

Touro YOU



CONNECTING YOU WITH
THE TOURO COMMUNITY

**FORGING
OUR WAY**

**INTO THE
FUTURE**



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Welcome from Shelley Berkley



Dear friends of Touro,

I hope you are all doing well as we try to stay safe against the Omicron variant.

Despite the challenges this pandemic has presented us, I am hopeful for the future of this institution. Our students are completing their didactic classes virtually, while attending carefully planned in-person labs to ensure they have the necessary tools to succeed on their Touro journey.

As you know, our students, faculty, and alumni/ae have been on the frontlines of this pandemic since the very beginning. Since providing free COVID-19 screenings to our homeless populations at Cashman Center in March 2020, the Touro community has made an indelible mark across the Las Vegas Valley with free testing, personal protective equipment, and vaccines.

Your support has better prepared our students to be the healthcare providers and educators of the future. Through student scholarships, donations to enhance our mobile outreach and more, your generosity has directly impacted the Touro community and the Southern Nevada community. Our students can focus more on their studies and less about how they will pay for school, while providing care to our most vulnerable populations.

I want to thank you again for your continued support of our institution as we work together to make our community a better place to live for everyone.

All my best,

Shelley Berkley
CEO and Senior Provost
Touro University Western Division



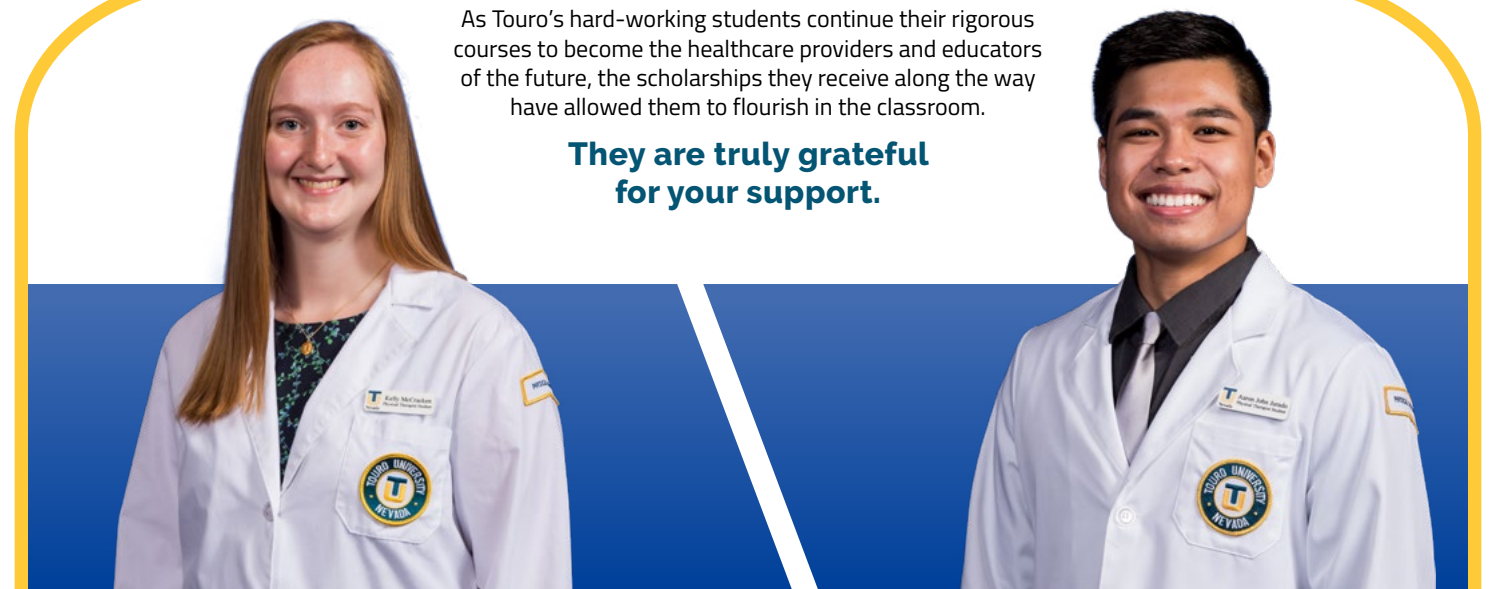
“Receiving a scholarship helped ease some financial burden during the middle of the pandemic when my father lost his job in New York. It allowed me to focus on my education without worrying about my rent or groceries. For that, I am grateful.”

Darkhishan Ali
School of Occupational Therapy

“As a Touro scholarship recipient, I’ve been able to focus more on my studies and less on how I’m going to pay off my school debt. I’ll be forever thankful for the gracious donations of the scholarship donors and the amount of weight they have taken off my shoulders. It has allowed me to put all my energy into becoming the best PA possible.”

Victoria Fung
School of Physician Assistant Studies

Your Gifts Are Making a Difference



As Touro’s hard-working students continue their rigorous courses to become the healthcare providers and educators of the future, the scholarships they receive along the way have allowed them to flourish in the classroom.

