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Instruments of Change

Music professor Jonathan Leshnoff's fourth symphony is his most personal.



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Forging a Rich Legacy

Women's basketball coach Diane Richardson is riding a wave of success.



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Camera Man

TU's beloved photographer says goodbye.

From The Editor's Desk

I generally get to the office around 7 a.m. The parking lot is mostly empty, and the fourth floor of the Administration Building is usually dead silent—save for the music playing softly in my office.

At work, more times than not I'm listening to classical. This might come as a surprise to friends who have traveled with me to see Stevie Wonder at JazzFest in New Orleans, the Allman Brothers Band at the Beacon Theatre in New York or the sensational bluegrass sextet Trampled By Turtles at Nashville's hallowed Ryman Auditorium. No one loves a searing guitar riff more than me, but I find it hard to concentrate on reading or writing with Eric Clapton's voice and Fender Stratocaster wailing in the background.

In many ways, classical music was the soundtrack of my childhood. My parents love it, and sometimes when we'd eat dinner Bach or Vivaldi would accompany my mom's deliciously gooey lasagna.

I've never stopped enjoying it, and as I write this, the sounds of strings performing Jonathan Leshnoff's fourth symphony are drifting from the speakers of my Dell. I certainly haven't heard a piece of lyric-free music with more emotion than "Heichalos," which Leshnoff wrote specifically for instruments that survived the Holocaust. It's no wonder he was able to capture both their history and beauty. When we were setting up for the photoshoot with him (the result of which spans pages 12 and 13), he began actively composing. At one point, I wasn't sure whether he'd forgotten that we were there. Music is ingrained in him in a way few of us can understand, but all of us can appreciate.

You can listen to his symphony on Spotify (search "Nashville Symphony"). It doesn't have to be first thing in the morning or in your office, but I recommend finding a peaceful, quiet spot, turning to page 12 and clicking play.

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**TU TOWSON
UNIVERSITY™**

President's Letter

It's a great time to be a Towson Tiger. TU's strong momentum is evident in so many ways.

For the first time, TU is ranked as a Top National University among the elite research universities in *U.S. News & Report's* 2020 list. Entry into this national category reflects the range, relevance and rigor of TU's undergraduate majors as well as the excellence of our world-class faculty and commitment to groundbreaking research. We were also included among the top 100 universities in diversity and inclusion and tied with Harvard University for social mobility.

TU has also been named one of the top public universities by *Forbes*, best value colleges by *Money* magazine and one of the top colleges in the northeast by *Princeton Review*.

This fall we welcomed an incoming class of 2,700, along with 2,100 students transferring in and 775 new graduate students. Together, these new Tigers—from 33 states and 26 countries—bring TU's projected enrollment to nearly 23,000.

More students are living on campus this year—6,000 total. We're seeing record attendance packing Johnny Unitas Stadium, providing a thrilling environment for our nationally ranked Tigers football team.

All of this adds to the vibrancy of our campus—and positions Towson University as the largest university in Greater Baltimore and the fastest growing one in Maryland.

In August, I was proud to welcome TU's class of 2023 to campus. Our incoming class is the most academically prepared in TU history—with an average high school GPA of 3.62—and also the most diverse.



Nearly 48% of this class identifies as racial or ethnic minorities, and 22% are first-generation college students. As I have said before, diversity in our classrooms and across our campus competitively advantages our students to lead in a global society. Our worldwide network of 165,000 alumni is evidence of TU's growing leadership and impact.

We are building a culture of philanthropy at Towson University and marked a record high of more than \$14 million in support last year. This exceptional achievement was made possible through the generosity and dedication of the entire TU community—alumni, friends, parents, faculty, staff and students. Your incredible pride in Towson University and your generosity is enhancing our capacity to make world-changing impact.

There's much to be proud of at Towson University, and there are truly great things ahead!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Schatzel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "K" and "S".

KIM SCHATZEL,
TOWSON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT



TREASURES

Skeleton Crew

Lea Ramsdell is so well traveled in Spanish-speaking Latin America that it's easier for her to list the countries she hasn't yet visited: Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Paraguay and Venezuela. Ramsdell is a professor of Spanish with an intense wanderlust, and the bookshelves in her office are filled with musical instruments (she teaches a class on Latino cultural identity through music) and cultural keepsakes that she buys on her adventures. She picked up these figurines at a market in Mexico City in 2005, when she led a TU Study Abroad trip there. Day of the Dead is a Mexican holiday that's celebrated on November 1 and 2, when art like this is displayed on altars and in windows throughout the country. "It's a time to

remember the dead, but it's also a time to realize your mortality and not be afraid of it," Ramsdell says. "It's also a time to make social commentary. In a way they're making fun of people in high society. They're very dressed up and elegant, but they're skeletons. She looks like she thinks she's really something, but she's still mortal after all." The design of the female skeleton's dress conjures nationalistic images, Ramsdell says. Both the Mexican flag and the dress feature a green, white and red color scheme and include an image of a cactus with an eagle perched atop it eating a serpent. "That was the signal for the Aztecs, who were a nomadic tribe at one point," she says. "They were to search for this cactus with an eagle on top of it

eating a serpent and build their homeland there." The figures are made of papier-mâché, so they're extremely light. Ramsdell thinks she bought them for \$15 or \$20—priced by Mexican standards at the time. "I find it fascinating to go to different cultures and see the kinds of things that are important to the people there," she says. "Popular culture appeals to me. I studied literature and civilization, and I love that, but something about the common person and what they find important, I'm really drawn to that. That's exactly what this is about. These are an expression of the common person, not necessarily a trained professional artist. This wouldn't be considered high art, but that's exactly why I like it."

Campus News



Solid Gold

After undergoing a two-year renovation, TU's Residence Tower, which was reopened for the fall 2018 academic term, earned a U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification.



Welcome ADS

To better reflect the service it provides to more than 2,000 students, the Office of Disability Support Services has changed its name to Accessibility and Disability Services (ADS). "We wanted to promote the accessibility part—it's a campus-wide mission to ensure that our campus is accessible to anybody," ADS Director Susan Willemin says.



Royal Success

Two papers authored by chemistry professors John Sivey and Keith Reber and six undergraduate students and recent alumni were among those selected to the Royal Society of Chemistry's "Best Papers of 2018."

Diversity on The Rise

TU is one of the top 100 universities in overall student diversity, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

"Each year, we increasingly admit our most diverse and academically prepared students, and this year, 22 percent of the incoming class was first generation," says Leah Cox, vice president for inclusion and institutional equity. "Ultimately their success relies on our ability to create an inclusive environment and one that also supports them navigating our campus and resources."

This fall TU welcomed its most diverse freshmen class in school history. Of the approximately 2,700 freshmen on campus, 48% identify as minorities and 25% identify as African American. Both are new highs for TU.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, TU has a zero percent achievement gap for minority students. TU's six-year minority graduation rate is 72%, well above the 43% national average.

Get Out the Vote

More than twice as many TU students voted in the 2018 midterm election as compared to four years earlier, according to the National Study of Learning, Voting and Environment (NSLVE), a free and voluntary resource for over 1,000 campuses that objectively examines student- and institution-level data on student voting.

TU's student voting rate of 42.2% was higher than the average rate for all institutions (39.1%). More than 85.6% of TU students are registered to vote.



Investing in Our Community

TU announced in September six emerging and priority investments as part of BTU—Partnerships at Work for Greater Baltimore. The projects for 2019–2020 demonstrate how BTU continues to scale, sustain, align and institutionalize its work. Emerging investment projects include:

- The Sweaty Eyeballs Animation Festival, a three-day juried festival of the world's most cutting-edge, quirky and boundary-pushing animation being made today.
- The Public Communication Center, which helps students develop and refine their public speaking skills, build data for classroom projects and provide peer mentorship.
- Home and the Human, a collaborative endeavor between faculty, students and the Baltimore Immigration Outreach Center that includes coursework, workshops, visiting scholars and artists, film screenings and documentary projects.
- AileyCamp Baltimore, which uses dance instruction as a vehicle for nurturing discipline, expressivity, creativity and self-confidence in high-risk adolescents.

Priority investment projects include Supporting Returning Citizens, which aims to create a comprehensive strategy to support access to higher education for formerly incarcerated individuals, and Youth Artists and Allies Taking Action in Society, which focuses on collaborative artmaking strategies that prioritize dialogue to support and engage refugee youth with limited English.

registration stations powered by students, faculty and staff

- Collaborations and partnerships among campus units and student organizations

"As we get closer to the 2020 election season, the latest NSLVE report not only serves as a great resource and motivator, but it also reminds us that the work is far from over," says Luis Sierra, assistant director for civic engagement. "We look forward to the months ahead, as we strive to empower and support all our students, faculty and staff to exercise their invaluable right to vote."

4 majors offered by the College of Business and Economics.

6 majors offered by the College of Education.

11 majors offered by both the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the College of Health Professionals.

12 majors offered by the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics.

20 majors offered by the College of Liberal Arts.

2,555 declared business administration majors, making it TU's most popular as of fall 2018.



French Class

Jayne French is starting to make a habit of this.

The executive administrative assistant for the Division of Student Affairs and the Center for Student Diversity won the prestigious University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents Staff Award in the Inclusion, Multiculturalism and Diversity category.

French is the first person to win two USM Board of Regents Staff Awards. She also won in the 2013–2014 Extraordinary Public Service to the University or Greater Community category.

She was nominated this time by the University Store’s Deniz Erman.

“Jayne is an inspiration,” Erman wrote in her nomination letter. “It amazes me how she finds the time to do all that she does, free of complaint and unconcerned of recognition. She selflessly helps family, friends and strangers.”

During her 17 years at TU, French has been part of TU’s Staff Council, Smoking Citation Review Panel, Police and Community Relation Council, Board of Regents Staff Awards Committee and Student Tech and Web Committee.

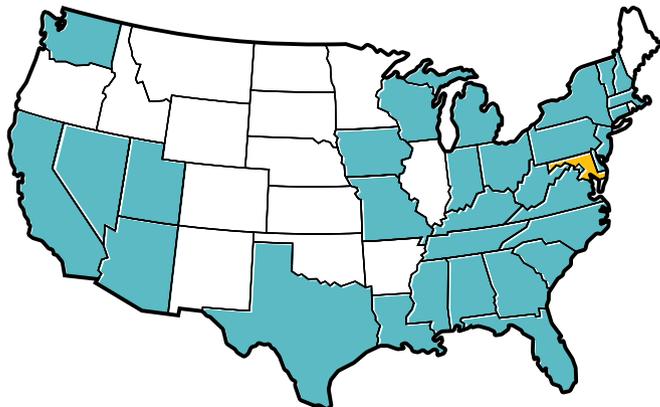
Off campus she crochets hats, scarfs and mittens for various nonprofit agencies, and volunteers for the Special Olympics of Maryland, National Alliance on Mental Illness and the NAACP.

“This has been very humbling because I always have believed, and it’s how I’ve been raised, that volunteering isn’t about awards ... it’s about helping people,” French says. “So when they said I won I was shocked, surprised and excited.”

In 2016, French became a proud TU alumna by graduating with a bachelor’s degree in geography and environmental planning.

She went to college when she was younger but got burnt out after juggling school and a fulltime job. When her two children earned their college degrees, the urge to earn hers intensified. After a conversation with the late former TU President Maravene Loeschke, French finally enrolled.

French will receive a \$2,000 stipend and a plaque in recognition of the award, which she was formally presented at the Board of Regents meeting in September.



Nationally Ranked

For the first time, *U.S. News & World Report* has classified TU as a national university. Previously, TU had been considered a northeast regional university.

The publication’s rankings, released in September, placed TU 98th among public national universities, ahead of institutions like West Virginia, Maine and Texas Tech. *U.S. News & World Report* says national universities offer “a full range of undergraduate majors, plus master’s and doctoral programs, and emphasize faculty research or award professional practice doctorates.”

This year new TU students (freshmen and transfers) hail from 32 states in addition to Maryland.



🕒 OFFICE HOURS

Cryptocurrency

Babu G. Baradwaj, chair of the finance department in the College of Business and Economics, on the past, present and future of digital money.

About 10 years ago, a person or people using the name Satoshi Nakamoto created a peer-to-peer digital currency called Bitcoin. Nakamoto, whose identity remains unknown, published a white paper outlining how it would work and executed the first transaction.

The idea was that people could buy anything with Bitcoin, and stores would accept it. People wouldn't need to carry cash, just digitally transfer funds.

So how does it work?

Say you want to purchase something from someone who is willing to accept digital coins as currency. You can't print Bitcoin or physically hold it. You offer the coin and establish your ownership through a secure electronic ledger. The other party says OK. You digitally transfer the coin or coins—Bitcoin can be divided fractionally—and that transfer is authenticated by other people on the network. This is called the blockchain, which is basically an immutable electronic register with the information stored in pieces on a decentralized network. Users initiate and approve transactions anonymously. The technology is not complicated, but not many understand it. Once the transaction is complete, that second party is considered the owner of the coin and can use it in a new transaction.

In theory, the concept of a cryptocurrency—Bitcoin is the most well-known but there are several others—makes a lot of sense. Digital transfer already works with established currency; just look at Venmo or PayPal. But in practice it doesn't really fill a need for people.

It has not taken the place of existing currency—dollars, yen or the euro. So that begs the question: Is it a currency or is it another type of asset that people can invest in?

There are a lot of uncertainties around cryptocurrency right now.

If I want to buy a coin, what am I buying it for? Who will accept it? What can I buy? Even if I have the value in cryptocurrency of what I want to buy, will the seller accept it?

How is it protected?

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) protects investors in things like stocks and bonds, but there is no regulator for cryptocurrency. Buyer beware. You could lose it. Someone could steal it from you. You could forget your electronic key to it.

A large barrier to the establishment

I don't see cryptocurrency as a legitimate currency. It can become an investment.

