In June, I posted a letter to you after a gunman killed 49 people in an Orlando nightclub frequented by members of the city’s LGBTQ community. I did what many leaders do at times like these — times that now come with sickening frequency. I expressed condolences to the victims and their loved ones. I said that the incident would neither define nor divide us. I pledged an abiding dedication to our shared values of tolerance, respect, inclusiveness, and love.

I’ll be frank: The decision to write to you at all was a difficult one. I hadn’t written after San Bernardino, or Charleston, or Colorado Springs, or Paris, or Brussels, or Beirut, or Lahore, or Peshawar. I didn’t write after each killing on the streets of Baltimore in 2015 — the city’s deadliest year on record — when 344 lives were lost, most of them young, black, and male.

The fact that the Orlando shooting was the single deadliest in U.S. history offered context for my writing, but I fear that rising death tolls might keep setting new precedents for letters like that of June 13.

So instead of correspondence, I’ll promise you a few things.

We will expand service, advocacy, and engagement in West Baltimore. The long epidemic of violence ravaging our community demands scaled-up action.

I hope you saw the Baltimore Sun article on Renaissance Academy, which celebrated its highest graduation rate in a half-dozen years. I hope you read the Washington Post feature on Khalil Bridges, who graduated from Renaissance this spring, against heartbreaking odds. These stories of triumph are nonetheless bittersweet. Renaissance sits in one of the city’s poorest, most violent neighborhoods. Before June, the headlines it earned were roundly tragic. Three of Renaissance’s students were killed over the last year — one of them stabbed while sitting in biology class.

But Renaissance is also a Promise Heights school. And that means our School of Social Work (SSW) is in Renaissance every day, dedicating its best scholarship, its best strategies, and its best people to making a difference. It means the community school coordinator and mentors supported by SSW have an extraordinary task before them: Keep students safe, in school, and on track. Give these young people — these young men, especially — a future other than the decidedly bleak one they expect.

If this seems daunting, it is. But consider this: Since the Washington Post article was published, Khalil’s story has riveted readers. Within a week, donations to a college fund set up for Khalil outstripped the $30,000 goal. People care. People want to help. We just have to show them how.

Go to UMB News for a roundup of coverage on Renaissance Academy and the incredible work of its principal, Nikkia Rowe; Community School Coordinator Hallie Atwater, LCSW-C, MSW; Khalil’s mentor, Antwon Cooper; and SSW’s Promise Heights initiative.

We will celebrate our diversity, talk candidly about our values of equality and inclusion, and make UMB a place where all members of the community feel welcomed, respected, and heard.

We believe that diversity and inclusion are essential to institutional excellence, and we will keep welcoming people into this community whose backgrounds can broaden our perspective and deepen our sympathies. We will maximize the contributions of those who are already dedicating their talents to UMB. We will create a community that finds unity in its differences, strength in its diversity.

Please mark your calendars for UMB’s inaugural Diversity Speaker Series on Sept. 28. Our speaker will be Marc Nivet, EdD, MBA, chief diversity officer for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Dr. Nivet is responsible for the AAMC’s vision and leadership on issues of community engagement, diversity, and health equity at medical schools and teaching hospitals across the U.S. and Canada. During his daylong visit, Dr. Nivet will deliver a keynote address, meet with students, and hold a special working session with University leaders responsible for cultivating a diverse UMB community.

We will support you.

UMB is family. And like family, we’re here for you. If you ever feel anxious or overwhelmed about events in your own life — personal or professional — or events that affect the community with which you identify, UMB has resources to help you cope. Simply contact the Employee Assistance Program or the Student Counseling Center to talk through your struggle and find capable and compassionate support.

All acts of violence — near and far — are devastating to us and to the fabric of our nation. But in the face of division, we will instead unite; in the face of hate, we will instead love; in the face of despair, we will instead hope.

At a university like UMB, we must deal with death; it’s part of our job. But when death comes at the hands of bigotry or fear, poverty or neglect, we must do something. In policy and practice, we will.
Whether you’re brand new to the University of Maryland, Baltimore, or returning for another year of classes, Campus Life Services would like to welcome you with a series of exciting events. Join us for ice cream, an outdoor movie, a festival, and more!

Start off the year by making connections with other students, learning about UMB, and getting to know our campus and the surrounding city.

For a full list of events, please visit our website: umaryland.edu/welcome
Rhodes Becomes New Chief Finance Officer

Dawn M. Rhodes, MBA, has joined the University as chief business and finance officer (CBFO) and vice president.

In this capacity, Rhodes will oversee UMB’s $1 billion budget, capital planning, facilities operations, and business affairs. She also will work with University leadership on community development projects.

“I am pleased that Dawn Rhodes will add her expertise to our community development and community engagement efforts,” says UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD. “She has an outstanding record of achievement in higher education, bringing transparency to finances, leading major capital projects, and fostering an environment of excellence in customer service.”

Rhodes most recently served as vice chancellor for finance and administration at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), where she earned acclaim for instituting the Service With Distinction program, greatly improving customer service throughout IUPUI. Rhodes led a transformative hotel conversion project, creating 15 new classrooms, more than 500 residence hall beds, and IUPUI’s first dining hall.

