This report reflects those gifts received from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. Great care was taken to ensure the accuracy of this listing, and we would appreciate your sharing with us any errors or omissions. Please direct inquiries to Shannon Arehart, manager of stewardship programs and donor relations, at 1-866-301-3375 or sarehart@towson.edu.

Thank you.

Towson University Foundation, Inc.
The Towson University Foundation, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) corporation established with the approval of the Board of Regents, and has the mission of providing the means for private contributions to be used for the benefit of the institution.

A copy of the Foundation’s current audited financial statement is available upon request at the Towson University Foundation, Inc., 8000 York Road, Towson, Maryland 21252. Documents and information related to the solicitation of charitable contributions are available from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 for the cost of copying and postage.

8000 York Road
Towson, MD 21252-0001
Phone: 410-704-3375
Toll Free: 1-866-301-3375
www.towson.edu/supportTU

Letter from the President
Letter from the Vice President for University Advancement
Letter from the Foundation President
2007-2008 Board Members

Donor Profiles
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Opening Doors to Student Success: Foundation Scholars

Foundation Report
When I began my tenure as the 12th president of Towson University in 2003, one of my first goals was to construct a strategic plan, Towson University 2010, which could be used as a roadmap for our efforts to fulfill the mission of Towson as the state’s Metropolitan University. With the participation of Towson staff, faculty, students, alumni and the community, we have made progress on all key points of the plan and taken Towson University to the next level.

This year, as the state’s designated growth institution, we reached the 21,000 mark while maintaining our academic quality and small class size. We have increased our resources for success, not only through our efforts to raise funds through the capital campaign, but through the recruitment of talented faculty and development of partnerships with businesses, educational institutions and other non-profits to enhance our offerings. We continue to improve campus infrastructure, both with new construction – our new Liberal Arts building and residence halls – and through updates to our current system, all with sustainability and a greener Towson in mind.

As we move forward, the support of those who care about Towson – particularly the many donors who have accepted our goals as their own – becomes increasingly important. I am proud of what our joint efforts have accomplished so far, but we can and must do more. Towson University is maturing and receiving the recognition it deserves – locally, nationally and internationally – for the strong leaders we produce every year, for the partnerships that we have forged that improve our communities, and for our alumni whose outstanding achievements contribute to the university’s legacy. This is just the beginning.

On behalf of the Towson University community, I thank you for your abiding commitment and loyalty. As you read through the stories and look for the names of those who have committed their support to Towson, keep in mind that you, through your leadership and generosity, have the ability to transform lives, grow minds and open doors to opportunity for our students. You can and are making a difference here at Towson.

All the best,

Robert L. Caret
President

Stand and be counted. This past year over 14,330 Towson alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff chose to stand and be counted among Towson’s supporters. These individuals and organizations seized the opportunity to open doors for Towson students. Contributions to all areas of campus provided additional support for scholarships, athletics and the arts, resources for faculty development, library materials, new technology for our laboratories, student fellowships and so much more.

With your support throughout the 2007-08 fiscal year, record resources were raised to support the university’s mission. Following are just a few highlights of a successful year.

- Contributions to Growing a University – The Campaign for Towson reached a record-breaking $31 million en route to the $50 million goal.
- Total gifts to the Towson Fund topped $2 million for the first time ever.
- Total contributions from alumni, faculty, staff, parents, students, friends, corporations and foundations totaled $6.4 million.
- The Founders Society, the university’s recognition program for annual leadership support, had 614 members, a 20 percent increase over 2007.
- Gifts to Tiger Athletics increased by 60 percent over 2007.
- Planned gifts increased by 78 percent, and the Tower Light Society, the university’s recognition program for planned giving, welcomed 10 new members.

If you are a donor to Towson, I thank you for what you have done to advance the university through both your participation and your gift. Your participation broadcasts the message that Towson has the strength and support of its constituents, which not only enhances Towson’s profile among its peer institutions and the national rankings, but also boosts the potential for future funding.

With state funding cuts, your gift is more important than ever. If you are still considering your gift to Towson, now is the time to stand and be counted.

Through your gift to Towson, you have the opportunity to open doors for talented students and gifted faculty and through them, members of our community and beyond.

