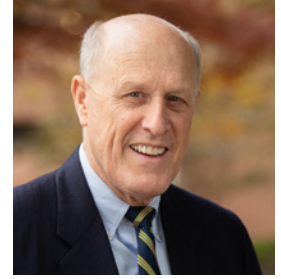


the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JUNE 2021



PRESIDENT'S FELLOWS EXPLORE HEALTH LITERACY AS A SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH

Understanding health information has taken on special importance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Local, national, and global news is dominated by COVID-19, but misinformation and health disparities continue to be urgent issues. The ability to understand and use information available to make informed decisions about health varies. Health literacy affects how people apply health information in important ways, and health literacy levels dramatically impact patient outcomes.

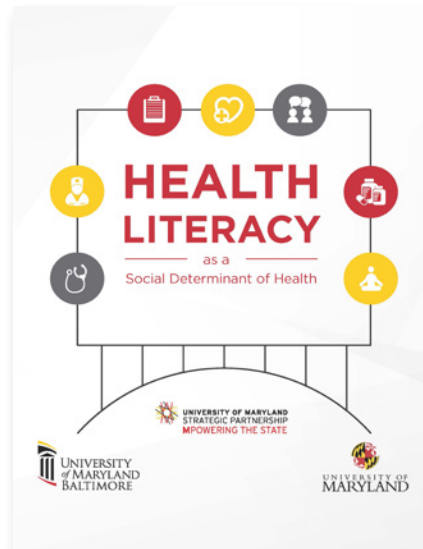
The 2020-2021 President's White Paper Project engaged *nine students* from the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) schools of dentistry, law, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and social work and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) School of Public Health on a yearlong research project and conversation on topics important to the University community. This year's project focused on health literacy as a social determinant of health.

The White Paper Project centers on expanding the University's role in improving the relationship between provider and patient, allowing patients to be well-informed and active decision-makers in their own health and the health of their families.

To better understand health literacy as a social determinant of health, seven of the President's Fellows participated as *MPower* scholars for a summer research program where they met with health literacy experts, examined health literacy's role in their disciplines, and reviewed educational literature to capture if and how health literacy was taught. This research continued into the fall as part of the President's Symposium and White Paper Project with two additional students joining the interprofessional team.

The fellows interviewed administrators, faculty, and staff to establish the current state of teaching health literacy at UMB and UMCP. They used faculty questionnaires in conjunction with content such as syllabi, website information, and course

catalogs to document existing courses and other educational interventions such as clinical experiences, clerkships, simulations, and lab experiences available to the disciplines. The fellows also conducted unstructured conversations with community organizations and students to identify other opportunities, such as service-learning or volunteer experiences, that may train students to use health literacy practices.



The President's Symposium Series invited experts to share with the fellows and the broader UMB and UMCP communities. I want to thank this year's speakers — Leana Wen, MD, MSc; Alash'le Abimiku, PhD, MA; Wilma Alvarado-Little, MA, MSW; Christopher Trudeau, JD; Dean Schillinger, MD; Denise Rodgers, MD, FAAFP; and Steven Chen, PharmD, FASHP, FCSHP, FNAP — for sharing their knowledge and expertise.

The fellows developed a list of recommendations centered on the major themes of education, research, community engagement, and collaboration to address health literacy as a social determinant of health and use an empathetic, interprofessional approach to meet the University's and surrounding community's health literacy needs. I hope that you will *read the paper* ([PDF](#)) and think about how health literacy impacts your work and life.

I want to congratulate the 2020-2021 President's Fellows for their thoughtful work. A health-literate society is an important part of improving the human condition.

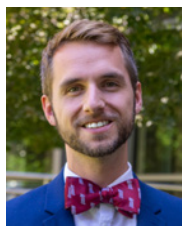
Sincerely,

Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS
PRESIDENT

LAURELS

JUNE 2021

UNIVERSITYWIDE



GREGORY A. BRIGHTBILL

Gregory A. Brightbill, MBA, MEd, associate director of student leadership and involvement, Intercultural Leadership and Engagement, wrote the

op-ed “Has Higher Education Learned Any Lessons from the Pandemic?” which was published in *The Baltimore Sun* on May 3.



COURTNEY J. JONES CARNEY

Courtney J. Jones Carney, MBA, executive director, Intercultural Leadership and Engagement, and director, Intercultural Center, was the keynote

speaker for the Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center/Geriatrics and Research virtual conference April 14. The event’s theme was “The Convergence of COVID-19 and Social Justice: Promoting Health Equity in Later Life.”



M.J. TOOLEY

M.J. Tooley, MLS, AHIP, FMLA, associate vice president, Academic Affairs, and executive director, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, delivered

the keynote address “Resistance is Futile: Change or Die! Strategies for Post-Pandemic Reflection and Success”

to the joint meeting of the Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists and the Association of Mental Health Librarians on April 28.

Tara Wink, MLS, Historical Collections librarian and archivist, Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HSHSL), and HSHSL spring 2021 interns Elizabeth Brown and Hanna Takemoto presented as part of the “Creating Meaningful Hybrid and Virtual Internship Opportunities for Students” panel at the Society of Southwest Archivists’ virtual meeting in May.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



OMID DIANAT



BEHZAD MOSTOUFI



JEFFERY B. PRICE



PATRICIA A. TORDIK

Sara Aldahmash, BDS, endodontics resident; **Omid Dianat, DDS, MS, MS**, clinical instructor, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics (AOST); **Behzad Mostoufi, DDS, MDS**, clinical instructor, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; **Ali Nosrat, DDS, MS, MDS**, clinical instructor,

AOST; **Jeffery B. Price, DDS, MS**, clinical professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences; **Elaine Romberg, PhD**, Professor Emeritus, AOST; and **Patricia A. Tordik, DMD**, clinical professor, AOST, co-authored “Accuracy and Efficiency of a Dynamic Navigation System for Locating Calcified Canals,” which was published in the *Journal of Endodontics*.



