

Alumni Magazine for Towson University ▪ Winter 2009

# towson



## Role Playing

Actor John Glover '66

7

Brotherly Love

12

Reflections

14

Creature Teachers





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**on the cover:** Actor John Glover '66 is at home on a New York City stage (pictured here), in Hollywood or at TU where he returns each year to teach theatre students.

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■ to our readers



Every challenge we face in our lives has the potential to be a great learning opportunity. Towson University is capitalizing on the current economic downswing to reinforce an important message: financial responsibility.

With budget cuts and furloughs anticipated for our employees, Towson is working creatively with our resources and doing more with less in every corner of campus. With the help of our dedicated faculty and staff, the message is trickling down to students as well.

The TU Career Center is offering a course to juniors and seniors on job search strategies in tough times. Realizing that students' security clearances and future careers may be contingent upon credit scores, our Office of Financial Services is offering credit help and financial planning support.

TU is overcoming fiscal challenges and championing initiatives that uphold our mission to deliver affordable, accessible, high quality education. With the culmination of our strategic plan *TU 2010: Mapping the Future* less than a year away, we have accomplished nearly every milestone and will fully complete our plan despite these difficult economic times.

Our Go Green initiatives to reduce waste and conserve resources not only have the environment in mind, but also offer significant long- and short-term savings for the university. As we move into updating our Campus Master Plan, we are planning more LEED Certified Green buildings, improving campus transportation and exploring alternative power sources to run the campus.

There is a silver lining in an economic downturn that requires us all to live a little leaner and find a more efficient way of doing business without sacrificing quality. We have found that silver lining at Towson, and we are lining every square inch of campus with it.

Bob Caret

President, Towson University

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“The TU Career Center is offering a course to juniors and seniors on job search strategies in tough times.”

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## Presidential Transitions

TU POLITICAL SCIENTIST HEADS THE WHITE HOUSE TRANSITION PROJECT



Martha Kumar prepares information on the 2009 presidential transition.

The orderly transition of power from one administration to the next is a distinguishing feature of the U.S. political system.

Transitions are a challenging period for presidents-elect, and no one knows that better than Martha Joynt Kumar, TU professor of political science, who heads the White House Transition Project.

Kumar works with two dozen presidency scholars preparing information on White House operations for people inside

and outside of government interested in the 2009 presidential transition. The nonpartisan project is providing vital information on past presidential transitions through 2001, the organization of 11 key White House offices, and the environment of White House operations.

As a scholar with a research focus on the White House, Kumar is interested in presidential-press relations, White House communications operations and presidential transitions. Her most recent book, *Managing the President's Message: The White House Communications Operation*, won the 2008 Richard E. Neustadt Award for the best book on the presidency from the presidency section of the American Political Science Association.

## New Head Coach Named

FORMER TIGER PLAYER AND COACH CHOSEN FOR TOP POST



Rob Ambrose '93

Rob Ambrose '93, offensive coordinator and associate head football coach at the University of Connecticut, was named TU's head football coach in December.

In seven seasons at Connecticut, Ambrose has played an integral role in the growth of the Huskies' program from an NCAA Division I-AA team to a nationally ranked program that is an

annual contender for the Big East Conference championship.

Ambrose also coached the Tigers for nine seasons. He started coaching after an injury ended his three-year playing career prior to his senior season. As a student assistant, he coached the wide receivers, rising to offensive coordinator in 1998 and associate head coach in 2000.

Ambrose succeeds Gordy Combs '72/'75, a 39-year veteran of Tiger football.

### GREEN SCENE

#### GreenPrint

GreenPrint, an Internet-based mapping system developed by TU's Center for GIS, helped state lawmakers identify more than 9,200 acres in Cecil, Charles, St. Mary's and Worcester counties which the state will buy to preserve the tracts from development.

The "GreenPrint" map can zoom into lot-by-lot land use while also providing detailed information about recent state purchases, which should help local officials in making growth plans.

"Developing GreenPrint took a great deal of planning, brainstorming, technical work and enthusiasm," said Ardys Russakis, CGIS operations officer. "Numerous people at CGIS contributed their creativity, innovative thoughts and tireless efforts to this endeavor."

The GreenPrint Map is the first in a series of maps that will showcase progress in conserving and protecting the state's most valuable lands. Today, the focus is on property with ecological value. The next map will examine important agricultural lands. These maps will complement others that will show where Maryland is planning on growing.



#### Greenhouse effect

Results of a campus greenhouse gas emissions audit revealed that Towson University is outperforming some peer institutions with fewer greenhouse gas emissions per student.

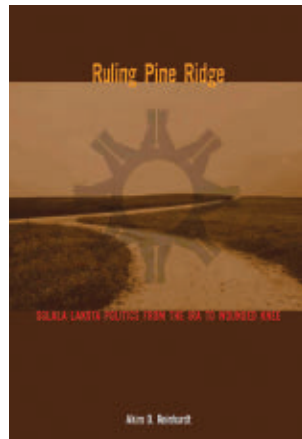
TU is finding greener ways to operate the campus, which includes building LEED certified buildings, offering a 50 percent parking discount for hybrid vehicles, promoting Trayless Tuesdays in dining halls to reduce water waste, and providing single-stream recycling throughout campus.

TU is also averaging less waste per student—4.37 metric tons of carbon dioxide a year, or the equivalent of sending 1.5 tons of waste to the landfill compared to another school with 10.43 metric tons per person annually, or the equivalent of sending 3.4 tons of waste to a landfill.



## TU Historian Wins Book Prize

RULING PINE RIDGE EXAMINES SIOUX POLITICS



He lives on the East Coast, but Akim Reinhardt's intellectual home is on America's Great Plains with the Ogala Lakota (Sioux) people.

Last September Reinhardt traveled to the Center for Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to accept the 2008 Great Plains Distinguished Book Prize and a sizeable check. He also delivered the center's annual Paul Olson Lecture, which he titled, "American Colony: Pine Ridge Reservation in the 20th Century."

**"Reinhardt furnishes revealing portraits of Gerald One Feather, Dick Wilson, Russell Means; he offers a telling indictment of Pine Ridge's economy."**

—Peter Iverson, author of *Diné: A History of the Navajos*

Reinhardt is the author of *Ruling Pine Ridge: Ogala Lakota Politics from the IRA to Wounded Knee*, published in May 2007 by Texas Tech University Press. The book examines the Pine Ridge Reservation's transition from the direct (pre-1934) to indirect colonialism of the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) and culminates in the siege at Wounded Knee, S.D., in 1973.

"I didn't know about the prize until I got a call from the director of the Center for Great Plains Studies," says Reinhardt. "The book had received favorable reviews in both academic and popular journals, but the news still came as a surprise."

Reinhardt is a relative latecomer to the study of America's indigenous peoples. He majored in East Asian history

at the University of Michigan, but decided to concentrate on American history in graduate school. "I started reading American Indian history on my own and just kept with it," he says.

*Ruling Pine Ridge* grew out of the dissertation Reinhardt completed in 2000 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He did the lion's share of his research at the Ogala Lakota College in Kyle, S.D., home to the Pine Ridge Reservation archive.

He also spoke to Pine Ridge residents and consulted the American Indian Research Project at the University of South Dakota, an oral history repository containing hundreds of interviews.

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The book offers Pine Ridge residents insights into their history.

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Reinhardt continued to tinker with the dissertation after earning his doctorate and, in 2001, joining TU's Department of History faculty. "I spent a couple of years expanding and revising it," he says. "And it eventually grew into my first book."

While he was pleased to win the prize, he hopes the attention will help *Ruling Pine Ridge* reach a larger, broader audience. "It's an academic work, but it's accessible to lay readers," he says. That wish may come closer to fulfillment this spring with the publication of a paperback edition.

Reinhardt has given 15 copies of *Ruling Pine Ridge* to the Ogala Lakota College, noting that he wrote the book primarily to offer Pine Ridge residents further insights into their history.

—Jan Lucas



DID YOU KNOW?

The Princeton Review listed TU as one of the 50 "best value" public universities in America, citing its teacher-student ratio, program options and diverse student population.

## NOTEBOOK

**Thank You Tree**

"We all remember people who helped us, were kind to us, or were simply decent people when we needed it. We often also remember that we never thanked them for it," writes Taylor Gilbert, a TU student who created the "i didn't thank you" tree for his Design in Social Issues class.

"Sometimes we didn't have the opportunity, sometimes we didn't have the guts, and

**"You sat next to me on the tour bus on my trip to New York when I was 12. Thanks for being a cool adult and giving me a break from my parents."**

—A thank you tree note

sometimes we just didn't," he adds.

But with Taylor's trees, 342 people expressed gratitude in the Center for the Arts, penning notes to parents, teachers, lovers and, sometimes, enemies.



Another 70 folks added their thoughts when a tree took root in Cook Library for a week. The sentiments ranged from heartfelt to sarcastic to humorous.

View or write a note at [ididntthankyou.org](http://ididntthankyou.org).

## OUTREACH

**Changing Earth**

Put 125 third graders and 16 elementary education/special education (EESE) interns together and what do you get?

Science lessons that are "above and beyond what we normally do with third-graders," says

Pamela Lottero-Perdue, TU assistant professor of science education.

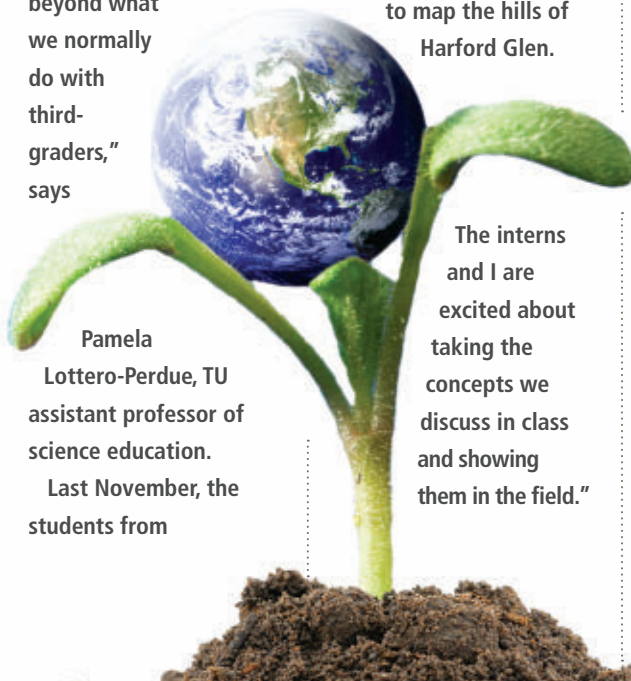
Last November, the students from

Abingdon Elementary School in Harford County benefited from the extra efforts of Lottero-Perdue and her EESE interns. EESE is a TU program taught at Harford Community College's HEAT center that trains teachers who live in and around Harford County and who will remain there to teach.

Lottero-Perdue and the EESE interns created stations at Harford Glen—an environmental education center in Bel Air—that extended a unit on "The Changing Earth."

"One group had children model sediment deposition as it occurs at Harford Glen, using sand/water tables," says Lottero-Perdue. "There were short hikes to look for evidence of real sediment deposition and a project to map the hills of Harford Glen.

The interns and I are excited about taking the concepts we discuss in class and showing them in the field."



Lottero-Perdue hopes to share the activities with other third graders in Harford County.

## SPORT SHORTS

**Aquatic Kudos**

The TU Women's Swimming and Diving team is an Academic All-America team for the 2007-08 season. So says the College Swim Coaches



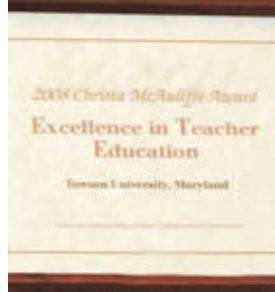
Association of America, which recognized the team's 3.353 grade point average last spring. In addition, five team members received Honorable Mention Academic All-America status. Sophomore Brooke Golden and junior Robin Glaser recorded a 4.00 grade point average while sophomores Erica Hall, Kayla Zeller and junior Jordan Crosby earned at least a 3.5. In the pool, the team ranked second in the CSCAA/College Swimming.com Division I Mid-Major Poll.

## What's New



### Smooth Transition

TU is opening its doors to more students through an innovative collaboration with the Community College of Baltimore. A freshman transition program gives students who applied to TU—but fell just short of acceptance criteria—the chance to attend a four-year college. Students enroll as CCBC students, are instructed by CCBC faculty, pay CCBC tuition and may apply for financial aid through CCBC. However, they will take courses on TU's campus, receive the same support services as TU students, and are invited, but not required, to live in TU residence halls. Students completing 12 or more credits with a minimum 3.0 grade point average will be eligible to transfer to TU.



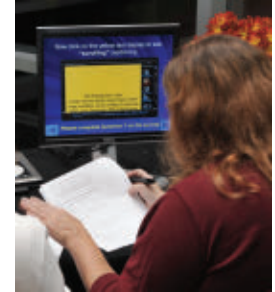
### Education Award

TU received the 2008 Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Education, a national award named for the teacher who died in the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. Given by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the award recognizes excellence in teacher education programs and identifies practices that have an impact on teacher training and how that influences the students they instruct. Towson is being recognized for its Professional Development School Network. Through outreach to 115 schools in metropolitan Baltimore, the network facilitates learning of P-12 students and improves the skills of veteran instructors and new teachers.



### Magna Charta

TU President Robert L. Caret and Provost James P. Clements signed the Magna Charta Universitatum in support of institutional autonomy and academic freedom last September in Bologna, Italy, home of the oldest university in the world. The document celebrates the deepest values of university traditions and encourages strong bonds among universities around the world. TU, one of only two U.S. institutions selected to sign this year, joins 19 U.S. colleges and university signatories. To be considered, TU was required to discuss the Magna Charta with the University Senate, agree to abide by the goals of the Magna Charta Universitatum, and receive recommendations from three U.S. institutions that have already endorsed the document.



