

# TU

MAGAZINE FALL 2022

## Fallen But Never Forgotten

FOUR YEARS AFTER OFFICER AMY CAPRIO '10 WAS  
KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, HER MEMORY LIVES ON.



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AND PRESERVATION

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# Perseverance and Preservation

Her family's search for a better life in America inspired Lone Azola '68 (pictured upside down) to build a legacy in education and historic preservation.



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## Fallen But Not Forgotten

The legacy of Amy Caprio '10 endures.



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## Being All that She Can Be

Tonee Lawson '07 helps youth achieve their goals.



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## The Sport of Queens

Taking the horseracing media by storm.

### ON THE COVER



We took this issue's cover photo in the home of Garry and Debbie Sorrells, parents of the late Amy Caprio '10. Situated in the woods in Glen Arm, Maryland, it's where Amy and her two sisters grew up. It's packed with mementos of Amy's life, like the items on the cover. "As soon as you walk into the house, you get a deep sense of the love and admiration

they had for their daughter," says Director of Photographic Services Lauren Castellana '13, who took the cover photo. "We wanted to create a still life that pays homage to her life and accomplishments."

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*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](mailto:alumni@towson.edu).*

# President's Letter

Fostering institutional equity has been a leading priority of my administration since I came to Towson University in January 2016. In the years since, thanks to the commitment of the entire Tiger community, TU has become a nationally recognized leader for diversity and inclusion—a reputation we are proud to honor and strive to advance every single day.

This fall, we celebrated a major milestone for this most important mission. In August, we welcomed 4,941 new students between our incoming freshmen, transfer and graduate students. Fifty-one percent of these newcomers identify as an under-represented racial or ethnic minority.

With this incoming class, Towson University now has its most diverse student body ever—one that truly reflects the demographics of Maryland, which became a minority-majority state during the last census.

This diversity enriches TU's academic excellence and prepares graduates to lead in a global workforce. I am truly proud of the strides we continue to make when it comes to equity and inclusion on our campus—and our work is never done.

This term, we will honor several notable alumni who hold a special place in our institution's history and have done much to impact the TU community.

We will celebrate the nine historically Black fraternities and sororities that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) with the unveiling of our new NPHC tribute walkway—a project that was largely funded through the generosity of dozens of TU alumni and their supporters—located in Chapman Quad.



We will also dedicate two residence halls in West Village in honor of TU's first Black graduates, Ms. Marvis Barnes and Ms. Myra Harris—a pair of remarkable women who had inspiring careers as K-12 educators and leaders in Maryland schools for more than 40 years.

In this edition of *TU Magazine*, you will read about these incredible alumnae who paved the way for the tens of thousands of students who have followed in their footsteps. This includes Tonee Lawson '07, who founded an organization that focuses on providing local youth with educational opportunities to help shape their own futures.

You will also see stories about alumni who have changed our community with their public service. Like Amy Caprio '10, a dedicated police officer who died tragically in 2018. And Lone Azola '68, who has built a legacy in bettering TU and preserving the history of greater Baltimore.

All these stories reflect what makes Towson University a most special place.

Today and every day, we celebrate our people. It is truly a great time to be a Tiger, and the future of TU is brighter than ever.

**KIM SCHATZEL, PH.D.**  
TOWSON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT



## TREASURES

# Head Case

As a child, Laurie Williams-Hogarth was fascinated by the science of the human body. The daughter and granddaughter of physicians, she spent much of her time around hospitals. If she tripped and skinned her knee, her father wouldn't just give her a Band-Aid; he'd explain in technical terms what happened to her skin and how her body would heal itself.

Now a TU biology professor, she teaches an upper-level neuroscience course, the first part of which involves the anatomy and functioning of the brain. In a lab in the Science Complex, she is surrounded by plastic models of everything from heads to toes, but she remains most

fascinated by the least-understood part of the human body.

"I'm a neuroscientist, so I'm most interested in the brain," she says. "It is the command center of the entire body. And the fact that we can imagine scenery and recall and create memories really only [because of] chemicals and proteins that reside in specific, tiny cells of the brain, to me, is truly amazing."

The models in her classroom are painstakingly created by medical illustrators, so their price tag is steep. A model brain like the one pictured above, which can be dissected, can cost around \$1,250.

"These are about as close to it gets to a human brain," she says. "It weighs about one or two pounds. The actual brain has a covering with fluid around it, so it's going to be a little bit heavier than that."

Students, she says, can be intimidated when they first walk into the lab. Plastic skeletons, skulls, arms, knees—basically every body part—line the shelves.

"The ones who get it—that you've got to come in, you've got to look at the models, you've got to touch them and relate them to your own anatomy—those students are the ones who usually do the best."

# Campus News



## Opening Day

In April, TU opened the 85,000-sq.-foot addition to the University Union. It has a variety of national dining outlets, an expanded Career Center, a 300-seat auditorium/theater and double the space for student activities.



## High-Quality Care

TU's Child Care Center received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The center met all 10 of the NAEYC's standards for child care and/or schooling.



## Scholarship Winners

Seniors Brandon Agugoesi, William Freeman, Ryan Gordon and Zobia Ashraf each received scholarships—totaling nearly \$16,000—from the Mid-Atlantic CIO Forum for the 2022–23 academic year.

## Throwing it Back



To celebrate the 25-year anniversary of changing its name to Towson University, TU will sell retro apparel inspired by the Towson State era. For the fall term only, alumni can visit [towson.edu/tsugear](http://towson.edu/tsugear) for hats, sweats, t-shirts and hoodies. After December, the items will be retired. Get them by December, when—like “TSU”—the gear will be a thing of the past.



## Welcome to TU

TU has three new leaders within the Office of the Provost: Boyd Bradshaw, vice president for enrollment management; Cynthia Cooper, vice provost; and Sidd Kaza, associate provost for research and dean of graduate studies.

Bradshaw, who came from Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), leads University Admissions, the Tutoring & Learning



## Walking Through History

The university has broken ground on a tribute to the members of its historically Black fraternities and sororities, honoring all nine chapters of TU's National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) organizations. The completed project will be dedicated at a ceremony scheduled during Homecoming weekend on Oct. 22.

The tribute will feature a brick walkway lined with brick pillars that winds through the Dr. Julius Chapman Quad, which was dedicated in October 2021. The pillars will be topped with plaques featuring full-color crests, mottos and founding dates for each of the NPHC sororities and fraternities. A plaque listing each chapter's charter members will be on the front of each pillar.

Representatives of TU's historically Black fraternities and sororities joined President Kim Schatzel and Chapman, TU's first dean of minority affairs, at the groundbreaking ceremony June 30.

“The walkway will recognize the historic legacy of these organizations as champions for racial equity on our campus,” Schatzel says.

The project's fundraising was driven by more than 550 individual donations from members of the NPHC and TU community. The Mu Mu Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority led the way with 100 donations.

“The occasion is just awesome, because [TU's campus] is so vastly different from when the NPHC started,” Alberta Brier '77 said at the groundbreaking. **See page 45 for more.**

## HARD AT WORK

**88**

percent of recent graduates in graduate school or in the work force

**220**

employers typically present at the annual Spring Mega Job and Internship Fair

**1,200**

students typically attend the Spring Mega Job and Internship Fair

**1,218**

resumes reviewed by the Career Center in the spring

**3,272**

students with spring term internships

Center, Financial Aid, Office of the Registrar and Academic Advising. Cooper comes to the provost's office with more than 10 years of academic leadership experience at TU. Former chair of the Department of Computer & Informational Sciences, Kaza, who has been at TU for 14 years, is a key leader in the promotion and support of research as TU works toward a Carnegie Classification of R2: High Research Activity Institution.





## A Legacy of Inspiration

The University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents approved President Kim Schatzel's request—supported by a naming committee of TU students, faculty, staff and alumni—to name residence halls after Marvis Barnes '59 and Myra Harris '59, who were the first two Black graduates of the university.

A formal dedication of the newly named buildings is planned for fall 2022. West Village 1 became Harris Hall, while West Village 2 is now named Barnes Hall.

"Ms. Barnes and Ms. Harris paved the way for the students who follow in their footsteps still," Schatzel said. "They continued to transform their communities through decades of service as teachers and administrators in Maryland's public schools, further establishing their legacies as

**"I never dreamed something like this would happen."**

—MYRA HARRIS '59

inspirational civic leaders in our region."

"We're proud that the University System

of Maryland is more diverse [and] inclusive than ever," says USM Chancellor Dr. Jay A. Perman. "That didn't just 'happen;' it [was] because young women like Marvis Barnes and Myra Harris had the enormous courage to integrate our institutions and clear a path for the millions more students coming behind them."

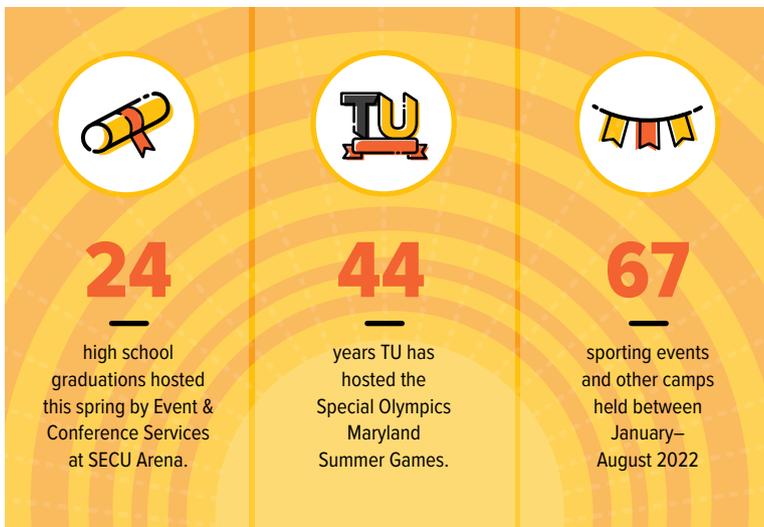
Like the rest of the Maryland education system at the time, TU was racially segregated until the United States Supreme Court, with its 1954 decision in the case of

*Brown vs. The Board of Education*, outlawed racial segregation in public schools.

"It really came as a surprise and really made my day," Harris says of learning of TU's plans for the residence halls. "I never dreamed something like this would happen."

Schatzel appointed the naming committee at the formal request of the Student Government Association and in alignment with TU's Policy on Naming of Facilities and Academic Programs.

In 2021, TU Athletics earned the NCAA/Minority Opportunities Athletic Association Diversity and Inclusion Award, and this year, the 2022 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings placed TU No. 30 globally and top among U.S. institutions in gender equality.



## My Home Is Yours

Each summer, when campus seems like it should be quieting down, life is, in fact, ramping back up. Each year the university grants many requests from external groups to host their events—everything from academic to athletic—all over campus. Prior to the pandemic and the University Union expansion, TU hosted nearly 1,000 external events each year. This year it was another busy summer at TU.



## OFFICE HOURS

# Election Security

**Computer & information sciences professor Josh Dehlinger explains what it is and how to improve it.**

The best way I can think to define election security is as a process to make sure every legal vote cast is counted in the way it was intended.

Associate professor Natalie Scala and I started working together on election security research around 2017.

I think seeing election security as primarily a cyber effort is the general public's perception. Where our research slightly differs is that our definition includes more than just a hacker getting into a machine and changing votes. It's also the risks introduced by setting up the equipment incorrectly, by using a bag of ballots that the tamper tape has been broken or leaving a machine on or plugged in where it shouldn't be.

Initially, I was almost shocked at all the ways something could go wrong with an election. In a presidential election cycle, there are more than 110,000 polling places and a million people are poll workers—my mother was a poll worker. These people are seasonal, not given a lot of training and not very technically savvy. Even worse, some places, like Baltimore City, hire poll workers the day of the election.

So how are they to know what's a threat? Workers may walk away from a pollbook without locking it up—we do this with our computers all the time—but this introduces a threat. Unplugging a USB or plugging one into the vote-counting machine—they may not know this is a threat.

Another way threats can be introduced is through individual states' election processes and procedures. Elections are not federally run. There isn't a whole

lot of coordination in and between states. That's how our country was designed.

Maryland, mostly, uses common equipment across the state. It has a manual on how elections should be run. That's not the case everywhere. However, using common equipment makes Maryland more vulnerable to adversarial attacks.

A lot of the modernization of our election equipment came out of the Bush-Gore election. The Help America Vote Act in 2002, which came out of the hanging chad

**“Just because it's a threat doesn't mean it's malicious.”**

situation, put a whole bunch of funding into using more electronic equipment.

When Natalie and I started working on this, we used documentation from the Election Assistance Commission—the federal agency that helps understand where threats are. Their last threat analysis was 2009. A big part of our work is to look at what the equipment is for Maryland, as well as the mail-in voting process, and update the threats that have changed in the

last 13 years, which are significant.

What we see is a lot of homegrown solutions to secure things—rather than a broad, equal security stance across the state. That is good at preventing coordinated attacks, but it's also bad because some places don't do election security very well. We're trusting many local solutions to be secure.

That's an area Natalie and I wanted to focus on with our training materials. We started with Harford County, and then we continued with Anne Arundel County, which used our training materials the summer prior to the 2020 election.

Our initial work was, “Can we develop materials to get poll workers a base level of knowledge of: ‘Here's the potential threats’ or ‘Here's the cyber threats or the physical or insider threats.’” Maybe my mother, when she was a poll worker, was doing something that was a threat that she didn't even realize. Just because it's a threat doesn't mean it's malicious. It could be totally accidental.

Our online training materials—based on research conducted by TU faculty and students—operate on a “see something, say something” premise and have been shown to increase participants' knowledge of election security.

What we're doing is addressing the issue of, if you can't give the local precincts or the local boards

of elections some tools to secure their process, it doesn't matter what the hardware is or what the larger national systems are in terms of protection.

Working with the hundreds, and maybe even thousands, of people who used our training modules up to the 2020 election and seeing how it helped them understand what those threats are so they could apply them on election day was one of the most rewarding things I've done in my career.

# The One **JOB** That Changed My Life



## RASUL WRIGHT '22

TU history major from College Park, Maryland

After my brother, Malachi (pictured wearing white), and I graduated high school, we transitioned right into working at BJ's Wholesale Club. I worked in the tire bay, changing tires and performing routine car maintenance, while he worked in the grocery department as a cashier.

We were planning to stay at BJ's, thinking that was the last stop in our careers. Malachi, my identical twin, likes to remind me he is 15 minutes older. We are the second and third of nine children.

Our dad was a schoolteacher, and our mom stayed at home with us. Money was scarce, so we didn't know if we would be able to afford college. Thanks to a scholarship, we were able to start our higher education journey at Prince George's Community College (PGCC). We enrolled because many of our co-workers at BJ's would tell us that we have all the potential in the world, but we needed to get our college education.

During our first semester at PGCC, we realized how lucky we were. We always complained that we had to be up at 7:30 for an 8 a.m. class. One day after again hearing us complain about our early morning, one of our older co-workers, Donald, pulled us aside. Donald, who is 60, told us that he wished he was in our shoes. He told us that

his future was decided, but we could choose what we wanted to do with ours. After that conversation, we knew that we had an opportunity few people get.