**They are truly grateful
for your support.**

“Receiving scholarships from generous donors has allowed me to focus more time on my studies and practice more hands-on skills so I can become the best physical therapist that I can be. I believe having this additional time to focus on my studies has allowed me to be more successful in my educational goals. I greatly appreciate the generosity of scholarship donors to support students in achieving their dreams.”

Kelly McCracken
School of Physical Therapy

“This scholarship has helped me in expanding my knowledge and enabling me to fully invest in my education. The assistance from scholarship donors has also allowed me to access all up-to-date, evidence-based treatment and interventions in the growing field of physical therapy, leading to providing effective and proven care towards my patients in my clinical rotation. I’ll truly be able to make a difference in my patients’ lives thanks to this scholarship.”

Aaron John Jurado
School of Physical Therapy

Susan Greenspun Fine Scholarship Helps Touro Student Navigate Medical School and Motherhood

By Steven Slivka

Midway through her college career at UNLV, Rianda Carodine's professional plans were suddenly thrown into limbo.

The biology major was finishing her sophomore year. As the first in her family to go to college, she planned for a career in medicine after UNLV.

Then, she became pregnant.

"I had to make a decision," she recalled. "Did I want to continue studying pre-med, or was I going to have to stop so I could raise my daughter? I decided to take the pre-med route and still raise my daughter."

Carodine gave birth to her daughter in the Fall of 2017. Thanks to the support of her family, the Green Valley High School graduate had assistance at home while she navigated the treacherous waters of being a single mother finishing college.

"It was difficult being a student and a mother," she admitted. "I did get discouraged but never gave up because I always had my daughter in mind. I wanted her to know that I did everything I could to make her life better."

After graduating with her biology degree and a double-minor in psychology and neuroscience, Carodine pondered the next steps of her career.

"I had plenty of friends tell me about Touro's Medical Health Sciences (MHS) program. I wanted to strengthen my application when it came to applying to medical school," she said. "After meeting the faculty and learning more about the program, I knew it was right for me."

A few months before Carodine began the rigorous, 11-month program, her world, like everyone else's, was turned upside down by the COVID-19 pandemic. She admitted that the first few sections of the MHS curriculum were difficult to complete remotely, but she took advantage of the opportunity to complete her schoolwork at home so she could still be with her daughter.

As she learned more about her new classmates who she met in the midst of the pandemic, she grew to enjoy their company. She and her classmates would complete marathon study sessions together, taking some time to know each other personally in a mostly virtual world.

Carodine was eventually accepted into Touro University Nevada's College of Osteopathic Medicine, a feeling she struggled to put into words. What's more, Carodine was notified that she was the first recipient of the Susan Greenspun Fine Scholarship, a faculty-appointed scholarship of \$25,000 each year to help one medical student who wants to provide care for underserved populations after graduation.



Susan Greenspun Fine, the scholarship's namesake, has been a passionate member of the Southern Nevada community since the 1940s. She's seen the Las Vegas Valley grow from a small town into a major metropolis where 2 million people call home.

"I still remember when we only had two hospitals in town," she recalled. "We've gotten so big and vast as a city. We've always had good doctors here; we just need more of them. We also need more diverse healthcare professionals to address our growing population."

Greenspun Fine said she hopes Carodine will work to solve the inequities within our healthcare system by caring for patients from underserved communities after she graduates. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated our collective healthcare problems, she added.

Greenspun Fine has been encouraged to see Touro's students working on the COVID-19 frontlines since the very beginning.

Since March 2020, the Touro community has provided free COVID-19 screenings to the Valley's homeless populations; delivered thousands of masks and personal protective equipment to local hospitals and medical offices; and administered thousands upon thousands of vaccinations, mostly to Southern Nevada's underserved communities.

"I honestly wasn't too familiar with Touro before the pandemic," Greenspun Fine admitted. "But to see the students leading the charge throughout this pandemic has been remarkable."

Since the pandemic began, Carodine graduated from Touro's MHS Program and began her first year in the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Four months after donning her cap and gown at her MHS Commencement, she donned her white coat for the first time during the university's White Coat Ceremony.

As she looks back on where she was just a few short years ago: pregnant, and unsure of what her future held, she is proud of where she's headed. Not just for her, but for her young daughter, who has given her a new perspective on life.

"When I found out I was pregnant, I had no idea what to do. I knew what my end goal was but had no idea how I was going to get there," she said. "I've met a lot of people who doubted me because of my situation. But receiving this scholarship will help me tremendously, and I am so incredibly grateful. I wanted to be a doctor when I was younger because I had a physician who mentored me and guided me on the path to medicine. I want to be a role model for my daughter and let her know that if you put your mind to it and stay the course, you can do anything."





A Q&A with Touro's New Provost Dr. Andrew Priest

By Steven Slivka

After leading Touro University Nevada as Interim Provost for more than a year during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Andrew Priest was officially named Provost and Chief Academic Officer in July.

Prior to being named Interim Provost, Dr. Priest served as Dean of Touro's College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) for eight years. Dr. Priest has helped guide CHHS to a successful future, including an expansion of the School of Physician Assistant Studies; the implementation of a new Ed.D. program in the School of Education, and a new Occupational Therapy Doctorate program in the School of Occupational Therapy.

