

# TOWSON

SUMMER 2011

SPACE TO GROW 8  
END OF AN ERA 17  
MEDSTAR'S STAR 20

Patterns  
of  
Success



*Designing Women  
kept the Theatre Department  
in Stitches*





## Lucky 13

The Towson University Dance Team pulled off the unthinkable, taking home the National Dance Alliance (NDA) Collegiate National Championship trophy for the thirteenth year in a row.

No triskaidekaphobia among this 27-member dance squad. Coached by Tom Cascella, professor of theatre arts, TU was the top seed going into the championship, held in Daytona Beach. They won the Division I title, defeating Harvard, James Madison, Columbia University and Boston University, among others, with their fast-paced precision dances which combine hip-hop, jazz, funk and pom routines.

You can view a video and a complete list of competition results at [www.nda.varsity.com](http://www.nda.varsity.com).





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[www.towsonalumnimagazine.com](http://www.towsonalumnimagazine.com)



I am delighted to have the opportunity to write to you as interim president of Towson University. As many of you know, President Robert L. Caret has assumed the presidency of the University of Massachusetts. We applaud his innumerable contributions to Towson and wish him every success in his new role. A national search is under way for Towson University's next president, the man or woman who will lead this institution in the coming years.

As we await a new president, I want to assure you that your university is continuing on the path to ever-increasing excellence. I have been the university's provost for the past two years and have had the opportunity to work with the outstanding faculty at Towson as we educate the state's leaders of tomorrow. Towson is becoming the institution of choice for more and more Maryland students and is providing them with a top-quality education, an environment that is both stimulating and safe, and numerous opportunities to be part of a broader learning community.

Your continued involvement in Towson and the many different ways in which you support the efforts of the university are critical factors in the progress that we are making. I hope you'll visit the campus, be an advocate for us, and keep taking pride in your alma mater.

Marcia G. Welsh

Interim President

“ A national search is under way for Towson University's next president, the man or woman who will lead this institution in the coming years. ”

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GREENHOUSE GASES: 5,134 LBS CO<sub>2</sub>

WASTEWATER: 23,149 GALLONS

SOLID WASTE: 1,467 POUNDS



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## Construction Begins on Tiger Arena

CEREMONIAL DIG SIGNALS START OF \$68 MILLION SPORTS VENUE

University officials and local dignitaries wielded shovels May 10 for the groundbreaking ceremony that signaled the beginning of construction for the new \$68 million, 5,200-seat Tiger Arena.

"This new arena will be a premiere facility in our athletic conference," says Marcia Welsh, TU interim president. "It is long overdue."

The arena will be home to TU volleyball, gymnastics and basketball programs. The venue will feature approximately five premium mezzanine-level private suites, approximately 340 premium club seats around the top of the lower bowl and 120 courtside seats. The interior is column free, providing unobstructed views from anywhere in the arena.

Officials hope the new building will make it easier to recruit top basketball players and be an economic engine for the community.

"As we break ground today we will be adding 400 construction jobs to this community," says Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz. "These jobs are going to help fuel the recovery that is happening all over our county."



Dirt will make way for the Tiger Arena, a new home for TU sports.

"Towson University is already an important part of this community with over 25,000 students, faculty and staff who all contribute to the thriving businesses and vibrant culture of downtown Towson," he adds. "This arena is going to bring even more fans, more alumni, students and parents to this university and

give us a chance to make them a part of the greater Towson community."

The LEED-certified building will include a 1,500 sq. ft. hospitality room, a 680 sq. ft. multipurpose room on the mezzanine and an 800 sq. ft. Tiger Hall of Fame Room on the concourse level. A new state-of-the-art multimedia studio will also be constructed that will be the nerve center of all Tigervision video board operations for the arena and Unitas Stadium. The new arena will feature a center-hung scoreboard along with a 360-degree video fascia display.

Tiger Arena is the name of the building pending a corporate sponsorship.

The venue's construction history will be chronicled through the [www.TigerArena.com](http://www.TigerArena.com) website.

## High Hoops

NBA PICKS GARY NEAL '07 FOR ALL-ROOKIE TEAM

When Gary Neal '07 graduated from Towson, the basketball standout was ignored by the NBA. Not anymore.

Neal, who played in Europe before earning a spot as a guard with the San Antonio Spurs, was named to the NBA All-Rookie First Team in May. He is only the second undrafted player to ever earn that honor.

Neal joins Kings Center DeMarcus Cousins, Clippers forward Blake Griffin, Knicks guard Landry Fields and Wizards guard John Wall.

Neal played in 80 games, averaging 9.8 points, 2.5 rebounds and 1.2 assists. He shot 45.1 percent from the field, 41.9 percent from 3-point territory and 80.8 percent from the free-throw line.

Neal was among the dignitaries who participated in the Tiger Arena groundbreaking in May and said he hopes the new arena will energize TU's basketball program.



Gary Neal



**Want to find out what Scott Pelley (LEFT), CBS Evening News anchor and a veteran *60 Minutes* correspondent, had to say to the 2011 graduates of the College of Fine Arts and Communication?**

A video of his speech and that of Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Taylor Branch, who spoke to 2011 College of Liberal Arts graduates, is available at [www.towsonalumnmagazine.com](http://www.towsonalumnmagazine.com). See page 40 for more details.

**3 NOTEBOOK**

**On Point**

With close to 30 videos, numerous awards and an ever-expanding fan base, the band Sharpened Crayons is beginning to make its mark.

Since 2008, TU students Henry Basta and Jay Karolenko have been combining their talents in film and music to create videos that are as funny as they are quirky.

"We actually came up with the name by mistake, but we think it's perfect," admits Karolenko, a junior majoring in music education. "With a box of sharpened crayons, the possibilities are endless."

Their growing portfolio will attest to that.

Whether shooting a music video silently in Cook Library—"the most ridiculous thing we've ever done"—or writing a song

**Sharpened Crayons has nearly a dozen local and national film awards, including a People's Choice in a national PBS video contest.**

about childhood nostalgias like Power Rangers, Sharpened Crayons has demonstrated that it doesn't take itself too seriously.

"It's a real collaboration," explains Basta, a mass communication major who recently graduated.

"We meet halfway with the lyrics, Jay writes the music and I film the videos."

They have limited equipment and little to no budget—"our biggest budget was for 'Pineapples mhhmm,' when we spent \$8 on pineapples"—but they do have nearly a dozen local and national film awards, including a People's Choice in a national PBS video contest. What does the future hold for this productive pair? They won't speculate. "People don't know what to expect from us and

I think that's our secret weapon," says Karolenko.

**PSA Winners**

Crime may not pay but producing public service announcements about it sure does.

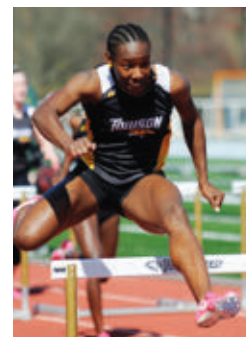
Just ask six Towson students who are majoring in electronic media and film. They won scholarships from the MD/DC Anti Car Theft Committee for their video and radio spots.

Daniel Keenan, Joseph Freeman and Yuri Butler won the video competition while Ashleigh Coffelt, Alex Fishman and Branden Leavens won for radio spots.

Each student received a \$500 scholarship.

Butler and Fishman earned grand-prize honors in video and radio, respectively, at an awards ceremony in February at the 2011 Motor Trend International Auto Show at the Baltimore City Convention Center. Each received an additional \$1,500.

Watch and listen at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=oR2clz2bFu4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oR2clz2bFu4)



Ashley Adams

Adams rolled up 3,858 points in five events and established a long jump record with her leap of 19' 5.5", erasing the old record of 18' 11.75."

**Four-time Champs**

They did it again. The TU women's swimming and diving team won their fourth straight Colonial Athletic Association championship with another outstanding performance.

The Tigers became the second team in CAA history to win four straight women's swimming and diving titles.

Senior Meredith Budner was named the CAA Championship's Most Outstanding Swimmer while Coach Pat Mead earned his fourth consecutive CAA Women's Swimming Coach of the Year award.

**0:9 SPORT SHORTS**

**A Record Leap**

Senior Ashley Adams won the coveted pentathlon title, an award bestowed on the Eastern College Athletic Conference's best all-around female indoor track athlete. Her victory in Boston last March gave TU its first track and field champion in the program's history.

**● NUGGETS**

**Pride and Passion**

Cook Library scored a home run when it presented "Pride and Passion: The African American Baseball Experience."

The traveling exhibition showcased the accomplish-

Watch Jay Karolenko's (left) and Henry Basta's video about TU — <http://youtu.be/SK0RiOOiTTo>





ments of African Americans as they struggled to find equality on the baseball field. Visitors learned about Andrew Rube Foster, who formed the Negro National League in 1920; Jackie Robinson, who broke the color barrier when Branch Rickey, a Major League Baseball executive, signed him to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947; and Emmett Ashford, the first black umpire in the major leagues. The American Library Association, the National Endowment for



Andrew "Rube" Foster started the Negro National League in 1920.

the Humanities and the National Baseball Hall of Fame sponsored the exhibit.

TU hosted related events which included a presentation by Martha Ackmann, journalist and author of *Curveball: The Remarkable Story of Toni Stone the First Woman to Play Professional Baseball in the Negro League* and talks by David Zang, TU professor of kinesiology, on the thousands of black baseball players who, despite being segregated by law, made significant achievements on the field in their own league.

## Weather or Not

Stormy weather can never dampen the university's spirit. Last January, TU received its StormReady Supporter certification from the National Weather Service and the Baltimore County Office of Emergency Management.

To earn its certification, TU demonstrated storm preparation planning, education and awareness. Specific qualifications include establishing a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; creating a system to monitor local weather conditions; and developing a formal hazardous weather plan.

## MBA a Winner

The 2012 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Graduate Schools recognizes the Towson MBA program. A joint venture with the University of Baltimore, the program has been co-located in TU's College of Business and Economics and UB's Merrick School of Business since 2006.

This MBA has a growing reputation for its high-quality faculty, flexible scheduling and wide array of specialized content designed to meet the needs of regional employers. It is also the only area program that offers students the choice of on-campus and online classes.

## Picking a Pro

When it comes to evaluating football players at the NFL scouting combine, perhaps the league should just punt.

Two studies show that the numbers from drills and an intelligence test that the league uses to assess NFL hopefuls don't add up when it comes to predicting a player's performance on the field.

Experience in the game is what should count on a gridiron resume. "Past performance in college is the more important predictor," says John Michel '99, TU assistant professor of management, and a co-author of both studies. He points to TU's own Jermon Bushrod '07, offensive tackle for the Saints, as "someone who played really well in college" and continued to do the same in the NFL.

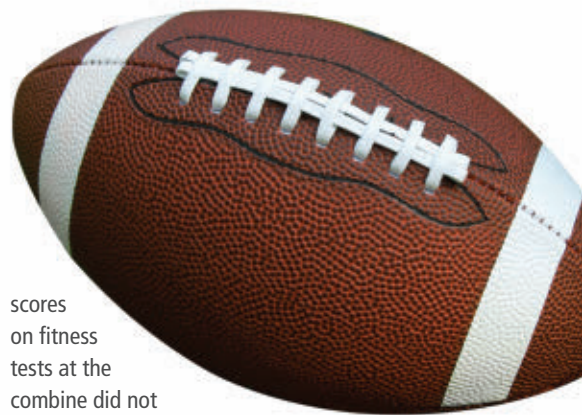
**"Past performance in college is the more important predictor."**

—Assistant Professor John Michel

Michel along with Brian Lyons, California State-Fresno, Brian Hoffman, University of Georgia and Kevin Williams, SUNY-Albany, conducted two studies to measure how data from the combine—the four-day job interview the NFL conducts each year—stacks up against job performance in the league.

Their most recent study, published in April in *Human*

*Performance*, looked at 640 players drafted from 2002 through 2004. It found that good



scores on fitness tests at the combine did not predict performance in the NFL as well as past performance in college did. In other words, players who are best at running a 40-yard dash, bench pressing 250 pounds or high-jumping, among other physical tests, do not make the best blockers, tacklers, rushers or passers.

In a prior study, Michel, Lyons and Hoffman examined intelligence scores from the Wonderlic Test of 762 players during three draft years. Results published in a 2009 issue of *Human Performance* showed that high scores failed to predict performance in a game.

Says Michel, "Vince Lombardi said, 'Mental toughness is essential to success,' but based on what we found it may be better to assess fluid intelligence, such as the recognition of offensive or defensive schemes. It would also be worthwhile to assess player personality to see how someone will fit with other members of a team."

## Marcia G. Welsh Named TU Interim President

TU PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS BEGAN NEW APPOINTMENT APRIL 20



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Chris Gervais and U.S. Army Col. Maria Gervais, who traveled from Iraq to see their daughter Brandi graduate from TU's Fisher College, presented a flag that flew over a Baghdad Army base to TU Interim President Marcia Welsh.

University System of Maryland, recognized her talent when he asked her to become interim president of Towson University after TU President Robert Caret announced his resignation to lead the University of Massachusetts system.

He needed someone who could not only manage the business of the university but also maintain the attachments—with students, faculty, staff and alumni—that make the institution thrive.

"I am confident that her experience and success as a higher education administrator will serve Towson University well during this transition period," says Kirwan.

Welsh knows Towson, having served as its provost and vice president for academic affairs since 2009. She took over the interim president post on April 20 and will stay in the job until Caret's successor is named and arrives on campus.

During decades of work, first as an anatomist and later as an academic administrator, Welsh has rallied to promote women in the sciences because she felt the sting of gender bias earlier in her career.

Despite a lack of female role models in science, she pursued a Ph.D. in anatomy from the University of Texas

Whether she's giving opening remarks at the Women in Science Forum or handing out diplomas at graduation, Marcia G. Welsh connects with her audience.

They listen. They nod. They respond.

William E. Kirwan, chancellor of the

Health Science Center in San Antonio in the late '70s. After earning her doctoral degree, she interviewed for many faculty positions but was rejected. "I was wearing nail polish and was later told I couldn't be serious about science if I painted my nails," she recalls. On another occasion she was told she was "too small to be an anatomist."

The snub only emblazoned her resolve. She went on to perform electron microscope studies on the pineal gland and later moved into academic administration.

Welsh spent seven years as senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at Adelphi University in New York where she was named one of Long Island's Top 50 Women and where she led a drive to increase the number of female and minority faculty. She also advocated for the introduction of family-friendly policies, including an extension of the tenure review process for faculty

following the birth or adoption of a child.

"I like to solve problems," Welsh says. "And the lack of women faculty and tenure issues were items that could be addressed quickly and fairly."

Welsh was also associate provost and dean of the graduate school at the University of South Carolina.

"I am honored to be selected as interim president of Towson," Welsh adds. "I have come to love the Towson community and take pride in the remarkable growth of this institution both in quantity and quality. During this transition period I will work to continue the forward momentum Towson has attained in recent years."

Welsh appointed Terry Cooney, dean of the College of Liberal Arts since 2006, as interim provost. Before coming to Towson, he was academic vice president at the University of Puget Sound.

"I like to solve problems.  
The lack of women faculty  
and tenure issues were items  
that could be addressed  
quickly and fairly."

—Marcia Welsh



TU will host the fourth Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium on Oct. 6 in the West Village Commons.



## What's New



### Basketball Coach

Pat Skerry, assistant coach at the University of Pittsburgh, became Towson University's head men's basketball coach in April. Skerry's coaching resume covers 19 years, most recently at Pittsburgh 2010-11 and Providence 2008-10. At Pitt, he helped secure one of the Top 15 recruiting classes in the country according to ESPN.com. He takes over a team with a dismal record last season, losing 19 games in a row. Says Skerry, "Playing in the nation's top non-BCS conference, we will need to work hard and play with TU toughness, both key characteristics I have learned from all the coaches I worked with during my career."



### COFAC Dean

Susan Picinich is the new dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication effective July 1. She replaces Christopher "Kit" Spicer, who is moving to the west coast. Picinich came from the University of Southern Maine where she was special assistant to the provost for international education and previously served as associate and interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences as well as chair and professor of its theatre department. In 2009, Picinich received a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture at the National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts in Sofia, Bulgaria. She has an M.F.A in theatre (costume design) from the University of Michigan and an M.A. in theatre (theatre history) from the State University of New York Albany.



### Honors College Dean

Joseph McGinn, director of the Global Honors Program at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania, takes over as the new dean of TU's Honors College at the end of June. McGinn earned his Ph.D. in philosophy at Pennsylvania State University, an M.A. in philosophy at the University of Waterloo (Canada), and a B.A. in philosophy and history at the University of Manitoba. He was also a Commonwealth Scholar at Edinburgh University in Scotland. He has a strong record of commitment to developing the intellectual interests and cultivating the talents of honors students to enable them to become mature scholars pursuing excellence in all that they do.



### Unsung Hero

Mary Lashley, TU professor of community health nursing, is one of two unsung heroes recognized by Association of Fundraising Professionals for an oral health program for homeless men. For five years, the oral health program has provided access to oral health care for some 600 homeless people through the Helping Up Mission in Baltimore City. It offers the opportunity for students in nursing and dentistry to work with homeless and underserved populations. "I feel especially privileged to be part of the Towson University community where commitment to service and inspiring students to live in service to others is so highly valued," Lashley says.



TU received the Certified Smoke-Free Workplace Award from the South Atlantic Division of the American Cancer Society, for the university's outstanding contributions to the global fight against cancer.



# Space to Grow





# Brendan Curran's future looked bleak. Then the Army and its elite Space and Missile Defense Command got involved. Now the sky's the limit.

