Tobin, Reynolds Named Deans

This year, President Jay A. Perman, MD, appointed two new deans of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). In June, Mark A. Reynolds, DDS, PhD, MA, interim dean of the School of Dentistry, was named the school's official dean. In July, Donald B. Tobin, JD, was named dean of the Francis King Carey School of Law.

Mark A. Reynolds
Reynolds, a 1986 graduate of the dental school, returned to the University in 1996 as an assistant professor in the departments of oral and maxillofacial pathology and periodontics. He was director of the Advanced Dental Education Program in Periodontics from 2001 to 2013, and he has served as chair of the Department of Periodontics since 2005. He was named interim dean of the dental school in July 2013.

Dedicated to the University and to the School of Dentistry, Reynolds says some of his priorities include fostering a collegial environment, aligning departmental activities and initiatives with UMB’s mission, and staying committed to interdisciplinary initiatives.

“I am honored to serve as dean of my alma mater, the University of Maryland School of Dentistry,” Reynolds says. “Our school is rooted in a proud tradition of excellence. I look forward to advancing this tradition through leadership in education, research, patient care, and service, building on collaboration across schools and throughout the University.”

Donald B. Tobin
Prior to his appointment at the law school, Tobin, a Maryland native, served for 13 years on the faculty at Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, most recently as the John C. Elam/Vorys Sater Professor of Law. Previously he was an appellate attorney in the Tax Division of the U.S. Justice Department and a law clerk for Judge Francis Murnaghan Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Tobin began his career on Capitol Hill, working as a Senate staff member for Senator Paul Sarbanes while graduating magna cum laude and Order of the Coif from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Tobin’s top priorities as dean include increasing employment opportunities for graduates and keeping law education affordable. “The passion, energy, and commitment of our alumni and friends are extraordinary,” Tobin says. “I’m confident that with their support we can achieve both of these goals.”

Tobin says he is delighted to return home. “Maryland is a great state for lawyers,” he says. “As the state’s flagship law school, we’re prepared to help Maryland’s legal, business, and social service communities thrive.”

Michael Dowdy, MBA, vice president for development and alumni relations, elaborates: “Alumni and friends are very pleased with the selection of deans Reynolds and Tobin. This should bode well for the schools’ fundraising potential.”
In an effort to attract top students and address the very real issue of mounting student debt, the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc. (UMBF) recently announced a matching program for all new gifts to either establish a new endowed scholarship or to support an existing one. The timing of this initiative could not have been better for Marilyn Weisman, who recently established a scholarship endowment for the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in memory of her husband, Bernie Weisman, BSP ’70, who died in 2013.

Mr. Weisman was a pharmacist and owner of Charlesmead Pharmacy in North Baltimore from 1977 until a heart attack in 2002 left him incapacitated. To say that Bernie Weisman was beloved doesn’t begin to describe the loyalty his customers felt for him. To hear Marilyn Weisman describe him, her husband thrived on helping people, never had a bad day, and was generous, almost to a fault.

“The man had sunshine all around him,” says Mrs. Weisman, who has managed the pharmacy since her husband first became ill. “Bern loved being a pharmacist and taking care of everybody.”

It was Mark Levi, BSP ’70, a classmate and close friend of Mr. Weisman, who first suggested to Marilyn that they create a scholarship to memorialize him.

“Bernie’s legacy was his personality,” Levi says. “There was not a soul who did not like Bernie. He had a smile on his face for everyone. He was always fair to his customers and served the great, and near great, with equal attentiveness and compassion.”

Unlike many scholarships that reward academic performance, the Weisman scholarship will go to students who bring a passion for service to their pharmacy studies.

“The scholarship will be awarded to a Doctor of Pharmacy student who best exemplifies Bernie’s personality,” says Levi. “Neither he nor I were scholars, so it was my intent to honor his memory by explaining to the students at the school that scholarship is important, but being a good person is just as important.”

Marilyn Weisman agrees. “I don’t think you always have to be at the top of your class to be good at what you’re doing,” she says. “Bernie didn’t graduate top in his class, but he was the most wonderful pharmacist.”

Gifts from the Weisman family, Levi, friends, classmates, and UMBF matching funds have brought the Bernard A. Weisman Memorial Scholarship Endowment to a current total of $85,575.

“The School of Pharmacy was given a pool of $750,000 by the UMB Foundation to match new or currently endowed scholarships,” says Janice Barzold, MS, School of Pharmacy Office of Development and Alumni Affairs. “We see this program as a catalyst for those who may have been thinking about creating an endowed scholarship at the school, and also as a way to help some of our existing endowed scholarships grow.”

Traditionally, an endowed scholarship requires an initial gift of $25,000. Because of the match, donors only need to provide $16,667 to create a new scholarship. New gifts of $10,000 or more made to existing endowed scholarships also will be matched.

