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TU's Big Dog on Campus is an important part of community policing efforts.



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Bringing art to the masses still thrills Eric Hanks '79.



ON THE COVER



One of the animals in this month's cover photo sat still much easier than the other. Luckily, Assistant Director of Photographic Services Alex Wright '18, who took the picture, is a dog lover, so he had the patience to work with TU's comfort dog, Bruno. "I really wanted to mirror Bruno and the tiger statue in their poses," he says.

"It's never easy to get a pup full of energy to sit still, but I have taken hundreds of photos of my own dog, Carla, over the years and knew how to get the right shot in a tight time window."

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

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President's Letter

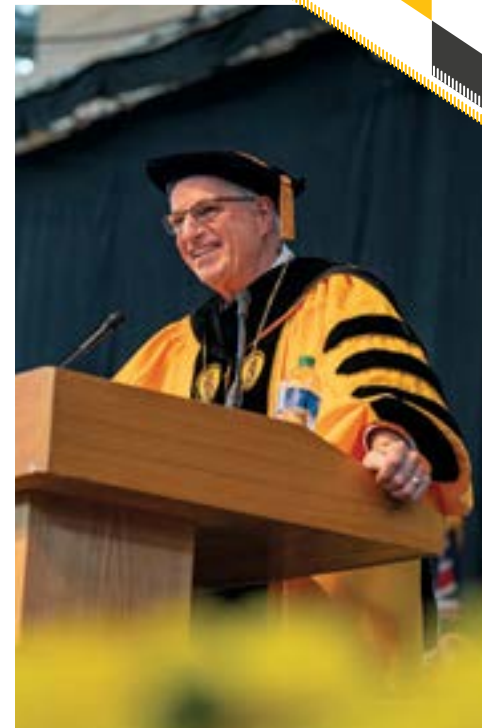
Fellow Tigers,

As I celebrate my first anniversary as TU's president, I am reminded of the many accomplishments I am so very proud our community has achieved together.

From student success stories and national rankings to new facilities and community gatherings, there has been no shortage of reasons for pride at Towson University.

Earlier this semester, we officially opened our beautiful new Health Professions Building (page 20), the latest state-of-the-art academic facility on our campus. I believe it is among the best facilities of its kind in the nation, and I am confident that it will change lives—for both our students who aspire to make a difference in the world and for the patients who will one day receive their care.

It is this standard of excellence that makes TU the No. 1 public university in Maryland and No. 15 in the nation, as recently recognized by the Wall Street Journal. This ranking stands out because it assesses institutions on what matters most to students and families: student success outcomes. All these rankings affirm what Tigers have known for quite some time: TU is among the very best—not just in our state but in the nation.



While I take immense pride in these recognitions, I am even prouder of the transformational impact our university has on Maryland and on every student who enrolls at TU and joins our campus community.

TU's impact is enhanced by the contributions of our amazing alumni. In this issue you'll read about some of their incredible work, like that of Eric Hanks '79 (page 26), one of the leading representatives of Black artists in the country. Or Bob Wittman '80, regarded as one of the FBI's top investigators during his 20 years with the bureau (page 28).

I'm so proud to be part of our remarkable community, and I know with your continued engagement, together we will raise TU's trajectory for success and positively impact the Tigers of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

MARK R. GINSBERG, PH.D.
PRESIDENT



TREASURES

A Collection from the Caucasus

What does a carpet featuring Kazakhstan's national poet, a Soviet-era award for skillful bulldozing and a religious icon of St. George slaying a dragon have in common?

TU global studies professor Jeremy Tasch.

"I like unusual things," he says. "The objects I collect need to have some interesting historical resonance. I particularly like those that were in use in everyday life but still have some mystery to them."

His foray into collecting began while he was doing research in Siberia. He met a retired watchmaker who, over the course of their friendship, taught him the intricacies of all types of watches.

Tasch's early career featured stops in Azerbaijan, the republics of Georgia and Armenia as well as

the Russian Far East, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. When he joined academia in the U.S. in the mid-

2010s, Tasch decorated his office with objects sourced mostly from the Caucasus region of Asia.

"When [students] walk in, they pause and usually forget why they came to see me," he says. "And some look around and go, 'Wow, this looks like Indiana Jones' office.' The carpet was a gift after a lecture in Kazakhstan.

"When I received it, a faculty member stood up immediately and exclaimed, 'He's an American. He doesn't know what to do with a rug. He's going

to walk on it.' I promised to hang it on my office wall. And as ugly as that carpet is, it's still there."

He found the bulldozing award in Vladivostok, Russia.

"The fact there is such a prize is crazy, and I thought it was really a cool cultural, historical object," he says.

The 19th-century icon (pictured left), measuring just several square inches, came from Tbilisi, Georgia. It would have hung on the wall, opposite a door in a family's home.

"It's been worn away," he says, running his fingers over the engraving. "To show gratefulness or ask for protection, the family would have either rubbed or kissed the icon."

For Tasch, the carpet, award and icon have a distinct connection.

"Each one comes from not only a different time but a different place. And, to me, they represent the times of my life when I was in those places."



Campus News



Make Way for Tigers

There's more open space on campus this fall. Part of Smith Hall was deconstructed this summer, making way for a new 80,000-square-foot addition that will extend toward the Lecture Hall and create space for the mass communication, electronic media & film, and communication studies departments.



At the Summit

TU hosted the 2024 Baltimore Immigration Summit, bringing together leaders, academics and policymakers to empower immigrant and refugee communities. The summit was co-coordinated by Catalina Rodriguez-Lima '06, summit co-coordinator and founding director of Baltimore Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs.



Glen Glow Up

As part of the Glen Towers construction project, TU added new pavers, fresh landscaping and updated grading that gives the plaza a gentler slope and a more natural feel.

For They are Jolly Good Fellows



TU's Provost Research Fellows Program encourages outstanding scholarship at TU by awarding merit-based grants to faculty members, as a one-month stipend to provide time for research in the summer. Tenured and tenure-track faculty are eligible to apply. Professors Gashaw Abeza and Saradha Ananthakrishnan are just two of the provost research fellows at TU conducting exemplary research in the field of health professions, with goals to fill in critical information gaps. Abeza is focused on how sponsorship agreements with well-known brands in the sports industry can enhance the credibility, visibility and overall reputation of smaller sports leagues and teams. Ananthakrishnan's long-term goal is to understand how deficits in speech understanding, like speech perception impairments, relate to processes in the brain, and improve auditory rehabilitation and habilitation programs for older adults and adults with auditory processing deficits.



In Community

The College of Education will house the new Maryland Center for Community Schools (MCCS). Each community school in Maryland collaborates with community partners, local governments and other stakeholders to provide wraparound services that address barriers to learning and success. Community schools—any school that receives an annual Concentration of Poverty Grant—promote positive, equitable outcomes by providing students and families with the physical and mental health, academic and extracurricular supports needed to thrive.



He's an Influencer

President Ginsberg was named one of the 2024 Influential Marylanders by the Daily Record. Ginsberg is among 57 honorees recognized for "leaving a mark on communities throughout the state." He is joined by fellow higher education leaders Sandra Kurtinitis, president of the Community College of Baltimore County, and Darryll Pines, president of University of Maryland-College Park. "To be included among such remarkable and distinguished leaders is an honor," Ginsberg says.

"Above all, this recognition is a testament to Towson University's impact in Maryland. It is truly the greatest privilege of my career to serve this community." Other honorees included TU alums Bradley Chambers '91, senior vice president and chief operating officer of MedStar Health; Amanda Karfakis '99, president and CEO of Vitamin; and Rob Sharps '93, president and CEO of T. Rowe Price.

BY THE NUMBERS

No. 1

public university in Maryland

No. 1

university in Maryland for social mobility

No. 3

university in Maryland for both student experience and best value

No. 15

public university in the country

No. 40

in the nation among public and private universities

Rankings according to The Wall Street Journal



Leading the Way in AI

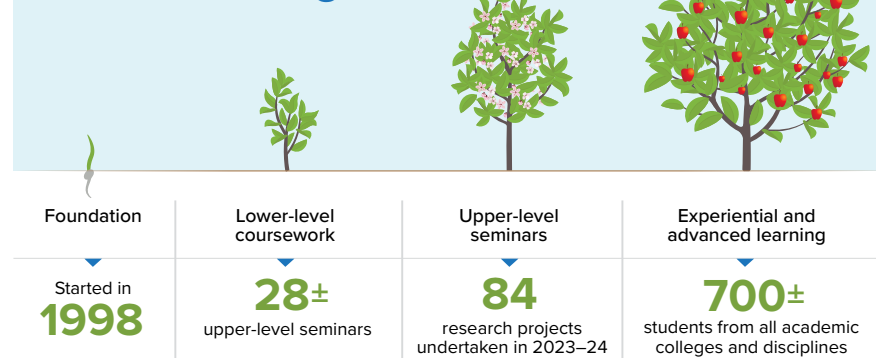
Artificial intelligence has impacted cybersecurity through opportunities and challenges. Cybersecurity can be enhanced by using AI tools, and AI needs to be secured and trustworthy as well. In early March, the National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded a \$530,000 grant to TU's Center for Interdisciplinary and Innovative Cybersecurity (Cyber4All Center) to lead the development of a cyber AI program of study option for National Security Agency (NSA) Centers of Academic Excellence (NCAE-C) institutions.

The NSA designated TU as a CAE for cyber defense education in 2002 and in cyber operations in 2014. With this grant, TU has convened experts working in cyber and AI to develop the knowledge

units and a program of study in AI in cybersecurity for post-secondary education. Beginning spring 2025, schools across the nation with CAE designations in cyber defense and cyber operations may be able to pilot the program.

"Though AI will likely become foundational to all disciplines, access to AI models and techniques is leading to rapid application of AI to the problem of cybersecurity," says Sidd Kaza, associate provost and dean of graduate studies at TU. "The Cyber4All Center is poised to lead this effort in addressing emerging threats and creating solutions to challenges in cyber AI. Once completed, the program of study will equip students with knowledge and skills to tackle the evolving cybersecurity landscape."

Growth of the Honors College



With Honor

TU named Alison Rios Millett McCartney the Honors College's new dean in May 2024 after many years of service as the honors faculty director. You can read an interview with her on pg. 9.

President Ginsberg Celebrates *One-Year Anniversary*

PRESIDENT MARK GINSBERG WAS INAUGURATED ON OCTOBER 30, 2023. HERE'S A LOOK BACK AT HIS FIRST YEAR AS A TIGER.

● LISTENING TOUR

54 campus sessions | 1,959 participants

President Ginsberg's listening tour included meetings with each academic college and administrative division, as well as student organizations, alumni and external community partners.

● CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

The university community is often invited to engage with President Ginsberg. He holds office hours twice per month, where any Tiger can visit for a one-on-one conversation about any topic. He also hosts a monthly lunch open to faculty, staff and students. With a residence on campus, President Ginsberg can also be found regularly eating with students in the dining halls or cheering on Tiger Athletics in the evenings.

● INAUGURATION

President Ginsberg was formally installed as TU's 15th president on April 5, 2024. Other speakers at the event included President Ginsberg's sons, Andrew and Robert, as well as TU's shared governance leaders, USM Chancellor Jay Perman, and George Mason University President Greg Washington.

● TIGER TRAIL

This spring, President Ginsberg embarked on a statewide tour to meet with alumni throughout Maryland. Nearly 530 Tigers attended the nine receptions.



Clockwise from upper left: President Ginsberg with Doc at inauguration; with Provost Melanie Perreault supporting the Tigers; throwing out the first pitch during an O's spring training game in Florida; visiting with students during Move-In; cutting the ribbon of the new Health Professions Building; at his inauguration; greeting people at Welcome Bash; selfie time at the Late Night Breakfast during finals week.

LOOKING AHEAD

As he began year two, President Ginsberg announced his priorities for TU's next era. These initiatives were developed with input from the university community and in support of the six goals outlined in TU's current strategic plan. Among them are holistic student success efforts, research and alumni engagement opportunities.

TU'S STRATEGIC PLAN

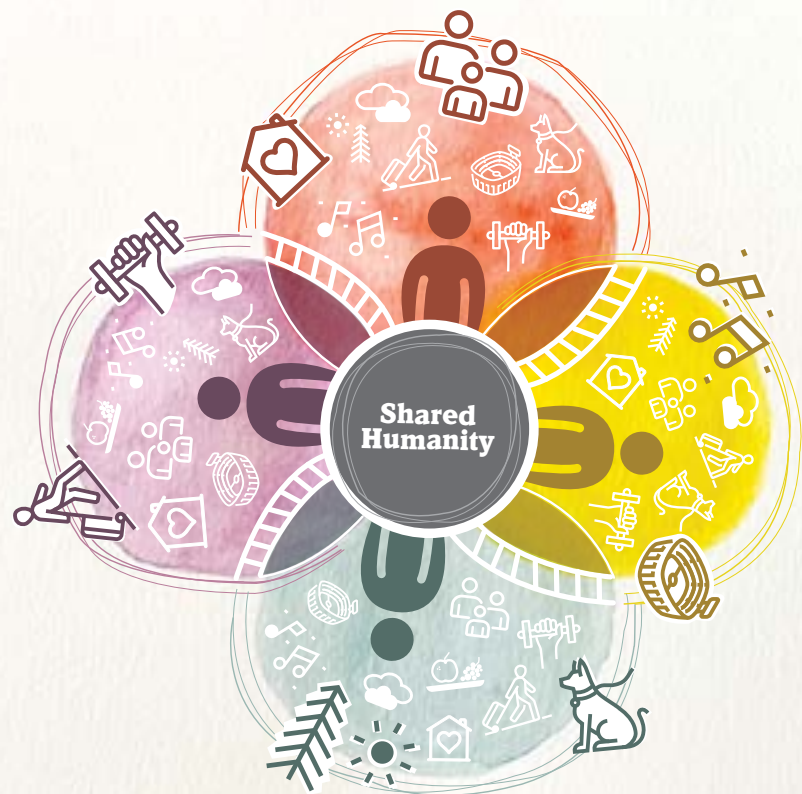
The 2020-30 strategic plan—Leadership for the Public Good—builds upon TU's historic excellence and looks to the future with purpose and passion.

The plan's goals are:

Educate. Innovate. Engage. Include. Support. Sustain.

Progress, updates and milestones for these goals can be viewed on TU's strategic plan dashboard.





OFFICE HOURS

Civic Discourse as a Tool to Create Community

Director of Civic Engagement & Social Responsibility Romy Hübler explains how to use dialogue to promote civic discourse.

Civic discourse is a way to foster a community of belonging. It creates an understanding of and considers potential solutions to cultural norms, structures and complex systems that create and sustain challenging societal problems.

Here at TU, we're using restorative practices and dialogue tools to support civic discourse, so we can listen to understand and recognize we have a shared humanity with the people we are in community with. Even though we might have different ideas or solutions to our challenges, it's important to learn from one another.

Civic discourse is different from a debate because it is not about being right or wrong or winning an argument.

We are as a society not equipped to engage in conversations with people who might think differently or have opposing views. There have been rifts in families and even between folks who have been friends for a long time. Or there's an agreement to just not talk about it. That's challenging. If we are not engaging in conversations about the things we care about, then we're showing up as a version of ourselves that does not share the things that really move us.

If you only feel comfortable being your full self in spaces with people who have the same beliefs, then are you just stuck in that bubble?