Born in England, the son of a career U.S. Air Force officer, and a veteran of the U.S. Army, Dr. Priest has been a practicing physical therapist and educational administrator for most of his career.

He and his wife Carol have five children.

Why did you choose to come to Touro Nevada?

I wanted to come to Touro because my personal values aligned well with Touro's values and it just felt like a good fit for me. I came from Clarke University, a small Catholic College in Dubuque, Iowa, where I was Director of the Physical Therapy Program. Coming to Touro allowed my career to flourish and relocating to the West coast allowed us to be closer to family that we have throughout the Southwest.

What was the experience like working as Interim Provost during the COVID-19 pandemic?

It was challenging. I was quite happy being the Dean and working with Dr. [Ray] Alden and Dr. [Wolfgang] Gilliar as primary academic leadership. After Dr. Alden retired during the Summer of 2020, I took over as Interim Provost but still kept my Dean's duties. It was a tough time because everything was still so uncertain.

One of the things I learned was that I didn't have to be on call 24/7. For so long, I felt like I had to be on all the time and it nearly led to burnout. I learned that I could wait until the next day to get things done. We didn't want anything to fail, especially during the early stages of the pandemic while we were navigating this new normal, so I put a lot of pressure on myself. It took me some time to realize that my routine wasn't healthy.

I feel much better about where we are now.

What did you learn about the university as CHHS Dean that has benefited you the most since you've been Provost?

When I first came to Touro, leadership wore many different hats. As we have matured as an institution, I have become more familiar with how Touro operates. Having previously worked as Dean has allowed the leadership team to trust me more, and I trust them more. We have a fairly small shop here, so trust is critical to our success. It's allowed us to have more chemistry among our leadership, which has benefited everyone from the top down.



Touro has been able to not only stay the course during the pandemic but continue the growth and expansion of several programs during these uncertain times. What does that say about Touro and its campus leadership?

I think it's something to celebrate. Throughout COVID, we've had to balance keeping our programs moving with safety being at the core of our planning. We did not want to be at the center for spreading the virus. There was never a cluster of people getting COVID that could be traced back to Touro.

We tried to plan conservatively and look to see how we could make this happen and what the pros/cons of being on campus were compared to strictly working and studying from home. We had to adjust some of our plans, but we were confident that we could eventually come back safely. We didn't know how to do this before, but we feel much more confident now.

We've been able to work through these problems because of our plans. We have consistently been resilient, flexible, and creative, which helped us keep the engines going.



Can you explain the importance of private gifts and how donors can help improve the educational experience here at Touro?

Private gifts can help us do several things. For starters, they can help us improve our facilities. If there is a naming opportunity for the building, it helps improve the student experience. A private gift for research, of course, allows our faculty to spend the time they need to do the important research they are working on.

It also costs a lot to educate our students, and it costs our students a lot to come here. Private gifts can provide our students with scholarships to make their journey much easier. We want to find ways to have our highly qualified prospective students come to Touro and help them financially. Having that financial assistance will help us continue to recruit the best and the brightest, no matter their background. Having these students will only make us stronger. Good students help their peers become good students. By getting into their profession, it helps change the lives of their families and the entire community. This is a generational shift into prosperity, and private gifts are helping to make that happen.



How have previous gifts helped improve the educational experience here for our students and faculty?

The Michael Tang Regional Center for Clinical Simulation and the Stephen Cloobek Regional Center for Disaster Life Support are great examples of how gifts are helping us improve our students' educational experience. In the Tang Center, our students can work on mock simulations and patient cases before they see them in real life. This training improves their outcomes in real situations because it won't be the first time they will have experienced that particular scenario.

In the Cloobek Center, we've done disaster training with our students and are currently working with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department to train more than 4,000 police officers. That training will directly benefit the community because our officers will be more prepared.

We've also received numerous gifts to help increase our mobile healthcare outreach. These gifts are making a huge difference in the lives of our students and the communities they serve. These gifts allow us to continue the wonderful things we are doing because we provide free healthcare to those who can't afford it.



What are some of your academic and educational aspirations for Touro University Nevada? Where do you see the university in 5 years? 10 years?

Our vision is to serve, to lead, and to teach. When we are mentioned in the community, I want us to be known for doing medical outreach. I envision our programs being a lot more active in delivering healthcare to the community and knowing that we can be the go-to university for any outreach.

I also see new potential programs coming on board. They will be determined by what's needed in the state and how well they fit within the university. As we open two new research laboratories, I can see Touro's expansion of research and knowledge making a huge difference in the community. We're currently doing COVID research, cancer research, and human performance research. I want our novice researchers to work with our more experienced researchers to become experts so we can continuously make an impact in healthcare.

We have great educational outcomes among our students, and I want to see that continue as we attract more and more students. If you are going to measure one thing from a health sciences school, you want to know about the board pass rates. We want to stay at the extremely high level that we're at. The future looks very bright for this institution.

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