

Patrick Smith '09
Focused on an
Olympics Unlike
Any Other

MAGAZINE

FALL 2021

THE RED
PLANET

20

LESLIE,
SQUARED

26

BRAVE
LEADER

28

TOKYO 2020

Atos



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Reading the Story in Red Soil

Mike Thorpe '12 plans for the day Earth receives its first souvenirs from Mars.

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Brave Leader

Baseball Hall of Famer John Schuerholz '62, '07 has a new mission.

ON THE COVER



Sports photojournalist Patrick Smith '09 found himself on the other side of the camera for this issue's cover photo. "When we first started to plan for the shot, I knew I wanted to show off two things: his eyes and the camera lens," says Lauren Castellana '13, director of photographic services.

"Patrick's images from the Olympics are so captivating because of his personal vision and photographic style. I wanted this portrait to not only be about him but how he uses the camera as a tool to create unique images."

CONTRIBUTORS

Kim Schatzel
President

Mike Unger
Editor

Lori Marchetti
Art Director/Designer

Megan Bradshaw
Copy Editor

Lauren Castellana '13
Alexander Wright '18
Photographers

Tasha Lloyd
Production Manager

Contributors

Cody Boteler '17
Megan Bradshaw
Elizabeth Braungard
Rebecca Kirkman
Felicity Knox '94
Matt Palmer
Chandler Vicchio

Lori Armstrong
Associate Vice President,
Alumni Relations

Sean Welsh '05
Interim Vice President,
University Marketing
& Communications

Office of Alumni Relations
410-704-2234 or 800-887-8152

towson.edu
towson.edu/magazine

*Published three times a year by the
Division of Marketing & Communications
for Towson University's alumni, faculty,
staff and friends. Please send comments
and contributions to Marketing &
Communications, Towson University,
8000 York Rd., Towson, MD 21252-0001.
Telephone: 410-704-2230.*

*Please send address changes to Alumni
Relations, Towson University, 8000 York
Rd., Towson, MD 21252-0001 or email
alumni@towson.edu.*

President's Letter

During my first five years as president, I often pointed to the cranes around campus as a sign of confidence in Towson University's future.

Today, we can all look back at the ribbon cuttings and groundbreakings of the past few months and say that the confidence in TU was indeed well placed as the largest capital investment in the university's history—more than \$750 million—is being realized.

This fall, we officially dedicated the Science Complex—our largest academic building on campus at more than 300,000 square feet—and broke ground on the new College of Health Professions building, which will support world-class, interprofessional instruction for our students and the world-class research of our faculty. These two projects combined are a signal to the state as well. Not only is TU a STEM destination for tomorrow's leaders, our university is the largest provider of health care and computer information professionals to Maryland, filling key workforce shortages and propelling our state's economy forward.

This fall TU opened our new front door to the greater Baltimore business community in downtown Towson. The StarTUp at the Armory, TU's business engagement center, is now open for business and will catalyze business connections, innovation and entrepreneurship on our campus, in our region and across our state. Through this newly modernized 26,000 square feet of space inside the historic armory building in the heart of Baltimore County, executives, entrepreneurs, nonprofits and government agencies will find a front door to connect with faculty on research, students for internships and jobs and staff for specialized programming and training in areas such as cybersecurity, project management and leadership development.

And in the new year, TU will celebrate the completed expansion and renovation of the University Union. Much of the expansion is open now, helping to modernize this central space for student activity from its original scope—built when TU had less than half the students it does today.

But as I often say, what we're building is more than just buildings. These new facilities are playing a significant role at a time in which faculty, research, programming and students continue to push what is possible at TU.



This edition of *TU Magazine* touches on so much of that momentum. From news items about the inaugural executive director of the Dr. Nancy Grasmick Leadership Institute and our diverse new-student population, to features including world-renowned photographer Patrick Smith '09, you'll find relevant stories about the great things happening within our community.

You'll also see articles about how alums—like John Schuerholz '62, '07—are engaged in the RISE campaign, the launch of which helped TU set records in philanthropic giving and reach more than 70% of the \$100 million goal, positioning the campaign for success with three years to go. You'll see how recent grads—like Leslie Isler '13, who helps former NFL players deal with post-retirement challenges and Mike Thorpe '12, who has been instrumental in NASA's exploration of Mars—are leading and serving their communities and colleagues.

So whether it is cranes or ribbon cuttings, covering the Olympics or philanthropic records, helping retirees or supporting research on other planets, TU's impact is far-reaching and substantial. As we enter this holiday season, there is so much to celebrate at Towson University, and there are indeed even greater things ahead.

It is a great time to be a Tiger!

KIM SCHATZEL, PH.D.
TOWSON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT



TREASURES

A Bug's Worth

Assistant professor Faith Weeks has spent most of her time at TU surrounded by creepy-crawlies.

She loves it.

"It's amazing what they can do. These guys are absolutely fantastic," she says. "They've conquered everywhere in the world. They can handle things that we can't."

Weeks knows the value of bugs' existence, in the ecosystem and the classroom.

"If humans weren't here, nature bounces back," she says. "If insects and arachnids weren't here, so many things would be gone. We wouldn't have the produce we do. We wouldn't have decomposition like we do. A lot of pests would be around

because their predators are gone. Who would pollinate the plants?"

Weeks primarily teaches pre-service science teachers, and she uses her large collection of beetles, scorpions (pictured) and praying mantises—among others—as much as possible.

"I always bring live things into my elementary ed classes, primarily because they don't have any experience and get freaked out," Weeks says. "I am running a study where I bring insects in and I see how much [undergraduates] can understand the role of them in the ecosystem and if they eventually feel more comfortable with [the insects]. So far, the research has shown that

students are more comfortable [after exposure]. They're less likely to kill them, and they're much more likely to incorporate them into their teaching."

Weeks has more than one real-life example of her success. One of her favorites is a current grad student.

"She has been coming to my lab since she was an undergrad," Weeks explains. "At first she was terrified of tarantulas. Then she started coming to my lab more. Now she asks me, 'How are my kids today?'"

"The first day, she almost shrieked and ran out of the room. And now she's trying to convince her mom to get one as a pet."

Campus News



Best in Baltimore

Towson University was again selected as the region's best college or university in a poll of *Baltimore Sun* readers. TU has been similarly honored for the last three years.



Thanking the Academy

Thirteen alumni received Emmys from the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, including electronic media and film faculty Jena '11 and Mark '14 Burchick, for their documentary *The Local Oyster Stout*.



Head of the Class

Three alumni have been named Maryland Teacher of the Year Award finalists: Jing Dai '11, Alexis Eaton '09 and Lauren Greer '10. The *Washington Post* named Patrick Bathras '93 and Beth Morton '14 among its 12 Principal of the Year finalists, and St. Mary's County recognized Laurel Dietz '10 for excellence in educational leadership.

StarTUp Starts Up



The StarTUp at the Armory officially opened in uptown Towson on Sept. 20. The 26,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility is home to entrepreneurship programs as well as student competitions and events. Small businesses and local entrepreneurs have access to a number of programs and resources focused on entrepreneurship and workforce development, including the StarTUp Accelerator, ATHENAPOWERlink Baltimore, TEDCO and the Baltimore County Small Business Resource Center.

Celebrating Dean Chapman

Hundreds gathered on campus Oct. 16 to honor Julius "Dean" Chapman, TU's first dean of minority affairs, by renaming the green space outside of the Media Center the "Dr. Julius Chapman Quadrangle." The event ended with a special announcement: the installation of a tribute honoring the National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations.



Recognizing Excellent Staff

Two TU staff are among the seven people honored by the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents as recipients of the 2021 USM Regents' Staff Awards—the highest honor bestowed upon staff across the system.

Patricia Watson (pictured left), assistant director of sustainability, was honored for Extraordinary Public Service to the University or to the Greater Community. Julie Leary, associate director of client services in the Office of Technology Services, was the awardee for Effectiveness and Efficiency.

"Our people are the backbone of TU, and these outstanding recipients are representative of TU's commitment to being good stewards through efficiency and sustainability," President Kim Schatzel said. "TU is among the top 100 public universities and an anchor institution because of their dedication to the well-being of the campus, students and the larger community."



THE NEWEST TIGERS

3.70

cumulative GPA of the incoming class

23

countries from which the new student class hails

58.5%

of the incoming class identify as a racial or ethnic minority—making it TU's most diverse class

4,992

students are new Tigers, including

2,557

first-time students,

1,776

transfer students and

659

graduate students



Inaugural Head of Grasmick Leadership Institute Named

Erin Moran has been appointed as the first executive director of the Dr. Nancy Grasmick Leadership Institute after an extensive national search. She started on Sept. 8.

Moran has spent most of her 24-year career dedicated to developing leaders who create inspiring work environments that enable people to be fulfilled while also achieving extraordinary business results.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to lead the Dr. Nancy Grasmick Leadership Institute," Moran said. "Our world needs capable and ethical leadership more than ever before and this institute will undoubtedly positively transform and impact so many people. And as a proud Baltimore native, I am beyond thrilled to join a pre-eminent national university such as Towson University."

She spent nearly a decade with Great Place to Work where she studied leading workplace cultures, helped produce the "Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For" list and advised clients on how to improve

workplace culture. Moran was chief culture officer for New York City-based Union Square Hospitality Group for seven years, where she was responsible for overseeing and enhancing all aspects of employee experience for the company that created Shake Shack and is known globally for its culture.

Moran has a series of awards to her credit, including being named one of the Top 50 Women Innovators in the Restaurant Industry (2019). She is a two-time honoree through the National Restaurant Association Power List of Culture Champions (2017 and 2019) and Women's Foodservice Forum Top Women in Metro New York Foodservice & Hospitality (2018).

TU's Dr. Nancy Grasmick Leadership Institute is an interdisciplinary research and action-based institute that launched in September. The externally facing institute is forging a new standard for leadership development for the state, region and nation that will elevate leaders across all levels.



No Kidding

A herd of goats from Harmony Church Farm came to campus in late September. The Bovidae chowed down on invasive species in The Glen's 10 acres to give native plants space to grow. Bringing goats to the Glen is part of TU's wider commitment to sustainability that includes energy conservation, waste reduction, carbon offsets and education and outreach.



🕒 OFFICE HOURS

Cancer Survivorship

Professor Amanda Ginter explains the emotional complexities involved in receiving a cancer diagnosis.

The concept of survivorship in the context of cancer has changed a lot over the last few decades. Cancer is often thought of as an acute illness, in that when someone is diagnosed, they're treated for it and then doctors assess for any remaining "evidence of cancer."

If there is no evidence of cancer, then that person is considered successfully treated. If five years pass with no evidence of cancer, then that person is considered a survivor.

But survivorship is actually a complicated and much more nuanced concept. There are individuals who might have metastatic cancer, for example, in which the cancer has spread from the initial site to other parts of the body. A person may live with metastatic cancer for weeks or months. In some cases, years. For those individuals, what does it mean to be a survivor? One term used in the metastatic breast cancer community is "metavivor." What does quality of life look like for them?

Another group is individuals who are diagnosed with a chronic form of cancer. I'm currently studying people who have chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), which often lasts indefinitely.

With CLL, a person may not need treatment right away. The periods between diagnosis, initial treatment and subsequent treatment is called "watch and wait." They're under observation with their doctors and then undergo treatment as needed. What does survivorship mean to someone who will likely live with cancer for the rest of their life?

A persistent assumption is that CLL is the "good" kind of cancer. The treatment often doesn't have as many side effects as other kinds of cancer. CLL is something people live with for a long time. But no one really wants to hear that they have the "good" kind of cancer. When people find out that they have cancer, they want a certain level of gravitas, not to hear from their oncologists, "Be happy; it can be so much worse."

"Cancer survivorship is very different for each person. I think it's important to know who's in your life and who's going to be helpful and who isn't."

More sensitivity is needed in treating people with any form of cancer and recognizing that any cancer diagnosis is going to cause stress and worry for that individual and their family.

Decades of research supports the fact that how family members react to someone's cancer diagnosis is often very much informed by what their previous experience has been with health issues, be it cancer or something else.

If a family had a major health

crisis five or 10 years ago that they didn't cope very well with, that negative traumatic experience can be in the forefront of their minds when there's a new diagnosis. Conversely, families that had sufficient support and coping mechanisms may understand that this new health issue will be challenging, but they have been through hard things before, they handled it well and they anticipate being able to overcome this new challenge.

There is also research that indicates that people who have less supportive intimate partners and spouses may have worse physical health outcomes compared to people who have more-supportive spouses or partners. My dissertation focused on women who were single when they were diagnosed with breast cancer. Half of the people had never been married. The other half were divorced at the time of their diagnosis. Many people who were divorced basically said, "The cancer diagnosis is unfortunate, but I am so glad that I was diagnosed after getting divorced because my life is so much better going through this single than if I was still with an unsupportive partner." Not all partners are supportive—or are able to cope with the diagnosis and treatment—and therefore, it's important that patients' medical

teams don't assume the presence of a partner guarantees sufficient support for the patient.

In order to best support patients and families, it is crucial that medical care providers don't make assumptions; ask about the needs, questions and fears of patients and families; and know when to refer people to mental health care providers. A diagnosis of cancer brings stress and fear. Ensuring people feel cared for goes a long way in improving their quality of life.

The One **MENTORSHIP** That Changed My Life



**A person, place or
thing can make all
the difference**

Mia Williams, right, and Casey Miller.

MIA WILLIAMS '19

**FoundHER of The Colors
of Her Success**

My freshman year I started working at the front desk of the Career Center. Then I became a career peer adviser (CPA), where I helped students with their resumes and cover letters. I wanted to expand my skill set and knowledge of the professional development world because if I wanted an internship or job [in the future], I would always have that skill set.

My dad was really big on me working at the Career Center, and I'm glad I decided to work there.

I liked the people and the work we did. I got trained on resumes and cover letters, and I was interfacing with students on a day-to-day basis, which I really enjoyed.

Danielle Brower was my manager for my first year and a half. But Danielle left for another role, so I started working with Casey Miller.

Our relationships developed naturally, because we would have weekly meetings. We had the freedom to talk about whatever we wanted. Originally, we were supposed to talk about how many students came in for express hours and things like that. But eventually, it became a therapy session, and it was like, "Well, what's going on in your life, and how's school going and how are you doing with finals?"

One moment I remember specifically with Danielle was when

I was trying to get my first internship. I got rejected, and when Danielle and I had our one-on-one, I broke down crying. She validated me and let me know that I was qualified for any internship and that I would leave that year with an internship, so I didn't have to be worried. I ended up graduating having had five internships, with organizations like [sports marketing firm] Octagon, NASCAR and [the Baltimore branch of] the PR firm Weber Shandwick.

I have a business called the Colors of Her Success. I help young professionals by interviewing high-powered women of color on their career journeys, offering professional development services and posting social media content.

[The mentorship taught] me how to be a boss. I have hired a team for my business, and now [that] I am in

a space to influence people I want to make anyone I interact with feels the way I felt when I was having those one-on-ones with Casey and Danielle.

From them, I learned how to manage from a people perspective, not from a "This is what I need from you" perspective. I also learned that mentorship is a two-way street. They are people I have kept in touch with. Even when Danielle left for another role, I still would see how she was doing. And I've reached out to Casey even though I've graduated.

My mentorship and the support I had in college are what helped me develop into the person I am today. Because Casey and Danielle saw something in me that I didn't see back then. I really appreciated that. At that time, that's what I needed. I needed to be uplifted.



Moving On Up



TU has sparked countless innovators. These are their stories.

Tom Johnson '94

CEO of Abernathy MacGregor

A reporter by training, Tom Johnson's path to the corporate boardroom was highly unconventional. It weaved through newsrooms at TU, in Frederick and Baltimore and ultimately in New York City, where he contributed to *Reuters'* coverage of 9/11. Today he runs a strategic communications firm with 85 employees in five offices around the country. "For me, entrepreneurship, collaboration and leading by example best define what I do," he says. "I was a mass communication major—I don't proclaim to be the world's best businessperson. You've got to have an open communication style where you allow people to bring forward good ideas and concerns, because if we're going to grow, we're going to do it collectively."

