When I speak about UMB’s community engagement efforts, I make it a point to emphasize that our work in nearby neighborhoods is done not only for our neighbors but with them as well. Our efforts would be crippled without the guidance of West Baltimore’s residents — and without the partnership of community organizations that have long represented and served them.

Of course, our neighbors know their communities better than anyone else. They know what’s worth trying and what’s been tried before, what encourages progress and what stifles it. They know how problems and people should be approached, and where, in the past, big plans have failed to deliver on the promises made. It’s this long view — this nuanced view — that we need.

When we opened the UMB Community Engagement Center last fall, we didn’t open with a packed schedule of programming, because a packed schedule would have prevented our responding nimbly to neighborhood needs. Instead we left some breathing room.

Now monthly community lunches held at the center give us the chance to get to know our neighbors better — not as a monolithic group, but as individuals. The lunches, open to all, give us a chance to introduce residents to UMB and to our work in West Baltimore. (It’s tempting to assume that sharing the city has bred familiarity among our neighbors, but that’s far from true; we must prove our worth and earn their trust every day.)

It’s during these lunch table conversations that we hear what kinds of programs our neighbors want to see the center offer, what services they think will have the biggest impact and meet the greatest need.

In fact, at our holiday lunch in December, one resident volunteered a need that resonated with others. She said the neighborhood’s children deserve a safe and nurturing place to play. We couldn’t agree more. So now the Community Engagement Center is hosting Charm City Tots, a play group for children birth to 3. Moms, dads, grandparents, and caregivers can bring their toddlers to the center each week for 90 minutes of age-appropriate, unstructured, supervised play — just what every little one needs. The play group is led by the Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance, and students from our School of Nursing help facilitate the fun.

Building relationships with our neighbors is important, and so is strengthening our bonds with the organizations that champion their interests. Among our critical relationships in West Baltimore is the one we share with the Southwest Partnership, a coalition of seven Southwest Baltimore neighborhoods aligned to accomplish together what they struggled to achieve individually: to position the southwest community as a vibrant part of Baltimore’s future.

The Southwest Partnership — comprising Franklin Square, Poppleton, Hollins Market, Barre Circle, Pigtown, Mount Clare, and Union Square — overlaps the geographic area of focus we’ve identified for our community engagement efforts. The University supports the partnership financially, and we serve on its board. We staff work groups dedicated to such efforts as education and workforce training, housing and commercial development, and neighborhood preservation.

The Southwest Partnership shares a neighborhood with our BioPark, and its members expect that the park’s growth, a catalyst for economic development, will advance their communities in kind — that BioPark expansion will stimulate new housing, restaurants, and retail, along with a crop of resident-owned businesses that meet new local needs. When we began building the BioPark, we knew its benefit had to spill generously into the neighborhoods surrounding it. From the start, BioPark tenants have paid into a community fund that’s now contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to projects in the southwest area.

But our relationship with the Southwest Partnership wasn’t always so close. Not by a long shot. The partnership was formed in 2012, galvanized by a widespread feeling among residents that they were being shut out of discussions and decisions that would have a significant impact on their quality of life. Bottom line: Residents were angry.

Repairing the relationship wasn’t easy. But it’s one of the best things we’ve ever done. I hosted the leaders of the Southwest Partnership in my office, and they spoke candidly with me about their frustration — their frustration that an institution that had the power to do so much good in the neighborhood was settling for so much less. They were right.

The University has worked incredibly hard since then to do better. Of course, we already had a model for enlarging our community benefit. We looked to a number of extraordinary projects in the community, led by faculty, staff, and students doing the long, hard work of engagement — one person, one family, one neighborhood at a time.

We still have much more to do. I think most people — University colleagues and neighbors alike — would consider our relationships in West Baltimore a work in progress. May it always be so.
UNIVERSITYWIDE

Anna-Marie Epps, coordinator of administration, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, was named UMB’s November Employee of the Month for her “unbelievable positive spirit” and ability to “always be a part of the solution” to problems.

Anna-Marie Epps accepts her plaque from Dr. Perman.

Peter J. Murray, PhD, chief information officer (CIO) and vice president for information technology, was one of three research university CIOs invited to meet with Ted Mitchell, the undersecretary of education, U.S. Department of Education (DOE), to discuss opportunities for DOE and institutional collaboration regarding cybersecurity best practices, especially as they relate to federal student aid data.

University President Jay A. Perman, MD, has been reappointed by Gov. Larry Hogan to the Maryland Life Sciences Advisory Board, which supports the activities of the Department of Commerce to grow the biotechnology and health technology industry sectors in the state. The 16 board members represent key federal, academic, and industry organizations.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

“Digital Dentistry: The Golden Age for Diagnosis and Treatment Planning,” co-authored by assistant professor Radi Masri, DDS, MS, PhD, and professor Carl F. Driscoll, DMD, both of the Department of Endodontics, Prosthodontics and Operative Dentistry, along with residents Se Jong Kim, DMD, and William M. Wahle, DDS, was published in Inside Dentistry.

