

TOWSON

SPRING 2012

MONSTERS OF HIPHOP 8
THE TURNAROUND TEAM 12
THE GYMNASTICS GURU 22

QUIET CONFIDENCE
STUDENT FOCUSED
SERVANT LEADER
CONNECTS WITH PEOPLE
COMMUNICATOR
OPEN & HONEST
INDEFATIGABLE
ORGANIZED
TEACHER
REALISTIC
GREAT LISTENER
SETS BAR HIGH
DOWN TO EARTH

Maravene Loeschke

Takes the Lead

as Towson's

New President



Balancing Act

The intrepid Luke Walz, 5, is all balance and agility as he walks a line of elementary playground equipment under the watchful eye of Michael Frankenberry, a student in TU's Physical Education Teacher Education program. Luke and other home-schooled children came to a gym in Burdick Hall last fall as part of a kinesiology class, Physical Education Activities for Young Children. Andrea Boucher, professor of kinesiology, who has taught the class for nearly 40 years says, "This gives TU physical education majors an opportunity to plan and teach gymnastic activities, developmental games and sports activities to children ages 2 to 10."





FEATURES

CREATING A MONSTER **8**

Monsters of HipHop, a hip-hop dance convention started by Andy '96 and Becky '97 Funk, crisscrosses the country, offering sizzling steps and a chance for dancers to make it big.

THE TURNAROUND TEAM **12**

How the Tiger football team pulled an about-face on a losing record and marched down the field to win the 2011 CAA championship while capturing accolades for players and the head coach.

LOESCHKE IN THE LEAD **16**

Expect Maravene Loeschke '69/'71 to be passionate, firm, practical, organized, dedicated to students, and more, in her new role as TU's president.

THE GYMNASTICS GURU **22**

Dwight Normile '78/'81 M.Ed., longtime editor of *International Gymnast*, is a leading authority on the sport.



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Winter Graduation
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TU Presidential Scholar

*Available only at
www.towsonalumnimagazine.com



It is great to be home. Few people get the honor and privilege of returning to their alma mater to serve as president. With my history at Towson as a student, faculty member, chairperson and dean, I don't have to learn to love and appreciate this institution as its new leader. Towson University resides soundly in my heart. I have the chance to give back to the institution that has given me my professional grounding, my creative drive, and my passion for personal and professional excellence. The groundwork for any professional success I have had was laid by my Towson education.

Also, I am pleased to return to a state that values higher education. I began my presidency balancing my time on campus with advocacy in Annapolis during the legislative session and fundraising. Additional funding is not forthcoming and cuts are a possibility. I continue to keep our legislative priorities and capital project needs at the forefront.

I am a proud participant in Towson's past, but my interest in coming back as president is to lead Towson into a vibrant future. I consider myself a servant leader who guides the institution's vision, empowers our students, faculty and staff to do their best work, and removes as many obstacles as possible. Students are my first priority and their best interest will be at the center of all decision-making.

The Presidential Inauguration date has been set for September 14, 2012. We will honor and celebrate the university and its future throughout the week, followed by Homecoming Week where we will celebrate alumni and athletics.

I encourage you to re-engage with your alma mater. Visit the campus to marvel in its beautiful new views. Take in a performance, lecture or game. I look forward to meeting more of my fellow alumni and Towson supporters in the coming months.

Maravene Loeschke

President

“ Students are my first priority and their best interest will be at the center of all decision-making. ”

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Stars in the Stands

U.S. PRESIDENT, FIRST FAMILY AND ACTOR BILL MURRAY GARNER OFF-COURT PRESS FOR MEN'S BASKETBALL HOME OPENER



President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama came to the Towson Center when the Tigers played Oregon State University.

The audience for the Tigers' home opener against Oregon State University generated more hoopla than the players on the court.

President of the United States Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama and their children, Sasha and Melia, were part of the 3,119 spectators who watched the OSU Beavers defeat the Tigers 66-45. Actor Bill Murray was also in the stands.

The president, a huge basketball fan who often hits the courts for a pickup game, had attended the "Carrier Classic," in San Diego. The contest pitted the University of North Carolina against

Michigan State aboard the USS Carl Vinson on Veterans Day.

Obama came to the Towson Center on Nov. 26, however, to cheer for the Beavers, who are coached by Craig Robinson, Michelle Obama's brother. The Obamas sat courtside in an area cordoned off from the rest of the crowd. Secret Service agents, sporting polo shirts and earpieces, roamed the stands throughout the game.

During breaks in the game, VIPs, including incoming TU President Maravene Loeschke, lined up to shake Obama's hand.

Murray of "Caddyshack" and "Ghost Busters" fame, sat in the stands. He came to support his son Luke, an assistant coach for the Tigers. Murray also greeted the U.S. president and spent time chatting with members of the Towson band.

Actor Bill Murray came to support his son Luke, an assistant coach for the Tigers.

At halftime the Tiger football team assembled on the court with its 2011 Colonial Athletic Association Championship trophy and had their picture taken with Obama.



Towson University's high academic quality coupled with its low cost earned a spot on *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* list as one of its 100 "best values in public colleges." Towson is ranked at 76, a two-place improvement from last year's ranking of four-year institutions.

"It is an honor for Towson University to be named a *Kiplinger's* best value and remain in the company of the nation's top schools in maintaining both quality and affordability for students."

Maravene Loeschke
Towson University President



Take another look at Towson online.

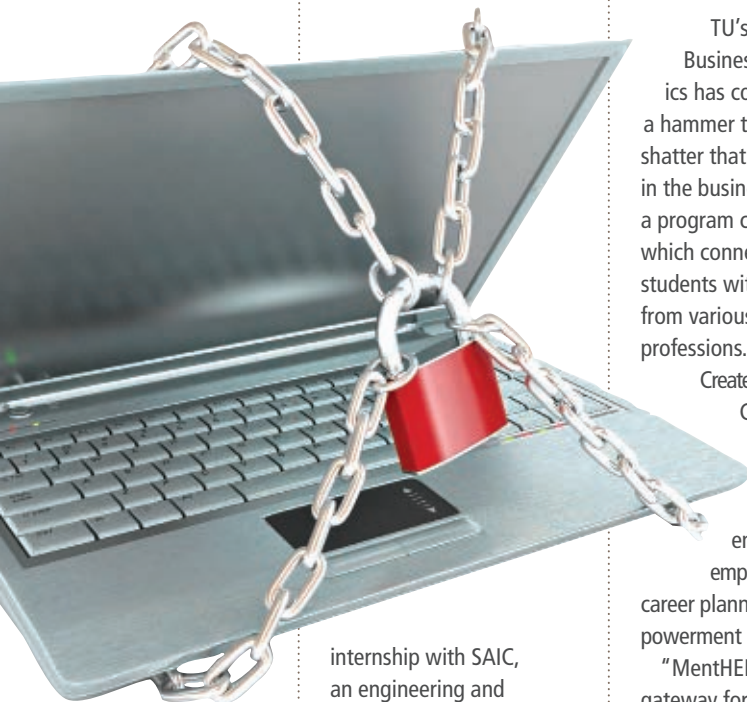
The digital edition has links to websites and emails contained in the stories. You'll also find Web extras, including information about the Bridges Conference, the largest mathematics and art interdisciplinary conference in the world which will be held at TU July 25-29, 2012, and the January graduation speeches of Emily Casey, Caitlin Connor, Erin Crisp and Joan Wilhelm.

3 NOTEBOOK

Cyber Skills

Six TU students not only know cybersecurity, they know it pays off.

Andrea Mobley, Brian Cather, Jonathan Fragale, Dustin Hanks, Dennis Hayden and Roberto Melendez teamed up to win the 2011 Maryland Cyber Challenge last fall. The victory gave each student a \$5,000 scholarship from the National Security Agency along with an offer for a paid summer



internship with SAIC, an engineering and technology firm.

The TU team defeated 12 other collegiate teams in a two-day competition by successfully defending their computer systems from attackers and fixing vulnerabilities.

Coached by Mike O’Leary, director of TU’s Center for Applied Information Technology and professor in the departments of mathematics and computer and information sciences, the team follows in the winning footsteps of previous Towson students who have been victorious in three of the last four major cyber defense competitions in the region—the 2010 CCDC Mid-Atlantic Regionals, the 2010 CSC Cyb3rBattl3ground and the 2011 MDC3.

MentHER

TU’s College of Business and Economics has come up with a hammer to help women shatter that glass ceiling in the business world. It’s a program called MentHER, which connects female students with women from various business professions.

Created by Laleh Malek, CBE’s former director of professional experience, MentHER emphasizes women’s

career planning and empowerment in industry.

“MentHER is the perfect gateway for women to break into the business world because of the resources it provides,” says Emily Jang, a freshman pre-business major participating in the MentHER program.

“Sure, being in the classroom equips any student

with knowledge regarding the formalities of the business world, but MentHER’s focus on women gives an

“MentHER’s focus on women gives an insight to what the ‘real world’ will be like.”

—Emily Jang, TU freshman

insight to what the ‘real world’ will be like. It helped me land an awesome job in technology retail with a huge customer service focus.”

Supported by a grant from Enterprise Rent-A-Car, the MentHER program has nine business women who mentor nine female CBE students. They in turn mentor nine young women in high school.

We Want TU

Students are getting real-world experience in the high-tech military world via internship programs at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

“Knowing that the things you do have an impact on soldiers makes it worthwhile.”

—Kathryn Baldwin

TU’s Applied Information Technology and Computer Science programs have established internship opportunities with the Software

Engineering Center (SEC) at the U.S. Army’s installation in Harford County.

The collaboration gives experience to TU students and a recruiting tool that can revitalize the information technology talent pool at Aberdeen because so many personnel are slated to retire in the next few years.

Gonzalo Pareja, one of 12 TU students interning with SEC, worked on warfighter, logistics and business service programs. “I saw army vehicles returning from being deployed, and I could relate that to what I do in logistics,” he says.

Another TU intern, Kathryn Baldwin, gets hands-on experience assisting with updates of the SEC website.

0:9 SPORT SHORTS



Victory, At Last

The men’s basketball team ended the nation’s longest NCAA Division I losing streak (41 games) with a 66-61 victory over UNC-Wilmington on Jan. 28. The Tigers trailed by as many as seven points, but kept fighting, apparently inspired after watching

Muhammad Ali beat George Foreman in the “rope-a-dope” boxing match.

NUGGETS



Gardens Grow

Plants will be sprouting in the Cherry Hill neighborhood of South Baltimore, thanks to a \$60,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Nadine Braunstein, grant administrator and TU assistant professor in the College of Health Professions, says \$45,000 will create community and school gardens through the People’s Garden, an initiative which provides access to fresh, healthy food and education about urban agriculture and best dietary practices.

The remaining \$15,000 will go to Towson to manage the program.

The project’s goal is to create at least four school gardens and four community gardens and educate at least 200 residents about gardening and nutrition, Braunstein told the *Sun* in November.

Diplomats R Us

More than 200 high school students learned the art of negotiation and diplomacy last fall when TU hosted a Model

United Nations program.

Developed by TU Professor Alison McCartney and Baltimore County Public School teacher Hugh Kearney, the one-day session brought together students from all socio-economic backgrounds.

They learned how the United Nations operates by taking on the role of member countries. Pairs of students represented individual countries, learned about the country’s background from a TU professor with expertise in the area, and studied UN development goals.

Campus Crime is Down

TU’s 2010 Uniform Crime Statistics are the lowest —7.46 per 1,000 students—among the system’s 10 campuses.

What’s remarkable about the university’s success is that as the campus grows and as the city of Towson grows, there

should be a corresponding increase in crime rates. However, the reverse is true: TU’s rate is only a fraction of Baltimore County’s 35.69 crimes per 1,000 residents in 2010.

Some categories have declined significantly. For example, the campus reported 119 thefts in 2011, as opposed to 366 in 1995 even as enrollment rose by 50 percent during the same period. Burglaries dropped from a high of 89 in 1997 to 11 in 2011. Property crimes plummeted from 442 in 1995 to 130 in 2011.

Fulbright Producer

Towson University heads a list of colleges and universities that produced the most U.S. Fulbright Scholars during 2011. The rankings, released by The Institute for International Education, show Towson, with five Fulbright honorees, to be first among 29 regional institutions.

Towson’s 2011 U.S. Fulbright Scholars are:

Brian Fath, professor of biological sciences and Distinguished Chair in Environmental Sciences; Parthenope, University of Naples, Naples, Italy;

Rebecca Pisano, director of the Study Abroad Office; U.S.-Japan International Education Administrators Program;

Robyn Quick, professor and chair of theatre arts; Lecturing: Cultural Understanding Through Dramaturgy, Russian State University for the

Humanities, Moscow, Russia;

Joseph Rudolph, professor, political science; Lecturing: Supporting the Profession in Kosovo and Post-Communist Europe, American University of Kosovo, Pristina, Kosovo;

Jeremy Tasch, assistant professor, geography and environmental planning; Integrating Local Places & Global Perspectives, Kyrgyz State University of Architecture and Construction at the Institute of Ecology, Kyrgyz Republic.

LOOK BACK

Tea Time

Lida Lee Tall, TU’s president from 1920 to 1938, invited students to have tea with her at the president’s house.

Ladies wore dresses and gloves, gentleman jackets and ties as they sipped from pink-flowered china teacups.

The tradition lasted into the administration of Earle Hawkins, according to an exhibit on TU’s presidents in the library’s Special Collections room, researched and displayed by Felicity Knox ’94, library associate to the Archives.



Dead Ringer

MAKEOVER GIVES NEW LIFE TO CLOCK TOWER BELL

There might be bats in the Stephens Hall belfry, but there's no bell.

TU's 1,200-pound bronze bell is being restored at the McShane Bell Foundry in Glen Burnie, Md., for the first time since the firm mounted it atop the clock tower in 1915. The then-Maryland State Normal School paid \$475 (about \$10,600 today) for the crown- ing touch to its new signature building.

Although generations of students relied on the bell to mark the hours, it has stood mostly silent—and silently deteriorating—for the past 20 years.

Harry Hughes, director of systems management in Facilities Management, says the bell ringing ceased in response to some neighbors' complaints.

"That would have been in the early '90s, not too long after we'd renovated and reopened Stephens Hall," he recalls.

The bell tolled to mark a 9/11 anniversary, but its once-golden tone is seldom heard nowadays.

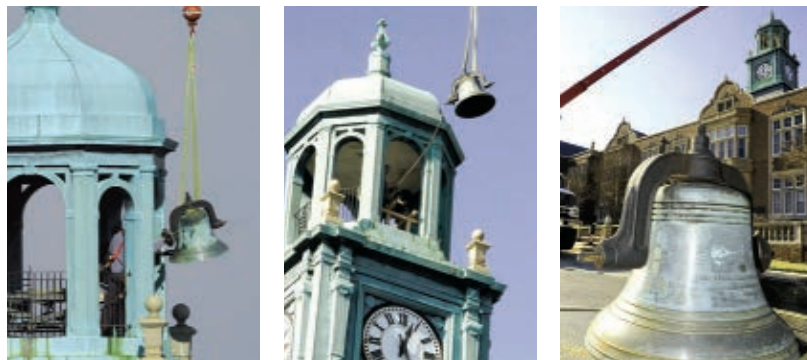
Hughes suggested the makeover to Roger Hayden, associate vice president for Facilities Management, after a building evaluation of Stephens Hall. Climbing a ladder and hoisting himself through a hatch in the floor of the belfry, Hughes took a close look at the 97-year-old bell.

"I thought it was in pretty rough shape," he says. Exposure to the elements had taken a toll, as had some pranksters,

who'd engraved their initials in the bronze decades earlier. (Note: Access to the tower has been restricted for many years.)

It wasn't difficult to trace the maker, since the McShane foundry had stamped its name on the bell. What astonished Hughes was that the business—founded in 1856 by an Irish immigrant—was still family-owned and going strong.