### Captioned Radio

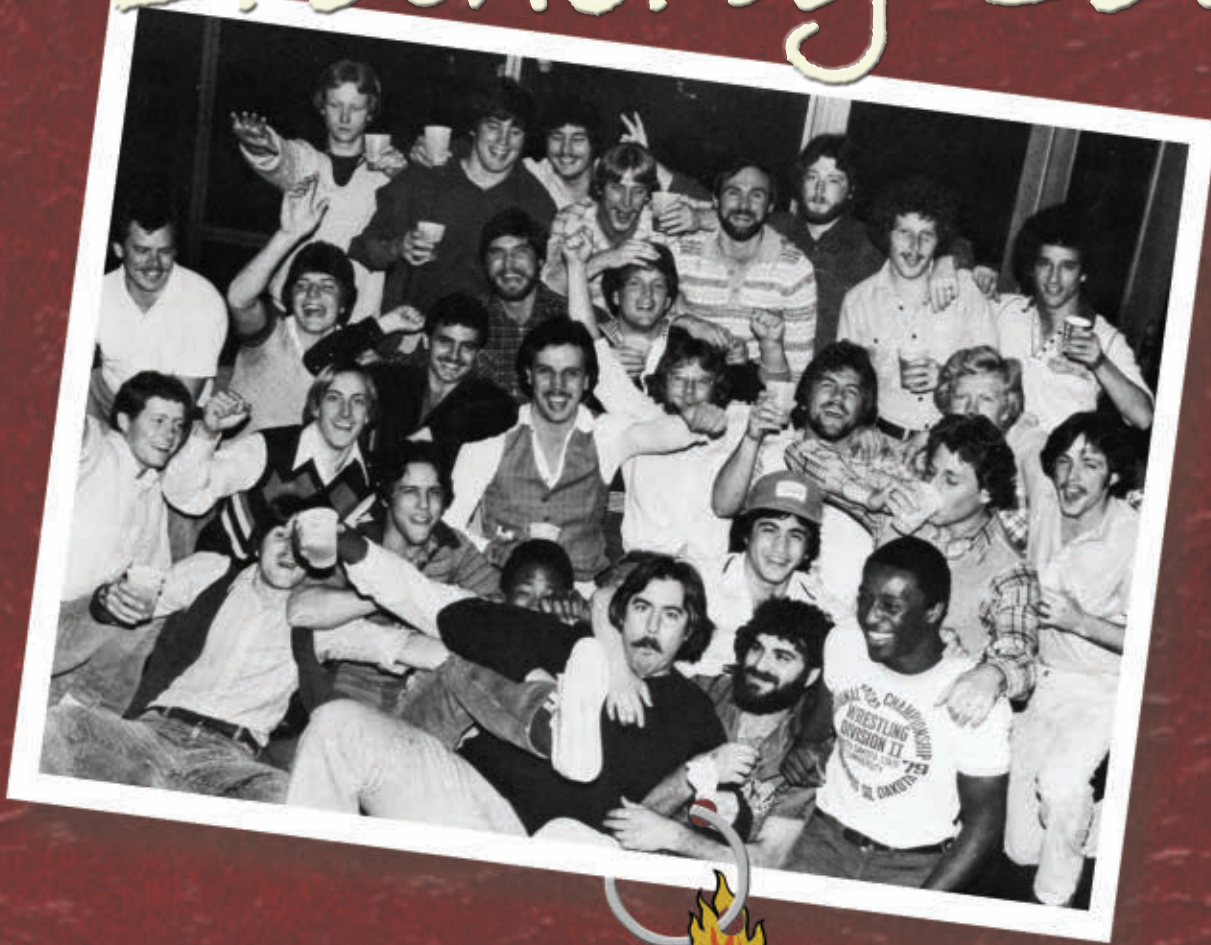
On Election Night some of Maryland's deaf and hard-of-hearing people experienced live radio coverage for the first time when National Public Radio (NPR), Harris Corp. and TU simulcast the first live, captioned radio broadcast. NPR News' Election Night coverage was simulcast in the new captioned radio format to make radio more accessible to the millions of consumers with sensory disabilities around the world. On the TU campus, members of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community gathered to assess their experience of live coverage of the presidential election. The election broadcast is the latest event coordinated by the International Center for Accessible Radio Technology (ICART), which is headquartered at Towson.



Seven administrators from Vietnam's University of DaNang came to TU last fall to gain best practices for growing their business school.



# Brotherly Love



The Alpha Omega Lambda brothers never forgot Barry Swain, who died in 1992. They created a trust fund for his infant daughter, a child they never met—until last fall.







Pledges line up to be grilled by frat brothers. A wrong answer means they take a bite from their onion necklace.

Before National Lampoon’s “Animal House,” there was Alpha Omega Lambda—TU’s first fraternity. They were the hellions, the carousers, the bad boys.

“We were more animal house than ‘Animal House,’” says one former member. “We could have written the script, only it would have been worse.”

But with the passage of 30 to 40 years, those hellions have long outgrown their sophomoric ways. They became bankers, financial counselors, teachers, real estate investors and business owners. And when one of their own—Barry Swain—took ill and died, this band of brothers united in a mission to raise money for his infant daughter, a child they had never met. (Nor had they met Swain’s wife.)

Last October, Barry’s wife Katie, and daughter Amy, 16, came face to face with TU’s Alpha boys. The group gave Amy more than \$20,000 for college and a roomful of memories of the dad she never knew.

### The Alpo lasagna bond

Alpha Omega Lambda is a made-up name for the fraternity that was hatched October 23, 1969, on a rainy night in West Hall. It was never an official Greek organization, but the original members adopted the best—or the worst, depending on the point of view—ways to inaugurate pledges.

There was the Alpo lasagna feast—recipe unnecessary—with its sole goal of regurgitation. There was the battle in the Glen when the pledge class had to stay up all night to defend a flag against a hoard of better-rested brothers. There was the onion necklace, eaten bite by bite whenever a pledge failed to correctly answer a question from a fraternity brother.

“And eventually there would be a question you couldn’t answer,” says Rick Weber ’78, a restaurant manager in Ocean City, Md.

Each pledge also assumed a new identity devised by Rod Flowers ’75, now a vice president of Sun Trust Bank. “Year after year, he came up with demented ideas,” Weber laughs.

Weber’s alias was aqua man. “I spent a week in a wet suit, walking around campus with flippers, mask and tank on my back,” he says. “I had to arrive late to class and announce, ‘All hail, aqua man!’—then settle down to do my work.”

There was a boxer, who sparred his way through campus, Guiseppe the organ grinder who sang “Volare,” and Mr. Clean, who traveled with a bucket, mop and janitorial supplies. The blackboards in his classrooms were the cleanest in the land.

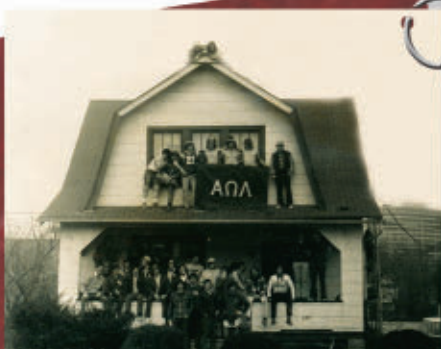
One Hell Week ritual—signature night—required pledge teams to track down a brother who had graduated and return with his signature within 24 hours, no matter where he lived. In 1982, a pledge fell asleep behind the wheel and died in a car crash. Alpha Omega Lambda was blamed for the tragedy and banned from campus. The fraternity’s days were over. (In 1989, at the frat’s 20th anniversary dinner, TU President Hoke Smith rescinded the ban, welcoming Alpha alumni back to campus.)

Despite the frat’s demise, the friendships formed during its heyday endured.

“Pledging is much like military boot camp,” says Drew Tignanelli ’79, president of The Financial Consulate in Lutherville, Md., and a former Alpha president. “You go through so much. You spend so much time together. Afterward there’s a bond, a dedication you cannot walk away from.”

So there was no hesitation when it came to helping out the family of a brother.

“Barry was part of our life,” says Tignanelli, who was Swain’s roommate and pledge brother. “Despite never meeting his wife or child, we felt for them.”



Steve Willett '79 (left) and Marty Quill '76



What's more, the fraternity has a history of philanthropy and caring. In 1998, alumni from Alpha Omega Lambda presented TU with a lacrosse scholarship in memory of Joseph Ferrante '77. And in 2001, one brother donated 250,000 frequent flyer miles to Weber following a horrendous motorcycle accident in New Zealand. After a two-month hospital stay, the gift allowed Weber, his father and a friend to fly back to the States first class.

**"It means so much that there are people who cared about Barry like I did."** —Katie Swain

The money for Barry's daughter was a natural outcome of a golf tournament that Weber, a.k.a. aqua man, first organized in the early '80s to rekindle Alpha friendships. Swain had flown up from Florida to play in the 1989 tournament—the 20th anniversary of the fraternity's founding. Three years later, the former TU soccer player died of bone cancer.

"The year after Barry's death we just started kicking in money for his kid," says Weber. It came from the golf tournament fees, annual dues and other contributions. "Drew invested it and rode shotgun over it to honor our friend."

### A Roomful of Stories

Katie and Amy Swain traveled from their home in Texas to Ocean City, Md., to meet Swain's fraternity brothers last fall. At a dinner

following the annual Alpha Open golf tournament and fundraiser, they found more than 55 people. "At least 30 guys had grown up with Barry, or partied or traveled with him," Weber says. "Everyone had a story."

There were tales of a spring break trip to a fiddler's convention in North Carolina when the clutch gave out in a Volkswagen bug packed with four oversized guys and all their camping gear. Swain and his buddies used twine to rig the clutch, pulling the string in and out to shift the car during a nine-hour drive home.

Most, though, remembered Swain's athleticism and his easygoing manner.

"I don't remember Barry jogging, in the weight room or doing push ups," says Tignanelli. "He was just naturally strong and fearless."

If there were bodies flying through the air on a soccer field or guarding the flag during the battle of the Glen, chances are one of them was Swain's, he adds.

"But he was the nicest guy—nothing ever bothered him," he says.

"He was always a quiet leader; focused," agrees Steve Willett '79, president of BWA Courier, a package delivery service in the Annapolis area.

"Looking at Amy was like looking at Barry," he adds. "She has the same gentle smile, the same twinkle in the eye."

"I told Amy stories about her dad all the time," says Katie Swain. "So to have others talk about him is something I will always treasure. It means so much that there are people who cared about him like I did. And I am humbled by the

unbelievable generosity of his fraternity brothers."

Katie met Barry while working at a landscaping firm in Florida. What she didn't know until later was that while interviewing for her job, Barry was peering into the room, mouthing to his boss, "Hire her."

They began dating soon after she landed the job, were married Nov. 24, 1990, and had Amy in December 1991.

Barry was never sick, never even had a cold, Katie says. He was a true outdoorsman—he loved camping, skydiving and scuba diving. Then one Friday, he came home from work with flu-like symptoms. Less than a week later he was diagnosed with bone marrow cancer and died four months later on Sept. 27, 1992.

"I still miss him. I still miss the life we had," Katie says. "Amy is the best gift he ever gave me."

Katie adds that her continuing grief is sometimes difficult for her daughter to understand. She doesn't miss her dad—not the way her mother does.

"He died when she was eight months old, so she never really knew him," Katie explains.

But what Amy now knows is that a group of guys loved her dad. He meant so much to them that they created a trust fund for her in his honor. And that is a memory she can carry with her always. ■

**Ginny Cook is the editor of *Towson*. Alpha Omega Lambda will celebrate its 40th anniversary on April 2, 2009. For details e-mail [alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu) or call 410-704-2234.**

Amy with her Dad

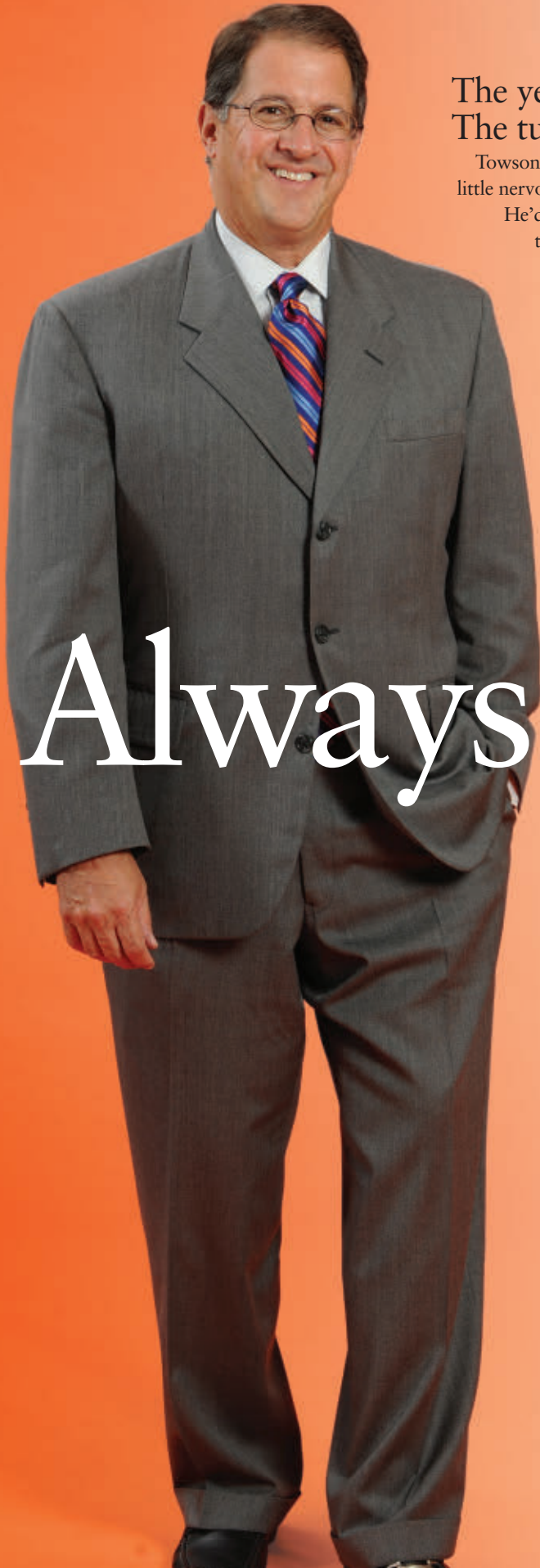


Left to right: Katie Swain, Amy Swain and Rick Weber '78.

