

# TOWSON

WINTER 2011

HIS BRUSH WITH CRIME 14

MAJOR LEAGUE MOM 18

WRAPPING IT UP 22



*Inside*

**60**  
MINUTES

*with Bill Owens '88*



## Stuff A Bus

Towson University served up its version of holiday stuffing, conducting its annual Stuff-a-Bus drive to benefit the Food Bank of Maryland and Toys for Tots. Pictured here is Channon Young, Parking Services associate, cramming a box of canned goods into the bus last December. "This year's Stuff-A-Bus campaign yielded over 700 toys for Toys for Tots and 6,291 pounds (4,839 meals) for the Maryland Food Bank," says drive coordinator, Ed Gizara, TU operations manager.







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\*Available only at [www.towsonalumnimagazine.com](http://www.towsonalumnimagazine.com)



**I**n 2016 Towson University will celebrate two major milestones: our 150th anniversary (yes, we are older than Johns Hopkins University); and the culmination of our newly launched strategic plan, Towson University 2016.

In November we unveiled the second campus-wide strategic plan of my presidency, Towson University 2016: Building Within—Reaching Out. This new plan will take our university to the next phase of development, while building upon the success and accomplishments of the previous strategic plan, Towson University 2010. The 2016 plan emphasizes continued progress and strengthening of current initiatives that maximize our role in providing top-notch graduates and applied research solutions.

With the Maryland General Assembly’s legislative session underway in Annapolis, it is important to remind our lawmakers of the great return on their investment. Towson University is fulfilling its mission to ensure that every student has the resources to graduate and succeed. We were recognized by the Education Trust as one of 11 institutions in the nation to eliminate the minority achievement gap, boasting equal or better graduation and retention rates from minority students compared to the total population.

Our physical plant continues to advance along with our academic progress. This year we will break ground on a new Tiger Arena and open a number of new buildings across campus including the final phase of the College of Liberal Arts building, the West Village Commons with a large student union complex, two West Village residences with 651 beds and the six-story West Village Garage. We will also complete site and safety improvements making way for a new campus entrance on Towsontown Boulevard. Every project will be certified “green.”

At the culmination of TU2010, we proved that Towson University accomplishes a great deal in a short time. With the new TU2016 plan, and a new decade underway, it is clear that Towson is still on the move with no signs of slowing down.

Bob Caret

President, Towson University

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“ We were recognized by the Education Trust as one of 11 institutions in the nation to eliminate the minority achievement gap. ”

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## Building Within—Reaching Out

PRESIDENT CARET UNVEILS TU2016, THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR TOWSON



TU President Robert L. Caret revealed the details of a new campus strategic plan in November. Towson University 2016: Building Within—Reaching Out is the second university strategic plan since he became president in 2003.

The plan highlights five enduring themes that define the university and build upon the success of the previous plan, Towson University 2010. The plan's five themes focus on academic achievement, student engagement, resources, partnerships and sharing Towson University's success stories.

"Towson University will pursue the goals of this plan to support our mission and vision for the future," Caret notes. The guiding principles are: create and serve, responsible growth, an engine of change, strength within, diverse and inclusive, a timeless experience, a sharing partner, able to meet the future and an institution of unlimited boundaries.

The release of Towson University 2016 comes after several months of feedback from internal campus groups and external partners. The new plan will call for all students, faculty, staff, alumni, partners and supporters to actively adopt the plan as their own.

The plan's five themes focus on academic achievement, student engagement, resources, partnerships and sharing Towson University's success stories.

"Building on our rich history and reaching toward the future, the plan provides a bridge to the celebration of Towson University's 150th year and commemorates our continued pursuit of excellence in every corner of the university and beyond," Caret says.

"One of the hallmarks of the effectiveness of our strategic plan is ensuring that it guides all that we do and is present in all discussions about the future of the university," says Caret.

### LETTERS

#### JUSTICE AT LAST

I married shortly after graduation and moved to Oklahoma to support my new husband who was a medical student at the University of Oklahoma. I was hired to teach second grade in the Oklahoma City school district. The rule in the district was if you became pregnant, you could only teach until the third month of pregnancy and could not return to the system until the baby was six months old.

There were three new young teachers: the wife of a law student, the wife of a music student and me. The music student's wife became pregnant in December. We gave her a shower and said goodbye. In January, the law student's wife announced her pregnancy and we gave her a shower and said goodbye. I became pregnant in February. I met with the principal. She said, "If you don't tell, I won't!"

My own mother was an exceptional teacher in the Baltimore City School system who had to quit when she married my father in 1929. My mother-in-law was a teacher in Kansas in the 1920s who also had to "retire" when she married. So I suppose I should have been thankful that at least I was allowed to teach while married, if not while pregnant.

**Nancy Godsey Coats '54**  
Farmington, N.M.

After reading the Fall issue of *Towson* regarding Susan Garten, I am motivated to write and tell you how much I enjoyed it. I graduated in 1957. Two years later and entering my third year as a teacher, I had married and became pregnant. It was with much disappointment that I was only allowed to teach into the third month of my pregnancy. So glad the rules changed later but it took a good amount of time to get the policy changed.

**Madeline Marchione Pecora '57**



Find the scoop on the January 2011 Commencement and the launch of the Tiger Arena, along with the rest of the content of *Towson* at [www.towsonalumnimagazine.com](http://www.towsonalumnimagazine.com). See page 40 for other features of the digital edition of the alumni magazine.



NOTEBOOK

A Pinkout



When it comes to raising awareness about breast cancer, the members of Zeta Tau Alpha are anything but shrinking violets. These sorority sisters pop with pink.

From lights to paw prints to hair extensions, they bathed the TU campus in pinkish hues last fall.

"Zeta Tau Alpha's philanthropy is breast cancer education and awareness and every year the sisters host a 'Think Pink' week in October," explains Brittany Harris, sorority treasurer and a TU senior.

Zeta members had planned to "pink out" campus dining halls for a day. But the cost of drapes, tablecloths and other items was prohibitive, so the

women came up with a brighter idea. With help from Facilities Management staff, they changed the outside lights of Stephens Hall and the University Union to pink and painted pink paw prints along some campus walkways.

The color got rave reviews and sent a message to countless drivers who drove past during the two weeks that Stephens and the Union were lit up in pink, Harris says. She also received congratulatory calls about the lights from Zeta alumni. Many other people stopped to recount facts and stories about breast cancer while sorority members were painting paw prints, she adds.



Healthy on the "Inside"

Women released from jail often lack the knowledge and resources that they need to meet their basic health care needs.

To help inmates take charge of their health both on the "inside" and upon release, seven senior TU nursing students planned and hosted a health fair as part of their community health course.

Forty-six female inmates from a medium-security correctional facility in Anne Arundel County rotated through stations that presented information about

Seven senior TU nursing students hosted a health fair to help inmates take charge of their health.

common medical terminology and medications, female reproductive issues and blood pressure.

"The inmates were really interested in all of the information that we shared with them," says TU student Meghan Connolly. "They all thanked us for taking the time to teach them, which was really rewarding."

LOOK BACK

Thanks for the Memories

On October 27, 1978, Bob Hope performed for a full house in the Towson Center arena. He kept the crowd laughing with his famous one-liners and subtle jabs at the famous personalities of the time.

Tickets to see the iconic entertainer and humanitarian were a steal at just \$10, according to Barry Lowe '71, who wonders



what a ticket to a show like that would cost today.

But Lowe never got his \$10 worth of Hope's jokes and impeccable timing because his sister's birthday party was on the same day. "I always tease my sister that she 'cost' me a chance to see a true American hero!" Lowe says.

SPORT SHORTS

Olympic Splashers

Seniors Meredith Budner and Brooke Golden of the Tiger women's swimming and diving team have qualified to compete at the 2012 United States Swimming Olympic Trials in Omaha, Nebraska.

One of the top swimmers in TU history, Budner qualified for the Olympic Trials in the 400-meter



## Budner qualified for three events. Golden qualified for two.

freestyle, the 200-meter individual medley and the 400-meter individual medley after participating in the U.S. Long Course Nationals this summer. A three-year letter winner for the Tigers, Golden qualified for the Olympic Trials in the 800-meter freestyle and the 200-meter butterfly.

"Both Meredith and Brooke should take pride in knowing their hard work has culminated in this tremendous honor," says Towson Coach Pat Mead.

### NUGGETS

## Partners in Research

Towson University and the Army Research Lab (ARL) have formed a partnership that will enhance education and research in science, mathematics, engineering and technology. Students will benefit from internships and

research projects at ARL laboratories while TU faculty can participate in summer sabbaticals. The program also provides equipment loans or the use of ARL labs by TU researchers.

"I believe [the partnership] will provide tremendous research opportunities for our faculty and students, while at the same time helping the lab advance their time-sensitive, real-world research needs," says Robert Hammell, a retired lieutenant colonel from ARL who is now associate chair of TU's Department of Computer and Information Sciences.

## Best Value

Towson University made *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* top-100 list of best values in public colleges. Towson ranked 78th, a 19-point improvement from last year. The annual list is a ranking of four-year institutions that deliver a stellar education at an affordable price. The list appears in *Kiplinger's* February 2011 issue in print and online at [www.kiplinger.com/tools/colleges](http://www.kiplinger.com/tools/colleges).

## Funding Record

TU received its largest amount ever, recording \$30 million from state, federal and local government agencies, and private corporations and foundations in fiscal year 2010.

Total funding for research projects in fiscal

year 2010 was approximately \$3.4 million, an increase of 81 percent over the approximately \$1.9 million awarded in fiscal year 2009.

Federal funding jumped from approximately \$3 million in 2009 to just over \$4.6 million in 2010.

The money supported basic research, community outreach and teacher professional development. Projects included preparing more nurses for service in the state of Maryland, providing educational and other services to Baltimore's Cherry Hill neighborhood and developing educational programs for those affected by Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) in Maryland, as well as studies on eating disorders and climate.

## Waste Not

At Newell Dining Hall, leftovers are getting new life since a composting program began in September.

Uneaten food no longer gets chucked into a dumpster but instead is put into a composting bag that is picked up three times a week by Waste Neutral Group, a local firm.

It's a simple process that reduces what goes into landfills. Food scraps account for some 13 percent, or 32 million tons, of the total garbage generated nationwide, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Chartwells, TU's dining service, estimates that last

year nearly 40 tons of food waste from TU dining halls went to local landfills.

TU's composting program provides an added bonus. For every ton of food

## A composting bag is picked up three times a week by Waste Neutral Group.

waste collected, Waste Neutral will provide the university with 40 pounds of compost for use in campus landscaping.

"We've been talking about composting for years," says John Brady, director of operations for Chartwells at Towson.

"We knew the students were interested in it and the administration wanted it, but we didn't have a way to make the actual process work on campus. With Waste Neutral, the food waste is taken off-campus, so it's a perfect fit."

If the program at Newell is a success, composting bins will be added to other campus dining halls.



## Ready to Launch

BUSINESS CLASS HELPS STUDENTS MAKE THE JUMP FROM CAMPUS TO CORPORATE CULTURE



Quincey Johnson, J.D.

Each semester students in the College of Business and Economics graduate from the classroom nest and fly into the business world.

What helps make their flight to the real world so successful is Business Cornerstone, a practical class that

for the last 12 years has provided students with post-college survival skills and lessons crucial to the workplace.

“Cornerstone prepares students for the job market by sharpening their foundation skills,” says Quincey Johnson ’83, an attorney and CBE lecturer who has taught the class for a decade. And with the national unemployment level hovering around 10 percent, students need every advantage to gain and keep that first job.

Johnson and his Business Cornerstone colleagues provide that edge by drilling students in three key areas: making oral and written presentations, identifying and pursuing career goals, and navigating the dos and don’ts of corporate teamwork issues, business dress and office etiquette.

“The course is part of CBE’s strategic plan to improve students’ KSAs (knowledge, skills and attitudes) and ultimately career success,” he notes, and is a requirement of all business majors.

Yet whether students concentrate in finance or marketing, management or e-business, one element of the class ignites a universal fear—the dreaded oral presentation.

“The ability to deliver oral presentations is a critical skill for the business professional,” Johnson notes. Over the years there have been some great performers when stu-

dents speak before their fellow classmates. But for others, he says, the results “are not pretty.”

Some have cried. Some turned to stone. Others simply didn’t show up.

While Johnson understands their anxiety, their fears can be quelled with preparation.

“Students who are prepared and understand the proper way to present can become desensitized” to the fear of speaking in public, he explains. “You want perfection,” he tells his class. “Your audience just wants information, to be entertained or just not be bored.”

In addition to public speaking, students must conquer the demon of writing a well-organized paper. “I suspect that students see our feedback on papers as torture, but we give them ample opportunity to improve. A new Writing Proficiency Program provides graduate-student writing consultants to help students with revisions.”

Too often, Johnson says, students prepare a list of facts on an assigned topic but fail to provide an analysis or explanation. Yet this is a key component of their professional lives—one that keeps them competitive on the job.

“The ability to deliver oral presentations is a critical skill for the business professional.”

—Quincey Johnson

“I hold them accountable for everything necessary to make a good piece of business writing,” he notes. “No one wants to read a 10-page report,” he adds, “but if they must, it should be easy to follow the argument.”

The class also offers career counseling by getting students to focus on what they want to do after graduation. “Most students will have a resume but have given little thought to career goals,” Johnson says.

One final transition from classroom to office is substituting business attire for the college uniform of sweatpants and flip-flops. Students must conform to office dress standards and learn that noisy jewelry, revealing clothing or body art can detract from their performance.

But more and more, Johnson notes, “The students have better clothes than I do.”



TU reported nearly a 5 percent decrease in annual greenhouse gas emissions during the past year



## What's New



### From Combat to Campus

Military veterans who have served their country are getting some service in return from TU's new Veterans Center. Opened in September, the center helps students ease the transition from military life to academia. Patrick Young '10, a Marine combat veteran who coordinates TU's veterans services, will help veterans navigate the admission process or find scholarships and grants. Young also wants to make the new students aware of other opportunities on campus, including tutoring. Located in the Psychology Building, the Veterans Center is a place for vets to socialize—it has a lounge area with a flat screen TV—or do schoolwork using a bank of computers.



### Innovator of the Year

Ellyn Sheffield, assistant professor of psychology, has been recognized by *The Daily Record* as a 2010 Innovator of the Year for development of radio technology for the deaf and hard-of-hearing. Her groundbreaking work with digital radio has made radio programming available to millions of deaf Americans. Her system of captioning allows users to read broadcast text on a screen integrated in the radio. Now deaf users are able to enjoy the radio for the first time since its invention more than 100 years ago. Even more important, radio captioning can also be used for emergency alerts, disaster relief information and local weather and traffic updates.



### Fourth Fisher Chair

Elizabeth Duncan-Vaidya, assistant professor of biology, is the fourth recipient of the Jess and Mildred Fisher Endowed Chair in Biological and Physical Sciences. She investigates the neural mechanism, or underlying brain circuitry, involved in motivational disorders such as drug addiction and binge eating. Duncan-Vaidya's recent project explores the impact of caffeine exposure on the motivation for sugar in rats, as well as the role of the molecule interleukin-2 in the motivation for alcohol. She reported her research with two undergraduate student co-authors in a 2010 article in the journal *Brain Research*. The endowment provides \$15,000 per year for three years.