The company that owns the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is talking about setting up investments through its own coin exchanges. Brokerage houses—Fidelity, J.P. Morgan, Goldman Sachs—have invested a lot of money and hired a lot of people in the technology sector to create their own investments. It definitely interests our students. Every term they ask about it.

They want to invest in it, but they don't know anything about it or how to buy it. Students are interested because they see the price skyrocketing. But I always tell them, if you go to Vegas, you may win. But for every win, you might have lost 20 times. You're not going to talk about those losses. It's the same with things like Bitcoin.

I should be careful saying it won't take off in the future, though.

Right now, legitimate users almost exclusively see it as an investment. Cryptocurrency is a much riskier investment than perhaps a lot of others, and it has the potential to grow into a bubble, like real estate and the dot-com bust.

The fact of the stock markets is you are going to go through upswings and downswings, and everyone has a different risk tolerance.

That tolerance of risk also extends to using cryptocurrency in the same

“In theory, the concept of a cryptocurrency makes a lot of sense. Digital transfer already works with established currency; just look at Venmo or PayPal. But in practice it doesn't really fill a need for people.”

of cryptocurrency is the government.

The U.S. government does not want anything to compete with the dollar. Why would it allow it? Why would any nation?

Regulations have sprung up in some of the world's largest financial markets. India has banned cryptocurrency. China has banned it in some respects. South Korea—one of the biggest cryptocurrency exchanges—has put in a lot of regulations. Japan did the same thing.

way we use real currency now.

The value of coins varies wildly, and hackers frequently make headlines with the fortunes stolen from unsuspecting users.

In the end, I don't really see cryptocurrencies as anything more than a type of investment. The average user does not have the specialized knowledge of mining and trading coins, and governments will always move to quash any threats to their currencies and monetary policies.

The One **SETBACK** That Changed My Life



A person, place or thing can make all the difference

NANCY GRASMICK

'61

TU presidential scholar, former State Superintendent of Maryland Public Schools

When I was 16 years old I had strep throat. At that time doctors did not test you for allergic reactions to medication. I had a severe reaction to penicillin that affected my hearing and breathing. I got medical attention and the breathing part was fine, but it left me with middle ear damage.

It was very traumatic because I was a very extroverted person and I couldn't understand any speech. I remember my parents taking me to a movie thinking that would make me feel better but it was horrible because I could only see the pictures; I could not

interpret any of the sounds. I had a full hearing loss for conversational speech. Had it been a cannon I could have heard it. It improved incrementally, but it was eight or nine months until I felt comfortable in a communication situation.

I realized how unprepared the world was for people who couldn't hear.

I had always been interested in pursuing a medical career, but I became fascinated by this world of the deaf. I was particularly obsessed with Helen Keller and her teacher Anne Sullivan. I decided that I was going to be the new Anne Sullivan. As Helen Keller said, "Blindness is an inconvenience, deafness separates you from the company of your fellow person."

Once I decided to pursue something in teaching, Towson was the ideal place to come and still be able to get medical intervention and fulfill my dream of working with the deaf population.

But at that time there were no internship opportunities in special education. When I introduced the idea that I wanted to have an experience with deaf students in Baltimore City, the answer was no. I was quite persistent, and finally the dean conceded. I went to the William S. Baer School in Baltimore City, which is a school for children with disabilities, but at that time it had a very large program for deaf children. I fell in love with the deaf students with whom I worked, and with the teachers who worked with them.

At that time the students were not allowed to use sign language. The school system felt that the students were going to enter a hearing world, so they had to learn to speak. It was my responsibility to teach the students and lipread. As an example, I had the children feel where the sound was coming from by putting their hands on my chest or nose or feeling the air coming from my mouth. All of these

students from my first class came to my retirement party. Their success has been amazing and most of them have intelligible speech.

After I graduated from TU, I went on to teach at the Baer School while I pursued my masters at Gallaudet University, where I learned sign language. Then I went on to Johns Hopkins and got my doctorate in communicative sciences, which included audiology, speech and language.

Because of my experience working with deaf students, as my career progressed into administration and leadership I thought more about the needs of the individual child. It wasn't just deaf children, it was all children with disabilities that I felt this huge responsibility to advocate for.

I'm very grateful that this happened to me. It was a blessing that led me on this path, which has been so rewarding in my life.



Rock On



Runnin' Down A Dream

In the summer of 2003, Carrie Evans was driving down Route 3 in Bowie, Maryland, when an announcement came on the radio: 103.1 WRNR, one of her favorite stations, was holding open auditions for an overnight DJ. Anyone interested could send in a CD with recordings of their voice and a handful of songs they liked.

Evans had been passionate about music from an early age—singing in bands, performing in musical theater—but she'd never considered radio. At the time, she was raising her two young daughters and waiting tables at a restaurant in Davidsonville. But she was intrigued enough to buy a microphone and some CD burning gear at Radio Shack to record a demo. A few weeks after mailing in her submission, she got the job.

"I really didn't think it would amount to anything, but it ended up becoming such a huge part of my life," she says. "I was just swept up in it."

It was the beginning of a 16-year career in radio, which ultimately landed Evans a coveted drive-time shift at 89.7 WTMD. She joined Towson University's listener-supported radio station in mid-August and has been warmly welcomed by music lovers in Baltimore, Annapolis and beyond.

"Carrie has a lifelong passion for music and the natural ability to convey that to our listeners," says Scott Mullins, WTMD's station manager and program director. "She is likable, knowledgeable, professional, and her enthusiasm comes across the airwaves and really resonates with people."

As one of a small but growing number of professional female DJs, Evans says it's important for her to host a radio show where all listeners feel welcome and included.

"It's not just about me," Evans says. "It's about this bigger picture of being a woman in the afternoon drive shift, showing that is not just possible but it can be great radio."

Carrie Evans hosts WTMD's afternoon drive from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at 89.7-FM and online at wtmd.org.

Tales From The Wall



Among the hodgepodge of amps, drums and chairs backstage at WTMD's performance studio is a long stretch of white wall covered in more than a thousand signatures. Called WTMD's Wall of Scrawl, it bears the name of nearly every musician or band who has played a show or given an interview at the station in the past four and a half years. These are their stories.

January 13, 2017, was a day of firsts for Maggie Rogers. Her inaugural tour kicked off that night, and she and her band had played their first live concert together in WTMD's intimate performance studio that morning. The previous summer, a video of Rogers playing one of her songs for Pharrell Williams went viral, catapulting the recent college graduate—an unknown Eastern Shore native—to indie music stardom. She went on to play *Saturday Night Live* and *Ellen*, sell out huge venues like The Anthem, a 6,000-person capacity space in Washington, D.C., and amass more than 300 million Spotify streams. That day at WTMD, Rogers was a fresh-faced 22-year-old who, even then, had a sense of the wild journey awaiting her. That might explain why, next to her signature on the wall, she drew two wide-open eyes and an exclamation point. Maggie Rogers had arrived.



UPCOMING WTMD EVENTS

Nov. 9:
The Mighty Pint Homebrew Competition, noon–4 p.m. at 1 Olympic Place in Towson

Nov. 14:
Mark Hopkins album release show, 7:30 p.m. at 1 Olympic Place in Towson

Dec. 14:
Saturday Morning Tunes Mini Holiday Spectacular, 9 a.m.–11:30 a.m. at Towson University's West Village Commons Ballroom

TICKETS & MORE INFO:
WTMD.ORG





Coffee With... Calvin Ball '97

We spoke with the first African American elected Howard County Executive about politics, philosophy and his most important role.

📍 LOCATION:

The Bun Shop

☕ IN HIS CUP:

Cinnamon tea

🎓 TU CRED:

Graduated with a BA in philosophy in 1997. Later worked in the provost's office and as an adjunct professor.

Q: How do people address you? Mr. County Executive doesn't exactly roll off the tongue.

A: It depends on how happy they are with me. It varies. Because I've been in academia for a couple decades some people call me Dr. Ball. Some County Executive. A lot of people still call me Calvin.

Q: Did you ever run for anything in school?

A: In middle school I aspired for office once. I lost. I didn't really understand how it all worked. Luckily I've learned.

Q: Why did you major in philosophy?

A: At the time I wanted to go into law, and a lot of my advisers told me that I could learn everything about the law after I graduated and to get something that rounds out my education. In philosophy and religion you study debate, argumentation, ethics, logic—all things that would make for a good attorney or judge. I see many of the other disciplines like a sport, whether it's finance or computer science. I see philosophy like the gym—it allows you to train your mind and look at the world in a different way, to see how you can be the most effective yet creative in anything that you do.

Q: What was your first race?

A: I ran for county council in 2002, and I actually lost. You learn a lot about yourself when you don't succeed, and I learned a lot about myself and the process. I learned about resilience, about strategic planning. I stayed involved and I eventually was appointed to finish out the term of the person [to whom] I lost. I won my own term in 2006.

Q: What are your priorities during this, your first term?

A: My main goal is to expand opportunities and the quality of life for everyone who's a resident, business owner or visitor in Howard County. We have to invest in our school system, our community colleges and ensure that people have access to them.

Q: What does it mean to you to be the first African American elected Howard County Executive?

A: It says that people of all races, religions and

genders can accomplish anything if they work hard and chart a course of excellence.

Q: How have your thoughts about politics evolved since you've been in the arena?

A: I think it starts by asking yourself, what do you want to accomplish? What do you believe in? Once you get to those core answers that will help set your course. Each and every day there are people who want to make their hopes and dreams become realities. I find through the lens of public service we can help those people.

Q: Who are some of your political heroes?

A: On the higher scale, I have people like FDR and JFK, but even to some extent [former Maryland] Governor [William Donald] Schaefer. There will be a lot of times when I'll call a department head and I'll let them know my favorite day to get something done is today, and my favorite time to do it is now.

Q: What do you think politicians on the national level could learn by looking at how local politics work?

A: The ability to find mutually agreeable common ground. We all have different perspectives, different ideas, backgrounds, but at the end of the day we all work for the people. Everything doesn't need to be a battle.

Q: What do you do for fun?

A: Spend time with my daughters Alexis and Alyssa. I call them the A-Team. Of all the hats that I wear—county executive, mentor, friend, educator—dad is the most important.



The Brutal One

★ VOLLEYBALL

Olivia Finckel '20 strong squats 290 pounds, deadlifts 330, touches 10 feet on her vertical leap and is one of the quickest players on the volleyball court.

But that's not the reason she calls herself "The Brutal One." When circumstances dictate, Finckel is not afraid to call out her teammates.

"I'm a comforter off the court and an enforcer on [it]," she says.

In September, Finckel led TU to a 2-1 record at the Rutgers Invitational. She logged 39 kills, posted two service aces, had nine assisted blocks and added 14 digs to earn selection to the all-tournament team.

"She's an outstanding leader who walks the walk," says Michael Chatman, TU's former assistant

athletic director for strength and conditioning. "Because of that and her work ethic it's easy for others to follow her."

One of the team's most durable players—she was one of only four to play in all 123 sets for the Tigers last season—Finckel almost didn't experience anything at TU. Although she grew up in Lutherville, she didn't think staying close to home for college was best for her.

During one year at Palm Beach Atlantic University in Florida, Finckel helped lead the Sailfish to the NCAA Division II championship game and made the all-tournament team. Not bad for someone who didn't play

competitive volleyball until her freshman year of high school (and who admits that at one point her coach gave her a *Volleyball for Dummies* book).

Finckel aimed to play for a Division I school, so she transferred home.

"Coming to TU, I was able to expand my game and catch up to play at the level I want," she says. "This coaching staff [has] such a broad background. [They're] pushing me to be the best I can be."

Don Metil calls the 6-foot-2-inch Finckel one of the best blockers he's had in his seven years as TU's head coach.

"You want that one kid who can unite the whole team," he says.

"We have that in Liv Finckel."

A psychology major who wants to become a sports psychologist, Finckel is interested in neuroscience and functions of the brain. She's made the Dean's List and served on the Dean's Academic Advisory Committee.

The Tigers were 17-15 last year (when Finckel ranked third on the team with 293 kills), which ended with a fifth set loss in the CAA semifinals. For Finckel and the rest of her teammates the goal for this season is clear: winning the program's first CAA title.

"We're trying to get rings," Finckel says.

Typical blunt talk from The Brutal One.



HAYLEY HORVATH '22
represented the United States in the pole vault at the 2019 Pan American U20 Athletics Championships in Costa Rica in July.



DEMI PIERRE '23
scored both goals in women's soccer's 2-0 win over Mount St. Mary's to start the season. She was named CAA Rookie of the Week.



JORDAN DANGERFIELD '19
recorded three tackles in the Pittsburgh Steelers' first two games this year.



TYE SMITH '16
began the season as a corner-back for the Tennessee Titans.



Jamal White

Hall of Fame

Five all-time Tiger greats were honored at TU's 56th annual Hall of Fame Induction Banquet on October 18. The inductees were Karen Maisenhalder '80 (volleyball/softball), Gary Neal '07 (basketball), Kelly Robinson '08 (women's track & field/basketball), Jamal White '04 (football) and Shannon Witzel '07 (women's lacrosse). "It's another terrific group," said Hall of Fame president Rich Bader. "We received a near-record number of nominations to consider for 2019 and look forward to reviewing the others as well as new nominations for next year."



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

She's an Inspiration

Junior guard Kionna Jeter won the 2019 John Randolph Inspiration Award. It is named for former William & Mary athletic director John Randolph, who lost a courageous battle with cancer in 1995. The award is presented to individuals who, through strength of character and human spirit, serve as an inspiration to all to maximize their potential and ability for success.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Mister Chairman

Director of Athletics Tim Leonard will chair the NCAA Division I Men's Lacrosse Committee for the 2019–20 season. The committee, on which Leonard served the past two years, determines the field of teams and bracket for the NCAA Tournament and works to determine protocol and recommendations to the NCAA on the sport's postseason.