She also is credited with greatly expanding IUPUI’s emergency management capabilities, creating the Office of Intergroup Dialogue and Civil Community, and serving on the steering committee of Velocity, the city of Indianapolis’ strategic revitalization plan.

“I look forward to establishing relationships with internal and external partners, to be a good ambassador, and a strong voice to move strategic priorities forward at UMB,” Rhodes says.

The new CBFO also noted her appreciation of the University’s core values. “I am fully committed to furthering the mission of diversity, equity, and inclusion,” she says. “I am additionally committed to the pursuit of excellence and being accountable for the work product of our division.”

Rhodes has over 23 years of experience in higher education finance and administration, including positions with IUPUI, the University of Toledo, and Savannah State University.

She was recruited in a national search that followed the departure of Kathleen M. Byington, MBA, who now is assistant vice president for business operations at Yale University.

Please make Dawn Rhodes feel welcome!
LAURELS
JULY-AUGUST 2016

UNIVERSITYWIDE

Everly Brown, MLIS, head of information services, Ryan Harris, MLIS, AHIP, reference services manager, research and education librarian, and Alexa Mayo, MLIS, AHIP, associate director for services, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented posters at the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association in Toronto.

For the fourth year, Rao Gullapalli, PhD, professor, School of Medicine, organized a one-day Maryland Neuroimaging Retreat, which this year was held in the SMC Campus Center. He was assisted by Chandler Sours, PhD, and several other of his students and David Seminowicz, PhD, assistant professor, School of Dentistry. The keynote speaker for “Neuroimaging in the Era of Big Data” was Paul Thompson, PhD, MA, who directs the ENIGMA Center for Worldwide Medicine, Imaging & Genomics.

Congratulations to the newly elected members of the Faculty Senate. Carey School of Law — Larry Gibson, LLB. School of Medicine — Joshua Abzug, MD; Eduardo Davila, PhD; Michael Donnenberg, MD; Yvette Fouche-Weber, MD; Leyla Ghazi, MD; Madhurima Koka, MD, PhD; Rishi Kundi, MD; Patrick Odonkor, MB, ChB. School of Nursing — Karen Clark, PhD, RN, CCRN; Lori Edwards, DrPh, MPH, RN, PHCNS-BC; Cynthia Renn, PhD, RN. School of Pharmacy — Leah Sera, PharmD. School of Social Work — Geoffrey Greif, PhD, MSW; Shoshana Ringel, PhD, MSW. No new faculty senators in the School of Dentistry or the Graduate School were elected because none of their current senators’ terms are up this year.

Karen Hopkins, PhD, MSW, of the School of Social Work and Valli Meeks, DDS, MS, RDH, of the School of Dentistry captured 2016 University System of Maryland Regents’ Faculty Awards. The $1,000 awards are the highest honor presented by the board to exemplary faculty members.

Hopkins, an associate professor and chair of the Faculty Executive Committee, won in the teaching category. Through a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, she has developed a program to recruit, train, and coach Master of Social Work students of color, which has garnered extremely positive feedback. She also guides doctoral students through complex research projects and even works with alumni to apply learning to their profession.

Meeks, associate professor in the Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, won in the public service category. She implemented the PLUS Program, a dedicated dental clinic in the school, assisted in the creation and implementation of the Preparing for the Future curriculum that assembles both the professional and academic communities to address HIV, and is developing a curriculum for the first dental school in Rwanda.

Congratulations to both our Regents’ Faculty Award winners.

Karen Hopkins, Valli Meeks

Stacy Holmes, operations coordinator, and Jamie Lucas, program management specialist/special events, both in the Office of Parking and Transportation Services, recently received the Red Shoe Shuffle Award from the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) for their work in providing the parking and logistical support for the event. This “shuffle,” a 5K run and walk, raised over $360,000 for RMH, had 2,600 participants, and 200 volunteers. Thanks to other UMB volunteers as well who helped at the event.

Stacy Holmes, Jamie Lucas

LAURELS ARE SUBMITTED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS AS WELL AS BY REPRESENTATIVES IN VARIOUS UNIVERSITYWIDE OFFICES. THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN THESE SELF-SUBMITTED LAURELS.
Malinda Hughes, academic program manager in the Office of Academic Affairs, was named UMB’s May Employee of the Month for the “astounding” job she did coordinating logistics during the Middle States reaccreditation process.

Keare Johnson, a security guard who handles the front desk of the Saratoga Building, was named UMB’s June Employee of the Month for her sunny disposition and professionalism on the job.

Laura Kozak, MA, has been promoted from assistant vice president to associate vice president of the Office of Communications and Public Affairs. She has taken on many Universitywide duties, such as the strategic plan executive implementation team, strategic plan logistics team, Diversity Advisory Council, Middle States logistics team, and the emergency management team.

UMB’s Lactation Committee received up to $2,500 from the state Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control as part of its Healthiest Maryland Businesses Breastfeeding Mini Grant program.

