At our Founders Week Gala next Saturday, as we celebrate the achievements of UMB’s people and honor our generous friends and supporters, we’ll formally launch Catalyst, the University’s multiyear, $750 million fundraising campaign.

In my State of the University Address last spring, I talked about why this campaign is so vital to UMB’s future. I said that state and federal dollars, while essential to the University, are insufficient for our broad and ambitious mission. I said that we can’t — and won’t — raise money on the backs of our students, that we have to keep their tuition affordable and open our doors to the best and brightest applicants, regardless of their ability to pay. So it becomes clear that philanthropy is one of few elastic, accessible, and cost-effective ways to build revenue.

And that revenue is badly needed. Catalyst will fund endowed scholarships that bring talented, dynamic students to UMB and will enrich the learning opportunities they’re offered. It will underwrite endowed chairs, essential to recruiting renowned faculty, and it will help us develop and promote our early- and mid-career investigators. Catalyst will allow us to reward change makers among our faculty and staff, those who innovate our approach to teaching and learning and who pursue engagement that makes a demonstrable difference in vulnerable communities — across the state and around the world. Catalyst will fund new, state-of-the-art laboratories that allow us to leverage our interdisciplinary strengths and attract significantly more extramural funding to our research enterprise.

Catalyst also will support what we call “Big Ideas for Big Change,” multidisciplinary projects that address areas of urgent need and consolidate our existing assets and expertise. These are important, long-term priorities deserving of our attention and resources: ending the epidemic of addiction; relieving people of chronic, debilitating pain; treating and curing critical diseases — like cancer, cardiovascular disease, and neurodegenerative disease — that cut short and diminish so many lives; advancing health, wellness, justice, and economic opportunity in underserved communities; and growing the next generation of entrepreneurs who will solve our biggest challenges of science and social progress.

Simultaneous with the launch of the Universitywide campaign, the seven schools will initiate their own campaigns, centered on each school’s unique fundraising priorities.

Of course, success in this campaign depends on recruiting people to our purpose: friends, donors, partners, advocates, and alumni. We have to tell the story of our mission and our work; we have to share why UMB is singularly able to address the most intractable problems of our time; and we have to get people excited to join us on this journey, to contribute to the good we do and magnify the difference we make.

Engaging these friends and partners has begun already. Our UMB Foundation Board has taken a leadership role in Catalyst; board members and University alumni Ellen H. Yankellow, PharmD, and Brian J. Gibbons, JD, are serving as campaign co-chairs. Together with UMB’s Office of Philanthropy, the board is connecting with influencers across the state and the nation, persuading them not only to support Catalyst but to encourage their friends and associates to do the same.

We’re energizing outreach to the University’s 75,000 alumni. More than 60 percent of UMB’s graduates live within an hour’s drive of this campus, close enough to visit, close enough to know firsthand the enormous impact we have here in Maryland, and close enough to care deeply that we do. I’ve been reaching out to alumni regularly, sharing stories of the UMB people and projects making a positive difference every day. Next month, alumni will gather in Washington, D.C., to take part in my conversation with New York Times columnist Frank Bruni on politics and the media, to reconnect with their fellow alumni, and to re-engage with UMB.

This engagement is vitally important, because our alumni are some of our most effective ambassadors. But so are you. You are the living, breathing UMB. You work with passion and serve with empathy, and the leaders and citizens of this state see your dedication every day. So I’ll need your partnership as we share what Catalyst means to UMB. I’ll need you to tell your own story of how our mission manifests in your work. In return, I’ll keep you updated throughout the campaign; I’ll fill you in on our progress and elaborate on our Big Ideas.

In the program for next week’s Gala, I write that UMB is at an inflection point, that our long and distinguished history — our 210 years of achievement — serve as a platform for our ambitions. I write that we must, and we will, secure the goodwill and generosity of people with the power, imagination, and desire to shape the future.