We realized that if we wanted to do something for ourselves to propel our futures, we needed to make sure that we were in the best position to achieve. After that first term at PGCC, we buckled down and earned 4.0 grade point averages during the rest of our time there. We also took on leadership positions in multiple student organizations.

Through our majors, we have a focused concentration on secondary education, which we plan to use to help the next generation. This fall, we will be teaching in local middle schools, and Malachi was also part of the UTeach program, which helped him better understand how

to bring project- and evidence-based learning into the classroom.

All the hard work and dedication, everything that went into working at BJ's, we took the same fundamentals and applied them to school. It's not always about being the smartest but having a great work ethic. If you have that great work ethic, you will be able to succeed and excel in any endeavor you choose.

I am now entering my final term and will graduate with a bachelor's degree in history. I plan to go to law school. Malachi is in his final term and will graduate with a degree in biology and has been accepted to several prestigious dental schools. TU gave us a chance to achieve our dreams of higher education and our co-workers gave us the inspiration to pursue those dreams.



# Moving On Up



**TU has sparked countless innovators. These are their stories.**

## Amanda Zinn '80

President and CEO, Leadership Baltimore County

As the leader of Leadership Baltimore County, Amanda Zinn plays the key role in the organization's mission to bring high achievers with diverse perspectives together to educate them about the challenges and opportunities in Baltimore County. After graduating from the organization's 10-month course on leadership, alumni are inspired to use their talents to improve the county.

Among the more than 1,300 graduates are civic leaders like Maryland Del. Patrick Young Jr. '10 and Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski Jr.

"What I love about this organization is getting to know amazing leaders," Zinn says. "The people that go through our program are curious, brilliant and dedicated to improving the quality of life for all. They genuinely care about the people of our community."

Though she would never say it herself, the same sentiment describes Amanda Zinn.

**DID YOU KNOW?** TU offers leadership programming through the Dr. Nancy Grasmick Leadership Institute. Learn more at [towson.edu/grasmickleadership](http://towson.edu/grasmickleadership).

**1958**

BORN IN BALTIMORE. SHE WAS THE FIFTH OF SEVEN CHILDREN.

"I learned at an early age that to be good in a big family was basically keep your mouth shut and not to have a lot of needs."

**1976**



GRADUATED FROM THE NOW DEFUNCT BALTIMORE EXPERIMENTAL HIGH SCHOOL.

"It was a high school that empowered the students to make all the decisions along with the teachers. I was highly engaged in the decision-making, so the experience really helped me find my own voice."

**1980**

EARNED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ENGLISH FROM TU.

"I loved my English courses at Towson. The major gave me the ability to be successful in my career in terms of my writing abilities, particularly writing grants."

**1987**

PURCHASED HARBORPLACE FLOWER MARKET.

**1985**



STARTED HER OWN SMALL BUSINESS CONSULTING FIRM.

**1983**

LANDED A JOB AT THE NONPROFIT MARYLAND BUSINESS ADVISORY CENTER TEACHING PEOPLE HOW TO START A BUSINESS OR STRENGTHEN THEIR EXISTING ONE.

**1981**



GOT A JOB AT HARBORPLACE FLOWER MARKET.

"It was only supposed to be a summer job, but I ended up getting promoted three or four times. I started out as a clerk, and then I became a plant manager, the store manager, and eventually I became the buyer for three of the owner's flower markets. I love flowers and I love plants."

**1993**

BEGAN WORK AT WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS OF BALTIMORE (WEB), A NONPROFIT WHERE SHE WAS THE PRESIDENT & CEO UNTIL 2005.

"Under my leadership WEB grew from two employees serving women in Baltimore City to over 20 employees serving women across the globe. I loved the process of watching the people in the program grow, gain self-confidence and become empowered over their own lives."

**1995**



MARRIED HER HUSBAND, HARLAN.

**2005**

STARTED E-CUBED, HER OWN CONSULTING BUSINESS. HELPED NONPROFITS WITH STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING, AND INDIVIDUALS START OR EXPAND SMALL BUSINESSES.

**2022**

IN JUNE, PRESIDED OVER THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY FOR THE 55 PEOPLE FROM MAJOR CORPORATIONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AND NONPROFITS WHO WENT THROUGH LEADERSHIP BALTIMORE COUNTY'S 10-MONTH PROGRAM.

"I have the immense honor and pleasure of getting to know the region's strongest leaders through the program. They're incredibly talented people."

**2021**



SON IAN GRADUATED FROM TU WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION. HE NOW WORKS AT MORGAN STANLEY.

**2013**

JOINED LEADERSHIP BALTIMORE COUNTY (LBC).

"LBC is an important organization because we help improve the quality of life in our county and the region. Through our program our alumni learn about the challenges and opportunities in our community and then get engaged to effect positive change."



## Coffee With...

# Steve Eigenbrot

**We sat down with the new-ish director of athletics to find out what he's looking forward to and how he sees TU athletics growing.**

**📍 LOCATION:**

The Towson Diner

**☕ IN HIS CUP:**

Black coffee

**🕒 ADDICTION LEVEL:**

Two cups a day

**Q: Did you play sports growing up?**

**A:** I played baseball, basketball and football in high school and a little club soccer. I didn't start playing football until I was older. My mom didn't want me to get hurt. Sure enough, moms are smart. I lacerated my liver my senior year, which caused me to be out of school for a couple months and certainly put an end to my sports career. I was lucky enough to have good grades and got a chance to still go to college.

**Q: What has your career path been like?**

**A:** I was a finance/international business major [at the University of Maryland, College Park], so it's obvious I became a college sports administrator, right? During college I worked in D.C., in finance, on Capitol Hill, a bunch of places and, really, none of it really felt right. I was convinced I was going to go to grad school and do something in higher ed like my parents had done.

My senior year, I had a friend who worked in the athletics department. I'd worked for the Washington Wizards when I was in school, and I didn't have the best internship experience. But I started to work for UMCP athletics as a senior and enjoyed it. I met a couple people that were pretty good mentors, and they gave me some professional advice and charted out this path.

**Q: What drew you to TU from the University of South Carolina?**

**A:** Towson was a school that, when I was thinking about being a student-athlete, was on my radar. And it never really left the radar. The storytelling, the branding opportunity that exists here, that's something to work with. I'm excited about it.

That, coupled with the trajectory of the university and the more I heard about Dr. Schatzel and her vision and what was going on here—the fastest-growing public institution in Maryland—it's like, "OK, well, this is not a commuter school or a teacher's college" like people used to say. There are really special things going on here.

Athletics' consistency of success and of who we are—conference affiliation, how we're sponsoring and supporting our sports—maybe hasn't been there. Our athletics history has been one of change. I know the CAA has changed. We just lost a school, but we brought in five. The landscape might continue to shift, but, for a change, it really feels like Tiger Athletics is now in a place of great stability.

I see using our positioning in this conference as a great opportunity to continue building the department, just like Dr. Schatzel has with the academic component of the institution. I think now's a pretty good time to have a sustained run.

**Q: What are you most looking forward to for the next competitive year?**

**A:** The student-athletes, for sure. I'm impressed by the reputation that our student-athletes have, from being oriented in the community to doing good work in the classroom. When I got here, spring sports were wrapping up. I missed the chance to engage with them, go to their practices, go to their workouts, be around them and, obviously, see them compete.

One really neat thing that Towson has right now moving forward is our conference's growth. That's a piece of all this that bodes well for a bright future for our institution. I'm bullish on it. Despite the instability happening in leagues around the country, I think we find ourselves remarkably stable, and there are a lot of schools even at the Power Five level that can't say that.



## Success

# Off the Block

### ★ SWIMMING

**Brian Benzing '24 joined his first club swim team—the Columbia Clippers—in first grade because he wanted to be one of the cool kids. After two record-breaking years with the men's swimming and diving team, the cool kids might just want to be like him.**

The Catonsville, Maryland, native is the two-time defending Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Men's Swimmer of the Year. He has dominated the 100-yard breaststroke at the college level, winning the CAA Championship two years running while also going unbeaten in the event in every regular season meet.

But by his own admission, the sophomore "wasn't very good at swimming" in high school. Benzing attended an International Baccalaureate school after his father's

job took them to Oslo, Norway, at the end of Benzing's sophomore year of high school.

A typical Monday for him started with a 5 a.m. wakeup. Practice went from 5:30 to 7:30 a.m. School ran from 8:50 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. before he hit the pool again for practice and ended his day with a dry land workout, getting home around 8 p.m. That foundation paired with a commitment to making every practice count has propelled Benzing to his success.

"I try to be coachable and open to critique," he says of his steep performance curve. "I think a lot of it comes with just maturing, figuring out my stroke and what I can do to maximize what I have. Before, I wouldn't say I was pushing myself as hard as

I could in practice. I came to the realization that I needed to start doing that. That's what practices are for."

In his very first collegiate meet, he set a school record of 54.81 seconds in the 100-yard breaststroke, eclipsing Jeremy Liu's mark of 55.33 set in 2014. He broke three more school records his first season and swam an NCAA Championship B Final cut time. By the end of the year, Benzing held four of the program's fastest times in the 100-yard breaststroke. The team crowned the 2020–21 season with its first CAA championship and the program's first league title since 1981–82.

Benzing's second season continued where his first ended. He set six

pool, school and league records over the course of the season in individual and relay events and continually shaved time from his NCAA B Final cut time. While the men's team finished third at the 2022 CAA Championships, Benzing defended his 100-yard breaststroke title in 52.34 seconds, setting new TU, CAA and CAA Championship meet records and extending his unbeaten streak in the event to a dozen. The lone CAA swimmer competing in the 2022 NCAA Swimming & Diving Championships finished ninth in the 100-yard breaststroke preliminaries (51.47) and fifth in the B Final with a time of 51.66–0.29 seconds below his qualifying time. That's cool by anyone's standards.



**FATIMAH OWENS '24**  
won the discus at the CAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships with a mark of 47.43 meters.



**ODETTE FONT GARCIA '25**  
was named CAA Golfer of the Week on March 23 after setting a school record with a 5-under 67 during the second round of the Red Rocks Invitational.



**ELIJAH DICKERSON '23**  
earned CAA Baseball Player of the Week in April after hitting .571 in four games against Hofstra and No. 21 Maryland.



**JAMES AVANZATO '22**  
of the men's lacrosse team finished 2022 in the top 5 in the country in man-up goals, with nine.



## **New Head of Women's Hoops**

Former Coppin State head coach Laura Harper is the new women's basketball coach. In 2021–22 Harper guided the Eagles to one of the largest turnarounds in the nation and earned Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Coach of the Year honors in her second season at the helm. As a player, Harper led the University of Maryland to the 2006 NCAA title and was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.



### **BASKETBALL**

#### **Going Overseas**

Four former Tigers will continue their careers in Europe this summer. Dennis Tunstall '20 signed with the Helios Suns in the Slovenian Basketball League. Alex Gavrilovic '15 and Bryan Fobbs '20 will be playing in Belgium. Gavrilovic signed with Belfius Mons-Hainaut, and Fobbs is on Kangoeroes Basket Mechelen. Terry Nolan Jr. '22 will play in Portugal with Imortal Luzigas Albufeira.

### **SOFTBALL**

#### **Winning Silver**

Kendyl Scott '18 rejoined the Great Britain National Women's Softball Team to compete in the European Championship in Spain from July 24–30. The team won silver after losing to the Netherlands 7-0 in the championship game. Scott previously competed with Great Britain in the 2017 European World Championships.

### **LACROSSE**

#### **Hall Yeah**

TU Athletics announced the 58th-annual Tiger Hall of Fame honorees in July. The 2022 class consists of Mindy Bean '10 (softball), Stan Eisenhooth '85 (football), Christina Ghani '08 (gymnastics), Christie Landi '97 (soccer), Brian Matthews '78 (basketball) and Reed Sothoron '05 (lacrosse). The 1971 men's lacrosse team is the Team of Distinction.

### **FOOTBALL**

#### **Preseason Picks**

Football redshirt seniors Luke Hamilton and D'Ago Hunter earned 2022 preseason All-CAA honors, announced at the annual media day on July 28. Hamilton made the all-conference team at fullback, while Hunter was an honorable mention at kick return and punt returner.



# FALLEN

## ☆ BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN ☆

OFFICER **AMY CAPRIO '10**, WAS A WIFE, SISTER, AUNT, GODMOTHER, FRIEND, ANIMAL LOVER AND GARRY AND DEBBIE SORRELLS' YOUNGEST CHILD.

BY MIKE UNGER  
PHOTOS BY LAUREN  
CASTELLANA '13

In many ways, she still lives in the old house at the end of the driveway that winds through the woods. Outside the garage sits her blue 1993 Jeep Cherokee, the one in which she learned to drive. The car looks different now—much different—but its frame is the same as when she first adjusted the mirrors, buckled her seat belt and cautiously turned the key in the ignition.

On a wall near a side door hangs a flat wooden American flag, its white stars on a blue background, her name written on one of the stripes, 5785—her badge number—on another.

Inside, her image is everywhere. On a table near the staircase is a formal school photo of her wearing a black dress and a thin necklace. In one picture that hangs on a wall she's dressed in her police uniform, smiling proudly if reservedly, having just graduated from the academy. In another she's wearing her white wedding gown, holding a bouquet of flowers, her hair flowing over her shoulders. Above the television in the living room is a portrait of her, an unsolicited gift from an artist whose name her parents,

Garry and Debbie, can't remember. "It's Amy," Debbie says, beaming. "I love it."

Mementos are scattered throughout the home in Glen Arm. Her framed Loch Raven High School soccer jersey rests on the floor, leaning against an end table. Her No. 24 is now retired. A teddy bear wearing a police uniform with her last name and badge number on a patch sewn to the chest sits on an armchair. A quilt, made by a stranger, is draped over the couch. It's a favorite lounging spot for the family cat, Chase.

"We got so many wonderful things from people we didn't even know," Debbie says. "We were getting so much that I don't know what to do with all of

these things. I don't want my house to look like a morgue. But..."

Her voice trails off as she looks around. It's been more than four years since Baltimore County Police Officer Amy Caprio '10—wife, sister, aunt, godmother, friend, animal lover and

Garry and Debbie Sorrells' youngest child—was killed in the line of duty.

"It's not every minute of every waking moment, but the thought occurs to me many times during a day that Amy's not here," Garry says. "It's kind of like a flash—all that transpired gets pushed into a quick thought. It can either

make you happy or sad, but it's a day-in, day-out, never-ending story."

For Debbie, the triggers can come from anywhere. A song on the radio. The profile of a woman at the grocery



store who, for a split second, looks like Amy. She doesn't fight these thoughts and feelings. She embraces them.

"That was one of my biggest fears, that she'd be forgotten," Debbie says. "That she's not gives me a sense of peace."

**Debbie felt strongly** that her third child would be a girl. She didn't have a clue about her first, who turned out to be Kristin '08. Her second pregnancy was so different that she swore Laura '10 was going to be a boy. Despite that shaky prognostication record, she was so sure about her third's gender that she let her two young daughters pick their little sister's name. It was a long and somewhat disjointed list—Godzilla was among the girls' contenders—but eventually they settled on Amy, an anagram of the month in which she was born.

