

TU

25

MAGAZINE

ANNUAL REPORT

**THINGS WE LOVED MOST ABOUT
THE 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR**





You hold in your hands a special edition of TU Magazine, a look back at the 25 things we loved most about the 2024–25 academic year. As you'll discover in the following pages, it was an incredible year at TU.

President Mark Ginsberg started a podcast and was a visible presence around campus—especially at art exhibits, performances and sporting events. And what a year it was for our teams, which thrived on the court, mat, track, field and just about everywhere else that athletes compete.

In the classroom, our faculty continued conducting world-class research and were recognized near and far for the knowledge they're adding to the world. Of course, their focus is always on their students, who continue to excel, earning prestigious scholarships, volunteering their time in the community and studying abroad.

Once they graduate, Towson Tigers make their mark. We are now approaching 200,000 alums living around the globe. It's a highwater mark, and one we're proud of. When they return to their alma mater, they may be stunned by what they see. New facilities, like the Health Professions Building, are adding modernity and top-notch functionality to the campus.

Whether you're an alum, current student, prospective one, a Towson resident or a TU Tigers fan, we're happy that this magazine has found its way to you. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we loved putting it together.



Contents

- 02** President Ginsberg's Sophomore Year
- 04** Celebrating Our Rankings
- 05** Beautiful New Buildings
- 06** The Momentum of Our Strategic Plan
- 08** Our Spirit of Innovation
- 10** Our Engagement
- 12** Educating Our Students
- 14** Our Inclusive Community
- 15** Supporting Our Students
- 16** Sustaining TU
- 18** Our Faculty and Staff
- 20** Big Wins
- 22** Serving Our Community
- 24** Continuing Student Successes
- 26** The Impact of Our Research
- 28** We're So Photogenic
- 34** Our Economic Impact
- 35** Bruno Turning 1
- 36** The Rich Lives of Our Students
- 38** Our Alumni
- 40** Our Veterans
- 42** We Age Well
- 44** The Role We Play in Our Region
- 46** The Generosity of Our Donors
- 48** Goats in the Glen

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#1

PRESIDENT GINSBERG'S SOPHOMORE YEAR



President Mark R. Ginsberg celebrated his one-year anniversary by announcing 10 priorities aimed at moving TU forward. These initiatives were crafted not from behind closed doors but through hundreds of conversations with students, faculty, staff and alumni. They reflect what he heard—and most importantly—what the TU community needs.

SUPPORT HOLISTIC STUDENT SUCCESS

Prioritizing all aspects of student development—from emotional and physical well-being to academic, professional and financial success—to ensure Tigers are prepared for lifelong achievement

**ADVANCE TU AS A COMPREHENSIVE
RESEARCH AND TEACHING UNIVERSITY**

Reaching new heights as a destination for interdisciplinary discovery, with equal emphasis on teaching excellence—the true hallmark of a TU education

RAISE THE BAR FOR BELONGING

Ensuring every community member feels seen, heard, respected and valued

**CULTIVATE A CULTURE OF PRIDE,
PERFORMANCE AND WELL-BEING**

Creating a workplace where employees can continue to grow and thrive both personally and professionally

CONNECT CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

Blurring the lines between campus and community to create a lasting impact throughout the region

**FOSTER LIFELONG CONNECTIONS,
ENGAGEMENT AND PHILANTHROPY**

Strengthening connections with nearly 200,000 Tiger alumni, donors and friends around the world

**EXPAND EDUCATIONAL ACCESS FOR
ALL LEARNERS**

Unlocking opportunities and removing barriers to higher education

PIONEER THE CAMPUS OF TOMORROW

Investing in campus infrastructure in preparation for the future



He's Here, He's There, He's Seemingly Everywhere

President Ginsberg has shown time and time again that he's an active member of TU's campus life. He's known for his accessibility and energy—he's often found chatting with students over a meal in the dining halls, cheering on Tiger Athletics, applauding student performers in the arts or just walking campus and striking up conversations. He holds regular office hours and often hosts town hall events, creating opportunities for members of the community to connect and share their perspectives.



LISTEN TO
"ON THE MARK"



ON THE Mark

In keeping with his collaborative leadership style, President Ginsberg introduced a new platform for dialogue and discovery with the launch of his podcast, "On the Mark." This monthly series features conversations with faculty and staff members whose work is shaping the future of the university and making meaningful contributions to society. Each episode provides listeners with insight into the innovative, consequential efforts happening across campus—spotlighting academic research, student mentorship, community partnerships and more.

Academic excellence, value and social mobility are staples of TU, which is ranked as Maryland’s best public university and among the top public universities in America.

The Wall Street Journal
 ranks TU as the...

NO. 1
 public university
 in Maryland

NO. 15
 public university
 in America



Top-Ranked Education

TU provides a world-class education. Exceptional teaching, critical research and hands-on experiential learning put TU among the very best.



An Engine of Opportunity

At TU, life-changing opportunities are for everyone. With our record of affordability, high graduation rates and competitive salaries for alumni, TU is helping to close equity gaps and create long-term success for our students.



Affordable Access to Excellence

TU’s national acclaim comes while remaining a best value for our students. We provide an education that is both top-ranked and affordable.

NO. 6
Public University in
the North Region
U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

NO. 78
Best Public Colleges
in America
FORBES

NO. 9
Best Master’s University
WASHINGTON MONTHLY

2025 Best Colleges
in the Northeast
PRINCETON REVIEW

NO. 1
in Maryland for
Social Mobility
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

NO. 37
in the U.S. for
Social Mobility
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

NO. 1
Best Bang for the
Buck in Maryland
WASHINGTON MONTHLY

4.5
star rating
MONEY MAGAZINE

NO. 64
Best Value in the North
U.S. & WORLD REPORT

“No longer is Towson University a ‘hidden gem’ in higher education. These rankings affirm what our community has known for quite some time—TU is among the very best, not just in our state but in the nation.”

— President Mark Ginsberg

From completed buildings to the start of new projects, infrastructure at TU continues to create high-impact improvements for students and beyond.

SMITH HALL

Slated to open in fall 2027, Smith Hall’s renovation and addition will house TU’s mass communication, journalism and electronic media and film departments, bringing College of Fine Arts and Communication programs together to expand interdisciplinary opportunities for students.

Students will have access to specialty spaces for advanced programmatic study, such as a TV studio, virtual reality and animation lab, production sound stage, public relations and advertising agency lab and new homes for the Public Communication Center, TU Debate and the Faculty Academic Center of Excellence at Towson.

As part of this project, TU will become among the first in the region to integrate geothermal energy through the construction of a geothermal well field, which will help the building achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold certification.



BUILDING FEATURES

- 250-seat Mike Flanagan '02 Cinema
- Black box performance space
- Two-story newsroom
- Active learning classrooms
- Collaborative study areas



FIELD HOUSE AND TOWSON CENTER

TU Athletics launched the \$12 million Campaign for Excellence to fuel high-impact improvements for two key athletic facilities: the field house and Towson Center. Integral to student-athlete success, renovation and expansion of these buildings will overhaul the look and feel of athletics at TU. Student-athletes will benefit from expanded team meeting spaces, an enhanced Dr. Francis S. Soistman Jr. '79, '15 (hon.) and Family Athletics Academic Achievement Center, overhauled athletic training room, establishment of a new sport performance center, completely renovated gymnasium and implementation of indoor turf space. For more on the Campaign for Excellence, visit towson.edu/campaignforexcellence.



HEALTH PROFESSIONS BUILDING

The Health Professions Building—the new home for the College of Health Professions—officially opened in September 2024. The leading center for interprofessional health and wellness education boasts 240,000 square feet of cutting-edge technologies, immersive artificial reality labs, a 350-seat auditorium, collaborative classrooms, collaboration zones, audiology diagnostic labs and a state-of-the-art simulation center.

*All rankings are for the 2024–25 academic year

#4

THE MOMENTUM OF OUR STRATEGIC PLAN



With more than 150 years of pushing possibilities, TU has established a rich history of academic success and a proven dedication to improving lives. The university’s 2020–30 strategic plan, “Leadership for the Public Good,” is a call to action for an even bolder future. It is a focused strategy to build on TU’s impressive momentum, further our impact as an anchor institution and advance our preeminent position as a national leader in higher education.



SIX GOALS FUELING OUR FUTURE

Through the power of learning, discovery and creativity, TU is ensuring a world where everyone plays a role in shaping a positive future. Being ambitious on behalf of others isn’t just a promise at TU—we deliver on it every day. This plan is where that ambition becomes action.

EDUCATE

We will achieve national recognition for our innovative, student-centered curriculum emphasizing engaged learning, in-demand academic programs and new approaches to instruction and learning in the liberal arts, business, health professions, STEM, arts and teacher preparation.

Four-year graduation rate
CURRENT | **47%**
GOAL | **51%**

INNOVATE

Our faculty are leaders in scholarship and creative activities and will be fully supported in their efforts to generate new knowledge and new creative works.

Research doctoral degrees conferred annually
CURRENT | **12**
GOAL | **39**

ENGAGE

We will serve as community leaders and partners extending the talents of our students, faculty and staff beyond our campus boundaries to create opportunities for leadership, entrepreneurship, civic engagement and experiential learning.

External partnerships
CURRENT | **811**
GOAL | **769**

INCLUDE

We will build an even more inclusive, equitable and collaborative community where people from all backgrounds, identities, abilities and life experiences are welcomed, valued and supported.

First-Generation Students
CURRENT | **17%**
GOAL | **16%**

SUPPORT

We will recruit, retain and graduate students of the highest caliber, offer outstanding student success services and provide an engaging campus experience that reflects the educational values of Towson University and produces graduates prepared for careers or advanced education.

