

the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JULY/AUGUST 2020



STAYING CONNECTED, BUILDING COMMUNITY

I might sound like a broken record when I say (again) that we are living in unprecedented times, but as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, our daily existence remains drastically different from what we are used to. And with our increased attention on inequality and our fears of the pandemic spreading, it is natural to experience feelings of being overwhelmed and isolated. I want you to know that you are not alone, but part of a community at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). This strong, resilient community sees challenges and finds ways to address them, is flexible, and supports one another. I am proud of how UMB has found innovative ways to connect and build community.

UMB will not be an island within a city, but an integral part of the community that houses our institution. Our work includes striving to be inclusive, celebrating our diversity, and working on becoming an anti-racist organization. As part of our responsibility as an anchor institution, we established local hiring and local purchasing goals in 2016 to support small,

minority-owned businesses in West Baltimore and committed ourselves to hiring more of our workforce from neighborhoods that traditionally have high unemployment rates and where many residents lack a college degree. We want to bring more vibrant diversity into the UMB family, as well as support locally owned businesses in the city. In 2019 alone, UMB spent \$211,679 at businesses owned specifically by people of color, women, and/or immigrants in the most marginalized communities within the targeted West Baltimore ZIP codes, which surpasses previous years' spending totals. Our Food for Our Front Lines initiative — one example of how we continue to support those goals — provided free lunches for UMB employees on campus to perform essential operations while supporting local businesses in West Baltimore (*see story, page 18*).

The Promise Heights initiative works to improve educational outcomes for youth and ensure that families are healthy and successful in the West Baltimore communities of Upton/Druid Heights. Because of the pandemic, Promise Heights teams developed new platforms and wide-reaching communications methods to reach folks. They delivered 150 early childhood activity kits that included an activity book to encourage interaction between caregivers and kids, plus a package of books, informative flyers, and resources for families to find direct help as well as fun things for kids like bubbles, crayons, and play dough. Through its **COVID-19 resources website**, Promise Heights staff share information about food, employment, education, health and well-being, and activities just for kids. Adults can look to this resource to find trustworthy sites to let kids explore informative, entertaining, and appropriate online interactions.

That ability to move online and participate in enrichment and fun highlights additional inequality as many of our neighbors do not have access to the technology that most of us take for granted. We want to help address the digital divide in Baltimore so residents can



SECTOR ANTENNAS WERE INSTALLED ATOP THE NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER BUILDING AS PART OF UMB'S PARTNERSHIP WITH PROJECT WAVES TO PROVIDE WEST BALTIMORE RESIDENTS WITH FREE INTERNET ACCESS.

Continued on p. 2

Continued from previous page

be physically distant but still participate in virtual education, employment, and enjoyment. We are bringing city, state, and corporate partners together to address and meet the technical and financial requirements needed to get more folks connected. One such program is Project Waves, which is a community-owned Wi-Fi network. We are working within our UMB infrastructure and with local merchants, organizations, and city schools to locate and install broadcast antennas to allow more families to get internet access.

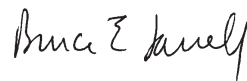
Teleworking and being online from afar is definitely a transition, but it allows us to continue our work and connect with colleagues, family, and friends safely. Many of you know that I have always preferred in-person meetings to email. Now that we have been teleworking for more than four months, my own email, Webex, and Zoom skills have improved, and I continue to learn so that I can interact better with you all. I was pleased that this year's Professional Development Day not only transitioned to virtual, but also attracted its largest audience to date (*see story, page 20*). Breakout sessions on using emotional intelligence to improve the virtual workplace, and skills building on using tools like Microsoft Teams and SharePoint, show a commitment to

improving our work — and especially telework. That focus on continual improvement — as our core values of knowledge and excellence instruct us to — is how we learn, adapt, and succeed.

Our commitment to staying connected and building community are of paramount importance in these challenging times. And so are innovation and learning. I'm thankful for those who are working on addressing COVID-19 through research, patient care, community safety, and education. I'm also thankful for those who spend time thinking about how we can keep the trains moving and how we can improve our current work life, stay connected to each other, and broaden what it means to be part of the UMB community.

We are in this together.

Stay well,



Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS
INTERIM PRESIDENT



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND BALTIMORE

Virtual
FACE to FACE
With **DR. BRUCE JARRELL**

Face to Face is a new weekly program presented Thursdays at 2 p.m. via Webex or Zoom where Interim President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, explores issues with UMB subject matter experts, government and health officials, and others. Guests can watch the program online and offer questions for the panel to consider.

Watch previous programs and learn more at umaryland.edu/president/face-to-face.

USM FACULTY AND STAFF AWARD WINNERS

The University of Maryland, Baltimore congratulates its 2020 winners of University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents Faculty and Staff Awards, the highest honor bestowed by the board to exemplary faculty members and for achievements of exempt and nonexempt staff employees from USM institutions.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MARY BETH GALLICO, MISHAWN SMITH, NORBERT MYSLINSKI, AND JUDITH EDELMAN.

FACULTY AWARD WINNER

Norbert Myslinski, PhD

*Associate Professor
Department of Neural and Pain
Sciences,
School of Dentistry*

STAFF AWARD WINNERS

Mishawn Smith, MPA

*Executive Administrative Assistant
Office of Diversity and Inclusion,
School of Nursing*

Mary Beth Gallico, CRA

*Administrator
Division of Child and Adolescent
Psychiatry, School of Medicine*

Judith Edelman, MA

*Administrator
Department of Anatomy and
Neurobiology, School of Medicine*

LAURELS

JULY/AUGUST 2020

UNIVERSITYWIDE

Tony Nguyen, MLIS, AHIP, executive director, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeast/Atlantic Region, Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HS/HSL), and **M.J. Tooy, MLS, AHIP, FMLA**, associate vice president, Academic Affairs, and executive director, HS/HSL, received the Medical Library Association's (MLA) President's Awards for their work on MLA reorganization plans. Tooy also presented a virtual session, "A Unified, Intentional, and Evolving Approach to Research Support," at the Coalition for Networked Information's spring meeting.



LYDIA WATTS

Lydia Watts, JD, executive director, Rebuild, Overcome, and Rise Center, was selected to join the 2020 cohort of Bloomberg Fellows at the Johns Hopkins

Bloomberg School of Public Health. Fellows receive a full scholarship to earn an MPH or DrPH degree, then use their new skills to tackle public health challenges in the United States.



