I've never been much for New Year's resolutions. There's something about the temporary nature of resolutions: you pledge to eat less, exercise more — but by the end of January, often you return to your former lifestyle.

No, I'm too set in my ways for resolutions, but I know who I am and what I believe in. So as we open the door to 2014, I'd like to share with you some of my beliefs — principles that the University and I won't give up on by Jan. 31.

I believe in building bridges. Reaching across the proverbial aisle is important, whether it's partnering with the University of Maryland Medical System, our MPowering the State colleagues at College Park, or my chairing the Downtown Partnership and co-chairing the Westside Task Force with the mayor.

I believe in second chances. Benjamin Franklin once said “to err is human” and indeed none of us is perfect. But there is a fine line between imperfection and repeated incompetence, of which I am intolerant. High standards must be maintained.

I believe in fairness. We all deserve an environment free of favoritism or bias; one in which impartiality and consistency exist.

I believe students are the most important people on campus. No disrespect to the faculty, staff, and administration. I admire and respect you all. But among constituencies, there's only one that pays to be here and that's the students. So we have to pay attention to them and do our utmost to provide them with the best education possible.

I believe in vacations. Now entering its 207th year, UMB has flourished because our people work extremely hard. So it can take a while to unwind. I urge my staff to try to take a reasonable break at least once a year. If you have accrued the time and your supervisor approves, I urge you to try it in 2014.

I believe in philanthropy. Without Mrs. Louise Ploner and her scholarship, I wouldn't have gone to medical school — and certainly would not be a university president today.

I believe in the next generation. They are God's greatest gift. As a pediatric gastroenterologist, father of four, and grandfather of six, I hold the health and welfare of children close to my heart.

I believe in the Golden Rule. Doing to others what you would have them do to you are words to live by.

I believe in participation. The President's Clinic is an interdisciplinary team-building exercise, but it also allows me to practice hands-on medicine and better understand what my colleagues are experiencing.

I believe in being a good neighbor. We do a lot, but we're going to expand our outreach to community schools and neighborhoods in 2014. Look for more on UMB's Community Promise in the months ahead.

And then I come to the University's seven core values, which are always at the heart of UMB's mission. I support these beliefs with my whole being.

UMB believes in accountability. There is a reason I established the position of chief accountability officer: UMB and all the individuals who form this institution must be accountable for their actions.

UMB believes in civility. Being courteous and kind to our colleagues and clients isn't just expected here — it's required. Opening the door for others is opening the door to success. Nice guys finish first and I have the data to prove it.

UMB believes in collaboration. Whether it's between disciplines or organizations, as Robert Fulghum wrote, “When you go out in the world it is best to hold hands and stick together.” To repeat a quote I used in my inaugural speech, “We go farther faster when we go together.”

UMB believes in diversity. The University is committed to a culture enriched by diversity and inclusion among its students, faculty, and employees as well as the vendors and organizations with whom we choose to partner.

UMB believes in excellence. Nothing but the best will do when we are teaching students, treating patients, or advancing science.

UMB believes in knowledge. Our charge as a University is to create, disseminate, and apply knowledge.

UMB believes in leadership. The University strives to be a leader and to develop leaders. My task is to create an environment where such growth can flourish.

How are we doing in creating this environment? Let us know at the next group Q&A, which is Feb. 4 from 11 to noon at the Carey School of Law. Topics will include our financial outlook and a sneak peek at our new community initiative. I hope to see you there.

What do you believe in? Tell us at The Elm, our online University community. We are compiling an “I believe” post — share your thoughts!
UNIVERSITYWIDE

The University received a special commendation from the Maryland and Washington, D.C., breast-feeding coalitions during a luncheon ceremony in December at the Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville. The commendation recognizes an employer for continuing to make the workplace supportive of breast-feeding mothers. UMB and other recipients of the commendation won Regional Breast-feeding-Friendly Workplace Awards in previous years.

