Talk surfaced in the General Assembly last winter about the possibility of a merger between our University and the University of Maryland, College Park. We have held a number of open sessions and I have sent several written communications, however, there is still some understandable confusion among faculty, staff, and students about this issue.

So in an attempt to clarify, let’s start by returning to the original premise. The legislature directed the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents to study whether there was value in such a merger. In recent months, such a study was undertaken, work groups were formed to look into this issue as a part of the process, and the chancellor’s office soon will report back to the regents.

You know of my respect for due process and civility. So it should come as no surprise that as an upstanding member of the USM, we promised to abide by a process in which leadership at both universities would refrain from public comment until those work groups completed their task.

But those of you who gave of your time to attend a regents hearing on the subject at the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center Oct. 21 know that many of our local politicians (including the mayor), community leaders, and business partners made their case for keeping our University separate and distinct from College Park. Many members of our campus community spoke out as well and I thank them for voicing their opinions.

There was widespread backing for greater collaboration between the two institutions, something I can say I strongly support. You all know I am a proponent of interprofessional efforts among disciplines, schools, and universities. In fact, my inaugural speech last November was titled “Leadership by Collaboration” and in it I mentioned my support for joint projects with College Park and other USM schools. Of course, in that speech I did stress the importance of autonomy for the people and institutions that come together to work for the common good.

The Board of Regents’ final study report is due to the legislative budget committees by Dec. 15, 2011. The regents could vote for a merger, against a merger, or come up with some alternative plan. I will be sure to update you again after the report has been submitted.

I hope this answers some of your questions. Feel free to bring me others at our next Q&A on Monday, Nov. 21 at noon in the School of Nursing or at http://um.umaryland.edu/president/ask/. On Page 7 you will see some of the questions from the Oct. 17 Q&A, which focused to a large degree on the shooting in the Plaza Garage.

We will continue that discussion on Nov. 21, devoting part of the Q&A session to campus safety and security. I look forward to your participation.

All the best,

Jay A. Perman, MD
Laurels

CAMPUSWIDE

Raquel Bracho, student at the Francis King Carey School of Law; Michael Pinard, JD, professor at the law school and director of the Clinical Law Program; and School of Nursing alumna Robin Prothro, MPH, BSN, are among recent honorees in the White House’s Champions of Change program, which recognizes community service. Bracho, who was nominated by the Hispanic Heritage Foundation’s Latinos on Fast Track Institute, is developing a leadership training curriculum for Baltimore middle and high school students. Pinard was recognized by Champions of Change for his efforts to broaden access to justice. Prothro is executive director of the Maryland affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, a network of breast cancer survivors and supporters.

Students James Buckley, School of Dentistry, and Theresa Card, School of Nursing, were selected to represent the University’s student body on the University System of Maryland Student Council.

Jacquelyn Fried, RDH, MS, associate professor and director of the Division of Dental Hygiene, was a key presenter during the Second North American/Global Dental Hygiene Research Conference, held in Bethesda, Md., in October. Fried also was invited to join the National Center for Dental Hygiene Research advisory panel.

Sharon Gordon, DDS, MPH, PhD, director of graduate research education, recently became a member of the board of governors of the American Dental Association’s Student Clinician Research Program.

Joel Greenspan, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, was a lead author on the paper “Non-invasive Electrical Stimulation of the Brain (ESB) Modifies the Resting-state Network Connectivity of the Primary Motor Cortex: A Proof of Concept fMRI Study,” which was published in the journal Brain Research.

Richard Manski, DDS, MBA, PhD, professor and director of the Division of Health Services Research, was a lead author on two recently published papers: “The Influence of Changes in Dental Care Coverage on Dental Care Utilization Among Retirees and Near-Retirees, 2004-2006,” which appeared in the American Journal of Public Health, and “Co-morbidity, Dental Visits, and Hospital Visits Among Medicare Beneficiaries 2002,” which was published in the Journal of Public Health Dentistry.

Appointees to the Maryland Health Care Reform Coordinating Council’s Health Care Delivery Reform Subcommittee include Jane Kapustin, PhD, CRNP, BC-ADM, FAANP, associate professor and assistant dean for the master’s and doctor of nursing practice programs at the School of Nursing; Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science at the School of Pharmacy; and Stephen Schenkel, MD, MPP, assistant professor, School of Medicine. The subcommittee’s role includes tracking implementation of health care reform in Maryland.
Christian S. Stohler, DMD, DrMedDent, was honored by the Pierre Fauchard Academy during an awards ceremony at the American Dental Association’s annual meeting in Las Vegas in October. The Pierre Fauchard Academy is a dental honor society. The School of Dentistry houses the academy’s International Hall of Fame of Dentistry.