Mary Anne Melo, DDS, MS, PhD, assistant professor, School of Dentistry, was one of five UMB faculty members awarded 15-month grants with a research partner from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). The other UMB awardees in the UMB-UMBC Research and Innovation Grant Program were Colin Stine, PhD, and Robin Pierson, MD, both professors at the School of Medicine, who received challenge grants with their UMBC partners, and Patrick Wintrode, PhD, associate professor, School of Pharmacy, and Amanda Lehning, PhD, MSW, assistant professor, School of Social Work, who received seed grants along with Melo and their UMBC partners.

Congratulations to the newly elected members of the Staff Senate: Amanda Azuma, School of Social Work; Colette Beaulieu, Health Sciences and Human Services Library; Steven Boggs, Carey School of Law; Ken Buckingham, School of Dentistry; Bill Crockett, Campus Life Services/Office of Academic Affairs; Hillary Anne Edwards, School of Pharmacy; Carl Jackson, School of Social Work; Jessica Rowe, School of Nursing; Mike Ruddock, Communications and Public Affairs; Lois Warner, Development and Alumni Relations; Kevin Watson, School of Medicine. Alternates include Sarah DiTizio, School of Medicine; Lauren Hall, School of Social Work; Nicole Miskimon, Administration and Finance; and Kayatana “Kaya” Smith, Center for Information Technology Services.

M.J. Tooey, MLS, AHIP, FMLA, associate vice president, Academic Affairs, and executive director, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, delivered the keynote Janet Doe Lecture titled “We Can Be Heroes: MLA’s Leadership Journey(s)” at the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association (MLA) in Toronto. She also presented a poster at the Information Technology in Academic Medicine Conference of the Association of American Medical Colleges Group on Information Resources in June in Toronto.

UMB was presented the Wellness at Work Award, Bronze Award, as a Healthiest Maryland Business at the 7th Annual Workplace Health and Wellness Symposium.

Emily Kordis, Benefits manager in Human Resource Services, accepts UMB’s Wellness at Work Award from Maryland Secretary of Health Van Mitchell.
Laurels
July-August 2016

School of Dentistry

Vineet Dhar, BDS, MS, PhD, clinical associate professor and graduate program director, Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry, received the Paul P. Taylor Award from the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry for his article “Evidence of Effectiveness of Current Therapies to Prevent and Treat Early Childhood Caries” at its annual session.

Vineet Dhar

Joel D. Greenspan, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, presented “Orofacial Pain in America: Insights from the OPPERA Study” at the International TMD (Temporomandibular Disorders) conference in Bergen, Norway, in June.

Joel D. Greenspan

Gary Hack, DDS ’79, clinical associate professor and director of simulation research, Marion Manski, MS, RDH, clinical assistant professor and director, Dental Hygiene Program, and Deborah Cartee, MS, RDH, clinical assistant professor, presented a poster in collaboration with the School of Nursing titled “An Interprofessional Collaboration to Implement and Evaluate Adult Diabetes Screening in a Dental School Clinic,” at the American Dental Education Association Annual Meeting in Denver.

Gary Hack, Marion Manski, and Deborah Cartee

Radi Masri, DDS, PhD, MS, associate professor, Department of Endodontics, Prosthodontics and Operative Dentistry, is among the co-authors of “Alcohol-Triggered Signs of Migraine: An Animal Model,” which was published in Somatosensory & Motor Research.

Radi Masri

David Seminowicz, PhD, associate professor, and Richard J. Traub, PhD, professor and vice chair, both in the Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, co-authored “Estrogen-Dependent Visceral Hypersensitivity Following Stress in Rats: an fMRI Study,” which was published in Molecular Pain. Traub also presented “Pain Begets Pain: Modeling Chronic Overlapping Pain Conditions” at the Annual NIH Pain Consortium Symposium in June.

David Seminowicz and Richard J. Traub

Harlyn Susarla, DMD, MPH, resident, Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry, received the Graduate Student Research Award from the Council on Scientific Affairs, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) during the 2016 AAPD Annual Session in May.

Harlyn Susarla

Sheryl Syme, RDH, BS, MD, associate professor and director of the degree completion program, Department of Endodontics, Prosthodontics and Operative Dentistry, received the Linda DeVore Dental Hygiene Alumnus of the Year Award from the school.

Sheryl Syme

Carey School of Law

Danielle Citron, JD, Lois K. Macht Research Professor of Law, was named a Distinguished Dean’s Scholar in Residence at Washington University School of Law and an Interdisciplinary Studies Institute Scholar in Residence at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Danielle Citron

“Reflections on ‘Innovations in Family Dispute Resolution,’” by Deborah Thompson Eisenberg, JD, professor and director, Center for Dispute Resolution, was published in Maryland Law Review Endnotes.

Donald Gifford, JD, Edward M. Robertson Research Professor of Law, participated in the panel “Autonomous Vehicles and Other Cyber-Physical Systems: Causation and Apportionment in Tort Liability” at the Roundtable on Security for Cyber-Physical Systems at the University of Pennsylvania Law School Center for Technology, Innovation and Competition.

“The Second Freedmen’s Bureau Bill’s Constitution,” by Mark Graber, PhD, JD, MA, Jacob A. France Professor of Constitutionalism, was accepted for publication by the Texas Law Review. Graber also authored “The Declaration of Independence and Contemporary Constitutional Pedagogy,” which will be published in the Southern California Law Review.