The University received a 2013 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. The award recognizes colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Jacques Ravel, PhD, MSc, professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the School of Medicine and associate director for genomics at the Institute for Genome Sciences, received a five-year, $2,698,000 grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) at the National Institutes of Health for the study “Influence of Modifiable Factors on the Vaginal Microbiota and Preterm Birth.” The grant was awarded in partnership with Mary Regan, PhD, RN, assistant professor in the Department of Organizational Systems and Adult Health at the School of Nursing. Ravel also received a five-year, $2,050,000 grant from NINR for the study “Revealing the Role of the Cervico-Vaginal Microbiome in Spontaneous Pre-term Birth.”

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Carl Driscoll, DMD, professor and director of prosthodontics residency in the Department of Endodontics, Prosthodontics, and Operative Dentistry, was named vice president of the American College of Prosthodontics. Driscoll was previously the organization’s treasurer.

“A Divergent Pseudomonas Aeruginosa Palmitoyltransferase Essential for Cystic Fibrosis-Specific Lipid A,” co-written by Robert Ernst, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Microbial Pathogenesis, was published in the journal Molecular Microbiology.

Ashraf Fouad, DDS, MS, professor and chair of the Department of Endodontics, Prosthodontics, and Operative Dentistry, received a six-year, $1.7 million grant from the American Association of Endodontists Foundation for his collaborative clinical trial “Regeneration of Pulp-Dentin Development in Teeth With Necrotic Pulps and Immature Roots.” The trial is a multicenter study with the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio and Loma Linda University in California.

Student Lisa Pyun received the Dr. George B. Clendenin Award from the Maryland chapter of the International College of Dentists (ICD). The award, named after a late School of Dentistry alumnus, recognizes the first-year student at the School who has the highest academic standing.

FRANCIS KING CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

Patricia Campbell, JD, LLM, MA, associate professor and director of the Maryland Intellectual Property Legal Resource Center, gave the following presentations: “You Have Developed a Patentable Product on an ATE Grant. Now What?” — which was delivered during the Association of Teachers’ Principal Investigators Conference in Washington, D.C.; “Intellectual Property: An Overview,” presented during the Lunch With the Lawyer Series at the University of Maryland, College Park; “A Researcher’s Guide to Intellectual Property,” presented during the Responsible Conduct of Research Workshop at Howard University in Washington, D.C.; and “Intellectual Property Strategies for Entrepreneurs and Startup Companies,” a presentation for Russian business people and academics at the Maryland International Incubator in College Park.

Danielle Citron, JD, Lois K. Macht Research Professor of Law, was appointed president and board member of the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative, an organization that combats online harassment.
Deborah Thompson Eisenberg, JD, associate professor and faculty director of the Center for Dispute Resolution, delivered “The Restorative Workplace: Moving From Settlement to Social Change” during the Works-in-Progress Conference presented by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the Association of American Law Schools. The conference was held at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University in New York.

Leigh Goodmark, JD, visiting professor, presented “Combating Gender-Based Violence” to Pakistani police, psychologists, advocates, and government officials in connection with the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program, which arranges visits from foreign leaders with their U.S. counterparts.

Michael Greenberger, JD, professor and director of the Center for Health and Homeland Security, was a panelist during a Better Choices, Better Results forum on public safety, held in Adelphi, Md., in November. The program was part of a series of forums presented by Governor Martin O’Malley, JD ’88. Greenberger also was invited to provide commentary to the Baltimore City Council on preparedness and safety in schools and communities during a hearing in December at City Hall.


“Legal History Seminar: Leading Maryland Cases,” co-written by Garrett Power, LLM, professor emeritus, was published in the American Journal of Legal History.

Virginia Rowthorn, JD, managing director of the Law and Health Care Program and co-director of the University’s Global Health Interprofessional Council (GHIC), organized and spoke at the GHIC conference Building Global Health Team Excellence: Developing an Interprofessional Skills Competency Domain. Rowthorn also was appointed to the Education Committee of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health.