Amy was, shall we say, a chubby baby.

"She was just rolls of fat," Debbie says, laughing. "She looked like the Michelin Man."

After much parental consternation, she began to walk just before her second birthday. She had help. Months after Kristin was born, the family got a dog named Jacqueline. Part Newfoundland, part retriever, the pooch was every bit a member of the family as the kids.

"Amy used the dog to pull up and hang onto," Garry says. "[Jacqueline] was long haired, so there was a lot to grab hold of. The kids used the dog to basically learn to walk."

Once Amy started moving, she rarely stopped. She began playing soccer in first grade. Her reasoning for becoming goalie didn't include a romantic notion of leading the defense.

"She hated running," Debbie says. "Running's dumb.' That was her famous quote. I think because she was the third child, she was very possessive of what was hers. When she was in goal, I think she felt like, 'This is my space. Don't invade it.'"

Over the course of her career, she broke her clavicle, arm and wrist. But Amy was tough. After each injury, she came back stronger. Always a good student, she later picked up the saxophone and, like soccer, kept with it through high school.

When it came time to pick a college, she looked at the University of Delaware, but really, there was little doubt she'd attend

TU. Towson roots run deep in the Sorrells family. Debbie's mother and father graduated from TU, and she and Garry took classes at the school.

Both Amy's sisters are alums: Kristin earned a master's in speech pathology and audiology and

Laura a bachelor's in art education.

It was in a research methods class where Amy met Tim Caprio '10. The two hit it off, and a month later he took her to a movie and to get a snowball.

"She was quiet but seemed to have her stuff together," he says.

She graduated with a degree in exercise science and began working at St. Joseph's. Three and a half years after they met, Tim proposed while they were kayaking on Loch Raven Reservoir. They got married in 2015 at Rocks State Park in Harford County. It was a simple, rustic wedding. The guests ate barbecue and played corn-hole. After a short honeymoon at Deep Creek Lake in western Maryland, they settled into a quiet life with their pit bull rescue, Doodle.



Things were good, but Amy had an itch. She wanted something more, a job in which she could make what she felt like was a greater impact on the community. She began researching police departments in the area and set her sights on becoming a cop. She was 24 when she applied to the Baltimore County Police Department.

"Once she made up her mind about something, that was it," Debbie says. "She seemed really passionate about being a police officer. She had researched it, she had talked to various people about it. She had done a ride along. You want your kids to find something that they're happy about, so I supported her."

The mental and physical demands of the police academy were not easy. For one, there was a lot of running, which somehow, she accomplished. In the end, it was her poor vision that torpedoed her. But Amy was not to be denied. She underwent Lasik surgery and re-enrolled.

"During the final personal training test, she had to go over a wall, and she couldn't do it," Tim says. "But she had a second chance, and she did it. I think it was kind of ironic. A wall was your biggest obstacle. I was happy to see her achieve that goal."

Debbie was in the kitchen of the family home, steps from where she's now recounting this story, when Amy called in 2015 to tell her the news.

"She was so excited; you could just hear it in her voice," Debbie recalls. "I was glad she wasn't in front of me because I just had this sinking feeling in my stomach. I said, 'I can tell that you're really happy, and I can't protect you anymore. I just pray that you have a guardian angel.'"

**The man was standing** in an alley, holding a gun. He was agitated, speaking in Spanish. Amy was the first officer on the scene.

"He was swinging it around, and it was a hard line for her to figure out what to do," recalls Cara Ensor, who



became close friends with Amy when they were five years old. "I remember her saying, 'My instincts said to try to talk to him.'"

Despite the language barrier, it worked. She deescalated the situation safely and arrested the man, who was armed with a BB gun.

"She specifically told me that the lawyer of that kid told her, 'Thank you for not shooting my client,'" Tim says.

Victoria Hawkins '13 is a Baltimore County officer who became friends with Amy on the job.

"Her best trait was how she treated people," Hawkins says. "She would be able to lock somebody up, fight with them if she had to and then be friends with them by the time she's leaving the precinct. I was a field training officer—you can't teach that. No matter how good of an officer they are, you can't instill that in somebody."

The job was dangerous, for sure, but a normal day was more mundane. Amy would stop by schools in her district and play with students at recess. Once,

she responded to a call about a bunch of packages on the side of the road. She discovered that they had been stolen and dumped and began the monotonous work of tracking down their rightful owners.

Eventually suspects were identified and accused of stealing packages in other counties as well. One of the items that was taken was a handmade quilt. When the suspects were arrested, the quilt was recovered.

"It meant so much to that family to have this keepsake," says Deanna Chemelli, captain of the Towson precinct. She was Amy's lieutenant when they worked in Parkville. "Had Amy not really pushed the case and exhausted all of her leads, they probably never would have recovered that. She was a young officer, and I found her to be extremely mature and capable. The way she carried herself, the way she handled calls, the way she treated people—she possessed the qualities of a much more tenured officer."

Nothing got Amy as excited as responding to a call about a lost dog. She kept treats and leashes in her police cruiser and delighted in finding pets and returning them to their owners before animal control got involved. Once, she and Hawkins tried to track down a runaway pit bull and a shepherd.

"Everybody's scared of them, but she just opens her door and the one runs right into her car," Hawkins says. "I'd been chasing this one around for 15 minutes."

Amy just had a way with animals. She cried when something happened to one in a movie. As a kid, she would run through the woods to gaze at the neighbors' horses. On the job, she once returned a lost pot-bellied pig to its home. If she saw a turtle in the road, Debbie says, she'd stop her car, get out and move it.

"She liked the unconditional love of dogs," Tim says, as Doodle lounges next to him. "Compared to humans, they're less evil, I think."

“

Her best trait was how she treated people. She would be able to lock somebody up, fight with them if she had to and then be friends with them by the time she's leaving the precinct. I was a field training officer—you can't teach that. No matter how good of an officer they are, you can't instill that in somebody.

Baltimore County officer  
Victoria Hawkins '13



On May 21, 2018, Amy responded to a call about a suspicious vehicle in Perry Hall. When she arrived, she found a 17-year-old behind the wheel of a Jeep. According to *The Sun*, she blocked his way out with her patrol car, jumped out and ordered him to stop. The Jeep sped toward her, and she drew her gun, screaming, “Stop! Stop!” The teen stopped the Jeep and cracked the door as if to surrender. Then he ducked down and pressed the gas. Amy fired once before he ran her over.

The entire scene was captured by her body camera.

Chemelli lives about a mile and half from where it happened. She had just gotten home from work when she was called. She rushed to the scene and arrived as the paramedics did. She rode with Amy to Medstar Franklin Square Medical Center and was in the room when Amy was declared dead.

Amy Caprio was 29 years old.

“I leaned down and I gave Amy a kiss on her forehead, and I told her that we all loved her, and she would forever be our hero,” Chemelli says. “Her mom wasn’t there. This was someone’s daughter. I think I was more of a mom in that moment than a police officer. And I think that’s what Amy needed.”

Officers contacted Amy’s family and took them to the hospital. They told them only that something had happened to her. When they arrived, police cars were everywhere. Information was hard to come by.

Inside, Debbie took a seat in a waiting room between two people she didn’t know.

“An officer said, ‘I guess everybody knows why we’re here,’” Debbie recalls. “I remember looking around thinking, ‘I don’t know why we’re here.’ He just came out and said, ‘Officer Amy

Caprio has been killed.’ I remember putting my book down, and I honestly don’t remember what else he said.”

When Debbie was finally allowed to see Amy, she was told not to touch her. A sheet covered Amy from her feet to her shoulders.

“I was wondering what she would look like, whether there would be a face of fear or anger or pain,” Debbie says. “She looked so quiet and so peaceful and so beautiful. I think this was one of the best gifts she gave me. She looked angelic.”

**Everyone who knew** her agrees that Amy, a private person in life, would have hated all the attention that came her way in death. She was a T-shirt and jeans kind of woman who was more comfortable hanging out with a few friends than in a big group.

Thousands of people, including contingents from police departments



from other states, attended her funeral. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan spoke. Ensor, her best friend, sang "Turn, Turn, Turn." Hundreds of officers lined the parking lot while a color guard transported her American-flag-draped casket to the hearse.

As the procession made its way from the church to the cemetery where some of her ashes were interred, media helicopters hovered above. Onlookers gathered on an overpass above I-95 to pay their respects. Firefighters raised an American flag at the top of their extended ladder.

Amy's parents are people of faith. In the days, months and years following her death, they found that theirs was tested.

"A lot of times people have a falling out [with religion] because they go, 'How can this be done to me?' Or, 'Why did this happen?'" Garry says. "I don't go there. As you get older your vision

of what God is [changes]. There was no revelation. What happens happens."

More than a year later, the 17-year-old was convicted of murdering Amy and was sentenced to life in prison. Three other teens who were with him at the time, burglarizing nearby homes, had earlier pled guilty to felony murder and were sentenced to 30 years each.

"I just kind of looked at it as, this is not a closure but an end of a phase," Garry says. "As far as the four guys, it will go on as long as I'm alive. It will be emotional turmoil because they're still alive. Amy's not. Whatever you want to call their existence of life, they've got it."

Debbie's perspective is slightly different.

"To be perfectly honest, I only remember one name of the young men that were involved," she says. "You can't bring Amy back regardless of what the sentence is. And these

young people have ruined their lives. So there's no win."

Still, Debbie is determined to see the light in life. She wrote a children's book about Amy called *The Story of the Dragonfly*. It was illustrated by Laura. She read it for students at Gunpowder Elementary School, where Amy used to stop while she was on patrol.

"I was afraid that if I dwelled on the negativity of everything and tried to understand all of it, I would go down into this deep, dark hole," Debbie says. "I didn't want to hate people, and I didn't want to be afraid to leave my house. I didn't want to turn into a bitter person."

The Jeep in the driveway, the one Amy learned to drive in, is covered with large photos of her. It was refurbished by Krawlin' for COPS, an organization that helps the families of slain officers. There are pictures of Amy and her family on the day she



graduated from TU. There's one of Amy and Doodle. One of Amy and Tim.

Tim sold the house they used to live in, and he now lives close to Garry and Debbie in Glen Arm. He says he's doing well, though he doesn't think he would have made it through without Doodle.

"I never got to say goodbye," says Tim, who has a tattoo of Amy's badge and her name on his calf. "We were best friends."

Chemelli says she still thinks about Amy every day. She wears a necklace with Amy's badge number to work and keeps a laminated note from Debbie in her vest.

"As a shift commander, I look at a lot of the officers like I do my children," says the 28-year veteran of the force. "My goal is that all my officers go home every night. With Amy, that didn't happen. For me, there's a lot of guilt that I wasn't able to protect her. That's just something I have to cope with. The kindness and the compassion that she displayed, I wish everyone had. Police officers and citizens."

Sitting in his recliner in the living room of the house where he grew up, raised his three children and where he still spends his days and nights, Garry reflects on what he's lost.

What's been taken from him.

"If you had to list what you would like to have as a good child—I won't say the perfect child—she had pretty much checked off all the boxes," he says. "She understood the concepts of right and wrong. There were not gray areas."

“

If you had to list what you would like to have as a good child—I won't say the perfect child—she had pretty much checked off all the boxes.

—————  
Garry Sorrells

There was not situational ethics. If I'm driving too fast, she would fuss at me. It was enjoyable just to sit down and talk to her or just be in the same room with her. She was a child, a friend and a confidante at some times. The biggest gift Amy perpetuated with Debbie and I was that she was always around. She never lost the concept of family.”

Beside the high school photo of her on the table near the staircase is another photo, of a little girl named Cadence. When she was born seven years ago, there was no question whom her mother, Cara Ensor, was going to ask to be her godmother.

“I wanted her to have that connection not only with me but with my kid,” she says. “Amy and I were supposed to grow old together, so I figured that it would be Amy, Cadence and I growing old together.”

Cadence still has some faint memories of Amy, like eating pizza together on girl getaways. She loves showing people a photo on her mom's phone of Amy at the hospital after she was born.

“[Amy] fully accepted me for every bit of who I am. It's hard to picture life without her,” Ensor says over the phone, as she starts to cry. “She was supposed to always be here. She was a little bit of my caretaker. She was always the person who made sure I was okay.”

In the background, a little voice chirps up. “Yeah, and me too,” Cadence says. **TU**

## THE AMY SORRELLS CAPRIO SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Months after Baltimore County police officer Amy Caprio '10 was killed in 2018, her fellow officers Victoria Hawkins '13 and the late Norris “Mac” McKee '79 walked into the Administration Building at TU.

They didn't know who they were going to see, but they knew why they were there.

“Not everybody has the opportunity to go to college,” Hawkins says. “That was not something that was guaranteed for Amy, but college was important to her. We wanted to give [that opportunity] back to someone else.”

The two walked past the office of Sarah Metzgar, TU's director of major gifts.

“I said, ‘How can I help you?’” Metzgar recalls. “They said that they wanted to start a scholarship.”

The result of that chance encounter is The Amy Sorrells Caprio Scholarship Endowment. It is awarded to a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student who is, or has been, a first responder (police, firefighter, emergency medical technician or paramedic) or has an immediate relative who has done so.

The endowment, which has more than \$60,000, has awarded three \$2,000 scholarships. Thomas Brewer '94 is, to date, the largest individual donor to the fund.

“I always wanted to be a police officer,” says Brewer, who worked with at-risk youth and for FEMA. “Her story just hit home for me.”

Jack Walsh '24 is a recipient, as his brother, Thomas '21, was. Their father, Raymond, is a former Howard County police officer who was forced to retire because of an on-the-job injury.

“We went to a dinner and met her parents and got to talk to them,” Jack says. “I know the story of what happened to her. That easily could have been my father. It could be anybody's sibling. I was truly honored.”

Lyndsay Wilson '22 was also a recipient. She graduated with a degree in economics and finance. Her father is a former Anne Arundel County officer who left the force after getting hurt on duty.

“After my dad was medically retired, he was out of a job for a while,” she says. “My first year of college I struggled with having to take out a lot of loans. So this scholarship helped tremendously.”

She started a job as a budget analyst with the U.S. Department of Defense in June. Now she's working, she plans to donate to the fund that helped her.

Caprio, she says, was “such a brave person.”



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# Perseverance and Preservation

Her family's search for a better life in America inspired Lone Azola '68 to build a legacy in education and historic preservation.

| By Rebecca Kirkman  
| Photos by Lauren Castellana '13





Lone Azola reads a 1967 issue of *The Sun* profiling her father's work in the Danish Resistance and her family's immigration to Maryland.

lovingly restored over 30 years into a shining example of the family business' principles: historic preservation and adaptive reuse.

As business director for the Azola Cos., which has led the renovation of some of the region's most well-known historic properties—including the Bromo Seltzer Tower, The Ivy Hotel and the Mansion House at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore—Lone has helped to shape the fabric of the greater Baltimore region. And, she says, her success is due in a large degree to her close relationship with Towson University, which has spanned more than 60 years.

**Lone was born** in Copenhagen a year after VE Day. World War II and her parents' work in the Danish Resistance deeply impacted the rest of her life.