To read Johnson's essay on 9/11 from the Winter 2002 issue of TU Magazine, visit towson.edu/MovingOnUp.

1972

BORN IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tom is the oldest of five children.

1990



GRADUATED FROM GLENELG HIGH SCHOOL IN HOWARD COUNTY, WHERE HE WAS THE SPORTS EDITOR OF THE NEWSPAPER HIS SENIOR YEAR

1990-94

WROTE FOR *THE TOWERLIGHT*, COVERING PRIMARILY SPORTS AND SERVED AS THE SPORTS EDITOR HIS SENIOR YEAR

1994

WORKED AS A GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTER FOR *THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST*

"You cover the courts, you cover the police, the local planning boards, social gatherings. It was very much a community newspaper. That's where I learned how to be a reporter."

2001

JOINED *REUTERS* AS HEAD OF ITS MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS DESK

1999

MOVED TO NEW YORK CITY TO WORK FOR CNN FINANCIAL NEWS

"New York was a whole different ballgame. You go from covering mostly state issues to covering national and global issues. I had to learn fast. I got to travel to big company events and do profiles of titans of industry. It's where I developed an interest in mergers and acquisitions."

1995



WROTE FOR *THE DAILY RECORD* IN BALTIMORE, COVERING BANKING AND FINANCE, BEFORE BECOMING THEIR STATEHOUSE REPORTER AS WELL

SEPT. 11, 2001



WAS IN *REUTERS'* NEWSROOM IN TIMES SQUARE WHEN THE PLANES HIT THE TWIN TOWERS.

"I can vividly recall when someone shouted that something had hit the World Trade Center. It quickly went from stunned silence to a lot of frantic activity. Reporters and editors discussing how we were going to cover it. We knew the companies in the World Trade Center. We covered them. It was a place that I visited to interview people all the time. I still remember the moment when the first tower fell. An audible gasp went out from the newsroom. It went from the adrenaline rush of trying to cover a news story to an incredible human tragedy."

2004

BECAME NORTH AMERICAN FINANCE EDITOR AT *REUTERS*

2005

JOINED ABERNATHY MACGREGOR AS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

2021



"For any leader, the last 18 months has been an incredible challenge, leading during a time when we're dealing with a pandemic but also going through this incredibly important conversation as a country about how we treat people of all races and handle diversity. I try to be as in the trenches as anyone else in the company."

2016

NAMED CEO

"We're one of a handful of firms that focuses on corporate strategic communication. We help companies big and small, public and private, think about how to communicate important matters like a CEO change, mergers or an IPO to various constituencies. It's wildly unpredictable. My family has learned that I'm only about 90% sure to show up for whatever event I've committed to."



Coffee With...

Cori Dioquino '07

We sat down with the founder and co-executive director of the Asian Pasifika Arts Collective to talk about Asian representation in the arts, arts integration and her plans for the collective.

📍 LOCATION:

Red Emma's in Baltimore

☕ IN HER CUP:

Latte with non-dairy creamer and raw sugar

🔁 ADDICTION LEVEL:

At least one cup per day but trying to cut back

Q: What did you do right after college?

A: I took a break from acting and got into teaching and doing arts integration. I did some traveling, had a little bit of a life crisis when I went back home to the Philippines and was like, "Oh, I don't belong here either. I spent my entire

life waiting to go back home, and now I'm home, and I don't fit in here." I started to question a lot of things and to realize, "Hey, I didn't have X, Y and Z opportunities as a kid. I didn't have people telling me that I could be this if I wanted to be this." When I realized I could be the representation for kids that I didn't have, that's when I started saying, "How can I make my work mean something, not just for me?"

Q: How do you define representation?

A: Diversity is like checking off boxes. Representation is, are you honoring our experiences? Are you're telling our stories honestly and sincerely? Are you letting us tell our stories? One of the conflicts that we have often, especially in theater, is that it's people telling Asian stories, but they're not Asian. If you're going to tell an Asian story, not only are you hiring Asian actors, you should be hiring Asian producers, Asian directors, Asian choreographers. You really should be making this about them and not about you.

Q: What do you do as an arts integration teacher?

A: Arts integration is using the arts to help kids understand core curricula. This summer, we used theater to help kids understand more about money management. They were first and second graders. In week two or three, we introduced them to play

money. After they acted out their job, they would earn a paycheck. They were using their little budget sheet to add and subtract. And then we got to talk to them about, "Why should we save money? Why is it important?" We were able to tie in real life.

Q: Why did you start the Asian Pasifika Arts Collective?

A: I used to have a blog called I Am Not a Ninja. I wrote in response to a production of *The Mikado*, and it accidentally went viral. I was afraid it was too angry but, apparently, it was the anger that resonated with everyone. It was this clue, "Oh, I am not the only pissed-off Asian right now." I used the momentum. I remember the first meeting happened in D.C. It made me realize people just want a place to come together. We just want to feel as if we can vent about the things that we experience and not feel as if we're judged.

Q: What programming are you planning on offering with the collective going forward?

A: We are looking to expand AAPI Voices, a storytelling, music and poetry series. We're also looking to develop some education programs. We would love to start with after-school programs, where Asian teaching artists are in the classroom. We're doing our first art contest for emerging 18- to 26-year-old AAPI artists to help them find a voice. It's open to the entire East Coast and there are cash prizes.



Nationally Known

★ WOMEN'S SOCCER

Nia Christopher '24 has been following in her father, Lloyd's, footsteps since she first stepped on a soccer field at the age of four or five.

A utility player for the Bermuda men's senior national soccer team, the elder Christopher even took his place between the posts during his tenure.

Nia, however, prefers attack.

Her aim for the 2021 fall season is striking in its simplicity: "I want to score more goals."

The forward earned All-CAA second team and rookie team honors after the 2021 spring season, when she started all eight games and led the team in points and shots on goal. She scored her first career goal—the game winner—in a 1-0 victory over Delaware on April 4.

"I think, physically, this past year

has really helped Nia get stronger and faster to hold off opponents and play quickly to avoid tackles," says women's soccer head coach Katherine Vettori. "The past year the learning curve has been huge, and she's stood up to the challenge."

A two-time all-conference standout during her two years at The John Carroll School, Christopher caught Vettori's eye when the coach was scouting at the Jefferson Cup, one of the top-rated youth soccer tournaments in the country.

"She scored an amazing goal, and I just said, 'We need her. She can help us,'" Vettori recalls. "She's quick. She's agile. She can meet players one on one, but she's also very smart and very technical. She really is a complete player, and we

were just thrilled that she chose Towson."

Before Christopher picked TU, her country called on her. She began training with the Bermuda women's national organization at the age of 12 and joined the senior team at 17.

The Devonshire, Bermuda, native has played matches for her country while a Tiger, and Vettori believes the experience has helped Christopher grow her confidence and leadership ability.

"Last year, in her first college game, she went up to take the penalty kick and hit the crossbar. And I think since then, she hasn't necessarily been excited about taking penalties," Vettori says. "But in the St. Joe's game [on Aug. 19], when we got the penalty, she walked up, took it and broke our

penalty curse with confidence."

Christopher says one of the biggest adjustments she's had to make has been getting used to playing at the Division I level.

"It is completely different from club and high school," she says. "But I think that getting on the national team helped me a lot because I was always playing with older girls. I was always one of the youngest."

Christopher's abilities on the ball are just one reason she's become an asset to the team. Her coach sees her "soft" skills as vital too.

"Nia is all about business," Vettori says. "She's professional every day, has a great attitude and is out there smiling and just loves the game. And it's contagious."



KAIYA TOWNSEND SABUR '24
was a field hockey preseason All-CAA honorable mention after starting four of eight spring-season games and earning All-CAA Rookie Team honors. She had one goal and one assist for three points.



VINNIE SHAFFER '22
had six tackles and a half-sack against eight-time FCS national champion North Dakota State in the football home-opener on Sept. 18.



RILEY MELENDEZ '24
was a 2021 CAA All-Conference honorable mention in the preseason women's soccer coaches poll. Second team All-CAA in the spring, she was a three-time CAA Defensive Player of the Week with 31 saves on the season, allowing just five goals in the first seven games.



NYGIL JOHNSON '22
notched four tackles, a half-sack and two quarterback hurries in his first collegiate start, the football team's 31-0 win over Morgan State on Sept. 4.



Soccer to Handball

What was previously a foul in the sport she grew up playing has become former women's soccer player McKenna Smet's new focus: handball. Smet '13 turned a pandemic hobby into a spot on the U.S. women's national team's preliminary roster, even though her first game action came during a tryout with the country's top players. The team is looking to qualify for the Paris Olympic Games in 2024.



FOOTBALL

Preseason Stars

Five football players earned a spot on the Phil Steele Preseason Colonial Athletic Association All-Conference Team: D'Ago Hunter (kick returner) and Luke Hamilton (fullback) made the second team while Aaron Grzymkowski (offensive line), Christian Dixon (linebacker) and Shane McDonough (punter) were on the third team. Hunter was also CAA Preseason All-Conference at the same position.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Portugal Bound

Nakye Sanders '20 will play for Portugal's CD Povoal/Monte Adriano basketball team for the 2021-22 year. He was a two-year starter in the TU frontcourt, averaging 8.7 points and 5.9 rebounds per contest. He is the third member of his class who has or will have played a professional season in Europe: Sanders in Portugal, Brian Fobbs in Finland and Dennis Tunstall in Luxembourg.

VOLLEYBALL

Marking Milestones

Volleyball head coach Don Metil collected his 400th career win with a five-set victory over Navy on Aug. 29. He began his head coaching career in 2002; in his nine seasons at TU, Metil has tallied 170 wins, second all time. The 2019 CAA, ECAC and AVCA East Region Coach of the Year guided TU to a perfect 16-0 in CAA matches before winning the 2019 CAA Championship.

FOOTBALL

Battling for Baltimore

The football team earned its first shutout since the 2017 season, defeating crosstown rival Morgan State 31-0 on Sept. 4, to retain the Battle for Greater Baltimore trophy. TU scored a touchdown in every quarter and did not allow Morgan State past the TU 32-yard line. The Tigers won their season opener for the fourth season in a row. The previous three times had all been on the road.

SHOOTING FOR GOLD

PATRICK SMITH '09

TOOK ROUGHLY **102,000 PHOTOS**
AT THE TOKYO OLYMPICS.

BY CODY BOTELER '17

IT STARTED EVERY MORNING AT 5:15, TOKYO TIME.

Patrick Smith would roll over and immediately spit into a test tube, filling it with saliva. Then he'd affix a barcode to the tube, use his phone to register the barcode and then use a different app to answer questions about how he was feeling.

This was just one of the safety protocols Smith '09 took each day while he was covering the 2020 Olympic Games as a photojournalist for Getty Images. Smith has been snapping shots professionally for 15 years, but not even the three weeks he spent in Rio documenting the 2016 Summer Olympics could have prepared him for the pandemic version of one of the world's most prestigious sporting events.

After waking up each morning, Smith would leave his hotel by 6:15 a.m. Once he arrived at the day's venue, he and his colleagues would spend time getting through security, dropping off their saliva samples for COVID-19 testing and setting up their gear.

COVID-19 precautions also included wearing a mask or other face covering all day, every day. The only time Smith took his mask off, he says, was in his hotel room.

But when the action started, he was ready to capture it. Over the course of three and a half weeks, he took roughly 102,000 photos, covering sports that ranged from skateboarding to track and field.

"The camera is one of the few things in my life that takes everything away,"



OKYO 2020

Smith says. "It puts me in that moment, to be mindful when I'm there. To know it's my job to document history...when that camera comes to my face, there's not much else that I'm thinking about, other than being there."

In some ways, once the competitions started, his experience in Japan was similar to the work he did in Brazil. In other ways, the differences were stark.

In 2016, Smith says, a Getty client could get a photo in about a minute. During the Tokyo Games, one of his photos from the 100-meter final was available just 16 seconds after he took it.

But perhaps the biggest—and most obvious—difference between the Rio and Tokyo games was the distinct lack of a crowd. To protect the health of athletes and those working at the Olympic venues, no spectators were allowed.

"There is not one person, not one family member, not one spouse cheering the athletes on. I can't imagine what it felt like for them. These are the

most historic games we will ever cover," Smith says. "It was cool to document it. As sad as it was, it's an incredible opportunity."

Smith's photojournalism career began at *The Towerlight*, TU's independent, student-run newspaper. He can still remember walking into the newspaper's office in the University Union and asking then-editor-in-chief Brian Stelter '07—now an anchor on CNN—how to join the staff.

"I've had a camera in my hand for the rest of my life," Smith says.

While he doesn't remember his first assignment, Smith does remember an early one: to capture photos of a star on the football team. One problem: the player showed up without shoes.

"So in the picture, he's on the 50 yard line in socks," Smith says, laughing.

There isn't one particular photo from his time on staff at the student paper that defines his college career, Smith says. He remembers covering

1 Noah Lyles strikes the Hadouken attack pose from the *Street Fighter* video game series after placing in the men's 200-meter race. The photo captures Lyles in a moment of raw celebration. "It's cool to give the viewer the front-row seat. If you were his teammate, this is what you might be seeing."

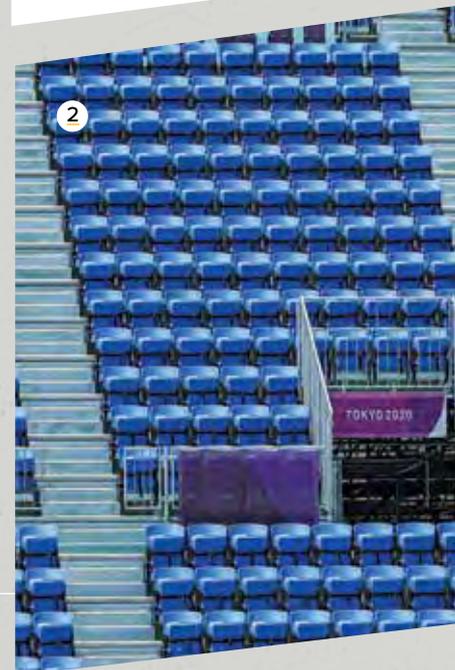
2 The disconnect between a competition and a vacant venue caught Smith's attention. In this shot, he focused on the empty stadium rather than the athlete. Skateboarding was a new event at the Olympics, but that fact will probably soon be forgotten. "Everyone involved will always remember the empty seats."

3 "The world we live in, there's so much of moving on to the next thing. There's a little bit of, 'What's going on here?' that keeps you engaged."

“

“THESE ARE THE MOST HISTORIC GAMES WE WILL EVER COVER.”

