

# the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARCH 2019



In *December*, I wrote to you about UMB's record-breaking year in extramural funding — \$667.4 million in grants and contracts that support our research, training, and service. It's a great talking point, and I should know; I use it a lot. But it's not the end of the story.

Because a robust discovery enterprise doesn't stop with discovery. The whole point is to put our discovery to *work*. When I was training to be a physician in the 1970s, I was learning how to treat diseases that we don't need to treat anymore, diseases that have been vaccinated into extinction. I was learning methods and using technologies that today are obsolete, replaced by more efficient, more effective treatments. *That's* the power of discovery.

And it's this journey — from having an *idea* to having an *impact* — that we're accelerating. Last year, UMB had its most successful commercialization year ever. We disclosed 145 faculty inventions for patenting. We licensed 43 technologies to local and global companies. We launched eight startups based on our intellectual property. We had three of our startups acquired by multinational health care corporations.

Each one of those inventions and technologies and startups represents a disease we might cure, a condition we might manage, a drug we might get into the hands of more people who need it. And each time our faculty take a risk on their research — try to shepherd it from the lab to the marketplace — they're not only betting on the power of discovery to transform lives; they're betting on innovation as the future of Maryland's economy and one of its most valuable assets.

Among our biggest success stories of the past few years is Harpoon Medical, a UMB company founded by cardiac surgeon James Gammie, MD, in our School of Medicine. The Harpoon device allows heart-valve repair with just a tiny incision, cutting surgery and recovery times by two-thirds. Harpoon was acquired more than a year ago by Edwards Lifesciences, a global company known for innovations treating structural heart disease. The deal gave Harpoon \$100 million, plus another \$150 million if certain milestones are met.

But that money benefits more than Harpoon. Because Edwards has retained Harpoon's operations in Baltimore City, and Harpoon's leaders already have launched two *new* startups here in Maryland, one focused on medical devices and one on stem cells.

Meanwhile, Gliknik — a pharmaceutical startup headquartered in our BioPark and founded by Scott Strome, MD, FACS, formerly with our School of Medicine — just began human trials for a drug it's developing to treat a rare neurological disorder that

causes numbness and pain, slows reflexes, and weakens patients' arms and legs.

The Phase I trials, triggering a \$15 million payment from Pfizer under the terms of a 2013 licensing deal, use a novel synthetic form of Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG), a blood product given to patients with autoimmune diseases. The synthetic part is important, given that IVIG is traditionally developed using blood pooled from donors. And that blood can be contaminated with serious diseases, as was discovered last month in China, where thousands of bottles of plasma shipped to hospitals nationwide tested positive for HIV.

Another of our companies, Baltimore-based SilcsBio, co-founded by Alexander MacKerell Jr., PhD, in our School of Pharmacy, helps pharmaceutical firms accelerate their drug development. The company patented its computer-aided drug design software last year, and with this patent validation — nearly a decade in the making — the company is setting its sights on the biggest players in the pharmaceuticals market.

You might have seen another of our innovations all over the news lately. Joseph Scalea, MD, a transplant surgeon in our School of Medicine, has long been frustrated by the amount of time it takes to get a healthy organ from donor to patient. In fact, 20 percent of kidneys donated in the U.S. are thrown out because they don't get to the recipient quickly enough. Dr. Scalea says he can cut kidney transport time from 21 hours to eight by using drones.

While we can't take credit for drone technology, we *can* claim the biosensor we helped Dr. Scalea develop to monitor the organ's vitality in flight, providing real-time data on temperature, pressure, altitude, vibrations, and location. With his team, Dr. Scalea conducted 14 test flights with a human kidney. After hours in the air, it showed no signs of damage. We know there's a future for this technology — a big one.

And we know that the worst thing we can do is let life-saving technologies like these languish in a lab. Homegrown intellectual property and homegrown ventures need targeted funding and targeted support. That's why UM Ventures, our joint tech transfer program with the University of Maryland, College Park, is so important. UM Ventures provides the money, expertise, and support that new discoveries, new technologies, and new companies need to find success in the marketplace.

For instance, UM Ventures provides funding to manage the University System's Maryland Momentum Fund. Through the fund, we've invested more than \$1 million in four early-stage

*Continued on p. 2*

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University System companies — money that's attracted another \$5 million from external investors.

NextStep Robotics is one of those companies. Using the work of Richard Macko, MD, and Anindo Roy, PhD, in our School of Medicine, the company is developing a personalized robotic therapy to relieve foot drop in stroke patients, a condition that exacerbates fall risk, because it prevents patients from lifting their toes when walking. NextStep plans to start selling its device later this year.

Another UM Ventures program, the Baltimore Fund, incentivizes companies to locate or expand in our own city. We've provided funding or other commercialization support to 13 Baltimore companies so far, helping to create or retain more than 200 city jobs.

One of the fund's beneficiaries is Breathe, a UMB startup developing the first wearable artificial lung. Founded by Bartley Griffith, MD, a transplant surgeon in our School of Medicine, Breathe has raised \$3.5 million in capital, expanded its BioPark headquarters, and increased its staff to 17 employees. The company plans to file its FDA clearances this year so it can begin marketing the device.