FOOTBALL

An Honor to Be Nominated

Former TU punter and kicker Sean Landeta, who played 22 seasons in the National Football League, has been selected as a modern-era player nominee for the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2020. The 122 nominees will be reduced to 25 semifinalists in November. Ultimately, five will be enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

FIELD HOCKEY

True Student-Athletes

TU field hockey, which posted a team GPA of 3.61 in 2018–19, has received the CAA Team Academic Excellence Award. The conference recognizes the team in each conference-sponsored sport with the highest GPA following the previous academic year. The Tigers were recognized by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association as a National Academic Team in March.



INSTRUMENTS OF CHANGE

THE SYMPHONY JONATHAN LESHNOFF WROTE FOR THE VIOLINS OF HOPE HONORED BOTH THEIR PAST AND PRESENT.

BY MIKE UNGER



The silence was stark. Five seconds elapsed. Then 10...20...30 more. The audience sat transfixed, trying to comprehend the emotion of the moment.

It wasn't just the beauty of TU music professor Jonathan Leshnoff's Symphony No. 4 that so enchanted the crowd. Nor was it the dazzling precision and skill with which the members of the world-class orchestra played the piece.

"It was almost as if we knew we were in the presence of history," says Giancarlo Guerrero, who conducted the Nashville Symphony that night in March 2018.

Thirty-six of the string instruments on stage had never been played during a performance by the musicians who cradled them. But these were not shiny new violins or priceless Stradivariuses. They are survivors.

The Violins of Hope is a collection of restored instruments that once were played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust. Over the course of the past 75 years, each found its way from concentration camps, pogroms and other horrifying circumstances to one family's music shop in Israel, where they were meticulously restored. Now that family shares them with the world.

"The way we see it, the only way to prevent something like that from happening again is through education," says Avshalom Weinstein, whose grandfather started acquiring the instruments around 1945. "Unfortunately, we have less and less survivors. Time takes its toll. Those instruments are testimony. They were there."

It was for these—not any—violins that Leshnoff specifically composed "Heichalos," a work inspired by an

pphause.

the symphony at the end of 2017, he had not heard it performed for an audience until he sat in the concert hall that spring night in Tennessee.

“It felt like everyone was there for a purpose,” Leshnoff says. “I saw all types of people coming together for something positive and to make a stand on what history was and where it should go.”

Perhaps those in the audience took some time to consider where the instruments had come from or who had previously played them, after Guerrero lowered his baton. Maybe some people simply were moved by Leshnoff’s composition, or the orchestra’s passion and precision. Whatever the case, men, women, and children sat in a kind of rapture for nearly a minute until, as if snapped from a trance, they burst into

“

“WHEN WE DID THE FIRST
RUN-THROUGH IN THE
FIRST REHEARSAL, WE COULD
HEAR JONATHAN’S SIGNATURE
LANGUAGE IN THE MUSIC.”

– GIANCARLO GUERRERO
CONDUCTOR, NASHVILLE SYMPHONY



Photos courtesy of the Nashville Symphony

ne of Leshnoff's earliest memories from his childhood in New Jersey is of his parents giving him a box of crayons. He used them not to scribble, but as drumsticks.

"When I was three or so my parents played Beethoven's Fifth on an LP," he says. "When the music started I felt a current of energy. I remember standing there stunned. Beethoven has been my favorite composer from that day on."

He began putting notes on paper around the age of 10 but didn't get serious about it until high school, during which he also played the violin. When he was accepted to the renowned Peabody Institute in Baltimore, it was for composition.

Leshnoff, now 46, joined TU's faculty in 2001. Four years later he published his first symphony.

"The best way to start the symphony is just having something to say," he says. "When I am asked to write a concerto for a solo instrument with the orchestra as an accompaniment, my voice has to go through the violin. I have to think about my ideas and say them through the violin. But when I write a symphony I can be myself. I'm writing for every instrument without any one taking priority."

Composing can be an isolating, laborious process. Leshnoff works in his office on the second floor of the Center for the Arts, first sketching his ideas by hand onto score drafts. Last year, he entrusted 78 linear feet of manuscripts—everything he's written from the time he was a kid through his four symphonies—to TU's Special Collections and University Archives.

Next, he uses an electronic piano and keyboard to enter notes into his computer. When he needs to hear an actual piano, he sits at one in a classroom across the hall.

Leshnoff's works have been performed by more than 65 orchestras worldwide in hundreds of concerts. He has received commissions from Carnegie Hall, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Dallas, Kansas City and Pittsburgh.

But he'd never gotten anything like the one from the Nashville Symphony in 2015.



HEIL HITLER VIOLIN

A few years ago this instrument was purchased by a violin maker in Washington, D.C., who discovered the inscription "Heil Hitler, 1936" inside it. It was donated to the collection, but it will never be repaired or played.

"We had already decided that we were going to do a CD of his guitar concerto, which he had written for the Baltimore Symphony a few years before, and we had already decided to record 'Starburst,' which is an overture he had done a few years back," says Guerrero, the Nashville Symphony music director and six-time Grammy winner. "This Violins of Hope project came up and we immediately thought of Jonathan. To me his writing for strings has always been quite fascinating—he's a really gifted orchestrator. It was one of those right moment at the right time."

At first, Leshnoff, who is Jewish, admits that he felt pressure writing for a specific set of instruments that had, as he puts it, "witnessed death."

"I was awestruck for many months thinking, 'What are you going to do?'" he says. "Ultimately I have to take responsibility for every note in the piece. I'm carrying a message of triumph, of hope, of social justice, of history, giving voice to the voiceless. It had a tremendous amount of weight on my heart."

For inspiration, he turned to "Heichalos," an ancient book written in Biblical Hebrew.



VIOLIN BY YAAKOV ZIMMERMAN

This handmade violin is unusually decorated with five Stars of David, four on the face and one on the back. These decorations were crafted from glue mixed with black powder. This violin was found in very bad condition. The varnish was almost nonexistent, and it gave the impression of having been played most of the time in open air, rain or shine. It was repaired and now serves as a concert instrument.



Photo by Kurt Hennecke, courtesy of the Nashville Symphony

“My music for the past five, six, seven years has focused on putting Jewish mystical spirituality to sound,” he says. “With this symphony I went one step further. Instead of just having a movement, I dedicated the whole symphony to an ancient mystical text that is 2,000 years old. It’s essentially a meditative guide.”

He describes the first movement as a “frightening” scenario. While it can be jarring, it’s upbeat and includes the full orchestra—woodwinds, horns, percussion and all. The second movement features the strings.

“I wanted to unite this text with the instruments themselves,” he says. “I see the instruments as the physical embodiment of Jewish survival. These instruments must have witnessed thousands of people killed, and here they are. Just as I’m here, as my relatives escaped Europe. Not only was I writing for these violins, feeling their pain, but I was trying to unite the intellectual with the physical.”

When Guerrero first heard the symphony, he deemed the piece unmistakably Leshnoff’s.

“When you make a commission, you never know where the composer is going to go,” he says. “When we did the first run-through in the first rehearsal, we could hear Jonathan’s signature language in the music. For many composers that’s impossible to find, but the ones that do are incredibly successful. It was obvious to us that he put his heart and soul—who he is as a composer and a person—into this music.”

he horrors of the Holocaust sometimes had a soundtrack. When the *Violins of Hope* came to Cleveland in 2015, PBS ran a story about the project. During the opening of the segment, a Holocaust survivor recounted his arrival on a cattle car of a train at the Mauthausen Concentration Camp in 1944.

“There was a huge gate with the name on top and the term ‘arbeit macht frei,’ meaning, ‘work will make you free,’” the man says. “As we entered, there’s an orchestra playing Beethoven. It was an

unbelievable sight. People were being killed and beaten and there's an orchestra playing."

In Israel, after the war, no one wanted to touch anything German, according to Avshalom Weinstein. Yet his grandfather began purchasing instruments that had survived the Holocaust and storing them in his workshop. Beginning in 1991, Avshalom and his father, Amnon, began restoring them.

"We repaired cracks, pegs, sound posts, varnish, we reset strings," Avshalom says. "Some of them were played outside in the rain and the snow. We did huge work on each one of them."

They now have 77 beautiful instruments, each with a name and a story. The Auschwitz Violin was originally owned by an unnamed inmate who performed in the men's orchestra at the concentration camp—and survived. The Heil Hitler Violin is presumed to have been owned by a Jewish musician or amateur who, at some point, needed a minor repair job. The craftsman doing the repairs opened the violin and inscribed on its upper deck the words "Heil Hitler, 1936," alongside a swastika. He then closed the violin case and handed it back to the owner, who played it for years, unaware of the inscription.

Steven Brosvik, COO of the Nashville Symphony, became aware of the Violins of Hope when they were in Cleveland. He immediately knew he wanted to bring them to Music City. Over the course of 10 weeks in 2018, 26 community organizations throughout the city used the violins to create both musical and non-musical educational content.

"Musicians who played these instruments were forced to play during executions," he says. "They played basically as a ruse for people coming off the trains to give them a sense of comfort. The instruments were used as tools of deception. Certainly here in Nashville, where it is such a music community, the concept that people would use instruments in that way is pretty striking."

That was plainly evident when the members of the orchestra first assembled to select their instruments and rehearse days before the March 2018 concerts.



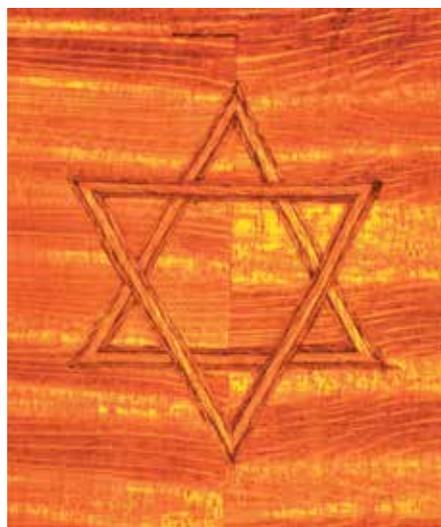
RABIN VIOLIN

Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed this violin on January 10, 1995, less than 10 months before he was assassinated. After the violin was sealed, it was played for Rabin and his staff by Shlomo Mintz.



GERMAN VIOLIN WITH STAR OF DAVID

This handmade instrument dates to the late 19th century. It likely was owned by a wealthy klezmer musician, as it appears to have been more expensive than most klezmer instruments. The Star of David is made of mother of pearl.



THE SHIMON KRONGOLD VIOLIN

A wealthy Jewish industrialist in Warsaw, Krongold bought this violin from Yaakov Zimmerman, one of the first Jewish violin makers. When the war broke out, Krongold fled and later died from illness in Uzbekistan. Years later, a person came to the Krongold family home in Jerusalem with the violin.

Asking a musician at this level to use a different instrument for a concert or recording is akin to telling Serena Williams to switch tennis racquets before the Wimbledon final. Like chefs and their knives, a musician's instrument is not merely a tool—it's an extension of their being.

Kristi Seehafer, a section first violinist, described selecting her violin as a "cerebral" process.

"Each instrument has its own feel and response and sound," she says. "Reaction times of the strings, where the strings are in relation to the fingerboard. All of that was so very different. Knowing that I had

Forging a RICH Legacy

Former CEO Diane Richardson is now in the business of winning basketball games and molding student-athletes.

BY MATT PALMER

Few people seem to forget the moment they laid eyes on Towson University women's basketball coach Diane Richardson.

For senior guard Ryan Holder, it was a sudden embrace during a recruiting visit. For Director of Athletics Tim Leonard, it was at an interview. For associate head coach Zach Kanher, it was once trying to recruit some of her elite high school basketball players. All of them came to the same conclusion: Diane Richardson is a force of nature with a tractor beam of a personality that pulls you in forever.

"It kind of catches you off guard because it's like, 'Who is this woman?'" Holder says. "But, after talking with her, I could believe what she was telling me."

"Once you have Coach Rich, you have her for life," Kanher adds.

In just two years at the helm, Richardson has turned the women's basketball program around. The Tigers won the 2018-19 Colonial Athletic Association championship with a 20-13 record and earned their first berth in the NCAA Tournament. It didn't matter that they lost to Connecticut, arguably the greatest college basketball program in history, in the first round. The season was a resounding success, and Leonard signed Richardson to a contract extension through the 2023-24 season.

The national attention that came with the appearance in the Big Dance, despite the result, has given the program a significant boost heading into this season.

"I was proud they never gave up," Richardson says of her team's effort against UConn. "It was everybody's realization that we've come close. Now we know what to expect. We've been to the dance—now we gotta work on our dance moves."

Sitting in her office at the Towson Center in August, Richardson, 61, couldn't help but reflect on how far she's come.

"Growing up, I didn't have the best of circumstances from an economic standpoint," the Largo, Maryland, native says. "But basketball got me out of that."

In high school in the 1970s, Richardson excelled on the court and the track. A coach changed her life, telling her that she could get a scholarship thanks to recent Title IX amendments. At Frostburg State University, she won 1979 NCAA regional track titles in the 200 and 400 meters. She even qualified for the 1980 U.S. Olympic team, which boycotted the games because of global political issues.

Yet athletics would take a backseat in her life for a while. She earned a master's degree from Central Michigan University and started a successful business career and eventually a family. She had a daughter and two sons with husband Larry.

But through it all, she stayed connected to basketball.

"I knew that it had changed my life, so I did a lot of stuff with boys and girls clubs, and AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) clubs, talking to young ladies and telling them you can get a scholarship," she says.

In the early 2000s, she was bitten by the bug to coach fulltime. Her teams excelled at Maryland's Riverdale Baptist High School during stints from 2001 to 2006 and 2009 to 2012. In between, she was a key assistant coach for one season at the University of Maryland, helping develop Crystal

Langhorne, Marissa Coleman and Kristi Tolliver, all eventual WNBA All-Stars.

While at Riverdale Baptist, Richardson became Jonquel Jones' legal guardian. She coached her there and at George Washington University, where she served as an assistant. Jones is now a two-time WNBA All-Star for the Connecticut Sun.

When Leonard was looking for someone to revive the women's basketball program in the summer of 2017, he received several



standout applications, including one from a nationally proven college head coach.

