-accrediting agencies around the country, honored him with the Excellence in Education Award, which he received in March. He also serves on the board of Grace and St. Peter's School in Baltimore and the education advisory board of Stevenson University.

While Bavaria refuses to refer to himself as "famous" in the world of education, he has been interviewed countless times in local, regional and national news markets. He has appeared on CNN, The Today Show and NBC News, as well as on national radio shows and in magazines.

For Bavaria though, it's not about notoriety; he's just part of a conversation he's been having with students, parents and the community for more than 20 years. Before joining Sylvan in 1998, he was the media representative for Baltimore County Public Schools.

"Americans have a deep and lively interest in education; they want to know what's going on in their schools, what's important for kids to know and be able to do, and how best to help their kids at home. I was able to add to the conversation here in Baltimore," he says.

But now he is able to reach far beyond Baltimore, not only through his blog, but also at an annual

conference Sylvan hosts for some 1,000 to 1,500 people. In his 10 years at Sylvan he has also been able to meet with parents, students and educators at the company's centers in all 50 states and Canada.

Throughout the years he's seen classrooms change with technology and increased expectations from parents and administrators. But he's learned that students don't change that much and continue to need the same things, including routine. He tells parents to provide routine for their children to help them feel safe and organized. Routine also helps reduce the stress that often comes with homework.

Growing up as a military brat, Bavaria can attest to that need for structure. Although he was a good student, he had to face jumping from school to school. As he moved among 17 different schools by the time he graduated high school, Bavaria learned not only how to fit in and organize himself, but what he wanted to do with his life.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher since third or fourth grade," he says. "I knew I wanted to influence lives. Great and really awful teachers motivated me. I knew I could do better."

Bavaria still considers himself a student, learning from the fellow educators with whom he interacts in person and online. He loves to share the practical tools he learned in his days at Parkville, Dulaney and Chesapeake high schools, such as assigning study buddies.

"I got tired of kids saying they didn't have their homework because they forgot the assignment," he recalls. "I set up buddies to go over the assignments, and they stuck together through the year, helping each other with homework, as well





**Bavaria  
urges parents  
to serve as  
role models,  
showing  
how they  
use writing,  
reading and  
math skills  
every day.**



as motivating and competing with each other.”

Bavaria knows how important it is to have a buddy even in one’s working life. For him, that person is Larry Yeatman, a retired educator of 35 years who student-taught beside Bavaria when they were Towson students and then for seven years at Parkville High. Yeatman explains that he’s not surprised that his longtime friend has become an important voice for education.

“He was the best teacher I’ve ever seen at any level,” Yeatman recalls. “He has a great concern for kids, knowledge of the subject matter, and a way of getting students interested.”

Another theme that dominates Bavaria’s blog is the role of parents in their child’s education. He urges parents to serve as role models, showing how they use writing, reading and math skills every day. This teaches their children that what they learn in school is relevant in the real world.

“Balance the checkbook, do the tip at dinner in front of them. Let your kids see you reading for information, such as the newspaper. Let them see you perform a task, get instructions to do something. Let them see you turn off the TV and read for pleasure,” he says.

However, Bavaria recognizes that a parent’s role can be a tricky subject. While students need their parents’ support, some parents go overboard, even doing their children’s homework for them. Bavaria warns that this is not going to benefit the student. He says parents need to be aware of what is going on in their child’s academic life, including the big due dates. Although children aren’t always forthcoming, parents can stay in touch through the

school or teacher’s Web site and e-mail.

“It’s important for parents to stay involved from the very earliest days so children understand their parents want to know what happened at school,” he says. “When children get in the habit of communicating with parents about school, everyone wins.”

Parents need to know what is going on so they can step in if a child needs help. Bavaria says parents often wait too long to hire a tutor or ask the teacher for extra help. It’s never too early to get help, he says.

Despite Bavaria’s love for teaching and pride in his profession, he

recognizes how easy it can be for a teacher to get burned out on the job, particularly when the administrative hassles become overwhelming.

As much as he recommends parental involvement, he cannot deny the continued disagreement between parents and teachers as to how involved each should be. Bavaria refers to a Sylvan study that found one-third of parents wish they didn’t have to be involved and two-thirds of teachers believe parents should be more involved in their child’s education. For Bavaria, the solution is simple: Focus on the child.

“Parents always want the best for their kids. Teachers want the best for kids. The better we adults become at communicating with each other, the better it is for the students,” he says. “If parents and teachers have a solid foundation of respect, best practices and good ol’ common sense, the kids end up being successful.” ■

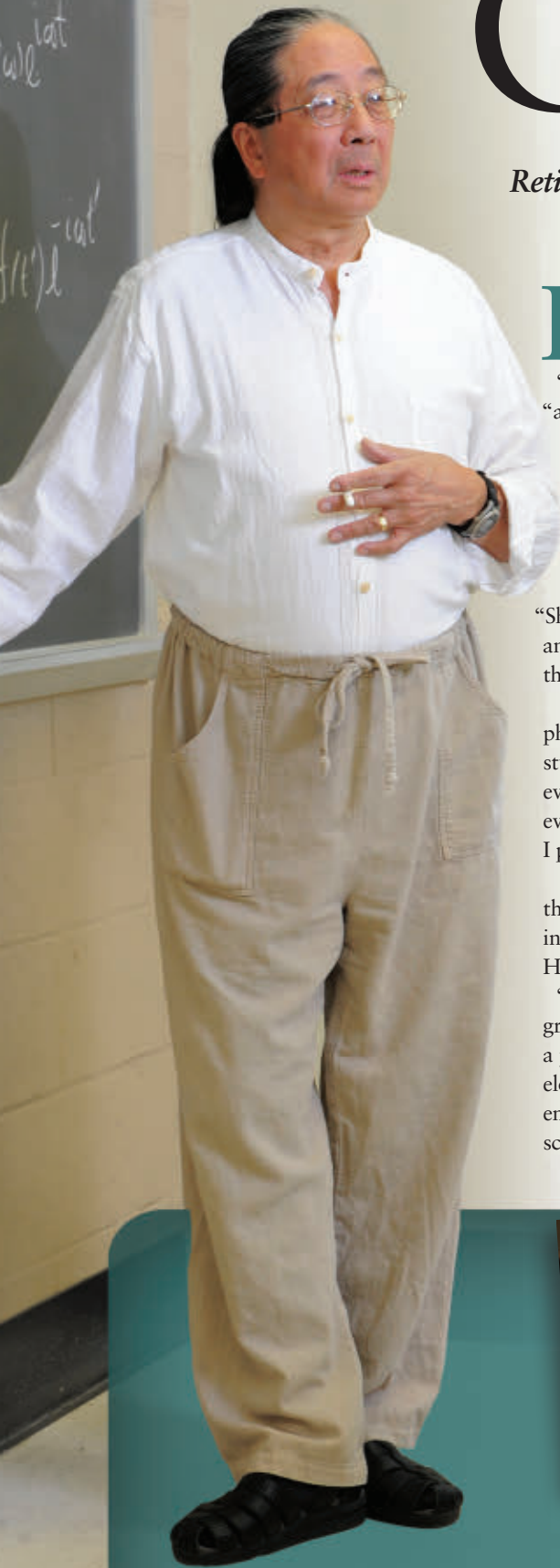
**Laura Lewis Brown is a former editor in University Relations.**



# Chen: Now

*Retiring Physics Professor Henry Chen recalls Towson in the late '60s*

BY JAN LUCAS · PHOTOS BY KANJI TAKENO



**H**enry Chen waxes nostalgic when he recalls one of his first Towson students.

“Her name was Erica Buchman,” he says, “and she cried after she flunked my first exam.”

In retrospect, Chen says his physical-science examination was much too tough. “It was my fault,” he concedes. “Many did poorly.”

But failure didn’t deter Erica, he explains. “She was very bright. She worked and worked, and she ended with the highest average in the class.”

That anecdote typifies the man who taught physics to tens of thousands of Towson students over five decades. “I can’t remember everyone,” he says, “but if I had photos of everyone in that first class and a list of names, I probably could match about 75 percent.”

Chen arrived at Towson State College in the fall of 1965 after temporarily abandoning graduate studies in biophysics at Johns Hopkins.

“I wasn’t doing well in my master’s program, and thought I’d better start looking for a job,” he says matter-of-factly. His bachelor’s degree in biochemical science gave him entrée to Towson’s newly created physical science department, where he signed on as a

\$6,000-per-year instructor. (Chen completed his M.A. in biophysics at Johns Hopkins in 1969, then earned a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, College Park.)