ABDULRAHMAN A. BALHADDAD



MARY ANNE MELO



AKUDO OGBUNKA

PhD student **Abdulrahman A. Balhaddad, BDS, MSD**; **Mary Anne Melo, DDS, MSc, PhD, FADM**, associate professor, Department of General Dentistry; and fourth-

year student **Akudo Ogbunka** co-authored “Wear Behavior and Surface Quality of Dental Bioactive Ions-Releasing Resins Under Simulated Chewing Conditions,” which was published in *Frontiers in Oral Health* in February.

Omid Dianat, DDS, MS, MS, clinical instructor, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics (AOST); **Frederico C. Martinho, DDS, MSc, PhD**, clinical associate professor, AOST; **Behzad Mostoufi, DDS, MDS**, clinical instructor, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; **Ali Nosrat,**

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

JUNE 2021

DDS, MS, MDS, clinical instructor, AOST; and **Jeffery B. Price, DDS, MS**, clinical professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, co-authored “Accuracy and Efficiency of Guided Root-End Resection Using a Dynamic Navigation System: A Human Cadaver Study,” which was published in the *International Endodontic Journal* in May.



INA L. GRIFFIN



FREDERICO C. MARTINHO

Ina L. Griffin, DMD, clinical assistant professor, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics (AOST), and **Frederico C. Martinho, DDS, MSc, PhD**, clinical associate professor, AOST, co-authored “A Cross-Sectional Survey on the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 on the Clinical Practice of Endodontists Across the United States,” which was published in the *Journal of Endodontics* in January.



GARY D. HACK

Gary D. Hack, DDS, clinical associate professor, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, presented “Using Technology During the

Pandemic: Computer-Aided Design and Manufacturing and 3-D Printing in Dental Education” at UMB’s Teaching with Technology Virtual Conference on May 24.

Frederico C. Martinho, DDS, MSc, PhD, clinical associate professor, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics (AOST), and **Patricia A. Tordik, DMD**, clinical professor, AOST, co-authored “Dental Abscess to Septic Shock: A Case Report and Literature Review,” which was published in the *Journal of Endodontics* in April.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW



KAREN CZAPSKIY

Karen Czapskiy, JD, professor, wrote “Vaccination, Disabled Children, and Parental Income,” which was published in the *Journal*

of Health Care Law and Policy.

Deborah Eisenberg, JD, professor and associate dean of academic affairs, presented “Is Remote Justice Remote?” at the American Bar Association’s Dispute Resolution Conference on April 15.



DEBORAH EISENBERG

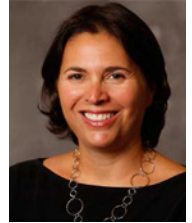


DAN GOLDBERG

Dan Goldberg, JD, professor, wrote “Partnership Revaluations: Book-Ups Are Your Friends (Usually) — Planning with Revaluations and Their Interplay

with Section 704(c),” which was published in *Tax Lawyer* in May.

Leigh Goodmark, JD, professor and co-director, Clinical Law Program, was quoted in “Grindr Murder: Could Kevin Bacon’s Death Have Been Prevented?” which was published in *Rolling Stone* on April 9.



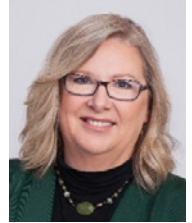
LEIGH GOODMARK

Mark Graber, JD, professor, wrote “COVID-19, the United States, and Evidence-Based Politics,” which was published in *Verfassungsblog* on April 14.



MARK GRABER

Quince Hopkins, JD, LLM, SJD, director, Erin Levitas Initiative for Sexual Assault Prevention, was named a Leadership in Law honoree by the *Maryland Daily Record*. Leadership in Law recognizes Maryland lawyers and judges who exhibit outstanding dedication to their occupation and their communities.



QUINCE HOPKINS



PAULA MONOPOLI

Paula Monopoli, JD, professor and founding director, Women, Leadership, and Equality Program, presented “An Independent Interpretation of the Nineteenth Amendment” at the Georgetown Law School Center for the Constitution’s Annual Chase Colloquium on April 23.

LAURELS

JUNE 2021



MICHELE ONDRA

Michele Ondra, MBA, MS, director, administration and operations, received honorable mention in the Excellence category of the 2021 UMB

Presidential Core Values Awards.

Robert Percival, JD, professor and director, Environmental Law Program, wrote “President Biden Moves Swiftly to Reverse Trump Administration’s Relentless Rollbacks of Environmental Regulations,” which was published in the *Journal of Environmental Law* in April.



BEVERLY WINSTEAD

Beverly Winstead, JD, clinical instructor, was quoted in “Dealing with Tax Debt? Here Are Some Tips to Set Things Right with the IRS,” which was published on CNBC.com on April 2.

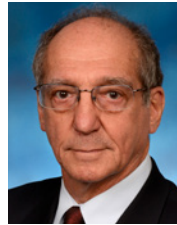
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

Bizhan Aarabi, MD, professor, Department of Neurosurgery, gave the keynote speech at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine’s Nathan Rifkinson Neurosurgery Forum on May 15.

Gad Alon, PhD, PT, Associate Professor Emeritus, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation

Science, co-authored “Effect of Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation on the Recovery of People with COVID-19 Admitted to the Intensive Care Unit: A Narrative Review,” which was published in the *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine*.



GAD ALON



SEEMANT CHATURVEDI

Seemant Chaturvedi, MD, the Stewart J. Greenebaum Endowed Professor of Stroke Neurology, received the Association of

Indian Neurologists in America’s (AINA) Lifetime Achievement Award, becoming the first stroke neurologist to earn the award.