A McShane representative visited the campus to examine the bell and agreed with Hughes about its need for TLC. A crane extracted it from the cupola on January 25, and McShane workers transported



Exposure to the elements had taken a toll, as had some pranksters, who'd engraved their initials in the bronze decades earlier.

it back to the foundry.

During the next few weeks the bell was thoroughly cleaned and equipped with a new clapper, going in the process from dull greenish-brown to lustrous gold. Once restored, it will be equipped with a remote-controlled electronic ringing system with ringtones appropriate for both festive and somber occasions. It was reinstalled in March.

The details concerning future use of the bell are being discussed, says Hayden. "We will ring it in appropriate ways and at appropriate times," he emphasizes.

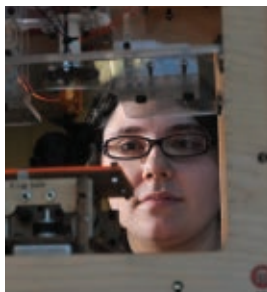
"This bell has been part of the campus for nearly a century," he adds. "Everyone I've spoken to would love to see it back in service."



DID YOU KNOW?

Five TU building projects, three in West Village Commons and two in the CLA building, were recognized for outstanding craftsmanship by the Building Congress and Exchange of Metropolitan Baltimore in November.

What's New



Object Lab

TU students got a techno boost in December when the Object Lab opened in the College of Fine Arts and Communication. The lab is home to three-dimensional scanning and printing, laser cutting and CNC milling equipment. Students can digitize existing objects for manipulation and reproduction. For example, the technology can scan an existing body part to make a matching prosthetic. The process can also be applied to dentistry, combat weapons and other areas, to determine how an object has failed and what is needed to improve performance. The cutting-edge skills have applications in aerospace and defense, consumer products, product development, prosthetics, dentistry, medicine, forensics, and art and design.



Fisher Professor

Matthew Hemm, assistant professor of biology, is the fifth recipient of the Jess and Mildred Fisher Endowed Chair in Biological and Physical Sciences. The endowment gives Hemm \$15,000 for each of three years to be used for a summer faculty stipend, professional travel, research equipment and supplies, and undergraduate student research support. Hemm teaches molecular biology and researches the abundance and function of small proteins, and the short genes that encode them. His current project investigates the role of small transmembrane proteins in cytochrome bd oxidase activity in *E. coli* and how the proteins affect cellular respiration, and infection or colonization by bacteria. Understanding how these proteins work may have an impact on infection control.



Institute for Well-Being

The College of Health Professions launched the Institute for Well-Being, a collaboration among the Speech, Language and Hearing Center, Wellness Center, Center for Adults with Autism and Occupational Therapy Center. Each center provides health outreach services and promotes community wellness. Now, via the Institute, the centers will expand their focus on education and research, while serving the health and wellness needs of the community. By fall of 2012, the Institute will be housed in downtown Towson. The new space will give each center the tools to develop new clinical research programs, increase outreach efforts and community participation, add interdisciplinary programs, and train and graduate more students who will enter health professions.



Autism Director

Rhonda J. Greenhaw was appointed director of the Center for Adults with Autism and clinical assistant professor in the College of Health Professions. Before coming to Towson, she was a lead behavior analyst in the Autism Services Program for Easter Seals in Wisconsin and an adjunct professor at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She has served on the Board of Directors of St. Francis Children's Center and was a mentor to parents of children with special needs. She is certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, and is a doctoral candidate in an international psychology program at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.



TU has an NV3 Technologies kiosk in the Student Union that rapidly recharges students' cell phones and tablets for free.



creating a Monster

MONSTERS OF HIPHOP, A HIP-HOP DANCE CONVENTION STARTED BY ANDY '96 AND BECKY '97 FUNK, CRISSCROSSES THE COUNTRY, OFFERING SIZZLING STEPS AND A CHANCE FOR DANCERS TO MAKE IT BIG.

BY WANDA HASKEL

Register early. Spots are going fast in a city near you.

Monsters of HipHop dance convention has already sold out its 2012 stops in Vancouver, W.A., Dallas, and New Brunswick, N.J.

Not surprising given hip-hop's popularity. This urban dance style is sometimes acrobatic and jerky, sometimes wavy and fluid, sometimes even dizzying. But it's always entertaining.

Maybe that's why celebrities from Justin Bieber to Janet Jackson are roboting, gliding and popping. And why amateurs the world over dream of break-dancing their way into a career.

To help spin those dreams into reality, Andy '96 and Becky '97 Funk (yes, Funk is their real name) founded Monsters of HipHop in 2003. It was the first all hip-hop dance convention uniting unconventional movers and shakers with the entertainment industry's top choreographers for intensive training and a shot at the big time.

Skilled hip-hop dancers can make big salaries touring with pop stars, battling it out in television competitions, performing in videos and commercials and doing choreography. But first those performers must be seen by the people doing the hiring.

Enter the Funks with a vision for creating career opportunities for dancers and the courage to take a chance. "It was a huge risk," says Andy Funk, remembering when they secured the Philadelphia Convention Center for their first convention. "That was scary."

But Philly was a huge success—master classes were packed—and a couple of months later they had a seven-city tour booked. "It just grew from there," he adds.

Up to 700 participants take master classes from the likes of Emmy-winning celebrity choreographers Tabitha and Napoleon Dumo and *America's Best Dance Crew* winners Jabbawockeez.



"Our whole mission when we started was to give kids opportunities that weren't there for hip-hop."

– Becky Funk '97

When the conventions are over, seven males and seven females are selected from the thousands of hopefuls for coveted spots in Monsters' Los Angeles show. "All the L.A. agents are there," says Becky Funk, along with top artists and industry executives. Even Nigel Lythgoe, producer of hit FOX television talent competition shows *So You Think You Can Dance* and *American Idol*, attends.

Odds are those 14 dancers will be booked by agents after the show and then go on to jobs in movies and television, and on tour with big-name artists such as Britney Spears, Usher and Lady Gaga.

Making it to L.A. can also open doors for dancers who want to move into choreography. Just weeks after performing in the Monsters Show, says Andy, JaQuel Knight went to work choreographing for R&B princess Beyoncé Knowles. That job turned out to be the video for Beyoncé's smash anthem "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on it)," and Knight has been in high demand ever since.

The Funks get a kick out of seeing their little monsters make it big. "Our whole mission when we started was to give kids opportunities that weren't there for hip-hop," says Becky, who has been known to shed a motherly tear when she sees her "babies" on stage.

In 2005, the convention evolved to include a Broadway-style show in Los Angeles. The Monsters Show has become a showcase for rising stars in the commercial dance industry. "We really wanted to push the envelope with these careers being launched," says Andy, so they started the L.A. show "for the industry to introduce the next crop of professional dancers."

BREAKING OUT

Nine years later, the Funks face competition from a whole crop of hip-hop dance conventions that followed their lead. But Monsters is still out in front with an emphasis on quality teaching and a positive, family-friendly culture evidenced by its clean, edited music and an unwritten no-diva policy.

These days, the convention crisscrosses the country throughout the year, stopping in 12 to 20 cities. At each site, usually in hotel ballrooms, up to 700 participants, age 6 and older, spend the weekend in master classes learning from the likes of Emmy-winning celebrity choreographers Tabitha and Napoleon Dumo and *America's Best Dance Crew* winners Jabbawockeez.



All it took was that first convention and the Funks knew they had created a monster.



Becky and Andy Funk

A classically trained dancer, Becky grew up traveling the convention circuit and saw all the opportunities available for traditional styles like tap and ballet. But she always preferred hip-hop and wondered why there was no convention for the dance style whose explosive popularity makes it the most viable route for the commercial dancer. According to Becky, “There was really a need for an all hip-hop convention.”

LEAP OF FAITH

It took a lot of hard work and guts for the Funks to fill that need, beginning when 24-year-old Becky came home and announced to her husband that after months of misery working in a cubicle, she had quit her job as a health educator and planned to open a dance studio.

Andy was all for it. He hated seeing the wife he’d adored since their days as high-school sweethearts in Gettysburg, Pa., unhappy. So in May 1999, they took the leap and opened the b.funk dance studio in Ellicott City, Md.

Becky had the dance background, both as a competitive dancer since the

age of 8 and as captain of TU’s dance team (1995-96). Andy, a mass communication and communication studies major, knew the ropes in business, marketing and event planning through his experience working in nonprofit development and for the Orioles.

“At first we had one room in a factory building. No one could find us,” jokes Andy.

Students and their parents—drawn to the wholesome atmosphere and emphasis on high-quality instruction—got there, though; and the business, specializing in hip-hop but also offering a range of other styles, including jazz, tap and ballet, quickly outgrew that one room and moved to Route 40 in Ellicott City where it’s been for eight years. There, the Funks have 5,000 square feet, including a comfortable lobby and four spacious dance studios, complete with custom flooring that helps prevent injury, and more than a dozen dedicated faculty. Dancers, ranging in age from 3 to 65, go to b.funk for everything from recreational dance classes to top-tier professional training.

After a couple of years of growth and success with b.funk, Andy and Becky, along with Becky’s sister Angie

Servant ’99, jumped in and organized the first Monsters convention in Philadelphia. They didn’t know all the A-list industry people, but they did know that there was a lot of commercial work and no good platform for connecting hip-hop dancers with those opportunities. So Andy and his sister-in-law hit the Internet, researching top choreographers, and convinced 10 of them to sign on. “They liked the idea,” says Andy, but, he adds, they were a little wary “because it was so new.”

All it took was that first convention, though, and the Funks knew they had created a monster. “Once the choreographers were there,” remembers Becky, “once they saw the energy and how excited everyone was...that’s all it took.” The instructors went back to L.A. and started a buzz that astonished the Funks. Soon, choreographers were approaching them, wanting to be involved, and dancers from all over the globe were training to make it to the L.A. show. (The word “monster” takes on a special meaning in hip-hop speak. A dancer’s admirers might say, “He’s killin’ it. He’s a monster.”)

Even for those who are truly talented, though, making it as a profes-

sional dancer is a struggle. Think professional athlete: limited spots at the top, short peak-performance time, fierce competition.

And while the Funks pave the road for the super-talented to go pro, they also help dancers of all abilities keep their feet on the ground. One way they do this is by offering a seminar for parents of kids who want to dance professionally. It's a reality check, says Gene Burdette '96, Monsters co-director and longtime family friend, "before they drop everything and move to L.A." Families are advised on long-term career preparation and how to have realistic expectations for getting commercial dance work.

STEPPING UP

The Funks know all about realistic expectations. They've had their share of adversity and even tragedy. Andy lost his brother Alan to leukemia in 1990, and Becky was recently diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. But instead of feeling sorry for themselves, the Funks choose to turn hardship into motivation for helping others.

"We've been inspired by a lot of people and experiences that have

driven and shaped us," says Andy, speaking about his brother's remarkable courage and positivity in the face of cancer. That's why the Funks established the Monsters on the Move Foundation, which provides dance scholarships for underprivileged kids. One award even requires recipients to "pay forward" their good fortune to others, be it performing for seniors, organizing a dance marathon or teaching a free class. "We don't want to send a check blindly and then be done," says Andy. "We want to...create a sense of giving in other people."

Andy and Becky are particularly moved by folks who find positive ways to overcome obstacles. Scholarships have gone to a double amputee who dances on her knees and a deaf dancer who uses vibration to guide his movement.

The couple's track record as philanthropists may be why ABC's *Extreme Makeover Home Edition* wanted to partner with Monsters for its 2011 Thanksgiving show. The featured family's son, who dreams of being a professional dancer, received free training with Monsters choreographers, and the show taped a segment at b.funk studios.

ABC's *Extreme Makeover Home Edition* wanted to partner with Monsters for its 2011 Thanksgiving show.

FAMILY CIRCUS

Life, says Becky, is a juggling act. Not only do the Funks run the dance studio, the convention and the foundation, but they also have a house full of boys to manage. Their sons Drew, 11; Cooper, 7; and Beckett, 4, keep their parents' private time packed with homework, family meals and recreational sports.

How do they keep all those balls in the air? They admit it can be hard but credit a close circle of employees, family and friends with making all the travel and long hours possible.

And when it comes down to it, the Funks happily do all this fancy footwork because they are deeply connected with the dancers and choreographers who share their dream.

"We find a way," says Andy, because "we're all family." ■

Wanda Haskel is a writer living in Timonium, Md.

The Funks established the Monsters on the Move Foundation, which provides dance scholarships for underprivileged kids.





THE TURNAROUND TEAM

How the Tiger football team pulled an about-face on a losing record and marched down the field to win the 2011 CAA championship while capturing accolades for players and the head coach

By Pete Schlehr '71

They will forever be known as the “Turnaround Tigers.” Towson University’s football team emerged from the depths of a 1-10 abyss in 2010 to a 9-2 summit in 2011.

What’s more they climbed to the top of the Colonial Athletic Association’s mountain—the Tigers were CAA 2011 champions. The team also earned its first NCAA playoff berth in more than a quarter of a century.

And by playing their way into the post-season, the Tigers became the first team to go to the NCAA post-season at the Division III, the Division II and the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) levels.

The team’s 2011 storybook season ended at Unitas Stadium in December before a capacity crowd of 11,196 raucous fans. An old Patriot League nemesis, Lehigh, beat them, but just barely, escaping with a 40-38 FCS playoff victory.

That loss couldn’t tarnish Towson’s impressive resume, however.

The Tigers downed two teams they had never beaten before—Colgate (42-17) and William & Mary (38-27).

They stormed through New England, snowballing three of the region’s largest universities with wins over University of New Hampshire (56-42), University of Rhode Island (28-17) and University of Maine (40-30).

Down south they toppled a monarchy with a dramatic victory over Old Dominion (39-35). They weren’t hospitable to Richmond (31-28) when the Spiders visited, nor were they the least bit neighborly to Morgan State (42-3).

The Tigers showed no brotherly love for Villanova (31-10) as Towson beat more ranked teams than anyone else in the country. The regular season losses were to University of Maryland (28-3) and an arch rival, University of Delaware (35-30).

How the heck did they do that?

It wasn’t easy. It took Tigers’ head coach, Rob Ambrose ’93, several agonizing years to change the culture, attitude and even the roster.

A turnaround was inevitable considering Towson’s 3-19 record that included just one CAA victory against 15 league losses in Ambrose’s first two years at the helm of his alma mater.

That losing record left the not-ready-for-prime-time Tigers at the bottom of the conference standings each season. There was really no place for the Tigers to go but up.

But no one expected them to climb so high. They went from a worst-to-first performance on the strength of a 9-3 (7-1 in CAA) season that closed with a final No. 9 national ranking.

“If we wanted to go somewhere we’d never been and do things we’d never done before, then we had to take a much different approach,” says Ambrose, who was showered with post-season recognition for leading Towson to one of the most exciting turnarounds in college football history. “The same old way of doing business would lead to the same old results.”

Ambrose’s honors included the Eddie Robinson Award as the National NCAA FCS Coach of the Year, the American Football Coaches Association Regional Coach of the Year and the 2011 CAA Coach of the Year.

The new regimen resembled a boot-camp schedule. The first bell rang at 5 a.m. when players assembled for conditioning drills last January under



the lights in Uinitas Stadium. When spring practices began they were held in the same venue, same time, long before sun up.

“All of our work was done before 8:30 a.m. or 9 a.m., leaving the rest of the day for the players to concentrate on nothing but academics,” Ambrose says.

o’clock in the morning. We knew that if we did these things long enough, the kids would start to believe because they were doing something different.”

Another cause for the pre-dawn early gatherings was brought about when a monster sink hole forced university officials to declare the lower practice

teams that competed for points.