Avg. time to degree, first-time freshmen
CURRENT | **4.1YRS.**
GOAL | **4.1YRS.**

SUSTAIN

We will act as leaders in advancing sustainability of all resources—environmental, human and financial.

Reduction in carbon emissions
CURRENT | **58%**
GOAL | **70%**

Scan here for key metrics of our goal progress



#5

OUR SPIRIT OF INNOVATION

From pioneering cybersecurity education to creating new materials that improve medical devices, TU students, faculty and staff are developing solutions that make our world a better place.

Research that Matters

As computing technology advances so too does the need for faster processing speeds. TU physics professor Vera Smolyaninova is partnering with student researchers to meet that need. They’re applying their understanding of photonics to create light-adapting artificial metamaterials with increased capacity for processing information. Their approach enhances the properties of superconductors, paving the way for applications like more effective and affordable MRI machines as well as expanded capacity for quantum computing.



Food Delivery Robots

The future has arrived: A fleet of autonomous robots now delivers meals and drinks from TU eateries to hungry people across campus. Designed to act like pedestrians, the robots use radar, sensors and GPS to travel on sidewalks, detect obstacles and even traverse crosswalks. Their locked, insulated compartments prevent spills and maintain food temperatures. The program’s March 2025 pilot—done in partnership with GrubHub and Starship Technologies—was so popular that it was expanded for the fall.

5

ROBOTS

36

DROP-OFF
LOCATIONS

1,463

DELIVERIES
(MARCH–MAY 2025)



National Leader in Cyber Operations

In December 2024, the National Security Agency (NSA) named Towson University a Center of Academic Excellence in cyber operations—an honor bestowed on just 22 schools nationwide. The designation recognizes the rigor of TU’s cyber programming and paves the way for grant funding to pioneer innovative solutions in cybersecurity education. The designation may be a familiar one to the TU community, since TU was previously named a Center of Academic Excellence in cyber defense education.

Pioneering Cybersecurity Education

Protecting businesses and governments from cyber attacks requires a workforce skilled in cyber and artificial intelligence. TU is pioneering the development of those skills by leading the Coalition for Cybersecurity Education and Innovation (CCEI), a consortium of higher education institutions developing standards and tools for cyber education. With a \$1.8 million grant from the National Security Agency and support from members like the U.S. Naval Academy, CCEI will create high-impact, high-value curricula in critical areas like AI and secure coding, ensuring they keep pace with the field’s rapid advancements.



\$20.4

MILLION

in annual research
expenditures
at TU in FY 2025

\$21.3

MILLION

in external grant funding
in FY 2025

152

EXTERNAL
GRANTS

awarded in FY 2025

255

DOCTORAL
STUDENTS

enrolled for 2024–25,
the most in university history



OUR ENGAGEMENT

As an anchor institution for greater Baltimore, we've always felt that it is our responsibility to create opportunities for engagement between our TU community and the wider world.

#6



One of the main channels through which our community accesses those opportunities is the Office of Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility. Romy Hübler, OCESR director, oversees an office that creates a thriving civic culture in which every member of the TU community has the disposition, skills and knowledge to be an active co-creator of a shared future.

TU has a multipronged vision for excellence in civic engagement, demonstrated through helping students develop individual and collective capacities to co-create their communities and address issues of public concern; assisting the campus community to embody a civic ethos defined by the infusion of democratic values into everyday interactions, cultural practices and structures; and giving the wider community a chance to embrace our students as responsible, ethical and innovative problem-solvers in the region and beyond.

Through programming around civic learning and democratic engagement, community-based learning and teaching, deliberative dialogues, high-impact practices and restorative practices TU is a recognized leader for work toward the public good.

INITIATING CIVIC RENEWAL

Coordinated by the OCESR, the Civic Renewal Initiative includes programs that engage the TU community in civic discourse related to current local, national and global issues. Programs include:

TU Community Conversations focus on issues that impact the campus and includes a panel discussion and listening circles. The panel is comprised of TU faculty, staff and students who describe current efforts and challenges related to the issue. Participants then engage in guided listening circles to share their own connection to the issue and envision collective paths forward.

TU Collective Reflections are listening circles that bring the campus community together to reflect on a particular issue. Facilitators guide participants in unpacking their own connections to the issue, brainstorming the effects this issue had on their community and envisioning ways forward.

TU Resource Shares provide students with tools and resources to be active participants in civic and community life in connection with a current event. Participants engage with resource topic experts at facilitated table conversations.

The initiative also consists of a civic discourse training program—the Civic Renewal Fellowship. This yearlong, cohort-based training program teaches restorative practices and dialogue to prepare students to facilitate conversations about current events effectively. Fellows facilitate Civic Renewal Initiative programs.

Leaders in Civic Engagement

ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge awarded TU the **2024 Highly Established Action Plan Seal** for achieving excellence in nonpartisan student democratic engagement through our Campus Democracy Action Plan.

“This plan is essential for fostering a culture at TU that values civic responsibility and active engagement. The goals for our campus community are intended to equip students, faculty and staff with the knowledge and skills to be informed participants in democracy.”

— Romy Hübler, director of the Office of Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility



Tiger Pride Day

Annapolis was the setting for the 26th Tiger Pride Day, the university's annual day of student advocacy. Students attended General Assembly sessions and committee hearings, advocated for causes important to them and networked with legislators.



Exercising the Right to Vote

In March 2025, TU was designated a Voter-Friendly Campus, one of 272 campuses in 39 states and the District of Columbia, by Fair Elections Center's Campus Vote Project and NASPA–Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. The initiative recognizes institutions that have planned and implemented practices that encourage their students to register and vote.



Every Tuesday is Tiger Tuesday

Swag is everywhere on campus on Tuesdays, when all members of the TU community, on campus and beyond, are encouraged to wear the black and gold with the goal of elevating daily school spirit. Participants—including our alumni—are encouraged to use #TUtigertuesday to share their Tiger pride on social media and spread the word.

EDUCATING OUR STUDENTS



Education extends far beyond the classroom. TU's approach to academic success is rooted in supporting the next generation of leaders with the tools and experience they need to thrive.

2024–25 Fellowship & Award Achievements

LUKAS HAMANN '25

Goldwater Scholarship recipient

LLOYCE FRIMPONG '27

Summer Fulbright Institute participant

ROSE MARIKA MWANSA '24

Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs and Fulbright Semifinalist

MYAH BLACKMON '25

Fulbright Semifinalist

SIERRA DEVUYST '25

Fulbright Semifinalist

JORDAN COOK '26

Joy of Giving Something Fellowship

OREOLUWA WILLIAMS '25

Foreign Affairs Information Technology Alternate

BRISEYDA BARRIENTOS ARIZA '22,
Paul and Daisy Soros Fellow
for New Americans

In a first for TU, Barrientos Ariza is one of 30 students nationwide to be a part of the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, a merit-based program that supports outstanding immigrants and children of immigrants pursuing graduate education in the United States. Barrientos Ariza was also TU's first Gates Cambridge Scholar.

Advancing Educational and Career Goals

In the past academic year, applications filtered through the Office of Competitive Fellowships & Awards jumped more than 33% in comparison to last year and 85% since the office's inception, with more than 90 students seeking to advance their educational and career goals through highly competitive fellowships and awards available in the U.S. and abroad.



“Briseyda is an astute scholar and writer, passionate leader, a voice for the less fortunate who breaks down uncharted bastions. She is as persuasive as she is patient and has a non-nonsense, pragmatic approach to solving injustice.”

—Mary Devadas, director of the Office of Competitive Fellowships & Awards

Enhancing the Educational Experience

The College of Business and Economics opened TU's Strategic Sales Center, a hub for professional sales education and research for faculty, students and staff. The new center directly supports TU's mission to prepare students for careers in high demand today and in the future through the practice of professional selling and the education of the next generation of professionals. The TSSC will centralize curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular sales education activities, including a new student Sales Club and Professional Sales Advisory Board.

“I'm excited this center has officially opened to enhance the educational experiences of students. This new sales hub will foster innovation for students, and I'm looking forward to watching it grow.”

—Melanie Perreault, TU's provost and executive vice president for academic affairs



Building Confidence and Community

Confidence and community-building go hand in hand—especially for women pursuing careers in STEM. The Hill-Lopes Scholars Program exemplifies this commitment by supporting scholars through mentorship, professional development and strong peer network.

For Emily Aguirre '25, a first-generation college student majoring in computer science, the program helped turn uncertainty into clarity. “It opened my eyes to what I needed to do to get where I wanted to go,” Aguirre says. Through resume workshops, alumni panels and LinkedIn training, she built a professional profile that led to internships and, ultimately, a full-time role as a cyber analyst at Deloitte. Along the way, Aguirre mentored high school students and led student organizations, reflecting the confidence the program helped her develop.

Caroline Etherton '23, another Hill-Lopes alum, echoes that sentiment. As a cell and molecular biology major, she often felt unsure of how to connect her interests with a career. The program provided the structure and support to make those connections real. “Without Hill-Lopes, I wouldn't have the position I have now,” she says. Today, Etherton works as a biologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where she applies her scientific training to preserve wetlands and enforce environmental laws. She credits the program's mentorship model and focus on real-world applications as instrumental in her journey.

Beyond academic support, the Hill-Lopes Scholars Program fosters a powerful sense of community. Scholars meet regularly to share experiences, support one another and learn from successful professionals in STEM. The program bridges classroom learning with personal growth. When scholars graduate, they are ready to lead, advocate and succeed.



EMILY AGUIRRE '25



BRIANNA HUTCHINS '23, LEFT, AND CAROLINE ETHERTON '23 IN COSTA RICA.