Barry Swain



Katie and Barry Swain



## The year was 1973. The tuxedo was peach.

Towson freshman David Nevins was a little nervous attending the president's gala.

He'd never been to a gala before. But the student senator was happy for the opportunity to rub cantaloupe-colored elbows with Towson's academic and administrative elite.

It was the suit that caught then-Towson President James Fisher's attention—he told Nevins he had the coolest tux in the place. But it was the charisma and smarts of the young man underneath those pastel lapels that launched the friendship

he describes his generation as politically active—just from within the system rather than outside it. As a student at Towson, he was instrumental in successful lobbying efforts to change the school's name from Towson State College to Towson State University and to make Maryland the first state to have a student member with full voting rights on the Board of Regents.

Nevins recalls vividly when then-Governor Marvin Mandel signed the bill allowing a student to join the board and then gave Nevins the honor of being that first student regent. Now he serves on the Board of Regents with that very same former governor.

In his student days, Nevins also did his part to raise Towson's profile by establishing a lecture series, which featured such speakers as Ronald Reagan (just before his successful 1980 presidential bid), *Washington Post*

# Always On Board

For 35 years, first as a student and now in his final term as a USM regent, David Nevins '76 has provided service and friendship to TU

BY WANDA HASKEL · PHOTO BY KANJI TAKENO

with Fisher, whom Nevins counts as one of his most important career and life mentors.

Nevins' rise from timid teenager to student activist with the ear of the president was unlikely, jokes the 54-year-old, remembering his record as an underachiever in high school. But he credits the environment at Towson with enabling him to blossom and thrive, becoming student body president and later a successful entrepreneur and civic leader.

Nevins missed the era of sit-ins and building takeovers on college campuses by a couple of years, but

reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, and author Truman Capote.

He got his first taste of handling crisis communications when he apologized to the audience and escorted a drunk and belligerent Capote from the lecture stage, a photo of which graced the front page of several national newspapers the following day. "In many ways," Nevins says, "that's what started my fascination with the world of marketing and PR/communications."

After graduating in three and a half years, Nevins took a job on campus, first as an assistant in auxiliary services, then working his way up to be Towson's marketing director. And that, Nevins says, is what set him up for the career he has today.



Following a stint as marketing director for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, he founded Nevins & Associates, a marketing/public relations company, in 1984. He quips that the original name of the business should have been Nevins & Associate because he only had one at the time. Now the highly regarded boutique-style firm based in Hunt Valley employs around 15 people and represents prominent national, regional and local concerns.

Looking back on a quarter-century at the helm, Nevins is proud to have partnered with the likes of Comcast, Constellation Energy, Morton's steakhouse and Concentra healthcare systems. "It started out as a local business," remembers Nevins. "Comcast was a turning point—they were a national company and as they grew, we grew and as we grew, they grew. It really helped put my firm on the map."

*"For nearly a decade, David Nevins has been a vocal and effective advocate for the University System of Maryland."*

*Chancellor William E. Kirwan*

He is also grateful that through its reputation-management and brand-building activities on behalf of many different types of companies and industries, Nevins & Associates specializes in helping clients forge mutually beneficial partnerships, often with charitable and civic organizations. "Over 25 years of business," says Nevins, "I think it's fair to say that with our encouragement, our clients have helped raise millions and millions of dollars for local and regional charitable and civic organizations. Doing good is good for business."

And being a business owner gives Nevins the flexibility to do good on his own time as well. Besides the Board of Regents, Nevins serves on the boards of the Maryland Highway Safety Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Krieger Schechter Day School, and numerous other institutions and organizations. He was also chairman of Maryland Public Television (1995-1999).

But outside of his job, he calls his membership on the Board of Regents "the most

significant, important and fun activity" of his professional life. Nevins has a passion for public higher education and believes an excellent university system can advance the quality of life for a state's citizens. "Public higher education in Maryland has been a stepchild for decades, and I think that's no longer the case. I like to think that I've played a small role in that," he says.

According to University System of Maryland (USM) Chancellor William E. Kirwan, Nevins has played more than a small role in moving public higher education in Maryland forward. "For nearly a decade, David Nevins has been a vocal and effective advocate for the University System of Maryland," says Kirwan. "Motivated by a deep belief in USM's ability to elevate the citizens of Maryland and strengthen the state's economic future, he has brought tremendous insight and experience to the work of the board. As a former chairman of the Board of Regents, he provided key leadership during challenging times, consistently stressing the core priorities of access, affordability and excellence. In his current capacity as chair of the Board of Regents' Effectiveness and Efficiency Work Group and vice chair of the Finance Committee, he continues to be an indispensable asset to the USM and higher education in Maryland. We are indeed fortunate to have the benefit of his considerable abilities and passionate commitment to education."

One of only two current regents appointed by a Democratic governor (Glendening) and reappointed by a Republican governor (Ehrlich), Nevins views himself as a proponent of all 13 institutions in the University System of Maryland. However, he says, "My heart is with Towson."

As a member of the Board of Regents, Nevins has consistently championed his alma mater, helping to transform the culture at Towson from one of what he terms something of an "inferiority complex" to a "realization that Towson is a truly great institution," and fighting for funding to keep pace with the university's skyrocketing enrollment.

He also played a significant part in hiring Robert Caret to be the university's 12th president in 2003. Nevins says there was no shortage of candidates for the position, but indeed a lack of potential "game-changers." So when Nevins, along with Chancellor

Kirwan and Michael Gill '74, then chair of TU's Board of Visitors, set their sites on Caret, it was a full-court press. And not easy, as Caret was entrenched as president at San Jose State.

"I never expected to return to Towson," Caret says. "I thought the sentiment was right: 'You can't go home again.' But they were wrong. I did come home, and it never would have happened without the encouragement of several key people, with David being one of the first to reach out to me. There was much for Towson to do, and having people I trusted in positions to help guide me and support me was a vital part of my decision-making. David was one of those people."

"We certainly recruited a game-changer," says Nevins. "I can't imagine that Towson could have hired a better, stronger leader... Towson is on a roll and I don't see it stopping."



*David Nevins circa 1976 when he was SGA president*

So, how will Nevins continue his association with Towson now that he's termed out as a regent? Not as Alumni Association president. He already did that job back in the mid-'80s.

For now, look for this proud alum to use his influence in the business and political worlds as an advocate for the institution he says "took a naive, not very self-confident kid and helped him become a leader in Maryland." ■

**Wanda Haskel is a freelance writer based in Baltimore.**



# Reflections

**Former English professor Phineas Wright, who turned 100 last September, remembers Maryland State Teachers College in the 1950s**

By Stuart Zang ■ Photo by Kanji Takeno

**I**n 1948, English professor Phineas Wright arrived on the friendly, sociable campus of the Maryland State Teachers College.

“Back in those days, everybody knew everybody, and we seemed to do everything together,” Wright recalls. With only a few dozen faculty and about 736 students, (compared to 21,000 students and nearly 1,500 faculty in 2008) it was easier to mingle, whether through faculty picnics or cruises to an amusement park or sharing office space in the sole building used for classes.

Wright, who turned 100 on September 10, remembered those times as he sat in one of his favorite easy chairs in the Cockeysville house he’s lived in since 1952. His beloved collection of smoking pipes and a set of uncompleted British-style crossword puzzles is within easy reach. “Some puzzles, like what you see in the *New York Times*, challenge your vocabulary,” Wright explains. “This type, with its puns and anagrams, challenges your wit.” Although Wright is a bit unsteady on his feet, and his hearing is somewhat diminished, his wit is very much intact.

Asked what he enjoyed most about teaching, Wright says, tongue-in-cheek, “The salary, such as it was.”

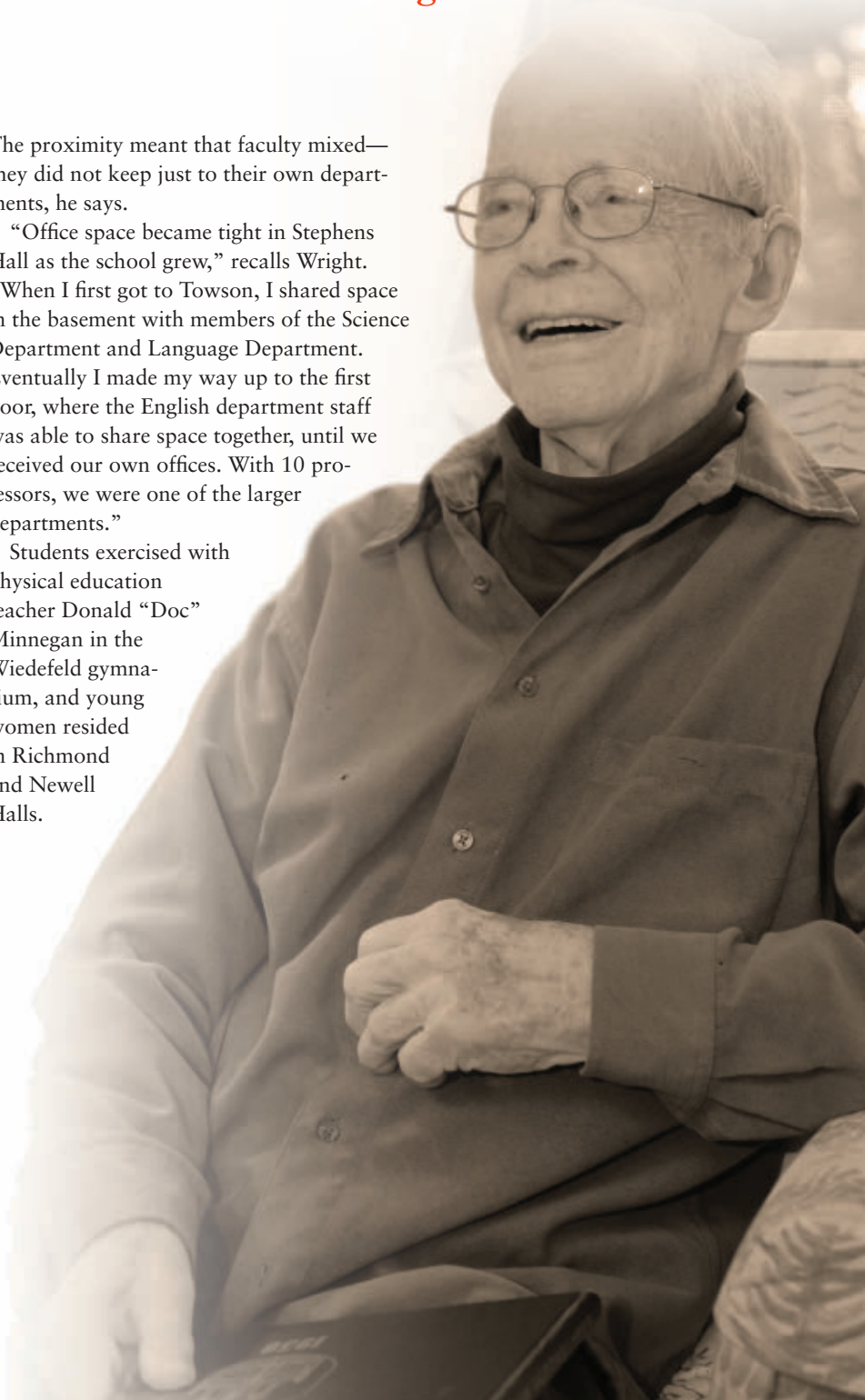
But something about Towson resonated with Wright—he spent 25 years here—teaching freshman composition, a sophomore survey course in literature, and developing courses in the history of the English language and on the Old Testament as literature.

During the ’50s, Wright says Stephens Hall was the center of campus activity—it housed faculty offices and was the site of all classes.

The proximity meant that faculty mixed—they did not keep just to their own departments, he says.

“Office space became tight in Stephens Hall as the school grew,” recalls Wright. “When I first got to Towson, I shared space in the basement with members of the Science Department and Language Department. Eventually I made my way up to the first floor, where the English department staff was able to share space together, until we received our own offices. With 10 professors, we were one of the larger departments.”

Students exercised with physical education teacher Donald “Doc” Minnegan in the Wiedefeld gymnasium, and young women resided in Richmond and Newell Halls.





Wright's young children attended the Campus Elementary Model School (now Van Bokkelen Hall), where teachers-in-training practiced their craft.

Social events during the 1950s included "For All-College Day," when President Earle Hawkins would hire out an entire ship, which was docked at Baltimore's harbor, for all the faculty, staff, their families and students," he says. "We'd cruise to Tolchester Beach, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, for the day. I think we had the run of the whole amusement park there."

Faculty picnics were held down at the Glen woods, with Hawkins leading everybody in singing "Down by the Old Mill Stream." Hawkins would also host faculty Christmas parties at his residence, Glen Esk, with Bill Hartley from the Education Department dressing up as Santa Claus for the kids. "I didn't visit Glen Esk often," says Wright, "but I do remember Dr. Hawkins had a rather extensive hat collection, a bunch of which were strewn around the living room."

Wright also remembers the all-campus celebration of May Day, a lavish springtime affair held on the lawn in front of Stephens Hall. The women students in brightly colored dresses would circle in and out around the maypoles, weaving ribbons in a crisscross pattern.

Kindergarteners from the Campus Elementary Model School would then head a procession, scattering buttercup petals to create a carpet of flowers. The court—college women wearing long yellow, green or pink pastel gowns with big skirts—would precede the May Queen, in her ornate white dress, to her throne. Elementary school students would sing and dance for the May Queen, after which Hawkins would make a proclamation and crown the May Queen.

Then the children and the court would lead the recession and the maypole ribbons were unwound. "It was quite a lavish affair," says Wright.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1908, Wright spent his childhood in northeast Ohio and southern Michigan. He studied English and French as an undergraduate at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. After earning a master's degree in English from the University of Virginia, Wright taught at

Lawrence College (now Lawrence University) in Appleton, Wis., for a year, then spent five years at King College in Bristol, Tenn.