Restorative practices is a perspective that prioritizes shared power and responsibility, challenging all members of a community to do things with others rather than to them or for them. It's a skill set that focuses on community building, inclusive decision-making and shared accountability.

The practice uses techniques like restorative questioning, consensus building and affective statements.

Dialogue is a perspective that prioritizes opportunities to learn more about one another, our identities, our experiences and our views. As a skill set it focuses on practicing deep listening and suspension of judgment, navigating challenging moments by turning to introspection and learning through curiosity and asking open-ended questions.

We have opportunities for faculty, staff and students to learn these skill sets and to participate in programming where dialogue and restorative practices are used. There are many ways this is already happening on campus, including the civic renewal fellowship, where we're training undergraduate and graduate students in dialogue and restorative practices so they can lead civic discourse conversations.

Mostly through our TU Community Conversations, we're bringing folks together on issues that impact the campus—whether that is food access, housing access or current issues.

Dialogue and restorative practices

are used across campus in many ways, including in how resident assistants and orientation leaders are trained. There's the restorative practices steering committee that hosts trainings throughout the year to help faculty and staff think through how they can incorporate it in the classroom, in their staff meetings, in their work with students. The Office of Inclusive Excellence Education & Support, in partnership with the Office of the Provost, coordinates Dialogue@TU and provides dialogue training for faculty and staff.

One of the key ways they can do so is to develop and share community standards for interactions: agreed upon ways to participate in the conversation. It includes using I statements versus generalizations, foregrounding stories versus facts and engaging in a community or circle for dialogue.

It also means not talking over someone else who is speaking. A lot of times when it's a debate that involves multiple people, the person who's the loudest and the fastest will get all the airtime, and then folks who might be more observant in making connections won't find a way in. So we're missing a lot of potentially important contributions.

Leaning into curiosity is another community standard. When you feel like something you hear isn't landing right with you, you respond by saying something like, "Oh, I'm curious. Can you tell me more about that?"

The largest tip is to be open to participating this way. It is different from how we normally have conversations, and it takes practice. Setting community standards ahead of discussions gives you a clear path for dialogue, because if you don't know what the people you're in conversation with are expecting, it's really hard to figure out standards in the moment.

Know that there are legitimate structures out there to use that counteract the division we are experiencing. But to use them, we have to lean into our own vulnerability and curiosity.



Coffee With...

Alison Rios Millett McCartney

We spoke to the new dean of the Honors College about her passion for teaching, experiential learning and TU itself.

LOCATION:
Zeke's Coffee in Hamilton-Lauraville

IN HER CUP:
Earl Grey tea

ADDICTION LEVEL:
"Very high. I easily drink six cups a day."

Q: For people who might not know, what is the Honors College?

A: We're trying to give students the experience of being at a small liberal arts college but with the resources of a larger university. The Honors College, which started in 1998, is that small liberal arts college feel. I mean that not in terms of subject but in terms of the type of learning.

It's hands-on, discussion-based learning. Students are taking classes with other students across campus in all different majors. What's important about this is that you're learning to think about, address and solve problems not just from one perspective. We're preparing them for the real world.

Q: What excites you about your new role as dean?

A: All the things that I'm going to be able to build. My word of the year is building. What I want to build, first of all, are more exciting learning opportunities for the students. So we're going to be starting, for example, a program to bring more faculty into the Honors College from across campus so that we can have more curricular diversity in the faculty. Also, building alumni relations is on the top of my list. I think that the alumni are integral for moving us forward, so I want to get their voices.

Q: What is it that you love so much about teaching?

A: Everything. I really love the process of discovering with students. It's not just that I'm assigning something to them, and they must learn and digest. Rather, we're co-creating ideas, co-creating solutions to problems, co-creating different ways to look at the world. I'm not just telling you what to do; I am telling you parameters of what you must know and how we can all think, learn and grow together. Honors provides

a unique atmosphere for that in the small class sizes that we have, in the fact that there's nobody in between me and the student. Students get to work one-on-one with faculty from day one here.

Q: Why is experiential learning so important to you?

A: This is what really prepares students for the job market and for graduate school. If students are interested in graduate school, I strongly recommend undergraduate research. Towson is a great place for that because, again, you're able to do the hands-on work with faculty one-on-one or three-on-one if you're talking about a lab. Last year, Honors faculty members who work with our students in chemistry and biology took their students all over the country for not only undergraduate research conferences but regular research conferences that faculty present at. And our students were outstanding.

If you think about a graduate school application, you've got a student who has good grades in good classes, so forth and so on. OK. But then I have a student who's already done the advanced type of research that we want to see in graduate school and has the good grades, clubs, leadership and grant and conference experience. It's a no-brainer. You're going to take the student who's already done an undergraduate research project, a thesis, worked with a professor. Somebody who is going to go further, deeper and be more creative in their thinking and their approach to problems.



Moving On Up



TU has sparked countless innovators. These are their stories.

Matt McDermott '00

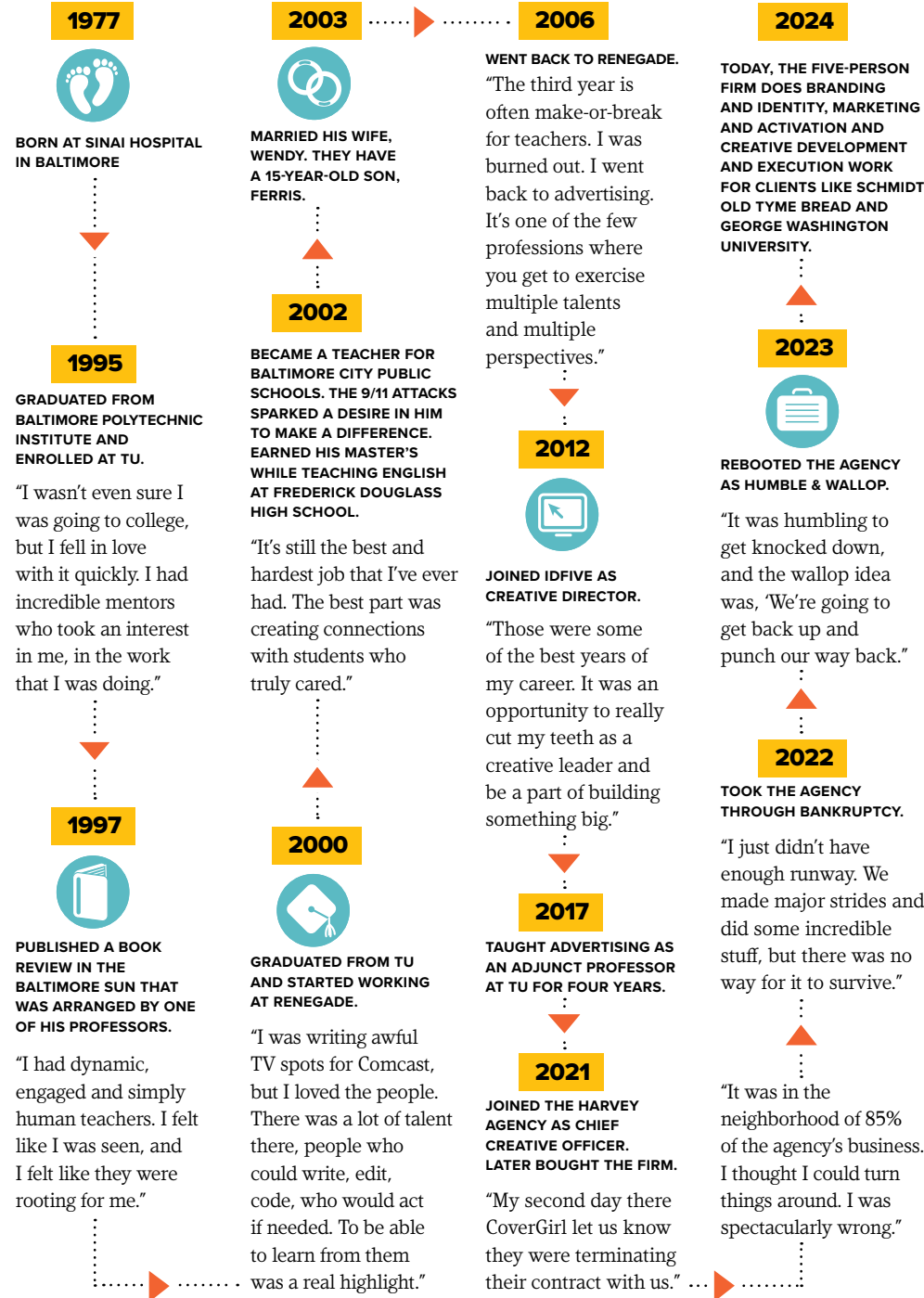
President, Humble & Wallop

Creativity runs through Matt McDermott's veins. It's also on his skin. The president of the Baltimore-based ad agency Humble & Wallop has some of his favorite quotes tattooed on his arms. Among them is one from the Bard of Baltimore, H.L. Mencken: "We are here and it is now. Further than that, all human knowledge is moonshine."

A fondness for that kind of irreverence has fueled McDermott's on-again, off-again love affair with the advertising business. After graduating from TU with a degree in English and a concentration in creative writing, he worked in the industry before detouring to become a teacher. Since returning, he's experienced highs and lows, and now he's running a small firm that's making a big impact working for clients from Maryland to California.

"I've really leaned into the fact that I can pull together a team that will push the envelope and not worry about being safe," he says.

Sounds like something that could be tattooed on an arm.



Breaking new ground, complementing current knowledge and leading to solutions for the public good

RESEARCH

Urbanization and its effects on stream chemistry and ecology

As TU seeks designation as a high research activity institution, TU Magazine will each issue bring readers a story of high-impact research. For this edition, we spoke with geosciences professor Joel Moore and environmental sciences and studies professor Chris Salice about their research partnership and how the university's Urban Environmental Biogeochemistry Lab in the Fisher College of Science & Mathematics has played a part in their work.

Abstract— Moore's and Salice's interdisciplinary research centers around the effects urbanization has on critical zone processes. The critical zone is from the top of the tree canopy down to the bottom of groundwater. The pair is particularly focused on examining the impact on streams and watersheds. Stream chemistry can be affected by many facets of human activity, such as road salts, concrete and other chemical runoffs. The research discussed here is an amalgamation of Moore's and Salice's work together over the course of their time at TU.

A Conversation with Joel Moore and Chris Salice

Q: How did you start working together?

A: (Joel Moore) I'm a geochemist and he's an ecotoxicologist. When he came to [TU], I started thinking, What are some interesting intersections of our research? One of the big issues in water quality—drinking water and ecology—are the effects of road salt. A lot of what's tied Chris and I together has been this interest in urbanization and the effects on stream chemistry and stream ecology. **(Chris Salice)** When I interviewed for the position of director of environmental science and studies, Joel was on my hiring committee. We had shared interests in programming within Fisher [College of Science and Mathematics], and, generally, geochemists and biologists make good research partners. We've also served on each other's master's students thesis committees.

Q: What have your recent research questions and parameters been?

A: (JM) We're working to figure out the effects of human activity in Maryland and the mid-Atlantic—including road salt and other components that come off the urban landscape—and how it affects stream ecology. How does that affect our

drinking water quality? How does that affect the organisms in the streams? Does it affect the safety of those streams for recreational use? **(CS)** Streams are the lifeblood of the Chesapeake Bay. If we can better manage the streams, we can improve the ecological health of the bay while also facilitating ecological uplift in the streams themselves. Improving the quality of streams and the bay is critical to Marylanders.

Q: What is the Urban Environmental Biogeochemistry Lab and how do you use it in your research?

A: (JM) The lab was founded in 2005, and it's used by faculty members from biology, chemistry and geosciences. The scope has expanded to include a wide range of research, from study of disinfection by-products to the earth's evolution to how magmas are produced. The two main instruments Chris and I have used in our collaborative research are an ion chromatograph, which lets you measure the positively charged ions, e.g., sodium, calcium and negatively ions, e.g., chloride, sulfate in liquid samples. We use that to characterize

streams along a gradient from forested to urbanized. We've also used the carbon nitrogen analyzer. That helps give information about nutrient status and the biogeochemical conditions affecting the organisms in the stream.

Q: How do you involve undergraduate and graduate students in your work?

A: (JM) They're essential—neither of us would be able to do what we do without our students. Students are in all aspects of our research, and particularly the grad students—they'll defend their thesis and hopefully that will turn into a published article. The undergrads often present on campus, at local conferences or sometimes even national conferences. And that's a great experience for them and something we try to support. **(CS)** The research engine that moves anybody's program forward is the students. The process of mentoring them benefits us personally and professionally because we can expand into different new areas with their interests. Students are critical, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels.



Melissa, left, and Rebecca

Sister Act

★ SOCCER

The TU women's soccer team was locked in a scoreless draw just before halftime of its August game against rival UMBC when senior Rebecca Groseibl chipped a shot from 35 yards out that found the back of net. As her teammates celebrated, one was just a bit more elated than the others.

Before the season started, Rebecca's sister Melissa joined the program. The move reunited the sisters, who are more than siblings and teammates.

"Melissa and I have been best friends and as close as can be for as long as I can remember," says Rebecca, who wears No. 27. "It's been awesome having her here with me."

The women, who have two other sisters and a brother, grew up in New Jersey. They started playing soccer

as kids and found that they had an aptitude for it, so they stuck with it. Rebecca, 22, originally played at Boston College before transferring to TU, where she is majoring in mass communication. After a back injury derailed her career at Canisius, Melissa, 20, joined her.

"I came to their game when they won the [CAA] championship last year, and I felt like if I could be a part of something that exciting, that would be a dream of mine," says Melissa, also a mass communication major. "When my sister and I were younger, we talked about how cool it would be if we could play college soccer together. That opportunity presented itself, and I was like, 'Towson is where I want to be.'"

Rebecca has been a key contributor for the past three seasons. Last year she totaled a career-high four assists in helping the Tigers win the CAA and make it to the NCAA Tournament.

"We came in early as a team in the summer to do extra workouts and really put in the work, so it was great to see the season unfold the way we wanted it to," she says.

While Melissa has played sparingly this season, the sisters are important components of the team, head coach Katherine Vettori says.

"Both are composed with the ball at their feet. They are technically clean and have high soccer IQs. They are excellent teammates to have with this group."

This season has been a storybook

reunion for Rebecca and Melissa, even if they do butt heads occasionally.

"If we're spending too much time together, we [might argue] over where to get coffee: Dunkin' or Starbucks," Melissa says, laughing. "But we get each other so well. Nobody can read me like my sister."



Rebecca, left, and Melissa



MAYA TUCKER '26
was one of two Tigers to earn U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic honors after setting three school records in 2023–24.



SYDNEY STEWART '26
represented TU at the Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Leadership Summit leadership summit this summer.



CARTER RUNYON '25
is the first TU Division I All-American tight end. He was on the preseason All-American second team.



SEAN COLSON '26
was named a College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America Individual Scholar All-American. He holds the second-fastest 100 backstroke time in program history.

Welcome Back

Volleyball assistant coach Terry "Hutch" Hutchinson is back on the bench after two years coaching at Georgia State. He spent five seasons (2017–21) at Towson, years when the Tigers earned three straight Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) titles and berths into the NCAA Tournament. TU combined to go 61-9 those three seasons, including a 30-4 record in CAA play.



Terry "Hutch" Hutchinson



SOCCER

Going Pro

Phoebe Canoles '23 signed with DC Power FC in July for the 2024–25 season. Canoles joined the Washington D.C. club after helping the Tigers to their first CAA regular season and tournament championship in 2023. The Power play in the USL Super League, which kicked off its first season in August. The team plays its home games at Audi Field.