Richardson's resumé was different. Yes, she coached five national championship teams at Riverdale Baptist. Yes she'd also been an assistant at Maryland, George Washington, American University and West Virginia University. But she had also been vice president of the National Neighborhood Lending Marketing Team at Bank of America. She even started her own business, serving as president and CEO of RCI Financial.

Compared to the other candidates, Leonard thought Richardson brought something beyond Xs and Os.

"The head coach is the CEO of her program," Leonard says. "It all ties together. You've got to be able to communicate to your team. She's running the whole thing as she would an organization."

Richardson had a vision and communicated it well. Above all, Leonard says, "She wanted to be at Towson.

"She just blew me away. As soon as she walked out the door, I said, 'That's my head coach.'"

Richardson learned early about the opportunities basketball provides, and she enjoys seeing newer generations blossom.

"Back when I started in high school, you had a couple of players that could play," she says. "Now you've got stacked teams. You've got lots of women's basketball players aspiring to be professionals."

Richardson has always felt an obligation to mentor young women, taking a chance on them the way her former coaches did with her. That includes her players at TU.

“My conversations with my team now are about the next level, whether it be in the WNBA or overseas,” she says. “Just my experience trying to claw my way out of that cycle I was in, I knew that took a lot of determination. I can dig a little deeper. I know what they have inside. Other people may not be able to see it, but I’ve got those tinted glasses. Sometimes it takes a little extra love.”

Kancher calls her the best mentor of 18-to-22-year-olds he’s ever seen. Richardson even sometimes refers to the players as her “16 babies.”

“She’s a woman who is not just a coach, but also there for you when you need her,” Holder says. “You can talk with her about life situations. You can bring it to her and she’s got advice beyond just basketball and the court.”

Richardson says that while her life as a coach is completely different from her days as a CEO, she often uses what she learned from those experiences.

“I came from ‘I’m never going to college,’ to graduating with honors and being one of the top executives in the world,” she says. “It shows them you can be whatever you want to be.”

The D.C., Maryland and Virginia area is often shortened to the “DMV.” And in the women’s basketball scene, there is clearly a matriarch.

“She’s known as the ‘Queen of the DMV,’” Kancher says. “I joke that when we go out recruiting, I’ve got to take one of those bungee cords that you use for toddlers at the mall so they don’t run off. I’ve got to put it on her because every three paces, someone wants to talk to her.”

Upon her hire, Richardson looked at the CAA rosters and saw a significant number of Baltimore-Washington players on other teams.

“Every single team in the CAA, 20 percent of their roster was DMV kids,” Richardson says. “I’m like, why are they leaving here and coming back and kicking our butt? That’s not going to happen. We concentrated on keeping the best kids home. That’s what we’re doing right now.”

Seven players on the 2019-20 Tigers roster are from the DMV. Kancher said there’s a reason it’s happening: Richardson’s long-term commitment to basketball in the region.



“My conversations with my team now are about the next level, whether it be in the WNBA or overseas.”

—DIANE RICHARDSON

She used her professional success to help support local AAU and recreational basketball programs financially well before she coached. Developing the next multifaceted stars at TU is her mission.

“We’re planning for life. It’s not just about basketball,” she says. “We let them know that. I’m going to be your mom away from home. I’m going to push you, but I’m going to love you, too.”

Holder, who went to Roland Park Country School in Baltimore, says playing in front of home crowds means the world to her and fellow local teammates.

“Honestly, it’s an honor,” she says. “The people who have watched you grow up can see you. Towson has always felt like home.”

Richardson has focused on changing the culture not just of the basketball program, but of the fans as well. SECU Arena crowds increased 41 percent in 2018-19 over the previous season. The Tigers went 8-4 at

home last year, and buzz built on and off campus.

“We appreciate so much that people care about women’s basketball,” Holder says. “It’s our lives and it’s important to us. It’s nice to know it’s important to them, too.”

The Tigers are defined by Richardson’s up-and-down-the-court style that demands players bring every last bit of themselves to the game.

“Her energy and her want-to gives us energy,” Holder says. “For us, she’s more than just a coach. She’s a teacher. We will be able to navigate life better.”

The Tigers dealt with adversity in Richardson’s first year, as the team went 9-21. Richardson, Kancher and the rest of the coaching staff focused on team unity.

“In order to be confident, we had to teach them to be better basketball players,” Richardson says.

On a late summer afternoon, just days before the start of the school year, Holder

stopped by Richardson’s office and was again embraced by the coach. Practice was a little more than a month away. The players have their eyes on something more than a CAA title now.

“She knows we are capable of so much more than we think we are,” Holder says. “Coach Rich and the whole coaching staff are just continuing to push us further. Yes, we did it last year, but we’ve got to do it again.”

Richardson has even bigger plans. As the new season looms, last year’s success is still at the forefront. Team members received their CAA championship rings in late August.

“I don’t want people to think this was luck or a flash in the pan,” Richardson says. “I want them to believe this program is going to be sustainable. Our goal is going to be to continue to win, every year.” **TU**

Matt Palmer is TU’s director of media relations and news. He formerly covered the Ravens and Orioles for the Baltimore Examiner and PressBox.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum honors the men and women who served their country. Stacey Queen '15 is honored to serve them.

BY MIKE UNGER

On occasion, Stacey Queen will ascend from her office on the lower level of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum and stroll through the exhibition space.

As visitors navigate the 15 alcoves that highlight key themes and moments in veterans' journeys and personal stories, or as they follow an extensive timeline starting at the Revolutionary War and ending in Afghanistan, Queen '15 observes their reactions.

"I've never been in a space where people just open up," says Queen, the museum's public programs manager. "Veterans—and sometimes their families—can become very emotional. The wife of one older couple once pulled me to the side and said that her husband began to tell a story that he had never talked about. She felt like the museum was an amazing place where her husband felt comfortable."

The nation's only museum dedicated to the men and women who have served in its armed forces opened its doors just over a year ago. It is not a solemn place, but it is a serious one. Perched on the west bank of the Scioto River in downtown Columbus, Ohio, its mission is to "preserve not only the names, dates, and battles but the intimate

memories, personal belongings and painful losses of our nation's veterans."

Queen plays an integral role in ensuring that mission reaches children. It's a position in a place in a city that the 46-year-old Baltimore native never imagined she'd be in, but one she's honored to occupy.

"The museum is so personal for many of the visitors," she says. "I think it's a place where they can really reflect on how grateful we are as a country for their service."

Queen's father, Albert, served during the Vietnam War, but he's not the only veteran in the family. Her parents have the discharge paper of a relative who was in the Union army during the Civil War.

When he returned to civilian life, Queen's father traveled often and worked long hours for the federal government in Washington. To occupy her only child, Queen's mother often would take Stacey to museums around Baltimore.

"My first museum experience was at The Walters Art Museum," Queen says. "I was so fascinated by mummies there. Museums have always been safe spaces for me. I could be in my own little world."

The Great Hall of the museum displays Air Force photographer Stacy Pearsall's Veterans Portrait Project. On the other side of each banner is a photo of the subject from their military days.

During three combat tours, Pearsall earned the Bronze Star Medal and Air Force Commendation with Valor for combat actions in Iraq.



HONOR & CONNECTION

Still, she never thought she would work in one. After attending Hampton University, she married and settled in Richmond, Virginia, where she raised two kids and owned a beauty salon. But after 15 years her marriage crumbled, so she moved back to Baltimore.

"I really had to do some soul searching," she says. "I went through my little phase of being slightly depressed about it, but I didn't let it hold me back. I didn't let it consume me. I said, 'OK Stacey, pull yourself up by your bootstraps.'"

That she did. Always passionate about art, she contacted Susan Isaacs, a professor in TU's Department of Art + Design, Art History, Art Education, who told her she didn't meet the requirements for admittance into the art history graduate program, but provided her with encouragement and a roadmap forward.

"Dr. Isaacs was so instrumental in mentoring me and helping me mold my

career," Queen says. "She was an extraordinary help to me."

Queen took additional undergraduate courses at night while she taught art in the Baltimore City Public Schools system, and eventually was admitted. She worked part-time at the Baltimore Museum of Art, The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and the Maryland Historical Society while pursuing her master's.

After earning her degree, she landed a job at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, Connecticut, the oldest public art museum in the country.

She was at the Wadsworth for nearly five years when she learned of the opening for a public programs manager at the then-still unfinished National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, a city where she knew no one. She was hesitant to pursue it, but pushed herself to try something new.

"You won't see any art outside of photography

here," she says. "It's about the stories of our veterans and making this human connection. This museum takes the visitors on a journey from that moment when a person decides to become part of the armed forces and takes the oath to what it looks like once they're deployed and then come back home. It tells a narrative of service and what that means to us as a community, and to the country as a whole."

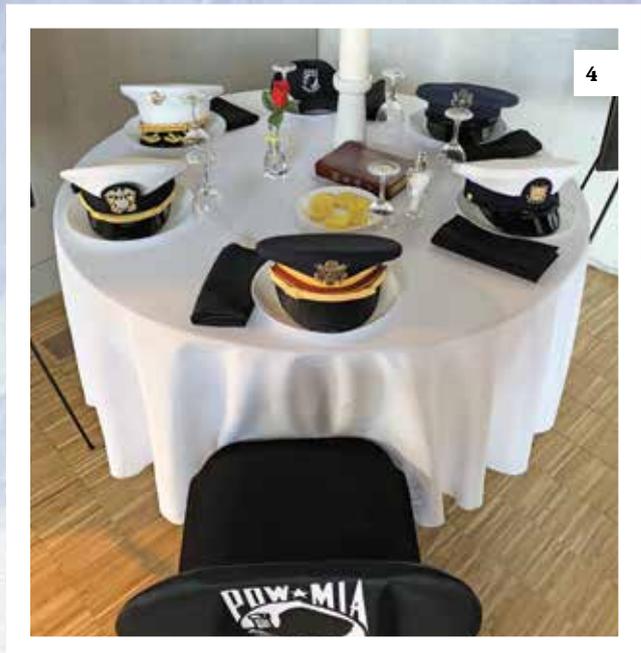
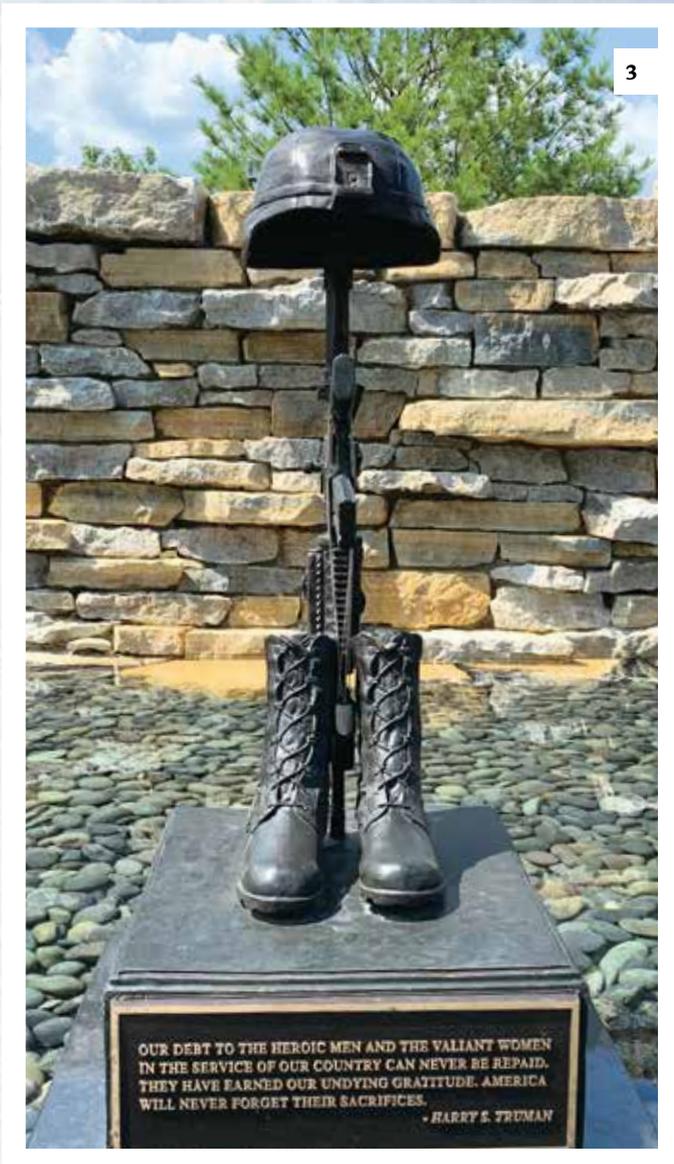
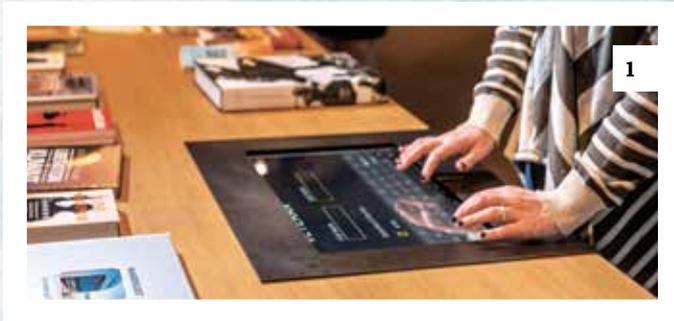
Queen helps communicate that story. She's designed curricula encompassing various academic subjects and spanning all grade levels. With little ones, she discusses the history of the flag and museum etiquette. Older students write letters to deployed service members and learn about different roles in the military and the way technology is used in the armed forces today.

"We want to make the connection between what students are learning in the classroom and what they can learn by coming here," she says.



Photo: Adam Cairns/Columbus Dispatch

Stacey Queen '15 (center) leads educational programs for students at the museum.