I know that you, too, have the power, the imagination, and the desire to make a difference, to rewrite what’s possible, to shape the future. As we launch this critical campaign, I hope you’ll join me in being a Catalyst for human health and well-being, a Catalyst for justice, a Catalyst for equity and opportunity, a Catalyst for change.

Sincerely,

Jay A. Perman, MD
President
Colette Beaulieu, office manager and web/technology support, National Network of Libraries of Medicine Southeast/Atlantic Region, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, was elected member at large for the Council of University System Staff.

Reba Cornman, MSW, director, Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program, Graduate School, accepted on behalf of the program the 2017 Outstanding Rural Health Program Award given by the Maryland Rural Health Association.

Nicole DeMonte, Shi Feng, Allison Hausen, Kendra Ireigbe, William Johnson, Bincy Mariyam, Brittani Massey, Mohammed Sait, and Thankachan Deeksha Sridhar — students in the Graduate School’s Master of Science in Forensic Medicine program — were presented “Outstanding Young Investigator Awards” at the 6th International Conference of Evidence Law and Forensic Science (ICELFS), held in August. Shi Feng also was presented with the “Best Paper Award.”

Susan Esserman, JD, founder and executive director, SAFE Center for Human Trafficking Survivors, an initiative of the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State, with College Park, was presented with the 2017 Chambers Women in Law Award in recognition of her “outstanding contribution to advancing gender diversity.” She also was profiled in Washington Lawyer magazine. The SAFE Center provides survivor-centered and trauma-informed services to victims of human trafficking.

M.J. Tooey, MLS, AHIP, FMLA, associate vice president, Academic Affairs, and executive director, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented “From Idea to Impact: Holistic Support for the Research Scholar” at the International Federation of Library Associations annual meeting in Wroclaw, Poland.

The Oral Health Books for Children Booklist, developed by a team coordinated in part by Mary Ann Williams, MLS, research, education and outreach librarian, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, and liaison to the School of Dentistry, will be included in a list of dental health resources for public librarians published by the Public Library Association. The recommendation for inclusion was made by the American Academy of Pediatrics.
Jose Bosio, DDS, MS, clinical associate professor and director, Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry, is among the co-authors of “Expression of Interleukin-1 and Temporomandibular Disorder: Contemporary Review of the Literature,” which was published in CRANIO.

Jacquelyn Fried, RDH, MS, associate professor, Division of Dental Hygiene, authored “The Allied Dental Professions: Executive Summary,” which was published in the Journal of Dental Education.

Gary Hack, DDS, MS, clinical associate professor, Division of Prosthodontics, and director, simulation lab, gave a presentation “Emerging Technologies in Dental Education: The University of Maryland Experience” during the 2017 Association of Dental Educators in Europe meeting, which was held in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Negar Homayounfar, DDS, MS, assistant professor, Andrey Doroshenko, DDS, assistant professor, and Radi Masri, DDS, PhD, associate professor, all in the Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, received a one-year, $2,939 grant from the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry for “Evaluation of the Effect of Burnout Residues of 3D Printing Resins on Esthetic Outcomes of Pressed All-Ceramic Restorations.”

Students Alenna Monet and Kathryn Pawlak won scholarships from the Maryland State Dental Association (MSDA) that were presented during the MSDA meeting at the Chesapeake Dental Conference in Ocean City, Md.

Abraham Schneider, DDS, associate professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, and Hockin Xu, MS, PhD, professor and director, Division of Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering, were among the co-authors of “Metformin Induces Osteoblastic Differentiation of Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells,” which was published in the Journal of Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine.

Sheryl Syme, RDH, MS, associate professor and director, BS Degree Completion Program, Division of Dental Hygiene, was among the co-authors of the articles “Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking,” which was published in the Dimensions of Dental Hygiene Journal, and “Human Trafficking: Red Flags for Dental Professionals,” which appeared in the Decisions in Dentistry Journal.
CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

Sarah M. Everhart, JD, research associate and legal specialist, Agriculture Law Education Initiative, wrote “U-Pick - Are Agritourism Workers Exempt from the Wage and Hour Protections of the Fair Labor Standards Act,” which appeared in the University of Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender & Class.

