AUGUST 16, 2011

Doesn’t commencement seem like just a few days ago? How time flies during what has been a busy summer.

But it’s almost fall. So let’s begin this message by offering a hearty “welcome back” to the students, who I always say are among the most important people at this University. They are the only ones who pay to be here and I embrace our collaborative years together. Students, the training you receive here will change your life, allowing you to enhance others’ lives as well.

I also want to welcome our new faculty and staff, who are joining one of the world’s great universities. Your predecessors, like mine, have set the bar high. But I am confident that you and your colleagues can help us take an exceptional university to the next level.

Speaking of that, allow me to mention some other things that are changing the University for the better. Our strategic plan will be moving from the planning phase to the implementation phase. Congratulations and thanks to the many, many people who have chosen to “be a part of the process.”

On Aug. 8 we released the first news about our administrative reorganization. Expect to see more realignment in the coming weeks. Like the strategic plan, these changes will enable us to maintain and increase the strength of the University, today and in the future.

Such is also the case with the branding campaign of our new visual identity. I have asked Jennifer Litchman, MA, special assistant to the president and interim chief communications officer and vice president, and Laura Kozak, MA, interim assistant vice president of communications and marketing, to co-chair a University of Maryland Branding Steering Committee to guide the implementation of our new visual identity. The logo is just one piece of a branding portfolio that includes the brand mission, brand rationale, and the brand attributes. Just as I have been busy breaking down silos through interprofessional partnership, the same is needed to achieve integrated branding and marketing. A complete list of the Branding Steering Committee members can be found at http://www.umaryland.edu/branding/about/steering-committee.

Next month also will be exciting for our friends at the law school, who will usher in the official naming of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.

Remember that the University is closed Friday, Sept. 2, because of the Baltimore Grand Prix and that traffic could be impacted days before. For more details, visit http://www.umaryland.edu/grandprix/.

Lastly, it’s almost time to re-start our monthly Q&A sessions. The next one will be Monday, Sept. 26, at the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center from noon to 1. I would welcome your questions on that day or anytime at http://um.umaryland.edu/president/ask/.

All the best,

Jay A. Perman, MD
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Class of 2011 alumni Shifra Beren, Whitney Feizipour, and Allyson Luckman won third place in a national research poster contest during the annual session of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association, held in Nashville in June.

Joel Greenspan, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, gave a presentation on pain research during the American Academy of Craniofacial Pain’s international clinical symposium in Baltimore in July.

Gary Hack, DDS, associate professor, has been chosen as a featured speaker during the Chesapeake Dental Conference in Ocean City, Md., in September.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY

The museum has been awarded a grant from the American Dental Association Foundation’s Give Kids a Smile Fund and an award from the DentaQuest Foundation to support efforts to improve oral health among children. Also, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s Office of Oral Health will give the museum toothpaste, toothbrushes, and information on finding a dentist for distribution to children.

SCHOOL OF LAW

Kirsten Hiera was the third-place winner in a law student writing competition developed by the National Advocates for Pregnant Women. Hiera’s essay on court-ordered obstetric interventions and international human rights law was written during a health and international human rights seminar she attended last year with the support of a $5,000 Marjorie Cook Foundation Scholarship.

Alumnus and visiting assistant professor Peter Holland, JD ’92, MA, was recently honored by the Maryland Association for Justice with its Simon K. Walton Civil Justice Award, which recognizes advocacy on behalf of consumers who have been wronged. Holland won the award for his legal work representing consumers in debt collection and foreclosure cases.

Marley Weiss, JD, professor, was elected a fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. Weiss specializes in labor and employment law.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Claudia Baquet, MD, MPH, professor and associate dean for policy and planning and director of the School’s Center for Health Disparities, was the 2011 health and research recipient of the Living Women History Makers’ Award from the Baltimore chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs.

Jonathan Bromberg, MD, PhD, professor and recently appointed head of the Division of Transplantation within the Department of Surgery, wrote four “Literature Watch” articles and co-wrote an article on distinct inflammatory signals that were recently published in the American Journal of Transplantation. Bromberg also co-wrote articles that recently appeared or are scheduled to soon be published in The Journal of Immunology and the journals Human Immunology, Science Translational Medicine, and Transplantation.

Recipients of the University’s 2011 Founders Week awards, announced in July, include Gary Fiskum, PhD,
vice chair for research and the Matjasko Professor for Research in Anesthesiology (Researcher of the Year Award); Scott Strome, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology—Head & Neck Surgery (Entrepreneur of the Year Award); and Jean Marie Roth, academic program specialist, Office of Student Research (Public Servant of the Year Award). The honors will be presented in October.

“Rates of New Neurological Deficit Associated With Spine Surgery Based on 108,419 Procedures: A Report of the Scoliosis Research Society Morbidity and Mortality Committee,” co-written by D. Kojo Hamilton, MD, assistant professor, was published recently in the journal *Spine*. Hamilton also co-wrote articles that recently appeared in the journal *Neurosurgery* and the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Spine*. Hamilton co-wrote as well a chapter about prolactinomas and another about nonfunctioning adenomas in the book *Transsphenoidal Surgery*.