JAMES E. WRIGHT

James E. Wright, MFA, multilingual writing specialist, Writing Center, received a Jodi Crandall Fellowship for Research in Language,

Literacy, and Culture. The fellowship provides PhD students in the Language, Literacy, and Culture program at the University of

Maryland, Baltimore County with the means to conduct collaborative interdisciplinary research.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



QOOT ALKHUBAIZI



NISHA GANESH



WARD MASSEY



HOWARD STRASSLER

Qoot Alkhubaizi, MS, director, Advanced Education in General Dentistry Program; **Nisha Ganesh, DDS, MAEd**, director of predoctoral education, Department of General Dentistry; **Ward Massey, BDS, PhD**, clinical associate professor and chair, Department of General Dentistry; **Mary Anne Melo, DDS, MSc, PhD**, associate professor and director, Division of Operative Dentistry, Department of General Dentistry; and **Howard Strassler, DMD, FADM, FAGD**, professor, Division of Operative Dentistry, Department of General Dentistry, were co-authors of "Assessment of the Radiant Emittance of Damaged/Contaminated Dental Light-curing Tips by Spectrometer-Based Methods," which was published in *Restorative Dentistry and Endodontics*.



JOSE A. BOSIO

Jose A. Bosio, BDS, MS, clinical associate professor and division chief, orthodontics, Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry,

received an award from the American Association of Orthodontists to attend the Chairs and Academic Administrators Management Program of the American Dental Education Association's Academy of Academic Leadership.

Alumnus **Katherine Ong, DDS '20**, received a 2020 Student Leadership Award presented by the Delta Dental Community Care Foundation. The honor and \$10,000 prize recognizes students who demonstrate leadership skills, commitment to public service as demonstrated by civic and community involvement related to dental service, and outstanding service or accomplishments in the field of dentistry.



KE REN

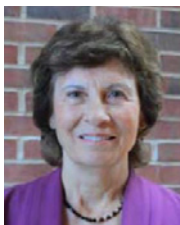
Ke Ren, PhD, MD, professor, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, received a five-year, \$620,698 grant from the National Institute of Dental and

Craniofacial Research for "Disruption of Homeostatic Neuroimmune Interactions in Descending Circuitry in the Development of Pain Chronicity."

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

JULY/AUGUST 2020



MAUREEN STONE

Maureen Stone, PhD, research professor, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, was elected president-elect of the Acoustical Society of

America and will assume the office of president in June 2021.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW



DONALD GIFFORD

Donald Gifford, JD, professor, was a co-author of *Harper, James and Gray on Torts: 2020-3 Cumulative Supplement*.



SARA GOLD

Sara Gold, JD, clinical law instructor, was a co-presenter of “Taking Control in the Face of Uncertainty: Interprofessional Insights on Advance Care

Planning in the Era of COVID-19” for the MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center Webinar, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, on May 27.

Leigh Goodmark, JD, professor and co-director, Clinical Law Program, was quoted in “Don’t Use Domestic Violence Victims to Derail Police Reform” in the *HuffPost* on June 5.

Michael Greenberger, JD, professor and director, Center for Health and Homeland Security, spoke with WBAL Radio on June 1 on the peaceful protests in Baltimore in the wake of George Floyd’s death.

Seema Kakade, JD, assistant professor, was quoted in “Former Officials See Conflicts Between DOJ’s ‘Mitigation Defense,’ SEP Ban” in *Inside EPA* on May 21.

Robert Percival, JD, professor and director, Environmental Law Program, authored a chapter, “Getting the Lead Out: The Phaseout of Gasoline Lead Additives — A Global Environmental Success Story,” in the book *The Impact of Environmental Law: Stories of the World We Want*.



RENA STEINZOR

Rena Steinzor, JD, professor, was quoted in “E.P.A. Opts Against Limits on Water Contaminant Tied to Fetal Damage” in *The New York Times* on May 14.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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



TRACY BALE

Tracy Bale, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmacology, and director, Center for Epigenetic Research in Child Health and Brain Development,

received a five-year, \$3,394,308 R37 MERIT Award from the National Institute of Mental Health for “Paternal Stress and Epigenetic Programming of Offspring Neurodevelopment.”



MAUREEN BLACK

Maureen Black, PhD, the John A. Scholl, MD, and Mary Louise Scholl, MD, Professor in Pediatrics, and **Angela Trude, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow,

Department of Pediatrics, co-authored “All Children Surviving and Thriving: Re-Envisioning UNICEF’s Conceptual Framework of Malnutrition,” which was published in *The Lancet Global Health*.



THOMAS ERNST

Linda Chang, MD, MS, and **Thomas Ernst, PhD**, both professors, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, and principal

investigators of UMB’s site of the landmark Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study, were awarded a seven-year, nearly \$13.1 million renewal of the grant.

Yasmine Cissé, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, Department of Pharmacology and Center for Epigenetic Research in Child Health and Brain Development, received a three-year, \$202,062 F32 National Research Service Award grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

LAURELS

JULY/AUGUST 2020

for “Programmatic Role of Maternal Preconception Stress on Offspring Metabolic Health.”



ELIZABETH CLAYBORN

Elizabeth Clayborn, MD, adjunct assistant professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, authored “ER Doctor: Your End-of-Life Care Plan

Can Help Save Time and Lives Amid Coronavirus,” which was published in *USA TODAY*, and “I Am a Doctor Treating Coronavirus Patients — and Expecting a Baby,” which was published in *The Baltimore Sun*.

Eldin Jasarevic, PhD, research associate, Department of Pharmacology, and associate director of research bioinformatics, Center for Epigenetic Research in Child Health and Brain Development, received a four-year, \$528,096 K01 grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for “Immune and Developmental Actions of the Maternal Microbial Metabolites on the Hypothalamus.”



XIAOFENG JIA

Xiaofeng Jia, BM, PhD, professor, Department of Neurosurgery, received a two-year, \$345,000 grant from the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund’s Discovery

Program for “Developing Human iPSC-Derived Exosome Therapy to Improve Recovery after Peripheral Nerve Injury.”

Jonathan Morrison, PhD, FRCS, FEBVS, assistant professor, Department of Surgery; chief of endovascular surgery; and vascular and trauma attending surgeon, R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center; **Louis DeTolla, VMD, MS, PhD, DACLAM**, professor, departments of Pathology, Medicine, and Epidemiology and Public Health, and professor and founding director, Program in Comparative Medicine; and **Rigoberto Sanchez, PhD, RQAP-GLP**, assistant professor, Department of Pathology, and director of preclinical research, Program in Comparative Medicine, received a \$1.2 million contract from the Department of Defense, in collaboration with the University of Alabama Medical Center, for “Evaluation of 17 α -Ethinylestradiol-3-Sulfate in Severe Hemorrhage and Poly-Trauma.”