Wright served in the military during World War II. After the war, he taught briefly at Mary Washington College (now University of Mary Washington) in Fredericksburg, Va. and then at two different campuses of the University of Georgia.

He was led to the job at Towson through a friend who taught there. "They must have given me the job on faith, because I never had an interview, nobody to check me out. Oh, I exchanged a letter or two with Earle Hawkins, who was the college president at the time. I guess that must have done the job."

By the time he retired in 1973, the campus landscape had changed dramatically. New buildings sprang up—one offering a home to wildlife. "I remember some autumn and winter evenings, around dusk, a flock of chimney swifts—that's a type of bird—would circle over the Lida Lee Tall building and swoop right into the chimney to roost for the night."

But the growth in enrollment and facilities had spread faculty and students among the

328 acres that now make up the campus. The college even had a new name—Towson State College—to reflect its changing programs.

"Right before I left, Compton Crook, of the Science Department, asked me, 'Well, what are you going to do now?'" "Do nothing," I replied. 'If I wanted to do, I would have stayed where I was!'"

Wright says he still has a stack of old exams and attendance rosters in his basement. On his legacy, Wright surmises, "I'll bet there are a few dozen students, well in their years, who would not only be surprised I'm still here, but that I still remember them." ■

**Stuart Zang is a media relations specialist in University Relations.**

*President Earle Hawkins would hire a ship for all the faculty, staff, their families and students for a cruise to Tolchester Beach.*



(Top) Phineas Wright circa 1950  
(Bottom) A boat trip to Tolchester in 1955 for "All-College Day."

Photos courtesy of University Archives in Cook Library



# creature teachers

**Exotic animals help TU alums deliver  
entertaining character education**

**By Jan Lucas   Photos by Kanji Takeno**





## The pint-sized ballerinas, Batmen, princesses and pirates tugging their parents toward American Legion Post 60 were looking for spine-tingling fun.

It was the fifth annual Halloween party for the Laurel, Md., veterans organization, with at least 100 mostly preschool-age revelers crowded into the cavernous social hall. After lunch, adults looked on as kids showed off their costumes or romped through jets of spooky-movie fog.

But the real goosebumps arrived with Valerie Garcia '88 and Chris Allen '07, who strode into the festivities and proceeded to set up their gear in front of the stage.

Curious children—and some grownups—rushed to form a semi-circle around the cheerful, khaki-clad pair, who were presenting a Wildlife Adventures program at the post for the fifth consecutive year.

Garcia and Allen began by commandeering their audience's attention and laying out the ground rules. "You can touch most of the animals," Garcia explained, "but if you don't want to touch, let us know by crossing your arms over your chest."

Taking turns, the two introduced a mallard duck, an African hedgehog (curled into a defensive spiky ball), a giant millipede, and then a bristly, rust-colored tarantula. To calm the children—some of whom had recoiled and squealed—Garcia launched into a spirited rendition of "Itsy Bitsy Spider."

She then told them that although it might seem scary, the tarantula was in fact a useful animal that helped to control insects.

Once assured, kids leaned

in to inspect the creature as it made the rounds on Allen's hand.

An iguana—which Allen touted as a dinosaur descendant—at first elicited a chorus of *ewwwws*. Allen then showed a boy how to put the imposing reptile to sleep by stroking the top of its head, the location of its "third eye." The child's once-tentative smile widened as the iguana responded to his touch by closing its eyes and relaxing. "Look at her big claws," Allen cooed, gently lifting the animal's foot with one finger. "She loves to climb."

Garcia arranged a reddish corn snake atop a volunteer's safari hat while explaining that it aided Maryland farmers by eating field mice. Kids squealed as the snake's head dipped below the brim, prompting an exaggerated double-take from the boy underneath. Afterward he and the others happily examined the snake they now understood to be helpful—not harmful—to humans.

The program culminated with an appearance by one of Wildlife Adventure's boa constrictors. Beaming girls and boys lined up for the chance to stroke the six-and-a-half foot long creature and allow Allen to drape it over their shoulders. Parents jostled one another to capture the moment on camera.

Wildlife Adventures had again worked its magic. Garcia and Allen, mixing age-appropriate instruction with good humor and lots of reassurance—had enabled kids to appreciate some less-than-cuddly creatures.

### From kindergarten teacher to wildlife educator

It all started because Valerie Bengel needed a summer job.

"I was an early-childhood education major and wanted to work with children," she recalls. "In 1988 the Maryland Department of Natural Resources had a popular wildlife-education program called Scales and Tales that traveled to schools throughout the state.

"The DNR had acquired a number of rescued animals that couldn't be restored to their original habitats, so it created Scales and Tales to help educate children about Maryland's wildlife.

"It looked like a great opportunity," Garcia continues, "so I applied for a position."

Garcia enjoyed her three-month stint with the DNR, but left in the fall to teach kindergarten. She returned full-time in 1993 and spent the next six years helping to develop Scales and Tales programming.

The DNR restructured Scales and Tales in 1999, and Garcia and her colleague Bill Trautman struck out on their own to found Wildlife Adventures. The new enterprise grew slowly, eventually picking up programs from the now scaled-back Scales and Tales.

"We did a lot of birthday parties at the outset," Garcia says. As news of Wildlife Adventures spread by word of mouth, she and Trautman created programs for audiences of all backgrounds and ages: school and after-school, church and home-school, and corporate.

Although Trautman later left to become a headmaster, Wildlife Adventures expanded steadily. These days its seven staff members and 20 mostly teenage volunteers provide 400 program hours to 20,000 people per year. Although no staffer has a

# there's never a **BOO!** moment in our programming

—Chris Allen '07

strictly biology-related background, Garcia doesn't consider that a liability.

"We've all spent a lot of time to reading and training," she says. "Learning about our animals is easy—it's the rest of the job that's really challenging."

She points to her experience in early-childhood education as a case in point. "My background has been invaluable in understanding children at different levels of development, and that's crucial to our success," she says.

"Wildlife Adventures doesn't focus entirely on zoology or natural history," she adds, even though its staff provides a lot of information about wildlife and environmental stewardship.

"Our audiences aren't learning about animals so much as they're learning *from* animals."

## Business among the beasts

In the Wildlife Adventures headquarters adjoining Garcia's Jarrettsville, Md., rancher, one resident inches into the room where Garcia and Allen sit at a table. "My daughter named her Mabel, and it just stuck," Garcia says, explaining that the 50-pound spur-thighed tortoise can take an entire day to complete a lap around the office suite.

Most of the other animals—nearing 60 at last count—live inside the suite or in a backyard out-building,

depending on the season and individual needs.

Cold-blooded animals move indoors as winter approaches, all housed comfortably in terrariums or in large wire enclosures with sunlamps. Rabbits, chinchillas and wild birds spend the colder months in the outbuilding, returning to the air-conditioned suite for the summer. A parrot, cockatiel and dove make their home next door with Garcia and her family.

As if looking after so many exotic animals wasn't enough of a responsibility, Garcia notes that some even require federal

oversight. Wildlife Adventures maintains a license from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to use mammals in its programs. "USDA inspectors inspect the facilities and set up semi-annual visits by a veterinarian," she adds.

Posted on the office wall are the messages every Wildlife Adventures program strives to convey. Notable among them are "Wild animals are not pets and usually don't need help," and "Wild animals should never be touched, approached or picked up."

Garcia explains that she and her staff address common fears and misperceptions about wildlife. "In general wild animals would much rather avoid human beings than confront them," she emphasizes. But she's also quick to point out that "Anything with a mouth can bite you."

Allen chimes in with "We want audiences to understand that everything has a place in the world."

Chris Allen joined Wildlife Adventures while still an undergraduate.





“I saw all these animals on display at the Harford County Farm Fair and asked, “Are you hiring?” The communication skills and creativity he developed in Towson’s Electronic Media and Film program, along with his experience as a camp counselor and youth minister, made him a particularly valuable addition to Garcia’s staff. “My academic background taught me how to craft and deliver messages effectively,” he says. “That’s essential to education.”

But there are also times when his job requires brawn as well as brains. “Putting large snakes on people’s shoulders is like doing reps,” he quips, flexing a bicep.

#### Animal-assisted education

Wildlife Adventures’ animals are much more than furry, feathered or scaly curiosities. They’re also creature-teachers, imparting important messages to impressionable young minds.

The balled-up hedgehog, for example, presents a real challenge to intimacy. But when tickled gently, it uncurls to reveal a small, utterly adorable mammal with a velvety tummy. “Some people behave in similar ways,” Garcia reminds audiences. “They look as if they don’t want you to get close, but you may be rewarded if you’re patient.”

A flightless duck provides a lesson in the importance of sound nutrition. “The person who rescued her mistakenly raised her on cockatiel seed,” says Garcia. “But it wasn’t the right food for a duck, and one wing didn’t develop properly.” Kids get

the message: Eat your veggies if you want to grow up big and strong.

A rabbit’s large ears present a chance to discuss the importance of listening. A spider patiently mending its web offers proof that “what’s messed up can be fixed.” A slow-but-sure turtle reminds humans “to just keep trying, and you will get there.” Other animals help staff emphasize the need to take one’s time or work together to achieve a common goal.

Of course some creatures evoke more anxiety than others, but Wildlife Adventures staff are careful to avoid shock. “We make sure audiences know when snakes and spiders are coming out,” says Allen. “There’s never a boo! moment in our programming.”

A Wildlife Adventures career comes with plenty of “teachable moments” that can change lives as well as attitudes. Garcia and Allen have addressed phobias, sparked imaginations and eased social interactions.

Allen recalls a particularly touching moment when a mother told him that his presentation had helped her young son make friends at school; Garcia was delighted to discover that a Wildlife Adventures program had inspired a budding scientist.

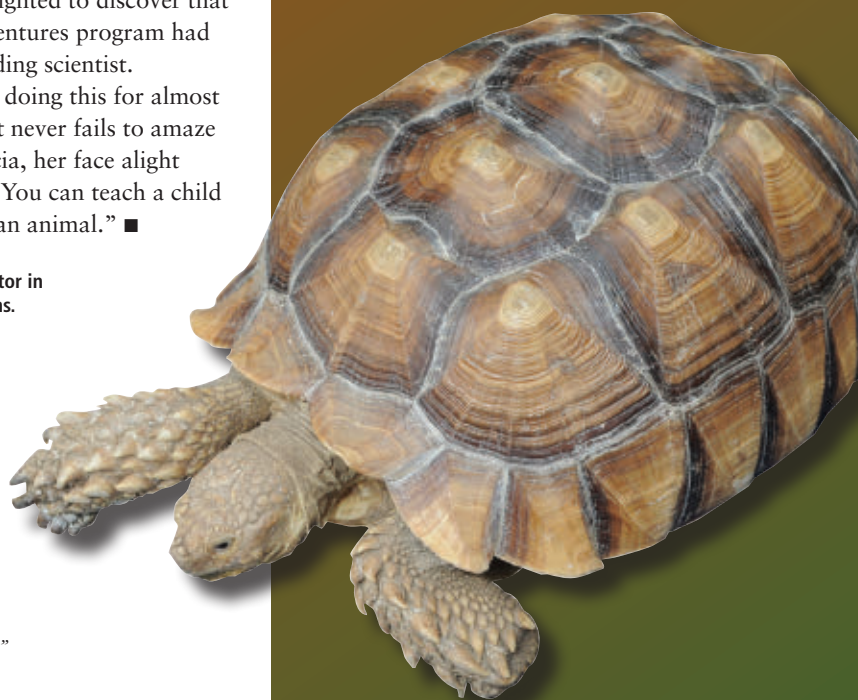
“I’ve been doing this for almost 10 years, and it never fails to amaze me,” says Garcia, her face alight with wonder. “You can teach a child anything with an animal.” ■

Jan Lucas is an editor in University Relations.

## creatures great and small

The Wildlife Adventures menagerie comprises the following amphibians, arthropods, arachnids, insects, mammals, birds and reptiles—59 creatures in all. No matter what the species, founder Valerie Garcia says all “have a message” for audiences.

bearded dragon	lizard	tortoises
plated lizard		local snakes
spur-thighed tortoise		frogs/toads
snapping turtle		tarantulas
giant millipede		African hedgehogs
scorpion		sugar gliders
Madagascar		(small marsupials)
hissing cockroach		ducks
quail		boa constrictors
cockatiel		rabbits
Quaker parrot		chinchillas
white dove		gekkos
ball pythons		box turtles
iguanas		



Cuddly chinchillas help Valerie Garcia '88 (left) and Chris Allen '07 create “teachable moments.”



# Role Playing

*John Glover '66,  
star of stage and  
screen, takes part  
in TU classes*

JOAN MARCUS

He is a Tony Award winner and five-time Emmy-nominated actor. He has portrayed an AIDS patient in “An Early Frost” as well as a series of scoundrels—the ruthless Lionel Luthor on “Smallville,” a frenzied TV mogul in “Gremlins 2: The New Batch” and a drunken murderer in “Masquerade.”

A *New York Times* reviewer called him “rightly appalling as [the] casually brutish father,” in the “Marriage of Bette and Boo,” which ran last summer at New York City’s Roundabout Theatre.

But once or twice each year, John Glover '66 plays himself, an affable, engaging character who returns to his college roots. He roams the halls of the Center for the Arts, stopping often to talk with students he recognizes. He teaches master classes, gives acting advice and offers tips about how to succeed on the stage and in life. It is a time, he admits, “when I get much more than I give.”





By  
Ginny Cook

John Glover toasts Michele  
Pawk during a scene from  
"The Paris Letter" at NYC's  
Roundabout Theatre in 2005.

Last spring, he returned to campus to accept the Distinguished Alumni award, an honor bestowed on Towson's most accomplished and dedicated graduates. Glover arrived a few days before the ceremony, however, to spend time with TU students.

Rumpled and bleary-eyed after a red-eye flight from LA, Glover plops himself in a folding chair. His audience is mostly students from an introductory acting class. There are no scripts to read, no lines to



Glover (above) on stage and (opposite page) in a TU classroom last spring giving tips to acting students.

learn, just the give and take of a question-and-answer-session. Glover leans forward, smiling. He's ready.