FRANCIS KING CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

The Maryland Legal Aid Bureau placed 12 instructors at the law school on its list of the top 100 champions of human rights and justice. The honorees were recognized during the bureau’s recent 100th anniversary celebration. Among the list’s top 25 are Clinton Bamberger, JD, professor emeritus; Christopher Brown, JD, MA, associate professor emeritus; alumna Susan Leviton, JD ’72, professor; alumna Albert Matricciani Jr., JD ’73, MLA, adjunct professor; and Michael Millemann, JD, Jacob A. France Professor of Public Interest Law and director of the Leadership, Ethics, and Democracy Initiative. Also on the top 100 list are Douglas Colbert, JD, professor; Karen Czapanskiy, JD, Francis and Harriet Iglehart Research Professor; alumna Peter Holland, JD ’92, MA, visiting assistant professor; Sherrilyn Ifill, JD, professor; alumna Andrew Levy, JD ’82, adjunct professor; Kieron Quinn, JD, adjunct professor; and Shale Stiller, LLB, adjunct professor.

Student Justin Ginsburg was recently named a representative to the Maryland Higher Education Commission’s Student Advisory Council. Dalya Attar was chosen as an alternate representative.

Paula Monopoli, JD, professor and founding director of the Women, Leadership and Equality Program, participated in a discussion in October at the Enoch Pratt Free Library after the screening of the film Miss Representation, which examines the impact of media on the ability of women and girls to assume leadership roles. Monopoli also delivered the presentation “Women and Economic Security” during the recent University System of Maryland Women’s Forum Conference, held at the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Maureen Black, PhD, John A. Scholl, MD, and Mary Louise Scholl, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, was chosen to serve on the Society for Research in Child Development’s Committee on Policy and Communications for the 2011 to 2014 term. Black also was invited to serve on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Advisory Committee on the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program Evaluation, for the term 2011 to 2012.

Winners of the 2011 Graduate Program in Life Sciences (GPILS) Awards were recognized during a ceremony Nov. 7 in the Health Sciences Facility II auditorium. The winners are students Gwendolyn Calhoon (Elaine Miye Otani Memorial Award), Mike Morgan, PhD (Thesis Project Award), Benjamin Prosser, PhD (Postdoctoral Scholar Award), and Jessica Shiu (PhD Scholar Award). Professor Jeffrey Winkles, PhD, won the GPILS Teacher of the Year Award.

William Carpenter, MD, professor in the Department of Psychiatry and the Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, presented a keynote lecture, “Schizophrenia: The Beginning, The Change, The Future,”
during the 15th World Congress of Psychiatry in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in September. Carpenter also presented lectures about DSM-5 innovations and field trials for psychotic disorders, and diagnostic symptoms versus core psychopathology regarding psychosis.

Student Nicolas Johnson Dorsey received a United Negro College Fund/Merck Graduate Science Research Dissertation Fellowship for her research project “Lung Inflammation: The Role of STAT6 Modulation of Inducible Regulatory T-cells (iTregs).” The fellowship includes a stipend of up to $43,500 for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 academic years, and a $10,000 research grant.

Claire Fraser-Liggett, PhD, professor and director of the Institute for Genome Sciences, has been named a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. Membership in the institute recognizes outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.

Matthew Frieman, PhD, assistant professor, received a five-year, $1,875,000 award from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for his work “Role of Epithelial Growth Factor Receptor in SARS Coronavirus Pathogenesis.”

Faculty member Sharon Henry, MD, FACS, has been named the first Anne Scalea Professor in Trauma. The endowed professorship is named after the mother of Thomas Scalea, MD, the Francis X. Kelly Professor in Trauma Surgery and physician-in-chief at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center. Henry is chief of the shock trauma center’s Division of Wound Healing and Metabolism.

Ram Karan, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, has been awarded an International Fellowship for Asia from the American Society for Microbiology. The fellowship will support a research project conducted with Shiladitya DasSarma, PhD, professor, on genomics and proteomics studies of halophilic archaea.