"I grew up with it because my dad would tell us all his stories and my mom, too," she recalls, noting that her father, rumored to be at the top of the Gestapo hit list, maintained a false identity in case an escape to Sweden was necessary.

During Gestapo raids, Blanca would schmooze the German soldiers while Odin escaped out the back door—prompting the family to quickly and frequently relocate in search of safety.

"My mom saw her friends shot down in front of her in the street," Lone says.

Once, Lone says, a member of the Gestapo smashed the butt of a rifle into her father's chest and gave her oldest sister, Yvonne—then a toddler—a loaded gun to play with. Another time, her father was arrested but ultimately released after convincing the soldiers they had the wrong man.

During the war, the family lost its first-born son at 1 year old to

Top: Lone, age 6, at the family's home in Hamilton not long after immigrating to Maryland. The Tidemand family (from left, Yvonne, Blanca, Odin and Lone) on a stroll in the island of Livø, Denmark, in 1950.

**B**y the time Lone Azola '68 began her studies at then-Towson State College in 1964, she had already called dozens of places home.

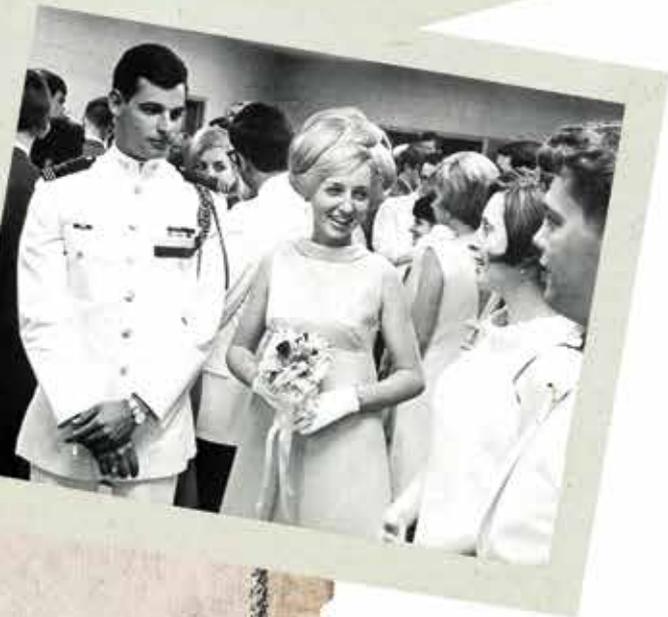
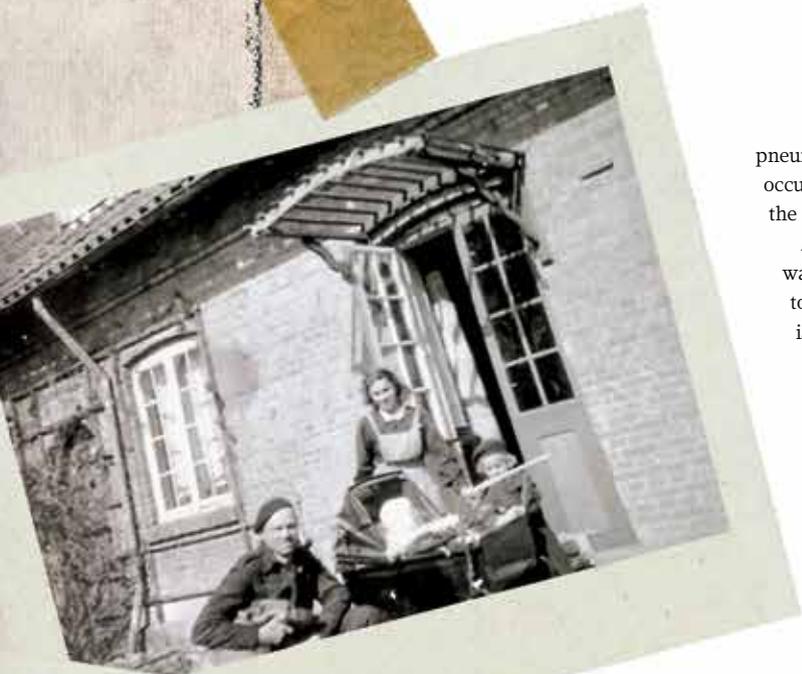
The first was Copenhagen, where her father, Odin Tidemand, worked for the Danish Ministry of Fisheries and, with her mother, Blanca, saved hundreds of Jewish lives during the Nazi occupation of Denmark in World War II.

"They hid in the Tuborg beer factory in Copenhagen," says Lone, now 76, from the living room of the dairy barn-turned-home near Lake Roland in Towson where she lives with her husband, Martin Azola. "The brewery

was right by the waterway that they used to ferry the Jewish families in little fishing boats across to Sweden in the dead of night."

Like her Danish family's perseverance through dozens of moves—at first on the run from German soldiers and then to America in search of a better life—the Azola family home is a symbol of resilience.

The family took refuge in an old dairy barn in the holdings of the Azola Companies—the family's restoration and renovation business—that was deemed worthless by the bank when the Azolas were forced to declare bankruptcy in the late 1980s. It has been



Top: Lone, in carriage, with Odin, Blanca, Yvonne and their German Shepard, Tras, at the manor home where they lived in Livø, Denmark, in 1947.

Lone and Marty attend the May Dance at Burdick Hall, where Lone was a member of the 1968 May Court.

pneumonia because the German occupation prevented access to the necessary treatment.

A few months after Lone was born, the family moved to the 850-acre Danish prison island of Livø, where her father oversaw operations and about 100 inmates. But fear of a Russian invasion of Denmark prompted the family's biggest move yet—an 11-day journey across the Atlantic to New York City in 1951.

"It was scary to fall asleep at night,"

Lone says. "I always used to think, 'Oh my God, the Russians are coming. I know they're going to come here and find us.'"

The Tidemands, including Yvonne, 8, Lone, 5, and Odin, 2, arrived in America speaking no English and with just a few trunks of possessions and \$200 in savings. The family took a Greyhound bus to Laurel, Maryland, where they had arranged to meet their sponsor, a Danish physician. The family waited for hours, but he didn't show.

"My father called his home on a payphone at the Greyhound station," Lone says, recalling that his wife answered the call. "Our sponsor had been in D.C. for the day and hadn't told his American wife anything about us. Finally, she said she would take us in if my mother would do all the cooking."

Despite holding a master's license in navigation and serving as an officer in the Danish government, Odin's credentials were not honored in the U.S. So he worked a series of odd jobs, moving the family to Annapolis and Baltimore before eventually ending up on the campus of then-Towson State Teachers College in 1958.

**When Lone was 12 years old**, her father was hired as the university's maintenance superintendent and the

family moved into a small, white farmhouse on campus near where Bosley Avenue and Towsontown Boulevard intersect today.

Lone enjoyed the vibrancy of campus life.

"I always thought it was an exciting place for my father to work," she says. "My dad used to take us to staff picnics, and I remember we roamed all over campus and played tennis on the tennis courts."

Working out of Newell Hall, Odin was profiled in a May 1960 issue of *The Towerlight* student newspaper for his "outstanding personality."

"He was friends with so many students. They adored him and his scrappy Danish accent," Lone says. She served as an interpreter when there were language barriers. "He always had a little stub of a cigar hanging out of his mouth."

The family lived on campus for less than a year (the farmhouse was demolished during a time of rapid growth for the university that made way for the construction of Scarborough, Smith, Linthicum and Burdick halls), but the Tidemands remained in Baltimore County. Odin continued in the role for more than eight years, including when Lone enrolled in Towson State College to study French in 1964.

Lone worked several jobs as a student, including as a switchboard operator at O'Conor & Flynn Realtors, a college model for Hutzler's department store and on campus in the undergraduate evening office.

She was a member of the French Club, Student Government Association, Orientation Leaders and the Civil Defense Group founded by her father, where students practiced disaster preparedness.

"Those were the days of the Cold War," she says. "We learned how to use a Geiger counter to detect radioactivity," among other skills, including first aid certification.

**After graduation,** Lone moved with her new husband, whom she had met as a student at Towson High School, to southwestern Virginia. There, the 23-year-old taught fifth grade at Mayfield, a rural schoolhouse in the Blue Ridge Mountains, while her husband attended graduate school at Virginia Tech.

The couple moved again in 1969 when the Air Force assigned Marty to an airbase in Alaska, 26 miles southeast of Fairbanks and 110 miles south of the Arctic Circle. Again, her education and experience came in handy, and Lone was hired by the high school on Eielson Air Force Base.

The closest town—North Pole, Alaska, population 1,500—was nine miles away. The Azolas adjusted to life in a place where the summers brought days of up to 22 hours of sunlight and winters dipped to just four hours of it per day. Often, the day's high and low temperatures were all well below zero degrees Fahrenheit. Teachers commuted by dog sleds, and, on several occasions, snow nearly buried the high school.

At Ben Eielson High School, 24-year-old Lone taught French.

"All of a sudden, everybody wanted to take French," she recalls. "There were some slackers; they weren't there to learn, they were there to goof off. And I kicked them out the first day—down to the office."

Her tough love approach with the students, however, worked.

"The first year I was there, the students made me Teacher of the Year," she says. "I don't quite know why because I had to be so mean."

Before long, her success prompted requests from school administration to take on more subjects.



Marty and Lone Azola with their dog, Chena, outside of Fairbanks, Alaska, where they worked and lived on Eielson Air Force Base for three years beginning in 1969.



"They needed someone to teach Spanish, and I had taken one semester of Spanish in college, so they asked, 'Would you teach it?'" Over the course of four years, Lone taught four levels of French in addition to Spanish, remedial reading, English and mythology.

"They piled it on," she says with a smile. "All I did for the four years we were up there was lesson plan, grade papers, work out syllabi and meet with the kids—the kids were so wonderful."

Lone credits her TU education for her success.

"I had these wonderful experiences that never would have happened without my degree," she says. "And I'm so grateful."

The couple returned to Baltimore in 1973 and started a family. Marty joined his father's construction and development business, and, when their children were older, Lone worked as a travel agent and in real estate.

**Lone's path crossed with TU again** in the late '90s when her son Matthew attended TU for a year before joining the family business and her daughter, Kirsten '02, enrolled to study graphic design. Around this same time, Lone indicated interest in volunteering with the alumni association when she returned her annual giving contribution. The move set the stage for a 12-year seat on the Towson University Alumni Board, on which she served as president from 2004–07.

Through the alumni association, Lone fostered camaraderie among generations of Tigers and remained connected to the university during its rapid growth under presidents like Hoke Smith (1979–2001) and Robert Caret (2003–11).

Her work with the board connected her with a Tiger 30 years her junior: Bryan Thaler '97, who served as alumni board president immediately before Lone from 2001–04. The age difference was not an obstacle.

"Bob [Caret] brought this great energy, and he was really externally

focused," says Thaler. "Lone, I think, was the perfect person to lead the charge with the alumni association under Bob's vision."

"Because the university has changed over the years, having the differences in experience and age on the board is hugely important because you get different perspectives," he says. "We were able to work together, and our focus was helping to make a difference and to give back—it didn't matter whether we graduated in '68 or '97."

After seeing Lone at a recent alumni association event, Thaler was struck by her signature gentle spirit and positive attitude. "She's still Lone. She's still got this amazing smile on her face. She's a great leader for an organization like the alumni association. She was a perfect fit at the right time."

"It was so much fun, and I met some of the most wonderful people," Lone says. "I traveled all over the country—out to California, up to New York, down to Florida and everywhere in between just to talk about Towson with the alums."

During her tenure as board president, she was named Woman of the Year by Baltimore County in 2006 and oversaw the dedication of the bronze Tiger statue in front of Stephens Hall in 2007. In 2012, she received the College of Liberal Arts Dean's Recognition Award for her contributions to the university, and she remains involved in the TU Foundation.

"I just wanted to do something for my alma mater," Lone says. "The appreciation for what I had been able to do because of that degree made me feel like I should give back a little bit of my time. And it was so fun."

**At the same time**, Lone became more involved in the family business. When the company was forced to lay off large numbers of staff during bankruptcy, she took over bookkeeping and business operations,



eventually becoming president until her oldest son, Tony, assumed the role in 2014. For a time, every member of the Azola family held a role in the business, with Kirsten heading up design and marketing while their second child, Matthew, brought his masterful carpentry skills to the family business. Tragically, he died in 2011 at 34.

"She's been supporting us when we were down and always in good spirits," Marty says. "Yet she was never out front. When there was an award or something like that, I was the one who went up. The truth is it was a joint effort. The bookkeeping is the heart of the operation. None of our businesses would have been successful without her, and she never expressed disappointment that the spotlight didn't go that way."

At its peak, the third-generation family business had 250 employees and saved hundreds of important buildings, encompassing more than 5 million square feet of space.

"There's a lot of pride because it is a family business and a business that is unique in saving old buildings," Lone says.

One of the Azola Cos.' most widely praised projects is the Ivy Hotel, an 18-room boutique Relais & Château hotel in an 1885-era Romanesque Revival mansion at Calvert and Biddle streets in Baltimore's Mount Vernon neighborhood.

Baltimore-based investment firm Brown Capital Management was just across Biddle Street from the mansion. Its owners, Eddie and Sylvia Brown, saw potential in the property and

brought on the Azolas to help decide the best adaptive reuse of the building that would invest in and support the city of Baltimore.

Seeing an opening for a world-class hotel, they partnered with Garrett Hotel Consultants and Baltimore-based Ziger/Snead Architects and brought in more than 60 local artisans and specialists to salvage floors and do restoration work on the property. A historically compatible addition in the rear parking lot of the mansion and adjoining rowhomes enclosed an interior courtyard garden of lush green space for guests and diners.

"My very first day on the Ivy job in 2012, I had been diagnosed with lymphoma," Marty recalls. "So we worked through that."

Eventually, doctors found a cancerous tumor on his spine. "He underwent 10 months of heavy chemo, and I took care of him," Lone says. After several years of treatment, he's in remission.

The project was completed in 2015 and has earned design and preservation awards from the Victorian Society of America, American Institute of Architects and Preservation Maryland. Deemed one of the "best hotels on the planet" by *Travel + Leisure*, the hotel and its restaurant, Magdalena, continue to be recognized by publications like *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Vogue*, *Architectural Digest*, *The New York Times* and more.

Despite facing numerous challenges, Lone is "bubbly and positive and happy all the time," Marty says. When asked how she maintains

her spirits, she points to her parents' ability to stay hopeful despite the many challenges they faced.

"Someone else could have folded up through a lot of the stuff we've been through, but life goes on," Lone says. "I always see something good on the horizon. And I have faith. I have hope. My mother had hope, and so did my dad. It's from them that I got it. Because I don't stay down for long."

Through her continued involvement with TU and her role in the Azola Cos., Lone is continuing her family's legacy.

"I am the last man standing from that little Tidemand family that came over," says Lone, whose sister, Yvonne, passed away at 78 in 2021 of COVID-19 and whose brother, Odin, died at 73 in May.

This attitude enabled Lone and her family to help shape a better future for the Tigers and preserve the architectural history of the greater Baltimore area.