Michael Greenberger, JD, professor and founding director, Center for Health and Homeland Security, was the featured speaker at the District of Maryland Diversity Committee Federal Asian Pacific American Council Program’s “Walk Together, Embrace Differences, Build Legacies,” hosted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office, District of Maryland. He also attended the 2016 4th Circuit Judicial Conference, in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.

“Standing in the Judge’s Shoes: Exploring Techniques to Help Legal Writers More Fully Address the Needs of Their Audience,” by Sherri Lee Keene, JD, assistant professor and director, Legal Writing Program, was published in the University of San Francisco Law Review Forum.

“A Collective Right to Be Secure from Unreasonable Tracking,” by David Gray, PhD, JD, MA, professor, was accepted for publication by the Texas Tech Law Review.

Michael Millemann, JD, Jacob A. France Professor of Public Interest Law, was awarded the 2016 Robert C. Heeney Award by the Maryland State Bar Association in recognition of his accomplishments in criminal law.

“Helping Our Students Reach Their Full Potential: The Insidious Consequences of Ignoring Stereotype Threat,” by Russell McClain, JD, assistant professor and director, Academic Achievement Program, was published in the Rutgers Journal of Race and the Law.


Robert Percival, JD, Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law and director, Environmental Law Program, was named to Brian Leiter’s ranking of “Most Cited Administrative and/or Environmental Law Faculty.” Percival also was named to the International Editorial Advisory Board of the Chinese Journal of Environmental Law.
“How Criminal Law Can Help Save the Environment,” by Rena Steinzor, JD, professor, was published in Northwestern School of Law’s Environmental Law Review. Steinzor also wrote “Is Increased Criminal Liability for Regulatory Offenses Justified?” which was published in Environmental Forum, a publication by the Environmental Law Institute.

Gov. Larry Hogan appointed three alumni to the bench, naming Joseph M. Getty, JD ’96, to the Maryland Court of Appeals and Donald E. Beachley, JD ’80, and M. Shaw Geter, JD ’81, to the Maryland Court of Special Appeals.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

Cynthia Bearer, MD, PhD, the Mary Gray Cobey Endowed Professor, Department of Pediatrics, received a two-year, $275,000 grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for “The Role of Lipid Rafts in Bilirubin Neurotoxicity.”

Maureen Black, PhD, the John A. Scholl, MD, and Mary Louise Scholl, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, departments of Pediatrics and Epidemiology and Public Health, presented “Early Child Development: Assessing Parent-Child Interaction and Caregiving Context” at the All Children Thriving conference at the African Academy of Sciences in Nairobi, Kenya. She also was among the co-authors on “Maternal Mental Health Symptoms Are Positively Related to Emotional and Restrained Eating Attitudes in a Statewide Sample of WIC Participants,” which was published in Maternal and Child Nutrition.

Cherisse Berry, MD, clinical instructor fellow, Department of Surgery, has been appointed to the Society of Black Academic Surgeons, Research and Education Committee’s Shock Trauma Center Research Committee. She also was awarded the 2016 Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST) Trauma Research Scholarship for “Prospective Evaluation of Cerebral Autoregulation and Cerebral Vasospasm in Patients with Traumatic Brain Injury Using Near-Infrared Spectroscopy.”

Maureen Black, PhD, the John A. Scholl, MD, and Mary Louise Scholl, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, departments of Pediatrics and Epidemiology and Public Health, presented “Early Child Development: Assessing Parent-Child Interaction and Caregiving Context” at the All Children Thriving conference at the African Academy of Sciences in Nairobi, Kenya. She also was among the co-authors on “Maternal Mental Health Symptoms Are Positively Related to Emotional and Restrained Eating Attitudes in a Statewide Sample of WIC Participants,” which was published in Maternal and Child Nutrition.

Laura Buchanan, MD, assistant professor, and David Gens, MD, professor, both from the Department of Surgery, were elected by the medical students in the Class of 2016 to receive the Student Council Award and Golden Apple Award, respectively, for Best Clinical Faculty.
Myron Levine MD, DTPH, the Simon and Bessie Grollman Distinguished Professor of Medicine and associate dean for global health, vaccinology and infectious diseases, Center for Vaccine Development and Institute for Global Health, has been selected as a member of the World Health Organization’s Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization Working Group on Typhoid Vaccines.

Sandra Quezada, MD, MS, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, gave a presentation on colorectal cancer screening in Spanish to the Latino population in the Highlandtown area, in collaboration with the Baltimore City Cancer Prevention program.

Mark Rizzo, PhD, associate professor, and W. Gil Wier, PhD, professor, both from the Department of Physiology, received a four-year, $1,543,438, multi-PI award from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for “Creation of Optical Biosensor Mice for Longitudinal Studies of Vascular Function.”

Joana Carneiro da Silva, PhD, associate professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS), received two awards in May. Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) called her a “driving force” in giving IGS a Community Partnership Award for its “many significant contributions to BCCC’s program.” Silva also received the Dr. Patricia Sokolove Outstanding Mentor Award at the UM Graduate School hooding ceremony.