BY BILL SHERIDAN

It's mid-December 2010, and Brendan Curran's head is spinning.

"Yesterday I was zooming around the Auto-bahn in Frankfurt," says the 2007 TU graduate. "Two days ago I was discussing missile defense operations in Europe. Four days ago I was doing satellite operations in Germany. Six days ago I was in Qatar serving Thanksgiving dinner to the troops, and a week before that I was in Bahrain discussing commercial imagery support for Pakistani flood relief."

For someone as well-versed in military communications and space defense as Curran, that might not be unusual.

Look into his background, though, and you'll understand why that tour has left him dizzy.

Before the military, before deployments to Iraq and Kuwait and a stint as adjutant to the deputy commanding general of the Army's elite Space and Missile Defense Command, before yet another promotion to deputy commander of an Army Space Support Team in Afghanistan—before all of that, Curran's goals were pretty simple.

"The biggest decision I had to make back then was import or domestic at the bar," he says with a laugh.

"Back then" was the late 1990s, and Curran was lost. A 1996 graduate of Calvert Hall, he had no drive, no prospects and, seemingly, no future.

"I didn't have any vision back then," he says. "I didn't have any responsibilities. I didn't know what I was capable of. It wasn't a go-to-war or go-to-jail scenario, but my father told me, 'You

need to think long and hard about what you want to do.'"

In a way, the answer found him.

## A LEADER IN WAITING

It started when he enlisted in the Army in 1999. He was an engineer first and then moved up to intelligence analyst, spending time in Iraq and finding a level of maturity and commitment that he didn't know he had.

He distinguished himself enough to convince the Army brass to take a chance on him. Impressed by his leadership qualities, they sent him to Towson to earn his degree and come out on the other side as an officer. He studied philosophy from 2004 to 2007, earning his degree in just three years and graduating as a second lieutenant. Seven months later, he was serving as executive officer for a signal company in Kuwait, where he provided information management for the Army's presence throughout southwest Asia.

Not long after, Curran went to space.

In February 2009 he joined the Space and Missile Defense Command in Colorado Springs,

**"I want that private to be able to access the imagery he needs before he walks off his base in Afghanistan."**

—Brendan Curran '07



(Photos, clockwise from left) His wife Carrie Arnold and Curran pose at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Ball.

Somewhere in Iraq.

After hiking to the top of the Manitou Springs Incline in the Rocky Mountains, Curran (right) was sworn in as captain by Brig. Gen. Story (left).

Colo., a specialized agency within the Army that uses space-based resources to provide troops on the ground with resources such as satellite communications, imagery and missile warnings.

His job there was to serve as aide de camp to Brig. Gen. Kurt Story, who at the time was the Space and Missile Defense Command's deputy commanding general for operations.

"I was in that general's hip pocket 24 hours a day," Curran says. "I made sure he had what he needed to do his job. I traveled with him everywhere, and it gave me a better understanding of the strategic vision of the Army."

It gave him something more as well—a mentor who took a personal interest in advancing Curran's career.

"He looked at this role for me as an opportunity for mentorship, to expand my horizons, to understand how the big Army works," Curran says. "I've never had a boss in such high rank treat me with such respect. It's the chance of a military lifetime to receive that kind of tutelage."

It was clear from the start that Story had bigger things in mind for Curran. Early on, Story announced that he planned to "fire" Curran after two years—not because of incompetence, but because Story wanted to push Curran to climb up the next rung of his career ladder.

Sure enough, in January 2011 Curran left his post as Story's aide de camp and accepted a new position with the Second Space Company of the Army's First Space Battalion. There, he serves as deputy commander of an Army Space Support Team (or ARSST) whose mission is to "bring space to the war fighter."

"I make sure they have access to the satellites and imagery they need on the ground," he says. "I want that



# Telling Project

## Veteran voices impart war and its aftermath



Veterans took center stage to share intimate stories of life after war when TU hosted Telling: Baltimore, Md., last May at Stephens Hall.

They discussed the impact of war on individuals and communities, and the struggles vets have transitioning back to civilian life.

Tracy Miller '93 M.S., academic adviser and coordinator of TU's National Student Exchange, discussed her emotional journey after her son Nicholas L. Ziolkowski, was killed in Iraq on November 14, 2004 fighting in the city of Fallujah.

Patrick Young '10, TU coordinator of veteran's services, and his wife Meghan, chronicled his life in the Marine Corps from boot camp to active duty to home. He included his relationship with Miller's

son and how his death affected his life.

"My wife talked about her connection to the military through me and how she, too, was affected by Nick's death without ever meeting him. My struggle became hers in ways I wasn't aware of until this process began," Young says.

Telling: Baltimore, Md. is a collaboration of the Veteran Artist Program, the Towson University Veterans Center and the Texas-based Telling Project. It provides a unique opportunity for military veterans and their family members to speak, and for their communities to listen.

Telling Project was conceived by creator Jonathan Wei. Telling: Baltimore, Md. is the most recent in a series of innovative performances that have been appearing in cities across the United States.

private to be able to access the imagery he needs before he walks off his base in Afghanistan. I want him to have every resource he needs to ensure his success."

It's an interesting paradox—the use of space-based technology to battle our low-tech enemies in the war on terror. Curran, though, says it's simply the reality of the modern U.S. military. Today's soldiers need GPS to navigate, satellites to communicate and imagery to gain the upper hand.

"That's one way in which our military has changed over the years—our reliance on technology," he says. "That's something our adversaries aren't relying on."

### POINTS OF INSPIRATION

Curran deployed in late March to Afghanistan, where he joined his six-person ARSST for a year-long mission of providing troops with "space force enhancement."

Before he left, though, he had a vow to keep. When he accepted his new position in January, Curran promised his fiancée, Carrie Arnold, that they would get married before his next deployment. "Little did I know that would happen within four months," he laughs.

They were married in a small, intimate ceremony on March 12.

In lieu of wedding gifts, Curran asked people to donate to the TowsonFund, specifically the philosophy department.

He's also quick to include a "full disclosure," about his request. "I don't know for certain if anyone donated to Towson for a wedding gift," Curran says. "My lovely bride undercut me and listed her charity, The Alzheimer's Association, as well, in the wedding announcement. That's tough to compete with.

"From now on if I ever see a lackluster speaker hosted by the department, I will turn to her and whisper 'I hope you're proud of yourself.'"

In the meantime, Curran marvels at how far he's come from directionless days before the Army. He talks now of going back to school and getting his master's degree and being a commanding officer.

"I want to put myself in a position to have a demanding job and be successful, to be part of the solution in any role I play," he says.

He marvels, too, at the role his Towson education has played in his career to date. On the surface, philosophy and the military might seem like polar opposites, but Curran sees it differently.

"The philosophy program made me successful," he says. "It helped me focus and taught me not just how to ask questions but, more important, how to listen."

It's no surprise, then, that Curran draws inspiration not from success itself, but from the camaraderie of military life and the goal of serving others. Experience those things, he says, and you'll find success.

"Any leader should tell you that working with a team makes it all worthwhile," he says. "Working with the soldiers, the warrant officers, the non-commissioned officers on a problem, to develop solutions and implement them—it's that sense of accomplishment that drives me. Is that inspiration? I don't know. My inspiration is being able to accomplish anything that's put in front of me." ■

*Bill Sheridan is a freelance writer based in St. Louis, Mo.*

# Taking Care of Business Students

*Goldman Sachs analyst Scott Marchakitus '92 forged a path from TU to Wall Street. He returned to campus to advise students who want to make a similar journey.*

By Ginny Cook • Photo by Kanji Takeno



**M**apQuest says the drive from Towson to Wall Street takes about three and a half hours. Scott Marchakitus '92 knows the trip can take years.

Marchakitus is a senior analyst in the New York City office of Goldman Sachs, where he is in charge of the U.S. telecommunications, media and technology credit research group. He also covers the major European telecom operators.

But to get to New York's financial district, Marchakitus traveled a road laden with hours of study, months of painstaking effort and years of lengthy work days that neither began at nine nor ended at five.

He visited TU in February to give tips on resume writing, interviewing and networking. During three presentations, he talked to students from the College of Business and Economics, the SAGE program and those in student government. This is the first time his talks have been somewhat formal, although he has come back to campus for several years to provide a roadmap of sorts for students looking to succeed.

Marchakitus knows the terrain. He's walked in their shoes.

"I was not an Ivy Leaguer," he says.

In fact, he graduated with a business degree just months before TU's College of Business and Economics earned its accreditation in 1992 from AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business).

When he couldn't find a job after graduation, Marchakitus decided to hit the books again, enrolling in graduate school at the University of Baltimore. There he met an executive from Citibank and landed a job as a financial analyst within a week. What's more, the position came with tuition benefits.

He worked at the bank from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., then went to school at night, graduating in two years with a master's degree in finance. Despite the intense workload, "If anyone is going to pay for your education, take the offer," he advises.

By 1994, Marchakitus had two degrees and a dogged determination to land a job in New York City. He soon joined J.P. Morgan and spent 10 years in their New York and London offices on the credit research team.

"This was my Ivy League experience," he tells the students, urging them to "take a lesser job at a better firm if it brings you closer to your goal. Do a good job in whatever your role is. Then, with commitment and determination, you can move up."



He did, seeking out mentors at J.P. Morgan who urged him to further his financial education. By 1996, he had earned a certificate in financial and credit analysis from New York University. In 1999, he became a CFA charterholder.

Marchakitus became a vice president at Goldman Sachs in 2004 and two years later moved up to managing director.

His tasks are different every day, but his primary responsibility is to interpret news for traders and give investment advice. But he describes his job as more “like a crime thriller. I uncover facts and clues about which company is better financially. I peel back the layers, uncovering a company’s strengths and the advantages of their products,” he says.

He compiles that information, transforming it into “a persuasive debate with three bullet points. I have less than a minute on the trading floor,” to convince brokers to invest, he explains. “They either love or hate what I have to say.”

### One page of life

While he may receive a mixed response from brokers, it’s clear that TU students are engrossed by his message. No one is texting. Laptops are closed. When Marchakitus begins to discuss resumes, what he calls “your life on a piece of paper,” students pick up their pens to take notes.

He hands out examples of good resumes—names blacked out—from the last six interns hired by Goldman Sachs. The credentials are stellar—near perfect SAT scores, copious awards, and excellent work or intern experience.

Marchakitus points out the basic building blocks of these resumes are universal—education, experience, awards, and special skills or hobbies. He tells students to focus on their strengths—in the classroom, at work and during leisure time.

Leave out non-relevant jobs, he notes, “But if you have evidence of leadership or management, even if it’s in a pizza shop, list it.” Employers want to know if students can identify

a problem and fix it with results that can be measured.

But he warns students to omit any items “you cannot explain or support,” citing a candidate who professed to be fluent in Spanish but couldn’t conjure up a phrase to answer a basic question. “There’s a difference between being conversational and fluent,” he explains. “Do not misrepresent yourself.”



Scott Marchakitus '92

### Make a connection

Marchakitus also advocates that students come prepared to be interviewed.

“A resume gets you in the door, but don’t fumble the ball when you get in,” he says. “Know yourself and your resume.”

Practice fielding questions with a friend or an older relative. Students should also be well informed about the company, its mission and the people they will meet in the interview. Research is important, too, Marchakitus says. “If an applicant can’t even research what I do, I would have a hard time trusting them to conduct investment research.”

Read relevant publications, he adds. “For the financial world, read *The Wall Street Journal* and keep abreast of current events. If your goal is advertising, read *Advertising Age*.”

These and other periodicals arm prospective candidates with information, providing background for conversation and making a connection.

“And you need to make a connection,” Marchakitus notes. “I saw 30 kids in two months. They need to leave a lasting impression on me.”

He urges students to come to interviews with five good questions and to listen and make eye contact with the interviewer. Enthusiasm and solid communication skills also make candidates stand out. “Be more excited rather than a deadbeat,” he says, and find ways to maintain that enthusiasm, even if there are multiple interviews.

Before he was hired at Goldman Sachs, Marchakitus says he went through a series of interviews, meeting with 20 or more people.

**“Take a lesser job at a better firm if it brings you closer to your goal.”**

### Networking is key

After the final handshake, networking can make a difference in keeping a candidate and his or her resume on top of the pile.

Send personal thank-you notes and queries, Marchakitus advises. Be persistent, though he acknowledges “there is a fine line between being persistent and being annoying.”

Whether in an office or seeking that first job, Marchakitus tells students to “find someone three years your senior. Ask them how they got to their position. Seek their advice. Tell them, ‘I want to do what you do. How do I get there?’”

He still practices what he preaches, despite nearly 20 years in the financial world. Marchakitus has a goal and a mentor to guide him.

Of the 35,000 employees worldwide at Goldman Sachs, only 6.7 percent have Marchakitus’ title of managing director. Fewer still—1.5 percent—are partners.

“My goal is to be a partner,” he says. “That’s the brass ring at the end of these 80-hour work weeks.” ■

Ginny Cook is the editor of *Towson*.





## *Designing Women kept the Theatre Department in Stitches*



Clothes may make the man (or woman,) but first someone must design the wardrobe and select the fabric. For 40 years that task fell to costume designer Georgia Baker, now TU professor emerita of theatre arts.

Her creations took center stage at productions on Towson's campus and in regional and national playhouses. Baker also taught costume design to legions of students, some who became costume designers for hit television programs and Broadway shows.

Last winter, Baker's handiwork was exhibited in the Holtzman MFA Gallery in the Center for the Arts. The costumes spanned her TU designs from 1967 through 2006 and included a range of styles, from plays set in the Medieval era to the Roaring Twenties to contemporary times.

Her professional work included the American premieres of Eugene Ionesco's "Journeys Among the Dead" and "Man With Bags," as well as regional

premiers of "Rags," "Chess" and The Who's "Tommy," according to a flier at the retrospective.

The display also included her artist renderings—sketches with fabric swatches—that are suitable for framing.

But before Baker ever took pen to paper for any sketch, she made sure she understood the production. "I researched the play, the period [in which it is set] and the play's history," she says.

Baker would transform this background information into a preliminary sketch—a tool to convey ideas—then meet with the show's director for approval. "Everything is discussed with the director," she explains. "It's a collaboration."

The alliance between director and costume designer was something Baker remembers with fondness because it gave her a chance to literally tailor a story via clothes.



In short, costumes communicate. Whether stark or elaborate, colorful or dull, they provide clues to the personality, mood and action of the cast.

“Costumes,” Baker says simply, “clarify the character for the audience.”

During her tenure, Baker has clarified countless characters using everything from corsets to hoop skirts to petticoats to hats. All of these fashion statements were produced on tight deadlines and even tighter budgets.

The job has taken her from Washington, D.C., to New York City in search of the perfect material. “I love shopping for fabrics,” she says, though she laments that many of the fabric houses once located in downtown Baltimore have gone out of business.

But whether she fashions her designs from sheers, woolens, brocades or upholstery fabrics, Baker prefers when the material all comes together on stage.

“When an actor puts on the costume, it’s exciting,” Baker says. “That’s when the character comes to life.”

As a teacher, Baker passed on that excitement to Towson students along with a work ethic and attention to detail needed to generate costumes that speak to an audience.

“Georgia was already 30 years into her teaching career when I joined the faculty at Towson in 1996,” writes Daniel Ettinger, TU professor of theatre arts, in a narrative about the exhibit. “She was tough on her students and tough on me.”

“When a student took a design class with Georgia, they would turn out 40 renderings over the course of their first semester! But she built, with the help of costume shop manager Cheryl Partridge, a costume shop and a stock that is the envy of programs twice our size.”

Baker earned a graduate degree in costume design from Stanford University and came to Towson after working at Center Stage.

In 1992, she wrote *A Handbook for Costume Drawing*.

“Georgia always displayed a tremendous talent for not only costume design but also historical



Georgia Baker (above) designed costumes for TU for more than 40 years. Her sketches and costumes from various plays reveal a technique for historical accuracy and an eye for fashion.





accuracy,” says Jay Herzog, professor and chair of TU’s theatre arts department. “You could tell she conducted painstaking research into the role and the era in which the play was set. Her costume designs reflected a subtle mix of both.”

Another former member of TU’s theatre department, Rose Patacca Marchione, brought many of Baker’s sketches to life. “Rose,” Baker recalls, “turned those sketches into reality.”

Baker and her students would research the playwrights and history of each production. “From this research, costumes are planned, drawings made, patterns drafted by Mrs. Rose Marchione, costumiere for the department, and muslins made from the paper patterns,” reads a 1974 article in the *News American*. “Mrs. Marchione, who supervises the student workshop, does all the actual patternmaking, a meticulous and difficult procedure.”

An Italian immigrant, Marchione used her sewing skills in Baltimore companies, making clothes for servicemen during the war and later items ranging from ski clothes to fur. She next became supervisor of the alteration department at Stewart’s, a department store chain in the Baltimore area.

After being widowed at the age of 52, her pioneering spirit led her to a job at then Towson State.

“She enjoyed many successful years teaching students to create unique costumes for their theater productions while showcasing her own design skills. Her memories with these students stayed with her long after her retirement,” writes her daughter, Madeline Marchione Pecora ’57, in a tribute to her mother who had turned 100 this year.

Marchione raised four children, two of whom graduated from Towson. (Pecora and Anthony Marchione ’55, retired superintendent of Baltimore County Schools.)

Baker and Marchione deserve credit for creating a legacy of costume

research, design and production that continues to enrich the experience of Towson students today. Classes immerse students in the study of period dress and methods of costume design from Egyptian times to the Elizabethan era.