### New Athletic Director

When Mike Waddell became TU's new director of athletics this fall, he came with a 120-day plan of action. "We're about winning, we're about giving diplomas, we're about being a part of the community and we will come out on top in the CAA," he said in September. The former senior associate director of athletics for external relations at the University of Cincinnati was acclaimed for marketing strategies that drew record football crowds there. Since 2006, football season ticket sales rose 122 percent, attendance was up 83 percent and overall season-ticket revenues grew by 170 percent. He also coordinated Cincinnati's bowl games at the 2009 FedEx Orange Bowl and 2010 Allstate Sugar Bowl.



TU has partnered with CCBC to offer students an accelerated master's degree in nursing.



# Stop.

*Bill Owens '88,  
executive editor  
of 60 Minutes*



**Y**ou probably won't recognize his name. He's not Wallace or Safer or Rooney or Pelley or Stahl. But chances are you've seen his work—it airs every Sunday on CBS at 7 p.m. (6 p.m. Central and Pacific) or immediately following the football game.

Spend just a few minutes with the man who oversees the production of all *60 Minutes* segments from idea to finished piece, the one who expanded the reach of the broadcast with a Web extra—*60 Minutes Overtime*—an iPad app and a monthly poll in *Vanity Fair* and you quickly realize Bill Owens '88 may not be a household name, but without him that stopwatch might not tick.

A veteran CBS producer for 20 years, Owens is now the executive editor of *60 Minutes*—the second in command. Correspondents and producers call him the “go-to” guy. They seek his advice. They respect his news judgment.

But he's also the guy who can just say “No.” He'll reject a story idea or

a story's direction. He's been known to insist on a cut, an edit, more information. He's brought at least one correspondent to tears, though not for the reason one might think.

“It's not easy to make a good *60 Minutes* story and it shouldn't be,” says Owens.

To get from a story idea to what viewers see on TV or online each week requires “collaboration, a give and take,” he says. “It's not always congenial and there's sometimes ‘blood on the floor’ following an initial screening. But if at the end of the day, the piece is better, the correspondents, the producers, the editors see that and appreciate it.

“It's all about the story.”

And Owens knows a thing or two about telling a good story.

Just ask *60 Minutes* correspondent Scott Pelley. He and Owens were a producer-correspondent team for CBS for 10 years beginning in 1996.

Together they have told some of the most compelling or frightening or poignant stories in recent history—the genocide in Sudan, the impeachment of President Clinton, the first shots fired in the American invasion of Iraq, and the shenanigans, exploits, generosity or compassion of celebrities, athletes, auteurs, magnates and other icons, whether good or bad, ugly or ravishing.

# Watch.

By Ginny Cook  
Photos by Desirée Stover

*Inside 60 Minutes*  
*with the executive editor Bill Owens '88*

# EXTRA TIME

## Watch it on the Web

Sometimes 60 minutes is just not long enough to tell a story.

Enter *60 Minutes Overtime*, a Web extra Bill Owens launched in September.

The program, available on [60minutesovertime.com](http://60minutesovertime.com), contains short stories, about five minutes or less, which are produced from original content in *60 Minutes* interviews that didn't quite fit into the primetime broadcast. But the comments and images were just too good to end up on the cutting room floor. Stories are also generated from behind-the-scenes interviews or come from the show's 43-year archive.

"These are the stories I would end up talking about at the dinner table," Owens says.

Three *60 Minutes Overtime* pieces are produced each week.



"Broadcast TV is still king," says Owens who points out that the Sunday show draws 16 million viewers each week.

"But our online presence has grown exponentially as a result of starting *60 Minutes Overtime*," he adds. "With the Overtime pieces and a recent iPad app, it's an easy way for people to get what they want."

## NEVER 'ONCE UPON A TIME'

Yet they never told those stories quite like anyone else, a tribute to Owens' creativity, his demand for accuracy and his courage, Pelley says.

For example, during President Clinton's state visit to China in 1998, "Bill knew how to escape the rote routines of journalism," Pelley notes.

Rather than hang with the press pack in the People's Republic of China, Owens suggested breaking away to stand on the howitzer-covered beaches of Taiwan. Because more than human rights, more than trade issues, the sovereignty of Taiwan was the real stumbling block hanging over U.S.-Sino relations, then and now, Pelley explains.

"This was Bill's concept of really covering what was happening in the White House," he adds. "This was news you would never hear from the White House briefing room or a White House press release."

Owens always wanted to tell another side of the story, but he also wanted to ensure that every story was accurate. When the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke, Pelley remembers he and Owens knew it was big, really big. They also knew it could become dangerous, very dangerous.

"Bill looked me in the eye," Pelley recalls, "and said, 'We can never, ever, be wrong'."

As journalists, there's that hunger to be first, and the Owens-Pelley team felt it even more as the scandal gave way to impeachment proceedings. They wanted to break the newest development, and often did. The pair was the first to report that Lewinsky was a cooperating witness for the prosecution, and that for first time in American history, a sitting president had been subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury.

"But never being wrong became our guiding principle," Pelley says.

Yet when Pelley talks about Owens, his colleague-now-boss, the guy he calls "a brother," what he emphasizes most is his courage.

Back in 2003, while covering the American invasion of Iraq, they ended up at Umm Qasr, an Iraqi port recently taken by U.S. Marines.

"And then some wacky group decides to retake the port and pretty quickly there's a big firefight going on," Pelley says. Soon a shell explodes in the air—a typical airburst for a chemical weapon.

"It's the beginning of the war and we still think they have chemical weapons," Pelley explains.

The marines yell, "Gas!" "I reach down to grab my gas mask but I'd left it behind. I look over and all these marines are wearing their gas masks," Pelley says. "And here comes Bill charging up this hill with my gas mask in his hand, exposing himself to extreme danger and..." Here Pelley has to stop talking. He is wiping away tears.

"I always get in trouble when I tell that story," he says. "But that's what you need to know about Bill—his creativity in how he approaches the work and his courage—plain physical courage that he has had in combat and other situations all around the world."

## TELL ME A STORY

Others may cite him for his bravery but Owens says his best trait is telling stories.

He's a veritable encyclopedia on politics, science or pop culture. He holds fact-filled discussions on topics as complicated as the cholera outbreaks in Haiti or the corruption in the Afghan police force.

But he's just as comfortable talking about Lady Gaga or Mark Wahlberg's latest movie or the baseball statistics and humanitarian efforts of Albert Pujols, a three-time National League





Bill Owens pauses amidst the many monitors, panels and slick technology in the *60 Minutes* control room.

MVP who spends his spare time raising money for Down Syndrome because he married a woman who has a child with Down.

“Bill has a combination of excellent ability and leadership,” says his boss, Jeff Fager, the executive producer. “He paid his dues covering stories of all kinds for many years. He has great instincts. He’s curious. He digs. And he knows how to tell stories.”

He’s in the right place. If there’s a mantra at *60 Minutes*, it’s “Tell me a story.” It always has been. It comes from the show’s creator, the late Don Hewitt.

Talk to anyone in the New York offices of *60 Minutes* and it doesn’t take long before the top boss, well-known correspondents or recently hired assistants whisper Hewitt’s name in hushed, reverential tones.

Owens is no exception. “Hewitt was a genius,” he says. He would tackle stories about peace in the Middle East,

*“It’s not easy to make a good 60 Minutes story and it shouldn’t be.”*

– BILL OWENS '88

the space program or what was in Jackie O’s closet. “But the story had to be done well,” Owens explains.

It’s a formula that has succeeded since the show first aired in 1968. In its 43 years, *60 Minutes* has won more Emmy Awards than any other primetime broadcast as well as virtually every other broadcast journalism award, including 18 Peabody awards for excellence in television broadcasting, according to the show’s website. In November, Pelley won a coveted

Dupont Award for a piece on the Gulf oil spill and thanked his team with a champagne toast.

It’s a storytelling formula which seems as natural as breathing to Owens.

In early November, he had just returned from taping a *60 Minutes* segment with President Obama in Washington, D.C.

With little chance to escape the office, Owens was happy to be part of the production team and eager to talk about being back on the road.

“It’s always extremely amazing to be in the Oval Office,” he says. “I imagine even the president feels that way.”

But he admits, “There’s a lot on the line. We have to be thinking about a lot of things at once—how it looks, follow-up questions. Is the president saying anything that needs to be challenged, or that we need to run out and get on the CBS news? We have to be focused.”

He pauses then, and pulls a “cool picture” of Obama and himself off his



Bill Owens (left) and Scott Pelley complemented each other as producer and correspondent, delivering hard-hitting news with a passion for accuracy.



office wall. Technically it's not a great photo—dark, somewhat grainy with a cluttered background.

Then Owens starts to fill in the picture's details. It's at the end of a long day on the campaign trail. "Obama is still trailing Hillary in the polls," he notes, and there's a lull backstage just before he is about to address yet one more crowd, this one in Boston.

Small talk turns to home and family, how difficult it is to be away, how even the children of a presidential candidate don't have much of an answer to "How was school?" or "What did you do today?"

"It's when you see people for a moment and take their measure," Owens says.

The conversation turns to a basketball contest. Did Obama beat the Secret Service agents he played? At the second the picture is snapped, Owens says, Obama turns and gestures with two fingers indicating a two-point

*"Bill knew how to escape the rote routines of journalism."*

— SCOTT PELLEY

victory, and in an economy of motion, those two fingers are transformed into a wave to the crowd.

And in an instant that picture becomes an illustration of the candidate and the person who keeps it on his wall.

Mention the water view in Owens' New York City office and he'll agree it's pretty. But every picture window tells a story and Owens tells one seen through his.

It's about the day he spied what he thought was a plane landing on the

water. "Couldn't be," he recalls. But he grabbed a pair of binoculars on the window shelf—he picks them up to show a visitor—and "yep" it was a plane and "yes" it was THAT plane, the crippled jet Capt. Chesley Sullenberger successfully landed in the Hudson.

Owens recounts every detail from watching the door of the plane pop open to seeing the passengers walk out on the wing to the Associated Press barging into his office to take photos. He delivers such a vivid account of the drama as it unfolded that his audience (of two) stares out the window hoping to get a glimpse of that plane floating by. And it takes a minute or two before they remember the event is long past.

#### **WHAT CAN I DO?**

Owens hails from Oyster Bay, N.Y., the youngest in a family of six. He chose Towson because a hometown friend played football there and a sister lived in Kensington, Md.



“I enjoyed college. I never missed a party or an open bar,” he laughs.

But he also held a part-time job through school and early on began to focus on a career. Owens says, “During my freshman year, I sat down to figure out what I could do and what I liked to do.”

Science and math were out. “But I could write,” he says. “I could see a story clearly like people do math.”

Seeking to foster that talent, Owens went after an internship, a difficult undertaking in the '80s. He recalls a big black binder with pages of potential places to work. Most led to dead ends because the binder was rarely updated. (Because of his experience, Owens recently made it easier for a Towson student to intern at the D.C. offices of *60 Minutes*.)

Eventually, Owens found an internship with the Rouse Company, doing office work and helping with a company newsletter.

“I can’t say those newsletters got me a job anywhere, but they helped me write, think creatively and showed me what worked and what didn’t,” he says.

After graduation, he got a job as a CBS page at the 1988 political conventions. “I remember walking in the news trailer and seeing Bob Schieffer talking on the phone with his feet on the desk,” Owens says. “I felt like I shouldn’t be there.”

Owens made coffee, took messages and ripped copy off the wires. He went on a shoot. “I got there early. I stayed late,” he recalls.

At the end of those four weeks, he got a lead on a CBS job in New York City. He interviewed in September and waited. And while he waited, he dug ditches on a Long Island estate.

The months went by until one cold December day the shovel broke in his hand as he shoved it into the frozen earth. He sneaked into the construction trailer to make one last phone call.

The job was his. Owens became an assistant on the national desk. It was part time, but a unit manager helped him get another job at the local affiliate. He patched together a schedule working about 70 hours a week. He never left CBS, working his way up the news ladder with producing jobs at *CBS this Morning*, *CBS Evening News* and *60 Minutes*.

nuance, something they hadn’t heard or thought of before,” he says.

What’s also unusual is the visibility and accessibility of the top brass and well-known correspondents. Their offices have glass walls. Walk down the hall and it’s easy to spy Morley Safer sitting at desk piled high with books and papers, or to almost listen to the phone calls of Byron Pitts or Bob Simon.



Owens’ press passes are a record of the stories he’s told and the places he’s visited—from Afghanistan to the Olympics to the White House—in his 20 years as a journalist.

### PEOPLE IN GLASS OFFICES

Owens and the staff—nine correspondents along with a slew of producers, editors and camera people—produce 100 stories a year at *60 Minutes* in an atmosphere “not like anywhere else,” he says.

“We have the most experienced reporters and producers in the business and they are treated like adults,” Owens says, explaining that executives don’t micromanage the scripts.

But they do ask questions.

“We want to make sure not only that the story is accurate and fair, but the piece gives people subtlety,

Owens’ glass-walled office also has an open corridor that connects him to the office of his boss—Fager. Throughout the day, they holler back and forth, bantering or solving problems. The hallway door is always open to staff who pop in with questions or reports about a story.

“People are constantly coming up and downloading what’s going on in their stories,” he says. And as if to confirm his statement, a producer walks in to discuss the staging of Broadway’s “Spiderman.”

But that’s another story...tick..tick.. tick..tick..tick. ■

**Ginny Cook is the editor of Towson.**






# His Brush

**True tales of an FBI agent's  
undercover art-crime team**

BY DAN FOX







**T**he meeting is set, the details firm: cash for diamonds. Bob Clay enters the lobby of a Philadelphia hotel, the jewels in a briefcase handcuffed to his wrist. He spots his buyer, who motions toward the elevator. But something doesn't feel right.

"Why is this guy wearing a heavy coat?" thinks Clay. "It's sweltering in here."

Clay goes with his gut. He discreetly touches his hand to his back pocket—the take-down signal. A half-dozen bystanders suddenly transform into federal agents, weapons drawn. They search the suspect's coat to find only a handgun and a hatchet. No cash for the deal. He'd intended to murder Clay, divesting him of the diamonds—and his arm.

It could be a scene from a heart-pounding Hollywood thriller. But for Clay,

# *with* **Crime**

who is really undercover FBI agent Robert Wittman '80, it's just another day on the job.

"I had a few close calls," he laughs. "Yeah, there were some tense moments."

While most agents get their kicks from million-dollar drug busts and international arms deals, Wittman made a career pursuing the priceless. He's posed as a mobster, a disbarred lawyer, a crooked antiques dealer, a university professor, even a philanthropic Internet tycoon—all in the name of art.

As the founder of the FBI's Art Crime Team, he specialized in the retrieval of stolen art and antiquities from all over the world—going undercover to rescue an estimated \$300 million in stolen property over 20 years.

"Everybody works drugs and guns," says Wittman. "Trouble is, when you make a bust, there are just more drugs and more guns to take their place. I would have burned out. With art, I was able to recover priceless artifacts and return irreplaceable pieces of history that belong to us all. Putting away bad guys was a bonus."





(Top) Robert Wittman '80 with three Norman Rockwell paintings he retrieved in Brazil, 2001. (Bottom left) Wittman worked undercover for most of his 20-year FBI career, rescuing more than \$300 million in stolen art and cultural property. (Bottom right) A postcard sized Rembrandt self-portrait valued at \$35 million, stolen in an armed museum robbery and recovered by Wittman in a 2005 Copenhagen sting.



Today, Wittman is a world-renowned authority on art crime. But it's not a niche that he simply stepped into. When he started at the FBI, the Art Crime Team didn't exist, and there wasn't a single agent in the country working art cases.

With no precedent for a full-time art detective in the bureau, Wittman mastered his trade the only way he could. He learned by doing.