An original tenant of our BioPark and another Baltimore Fund beneficiary, Paragon Bioservices works with biotech and pharma companies around the world, offering them services from drug development through drug manufacturing. The fund played a motivating role in Paragon's decision to expand a portion of its operations at the BioPark at the same time it expanded a manufacturing facility at BWI/Thurgood Marshall Airport.

Finally, through UM Ventures' Life Sciences IP Fund, we've provided \$600,000 to nine early-stage technologies invented at UMB and at the University of Maryland, College Park, including a UMB therapeutic designed to treat inflammatory diseases like rheumatoid arthritis without the common side effects of anti-inflammatory drugs.

Through state and UMB programs, we're funneling more than \$2 million each year into the commercialization of our own University technologies. We've contributed \$1.5 million to UMB startups, and we're accelerating our equity investments to grow these companies faster. We do this because we believe in the power of innovation to fuel Maryland's economy. And we believe in the power of our own ideas to make people healthier, happier, stronger.

I know there are more ideas at UMB waiting to take root, more discoveries deserving support, more ventures longing to grow. If you're behind one of them, contact **Phil Robilotto**, DO, MBA, associate vice president for technology transfer. We're a University of dreamers and doers. So let's go.

Sincerely,



Jay A. Perman, MD  
PRESIDENT

# QUARTERLY Q&A

*with Dr. Perman*

WEDNESDAY

**April 10**

1 to 2 p.m. | Bressler Research Building, Taylor Lecture Hall

**Please join me** as I answer questions from students, staff, and faculty. Everyone is welcome to attend.



ACCOUNTABILITY | CIVILITY | COLLABORATION | DIVERSITY | EXCELLENCE | KNOWLEDGE | LEADERSHIP

# LAURELS

MARCH 2019

## UNIVERSITYWIDE

**Vernell Lewis**, IT data entry operator, School of Medicine, Clinical and Translational Research Informatics Center, and member of the Community Engagement Center's Community Advisory Board, and **Kelly Quinn, PhD**, program coordinator, Office of Community Engagement, each won a 2019 Southwest Partnership Community Impact Award in honor of their positive, lasting, and impactful contribution to the community and the neighborhoods of the Southwest Partnership.



MICHELLE PEARCE

**Michelle Pearce, PhD**, faculty and program director, Aging and Applied Thanatology, integrative health and wellness, Graduate School, wrote "A Novel Training Program

for Mental Health Providers in Religious and Spiritual Competencies," which was accepted for publication by *Spirituality in Clinical Practice*.



VIRGINIA ROWTHORN

**Virginia Rowthorn, JD, LLM**, executive director, Center for Global Education Initiatives, was quoted in a *New Yorker* magazine article, "Reverse

Innovation' Could Save Lives. Why Aren't We Embracing It?"

**UMB** was recognized as one of the top producers of Fulbright awards (in the special focus four-year

institutions category) by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

**Mary Ann Williams, MSLS**, research, education, and outreach librarian and liaison to the School of Dentistry, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, has been appointed to the steering committee of Health Literacy Maryland (HLM), a coalition working to improve health literacy in the state. HLM is overseen by the Horowitz Center for Health Literacy at the University of Maryland School of Public Health in College Park.

## SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

**Meenakshi Chellaiah, PhD**, professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, was the lead author of "Peptidomimetic Inhibitors of L-plastin Reduce the Resorptive Activity of Osteoclasts but Not the Bone Forming Activity of Osteoblasts *in vitro*," which was published in *PLoS One*.



CARL DRISCOLL

**Carl Driscoll, DMD**, professor, Division of Prosthodontics, received the Educator of the Year award from the American College of Prosthodontists

(ACP) at the ACP annual session in Baltimore.

**Gary Hack, DDS**, clinical associate professor, Division of Operative Dentistry, was invited to present a poster titled "Integrating Diabetes and Hypertension Screening Into Our Dental Exam" at the American

Association of Dental Education annual meeting in Chicago.



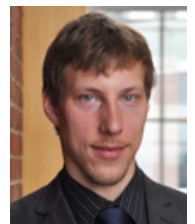
NEGAR  
HOMAYOUNFAR

**Negar Homayounfar, DDS, MS**, assistant professor, Division of Prosthodontics, was the lead author of "The Effect of Embryonic Origin on the

Osteoinductive Potential of Bone Allografts," which was published in the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*. SOD colleagues **Thomas Oates, DMD, PhD**, professor and chair, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, **Meenakshi Chellaiah, PhD**, professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, and **Radi Masri, DDS, MS, PhD**, postgraduate program director, Division of Prosthodontics, were among the co-authors of the paper.

**Mary Anne Melo, DDS, MSc, PhD**, associate professor, and **Howard Strassler, DMD**, professor, both in the Division of Operative Dentistry, were among the co-authors of "Dental Erosion: Current Concepts, Best Evidence on Prevention Strategies," which was the cover article in the journal *Compendium of Continuing Education in Dentistry* in February.

**David Seminowicz, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, was among the co-authors of "Pain-Related Nucleus Accumbens Function," which was published in *Pain*.



DAVID SEMINOWICZ

LAURELS ARE SUBMITTED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS AS WELL AS BY REPRESENTATIVES IN VARIOUS UNIVERSITYWIDE OFFICES. THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN THESE SELF-SUBMITTED LAURELS.