Myron Levine, MD, DTPH, Simon and Bessie Grollman Distinguished Professor and director of the Center for Vaccine Development, recently received two grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—a two-year, $10,347,537 grant for the new project “Diarrheal Disease in Infants and Young Children in Developing Countries (GEMS1a),” and a $96,000 award for his work on the Global Environment Monitoring Systems International Scientific Organizing Committee.

Mayur Narayan, MD, MPH, MBA, assistant professor, has been named the medical director of the Center for Injury Prevention and Policy at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center.

Charlene Quinn, PhD, RN, assistant professor, was recently recognized by the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships for her contribution to the program.

Surgical resident Joseph Scalea, MD, delivered the presentation “Evidence for a Cellular Mechanism of Class-I Tolerance in a Large Animal Model: Successful Adoptive Transfer of Tolerance” during the Surgical Forum at the American College of Surgeons’ Clinical Conference, held in San Francisco in October.

Deborah Stein, MD, MPH, associate professor, is now the chief of the Section of Trauma Critical Care at the University of Maryland Medical Center.
Lydia Temoshok, PhD, adjunct professor, is among 12 international psychoneuroimmunology scientists featured in a documentary film about surviving cancer. Temoshok was interviewed about her research on Type C coping, cancer progression, and signaling mechanisms.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Janet D. Allan, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean and professor, recently received the 2011 Outstanding Pathfinder Award from the Maryland Nurses Association. The award recognizes a member of the association for excellence, creative leadership that fosters development of the nursing profession, and development of innovations or creative approaches that further nursing’s agenda.

Alumna and faculty associate Karen McQuillan, MS ’86, BSN ’81, has been elected to the American Academy of Nursing. McQuillan, a clinical nurse specialist at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, was honored by the academy in October for her achievements and contributions to nursing.

“County and State Quality Data to Inform Expanded Roles for Nursing’s Future,” written by alumna Robin Newhouse, PhD ’00, MS ’99, MGA, associate professor and chair of the Department of Organizational Systems and Adult Health, was published in the *Journal of Nursing Administration*.

Deborah Witt Sherman, PhD, CRNP, ANP-BC, ACHPN, FAAN, professor, was named the University’s faculty Senate representative on the Maryland Higher Education Commission Faculty Advisory Council. Sherman is also the recipient of the Palliative and Hospice Care Lifetime Nursing Achievement Award from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and was the keynote speaker during the cancer center’s 15th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Supportive Care, Hospice, and Palliative Medicine, held in November in Houston.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Students Emily Cohen and Melissa Kim received second place in the Dr. Donald O. Fedder Annual Student Poster Competition during the Maryland Public Health Association’s annual meeting. The poster is titled “Current Status and Components of State-wide Opioid Overdose Prevention Program in the United States.”

Stephen Hoag, PhD, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has received the International Pharmaceutical Excipients Council of the Americas Foundation’s Ralph Shangraw Memorial Award. The award, named after a former department chair at the School, recognizes outstanding research in the study of excipients or excipient-related technology.
Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, professor, has been invited to join the editorial board of the journal *Practice Pain Management* and has been appointed to the educational advisory board of the American Pain Society.

Paul Shapiro, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been named director of the department’s graduate program.

Peter Swaan, PhD, professor and director of the Center for Nanomedicine and Cellular Delivery, has been named associate dean for research and graduate studies.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Amanda Snyder, MPA, assistant director of sponsored programs administration, has been chosen as a 2011-2012 international fellow by the National Council of University Research Administrators. Snyder will spend two weeks at the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden to learn how to reduce barriers to international research administration and how to create an administrative environment that is more conducive to international collaboration.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

The School recently received the University Partner of the Year Award from the National Alliance of Resident Services in Affordable and Assisted Housing in recognition of the School’s Promise Heights initiative, which provides youths in West Baltimore with educational, social, recreational, and economic opportunities. The initiative is a partnership among the University, nonprofit groups, faith-based organizations, government agencies, and communities.

The study “Influential Publications in Social Work Discourse: The 100 Most Highly Cited Articles in Disciplinary Journals: 2000-09,” which was published in *The British Journal of Social Work*, includes an article co-written by Dean Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW, on the top 100 list and an article by field instructor Isadora Hare.


“Defining Group Care Programs: An Index of Reporting Standards,” written by Barth and assistant professors Charlotte Bright, PhD, MSW, and Bethany Lee, PhD, MSW, was published in the journal *Child & Youth Care Forum*.