JEAN-PIERRE RAUFMAN

Jean-Pierre Raufman, MD, professor, Department of Medicine, received a five-year, \$2,103,549 grant from the National Institute of

Digestive and Kidney Diseases for the renewal of “Research Training in Gastroenterology and Hepatology.”

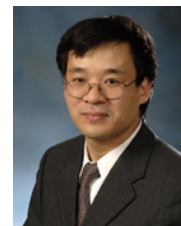


JUNFANG WU

Junfang Wu, BM, PhD, associate professor, Department of Anesthesiology, and a colleague received a five-year, \$2,392,596 R01 grant from the National

Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “The Function and

Mechanisms of Voltage-Gated Proton Channel Hv1 in Spinal Cord Injury.”



PEIXIN YANG

Peixin Yang, PhD, professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, received a five-year, \$2.56 million R01 grant renewal

for “Autophagy and its Regulation in Diabetic Embryopathy.”

SCHOOL OF NURSING

UMSON’s Peer Tutoring Program received Stage 1, Level 1 certification from the College Reading & Learning Association’s International Tutor Training Program Certification, which provides professionals with the opportunity to create, improve, and expand tutor and peer educator training for a campus’ unique programs.



BIMBOLA F. AKINTADE



KRISTEN RAWLETT



JAN WILSON

Bimbola F. Akintade, PhD ’11, MS ’05, MBA, MHA, BSN ’03, CCRN, ACNP-BC, NEA-BC, assistant professor and associate

LAURELS

JULY/AUGUST 2020

dean, Master of Science in Nursing program; **Kristen Rawlett, PhD '14, FNP-BC**, assistant professor; and **Jan Wilson, DNP '09, MS '94, BSN '74, CRNP, NNP-BC**, assistant professor and director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Neonatal Nurse Practitioner specialty, were named 2020 Fellows of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. Also, Akintade was appointed as an inaugural member of the DNPs of Color Board of Directors, and Rawlett was appointed to the state of Maryland's Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council.



VERONICA AMOS

Veronica Amos, PhD, MS '07, MS '00, BSN '99, CRNA, PHCSN-BC, assistant professor, is the principal investigator on a nearly \$42,000 continuation grant

awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Services Resource Administration to support UMSO's Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship program.



JEFFREY ASH

Jeffrey Ash, EdD, assistant professor and associate dean for diversity and inclusion, was elected secretary of the Maryland/Virginia chapter of the National

Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education.



RACHEL BLANKSTEIN BREMAN

Rachel Blankstein Breman, PhD '18, MPH, RN, assistant professor, was named to the *MCN: The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing* editorial board.



SUSAN G. DORSEY

Susan G. Dorsey, PhD '01, MS '98, RN, FAAN, professor and chair, Department of Pain and Translational Symptom Science, was appointed

chair of the National Institute of Nursing Research's Initial Review Group by the National Institutes of Health for a term from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. Dorsey also co-edited the book *Genomics of Pain and Co-Morbid Symptoms*.



JANE M. KIRSCHLING

Jane M. Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean, was named a Foundation for Academic Nursing Advisory Committee member by the

American Association of Colleges of Nursing and was appointed to the Board of Trustees at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wis., where she received her BSN degree.

Kim Mooney-Doyle, PhD, RN, CPNP-AC, assistant professor, received a one-year, \$30,000 Accelerated Translational Incubator Pilot grant from UMB's Institute for Clinical and Translational Research for the project "Family Communication in Serious Pediatric Illness: Through the Sibling's Lens."



KIM MOONEY-DOYLE



MICHELLE MOULTON

Michelle Moulton, DNP, MS '09, RN, PCCN-K, CHSE, assistant professor, was selected to receive a \$5,000 Academic Nurse Educator

Certification award from the Nurse Support Program II, which provides funding for faculty who have demonstrated excellence as an academic nurse educator through achieving or maintaining the National League for Nursing's Certified Nurse Educator credential.



KARIN RUSS

Karin Russ, MS, RN, clinical instructor, completed an academic internship with the Maryland General Assembly during the 2020 legislative session

as part of her doctoral work at the Francis King Carey School of Law.

LAURELS

JULY/AUGUST 2020

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



RAYMOND LOVE



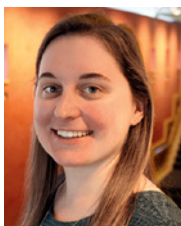
ASHLEE MATTINGLY

Three Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science faculty members won Maryland Pharmacists Association awards — Excellence in Innovation: **Megan Ehret, PharmD**, associate professor; Seidman Distinguished Achievement: **Raymond Love, PharmD**, professor; Distinguished Young Pharmacist: **Ashlee Mattingly, PharmD**, assistant professor.

Catherine Cooke, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a one-year, \$159,204 grant from the Food and Drug Administration for “Evaluation of the REMS Programs for Psychiatric Medications.”



ANDREW COOP



EMILY GORMAN



SHANNON TUCKER

Andrew Coop, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and associate dean for academic affairs; **Emily Gorman, PharmD**, assistant professor.

MLIS, AHIP, research, education, and outreach librarian, Health Sciences and Human Services Library; **Lisa Lebovitz, JD**, assistant dean for academic affairs and assessment; and **Shannon Tucker**, assistant dean for instructional design and technology, received the Best Leadership-Related Poster Award at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Leadership Development Special Interest Group’s Virtual Symposium.



SHAWNÉE DANIEL

Shawnée Daniel, PharmD, pediatric pharmacy resident, was named an American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy 2020 Walmart Scholar.



DANIEL DEREDGE

Daniel Deredge, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a two-year, \$100,000 contract from Janssen Research

and Development for “Blanket PO for HDX-MS.”



BETHANY DIPAULA

Bethany DiPaula, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was named a fellow of the American Society of Health System

Pharmacists. She also received the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association’s Evander Frank Kelly Honored Alumnus Award.



SUSAN DOSREIS

Susan dosReis, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a five-year, \$3.7 million contract from GlaxoSmithKline

for “A Targeted Safety Study, EPI-ZOSTER-032 VS, to Evaluate the Safety of Shingrix in Adults ≥ 65 Years of Age in the United States.”