“Success is not a part-time job,” says Ambrose. “We made everything count; class attendance, community service, weight room work, attending breakfast—everything carried points. On Friday mornings we announced the team leaders from highest to



“All of our work was done before 8:30 a.m. or 9 a.m., leaving the rest of the day for the players to concentrate on nothing but academics.” Head Coach Rob Ambrose '93

“It allowed them to stay more focused. Besides, kids in college don’t get up and don’t eat right. The most important meal of the day is breakfast so we were making sure they were eating properly. As the spring wore on we were starting to become tough. Heck, they don’t start PT (physical fitness) in the army until 6

grass field off limits for safety reasons.

Ambrose put in for the early practice time on the stadium’s turf field. None of the other Tiger sports’ coaches challenged him.

Ambrose initiated another strategy called “Tiger Accountability,” breaking the entire squad down into smaller

lowest. We wanted the guys to know who was not doing the job too.”

Frank Beltre, a rising senior who redshirted the 2008 season under former Tigers’ coach Gordy Combs ’72, saw right off a cultural revolution was on its way when Ambrose and company arrived.

“You could tell that Coach Ambrose and his staff were coming in with a mission,” says Beltre. “He told us right at the start that every little thing you do counts, like going to class, sitting up front, maintaining grades, not missing breakfast—whatever we did, it counted. And once you took care of the little things the big things would fall into place.”

Beltre, an eventual All-CAA first team defensive end, and his teammates bought the whole package.

“Coach didn’t start talking about winning until this year,” says Beltre, who is a member of the CAA Academic All-Conference team. “The first two years he drummed into us the importance of finishing. In the third year he finally says, now is when we start winning. I thought about everything he had told us and I knew he was right.”

Beltre enthusiastically, if not courageously, predicted a winning

Fork Union Military Academy for the 2010 football season. He eventually made his way to the Towson campus the following January, just in time for the chilly pre-season workouts.

He was a non-scholarship player at the time and didn’t qualify for on-campus housing. Undaunted, West hopped an MTA bus from his Baltimore home, rising at 4 a.m. each day to face the rigors of Ambrose’s program.

The results of West’s commitment were staggering.

The 5-11, 220-pound tailback rushed for 1,294 yards and scored a national leading 29 touchdowns. A Walter Camp, Associated Press and Sports Network All-American, West was named recipient of the first-ever Jerry Rice Award, symbolic of the country’s top FCS freshman. He was a unanimous selection for the CAA Rookie of the Year and most recently was named the Eastern College

6-3, 212-pound signal caller from Old Mill High School. “It sounded very intense.”

Enders had to play his way into his new team’s confidence. By opening game, he was the man. He didn’t disappoint his new mates. He finished the season by throwing for 2,081 yards and 16 touchdowns. He scored another five TD’s, ala Tim Tebow, on his legs.

“This was something that I hadn’t experienced before,” he says. “I’d never seen motivation from a team like they had but it was easy to understand, considering their past, where they wanted to go and what they had to do to get there.”

Co-captain Jordan Dangerfield, a first team All-CAA and second team All-American safety who has led the Tigers in tackles each of the last two seasons (189 total), represents an influx of Division I and BCS transfers who contributed to the turnaround.



“[Coach] told us right at the start that every little thing you do counts, like going to class, sitting up front, maintaining grades, not missing breakfast.” –Frank Beltre

record to the group whose pre-season poll picked the Tigers to finish last in the 11-team race.

“When we went to the CAA media day last July I knew the kind of team we had, and I told the reporters there that we were ready to win,” Beltre says. “I couldn’t imagine any other Division I team, whether they were FCS or BCS, had worked harder than us. I feel the entire program—everyone involved with it from the staff to players to Mike Waddell—had a hand in our success.”

Another player who listened intently to Ambrose’s message was freshman running back Terrance West.

West, a local product out of Northwestern High School, attended

Athletic Conference’s Offensive Player of the Year.

Rising junior quarterback Grant Enders was another new face who added more punch in 2011 as Towson’s juggernaut offense averaged 34.8 points (13th nationally) and 431 total yards (17th nationally) per game.

Enders, who attended Holy Cross and Lackawanna Junior College before enrolling at Towson, didn’t arrive on the scene until August when summer camp opened. But it was immediately apparent to him that he was stepping into an all-business environment.

“The older guys were telling me how hard everyone had been working and the schedule they had kept,” says the

Dangerfield transferred from Hofstra after the Pride discontinued football several years ago.

“I initially chose Hofstra because I wanted to be part of a program that was building,” the hard-hitting defensive back from Royal Palm Beach, Fla. says. “When they shut down the program I saw Towson as the perfect fit for me. Those of us who have transferred in from other programs have brought a certain level of experience and maturity. We’ve blended well with the guys who have been here. We’re all on the same page and no one is being left behind.”

Among the numerous achievements for the Tigers, who were noted as



Award Winners



Head Coach Rob Ambrose '93

- Eddie Robinson Award as the National NCAA FCS Coach of the Year
- American Football Coaches Association Regional Coach of the Year
- 2011 CAA Coach of the Year



Freshman Running Back Terrance West

- A Walter Camp, Associated Press and Sports Network All-American
- First-ever recipient of the Jerry Rice Award, symbolic of the country's top FCS freshman
- CAA Rookie of the Year (unanimous choice)
- Eastern College Athletic Conference's Offensive Player of the Year

the most improved team in NCAA Division I football in 2011, was a record attendance of 62,645 this season, an average of just under 9,000 per game.

Director of Athletics Mike Waddell senses an upswing for the entire program while acknowledging the contribution football is making.

"Our fall sports season as a whole was a wonderful way to launch the 2011-12 academic year led off by our women's soccer win over Loyola," Waddell says. "With three teams making the postseason (football, volleyball, field hockey) the campus was alive with Tiger Spirit. What our football student-athletes, coaches and support staff did to take that excitement to even greater heights has set the stage for what we know will be a great future. Our charge is for everyone to expect success and with

that a positive mental attitude that will guide Towson University to uncharted territory in terms of athletics and academics."

Season tickets for next football season are currently on sale. Will Tiger Football fans be treated to the same excitement?

"Anything less than making a long run in the playoffs next season will be a disappointment," says Enders.

The Tigers return nine starters on offense, nine on defense and everyone on special teams. Pile on the 21 backups who will be joined by a hungry group of redshirts and whatever transfers arrive, and a ticket to a Towson football game just might be the best ticket in town. ■

Pete Schlehr '71 was TU director of athletic media relations before his retirement last June.



Junior Quarterback
Grant Enders

Freshman Runningback
Terrance West

Senior Defensive End
Frank Beltre



Flowers from well-wishers surrounded Maravene Loeschke '69/'71 during her first few days on the job as TU's new president.

Before SHE WAS TOWSON'S President

1960



Performs in Glen Players productions *A Man's a Man* and *Silent Images: An Evening of Mime*

'67

Awarded contract with fellow student, Dwight Schultz '69, to star in local television production

'68

Performs in Glen Players productions *Camille*, *Oedipus at Colonus*, *The Crown in the Heart*, and *Tobias and Sarah*

'69



- Receives Bachelor of Science in education and theatre from Towson State College
- Performs in Glen Players production *Christopher Columbus*

1970

'70

- Appointed instructor at Towson State College
- Directs Towson State College production *Look Back in Anger*

LOESCHKE

In the Lead

By Ginny Cook

Expect Maravene Loeschke '69/'71 to be passionate, firm, practical, organized, dedicated to students, and more, in her new role as TU's president.



Maravene Loeschke '69/'71 shoved a baseball cap way down on her head and strolled the campus one day last fall.

"I came incognito," she says. "I wanted to look around and talk with students."

Loeschke had applied for the presidency at Towson University, so the theatre major and former actor was doing what she always did for any part—researching the role and getting a feeling for the scene.

Loeschke had been intimately connected with Towson, having spent 32 years as a student, instructor, department chair and dean. But that was a decade ago, and with apologies to James Agee and Thomas Wolfe, she wasn't sure she could go home again even if she got the job.

She remembered a university where students received individual attention

from a demanding but dedicated faculty. Now the school had expanded to 22,000 students and added programs and massive new buildings—including the College of Liberal Arts and the West Village student-housing complex—a suite of huge buildings that Loeschke dubs the "Olympic Village."

What she found when walking around and talking to people, though, was that despite its new construction and population growth, Towson's small-school feel was intact. "The students I met told me that," she notes. "I found I could go home after 10 years because what I received as a student and what I value—that individual attention and a faculty who care—had not changed."

And so Loeschke returned to Towson Jan. 1, becoming its 13th president.

So who is she?

Those who know her (but not each other) echo astoundingly similar sentiments about this Towson graduate— indefatigable, organized, unpretentious, tough, open, honest, student focused, great teacher, great listener.

Being there

What's easy to see is that Loeschke is wonderful at making connections.

Even before she formally arrived as president, she was out and about on campus—minus the baseball cap. At the Homecoming game in September, she made an appearance in the president's box, but soon walked over to the student section, cheering with them in the stands.

At half time she was on the sidelines, taking the band and the dance team into a huddle after their performances and thanking them for their time and talent. At the end of



'71

- Receives Master of Education from Towson State College
- Directs Towson State College productions *Toussant* and *The Mime Show*

'74

- Appointed assistant professor at Towson State College
- Performs in Towson State College production *Major Barbara*

'75

- Director of the High School Theatre Workshop



'76

- Directs Towson State College Mime Troupe in *Pablo Picasso: A Mime Interpretation*
- Directs *Feminist Theater One Acts*

'76

- Writes *A Mime Program for the Visually Handicapped*

1980

'82

- Performs in *Dear World* at the Maryland Arts Festival
- Writes *All About Mime: Understanding and Performing the Expressive Silence*



Loeschke's Ph.D. dissertation focused on how mime could improve self-confidence and physical expression in the visually handicapped. Here she is teaching a mime class at Towson in the 1980s.

the game, she did the same with the football team.

Once she officially took over the top post, Loeschke scheduled visits with each division and department so she could get to know people and their work and they could know her and her expectations. She made the rounds on campus and off, attending an SGA meeting, a faculty seminar, a diversity conference.

She was even spied playing the tambourine with the band at a women's basketball game, a performance that wasn't such a stretch. As president of Mansfield, she was dubbed a "persistent percussionist" because she kept the beat with the university's band at home sporting events.

Her personal charm belies a leader who means business. During her spring address to campus, Loeschke was greeted with thunderous applause when she said, "We are not going to grow without new growth money. That is a definite."

While she can be direct and tough on some issues, she also believes in shared governance, meaning faculty and staff can voice opinions, openly and honestly, without fear of reprisals if their views differ from hers. One of her first initiatives was an online survey which sought, in detail, what everyone in the university needs and wants, the problems they encounter and any solutions they may have.

The survey came with a caveat, however—don't simply ask for more

money. The state budget is bleak. "There will not be new funding from the state this year and probably not next year," Loeschke says. Instead, she wanted survey respondents to come up with creative problem-solving methods or ways to reallocate resources so Towson can move forward.

In return, she promises to listen, saying she and administrative staff "are reading every word," and will share the data and the rationale for any decision.

"It's her theatre training which enables her to focus on what's present, what is being presented," says Juanita Rockwell, TU professor of theatre arts.

Her skill at being in the moment is part of the reason she was such an impressive candidate for president. While being interviewed last August, the chandeliers began swinging and the hotel conference room was quivering. Loeschke was unnerved at being in the midst of an earthquake.

"She was calm in a sea of chaos," notes Gary Attman, a member of the USM Board of Regents. "She suggested we move outside and continue the interview under a tree."

Loeschke shrugs at the incident, noting that her Towson education and her theatre training, in particular that

"show must go on" mentality is, she says, "the foundation for anything I've ever done as an administrator."

In fact, back in August 2009, Loeschke noted the similarities of a good actor and a good leader in an article for the *Pennsylvania Borough News*, "Is Leadership Acting?"

Neither acting nor leadership is about "showing off, deception, trickery, special effects, manipulation or ego," she wrote. Acting is "transforming people's thinking and feelings by a performance so honest that the truth of the human spirit has been captured.

"Leadership is much the same. It is an honest reflection of the human condition. It is about service—service that produces positive change in one's work, family, community, country, the world and, most importantly, within one's self."

'A glorious life'

Loeschke grew up in the Baltimore County neighborhood of Parkville, a kid who "liked everything—reading, science, baton twirling."

At Parkville High, the acting bug bit. She got the lead of Emily in Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* and "after that," she explains, "there was no stopping me."

She enrolled at Towson in 1965 as an English and theatre major, part of a fledgling theatre department started by Dick Gillespie, the man she would later marry. "He is the love of my life," she says. Then dropping her

'83

Appointed associate professor at Towson State College

Becomes chairperson of Department of Theatre Arts at Towson State College

'85

Performs in *The Belle of Amherst*, a one-woman show, at the Maryland Arts Festival

Performs in *A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking* at the Maryland Arts Festival

Performs in *The Lion in Winter* at the Maryland Arts Festival

'86

Performs in *The Glass Menagerie* at the Maryland Arts Festival

'87

Performs in *Agnes of God* at the Maryland Arts Festival

'88



Writes *The Path Between*, a historical novel about the family of Emily Dickenson

'89

Performs in *The Belle of Amherst* at the Maryland Arts Festival

voice to an ominous tone, adds, “but I did not love him then.”

He insisted on personal and professional excellence. “He set the bar so high,” Loeschke recalls. “There were 25 theatre majors who spent our lives striving to meet his demands, to take artistic risks. He wasn’t making movie stars. He was making artists.”

As a member of The Glen Players, Towson’s theatre troupe at the time, Loeschke found herself surrounded,

The job also allowed her to act in the Maryland Arts Festival for 25 years, and direct and act in multiple local productions—*Driving Miss Daisy*, *The Lion in Winter* and *The Belle of Amherst*, which also spawned her first historical novel, a tale about the family of Emily Dickinson.

“I was able to stay active in theatre which made me a better teacher. It was a glorious life—teaching what I love, doing what I love,” she explains.

to write her a ticket for bumping along the Baltimore Beltway on a tire that was pancake-flat.

Her strictness and high expectations were always tempered with loyalty and dedication.

“One of the first scenes I did in Conservatory was a total mess,” recalls Kate Danley ’97, a playwright, author and actress in Los Angeles. “But rather than destroy my spirit by pointing out how awful everything

“I had never had a teacher see such a spark in me that she would give her free time so that I might see that spark, too. I am forever grateful.”

Kate Danley '97

and, she admits, intimidated by talented student actors who would go on to stage and screen fame—John Glover ’66, Dwight Schultz ’69, Howard Rollins.

“I was scared to death of them,” she says. “Yet there was never a doubt that I would go to New York City and do the whole starving actress role.”

But when she graduated Gillespie asked her to take a “temporary” teaching job in the theatre department. It would last for 32 years.

“I found out how teachers could affect lives,” Loeschke says simply.

All about students

Her passion left a lasting impression on students who attribute their success to her devotion, quiet authority and ability to nurture talent without destroying its spirit.

Loeschke taught a six-credit comprehensive acting course—Conservatory—with a no excuses policy—being late or missing a class merited an F.

Only once did she forgive a student for being late and that was because the student arrived with a policeman in tow, who explained the tardiness was his fault. He had stopped the student

was, Maravene quietly asked me and my partner to come to the theatre at 9 p.m.”

When they arrived, Loeschke had transformed the set, making the scene come alive and, in turn, “we came alive,” Danley points out.