Student Emily Schappi was named a Baltimore Community Fellow by the Open Society Institute-Baltimore, a field office for the Open Society Foundations, which support ideals including tolerance, the rule of law, and human rights.

Max Stearns, JD, Marbury Research Professor and associate dean for research and faculty development, was a commentator during a panel discussion about the late economist James Buchanan as part of a conference at George Mason University School of Law in Arlington, Va.

In November, Soren Bentzen, PhD, DMSc, professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health and director of the Division of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, was presented the International KFJ Award from the Rigshospitalet medical center in Denmark. Bentzen was recognized for his research and expertise in risk calculations for late complications of radiotherapy.
A U.S. patent was issued for “Integrated Centrifugal Blood Pump-Oxygenator, An Extracorporeal Life Support System and a Method of De-bubbling and Priming an Extracorporeal Life Support System,” the inventors of which include Bartley Griffith, MD, professor in the Department of Surgery, and Zhongjun Wu, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Surgery. The invention is intended to be a more efficient and compact device for respiratory and cardiopulmonary support.

Karen Kotloff, MD, professor in the Department of Pediatrics and associate director of clinical studies at the Center for Vaccine Development, received a five-year, $3,474,076 award from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health for “Exploring Tobacco Microbial Constituents and the Oral Microbiome of Tobacco Users.” Claire Fraser, PhD, professor in the Department of Medicine and director of IGS, is a co-investigator on the study.

David Loane, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and a faculty member at the Center for Shock, Trauma, and Anesthesiology Research, was awarded a four-year, $1,358,687 National Institutes of Health research grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for his work “Microglial Activation Phenotypes and Mechanisms of Repair in the Aged TBI Brain.”

Emmanuel Mongodin, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and at the Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS), received a five-year, $3,474,076 award from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health for “Use of Plasma HSP90 Related to Malignancy,” co-invented by Edward Sausville, MD, PhD, professor in the Department of Medicine and interim chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology. The invention concerns diagnosing cancer and determining response to HSP90-interacting therapy.

Karen Kotloff, MD, Thomas Scalea, MD, FACS, Francis X. Kelly Professor in Trauma Surgery in the Department of Surgery and physician-in-chief at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, was chosen president-elect for 2013-2014 by the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma.

The School moved up from 11th to ninth in research dollars awarded to nursing schools by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In 2013, faculty members drew nearly $4.5 million in NIH grants for research in areas such as chronic pain, impulsivity and drug abuse, interventions for cognitively impaired seniors, neuromuscular disorders, sleep, web-based interventions, and bone health.

Student Dionne Rebello, MS, was chosen as a Foundation of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC) Research Scholar. She will work with Walter Royal, MD, professor in the Department of Neurology, on her proposed project “Effects of Cigarette Smoke Exposure on Brain Endothelial Cell Tight Junction Proteins in EAE,” which she will present during the 2014 CMSC annual meeting in Dallas in May.

A U.S. patent was issued for “Use of Plasma HSP90 Related to Malignancy,” co-invented by Edward Sausville, MD, PhD, professor in the Department of Medicine and interim chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology. The invention concerns diagnosing or predicting cancer and determining response to HSP90-interacting therapy.

Veronica Amos, PhD ’02, MS ’07, MS ’00, BSN ’99, CRNA, assistant professor in the Department of Organizational Systems and Adult Health and assistant director of the nurse anesthesia specialty, was chosen to participate in the National League for Nursing’s 2014 LEAD program. Part of the organization’s Leadership Institute, LEAD focuses on leadership development for nurse educators who are moving into administrative leadership roles.
Susan Bindon, DNP ’12, RN, assistant professor in the Department of Organizational Systems and Adult Health, was appointed co-editor-in-chief of the Journal for Nurses in Professional Development.