1 | Visitors can look up the name of any veteran. 2 | The names of veterans can be projected onto this star. 3 | The Soldier's Cross is one of two monuments in the Memorial Grove. 4 | Whenever one of the branches holds a formal dinner or event, one table has an empty chair to honor POWs and MIAs. Queen says. 5 | A stained glass installation inspired by military campaign ribbons lines the Remembrance Gallery.



“WHILE THE DESIGN OF SOME MUSEUMS SCREAM FOR ATTENTION, THE NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM IS BEAUTIFULLY UNDERSTATED, HONORING THE COUNTRY’S VETERANS.”



John Glenn was a military hero who flew 59 combat missions in World War II and 90 in the Korean War, an astronaut who was the first American to orbit the earth and a four-term senator from Ohio. He died in 2016 while working on one of his most personal projects: establishing a museum for veterans in his beloved Buckeye State.

The result of his vision is striking. Constructed from 28 million pounds of concrete, the building has unobstructed views of Columbus’ skyline, yet feels peacefully removed from the hustle and bustle of a city. In naming it one of the most anticipated buildings of 2018, *Architectural Digest* wrote, “While the design of some museums scream for attention,



1 | The building was named one of *Architectural Digest’s* most anticipated buildings of 2018. **2** | Former Marine Corps pilot, astronaut and Senator John Glenn was the driving force behind the creation of the museum. **3** | An alcove details the history and controversial nature of the draft.

the National Veterans Memorial and Museum is beautifully understated, honoring the country's veterans ... Indeed, much like the people it's honoring, the structure has a dignified form that appears to be organically grown from the ground."

A 2.5-acre memorial grove outside the museum, free to all, offers visitors a place for quiet reflection and contemplation. Inside, 50,000 square feet of space includes a great hall, exhibition galleries, a second-floor mezzanine and a lower level with a rotating gallery, classrooms, offices and meeting rooms.

There are many interactive exhibits, including one where visitors can put on a backpack filled with up to 75 pounds of gear to feel what soldiers endure when patrolling or embarking on a mission. In another, guests post handwritten questions that can be answered by a veteran who might pass by.

"What do you guys eat?" reads one.

"A lot of PB and Js," a veteran scribbled back.

The museum, which is officially designated by Congress but receives no federal funding, opened on October 27, 2018. It was a cold, dreary day, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the guests in attendance, or of Gen. Colin Powell, the keynote speaker.

"I retired from the army 25 years ago this month, after serving 35 years, three months and 28 days," he said. "I immediately became a veteran and was proud to be one. I was honored to join the ranks of 20 million Americans who proudly call themselves veterans. We are all now of the same title, and the same rank: veteran. I am deeply moved to be here as we bring to life this memorial and museum."

And alive it is. **TU**



Visitors can try on a helmet, flak jacket or rucksack to get a sense of what it feels like to wear military gear.

TU's Home for Veterans

Dena Allen-Few arrived at TU as a transfer student from Baltimore City Community College. In her first years on campus she would show up for class and hand in her assignments, but otherwise basically keep to herself.

Then she discovered the Military and Veterans Center.

"The center and its students changed the trajectory of my life," says Allen-Few '19, who served in Army Reserve from 1999–2006 and now works as the center's program management specialist. "The relationships I developed here will follow me for years to come."

Established as a sort-of home base for veterans at TU, the center's mission is to provide educational, social and personal enrichment opportunities for the university's military community. About 200 veterans currently are TU students. Their median age is 27, but some are in their 40s, 50s and 60s.

"A lot of them are very nontraditional students," says Dario DiBattista, who served in the Marine Corps and now is the center's director. "If you do four or five years in the military, you've traveled the world, you've been in charge of people—those are experiences that traditional incoming freshmen can't necessarily relate to. So it's important for them to have their own space."

That can be found at the center's home in the Psychology Building, where veterans can relax, study, watch TV or socialize with people who have similar backgrounds.

It was a godsend for Allen-Few, 38, who spent a year deployed to Iraq. Prior to coming to TU, she never discussed her service and actually worked hard to hide it. Reluctantly, she started going to the center to study, headphones firmly in place.

"I was giving 'don't talk to me vibes,' but it didn't work," she says. "There was one student who would engage me in conversations. Next thing I knew we were going out for a drink and I was meeting other veterans for the first time in a decade. I had found a place with people who understood what it was like to be deployed, to be in combat and all of the baggage that comes along with that."

When she graduated in May, she proudly wore her veteran honor cord.

"Dena from two years ago would never have done that," she says. "I am so thankful that I am able to give back to the community that fostered who I have become."



CAMERA MAN

**TU'S BELOVED PHOTOGRAPHER
IS HANGING UP HIS NIKON.**

**BY KYLE
HOBSTETTER**

If you've had your picture taken on Towson University's campus in the past 23 years, it was probably snapped by Kanji Takeno.

Since starting at TU in 1996, the man universally known simply as Kanji has seen an abundance of changes. In that time, there have been new buildings, five university presidents, a doubling of the student enrollment and even a name change from Towson State University.

But there has only been one director of photographic services—until now. This term is Kanji's last as the university's lead photographer.

"Every morning I look forward to

coming to work," he says. "Every day I look forward to making students smile with my camera. At the end of the day I am exhausted but very happy, and I know I have done what I could do each day."

Growing up in Kogushi, a sleepy fishing village at the western end of the main island of Japan, Kanji was a self-admitted beach bum. But in 1973, a commercial featuring American fashion photographer Richard Avedon piqued his interest. He thought the photographer looked cool.

So, with photography on his mind, he travelled to an Ansel Adams photo exhibit in a nearby city.




**KANJI'S TAKEN
HUNDREDS OF
THOUSANDS
OF PHOTOS DURING HIS
TU CAREER.
THESE ARE AMONG HIS
FAVORITES.**



"His prints were so amazing," Kanji says. "My interest in photography became more serious. I thought I could express myself in the form of photography."

While he discovered a passion for the craft, he had another dream: to learn English and study photography in America. His parents were a bit hesitant to sign off on sending their son across the world, but a scholarship from Loyola University in New Orleans helped convince them.

On August 22, 1979, Kanji boarded Pan Am Flight 002 at Narita International Airport and flew to Los Angeles, where

he caught a Delta connection to New Orleans. It was only the second time he had left Japan, and it was his first trip to America.

"I still remember vividly, in well-saturated Kodachrome colors, the blue sky and huge white clouds in the morning," he says.

Kanji graduated from Loyola in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in printmaking and photography, but he wasn't ready for his education to end. So he enrolled in the Master of Fine Arts program at Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA).

He packed his Chevy Caprice station wagon with "dreams, hopes and photo

equipment," and headed to Baltimore, where he's been ever since. He graduated from MICA in 1987 and started working as a freelance photographer.

Kanji was hired as TU's photographer the same year Bill Clinton was reelected president. His photos have been published on TU's website and social media and used in its marketing materials and the pages of this magazine.

"Kanji's images have been the face TU shows the public for 20-plus years," says Rick Pallansch, TU's assistant vice president of Creative Services. He's worked with Kanji for more than two decades. "Generations of students have

been attracted to Towson University due to one man's efforts."

And it's a lot of effort. He usually gets to the office around 7 each morning, and leaves around 7 p.m. (If there is an event that night, he stays later.) He also works weekends when needed.

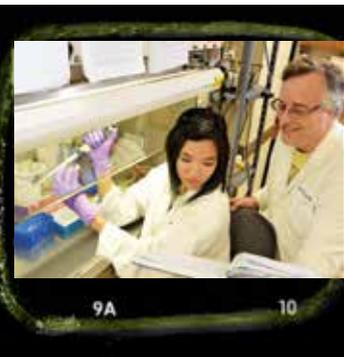
During the university's commencement activities, Kanji photographs each ceremony. He leaves campus well after dark having recorded over 10,000 steps on his pedometer each day.

"I think that if we ever accurately tracked his time, no one would believe it," Pallansch says. "I never have to worry if



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9A

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10A

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11A

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12A

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“EVERY DAY I LOOK FORWARD TO MAKING STUDENTS SMILE WITH MY CAMERA.”

Kanji will show up for an event—chances are he’s already there. He has given a very large chunk of his life to Towson University.”

Since 1997, Kanji also has taught Japanese as an adjunct professor in TU’s Department of Foreign Languages. When he initially came to America, he planned to return to Japan to teach English after completing his education at Loyola. So when TU needed a substitute Japanese teacher, he jumped at the chance to stand in front of the classroom, where he’s earned the affectionate nickname “Sensei” from his students.

“I remember one comment I received from a professor who observed my class during the first semester. In his report he wrote, ‘Kanji was born to be a teacher,’” he says. “I still love each class. During each summer when students are not on campus, I feel like a fish in a pond which is drying up.”

In his classes, “Sensei,” who will

continue teaching after leaving his photographer position, uses various methods to help students understand the Japanese language. This includes bringing Beanie Babies or drawing every animal at the zoo to help with understanding sentence structure.

But he also wants his students to learn Japanese culture. So he frequently tells stories about his childhood, which are tied into his lesson plan.

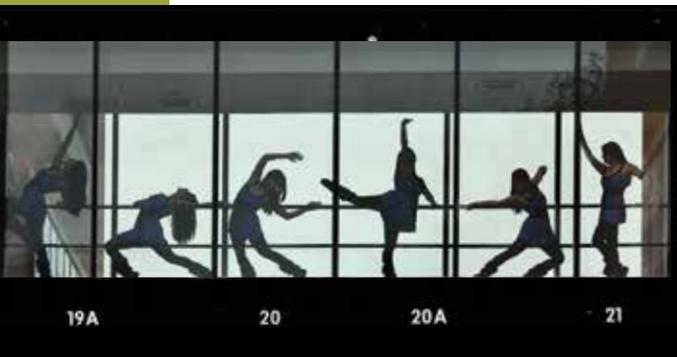
“Sensei’s teaching style is what some may call rough and demanding, but still soft and gentle,” says David Jahangiri ’20, an exercise science major who has taken several of Kanji’s Japanese classes.

Kanji’s friendly demeanor and willingness to snap a quick picture has made him a TU celebrity. When walking around campus, he always has his camera ready.



18A

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19A

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20A

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21A

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22A



"If we're talking about the most recognizable figures on TU's campus, it's between Doc the Tiger and Sensei," Jahangiri says, laughing.

His notoriety on campus even inspired a social media contest called "Where's Kanji?" in which students tried to snap a selfie with him to win a prize. The contest garnered hundreds of entries.

"I did not realize how popular he was until I started my position here," says Lauren Castellana '13, TU's assistant director of photography for the past four years. "When we walk around campus to take photos there are always students yelling his name and asking to get a photo."

At this year's new student convocation, the Towson University Marching Band started a very loud "Kanji" chant.

"No matter where we go on campus, students are calling his name and posing for the camera," says Lexi Thompson '20, a photography major from Baltimore who also works as Kanji's assistant. "He's easily the most well-known person on TU's campus. It makes sense when you see not only the students' reactions to seeing him, but his reaction to seeing the students."

Growing up, Kanji would stare at passing ships in the ocean until they sailed out of sight. He knew there was much more beyond the horizon

than what he could see. Kanji always considered his mind a vessel, and education the wind that would take him anywhere in the world.

After spending more than two decades at TU, he's hoping he set an example for future generations.

"I am a professional photographer and a teacher. So two dreams of mine came true at Towson University," he says. "I thought I could share my belief that working hard is important and education will make it possible for anyone to make their dreams come true." **TU**

Kyle Hobstetter is a communications strategist in University Marketing and Communications.



#TUProud

Tiger in Town

This mural on the side of the Wells Fargo Bank at Pennsylvania Avenue and York Road, unveiled in August, includes the TU Tiger and Stephens Hall clock tower alongside other local and state symbols.

Painted by Amy Redondo, it's the first public art project from the Towson Creative Partnership, which aims to strengthen and diversify Towson's downtown economy while connecting surrounding communities through a creative urban landscape.



I would like to compliment you and your staff on the redesign of *TU Magazine*. I literally read it cover to cover. The article on Baltimore's craft beer companies and the influence of TU alumni was fascinating. The high quality of the writing and photography make this publication something to be proud of. I graduated from TSU in 1968 and my wife in 1969. *TU Magazine* has been a good way for us to stay in touch with our alma mater so we are really pleased with what you have done. And by the way, the TU logo is great. Now I need to get a T-shirt with the new logo.

ALBERT FOWLER '68

The new magazine looks really great and the content was on point. Well done, congrats to all involved.

JOANN (HERBER) FOLTZ '83

I received and read the latest *TU Magazine*. Congratulations on the redesign. The layout is great and the texture updated but the content was a marked improvement too. Great execution. Congratulations on the success.

SEAN WILLIAMS '05

I would like to congratulate you on the superb new version of *TU Magazine*; it really is an outstanding issue—not only is the format highly engaging but the content consistently highlights the impressive story of Towson University. Very well done, indeed.

**ALAN CLARDY,
PROFESSOR EMERITUS**

Wanted to take a minute to say I thoroughly enjoyed *TU Magazine*. Sat down and read it cover to cover tonight and it was filled with so many awesome articles. I've always loved the magazine but this one definitely was a step up and "bigger" in many

aspects. Kudos on a job well done and a project complete; on to the next one.

**LENA HANCOCK, ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
OPERATIONS**

I just wanted to let you know that I love books and magazines in person and online. I love them so much I made them my career. I read the new mag online when it was featured and today got the hard copy. Excellent work, I love it, the articles and photos are spot on. Please tell anyone that was involved that this is good enough to sell. Can't wait until the next one.

**STACY ELOFIR, DIRECTOR,
UNIVERSITY STORE**

I received your Summer 2019 issue and commend you and your associates for a most attractive and exceptionally inviting production. I was greeted with a picture of a bear cub, the words "Shooting To Save," as a teaser or lead-in to your article on page 27. Call me touchy, but I suggest that this should have been either not inside the cover at all, or if it was, you might have used the word "Photographing" instead of "Shooting." But the magazine is a delight. *TU Magazine* reminds me of, and very well may surpass, other local-interest productions such as *Johns Hopkins Magazine* and *Hopkins Medicine*, which also come to me. I'm not even a Towson graduate—my partner Harriet is—and I snatch *TU Magazine* out of our mailbox before she can even see it.