JOGA GOBBURU

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

one-year, \$9,307 contract from Johns Hopkins University for “The Chesapeake-Ohio Pharmacokinetic Core for the ETCTN.”

Mathangi Gopalakrishnan, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a one-year, \$110,000 contract from G1 Therapeutics for “Proposal G1T48 Population Pharmacokinetics and Exposure-response Analysis.”

Maha Haq, a student in the MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics Program, was named one of *GreenEntrepreneur’s* 35 Most Influential Women in Cannabis.

LAURELS

JULY/AUGUST 2020

Vijay Ivaturi, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was elected to the International Society of Pharmacometrics' Board of Directors.



VIJAY IVATURI



JACE JONES

Jace Jones, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, \$35,000 grant from the American Society for Mass Spectrometry

for "Sphingolipid Metabolism as a Diagnostic Marker of Hepatotoxicity in Drug-Induced Liver Injury."



MAUREEN KANE

Maureen Kane, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and director, Mass Spectrometry Center, and **Sarah Michel, PhD**, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and associate dean for graduate programs, received a five-year, \$120,000 grant from Schwab Charitable for "ICP and MS Analysis of Prostate Cancer Patient Clinical Samples."



SARAH MICHEL

Ebere Onukwuga, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, and executive director, Pharmaceutical Research Computing, was elected to the Board of Directors of ISPOR - the Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research.



KRISTINE PARBUONI

Colleges of Pharmacy's Pediatric Special Interest Group.



CHARMAINE ROCHESTER-EYEGUOKAN

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation, was re-elected to the American Pharmacists Association's Board of Trustees.



MAGALY RODRIGUEZ DE BITTNER

Kristine Parbuoni, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was named chair-elect of the American Association of

Charmaine Rochester-Eyeguokan, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association's B. Olive Cole Honorary Alumnus Award.



DEANNA TRAN

Deanna Tran, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was named the School of Pharmacy's Faculty Preceptor of the Year.



HONGBING WANG

Hongbing Wang, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, \$100,000 grant from the Food and Drug Administration for "Metabolism-Based DDI and Liver Toxicity of Drugs for COVID-19 Treatment."



ZAFAR ZAFARI

Zafar Zafari, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received an 18-month, \$230,801 grant from the Food and Drug Administration for "Evaluating the Utility of Negative Control Adjustments and Methods of Addressing Unmeasured Confounding in Using Real-World Data."

LAURELS

JULY/AUGUST 2020

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Lisa Berlin, PhD, professor; **Corey Shdaimah, PhD**, the Daniel Thursz Distinguished Professor of Social Justice; and **Alyssa Goodman, MSW**, senior research project coordinator, were co-authors of “I’m Literally Drowning”: A Mixed-Methods Exploration of Infant-Toddler Child Care Providers’ Wellbeing,” which was published in *Early Education and Development*.

Laurie Graham, PhD, assistant professor, was a co-author of “Intimate Partner Homicides in North Carolina: 2011-2015,” which was published in the *North Carolina Medical Journal*.



LAURIE GRAHAM



CAROLINE HARMON-DARROW

Caroline Harmon-Darrow, MSW, LMSW, PhD candidate, authored “Conflict Resolution Interventions and Tertiary Violence Prevention Among Urban Nonintimate Adults: A Review of the Literature,” which was published in *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*.

Angela Henneberger, PhD, research assistant professor, was a co-author of “A Longitudinal Study Examining Dual Enrollment as a Strategy for Easing the Transition to College and Career for Emerging Adults,” which was published in *Emerging Adulthood*.



ALLISON HEPWORTH



BRENDA JONES HARDEN

Allison Hepworth, PhD, postdoctoral fellow; **Lisa Berlin, PhD**, professor; and **Brenda Jones Harden, PhD**, the Alison Richman Professor for Children and Families, were co-authors of “Supporting Infant Emotion Regulation Through Attachment-Based Intervention: A Randomized Controlled Trial,” which was published in *Prevention Science*.



AMANDA LEHNING



PAUL SACCO

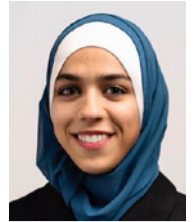
Amanda Lehning, PhD, and **Paul Sacco, PhD**, both associate professors, were co-authors of “The Role of County Characteristics in Mental Health Service Use by Older African Americans,” which was published in *Psychiatric Services*.



CLARK SHAH-NELSON

Clark Shah-Nelson, MA, assistant dean of instructional design and technology, was a co-author of “Capacity-Building for Sustainability: A Cooperative K-12 Regional Education Service Provider Case Study,” which was published in the *International Journal of Technology-Enabled Student Support Services*.

Reem Sharaf was named MSW Student of the Year by the Maryland chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Sharaf is studying clinical and behavioral health at the School of Social Work.



REEM SHARAF

Melissa Smith, PhD, assistant professor, was a co-author of “Definitions of Community for Individuals with Serious Mental Illnesses: Implications for Community Integration and Recovery,” which was published in *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research*.



MELISSA SMITH

'1807' ART EXHIBIT ADDS POLISH TO PEARL STREET UNDERPASS

The Pearl Street underpass on the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) campus is getting some added luster: an exhibit of artwork that was featured in the inaugural issue of *1807: An Art & Literary Journal*.

A turtle swimming in the sea, three iconic Baltimore scenes, an angler fish made of metal, and a poem about living with mental illness are just some of the 32 pieces of art exhibited as part of the University project.

The exhibit, known as the UMB Pearl Gallery, was inspired by the spring 2019 issue of *1807*, which encourages students, faculty, staff, and community members to submit unpublished artwork in the categories of visual arts (painting, drawing, illustration, digital art), photography, varied media (sculpture, clay, metal, glass, textiles, jewelry, wood), and the written word (short story, essay, narrative, poetry).

UMB Interim President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, who is an artist himself, said of the gallery, "I am in awe of the creative talent that is evident in our University community, our alumni community, and the greater UMB community. While our community and world face daunting challenges during the pandemic, it is gratifying to celebrate art at UMB in such a public way."

The work of 28 artists that appeared in the 60-plus-page journal is featured on the wall, and each discipline is represented.

"We looked to select art from each category, even the writing, so that each category could be represented in the collection," said co-project manager Dana Rampolla, assistant director of marketing, alumni communications and special projects for the University. "We took into consideration balancing color, composition, file size, and type of artwork along the wall so that the individual concrete panels where the art is hung would complement one another."