“I had never had a teacher see such a spark in me that she would give her free time so that I might see that spark, too. I am forever grateful,” Danley adds. “She gave me some of the greatest advice I have ever received. I was there for her mother’s funeral. She was there to guide me

1990

'90

Appointed professor at Towson State University

Performs in *On Tidy Endings* at the Maryland Arts Festival

'91

Performs in *Driving Miss Daisy* at the Maryland Arts Festival

Directs Towson State University production *A Tribute to John Cage*

'92

Performs in *George Sand, the Lioness of Berry* at the Maryland Arts Festival and at the Baltimore Theatre Project

'93

Appointed member of graduate faculty at Towson State University

Performs in *Love Letters* at the Maryland Arts Festival



'94

Writes the play 5 which is produced at the Baltimore Theatre Project

Performs in *Two Rooms* at the Maryland Arts Festival



when I was going through my own tragedies. Though I don't get to talk to her as often as I would like, I carry her insight, wisdom and love with me every day."

Bruce Nelson '89, a professional actor living and working in the Baltimore-Washington area, remembers the Conservatory class as a place

theatre chair in 1983, to which she replied, "That's ridiculous. You are never going to listen to me." Their answer? "You are the only one who is organized."

"I marvel at Maravene's excellent organizational skills and her ability to get so many things accomplished in a day," says Rockwell, professor

for faculty on the tenure and promotion track was to say, 'We want you here, so let's help you figure out what you need to do' versus 'You figure it out'."

When Loeschke became provost at Wilkes University in 2002, her student focus was evident in the seven new academic programs she started.

"Loeschke has a way of connecting with just a look, a way of making you feel that you're the only person in the room, even if you're not, and genuinely cares about people."

John C. Cavanaugh • Chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

where "our green minds were to be blown regularly in an all-immersive and sensory-filled experience for the actor.

"Loeschke was easily my biggest fan from early on and, as is often the case with insecure talent, she recognized in me an ability and a great heart that only now (at 45) I am learning to appreciate and own," he adds.

Herding cats

Loeschke could not only nurture budding actors, she could also manage to keep chaotic and creative faculty in line, a talent akin to herding cats. The theatre faculty asked her to become

of theatre, who arrived on the TU campus just as the new MFA program in theatre was being launched.

As chair of theatre and later dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, Loeschke bridged the demands of higher education and the real world, Rockwell says. "If I or someone proposed something that worked but didn't quite fit the confines of the academic world, she would squeeze it through as long as it benefited students."

She was also a strong advocate for faculty unless what they wanted was at odds with student needs," Rockwell adds. For example, "Loeschke's idea

She championed faculty with tenure, promotion and merit evaluations, replaced and established new faculty lines and began excellence awards for part-time faculty. She also created a University Diversity Action Plan.

As president of Mansfield University beginning in 2006, she was faced with tough economic realities—the state cut funding by 50 percent. Almost immediately she put some low enrolled programs in moratorium and eliminated the football team, a move, she says, that drew some 7,000 emails to her inbox.

John C. Cavanaugh, chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of



Higher Education, says her decisions “were both courageous and necessary. When people were upset, though, she spent hours with them to listen and talk things through. That’s how a strong leader handles tough decisions—listening and understanding, explaining the data and being patient.”

About a year later, she was open to a proposal to establish a Sprint Football League—players can weigh no more than 172 pounds and the program doesn’t impact gender equity. Now Mansfield not only scores touchdowns—something it hadn’t done for some time—but has also won games and competed against, and beaten, the likes of Princeton.

Her tenure at Mansfield was marked by more than wielding the budget ax, however. She instituted transparent budget planning, increased campus diversity, enrollment and fundraising, and strengthened campus ties with the community.

Her leadership style made it work. “She has a way of connecting with just a look, a way of making you feel that you’re the only person in the room, even if you’re not, and genuinely cares about people,” says Cavanaugh. “She is totally dedicated to students and ensures that their intellectual curiosity is not only nurtured but stretched. She pushes faculty to in turn push students to new levels.”

Ralph H. Meyer, president of the Council of Trustees, Mansfield

University, agrees. “She is down to earth, practical and realistic. She wasn’t trying to impress with grand ideas, but recognized that her leadership style had to accommodate the Mansfield environment. At the same time, she was a strong leader, and insisted on performance and accountability throughout the Mansfield community.”

Always with an eye to student needs, Loeschke established a residence hall floor for commuter students to use if they needed to stay overnight or rest during the day. And she left the light on at her campus house, an invitation for students to stop by.

Meyer says, “Students would wander into her home, raid the freezer for ice cream, or just take from the candy dish, say good-bye, and leave.”

If Loeschke has a lament about her new job, it’s that the president’s house is not on campus. “That is a real sadness to me,” she says. “I like to have times when students can drop by. And the house is just far enough away to be difficult for me to make it to some of the campus events I may want to attend.”

But that one shortcoming won’t mar the passion or energy Loeschke emits

as she leads Towson into what she calls “a vibrant future.”

She’s already looking into salary compression, faculty lines, faculty load, development, and staff morale after years of no raises and furloughs. She was in Annapolis during the legislative session and is out raising friends in the continuing effort to raise money for Towson.

And Loeschke reports that planning money for the renovation of Smith Hall is in the budget this year and construction on the pedestrian walkway over Osler Drive will begin this summer.

Her inauguration is planned for Sept. 14, an event she describes as “a simple, elegant, respectful, joyous event, with minimal costs that will allow us all to celebrate Towson and its future.”

But in reality, Loeschke isn’t waiting for the fall to begin celebrating. “There isn’t a day that I can’t wait to get to work.” ■

Ginny Cook is the editor of Towson.

Find out 10 things you never knew about Towson’s new president. Visit www.towsonalumnimagazine.com.



Loeschke cheers with Towson students in the stands of Unitas Stadium when the Tiger football team faced Lehigh (and lost, just barely) in a post-season championship game.



'02

Appointed provost at Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

'06

Appointed president of Mansfield University, Mansfield, Pa.



'12

Becomes the 13th president of Towson University

Compiled by Felicity Knox '94, library associate to the Archives, for a display in Cook Library.

THE GYMNASTICS GURU

Dwight Normile '78/'81 M.Ed. longtime editor of *International Gymnast*, is a leading authority on the sport

BY JAN LUCAS

It was the cartoon that launched a 30-year career.

In 1982 Dwight Normile '78/'81 M.Ed. former Towson gymnast and head coach, mailed a simple line drawing to *International Gymnast*, a magazine he'd been reading since high school.

The editor liked it, adding that the magazine might be looking for a part-time paste-up artist. Normile, who was having a hard time finding a commercial art job, continued to press his case with weekly contributions of illustrations, photography and articles.

Then came the kind of break most aspiring magazine staffers only dream about.

"The publisher called," Normile says. "He was going to be on the East Coast and wanted to meet me."

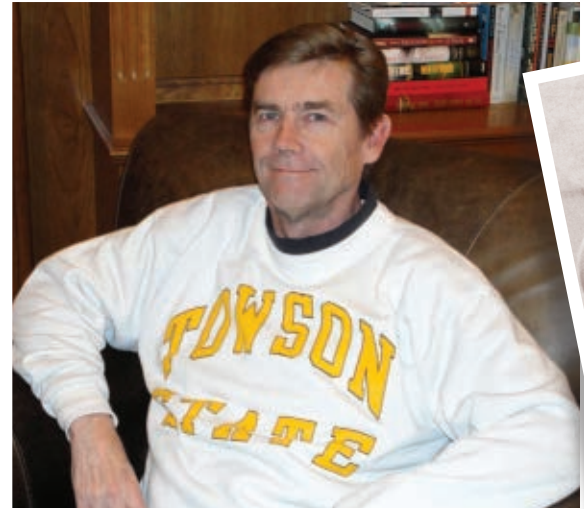
It was enough to make a gymnast feel positively buoyant.

Normile landed the job, which addressed all his interests: layout, writing, editing, illustrating, advertising and marketing. With his background in the fine arts and his knowledge of the sport, it was a role that suited him perfectly.

Looking back, it was hard to believe he'd been the boy who had to be dragged to his sister's (Candi Normile '71) high-school gymnastics meets at Dulaney High School in Timonium, Md.

"I was a typical fourth-grader," he says of his childhood. "I liked baseball and the things that interest most kids that age."

But gymnastics caught his eye.



(Photos clockwise from top) Dwight Normile with Olympic coach Bela Karolyi, Normile hanging on the rings in 1977 as a member of Towson's gymnastics team, and a recent portrait. (Opposite page) The magazine he edits.

"It was magical, like a circus," he recalls. "I was amazed that gymnasts could do flips under their own power. I decided I wanted to be one too."

Normile honed his skills throughout high school, watching—and occasionally practicing with—Towson's Division II team. With his sights set on the Olympics, he enrolled at Southern Connecticut State University and trained under a former Olympic coach. But he stayed for only a year. "By then," he says, "I realized I'd never be an Olympian, and my parents couldn't really afford the out-of-state tuition."

His aspirations may have been diminished, but his love for the sport wasn't. Normile transferred to Towson and competed on the university's varsity team, where he qualified for the Division II NCAA championships from 1976 to 1978.

"We were a family," he says of his former teammates. "Gymnastics was our lifeblood."

Shortly before graduating he became head coach of the Towson men's team, a position he held for four years. During his final season he took on the head coaching duties for the women's program and completed a Master of Education degree.

Joining *International Gymnast's* staff the following year involved not only a dramatic career change, but also a move

to the magazine's Santa Monica, Calif., headquarters. "I had to pack up and leave my home town," says Normile. "That part was very sad."

It turned out to be only the first of the moves Normile would make. When *International Gymnast* relocated to San Diego four years later, he followed suit. In 1995 Paul Ziert, former University of Oklahoma gymnastics coach, and Bart Conner, Ziert's protégé and a 1984 Olympic champion, bought the magazine. Normile, now married to former Dulaney teammate Pam Dawson, headed to Norman, Okla., with their children, Hayley and Ian.

As editor/art director, Normile ranks third on *International Gymnast's* masthead, below Ziert, the publisher, Conner, the associate publisher, Glenn Sundby, publisher emeritus, and ahead of contributing editor Nadia Comaneci, the Romanian-born

As a freelancer for TBS, he assisted a young Hannah Storm at the 1990 Goodwill Games in Seattle. He also was a press liaison for the Los Angeles as well as the Seoul Olympic organizing committees.

Last year he accepted a post as adjunct instructor at the University of Oklahoma's Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, where he oversees the magazine practicum.

Normile's assignments have taken him to every continent except Africa and—not surprisingly—Antarctica.

Since 1982 he has interviewed nearly every Olympic champion and every Olympic coach, including Mary Lou Retton, Olga Korbut and Bela Karolyi. As exciting as it is to meet the sport's stars, he insists on maintaining a professional distance. "You can't be a fan and remain objective," he emphasizes.

"The lines have blurred between professional and amateur

SINCE 1982 NORMILE HAS INTERVIEWED NEARLY EVERY OLYMPIC CHAMPION AND EVERY OLYMPIC COACH, INCLUDING MARY LOU RETTON, OLGA KOR BUT AND BELA KAROLYI.



Olympic champion (and Conner's wife). The staff includes writers, photographers and contributors, but Normile

shoulders the responsibility of producing 10 fat, full-color issues per year for readers in more than 70 countries.

"Ten issues is a lot for a niche publication," he says, noting that his workday begins at 7 a.m. and involves just about every aspect of producing a magazine except printing it. But despite the demands of his job, Normile revels in the opportunities it provides to stay involved with a sport he loves.

"*International Gymnast* has been around since 1956; it's the premier publication of its kind," he says. "We have our finger on the pulse of the sport, and I like to think that we've maintained a high level of professionalism. We've definitely earned the respect of gymnasts, coaches and fans around the world."

Normile's expertise has long been sought by a variety of news organizations, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Houston Chronicle* and National Public Radio. In addition, he served as a contributing writer for *The Official NBC Olympic TV Viewer's Guide*, as a freelance reporter for *Sports Illustrated Olympic Daily*, and an adviser to ESPN announcer Chris Marlowe during four successive NCAA Championships.

journalists," he adds. "Some bloggers are getting journalist accreditation at major events, and I'm not entirely comfortable with that."

Like many other print publications, *International Gymnast* has adapted to the explosion of online information by trying new things. "Our readers hold onto their magazines for years, so we've changed our editorial direction to non-time sensitive material," Normile says. "On the other hand, our website is the place to go for live coverage and competition scores.

"Some of the stuff people post online is questionable or untrue," he adds. "But readers can trust the information they find on our site."

With the 2012 Olympics approaching, Normile is bringing his expertise to bear on the latest crop of potential medalists. "As the world champion, Jordyn Wieber is the current It Girl," he says, adding that we'll see more of her in the buildup to the summer games in London.

On the men's side, Normile advises fans to keep an eye on Japan's Kohei Uchimura.

With his almost total immersion in gymnastics, does Normile ever find himself longing to leap onto a pommel horse or try a few spins on the parallel bars? "No," he says with a chuckle. "These days I stay active by playing church-league softball." ■

Jan Lucas is an associate director in University Relations



from the

alumni president



Dear Friends:

It gives me particular pleasure to welcome back one of our most accomplished graduates, Maravene Loeschke '69/'71, as our 13th president. She brings to the campus institutional knowledge, effective leadership skills and a dedication to students, diversity issues and community outreach.

I know she will have a profound impact on Towson's future. Her enthusiasm will continue the momentum that has made TU a powerhouse, delivering a high quality and affordable college education, and a driving economic engine of our city, state and region.

My tenure as president of the Alumni Association ends this spring, and before I hand the reigns to a great friend, Lance Johnson '93, I want to thank several Tigers for their dedication and for making my job so much fun.

I salute Provost Marcia Welsh for her leadership as Towson's interim president, Coach Rob Ambrose '93 for an unbelievable season of Tiger football, the great Tiger fans and the development team for raising more than \$50 million during the Capital Campaign. And to Lori Armstrong and her staff, I extend my heartfelt appreciation for making my job easy. Finally, I thank you, my fellow alumni who have made my time so enjoyable.

The fun continues this spring. Meet me at Unitas Stadium for lacrosse and look for a special surprise at the new entrance on Towsontown Boulevard.

Lou Dollinger '74
President
Towson University Alumni Association

Support Tiger Lacrosse

Visit the Alumni Hospitality Area before home games this spring

The hospitality area offers light fare and a cash bar before each home lacrosse game. We'll be in the Auburn Pavilion behind the historic Auburn House on Auburn Drive for an hour and a half prior to game time. We close one half hour after the game begins so we can go into the stadium and cheer for the Tigers.

- Saturday, March 24** 6 p.m.–8 p.m.
TU vs. Delaware Gametime, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 14** 6 p.m.–8 p.m.
TU vs. Penn State Gametime, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 21** 6 p.m.–8 p.m.
TU vs. Drexel Gametime, 7:30 p.m.



The Nominations, Please

Suggest faculty, staff and alumni for the Volunteer Recognition Awards

The Towson University Alumni Association is seeking nominations for its annual Volunteer Recognition Awards. Please take a minute to nominate an outstanding alumna/us, faculty or staff member. The Alumni Association Community Relations and Outreach Committee will review the nominations at a summer meeting. A banquet honoring our outstanding volunteers will be held in the fall. The award descriptions follow:

Spirit of the University Award—honors a TU graduate or non-graduate who has directly influenced and touched Towson University alumni, students and the university community. This is our most prestigious volunteer award.

Alumni Association Volunteer Service Award—honors an Alumni Association board member who provides special service to the Alumni Association.

Faculty and Staff Alumni Volunteer Service Award—honors one faculty and one staff member who works diligently toward the alumni effort and provides exemplary service to the university community in general.

University Alumni Volunteer Service Award—recognizes a graduate who volunteers time, talent or resources to the university and its community.

Athletic Alumni Volunteer Service Award—honors a person who has worked diligently toward the cultivation of alumni through athletic events, athletic programs, and/or the promotion and recognition of our athletic teams.

To fill out the nomination form for these awards, please go to www.tutigertracks.com or please send the names of those you wish to nominate, along with the reason why they deserve an award, to alumni@towson.edu or call 410-704-2234.