JOHN CLARK

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We heard from a few people who complimented the magazine's look and its content, but felt that some of the text was too small. In response, we've increased the font size in some sections. Thanks to everyone who wrote—we always appreciate the feedback.



We're Blushing

We received lots of email following the redesign of the magazine.

Here's some of what readers had to say.



MY TOWN

Erin Silk '13 Sarasota County, Florida

BEST BEACH

Siesta Key

GROUPE

Captain Eddie's Seafood Restaurant

TIKI BAR

Sharky's on the Pier

COFFEE SHOP

Venice Wine and Coffee Company

COMEDY CLUB

McCurdy's Comedy Theatre

Living on the Gulf Coast of Florida was Erin Silk's destiny.

"My grandfather used to tell a story that four generations ago the Silk family came down to Sarasota on horse and buggy," she says.

She didn't arrive permanently—in a car—until five years ago, but as director of business development services for the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County, she's deeply invested in the success of the region, and not planning to leave anytime soon.

When she used to visit, her late grandfather took her diving at **Venice Beach**, one of 14 in the county.

"Each one has its own characteristics," she says. "Venice Beach is the shark tooth capital of the world."

Outdoor activities are plentiful. **The Legacy Trail** provides cyclists a 12-mile route from Sarasota to Venice. Silk likes to kayak near **Snake Island**, where dolphins and manatees often mingle with the boats. **Myakka River State Park** is a prime place to spot an alligator. If you prefer your gator in sausage form, the nearby **Snook Haven** restaurant serves them on hoagie rolls, topped with peppers and onions.

Then, there are the tiki bars.

"You go on a vacation, you sit in a tiki bar and you fantasize: What if I lived here?" she says. "Every weekend here feels like you're on vacation."

Silk has spent many a Saturday at **Oleary's Tiki Bar and Grill** in Sarasota, a perfect place to chill outside and watch boats in the harbor. For something more upscale, there's **Made in Italy**, whose martinis Silk describes as "works of art." **Clasico** hosts live music and is an example of the more artsy vibe she says is permeating the area.

The Ringling is the former home of circus magnate John Ringling and his wife Mable. Guests can stroll through the gardens outside the 36,000-square-foot mansion or purchase tickets to the renowned art museum.

In 2011 renovations were completed to **Ed Smith Stadium**, the spring training home of the Baltimore Orioles. Silk, who grew up in Columbia, Maryland, is a lifelong fan of the team.

"It's a cool way to get personal with the players because you're much closer than a regular [season] baseball game and it's a more relaxed atmosphere," she says. "Even though you're not in Baltimore, it has the sense of home."



Alumni News



Nominate an Alum

Know an impressive Tiger who has made a significant career achievement? Visit alumni.towson.edu/DADR to nominate someone for a 2020 Distinguished Alumni or Deans' Recognition award. Deadline Dec. 21.



Tigers for Good

On August 21, several alumni came together to volunteer at the Maryland Food Bank. A first-time event, participants organized donated food and created meal kits.



Upcoming Alumni Events

11/9 - Wainio Scholarship Fundraiser
11/12 - Jewish Tigers Alumni Alliance Event
11/14 - Reception in New York City
11/23 - Dance Alumni Reception
12/18-12/19 - Commencement Volunteering
1/17-1/19 - Events in California

Taking a L.E.A.P.

Last spring marked the inception of Tiger L.E.A.P. (Learn. Experience. Apply. Practice.), a job-shadowing program connecting undergraduate students with industry professionals in their prospective fields. Although hosts can be alumni, parents, employers or community partners, 62 percent of inaugural participants were proud TU graduates. The initial term focused on professions in the STEM industries, but the program recently expanded to include careers in media, arts and communication. To learn more about this program and how to get involved, visit www.towson.edu/jobshadowing.



DADR Awards Banquet

The Alumni Association celebrated eight exceptional graduates May 23 at the Distinguished Alumni and Deans' Recognition Awards Banquet. A testament to TU's extensive and dynamic academic programs, the honorees excelled in a wide range of fields, including the military, healthcare, media, politics, accounting, business development, education, law enforcement and athletics. Their accomplishments are many, their talents diverse and their commitment to helping others through their work inspiring.

In accepting the most prestigious award of the night, Distinguished Alumni winner Michael Locksley honored his mother, Venita, who died just one week before the ceremony. "All of the things I've accomplished are because of her," he said. "My mental toughness, my physical toughness, my effort, the hard work—all stem from seeing Venita Locksley get up every day and bust her butt to provide an opportunity for me. I am a product of a great degree from Towson University and the great game of football. I love this place."

AWARDEES

Distinguished Alumni Award
Michael Locksley '92

Distinguished Young Alumni Award
Amy Caprio '10*

Deans' Recognition Awards

Brian Davis '97
College of Business and Economics

Kara Ball '08
College of Education

Brian Stelter '07
College of Fine Arts and Communication

LTC Richard Holley '96
College of Health Professions

The Honorable Sarah Elfreth '10
College of Liberal Arts

E. Clark Porter '76
Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics

*Awarded posthumously

Want to Join an Alumni Alliance?

TU's Alumni Alliance program is continually expanding, and we want you to be part of it. Based on common interest, geographic region, campus organization, culture or shared identity, alliances increase opportunities for meaningful engagement with fellow alumni and the university. Throughout the year, alliances provide several opportunities for alumni to connect through fun social engagements and experience-driven events, valuable professional development and networking receptions, and impactful volunteer and mentorship opportunities. There are several active and developing alliances to choose from, and you can join them by visiting alumni.towson.edu and clicking the Groups tab.

Active Alumni Alliances include Jewish Tigers (JTAA), LGBTQ+, Marching Band, New York City, SGA, Southern California, and Towson Black Alumni (TBAA). Developing alliances include Asian, Latinx, Military & Veterans and Washington, D.C./Northern Virginia groups.





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50TH REUNION: The class of 1969 celebrated its golden anniversary with a two-day reunion May 31 and June 1. On Friday, alumni enjoyed a cocktail reception in Hawkins Hall with access to a tour of innovative programs and workspaces experienced by current education majors. Saturday included sightseeing around campus followed by a special dinner program at the Sheraton Baltimore North.

1. The group gathers for a photo during its reunion dinner.
2. Raising a glass to 50 years of friendship.
3. Dottie (Fischer) Kolb, Jean (Prigel) Miller, Marty (Baker) Amrhein and Pam (Keller) Triesler
4. Laughter filled the weekend.



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BREWERY TOURS: To kick off summer, the Alumni Association hosted two brewery events—one at Guinness Open Gate Brewery & Barrel House in Baltimore, the other at Wyndridge Farm in Dallastown, Pennsylvania. Guests enjoyed craft beverages, delicious hors d'oeuvres and fantastic company.

1. Irish tradition and Baltimore beer innovation intersect.
2. Tom Slempp '14, Matt Fertitta '12, Courtney Smith '12 and Laura Slempp '15 at Guinness.
3. Alumni enjoy a reception in the beautifully restored rustic barn at Wyndridge Farm.
4. Ashena Sparrow '18 and Robin Pettiford '94 at Wyndridge.



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ACCEPTED STUDENT COOKOUTS: Throughout July and August, the Office of Alumni Relations held cookouts in several Maryland counties to welcome new students and their families to the TU community. Local alumni attended as well, offering expertise and support to incoming students.

1. Incoming students had an opportunity to meet one another in Prince George's County.
2. New student families enjoy the cookout in Anne Arundel County.
3. It was a picture-perfect day for the cookout in Montgomery County.
4. Centennial Lake hosted the final cookout in Howard County.



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TOWSON UNIVERSITY NIGHT WITH THE O'S:

September 6, the Alumni Association and the TU community participated in Towson University Night at Camden Yards. Fans received co-branded O's caps in TU colors before cheering on the Orioles as they faced the Texas Rangers.

1. Fans are ready for the game.
2. The fun begins with a cookout in the Bullpen Picnic Grove.
3. Doc meets up with alumni at the ballpark.
4. The stadium turns black and gold for the evening.

Class Notes

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

We'd like to hear about your personal and professional life.

SEND MAIL TO:

Alumni Relations, Towson University,
8000 York Rd. Towson, MD 21252-0001

EMAIL:

alumni@towson.edu

WEB:

alumni.towson.edu/classnotes

 **Tiger Connect:**
alumni.towson.edu

 **Facebook:**
Towson University Alumni Association

 **Twitter:**
@towsonualumni

 **Instagram:**
@towsonalum

 **Tag your posts:**
#TowsonUAlum

1950s

DAVE EDEN '59 and wife **LINDA (DELAUDER) EDEN**, recently celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary. The couple met during a campus snowball fight in 1957 while he was a junior and she was a freshman. They wed before his senior year and now live in North Carolina.

1960s

LEE BOYLE '68 published his 33rd book, *Virginia Makes the Poorest Figure of Any State: The Virginia Infantry at Valley Forge*.

1970s

TRAVIS TALLMAN '70 won the 2019 RESNA-Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America's Sam McFarland Memorial Mentor Award, given to members who have influenced, counseled and nurtured others in the field of rehabilitation engineering and assistive technology. He works as

director of augmentative and computer services at the New Jersey Institute for Disabilities.

JULIE CONLON '71 is the creator of The Lafayette Plarn Project and an ambassador for homeless services in Lafayette, Indiana. Plarning is a process where strips of plastic grocery bags are crocheted into sleeping mats for those who struggle with homelessness or are victims of floods.



WILLIAM OWINGS '73 works as a professor of educational leadership in the Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership at Old Dominion University. He and his wife, Leslie, have written 16 books or monographs, 10 chapters in texts and encyclopedia volumes and 60 journal articles about the intersection of education finance, leadership and student social outcomes.

1980s

EVE GOLDEN '80 signed contracts to write her seventh and eighth biographies, *Jayne Mansfield: The Girl Couldn't Help It* and *Lupe Velez: Mexican Spitfire Goes to Hollywood*.

JOHN MANZONI '82 joined Clearview Group as an associate project manager in the technology and cybersecurity practice providing support for cross-functional client engagements.

JOE PLATANIA '85 is celebrating 40 years in Baltimore sports media. An alum of *The Towerlight* and WCVT-FM (now WTMD), he was named Maryland's 1998 Sportscaster of the Year and was a Sportswriter of the Year finalist in 2010. He occasionally can be heard on WJZ-FM's *Vinny and Haynie* program as a pro football analyst.

MIKE CASTINO '86 is president of the Sons of Italy-Little Italy Lodge and is focusing on membership

“I want my books to be funny as well as informative. Even when there's tragedy involved—and there sure is with Jayne Mansfield—it has to be balanced with humor. I want my books to take people away from themselves for a day or two.”

EVE GOLDEN '80



KEITH MILLS '79

A Fan at Heart

It's fair to say Keith Mills was born with broadcasting in his blood. His father George worked at Channel 13 WJZ-TV for 40 years and often brought Keith and his sister to the station when they were kids. His dad used to host crab feasts at the house, and veteran WJZ anchors Al Sanders and Jerry Turner were among the attendees—as was Oprah Winfrey, who had just started her broadcasting career in Baltimore.

When Mills was in high school, the three-sport athlete and aspiring writer attended Orioles games with his dad. "I would sit in the press box and watch all the writers who were covering the game for the newspapers, and I was just kind of infatuated with that," he says.

He also drew inspiration from local sportscasting legend Vince Bagli. "[Vince] made it cool to cover high school sports," Mills says, "and that was kind of my M.O. when I went on the air—just living in the high schools and local colleges."

At three stations over the last 40 years, Mills made his own mark covering sports in the hometown he loves. In June, he semi-retired to an outpouring of support and accolades he called "very humbling and quite an honor." He still does Ravens pre- and post-game shows for WBAL and covers Navy football. He also teaches a sportscasting class at TU.

"I'm a Baltimorean," he says. "I was accepted by the Baltimore viewers and sports fans because I am one of them."

 Photo: courtesy of Mike Solakian

growth, fundraising and the encouragement of Italian pride and cultural knowledge.

SAMUEL R. POLAKOFF '86

published his latest novel, *Shaman*, about a U.S. senator who must learn the art of shamanism in order to save the world from evil forces threatening the earth's core and accelerating climate change.

RALPH HOFFMAN '87

works as an executive vice president of risk management at Arthur Schuman, Inc., and has recently been appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture

and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to a four-year term on the technical advisory committee for trade in processed food. Hoffman also serves on the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board and is on the executive committee of the Cheese Importers Association of America.



BROOK LENKER '89, '96

published his first novel, *The Restorers*, set on the Susquehanna River and inspired by his experiences

coordinating large-scale, organized educational river expeditions on the Susquehanna, Patuxent, Potomac and James rivers. He is the executive director of FracTracker Alliance, an organization that studies, maps and communicates the risks of oil and gas development to support renewable energy transformation.

1990s

PARTH MUNSHI '91

joined Taylor English Duma's corporate practice group. He focuses on matters related to corporate governance, securities

"Rivers are always moving, changing, renewing. They are dynamic, the perfect metaphor for the ups and downs, twists and turns of life. I'm certainly not the first writer to find inspiration in their ways but throughout my years creeks and rivers have been a constant—something I enjoy and from which I have derived inspiration."

BROOK LENKER '89, '96

“Many women feel they are not ‘perfect’ and need to have a nip and tuck, whiten their teeth, be attached to a man, or wear the perfect clothes to have value as a person. I believe this has become an epidemic in today’s technology-driven world.”

TRACEY GRUMBACH '94

regulation and disclosure, mergers and acquisitions and NYSE and NASDAQ compliance. He has nearly 25 years of experience in corporate law and has served as a primary disclosure and governance lawyer for the Coca-Cola Company and Molson Brewing Company.



