



# The President's Message



Readers of a certain vintage probably remember a TV host named Art Linkletter, who did a segment called “Kids Say the Darndest Things.” I’d like to modify that for today’s message and say “University Students Say the Darndest Things.”

And thank heavens for that! In what is often a two-way educational process, students teach us as we strive to teach them. One such insightful moment came at our Q&A last month when a student from the Francis King Carey School of Law, where the meeting was being held, stood and asked me, “What do you want me to ask you?”

As I told the student, I am always looking to strengthen the dialogue between myself and others at the University. Toward that end, I had been urging those assembled at the Q&A to keep sending me questions (<http://um.umaryland.edu/president/ask/>) and to register to be a part of brown bag lunches with me that we will start this month (<http://um.umaryland.edu/president/lunch-with-the-president/>) and hopefully will result in some great discussions among faculty, staff, and students.

“I don’t really know what people are asking you,” the student said, “and therefore I don’t really know what to ask you and how to use you as a resource as you so desperately want us to. What can we come to you with?”

As I related in my answer that day, I truly enjoy talking to students. It’s one of many positives I derive from our weekly President’s Clinic, where students from each of our schools are represented. We discuss treatment of the pediatric patients we are facing, yes, but the students also let me in on other things on their minds pertaining to the University.

I also enjoy student interactions like our ice cream socials, student cookouts, and other get-togethers. In fact, I relish talking to students so much that we have established monthly “office hours” for me to meet one-on-one with students at the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center. Students can make an appointment with me online at <http://www.umaryland.edu/studentactivitieslearning/oneonone.html>.

As I said at the Q&A, and it bears repeating: The best ideas in an institution like this come from the students. Don’t be offended, faculty and staff members. You have great ideas, too, and keep them coming. But students have the best ideas—constructive ideas on how to make things better or something we can do differently. Those are the ideas I am looking for. And students aren’t afraid to share them, either! That’s been my experience as a faculty member, as a chair and a dean, and now as president.

The student’s question was one of many good ones in an extraordinarily candid January Q&A session that is recapped starting on Page 6. We will get together as a large group again in April after brown bag lunches in February and March.

I also appreciate your feedback at the recent strategic plan Town Hall meetings. The implementation phase is gathering momentum thanks to your efforts. Read more about it at <http://www.umaryland.edu/strategicplan/index.html> and keep those good ideas coming.

Jay A. Perman, MD  
President

# Laurels

## SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

**India Chance, RDH**, senior business manager, will be a featured blogger for the *USA Today* Education Teachers' Lounge blog. In several monthly articles, she will write about health and wellness as they relate to education, schools, and students.



Jacqueline Fried

**Jacqueline Fried, MS, RDH**, has been appointed director of interprofessional activities at the School. She had served as chair of the Division of Dental Hygiene for 10 years.

**Marion Manski, MS, RDH**, director of admissions and recruitment, has been named interim director of the dental hygiene program.



Gary Hack

**Gary Hack, DDS**, director of simulation research, presented the keynote speech "Digital Dentistry: The Future Is Now" during the District of Columbia Dental Society's business meeting Jan. 10.



Mary Ann Jabra-Rizk

"Pathogenesis of Polymicrobial Biofilms," written by **Mary Ann Jabra-Rizk, PhD**, associate professor, was recently published in *The Open Mycology Journal*.



Mark Shirtliff

**Mark Shirtliff, PhD**, associate professor at the School of Dentistry and an adjunct associate professor at the School of Medicine, delivered the presentation "MRSA Chronic Infections" during the Kitakyushu International Symposium on Infectious Diseases and Chemotherapy in Fukuoka, Japan, in the fall.

## FRANCIS KING CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

Criminal defendants appearing at their first bail hearings have the right to legal counsel, according to a unanimous Jan. 4 decision from the Maryland Court of Appeals, the state's highest court. The ruling follows years of pro bono work by **Douglas Colbert, JD**, professor, and students in the law school's Access to Justice Clinic, on a class-action lawsuit. More than 100 faculty at the University of Maryland and University of Baltimore law schools signed an amicus brief supporting Colbert's arguments in the case.