It was—to say the least—an interesting time to be launching an academic career. The Vietnam War was escalating, and the United States was midway through a decade now remembered chiefly for its violence, political activism and social unrest. But there was little—if any—of that in evidence among Towson’s 4,600 students, Chen says.

.....  
*“Lunch cost 65 cents at the faculty dining room, and they kept a tab for you.”*

—Henry Chen  
.....

“It remained essentially a teachers college,” he recalls. Students constituted the first wave of baby boomers, and many also were the first members of their families to pursue a college degree. “They studied hard and tended to be politically conservative,” he says. “Most lived at home and commuted to campus, juggling course work with jobs.”



*Professor Chen laughs after reading his trademark comments on a T-shirt made by students.*

## According to Chen

Students and faculty arrived at Henry Chen’s farewell lecture in May clad in black T-shirts printed with 31 of the favorite and famous quips he uttered during 44 years of teaching. Here are a few, and as the T-shirt reads, “If any of this makes sense to you, you’ve been in Dr. Chen’s class.”



# and Then

Towson had few faculty, and Chen says campus customs encouraged interdisciplinary mixing. “Lunch cost 65 cents at the faculty dining room, and they kept a tab for you,” he says with a laugh. “Almost everyone ate there, and within a year I’d met them all.”

Since the college required education majors to take 12 hours of science courses, Chen estimates that many future teachers passed through his classroom. “I was one of seven or eight faculty members in the department, so I probably taught about one-seventh of the student body,” he says. “I taught General Physics I; the physics major was a few years off.”

Anti-war activism came to Towson during the decade’s final years, with Chen and a colleague organizing the first teach-in in 1968. Teach-ins, then a popular form of peaceful protest, offered lectures, discussion panels and debate on the issues of the day.

That year Chen—a self-described liberal—accompanied some students who were canvassing for presidential candidate Sen. Eugene McCarthy, a vocal opponent of the Vietnam War. “It was a very benign group,” he emphasizes. Even so, his activities drew the attention of Gov. Spiro Agnew, then running for vice president.

“Agnew came after my job,” Chen says. “He’d gotten constituents whipped up about subversive student groups, and he suspected me of supporting campus radicals.”

“It was pure political fear mongering,” he says. Tensions mounted on campus as faculty, staff and students anticipated Agnew’s next move. But when President Earle Hawkins finally received the governor’s dossier, there was nothing in it that implicated Towson. “I saw it, and it consisted of a few magazine articles about SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) on other campuses,” Chen recalls.

The scare tactics left Chen unbowed and unrepentant. “I was willing to testify before a grand jury,” he says now. “I may have been too blunt, but I wasn’t afraid.”

The late ’60s also ushered in academic changes: Chemistry and physics became separate departments as the tumultuous decade drew to a close.

Towson State College was advancing steadily toward university status, with Henry Chen as an established and admired member of its faculty. It was the beginning of a relationship that would span five decades and touch many more lives. ■

*Faculty, staff, students and alumni honored Chen at a dinner on May 5. E-mail him at [hchen@towson.edu](mailto:hchen@towson.edu). In retirement he will continue serving as organist and choir director at St. James Episcopal Church in Monkton, Md.*

**Jan Lucas is an associate director in University Relations.**



*A picture of Henry Chen from the 1968 yearbook*

“Termites on a stick forever!”

“Who needs LSD when you have Physics?”

“See me if you don’t know Jello.”

“Nothing in Physics sucks!”

How to prepare a duck breast

Check with Chen \_\_\_\_

The 243 Fact Sheet

*Battlestar Galactica* References

The Boy Scout Story... “I lived a sheltered life.”

“Am I ranting and raving again? I guess so.”

“If I have ADD, you guys have (ADD)<sup>2</sup>!”

“It’s a good thing I’m not taking this exam... I’d flunk for sure!”

“No no... that’s not right... oh wait, yes it is... wait, no...”

“This is why physicists are often not very popular.”

“Parade elephants have changing mass.”

“I stammer a lot, and it shows in my spelling.”

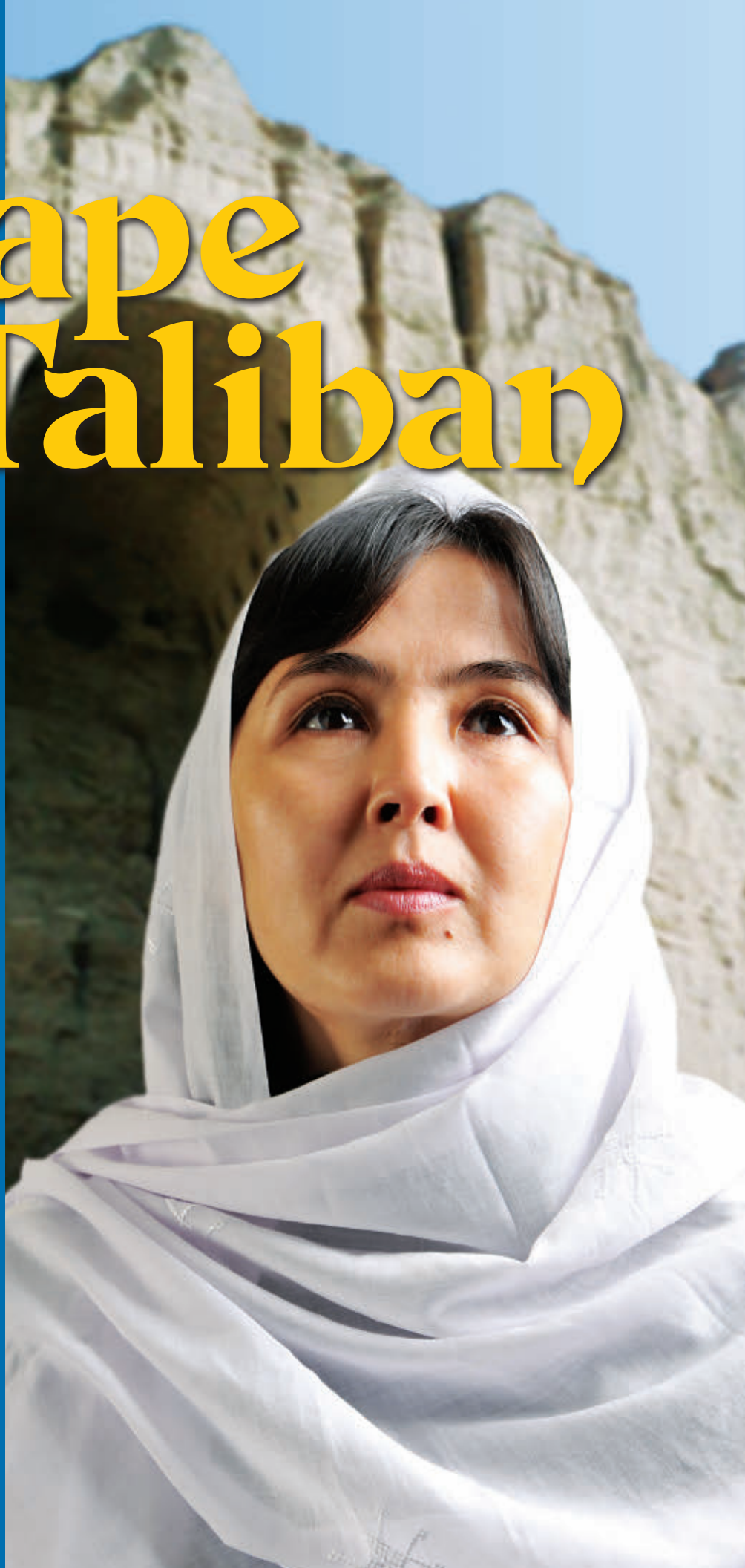
# Escape from the Taliban

*Zareen Taj '04/'08 M.S. fled the violence and oppression but later returned to record the stories of other Afghan women who were not as fortunate.*

By Ginny Cook

Photos by  
Ehsani and Akbari

*Zareen Taj sits in front of the sandstone cliffs of Bamian that for centuries held two Buddha statues before the Taliban blew them up in 2001.*





Few will read a black leather-bound volume that sits in the archives of Cook Library. But within its pages is a chilling documentation of ethnic cleansing, crimes against women, oppression and loss of the Hazara, the most persecuted ethnic minority in Afghanistan.