# LAURELS

MARCH 2019

## CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW



DANIELLE CITRON

**Danielle Citron, JD**, Morton & Sophia Macht Professor of Law, received a Best Privacy Paper for Policymakers award for her paper “Sexual Privacy” from the Future of Privacy and U.S. Sen. Ed Markey.

**Maggie Davis, JD, MA**, senior law and policy analyst, and **Christopher Webster, JD**, public safety technology program director, wrote an op-ed on federal emergency powers that was published in *The Baltimore Sun*.

**Deborah Eisenberg, JD**, professor and director, Center for Dispute Resolution, was quoted in “Top Law Schools for Trial Advocacy, International Law and Dispute Resolution” in *PreLaw Magazine*.



LEIGH GOODMARK

**Leigh Goodmark, JD**, professor, appeared on the “Public Intellectual” podcast discussing her book *Decriminalizing Domestic Violence*.

**Michael Greenberger, JD**, professor and director, Center for Health and Homeland Security, was interviewed by *U.S. News & World Report* on President Trump’s threat to withhold FEMA funding from California.

**Toby Guerin, JD**, managing director, Center for Dispute Resolution,

presented “Debriefing with Myself” at the Maryland Mediators Convention.



SEEMA KAKADE

**Seema Kakade, JD**, professor and director, Environmental Law Clinic, presented on the panel “Environmental Law Clinics: The Secret Weapon

to Saving Our Environment” at the Emory Law School Environmental Law Clinic’s 20th Anniversary Symposium in Atlanta.



WILLIAM MOON

**William Moon, JD**, assistant professor, wrote “Recognition, Rewards, and Regime Change,” which was published in *Resolving Conflicts in the Law: Essays*

in Honour of Lea Brilmayer.

**Frank Pasquale, JD, MPhil**, professor, was named to the editorial board of the *Journal of Technology Science*.

**William Reynolds**, Jacob A. France Professor Emeritus of Judicial Process, authored “In Memoriam: Howard Chasanow,” which was published in the *Maryland Law Review*.

**Maureen Sweeney, JD**, associate professor, was quoted in “Detained Immigrants Seeking Asylum at Border Get Help from Baltimore Attorneys, Law Students,” which appeared in *The Baltimore Sun*.

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The following is a select list. For all the SOM laurels, visit [www.somnews.umaryland.edu](http://www.somnews.umaryland.edu).



NEHA AMIN

**Neha Amin, MD**, assistant professor, **Jill Remick, MD**, resident, and **Manuj Agarwal, MD**, assistant professor, all from the Department of Radiation Oncology, were

among the authors of “Concurrent Radiation and Immunotherapy: Survey of Practice Patterns in the United States,” which was e-published in the *American Journal of Clinical Oncology*.



REBECCA CARTER

**Rebecca Carter, MD**, assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics, has been selected as a member of the Educational Scholars Program through the

Academic Pediatric Association. This esteemed program targets faculty in academic pediatrics to build their skills in educational scholarship. **Erin Giudice, MD**, associate professor, and **Maureen Black, PhD**, John A. Scholl, MD, and Mary Louise Scholl, MD, Professor, both in the Department of Pediatrics, will serve as mentors during this three-year program.

**Niel Constantine, PhD, MT**, professor, Department of Pathology, Institute of Human Virology, was awarded a one-year, \$457,395 grant to support efforts for “The USAID

# LAURELS

MARCH 2019



NIEL CONSTANTINE

Global Health Supply Chain QA Program” to assess the performance characteristics of diagnostic test kits and to provide technical assistance.

**David Feliciano, MD**, clinical professor, Department of Surgery, was one of 38 U.S. surgeons inducted into the American College of Surgeons (ACS) inaugural class of the ACS Academy of Master Surgeons Educators.



DHEERAJ GANDHI

**Dheeraj Gandhi, MBBS**, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Risk of Radiation-Induced Cancer from

Computed Tomography Angiography Use in Imaging Surveillance for Unruptured Cerebral Aneurysms,” which was published in *Stroke*.



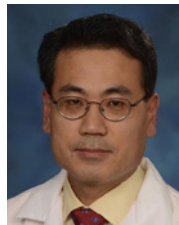
BANKOLE JOHNSON

**Bankole Johnson, DSc, MD**, the Dr. Irving J. Taylor Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry, was awarded the R. Brinkley Smithers Distinguished Scientist Award

in honor of his highly meritorious contributions in advancing the scientific understanding of alcoholism, its prevention, and treatment.

**Adeel Kaiser, MD**, assistant professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the co-authors

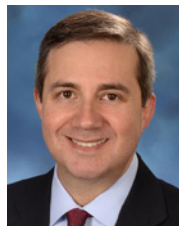
of “Evaluation of Cancer Specific Mortality with Surgery Versus Radiation as Primary Therapy for Localized High Grade Prostate Cancer in Men Younger Than 60 Years,” which was published in the *Journal of Urology*.