### 'Keep the lies to a minimum'

In the black-market art world, Wittman was known by his alias, Bob Clay. His backstory changed to suit each case, but the name was always the same.

"It's best to use your real first name," he says. "My rule was always to keep the lies to a minimum. Less to remember means less chance of screwing up."

While most people will never find occasion to heed that advice, for Wittman it was a rule to live by. Working



multiple undercover cases at once, he had enough challenges without a bunch of silly names to trip over.

"I might have been at a barbecue with my family and my phone would ring," he says. "On the other end could have been some crook in Marseilles or a shady art broker in New Mexico. I had four, maybe five cases going at once. I'd have to quickly remember who I'm supposed to be at any moment. It was hard enough to keep the calls straight."

And the phone calls were only the beginning. Wittman would eventually have to meet his suspects face-to-face to carry out the deal, the recovery and the arrest. Sometimes it was as simple as visiting a dishonest broker in an antiques shop. Other times it meant handing over a duffel bag of cash to mob-connected thugs in a ritzy European hotel suite.

The work wasn't all cloak-and-dagger, either. A year-long slog through a thick paper trail led Wittman to

one of his most famous busts—a pair of crooked appraisers from PBS's *Antiques Roadshow* who used their on-air credibility to defraud private collectors of millions. In another case, Wittman successfully negotiated the safe return of three Norman Rockwell paintings that turned up in a private collection in Brazil. No fake names or clandestine encounters. More important, no hatchets.

### Missing pieces

"It's not *The Thomas Crown Affair* or *National Treasure*," explains Wittman. "There are no hidden passages or secret codes. Most of these guys are just everyday crooks who take advantage of situations and people."

But there are some spectacular stories. One of Wittman's cases—a high-adrenaline robbery of the Swedish National Museum in 2000—had all the trappings of a big-budget heist flick. It began when a series of car bombs rocked the Swedish capital of Stockholm, choking the roads near the museum and miring the police response in chaos. Simultaneously, gunmen stormed the museum and, in less than three minutes, walked out with a Rembrandt self-portrait valued at \$35 million. Then, as if the tale weren't audacious enough, the thieves made their getaway on the nearby Norrström River—in a waiting speedboat.

Of course, the theatrics of the Stockholm robbery are rare. The vast majority of stolen art makes its way into the market by subtler means.

"In 1996," Wittman recalls, "we recovered a battle flag of the U.S. Army 12th Regiment Corps D'Afrique, one of the first African American units in the Civil War. It wasn't worth much in dollars, though it was of tremendous historical value. The piece simply vanished in the '70s during transit from D.C." It had been missing for two decades before it turned up for sale.

In another case, Wittman was contacted by a historical society that



realized its property was missing only after conducting a complete inventory of its archives. The thefts, which totaled nearly \$3 million, had been quietly taking place for years. The mastermind of the operation was the museum janitor.

Regardless of the circumstances—from daring heist to crime of opportunity—the biggest challenge for an art thief isn't the theft at all. It's the sale.

"Good thieves aren't good businessmen. They don't know how to get rid of this stuff," says Wittman.

That's because most serious collectors aren't interested in stolen art; it's too dangerous. Museums and other public collections won't touch it either.

Take that \$35 million Rembrandt from the high-profile Stockholm robbery. When Wittman and his team tracked it down five years later, the seller was desperate, asking a mere \$225,000 for the piece. It was ripe for a well-orchestrated recovery.

So, with cameras rolling and a SWAT team assembled nearby, Wittman sat in a cramped Copenhagen hotel room as a pair of stern Iraqi expats thumbed every bill of the quarter-million. When the cash was accounted for, an accomplice delivered the 350-year-old hostage. Wittman eyed it carefully, searching for clues to its authenticity, finding suitable proof in the fine cracks of Rembrandt's original varnish. It was the real deal. He gave the take-down sign and ducked into the bathroom, shielding the masterpiece against his chest as the SWAT team burst through the door.

### Art history

As a kid growing up in northeast Baltimore, Wittman never expected to travel the globe in search of stolen art. Sure, he'd always appreciated the subject—his father was a collector of Japanese art and artifacts, and even owned a small antique gallery downtown. But that wasn't the younger Wittman's passion. The FBI was.

So several years after earning his political science degree from Towson—something he credits with first revealing the "interconnected world of politics, government, business and art" that served him so well in his career—Wittman turned to the FBI. He became a special agent in 1988.

Fortuitously, his first assignment was in Philadelphia around the time that a pair of notable museum robberies took place in the city. The FBI wasn't interested in committing resources to art theft. Art cases were grunt work.

"Back in the '80s, art theft wasn't a priority at the bureau. It was thought of as a victimless crime," he says.

It was the perfect job for a rookie. Wittman and his partner were assigned the case, and within a few months, he made the first art recovery of his career: a bronze bust by French sculptor Rodin. Though he briefly shuttled to other units—corruption and drugs—he quickly returned to art. He was hooked.

Wittman spent a year studying art history at Pennsylvania's famed Barnes Foundation, soon able to spot the difference between a Cezanne and a Renoir, between canvas and wood. Something, he says, most cops—and indeed most art thieves—could not.

For 15 years, he built his reputation as the *de facto* FBI expert on art crime, his highest-value case taking place in 2003 when he recovered an original copy of the Bill of Rights valued at \$100 million. In 2005, the FBI formally created the eight-agent Art Crime Team, appointing Wittman senior investigator.

### Out of the shadows

Although officially retired since 2008, Wittman continued to work undercover for the bureau until 2010. His final undercover operation took place in March, when he assisted in the recovery of a \$1 million Juan Gris painting in Miami.

In the summer of 2010, he pub-

lished his memoir, *Priceless*, and embarked on a press junket to promote the book. Since then, Wittman has been very much in the public eye.

"I loved the undercover work, but since the book has a big old picture of me on it—that's the end of that," he laughs.

Wittman now operates a museum security firm, Robert Wittman, Inc., which offers security consulting and investigations. His business partner is his wife of 28 years, Donna.

*Priceless* has won national critical acclaim and become a *New York Times* bestseller. It's even been optioned for a feature film by producer Graham King, whose work includes

**"I was able to recover priceless artifacts and return irreplaceable pieces of history. Putting away bad guys was a bonus."**

such big-screen successes as *Blood Diamond* and *The Departed*.

It's a surreal experience for a man who spent his career undercover. For 20 years as an agent, Wittman was ever in the shadows, ducking to the back of the room during press conferences and asking newspapers not to print his name in the very articles that lauded his accomplishments.

"Now here I am posing for photos in the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*, doing interviews for cable news," Wittman says. "I've got my own website. And you know what? I'm living my life without the worry of being found out. It's liberating." ■

Dan Fox is a senior editor in University Relations.

# MAJOR LEAGUE

# MOM

*By Jan Lucas*





*Shonda Brewer Schilling understood what it took to be a star pitcher's wife.*

*Understanding a son with Asperger's Syndrome was a whole new ballgame.*

At the outset of her marriage, Shonda Brewer Schilling '91 expected to be a great wife and, in time, a great mother. Maybe even perfect.

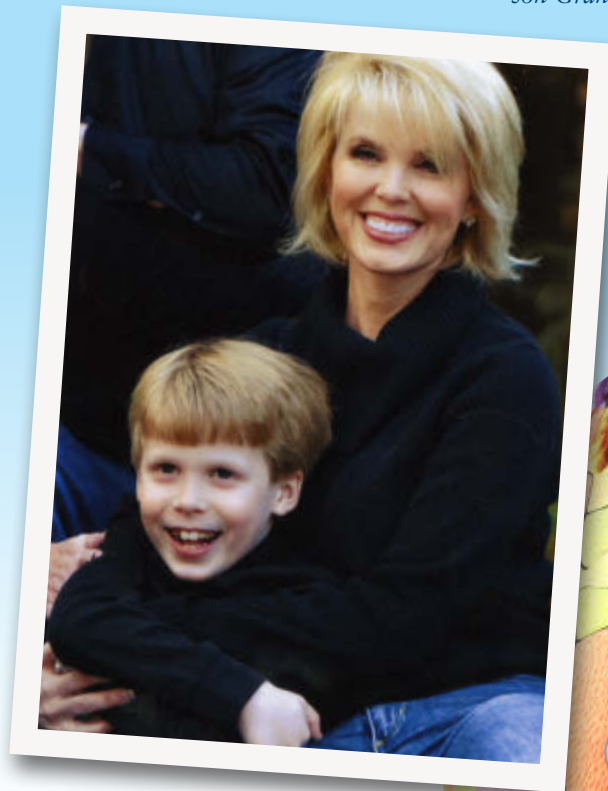
Based on her achievements thus far, it seemed like a pretty safe bet.

Growing up in a Dundalk, Md., row house, Schilling combined her love for team sports with a rock-solid work ethic, qualities that propelled her to Female Athlete of the Year honors at Dundalk High. She worked her way through community college, completed an internship at WJZ-TV, then transferred to Towson in the late '80s for a B.S. degree in mass communication. Soon after graduating she landed a job as an associate producer with Hometeam Sports, working Orioles, Capitals and Bullets home games.

That fall she began dating O's rookie pitcher Curt Schilling, whom she'd met while she was moonlighting at an athletic-shoe store. In 1992 Shonda Brewer married Schilling in the Dundalk church she'd attended since second grade. It was, she thought, the beginning of a charmed life with the man of her dreams.

Then life began throwing curve balls.

Although she knew by now what to expect as a ballplayer's spouse, trades and subsequent relocations could be stressful. (In addition to the Orioles, Curt Schilling pitched for the Houston Astros, Philadelphia Phillies, Arizona Diamondbacks and Boston Red Sox over the course of his 20-year Major League Baseball career.) "You may not be on the payroll," she says of her behind-the-scenes job, "but you're the one who takes care of everything that your husband can't do, be it packing or parenting." With her husband absent much of the year, she managed to keep things running smoothly.



It was a rewarding life, but not always an easy one. Moving to a new city required enormous coordination and stamina, initially to get settled, then to fit in. The scrutiny brought to bear on ballplayers and their loved ones could turn intrusive. Veteran players' wives were tough on newcomers, challenging rookie wives to earn respect and acceptance. "Often there was more hostility in the stands than in the clubhouse," Schilling notes.

Still, the Schillings were happy to help others in their adopted communities, even if they didn't expect to be long-term residents. In Philadelphia they became spokespersons for the ALS Association, which supports people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, known as Lou Gehrig's Disease in honor of the legendary Yankees first baseman.

In 2001, shortly after moving to Arizona, Schilling learned she had malignant melanoma. At that point she and her husband were the parents of three children: Gehrig, 6, Gabriela ("Gabby"), 4, and Grant, 2. "It was horrible," she recalls. "I had five surgeries on my front and back, and I was so busy holding everything together that I

*At home with the Schillings, clockwise from top left: Curt, Garrison, Shonda, Gebrig, Gabby and Grant*



didn't have time to grieve." Encouraged to care for herself as diligently as she cared for others, she eventually found solace in a cancer support group. Then, concerned about lack of awareness about the dangers of skin cancer, the Schillings started the SHADE Foundation to educate people about the disease and sun safety.

By age 34, Shonda Schilling had added "cancer survivor" to her accomplishments, as well as a fourth child, Garrison. But her biggest test was to come in the form of the adorable but perplexingly difficult Grant, her third.

Even as a toddler, there had been signs that Grant was different from his siblings. He seemed unable to concentrate, and even minor change induced a meltdown. Most disheartening to the Schillings, he showed no interest in seeing his father—one of baseball's great pitchers—on the mound. A trip to the ballpark was an invitation to mayhem, with Grant shrieking, crying and pleading to go home.

Still, Schilling says she wasn't unduly concerned at the time. "I noticed little things, but I was just so completely overwhelmed," she says. When Grant had outbursts in public, she cringed and assumed onlookers thought the worst. "People are so quick to judge," she says. "I was sure they decided that Grant was spoiled and that I was a bad mother."

In 2004 the Schillings joined Red Sox Nation, where Curt helped the team to that season's World Series title. Despite a welcoming environment, Grant's behavior grew more problematic. He didn't observe ordinary social boundaries. He enjoyed frightening people. He shoved and taunted other children. Even worse, he spurned his mother's attempts to hold or comfort him. "I'm

a failure," Schilling thought. "He won't let me love him, and he won't love me back."

In 2007, when Grant was 7, his teachers suggested a neurological screening for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, or ADHD. It seemed entirely reasonable, given that his father and his older brother and sister took medication for the condition. Sure enough, the neurologist diagnosed ADHD, but there was more: Grant had also tested at the high-functioning end of the autism spectrum. He had Asperger's Syndrome, a neurological disorder characterized by incapacity for social interaction, fixation on certain objects or subjects, language abnormalities and atypical responses to sensory inputs of all kinds.

For Shonda Schilling, shock and dismay eventually turned to relief. She realized that Grant hadn't deliberately been misbehaving all his life—he just hadn't been able to process information as others did. He was different, and

**"I USED TO THINK THAT MY KIDS' PERFORMANCE IN SCHOOL AND ON THE PLAYING FIELD WERE MY REPORT CARD. IF THEY EXCELLED, I WAS A GOOD MOM. IF THEY DIDN'T, I HAD FAILED."**

**—SHONDA SCHILLING**

it wasn't anybody's fault. Schilling set about learning as much as she could about Asperger's and retooling her approach to parenting her son.

She reached out to mothers of children on the autism spectrum, gathering tips and strategies for providing the

structure and routine her son needed. She enrolled Grant in a special day camp for kids with Asperger's and autism, where counselors integrated lessons in social interaction and teamwork with hiking, swimming and other fun activities.

She met with Grant's public-school teachers every six months to review his progress and decide which modifications and accommodations were most suitable. The Schillings hired one of Grant's camp counselors to visit him once per week to assist with school and social issues. The counselor divided homework assignments into manageable parts and developed a "social consequences map" that enabled Grant to grasp the implications of his actions.

But Grant wasn't the only one learning to live with Asperger's. His mom, with help from a variety of professionals, had assembled a list of tactics that addressed problem behavior and established more control. Some were as simple as offering two choices instead



of asking broad questions, or informing him about events or appointments days in advance. Others were more subtle, like being able to identify the right time to talk.

It was demanding and stressful, but Grant made progress. Still, the family struggled to adjust. In 2008 Gehrig developed an eating disorder. Shonda Schilling began seeing a therapist, and she and Curt, then nearing the end of his athletic career, entered couples therapy. Asperger's wasn't just Grant's issue—it was a family issue.

Now, four years after Grant's diagnosis, Schilling says she's let go of a lot. "I used to think that my kids' performance in school and on the playing field were my report card," she says. "If they excelled, I was a good mom. If they didn't, I had failed.

"Now I'm all right with the fact that none of them is going to be a brilliant student or a great athlete. They're happy and healthy, and I celebrate what makes them unique."

She also learned to relinquish the idea of perfection. "I'm more compassionate and less judgmental. Grant taught me that I can't achieve total control."

Her husband's 2009 retirement from baseball enabled him to spend more time parenting, and that, as well as therapy, rejuvenated their marriage, she adds.

Grant, now 11 and in the fifth grade, can still be exasperating. "It's like raising any other kid," Schilling says. "You think you're on top of the situation, and something else comes up. At the moment we're dealing with inappropriately adult humor.

"We have to remind him that if nobody's laughing, it's not funny.

"But Grant is incapable of playing mind games," she emphasizes. "His love is pure and unconditional, and when he hugs me, he means it." ■

Jan Lucas is an associate director in University Relations.