Other courses require extensive research into the relationship of color, texture and historical period as well as the script and production style. Eventually, advanced students become responsible for designing or producing costumes for a TU theatre department production.

Graduates from the TU program have dressed actors in local and national productions, including on Broadway and at the Kennedy Center, and won numerous awards for their designs.

For example, Judy Dolan ’70, associate dean of arts and humanities at the University of California at San Diego, splits her time between teaching costume design and using her designing influence back East. (Profiled in *Towson*, Fall 2005) She has designed costumes for a string of Broadway musicals directed by Hal Prince, and, in 1997, won a Tony award for her bold silk creations for the Broadway revival of *Candide*.

She’s just one example of a crew of TU graduates in costume design who keep their casts in stitches. ■

Editor’s note: Rose Marchione died May 31 as this story was going to press.

Ginny Cook is the editor of *Towson*.



Rose Marchione, pictured here in a 1971 *News American* article, worked in TU’s theatre department for many years, retiring in the 1970s. An expert seamstress, she could also craft patterns from sketches of costume designs.



# END OF AN ERA

By Emily Koch

**A**fter eight years at the helm of Towson University, the second largest public institution of higher education in Maryland, Robert Caret has stepped down from his presidency.

Since earning his doctorate in organic chemistry at the University of New Hampshire in 1974, Caret has devoted nearly 30 years of his professional life to Towson, serving as a faculty member, dean, executive vice president and provost.

In 2003, after an eight-year stint as president of San Jose University, he was lured back to Towson to become the school's 12th president, and in his tenure, the university has seen tangible improvement.

The energetic president constructed new buildings and crafted new degree programs, increased fundraising initiatives and began satellite campuses. The institution's research funding has quintupled and its envied minority retention rate is ahead of the national curve. Indeed, from its campus-wide smoke-free policy to its commitment to sustainability, Towson has become an educational pioneer under the watchful eye of Caret.

Now, as he takes that vision to the University of Massachusetts system, where he will serve as president, Caret sat down with *Towson* for a final interview.



**In the waning days of his presidency Robert Caret reflected on Towson's past and its impressive agenda for the future**

**1** TU is on a list of 11 higher education institutions nationwide whose graduation rates for minority students meet or exceed those of whites, according to the Education Trust. How did we achieve that success, and are we a model to be emulated by other colleges and universities?

We are proud to boast a 65 percent graduation rate for all students and an even better rate (67 percent and 70 percent respectively) for blacks and Hispanics—exceeding our average peer institutions’ rates by 20 percent. Towson’s success in eliminating the achievement gap resulted from a combination of admitting students

**2** From the new College of Liberal Arts complex to residence halls, garages and this spring’s groundbreaking on the new Tiger Arena, TU has experienced a building boom that is both unprecedented in recent history and certified green. Can you discuss the impact of these projects on campus life and how they fit in with TU’s Master Plan?

We knew that summer and fall of 2011 would be an exciting time at Towson University, as there will be more new construction groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings than ever. The new buildings opening this year

**3** How has TU’s \$50 million capital campaign, which wraps up this year, facilitated the university’s progress?

The capital campaign was an important financial goal and benchmark for Towson’s future, but our success raised more than money—it established countless programs that will have a lasting impact on students, faculty and the community. Campaign funds launched scores of new scholarships and grants, including most recently the Towson Promise Scholarship for students facing financial hardship and a \$90,000 challenge grant for the TU debate team. Also, the faculty have enjoyed exciting new

**“**

**Our Capital Campaign raised more than money—  
it elevated and advanced the university  
to a new standard of excellence.**

**”**

based on criteria, like a strong GPA, that indicates they can succeed, and directing resources to help students track their academic progress.

Our Pathways to Success model is one that other institutions can use as a guide for wrapping students with support that begins at the onset of their college experience and ushers them through graduation. Encouraging campus involvement through student programs and peer mentoring has also proven to be effective for us. We know that our continued success relies on persistent evaluation and improvement of our model and support programs.

and others underway on campus will impact every aspect of campus life, from the College of Liberal Arts academic building, to the Towson Commons student union complex, to the new West Village residence halls and the 1,500-space West Village garage, and the Tiger Arena sports complex. These highly anticipated improvements are part of our Master Plan and support the institution’s growth in size and quality. After many years of waiting, it is satisfying to see much-needed campus buildings go from renderings to realities and I expect continued progress that addresses the physical needs of the campus.

opportunities for research and teaching, such as the creation of Towson’s first-ever endowed chair and endowed professorship. Other campaign-funded initiatives, including the Center for Adults with Autism and the Willard Hackerman Academy for Science and Mathematics, enable us to forge key partnerships and share valuable services with our neighbors.

**4** Can you share some details about the “Dream No Small Dream” fund, established by you and your wife, Elizabeth Zoltan?



# Capital Projects and Innovative Policies

Liz and I established the “Dream No Small Dream” fund to send students the message that they should not limit their expectations of what they can accomplish at Towson and beyond. The endowment reflects my belief that education is the foundation through which people evolve. Education is critical to our collective future and everyone deserves a chance and the monetary support to pursue it.

**5** There have been a number of new graduate programs and certificates that began under your leadership. Is there one you are most proud of securing?

I am proud to say that Towson now offers five doctoral programs — Audiology, Information Technology, Instructional Technology, Jewish Studies and Occupational Science, and the joint TU/UB MBA. The MBA is a natural fit at Towson, home of the state’s largest undergraduate business program which is regularly ranked nationally for its value.

Our recent growth in both existing and new academic programs—including those in nursing and health professions, STEM and education—has fulfilled Maryland’s greatest needs, and because we have embraced applied degrees, both master’s and doctorates, our programs exhibit a quality that might not be possible elsewhere.

**6** Have you seen or heard anything from the legislature that might give Towson faculty, staff and students reason to be optimistic in the future?

The governor and the legislature both believe that education provides the foundation for the future. They also recognize the great sacrifice state employees have made with three consecutive years of furloughs and cutbacks. With the November 2010 elections, Annapolis welcomed more Towson

alumni to the legislature, adding to an already thriving caucus of Towson graduates. University faculty, staff and students should also be optimistic about the positive and solid reputation in academics and student programs that Towson has earned with key lawmakers in a short amount of time. The entire university community is seen as one of Maryland’s greatest assets and support for resources continues to grow. The legislature knows this and we should feel good about the future.

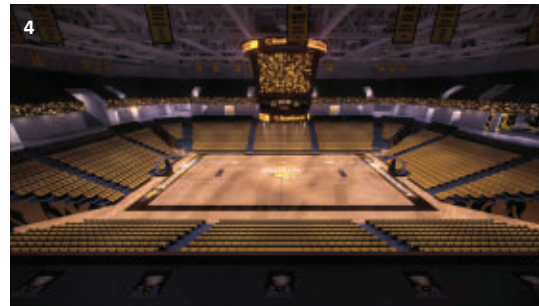
**7** Do you see any parallels between where Towson was when you came here in 2003 as president and where the University of Massachusetts is now?

The University of Massachusetts is in a situation that resembles where I found Towson eight years ago. It is ranked 19th in the world by the *Times of London*, yet still sits in the shadows of Harvard, MIT and other private institutions. In other words, they are liked and appreciated, but not well understood. My first job will be to get the word out about UMass: what it does for the state, why it is important and how it complements what private institutions are doing. I will make it clear that the future of Massachusetts is intimately linked to the future of UMass. I need to sell that concept and, in doing so, garner support for UMass and its faculty, staff and students.

**8** What will you tell the next person to step into the presidency of Towson University?

You are coming to a wonderful campus, a true academic community and a true academic family. Enjoy the experience and, most importantly, keep the institutional momentum going. ■

Emily Koch is an editor in University Relations.  
Photos by Kanji Takeno and Desirée Stover



1. The new College of Liberal Arts building is the first on campus to receive LEED silver certification.
2. The West Village opens this summer and will feature 85,000 square feet of mixed use.
3. Phase I of the CLA building is open for classes.
4. The 5,200-seat Tiger Arena will be complete in 2013.
5. Plants cover more than 50 percent of the roof of the new CLA building.
6. Towson will celebrate one year of being a smoke-free campus on August 1.
7. An above average 71 percent of Towson’s minority students will reach graduation.



Photos by Kanji Takano

# MedStar's Star

Bradley S. Chambers '91 is taking Union Memorial Hospital to new heights

Visit Baltimore's Union Memorial Hospital, and you'll immediately see the people who make the place hum: physicians, nurses, technicians, receptionists, housekeepers and, of course, patients.

The role of the nattily dressed man striding down the corridor may not be as clear to outsiders, but President Bradley S. Chambers is a key reason for Union Memorial's successes.

It's a job that requires executive acumen, resourcefulness and vision—not to mention stamina.

On a typical day Chambers arrives at his office at 7:30 a.m. During the course of the day, he will meet with various physicians and key leaders, and support employee recognition events. His workday usually ends around 6 p.m.

After work he may put in additional hours on behalf of one of many nonprofit organizations—including the American Cancer Society and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Maryland—with which he's involved.

It's a full day for the president of a now-thriving hospital deeply rooted in Baltimore history. Founded in 1854 as the Union Protestant Infirmary, the 20-bed facility was dedicated to caring for the "sick, the poor and the infirm." Renamed Union Memorial Hospital in 1920, it has since grown to comprise 301 beds and 2,500 employees, including 600 physicians. Union Memorial is part of MedStar Health, a nonprofit, community-based healthcare organization in the Baltimore/Washington region.

But Chambers didn't set out to become a much-liked and admired healthcare executive. The Baltimore native and McDonogh School graduate majored in political science at Towson and contemplated going to law school after graduation.

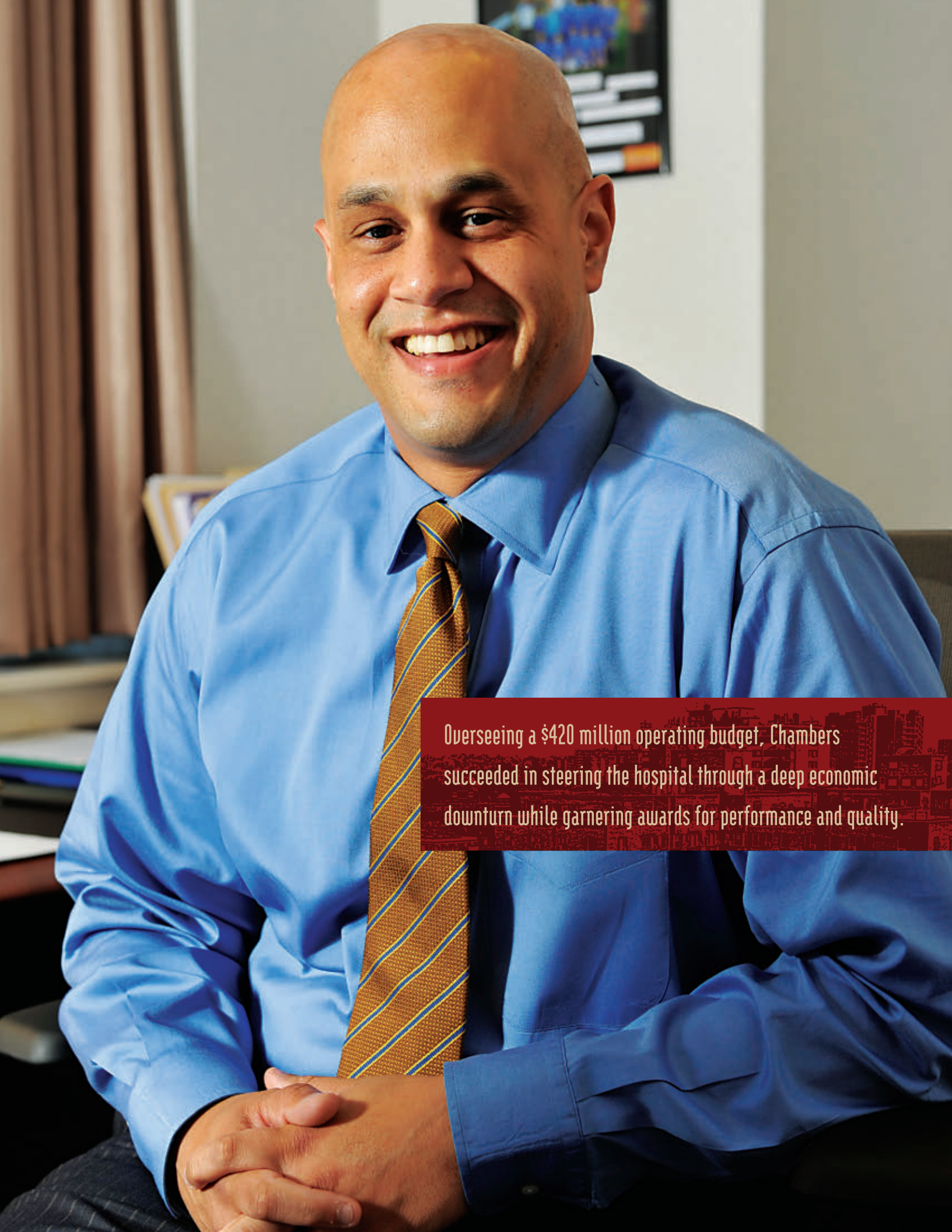
In his final semester, he had a life-altering meeting with his academic adviser.

"He told me that the Baltimore County Department of Health was looking for a student intern," Chambers recalls. "He thought it would be good to have an internship on my resume."

Chambers heeded the counsel and soon found himself employed in the health department's Biostatistics Division. As the weeks passed, he discovered an affinity for data analysis. "I was crunching numbers," he says. "And I found it fascinating."

*continued on page 22*





Overseeing a \$420 million operating budget, Chambers succeeded in steering the hospital through a deep economic downturn while garnering awards for performance and quality.





Brad Chambers meets with his executive team in the board room of Union Memorial.

That public-health job proved to be his entree into healthcare administration. A few years later he parlayed his experience into a position with the University of Maryland Medical System, where he initially worked in general accounting and patient accounting.

In 1995 his career took a major turn with an administrative residency with MedStar Health, then Helix Health—a position in which he supported executive leadership for the health system.

Three years later he accepted an appointment as vice president of operations at Union Memorial Hospital, a MedStar hospital. In 2002 he was appointed senior vice president, and in 2005 he became chief operating officer. “At that point my career trajectory began to take shape,” he says. “I was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time.”

In addition to broadened responsibilities, Chambers found a mentor in Union Memorial President Harrison J. Rider III, who in 1999 assumed the challenge of reinventing the then-struggling hospital.

At the outset of Rider’s tenure, Union Memorial was losing \$1 million per month and had shockingly low levels of physician satisfaction. Over the next decade he succeeded in creating a new culture that involved physicians in substantive dialogue and fostered a spirit of teamwork, openness and accountability.

His leadership set the bar for Chambers, then in his early 30s. As Rider’s right hand, he assisted the president in transforming Union Memorial into a nationally recognized specialty hospital with a caring culture.

“Harry Rider is the reason for my success,” Chambers says.

When Rider retired in 2009, Brad Chambers, 40, was thoroughly prepared to succeed his mentor as Union Memorial’s president. Overseeing a \$420 million operating budget, he succeeded in steering the hospital through a deep economic downturn while garnering awards for performance and quality.

It hasn’t been easy, even with the transformative changes achieved by his predecessor.

“We’ve overhauled the model,” Chambers explains. “Consumers now have one-stop shopping for care. More and more hospitals are offering ambulatory sites off campus, which in turn enables them to concentrate on patients requiring acute care. The days are over when people had to go to a hospital for blood tests or X-rays.”

Union Memorial also has invested in niche services, such as orthopedics and sports medicine, which have made it a destination for those needing specialty services. “The idea,” Chambers emphasizes, “is to focus on what we do well.”

Steady, measurable progress on all fronts garnered recognition for the once-beleaguered Union Memorial. It has received the Delmarva Excellence Award for Quality Improvement for five straight years, a feat unsurpassed by any other Maryland hospital. Its orthopedics program was ranked among the top 50 in *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2010-11 list of America’s Best Hospitals.

Attorney Mark Jensen, of Bowie & Jensen LLC, was involved for nine years with Union Memorial’s

board of directors, initially as a member, then as chair. Now a member of the MedStar board, Jensen recalls watching Chambers do the “blocking and tackling” as chief operating officer under Harry Rider. “Harry was a hard act to follow,” he says. “But Brad handled the transition to president masterfully. He’s his own man, with his own style.”

“Now that I’m on the MedStar board, I get to see how all nine of our hospital presidents perform,” Jensen continues. “And I can tell you that Bradley Chambers is a star performer.”

Chambers has no plans to rest on his laurels, though. He continues to grapple with a multitude of challenges, citing the nurse shortage as well as shortages in some medical specialties, as ongoing problems. Then there are liability and access issues, and the occasional community relations flap (most recently involving a proposed helipad). “Union Memorial has gone through a lot of changes,” Chambers says, “but we still have our work cut out for us.”

But whatever the future brings, Brad Chambers is prepared. “I’ve had excellent team members, great support and an incredible mentor,” he emphasizes.

Does he ever regret not becoming a lawyer? “Not at all,” he replies with a laugh. “But sometimes I regret not taking the medical track.” ■

*On May 5 Bradley S. Chambers received the Deans Recognition Award for the College of Liberal Arts.*





from the  
alumni president



Dear Friends:

The Towson University campus has been a hub of change this year as we welcomed new leaders and continued construction on new buildings.

