

TOWSON

UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE / WINTER 2013

Lessons in Black & White





48-Hour Seesaw

Kayvon Alizadeh (standing) and his fraternity brothers in Delta Sigma Phi had a lot of ups and downs last fall. They rode a seesaw outside TU's University Union to raise money for the Semi-Colon Club, an organization that promotes awareness about colon cancer.



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Eric Bittman '03, CEO/president of Warren London, is dog's best friend.

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A student and teacher prove love and scholarship are colorblind.

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President Maravene Loeschke was inaugurated as the university's thirteenth president last September; seven days of events preceded the formal ceremony.

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It took some 30 years, but Kevin Dunn '11, WWE executive vice president, finally smacked down a degree from Towson.

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TU Career Center connects students with the real world to prepare them for work.



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A Happy Feat
The Envelope, Please



“
Our new marketing
campaign, *Great
Expectations.
Realized*, focuses
on excellence and
student success.
”

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I look back at all that we were able to accomplish in the first year of my presidency at Towson, I am deeply thankful to be serving as the leader of such a healthy and vibrant institution.

In January 2012 I started my tenure with a listening tour, hearing challenges and opportunities directly from our faculty, staff, students, alumni, partners and the community. During those discussions, several common themes emerged and informed the nine institutional priorities of the new strategic plan, *TU2020: A Focused Vision*.

Together, the priorities comprise Towson's greatest opportunities to propel the institution to a new level of excellence. This year, I will ask alumni, friends and partners across the nation, and those closer to our campus borders, to help us advance Towson University through these priorities.

I will also be in Annapolis during the legislative session and will need your help in reminding our lawmakers of the numerous ways in which Towson leads the state to national prominence in student access and success. Towson was named to the *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* list of 100 best values and one of America's most efficiently run public universities by *U.S. News and World Report*. Additionally, a report from The Education Trust named Towson third among the nation's public institutions as a "Top Gainer in Black Student Graduation Rates," for eliminating the minority achievement gap in 2010. For the fourth time, *GI Jobs* magazine voted Towson a military-friendly school for embracing service members, veterans and spouses as students.

Our new marketing campaign, *Great Expectations. Realized*, focuses on excellence and student success, encapsulating what many Towson faculty, staff, students and alumni tell us about their Towson experience. Once here, they could not imagine themselves anywhere else. This statement speaks volumes about what Towson University offers the world and the excellence in how we deliver it.

I hope you will join me this year in sharing your pride and love for Towson University.

MARAVENE LOESCHKE, PRESIDENT

ECO BOX

Using this combination of papers saves the following:

WOOD USE: 8 TONS

NET ENERGY: 23,000,000 BTUs

GREENHOUSE GASES: 4,441 LBS CO₂

WASTEWATER: 24,083 GALLONS

SOLID WASTE: 1,612 POUNDS

Environmental impact estimates were made using the Environmental Defense Paper Calculator.

Both the cover and text pages of *Towson* are printed on forest-friendly Utopia Matte paper, using Eco-Pride inks.



TOWSON

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A Perfect Match

TU Match program places interns in top companies

Towson University's College of Business and Economics (CBE) is committed to enabling students to acquire real-world work experience. One way the college does this is through TU Match—a personalized program that helps businesses fill internships and full-time positions by pairing the right student with the right company. The premier service is offered to select companies that are looking for long-term partnerships with Towson.

"I work with area businesses to identify their needs in terms of interns or internship programs," says Lisa A. Michocki, CBE's director of professional experience. She then brings those opportunities back to campus.

Michocki teams up with the likes of T. Rowe Price, Inc., McCormick and Co., Inc., Wells Fargo and Bank of America, as well as federal and state agencies. Her goal is to "build relationships...so that our students are presented with the best opportunities possible."

Companies get access to the best qualified candidates to fill their positions.

Heritage Financial Consultants, LLC has been hiring TU business students as paid interns for the past five years.

"We have worked with other students in the Baltimore area," says Chief Operating Officer Janice Benenson, "and we find the Towson students to be among the best trained, most competent students with the best work ethic, by far." CBE students are well prepared, in part because they are required to take

a business cornerstone course, which arms them with professional skills such as giving presentations and working in teams. Students also complete a course concurrent with their internships in which they reflect on their work experiences in the classroom.

This level of preparation makes the TU Match program a win-win. Students gain an edge as they prepare to land their first job after graduation, and companies get access to the best qualified candidates to fill their positions—a perfect match. ■

NSF Funds Scholarships

A \$2.1 million NSF grant will train students in computer security

A \$2.1 million grant from the National Science Foundation Scholarship will provide scholarships for Towson University students pursuing studies in computer science with a concentration in computer security.

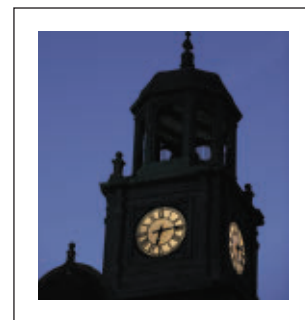
The program's goal is to develop qualified computer security professionals, who will join the state and federal work force and secure the national information infrastructure. Eligible scholarship recipients are college juniors and seniors with a GPA of 3.5 or better. They must also be U.S. citizens who are willing to undergo a government security clearance.



For a five-year period beginning in 2013, Towson's CyberCorps program will offer two-year scholarships for up to 30 students. Each recipient will receive full tuition, books, a stipend of \$20,000, an allowance of \$3,000 for travel to professional conferences, and \$1,200 in health insurance.

Towson University is a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education and among the first institutions to offer an undergraduate computer security track in its ABET-accredited computer science program. ■

TOP-RANKED



TU honored for efficiency, academics and affordability

- *U.S. News and World Report* named Towson University one of America's most efficiently run universities.
- Once again *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* placed Towson among the 100 best values in public colleges for 2013.
- A *Forbes* website feature called TU one of the 100 "Best Buy Colleges" in America
- *Forbes* also features Towson among the 650 institutions on its 2012 list of "America's Top Colleges."

TU ranks in the top five regional universities (north) on the *U.S. News and World Report* list of most efficient universities, which features schools successfully managing their financial resources relative to other schools that may have larger state funding, higher tuition or larger endowments.

In compiling its list, *Kiplinger's* analyzed more than 500 public schools for both academic caliber—including admissions and retention rates, student-faculty ratios, test scores of incoming freshmen and graduation rates—and for the total cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board.



Stephens Hall turned purple in honor of the Ravens' run to the Superbowl.

NOTEBOOK

Words Win

The Towson University Forensics Team is no mere sabre rattler.

Last October, TU's Kevin Whitley and Lenny Herrera soundly defeated the Rutgers team 4-1 to win the 44th Annual West Point Debate Tournament held at the United States Military Academy in New York.

The victory brought home the coveted West Point sabre, a traveling trophy established in 1967, making the two Towson students the first team composed entirely of people of color to win the award.

TU's Kevin Whitley and Lenny Herrera soundly defeated the Rutgers team 4-1.

Two TU teams actually made it the quarterfinals. In addition to Whitley and Herrera, Ameena Ruffin and Korey Johnson also advanced. But following standard procedure, the pairs opted to elect one team—Whitley and Herrera—to compete in the final round.

The Towson students also won several tournament speaker awards: Korey Johnson earned 10th

speaker, Kevin Whitley earned fifth speaker and Ameena Ruffin earned fourth speaker.

Space-suited

One must dress for success, especially in outer space.

Last fall, a dozen Anne Arundel County students experienced the feeling of zipping into the right wardrobe stuff—a Russian Sokol spacesuit—when TU's Hackerman Academy visited.

Suiting up was part of the Heinlein Prize Trust's "Have Spacesuit Will Travel" program.

Don Thomas, director of TU's Hackerman Academy and a former NASA astronaut, is a spokesperson for the trust, which "aims to develop the next generation of space enthusiasts."

Students also read *Have Spacesuit Will Travel*, a novel by Robert Heinlein, and try their hands at new spacesuit designs.



TurboVote

Before last November's presidential elections Towson University became the first and only school in Maryland to provide TurboVote, an online service that streamlines student voter registration.

"We chose to collaborate with TurboVote because it is the best 'one-stop shop' for voter registration and voter information services."

—Angela Hong '12
Interim Coordinator
of Civic Engagement

The free service helps students—regardless of home state or county—register to vote quickly and easily. TurboVote provides access to all required documents, absentee ballots and deadlines that apply to each voter, and even sends text and email reminders to vote on Election Day.

NUGGETS

Reaching Out

When it comes to giving back, you can always count on the students, faculty and staff of Towson University.

An organized drive collected much-needed food, supplies and funds for the American Red Cross for the northeast areas devastated by Hurricane Sandy. A free concert in Paws requested cash donations, which were also earmarked for the Red Cross.

Before the holidays, TU held its fifth annual Stuff-a Bus drive, the Police Department collected blankets for St. Vincent De Paul, Santa's Sandy Hands distributed toys, clothes and household items to displaced families, and the Minorities in Science/Technology Club donated fall and winter clothing to the AIRS Foundation of Baltimore.

Education Model

Towson University launched *Preparing for Public Education in the 21st Century*, a year-long learning session in changing national education initiatives for the faculty of the College of Education.

The PreK-12 instructional changes known as the Common Core State Standards Initiative will be phased in over the next two years and affect school systems in Maryland and throughout the United States.

Students majoring in education will have the knowledge and skills required to successfully teach the children of 21st-century classrooms.

Towson's teacher educators are participating in this professional development process to ensure that students majoring in education have the knowledge and skills required to successfully teach the children of 21st-century classrooms.

Nancy Grasmick, Towson's Presidential Scholar for Innovation in Teacher and Leader Education, in collaboration with

Raymond Lorion, dean of the College of Education, will spearhead the initiative.

Lines Dancing

When it comes to lines dancing, Phil Davis is a master.

The assistant professor of electronic media and film took some simple line drawings, added animation and music and produced an award-winning film.

Davis won an Osgood Award for Best Music Video at the 2012 Bradford Animation Festival, the United Kingdom's longest running animation festival.

Set to the tune, "The Living Things," by the Delaware indie group, The Spinto Band, Davis provides a three-minute romp of clever, dancing line-art that entertains and leaves feet tapping.

The jury for the award wrote: "We chose this film for its perfect synchronization, the unpredictable nature of its appealing characters and its simple but effective production values."

Watch the animated video on www.youtube.com/KsY2txEIX6g



SPORTS

Kick-Smart

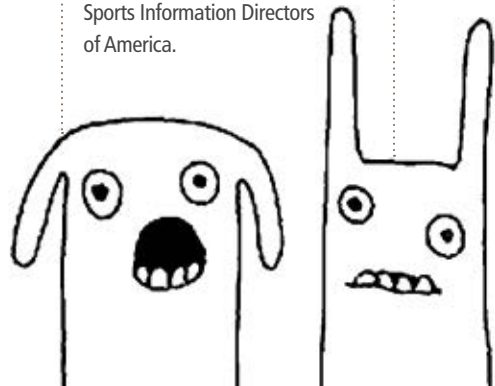
The TU men's soccer team earned a Team Academic Award from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America for the 2011-12 year for the third consecutive season with a cumulative grade point average of 3.29, eclipsing the 3.00 mark needed to receive the honor.

"This is a fantastic accomplishment for the entire team and our commitment to being student-athletes," says Towson head coach Frank Olszewski. "Our program takes great pride in fulfilling this responsibility."

Hitting It



Katy Buck, a junior and outside hitter on TU's volleyball team, makes the grade on the court and in the classroom. She is a first-team selection to the Capital One Academic All-America® Division I team, selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America.



A biology major with a 3.99 G.P.A., Buck is the fifth Tiger in school history to earn this academic honor. She was also named the Colonial Athletic Association Volleyball Scholar Athlete.

Football on 60 Minutes



60 Minutes covered the TU football team's match against nationally ranked LSU last September as part of the news magazine's report, "Has college football become a campus commodity?"

Head Coach Rob Ambrose '92, Director of Athletics Mike Waddell and several players were among those interviewed. The piece investigated the large amounts of money spent by national programs to build teams, recruit players, bolster university image, attract students and fans, and ultimately win games.