—PATRICK SMITH '09



1

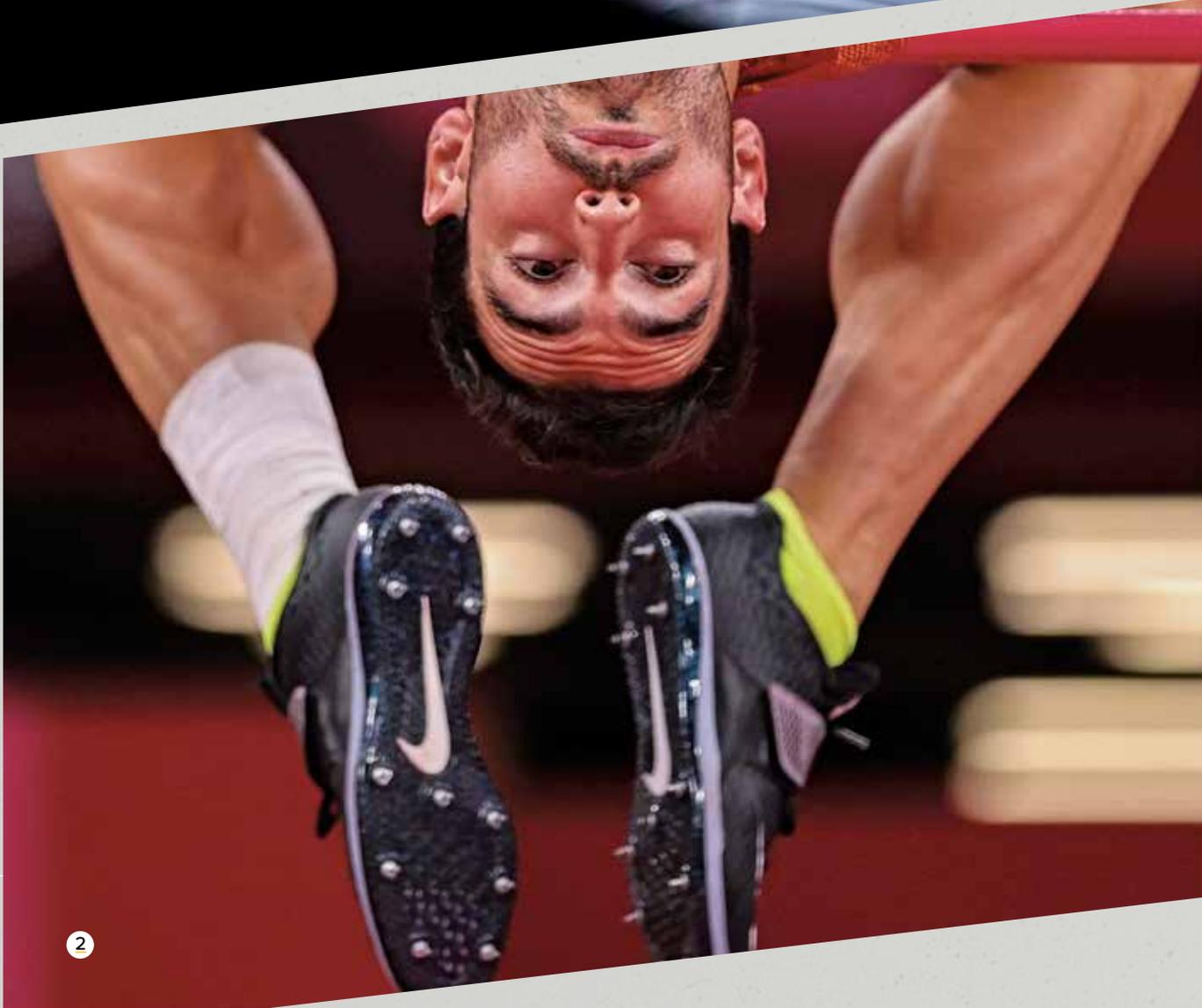


3





1



2



1 “We’re always trying to shoot something ordinary in an extraordinary way,” Smith says of this photo, taken with a long exposure time. “I don’t want the same pictures as anyone else.”

2 This decathlete brought grace and beauty to his work. “I don’t think I shot his first attempt [at the jump], but I saw him do it and I knew I had to get over to him.”

3 On the day he took this photo, Smith was working with two colleagues who specialize in gymnastics photography, so he was able to get creative. “You have to put yourself somewhere you think something might happen...if you see it in your head and draw it up, you put yourself in a great position to get lucky.”



football games and student protests and sweating in the office of a university administrator because he was nervous.

“We worked really hard, we laughed, we pushed the envelope too far at times,” Smith says. “Those kinds of things live with you forever.”

“We were learning every day. You’re in a university setting, but without the guidance of a professor. It wasn’t like sitting in a classroom waiting for a grade. If you did something wrong, you learned from it.”

Since then, Smith has gone on to become a Pulitzer finalist and won recognition from organizations like the National Photographers Association and the White House News Photographers Association.

Smith has three older brothers, and his dad coached soccer and lacrosse, so everything he did was competitive, “whether it was running up the stairs to beat my brothers or actually competing in a game,” he says.

Now Smith, who says he is his own biggest critic, pushes himself as a photographer every day.

“Having a challenge is what keeps me coming back,” he says.

Even if he goes to a stadium or is sent to cover a team that he has before, the circumstances are always different, giving him an opportunity to hone his craft. He’s been documenting local teams like the Baltimore Orioles and Washington Capitals since he was a student, and regularly since 2011, so he’s “seen teams completely change.”

Rob Carr, Smith’s boss at Getty Images, says Smith has a unique eye.

“He’s very much a perfectionist, in everything that he does,” Carr says.

So what makes a good photo?

“Evoking emotion is what I’m going for,” he says. “I want a photo to make me feel something. I want it to make me laugh. Make me cry, make me smile, make me want to ask questions, or make me say ‘wow’ out loud.”

That’s not to discount the importance of knowing the technical skills of how to operate a camera, Smith says, or understanding what makes an ethical photojournalist.



1 Smith's new passion is capturing images of waves at the beach. He loves the color in this photo and that the wave is closing, which puts the viewer right in the moment. There's only one way to get a photo like this: "getting up before sunrise and being in the water when it's dark. That's the commitment you make to wanting to make art."

2 There was no bigger story in Tokyo than American gymnast Simone Biles. This photo was taken before her announcement of her withdrawal from several competitions. "A lot of photographers think, 'Oh, if I get a photo of X athlete, it's a great photo.' I try not to harp on that. Just because it's a familiar face does not mean it's a great photo." This one is.

3 This photo is of Allyson Felix, who had just become one of the most decorated U.S. track and field athletes. Smith captured the image of Felix alone and leaving the stadium because he was the only journalist who saw this moment.

Kanji Takeno, TU's former longtime director of photographic services, is one of Smith's mentors. In addition to discussing photography with Takeno, Smith recalls taking a Japanese language course with him and traveling to Japan with Takeno's encouragement.

Takeno says Smith has an amazing talent for capturing colors in photos and for making his subjects feel comfortable. Smith, Takeno says, was always dedicated and friendly, even when learning the difficult language. Seeing Smith succeed—and travel to Japan, where Takeno is from—has been incredibly rewarding, Takeno says.

While in Tokyo for the Olympics, Smith put some of Takeno's teachings to use. He revisited some of the cuisine, including sushi and dumplings, that he was introduced to by Takeno as a student. He knew his way around town—at least a little bit—and could speak some Japanese as well. Phrases like asking for the bathroom or saying

a meal was delicious came in handy, Smith says.

His journalism professors, too, left their mark on him, he says.

"Those bonds and relationships that I got at Towson are so important to what I am today," Smith says.

But, when it comes to the feel of a good photo, which he says is key, that's not something he thinks can be learned from a textbook or lecture.

"It's a lifetime of learning," Smith says. "I can teach you how to use a camera; I can teach you the fundamentals of composition. But I can't teach you how to walk into an environment—any kind of situation—and get a feel on where to stand. That's what breaks good photographers from great—the ability to read a situation and move about the environment they're in." **TU**

Cody Boteler '17 is TU's assistant director for social media strategy.



2



3



READING THE STORY IN RED SOIL

Mike Thorpe '12 plans for the day Earth receives its first souvenirs from Mars.

BY MEGAN BRADSHAW

Mars has been a part of human myths, philosophies and aspirations since the Babylonians spotted it in 400 BC.

The Red Planet's mystique may have a great deal to do with the longing to explore or escape to a faraway place, but for Mike Thorpe, a sedimentary geochemist contracted to NASA, its attraction is grounded more in, well, the ground.

"Understanding the ancient environments on Mars is going to provide us clues to the history of water and maybe why Earth is so unique," he says. "I study Earth to get a better reference on what we're seeing on Mars. But I'm also studying Mars to understand early Earth."

Humanity's fascination with Mars has grown alongside its scientific advancements.

Dutch astronomer Christiaan Huygens published *Cosmotheoros* in 1698, discussing what was required of a planet to support life and speculating on intelligent extraterrestrials. Fears of little green men began as early as 1877 when Italian philosopher Giovanni Schiaparelli's use of the word canali

to describe streaks he viewed on Mars' surface was wrongly thought to mean canals and imply that intelligent life on Mars had dug a canal system.

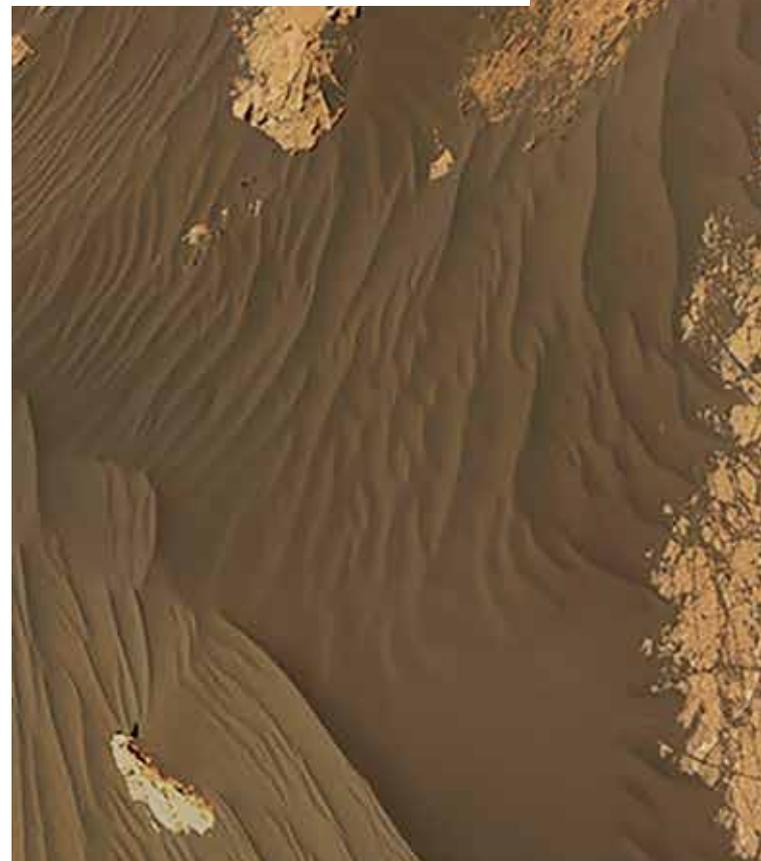
By the 1950s, Mars and Martians were fixtures in American cinema, television and fiction.

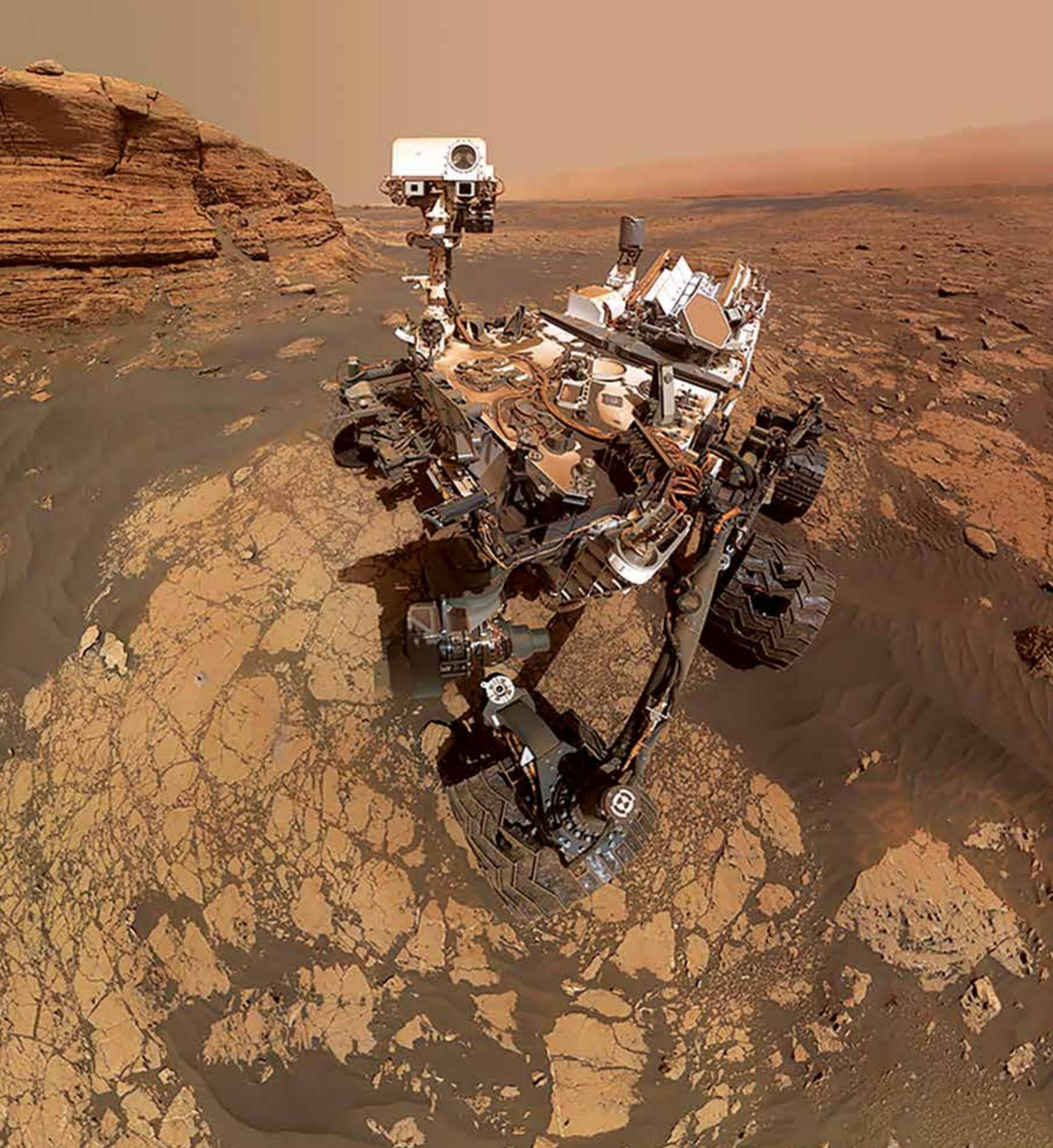
In 1964, fact caught up to science fiction when NASA launched Mariner 4, a spacecraft that orbited Mars and sent 21 photos to Earth. NASA sent Viking 1 and 2 to the planet in 1976 but didn't return to that corner of the solar system for another 20 years when the organization launched the Mars Odyssey, which landed in 2001 and is still working.

In 2012, the Curiosity rover—about the size of a minivan—landed at Gale Crater to search for ancient habitable environments by acquiring rock, soil and air samples for on-board analysis. It was joined by the Perseverance rover in early 2021.

As part of his role, Thorpe '12 works on the chemistry and mineralogy (CheMin) instrument on Curiosity.

"My role on that team is to look at the samples that are drilled into the





The Curiosity rover used two cameras to take this selfie in front of Mont Mercou. (NASA)

surface of Mars. The powder is picked up and X-rayed onboard, and then the data come back down to Earth," he says. "We interpret it and then analyze what minerals are present. Some of the new minerals that we are identifying give us clues into some of the earliest water in our solar system and what was going on in these ancient lake environments on Mars before we even have history of water on Earth."

Thorpe's career started solidly on terra firma. Growing up in New York's Hudson Valley, he and his sister Lauren frequently went hiking.

"We would always find these really cool spots," the 31-year-old says. "My sister said one day, 'Each rock tells a story.' That resonated with me. To learn history from rocks was something that motivated me to learn more."

Thorpe enrolled at TU as an undeclared major with an interest in environmental science.

"It wasn't until I took an introduction to geology class with Professor Lev my second semester that I realized how much I enjoyed geology," Thorpe recalls. "Professor Lev was a mentor and showed me how I could make my passion for the environment into a career with geology."

A few of the simpler field trips Thorpe took with his TU professors have stuck with him.

"Some of the best places to go for geology is a road cut, which is where they're building bridges or new highway and drilling into rock. As a geologist, that's where you find some of the best exposures," he says. "So, some of our field trips were just on the side of the road on I-95."

After discovering an interest in hydrology as an undergrad, Thorpe went on to study the subject at Stony Brook University in New York, where he earned his master's and his doctorate in geosciences.

Thorpe credits his doctoral adviser, Joel Hurowitz, for expanding his understanding of what his career could be.

"Joel showed me that there were places on Earth that looked like Mars, in terms of the rock composition—places like Idaho, Hawaii and Iceland.