HALL OF FAME

Honored Tigers

Jerrelle Benimon (pictured), Kacy Catanzaro (gymnastics), Mike Garner (track), voice of the Tigers Spiro Morekas, Frank Olszewski (soccer coach), Bobby Poist (football) and Brian Yaniger (golf coach) were inducted on Friday, Oct. 18, at the Hall of Fame's 60th-Annual Induction Banquet. The 2012–13 men's basketball team was honored as a Team of Distinction.

TENNIS

Serving Up a Sweep

Oct. 5 was a perfect day at the McClure Invitational. TU tennis won all seven of its matches against Lafayette. Gaia Montecchi, Chandre Boshoff, Olivia Rothfeld, Chloe Courtnege and Sania Suchinsky won singles matches. Ashira Murray and Tamzin Pountney won their doubles match as did Sofia Anderson and Aubrey Carper.

GOLF

FORE!, er, SIX

Six of the 129 players who qualified for the 103rd Maryland Open Championship are current or former TU men's golfers: David Hutsell '92, Billy Wingerd '05, Chris Baloga '05, Ryan Siegler '16, Brad Riley '24 and Braden Anderson '28. Three Tigers have won the tournament in the last 15 years, including Siegler (2023), Hutsell (2011) and Wingerd (2007).



HOT DOG

TU'S COMFORT DOG HAS TAKEN CAMPUS BY STORM.

➔ MEGAN BRADSHAW

📷 LAUREN CASTELLANA '13, '23 | ALEXANDER WRIGHT '18

One of TU's most popular Tigers is a playful, adorable dog who is trained to provide comfort to members of the university community—one belly scratch at a time.

Meet Bruno, the 1-year-old chocolate lab who arrived on campus last year, after a 2023 Big Give donor established a fund to bring a comfort dog on campus, provide training and pay for his care. Bruno spent the first few months of his life studying for his new role while living with his handler, public safety patrol officer Sgt. Jafar Taru, and his family. In fact, Taru's daughter suggested the pup's name—which the TU community agreed with, overwhelmingly supporting it in a naming contest.

"She fell in love with him right away," says Taru. "Bruno is very energetic, very smart, very outgoing.

He has the right temperament [for his work], where everybody just walks up to him, and he looks for that attention. Other dogs, they might shy away from it, but it's like almost built into his DNA to interact with people. Watching him progress through all the environments throughout campus with the construction, the noises, the marching band has been great."

Bruno debuted in February 2024 and will have spent more than 200 days on campus by the end of the calendar year.

Since his arrival, he's been settling in and learning basic commands, but as he reached his first birthday—Nov. 8—he and Taru will start more formal training. The pair did a test run with Baltimore County police in June.

"They wanted to evaluate our partnership and see Bruno's temperament—if he had any aggression, if he

was good for the job that he's planning on doing. And he passed. They really liked him," Taru says. "He was among other trained K9 dogs—Belgian Malinois, German Shepherds, other chocolate labs that are drug dogs, gun dogs and bite dogs. He wanted to play with them, and they're just sitting there like, 'No, we don't play here.'"

But Bruno's not just shaking paws and licking babies when he's on the job. He is a key part of the Office of Public Safety's community policing efforts.

"Community policing really boils down to transparency and involvement with the community, getting them to see your value to them and your ability to bring resources to help solve problems that affect their quality of life," says Associate Vice President for Public Safety and Chief of Police Charles "Joe" Herring.



The TU police department has more than 40 fully sworn officers who work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year providing the full range of patrol, investigative and crime prevention services.

The Office of Public Safety offers a variety of free safety programs for students, faculty and staff, including SafeWalk and SafeRide, emergency text alerts, the SaferMobility app and engraving on and registration of personal property like computers, tablets, phones and bikes.

The TUPD oversees dedicated security officers in each university-owned residence hall as well as assigns an officer who maintains primary responsibility for that building's safety. There are also emergency and blue light phones and safety cameras stationed around the university.

But perhaps the most important strategy TU's officers employ is community outreach.

The TUPD holds a variety of community events to promote crime prevention and safety. These include Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, Coffee with a Cop, Safety Day, Mascot Days at athletic events, night walks to identify and resolve safety concerns and more.

In addition, TUPD's Community Outreach Unit works closely with leaders in the campus community to provide security and safety programs, presentations and workshops throughout the year on topics like active shooter



“HE HAS THE RIGHT TEMPERAMENT [FOR HIS WORK], WHERE EVERYBODY JUST WALKS UP TO HIM, AND HE LOOKS FOR THAT ATTENTION.”

SGT. JAFAR TARU

training, emergency preparedness, basic street sense, identity theft and vehicle safety among others.

TU community members outside the Office of Public Safety have pitched in as well.

Members of divisions across campus have created the Tiger Advocacy Advisory Team (TAAT) to educate and support students with activism on and off campus and serve as the liaison between administrators, the TUPD and students. TAAT also provides on-the-spot assistance at spontaneous demonstrations, including sharing information on campus policies and local, state and federal laws.

“They do a good job of helping to keep the temperature down at [potentially volatile] events,” Herring says. “They have a different relationship with the students [than the Office of Public Safety], and they can interact with them. And the students hear them when they speak.”

One of the initiatives the chief is most proud of, though, has four legs and a tail.

“When I first came to Towson, we had a traditional K9 dog,” he says. “We’ve also had a controlled, dangerous substance (CDS)-trained dog, and we have an explosives/firearms detection dog. More recently, we have Sgt. Taru and Bruno. He came here as a very young puppy and grew up in this building with all the officers around him and on campus with all the people.”





“THE DOG HAS A VERY CALMING EFFECT, AND HE’S PRETTY EMPATHETIC TO PEOPLE.”

CHIEF OF POLICE
CHARLES “JOE” HERRING

Bruno is already a Big Dog on Campus, which Taru sees as a big part of TUPD’s community policing efforts.

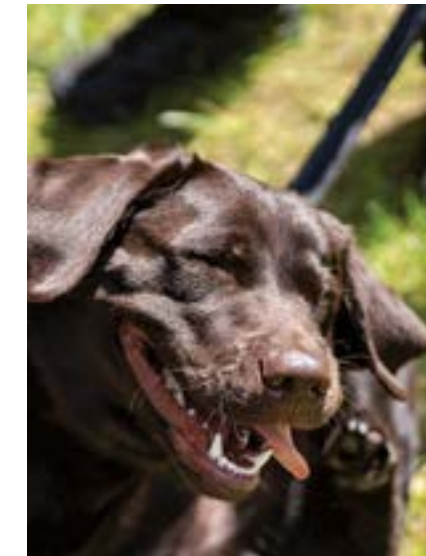
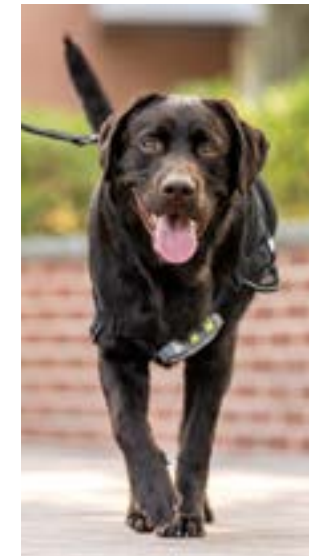
“Me walking around alone, people wouldn’t come up to me,” he says. “Seeing people come to me saying, ‘Oh, is that Bruno? Can I pet him?’ And seeing those same people over and over and building a relationship with them is a big plus. You want people to not just see police officers as enforcement, here to scold you about something or issue a citation.”

Bruno’s sole focus is people pleasing. Whether that is in a positive situation—collecting belly rubs while escorting President Ginsberg around campus—or soothing individuals who’ve been the victim of a crime or involved in an altercation.

“The dog has a very calming effect, and he’s pretty empathetic to people,” Herring says. “We get an overwhelming number of requests for Bruno. He’s very popular, does a great job and has the desired effect at all the different events.”

Being popular does require some decompression time. Like most dogs, Bruno loves a butt scratch and to play with his tug toy. He lights up and does a doggy dance when he hears the words “pup cup.” He’ll snack on carrots and has his favorite shows.

“He does watch TV. He will look at Animal Planet or Disney shows,” Taru says. “Our favorite show is ‘The Mandalorian.’ He will watch that like a child watches TV. It’s amazing to see him do that. He also definitely likes ‘Star Wars.’”

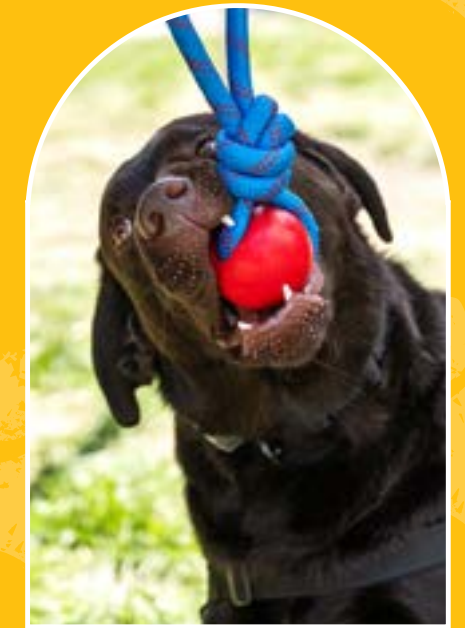


TU’s comfort dog program has already exceeded the goals and expectations Herring initially had. This past year has been a learning experience, uncovering operational needs that weren’t immediately apparent, such as having vehicles dogs can get into and out of easily and building in de-stressing breaks for dogs and their handlers. Herring wants to address

these challenges before Bruno gets any more furry colleagues.

“My goal ultimately is to get those operational pieces solved as quickly as I can and then expand to a second and, ultimately, a third comfort dog, so we can put them out across the three shifts,” he says.

In the meantime, Bruno will enjoy being TU’s top dog. **TU**



Bruno FAST FACTS



Birthplace
HIDDEN PONDS, N.Y.

Namesake
BRUNO FROM “ENCANTO”

Favorite Toy
BALL AND TRIANGLE TUG TOY

Favorite Treat
PUP CUPS
(WHIPPED CREAM IN A SMALL CUP)

Favorite TV Show
“THE MANDALORIAN”



LEARN MORE
ABOUT BRUNO



BUILDING THE Future of Health Care

The new Health Professions Building's cutting-edge technology and collaborative learning spaces make it a leading center for interprofessional health and wellness education.

BY MEGAN BRADSHAW

PHOTOS BY LAUREN CASTELLANA '13, '23
and ALEXANDER WRIGHT '18



The simulation center (pictured at top and above) provides students with an immersive, real-world learning experience in a safe environment.

The new Health Professions Building may have officially opened on Sept. 12, but students and faculty began using the state-of-the-art facility at the beginning of the fall semester. "This building marks a pivotal moment for both our college and the university," says College of Health Professions Dean Lisa Plowfield. "With its advanced technology and immersive learning spaces, it allows us to ensure our students can meet the evolving demands of Maryland's health care workforce."

The new facility brings nearly all of TU's health professions programs together under one roof, including the state's first accredited occupational therapy program and Maryland's second-largest baccalaureate nursing program. This addition strengthens CHP's dedication to excellence in health and wellness education, opening about a year after the relocation of the college's Institute for Well-Being.

The numbers are impressive.

TU has the largest health professions enrollment and the second-highest graduate rate in the University System of Maryland (USM). Around 30% of the USM's nursing bachelor's degrees come from TU.

The university broke ground at the building site, along University Avenue between the Liberal Arts Building and Prettyman and Scarborough halls, on Oct. 7, 2021. USM Chancellor and physician Dr. Jay S. Perman gave remarks during the ceremony that marked the occasion.

"The students who are going to come out of this building, they are truly the future of health care," he said. "We didn't need a pandemic to tell us how critical that future is. This building will give us the capacity to close our workforce gaps while giving students the opportunities they're clamoring for. They are banging down the doors to get into Towson's health programs. I hear it, and now you can swing those doors wide open."

Those newly open doors reveal an estimated 240,000 square feet purposefully designed to provide high-quality education, immersive, real-world experiences and moments of self-care for health professions students, faculty and staff.

The six-story, \$192 million building features 19 collaborative classrooms; 10 specialty high-tech interprofessional labs; eight audiology diagnostic labs; a state-of-the-art simulation center for acute, multi-patient, and primary care scenarios; and a 350-seat auditorium for the college's interprofessional programming.

"I'm grateful we have a building constructed for and dedicated to the health professions that allows for more cross-discipline collaboration and a deeper sense of community within our college," Plowfield says.

Great care was taken while planning the design and construction of the building. It features abundant natural light through the many windows and the atria, multiple green spaces

"Our new building is a catalyst for students to begin their careers."

PRESIDENT GINSBERG

including three terraced roof gardens and thoughtful choices on the colors, furnishings and mechanical systems (HVAC, boilers, etc.) are a few of the subtle touches that make the academic building a place students, faculty and staff feel comfortable.

The new building further demonstrates TU's commitment to sustainability, with a design that is on track to be certified LEED Gold—surpassing University System of Maryland targets for LEED Silver status. Since 2007, TU has been committed to building all new construction

projects to the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED standards—a benchmark for the sustainability of campus buildings.

The campus currently boasts 14 LEED certified buildings: TU Arena, the West Village Commons building, Marshall and Barnes halls, Burdick, Residence Tower, Barton and Douglass houses, Public Safety, College of Liberal Arts, Science Complex, University Union, Glen Dining and the Health and Counseling centers.

"Our new building is a catalyst for students to begin their careers. I believe this is the best facility of its kind in the country," TU President Mark Ginsberg says. "I know it will be transformative for our programs, transformative for our students. It'll be a precious resource for the Towson community and for the community of health professionals in Baltimore, Maryland and our region. It is a gem and will allow our programs to continue their tradition, their legacy of excellence."



The building has three terraced roof gardens with connections to several disciplines' programming as well as space to sit quietly and reflect.

ALL PART OF THE Master Plan

TU's Director of Design and Construction David Mayhew shares what went on behind the scenes before the Health Professions Building officially opened.



Top: A rendering showing the state-of-the-art building's multi-floor layout.
Bottom: The building in October 2022 as seen from York Road looking west.

When members of the TU community see the cranes, giant piles of dirt and corresponding holes in the ground that signal construction on campus has begun, they may not realize exactly how much planning goes on before the workers break ground on a new building.

No construction on campus happens without first making an appearance in the university's master plan.

"A master plan identifies all our proposed capital improvement projects," David Mayhew, director of design and construction, says. "It's forward looking and sets a vision for the campus."

The University System of Maryland requires member institutions to complete and submit a master plan (or updated one) every five years. In 1999, TU began planning for the last 25 years' growth by looking at the university's goals and reimagining the physical campus to figure out how to meet those goals. The Health Professions Building has been on each TU master plan since then.

"It got bigger each time," says Mayhew. "It generally was always in the same location, which is unusual. So much of our physical campus is fixed. Every master plan starts with our existing conditions. There's only so much room to propose where new buildings will go."

With the location more or less decided, planning then turned to the building's contents.

"We worked with the [College of Health Professions] for two years before we even started designing the building," Mayhew says. "It starts with the master plan; then part one of planning will quantify: How much is it going to cost? How many square feet do we need?"

"Part two gets into much more detail. It identifies every room in the building: How many faculty offices? How many laboratories and what types? What kinds of academic spaces?"