1
11
21
1211
111221

THE CHINESE NUMBER
PYRAMID PUZZLE

EXERCISE YOUR BRAIN

Find the pattern and complete the succeeding lines of the puzzle.

Introduced by a Chinese educator during a recent campus visit, the Chinese Number Puzzle is the subject of an article by TU professors Sonali Raje, Gail Kaplan and Michael Krach, published in the February 2013 issue of The Mathematics Teacher.

Submit answers with an explanation to rkrach@towson.edu. The first five correct answers will win a TU hat.

(Hint: The solution is not limited only to 1's and 2's.) No fair googling.

What's New



Academic Innovator

Jane Neapolitan, professor of education and interim associate provost for academic affairs, will lead Towson's new Office of Academic Innovation. Housed in Cook Library, the new unit began coordinating campus programs in faculty teaching and leadership in January.

"The Office of Academic Innovation will use a research-based approach and provide multidimensional support to sustain innovation and academic success," says Neapolitan, who has taught at Towson for 13 years.

The office will contribute to the newly created Center for Innovation and Excellence in Learning and Teaching, a University System of Maryland-wide effort to modernize education, expand course redesign and improve teaching models for the benefit of students.

Real-Time Trading

A high-tech trading floor opened last fall in the College of Business and Economics.

The T. Rowe Price Finance Laboratory, a state-of-the-art electronic room with data streamed from Bloomberg, lets students research, value and price complex securities in a simulated trading environment.

Funded in part by a \$250,000 grant from the T. Rowe Price Foundation, the lab provides hands-on experience in mock trading, and analysis of financial institutions, portfolios, risk management and market trends, all in real time.

The college celebrated the grand opening with a Sept. 6 ribbon-cutting ceremony. CBE Advisory Board members, university officials, T. Rowe Price executives and other friends attended.



The Science of Salt

Throwing salt on icy roads and pavements may prevent slips and slides, but it can also wound the environment.

The effects of salt on the ecosystem is just one project researchers will tackle in TU's new Urban Environmental Biogeochemistry Laboratory (UEBL).

A \$1.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation transformed a "poorly utilized storage space" into a modern laboratory in the basement of Smith Hall, said David Vanko, dean of the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics, at the September ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The pristine space supports multidisciplinary research conducted by faculty and students in the departments of biology, chemistry, and physics, astronomy and geosciences, and the environmental science program.

New Provost

Timothy Chandler, a sport historian who holds a Ph.D. from Stanford University, became provost and vice president for academic affairs in January. He comes from Kent State University, where he served as senior associate provost, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and dean of the College of Fine and Professional Arts.



At Kent State, he created a college diversity plan that increased faculty diversity by 5 percent, decentralized and enhanced student advising, and created entrepreneurial opportunities for arts students in the community.

Chandler has been a professor in the School of Exercise, Leisure and Sport at Kent State University since 2001. He also taught at Syracuse University. He is on the editorial board of *Sports History Review* and *International Sports Studies*.



Technology in the Finance Lab includes data streams and special keyboards.

PUPPY Love

BY JAN LUCAS



Eric Bittman with his Boston terriers.

Eric Bittman '03, CEO/president of Warren London, is dog's best friend.

Open the Warren London website, and you've entered pooch-grooming paradise.

The luxury spa line includes fragrant hydrating butters, a foaming facial, and all-natural colognes that keep Max and Molly from smelling like, well, themselves. There's even a nail polish pen—Pawdicure—that took first prize at last year's Barkleigh Honors.

Doggy divas, meet Eric Bittman.

It started with an itchy puppy. Sara Cuccio's Boston terrier, Maurice, had developed severe skin allergies that weren't responding to veterinary care. "He had really dry skin and paws," recalls Bittman of his girlfriend's pet. "It hurt to see him suffer."

In desperation, Bittman turned to Tony and Roby Cuccio—Sara's entrepreneurial parents—who'd amassed decades of experience with human skin-care and nail products through their companies, Cuccio Naturale and Star Nail International. He proposed formulating products



(Top) Bittman developed his luxury spa line to relieve his dog's dry skin. (Bottom) Painted nails a la Pawdicure.

to pamper, soothe and protect canines. “They loved the idea of being able to offer a luxury spa and grooming line for dogs,” Bittman recalls.

A native New Yorker, Bittman had long been an entrepreneur at heart, though he worked as an accountant for seven years before striking out on his own. “Launching a business was always something I wanted to do,” he says. Towson fueled his ambition, not only in the classroom, but through College of Business and Economics-sponsored talks by business owners and executives. His post-graduation plan called for working for a few years, accumulating experience and keeping an eye peeled for opportunities.

Tony Cuccio, who’d started his own business by peddling nail polish on the Venice, Calif., boardwalk, was unabashedly upbeat about the proposal. “He couldn’t stop talking about it,” Bittman says with a chuckle.

Fortune smiled: Maurice recovered, Bittman and Sara Cuccio got married, and he and his in-laws embarked (pardon the word) on an exciting e-commerce startup.

Over the next six years, Bittman and his father-in-law collaborated on a business plan and product line. He and the Cuccios determined that, aside from manufacturing the products, they wouldn’t pool their finances. Bittman plowed his savings into the venture, and his father, a retired lawyer, joined the team as an investor.

With the financial considerations ironed out, Bittman and the Cuccios researched and formulated all-natural products at the family’s 70,000 square-foot manufacturing facility in Valencia, Calif. Bittman says he walked through the Cuccio warehouse in search of items that could be adapted for a canine clientele.

After talking to cosmetic chemists and vets, he learned that products intended for humans aren’t necessarily good for pets’ fur, skin and nails. “A dog’s skin requires a more neutral pH of about 7, while our skin likes things a bit more acidic,” he explains.

The entire line—shampoo, conditioner, moisturizers, cleansers, cologne, nail polish and more, was tested on both dogs and humans to ensure its safety.

With the product line in place, the newly minted CEO/president needed a name. “I wanted something classy,” Bittman says. “I’ve always liked my middle name, Warren, so I added London to create “Warren London.” The name, in elegant antique script, appears on every container beneath the company logo—you guessed it—a dapper Boston terrier.

TOP Dog

A nail polish pen—
Pawdicure—took
first prize at last year's
Barkleigh Honors.



Bittman also developed the Warren London website and worked out the logistics of order-taking, fulfillment and shipping so necessary for a profitable e-business. He enlisted social media in his marketing strategy, creating a Facebook page (with a weekly contest), a Twitter account and a blog.

“We sell to dog owners, sitters, grooming schools, kennels—just about everybody,” Bittman says.

On the brick-and-mortar side, he located a warehouse in Rockland Co., N.Y., where he set up an office to oversee operations. The company employs two full-time staff as well as seasonal interns to lend a hand with packing and shipping. Sales representatives working on commission market Warren London products to select retail outlets and groomers in the United States and abroad.

Most of the orders ship from the New York warehouse.

Bittman says Warren London, launched in March 2011, is doing remarkably well in an economy still reeling from the Great Recession. Quality products, targeted marketing and customer service are crucial components of its success, but so too is the fact that owners enjoy indulging their pets, even when times are tough.

“Dogs are family,” he adds. “People want to make sure their pets are healthy and happy.”

The Warren London website offers a tantalizing array of innovative products, Bittman says. He points to Warren London's Hydrating Butter, which he says “keeps coats moisturized during the winter, and smells great too.” Deep Cleaning Paw Fizz Tablets are designed to be dropped into a bath or basin to clean, calm and fight fungus.



The all-natural colognes, available in four scents, have the staying power to ensure that human noses won't wrinkle when your pet ambles

into the room. “They're really more for the dog owners than the dogs,” Bittman confides. “Let's face it, some dogs are just kind of smelly.”

Warren London's biggest hit—the product that really flies off the shelves—is its line of Pawdicure polish pens. Similar to a felt-tip, the water-based product comes in five basic colors (plus white and black), as well as four neon and two metallic hues.

“Nail painting was a dying art until we created and patented this product,” Bittman explains. “Groomers used human nail polish, which not only took too long to dry, but could also be licked and ingested.” Pawdicure pens are non-toxic and the polish dries in 40 seconds, so they're safe and easy to apply.

The Warren London site offers a nail-painting instructional video as well as photos of canine nail art submitted by owners and groomers that feature Halloween-themed skulls and pumpkins, the Union Jack (for an English bulldog, perhaps?), hot-pink leopard spots, and stripes in multiple color combinations.

It didn't take long for the dog-grooming industry—which raked in an estimated \$4.11 billion last year—to applaud the innovation. In addition to the Barkleigh Honors, *Pet Product News* named it Best New Product of 2012.

Launching a startup hasn't been setback-free, though. Operations ground to a halt last October when Superstorm Sandy savaged New York and New Jersey, leaving both the company's warehouse and Bittman's house without electricity. “Our place wasn't damaged, fortunately, but it was dark and cold for a couple of weeks,” he says. He and Sara, an OB/GYN expecting their first child, decamped with their Boston terriers to his father's house not far away.

Still, it appears that even a 100-year storm can't dampen Eric Bittman's optimism. Two years after it launched, Warren London business is booming, with sales rising every month. “People will always spend money on their dogs,” he says. Then he smiles. “I can't even imagine how much I've dropped on them.” ■

Jan Lucas is associate director of publications.



Lessons in **Black & White**

A black student and a white teacher reveal their true colors.

BY GINNY COOK

PHOTOS COURTESY
OF THE JACK HADLEY
BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

Back in 1975, Andrea Giggetts '78 saw the world in black and white. Giggetts, who is black, had enrolled in a black history course at Towson, expecting a black professor to teach it.

"Imagine my surprise (or horror)," she recalls, "when in walks a white-haired Caucasian lady.

"What the hell?" she whispered.

Giggetts had come face-to-face with Perra S. Bell, a Towson history lecturer. But she'd actually arrived at the intersection of black and white, the place where one chooses unity or division. The path she chose would forever alter her life.

Perra Bell (left) and Andrea Giggetts last August.



“I simply could not understand having unjustifiable attitudes toward a whole group of people just because they had an ancestry from Africa.”

—PERRA S. BELL

NOT A FAIRY-TALE LIFE

Giggetts was at a personal crossroads back then—“worn, torn and mentally and physically exhausted,” she says.

She had cause. There was no “happily ever after” where she came from. Her mother didn’t bake cookies. Her father didn’t play catch. No idyllic childhood. No joy.

Her parents drank and fought, leaving their children with heart-breaking memories of alcoholism and violence and poverty and neglect.

“We had no food in the house,” Giggetts recalls. So, as the oldest of four, she was forced to become a thief to feed herself and her siblings. “I did what I had to do to survive,” she notes.

By her own admission, she became craftier with age, stealing food from local stores or using a restaurant where she worked as “my personal food pantry.”

But no amount of cunning could help her avoid an uncle and a stepfather who sexually abused her. By age 13, desperately seeking a father-figure, she

fell for a sadistic man nearly twice her age. He would turn out to be a serial killer, now imprisoned in Mississippi.

Even today, Giggetts marvels that she escaped his control. “I was lucky,” she explains. Her mother had remarried—again—and the family moved from Alabama to Maryland or, she says, “I could have been one of his victims.”

Despite her hardships or perhaps because of them, Giggetts found solace in books, school and teachers.

She read African-American history, “absorbing strength from the enslavement of my ancestors, who had endured brutalization and survived,” she says. School was a respite where she could leave her tormented home life temporarily behind.

The self-described “sharp student” had little self esteem, however. “I felt like a zero,” Giggetts recalls, until a high school history teacher cited her work on a book report, saying she had the potential to be a “Talented Tenth.” This was the term W.E.B. Du Bois used to spur higher-education

pursuits and leadership development among the best 10 percent of black Americans.

“She saw something in me,” Giggetts says. And it was enough to propel her into college at Towson, eventually landing in Bell’s class.

POOL OF PREJUDICE

Even as an adolescent, Perra S. Bell bristled at bigotry.

When her high school in East Orange, N.J., built a new swimming pool in the mid 1930s, African-American and white students were not allowed to swim at the same time.

Bell challenged this segregation policy—first alone, later with white friends—entering the pool when black students were scheduled to swim. (According to Giggetts, the school board closed the pool rather than allow the races to swim together.)