Leigh Goodmark, JD, professor, gave an overview briefing for a U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program group focused on countering gender-based violence.

Michael Greenberger, JD, professor and founding director, Center for Health and Homeland Security, wrote “The Single Agency Footnote That Swallowed the Entirety of Dodd-Frank’s Swaps Regulation and Eliminated That Statute’s Protection Against Future U.S. Taxpayer Bailouts of Wall Street,” which was published by the Institute for New Economic Thinking, which funded the project. He spoke on this and other subjects in a speech titled “Regulatory Hustlers and the Next Multitrillion Dollar Meltdown” in New York.

Renee Hutchins, JD, Jacob A. France Professor of Public Interest Law and co-director, Clinical Law Program, was a guest on WYPR’s “On the Record” podcast for a segment titled “Murder for Dealing.”

Ann Kim, JD, associate director of admissions, was appointed to the Misconduct Committee of the Law School Admission Council.

PAULA MONOPOLI


Robert Percival, MA, JD, Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law and director, Environmental Law Program, gave a talk titled “Legal, Regulatory, and Policy Frameworks Governing Nontraditional Irrigation,” at the Center for Excellence at the Nexus of Sustainable Water Reuse, Food and Health annual meeting.

Maureen Sweeney, JD, associate professor, received the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association’s 2017 Public Service Award. The award recognizes attorneys and non-lawyers for significant contributions to the Hispanic/Latino community, to the state of Maryland, and to the community in which they live or work.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

The American Association for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) has awarded a Gold Medal, its highest honor, to Soren Bentzen, DSc, PhD, professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. ASTRO awards its annual Gold Medal to individuals who have made outstanding lifetime contributions in the field of radiation oncology.

Niel Constantine, PhD, MT(ASCP), professor, Department of Pathology, Institute of Human Virology, was awarded a one-year, $214,500 contract with Chembio Diagnostics Systems, Inc. to perform a Food and Drug Administration clinical trial for assessment of a novel test to detect HIV and syphilis infections simultaneously. He also received a one-year, $18,200 contract from the Pharmaceuticals Fund and Supply Agency, Ethiopia to determine the suitability of test kits for HIV as claimed by manufacturers.
Zachary D.W. Dezman, MD, assistant professor, and Amal Mattu, MD, professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, co-authored “Utility of the History and Physical Examination in the Detection of Acute Coronary Syndromes in Emergency Department Patients,” which was published in the *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine*.

Ann Farese, MA, MS, assistant professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was awarded the Alumni Professional Achievement Award by the College of Health Sciences at Marquette University.

Magali Fontaine, MD, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pathology, was among the co-authors on “The Safety of the Use of Group A Plasma in Trauma — The STAT Study,” which appeared in *Transfusion*.

Leslie Glickman PT, PhD, adjunct faculty, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, and volunteers from Baltimore Hebrew Congregation helped facilitate a donor drive for the Bone Marrow Registry. Increasing the number of people on the registry enhances the chances of those in need finding a match.

Hao Yuan Hsiao, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, Vicki Gray, PhD, research associate, Robert Creath, PhD, assistant professor, and Mark Rogers, PT, PhD, FAPTA, professor and chair, all from the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, were among the co-authors on “Control of Lateral Weight Transfer Is Associated with Walking Speed in Individuals Post-Stroke,” which was published in the *Journal of Biomechanics*.

Christopher Jewell, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Jonathan Bromberg, MD, PhD, professor, Department of Surgery, and Walter Royal, MD, professor, Department of Neurology, received a four-year, $1.1 million grant from U.S. Veterans Affairs for “Using Self-Assembly to Study and Combat Autoimmune Disease in Mouse Models of MS and in Samples from Human MS Patients.”

Feng Jiang, MD, PhD, professor, Department of Pathology, received a two-year, $539,069 Department of Defense grant from U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity for “Sputum Biomarkers to Improve CT Screening for the Early Detection of Lung Cancer in Veterans.”