#8

OUR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Everyone is welcome at TU.

In October, we became a recipient of the **2024 Higher Education Excellence and Distinction (HEED) Award** from Insight Into Academia magazine. It's a national honor that recognizes U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. This is the fifth-straight year TU has won the award.

NO. 1 in the U.S. for gender equality according to Times Higher Education

Our student body reflects Maryland's diverse state-wide population

Ethnicity	Towson University*	State of Maryland**
Black	33%	31.4%
Asian	6%	6.9%
Latine/x	11%	11.1%

*Towson University's 2024 fall student enrollment.

**Maryland's population via 2020 census.



LIBRARY LEAD AWARD—INSIGHT INTO ACADEMIA

The Albert S. Cook Library was a recipient of the 2025 Library Excellence in Access and Diversity (LEAD) Award from Insight Into Academia magazine. The LEAD Award honors academic libraries' programs and initiatives that encourage and support inclusive excellence and belonging across their campus. These include—but are not limited to—research, technology, accessibility, exhibitions and community outreach. TU was featured, along with 33 other recipients, in the March 2025 issue of Insight Into Academia magazine.

“The heart of any great academic institution is its library. It is more than just a place for books or studying—it is a gateway for education, conversation and opportunity.”

—TU President Mark R. Ginsberg



SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

#9



Students are at the heart of everything we do at TU. We recruit, retain and graduate students of the highest caliber, offer outstanding student success services and provide an engaging campus experience that reflects the educational values of TU.

CAREER CENTER

TU's Career Center is committed to students' success. Staff can assist job seekers with interview skills, resume writing and developing a professional network. Career coaches also can help students identify their interests and passions, find mentors and apply for jobs. Alums also have unlimited access to our job database, Handshake, free admission to job fairs and events, access to LinkedIn online networking groups, on-campus recruiting and career skill development. The Tiger Mentor Network connects students with TU alumni who can offer relevant career advice and help them build their professional networks.

BASIC NEEDS HUB

The Basic Needs Hub connects the TU community to critical resources that support basic needs security, including food, housing, clothing and access to academic tools. When their immediate needs are fulfilled, TU community members are better equipped to provide and receive a quality education. The Hub, with its commitment to equity, empowers the TU community to develop life skills and self-reliance, promoting students' perseverance to reach graduation. Towson University is committed to creating a more just and equitable campus, where socioeconomic status and basic needs insecurity do not determine student success.

MENTORING TO ADVANCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Focused on supporting juniors and seniors within the College of Business and Economics, Mentoring to Advance Professional Development (MAPD) is supported by the National Mentor Resource Center. It emphasizes career readiness by providing guided activities, such as resume and LinkedIn profile development, networking and interview skills and building professionalism.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

TU is committed to maintaining a healthy campus community. We offer many services and programs that promote health and social, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, financial, physical, occupational and environmental well-being.

Impact TU

As an anchor institution for greater Baltimore, TU maintains a strong commitment to civic responsibility and community service. One of its largest events is Impact TU, the university's annual day of service. Each April, more than 500 volunteers—from student organizations, academic departments and campus programs—partner with local organizations dedicated to building sustainable communities. Students learn about ongoing local efforts and take part in hands-on projects focused on environmental sustainability, economic stability, social well-being and civic engagement.



Sustaining TU

#10

While TU prepares students for the professional world, we also instill in them the importance of caring for the rest of the world. TU is committed to weaving sustainability into every aspect of campus life.

Water World

Chemistry professor John Sivey is helping the next generation of scientists explore what's in our drinking water. Each semester, Sivey leads students in the Aqueous Environmental Chemistry Laboratory, where they study how cities use bleach to treat water and kill harmful pathogens. While generally safe, bleach can react with other chemicals to form toxic disinfection byproducts. Currently, the lab is collaborating with scientists in Alaska, Minnesota and Maryland to study samples from 20 cities nationwide as part of a \$2 million project funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. TU will do tests in the lab and oversee the analytical chemistry investigation into the disinfection byproducts.



"One of the reasons I love being at TU is because my research is part of my teaching. Whenever possible, I'll pull in examples of research that my team has done and show students that their undergraduate peers are the ones who are making these discoveries."

— John Sivey, chair and professor in TU's Department of Chemistry & Forensic Science



How We Greenlight Sustainability

100%
renewable energy
purchased

44%
recycling rate

77%
waste diversion rate

58%
greenhouse gas
emission reduction
from a 2007 baseline

11,900+
pounds of food rescued
by the Food Recovery Network

TU's academic
departments:

90%
offer at least one
sustainability course

80%
engaged in
sustainability research

Our Faculty and Staff

TU faculty are more than teachers—they're award-winning researchers, mentors, creatives and leaders in their fields. Our staff members are committed to going above and beyond to keep TU moving forward. Faculty and staff are the backbone of campus and provide the support needed to ensure that our students reach their full potential.

Board of Regents Staff Award Nominations

The University System of Maryland's (USM) Board of Regents Staff Awards represent the highest honor bestowed by the regents for achievements of staff employees from institutions within the system. This year, five TU staff were nominated:

TAMMIE KING-KELLY, director of student success programs, in the category of Outstanding Service to Students in an Academic or Residential Environment. King-Kelly supports nearly 20,000 Towson Tigers with personal, professional and academic development—creating opportunities for students not just to grow but thrive.

MIKE FRANKLIN, senior tech operations manager, in the category of Exceptional Contribution to the Institution and/or Unit. He began his professional career as a student employee in 2001. Upon graduation in 2005, he joined the university as a full-time employee and has continued an upward trajectory, including promotions to tech operations manager in 2010 and senior tech operations manager in 2018.

NATASHA SWEITZER, evening circulations manager, Cook Library, in the category of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging. She established the Library Assembly, a collective that lifts the voices of employees within her unit, allowing team members to share concerns and contribute

to decision-making. She also spearheaded the university's first Indigenous Research Guide, an invaluable resource for the campus community.

LAUREN TIGUE MEREDITH, professional development partner for TU's College of Business and Economics, in the category of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging. She has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to fostering an inclusive, supportive and empowering environment for students and the entire university community.

ANDREW ROSENBLUM, technology support specialist, College of Liberal Arts, in the category of Excellence in Performance. His journey with TU began as a student employee in athletics as a facilities and event management intern in 2011. Since then, he has continued to grow professionally, taking on increasing responsibilities across multiple departments. His ability to navigate complex logistics, coupled with his strong organizational skills make him an invaluable asset in his current role.

A New Face in the CBE Dean's Office

On July 2, Prabakar Kothandaraman, Ph.D., joined Towson University as dean of the College of Business and Economics following an extensive national search. Dr. Prabakar came to TU from SUNY Oswego, where he served as dean of the school of business and is a tenured professor of marketing.

A recognized thought leader in business education, Dr. Prabakar is committed to research, curriculum innovation and student success. His leadership philosophy—centered on strategic planning, external engagement and a culture of excellence—aims to keep business education impactful, future-focused and responsive to societal needs.



A New USM Elkins Professor on Campus

Mahnaz Moallem joined TU in 2018 and serves as the professor and chair of the Department of Learning Technologies, Design & School Library Media. In fall 2024, she was awarded the prestigious Wilson H. Elkins Professorship from the University System of Maryland. The award honors faculty whose teaching, research and service inspire students and advance institutional excellence across the system.

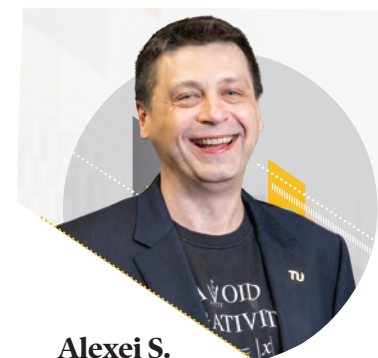
Moallem earned the award for her project: Breaking Barriers, Cultivating Young Girls' Interests in Computational

Thinking, Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity Via a University-Sponsored Enrichment Program.

With the support of the Elkins Professorship, she and her team will launch free computing and cybersecurity clubs for local K–12 students. The initiative will also serve as an internship site for teacher education students and a professional development and research hub for TU faculty.

USM Honors TU Faculty Members With Highest Honors

Each year, the USM Board of Regents honor the best of the best faculty within its 12 member institutions. Three TU faculty members were honored for their mentorship, creativity and tireless work helping TU students in and out of the classroom.



Alexei S. Kolesnikov

EXCELLENCE IN MENTORING

A professor in Towson University's Department of Mathematics and the director of TU's Office of Undergraduate Research, Alexei Kolesnikov—or Dr. K as many students call him—has been an advocate and mentor to countless students throughout campus.



Mary Sajini Devadas

EXCELLENCE IN MENTORING

An associate professor in TU's Department of Chemistry and the director of TU's Office of Competitive Fellowships and Awards (OCFA), Mary Sajini Devadas's tireless work and mentorship have helped hundreds of students earn countless prestigious scholarships and grants.



Luis Engelke

EXCELLENCE IN CREATIVE ACTIVITY

A professor of trumpet in the Department of Music, Luis Engelke also holds the position of principal trumpet with Lancaster, Kennett, and Mid-Atlantic Symphony orchestras, Baltimore Chamber Orchestra and the Endless Mountain Music Festival. His exceptional performance is matched by his contributions in the areas of composition and scholarly writing.



Big Wins

Our student-athletes make impacts on fields and courts and in classrooms and communities. Several TU programs had remarkable seasons in 2024–25, culminating in conference championships and national-level competition appearances. Collectively, TU Athletics ranked in the top 10 in the nation in community service efforts.

