

---

## ALUMNI FEATURE, NOVEMBER 14, 2017

### SARAH ELFRETH '10



Honors College Alumna, Sarah Elfreth '10

**Major:** Political Science

**Current Title:** Democratic Candidate for Maryland's Senate District 30

Welcome to the second installment of the *Alumni Feature*. We're so excited for this new chapter and happy you're following along with us. This publication's feature not only showcases an exemplary alumna but highlights, as all future *Alumni Features* will do, the benefits an Honors College degree at Towson University plays in the lives of its students. Although a rather conclusive notion, the alumna interviewed for this week's installment truly embodies the qualities and attributes found in those who are part of the Honors College: an exceptional mind with an extraordinary past and future.

Having realized her passion for politics and public policy while still an undergraduate at Towson University, Sarah Elfreth took this passion and began developing it throughout the remainder of her undergraduate career and into her postgraduate career. Upon graduating magna cum laude from Towson in '10, Sarah went on to receive her M.A. in Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University in '12. Shortly thereafter, Sarah landed the Government Affairs Director position with one of the Inner Harbor's most recognizable features, the nonprofit organization fondly known as the National Aquarium (the Aquarium). With a mission to inspire conservation of the world's aquatic treasures, the Aquarium offered Sarah the opportunity to pursue a passion of hers related to conservation while fostering an interest and focus in advocacy and public policy. Through this position and capacity, Sarah oversaw organizational strategy related specifically to public affairs and the Aquarium's local, state, and federal advocacy efforts. She also advocated tirelessly to secure municipal and state funding for capital improvement projects and environmental and conservation policy issues, specifically those relating to legislation that supported clean water and a healthier Chesapeake Bay. Building upon a fundamental desire to help and serve, Sarah furthered her arena of advocacy by leading the Aquarium's affordable

access campaigns, which included implementing a discounted admissions program for Maryland residents, among other things.

Though operating successfully in the capacity as Government Affairs Director for the Aquarium, in '16, Sarah was offered and accepted a position as Senior Director of University Projects with Margrave Strategies, a firm focused on various consulting roles for universities. Through such a high-profile position, Sarah supported the firm's President and CEO in executing economic development and community revitalization strategies for not only the University of Maryland but for our very own Towson as well. Working alongside these universities, the revitalization strategies focused on off-campus real estate and how the universities could impact the community in a positive way.

As evident throughout her career, Sarah has always felt a deep and profound desire to help and serve the citizens of this great state. She has not only eagerly accepted positions and challenges aimed at service but she has looked for avenues in which to help educate and inform those around her. As such, Sarah has embarked on perhaps her most audacious endeavor thus far: running as the Democratic candidate for Maryland's Senate District 30. As a candidate, Sarah is running on a passion instilled in her a long time ago: to help her community and those within it through job creation, education, and Bay conservation. Demonstrating her passion to serve, Sarah has made connecting with the people of District 30 her top priority. Having roughly 3,200 homes within the District, Sarah is focused on visiting each and connecting with the residents in a way that allows for dialogue relating to the priorities and challenges important to them. Through her passions and the ones shared by District 30 residents, Sarah is working hard to provide an arena where conversation and dialogue can begin and continue in order to contribute to a growing quality of life.

However, contributing to others quality of life is not only something that drives her passion for public policy and advocacy but one that she has benefited from as well. During the interview, Sarah recalled her days at Towson, detailing how being a member of the Honors College afforded her the opportunity to connect and grow with individuals who were not only smart and bright within their own perspective field, but were also driven and passionate about making a difference in their work and the world around them. This exceptional character, however, was not only present in the Honors College's students but also the university's faculty and staff as well. As Sarah recalled, the faculty and staff exhibited a deep desire to connect with students and showed this by supporting the individual through focusing on who they were, where they had come from, and where they were going. To Sarah and many others, this impact made a world of difference.

In this spirit, Sarah shared her desire to give back to the institution that gave her so much. She and a colleague, are initiating a scholarship fund that will help off-set the costs of students wishing to take an unpaid internship. Having never been able to accept an unpaid internship during college due to costs, and knowing the true power of internships in the world of politics and public policy, Sarah and her colleague are aiming to provide a platform that if fully endowed, would offer much needed assistance to students, particularly females, wishing to take advantage of unpaid political internships.

As evident throughout her career, Sarah has always had a heart and focus to serve and has given her career in order to do so. She's taken every opportunity offered her, through connection with the Honors College at Towson to on the campaign trail, and has not only benefited from them but has used them to serve the great people of Maryland. Truly, as evident, she is an exceptional mind with an extraordinary past and an even more extraordinary future.

If you have any questions for or are interested in connecting with Sarah, please contact the Honors College office at [honors@towson.edu](mailto:honors@towson.edu).

**By: Sheariah Yousefi, Honors College Alumni, '13** *Sheariah is a founding member of Honors Alumni Council and creator of the Alumni Feature. She writes the features from her home in South Korea, where she lives with her husband, works as a Private Academy Instructor for the Korea Nazarene University- Nazarene Foreign Language Institute, and volunteers within the community through support and outreach programs. Have an idea for an Alumni Feature? Email [Honors@towson.edu](mailto:Honors@towson.edu) to have your idea passed along to Sheariah.*

---