

the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 2018



UMB's faculty and students are at work around the world, collaborating with our international partners on projects that serve local communities, that shape standards of care, and that inform the ways we approach our own challenges back home. These projects are dependent on the global relationships we've developed over decades — with universities, companies, NGOs, hospitals, clinics, and community organizations. Nurturing these relationships is vitally important, as is constantly exploring new opportunities, new partners, and new ways of expanding our reach, our prominence, and our impact.

In September, I traveled to Asia — China, South Korea, and Japan — to strengthen some of our existing relationships and to meet with potential partners on new opportunities in education, research, and tech commercialization. Joining me were Executive Vice President and Provost Bruce Jarrell, MD, FACS; School of Dentistry Dean Mark Reynolds, DDS, PhD, MA; and Chief Enterprise and Economic Development Officer and Vice President Jim Hughes, MBA. The trip was packed with meetings and technology demonstrations, all of which were valuable, but I'll recount my personal highlights here.

PHARMARON

My first stop in China was at Beijing-based Pharmaron, one of the world's fastest growing biotech companies. Pharmaron has a significant presence in our BioPark — last year it acquired a majority stake in SNBL-CPC, our first and biggest BioPark tenant — and the company wants to increase its activity here.

Pharmaron provides complex phase 1 and 2 clinical trial services for life sciences companies, and works often with our Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health in the School of Medicine. But we see other opportunities as well. For instance, we think Pharmaron could help us determine which of the drugs and therapeutics in our innovation pipeline are worth pursuing and could identify likely stumbling blocks along the way. Pharmaron is only 15 years old and already it's a worldwide leader in R&D services. It has exactly the right kind of acumen and experience to help us identify our most promising products and show us how to run with them.

CHINA UNIVERSITY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND LAW

Meanwhile, Dr. Jarrell and Dean Reynolds visited Beijing's China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL). The first international dual-degree program we ever undertook was with CUPL, a credit-sharing program offering students

an MS in forensic medicine from our Graduate School and a juris master from CUPL. The program focuses on forensic pathology, forensic autopsy, and death investigation, preparing students for a range of careers, including in law enforcement, criminal justice, and medical examination.

Dr. Jarrell and Dean Reynolds talked about building on this relationship with a joint program in forensic *dentistry*, in which dental science is used to identify human remains, analyze bite marks, and study dental injuries. China has a rather short history of preventive oral health care and, therefore, a rather short history of robust and accurate dental records. It also has *no* forensic dentistry program. But with attitudes about oral health changing in China, with dental care growing more accessible and affordable, and with oral health promotion gaining solid ground on national health agendas, we see an opportunity to begin closing this enormous training gap and model forensic dentistry for programs that follow.

CARE CAPITAL

Illustrating dentistry's rapid growth in China was our visit to Shanghai's CareCapital, a dentistry-focused venture capital company. CareCapital is the No. 1 distributor of global dental products within China and is heavily invested in dental technologies. The company invests, as well, in dental service organizations (DSOs), and we were fortunate to visit a CareCapital-backed DSO in Shanghai. The space was modern yet kid-friendly (with murals, toys, and child-sized sinks), the technology was cutting edge, and the service was impeccable. It was eye-opening for us, as DSOs are rare in the U.S., and we saw the model's benefits: It enables continuous provider training, it allows providers to learn with and from one another, and it offers state-of-the-art imaging, instruments, and IT.

CareCapital believes the future of medicine is in understanding data and advancing its evidence-based use — for instance, using genetic investigation to predict inflammatory risk; using saliva analysis to extract better data on disease. It's personalized medicine brought to the dental chair. CareCapital Managing Director Dai Feng had an interesting metaphor: He said American dental schools are a great unflexed muscle — that we're fundamentally strong, but that we're not taking full advantage of our first-rate research. And here's where we saw all sorts of possibilities: CareCapital is very interested in our dental school's discovery enterprise. Could we collaborate on research projects — implants

Continued on p. 2

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and biomaterials? Could CareCapital sponsor that research? Could the company help commercialize our dental technologies?

KONKUK UNIVERSITY

Leaving China and touching down in South Korea, we visited Seoul's Konkuk University. I'd first met Konkuk's president, Sanggi Min, PhD, only six months before, but we clearly think alike. Konkuk University is entrepreneurial minded and has what's called a Smart Factory on campus. It's a maker space for students, who showed me what they're doing with drones, 3D printing, laser cutting, and virtual reality. But Dr. Min has something more in mind. When he visited UMB in May, he was taken with our Grid, the Graduate School's student innovation district. He liked that we have a well-developed curriculum in entrepreneurship and business development, that we have not only space in the BioPark for students to create but also structured guidance and resources to give their creations a better shot at success. Konkuk is now replicating our Grid, and being there for the launch was a great honor for me.

In turn, we know we can learn a lot from Konkuk's approach to biomedical innovation. Konkuk has a program similar to our I-Corps program at the BioPark, where we help entrepreneurs identify product opportunities from our research and do a deep dive into market needs, regulations, and competition. Konkuk's innovation program targets pharmaceutical technologies, and I think we'll benefit from their highly focused experience in drug development.

UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

Arriving in Tokyo, we met with leaders of the Japan Institute for Global Health (JIGH) at the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Medicine. A key area emerging for potential collaboration is global health and aging. Japan's birthrate is at its lowest level on record: Fewer than 1 million babies were born in the country last year, compared with 2.7 million during the post-World War II baby boom. While the U.S. birth rate isn't as low as Japan's, we, too, have an aging population and a similar set of resulting challenges.

We'd like to work with JIGH on an expansive, cross-cultural approach to the aging issue. Using personalized technologies, students could work together on projects, sharing data, experiences, and resources. This is early stage — maybe a course that develops into a joint curriculum and ultimately a joint degree. But it's this kind of thinking — shared scholarship around shared problems — that embodies so much of what we do internationally.

GEMSEKI

From JIGH, we visited Gemseki, a company that connects two types of organizations: those that have drug candidates in development and those that want to license them. We already work quite a bit with Gemseki; the company has optioned about a dozen of UMB's technologies.

So we'd like to open up our portfolio, have Gemseki look at the 150 or so discoveries we disclose each year, and get its input earlier in the commercialization process. We want the company's help not only in identifying our best products and shepherding them to market, but in getting the most out of the products we've identified.

Our entire visit to Asia was only 10 days, but they were packed and productive, and I thank everyone on both sides of the Pacific for the hard work it took to pull the trip off. We made a short *video* of the visit, and I came home with a lot of photos. I've already shared many on Twitter ([@JayPerman](https://twitter.com/JayPerman)), so I'll leave you with just one: Konkuk University President Sanggi Min and me, a meeting of the minds.

Sincerely,



Jay A. Perman, MD
PRESIDENT



IN ANIMATED CONVERSATION WITH KONKUK UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT SANGGI MIN, PhD.