Valli Meeks, DDS, MS, RDH, clinical associate professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, and director of the PLUS Clinic, was honored in December with the Heroes Among Us award, presented by the Greater Baltimore HIV Health Services Planning Council in recognition of “outstanding efforts in the Baltimore HIV community.”

Paul S. Rosen, DMD, MS ’90, clinical professor of periodontics, Dean’s Faculty, is the 2015 recipient of the Master Clinician Award from the American Academy of Periodontology, which recognizes a member who has demonstrated clinical excellence and who continually expresses a willingness to share that clinical experience with others.

Harlan J. Shiau, DDS, DMed, Sc, clinical associate professor and director of predoctoral periodontal education, Department of Periodontics, was awarded the 2015 Nevins Teaching and Clinical Research Fellowship by the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation. The fellowship provides support to those who may be facing educational debt while striving to establish themselves in an academic role.

Jon B. Suzuki, DDS ’82, PhD, MBA, Dean's Faculty, was appointed to chair the dental products panel of the Medical Devices Advisory Committee of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Dean Mark A. Reynolds, DDS ’86, PhD, MA, is a member of the panel.

Sheryl L. Syme, RDH '88, MS, associate professor, dental hygiene, has been awarded a one-year, $5,000 Wrigley Co. Foundation Community Service Grant from the American Dental Hygienists’ Association’s Institute for Oral Health for her project, Maryland Special Olympics Special Smiles Program. Syme, clinical director for the smiles program, plans to use the grant to increase the number of athletes with intellectual disabilities served by the oral health program.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

Richard Boldt, JD, professor, presented on the panel “The Modern Problem-Solving Court Movement: Taking Stock After 25 Years” by the Section on Alternative Dispute Resolution at the American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting in New York City. At the same meeting:
Martha Ertman, JD, Carole & Hanan Sibel Research Professor of Law, was a member of the discussion group “Increasing Author Diversity in Legal Scholarship: Individual and Institutional Strategies,” which was facilitated by Paula Monopoli, JD, professor and founding director, Women, Leadership & Equality Program; and Katrin Hussmann Schroll, JD, director of admissions, presented on the panel “Plenary Session: The Value of Legal Education and Why It’s a Good Investment Now and in the Future.”

“Unwarranted Warrants in Baltimore,” an op-ed by students Daniel Bosworth, Brendan McGrath, and Spencer Evans, was published in The Baltimore Sun. Douglas Colbert, JD, professor, supervised creation of the op-ed, which was contributed to by students Amanda Clark, Elizabeth De Santis, James Handley, Ben Henry, and John Little.


Diane Hoffmann, JD, MS, professor and director, Law and Health Care Program, moderated a panel on “Media/Social Media and Privacy in Healthcare” at the Maryland-D.C. Society for Healthcare Risk Management and Baltimore Bar Foundation Symposium, “When Worlds Collide: The Intersection of Healthcare, Law & Technology.” Frank Pasquale, JD, MPphil, professor, participated on the panel and Donald B. Tobin, JD, dean and professor, delivered the introductory remarks for the symposium.

Employees of the Network for Public Health (NPH) — Eastern Region, which is based in the law school and directed by professor Kathleen Hoke, JD, were among the co-authors of “Legal Innovations to Advance a Culture of Health,” which was published in the Journal of Law, Medicine, & Ethics. NPH contributors included Leslie Frey, JD, MPH, staff attorney; Megan Griest, MPP, program manager; Kerri McGowan Lowrey, JD, MPH, deputy director; and William Tilburg, JD, senior staff attorney.

“To Fight Racial Isolation on Campus, Start with Admissions,” an op-ed by Sherrilyn Ifill, JD, professor, was published in The Washington Post. Ifill is currently on leave serving as president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.

Paula Monopoli, JD, professor and founding director, Women, Leadership & Equality Program, presented on the panel “Whither the Marital Presumption after Obergefell” by the Section on Trusts & Estates and Women in Legal Education panel. Monopoli also presented “Gender Issues in Professional Speech” at the NALP/ALI 2015 Professional Development Institute in Washington, D.C.

“Can Obama’s Climate Pledges Survive Republican Opposition?” by Robert Percival, JD, professor and director, Environmental Law Program, was published in New Republic.

“Food Safety’s Criminal State of Mind,” an op-ed by Rena Steinzor, JD, professor, was published in Food Safety News.