The book, titled simply, “Thesis,” recounts the research of Zareen Taj, which earned her a master’s degree in 2008.

Now, the author wants to make sure her work does not stay buried on the library’s shelves.

Throughout history, Taj says, the Hazara have been targeted because of their looks, religion and language. Their Mongol features make them stand out from the rest of the population. They are Shi’a Muslims in a country that is primarily Sunni, and they speak Farsi and Hazaragi rather than Pashto, the language of the majority ruling party.

“Since 1996, the Taliban have targeted Hazaras for extinction as they considered them to be internal infidels,” Taj writes.

In what is the first academic study of Hazara women, Taj “confirmed that Hazara women suffered dual oppression from being women and being Hazara.”

Her research included a two-month investigation in her native country in 2004—the first time she had returned to Afghanistan in 20 years. Taj compiled more than 40 hours of video tapes, 700 photographs and 20 hours of recorded interviews from the Hazara survivors of massacres and brutality at the hands of the Taliban.

“It is a story of loss, loss, loss,” Taj says.

And it is partly Taj’s story, partly her loss—a grim reminder of what her life could have become had she remained in her village.

But Taj escaped as a child. She and her family fled the Soviet occupation in Afghanistan and became refugees in Pakistan. But when the Russians left, there was no going home. Afghanistan was engaged in a civil war in the ’90s, then fell under the oppressive Taliban regime from 1996 to 2001.

Taj, however, escaped the destiny of many in her country and in her ethnic group. She came to the United States in 2000 on a scholarship from the Feminist Majority Foundation. She earned a bachelor’s degree from TU in political

science and women’s studies in 2004, and a master’s degree in women’s studies four years later. Now a naturalized U.S. citizen, married and the mother of two, she remains an advocate for women’s and immigrant rights.

Yet she is never far from her Afghan world. “I carry the baggage of the past,” she says, linked by an identity tied to her homeland and what it means to be a woman and a Hazara.

## From fear to activism

Afghan children do not believe in the tooth fairy. Instead, they toss their baby teeth skyward and ask the sun to bring them a new one. “I could not find my tooth when it fell out and I was afraid I would never get another,” Taj recalls.

This is one of the few memories of her childhood, yet, it is tinged with fear—one of her constant companions growing up.

“I don’t remember any day in my life without fear—I feared everything silently,” Taj says.

She also cannot remember having toys or playing. Instead, her memories are of poverty, war and killing.

“I didn’t have a childhood,” she adds. “I lived as an adult always.”

Even after fleeing to Pakistan, she also felt the yoke of religious extremists who removed girls from her public school, denying them an education. Yet, Taj was one of the few who continued her studies—in a secret, unmarked location, she was one of a few dozen young women who defied the Taliban decree.

“I did not understand why I could not go to school; why I could not fulfill my dream to read and write,” she explains.

At age 14, she joined a woman’s group, and although it had few members, the camaraderie allowed her to find her voice. Taj became an activist and began speaking out at rallies in Pakistan. “I was a shy, lonely child; activism gave me a path for life.

“It changed my fears to a struggle against the oppression of women,” she says.

But her words soon placed her life in danger. Marked by the Taliban, Taj sought refuge in the United States, and in April 2000 arrived in Austin, Texas. It was the first stop in the U.S.A. before her studies would be begin at TU that fall.

*“Since 1996, the Taliban have targeted Hazaras for extinction as they considered them to be internal infidels.”*

— Zareen Taj



*Taj visits a mass gravesite in Takhta Pul, Mazar-e Sharif, where 600 Hazara men were executed by the Taliban.*



Two orphaned cousins hold pictures of their fathers—brothers who were killed by the Taliban at Yakaolang Bamian.

*“The Towson University community reached out and guided me, supported me and acted as my family at each and every turn.”*

— Zareen Taj

School teachers sit on the floor during a training class in Quetta, Pakistan.

“I had zero computer skills, no formal education, just a strong dream of higher education. For the first time I felt relief. I was not trapped. I was peaceful,” she says. “No one will knock on my door in the middle of the night.

“At the same time, I had a terrible feeling of isolation. I was an activist, but everything stopped,” she adds. “I had no identity, no friends, a strange language, a strange culture.”

All of this combined to produce a loneliness so intense, she did not think she could go on. What saved her, she says, was the support from faculty, staff and friends she encountered at Towson University.

“The Towson University community reached out and guided me, supported me and acted as my family at each and every turn,” Taj says. “From learning how to use a computer to performing research in the library, they were there to assist me. They helped me through my homesickness, the war in my country, and provided complete emotional and financial support that I so desperately needed.”

### **‘Each had a story to tell me’**

By 2004, Taj had forged a new life. She was a newlywed, completing her bachelor’s degree. But something was missing, she says. She felt the tug of her homeland, an impulse that continued to intensify. “I wanted to go back home,” she says.

David Tosi, TU director of dining services, made it possible by sponsoring her trip to Afghanistan, as did the Office of the President, which financed the costs of pursuing a master’s degree.

Traveling with an uncle—no woman would dare travel without a male relative—Taj went in search of her countrywomen to discover who they were and how their identities had been shaped by multiple oppressions.

The journey took her to Quetta, Pakistan, and Kabul, Bamian and Mazar-e Sharif in Afghanistan. Each city shared a common tragedy—they were the sites of Taliban slaughters of Hazaras.

In Kabul, an estimated 700 people were killed in 1993, many as they lay sleeping in their beds. Up to 2,000 died in Mazar-e Sharif in 1998, according to Human Rights Watch. “Witnesses described it as a killing frenzy, as the Taliban shot anything that moved,” Taj says.

“Taliban forces entered Bamian on Sept. 13, 1998,” she says. “Once in the city, they set out to find male Hazaras. Many males over the age of 13 were arrested and killed. Between Sept. 15 and 17, approximately 512 deaths were documented by a reporter of the Cooperation Centre of Afghanistan.”

The carnage left women without male supporters in countries that enforce strict behavior codes for families in public spaces. By eliminating the men, the Taliban effectively made the widows outcasts, limiting the survival of the Hazara family members left behind.

Taj, who shared the language and heritage of the Hazara, set about interviewing survivors. “Each had a story to tell me,” she says.

Masuma, a widow in Kabul, says, “The Taliban came into my house, fired their guns, and killed my two sons and my old husband in front of us. Then whatever we had in the house they took with them.”







Two victims tell Taj of their imprisonment and torture when the Taliban arrived in Mazar-e Sharif.

*Up to 2,000 died in Mazar-e Sharif in 1998. Witnesses described it as a killing frenzy.*

“In the mountains we had nothing to eat so we had to eat grass to survive. We did not change our clothes for two months,” says another widow, Amina, 62. “We did not take a shower for two months. We lived like animals there. I saw a lot of children and elderly die from a lack of food there.”

The stories were longer, more gruesome, and Taj listened to many—too many—accounts of chronic, sustained hunger, maiming, rape and death.

“While I was listening and recording all the stories they had, I realized that their stories could have been my stories if I had not escaped from oppression,” she says. “I felt vulnerable; their vulnerability became my vulnerability. I felt hopeless and cried thinking what kind of lives they have right now and what they have been through.”

She had been fortunate. They had not.

Taj knows she has a future while the Hazara families have little to hope for. “Their past, present and future collapsed and became lost,” she explains.

What’s more the Afghan government is growing increasingly fundamentalist. Last spring it enacted a law with some 250 provisions that restrict women’s rights, Hazara women in particular, Taj explains, because the law applies only to Shi’a.

Reported in the West as a “rape law” because it condones marital rape, Taj says

the provisions effectively put the Hazara women “in another set of chains, restricting their rights to schooling, employment and even something as simple as leaving the house without the permission of a male.”

“I am enraged,” says Taj, who envisions “dangerous consequences— a loss of freedom and basic human rights.” (The government of Afghanistan is under pressure to change this law.)

Her thesis demonstrates past abuses suffered by the Hazara people, especially women, and “will bring the voices of those unrepresented women to show how they have suffered and how they are still suffering from the damage of cruel wars and lack of assistance.”

With the assistance of Matthew Durlington, TU assistant professor of anthropology, Taj has produced a short video on her visit, [www.vimeo.com/user1028639](http://www.vimeo.com/user1028639), and hopes to turn her research into a longer film and book.