Yet Bell says, “I was never an activist. I simply could not understand having unjustifiable attitudes toward a whole group of people just because they had an ancestry from Africa. I was always sensitive to the situation.”

She was not only sensitive, she also was responsive, making race relations her course of study. After marrying and moving to Baltimore, Bell earned a master’s degree in history from Johns Hopkins University in 1958. Her thesis examined the anti-slavery opinion of John Quincy Adams.

Other facets of her life highlighted a desire to understand what it was like to be a person of color in the United States—living with fear, prejudice, educational and economic disparities and other hardships every day. She subscribed to African-American newspapers and began collecting books by African Americans or about black history.

At the same time, Bell embarked on a quiet revolution, canceling credit cards in department stores that refused services to African Americans or urging the mayor of Baltimore to appoint black police officers.

As a scholar, Bell examined the contributions and entrepreneurial spirit of black businessmen, inventors and scientists. In an article in the *Baltimore Bulletin of Education* 1968-69, she wrote, “Despite the barriers that

have everywhere been erected against them, blacks in the United States can claim the American ‘virtue’ of rising on the economic scale despite grave handicaps.”

But her real crusade against racism took place in the classroom. In the ’60s, Bell, a lecturer in Towson’s history department, convinced the chair to let her teach a course in African-American history. She stood in front of the class, a mammoth presence despite her diminutive stature, and used the power of information to change minds and break down the barriers of prejudice.

“Bigotry was rampant, pervasive and ridiculous,” Bell says. “I did my part to change attitudes toward African American history, because,”—and here her sweet, 93-year-old voice rises with

emphasis—“it is not African-American history. It is American history—it is O. U. R. story,” she says, spelling out ‘our.’ “It is a vital part of who we are.

“These people are our fellow citizens,” Bell emphasizes.

And while she recalls that, “Some students blanched at the sight of me. Many former students call or keep in touch. So I feel I made a contribution.”

TO THE RESCUE

For Andrea Giggetts, Bell’s influence was nothing short of miraculous.

She refers to her former teacher as a “ragpicker”—not in the traditional sense of a scavenger but as a rescuer of souls, spirits and emotions.

As Giggetts sat down in Bell’s class that day in 1975—overwhelmed by



Bell used the power of information to change minds and break down the barriers of prejudice.





(Top) The Jack Hadley Museum in Thomasville, Ga. (Bottom) Left to right; Andrea Giggetts, Perra Bell and Jack Hadley

her personal traumas as well as the sheer volume of reading assignments, projects, book reports and note-taking from Bell's rapid fire lectures—she quickly recognized Bell's love of black people and black history.

"I was transfixed by Professor Bell's passion for the black race, culture, women, heritage, struggles, institutions, leaders, history, injustices and omissions. Never in my life then, as well as now, have I met a white person who so passionately and sincerely gives a 'hoot' for black people as she does!"

But it wasn't until the end of the semester, after Giggetts missed the final exam, that her personal epiphany occurred.

"Professor Bell graciously allowed me to take the test at her home," says

Giggetts, whose plan was to get in, get out, then celebrate her freedom from the demanding professor.

But Bell "warmly welcomed me into her home, introduced me to her distinguished husband, Professor James F. Bell, and then began lecturing me about black history."

And then Bell took Giggetts into her study. The walls were lined with "thousands and thousands and thousands of black history books, artifacts, articles, magazines, posters, cards, memorabilia, pictures, post cards, tapes, recordings, movies, records...on, for and about blacks.

"I think that was the 'tipping point,' the moment I fell madly in love with her. This wonderful person was genuinely the embodiment of what she taught," Giggetts explains.

Thus began a relationship that not only helped Giggetts heal, but prosper. She would graduate from Towson and forge a career in education as a vice president of human resources at MPS group and eventually as an entrepreneur, founding Giggetts and Associates, a training and consulting firm in Jacksonville, Fla.

Along the way, Bell become more than Giggetts' history teacher. She was a sounding board and adviser regarding men, parenting, heartache, money, obesity—just about anything. In fact, Bell was more involved in Giggetts' life than her biological parents, prompting Giggetts to soon call her Mom Bell.

Bell downplays her role, however, saying, "Andrea gives me more credit

than I deserve. But she is like another daughter to me, much like my own, who is loyal and unselfish."

A HOME FOR THE BOOKS

Along with Bell's daughter, Jane Kiester, Giggetts admits to often "fretting about the permanent placement of Mom Bell's massive collection of books and memorabilia."

Last August 18, the worry was over.

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Bell's library was bestowed to the Jack Hadley Black History Museum in Thomasville, Ga., on her 93rd birthday. Bell is quick to point out, however, that "I won't part with a single book until I'm gone."

Giggetts discovered the place in 2011 because she requires her own daughter, Mantha, 12, to visit different museums each month. After Hadley gave them a personal tour, Giggetts recalls, "I had finally found someone who mirrored Mom Bell's passion, pride and possessiveness about their respective historical collections."

Bell had considered donating her collection to the Smithsonian and even to Towson, but the books would most likely be digitized and she favored having readers be able to see and touch them. Hadley traveled from Georgia to Florida where Bell lives in an apartment connected to her daughter's house. "He assured me that there are two universities nearby and that they would advertise nationwide," Bell says.

During the ceremony Giggetts said Bell's "collection will inspire and motivate thousands and thousands and thousands of the Andreas of the world—students, scholars, historians and visitors who are desirous and hungry to learn about achievements, contributions, and significances of black Americans...Sadly, it will also mean that I have lost my treasured 'mom'."

Yet Giggetts knows she is "blessed to have shared the warmth, the admiration and the love that started out as a professor-student and then quickly evolved into a mother-daughter relationship that has spanned decades." ■

Ginny Cook is the editor of Towson.

LEADING TOWSON

INTO THE FUTURE

President Maravene Loeschke was inaugurated as the university's thirteenth president last September; seven days of events preceded the formal ceremony.

Maravene Loeschke was officially installed as Towson University's president by the University System of Maryland Board of Regents Sept. 14 in the Towson Center. The formal ceremony, grounded in academic tradition, was also marked by a fusion of musical sounds, an array of cultures and a bounty of heartfelt remarks.

Yet the signature event was but one in a week of activities which celebrated Towson and the contributions of its students, faculty, staff, dignitaries and friends.

As Loeschke said at the beginning of her inauguration speech, "Ceremonies and rituals such as this are not about any single individual." Instead, they "... encapsulate the essence of a community."

Nowhere was that essence more visible than in the week preceding the inaugural ceremony.

The kickoff event was A.R. Gurney's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Love Letters*, starring Loeschke and her husband, C. Richard Gillespie. The couple has performed this play, which centers on two characters from second grade through marriage, divorce and middle age, many times.

Other highlights included the dedication of the International Walkway at Tiger Plaza; ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the Institute for Well-Being at Towson City Center and the Urban Environmental Biogeochemistry Laboratory in Smith Hall; a Japanese tea ceremony; Ailey II Dance Concert; art exhibits and a concert to honor the heroes of 9/11. Loeschke also tossed the coin before the Tigers went on to beat William & Mary 20-17 in the football team's home opener.

Loeschke is the university's first alumna president since 1947. A Baltimore native, she graduated from Towson with a Bachelor of Science



BY GINNY COOK
PHOTOS BY KANJI TAKENO



President Maravene Loeschke '69/71 is the university's first alumna president since 1947.



Members of the Platform Party—faculty, elected officials, representatives from the USM regents and Towson's Board of Visitors—surrounded Loeschke on the stage of the Towson Center during the inauguration ceremony.



PRESIDENT LOESCHKE'S
 FOCUS FOR TOWSON
 IS LEADERSHIP, EXCEL-
 LENCE AND STUDENT
 EXPERIENCE.

THE INAUGURATION
SPEECH EMPHASIZED
NINE PRIORITIES FROM
THE UNIVERSITY'S
STRATEGIC PLAN,
TU2016.

1.

Innovating teacher preparation and leadership, with plans to have TU recognized as one of the primary models of best practice in teacher preparation and school leadership in the country

2.

Expanding contributions to work force development in STEM (science technology, engineering and mathematics)

3.

Developing leadership skills in students, faculty and staff, and creating a minor in leadership

4.

Expanding internships and experiential learning opportunities

Love Letters, performed by President Loeschke and her husband C. Richard Gillespie, founder and former theatre chair, kicked off a week of inaugural events.



“

This is not my
inauguration; it is
our inauguration.

”

degree in theatre and English in 1969, a Master of Education degree in 1971 and later earned a doctorate from the Union Institute in Cincinnati. She became a theatre instructor in 1970 and spent three decades with Towson, rising through the ranks to become dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

Her professional acting career is extensive, and includes four one-woman shows with roles that include Emily Dickinson, Dianna Vreeland and George Sand. Loeschke has appeared in *Lion in Winter*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *The Dining Room* and *Glass Menagerie*, and wrote *5*, a play performed in Baltimore at the Theatre Project. She was also a regular on CRABS, a comedy series on Maryland Public Television, and is credited with several commercials and voice overs.

In 2002, Loeschke became provost of Wilkes University in Pennsylvania. Four years later, she stepped into the presidency of Mansfield University, where her top priority was the leadership development of

students, faculty and staff.

Since starting the presidency of Towson on January 1, 2012, Loeschke has already outlined several key themes for the university which focus on leadership, excellence and student experience.

Each of these strategic elements illustrates Loeschke's direction for Towson's future. She notes, "It is the mandate of higher education to produce educated, compassionate citizens who have the skills and courage to take action with head and heart to better the human condition." ■

Ginny Cook is editor of Towson.



◀ A Japanese tea ceremony taught guests about the simplicity and art behind this ancient tradition.

▼ A ceremonial snip opened the Urban Environmental Biogeochemistry Laboratory in Smith Hall.



Mame Puccetti raises the flag from Senegal during the dedication of Towson's International Walkway.

5.

Expanding the national and international reputation of the arts and communication

6.

Strengthening the university's commitment to diversity

7.

Educating the whole person—mind and body

8.

Restructuring the Division of Economic and Community Outreach to a Division of Innovative and Applied Research

9.

Student-athletes excelling in athletics and in the classroom





WRESTLING

WITH HIS STUDIES

BY PETE SCHLEHR '71

Kevin Dunn '11 quit school to help his dad. Thirty years later, the WWE executive vice president smacked down a Towson degree.



Earning a college degree takes effort and time. For Kevin Dunn the effort was extraordinary and the time just shy of three decades.

A few steps across a stage in May 2011 ended an odyssey, which began in the late '70s, for that elusive bachelor's degree from Towson University.

The Baltimore native was three weeks shy of finishing a computer course to complete his undergraduate work in business at Towson when the path to his future took a sharp turn. His dad, Dennis Dunn, had developed a brain tumor that required surgery. He was losing his sight. He needed his son.

"So I quit school to help my Dad," Kevin Dunn recalls. "You do what you've got to do for your family. I wound up moving to Connecticut. That was nearly 30 years ago."

The move was life-changing, eventually earning him fame and fortune as a prominent developer of World Wrestling Entertainment. Today WWE reaches 13 million viewers in the United States, while broadcasting shows in 30 languages to more than 145 countries.

That translates into more viewers of *Raw* and *Smackdown* than those who watch regular season NBA, NCAA

basketball, Major League Baseball and the National Hockey League.

As WWE's executive vice president for television production, Dunn, who oversees a staff of almost 200, has produced 29 *WrestleManias* and over 1,000 *Monday Night Raw's*, rated as the No. 1 cable show on TV.

"Kevin Dunn is synonymous with WWE Television," says Vince McMahon Jr., WWE's chairman and CEO. "His passion for the product, along with his sustained work ethic, has been key for the global growth of the WWE brand. He's also a pretty good live television producer in his spare time."

Dunn picked up some fundamentals from his father who was producing Baltimore Colts and Orioles broadcasts for radio and television in the early '70s. His father had also worked for the advertising agency W.B. Doner & Son and, in 1960, produced John F. Kennedy's television campaign.

In 1972 Vince McMahon Sr. wanted to expand the footprint of his professional wrestling business. "Vince needed someone who was legit and who had credibility," Dunn recalls. "My Dad fit the mold so he hired him for television production. Later, when things were picking up, Dad became ill. That's when Vince junior, the son, said to me, 'I need you to help out until your dad gets back.'"