Michael Vesely, JD ’06, adjunct faculty member and senior law and policy analyst, Center for Health and Homeland Security (CHHS), has been named CHHS’ academic program manager.

Clement Adebamowo, BM, ChB, ScD, professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, gave a talk on “Genomics Research and Biobanking in Africa” at the World Medical Association Expert Meeting on the Draft of the WMA Declaration on Ethical Considerations Regarding Health Databases and Biobanks, held in Copenhagen, Denmark. He also attended the 30th International Papillomavirus Conference & Clinical and Public Health Workshops in Lisbon, Portugal, where he presented seven posters, and was a panelist at the Chatham House Roundtable “Strengthening Data Sharing for Public Health: Ethics and Risk Mitigation” in London.
Carla Alexander, MD, assistant professor, Anthony Amoroso, MD, associate professor, and Robert Redfield, MD, professor, all from the Department of Medicine and the Institute of Human Virology, where Redfield is associate director, were among the co-authors on “Implementation of HIV Palliative Care: Interprofessional Education to Improve Patient Outcomes in Resource-Constrained Settings, 2004–2012,” which was published in the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management.

Julie Dunning Hotopp, PhD, associate professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology and the Institute for Genome Sciences, received a Transformative Research Award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Common Fund for a five-year, $3,598,034 High-Risk, High-Reward award. NIH Director Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD, presented the award at a ceremony in December. The Transformative Research Award promotes cross-cutting, interdisciplinary approaches and is open to individuals and teams of investigators who propose research that could potentially create or challenge existing paradigms.

Kirsten Lyke, MD, associate professor, Department of Medicine and the Institute for Global Health, received a 14-month grant for $1,747,212 from Sanaria, Inc. and the Department of Defense for “Phase 2 Development of a PFSPZ Vaccine.”

Michele Markwardt, MS, research specialist, Department of Physiology, was named UMB’s January Employee of the Month for the training, dedication, and embodiment of core values she provides for the lab of associate professor Mark Rizzo, PhD.

Vincent Njar, PhD, and Angela Brodie, PhD, both professors in the Department of Pharmacology, invented “Novel C-17-Heteroaryl Steroidal CYP17 Inhibitors/ Antiandrogens: Synthesis, In Vitro Biological Activities, Pharmacokinetics and Antitumor Activity,” which was issued an Israeli patent. The invention is a novel therapeutic method using small molecules to treat prostate and breast cancers.

Linda Orkin Lewin, MD, associate professor, Department of Pediatrics, took a group of four residents and eight medical students to The SEED School of Baltimore to perform sports physicals. The SEED School is a public boarding school in West Baltimore. The group performed 54 exams, allowing the students to then participate in fall sports.

For all the SOM laurels, visit www.somnews.umaryland.edu.

SCHOOL OF NURSING


SCHOOL OF NURSING

UMARYLAND.EDU
Debra Scrandis, PhD, CRNP, associate professor, and student Kristen Russell, MS ’98, BSN ’84, PMHNP-BC, co-authored “Simulation Enhanced Interprofessional Education with Nurse Practitioner and Medical Students for Patients with Bipolar Disorder: Facilitators and Barriers in Teamwork,” which was published in the Journal of Nursing Education and Practice.

Alison Trinkoff, ScD, RN, FAAN, professor, presented a paper, “Training Hours and Resident Outcomes in U.S. Nursing Homes,” as part of an international symposium of nurse researchers from Switzerland, Sweden, and the Netherlands at the Gerontological Society of America 2015 meeting, held in Orlando, Fla. The paper was co-authored by Carla Storr, ScD, MPH, professor; assistant professors Nancy Lerner, DNP, RN, CDONA, and Kihye Han, PhD, RN; and student Bo Kyum Yang, MSN, RN.

Nicole Brandt, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a one-year, $55,000 grant from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine for “Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program.”

Becky Ceraul, assistant dean for communications and marketing, has been elected secretary of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s Administrative Services Section.

Andrew Coop, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been named chair-elect of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s Chemistry Section.

Steven Fletcher, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received an 11-month, $52,240 contract from Washington University for “Pre-clinical and Clinical Imaging and Treatment of Multiple Myeloma with cMyc-Max Nanoparticles.”

Stuart Haines, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been named chair-elect of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s Council of Faculties.

Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, associate dean for student affairs and associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been named the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists’ 2016 Outstanding Chapter Advisor of the Year.

Alexander MacKerell Jr., PhD, the Grollman/Glick Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a three-year, $727,678 contract from the Joan & Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell University for “Design and Synthesis of Inhibitors of the BTB Domain of BCL6.”