Joseph Lakowicz, PhD, professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has been selected as one of this year’s “Beacon” honorees in the researcher category for his notable contributions to the photonics field. The designation was on behalf of Photonics Media, publisher of *Photonics Spectra*, which reaches 95,000 readers each month and has been the go-to publication in the field for nearly 50 years.
Kathleen M. Neuzil, MD, MPH, FIDSA, professor, Department of Medicine, and director, Center for Vaccine Development, has been elected to serve a three-year term to the Board of Directors for the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. She also chaired sessions at the XIX International Symposium on Respiratory Viral Infections in Berlin, Germany.

Michal Zalzman, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, received a two-year, $424,875 R21 from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “A Novel Cell Therapy Approach to Augment Regeneration in Neurodegenerative Disease.” The goal of this grant is to establish novel protocols for cellular therapies for Parkinson’s disease by using expanded tonsillar derived stem cells.

Richard Zhao, PhD, professor, Department of Pathology, received a three-year, $601,550 R01 from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences for “A Novel and High Throughput System for Drug Discovery and Testing on Multidrug Resistant HIV-1 Proteases.”

Jacqueline C. Mitchell, MS ’07, CRNA, director of clinical education, served as a representative for the Army Surgeon General’s Education and Training Initiative in South Africa. While there, Mitchell and colleagues trained 1,200 nursing and medical providers from the United States and South Africa.

**SCHOOL OF NURSING**

Linda L. Costa, PhD, RN, assistant professor, was invited to the International Summer School of Zhengzhou University in China. While there, Costa provided a consultation and presented at The First Peoples Hospital of Nantong.

Margaret Hammersla, PhD ’17, MS ’05, BSN ’95, CRNP, and Brenda Windemuth, DNP ’11, RN, CRNP, both assistant professors, have been appointed to new leadership roles within the school’s Department of Organizational Systems and Adult Health. Hammersla, who most recently served as co-specialty director for the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP) specialty, has been named senior director of the school’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program, and Windemuth takes over Hammersla’s former post as co-specialty director for the AGPCNP specialty.

Margaret Hammersla, Brenda Windemuth

**SCHOOL OF PHARMACY**

The school’s student chapter of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists received an honorable mention in the 2017 Student Chapter of the Year competition.

Olivia Renaldo was named chair-elect of the national Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group’s Student Council.
The article “Silencing of Solute Carrier Family 13 Member 5 Disrupts Energy Homeostasis and Inhibits Proliferation of Human Hepatocarcinoma Cells,” by Hongbing Wang, PhD, professor, and Zhihui Li, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, both in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was named an Editor’s Pick by the Journal of Biological Chemistry, representing the top 2 percent of the more than 6,600 papers published in the journal each year.

Fengtian Xue, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Alexander MacKerell Jr., PhD, Grollman-Glick Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, are among the co-inventors of “LRRK2 GTP Binding Inhibitors for Treatment of Parkinson’s Disease and Neuroinflammatory Disorder,” which received a U.S. patent.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Jodi Jacobson Frey, PhD, associate professor, presented workplace outcomes data resulting from participation in the Flight Attendant Drug and Alcohol Program (FADAP) at the 7th Annual FADAP Conference in Baltimore. Outcomes related to return to work following treatment for alcohol, drugs, and mental health focused on work performance and safety, in addition to costs saved in lost work time. Her work with over 26 airlines participating in this project continues to support the need for employees to have easy access to effective treatment for alcohol and other drugs.

Theda Rose, PhD, assistant professor, is the lead author and Nadine Finigan-Carr, PhD, research assistant professor, is a co-author of “Mental Health and Educational Experiences Among Black Youth: A Latent Class Analysis,” which was published in the Journal of Youth & Adolescence.