The students are not. Some seem unsure about who is before them. And no one wants to speak first.

So Jay Herzog, professor and chair of theatre arts, steps in to ask Glover how he got his start.

"I was an apprentice at a summer stock theater during college," Glover says. "Every week we'd turn out a new show. I found life in the theater interesting but a lot harder than I thought."

Despite the difficulties, he was hooked and soon after graduation from TU headed for an

actor's life in New York City. He had no job, no prospects, just the confidence of youth. He worked part-time for a theater company and eventually landed an acting job.

"I was fearless. I had no doubt I would succeed," he tells the students.

Then with a mischievous smile and an actor's delivery, he adds, "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise," quoting a line from 18th century poet Thomas Gray.

But Glover quickly abandons showmanship, preferring to find out about the young people sitting in front of him. "What directors do you like? Who is your favorite actor?" he asks.

Little by little, he draws out the more reticent students.

Then Glover discusses the raw distress that acting can extort on the psyche. "You expose the self as an actor," he explains. "One can [end up] making a fool of oneself."

into villainy," Glover says. "But Lionel could have been any smug, smarmy father. I was fascinated by him and tried to play him not just as a villain but as someone who is trying to strengthen his son.

"People have asked me whether Lionel is good or bad," he adds. "I consider that to be one of the best compliments I've ever gotten."

Glover had a seven-year run on the show—he was killed off at the end of last season—pushed out of a top window of a skyscraper by his son.

"I had a great time," he says, "but I was ready to move on."

## A walk-on

No matter where he's working, Glover makes an annual visit to his hometown of Salisbury on Maryland's Eastern Shore

*"The choices you make as an actor and artist reflect the choices you make in life." — JOHN GLOVER*

He also mentions the sheer physicality of some roles—the rigors of stage combat, a fight coach who taught him to fence and his discomfort while filming a stabbing scene in a movie.

"That was you?" a student yells.

"Wow! I saw that movie," says another.

The light bulb of recognition fully lit, the students now fling questions and comments at him.

"I love your hair," says one kid.

"Tell us about the audition for 'Smallville,'" says another.

"I didn't audition," Glover says. "My agent called; they offered me the part."

The TV series "Smallville" is set in the fictional town of Smallville, Kan., where Clark Kent grew up before becoming Superman. Glover played Lionel Luthor, father of Superman's nemesis, Lex Luthor.

"Lionel was written as a villain and I'm

to participate in the Memory Walk of the Alzheimer's Association.

He makes the trek to honor his late father and to raise awareness and funds for a cure. "I pushed my father in a wheelchair during the first walk some eight or nine years ago," Glover recalls.

Now he lends his name and support to the Alzheimer's Association, which helped him cope with the helplessness he felt as his father succumbed to the disease. "They had information, and people I could talk to when I didn't know what to do," he explains.

Glover's generosity also extends to TU's College of Fine Arts and Communication where he established the John Glover Endowment Scholarship for acting majors in the theatre department.

He recognizes the difficulty of succeeding as an actor and is the first to admit to his good fortune. "I am always working," he



says adding that he has been employed as an actor since he left college.

What's more, he is one of those rare performers who can balance a career on stage and in film, earning parts and plaudits in both.

"John is the ultimate character actor," says Herzog, TU theatre chair. "He moves from role to role without effort."

Soon after he arrived in New York City, Glover got a walk-on role in "Bye Bye Birdie" and spent the next 20 years on the stage. He performed in off-Broadway productions for a decade, and in 1973 received an L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Actor for "The Traveler." Glover received an OBIE Award in 1994 for ensemble performance and a Tony Award in 1995 for "Love! Valour! Compassion!"

Supporting Actor in a Miniseries or Special. He has also been nominated for Emmy awards for his work on programs and television movies, including "Frasier," "LA Law," "Nutcracker: Money, Madness & Murder" and "Crime and Punishment."

While he has had roles he's loved, there are some he'd like to forget, but says, "I try not to let regrets stop me." Yet, despite his commercial success, Glover says, "My work suffered. I wasn't enjoying it anymore."

Then about seven years ago, he began studying his craft with famed Hollywood acting teacher Milton Katselas at the Beverly Hills Playhouse.

"After studying with Milton, I enjoy working again" Glover says. "I know how to attack a role. I am more patient. My attitude is better."

"Each actor has to find his own way. The

disarming. Most of all, he is interested—in each of them.

He questions each about their plans after graduation. When one student admits to utter terror at the thought of a New York City audition, Glover suggests turning that fear into excitement and then says, "Why not make it fun?"

One by one Robert Scott Hitcho, John Scheffenacker, Renee Rogers, Jackie Keough and Brandon Beatty deliver their lines to a most attentive listener.

Glover dissects each performance, yet never dismembers the actor. His advice is as varied as the performances—"You are missing a psychotic quality," he tells one student. "You're rushing it," he tells another. "You are not letting yourself be affected by the tragedy."

He wants them to "shed their weariness



DESIREE STOVER



He earned his Tony for playing twin brothers with very contrasting personalities, Herzog says. "Twins—onstage at the same time—only one actor."

"John's recent role as the dysfunctional father in the Broadway revival of 'The Marriage of Bette and Boo' was so emotionally draining to play eight times a week that he returned to Towson with many handmade scarves," Herzog adds. "Knitting is John's escape when he needs a break from the rigors of acting."

After Glover moved to Los Angeles for film work, he found similar success. The Internet Movie Database lists him with more than 106 films and television shows to his credit.

Glover's portrayal of AIDS patient Victor DiMato in his first television movie, "An Early Frost," garnered him a 1986 Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding

choices you make as an actor and artist reflect the choices you make in life," he says.

## The fun of fear

Early on Glover made the choice to mentor young theater students. A former dean of TU's College of Fine Arts and Communication, Maravene Loeschke '69, now president of Mansfield University, coaxed him back to campus. "At first I was terrified. Now, helping students brings me back if I've veered off my course."

During Associate Professor Peter Wray's senior acting class, Glover watches six students as each performs a short scene.

The room is big and empty. Other than their professor, Glover—the star—is their sole audience, a fact that makes them clearly apprehensive.

Glover, however, brings calm. He is at once serious and silly, charming and

and chronic ennui. It's show time. It's the job we have; it's what we get paid for."

"The students at Towson love his visits," Herzog says. "The faculty are thrilled to have his expertise, and the two administrative assistants in my office know they will have many fun moments as John is always looking to make people laugh and blush."

"I love it when he is here," says one of the administrative assistants, Marie Robertson '06. He is so much fun and I like to watch him interact with the theatre students."

Class dismissed, Glover heads out for roles in TV's "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," "Shipwrecked," a play in New York this February, and for his standing gig in TU classes. ■

Ginny Cook is the editor of *Towson*.



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Benefits and services for TU graduates

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Check out Tiger Tracks for updated event information, new features and tons of information. Use the alumni directory to find old friends, access a list of alumni events to see if the Alumni Association is coming to your home town, and get the inside scoop at what’s going on at your alma mater. Also, don’t forget to sign up for your free alumni e-mail account.



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## Great food, great location

Visit the University Club of Towson, open to the public, and located in the Berkshire Marriott. You will discover a contemporary, casual restaurant with excellent service and an exciting menu that changes seasonally. Enjoy a quiet drink with a friend in the lounge, bring the whole crew to watch one of eight plasma TVs, or shoot a game of pool on a championship table. The club opens daily at 11:30 a.m.

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Offer expires 6/30/09




from the

## alumni president

At our October reception in New York, a TU graduate shared with me his story of moving to the Big Apple after graduation. With few friends in the city, he confessed that he had felt alone. One day, sporting a Towson University T-shirt while waiting for a subway train, he made a connection that changed everything. Another young man noticed the shirt and introduced himself as a Towson grad. They continued to have a spirited conversation. He still remembers that day as one that made him feel more at home.

Towson alumni are everywhere and, often, we don’t even realize it. With more than 110,000 of us around the globe (and 80 percent in Maryland alone), it’s likely that we’re bumping into each other on a regular basis. One of us may be sitting in an adjacent cubicle, interviewing you for a job, teaching your children, nursing a sick family member—or simply standing next to you waiting for a subway train.

It’s time that we make our presence more noticeable and let people know how proud we are to be Towson graduates. It can be as simple as wearing TU apparel, putting a sticker on your car, displaying your diploma in your office or purchasing a TU license plate. But where it also counts is including Towson in your everyday conversations with friends, colleagues, clients and community members. It’s a powerful way that we can all be ambassadors for an institution that has helped to shape our lives.

Many thanks for your continued support,

*Kim Fabian*

Kim Fabian '88  
President  
Towson University Alumni Association





## Linked

### < Networking Reception

Thanks to our sponsors, the Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce, the Baltimore Business Journal and WTMD Radio, and the host committee: Steve Battista '96, Under Armour, Jim Connor '88, Altius Broadband, Christine Crawford, Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce, Patrick Dieguez '07, Fila USA, Inc., Gary Ditto '89, The ACI Group, Lou Dollenger '74, Nelson White Systems, Kim Fabian '88, Ovations, Inc., Ellen Flattery '84, Corporate Media Marketing and Productions, LLC, Megan Ford '87, McCormick and Company, Jennifer Heinlein, Baltimore Business Journal, Charlotte Hetterick '92, Interactive Fitness, Lance Johnson '93, 1st Mariner Bank, Jennifer Lindstrom '01, Department of Homeland Security, Frank Mezzanotte '73, Harford County Public Schools, Gavin Moag '84, HMS Insurance Associates, Glenn Ross '81, Archstone Portfolio Solutions, Karen Schafer '68, TU, Bill Stetka '77, Baltimore Orioles, Steve Willett '79, BWA Courier, and Bill Wood '87, Citi Financial.



1 Networking Reception Host Committee  
 2 Jonathan Williams '94 and Andre Cooper '87  
 3 Mary Beth Eikenberg '89 and Beth Gartner

## Football Fun

### < Tigers take on Navy

On Saturday, August 30, hundreds of TU alumni and friends descended on the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium as the Tigers faced the team from the Naval Academy. The tailgate reception was a sea of black and gold as alumni, friends and fans displayed their Towson colors. Despite the roar from Tiger fans, Navy won the game 41-13.



1 Tracey Ford, Jan and Bill Beauchamp, and Tom Ford '75  
 2 Laurie and Steve Kettinger '99 and their children Alex and Zak  
 3 President Bob Caret, Karen Mysel and Rick Bielski

## Cheers

### Basignani Wine Tasting and Reception >

More than 100 alumni and friends laughed at the torrential rain storm as they joined Bert '74 and Lynne Basignani at the Basignani Winery in Sparks, Md., Sept. 12, 2008 for an alumni reception. Mark Magee '83 of Mark and Da Sharks played tropical rock 'n roll and the music of Jimmy Buffett between lightening strikes.



1 Meena Williamson '06, Jesse Williamson, Erin Cooper '07 and Harry Metz  
 2 Joe Brammer and Leslie Cox '05  
 3 Kevin Smith '96, Kay Smith '96/'97, Michael Avramidis and Laura Avramidis '03

## On the Waterfront

### Eastern Shore Alumni Reception >

On Oct. 24, 2008, Nancy '73 and Bill Fish hosted alumni and friends at their waterfront home in McDaniel, Md. Ryan Cobb '04 and Aaron Thompson provided the music during an evening filled with great food, music and company. President Bob Caret shared TU news with the attendees.



1 Albert '50 and Margaret '49 Naeny, and Gary Rubin '69  
 2 Perry Stutman '75 and Karl Schlenker '81  
 3 Bill Fish, Nancy Fish '73 and Shelly Gallagher '74  
 4 Leah Schlenker '74, Sheila Stutman, Bob Caret and Alissa Carr '98





## TU in the City



- 1 Gary Rubin '69 and Brian Stelter '07
- 2 Michael Alberto '01, Chad Qian '04 and Frank Bokrosh
- 3 Keyana Laws '00 and Brian Graybow '02
- 4 Renald and Felicia Ganthier '04
- 5 Sean Fetcho '05, Mark Schlosser '05, Joseph Tabone '03 and Jared Devincenzo '02
- 6 Danny Rothbard '03, Robert Paduano '04, Lori Scheps '04 and Justin Smulison '03
- 7 Liz Zoltan, Bob Caret and Clara Garrett '68

### < New York Reception

An energized alumni crowd descended on City Hall Restaurant in Tribeca, N.Y., Oct. 30, 2008. The New York alumni now have a Facebook page to stay connected. And next year—Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009—when the TU Marching Band performs in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the alumni association will host a brunch from 9 a.m. – noon at the Marriott Marquis, which overlooks the parade route. The cost is \$50/adult, \$25/child. Look for your invitation this summer.

## Yeehaw!

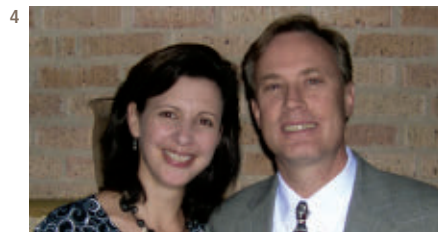
HOUSTON



### The Lone Star State >

In a whirlwind tour of Texas in November, we met with alumni in Houston, San Antonio and Dallas. The Texans heard the news about TU from Vice President Gary Rubin '69 and Alumni Association President Kim Fabian '88.

SAN ANTONIO



- 1 Gary Rubin '69, Lucille '74 and Steve '76 Rogers
- 2 Scott '93 and Monica Mackerron
- 3 (top) Kim Fabian '88, Terry Walker '78  
Elizabeth Anderson '55, Mike Fogerty '82
- 4 Ann Marie and Duane Cespedes '85
- 5 Sal and Margaret Contreras '70
- 6 Lance King '95, Beatriz and Silvio Canto '75
- 7 Kim Fabian '88 and Herb Poledna '95

DALLAS







## Tis The Season

### < Annual Alumni Association Holiday Party

On Friday, Dec. 5, 2008 the TU Alumni Association celebrated the holiday season with more than 200 alumni and friends at the historic Auburn House. The evergreen on the front lawn sparkled with lights, and poinsettias and greenery decked the halls inside as alumni and friends delivered hundreds of unwrapped new toys to share with Baltimore-area children through the Preston Mitchum Jr. Foundation. Mitchum is a 1997 graduate of Towson University.



