

TURA Matters: We Are Now an ALL-TU Retiree Association

This spring, members of the Towson University Retired Staff Association voted in a special by-laws election and, as a result, the association is now open to all retired staff as well as retired faculty; TURFA is now officially the Towson University Retiree Association (TURA) and we extend a warm welcome (and re-welcome) to all retired faculty and staff.

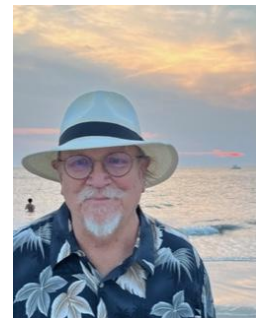
- Question 1 on "Creating a new organization for both faculty and staff and changing the name of TURFA to TURA" passed.
- Question 2 on "Creating the position of Communications Secretary with a vote on the Executive Committee" passed.

This change is just the first step to turn vision into reality through action and YOUR help. Please email Michael Bachman, president, at mbachman@towson.edu with suggestions on how we can promote our association to all retirees. And most importantly, help answer two questions that were not on the ballot:

"What can your retiree association do for YOU?" and "What can retirees do for Towson University?"

Past President's Message

It has been my honor to be the president elect and president of TURFA over the last two years. I thank all of you for the opportunity to serve. It has been a relatively turbulent two years for what is normally a quiet retiree organization. Much of that time was dominated by the State's summary termination of our promised prescription benefits plan and the transition to the new Medicare Part D plans. I think we mostly survived this transition, but there were many glitches, and we are generally harmed by the State's move.



I still serve on the Secretary of Budget and Management's advisory board, and I still field the occasional request to address a problem someone has with their new plans. The fight is not over. The court case to restore our benefits is still in appeal, although I am not hopeful about its outcome, and we are still looking at legislation for next year that might ease the burden of the new plans for some retirees.

In the midst of this, Towson University decided to give University benefits, such as free parking, to all TU retirees that were previously only available to TURFA members. I applaud this effort (page 2) to open benefits to everyone who contributed so much of their lives to the success of TU. It did, however, stimulate a discussion that has been brewing for a number of years about creating an organization that could represent all TU retirees, including staff and faculty. The outcome was finalized in the last week of my term: the formalization, following a by-laws vote, of a new name and mission: Towson University Retiree Association (TURA), inclusive of both faculty and staff.

Now TURA, we are still strong. We enjoy the commitment of many dedicated retirees. As I step away from the presidency, I do so with total confidence in Michael Bachman, the next president, and others who will work to sustain this or a new organization into the future. I look forward to defining new roles for my own service to TURFA and, once again, I thank you for this opportunity.

Jim Roberts

Incoming President's Message

They say it takes many hands to lift a heavy load, and that's especially the case with all-volunteer organizations. WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW MORE THAN EVER. In moving to an all-retiree association this June, how will we continue to serve our faculty members as we invite and encourage staff retirees to participate and to take on leadership roles? It's a challenge but the more hands, the lighter the burden!

TU was a big part of your life, so please come back as a "senior alumnus!" If we can find ways to make that re-engagement a winning combination, let us know. Many of us are now enjoying the freedom to continue our scholarship and service—without the distractions of fulltime university employment and all that comes with it (committees, meetings, bureaucracy, budget freezes or cuts, politics, and the list goes on). We can be our best selves.



Actual retirement photo
(boulder is fake news)

My question to you is how can we help you stay active within the common bond we share: TU as a great educational institution, the #1 public university in Maryland, 15 in the nation? Can you help this association remain vibrant, relevant, and thriving—to continue doing the things we've done well, and to extend new opportunities to our members? We now have more potential hands with retired staff (another recruitment effort), so let's get on to the lifting part! Or help spread the word and encourage others to join or stand for office in the executive committee. (Reminder: membership is free for the first year after retirement, and only four Starbucks coffees annually after that.) Or just take advantage of the events and activities your former colleagues put together--come out and have fun, meet old friends, make new ones, share common interests, or take up new ones.



As ChatGPT predicted
retirement

We're here to help each other and together find meaning and enjoyment in retirement, or should I say, in our reimagining. We all shared a passion as educators or in service to education and our TU students—how do we continue that connection through our retiree association?