Mrs. Weisman says she is thrilled to be able to assist School of Pharmacy students. “Bernie loved the pharmacy profession so much, and it helped him be successful,” she says. “I wanted to give something back to the profession and the school that enabled Bernie to do so well.”
Blaustein Scholarships Are Helping Medical and Law Students

Arnold Blaustein, MD, and Donna Blaustein, Esq., are strong advocates of giving back. Coming from middle class working backgrounds, and receiving scholarships themselves, giving back to the University that helped shape their lives is second nature to them. Today, both Arnold and Donna have created scholarships for their alma maters, the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the Francis King Carey School of Law, respectively.

Growing up, Arnold and Donna didn’t always know what they wanted to study. It wasn’t until Arnold was studying physics in college that he realized he was most interested in the biological sciences. For Donna, it was a little more difficult. “I decided I wanted to be a lawyer, but anyone I discussed it with made it clear that women did not become lawyers — at least in those days,” she says. Eventually, the two found that they could not resist their calling.

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Practicing medicine and law has helped shape the Blausteins’ lives.

Arnold says it’s an honor to treat oncology patients and to work in an environment where constant learning is both rewarding and obligatory. He explains, “Medicine satisfies my needs for both human interaction and mental growth.”

Donna says that while her family is the most important part of her life, “being a lawyer is the second most important thing.”

“It defines my concept of life,” she says. “It has granted me a mentally stimulating and rewarding career.”

As scholarship recipients, the Blausteins feel that the people they have become is attributed to the education and training they received at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Donna explains, “We both strongly feel the obligation to ‘pay back’ to ensure the future, and one of the best ways to do so is by assisting students with scholarships. We also feel a commitment to give to the annual operating campaign so that both the future and the present receive our support.”

With the help of Arnold and Donna Blaustein, students at the medical and law schools will be able to bridge the tuition gap and fulfill their dreams of becoming future doctors and lawyers.

Keith King, MD, was given the Arnold S. Blaustein, MD, Scholarship in order to fulfill his dreams of becoming a surgeon. From the Carey School of Law, Soutry De, a current part-time student, was granted the Donna R. Blaustein & Natalie R. de Maar Scholarship to pursue her career in law.
Keith King Wants to Give Back

University of Maryland School of Medicine graduate Keith King, MD ’14, left Bruderhof, a religious community in Pennsylvania, to pursue his dream of becoming a physician and a surgeon. With that dream in mind, he cut his ties and traveled to Lancaster, Pa., where a family acquaintance would provide him with housing until he could find a job and a place of his own. After working for a year, King attended nearby Millersville University, and applied to the University of Maryland School of Medicine. With little money in his pocket, King would find it difficult to attend the University.

He later received a phone call from the associate dean for admissions at the medical school that would change his life forever. The scholarship that clinched King’s acceptance to the school was the Arnold S. Blaustein, MD, Scholarship Endowment. Blaustein, an alumnus of the School of Medicine, established this scholarship to give back and to help students in the same way he received help years before.

The Blaustein scholarship gave King the chance to be in the program of his choice. He explains, “This scholarship allowed me to choose whichever specialty I desired without concern over whether the reimbursement would be adequate to pay off my student debt. I am so grateful for the generosity of Dr. Blaustein.”

After graduating this past spring, King went on to pursue a general surgery residency at Rutgers University, where he hopes to take advantage of the excellent educational, clinical, and research opportunities that will allow him to become the best clinician possible.

King hopes that one day he will be able to give back to the school that allowed him to pursue his dreams.

“Receiving the Blaustein scholarship has inspired me to give back,” he says. “Right now I am not in a position to make a financial contribution, but one day I will seek out ways to help other students pursue their passions and dreams. It meant so much to me to receive this scholarship. I can only imagine how rewarding it will be to give back.”
Soutry De Is Thankful for Scholarship Help

A native of Calcutta, India, who immigrated to the U.S. when she was 10, Soutry De was not sure what to do next after attending the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where she majored in physics with a minor in mathematics. But she knew she did not want a career in research.

“I had previously thought about a legal career, but never seriously,” she says. “When it came time to decide whether to pursue a graduate school for physics or to go to law school, I chose law.”

De gained admission in the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law’s evening program, but paying the tuition would be a big challenge. To her surprise, De was granted the Donna R. Blaustein & Natalie R. de Maar Scholarship, which provides support for students who demonstrate high academic achievement and financial need.

While attending the law school part time, De currently works full time in a business law firm, where she represents hospitals to appeal insurance claim denials. “Although I was not initially thinking about health law, I am really enjoying my work right now,” she says. De hopes to continue working at the firm as an attorney in a few years, obtain a government position, or work at a small to mid-size private firm.

“I would like to thank Mrs. Blaustein for making attending law school possible for me,” De says. “The scholarship was especially helpful, since I recently got married. Receiving this scholarship has influenced me to donate back to both my undergraduate and law schools when I am in a financial position to do so.”

― Soutry De

“Receiving this scholarship has influenced me to donate back to both my undergraduate and law schools when I am in a financial position to do so.”