Lauren Cohee, MD, instructor, Department of Pediatrics, and **Miriam K. Laufer, MD**, professor, associate director for malaria research, and assistant dean for student research and education, co-authored “School-Based Screening and Treatment May Reduce P. Falciparum Transmission,” which was published in *Scientific Reports* on March 25.

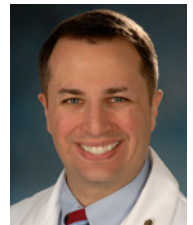


STEVEN CZINN

Steven Czinn, MD, the Drs. Rouben and Violet Jiji Endowed Professor of Pediatrics and chair, Department of Pediatrics, was appointed to the city of Baltimore’s

Trauma-Informed Care Task Force, which is charged with guiding the implementation of legislation and providing oversight, guidance, and consultation to help Baltimore become a trauma-responsive city.

Samuel Galvagno, DO, PhD, professor, and **Wei Chao, MD, PhD, FAHA**, the Anesthesiology Endowed Professor in



SAMUEL GALVAGNO

Translational Research, both from the Department of Anesthesiology, were the inaugural awardees of the Colin Mackenzie and Cristina Imle Mentoring Prize.



DHEERAJ GANDHI

Dheeraj Gandhi, MBBS, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, co-authored “Decline in Subarachnoid Haemorrhage

Volumes Associated with the First Wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic,” which was e-published in *Stroke and Vascular Neurology* on March 26.



RONNA HERTZANO

Ronna Hertzano, MD, PhD, associate professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, received a five-year, \$2,513,984 grant from the

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders for “The gEAR Portal — Advancing Data

LAURELS

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Sharing, Analysis and Discovery for Hearing and Balance Research.”



MIROSLAW JANOWSKI

Mirosław Janowski, MD, associate professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was awarded a five-year, \$1,931,250 R01

grant from the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “Image-Guided, Intra-Arterial Delivery of Antibodies to the Central Nervous System.”

Ann Kuhn, PhD, postdoctoral fellow; **Maureen Black, PhD**, professor; and **Erin Hager, PhD**, associate professor, all from the Department of Pediatrics,



MAUREEN BLACK

co-authored “Using Ecological Momentary Assessment to Identify Environment Factors Associated with Physical Activity Among Mothers of Toddlers from Low-Income Households,” which was published in *BMC Women’s Health* on March 22.



NAROTTAM LAMICHHANE

Narottam Lamichhane, PhD, assistant professor; **Shifeng Chen, PhD**, associate professor; and **Pranshu Mohindra, MD**, associate professor, all

from the Department of Radiation Oncology, and student **Muhammad Hamza** co-authored “Conformal Radiotherapy in Patients with

Cardiovascular Implantable Electronic Devices: Proposed Practical Implementation of the TG-203 Risk-Stratified Interrogation Schedule,” which was e-published in *Practical Radiation Oncology* on April 3.

Xiao Liang, PhD, postdoctoral fellow; **Steven Roys, MS**, research associate; **Rao Gullapalli, PhD, MBA**, professor; and **Jiachen Zhuo, PhD**,



RAO GULLAPALLI

assistant professor, all from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “Prospective Motion Detection and Re-Acquisition in Diffusion MRI Using a Phase Image-Based Method-Application to Brain and Tongue Imaging,” which was e-published in *Magnetic Resonance in Medicine* on March 4.

Carmen Mannella, PhD, visiting professor, Department of Physiology and the Center for Biomedical Engineering and Technology, and **W. Jonathan Lederer, MD, PhD**, professor, Department of Physiology, and director, Center for Biomedical Engineering and Technology, co-authored “The Effect of Crista Morphology on Mitochondrial ATP Output: A Computational Study,” which was e-published in *Current Research in Physiology* on April 1.



DAVID MARCOZZI

David Marcozzi, MD, MHS-CL, MHS-CL, FACEP, professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, was named Physician of the Year by the

Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. The award is given to an emergency physician who consistently achieves high standards in the practice of emergency medicine and is seen as a role model to their peers in that field.

Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH, FIDSA, professor of medicine and pediatrics, and director, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health (CVD); **Miriam**



MIRIAM LAUFER

Laufer, MD, professor of pediatrics, associate director for malaria research, and assistant dean for student research and education; and **Meagan Deming, MD, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow, CVD, co-authored “Hydroxychloroquine as Postexposure Prophylaxis to Prevent Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 Infection: A Randomized Trial,” which was published in *Annals of Internal Medicine* on March 17.



SAIMA RIAZUDDIN

Saima Riazuddin, PhD, MPH, MBA, and **Zubair Ahmed, PhD**, both professors from the Department of Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery,

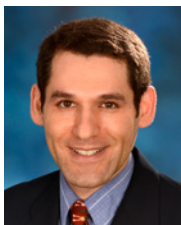
co-authored “Biallelic Variants in TMEM222 Cause a New Autosomal Recessive Neurodevelopmental Disorder,” which was published in *Genetics in Medicine* on April 6.

Adam Spanier, MD, PhD, MPH, associate professor, Department of Pediatrics, and division head, General Pediatrics and Developmental and

LAURELS

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Behavioral Pediatrics, and student **Shannon Kirby** co-authored “Pediatric Primary Care Relationships and Non-Urgent Emergency Department Use in Children,” which was e-published in *Academic Pediatrics* on April 1.



ADAM SPANIER



JOHN TALBOTT

John Talbott, MD, Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychiatry, received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Psychiatric Association

(APA). Talbott was APA president in 1984-1985 and editor of its journal *Psychiatric Services* from 1980 to 2004.