Kevin's father never returned.



Dunn oversees a staff of almost 200 and produces *WrestleMania* and many *Monday* *Night Raws*.

Running tapes to television stations while serving as his father's gopher had given Dunn a glimpse of the business. But when he assumed his father's duties, it was downright scary.

"I was overwhelmed," says Dunn who grappled with the enormity of the task. "But I got through it somehow."

He rose through the ranks, from associate producer to producer to senior producer to executive producer to his current job at WWE.

"You don't think about going back to school," Dunn says. "You get married and start a family. You're growing a career." He continued to put his education on hold, despite wanting to get a diploma.

Then an opportunity to complete his degree surfaced. Mike Waddell, TU director of athletics, and Greg LaCour '82, the department's director of development for major gifts, put Dunn in touch with David Vanko, dean of The Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics.

Vanko suggested an introductory computer science course that could be taken online. "Mr. Dunn took the course, took the exams, passed with flying colors and was awarded a Towson degree," Vanko says. "He was very pleased that we were able to do that for him."

From the university's perspective Dunn's request to enroll in the course was reasonable.

"It was the right thing to do," Vanko explains. "I would like to think that we would do this for anyone who had to leave town 10 or 20 years ago, one course shy of a degree."

Dunn wanted to be a good example for his kids. Vanko says, "How could he tell them they need to go to college when he actually didn't finish?"

Earning a college degree is a measure of personal satisfaction and great pride for Dunn. Most of his television education, however, came from the school of hard knocks, other than the bits he gleaned from his father.

Early on, Dunn committed himself to the entertainment aspect at WWE events. A happy, energetic live audience is crucial to the show's success.

"We really care about our fans," Dunn says. "To have grown this far this fast globally—we're in China, we're in Australia, we're all over Europe—unless you care about the people you're entertaining, it doesn't work. Music, pyrotechnics, lighting—it's all important."

Dunn cites the pre-sale of the upcoming 2013 *WrestleMania* as evidence of WWE's fan appeal.

"*WrestleMania* is the Super Bowl of our business," he says. "It's the biggest event we do. In three days we sold over 50,000 tickets to the event, and no one knows who's wrestling yet. But they know we will deliver."

Tigers in WWE

One youngster who came of age in WWE is John Gaburick '89, an All-American center on the Tiger football team and a 2006 inductee into the university's Athletic Hall of Fame. Hired by Dunn 13 years ago, Gaburick produced and hosted the show "Tough Enough" on MTV, earning the moniker "Big." (He was featured in *Towson* magazine in 2003.)

"John is a great producer," says Dunn. "He learned it all on the job. He has the unfortunate burden of also being a friend of mine so everything is harder for him because he is a friend."

It's a close relationship. Each is godfather to one of the other's children.

Last spring Dunn invited two groups of Towson's Electronic Media and Film students to witness a WWE production firsthand.

"Being inside their TV truck while they were producing the show was something I'll never forget," TU student Matthew Richey wrote in a critique of his April visit. "I always thought that live sports production was the most challenging field of live TV, but some of the WWE employees have worked events like the Super Bowl, World Series and Oscars, and said that none of those compare to producing a WWE event."

"I never realized that the people who make wrestling worth watching are actually behind the camera. It's a real inspiration to know that the man calling all the shots in the control room (Kevin Dunn) started out at Towson University."

WWE also produces Tiger Football's "Gameday" segments shown on the video board in Uinitas Stadium. Dunn says it's a relationship that is growing and an example of his appreciation for the university's effort in helping him finally obtain the degree.

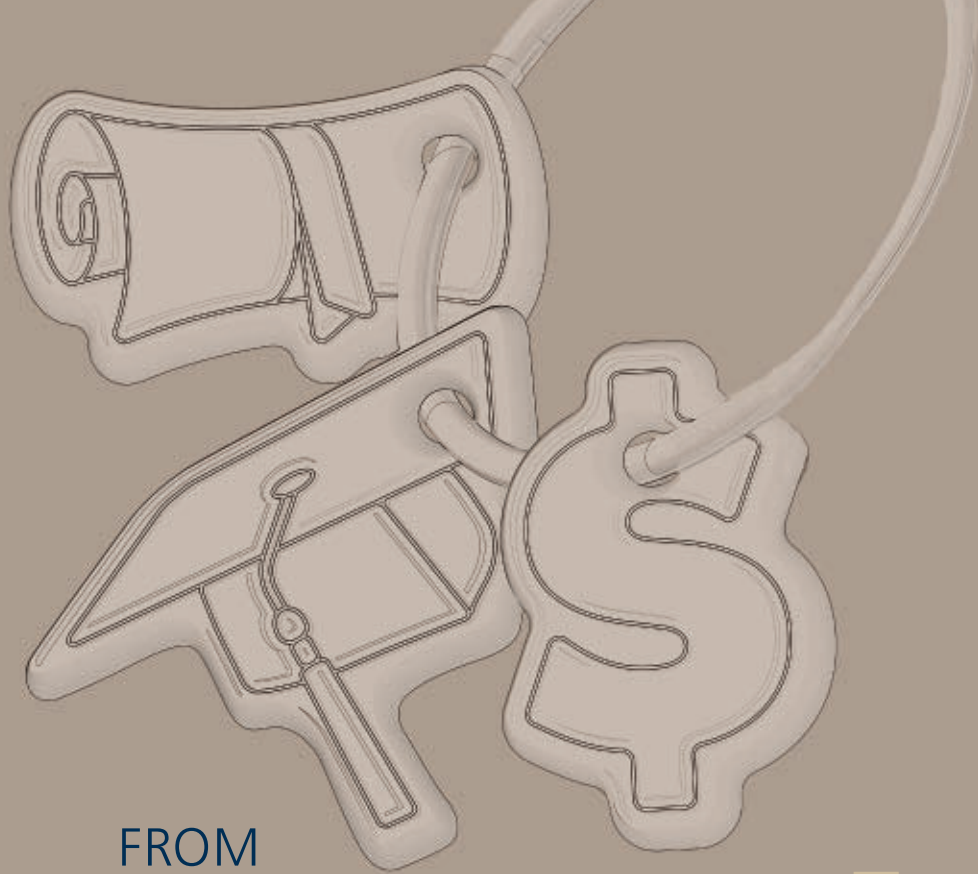
Graduation day was as big an event as Dunn had ever been associated with. Considering his career with World Wrestling Entertainment, that's huge.

"I still get emotional about it," Dunn says. "My kids told me they were proud of me. They were in the crowd that day, chanting my name. It was a great moment." ■

Pete Schlehr '71 was director of TU athletic media relations for more than 35 years.

Kevin Dunn (below left) with his son and John Gaburick '89 at a TU football game.





FROM

Learning TO Earning

BY WANDA HASKEL • PHOTOS BY KANJI TAKENO

TU Career Center connects students with the real world to prepare them for work.



(Above) On-campus job fairs link students with employers. (Center and right) Internships put Katrina Castro behind the camera and eventually into a job she wanted.

As an intern on the set of the sci-fi film *Incubator*, Katrina Castro '08 had to make a stationary RV look like it was in a police chase. So she and her fellow production assistant shook the vehicle with all their might during filming, using the kind of trick to get the shot that you only learn on a real set.

"It was kind of ridiculous," laughs Castro, "but we were making movie magic."

Shaking that RV is an apt metaphor for what pursuing a successful career can be like for college students these days. They must be creative, ready to shake, because notions of work may be different from reality.

That's why Castro, who majored in electronic media and film, grabbed every opportunity to get hands-on work experience while she was still a student at Towson. In addition to the *Incubator* job, she also interned at MsgWorx, a communications solutions company in Timonium, Md.

Castro was so competent on the set of *Incubator* that TU Associate Professor David Reiss, who produced and directed the film, hired her after graduation as a teaching assistant

at a TU summer camp for gifted and talented middle-schoolers.

With real-world classroom and film experience, plus the graphic design skills she honed at MsgWorx, Castro has returned to Towson again. But this time the 25-year-old is teaching a high-level visual effects course to EMF students who aren't much younger than she is.

Castro's success story hinges on her drive and talent, along with the top-quality education she got from teachers like Reiss. But a critical piece in the puzzle is the internships she secured while in school, which helped her develop and sharpen the skills she would need to go from student to teacher.

NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT

Castro knows what job hunters nationwide discover: it's a tough market out there, with stiff competition among applicants for precious few positions. These days, it's rare that good grades and nailing the interview are enough to get one chosen out of the sea of hopefuls.

What employers most often want is "relevant experience," says Lorie Logan-Bennett, director of Towson University's Career Center.

Helping students get work experience is a top priority for Towson.

In fact, finding internships for students is a key component of Towson's 2020 plan, which identifies



student experience, engagement and success as one of its five themes.

“One-third of our students complete an internship or off-campus learning experience,” says TU’s President Maravene Loeschke ’69/’71. “Our goal is to increase partnerships with businesses, government agencies and others to provide more internships for Towson students because this is one of the primary factors to successful employment after college.”

Besides helping students land the job, work experience also gives them a chance to develop professional networks in their fields.

Internships also help students evaluate their career paths. Being on the job helps them decide: “Is this truly what I thought it was going to be? Is this actually going to fit what I’m good at, what I like to do?” says Logan-Bennett.

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

While many of TU’s colleges have a tradition of on-the-job training—student teaching or scientific research, for example—Logan-Bennett is expanding relationships with nonprofits, for-

Mark Hammond ’12, an economics, music and business administration major, turned to the Career Center when he was pursuing an internship with Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

“The Career Center’s mock interview sessions are great,” says Hammond, who got practice and feedback before his interview. “Best of all,” he adds, “I received a full-time job offer at the end of my internship.”

Students find internships via various avenues—through their academic departments, their own research and connections, or directly through the Career Center; but the center acts as a clearinghouse, posting positions and forwarding selected jobs to particular departments.

To make postings accessible, the Career Center oversees Hire@TU, a free online database where employers can post opportunities and students can post resumes.

Hire@TU also lets students find career mentors, sign up for on-campus interviews and learn about career-related programs hosted by the Career Center. These include on-campus job and internship fairs, information ses-

enabling them to present a professional image to potential employers.

The Career Center’s revamped website includes helpful links directing searchers to internship opportunities beyond the postings available on Hire@TU.

EARLY AND OFTEN

When it comes to real-world experience, the Career Center’s motto is “early and often.” The more students can get their feet wet, the better prepared they will be after graduation.

Experience, however, can come via community service or campus activities—think PR student doing publicity and advertising for a student group or event. Jobs on campus and in the community can also offer experiential benefits—say an IT student working part-time at a help desk.

Much like internships, these jobs build students’ experiences, their resumes and their networks, Logan-Bennett explains.

The Career Center really wants to “allow students a breadth of opportunities and get them to see that there’s value in lots of different kinds of opportunities,” she adds

Like the real-world work experiences Katrina Castro obtained on her road to teaching. MsgWorx was a traditional internship, for which she earned academic credit, but *Incubator* was not. Both experiences were valuable in preparing Castro for where she is today.

“It’s essential to get some work experience,” says Castro, who believes that students cannot take for granted that a bachelor’s degree will

get them hired.

“We’re living in kind of scary times right now,” she says, but adds, that for those who pursue more knowledge and experience, “the opportunities are endless.” ■

Wanda Haskel is a writer in Timonium, Md.



Students select free business attire at the Career Center’s business suit drive last spring.

profit organizations and government agencies, “to really give students a broad choice and to introduce as many external folks as possible to the talent that’s here at Towson.”

At the Career Center’s offices in the 7800 York Rd. building, students find a career resources library and individual help with finding, preparing for and maximizing the benefits from internship experiences.

sions, and help with resume and cover letter writing. Students also receive tips on becoming a professional—how to dress, how to act, what to say—to leave a positive impression.