TU Provost Marcia Welsh stepped in as interim president after Bob Caret headed to the University of Massachusetts in April. A search committee is hard at work to find a replacement by next fall. Susan Picinich became dean of the College of Fine Arts, Joseph McGinn, stepped in as dean of the Honors College and Pat Skerry took over as men's basketball coach.

Our campus footprint is also undergoing a dramatic change. We broke ground on the new Tiger Arena this spring and are completing the final phase of the College of Liberal Arts building, the West Village Commons, two West Village residence halls and a six-story West Village garage. Every project will be certified "green."

Towson continues its partnership with the Cherry Hill neighborhood in Baltimore City. It also earned accolades from the *Princeton Review* as an environmentally responsible campus and *U.S. News and World Report* as a best graduate school for its MBA program with the University of Baltimore.

As the spring semester closes, the university is wrapping up its \$50 million capital campaign—quite an accomplishment in this economy—and I want to thank you for your part in helping us achieve the goal.

I wish you and your family a relaxing summer.

Lou Dollenger '74  
President  
Towson University Alumni Association

## 2011-2012 Board of Directors

THE TOWSON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE 2011-2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The 2011 Board of Directors

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Lou Dollenger '74	President
Lance Johnson '93	Vice President
Fran Bond '55/'61	Treasurer
Keith Ewancio '94/'07	Secretary

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Darcy Accardi '06	Beverly Norwood '68
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Teresa Eaton '00	Barbara Shifflett '79
Barbara Eckley '77	Bill Stetka '77
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**College of Education:** Karen Blair '74

**College of Fine Arts and Communication:** Chris A'Hern '94

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**College of Liberal Arts:** Gerry Gaeng '81

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**TU Student Government Association:** Matt Sikorski

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Kim Fabian '88

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Marcia Welsh, Interim President, Gary Rubin '69, Vice President, University Advancement, Lori Armstrong, Associate Vice President, Alumni Relations; Executive Director, Alumni Association

## Lunch and Learn

### Oak Crest Alumni Reception >

Residents of Charlestown and Oak Crest Village were all ears when Ray Lorion, dean of the College of Education, and Kris Phillips, director of facilities management for planning, came to discuss the latest news from Towson's campus.



1 Jeanette Herrold '51 and Gloria Paar '51   2 Mary Henry '82, James Henry '56, Julia Persky '56, Vince Salkowski '54 and Thomas Foster '54   3 Emma Kepp '72/'75, Karl Weihs, Vince Kilkowski and Mary Weihs '65   4 Sally Bowerman, John Seitz and Jeanette Seitz '45   5 Eugene Langbehn '59, Charlotte Langbehn and Donna Mayer   6 Bob Holland, Fran Bond '55/'60 and Gloria Holland '53





## Tapping In



### < Education initiatives in Annapolis

Members of the TAP (Towson Advocacy Program) gathered in Annapolis last spring. The group got up-to-date information about the issues facing the General Assembly that affect higher education and Towson University via the annual Legislative Luncheon sessions. Alumni use TAP to pave the way for a brighter future for TU.

1 Gary Attman, USM Board of Regents, his wife, Patty and mother-in-law, Jacqueline Charrier '03 2 Ginny Schaaf '57 and Connie Kihm '95, TAP chair 3 Delegate Warren Miller '87, Delegate Kathy Szeliga '94, Bob Caret, Delegate Pamela Beidle '94 and Delegate Charles Barkley '72 4 Steve Willett '79 and Speaker of the House Michael Busch

## Swing Time

### O's notch a victory at Ed Smith Stadium >

More than 50 alumni and friends watched the Orioles beat the Tampa Bay Rays during an exhibition game at the renovated Ed Smith Stadium in Sarasota, Fla., on March 3. The Alumni Association will host another picnic and game next year—so check out the Orioles 2012 spring training schedule this fall so you can make plans to join us for the next win.



1 Frank Mezzanotte '73, Charles Lotocki '74, John Gilliss '74 and Gary Rubin '69    2 Steve Appel '82 and Kristine Bowman-Appel '87    3 Dan Higgs '60 and Shigemi Higgs '75  
4 Jeff Riddle '75, Gary Tarr '74 and John Hall '75  
5 Top row: Lorraine Ukens '90, Bob Caret and Leon Ukens  
Bottom row: Alan Berrier, Dan '75/'83 and Mary McCarthy





## Welcome Friends



1, 2, 3 Swimming and diving alumni, and current team members enjoyed getting together.

### < Hospitality at the Auburn Pavilion

The Alumni Association put out the welcome mat this spring for more than 1,000 alumni, parents, students and friends at the Alumni Hospitality Area at the Auburn Pavilion. We celebrated Tiger lacrosse and were joined by alumni from the tennis, lacrosse and swimming and diving teams.

## Check it Out



1, 2 Lacrosse alumni packed the Towson Center for the annual bull roast.

### < Bull roast benefits men's and women's lacrosse

More than 500 alumni and friends packed the Towson Center March 12 for the annual bull roast to support the men's and women's lacrosse programs. Hearty fare and a day filled with fun and games resulted in a fundraising success.

## Get Crackin’

### Crab Feast in the Sunshine State >

Sunny Florida means it’s time for blue crabs. On March 4, we drove across Alligator Alley to meet up with old friend Danny Colero at his Riggins Crab House in Lantana, Fla., to celebrate a Maryland tradition with our alumni who live in the Fort Lauderdale area.



1 Gary Rubin '69 and Mary Mangione    2 China Rain '72 and Sharon Angeli    3 Frank Mezzanotte '73 and his mother Lena Mezzanotte    4 Jenna Wehner, Bob Caret, John Ferber '94 and Liz Zoltan    5 Rachel Unger '08 and Marlene Fishbein '07  
6 John McMunn '94, Terri McMunn '94 and Patricia Raco '91





## Succeeding in Business



### < The 2011 Executive Club

On March 31st, members of TU's Executive Club gathered at the university home to kick off the 2011 membership cycle and to celebrate their camaraderie and leadership achievements. For more information on the Executive Club, please go to [www.towson.edu](http://www.towson.edu), and visit the alumni link.



1 David '76 and Susie '79 Nevins 2 Les Ireland '86 and Michael Robinson '88 3 Matt Desrosiers, Karin Schwartz '94, Lance Johnson '93 and Gerry Gaeng '81 4 Mike Young '81, Ron Brown '76, and Ron Causey '82 5 Lori Armstrong, Bob Caret and Scott Hargest '79 6 Ken Gent '83 and Steve Willett '79

## At the Beach

### Ocean City, Md., Reception >

It's never too early to get a jump on the summer season. So on April 14, we gathered for a reception at Fager's Island at 60th Street in Ocean City, Md., with nearly 100 TU graduates. Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan presented the key to the city to Gary Rubin '69, vice president of University Advancement.



1 Regina Foreman, Danielle DiMichele '09, Jeanne Carey and Andrese Foreman '09 2 Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan, Donna Abbott '79 and Gary Rubin '69  
3 Holly Donovan '82 and Louis Parsons '82  
4 Robert '52 and Sandra '57 Stevens 5 Julie Duer-Clayton, Lance Johnson '93 and John Clayton





# eye OF THE Tiger

HOME COMING 2011 • TOWSON UNIVERSITY

## Friday, September 23

### HALL OF FAME INDUCTION DINNER

University Union, Potomac Lounge

6 p.m. • Cocktails

7 p.m. • Dinner and ceremony

## Saturday, September 24

### ALUMNI HOMECOMING TAILGATE FESTIVAL

Unitas Stadium, Parking Lot 21

(Across from the Auburn House)

2 – 6:30 p.m.

7 p.m. – Football game

#### TAILGATING INFORMATION

We are excited to return to the athletic corridor for our historic Alumni Homecoming Tailgate Festival in Lot 21. Details are listed below.

#### ALUMNI GROUPS: RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW

Alumni groups MUST pre-reserve a designated tailgating space through the Office of Alumni Relations to access Lot 21 on Homecoming Day. Spaces are first-come, first-served and space is limited. The \$60 fee will reserve 5 parking spaces, 10 football game tickets, signs for your group and a tailgating survivor packet. Bring your neighbors and friends or meet past classmates and colleagues for tailgating festivities. Enjoy an afternoon at your alma mater and stay to watch the Towson University Tigers take on the Colgate Red Raiders. Be sure to stop by the Alumni Hospitality Area at the Auburn House Pavilion for your Alumni Group Tailgating Survivor Packet, refreshments and Homecoming giveaways. This event is rain or shine!

#### TAILGATING PARKING\*

##### \$60 per group

(5 parking permits/spaces & 10 game tickets)

**\*No more than 10 parking permits/spaces may be reserved by one alumni group**

- The 5 parking permits and tickets are distributed to reserved alumni group leaders PRIOR to Homecoming Day. Guests without Lot 21 parking permits may park in the Union, Glen or Towsontown Garages and walk to the athletic corridor. Towson University buses will also provide transportation to the athletic corridor (GOLD ROUTE) four hours prior to game time, and then again, two hours after the game concludes.
- Alumni guests with Lot 21 parking permits enter from Auburn Drive South to gain access to lot 21 (Auburn Drive South is the entrance to the Athletic Corridor closest to Stevenson Lane).
- If you do not have a pre-reserved parking permit, you will NOT be permitted to drive into the Auburn Drive South entrance to Lot 21.
- All tailgating materials must be in the vehicles arriving and parked on site.
- There is no drop off or delivery service of tailgating materials to Parking Lot 21.
- Tents and/or canopies are not permitted
- Campers, trailers or RV's are not permitted
- Pre-reserved parking spaces are first-come, first-served for alumni, and are assigned upon registration and receipt of payment. We cannot honor requests to be located adjacent to other groups or in specific areas of Parking Lot 21.
- Tailgating is permitted at the conclusion of the game for 90 minutes – no exceptions.
- Tailgating rules apply for "Special Day Private Functions." It is your group leader and member's responsibility to distribute, review and abide by the tailgating rules.

To reserve your Alumni Homecoming Tailgate Festival parking permits/spaces, please email [alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Office of Alumni Relations at 410-704-2234.

##### \$120 per group

(10 parking permits/spaces and 20 game tickets)



## FOOTBALL GAME

September 24

Unitas Stadium • 7 p.m.

## TOWSON TIGERS vs. COLGATE RAIDERS

#### TICKETS:

\$15, Senior citizens: \$8 with ID

Children 18 and under: \$10

Groups of 10 or more: \$3

Call 410-704-2244 or visit [www.towsontigers.com](http://www.towsontigers.com)

#### HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

**Towson University  
Marriott Hotel**

**Ten West Burke Avenue  
Towson, MD 21252**

**410-324-8100**

#### Sept. 23 – Sept. 25

Limited rooms available at

\$99/Single & \$119/Double

+ applicable state and local taxes

Reference#: 5LQ5JC



# Growing a university

THE CAMPAIGN FOR TOWSON



from the

## campaign chair

Dear Friends,

We. Are. Almost. There.

It is with great anticipation that I write these words. After seven years, Towson University is poised to reach its \$50 million Capital Campaign goal—the largest in our institution's history. What has been accomplished through this funding is nothing short of remarkable. Gifts renamed a college, expanded programs, seeded new ones, nurtured faculty and supported students. There are so many people and organizations to thank. But I am getting ahead of myself. We are not there, yet.

Within the Philanthropy Matters pages of this magazine, Towson University has shared news of transformative gifts and stories of donors' motivation for giving back. For those of you who have made your own gift, the stories may have a special resonance. You know the joy and satisfaction of being part of this special time in Towson's history. If you have not yet made a gift, I urge you to do so now in support of a scholarship, department or program that has made a difference in your life. The cumulative power of all gifts, great and small (and those in between), has brought us to this day. We've been Growing a University, to great success.

We. Are. Almost. There. Wouldn't it be wonderful if your gift put us over the top?

*Molly Shock*

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

## Corporate and Foundation Contributions Update

More than one-third of the dollars raised through the Capital Campaign have come from corporate or foundation donors, including 31 contributions of \$100,000 or more.

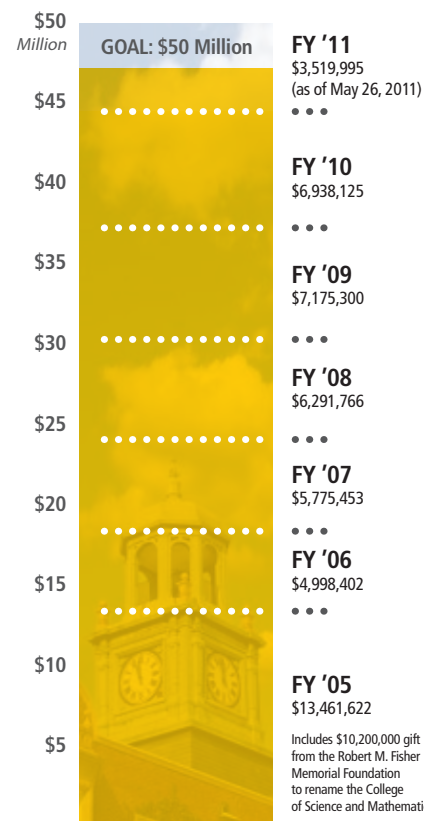
- The largest philanthropic commitment in Towson University's history came in 2005 from the Robert M. Fisher Memorial Foundation—\$10.2 million to support the Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics, named to honor the founders of the Fisher Memorial Foundation.
- The Bernard Osher Foundation made two contributions of \$1 million with each grant establishing an endowment to provide income for the Osher Reentry Scholarship program and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.
- Businessman Willard Hackerman contributed two \$1 million gifts through the Hackerman Foundation and the Whiting-Turner Contracting Company to establish the Hackerman Presidential Scholarship and the Hackerman Academy of Mathematics and Science. Both endowments will nurture students interested in pursuing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) degrees.

In total, more than 100 corporations and foundations made philanthropic commitments to the Capital Campaign. Seventy percent of these donors made more than one gift, with nearly 50 percent making at least three gifts.

In addition to gifts and grants made through corporations and corporate foundations, Employer Matching Gift programs enhanced resources available for a multitude of Towson University programs and scholarships. A total of 233 organizations matched 1,487 gifts by individuals giving \$563,146 in support of Towson University.

Campaign Progress as of May 31, 2011:  
\$48,173,593

**Just a few more months  
to meet our goal —  
Help push us over the top**





## Foundation Scholars Luncheon

ANNUAL EVENT BRINGS DONORS AND RECIPIENTS TOGETHER



“If it weren’t for those who create the grants and scholarships that give someone like me a second chance, I don’t know where I’d be today.”

—Terri Fabula, Class of 2012



Ken '78 and Renee Moreland '79 (front) and their scholarship recipients Nataly Shwartz and Bolajoko Somade.

(Photo top) Interim President Marcia Welsh (second from left) with student speakers Caiti Bawroski (Jean S. Baumbach Scholarship), Terri Fabula (Charlotte W. Newcombe Endowed Scholarship for Mature Women and Men) and Olumuyiwa Onibatedo (Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Scholarship).

The 2011 Foundation Scholars Luncheon, a celebration of scholarship, brought together more than 250 recipients, their benefactors and campus leadership on April 29. Featured speakers included Interim President Marcia Welsh and Ken '78 and Renee '79 Moreland, donors of an endowed scholarship for accounting students. The couple’s motivation to give is rooted in their religious faith and a belief in passing on their blessings.

Three student scholarship recipients also shared their stories. Terri Fabula, recipient of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Scholarship for Women and Men, spoke of her struggles with a nerve disease which necessitated the end of her first career as a radiologist and set her on a new path as an art major at Towson and future illustrator. “If it weren’t for those who create the grants and scholarships that give someone like me a second chance, I don’t know where I’d be today.”

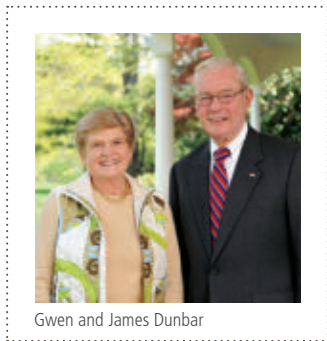
The Scholars Luncheon is a cornerstone of the Foundation Scholars program, which aims to preserve and share the histories and legacies of scholarship donors and to instill the importance of philanthropy in future alumni. Gary Rubin, vice president for university advancement and the luncheon’s master of ceremonies, says, “The effect that your philanthropy has on Towson students is unmistakable; you are giving them freedom to thrive, innovate, imagine and build successful futures.”

To view more photos of this year’s Foundation Scholars Luncheon, visit [www.towson.edu/foundationsscholars](http://www.towson.edu/foundationsscholars).

## Gifts That Transform

DONORS DISCUSS THEIR REASONS FOR GIVING

**Towson donors extend their generosity for many reasons. Some make a gift to honor an alumnus or a favorite professor, while others provide funds to make sure deserving students can call Towson home. No matter the reason for giving or the size of the actual gift, this generosity truly transforms the university.**



Gwen and James Dunbar

■ James “Jay” Dunbar Jr. ’94 had always wanted to earn a college degree, but it wasn’t until his mid-30s that he decided to go back to school at Towson and make it happen. Unfortunately, in the fall of 1994, he died suddenly from pancreatic cancer. Before his passing, a representative from TU brought his diploma to the hospital, and he graduated *summa cum laude*, fulfilling his lifelong dream.

To honor Jay’s legacy and the university he loved, his parents, Gwen and James Sr., have established a \$250,000 planned gift to go toward the scholarship fund they named for Jay soon after his death. The scholarship fund is designated for CBE students like Jay who are older than typical freshmen. Applicants must be junior or senior marketing majors, aged 22 or older.