ROSE VISCARDI

Rose Viscardi, MD, Professor Emeritus, Department of Pediatrics, received the Eastern Society of Pediatric Research’s Mentor of the Year Award on March 11.



EMERSON WICKWIRE

Emerson Wickwire, PhD, associate professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Medicine, presented “Tele-Sleep and COVID-19” at the International

Sleep Science and Technology Association’s annual meeting.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

To bolster the nursing workforce, **UMSON** for the third time approved an early exit for entry-into-nursing students who were scheduled to graduate May 20, 2021. All 172 graduating Bachelor of Science in Nursing students exited early April 23, provided they had successfully completed their spring courses. In addition, 13 graduating entry-into-nursing Clinical Nurse Leader master’s students took the option to exit as early as April 23.

This fall, **UMSON** will become the first nursing school in the nation to offer a postbachelor’s certificate in Substance Use and Addictions Nursing. The 12-credit certificate, designed for registered and advanced practice registered nurses, will be offered online with a 90-hour clinical practicum in the student’s own location.



RICHARD P. CONLEY JR.

Richard P. Conley Jr., DNP ’20, CRNA, assistant professor, co-authored “Implementation of Carbohydrate-Based Liquid Nutrition in Labor,” which

was published on the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists’ Nurse Anesthesiology website.



ELIZABETH GALIK

Elizabeth Galik, PhD ’07, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP, professor and chair, Department of Organizational Systems and Adult Health, was named the Maryland nurse

practitioner recipient of the 2021 American Association of Nurse Practitioners State Award for Excellence.



VERONICA QUATTRINI

Veronica Quattrini, DNP, MS ’99, BSN ’95, FNP-BC, assistant professor and senior director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, was a part of the University

of Maryland Medical Center’s COVID-19 Screening Hotline team, which was first runner-up in the *American Nurse Journal’s* All Pro Nursing Teams recognition program.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



BETHANY DIPAULA

Bethany DiPaula, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a seven-month, \$49,900 contract from the Maryland

Department of Health for “Expanding the Maryland Opioid Academic Detailing Project to Include Maryland Pharmacists.”



JOGA GOBBURU

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

three-month, \$150,000 contract

LAURELS

JUNE 2021

from NewAmsterdam Pharma for “Proposal for PK Analysis of Obicetrapib.”



MAHA HAQ

Maha Haq, student, MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics Program, received the Outstanding Graduate Student Involvement Award from the

Universities at Shady Grove (USG) for exemplifying dedication to the USG community through effort, intentionality, and time management.



EMILY HEIL

Emily Heil, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was appointed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human

Services’ HIV Opportunistic Infections Guidelines Panel.



STEPHEN HOAG

Stephen Hoag, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and director, Applied Pharmaceutics Lab, received a one-year, \$99,999 contract from

Maryland Industrial Partnerships for “Development and Testing of Nano Particulate Delivery System for HO Therapy.”



LISA JONES

Lisa Jones, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, \$52,500 contract from REGENXBIO, Inc. for “Research Services Agreement.”



JANNAT SAINI

Jannat Saini, PharmD, PhD student, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a scholarship to attend the virtual American

Public Health Association Policy Action Institute.

Heng Ung, first-year student, received a UMB Scholar Award for “Understanding Small Molecule Interactions with Proteins and Nucleic Acids Through AI-Based Molecular Simulations.”

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

The **Positive Schools Center**, part of the Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS), received \$15,000 from the Baltimore Community Foundation to aid caregivers in the seven SWCOS community schools with peer support and mental health resources.

PhD student **Todd Becker, MSW**, and **John Cagle, PhD, MSW**, associate professor, co-authored “Bereavement Support



TODD BECKER



JOHN CAGLE

Services in a National Sample of Hospices: A Content Analysis,” which was published in *OMEGA — Journal of Death and Dying*.

Lisa Berlin, PhD, professor, co-edited “Attachment: The Fundamental Questions,” a series of 46 essays addressing nine fundamental questions facing the field of attachment theory and research.

Christabel Cheung, PhD, MSW, assistant professor, co-authored “Systematic Review of Financial Burden Assessment in Cancer: Evaluation of Measures and Utility Among Adolescents and Young Adults and Caregivers,” which was published in *Cancer*.

Gisele Ferretto, MSW, LCSW-C, clinical instructor, was a contributing author of “Confidentiality and Information Utilization NASW Policy Statement,” which was included in the book “Social Work Speaks 12th Edition: National Association of Social Workers Policy Statements 2021-2023.”



NADINE FINIGAN-CARR

Nadine Finigan-Carr, PhD, research associate professor, received the Society for Prevention Research Early Career Preventionist Network’s 2021

John B. Reid Early Career Award.

LAURELS

JUNE 2021



DEBORAH GIOIA

Deborah Gioia, PhD, associate professor, co-authored “Emotional Preparedness as a Mechanism to Improve Provider Morale During the Pandemic,” which was published in *Social Work in Mental Health*.



GEOFFREY GREIF

Geoffrey Greif, PhD, professor, wrote the op-ed “More Than Just Housekeeping,” which discusses specific and helpful ways faculty can discuss student

well-being in class and was published on InsideHigherEd.com.



CAROLINE HARMON-DARROW

PhD student **Caroline Harmon-Darrow, MSW**, co-authored “Mediator Approach and Mediator Behavior: A Secondary Data Analysis of Day of Trial

and Child Access Mediation in Maryland,” which was published in *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*.



LAUREN MCCARTHY

PhD student **Lauren McCarthy, MSW**, co-authored a report published by the Administration for Children & Families that

explores the impact of COVID-19 on transitions into kindergarten.



NALINI NEGI

Nalini Negi, PhD, associate professor, contributed to the editorial, “The Hidden Cost of Caregiving During the Pandemic,” which was published in the *Journal of Social Work Education*.