But this new chapter in Afghan politics has spurred her to reignite her activism. While she understands that Hazara women’s participation in social, cultural and political spheres will not come without struggle and hardship, Taj hopes that by raising her voice, the women who remain in her native land can somehow be empowered. ■

Ginny Cook is the editor of *Towson*.



Orphaned by Taliban massacres, these children sit on the gravesites of their fathers in Yakaolang Bamian.



## Grant Recipients

The Alumni Association salutes its 2009 grant recipients

### Community Grants

#### **Band Together, Robert Powers '79 Music Education**

Band Together, created in 2005, repairs and cleans donated musical instruments which are lent to needy students in grades 4 through 12 in Harford County Public Schools. In the 2007-2008 school year, 117 students in the county's music programs received Band Together instruments.

#### **Glendale Elementary's Race to Read, Patricia Protin '88 Elementary Education**

Race to Read, a new program at Glendale Elementary School in Anne Arundel County, invites students to run laps around a "track of books" to exercise their bodies and then select a book from the track to exercise their minds. The grant money helped buy books.

#### **Annual Spaghetti Dinner for the Homeless, Kathryn Faris, TU Senior**

The Annual Spaghetti Dinner for the Homeless fed 300 homeless individuals and families in April. The annual event is sponsored by the Students Sharing Coalition, which provides service learning and civic engagement experiences to Baltimore school students from diverse backgrounds.

The Alumni Association extends special thanks to the Volunteer Committee that administers this program, in particular Fran Bond '55/'60, chair, Jen Pawlo-Johnstone and Mary Marks. For more information on the Alumni Association grants, visit [www.towson.edu/alumni/awards](http://www.towson.edu/alumni/awards), call 410-704-2234 or e-mail [alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu).

### Professional Development Grant

#### **Renee Dorsey '98 Nursing**

Dorsey, a nurse clinician III in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Johns Hopkins Hospital, oversees the care of some of the sickest and most unstable young patients. The grant money helped offset costs for Dorsey's continuing education last spring in nursing research and as an advanced practice nurse.

#### **Mary Jo Haley '91 Mass Communication**

Haley, who received a master's in physical therapy from the University of Kentucky and a degree in medicine from the University of Maryland, is completing a two-year research fellowship in the Pediatric Tumor Biology Laboratory at Columbia University. The grant enabled her to present her research at the annual American Pediatric Surgical Association meeting last spring.

#### **Jeffrey Rank '96 Sociology**

Rank, who recently completed his post baccalaureate certificate in geographic information systems at Penn State University, used the grant money to attend the annual Towson University Geography Information Systems (TUGIS) Conference last spring.

#### **Rance Burger '98 Geography**

Employed at TU in the Facilities Management Department, Burger is enrolled in the Construction Management Program at CCBC. The grant money funded a course in Construction Estimating last spring.



from the

## alumni president

It's no secret that the economic environment has resulted in many financial challenges. But you might be surprised to learn that the Towson University Alumni Association offers a variety of benefits and services that can meet your needs during this difficult time.

If you are looking for a new job or want to change careers, you can attend an alumni career fair planned for this fall. Year round, the campus Career Center also offers consultations with certified career counselors. What's more, all alumni are invited to apply for our annual Professional Development Grant, which awards funds for conference registration, tuition for undergraduate or graduate-level courses, professional association membership dues or other career enhancement opportunities.

As always, you can save on car insurance expenses through alumni group rates at Geico, and receive a variety of rewards through the Alumni Association's Bank of America World Points credit card. With your alumni I.D. card, you also can take advantage of discounts on fine arts events, designated sports tickets and purchases at the University Store.

Remember, even though your time attending classes at Towson may be over, you will always be part of our family. I invite you to take advantage of the many benefits the Alumni Association offers and to let us know if there are other ways we can support your success.

Best wishes,

Kim Fabian '88  
President  
Towson University Alumni Association





## Now Hear This



1



3



2

- 1 Autumn Mickel '06, Ed Crawford and Tracy Miller '93
- 2 Jane Akers, Lucy Slaich '78 and Carol Wettersten
- 3 Sandra Grey '97 and Carol Muller

### < Legislative Awareness Luncheon

More than 100 alumni, faculty and staff learned how to advocate the Maryland General Assembly on behalf of TU. They heard from Connie Kihm '95, chair, Towson Advocacy Program (TAP), TU President Bob Caret, Regent Mike Gill '74 and former Senator Barbara Hoffman '60. To make a difference, become involved with TAP. Visit [www.tutigertracks.com](http://www.tutigertracks.com), call 410-704-2234 or e-mail [alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu).

## Their Way



1



2



3

- 1,2 Alumni were all smiles when they met in NYC.
- 3 Richard Beecher '05, Bobby Paduano '04, Meghan Culbertson, Mark Schlosser '05 and Gary Rubin '69

### < New York Alumni Reception

Alumni from the Big Apple know how to a party. More than 200 graduates gathered at Stone Creek Bar and Lounge for networking and fun. The next big event is Nov. 26, Thanksgiving Day, when the TU Marching Band will perform in the Macy's Day Parade in New York City. An alumni reception from 8 a.m. to noon at the New York Marriott Marquis will provide a view of the parade. Cost is \$75/adult, \$25/child for brunch.

## Sun and Fun

### Naples, Florida Reception >

White sand beaches and tropical sun were just part of the recipe for fun last February in Florida. Alumni who gathered at the Naples Beach and Resort Club witnessed one of the most beautiful sunsets ever.



- 1 John and Susan '80 Thomas, and Gary Rubin '69
- 2 Carl and Joan Runk, and Arline '60 and Bunky Ford '61
- 3 G. Michael Reese '81 and Cookie Boyd '72
- 4 Sam and Marlene '63 Oshry with Bob Caret and his wife, Liz Zoltan





## Balls and Strikes and Crabs



### < Ft. Lauderdale, Florida Reception

Take me out to the ballgame against the New York Mets during spring training. Take me out as the crowd watches Rob Amos '76 throw out the first pitch. On Feb. 25, the Alumni Association hosted a crab feast and baseball game at Ft. Lauderdale Stadium for over 150 alumni and friends. Special thanks to Danny Colera from Riggins Crabhouse in Lantana, Fla., for serving up the super Maryland crabs and to Laura Williams for making the event possible.

1 Tom Hopp, Arlene Hopp '69, Ken Hopp and Christine Hopp

2 Sandra McCulloch '86 and Lesia Crinchlow

3 Dianne and Brian Hinterberger '91

4 Iris '63 and Bernard Berger

5 Denise Miller '87, Charles Miller, Gloria Miller and Craig Miller

6 Bob Traupman '94 and Mike Walck '01

7 Audrey and Leonard '77 Chapel

## Out West

### Phoenix Reception >

Alumni who live in Phoenix, home to exceptional weather and spectacular scenery, got the lowdown on all things Towson last March when Gary Rubin '69, vice president of University Advancement, and Lance Johnson '93, Alumni Association board member, came to visit.

- 1 John and Andrea '98 McLamore
- 2 Shawn Curran and Allison Farina '07
- 3 Harriet '66 and Jim Mulligan
- 4 Micheline and Herb '90 Egbert

1



2



3



4







## Check This Out



### < Bull Roast Benefits Men's and Women's Lacrosse

The Alumni Association partnered with the men's and women' lacrosse programs to host their annual bull roast. The fundraiser featured fine food, a wine wheel and a dunk tank, which raised more than \$20,000 for TU lacrosse. Mark your calendar for the next feast, April 3, 2010.



- 1 Terry Teeters, Katie Cloud, Shannon Kennedy and Kortney Dwyer
- 2 Kristen Burke, Jen Greenberg, Brian Vetter and Mark Latonick '08
- 3 Mary Beth Ardolino '06, Lou Dollenger '74 and Kerin Bogosian '06
- 4 Joe Ardolino '74 and Frank Mezzanotte '73
- 5 Christine Dougherty, Steph Taylor, Missy Doherty and Lauren McAfee

## Band of Brothers

### Alpha Omega Lambda's 40th Reunion >

More than 40 years have passed, but one would have thought these gentlemen were living together yesterday. More than 150 Alpha brothers, alumni and friends gathered for a weekend to reminisce and pay tribute to the late Joseph Ferrante, an unsung hero of the men's lacrosse team. During halftime of the TU Tigers vs. Sacred Heart lacrosse game, the 2009 Joseph Ferrante Memorial Scholarship was presented to junior goalie, Rob Wheeler. The Alpha brothers have raised more than \$6,000 for the Ferrante Scholarship Fund this year.