The exhibit, which has been completed and will be displayed indefinitely, includes photography, paintings, photographs of three-dimensional pieces, and poetry placed on vinyl appliques by AP Graphics of Sykesville.

First, LED spotlights controlled by photocell were installed by Maranto Electrical Construction above where each piece

of art would be placed, and the wall was power washed. Then AP Graphics used a handheld torch to apply heat to the vinyl, according to Rampolla. Workers used a roller to give it "a relatively seamless finish at the end," she said. "It's like it almost added an element of texture, which is kind of a cool outcome that we weren't expecting."

Jennifer Litchman, MA, senior vice president for external relations, special assistant to the president, and founding chair of the UMB Council for the Arts & Culture, which was the driving force behind *1807*, said, "The Pearl Gallery is the extension of a dream the council had for an arts journal when the council was initially founded. Making the art so publicly available speaks volumes to the importance the University community places on art as an essential complement to science and healing."



WORKERS INSTALL THE '1807' PIECES, WHICH WERE PLACED ON VINYL APPLIQUES AND ARE ILLUMINATED BY LED SPOTLIGHTS.

"I am so looking forward to the day that we are all back on campus so that everyone can take a walk or drive by the gallery and find some peace, beauty, and solace in such uncertain times," added Litchman, who is the *1807* editor-in-chief.

Continued from previous page



THE '1807' ARTWORK IS DISPLAYED ON ONE WALL OF THE PEARL STREET UNDERPASS, WHICH IS BETWEEN FAYETTE AND LEXINGTON STREETS.

Noly Empeno, project manager, design and construction, who oversaw construction and funding for the exhibit, said the underpass was the perfect spot for a project like this. “It is a bit darker and the graphics become highlights,” he said, adding that the exhibit is “very informative.”

Rampolla, who worked with University architect Anthony Consoli, AIA, LEED AP, on the design of the wall, recently went to campus to see the project being installed. The exhibit is adjacent to the Pearl Street Garage on the north side of campus between Fayette and Lexington streets.

“Suddenly the underpass was filled with color and words that passers-by stopped to gaze at,” said Rampolla, who also serves as the journal’s creative director/managing editor. “We have some truly fabulous artists in the UMB community — it’s incredibly rewarding to be able to provide not just one, but several opportunities to share their talent.”

In addition to UMB Pearl Gallery, the 1807 artists’ work was on display last year in an exhibit at the Health Sciences and Human Services Library’s Weise Gallery.

Victoria Braudaway, a University of Maryland School of Nursing student, said she was speechless when she found out her painting “Honu” would be featured in the Pearl Gallery.

“Painting has always been a wonderful outlet for me, and to be recognized for something that is so personal to me was eye opening on the limitless potential we all have,” she said.

Owen White, PhD, director of bioinformatics, University of Maryland School of Medicine, and associate director, Institute for Genome Sciences, works with stainless steel, wood, custom animatronics, and found objects. His varied media work “Angler Fish” is featured in the Pearl Gallery.

He said he hopes that the art will be “a conversation starter for people to examine the intersection between technology, art, and nature.”

The four types of media are color-tagged on the wall, just as they are in the journal, to add continuity to the design of the exhibit. Each piece has a bottom border with the corresponding color, and the artist’s name is displayed with the same background color. There’s a color key on the wall that matches the journal.

The University plans an HGTV-style, socially distanced reveal of the exhibit in August and a *Virtual Face to Face with Dr. Bruce Jarrell* edition on the project in September.

“The gallery shows that we are making an effort through our beautification efforts to make the campus attractive,” Rampolla said. “The underpass was really dark and dingy. Now, however, it is filled with beautiful art that broadly and creatively relates to the council’s themes of social justice, health, healing, the mind, and the body, created by our UMB community of artists.”

— Jen Badie

LEADERSHIP

JULY/AUGUST 2020

NEW SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK DEAN POSTMUS READY TO MAKE HER MARK

Back in mid-February, before most faculty, staff, and students scattered to the COVID-19 world of teleworking and remote learning, Judy L. Postmus, PhD, MSW, came to visit the University of Maryland School of Social Work (UMSSW). On July 1, she began her new role as the school's dean.

Previously a professor and associate dean for research and faculty development at Rutgers University School of Social Work, Postmus was appointed to the position by University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Interim President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS. She is the second female dean and the seventh dean overall since UMSSW's founding in 1961.

Because of the pandemic, she only had one visit to UMB before accepting the position, but it was a memorable one on that February day.

"It left such a good impression," said Postmus, who succeeded Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW, who led UMSSW for 14 years and will continue to teach as a professor. "Faculty and staff and students at the school were the greatest. I thought they were patient and dedicated and really wanted to make a difference in people's lives in a variety of ways."

During her visit to Baltimore, Postmus learned about Promise Heights, an initiative led by UMSSW to improve the lives of children and families in the West Baltimore neighborhood of Upton/Druid Heights.

"I was blown away by the work that they are doing and the commitment they have to helping

others," said Postmus, who has a passion and a history of helping those who are oppressed based on race, gender, and class. She also is a nationally known scholar on intimate partner violence.

Born and raised in Miami to immigrant parents, Postmus began working with at-risk youth and their families in Liberty City, Fla., an environment where racism and poverty were rampant, and violence erupted in response in this disenfranchised community. After earning her MSW at Barry University in 1990, she worked at Miami Bridge, a runaway and homeless youth shelter in Miami, and then as executive director of the Domestic Abuse Shelter in the Florida Keys.

When she first visited UMB, Postmus also was impressed by UMSSW's Institute for Innovation and Implementation and the service it provides to the state of Maryland. The institute supports state and local governments and organizations in implementing



NEW SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK DEAN JUDY L. POSTMUS SAYS SHE'LL STRIVE TO MAKE THE FACULTY MORE DIVERSE AND FINE-TUNE THE SCHOOL'S ONLINE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

Continued from previous page

and sustaining effective systems and clinical practices that promote system of care values and best meet the needs of children and youth involved in the public systems and their families.

“There are a lot of reasons to be impressed with the school,” Postmus said. She also noted that the size of the faculty and diversity of its student population are similar to those at Rutgers.

Having a diverse student population is extremely important, Postmus said. “For people who seek social services, it is important that social services education students represent their community. It is important to have models, but it is more important to have a culture of humility. Regardless of what background you have, we all can learn from the other and respect people for being different.”