That's our challenge—and opportunity—for the year ahead. I look forward to serving as your president along with our great team of volunteer officers and committee leaders. So, let's reaffirm our commitment to each other and to the university that's been for most of us a second home.

What can your executive committee and those who volunteer their time do for you? Let me know.

Best wishes, Michael Bachman. mbachman@towson.edu

Association Election Results, President's Retiree Luncheon, Divisional Home

The annual election is normally held in the spring, according to our by-laws, with the results announced at the traditional Provost's Brunch. This year, the election was deferred to July, and President Ginsberg instead hosted a retiree luncheon for all staff and faculty June 25th at the South Pavillion. A divisional home for our new combined staff and faculty association is still being determined.

The online election took place July 15 through July 25, 2025. Ballots were sent to the 155 all current members eligible to vote as of June 2025. Forty-one responses were received representing 26.5% of the eligible members.

While there were no nominated candidates for the positions of President Elect or Administrative Secretary, let's turn this big problem into a bigger opportunity. With a powerful fall recruitment effort over the next few months and a special mid-year election, perhaps you'll answer this call for service. You'll be hearing more about this!

Results of the 2025 Election for Open Officer Positions:

1. President Elect: position remains vacant; no candidates stood for election; three write-in nominees
2. Administrative Secretary: position remains vacant; no candidates stood for election
3. Treasurer: Candidate Babu Baradwaj was elected
4. Representative at Large: Pat Alt was elected
5. Representative to the Academic Senate: Richard Vatz was elected
6. Alternative Representative to the Academic Senate: Donna Cox was elected
7. Representative to FACET: Jim Paulsen was elected

Membership Renewal, Newly Retired Complimentary First-Year Membership

- Click on [TURA Benefits | Towson University](#) to learn about benefits, activities, and membership choices. Stay informed about TURA matters, including changes to state legislation that may affect you.
- Complete information about membership and donations is [online](#). It includes links to the [on-line membership registration](#) form and the [mail-in membership registration form](#), a .pdf document (for those who prefer to pay by check and mail it in).
- While dues are not tax-deductible, you may consider donations to the TU Fund, the TURA Oral History Project, the Scholarship Fund, or the General Fund. These donations are tax deductible.
- **New faculty and staff retirees are eligible for free membership** from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. As well, for the 2025- 2026 academic year, retired staff who are joining TURA (formerly TURFA) for the first time are eligible for free membership. They simply have to fill out the attached form and return it to the TU Foundation. Please share this with friends and former colleagues, especially staff members you have worked with in the past—we need help reaching out to them.

For questions, contact TURA@towson.edu

Renew Your Free Campus Parking E-Permit for 2025/2026

By Janet DeLany

On September 1, 2024, Towson University extended free parking on campus to all TU faculty and staff who are state of Maryland retirees.

- You must renew your permit annually.
- Academic Year 2024/2025 and Spring 2025 permits expire 8/31/2025.
- Academic Year 2025/2026 academic permits will go on sale Monday, August 11, 2025, at 9 a.m.

Please contact Parking Services if you need help renewing; the office has been very helpful in getting retirees through the process.

- Parking Services main website: <https://www.towson.edu/parking>
- Telephone: 410-704-7275 (PARK) or upark@towson.edu

Over the next few months, we will work with Parking Services and university administration to request that the free parking benefit be extended to those TURFA members who don't meet the criteria (i.e., TU faculty or staff who are state of Maryland retirees). We hope to see this extended to (but can't guarantee) associate TURFA members who are friends or family of full TURFA members, and those who formerly were adjunct faculty but did not retire as full-time faculty or staff from TU also.

Note: Retirees who are **teaching as adjuncts** need to pay for parking at the minimum parking rate for faculty and staff. The 2024/2025 cost was \$80.00 per year; the 2025/2026 costs are not available yet. Look to TU Today and other announcements.

Your Thoughts Matter

As a regular feature, we'll be asking for your opinions on issues concerning higher education. And we're off:

An article in the March 30th issue of the New York Times pointed out that while the unemployment rate for college graduates is about 2.6%, that represents a 30% increase from 2023 compared with an 18% increase in the workforce overall. That unemployment rate is highest for those with a bachelor's degree or some college but no degree, according to data released by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Also stated in the article is that as AI is able to perform more jobs that require higher level levels of education, creativity, and cognitive skills, white collar jobs are becoming more at risk. Some economists feel this is what we are beginning to see in hiring patterns as bachelor's degrees become less important as technology is able to automate many facets of white-collar jobs.