Best regards,

Gary N. Rubin ’69
Vice President for University Advancement
Growing a University—
The Campaign for Towson
Update, Year 4 of 7

Growing a University - The Campaign for Towson was launched on July 1, 2004 with the ambitious goal of raising $50 million to build student scholarships and faculty development funds, create new partnerships and strengthen the university’s long-term support through endowment. To date, the university has secured over $31 million in private funding for these areas, sustaining Towson’s continued growth and success.

Gifts to Towson University during the Growing a University campaign may take many forms. As this campaign progresses, many will stand and be counted among those opening doors to opportunity for current and future generations of students. Towson alumna Joan Lewis Thompson ’62 has chosen to provide opportunity to incoming Towson students. Together with her husband, Gary Thompson, she established the Pauline Voneiff Lewis Scholarship Endowment in 2007 as a living memorial to her mother. The scholarship, established with a $100,000 gift, provides support for incoming Towson University students who have graduated from Montgomery Blair High School in Montgomery County, Maryland.

The scholarship is based on both merit and financial need. Joan Thompson reflected, “As the cost of education increases, scholarship assistance is vital to provide students the opportunity to achieve their dreams through a college education.” The Thompsons currently live in Cincinnati, Ohio, and have been married 46 years. They have two children and three grandchildren, “the dessert of life,” says Thompson.

I attended Towson because of my mother. The mother of four, she knew it was affordable, and cost was certainly a concern on our tight budget. When I started here, it cost $125 per semester — and that included room and board! Thankfully, I was able to pay for books with a scholarship I received from a local women’s club, and earned spending money by working on campus all four years I attended. From the time I was a little girl, I wanted to be a teacher, and so I chose to study education. The beautiful part of going to Towson was that, upon graduation, I had everything I needed in terms of licensing requirements to teach in every state I applied… and since my husband was in the Marines, we moved quite a bit. It just shows how high the standards are at Towson. My husband and I are retired now from owning and operating our own business selling material handling supplies for over 30 years, and we were blessed to be so very successful. Both of us place a high value on education, and Towson was the natural place to make the kind of gift that would express and fulfill our values. It was an easy choice.

It was also an easy choice to honor my mother with our gift. She was truly the head of my family – such a strong person. I am sure my father agreed…she ran the show in our house. When the youngest child in our family finally entered school, she went to work full-time as secretary to the principal of Montgomery Blair High School. My siblings and I all attended Montgomery Blair, and my sister Carol and brother Paul went on to Towson University after me. It is my sincere hope that this scholarship can ease the way for students in similar academic and financial circumstances as my siblings and I found ourselves. I’m so pleased Gary and I were able to give something of our success back to students, today and into the future, while honoring my mother’s legacy.

— Joan Lewis Thompson ’62

Opening Doors to Opportunity:
Joan Thompson ’62

Gary and Joan Thompson

Towson University Foundation
2009 Annual Report
As the writing of this letter, there is no doubt we are facing challenging economic times, especially with regard to investments. I want to assure you that the Towson University Foundation Board of Directors continues to steward the funds entrusted to us with the utmost care. Though the market is uncertain, I am confident that with our continued prudent long-term investment strategy and spending policy, we will weather this economic turbulence.

As of June 30, 2008, the foundation’s assets stood at $43.7 million, an increase of approximately $2 million over the previous fiscal year. This increase was due in large part to the activity related to the acquisition of an off-campus building, 7400 York Road. This is the foundation’s first real estate transaction, which should ease the growing need for space as the university continues to expand. The new building houses the Other Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) and the Division of Economic and Community Outreach (DECO), among other programs.

As this is my last annual report after four years as president of the foundation, I would like to say what a privilege it has been to serve this great university. I would encourage everyone who has the means to consider making a significant contribution to Towson University’s capital campaign, Growing a University – The Campaign for Towson. Whether you choose to name a room or a building or set up an endowment, your money will go to support a university that is quickly becoming known as one of the premier universities in the country. I thank you for allowing me to serve, and thank you for considering a major gift.