MORE ON MARS

- It was named for the Roman god of war.
- It is 142 million miles from the sun.
- The average distance between Earth and Mars is 140 million miles.
- Its diameter is 4,220 miles (Earth's is 7,926).
- A year there is 687 Earth days.
- A day there is 24 hours, 37 minutes and is called a sol.
- The average temperature is -81 degrees Fahrenheit.
- It has two moons (Phobos and Deimos).
- 100 pounds on Earth weighs only 38 pounds on Mars.
- It would take more than six Marses to fill the volume of Earth.

I did fieldwork in these environments, and it really opened my eyes to how I could take my passion and apply it to another planet."

Thorpe wrote his dissertation, in part, on Icelandic basalts—dark, fine-grained volcanic rock—and how they break down.

"The theme of my work is 'from

source to sink.' We start in the mountains where these rocks are formed, and then we trace them as they are transported via rivers downstream," he says. "Another chapter in my dissertation was taking what the Curiosity rover was observing on Mars [at the time] and comparing those findings to the field sites that I previously went to.

"A take-home from my dissertation was that Mars, at some point, looked very Icelandic. The ancient climate of Mars was likely more of a cold and icy climate than it was a warm and wet climate."

Which is one of the reasons Thorpe has returned to Iceland several times.

He did fieldwork there during his postdoctoral fellowship with NASA in 2019 and visited again from late July to early August this past summer.

On the latest trip, Thorpe and a large team of researchers from universities in the U.S. and England took rock and sediment samples and tested bodies of water to understand what's happening beneath the surface and identify areas that were rich with groundwater discharging into the lake.

He earned a NASA graduate fellowship in 2015 before meeting Elizabeth Rampe, an exploration mission scientist within NASA's Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science division, with whom he shared professional interests and a desire to collaborate. She became his adviser when he was accepted into the NASA Johnson Space Center's (JSC) postdoctoral program in 2018.

"Mike is so enthusiastic, engaging and interested," Rampe says. "He found me at a poster presentation I was giving at the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in 2017. NASA postdoctoral fellowships are prestigious and hard to get, but he told me, 'I think we have a really good project, and I really want to work with you, so I think we're just going to get it.'"

When the opportunity for the Mars sample return scientist position opened, Thorpe was eager to apply.

"Collecting and analyzing the samples on Earth that I've worked with



Top: Mike Thorpe standing in front of Fagradalsfjall, a volcano about 25 miles from Reykjavik, Iceland. **Left:** Thorpe extracting lake cores to compare with sedimentary rocks on Mars. **Right:** In 2014, Curiosity completed a shallow drill of a rock target called Windjana to evaluate whether to drill deeper to collect sample material. (NASA)



The Askja Caldera in the Dyngjufjöll Mountains, located on the northern side of Iceland's Vatnajökull National Park.

since I started my Ph.D. was really the foundation of what set me up for this job," he says. "My job is two-fold: to prepare for the samples to come back from Mars one day and think about how we can best characterize these samples when they come back."

Just because it will take years for the samples taken by Perseverance to return to Earth doesn't mean Thorpe is idle.

"Right now, I'm busy collecting and curating reference materials from the Mars 2020 rover with the team here at NASA JSC as well as the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), ultimately helping build a history of sample collection through the course of the mission," he says.

"All this work leading up to Mars sample return is to make sure we know that what's in these samples is truly Martian. Perseverance was made here on Earth and we want to keep Earth, Earth and Mars, Mars. We need to analyze every step of the way, including every part of making the

rover, to understand what sources of contamination there might be."

Another of his responsibilities requires him to consider things that may not exist yet: what tools are going to be used to analyze the samples when they come back.

"Some of the instruments that we may be analyzing these samples with haven't even been built yet," he says. "We may have some newer technology with capabilities that we aren't even familiar with yet. So it's understanding what is state of the art now and also projecting what it is going to be in the future and how we can improve that to handle some of the most precious geological samples we'll ever have in our lifetime."

But to have materials to handle, they have to be extracted from the surface of Mars first.

NASA calls Curiosity "the largest, most capable rover ever sent to Mars." It uses a 7-foot arm to place any of its 10 science instruments close to rocks selected for onboard analysis. Its tools include 17 cameras, a laser to vaporize

U.S. - MARS EXPLORATION TIMELINE

NOV. 28, 1964 | NASA launches Mariner 4, which reaches Mars July 14, 1965. It completes the first successful flyby of Mars, and the spacecraft sends 21 photos to Earth.

AUG. 20, 1975 | Viking 1 and 2 (Sept. 9, 1975) execute NASA's first successful surface landings. They achieve the first extended exploration of the planet and reveal that the composition of Mars is almost identical to certain meteorites found on Earth.

NOV. 7, 1996 | The Mars Global Surveyor leaves Earth, arriving on Sept. 12, 1997; NASA loses contact with it in 2006. It maps Mars pole to pole and helps scientists decide where to land future rovers.

MARCH 7, 2001 | Mars Odyssey launches, landing on Oct. 24, 2001. It is still working and holds the record for longest-serving spacecraft on the surface. It has returned more than 350,000 images, mapped global distributions of several elements and relayed more than 95% of all data from the Spirit and Opportunity rovers.

NOV. 26, 2011 | Curiosity, the rover Mike Thorpe works with, launches, arriving at Gale Crater on Aug. 5, 2012. Its mission is to find out if Mars has the right environmental conditions to support microbes, essentially small life forms.

JULY 30, 2020 | Perseverance launches, landing on Feb. 18, 2021, carrying the Ingenuity helicopter. A key objective for Perseverance's mission is astrobiology, including the search for signs of ancient microbial life. It is searching the Jezero Crater. Ingenuity was designed to complete the first powered, controlled air flight on a planet aside from Earth.

and study small pinpoint spots of rocks at a distance and a drill to collect powdered rock samples.

Perseverance, whose design was based on Curiosity's, is equipped with an even more sophisticated drill that is capable of collecting rock cores and soil samples then storing them in sealed tubes for pickup during a future mission. These are the samples that will return to Earth.

"Curiosity's role is to investigate the geochemistry, the mineralogy with unique, very robust instruments to look for habitability," Thorpe says. "One of the biggest takeaways is that it is indeed habitable because we see a lot of clay minerals. Clays are ubiquitous with lake environments on Earth, which are some of the most habitable environments here on Earth."

As part of his work with Curiosity's CheMin instrument, he meets virtually with collaborators all over the world to plan each day's missions.

"We have an engineering team and a science team. The engineers give us constraints: 'The rover can go this far. It can climb on this terrain. It can use this amount of energy,'" he says. "Then the scientists take those constraints and try to pack as much science into the daily operations as we can.

"The teams that are operating these things are just amazing. It's at least 50 individuals daily working together. And it's not just the science behind it. It's the folks that are driving the rover and keeping it safe, keeping it healthy who are really the superstars."

Thorpe's team—one of approximately 11 associated with Curiosity—is in charge of uploading and downloading its data each day. Those data can be an X-rayed sample or information about the status of the onboard instruments.

"One of Mike's strengths is that he is really willing to do anything that the team needs," Rampe says. "He learned how to interpret the X-ray diffraction data using a technique called Reitveld refinement. This technique is not easy, and there's only a handful of people on the team who can do it."

A normal day starts at 9 a.m. with the team meeting, troubleshooting

constraints and uploading instructions and algorithms to Curiosity, "ideally before 4 p.m.," followed by a team debrief and leaving instructions for the next set of colleagues who comes in.

The plan for returning the samples taken by Perseverance is worthy of a Hollywood movie, filled with action, adventure and many ways the scheme could go awry.

The rover will take anywhere between 30 and 40 samples in tubes about the size of a pen with a diameter between a nickel to a quarter. It will then cache them in two spots. Scientists are storing duplicate samples to create backups in case of damage or loss.

A collaboration between NASA and the European Space Agency will send the Fetch rover to Mars' surface to collect the sample caches. Fetch will launch a basketball-sized ascent vehicle containing the samples into orbit, where an orbiter from yet another mission will catch and bring them home.

Due to the lengths and speeds in which Mars and Earth orbit the sun, optimal, efficient launch windows only come around about every two years. That's part of the reason for the length of this mission.

Thorpe speculates the Fetch rover will launch in 2026, followed by the return rover in 2028 and the samples should arrive back on Earth in the early 2030s. Once the samples come back to Earth, the sample return team will have the first collected examples of Martian soil and rock humans have ever seen. Thorpe and his team are already well aware of the significance of that—and the potential pitfalls.

"How can we keep these Martian samples as pristine as possible here on Earth, where the conditions and atmosphere are fundamentally different?" he asks. "The potential for Mars sample return comes with a huge responsibility and exploring novel sample handling techniques and containment technologies are efforts that are already underway."

While physical samples returning

from Mars are still nearly a decade away, Thorpe is excited to log in every day.

"Each new [sample] that we're looking at with the Curiosity rover is one that's never been explored before," he says. "Some of the data that my team views is the first time anybody gets to see what minerals are in that particular sample from Mars. Each sample unravels a new piece of the history for Mars and also gives us a piece of the puzzle to early water in our

The plan for returning the samples taken by Perseverance is worthy of a Hollywood movie, filled with action, adventure and many ways the scheme could go awry.

solar system in the form of ancient lake and river environments and maybe gives us clues to early Earth as well.

"Mars is the furthest afield that I've ever been. I may not ever get to physically touch down, but these are definitely the most precious samples that we are ever going to have. In some regard, we are pioneers, almost." **TU**

Leslie,

SQUARED

BY MEGAN BRADSHAW



LOOKING AT HER LIFE, LESLIE ISLER '13 DOESN'T HAVE TO DEBATE NATURE OR NURTURE.

It was definitely nurture.

Named after her father—Leslie Isler II, who had no sons—the younger Isler can pinpoint the germination of her professional career to spending Sunday afternoons, especially Super Bowl Sundays, with her dad.

“He used to watch football,” she remembers. “I’m like, ‘Well, he’s watching by himself. Let me just sit with him.’ Then I was like, ‘Oh, this is kind of interesting.’ It turned into something that we did together. I found myself interested more in the players’ stories than what was going on during the game.”

Isler’s curiosity about NFL players’ backstories has come full circle in her role as a professional athletes’ foundation manager with the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) Foundation, a nonprofit that “supports, inspires and strengthens former NFL players and their families in unique and meaningful ways.”

That memory of bonding with her dad over football resurfaced her junior year at TU, when she had lost her de-

sire to pursue accounting, her major since she enrolled. Between mid-terms and finals, she made a tough phone call to her father to share her struggles and request to change her major to marketing.

"Once I switched, I was fully in," Isler says. "I applied for the sports marketing internship with Towson Athletics. I realized I could use some of that love I had for marketing and sports to get some of our fans to support our teams."

Isler became more involved on campus, with Relay for Life and the American Marketing Association, but some of her fondest memories come from the year she spent working for the promotions arm of TU Athletics.

"Because the team was so small, you're doing anything from calling season ticket holders, to blowing up bouncy houses, to being security for Doc and not letting kids be too rough with him, to game day operations," she says.

Isler credits her internship and participation in TU's alumni phone-athon with helping pave her career path.

"[They] allowed me to be very teachable and flexible. I realized that I can't have the posture that anything is beneath me or that I'm not willing to do anything to help the team meet our goals," Isler says. "The phone-athon was definitely a good experience of advocating for organizations. It was a direct tie to my internship with the NFLPA."

Shortly after graduation, she started that internship in the NFLPA's former players department. There she reached out to retired athletes, informing them about affiliation benefits as well as handling inquiries about retirees' active memberships.

Andre Collins, Super Bowl XXVI winner with the then-Washington Redskins and Isler's current supervisor, remembers her from the beginning of her tenure.

"I remember how focused she was, how hard she worked," he says. "She was just crushing it every week. When I had a chance to hire her, I knew I was getting someone that was going to work hard and smart. Someone that was going to be innovative and able to connect with our membership."



Isler's father wearing her graduation cap in 2013.

"HE DIDN'T [ATTEND TOWSON] BUT IN A WAY HE DID. HE MADE A LOT OF SACRIFICES FOR ME."

LESLIE ISLER '13

And connect she has.

"Our primary purpose is to assist former NFL players during their second act," Isler says. "Once they retire from the league, a lot of people don't really connect with the fact that they have to, most of the time, find a whole new career. Not everyone goes into coaching, not everyone goes into broadcasting. So we have a lot of resources and programming that help them figure out what that [next career] is."

Another of the foundation's tasks is to assist former players who've been struck with a hardship. Some of the foundation's funding comes from current player fines for misconduct.

Her responsibilities cover a wide area. She manages the website and social media; builds relationships with sponsors, vendors and members; helps develop communication strategies and plans and runs fundraising events.

"When we need her to roll up her sleeves and talk to players about some of their troubles or their needs, she's capable of doing that," says Collins. "But where she's really excelled for us is in developing a communication strategy for players that are in need and elevating our event space, creating these wonderful events where our players can come and engage each other, the NFLPA and the community."

Isler spends the start of Super Bowl weekend each year up to her elbows in acrylics. The Friday before the big game, the foundation hosts Painting with the Pros, an outreach event held yearly in the host city.

"A lot of our players are artists. So we like to showcase that with an event that pairs active and former players with high school students to make art,"

she says. "It's like a sip and paint night but with Gatorade."

The next day, she's back at it with Smocks and Jocks, a brunch and art auction.

"It's art from former players or individuals in the sports or nonprofit spaces," Isler says. "Most of the proceeds go back to the artists, and a smaller cut comes back to our foundation."

Her hard work at this event has not escaped Collins' attention.

"At our Super Bowl event in Miami Gardens, Florida, this year, Leslie put on an amazing show," he says. "Even though we had to pivot in the 11th hour because the rain was coming in, our tented outdoor area was a hit. It was probably one of the best Smocks and Jocks to date. Since Leslie's been on board, the event has tripled in size."

Collins calls Isler "supremely organized" and is aware of how much she "cares about the foundation's mission."

Isler's focus on helping others comes from, she says, her faith and her family.

"I was raised that if you're fortunate, it is your obligation to be of service to others, no matter where you are. So that's just been always been something that's been engrained in me," she says. "[As a family,] we would feed the homeless during Thanksgiving. My dad always stressed, 'Yes, we have this, but let me remind you of others today who won't be sitting down.'"

"My dad passed away in 2018. Without him, I never would have gone to Towson. He didn't [attend TU] but in a way, he did. He made a lot of sacrifices for me. I'm pretty much the third person in my family to go to college. I know he wanted to go

that route, so it's something that I was able to fulfill for him."

Isler has continued her father's educational legacy, earning a sports philanthropy graduate certification at George Washington University and a master's in public relations and corporate communications from Georgetown. Right now, she's in a nonprofit management certification program at Harvard Extension School to learn more about the business side of nonprofits.

It's an area Isler sees herself growing into.

"I want to take this social impact role within sports a bit higher. Linking athletes to causes and initiatives that they align with or pairing with causes and seeing how a partnership can leverage each side to achieve sustainable goals is something that I can see being in charge of."

Collins says the "sky's the limit for her."

"I could really see her running her own organization one day. Or becoming a senior leader at the NFLPA," he says. "Leslie's really the leader for our team when it comes to being able to break out of that silo, work with other divisions in our organization and create an all-around good feeling."

Regardless of where Isler heads next, she can depend on her father's example and her grounding in faith and helping others.

"I always wanted to pick something that was of service and that was making a direct impact. It keeps me humble and makes me realize I have a purpose outside of just myself and the things that I want to accomplish." **TU**

Brave Leader

After winning two World Series, **John Schuerholz '62, '07** is embarking on a new mission on behalf of his alma mater.



BY MIKE UNGER

John Schuerholz is sitting on the back porch of his home in the hills of Highlands, North Carolina, gazing at picturesque Whiteside Mountain. His local golf course, where he tees it up a few times a week, is just a five-minute drive from here—by golf cart. He plays as often as he can when he's not spending time with his two children and four grandchildren or at Truist Park, home of the Atlanta Braves, the Major League Baseball franchise he helped guide to record-setting success during his 17-year run as general manager and then president. Evenings often include dinners out with friends and his beloved wife of 43 years, Karen.

Ahhh, the life of a (mostly) retired baseball executive.