**Larry Gibson, LLB**, professor, served as curator of an exhibit recently unveiled about the civil rights legacy of Morgan State University in Baltimore. The permanent exhibit, *Carry the Torch—Continuing Morgan's Legacy of Civil Rights and Equal Justice*, is in the student center at Morgan State.

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

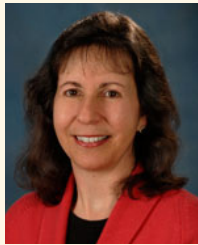
The American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) awarded the Vanguard Prize to **Rolf Barth, MD**, associate professor, during the organization's winter symposium in Miami. The award honors junior ASTS members for basic and clinical research.



Angela Brodie

**Angela Brodie, PhD**, professor, is the recipient of the 2012 Pharmacology-American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) Award for Experimental Therapeutics. The annual award, which recognizes outstanding research, will be presented in April during the ASPET annual meeting in San Diego.

**Matthew Cooper, MD**, associate professor, was a guest lecturer at Loyola University during the recent kickoff of a capstone course on the social and economic impact of living kidney donation in Maryland.



Debra Counts

**Debra Counts, MD**, associate professor, has been appointed associate chair of clinical affairs in the Department of Pediatrics. Her work will include providing medical director leadership for the subspecialty clinics and handling matters related to inpatient and outpatient

clinical activities.

After serving as interim visiting assistant professor, **Jose Diaz, MD**, is now a professor and chief of acute care surgery at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center.

**Michael Donnenberg, MD**, associate chair for research, began a two-year term in January as a member of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step-3 Chronic Illness and Ongoing Conditions Test Material Development Committee.

**Howard Dubowitz, MB, ChB**, professor and head of the Center for Families, has been elected president of the Ray Helfer Society. The organization is an honorary society of physicians working in the field of child abuse and neglect.

**Gary Fiskum, PhD**, M. Jane Matjasko Professor for Research in Anesthesiology and vice chair of research, organized and chaired the University of Maryland (UM)-Johns Hopkins University Mitochondrial Research Retreat, held recently at UM. More than 50 investigators

from both universities attended the conference, and speakers included faculty from the UM School of Medicine.

A patent was reissued in December for the Plasmid Maintenance System for Antigen Delivery, which was invented by **James Galen, PhD**, associate professor and researcher at the Center for Vaccine Development (CVD), and **Chris Vindurampulle, PhD**, research fellow at CVD when the system was invented.

“Patients Leaving Against Medical Advice From the Emergency Department—Disease Prevalence and Willingness to Return,” written by **David Jerrard, MD**, associate professor, and **Rose Chasm, MD**, assistant professor, was published in *The Journal of Emergency Medicine*.



Jay Menaker

**Jay Menaker, MD**, physician director of quality management at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, received the Peter C. Canizaro Award from the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma for his paper “Evaluation of Multi-Detector Computed Tomography for Penetrating Neck Injury: A Prospective Study.”

**Terrence Mulligan, DO, MPH**, assistant professor, is the co-author of the position paper “International Federation for Emergency Medicine Model Curriculum for Emergency Medicine Specialists,” which was published recently in the journal *Emergency Medicine Australasia*. He is also the lead author of the editorial “Recognizing the Common End-Point of Different Emergency Medicine Specialty Training Curricula,” which accompanied the paper in the journal. The position paper also has appeared in other publications.

Authors of “Adaptation of Microplate-Based Respirometry for Hippocampal Slices and Analysis of Respiratory Capacity,” which was published in the *Journal of Neuroscience Research*, include assistant professors **Brian Polster, PhD**, and **Rosemary Schuh, PhD**; associate professor **Hegang Chen, PhD**; and postdoctoral fellows **Pascaline Clerc, PhD**, and **Zara Mehrabian, PhD**.



Elijah Saunders

**Elijah Saunders, MD '60**, head of the Section of Hypertension, recently received a leadership award from the Association of Black Cardiologists. Also, the American Heart Association has named an annual award in his honor.