CHP Dean Lisa Plowfield had a specific vision for the new building and worked closely with Mayhew and his team to execute that plan. The goal for the building design was

to replicate the settings the students would work in after graduation, providing high-quality education in a safe environment and promoting student success and well-being.

Classrooms designed to foster collaboration and interdisciplinary education are on the lower floors, while the top sections of the building include more complex spaces, such as the health assessment lab, the virtual body lab and the simulation center.

"With the college's encouragement, we took the design process to another level," he says. "The simulation center is a high-tech environment where students can practice their skills in what is almost a real-life environment. They have very sophisticated mannequins that can replicate many types of human functions and are controlled by an instructor. They simulate different scenarios the students will encounter in a work environment."

An area the design team literally took to a new level were the terraced roof gardens.

"The site never changed, but the building got twice as big," Mayhew says. "Originally it was around 125,000 square feet, then it became 175,000 and the result is a 240,000-square-foot building in the original location. When the building design evolved to match the scale of the other structures on campus, the resulting step downs with the roofs (from the sixth floor to the fifth to the fourth) were originally designed to be green spaces."

Plowfield and her staff were instrumental in making programmatic connections to what became three terraced gardens.

One is aligned with occupational therapy and offers a place for students to practice mobility exercises on different ramps, stairs and ground materials. The second is a respite garden adjacent to the simulation center. It's meditative and quiet and intended for visitors to attend to their well-being. The third garden is called the Outreach Garden and is next to the building's executive education center, which was designed to be a space to host all types of university events.

These gardens plus the abundant natural lighting through large windows and atria are several reasons the new building is on track for LEED Gold certification. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is the world's most widely used green building rating system. It provides a framework for identifying and implementing measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

There are many unseen features throughout the building that also contribute to energy efficiency.

"The mechanical systems in the building use what's known as underfloor displacement air, where the air conditioning comes out of vents in the floor underneath the seating," Mayhew says. "Typically, it would be blown out of the ceiling and mix with other vents to create the right temperature. But this can recycle germs. Our method supplies air at a lower level and moves it through the room in one direction—up to the return grills in the ceiling—making it a healthier option."

He also cites temperature controls, occupancy sensors that control lighting in rooms and daylight sensors that monitor available natural light to determine when to turn on artificial light.

The building's outside received as much care as the inside.

"We want to reach the building's full potential," Mayhew says. "We want each building to represent the future. So while we try to match each new exterior to the style already present on campus, we were all on board with a more modern-looking building here."

"Hospitals use state-of-the-art technology. We wanted the outside to reflect what's going on inside. We were not afraid of having a forward-looking building."

The university's mission is centered around serving the public good, now and in the future. The new Health Professions Building—inside and out—has been designed to help do just that.



Q&A

A CONVERSATION WITH THE DEAN Lisa Plowfield, Ph.D., RN

We sat down with the dean of the College of Health Professions to learn more about the new building, its design and what effects it will have on the students, faculty and staff who spend their days there.

WHAT WAS THE GOAL FOR THE DESIGN OF THE NEW BUILDING?

We as a college want to put our students in the best position for success. This new building is about the environment, technology and simulation that provide real-world experience in a safe condition for learning—a place where students can make mistakes, learn and grow without affecting patient care or the quality of care received.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPACE IN THE BUILDING?

The simulation center certainly is near and dear to my heart as a nurse and someone responsible for figuring out how to prepare novice providers in a safe space. The simulation center puts the students in as close to real-world experiences as we can provide and keep everyone safe, whether it happens to be with patient actors, mannequins or any of the other experiential learning spaces.

The simulations we do will transform students' learning and help them reach a higher level of quality of care that they can deliver once they're out in the field, based on the experience they've had in these spaces.

WHAT IS A DESIGN FEATURE A CASUAL VISITOR TO THE BUILDING MAY MISS?

Being a health care provider in today's world is an extremely difficult job, so we specifically designed and built spaces that were helpful to the longevity of one's career. We created a respite garden so providers could learn to take care of themselves. We brought a lot of nature and daylight into the building. Whether that's through the atria, the large windows, the plants

throughout the building, it's all there for the health and wellness of the students and future health care providers.

throughout the building, it's all there for the health and wellness of the students and future health care providers.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE BUILDING?

This building is an investment in the future of health professions for the state. We're delivering high-quality, well-educated, safe care providers, and that improves the wellness of our communities across Maryland and beyond.

I think this building is going to be transformational for the education of our students. It's an investment in their learning, in helping them become health care providers with an expertise and knowledge base by which the public can trust that they know their craft and their science. But it's also an investment in student well-being and in their longevity in their career. Developing and promoting well-being between the providers and our communities is healthy for everyone.

WHAT WAS THE OVERARCHING VISION FOR THE BUILDING'S DESIGN?

It was to create a state-of-the-art learning environment that blends academic excellence with well-being and setting a standard for what students can expect in their professional careers. Central to this vision was the inclusion of high-end finishes, modern furniture and bright, open spaces that reflect a sophisticated, upscale learning environment.

Every detail—from the sleek design elements to the calming colors and abundant natural light—was carefully chosen to create an inviting, professional atmosphere that students and faculty will enjoy

being in every day. The goal was to foster a sense of pride in the space while providing an environment that encourages focus, comfort and collaboration.

WHY IS THERE FOCUS IN THE BUILDING ON PROMOTING INTERPROFESSIONAL EXCHANGES?

It creates opportunities for students to engage in teamwork and develop the communication skills essential for success in integrated health care teams. In today's health care settings, providers take a team-based approach. The building's flexible classrooms, research spaces, and faculty-student collaboration zones further enhance innovative thinking and problem-solving, positioning CHP students to lead in a dynamic and ever-changing industry.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO DESIGNING THE BUILDING TO MIMIC REAL HEALTH CARE SETTINGS?

We want students to feel confident and comfortable navigating modern, high-end health care facilities from day one. Whether it's the advanced simulation centers that mimic real-world patient care scenarios or the informal collaboration areas where students can gather and exchange ideas, every feature was selected with an eye toward preparing students for the professional spaces they will eventually work in.

Students will be better equipped to transition seamlessly into their careers, knowing they are prepared for the environments they will encounter.

For more of this interview, visit towson.edu/magazine.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS' **Evolution of Excellence**



Karen Keady '87 reflects on her nursing career and shares her thoughts on some of the Health Professions Building's cutting-edge technologies.

Karen Keady '87 almost didn't become a nurse. She started down a communications track at another university but needed a more personally meaningful career. After important conversations with her mother, who was a nurse, and speaking to a family friend who was a nurse at Johns Hopkins, Keady applied to Towson.

"[The family friend said,] 'I always like to hire the Towson grads. They are the best nurses I ever hire, and if I can get a Towson grad, I'll take them over anybody else.'"

After earning her bachelor's degree in nursing at TU, Keady spent much of her career at Johns Hopkins Hospital, from her first role as a clinical nurse in the neuroscience critical care unit to serving as vice president of nursing and chief nursing officer for Hopkins' Howard County General Hospital. She then joined the University of Rochester Medical Center for six years as the system's vice president and chief nurse executive. In April 2024, she became the system chief nursing officer at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Early in her career, Keady served as a clinical instructor for nurse leadership at TU and, like the woman who steered her into nursing, Keady looks for TU nursing grads when she hires.

"Whenever a Towson grad would come, I would always be so excited," she says. "I had leadership students I would try to hire during their last semester."

When Keady heard about the new Health Professions Building, she was excited by its unique design and focus on interprofessional education and sees the opportunities it provides students as the next iteration of excellence in health and wellness care education.

"Towson gave me the foundation of my entire career," she says. "They have been evolving all these years and continue to produce great graduates."

VIRTUAL BODY LAB (ANATOMAGE LAB)

The new building's digital body lab promotes high-tech, high-touch experiential learning. The cutting-edge technology displays scans of people who donated their bodies to science and who range in age, gender and health history. Students can parse thousands of digital layers to examine components of the bodies, such as the nervous system, musculature and the brain.

"The simulation when I was training was so much less involved," Keady says. "[The virtual body lab] is wonderful because you get to practice when the stakes aren't as high, but it is almost like a real-life situation. Having been someone, who for many years, hired new graduates and had to get them transitioned to practice, I feel using technology to prepare people will help them be successful."



HOSPITAL WING SIMULATION

Most of the sixth floor mimics a hospital wing, including acute and multipatient care units and a primary care clinic. This immersive yet safe setting gives students opportunities to practice hands-on care and enables direct faculty feedback. It embodies the college's focus on interprofessional education and collaboration, bringing together students from multiple disciplines to work as a team during simulations.

"It helps get [students] warmed up to what it's going to be like in the clinical setting," Keady says.

"It also shows them no one works alone. Simulating those real-life situations when there's not so much at stake lessens the anxiety for trainees.

"I can remember the day I finished orientation. I was like, 'Oh, my God, I'm going to be by myself.' It's a scary feeling, but [the simulation center] reinforces the idea that you're not taking care of the patient by yourself. You have a team who all work together."

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING

The new building includes spaces for occupational therapy students to learn how to provide quality care that positively impacts the health and well-being of the community. One is a lab designed to replicate a natural living environment, including a kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and living room. It provides a realistic skill-development space, where students learn the practical skills and therapeutic techniques needed to support clients in achieving greater independence in their everyday lives.

"Simulating what students are going to be faced with—seeing it, doing it—is an effective way to teach needed skills," Keady says. "Even nursing students could benefit from that. [Health care providers are] trying to figure out how to get nurses prepared to work in ambulatory settings right out of school.

"Before, no one went into home care right out of school; you had to go to the hospital to develop your skills. Now we're hiring people right into home care and ambulatory settings where you have to be really independent. That's not easy when you're a brand-new graduate. Showing them these environments is one step closer to getting people prepared to work in unconventional settings that are becoming more and more important."

LOOKING FORWARD

Over the course of her career, Keady has seen tremendous change in the health care industry in relation to technology.

"[Technology] has increased the speed in which we have to work because now we can do things faster," she says. "One of the things schools have to think about is how to prepare the new graduate going into this world where time may be scarce. I think this new [building's state-of-the-art technology] will transition students to clinical practice in a smoother fashion. I think it'll increase their confidence. Higher confidence in the new graduate would allow them to be in more critical situations and be more independent sooner.

"In the last 10 years, most schools have moved to simulation. But I have not seen or heard of a school that has such a tech-savvy building. I'm delighted this is happening because if I can shorten the time I need to train [new nurses] in the clinical setting when they're hired, then I can get them working sooner. It's win-win for everybody."

THOUGHTS FROM OUR DONORS

TERRIS KING '84, '18

Founder of a health care consulting company and a community-based health improvement nonprofit, he believes in TU's responsibility to focus on eliminating health inequities.

"Towson University's greatness is not only its reputation for scholarship and academic rigor but also in its commitment to serve our neighboring city Baltimore. I want to remind students of the importance and required commitment of every Towson health professional to serve the underserved with respect, dignity and quality care."

KAREN KEADY '87

She was excited to learn about the construction of the new Health Professions Building and decided to honor her parents, John and Elaine, by naming the virtual body lab.

"Towson gave me the foundation of my entire career," she says. "I developed my philosophy of care when I was training there, and I love that. When I learned about the building and this technology, I wanted to give back to a place that I know is going to continue to produce wonderful nurses who will take care of people."

FRAN SOISTMAN '79, '15 (HON.)

After spending most of his career in executive leadership positions in health care, it is appropriate that a portion of his 2020 gift of \$5.6 million has gone toward the new Health Professions Building.

"With the graying of America—the needs are only getting greater," he says. "The pandemic pointed out our vulnerability as a nation and woke us up to the importance of health professionals as frontline and essential workers. Our CHP students have been scattered over a 2-mile radius for decades. This important new building offers unique spaces for collaboration and learning in multiple ways."



ON ANGEL'S WINGS **'I Want Him to Be Remembered'**

Pam Windsor '78 shares the story behind the Health Professions' Building's Gabriel's Gift Labor & Delivery Suite

On Oct. 24, 2019, Pam Windsor's first biological grandchild, Gabriel, was born. He weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces and was 21 inches long.

It was a stillbirth.

"A few days before his due date, my son and daughter-in-law had an obstetrics appointment," Windsor recalls. "Afterward my son called to say Gabriel's heartbeat had stopped. And they had no idea why."

The next day doctors induced labor, and Gabriel arrived without ever taking a breath. The family was devastated.

"He had such a sweet little face," Windsor says with a smile in her voice.

The only uplifting thing from that time was the care her daughter-in-law Jessica received.

"I remember the unbelievably compassionate care from the nurses throughout Jessica's stay in the hospital," Windsor says. "I was very impressed."

She struggled to make sense of Gabriel's death but knew she wanted to do something to make sure he wasn't forgotten.

"When I was younger, people didn't always name stillborn babies," Windsor says. "Sometimes people wouldn't even count them among their children. It made me very sad. I wanted to do something that would let Gabriel's memory live forever."

Windsor's nursing scholarship—On Angel's Wings—came about through her Osher Lifelong Learning Institute connections.

A former Osher board chair, she knew Kathleen Hider, then TU's director of planned giving, from the institute's development efforts. Hider introduced Windsor to Linda Roush, senior

director of development, and Lisa Plowfield, the dean of the College of Health Professions. Plowfield, a nurse, was "extremely empathetic" to Windsor's experiences.

"When I was thinking about that scholarship, at first I didn't know which of my connections to Towson to honor (Windsor graduated with a mass communication degree)," she says. "But thinking about the labor and delivery nurses who cared for Jessica, who is also a nurse, made the choice clear."

She gives each recipient of Gabriel's scholarship a small pair of feathered angel wings and asks them to pay Gabriel's gift forward by striving to provide the same level of care and attention to their patients as Jessica received. Windsor keeps in touch with the scholarship winners and is very happy to talk with them about her grandson.

When the opportunity came to name the labor & delivery suite in Gabriel's honor, Windsor didn't hesitate. While she was unable to attend the official building opening, her son Brian and his wife, Jessica (pictured above), were thrilled by the space.

"They said it exceeded all their expectations," Windsor says. "They were just enthralled."

She sees her named space as a way to honor the nurses who helped her family at the time of Gabriel's birth, provide inspiration to nursing students and publicly acknowledge the grief that many families have experienced and help them heal.

"I am very pleased to know Gabriel's memory is helping others achieve their goals and reach for their dreams," Windsor says. **TU**

SHOWING AND TELLING

After decades in the business, bringing art to the masses still thrills Eric Hanks '79.

BY MIKE UNGER

In June, Eric Hanks flew from his adopted hometown of Los Angeles to his native Maryland. On a hot day at the zoo in Baltimore, as lions lazed in the sun and penguins plopped into their pool, he was hunting—for fascinating works of art. Hanks '79, one of the country's preeminent experts on African American art, is an appraiser on "Antiques Roadshow," which had rolled into town.

Hanks opened his art gallery in 1988 and since then has worked alongside some of the most important African American artists and sold works to some of the boldest names in Hollywood. But it's his down-to-earth manner and desire to educate people on art, not just sell it to them, that makes him the perfect personality for "Antiques Roadshow" and one of the most successful art dealers in the United States.

"Eric has the heart of a teacher," says Phoebe Beasley, whose collage artwork was part of two major touring museum exhibitions, including a group show mounted by the Smithsonian Institution entitled *In the Spirit of Martin*, honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Hanks has sold her work in his gallery for decades.