It's a lovely August morning, about four years after Schuerholz, 80, reached baseball's mountaintop—induction into the sport's Hall of Fame. When he delivered his acceptance speech that summer afternoon in Cooperstown, New York, he mentioned his hometown no less than a dozen times. It revealed

the depth of his connection to a city in which he hasn't lived for decades, but one that shaped who he is today.

"I love the city, I love what it meant to me," he says. "It provided the circumstances that helped me grow."



The first general manager to lead franchises to a World Series title in both the American and National leagues, Schuerholz's place in baseball history is secure. Yet his legacy continues to grow. John and Karen Schuerholz are the

honorary co-chairs of RISE, TU's \$100 million comprehensive campaign. The reason they got involved is simple, John says: His alma mater asked.

"I could easily have mentioned Towson University every bit as much in that speech," he says. "It helped me grow, it prepared me for life and it was remarkable to me how confident

and strong and prepared I felt coming out of that environment. It really built up my self-esteem, self-confidence and willingness to work through what needed to be done to get to become part of a first-place organization.

"Baltimore is in my blood, and Towson is in my blood, and happily so."

John Boland Schuerholz Jr. was born into a family that was considered Baltimore athletic royalty. His grandfather William was the first men's basketball coach at Loyola College (now university), where he coached five of his sons, including Schuerholz's father, John Sr. One brother, John Jr.'s uncle Gilbert, was a goalkeeper on the 1932 U.S. Olympic soccer team.

"Growing up in that family of sportsmen and athletes introduced me early on in my life to the joys and the challenges of competitive sports. Especially baseball," he said in his Hall of Fame speech, in which he thanked everyone from his administrative assistants to the Hall of Fame personnel who made the weekend so special for him and his family.

While the Schuerholzes excelled in seemingly every sport, it was baseball that most captured John Jr.'s

imagination. His father played minor league ball for three seasons before a broken leg, suffered while turning a double play, ended his career. He went on to work for Bethlehem Steel for 50 years.

Schuerholz wasn't the biggest or strongest ballplayer, but he wielded a slick glove, could run and understood the nuances of the game. After graduating from Baltimore City College High School, he enrolled at TU, where he was a four-year starter on the baseball and soccer teams.

"He was a heady ballplayer. He didn't make mistakes," says Schuerholz's TU teammate and lifelong friend, George Henderson '62, who was a longtime scout with the Baltimore Orioles. "He was a good fielder and a base hit kind of guy. He didn't have a lot of power."

"I won't say every once in a while I hit one out, because it was every great once in a while I hit one out," Schuerholz says, chuckling.

His prowess at second base on the diamond and as a halfback for coach Doc Minnegan's soccer team earned him all-conference accolades in both sports. As a senior, he was named TU's Athlete of the Year.

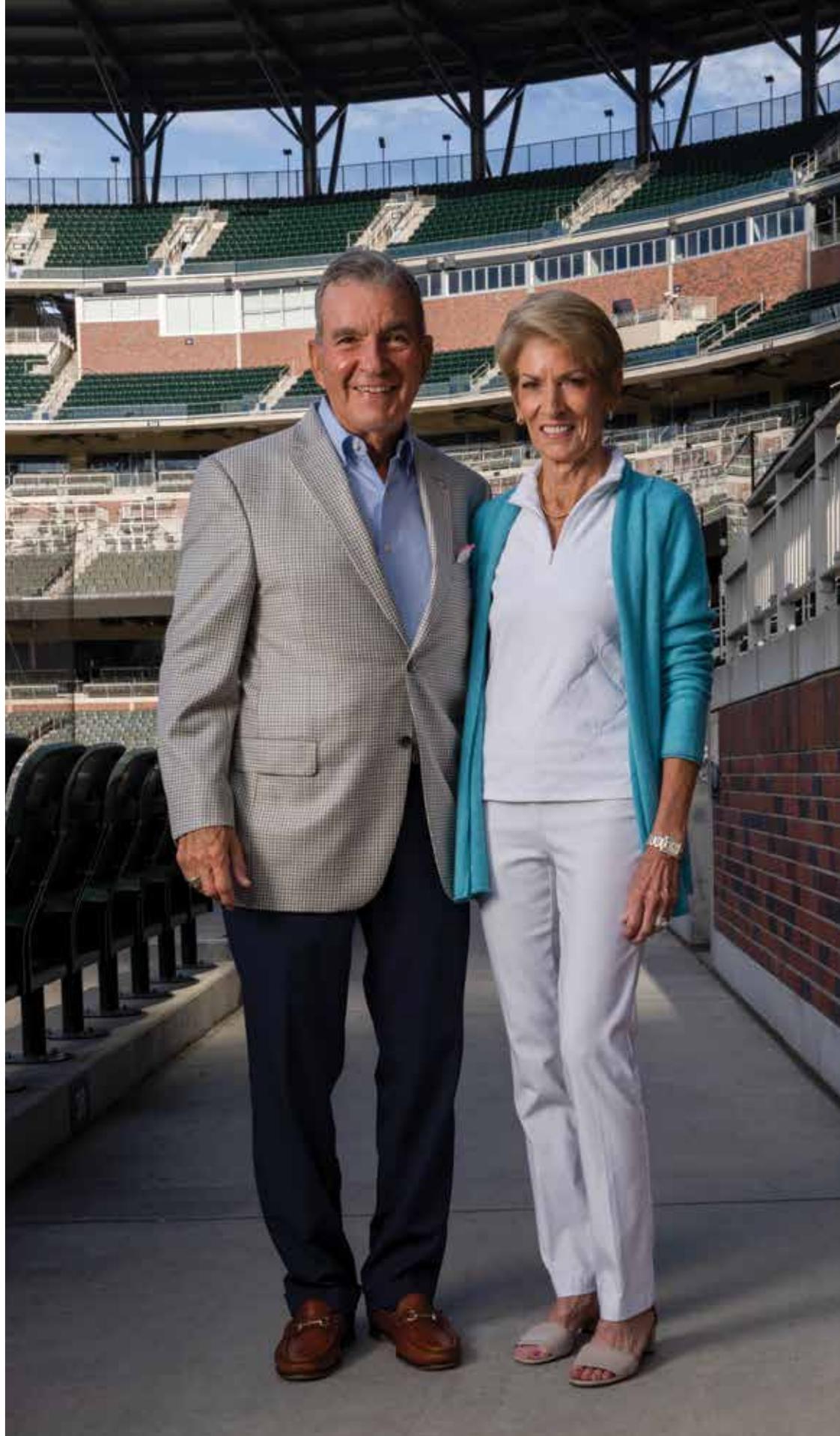
"I think it was a tribute not only to his ability, but to his popularity," Henderson says.

Despite his success, Schuerholz's athletic ceiling ruled out a career as a pro ballplayer, so he taught eighth-grade world geography at North Point Junior High School in Baltimore County. He enjoyed the kids and the job, but something kept gnawing at him.

"In the midst of that love that I had for being an educator, there was nothing in my brain or in my soul or in my heart that drew me more to it than baseball," he says. "I loved baseball."

So one day during a break at school, he wrote a letter to Jerold Hoffberger, then the owner of the Orioles. It found its way to team president Frank Cashen, a former sportswriter who recognized the Schuerholz name. That landed John an interview, and eventually a position with the club as assistant director of player development beginning in 1966.

There was only one problem: Almost as soon as he started with the O's, Schuerholz received a draft notice.



John and Karen Schuerholz at Truist Park, home of the Atlanta Braves.

Photo: Kevin D. Liles



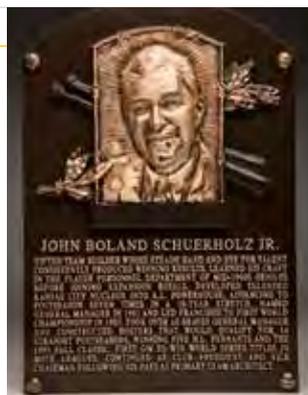
Schuerholz speaking at his Hall of Fame induction ceremony in 2017. Right: His Hall of Fame plaque.

Photos courtesy of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

He joined the Army Reserve, which sent him to Fort Knox in Kentucky for basic training. While he subsequently was serving his country, the Orioles were busy winning the 1966 World Series. Schuerholz didn't get a ring that year, but there would be plenty of jewelry in his future.

In 1969, Schuerholz's boss, Lou Gorman, walked into his office. "He was a real ebullient guy," Schuerholz recalls. "He said, 'John, I have good news: We are going to Kansas City.' The city had just been given an expansion franchise by Major League Baseball. I said, 'Lou, what's this we business? I'm a native Baltimorean, my entire family's here. I've got 50 or 60 relatives here. I went to high school across the street, all of my friends are here.' But I thought about it and I said, 'You know what? I'm going to do it.' It was a tough decision."

Soon after relocating, Schuerholz



was driving around looking for a place to live. At the end of a long, fruitless Saturday of apartment hunting, he saw a "beautiful, beautiful woman" standing on the corner.

"I was out for a walk and he was driving through my apartment complex," Karen recalls. "He stopped to allow me to cross the street, and then he rolled down his window and started talking to me. He was looking for a new apartment, and he asked me how I enjoyed living there and whether I was listed in the book. When I finished my walk, there he was calling me on the phone."

That was just one instance (the most important one) of "divine providence," as Schuerholz likes to say, that has blessed him throughout his life. In 1981, he was named general manager of the Royals. He was 40 years old, making him at that time the youngest GM in Major League Baseball history. Just four years later, the franchise won its first World Series.

Schuerholz remained

with Kansas City for another six seasons before embarking on a new challenge: reversing the fortunes of the hapless Atlanta Braves. When he became the team's general manager prior to the 1991 season, the Braves had finished last in the National League East division three straight years. Worse, apathy had set in among the fans. They were the only major league team to draw less than 1 million people the year before.

"I couldn't have drawn up a better candidate, but I never thought he was going to leave Kansas City," says Stan Kasten, then the president of the Braves and now the president and CEO of the Los Angeles Dodgers. "His background was in scouting. He had been successful in a smaller market. The way he carried himself, the way he spoke, I thought he could energize our front office and our city, in addition to just doing the things that we needed done with the team. I thought we were ready to take off."

Kasten was right on several levels. The Braves went from worst to first in 1991, beginning an unprecedented run

of 14 straight division titles. In 1995, they beat Cleveland to win their first World Series since 1957.

"He has confidence in his ability to get it done, no matter what it is, and I think it rubs off on everybody underneath him," former Braves great Terry Pendleton said in a video produced by the team.

At the Braves' spring training facility in North Port, Florida, there's a phrase painted on the wall for all players and team personnel to see. "Winners make commitments, losers make excuses." It's a Schuerholzism that John believes perfectly embodies his leadership philosophy.

"I think that concisely says what we in this business all understand," he says. "If you can place that in the hearts and the minds and the wills of the people who are working for you or playing for you, as they walk through the clubhouse and see that quote on the wall, it grows. Some may toss it aside as poppycock or smooth talking, but that statement says it all about our business. About our sport. About the kind of people we need to wear our uniform."

Schuerholz never buttoned up a big league jersey, but he's made an indelible mark on the sport nonetheless. At all levels. In 2001, John B. Schuerholz Park was dedicated in the heart of TU's campus. Schuerholz provided the lead gift for the project and served as chair of the fundraising drive for the ballpark, which is named for him and his father.

Although he's enjoying retired life, Schuerholz (who still holds the title vice chairman, emeritus with the Braves) misses the sport, Karen says. He still goes to the ballpark almost every day when the team is at home, and he watches every game on TV. The foundation that he helped to lay has situated the Braves as one of baseball's most consistent winners. This season, they won yet another N.L. East crown.

"Nobody has ever done the things he's done," Henderson says. "I'm talking about the big boys like [Branch] Rickey and guys like that. They never won 14 [division titles] in a row, they never won the World Series in two different leagues. And he never got bigheaded. He's never changed. Baltimore is in his heart, and that's never changed either." **TU**

#TUProud

We Remember

The TU community commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks with a remembrance ceremony held at the 9/11 Memorial Garden in front of Newell Hall. The program honored the 2,977 lives lost—which included 69 Marylanders and TU alumna Elizabeth Wainio '95—as well as survivors, military members and first responders. Trumpeter Bernard Lewis Jr. '23 performed the National Anthem and Taps.





MY TOWN

Joseph Adeoye '17 Atlanta

FAVORITE FAMILY ACTIVITY
Visiting the Atlanta Botanical Garden

RESTAURANT
Lickety Split Southern Kitchen and Bar

HIDDEN GEM
Little Five Points neighborhood

NEIGHBORHOOD
Suburban Atlanta in the Cobb County area

LANDMARK
The Atlanta Beltline

“When I first came to Atlanta, I stayed at an Airbnb at The Battery and I just fell in love with the vibe the neighborhood created.”

Joseph Adeoye '17 moved to Atlanta at the beginning of the pandemic, so he's only now starting to explore his new city.

“It is reminiscent of my hometown—Prince George’s County, Maryland—in a sense. PG is known as the most affluent African American county in the nation, and many refer to the city of Atlanta as the Black Hollywood or the Black Mecca,” Adeoye says. “A place with many Black-owned businesses and entrepreneurs, amicable Black/white race relations, higher-level economic opportunities for people of color and people of color holding political power.”

Adeoye appreciates how each of Atlanta’s neighborhoods has a different vibe. When he visited the city to scope out a place to live, he stayed in **The Battery Atlanta**, a development featuring living spaces, shopping, restaurants and work spaces.

“When I first came to Atlanta, I stayed at an Airbnb at The Battery and I just fell in love with the vibe the neighborhood created,” he says. “People were outside, walking around. There are many food options. It just has a good variety of everything.”

If you’re looking for more of an urban feel, Adeoye

recommends checking out the **Buckhead** area, which he compares to Washington, D.C.

Since he’s bought a house in west Atlanta, an area he calls “more suburban,” he’s mostly stayed at home or gone to low-key game nights at friends’ homes during the pandemic. Still, in the year and a half he’s lived in the city rapidly becoming known as the Silicon Peach due to an influx of information technology companies, Adeoye, who is a program manager for Google, has found a few places he enjoys taking visiting family and friends.

“I start people out by asking them what type of food they are interested in,” he says.

If their answer is chicken wings, he sends them to **J.R. Crickets**, which was voted Best Wings in Georgia by the website Thrillist. For Southern food, he steers them to **Lickety Split Southern Kitchen and Bar**, which offers comfort food like fried chicken, mac and cheese and catfish fillets.

“One famous staple that started in Atlanta is **Slutty Vegan**,” he says. “It sells burgers and fries, but they taste really good. You wouldn’t immediately think it’s vegan. As soon as you bite into it, it tastes like the real deal.”