"I'm so proud of the legacy on both ends—the education and the business," Lone says. "I feel that we're so fortunate to make impacts in our different areas." **TU**

For archival photos of Lone and Odin at TU, visit [towson.edu/loneazola](http://towson.edu/loneazola).

*Rebecca Kirkman is assistant director of strategic communications in University Marketing & Communications and a contributing writer at Baltimore magazine.*

Opposite page: The Azolas at their dairy barn-turned-home in Baltimore County.

Former TU President Hoke Smith presents Lone with an award for service to the Alumni Association in 1999.

Above from left: The Bromo-Seltzer Tower, The Ivy Hotel and Mansion House at the Maryland Zoo are among the Azola Cos.' preservation projects.

# Being ALL That She Can Be

**Tonee Lawson '07** runs an organization focused on helping youth achieve their goals.

BY KELLEY FREUND

**T**hroughout her life, Tonee Lawson has been a lot of things. Scientist. Government program director. Volunteer. Model.

In her latest role as the founder and executive director of The Be. Organization, she's empowering youth to realize they too can be whatever they want. Through programs that develop character, leadership and talent, Lawson '07 and The Be. Organization are providing opportunities for students to shape their own future, no matter their circumstances.

It was Lawson's grandmother Phyllis Edelin who first introduced her to the concept of giving back to the local community. Edelin attended so many church community service events that, as a kid, Lawson thought these were her grandmother's job, not volunteer work. But if it was her grandmother who first modeled a community service ideal, it was her grandfather Joseph Edelin who inspired her love of science with his job at the National Institutes of Health. When Lawson headed off to TU, her

plan was to become a doctor. As she took more classes, however, other areas of science turned out to be a better fit. She found herself in the university's molecular biology, biochemistry and bioinformatics (MB3) program. Following graduation, Lawson went to work for a pharmaceutical company, but it wasn't exactly the dream career she imagined.

"I enjoyed the subject matter, but I hated being in the lab all day by myself," she says. "It was very isolating, and I realized I needed more human engagement."

Lawson decided to work for the government, on the regulation side of the science field. But the country was in a recession, and the government placed a hiring freeze on the gigs she was interested in. Even after she earned a master's degree in biotechnology from the University of Maryland, University College, those jobs were still closed.

So she took a position with Baltimore County, first working as a case manager for the Department of Aging and then as a project director. But it was Lawson's post-grad commitment to her TU sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the organization's service work that led her to her true calling. As the head of the sorority's Emerging Young Leaders Initiative at the SEED School of Maryland, Lawson's talent for working with youth and developing engaging programming didn't go unnoticed. Her sorority sisters told her she needed to do something on a larger scale.

"When someone says they see something in me, I take it seriously," Lawson says.

She began reading books on nonprofits and nonprofit management. Through previous jobs, she had gained grant writing and grant management experience, and she had a large network of friends and colleagues to whom she announced her plan to launch her own organization. She used those resources to gather what she needed—from funding to volunteers—for the launch of The Be. Organization in 2014.

The group's mission is to empower Baltimore–Washington, D.C., area youth through character and skills development workshops, a STEM curriculum

and college and career support. The organization's programming seeks to offset any inequalities participants face by providing them with resources and opportunities they might otherwise not have access to. A framework of social-emotional learning (SEL) is utilized in all of the Be. Organization's programming. Social-emotional skills include managing emotions, feeling and showing empathy toward others, establishing positive relationships and making responsible decisions. Lawson says these enable people to be the best versions of themselves for a greater chance at healthy and happy experiences.

The Be. Organization's character education program, with its heavy focus on SEL, is its most-requested program among elementary school administrators. Christan Morley, associate executive director of the Y in Central Maryland, supports four Baltimore-area schools and their out-of-school-time programming, which includes The Be. Organization's SEL curriculum. Morley has watched students create comics on how to handle situations in the classroom and at home, write letters to themselves and the people they care about and learn about de-escalation and processing emotions.

"A curriculum like this is extremely important, especially now, when these students have spent two years without much interaction with other people," Morley says. "We were able to see scholars put these skills into practice when they were getting upset or speaking out when there was a situation they were uncomfortable with. They become advocates."

For Lawson, incorporating a STEM component into the organization's programming was another important mission. Not only did she enjoy those subjects, but Lawson had witnessed many Black students give up on science without truly giving it a shot. With employment opportunities for STEM occupations growing fast, she wanted to ensure her program participants were exposed to those fields.

"Black kids do not often pursue careers in STEM," Lawson says. "And after working with students for so long, I've realized it's not an issue of their

ability to grasp the content. Much of it has to do with confidence. That's why we focus so much on SEL learning: It allows our students to build the fortitude, tenacity and confidence to do difficult things, like take on a rigorous STEM curriculum."

The organization's STEM programming includes the Food Playground, which teaches cooking through STEM concepts. What is the chemistry behind making ice cream? What is the melting point of saturated versus unsaturated fat? They replicate their results in the kitchen, making food for themselves and their families. Through The Be. Virtual Program, students learn to code and create virtual reality video games. And the organization's annual Youth TechCon, to be held at TU this fall, provides the opportunity for young tech enthusiasts to learn more about topics like robotics and coding.

"We make programming fun, and we show them things that relate to their daily life," she says. "So when they go through our curriculum, they don't realize they're learning. They just think they're having a good time."

Another mission of The Be. Organization is to assist young adults in preparing for their futures beyond high school. The annual Beyond a Dream Youth Conference (held at TU in the spring) provides middle and high school students the opportunity to learn more about careers in fields such as health care, finance, entrepreneurship and the arts. To provide support at each stage of the college application process, The Be. College Ready Program aids students in filling out applications, writing personal essays and understanding financial aid packages.

Since its launch, the organization has grown to include a staff of program coordinators and associates, contracted enrichment teachers, a communications and marketing manager, an executive assistant and, almost every term, TU students who work as interns.

"I am forever grateful for my experience with Towson, and now I love that I get to be a partner with the university and provide current students internship opportunities,"

Lawson says. "One of the things I like about being a leader is coaching, and being able to guide these students from a Towson alumni perspective holds a special place in my heart."

TU connections also are apparent on the organization's board. Andrea Ross '10 met Lawson through Alpha Kappa Alpha, when they served together on a few sorority committees following graduation. When Lawson launched The Be. Organization, Ross decided to volunteer. But when she witnessed Lawson's passion and the impact she was having on Baltimore youth, Ross decided to step up her commitment and serve as the board's secretary.

"When I think of a leader, I think of someone who instills their hope in others," Ross says. "That's what Tonee does. She exudes passion. She believes in her mission, and it makes you believe in it as well. She makes you want to be a

part of the conversation, and she makes you want to be a part of the change."

But that change doesn't come easy. Racial bias is everywhere, and the disparities in funding facing Black-led organizations impact their ability to provide sustainable services to their communities. As administrators, parents and students spread the word about the impact of The Be. Organization's programming, everyone wants in. Unfortunately, there's not enough staff or money to serve those who reach out. To create a new approach to funding, the organization has teamed up with two other Black-led youth empowerment groups, I Am Mentality and B-360, to form the Baltimore Legacy Builders Collective. The collective was initially backed by a three-year grant from the T. Rowe Price Foundation (now concluded) that covered costs related to joint programming, programming space

and fundraising resources, including a chief development officer. The groups hope this unique model will serve as an example to other Black-led nonprofits.

"You never want to tell a child 'no,' especially when it comes to something that can positively impact their development," Lawson says. "That's been the hardest part about this. But when I engage with students and see a lightbulb go off in their heads as they grasp the content, those moments are so rewarding that I know I can keep doing this. I can keep working and fundraising and trying to grow this organization, so we can serve all the schools who reach out to us." **TU**

*Kelley Freund is a freelance writer based in Virginia. She writes for university magazines across the country.*



# THE SPORT



# OF QUEENS

• Maggie Wolfendale '09 and Gabby Gaudet '13 have reached the top tier of horseracing media. •

By Chandler Vicchio

Long before Maggie Wolfendale '09 appeared on television as a paddock analyst for the New York Racing Association (NYRA), she knew she wanted a career involving horses. As a third-generation horsewoman, she grew up surrounded by them. Her grandfathers owned horses, and her maternal grandfather was a trainer, a jock's agent and clerk of scales, among other racing-related professions. Her father was a trainer and met her mother when she was riding horses as a teenager.

Wolfendale isn't the only TU alum covering the upper echelon of horseracing. Gabby Gaudet '13 is a racing analyst for TVG Network and commentator for Keeneland racing coverage, which is based in Lexington, Kentucky. Wolfendale and Gaudet have commanded the spotlight in an industry where women have traditionally held supporting roles, and they continue to pave the way for seating more women at the table in the future.

Wolfendale spent much of her childhood in the barn. She had her own pony by the age of 2 and developed a passion for retiring and retraining racehorses by the time she was 10 or 11. Although she owned a few show horses in her adolescence, she jokes that to be successful in that arena, a person needs to be really wealthy or really good—neither of which she felt applied to her. So she set her sights on the racetrack as a better path to her ideal career.

"When I was growing up," she says, "I'd watch a lot of the on-air handicappers and found that I was pretty proficient at writing and speaking in front of people, so I married the two when I got to college."

At TU, Wolfendale majored in mass communication, tailoring her degree for a future in broadcasting. She interned with the Maryland Jockey Club at Laurel Park and Pimlico race courses, and upon graduating, she sent a reel and resume to every racetrack in the country, as well as two TV networks.

"I consider myself bold but also lucky," she says of the decision, which resulted in a call from the NYRA—the organization operating the three largest thoroughbred racetracks in New York—expressing serious interest. Renowned handicapper Andy Serling was looking for someone to provide analysis from the paddock to complement his analysis in the anchor's chair, an undertaking that came naturally to Wolfendale.

"Assessing horses and how they look physically and how they are suited to a certain condition of a race or just how they are doing in general was very easy for me," she says. "It was a nice step into what I do now."

Today Wolfendale is still primarily a paddock analyst for the NYRA, but her platform has grown tremendously. After the NYRA partnered with Fox Sports in 2016, simulcast coverage evolved into televised shows like America's Day at the Races, Saratoga Live and other specials airing on FS1, FS2 and Fox. And beyond the paddock, you might find Wolfendale playing the role of anchor or color analyst or even

riding on horseback interviewing a jockey right after a big win.

• Although Gaudet shares many similarities with Wolfendale in terms of upbringing, her path to the paddock is uniquely hers. Gaudet is a second-generation horsewoman. Her dad was a trainer, and her mom was his partner, taking care of the billing and business aspects of his work. Her sister knew at a young age she wanted to be a trainer, but Gaudet didn't have the same aspirations. Despite riding horses every morning and growing up immersed in the sport, she entered TU as a double major in mass communication and art + design, intending to become a graphic designer at an ad agency after graduation.

"I didn't take any media classes," she says. "In fact, I can remember taking a public speaking class, and I was nervous for weeks."

But Gaudet knew Maryland Horse Radio host Stan Salter, and she tried some radio work while at TU, which planted a seed for broadcasting. She appeared on *Inside PressBox* with Stan "the Fan" Charles a couple times a year and made some connections in local TV. Her senior year she was approached by Frank Carulli, an on-air handicapper who worked at the Maryland Jockey Club, who asked her if she had any interest in being on television.

Although she had never considered the idea, the offer piqued her interest. "I loved the sport; I knew I wasn't going to work with horses every day, that I wasn't going to wake up at four in the morning to go out to the barn,"

Clockwise from top left: Gabby Gaudet in action as a commentator for TVG; Maggie Wolfendale in the paddock with Clairiere before the 2022 Apple Blossom; Gaudet makes history reading pedigrees at the 2020 Keeneland January Horses of All Ages Sale; Wolfendale with Essential Quality after his win in the 2021 Rebel; Wolfendale gallops one of her husband's horses, Noble Cornerstone, at Saratoga Race Course in 2014



Top: Wolfendale, on her off-track thoroughbred, Zandar, interviewing Luis Saez after his win in the 2021 Jim Dandy. (Photo: Stephanie Cowser)

Bottom: Gaudet covering an event for TVG.

she says. But she realized broadcasting offered a “whole new side to the sport, which was challenging and interesting.”

After auditioning alongside two other aspiring broadcasters, Gaudet was offered a full-time position replacing Carulli, who was retiring. She remembers how her first week on the job coincided with finals and Preakness. “I don’t know how I got through it,” she says.

Since then, horseracing has taken Gaudet around the country and the world—including trips to Canada, England, New Zealand and Hong Kong.

While Wolfendale and Gaudet continue to excel in their field, they have done so while balancing a demanding career and raising a family. Wolfendale is married to trainer Tom Morely, and the couple have two daughters, 5-year-old Grace and 2-year-old Willow. Gaudet married trainer Norm Casse, and they have a son, Crew, who will turn 1 in November.

Wolfendale admits it’s not the easiest job to have, especially working weekends while raising small children. Working summers at the track until 6:30 or 7 p.m. often results in missed family dinners and less time in the barn, where she loves to gallop horses in the morning.

On the flip side, being a horse family has its advantages, like spending summers together in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Being a team on the track has also made some of Wolfendale’s professional experiences more meaningful. When her husband won his first Grade 1 race in 2016, she was pregnant with their first child.

“You can hear me screaming over the call of that race because I was standing underneath the announcer’s booth on the apron,” she says, remembering the flood of emotion she felt.

Two years later, a Morely-trained filly, La Moneda, won the Yaddo Stakes at Saratoga Race Course, and not only did Wolfendale interview the winning jockey on horseback after the victory, she also did so on her favorite horse, Yeager, a thoroughbred her

husband trained and she retrained to do television work. Once the interview ended, she rode to the winner’s circle to share the experience with her family. A photograph capturing the moment—with her helmet on, microphone in hand and daughter Grace in her arms—is displayed in her home today.

Perhaps another reason those moments felt so special is she grew up watching horseracing broadcasting pioneers like Charlsie Cantey and Donna Brothers, while picturing herself in their position.

“I remember [thinking], ‘That is what I want to do,’ and the fact I get to do it now is kind of like my corny dream come true,” she says.

Whereas Wolfendale covers year-round racing based in New York, Gaudet lives in Louisville, Kentucky, where racing is seasonal. As a result, her family must travel part of the year. Just how much depends on where she is assigned and where her husband is training horses, which changes periodically. This past summer she spent six weeks in San Diego, California.

“It’s a very unusual industry,” Gaudet says. “It’s not like you leave for a weekend, and then you’ll come back home. You leave for sometimes weeks or months on end, you have to find babysitters all throughout the country and you just have to make arrangements.”

Leaning on other working women in the industry and reminding herself of the positives has helped Gaudet navigate the challenges of being a new mom. “We really do try to make the most of it wherever we have to go,” she says. “I always think it’s a blessing that we get paid to go to all these amazing places and cover horseracing.”

Gaudet says she often pinches herself when she thinks about all the incredible things she has experienced while covering the sport—whether it’s little moments, like seeing her name on a dressing room star at the Fox studio in Los Angeles, or bigger ones, like being the first woman to announce a major thoroughbred sale in North

America. Once, she unexpectedly saw herself in a Women in Racing exhibit at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs while visiting to check out its new 360° immersive theater with her husband.