Superlative

The men's basketball team had one of its best seasons in program history in 2024–25. The Tigers, who finished 22-11, ended the year ranked No. 18 in the CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 Poll.

The team won its first outright CAA regular season championship and more than 20 games for the fourth consecutive season, a program record.

Head coach Pat Skerry now holds the program record for most wins by any TU men's basketball coach. He was named CAA Coach of the Year. Tyler Tejada was CAA Player of the Year and First Team All-CAA. Nendah Tarke was voted CAA Sixth Man of the Year and Dylan Williamson (pictured above) earned All-CAA Second Team honors.

Rising to the Top

Men's lacrosse earned its second-straight undefeated CAA regular season and tournament titles, taking a DI program-record 10-game winning streak into the NCAA Tournament. TU finished 11-6 overall and 7-0 in CAA play, falling in the NCAA First Round to Princeton.

TU earned a share of three of the CAA's four yearly awards. Mikey Weisshaar (pictured right) earned CAA Offensive Player of the Year, Ronan Fitzpatrick notched CAA Rookie of the Year and Shawn Nadelen was CAA Co-Coach of the Year.



Soaring EAGLs

Domination might be the best word to describe the 2024–25 TU gymnastics season. Tiger gymnasts earned weekly East Atlantic Gymnastics League (EAGL) honors 14 times over the course of the year, including Isabella Minervini being singled out five times as gymnast of the week.

The team earned its second-consecutive EAGL regular season title. Ten TU gymnasts were recognized in the All-EAGL honors for a combined 21 all-conference selections. TU was a combined 8-0 in EAGL matches in 2024 and 2025.

Clara Hong earned EAGL Scholar-Athlete of the Year while Ava Harper was recognized as EAGL Rookie Specialist of the Year. The entire TU gymnastics squad—23 people—made 2025 All-EAGL Scholastic Team. Hong and Minervini each competed as individuals in the NCAA Pennsylvania Regional to finish out the 2025 season.

Three Times a Champion

For the third time in TU history, the indoor track and field team won the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) title.

In the 60-meter finals, Maya Tucker clocked a 7.60 to take first place. Piper Jons and Cristal Cuervo secured podium finishes in the 400m finals, with Jons taking first and Cuervo claiming third. Jons claimed another gold in the 200m finals, setting a new ECAC record with a time of 23.34. During the awards portion of the meet, Jons was recognized as the Most Outstanding Performer of the Championship after setting an ECAC record in the 200m finals as well as placing first in the 400m finals and the 4x400m relay finals.

Enshrined

An NBA draft pick. A professional basketball title winner. Two school and league record-breakers. A national champion. A team full of highly decorated athletes who, together, won four consecutive league titles.

What do they have in common? They are all members of the 61st-annual TU Athletics Hall of Fame class: Ashley Adams (track), Shanae Baker-Brice (basketball), Christina Boorman (field hockey), Roger Dickens (basketball) and Deceilia Willacy (gymnastics). This year's Team of Distinction is the 2010–11 women's swimming team.



Battling to Nationals

TU's women's and men's club rugby teams reached the National Collegiate Rugby Division II Final Fours in 2024–25.

In its 50th year, the men's team finished the regular season 7-3. The team fell to the Northern Iowa in Houston on Dec. 13, 2024. TU had beaten Loyola–Chicago and Grand Valley State by a combined 35 points to reach the Final Four.

"It's a fascinating game because there's just so many different layers to it. It's strategic, it's brutal, it's heavily physical, but it's also a finesse game," says coach Tony Maranto '14.

A year after finishing 10th at the NCR Tournament, the women's team finished fourth, falling to eventual national champion the Coast Guard Academy. TU played the Coast Guard on April 27, and lost by just five points, 17-12. The women's team won Sport Club of the Year 2025 in Student Affairs Leadership Awards.

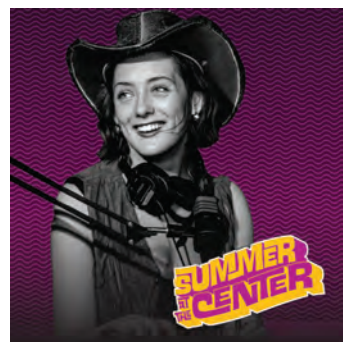
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

#13

TU is committed to transforming lives throughout the region for the public good. One of the ways we play a central role in Maryland's growth and stability is through the many resources and opportunities we have for businesses, community members and families to engage with the campus. As an engaged anchor institution, TU recognizes and leverages its economic power and human capital to improve the socioeconomic conditions, long-term stability and growth of greater Baltimore and Maryland.

Cultivating Appreciation of the Arts

TU's College of Fine Arts & Communication offers programs throughout the year that demonstrate the depth and breadth of TU's artistic excellence and the important role that the university plays in the community and beyond. Our programming is affordable and innovative, spanning arts, theatre, dance and music and features our students on- and backstage. Several of TU's programs and centers are geared specifically for area community members.



Set against the backdrop of the Center for the Arts' theaters, concert halls, classrooms and dance studios, **SUMMER AT THE CENTER** showcases performances from TU students and faculty and the wider Baltimore professional arts community.

 TOWSON.EDU/ARTSCALENDAR



The **ASIAN ARTS & CULTURE CENTER** engages the university and surrounding communities in cross-cultural dialogue through a broad range of artistic and cultural experiences related to Asia.



The **COMMUNITY ART CENTER** offers classes for children, teens and adults throughout the year. Courses range from drawing, painting and sculpture to computer graphics and animation.



The **COMMUNITY DANCE CENTER** promotes an appreciation of dance as an art form. It offers dance movers, educators and enthusiasts a stimulating and inviting environment to develop their technical excellence and deepen their artistic voice through a multifaceted curriculum.

Creating Lifelong Learning Opportunities



In 1963, Jacqui Hedberg was Pam Brown's 10th grade teacher at Hereford High School in Parkton, Maryland. Hedberg had recently graduated college with a passion for world history and Brown was inspired by her style of teaching. Fifty-five years later, they were reunited at an event hosted by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at TU.

Osher provides learning opportunities to expand knowledge, gain insights into current events and access social and cultural activities in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere. There are no entrance requirements, just bring your curiosity and love of learning.

Osher's faculty, current and retired educators and subject matter experts deliver a variety of university-quality, non-credit courses and lectures for curious adults. Membership is required to register for fall/spring semesters; the winter/summer sessions are open to all.

 TOWSON.EDU/OSHER

Promoting Community Partnerships

Baltimore-Towson University (BTU) elevates partnerships with the community, focusing on cross-campus collaboration, mutual respect and innovative approaches to problem-solving.

TU is working with partners in every county throughout Maryland. Additionally, each year the university recognizes this impactful work through the BTU Partnership Awards, celebrating the collaborative work of faculty, staff and community partners.

BTU officially became a program in 2016, supporting 167 partnerships.

 TOWSON.EDU/BTU



IN 2025 BTU HAS:

- 311 active engagements
- 235 TU faculty and staff involved
- 811 community and business partners

Continuing Student Successes

Our young alums are making a difference in myriad ways.

The Future of Science

Seven years after first stepping on campus, Jacob Damrow '22, '24, left with bachelor's and master's degrees in environmental science—and a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. The highly competitive scholarship is awarded to about 16% of more than 12,000 applicants annually. The oldest graduate fellowship of its kind, the award recognizes and supports outstanding students pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees with a three-year stipend and access to professional development resources. "I got emotional when I found out I got the fellowship," Damrow says. "It helps me out financially while allowing me to continue my research and earn my Ph.D. There is a long lineage of people from my TU lab that have won this award. It seemed like an incredible opportunity I couldn't pass up."



JACOB DAMROW '22, '24

One Message: Study Hard

Growing up in the Guangdong Province in southern China, Yanfei Huang Wu '24 didn't have a relationship with her parents. She would take turns living with her four aunts and would deal with constant childhood bullying. She grew close with her aunt, Jie Qiong Huang. But as the years went by, Jie Qiong started to fall ill, becoming blind and dealing with kidney failure.

Unfortunately, not long after Wu started taking care of her, Jie Qiong died. But she had one message for Wu: Go to college, study hard and earn a degree.

More than a decade later, Wu honored her aunt's wishes by graduating with a bachelor's degree from Towson University's Department of Nursing in the College of Health Professions.

By doing so, Wu became the first member of her family to earn a college degree.

"Graduating as a first-generation student means breaking barriers and fulfilling dreams that once felt out of reach for my family," Wu says. "This achievement is not just my own—it represents the expectation, encouragement and steady support of my family and friends, who dreamed of a brighter future for me."

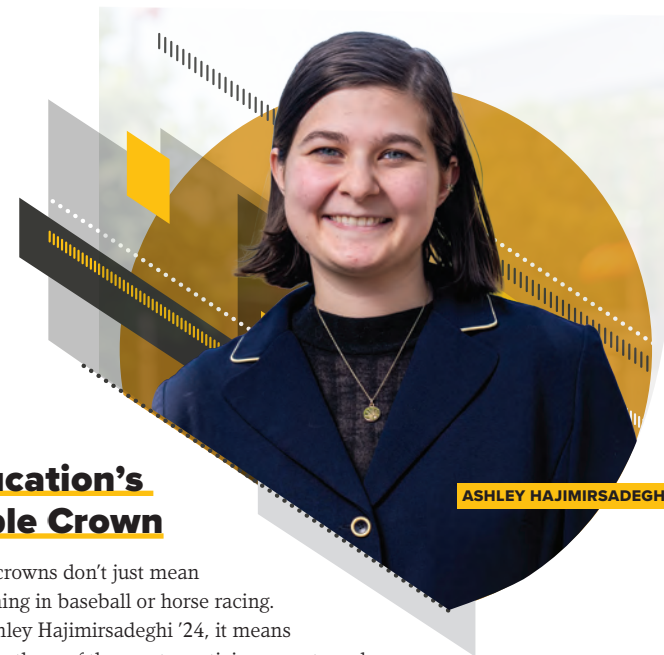


YANFEI HUANG WU '24

Education's Triple Crown

Triple crowns don't just mean something in baseball or horse racing. For Ashley Hajimirsadeghi '24, it means winning three of the most prestigious grants and scholarships in higher education:

- The prestigious Fulbright U.S. Student Program, which provides grants for individually designed study/research projects or for English teaching assistant programs outside the U.S.
- A Critical Language Scholarship, which is an immersive summer opportunity for American college and university students to learn languages essential to America's engagement with the world.
- TU's first recipient of the National Security Education Program's David L. Boren Fellowship, which funds research and language study proposals in world regions critical to U.S. interests.