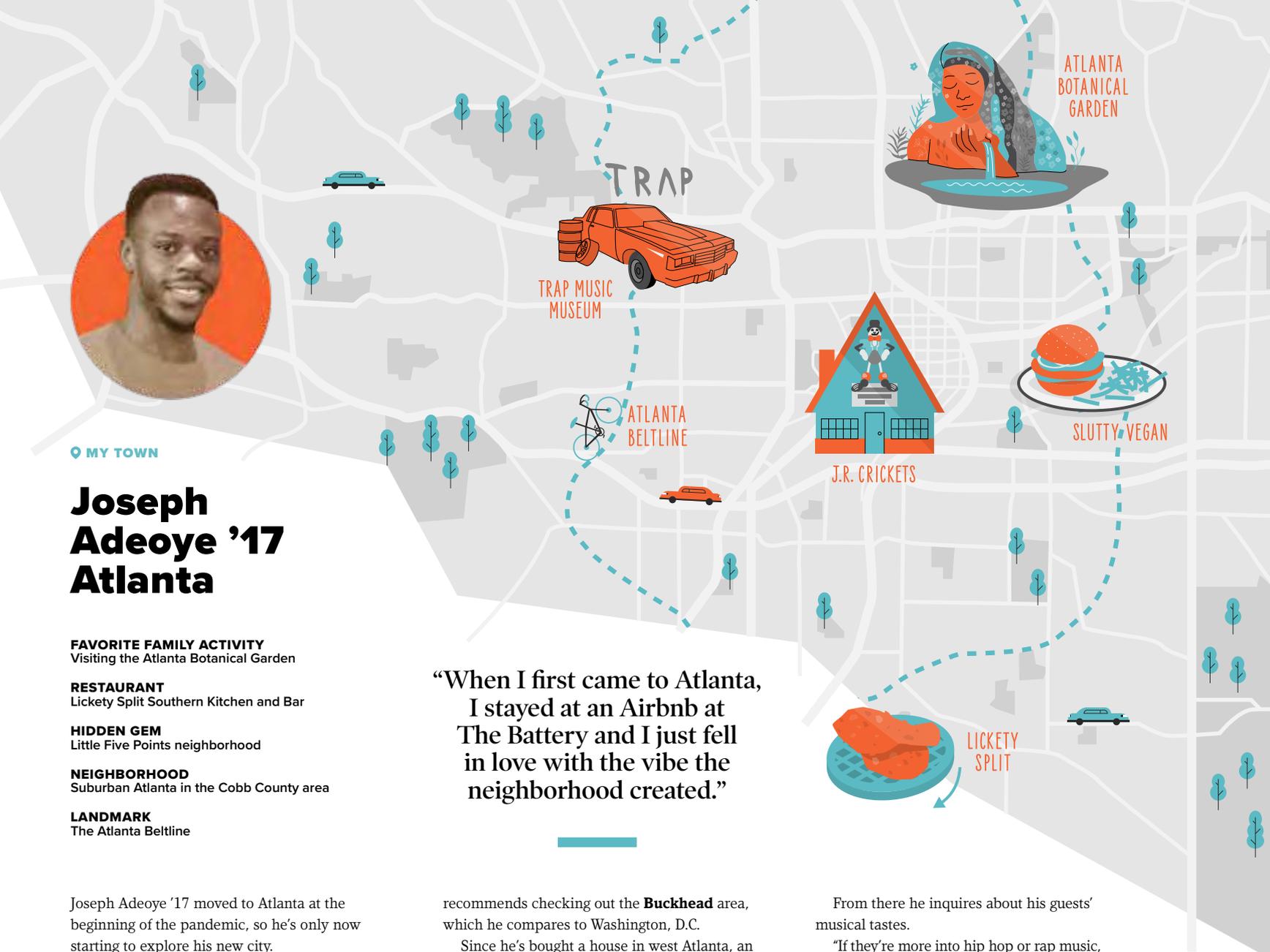
From there he inquires about his guests’ musical tastes.

“If they’re more into hip hop or rap music, I would recommend some places in the **Midtown/Buckhead** areas,” Adeoye says. “They also have some Latino spots within the Midtown area. If they’re more into EDM music, I would say the Midtown area and The Battery.”

Adeoye wraps up his tour of Atlanta with two suggestions for family friendly activities: the **Atlanta Botanical Garden** and the **Trap Music Museum**.

“[The botanical garden] is definitely a place that people love to go to take pictures and just take the atmosphere in,” he says. “People also love to go to the Trap Museum [an interactive experience using art to showcase the trap music genre]. But the line there is usually really long, regardless of whether you purchase tickets ahead.”

Happily ensconced in his home in the Atlanta suburbs, Adeoye now has plenty of time to explore even more of what the capital of the Peach State has to offer.



Alumni News



Top Tigers in Their Twenties

Do you know an exceptional recent alum? Nominate someone for our Top Tigers in Their Twenties awards by visiting alumni.towson.edu/toptigers.

Nominate by Feb. 1.



Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

Class of 1971

Virtual Happy Hour, Nov. 17

DECEMBER

Holiday-Themed Virtual Cooking Class, Dec. 2

MARCH

O's Spring Training and Crab Feast in Sarasota, Florida, March 18–19

Reception in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, March 20

TU men's lacrosse game at University of Denver, March 26



Destinations for 2022

Southern California, January
Atlanta, April

Be sure to visit alumni.towson.edu/events for the full schedule of upcoming events and to register.

2021 Deans' Recognition Award Recipients

Some of TU's most outstanding alumni were honored at the 2021 Distinguished Alumni and Deans' Recognition Awards Banquet Oct. 14. Learn more about Distinguished Alumni Award winner Lucy Motsay Rutishauser '86 and Distinguished Young Alumni Award winner Darius Christian '11 on pages 40 and 39, respectively.



College of Business & Economics

Frank DeSantis '99 has worked in various roles at Stanley Black & Decker for the past 22 years and is currently the vice president of customer experience for the infrastructure business. He also serves as chair of the College of Business & Economics Advisory Board.



College of Fine Arts & Communication

Shelly Strong '90 served as head of physical production at DreamWorks (now Amblin Partners) for five years with credits including *Tropic Thunder*, *The Help*, *1917* and the forthcoming Tom Hanks film, *Finch*, among many others. Additionally, Strong serves on several boards and committees, mentors young filmmakers and advocates for the homeless population in Los Angeles.



College of Liberal Arts

Skip Prichard '93 is an accomplished CEO, growth-oriented business leader, keynote speaker and author of the *Wall Street Journal* bestseller *The Book of Mistakes: 9 Secrets to Creating a Successful Future*. His views have been featured in print and broadcast media, including the BBC, *The New York Times*, CNN, NPR and *Forbes*.



College of Education

Mark J. Potter '84, '91 is the president and CEO of the Maryland Science Center where he has led the organization's \$7.5 million capital campaign, in addition to overseeing the development of a comprehensive strategic plan and the addition of new exhibits and educational programs. He also served as president of the TU Alumni Association from 1995–99.



College of Health Professions

Karen Keady '87 is the vice president and chief nurse executive at the University of Rochester Health System, providing executive system leadership for nursing and clinical support staff. She is also an international speaker and published author in the fields of heart failure, self-care, cognitive impairment and leadership development.



Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science & Mathematics

Katherine Gavin '98 has spent more than 20 years at T. Rowe Price and is managing the firm's advertising, creative and media agencies within the Global Brand Marketing division. She is a member of TU's ASRM Advisory Board and the dean's advisory board for the Fisher College of Science & Mathematics.



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CRAB FEAST: More than 100 alumni and guests gathered for the ultimate Maryland pastime—picking crabs—at an all-you-can-eat feast at Jimmy’s Famous Seafood on Aug. 22.

1. Janice Pinn, Marsha Hooker '77 and Melanie Hooker
2. Eliezer Vainqueur '21, Jared Golan '19, Sonya Lloyd, Doug Lloyd '04, Tim Gavin and Katherine Gavin '98
3. Raymond, Rachel and Dawn Boebel '97
4. Sylvia Chapman, Tyrone Chapman '79, Thomas Judd '96 and Rachel Gorenstein '17

MOON DANCER WINERY: The weather on Sept. 10 was perfect for an outdoor wine tasting with fellow alumni in southern Pennsylvania. Guests were treated to live music while taking in a beautiful sunset over the scenic Susquehanna River.

1. Robin Pettiford '94 and Ashena Sparrow '18
2. Jed Nieves; Kathryn McCauslin '18; Kaitlynn Gooding '18, '20; and Daniel Miller
3. John and Mary Beth Cuddy '75, '86
4. Wearing smiles and animal print is always perfect for a night with Tigers.



FARM TO FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERING: A group of 25 generous Tigers harvested potatoes at First Fruits Farm on Sept. 18. The crop was sent to local food banks and homeless shelters, as well as to Louisiana to aid with hurricane relief efforts.

1. The group arrives motivated and ready to help.
2. Justin Piche '10 with his tiny Tiger helpers, Kealy and Graham
3. Pari Kratz '93
4. Carlo Mercado '12, Alfredo Guillen '17, Michael Massimini '08 and Nam Ha '18, '21



HOMECOMING FESTIVAL: After celebrating Homecoming virtually in 2020, everyone was excited to return in person for the 2021 Homecoming Festival. Alumni and guests enjoyed a live DJ, great food, fun games, entertaining band performances and, of course, a special appearance by Doc.

1. Members of TU's Lambda Beta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha are happily reunited.
2. A Tiger in training gets some pointers from Doc.
3. Stephanie Calabretti '97, '01 and Ruth Roberts '98 bring their friend Melissa Luckman '98 to Homecoming (in spirit).
4. All set up and ready to welcome alumni to the Homecoming Festival.

Class Notes

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

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

SEND MAIL TO:

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

EMAIL:

alumni@towson.edu

WEB:

alumni.towson.edu/classnotes

1970s

GEMMA HOSKINS '74, '77

published her first book, *Keeping On - How I Came to Know How I Was Born*. Readers will remember Hoskins as one of the grassroots investigators in the 2017 Netflix docuseries, *The Keepers*. Her second book, *Teddy Tales: A Puppy Primer*, will be released soon.

1980s

GORDON MICHALOSKI '89

teaches psychology at TU. In his spare time, he writes and records original music in the pop rock genre



under the name "Gordon Michaels." He recently released his second album, *Jack of Hearts*.

1990s

DOUGLAS SENTZ JR. '95

graduated from Saint Joseph's University of Philadelphia in May with a master's in organizational development and leadership. He also recently accepted a promotion with Kohl's to general manager, logistics, in Corsicana, Texas. He has been with Kohl's logistics for four years.



RICHARD HOLLEY '96

completed requirements for post-baccalaureate certificate in adult basic education (ABE) from Penn State University. Holley is working toward a Master of Education in lifelong learning and adult education. Also, Holley was appointed to the board of directors of the Literacy Council of Frederick

County, Maryland. Board members serve three-year terms.

ELIZABETH (BETH)

CLARK '97 is an analyst in the Administrative & Financial Services Division of the Office of Physical Plant at the University Park campus of Penn State University. She was recognized by APPA (formerly the Association of Physical Plant Administrators) with its 2021 Meritorious Service Award. Each year, APPA members bestow the Meritorious Service Award on no more than three members who have made significant, lifelong contributions to the profession of education facilities management.

CRAIG HAUPT '99

is creating and self-publishing a second ArtStory book called *24 Album Covers*. The completed book will contain 24 fictitious vignettes and 55 full-color art images.

Tiger Connect:
alumni.towson.edu

Facebook:
Towson University Alumni Association

Twitter:
@towsonualumni

Instagram:
@towsonalum

Tag your posts:
#TowsonUAlum

“Individuals need literacy to engage with the written word in everyday life. Think of how often you use your own reading skills in everyday life. It’s not just articles like this one that require literacy, but signs, labels and the messages on your phone too. The same goes for writing. Even phone calls have given way to instant messaging and text-based communication, making the ability to read all the more important.”

RICHARD HOLLEY '96

2000s

DIONNE CURBEAM '00

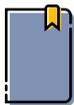
was appointed by Gov. Larry Hogan to the state Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board. With the State Board of



Education, the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board sets the standards and regulations by which teachers and other professionals are prepared and licensed for Maryland public schools. The board's 25 members are appointed to three-year terms by the governor with Senate advice and consent.

AMBER TOLLEY MCGINNIS '00

recently joined Washington College's Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience as assistant director for communications and outreach. McGinnis manages all communications, public relations and digital content. She serves as the administrative point person for the George Washington Prize and Starr's fellowship programs and is responsible for the center's Explore America Summer Internship program, which places students in paid internships at prestigious cultural institutions across the country.



STEFFANI HARRIS '02

released *Life Dosages*, a book of poetry, in the summer.



Photo: Dmitry Kim

ELIZABETH BOROWSKY '05

Natural Musician

Elizabeth Borowsky has been performing music for most of her life. She's also a composer and teacher, so when the pandemic hit, she found herself longing for the musical interaction that fuels her.

She used some of her newfound free time to finalize 100 solo piano compositions of all skill levels she wrote for her students. Although based on a classical foundation, most are cinematic, pop or jazz in style, and each one is customized to a particular student's personality. Borowsky gives each student a composition for their birthday, but now she's published them on her website and made them available for download to teachers and students everywhere.

"These are pieces that I've been writing for young musicians with the intention of it being a musical gummy vitamin," she says. "Basically, a piece of music that is fun for them to play, so it tastes good, but it has all the technical and artistic nutrients that I, as a teacher, want them to learn and develop."

Borowsky was named the 2021 New Hampshire Commissioned Composer, a joint commission by the Music Teachers National Association and New Hampshire Music Teachers Association. As part of the role, she wrote *The Nature of Life*, a 16-minute composition for piano and vocals. In October, she debuted the piece

at a conference in Maine. Her friend Jessica Deskin '06 was the vocalist during that performance and an ensuing one for the public in her hometown of Lebanon, New Hampshire. The piece will now compete for the Distinguished Composer of the Year Award.

The idea of the music is that it relates to nature and life, says Borowsky, whose mother, Cecylia Barczyk, is a former cello professor at TU. The five-part song cycle is based on texts by historical and contemporary New England poets.

"The music is infused with what we call word painting, when the melody of a song actually reflects the meaning of the text," she says. "I selected texts that really hit home with me—they ask questions about the balance between responsibility and freedom, what it means to grow up, and really, what does life mean. This is all through the lens of nature and the inspiration it has brought to people throughout history, myself included."

Borowsky played a concert in Bulgaria when she was 8, and by the time she was 18 had performed in 30 countries.

"I don't remember life before piano or life before music," she says. "It's something that always seems to have been a part of my existence."

And it always will be.



JAL IRANI '15

Showing App-titude

Millennials are frequently called the side hustle generation, and Jal Irani is no exception.

Irani has developed 11 iOS applications over the last seven years, several addressing issues faced by young adults: receiving information on COVID-19 safety while on campus, monitoring ride-share pricing and, most recently, finding hot, local eateries.

That's no surprise, since as an adjunct instructor in Johns Hopkins University's Carey School of Business and a lecturer in TU's Fisher College of Science & Mathematics, he spends a lot of time with the 18- to 24-year-old demographic.

"My students have given me unique perspectives when approaching difficult problems. They are among the most creative minds in the entire TU ecosystem," he says.

Irani's latest venture is Flave, a mobile app that incentivizes eating at local restaurants through gamification and personalized friend recommendations.

He and cofounder Derek Battle took Flave through TU's StarTUP Accelerator in 2020, receiving an equity-free stipend and mentorship opportunities. They returned the favor this year, serving as mentors for the 2021 class.

Recently Technical.ly named Irani one of its RealLIST Engineers 2021, a list of 21 pioneering engineers in the Baltimore area.

"It's a massive honor," Irani says. "Having a positive impact on the community is the core thesis of my company, so being recognized for this is an affirmation that our team is pushing in the right direction."

"Readers will know me from the Netflix series, *The Keepers*, and recognize the book as a memoir that determines my mission to solve the murder of Sister Cathy Cesnik, and to advocate for survivors of clergy abuse. This is not a retelling of *The Keepers* but rather an analysis of what drives me to daily work at this case and provide resources for abuse survivors."

GEMMA HOSKINS '74, '77



MANDY REMETO '03

was named associate media director at Cogniscent Media, a 9Rooftops brand. Based in the Baltimore office, Remeto oversees the media program for the Maryland Lottery account.

JESSICA MCCLAIN '06

was named to Black CPA Centennial's 40 Under 40 Black CPA Award winners. The award recognizes

high-achieving Black CPAs influencing the accounting profession, breaking barriers and making an impact in the community.

The Black CPA Centennial is a year-long celebration in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the first Black CPA in the United States led by a consortium of organizing partners.

STEVEN LESSNER '07

was nominated for the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) Outstanding Faculty Award. Lessner,

an associate professor of English at Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale



campus, was nominated by the dean of languages, arts and social sciences at the Annandale campus. The award is the highest honor for faculty at Virginia's public and private colleges and universities.

 DARIUS CHRISTIAN '11

Top Brass

Raw talent and a decade of hard work have landed trombonist Darius Christian on stage with the likes of Miley Cyrus, Kelly Clarkson, Seal, Gwen Stefani, Rhianna, Adele—the list goes on.

When the pandemic put a stop to live performances for more than a year—Christian was on tour with Gwen Stefani in Puerto Rico when the world shut down—the Baltimore native used the time to record and “write incessantly.”

“I wrote anywhere from one to three ideas per day,” says Christian, who earned a bachelor’s degree from TU in music with a concentration in jazz/commercial performance.