Jennifer Swanberg, PhD, professor, is a co-author of “Factors Influencing Job Satisfaction Among Long-Term Care Staff,” which was published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Theda Rose

Nadine Finigan-Carr

living our CORE VALUES

ACCOUNTABILITY | CIVILITY | COLLABORATION | DIVERSITY
EXCELLENCE | KNOWLEDGE | LEADERSHIP
Each year the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) celebrates the achievements and successes of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and philanthropic supporters and pays tribute to UMB’s 200-plus-year history with a series of Founders Week events.

EVENT SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

OCT. 14
FOUNDERS WEEK GALA
6:30 p.m. | Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor
Black-tie optional dinner, program, and entertainment. Tickets can be purchased for $200 by contacting events@umaryland.edu.

MONDAY

OCT. 16
STUDENT COOKOUT
Noon | School of Nursing Courtyard
Tickets required. Open to UMB students only.

TUESDAY

OCT. 17
RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR
LECTURE AND RECEPTION
4:30 p.m. | Davidge Hall

WEDNESDAY

OCT. 18
ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR
PRESENTATION AND RECEPTION
4 p.m. | BioPark Life Sciences Conference Center

THURSDAY

OCT. 19
STAFF LUNCHEON
11:30 to 12:10 p.m. or 12:20 to 1 p.m. | Westminster Hall
Tickets required. Open to UMB staff only.

2017 FOUNDERS WEEK AWARD WINNERS

The following members of the UMB family will be honored at the Founders Week Gala:

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR
BARTLEY P. GRIFFITH, MD
School of Medicine
Thomas E. and Alice Marie Hales Distinguished Professor in Transplant Surgery
Founder, Breethe, Inc.

PUBLIC SERVANT OF THE YEAR
SUSAN M. ANTOL, PHD, RN
School of Nursing
Assistant Professor, Department of Partnerships, Professional Education and Practice; Director, Wellmobile and School-Based Programs

RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR
ROBERT K. ERNST, PHD
School of Dentistry
Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Microbial Pathogenesis

TEACHER OF THE YEAR
FADIA TOHME SHAYA, PHD, MPH
School of Pharmacy
Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research; Vice Chair for Academic Affairs

Visit umaryland.edu/founders to find out more information about the Founders Week events and award winners.
PRESIDENT’S PANEL  
on POLITICS AND POLICY

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

Speaker
DERRECK KAYONGO
CEO, National Center for Civil and Human Rights
Founder, Global Soap Project

From Ugandan refugee to entrepreneur and human rights activist, Derreck Kayongo possesses an inspiring life story. He is chief executive officer of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta and founder of the Global Soap Project, a nonprofit that recycles used hotel soap and redistributes it to impoverished populations to help fight disease around the world.

A dynamic speaker, Kayongo shares his spirit and experience in the areas of entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability, global health, social justice, and professional engagement with audiences in the corporate, nonprofit, and academic worlds.

Kayongo brings his personal guiding principles, coined S.E.L.F. (Service, Education, Leadership, and Faith), to life in emotional and impactful presentations. His awards include designation as a Top 10 CNN Hero; a citizenship award from the Georgia State Legislature; the MAXX Entrepreneurship Award; and accolades from Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Before becoming CEO of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in 2015, Kayongo gained experience working for nongovernmental organizations in positions with CARE (Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere), Amnesty International, the American Friends Service Committee, and the Congressional Hunger Center.

He has a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, Pa., a master’s degree in law and diplomacy from The Fletcher School at Tufts University in Boston, and an honorary degree from Oglethorpe University in Atlanta.

ATTENDEES ARE URGED TO BRING DONATIONS FOR JAMES MCHENRY ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL. AGE-APPROPRIATE ELECTRONICS, TOYS, OR ATHLETIC GEAR AND BEIGE KHAKI UNIFORM PANTS ARE REQUESTED.

REGISTER EARLY. SPACE IS LIMITED.
umaryland.edu/politics-panel
LOosa AHEAD IN EDUCATION

UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, kicked off his quarterly Q&A session Sept. 19 at the School of Dentistry by describing it as an open forum, telling the crowd of about 100 faculty, staff, and students, “I want to know what you want to know.” Here are excerpts from the hourlong session:

QUESTION:
Would you address the skepticism that seems to be assaulting the realm of higher education, a national skepticism that asks, “Is higher education worth it?”