Sanford Stass, MD, professor and chair, Department of Pathology, was awarded a five-year, $2.25 million U24 from the National Cancer Institute for “University of Maryland, Baltimore Biomarker Reference Laboratory.”

Samuel Tisherman, MD, professor, Department of Surgery, was honored with the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes SCCM members who have made exceptional leadership contributions that have furthered the vision and mission of SCCM.

“Inhibitors of TLR Signaling by Targeting TIR Domain Interfaces,” an invention by Vladimir Toshchakov, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, received a U.S. patent. The invention claims methods of using specific peptides to block toll like receptor (TLR) signaling, which is involved in inflammation and shock, among other things.

Stefanie Vogel, PhD, professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, was invited to the 6th Lorne Infection and Immunity Conference in Lorne, Australia, where she presented work from her lab titled “Novel Strategies for Targeting Innate Immune Responses to Influenza.” She and Darren Perkins, PhD, research associate, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, co-authored several invited reviews, including “Inflammation: Species-Specific TLR Signaling — Insight Into Human Disease” in Nature Reviews Rheumatology; “Epigenetic Mechanisms Governing Innate Inflammatory Responses” in Journal of Interferon & Cytokine Research; and a commentary in Nature Reviews Rheumatology.
“Optimizing Function and Physical Activity Post Trauma: Overcoming System and Patient Challenges,” which was published in International Journal of Orthopedic and Trauma Nursing and “Length of Hospital Stay and Discharge Disposition in Older Trauma Patients,” which appeared in Geriatric Nursing.

Joan Davenport, PhD, RN, assistant professor, received the School of Nursing Colleague Award from the University of Maryland Medical Center’s nursing staff for excellence as a mentor and educator.

Vanessa P. Fahie, PhD ’94, BSN ’76, RN, assistant professor, received a College Preparation Intervention Program grant from the Maryland Higher Education Commission. In collaboration with Baltimore City Public Schools, the School of Nursing will provide services to Edmondson-Westside and Frederick Douglass High School students and their families.

Lily Fountain, PhD, RN, CNM, assistant professor, wrote the chapter “Thinking Critically About the Quality of Critical Thinking Definitions and Measures,” which was published in the book Assessing Competence in Professional Performance Across Disciplines and Professions.

Hazel Jones-Parker, DNP, CRNP, AACRN, affiliate assistant professor, Veronica Njie-Carr, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, FWACN, assistant professor, and Jamie L. Mignano, MSN, MPH, RN, co-authored “Cause I Wanna Live and I Am Fighting to Live” patient experiences for sustainable engagement in HIV care in the United States, which was published in the Journal of Ethnographic & Qualitative Research.

School of Nursing

Susan Bindon, DNP ’11, RN-BC, CNE, assistant professor and co-editor of the Journal for Nurses in Professional Development, was an invited panelist at the “Meet the Editors: Writing for Publication” session at the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Pathway to Excellence Conference in Philadelphia.

Luana Colloca, MD, PhD, associate professor, gave a presentation during the American Pain Society meeting in May that was featured in Clinical Pain Advisor.

School of Pharmacy

Catherine Cooke, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been elected vice president of the school’s Faculty Assembly.
Andrew Coop, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been named the school’s associate dean for academic affairs.

Student Tanvi Deshpande won first place in the ExcipientFest America’s Poster Contest at its annual meeting in Baltimore in April. Student Bowen Jiang placed second.

Susan dosReis, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, was selected as the school’s 2016 Student Government Association and Kappa Psi Faculty Advisor of the Year.

Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and associate dean for student affairs, has been named vice president/president-elect of the Maryland Pharmacists Association.

Postdoctoral fellow Tabassum Majid, PhD, finished second in the postdoctoral category in the Johns Hopkins University Research on Aging Showcase.

Joey Mattingly, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received the Faculty Teacher of the Year Award from the school’s graduating Class of 2016.

Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been appointed to a two-year term on the Executive Committee of UMB’s Center to Advance Chronic Pain Research.

Ebere Onukwugha, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, has been elected the school’s representative to UMB’s Graduate Council.

Katy Pincus, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a Faculty Teacher of the Year Award from the Division of Medical Student Education in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the School of Medicine.

Toyin Tofade, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and assistant dean for experiential learning, has been named chair-elect of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s Global Pharmacy Education Special Interest Group.

Deanna Tran, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been appointed chair of the Recognition Committee of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management’s (APhA-APPMM) Immunizing Pharmacists Special Interest Group, and has been appointed to APhA-APPMM’s Education Standing Committee.

Mary Lynn McPherson

Toyin Tofade

Deanna Tran
Chanel Whittaker, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received the Faculty Preceptor of the Year Award from the school’s graduating Class of 2016.

Bruce Yu, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, is among the inventors of “Noninvasive Characterization of Mechanical Properties of Materials and Tissues Using Magnetic Resonance Techniques,” which received a U.S. patent. The inventors’ non-invasive method to determine the mechanical properties of soft biomaterials, such as artificial ligaments, will aid in developing better materials for human ligament repair and reconstruction.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Christine Callahan, PhD, research assistant professor, presented “The Burden on Social Workers When Patients and Families Experience Financial Stress” at the annual conference of the Association of Oncology Social Work.