Sharon Henry, MD, FACS, professor, presented “Surgical Treatment of Massive Soft Tissue Injuries” during the conference Trauma Care 2011—Doing More With Less in Austere Environments, held recently in Baltimore. Also during the conference, Thomas Scalea, MD, the Francis X. Kelly Professor of Trauma Surgery, director of the trauma program, and physician-in-chief of the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, presented “Advantages of Trauma Systems in Austere Conditions,” and Henry, Scalea, assistant professor Amy Sisley, MD, MPH, and associate professor Deborah Stein, MD, MPH, presented “Case Study From Walter Reed Rehab.” Scalea also presented “Injury as a Global Issue: Shock Trauma’s Impact and Experience” during the National Italian American Foundation’s Distinguished Lecture Series, held recently at the University’s Southern Management Corporation Campus Center.

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, vice president for medical affairs, University of Maryland, and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and dean, School of Medicine, served on an Institute of Medicine committee that recently completed months of work on a national recommendation regarding preventive health care for women. Using the new federal health care law as the catalyst, the committee suggests that all insurers be required to cover contraceptives (at no cost to women), counseling and equipment to promote breast-feeding, annual preventive care visits, and screening for gestational diabetes in pregnant women, domestic violence, HIV, and cervical cancer.

Kevin Sheth, MD, assistant professor, began a two-year appointment July 1 as a member of the American Heart Association’s stroke council education committee.

**SCHOOL OF NURSING**

Shannon Idzik, DNP, CRNP, CCRN, assistant professor, has been named director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program; Gail Schoen Lemaire, PhD, APRN, BC, associate professor, was named director of the Clinical Nurse Leader program; and Marisa Wilson, DNSc, MHSc, RN, assistant professor, has been chosen as director of the master’s program.

Robin Newhouse, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, associate professor and chair of the Department of Organizational Systems and Adult Health, is the lead author of “Advanced Practice Nurse Outcomes 1990-2008: A Systematic Review,” which was published in the July issue of the journal *Nursing Economics*. Newhouse also has received a three-year, $295,489 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration for enhancement of the School of Nursing’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program.
Nancy Staggers, PhD ’92, MS ’85, RN, FAAN, has made a $1 million bequest to the School to establish an informatics professorship. Staggers announced her planned gift in July during the School’s annual Summer Institute in Nursing Informatics.

Daniel Ashby, MS, FASHP, adjunct clinical professor, has received the Harvey A.K. Whitney Lecture Award from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to health system pharmacy.

Janice Batzold, MS, acting executive director of the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, has been named president-elect of the University of Maryland Alumni Association-International.

Llewellyn Cornelius, PhD, professor, has been nominated by Kathleen Sebelius, MPA, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to serve as chair of the National Center for Health Statistics Board of Scientific Counselors.

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Michael Reisch, PhD, MSW, MA, the Daniel Thursz Distinguished Professor of Social Justice, presented “Social Work and Society: A Critical Review About the U.S.” as the keynote speaker during a conference of German, Swiss, and Austrian social workers held in Zurich in early July.

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**Questions and Answers**

The President’s Message newsletters usually include excerpts of questions and responses from Dr. Perman’s monthly Q&A sessions around campus. During the summer, while the Q&A sessions are on hiatus, we are including some questions that came in to Dr. Perman at [http://www.umaryland.edu/president/feedback/](http://www.umaryland.edu/president/feedback/). This online method of submitting questions to Dr. Perman is available 365 days a year.

**QUESTION:**

Many other area schools are closed for all federal holidays (for example, Veterans Day and Columbus Day), giving those students a few days to relax and catch up on coursework over the semester. I see many programs on campus designed to alleviate stress, yet the University appears not to have chosen what many might consider to be an obvious method of stress alleviation for graduate students: a three-day weekend. Would you consider instituting a mandatory “fall break” for the University? If not, can you explain why? Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

Because of the complexity and UM’s professional programs’ instructional requirements, it is extremely difficult
to schedule mandatory breaks. In fact, UM does not have a common “spring break.” Schools and programs elect different periods to have “spring break” and some programs have none. Thus the campus—including the Health Sciences and Human Services Library and the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center—is open throughout the spring semester.

I believe it would also be impossible to mandate a “fall break.” Within the confines of their instructional requirements and with enough advance notice, a UM school could cancel classes on a federal holiday in the fall. Calendars are established and approved at least one year in advance.

For now, enjoy Labor Day. Thanks to the Baltimore Grand Prix and the campus being closed Sept. 2, it’s a four-day weekend!

**QUESTION:**
Would you consider looking at changes to the parking rates based on salary? I believe College Park and Towson use this kind of structure. I understand parking has expenses in maintaining garages, but they probably have a substantial fund balance. I believe they cover costs for parts of the new student center outside of garage upgrades.

**RESPONSE:**
Currently, our seven garages require a significant amount of maintenance/upkeep with more than $22 million scheduled for the future. Our program also currently has approximately $20 million in debt service outstanding.

Given these two facts, a salary-based parking rate structure would be hard to implement and be fair to all. Our current rates are 38 percent below area market rates and 50 percent below the hospital garage rate. Our program also currently provides a (50 percent) discounted rate at the Lexington Market rooftop location.

The current parking fund balance is only 1 percent of the replacement value of all our garages. Should a significant emergency repair need to be made, the program would suffer financially given this low fund balance.