**Deborah Stein, MD, MPH**, was recently inducted as a fellow of the American College of Critical Care Medicine. She is chief of the Section of Trauma Critical Care, and medical director of the Neurotrauma Critical Care Unit and the Trauma Resuscitation Unit, at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center.

## SCHOOL OF NURSING



Shannon Reedy Idzik

**Shannon Reedy Idzik, DNP '10, MS '03, CRNP**, director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, will receive a State Award for Excellence from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners during the organization's annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., in June. The award

recognizes a nurse practitioner for excellence in practice, research, education, or community affairs.



Lisa Rowen

**Lisa Rowen, DNSc, MS '86, RN, FAAN**, senior vice president for patient care services and chief nursing officer at the University of Maryland Medical Center, recently accepted an additional faculty appointment as clinical associate professor of nursing at the University of Virginia. She also

will continue as an adjunct nursing faculty member at both Johns Hopkins University and Northeastern University.



Anita Tarzian

Associate professor **Anita Tarzian, PhD '98, MS '95, RN**, received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH) during the organization's recent annual meeting. The award recognizes service to ASBH and its mission.



Alison Trinkoff

"Nurses' Work Schedule Characteristics, Nurse Staffing, and Patient Mortality," written by professor **Alison Trinkoff, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN**, and others, was among the 10 most frequently accessed articles in the journal *Nursing Research* during 2011.



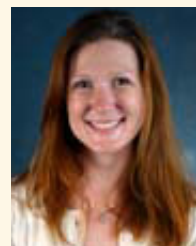
Margaret Watt

Assistant professor **Margaret Watt, PhD '11, MSN, CRNP**, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation "Phenomenology of Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence." Watt is enrolled in a post-master's course of study.

## SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



Stuart Haines



Kathleen Pincus

**Stuart Haines, PharmD**, vice chair for clinical services, and **Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD '00**, associate professor, have each obtained certification in ambulatory care pharmacy from the Board of Pharmacy Specialties. **Kathleen Pincus, PharmD '09**, assistant professor, obtained certification from the board in pharmacotherapy.

Pincus also has been accepted into the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Foundation's Research Boot Camp.

**Katherine Joyner** received a Graduate Student Symposium Award from the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.



Kathryn Kiser

**Kathryn Kiser, PharmD**, assistant professor, was named the School's faculty liaison to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. She also recently became president of the District of Columbia chapter of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.



James Polli

**James Polli, PhD**, Ralph F. Shaugraw/Noxell Endowed Chair in Industrial Pharmacy and Pharmaceutics, was elected to the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists' executive council as a member at large.

## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Melissa Bellin



Philip Osteen

The article "Parent and Health Care Professional Perspectives on Family-Centered Care for Children With Special Health Care Needs: Are We on the Same Page?" was published in the journal *Health & Social Work*. Authors of the article include assistant professors **Melissa Bellin, PhD, MSW**, and **Philip Osteen, PhD, MSW**.



Dick Cook



Bronwyn Mayden

The School has received a combined award from Baltimore City Public Schools to support opportunities to expand the community schools program under the Social Work Community Outreach Service—directed by **Dick Cook, MSW '72**—and the Promise Heights Initiative, directed by **Bronwyn Mayden, MSW '77**.



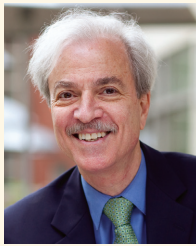
Donna Harrington

**Donna Harrington, PhD**, director of the doctoral program, has been chosen to co-chair the task force on the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work's 2013 quality guidelines for PhD programs.



Jodi Jacobson

The School has received funding from the Maryland CASH (Creating Assets, Savings, and Hope) Campaign—which is housed under the nonprofit Job Opportunities Task Force—to evaluate outcomes from the Financial Stability Pathway, a project helping low-income families achieve their financial goals. The study will be led by **Jodi Jacobson, PhD '04, MSW '98**, assistant professor. Other personnel will include assistant professors **Karen Hopkins, PhD, MSW** (co-principal investigator) and **Philip Osteen, PhD, MSW** (statistician), and research assistants **Lucy Bill** and **Devon Hyde**.