LAURELS

NOVEMBER 2018

UNIVERSITYWIDE



JEAN-PAUL
COURNEYA

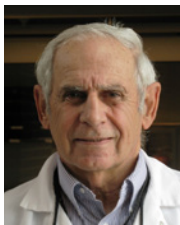


ALEXA MAYO

Jean-Paul Courneya, MS, bioinformationist, and **Alexa Mayo, MLS, AHIP**, associate director for services, both at Health Sciences and Human Services Library, co-authored “High-Performance Computing Service for Bioinformatics and Data Science,” which was published in the *Journal of the Medical Library Association*.

Michelle Peralta, health and wellness educator in the Wellness Hub, Campus Life Services, was accepted into the College Health and Wellness Professional Program by the American College Health Association.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



LESLIE C. COSTELLO

Leslie C. Costello, PhD, professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, wrote “President Trump’s ‘Right to Try’ Advocacy

for the Treatment of Patients with Terminal Medical Conditions,” which was published in *Google News*.

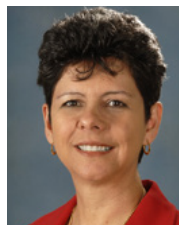
Gary Hack, DDS, associate professor, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences, Division of Prosthodontics, gave a presentation titled “Screening for Diabetes in the Dental Office” at two events: the New Jersey Dental Association Resource Day continuing education program and the Harford-Cecil County Dental Study Club.



MARY ANNE MELO

Mary Anne Melo, DDS, MSc, PhD, associate professor and director, Division of Operative Dentistry, gave a presentation “Broad-Spectrum, Long-Term

Antibiofilm Features of Metallic Nanoparticles and Antibacterial Monomers on Dental Adhesive and Resin Composite Surfaces” during the 8th American Society for Microbiology Conference on BioFilms in Washington, D.C.



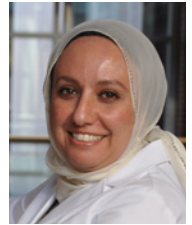
CLEMENCIA VARGAS

Clemencia Vargas, DDS, PhD, associate professor, Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry, received a one-year,

\$25,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Health for “Oral Disease & Injury Prevention.”

Rania H. Younis, BDS, MDS, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, and director, Advanced Program in Oral and

Maxillofacial Pathology, was part of a multidisciplinary team that won the Society of Immunotherapy’s 2018-19 Sparkathon award during a competition in Chicago.



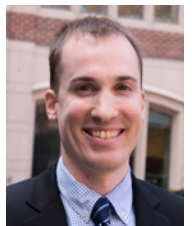
RANIA H. YOUNIS

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

Patricia Campbell, JD, LLM, director, Intellectual Property Law Program and the Maryland Intellectual Property Legal Resource Center, gave the keynote address “Intellectual Property Strategies for Startups and Entrepreneurs” at a workshop at Frostburg State University.



MICHAEL TENNISON



ERIC ODDO

Center for Health and Homeland Security (CHHS) staff, in partnership with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s Transportation Research Board, presented a live webinar on “Emergency Preparedness Against Infectious Diseases on Public Transit.” **Trudy Henson, JD**, public health program director, and **Michael Tennison, JD, MA**, senior law and policy analyst, presented. CHHS also

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LAURELS

NOVEMBER 2018

hosted a free tabletop exercise at the Universities at Shady Grove for long-term care facilities in Maryland Region V to discuss facility response measures to emergencies.

Eric Oddo, MPA, co-op program director, facilitated the tabletop and Henson organized the event.

Danielle Citron,

JD, Morton & Sophia Macht Professor of Law, wrote “Platform Justice: Content Moderation at an Inflection Point,” which was published in *National Security, Technology, and Law*.



DANIELLE CITRON

Maggie Davis, JD, MA, senior law and policy analyst, spoke with WUSA9-TV in Washington about hurricane preparedness and emergency management principles.



LEIGH GOODMARK

Leigh Goodmark, JD, professor, was a guest on *MPT Direct Connection with Jeff Salkin* discussing the FBI investigation of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.

Michael Greenberger, JD, professor and founding director, Center for Health and Homeland Security, was a guest on C-SPAN’s *Washington Journal* to discuss federal disaster policy. He also spoke on a panel at the Georgetown Law conference, “Ten Years After the Financial

Crisis: Closing Loopholes, Avoiding Blindspots, and Finding Economic Justice.”

Toby Guerin,

JD, managing director, Center for Dispute Resolution, presented “Breakfast with Baltimore” at the 2018 RISING Global Peace Forum at Coventry University in England.



TOBY GUERIN



TRUDY HENSON

Trudy Henson, JD, public health program director, Center for Health and Homeland Security, spoke at the Public Health Law Conference in Phoenix,

Ariz. Leading a panel on Building Partnerships for Public Health: Collaboration in Emergency Preparedness, Henson focused on the need for collaboration between state Departments of Health and state Departments of Agriculture for zoonotic disease outbreaks.

Michael Pappas,

JD, associate dean for research and faculty development and professor, co-authored a law professors’ amicus brief for the Supreme Court case *Sturgeon v. Frost*.



MICHAEL PAPPAS

Frank Pasquale, JD, MPhil,

professor, presented the briefing “New Developments in Privacy Law” in dialogue with members of the House of Representatives’ Energy and Commerce Committee.

Robert Percival,

JD, Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law and director, Environmental Law Program, presented “Annual Supreme Court Review and Preview” at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, D.C.



ROBERT PERCIVAL

Amanda Pustilnik,

JD, professor, presented “Legal Implications of Prescribing Control: Individual Rights vs. Community Rights” at the World Congress on Pain in Boston.



AMANDA PUSTILNIK

Rena Steinzor,

JD, Edward M. Robertson Professor of Law, wrote “The Major Rules Doctrine — A Judge-Empowering Proposition,” which was published on the American Constitution Society blog.



RENA STEINZOR

LAURELS

NOVEMBER 2018

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The following is a select list. For all the SOM laurels, visit www.somnews.umaryland.edu.



JOHN ELEY

Associate professors **Elizabeth Balcer-Kubiczek, MD**, and **John Eley, PhD**, both from the Department of Radiation Oncology,

were the authors of “Secondary Malignancies in the Era of High-Precision Radiation Therapy,” which was published in the 23rd volume of critical reviews in *Oncogenesis*.



MAUREEN BLACK

Maureen Black, PhD, the John A. Scholl, MD, and Mary Louise Scholl, MD, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was a co-author of “Home-

and Center-Based Learning Opportunities for Preschoolers in Low- and Middle-Income Countries,” which was published in the *Child and Youth Services Review*. She also was an author on “Examining the Obesogenic Attributes of the Family Child Care Home Environment,” published in the *Journal of Obesity* and joined **Bridget Armstrong, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow, **Yan Wang, MD, DrPH**, associate professor, and **Erin Hager, PhD**, associate professor, all from the Department of Pediatrics, on “BMI

and Disordered Eating in Urban, African-American, Adolescent Girls: The Mediating Role of Body Dissatisfaction,” which was published in *Eating Disorders*.