## A BOOK OF HER OWN

In 2010 Shonda Schilling published an unflinching account of her and her family's experience with a child on the autism spectrum. Soon after, *The Best Kind of Different: Our Family's Journey with Asperger's Syndrome* garnered widespread praise and a spot on *The New York Times* nonfiction best-seller list.

Like many authors, Schilling says she fretted about how her book would be received. "I was very fearful at first," she admits. "I wanted to treat the subject with dignity, respect, humor and sensitivity, but I wasn't sure how readers would respond.

"It has been 100 percent positive," she says now. "I can't tell you how many times I've heard people say 'You wrote my story' or 'I'm so glad I'm not alone anymore.'"

Last fall Schilling accepted an invitation from the TU Alumni Association to return to her alma mater for a lecture and book signing in the Minnegan Room at Johnny Unitas Stadium, where she was welcomed with great enthusiasm. Proceeds from the sale of *The Best Kind of Different* benefitted TU's Center for Adults with Autism.

Although many of the book's fans are the parents or relatives of a child with Asperger's, Schilling says it also has attracted educators and others who applaud its emphasis on inclusiveness. "They tell me they like the message that we should try to be aware of differences and more accepting," she adds.

TU established the Center for Adults with Autism in 2008 with a grant from Therese and Douglas '80 Erdman. The center focuses on young adults who are moving from schools with services geared to their needs to less structured environments with few support systems and limited opportunities for socializing outside of their homes. It educates professionals as well as functions as an integrated, interdisciplinary resource center for educators, researchers and families.

—Jan Lucas





# WRAPPING IT UP

**Terry O'Brien '75,  
TU's head athletic  
trainer, retires  
after a career of  
more than 30 years.**

BY PETE SCHLEHR '71

Above: O'Brien (center) on the field for the last time in Indiana.

If you're looking for T.O., you won't find him on campus.

He's either gone fishin' or golfin'.

T.O., aka Terry O'Brien '75, Towson's venerable head athletic trainer for more than 30 years, has retired. He left without fanfare. His choice. He didn't want anyone fussing over him. Perhaps it's his Marine mentality.

Thus ends a TU career that began as a student-athlete and evolved into coach, teacher and head athletic trainer, in addition to a membership in Towson's hall of fame.

O'Brien served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps during the not-so-popular Vietnam War.

After Vietnam he enrolled at Towson. He played football for the Tigers. He was a kicker—a good one with a career-long 50-yarder.

In fact, he had enough foot to get a shot at the NFL when he signed as a free agent with the Philadelphia Eagles. He also threw the shot for the

Tigers' track team, capturing a Mason-Dixon Conference indoor title. He found plenty of time to make his mark academically too. He was chosen the Baltimore Chamber of Commerce's Football Scholar-Athlete in 1974.

He accepted a teaching job in Baltimore City while serving as a volunteer assistant football coach under Towson coach Phil Albert. After three years he left Baltimore for graduate school at Virginia where he earned a master's degree. He returned to Towson as an assistant football coach. In 1980 he was hired as Towson's head athletic trainer.

For three decades he worked days, nights, weekends. He covered games, supervised treatments and followed an endless trail of paperwork. He missed holidays, family celebrations, dinner with his children because his schedule revolved around an athletics program that fielded 20 varsity sports with almost 500 athletes.



From day one, back in 1980, O'Brien worked tirelessly to improve the university's sports medicine program.

The first day he reported to work at Towson, his entire sports medicine staff consisted of him, another trainer and four students cramped into small quarters in the bowels of the Towson Center. Today, the staff numbers seven full-time certified athletic trainers and a student staff of 65. The operation is located in the spacious, state-of-the-art 3,800-square foot Ford-Vetter Sports Medicine Facility.

Throughout his career O'Brien never stopped negotiating.

"There wasn't a battle he wouldn't fight," says Colleen King '00, one of his many former student athletic trainers who returned to Towson as a full-time professional. "He never stopped fighting for what he believed was right for us."

During meetings, he never left the room without making his point. His opinions were well-stated, especially if they pertained to sports medicine. If no action was taken by the next meeting, he'd bring it up again.

"He was definitely intense," says assistant athletics trainer Dana Parisi, "but his bark was always worse than his bite. I came to learn that what he said was much more important than the way he said it. He's very passionate about the field of athletic training and helping the student-athletes and he gets intense about it."

This intensity spilled out beyond the confines of the training room. For about 20 years O'Brien was part of a racquetball group that gathered at

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**"He mentored hundreds of students and treated thousands of athletes."**

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lunchtime. They played. He competed. He won more than he lost but he was never satisfied with the quality of his game. As a result, he took his frustration out on his Ektelon racquets. His buddies all regretted not buying stock in Prince Sports during O'Brien's racquetball-playing days.

"It was a great experience working with him," says Brian Bradshaw who is now a member of the athletic training staff at Stevenson University. "When I first took the job at Towson I knew right away I was working with someone who had a great deal of experience and who was very knowledgeable. He's the consummate professional."

At times he was too professional. Early in his career he was asked for an injury report on one of TU's starting lineman.

"He's got a bucket handle tear of the lateral meniscus," O'Brien said.

He's got a what?

"He hurt his knee."

Henceforth folks asked for the simple, short version.

Over the years he has taught classes in the Kinesiology department. In 1992 he was inducted into the Towson Athletic Hall of Fame. On a national stage he served on the board of directors of the National Athletic Trainers Association

O'Brien is looking forward to fishing for drum and rockfish at a spot he and a friend know about down in Virginia. On Friday mornings he'll tee off with some old football pals for a round of golf.

Will he be missed around here?

Parisi answers, "In time the university will reflect on his career but right now it doesn't grasp the magnitude of what he accomplished in the time he was here."

O'Brien is certainly leaving behind a legacy. He mentored hundreds of students and treated thousands of athletes.

Most important, though, he enhanced the quality of health care for past, present and future Tigers. ■

**Pete Schlehr '71 is TU's director of athletic media relations.**



This team photo of the undefeated 1974 team shows O'Brien, number 10, in the center of the second row. "When the offense faltered, Terry O'Brien's toe helped keep the opposition out of reach by kicking ... 13 three-pointers in just 17 attempts," reads the 1974 yearbook.



from the



## alumni president

Dear Friends:

As we cocoon through a few more weeks of winter, I am heartened by the knowledge that spring, and all the excitement and events that come along with it, is not far off.

The Alumni Association has a full roster of activities. Travel, reunions and lacrosse are always part of the springtime activities that we can enjoy. We will visit alumni in California and Florida. We will celebrate the reunions of the classes of 1936, 1941, 1951, 1956, 1961 and 1966, and host reunions for alumni from jazz programs, and those who participated in speech and debate events. And mark your calendars for the annual Men's and Women's Lacrosse Bull Roast on March 12. You can also meet us at the alumni hospitality area, which is open before each home weekend lacrosse game this season.

We will also wrap up Growing a University—the Campaign for Towson on June 30, 2011. If you participated in this capital campaign by making a gift, I sincerely thank you. If you have not, please consider making one now. This is the most important statement you can make. As alumni, we need to stand up, donate and have our gifts be counted. Whether it is \$10, \$100, or if you have the capacity to give a much larger amount, please consider making your gift today before the fiscal year ends on June 30. Contact the alumni or development offices or make your gift online, [www.towson.edu/supportTU](http://www.towson.edu/supportTU). All gifts are tax-deductible.

I look forward to seeing you on campus. Go Tigers!

Lou Dellenger '74  
President  
Towson University Alumni Association

## Lacrosse Fans Wanted

CHECK OUT THE ALUMNI HOSPITALITY AREA

The Hospitality Area hosted by the Alumni Office and the Alumni Association is back this spring at the Auburn Pavilion before weekend home lacrosse games. You can enjoy free light fare—hotdogs, chips, veggies and dip, soda and water—along with a cash bar. Parking is \$5. For more information, e-mail [alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu), or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 410-704-2234.

### SCHEDULE FOR THE ALUMNI HOSPITALITY AREA AT THE AUBURN PAVILION

Please note: TV coverage could change game times. Confirm with sports box office, 410-704-2244.

#### TU vs. Johns Hopkins

Saturday, Feb. 19  
Auburn Pavilion: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Game: 12 noon

#### TU vs. Loyola

Saturday, Feb. 26  
Auburn Pavilion: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Game: 12 noon

#### TU vs. University of Maryland

Saturday, March 12  
Auburn Pavilion: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Game: 12 noon

*\*Men's and Women's Annual Bull Roast in the Towson Center follows the men's game*

#### TU vs. Stony Brook

Saturday, March 19  
Auburn Pavilion: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Game: 1 p.m.

#### TU vs. Hofstra

Saturday, April 2  
Auburn Pavilion: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Game: 12 noon

#### TU vs. Massachusetts

Saturday, April 9  
Auburn Pavilion: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Game: 1 p.m.

#### TU vs. Saint Joseph's

Saturday, April 30  
Auburn Pavilion: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Game: 7:30 p.m.

## Play Towsonopoly

TU'S VERSION OF MONOPOLY NOW FOR SALE

Towsonopoly debuted on Nov. 6 at a fundraising tournament and gala. Now TU's version of Monopoly is for sale. The limited-edition game created by the Alumni Association in collaboration with TU staff costs \$100, which includes a \$75 tax-deductible contribution to the Alumni Association to support alumni programs, benefits and services.

Get your game today and become the owner of Ward and West Halls or the historic Auburn House, build residence halls and become a Towson superstar. But beware the pitfalls—academic probation, parking fines, lab fees. It makes a great gift for a Towson graduate, friend or student. Contact [alumni@towson.edu](mailto:alumni@towson.edu) or order online at [www.tutigertracks.com/towsonopolygame](http://www.tutigertracks.com/towsonopolygame).







## Remembering



### < A Tribute to Honor Elizabeth Wainio '95, who perished on Flight 93

Each year since the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, friends and family have gathered to commemorate the life of Honor Elizabeth Wainio '95, who died when Flight 93 crashed in Shanksville, Pa. This year the event was held at the Ropewalk Tavern in Federal Hill on Sept. 23, 2010. The Wainio family, Esther Heymann '72, Ben, Sarah and Tom Wainio and many other family, friends, and committee members joined the recipients of the scholarship set up in her memory. To date 13 students have benefited and more than \$12,000 was raised for the endowment. To contribute to the scholarship, which supports a TU communication major, visit [www.towson.edu/supportTU](http://www.towson.edu/supportTU).

1 Grace Toeneboehn '10, Gary Rubin '69 and Brian Toeneboehn  
 2 Esther Heymann '72, Joanne Vatz, Richard Vatz and Ben Wainio  
 3 Ed McDonald '78, Marc McFaul '95 and Mark Cheshire 4 Lori Armstrong, Evan Ellis Stricker, Carrie Stricker, Kendra Gillespie and Sarah Wainio 5 Mary Wagner, Jackie Hopkins, Lou Dollenger '74, Steve Willett '79 and Bill Stetka '77

## Learning About Asperger's Syndrome

### The Schilling Family's Journey >

Shonda Schilling '91, wife of retired Boston Red Sox All-Star pitcher Curt Schilling came to campus on Thursday, Sept. 30 to share the painful and joyous story of her son Grant's struggle with Asperger's Syndrome. The author of the *New York Times* bestseller, *The Best Kind of Different*, spoke to more than 100 alumni, faculty and friends and later signed copies of her book. The event also raised funds and awareness for the Center for Adults with Autism at Towson University, established with a founding gift from Doug Erdman '80 and his family. See the feature story on Schilling on page 8.



## Celebrating Legacies

### Towson Heritage Celebration >

The first Towson Heritage Celebration took place on Oct. 9, to honor the legacy families of Towson University. Family members may have graduated from Towson University, Towson State University, Towson State College, or the State Teachers College at Towson, but all came to celebrate their connection to a great institution. Families enjoyed tours on foot or by bus and had complimentary family portraits taken by university photographers.



1 Shonda Schilling '91    2 Donna Long, Doug Erdman '80, Lori Armstrong, Shonda Schilling '91 and Gary Rubin '69  
 3 The Rodriguez Family was acknowledged for having the family with the most alumni at the legacy event.  
 4 Jerry Lyle Jr., Angella Lyle '86 and Jerry Lyle Sr. '86    5 Bernie Murphy '34 attended with her daughter Charlotte Sours '64 and her son-in-law Richard Sours.





## Say Fore For Lacrosse



### < Alpha Omega Lambda Golf Outing

The Alpha Omega Lambda Brothers gathered in Ocean City, Md., for their annual golf outing on Saturday, Oct. 2. The event is a fundraiser for the Joseph Ferrante Memorial Scholarship, which is presented to a junior lacrosse player—the “unsung hero”—as designated by Head Coach Tony Seaman.

1 Steve Willett '79 and Marty Quill '76    2 Mickey Maulk, Mark Maloney '80, Kevin Hessler, Dave Nutter and Mike Jones '78  
 3 Bruno Fisher, Mike Joseph, Rick Weber '78, Lou Hoge '76 and Steve Suit    4 Mike King '74, Doug Schweinhart '76 and Frank Berry '74    5 Alpha Omega Lambda gathers for its annual tournament on the links.

## Pre-Game Fetes

### Alumni Hospitality Tent Celebrated Football (and soon) Lacrosse >

The launch of the Alumni Hospitality Tent at home football games was a huge success. The tent, located across from the Auburn House on Auburn Drive, featured free food and sodas, a cash bar and discounted game tickets. Thank you to the alumni, family and friends who visited with us and supported Tiger Football. Please come back this spring and join us in the Auburn Pavilion before the men's weekend lacrosse games. Look for the schedule on page 24.



1, 2 Fans gathered at the TU vs. Coastal Carolina game on Sept. 11, 2010  
 3, 4 TU vs. James Madison University – Oct. 9, 2010  
 5, 6, 7 TU vs. Maine – Nov. 13, 2010





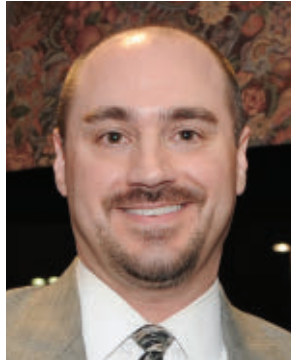
## Towson's Best

### < The 2010 Alumni Volunteer Recognition Dinner

The Towson University Alumni Association toasted its most outstanding alumni, faculty and staff volunteers at the Volunteer Recognition Dinner in the Patuxent Room of the University Union on Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010. Recipients of the Alumni Association Scholarship and Grant program were also recognized as top achievers.



**Bradley S. Callahan '90**  
Spirit of the University Award



**Keith L. Ewancio '94/'07**  
Alumni Association Volunteer Service Award



**Chris Reed**  
Staff Alumni Volunteer Service Award



**Nancy Wanich-Romita '00**  
Faculty Alumni Volunteer Service Award



**Louise K. Fitzell '38**  
University Alumni Volunteer Service Award



**Patrick Mead**  
Athletic Alumni Volunteer Service Award



Scholarship and Grant Award recipients

## The Gathering

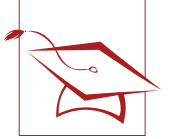
### 2010 Millennium Reunion >

The Millennium Reunion, a gathering of the Classes of 2000 – 2010, was held on Friday, Oct. 29, at the Charles Village Pub to kick off Homecoming weekend and to give former classmates a chance to network.