Michael Reisch

**Michael Reisch, PhD, MSW, MA,** Daniel Thursz Distinguished Professor of Social Justice, presented the paper “Images of Injustice: Photography and the Public Perception of Poverty” during the symposium Social Forces Revisited, held recently at Columbia University in

New York City.

## Questions and Answers

*The following are excerpts from Dr. Perman’s Q&A on Jan. 18 at the Francis King Carey School of Law.*

I want to talk a little bit first of all about the format of these Q&A sessions. I got these started over a year ago, shortly after I came to campus. Like everything else that is new, there was a great deal of interest in these sessions and we had very large groups. As the backlog of questions gets answered, interest drops off a little. Now I’m feeling sheepish saying that because I look out at the audience and there are plenty of people here, including a lot of people I don’t know and that makes me happy actually that there is a sense of interest in these sessions.

But we thought in view of the desire to make these kinds of interactions between all of you as useful as possible, we were going to try something different moving forward. So I’m going to mix and match these things every month. Every three months we’ll have a big session like this in a campus building. So what we’re doing in the law school now we’ll do again in April. In the meantime, what I’m going to do in the months between the quarterly sessions is have brown bag lunches. Anybody can come, but you have to sign up (<http://um.umd.edu/president/lunch-with-the-president/>) on a first-come, first-served basis.

I know it’s human nature that there are many perhaps who are not at ease asking a question in a very large group who would be very comfortable interacting with me and having a dialogue in a smaller group and I hope that’s the case. So we’re going to try that out. If it doesn’t work, we’ll probably go back to these large sessions on a reasonably frequent basis. Any questions about that?

### QUESTION:

To come to this session at 1 p.m. I had to take personal time instead of using my lunch hour. Is there any way these could start at noon so I could use my lunch hour?

### ANSWER:

Dr. Perman: My luck. This is the first time we’ve started one of these at 1. We’ve always had these from 12 to 1. Doing it from 1 to 2 we figured might help some people who had trouble with the 12 to 1 time. So what clearly worked for some people hasn’t worked for you.

Jennifer Litchman, interim chief communications officer and vice president: We’re also going to do some from 11 to 12, some 12 to 1 and some from 1 to 2.

Dr. Perman: Fair? Thank you for the question.

Dr. Perman: One of the things that goes along with the interaction that I want to have with all of you is the Q&A website we’ve put together. It’s the opportunity to ask me a question. A lot of questions are anonymous and what I’ve been doing over the months is bringing a stack of notecards and answering the questions to the large monthly groups. I have no idea whether the person who asked the question is even in the room. So we’d like to make a renewed attempt to answer people directly. But to do that when you’re putting forth a question I will need your contact information. We will keep the information private.

And if there is a series of questions that all relate to the same topic, I’m going to answer that in the newsletter as well. Obviously the names of the people who submitted the question will not be published. So let’s try that with

the Q&A. I love the questions; some are hard, some are very pointed, sometimes you are upset about things—I understand that. But you’ve got to tell me who you are. I will keep it confidential and answer you directly.

If there are serious issues you feel you need to report, there is a hotline with a phone number or you can do it online ([www.umaryland.ethicspoint.com](http://www.umaryland.ethicspoint.com)). And that can be anonymous.

Any questions about the Q&A?

Let me bring you up to date on the strategic planning process.

We are ready to start the implementation phase of that plan, which will guide us for the next five years and maybe the five years after that.

Town Halls have been scheduled to allow opportunities to get updated on the implementation process and the timeline and how our staff, our faculty, and our students will have a chance to continue to be a part of the process. The best organizations are organizations where people feel that they have a voice in what’s going on. And that is the kind of organization I intend to run. We care about ideas; we might not agree on everything, but you’ve all got to have a voice in where this organization is going.

This University is highly admired. We found out how much when the merger study was going on. There were a lot of people who spoke up for us. Now we’re going to do something that I say is much more elegant than a merger—namely create an alliance between us and College Park and we’re working very hard on that. Our University is well supported by people in the state of Maryland and I really hope it will continue to be a better and better place to work. Now, what’s on your minds?