She said she will work to add diversity to the faculty, which has been criticized by social work students and alumni in the past.

“We don’t just hire you because you look a certain way,” she said. “We hire you to enhance our culture. We embrace diversity in all its forms. It’s not easy to do, but it is important. It’s crucial.”

Already a strong advocate of distance learning, Postmus said she plans to fine-tune a robust online education system for the school.

“As adults, we all learn differently. Some can thrive in an online environment and others don’t. The pandemic forced everyone to be online,” Postmus said. “The challenge as we move forward is thinking of three different types of instruction: fully online, fully on the ground, and those in between. Somewhere there has to be some blend until things stabilize. I know there is a fear that fully online is not quality education, and I beg to differ.”

In a letter to the UMB community, Jarrell said the search committee’s goal was to find a new dean who demonstrates the ability to be an effective champion for the role of social work and its programs throughout the state, and to harness the strengths and commitment of the faculty, staff, and students to be catalysts for a compelling vision of the future of social work at UMB.

“I am confident that we have succeeded in that with the appointment of Judy Postmus,” he said.

The selection of Postmus was made after a national search. Search committee chair Donald B. Tobin, JD, dean and professor at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law,

describes Postmus as an “excellent teacher and scholar and someone who has spent her career leveraging her research and teaching excellence with service to the community. She brings to the school a passion for teaching and student success as well as a deep commitment to research and community engagement. I look forward to welcoming her to UMB and to working with her in the future.”

Francisco Leca, MSW ’20, a student leader representative on the search committee, said Postmus was the best choice because of her experience as a social worker in research and academia from a large school.

“Coming from Rutgers, that will make her transition seamless,” Leca said. “I think she will also bring in a fresh perspective, a passion to help take UMB to a higher level, and a unique lens for community alliances. She is not afraid to speak her mind and is candid. I appreciate that.”

“I think her combination of academic, administrative, and direct practice experience is compelling,” added Dawn Shafer, LCSW-C, LCADC, assistant dean of student services. “These varied skill sets will allow her to help enact change within our institution and ultimately make us more effective at serving the community. Social work practice relies on the value of human relationships, and Dr. Postmus’ ability to make others feel comfortable through her humor and ability to listen is a great asset.”

It was Barth who encouraged Postmus to apply for the dean position. The two have known each other for years through a mentor they have in common, Richard Edwards, distinguished professor and chancellor emeritus at Rutgers, who strongly vouched for her.

“She comes from a school very similar to ours, more similar than any other schools of social work in the country,” Barth noted.

Barth said Postmus brings a “strong research capacity” to UMSSW. Her experience building the Center on Violence Against Women and Children at Rutgers, with funding from Verizon, indicates that she also has a strong knowledge of working with corporations and will have the ability to enhance UMSSW’s development efforts, Barth added.

— Mary Therese Phelan

CURECORNER

JULY/AUGUST 2020

COVID-19 CAN'T STOP UMB CURE SCHOLARS

Students and teachers around the world are still coming to grips with distance learning, home assignments, and virtual classrooms. The stay-at-home orders put in place this past spring because of the COVID-19 pandemic turned public education completely on its head, and teachers, students, and parents had to adapt.

For Ayishat Yusef, a 10th-grade student at City College, adapting to this “new normal” has been a challenge.

“It’s hard to balance your home life with school,” she says. “Especially if you have siblings because you have to help them with their schoolwork, too. I had to make a schedule for myself to make sure I don’t get behind on my assignments.”

During these stressful and unprecedented times, Ayishat is grateful to have Kat Coburn, an MD/PhD student at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM), as her mentor. “She’s really nice, and she’s really helpful,” Ayishat says. “We’re very comfortable with telling each other everything.”

Coburn, who’s from Grand Rapids, Mich., became Ayishat’s mentor five years ago through the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s (UMB) CURE Scholars Program, a nationally recognized pilot program aimed at reducing racial disparities in public health by introducing a pipeline toward careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) to middle school students in West Baltimore. The program pairs students with long-term mentors who help guide them through middle school, high school, college, and beyond.

The two were paired when Ayishat was in the sixth grade at the CURE Scholars’ annual White Coat Ceremony, which is now the traditional way of welcoming a new cohort of scholars to the program. Coburn was excited to become a mentor to Ayishat and several other CURE Scholars.

“I always knew that I wanted to get involved in a long-term mentoring program,” Coburn says. “I wanted to hopefully open doors for the youth here in Baltimore the same way other people in my life had opened doors for me.”

FINDING COMMON GROUND

On the surface, a medical student from the Midwest may not have a lot in common with a Baltimore high school student, but Coburn says she sees a lot of herself in Ayishat, who dreams of going to medical school and becoming a pediatrician. Before joining UMB CURE, she didn’t think medical school was even an option for her.

“I had always thought I would be a teacher or an artist or something like that,” she says. “The main thing CURE changed for me was my mindset about my career choices.”

Coburn says she had a similar experience when deciding what career path she wanted to pursue.

“Growing up, I had always been told, ‘You really shouldn’t think about going to medical school. You need to find a Plan B,’ ” she explains. “I was actually a hairdresser for three years before I went to undergrad.”

Coburn started her higher education journey at a community college before transferring to a four-year university. Now, she is pursuing an MD and a PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology at UMB. She says she owes a lot of her success to the mentors she had along the way.

“It’s the main reason why I’m a huge proponent of mentoring,” she says. “Having gone through a process where I really needed mentors in my life, I understand what it’s like to be a student who needs support and guidance. Now I really want to give back and to help students like



“THE MAIN THING CURE CHANGED FOR ME WAS MY MINDSET ABOUT MY CAREER CHOICES,” SAYS CURE SCHOLAR AYISHAT YUSSEF.

Continued from previous page

Ayishat and show them that there are really cool possibilities in the STEM field for them.”

MENTORING DURING A PANDEMIC

Before the stay-at-home orders, the scholars and their mentors met two or three times a week for after-school programming, tutoring sessions, field trips, or just to spend time together. Once all academic programming went online, the scholars and mentors needed to find other ways to connect.

The UMB CURE team used Google Classroom and Zoom video chat to keep the scholars caught up with their after-school STEM programming and to have a little fun. In June, scholars and mentors participated in a CURE Spirit Week during which they got together over Zoom to socialize, play games, and have friendly competitions.