- 1 Mike King '74, Gary Tarr '74 and Bryan Ashley '71
- 2 Halftime presentation of the Ferrante Scholarship at Unitas Stadium
- 3 Teresa and Chris Ciletti '80, Ed '78 and Gina Webster, and Michael Rossetti '77
- 4 John '75 and Sherry Whaples, and John Gillis '74
- 5 Bob Greibe '75, Joe Ardolino '74, Chuck Lotocki '74 and Frank Mezzanotte '73
- 6 Doug Schweinhart '76, Don Knight '76, David Rossetti '79, Mike Jones '78 and David Nutter





## A Historic Occasion



### < The Antrim 1844

More than 50 alumni and friends joined us at the Antrim 1844, a restored historic mansion in Taneytown, Md. Legend has it that General George Meade planned his Gettysburg campaign from the cupola at Antrim. The setting allowed Towson alumni to get new perspectives on their alma mater and catch up with fellow graduates and friends from the Carroll and Frederick County areas, as well as York, Pa.

1 Tim Beal '76, Deanna Beal '83 and Kim Fabian '88  
2 Ellen Flattery '84, Lori Armstrong and Nicolette Kaszak '99/'03

3 Jenny '96 and Jim Gambino, and Errol and Joy Fisher '62 Smith  
4 Terrance '87 and Jennifer Rickrode

## The Towson University Alumni Association announces its 2008-2009 Board of Directors

### Officers

Kim Fabian '88, President  
Lou Dollenger '75, Vice President  
Lance Johnson '93, Treasurer  
Keith Ewancio '94/'07, Secretary

### At Large Members

Darcy Accardi '06  
Frank Berry '74/'85  
Fran Bond '55/'61  
Andre Cooper '87  
Patrick Dieguez '07

Barbara Eckley '77  
Teresa Ernst '00  
Ellen Flattery '84  
Frank Mezzanotte '74  
Gavin Moag '84  
Cathy Plakatoris '83  
Bill Stetka '77  
Bill Wood '87

### Past President

Lone Azola '69

### Ex-Officio Members

**Robert L. Caret**  
TU President

**Gary Rubin**  
Vice President,  
University Advancement

**Lori Armstrong**  
Associate Vice President,  
Alumni Relations  
and Executive Director,  
Alumni Association

### College Representatives

**Glenn Ross '81**  
College of Business

**Karen Schafer '68**  
College of Education

**David Lucantoni '76**  
The Jess and Mildred Fisher College  
of Science and Mathematics

**Jon Graf**  
Student Government Association



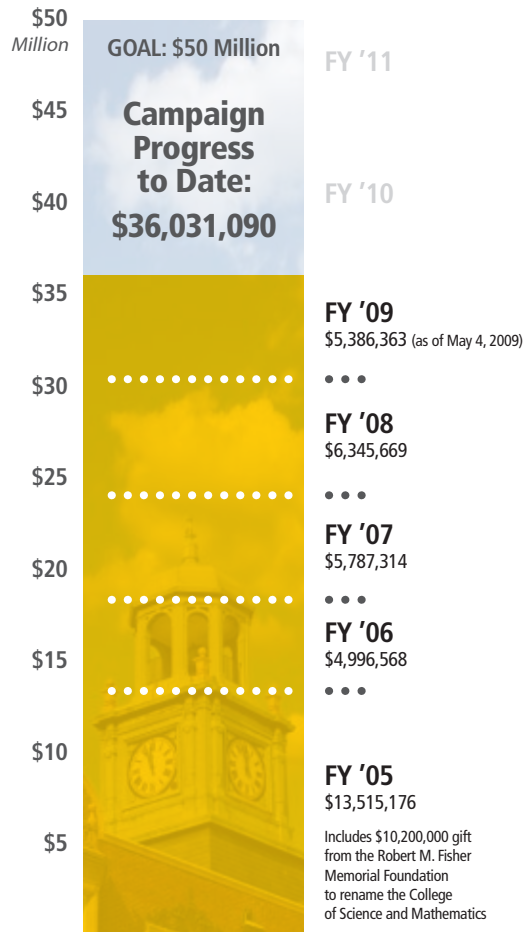
# Growing a university

THE CAMPAIGN FOR TOWSON

## \$36 Million Raised

CAMPAIGN REACHES 72 PERCENT OF \$50 MILLION GOAL

Growing a University – The Campaign for Towson has raised \$36 million to date in private support for scholarships and programs, faculty development and more. Thank you to all who have contributed to date.



**SUPPORT TOWSON**

To make a gift to support Towson University students, faculty or programs, contact the Development Office at 1-866-301-3375 or visit [www.towson.edu/supportTU](http://www.towson.edu/supportTU).



from the

### campaign chair

I had the pleasure recently of meeting a number of scholarship recipients at the annual Foundation Scholars Luncheon (see page 35), some of whom had received the scholarship I established in my husband's memory, the Stephen K. Shock Memorial Scholarship. What a meaningful experience!

Meeting these students is always a vibrant reminder of why we give to Towson, and highlights well the transformative nature of giving. Gifts small and large make their way to students through enhanced programs, faculty development, equipment, and of course, scholarships.

As we round the bend to reach the end of our fifth campaign year (June 30), we hope that you make time, if you have not already, to do your part to keep Towson students achieving. Your gift to Towson has never mattered more.

Have a wonderful summer.

Molly F. Shock '75  
Campaign Chair  
Growing a University—  
The Campaign for Towson



## Osher Foundation Awards \$1 Million

GIFT BENEFITS TU'S OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE



OLLI students learn about space travel from Don Thomas, former NASA astronaut and director of TU's Hackerman Academy.

The Bernard Osher Foundation has awarded \$1 million to establish an endowment for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Towson. OLLI at TU offers adults age 50 and older opportunities for continued learning, along with programs and activities for social and cultural enrichment.

The \$1 million endowment, which will provide a source of permanent support to augment membership and tuition income, was awarded after OLLI at TU received three consecutive annual \$100,000 grants to help grow the 10-year old program's course offerings and membership.

"The Bernard Osher Foundation's generous support has enabled OLLI at TU to heighten its profile, grow its membership in excess of 500, and furnish and equip its classrooms to create a learning environment that befits the breadth and caliber of its courses and meets the expectations of its members," says TU President Robert L. Caret.

Each spring and fall semester, OLLI offers more than 40 courses in the areas of fine arts, humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. There are no grades or college credits to be earned. Participants take courses because they wish to continue learning.

Popular courses this past year included "Historic Presidential Elections", "Baltimore's Architectural Landmarks" and "History of U.S. Slavery."

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is an important component of Towson's Extended Education and Online Learning program (EEOL), and the Division of Economic and Community Outreach (DECO). In addition to its on-campus program, OLLI furthers a mission of community outreach through partnerships, offering courses at area retirement and senior centers.

"This endowment will assist OLLI in maintaining the high quality program which it has worked so diligently to achieve over the past 10 years," said OLLI Director, Jacqueline Gratz.

Founded in 1977 by Bernard Osher, the Bernard Osher Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life through support of higher education and the arts. Since 2001, the foundation has provided grant funds to foster the growth and development of 120 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes currently operating at universities and colleges across the country.

### THANK YOU

Thanks to our TU donors. Every gift makes a difference. Here are highlights of recent contributions.

- John T. Beynon '73 and Robin Clark Beynon '70 established the John T. Beynon Men's Basketball Endowed Scholarship to give scholarship support to student-athletes.
- Professor Emeritus Frank R. Milio, Ph.D. who taught chemistry to generations of students during his 40 years at TU, died Dec. 20, 2008. The Milio family, along with friends and colleagues of the professor, have established a chemistry book fund in his memory, which will be used to help defray the cost of textbooks for deserving students.
- Oracle Corporation gave over \$100,000 in software, support and curriculum to the Department of e-Business and Technology Management of the College of Business and Economics.

## Behind the Scenes

### NEW COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS BUILDING



Craig Johnson, chair of TU's psychology department, discusses the technology in the new psychology classroom.

The first phase of the College of Liberal Arts complex, TU's first new academic building in more than 25 years, opened its doors to

guests in April for a reception and guided tours. The building opens for classes this fall.

Visitors walked through 30-to 90-seat wired classrooms, student gathering spaces and faculty offices designed with modern educational needs in mind. "This building reflects both tradition and innovation, what Towson has been, and the college's promise for the future," says Terry Cooney, CLA dean. "The building provides open spaces for students to work between classes, and emphasizes the importance of learning beyond the classroom."