Remembering Honor Elizabeth Wainio '95



< Annual fundraiser commemorates the tragedy of 9/11 and Flight 93

Honor Elizabeth Wainio '95 perished on Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pa., on Sept. 11, 2001. Ever since the tragedy, family and friends have gathered to celebrate her life and raise money for a scholarship in her name begun 10 years ago by her employer, Discovery Communications, her family and friends. On Oct. 22, 2011, recipients of the Honor Elizabeth Wainio Communications Scholarship, the Wainio family, Esther Heymann '72, Ben Wainio, Sarah Wainio, and many others gathered at the Ropewalk Tavern in Federal Hill, raising more than \$20,000 to enhance the endowment. To contribute to the scholarship fund, please use the enclosed envelope or visit www.towson.edu/supporttu.

1 Lori Armstrong and Richard and Joanne '78 Vatz 2 Mark and Beverly Schwartz, Kathleen Weiss and Ben Wainio
 3 Linda McFaul, Michele Baldwin '95, Wendy Muher, Carrie Stricker and Evan Stricker 4 Grace '10 and Brian Toeneboehn

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Office of Alumni Relations is accepting applications for Alumni Association Scholarships. Applications must be received by May 1, 2012.

For more information, visit <http://www.towson.edu/alumni/awards/index.asp>.

Meet the President

The Hennemans host reception for TU President Maravene Loeschke '69/'71 >

On Thursday, January 19, Al '66 and Suzie Henneman opened their home to more than 120 Towson University donors and alumni so they could greet President Maravene Loeschke and welcome her home. The Hennemans were gracious hosts and the Alumni Association appreciates their hospitality and their commitment to Towson, which includes the use of 228 acres of their land in Baltimore County as a Field Station. The Monkton, Md., property is used by students and faculty in the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics to conduct research. Visit <http://www.towsonalumnimagazine.com/towson/2010summer#pg16> to learn more about the Field Station and the studies.



1 President Loeschke '69/'71, Donnice Brown '91 2 President Loeschke '69/'71, Sylvia Cohen '98, Ann Amernick and Chuck Cohen 3 Kay Broadwater '77, President Loeschke '69/'71 and Suzie Henneman 4 Kelly Krueger, President Loeschke '69/'71 and Collin Wojciechowski 5 Keith Ewancio '94/'07, Patrick Dieguez '07 and Audrey Schmidt 6 Pat Hargest '80, Janet Kines '80 and Sally Gold



Welcome Football Friends



< Alumni Hospitality Area rocked last season

The Alumni Hospitality Area was hopping during the 2011 football season. Open before home games, the area was packed with celebrating fans who enjoyed free food, sodas, a cash bar and discounted game tickets. Then it was off to the stadium to watch the Tigers play some stellar games during a super season that ended with Towson as the CAA champs. Thanks to all who visited us and supported Tiger football.

1 Lou Dollenger '74, Nancy Baumgartner '77 and Kevin Furnary '78 2 Peyton Stickle, Kevin O'Shanick and Mike Stickle '94 3 Glenn Smith '91 and Chris A'hern '94 4 Tim Twiss '88, Michael Preston '87 and his children Allie and MJ

Top Volunteers

The 2011 Alumni Volunteer Recognition Reception >

On Friday, October 28, 2011, the Towson University Alumni Association honored their most outstanding volunteers at the Volunteer Recognition Reception held in the West Village Complex. Recipients of the Alumni Association Scholarships and Grant program were also recognized as top achievers.



Peter Schlehr '71
Athletic Alumni Volunteer Service Award



Karen Schafer '68
University Alumni Volunteer Service Award



Jennifer Lindstrom '01
Alumni Association Volunteer Service Award



Al Henneman '66
Spirit of the University Award



Don Forester
Faculty Alumni Volunteer Service Award



Gloria Gaguski
Staff Alumni Volunteer Service Award



Scholarship and Grant Award recipients



Tapping In

< Annual TAP lunch previews higher education issues

More than 120 alumni, faculty and staff learned what's on tap in the state legislature this year and how it will affect Towson University and higher education. At a lunch in the Minnegan Room, President Maravene Loeschke '69/'71 highlighted TU's TAP (Towson Advocacy Program) and how it fosters communication with legislators. Then Gary Attman, University System of Maryland regent, David Nevins '76, former chair of the Board of Regents, Barbara Hoffman '60, principal at Artemis Group, and TAP chair Connie Kihm '95 provided insight on the inner workings in Annapolis as well as TU's and the system's legislative priorities.



1 Jennifer Gajewski, Jonathan Oleisky '92 and Bobbie Laur '04 2 Andre Cooper '87 and President Loeschke '69/'71
 3 Front row: Jim Gangawere '72, Jack Stark '94 and Dennis Caprio '80; Back row: Sharon Pitcher '74 and Dan Crowley '01
 4 James Hunnicutt '95 and Bonnie Lingelbach '89 5 David Nevins '76, Gary Attman, Barbara Hoffman '60, Maravene Loeschke '69/'71 and Connie Kihm '95

In the Capital

Annapolis-Area Alumni Reception >

The capital city of Maryland, home to the U.S. Naval Academy, has a history going back to 1696. In more recent times, Feb. 8, 2012 to be exact, TU President Maravene Loeschke was formally introduced to members of the Maryland General Assembly and Annapolis-area alumni and friends.



- 1 Eric and Diana '87 Steidl
- 2 Shannen Parker '09 and Stephen Lawson
- 3 Ken Gent '83, Steve Willett '79 and Lou Dollenger '74
- 4 Delegate Dereck Davis, TU President Maravene Loeschke '69/'71 and Delegate Talmadge Branch



from the

associate vice president

Dear Friends,

During my 11 years at Towson University, I have had the opportunity to meet thousands of students, alumni, parents and friends. Conversations with them have enabled me to learn the challenges many of our students face as they pursue their degrees; the support students have received from faculty, staff and donors; the successes they enjoy in their personal and professional lives; and the ideals and values they support through their philanthropy.

While challenges continue for current students and those who will follow them, the generosity and involvement of alumni and friends continues to play out in so many ways. If you haven't been back to campus in a while, please visit. Attend a lecture, enjoy a performance or an art exhibit, cheer for Towson at an athletic event or just walk our beautiful campus. Bring your family and friends.

If you are supporting one of the many programs, scholarships or projects on campus, we applaud you. If you haven't taken that step, we invite you to consider how you want to be involved. My colleagues and I look forward to hearing from you.

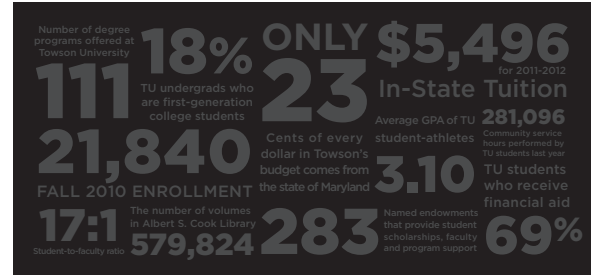
Donna Mayer

Donna Mayer
Associate Vice President
for Development

All About Numbers

WE'D LIKE TO GET YOUR NUMBER—
THE NUMBER RELATED TO TOWSON THAT
MEANS THE MOST TO YOU.

Maybe it's your graduation year, the digit on your sports jersey, the number of your dorm or classroom. Perhaps it's a count of your on-campus jobs or the date you earned your degree. Whatever your Towson magic number may be, let us know. We'll keep a tally so you can see the numbers of other alumni and how they connect to Towson.



Numbers we like

- 1,116,633** Dollars contributed to the Towson Fund during the last six months of 2011
- 11,278** Individual donors to the Towson Fund during fiscal year 2011
- 5,496** Cost of in-state tuition for 2011–2012
- 283** Named endowments that provide student scholarships, faculty and program support
- 111** Degree programs offered at TU
- 69** Percentage of TU students who receive financial aid
- 23** Cents out of every dollar in Towson's budget that comes from the state of Maryland
- 18** Percentage of TU undergrads who are first-generation students
- 3.10** Average GPA of TU student-athletes
- 1** Alumni, parents or friends it takes to make a difference in the lives of our students and faculty

Support the Annual Fund

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Each year, financial support through the Towson Fund helps the university increase student scholarships, upgrade technology across campus, as well as offer outstanding artistic performances and athletic events. Contributions, of any size, truly make a difference in allowing Towson University to provide top-notch resources to support our students, faculty and the community.

Support the Towson Fund by visiting www.towson.edu/supportTU. Be sure to click on the matching gift page to find out if you or your spouse works for a matching gift company; it is a great way to double or even triple your support for Towson.

T. Rowe Price Partners With College of Business and Economics

HIGH-TECH TRADING FLOOR COMING NEXT FALL

The College of Business and Economics has teamed up with the global investment firm T. Rowe Price to establish the T. Rowe Price Finance Laboratory. The state-of-the-art electronic finance lab allows students to research, value and price complex securities and investments in a simulated trading environment.

The Finance Lab will give CBE students hands-on experience in a mock trading lab—all in real time. Students will use the lab to analyze financial institutions, portfolios and market trends, and for coursework in financial modeling, equity analysis, fixed income analysis and risk management.

Funded in part by a \$250,000 grant from the T. Rowe Price Foundation, with additional support from current and former T. Rowe Price employees, alumni, faculty, staff, parents and friends, the Finance Lab will provide TU students with valuable experience and financial knowledge. As of Jan. 15, nearly \$600,000 of the \$750,000 fundraising goal has been raised.

“Providing hands-on educational experiences that help graduates prepare for the workforce is important to the foundation, the community and to T. Rowe Price,” says Ann Allston Boyce, president of the T. Rowe Price Foundation.



TU students will receive valuable experience from the lab which will help them when they go to work for finance companies. “The finance lab will help students better understand how the financial markets work and will help position Towson graduates ahead of their peers coming out of college,” notes Kenneth V. Moreland ’78, T. Rowe Price chief financial officer.

The T. Rowe Price Finance Laboratory will be housed in the College of Business and Economics, on the first floor of Stephens Hall. Construction begins this spring and is scheduled for completion in August, just in time for the beginning of the fall semester.

To learn more about supporting the Finance Lab, contact Tracey Ford at tford@towson.edu or call 410-704-3729.

Towsonopoly Tournament and Gala



Heather and Chuck Orlando

On Saturday, November 5, more than 150 friends, alumni and supporters gathered for the Second Annual Towsonopoly Tournament and Gala in the West Village Commons. Co-Chaired by Kenneth ’78 and Renee ’79 Moreland and Robert ’93 and Pamela ’92 Sharps, the event raised more than \$50,000 for the new T. Rowe Price Finance Laboratory. The evening featured dinner, a silent auction, casino games and the main attraction—the Towsonopoly Tournament. Charles Orlando ’82 proved to be the top tycoon and walked away with bragging rights and 100,000 Marriott Rewards Points.

Check out other photos of the event at www.towson.edu/eventphotos.

Estate Gift to Help Psychology Students

THE DR. EDWARD AND MRS. SHIRLEY NEULANDER ENDOWMENT

Edward Neulander taught psychology at Towson for 33 years. The campus, faculty and students were an important part of his life and the life of his wife, Shirley.

To honor the memory of her husband and the fondness they both had for the students and faculty at Towson, Mrs. Neulander planned an estate gift in 2000 that would establish a scholarship endowment in her name and that of her late husband. When she died in August 2010, her generosity ensured that her husband's love of teaching and learning would live on at Towson and touch the lives of future generations of psychology students.

In a testimonial encouraging others to consider legacy gifts, she noted, "My



Shirley Neulander

.....
 Shirley Neulander's generosity ensured that her husband's love of teaching and learning would live on at Towson and touch the lives of future generations of psychology students.

husband was born to teach. To this day his students stop me on the street to tell me how much they loved him as a teacher."

"This gift will benefit students in every generation," says Terry Cooney, dean, College of Liberal Arts. "Perhaps a first-generation student will be able to stay in college because of this gift; perhaps another student, with financial pressures eased, will devote sustained time to a research project. Still others may commit themselves to internships or community service.

"Ed was a devoted teacher and Shirley a warm and energetic friend of the college. This gift continues those relationships and keeps them participants in our enterprise of education and aspiration."

Introducing Founders GOLD

NEW GIVING PROGRAM TARGETS RECENT ALUMNI

Founders GOLD will be launched this spring to encourage students and graduates of the last decade to participate in the Founders Society, Towson's annual leadership giving program. Founders GOLD offers recent graduates opportunities to get involved through networking and learning while giving back to their alma mater. Members receive exclusive benefits such as invitations to university events with the opportunity to mingle with other alumni, students and university leadership, special season ticket rates for athletic events, a 20 percent discount at the University Store and much more.

.....
 Founders GOLD will be launched this spring to encourage students and graduates of the last decade to participate in the Founders Society.

Jenna Sieverts '09 is a Founders GOLD member who believes in the importance of giving back to the university at any level. "As a student I was the Homecoming Committee chair, a member of the Council of Student Leaders, LeaderShape and the SGA. Towson

extended to me an invitation to greatness. I knew many of these opportunities were made possible by donations to the university and promised myself I would always pay it forward. It is important that future Tigers receive the same benefits that were available to me. Becoming a member of Founders GOLD has allowed me to extend an invitation to greatness and impact students' lives—it is an honor and privilege and I invite you to join me."

For more information on Founders GOLD visit www.towson.edu/supportTU, email GOLD@towson.edu or call 1-866-301-3375.

Put Your Name Here

RENOVATED LOCKER ROOMS PROVIDE THE COMBINATION FOR NAMING RIGHTS

During the school year, athletes spend more time in their team's locker room than anywhere else. When Mike Waddell, director of athletics, arrived on campus and saw outdated facilities, he identified locker room upgrades as a priority for the Tigers.

During the summer of 2011, the men's and women's swimming and diving locker rooms received a face-lift. The upgrades included installation of top-of-the-line lockers, state-of-the-art floor drainage and lock boxes for swimmers to secure their valuables during practice and competitions.

Once the new locker rooms were completed, the Tiger Club launched a naming campaign to help support the program. The locker naming campaign provides former Tigers with the opportunity to have a nameplate displayed on a locker. "This campaign gives our alumni the chance to

leave a lasting legacy for current student-athletes to which they can aspire," says Pat Mead, swim coach.

Renovations have also been completed to the men's and women's lacrosse locker rooms in the Field House. "With the help of our outstanding lacrosse alumni and friends of the program, we now have a first class locker room facility," says Shawn Nadelon, men's lacrosse coach. "Our new locker room allows our players to have a comfortable area to prepare for practices and games as well as spend time together and bond as a team."

When the renovations to the locker rooms were completed, the campaign to name lockers began. Many former lacrosse players have come forward to sponsor lockers and show their commitment to Tiger lacrosse. In the future, the cross country/track and field, field hockey and football locker rooms are scheduled for upgrades.



The locker naming campaign provides former Tigers with the opportunity to have a nameplate displayed on a locker.

For more information on the locker campaign or to find out how you can support Tiger Athletics by sponsoring a locker, visit www.TheTigerClub.net or call 1-877-9-TOWSON.

Calling All Alumni

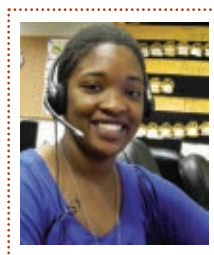
PHONATHON MAKES CONNECTIONS WHILE RAISING FUNDS

The annual phonathon has become a great way for alumni, parents and friends to connect with and get to know some of our outstanding students. Phonathon callers represent TU's many programs, departments, colleges and diverse student organizations. Our dedicated phonathon callers help raise much-needed funds that support scholarships, academic and athletic programs, student activities and university initiatives.

Last fall, our 33 phonathon callers logged more than 285 hours talking to more than 7,000 alumni, parents and friends. That is the equivalent of talking for more than 11 days straight!