"He doesn't really think about or worry about a sale as much as he worries about, 'What is it you'd like to learn and how can I help you get there?'"

Hanks, 70, has sold pieces to Denzel Washington and Samuel L. Jackson. Pretty heady stuff for a guy who grew up in Montgomery County a sports nut, not an artist.

"When I go into the gallery and there's nobody in there but me, and I'm surrounded by all these works by wonderful artists, I feel very fortunate," he says. "I never get tired of it. When I look at some of the works, I see something I've never seen before. I feel something I've never felt before."

On that summer day at the Maryland Zoo, Hanks looked over dozens of pieces that their owners hoped were worth a small fortune. "Antiques Roadshow," the captivating PBS program in which people bring paintings—or jewelry, posters, prints, toys and games, any kind of collectible, really—to be valued by experts is in its 29th season, and this was the first time it had ever filmed at a zoo. Although thousands of people attended, only a hundred or so of the appraisals were recorded. Less than that will make it onto the episode when it airs next year. Hanks met a woman who bought three works—for \$7(!)—by painter, sculptor and author Faith Ringgold, who died in April.

"When she bought them, she didn't even realize who Faith Ringgold was," he says, almost giddily. "In fact, she thought they were done by a resident at a senior home. She just loved them because of the way they looked. I'm not allowed to say how much they're worth because the show hasn't aired yet, but it turns out they were worth a ton more than seven bucks."

After decades in the art business, the beauty of the work, the excitement of the sale and the satisfaction of bringing art to the masses still thrills Hanks.

"Sometimes, even though I'm not the producer of the art, when something in my gallery sells, I feel like one of my children is leaving home."

Born in Washington, D.C., Hanks moved to Montgomery County with his family when he was four. The third of four children, his father was a chemist who worked at the now shuttered Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and his mother ran a day care. His sister Rene was (and still is) the artist in the family; sports were Hanks' passion as a kid. He played basketball and baseball and ran cross country.

After he stumbled during his initial attempt at college, Hanks followed a friend to TU. That decision, he says, changed his life. In one of his classes, he was tasked with writing to a famous historian. He chose John Hope Franklin, once the president of the American Historical Association. In 1995 Franklin was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

"At the time, he was at the University of Chicago," Hanks says. "He actually wrote me back. I saved the letter, and I have it framed hanging in my office in my gallery. He answered my questions, and he gave me some publications that weren't readily available. It was a hugely impactful class."

Hanks graduated with a degree in history, which he says remains relevant in his career today.

"I'm an art dealer, but one aspect of it is historical," he says. "Some of the artists I represent are contemporary, but many are no longer with us. They did things at a time when it was difficult to be a Black person in the U.S."



Eric Hanks with a painting by Wadsworth Jarrell on location for "Antiques Roadshow" at the Denver Botanic Gardens in Colorado.

Hanks became interested in the art world when his older sister Camille and her husband started collecting in the mid '60s. In his late 20s, he followed them to California. While working as a computer consultant, he decided he wanted to open his own gallery.

"I was going around interviewing gallery directors and owners, most of whom I didn't even know prior to that," he says. "The good news was most of them were very receptive and generous with information and advice. Most of the advice I got was, 'Don't do it,' because as one of them told me, 'Look, you need at least five years' worth of surviving money because you're not going to make very many sales, and you're definitely not making any profits for a long time.'"

Undeterred, he opened M. Hanks Gallery in Santa Monica in 1988 (M is the first initial of his oldest daughter, Monika). He immediately got the attention of collectors by showing work by the Mexican American sculptor Elizabeth Catlett, and, over the years, he gained a reputation for not only working with incredible artists but for demystifying art for consumers. He held art appreciation courses at the gallery, and he hosts "Eric's Perspective," a podcast that delves into many aspects of the art world.

"He's extremely knowledgeable about the whole area of art and collecting," says Robert Davidson, a longtime client, friend and the chair of the Smithsonian American Art Museum's board of commissioners. "I've never seen him show a piece

of art that wasn't A-plus. The fact that he's focused on quality is what makes him unique."

Listen to Hanks talk about artists he loves, and you'll yearn to experience art in the way that he does. The painter Charles White, whose work is displayed

“SOMETIMES, EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT THE PRODUCER OF THE ART, WHEN SOMETHING IN MY GALLERY SELLS, I FEEL LIKE ONE OF MY CHILDREN IS LEAVING HOME.”

in museums across the country, including the Art Institute of Chicago, Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Gallery, is among his favorites.

"I admire his ability to transform a two-dimensional piece of paper into something that looks three-dimensional when you look at the way he's drawn these figures," he says. "That's one thing, technically speaking. But his whole approach was to display Black people in a dignified way. It was like he was answering the people that would be entertained by

caricatures and negative stereotypes of Black people. He was doing it at a time when, generally speaking, if you wanted to make a lot of money as an artist, you would have to be more like an abstract expressionist. He stuck to this because he felt compelled to do it."

By 1993 Hanks needed more space, so he moved his gallery to a larger building in Santa Monica. His first show there featured photos by the late Howard Bingham, who was known for photographing Muhammad Ali. Low and behold, The Greatest showed up to the opening, where he playfully squared off with another boxing legend, Ken Norton Sr. The line to get in looked like Disneyland. Hanks recalls. Actor Kelsey Grammer purchased several of Bingham's prints that night.

In 2015, M. Hanks Gallery moved to Fullerton, in Orange County, where it is open today by appointment only. Hanks' reputation and visibility has only grown since he joined "Antiques Roadshow," which he was a fan of before he was a cast member.

"Oftentimes people come in thinking, 'Oh, my goodness, I can retire and go to the south of France and swim in the Mediterranean,'" he says, laughing. "And it turns out what they have is a reproduction that's maybe worth less than 100 bucks. It's almost like a lottery ticket."

At home in his gallery, surrounded by breathtakingly beautiful works of art, Hanks always feels like a very lucky man. **tu**

TREASURE HUNTER

BOB WITTMAN '80 IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST EXPERTS IN ART THEFT RECOVERY.

BY MIKE UNGER

Bob Wittman was staying at the InterContinental hotel near Miami, eagerly awaiting word of what was happening outside of the Louvre. Four thousand five hundred miles away in Paris, his associates weren't standing in the interminable line to get in, hoping to eventually elbow their way through hordes of tourists to catch a glimpse of the Mona Lisa. As the line slowly snaked its way toward the entrance, they remained in the plaza.

When the men they were waiting for arrived, one carried a tube. Inside it were two original Pablo Picassos worth an estimated \$65 million. They had been stolen from the artist's granddaughter Diana about five months earlier, and Wittman had orchestrated this operation to get them back.

The \$10 million black market deal had been set up in Florida by an informant and someone Wittman describes simply as a "bad guy." Both were under the distinctly mistaken impression that he was a crooked art dealer. After Wittman's colleagues took possession of the two paintings, "Maya With Doll" from 1938 and "Portrait of Jacqueline" from 1961, the thieves were arrested and the paintings returned to their rightful owner.

While the 2007 undercover operation might sound like a scene from a movie, it was just one of many such stings organized by Wittman '80, the founder of the FBI's art crime team. During his two decades with the bureau, Wittman was responsible for recovering roughly \$300 million in stolen art and cultural property. He left the FBI in 2008 with a reputation for being among the world's foremost experts in art theft recovery—and no shortage of great stories.

"The real art in an art heist isn't the stealing, it's the selling," says Wittman, 68. "The thieves are good at getting the stuff, but then the problem is, what are you going to do with it? They're usually better criminals than businessmen."

Two years after retiring from the FBI, he wrote the memoir "Priceless: How I Went Undercover to Rescue the

World's Stolen Treasures." It became a New York Times best-seller and since has been optioned by Amazon. As anyone who's ever met the unflappable Wittman knows, if it ever does become a television show, it won't lack for riveting plotlines.

"He's cool as a cucumber during stressful times," says Herb Lottier, the former director of protection services at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. "The man could be an actor on Broadway. He's got ice water running through his veins."

Wittman didn't set out to travel the world solving art crimes like some sort of modern-day Sherlock Holmes with a Baltimore accent, not a British one. He grew up just outside the city in Hamilton as a bigger fan of the Orioles and Colts than O'Keeffe or Cezanne. But his father, Robert, owned an antiques gallery on Howard Street downtown, where he sold Japanese ceramics and other Asian art. His mother, Yachiyo, was Japanese, and Wittman still recalls the bigotry she was subjected to during his childhood in the early 1960s. The idea of working to eliminate prejudice intrigued him, even at an early age.

He majored in political science at TU, where he attended classes at night while working office jobs during the day. After graduating, Wittman joined his father and brother in a

publishing business that produced small newspapers focused primarily on agriculture. It was fulfilling work, but in the back of his mind he yearned for more excitement. In the early '80s he'd watch cop shows like "Hill Street Blues" and imagine himself as an officer fighting crime.

"I wanted to be Crockett," Wittman says of the Don Johnson character in "Miami Vice." "I thought that would be really cool to be on a cigarette boat in Miami Harbor wearing a white suit. I thought, 'I could do that in the FBI.'"

After seeing an advertisement for the agency in the employment section of the Catonsville Times, he applied. "Basically, you had to be at least 23 years old, have a college degree and not have any convictions," he says. Needless to say, those were different times.

He was invited to take the entrance exam, and after passing that, a physical aptitude test and background check, Wittman was sent to Quantico, Virginia, for training. Each recruit could list up to 15 cities where they wanted to be stationed; his top three were Honolulu, Miami and Baltimore. So of course, he was sent to the Philadelphia office. Wittman was 32 and married with two children, but his wife, Donna, supported his dream. They packed up their family and headed north on I-95.

His first assignment was on the

truck hijacking squad. While he was working cases involving stolen TVs and cigarettes, two high-profile art heists went down in Philly. A bronze sculpture mask was stolen from the Rodin Museum, and three important pieces from the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology and Anthropology (now known as the Penn Museum) vanished. Art theft wasn't a particularly sought-after assignment for the established agents in the office back then, so the cases landed on the new guy's desk.

Wittman helped solve both. A tip led to the apprehension of the man who stole the mask, which was crafted by Auguste Rodin in Paris in the 1860s before he was famous. When they arrested him, agents found the gun he used in the robbery but not the mask.

"We ended up going to where he was living and digging out the entire garden, but we couldn't find it," he says. "Finally, we went to his mother's house, and we searched that place from top to bottom. We eventually found it wrapped up in brown butcher paper and newspapers underneath the hot water heater in the basement."

The other case was trickier. One day during her lunch break, a woman who worked at the Penn Museum strolled into a secondhand shop near campus. There she saw the four-foot statue of the Egyptian god Osiris that

Bob Wittman at the Baltimore Museum of Art.
Lauren Castellana '13, '23

“There was a George Washington portrait by [Charles Willson] Peale that was stolen at Lafayette College [in 2012], and basically, it was part of a scavenger hunt,” he says. “They found it in the bushes a week later.”

Not much art hangs on the walls of Wittman’s condo in the Penn’s Landing section of Philadelphia. Donna is a minimalist, he says, and what art he does have is displayed at their house about 45 minutes away. His collection includes two Native American bowls he purchased in Santa Fe, a couple of Salvador Dali sketches and some Civil War muskets. He was inspired to buy them all after working cases involving similar pieces.

While Wittman had always appreciated art, he didn’t come to fully understand it until the FBI sent him to school. He studied art history at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, diamonds at the Gemological Institute of America in Santa Monica, California, and jewelry with experts at Zales in Dallas. In 2004 Wittman put together a team of eight agents and started the FBI’s art crime team.

Doug Miller was the site director of William Penn’s country estate, Pennsbury Manor, while Wittman and his team were investigating the theft of items from the historical house, including a pewter charger cast in London in 1671. Wittman helped the estate recover the items, and Miller and he became friends, speaking to museum associations around the country about theft prevention and recovery.

“While we hold the deed to these items, we hold the deed for the good of the public, not for personal use,” Miller says. “You’re ultimately stealing from the public when you steal from a museum. Since Bob [returned the items] approaching 30 years ago, you’re looking at conservatively half a million people who have gotten to enjoy that piece of history that we wouldn’t have had had he not been able to recover it.”

In 2000, three men with machine guns stormed into the Nationalmuseum in Stockholm, Sweden, and made off with Pierre-Auguste Renoir’s “Young Parisian” and “Conversation” and Rembrandt’s “Self Portrait.” The three works together were worth an



Clockwise from top: African masks Bob Wittman helped recover in Poland; the Rembrandt he was instrumental in returning to a museum in Sweden; a painting by Renoir that he assisted in getting back for the Baltimore Museum of Art.

estimated \$42 million. When Wittman got a call from an FBI colleague in Los Angeles who said he thought he knew the Renoir’s location, he knew he had to get involved.

“He said, ‘This drug squad has been working on this guy from Bulgaria named Boris,’” Wittman recalls. “They did surveillance and heard him talking about moving the Renoir. He took it out of a coin shop on Wilshire Boulevard where he had it hidden in the safe. When he comes out, they arrest him.”

Turns out Boris also knew the whereabouts of the Rembrandt, which led Wittman to Copenhagen, Denmark, where he posed as an authenticator for the Russian mob in an undercover operation. For months he cultivated a relationship with the thieves, eventually agreeing to pay them \$250,000 for the painting. The deal went down in a hotel room, the art was repossessed and the perpetrators arrested.

Wittman was in Warsaw, Poland, in 2008 on an undercover mission to recover masks stolen from a museum in Harare, Zimbabwe, when he felt something disturbing in the pit of his stomach. Actually, it was what he wasn’t experiencing

that concerned him. There were no butterflies.

“I was in a cab around 11:30 at night, and I was not nervous,” he says. “I was bored. You’ve got to have that edge, otherwise, bad things happen. And I thought, ‘This is it. I’m done.’”

After leaving the FBI, Wittman started his own consulting firm that provides protection and recovery services to more than 100 public and private collections worldwide. Art is a gargantuan business: Worldwide art and antiques sales reached an estimated \$67.8 billion in 2022, according to a report in the New York Times.

The idea for the memoir (written with 2009 Pulitzer Prize finalist John Shiffman) came about in part because Wittman wanted to make sure the issue of art theft stayed in the public light.

“I had some cases where the cultural property was destroyed, and that’s just terrible,” he says. “When these things are gone, you’ll never get them back. And they mean a lot to all of us. It’s not just a rich guy crime. It’s everybody’s crime.”

Wittman is still infatuated with what

he calls the complexity of art. But when he visits art museums these days, he takes them in unlike most others.

“I’m always very much interested in the security system,” he says. “I look more at the cameras than I do the art itself.”

During a trip to the Baltimore Museum of Art in September, he admired a Picasso. It conjured memories of the two works by the Spanish master he helped recover in Paris all those years ago. In the aftermath of that case, the informant and bad guy who unwittingly played a part in the recovery got very, very angry. Word was that from prison, they had put a bounty on Wittman’s life.

At the bar in The Diplomat hotel in Miami, Wittman met with two hitmen. Although he never carried a gun during his undercover art stings, on that day he packed one in each pocket. Thankfully, he convinced the would-be killers to stand down without having to employ the weapons.

“It’s been fun,” Wittman says in his typical easygoing style of the wild ride that is his life. “It’s always better to be lucky than smart.