## QUESTION:

Those of us from the housekeeping staff have come here today to discuss our need for a raise. They stopped the furloughs, but we are constantly pushed back, they keep going in our pocket. I remember you saying at your inauguration that you were going to make it better, you were going to try to put back wages, to do right by the people who work here. To do better work, we need to be treated better and they need to put us back at our salaries and then give us some people. There are a lot of us now working two or three jobs. It’s hard and I love this job.

Dr. Perman: What do you do?

Questioner: I clean, I clean the HIV clinic and I see to it that that clinic is clean because I care about the people. And I feel as though I’m struggling. I bring home \$389 every two weeks. I have to work another job and sometimes another job and I shouldn’t have to do that. It’s not the position that I do; it’s the work that I do. It shouldn’t matter that I’m a housekeeper. I resent it; my life is on the line every time I step into any area that’s infected. I used to work at University Hospital. University 13, 12, 11, 9th—all those areas. And I love cleaning, but I think I’m not getting paid—I think all of us here, are not getting paid what we are worth. That’s why we are here. I had to use my time today to come here to you. I don’t want to come to my job too tired to do my work. I thank God I have a job. But it’s like we’re not respected. We help this campus and the support groups. Everybody helps this campus. It isn’t just the big bosses. It’s the little people, too. That’s what keeps this campus going. So don’t forget about us. Keep us on your mind.

## ANSWER:

Dr. Perman: I appreciate your honesty and the dignity that you bring to your words and to your job. And that goes for everybody here. I need you all to know that every job—and more importantly every person—is important to this University. Or we don’t move forward.

There is no trivial job here and I can tell you that during my days as a pediatric chair—and I don't want this taken the wrong way because I speak from the heart the same way you do—the only way we got sick kids admitted to the hospital quickly was because of what the housekeepers did. Not the physicians, not the nurses, what the housekeepers did in order to make the place ready and safe for the next person. You're doing that in the HIV Clinic, other people here are doing it elsewhere. I value everybody's work in this University. So no one is demeaned and nobody, at least in my book, is any less important than anyone else.

So what about wages? The fact of the matter is that with regard to raises, I think you all know we are governed as a state agency by what the legislature tells us we can do. That's not a cop-out, that's not an excuse, that's the fact of the matter. I will tell you one of the things I pleaded for in the last legislative session and that I'm spending my time doing in Annapolis this session is saying the following: If you can't give us more money in order to run our University, OK, but if we can only have the flexibility to do what we need to do for our people in this University, that will be enough.

So I need you to know that's the message I'm delivering and I hope we will have the permission to have flexibility so we can look at what we do, find the dollars to do it, and try to advance people. Thank you again for your remarks. I hear you loud and clear.



### QUESTION:

I've been a part-time employee here at the University for over 30 years. I'm a writing consultant with the School of Social Work as well as with the Writing Center. I rise this afternoon to express my concern about the significant cut in hours that the writing consultants have had to endure this past semester. All of the consultants have graduate degrees. It is our responsibility to work with the students in all of the schools at this University to help them with their papers and their dissertations, their personal state-

ments, and any writing assignments that they have in order for them to be productive in their classroom experience. Well, we have not been able to do that to our fullest capacity because of the cut in hours. The students have become frustrated, their faculty members have become frustrated because we don't have the manpower—all of us are part-time, none of us has any benefits. When I say part-time I was working maybe 25 hours and I was cut down to 11. The students are our No. 1 priority and we want to help them.

### ANSWER:

Dr. Perman: I always try to be honest so I will be honest with you. I didn't know that we had writing consultants. And I'm glad to hear it. I don't know anything about your work and your hours, etc. There are people here who represent my leadership and let's see if they have any comments.