ASHLEY HAJIMIRSADEGHI '24

Environmental Research

Delaney Mezan '24 put her love of science into practice during her time at TU, working with assistant professor Alice Besterman to study the Eastern Shore's coastal ecosystems. In addition to her studies, Mezan made multiple treks to the Maryland Ornithological Society's Irish Grove Sanctuary—a more than three-hour journey from Towson—to research salt marshes and effects of rising sea levels on animal habitats and local vegetation. She graduated with her bachelor's in December 2024 and will soon finish her master's through TU's accelerated B.S.-to-M.S. program.



DELANEY MEZAN '24

The Class of 2024 is paving their way to successful careers

Employment Status

90% are either employed or continuing their education

88% of working graduates are employed in Maryland or the DC–VA metro area.

\$60,840 average full-time salary

Top Employers

Maryland Public Schools

Regional Health Care Networks
(Johns Hopkins, Kennedy Krieger Institute, MedStar Health—to name a few)

Morgan Stanley

Northwestern Mutual

Amazon

Whiting-Turner Contracting Company

T. Rowe Price

Under Armour

University System of Maryland

THE IMPACT OF OUR RESEARCH

TU's long-standing commitment to expansive and ground-breaking academic research continues to reach new levels. This past fiscal year, TU registered \$20.4 million in research expenditures that made broad impacts on our understanding of the world and the way we live in it. TU faculty research enhances education, advances technology and improves health outcomes.



Fighting Childhood Hearing Loss

Recurring otitis media, better known as ear infections, can have lasting effects on hearing. Assistant professor Chhayakant Patro, Ph.D., is working with the TU Child Care Center and five students in the audiology doctoral program in the College of Health Professions' Department of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology to get a comprehensive idea of the cognitive impacts, speech understanding issues and hearing deficits caused by ear infections.

In collaboration with a faculty member from University of Texas at Austin, Patro received a \$1.5 million R01 research grant from the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders to study the long-term effects of otitis media on listening skill development after treatment.

ADHD Advocacy and Student-Driven Change

Erin Girio-Herrera, Ph.D., is on a mission to expand services and treatments on campus for students with ADHD. Through service-learning classes she developed, Girio-Herrera is making progress and collaborating with students who share her vision.

Alongside Girio-Herrera, students conducted a mixed-method needs assessment of TU students with ADHD. With her guidance, the students delved into a deep review of the scientific literature and used the science to identify and develop best practices for on-campus services and treatments.



Searching Cells for Solutions

Biology professor Elana Ehrlich, Ph.D., is using her third grant from the National Institutes of Health to study Kaposi's sarcoma herpesvirus (KSHV), an infection associated with HIV/AIDS.

Her research seeks to determine how and why KSHV hijacks the cellular protein degradation system to evade the immune system and promote viral replication. By identifying proteins targeted for degradation by the virus, Ehrlich hopes to identify new drug targets. She is working with nine undergraduate students to test how drugs target the "tagged for trash" proteins, impact the replication of the virus and play a role in whether the virus remains latent or could infect other cells.

"Research has always been here and will continue to happen at Towson University. It will continue to grow, thrive and drive meaningful progress. As we expand our research initiatives, we are opening new doors for discovery, collaboration and real-world impact."

—Sidd Kaza, vice president for research

Paving the Way to R2

At TU, students have endless opportunities to work with faculty to deepen their understanding of the world around them, and faculty members have the resources to embark on a variety of research journeys. TU achieved the Carnegie Research Colleges and Universities status in 2025 and continues to create more robust opportunities for student researchers to participate in meaningful, interdisciplinary research in and out of the classroom year-round.

Rooted in research doctoral degrees, TU has made it an institutional priority to achieve a Carnegie Research Classification of R2: Doctoral University—High Research Activity by 2027 and students and faculty are well on their way to achieving this goal.

#16 We're So Photogenic

Amazing things happen every day at TU. In classrooms, on stage, in the competitive arena and all over our beautiful campus, our students, faculty, staff and alums constantly push themselves to achieve. Over the course of the year, our staff and student photographers capture the love, passion and hard work that epitomize Tigers. Here are some shots from throughout the year that demonstrate our momentum.



Photo: Lauren Castellana '13, '23

Campus is a welcoming, friendly environment. In this photo in front of the union, Dammy Bello '25, left, and Gabriella Orellana '25 appear to be longtime friends—but, actually, they'd just met.

Nikki Golemboski '25 embodies the sense of accomplishment thousands of Tigers feel each May during Commencement, always one of the most special times on campus. She was one of 2,200 undergraduate candidates for graduation this past spring.



Photo: Lauren Castellana '13, '23

Taking on double teams was standard operating procedure for Tyler Tejada '27, who had a remarkable season. Tejada led the CAA regular season champs in scoring, with 16.7 points per game, and was named the conference's Player of the Year.



Photo: Alex Wright '18



Photo: Paige Detwiler '24

The movement of four members of the university's dance company in mid-air captures the beauty and artistry with which they perform. Last year, TU hosted 197 arts and culture events, which brought nearly 30,000 visitors to campus.

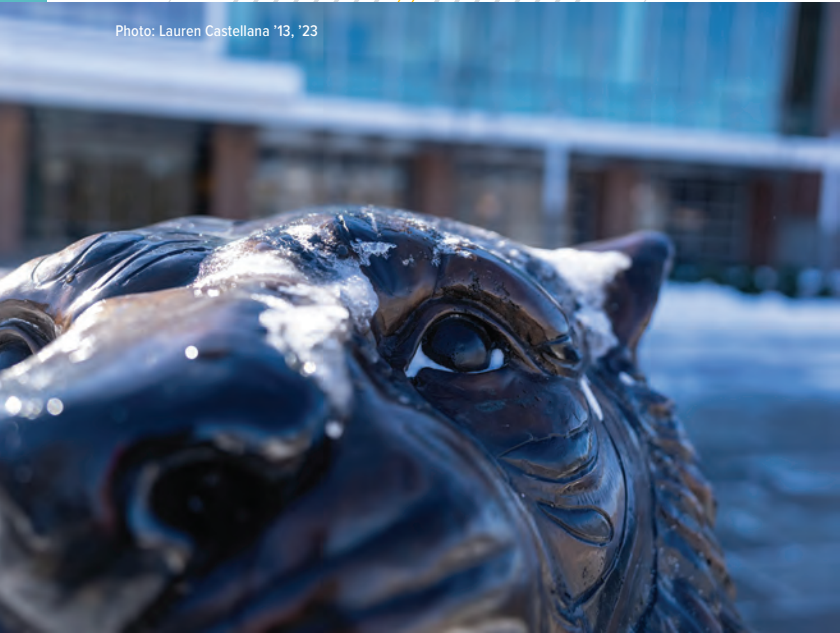


Photo: Lauren Castellana '13, '23

The Tiger statue in front of the union is an iconic campus landmark and a popular spot for photos for prospective students, current ones and alums.



Photo: Lauren Castellana '13, '23

The union is always bustling; it's a gathering spot for students—like Alphonso Faltz Jr. '26—faculty and staff alike.

The Wellness Loop is TU's newest campus art installation. The 35-foot mirrored metal sculpture was installed outside the new Health Professions Building in spring 2025. It is TU's first commissioned public art installation, created to evoke wellness and inspire students to see themselves as part of an interconnected campus community.



Photo: Alex Wright '18

Research is a major priority at TU, which achieved the Research Colleges and Universities designation from the 2025 Carnegie Classification for its dedication to academic research and development.



Photo: Alex Wright '18



Photo: Lauren Castellana '13, '23

At TU's Día de Los Muertos event last year, the intricate makeup and dress were stunning. The celebration is just one way we honor the histories, cultures and contributions of our students' heritages and cultures.



Photo: Alex Wright '18

A sense of triumph permeates Commencement. The Office of the Provost hosts six ceremonies each spring and three ceremonies each winter to celebrate bachelor's, master's and doctoral candidates who have completed all their degree requirements.

Taken from the bridge over The Glen, this image captures students and faculty on their converging paths between the math and science buildings. The TU community has used the Glen Arboretum's 10 acres adjacent to Smith and Van Bokkelen halls for quiet repose and scientific exploration since the 1930s.



Photo: Kendle Weaver '26



Photo: Lauren Castellana '13, '23

School spirit abounds at Tigers games. TU welcomed 109,000 fans to campus to cheer on the Tigers during the 2024–25 season.



Photo: Lauren Castellana '13, '23

MFA candidate Lolo Gem hosted a spring exhibition called "Hidden In Plain Sight."

OUR ECONOMIC IMPACT

We are proud to be an anchor institution for Maryland. Towson University is an engine for development in our state, through the contributions of our alumni in the workforce as well as our commitment to fostering entrepreneurship.