UTTAM BODANAPALLY

Uttam Bodanapally, MBBS, assistant professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the

co-authors of “Recent Advances in Abdominal Trauma Computed Tomography,” which was published in *Seminars in Roentgenology*.

Natalie Davis, MD, MMSc, assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics, was the senior author of “Post-Discharge Outcomes of Failed Car Seat Tolerance Screens: A Case Control and Follow-up Study,” published in the *Journal of Neonatal Perinatal Medicine*.

Aletta Frazier, MD, clinical professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the author of “Nonepithelial Pancreatic Neoplasms: Sarcoma versus Lymphoma,” which was published in *Radiographics*.

Edward Herskovits, MD, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Multicenter



EDWARD HERSKOVITS

Research Studies in Radiology,” which was published in *Academic Radiology*.

Gaurav Jindal, MD, associate professor, **Timothy Miller, MD**, assistant professor, and **Dheeraj Gandhi, MBBS**, professor, all from the Department



GAURAV JINDAL

of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “A Sustained Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome Is Associated with Shuntdependent Hydrocephalus After Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage,” which was published in the *Journal of Neurosurgery*. Jindal also was a co-author, along with **Ranyah Almardawi, MBBS**, senior research specialist, of “Wide-Neck Bifurcation Aneurysms of the Middle Cerebral Artery and Basilar Apex Treated by Endovascular Techniques: a Multicenter, Core Lab Adjudicated Study Evaluating Safety and Durability of Occlusion (BRANCH),” published in the *Journal of Neurointerventional Surgery*.

Kimia Kani, MD, assistant professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was first author of “Fragility Fractures of the Proximal Femur: Review and Update for Radiologists,” which was published in *Skeletal Radiology*.

Thanh Pham, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, was awarded to the Infectious Diseases Fellows Programs at the American Society for Microbiology

LAURELS

NOVEMBER 2018

Microbe 2018 in Atlanta. Pham gave both oral and poster presentations titled “OverExpression of Lipid A Deacylase PagL Improves Delivery of Protective Antigens from Attenuated Salmonella Typhi Live Carrier Vaccines Through Mediating Hypervesiculation.”

Hussin Rothan, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, Center for Biomedical Engineering and Technology, was the first author of “Zika Virus and the Metabolism of Neuronal Cells,” which was published in *Molecular Neurobiology*.

Charles White, MD, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Blunt Cardiothoracic Trauma: Common Injuries and Diagnosis,” published in *Roentgenology*. He also was among the authors of “Extrapulmonary Neoplasms in Lung Cancer Screening,” which was published in *Translational Lung Cancer Research*.

Owen White, PhD, professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, and associate director for informatics, Institute for Genome Sciences, received the 2018 Microbiome Pioneer Award at the Stanford (Calif.) Bioinformatics for the Microbiome Symposium.



OWEN WHITE ACCEPTS HIS AWARD FROM STANFORD UNIVERSITY'S AMI BHATT, WHO HELPED COORDINATE THE SYMPOSIUM.

SCHOOL OF NURSING



BENJAMIN CANHA

Benjamin Canha, MS '96, RN, clinical instructor, has received a National League for Nursing Foundation for Nursing Education

Scholarship Award. He is one of seven nurse educators nationwide to receive the scholarship, which is awarded annually to encourage more experienced and diverse nurses to pursue advanced degrees to prepare for full-time positions as nurse educators. Canha is finishing his PhD at UMSON, and his dissertation focuses on the effects of humor in supporting those recovering from opioid use disorder to engage, assimilate, and maintain involvement with behavioral treatments and continue their recovery.

Linda L. Costa, PhD, RN, assistant professor, presented “Influences on Successful Implementation in Research” as part of a



LINDA L. COSTA

symposium titled “Translation Research to Reduce Readmissions” at the 2018 State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research — Precision Health in Washington, D.C.

Louise S. Jenkins, PhD '85, MS '81, RN, FAHA, ANEF, professor and co-founder and director, Institute for Educators, has been awarded



LOUISE S. JENKINS

a 2018-2019 Wilson H. Elkins Professorship from the University System of Maryland for her work in developing a comprehensive blueprint for

preparing the next generation of nursing faculty in the state. Her development plan includes creating a think tank of experts in teaching and learning, expanding pilot projects, and engaging with faculty throughout the state. The award amount is \$50,000. She is the first nurse ever to be awarded this professorship.



CATHERINE KELLEHER



LYNN CHEN

Catherine Kelleher, ScD, MPH, MS, RN, associate professor, and **Lynn Chen, PhD**, assistant professor, presented two peer-reviewed poster presentations, “Impact of a Brief MBSR Program for First Semester Nursing Students” and “Comparative Impact of Brief MSC and MBSR Programs on Stress Management and Grades of First Semester Nursing Students,” at the International Congress on Integrative Medicine & Health, Collaboration in Action: Advancing Integrative Health through Research, Education and Policy.

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CYNTHIA L. RENN



SUSAN G. DORSEY

Cynthia L. Renn, PhD, MS '97, RN, associate professor, has been awarded a five-year, \$3,073,811 grant from the National Institutes of Health to investigate chronic pain in trauma patients suffering from lower-leg fractures. Renn will serve as principal investigator for the study, and she will be joined by co-principal investigators **Susan G. Dorsey, PhD '01, MS '98, RN, FAAN**, professor and chair, Department of Pain and Translational Symptom Science, and alumna **Mari Griffioen, PhD '15, MS '07, BSN '04**.



ROSEMARIE DIMAURO SATYSHUR

Rosemarie DiMauro Satyshur, PhD, RN, assistant professor, has been appointed to the Maryland Maternal Mortality Review Stakeholder

Group, convened by the Maryland Department of Health. The group was created by Maryland House Bill 1518, which went into effect July 1. Stakeholders are charged with reviewing the findings and recommendations in the Maternal Mortality Review Program annual report, examining issues resulting in disparities in maternal deaths, reviewing the status of implementation of previous

recommendations, and identifying new recommendations to reduce maternal deaths with a focus on initiatives to address disparities in maternal deaths.



REBECCA WISEMAN

Rebecca Wiseman, PhD '93, RN, associate professor and chair, University of Maryland School of Nursing at the Universities at Shady Grove, was awarded a

\$265,467 Nurse Support Program II grant to establish the Maryland Nursing Workforce Center at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Funded through the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission and administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the grant will fund the project over two years. Through the project, Wiseman will ensure the state of Maryland is meeting the recommendation in the Institute of Medicine's 2010 *Future of Nursing* report calling for improving collection methods of workforce data. The new center will be responsible for compiling and reporting this data.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Nicole Brandt, PharmD, MBA, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and executive director, Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, has been selected to receive the George F. Archambault Award from the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists.



KIMBERLY CLAEYS

Kimberly Claeys, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been appointed section editor for *Current Infectious Disease Reports*.