SUNG-WOO LEE

**Sung-Woo Lee, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was the lead author of “Dosimetric Characterization of an Intensity

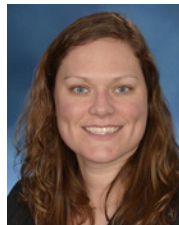
Modulated X-Ray Brachytherapy System,” which was published in the *Journal of Medical Physics*.



RYAN MILLER

**Ryan Miller, MD**, assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics, and **Jessica Lee, MD**, resident, Department of Medicine, were co-authors of “Fatigue and Shortness of

Breath in an 18-Year-Old Girl,” which was published in *Pediatrics in Review*.



ELIZABETH PARKER

**Elizabeth Parker, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, was among the authors of “Friends and Family: How

African American Adolescents’ Perceptions of Dietary Beliefs and Behaviors of Others Relate to Diet Quality,” which was published in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*.

## SCHOOL OF NURSING

The school has enrolled its first Conway Scholarship Hospital Partnership Program student, **Corey Duggan, RN**, clinical nurse II, Emergency Department, University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) Midtown Campus. Funds for the new Hospital Partnership Program, which aims to facilitate baccalaureate-level education for registered nurses at the UMMC Midtown Campus and at the University of Maryland Prince George’s Hospital Center, come from a transformational \$10 million gift from Bill and Joanne Conway through their Bedford Falls Foundation.



ERIKA FRIEDMANN

**Erika Friedmann, PhD**, associate dean for research, has been awarded a \$245,489 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NIH Exploratory/

Developmental Research Grant Award (R21) supports Friedmann’s research evaluating the efficacy of a service dog-training program for military veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

## SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

**Nicole Brandt, PharmD**, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and executive director, Peter T. Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, has been selected to receive the American Geriatrics Society’s Dennis W. Johnson Memorial Award in recognition of her distinguished career in geriatrics education.

# LAURELS

MARCH 2019



CHEROKEE  
LAYSON-WOLF

**Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD**, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and associate dean for student affairs, received an honorable

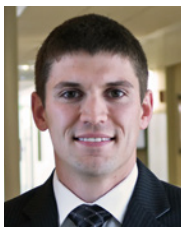
mention in the American Pharmacists Association's 2019 Immunization Champions Awards in the individual practitioner category.



YUWEI LU

Student **Yuwei Lu** has received the Greg Amidon United States Pharmacopeia Fellowship for Advancement in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

**Joey Mattingly, PharmD**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been selected to receive the 2019 Albert B. Prescott Pharmacy Leadership Award from the Pharmacy Leadership & Education Institute and the Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society.



ZACHARY NOEL

**Zachary Noel, PharmD**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a one-year, \$5,000 grant from the American

Association of Colleges of Pharmacy for "Impact of Technology-Assisted Direct Oral Anticoagulant Counseling on Comprehension and Pharmacists' Time."



RYAN PEARSON

**Ryan Pearson, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, \$10,000 New Investigator Award from the American

Association of Colleges of Pharmacy for "Programming Immune Cell Sensitivity Toward Toll-Like Receptor Agonists."

**Fadia Shaya, PhD**, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a \$259,668 grant from the Maryland Department of Health for "SPF Rx Stop Prescription Drug Misuse in Maryland."



ESTER VILLALONGA  
OLIVES

**Ester Villalonga Olives, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, has been invited to join the United Nations' international

expert group on operationalizing social capital interventions in forced displacement situations.

## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



SARAH C. BUTTS

**Sarah C. Butts, MSW '98**, executive director of Grand Challenges for Social Work, was presented a 2018 Spirit of Mercy Alumna Service Award by Mercy

High School at its Foundation Day celebration.

The school's **Institute for Innovation and Implementation** received a five-year, \$2.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for B'More SUCCEEDS (SUccess through Community-based Coordination, Empowerment, Evidence-based interventions, and Direct Supports), which will provide treatment and recovery support services for youth and young adults using substances and experiencing homelessness or housing instability in Baltimore City, with a particular focus on those who may be pregnant or parenting.

The school's **Institute for Innovation and Implementation** partnered with the Biden Foundation to create an educational animated video in January about family acceptance for LGBTQ youth. The video, part of the family and community acceptance campaign, As You Are, is featured prominently as part of the foundation's new As You Are resource library.



HYUN-JIN JUN



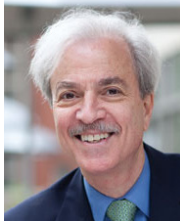
PAUL SACCO

Postdoctoral fellow **Hyun-Jin Jun, PhD**, and **Paul Sacco, PhD**, associate dean for research, are among the co-authors of "Gender Differences in the Relationship Between Depression, Antisocial Behavior, Alcohol Use, and Gambling During Emerging

# LAURELS

MARCH 2019

Adulthood,” which was published in the *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*.



MICHAEL REISCH

**Michael Reisch, PhD**, Daniel Thursz Professor for Social Justice, contributed the chapter “Critical Social Work in the U.S.” to the new book *The Routledge*

*Handbook of Critical Social Work*, which brings together the world’s

leading scholars in the field to provide a cutting-edge overview of classic and current research and future trends.



CLARK SHAH-NELSON

**Clark Shah-Nelson, MA**, assistant dean of instructional design and technology, was selected as conference co-chair for the Online Learning

Consortium Innovate conference, April 2-5 in Denver.