Roger Ward, associate vice president for academic affairs: The writing consultants are part of our campus life services in the Office of Academic Affairs and they provide a valuable service to our students. The questioner was right, we have had to cut back in the past calendar year because of budget constraints and we had to make decisions whether to lay off consultants or spread the cutback across the division. So this academic year we decided the best approach would be to scale back each consultant's hours. What we also did was bring in a consultant to review the current model for our Writing Center and our goal is to allocate appropriate resources and reconstruct our Writing Center. It is a valuable service. The decision has to do with available resources. We've been operating that service, and many other services in Academic Affairs, at a deficit and we just had to make hard decisions.



### QUESTION:

If we as the founding campus of the University System are already constrained is now the best time to push an alliance with other universities? We're going to have an alliance with College Park. That means at some point the people



in College Park—even if they're not going to be staying on campus here—they are going to be coming down here, and everyone is going to have more work than we already do. And as you have heard today, many of us already feel overworked because of cutbacks, staff shortages, and what have you. So is now really the best time?

Or could you possibly use that as a power play in Annapolis to position us for what we need, which is more resources—whether it is getting more hours or better pay or supplies, whatever. I just feel like sometimes with decisions that everybody is looking two and five and 10 years in the future, which is fine. But you can't take your eye off of right now. I can't take my eye off tomorrow. I don't know what's going to happen tomorrow, but everybody is already planning into the future. At some point you just have to say 'Wait a minute. Right now that's a great idea. A lot of lovely things could come from it. But right now is it so important if we made it so far without it?'

Unless you can find a way, and maybe I don't know enough about it. It just seems like honestly it's not the time to push an alliance because you're going to put more stress on the University at a time when we're already stressed.

## ANSWER:

Dr. Perman: That's a very good statement and let me respond to it. Your concerns are totally reasonable. In fact, in the course of responding to the directive from the legislature that we consider merging the University of Maryland, College Park and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, the cost of doing so was looked at. And it was one of the factors in the regents deciding not to recommend a merger. Now why would a merger cost money?

When we looked at experiences from elsewhere and thinking through what is required of a merger, there was actually significant cost in it in terms of the information technology that would be needed, the cost of the back and forth in transportation, a whole variety of issues, that in this day and age were problematic. And that is why in part the regents decided to direct the president of College

Park and myself and the chancellor to see what we can do in creating the kinds of collaborations that actually grow revenue for the universities.

How do you grow revenue by collaborating? Well, you grow revenue by becoming more competitive in what you do. So that when you compete for scarce resources with other organizations at the federal level, for example, you're in a better position to win the money. Now that means revenue and that means jobs here or the security of jobs.

All of you need to know this place is a billion-dollar-a-year operation. In other words, we spend a billion dollars a year in what we all do here and most of that is in our collective wages. Now the state provides about \$180 million of that billion dollars. So more than 80 percent of it is generated by the folks here. And the point I'm making is this: To the extent that you can attract more we have more money left over. It isn't the state that provides everything that we do here. I'm very grateful and you should be grateful for what the taxpayer provides here and we need every penny. But most of it we earn, starting with the jobs that you all do because as I said before we can't do it without all of us. But we have to earn our own way. So it wasn't a matter of merger vs. nothing; we needed to do something, with the hope that it would create more revenue and more resources.

Now that being said, the regents made it clear in their report, the presidents and chancellor are making it clear, we can only do what we are provided resources to do. So we have a lot of good ideas for this alliance, but the alliance is going to take resources. In fact, some of these ideas can absolutely not get started without the resources to do it. So to your point about telling Annapolis here's a great idea, I always like to say when people say to me, 'Can you do that?' I don't like to say 'No, because' I'd rather say 'Yes, if.' If we're provided the resources, this is what we can do. So I want to reassure you that we are not blind to the fact that big ideas cost money and the dollars need to come from somewhere.



## QUESTION:

It seems unfair that the state provides only \$180 million of our billion-dollar budget but yet is so successful at tying our hands with everything we do. Procurement, salary directives—18 percent is such a small portion yet they are so powerful. Is there any flexibility or a pseudo-state entity we could have?

## ANSWER:

You actually ask a profound question. There actually is some discussion within the system, and I hope I can make this reasonably clear, about the system universities—even though they are public universities—operating something that’s called a public corporation. That’s actually in the law. This is something the legislature drafted some years ago. And the system probably has not realized its full potential.