But her favorite moment might have been when she was asked to host the Eclipse Awards—the Academy Awards of horseracing. Gaudet recalls being nervous at the event years prior because she was presenting one of the awards. Going from anxious presenter to confident host a few years later was a special milestone and reminder of just how far she has come.

● **When thinking back** on their time at TU, Wolfendale and Gaudet can pinpoint elements that helped build a foundation for their successful careers today. For Wolfendale, it was broadcasting classes that required her to write two- to three-minute features because it taught her a lot about shooting and writing scripts.

Although Gaudet didn’t pursue broadcasting in her studies, she says her art classes helped her television work by teaching her to tap into her creativity, and studying abroad gave her the confidence to take chances and try broadcasting in the first place.

Chance plays a huge role in horseracing, and, while a lot of numbers and strategy go into making predictions, Gaudet has simple advice for newcomers to the track.

“I always tell people to go to the paddock and pick the [horse] that looks the prettiest. I know that sounds silly, but, if you are around animals, you can tell a healthy or happy animal versus a horse that’s a little bit nervous or maybe not having a good day.”

Gaudet and Wolfendale consider themselves analysts far more than gamblers, but, considering their success in the industry, it’s safe to say both bet on themselves and won. **TU**

*Chandler Vicchio is TU’s assistant director of alumni social media, career and volunteer services. She is pursuing her master’s in professional writing at TU.*

# #TU proud

## Light Pressure

A 100-foot-long sculpture created by College of Fine Arts & Communication professors Jenn Figg and Matthew McCormack hangs from the ceiling of the Fascitelli Center for Advanced Engineering at the University of Rhode Island. Connected to the internet, the work “reads” the time of day, temperature, certain aspects of weather and the tides in real time and reflects that data through gently fading, colorful light patterns inspired by the transmission of energy. **Read more on page 37.**

Photo courtesy of Jenn Figg and Matthew McCormack



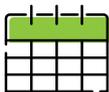


# Alumni News



## Homecoming 2022

Homecoming is set for Oct. 22, when the Tigers take on William & Mary. See the full schedule of festivities and register for events at [alumni.towson.edu/homecoming](http://alumni.towson.edu/homecoming).



## Save the Dates

Share in the excitement of Winter Commencement 2022 by volunteering at one of three ceremonies, Dec. 21–22. Keep an eye on your inbox for a registration link as we get closer to the events.



## Upcoming Events

### OCTOBER

Wainio Scholarship Fundraiser, Oct. 8

Distinguished Alumni and Deans' Recognition (DADR) Awards, Oct. 20

*Hamilton* at the Hippodrome, Oct. 26

### NOVEMBER

Suffolk County, New York Reception, Nov. 11



## Celebrating Top Tigers

Eight exceptional young alumni were honored during our Top Tigers in Their 20s Awards & Senior Celebration at Charles Village Pub & Patio in Towson May 5. This competitive awards program recognizes alumni in their 20s who have had a positive impact on their communities and made significant contributions in their workplaces. This year's impressive recipients have excelled in a wide range of fields, including education, business development, government, counseling and information technology.

- Korey T. Johnson '16**, College of Fine Arts & Communication
- Lyndsi Jones '17**, College of Fine Arts & Communication
- Luke Penne '14**, College of Business & Economics
- Lindsay Robbins '18**, College of Liberal Arts
- Stephen M. Torres '14**, College of Business & Economics
- Jaclyn Webber '19**, College of Liberal Arts
- Mallory P. Wright '14**, College of Education
- Paige Zaleppa '19, '21**, Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science & Mathematics

## Tigers for Good

At our Alumni Volunteer Appreciation Cookout April 30, we thanked generous alumni for all the ways they have given back to (and with) Towson University the past two years—whether volunteering at quarterly service projects, assisting with Commencement, serving on the alumni association board, leading an alliance, speaking at an in-person class or webinar, writing postcards to accepted students or promoting TU through our Social Tigers program. We also presented Thomas Slempe '14 with the 2022 Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award. Slempe has been a constant presence at quarterly service projects in addition to supporting the alumni postcard initiative. He truly embodies a giving Tiger spirit.



## Golden Anniversary



Members of the Classes of 1970, 1971 and 1972 came back to campus for a long-awaited 50th Reunion June 11–12. Alumni and guests witnessed TU's historic growth firsthand through a campus tour before enjoying cocktails and a dinner program in the newly renovated University Union Ballrooms Saturday night. The weekend concluded Sunday with a special brunch in the University Union.



**CALIFORNIA:** The TU Alumni Association had an action-packed adventure visiting Tigers in Southern California April 21–24. The trip began with a reception at Top of the Market in San Diego. From there, we headed to Newport Coast where Glenn Stearns '87 and his wife, Mindy, graciously hosted a reception at their home. Finally, we stopped in San Francisco where alumni were treated to a private wine and cheese pairing event at The Cheese School of San Francisco.

1. Sarah McMahon, Mike Capobianco '90, Chris Devlin '90 and Samantha Cutaran (Newport Coast)
2. Jennifer Faiz '89, Ramin Faiz, Biagio Colandreo '88, Mindy Stearns and Glenn Stearns '87 (Newport Coast)
3. Edward McDonald '78, Jerry Kwasek, Marlyne Kwasek '75 and Bill McNamara '94, '98 (San Diego)
4. Alumni enjoy an afternoon filled with artisan cheeses, charcuterie and wine at The Cheese School of San Francisco.

**ATLANTA:** On June 3, Tigers in the Atlanta area met for a fun night at Gypsy Kitchen in Buckhead.

1. Lynn Hammond '62, Jade Hong '99, Tiana Wells-Lawson '98 and Dayle Bennett '95
2. Vanessa Gonlin '14, Sherri Dawson '12 and Elizabeth Fernandez '93
3. Rosita Smith '75, Patrick Locke '92 and Marion Locke
4. Ahmed Said '98 and Cyndi Said



**LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GRADUATES:** Last May we welcomed more than 3,500 new members to the TU alumni family. As part of Senior Week May 2–6, the Office of Alumni Relations hosted several events leading up to the celebrations, including free, professional photo sessions for graduating seniors.

1. Families showed up in full force to support their Tiger graduates.
2. Soon-to-be alumni pose at the Stephens Hall tiger.
3. A little rain couldn't dampen the excitement at the final ceremony.
4. Senior portraits have become one of our favorite traditions of Senior Week.



**HARRY POTTER IN PHILADELPHIA:** Nearly 200 Tigers traveled to Philadelphia for the world premiere of *Harry Potter: The Exhibition*. The popular event drew alumni from Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey and gave participants an inside glimpse into the iconic moments, characters, settings and beasts of the beloved series' stories and films.

1. Angelina and Jeanelle Pinto '21 live in a house divided.
2. Andrea Fields, Ethan Fields and Scott Simons
3. The immersive exhibition, hosted by the Franklin Institute, opened Feb. 18 and ran through Sept. 18.
4. Erin '03, Clara, Thomas and Duncan Brooks '03

# 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

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

 **Facebook:**  
Towson University Alumni Association

 **Twitter:**  
@towsonualumni

 **Instagram:**  
@towsonalum

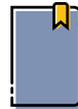
 **Tag your posts:**  
#TowsonUAlum

## 1950s

**PAT ALLEN-KAPLON '59** has published a memoir, *A Child Called Hope*; a book of poetry; and two children's books.

## 1960s

**JOSEPH BOYLE '68** published his latest book, *"Wasting my Substance by Riotous living": New-England Runaways, 1778-1783*. It is the fifth book in the series, that begins in 1704.



**SUSAN TAGER '68** and **MCKINZIE WIRE LEFSTEIN '03** collaborated on a new Christmas book, *More Lights for Ariya*, which will be available for purchase in fall 2022. Tager met Lefstein when the latter was in an afterschool art program Tager taught in an elementary school.

## 1970s

**WILLIAM OWINGS '73** is a professor of educational leadership at Old Dominion University. He will retire at the end of the next school year after 26 years in public education and 24 in higher education.



**EMERSON L. DORSEY JR. '76** is a partner at Tydings & Rosenberg LLP and chair of its business department. He has been appointed to

the board of directors of Maryland Legal Aid.

## 1980s

**JIM CLARK '83** worked as a camera operator for C-SPAN for the January 6th Committee hearings on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

**CAROLYN GERMAN '83** has written *The Monologue Method: A Comprehensive Approach to Teaching/Learning Acting in the Classroom*. She is a playwright, producer, director, performer and teaching artist. German incorporates the theater arts in her corporate training and consulting services, and she recently earned a master's degree in training and development.

**JAMES BURKE '88** helps small businesses understand how to compete for government contracts. He was recognized as the U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Command's Small Business Specialist for 2021.

## 1990s

**VALERIE BURNETTE '91** retired as director of communications at a state transportation agency and moved to the private sector as vice president of Stokes Creative Group. Most recently, she accepted a position with the Build America Bureau at the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary's office.

**MAURY MERRYMAN THACKSTON '92** retired as a geographic information system (GIS) professional

for the Harford County government in October 2021. She was recently hired as a GIS consultant by Havre de Grace, Maryland.

**WENDY THREATT '92, '98** teaches at Felicita Elementary School in the Escondido Union School District in California. Teach Plus, a national nonprofit that empowers teachers to lead improvements in



educational policy and instructional practice, selected her as one of 25 teachers from around California for its 2021–22 Policy Fellowship cohort. The cohort will focus on a range of issues of importance to California's teachers, students and parents.

**RAY VAN HORN JR. '93** released *Coming of Rage*, a collection of short stories. Many are set in Maryland.

**MICHELLE HUGGINS '94** began her new role as a human resources (HR) partner in the TU Office of Human Resources in February. She provides HR advice and guidance to select divisions across the TU community.

**STEVEN LORENZET '94, '96** was appointed dean of the Touro University School of Health Sciences. Lorenzet was most recently the associate dean at the Stillman School of Business at Seton Hall University and served previously in the capacity of dean, director and professor at National, Rider and Kean universities.



**JENN FIGG & MATTHEW MCCORMACK**

## Data-Fed Drama

At sunset, the 1,650 pieces of mica embedded in the glass composing "Light Pressure," a 100-foot-long sculpture suspended from the ceiling of the Fascitelli Center for Advanced Engineering at the University of Rhode Island, begin to sparkle.

After dark, 2,000 individual LEDs illuminate it with gently fading, colorful light patterns inspired by the transmission of energy.

The internet-connected sculpture reads the time of day, temperature, certain aspects of weather and the tides in real time. The result is data-fed drama.

It is the largest of four works commissioned by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and the University of Rhode Island from Jenn Figg and Matthew McCormack, associate and adjunct professors, respectively, in TU's College

of Fine Arts & Communication. "Droplets," a series of three site-specific sculptures also suspended from the ceiling, are constructed from mold-blown and kiln-formed glass and fitted with light nodes.

Working on such large-scale commissions informs Figg's approach in the classroom. She also shares her extensive research process. "They have their idea, but what is informing their idea? We don't make art in a vacuum."

She says it takes a nimble mind to combine taught skills with a great idea. "That's what I ask my students: to be very agile and to take risks. And that can be really scary."

Figg and McCormack push past that fear to reach for the unimaginable.

"We've imagined more and more impossibility," Figg says. "We ask, 'What is impossible? Let's run toward that.'"

**DAWNITA BROWN '96, '98**

is the founder and CEO of Hey Caregiver!, a lifestyle brand that educates, equips and encourages caregivers to live a life of “selffulness” during their caregiving journey. Brown is the founder of The Binti Circle, a support group for Black daughters caring for their mothers and the host of *The Selffull Caregiver* podcast.

**ELIZABETH A. (WOLF) CLARK '97**

recently accepted the position of education program manager for the Penn State Facilities Engineering Institute (PSFEI) in State College, Pennsylvania. Clark was certified as a Pennsylvania master naturalist in fall 2021 and obtained her certified interpretive guide (CIG) designation from the National Association for Interpretation.

**VIVIAN KERNER '99**

recently accepted a position with Johns Hopkins University in its Scheduling & Events Services department.

**MELISSA L. LEEDOM '99**

wrote articles for *Ladyboss International Backstage Pass*, a new online magazine for entrepreneurial women.

**2000s**

**LORI BLEWETT '00** and her communications team earned six awards for excellence in church communications from Episcopal Communicators. Categories included campaign, e-newsletter, photography, graphic design and podcast. Blewett was also elected to serve on

the board for the Episcopal Communicators national organization.

**DIONNE N. CURBEAM '00**

was selected as one of *The Daily Record's* Maryland Top 100 Women, which recognizes high-achieving Maryland women who are making an impact through their leadership, community service and mentoring.

**JAMES BELT '03**

published *Hope Realized: How the Power of Practical and Spiritual Development Can Diminish Poverty and Expose the Lie of Hopelessness*. The book details what Belt has learned about poverty and how to address it, stemming from working in community and economic development in Nicaragua for more than 10 years.

**CHARLES “CJ” PENNY '03**

made a short film, *Normalized*, which won Best Short Narrative at



the D.C. Independent Film Forum in Washington, D.C. It takes an intimate look at the complexities of a high-achieving African American male navigating life, racial identity, addiction and parenthood while managing his mental instability.

**MIKE VASILIKOS '03**

has been named midday host and operations manager at WXPB, the member-supported, public radio service of the University of Pennsylvania. Vasilikos, who joined the station in 2008, has served as associate program director and has filled in for other hosts.