Given this information, ***how would you advise a high school senior pondering whether college is worth the time and expense?*** Email your thoughts and advice in 100 words or less to tura@towson.edu.

Select replies will be included anonymously in an upcoming president's newsletter or TURA Matters.

Thanks to the Newsletter Editorial Team

This is the first issue whose style and content was amplified by two dedicated and talented people, Elizabeth "Nikki" Austin, Department of Nursing, and Margaret "Meg" Algren, Department of Mass Communication and Communication Studies. Meg loves writing, Nikki is a fantastic editor, and together they've come up with fresh ideas like "Your Thoughts Matter" which launches with this issue, and also for "Student Voices" (something we don't necessarily hear enough of since retirement). Thanks for all you've done and continue to do for our association.

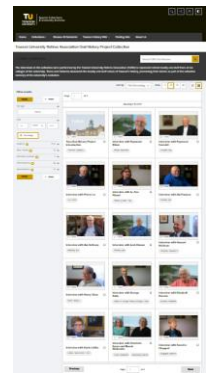
If you have any requests or suggestions for articles, stories, interviews, or other content, please email tura@towson.edu to their attention.

TU Oral History Project

Faculty and staff retirees dedicated thousands of person-years to make TU a great university—one rich in history, stories, accomplishments, pride, and triumphs. The Oral History Project features the contributions and careers that underpinned the education and growth of our generations of students, and for that we are grateful. Check out the [Oral History Project](#), led by TURA's Margaret "Peg" Benner and Ron Matlon.

You can also support the project through a tax-deductible donation to The Towson Fund <https://towsonuniversity.givingfuel.com/towson-fund> (please select Other Projects and Programs from the dropdown list and then specify Oral History Project as prompted).

Click here for the [full Oral History Project](#) collection.



Get Involved, Have Fun, Learn, Enjoy Retired Life

Interested in organizing something with other retirees? Tom Maronick chairs your Programs and Events Committee so please email him at maronick@verizon.net if you have an idea for an event or activity.

Some random sparks: fun, travel, tours, day trips, gardening, sports and leisure activities, cooking, eating, music, mentoring, tutoring TU students, Zoom discussions, investments, travel, doing research, helping write grants, financial matters, politics, reviewing article and paper drafts, disease/illness/injury discussion and support groups, exercise, and anything else you can imagine.

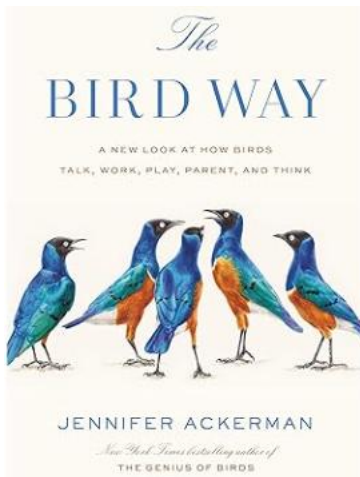
We need two things from you:

1. Members **willing to organize** one-time or ongoing activities
2. Other members **willing to participate**

See our [website](#) for all events, past, current, and future. Some notables:

Thirsty Thursdays

- On hiatus until September.
- Keep your mug chilled until then and check your email for meetups.
- Locations vary—suggestions welcome.



The Non-Fiction Book Club will meet online on Thursday, August 14 from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm to discuss "The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent, and Think" by Jennifer Ackerman (2020, 368 pages).

- [Join via Zoom](#)
- Questions? Email Jo-Ann Pilardi, jpilardi@towson.edu.

"From tales of dazzling plumage to anecdotes about almost unfathomable mimicry, Jennifer Ackerman's The Bird Way is a walk through the mysteries, wonders, and peculiarities of the avian world . . . The author's excitement and love for it are evident in her writing. Her superb storytelling paints a rich picture that engages the reader's imagination, making sometimes-hard-to-grasp research accessible." Science Magazine

Retire Off-Planet



<https://youtu.be/-W2t94M8mly>

Looking for something free and unique? Towson University's planetarium offers free public shows, typically held the first and third Friday during the fall and spring semesters at 7:00 p.m. Seating is limited, so arrive early when you visit the Science Center (remember retirees have free parking but must register their vehicle).