Bethany DiPaula, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been appointed to a second term on the Board of Pharmacy Specialties' Psychiatric Pharmacy Specialty Council.



JOGA GOBBURU

Joga Gobburu, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and director, Center for Translational Medicine, has been

selected to receive the Sheiner-Beal Pharmacometrics Award from the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics and received a one-year, \$50,000 contract from Ironwood Pharmaceuticals for "PKPD Analysis & Reporting."

Student **Laura Gressler** received a 10-month, \$31,196 fellowship from the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.



MOJDEH HEAVNER

Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a Presidential

LAURELS

NOVEMBER 2018

Citation from the Society of Critical Care Medicine, was named Clinical Practitioner of the Year by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's (ACCP) Critical Care Practice and Research Network, and was appointed to ACCP's Experiential Learning Committee.

Stephen Hoag, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and director, Good Manufacturing Practices Facility, has received a two-month, \$239,600 contract from Wyle Laboratories for "ExMC Pharmacy Research Project Drug Stability Analyses" and has received a one-year, \$50,000 contract from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for "Professional Service for Manufacturing and *in vitro* Component of an Assessment of a Proposed *in vitro* Bioequivalence Approach for Evaluating Generic and New Animal Formulations."

Lisa Jones, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has received an eight-month, \$304,905 grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences for "Development of a Novel Pulse-chase *in-cell* Footprinting Method for Protein Folding Analysis."



JILL MORGAN

Jill Morgan, PharmD, professor and chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has received a one-year, \$190,922 contract from the Maryland Department of Health for "FY19 Clinical Pharmacy Services."

C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, has been named a member of the National Academy of Medicine's steering committee on generating stakeholder support and demand for leveraging and sharing data for continuous learning.



BRENT REED

Brent Reed, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been appointed to the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's Task

Force/Writing Group on Clinical Pharmacists Resiliency and Burnout and was appointed to the American Pharmacists Association's Policy Review Committee for its House of Delegates.



AUDRA STINCHCOMB

Audra Stinchcomb, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a U.S. patent for "Extending and Maintaining Micropore

Viability of Microneedle Treated Skin with Lipid Biosynthesis Inhibitors for Sustained Drug Delivery."

Ester Villalonga Olives, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, has been named an Outstanding Reviewer by the journal *Health & Place*.



ESTER VILLALONGA OLIVES

Jia Bei Wang, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a U.S. patent for "Combination Dopamine Antagonist and Opiate Receptor Antagonist Treatment of Addictive Behavior."



JIA BEI WANG

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

The Open Society Institute has awarded the school's **Social Work Community Outreach Service** \$100,000 to help support its Positive Schools Center's school climate change framework.

Christine Callahan, PhD, research assistant professor, Financial Social Work Initiative, presented "The Costs of Cancer: Addressing Patient Costs"

at the Illinois Cancer Symposium at Carle Hospital in Urbana, Ill.

Sarah Dababnah, PhD, assistant professor, **Wendy Shaia, PhD**, clinical assistant professor and executive director, Social Work Community Outreach Service, and alums **Karen Campion, MSW**, and **Helen Nichols, PhD**, wrote "We Had to Keep Pushing: Caregivers' Perspectives on Autism Screening and Referral Practices of Black Children in Primary Care," which was published



CHRISTINE CALLAHAN

LAURELS

NOVEMBER 2018

in a special issue of *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*.

Research assistant professors **Brook Kearley, PhD**, and **Elizabeth Greeno, PhD**, received a \$49,500 award from the Maryland Judiciary, Department of Juvenile and Family Services, to evaluate Harford County's Family Recovery Court.



RACHEL MARGOLIS

Student **Rachel Margolis** is the lead author of "Evaluation of MOS Social Support in Low-Income Caregivers of African-American Children with

Poorly Controlled Asthma," which was published in the *Journal of Asthma*.

Co-authors include **Melissa Bellin, PhD**, **Paul Sacco, PhD**, and the late **Donna Harrington, PhD**.

Student **Danielle Phillips** and alum **Elizabeth Aparicio, PhD**, wrote "Youth and Provider Perspectives of Wahine Talk: A Holistic Sexual Health and Pregnancy Prevention Program Developed with and for Homeless Youth," which was published in *Children and Youth Services Review*.

Michael Reisch, PhD, Daniel Thursz Distinguished Professor of Social Justice, presented an all-day lecture on strategies of poverty alleviation in the United States to a delegation of social welfare officials from the People's Republic of China.

Clinical instructor **Victoria Stubbs, PhD**, shares her story of overcoming

loss, hardship, racism, and adversity in a new book *Untangled: A Black Woman's Journey to Personal, Spiritual, and Sexual Freedom*.



VICTORIA STUBBS



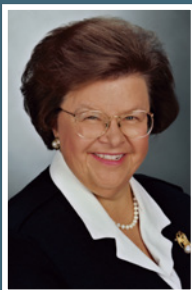
MICHAEL WOOLLEY

The Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center has awarded over \$734,000 to the school for "Expanding MLDS Data Access and Research Capacity with Synthetic Data Sets Year 3." **Michael Woolley, PhD**, associate professor, is the principal investigator.

PRESIDENT'S PANEL on POLITICS AND POLICY

SPEAKER SERIES

The President's Panel on Politics and Policy is a speaker series examining issues important to the UMB community that are likely to be affected by the current presidential administration and Congress, including health and higher education policy, federal budget priorities, and civil rights and social justice.



A Conversation with Retired U.S. Senator
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MSW '65

TUESDAY, NOV. 27

SMC CAMPUS CENTER, ELM BALLROOMS

8 to 8:30 a.m. — Breakfast | 8:30 to 10 a.m. — Lecture



REGISTRATION IS CLOSED, BUT YOU CAN REGISTER FOR A WAITLIST.
umaryland.edu/politics-panel/p4-registration

ARE YOU A STAR?

Categories include:

- Exceptional Contribution to the Institution
- Outstanding Service to Students
- Extraordinary Public Service
- Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Inclusion, Multiculturalism, and Social Justice

\$2,000
STIPEND TO ALL
WINNERS!

The University System of Maryland Board of Regents' Staff Awards represent the **highest honor** bestowed by the Board of Regents for achievements of exempt and nonexempt staff employees from institutions within the University System of Maryland.

SUBMIT A NOMINATION

umaryland.edu/ssenate/BORaward

Deadline to submit initial nominations: Dec. 15, 2018

STAFF SENATE

FOUNDERSWEEK

NOVEMBER 2018

CELEBRATION IS TASTY MIX OF FUN, KNOWLEDGE

Smiles, collegiality, discovery, tasty food, and pride — these were some of the hallmarks of Founders Week 2018 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB).



TEACHER OF THE YEAR GEOFFREY GREIF WITH DR. PERMAN AND SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK DEAN RICHARD BARTH.