Best regards,

Dennis Mather ’72
President, Towson University Foundation, Inc.
2007-08 Areas of Donor Support — Current Operations

- Faculty and Staff Development $201,175
- Unrestricted $302,081
- Tiger Athletics $433,743
- Community and Outreach Programs $2,055,720
- Student Financial Aid $1,107,151
- Academic Divisions $147,043
- Research $176,596

2007-08 Areas of Donor Support — Endowment

- Community and Outreach Programs $24,493
- Faculty and Staff Development $20,427
- Academic Divisions $2,055,720
- Student Financial Aid $2,831,510
- Other $110,289
- Tiger Athletics $10,263

Endowment Market Values

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Contributions, Gifts and Grants Received

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- Other Organizations $376,566
- Corporations $1,837,073
- Foundations $2,743,538
- Parents $669,731
- Alumni $1,107,151

Scholarships and Awards

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- Other $116,289
- Tiger Athletics $10,263
- Student Financial Aid $2,831,510
- Community and Outreach Programs $24,493
- Faculty and Staff Development $20,427
- Academic Divisions $2,055,720

Net Asset Growth

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- Permanent Restricted
- Temporarily Restricted
- Unrestricted

* includes $10,200,000 gift from the Robert M. Fisher Memorial Foundation to rename the College of Science and Mathematics.
Thanks to all who contributed to the Towson Fund last year! As part of the Growing a University campaign, a historic amount of $2,092,855 was contributed by alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends to the Towson Fund. The commitment shown by so many continues a tradition of excellence in education and opens doors for our students, faculty and staff. Because of your support, our academic, athletic and co-curricular programs were strengthened, giving our students necessary resources to strive and thrive.

The Towson Fund encompasses the various campaigns for annual support on campus, from the Parent Campaign and the Alumni Phonathon to the Tiger Athletic Fund and WTMD Radio. So, whether you answered a call from a phonathon student, opened an envelope from campus, or responded to an invitation to support the university in some way, your gift, no matter the size, helped ensure that students received much needed academic, need-based, and athletic scholarships, that professors received additional professional resources, and that the university continued to invest in upgraded technology.

Making Towson a philanthropic priority is needed now, more than ever. State support has decreased by 50 percent in the last 30 years, dramatically increasing the university’s need for enhanced philanthropy.

Thank you again for your support. You have touched the lives of students and faculty!

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The Center for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders at Towson University was established in February 2008 with a gift from Douglas ’80 and Therese Erdman to “empower young adults with ASD to keep learning and to live life to their fullest.” The center’s mission is education-oriented, aiming to improve quality of life for adults with ASD and their families by educating employers, caregivers and the community about the needs of this unique population, and providing learning and research opportunities for Towson University students.

Activities to date include coordination of a monthly social group, development of a resource library, and recreational activities for young adults that include participation of TU students, who benefit from their involvement by learning firsthand about issues facing these individuals.

The center’s inaugural presentation, Competent Adulthood for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders, was held on Monday, June 9, 2008. More than 150 people were in attendance, demonstrating great interest and community support of the center.

As the center’s activities and resources grow, so too will its ability to make a significant contribution to understanding and living with autism. This project would not have been possible without the generosity and vision of Therese and Douglas Erdman ’80.

---

**Inspired to Open Doors for Others: Douglas ’80 and Therese Erdman**

My wife, Therese, and I have been exceptionally blessed in life with two wonderful children. Our oldest, Travis, is 19. He is a sophomore in college. He is particularly bright, and if I may say so myself, is taller and more handsome than his father. In the near future, Travis will graduate from college. He will become gainfully employed. He will raise a family. He will become a productive member of society. He will give more back to his community than what he will receive.

Our youngest, Ross, is 17. He attends Kennedy Krieger High School. He is autistic. In the near future, Ross will complete his allowed time in high school. He would then like to have the same things in life as his big brother. But he can’t—at least not without an extraordinary amount of very specialized assistance.

Ross is no different than thousands and thousands of other young autistic adults in Maryland now matriculating through the safe environment of our secondary schools and moving into adulthood— an adulthood where virtually no support systems exist.

Our vision was to create a program to help these young autistic adults achieve the very basic goal in life of becoming productive and welcome members of their communities. This is where Towson University stepped in. Through the remarkable efforts of many faculty and staff, Towson University is taking our vision and making it a reality.

It was said that our financial contribution to start this program was generous. It was not. It was selfish. The generosity comes from those who are giving their time and energy to bringing this program to life.

My college education and life at Towson University, while I was a young adult, left me well prepared for my future. I can now sleep a whole lot better at night now knowing that, with this program, Towson University can do the same for my son and this very special and deserving population of young adults with autism in our community.