“My relationship with TU is just as good as my son’s was,” Gwen Dunbar says. “There wasn’t a person in that school that he had as a teacher or a mentor that he didn’t respect or care about.”

While making a gift in their son’s name does not make up for his loss, the Dunbars are helped by the knowledge they are assisting others who “deserve an education.”

Each year at a reception honoring scholarship recipients, the Dunbars meet the students who benefit from the scholarship fund.

“When we met those students it was as if Jay knew we were honoring him. He could see that we cared about the school as much as he did,” Gwen Dunbar says. “We are helping other students to finish their education like he wanted to so badly.”



Jody Morrison ’84 and Cynthia Cooper

■ When Cynthia Cooper, professor and chair of the Department of Mass Communication and Communication Studies, interviewed for her current position at Towson, she was heartened to see that the university had a LGBT center and active mentoring program, as well as pride flags and ads for LGBT events hanging visibly on campus.

To honor this welcoming environment and to help support the university’s initiatives to give all students a safe and secure place, Cooper and her partner, Salisbury University professor Jody Morrison ’84, established an endowment to support the LGBT center. The center, located in the union, “strives to create an inclusive and educated campus community where all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and ally students feel welcomed, supported, valued and engaged.”

“We would hate for any student to drop out of school because of who they are,” Cooper says. “When you’re in a university, you’re fairly vulnerable if you are not financially stable. A lot of students finance their own education and if you are relying on a parent or grandparent, often one of the first things we see is the parents pull that funding.”

Cooper and Morrison hope the endowment will support students such as an honors student Cooper remembers whose mother pulled her college funding and tried to repossess her car because she was gay.

“Only money can provide the resources students need, especially students who are tossed out of the house,” Morrison says. “We think these financial resources will make or break whether a student succeeds.”

The endowment is not just for LGBT students, however. It offers support services for all students and funds staff and faculty



education and training. Because of this, Cooper and Morrison hope their gift will lead to increased understanding and dialogue.

While investing in a university like Towson that cares about making all students feel welcome was an easy choice for Cooper and Morrison, they encourage prospective donors to consider investing in young people in general.

"I can't think of anything better than investing in young people, who are doing their best in a time that can be very difficult. I can't imagine not giving," Cooper says.



Steve and Lyn Reeves

■ When *Rolling Stone* magazine named Baltimore the "best music scene" in 2008, many listeners of WTMD, the public radio station that calls the TU campus home, weren't surprised. Avid music fans and WTMD supporters Lyn and Steve Reeves realize that the up-and-comers in the local music scene can thank 89.7 for precious air time and support.

To enhance the listener-supported station's ability to promote and foster regional singers and songwriters, the Reeves made a gift to renovate WTMD's studio and purchase

equipment. The gift is making it easier for the station to fulfill its mission to play the music of artists who have not yet found their way onto commercial stations.

"Baltimore has the potential to be a top music city in the United States; WTMD can be an important part of that," Steve Reeves says.

"The station has the ability to assist the local music scene in a positive way," he adds. "Baltimore Unsigned provides radio access to unsigned artists who are featured on the station, and First Thursdays brings free music to Mt. Vernon Square. The station has a vision to be a positive force in the area."

Thanks to the Reeves' generosity, music fans will continue to benefit from WTMD's ability to enhance the quality of life in the Baltimore region by bringing talented artists to the airwaves.

"Lyn and Steve's gift had a transformative impact on WTMD, our staff and our audience," WTMD General Manager Steve Yasko says. "Their gift enabled us to bring more live performances into our studios and onto the air. They've helped not only WTMD, but hundreds of artists who otherwise would not be able to tell their stories directly to our city."

While the Reeves wanted to honor and encourage WTMD's crucial role in the regional music scene, they also appreciate its affiliation with Towson University.

"We're inspired by the transformative power of education," Reeves says. "It enables and equalizes people of different backgrounds. A university can be a force for improvement in a community."

## FOOTPRINTS TALK

After reading about Towson's success in not only enrolling, but graduating minorities, Susan Mathews '82 was inspired to make a permanent mark on campus. Her gift also qualified her as a 2011 Founders Society leader.

"I named a seat in Stephens Hall for Michael Seganish in the business department because he was an inspiring teacher," says Mathews. "His passion for teaching made students interested in a topic that can be pretty dry."

By recognizing Seganish, Mathews is also showing pride in TU for its continued ability to produce graduates from all backgrounds, especially in difficult economic times.

"We see every day in the news that the funding is being cut, yet more and more people are eligible and want to go to college," she says. "We have to dig deeper, even if it's a small amount. When we combine resources, we can do a lot more for deserving students."

In response to the university's annual appeal, Footprints Talk, other TU alumni and friends, like Mathews, have left their mark by naming a space on campus. To view a complete listing of donors who named a seat on campus or purchased a brick during the fall Towson Fund appeal, or to take advantage of one of the giving opportunities listed below, please visit [www.towson.edu/yournamehere](http://www.towson.edu/yournamehere).

**Library Collections Shelving - \$2,500**

**Stephens Hall Auditorium Seats - \$1,000**

**Center for the Arts Seating**

**Recital Hall Seats - \$500**

**Main Stage Theatre Seats - \$250**

**Harold J. Kaplan Concert Hall Seats - \$100**

**Johnny Unitas Stadium Seating**

**Gold Seats - \$500**

**Stadium Seats - \$250**

**Van Bokkelen Auditorium Seats - \$250**

**Auburn House Path Bricks - \$100**

## In Memoriam

### Alumni

**Maryann G. Gillease Sandusky '64**  
November 6, 2007

**Carolyn R. Weinbert Winer '62**  
October 14, 2008

**Nancy Rich '78**  
January 9, 2009

**Glascoe A. Baker '79**  
January 12, 2009

**Virginia T. Freakle Morris '35**  
August 3, 2009

**Nancy R. Covahey '92**  
January 6, 2010

**Clarinda White '06**  
March 29, 2010

**James E. Adam '73**  
April 13, 2010

**Sara T. Harroll '63**  
May 23, 2010

**Claire V. Dolliver '61**  
May 27, 2010

**Anna M. Williams '40**  
July 18, 2010

**Charles E. Woodey '68**  
July 26, 2010

**Helena C. Lenna Macintire '63**  
August 20, 2010

**James R. Bowerman '50**  
September 19, 2010

**Paul Martin Boyd '89**  
September 23, 2010

**Thomas W. Weese '86**  
October 6, 2010

**Stephanie Lynn Phelps '94**  
October 12, 2010

**Joyce D. Derflinger Mac Millan '71**  
October 15, 2010

**Robert A. Thomas '68**  
November 22, 2010

**Thomas A. Stone '96**  
November 26, 2010

**H. Browning Spence '68**  
November 27, 2010

**Dennis G. McGee '80**  
December 21, 2010

**Harry C. Latteman '70**  
December 24, 2010

**G. Bosley Royston '37**  
December 25, 2010

**Roberta H. Klement Kilian '61**  
January 17, 2011

**Stephen Charles Broy '01**  
January 25, 2011

**Barbara C. Collier Hull '45**  
February 3, 2011

**Laurence Holden '88**  
February 13, 2011

**Lisa A. Muro Reinshuttle '75**  
March 9, 2011

**Jami Rene Long Grant '86**  
March 23, 2011

**Shannon Darnell Canami '10**  
March 26, 2011

### Faculty

**Betty Lou Raskin**  
December 17, 2010

**Stephen S. Showers**  
February 21, 2011

**Gilbert A. Brungardt**  
December 29, 2010

**Dean Pickens '55**

in Howard County, Md., was also named Girl's Cross Country Coach of the Year as River Hill won their third consecutive state title. During 39 years, Lauer has coached 95 seasons of boys and girls cross country, wrestling, and track and field with his teams winning more than 100 county, regional and state championships.

**James Meehan '71 PHED** retired after 38 years with the Montgomery County public school system. He taught physical education for 35 years at Olney Elementary and was athletic director of Sherwood High School for two years. He also was a member of the Maryland Public School Secondary Athletic Association's Wrestling Committee for 20 years.

**Sandy Brodsky '72 PHED** retired after 38 years as a physical education teacher in the Tinton Falls, N.J., school system. He coached boys and girls track for 15 years and basketball for five years. He was also a two-term vice president of the local teachers union. Brodsky worked with the Monmouth County Sheriff's Prison Awareness Program in taking "at risk" students through the inner workings of the judicial system. He and his wife, Terri, live in Neptune, N.J.

**Pat Allen Kaplon '72 EDUC** published her first book, *A Child Called Hope*, a novel about a young girl who must cope with the death of her beloved mother.

**Joan Kramer '74 NURS**, a graduate nursing instructor, was appointed associate professor of nursing at Morgan State University in April 2010. In October, she was awarded a New Nursing Faculty Fellowship as part of the Nurse Support II program.

**Charlie Lusco '74 PSYC** had a trilogy of Christian devotions, *In His Love and Glorious Service, seasons 1, 2 and 3*, published by Westbow Press. Lusco is married with two children, 8 and 28, and lives in York, Pa.

**Al Cicere '76/'84 M.E.D.** became a full-time instructor at American Public University System after serving as an adjunct instructor for a year. He retired from Anne Arundel County Schools in 2007.

**Lynne Brick '78 NURS**, co-founder and owner of Brick Bodies and Lynne Brick's Health Clubs, was appointed to the board of directors

## 1960s

**Joe Kroart '63** writes that his store on Ocean City, Md.'s boardwalk, Ocean Gallery, was mentioned in *Weird Maryland*, a book by Matt Lake.

**Judith McGowan '63/'03/'06** was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in the contributor category in 2009. She retired in 2010 from teaching health in Baltimore City public schools and has been a TU adjunct faculty member since 2007.

**Neal A. Brooks '66 HIST** retired after 39 years as professor of history and more than 20 years as head of the history department at the Essex campus of the Community College of Baltimore County. He was honored last year as CCBC Professor Emeritus for college service and his contributions to the field including being a co-author of two books on Baltimore County

history. He still teaches part-time at the college, but he and his wife, Carol, now have more time for family and friends at Deep Creek Lake, Md.

**Edward W. Shirley '66 HIST** was named the 2011 Maryland Superintendent of the Year by the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland. He was recognized along with the other state winners at the annual American Association of School Administrators Convention in February in Denver, Colo. Shirley has served as the superintendent of schools in Caroline County, Md., since July 2003.

## 1970s

**Earl E. Lauer '70** won the Morgan Wootten Lifetime Achievement Award by *The Washington Post*, an annual award that recognizes career accomplishments. Lauer, a longtime coach at Atholton High School and River Hill High School



## Overcoming Adversity

Glenn Stearns '87

California businessman receives Horatio Alger Award



Glenn Stearns '87 is proof that the American dream can become reality.

Despite a background that included being dyslexic and fathering a child at age 14, he rose to become founder and now chairman of the multi-million dollar Stearns Corporation, a network of financial services companies based in California.

Last April, Stearns received a 2011 Horatio Alger Award from the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans.

"The 2011 members are extraordinary role models of strength, resolve and achievement and will help to continue our mission of helping young people achieve similar success," says Tony Novelty, president and CEO, Horatio Alger Association.

Stearns came from humble beginnings on the outskirts of Washington, D.C. His father was a printer and his mother cleaned homes and clerked at a local grocery store. Both struggled with alcoholism, and many of his close relatives died as a result of the disease.

Diagnosed as dyslexic, Stearns failed the fourth grade and by the eighth grade had fathered a child.

Yet he set his sites on higher education, becoming the first person in his family to attend college and earning a degree in economics from Towson.

After graduation, Stearns moved to Orange County, Calif., waiting tables

while he trained to become a loan officer. After 10 months as a loan officer, he formed his own mortgage company, which grew to become Stearns Lending, Stearns Wholesale, FPF Wholesale, Goverline, TriVerify, TriMavin and CU Partners.

Following the mortgage industry crisis in 2007, Stearns Corporation emerged as the number-two privately held mortgage lender in California and one of the top wholesale lenders in the country. By September 2010, Stearns' funding reached nearly \$1 billion a month and the company saw record growth, adding more than 1,000 employees over the past three years.

In 2007, Stearns and his wife, Mindy, won the reality television show, "The Real Gilligan's Island," and matched their prize winnings to donate \$500,000 to the Stearns Family Charitable Foundation. They also created Life Changing Lives, an annual charity gala that pays tribute to American heroes and has raised millions of dollars for local and national charities.

Stearns was among 11 others inducted into the Horatio Alger Association this year in Washington, D.C., including Michael R. Bloomberg, mayor of New York City and founder and owner, Bloomberg, L.P., and Leonardo DiCaprio, actor and film producer.

of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center. The center recognizes the experiences and contributions of Maryland women from diverse backgrounds.

**Keith Mills '79** was named 2010 Maryland Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association. The annual award is presented to the top sportscasters and sportswriters in the nation. Mills, who joined Baltimore's WBAL-TV 11 in 2006, has also worked for Baltimore's WJZ-TV and WMAR-TV.

## 1980s

**Cynthia Miller '81 ENGL** is the new chief of marketing and communications for the American Association of University Women. An executive with extensive experience in strategic communications, marketing and media communications, Miller has held senior leadership positions with Marriott International and Walt Disney World. She serves on the board of directors of the Washington, D.C., chapter of Women in Film and Video.

**Lynn Ricci '81 PSYCH** is the senior vice president at the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain, Conn. She is responsible for strategic planning, marketing, communications and employee relations. She also oversees outpatient services including therapies and physician clinics, pharmacy, lab and radiology services, community sports programs, a fitness center and skilled nursing operations.

**Jeff Sweetin '82** became the special agent in charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Training Academy in Quantico, Va.

**Anthony Brown '85/'95**, president of the Dream 4 It Foundation, released an African American musical history DVD, "Dream, A Musical Celebration of Our History." The documentary included Brown's rendition of Sam Cooke's song, "A Change is Gonna Come." Brown is an accomplished singer and recording artist. All proceeds from the DVD will support the Dream 4 It Foundation's goal of providing scholarships to college students. Visit [www.dream4it.net](http://www.dream4it.net).



**Bob Gavin '87** is a director at Arthur Bell, a CPA firm in Hunt Valley, Md.

**Robert Lee Gould '85 BUAD**

retired from the U.S. Air Force and Maryland Air National Guard after 27 years of service. He was recognized with the Legion of Merit for his service, the sixth in the order of precedence of U.S. military decorations. He is a vice president with Constellation Energy and vice president and chief communications officer with Baltimore Gas and Electric Company.

**Susan Balducci Seaman '95 BUAD**

opened a Maryland-themed store in Glyndon, Md., called Black Eyed Susan Coffee, Candy, Cream & More. She began a gift basket company in 2004 that featured items made in Maryland or with a Maryland theme. The retail store continues the partnership with area companies that make food and snacks.

**Bob Gavin '87 BUAD** was promoted to director of the family office at Arthur Bell, a certified public accounting firm in Hunt Valley, Md. He will be responsible for the strategic planning, operations, development and growth of the group.

**Theresa Ratajczak '88** was named president of Lazarus Caucus, Inc., a nonprofit organization located in Catonsville, Md., that works with local government agencies and the Community Assistance Network to meet the needs of the homeless in Baltimore County. Ratajczak, a graphic designer, is also president and co-founder of PDA Marketing, a marketing and design company also based in Catonsville.

**Brian Feser '89** has been appointed vice president at Textron Marine & Land Systems in Hunt Valley, Md. He is responsible for strategy and business development in commercial, military and international marketing and sales. A retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, Feser previously directed the company's Afghanistan operations.

**1990s**

**Chris Devlin '90 CCMM** directed "The Nose," a play that was part of the one-act festival of original works of the Katselas Theatre Company. The show was performed on weekends in April at the Beverly Hills Playhouse in Beverly Hills, Calif.

**Kevin Grace '90 MCOM** with actor Clayton LeBouef honored the first Afro-American boxing champion and Baltimorean Joe Gans with several events in August 2010 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the fighter's death. In December 2010, Friends of Joe Gans which promotes, educates and honors the memory of Gans, unveiled a historic plaque on the former site of the Goldfield Hotel that Gans owned. A ceremonial street sign, Joe Gans Way, was placed on Argyle Avenue in August 2010 where Gans' foster mother lived.

**Jill '90** and **James '90 Jones** announced that their daughter Jessica Jones will be the third generation to attend TU. Both Jessica's parents and grandparents attended and graduated from Towson.

**Ernest Jermin '92 BIOL**, a child psychiatrist at Saint Francis Hospital, was interviewed by *Fox Morning News* in Connecticut about bullying. Jermin discussed the case of an eighth grader who countered cyber bullies by posting a Youtube video of her own.



The TU alumni ice hockey team raised \$2,100 for the American Cancer Society in a game against the University of Delaware.

**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 email alumni@towson.edu. Because of production schedules, your news may not appear in the magazine you receive immediately after submitting an item.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_ Name at Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Address (if address is new) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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**Julie Spitz Norin '92 MCOM/'06**

**SPPA/'10 AUD** completed her doctorate in audiology in May 2010 and accepted a position as an audiologist with the Hearing and Speech Agency in Baltimore. Her doctoral thesis, "Speech Intelligibility and Passive, Level-Dependent Earplugs," was recently accepted for publication in *Ear and Hearing*, the official journal of the American Auditory Society.

**Joseph Beam '95 BUAD** was chosen by readers of *SmartCEO* magazine as one of the top business bankers in the Mid-Atlantic. He is vice president and branch manager of Susquehanna Bank's Timonium, Md., office, where he works to develop and expand commercial and retail banking relationships.