1 Austin Nusbaum '08, Daniel Blumenfeld '07, Brian Mazen '07 and Bradley Hankoff '08    2 Katie Stadig '07 and Lindsay Topanchick '07    3 Tim Knavel '04 And Lori Knavel    4 Jen Pawlo-Johnstone, Mary Wagner, Patrick Dieguez '07, Andrew Altshuler '09



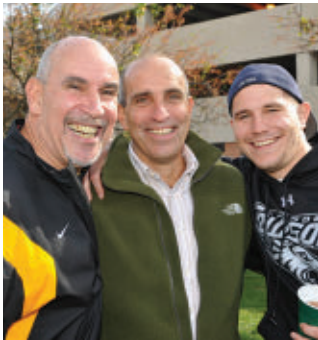


## All That Glitters is Gold



### 2010 Alumni Homecoming Festival and Reunion Row >

Homecoming fell on Halloween weekend this year, making the Oct. 30 celebration on Burdick Field an adventure in costumes and school spirit. More than 38 alumni groups joined us this year, filling the field with cheer. Little ghouls and goblins, princesses and superheroes joined their families to trick or treat at the festival tents. Other alumni enjoyed more traditional Homecoming events including walking tours or watching the dance team and marching band, followed by the football game against the Rhode Island Rams.



*All that glitters is*  
**GOLD**  
 TOWSON UNIVERSITY • HOMECOMING 2010



# Growing a university

THE CAMPAIGN FOR TOWSON



from the

## campaign chair

Dear Friends,

Only a few short months to go before the close of our seven-year, \$50 million campaign, Growing a University.

What does the success of this campaign mean for Towson? It broadcasts the message to our region that Towson is a university on the move. We have innovative, creative and effective programs that make a difference. Locally our work is revitalizing the Cherry Hill community of Baltimore City, while globally the leadership of our faculty is making radio accessible for the deaf. (To read about these efforts and more, visit [www.thinkingoutside.net](http://www.thinkingoutside.net)). Our students are among the best and brightest, and our alumni are going on to leadership positions across the globe.

Again, we are nearing our goal and invite you to be part of our success. Your participation plays a vital role. Let's make this a year to remember—when Towson met and exceeded a historic \$50 million goal and in doing so, not only grew incredible support for our students and programs, but also proved to all what we already know—that Towson University is a vibrant institution of higher education turning out graduates ready to change the world.

*Molly Shock*

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

## Participate in Towson's Success

Whether your personal giving style focuses on leadership giving, consistent support or planning for the future, there are like-minded alumni and friends who would like to have you join them in being recognized.

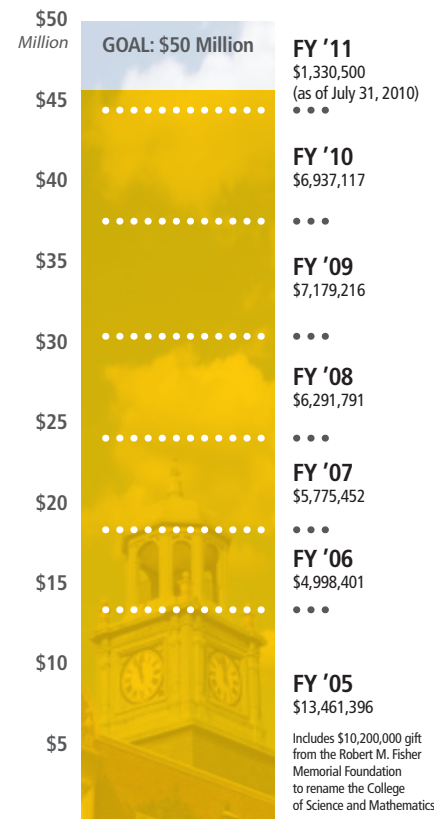
If you are already a member of one or more of the following recognition groups, thank you. If you've thought about joining, consider membership before June 30. Your gift will help bring Towson over the top in our \$50 million capital campaign. Following are some of the opportunities available to alumni, faculty, staff, parents and other friends of Towson:

- The Golden Tiger Society honors loyalty and commitment of donors who support Towson—at any level and to any designation—for five or more consecutive fiscal years.
- The Founders Society recognizes donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more to any designation at Towson during the fiscal year.
- The Principal's Circle gives recent alumni an opportunity to participate in the Founders Society with smaller gifts. Gift levels begin at \$100 for graduates of the last three years.
- The Blazer Club recognizes individuals who make a \$5,000 gift commitment to athletics that can be paid over five years.
- The Tower Light Society honors those who plan for the future by including the Towson University Foundation in their estate plans.

Your participation makes a difference.  
Please consider joining before June 30.

Campaign Progress as of Dec. 3, 2010:  
\$45,973,873

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





## Transform Towson

IT'S EASIER THAN EVER TO HAVE AN IMPACT

There are a multitude of methods and means to make a difference at Towson. Here are just a few.

### **NEW! Give with electronic funds transfer and ensure that you don't miss a step.**

You can now conveniently make a gift without the hassle of writing a check, paying postage or receiving a reminder. In addition to the option of giving via credit card through our secure online giving site, you have the choice to enroll in our recurring giving program via electronic funds transfer from your checking or savings account. You choose the amount and designation, and your gifts are automatically transferred on the schedule you set—weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or annually—continuing as long as you like. This effort eliminates the cost that Towson expends on pledge reminders, postage and other administration costs, and you don't have to think about renewing your gift every year—your philanthropic priority at Towson will receive your support. To enroll now, visit [www.towson.edu/supporttu](http://www.towson.edu/supporttu).

### **Plan ahead to ensure success of future Towson students.**

From charitable gift annuities, gifts of life insurance and securities, your gift today can provide you with a meaningful legacy and financial benefits while helping generations of students find success.



Tools and information on gift planning are available at [www.towson.edu/giftplanning](http://www.towson.edu/giftplanning), or you can call to speak directly with someone who can help you realize your philanthropic goals. Remember—a little planning goes a long way.

### **Think outside...there are many avenues of giving.**

Gifts of personal property, equipment, books and more are welcomed and can potentially benefit students and programs in many ways. Just get in touch with us for more information. Call toll free 1-866-301-3375 or visit us online, [www.towson.edu/supporttu](http://www.towson.edu/supporttu).

### **TRANSFORM TOWSON THROUGH GIFTS LARGE AND SMALL**

- A large gift from you can be life-changing—from creating a scholarship to allow first-generation students to fulfill their academic goals to building a program that allows TU students to work for change in the community. You hope to change the world in your own way, and Towson has many opportunities for you to make a transformational gift that will be meaningful to you and benefit and inspire generations.
- Your gift, no matter what the amount, combines with others to have a powerful impact on our people and programs. Case in point: the Towson Promise Scholarship received gifts from over 125 people in its first six months, which allowed us to award \$9,000 in scholarship support to high-achieving students with critical financial need. These donors kept our students in school and on the road to success at Towson.



## Towson's Deans Speak

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT TOWSON

### Dean Christopher "Kit" Spicer

College of Fine Arts & Communication

More and more, I read that businesses, non-profits, government agencies, and schools are looking for leaders who are creative, who tackle issues and challenges in new and incisive ways. Many of those leaders are educated in the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

Our guiding theme is "Taking Risks and Challenging Boundaries." We highlight collaboration, interdisciplinary learning, divergent thinking, public interaction, discovery and the joy of curiosity. Our students—artists, dancers, filmmakers, journalists, musicians, actors and more—will form the backbone of the next creative class of the greater-Baltimore region.

Your support is pivotal in ensuring that we are able to create a safe place for our students and faculty to take the risks necessary to fully engage their creative capacities. Through scholarships, endowments, and annual operating funds, your gifts allow us to nurture the next generation of surprise-makers.

### Dean Shohreh Kaynama

College of Business and Economics

A gift to the College of Business and Economics is an investment in students, faculty and the community. You can give to a variety of initiatives: scholarships, faculty research and development, unique experiential learning opportunities and community service programs. What's the return on your investment?—economic, educational and societal advancement. You help create



From left to right: Raymond Lorion (COE), Kit Spicer (COFAC), Charlotte Exner (CHP), Michael O'Pecko (HC), Terry Cooney (CLA), Deborah Nolan (Cook Library), David Vanko (JMFCSM), Shohreh Kaynama (CBE)

tomorrow's workforce and lead graduates to achieve professional success from careers with multinational and Fortune 500 companies to entrepreneurial pursuits. You support faculty and their active engagement with teaching, scholarship, service and citizenship. Your support enhances our community through programs we provide such as free tax preparation for Maryland's low income families. I don't believe anyone simply makes a donation to our college; your gift is an investment with high returns.

### Dean David Vanko

The Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics

Why should an individual consider donating to the Fisher College? I think the answer is simple: to provide resources that can be used to do more than state funding alone can

support. State funding may pay the utility and phone bills, equip our classrooms and pay faculty salaries, but it's not sufficient for many other things that we would love to do. For example, this past summer we sent a group of students and faculty to the Gulf coast to see first-hand the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil accident. Educational opportunities like that are not going to happen using our scarce state funds. But your donations allowed it to happen, and I sincerely thank you.

### Dean Terry Cooney

College of Liberal Arts

The College of Liberal Arts prepares graduates to be thoughtful, skilled, and adaptable across a long life. The capacities most sought after in college graduates according to a 2008 employer survey— global awareness, self direction, writing, and critical



thinking—are also capacities that inform continued learning, social commitment and personal satisfaction. The development of such capacities shapes courses and programs in the College of Liberal Arts, just as it shapes our work beyond the classroom through conferences and workshops, speakers and films, internships and directed research, community projects and study abroad. Donors to the College of Liberal Arts support students directly and they support the environment that helps students grow. Thank you.

**Interim Dean Michael O’Pecko**

Honors College

The Honors College is the symbol of the university’s commitment to academic excellence in the education of its undergraduates. Attracting many of the university’s most gifted applicants, we strive to develop future leaders by helping students excel in academics, research, service and individual development. Even before graduating, our students have developed programs to improve adult literacy in Kenya, managed communications for a Maryland state senator and studied nurses’ roles in treating oncology patients.

We count among our planned initiatives more generous scholarships for studying abroad, support for students engaged in research and an enhanced array of interactions through service programs and cultural events with the greater Baltimore metropolitan area. We hope you’ll become involved in making the Honors College an even greater success.

**University Librarian Deborah Nolan**

Albert S. Cook Library

A great library inspires intellectual journeys, guides research and supports learning communities of students and faculty. The Albert S. Cook Library is the center of Towson University’s academic universe and a gateway to the rapidly expanding, ever-changing global information society. Through Cook Library’s 21st century technologies, students have access to scholarly information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Historical treasures and more than half a million volumes surround students as they study independently, work collaboratively and pursue their intellectual journeys.

.....  
 “Your gifts help us strengthen the academic experience of students with journals, databases, books, technology and more.”  
 .....

Your gifts help us strengthen the academic experience of students with journals, databases, books, technology and more. Your contributions help us provide cultural programming, exhibits, lectures and scholarly discussions. Thank you for being our partner in enriching the world of learning, discovery and knowledge for our students.

**Dean Raymond Lorion**

College of Education

Did you know that the College of Education prepares more teachers each year than any other university in the state

of Maryland? At Towson, we understand the critical importance of that responsibility. We need to provide the most up-to-date, researched-based, technologically-advanced teacher preparation possible, and continue to expand collaboration with our 100+ partner schools in public education (P-12).

We ask that you support us in this effort by making a contribution to the College of Education. Every dollar makes a difference, and every dollar is spent wisely. Your gift will support student scholarships, innovative technology, collaborative research experiences for faculty and students and professional development with our school system partners. Your contribution will help us prepare the next generation of educators.

**Dean Charlotte Exner**

College of Health Professions

The College of Health Professions, with our motto “Optimizing Wellness for Life” produces graduates who are specifically committed to addressing the health and wellness needs of people across the life span.

You can have a major impact on our students’ ability to succeed. Gifts to the college can focus on scholarships and lab equipment critical to student training and experience in all areas in the College of Health Professions, including our centers—the Speech-Language-Hearing Center, the Wellness Center or the Center for Adults with Autism. All provide vital community services and experiential learning for our students.

I hope you join us in enhancing our students’ education as they learn to make a difference in the health and well being of others.

## In Memoriam

### Alumni

**James M. St. Leger '49**  
November 27, 2001

**Maxine G. Fowble  
Krajovic '30**  
August 20, 2007

**Ethel M. Long Althaus '71**  
November 18, 2007

**Linda S. Zido '80**  
September 20, 2008

**Judith Ann Whealton '97**  
December 28, 2008

**Betty J. Grisinger '61**  
June 21, 2009

**Virginia Sperlein Gunther '39**  
July 2009

**John F. Brown '96**  
July 27, 2009

**Benson A. Maser '64**  
August 12, 2009

**Wendy M. Baer '84**  
2010

**Charlene J. Pretko  
Kochanski '73**  
2010

**Pauline Ann Hoefflich '72**  
February 6, 2010

**Cyrus A. Karper '69**  
March 17, 2010

**Claire B. O'Neil-Prior '73**  
March 29, 2010

**Arlin R. Watson '78**  
April 2010

**Isabell Gordon  
Shepardson '43**  
April 23, 2010

**Paul F. Trichel '67**  
May 2010

**Thelma F. Borneman  
McComas '72**  
May 2, 2010

**Esta E. Dunn '76**  
May 3, 2010

**Gene Lehman '51**  
May 4, 2010

**Robert Charles Thomas '88**  
May 16, 2010

**Judith McKaig Lloyd '68**  
May 19, 2010

**Margaret F. Nikola '73**  
May 25, 2010

**Ruth A. Yeager Eichhorn '74**  
May 29, 2010

**David R. Lang '73**  
May 30, 2010

**Laurence N. Krause '69**  
June 2, 2010

**Vivian M. Higdon Lynch '42**  
June 2, 2010

**Anne Skone Weaver '51**  
June 2, 2010

**Charlotte L. Fishman '59**  
June 3, 2010

**Allan M. Tibbels '88**  
June 3, 2010

**Jerome Pleet '43**  
June 7, 2010

**Deborah J. Lockwood '76**  
June 14, 2010

**Marion M. Cunningham  
Kridler '36**  
June 15, 2010

**Anne M. Elder '43**  
June 20, 2010

**William Blair '95**  
June 24, 2010

**Mary M. Heflin '88**  
June 24, 2010

**Teddy John Betts '89**  
June 26, 2010

**Shirley Himes Griest '60**  
June 27, 2010

**Anna Belle B. Miller Sirota '54**  
June 27, 2010

**Patricia A. Howachyn '81**  
July 2010

**Georgia Manlove Jackson '31**  
July 1, 2010

**John M. Stonik '67**  
July 2, 2010

**Frederick S. Metschulat '73**  
July 6, 2010

**May T. Raila '78**  
July 9, 2010

**Darlene J. Little El Tohamy '87**  
July 10, 2010

**L. Earl Wellemeier '49**  
July 18, 2010

**Marilyn Asplin Lamb '74**  
July 20, 2010

**Scott Douglas Bednar '80**  
July 22, 2010

**Ethel Rochlitz Betz '38**  
July 22, 2010

**Giovanni Forte '88**  
July 25, 2010

**Doris Ostrowsky Poltilove '66**  
July 25, 2010

**Mark Hollingsworth '88**  
July 25, 2010

**Haines E. Holloway '08**  
July 25, 2010

**Janet Sladky Van Engel '66**  
July 30, 2010

**Kathryn Arnold Cram '44**  
August 4, 2010

**Thomas P. LaMonica '81**  
September 2, 2010

**Iola V. Clay Magruder '41**  
September 6, 2010

**Eris Phillips Bailey '72**  
September 13, 2010

**Thomas H. Crook '68**  
September 22, 2010

**Carol N. Kelly '81**  
September 29, 2010

**Lucie C. Patrick Rosenthal '87**  
October 1, 2010

**Roland L. Unger '72**  
October 1, 2010

**Mary Seibert Hobbs '79**  
October 6, 2010

**Eleanor A. Chaplain '62**  
October 11, 2010

**Lois D. Birchfield '63**  
October 30, 2010

### Staff

**Frederick J. Ladd**  
March 12, 2007

**Edwin M. Logan '44**  
July 12, 2010

**Andrea B. Sherwin**  
September 30, 2010

## 1960s

**W. Lee Hammond '60 EDUC** of Salisbury, Md., was elected as president of the AARP for 2010–2012. A retired educator, Hammond began his 30-year career in education in Wicomico County, Md., as a classroom teacher, then served as a school administrator for 25 years. He was also president of the Maryland Retired Teachers Association and a two-term member of the Maryland Commission on Aging.