Last spring, the Career Center even initiated a business suit drive. Donations from TU alumni, faculty and staff, community members and corporate sponsors provided more than 250 students with free business suits,

The Way We Work

INTERNSHIPS TEACH STUDENTS WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE JOB

Michael Calabrese '12

Major: Accounting/Finance
Internship: McGladrey LLP



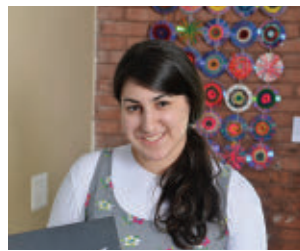
Alena Schwarz '13

Major: Journalism
Internship: USA Today



Aviva Rockwood '12

Major: Family Studies
Internship: Art with a Heart



Schuyler Millham '13

Major: Law and American Civilization
Internship: U.S. Congress



Even as a student Michael Calabrese had the knowledge and skills to do his parents' taxes. "I'm the accountant for my whole family," says the New Jersey native.

That's because he interned at the New York and Baltimore offices of McGladrey LLP, the fifth largest U.S. assurance, tax and consulting firm. "I was in charge of full tax returns, start to finish," says Calabrese. "I had the same duties as a first-year associate."

He also learned to manage clients' day-to-day business relationships, "something you really don't get in school," he says.

Calabrese's experience resulted in a full-time job at McGladrey's New York office soon after graduation.

Calabrese believes students should intern so they don't settle for any job. "You really have to see what it's like and if it's what you want," he says. "You have ideas and dreams, but until you get in there and do the actual work, you don't know."

Aspiring journalist Alena Schwarz is grateful for the experience she gets working at TU's student newspaper *The Towerlight*. But she knew that interning at *USA Today* would offer lessons she just couldn't get on campus.

"You can have an opinion on what the real world will be like, but you don't really know unless you're in it," says Schwarz. "Internships really give you that kind of real-world taste."

Her responsibilities at *USA Today* included organizing photography for a travel guide and working alongside writers, editors and photographers. "If I hadn't interned at *USA Today*," she says, "I would still live in a fantasy world."

Her internship also brought her in contact with many journalism professionals. "*USA Today* is a great networking place," she says. "Their internship department is still sending me emails to check up on how things are going."

Aviva Rockwood, a soft-spoken senior, found her voice during an internship at Art with a Heart, a Baltimore nonprofit that enhances the lives of people in need through visual art programs.

Rockwood handled behind-the-scenes duties, organizing and preparing art supplies for teachers in the fast-paced Hampden office and was a classroom assistant working with elderly folks on art projects.

"I learned how to become more assertive," says Rockwood. "If I finished a task early, I would start organizing more shelves or see what else I could do."

Her take-charge initiative was an asset to a nonprofit with scarce resources and a small staff.

Rockwood also developed a newfound ability to "take things as they come and be flexible, because in the real world things are not always going to happen how one would expect."

Schuyler Millham knew that an internship on Capitol Hill would bring him in contact with Washington insiders, but he never expected to meet former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"This surprise," says Millham, "on top of meeting other prominent Republican leaders, made the internship with Congressman Kevin McCarthy worthwhile."

Besides rubbing elbows with D.C. bigwigs, the aspiring lawyer responded to constituent inquiries, researched legislation and provided tours, among other tasks.

Millham also attended committee hearings giving him an inside glimpse at Congressional offices and how the House of Representatives "works to solve our nation's issues."

A peer adviser in the TU Career Center, Millham recommends students pursue internships because "They not only add to your resume, they provide connections, life direction, and additional career opportunities."



FROM OUR ALUMNI PRESIDENT

“Stay connected to Towson University.”

As we prepared for the holidays, Towson University and the Alumni Association worked hard on programs, benefits and services for alumni. In the upcoming months, we will focus on students, supporting them during their studies but also showing them involvement doesn't end after graduation. We will be partnering with Campus Life at the Maryland Food Bank, distributing seedlings at graduation and cohosting another SGA/Alumni Association reception.

We hosted successful Homecoming, the Distinguished Alumni event and the hospitality area at home football games. If you missed the opportunity to attend these events, please join us this spring. It's never too late to reconnect or get involved.

Many of our alumni were affected by Hurricane Sandy. Besides Maryland, New York and New Jersey have some of the highest concentrations of Towson alumni, and those states were hardest hit by the storm. Please keep these alumni in your thoughts, and if possible, reach out to them to show they are part of a community that continues after graduation.

Remember, you will always be a part of the growing Towson alumni network, and we want you to stay connected to your alma mater. The Alumni Association will help you do this, and we look forward to hearing about your accomplishments and successes.

Lance Johnson '93
President



From Trees to Tickets

New programs from the Alumni Association are taking root

In January, the Alumni Association had a gift for every graduate—Norway Spruce seedlings, bagged and tagged from Western Maine.

Handing out spruce trees will become a commencement tradition, symbolizing a way for alumni to recall their alma mater and to remember that they, much like the seedlings, will grow and take on new and exciting challenges in their lives.

The trees are but one effort in the association's bid to engage alumni. It is also cultivating partnerships between the Alumni Association and the Student Government Association. At its second event with the SGA, corporate representatives, who have provided internships to TU students, were also on the guest list.

Other initiatives include volunteering at the Maryland Food Bank and assisting

the Office of Student Activities with “The Big Event,” a day to volunteer at multiple sites and organizations.

A ticket give-away program, instituted in the past, has been relaunched. When TU's football, basketball and lacrosse teams are on the road, complimentary tickets will be available to alumni who live nearby. Alumni representatives will also be visible at a variety of community fairs and festivals to promote alumni initiatives.

These are just a few of the services you can enjoy as a graduate of Towson University. The Alumni Association continues to seek opportunities to enhance benefits and support its graduates in your daily lives. ■



On Cue

Glen Players Reunion

On Sunday, August 19, 2012, alumni from theatre and the Glen Players celebrated with President Maravene Loeschke '69/'71 and her husband, Dr. C. Richard Gillespie, who established TU's theatre art major in 1972. The C.R. Gillespie and Maravene S. Loeschke Scholarship Endowment provides student scholarships in the Theatre Department. To make a gift to the endowment, please visit www.towson.edu/supportTU.



Dee Stephens '68 and President Maravene Loeschke '69/'71



Lori Armstrong, John Glover '66,
Brittany Miller '10, Diane
Mello, Michal Makarovich '68

Whitney LeBlanc and
Dr. C. Richard Gillespie

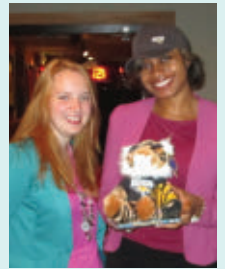
Members of the Glen Players

Legends

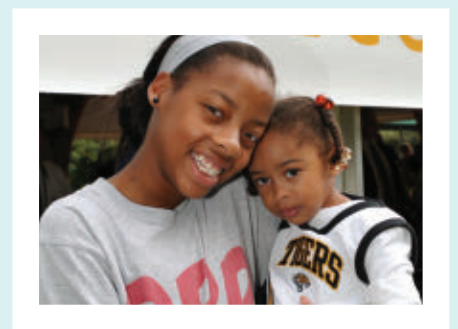
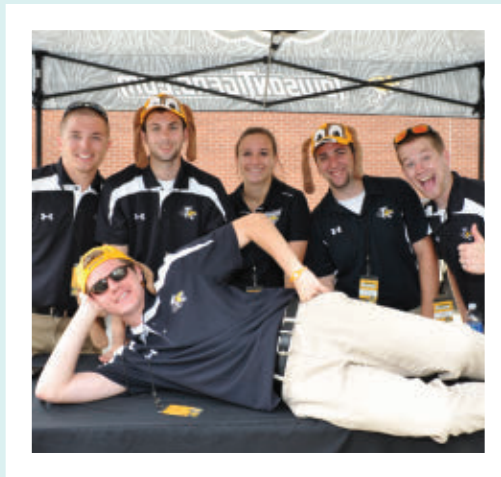
Towson's Homecoming 2012

From the Millennium Reunion at the newly restored Charles Village Pub to a sold-out tailgating festival and a stellar win on the football field, Homecoming was a roaring success. Mark your calendars for Oct. 12, Homecoming 2013!

Alumni celebrating Homecoming weekend at the Millennium Reunion at Charles Village Pub.



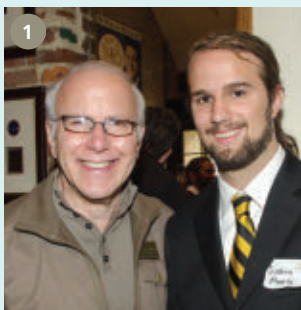
Alumni and their friends and family enjoying the Alumni Tailgating Festival before the football game against St. Francis.



We Remember

Fundraiser for Honor Elizabeth Wainio '95

Thanks to Esther Heymann '72, Ben Wainio, Sarah Wainio, Linda McFaul, Marc McFaul '95, Bill Stetka '77 and Jennifer Lindstrom '01. They helped raise \$23,000 at the Ropewalk Tavern's annual fundraiser for Honor Elizabeth Wainio '95, who perished on Flight 93 on 9/11. To make a gift to this endowment, visit www.towson.edu/supportTU.



- 1 Gary Rubin '69 and Justin Manry, recipient of the Honor Elizabeth Wainio '95 Scholarship
- 2 Esther Heymann '72, President Maravene Loeschke '69/'71, Sarah Wainio and Ben Wainio
- 3 Lindsay Peck and Dirron Allen
- 4 Andrea Marsh and Suzanne Stiffler '95
- 5 Chris Dunlap and Doug Dunlap

Top Honors

Volunteer Recognition Reception

The Alumni Association honored the outstanding volunteers, faculty, staff, and student scholarship and grant recipients on Oct. 19 at the West Village Commons Ballroom.

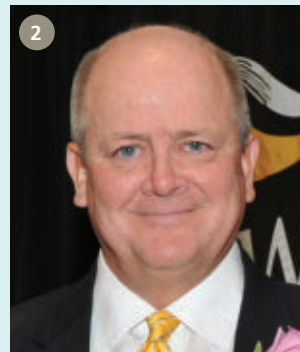
Lou Dollenger '74
Spirit of the University Award

1



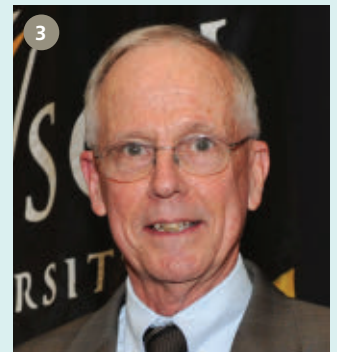
Scott Hargest
Alumni Association Volunteer
Service Award

2



Lonnie (George) McNew '68/'74
University Alumni Volunteer
Service Award

3



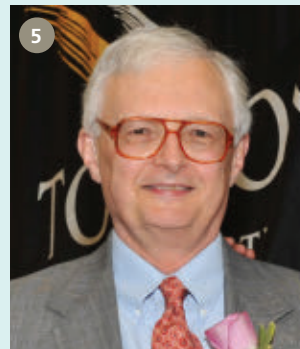
James Gede '53
Athletic Alumni Volunteer
Service Award

4



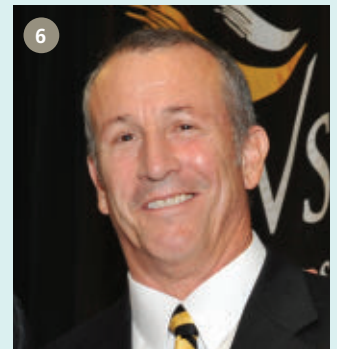
Alan Clardy
Faculty Alumni Volunteer
Service Award

5



Warren Riefner '77
(on behalf of Lou Chaney)
Staff Alumni Volunteer
Service Award

6



Student Scholarship and Grant Recipients:

Anne Blonder, Laura Boudman, Casey Breslin, Jessie Brown, Justin Deitrick, Amanda Foran, Morgan Hubble, Alicia Huber, Shaun Johnson, Valerie Maggio, Brandon Sacks, An Tran, Katherine Webb and Carly Weetman

Reunion

Charlestown/Oakcrest Alumni Reception

Alumni and guests at the annual luncheon at Charlestown learned about the Oral History Project, WWII Veterans who attended Towson and college life for veterans today.