PUBLIC SERVANT OF THE YEAR VALLI MEEKS WITH DR. PERMAN AND SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY DEAN MARK REYNOLDS AT THE GALA.

The week began with the 23rd annual Founders Week Gala, a black-tie event at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor. “Taking Care of Maryland” was the theme and University President Jay A. Perman, MD, who followed emcee and WBAL-TV anchor Deborah Weiner to the podium, explained why.

“There’s scarcely a Marylander who hasn’t been touched in some way by the work we do here at UMB,” Perman told the more than 500 in attendance on Oct. 13. “By the professionals we graduate; by the research we conduct; by the technologies we invent; by the care, counsel, and service we provide.”



UMB FOUNDATION CHAIR HARRY KNIPP PRESENTS ITS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD TO MEG WOODSIDE.

Alumna Ellen Yankellow, PharmD ’96, president and CEO of Correct Rx Pharmacy Services, Inc., was on hand in her role as co-chair of UMB’s multi-year \$750 million Catalyst Campaign. Yankellow was happy to inform the crowd of supporters that the campaign, which was launched at the 2017 Gala, has surpassed \$424 million in gifts and commitments for student scholarships, faculty excellence and research, and school-specific and community engagement endeavors.



THOSE ATTENDING THE STAFF LUNCHEON ENJOYED TASTY FOOD SERVED BY STAFF VOLUNTEERS INSIDE WESTMINSTER HALL AS WELL AS ...



... HORS D’OEUVRES OUTSIDE SERVED BY ADMINISTRATORS LIKE MATT LASECKI OF HR.

“We enthusiastically aim to take this extraordinary effort to lofty new levels of achievement and distinction,” she said.

After dinner, the University’s researcher (Karen L. Kotloff, MD), teacher (Geoffrey L. Greif, PhD, MSW), public servant (Valli

Meeks, DDS, MS, RDH), and entrepreneurs (Thomas M. Scalea, MD, FACS, MCCM, Deborah M. Stein, MD, MPH, FACS, FCCM, and Steven I. Hanish, MD, FACS) of the year were saluted with videos.

*See the **video**, **pictures** and read more about the **Gala** and the **award winners**.*

The Founders Week celebration continued on Monday, Oct. 15, with the Staff Luncheon at Westminster Hall. About 700 staff members were served hors d’oeuvres by University leadership before entering the hall for sandwiches, salads, desserts, and more. Perman greeted the staff members and took the microphone to thank them for “your

Continued from previous page

incredible dedication, knowledge, and efforts. I'm incredibly proud of all that UMB accomplishes in the neighborhood, in the state, and in the world. But I never forget for a minute that none of what we do would happen without your support."

See **photos** and **video** from the *Staff Luncheon*.



ENTREPRENEUR TOM SCALEA DISCUSSES "SUPPORTING FAILING ORGANS."

Later on Monday, Scalea, representing the MARS team that also includes Stein and Hanish, gave the Entrepreneurs of the Year presentation "Supporting Failing Organs" at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, where he is physician-in-chief. Scalea mixed history, humor, and humility into an hourlong presentation enjoyed by over 100 people in the Shock Trauma auditorium. He spoke of how his team's innovative application of the MARS machine (Molecular Adsorbent Recirculating System) combined knowledge, quick thinking, a tight-knit group, and good old-fashioned luck.

See **photos**, a **video**, and a **story** about the event.

The next day Kotloff, a pediatrics professor at the School of Medicine who is associate director of clinical studies at its Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health (CVD), took her turn with the Researcher of the Year Lecture titled "Global Health: Where Science Meets Humanity." A leading authority in human controlled infection models for shigellosis, a major cause of diarrhea morbidity and mortality in children, Kotloff recapped her 35 years of research at the school and her success in cutting



KAREN KOTLOFF LAUDS CVD IN HER TALK.

childhood mortality rates in Mali, a poor country in West Africa. CVD-Mali has grown from two employees to over 250.

See a **story** and **photos** from this event.

Closing out the Founders Week events was the Student Cookout on the School of Nursing lawn on Thursday, Oct. 18. Bruce Jarrell, MD, FACS, the UMB executive vice president and provost, greeted more than 600 students who enjoyed helpings of hot dogs, pulled pork sandwiches, and chicken dished out by the deans, vice presidents, and other members of UMB leadership. Hot cider was a particular favorite on the chilly day.

See **pictures** from the event.



UMB VICE PRESIDENT JAMES HUGHES SERVES A STUDENT AT COOKOUT.



FOOD AND STUDENT SMILES WERE ON MENU.

All in all, it was a festive week. Founders Week is set aside each fall to celebrate the history of the University and to honor its alumni, faculty, staff, and students.

Executive Director of Protocol and University Events Nancy Gordon, who has been at UMB almost as long as Founders Week has existed, said, "This was one of the best yet. The weather cooperated and the turnout for all the events was great. Thanks to all whose help made this possible."

— Chris Zang

For more about Founders Week, visit the **website**.

PUBLIC SAFETY



NOVEMBER 2018

NEW COAST PROGRAM RAMPS UP ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

Since taking over as University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) police chief in June, Alice Cary, MS, has put her stamp on the force by stressing the need, in her words, “to build community relationships through effective, University-based policing.” To foster those ties, Cary has created a Campus Outreach and Support Team (COAST), a program that will be led by three veterans of the UMB Police Force.

The officer overseeing the team is Lt. Matthew Johnson, an 11-year UMB Police Force veteran who recently was promoted from sergeant. Cpl. Jevon Thompson, MPA, and Acting Sgt. J.R. Jones, who have each been at UMB for more than a decade, will fill the program’s homeless and neighborhood liaison roles, respectively.

The COAST head and two liaisons will serve as key conduits in Cary’s community engagement efforts, collaborating with UMB offices, city of Baltimore police and agencies, and non-governmental entities such as the Southwest Partnership neighborhood association. Cary said that COAST will work out of the UMB Police substation at the UM BioPark and that it’s all part of her goal to have a “robust campus engagement team.”

“There are many different needs from the University and the community relating to police and public safety, and if we don’t get on the right communications track, the wrong information will be getting out there,” Cary says. “So that’s why we need these liaisons, officers who will actually be hearing about those wants and needs and relaying them back to us.”

As head of the team, Johnson said he plans to use frameworks already in place to continue developing an organizational culture that focuses on police being a part of the community, not simply working in the community. He aims to make sure UMB officers reach out not only in person, but also digitally via social networking.

“My vision is to create solutions that will remove the barriers to positive relationships with the community,” Johnson says.

“Policing is not solely about enforcing the law, it also is about building relationships with the people to create positive change.

“COAST streamlines all of our community engagement activities under one umbrella, as opposed to having different programs that aren’t working together for the common goal. The programs are meant to overlap and be cohesive. We are building COAST to be innovative and an example for others to use when designing their community engagement programs. I’m excited and humbled to spearhead something so valuable and paramount.”