“We always say in all messaging, ‘We’re all learning together,’ ” says Gia Grier McGinnis, DrPH, MS, the executive director of UMB CURE. “Our staff and teachers and mentors are all doing a great job of keeping in touch with our scholars every week whether it’s through video chats, phone calls, or even just a text message.”

The UMB CURE staff also keeps in touch with the scholars’ families, many of which face unprecedented hardships due to COVID-19 restrictions.

To address these needs, the UMB CURE team collaborated with the University’s Office of Philanthropy to set up the UMB CURE Scholars Emergency Support Fund. The money collected helps to provide essential services and resources such as groceries, rent, utilities, transportation, and more. (*Donate to the fund [here](#).*)

FIVE YEARS OF STEM MENTORSHIP

The UMB CURE Scholars Program officially launched in October 2015 with one cohort of 41 sixth-grade scholars from three West Baltimore Schools: Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School, Green Street Academy, and Southwest Baltimore Charter School. Since then, the program has expanded to over 100 scholars separated into five cohorts ranging from sixth to 10th grade.

All of the scholars have seen vast improvements in their math and reading comprehension skills, written and verbal communication skills, and overall attendance. The scholars also have been given a number of amazing hands-on opportunities to meet and observe STEM professionals such as cancer researchers, lawyers, orthopedic surgeons, orthodontists, members of Congress, and more. All of these opportunities were used to fulfill the UMB CURE mission to excite and inspire Baltimore youth and show them that they have the potential to succeed in rewarding STEM careers.

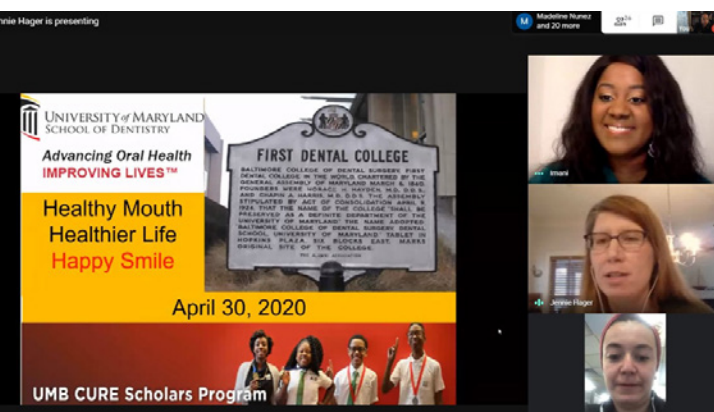
“As a university-based program that serves West Baltimore, the CURE Program has made a serious commitment to invest in our young people, and we cannot afford to fail our goal of producing our next generation of leaders,” Grier McGinnis says.

As the program reaches its five-year anniversary, program leaders are looking forward to building out the next piece of the pipeline with 11th- and 12th-grade programming. This will include a new career navigation curriculum that will give the scholars the opportunity to shadow a professional in their career choice.

“It’s kind of crazy to look back and think about how far these scholars have come, because I’ve seen them grow up before my eyes,” Coburn says. “It’s cool to see Ayishat and all the scholars flourish and grow into young adults. I’ve definitely seen Ayishat’s critical thinking skills increase. Her writing ability is just through the roof.”

Now, looking toward the future, Ayishat is excited to start applying to colleges. Her top two choices are Howard University and the University of Maryland, College Park. Coburn jokingly said to Ayishat, “You guys can’t get rid of me even when you go to college. I will always be your mentor.”

— Jena Frick



MENTORS IN THE UMB CURE SCHOLARS PROGRAM CONNECT WITH THEIR MENTEES OVER ZOOM VIDEO CHAT TO TEACH THEM ABOUT ORAL HEALTH.

“Our instructional staff has been doing an amazing job touching base with families and assessing food needs and providing resources,” says Shawdae Harrison, the mentor coordinator for UMB CURE. “We also set up a hotline for our CURE families so that if they need anything like access to food or technology, they can contact us with those needs.”

PROUD TO **WORK HERE.**
PROUD TO **GIVE HERE.**



CAMPAIGN FACTS

The **PROUD TO WORK HERE. PROUD TO GIVE HERE.** campaign is a Universitywide awareness and fundraising effort that invites faculty and staff to show their pride with a gift to the UMB school, scholarship, program, fund, or cause that matters most to them. Our second year has been record-breaking in several categories.

Thank you to all who participated – you have a lot to be PROUD of.

\$2.9 million

received

in gifts and
pledge payments

15%

employee participation

a 50% increase from
previous fiscal year

187

funds

supported

AREAS SUPPORTED:

*Student Scholarships
and Endowments*

Professorships

Research Activities

Public Service Projects

Institutional Programs

Areas of Greatest Need

TOP THREE FUNDS FOR NEW DONORS

Food for Our Front Lines

Student Emergency Funds

*Community Engagement
Center Sustaining Fund*

FISCAL YEAR 2020 (July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020)



1,020
DONORS

\$1,033

average fiscal year
gift amount

\$25

most frequent
gift amount

361 **FIRST-TIME DONORS**

57

donors through
payroll deduction



90 **DONORS GAVE**
\$1,000+

PHILANTHROPY

JULY/AUGUST 2020

STEADY DIET OF DONATIONS MAKES FOOD FOR OUR FRONT LINES PROGRAM A SUCCESS

The University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) Food for Our Front Lines initiative provided nourishment not just for essential workers who are keeping campus safe and operational during the COVID-19 pandemic, it helped sustain the surrounding community as well.

The program, which ran from April 1 through June 22, delivered 4,791 lunches to UMB's front-line workers thanks to 477 donations from the University community. In addition, the effort gave \$60,300 worth of business to restaurants in West Baltimore.

"This initiative accomplished what we set out to do: help small businesses in West Baltimore stay afloat during quarantine, and support our colleagues still working on campus during the height of the pandemic by providing nutritious lunches," Laura Kozak, MA, associate vice president, Office of Communications and Public Affairs, and Ashley Valis, MSW, executive director, Office of Community Engagement, said in an email announcing the end of the campaign.

Essential employees were grateful to be recognized and receive the food while working under extreme and often isolating conditions.

"The first couple of days, there was nowhere around that you could get anything to eat," said Ida Powell, a custodian with Environmental Services. "It's a totally different dynamic, being down there, working, and you have literally no one to talk to. When they say front line, they're always thinking about just the grocery workers, the nurses, the doctors. And to be recognized as a front-line worker and to know that they appreciated me enough to give me something to eat, it was amazing."