Most spaces in the new complex present opportunities for donor support. Those interested in supporting the College of Liberal Arts may name a space in the new building to commemorate an achievement or to honor faculty, friends or family. Naming gifts will be directed to the College of Liberal Arts Endowment, which will support the college's programs.

**Private tours of the new College of Liberal Arts building are available by appointment. Call 410-704-3375. For more information about the college's programs, events or building project, visit [www.towson.edu/cla](http://www.towson.edu/cla).**



### GET BEHIND THE BAND

*Support TU band members in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade*

Towson's Marching Band is stepping onto one of the world's largest stages—the streets of New York City for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The performance will bring unprecedented visibility for TU as 3.5 million spectators and more than 50 million television viewers watch the parade. Orchestrating such a feat requires skill, savvy and support to bring more than 200 students, faculty, instruments and equipment to the Big Apple.

Gifts at all levels are needed and will make you a part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. For example, a tax-deductible gift of \$757 will cover the cost of sending a Towson band member to the parade. Use the enclosed envelope and designate Marching Band, visit [www.towson.edu/supportTU](http://www.towson.edu/supportTU), or contact Meghan Culbertson, 1-866-301-3375 or [mculbertson@towson.edu](mailto:mculbertson@towson.edu).



## Forging Connections

DONORS AND STUDENTS MEET AT FOUNDATION SCHOLARS LUNCHEON



Jennifer Stine '91, Grey Adkins, recipient of the Renegade Spirit Scholarship in Stine's honor, and donor Tim Watkins



Recipient of the Nick Ziolkowski Scholarship, William Doherty, with donor Tracy Miller '93



Recipients of the James Dunbar Jr. Memorial Scholarship and James Dunbar Jr. Music Scholarship with Laura Peterson '94 (middle front) and donor Gwen Dunbar (right front)

The fifth annual Foundation Scholars Luncheon celebrated philanthropy and the accomplishments of student scholarship recipients on April 22. The event gave a record 325 donors, students and university leaders the opportunity to meet each other.

One donor, Vince Talbert '90, explained his motivation for creating three scholarships in honor of his former professors. "I've done the math—there is absolutely no better return on your investment than to support education," says Talbert, vice president of marketing for Bill Me Later.

Four students talked about how scholarship support has given them a better future, validation and encouragement. "None of the accomplishments of which I am so proud would have been possible without these scholarships," says Grey Adkins, a senior electronic media and film major. "To those who made funds available to the many of us here today... these scholarships have the ability to completely change the course of our lives. Thank you."

**Visit [www.towson.edu/foundation-scholars](http://www.towson.edu/foundation-scholars) for more photos and video clips of the 2009 luncheon.**

## TU Achieves Goal

FRANCE-MERRICK CHALLENGE MET AHEAD OF SCHEDULE



Latia Blake '12 is a France-Merrick Top Ten Scholar for 2009.

Towson University has met the terms of the France-Merrick Challenge for Top Ten Scholars, creating a pool of scholarship funds for economically disadvantaged students enrolled in the university's Top 10% Program. Admission to the Top 10% Program is offered to Baltimore

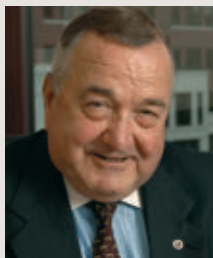
City and County students who ranked in the top 10 percent of their graduating classes. Commitments totaling \$1.5 million from university alumni, friends, faculty, staff, corporations and foundations will leverage a \$500,000 grant from the France-Merrick Foundation.

Buoyed by a \$1 million gift in fall 2008 from area philanthropist and TU friend Ruth Marder, Towson wrapped up the five-year challenge in March 2009, two years ahead of schedule and just in time for the first class of Top 10% scholars to cross the commencement stage in May.

Approximately 95 percent of challenge-eligible contributions were designated to endowment funds, which will grow over time to provide a sustaining source of support for economically disadvantaged Top 10% students. The remainder has been earmarked for operating scholarships, which heighten the program's visibility and provide an immediate boost to the scholarship resources available to current Top 10% students. Through the generosity of the France-Merrick Foundation and donors to the France-Merrick Challenge, 52 students have received scholarship support over the past three years.

## Obituary

Edward V. Badolato '60



**Edward V. Badolato '60**, a member of the TU Board of Visitors and founder of the distinguished speaker series that bears his name, died October 30, 2008 and was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

Badolato, a retired U.S. Marine Corps colonel, was recognized as one of the world's foremost experts on homeland security.

His resume included three combat tours in Vietnam and stints as deputy assistant secretary of the Department of Energy under Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush, where he focused on counter-terrorism and emergency planning.

He founded and was president and CEO of Integrated Infrastructure Analytics, Inc., a provider of specialized power, homeland security consulting and strategic support services, and related e-learning programs.

In 2005 he received the Patriotism Award for Homeland Security Services from President George W. Bush.

Last year, he received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at TU's spring Commencement. He was also a recipient of the university's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Edward V. Badolato Distinguished Speaker Series Fund, c/o Towson University Foundation, Inc., 8000 York Road, Towson, Md. 21252-0001.

## In Memoriam Alumni

**Vera Kinnear '44**  
July 2, 2008

**Douglas V. Allen '80**  
November 4, 2008

**Eugenia L. Rice '63**  
November 4, 2008

**Royce W. Van Norman '94**  
November 7, 2008

**Joyce H. McCallister '69**  
November 9, 2008

**Barbara W. Kleylein '65**  
November 13, 2008

**Paul G. Churchill '75**  
November 14, 2008

**Margaret D. Gist '51**  
November 15, 2008

**James T. Hubbard '72**  
November 15, 2008

**Janine L. Coble '73**  
November 16, 2008

**Bernard R. Bond Jr. '68**  
November 19, 2008

**Evelyne "Kitty" Emmart McQueen '42**  
November 23, 2008

**Grace S. Block '29**  
November 24, 2008

**Merelyn Paul '46**  
December 3, 2008

**Roslyn R. Michelson '76**  
December 7, 2008

**Michael T. Johnson '92**  
December 9, 2008

**Linda Lou Wiles '73**  
December 9, 2008

**Andrea L. Aguilar '01**  
December 10, 2008

**Mildred B. Ruark '52**  
December 11, 2008

**Leona Harber Miller '55**  
December 12, 2008

**Charlotte A. Shinn '83**  
December 17, 2008

**Donna M. Parks '76**  
December 18, 2008

**Elizabeth K. Evans '86**  
December 20, 2008

**Helen T. Kadlec '89**  
December 21, 2008

**Charles H. Raynor '59**  
December 21, 2008

**Betty L. Miller '64**  
December 22, 2008

**John R. Potis '85**  
December 22, 2008

**John B. Storck '78**  
December 29, 2008

**Edmond R. Sistek '58**  
December 31, 2008

**Marjorie C. Carter '47**  
January 2009

**Marlyn T. Gartrell '52**  
January 2009

**Kathleen B. French '44**  
January 17, 2009

**Jeanne Louise Horner '95**  
January 18, 2009

**Simon Kahle Price '92**  
January 20, 2009

**Michael J. Schuck '76**  
January 21, 2009

**Edward P. Abendroth '78**  
January 28, 2009

**Alfred D. Proffitt '53**  
January 31, 2009

**Saranna C. Beegle '57**  
February 7, 2009

**Barbara L. Mallery '52**  
February 8, 2009

**Elaine S. Robertson '57**  
February 9, 2009

**Daniel Ho Coverston '08**  
February 13, 2009

**Rita G. Bortz '69**  
February 14, 2009

**Herbert W. Findeisen '60**  
February 14, 2009

**William L. Connors '78**  
February 15, 2009

**L. Edward Goedeke '55**  
February 23, 2009

**Bessie W. Kaufman '39**  
February 23, 2009

**Thomas W. Donahue '91**  
February 25, 2009

**Louis T. Cox '39**  
February 28, 2009

**Dorothy H. Joh '23**  
March 11, 2009

**Dorothy C. Tice '62**  
March 11, 2009

**Wade M. Zirkle '71**  
March 25, 2009

**Elizabeth N. Catterton '29**  
March 28, 2009

## Faculty

**Arthur N. Rogers III '73 M.Ed./'79 M.A.**, former director of veterans affairs at TU and former adjunct assistant professor of geography, died Jan. 2, 2009.