Lisa Berlin, PhD, MS, associate professor, has been awarded a five-year, $2 million Early Head Start University Partnership Grant titled “Buffering Children From Toxic Stress Through Attachment-Based Intervention.” The grant is funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families. Brenda Jones Harden, PhD, associate professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, will serve as co-principal investigator.
Questions and Answers

The following are excerpts of questions and answers from Dr. Perman’s Q&A on Oct. 17 at the School of Pharmacy. Some questions came from the audience and others were sent to Dr. Perman at his Q&A email line at http://um.umaryland.edu/president/ask/.

Dr. Perman: Let me start with something that certainly was not planned to be on our common agenda, which was a serious incident that occurred in the Plaza Garage this past Thursday night. It certainly raised concerns of all of us and I am prepared to see what’s on your mind in that regard. I do have Kathy Byington, our vice president for administration and finance, whose areas of responsibility include campus public safety, and I also have our fine police chief Tony Williams to answer questions.

Let me say this at the outset. Whenever something like this occurs it is deeply unsettling and I will tell you I think it is fortunate that we have the kind of personal safety record on campus that we have. Having said that, I acknowledge that even one serious incident or threat is one too many. I understand that. Allow me to ask for some comments from Ms. Byington and Chief Williams.

Kathy Byington: I’d like to start and recognize that our community has reached out and communicated with us about the incident last week. We appreciate all the input we’re getting from people. It does help us to know how it is what we are doing impacts you. It helps us to take a look at what we are doing and make sure what we are doing is in the best interests not only of the safety and security of our University but also in how we work together as a community. So all I can say is thank you for your input, ask that if you have additional things that you think need to be said, don’t hesitate to let us know. Send me an email, I’m happy to get it.

Tony Williams: I’m a very open kind of person so if I could I’d like to just jump right in and get to the burning question. Why didn’t we send a text alert out? When this incident occurred Thursday at about 6 p.m. I was still here. Col. Milland Reed, the assistant chief, and myself actually responded to the scene. I got there before 15 minutes after the incident. Prior to that our officers responded, in fact we got there before the Baltimore City police. We were able to make a very quick assessment, get as much information as we could from the victim while we were securing the scene. What I thought most frankly was how could we get the information out to those parties most directly affected as quickly and efficiently as possible? I was literally standing across the street from the front door of the School of Social Work. So rather than send a text alert out from my phone we tried to identify the specific groups of people in the buildings and keep in mind what time of day it is.

We elected to send people directly into the School of Social Work and into the School of Law to personally notify people that we had had a shooting incident and that we were instituting shelter in place, thereby keeping people in those buildings but they could operate as usual. We did this in cooperation with the city police. We learned very quickly that the immediate danger to our campus had passed and that we didn’t have an active shooter who was looking to injure or harm other people on this campus. So we thought we acted appropriately. We also made calls to the emergency contact people at those two facilities to let them know what was going on and then later we prepared a crime alert that we not only sent out but also hand-delivered to each building on this campus the night of the incident.

To be very specific, the incident occurred at 6 p.m. By 7:12 p.m. those two buildings were completely restored to normal activity and we let cars in and out of the Plaza Garage and buildings were open for business as usual.
We want you to know that you can count on your public safety department to get the information you need to help keep you safe. Now are we already discussing other ways to do that better, such as using text messaging? Absolutely. But I want you to know that your safety and security is the foremost thing on my mind.

Dr. Perman: Based on the comments of Ms. Byington and Chief Williams are there any other comments you would like to make?

**QUESTION:**
Are the garages video monitored?

**RESPONSE:**
Chief Williams: We currently have the capability to do some video monitoring of the areas outside and just within the entrance to the garages, but if the question is do we have video monitors inside all the garages on campus the answer is no. If in our assessment of the safety of the garages it is determined that having video monitoring will benefit us, we will make that recommendation.

We have already taken additional steps to improve the safety in the Plaza Garage, working in concert not only with the hospital security staff but the Baltimore City police. Police are stationed outside the garage nearly 24 hours a day. We’ve also increased the number of checks we make inside the garage and we are working in conjunction with Rob Milner [director of parking and commuter services] to increase the visibility of the roving patrols that he has.