In fact, TU's programs in cybersecurity and computer science are nationally recognized for their excellence, and we continue to graduate more teachers and undergraduate health care professionals annually than any other university, public or private, in Maryland. TU's StarTUp Accelerator, our center for business engagement and entrepreneurship, is one of the top-ranked university economic development initiatives in the country. Program alumni have addressed issues such as cultural representation in literature, predictive sports analytics and sustainable construction materials among many others.

Where Collaboration Happens and Big Things Begin

The StarTUp at the Armory is Towson University's award-winning hub for innovation and entrepreneurship—and Maryland's largest entrepreneur support organization. It is a vibrant, public-focused space that creates new engagement opportunities for regional leaders, entrepreneurs and community members to connect, convene and collaborate alongside TU's faculty, staff and students.

The 26,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility is home to signature TU entrepreneurship programs as well as student competitions and events. Small businesses and local entrepreneurs have access to many programs and resources focused on

entrepreneurship and workforce development. There are free co-working spaces and meeting rooms open to all.

The StarTUp at the Armory offers programs that serve community members, entrepreneurs, businesses and startups as well as TU students and alumni.

STARTUP ACCELERATOR: A competitive fellowship where early-stage founders receive funding, mentorship and collaborative workspace to rapidly grow their ventures.

COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Discover ways to connect with business and startup leaders through our community speaker series, networking events and live pitch competitions.

STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP: TU students build and grow entrepreneurship mindsets, connections and startups through competitions, workshops and networking.

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP: High school students gain real-world business knowledge, confidence and entrepreneurial skills through workshops tailored to aspiring young leaders.

#17

Helping Maryland with Economic and Workforce Challenges

Over the last 35 years, the Regional Economic Studies Institute (RESI) has become the leading expert on Maryland's economy. Our team of economists and researchers provide the highest level of service while emphasizing an interdisciplinary approach that combines knowledge and methodology with technology.

Through the Economic Outlook and Maryland Workforce Outlook fora, RESI gathers business, government, and workforce leaders, politicians and educators to provide thoughtful conversation around the state's economy and to address economic and workforce challenges.

90%
of recent alumni
employed in the Maryland/
Washington, D.C./
Virginia area

119,733
active alumni living
in Maryland

\$2.1
BILLION
in economic impact
on Maryland
*from the most recent
economic impact report

Bruno Turning 1

A tiny ball of black fluff tumbled onto campus in fall 2023 and quickly stole our hearts. Named Bruno, he spent the first few months of his life studying for his new role as comfort dog 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.

#18

"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." —Sgt. Jafar Taru

TU's comfort dog program began after a 2023 Big Give donor established a fund to provide training and pay for Bruno's care. For most of his first year, the pup learned basic commands and good behavior and became accustomed to campus life. Bruno turned 1 on Nov. 8, 2024, and commenced his formal service dog training.

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. By the end of 2024, he had spent around 200 days on campus, accompanying Taru on his shifts.

Bruno's sole focus is people pleasing, whether that is in a positive situation—collecting belly rubs while escorting President Ginsberg around campus, for example—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," says Charles "Joe" Herring, associate vice president for public safety and chief of police. "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."



- 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"



The Rich Lives of Our Students

Academics are just one part of our students’ lives. While here, they participate in society in myriad ways. Here are just a few examples.

A Band of Brothers Making Art at TU

The Fowlkes triplets have had a nickname that has stuck with them since they were born: the Trio.

Their family wanted a reminder that no matter where Justin ’25, Kintrez ’25 and Trè ’25 go in life, they will be around each other in some way, shape or form.

The brothers have taken that nickname to new levels in the past four years. The three were in TU’s College of Fine Arts & Communication, and all three served as resident assistants for Housing & Residence Life.

They have always focused on creative outlets. They have been drawing since they were 5 years old and making music together since they were teenagers—joking that they initially recorded their first songs on a Nintendo 3DS. Now, they are finding new ways to push their artistic boundaries.

Justin and Kintrez majored in graphic design, while Trè was an electronic media and film major with a concentration in radio/audio. “I love Towson because it’s provided me with so many skills that I never thought about or even imagined diving into,” Justin says.

#19

“I’ve met other triplets who don’t go to the same college as their siblings, and it’s very interesting because they always talk about how they wish they had their siblings there. We push each other to be the best that we can be.”

—Kintrez Fowlkes ’25

Student Leader

When Rayne Rivera-Forbes ’28 decided to come to Towson University, the first-generation freshman knew she wanted to get involved right away. Little did she know that by the end of her first year on campus she would be representing many of Maryland’s college students in Annapolis.

This spring, Rivera-Forbes was named student regent for the University System of Maryland’s (USM) Board of Regents. In July she was officially sworn in.

Rivera-Forbes will be a full member of the USM board for two consecutive terms. She will serve on committees and work with higher education officials, state and local policymakers, Maryland business and civic leaders and her fellow students to help steer higher education policy in the state. She will also work with student government programs from the USM’s 12 institutions to discuss how she can help their student bodies.

“I think the biggest thing you can have, especially when it comes to advocacy, is a voice. For me to have this opportunity to represent so many students and see what our different schools have to offer here in Maryland—that’s all I could ask for.”

—Rayne Rivera-Forbes ’28

Bridging Borders, Building Futures

For Eliza Petrova ’25, her role as a global ambassador for the International Student and Scholar Office (ISSO) is personal. Originally from Russia, Petrova attended ISSO events when she first arrived at TU, and they helped her successfully transition to life on campus. Now, she pays it forward by mentoring international students, helping plan events to foster community and connection and supporting students who call, email or visit ISSO’s office.

“This job has helped me grow as a professional and shaped me more than I expected. It’s rewarding to be someone students can count on.”

—Eliza Petrova ’25

Capturing Campus Life

Student photographer Kendle Weaver ’26 is using her campus job to build her future. As a student photographer, she assists in setting up campus photo shoots, operating lighting equipment and capturing images of people, programs and events that the two-person university photo staff couldn’t otherwise cover.

Since starting last summer, she’s gotten experience ranging from studio portraits to game-day action photos. Weaver got the role by applying early through the Career Center’s Handshake app.



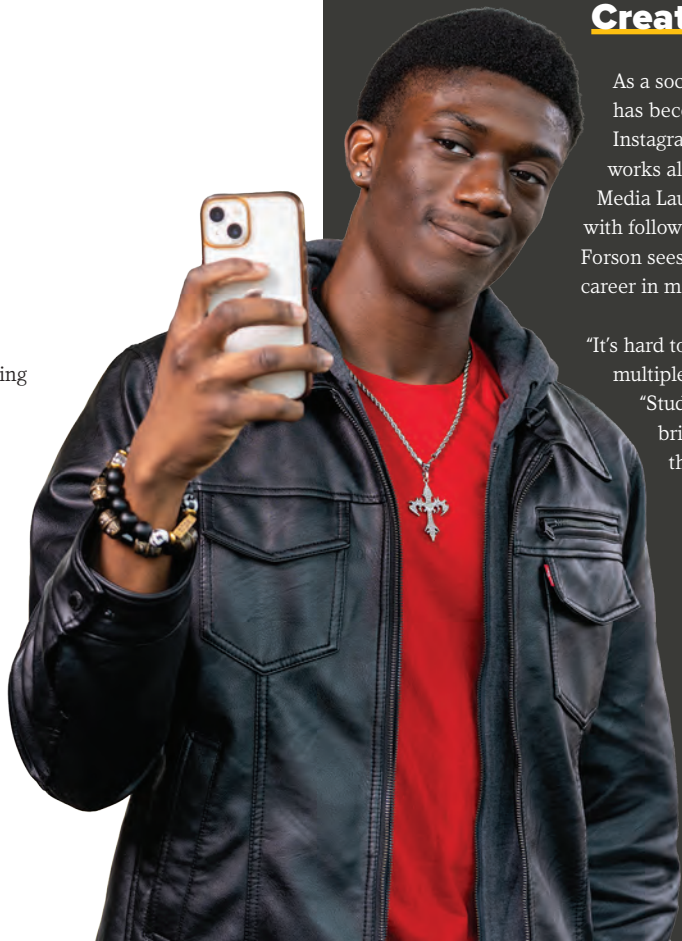
Creating Social Content

As a social media content creator, Dan Forson ’27 has become a familiar face and voice on TU’s Instagram, Facebook and TikTok accounts. He works alongside TU Assistant Director of Social Media Lauren Bottaro ’10 to create content, engage with followers and capture student life on campus. Forson sees the job as a steppingstone toward a future career in media.

“It’s hard to represent such a big, dynamic campus on multiple social platforms by myself,” Bottaro says. “Students help us cover more ground, and Dan brings a fresh, student-forward perspective that adds dimension to our content.”

“This role gives me a front-row seat to what a career in media looks like. I love getting out to events and connecting with students face-to-face.”

—Dan Forson ’27



Our Alumni

#20

TU is approaching a big milestone: 200,000 active alumni. They live in all 50 states and 86 countries—and they've never been more engaged. Alumni donated more than 5,500 hours of their time, volunteering for and with TU (a 32% increase from last year). TU also had the strongest turnout to date for the From One Tiger to Another postcard program. More than 500 alumni wrote over 6,000 welcome postcards to accepted students.

Forbes, Baltimore Business Journal Honors

Forbes identifies and selects outstanding business owners, changemakers and innovators for the Forbes 30 Under 30 awards. This year, two Tigers, both fellows in the StarTUp Accelerator at TU, were nominated in the Social Impact category.



ADEOLA AJANI '20
Founder of Fem Equity, Ajani graduated from TU with a bachelor's degree in financial planning and finance and was a Business Model Competition finalist in the StarTUp Accelerator at TU. Fem Equity is a platform that creates solutions for women and underrepresented professionals and hiring organizations that are going through pay or professional gaps.