— Douglas Erdman ’80

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**Towson Fund Contributions**

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**Inspired to Open Doors for Others:**

Douglas ’80 and Therese Erdman

Ross, Doug, Travis, and Therese Erdman
Athletics are a big part of college life at Towson University. Now in its 30th year of NCAA Division I competition, the Tiger intercollegiate athletics program sponsors 20 sports, and Towson is a member of the Colonial Athletic Association and the Eastern College Athletic Conference.

Tiger football, lacrosse and track teams play in Johnny Unitas Stadium, the third-largest stadium in Baltimore. The 4,500-seat Towson Center arena is home to Tiger basketball, gymnastics, indoor track and volleyball.

Towson University student-athletes are also serious about their studies. Last year, more than 40 percent earned a GPA of 3.00 or better, and Towson has also been recognized by U.S. News & World Report in its listing of America’s Best College Sports programs for the outstanding graduation rate of its student-athletes.

Jay Wasserman, a 1987 graduate in sport management, is a long-time friend of Tiger Athletics. He played football for the Towson Tigers from 1983 to 1987 as a defensive back, “I have fond memories of my team. We were Lambert champions and made the NCAA playoffs in ’83, ’84 and ’86 and were pretty successful. Phil Albert was the coach then, with Gordy Combs as the defensive coordinator, Jay Robinson as the secondary coach, and Rich Bader as the defensive line coach. All four are still coaching at Towson today.”

Because of his dedication and support of Towson’s athletic programs, Wasserman serves on the Tiger Athletic Fund Board, is a Blazer Club and Tiger Club member and member of the Founders Society, the university-wide recognition club for leadership giving. He lives with his wife Christina and their three boys, Bryce (12), Casey (10), and Drew (7) in Southlake, Texas, and is president of BCD Wireless.

Opening Doors for Student-Athletes: Jay Wasserman ’87

Participating as a student athlete gave me the experience, discipline and competitiveness that has given me an edge in my career. My three sons are each involved in sports. I want to teach them to take advantage of the opportunities that they are given by working hard and competing in everything they do. I want to instill in them that if you put the effort in, you’ll be rewarded. I was given opportunities at Towson, and I worked hard and had a great time in my years on campus. All of this carries over into who I am today.

The Towson athletic program has come a long way. The facilities are now some of the best in the country in our division, which really puts us on the map. I think Towson has the talent to begin competing for championships; however, we cannot be satisfied with just competing. We need to ensure all coaches and faculty members are provided with the necessary tools to produce champions in the classroom as well as champions on the field.

What inspires me to give to Towson athletics? As you get older, you want to make sure that others have the opportunity to do what you were able to do… that they have resources to both have that experience of playing as part of a team and getting a great education. When I coached high school football in Florida, I found that it is difficult to watch kids with ability who, for whatever reason, don’t go on to play in college – or even attend college at all. I want to make sure that we’re able to build on the progress we’ve made in affording opportunities to these kids.

— Jay Wasserman ’87

Drew, Casey, Bryce, Christina and Jay Wasserman
Opening Doors to Student Success: Foundation Scholars

Simona Subotic ’08
Major: Political Science and Economics
Towson Worsoby Economics Scholarship Recipient

Towson University is not just the reason I’m standing in front of you today, it’s also actually the very reason I’m in this country in the first place. Four years ago, I was still in my home country of Montenegro, which has a population size of Baltimore County. I was going to a public school – the only school in town – and I was a member of the debate team. Debate turned out to be my ticket to opportunity, and in 2004, I arrived on an international debate scholarship. Towson’s debate scholarship program is extremely successful, allowing students like me to come here to pursue their education. I am tremendously grateful for everything that Towson has done for me, and I am also very grateful that I’ve had the chance to meet all of you a month before I leave Towson.

This year, I also received the Tamara Worsoby Scholarship [for merit in economics], which is a wonderful scholarship for the following three reasons: In debate, they say you should enumerate.

Finally, it was created by an alumna, Marcia Zercoe, who graduated from the College of Business and Economics. She went on to pursue a very successful career and decided to give back to the university. She was also inspired by our Professor Woroby, and that’s why she decided to create the award in her name.

There is one other special way the award has been instrumental. All scholarship money gets materialized in some way... but this award has meant much more to me than just material support. It encouraged me to feel audacious and bold, and to think of myself as exceptional during the graduate school application process in the fall. So, encouraged by this recognition and support, I applied to some of the best graduate programs in the country. And two weeks ago, in a deceptively thin envelope, I received a letter of admission from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and I will be going there next fall.