**Sherman Silverman '63 GEOG** retired from Prince George's Community College after 41 years as a professor of geography, history and political science. Silverman has received a number of national awards including the Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award from the National Council for Geographic Education in 1993 and an Outstanding Teacher-Scholar Award from the American Association of Geographers in 1995.

## 1970s

**Lynn Hellwig '72 HIST** was elected to the board of directors of the Hearth Foundation, which was founded in 1987 and provides housing for homeless women with children in Tucson, Ariz.

**Blaine Taylor '72 HIST** published his ninth book, *Hitler's Engineers: Fritz Todt and Albert Speer—Master Builders of the Third Reich*. A selection of the Military Book Club, this is the first book to pair the two engineers who served the Nazi regime.

**Robert Frisby '74** retired as a captain in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps in 2007 after 29 years. He is a civilian dentist at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego and treats Marine recruits. He and his wife have called San Diego home for the last 20 years. They have two daughters.

**Susan Hughen '76** and **Kim Hand '91** have been married since June 27, 2009. Hughen continues to work for Northrop Grumman Corporation, a global security company. Hand retired as a golf pro from Pine Ridge in Baltimore County. The couple live in North Carolina.

**Anna Vitale Lybrook '79 ACCT** was named one of *SmartCEO Magazine's* "Smart CPAs" in Baltimore. Lybrook is a shareholder for Stoy, Malone & Company, a Baltimore-based



## Keep 'Em Cookin'

### Angela Davids '95

Website offers support, helps prevent preterm birth



Twenty-four weeks into her second pregnancy, Angela Davids '95 was prescribed three months of bed rest to prevent her son from making a premature debut.

It was déjà vu for Davids, who had spent six weeks on bed rest during her first pregnancy three years earlier.

"I couldn't believe it was happening again," she says.

Inspired by her experiences and determined to help other women fighting the same battle, Davids launched *Keep 'Em Cookin'*, a website dedicated to encouraging pregnant women to "think positive, be proactive and stay pregnant."

"Part of the reason I started the website was that very little was explained to me during my two high-risk pregnancies," she explains. "I wanted there to be a reliable source of current information all in one place, presented in a way that parents could ask doctors the right questions and know their options."

The website, which logs 20,000 visits per month, is chock full of information about preterm labor, its causes and the latest news about preventing premature births. Davids spends countless hours perusing recent studies to share with the website's followers.

"I read everything I can find on topics related to preterm birth, high-risk pregnancy and bed rest," she says.

"The information I publish comes from medical journals, researchers and physicians."

The website also features a forum where women can share their stories, ask questions and offer support to one another.

"I handle the day-to-day aspects of updating the site, but it's the women on bed rest who participate in the forum who make the site so valuable," Davids says. "The support they give one another is inspirational."

Davids' efforts continue to gain attention. In November, she spoke at a Congressional briefing on Capitol Hill about preventing preterm birth. And in 2009, *Pregnancy Magazine* named *Keep 'Em Cookin'* the "Website We Can't Live Without."

For Davids, this is merely the beginning.

"I'm going to look for outside funding from investors and corporate sponsors so that preventing preterm birth can become my full-time job," she says. "I know it's my life's work."

Visit the website at [www.keepemcookin.com](http://www.keepemcookin.com).

—Melissa Kviz

accounting firm. She also serves as treasurer of the Ed Block Courage Awards Foundation and is the co-chair of the finance committee and board member for St. Augustine School in Eldridge, Md.

**John Reisinger '79 BUAD** is the author of *Master Detective*, a biography of Ellis Parker, a skilled detective who came up with his own solution to the infamous Lindbergh kidnapping in 1932. Reisinger will soon release another book, *Death of a Flapper*, based on a real case from the 1920s. He also represented TU President Robert Caret at the inauguration of President Mitchell Weiss at Washington College in October.

## 1980s

**Theresa Canova Norton '81**

was promoted to director of knowledge management at Jhpiego, a Hopkins affiliate, which works to prevent the needless deaths of women and their families in developing countries through improved healthcare.

**Teresa Rongione Burns '82 MCOM**

joined Johns Hopkins Medicine at its Mt. Washington campus as the new deputy privacy officer.

**William Horten '82 THEA** and his life partner, Eric Johnson, work at Osa Mountain Village Resort in Costa Rica as the guest services managers. They also own a bakery in the nearby town of Palmar Norte. They moved to Costa Rica in November after living in San Diego, Calif., for 14 years.

**Traci Halligan Jordan '84 BUAD** has been employed with Pro Computer Service for four years. The company is the fastest growing information technology company in the Philadelphia area. She lives in Medford, N.J., with her husband of 23 years and their two sons, Rich and Will.

**Wilma Brockington '84 BUAD**, a manager with Verizon Communications, published her third book, *Been There, Done That: Lessons Learned in Love & Life from Women 55 & Better*. The book is a compila-



W. Lee Hammond '60 was elected to a two-year term as president of the AARP.

tion of advice on love, careers, raising children and life in general from over 40 seasoned women with diverse backgrounds.

**Irwin Kramer '84 PSYC** is the managing attorney of Kramer & Connolly, which recently relocated to the historic Offices at Ebaugh House in Reisterstown, Md.

**Christina Rumbaugh '84**, a standards manager for the Harford County Sheriff's Office, was named a governor of Soroptimist International of the Americas, an international volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls.

**Don Miller '86 ECON**, a director at Ellin & Tucker, was named a SmartCPAs in the September issue of *Smart CEO Magazine*. The magazine recognizes CPAs who exemplify their roles as leaders, innovators and trusted advisors for the businesses they serve.

**Doug Black '86 ACCT** moved to Chicago in 1988 and earned his MBA from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwest-

ern University. He is the chief financial officer of SeatonCorp, a recruiting, staffing and supply management firm.

**Todd Feuerman '87 ACCT**, a director at Ellin & Tucker, was named a SmartCPA in the September issue of *SmartCEO Magazine*. The magazine recognizes CPAs who exemplify their roles as leaders, innovators and trusted advisors for the businesses they serve.

**Angela Edwards Hutchins '88** received a M.S. in Health Care Administration and an MBA from the University of Maryland, University College. She is an adjunct professor in UMUC's health care administration graduate program.

**Jim Connor '88 BUAD** is president of HoodTools, a new website that allows individuals and homeowners to borrow and return tools and maintenance equipment from their neighbors. HoodTools, which was founded in 2009, is Connor's latest venture. He also founded the internet-related companies ALTIUS Communications, ALTIUS Broadband and Blue Bolt Networks.

**Philip M. Pokorny '89 POSC** was promoted to community corrections supervisor for the Baltimore County Department of Corrections where he is responsible for programs concerning work release, home detention and drug testing. He is an 18-year-veteran of the department.

## 1990s

**Chris Devlin '90 CCMM**, an actor living in Los Angeles, participated in "Fight Gone Bad" to fight cancer, aid returning soldiers and donate to the families of firefighters and police.

**Chris Webber '93 MCOM** left his position as the information assurance deputy director at the White House to become chief information officer for the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

**Bernie Gerst '94**, TU's chief of police and assistant vice president, was elected as the 49th president of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association.

**Tom Johnson '94 MCOM** was named managing director and head of mergers and

## 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Here's my news (please use a separate sheet of paper if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

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acquisitions at the Abernathy MacGregor Group, a leading financial communications firm based in New York City.

**Amy Smith Wildey '94 ELED** and **Ian Wildey '95 BIOL** welcomed their third child on August 14. Henry James joined big brothers Spencer, 6, and Charlie, 3. Ian is a senior scientist at DuPont Co., and Amy works part-time as a school psychologist for the Radnor School District.

**John J. Bailer Jr. '95 ECON**, a major in the U.S. Army, wrote *Army Business Transformation*, which explores the efficacy of transforming the army using corporate business models.

**Jennifer Schaus '95 SOSC** is principal of a government consulting firm in Washington, D.C., that helps firms that wish to sell products or services to the U.S. government. She is on the board of directors of the Virginia Opera.

**Richard Holley '96 OCHT** ran in the Army Ten-Miler on October 24. He finished the race in 1:30:08 and finished 7,928 out of 21,636 participants. The annual race weekend is sponsored by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington and is held in Washington, D.C.

**Elizabeth Wolf Clark '97 BUAD** was elected vice president for Annual Meetings for the eastern region of APPA (ERAPPA), the professional organization for educational facilities professionals. Clark also works as a budget analyst for the Office of Physical Plant at The Pennsylvania State University.

**Neal Gluckman '97 MCOM** is an account executive at Turner Sports in New York City, who handles advertising and sponsorship sales for all NBA, MLB, PGA, NCAA and NASCAR programming on TNT and TBS.

**Sharon Karaskavicz Shumway '98/'03 M.Ed.**, a reading specialist at Owings Mills Elementary, and her husband, Jason, welcomed their second daughter, Macy Lynn, on July 16. She weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces. Macy joins big sister, Megan Marie, 2 ½.

**Alex Milovic '99 MKTG** and his wife, Mary, welcomed their son, Alex IV, on December 16, 2009. Milovic completed his MBA in strategic marketing at DePaul University while working as a senior analyst at Goldman Sachs. He received a

## The Jazz Man Gregory Thompkins '89

Bringing music education  
back into Baltimore City  
classrooms



Gregory Thompkins '89 fell in love with jazz at a young age.

After joining the band of his elementary school, he and fellow band members attended a Maynard Ferguson concert. "We were coming in late and had to walk in front of the band," he recalls. "The saxophone player jumped up and improvised a solo, and I thought, 'That's the most awesome thing I have ever seen. That's what I want to do.'"

Now the saxophone player who performs on area/national stages with his jazz band, The Greg Thompkins Quartet, wants to ignite that passion for jazz in other kids.

As music director of the Baltimore Jazz Education Project (BJEP), a non-profit foundation, Thompkins provides inner-city middle school students with private music lessons. Budding musicians learn to play songs, read music and perform for live audiences—and everyone gets an instrument to take home for practice.

It is a job he finds rewarding...and challenging.

"Many of these kids come from homes that aren't stable. That's why this program isn't just about the music. It's about building skills, self confidence and determination—tools that are key to becoming a successful person," says Thompkins.

The idea for BJEP originally came from Greg Poling, president of Grace Davison Division, who took saxophone lessons from Thompkins for four years. Poling wanted to start a foundation to teach music to children in Baltimore City Public Schools, where music instruction is but a distant memory.

"He asked me if I'd be willing to be music director, and it took me about two seconds to say 'yes,'" laughs Thompkins.

In 2007, Poling formed the Baltimore Jazz Education Project Fund through the Baltimore Community Foundation, pledging \$10,000 per year for three years and has since renewed his pledge for another three years. Thompkins and his jazz quartet raise additional funds with an annual performance on TU's campus.

Students at Winston Middle School in northeast Baltimore were the first to benefit. "At our height, we had 16 students," explains Thompkins, "and our group included a trumpet, trombone and percussion ensemble."

The lessons ended when Winston closed earlier this year. But BJEP won't stop the music; it is on the hunt for a new school to call home, and a fresh set of students to inspire.

—Emily Koch

Chancellor's Fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he is earning a doctorate in marketing.

## 2000s

**Richie Crider '00 MCOM/'08 M.S.** published his first book, *The 21st Century Student Writer*.

**Joseph Gwiazda '00 OCHT** and his business partner opened an occupational therapy clinic, Occupational and Hand Therapy Specialists, Inc., in August. Gwiazda is a certified hand therapist and specializes in hand and upper extremity rehabilitation. He and his wife, **Genevieve Palmer Gwiazda '96 ANTH/SOCI** live in Bel Air, Md., with their two sons.

**Jennifer Jackson Baron '01** was promoted to chief of staff at Endeavor Telecom. She has been with the company for four years.

**Marc Baron '01 KNES** was promoted to senior systems administrator at Atlanta Spirit, LLC. He has been with the company for more than five years.

**Josh P. Gilmore '01** married Michelle Mariani on July 11 in Wakersville, Md. They live in Frederick.

**Michele Morrissey Gunderson '01** and her husband, **Chris Gunderson '00**, welcomed their third child, Benjamin Grant, on August 6. Benjamin joins big sisters Emily, 6, and Lily, 4. The family lives in Towson.

**Meghan Adams '03** represented TU President Robert Caret at Buffalo State College's inauguration of its new president, Aaron M. Podolefsky.

**Barbara E. Little '03 M.S.** joined the Philadelphia law office of Schnader as an associate in the in tax and wealth management department and the trusts and estates group. After receiving her juris doctor degree from Temple University Beasley School of Law, Little has served as a judicial clerk in the New Jersey Supreme Court.

**Mindy Coates Shifflett '03 HLTH** and her husband, Brandon, welcomed their son, Mason Richard, on January 27, 2010.

**Jason F. Grove '04 ACCT** was promoted to manager in the audit, accounting and consulting department of Ellin & Tucker, Chartered.

**Elizabeth Borowsky '05 MUSC** was interviewed about her premiere of Dick Smith's life-long musical work, "Life: An Impromptu." The interview aired on National Public Radio's "The Story" on November 15.

**Erin Holmes '05**, a Boston-area opera singer, performed the title role of Gretel in the Longwood Opera's production of "Hansel and Gretel" in October.

**Capri Testerman '05 CHEM** graduated from pharmacy school in May with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, and in June, became a licensed pharmacist in Maryland, working for Jarrettsville Pharmacy in Jarrettsville, Md.

**Amanda Arnold Benedict '06 ELED** married Erik Benedict and is completing her final year of a TU master's degree program.

**Jeffrey H. Dobin '06** received a juris doctor degree from New England Law in Boston, Mass., in May. While a law student, Dobin was awarded

the title of Distinguished Advocate in the State Bar of California Environmental Negotiations Competition. He was also on the Moot Court Honors Board, a member of the Sports Lawyers Association and senior editor of the New England Journal of International and Comparative Law.

**Nicole Baker Patterson '07 SOAN** received a juris doctor degree from the Elon University School of Law in North Carolina in May. She passed the North Carolina Bar Examination in July and is planning to apply for a waiver into the District of Columbia Bar. Appointed as a Presidential Management Fellow, Patterson is working for the Health Resources and Services Administration with the Department of Health and Human Services in Rockville, Md.

**Allison Randall '07 ART** is a designer for Mission Media, LLC, a creative agency in Baltimore. Randall previously worked as a graphic designer with R2Integrated and Mobay Sportswear.

**Wes Ottey '08 BUAD** has been living in Chicago, Ill., for two years and works as a bond trader at the Chicago Board of Trade.