Sarah Dababnah, PhD, assistant professor, was published in Research on Social Work Practice.

“Incredible Years Program Tailored to Parents of Preschoolers with Autism,” an article by Sarah Dababnah, PhD, associate professor, was published in Research on Social Work Practice.

Jodi Jacobson Frey, PhD, associate professor, along with partners at Screening for Mental Health, made a presentation to an audience of state and community leaders at the Annual Michigan Suicide Prevention Community Technical Assistance Meeting.

“Rethinking Social Work’s Interpretation of ‘Environmental Justice’: From Local to Global,” an article co-authored by Dawn Philip, MSW ’15, and Michael Reisch, PhD, Daniel Thursz Distinguished Professor of Social Justice, was named “Best Conceptual Article of 2015” by the editors of Social Work Education: An International Journal.

“Risk Factors for Recurrent Violent Injury Among Black Men,” co-authored by Tanya L. Sharpe, PhD, associate professor, was published in Journal of Surgical Research. The research examines the risk factors that influence violent trauma recidivism among black men treated by a level I trauma unit in Baltimore for violent injury who participated in a hospital-based violence intervention program from 1998 to 2011.

Corey Shdaimah, PhD, associate professor, presented the paper “Moving Away from Damage-Centered Research with Women in Prostitution” at the annual meetings of the Law and Society Association in New Orleans. Shdaimah also was chair on a Law and Social Movements panel there.

“Reinforcement-Based Treatment, co-developed by Michelle Tuten, PhD, assistant professor, has been listed in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices (NREPP), which promotes the adoption of scientifically established behavioral health interventions. NREPP is an evidence-based repository and review system designed to provide the public with reliable information on mental health and substance abuse interventions. All interventions in the registry have met NREPP’s requirements for review.

Jennifer Swanberg, PhD, professor, and her research team’s manuscript, “From the Horse Worker’s Mouth: A Detailed Account of Injuries Experienced by Latino Horse Workers,” was published in the Journal of Immigrant Minority Health.

Swanberg and doctoral student Helen Nichols, MSW, published a paper in the Journal of Hospital Administration on scheduling challenges and turnover intent among hospital housekeepers and dietary service workers.

Jennifer Swanberg
WRAPPING UP THE 2011-2016 PLAN

Machiavelli once said “whoever wishes to foresee the future must consult the past.” So before UMB proceeds further with its 2017-2021 strategic plan, it seemed fitting to take a detailed look back at the 2011-2016 effort, UMB’s most collaborative strategic plan, which concluded June 30.

The 2011-2016 plan, conceived at the request of UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, had as its overarching goal “redefining collaboration.” University priorities were decided together with schools and administrative units acting as one community to implement these collective goals and shape the University’s future.

Perman appointed Peter Gilbert, MSF, (former) senior vice president and chief operating officer, and Stephen Bartlett, MD, professor and chair, Department of Surgery in the School of Medicine, as strategic plan co-chairs in November 2010 to lead the planning effort. Over a 10-month period, University community members volunteered to participate in work groups, complete surveys, and/or provide feedback at town halls and information sessions. The planning cycle resulted in a comprehensive strategic plan supported with an environmental scan to bolster its validity. Created to guide the University for five years and shape it for 10, the strategic plan was founded on the following themes:

- Achieve pre-eminence as an innovator
- Promote diversity and a culture of inclusion
- Foster a culture of accountability and transparency
- Excel at interdisciplinary research
- Excel at interprofessional education, clinical care and practice
- Develop local and global initiatives that address critical issues
- Drive economic development
- Create a vibrant, dynamic University community

In addition to the 23 goals and 109 tactics associated with the above-mentioned themes, four fundamental elements were identified: 1) faculty and staff training; 2) effective two-way communication; 3) information technology organization; and 4) expanded government and external relationships. With the addition of the fundamental elements, the number of goals and tactics rose to 35 and 134, respectively. It was an ambitious undertaking, and implementation required leadership, management, and determination.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The seven school deans were paired with senior UMB administrators to lead a theme or fundamental element through the implementation phase, sharing accountability for achieving its tactics. An Executive Implementation Committee (EIC) assigned resources, evaluated progress, and determined priorities. The EIC, comprised of leadership throughout UMB, met quarterly during the first three years of the 2011-2016 plan, and twice a year thereafter. Dr. Perman chaired each meeting, and Mr. Gilbert facilitated the meetings before leaving UMB in June 2015. Co-leaders of each theme and fundamental element were required to submit an annual report on the progress in advancing goals. These progress reports are available.

Over the course of the plan, $7.55 million was committed to helping achieve its priorities. Awards were made on a one-time and recurring basis by the EIC. Prioritizing of funds was a challenge. Due to a limited funding pool, theme leaders had to make a compelling case for the dollars each year by providing a formal request for funds with an accompanying budget justification, and a summary of anticipated outcomes. This process, however, did not prevent many of the tactics from moving forward, as progress reports indicate. In addition, 66 percent of the plan’s tactics were classified as operational and became a part of the administrative units’ regular operations throughout the University.