VASILISA C. HAMILTON '92 launched “Ask Lisa,” an advice column on WalterboroLive.com. She is an author, independent journalist and communications strategist.

TRACEY GRUMBACH '94 showed 46 pieces of digital

art in a solo art exhibit titled “Brave New World” at the World Trade Center in Baltimore. The exhibit features work from several of her latest series, which examine human nature and the influences of the technical age on the human psyche.

GEORGE E. BROWN '96 was recognized for legal excellence and client service by the 2020 legal ranking guide, *The Best Lawyers in America*. Brown received top ranking for his work in the area of construction litigation. He is a principal of the Baltimore law firm Kramon & Graham, where he co-chairs the construction practice.

KIMBERLY VOSS '97, author of four books, was promoted to full

professor of Journalism at the University of Central Florida.

JACK S. MONELL '97 was recently awarded the Willie Burke Master Teacher Award by Winston-Salem State University.



TRE ALEXANDER '98 is an actor and model who has commercial experience with brands like HelloFresh, for which she filmed a commercial with her husband. She is the department coordinator of Biology and Neuroscience at Brandeis University in Massachusetts.



DARNELL WILLIAMS '16

A Magical Ride

As a middle school student, some of Darnell Williams’ classmates would mock him for being a dancer. He has them to thank for where he is now.

“In the end, it made me work harder and find more of my artistry and allowed me to express more through my dancing,” he says.

That focus—and the rhythm ingrained in his heart and hips—has enabled him to see the world. After graduating from TU with a bachelor’s degree in dance, Williams performed in the Tony Award-winning musical “After Midnight” on Norwegian Cruise Lines and danced in productions in New York. Earlier this year he packed his bags for Japan, where he now lives and performs in the “Big Band Beat” at Tokyo Disney Resort. A tribute to music from the 1920s to ‘40s filled with jazz, swing and tap dancing, it has become a hit in Japan.

“The show has so many fans, and in many cases you can hear them gasping and screaming,” he says. “I remember going into the audience for one part and high-fiving a fan. Immediately she started to cry tears of joy.”

Williams’ feet have taken him half a world away. Who knows where they’ll lead him next?

 ERIKA BROWN '13

Hip Hip Hooray for Hummus

Erika Brown tried hummus for the first time while waitressing at a Mediterranean restaurant during college. The versatile spread became a staple in Brown's diet when she was a TU student looking for quick, protein-rich meals on the go. "I started making it pretty much every day," Brown says. "It was a component of breakfast, lunch and dinner."

After graduating with degrees in sociology and anthropology, Brown's hobby followed her as she traveled the globe (living for a while in both Greece and Hawaii). When she returned to her native Frederick, Maryland, she began selling Hippy Chick Hummus (the name came to her in a dream) at a farmers market in May 2016. "From the very first container I sold, I knew this was my journey," Brown recalls. "I just started crying."

Within months, Hippy Chick Hummus was stocked at local stores. In June 2017, Brown opened a plant-based cafe and kombucha bar in downtown Frederick. From the cozy, light-filled space decorated with eclectic pillows, plants and art that once hung in her TU apartment, the 28-year-old serves up her favorite college snacks, like a vegan pizza with chickpeas, hummus trays and smoothie bowls.

More than two years in, Brown has gone from the lone employee to head of a 17-person staff. Customers fill the 14-seat shop so regularly that she is looking to expand. "I never would have imagined I could build a whole business out of something super simple I've been doing since college," Brown says. "[But] all of my experience at TU prepared me to be a business owner."



2000s

KELLY SAVOCA '00

was appointed Sheppard Pratt Health System's new vice president and CFO. She will oversee financial operations across the health system's more than 160 programs and 350 sites. She has been a part of Sheppard Pratt for more than 16 years.

MICHAEL WELLER '00

was named senior counsel at Cheniere Energy, an international energy company headquartered in Houston, Texas. Prior to this position, Weller practiced law for nearly 10 years in Washington, D.C.

STEFANIE HARE

BIERZONSKI '06 works as a media analyst with Bravo Group in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and performs in an acoustic band.

ERICA STARR '06 works as director of marketing and senior vice president of Howard Bank, a community bank in the Baltimore area. She has been named to *The Daily Record's* 2019 VIP List.



GARY VAN ESSEN '06, '08

serves as the Mathematics Department chair at Arundel High School in Anne Arundel County and as the director of music at Christ Church on Kent Island. He earned his Ed.D. in educational leadership from Gwynedd Mercy University and recently celebrated his third anniversary with his wife, Emily.

2010s

KEN PIPKIN '10 was voted Best School Principal in the *Baltimore Sun's* 2019 "Baltimore's Best" poll. He led St. Joseph, a pre-K to 8th grade Catholic school, during its recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2016.



DANIEL RENZ '10, has been promoted to special agent with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of Investigations. In his new role, he serves as both a federal investigator and insider threat analyst, protecting the FAA and National Airspace System from international threats.

CHRISTINA KRAMER '11 works as a program analyst at the Social Security Administration. She has experience in the positions of claims specialist, operations analyst and program expert. She has worked at Social Security for 11 years.

SARAH PORTS '13 opened The Beach Butler, an Ocean City, Maryland-based concierge service for beachgoers that transports and sets up/takes down their beach belongings.

CAMERON SWANN '14 works as a research associate for the Institute of Defense Analyses (IDA), a nonprofit corporation that operates three federally-funded research and development centers.



CHRIS HERBERT '13

A Lovin' Spoonful

Through trial, error and grit, Chris Herbert got to the bottom of a problem we've all faced: how to extract that last dab of peanut butter from the jar.

An admitted "borderline peanut butter addict," Herbert says he consumes it at least three times a day. While camping in 2017 he found himself wondering if there was a better way to get it out of the jar and into his mouth.

"Spoons were too short, knives were too stiff, and spatulas scraped but didn't scoop," he says.

So he began experimenting with peanut butter-specific spoons. "Like all woodworkers, I like to carve," he explains. "I made myself a long-handled wooden spoon, but it was too rigid to scrape the jar's sides and bottom."

Herbert returned to Baltimore and began tinkering. He turned to 3-D printing to develop a hybrid utensil that could scoop, scrape and spread. Once he'd settled on a design, he did injection-mold tests with silicone to produce a prototype.

Herbert's final creation, the PB Spoon, was ingeniously simple. No moving parts, no electronics, no flashy colors—just a flexible BPA-free, dishwasher-safe silicone tip attached to a 9-inch beechwood handle. Though designed for peanut butter, it performed well with many other spreadable foods. Herbert was convinced there was a market for it.

In December 2017 he launched a Kickstarter campaign that raised \$17,000 in 30 days, enabling him to solicit bids from manufacturers. (The packaging explaining that while the PB Spoon is made in China, it was designed in Baltimore.)

Herbert also partnered with two popular online retailers—*UncommonGoods* and *The Grommet*—to sell his invention. To date, he's sold over 6,000 PB Spoons at \$12 each, with overwhelmingly favorable product reviews.

Nina from Tulsa, Oklahoma, reported: "My boyfriend is always scraping the peanut butter jar with his fingers, spoons, knives, whatever he can find. Now he can get every morsel. [The PB Spoon] is perfect for him."

And for peanut butter lovers everywhere.

In Memoriam

Alumni

Evelyn Karas '45
March 15, 2019

Irene B. Rubenstein '45
March 28, 2019

Jane M. Haugh '47
April 20, 2019

Jean E. Harbaugh '47
June 4, 2019

Concetta M. Kraus '50
April 26, 2019

Ann G. Mahon '50
May 15, 2019

Jo Tuemmler Gross '50
July 3, 2019

Sue E. Platt '52
April 25, 2019

Ursula R. Oliver '53
April 5, 2019

Gwendolyn G. Logsdon '53
April 24, 2019

Donald Webb '54
February 27, 2019

Dorothy A. Copolino '54
April 5, 2019

Mary Ann Uhlan '54
May 1, 2019

Terry D. Biller '54
June 11, 2019

Kenneth Bryan Coffman '54
August 20, 2019

Estelle T. Evans '55
July 30, 2019

Gilmore Smith '57
March 16, 2019

Barbara R. Nyce '57
May 20, 2019

Charles L. Robbins '59
March 18, 2019

Elizabeth J. Gross '59
May 1, 2019

Bonnie S. Lizer '60
May 16, 2019

Spiro Malas '60
June 23, 2019

Mary P. Hosking '61
June 11, 2019

Roseanne J. Foohey '61
June 19, 2019

Barbara L. Krebs '62
April 2, 2019

Dennis G. Younger '62
June 17, 2019

Wanda D. Stockman '62
June 9, 2019

Esther Dorfman '64
August 16, 2018

Linda S. Brody '64
May 2, 2019

N. Darrell Legore '64
June 20, 2019

John B. Murphy '64
August 15, 2019

James C. Lawlor '65
April 13, 2019

Carol M. McGowan '65
June 4, 2019

Michael Thomas Murphy '65
July 2, 2019

Kenneth E. Howard '65
July 11, 2019

Robert Yacovissi '66
May 18, 2019

David R. Ensor '66
May 27, 2019

Anne W. Creveling '66
June 4, 2019

Marlene Goldman Leonard '66
July 24, 2019

Sarah S. Booth '66
July 30, 2019

Robert J. Blatchley '67
April 8, 2019

Jimmie C. Sergent '67
May 30, 2019

Douglas H. Strachan '68
April 2, 2019

Karen Ann Schafer '68 '75
July 1, 2019

Vernon L. Sullivan, Jr. '69
March 14, 2019

Jean Lucille Johnson '69
April 8, 2019

Elizabeth A. Wagner '70
August 3, 2019

Barbara J. Bennett '71
March 17, 2019

Joel Hinojosa '71
April 8, 2019

Eric J. Basso '71
June 10, 2019

Loring T. Sparks '71
June 26, 2019

Eileen T. Batt '71
August 3, 2019

Mary E. Sinclair '72
February 6, 2019

Alfred L. Sutton '72
April 4, 2019

Ruby E. Williams '72
May 30, 2019

Nancy F. Muma '72
July 29, 2019

Kathryn C. Hagberg '72
August 10, 2019

Walter Raymond Heck, Jr. '73
October 16, 2018

Barbara J. Awalt '73
May 13, 2019

David N. Sturm '73
July 3, 2019

Nancy Olsen Southworth '74
February 19, 2019

Patricia A. Kimmett '74
March 18, 2019

George F. Cooper '74
April 14, 2019

Mary K. Cyphers '75
May 2, 2019

Pamela J. Hidalgo '75
June 23, 2019

Ann E. Buck '76
June 20, 2019

Annie E. White '76
June 25, 2019

Brent M. MacDonald '76
June 28, 2019

Douglas A. Patterson '77
April 16, 2019

Evelyn J. Jeffries '77
April 29, 2019

Gail G. Jacobs '79
September 23, 2018

James D. Williamson '79
March 12, 2019

Nancy A. Macdonald '79
March 16, 2019

Suzanne L. Burke '80
December 19, 2018

Steven S. Walsky '80
May 17, 2019

Mary L. Teel '80
June 12, 2019

Sharon S. Hoard '82
March 27, 2019

Kenneth M. Howard '82
April 13, 2019

Joseph E. Rooney '82
August 20, 2019

Janet Kaufman Moxley '83
May 25, 2019

John Patrick Licharowicz '84
January 21, 2019

Claude David Watts, Jr. '84
July 12, 2019

Salvatrice G. James '86
June 13, 2019

Patricia Bertelle Fulk '87
May 30, 2019

Jacqueline A. Balda '87
July 25, 2019

Toni T. Pajak '88 '89
May 15, 2019

Jeffrey G. Wellman '91
April 24, 2019

Kathryn Gaertner '91
June 7, 2019

Alllyson M. Michael '91
June 22, 2019

Michael Alster '91
August 13, 2019

Anthony Dubler '93
May 18, 2019

Allison G. Thomson-Vicuna '93
July 13, 2019

Martha Ann Comer '95
October 15, 2018

Kenneth N. Keys III '96
April 29, 2019

Theresa M. Laucius '96
May 19, 2019

Kimberly A. Duff '96
May 29, 2019

Michael J. Smit '97
April 1, 2019

Jeffrey T. Gonce '97
June 6, 2019

Brenda L. Kahn '97
June 19, 2019

Paula A. Franklin '03
March 14, 2019

Milton R. Baxley, Jr. '05
June 8, 2019

Bryan Spano '10
August 9, 2019

Thomas A. Thompson, Jr. '14
May 1, 2019

Rebecca Margaret Frederick '15
August 28, 2018

Lois H. Reichard '55 '74
July 29, 2019

Faculty & Staff

Marie D. Rutenbergs
April 11, 2019

William J. Moulds Sr.
June 11, 2019

Richard J. Rende
June 18, 2019

Gloria J. Gaguski
July 5, 2019

Georgia F. Baker
August 19, 2019

Sharon Slaton Bush
August 23, 2019

JAMES GREENE '15 works as a digital anchor and reporter at KCRG, an ABC station in eastern Iowa. Before this position, he spent nearly three years as a reporter, producer and

anchor at KKCO/KJCT in Grand Junction, Colorado.

DANIEL IZUME '15 is currently an assistant professor of business at Baltimore City Community

College. He is a higher education peer reviewer, a peer evaluator for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and a 2018 NISOD faculty excellence award recipient.



KRISTEN MAYGERS '16 is a science teacher at Pine

Grove Middle School and a graduate student in Miami University's Global Field Program. She has studied approaches to saving species in the wild and engaged with local

partners developing and testing site-specific methods of community engagement to sustain ecological and social health in Hawaii.

Rearview Mirror

FROM THE DESK OF FELICITY KNOX '94, Library Associate to Special Collections and University Archives



ASK AN ARCHIVIST

Hey Felicity...

Q: How long has this campus existed?