REBECCA ROSENBERG
Rosenberg, the CEO of ReBokeh Vision Technologies, Inc., kickstarted her career and business through the StarTUp Accelerator at TU. She recently partnered with Towson University to provide automatic, free and unlimited access to the premium version of ReBokeh's app-based technology, ReBokeh Plus, to anyone in the StarTUp at the Armory.

The Baltimore Business Journal 40 Under 40 List recognizes up-and-coming business executives and community leaders each year. This year, three Tigers were honored for their contributions to property management, health care and equitable education initiatives.



JILL HARMAN '11
Harman now serves as the president of the MacKenzie Management Company, the largest locally owned, third-party property management firm in Maryland. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in communication studies.



DANIEL LUNZ '16
He is the cofounder and CEO of Previs, a service that develops precision medicine solutions aimed at prevention and early detection of cancer, starting with esophageal cancer. Lunz graduated with a bachelor's degree in exercise science from TU.



NIKKI SCHIAVONE '07
Schiavone is the director of communications for Living Classrooms Foundation. This nonprofit organization provides access to more equitable education, workforce development, health and wellness and community safety opportunities in the greater Baltimore and D.C. areas. Schiavone graduated with a bachelor's degree in mass communication and cultural studies from TU.

These newest alums accomplished spectacular things while in school.
Now, the world is their oyster.



MAYA TUCKER '25
During her time on TU's track and field team, Tucker broke the program record at the Towson Spring Open with the fastest 100-meter dash in program history (11.38). She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in exercise science.

KOBE WHITE '25
White earned a Bachelor of Science in sport management with a minor in business administration. He engaged with the TU community as the university's mascot, Doc, for three years.



“Being Doc has been an experience of a lifetime. You’re always the life of the party. Everyone is always excited to see you, and you get to make people's day better with such a small interaction. All of the close games, fan hugs, high fives and energy the fans have given me, it was a rush of emotion every time that I never took for granted.”

— Kobe White '25



BETHANY HACKERMAN '25
Hackerman graduated with a Bachelor of Science in psychology with minors in family science and Jewish studies. She is a fourth-generation Tiger, and her graduation marked 100 years since her great-grandfather's commencement from the Maryland State Normal School.

“I am looking forward to pursuing my future, and I don't know that I would be in this same position without the experiences and knowledge I gained here at Towson University.”

— Bethany Hackerman '25

#21

OUR VETERANS

Veterans have a home at TU. We believe in providing outstanding support and services to all student-veterans and their families—from applicants to alumni.

We offer priority registration for veteran students, admission fee waivers for veteran applicants and an active, engaged veteran community.

At the center of TU's efforts is our Military and Veterans Center (MVC). The work the MVC does not only includes providing guidance on scholarships and financial aid but helping veterans adjust to campus life by fostering a welcoming community for more than 200 student-veterans. The MVC staff members consider themselves a one-stop shop for any issues a former service member may face on campus.

TU's student-veterans frequently work as peer support specialists. They make fellow veteran students aware of their military benefits, help them take advantage of the benefits and provide them a safe space to be mindful of their mental health.

THE MVC OFFERS:

- a safe and like-minded community
- personal growth and career development opportunities
- comprehensive in-school support



TOP **100**
SCHOOL "BEST FOR VETS" RANKINGS
MILITARY TIMES | 2024

TOP **5**
BEST SCHOOL FOR VETERANS
IN THE NORTH REGION
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NO. **9**
BEST LARGE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY
IN THE NATION
MILITARY FRIENDLY® RANKINGS | 2025-26



Aaron Meriwether '23, '25

A U.S. Navy veteran, Aaron Meriwether served honorably for 10 years before being discharged in 2020.

He earned his bachelor's in exercise science, then a master's in athletic training, from TU before beginning a seasonal internship with the Seattle Seahawks. At his spring 2025 Commencement he was the College of Health Professions' student speaker, telling his fellow graduates:

"You all sitting here have been building something special over the years. The ability to combine your thoughts into actions, create a plan and execute that plan flawlessly. The ability to create a structure you are proud of. That in and of itself is worth it."



Adaiah Rogers '26

Former Marine Corporal Adaiah Rogers spent five years in the Corps before her discharge in November 2024. She says the MVC helped her adjust to becoming a civilian student.

"I don't think I'd be here without the MVC," Rogers says. "It's difficult transitioning from the military into civilian life but then being surrounded by students a lot younger than you, it can be challenging. The MVC helped me out tremendously. From making sure I get the resources that I need to encouraging me to seek help for myself, the MVC has been there for me."

Rogers wanted to find a way to pay the assistance she received forward. She now works for the center, serving as a peer support specialist—a TU student-veteran who acts as a liaison for other veteran students and helps them understand their benefits from Veterans Affairs.

"I don't think I'd be here without the MVC."



Aaron Kirzner '25

Aaron Kirzner enrolled at TU after his service in the U.S. Army. Before earning his bachelor's degree in business administration, he served as a peer support specialist at the Military & Veterans Center. Kirzner will start CBE's economic analytics master's program in the fall and hopes to become a TU faculty member.

"I started my undergraduate career at FSU in the fall of 1998," he says. "I was entirely too young and not ready to pursue my college degree at that time. Now, a short 26 1/2 years later, I'm graduating as an outstanding CBE graduate. It really makes me appreciate how, as one of my professors put it, 'It's not important when you cross the finish line, just that you eventually cross it.'"

"It's not important when you cross the finish line, just that you eventually cross it."

#22

WE AGE WELL

At 159 years old, Towson University is more vibrant than ever. So, it's no surprise that two programs that celebrated their 50th anniversary last academic year are still thriving. Here's how they started and how they've evolved to meet the needs of our world today.

50 Years of Nursing Excellence

It's been 50 years since the first cohort of nursing students graduated from what was then called Towson State University. As the program's technology and curriculum have rapidly advanced to meet modern standards, its commitment to student success and outstanding patient care has remained constant. Case in point: the program's practice mannequins. In the early years when TU offered the only nursing program in the state, students took turns practicing their techniques on a single adult mannequin they lovingly dubbed "Mrs. Chase." Now, nursing students in TU's newly opened Health Professions Building have access to augmented and virtual reality; simulations with standardized patients (professional actors); virtual body labs with digitized real cadavers; opportunities to practice telehealth and technology compatible with mobile phones and apps; and access to mannequins that breathe, bleed, speak and give birth. They benefit from both the high-tech, high-touch equipment and the guidance of highly skilled and dedicated faculty mentors that support their experiential learning. As program leaders continue to monitor and implement best practices for future students, their commitment to offering direct feedback in immersive, real-world experiences will continue. As dean of the College of Health Professions Lisa Plowfield says, "I'm not sure what our technology will be in the next 50 years, but what I do know is that our phenomenal, passionate nursing faculty will lead us forward."

- **No. 1** National Council Licensure Exam **pass rate in Maryland** for B.S. & M.S. programs, 2024
- **2nd-largest** producer of bedside nurses in Maryland
- **600+ students** currently **enrolled in undergraduate** nursing programs
- **6,500 nurses** have **graduated from TU's nursing program** since its inception



1974



1976



1981



2012



2024



50 Years as a Leader in Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy (OT) helps people recovering from illnesses regain their ability to perform everyday tasks. Its value is obvious, but when TU first launched the OT bachelor's program, it was such an emerging field that administrators had to prove its worth. There were other challenges too, like finding qualified teaching staff. In 1974 TU overcame those challenges to become the first higher education institution in Maryland to offer a dedicated OT program. In the 50 years since, the program has established itself as a national leader in OT education known for its robust curriculum, expert faculty, strong clinical partnerships and comprehensive student support. In addition to the original bachelor's degree program, the department now offers a master's in occupational therapy, a doctorate in occupational therapy and a doctorate in occupational science. All the programs are housed in TU's new, state-of-the-art Health Professions Building, enabling students to engage in high-touch, high-tech experiential education.

- **100%** National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy Exam **pass rate** for graduating cohorts
- **Top 20** occupational therapy graduate programs **in the U.S.** according to U.S. News & World Report

OT alumni and administrators look back

"Gaining the understanding of patient needs through work, self-care and leisure led us in the direction to look at patients as a whole."

—Diane Gibson, first OT department chair



"The camaraderie we developed taught us what was important to the career. It forced you to do better—it made you think clinically."

—Charity Gleeson '90

"That core ethic of enabling participation for everyone, regardless of ability, was true on Day One and continues to be at the heart of what we do today, 50 years later."

—Kendra Heatwole Shank, OT department chair



"It was clear why TU had such a good reputation in the OT world...after leaving the program, I know I have a lifelong support network."

—Joe Amos '23



#23

THE ROLE WE PLAY IN OUR REGION

As an anchor institution that leverages its economic power to improve socioeconomic conditions, long-term stability and growth of greater Baltimore and the state, TU serves as a catalyst and connector for our region. Our work goes beyond educating students to uplift communities and support innovation.

EDUCATING TALENT TO EMPOWER TEACHERS

Through partnerships in several counties around Maryland, TU is working to provide solutions to workforce demands. The Maryland Center for Community Schools (MCCS), housed within TU's College of Education, engages with community schools around the state to support their work as they implement a strategy to use community school funds.

TU MENTORS SUPPORT NEW TEACHERS

The Office of the Presidential Scholar at Towson University and Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) have created a multi-year new teacher induction program in which TU mentors will support new CCPS teachers. This new program aims to help them feel empowered as they begin their careers in education, which will increase retention

and improve their professional development. TU mentors and staff will receive valuable insight into the transition from teacher preparation to early practice, which will help inform research and curriculum.