See the [planetarium web page](#) for details, including videos of past shows under the "public shows" link in the yellow navigation box. Sign up for the newsletter at: <https://mailchi.mp/bbc706191f27/tu-planetarium-newsletter>

Continuing the Fight for Prescription and Other State Retiree Benefits

The State of Maryland is in a difficult fiscal state. Coupled with national economic pressures and continued inflation, benefits activism by many organizations representing retirees is on the rise. Your association will continue to advocate with the legislature, executive branch, and the Department of Management and Budget (which administers the prescription drug benefit and other programs). While rolling back to the full previous years' coverage scope is not realistic, we hope to see changes in exception and appeal process, elimination of the arbitrary cutoff that ignores overall years of service and streamlining of various procedures. Those of us working on this, under our past president Jim Roberts' leadership, we will be loud, proud, and vocal, not just with the State but with our TURA members. Maryland

We need your voice to be heard directly—a Tiger Roar of the century: All members of the General Election are up for election November 4, 2025, with early voting starting October 14, 2025. Please contact jroberts@towson.edu if you can help or contribute ideas, strategy, or insights, or "have connections" to media and other public relations talent.

Traveling Abroad? Enroll in the STEP Program and Check Your Medical Coverage

Enroll in the State Department's STEP Program for Country-by-Country Suggestions and Alerts

In addition to protests, crime, health concerns, transportation, and other urgent traveler information, we now must worry about visa rules changing suddenly, announced or at a moment's notice. Last-minute en masse airline cancellations due to rising fears of travel to and from the USA are growing, too, so the possibility of getting stranded is not just paranoia.

Getting timely notices before and during international travel is wise, and the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) by the U.S. Department of State gives you just that knowing the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate has you on file in case of an emergency can be reassuring. You'll get email alerts for any problems. You can even register your hotel and contact information. At least know where you can reach the State Department even if you don't enroll. Don't wait for an emergency.

- Re-enroll in the new STEP system before your next trip.
- State Department Website:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/step.html/>

Medical Coverage

Many new retirees or those who are not yet retired but move to Medicare may not realize that you don't have coverage "out of network" or "out of the country." It may even be limited to the mainland United States (think Hawaii, Puerto Rico, or the US Virgin Islands). Check your policy coverage thoroughly and contact your providers if you have any questions.

- Compare supplemental medical, accident, travel interruption, and evacuation plans.
- Companies offer per-trip and annual options.
- Pre-existing conditions are a definite "read the fine print" matter. Choose carefully.
- Also, a "fine print matter" is look-back periods. They go hand-and-hand with pre-existing conditions.
- Explore information online and through retiree organizations like AARP, travel agencies, and other sources.

Towson Students Voice Concerns

Cuts in financial resources, programs cuts, and an uncertain economy are among some of the concerns Towson students have. Shortly before finals week, students were asked their opinions about current affairs.

"I'm really concerned about getting a job this summer," said Hannah, a freshman planning on majoring in nursing.

"I have applied for almost 20 jobs, and I haven't heard back. I think everyone is just waiting to see what is going on with the economy. It was always hard to get a good job, but it seems like it's going to be even harder."

"These are scary times knowing that resources and funding can be pulled," said Sophia, a junior majoring in elementary education. "Student clubs provide a safety net for students, give them a place that reflects who they are as individuals. If you start cutting funding for DEI programs you create distrust."

Others spoke about diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as employment:

"I'm a first semester transfer student and I rely on the special clubs and programs here that help me feel part of campus," said Kehlani, a junior majoring in business. "What will this campus look like if they start silencing students, cutting programs, financial aid and activities? It creates fear and that is not what should be going on in college." "I'm a graduating senior and I am worried about getting a job," said Anthony, a Visual Art and Design major.

"There is so much going on as far as bad economic news and yeah, I'm concerned about cutting things on campus and students being arrested and all that, but my first concern right now is getting a job. I have loans and I will need to take care of that."