1 Emily Takeno and Kanji Takeno

2 Shira McVay, Jeanine Fernandez and Lori Armstrong

3 Fran Kateley '85 and Darcy Accardi '06

4 Happy Holidays from the staff in the Office of Alumni Relations

5 Kim Fabian '88, Gerry Gaeng '81 and Lone Azola '68



There's No Place Like  
**HOME**

**Volunteer  
Recognition  
Reception >**

There were awards, tears, laughter and an unexpected gift given for a student scholarship at our annual Volunteer Recognition Reception. The warm atmosphere of the Auburn Pavilion and the excitement felt by the award recipients made the evening memorable.

## There's No Place Like Home



**The Spirit of the University Award**  
Ted Zaleski Jr.



**The Alumni Volunteer Service Award**  
Frances T. Bond '55/'60



**The Staff Volunteer Service Award**  
Bill Reuling '64



**The Staff Volunteer Service Award**  
Karen Schafer '68/'75



**The University Alumni Volunteer Service Award**  
Bucky Kimmitt '51

**Millennium  
Reunion >**

Nearly 100 alumni from the classes of 2000-2008 enjoyed the patio at Charles Village Pub along with live music at this year's Millennium Reunion.



1 Meghan Gawryck '07 and Jill Davis '02/'06



2 Jason McDuffie '04, Bob Caret and Jeff Freedman '07



3 Stephanie Cox '08, Patrick Dieguez '07, Bob Caret and David Butler '07





## Homecoming 2008



### < Alumni Homecoming Festival and Reunion Row Sponsored by GEICO

With perfect weather for a day on campus with friends and family – the Alumni Homecoming Festival welcomed over 2,300 guests and 38 Reunion Row groups this year! Whether at alumni events or the football game, school spirit could not be missed on this beautiful fall day.

- 1 Delta Sigma Theta Alumnae Reunion Tent
- 2 Jennifer '96 and Greg '95 Heitner and their sons Noah and Jack
- 3 College of Health Professions Reunion Tent
- 4 Connie '95 and Jim Kihm
- 5 BETE Fraternity Alumni Reunion Tent
- 6 Delta Phi Epsilon Alumnae Reunion Tent



### < Class Reunions Under the Tent

TU welcomed back members from the classes of 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, and 1998 during the Alumni Homecoming Festival.

- 1 Class of 1983
- 2 Class of 1988
- 3 Class of 1968
- 4 Class of 1978

For more homecoming pictures, go to [www.tutigertracks.com](http://www.tutigertracks.com).  
Mark your calendar for Homecoming 2009 on Saturday, October 17, 2009.

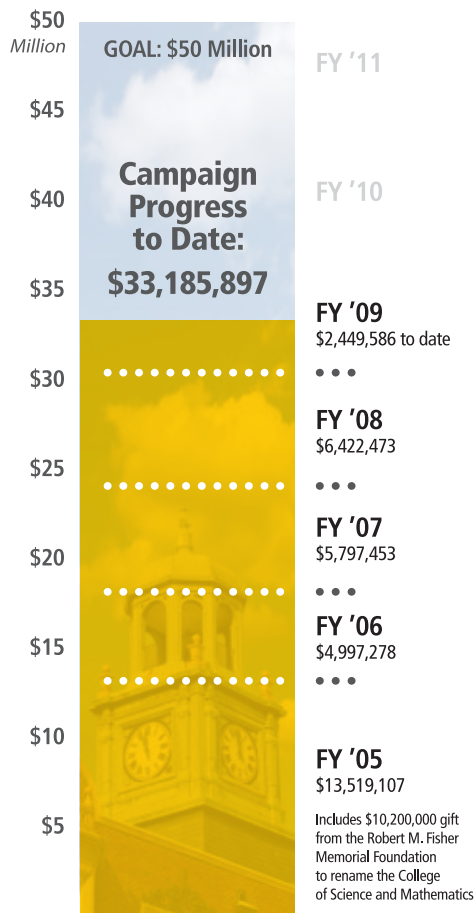


# Growing a university

THE CAMPAIGN FOR TOWSON

## Campaign update

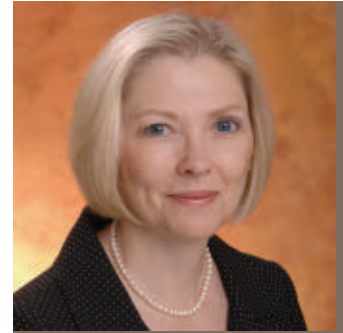
Growing a University – The Campaign for Towson has raised more than \$33 million to date in private support for scholarships and programs, faculty development and more. Despite economic challenges, momentum continues to build as we enter the fifth year of the campaign. Your philanthropy has accomplished so much for so many at Towson. Thank you!



### NOTICE ANYTHING DIFFERENT?

In an effort to make wise use of the resources entrusted to us and to "Go Green," we have removed the Annual Report of Donors to the university from the pages of the winter issue of the *Towson* magazine, choosing instead to share select highlights from the full annual report. This change has eliminated more than one million printed pages. You may view the full annual report online at [www.towson.edu/supportTU](http://www.towson.edu/supportTU), or request a printed copy by contacting the Development Office, 1-866-301-3375 or [towsonfund@towson.edu](mailto:towsonfund@towson.edu).

You can also help us to reduce, reuse and recycle by sharing your e-mail address. Using e-mail for invitations, news and other communications means we print and mail fewer pieces, which is both cost-saving and green. If you have not yet shared your e-mail address, please forward it to [emailupdate@towson.edu](mailto:emailupdate@towson.edu). Thank you!



from the

### campaign chair

What a rollercoaster we're on these days. With the ups and downs of a turbulent economy, we are all feeling the effects of the ride. What remains constant, though, is the continued need to invest in Towson's future.

Today's students will be tomorrow's leaders, running our businesses, schools and hospitals, and preserving our cultural heritage through the arts. They are our future. Continued support for scholarships keeps students in the classroom. Program funding prepares professionals who often deliver substantial benefits to the community. Despite budget cuts and reduced state funding for higher education, Towson is committed to educating the next generation.

The good news is that generous alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff are providing for the future of Towson. The following pages include an announcement of a significant gift to support scholars in the Top 10% Program and a review of the Towson University Foundation's 2007-2008 fiscal year. I hope these reports will show that your gift to Towson truly invests in our future.

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



## Ruth Marder pledges \$1 million

GIFT PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS TO TOP 10% SCHOLARS



Ruth Marder

Ruth R. Marder has a strong interest in access to higher education and has pledged \$1 million to Towson University's Top 10% Scholars Program. The program guarantees admission to Towson for students who have completed a college prep curriculum and rank in the top 10 percent of their graduating class from a Baltimore City or Baltimore County public high school.

"I am thrilled to extend my support to this wonderful program, which recognizes the academic achievement of some of Baltimore's brightest young people," Marder says.

A longtime supporter of TU and its programs, Marder is a generous donor to the College of Fine Arts and Communication, which has named a performance venue in her honor. Among her many community involvements, Marder serves on the TU Board of Visitors. Her commitment to the Top 10% Scholars Program will establish an endowment to provide scholarship support for students with financial need.

"It's very meaningful to me to know that my contribution will aid promising students on the journey to achieve their dreams, whatever those dreams may be," says Marder.

Marder's contribution brings Towson closer to meeting a five-year challenge issued in 2006 by the Baltimore-based France-Merrick Foundation to assist the university in raising \$1.5 million in scholarship aid for Top 10% students with need.

"In its fourth year with more than 400 students enrolled, our Top 10% Scholars Program not only opens doors for students, but it also provides them support to adjust and excel in a competitive academic environment," says Robert L. Caret, TU president. "It's a powerful statement of our commitment to providing accessibility to quality education for those students who might otherwise not have an opportunity to attend college."

**"I am thrilled to extend my support to this wonderful program, which recognizes the academic achievement of some of Baltimore's brightest young people."**

**—Ruth Marder**

Caret adds, "We are so grateful for Ruth's support, which accelerates by nearly two years our progress in securing scholarship funds, and positions us to surpass the challenge set by the France-Merrick Foundation."

"Ruth continues to be a shining example of an individual who truly understands how one person can make a difference," says Gary N. Rubin, vice president for University Advancement. "Her gift propels the continued momentum of our capital campaign and will stand as an example to others."

### YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED

Thanks to the generosity of Ruth Marder and other contributors, endowments have been created to provide perpetual support for Top 10% Scholars. Eventually, these investments will grow to meet the needs of every student in the Top 10% program who has financial need. But right now, donations are still necessary for immediate use; they continue to play a critical role in assisting today's Top 10% students.

Annual contributions to the France-Merrick Top Ten Scholars Fund have so far provided scholarships to 45 Top 10% students. While significant, this is not enough to meet every student's needs. Last year, nearly one-third of TU's Top 10% students required loans to pay the full cost of their educational expenses. Money from grants and scholarships fell short of meeting their needs.

Please consider keeping the Top 10% program among your philanthropic priorities. Much has been accomplished, but more has yet to be achieved. Together, we can make a brighter future for these students, and through their potential civic and professional achievements, the Baltimore region and beyond.

Contact the Development Office toll free at 1-866-301-3375 for more information on how to support the Top 10% program. Thank you!

from the

foundation president

TOWSON UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION  
2007-2008 Annual Report:  
Opening Doors

I am pleased to share with you excerpts from the 2008 Towson University Foundation Annual Report, which highlights the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. Donors to Towson are opening doors to opportunity for our students, as you will see in these pages.

There is no doubt we are facing a challenging financial period, especially with investment. I want to assure you that the Towson University Foundation Board of Directors continues to steward the funds entrusted to us—the contributions of our donors—with the utmost care. Though the market is uncertain, our long-term strategy and spending policy are sound. We will weather this economic turbulence.

This is my last annual report as president of the foundation. What a privilege it has been to serve this great university. I encourage you to consider making a significant contribution to Growing a University – The Campaign for Towson. However you designate it, your money will support an institution that is becoming one of the premier public universities in the country. I thank you for allowing me to serve, and thank you for considering a major gift.



Dennis Mather '72  
President  
Towson University Foundation

Towson University wishes to thank Dennis Mather '72 for his years of service to the university as the president of the Towson University Foundation.



## Report of financial condition

FISCAL YEAR 2008: JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008

The Towson University Foundation manages 658 funds that support academic programs, scholarships and special projects at TU. Total contributions to these funds in fiscal year 2008 was \$6,118,447, as compared to \$4,986,823 the previous year (See table below for full breakdown of assets).

Of the 658 funds managed by the foundation, 315 are endowments which provide perpetual support. Gift revenues for endowed funds for fiscal year 2008 totaled approximately \$3.1 million. While the endowment's performance was down in 2008, it will still support the various programs and scholarships intended by our donors in a significant way for fiscal year 2010, offering approximately \$900,000 (versus \$1.2 million in fiscal year 2009).

In the first six months of the 2009 fiscal year, we have seen a steady downturn in investment performance, a reflection of the economic climate. The foundation remains committed to a prudent long-term investment strategy and is optimistic that better times lie ahead. In the meantime, we are diligently stewarding our assets to offer as much support as possible for our students, faculty and programs.

### Towson University Foundation, Inc. Statements of Financial Position

(abbreviated and extracted from Audited Financial Statements)  
June 30, 2008 and 2007

Assets	2008	2007
Cash and Investments	\$39,893,795	\$36,614,101
Contributions Receivable	1,090,270	3,212,650
Annuities Receivable	348,010	490,138
Collections	945,435	913,775
Deposits	1,200,000	0
Other	271,725	413,144
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$43,749,235</b>	<b>\$41,643,808</b>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

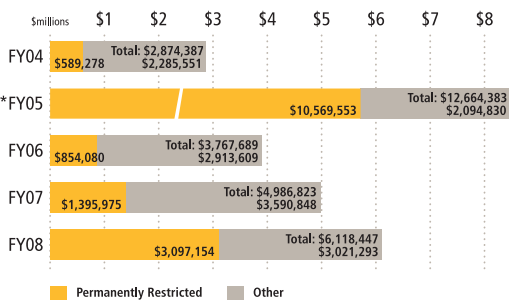
Liabilities	\$1,434,962	\$122,377
Net Assets	42,314,273	41,521,431
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$43,749,235</b>	<b>\$41,643,808</b>

Complete Audited Financial Statements are available upon request.  
Contact the Towson University Foundation, Inc. at 410-704-3278.



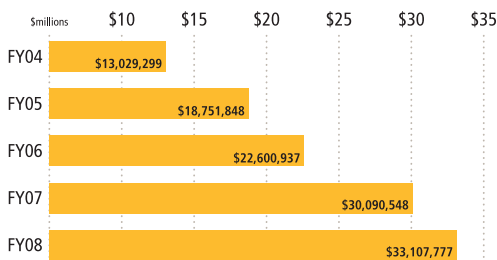
Towson University Foundation, Inc.  
Statements of Financial Position, continued

**Contributions, Gifts and Grants Received**

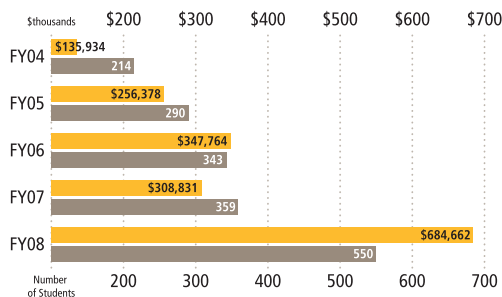


\* includes \$10,200,000 gift from the Robert M. Fisher Memorial Foundation to rename the College of Science and Mathematics

**Endowment Market Values**



**Scholarships and Awards**



## Opening doors to opportunity: Joan Lewis Thompson '62



Gary and Joan Lewis Thompson

Joan Lewis Thompson '62 and her husband, Gary Thompson, established the Pauline Voneiff Lewis Scholarship Endowment in 2007 with a \$100,000 gift as a tribute to her mother. The scholarship supports graduates of Montgomery Blair High School in Montgomery County, Maryland.