YANFENG XU

Student **Yanfeng Xu, MSW**, was recently awarded the Graduate Student Association Research Award, which is offered to full-time, degree-seeking PhD

students in the Graduate School. Xu is the first such recipient from the School of Social Work.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS  
**MAKE UMB AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO WORK AND LEARN!**

**FACULTY AND STAFF:**  
**Complete our climate survey from Feb. 18 - March 18.** University leadership is committed to UMB being a best place to work and learn and we want to hear how we can make it even better. **All submissions to Gallup are anonymous.**

THE SURVEY WILL BE DELIVERED TO FACULTY AND STAFF VIA **EMAIL DIRECTLY FROM GALLUP** SO **KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR INBOX** AND **LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD.**



**ATTRACT. ENGAGE. DEVELOP.**  
[www.umaryland.edu/hrs/benefits](http://www.umaryland.edu/hrs/benefits)

HUMAN  
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# THE UMBRELLA GROUP

UMB Roundtable on Empowerment in Leadership  
and Leveraging Aspirations

Empowering Women to Succeed

#umbwhm

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE CELEBRATES

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



### MORNING SPEAKER

**Mei Xu, MA**  
CEO, Founder  
Chesapeake Bay  
Candle



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Duilia de Mello,  
PhD, MS**  
Vice Provost, Dean  
of Assessment, and  
Professor of Physics  
Catholic University  
of America

## UMBrella Symposium and Workshops: *Be a Catalyst for Change in Your Life and Your Career*

*This year's event features a daylong symposium and workshops designed to give participants tools and strategies to be a catalyst for change in their lives and careers. The day will include two guest speakers, breakout sessions, and an experiential workshop to integrate the day's learnings into simple mind-body practices.*

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13**

SMC Campus Center | 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

*Registration is closed for this event.*

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS



#### How to Negotiate

**Stacy Smith, JD**  
Director, Special Projects  
Center for Dispute  
Resolution  
Carey School of Law



#### How to Recognize Implicit Bias

**Kristin Reavis, MD '09,  
MBS**  
Assistant Professor  
School of Medicine



#### How to Craft Your Narrative

**Laura Wexler**  
Co-founder  
The Stoop  
Storytelling Series



#### How to be Authentic

**F. Emelia Sam, DDS**  
Associate Professor  
Howard University  
College of Dentistry



#### How to Recognize and Respond to Gender- Based Violence

**Leigh Goodmark, JD**  
Professor  
Carey School of Law

### WORKSHOP



#### Taking Care of YOU: Self-Care Strategies for Mind-Body & Heart

**Kathy Flaminio, LGSW,  
MSW**  
Founder and President  
1000 Petals

UMBrella events are open to all UMB faculty, staff, and students.

**LEARN MORE AT**  
[www.umaryland.edu/whm](http://www.umaryland.edu/whm)





# DIVERSITY

MARCH 2019

## ALSOBROOKS URGES MLK EVENT CROWD: 'REDEEM THE DREAM'

When Angela Alsobrooks, JD '96, reflects on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., she stands in awe of the way his words and actions remain relevant a half-century after his death. And they resonate strongly with Alsobrooks, the Prince George's County executive, who says she is driven to carry on King's work, or to "redeem the dream."

"In his 'I Have a Dream' speech, Dr. King talked about this promissory note that America had written to us," Alsobrooks told a University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) crowd of nearly 400 on Feb. 6 as the keynote speaker at UMB's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month celebration. "He said you had a right to expect that America's promise and freedom and certain justices would apply to all of us. And everyone in this room, we have the opportunity in this phase of our lives to make sure that we redeem the dream."

Alsobrooks challenged the audience to honor King's legacy, fight discrimination, and advocate for equality and social justice, and to do it with dignity, the way he did. She urged the UMB community — and students in particular as they move toward starting their careers — to help assure that all Americans have equal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity "regardless of ZIP code or family circumstances."

"When we talk about justice, those of you in the law school have an opportunity to stand in that space and help," Alsobrooks said. "Those of you in the healing professions have an opportunity to



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY EXECUTIVE ANGELA ALSOBROOKS, JD '96, CREDITED THE CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW FOR HER SUCCESS.



SOCIAL WORK STUDENT VANESSA GONZALEZ-WRIGHT PROUDLY SHOWS OFF HER AWARD WITH DR. PERMAN AND DEAN RICHARD BARTH.

stand in that space as well, to make sure that our public health system applies to all. And we all need to make sure our young people have jobs so that they, too, will be able to contribute to society."

While recalling King's history, Alsobrooks recounted her own, both personal and professional. She said her great-grandfather was killed by a sheriff in South Carolina in the 1950s, in a crime that was never prosecuted, and that her family was forced to flee the town and made its way north to Prince George's County in Maryland.

Later, Alsobrooks' young parents couldn't afford a college education but were determined that she and her sister get one. She said she faced challenges, overcoming attention deficit disorder to become an ace student who went to Duke University and earned a degree in public policy. And she talked fondly of her great-grandmother, who lived to age 97 and instilled a philosophy she carries to this day.

"She was a sharp, sharp lady. And when anybody in the family complained, she would say, in her Southern way, 'You know what? If you don't like it, then you go further and you do better.' And that's what I've tried to do in my life and my career — and I wish that she could have seen how it's turned out."