PATHWAY FOR PARAEDUCATORS

Towson University in Northeastern Maryland (TUNE) and Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) have partnered to develop the Pathway for Paraeducators, a program that provides part-time, hybrid courses; on-the-job training and dual certification to current paraeducators in Harford County. The first cohort is projected to graduate with a four-year degree in spring 2027. Fully funded through a combination of tuition reimbursement and Talent Pathways by HCPS, program graduates commit to teaching at least three years in Harford County upon graduation. Throughout the

program, students will gain their field experience within HCPS, directly applying their coursework in real classroom settings. TUNE offers dual certification so students can graduate with elementary education and special education certifications.

DEFINED BY CONNECTION

Aneisa Campbell '24 earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education and gained real-world experience through the College of Education's Level IV Internship Program, where she completed a full-time internship at Colgate Elementary in Dundalk, Maryland. In fact, her time at TU was defined by connection. She belonged to the Student Government Association (SGA), acted as a mentor in the College Readiness and Outreach Program and was an orientation leader with New Student and Family Programs.

“Community schools increase the quality of education for students around the state. They don't just provide reading, writing and arithmetic. They go well beyond that, trying to provide families and young people with all the things they need to succeed.”

Jessica Shiller, director of MCCS

“Teacher induction programs play a critical role in developing confident, skilled educators while strengthening schools and, most importantly, helping students succeed.”

Nancy Grasmick '61
TU's first presidential scholar

“Providing a flexible pathway for people already dedicated to the profession will help fill the teacher pipeline.”

Laurie Mullen, dean of the College of Education at TU

“You meet so many people while you're here, and you just end up connecting with them. TU has become my favorite place because of all the people I've met.”

Aneisa Campbell, '24

GENERATING OPPORTUNITY

TU is committed to making higher education within reach for all, championing initiatives that support access and opportunity.

Harford Community College and TU signed an agreement that will create a seamless enrollment pathway for students enrolled at HCC to easily transfer to Towson University in Northeastern Maryland (TUNE) upon completing an associate degree. This initiative enables students to be admitted to HCC with a predetermined intention of transferring to one of TUNE's programs to pursue a bachelor's degree.



“This collaboration ensures a seamless transfer process to Towson University in Northeastern Maryland for Harford Community College students by minimizing obstacles, uncertainty and the risk of credit loss. It exemplifies our commitment to creating clear and defined academic pathways for our students to help them accomplish their goals.”

—Theresa B. Felder, president of Harford Community College



CREATING TRANSFORMATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR LEADERS

The Dr. Nancy Grasmick Leadership Institute continues to offer a values-driven and robust portfolio of offerings for individuals and organizations that create transformational outcomes for leaders at any level in their careers and across all industries. The Institute aspires to positively impact the region and beyond through results-producing and ethical leadership development. Signature programs impacting leaders and driving ethical leadership include the Professional Leadership Program for Women, Next Level Leaders and the Spark Brilliance Executive Leadership Program.

THE GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS

A culture of service and philanthropy thrives at TU. We thank each and every person who chooses to give to TU.

Historic Highs During TU's Annual Day of Giving

On April 23, the Towson University community came together to raise more than **\$977,000 from more than 2,050** donors during TU's 2025 Big Give, a historic high of both dollars raised and participating donors.

The top five beneficiaries of the 24-hour period were Towson University Athletics, President's Fund for Excellence, TU Fund, the College of Business and Economics and the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

TU Athletics benefited from the most donors—862—with the College of Health Professions and Fisher College of Science and Mathematics coming in with 197 and 168 donors, respectively.

Another popular fund, the Basic Needs Hub, raised close to \$5,000 to help connect the TU community to critical resources that support basic needs security, including food, hygiene products, clothing and government assistance programs. The BTU (Baltimore + Towson University) fund raised \$1,120 to support TU's engine for community engagement and partnership work taking place between the university and communities throughout greater Baltimore.

"More than doubling our results from last year is absolutely phenomenal, and it's all thanks to the energy, generosity and heart of our donors. This momentum is powerful, and we can't wait to keep building on it together."

—Kristen McCurdy, director of annual giving



The Campaign for Excellence

TU Athletics announced the launch of a \$12 million revenue generation campaign to fuel \$38 million of high-impact improvements for key athletic facilities. It seeks to ensure Towson Athletics attracts and retains high-quality student-athletes, provides first-class sport performance and medical care and enhances the impressive catalog of athletic and academic facilities that already benefit TU's student-athletes.

PHASE ONE: FIELD HOUSE EXPANSION AND RENOVATION + TOWSON CENTER TRAINING ROOM AND WEIGHT ROOM RENOVATION

The project calls for renovations to more than 17,000 of the existing 53,000 square feet of Uritas Stadium's field house, including a 12,600-square-foot addition to the building. This new addition will expand team meeting spaces, establish program-specific suites with meeting rooms and provide important enhancements to the Dr. Francis S. Soistman Jr. '79, '15 (hon.) and Family Athletics Academic Achievement Center. The project will bring a new Fueling Zone to the field house to meet the dietary needs of student-athletes before, during and after training sessions and competitions.

Phase One also includes \$6 million of work to the Towson Center, including a 4,000-square-

foot expansion and renovation of the training room and the establishment of a new sport performance center, which will focus on connecting and improving the weight rooms and other sport performance areas within the facility.

PHASE TWO: TOWSON CENTER COURT LEVEL AND GYM LEVEL

Phase Two includes a complete renovation of the Towson Center gymnasium, the practice facility for several Tiger athletic teams. The project will add 15,000 square feet of indoor turf space, two practice courts for volleyball and basketball and has the potential for additional improvements to the viewing area that overlooks the Towson Center gymnasium today.



Continuing the Legacies of TU Trailblazers

A special campaign is honoring five visionaries who paved the path for a more equitable TU and raising funds to continue their legacies through scholarships, programming and more.

The Paving the Path Campaign and traveling exhibit share the stories of TU's first Black graduates, first Black professor, first Black dean and longtime director of student success programs. Funds established in honor of these visionaries keep their legacies alive by supporting programs and scholarships that pave the path for future generations.

Whitney LeBlanc

Whitney LeBlanc became TU's first Black faculty member when he was hired as a theatre professor in 1965. During his tenure, a group of KKK extremists unsuccessfully attempted to shut down his on-campus production of "And People All Around." LeBlanc taught at TU for five years before going on to create the ground-breaking TV show "Our Street." He also served as associate director for the 1970's television sitcom "Good Times" and authored five books. The Whitney LeBlanc Memorial Fund honors his legacy by raising money to name the COFAC theatre in his honor and to support the theatre department.



Marvis Barnes '59 and Myra Harris '59

When the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education decision opened the door to educational opportunity, Marvis Barnes '59 and Myra Harris '59 stepped through to enroll at TU, then called the State Teachers College at Towson. In 1959, they became the first Black students to earn four-year degrees here. Both went on to transform their communities through decades of leadership as teachers and administrators in Maryland's public schools. The Barnes-Harris Scholarship Endowment continues their legacy by providing scholarships for students.



Dean Julius Chapman

Julius Chapman came to TU in 1969, becoming the first dean of minority affairs. When he started, Black enrollment was less than 1% of the total student population. During his tenure, he recruited and mentored Black students while helping establish the Black Student Union, Black Faculty and Administrators Association and Black Cultural Center. He also brought historically Black Greek organizations to campus. The Dr. Julius Chapman Memorial Fund supports programs that continue his legacy of fostering academic achievement and personal growth.



Raft Woodus

Raft Woodus spent his 40-year career at TU dedicated to helping students find success. The inaugural director of student success programs mentored countless students and established programs like Students Achieve Goals through Education (SAGE) that help students from all backgrounds thrive. To date, SAGE's peer-to-peer mentoring and skill building have been a guiding force for more than 10,000 TU students. The Raft Woodus Student Success Programs Fund supports impactful programs like SAGE, Generation One and Man 2 Man.





#25

GOATS IN THE GLEN

“It’s been great because it’s a way for students to come down [to the Glen] and see this space. But the expressions you see on the students’ faces when they see the goats for the first time, it’s just amazing.”

— James Hull

When James Hull brought goats to TU more than a decade ago, he didn’t know he was creating one of the campus’ most beloved traditions. The professor emeritus in the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics, and former director of the Glen Arboretum, initially saw the barnyard

residents as a sustainable method of removing invasive plant species. They do that by eating the unwanted vegetation while putting smiles on students’ faces.

The Thrill of Victory

The look on the face of Dan Reilly '25 in the moments following TU's win in the CAA men's lacrosse title game says it all. It's one of several photos that capture the magic of the past year at TU that we share beginning on page 28.



Photo: Lauren Castellana '13, '23

A GRATEFUL TEACHER GIVES BACK

Helen Romaine Beair '58 taught for 31 years in her beloved Washington County, Maryland. In retirement she led Sunday School lessons for adults. Helen touched the lives of many during her lifetime, and thanks to a thoughtful bequest, her legacy will continue at Towson University.

Helen's unrestricted bequest to the Towson University Foundation ensured her gift would be used to create opportunities for scores of students, putting them on a path to achieving their own dreams, just as her State Teachers College education allowed her a fulfilling career and comfortable life.

Unrestricted bequests to the Towson University Foundation resource the TU Fund, which directs gifts where the needs are greatest—scholarships, faculty development and research, real-world learning experiences, innovative academic programs and more.

For information on how you can make a difference in the lives of Towson University students through your estate plan, please contact:

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**“My Aunt Helen
cherished her students
and recognized
in each of them their
unique potential.”**

— John Beair, Helen's nephew