We hope you have the opportunity to speak to one of our phonathon callers this spring. They enjoy the direct contact with alumni, parents and friends and keep you up-to-date on campus news and events. Phonathon callers will also be glad to update your information and to provide you with a convenient way to support TU.

Meet phonathon caller Olka Forster, a sociology and anthropology major and member of the class of 2013. A phonathon worker since fall 2009,



Olka Forster

she has talked to many TU alumni during the past three years. "My favorite part about phonathon is the people," Forster says. "I have met some of the best people at Towson University."

In addition to being a full-time student and busy phonathon caller, Forster also finds time for rock climbing, yoga and sky diving.

The Towson University Phonathon runs through the spring semester. Make your gift through a phonathon caller, visit www.towson.edu/supportTU or call 1-866-301-3375. Your gift will enhance opportunities for Towson students, now and in the future.

In Memoriam

Alumni

Julia R. Greason Shriver '45
July 12, 2010

David Early Patterson '01
September 10, 2010

Manuel L. Carvalho '77
January 23, 2011

Allen H. Bryant '57
April 16, 2011

Edith Garland Elliot '62
May 1, 2011

Lillian M. Gruel '62
May 1, 2011

Kathleen M. Young Siuta '64
June 11, 2011

Hilda Becker '45
July 12, 2011

G. J. Ross '07
August 13, 2011

Holly A. Nillels Rader '65
September 1, 2011

Charles A. Buckman '56
September 9, 2011

Alice E. Davis '77
September 11, 2011

Laurel M. Macgregor Dvorak '73
September 11, 2011

James Francis Hubbard '52
September 12, 2011

Robert R. Zimmerman '73
September 15, 2011

Penny J. Lantz '80
September 16, 2011

Steven James Linthicum '87
September 18, 2011

Loraine P. Bernstein '75
September 20, 2011

Catherine C. Palm Harmon '71
September 20, 2011

Anna Dayett Varela '36
September 21, 2011

Barr K. Harris '38
September 29, 2011

Gerald J. Smith '60
October 4, 2011

Deborah P. Souders '94
October 4, 2011

Isadore H. Miller '36
October 6, 2011

Mary E. Harmeyer Crisco '57
October 7, 2011

Louise C. Lochary '77
October 8, 2011

Lee L. Smith '52
October 14, 2011

Cora Heiple Teter '89
October 15, 2011

Harriet L. Cohn '77
October 16, 2011

Kathleen M. Kerns Hein '58
October 16, 2011

Charlotte Burns Hosier '48
October 19, 2011

Daniele Austerlitz '39
October 20, 2011

Nancy A. Flanigan '68
October 22, 2011

Michael W. Phoebus '73
October 24, 2011

Imogene Bane Johnston '81
October 26, 2011

Mary I. Deutsch '72
October 28, 2011

Phillip Andrew Pollard '90
October 29, 2011

Louise Coffman Roleau '47
November 1, 2011

Betty Bremker Roberts '59
November 4, 2011

Richard M. Kavalsky '70
November 5, 2011

Robert G. Younger '66
November 5, 2011

Jean A. Reardon Scarborough '65
November 7, 2011

Alnetia K. Ewing '33
November 11, 2011

Jacqueline Ringer McCosh '68
November 11, 2011

James P. O'Connor '42
November 12, 2011

William F. Susie '92
November 16, 2011

Alan Griffith Shaw '93
November 19, 2011

Jonathan Lee Bruce '10
November 21, 2011

William Charles Hancock '86
December 2, 2011

Michael Joseph McAvoy '83
December 2, 2011

Dorothy A. Farmer '34
December 3, 2011

Ruth E. Knox '34
December 3, 2011

Gloria R. Chester '74
December 9, 2011

Leo A. Schleicher '74
December 13, 2011

Margaret Eaton Lafferty '79
December 15, 2011

Holly E. Upperco '73
December 15, 2011

Michael J. Allen '01
December 19, 2011

Mary Jane Knipp Shank '64
December 19, 2011

Phyllis W. Sawyer '43
December 26, 2011

Mabel S. Braune '70
December 28, 2011

Raymond A. Benson '69
December 29, 2011

Mary E. Wellham '43
December 29, 2011

Sharon Coale Morningstar '67
December 31, 2011

Grafton M. Eliason '50
January 1, 2012

Julia Focas Krometis '45
January 1, 2012

Nancy Crist Llewelyn '52
January 2, 2012

Louise Webster Arnold '37
January 11, 2012

Mary Reindollar Schomann '41
January 13, 2012

Dorothy A. Schultz '37
January 16, 2012

Kenneth H. Masters '65
January 17, 2012

Raeanne Boone Martin '57
January 19, 2012

Maria C. Esteves '81
January 22, 2012

Shirley Chaney Johnson '68
January 24, 2012

Janet G. Albright '81
January 26, 2012

Mary-Ann Williams Starita '75
January 30, 2012

Margaret Allen Schwanebeck '31
February 2, 2012

Faculty & Staff

Gloria A. Holland
September 18, 2011

James A. Bell
November 11, 2011

Jeremiah J. German
November 21, 2011

David J. Cohen
December 2, 2011

Marian Louise Pace
January 1, 2012

Marilyn L. Dannenfelser
January 7, 2012

OPEN MEETING NOTIFICATION

Alumni Association Meeting

Tuesday,
April 24, 2012
6 p.m.

Administration Building
Room 424

Before 1960s

Wilda Stroh Streat '52 published *The Tale of Willet*, a story about a sandpiper—the mascot of Showell Elementary School in Worcester County, Md. She opened the school as principal in 1976, staying until her retirement in 1992. Each graduate of the school will receive a copy of the book. Streat has six daughters, 20 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Patsy Skirven Reihl '55 and Mona Evans Coberly '55 placed two donated bricks side-by-side at Auburn House, a gift symbolizing 60 years of friendship that began when they were roommates at what was then the State Teachers College. The women also taught together for two years in Montgomery County, Md. Reihl lives in Rock Hall, Md, and Coberly lives in Elkton, Fla.

1960s

Helen Shaffer Smith '65 was honored by the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association with the 2011 Pride Award for work with Alzheimer's patients and as a care giver for Home Instead Senior Care.

1970s

Darryl K. Myers '72 HIST was promoted to district manager—Appalachian District of the U.S. Postal Service. He married Elizabeth Cockey this year and also has a new granddaughter.

Christopher T. Harrison '74 published an autobiography, *From Championship Wrestler to Road Rage Defendant*, which includes two chapters detailing his undergraduate years as a student and wrestler at Towson. The book is available from I Universe Publishing Company in Indianapolis, Ind.

Dennis Lee Crehan '76, a minister at Jarvisburg Church of Christ in North Carolina, went on a mission trip to Central India Christian Mission in India in 2011 where he hosted a seminar.

Steve Murfin '77, executive director of FHSC and baseball coach at Blake High School in Silver Spring, Md., hosted 24 high school baseball players from Japan last summer through Sports United. Area businesses donated equipment and supplies to the Japanese players because they lost everything after the tsunami hit the country last March. Murfin also hosted a high school baseball team from Iraq in 2010.

Arnold Eppel '78 BUAD has been named the executive director of the Edward A. Myerberg Center in northwest Baltimore City, which provides more than 125 programs for senior citizens. A former director of the Baltimore County Department of Aging, Eppel is a member of the Johns Hopkins University Certificate on Aging Advisory Board and the Johns Hopkins Bayview Mental Health Advisory Council, and is treasurer of the Maryland Gerontological Association.

1980s

Mary Faith Gardiner-Ferretto '80 SOC launched a geriatric care management business in January 2008. A team of social workers and nurses provide eldercare coaching and assessments for seniors and their families or caregivers.

Janet Flora-Anderson '81, a former TU basketball player who averaged 22 points a game when she played for the Tigers, was inducted into the hall of fame at Loch Raven High School in Baltimore County.



Patsy Skirven Reihl '55 and Mona Evans Coberly '55 place bricks at the Auburn House, a gift symbolizing their 60 years of friendship that began when they were Towson roommates.

Send Us Your News

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

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

Katherina Cox '81 is employed by Taylor Technologies, the Sparks, Md.-based manufacturer of water testing supplies. Cox completed the requirements to become an ASQ-certified Quality Auditor, a professional recognition which indicates she has achieved a high level of proficiency in quality-auditing practices.

Michael Preston '81 CCMM, a former TU football player and now sportswriter at *The Sun*, was honored as the Maryland Sportswriter of the Year by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association.

John J. Lombardi '83, ordained a Catholic priest in 1988, self-published his first book on CD, *Finding Life's Balance: Reaching the 'Radical Middle' Between Extremes*. Lombardi has served in Baltimore, Randallstown, Cumberland and Frostburg, and from 2002 to 2009, he was chaplain at the Grotto of Lourdes, in Emmitsburg, Md. He is now administrator at St. Peter Catholic Church in Hancock and St. Patrick in Little Orleans.

Douglas Adams '84 GEOG is a senior project manager for Dewberry in Baltimore. He will focus on local and state government needs in geographic information systems. Adams has more than 25 years experience in the geospatial industry.

Sheldon Bair '84 MUSC will speak at the Malcolm Arnold Festival in Northampton, UK, in the fall. This year's festival will include performances of all nine symphonies of Arnold, whose's most famous work—music for the movie *Bridge on the River Kwai*—won an Oscar.

Anthony Brown '84/'95 M.S., president of The Dream 4 It foundation, which raises funds to provide youth with scholarships for higher education, hosted the fourth annual benefit concert at the Gordon Center for Performing Arts in Owings Mills, Md., and awarded more than \$3,500 in scholarships to four recipients.

Annette Robrecht Gill '85 BUAD writes that her daughter, Kelsey, is attending Towson, was accepted into the nursing program and joined the same sorority as her mother.

Wendy Chernak Hefter '85 BUAD celebrated her 30th year of self-employment in the office services industry. She and her husband, David, also announce the accomplishments of their four children—**Amy '12**, graduated *cum*



Head of the Class

Josh Parker '04

Maryland's 2012 Teacher of the Year didn't want to be a teacher.

Born and raised by educators in Prince George's County, Joshua Parker '04 steered himself away from a path of teaching. "I never wanted to follow the family business," he says. "I wanted to establish my individuality."

He did so at Towson University, where he studied sports communication and English, and devoted himself to numerous student organizations and extracurricular activities.

Parker was president of the Black Student Union, a writer for the *Towerlight*, a sports anchor for WMJF-TV, a representative for the University of Maryland Student Council, and even a two-time intramural basketball champion.

"My ability to interact, inspire and persuade—all skills I use in teaching—came from my experience at Towson University," says Parker.

Of course, his best memory was being introduced to his future wife, an experience Parker calls "meeting his future."

But after graduation, he worked as a sports producer for Fox 45 and soon realized he wasn't happy. "It was the same story every day. We just changed out the numbers," Parker explains. "I didn't feel I was contributing to society in a way that would improve it."

Seeking change—and extra income—Parker began substitute teaching at Loch Raven Middle School. And something clicked. "It was the ability to make connections with students that pulled me in."

When he was offered a full-time teaching position in Baltimore County, Parker knew his life would never be the same. "It was a landmark day," he says solemnly. Then he laughs and says, "And the first year was a disaster. I had no student teaching, no experience constructing a lesson. I was fresh off the boat."

He persevered and, over the course of six years, worked his way up the school system. Now chair of the English Department at Windsor Mill Middle School, his responsibilities are equal parts education and administration. It's a job that fits Parker, whose goal is "to be in a position to influence as many students as possible."

Last fall, he was honored with the 2012 Maryland Teacher of the Year Award, an experience he describes as "stunning, humbling and rewarding."

Parker lives in Randallstown, Md. with his wife, Tiffany, and their children, Laila and Josh. When he isn't in the classroom, he directs Work and Achieve, an all-boys literacy mentorship group.

—Emily Koch



Katherina Cox '81 is an ASQ-certified Quality Auditor at Taylor Technologies in Sparks, Md.

laude from TU in January and received the Ro and Marius P. Johnson Award and Art Department Photography Award; **Stephanie '11** works at the TU International Student & Scholar Office; Rebecca is active in high school volleyball and theater, and Daniel is president of his dorm at College Park.



Adam Scott Zarren '99 became a partner at the law firm of Saul Ewing in Baltimore.

Rhonda Pierce-Brooks '86 MCOM, vice president of human resources for the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives, an agency dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities, received a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University and earned two professional certifications.

Mark Buren '88 BUAD is director of AloStar Business Credit in Baltimore. He will focus on the lending needs of small- and medium-sized businesses in the Mid-Atlantic. He is a former vice president at Wells Fargo Capital Finance and has more than 20 years of business development experience.

Ann Scholl-Fiedler '88 MA became first vice president for career services at Stevenson University in February. She was recently director of the Career Services Center at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and has extensive experience in career development in colleges across the country.

1990s

Katy Bosserman '90/'95 M.Ed., a retired special educator with 20 years of teaching experience, has been advocating for students with disabilities in Maryland public schools since 2008. She assists families in navigating their way through the special education process via her business, Creative Learning Experiences.

Matthew Gagnon '91 was hired as director of risk management and internal controls assurance of ClearView Consulting in Baltimore.

John Lingenfelter '91 was appointed vice president of finance by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation in Owings Mills, Md.

Vasilisa C. Hamilton '92 M.S. is the new director of public information for the University of South Carolina College of Education. The author of two books, she also blogs. Visit www.papadidntpreach.com.



Cold Play

Susan Brown '95, Melanie Gormley '09, Tom Judd '96, Krystle Ongaco '05 and Adam Weaver take the Polar Bear Plunge

You might say some folks who work in TU's Event and Conference Services really like to chill out.

Susan Brown '95, Melanie Gormley '09, Tom Judd '96, Krystle Ongaco '05 and Adam Weaver jumped into the frigid waters of the Chesapeake Bay on Jan. 28. They joined an estimated 14,500 other crazies for the 16th Annual Polar Bear Plunge at Sandy Point State Park, an event that raises money and awareness for the Special Olympics of Maryland.

It was the first time this TU group, dressed in bathing suits and cold gear, hit the beach in winter to brave the icy currents. Temperatures in the 50s and bright sunshine made for "a beautiful sunny day ... for a wonderful cause," Brown says.

And any second thoughts about getting wet quickly disappeared. "As I was approaching the water I thought to myself, 'I'm crazy but this is awesome,'" Gormley recalls.

The excitement of the crowd was infectious. "Once I got down to the beach, my adrenalin took over and I was excited to get in the water with everyone else," says Judd. "I thought I would be racing out of the water to dry off; instead I went back in for a second dip!"

"It was a fun and amazing experience I will never forget," adds Ongaco.

Each of the folks from Event and Conference Services teamed up with a "chicken"—someone from their department who would stay warm and dry, but would also help raise the \$50 minimum to participate in the event.

Their boss, Jim McTygue, offered a free lunch to the team that raised the most money.

The prize went to Judd and Beth Walsh, who raised \$1,340. But McTygue was so impressed with the fundraising efforts of his workers—they donated \$3,800 to Special Olympics of Maryland—that he sprang for lunch for all five teams.

"The Polar Bear Plunge was a fun opportunity to bond with my co-workers while raising money for a great cause," says Weaver, who adds this tip. "Don't try to prepare for the plunge by taking a freezing cold shower the morning of ... it doesn't help."

"Would I do it again?" ponders Judd. "I'll let you know when I get the feeling back in my toes."

—Tom Judd '96

Caesar Rossilli '92 CCMM joined Redmer Insurance Group as a personal lines manager, where he oversees the sale of auto, home, umbrella, recreational vehicle and boat insurance policies.

Britta Vander Linden '96 THEA joined the communications team for Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino.