‘COMPASSION IN MY HEART’

Thompson is a 15-year veteran of the force who stepped up immediately when Cary raised the idea of creating a homeless liaison. “He expressed interest right away, then started doing research and collaborating with the city,” Cary says. “He took the ball and started running with it.”

The plight of the homeless resonates with Thompson, who said he was on the verge of being homeless many years ago when he worked as a waiter. “So I’ve always had compassion in my heart for this population,” he says. “When Chief Cary mentioned she wanted to start this program, it just really sparked an interest.”

The goal of the homeless liaison program is two-pronged: 1) To educate UMB students, faculty, and staff on how to interact with the population; and 2) to guide the homeless on where and how to access social services and other supports through the University, Veterans Affairs, the city, and other agencies.

“A lot of this program will be information sharing,” Thompson says. “A lot of the homeless don’t realize the services that are afforded them. So I do plan to reach out to them, hand out literature, and educate them on where they can go for services that can help them get back on their feet with employment, financial, or housing assistance.

“I plan to inform our department and the University in developing a master list of different referral services, so

Continued from previous page



FROM LEFT, PFC. ANTHONY BROWN, CPL. JEYON THOMPSON, LT. MATTHEW JOHNSON, CHIEF ALICE CARY, ACTING SGT. J.R. JONES, AND CPL. ANDREW DEGELE.

when our officers encounter citizens on the street, especially homeless veterans, those people in need can be directed toward the services available.”

Cary said the team will collaborate with a case worker from the city’s Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program, which launched in 2017 and redirects people arrested for low-level drug offenses to treatment and other services.

“We will have office space available here for the LEAD case worker so that the team and Jevon in particular can work closely with that person,” Cary says. “These type of offenders will get referred to a diversion program instead of jail, and it will help those who are dealing with addiction to address the problem.

“We need to approach the homeless problem in a humanitarian way. A lot of agencies just push them out of a particular area, but that’s just giving someone else the problem and not attacking the issue as it stands. So, this is a start.”

‘BEST PARTS OF DIFFERENT PROGRAMS’

Jones, a 13-year veteran of the force who also worked 30 years as a Baltimore City officer, said as neighborhood liaison it will

be his duty to make sure that the needs of the University and Southwest Baltimore communities are heard and understood by the UMB Police.

“There are numerous areas around the UMB campus where students, faculty, and staff live,” he says, “so we need to foster better communication and build relationships between the police and those communities. COAST combines the best parts of different programs and has us all working together toward a common goal.”

Cary echoed Jones’ comments, saying it’s important to remember that many UMB students live off campus in these neighborhoods, so their safety concerns and needs must be addressed. She cited results from the National Crime Victimization Survey that show college students are most likely to be robbed when traveling to and from school, specifically between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

“We don’t want to lose our focus on the students, but our campus is relatively secure, in a broad sense,” Cary says. “It’s the nexus that has the concerns. So we need to make sure we’re addressing not only the core of the University but the areas where a lot of our students live.”

She adds that UMB Police need to be savvy on social media and develop apps that students will use, saying social media is an important tool to keep them informed. “We need to meet students where they are — online,” Cary says. She also hopes to create a public information officer/media liaison position to help with disseminating this type of information to the student population and beyond.

Two other UMB Police Force veterans, Pfc. Anthony Brown and Cpl. Andrew Degele, will support the team, and Cary said Jones will work with neighborhood associations such as the Southwest Partnership and will be a point person to attend community meetings in Southwest Baltimore and perhaps other districts in the city.

“There’s a lot of information that’s shared at those meetings, and the Southwest Partnership, for example, has a public safety task force, so we’re going to be part of that,” Cary says. “We need to hear what the citizens want, what our community wants, so by having that information and an open dialogue, we can strategize about how best to tackle these problems.”

— Lou Cortina

COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE

NOVEMBER 2018

UMB'S FIRST PUBLIC ART INSPIRES LEADERS, ONLOOKERS

The day was brisk, the winds were moderate, and the invited crowd and numerous passers-by were excited as the first piece of public art on the campus of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) was dedicated on Oct. 16.

The 30-foot-tall piece by artist Eric Peltzer is a kinetic sculpture that had been temporarily immobilized by a red sash. He and the participating dignitaries, including Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan and Maryland Higher Education Secretary James Fielder Jr., PhD, had no scissors to cut that ribbon as is typical during a dedication. Instead they loosened the sash and let the wind take hold.

In introducing the artist, UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, had set the stage for the resulting movement. He observed that Peltzer had chosen a fitting title, "Stochastic Interactions," and that stochastic describes the random processes of genetics and molecular biology.

"The random nature of the wind interacting with the sculpture is meant to suggest the randomness at work on our genetics. It's a gorgeous piece," Perman said.

Perman also called attention to the way the piece "suggests the human form through the shape of the DNA double helix." He called the design "a wonderful nod" to the cutting-edge genomic research that takes place in Health Sciences Research Facility (HSRF) III. The new building is a soaring backdrop for the sculpture and home to the School of Medicine's Institute for Genome Sciences, among other offices and labs.

As required by legislation passed in 2013, Maryland must include public art in new or renovated state buildings. The Maryland



WITH THE NEW HSRF III GLEAMING IN THE BACKGROUND, ERIC PELTZER'S KINETIC SCULPTURE "TOOK OFF" (AT RIGHT) ONCE THE CEREMONIAL SASH WAS REMOVED AT THE DEDICATION CEREMONY.



Public Art Initiative sets aside a percentage of capital construction costs for the integration of public art and enables the artists to become involved early in the planning and construction phases.

Peltzer is a Southern California artist who has been making sculptures for more than three decades. He visited the site over a two-year period after being selected in an open-call jury process overseen by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Continued from previous page



MARYLAND FIRST LADY YUMI HOGAN AND DR. PERMAN GAZE UP IN WONDER AT UMB'S FIRST PIECE OF PUBLIC ART "STOCHASTIC INTERACTIONS."

It is the Maryland Commission on Public Art that directs the strategic vision of Maryland's statewide public art program. Leaders of both participated in the ceremony.

"Public art is free. No admission price. A museum without walls," said the council's executive director, Ken Skrzysz, who also noted that an outdoor sculpture such as Peltzer's work "allows us moments of reflection." As for the dynamics of the still-fettered "Stochastic Interactions," Skrzysz observed, "It's dying to take off!"

Commission Chair Catherine Leggett called the sculpture magnificent, adding that the piece "lifts us up" and connects the health care aspects of its surroundings on the UMB campus and the nearby University of Maryland Medical Center. "Well done," she said.

The sculpture stands at the corner of Pine and Baltimore streets. The latter is a busy bus-route corridor and borders the schools of dentistry, medicine, and pharmacy. Only moments after the unveiling, a dental patient emerged and admired the work.

It is that sort of public access that Hogan finds laudatory. Speaking from her perspective as an artist and in her role as honorary chair of the UMB Council for the Arts & Culture, she described the sculpture as beautiful, like a bird, and observed that it's in the perfect spot to inspire "people of all ages, including students."