**QUESTION:**
Chief, I have a problem regarding the institution of shelter in place. My daughter is a student in the law school and actually was in the library at the time of the shooting. No one told her about the shelter in place and she was allowed to leave the building not knowing anything in relation to the crime.

**RESPONSE:**
Chief Williams: Thank you for bringing that to my attention. I can’t say exactly what time she left but if we implemented shelter in place she should not have been allowed to leave. We did that as a precaution to keep the scene clear and gather necessary evidence. Forensically once that scene is contaminated we can’t get it back.

**QUESTION:**
Does the campus compare crime statistics to other health centers and how do we stack up?

**RESPONSE:**
Chief Williams: We certainly look at statistics for other similar institutions and within our area and certainly all the schools in the University System of Maryland. We’re proud to say our statistics stack up pretty well. They are posted at [http://www.umaryland.edu/police/files/2011-annual-clery-report.pdf](http://www.umaryland.edu/police/files/2011-annual-clery-report.pdf) and I urge anyone who is interested to take a look.

**QUESTION:**
What led you to believe that this person who committed the crime had left the scene and was not looking for someone else to try to kill?

**RESPONSE:**
Chief Williams: By being on the scene, by being a former homicide commander with the Baltimore City police, by having 26 years of experience in law enforcement, by investigating hundreds of similar incidents where a person was shot or robbed, and the information I received at the scene from city police and from my own department, I was satisfied this person was not waiting around looking to inflict harm on someone else. I can’t give out a lot of specific information because the investigation is still open, but I ask you to trust your chief to know that if this were a situation where you were in danger we would have acted appropriately.
QUESTION:
Dr. Perman, I know one of the things you are looking at is child care at the University. As a chair of a department that has a lot of young faculty who have a lot of little kids, I would like you to update us on where those discussions are and how can I advise them as far as the possibility of new day care services on campus?

RESPONSE:
When I arrived here I had the opportunity to talk to the Staff Senate and I asked them their perspectives on child care and I was told this was a longstanding issue on this campus as it is on many campuses around the country.

You know that there is a child care center on campus that we help to support. But it is not our own child care center. So working with the Staff Senate and other interested parties we undertook a survey that perhaps many of you in the room participated in. And we found that what I thought was an issue was indeed an issue. There is a significant desire for adequate, proper, certified child care on campus or close to campus. Many of our people engage child care in their own communities and would enjoy the convenience of being able to do it here.

I think we could easily support a 150- to 200-child care facility on this campus that would include infant care and toddler care. I think there is also an understanding by the employees and an expectation among the employees that whatever child care might be made available on campus has to be consistent with the market in terms of pricing. Having said that I have to be very clear that there would be no capacity for the employer to pick up the costs of providing child care. But if someone has decided to pay for child care somewhere, we as an employer should be able to make it convenient for them to bring their dollars here.

Having said all that, what can we do? The solution I hope is somewhere in our future. I don’t think it’s a secret that there’s a likelihood the Metro West complex just to the north of my office is likely to become available by the government several years from now.

Some of you know that there is a reasonably sized child care facility inside that complex. And I’m also told because of some need for remodeling it probably is going to be an up-to-date, brand spanking new center. From my window, it becomes particularly pleasurable for me to look outside my window from time to time and there is this lovely playground that borders Saratoga Street next to the Metro West facility which provides the requisite outdoor space needed for a day care center, which isn’t available in many urban centers such as ours. So it’s all there you see. There is a need, the people want it, and I see a potential way to get it. If everything works out several years down the road it could become a reality.

QUESTION:
My question deals with parking. A huge portion of the student body consists of commuters. However, parking at the Lexington Garage is at a daily rate and the BioPark offers semester parking to only 200 students in all six grad schools. Is there any way that we can get more parking for students? Most of the BioPark Garage is empty!

RESPONSE:
The BioPark Garage is not owned or operated by the University. Its public rate is significantly higher than our parking program. The BioPark student arrangement was a result of addressing a construction issue at the Saratoga Street Garage and my understanding is we have maintained some ability to have students park at the BioPark Garage but I understand that’s not going to be a permanent arrangement?

Rob Milner, director of parking and commuter services: This semester we allowed up to 300 students to park in the BioPark Garage and only 265 took advantage of that. We will continually monitor the BioPark student space as requested by Dr. Perman. The campus lost 300 spaces resulting from Pratt Garage construction and, consequently, we were able to increase the number of spaces rented from the BioPark by 100.
QUESTION:
I wish that UM put more effort into being a green campus. At the School of Dentistry, it is common knowledge that the paper recycling bins are emptied into the garbage. Housekeeping says they sort it later, but there is no way that is done. It really is a waste (no pun intended).