Jeffrey M. Lawson '98, a shareholder of Stoy, Malone & Company, P.C., has been appointed to the University of Baltimore Accounting Advisory Board. Lawson resides in Hampstead, Md., with his wife, Carla, and son, Evan, born May 7, 2010.

Ben Schmitt '98 was named Howard County Art Teacher of the Year for 2011 by the Howard County Public School System and Maryland Art Education Association. He has also been accepted twice (in 2009 and 2011) to take part in the summer programs of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Jason Contino '99 announced that the feature film he produced, *Lebanon, Pa.*, was featured on the Showtime television network.

Glenn Dorris '99 CCMM is the administrative and operations director of Baltimore Reads. Most recently, he was director of sales and administration for America Works of Maryland.

Adam Scott Zarren '99 PSYC became a partner at Saul Ewing in the law firm's Business and Finance Department and Corporate Group in Baltimore. Zarren was also named a Baltimore "Legal Elite" by *SmartCEO Magazine* in 2011.

Amanda Karfakis '99 BUAD, president and CEO of Vitamin, a boutique design-web-public relations firm, announced its selection by Central Scholarship for a rebranding initiative that will set the foundation for the organizations' 90th anniversary in 2014.

Sonia Shen Sanchez '99.'03 M.S. was promoted to assistant director, human resources information systems in the Office of Human Resources at Loyola University Maryland in November 2011. Sonia has been married to **David Sanchez '01** since 2002.

2000s

Patrick Herbert '95/'00 HLTH earned a Ph.D. in health behavior from Indiana University Bloomington. He is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Science at Towson University.

Dionne N. Curbeam '00 MCOM, director of instructional technology at Coppin State University, has been awarded the 2011 Blackboard Catalyst Award for Outstanding Staff Development.

Jennifer Joy Fox '00 is a photographer and photography teacher at Elkton High School in Elkton, Md. She was the featured artist in the "Portraits, Still-Lives and Landscapes" exhibit in the Cecil County Arts Council show in February.

Frank and Kathleen Maiorana '00 celebrated the birth of their daughter, Delaney Elizabeth, on June 14, 2011.

Heide C. Hostelley '01 BUAD works at Archbishop Spalding High School and lives in Severn, Md.

Yi M. Shrestha '02 BUAD, a senior staff accountant with Stoy, Malone & Company, earned a master's in taxation from the University of Baltimore. Shrestha joined the firm's tax and audit staff in January 2002. She lives in Nottingham, Md.

Drew Heflin '03 BFA made his Broadway debut with the cast of *Spider-Man Turn Off The Dark*. He is also assistant dance captain and has many other stage credits. He and his wife Karolina, also a dancer, reside in New York City.

Jason F. Grove '04, a manager in the audit, accounting and consulting department at Ellin & Tucker, Chartered, has been named treasurer of the Dyslexia Tutoring Program, which teaches low-income children and adults with dyslexia to read. Grove is also a member of Ellin & Tucker's Technical Standards Committee and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants.

Julie Stull '07 EMF and her husband, Ben, have been living in Hawaii for two years. She is now a successful working artist, painting on canvas and selling in galleries.

Tessa Walker '07 PSYC received a master's degree in human services administration from the University of Baltimore. She is president of CH Consulting, her own firm, which assists clients in navigating the Social Security Disability process. Walker is also a guest writer for *About.com*, and was a guest host of "The Coffee Klatch," a radio show that provides resources and educational information for special needs families.

Nick Wieroniey '07 joined Gross, Mendelsohn & Associates, P.A., as a senior accountant on the firm's audit and accounting team.

Lauren Gallagher Brady '08 BUAD graduated from Goldey-Beacom College in fall 2011 with an MBA in marketing management. She works for Comcast Spotlight in New Castle, Del.

Diane K. Cagle '08 ENGL completed eight weeks of basic training at the U.S. Navy's Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill.



Liz Milligan '10 joined the tax department at Gross, Mendelsohn & Associates, an accounting firm in Baltimore.

Take another look at Towson—online

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All free, with no software to download

www.towsonalumnimagazine.com

Danielle Sutphen '08 MCOM is an advertising media coordinator for Media Works Ltd., a full-service media communication company.

Kathleen Ager '09 EDEC, a first-grade teacher at Magnolia Elementary School in Prince George's County, Md., was recognized for her teaching excellence during American Education Week. Ager is also the chair of the first-grade level and part of the technology team.

Britany Barr '09 ART is an interactive designer for Planit of Baltimore.

Katie Waddell '09 and **Scott Vassalotti '09** were married on October 8, 2011, in Darnestown, Maryland.

Rebecca Golloub '10 is taking time off from working full-time to work in an orphanage in Nicaragua. She is working with Outreach360, a nonprofit organization which provides opportunities to orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children.

Liz Milligan '10 joined the tax department at Gross, Mendelsohn & Associates, P.A. and is also working on her master's degree.

Katie Keane '11 MCOM is an advertising media coordinator for Media Works Ltd., a full-service media communication company.

Mandy Arnold '01/'11 M.S., who launched a new company, Gavin Advertising, an advertising, marketing and public relations agency devoted to truth in branding and driving action, was named in the *Central Penn Business Journal's* "Forty under 40" in 2011. She was also recognized as a "Woman of Influence" by *Susquehanna Style Magazine* in December 2011.

Kara Fulginiti '11 will represent the state of Rhode Island for the festivities surrounding the 100th anniversary celebration of the National Cherry Blossom Festival from April 7-14, 2012 in Washington, D.C.



Batter Up Andy Markopoulos '83

Fish n' chips restaurant is a family affair

Fish n' chips have run in the Markopoulos family for three generations.

Now Andy Markopoulos '83 follows in his father's and grandfather's footsteps with Original Fish n' Chips, a restaurant that has thrived in the Middle River, Md., area for six years.

"We have a unique concept and want people to experience authentic fish and chips," Markopoulos says. (The fish and potatoes are served up English-style—coated in batter and deep fried.) "Many of our customers are regulars who know where to come for great food," he adds.

Markopoulos is no stranger to the restaurant business or to fish n' chips. His grandfather, a Greek immigrant, opened his first restaurant, Tony's Fish Lunch, in Erie, Pa., after coming to America in 1920. The restaurant was later passed down to Andy's father, who bought and sold numerous restaurants, eventually moving to Maryland and owning an Arthur Treacher's Fish and Chips franchise in Towson.

Markopoulos and his brother were fixtures in the chain as teenagers, helping the business grow.

By 1984, his father sold the business and retired. Andy, with a business degree in hand, went on to build a successful career in banking and finance.

"I love the financial industry, but I had a yearning to pick up where my family left off," Markopoulos explains. "I wanted to go back and rebuild the restaurant, which was once really popular here."

Now his plans include franchising the operation. "We want it to be how it is in England, where there's a fish and chips restaurant on every corner," he says.

Still a family-owned, family-run restaurant, his children, Nicole, a graphic designer, and Andrew, soon to be a Towson business student, help out at Original Fish n' Chips, just as their father did for his father.

Will either follow their father, grandfather and great grandfather in the restaurant business? Markopoulos says he's not sure, but knows that after 92 years the Markopoulos family still serves up the best fish n' chips in the area.

—Hannah Kaufman


Ten Things You Never Knew About Maravene Loeschke

1 In grade school/ as a kid, I wanted to be everything.

2 My first acting performance was enchanting because I discovered how much I love performing.

3 My worst summer job was selling dog licenses.

4 I don't have real fears but I do not like bugs or snakes. 

5 The hobby I gave up was singing. 

6 The word that best describes my golf game is terrible.

7 The book by my bedside is *Hemingway's Boat: Everything He Loved in Life, and Lost, 1934-1961*, by Paul Hendrickson.

8 I own an autographed picture of Marcel Marceau. 

9 I always read *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. 

10 I am never without my iPhone. 



Bridges Towson 2012

CONNECTING MATHEMATICS, MUSIC,
ART, ARCHITECTURE AND CULTURE



The Bridges Conference, the largest mathematics and art interdisciplinary conference in the world, will be held at Towson University July 25 -29. TU last hosted the Bridges Conference in 2002 and since then it has traveled to cities in North America and Europe, including Spain, Canada, Hungary and the Netherlands, and attracted participants from more than 30 countries.

The 2012 conference will feature papers, hands-on workshops, invited talks, an art exhibition, a math/art short movie festival, a theatre night, a music night, a mathematical poetry reading, a math/art excursion and a family day.

A mime-matics night features Tim and Tanya Chartier, both of whom have trained at Le Centre du Silence mime school, the Dell'Arte School of International Physical Theater and with the world-renowned mime artist Marcel Marceau.

Tim Chartier, a professor of mathematics at Davidson College in North Carolina, was recognized with a national teaching award from the Mathematical Association of America for communicating about math both in the classroom and through mime to the broader community.

Steve Abbott, a professor of mathematics at Middlebury College, is organizing a night of Experimental

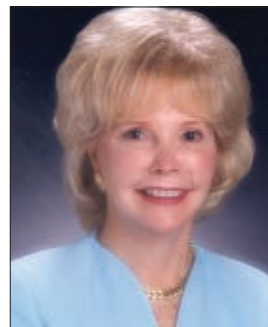
Theater to illustrate the intersection of mathematics and dramatic works. For the past eight years, Abbott has been collaborating with a colleague in the theater department on an evolving course, "Mathematics and Science as Art in Contemporary Theater." He writes about happenings in theater and mathematics, especially in *Math Horizons* where he is coeditor with fellow 2011 Bridges attendee Bruce Torrence. For the 2010 - 2011 academic year, Abbott is on sabbatical in Cambridge, England, studying the intersections between theater and mathematics.

The international annual conference of Bridges: Mathematical Connections in Art, Music, and Science was created in 1998 and is conducted annually. It has provided a remarkable model of how seemingly unrelated and even antipodal disciplines, such as mathematics and art, can be crossed. During the conference, mathematicians, scientists, artists, educators, musicians, writers, computer scientists, sculptures, dancers, weavers and model builders have come together in a lively and highly charged atmosphere of mutual exchange and encouragement. Important components of this conference series, apart from formal presentations, are gallery displays of visual art, working sessions with practitioners and artists who are crossing mathematics-arts boundaries, and musical or theatrical events. A lasting record of each Bridges Conference is its *Proceedings*—a resource book of papers and visual presentations of the meeting.

For more information including schedules and registration, and to watch an introductory video, visit <http://bridgesmathart.org/bridges-2012>.

Nancy Grasmick '61 named Presidential Scholar

STATE LEADER IN EDUCATION WILL
ADVANCE TEACHER PREPARATION AT TU



Nancy S. Grasmick '61, former superintendent of Maryland State Schools, has been named a Towson University Presidential Scholar for Innovation in Teacher and Leader Education.

"I am honored to join the talented individuals on this campus who have dedicated their efforts to making the education of our teachers and leaders a priority," says Grasmick.

"Education has been my life's work and I am delighted to continue to pursue goals that will enable all of our students to meet the demands of the 21st century."

Grasmick is charged with transforming the university's teacher preparation and early career support program into a national model, one that will produce effective educators with the knowledge and commitment to prepare students for success in a challenging industry.

To accomplish this, Grasmick will:

- Lead a team of teacher and leader educators from the university and region to develop and implement the university's national leadership in preparing teachers for the 21st century;
- Engage Towson's teacher education faculty to reflect that vision in the strategic redesign of current teacher education programs;

- Organize and convene a series of public forums involving national academic and policy leaders in education to examine such emerging topics as curriculum, academic assessment, performance evaluation, organizational and economic issues, charter schools, and non-traditional preparation programs;
- Work with the private sector to extend cutting-edge professional development opportunities for teachers and leaders that align with the national education agenda;
- Maintain a critical feedback loop with educators, parents, students and the community to ensure fidelity of the initiative and translate research practice to achieve best possible program effectiveness;
- Publish findings from these activities in an edited volume, *Teacher Preparation for the 21st Century*.

“Today is one of Towson University’s finest hours, as a national icon of excellence in education is coming home to her alma mater to guide and implement a powerful vision for preparing teachers and education leaders,” says TU President Maravene Loeschke ’69/’71.

“Dr. Grasmick’s work will tie together all three of the university’s top priorities: innovation in teacher education; STEM education for teacher preparation and for the workforce; and leadership development for students, faculty and staff.”

Grasmick began her career in education as a teacher of deaf children at the William S. Baer School in Baltimore. She later served as a classroom and resource teacher, then principal, supervisor, assistant superintendent, and associate superintendent in the Baltimore County Public Schools system.

In 1989, then-Governor William Donald Schaefer appointed her Special Secretary for Children, Youth and Families, and in 1991 the State Board of Education appointed her State Superintendent of Schools.

She received her doctorate from Johns Hopkins University, her master’s degree from Gallaudet University and her bachelor’s degree from Towson University.

See the video of Grasmick’s appointment at <http://youtu.be/DmchLnVimnc>

Towson University’s 147th Commencement

DANCE LEGEND JUDITH JAMISON RECEIVED AN HONORARY DEGREE OF HUMANE LETTERS; THEATRE PROFESSOR TOM CASCELLA HONORED WITH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Last winter, Towson University held its 147th Commencement, awarding 1,193 baccalaureate degrees, 346 master’s degrees and certificates, and three doctoral degrees. The event was held Jan. 8 at the Towson Center.

President Maravene Loeschke ’69/’71 honored Tom Cascella, professor of Theater Arts with the 2012 President’s Award for Distinguished Service to the University. His contributions during his 35-year tenure include developing courses, nurturing students and achieving success in technical theatre. Perhaps he is best known for coaching TU’s Dance Team, which brought home 13

consecutive national championships, a feat unmatched by any other team.

Dance legend Judith Jamison received an Honorary Degree of Humane Letters in recognition of her outstanding contributions to dance. Most known for her work with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Jamison was principal dancer and later became artistic director.

Her accomplishments include putting the company on solid fiscal footing and taking it to new artistic heights. Under her leadership, the dance troupe traveled the world, performing in Johannesburg, South Africa and St. Petersburg, Russia. They also danced at the inauguration festivities for President Clinton, and at the White House state dinner for Kenyon President Mwai Kibaki.

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

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

Read what Towson’s graduation speakers had to say to their fellow classmates, parents and friends.



Erin A. Crisp

When I joined the Towson community 18 months ago as a graduate assistant and student in the Educational Technology program, I certainly did not picture myself on this side of the podium on graduation day, so thank you for this honor.

A couple of years ago I was eating dinner with my family and a few friends. I was a middle school language arts teacher at the time, and I had been sharing with my friends about some of the difficulties I was having while teaching some very reluctant learners. My friend Paul looked across the dinner table with a look of confusion. Paul is from Kenya. At that time he had only been in the U.S. for two months. Paul was confused because in his village, school is a privilege. Students pay for uniforms, books and school fees and many children cannot attend school at all. He was confused by the lack of effort and motivation I was experiencing with my eighth-grade students. Why wouldn't they bring a pencil or paper to class if it was in their locker? Were they ill, or maybe someone was stealing their supplies?

After some explanation about some possible reasons for their lack of motivation, he shook his head sadly and stated, "They do not understand that 'I am because we are, and we are because I am.'" He went on to explain Desmond Tutu's teachings about our inter-dependence and connectedness. "When I succeed, it doesn't just affect me, it affects my whole village and community. When I make a poor choice, it is not just me who is affected, but my entire village and tribe," he shared. His village gave up eating meals to raise money to send him to the U.S. for his education.

Many of us have made sacrifices to complete our higher education experiences, but few of us can say that our entire tribe (family, friends, spouses, grandparents, neighbors) gave up meals to allow us an opportunity to study.

Imagine for a moment, that your success, the reason you are sitting in that seat today is only because of great sacrifice on the part of not just one or two or a handful of people, but that the only reason you experience success is because of the efforts of a large group of people who believe in you. If that large group were cheering you on constantly, reminding you of all you were

taught, would it change your level of motivation or engagement? Hold that thought.