1 Donald Webb '54, Gayle Webb, Jeannette Seitz '45 and Dorothy Summers '45

2 Teresa "Terry" Bosco '38, Eugene Langbehn '59 and Charlotte Langbehn

3 Laura Kestle '62, Helen Howard '45, Mary Merryman Earl '45 and Jean Singman '45



Football Fun

Alumni Hospitality Area at the Auburn Pavilion

More than 1,000 alumni, parents, students and friends joined us at the Alumni Hospitality Area at the Auburn Pavilion before Tiger home football games. The fun continues during lacrosse season with lite fare and a cash bar available one and one half hours before home games.

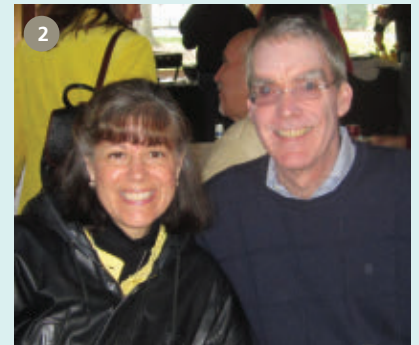
Lou and Judy Kistner '65

1



Carol '79 and John Raley '80

2



USMC members and
Gordon Combs '72/'75

3



Lou Dollenger '74, Nancy
Baumgartner '77, President
Maravene Loeschke '69/'71
and Fran Bond '55/'60

4

Jennifer and Jesse Judy
with their two children
Katelyn and Jackson

5



Holiday Fun

Alumni Association Holiday Party

The Alumni Association celebrated the holiday season Dec. 7 at the Towson University Marriott.



- 1 Molly Shock '75, President Maravene Loeschke '69/'71 and Verlando Brown '11
- 2 Anita Lloyd '81 and Candance Hall '87
- 3 Ted Zaleski, Elizabeth Clifford and Marlon Williamson
- 4 Orlett Haskett, James Torrence '10, Angie Hong '12 and Kristen Guy '09
- 5 Christine Brewer '06 and Lance Johnson '93
- 6 Derek Dollenger, Molly Shock '75, Lou Dollenger '74, Kim Fabian '88 and Ian Mutton



BEST DEBATER

Richard E. Vatz has never shied away from an argument. Now the celebrated rhetoric and communication professor has ensured that students are rewarded for mastering the art of verbal sparring by endowing the Dr. Richard E. Vatz Best Debater Award.

This spring, the first \$2,000 cash prize will be awarded to the member of the debate team with the best debate record and performance for the season.

The prize arrives as Towson observes several debate milestones. The Forensics Program celebrates its 50th anniversary (May 4, 2013) and "Challenge for Debate," a three-year fundraising challenge presented by Vincent Talbert '90, is in its final year.

Additionally, Vatz funded this prize to honor Maravene Loeschke's return to campus and her first year as Towson's president. Vatz calls Loeschke "the best president [of Towson] in an impressive list of people."



FROM THE ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT

"Great Expectations. Realized."

Perhaps you've seen Towson University's new media campaign, which features the tagline above. Every time I encounter it, I smile. That phrase resonates with what Towson means to me.

Like most alumni I've met in my 24-year relationship with the university, my Towson story started with an opportunity to be a first-generation college student. Great expectations came with that opportunity, and Towson did not disappoint. My experiences at Towson helped prepare me for the many possibilities ahead. Personally and professionally, my appreciation for Towson University grew more profound, even as the iconic Stephens Hall clock tower minimized in my rear-view mirror.

Now—almost 20 years to the day that I walked off campus with an undergraduate degree tucked under my arm—I find myself back on campus, serving in a position for which Towson prepared me. Great expectations. Realized, indeed.

It's a privilege to be at Towson University once again. Philanthropic support is the key to our future. What Towson means to me, what I hope it means to you, and what it certainly means to the 22,000 students of today and tomorrow, is and will be inextricably tied to the investment of time, talent and treasure from the university's alumni and friends.

I invite you to join me and the countless others who are passionate about fulfilling the mission of Towson University. With your help, we can continue to realize great expectations every day.

Michael Cather '93
Associate Vice President
for Development

Ehrlich Collection Opens

Library houses Ehrlich Collection for Public Leadership Studies

“Ehrlich's work focuses not only on public service but also on education, healthcare, social services, the military and the environment.”

Deborah Nolan, dean
of University Libraries

Last fall, the Albert S. Cook Library formally opened the Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. Collection for Public Leadership Studies with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The collection focuses on public issues and includes records, correspondence, photos and other memorabilia documenting Ehrlich's service as congressman (1994-2002) and as governor of Maryland (2002-2006).

Ehrlich has always been committed to education and donated this collection to Towson, in part, because he supports the idea of young people entering public service.

To date, more than \$100,000 in contributions has provided the funds to process, organize and preserve the contents of the collection. Plans are also under way to digitize some of the material.

This will provide access to Towson students, researchers and the community who wish to study the policy issues and highlights that marked Ehrlich's time in public office.

“This collection supports interdisciplinary studies as Ehrlich's work focuses not only on public service but also on education, healthcare, social services, the military and the environment,” says Deborah Nolan, dean of University Libraries. “The wealth of information provided allows students to see issues as they are approached by a member of the government.” Adds Nolan, “It is a true honor for us to receive this collection.” ■

Supply Chain 2020

Weinman Foundation helps sponsor supply chain forum

Last May, faculty and students from the College of Business and Economics (CBE) linked up with industry professionals at a supply chain management forum made possible in part through a grant from the Toby and Melvin Weinman Foundation.

Lion Brothers, Port of Baltimore, Baltimore Gas and Electric, UPS Chesapeake District, McCormick, TBB Global Logistics, CECOM Business Solutions and other large regional employers were among the participants who came to Supply Chain 2020 in the West Village Commons. The



forum focused on topics that included the challenges of globalization and the need for specialized professionals to monitor, run and innovate supply chains.

Relationships begun at Supply Chain 2020 will nourish the growth of CBE's Supply Chain Management program and help convince business leaders that CBE students are exceptionally prepared for the workplace, according to Jon Weinman, foundation officer.

"I learned this first in a classroom and then in conversations over many cups of coffee with Towson instructors whom I have come to respect and admire," says Weinman, who operated a successful dental specialty practice. He enrolled in several graduate business courses at Towson to enhance his skills when he took on increased responsibility within his family's foundation.

Weinman kept in contact with his CBE professors and was elated to learn about the expansion of CBE's graduate business programs. In addition to supporting Supply Chain 2020, funds from the Weinman Foundation will also be used to raise awareness of the new programs.

Supply chain management is the process of coordinating the flow of information, goods and services from the original source all the way through to the end customer, including business functions such as procurement, transportation, forecasting, inventory management and quality control. "Our new graduate programs represent innovative academic solutions designed to meet the needs of both students and our regional employers," notes Tobin Porterfield, program director. The programs are attracting professionals already engaged in project or supply chain

management as well as those looking to enhance their credentials to transition into those areas.

"Forums such as Supply Chain 2020 help us to expand our professional network, which leads to more students in our program and more employers ready to hire them," Porterfield says. "The visibility of this event helps us to achieve our goal of becoming a regional leader in supply chain education and applied research. We are grateful to Jon and the Weinman Foundation for making an investment in our success." ■



We're looking for those special numbers that define your Towson University experience.

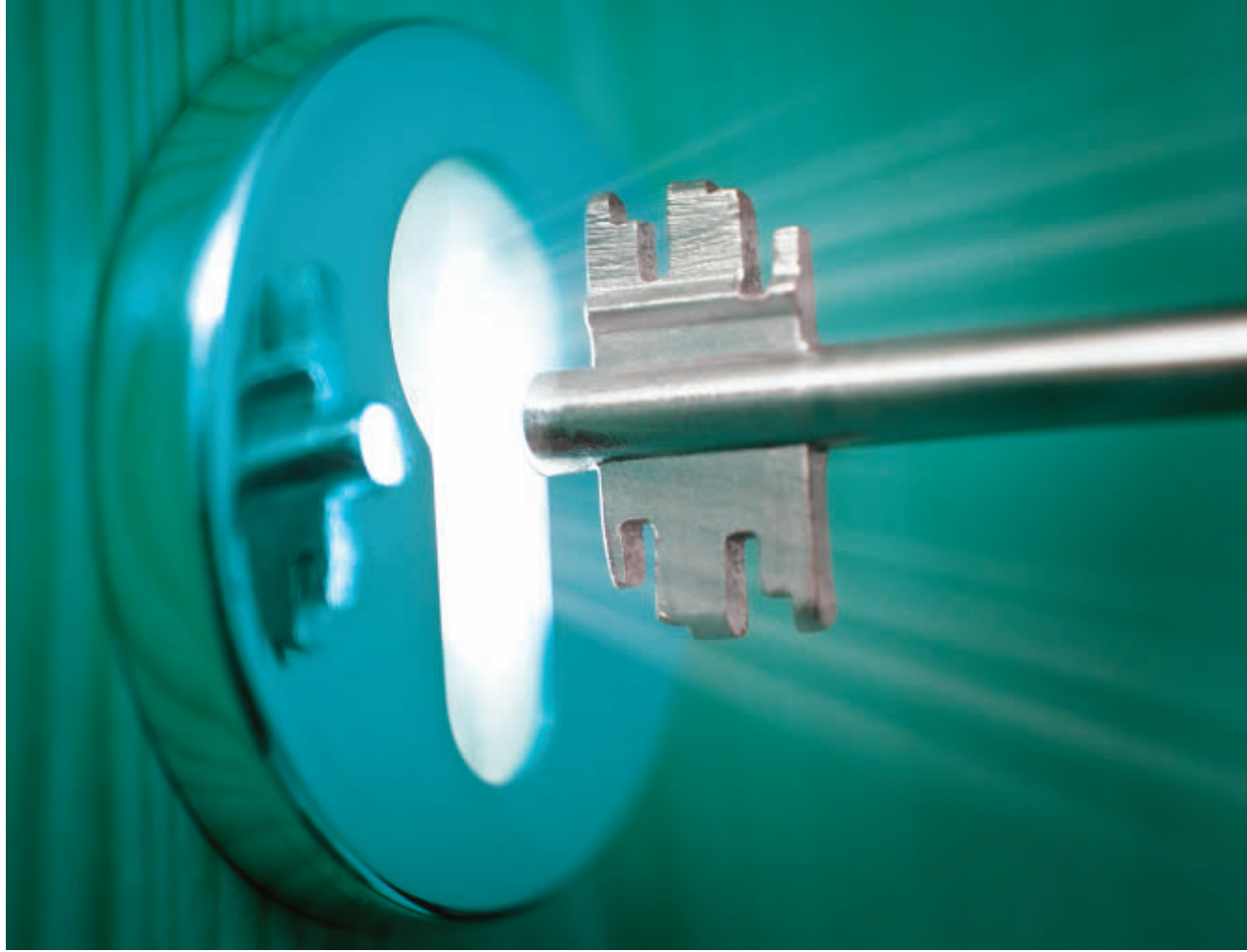
It could be the number of your first dorm room or the digit on the jersey of your favorite Towson athlete. Maybe it's the number of hours you spent studying in the library. To date, 111 alumni, faculty, staff and students have shared their numbers and their stories. Visit www.towson.edu/wyn and tell us your number.

"I WISH I COULD GIVE MORE, BUT..."



Did you know that there is an easy and flexible way to make a significant gift that benefits Towson University and costs nothing now? Please consider including the Towson University Foundation, Inc. in your will or living trust, or naming the foundation as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, savings account or life insurance plan. To learn more, please contact Ann Kolakowski (410-704-3899 or akolakowski@towson.edu).

www.towson.edu/giftplanning



Institute for Well-Being Opens its Doors

Donors support programs to strengthen partnerships and students' experiences

“

...Just because people with autism might not be able to speak, doesn't mean they have nothing to say.” —John Hussman



John P. Hussman, director of the Hussman Foundation and the parent of an 18-year-old son with autism, spoke the words at left in the keynote address at last fall's ribbon-cutting ceremony for the College of Health Professions' Institute for Well-Being.

Hussman spoke up for those who have trouble speaking for themselves. Through the Hussman Foundation, he and his wife Terri presented a gift of \$1.25 million to promote the work of IWB's Center for Adults with Autism, which was renamed the Hussman Center for Adults with Autism. (The IWB also comprises the Occupational Therapy Center; the Speech, Language and Hearing Center; and the Wellness Center.)