**Adam Burke '09 THEA** was mentioned in *The New York Times* in an article entitled, "Accounts and People of Note in the Ad Industry." Burke is a social media manager, a new position, at Rawle Murdy Associates in Charleston, S.C.

**Janine Herd '09** performed in the Pennsylvania Academy of Performing Arts' summer concert series in August as a member of the Ariana Women's Choir.

**Lindsey Meyer '10** was hired as office manager for TowsonGlobal.



Barbara E. Little '03 M.S. is an associate in the tax and wealth management department of the Schnader law firm's Philadelphia office.

## Take another look at *Towson*—online

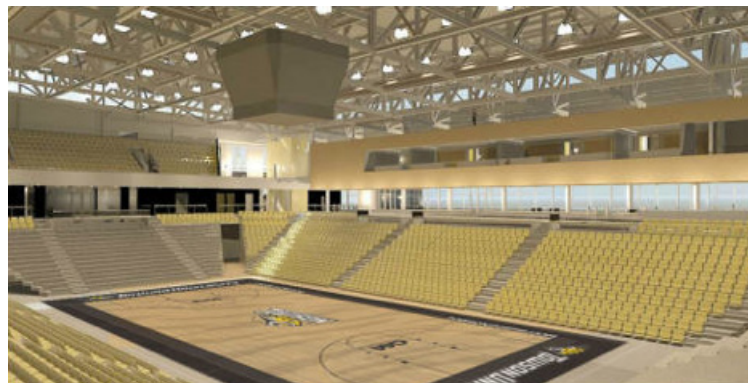
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# Follow The Construction Of Tiger Arena

Website to chronicle 5,000-seat facility's construction

This spring bulldozers will hit the dirt, beginning construction on Tiger Arena, one of the most exciting chapters in Towson Athletics history.

The state-of-the-art venue, slated to open in spring 2013, will be the home of Towson University basketball, gymnastics and volleyball. It will be a showcase of the best of everything for student-athletes and fans with next-generation high-tech features and top-notch patron amenities, including premium club seats and suites.

In January, TU launched [www.TigerArena.com](http://www.TigerArena.com), a website that will chronicle the venue's construction history from groundbreaking in May 2011 through its 2013 opening.

"It's with great enthusiasm that we officially announce our Tiger Arena project," says Robert Caret, TU's president. "Towson's athletics program on the rise and we are looking forward to the day when we are able to showcase this new jewel on our beautiful campus to the greater Baltimore community."

The website will provide updates on the 5,000-seat arena's construction progress and include information for branding opportunities, corporate

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**In January, TU launched [www.TigerArena.com](http://www.TigerArena.com), a website that will chronicle the venue's construction history, from groundbreaking in May 2011 through its 2013 opening.**

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sponsorships plus the purchase of private suites and club level seating.

"As we move our athletics program forward it is critical that we focus on developing competitive differentials that will serve our university well for decades to come" says Mike Waddell, director of athletics. "Tiger Arena will be an intimate setting and a true home-court advantage for our teams

as they compete for the glory of the black and gold."

Tiger Arena is the working name for the arena during construction, and will change prior to the grand opening per naming rights opportunities. The venue will feature five premium mezzanine level private suites, approximately 340 premium loge club seats around the top of the lower bowl, and 120 courtside seats.

Additional amenities include a 1,500 sq. ft. hospitality room, a 680 sq. ft. multipurpose room on the mezzanine and an 800 sq. ft. Tiger Hall of Fame Room on the concourse level. A new multimedia studio will also be constructed that will be the nerve center of all TigerVision operations for both the arena and Unitas Stadium.

Check back regularly to [www.TigerArena.com](http://www.TigerArena.com) for information and schedules regarding this spring's ground breaking. The website will also feature detailed exterior and interior renderings as well as web cams which will show daily updates from the construction site. ■



Some happy 2010 graduates. Click here for more photos. <http://www.towson.edu/main/abouttu/newsroom/photoessay/commencement010911/>

**G**raduates in black caps and gowns processed into the Towson Center during two ceremonies that marked Towson University's 146th Commencement on Sunday, Jan. 9.

Towson University awarded 1,195 baccalaureate degrees, 372 master's degrees and certificates, and seven doctoral degrees.

Peter Lev, internationally respected film historian, received the 2011 President's Award for Distinguished Service to the University. President Robert L. Caret will honor Lev for exemplary contributions to both the university and to the field of film studies during his 27 years at TU.

The College of Business and Economics, the College of Education and the College of Health Professions held their commencements at 10 a.m., followed by the College of Fine Arts and Communication, the College of Liberal Arts, and The Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics at 2 p.m.

The College of Graduate Studies and Research participated in both ceremonies.

Seventeen students graduated from the Honors College. Latin honors were awarded based upon final grade calculations.

The 146th Commencement exercises were streamed live on the TU Commencement website.

# Graduation Day

Towson University celebrates 146th Commencement



**Francis Soistman Jr. '79 delivered greetings for the Board of Visitors at the 10 a.m. Commencement.**

President Caret, vice presidents, deans, faculty, members of the university administration, families, friends and most important—the Class of 2011—I am very pleased to bring you greetings on behalf of the president's advisory group of public and private sector executives known as the Board of Visitors.

Despite our name, the Board of Visitors is no stranger to Towson University. Board members include business, government and education leaders, advocates, major donors and Towson alumni, including me. Although we are all executives that come from different areas of expertise, we share a singular commitment and affection for this great university. To the best of our abilities, when called upon we share our expertise and wisdom—and our

advocacy for Towson University.

As you move forward today to the next phase of your life and professional or academic career—others will lean on you for your talents, too. Under the direction of President Caret, with the guidance of talented faculty and staff, Towson University has rightly earned the reputation for producing highly sought-after leaders. Whether it is in the classroom, your new place of employment, a non-profit, or perhaps your very own alma mater Towson University, be ready to share your passion and expertise with others.

While all of us are here today to pay fitting tribute to you, the graduates, it is indeed also fitting to pay tribute to your parents, grandparents, spouses, brothers, sisters, children and friends who helped you accomplish this milestone.

They encouraged and supported you, and to the faculty, administrators and staff who helped guide you in reaching this milestone. I believe when you reflect on the journey that you



have taken to this point in your life, you will realize that certain character traits such as determination and endurance, discipline and judgment, compassion and courage, knowledge and imagination, to name a few, are the same character traits that will support your journey to reach the many milestones that lie ahead. I encourage you to continue to build your character, sharpen your skills and make a difference in everything you do in life.

As the years pass, I hope you will remember your time at Towson University. I encourage you to stay connected and get involved. You should feel a strong sense of pride in joining its alumni. As a graduate you are joining an invaluable network of more than 100,000 graduates worldwide—more than 80,000 in Maryland alone.

Also, the university's connection and commitment does not end today with this degree—Towson still has much to offer you in the years ahead. So, come back, give back and you will get more than you ever imagined.

I speak for all the members of the Board of Visitors when I say how proud we are of you and of Towson University. You may not have known we were here—but all the while we were advocating and supporting you and Towson, in the background, while you pushed through your studies. We send you our heartfelt congratulations and our very best wishes for success and personal fulfillment in your future.

Thank you.



**Frances Bond '55/'60 Ph.D. delivered greetings for the Alumni Association at the 10 a.m. Commencement.**

Good morning. As a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and a proud graduate of the classes of 1955 and 1960, I am honored to be here today representing the more than 120,000 alumni who have graduated from this wonderful university.

Each of these alumni has a story to tell about the lives they have touched as a result of their education at Towson University.

My own story would not have been possible without the education, experiences, and connections I made here at Towson. You too will have a great story to tell—one that you will be proud to share with future generations of Towson graduates!

Your story starts today as you join 1,574 fellow graduates that make up the class of 2010. Today, 1,195 of you are receiving a bachelor's degree, 372 of you are receiving a master's degree or certificate, and seven of you are receiving a doctoral degree from Towson University.

Your class is 62 percent female and 38 percent male. The average age of undergraduate students in this year's graduating class is 24 and of graduate students is 31. The youngest graduate in the Class of 2010 is Jenna Nicole Lesko, who just turned 21 last month and is receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. Our most seasoned graduate is Joyce Ann Gorman, who at the age of 72 is receiving a master's degree in early childhood education.

The Class of 2010 represents 18 out of our 50 states with New York and New Jersey having the largest number of graduates outside the State of Maryland. And for the record, 45 of you come from New York and 55 come from New Jersey. Two of you are the sole representatives from your home states of Connecticut and Tennessee.

For those of you receiving your master's or doctoral degree today, we know that over 25 percent of you have also received your bachelor's degree from Towson—so a second congratulations is in order.

We know this class was very engaged and active as the seniors had over 2,000 visits to the Campus Recreation Services Department by participating in sports clubs, adventure pursuits or joined an intramural team and nearly 450 of you participated in an informal recreational activity. Thirty-

eight of you graduating today are members of a fraternity or sorority, 17 of you played intercollegiate athletics and a majority of current seniors and graduate students participated in an internship or experiential learning project this past semester. All of this while having an average class GPA of 3.3. Well done!

We know that most of you will stay right here in Maryland after graduation because, on average, 72 percent of TU alumni call Maryland home, although alumni live in every state across America and 77 countries. Perhaps you will join the 5,526 alumni that married a fellow Towson graduate or you will become one of the 1,526 alumni who came back to their alma mater in either a faculty or staff position.

The rest of your story is yet to be written. Once you walk out those doors today, remember that while your time here at Towson may be over, you will always be a part of the Towson University family. The Alumni Association will help you stay connected and looks forward to hearing about your accomplishments and successes.

On behalf of the thousands of alumni who have preceded you, it is my privilege to congratulate you on your outstanding achievements. Please be sure to share your story with us as you make your special mark as Towson University alumni.

Congratulations again!



**Alejandro Escallon, a business administration major in the College of Business and Economics, delivered the undergraduate student address at the 10 a.m. Commencement.**

Thank you Provost Welsh. Good morning President Caret, distinguished guests, honored faculty, family and fellow graduates.

I could not be more honored and privileged to be here today sharing my

Towson experience with you. I want to start by congratulating my fellow graduates.

Seizing Opportunities: that is the name I gave to this speech. It is what this speech is all about and it is also a part of my personal mission statement.

It has been two years since I left my home in Panama and came to Towson (in a winter just like this) and on a larger scale to the United States. I transferred here in a search of a better education; and I knew getting my education abroad would provide opportunities to:

- Visit cities that I always wanted to see
- Meet new friends
- Gain unique professional experience
- And of course see Dave Matthews Band and other shows.

I wanted to test myself and face challenges that could only be encountered during college. I had the mindset that college happens for just a couple of years and I had to make the most of it.

Since arriving at Towson, I have committed myself not only to succeed in my academic life, but also to make the most of this opportunity by visiting as many places as possible, meeting people and getting involved in as many activities as possible.

Getting an internship was a primary goal for me, but unfortunately because of my international status I was rejected by all the companies I applied with. But Towson once again opens doors for me when others would not. Since spring 2010, I have been a College of Business and Economics student consultant; and am 100 percent confident I've learned more in this role than I would have with those not-to-be-named companies. I was able to develop my leadership skills and met incredible co-workers with whom I shared many valuable lessons.

I came to Towson as any other transfer student, not knowing the university, the surroundings or the people. But I came with clear objectives and goals, and an attitude of taking advantage of every opportunity in front of

me. A different language, a different culture, the distance and separation from family and friends didn't stop me from achieving my goals and making the most of this experience.

It may sound simple, but I have always believed that what kept me so committed toward my goals was the replaying of my parent's advice. My mom has always told me to take advantage of the opportunities that are presented to us. And it is true, you never know when you will be in front of the same opportunity again (if ever), and it is very likely that if you don't act, someone else will. In addition, my dad has repeated to me a thousand times that the right attitude is the strongest weapon someone could have. The right attitude tells you every day to be proactive, to fulfill your goals and try your best.

Dare yourself to take risks and make the most of your experiences when working, traveling and networking. It is really impressive how one thing leads to another; I had many goals when I came here, but I never imagined that by achieving them I would end up giving this speech today.

One more thing, this is a country full of great people and full of opportunities that are sometimes taken for granted. So next time you face an opportunity consider all the doors it can open to you.

Finally, I want to thank all my professors, classmates and co-workers for being part of my Towson experience. I also want to thank Ms. Atkinson, who mentored me throughout my internship. I want to thank my girlfriend for her help and commitment during these years. And most important, my parents and brothers, who supported me immensely, inspired me, and to whom I dedicate all my effort and accomplishments.

Make this day an inspiration for your future, a proof of your power to succeed and the starting line for new goals.



**Megan Chory delivered the graduate student speech at the 10 a.m. Commencement.**

Thank you Provost Welsh. Good morning President Caret, distinguished guests, honored faculty, family and fellow graduates. My name is Megan Chory, and I am new graduate of Towson University. I studied reading education, but some of you might recognize me as the girl running across campus most evenings with my bags falling off my shoulders. For those of you graduating and moving off campus, trust me, rush hour traffic on 695 will always make you late, especially for a 4:20 class.

Or I may be the person who always looked lost each night after class, because I swear this campus looked so different every semester. With all the construction done to make Towson a better place for all of us, and the fact I went into class in daylight and left in darkness, it seemed I was perpetually lost on Towson's campus following most of my classes.

In relation to that, I want to take a minute to thank my sister, for staying on the phone for about thirty minutes that one time when I tried to find my car. It turned out I parked it in an entirely different parking garage. I had absent-mindedly followed a classmate to the wrong garage because we were so busy talking about our students and what we were learning in our Towson class that we could use to help them. The Union Parking Garage and the Towsontown Parking Garage are basically the same anyway, right?

Now that I'm graduating, I'm pretty sure how to get around campus. Well, hopefully I can at least get back to my car today. But back to why I'm here, and why I came to Towson. I am a teacher. I'm all about learning. I really believe life is not worth living if we don't continue to challenge ourselves to learn new things and grow into better people. So, in honor of my love of teaching and learning, I'd like to share



the five greatest lessons I learned from my years here at Towson.

**1. Your “teacher” isn’t the only one who can teach you something.** This is especially obvious for an education major, but we all have stories to tell and lessons to share. When we work together and listen to each other we all come out better in the end. I’ve learned this again and again, not only from my students in my classroom each day but from the “student clients” and families I’ve worked with through Towson. From each situation I continue to realize, when you take the time to listen, you never know when you might learn something that could help you change for the better.

**2. Do what you love.** I’ll admit it. I drove home crying some days after classes. I was overwhelmed, questioning if I should start my grad school-work or my regular teaching work. But I wasn’t crying because I couldn’t do it. I was crying because I wanted to do it all. My projects for Towson made me a better teacher. Even though I felt like I was juggling too much at times, the fact that I was doing something that mattered so much to me got me through. In the end, I was probably just crying in my car because I stressed I would never find a parking spot near my house in Baltimore.

**3. We are all different.** I’m a triplet, and I grew up always comparing myself to my siblings. It’s easy to do that with classmates and colleagues too. You might feel less than, or worry you can’t do what others can. For me, my sister is graduating from medical school this year, and my brother beat me to his master’s graduating from Pitt with a degree in public health last year. You couldn’t pay me enough to do the things they’ve done for research studies. No-thank-you to measuring the effect of radio waves on rats. I do not want to ever be near an anatomy lab. And no amount of tutoring in the world could get me to pass organic chemistry. But I bet my siblings couldn’t last a day with my second

graders. My students sure are cute, but it’s a tough job. Just try to teach reading, writing, math, and science or social studies to a seven-year-old who struggles just to sit still and could talk forever about silly bands! We all have different strengths, and it’s through those skills we can find success and happiness. We should each follow our passion and be ourselves.