Judy Postmus, PhD, ACSW, dean and professor, co-authored “Women’s Economic Abuse Experiences: Results from the UN Multi-Country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific,” which was published in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.



RODERICK ROSE

Roderick Rose, PhD, assistant professor, co-authored “Academic Trajectories of Children in Formal and Informal Kinship Care,” which was published in *Child Development*.



THEDA ROSE

Theda Rose, PhD, assistant professor, co-authored “Photovoice as a Tool for Exploring Perceptions of Marijuana Use Among Appalachian

Adolescents,” which was published in the *Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse*.



MELISSA EDMONDSON SMITH

Melissa Edmondson Smith, PhD, associate professor, co-authored “A Social Ecological Model for Navigating Safety Across Time: The Experience of Black Adults with Serious Mental Illnesses,” which was published in *The University of Chicago Press Journals*.



JAY UNICK

Jay Unick, PhD, associate professor, co-authored “Validating the Neurodevelopmental Domain of Neurodevelopmental Ecological Screening Tool:

An Ecological Screener for Use With 3-5 Year-Old Children Impacted by Poverty and Homelessness,” which was published in the *Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment*.



LEE WESTGATE

Lee Westgate, MBA, MSW, LCSW-C, clinical professor, presented “We Are Essential: Lessons Learned, Insights, and Opportunities for Change

in the Era of COVID-19” at the Maryland chapter of the National Association of Social Workers’ annual conference.

UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

CATALYST

BIG IDEAS CHANGE THE WORLD



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE SPRING 2021 ISSUE OF

UMB's **CATALYST** magazine!

This dynamic digital issue of *CATALYST* highlights how students are receiving invaluable hands-on experience preparing COVID-19 vaccines and vaccinating patients at the SMC Campus Center as well as the important COVID-19 research being done across all of UMB's schools. Read these inspiring stories online at catalystmag.umaryland.edu.

Find out how UMB's big ideas are changing the world!



Visit catalystmag.umaryland.edu.

COMMENCEMENT

JUNE 2021

CLASS OF 2021 PRAISED FOR RESILIENCE AMID COVID-19

The University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) seven schools celebrated Commencement 2021 by mixing virtual events and small, in-person gatherings to honor a class that has persevered to graduate amid the COVID-19 pandemic. On the Universitywide level, the theme was clear: Many of us have been apart for much of the past 14 months, but UMB always comes together to improve the human condition and serve the public good.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY GRADUATES CELEBRATE OUTSIDE AFTER RECEIVING THEIR DEGREES DURING SMALL, IN-PERSON CEREMONIES INSIDE THE SCHOOL.

Rather than leading the annual Universitywide ceremony at Royal Farms Arena, canceled for the second year in a row because of COVID-19 safety protocols, UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, spoke from Leadership Hall in the Medical School Teaching Facility as the centerpiece of a 17½-minute video released May 20 to celebrate the Class of 2021.

"It is unfortunate that you're not walking across that stage today," Jarrell said. "I feel your pain, to not be here in person to receive your diploma. But it's not the act of walking across that stage that defines you or your career. That is just one more step in your career, the end of one more chapter. I'm sure and confident that your studies have prepared you to go forth and write that next chapter. Our Maryland community and the world could not be more ready for you to get started."

Next up was Gov. Larry Hogan, who extended congratulations on behalf of the state of Maryland as "you begin the next exciting chapter of your lives."

"You will often be remembered for your earning your degree in the shadow of a global pandemic," he said. "Normal life came to a screeching halt over the past year and forced all of us to pause and reflect on the things that truly matter. Staying apart from friends and family reminded us how much we depend on and need each other to get through the hard times.

"Fortunately, now we are so close to that light at the end of the tunnel when we can put this pandemic behind us. And while we know that we can never reclaim the time we've lost, I hope that as you graduate today, you remember that each of us can make the days ahead count that much more."

Jay A. Perman, MD, the chancellor of the University System of Maryland, noted it was "so nice to be home again," alluding to his nearly 10-year tenure as UMB president before Jarrell assumed the office in 2020.

"I know that nothing you've endured throughout this COVID year has been easy," Perman told the graduates. "Given the incredible challenges and uncertainty you faced, I'm awed by your persistence and flexibility, your grit and determination. What you've accomplished this year is amazing, and I know that the same qualities that got you through these months of turbulence will propel you through a lifetime of work that truly makes a difference."

Nivedita Hegdekar, MSL, president of the University Student Government Association, a student in the Graduate School, and now a graduate of the Francis King Carey School of Law, praised students for their resilience in the face of COVID-19.

"You navigated the hurdles of online learning, multiple Zoom meetings, online finals, personal hardships, and so much more," she said. "These were challenges that none of you signed up for, yet you persevered and succeeded. You not only showed personal resilience, compassion, and strength of character, but you also supported one another and the UMB community.

"The Class of 2021 proved that through hard times, you can still complete your education and follow your dreams."

— Lou Cortina

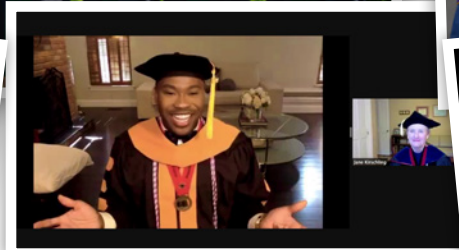
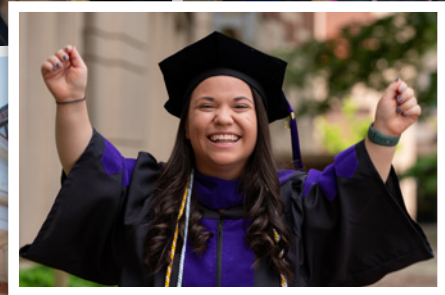
Watch **UMB's video** and **read more** about Commencement.