Elizabeth Galik, PhD ’07, CRNP, associate professor in the Department of Organizational Systems and Adult Health (OSAH), was awarded the 2013 Springer Award in Geriatric/Gerontologic Nursing for the article “Optimizing Function and Physical Activity Among Nursing Home Residents With Dementia: Testing the Impact of Function-focused Care.” The article was published in the journal The Gerontologist, and was co-written by OSAH faculty members Barbara Resnick, PhD ’96, MSN, RN, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP, and Margaret Hammersla, MS ’05, BSN ’95, RN, CRNP, and by alumna Joanna Brightwater, MS ’11, CRNP. The award, presented during a meeting of the Gerontological Society of America’s Nursing Care of Older Adults interest group, recognizes a work of research in applied geriatric nursing.

Eight faculty members received the New Nurse Faculty Fellowship Award. The award is funded through the School’s Nurse Support Program II, a statewide initiative to increase the number of nurses prepared for faculty roles. The recipients are Janet Wulf, MS ’06, RN, CNL, CHPN, clinical instructor in the Department of Organizational Systems and Adult Health (OSAH), and assistant professors Deborah Busch, DNP, CPNP-PC, CLC (Department of Family and Community Health [FCH]); Linda Costa, PhD, RN, NEA-BC (OSAH); Veronica Gutcell, DNP ’13, RN, CNS, CRNP (OSAH); Mei Ching Lee, PhD ’11, MS, RN (OSAH); Veronica Njie-Carr, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, FWACN (OSAH); Rebecca Shelley, PhD, RN (FCH); and Barbara Walsh, DNP, MPH, RN, PHCNS-BC (FCH).

The Pi Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Honor Society of Nursing, the School of Nursing’s chapter, received its first Chapter Key Award at the Sigma Theta Tau Biennial Convention, held in Indianapolis. The Chapter Key Award, established in 1991, honors STTI chapters that excel in chapter-related activities.

Student Jinani Jayasekera received the 2013 Lee B. Lusted Student Prize in the applied health economics category during the Society for Medical Decision Making’s conference in Baltimore in October. Jayasekera was recognized for her poster presentation “A Cost Analysis of Skeletal Related Events Among Elderly Men With Stage IV Metastatic (M1) Prostate Cancer.”

Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, CGP, BCACP, FAPhA, associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science and associate dean of student affairs, is the recipient of the American Pharmacists Association’s 2014 Community Pharmacy Residency Excellence in Precepting Award.
Raymond Love, PharmD, FASHP, professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was chosen as president-elect of the board of directors of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists.

Eleanor Perfetto, PhD, MS, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, was named a 2014 University of Maryland Pharmacy Quality Alliance Ambassador.

Tim Rocafort, PharmD, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received board certification as an ambulatory care practitioner.

Bruce Stuart, PhD, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research and executive director of the Peter Lamy Center for Drug Therapy and Aging, received a nine-month, $124,000 contract from pharmaceutical company Pfizer for “Understanding the Costs of Disability Among Medicare Beneficiaries.”

Deanna Tran, PharmD, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received board certification as an ambulatory care practitioner.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Student Jessica Johnson was awarded a Health Professions Scholarship by the U.S. Air Force. The scholarship covers the cost of tuition, books, and most fees, and pays a monthly stipend.

Jody Olsen, PhD, MSW, visiting professor and co-director of the University’s Global Health Interprofessional Council, was the keynote speaker during Montana State University’s International Education Week in November. Olsen’s presentation, “Global Is Local — Leading From Where You Are,” addressed integrating local and worldwide community-based opportunities.

SIGN OF PROGRESS

With the implementation phase of the University's 2011-2016 strategic plan moving along, we have some success stories to report. Look for more of them in upcoming months in The President's Message.

The task was formidable: to create a sense of identity for a University located in the heart of downtown, without cordonning it off from the city housing its 71-acre campus.

The solution took some time, but with help from its strategic plan work groups, its schools, and some of its many partners, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) has carried out the first phase of a signage project that more clearly defines what and where UMB is.