Hogan, a faculty member at Maryland Institute College of Art, called "Stochastic Interactions" an example of "artists connecting our lives."



ARTIST ERIC PELTZER, WHO IS FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, EXPLAINS THE THOUGHT PROCESS AND INSPIRATION THAT WENT INTO HIS NEW CREATION.

Peltzer said he drew his inspiration from the history of the School of Medicine written by Larry Pitrof, executive director of the SOM Alumni Association. The legs have twists, symbolic of the challenges of the first 100 years. As for the genomics aspect, he said, "People walk by and know what's going on in the building."

Peltzer also shared one of his biggest difficulties, literally: "To get something this big and heavy to move in the wind."

Peltzer's parents, sisters, and other family members were present. So were members of the selection committee, who spent months poring over 200 artist applications. The committee was led by UMB Assistant Vice President Angela Fowler-Young, director of the Office of Real Estate, Planning, and Space Management, and included Pitrof, Anthony Consoli, AIA, LEED AP, campus architect at UMB, and Robert Cook, executive director of facilities and operations at SOM, among others.

Perman thanked the committee and everyone at UMB and in Maryland government who saw the project through, such as Mark Behrens, a senior design and construction project manager at UMB, and the Maryland State Arts Council's Liesel Fenner, ASLA, program director of public art. "There are a million moving parts to something like this," Perman said.

But the only moving parts that mattered were the arms of the sculpture. And Peltzer's "Stochastic Interactions" responded to the wind, on cue, at its dedication.

— Patricia Fanning

*See **more photos** from the event.*

CURECORNER

NOVEMBER 2018

COHORT 4 DONS COATS WITH GOALS IN MIND

Jamiyah Mitchell may only be in sixth grade, but she already has her sights set on going to medical school and becoming a pediatrician. The Southwest Baltimore Charter School (SBCS) student is one step closer to her goal after she was officially inducted into the CURE Scholars Program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB).

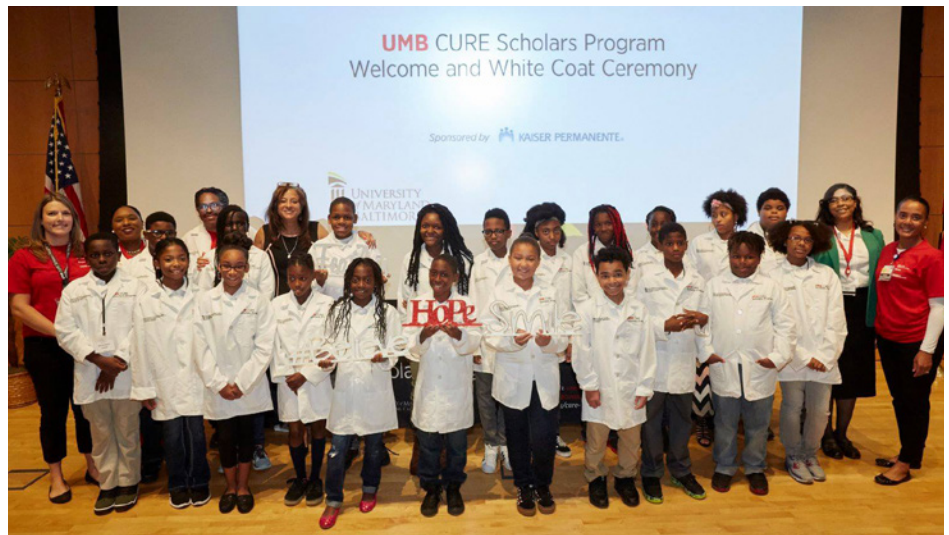
On Saturday, Oct. 6, Jamiyah and 23 other sixth-grade students from SBCS, Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School (FSEMS), and Green Street Academy (GSA) were presented with the CURE program's signature white laboratory coat, symbolizing their acceptance into the prestigious academic program, in a ceremony at the University of Maryland School of Nursing Auditorium.

"I decided to join CURE because I wanted to do something outside of school where I was still learning, so I could get into good schools," Jamiyah explained. "I just know I'm ready for a big experience like this one."

Established in 2015, the UMB CURE Scholars Program is a unique pipeline initiative aimed at guiding West Baltimore children into challenging careers in medicine and public health. It is the first National Cancer Institute (NCI) Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) program in the nation to begin academic enrichment and mentorship for students as early as sixth grade.

"I am very excited for Jamiyah to be in the CURE program," said her mother, Sharda Randolph. "It offers a lot of help and a lot of support. I hope they help her to stay focused and stay on top of her grades to get her where she wants to go."

Jamiyah is part of the fourth cohort of scholars to be welcomed into the CURE program with its traditional White Coat Ceremony. It was fitting to have the scholars from cohort 1 — who have just begun their first year of high school — present the newest scholars with their lab coats.



THE FOURTH COHORT OF THE UMB CURE SCHOLARS PROGRAM PROUDLY POSES WITH THEIR WHITE COATS IN A PICTURE OF HOPE WITH SEVERAL UMB CURE MENTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS.

"I remember cohort 1 when they were 'babies,' and now they're all taller than me!" Robin Saunders, EdD, MS, executive director of the UMB CURE Scholars Program, said to the crowd attending the ceremony. "I am so incredibly proud of them and happy for them to be here to welcome our brand new scholars."

After receiving their white coats, the new scholars headed to the SMC Campus Center to attend a "mentor mixer." The scholars got the chance to meet some of the 261 mentors who are committed to guiding these youngsters on their journey to success. All donning red shirts, the mentors are made up of volunteers from UMB's six professional schools and interdisciplinary Graduate School, UMB faculty and staff

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KATELYN PAIGE, WHO JOINED THE UMB CURE SCHOLARS PROGRAM IN ITS FIRST YEAR IN 2015, HELPS COHORT 4'S MUHAMMAD KUNTA PUT ON HIS WHITE COAT.



NEW CURE SCHOLAR ARAYIA SUMLÍN TALKS TO POTENTIAL MENTORS AT THE "MENTOR MIXER." THERE ARE FIVE MENTORS TO EVERY UMB CURE SCHOLAR.

members, and other universities and organizations. The mentors are paired with the scholars on a 5:1 ratio, which creates a strong foundation of support for each scholar starting from Day 1.

The scholars in cohort 4 also will get an added layer of mentorship from the three older cohorts. Kaden Johnson, a GSA student in cohort 3, has one year of CURE under his belt. He received his white coat last year and is on the path to becoming a dentist. When asked what advice he would give to the newest class of scholars, he replied, "Stay focused. Don't be shy. Have faith and hope in yourself, and you'll be where you want to be."

"I remember cohort 1 when they were 'babies,' and now they're all taller than me!"