RESPONSE:
I can tell you that the housekeeping supervisors have been reminded of the need to make every effort to retrain the staff on the correct process for handling recyclable materials. I think all of us want to know that putting things in blue containers means they are going to be recycled.

Gary Viola, director of operations and maintenance: It would be appreciated if anyone does encounter something that doesn’t seem right with regard to the way our staff is handing recycling, please let us know at 410-706-5000 and we will follow up on your call. I would also note that after the earthquake our recycling center was closed for repairs, which put a strain on the recycling program. But we’re back in operation over there now so we look forward to things returning to their normal state of service for the campus.

QUESTION:
UMB is moving forward in areas of sustainability. LEED, conservation, and efficiency are helpful. Well done with the greening of the campus. Artwork displayed at various locations adds culture, as Baltimore has an active art community to tap. Specifically how much funding can be directed toward sustainability programs, grants, and education? China, for example, holds the lead in green technology, and the main (current) photo-voltaic resource, silicon. We need to cultivate corporate investments/grants for University R&D.

RESPONSE:
We budget $600,000 a year toward energy conservation projects. All of our new construction projects are built to at least LEED Silver. This building (School of Pharmacy) was recently certified as LEED Gold. Is it enough? I’m sure it’s not enough. It’s a lot of money, but it’s probably fallen short of the resources we could commit with these kinds of efforts. Bob would you like to comment?

Bob Rowan, associate vice president for facilities and operations: I chair the Sustainability Steering Committee for the campus and the problem is really not one of dollars it’s one of behaviors. It’s our time, our efforts that are really going to make the difference. We’re the ones who can recycle paper; we’re the ones who can turn off the lights, use renewable materials, or recycle or reuse equipment so we don’t have to continually buy new things. There is a very good Go Green website the campus has set up (gogreen.umaryland.edu) that I encourage you to visit that spells out our sustainability program and it is full of great ideas and tips so that we can be a part of the solution.

QUESTION:
Could you comment on the state’s recent mandate on banning bottled water?

RESPONSE:
Bob Rowan, associate vice president for facilities and operations: The governor did recently pass an executive order that state buildings should not be purchasing bottled water where there is tap water available. This applies to the individual bottles as well as the 5-gallon jugs that fit into dispensers. The order does allow filters and cooling units to ensure that cool clean fresh water is available. I personally think the Baltimore City water is fine. Technically that rule does not apply to the University System. But politically I think we need to comply with the intent of that order because it is the right thing to do and it is a waste of resources using disposable plastic bottles.
Westside Update

In December 2010, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake asked the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to examine the Westside neighborhood and develop a set of recommendations for its revitalization. The ULI final report recommended, among other things, the creation of a Westside Task Force to realize the vision for the Westside. University President Jay A. Perman, MD, agreed to co-chair the task force with the mayor. They immediately established a vision for the Westside as “a modern, mixed-use urban neighborhood with a balance of historic, commercial, cultural, educational, and retail resources with streets that are safe, clean, vibrant, and engaging.”

From time to time in Dr. Perman’s monthly newsletters, we will bring you Westside updates:

- In mid-September, a coordinated policing strategy got under way between the Maryland Transit Administration, Baltimore Police Department, the University of Maryland (UM) Police Force, and the Downtown Partnership. For the next 12 to 24 months, the UM police will deploy two foot officers in the Lexington Market area.
- The Westside will host a First Saturdays outdoor open house beginning May 2012 running through November 2012.
- The popular bakery and sandwich shop Panera Bread Co. is opening a store in the 400 block of W. Baltimore St. across from the Hippodrome Theatre. Developer David S. Brown Enterprises secured the sandwich chain for the block it’s developing on the west side, Kirby Fowler, president of Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, told the Baltimore Business Journal. “I feel the Panera deal is so important because it will help bridge the connection between City Center and University of Maryland, Baltimore,” Fowler told the BBJ.
- Everyman Theatre is utilizing a University building at 114 N. Greene St. this season while its new home in the 300 block of W. Fayette St. is under construction. Everyman will move into its permanent home in late 2012. For more information, visit http://everymantheatre.org/new-theatre.