COMMENCEMENT SCENES

JUNE 2021

DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 17-21, UMB's seven schools celebrated Commencement with small, in-person events and/or virtual ceremonies to honor the Class of 2021, which was praised for its resilience in overcoming adversity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. You can see a larger photo gallery at [*this link*](#).

PHOTOS BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO / UMB



COVID-19

JUNE 2021

RETURN TO CAMPUS EMOTIONS: EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Countless video meetings and online events. Very little in-person interaction with students or colleagues. Isolation. Fear. Grief.

It's been a long 15 months since the last time many University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) employees were on campus. On March 13, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic abruptly caused the University to shift to mostly telework and telelearning. While some operations have resumed, and some employees and students have been back on campus — joining the front-line workers who kept the University up and running from the start — June 1 marked the return to in-person work for many.

And with it, we should expect a tide of emotions, both positive and negative.

“I think there's going to be anxiety and overwhelm and ambivalence. And I think people are going to feel a bit confused about that ambivalence,” said Michelle Pearce, PhD, a clinical psychologist and University of Maryland Graduate School professor. “We've been wanting to get back to normal life and now we have the chance. It's going to feel unexpected to have myriad emotions. It won't just be positive emotions. There will be some negative emotions, too.”

UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, said in a letter to the University community in May that he had directed each school and administrative unit to increase its on-campus density to about 50 percent capacity starting June 1 and about 80 percent capacity at the start of the fall semester.

“Starting June 1, almost everybody needs to be here some of the time. And for the fall semester, almost everybody will be back on campus most of the time,” he wrote.

Jarrell has emphasized throughout the pandemic that the institution takes a family-first approach. His online program, *Virtual Face to Face with President Bruce Jarrell*, has covered topics such as telework and returning to campus, grief, and student mental health. The University also offers resources such as the Student Counseling Center, Employee Assistance Program, and a COVID-19 Coping Kit. In addition, UMB has put together a *Return to Campus website* to update the community on policies and guidelines.

Pearce is a member of a task force that Jarrell formed on mental health and returning to work. She said the University has shown that “the message is, we really care about your mental health. The impact that COVID has had on our mental health is even more widespread than the impact it had on us physically. And what I mean by that is, more of us have been affected by mental issues than infected by COVID.

“We really need to keep that in the forefront of our minds when we go back. We're not just thinking about vaccines and wondering if we are physically safe. We have just been through a collective trauma for over a year, and we're going to be dealing with that for a while. We're going to have to look out for one another in terms of our mental health.”

She said one emotion that has been expressed to her about reintegrating into society is dread.

“Some of what I've heard is, ‘I like not having a commute, I like not taking my kids to six different activities all week long, and life just felt more manageable for a while, and now I'm dreading that I have to pick all that back up suddenly,’” she said. “We go from a long period of trauma and being in a heightened stress response, and then suddenly thrown back into a transition where we're taking on all these things again. I think many of us are just longing for a break.”

Pearce said those who feel overwhelmed reintegrating at work and in society should go at their own pace.

“We are all going to have a different pace around how comfortable we're going to feel with this reintegration process,” she said. “It's good to be able to decide how we want to integrate and what that pace will be. That's going to be easier in our social lives, and it's going to be a little harder in our work lives.”

She suggests employees speak with their supervisor, dean, or chair about the best approach for being comfortable and feeling safe. “Maybe you can work from home a day a week or more. Maybe there are half-days on campus. Maybe there are options to log in virtually to big meetings,” said Pearce, who added that the



MICHELLE PEARCE, A CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST AND UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GRADUATE SCHOOL PROFESSOR, APPLAUDS UMB LEADERSHIP FOR KEEPING A FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH DURING THE PANDEMIC.

Continued from previous page

recent mandate that all UMB employees and students must be vaccinated before returning for the fall will go a long way toward making people feel safe.

She said the UMB community should look out for each other during this transition.

“We need grace for each other and grace for ourselves,” she said.

Pearce said those who may be fearful about reintegrating can use a therapy technique called imaginal exposure, which is used to help people with phobias.

“We gradually expose you to the thing that you’re afraid of to weaken the fear response,” she said. “Because as long as we’re avoiding something, we’re strengthening the fear response. And if we gradually approach it, we can weaken it. Imaginal exposure gives you a chance to think about in your mind what it’s going to be like to be in that situation before you’re actually in the situation. We can imagine going back into the office or imagine going back to school. That’s a gradual way to be able to lessen the fear response before we get there.”

Pearce recently *wrote an op-ed* for *The Baltimore Sun* titled “Social reintegration: preparing for post-COVID life” in which she offered other suggestions such as be selective (“You may not want to engage in all of the activities you once did”), be patient (“There will likely be ups and downs in your reintegration process”), and be open (“We have been through a collective trauma. It will take some time to recover”).