# In Memoriam

## Alumni

**Virginia (Franz) Hilbinger '48**  
Feb. 7, 2020

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

**William L. Hilgartner '50**  
May 12, 2022

**Anna Mae (Carlson) Lotz '50, '73**  
May 31, 2022

**Elizabeth (Roes) Springer '50**  
Aug. 2, 2021

**Gloria L. Paar '51**  
July 1, 2021

**Doris J. (Knode) Reynold '51**  
Feb. 6, 2022

**Donald T. Taylor '51**  
April 18, 2022

**Dorothy J. (Zimmerman) Albizo '52**  
May 5, 2022

**Alma (Thume) Hall '52**  
May 12, 2021

**Robert J. Huber '52**  
July 11, 2022

**Jean L. (Jenkins) Powers '52**  
July 5, 2022

**Thomas N. Evans Jr. '53**  
May 17, 2022

**Lewis R. Harper '53**  
Dec. 4, 2021

**William E. Miller Jr. '54**  
March 10, 2022

**Mary (Gettings) Smith '55**  
July 20, 2022

**Margretta E. (Trower) Waters '55**  
April 22, 2022

**Frances J. (Scarfone) Alvaro '56**  
Oct. 27, 2021

**Bonnie Rae (Miller) Patschke '56**  
Jan. 19, 2022

**Barbara (Langen) Rimes '56**  
May 29, 2022

**Sonya M. (Hedeman) Salter '56**  
Feb. 24, 2022

**Marcia (Mulford) Dandy '57**  
April 19, 2022

**Shirley A. Hartwell '57**  
May 25, 2021

**Donald K. Hughes Sr. '57**  
June 26, 2022

**Kathryn (Peterson) Ross '57**  
June 30, 2021

**Adele (Enten) Sidle '57**  
Nov. 27, 2021

**L. Carey Bolster '58**  
July 1, 2022

**Roberta (Cruickshanks) Kappel '58**  
March 16, 2022

**Carolyn (Williams) Smith '58**  
March 27, 2022

**Ronald C. Wartman '58, '69**  
March 7, 2022

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

**James J. Riley '59**  
May 1, 2022

**Andrew H. Calvert '60**  
April 7, 2022

**Eleanor (Fraley) Duvall '60**  
May 6, 2022

**Robert E. Anastasi '61**  
Feb. 17, 2021

**Donald A. Cyzyk '61**  
Sept. 19, 2021

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

**Muriel (Duvall) Alsobrook '62**  
April 8, 2022

**Daniel N. Sullivan Jr. '62**  
Jan. 28, 2022

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

**Robert L. Spencer '63**  
July 5, 2022

**William J. Schmalzer III '64**  
June 9, 2021

**Sherri Fox '65**  
May 30, 2022

**Edward L. Newell Jr. '65**  
Nov. 19, 2021

**David R. Torrence '65**  
Feb. 1, 2022

**Nancy A. Hanna '66, '78**  
March 19, 2022

**Susan E. Mannion '67**  
Oct. 28, 2021

**Frederick M. Mengers '67, '78**  
Jan. 31, 2022

**Wayne Law Sr. '68, '72**  
March 13, 2022

**Elaine T. (Ebert) Schanberger '68, '91**  
Nov. 22, 2021

**Wayne R. Schaumburg '68**  
July 7, 2022

**Susan M. (Thomas) Schiavone '68**  
May 20, 2022

**J. Patrick Sokoloski '68**  
Aug. 27, 2021

**Sinikka (Statu) Benson '69**  
April 5, 2022

**Linda D. (Reiser) Boyd '69**  
April 15, 2022

**Nancy E. (Moore) Kenney '69**  
Sept. 26, 2021

**Carolyn Lipscomb '69, '76**  
Feb. 22, 2022

**Marilyn (Hyman) Marcus '69**  
May 27, 2021

**Bruce T. Robinson '70**  
April 13, 2022

**Lois A. Sheppard '70**  
Oct. 5, 2021

**Robert T. East '71**  
Sept. 11, 2021

**Charles M. Ellers '71**  
May 1, 2022

**Lou Ann (Haight) Estes '71**  
Aug. 21, 2021

**Aurelio F. Goicochea '71**  
Feb. 25, 2022

**Barbara (Hull) Lake '71**  
March 14, 2022

**Henry C. Dreier Jr. '72**  
Jan. 29, 2022

**Janet (Drue) Manson '72**  
June 14, 2022

**Elizabeth (Powell) Kaites '72**  
Feb. 19, 2022

**Carl S. Love '72, '80**  
June 8, 2021

**Barry W. Thomas '72**  
Jan. 30, 2022

**Charmaine L. Bandell '73**  
July 2, 2021

**Phyllis (Lavy) Blankman '73**  
Jan. 31, 2022

**Mary Lynn Marburg Brett '73**  
June 1, 2022

**Sarajane (Gold) Greenfeld '73**  
June 30, 2022

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

**Michael W. Owen '73**  
Aug. 4, 2021

**Mary (Francis) Pfrommer '73**  
Sept. 30, 2021

**Lynn (Weinstein) Ruddle '73**  
June 13, 2021

**Vernon L. Brokke '74**  
May 16, 2022

**Michael P. Girolamo Jr. '74**  
Dec. 5, 2021

**Diane Lucas '74**  
Aug. 20, 2021

**Johanna D. Marshall '74**  
July 2, 2021

**Sandra S. Rosenblatt '74**  
April 15, 2022

**Emlynn J. Shives '74**  
Feb. 22, 2021

**William A. Spiegel '74**  
Dec. 10, 2021

**Leslie Yee '74**  
May 10, 2022

**Rocco A. Aliberti '75**  
Jan. 27, 2022

**M. Duane Heidel '75**  
Dec. 15, 2021

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

**Nancy (Knauff) Kreek '75**  
May 26, 2022

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

**Paul S. Lake III '75**  
Feb. 24, 2022

**William C. McCloskey '75**  
May 31, 2022

**Virginia G. Shuger '75**  
Feb. 28, 2022

**Patricia (Akers) Wojtek '75, '78**  
May 9, 2022

**Michael Baccala '76**  
April 29, 2022

**Colleen (Lynch) Fremont '76**  
July 6, 2022

**Timothy J. Gentile '76**  
Aug. 3, 2021

**Edward J. Hooker '76**  
Jan. 8, 2022

**Joseph M. Leake '76**  
April 26, 2022

**June (Minnick) McCauley '76**  
June 14, 2021

**Susan M. Walko '76**  
Aug. 31, 2021

**Steven B. Abrahams '77**  
March 15, 2022

**Marion P. Everett Jr. '77**  
April 6, 2022

**Timmy R. Ford '77**  
May 16, 2022

**Clifford C. Webner '77**  
Oct. 13, 2021

**Carolyn (Crawford) Wissinger '77**  
April 30, 2022

**Stanislaus Chase '78**  
Feb. 24, 2022

**Michael P. Doline '78**  
2021

**Christine E. Custis '79**  
May 21, 2022

**Sandra B. (Gaut ) Fink '79**  
July 9, 2022

**Joseph O'Donnell '79**  
June 5, 2021

**Martha E. Turlik '79**  
July 23, 2022

**Maureen Rattie '80**  
May 12, 2021

**Robert E. Rupp '80**  
Jan. 23, 2022

**Reta S. Sherman '80**  
June 20, 2022

**Susan M. Ashley '81**  
June 6, 2022

**Lynlee I. (Jastremski) Brock '81**  
July 17, 2022

**Brice M. Freeman '81**  
April 10, 2021

**Mark S. Geiger '81**  
April 12, 2022

**Michael G. Otto '81**  
Jan. 26, 2022

**Mary R. Young '81**  
April 23, 2022

**William E. Clark '82**  
June 2, 2022

**Karla C. Peppler '82**  
Nov. 12, 2021

**Rachaelle M. (Rash) Skinner '82**  
June 17, 2022

**Joyce (Williams) Hayes '83**  
July 9, 2022

**William A. Russell Jr. '83, '91**  
Feb. 26, 2022

**Rachel Glaser '84**  
Feb. 12, 2022

**William C. Litsinger Jr. '84**  
April 13, 2022

**John E. Topper '84**  
March 10, 2022

**Carol M. Thurlow '85**  
March 18, 2022

**Scott L. Hall '86**  
Sept. 22, 2021

**Jeffrey S. Talbott '86**  
June 7, 2021

**Megan (Bradley) Ford '87**  
June 23, 2021

**Catherine Layne '88**  
April 3, 2022

**Michael Murphy '88**  
June 3, 2022

**Erick A. Baxter '89**  
Sept. 29, 2021

**Rita Bayuk '89**  
Dec. 14, 2021

**Brigitte (Telford) Wilson '89**  
April 3, 2022

**John R. Brooks Jr. '90**  
Sept. 26, 2021

**Jean V. Gonnella '90**  
April 10, 2022

**John T. Siegel '90**  
Oct. 7, 2021

**Susan C. (Schiavone) Thomas '90**  
May 20, 2022

**Christopher H. Knorr '91**  
July 7, 2022

**Brooks Jones '92**  
Dec. 20, 2021

**Steven C. Mallory '92**  
Feb. 26, 2021

**Kimberly (Mcgee) Travis '92**  
Sept. 21, 2021

**Ariel Walsh '93**  
Oct. 25, 2021

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

**Susan J. Bahorich '97**  
July 8, 2022

**Mark D. Conklin '97**  
April 17, 2022

**Steven Dashoff '98**  
June 13, 2022

**Denise L. (Williams) Breder '99**  
Feb. 4, 2022

**Domenica P. Tripodi '99**  
May 6, 2022

**Mikenzie (Custer) Helphenstine '01**  
May 4, 2022

**Scott R. Justice '01**  
March 17, 2022

**Bernadette Allman '04**  
June 20, 2022

**Nathaniel B. Brinton '04**  
Feb. 22, 2022

**Glenda S. Ward '06**  
Jan. 30, 2021

**Caitlin C. House '07**  
June 11, 2022

**Elizabeth R. Fenton '08**  
April 15, 2021

**Peter Grabowski '11**  
Aug. 30, 2021

**Jessica (Stachitas) Beard '13**  
Feb. 28, 2022

**Donna M. McCarron '14**  
April 30, 2022

**Spencer L. Sutton '15, '16**  
Aug. 3, 2021

**Thomas Oswald '19**  
May 28, 2022

**Elliott M. Smith '20**  
Sept. 17, 2021

**William J. Marsheck IV '21**  
Dec. 17, 2021

**Mallory E. McKenna '21**  
July 31, 2022

## Faculty & Staff

**Evelyn M. Avery**  
May 2022

**Roger G.I. Erricker**  
Sept. 12, 2021

**Sarah E. Fields**  
Aug. 30, 2021

**Ernest C. Ilgenfritz**  
Aug. 22, 2021

**Donna L. McLaughlin**  
Aug. 23, 2021

**Bonnie J. Reynolds**  
Sept. 29, 2021

**Gregory M. Scott Sr.**  
May 12, 2022

**Timothy Sullivan**  
Aug. 27, 2022

**Bill L. Wallace**  
Aug. 22, 2021

**Sabrina Willis**  
April 15, 2022

**Guy H. Wolf II**  
March 17, 2022



**MOSES KOO '22**

## Getting Animated

Moses Koo always wanted to be a storyteller, just like his dad.

At TU, the mass communication and electronic media and film major focused on live-action short films and wedding videos. Animation never crossed his mind.

But then he landed an internship too good to pass up at Dreamworks Animation. He was an HR training intern, helping incoming artists learn the way the agency operates.

This past February, he started full-time as a production assistant for *DreamWorks Dragons: The Nine Realms*, a spinoff television show based on the popular *How to Train Your Dragon* movie series.

Koo's role is to make sure episode production goes smoothly: working with animators in post-production, taking notes during meetings, running through animatics, doing frame counts and sharing information with overseas studios.

While most of his fellow graduates are working 9 to 5 jobs, Koo describes his as a noon to 9. That's because he still lives in Towson and works remotely with coworkers in California.

A benefit to living in Towson is Koo remains close to his mom and dad. How do they feel about their son working for a major production studio?

"They are just happy I found a job," Koo laughs.

**“Despite the incredible resources committed to addressing poverty in the world, it continues to persist. I believe this is because we are often addressing the symptoms of a much deeper issue. Poverty, and its byproducts, are fed by what I call the ‘lie of hopelessness’ that says you were created for a life of ‘less than’ and reinforced by a lack of real opportunity. By creating the opportunity for a reframed identity, or spiritual hope and real opportunity, or practical hope, people in poverty can move beyond the lie of hopelessness and write a new story for themselves, their family and their communities.”**

**JAMES BELT '03**

### **KELLY ANN SWAILES**

**KOSTER '04**, was named to the 2021 President's Circle of Cambria, a producer of American-made quartz surfaces, because of her work on behalf of Cambria and the company's customers.

### **CHANDA LOCKHART '08**

wrapped up her fifth school year with Gateway Public Schools and is becoming its chief development officer.

## **2010s**

### **KRYSTLE STARVIS '11**

was named the first chief operating officer of the Baltimore nonprofit CLLCTIVLY, a place-based, social change organization focused on racial equity, narrative change, social

connectedness and resource mobilization. Starvis will help increase capacity and initiate technical assistance and educational offerings for the CLLCTIVLY network. She will also manage the annual day of giving and #28DaysofBlackFutures campaign.

### **ALYSSA ZAUSERER '12**

has joined Johnson & Johnson as an audience engagement manager for the company's Content Lab. She oversees social media strategy and campaigns for its corporate social channels.

### **PAUL KENNETH BURNS '15**

is South Jersey reporter for WHY-FM in Philadelphia whose reports are regularly heard on WBGO in Newark,

“Picture books are written for adults to read and share with young children. I have strong memories of being read to, as well as reading with my children and grandchildren. Writing books for children to experience with an adult is such a pleasure.”

**SUSAN TAGER '68**

New Jersey, and WDIY in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He was part of the team that won Best Newscast in the radio division of



the 2022 Keystone Media Awards. In June, he won second place for spot news at the 2022 Public Media Journalists Association Awards. In July, he began his one-year term as president of the New Jersey Society of Professional Journalists.

**REBECCA NAPPI '15** is a U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) public affairs specialist who was recognized as the first-place winner of the Department of Defense-wide Kathy Canham-Ross Award of Distinction. The award is part of the Army-wide Major General Keith L. Ware Communication Awards Competition. Nappi serves as a community relations liaison for the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) senior commander and the CECOM commanding

general, interfacing between the APG and surrounding local, state and federal leaders, organizations and industry partners.

**CODY BOTELER '17** started as the newsletter writer at *The Baltimore Banner* in July. He works with reporters, editors and others in the newsroom to write *The Scan*, a weekday email newsletter.

**DAVID BRYANT '18** is a cofounder of a fintech/capital raising platform for real estate.

**LILLIAN FRAZIER '19** has joined The Baltimore Station, an organization that provides individuals who suffer from homelessness or substance use disorder with residential and outpatient treatment programs, as volunteer coordinator. Frazier develops and maintains active, informed and engaged volunteers who support the organization. She contributes to data management, event planning, stewardship activities and in-kind donation coordination.



**ALEXIS GARLOFF '22**

## Passion With a Purpose

Alexis Garloff has always wanted to help people, the living and the dead.

“I wanted to have a purpose and make an impact,” Garloff says. “And I’ve had some amazing opportunities that let me dive into my passion.”

As an undergrad studying forensic chemistry, the Millsboro, Delaware, native worked for chemistry professor Kelly Elkins, the head of the TU Human Remains Identification Laboratory (THRIL), and Dana Kollmann, a clinical associate professor and adviser to the Forensic Science Student Organization (FSSO).

THRIL provides state-of-the-art DNA extraction, quantitation and analysis services for human body fluids and remains to local law enforcement agencies. The FSSO’s services are regularly requested by similar agencies to search for human remains and associated evidence.

In October 2021, Garloff started a nonprofit called Linens for the Lionhearted that collects brand-new bed sheets for victims of sexual assault and/or domestic violence.

The idea came to her after reading an article about a crime scene technician who realized these victims were being left with no sheets after they were taken as evidence.

“[It] is very rewarding,” Garloff says. “I wanted to do more community outreach, and I figured this was a good way to provide for the public and those victims.”

# Rearview Mirror

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



## ASK AN ARCHIVIST

## Hey Felicity...

**Q: Where was the university originally located?**

**A:** Ten years after the Maryland State Normal School was founded in 1866, classes were finally held in a building designed for the school. Prior to 1876, the school rented rooms in the Mount Vernon neighborhood of Baltimore. The first building was at the corner of Carrollton and Lafayette avenues, across from Lafayette Park, where the school often held events. It is often referred to as “the Carrollton building;” however, there were no dormitories, so students who could not commute had to live in boarding houses nearby. This would become one of the major arguments for moving the school to a more rural location 30 years later.

Have a question for Felicity? Email her at [fknox@towson.edu](mailto:fknox@towson.edu).