**4. Change is good.** Before starting my master’s, I thought it would be difficult going from the one in charge of the class in the day to student-in-class at night. But at Towson I was lucky my professors were so engaging and my classes were so pertinent to my job that is my passion. I still use a lot of the resources I’ve made in my everyday teaching. And although I would have loved the spending money, I didn’t resell my books. Also, while teaching during the day, I was starting to get worried my face might freeze in the “don’t even think about it,” look. It was nice to take a break. Towson’s Reading Education program also prepared me for the change I experienced professionally because I started this program as a special educator, then became a fourth-grade classroom teacher and I’m now a second-grade classroom teacher. I definitely learned that change is unavoidable but can be a wonderful thing.

**5. You have the power.** For me, one of the main reasons I became a teacher, and then continued my education at Towson, was in an effort to cause change in the years to come. I think of reading as a vital life skill that allows you to make meaning and gain power. Because of my education at Towson I now feel I have the ability to help others gain power and build understanding. I believe that is an incredibly influential skill to possess. I think it’s amazing that the actions and efforts I make each day could have a lasting effect long after I’m gone. I feel all teachers have that power, but I think the rest of you also have been given that gift to cause change and help others through your studies at

Towson, from the College of Business and Economics, to health services, and to all of us education folks. Remember to acknowledge the work you have put in to gain that power. Be willing to continue to work just as hard to use that power to help others and be the best you can be.

In closing, thanks for taking the time to listen to what I learned. I hope you learned at least a little something too. Congratulations to each of you for all of your hard work!



**Myrna Cardin '65 delivered greetings for the Board of Visitors at the 2 p.m. Commencement.**

Good afternoon and congratulations to you our graduates, your families and the outstanding faculty that prepared you for this day.

In this age of multitasking, we do so many things at one time and take on so many roles that we often refer to it as wearing different hats.

First I am wearing the hat that represents the Board of Visitors as I extend best wishes to you from all of them. We have followed your efforts in the classroom, on the athletic field and in all of your special interests we take great pride.

And I’m wearing the hat that identifies me as a Towson alum who has seen tremendous change at her university and proudly identifies with it.

And finally I’m wearing the hat as a resident of Maryland and another hat as a citizen of the United States who welcomes your skills and leadership to keep our state and country moving forward. I often see the list of Towson graduates who are leaders in the fields of business, arts, education, research, community activism, government and philanthropy. Towson has earned the reputation for producing leaders, and I look forward to seeing names of people from the class of 2010 included in that list in future years.

And you too wear many different hats: the most obvious today is the

graduation cap that, along with your gown and diploma, is recognition of your academic achievement, hard work, commitment and perseverance.

And the hats that you wear that we don't see right now are those of son or daughter, perhaps mother or father, sibling, and friend. They are the hats that hopefully kept you grounded during your years at Towson and will continue to be just as important in the years to come.

While I am sure you have gotten more advice in the last few months than you ever wanted, I would like to bring you thoughts from a renowned literary figure who says it much more beautifully than I ever could. This is what Maya Angelou said in an interview with Oprah Winfrey on the occasion of her 70th birthday.

When asked what she has learned, Ms. Angelou said:

"I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he or she handles three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life.

I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.

I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw some things back.

I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug or just a friendly pat on the back.

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Congratulations and best wishes for a fulfilling life.



**Keith Ewancio '94/'97 delivered greetings for the Alumni Association at the 2 p.m. Commencement.**

Good afternoon. As a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and a proud graduate of the Classes of 1994 and 2007, I am honored to be here today representing the more than 120,000 alumni who have graduated from this wonderful university.

Each of these alumni has a story to tell about the lives they have touched as a result of their education at Towson University.

My own story would not have been possible without the education, experiences, and connections I made here at Towson. You too will have a great story to tell—one that you will be proud to share with future generations of Towson graduates!

Your story starts today as you join 1,574 fellow graduates that make up the class of 2010. Today, 1,195 of you are receiving a bachelor's degree, 372 of you are receiving a master's degree or certificate, and seven of you are receiving a doctoral degree from Towson University.

Your class is 62 percent female and 38 percent male. The average age of undergraduate students in this year's graduating class is 24 and of graduate students is 31. We have two graduates here today who, at the age of 63 are receiving master's degrees, Sharon Resnick Hoffman and Constance A. Songer.

The Class of 2010 represents 18 out of our 50 states with New York and New Jersey having the largest number of graduates outside the State of Maryland. And for the record, 45 of you come from New York and 55 come from New Jersey. Two of you are the sole representatives from your home states of Connecticut and Tennessee.

For those of you receiving your master's or doctoral degree today, we know that over 25 percent of you have also received your bachelor's degree from Towson—so a second congratulations is in order.

We know this class was very engaged and active as the seniors had over 2,000 visits to the Campus Recreation Services Department by participating in sports clubs, adventure pursuits or joined an intramural team and nearly 450 of you participated in an informal recreational activity. Thirty-eight of you graduating today are members of a fraternity or sorority, 17 of you played intercollegiate athletics and a majority of current seniors and graduate students participated in an internship or experiential learning project this past semester. All of this while having an average class GPA of 3.3. Well done!

We know that most of you will stay right here in Maryland after graduation because, on average, 72 percent of TU alumni call Maryland home, although alumni live in every state across America and 77 countries. Perhaps you will join the 5,526 alumni that married a fellow Towson graduate or you will become one of the 1,526 alumni who came back to their alma mater in either a faculty or staff position.

The rest of your story is yet to be written. Once you walk out those doors today, remember that while your time here at Towson may be over, you will always be a part of the Towson University family. The Alumni Association will help you stay connected and look forward to hearing about your accomplishments and successes.

On behalf of the thousands of alumni who have preceded you, it is my privilege to congratulate you on your outstanding achievements. Please be sure to share your story with us as you make your special mark as Towson University alumni.

Congratulations again!





**Lacey Marousek, a dance performance major in the College of Fine Arts and Communication, delivered the undergraduate student address at the 2 p.m. Commencement.**

Thank you Provost Welsh. Good afternoon President Caret, distinguished guests, honored faculty, family and fellow graduates.

As I look back on my college career, it's difficult to imagine that four and a half years have gone by so quickly. It seems like just yesterday that I was filling out college applications and buying supplies for my freshman dorm room.

My junior year of high school was spent looking at schools in New York City. As a lifelong dancer, everyone (including myself) believed that the only option was to go to school in New York City—after all, that's where dance careers are born. While I was committed to New York, some teachers, friends and family encouraged me to apply to some regional schools as well, so I applied to Towson University without doing any research or even taking a tour of the campus.

My senior year of high school, everything changed. My mom was re-diagnosed with Stage 5 breast cancer and suddenly my desire to move to the big city was silenced. Spending time with my family became more important than my dreams of Broadway stages and signing autographs. Not even a week later, I scheduled a tour of the campus and began to look at the audition requirements for the Towson University Department of Dance.

While that pivotal decision was made with personal motivations versus professional ones, it was one of the best decisions of my life. Unfortunately, my mother passed away during my first semester at school; ironically on the same night as my first performance as a Towson University dance major. I returned to school a week later, and was surprised with a care

package from my fellow dance majors and dance department professors. It was at this moment that I realized that the Towson University Department of Dance was more than just an academic setting, but a family of its own.

A family is loyal, nurturing, protective, and always has a person's best interests in mind. My professors both in and outside of the classroom exhibited all of these characteristics. My professors became role models; each with different life stories and professional experiences that they brought to their classrooms. Their courses were rigorous, and challenged students to excel in all areas of learning. Additionally, they provided opportunities for me to perform professionally throughout the Baltimore-Washington area, and teach for the Towson University Children's Dance Division. Needless to say, they kept me very busy.

As a result, the Center for the Arts became my home. As many of my fellow dance majors could attest, it was not uncommon to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner in the lobby of the Center for the Arts, or even take an occasional nap on the sofas by the locker rooms. However, it was these countless hours spent together that solidified our family unit. My peers constituted a large portion of this home-away-from-home. I looked to them for guidance and support, realizing that we were each other's best resources. Together we became student leaders, innovative artists and took advantage of the many opportunities that were presented to us.

These opportunities proved to me that I had been given false information. To make it as a dancer, I did not have to move to New York City. Baltimore has a thriving art scene, and is in need of passionate and creative individuals, like myself and my peers, to ensure its longevity and continued growth.

Gandhi said: "Be the change you wish to see in the world." This is our chance. In these past few years, we have shown the world our ambition, our creativity and our focus. Towson University has given us the tools

necessary to go out into the world and make a difference. But the responsibility to do so rests with us. I stand here today, confident that I will be able to make that difference. I graduate today, knowing that I would have made my mom very proud, and I'm sure your families are all very proud of you as well. Congratulations to the Class of 2010. Let's go show the world what we are made of!



**Wendy Frederick delivered the graduate student speech at the 2 p.m. Commencement.**

Thank you Provost Welsh. Good afternoon President Caret, distinguished guests, honored faculty, family and fellow graduates.

It is truly an honor for me speak on behalf of the Towson University graduate students today. I became a part of Towson University due to challenges...challenges in my personal life and challenges in my professional life. A challenge is a task or situation that tests a person's ability. A challenge is a test, a trial, a problem, an obstacle, and/or a stumbling block. In 2008 I was ending my tenth year as an elementary school teacher. I had a bachelor's degree and had taken a few classes; I enjoyed teaching, but I had no destination. To make matters worse, I began an unexpected journey into an unknown land—a land called "separation with the intent to divorce."

As the author of the book *The Road Less Traveled* stated, "Our finest moments are most likely to occur when we are feeling deeply uncomfortable, unhappy, or unfulfilled. For it is only in such moments, propelled by our discomfort, that we are likely to step out of our ruts and start searching for different ways or truer answers." With that in mind, I decided that I had to face my challenges and thankfully, I was accepted into the Towson graduate program for mathematics education. I knew that my life would

change for the better once I earned my master's degree. However; I had to face new challenges:

- How was I going to excel in my graduate courses and continue my full-time job teaching a classroom of 30 fourth-grade students?
- How was I going to be a supportive mother for my two sons who were adjusting not only to their parents' separation, but also to middle school, the last years of elementary school, girls and puberty?
- How was I going to continue my church ministry? I was an active member and averaged at least three days a week in my church. I knew that God wanted me to improve and move forward, but would I have to sacrifice my ministry?

And then when my graduate courses started.

- How was I going to handle our 20-page curriculum research paper? Our class presentations? Midterms? Mathematical formulas? And the most taxing of all—calculus!

Fortunately, I did not let these overwhelming obstacles impede my new goal—to obtain my master's degree in mathematics education. Life's challenges are not supposed to paralyze you; they're supposed to help you discover who you are and just how strong you are. With the immense support of the Towson staff I was able to climb over, dig under and chip through each and every obstacle that I had to face and trust me when I say there were many more. Even after I completed my courses and was immediately offered a position as a talented and gifted coordinator at Capitol Heights Elementary school, new challenges occurred. But I happily discovered that struggles make you stronger.

I have shared all of this with you, graduates, because life will continue to give each of us challenges. As a graduate we may encounter a stumbling block while searching and applying for our dream job or interviewing for a promotion. We may encounter a hurdle or two once we start our new position. We may even face trials with

our family and/or friends now that we have earned our degree. During these challenging times remind yourself of three things to make it through:

1. Never give up on yourself or what is important to you,
2. Confront your fears; don't let them control you,
3. Use relentless determination in what you believe in.

In conclusion, I congratulate everyone for your accomplishments and as you start your journey, please keep in mind that challenges bring about change, and as my pastor shares with his congregation on a continual basis, *"where there is no challenge, there is no change."*



**Peter Lev, professor in TU's Department of Mass Communication and Communication Studies, received the 2011 President's Award for Distinguished Service to the University.**

Thank you, President Caret, for those kind words. Thanks to our distinguished guests, and to the administration, faculty, staff and students of Towson University. Thanks and welcome to the graduates and their families.

I would like to say a special thanks to my colleagues in the Department of Electronic Media and Film. Because you do so many things so well, I am freed up to do the research and teaching I like to do. I think it's wonderful that Towson has recognized a new department—EMF is 10 years old—and the relatively new discipline of film history.

My friend Barry Moore, who retired from Towson in 2008, used to say that there is an "I-thou" relationship between teacher and student, and I think this is true. Teachers don't replace family or friends, but they do create a space for shared learning and shared growth. I hope and I trust that every Towson student has experienced the free-flowing exchange of ideas that

is college education at its best.

In the College of Fine Arts and Communication we talk about the arc of an education, the arc of a career. An arc can be conceptualized as a rainbow, a curve going through the sky. I want to talk about two aspects of the arc. First, it represents rational planning. When you make a decision today, it's very helpful to think about what effect that decision has several years along the curve. I have avoided all sorts of trouble by considering what happens in 5 or 10 years. But the arc is not just a rational calculation, it also has an emotional and affective side, represented by the intense colors of the rainbow. For example, I decided to spend my freshman year of college studying the arts—something I loved—before getting around to more serious subjects like economics or law. That first year went very well, so I continued, and great opportunities opened up for me. Eventually I learned that studying the arts, and working in the arts, is a huge part of who I am. Law will have to wait for another lifetime.

I must add that I am envious of each student graduating today. You see, I have never graduated from Towson University. Every spring I get a letter from administration saying, "You are invited to return." That means "You didn't graduate—again." So I salute all of you who graduate today, and I bid you a fond farewell.

*Professor Peter Lev is an internationally respected film historian, a prolific author and well-respected teacher. In 2009, he won the prestigious Academy Film Scholars Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for research on a book, Twentieth Century Fox: The Zanuck-Skouras Years. He has been at Towson since 1983. ■*



“  
**To be recognized as a Rankin scholar makes me proud of what I have been able to accomplish so far.**”

Michael is a beneficiary of the philanthropy of Joseph Rankin, M.D., who left a charitable bequest to establish a scholarship for student athletes in memory of his brothers, both Athletic Hall of Fame members, Carroll Stephen '28 and George Thomas '35.

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*Read more about Michael and the Rankin family at [www.towson.edu/foundationsscholars](http://www.towson.edu/foundationsscholars).*

Michael Bronakoski, Class of 2014

Sport Management major, Towson baseball player

Recipient of the 2011 Carroll Stephen & George Thomas Rankin Scholarship



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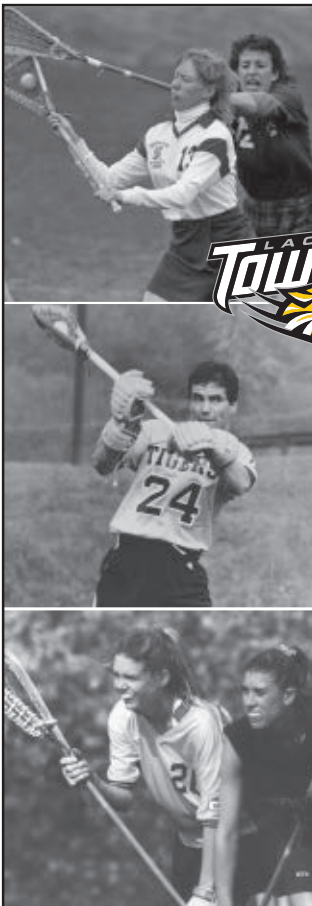


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*The Towson University Men's and Women's Lacrosse Programs and the Alumni Association invite you to*



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