College Education (COE) Update

Dean Laurie Mullen is excited to share that U.S. News & World Report has TU ranked in the top #50 nationally and #1 in Maryland for best online master's in education programs.

The College of Education houses six departments and currently offers six undergraduate majors, one undergraduate minor (in Linguistic Diversity), multiple graduate programs and certificates, and one doctoral degree program. More information about these offerings can be found at: <https://www.towson.edu/coe/>.

The Department of Learning Technologies, Design and School Library Media (LTDM) offers hands-on experience with cutting-edge VR/AR/XR technology and software and explores its uses to enhance teaching, learning, research, collaboration, and classroom engagement. Two sessions showcased the technologies in May.

TU COE's 3rd Annual Multilingual Learners Conference, a free, one-day conference for classroom and ML teachers, school administrators, university faculty, community members, and others to acquire new skills and strategies in working with MLs was held in April.

Interested in finding out more about these events, contact the College of Education? See coe.towson.edu or 410-704-2570.

Laurie Mullen is Professor and Dean of the [College of Education](http://www.towson.edu/coe/) at Towson University. Dean Mullen has been at Towson University since 2015. She was awarded an M.Ed. and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Illinois in 1994 and 1997, respectively. She served for 18 years at Ball State University as professor and associate dean of the Teachers College.

Since coming to Towson University, Dean Mullen has led the following initiatives: a new [strategic plan](#) including a first-ever strategic plan for [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#); an inaugural [undergraduate research initiative](#); advanced practice-based pedagogies with college faculty; a new school partnerships model redesign; and a new Office of Research and Evaluation. Her research interests are in the areas of teacher education, curriculum, university-school partnerships, and educational technologies for teaching and learning.

College of Fine Arts & Communication (COFAC) Update

COFAC includes the Departments of Art & Design, Art History, and Art Education; Communication Studies; Dance; Electronic Media & Film; Mass Communication; Music, and Theatre Arts. COFAC also includes the Faculty Academic Center of Excellence at Towson (FACET). COFAC will be home to a new facility in Fall, 2027, in the renovated Smith Hall.

The Department of Theatre Arts is working on a campaign to name TU Mainstage in the Center for the Arts after Whitney LeBlanc, the first black faculty member (in 1965). A recent addition to the Center for the Arts is the Asian Arts & Culture Center's Garden meditation area in recognition of the Center's 50+ years of existence. The Kaplan fund has continued to provide scholarships, travel, and conference awards for COFAC students for nearly a decade. Community collaborations are a central part of the college, as the Baltimore Symphony Youth Orchestra calls the TU Center for the Arts their rehearsal home, and the College is collaborating with University of Maryland St. Joseph's Medical Center on an Arts in Health Care Initiative to engage with health care professionals and patients. For the 2nd year, COFAC is producing a new two-week arts festival called Summer at the Center, June 13-16, 2025, featuring alumni performers and artists. Stay tuned for information on programming, and use this link to come to performances: <https://tickets.tuboxoffice.com/>

Dean Carlow has been at Towson since 2020, returning to Maryland from the College of Fine Arts at the University of New Mexico, where she served as Interim Dean, Associate Dean, Associate Chair, and Professor of Music from 2004-2020. Her PhD came from the University of Maryland, College Park. Carlow says she loves being a dean at Towson and has worked with the strong leadership of outstanding department chairs in COFAC to create inclusive and welcoming coursework, programs, and research in all disciplines.

TURA Tidbits

Jim Roberts (CLA, Department of Political Science) published a book of collected readings entitled *International Migration Governance and Public Goods* (Palgrave Macmillan) with Diego Caballero Vélez (University of Messina), a former Ph.D. student of his. He also has an article entitled "International Borders and the Musical Genre Intertext" forthcoming in the next issue of the *Towson University Journal of International Affairs*. He recently presented a paper entitled "Preference Formation for Global Public Goods: The UN's Attempt to Fight Antimicrobial Resistance" at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

Richard Vatz (COFAC, Department of Communication Studies) Participated in the Eastern Communication Association Annual Convention in Buffalo, NY, this year : Participant in debate , " Resolved: The Outcome of the 2024 Presidential Election was Salutary for the United States"; co-hosted a short course "Framing, Agenda and Spin. Manufacturing Contemporary Rhetorical Problems and Maybe some Creative Solutions"; Chaired a panel on political and rhetorical challenges and presented a paper, "The Irresponsible Rhetorical Contributions to Polarization by Democratic and Republican Leaders."