## WHAT'S NEW

## Mruck Collection

TU's Special Collections and University Archives is honored to hold several collections focusing on World War II. These include items collected by the school community in our Towson and WWII collection, the Paul H. Gantt Nuremberg Trial Papers and material related to the Holocaust. We recently digitized and made available a collection from TU professor emeritus Armin Mruck, who was born in Germany in 1925 and served in the German army during the second world war. He joined the faculty at Towson State College in 1967 and taught at the school for 25 years. The material Mruck has shared with us offers another perspective of a complicated and tragic time in world history.

Visit [towson.edu/wwiicollection](http://towson.edu/wwiicollection) to view Cook Library's WWII collections.

PAST



## Summer 1943

Local businessman Frank L. LaMotte opens his pool at Cromwell Bridge Road to the State Teachers College (STC) at Towson students during a couple hot weeks in the summer. Students were in classes over the summer because of the pressing need for teachers during World War II.



## Fall 1943

Perhaps inspired by those weeks at LaMotte's pool, President M. Theresa Wiedefeld began a campus-wide fundraising program to buy war bonds for the construction of a swimming pool on campus. It took three years to raise the \$10,000 projected cost. By that time, however, the post-war building boom meant materials and workforce were in short supply, so constructing the pool was postponed.



## Spring 1968

With the construction of the new gymnasium, Burdick Hall, the pool fund money was finally put to its intended use. Wiedefeld, who was still associated with the alumni association, advocated that the pool be named the “Victory Pool” as a nod to the folks who'd raised the money with war bonds. However, it was originally called the Alumni Memorial Pool, honoring those who had died in the war.

PRESENT

Read about CAA Male Swimmer of the Year and NCAA finalist Brian Benzing '24 on page 11.

# On My Playlist

## MIKE VASILIKOS, CLASS OF 2003

Connecting people to music brings Mike Vasilikos joy. As the midday host and operations manager at WXPX in Philadelphia, he introduces listeners to new tunes, reacquaints them with old classics and spins songs by local artists. He started working at Baltimore's WTMD (then affiliated with TU) as an undergraduate majoring in electronic media and film and has immersed himself in the world of adult alternative radio ever since. "I've always felt music is a two-way street," he says. "We play a lot of records from the '60s, '70s and '80s that you don't hear on classic rock radio. Listeners can still have that sense of discovery with something that might be 30 or 40 years old as they can with new songs."



## In 2003...

A native of Long Island, Vasilikos wanted to be a sportscaster when he enrolled at TU. But after working at the university radio station, and then doing an internship at a commercial station in New York, he switched gears. He worked for WTMD until he left for XPN in 2008. These are some albums he jammed to in college.



### **Stankonia by OutKast**

My sophomore year, OutKast played at TU, and it was wild. The song "Ms. Jackson" is still, in my estimation, a hip hop classic.



### **The Wanderer by O.A.R.**

When I was in college, the song "Crazy Game of Poker" was coming out of every dorm room. They had a local connection because they're from Maryland.



### **The Rising by Bruce Springsteen**

I was going to class at the Media Center on Sept. 11. I remember getting sent back to my dorm by my professor because nobody knew what was going on. I feel like every generation has a Bruce Springsteen record, and this felt like an album that we all needed at that time.



### **Music for the Morning After by Pete Dinklage**

This record still to this day, front to back, is masterful. It's really one of the great debut records ever.

## In 2022...

Vasilikos was associate program director and a fill-in deejay at XPN before he landed the midday slot in March. Here are some of the albums he's loved playing since he got his new gig.



### **Skinty Fia by Fontaines D.C.**

They're a really cool band out of Ireland who just did a show for us. There's a song called "Jackie Down the Line" we're playing here that I just love.



### **I Don't Live Here Anymore by The War on Drugs**

They're a Philly band although they've migrated everywhere. It's anthemic rock and roll. Their new album is just awesome. It's been cool to see them grow over the last decade-plus.



### **Saint Cloud by Waxahatchee**

Waxahatchee is the project of Katie Crutchfield. She's an incredible voice and brilliant lyricist. *Saint Cloud* is the perfect blend of rock and Americana.



### **This Is a Photograph by Kevin Morby**

The title song is fantastic, and with every album, this guy gets better and better.

# 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](mailto:munger@towson.edu) or tweeting using the hashtag #JUSTTHETUOFUS.



## ♥ JESSIE'S STORY

### Jessie Su '14

I am from northern China. Shanxi province. I was working in Germany before I came to the U.S to visit friends in Baltimore. That's when I got to know Towson University and the MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching) program at TU.

When I came to the U.S. I had to look for an apartment. My roommate went to Towson for undergrad. She knew Robin before me. The second month after I came, in September, is one of our most important Chinese holidays. It's called Mid-Autumn Festival. It's like Thanksgiving to Americans.

The Chinese American Student Union had a big party in the ballroom in the union. My roommate and I went there to celebrate. My roommate said hi to Robin and introduced us.

In October, I accidentally broke the microwave that my roommate borrowed from Robin. He had to stop by our apartment again. That was the second time we met. He was very kind. He said, "It was an old microwave. You don't have to pay me back." But we didn't start to date until the next year.



My roommate invited me and Robin to her graduation. Robin and I sat near each other and we talked the whole time. Then he asked for my number. For our first date we did paddleboats in the harbor and then we went to the aquarium, then we went to Bahama Breeze at Towson mall. We dated about two years. He proposed to me in 2015. He did a slide show and there were lots of pictures of us. At the end he went

down on one knee and gave me the ring.

We got married in 2016, and we went to Japan on our honeymoon. We live in Perry Hall. We have two little ones. The older one is Veronica, she's 3½. Our younger one is Jackie, and she is 1.

Towson is like my American home. Basically, I started everything from Towson. I met my first friends at TU, I started my teaching career right after I graduated from Towson. People at Towson inspired me.

## ♥ ROBIN'S STORY

### Robin Su '13

I was born in New York, grew up in Jersey. My parents are from China. They moved down to this area, so I went to TU to pursue an accounting degree.

The first time we met was at an event that was held by the Chinese American Student Union. She was a roommate of a friend. I thought she seemed interesting, and I wanted to get to know her more.

The second time we met was when she broke that microwave. I thought, "That's really weird. I've never heard of a broken microwave." Jessie told me later on that she was really scared that I was going to ask her to replace it, and she didn't know how much it was. But to me it was just an old microwave, so I said, "Just throw it away."

On our first date, I took her to the aquarium, and we grabbed dinner at Bahama Breeze. I guess that went well.

After we were living together for a year, I figured there was no point in waiting. This is the one, no point in stalling. I made a



slideshow of pictures throughout our relationship, and the last slide was, "Will you marry me?" There was a picture of the ring, and when she turned around, I was already on one knee with the ring out. It was just us two. I know she didn't want anything really public. She had told me before, "If you ever propose to me at a restaurant, I'm going to say no because that's so embarrassing."

We actually had two weddings.

The first was at the Towson United Methodist Church. The reception was the Eagle's Nest Golf Club. America was for my family; her parents came here for the wedding and then we went to China. The second one was in China; that was for her relatives and friends. From there we went to Japan for about two weeks for the honeymoon. We had wasabi ice cream.

She's very reliable. It's a partnership. We help each other out. If we ever have an issue, she's someone I can count on.

# Philanthropy



## BIG Give

## Makes History

In just 24 hours, TU's fourth-annual worldwide day of giving brought in 1,539 gifts from 1,369 donors, totaling \$240,000, making it the single-most-successful, one-day giving event in university history. The three highest gift recipients were the College of Health Professions (almost \$71,000); athletics (nearly \$38,000); and Fisher College of Science & Mathematics (more than \$36,000).

"We continue to see our community RISE to the occasion," says Todd Langenberg, associate vice president for development. "Each year we hope TU BIG Give is bigger than the year before. And each year our TU community has made it a reality."

## TU Continues to RISE

It was a year to celebrate the generosity and energy of our donors, with TU's RISE campaign reaching an \$86.9 million milestone in fiscal year 2022, venturing closer to the \$100 million goal.

"The success we've experienced over the last 18 months since launching the RISE campaign has been nothing short of extraordinary," says Brian DeFilippis, vice president of university advancement. "Our donors have raised their hands and opened their hearts, and, ultimately, our students have reaped the benefits."

In 2021-22, more than \$14.8 million came to TU from a little more than 8,300 donors, of which nearly 2,700 were new. Alumni donors grew by 16%, signaling a true commitment to TU and to all current and future Tigers. Scholarships, in many cases, make a huge difference in a Tiger's trajectory at TU and in life. This year we added 40 new scholarships, and the TU Foundation awarded 1,161 scholarships worth \$2.2 million to 841 students.



## New Giving Communities Stand Together

Community is important at TU. They bring us together and are the foundation for the TU experience. Our community grew this year in exciting ways with the launch of the Tall-Wiedefeld Society (TWS)—a circle of giving for women. In just four months, the TWS community grew to 100-strong, raising more than \$20,000 for grants to benefit women. The first TWS grants will be awarded in March 2023 after members review and select the programs to which the grants will be awarded.

The National Pan-Hellenic Council community paid tribute to the nine historically Black sororities and fraternities and celebrated nearly 50 years at TU. The walkway featuring pillars devoted to each organization will be an exciting new element of the Chapman Quad and will serve as a focal point to celebrate the strength of our shared cultures. Five hundred fifty donors raised close to \$95,000 for the tribute walkway.

**3 Ways To Make a Gift**

1



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2



USING PRE-PAID ENVELOPE ON PAGE 33

3



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# A Legacy of Tenacity and Character

Carl Beernink '92 began playing lacrosse by accident. When he was young, his dad left the house to sign him up for baseball. He returned with the news that his son would be playing lacrosse instead. The rest is history.

An elite defender known for his stick work, tenacity and lacrosse IQ, the All-American was inducted into the TU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010. Eight years later, he passed away unexpectedly at 50. But his legacy as one of the best defenders and leaders in TU history lives on in the teammates he influenced, the young players he coached and mentored, and the lacrosse players of today and tomorrow who will carry forward the qualities and character for which Beernink was well known. The Carl P. Beernink Legacy Scholarship will ensure it.

John Blatchley '92 and Beernink were long-time friends and teammates. Like Beernink, Blatchley went on to play professional lacrosse. But it's the memories of playing together as teenagers in summer leagues and at TU he recalls most fondly.

"We contributed to an incredible four years of TU lacrosse history, made it to the NCAA Tournament three of our four years and to the national championship game in 1991," Blatchley says. "Carl played with an edge, and it was contagious."

Off the field, Beernink was very quiet, according to teammate Eric Dorn '91.

"You would never have known his level of intensity on the field," he says. "He led with actions and was respected because of the person he was. He wasn't a 'rah rah' leader. We followed him because of all his other qualities."

After Beernink passed away, some of his teammates wanted to keep his legacy alive. With the support of Beernink's wife, Michele; his daughters Emma, Gretchen and Stella; other family; former teammates; and TU head men's lacrosse coach, Shawn Nadelen, the CB 30 Award (Beernink's initials and jersey number) was established. Presented annually to an outstanding lacrosse player and teammate with a demonstrated desire to help others, the CB 30 badge is placed on the recipient's game jersey.



Michele Beernink and daughters (from left) Stella, Gretchen and Emma. Inset: Carl Beernink '92

"Within about a year, we were able to raise more than \$41,000 for a scholarship endowment to go with the CB 30 badge," Blatchley says.

The scholarship was awarded for the first time in 2021 to defenseman Garrett Zungailia '22, a business administration major.

"I was responsible for covering the cost of my tuition at TU, so this scholarship meant a lot to me," he says.

Beernink was a family man. As a coach for his daughters' rec and middle school lacrosse teams, he didn't focus on the girls who were good. He focused on the ones who were quiet. "A lot of my friends talked about Coach Carl and the impact he had on them. For middle school girls, it was a good self-esteem boost," Gretchen says.

Before coaching his daughters, he refereed boys' lacrosse. "He shared his love of the game by coaching little kids. He called them bobbleheads because their helmets were too big for them," Michele says, laughing. He also volunteered with Charm City Youth Lacrosse, where he introduced underserved youth to the sport.

"My dad was through and through a good man. If he said he was going to do something, he did it," Emma says. "As young kids, we didn't really understand how great a player he was. We are really glad our mom came up with the scholarship idea. It acknowledges the fantastic person he was."

—By Elizabeth Braungard

♥ DONOR PROFILE

## Tracy Miller

Tracy began working at Towson State University in 1978 as assistant to then-President James Fisher, followed by stints in student services and academic advising. As she learned about the needs of military veterans in college, she worked to establish TU's Military & Veterans Center. She is also proud her oldest son, Peter Ziolkowski '03, is a TU alum.

### HOW DID YOUR LIFE EXPERIENCES INFLUENCE YOUR DECISION TO GIVE BACK?

I grew up in Baltimore in a home where giving to charities was part of our culture. My parents supported many arts organizations, and I saw how important that support was to the theaters and programs they helped fund.

### YOU'VE GIVEN TO A VARIETY OF FUNDS. HOW DO YOU CHOOSE WHERE YOU DIRECT YOUR GIFTS?

As a single mom with two young sons, the opportunity for on-campus child care was so valuable, so I support the Child Care Center. Many of the other funds I give to support the legacies of deceased members of the community. I also try to support programs that assist veterans and students in need.

### YOU ESTABLISHED A SCHOLARSHIP IN YOUR SON'S MEMORY. TELL US MORE ABOUT THAT.

When my younger son, Nick, became a Marine in 2001, I was proud of him. He was killed on Nov. 14, 2004, in Fallujah, Iraq. I wanted to do something to ensure his existence would benefit other people directly—students who wanted to make the world a better place through military or civil service. The first year, we raised about \$8,000. The scholarship endowment now stands at more than \$286,000. My hope is Nick's name lives on, and good works continue to proliferate because he lived.





◊ OUR TOWN

## BARCS

In college, **Bailey Deacon '10** majored in art—and had four dogs. Now, the director of community engagement at BARCS, the largest animal shelter in Maryland, is down to three—and two cats. “When you get into animal rescue, you start to fall for some of the misfits, and I’m a total sucker for those.” Deacon leads the organization’s fundraising, volunteers, social media, community relations—pretty much everything that’s not direct animal care. More than 10,000 animals a year come through the shelter, which, as an open-admission facility, takes all comers. In addition to dogs and cats, it’s housed everything from pigs to alligators. All get the same care. “We treat every animal like they’re an individual.”

Visit [towson.edu/barcs](http://towson.edu/barcs) to see more photos of adorable animals.

# Plan Today, For Your Tomorrow

## Why is estate planning important?

Reviewing or updating your current estate plan ensures your objectives will be met, that you will keep more of what is yours and provide for those you love and the causes you support.

## How can we help?

We can provide you and your adviser with information that will help you:

- Create or review your estate plan to gain maximum benefit from your investments, real estate and other holdings
- Introduce possibilities and opportunities for creative gift planning, including support for TU

The generosity of those who support TU makes all the difference in the university's future success and that of our students.

To explore options that benefit you, your heirs and TU's mission, please contact:

**Kathleen Hider**

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