**Phyllis Frankel '74 M.A.**, a widely known opera singer who taught voice for nearly two decades at TU, died Feb. 17, 2009.

**David Firman**, TU Professor Emeritus of Geography and Environmental Planning and former department chair, died March 14, 2009. Deeply interested in the physical and cultural geography of South Asia, he researched the development and use of water resources in India's Ganges Valley and in the Indus Valley of Pakistan.

## Staff

**Marguerite German**  
January 13, 2009

**John I. Toland**  
January 30, 2009



## Before the 1960s

**Stan Wisniewski '57**, fine arts professor at Lock Haven University in Pa., was the featured artist at the Clinton County Arts Council's Artwalk last fall.

**Henry Lichtfuss '58**, an All-American soccer player at Towson, was inducted into the Maryland Oldtimer's Soccer Association in May. A member of the TU Athletic Hall of Fame and the Carroll County Sports Hall of Fame, he was selected by a Carroll County Times survey as one of Carroll County's greatest 100 athletes of the last century. Lichtfuss has been a teacher and a principal, and served as an instructional supervisor in the Carroll County School System. His teammates from the 1955-1958 teams honored him by attending the May 8 induction ceremonies.

## 1960s

**Nicholas Kolb '64** retired as associate provost at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and is a part-time field research coordinator at Pennsylvania State University. He and his wife, Jane, live in Indiana, Pa. and have two married daughters and two grandsons.

## 1970s

**Ronald G. Hartman '70 BIOL** retired from Baltimore County Public Schools in 2003 after a 33-year career as a teacher, counselor and administrator. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 2008, was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and is now pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Sharon, Pa. He and his wife of 38 years, **Pat Connors '72 MATH**, live in Sharpsville, Pa. Pat, a senior programmer analyst, also retired from the BCPS in 2008.

**Robert J. Krebs Jr. '70**, a Vietnam veteran, retired after 35 years with the federal government. He worked for the Veteran's Administration, the Health Care Financing Administration and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. He lives in Westminster, Md., with his wife, Chris, and their daughter, Cait.

**William H. Richardson '70**, a musician and jewelry maker, retired as an art instructor after 25 years.

**Sandra R. Oliver Brown '71/'72 M.Ed.** sang with the Baltimore Opera Company for five years, and has been teaching for 41 years. She was the only African-American music education instructor on the TU campus between 1971-1979. Brown lives in Chicago.

**J. "Cookie" Boyd '72** left North Carolina nine years ago, relocating to Naples, Fla., where he works in real estate. He writes, "I am enjoying paradise with my wife Nancy and my precocious lab Barley."

**Dana Brooks '73 M.S.**, dean of the West Virginia University College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences since 1993, received the Living the Dream award for human and civil rights from the West Virginia Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission.

**Rich Serbay '74**, head football coach and athletic director at James Monroe High School in Fredericksburg, Va., led the school's football team to its fourth state championship last December. As head coach, Serbay also took the team to state championship victories in 1986, 1987 and 1996. Serbay's overall record is now 170-100-1 in 24 years.

**Sherry Marsh Cavallo '75 MCOM** is an archivist for her community's historical society and has served on the organization's promotion and advertising committee. Cavallo also has her own business as a professional organizer, serving businesses and homes in the Los Angeles area.

**Patricia Steeg '75 BIOL** received the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Brinker Award for Scientific Distinction in basic research and clinical research, the highest merit award given by the organization. Steeg, a Ph.D., is chief of the women's cancers section of the laboratory of molecular pharmacology in the Center for Cancer Research in the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and studies how and why tumors recur. She also leads drug development efforts as co-chairman of the molecular targets faculty and as deputy head of the Molecular Oncology Center of Excellence.

**Deborah Zink '77** is volunteer coordinator for the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts and producer of Artscape, the Baltimore Book Festival, Baltimore's Martin Luther King Jr. parade, and the Inner Harbor's New Year's Eve Spectacular.

**Veronica Fluelling '79** started a consulting business for human resources, compliance and liability, change management and leadership development. She is also pursuing her doctorate in organizational leadership.

## Vicki Isenock Griffin '79 BUAD/'79

**MCOM**, a Community Voices columnist for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution in Atlanta, Ga., is a standardized test scorer for Educational Testing Services, Inc. of Princeton, N.J., and a substitute teacher in neighborhood schools. Her oldest son, Steven, is a junior at the University of Georgia, and her youngest son, Jeffrey, is a freshman in high school. The family lives in Roswell, Ga.

## 1980s

**Suzanne Molino Singleton '81 COMM** began *SNIPPETS* in 2006, an on-line weekly inspirational column to help women juggle work, home and relationships. Singleton is also a columnist for Smart Woman Online and a staff writer for *The Catholic Review*.

**Marge Steele '82** joined the TU department of athletics as assistant athletics director for athletic corporate sales. She has extensive marketing experience, having worked for PHH Corporation, MCI WorldCom, and MCI Telecommunications, Inc.

**Jean Seiler '83 PSYC**, a registered nurse, joined the board of directors of Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding, which provides horse-related activities and riding lessons to people with special needs. Seiler is a nursing supervisor on weekends at Levindale Hebrew Geriatric Center and Hospital and coordinates the Heart Aware program at St. Joseph Medical Center in Baltimore.

**Wilma Brockington '84 BUAD** was elected to the board of directors of New Pathways, Inc., which provides counseling,



Dana Brooks '73 received the Living the Dream award for human and civil rights in West Virginia.

# The Top of Her Game

Ellen Mangels '86/'93

Math teacher of the year tests new video game to teach algebra



For 21 years, Ellen Mangels '86/'93 M.Ed. has stood at the head of the class teaching middle school students prime numbers, fractions and other complex algebra topics. But the 2008 Maryland Council of Teachers of Mathematics middle school teacher of the year confesses to "amazement" the first time she used a particular video game to convey those concepts.

"The students understood fractions so well, I didn't have to go back and re-teach that lesson over and over like I always have," she says.

Mangels, math department chair and eighth-grade algebra teacher at Cockeysville Middle School, is one of a handful of teachers throughout the state who are using "The Lure of the Labyrinth" in their classes, a game developed by Maryland Public Television and two companies that specialize in education media.

In the game, students must negotiate the Tasti Pet Factory to find a pet that has mysteriously disappeared. Along the way, students must solve nine puzzles matched to Maryland's curriculum objectives in mathematics.

Some puzzles are easy enough for an eight-year-old to decipher. One was so difficult that Mangels admits, "I was really challenged to figure out how it worked." But despite any complexities, students love to play the game. "They always ask me, 'When do we get to play the game again,'" she says. Even her colleagues at school want to use it, she adds.

There is also strong interest from other teachers across the state, says Mangels, based on feedback she received after giving a presentation on the game at last April's annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Mangels also appears in an instructional video that introduces math teachers to the game and gives tips for using it with students.

Unlike other math games, often developed to entertain, this one was designed strictly for classroom use. Lesson plans coordinate the math concepts needed to solve each puzzle. There is also follow up and a more traditional pencil and paper assessment.

While hard data is still being compiled to determine whether the game helps students improve their pre-algebra skills, Mangels is certain the game intrigues the "digital natives" in her classes.

Whenever the game is used, students begin to pay more attention, Mangels says. "They have a reason to care. They want to beat the game."

—Ginny Cook

independent living and developmental opportunities for Maryland youth emerging from foster care. Brockington, a certified senior professional in human resources, also recently published her second novel, *Office Politics*.

## 1990s

**Karen DeCesare '90 PSYC** and her husband, Hutch Smith, welcomed Charlotte Penelope on Sept. 24, 2008. Charlotte joins siblings Alexander, 9, and Claudia, 7. The family lives in Stokesdale, N.C.

**Jenifer Kelly Walsh '91 BUAD** and her husband, Steve, welcomed twin boys, Thomas Patrick and Jack Andrew, on Sept. 24, 2008. Tom and Jack join big sisters Bridget, 6, and Kate, 4 in Bel Air, Md.

**Shirley Appleby '92 ACCT** was promoted to assistant vice president of BB&T Corporation, a financial holding company. Appleby, a certified public accountant and author of *Death and Taxes*, joined BB&T in 2008 and works as a commercial finance field examiner in the commercial finance department.