By July, he had more than 175 original songs sitting on his hard drive. He released a handful of the songs on his Bandcamp page every few weeks, leading up to the Oct. 18 debut of his first solo album, *SCARYUS*.

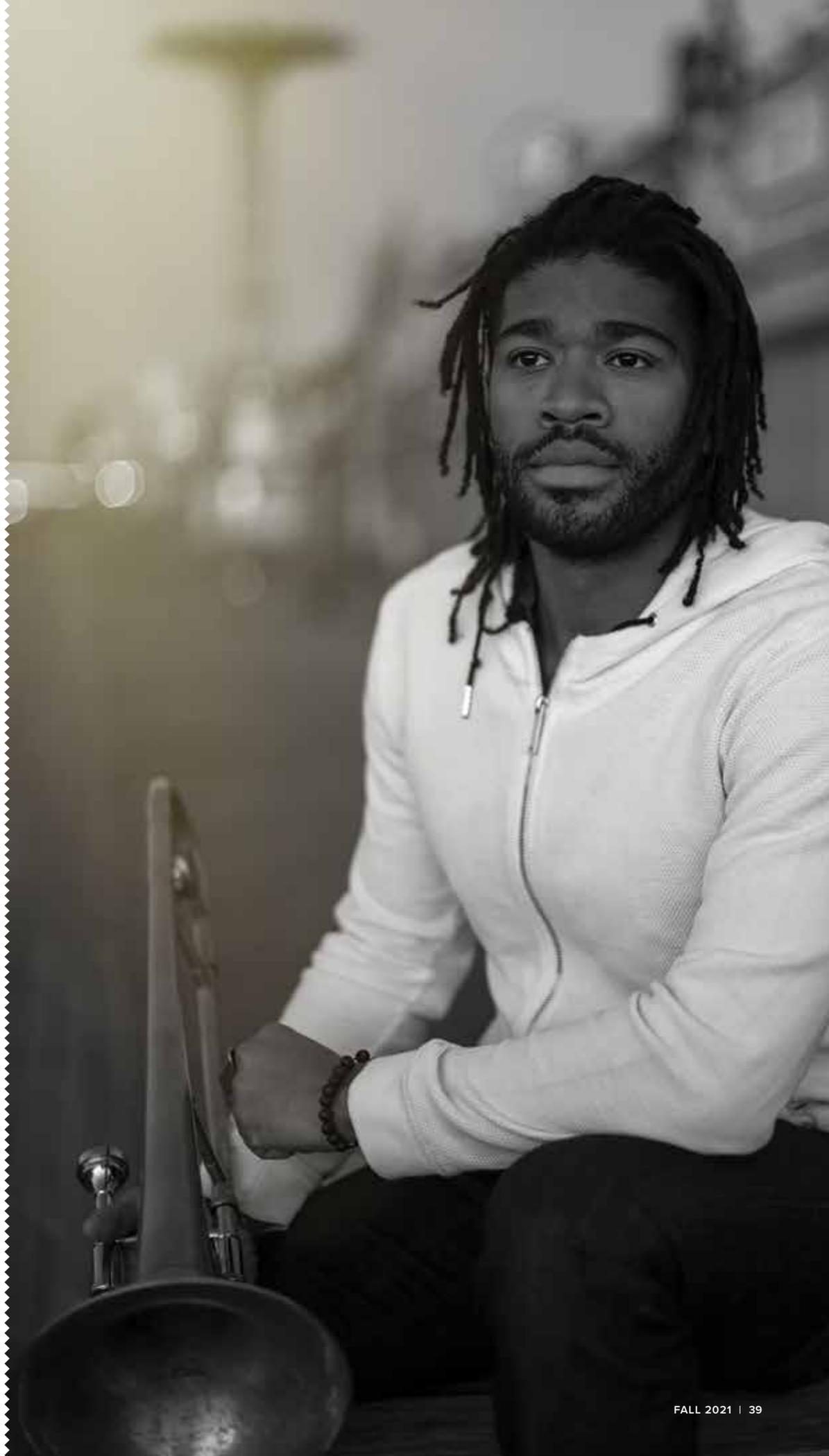
“Now to kind of just switch the brain to sharing and performing live—I’ve been looking forward to it,” says Christian, who performed with Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga at Radio City Music Hall in New York City this summer and embarked on a reunion tour with Macklemore this fall.

In October, Christian was honored with the 2021 TU Distinguished Young Alumni Award for his success.

He credits faculty in the music department and the TU Honors College for helping him develop the skills to succeed as a professional musician.

“I found the education at Towson to be incredibly hands on, incredibly brilliant. It’s a blessing to have significant one-on-one time with some very successful educators,” Christian says, pointing to faculty mentors like David Ballou, James McFalls and music department chair Phillip Collister. “The truth is, you don’t get that everywhere.”

 Photo: Bobby Fisher





LUCY MOTSAY RUTISHAUSER '86

Feeling Fortunate

In June, Sinclair Broadcast Group became the third Baltimore-area Fortune 500 company. It's not an exaggeration to say that Lucy Motsay Rutishauser, its CFO and executive vice president, played a big part in helping it get there.

"When I joined in 1998, even though it was a public company, it was still primarily a family-run business," she says. "So to go in just over 20 years from that to a Fortune 500 company speaks volumes about the growth and the diversification that we've executed upon."

A Baltimore native, Rutishauser is one of eight children (all of whom still live in the area). She and five of her siblings attended TU, where she was an economics and finance dual major.

Her father, Richard, was a Baltimore District Court judge. He passed away earlier this year at 96. "He was really about family, faith and service," she says. "He instilled in all of us the importance of education, the importance of being able to support yourself and doing the best you can, especially for others. That has been

a guiding principle for me throughout my career, and it is one that I instill in my own daughters."

Rutishauser started her career at Black and Decker and joined Sinclair as assistant treasurer. Fifty years ago, the company owned one local television station. Today, it operates 186 stations in 87 markets across the country as well as 23 regional sports networks and Tennis Channel. More than half of NBA, NHL and Major League Baseball teams are housed on the company's regional sports networks. Rutishauser is one of roughly 10,000 employees.

"Everyone is working to innovate for the future," says Rutishauser, who sits on several executive and steering committees at the company and oversees communications and investor relations.

"If you can come to work every day and say, 'I'm helping to build something of value,' that's a wonderful thing for people to be able to do."

MATT LEVIN '07 was hired as senior search consultant by Chesapeake Search Partners. In his new role, he will grow and develop the engineering and operations side of the practice.



KERIANNE P. KEMMERZELL '09 was named to *The Daily Record's* 2021 Very Important Professionals Successful by 40 list. Kemmerzell is an associate in Tydings & Rosenberg LLP's family law and labor and employment groups and litigation department. In her family law practice, she handles cases in

which custody, visitation rights, alimony, child support and division of assets are in dispute. She negotiates separation and property settlement agreements that involve the financial and custody aspects of divorce.

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER '09 was promoted to senior search consultant by Chesapeake Search Partners. Schneider



will lead the growth and day-to-day management of the sales and marketing side of the practice.

"Poetry heals and it has been my lifeline since I was a teenager. It's the clearest way of expressing my innermost self and journeying through life on this planet."

STEFFANI HARRIS '02

2010s

MICHELLE RUNGE '11

earned the Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation from the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Inns of Court Foundation. The CAE is the highest professional credential in the association industry. To achieve it, an applicant must have experience with nonprofit organization management, complete a minimum of 100 hours of specialized professional development, pass a stringent examination in association management and pledge to uphold a code of ethics.



EMILY GREENE '13 was listed in the 2022 edition of the legal ranking guide *The Best Lawyers in America*. Greene was in the “Ones to Watch” section in the areas of Commercial Litigation and Personal Injury Litigation—Defendants. Greene is an associate at the firm Kramon & Graham in Baltimore, Maryland.

ANDREW FANSHAW '18 joined Chesapeake Search Partners as a search consultant. He will support driving new business and customer relationships for the full practice areas of sales, marketing, engineering and operations.



JUSTIN FISHER '18

recently became affiliated as a real estate agent with Long & Foster.

In Memoriam

Alumni

Mildred Williams Lang '34
Oct. 4, 2020

Kathryn (Peltz) Trahan '42
July 10, 2021

Dorothy (Ecker) Hansen '46
May 5, 2021

Mildred (Mosier) Parsons '47
Jan. 2, 2021

Ruth (Mueller) Bergstrom '50
Sept. 16, 2021

Elizabeth Roes Springer '50
Aug. 2, 2021

Eileen (Wainer) Cohn '51, '62 *
June 30, 2021

Catherine D. (Langhirt) Kokoski '51
Feb. 8, 2021

Gloria L. Paar '51
July 1, 2021

Alma (Thume) Hall '52
May 12, 2021

Amelia E. (Raila) Albright '54
Oct. 29, 2020

Julian Lee Lapides '54
July 14, 2021

William D. Pullen '54
May 19, 2021

Shirley A. Hartwell '57
May 25, 2021

Kathryn (Peterson) Ross '57
June 30, 2021

Nancy L. (Normine) Sandbower '57
Oct. 19, 2020

Evelyn E. (White) Sauerwald '57
Nov. 18, 2020

Nancy K. (Jalis) Hauck '59
Aug. 6, 2021

Barbara A. Hoffman '60
June 20, 2021

Donald A. Cyzyk '61
Sept. 19, 2021

Evelyn R. (Newman) Duckenfield '61
Jan. 25, 2021

Mildred Olivia (Cox, O'Connor) Knoll '61
July 22, 2021

Joy (Fisher) Smith '62
July 11, 2021

Brenda (Bradley) Gelston '63
June 20, 2021

Paul W. Gunning '63
June 2, 2021

Robert M. Keane '63
June 23, 2021

Ruth (Dvorak) Morris-McClements '63
Aug. 26, 2021

Sylvia H. (Gulin) Grebow '64
May 26, 2021

Pamela D. Shirley '66
May 11, 2021

Philip J. Young '68
March 17, 2021

Barbara (Filar) Glod '69
July 11, 2021

Rose Marie Hemphill Vickrey '69
May 30, 2021

Robert Thomas East '71
Sept. 11, 2021

Lou Ann H. Estes '71
Aug. 21, 2021

Richard T. Peret '72
April 16, 2021

Blaine Taylor '72
April 5, 2021

Charmaine L. Bandell '73
July 2, 2021

Valerie L. (Kidner) Netting '73, '83
July 25, 2021

Michael W. Owen '73
Aug. 4, 2021

Larry L. Gouker '74
Aug. 8, 2021

Diane Lucas '74
Aug. 20, 2021

Dale E. Parker-Brown '74
Feb. 26, 2021

Emlynn J. Shives '74
Feb. 22, 2021

William M. Driscoll '75
May 15, 2021

Gregory B. Kroneberger Sr. '75
Sept. 17, 2021

Charles J. Hickey II '75
Aug. 2, 2021

Henry E. Schweitzer III '75
June 7, 2021

Timothy Joseph Gentile '76
Aug. 3, 2021

George J. Lerian III '76
May 31, 2021

June (Minnick) McCauley '76
June 14, 2021

Susan M. Walko '76
Aug. 31, 2021

Peter T. Lampell '77
Feb. 13, 2021

Michael P. Doline '78
2021

Ava (Kelley) Honeycutt '78
July 2, 2021

Stuart I. Chapman '79
July 1, 2021

John R. Reisinger '79
June 7, 2021

Robert J. Dunn '80
July 3, 2021

Brice M. Freeman '81
April 10, 2021

Joseph D. Roach '82
May 26, 2021

Jorge I. Austrich '83
April 18, 2021

Marcella (Siemienski) Whitmore '83
May 17, 2021

Scott Lewis Hall '86
Sept. 22, 2021

Jeffrey Stanton Talbott '86
June 7, 2021

Megan (Bradley) Ford '87
June 23, 2021

Erick Andrew Baxter '89
Sept. 29, 2021

John Randolph Brooks Jr. '90
Sept. 26, 2021

James Franklin Cunningham '90
Dec. 8, 2020

Ann M. Mason '90
March 3, 2021

Lynne A. Steltzer '92
April 28, 2021

Kimberly (McGee) Travis '92
Sept. 21, 2021

Terri L. (Nogal) Ball '94
April 30, 2021

Brian J. Fronczek '02
June 21, 2021

Robert S. Carr '08
June 5, 2021

Elizabeth Raisa Fenton '08
April 15, 2021

Nyome O. Kamara '09
June 3, 2021

Peter Grabowski '11
Aug. 30, 2021

Alex Thomas Bullen '14
June 2021

Spencer Lowell Sutton '15, '16
Aug. 3, 2021

David Alexander Brokaw '18
June 6, 2021

Elliott Marie Smith '20
Sept. 17, 2021

Faculty & Staff

Virginia (Johnson) Anderson
May 2021

Helene Breazeale
May 18, 2021

Roger G.I. Erricker
Sept. 12, 2021

Sarah E. Fields
Aug. 30, 2021

Ernest Carol Ilgenfritz
Aug. 22, 2021

Donna L. McLaughlin
Aug. 23, 2021

Joseph J. O'Donnell Jr.
May 2, 2021

Bonnie J. Reynolds
Sept. 29, 2021

Beth E. Vanfossen
Jan. 16, 2021

Bill L. Wallace
Aug. 22, 2021

Rearview Mirror

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



ASK AN ARCHIVIST

Hey Felicity...

Q: What's the oldest book in Special Collections and University Archives?

A: We don't know the exact date it was made, but this personal prayer book was created before the printing press, sometime in the 1400s. Its pages are made of vellum, which is an incredibly durable paper made with animal skin.

The book itself, which was part of the rare book collection acquired when Baltimore Hebrew University integrated with TU in 2009, is very small but in good condition. We are helping to prolong that with good storage.

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

WHAT'S NEW

MOTA

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) began housing its collections at Special Collections and University Archives in 2019. The collections hold material dating to the early 1900s, when occupational therapy courses were being taught at Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital as well as Johns Hopkins Hospital.

TU's connection to MOTA began in 1974, when the occupational therapy (OT) department at Towson State College was established, before a state licensing measure was passed. Later, faculty were involved in establishing OT license regulations for Maryland, the first of which were issued in 1979.

PAST

This fall *The Towerlight*, Towson University's student newspaper, ceased publishing physical copies. It continues to be found online, and Special Collections and University Archives is capturing that online content for future researchers.



1921

The first student newspaper was published in March 1921. It was named after the school itself and was very large but thin. It's packed with long stories about various groups on campus and is focused, like the school, on information for future teachers.



1922

The name changed in January 1922 to *The Oriole*. Still very focused on information for aspiring teachers, the newspaper was more compact. Its mission was right on the front page: to be an information source for current and interested students as well as an example to other Normal schools.



1926

Four years later, the name changed once again to the more familiar *Tower Light*. The newspaper remained committed to being a space for students to share experiences and information as well as another line of communication for faculty and administration to the entire campus.

PRESENT

On My Bookshelf

CHRISTINE PANNELL, CLASS OF 2017

A lifelong reader whose favorite childhood memories include visiting the local library and competing with her sisters to see who could read the most books in the summer, Christine Pannell '17 revisited some childhood standbys during the pandemic: authors R.L. Stine and Tamora Pierce and the Harry Potter series. The senior communications manager at Reading Partners in Baltimore City, a branch of a national organization that partners with under-resourced schools and engages volunteer reading partners to work one on one with students who struggle with reading, loves mysteries, true crime and historical fiction and believes in the potential offered by the written word. "All the statistics point to students being able to read in elementary school opens up a world of opportunity for them," she says.



In 2017...

Reading Partners came into Pannell's life while she was earning her communication management master's degree. "I did a case study on the organization—before I even knew a job for me would exist there—and it opened my eyes to working in the nonprofit sector." Here's what she was reading—besides her assignments—then.



Where Did You Go Bernadette by Maria Semple

It was a selection from my book club that I was not interested in reading, but I ended up loving it. It was very quirky writing. The characters were so out into left field.



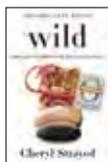
Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty

The characters really interested me. The way that the author broke out the storylines and gave us the point of view from every character was really neat.