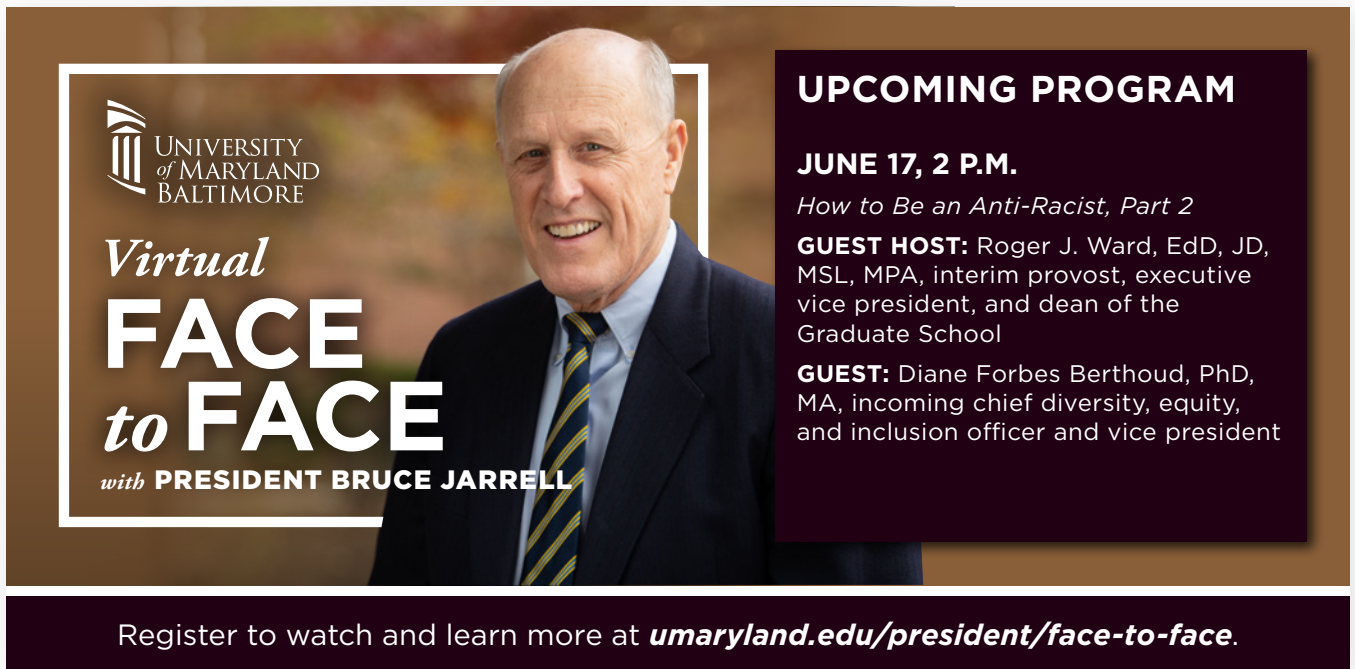
Pearce said these steps will help retrain the brain after “living in a fear state.”

“We recognize it, we name it, we normalize it. And over time, as we practice slowly getting back to normal life and lessening the idea that people are a threat to us, that helps to change the brain,” she said.

She suggests making sure you take care of yourself at home, too.

“Engage in self-care: exercising, eating healthy, getting out in nature, going to bed early,” Pearce said. “Expect that it is going to be stressful to go back to work and try your best to balance it out with good self-care at home.”

— Jen Badie



The advertisement features a portrait of President Bruce Jarrell, a man in a dark suit and striped tie, smiling. To the left of the portrait is the University of Maryland Baltimore logo and the text 'Virtual FACE to FACE with PRESIDENT BRUCE JARRELL'. To the right is a dark purple box with white text for an upcoming program.

UPCOMING PROGRAM

JUNE 17, 2 P.M.

How to Be an Anti-Racist, Part 2

GUEST HOST: Roger J. Ward, EdD, JD, MSL, MPA, interim provost, executive vice president, and dean of the Graduate School

GUEST: Diane Forbes Berthoud, PhD, MA, incoming chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer and vice president

Register to watch and learn more at umaryland.edu/president/face-to-face.

2021 Presidential **COREVALUES** Awards

UMB's 2021 Core Values Award Winners

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) is pleased to announce the winners of the second annual Presidential Core Values Awards, which recognize faculty, staff, and students who exemplify our core values of accountability, civility, collaboration, diversity, excellence, knowledge, and leadership. We congratulate the honorees, whose work is vital to the University's mission to improve the human condition and serve the public good.

ACCOUNTABILITY

CHARLES SCHELLE

Senior Media Relations Specialist
Communications and Public Affairs, UMB

CIVILITY

VIOLETA RUS, MD, PhD

Professor, Department of Medicine
School of Medicine

COLLABORATION

JOINT VACCINATION SITE TEAM

UMB, University of Maryland Medical Center,
and Faculty Physicians, Inc.

DIVERSITY

"A BRIEF HISTORY OF OPPRESSION AND RESISTANCE" COURSE TEAM

School of Social Work

EXCELLENCE

INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

Student Affairs, UMB

KNOWLEDGE

ABREE JOHNSON, MS, MBA

Director, Pharmaceutical Research Computing
School of Pharmacy

LEADERSHIP

NIVEDITA HEGDEKAR

Student
Graduate School and Francis King Carey School of Law

Read about the winners at
umaryland.edu/corevalueswinners



DIVERSITY

JUNE 2021

INTERCULTURAL CENTER: A PLACE FOR DIVERSITY, DIALOGUE

A space of belonging, value, affirmation, and welcome.

That's how officials describe the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) new Intercultural Center, which opened with a virtual launch this year and will experience more in-person activity as faculty, staff, and students return to campus.

"When I applied for the position I currently hold, I never envisioned that the Intercultural Center launch would take place via Zoom," Courtney J. Jones Carney, MBA, director of the Intercultural Center and executive director of Intercultural Leadership and Engagement, said during the virtual kickoff. She leads the center along with associate director Rosemary Ferreira, MEd.

"COVID-19 has changed so many of our realities," said Jones Carney, who also is an adjunct professor in the Graduate School and program director of the Intercultural Leadership Certificate Program. "However, one thing that has not changed is the necessity to foster a sense of belonging and acknowledge the needs and lived experiences of historically marginalized and underrepresented students, staff, and faculty at UMB."

The kickoff program featured remarks from UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, who Jones Carney said "has been very thoughtful and intentional about taking steps toward establishing UMB as a university that actively works toward anti-racism and anti-oppression."

