



October 13, 2011

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor of the State of Maryland
Executive Offices
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley:

At the close of my fourth year as chair of the Towson University Board of Visitors, I am pleased to report that FY11 was a year of substantial accomplishments for Maryland's Metropolitan University. I take particular pride in pointing out that we moved forward in many areas despite a leadership transition and the ongoing challenges of balancing budgetary constraints with continued enrollment growth.

As you know, President Robert L. Caret left Towson University in April to become the president of the five-campus University of Massachusetts. Dr. Caret led this institution with distinction for more than eight years; our debt to him is incalculable.

Marcia Welsh, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, accepted an appointment as Interim President, with Terry Cooney, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, taking the role of Interim Provost. Drs. Welsh and Cooney have kept the university on its chartered course with consummate skill while a national search was undertaken for Dr. Caret's successor.

Fiscal year 2011 was particularly significant for Towson in that the university exceeded its historic \$50 million capital campaign, bringing this seven-year effort to a successful and timely conclusion. During the course of the campaign, gifts were received from nearly 130,000 individuals, foundations, and corporations. The Towson University Foundation endowment grew from \$13 million to \$41.6 million. The transformational gift of \$10.2 million was received from the Robert M. Fisher Memorial Foundation. Additionally, the university received seven gifts of \$1 million or more, and 62 people contributed at the level of \$100,000 or more.

In September 2010 Towson University named Mike Waddell Director of Athletics. The appointment followed a 30-day external analysis of the Department of Athletics by the 14-member President's Black and Gold Task Force. The Task



Force was charged with taking a comprehensive look at any and all parts of the department to determine its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

Mr. Waddell, former Senior Associate Director of Athletics for External Relations at the University of Cincinnati, has worked tirelessly over the past year to put Tiger athletics at the core of a vision for the future of this institution. His leadership and commitment to success have already infused Towson's 20-sport (13 women's, seven men's) program with new energy and direction.

Now entering its second year, the university's strategic plan, *Towson University 2016: Building Within - Reaching Out*, is making headway with its goal of developing more rigor and challenges for our students. The university also is committed to becoming more interdisciplinary and collaborative as an institution.

I am delighted to announce that last year Towson University continued to receive honors, awards and recognition from many quarters, including the following:

- The *U.S. News & World Report 2011 America's Best Colleges* guide ranks Towson University tenth in the public Regional Universities (North) category, placing it among the best of the 50 institutions surveyed.
- Towson University is one of 218 institutions *The Princeton Review* recommends in the "Best in the Northeast" section of its website feature, "2011 Best Colleges: Region by Region." It also features Towson in its book, *The Best Northeastern Colleges: 2011 Edition*.
- Towson University received a 2011 Certified Smokefree Workplace Award from the American Cancer Society, South Atlantic Division, in recognition of its "outstanding contributions to the global fight against cancer."
- The UB/Towson MBA program, co-located in the College of Business and Economics at Towson University and in the Merrick School of Business at the University of Baltimore since 2006, has been cited in the 2012 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Graduate Schools.
- Towson University's WTMD-FM has once again been voted "Best Radio Station" in *Baltimore* magazine's readers' poll. The 2011 survey was conducted as part of the magazine's annual "Best of Baltimore" contest.

Towson University is among *Forbes'* 2010 America's Best Colleges, which includes more than 600 public and private undergraduate institutions. The rankings are

based on the quality of education provided, plus students' experiences and achievements.

I would be remiss if I did not also include a sampling of the honors bestowed upon Towson University's diverse and talented faculty and staff during the past year.

- Five faculty members were selected to receive University System of Maryland Board of Regents Faculty Awards, including Roland Roberts, Department of Biology; Jim Saunders, Departments of Biology and Chemistry; Jonathan Lazar, Department of Computer and Information Services; Brian Fath, Department of Biology; and Diana Emanuel, Department of Audiology, Speech Language Pathology and Deaf Studies.
- Jeremy Tasch, Department of Geography and Environmental Planning, was selected as a Fulbright Scholar to the Kyrgyz Republic, while Robyn Quick, Department of Theatre Arts, won a Fulbright Scholarship to teach in Russia. Lijun Lin, Department of Elementary Education, was awarded her third consecutive Fulbright scholarship to take K-12 teachers to China for summer programs in Chinese culture. Brian Fath was awarded a Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Environmental Science at Parthenope University of Naples, Italy.
- Rebecca Pisano, who directs our Study Abroad program, was selected to participate in a 2011 Fulbright International Education Administrators seminar program to Japan.
- The Maryland State Arts Council awarded 2011 Individual Artists Awards to Department of Dance faculty members Vincent Thomas and Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell. Professor Fisher-Harrell was also invited to perform in New York City on the occasion of the Alvin Alley Company's celebration of the retirement of Judith Jameson, Artistic Director.
- Jonathan Lazar, Department of Computer and Information Sciences, received the National Federation of the Blind's Dr. Jacob Bolotin Award for outstanding contributions toward achieving full integration of the blind into society on a basis of equality. The \$5,000 award recognizes Dr. Lazar's research in the improvement of Web accessibility for blind users.



- Vice President of Student Affairs Deb Moriarty is now president of the Towson Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Moriarty assumed the presidency after serving as the chamber's vice president.

In addition to expanding opportunities for research and learning, increased grants and contract funding bolsters institutional credibility. External funding committed to Towson University exceeded \$30 million last year—a noteworthy accomplishment considering the economic climate.

The following represent only a few of the Towson University initiatives that received such funding last year.