DR. PERMAN:
None of us should assume that the entirety of the population, and certainly the public who has to support public education, thinks higher education is terribly important. That’s why institutions need to show their value, and not because they grant an education, and, in our case, an education to a lot of professional people who go on and make a good living. No, it’s because we need to show them that these institutions, which so many see as elitist, give a damn about communities that they’re not a part of. That’s the challenge for so many in higher education, that we take down our walls, get rid of the ivory tower, and make a difference to people who on the face of it don’t see a value to higher education but can certainly see that a higher education institution makes a difference to people who are less privileged. So, if I were asked by a group of presidents, “How does an institution show that it’s value-added?” I’d say, “Get into the neighborhood.”

QUESTION:
What kind of teaching innovations would you like to see across campus in the next five to 10 years?

DR. PERMAN:
I would like to see more in the way of experiential learning. And I would like to see more emphasis given on getting out, beyond the campus, and seeing the world, and I mean the world broadly stated, and learning from it. When I was dean at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, legislators used to ask me, “Why do you send our Kentucky medical students, supported by the public coffers, to Africa, to Central America? Haven’t we got enough problems in Kentucky? Why do they need to save the world?” Well, those students came back with insights that they never would have gotten otherwise and solutions to issues that are common in a Third World nation and in a highly developed nation, and they applied them. So, when you get out beyond the traditional spaces like the dental clinic and the hospital unit, you bring back insights that make you a better professional.

QUESTION:
In terms of innovative instructional methods in the future, how does interprofessional education fit into your vision?

DR. PERMAN:
You know how I feel about the importance of educating our learners to work as a team. What evidence we have demonstrates that taking a team of professionals of various disciplines, and having them address a problem, results in a better outcome than the traditional method of care. Evidence suggests that for people with chronic diseases, the outcomes are generally better when you can apply a team of professionals that includes more than the traditional caregiver, and outcomes are especially better when that population is nested in a community that is challenged socially. There’s also evidence that shows that the team members, the very professionals that we are or are training, enjoy practicing in a team, delivering care or advice in a team, as opposed to one-offs. There also is increasing evidence that team-based care is better care, with better outcomes. Ergo, we have to redouble our efforts in a place like this. And even if I were stubborn and didn’t think it was important, the accrediting bodies that accredit various disciplines say, “You will do this.” So, we have to do it, and what better place than UMB, where we have critical mass, where we have the range of professionals.
QUESTION: I’m part of the dental hygiene program as a degree completion student. Working with a geriatric population, I am limited in what I can do at the nursing home. I was wondering if a dentist or hygienist could be there with me so I could provide more than just preventive education. I believe this is the beginning of one of the interprofessional platforms you were just discussing.

DR. PERMAN: I can’t answer your specific question and will leave that to dental faculty. As for the geriatric population, it’s a great population for team-based approaches, so I’m glad you’re pointing that out. As with so many other issues, the students are always ahead of the curve. The students are always way ahead of us. There’s one group of people on this campus who get it about team-based care. It’s the students. Thank you for illustrating that.

QUESTION: As America’s population ages and the ethnic and racial diversity in the nation increases, what is UMB’s role in addressing societal concerns as a result of these demographic shifts?

DR. PERMAN: I am proud of the fact that we have an increasingly diverse student body. It’s never as good as it should be. We talk about it all the time, and we strategize about it, and we’re deliberate. Maybe some of you could tell us how we need to be more deliberate about making sure that we have a diverse and inclusive environment for our students to come to. It is a matter of fairness and social justice that we ultimately make sure that the kinds of professions that we’re creating the workforce for look like America.