University President Jay A. Perman, MD, detailed how it's turned out in his introduction of Alsobrooks, noting her UMB ties as a 1996 graduate of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and her rise from assistant state's attorney to state's attorney to first female leader of Prince George's County — Maryland's second-most populous county with nearly 1 million people — taking office in December.



CHERITA ADAMS AND HER FAMILY ARE ALL SMILES AFTER SHE WAS RECOGNIZED WITH THE OUTSTANDING UMB STAFF AWARD.

Continued from previous page

“In celebrating Dr. King, we remind ourselves that we are at our best when we stand for what is right, and our guest of honor has made standing for what is right a platform of her career,” Perman said. “She’s outlined a vision for more accountability in Prince George’s County’s public schools, an enhanced quality of life, and strong economic development.”

Perman recounted meeting Alsobrooks a few years ago when they both spoke at a banquet for the Black Law Students Association at Maryland Carey Law. “Although I didn’t know then that she would become county executive, I had a pretty good suspicion that she had much more to do in her career,” Perman said. “And I doubt she’s even halfway done yet.”

The foundation for Alsobrooks’ career in public service was laid at the Carey School of Law. After graduation, she told the crowd, she made a promise to herself.

“When I passed that bar exam, I remember saying to myself, ‘I will never accept a job that doesn’t make me jump out of bed in the morning and doesn’t help other people.’ And God has allowed me to have the kind of work that literally causes me to wake up in the morning with excitement. And I believe my work has been meaningful. I say especially to the students who are here today that if you follow your passions, your gifts will create for you a path and a career that will absolutely blow your mind.”



LARRY GIBSON ACCEPTS HIS FACULTY DIVERSITY AWARD FROM DR. PERMAN WITH CAREY LAW DEAN DONALD TOBIN.

his work in organizing the Black Law Alumni Reunion & Symposium for Carey Law graduates every five years since 2003.



DIRECTOR JOSEPH ELDRIDGE LED GREEN STREET ACADEMY STUDENTS IN TWO SONGS.

Vanessa Gonzalez-Wright of the School of Social Work was named Outstanding UMB Student for her tireless efforts to advocate for vulnerable student populations and for UMB to be a more affirming place for immigrant students, most recently co-chairing a task force exploring the creation of a multicultural center on campus.

Cherita F. Adams, MBA, MS, career development manager, Human Resources, earned the Outstanding UMB Staff Award for her leadership in creating computer literacy classes that promote skills enhancement and career advancement for UMB employees such as housekeepers, security guards, and maintenance workers, roles that are often filled by under-represented minorities.

The celebration included two songs — “Rise Up” and “True Colors” — from Vocally Charged, a vocal performance group of middle school students from Green Street Academy, one of UMB’s partner schools in West Baltimore, under the direction of Joseph N. Eldridge.

Alsobrooks concluded her remarks with the words of another African-American pioneer, Harriet Tubman, whom she referred to as “the baddest woman to ever walk the roads of Maryland.” The life of the famed former slave and abolitionist serves as a reminder to never give up in the face of struggles or challenges, Alsobrooks said.

“How did she say that?” Alsobrooks said. “She said, ‘If you hear the dogs, keep going. If you see the torches in the woods, keep going. If there’s something shouting after you, keep going. If you want a taste of freedom, keep going.’ Harriet said it best, and in these times that are difficult in a history that’s ever evolving, remember that equality is a cause worth fighting for.”

“And remember, too, that Dr. King has given us a beautiful road map to follow. He’s already set out the mission for us: Redeem the dream.”

— Lou Cortina

**Read more** about Alsobrooks and UMB’s Diversity Recognition Award *winners*.



*speaker*

## LEA BERMAN

CO-AUTHOR OF *TREATING PEOPLE WELL*  
AND FORMER WHITE HOUSE SOCIAL SECRETARY

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# RESEARCH

MARCH 2019

## HSRF III WINS GOLD LEED AWARD

Sometimes bigger is better. Take the case of Health Sciences Research Facility (HSRF) III, which was dedicated in October. Not only is it the biggest building in the University System of Maryland, but its workmanship and high sustainability standards recently earned a coveted Gold LEED Award from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The council noted LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) elements such as the 439,000-square-foot School of Medicine structure's green roof and sustainable features including a cistern water collection system, recycled content, indoor environmental quality, and energy recovery systems.

Unlike any other building at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), HSRF III boasts chilled beam technology, significantly reducing the amount of air changes per hour, plus the collection and storage of rainwater for use as make-up water for the rooftop cooling towers, which reduces the use of domestic water.

Mother Nature provides the best sustainability there is so HSRF III has viewing corridors that allow daylight to penetrate the building through both its 10-story wet lab tower and its five-story dry lab tower — spaces where more than 400 personnel will be housed and generate an additional \$107 million in annual research funding.

Once upon a time, natural light was considered a detriment to laboratory spaces, recalls Ron Brown, PE, LEED AP, director of capital projects at UMB. “The thinking in the older buildings was that windows took up wall space that could be used for shelves,” Brown recalls. But then Health Sciences Research Facility I and MBI (currently the Institute of Human Virology), two buildings built in the early 1990s, “brought in natural light and are, in my opinion, much more inviting spaces,” Brown says.