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Student Marie Bailey-Kloch, Corey Shdaimah, PhD, associate professor, and Philip Osteen, PhD, assistant professor, co-authored “Finding the Right Fit: Disparities Between Cisgender and Transgender Women Arrested for Prostitution in Baltimore,” which was published in the Journal of Forensic Social Work.

Associate professor Lisa Berlin, PhD, and her collaborators, including student Allison West, presented their ongoing research on buffering young children from “toxic” stress during a site visit by Mark Greenberg, acting assistant secretary, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

A half-dozen people from the school have published findings related to Maryland KEEP, an empirically based training and support program for foster and kinship providers with children between 4 and 12. The KEEP intervention has been shown to significantly decrease placement disruptions, increase permanency, and reduce challenging behaviors for children in care. Those who have published findings include Elizabeth Greeno, PhD, research associate professor, Bethany Lee, PhD, associate dean for research, Dean Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW, Terry Shaw, PhD, associate professor, student Mathew Uretsky, and Jessica Moore, research assistant.
Geoffrey Greif, PhD, professor, and Michael Woolley, PhD, associate professor, have written a book, *Adult Sibling Relationships*, published by Columbia University Press. More than 50 students helped with the research during the past four years.

Karen Hopkins, PhD, associate professor, has been elected to the board of the National Network for Social Work Management. This is the third national social work board she has served on. She also was designated a Society for Social Work and Research Fellow.

Amanda Lehning, PhD, assistant professor, co-authored a book, *Creating Aging-Friendly Communities*, published by Oxford University Press.

Nalini Negi, PhD, associate professor, was invited by the University of North Carolina-Duke Working Group on Gender, Migration and Health to be a Visiting Scholar based on her research expertise with a hard-to-reach population of undocumented Latino migrant day laborers.

The Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS) at the school has been awarded a $92,000 grant for resident services by Poppleton Community Development Corporation at Vintage Gardens in West Baltimore’s Poppleton neighborhood. Resident services increases the ability of residents to uphold their lease obligations, creating housing and financial stability through care coordination services offered by SWCOS and a team of MSW interns and public allies.

**SNOW GRATEFUL**

The historic snowfall of Jan. 22–23 challenged our resources at UMB like few other events in our 209-year history.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to the men and women in facilities and plant operations, parking services, public safety, and other departments who so ably prevailed over nearly 30 inches of snow.

Unlike some other universities that can close their doors for extended periods, UMB’s clinical responsibilities and ongoing research make it essential that we reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.

As the highest volume trauma center in the country, the University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center never closes. So I was grateful to receive this message on Jan. 24 from Thomas Scalea, MD, FACS, Shock Trauma’s physician-in-chief:

I am writing to tell you how well I thought the facilities people operated this weekend. The roads and sidewalks were clear and it was easy to navigate around campus, a real accomplishment considering the magnitude of the snowstorm. Kudos to those in charge and those on the ground.

I echo Dr. Scalea’s thanks to all who braved the storm to make the UMB campus passable. To see their snowy challenges firsthand, enjoy the slide show.

Jay A. Perman, MD
President
LUNCH with the PRESIDENT

Join the president and a small group of faculty, staff, and students for a brown bag lunch and conversation.

Monday, Feb. 22
Noon to 1 p.m.

Register at umaryland.edu/president.

SPACE IS AVAILABLE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.
Put your phone away, don’t text and drive

Five seconds. Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55 mph, five seconds is enough time to cover the length of a football field and to put yourself, another driver, passenger, or bystander in danger of becoming the next victim of a car crash.

Surveys show 77 percent of adults are very or somewhat confident that they can safely text while driving, but the U.S. Department of Transportation notes that cell phones are involved in 1.6 million auto crashes each year that cause a half million injuries and take 6,000 lives. Teenage drivers are especially susceptible to fatal crashes because of distracted driving.

Staying off your phone while driving can be very difficult. Once your phone rings or buzzes, you’re likely to instantly reach for it and become distracted. Follow these tips to help you keep your eyes on the road.

Designate a texter
Driving with a friend or family member? Ask them to send a text for you if it’s an emergency.

Download an app
Apps are available that can help you stop texting and driving. Download Live2Txt for Android phones or LifeSaver for iOS phones.

Keep it on silent
Before pulling out of your parking space, after fastening your seatbelt, turn your phone on silent. The less you hear your phone, the less you’ll be tempted to text while driving.

Out of sight, out of mind
Put your cell phone in a place where you can’t reach it. If you don’t have your phone, you can’t text.

“With the volume of traffic and pedestrians we have around the University, driving is difficult enough with two hands on the wheel and your full attention on the road,” says Cpl. J.R. Jones, safety awareness officer in the Department of Public Safety. “Any distraction — eating, putting on makeup, fiddling with the radio, and especially texting — and you’re just asking for trouble. So please keep your eyes on the road.”

— Sarah Reback