"I attended Towson because of my mother. As the mother of four, she knew it was affordable, and cost was certainly a concern on our tight budget. When I started here, it cost \$125 per semester—and that included room and board! Thankfully, I was able to pay for books with a scholarship I received from a local women's club, and earned spending money by working on campus all four years I attended.

My husband and I retired from owning and operating our own business selling material handling supplies for over 30 years. We were blessed to be so successful. Both of us place a high value on education, and Towson was the natural place to make the kind of gift that would express and fulfill our values.

It was also an easy choice to honor my mother with our gift. She was truly

the head of my family—such a strong person. I am sure my father agreed... she ran the show in our house. When the youngest child in our family entered school, she went to work full-time as secretary to the principal of Montgomery Blair High School. My siblings and I all attended Montgomery Blair, and my sister Carol and brother Paul went on to Towson after me.

It is my sincere hope that this scholarship can ease the way for students in similar academic and financial circumstances as my siblings and I found ourselves. I'm so pleased Gary and I were able to give something of our success back to students, today and into the future, while honoring my mother's legacy."

—Joan Lewis Thompson '62

### WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL?

Making Towson a philanthropic priority is needed now, more than ever. State support has decreased by 50 percent in the last 30 years, dramatically increasing the university's need for private support. Whether you answer a call from a phonathon student, open an envelope from campus, or respond to an e-mailed invitation to support the university, your gift will help ensure that students receive much needed scholarships, that professors receive necessary resources and that the university continues to invest in upgraded technology.

You can make your gift today by visiting [www.towson.edu/supportTU](http://www.towson.edu/supportTU), using the enclosed envelope or calling the Development Office toll free, 1-866-301-3375. Thank you!

## Opening doors for student-athletes: Jay Wasserman '87

Athletics are a big part of college life at Towson University. Now in its 30th year of NCAA Division I competition, the Tiger intercollegiate athletics program sponsors 20 sports, and belongs both to the Colonial Athletic Association and the Eastern College Athletic Conference.

Jay Wasserman '87 is a long-time friend of Tiger athletics. He was a defensive back on the Tiger football team from 1983 to 1987. Now he serves on the Tiger Athletic Fund Board and is a member of the Blazer Club.



Drew, Casey, Bryce, Christina and Jay Wasserman



Wasserman, #9, on the field

"Participating as a student athlete gave me the experience and discipline that has given me an edge in my career. My three sons are each involved in sports. I want to teach them to take advantage of the opportunities they are given by working hard and competing in everything they do. I want to instill in them that if you put in the effort, you'll be rewarded. I was given opportunities at Towson, and I worked hard and had a great time in my years on campus.

All of this carries over into who I am today.

The Towson athletic program has come a long way. Its facilities are now some of the best in the country in our division, which really puts us on the map. I think Towson has the talent to begin competing for championships; however, we cannot be satisfied with just competing. We need to ensure all coaches and faculty members are provided the necessary tools to produce champions in

the classroom as well as champions on the field.

What inspires me to give to Towson athletics? As I get older, I want to make sure that others have the opportunity to do what I was able to do—that they have resources to both have the experience of playing as part of a team and get a great education. I want to make sure that we're able to build on the progress we've made in affording opportunities to the next generation."  
—Jay Wasserman '87



Jazz Morales

### OPENING DOORS TO STUDENT SUCCESS: GEE '96 AND NICOLE '96 ROBERSON

Freshman Jazz Morales is the first recipient of the Gee and Nicole Roberson Endowed Scholarship.

Established in 2008 by the Robersons, it provides need-based support to students from the Bronx and Manhattan who have demonstrated dedication and perseverance in their academic pursuits.

Gee Roberson '96 is president of the hip-hop division of Atlantic Records and CEO of his own management company, Hiphop Since 1978, which manages Kanye West and Lil Wayne. His wife, Nicole Johnson Roberson '96, a clinical therapist for children and adolescents, is president of Teen Diaries, a multimedia company specializing in positive programming for young women.

Gee Roberson, originally from the Bronx, says TU donors paved the way for his success and he wants students in New York City to have the same opportunities. He also hopes this endowment will energize others to support the next generation of students.

Morales says, "The Robersons have given students a wonderful gift. My attendance at TU would have been really tough on my family without this help. I'm so grateful and excited—for this opportunity now to follow my dreams."



## Inspired to open doors for others: Douglas '80 and Therese Erdman

The Center for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (CAASD) at Towson University was established in February 2008 with a gift from Douglas '80 and Therese Erdman to "empower young adults who have ASD to keep learning and to live life to their fullest." The center's mission is education-oriented, aiming to improve quality of life for adults with ASD and their families by educating employers, caregivers and the community about the needs of this unique population, and providing learning and research opportunities for Towson University students.



Ross, Doug, Travis and Therese Erdman

"My wife, Therese, and I have been exceptionally blessed in life with two wonderful children. Our oldest, Travis, is 19. In the near future, Travis will graduate from college. He will become gainfully employed. He will raise a family. He will become a productive member of society. He will give more back to his community than what he will receive.

Our youngest, Ross, is 17. He attends Kennedy Krieger High School. He is autistic. In the near future, Ross will complete his allowed time in high school. He would then like to have the same things in life as his big brother. But he can't—at least not without an extraordinary amount of very specialized assistance.

Ross is no different than thousands of other young adults with autism in Maryland now matriculating through the safe environment of our secondary schools and moving into adulthood—an adulthood where virtually no support systems exist.

Our vision was to create a program to assist these young autistic adults achieve the very basic goal in life of

becoming productive and welcome members of their community. This is where Towson University stepped in. Through the remarkable efforts of many faculty and staff, Towson University is taking our vision and making it a reality.

It was said that our financial contribution to start this program was generous. It was not. It was selfish. The generosity comes from those who are giving their time and energy to bringing this program to life.

My college education and life at Towson University left me well prepared for my future. I can sleep a whole lot better at night now knowing that, with this program, Towson University can do the same for my son and this very deserving population of young autistic adults in our community."

—Douglas Erdman '80

**For more information on the Center for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders, visit [www.towson.edu/chp/caasd](http://www.towson.edu/chp/caasd).**

**"Our vision was to create a program to assist autistic adults become productive and welcome members of their community."**



TU welcomes Daniel J. McCarthy '75/'83 as the incoming president of the Towson University Foundation board of directors. McCarthy has more than 25 years of experience in institutional advancement and external affairs, most recently serving as campaign counsel for Towson's current capital campaign and as a member of the TU Board of Visitors. McCarthy assumed the position October 22.

## In Memoriam

### Alumni

**Mary D. Wright '34**

**Dorothy E. Anderson '35**  
June 27, 2008

**Ray V. McManis '70**  
April 19, 2008

**Karl Nelson '87**  
June 24, 2008

**Jennifer Ahlstrom Kelly '92**  
April 2, 2008

### Faculty

**Stephanie Raffa**, a physician assistant, died August 13, 2008. She worked in the TU Health Center where she cared for many Towson students.

**Frank R. Milio**, an associate professor of chemistry, died December 20, 2008. During his 39 years at TU, he not only mentored countless students but also advocated to retain chemistry as a major at Towson. Recently he was instrumental in establishing the forensic chemistry program.

## 1970s

**Edward Fotheringill '73 PSYC** published *Halfmoon Confidential*, the third volume of a trilogy that explores the ethical and spiritual dimensions of human nature and offers pathways to illumination. Fotheringill is writing a commissioned biography of Rene DeBrabander, a retired TU professor.

**William Owings '73 ENGL/EDUC** and his wife, Leslie Kaplan, received the Charles Clear Research Award for research and scholarship that benefited the Commonwealth of Virginia. A former English teacher in Baltimore County, Owings has spent the last 10 years in higher education

and is professor of educational leadership at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va.

**Linda Goodale '74/'80 M.Ed.** has been teaching at Our Lady of Victory School in Baltimore County for 35 years.

**Thomas B. Beyard '77 GEOG** earned his MBA degree from TUI University in Cypress, Calif., last August. Employed by the city of Westminster, Md., since 1987, he is director of planning, zoning and development and a zoning administrator. Since 1982 he has served in the U.S. Army Reserve and the Maryland Army National Guard, and is a command sergeant major with the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade. He deployed to Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan in 2006-2007 and was awarded the Bronze Star.

**Vernonette M. Gaddy '79 ECED**, a creator of computerized postcards and greeting cards, has had her artwork accepted for sale by the Baltimore Museum of Art and the American Visionary Art Museum.

## 1980s

**Marjorie Och '82 MUSC** was promoted to professor at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va., where she teaches art history.

**Reverend Anthony Brown '85/'95 M.S.** heads Dream 4 It, Inc., a new foundation that distributed more than \$1,700 in educational scholarships. Brown is also local singer and staff minister at the Morning Star Baptist Church in Catonsville, Md.

**Sharon Leggett-Peterson '87** has released a self-published book titled *Some Men, Women, Girls, and Boys Like Mast Love Poems*.

**Kenneth M. Cooper '87** wrote *Scripted Prayers: A Sacred Treasury to Transform the Heart*, published by Christian self-publisher Xulon Press. "This inspirational book offers encouragement, strength and spiritual refreshment as readers meditate on the meaningful Bible verses and their accompanying prayer themes."

**John E. Derr '88** and his wife, Laurie, announce the birth of their son, Joshua,

Sept. 21, 2008. Joshua joins Savannah, 13, Lacey, 9, and Brady, 1. John owns The LornaDave Agency, an agency for people in television news and entertainment. He is also the weekend anchor at WFMZ-TV in Allentown, Pa.

**Angela Vogel '88 ENGL** had her poem, "Love Song for Manga," selected by Mark Strand for inclusion in the anthology, *Best New Poets 2008*.

**Donald A. Crawley '89 ACCT**, assistant chief examiner for the Maryland Insurance Administration, was appointed vice president of career development seminar of the Society of Financial Examiners, a society for examiners of insurance companies, banks, savings and loans and credit unions.

## 1990s

**Bryan Thaler '97 BUAD** was appointed treasurer of the Towson University Foundation. A former president of the TU Alumni Association, Thaler is an investment counselor with Van Sant & Mewshaw.

**Karen Wood '91 POSC/HIST** published *The Edge of Depression: God, Drugs and Recovery* in November of 2008, which is based on her real-life battle with depression in summer 2007.

**Vicki Van Schaick Keyes '92 M.A./'97 M.S.**, a school psychologist, and her husband, Ray, have two daughters, Rachael and Addison.

**Stephanie Kleiner-Morrissey '92 PSYC** gave birth to twin boys last March and completed her term as president of the Colorado Psychological Association. She is a clinical psychologist in private practice at the Denver Veterans Administration Medical Center. Stephanie, her husband Marcus, and sons live in Lakewood, Co.

**Tonya Waller Primus '93 BUAD** and her husband, Gregory, welcomed their daughter Gabrielle Love on Aug. 24, 2008. Gabrielle joins her brother, Gregory Langson, 1. The family lives in Chicago, where Tonya recently opened a new law firm focusing on real estate issues. The Primus firm continues to practice law in Washington, D.C., and Maryland.



Nicole Johnson Roberson '96 launched T.E.E.N. Diaries to help girls ages 13-22 transition into adulthood.



# Taking the Bite Out of Malaria



## Amanda Gutin '08

Towson's "Associate" travels to Tanzania to distribute lifesaving mosquito nets

Amanda Gutin '08 is creating a buzz—literally.

Gutin became part of a 16-member team that travelled to the Karatu district in Tanzania to distribute more than 60,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets to 21 African villages.

Gutin won "The Associate" competition, the College of Business and Economics' adaptation of the NBC reality series *The Apprentice*. That victory also led to a position as a foundation-marketing associate at St. Joseph Medical Center in Towson, which sponsored the trip with Catholic Health Initiatives.

The mosquito-net project aims to reduce the rampant spread of malaria, a disease primarily transmitted by mosquitoes. At present, 90 percent of the world's one million malaria cases occur in Africa, but infection rates may shrink if villagers have mosquito nets over their beds.

Getting the nets to those who need them is the first priority.

Although Gutin says the distribution went smoothly, "We had to be culturally sensitive and respect the way certain things are done in Tanzania." First there was a ceremonial presentation of the nets. Then coordinators took charge, assigning specific numbers of nets to each sub-village chairman.

To determine how many nets each village needed, a survey identified the number of beds per household. Each bed received one net, but Gutin says, "Sometimes up to four people sleep in a bed and under a net."

For Gutin, the nearly 20-hour flight was worth the exhaustion because she had the opportunity to meet and help African villagers.

"The villagers live in poorly ventilated mud huts, wore ragged clothes and had to walk miles to the nearest water collection vessel," she says. Despite their poverty, Gutin noticed the joy of the villagers she encountered.

"These people, who have nothing in our eyes, were happy, giving, loving individuals who welcomed our group with open arms," she says.

Now back in the United States, Gutin is completing her six-month fellowship at St. Joe's and is eager to determine whether the nets will prevent the incidence of malaria in the areas she visited. She also plans to start raising funds to provide more protective nets.

"Karatu has 45 villages, but we only had enough funding to cover 21," she explains. "It is crazy to think that a simple \$5 can purchase a bed net, which in turn can save a life."

—Melissa Kviz

## Ellyn Karasick Schindler '93 MCOM

was promoted to director of community relations for Sanofi Pasteur U.S., part of the Sanofi-aventis Group, a pharmaceutical company. Schindler lives in Lehigh Valley, Pa., with her husband and two children.

## Sabrina Freeman Howard '94 BUAD

married Eston Payne Howard Jr. on May 24, 2008 at Spirit of Faith Christian Center in Brandywine, Md. **Tanya Brown '94** was maid-of-honor.

## Jeffrey R. Ash '96 ECON

earned his doctorate in urban education from Morgan State University in May 2008. He is a part-time lecturer at UMBC.

## Jennifer Beatty McGurn '96 MCOM

and her husband, **Doug McGurn '95 ELED**, welcomed their third child, Colin Michael, on April 17, 2008. Colin joins older siblings Megan, 7, and Kevin, 4.