**Vanessa Wolff Marasco HLTH '96** and her husband, Frank Jr., welcomed their second child, Ryan Dominick, on Sept. 12, 2010. He joined his sister Hannah Kathryn, 3 1/2. Vanessa is a senior retirement plan coordinator at T. Rowe Price. The family lives in Reisterstown, Md.

**David M. Curry '97 M.A.**, associate at the law firm Farrell Fritz, P.C., was appointed to the Farmingdale State College Council. Curry has won a number of awards, including the "Rising Star" award from *The Queens Courier* in February 2010. Prior to joining Farrell Fritz, Curry was a real estate attorney at Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker, LLP in New York.

**Kate Danley '97** won the Garcia Prize for best fiction book of the year for her debut novel, *The Woodcutter*. The book is a fantasy mystery revolving around finding a rogue beast and returning it to the "wild hunt."

**Meghan Liney Donchue '98 GEOG**, a registered nurse at Sunrise Senior Living in Haverford, Pa., and her husband, John, have three sons: Johnny, 5, Will, 2 1/2, and Garrett, 8 months. The family lives in Aldan, Pa.

**Alyce Sparkman Kirk '98 COMM**

has been appointed as an associate and public relations manager with RTKL, a global architecture, planning and design firm. Kirk has more than 20 years of experience in architecture, engineering and construction.

**Road to Recovery****Mindy Shifflett '03**

Helping cancer patients  
one mile at a time

Cancer patients face many hurdles. But thanks to an American Cancer Society program— Road to Recovery— transportation to and from appointments is no longer one of them.

Road to Recovery uses a network of volunteers to drive patients who need rides to chemotherapy, radiation therapy and other appointments.

"The program gives eager volunteers an opportunity to make a tremendous impact on someone's life, by driving them to their life-saving cancer treatment, thus potentially prolonging their life," says Mindy Shifflett '03, a patient resource navigator with the American Cancer Society at Greater Baltimore Medical Center.

Shifflett works with patients and their loved ones to locate recourses and support services as they battle cancer and face financial, psychosocial and transportation-related issues.

She began her association with the American Cancer Society as an intern during her last semester at Towson. A health science major, she worked on a grant to support non-smoking on college campuses in the Baltimore area. That's when she realized "how seemingly small gestures could impact the lives of many," she says.

Other Towson students have followed in her footsteps including those from a course in family studies

with Sharon Jones-Eversley and now Audrey Falk, both assistant professors of family studies and community development.

"The students over the last three semesters have been instrumental with volunteer recruitment events, volunteer recognition initiatives, outreach at local cancer centers, other ACS special events and have experienced incredible opportunities when meeting new volunteers and patients benefitting from the Road to Recovery program," Jessica Bernstein, transportation solution manager at the American Cancer Society, says.

"We have had and continue to have amazing interns from Towson, which has led to full-time employment with the organization," she adds.

Shifflett is working to promote the growth of the Road to Recovery program. The more volunteers, the more lives saved. And there is the added benefit of making special friends because patients and volunteers bond during the drive to and from various appointments.

Shifflett feels passionately about the program and strives to make a difference in the lives of the patients one mile at a time.

—Alex Duncan with Ginny Cook



Robert Gould '85  
retired from the  
U.S. Air Force  
and Maryland Air  
National Guard after  
27 years of service.



David Balwin '10 is teaching fifth grade in Las Colinas Sur, Nicaragua.

**Ottorino Maddalena '98 MCOM** and his wife, Laurie, welcomed their first child, Olivia Ruth, on Jan. 10. She weighed 6 lbs., 13 oz.

**Erin Schultz '98 ELED** and her husband, Kevin, welcomed Jackson Elijah on Feb. 18. Jackson joins big sister Lilly, 3. Schultz is a second-grade instruction team leader for the Howard Country Public School System.

**Joyell Arscott '99 BIOL** graduated in Dec. 2010 with a B.S. in nursing from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She will attend Duke University this fall to complete a doctoral degree in nursing.

**Jason Contino '99 MCOM** produced a film, *Lebanon, Pa.*, a drama with comedic moments that is getting a limited theatrical release. The film has won official selection at the SXSW Film Festival 2010; founder's prize: best fiction film at the Traverse City Film Festival 2010; best film made in Pennsylvania at the Philadelphia Film Festival 2010; and standout film award at Hells Hall Mile Film Festival 2010.

**Brian '98** and **Heather '99 Brockmeyer Gingold** welcomed their son, Aidan Michael, on June 1, 2010. He weighed 5 pounds, 9 ounces. Heather is a senior account executive at T. Rowe Price. The family lives in Hampstead, Md.

**Tracee Goode Matthias '99 /'01** and her husband, Lennox, welcomed their first child Lauren Ethel on Nov. 21, 2010. For five years, Tracee has directed Montgomery College's Educational Opportunity Center which assists low-income and first-generation residents with college enrollments.

## 2000s

**Dionne N. Curbeam '00** earned her Doctor of Education degree from Bowie State University. Her dissertation, *A Quantitative Analysis of Faculty Concerns Regarding a Lecture Capture System*, won the Chair's Award for Outstanding Research.

**Bob Hamilton '01 PSYCH** earned a doctorate in executive leadership/human and organizational learning from George Washington University. He is the chief operating officer for the James F. Knott Realty Group and was recently appointed to the board of trustees of the Sheppard Pratt Health System.

**Shanica Alphonso '02 BUAD/'04 M.A.** is the director of human resources at PeakLinks Development Enterprises, a human resources consulting company in the Washington, D.C., area.

**Brett Kehler '02** led the Towson alumni ice hockey benefit game versus the University of Delaware alumni team as part of the 20th anniversary of the American Collegiate Hockey Association. The game raised more than \$2,100 for the American Cancer Society.

**Jennifer Kersey '03 THEA/MCOM** has a performance contract with Disney Cruise Lines on a ship that travels to the Bahamas and Mexico. She also performed in the international tour of the "Sound of Music" and at Universal Studios Hollywood and at Disneyland.

**Elizabeth Borowsky '05** performed Chopin's "Concerto in F" minor in U.S. concerts that celebrated the Chopin bicentennial including one at a gala at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C. Her original composition, "An American Tribute to Chopin," premiered at TU in March.

**Laura Toll Marchiano '05/'09 AUD** married **Anthony Marchiano '11** on Sept. 25, 2010 at Cameron Estate Inn in Mount Joy, Pa. Laura is a doctor of audiology at Chesapeake Ear, Nose, & Throat.

**Katie Oleske Minogue '05** and her husband, Kristopher, welcomed their first child Kyla Giselle on Feb. 6.

**Tonya Blue '07**, an eighth-grade teacher in Baltimore County for 12 years, self-published a novel, *I am the Children I Teach*. The book examines the issues of two urban students, their classroom behavior and how this relates to their teachers' childhood experiences. Blue is finishing a teacher's workbook to accompany the novel.

**Rachel Bibbee '09** is a development associate at TU. Her primary responsibility will be the phonathon program but she will also be working with direct mail and e-communication solicitation efforts.

**Sarah Moore '09 THEA** works for Nashville-based Girillia Marketing. She focused on campaigns for Charlie Sheen LIVE: My Violent Torpedo of Truth, and the Grammy-winning Zac Brown Band.

**Jacob Austin '10 BUAD** joined Euro RSCG, an advertising agency in Baltimore, as production traffic manager. He was a media buyer with Siquis Limited Advertising.

**David Baldwin '10 EDU** is pursuing his master's in international teaching while teaching fifth grade at the Lincoln International Academy in Las Colinas Sur, Nicaragua.

**Deandre J. Skinner '10** completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eight-week program, Skinner completed classroom and practical training in naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety.

### Take another look at Towson—online

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Top left: Welsh meets with former students of the Towson-Shanghai Finance University program. Top right: Welsh meets with President Lee Hyun Chong of Sangmyung University, a 17,000-student institution in Seoul, South Korea, that sends students to Towson for short-term study programs each summer. Bottom left: Welsh visits Sangmyung University in Seoul, South Korea. Bottom right: Welsh visits Incheon's Inha University.

# Towson Affirms Its International Presence With Mission To Asia

University officials form agreements, strengthen partnerships during 11-day delegation

Interim President Marcia Welsh and fellow campus officials have returned from East Asia, where they sought to strengthen and reaffirm the overseas academic programs and partnerships of Towson University.

The journey was part of Governor Martin O'Malley's 11-day mission to encourage foreign investment, stimulate economic development and strengthen commercial ties between Maryland and the continent.

Clay Hickson, executive director of TowsonGlobal, and Steven Phillips, director of the Asian Studies program at Towson, were also among the 68 people chosen to represent Maryland on the journey. Together with Welsh they visited China, South Korea and Vietnam.

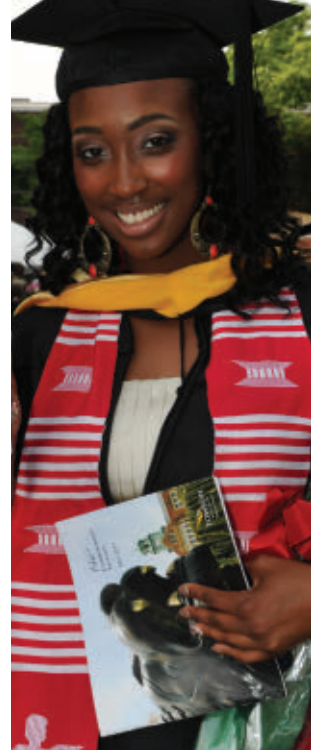
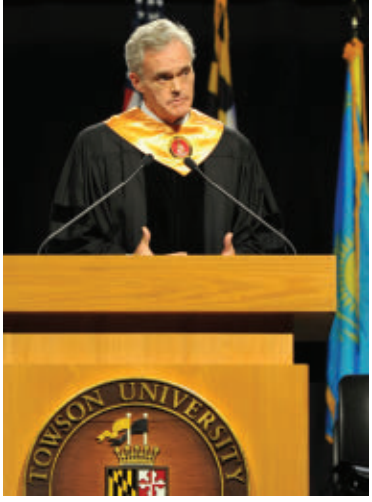
"Towson is quickly developing an international reputation as an institute for teaching and educational excellence," says Welsh. "This trip allowed us to renew longstanding agreements with our partners as well as explore and establish new areas of mutually beneficial cooperation."

Among several agreements to conduct faculty exchanges and joint research projects, Towson officials were also able to reaffirm and establish connections that included:

- the signing of a broad agreement to provide education training programs to the Pudong Education Bureau in Shanghai;
- a meeting with the People's Education Press on the establishment of the Institute for Chinese Learning at Towson, the first of its kind in the U.S.;
- a visit to Shanghai Finance University to discuss its joint degree program in Risk Management and Actuarial Science;
- and a meeting with Sangmyung University to evaluate a summer program at Towson in English language and American culture for Korean students.

To develop opportunities for TowsonGlobal Business Incubator, Hickson also met with representatives of Shanghai Juke Biotech Park; Ningxia Yinxing Energy Co., which focuses on green technologies and is exploring expansion to the U.S.; and Xin Feng Zhuoqun Technology Co. in Beijing.

With international relationships extending back to 1985, Towson has 22 active agreements for broad university-to-university exchanges, 19 agreements for study abroad students, and 19 contracts or agreements for short-term training programs worldwide. ■



## Graduation Ceremonies

A celebration of degrees at the 146th Commencement in May

CBS Evening News Anchor Scott Pelley and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Taylor Branch spoke to graduates of the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the College of Liberal Arts respectively at two of Towson University's six graduation ceremonies in May. (Links to videos of their speeches are available at <http://mediasite2.towson.edu/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=71e69efab96d4878a6b62711e1fcd65d1d> and <http://mediasite2.towson.edu/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=9f068619bef145ce822538793f49cb781d>.)

During three days, Towson University awarded 2,568 baccalaureate degrees, 735 master's degrees and certificates, and seven doctoral degrees at its 146th Commencement ceremonies on May 25 through May 27 at the Towson Center.

The College of Education and College of Fine Arts and Communication graduated May 25. The Fisher College of Science and Mathematics and College of Liberal Arts graduated May 26. The College of Health Professions and the College of Business and Economics graduated May 27.

The College of Graduate Studies and Research participated in all ceremonies. Each graduate program had its graduation with its home college.

The Honors College graduated 123 students.



**Lisa Herbst was the graduate student speaker for the College of Education at the 10 a.m. Commencement May 25.**

Each of us here today should be proud as we have accomplished something huge. Many of us work all day with children and families, eat a peanut butter and jelly sandwich in the car while fighting traffic and arrive at evening classes sweaty and panting because we ran all the way from the garage to Hawkins Hall. We wonder how many times we can say "No, I have to write a paper, or, do a power point" to our children, spouses and friends before they lose their patience with us. And, most of us have done this for two years or more.

Yet, here we are. My fellow graduates represent courage and dedication to children that is unparalleled. It has been my privilege to learn and grow side-by-side with all of you.

Coming to Towson for the master's program in early childhood education has transformed me. I had no idea

the magnitude of change that I would undergo when I began two years ago. I have been deeply inspired by this experience and am so grateful for this chance to grow.

My mind and heart have been broadened through asking questions, opening to new ideas, thinking more flexibly and seeing the "big picture."

My skills as an educator have increased, I've developed lasting personal resources and grown toward being a better person through relationships with faculty and classmates.

These important relationships begin with the faculty. Faculty at Towson have further fostered my joy for learning and helped me recognize accomplishments with pride. They share a sense of meaning and purpose in caring for children, and provide models of respect for cultural and social diversity. These relationships are integral to my development as a professional educator.

Equally as important, relationships with classmates create a community, joining us together to pursue a common goal. These relationships emerged from connections based on trust, respect and support for each other. We have created shared meaning around the cultural experience of caring, which is our culture as educators.

A significant experience for me during the master's program was the study abroad trip last spring to Reggio Emilia, Italy. The immersion in Italian



culture and the Reggio way of caring for and educating children taught me so much. My favorite memory of that trip is visiting several early childhood programs and classrooms. There I witnessed what it means when a community invests in education, what it looks like when a community has affirmed that the right to education is the right of citizenship and adults hold an image of a child as a citizen from the very beginning. In Reggio Emilia, the right to education and citizenship guide adult decisions. This is how I learned what is possible for children.

One week ago in the last class of this graduate program, my classmate and friend Linnea made a few comments that I'd like to share with you because I think this applies to each one of us. She is thankful for knowing each of the members of our class, and that the experience of sharing our thoughts and feelings throughout the semester helped her to gain a deeper understanding of the multiple perspectives that are present in work with children. The most penetrating part of what Linnea said was that from now on, for the rest of her life, she would recognize each of us when she encounters particular students, parents and families. In recognizing each of us in them, she will be able to make a connection, to show her understanding of each child and family, and ultimately, do better for children in her care.

For all of this: broadening of mind and heart, building of skills, relationships with faculty and classmates, I am profoundly grateful. John F. Kennedy said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

My fellow graduates, the Towson University College of Education offers us many words to live by—courage, commitment, relationships, caring, multiple perspectives, connections with children, meaning and purpose.

And most important, as Dr. Berkeley, professor of early childhood education taught us, the professional commitment to "do good and do good well."

Thank you and good luck to each one of you.



**Bill Murray was the graduate student speaker for the College of Fine Arts and Communication at the 2 p.m. Commencement May 25.**

What an honor to stand before you today—something I never expected. As you can probably tell, I am not your typical graduate student. You're probably asking yourself: What is somebody like my grandfather doing up there receiving a graduate degree in music when he should be enjoying retirement, reading, relaxing on the beach or golf course, or doing something other than going to school? I guess my answer is, "Why not get a degree in music? Among the many things that I enjoy doing are learning new things and, yes, going to school. You're probably thinking: This guy has got to be crazy—going to school. You've got to be kidding!

When people ask me what I am doing, I say that I am in my second life. For the past nine years Towson has been the centerpiece of my second life. In the summer of 2002, I made a decision to take my life in a different direction. There were two things that I wanted to try. One was to study music and, in particular, jazz; second, I wanted to see if I could teach at the college level. In the fall of 2002, I took my first music class to test the waters. I became addicted and decided to apply for admission and to my amazement was accepted.

For the next six years I studied music and graduated from Towson in May, 2008 with a bachelor's degree in music. I enjoyed this journey except for the time I was wondering if I would actually pass Musicianship II. I did, barely. The other challenge came from my three children who kept asking me why it was taking more than four years to graduate. The discussion went something like:

"Dad isn't it about time you graduated? I remember you telling me in so many words that I had to finish in four years. Sound familiar?" But like any good Dad, I just ignored them and went on my own way. After graduating in 2008, not having had enough of school yet, I applied for the graduate program in music and here I am today getting ready to graduate again. Yes, I am slightly on the deranged side.

Shortly after entering the music program, I started teaching e-business courses in the College of Business and Economics and still am doing that. Towson has been key in meeting both of my 2002 ambitions. Throughout my life, including my Towson experience, there are three principles that are the essence of who I am. They are: (1) Have passion for what you do, (2) Learn something new every day of your life; and (3) Give something back to those who have been important in your life.

**Passion:** In order to be good at what you do, you must do it with passion and put your heart into it. If you cannot do this, then find something else to do because you will not be very good at it and more important, you will not have the personal satisfaction doing something you enjoy brings. I am not the best musician who has gone through the program at Towson, but I am confident that I rank among the most passionate students. Passion can make up for a lot of things and has enabled me to do things I didn't think were possible.