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Scholarship Matching Program

For a limited time UMBF is offering donor matching funds for establishing new endowed scholarships, or adding funds to an existing fund. The goal is to create an additional $15 million in endowed scholarship support for our students. Loan indebtedness is at an all-time high and funds are needed more than ever. For additional information call UMBF or one of the school-based development offices.

UMBF Scholarship Matching Program Results (as of 9/30/2014)

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For additional information, call UMBF at 410-706-3386 or contact one of the School Development Leaders.
The University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) is celebrating its 125th anniversary with more than a blaze of candles on an enormous cake. Indeed, an occasion of this magnitude requires deliberation, strategic planning, and creativity. And when the celebration is over, what remains should be much more than a keepsake photo album. This extraordinary milestone should leave a tangible footprint, one of significant impact for the future generations of nursing students who will be educated at this outstanding institution.

Dean Jane M. Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Laurette Hankins, associate dean for development and alumni relations, view the 125th anniversary not only as a time to recognize and celebrate more than 12 decades of significant accomplishments, but also as a unique opportunity, a window in time to greatly increase privately funded scholarships. Kirschling notes, “Scholarships are critical, and what better way to commemorate this historic year than by providing a solid base of funding for those who are dedicated to being the best nurses they can be? I have witnessed firsthand what scholarship support means to our students — they are truly grateful for the lessening of their financial burdens, but perhaps even more importantly, they are buoyed by the knowledge that someone else believes in them and in their ability to succeed.”

To that end, a year of special events that began in April of this year with an alumni, faculty, and staff Orioles outing, and includes the 35th anniversary of UMSON’s acclaimed PhD program and a special Veterans Day event, will culminate on April 18, 2015, with the 125th Anniversary Gala. The highlight of this singular event will be the presentation of UMSON’s much anticipated inaugural 25 Visionary Pioneer Awards. All of the gala sponsorships will benefit the 125th Anniversary Endowed Scholarship Fund.

“‘We hope that our alumni, as well as others whose lives have been touched by a nurse, will consider the opportunity to endow a scholarship at UMSON in celebration of 125 years of excellence.’”

— Dean Kirschling

From Hankins’ perspective, “It is an amazing time to be a fundraiser for the school, as we are in a kind of ‘perfect storm’ of philanthropic opportunity: the 125th anniversary itself, as well as the generous UMB Foundation match, which matches 50 cents on the dollar for all newly endowed scholarships. The foundation has agreed to enable us to use the match for all gifts designated to the 125th Anniversary Endowed Scholarship, which is fantastic. My team and I feel privileged to work with our wonderful donors to help make a positive difference.”

Kirschling sums it up: “We hope that our alumni, as well as others whose lives have been touched by a nurse, will consider the opportunity to endow a scholarship at UMSON in celebration of 125 years of excellence.”
Arnold Sindler Focuses on Philanthropy

For Arnold Sindler, DDS ’76, ’78, supporting the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) has become a focal point.

Four years ago, Dr. Sindler’s generous donation helped provide UMSOD with 10 highly advanced Global Surgical G6 microscopes for the Department of Periodontics. The microscopes allow periodontics residents to perform intricate dental procedures with up to 20 times magnification, which enables much greater precision. The school’s periodontics residents now have the opportunity to train using some of the most advanced dental instrumentation available. Thanks to Sindler’s gift, the periodontics program at UMSOD is the only program in the country that can offer a dedicated microscope to each resident. “I want to see the University of Maryland School of Dentistry be among the very top educational centers in the world,” Sindler says.

Sindler, who has been passionate about dental microscopy for more than a decade, wants to share his enthusiasm with students and residents. He established the Periodontal Microsurgery Education Fund so that he and other donors can continue to support enhanced instrumentation and upgrades for the microscopes. Annual donations to this fund have helped keep the technology on the cutting edge by providing cameras and high-definition screens for all the microscopes. These new tools allow residents to work closely with faculty members on even more advanced procedures. Sindler is grateful to be able to help students and residents learn techniques they can use to become leaders in the field. “I hope the residents develop a skill set that will enable them to achieve great things. I also hope they acquire a true passion for excellence,” remarks Sindler.

For Sindler, who works in private practice in Westminster, Md., giving back doesn’t stop at financial contributions. He is a member of the Dean’s Faculty and enjoys volunteering to train residents in the periodontics clinic. “Being a part of the Dean’s Faculty has been so rewarding. I receive so much more than I’ve contributed. The opportunity to serve has made me a better clinician,” he says.
Founded in 2000, the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc. (UMBF) serves as the primary repository for private gifts to the University and its schools of dentistry, law, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, social work, and the Graduate School. Working with its UMB campus partners the Foundation works to inspire and steward philanthropy all across the University. It currently administers more than $275 million in restricted, unrestricted, operating, and endowment assets. The Foundation is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, who serve as advocates for and ambassadors to UMBF. The Foundation’s daily operations are administered by UMB’s Office of Development and Alumni Relations in collaboration with UMB school-based advancement offices, which is responsible for garnering private support and fostering communication and campus outreach efforts to UMB donors, alumni, and other constituents.

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