The initiative enlisted restaurants in West Baltimore that are minority-, immigrant-, or female-owned. The restaurants that participated were Culinary Architecture, Faidley's Seafood, The Land of Kush, Neopol Savory Smokery, Ruben's Mexican Food, Taco Town, The Back Yard, and Zella's Pizzeria.



THE FOOD FOR OUR FRONT LINES INITIATIVE PAID FOR 4,791 LUNCHES FOR UMB'S FRONT-LINE WORKERS.

The owners said the initiative allowed them to keep their businesses open and their workers employed even as the pandemic caused other restaurants to shutter.

"It was a pleasure to provide meals to our front line during this challenging time," said Danye Hahn, whose family owns Faidley's Seafood. "We greatly appreciate the generous donations that made the program possible. With your help, we were able to keep all of our employees working during COVID."

Sylva Lin, owner of Culinary Architecture, said, "Each food order that was placed with us helped us keep our doors open another day and retain our staff. When a small business says that it is survival day-to-day, we mean it. The orders coming from UMB gave us some security and relief during this very stressful time."

Powell said she has continued to buy lunches from some of the restaurants since the program started.

Continued from previous page

“The lunches were awesome. There was a variety, and we appreciated it,” she said, adding that there was something for everyone. “Those lunches that they brought, it wasn’t the same old, same old.”

The effort was spearheaded by Kozak when the University scaled back operations in March because of the pandemic. Students were home attending classes virtually and the majority of faculty and staff had begun teleworking. But more than 200 employees remained on campus to fulfill essential duties. Because of the closure of restaurants, the workers otherwise would not have had a place to get lunch.

Donations included initial funding from the UMB Foundation, as well as \$10,000 from Pete Buzy, who serves on the foundation board, and his wife, Eileen. The University put out a call for donations April 1 to pay for the lunches, which cost about \$12.50 and included a sandwich or salad, chips, and a cookie or dessert bar.

So many members of the University community responded that the program was able to provide two lunches a week to the

essential workers for more than two months. Madison Haas, MSW, economic inclusion coordinator, Office of Community Engagement, coordinated with the restaurants and department heads, while Denise Meyer, associate director of Environmental Services, and her team worked to receive the food when it was delivered and distribute it.

Paul Sacco, MSW, PhD, associate professor and associate dean for research, School of Social Work, called donating to the fund a “win-win.”

“Working from home, it gives me the chance to make even a small connection to the heroic efforts of our front-line colleagues,” Sacco said. “I also think about the restaurants that serve our campus community, many that are small businesses dependent on the employees of UMB. These are our neighbors and an integral part of our community.”

— Jen Badie



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
Welcome Events

UMB *welcomes* YOU

#umbwelcome2020

Friday, Aug. 21 - Friday, Sept. 4

Whether you're new to the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) or returning for another year, UMB's Division of Student Affairs welcomes you to attend a series of fun, informative, and engaging virtual events.

For more information, visit:
umaryland.edu/welcome

CORE VALUES

JULY/AUGUST 2020

VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY ATTRACTS RECORD TURNOUT

For the past four years, Professional Development Day has given University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) staff members an opportunity to build skills and network. On June 9, nearly 300 participants received the same benefit, albeit from a distance, making it the largest turnout in the event's history.

Professional Development Day was held virtually for the first time to keep in line with safety measures instituted due to the COVID-19 pandemic preventing large gatherings. With so many of UMB's employees teleworking since mid-March, it attracted a large, remote audience.

This year's theme, "Living the Core Values," centered on UMB's seven core values: accountability, civility, collaboration, diversity, excellence, knowledge, and leadership. The program was co-sponsored by Human Resource Services and the UMB Staff Senate.

Matt Lasecki, SPHR, associate vice president and chief human resources officer, introduced the day's keynote speaker, as a familiar face appeared on participants' devices: University System of Maryland (USM) Chancellor and former UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, who introduced UMB to the seven core values during his inaugural address in 2010.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND
CHANCELLOR JAY A. PERMAN, MD,
WAS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY,
WHICH WAS HELD VIA ZOOM.

Collaboration, for instance, has been crucial in guiding and supporting USM institutions while navigating the pandemic, he said.

"As the scope of the COVID crisis began revealing itself in January and February, we all began to realize this was something unprecedented — that the universities needed guidance and support, they needed to talk through actions and implications,"

"Frankly, I consider the core values one of the best things we did together when I was here with you. And I think the crises we're facing right now make it the perfect time to talk about why our values matter," Perman said, alluding to the pandemic and the national unrest after 46-year-old George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis police.

Perman's keynote address focused specifically on the core values of collaboration, leadership, and accountability.

Perman said. "So we hosted briefings, preparedness training, tabletop exercises, and we issued guidance. We all knew instinctively that we needed to face this global challenge together."

USM leaders began meeting three times a week instead of once a month, with some calls exceeding more than 100 participants. They discussed common approaches, transitioning to remote learning, mandating telework, recalling study-abroad students, canceling events and commencements — "all the stuff you've done," Perman said.

Collaboration remains at the forefront as system leaders make decisions about the way in which students, faculty, and staff return while being mindful of safety and public health, he added. "That value of collaboration is a process, and it's renewed with every decision that we make, even when they cost money. And I think that is the truest test of any value," he said.

On the value of leadership, Perman said when he accepted the job as chancellor it was in part to fulfill one of his life's missions: to ensure that every person who wants a college education can get one. The sense of obligation comes from his own history, when a woman he never met offered him a scholarship to attend medical school.

"That one act of generosity seeded in me the desire to open the same doors to education that had been opened to me. And I truly don't think there's a better opportunity to do that than as chancellor of this system," Perman said.

Moving on to accountability, Perman turned his attention toward Floyd.

"You don't need any reminder that the last several weeks have been difficult for all of us," he said. "We all saw the brutality of George Floyd's murder. And I think a lot of us knew and know that if we hadn't actually seen it, hadn't seen the video of it, then the officers who killed him would never have faced consequences — certainly not consequences befitting the horrible act."

The day also included breakout sessions via "rooms" on Zoom on topics such as "Effective Communication" and "Principle-Centered Leadership." Others, such as "Engaging Emotional Intelligence to Enhance Virtual Workplace Performance," "Enhance Telework with Teams," and "Collaborate with SharePoint" reflected these teleworking times.

— Mary Therese Phelan

Read more about *Professional Development Day*.