**Never stop learning:** You are never too old to learn something new. Just look at me. It is possible to teach an old dog new tricks. I am doing things today in music that several years ago I would have said, "There is no way I can do that." Whatever you do, new things will come along and you must be willing to learn about them. In music, new ways of making music appear every day. Music history makes new revelations every day. Music is constantly in evolution and changing just like every other field. Your learning process does not stop today.

I don't want my learning process

to stop and in this regard, I need help from you. My nine-year, incredible journey of studying music at Towson comes to an end today. So this graduation exercise is bittersweet. Since I've taken virtually every music course Towson offers, what I do next is a real question for me and a concern for my wife who does not want me around the house all the time getting in her way. So, if you have any ideas, see me after the ceremonies.

Give back to those who have helped you: Let me be specific about this one. We have all benefitted and will continue to benefit from our Towson education. If you really feel Towson has had an impact on your life and your future, give something back by supporting Towson's annual fund campaign. Every gift counts regardless of the amount. I have the privilege of serving on the board of directors of the Towson University Foundation and know how important these gifts are in providing scholarships and funding extra programs. For example, my wife and I have helped sponsor a jazz residency program, which brings in a jazz musician each semester for a week to work with students. This gives them the opportunity to play with great musicians and learn what it takes to be successful in the jazz music business. This program would not be possible without external support.

Towson's 125,000 alums haven't adopted the practice of giving to their alma mater. When we compare ourselves to our peer schools, we know we could do much better. Just think, this year, Towson will have over 3,300 graduates. If each graduate made a gift of \$50, \$165,000 could be raised. Think what that could do for scholarships and programs. So, if you haven't made a donation, start now and feel good about yourself. Get in the habit of doing it each year. It will help those who come after us.

Enough is enough. Forgive me for being a little preachy. Having been through a number of commencement exercises, I know that what I have said will likely pass in and out of your ears very rapidly. Nevertheless, I am hope-

ful that you will remember at least one of my three principles and apply them to your lives. Don't forget—passion, learning and giving back will serve you well. I'd like to thank the people in the Department of Music for helping me do things that I thought were impossible when I undertook this journey. I also would like to thank all of the music students who were willing to put up with and tolerate the old guy. It's been a great journey for me and I hope that each and every one of you has an experience in your life on which you can look back and say, "I'm glad that I did that." My nine years at Towson have been one of the most rewarding times of my life. I will continue giving back and I hope that you will as well. Congratulations on completing this phase of your life. Go forward and have fun with your careers and lives.



**Brandi Gervais was the undergraduate student speaker for the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics at the 10 a.m. Commencement May 26.**

Today is the day! Finally. I'm sure like me, many of you, have been daydreaming about this day the past few months when we should have been paying attention in our classes. And I'm convinced that our professors have felt the same way as they stared into an audience full of glassy-eyed students. But fellow graduates, we made it!

We all have a unique story that led us to this moment. I'd like to share mine, a story about hope. Senior year should have been the best year of my life, but it's been the most difficult so far. Both of my parents are officers in the Army and were deployed to Iraq last May. Growing up as an Army brat and only child, I've always been extremely close to my parents. Not having two of my best friends by my side dampened my spirit the moment I dropped them off at BWI. I tried

focusing my attention on academics and athletics to take my mind off of the stressful situation, but I couldn't seem to focus on anything. I struggled in some of my core classes, and my cross-country season didn't fare much better. I caught pneumonia at the end of the season and could barely walk, much less run. Each disappointment made me feel as though part of my spirit was fading away to the point where I didn't recognize myself anymore.

In January, my parents came home for the first time in eight months. They were given two weeks of rest and relaxation before returning for the duration of their deployment. We had planned to eat out at all of our favorite restaurants, see the latest movies, and even go on a weekend ski trip. However, two days after my parents returned home, we received news that my grandfather had passed away. The last words my grandfather said to me were written on a sticky note plastered in the center of my Christmas present: "Here are your grandmother's pearls. Please do me the honor of wearing them at your graduation." Of course, I'm wearing them today.

My grandfather's death was a blow. And when my parents returned to Iraq a few days later, I found myself losing hope. I no longer cared if I graduated with a 4.0 or ran a spectacular season. People tried to comfort me, telling me not to worry about my grades or sports season. In their effort to be kind, I heard "It's not your fault," "You're under stress," "It's understandable," and even "No one will blame you if you fail." I still shudder when I think I almost justified losing hope. After some soul searching, I realized they were wrong. I would blame myself. We all must deal with obstacles and triumphs. Triumphs are easy to handle. It's how we deal with the obstacles that will bestow meaning to our lives.

Like me, we've all had a unique experience at Towson that has prepared us for our future endeavors. Few of us will live a charmed life, so we must take all that we have learned from the



past couple of years, along with all our obstacles and triumphs, and let hope carry us through our future. We must not waste our precious seconds on something that makes us unhappy. As we follow our dreams, we must remember that hope is what will guide us through our darkest moments and what reinforces our best ones. My wish for all of us is to always keep hope in our hearts and to surround ourselves with those who believe in us. My parents, family, friends, teammates and professors were my support—the ones who gave me hope—a true gift of caring.

Through our Towson experience, we've formed relationships that will grow over the years as we will rely on them to help find our way through those dark moments we may face. Our Towson education will allow us to bring hope to so many—together we have opportunities to find cures to diseases; provide an education to future generations and those less privileged than us; and even find better ways to protect our environment so that future generations can experience the same landscape that we enjoy today. Never lose hope, as I almost did, and never underestimate the impact we can and will make in our future endeavors. Our future is what we make of it. One of my favorite quotes by an unknown author says, "Many of the great achievements of the world were accomplished by tired and discouraged men who kept on working."

Make sure to thank all of those who have made your experience at Towson memorable. Congratulations, fellow graduates. Today we walk across the stage and into our future.



**Alexandra Chong Kiskowski was the graduate student speaker for the College of Liberal Arts at the 2 p.m. Commencement May 26.**

Having the chance to speak to you on this occasion, to be part of your

memory of this time and place, is such a great honor. I am proud to speak to you to share how much this university has given to me. I hope that my words today will also reflect the more positive aspects of our time here.

When I was first approached to be the speaker at today's commencement, I was initially quite surprised. But as I reflected on my experiences at Towson University, both as an undergraduate and graduate student, I realized I may have something to share. I began to understand that my experiences here may give some insight on what this university means to me, what Towson means to all of us. I have always considered education invaluable. However, when I first came to Towson University over six years ago, fresh out of high school, I could never have imagined that this place would mean more than the degrees we will be receiving here today. Towson has become the setting of priceless memories, lasting relationships and fulfilling experiences.

When I arrived at Towson to complete my undergraduate degree, I was barely an adult. Today I feel, and I hope we all feel, a little smarter, a little more experienced, seasoned, and mature—a little more confident that we have what it takes to make it in the "real world." We do have what it takes. And if you think about your experience compared to the first day of classes here at Towson, either as an undergraduate or graduate, you'll realize how much you've grown.

My experience at Towson has taught me many things beyond theories and textbook information. As my fellow graduates prepare to embark in their new endeavors, whatever they may be, I would like to give you two main pieces of advice:

First: Avoid tunnel vision. You all know what I am talking about; walking around campus avoiding eye contact because having an awkward conversation or even worse, saying hello and not have it reciprocated is mortifying. However, I encourage you to say hello to people you may only recognize because you never know

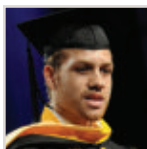
what kind of doors it would open. My classmates turned into close friends. My professors turned into colleagues. Going out of your way to make small talk is worth risking embarrassment.

Second: Do not be afraid to ask for what you want. As they say, "ask and you shall receive." Opportunities knock, but sometimes you must do the knocking. When I was an undergrad at Towson, I worked at an unpaid summer internship, as a research assistant at Johns Hopkins. As the summer came to an end, I realized I was broke, so I approached my supervisor and asked them to hire me as a paid employee. Terrified of his response, I knew the worst that could happen was he would say no. Three years later, I am still working with the research team. Although this opportunity did not come to me, I turned it into an opportunity of my own.

This is an exciting time to graduate with a degree from the College of Liberal Arts. We are the largest college at Towson University with a diverse variety of majors. Our time and effort here have forced us to think in different ways, to challenge ourselves, our colleagues and our instructors so that we may always evolve. Change is inevitable and higher education supports this change, empowering our ability to innovate and to create the future. After today, as you pursue life with a degree from Towson, I urge you to think beyond the textbook materials and lecture slides. Think about the times you questioned the theories, the rules and the formulas, and share your opinions with others.

Towson University is now our alma mater—a fitting description as it means "nourishing mother." I am proud to call Towson University by this term because I see it as a place of home and family. Understand that the term "alma mater" is used to describe the university that you graduate from for a reason. After all, we all know that the maternal relationship or any parental relationship for that matter certainly has its ups and downs. But ultimately this university will always be part of your history. So understand

that after today, with all of your ups and downs here, this was the place where you have accomplished an extraordinary feat—a graduate of higher education. And so leave here with a sense of pride that Towson University was the place where you've grown, learned, and succeeded. Thank you and congratulations class of 2011!



**Robert Smith was the undergraduate student speaker for the College of Liberal Arts at the 2 p.m. Commencement May 26.**

Last summer, at the Learning Ladder Daycare Center, I sat in a chair too tiny for any adult and looked around as I waited for my first research participant. I wondered how exactly I ended up here as the first 4-year-old we were testing walked into the room smiling and excited. The staff member introduced me to the little girl as Mr. Bobby. It still makes me laugh today that for once I was referred to as “mister.” After allowing the child to listen to the audio stories and asking her questions, I walked her back to her classroom where I was to meet the next participant. The little girl grabbed my hand and enthusiastically told me how interesting the stories were and how she wanted to listen to more.

As I left the daycare center, it dawned on me that I was actually engaged in research. I was gathering data to measure the impact of educational toys on children’s ability to remember information. It was not just reading a textbook or a research article describing the impacts of degraded audio. I actually got to see how children performed with poor quality sounds.

Before I came to Towson, I could not have imagined that I would be doing research and working on my own thesis, let alone working with children. Yet, this is exactly what Towson has to offer, the opportunity to strive, prosper and learn, both within and outside the classroom, and in both

expected and unexpected situations.

If there is one thing Towson has taught me, and I am sure has taught all of us, it is that education is important. The College of Liberal Arts has instilled in all of us the motivation to reach our fullest potential in any situation. An education is more than just the classes we take and grades we get. It is the drive to obtain new knowledge, to continue learning and to make a strong future for ourselves. The intellectual and practical skills we have acquired are the ones we need to succeed.

An education in the College of Liberal Arts depends on its remarkable faculty. As a psychology major, I have had the opportunity to study with professors who have brought out my intrinsic motivation and helped me to challenge myself in my research. Under the guidance of Dr. Bryan Devan and Dr. Mark Chachich, I have had the opportunity to work in the Laboratory of Comparative Neuropsychology. Our research with rodents entailed investigating the neural and neurochemical transmitter systems involved in different forms of memory and retention. Likewise, we have used an adapted version of the Morris water maze to investigate whether it could serve as a potential model to study different neuropsychiatric disease, including obsessive compulsive disorder and schizophrenia, as well as neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and Huntington’s disease.

One of the most influential people with regard to both my academic and research career is Dr. Elyn Sheffield, head of the Cognitive Development Laboratory. Over the past three years, I have been privileged to get to know Dr. Sheffield and to work in the laboratory. Dr. Sheffield has helped me to explore research on memory, the cognitive development of children and psycholinguistics. She taught me the essential skills to become a determined and successful researcher. More importantly she demonstrated for me how to be a diligent researcher, to love what I am doing and the ways

to be the best at what I am doing. She taught by example.

With Dr. Sheffield’s help, I was able to formulate my thesis and determine the impacts of distorted audio on 3- and 4-year-old’s ability to remember information. It is because of this research that I found myself sitting in a tiny chair at the Learning Ladder Daycare Center. The research was rigorous and at times tedious. It took a year and a half to complete. Our findings are a clear indicator that educational toys, which many parents rely on to teach basic skills to their children, might not be as perfect as they appear. The distortion of the sounds makes it more difficult for children to learn and remember the information being presented. We are currently working on getting our research study published in a peer-reviewed journal, which will enable us to share our findings with both parents and teachers throughout the world.

These psychology faculty members, like faculty in so many other disciplines within the College of Liberal Arts, offered me the opportunity to learn both inside and outside the classroom. They have not only taught me useful and practical skills within the laboratory setting, they have served as role models throughout my time here at Towson. They have taken the time to train me to be successful researcher. They have also helped me develop intellectually and focus on my career aspirations following graduation. I could not imagine where I would be without their support and guidance. I have been able to discuss academic concerns and goals with every one of them and have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge about a broad spectrum of career opportunities. These conversations will ultimately help to shape my future.

As a result of this mentoring, I chose to follow a career in medicine in the field of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. I would never have dreamed of become a psychiatrist without the substantial knowledge on biological mechanisms and child development that I learned while working in the



two psychology laboratories. My goal as a psychiatrist will be to better the lives of individuals struggling with mental illnesses. Obviously, there are many children from a range of diverse backgrounds who suffer from psychiatric disorders, who struggle to succeed in life and desperately require help. It is my hope that one day I will be able to work with such children and prepare them to become better integrated in society.

It is clear to all of us that children begin to learn at a very young age and need the guidance of parents and teachers. But what about adults? Aren't we also constantly learning and growing? As College of Liberal Arts graduates, we recognize that although graduation is the end of our time at Towson University, the true definition of commencement is a beginning or start. This is exactly what we are about to do. We are about to begin again on a new journey outside of Towson. As we embark, we must always continue to learn, to strive, and to succeed at whatever we choose for our futures.



**Pamela Holtzinger was the graduate student speaker for the College of Health Professions at the 10 a.m. Commencement May 27.**

I am so honored to address my fellow graduates today. I feel that there is so much to say, but I have been guided by the experiences that I have as an educator—keep it brief.

I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to complete my master's degree in nursing. This has been an elusive goal but the Towson cohort in Hagerstown made it possible for me and 12 of my colleagues to continue to work and maintain a somewhat "normal" family life. I have been told many times over the years "I don't know how you do it all." Honestly, there have been times that I wasn't really sure. It was by no means easy—but when I thought perhaps I could

not do it—I found inspiration to keep me going. I would like to share with you one example.

Last year at the height of our studies and three months from the historical move of Washington County Hospital to a new building with a new name (Meritus Medical Center), my colleges and I began to feel the stress of the added demands from our jobs, and the requirements of the full-time workload from the master's program. Dr. Kathy Ogle came to visit our Hagerstown campus. As she listened attentively to our concerns, the multiple questions could be summed up with just one: "How can we possibly get this all done?"

I recall her smiling calmly as we waited for the best-kept secret to managing all of the demands of life and graduate studies. Dr. Ogle calmly said to us all, "Breathe."

I remember the silence immediately afterward. Although I think that Dr. Ogle's intent was to be a directive to a very driven, "Type A" class, it became inspirational to me. Being overwhelmed by the competing priorities, taking a pause to reflect gave me the opportunity to remember to focus on my career compass: purpose and meaning.

In my 27 years as a nurse, I have seen the expanding role of healthcare providers to include growth into specialty areas such as my role as a forensic nurse. This is a very exciting time. However, the current state of healthcare is complex and challenging. At times it can be overwhelming as we consider the impact of regulations, ethical dilemmas and financial constraints on our day-to-day work. The demands of healthcare providers have never been higher. As our country struggles with a resolution to the current healthcare crisis, I am confident that the answer will not be found in the meeting rooms of political offices across the country but it will be found at the bedside or in the clinics of the patients that we serve, by the people who serve them—healthcare providers. I am also confident that we are better prepared to be part

of that process. The education that we have received here at Towson will serve us all well. I will continue to use the knowledge and skills that I have learned here to fulfill my purpose and meaning.

I am so thankful for the opportunity to complete my master's degree while continuing to work and care for my family. It has been a privilege but I would be remiss without remembering all of the people that made this possible. Obtaining my master's degree would not have been likely if it were not for the continued support of my family and friends. Please take a moment to applaud the family, friends, faculty and staff that have made this possible for you.

So as you embark upon your chosen career path, I hope that you can remember Dr. Ogle's message to "breathe" when things get a bit challenging. Take time to reflect on your purpose and meaning to keep you inspired. In the process you may inspire others. The future of healthcare is counting on your continued success. Congratulations!



**Marion Gerlach was the undergraduate student speaker for the College of Health Professions at the 10 a.m. Commencement May 27.**

Throughout my time at Towson my mind has been opened to new ideas and methods for solving problems that have all furthered my knowledge base and challenged me to reach my full potential. I have engaged in new experiences, met new people and encouraged those around me to perform to the best of their abilities.

Over the past four years, we have succeeded and failed together, we've worked together on countless projects and assignments—and through each experience we have depended on one another. I know I have found great value in learning from my peers and also enabling them to realize their potential

and find their own unique path to success. But, we haven't done it alone.

We all know we have amazing and passionate professors. During my tenure they have always answered and encouraged my multitude of questions. Through them I have learned to never stop asking, never give up, and never stop striving to learn. Remember, there is no such thing as a stupid question. Questions that led to those "put-you-on-the-spot" situations we are all so familiar with, while not necessarily desired at the time, can be looked back upon and deemed beneficial. The professors who chose to challenge me to think outside the box and obtain the answers I was searching for have done me a great favor. I realize now that they have helped me grow as a life-long student and consumer of knowledge.