Each of the institute's four centers serves residents of the greater Baltimore area and provides professional practice opportunities to students majoring in the health professions.

The IWB's potential to develop the best methods of training health professionals has resonated with individuals as well as foundation and corporate donors, translating into significant financial support of projects and programs.

Among the first to step forward was Ray Stinar, former dean of the College of Health Professions. After years of

involvement with the Wellness Center, Stinar understands its programs and the power they have to shape young health professionals and aid clients who are recovering from heart surgery and other health challenges.

Joined by his wife, Pam, and her sister and brother-in-law, Debbie and Jim Koziarz, Stinar made a contribution to the IWB's general endowment to ensure that programs which prepare students for careers in health professions will remain vibrant.

Douglas '80 and Therese Erdman also believe that a hands-on education along with community engagement is advantageous not only for Towson students but also for the clients they will serve. The Erdmans demonstrated their confidence in the IWB through two gifts, one to the IWB's general fund and another to create the Douglas and Therese Erdman Work Skills Program, which finances activities that will teach life and vocational skills to adults with autism spectrum disorders.

The gift from the Hussman Foundation further enhances this vision of services for adults with autism spectrum disorders, providing them with more than 250 experiences—from art classes to language workshops—to help them gain the skills they need to stay healthy and involved in their communities.

The Hussman Center also pairs students in the health professions and other majors with adults across the autism spectrum. Student mentors engage their mentees in social, work-related, educational and fitness activities to help them develop social and life skills. These experiences not only support autistic adults in being more fully engaged in their communities, they also enrich the educational journey of Towson's students and help them apply this knowledge in their professional and personal lives.

Housed in the new Towson City Center, the IWB features an ADA-accessible apartment to teach life skills to adults with autism, or cognitive and physical challenges, as well as a specialized playground for children with speech, language or sensory-motor needs. In addition, there is an advanced robotic therapy system, a computer lab, audiology center and settings for various therapies.

“By establishing the Institute for Well-Being under one roof in Towson, we will strengthen partnerships between Towson University and the surrounding communities, while also enhancing student education and experience,” explains Charlotte Exner, dean of the College of Health Professions. ■



Visit: www.towsoniwb.com to receive the latest news and updates on the IWB.

Playground at IWB for children's therapeutic programs.



Students value their time at the Institute for Well-Being



“The IWB is an essential teaching and learning venue that is truly invaluable to Towson University's future health professionals.”

Maria Pomponio, doctoral candidate in deaf studies



“When I graduate, I will have no fear of entering the working world because of the experience and confidence I have garnered at the IWB.”

Bryant Harris, exercise science major



TOWSONOPOLY

More than 200 friends, alumni and supporters gathered for the Third Annual Towsonopoly Tournament and Gala at West Village Commons on Nov. 3. Co-chaired by Arsh and Lauren Mirmiran, the event raised over \$100,000 for the Institute for Well-Being. David deVilliers proved to be the top tycoon and walked away with bragging rights and 100,000 Marriott Rewards Points.

Check out photos at www.flickr.com/photos/tuspecialevents.



Clara Parker '89

was promoted to executive director of Charlestown, a retirement community in Catonsville, Md.



BROOKE KUHL-MCCLELLAND '88

A Happy Feat

Dance teacher wins a Howie Award for imparting her toe-tapping moves to students.

You'll never hear Brooke Kuhl-McClelland '88 asking her students to sit still.

This Howard County dance teacher has her high school charges on their feet, moving in a mix of dance styles that include ballet, jazz and modern.

Her efforts earned her a Howie Award last March at the 15th annual Celebration of the Arts in Howard County.

"It's very special to be recognized for what you do in the arts," she says. "The core subjects always get the recognition. What I'm teaching offers things you can't get from a general academic class."

Kuhl-McClelland, who has been teaching dance for 24 years at Hammond High School in Howard County, Md., is the only dance teacher in the school. Each year she puts about 150 students through their paces.

She prepares them for a mid-year performance in January and final recital in May. Brooke also prepares her students for dance competitions, such as the Maryland State Showcase and the Howard County Dance Festival. Her students most recently travelled to a competition in Disney World.

Kuhl-McClelland knows that she was born to teach and attributes her success to her passion for dance. "I enjoy having the ability to communicate what I'm feeling to an audience through dance," she says.

She's also thrilled when her students follow in her footsteps. "Several past students are attending Towson, getting their certificates in dance like I did," she notes. "That's pretty cool."

In addition to teaching dance, Kuhl-McClelland also coaches lacrosse at St. Paul's School for Girls. "Coaching a game is like choreographing a big dance out on the field," she explains. "Every element needs to work together, and if something isn't going right, it's my job to decide what to do to make it better." ■

—Hannah Kaufman

Before 1960

SARAH SHERIDAN SPENCER '34/'43, who was a teacher or principal for 27 years, was inducted into the Harford County Public School's Educator Hall of Fame on April 30, 2012.

MICHAEL DEVITA '59 published his first book, *My "Secret Love" Affair With Doris Day*. He also started an Internet radio show on Live365.com, "3M: Mike's Music Memories" and sponsors day trips to see Broadway shows.

JOSEPH TISCHER '59 was inducted into the Washington County Sports Hall of Fame for competing in triathlons, a Bay Bridge swim and a 50-mile ultra marathon.

1960

JACK COOLEY '69 retired in June after 42 years in education. He started in physical education, but spent most of his years as a principal at Rappahannock High School in Warsaw, Va.

TED ZABORA '69 retired after a 40-year career in human resources, including teaching HR management at Johns Hopkins University and Western Maryland College. He was also the vice president of human resources for the Mid-Atlantic Region of Securitas Security Services USA.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETING

Thursday
April 25, 2013
Auburn House
6 p.m.

1970

WILLIAM H. RICHARDSON '70 spent 25 years as an art instructor, more than five years as an illustrator, and numerous years as a deacon. He also plays the guitar and sings.

RALPH BUCCA '71 has embarked on a second career after 38 years as a federal employee. He volunteers as an agro-processing specialist and travels to third-world countries several times a year to teach villagers and farmers how to process and preserve their food.

SARA L. HILDEBRAND MCVEY '71 retired after teaching math for 39 years. She had been teaching middle school math in Berkeley Heights, N.J., for the past 26 years. She recently moved back to Lutherville to be closer to her daughter, **JOCELYN '07**.

JANE EMRICH UMSTEAD '71 ELED has become a fabric artist in Amherst, Va., specializing in rug hooking, embroidery and primitive arts. Jane and her husband **STEVE '69** retired from the Baltimore County School System in 2004.

HOWARD HYMAN '72 retired after teaching for 39 years in St. Mary's County public schools in Md.

PAT ALLEN KAPLON '72 published her third book, an illustrated children's book, *Betsy's Choice*, about a fairy child who dreams of growing up to be the tooth fairy. Kaplan has also published *A Child Called Hope* and *Heart Poems*.

DARRYL K. MYERS '72 retired from the U.S. Postal Service in August. He enjoys spending time with family, especially his granddaughters, and attending Towson football games.

LINDA VANDERHOFF '72 retired after serving as CEO and president of the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Kentucky & Southern Indiana. Before that, she spent 11 years as a senior management executive with the American Red Cross of Central Maryland.

ANNE BUTLER '73 had *Across God's Frontiers: Catholic Sisters In The American West* published by the University of North Carolina Press.

CHERYL SCHEIN VOURVOULAS '73 has retired after teaching grades K-2 for 33 years. Her plans include traveling with her husband, Gus, and being a substitute teacher.

JOSEPH CLARK '75 MCOM, president of Clark Audio Video Services and owner of CAMM System Mastering, published *Chess Nut Delight*, which contains his best chess problems. (He wrote a chess column for *The Towerlight*.) He is working on a book featuring challenging word puzzles. He and his wife Mary have three sons—**MICHAEL '02**, **ANDREW '02** and **NICHOLAS '04**, all of whom graduated *summa cum laude* from Towson.

MELISSA BARNICKEL '76 BUAD is managing partner of Baygroup Insurance, LLC, an independent insurance brokerage with offices in Monkton and Rockville, Md. She brings more than 30 years experience in the industry to the company she founded with a business partner in 2012.

THOMAS B. BEYARD '77 returned from a one-year deployment as command sergeant major of the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait. This was his second combat deployment in the last five years. He is director of planning, zoning and development for Westminster, Md.

JOHN REISINGER '79 BUAD has just released his seventh book, *Death at the Lighthouse*, a mystery based on a real-life case.

1980

STEPHEN HORNISH '80 was promoted to colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserves. He has over 28 years in the service and is now with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

DEBORAH VOSS-BRANDENBURGER '83 left a roofing and siding company in Ocean City Md., for Hawaii in 2010. Now in Kauai, she is semi-retired

and working part-time for the Navy Exchange.

OTHA "SKIP" SPRIGGS '84 BUAD is executive vice president, chief human resources officer at TIAA-CREF in Charlotte, N.C. He has more than 25 years of experience, most recently serving as senior vice president of human resources and member of the executive committee at Boston Scientific.

HOPE TARR '86 PSYCH has signed on to write a contemporary fairy tale-romance novel series for Entangled Publishing. The first book, *Operation Cinderella*, came out in October, followed by a Christmas novella and two more full-length novels in winter and summer 2013.

CHRISTOPHER WOOLEYHAND '87 received a Ph.D. in instructional leadership for changing populations from Notre Dame of Maryland University. An elementary principal for Anne Arundel County Public Schools and an adjunct instructor for McDaniel College, he lives in Severn, Md., with his wife, Debbie, and his children, Lucas and Lillian.

KIM FABIAN '88 MCOM is senior vice president for Junior Achievement of Central Maryland in Owings Mills, Md.

JOHN JOHNSON '88 was appointed president of Software AG USA, Inc. and member of the Group Executive Board. He has more than 20 years of experience in software for business analytics and intelligence.

DONNA DREHMANN '89 MCOM started Listen Learn Live LLC, a company dedicated to helping businesses and organizations create the best customer experience possible.

PATRICIA MAGER '89 was elected second vice president of the Maryland Society of Accountants and was also appointed to the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Community Partnerships in Chester, Md.

CLARA PARKER '89 BUAD was promoted from vice president-regional

finance director of Erickson Living to executive director of Charlestown, the company's retirement community in Catonsville, Md.

ELLEN SHUPPERT PLATT '89 obtained certification in rehab counseling, case management and geriatrics at the master's level and founded a geriatric care management business in the greater Baltimore area.

1990

JAMES D. JONES '90, who has been in the credit card industry since 1996, wrote *Cornucopia of Cash*, a book that explains how to profit from the billion-dollar credit card processing industry.

ROBERT LITTLE '91, an investigative reporter and editor for the *Baltimore Sun* since 1998, has been hired by NPR News as senior editor for investigations. Led by Little, the *Sun* uncovered errors in Baltimore's speed cameras and examined tax records that exposed millions of dollars of undeserved discounts.

NICOLE BETTER '92 is an author, educator and advocate for youth and young adults. She has published two books, *My Truth: Testimony of a Teen Mom* and *Take Courage*.

PAUL FAGEN '92 CCMM, a manager of Communities In Schools of Chicago, is one of five winners of the 2012 Unsung Heroes award. Fagan, a social worker, created a conflict-resolution club three years ago at Chicago Talent Development High School. The club helped resolve more than 150 conflicts last year.

ANDREW SMILER '93 M.A./PSYCH published *Challenging Casanova: Beyond the Stereotype of the Promiscuous Young Male* in November. The book confronts the perceptions about male sexuality and offers advice so parents can help their sons develop maturity and better relationships. Smiler is a past president of the Society for the Psychological Study of Men & Masculinity, and a visiting assistant professor at Wake Forest University in N.C.

BRIAN ROBERTS '94 CCMM was promoted to executive producer of Maryland Public Television's long-running national television series, *MotorWeek*.

ZOLNA RUSSELL '95 M.A. recently became director of sustainability at the Baltimore-based landscape architecture firm Floura Teeter Landscape Architects.

ANTHONY BROWN '85/'95 M.A. was joined by recording artists Doreen Vail and Alton Scarborough at the Dream 4 It Foundation's annual benefit concert.