“And I’m definitely lucky,” he says with a smile. **TU**

#TU proud



📍 Flying High

When the Ravens debuted their Paint the State Purple mural program, the first person they turned to was Jordan Lawson '15. A professional artist who earned his bachelor’s degree in digital art and design, Lawson created and painted (with the assistance of his business partner, Rodney Bulls) a beautiful work on the side of the Fresh Market in Dulaney Plaza in the heart of Towson. Among the components of the mural, which features a fan descending from the sky with balloons spelling RAVENS, is a depiction of TU’s Uritas Stadium. “I wanted to create a piece that was authentic to me, but at the same time relatable to the public,” says Lawson, a big Ravens fans. “I hope it brings people joy and shows the beauty of Towson.”



MY TOWN

Chanda Lockhart '08 San Francisco

FAVORITE RESTAURANT
House of Pancakes

PLACE FOR DRINKS
The Beehive

ART MUSEUM
The de Young Museum

BOOK ABOUT YOUR TOWN
"Cool Gray City of Love" by Gary Kamiya

TOURIST SPOT
Musee Mecanique on Pier 45

Chanda Lockhart '08 moved frequently with her military family. When her mother retired, she was stationed at Joint Base Andrews in Prince George's County, so the family settled in Maryland.

Lockhart, a first-generation college student, transferred to TU from College of Southern Maryland and credits her TU adviser, Les Potter, with helping her narrow her focus to the nonprofit sector and find an internship with Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Baltimore. That internship led to her first full-time job and a career helping others.

She moved to Los Angeles, where Lockhart had a job lined up at the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation as a development manager.

"My boss was amazing," she says. "Working there I discovered my calling, fundraising and advocating on behalf of children."

She moved to San Francisco in 2012 and took on a role in the development office of the Gateway Public Schools in 2017.

Lockhart works in the **Fillmore** neighborhood, which is directly connected to **Japantown**, the longest sustained Japanese enclave in the country. Another favorite neighborhood is the **Mission District**.

"It's a really vibrant neighborhood grounded in community," she says. "It has everything you could need or want: shops, clubs, restaurants, really good food."

Among Lockhart's favorite places to grab a bite to eat is **The Progress**, for small, dim-sum-style plates including their caviar potato cloud: potato foam and potato chips with caviar. She and her spouse head to **House of Pancakes** for their Chinese pancake rolls and homemade dipping sauce and to **Pho Ga**, which Lockhart says has amazing five-spice bone broth.

San Francisco has the largest amount of protected outdoor space in a city in the U.S., and Lockhart loves the **Golden Gate Park** and **the Presidio**, a former military base turned national park.

"You can stop by **Arizmendi Bakery** for coffee and pastries before heading into Golden Gate Park," Lockhart says. "The incredible botanical gardens there are free before 9 a.m."

Another kid-friendly spot is the **California Academy of Sciences**, which is designed for kids under 10 but has plenty for adults as well.

"My 3 1/2-year-old loves it," she says. "But I like to go with my spouse to **NightLife** on Thursday nights. It's a 21-plus event with bars, an internal rain forest with exotic butterflies and an aquarium on the ground floor."

There is something to do or see for everyone in the city by the bay, and Lockhart urges people to keep an open mind before visiting.

"The city is at an interesting point in time," she says. "Depending on your news source, you can get a wildly different view. But we've found it to be a vibrant, beautiful city, and we're never leaving. This is our home."

"It has everything you could need or want: shops, clubs, restaurants, really good food."



Alumni News



Scholarship Applications

The TU Alumni Association offers four scholarships annually, worth up to \$1,000 each. Current and incoming students must apply by Jan. 5 to be considered for the fall 2025 semester.



Upcoming Events

- Jan. 15–16 Phoenix Area Trip
- Jan. 17–19 Los Angeles Trip
- Feb. 27 and March 1 O's Spring Training Games
- March 4–14 Wonders of Morocco
- Jun. 6–14 National Parks and Lodges of the Old West

View the full calendar at alumni.towson.edu/events.



Top Tigers

We're looking for TU's most impressive young alumni through our Top Tigers in Their 20s program. Nominate a deserving candidate by Feb. 28 at alumni.towson.edu/toptigers.



Tigers for Good

Alumni volunteers are an integral part of the TU community and beyond. Through a new campaign, we're celebrating, promoting and advancing volunteerism by encouraging alumni to give back to and through Towson University as well as within their own communities. By 2030, our goal is to have a cumulative total of 250,000 volunteer hours completed through the Tigers for Good campaign.

Visit alumni.towson.edu/volunteer to learn how you can get involved. In addition to our existing offerings like quarterly service projects, postcard writing and Commencement volunteering, we're working with partners across campus to identify even more opportunities to create a robust menu of options, aligning alumni interests and skillsets with campus needs. We're also advertising alumni-led service projects to activate Tiger networks for good within the state and around the country.

Visit the volunteer website today and start making a tangible difference in a way that's most meaningful to you.

Successful Summer Reading Challenge

Over the summer, the TU community participated in our first Tigers Summer Reading Challenge. More than 300 alumni, students, faculty and staff hit the books for a chance to win fun prizes. Readers chose from a dozen categories ranging from traditional genres, like biography and mystery, to more unique ones, like books published the year they graduated from TU or books with black and gold on the cover. Tigers needed to check off at least five categories to complete the challenge. Readers took part from 19 states and represented all six colleges, with CLA claiming the top spot for participation. The top three books chosen were "The Women," by Kristin Hannah, "It Ends With Us," by Colleen Hoover and "Funny Story," by Emily Henry. The most popular authors were Ali Hazelwood, Emily Henry and Sarah J. Maas.



Globetrotting Tigers

June marked our first international trip with alumni through the travel program. About a dozen Tigers embarked on a nine-day adventure around the breathtaking Amalfi Coast in Italy. From our home base in Vietri sul Mare, we visited Amalfi, Positano, Paestum, Naples, Herculaneum, Pompeii and Sorrento. We had an incredible time exploring historic locations, taking in spectacular views and enjoying delicious, authentic local cuisine.

More opportunities to travel with Tigers lie ahead in 2025. To learn more about these exciting trips, visit alumni.towson.edu/travel.





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BASIGNANI NIGHT: On July 27, alumni and guests spent an alfresco evening at Basignani Winery. The night included live music with Beatles tribute band Saving Sgt. Pepper, as well as freshly made brick-oven pizzas and, of course, delicious wine.

1. Latrese Kimball, Ashena Sparrow '18, Michael Funskin '23 and Nicole Green '02
2. Mark Angle '87, Michael Preston '87, Tracey Myers-Preston '90, '93 and Jayne Angle
3. Tonja Brown, Keshia Monroe '13, Anicia Cote '13 and Erica Johnson '13
4. Justin Robinson '20 and Janae Thornton



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SUMMER VOLUNTEERING: Nearly 50 Tigers came together to harvest thousands of pounds of corn at First Fruits Farm Aug. 3. The farm partners with more than 200 organizations to provide fresh produce to food pantries, shelters, schools and other nonprofits working to eliminate food insecurity in their communities.

1. Richard Holley '96, Betsy Squires '02, '03 and Danielle Downer '17
2. Ashley Mousseau '20 and Emily McQuarrie
3. Leihui Zhu, Pei Ge '17 and Zhongxiong Ge
4. MacKenzie Omoile and Iguehi Edeogon-Omoile '23



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ALUMNI CRAB FEAST: Nearly 100 alumni and guests gathered at South Campus Pavilion Aug. 17 for the annual crab feast. In addition to Maryland steamed crabs, the menu included pit beef, crab soup, barbecued wings and a variety of classic sides and desserts.

1. Tanya Lightner, Cierra Nichols '10 and Leticia Miller '10
2. Guests received a specially branded mallet to take home after the event.
3. Sheri Elmendorf '94 and Doug Elmendorf '12
4. Katherine Gavin '98, Michele Larsen '90, Keith Ewancio '94, '07, Jason Larsen '88, Andrew Abrams and Tim Gavin



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TU NIGHT AT CAMDEN YARDS: It was an evening of food, fun, fireworks and five home runs, as the O's defeated the Detroit Tigers 7-1 Sept. 20. Nearly 200 Towson University alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends were in attendance.

1. Guests enjoy a cookout in the Bullpen Picnic Area ahead of the game.
2. Louis Murray and Stacey Bland '95
3. President Mark Ginsberg, Provost Melanie Perreault, Vice President Boyd Bradshaw, Dean Alison McCartney and Vice President Daraius Irani
4. Tigers cheer on the O's from sections 80, 82 and 84.

Class Notes

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

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

SEND MAIL TO:


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

EMAIL:

alumni@towson.edu


WEB:


alumni.towson.edu/classnotes

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

 **Facebook:**
Towson University Alumni Association

 **Twitter:**
@towsonualumni

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 **Tag your posts:**
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1950s

JOE TISCHER '59 celebrated his 89th birthday in Hagerstown, Maryland on Aug. 24 with his wife, Chris, and TU's Associate Vice President, Alumni Relations Lori Armstrong.

1960s

JOSEPH LEE BOYLE '68 published "They are all noted villains: Maryland Runaways, 1782–1788." A 436-page compilation, the book is the fifth in his series on Maryland runaway servant ads in the 18th century.

1970s

TRAVIS (MARTIN) TALLMAN '70 was the recipient of the New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA) Lifetime Achievement Award for 2024. She was recognized



for her dedication to individuals with complex communication needs, specifically in furthering the knowledge and use of augmentative communication and assistive technology; commitment to the profession of speech-language pathology and dedication to NJSHA for more than 40 years.

JAMES SCHWANEBECK '73 retired in 2023 after teaching 50 years of mathematics without a sabbatical. He taught for 37 years at Montgomery

College, two years at the University of the South–Sewanee and 11 years at Dulaney High School.

RICHARD "ZACK" GERMROTH '76, '84 authored "Big City Public Relations" and received



the Public Relations Society of America's "2024 Best in Maryland, Award of Excellence, Publications."

1980s

ROGER DRECHSLER '80 and **SCOTT GLASS '81** volunteered at the U.S. Open in Pinehurst, North Carolina, in June. Drechsler and Glass were two of more than 4,000 volunteers at the golf tournament, and they were randomly paired together.

HERBERT HAND '83 retired in June 2023 after nine years as a chemist at Martin Marietta and 31 years at Adhesives Research, Inc. working as a scientist and a product development fellow. He, his wife, Patti, and his dog, Jett, are traveling the country in their Airstream trailer.

TONY HAWKINS '84 became the eighth president of SUNY Broome on Oct. 1.

MARY ALEXY MOORE '86 went on a medical mission to Kafakumba Training Center in Zambia. Moore provided speech evaluations to the highest-need students in the school and traveled to a school called Da Gama to do

the same with physically handicapped students.

RAYMOND RUBILOTTA '88 was promoted to associate center director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Additionally, he received a Presidential Rank Award from President Biden and NASA's Distinguished Service Medal, the highest award bestowed on a NASA civil servant.

1990s

KENDRA RANDALL '90 received the Steven P. Lemmey Legal Excellence Award for the Advancement of Public Service Responsibility by the Maryland Bar Foundation in partnership with MSBA on April 11.

JOAN COX '91 exhibited her art Aug. 2 to Sept. 1 at a gallery in Washington, D.C. "Sapphic Gaze" presented a compelling series of vibrant, life-size portraits that delve into the intimate lives of women-loving women.

MARCY RACHAMIM JACKSON '95 is the author of "Pour the Water: Transformative Solutions for Equity and Justice in Special Education."

MATTHEW WITENSTEIN '96 received tenure and promotion to associate professor at the University of Dayton where he works in the School of Education and Health Sciences. His upcoming co-authored textbook, "Comparative and International Education: The Fundamentals" is scheduled to publish in late 2024.



TIM AND GRETCHEN GALLAGHER

Tiger BNB

For a couple of Ducks, Tim and Gretchen Gallagher sure do love Tigers. The couple are graduates of the University of Oregon, but when their son, Chop '24, came east to play lacrosse, they fell in love with TU.

Chop, who's playing his final season for the TU as a grad student, was a freshman in 2020—right at the start of the pandemic. When the Gallaghers visited their son (who acquired his nickname due to his size at birth), they found that they couldn't socialize with other players' parents or even go out to eat.

So they decided to buy a house in the area where they could relax when they were in town. When they went home, they'd rent it out on AirBNB.

"Once we got to Towson, we were really impressed with the school itself," Gretchen says. "The size of it, the sports

teams, how people are into it, the little downtown area. We are really into the college."

The Gallaghers own a design company, so they decided to have some fun with their new house. They decorated it entirely with a tiger theme and called it "The Easy Tiger Home." (They have since bought another house, redecorated and dubbed it "Eye of the Tiger.") The houses feature black and gold color schemes, jungle wallpaper, tiger rugs and tiger-themed artwork. A highlight is a mirror that hangs over a bed with "Hey there, tiger" written on it. Tiger print robes are available for guests.

You get the idea.

"We want it to be a place that people enjoy not only because of how it looks but also because it's comfortable," Gretchen says. "We just think it's a fantastic community."

2000s

LORI SANCHEZ BLEWETT '00 was elected to the Harvard University Extension Alumni Association Board of Directors. She will serve a two-year term and focus on chapter engagement for the international association.

ELIZABETH EVERETT '00 is the author of the children's book "This Is The Sun/Este es el Sol."



The reversible/bilingual (English/Spanish) book is featured in an exhibit at the WOW! Children's Museum in Lafayette, Colorado.

KATHY FLANNERY '00, '07 was promoted to vice president and chief of schools of Sheppard Pratt Schools in Maryland's northern region. Sheppard Pratt operates 11 nonpublic special education schools in Maryland, serving students with autism, emotional disabilities and intellectual disabilities. Flannery joined Sheppard Pratt in 2000 and has served in numerous roles including assistant principal, curriculum instruction and assessment coordinator.

MINDI LEVIN '03 is associate practice professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Levin was selected as the 2024 recipient of the Ernest Lyman Stebbins Medal, the school's highest tribute to a member of its faculty.

CRAIG COLLINS-YOUNG '03 was inducted into the Col. John Eager Howard chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He will serve as secretary of his chapter. Collins-Young also was sworn in as a member of the Maryland chapter of the General Society of the War of 1812, where he will serve as assistant corresponding secretary.

JASON SCHIFFMAN '04 was named the LLS Visionary of the Year after raising \$162,408 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in the 2024 program. He worked on the campaign with his wife, Jennifer '04, who was also named VOY Team Member of the Year.

KEVIN WRIGHT '04 co-authored "Imprisoned Minds: Lost Boys, Trapped Men, and Solutions from Within the Prison." His



co-author, Erik Maloney, was incarcerated for life at the age of 21 and interviewed his fellow prisoners. Wright is the founding director of the Center for Correctional Solutions and associate professor at Arizona State University's School of Criminology & Criminal Justice.

JULIE KOSTIC '06 was selected to join National Cohort 20 of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business program. In May, she joined 300 other businesses owners from across the

country to graduate at the global headquarters in New York City.

2010s

JANINE BRANCH '10 won FHI 360's Impact Awards' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (individual) Impact Award. FHI 360's Impact Awards honor the contributions of individual employees and teams in helping FHI 360 achieve critical organizational outcomes and strategic objectives. Branch was selected from more than 700 nominations representing 45 countries.

MARK HENDRICKS '10 released his latest photography book, "The Central Appalachians: Mountains of the Chesapeake." He is a lecturer in TU's Department of Psychology.