The Inferno by Dan Brown

I love the connections, the symbols and how the main character, Robert Langdon, is connecting symbols and big conspiracy theories. The battle between church and science is fascinating to me.



Wild by Cheryl Strayed

It's incredibly inspiring but also very realistic; it gave us the ups and the downs of her journey hiking the Pacific Coast Trail. I was also getting into hiking at that time, so I was interested in reading stories of women who had gone out and done things on their own.

In 2021...

Pannell has been working remotely since the start of the pandemic, leading branding, content, social media, digital and email strategies; helping recruit community volunteers to serve students; and educating the public on what Reading Partners does. Here's what she's been reading this year.



The Alice Network by Kate Quinn

An intense psychological thriller, it's about a woman who becomes a spy and infiltrates a bar with a manager who is a Nazi sympathizer. The woman gets caught, and it goes through those consequences.



Made to Stick: Why Some Ideas Survive and Others Die by Chip and Dan Heath

It's about the power of ideas and what's the secret sauce to have an idea stick. It was helpful for me to read why certain things caught on the way that they did.



Oona Out of Order by Margarita Montimore

A young woman, on New Year's Eve when the clock strikes midnight, jumps years, but she doesn't know if she'll be jumping forward or backward. It's a really sweet book.



The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

I read her book *The Great Alone* last year, and it's one of my favorite books ever. The characters that she develops, you feel like you're next to them.

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.



♥ RICK'S STORY

Rick Ivy '94, '00

I knew Jeanne through her sister and then lost touch after high school. I saw her again at TU, in the Union stairwell. I was going up, and she was going down the stairs.

This was the first time I really pursued somebody. I invited her to a party at my house downtown. We had this very tight connection, where it seemed like we were always on the same wavelength.

One of the things that I remember doing back in the early '90s was I made her mix tapes of artists that I knew she hadn't heard of.

By the sixth month of dating, we went on a cross-country trip together for three weeks. When we came back, we moved in together. We really never asked what the next step was. It was just always an "us" thing after that.

There was no formal proposal; we just planned things together. The second year of living together, we made a five-year plan that included kids, a house, all these things that we realized we were on the same page about.



There were about 150 people at the wedding, and we had a completely vegan wedding at the Antrim in Taneytown, Maryland. Her family's really Irish, so we had a traditional Celtic ceremony, which is called a handfasting, where you put a knot between each of our wrists. I had my brother and my two best friends as groomsmen. We chose a new last name.

Ivy is a name that's not in my family traditionally or hers. Ivy stands for love and fidelity. That was the main reason we chose it.

Since the wedding, it's mostly been careers and taking care of the kids—we had Quinn in 2002, Shane in 2004 and Marlo in 2009—and going on vacations. We like doing things that really involve the kids.

But since this year is our 25th anniversary, we went—just the two of us—back to Jamaica where we had our honeymoon. Back then we sat in hammocks, read and just spent time together. I was looking forward to doing that again.

♥ JEANNE'S STORY

Jeanne Ivy '94

We met in high school at a party at a friend's house. We just casually knew each other through a group of friends. But we never dated. I was too young. Fast forward to my freshman year at Towson. I was having lunch with a friend of his who I went to grade school with. And we were going down the stairs at the Union, and Rick was walking up. I said to his friend, "Dave, was that Rick?"

Apparently, Rick had contacted Dave and said, "Was that Jeanne?" Pretty quickly after that we started dating. It just clicked. I was an art major, and he was a music major. We had things in common in terms of cultural things, art and music. He seemed really interested in what I had to say and what I thought.

In the beginning at Towson, we spent a lot of time sitting in the grass on a hill or in the Union. We would cook dinners too.

We dated for six years before we got married, but we moved in rather quickly. When I turned 19, we moved into an apartment together with my cousin. At that point, I was pretty much making a commitment to him.



The wedding was a little bit unconventional because that's how we are. I wanted whatever we did to be meaningful to us. I wore navy blue. My parents walked me down the aisle together. We got tattoos instead of engagement rings.

We asked people to bring an herb or a seed that represented a wish they had for us, to grow in a garden. We had given them a list of different things: basil for bravery, lavender for grace, etc. As part of the ceremony, Rick's niece and nephew collected them. But we ended up keeping the seeds in a jar as a sentimental thing.

On our honeymoon, we went to Jamaica. We've been to Jamaica five times, because it's become a special place for us. We went there for our honeymoon, our 10-year anniversary, our 20-year and our 25th.

Philanthropy



Staying Cool in the Summer Heat

Front: Katelyn Tydings '22, left, and Alivia Warren '21
Back: Aly McKinney '21, left, David Schwaber, Alena Schwaber and Angelita Limbo '22

TU welcomed Alena and David M. Schwaber to the Auburn House July 15 for an ice cream social to recognize their historic gift to the College of Health Professions. The \$1.32 million gift established the Alena and David M. Schwaber Endowed Nursing Scholarship. Ten awards will be given annually to nursing students who demonstrate a compelling need due to personal or financial hardship. Four of the 10 inaugural recipients joined the celebration, including Angelita Limbo, who delivered remarks about her career aspirations and the importance of the scholarship. She was joined by Aly McKinney, Katelyn Tydings and Alivia Warren. Also attending were TU President Kim Schatzel; Melanie Perreault, provost and executive vice president for academic and student affairs; College of Health Professions Dean Lisa Plowfield; Tab Uhrich, associate dean, College of Health Professions; Haley Mark, professor and chairperson, Department of Nursing; and Brian DeFilippis, vice president, university advancement.

Golden Celebration for TU Foundation

In its 50th anniversary year, the Towson University Foundation (TUF) celebrated by ensuring that the work of TU students and faculty will forever be supported by the TUF Grant Program, through a newly created endowment.

The TUF Grant Program Endowment was established with \$100,000 in seed funding from the TUF, \$50,000 from TUF Board president Bill Murray and a \$124,000 estate gift from Joyce Brown '68, a graduate of Towson State Teacher's College and 30-year reading specialist with the Baltimore County School System.

"This is the fourth year the TUF is providing grant funding to programs and research that are critical to our student experience and the future of TU," Murray says. "My gift to the endowment helps to ensure the long-term viability of our grant program and, I hope, moves others to support the endowment as well."

The 2022 TUF Grant award recipients will be announced in December.

3 Ways To Make a Gift



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.

RISING For Our Whole Community

Six Priorities of the RISE Campaign

STUDENT SUCCESS: OPPORTUNITY AND LEADERSHIP

Student-focused support expands opportunities for academic achievement including scholarships, programs focused on student well-being, successful student transitions to college, equity and inclusion, academic success and resources to support lifelong career success.

▶ **STUDENT WELLNESS** / *The well-being of students is at the core of their success. The new Office of Student Wellness includes campus recreation and the health and counseling centers and will coordinate programming that promotes care for the minds, bodies and souls of our students.*

FACULTY EXCELLENCE: TEACHERS, THINKERS AND MENTORS

Faculty-focused giving opportunities include support for endowed chairs and professorships, visiting professorships, fellowships for early-career scholars and support for academic program excellence and faculty professional development.

▶ **FACULTY SUPPORT** / *Endowed chairs and professorships ensure that financial resources exist in perpetuity and offer recognition for exceptional faculty who excel in research, scholarship and creative work and impact the lives and education of current and future students.*

ACADEMIC INNOVATION: REAL-WORLD INNOVATION

Together, new programs, hands-on learning opportunities, student-faculty research and community-based engagement ensure rich and diverse academic experiences for all students, preparing them for lives in an increasingly diverse global society.

▶ **THE NEW ACADEMIC COMMONS** / *Housing the Writing Center, mathematics tutoring, general tutoring services and flex space for “pop-up” career services and undergraduate research, this highly visible space in Cook Library brings student support services together and sets the tone for exciting and collaborative work.*

COMMUNITY IMPACT: TU MATTERS TO MARYLAND

Community-focused programs and initiatives drive the entrepreneurial energies of our students, faculty, staff and alumni and positively impact our communities.

▶ **STARTUP ACCELERATOR** / *This eight-week, cohort-based fellowship provides new ventures with a stipend for residency and collaboration to accelerate their growth. Selected founders take up residency at the StarTU at the Armory—TU’s state-of-the-art, entrepreneurship space in downtown Towson (see story on page 4).*

CAPITAL PROJECTS: BUILDING EXCELLENCE

TU is investing more than \$700 million in our physical campus, including new academic buildings with modern, inspiring spaces to encourage collaborative problem-solving and hands-on learning in the sciences and health professions, a renovated University Union and cutting-edge practice fields and athletic facilities.

▶ **HEALTH PROFESSIONS BUILDING** / *Rising from the heart of campus, the 240,000-square-foot facility will be the new home for the College of Health Professions. This LEED-certified building will feature flexible learning environments and offer greater opportunities for student collaboration and research.*

ANNUAL GIVING & ENDOWMENT

Consistent annual giving is vital to helping our community reach its full potential. The TU Fund makes sure your gift goes where it can make the biggest impact. The Tiger Athletic Fund supports our student-athlete experiences, and the Student Emergency & Food Insecurity Fund targets giving to ensure our students have support when they encounter unexpected hardships.

For a full list of the opportunities to support each of the RISE Campaign priorities, visit rise.towson.edu/campaign-overview.

♥ DONOR PROFILE

Paul Githongo '09

A member of the True Tiger Society, which recognizes dedicated donors of two or more consecutive years, Paul Githongo supports the Student Emergency & Food Insecurity Fund. "I was fortunate to have a meal plan when I was a student," says Githongo, a senior financial analyst at Exelon. "I knew students who either couldn't afford a meal plan or did not have enough meals to feed themselves. After I graduated, that memory stuck with me. I give back so students have what they need to create great memories at TU."

WHY DID YOU GIVE SPECIFICALLY TO THE STUDENT EMERGENCY & FOOD INSECURITY FUND?

I had a 19-meal plan each week, and there were people who didn't have that. So I would just give out my extra ones. No one should not have a meal, a lunch or a sandwich when someone else has 19. It just kind of stuck with me.

DO YOU HAVE ANY MEMORIES OR EXAMPLES OF YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS WHO STRUGGLED WITH FOOD INSECURITY?

Yeah, a number of people. It was very easy for me, but for them it was expensive paying out of pocket. So for a lot of them I'd just be like, "I got you."

WHAT MOVED YOU THE MOST ABOUT YOUR TU EXPERIENCE?

The diversity of people—being surrounded by different people who have different talents, temperaments and convictions.

WHY SHOULD OTHERS SUPPORT TU?

Find a cause that you care about. It's important because someone you don't even know is going to benefit. It makes an impact.





OUR TOWN

Cross Street Market

Baltimore's public markets have been civic institutions for hundreds of years. In 2019, Cross Street Market, which was established in 1846, reopened following a major facelift. As its manager, it's **Candice Coolahan's** job to make sure its 22 vendors and thousands of customers are all happy. Coolahan '09 works for Cana Development, which leases and manages the market for the city. In addition to food vendors, bars and a seafood restaurant, the 30,000-square-foot market has a butcher, fishmonger, grocer, florist and baker. "We have something for everyone," she says. "If you're craving something familiar, grab a burger or pizza, or you can try Haitian or Korean or Vietnamese. It's almost like a choose-your-own-adventure experience."

Your future makes a difference in our future.

Considering a gift to Towson University? If so, planning today can help. Our new [Planned Giving website](http://towson.planmylegacy.org) walks you through the questions to consider as you plan for the future. It offers you a variety of options to build a giving plan that's right for you—one that will ensure the TU of tomorrow is every bit as strong as our students whose futures are built here.

towson.planmylegacy.org

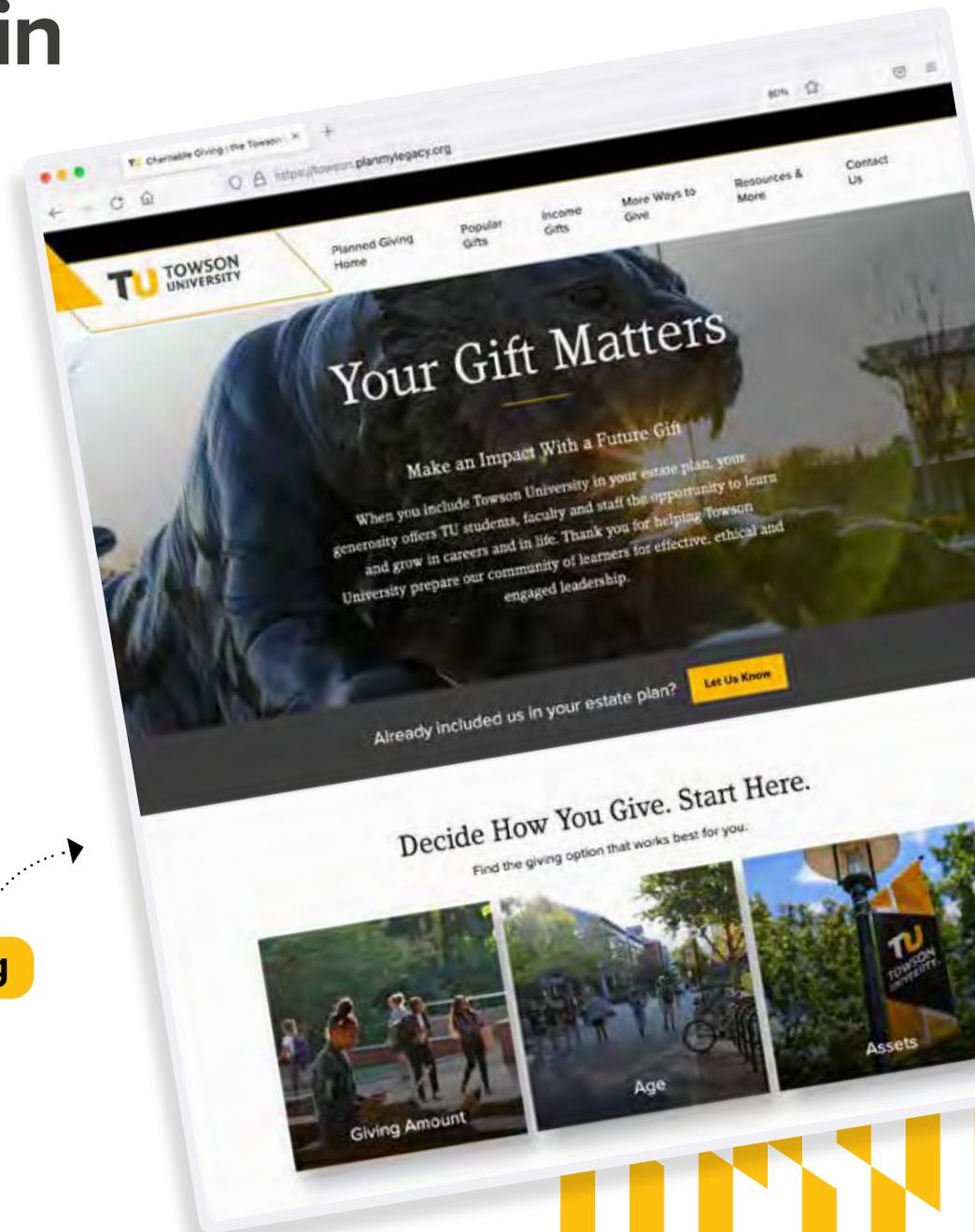
Kathleen Hider

Director of Planned Giving and Major Gifts

PHONE | **410-704-6287**

TOLL FREE | **866-301-3375**

EMAIL | khider@towson.edu





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Towson, MD 21252-0001

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Alumni Admission Nomination Program

DID YOU KNOW alumni can waive the application fee for one undergraduate student per year through the Alumni Admission Nomination Program?

Learn how and apply at alumni.towson.edu/admissionwaiver.

DEADLINE

FOR REGULAR FALL ADMISSION: **JANUARY 15**
EARLY ACTION: **DECEMBER 1**

If you have questions about the waiver
or nomination process, contact the
Office of Alumni Relations at
410-704-2234 or alumni@towson.edu.

Questions about the admissions
application process? Contact the
Office of Admissions at 410-704-2113.