Precha Thavikulwat's (CBE, Department of Management) retirement hobby is a community learning center that is accessed through a Windows application that can be downloaded from the Microsoft Store ([GroupMaker - Free download and install on Windows | Microsoft Store](#)). Instructors can reserve a classroom at the center for their classes and use the application to manage enrollment and assignments. It's free and instructors can make the reservations themselves. He also recently returned from attending his favorite academic conference, the annual conference of the Association for Business Simulation and Experiential Learning (ABSEL), 12-14 March 2025, in Orlando, FL. where he presented two papers: "Assignment management language and application" and "Instant feedback: Theory and implementation." The latter paper, co-authored with J. Alexander Smith, was designated Best Paper of the Innovations in Education Track. Precha will be pleased to collaborate with others on improving the community learning center and also on other projects involving simulations, experiential learning, and innovative education.

Fran Bond (COE, Department of Early Childhood Education), retired faculty member in the College of Education, was recently elected vice-chair of the Baltimore County Commission on Aging (BCCA). BCCA serves in an advisory role to the Baltimore County Department of Aging by advocating for the needs of senior citizens in Baltimore County in order that individuals receive the highest level of service and assistance. Please see this link for additional information on the BCCA: <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/boards-commissions/aging-commission>

Sandra M. Perez (COFAC, Department of Dance) continues to teach her original program to promote literacy, and the arts entitled, Dance a Story/Learn to Read through the Baltimore County Libraries volunteer programs. Targeting 3–5-year-olds, Professor Perez teaches basics of reading in an interactive arts integration program. In addition, she continues to study and write creative non-fiction, having four short stories published since retirement. Professor Perez was recently named a short list finalist in the Adelaide Literary Contest under Essays.

Susan Gresens (FCSM, Biology) has been collaborating with the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability dealing with the restoration of aquatic insects in a stream on Towson's campus. They presented their work at the 22nd International Symposium on Chironomidae in Nis, Serbia, last summer and recently submitted the paper for publication. Susan and her husband, Mark, visited friends in Hilo, Hawaii in December. Susan also helps at the Mid-Atlantic Turtle and Tortoise Society by volunteering at the group's special events.

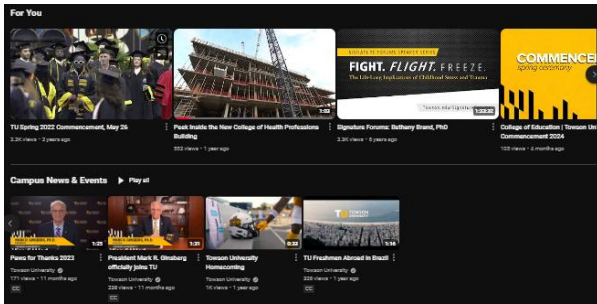


[Thank you, James Hull | Towson University](#)

Upper left: James Hull (left) speaks with President Ginsberg; Upper right: Hull (right) speaks with students; Bottom: (from left) Nick Gingue, Hull, Dean Nugent, President Ginsberg, Donna Anderson and Anne Gilbert (Maryland Department of Natural Resources) plant a tree for Maryland's Arbor Day celebration.

Check Out and Subscribe to Towson University's YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/@towsonuniversity>



Campus Construction Update

Construction projects totaling more than \$200 million are underway on Towson's campus.

Construction of Towson's new \$160 million communication building is on target for the facility to be ready for classes by fall, 2027. It will house the school's Departments of Mass Communication, Communication Studies, and Electronic Media and Film along with space for a technology training center for faculty and general use classrooms.

The new building is actually a major remake of Smith Hall, which had served as the school's science building since the 1960s. The structural skeleton of the west wing of Smith was kept while the east wing was demolished to facilitate the new 200,000 sq. ft. building. Plans for the facility include the university's first geothermal heating and cooling system.