Midway through the implementation period, in March 2014, an environmental scan and a review of the plan’s tactics were revisited. The EIC determined the priorities outlined in the goal statements were still pertinent to UMB’s future.
IMPLEMENTATION SUCCESSES

Strategic plan success stories were highlighted during the implementation process. Here are just a few:

• Developed the Research HARBOR (Helping Advance Research By Organizing Resources), which progressed from prototype to production. The HARBOR is an information-rich resource accessible via virtual and physical means to a wide range of research assets (e.g., clinical data sets, statisticians, epidemiologists, etc.) to help facilitate inquiry into complex health, legal, and population studies. It will relocate from the School of Medicine’s Department of Epidemiology and Public Health to the Health Sciences and Human Services Library in late fall 2016.

• Established the President’s State of the University Address to advance transparency and celebrate successes.

• Created the Center for Interprofessional Education to prepare the health, human services, and legal professionals to work collaboratively as teams focused on improving the lives of people locally, nationally, and globally. Four annual IPE days have been held and participation has increased exponentially each year.

• Established the UMB Office of Community Engagement to lead UMB community development and partnerships, positively impacting our neighbors’ health, education, and economic development.

• Completed an inventory of key campus global and local partnerships. One such initiative included the School of Social Work exchange program with Rajagiri University in Kerala, India, addressing child welfare and aging practices in the two states.

• Launched the virtual Procedures Library, a comprehensive standard operating procedures process to increase uniformity across UMB.

• Recognized staff and programs that exemplify efforts to promote the core value of diversity, tracked progress through surveys, data, and other metrics, and increased cultural offerings available to the UMB community such as the Core Values Speaker Series.

• Created programs to support a more cohesive University community with initiatives like The Elm, Core Values Speaker Series, and UMBrella.

• Made major improvements to Human Resource Services’ onboarding process, developing key organizational learning activities.

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Not all parts of the strategic plan were successes. Challenges abounded in pursuing our collective goals, such as:

1) Setting priorities at the University level while balancing the autonomy of each school. Special attention was paid to learning about the needs of the individual schools — e.g., their identity, issues, and complexities vis-à-vis the whole. Facilitating support for some Universitywide goals remains a priority.

2) Improving the campus’ visual attractiveness to our external stakeholders, particularly near the University’s boundaries, which required working closely with Baltimore City government to obtain needed permits. Navigating the city’s administrative and regulatory environment and its funding limitations remain a challenge for future projects.

3) The University’s own funding model made it difficult to support strategic plan tactics like attracting entrepreneurial faculty to UMB, and hiring staff to accelerate other outcomes. Although resources were made available to make substantive progress on some initiatives, enhancements to the funding model must become a priority.

4) The environment for extramural funding leads to more researchers competing for limited National Institutes of Health and other federal agency dollars. This puts greater emphasis on identifying and pursuing other means of support, greater reliance on UMB’s development team, a productive research community, and a coordinated effort to use resources wisely.

5) Developing appropriate metrics to assess progress and measure success of initiatives proved difficult.

SUMMARY

Notwithstanding these challenges, the 2011-2016 strategic plan was significant as it brought the University community together to shape the future of UMB. It also provided a useful framework within which to focus and allocate resources to accomplish important Universitywide goals. The process was inclusive and transparent, engaging scores of faculty, staff, and students across the University. This model of engagement will continue to be used for UMB’s 2017-2021 strategic plan. We are most proud of the efforts hundreds across UMB put forth in making our first collaborative strategic plan a model for working together now and in the future.
SAFE CENTER ADDRESSES HUMAN TRAFFICKING


These qualities form the foundation for the new SAFE Center for Human Trafficking Survivors that UMB recently opened with its MPowering the State partners at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP).

Through in-house services and collaborative partnerships, the center will provide direct assistance to U.S. and foreign-born adult and child survivors of sex and labor trafficking, with a particular focus on survivors in Montgomery County and Prince George’s County, where UMCP — and the center — is located.

“These young people have survived betrayal and violence and desperately need this safe harbor to rebuild their lives,” UMCP President Wallace D. Loh, PhD, JD, MA, said at the center’s opening on May 9.

A new part of MPowering the State, the hugely successful structured alliance between UMB and UMCP that promotes innovation and impact through collaboration, the SAFE Center will see researchers from both universities come together to expand the scholarship on human trafficking. In addition, UMCP and UMB students will become the next generation of trafficking experts and survivor advocates.

“The University of Maryland, Baltimore is honored to partner with the University of Maryland, College Park to alleviate the devastating impact human trafficking has on our community, here in Maryland and globally,” UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, said at the opening. “This partnership is an excellent example of how our two universities can work together to make each institution stronger and develop real-world solutions that benefit our communities.

“At the SAFE Center, experts from the University of Maryland School of Social Work and the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law will conduct groundbreaking research into human trafficking and will work closely with survivors to help them realize bright futures outside of this exploitative illegal industry. We are excited to see the innovative real-world solutions that are sure to develop from this promising collaboration.”