A year and a half ago, I started working for the College of Education as a graduate assistant. I was helping faculty members integrate technology into their instruction and practice new technology skills. I overheard many of their conversations and meetings, and I had the opportunity to get to know some of them in a capacity that is normally not possible in an instructor/student relationship. It was through these outside-of-the-classroom interactions that I learned something that will change my future.

I learned that we are all much more inter-connected than we probably realize. My friend Paul is right.

These professors who are experts in their fields of study and whom we all admire for the commitment and dedication to our learning, they at times struggle to learn new things. These instructors who are prepared for every class, who provide their students with engaging learning opportunities, and who diligently plan rich learning experiences for their course participants, they are at times overwhelmed and frustrated by reports and due dates imposed upon them by their administrators. And administrators are under almost constant pressure from institutional, governmental and accreditation agency mandates.

I learned that these faculty members, staff members and administrators that I grew to know and befriend in my time here are passionate about their content, and they are committed to helping all of us succeed with excellence.

And, they are also human. They get discouraged, overwhelmed and frustrated at times just like you and I. Do you know what makes them continue to strive for excellence in education, why they stay? It's not prestige or position or power, and it's not the pay. It's us.

You and I and the hundreds who will come after us. They are because we are. When I hear faculty most excited and

motivated, they are sharing a story about a student who produced a fantastic project, or a pre-service teacher who taught an incredible lesson. When a classroom or Blackboard discussion shows depth of thought and engagement from all of us as students, it affects them. They are motivated to continue to learn and overcome difficulties when we are diligent and committed to our professions.

Vice versa, we are motivated and encouraged to continue when they are energized and excited about trying something new or engaging us as learners in a new way. And we all know that we couldn't possibly succeed in our professions without their excellent leadership and scholarship. We are because they are.

Not only have we affected them and they have affected us—past tense—but we all continue to affect one another in the future as well. We will stay connected. How? Let me illustrate briefly.

I have been hired as an instructional designer at Stevenson University and have started work there already. Incidentally, I was very well prepared for my new position by my Towson coursework. Let's just imagine, hypothetically, what happens if about three months into my work at Stevenson, I decide that it would be really easy to sit back, relax and do as little as possible to maintain my position. Right now, what is my identity at Stevenson? I'm that new instructional designer who just got her degree from Towson.

Contrast that with another designer, hired along with me who graduated from another institution. Her identity is "graduate of other institution" until she proves differently. What if she decides to not only do what is required, but to also provide innovative ideas for improving efficiency? What if she stays involved in local professional organizations and continues to learn more about our profession? Then, let's say it comes time to hire a new instructional designer. In the minds of our employer, which institution has a more positive reputation? If they have candidates

from both “other” and Towson, doesn’t the new Towson grad walk into the room with some sort of disadvantage, however subtle and subconscious? What I do, or fail to do right now, in my new career, impacts the futures of others.

So very tangibly, our actions after today will continue to affect the groups of students who will sit in these seats in the future.

We are all connected because we now share this common thread, our Towson education. Faculty, staff and administrators, your actions affect our futures. Fellow graduates, your success helps all of us and those who come after us. In this big web of life and learning, we are all connected.

Remember I asked you to hold a thought? The thought was the picture of a large group of people who contribute to your success. When you have some time tonight, after all of the graduation festivities are over, close your eyes and imagine that large group of people. Imagine the faces of every professor who worked diligently to teach you something, every mentor teacher who coached you, and every classmate who encouraged you, tutored you or helped with a group project. Include your family and friends, current employers and co-workers, and this is your tribe. They are connected to you and you are connected to them. So as you make decisions daily, remember that your tribe sacrifices for you, and that every action you take has the potential to impact the tribe.

Administrators, faculty and staff, we need you to remember the tremendous impact of your actions, not just on current groups of learners, but on us who are leaving here today as well. Thank you for your dedication to scholarship and learning.

And fellow graduates, when we are tempted to underperform in our professions or to show poor moral character, I, for one, hope to remember that “I am because we are.” Thank you for being a part of my tribe and congratulations to you all!



Caitlin Connor

Graduates, we are here today to celebrate our accomplishments. Over the past four years here at Towson University, we have learned so much. Some lessons we learned the hard way. For example, after spending hours at the library finishing a paper due the next morning and then promptly closing the window without saving, I very quickly learned to triple save my work in three strategic locations whenever working at the library.

Luckily, during my first semester of college, I also soon learned that going out every Thursday night before your Friday 8 a.m., believe it or not, can actually adversely affect your grades.

And, one that I personally just learned a few weeks ago when I accrued almost \$800 in fines, do not mess around with TU parking services. They will find you, and they will make you bankrupt.

Yes, as graduates, we have certainly accomplished a tremendous amount. The burning question now, however, is “What next?”

While some of us have our future plans already set in stone, others, including myself, stand here today with considerable uncertainty about what the “real world” has in store for us. Those of us with slightly more impractical majors might also stand here today aware that the road toward actually making money while doing what you love is going to be long and hard. I don’t know about you, fellow graduates, but at times thinking about life after college makes me want to dig my fingernails into the closest dining hall and refuse to let go of what they call “the best four years of our lives.”

But—whoever said that uncertainty was a bad thing? In fact, as I look back on my experiences thus far, I can only conclude that uncertainty is good. When I first entered college, I was uncertain about what degree I wanted to pursue—yes, I too was initially one of the many faceless “undecided” freshman. This uncertainty led me to take a wide variety of classes—acting, music, foreign language, and yes, a history course.

Now I stand before you today, a historian through-and-through, completely in love with my field and certain that it is my true passion in life.

So the way I see it, we can view our uncertainty one of two ways: We can be scared of uncertainty and fear our futures, or we can view our uncertainty as an opportunity, and decide that our future is going to be an adventure. Sure, uncertainty can cause anxiety, stagnation and frustration, but only if you let it. If viewed with optimism, uncertainty can push us out of our comfort zones, leading to new ideas, innovation and personal growth.

So the question, fellow graduates, that faces us today is which road you will choose to take in your years after Towson. Are you here today celebrating the last day of the best years of your life? Or are you celebrating the fact that the best years of your life are still yet to come? That decision is up to you. Congratulations graduates. Thank you.



Joan Wilhelm

Two months ago I was in the middle of my busiest semester yet—taking my last two classes for my degree; finishing up a four-month project at work; train-

ing for a half-marathon; and gearing up for the holiday season. To be honest, I wasn't even sure I was going to attend this ceremony because the last thing I needed was another entry on my to-do list.

Then I was asked to consider giving a speech. Preparing this speech forced me to take a step back from my hectic semester and reflect on my time at Towson, to realize that graduation is the final step of a significant accomplishment that shouldn't be taken for granted.

If you haven't done so already, mentally review your journey at Towson and the classes, assignments, professors, friends and choices that have brought you to this auditorium this afternoon. Today, do not be humble, but be proud in your achievement of this goal.

In choosing to study Computer Information Systems in undergrad at the College of Notre Dame, I knew that I would be in and out of school for the rest of my life. A few years after graduation, I made the decision to get my Master's degree. I chose Towson for its great reputation, its convenient location, and the Applied Information Technology program itself. I was excited to go to a large university. Notre Dame was a great fit for me as an undergrad, but coming from there, where my graduating class had less than 200 people in it, I felt a bit of a culture shock on Towson's campus. I loved my time at Towson and I'm so thankful for the experience.

The atmosphere of graduate school feels different from undergrad—you can tell that everyone is in the next stage of their lives. The program caters to working adults—most of the classes are offered on campus and online, and you can fit two in one evening. The professors can relate to work and other commitments and they understand when life gets in the way. I can honestly say that I had knowledgeable and fair teachers for every class I took. Getting a master's degree from Towson is more than a sheet of paper—it is the prepara-

tion to take your knowledge and career to the next level.

I want to close by telling you about my race last month. I consider myself a reluctant runner. I only recently picked it up and I wished I liked it more. I know it's good for me and at times it can be fun, but I find myself doing whatever I can to distract myself while running. I was at mile five and decided it was a good time to mentally work on this speech, when I passed a sign that has stuck with me these past few weeks. Spectators were lining the race course almost the entire way, standing along the road for hours, yelling words of encouragement to the racers. My favorite spectators were holding signs like, "If this was easy, everyone would do it!" or "Your feet hurt because you're kicking so much butt." The sign that spoke to me said, "Pain is temporary, but pride is forever." And with school on my mind, I realized how much a college degree is like a long race. It's not a sprint; you don't get a degree with two or three classes. You take many, starting off basic and getting progressively harder as you build year to year. Your homework and projects are your training. You may hit a wall in the middle of the degree and feel like you want to turn back or stop altogether, but you forge ahead in the direction of the finish line. Each milestone is welcomed. And you refuel at steady intervals with parties and summer breaks.

"Pain is temporary, but pride is forever." Please don't think I'm saying that college is painful, but I am calling out the fact that it isn't always a smooth ride. As you think back over your college journey, in addition to the fun memories, you may remember the pain of the tough times: the late nights spent with immense reading assignments or projects and papers that you didn't think you would finish. You pushed through and look where you are now. I wish I had a medal for each of you! Any pain from the journey was temporary. Your pride in your degree will be forever.

Congratulations graduates and thank you.



Emily Casey

My name is Emily Casey, and today I will be graduating from Towson University's nursing program. Wow—I've been waiting approximately 730 days to be able to say those words.

When I first received the invitation to give this speech today, I was enduring what was arguably the most difficult week of the semester. For my nursing colleagues, you may know the week I'm talking about; there were back-to-back exams, numerous projects coming to a completion, and our exit exam. Therefore, you can imagine that my initial reaction was something resembling a mild state of panic. But of course, I eventually regained my composure, and I could not be more honored to stand before you today.

Having a background in education, I believe in the power of teaching as a way to promote health. That philosophy, combined with my interest in the sciences, led me to the decision to return to school for nursing. For those of you who know nursing, and for those of you who know education, perhaps you know that the two professions go hand in hand. That is why my decision to pursue a second bachelor's degree in nursing came naturally after my several years of teaching. Well, somewhere in there might have been a few years of traveling, skiing and working at a coffee shop.

I was living in Whitefish, Montana at the time, with my husband and young baby, and had recently experienced some major life changes, including, unfortunately, losing a sister to a tragic act of domestic violence in 2007. This

event played a large role in propelling me towards nursing; I truly believe that her death has driven me to want to try to improve life for others.

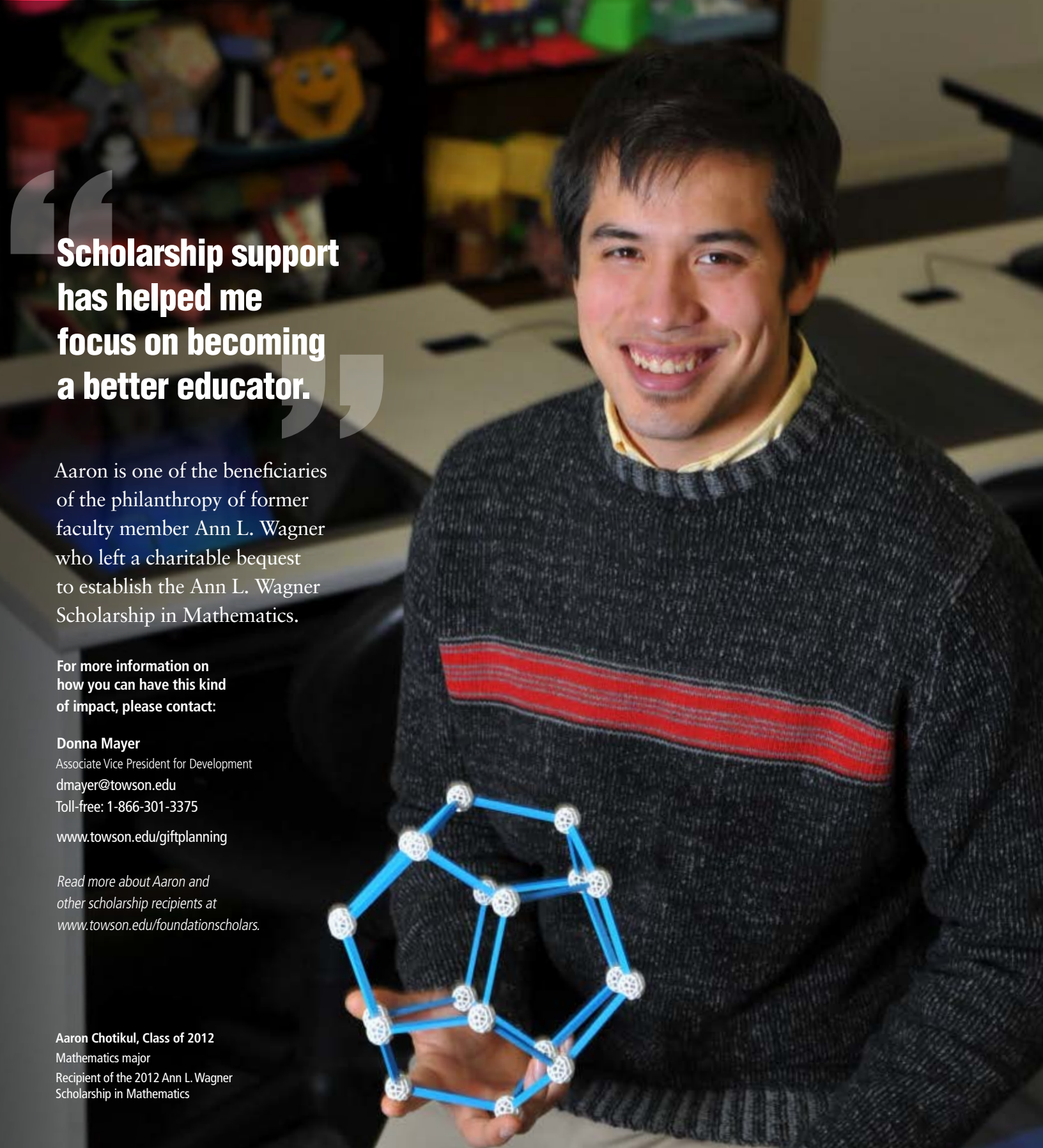
My young family relocated back to Baltimore to be closer to the rest of my nuclear family after this difficult event, and it was here that I began the nursing program just three months after having my second child. Saying that going back to school was more challenging the second time around is an understatement. However, I found myself more engaged and committed to my education than ever before. The program here was exciting, challenging and rigorous.

Throughout my time here at Towson, I found that I was often up to 10 years older than many of my colleagues. But it didn't matter. We were all united by our commitment to the profession and by our resolve to complete the program successfully so we could be one step closer to becoming registered nurses. Yes, despite our differences, we were unified by that common thread, even though at times we felt like we were only hanging on by a thread.

I would not be here today if not for the support of many people in my life. I'm sure many of you graduating today feel the same way. I would like to sincerely thank all of my professors and my adviser for your guidance, encouragement, and most of all, for your dedication to nursing education. To my friends and colleagues here at Towson University—we have finally made it, and I will always remember the relationships I have made with you. To my family and friends, especially my parents, sister, brother and husband Mike, for your unwavering support. You all should be equally as proud of yourselves for putting up with me the last two years as I am of myself for my achievements. And to my two sons, Calvin and Oliver, I am happy to report that you now have your mom back. Finally, I know that although my sister Jessica isn't here to witness this wonderful moment, she is smiling down on me right now.

Graduates, all of you here have a unique story, yet still share that common thread with the peers that surround you today. You have learned together, studied together, worked on group projects together, laughed together and I'm sure maybe even cried together. And now, today, you get to walk across that stage together—what an amazing accomplishment.

Thank you.



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Ward and West front lawn

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All Towson alumni are welcome to participate.

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