ROBERT "BEN" MIDDLETON '12 joined the Baltimore-based law firm of Goodell DeVries as an associate in the



firm's Medical Malpractice Practice Group. Middleton defends health care providers and health care institutions in malpractice claims. He brings to his practice a wide range of experience as a litigation and trial attorney, including civil litigation, workers' compensation defense and criminal defense. He has been named a Rising Star by Super Lawyers for 2023, 2024 and the upcoming 2025 edition.

LYDIA NEMIROVSKY '06, '12 won the 2024 Innovation Award from the National Board of Certification of Occupational Therapists.

She is the founder and owner of Specialty Pain Management Services, a home-based physical and occupational therapy practice that focuses on pain management.

MADELINE MEGAHAN '14 was named marketing and executive relations manager by Ava's Hospitality Group (AHG). Megahan is coordinating and enhancing the marketing strategies for AHG's three restaurant brands in Maryland and Delaware.

MICHAEL UKOHA '14 donated 55 copies of his book "Cruz's Cars" to Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore. The book is a story exploring Black joy, family and a love for cars.

BRADLEY ABSHER '15 was surprised at Bodkin Elementary School, where

"My time and training [at TU] impacted how I think about and approach correctional rehabilitation. It was an internship through Towson at the Maryland Division of Corrections that started my interest and work in prisons."

KEVIN WRIGHT '04

In Memoriam

Alumni

Virginia (Smith) Cooley '38
June 27, 2024

Lillian (Carlisle) Jackson '45
Jan. 5, 2024

Mary (Shelton) Prassina '50
March 11, 2024

Martha (Hoy) Reid '51
July 25, 2024

Reland (Bassette) Sanchez '51
March 28, 2024

Dorothy (Groves) Wright '52
March 22, 2024

Virginia (Clark) Gordon '53, '74
Feb. 15, 2024

Sarah (Taylor) Parker '54
July 11, 2024

Jane (Lochbaum) Poffenberger '54
June 13, 2024

Nancy (Baublitz) Fidler '56
Jan. 8, 2024

Mary (Noppenberger) Pistrutto '56
May 5, 2024

Elizabeth (Radcliffe) Evans '57
July 29, 2024

Betty (Franklin) Fowler '57
July 16, 2024

Wayne R. Harman '57
June 18, 2024

Betty Ann (Hollinger) Baker '58
Aug. 30, 2024

Shirley (Hall) Atwell '58
Jan. 6, 2024

Helen R. Beair '58
April 23, 2024

Irene (Hux) Furtaw '60
July 19, 2024

Gerald L. Masemore '60
Feb. 12, 2024

Rose Ann (Eder) Sauter '60
June 13, 2024

Don B. Milstead '61
April 21, 2024

Jeanette (Morgan) Beck '62
Sept. 10, 2024

Bettie Mullikin '62
July 26, 2024

Barbara (Slade) Rheinhardt '63
July 13, 2024

Marsha (Kimmel) England '64
March 21, 2024

James G. Kimos '64, '88
Sept. 3, 2024

Lloyd T. Kuhn '64
Jan. 23, 2024

Mary Anne (Turner) Beverungen '65
May 18, 2024

Judith (Mannon) Hess '65
July 14, 2024

John N. Tyson '65
Aug. 29, 2024

Lynn F. Parsons '66
April 10, 2024

Rev. Mary (Taylor) Worrel '66
June 24, 2024

Darlene (Clark) Kent '67, '69
Aug. 10, 2024

Rose Mary Albright '68
Aug. 6, 2024

Carolyn E. Brewer '68
March 22, 2024

Michael P. Citro '68
June 17, 2024

Barry J. Fader '68
April 18, 2024

Kenneth E. Mueller '68
May 25, 2024

Thomas Leon Anderson '69
June 9, 2024

Robert L. Wooters '69, '79
July 29, 2024

Virginia A. Foster '70
April 17, 2024

Tommy Heimiller '70
May 22, 2024

Shirley C. Kuenzler '70
Jan. 13, 2024

Patricia L. Redmer '70
June 5, 2024

Scott A. Santora '70
March 27, 2024

Gertrude (Beutgen) Siemer '70
July 1, 2024

Martin H. Stein '70
July 14, 2024

Hugh McCulloh Vandervoort '71
June 23, 2024

Carolene (Conaway) Will '71
April 6, 2024

Barbara S. Baylor '72
Aug. 10, 2024

Shirley (Biller) Hurst-Susman '72
May 4, 2024

Rita (Smith) Medvetz '72
April 19, 2024

Joanne (Cox) Welling '72
Jan. 31, 2024

Mary (Stallard) Catanzariti '73
June 30, 2024

Rodney P. Dugan '73
Feb. 23, 2024

Tatyana T. Hassan '73
May 11, 2024

V. Kenneth Hauer '73
Feb. 22, 2024

Thomas W. Kahle '73
Aug. 8, 2024

Mary (Therit) Mitchell '73
April 19, 2024

Ernst S. Selig '73
Aug. 29, 2024

John B. Sothoron '73
June 28, 2024

Craig R. Bierly '74
July 15, 2024

Cynthia S. Bralove '74
May 23, 2024

Kenneth Burlingame '74
Feb. 10, 2024

Susan A. Lynn '74
July 31, 2024

Anita G. Rosenbloom '74
April 26, 2024

Thomas L. Schmidt '74
June 12, 2024

John P. Targarona '74
July 27, 2024

Jane (Kemperr) Kosyjana '75
Aug. 26, 2024

Marlene (Becker) Kuntz '75
Aug. 19, 2024

Thomas M. McDonough '75
April 24, 2024

Sam Smith Jr. '76
May 23, 2024

Paul G. Conner '77
June 2024

Janet (Cohany) Eackloff '77
Aug. 4, 2024

Edward F. Marx '77
Aug. 16, 2024

Sally (Gerber) Posner '77
Aug. 29, 2024

Kathleen S. Bellistri '78
March 23, 2024

Barbara (Treglia) Cahall '78
July 29, 2024

Betty L. Robertson '78
Aug. 15, 2024

Elizabeth U. Sherring '78
March 26, 2024

Eileen I. Weisman '78
Aug. 6, 2024

Dorothy M. Buckley '79
May 26, 2024

Carol (Johnson) Hayes '79
Feb. 5, 2024

Cynthia Banion Lewis '79
Jan. 29, 2024

Patricia M. Biglin '80
April 21, 2024

Jerome L. Fine '80
Aug. 11, 2024

Janice (Gulczynski) Fitzpatrick '80
September 2024

Elisabeth S. McCormack '80
June 2, 2024

Jeanne A. Reedy '80
March 7, 2024

George L. Toman '80
April 26, 2024

Martin E. Walunas '80
Aug. 14, 2024

George R. Zeller '80
Sept. 2, 2024

Anne M. Buccheri '81
May 21, 2024

Cheryl L. Dougherty '82
April 6, 2024

Richard R. Janowski '82
March 25, 2024

Kerry L. Miciotto '82
March 2024

Anthony W. Majchrzak Jr. '83
Aug. 23, 2024

Merilyn H. Fink '84
May 1, 2024

Richard J. Knauer Jr. '84
Aug. 25, 2024

Robert S. Lowe '84
Aug. 14, 2024

Douglas W. Poole '84
Aug. 5, 2024

Deborah F. Xenakis '84
May 13, 2024

Diane H. Grocki '86
March 17, 2024

Earl H. Daniel '87
June 15, 2024

Gregory A. Ellwood '87
June 10, 2024

Michael Glasser '88
April 29, 2024

Sean M. Berenholtz '89
April 16, 2024

Elaine (Purcell) Eichler '89
May 31, 2024

Kathleen Benedick '90
Jan. 23, 2024

Dennis G. Carter Jr. '90
April 6, 2024

Michael J. Cocimano '90
June 28, 2024

William T. Friese '90
Sept. 12, 2024

Lynn (Hitchcock) Gershman '90
June 13, 2024

Terry A. Digennaro '92
June 30, 2024

Mary D. Lacy '92
June 30, 2024

William V. Cullison '93
Sept. 10, 2024

Eric M. Chaiet '94
April 10, 2024

Sarah (O'Hara) Proulx '94
June 30, 2024

Crystal Slayton '96
July 11, 2024

Linda A. Wilkens '96
Jan. 2, 2024

Jody (Myers) Kakacek '97
Feb. 17, 2024

Donna (Lam) Hopkins '98
2024

Robin (Freese) Mellen '01
April 15, 2024

Jill L. Davis '04
Aug. 7, 2024

John R. Holsey '05
April 18, 2024

Aleksey Minchenkov '06
Feb. 10, 2024

Golnaz Balakhani '10
May 28, 2024

Jonathan Scott Masser '10
Nov. 23, 2023

Eric M. Fine '12
May 13, 2024

Charles R. Hines '17
June 27, 2024

Cooper Garthwaite Savage '19
Aug. 30, 2024

Faculty & Staff

James B. Binko '59
Aug. 12, 2024

John F. Cuddy
Jan. 10, 2024

Lorine T. Cummings
Aug. 8, 2024

Marcelin W. Diagne
Jan. 20, 2024

Charles A. Field Jr.
March 9, 2024

Alexander C. Jaffurs
July 18, 2024

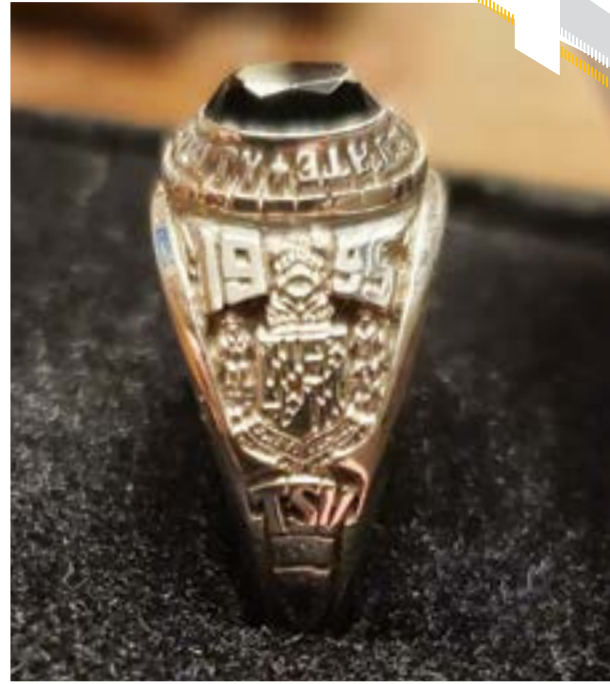
Joseph E. Kelleher Jr. '72
Feb. 5, 2024

Judith (Simpson) McGowan '63, '03, '06
March 10, 2024

Aneil K. Mishra
Aug. 4, 2024

Shari Lynn Preston
June 25, 2024

Joseph Suhorsky
July 18, 2024



KERRIE NEAL '95

The Perfect Gift

Michael Neal knew what he wanted to get his wife, Kerrie Neal '95, for Christmas. His essay details the lengths he went to—and the people who helped him—pull it off.

How do you choose the perfect gift? Stop and think about that for a moment. It must adequately convey the love and gratitude you feel for someone who has had a profound effect on your life. It must be an object or gesture that somehow represents all the right words that you sometimes forget to articulate.

As a 55-year-old man suffering from a rare, incurable bone marrow cancer who has lived longer than the doctors expected, I desperately wanted to get my wife the perfect gift last Christmas. Unfortunately, I don't know how many more opportunities I'll have to do so.

My wife, Kerrie, is many things to me: friend, confidante, nurse, chauffeur, chef and drill instructor when I need a swift kick in the rear (as many husbands do). She has been by my side every step of the way as I have come through rigorous cancer treatment that included a bone marrow transplant, chemotherapy, the removal of 1.5 feet of my large intestine, bone marrow biopsies and cell treatment at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. But perhaps the role she embodies the best is that of grandmother to our grandsons Roman, 3, and Greyson, 1. She is the glue that holds our family together.

I wanted to give her a gift that had profound significance, and after much thought, I decided to get her the college class ring that she never had. As a graduation gift, she opted to visit her sister in Germany. She felt as though she would be unlikely to have an opportunity to visit Europe again, and she missed her sister. It was the perfect time for a once-in-a-lifetime trip. She planned to get a class ring later, and, as the years passed, so too did that idea.

Artcarved, now owned by Balfour & Co., offered the class rings when she was at TU, so I thought it would be a simple, straightforward process. I was wrong. TU was Towson State University when she

graduated, so there were licensing and trademark constraints preventing me from having the ring made with the school's name as it appeared when she attended. Additionally, so much time had passed that they could not locate the molds from 1995, so I didn't even know what class ring styles were offered then.

After hearing my story, TU officials were eager to help. Jasmine Allen with Special Collections and University Archives completed the research necessary to find the only original Artcarved class ring advertisement available in the school newspaper. Jenna Mills, then-director of alumni engagement programs, came up with a clever way to get alumni to provide pictures of 1995 class rings so I could verify the design for historical accuracy. Rick Pallansch, assistant vice president for creative services in university marketing and communications, provided the most important part: written authorization allowing the ring to be made with the school's prior name.

After I had verified the ring's original design and style, I encountered what seemed to be an insurmountable obstacle: The original molds of the ring could not be located. It was then that I decided to contact Ryan Esko, the CEO of Balfour & Co. I hoped he would intercede on my behalf and facilitate the creation of the ring in its original design from scratch if necessary. He took the time to personally contact me and put members of his team, including COO Louis Cowie, on the project. It took great effort on their part, but they recreated the perfect ring for my wife.

I have to express my profound gratitude to the many individuals that made this gift possible, particularly the representatives of TU. In a day and age where it is rare to find anyone willing to take time to help, these individuals have inspired me. As a direct result of their efforts, I was able to give my wife a meaningful Christmas gift that celebrates her academic accomplishment and my love and respect for all that she does for our family. Her class ring will be a valued family heirloom, and the story of how it came to be will stand as an indelible reminder to our grandsons of the importance of education and to always persevere in the face of adversity.

Finally, I want to thank TU as an institution for all that it has done for our family. It played a major role in the success she has enjoyed both professionally and personally throughout her life.

he teaches fourth grade math, with a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award at a schoolwide assembly. Considered the "Oscars of Teaching," the award recognizes exceptional dedication and excellence to the field of education throughout the country.

DEION BROXTON '15 was one of 14 journalism students chosen for the 2024 Journalism Program



of the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE). Fellows participate in a two-week program in Germany and Poland, which uses the conduct of professionals in Nazi-occupied Europe as an initial framework for approaching ethical responsibility in the professions today. Broxton is an award-winning multimedia journalist at KMOV-TV in St. Louis, Missouri. His video of being chased by bison at

Yellowstone National Park went viral in 2020.

JASON STRUNK '15 received a D.M.A. in choral conducting with a doctoral cognate in musicology from Frost School of Music at the University of Miami. He began as visiting director of choral and vocal activities at Shepherd University this fall.

PARIS THALHEIMER '16 is a special education teacher at The Auburn School in Silver Spring, Maryland. The student



population includes students on the autism spectrum, students with ADHD and students with social and communication challenges.

ALLISON REDMAN '17 won the Miss Florida for America Strong pageant in May at the Westgate Lakes Resort and Spa in Orlando, Florida.

“When my son was a toddler, I noticed that most math books for little learners focused only on basic 2D shapes and counting to 10. As a former math teacher, I saw this as an opportunity.”

ELIZABETH EVERETT '00



JOHN BEYNON '73

Paving a Track to Success

John Beynon attended high school at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and strongly considered becoming a Navy pilot or an engineer.