A: While Towson University was first founded as the Maryland State Normal School in 1866, we didn't have a dedicated building to call home until 1876. Even then, there was no space for dormitories and as the enrollment grew, the one building in Baltimore City at Carrollton and Lafayette avenues became cramped. Land was purchased for a new campus in 1910, and a contest was held for area architects to win the contract to construct campus. This watercolor was created by the winner, Douglas H. Thomas, in 1913 to show his vision of what the campus at Towson could become. The campus at Towson opened in fall 1915.

Have a question for Felicity? Email her at fknox@towson.edu.

WHAT'S NEW

Weyforth Letters

This year, Towson University Archives acquired letters written during World War II to music faculty member Emma Weyforth. This collection is a complementary addition to the Towson and WWII collection. During the war, college administrators kept in contact with alumni, staff and students who were serving in the armed forces. It is a collection rich with research possibilities. Special Collections and University Archives has partnered with Friends School of Baltimore since 2016 to transcribe these letters and digitize them so more researchers can find and use them.

PAST



1915

When the school first opened, a library was created in the office of the head of the school, M. A. Newell. It was used primarily by faculty to create lessons. With the move to Towson, a space was constructed in Stephens Hall for the library. Students were allowed to use the library to study as well as to find resources for their work, but they could only borrow the books for use overnight.



1957

A separate library building was constructed on campus. It was large enough to accommodate the book collection as well as students who needed a place to study. However, it was deemed too small within only a few years.



1969

A new library was constructed, but because the state would not provide funding for a whole new library in such a short amount of time, it was considered an addition to the old library, which is now the Media Center.

PRESENT



On My Bookshelf

KATHLEEN MCINNIS, CLASS OF '01

From 2006 to 2010 Kathleen McInnis worked as a strategist at one of the most iconic buildings in the world: The Pentagon. It was an intense and invigorating environment; the fact that she was in a male-dominated world made her job even more challenging. McInnis' first novel, *The Heart of War: Misadventures in the Pentagon*, tells the story of a woman who lands a fellowship at the Pentagon working on a peace plan for Afghanistan, and the victories and pitfalls that come with the job. The author certainly can relate to her heroine.

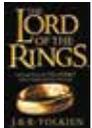
In 2001...

These titles were on McInnis' nightstand when she earned her bachelor's degree in political science.



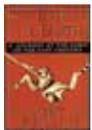
Catch-22 | Joseph Heller

I grew up on military bases overseas. I've always been in touch with the absurdity of big institutions. *Catch-22* really brings that to life in wartime in a powerfully important way.



Lord of the Rings | J.R.R. Tolkien

I love the details, the nuance of getting into the world and watching these characters walk to hell and back again.



The Ends of the Earth: A Journey at the Dawn of the 21st Century | Robert Kaplan

He is a foreign correspondent who writes about geopolitics. This book definitely helped spark my interests in international relations and national security.



American Gods | Neil Gaiman

This way of taking these old myths and bringing them to life—there'd never been anything like it. I found that very inspirational.

In 2019...

McInnis now is a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council of the United States, but she always finds time to read. Here's what she's loved lately.



Primates of Park Avenue | Wednesday Martin

It's her memoir of living in New York on the Upper East Side. It's a wonderful way of looking at women's behavior and as an outsider trying to fit into a new world.



Grand Strategies: Literature, Statecraft, and World Order | Charles Hill

He's a former diplomat who's become an academic at Yale. The point he's making is that art and literature are great metaphors for big problems that we deal with.



On Writing | Stephen King

I've been an academic and analytic writer all my life. I had never written fiction before my novel. I remember reading this and thinking, 'OK, I can write my truth.'



Old Man's War | John Scalzi

This is science fiction about a man who, on his 70th birthday, goes to his wife's grave, says goodbye, and then enlists in the army. It's a fun read with wonderful characters.

From Towson, With Love

At TU, thousands of romances have blossomed in dorm rooms, dining halls and at dance parties—no swiping right necessary. Tell us about yours by emailing munger@towson.edu or tweeting using the hashtag #JUSTTHETUOFUS.



♥ G'S STORY

Gerardo Escobar '12

We met in the spring of 2011 through a mutual friend at a birthday party. I thought, 'Wow, this is a very unique young lady that I find to be very pretty.' We were friendly but that was about it.

We didn't become close until we attended a retreat for social justice as part of the Center for Student Diversity. They bring together 50 to 60 people from different backgrounds and set them up in cabins in the woods in Pennsylvania. I was a facilitator, and I heard some of Julia's life stories and I became really interested in her. We started talking, and then we went on a walk that night.

We dated all my senior year, and in the summer of 2012 I started thinking about getting married.

I was in the army after college, which I think strengthened our relationship. The first four months maybe we talked once, but we wrote letters to each other during basic training. Being able to see her



handwriting and communicating old school helped me get through it. When I came back and we were still together, I knew it was a strong bond.

Our anniversary was on February 4, when I first officially asked her out. She loves hot air balloons, so I had planned that for the Saturday before our anniversary. But the guy called me and said he couldn't do it because the weather was supposed to be bad. So I had to think fast.

She had already made reservations at one of her favorite restaurants, Woodberry Kitchen. The restaurant prints a new menu every few days, so I called them and had them put some loving words on the menu. She started reading the dessert menu, which said 'I've loved you from the start.' That's when I said, 'I would like to change your last name.' Then I got on one knee.

We got married on August 27, 2016. We live in Houston, Texas, where I'm a corporate trainer and she's a nurse. She's very understanding of people's situations and people's feelings. She's also very caring. She sees things from different perspectives without you having to ask.

♥ JULIA'S STORY

Julia Escobar '14

I first met him when I was a freshman and he was a junior. He was that guy on campus that everyone knew. He would always wear these bright, lime green headphones when he walked around. He was friendly but very shy initially.

We both went to the social justice retreat, where he was the facilitator for my group. I was very surprised that this guy who I thought was so shy was actually not shy at all. We had a lot of very enlightening conversations. It was really nice to be able to talk to somebody on that level. From there we hit it off.

Both of us were very single and ready to mingle in college. When we did start dating a lot of people were extremely surprised. But it got to a point where I couldn't really imagine life without him. It was a little intimidating at first, but it felt very natural.

When he went to basic training, not being able to communicate with



him was definitely difficult—it was just strange going from spending so much time with someone every day to absolute radio silence. It also showed how serious we were in our relationship. I think that was a defining point.

I was not prepared when he proposed.

We went to Woodberry Kitchen for our anniversary. He had never gone before so I thought I was running the show. He's always been a sweets eater and I've always been a savory eater, so I was excited to have him try the dessert.

We had shared a bottle of sparkling wine, so when I was reading the menu I thought that I was intoxicated because I was reading it incorrectly. I thought, 'Oh my gosh, I need to slow down on the wine.' Then I realized that people were starting to murmur around me and I started feeling my face get very hot. I think I actually screamed. I took an extremely long time to answer. I was definitely shocked—I had no idea that was coming. It caught me off guard, and he's always doing that.

G is extremely loyal, and he's extremely loving. He loves to a point I can't even fathom.

Philanthropy



The (Even Bigger) Big Give

During TU's first giving week, members of the Towson University community were asked to make a donation that amounted to what they may spend on a morning latte at a local coffee shop.

The response to The Big Give went beyond expectations. From April 22 to 26, more than 1,200 donors raised \$100,000 for the university—doubling the fundraising goal and tripling the participation goal. It was part of the record-breaking \$14 million TU raised in fiscal 2019.

More than 400 participants made their first gift to TU during the event, and more than 500 alumni gave back. The average gift was more than \$80.

The participation speaks to the momentum in TU's culture of philanthropic giving.

"Our entire campus community should be proud of this effort, as it involves so many people from so many different colleges, divisions and community groups," President Kim Schatzel said. "Best of all, so much of what was raised during The Big Give goes back into the classrooms, laboratories and programs that directly impact our students."

Keep an eye out for more from TU's advancement office, which is brewing another cup of Big Give for 2020.

Champions for Opportunities

2018-2019 FACULTY & STAFF GIVING CAMPAIGN

Towson University's advancement office announced that due to the generosity and enthusiasm of our colleagues, the 2018-2019 Faculty & Staff Giving Campaign was the most successful in TU history. Donations from more than 1,000 employees this year have supported students in all six academic colleges, student affairs, the Albert S. Cook Library, athletics and more. The office cited the work of its co-champions, who encouraged faculty and staff to be "champions for opportunities."



LISA PLOWFIELD, RN, PH.D.

Dean, College of Health Professions

"I support Towson University because our students and programs are well worth every dollar invested. Simply put, these students are our future, and our faculty is dedicated to ensuring not only the success of our students but also our future. I enjoy giving to Towson University because it makes a difference in the lives of others."



DARIUS IRANI, PH.D.

Vice President, Division of Strategic Partnerships and Applied Research

"Aside from knowledge learned through a chosen major, Towson University student-athletes graduate with strong analytical and critical-thinking skills, and are articulate communicators. The TU athletics program makes important contributions to the academic success and workforce readiness of TU's student-athletes. This is why I support Towson University Athletics through my staff donation."

3 Ways To Make a Gift



[WWW.TOWSON.EDU/
GIVING](http://WWW.TOWSON.EDU/GIVING)



USING PRE-PAID
ENVELOPE ON PAGE 33



TOLL FREE
1-866-301-3375

However you choose to donate, the entire TU community thanks you for your generosity.



♥ GIVING

Raft Woodus

With his soothing voice and reassuring smile, Raft Woodus has mentored TU students for almost 40 years. Currently the director of the Student Success Programs, Woodus previously held leadership roles in the Tutoring Center, Office of Disability Student Services and Office of Commuter Affairs (all of which have been renamed). Colleague Joel Bolling estimates that Woodus has been a guiding influence for more than 11,700 students involved with the SAGE (Students Achieve Goals through Education) program.

Tammie King-Kelly '17 credits Woodus with changing her life. "Raft was my anchor, connecting me to a community and campus resources to support my success in academics, and in life," she says. Judging from the many reminiscences that fill Woodus's Facebook page, King-Kelly is joined in her admiration by scores of alumni.

In recognition of his extraordinary commitment to students, particularly those who are the first in their families to experience college, Woodus's colleagues and friends have established the Raft Woodus Student Success Programs Fund with a goal of raising \$10,000. This fund will provide additional program resources and direct support for deserving students through stipends and scholarships.

Ever modest, Woodus at first balked at the notion of a fund in his name, but he eventually demurred. "If associating the fund with my name helps raise money for students, well then, I guess I can go along with that," he says.

If you have been helped along your journey by Woodus or simply want to honor the distinguished career of an outstanding mentor, please visit <http://www.towson.edu/CelebratingRaftWoodus> to make your gift today. Thank you for your support.

♥ DONOR PROFILE

Amy Schildwacher

This year, Amy Schildwacher fulfilled one of her mother's life lessons—to give back. Schildwacher created the Peggy Ann Royston '58 Elementary Education Endowed Scholarship to honor her mother's passion for teaching and dedication to instilling a love of learning in her students.

WHY I CHOSE TU

My mother attended Towson State Teacher's College tuition-free in exchange for a promise to teach for four years in a Maryland public school. Her career as an elementary school teacher lasted more than 26 years and would have continued longer if not for the progressive side effects of her Parkinson's disease. She told me it was important to pay it forward and help students at Towson University become teachers, just as she was helped when she attended.

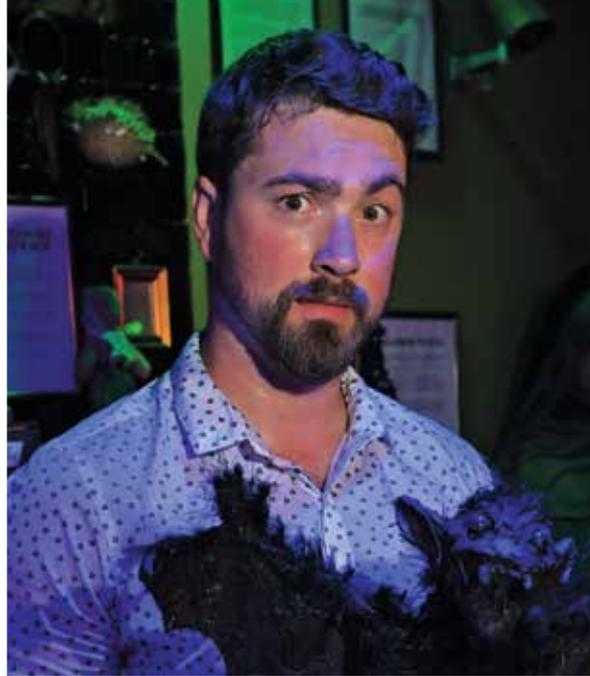
WHAT I HOPE STUDENTS GAIN FROM THIS SCHOLARSHIP

It means the world to me to know this scholarship may make the difference in allowing a student to become a teacher. One of my mother's fondest memories came from a former fifth-grade student who shared that my mother's powerful influence had inspired her to teach.

WHAT I HOPE YOU REMEMBER ABOUT MY MOTHER

My mother understood a teacher's impact on children. She had an unwavering belief in the value of teaching—not teaching skills, but teaching the love of learning. She was both a model teacher and an inspiration for others. Because of TU, she was able to realize her dream and so much more. I hope her story and this scholarship inspire others to be as passionate a teacher as she was.





OUR TOWN

Dr. Gloom's Crypt Of Curiosities

Hidden in the back of Protean Books and Records in Baltimore's Federal Hill neighborhood is one of the city's creepiest—and most delightful—attractions. **Chris LaMartina '07** opened the oddities museum Dr. Gloom's Crypt of Curiosities in 2016 after years of collecting horror-based folklore artifacts from around the world. It fits with LaMartina's fascination with the genre—he's directed eight frightful films, including *WNUF Halloween Special*. When he's not trying to scare other people, he works as the creative director at Abel Communications and teaches broadcast and screenwriting at TU. The Crypt is open when the store is, and it's free to check out the mummy, see the mermaid or have your picture taken with Frisco the Killer Ape.