That discussion is ongoing. That’s something that needs to be done at the system level. That said, apart from the 12 years I worked at Johns Hopkins, my entire career has been a career in public institutions. And, to the point you make, it’s much easier deciding what you want to do as a family to work in a private institution.

But I think the reason I’m here, and the reasons lots of you are here, is because of the responsibility we feel to the public good. I don’t suggest for a minute that private institutions and private universities don’t do the same good that we do. But I don’t think anybody has the responsibility for the public good and the public education and the public advancement to the extent that public universities have. And yes, to work in a public institution you have some handcuffs and it seems unfair I agree.



## QUESTION:

I work in HS/HSL. This week someone was almost hit by a bus at Greene and Lombard. That area is so dangerous and now with the hospital’s emergency area on Lombard Street I was wondering if that’s going to be permanent? It just makes it more hectic crossing that road, which we all do often.

## ANSWER:

Tony Williams, chief of the University Police Force: You can expect changes in that area will be in effect for about two years and it is directly related to the construction of the new Shock Trauma Center. We have put police out there to help with those traffic concerns. We certainly recognize more needs to be done at intersections around campus and there have already been some improvements, for example restriping and the plan to mark them and highlight the intersections, put signs out. Some of those things, quite frankly, are beyond our direct control because we need the city to do that work. They have pledged to do that for us.

The other thing I would ask is for all of us to take some responsibility for our own safety. I don’t want to offend anyone, but we know that the intersections are potentially dangerous but I really believe—including the incident earlier this week—that sometimes we don’t pay attention as we should when we cross roadways. I even had an employee from own department who got hit a few months ago. Yes, the law says that if you’re a pedestrian in the crosswalk you have the right of way—that traffic is supposed to stop. We enforce that, we write tickets. But here is our reality. If we’re standing in a crosswalk we’ve got to look before we leap, so to speak. No matter what the law says, I’ve got to stop. I can’t take the chance that a bus or a car is going to do what they are supposed to do and stop. I can’t control that vehicle, but I can control how I respond to it. So as your Department of Public Safety, we’ll do what we can. But we also ask that you work with us to do the things you can to be safe yourself. Our motto is ‘Safety Begins with You’ and that acknowledges that all of us have to participate in our own safety.

Dr. Perman: All right. I appreciate the frankness of the questions and the comments of today. Keep them coming. I’ll do the best I can.



## Westside Update

Dr. Perman and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake are co-chairing the Westside Task Force. We are offering periodic updates in *The President's Message*. The following comes from the task force's January 2012 report.

Maj. Dennis Smith of the Central District Police reports that from mid-September through November 2011, violent crime was cut by half within the area of Paca, Saratoga, Baltimore, and Howard streets, respectively.

Since September 2011, the Downtown Partnership has contracted with Trina Morris, a full-time substance abuse addictions counselor, to serve those in and around Lexington Market. Of the people engaged by Morris from September through November 2011, 96 agreed to participate in the treatment referral process.

A "continuum of care" has been identified to help people at the market who have taken the initiative to seek treatment for drug- and alcohol-related addictions. Additionally, conversations are under way with the School of Social Work to develop strategies to complement outreach efforts in and around the market.

An implementation planning process for the market area was launched in November 2011. The Lexington Market Working Group is now studying the Downtown Partnership's 2011 Open Space Plan's recommendations for the Lexington Market and University of Maryland campus area.

The Development Working Group is finalizing incentives for owner occupants, proprietors, and small developers to renovate unoccupied upper floors of city-owned Westside buildings.

The Art and Culture Working Group is working with the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts on a series of Open House programs. To date, two events are planned:

- Thanks to a community development grant from PNC Bank, Fluid Movement's "Wild Westside Roller Skating Bonanza" will take place on March 24, 25, 31, and on April 1 in the former Stewart's Building, ground floor, 228 W. Lexington St. Tickets are \$5.
- The Hippodrome Foodie Experience and Street Festival will be held May 12, featuring Andrew Zimmern, host of the Travel Channel's *Bizarre Foods*.