- The National Science Foundation's "Academic Research Infrastructure: Recovery and Reinvestment (ARI-R2)" program awarded a nearly \$1.4 million grant to Towson's Urban Environmental Biogeochemistry Laboratory for a much-needed makeover. The funding will create a modern laboratory space that will support ongoing multidisciplinary research conducted by faculty and students in the departments of biological sciences, chemistry, physics, astronomy and geosciences, and in the Environmental Science and Studies program.
- Juergen Jung, Department of Economics, was awarded nearly \$67,000 from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for his project, "Health Care Financing over the Life Cycle: A Quantitative Macroeconomic Analysis of U.S. Health Care Reform Plans." Jung described his project as "[a] look at the macroeconomic effects of the Obama health care reform."
- An \$85,728 grant from the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), made through its BRAC Higher Education Investment Fund, partially funded the development of a Master of Science and an associated Post-Baccalaureate Certificate program in supply chain management. Classes will be offered at the HEAT Center in Harford County, providing a convenient location for military and civilian personnel at Aberdeen Proving Ground.
- Jennifer E. Scott, Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences, received more than \$637,000 in funding as a recipient of the National Science Foundation's prestigious CAREER award. She will spend the next four years investigating the effects of the intergalactic medium (IGM) and quasars on galaxy formation and evolution.



In addition, Towson faculty members Debi Gartland, Department of Special Education, David Schaefer, Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences, were welcomed into the Office of Research Service's Million Dollar Club. The club honors highly successful faculty who have received a million dollars in cumulative sponsored funding over their careers at Towson.

FY2011 also marked the debut of a Five Million Dollar Club to honor the cumulative success of Towson's centers of learning and outreach. Inaugural members included The Center for GIS, The Center for Science and Mathematics Education, Extended Education and Online Learning, Information Systems Solutions, and RESI (Regional Economic Studies Institute).

The past few years have brought some dramatic changes in Towson's physical plant. FY2011 saw the university approaching the completion of four major construction projects: the College of Liberal Arts, the West Village Commons, the West Village Garage and phase II of West Village Housing.

New projects now underway include the state-of-the-art 5,200-seat Tiger Arena, which is expected to be completed in 2013; the Campus Gateway., which will give Towson the main entrance it has always lacked; and a Public Safety Building to contain office and support space for Towson University's Police Department and the Office of Environmental Health and Safety.

In addition, Towson University contributed to the revitalization of downtown Towson by securing a long-term lease at Towson City Center. The approximately 46,000 square-foot portion of the building will provide the university with much-needed space for existing outreach clinics and consolidate them into one easy-to-access location for the community. Clinics that would make the move from the College of Health Professions include the Cardiac Rehabilitation Center; the Speech, Language and Hearing Center; Occupational Therapy Outreach Center; and a new Center for Adults with Autism.

Although space constraints do not permit me to enumerate every positive outcome of the past fiscal year, I should like to list some accomplishments, initiatives and acquisitions that speak to Towson University's unique mission as Maryland's Metropolitan University.

- Towson provided education to nearly 22,000 students both on this campus and at many sites across the state. We proudly graduated 5,230 students at the winter and spring commencement ceremonies.



- Towson University's Center for Student Diversity hosted the Maryland Latino/a Summit to explore the challenges facing our growing Latino population. The September 10, 2010, event brought together experts and advocates from around the state.
- Towson hosted debates featuring the candidates for House of Delegates and Senate seats from Maryland's District 42 on October 13 and October 20, 2010.
- From October 25 to 28, 2010, Towson University's Administration Building became a polling place for early voting, enabling citizens to cast their ballots in advance of the November 2 election.
- In October 2010 Towson's Center for GIS (CGIS) launched the user-friendly interactive Maryland Broadband Map, the latest milestone in Maryland's initiative to greatly expand the reach of broadband services throughout the state. The new online map enables Marylanders to input an address and ZIP Code, or zoom to a location on the map and discover the various types of broadband service available in that area, as well as the companies that provide the services.
- TowsonGlobal, Towson University's business incubator, launched a Business Plan Competition during the fall 2010 term, inviting members of both the campus and off-campus communities to submit business or startup company ideas. The Grand Prize winner received a 90-day Resident Membership in the TowsonGlobal Business Incubator, along with support and advisory services and a cash prize.
- Towson students provided free federal and state income tax preparation to low-income individuals and families on Saturdays from February to April 2011. The program is a partnership between the College of Business and Economics and the Baltimore CASH Campaign. It is funded in part by the Bank of America Foundation.

I concur with Interim President Welsh, who recently said Towson University's rise to a new level of excellence despite significant fiscal challenges is "a credit to the staff, the students, the Regents, the Board of Visitors, the staff of the University System of Maryland...and especially the faculty."

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Towson University continues to leverage scarce resources in innovative and collaborative ways to attain desired outcomes. In FY11, we did just that to attain our most important goal: providing accessible, quality education for the citizens of Maryland.

On behalf of the Towson University Board of Visitors, I once again extend my thanks for your continuing support for Maryland's Metropolitan University.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis F. Rasmussen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dennis F. Rasmussen
Chair
Towson University
Board of Visitors

- c: Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, President of the Senate
- Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House
- Norman H. Conway, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
- Edward Kasemeyer, Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
- Danette G. Howard, Interim Secretary of Higher Education, MHEC
- William E. Kirwan, Chancellor, University System of Maryland
- Orlan M. Johnson, Chair, USM Board of Regents
- Johanne H. Greer, Department of Legislative Reference Library
- Joyce H. Fowler, Office of Policy Analysis