“The signs help us to create this community and sense of place. They also are important so people know where they are going and which buildings are which,” says Angela Fowler-Young, MRP, director of capital budget and planning at UMB and co-chair of the strategic plan theme of “Creating a Dynamic University Community.” “The signage also is starting to mark our boundaries within the city of Baltimore. Many people have commented on the gateway pylons along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard; the deans already have asked that we look into putting those kinds of signs along the east and south edges of the campus as well.”

“We have been getting great feedback,” says Laura Kozak, MA, assistant vice president of the Office of Communications and Public Affairs (CPA) and co-chair of the signage project with Fowler-Young. “The new signs help to showcase who we are to our external constituents and that we are neighbors. Internally, the new signs are helping to build our UMB pride.”

The signs can be found outside UMB buildings, on University vehicles including the UM shuttle, on walking paths, in Plaza Park, on light poles, fliers, and tablecloths, and more. The signs include several styles, several sizes, and can be made of permanent or temporary materials. They can announce events or direct visitors or patients. But ALL of them bear the same type fonts and colors.

“When people are riding or walking down the street, they see the black sign with the red and white letters and they know, ‘A-ha, it’s a University of Maryland, Baltimore building!’” says Fowler-Young. “It’s a positive feeling for patients, visitors, and employees alike. The signs excite and energize students and staff and help create a vibrant, well-cared-for environment, which reduces anxiety for patients. Signage is just a piece of a larger effort to ‘Create a Dynamic University Community,’ but it’s an important piece.”

The signage also ties into the strategic plan’s “Enhanced Two-Way Communications” goal of “improve the visibility and reputation of the University of Maryland brand.”

“Our students, faculty, and staff are our brand and deliver a brand experience to our community through our
advertising, marketing, public relations, customer service, and visual identity,” says Mike Ruddock, director of branding communications in CPA. “When our community constituents interpret the UMB brand experience favorably, it builds our reputation and name recognition.” (For more on this, view our UMB branding video.)

Although the signage is contemporary with its crisp new look and Davidge pillared logo that was unveiled in May 2011, the campaign’s roots extend back to 2002, when a sign plan was developed and approved — but not funded. Fowler-Young, who was part of that original development team, admits she was “a little dubious” when the topic of signage was again raised in 2012. “But with a new president and leadership team came the understanding that branding and place-making are important.

“I think the strategic plan has challenged the deans, vice presidents, and the entire University community to focus on issues and opportunities that cross traditional school boundaries; an example is exterior signage,” she says. “It really is something that improves and enhances the entire campus. We were waiting for more than 10 years for funding for signage; so I think it is fair to say that without the strategic plan the exterior signage would not have happened.”

Funding for the current signage was a group effort with UMB schools, the Office of Communications and Public Affairs, and the University of Maryland Medical Center contributing. The strategic plan’s Executive Implementation Committee voted unanimously to approve a $30,000 allotment for Fiscal Year 2014, which will go toward designing the next phase of the signage campaign — wayfinding. This is an incremental system where signage steers drivers toward UMB garages and guides pedestrians to and from mass transit to University buildings.

“The committee is comprised of a lot of talented people,” Kozak says, “and we couldn’t accomplish what we have without all of their contributions.”

Fowler-Young is proud of the group’s progress. “You go some places and they have these dull, ugly, brown signs,” she says. “Ours are vibrant, and convey a sense that we’re proud of where we are, we’re proud of what we do. That UMB is a good place to be, for students, patients, faculty, and staff.”

“We’re working with the city and state on proper phrasing for highway and city trailblazer signs to get people to the University campus,” says Fowler-Young. “Then the University’s wayfinding program will take over.”
Safety and security are top priorities for the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). Our University Police Force prevents and responds to criminal activity on and around campus. The Facilities and Operations team monitors and improves work environments. And staff members in the Office of Communications and Public Affairs keep our community informed of developing situations. Now, in an effort to help us all work together more effectively, UMB is engaging the University’s Center for Health and Homeland Security (CHHS) to develop new and better means of communication, organization, and planning for crises.