BETSY HARVEY AUSTER '96 ELED married David Auster on April 22, 2012.

AILEEN ESKILDSEN '96 ACCT, principal and professional development coordinator at Ellin & Tucker, participated in the 2012 Women in Leadership Panel Discussion. She directs Ellin & Tucker's continuing education, training and mentoring programs, and is also responsible for recruitment of accounting professionals from area universities.

TIDI HODGE '96 BUAD, who is licensed to buy, sell and rent real estate in Maryland, works for Long and Foster.

VONNETTA CORNISH '97 MCOM launched One30 Media, LLC in January 2012. The company completed the production of *Bachelorette's Degree*, an independent romantic comedy in July.

DAVID CURRY '97 MAT received a leadership in law award from the *Long Island Business News*. This award recognizes those whose dedication to excellence and leadership, both in the legal profession and in the community, has had a positive impact on Long Island.

ANDREW BLEICHFELD '98 EDUC, a mathematics teacher at Harford Technical High School, was elected president of the Maryland Council of Teachers of Mathematics. His term begins in October.

IN MEMORIAM

alumni

Kelso E. Sturgeon III '88
March 21, 2012

Tyler L. Blaize '09
May 4, 2012

Margaret F. Hart '90
May 8, 2012

Jayne J. Huck '96
June 3, 2012

Elaine H. Lynn '34
June 11, 2012

Howard Ritter Jr. '50
June 11, 2012

Jeannine S. Seibert '51
June 11, 2012

Steven R. Hardy '69
June 13, 2012

Mary Frances Recher '52
June 15, 2012

Paula Ehmann '80
June 19, 2012

Garland L. Martin Jr. '65
June 23, 2012

Alan J. Knauer '71
June 24, 2012

Cathy E. Quigley '82
June 28, 2012

Judith S. Campbell '87
July 9, 2012

Janet P. Davis '76
July 12, 2012

Matthew Paul Bremmer '07
July 13, 2012

Alvin M. Cohen '69
July 13, 2012

Barbara M. Sarnecki '61
July 14, 2012

Thomas K. Ward '72
July 15, 2012

Deborah Ann Aughenbaugh '52
July 17, 2012

Phyllis J. Burke, Ph.D. '65
July 18, 2012

Edna Winik '66
July 22, 2012

Earl L. Cook '74
July 26, 2012

Janet E. Shaffer '77
July 28, 2012

Joan L. Eifert '89
July 29, 2012

Carl C. Dederer Jr. '76
July 31, 2012

Mary T. Dehart '73
July 31, 2012

Rose Tier '51
July 31, 2012

Cyrile E. Goldman '57
August 5, 2012

Robert S. Skinner III '82
August 5, 2012

Judith L. Scott
August 7, 2012

Sarah S. S. Spencer '43
August 15, 2012

Gwendolyn Van Scoy '94
August 20, 2012

Constance E. Strasberger '55
August 23, 2012

Patrick M. McCusker '84
August 25, 2012

Barbara A. Cherewko '61
August 26, 2012

Louise K. Smith '83
August 27, 2012

Michael R. Gordon '69
August 29, 2012

Lou Ann Coleman
August 30, 2012

Steven A. Lietz '75
September 1, 2012

Deloris A. Spear '75
September 5, 2012

Carole A. Spurrier '72
September 6, 2012

Mary L. Chase '82
September 8, 2012

Nancy M. Chu '41
September 9, 2012

Richard P. Zimmerman '71
September 13, 2012

Joyce Hogan '70
September 14, 2012

Mary R. Bianconi '42
September 15, 2012

Thomas M. Passaro '71
September 15, 2012

Sheila L. Braniff '69
September 23, 2012

Elinor D. Sherman '72
September 23, 2012

Ann C. Robinson '73
September 24, 2012

Margaret A. Tracey '49
September 24, 2012

Joseph A. Serio '83
September 28, 2012

Barbara W. Long
October 2, 2012

Marie A. Hoshall '31
October 4, 2012

Elliott R. Epstein '39
October 5, 2012

Lynn M. Quinney '05
October 8, 2012

Maria A. Riddlespurger '76
October 8, 2012

Esther E. Dombrowski '72
October 9, 2012

Joyce Ramirez '93
October 16, 2012

JoAnn Berry '77
October 26, 2012

Judith M. Connolly
October 28, 2012

Steven C. Phoebus '73
October 29, 2012

Nola Hale Zaiser Stuart '29
October 31, 2012

Walter Veasel
November 6, 2012

**Carol Joyce Michael
Harris '52**
November 7, 2012

Shirley Rupp '63
November 16, 2012

staff/ faculty

Jennifer R. DeVries '97
September 15, 2012

Paul Pojman
September 20, 2012

Gregory Seagle '77
June 1, 2012



ADRIAN WATTENMAKER '05

With more than 15 years as an actor and director, Adrian Wattenmaker '05 knows what makes good theater.

Now he'll be using that experience to choose the New York productions that will be up for a prestigious Drama Desk Award. Wattenmaker, director of the Brooklyn campus of the School of Creative and Performing Arts, is one of six theater critics and educators on the 2012-2013 Drama Desk Nominating Committee.

The Drama Desk Awards "are the only major New York theater honors for which productions on Broadway, Off-Broadway and Off-Off Broadway compete against each other in the same category," reads its website.

Surprisingly, film was Wattenmaker's first love, not theater. "I've always been connected the art world," he says, "but I didn't take theater seriously until my first month living in New York," when he began a position as a stage manager at Cooper Square Workshop.

There he discovered his passion. "I love theater because it encompasses everything," he explains. "I'm constantly learning. It's

The Envelope, Please

Adrian Wattenmaker '05 is part of the Drama Desk Nominating Committee.

exciting to explore new characters, to become somebody who I'm not, while at the same time discovering different sides of myself." Some of his roles include parts in *The Rock Garden* and *The Author's Voice*. He most recently directed *Reasons to Be Pretty* at the New Workshop Theater of Brooklyn College and *This Is Our Youth* at 440 Studios in New York City.

The most essential skill for aspiring actors and directors is being open, Wattenmaker notes. "The ability to listen and take things in from other people is really important," he says.

"Everyone brings something different to the table."

For now his table is full. In addition to his Drama Desk nominating duties, Wattenmaker is completing his MFA in directing at Brooklyn College, where he is also an adjunct lecturer. He recently became a member of The Actors Studio Playwrights/Directors Unit and is working on an Off-Broadway production, *Spirits of Exit Eleven*, which opened in January at Theatre Row. ■

—Hannah Kaufman

Andrew Smiler '93

published a book that confronts the perceptions about male sexuality.



GREGORY MIRMAN '98 CCMM, a producer of *CBS This Morning: Saturday* in New York, married Christine Jean Byun in July.

ELIZABETH DERENCZ WOLFE '98 became executive director for Donate Life Maryland, a nonprofit organization that registers organ, eye and tissue donors. Previously, she was project manager for The Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland. She and her husband, Roger, and their son live in Fallston, Md.

KIMBERLY WILMOT VOSS '98 M.A., coordinator of journalism in the Nicholson School of Communication, earned tenure and was promoted to associate professor at the University of

David Curry '97
MAT received a leadership in law award from the *Long Island Business News*.



Nicole Better '92
went from being a teen mom to earning a doctoral degree.

Central Florida in May 2012. She also welcomed son, Paul Jacob, who joins big brother, Curtis James.

REBECCA CAREW '99 joined Google in Oregon as an environmental and safety technician. Her previous experience includes nine years as an environmental scientist with URS Corporation, working for a time as a health and safety manager in Iraq.

JEN MICHALSKI '99 published two novellas, *Could You Be With Her Now* from Dzanc Books, and her debut novel *The Tide King* from Black Lawrence Press. She also runs an online literary quarterly, "jmmw," and cohosts the blog, "510 Readings."

2000

REBECCA FREY '01 is a costume designer and wardrobe stylist based in New York City. Her work was featured on *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*, the 2010 Emmy Awards and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. She is also the owner/founder of Seek New York, which offers shopping tours and wardrobe styling.

DONNA WITHROW '01, who graduated from UM School of Social Work in 2004, opened Support With Compassion Family Counseling this year, with offices in Bel Air and Joppa, Md.

BETTY '01 and **BEN LIGHTNER '04** welcomed their daughter, Becca Grace, on October 21, 2011. She joined her big sister, Bailey.

SHELLY BREZICKI '01/'04 and her husband, Jim, welcomed their first child, a daughter, Noa Eden, on May 31, 2012.

GREGORY WILKINSON '04 ELED earned an Ed.D. in teacher leadership from Walden University. His dissertation investigated the impact of structured note-taking strategies on the math achievement of middle school students and was defended at the south rim of the Grand Canyon in August 2012.

ASHLEY MYERS '05, who was a behavior specialist in Hagerstown, Md., obtained a degree in Mortuary Science in 2009. She is a licensed mortician for Sauffer Funeral Home in Frederick, Md.

DORAY SITKO '05 received a master's degree in education with an emphasis on health promotion from Virginia Tech in May. She works for Econometrica, a consulting firm in Bethesda, Md., and bought a house in Baltimore City in 2011.

RYAN DRAYTON SCHREITER '07 was awarded the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and continues his medical training in family medicine at St. Joseph Medical Center in Reading, Pa.

MICHELLE KOMIN '08, an area manager at Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Baltimore, Md., married Greg Moore on July 20, 2012. They live in Harford County, Md.

CHRISTOPHER COLONNA '09 graduated from the New England School of Law in Boston, Mass., in May 2012. He is pursuing a master's degree in international relations of the Middle East at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

TARA GOGOLINSKI '10 opened Life & Love: Couple and Family Therapy in Crofton, Md.

JERRY HOUSAND '10 was promoted to senior accountant at Gross, Mendelsohn & Associates in Baltimore.

DANIEL RENZ '10, a special agent with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, specializing in personnel security investigations, is studying for a master's degree in justice administration at Methodist University in N.C. He married Anastasia Dolgovskij.

MATTHEW ROCKMORE '10 is employed at Wegmans Food Markets Inc. as of July 2012.

TODD WILCOM '10 ACCT is a staff accountant Gross, Mendelsohn & Associates in Baltimore.

JOSEF BLAZAR '10, ROBERT DOLAN '10, MATT METCALF '10, MICHAEL DEHART '11, RYAN SCHLUTER '10, JEFF BLAKE '11 AND MYCHAL EDELMAN '10 traveled from California, Arizona, Rhode Island, Louisiana and Maryland to "Death Valley" stadium to watch the Tiger football team take on Louisiana State University last fall.

KELLY M. ABRAMSON '11 recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

JOSHUA DAVIS '11, a Peace Corps volunteer in Ukraine since March 2011, facilitates youth development through sports and health education.

ADAM L. GERTZ '11 graduated from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S. C.

RACHEL DRUCKENMILLER '12 M.A. is a corporate health and wellness specialist for Silberstein, recognized as one of Baltimore's Healthiest Employers by the *Baltimore Business Journal*.

KATELYN MATTINGLY '11 MCOM joined the HMTV6 news team in Hagerstown, Md., as an anchor and reporter.

JOEY BUTLER '12 MCOM joined the fundraising team of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation after volunteering and interning with the organization. ■

“
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Katie Salke is one of Towson's student-athletes benefitting from the philanthropy of Donna and Ross Cappuzzo '80, who chose to honor their son's memory by naming the Ryan Cappuzzo Athletic Lounge, to be located in the Towson Center.

For more information on how you can have this kind of impact, please contact:

Michael C. Cather '93

Associate Vice President for Development

mcather@towson.edu

Toll-free: 1-866-301-3375

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Read more about Katie and other scholarship recipients at www.towson.edu/foundationsscholars.

Katie Salke, Class of 2014

Art Education major

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Mark Your Calendars



Friday May 10, 2013

Auburn House Pavilion

Classes of 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1968, 1973 and 1978

Class of 1963

50th Reunion Celebration

Saturday May 11, 2013

Auburn House Pavilion

For more information or to contribute photos, please email jrickerd@towson.edu or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 410-704-2234. To register online, visit www.tutigertracks.com/1963reunion or www.tutigertracks.com/reunion2013

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