“Poly is known as a strong math and science school,” Beynon says. “But I was more of an unlikely math major at TU. I really had to work at it.”

A basketball and lacrosse player for the Poly Parrots, he played freshman hoops at TU for then-coach Charlie Fields before taking a break from his studies as a senior in 1970 to take advantage of an important job opportunity in Philadelphia.

“Towson was great about allowing me to take outside courses at Drexel and then transferring those credits back so I could graduate,” Beynon says.

That break turned out to be pivotal. While the job initially involved installing wood floor surfaces, Beynon saw a chance for professional growth in the industry. Providing polyurethane athletic surfaces for running tracks and gymnasiums. He formed Beynon Sports Surfaces, his own surfacing company, in 1974 and bought Powerlock, the company he had been working for, the next year. His first two installations were at Essex and Catonsville community colleges.

Beynon led his company until its sale in 2008 to Paris-based Tarkett Sports, when it became simply Beynon. It still operates under the Tarkett umbrella and is the largest athletic track installer in the U.S. The company has installed tracks in the Caribbean, Australia, Spain and throughout Canada, but the one he may be the proudest of is the University of Oregon's Hayward Field, which hosts the USA Olympic Track & Field Trials and NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

In total, Beynon Sports Surfaces has installed approximately 4,000 tracks around the world—including TU's in 2023—and has 375 employees, including his oldest son, Drew, who is COO of both Beynon and Tarkett.

Beynon and his wife Robin (Clark) '70 are proud TU supporters of TU Athletics through the TU Athletic Fund, the John T. Beynon Men's Basketball Endowed Scholarship and holding season tickets for men's basketball.

Despite the 2024 Paris Olympics having concluded only a few months ago, Beynon already has his sights set on providing surfaces and improvements for 2028 when the Games move to Los Angeles. With his history of professional accomplishments, he's on track to succeed in that as well.

Rearview Mirror

FROM THE DESK OF FELICITY KNOX '94, Assistant University Archivist



ASK AN ARCHIVIST

Hey Felicity...

Q: What are special collections?

A: The two parts of our department name often confuse people. University Archives focus specifically on those resources that record the day-to-day running of the school, from its earliest days as a teacher training school to the present. They are the institution's records.

But Special Collections are different. They are collections of material that aren't necessarily connected to the school or our history but still fit within our collecting areas. They are typically the records of a person's life.

One of these collections that we are in the process of digitizing is our Student Scrapbooks collection, which date from 1886 until about 1990. Each volume is created by a student or class and reflects what they thought was most important to capture at the time the scrapbook was created. They give unique perspectives into the history of the school.

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

WHAT'S NEW

Sidney Levin Stamp Collection

In 2023, Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) received 10 binders full of stamps collected by Sidney Levin and gifted to TU by his widow, Mary. Collected on his travels around the world, Levin organized and added notes to offer context regarding the stamps' origins and significance.

A graduate student digitized the entire collection and then created two digital exhibits: One showcases stamps that focus specifically on World War II and the Holocaust and the other contains stamps that highlight the history of the Middle East.



For more information, visit archives.towson.edu/collections/sidney-levin-stamp-collection.

PAST



1919

While classes in physical education had been part of the school curriculum since its opening in 1866, it wasn't until World War I that the school was able to create a department expressly for health and physical education, thanks to funds from a federal grant. The aim of the courses was to train prospective teachers on best practices for teaching about hygiene and physical fitness to students they would soon teach.



1969

Fifty years later, the school began offering the opportunity for students to major in health education. While Towson State College was no longer a teachers' college, the focus of the program was still heavily geared toward future educators. In a few short years, however, this would change with the addition of majors in speech pathology and audiology, nursing and occupational therapy.



2024

The College of Health Professions opened a new building on TU's campus during the fall semester, designed to bring the health disciplines under one roof to encourage interprofessional collaboration. The state-of-the-art facility was specifically designed to give students real-world experience and promote student success by teaching how to provide quality care that positively impacts the health and well-being of the community.

PRESENT

In My Queue

JULIE CHALHOUB, CLASS OF 1984

Film has always been Julie Chalhoub's true love. A native of Laurel, Maryland, she majored in mass communication at TU.

"When I took Intro to TV we had to do a directing project," she recalls. "When it was done, our instructor at the time told me that I was going to be a good director. I call that my Holly Hunter [from 'Broadcast News'] moment." Her instructor was right. After graduating she worked at Channel 45 in Baltimore before moving to Florida to ditch cold winters. There she did work in Cape Canaveral that included broadcasting rocket launches around the world. After a stint at Bright House Networks, she started her own production company. Chalhoub serves on the board of the Sunscreen Film Festival and the Dunedin International Film Festival in the Tampa Bay area, where she lives, and recently worked as an editor on the documentary "Surviving Pulse: Life After a Mass Shooting," about the 2016 mass shooting at Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando.

"I worked on that knowing that it was going to help these people have their stories told," she says. "Films move me and inspire me. They can bring enjoyment, excitement, sadness and spark memories."



In 1980...

Chalhoub can still remember the first time she went to see a movie by herself. "It was mostly an empty theater, and I was watching 'Nightmare on Elm Street.' That was so cool. I love to escape to the movies and escape through the movies." These are some of her favorites from the decade she spent mostly in Baltimore.



The Breakfast Club

Always a misfit, this film just worked. Everyone breaking down their walls to unite, even if into unlikely pairings.



Hairspray

Turns out that my first boss has a credit in the film. I love John Waters and am so glad his Baltimore-based film made the mainstream.



Dirty Dancing

Such an important message, yet super sexy and relatable. Every girl wanted to be Jennifer Grey. Still love the quotes, "Nobody puts Baby in a corner," and, "I carried a watermelon."



Top Gun

At least I didn't get a ticket driving home from the Senator Theater. I had the need, the need for speed after watching that one.

In 2023...

For more than two decades Chalhoub has worked at the Telluride Film Festival in Colorado. Here are some movies she saw premiere there.



Saltburn

What a thriller. I went for the ride and was wowed by the choice of aspect ratio, directing, hand-drawn opening credits and the character development. Sometimes disturbing, but true to genre, thrilling.



Tuesday

I've seen this several times. Excellent choice of Julia Louis-Dreyfus as the mom. The big reveal (ruined by trailers) of the animated co-star character, Death, left me thinking, "What the?"



Rustin

Excellent acting by Colman Domingo, someone I'd never heard of prior to this film who is breaking out after the age of 40. I thought he deserved the Oscar.



Public Defender

This is a 40-minute documentary about a public defender in D.C. who is representing January 6th rioters. It's a very timely film with a mission to help educate people.

From Towson, With Love

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



Crystal Martin

CLASS OF 1992, COMMUNICATION

Tim doesn't remember the first time we met. He and his mom came on campus for his scholarship interview, and through our mutual friend, I offered to take him and his mom to Tower A. We met again in the fall through the same friend. He was a nice guy, but I didn't think anything would come of it because he was too young. He would sit with our friend group in dining hall, and, as the only guy, we teased him a lot. But he was a gentleman—he'd take our trays back to the return and he'd walk

me back to the dorms at night after my shift at the Rat(hskellar). He also had a CD player and good CDs, so I'd go listen to them.

He really is my best friend, even back then. I knew he was the one early on, but I thought I was too young to get married. He proposed on Dec. 28 by hiding the ring in a big box I thought had a sweater in it. I'm a dog lover—he's not—but when he proposed, he said we could get a dog. We've had four since we've been married.

We got married Dec. 28, 1996—five years to the day he proposed. It was a morning wedding, with childhood and college friends and family in the wedding party. The weather was really good for December, and there was lots of dancing. Everyone was in a great mood, and it was my mother-in-law's birthday too.

Our son Evan is 22; he just graduated TU in May. We already had a lot of school pride but now it's kicked up a notch. We had a great experience, but I think Evan had an even better one.

Tim and I established a scholarship for students with learning differences or autism. It was our way of giving back to TU because Towson gave us a great education, prepared us to do well in grad school and introduced us to lifelong friends. It was a great choice for all of us.

Tim Martin

CLASS OF 1994, ECONOMICS

I met Crystal through a mutual friend my freshman year. She was a year ahead of me. She was a part of a group of five or six friends, and I was the only guy who hung out with them regularly. I don't remember a specific moment where someone asked out the other one. I do remember one night I told her specifically I didn't want to be in the friend zone, that I wanted to take it to the next level. Our first date was the TGI Fridays on York Road. Now, every year around the anniversary of that date (Feb. 18), we go to dinner at a Fridays to celebrate.



We just really bonded. I could be myself with her, and we could talk about anything. I missed a semester at Towson because I was in the Marine Corps Reserve and was deployed during Desert Storm. I proposed right after I got called up, during my sophomore year. I surprised everyone, including Crystal and my parents. My proposal was asking her in my parents' house

before a family dinner. If I could, I would do that over again. I'm glad she said yes.

Our wedding was in Prince George's County where we both grew up. We had the ceremony and reception at a Holiday Inn. We had great food and a great time with friends and family dancing and partying.

We have a son, Evan, who graduated from TU in spring 2024 with a degree in sport management with a minor in business. We are very proud of him. Now we like to travel a lot and take cruises. We did a European cruise through Italy, Greece and Turkey in 2023 and just got back from a Virgin Voyages cruise. We're also foodies. I love to barbecue, and we host parties and cookouts for our friends and family.

Philanthropy



Tall-Wiedefeld Society Expands Programming

The Tall-Wiedefeld Society (TWS) hosted its first winetasting event at Uncorked in Towson on June 27. Members and guests joined President Ginsberg and his wife, Elaine Anderson, for fun, friendship and (of course) wine. Also new this year was a Homecoming brunch where members enjoyed mimosas and celebrated the impact of TWS on the TU community. TWS is growing in both membership and programming, and this year will hold six member events and once again award \$20,000 in grants to programs that benefit women. The annual Roar, Score & Pour event will take

place on Sunday, Feb. 16 (time TBA) at our women's basketball game against Stony Brook. The game and gathering will focus on breast cancer awareness and recognize national women in sports and teacher appreciation themes. The lineup of spring events is still in development. Planning is underway for a tour of Ladew Gardens, our annual Spring Mixer & Grant Awards and a second winetasting at Uncorked.

Visit towson.edu/tws for more information.

Paving the Path

Towson University would be a very different place today were it not for the influence and inspiration of our Black thought leaders. Paving the Path honors the fearless and influential leaders who helped shape TU into the diverse and welcoming community we are today. Launched in August, during Black Philanthropy Month, Paving the Path is both a traveling exhibit and a campaign to honor five of TU's Black visionaries.

1959 | Ms. Marvis Barnes & Ms. Myra Harris

First Black graduates (from the State Teachers College at Towson)

1965 | Whitney LeBlanc

First Black faculty member at TU

1969 | Dr. Julius Chapman

First Black dean (of minority affairs) and founder of the Black Student Union, the Black Fraternity and Administrators Association and the Black Cultural Center

1987 | Raft Woodus

Launched Students Achieve Goals through Education (SAGE) peer mentorship program (supporting undergraduate minority students)

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FUTURES OF TODAY'S TIGERS

Learn more about these influencers of yesterday and help Pave the Path.

Look for our traveling exhibit at two TU football games:

- **Nov. 9** | TU vs. Hampton
- **Nov. 16** | TU vs. NC A&T
- **TU Arena** | During Black History Month (February)





From left: Therese Erdman, Kaitlyn Wilson, Ph.D. (Douglas F. '80 and Therese J. Erdman Term Professor in Autism Studies), Douglas Erdman, Dean Lisa Plowfield

♥ GIVING

Douglas '80 and Therese Erdman TU's First Term Professorship

The College of Health Professions hosted its inaugural Autism Summit on April 24. Sponsored by the new autism studies doctoral program, the event united faculty, students and leading experts from greater Baltimore, who are all advancing autism research. The summit also served as an inspiring backdrop for the announcement of the Douglas F. '80 and Therese J. Erdman Term Professorship in Autism Studies, which was awarded to Kaitlyn Wilson, Ph.D.

Wilson has worked in the field of autism studies since she was an undergraduate student. She brings her intrigue in the families and children with whom she worked and the unique ways they experience the world as TU's first term professor. "The Erdmans are such generous, kind and humble people," says Wilson. "I value their dedication to the field of autism studies and am so appreciative of their support."

Lisa Plowfield, dean of the College of Health Professions, agrees. "With the Erdmans' gift, we will advance innovative research and opportunities for students and faculty to make meaningful contributions to the autism community."

The Erdmans' story of generosity and vision is a very personal one. Doug, a graduate of TU's College of Business & Economics, and his wife, Therese, have an autistic son, Ross. "With our son approaching adulthood, we became acutely aware of the dearth of resources and opportunities for autistic adults and their families in the region," Doug says. "We were in a position to support a cause and give back to the community in a meaningful way."

A member of the TU Foundation Board, Doug believes giving back isn't just about money. "We believe for philanthropy to be the most effective, you not only write the check, you also participate in the legwork. We are very fortunate that TU has provided us the opportunity to do so."

With TU's new doctorate in autism studies in mind, the gift to establish the term professorship was the Erdmans' next step to further enhance autism education and programming. "We are thrilled to be part of this unique program that puts TU on the national stage," Therese says. "Our hope is that through TU, we can expand our family's personal journey with autism to benefit all those who are on a similar path."

"We are incredibly proud of the partnership with Douglas and Therese Erdman. Their support has had a transformative impact on autism research and education at TU." —Lisa Ann Plowfield, Ph.D., R.N. | DEAN, COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

♥ DONOR PROFILE

Tionna Harris '23

Working toward a doctorate in environmental engineering at Colorado School of Mines, Tionna Harris '23 made the decision to return the generosity shown to her at TU by establishing a STEM scholarship in the Fisher College of Science & Mathematics. She is one of just three TU alums who have established scholarships within a year of graduation.

HOW DID BEING A HILL-LOPES SCHOLAR INFLUENCE YOUR DECISION TO ESTABLISH A SCHOLARSHIP?

Being a member of the Hill-Lopes Scholars Program and the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation program played a large part in establishing the Harris STEM Scholarship. My desire to give back to my community was sparked when I was in high school, but the dream of starting my scholarship only came to fruition after becoming a Hill-Lopes scholar.

WHY WAS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO GIVE BACK TO TU SO SOON AFTER GRADUATING?

I would not be the person I am today without my community lifting me toward a brighter future. So why not provide opportunities for the next generations of STEM professionals to succeed?

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL OTHER YOUNG ALUMNI WHO MIGHT BE CONSIDERING GIVING BACK TO TU?

Giving back does not just mean monetarily. There are hundreds of ways for Tigers to give back to their community—by starting a club, volunteering or mentorship. Start small and build up yourself and others around you. The more you uplift others, the more uplifted you feel.

DO YOU HAVE ANY WORDS OF WISDOM YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

Never be afraid to tell others your life goals. You never know who will help you accomplish them.





OUR TOWN

Port Discovery Children's Museum

With so many smiling kids around, it's tough for **Deborah Greengold '19** to have a bad day at work. An English major at TU, she worked as a preschool teacher before becoming the associate director of marketing and communications at Port Discovery Children's Museum in Baltimore. Her job responsibilities include running the museum's website and social media and connecting Port Discovery to the community. As part of that, she takes photos of the museum's little visitors. It's not very hard finding a kid to photograph who's having a blast. "I see families who are here for the first time and families who come back as a tradition," she says. "Working here allows me to show the public the magic of learning through play."