As disturbing as it is to imagine natural disasters or acts of violence where we work, study, and live, recent events around the nation remind us that we must never take safety and security for granted. The goal of the UMB Campus Security Update Project is to help us identify potential emergency situations and prepare for them. Knowing when to act, when to stay put, and where to get critical information in an evolving emergency can save lives. Additionally, identifying essential resources and defining staff roles during a crisis will get operations back up and running more quickly so we can continue to provide educational services to tomorrow’s nurses, dentists, pharmacists, lawyers, social workers, and doctors.

A team of experts from CHHS, led by program manager Eric Oddo, MPA, has already begun its work. The team is working to assess building security in conjunction with the University Police Force, working with Communications and Public Affairs staff to develop outreach programs for staff, students, and visitors, and updating the emergency continuity of operations plans for every function of our University.

CHHS’ expertise in crisis prevention and management is well-documented. In addition to developing and teaching four law and policy courses in homeland security, public health, cybersecurity, and emergency management at the Francis King Carey School of Law, CHHS is currently working on more than 90 contracts worldwide. Internationally, CHHS works with the U.S. Department of State to conduct senior crisis management seminars for international delegations, and has developed a forum on prosecuting terrorism and organized crime. Locally, the center works with the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, local county emergency management offices in Maryland and the District of Columbia, and many area hospitals.

At the conclusion of the UMB Campus Security Update Project this spring, the CHHS Exercise and Training Unit will develop a series of tabletop discussions and full-scale exercises that will involve campus and community stakeholders. These will help us learn and practice individual functions, test communication channels, and evaluate the effectiveness of our overall plan.

I encourage faculty, staff, and students to learn more about these plans as they develop and participate in open exercises so that we all have a clear picture of what is expected in the event of a real emergency here on campus. University leadership also will continue to update emergency plans following the project, as the safety and security of our campus is ever evolving.

Your support of this important initiative is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Antonio “Tony” Williams, MS
Chief of Police/Assistant Vice President for Public Safety
University of Maryland, Baltimore
REGISTER NOW!

President Jay A. Perman, MD, has made interprofessional education (IPE) a priority at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), launching the Center for Interprofessional Education under Jane M. Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean of the School of Nursing and university director of IPE.

The University’s second annual IPE Day is planned for Feb. 19, when a daylong program will enhance the knowledge of faculty and students about this emerging collaborative movement in health care, law, and social work. Ethics will be this year’s theme — a rich topic that is applicable to all seven of our schools as our students and faculty come together to learn with, from, and about each other. Please register now for this important collaborative learning experience.

Student and faculty participants in IPE Day will discover:
- How to effectively communicate with professionals outside their area of study
- What skills they can share with other professionals
- How interprofessional communication leads to enhanced quality of care

All students and faculty are encouraged to participate in innovative ethics-related scenarios that highlight the goals and benefits of interprofessional education. The day will break down as follows:

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  Faculty development (faculty only)
1 to 1:15 p.m.   Welcome
JANE M. KIRSCHLING
1:15 to 1:45 p.m.   Guest speaker
CYNDA HYLTON RUSHTON, PhD, RN, FAAN
Anne and George L. Bunting Chair of Clinical Ethics
Berman Institute of Bioethics
Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing
2 to 4 p.m.  IPE-based activity sessions (students and faculty welcome)
4:15 to 5 p.m.  Debriefing and wrap-up

Sites for the day’s activities will include the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center, the Health Sciences and Human Services Library, and the School of Nursing.

So please save the date on your calendar and register today. No applications will be accepted after Friday, Feb. 7. For questions, contact Trish Danielewicz at pdanielewicz@umaryland.edu.

To view highlights from last year’s IPE Day, visit the story and video or the research paper.