While not as flashy as the new communication building, a \$50 million new power substation is in the works. According to David Mayhew, director of design and construction services, the new facility is essential to fulfill the energy needs of the school. The new power plant will allow Towson to reduce its dependence on natural gas and switch to more electrical power which allows for the opportunity of solar power generation in the future.

In early stages of planning is an expansion of the Minnegan Room located at the Johnny Unitas Stadium. According to Mayhew, the expansion would provide more flexibility in how the space can be utilized. While the primary use of the Minnegan Room is to provide academic support for athletes, the expansion will permit the facility to be more efficiently used for meetings and special events. Plans call for the expansion to be completed by the summer of 2027.

Find More Things to Do—Come Back to TU

- Master TU Calendar: <https://www.towson.edu/calendars/index.html>
- COFAC Events: <https://www.towson.edu/cofac/departments/music/events/index.html>
- CLA Events: <https://www.towson.edu/cla/events/index.html>
- FCSM Events: <https://www.towson.edu/fcsm/events.html>
- TU Today: <https://tutoday.towson.edu/%20>
- Osher Institute: <https://www.towson.edu/campus/partnerships-research/osher/index.html>

Tech Tip

By Michael Bachman

Being a geek by profession, psychologist by training, astrophysics by imagination, people often ask, "How can I learn AI (Artificial Intelligence)? Sometimes I'll answer, "I don't know. You should probably ask someone who's actually intelligent." But mostly it's simply this: go to one of the AI services and start a conversation. Simple as that. Just as if you're meeting a stranger. Small talk. See what happens! Explore.

Things change too fast for formal training. Websites change daily, so screenshots and tutorials and videos are impossible to keep up with or recommend.

Forget "prompt engineering." You don't need it. Just converse. Like you would with a person. About anything. Well, almost (value your privacy, just like you would with a stranger—at first—and reveal yourself at a pace that's right for you). There are no rules. It's like dating you build a relationship over time.

ChatGPT is the go-to and has become almost a namesake for all of AI, like Kleenex covers the whole snuffle and sneezing industry. <https://www.zdnet.com/article/best-ai-chatbot/>

But alas, there are other brands; most have free and paid tiers. Here's a top-of-field roundup from ZDNet for 2025: <https://www.zdnet.com/article/best-ai-chatbot/>

AI is learning from us just as we are learning from AI. Teach it well—you're in higher education and have a lot to contribute. Not just facts but wisdom. If not from you, then who?

Perhaps TURA can host a Zoom meeting for members to do show-and-tell, play-in-the-sandbox, or some other suitable-for-a-virtual-happy-hour member get-together. Any interest?

TURA Executive Committee

- **President:** Michael Bachman, Office of Technology Services, Department of Computer and Information Sciences
- **President-elect:** Vacant
- **Past President:** Jim Roberts, Department of Political Science
- **Treasurer:** Babu Baradwaj, Department of Finance
- **Administrative Secretary:** Vacant
- **Communications Secretary:** Lynne Ginger' Ross, College of Fine Arts & Communication
- **Representative-at-Large:** Patricia Alt, Department of Health Sciences
- **Representative-at-Large:** Maggie Reitz, Department of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science
- **Program and Events Committee Chair:** Thomas Maronick, Department of Marketing
- **Benefits and Privileges Committee Chair:** Martha Siegel, Department of Mathematics
- **Outreach Committee Chair:** Jane Wolfson, Environmental Science and Studies Program
- **Oral History Project Committee Chairs:** Ronald Matlon, Department of Mass Communication and Communication Studies, and Margaret 'Peg' Benner, Department of English

Additional Members in Leadership Roles

- **Academic Senate Representative:** Richard Vatz, Department of Communication Studies
- **Academic Senate Alternate:** Donna Cox, Department of Health Sciences
- **FACET Advisory Board Representative:** Jim Paulsen, Department of Art + Design, Art History, Art Education
- **Online Information Co-Coordinator:** Margaret 'Peg' Benner, Department of English and Howard Kaplon, Department of Mathematics
- **Production team for *TURA Matters* (formerly *The Advocate*):** Elizabeth "Nikki" Austin, Department of Nursing, and Margaret "Meg" Algren, Department of Mass Communication and Communication Studies
- **Legislative Affairs:** Tracy Miller, Department of Early Childhood Education and Academic Advising