If we’re charged to create an appropriate workforce for Maryland, the literature shows that given a choice, the recipient of our care would prefer to be cared for by people who come from their life experience, who are part of the culture they know — bluntly speaking, who look like them, and that is an appropriate criteria. So, if we at UMB purport to create a proper workforce, we have to be committed to that, and that requires us to be very proactive, very deliberate about doing even better with regard to a diverse student body.

QUESTION: Under your presidency, organizational and employee development has really evolved. What are the gaps we still need to address in terms of employee development? And how can we, through shared governance or supervisor training, continue to grow our staff and keep them at UMB as they move forward in their careers?

DR. PERMAN: We are taking steps in Human Resources to try to deal with this. It’s very important to me that at all levels our staff see an opportunity to move forward on an individual basis, to grow, to take that next step. Plenty of people on this campus come in at an entry-level position, and they don’t have computer skills, they don’t qualify for most of the jobs that we have. So, one of two things are going to happen: They’re going to stay where they are forever or they might leave, if there’s no opportunity to move up. People are ambitious — that’s the kind of people we want — and want to be able to see a path forward. We’ve done a lot with staff development, but we need to be more intentional about it. And I know Human Resources has started some classes, some pathways, so that people can move up.

QUESTION: This event is very important in being able to voice questions, but how can you reach out to those staff who may not feel comfortable being in this public setting or may not be able to come to the Q&A because of their work schedule?
DR. PERMAN:
I'm going to ask our vice president for communications and my special assistant, Jennifer Litchman, to answer that, because there are ways that you can get to me.

JENNIFER LITCHMAN:
For all of you who get The President's Message in your inbox, and that should be every single one of you, we do a recap of these Q&As. But we would encourage more people to come to this event and participate so they can more effectively share their views. President Perman also has an email address that is open to everyone. If he can’t answer something, he forwards it to somebody who can, and that really is the most effective way, as well as The Elm Weekly, which you also get in your inbox Monday mornings. That is all self-submitted information, and we’d love for more people to participate with putting information in The Elm Weekly, so that more of us feel like we know what’s going on in all the schools and areas.

QUESTION:
Is there a way for people to anonymously ask questions?

JENNIFER LITCHMAN:
To the extent that there are confidential matters, we have a hotline on the website, and we have the ombudsperson, as well as HR staff who are available to answer or deal with issues that are confidential.

COLETTE BEAULIEU, PAST PRESIDENT, STAFF SENATE
Talking about anonymous email, the Staff Senate has on our website the ability for anyone to submit questions or comments anonymously if they choose to. The Executive Committee then takes the comments and questions we receive and shares them with Dr. Perman at our bimonthly meetings or forwards them to the appropriate departments for a response.

QUESTION:
I'm in Human Resources, and I wanted to thank you for your past President's Message newsletter highlighting the wonderful things we’re doing in work, life, and wellness, because we do care for our employees. We partner with the School of Medicine’s Center for Integrated Medicine in providing massages, yoga, and reiki. We have tons of financial wellness seminars, healthy foods, all kinds of offerings. We even have coloring book sessions, if you just want to de-stress for a little bit. It's great stuff, and if more people know about it, it will help to build a more positive culture here.

DR. PERMAN:
I think you know that we got recognition this year that we haven’t gotten before at UMB. We were recognized by the Chronicle of Higher Education, which is the principal communication device in higher education, as being a “Best Place to Work.” We were recognized for our commitment to shared governance, and in the areas of compensation and benefits, and confidence in senior leadership. However, we didn’t snag an award in the work/life balance category, which shows we need to do more of the things you were mentioning.

QUESTION:
When is Health Sciences Facility III going to be finished and open?

DR. PERMAN:
HSF III will open in January, but it won’t be fully open. There are 12 investigator groups that have been recruited that are in our areas of emphasis and will move in. There will also be several of our entities that now reside in the BioPark. Eventually the building will fill up. We also included several floors of shell space, because construction in 2017, we presume, is going to be less expensive than construction some years hence.