"One of my goals as president is to help create a more inclusive and equitable UMB," Jarrell said. "And the intention of the Intercultural Center is to create that dedicated space, a space where all individuals feel valued, recognized, affirmed, and welcome, that they belong here. It's a space for students to find connections with others who share their background and experiences — but, conversely, and just as important, connections with students from different backgrounds."

The center will help students to become culturally competent professionals that will make them more effective as clinicians or practitioners, Jarrell said. "And that is our mission here — to improve the human condition and serve the public good. And, of course, that will demonstrate just how great UMB is. We all know how great it is, but that will show it even better."

The Intercultural Center grew from the now-defunct Office of Interprofessional Student Learning and Service Initiatives (ISLSI).

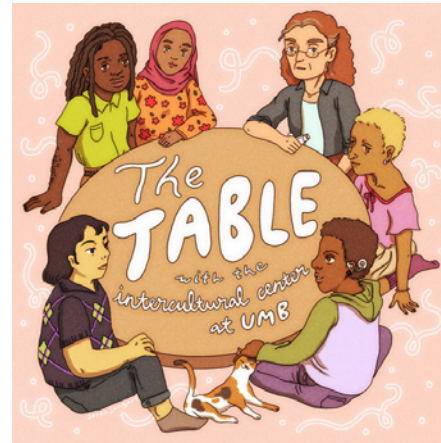
"That office had a long name that didn't really speak to the focus of the department," Jones Carney explained. Many signature programs were established through ISLSI such as the President's Student

Leadership Institute, the President's Symposium and White Paper Project, I Heart UMB Day, and various heritage month programs.

"The foundation established through ISLSI was used to build the unit of Intercultural Leadership and Engagement, which is a much larger unit that is composed of multiple functional areas that will one day hopefully grow into departments," Jones Carney said. "For now, these functional areas focus on student development through the lens of leadership, supportive student organizations, civic engagement, and the Intercultural Center."

The mission of the center, said Ferreira, is to develop initiatives and resources that foster a sense of belonging and acknowledge the needs and lived experiences of historically marginalized students, staff, and faculty at UMB.

"We are also deeply committed to developing anti-racism and anti-oppression educational programs that will inform the practice of our current and future health care, law, and human services professionals," she said.



DIRECTOR COURTNEY J. JONES CARNEY (TOP LEFT) AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR ROSEMARY FERREIRA LEAD THE INTERCULTURAL CENTER, WHICH LAUNCHED THIS YEAR AND FEATURES A PODCAST TITLED "THE TABLE."

Another creation of the Intercultural Center is "The Table," a monthly *podcast* that delves into questions regarding race, ethnicity, culture, norms, and current events. Jones Carney and Ferreira also hold virtual office hours where they welcome suggestions and opportunities for collaboration.

— Mary Therese Phelan

Read more about the Intercultural Center.

PUBLIC SAFETY

JUNE 2021



SOCIAL WORK INTERNS TO JOIN UMBPD THIS FALL

For the past three years, the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department's (UMBPD) Community Outreach and Support Team (COAST) has made great strides to connect with the communities it serves. In 2019, COAST was recognized with the Governor's Award for Outstanding Proactive Crime Prevention.

"We work hard to provide resources to vulnerable populations, but we can always do more," UMBPD interim chief Thomas Leone says.

That's where the Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS) comes in.

SWCOS works to promote social justice, encourage well-being, and build community-university partnerships. The service provides University of Maryland School of Social Work (UMSSW) students with hands-on training in the field. "SWCOS sits in the academy of learning, but we're really community organizers," says SWCOS assistant director Becky Davis, MSW.

The partnership between SWCOS and UMBPD began when Leone and UMSSW Dean Judy L. Postmus, PhD, ACSW, met to discuss community policing.

"If we're going to be a progressive, community-oriented police department, we have to use all the tools at our disposal," Leone says. "We have experts here at the School of Social Work. Let's learn from them. Let's work together."

In September, two social work students will join UMBPD two days a week. A licensed clinical certified social worker, who will serve as the students' field instructor, will join UMBPD this summer to prepare for the students, who will shadow UMBPD officers, identify needs, and provide emergency benefits and resources to vulnerable populations.

The partnership is a blessing for busy police officers.

"Our officers talk with our community members and really get to know them, but they don't always know the best resources to provide," says Lt. Matthew Johnson, who leads COAST and is helping to coordinate the partnership. "These two SWCOS students and the instructor will be able to fully evaluate each situation, provide support, and follow up. This collaboration allows us to be better officers and to better serve our community."

While the partnership is a welcome addition to UMB, both departments recognize that this is not a quick fix for decades of systemic injustice.

"There's a recognition that the way the system is set up is not working," says Lane Victorson, MSW, LMSW, director of community organizing and field education for SWCOS. "This is just one step in a large journey."

The upcoming internship with UMBPD is one small part of what SWCOS does. Each year, 30 to 50 social work students go into the

community for field learning. Their learning areas are broad (individual, group, community, and administrative), but provide tangible, quality services and opportunities to local communities. Some students work in Baltimore City schools to make sure families have what they need so students can learn. Other students work with home-based programs to prevent evictions and keep children out of the child welfare system.

"It's an incredible opportunity for our police officers to learn a new perspective and experience different kinds of community outreach."

— Thomas Leone, interim chief, UMBPD

"The communities we serve are amazing and inspiring," says SWCOS executive director Wendy Shaia, EdD, MSW. "Our role is to empower them and to help them bridge some of those systemic gaps."

Leone is eager to welcome the SWCOS students.

"It's about transparency and accountability," he says. "It's an incredible opportunity for our police officers to learn a new perspective and experience different kinds of community outreach."

— Carin Morrell