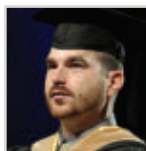
We have been pushed to go further than the bare minimum, to push the envelope and to show our true potential. More important, we've been encouraged to not give up when we are pushed past what we thought was our limit. Withstanding difficulties is a valuable tool that we will take with us throughout our lives. Being taught by professors, who love to teach and love what they teach, has made all the difference. They have made me love everything about the field that I am in through their passion and commitment to helping students like me. We have chosen to enter into fields that require us to be patient, compassionate and focused. Remembering why we do what we do and whom we do it for will be imperative to our success.

On behalf of the graduating class, I would like to thank the parents, grandparents and everyone who has supported us throughout the years. I would personally like to thank a few people that have made such a difference in my life and college career. First and foremost—my parents. They have been so supportive in so many different ways. I am very thankful for their love and willingness to help me in all ways possible, and I do not know what I would do without them. To my grandparents who have always been so encouraging, loving and excited for my

success throughout my college career, and last but not least those special professors. Dr. Ponce, you have been such a wonderful part of my experience here at Towson. You have helped me with everything from tests and applying to graduate school to relationship issues, and I am so grateful for the time you have spent with me. Professor Barton and Professor Moxley, you are such a great teaching team and a joy to be around. Thank you for choosing me to be one of your teaching assistants. It has been a great learning experience and a great opportunity. Dr. Kubitz, you have been through quite a few classes with me and you probably know how I learn the best out of everyone. You truly worked with me to the best of your abilities to enhance my learning. You never cease to challenge me every time I walk into your office.

Now that our time here at Towson has come to a close, we can look back at all of the achievements we have made, those great and small, yet none insignificant, and be proud to say, "We did it." Some of us may not know just yet where we are headed, but that is okay. Do not settle for something just because you think that is what you should be doing. Take chances and accept failures when they present themselves. You may not succeed right away but by trying you will find your own path to follow. I believe we all have the potential to be great; we just have to allow ourselves to be.

Congratulations Class of 2011 and good luck to you all!



**Jason Shafran was the graduate student speaker for the College of Business and Economics at the 2 p.m. Commencement May 27.**

Three-time Olympic gold medalist Gail Devers once said, "Keep your dreams alive. Understand to achieve anything requires faith and belief in yourself, vision, hard work, determination and dedication. Remember

all things are possible for those who believe." I feel as though these attributes she considers to be important for success do not just lend themselves to winning races on a track, but also demonstrate what is needed to be great in school and life in general. She demonstrated these traits during her battle with Grave's disease. She never let her dream of becoming an Olympic champion fade, and won her medals after recovering from the symptoms of this disease. Her story is an example of how a person can achieve their greatest dreams in the face of enormous obstacles.

A similarity for us graduates to what Ms. Dever's experienced, is, that much like the Olympics, it has taken most of us four years to arrive at this moment. The difference is that instead of running around a track for a few seconds to determine if she will be a winner, you will, in a very short time, walk across this stage for a few moments to show that you already are. Her gold medals represented more than just a triumph during one individual race. They validated four years of hard work, dedication and sacrifice. The same holds true for all today. This graduation ceremony is a great moment in time, but it represents so much more. This day is only possible because you not only believed that you could do it, but that you were determined to see this dream through. The fact that you are sitting here this afternoon shows how successful you truly are, and illustrates just a small portion of what you can accomplish if you put your mind, body and soul into something.

I feel that I have earned the right to be up on this stage, graduating from this great university with an MBA. It all started for me in 1998 when I enrolled in Towson as an undergrad without a major. It took me five years to finally graduate, but I left with degrees in history and economics and a handful of awards. After being in the workforce for a few years, it became clear to me that I would have to acquire an advanced degree to have an opportunity to reach my full poten-



tial in my career. I decided to pursue an MBA, and began researching the different programs in the area. That's when I came across the University of Baltimore/Towson University joint MBA program. I signed up for an orientation meeting in early 2007, and I immediately knew that this is where I wanted to be. I even ran into some of my old professors that helped reinforce my decision to come back to Towson.

While it took me another four years to complete this program, in the end it was no worth it. That does not mean that it was an easy journey. Many times I wondered if I would be able to handle the coursework while juggling time with my family, work and friends. At some points along the way it felt like I just took on too much, and the stress was unbearable. Despite these challenges and more, those attributes like faith in my abilities, hard work and dedication were always stronger than any desire to ever give up. Each semester I would pass my classes and gain a little more confidence. Soon enough I could see the light at the end of the tunnel, and now that I'm standing up here today I can tell myself that I'm proud of what I did, and no one can take this away from me. I am leaving this program as a more confident and knowledgeable person, and I hope all of you feel the same way too.

I'd also like to add one quick message for any of the undergraduates here today who are looking to continue their education, or those that do not have any immediate plans for the future. I would like to invite you to consider looking into the UB/Towson MBA program. It is a great program that deals with real-life skills, and is run in a very professional manner by professors with extraordinary abilities. I can promise you that you will not be disappointed.

I hope all of you have had wonderful experiences during your time at Towson, and now believe that you can accomplish any task you decide to take on. We leave this university when the world is experiencing great

change. Our generation will face many challenges including multiple wars, a changing economy and political divisiveness. The answers to these issues will not be simple, but every generation faces problems that have to be solved. These are opportunities for great individuals to come up with innovative and creative solutions, and it is people like you who are going to step up and provide them. It is people like you that give me hope that everything will be fine. Don't ever back down from challenges in life, and always remember this day as an example of what you can do. Remember that you possess traits like determination and faith that can inspire yourself and others to greatness. Believe in yourself, and find something that you're passionate about in life. That is my wish for all of you.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the people that put up with me during my time in the program. I understand that there were times when I made this as hard on them as it was for me. I couldn't have done this without the support of my wife, Amy, my family and friends, and also the wonderful professors. I truly appreciate all of you.

Lastly I would like to say that you can never really show your parents how much you truly appreciate everything they've done for you. I would like to thank mine right now for coming out from Chicago to see me graduate, and to let you know that my brothers and I are the men we are today because of you. We love you very much.

Congratulations again to the class of 2011, and good luck. Thank you.



**Christina Barsotti was the undergraduate student speaker for the College of Business and Economics at the 2 p.m. Commencement May 27.**

Four years ago, I sat in this auditorium when I graduated from Perry Hall High School and I thought to myself,

“Well, time for college.” Now, I'm standing here getting ready to graduate from college thinking “Well, time to face the real world.” It's an overwhelming thought, but I feel really blessed to have great parents and a family supporting me in whatever I do, as I'm sure most of you do as well. Neither of my parents had the opportunity to go to college, so they have always been adamant about my brother and I earning our college degrees so that we would each have the opportunity to pursue not only careers of our choices but also careers we are truly passionate about. As we all know, graduating from college is a challenge, but one thing that helped me personally was to remember something that my mom always told me when I would feel frustrated or stressed about a class or an assignment. She would say, “Just do your best; that's all you can do.” This bit of advice is relevant not only now, but in everything we do since, to me, life is really just one long string of challenges that we each need to overcome and learn from.

Take our time here at Towson University. In the last few years, we have each been faced with challenges like mastering the art of finding commuter parking spaces or having to reorganize the class schedule we wanted five minutes prior to enrollment because one of the classes filled up. We can choose to see these things as frustrating circumstances, or we can understand that they taught us perseverance and patience.

One challenge that we are all currently facing is finding the job that we have been working so hard to get, especially during these current economic conditions. The thing that will set us apart the most from our competition is our degree from Towson University. The Towson University degree comes with the current reputation in the business world that Towson students and graduates have an impeccable work ethic. We know that to be successful, we have to put in a lot of hard work and don't expect anything to be handed to us. Our hard work will help us, not only now, but during our continued success in the future. As Towson gradu-

ates, we need to continue to show the business world that no matter what, we can do what needs to be done.

I'd like to finish by sharing a little advice that I found in a very unusual place. A few weeks ago, I cracked open a fortune cookie and discovered a mantra to live by. The fortune said,

"If at first you do succeed, try something harder." I'm taking this as a challenge to always push myself to achieve bigger and better things and I also urge each of you to do the same. Don't settle on doing something just because it's the easiest or least stressful choice. I'll always be a firm believer

that if you're willing to put in the necessary work, then anything is possible. Plus, it's better to try and fail than to look back years later and regret never trying at all.

Congratulations to everyone and I can't wait to see where our futures take us! ■

## Men's Lacrosse Gets New Leader

Shawn Nadelen named head coach



Shawn Nadelen, A highly-decorated and respected collegiate and professional player and TU associate head coach took over Tigerthe Tiger men's lacrosse program in May.

"Shawn's championship experience at the collegiate, professional and international levels as both a player and a coach make him the ideal leader for Towson Lacrosse," says Mike Waddell, director of athletics. "When you look in his eyes, there is the intensity of a champion and a resolve which will bring the most out of our student-athletes on and off the field. He is the perfect choice to continue the coaching legacies of Carl Runk and Tony Seaman.

"While at Towson, Shawn has solidified himself as part of the collegiate lacrosse landscape here in Baltimore and across the county as this sport continues to expand from coast to coast," Waddell added. "As someone

who is still active as an athlete, Shawn has great name recognition with the lacrosse community. We look forward to keeping him and his wife, Mary, a professor at Towson, here as key members of our Tiger family."

Nadelen just completed his seventh season at Towson and his second at the team's associate head coach and defensive coordinator. Since Nadelen arrived at Towson in 2004, he has sparked a defensive resurgence in which the Tigers have allowed an average of nine or fewer goals four times and finished among the nation's top 20 defenses twice, including this year when the Tigers allowed 8.23 goals per game.

During his first year at Towson, the Tigers ranked ninth in NCAA Division I in scoring defense, allowing just 7.88 goals per game. It was the Tigers' best goals against average since the 1974 season when the Tigers won the Division II national championship with a 7.3 goals against average. In 2006, the Tigers ranked third in the CAA with an 8.42 goals against average while holding opponents to under 10 goals nine times. In 2008, the Tigers were fourth in the CAA with an 8.48 average. Towson has recruited and developed many talented players during Nadelen's tenure, including 17 first-team and 17 second-team all-Colonial Athletic Association performers. In addition, eight freshmen have been selected to the CAA All-Rookie squad.

Prior to joining the Towson staff, Nadelen spent three years as an assistant coach for Coach Bill Tierney

at Princeton and was a member of three consecutive NCAA Tournament teams. Princeton won the NCAA Division I title in 2002 and reached the semi-finals in 2004. A four-year starter and a captain for the Blue Jays as a senior, Nadelen moved from the midfield position to close defense as a junior. He led the Blue Jays to the NCAA semi-finals twice during his playing career and was named an all-American in 2001.

In addition to coaching, Nadelen has continued his playing career at the indoor and outdoor professional level. A three-time Major League Lacrosse champion with the Chesapeake Bayhawks, Nadelen is currently in his 11th season with the franchise. He is the only player to have all played in all 11 years of the team's existence.

Nadelen also completed his 10th season as a player in the National Lacrosse League. He has played seven seasons for the Philadelphia Wings after stints with the New Jersey Storm and Minnesota Swarm. One of his greatest highlights as a player came in the Summer of 2010 when he recovered from a serious knee injury to help Team USA win the gold medal at the Federation of International Lacrosse World Championships in England.

A native of Rochester, N.Y., Nadelen is married to the former Mary Ciolek, who is a certified athletic trainer and a member of Towson's kinesiology faculty. The couple resides in the Baltimore area. ■

Courtesy of Athletic Media Relations



## Coaching Legend Tony Seaman Resigns From Towson After 13 Years

Hall of Fame coach led Tigers to five NCAA tournament appearances, four conference championships



Towson University head men's lacrosse coach and Baltimore Lacrosse Hall of Famer Tony Seaman announced his resignation May 9 after completing his 13th season at Towson and 30th overall.

"Change is always difficult, but exciting," says Seaman. "Old doors close and new ones open and I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead."

The 2011 season marked the end of Seaman's third decade as a head coach. Coming into this season, his 260 wins and .625 winning percentage ranked seventh and 12th respectively among active NCAA coaches.

"Tony is a coach with Hall of Fame credentials and a love and passion for the sport of lacrosse," said Towson Director of Athletics Mike Waddell. "He has given everything he has into this program over the last 13 years and has made a difference in the lives of the kids he has coached. We wish Tony and his wife Guri all the best moving forward and it is our most sincere hope that they will stay active with the Towson program that has such a special place in their heart."

Seaman has guided his teams into the NCAA Division I Tournament 19 times. He is one of only two coaches to have been honored as the National Coach of the Year at two different

schools, earning the award in 1983 and 1984 while at the University of Pennsylvania and during the 2001 season when he led the Tigers to the NCAA Division I Semifinals.

He is the only coach in NCAA Division I men's lacrosse history to guide three different schools (Penn, Johns Hopkins, Towson) to the NCAA Tournament. In 13 years at Towson, the Tigers reached the NCAA Tournament five times (2001, '03, '04, '05, '07).

During his stint at Towson, Seaman compiled record of 99-93, which included four conference championships – the last of which came in 2005 when the Tigers won their third straight Colonial Athletic Association championship.

As the head men's lacrosse coach at Johns Hopkins University, Seaman coached the United States National Team in the 1994 ILF World Championships in Manchester, England. He led the United States to a perfect record and the title after beating Australia, 21-7, in the championship game.

Seaman and Towson are working to develop a position within the Department of Athletics where he will continue to be involved as a mentor to the coaches and work with the Tiger Club and its fundraising efforts.

"With his vast wealth of knowledge as a coach, Tony will be a great asset to our administrative staff," said Waddell. "Tony has endeared himself to the Baltimore community and he will use his ties to improve the lives of every student-athlete, present, past and in the future." ■

Courtesy of Athletic Media Relations

## Peter Schlehr '71 Retires

Athletic media relations director never missed a football game and covered 1,000 basketball games in his 35-plus year career



A veteran of more than 35 years as the director of athletic media relations at TU, Peter Schlehr '71 put down his pen and turned off his laptop, retiring on June 30, 2011.

"Pete is a Tiger through and through and has dedicated most of his life to this university and our athletics program," said Mike Waddell, director of athletics. "While we will miss him around campus on a daily basis, we are excited that he will remain involved working on future special projects."

"Pete has represented this program with a tremendous amount of integrity and professionalism," he added. "He is a 'Tiger for Life.'"

A native of Bel Air, Md., Schlehr graduated from Towson with a degree in political science and history. He was the sports editor of *The Aegis* for two years before taking a position with the sports staff of *The Baltimore News-American*. During his years with *The News-American*, he covered amateur, scholastic and college sports.

He was named as the sports information director at his alma mater in December 1975.

A long-time member of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), Schlehr was the recipient of numerous publications awards for his work on football guides, men's basketball guides, men's

lacrosse guides, swimming guides and football game programs.

From 1976 to 1978, Schlehr also served as the information director for the Mason-Dixon Conference. He was also the publicity director for the Greater Baltimore Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame for seven years.

Schlehr never missed a football game during his 35 seasons as the SID. In his first season as the SID, Towson earned an NCAA Division III playoff berth and made it to the national championship game, the Stag Bowl.

While the Tiger football program ascended from NCAA Division III status to Division II affiliation to its current standing as an NCAA FCS program, Schlehr was present at 378 consecutive games. His streak of 378 football games worked stands as one of the longest streaks in CoSIDA history.

In addition, Schlehr worked more than 1,000 men's basketball games, including five NCAA Division II Tournament games in 1976-77 and 1977-78. During those two years, he also served as the media coordinator for the NCAA South Atlantic Regional Tournament in the Towson Center.

In 1990, Schlehr accompanied the East Coast Conference champion Tigers to Austin, Texas for their NCAA Tournament game against number one-ranked Oklahoma. A year later, he travelled with the ECC champions when they were matched up with Ohio State in an NCAA Tournament contest in Dayton, Ohio.

He also served as the media coordinator for the ECC Basketball Tournament, which was hosted by the Tigers from 1984 to 1991.

Throughout his career, Schlehr worked more than 300 men's lacrosse games for the Tigers, including NCAA Tournament appearances in 1989, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1996, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2007. In 1991, he accompanied the Tigers when they reached the national championship game at Syracuse. He was also there when the Tigers qualified for the Final Four at Rutgers in 2001.

Well-regarded in college lacrosse circles, Schlehr was the winner of the USILA's prestigious Doyle Smith Media Award in 1992. He also served as the official scorer for the NCAA Division I men's lacrosse championship game five times. In 2003 and 2004, he was the media coordinator for the NCAA Division I, Division II and Division III men's lacrosse championships at M&T Bank Stadium in 2003 and 2004. He also had served as the media coordinator for the 1982 World Lacrosse Games hosted by Baltimore.

An active member of CoSIDA, he served on a number of panels during his career. In 2001, he was the recipient of CoSIDA's 25-Year Award.

The longest-tenured member of the Tigers' athletic department, Schlehr was honored for 35 years of service by TU in May.

He and his wife, Sande, are both Towson graduates and they reside in Bel Air, Md. Their children, Kristien Foss and Peter Schlehr, also graduated from Towson. Sande, Kristien and Peter teach in the Harford County School system. ■

**Courtesy of Athletic Media Relations**



“**A scholarship can give that gentle push of encouragement needed to continue pursuing an education.**”

Chanel will become the first of her family to graduate from college thanks in part to the generosity of longtime friend and supporter of Towson University, Ruth Marder, who was committed to providing Baltimore's brightest students access to quality education.

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