QUESTION:
Can you comment about recycling on campus? I became aware recently that paper recycling was put on hiatus. When is that coming back? And what can UMB do more in the way of commitment to recycling?
TERRY MORSE, INTERIM ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS:
We did have to put recycling on hiatus because we lost our facility because of construction that’s happening all around it. But I’m happy to say that it’s being restored this week or next week. But having said that, next spring or summer, we’re going to be demolishing the recycling building to make room for a new facility.

DR. PERMAN:
It’s a huge project. The state has committed the initial part of $80 million to help us do this. That’s the construction Terry’s talking about.

TERRY MORSE:
That’s a several-year project. But part of that project involves constructing a new switching station at the north end of campus, so we’re actually feeding power to the campus, redundantly, from another service, so that if we do lose the south switching station, we can switch over to the north, or vice versa. So, it greatly increases our redundancy. But when we go into construction, they have to demolish that recycling building. We’re building a new building that will house our recycling operations, but during the period of construction, we’re going to have to put some of our recycling efforts on hold again. It’s a temporary interruption.

QUESTION:
Could you give an update on the MPower initiative?

DR. PERMAN:
In the first quarter of 2012, as a result of a legislature-initiated discussion and a study about the wisdom, or lack thereof, of merging the University of Maryland, College Park and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, we instead created a strategic partnership, MPower. And under the aegis of MPower, we had a major expansion, which continues, in the number of joint faculty and many other things. We garnered as much as $100 million in new grants because of faculty working with each other on both campuses to make the applications more competitive. As we’ve gone forward, we’ve done a lot of things we can be very proud of.

Some of you saw the press last month with regard to Cole Field House. Why should UMB get mixed up with a football facility on our sister campus? Because it’s not just a football facility.

What got crafted initially, from the idea of creating something better for student-athletes for their practices became: How do we really get into sports medicine for everybody, healthy living, fitness, and some of the results of mishaps in sports, particularly brain injury. The Center for Sports Medicine Health and Human Performance is a huge project on the College Park campus, which is a partnership endeavor that involves many of our faculty physicians.

There have been many programs that faculty and schools from each university have come together around that are funded by the dollars we have for the MPower strategic partnership initiative. It is going very well.
Keep your head up when you are walking.

It sounds so simple, much like the instructions toddlers are given so they don’t walk into trees.

But it’s a big problem for us “bigger kids” here at UMB.

Cellphones are the biggest culprit. Pedestrians with their heads in their phones don’t notice oncoming traffic, cracks in the sidewalk — or potentially dangerous groups approaching.

Thieves target pedestrians talking on cellphones, and not just because they are distracted and make easy targets.

“Smartphones and other technology devices are easy to steal, easy to transport, and easy to convert into cash,” UMB Interim Police Chief Martinez Davenport, MS, said in an August campuswide email. “Typically, a young suspect, often riding a bicycle, will grab a phone or other device right out of the hand of an unsuspecting victim and ride or run away. The suspect is able to do this because the victim, like so many people out on the streets and sidewalks, is staring down at a screen or walking with earbuds playing music.”

Cellphones were the target of thieves in two summer incidents involving UMB students. “Remember, safety begins with you,” said Cpl. J.R. Jones, safety awareness officer in the UMB Department of Public Safety. “So make that call or send that text before you leave the building or wait until you have reached your destination.”

Here are some other safety tips for pedestrians:

• Walk in the middle of the sidewalk and face oncoming traffic
• Don’t wear earbuds. They can cause you to miss auditory cues (such as a beeping horn) and target you as a potential victim.
• Use crosswalks when crossing the street
• Be conscious of and yield to turning cars
• At night, travel in groups, wear reflective clothing, and stay in well-lit areas

One final note: Almost half of all traffic crashes resulting in pedestrian casualties involve alcohol consumption. Surprisingly, 34 percent of that total was on the part of the pedestrian. Alcohol impairs your decision-making skills, physical reflexes, and other abilities just as much on your feet as it does behind the wheel.

So be safe out there!

— Chris Zang

Visit the website for more UMB safety tips.