So to all Towson benefactors, I would like to thank you for your good will and your help, and I would also like to say that the intangibles that come with your awards sometimes are worth much more than the awards themselves.

Excerpted from speeches given at the Foundation Scholars Luncheon, April 23, 2008.

Towson University, as well as Mr. Quinton D. Thompson and all of the donors here today, has made this dream of becoming an educator come true. I am truly grateful for the opportunities given to me to continue my education. Life for me has been a real roller coaster ride... happy ups, disappointing downs, scary turns, and surprising twists – I would not have it any other way. Towson has become a special part of my “roller coaster ride” and will always be in my heart when I move on to other endeavors. I have been given so many great opportunities, met so many wonderful people, and have had so many unforgettable experiences here at Towson University. I will go confidently in the direction of my dreams, and I am grateful for Towson and scholarship donors for helping me do so.

Economics Scholarships

Towson University Foundation gathered donors and student recipients together with campus leaders, faculty and staff to celebrate scholarships at Towson. The luncheon featured remarks from donor Francis Soistman ’79 and several students, two of which are highlighted on these pages. The day was truly memorable.

Towson University is not just the reason I’m standing in front of you today, it’s also actually the very reason I’m in this country in the first place. Four years ago, I was still in my home country of Montenegro, which has a population size of Baltimore County. I was going to a public school – the only school in town – and I was a member of the debate team. Debate turned out to be my ticket to opportunity, and in 2004, I arrived on an international debate scholarship. Towson’s debate scholarship program is extremely successful, allowing students like me to come here to pursue their education. I am tremendously grateful for everything that Towson has done for me, and I am also very grateful that I’ve had the chance to meet all of you a month before I leave Towson.

This year, I also received the Tamara Worsoby Scholarship [for merit in economics], which is a wonderful scholarship for the following three reasons: In debate, they say you should enumerate.

First, the award is founded in the name of one of my most inspiring professors, Dr. Tamara Woroby, who has not only been a great teacher but also an inspiring and very patient mentor who led me through an intensive graduate school application process this past fall. Second, the award came to me at a time of great financial need. This was very important because I was just getting ready to start the graduate school application process, and the award was instrumental in offsetting the costs of application fees and taking standardized tests.

I would like to share one of my favorite quotes by Helen Keller – “Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.” Life for me has sometimes been a struggle; however, the hard times have only made me stronger.

I know that my interests and views stem from my personal experiences as a student in the special education and regular education classroom. I was born with Treacher Collins Syndrome, a genetic craniofacial syndrome that is characterized by a range of distinctive facial abnormalities and other medical conditions. Just a month ago, I had my 50th surgery. When I was four-months old, I went into full respiratory and cardiac arrest, and the doctors did not think I would survive the night. From that moment on, I have heard people call me things like the “miracle child” and an inspiration. I smile and brush it off because I feel like I just do what I have to do. I know there is a purpose for me being here – to make a difference in this world.

Having Treacher Collins has affected my life tremendously. No matter how hard I try to be like everyone else, I know I’m not; however, I appreciate that being different is a good thing. I’ve had my share of struggles, but I think they are a blessing, the hard times have made me the person that I am. I have learned to love, be strong, work hard and to be compassionate of others. I have had the opportunity to see children with special needs overcome everyday obstacles and these children have inspired me to get into the field of special education. I hope to change the world by bringing smiles to the faces of children and their families who – because of their differences – others may think have nothing to smile about. I hope to continue my education and become a disabili- ties attorney. There are so many things I would like to accomplish in this field.
Thank You!

Your gifts are making a difference for Towson University students.

In an effort to make wise use of the resources entrusted to us and to “Go Green,” we have combined the Towson University Foundation Annual Report with the Report of Donors previously published in Towson magazine. The resulting report trims the number of pages printed by over one million, significantly reducing printing and postage costs. We hope that you enjoy this new layout.

You can help us to reduce, reuse and recycle by sharing your e-mail address. Using e-mail for invitations, news and other communications means we print and mail fewer pieces, which is both cost-saving and green. If you have not yet shared your e-mail, please forward it to emailupdate@towson.edu or use the enclosed envelope.

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