— Robin Saunders, executive director of the UMB CURE Scholars Program

The support of many mentors and peers has proved successful for the CURE Scholars. In just three years, the program has seen vast improvements in its scholars' academic achievements, including: a 66 percent improved math score and a 66 percent improved reading score at FSEMS; a 79 percent improved math score and a 76 percent improved reading score at GSA; and a 94 percent improved math score and an 83 percent improved reading score at SBCS.

The success of the program has become a catalyst for a new academic enrichment initiative that will be launched by the NCI, which is a supporting partner of UMB's CURE Scholars Program. NCI's new initiative is called YES, which stands for Youth Enjoy Science. Modeled after UMB's CURE Scholars Program, YES

will provide support for eligible institutions to develop and maintain early intervention strategies to academically engage under-represented students and help prepare them for careers in biomedical research. Like the CURE Scholars, middle school students across the nation will get the opportunity to participate in hands-on learning experiences under the guidance of mentors.

UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, described the creation of YES during the CURE White Coat Ceremony in a welcome video. He congratulated the scholars on playing a vital role in the startup of the new, nationwide program.

"You made this possible," he told the scholars. "Your interest, your excitement, and your success have already made a difference to countless more students who now have access to the same opportunities that you have."

Perman went on to address the new cohort of scholars, explaining to them the importance of programs like CURE and YES that aim to diversify the medical, science, and public health workforces that will in turn reduce racial disparities in cancer research and treatment. He also impressed upon the scholars that they have a village of support whenever they need help. They can always turn to their mentors, teachers, and even fellow CURE Scholars for guidance.

This is exactly what Lynijah Walker, a FSEMS student in cohort 4, needed to hear. "I'm excited, but scared at the same time," she said. "I don't know what will be coming next or what journey this program is going to take me on, but I am very excited."

— Jena Frick

*See **video** and **more pictures** from the event.*

WHITEPAPERPROJECT

NOVEMBER 2018

POLICE SPOKESMAN GIVES INSIDE STORY

UPDATE: T.J. Smith resigned from the Baltimore Police Department two weeks after appearing at UMB.

As the media relations director of the Baltimore Police Department, Capt. T.J. Smith, MA, MS, knows the ugly side of the city better than most. So he didn't sugarcoat Baltimore's problems on Sept. 26 when he spoke to University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) faculty, staff, and students as part of the President's Symposium and White Paper Project, which this year focuses on the fight against gun violence.

"These have been the most violent years in Baltimore history," Smith told the 80-plus people gathered in the SMC Campus Center Elm Ballroom. "Don't be fooled by any masks that people use to describe different tenures in policing over the years. Baltimore has been a very violent town for a very long time."

In fact, as Smith pointed out, *USA Today* recently ranked Baltimore No. 1 among large U.S. cities in the number of murders per capita. He said it wasn't even close.

"If we had a 40 percent reduction in homicides we would still be the largest city with the No. 1 problem," Smith said.

Not that Baltimore, which had 342 murders last year, is the only city struggling with gun violence. Early in his talk, the personable Smith asked the crowd what state in the U.S. does not have gangs? Attendees guessed Utah or Hawaii. "No," Smith said. "The state of denial is the one that doesn't have gangs. Gangs are everywhere, gun violence is everywhere," he said, mentioning recent mass shootings in Harford County and a local elementary school that day where a student brought a gun.

He doesn't see things changing anytime soon, saying systemic problems have to be fixed first.

"Why is it easier for the kid in West Baltimore to get a gun than an apple or a salad?" Smith said. Combine the food deserts with poor housing "and then you're sending that child to school and telling them to sit still for six to eight hours a day and expect them to

be a vibrant, productive member of society. We see zero percent proficiency in some of our schools."

Among numerous stories Smith told was one about Curtis Deal, 18, who in February 2017 got out of jail for the third time in a month before an altercation with police less than 24 hours later in which he was killed when he pulled a gun.

Smith said the story behind the gun is a sad tale in itself.

"That gun was reported stolen in Washington County by a husband and his wife who were getting some work done to their home. So he thinks it's these workers, and reports it. But he finds out that his wife was opioid addicted and took these guns and sold them in Baltimore and that's how the gun ended up on the streets and used by Curtis Deal and he ultimately died as a result.

"We use Curtis Deal not to chastise him for what he did but to talk about an epic failure in the overall system. One, he probably should still be in jail. Two, we have an issue with people who are responsible gun owners having irresponsible people around."

With over 20 years in law enforcement, serving in the Anne Arundel County Police Department before coming to the Baltimore Police Department just after the unrest in 2015, Smith still takes tackling crime personally.



THEN-POLICE SPOKESMAN CAPT. T.J. SMITH (RIGHT) SPOKE TO A PACKED ELM BALLROOM ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE IN BALTIMORE. AFTERWARD (LOWER LEFT) HE CHATTED WITH UMB PRESIDENT'S FELLOWS (FROM LEFT) NICOLE CAMPION DIALO, JESSICA EGAN, LAUREN HIGHSMITH, AND VIBHA RAO.

Continued from previous page

Especially a case in July 2017. Enjoying a rare vacation, Smith had just steamed crabs and taken some to his mother when one of the hundreds of texts he gets every day on police business came in on his phone with the subject line “Dionay Smith.”

“I said, “That’s my brother,”” related Capt. Smith. “The age and address were the same and his first name is unusual. That’s one of those surreal moments where you just can’t believe it.”

The younger Smith, 24, had been gunned down on the side of his home. Capt. Smith recounted to the UMB crowd how he reacted, details of the point-blank shooting, and how media outlets descended on him seeking a story during his time of grief.

As the public face who often is on TV reporting on the latest murder, Smith turned down dozens of story requests about his brother’s death, which he called “number 173, because that’s what we do in Baltimore, we count bodies.”

After some closing remarks by Smith and emcee Courtney Jones Carney, MBA, director of Interprofessional Student Learning and Service Initiatives, the captain took many questions from

the audience. He discussed the Safe Streets initiative, bulletproof vests for civilians, “suicide by cop,” trust between police and the community, social media and crime, the closing of rec centers, public housing, and many other topics.

Nicole Campion Dialo, a School of Medicine student who is one of the seven 2018 President’s Fellows who is studying the root cause of gun violence, asked Smith if he could conceive of something to implement tomorrow that would cut our violence rates in half, what would it be?

“If I had a magic wand to fix our problem,” Smith said, “I would start with our schools because really education is the key. There are not a lot of areas in this country that have an educated population and have these socioeconomic problems and social ills. So our school system is where it begins and our elementary school-aged kids.”

— Chris Zang

For a longer version of this story and to read more about the President’s Symposium and White Paper Project, visit the [website](#).

TEDx University of Maryland, Baltimore

x = independently organized TED event

FRIDAY
NOV. 9,
2018

UMB SMC CAMPUS CENTER

IMPROVING THE HUMAN CONDITION

Tickets are sold out, but you can still watch the TEDx event and its lineup of 10 speakers on Friday at tedxumbaltimore.com.

For more information, visit
tedxumbaltimore.com