**Bettie Kroutil '92 ACCT** was promoted to managing director at Sante Fe-based Thornburg Investment Management.

**Michael J. Sauri '92 ENGL** is president of TriVista USA, a design-build company in Arlington, Va. Michael and his wife, Deborah, have two children, Kamryn Leigh, born Oct. 15, 2006, and Gibson Valence, born June 20, 2008.

**Dawn K. Barton '94** and her husband, **Charles R. Barton II '92**, welcomed their seventh child, Joseph Benjamin, on Oct. 15, 2008. Joseph joins siblings Faith, Mary, Hannah, Abigail, Rachael and Samuel. The family lives in Owings



Mills, Md. where Dawn is an elementary school teacher and Charles is a financial center manager for Wachovia Bank.

**Ronald A. Blocker Jr. '94 BUAD**

welcomed a daughter, Kaitlyn Sydney, on Sept. 27, 2008. Kaitlyn weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

**Angela Davids '95 MCOM**

established an organization and Web site to support the one million pregnant women placed on bed rest each year. The Web site, www.KeepEmCookin.com, provides an online community and high-risk pregnancy news "that is current, concise and easy to understand."

**Nicole Holmes Gribben '97/'02 M.S.**

and her husband, Rob, welcomed their son, Kyle Joseph, on May 31, 2008. He joins older sister, Ava Cecilia, 3. Nicole is a reading specialist with Baltimore County Public Schools. The family lives in Bel Air, Md.

**Carl Stahlman '97**

is a senior principal analyst in the Department of Defense and Intelligence and is also a major in the U.S. Army Reserves. He and his wife, Dina, have a son, Alexander, 2.

**Jason Abosch '98 ACCT** joined Silberstein Insurance Group as an associate, specializing in insurance counseling, financial planning for families with special-needs children, estate planning, executive compensation and employee benefits.

**Shannon Mennell Goodwin '98 HLTH**

and her husband, Kevin, welcomed twin girls, Elle and Francesca, on June 2, 2008 in New York City. Shannon is a regional sales manager with Cord Blood Registry and Kevin is a firefighter in the South Bronx.

**Amanda Shyman Leyden '98 ELED**

married Michael Leyden in November 2008. She teaches fifth grade in Manhattan.

**Brian Simeone '99**

graduated from Brooklyn Law School in spring 2008 and was admitted to the New York Bar Association in February. He is an attorney with Davis and Venturini in New York.

**Lisa Czawlytko '00 BUAD**, former captain of the Baltimore Ravens cheerleading squad and a professional choreographer, starred in an episode of "Made," MTV's reality show about transforming nerds, couch potatoes and ugly ducklings. Czawlytko coached 16 "teen misfits" in Louisiana for a cheerleading performance at the Papa John's Bowl game.

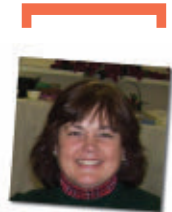
**Jennifer O'Keefe Hydorn '00 ELED**

announces the birth of Elizabeth Grace on June 16, 2008.

**Jennifer Speir Noll '00 KNES and Michael A. Noll '03 M.S.**

welcomed Joshua Michael on March 27, 2009. Mike, a TU employee from 1999 to 2004, returned as a training specialist in TU's Office of Human Resources. Jen is the outpatient dietitian at Union Hospital in Elkton, Md. The couple's first son, Andrew Joseph, will be 3 in September.

**Mark Del Gallo '01 THEA** had a speaking role in *The Spirit*, an action film based on the comic books by Will Eisner. Del Gallo also served for two years as the assistant to the movie's producer, Frank Miller, allowing him the opportunity to travel to Europe.



Jean Seiler '83 is on the board of directors of Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding.

**2000s**

**Jessica Hodgson Conway '00/'04 M.A.**

and her husband, Scott, celebrated the birth of Jackson, Dec. 1, 2008, who weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces. He joined big sister, Madison, born May 11, 2006.

**Send Us Your News**

What's new? Your friends from college want to know. Please send news about your personal and professional life to Class Notes, Alumni Relations, Towson University, 8000 York Rd., Towson, MD 21252-0001 or e-mail alumni@towson.edu. Because of production schedules, your news may not appear in the magazine you receive immediately after submitting an item.

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 Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_ Name at Graduation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Previous Address (if address is new) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Here's my news (please use a separate sheet of paper if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_  
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Henry Lichtfuss '58 was inducted into the Maryland Oldtimer's Soccer Association.



Good Intent Graphics

## Taking the Bull by the Horns

### Mike Herman '08

Bull riding is his pastime and a passion

Even before he had accepted his college diploma, Mike Herman '08 had his sights set on another education—one that required “bucks” rather than books.

Soon after completing his final TU exam, the Dundalk native reported for a weekend of instruction in bull riding at the Sankay Rodeo School in North Carolina, and within hours experienced his first ride on a bucking bull.

“All I really remember is nodding my head and seeing the bull take off,” Herman says, recalling his first ride. It was an adventure that lasted only seconds. Still, it was time enough to get him hooked, and while his instructors suggested riding one bull for the day, he rode five.

Now he's classified as a professional rookie in the International Bull Riders (IBR) association, but any income comes from his day job as a customs broker in Baltimore.

“Unlike most sports, I'm paid what I earn [as a bull rider],” he explains.

“I have to place high enough in events to get a paycheck, and if I don't win, I don't get paid.”

While he has yet to take home the prize money, Herman has stayed atop some bucking bulls for eight seconds—the time required to earn points to get to the winner's circle.

Now he hits the rodeo trail, promoting his riding and looking for sponsors to cover competition expenses such as entry fees, travel and equipment. Eager for practice, he plans to enter as many IBR events as possible, including the Maryland State Fair.

“Making the eight-second whistle on the second bull I ever got on was the moment that kept me going,” Herman explains. “Your first few experiences with the bulls is what makes you addicted and makes you catch the fever, or what turns it into a bar story about something you tried once.”

—Melissa Kviz

**Rod Lopez '01 CCMM** premiered two short films “Dating License” and “Cleaning Law” at the Creative Alliance in March.

**Dorian Skrinak '01 MCOM** and her husband, Jason, welcomed Samantha Stephanie on Dec. 12, 2008. She weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces at birth.

**Steffani Harris '02 MCOM**, a freight processor and customer service representative by day, is a poet who started Tokens of Life, which sells framed inspirational pieces.

**Betsy Crossman Squires '02 OCH** and her husband, Jeff, welcomed Katelyn Elizabeth, on Oct. 27, 2008. Katelyn joins her brother, Joshua Thomas, 1.

**Kristen Blackburn '04 BIOL** and **Michael Carr '04 BIOL** were married Oct. 11, 2008. Michael is a physician assistant in cardiology and Kristen graduated from the medical school at University of Maryland in May, and plans to pursue a career in family medicine.

**Richard J. Huffman '04 ACCT**, a staff accountant with Stoy, Malone & Co., P.C., a Baltimore-based accounting and business consulting firm, passed the Certified Public Accountant exam.

**Linnea Davis '05** is a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army serving with the 398th Combat Service Support Battalion in Iraq.

**Joseph M. Esmont '05 POSC** is an associate in the Cleveland office of the national law firm Baker & Hostetler LLP.

**Trisha M. Whitacre '06 ACCT** was promoted to senior in the audit, accounting and consulting department of Ellin & Tucker, Chartered, a regional certified public accounting and business consulting firm.

**Cheryl Fisher '08 Ed.D.** co-authored *Developing Online Learning Environments: Best Practices for Nurse Educators*.





### FLOWER POWER

Some of TU's gardens grow thanks to an outreach program with Baltimore County Public Schools. A partnership between TU and the school system, that has been budding since 1996, provides vocational training to special education students in various service jobs on Towson's campus. Using equipment borrowed from Landscape Services, TU's occupational therapy students helped special education students not only plant flowers in front of Prettyman Hall last spring, but also learn that gardening can be relaxing, and lead to a career.



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# WILD WITH PRIDE

HOMECOMING 2009



## Alumni Homecoming Festival & Reunion Row

Saturday, October 17, 2009 • Burdick Field, Noon – 7 p.m.

Enjoy games, music, food and activities for children.

## Towson Tigers vs. University of Delaware

Kickoff: 3:30 p.m. • Uinitas Stadium

**Reunion Row:** Do you have a group of TU friends and classmates coming back for homecoming? Reserve a tent for your group at the festival. Call the Alumni Office for more details.

For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations, 800-887-8152 or [alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu).

Look for detailed information in the September issue of the Towson magazine.

October  
11-17