The new School of Dentistry, which opened in 2006, boasts “rooftop light reflectors designed to bring light into the central atrium on the upper floors,” Brown says, and UMB's first LEED Gold Building, the Pharmacy Hall Addition in the School of Pharmacy, took it one step further when it opened in 2010, offering an inverted skylight and extensive exterior windows to fill three stories with sunlight.

“HSRF III was more of a challenge for LEED Gold than the School of Pharmacy,” Brown says. “While half of SOP is academic/classroom-type space, HSRF III is dedicated to research. That presents challenges in achieving energy reductions while maintaining safe levels of air changes per hour in the labs.



SUNSHINE POURS THROUGH THE WINDOWS OF 439,000-SQUARE-FOOT HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH FACILITY III, ONE OF MANY SUSTAINABLE ELEMENTS THAT EARNED THE BUILDING A GOLD LEED AWARD.

“One strategy taken from SOP was the use of low-flow fume hoods, which more effectively vent the research, reducing the amount of air required. Design & Construction, Environmental Health Safety, Operations and Maintenance, and the School of Medicine took it a step further, and cooperatively looked at what was state-of-the-art in lab safety, and through use of the new fume hoods and chilled beam technology significantly reduced the amount of air changes per hour in both occupied and unoccupied modes.”

In addition, HSRF III's proximity to garages, public transportation, and other schools makes it carbon-friendly as

*Continued from previous page*



TWENTY PERCENT OF BUILDING MATERIALS IN HSRF III WERE MANUFACTURED WITHIN 500 MILES OF SITE, REDUCING TRANSPORTATION CARBON EMISSIONS, AND LOW-VOC FLOORING, WOOD, ADHESIVES, AND PAINTS WERE USED TO LIMIT OCCUPANT EXPOSURE TO CONCENTRATED CARCINOGENS.

do 47 secure bike storage spaces, as well as shower facilities, for those who like to pedal to work. The building also offers 23,621 square feet of vegetated open space and the planting of native and adaptive plants that can grow without additional irrigation allows for 100 percent reduction in water use.

The aforementioned green roof utilizes a combination of reflective materials and vegetated surfaces to ensure the building does not contribute to the heat island effect found in large areas of dark-colored hardscape and rooftops in many urban areas. The vegetated roof areas also absorb stormwater and control runoff.

The changes weren't all to the exterior. HSRF III achieved a 22 percent energy cost reduction and a 32 percent water reduction thanks to things like high-performance glazing on the south façade, natural ventilation, and high-efficiency flush fixtures and low-flow sinks. Twenty percent of the project materials were extracted and manufactured within 500 miles of site, supporting local industry and reducing carbon emissions from transport. And 100 percent of low-VOC (volatile organic compound) adhesives, paints, flooring, and composite wood were used to limit occupant exposure to concentrated carcinogens.

H. Jorge Scotti, AIA, LEED BD+C, senior architectural and engineering project manager at UMB, was part of the project from the beginning, sitting in on HSRF III's initial planning session in June 2012. He says various sustainable elements in HSRF III stand out to him. Among them: low operating cost, focus on user experience ("mechanical system designed to achieve thermal comfort"), and site design ("substantial open space for student and faculty use"). Daylight was a high priority. Every lab and office space intended for continuous occupancy, except for a few spaces where

the user requested otherwise, was designed with window access to daylight, either to the exterior or to the atrium and its skylights.

Still, despite all this, Scotti says HSRF III was sitting on 59 LEED certification points, one short of Gold status, in October 2018. "The design consultants and I revisited a few credits left behind," says Scotti. "The U.S. Green Building Council accepted so we finally reached the Gold level. The struggle at the end paid off and I felt a great joy and sense of accomplishment."

Brown credits the group effort, citing his team members Scotti, Drew Moore, Jeff Crabtree, Rob Cook, Jody Latimer, the design team, HOK and their consultants, including Affiliated Engineers, Inc., and the construction manager, Barton Malow Co. Plus contributors from all across UMB.

"It can be challenging to get buy-in from an entire cross-section of the University for new technologies and standards on such a large and important facility," Brown says. "The risk-free approach would be to do what we have done before, but everyone worked together to achieve the goal of reducing energy use and so much more."

At the virtual ribbon-cutting of HSRF III on Oct. 29, School of Medicine Dean and UMB Executive Vice President E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, said, "Our entire academic community rose to the occasion. They imagined the unimaginable and worked relentlessly to bring this project to fruition."

And now with the LEED Gold Award, the biggest building in the University System of Maryland has risen to even greater heights. Congratulations to all involved!

— Chris Zang

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# CURECORNER

MARCH 2019

## YOUNG SCHOLARS IMPRESS ANNAPOLIS LAWMAKERS



THE UMB CURE SCHOLARS HAD RESERVED SEATS IN THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, WHERE THEY RECEIVED A ROUND OF APPLAUSE LED BY HOUSE SPEAKER MICHAEL BUSCH.



DEL. KEITH HAYNES GREETS ANIYAA GREEN, A COHORT 1 SCHOLAR, IN FRONT OF HER RESEARCH POSTER.