## Chris Rizzo '96 ENGL and Kristi Aten Rizzo '97 ECED

welcomed Mack Christopher on June 16, 2008. He weighed 10 pounds, four ounces, and was 21 inches long. Mack joins Nicholas, 6, and Francesca, 4. The family lives in Windsor, Pa.

## Nicole Johnson Roberson '96

and her business partner, Aeshia DeVore Branch, launched T.E.E.N. Diaries ([www.teendiariesonline.com](http://www.teendiariesonline.com)), an online e-mentoring, educational, and empowerment site. Formed in 2007, the Web pages are dedicated to helping multicultural females (ages 13-22) transition into adulthood.

## Meredith L. Sullivan '96 M.S. SPPA

received an MBA in health care administration from Wilmington University in Delaware last May. She also received the business department's award for academic excellence at graduation. Sullivan is the manager of speech pathology services at Bayhealth Medical Center in Dover, Del.

## David Wassell '96

vice president and associate creative director at MGH, a Baltimore advertising agency, was named one of *Baltimore Magazine's* 2008 "40 under 40: Rising Stars" for the Smyth Jewelers campaign. He also helped create TU's "Thinking Outside" television ads.



Robert Richard '04, a captain in the U.S. Army, is a battalion operations officer for the 28th Transportation Battalion during his second tour of Iraq.

# Artistic Traditions

William Swetcharnik '80

Bringing art to Honduras



William Swetcharnik '80 believes every portrait is a portrait of its maker.

Swetcharnik's works, then, are a gallery of his artistic evolution from portrait painter to social and educational artist.

Swetcharnik spent seven years in Honduras, first under the sponsorship of the Arts in America Program. "I was asked to teach a painting workshop at the national art school, but half the kids didn't even have paints," he says.

Much of his art used handmade materials, so Swetcharnik found indigenous materials for student use. "That was the beginning of the Latin American Art Resource Project," he says.

Swetcharnik returned to Honduras in 1995 as a Senior Fulbright Fellow, helping poor communities by supplying artists, teachers and students with inexpensive materials and revitalizing

traditional methods of creating art and artisan crafts. His wife Sara assisted with many of the activities and worked on sculptures of regional animals.

His home was in the mountains and he awoke to the sound of a rooster at 4 a.m. "I would hear the campesinos chopping wood to prepare breakfast," he says.

There was no typical day in Honduras. "I would pack up my ancient Land Cruiser and head off to a village with volunteers," Swetcharnik says. "Some days I would paint in my studio. Some days I would go hiking up the mountainside with a sketch book in my hand, and spend the day drawing and writing down my thoughts."

In 1999, after Hurricane Mitch devastated the country, his neighbors provided crops and livestock for each other and worked together to clear

fallen trees and fill in washed-out roads.

But Swetcharnik notes that Honduran life could also be brutal. One evening he hiked down the mountain to visit a young writer he had befriended and found him murdered. When Swetcharnik assisted with the investigation, he put himself in danger, so he and his wife returned to the United States.

He expanded the Latin American Art Resource Program to the Art Resources for Sustainable Development and Education in 2006. Swetcharnik's project is now aimed at providing art education, neighborhood beautification, projects for at-risk youth and other services related to art throughout the world. Many of the Swetcharnik projects can be seen at [www.swetcharnik.com](http://www.swetcharnik.com).

—Kelly Brady

**Elizabeth Wolf Clark '97 BUAD** received her Master of Education degree in college student affairs from Pennsylvania State University last August. Clark continues to work as the budget analyst for the Office of Physical Plant at Penn State and co-advises a philanthropic student organization, Ohana THON.

**Matt and Sherri Leahy '97** and their daughter, Olivia, welcomed Blythe Lily on July 14, 2008. Matt works for Bank of America in New York City and Sherri is a stay-at-home mom.

**Jack Monell '97 CCMM** was featured by the National Association of Social Workers for his excellence as a Latino social worker during Hispanic Heritage Month.

**Marc Rosenthal '97 MCOM** married Lori Nates on May 25, 2008 and completed his paralegal certification at Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, N.J. last summer. He is a real estate paralegal at Hill Wallack in Princeton, N.J.

**Susan Whitnall Lippold '98 BUAD** and her husband, Larry, celebrated the arrival of their first child, Alyson Bailey, on June 27, 2008.

**Vicki Hess '98 M.S.**, principal of Catalyst Consulting in Owings Mills, Md., earned the CPS (Certified Speaking Professional) designation, the speaking profession's international measure of speaking experience and skill.

**Gina Serafini '98** and her husband, Dale, welcomed their first child, Christian Joseph, in June 2008. Gina is a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force after attending the Air National Guard's Academy of Military Science. She is also a member of the Maryland Air National Guard.

**Kristine McNair '99 MCOM** and her husband, John, welcomed their daughter Ava Marie on May 22, 2008. Ava joined big sister Kate Elizabeth, born August 8, 2006.

**Corinne Coughlin Pecht '99 MCOM** and her husband, Jon, welcomed their second child, Reagan Marie, on August 17, 2008. The family lives in Chesterfield, N.J.

**Megan Moore Riley '99 MCOM** married James Riley of Dallas, Texas on August 9, 2008 at the Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore, Md. She is in her sixth year of teaching first grade at Graceland Park Elementary/Middle School in Baltimore, Md.

**Tanika Smith '99/'01 M.A.** released her first publication, *Cause Et (E)Affect*, a screenplay that shows what happens when things that appear destructive end up working for one woman's good. Her work is the first publication of Pages of Life, a small publishing firm, under her company, Lavender Bell Enterprises.

**Tracy Robinson Wright '99 POSC** and her husband, Kijana, welcomed their first child, Kaden Kamal Robinson Wright, on July 31, 2008.



## 2000s

### **Kristina Wilfinger Foderaro '01/'07 M.Ed.** and **Donald Foderaro '01 HLTH**

celebrated the birth of their first child, Sophia, on April 9, 2008. Sophia weighed eight pounds, 14 ounces. Kristina also received her master's in reading in May 2007.

### **Amanda Gingerich Hege '01 M.A.**

received her Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from the University of Virginia in May 2008 and moved to Indianapolis to become an assistant professor of psychology at Butler University.

**Yell Inverso '01** earned a Doctor of Audiology from Gallaudet University in 2005. After a residency at the Mayo Clinic, she returned to Gallaudet University and in conjunction with Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions earned a Ph.D. in hearing science. Now an assistant professor of audiology at Osborne College of Audiology at Salus University, she leads a group of audiology doctoral students on a healthcare mission overseas.

**Betty Trump Lightner '01 SPPA** and **Ben Lightner '04** welcomed a baby daughter, Bailey Hannah, on June 19, 2008.

**Jason R. Marlow '01 ACCT** was promoted to manager in the audit, accounting and consulting department of Ellin & Tucker, a public accounting and business consulting firm.

**Christina M. Ottone '01 ACCT** was promoted to supervisor in the audit, accounting, and consulting department of Ellin & Tucker, a public accounting and business consulting firm.

**Ann Marie Morhiser Powell '01 ELED**, a fifth grade teacher in Howard County Public Schools, graduated with a Master's in Supervision and Administration from Loyola College. She married Jason Powell on July 12, 2008 at Our Lady of Good Counsel and had the reception at the Museum of Industry in Baltimore.

**Jennifer Cook Peake '01 BUAD** and her husband, Lennon, welcomed their first child, Kyla Madison, on June 6, 2008.

**John W. Hoffman Jr. '02 M.S.** graduated in May from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences with a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree. In July, he began an anesthesiology residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-Mercy in Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Angela Simmons Peters '02 ELED** and **Lee Peters '02 BUAD** welcomed their first child, Lily Claire, on June 16, 2008. Lily weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. The happy family lives in Baltimore, Md.

**Keith Robison '02 BUAD** is a co-founder of PaidInterviews.com and is the owner of Guardian Investment Management.

**Mike Vasilikos '03** is assistant music director and on-air host of WXPB, radio of the University of Pennsylvania. Vasilikos produces and hosts podcasts, live events and "The New Music Show." He had been program director for TU's WTMD.

**Sam McElroy '04**, a MetLife fellow in the Teachers Network Leadership Institute, will research policy issues and make recommendations to address the link between policymaking and student achievement in the classroom. McElroy has been a special education/history teacher at Flushing High school in Queens, N.Y., for three years. He is also coaches junior varsity football and basketball.

**Robert Richard '04 COMM**, a captain in the U.S. Army, is serving his second tour in Iraq. He served as a platoon leader during his first



**Noah Thomason '04** is director of production for *Renegade*, an advertising agency in Hunt Valley, Md.

## Send Us Your News

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

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## Calendar Girl

Trish Lannon '90/'96

Howard County assistant principal is posed to raise awareness about colon cancer

Trish Lannon '90/'96 is a mother, a wife, an administrator and a colon cancer survivor.

Diagnosed with stage III colon cancer at 39, Lannon '90/'96 found support in the Colon Club, a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public about colorectal cancer.

Lannon is now considered NED (no evidence of disease), so with a clean bill of health, she is giving back to the Colon Club by modeling in the 2009 "Colondar."

The Colondar features 13 young men and women who were diagnosed with colon cancer before age 50, the typical age of onset. Selected from hundreds of applicants, the models met for a

four-day photo shoot, where they bared their surgical scars.

The trip, Lannon admits, was not easy for her to make. "The Colondar was actually shot six months after I had finished my last round of chemotherapy, so I was afraid," she says, "but my husband really encouraged me to go."

After the shoot, Lannon recalls, "there were no words to express how much it meant to me to be there. The other people who appeared in the calendar were all in different stages. Their lives had gone on. It gave me hope."

In addition to appearing in the 2009 Colondar, Lannon is also a moderator

for the Colon Club's message board. She monitors messages posted throughout the day to ensure that content is appropriate and that the site continues to support those afflicted with colon cancer.

"The Colon Club gave me so much of my life back, and this is my opportunity to give back to them," Lannon says.

Though she participates in Colon Club activities such as the message board or its 5K "Big Dam Walk" in September, Lannon's first priority is her husband and children.

"I'm trying to spend as much time as possible with my family, because I don't want to take anything, or any time that I have with them, for granted," she says.

In fact, the family took its first trip to Disney World last Thanksgiving.

"You need to own your future and not let it own you," says Lannon. "I do not want to say, and I do not ever want my family to say, 'I wish we had'."

To see the 2009 Colondar, visit [www.colondar.com](http://www.colondar.com).

—Melissa Kviz



Ashley Kurzweil '08, a project specialist for a FEMA contractor, met two former U.S. presidents while working in the Texas areas ravaged by Hurricane Ike.

deployment from 2005-2006 in the Al Anbar Province. Richard is now a battalion operations officer for the 28th Transportation Battalion and coordinates convoy operations from Camp Airifjan Kuwait into southern Iraq.

**Noah Thomason '04 EMF/BUAD** was promoted to director of production for Renegade, an advertising agency with in-house production facilities in Hunt Valley, Md.

**Rachel Barczak '05 MCOM** is a long-term substitute teacher at Shorehaven, a Cecil County, Md., school for students with developmental disabilities. She has twice volunteered to tutor in an English language center in China's Liaoning Province. Barczak lives in Wilmington, Del.

**Dan Dingus '05 ART** was appointed interactive director for Exit 10 Advertising.

**Valerie Heck '05**, jewelry manager for the Buyers Market of American Craft, designed a plastic necklace featured in the Peace & Politics Exhibit of the American Made Alliance.

**Lauren English Miller '05 EMF** married **Andrew S. Miller '06 ECON** on July 12, 2008 at St. Paul's School Chapel in Brooklandville, Md. Lauren is an account executive for Powell Tate Public Affairs. Andrew is a sales/affiliate manager for MEDEX in Towson, Md. The couple lives in Odenton, Md.

**Jacob J. Mohorovic III '05** is a systems administrator with the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development.

**Sharon Thomas '05 M.Ed.** was named 2008-2009 Cecil County, Maryland Teacher of the Year and was one of eight finalists for Maryland State Teacher of the Year. She is an

English teacher and literacy coach at Elkton High School, in Elkton, Md.

**Michelle Connolly '06 HCMN** was awarded a nursing home administrator's license by the State of Maryland.

**Ashley Kurzweil '08 BIOL** is a project specialist for NISTAC, a FEMA contractor in the Texas areas ravaged by Hurricane Ike. She will help to determine eligibility for rebuilding and compensation funds from the federal government.

**Elizabeth A. Terschuur '08 DANC** won a Golden Key Graduate Scholar Award from the Golden Key International Honour Society, one of 12 awards given this year and the first awarded to a TU chapter. A student in the M.F.A. program at UCLA, she focuses on choreography and film within the context of neurology and autism.





## ROCK ON

TU dance students got their kicks from Temple Kane '94 (second from left) last December. The former TU dance major and member of the famous Rockettes imparted the precision and discipline of the legendary chorus line during a master class on campus. Kane, a 12-year veteran of the famous eye-high kicking dancers, was in town for performances of The Rockettes Radio City Christmas Spectacular at Baltimore's 1st Mariner Arena. The glitz, glitter and dancing featured another TU dance major, Samantha Harvey '08.



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## Going to the Green

### Ireland Trip, May 1 – May 8, 2009

Join hosts Dan McCarthy '75/'83, president, Towson University Foundation, and Lori Armstrong, associate vice president of alumni relations, and other alumni and friends on a tour of Ireland. Price includes hotel, breakfast daily, three dinners, ground transportation and admission to the attractions listed—all for \$1,149. Airfare is not included.

### Visit:

- ✦ Blarney Castle and Stone
- ✦ Muckross House and Gardens
- ✦ Old Midleton Distillery
- ✦ Bunratty Castle and Folk Park
- ✦ Kinsale and Dingle Peninsula



For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800-887-8152 or [alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu), or book directly through Joanna Miskelly Cox '74, 410-467-4147 or [joannamiskellycox@verizon.net](mailto:joannamiskellycox@verizon.net). Please mention the Towson University Alumni Ireland trip.