Sitting in a balcony at the Maryland General Assembly, a group of middle and high school students from West Baltimore looked down on the House floor waiting to be recognized. House Speaker Michael Busch looked up at the youngsters and led the room in a round of applause, congratulating the students on their accomplishments in the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) CURE Scholars Program.

“I feel like a VIP right now!” exclaimed Lynijah Russell, a seventh-grade student at Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School. “I’m just sitting here thinking, ‘Wow, I can’t believe I’m actually here.’”

Funded by the National Cancer Institute, the UMB CURE Scholars Program is a unique mentoring program aimed at reducing racial disparities in public health by introducing a pipeline toward careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) to students in West Baltimore. The pipeline program begins in sixth grade and continues through high school, college, and beyond.

Lynijah was one of 36 CURE Scholars who traveled to Annapolis on Jan. 28 for Advocacy Day, giving the scholars an opportunity to learn more about their local government by shaking hands with prominent lawmakers from across the state.

The sixth-, seventh-, eighth-, and ninth-grade scholars kicked off their state capital excursion in the House Office Building, where they displayed their STEM research posters in the Baltimore City Delegation boardroom. Throughout the evening, state lawmakers filtered into the room to listen as the scholars presented their research.

“I’m not really nervous,” Lynijah stated proudly in front of her poster about how smartphones affect childhood brain development. “I’m excited and I’m happy because usually when we present our posters it’s people we already know. Now that it’s ‘higher-level’ people, I’m just excited because I’ve practiced a lot and I know what I want to talk about.”

The scholars’ research posters ranged in topics from “Robotic Surgery” to “Health Disparities Related to Premature Birth.”

*Continued from previous page*

Each of the scholars exuded confidence during their presentations, looking highly professional in the program's signature white coats.

Meanwhile, six of the scholars from CURE's newest cohort of sixth-grade students, who will begin their research this spring, talked to the legislators about their curriculum tracks, which include anatomy, chemistry, MESA (mathematics engineering science achievement), and coding/robotics.

"This trip is really a two-for-one," explained Robin Saunders, EdD, MS, executive director of the CURE Scholars Program. "This is a chance for the students to see how their state government works, and it's also a chance for legislators to see, firsthand, the amazing work our CURE Scholars are doing and what kind of research they are studying."

One of the visiting lawmakers was Del. Jon Cardin, who represents District 11. Cardin said he had heard of the CURE Scholars Program, but this was the first time he was able to meet the scholars face-to-face and he was very impressed with their research.

"I walked in and I had no idea it was going to be middle school and high school students," said Cardin. "These are very articulate young men and women, and it's clear that the mentors are teaching them life skills like getting in front of people, talking to them, showing confidence, and getting their work done."

The more than 250 mentors, who provide a 5:1 mentor-to-scholar ratio, are a key part of the UMB CURE Scholars Program. They provide guidance and support to help the young scholars achieve their academic and personal goals.

Adrienne Kambouris, an MD and PhD student at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM), has been a mentor to Ke'Ron Jones, an eighth-grader in cohort 2, for over two years. Despite the heavy workload from being a full-time student, Kambouris makes her mentoring duties a priority.

"Being a mentor is something that's important to me," she explained. "I was in class all day today. I came straight to Annapolis from school to be here with Ke'Ron because this program is important."

The CURE Scholars Program is one of the reasons Kambouris wanted to apply to UMSOM. Being from Baltimore, Kambouris

sees a lot of herself in the CURE Scholars and wanted to help them reach their full potential.

"I was these little girls," said Kambouris, indicating Ke'Ron and her project partner, Kai-yonna Hughes, also an eighth-grader in cohort 2. "I grew up in Baltimore City, so I know what it's like to get an education there and I wanted to help the students understand that not only are their dreams possible, but there are people that can show you how to accomplish them."

Kambouris stood by Ke'Ron and Kai-yonna the entire evening as they presented their research poster on thyroid cancer to several Maryland lawmakers. One of the lawmakers who stopped by was Del. Keith Haynes, who represents District 44A, located in West Baltimore where Ke'Ron and Kai-yonna attend school at Green Street Academy.

"I am very proud of these scholars for all they're doing," said Haynes. "I'm looking forward to seeing doctors, members of Congress, and other programs and professions. I'm looking forward to seeing them walk across that stage to get those professional degrees, and I hope they continue to do what they're doing because they're doing a great job."

After presenting their research to dozens of delegates, the scholars headed across the street to the Maryland State House, where they had reserved seats in the House and Senate balconies. The scholars received a roar of applause from the House and Senate floors as UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, and Saunders were presented with a plaque of recognition for the UMB CURE Scholars Program.

For Lynijah, this was a very exciting moment as she reflected on all of her achievements and experiences gained through the CURE Scholars Program.

"The CURE Scholars Program has changed my life," she said. "If I didn't come to CURE, I wouldn't know everything that I know now, I would not be as advanced in school as I am, and I wouldn't be as influenced in society. It's not just an after-school activity, it's a life program."

— Jena Frick

See a *video* and a *photo gallery* from the event.



MENTOR ADRIENNE KAMBOURIS SEES A LOT OF HERSELF IN CURE SCHOLAR KE'RON JONES.