Traffickers prey on those susceptible to exploitation: homeless and runaway youth, undocumented immigrants, children in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. The victims’ dire circumstances help traffickers keep them invisible, and many victims see no hope for escape or a fulfilling life after enslavement.

The center’s website spells out how SAFE is “helping survivors of human trafficking to heal and reclaim their lives.” There are direct services for women, men, girls, boys, transgender individuals, foreign nationals, and U.S. citizens who have been exploited by trafficking. There is research to fill in gaps in knowledge on human trafficking. Plus there is advocacy to support and empower trafficking survivors and promote justice.

At the ceremony, officials from both universities, Prince George’s and Montgomery counties, and the state of Maryland launched the center, including Susan G. Esserman, JD, founder and director of the SAFE Center. Esserman, a partner at Steptoe & Johnson, is a leader of the law firm’s pro bono program on behalf of trafficking victims and has represented numerous survivors in Prince George’s County.

“Most people would be shocked to know the serious extent of the human trafficking problem in our Maryland communities,” said Esserman. “Vulnerable and marginalized people are being forced and coerced into commercial sex and forced labor less than two miles from the College Park campus. We saw a need for services for trafficking survivors in Prince George’s and Montgomery counties, and we’re fortunate that the University of Maryland has stepped in to help fill this enormous need through the SAFE Center.”

— Alex Likowski and Chris Zang
The person who first said “good things come in small packages” surely had Mikeia Jones in mind. Described by her father as his “68-pound chicken wing,” tiny Mikeia has made a huge impact on the School of Medicine’s Department of Neurology since coming there as an intern in January 2015.

Today, she is a paid, part-time office assistant and a shining example of the benefits of the Project SEARCH program, which offers Baltimore public high school seniors with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to explore careers and acquire real-life job skills by working at a business.

Mikeia participated in three 10-week, unpaid internship rotations through Project SEARCH. The first was with the Department of Rehabilitation with the University of Maryland Medical Center. The second brought her to the Department of Neurology, which kept her for an additional rotation. That is rare, says Tameka Harry, manager for Project SEARCH Baltimore.

“Usually interns rotate; they don’t stay,” says Harry. “The first rotation in Neurology she sorted mail. Then when they saw how fast she picked things up they gave her more independent duties on her third overall rotation.”

The department hired Mikeia the day after her third internship ended. Staying was fine with Mikeia, now 22. Actually more than fine. Asked if she likes being in the Department of Neurology, she says, “I love being here.”

And those in the department love having her.

“When we met Mikeia, her enthusiasm to learn new things and do a good job was absolutely delightful,” says Denise Landrum, administrative support manager. “We came up with a list of very important and necessary tasks that have not been simplified for her at all. Mikeia independently performs these tasks flawlessly, increasing department productivity and lowering costs.”

“Mikeia is a breath of fresh air,” adds Javonia Harden, who works beside Mikeia as clinic coordinator and arranges her daily tasks in a folder. “She definitely took a workload off of me. And I don’t have to worry about if the work is being done correctly.”

Mikeia’s duties include general clerical duties including photocopying, scanning, and faxing notes, letters, prescriptions, and test results. Then there’s the favorite part of her job — sorting and delivering mail to various departments. “I send the mail out and make sure it goes downstairs by a certain time,” Mikeia says proudly.

She also is proud to show off the mail sorting system she has developed in the department — rows of neat, square, gray, wooden cubbyholes with names printed on the side.

“Mikeia talks about the doctors’ names and not just the easy ones,” says her father, Christopher Jones. “She can tell me at least 12 doctors’ names in that building, first and last names. It’s amazing she can remember all that. I’ll say how was work and she’ll say ‘Daddy’ and go on to tell me not about 10 minutes of work but about her whole four-hour workday. She loves it and I’m so happy for her and I thank God for all the people there.”

Not that he didn’t have some initial doubts.

“Downtown is really big and for a person that small she is like a grain of salt down there at the University,” Jones said of his fears when the Project SEARCH internship was first discussed while Mikeia was a student at George McMechen High School. “I feel like I’m letting my kitten go out somewhere and I have to watch it. Miss Tameka and others told me she was going to be fine down there and they were right. I trusted them and I believed in them and they came through. My daughter is so happy. She learns something new every day there.”

Mikeia arranges her transportation with MTA Mobility, which picks her up and drops her off for her 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekday shift. She is one of more than two dozen UMB employees who arrived through Project SEARCH, a continuing partnership among UMB, The Arc Baltimore, the Baltimore City Public School System, and the Division of Rehabilitation Services that aims to demonstrate the valuable contributions people with disabilities can make in the workplace.

Harry, who helps run the program at UMB with director Joanna Falcone, raves about its transformative nature.
“Since Mikeia began her journey from the Project SEARCH program to being gainfully employed we have seen her confidence rise, and she has become more independent,” Harry says. “Mikeia has learned to advocate and speak up for herself. Mikeia is hard-working, personable, very efficient, and eager to work and learn. She takes pride in being a working adult.”

Landrum points out Project SEARCH is a win-win, both for students and employers.

“I think that the Project SEARCH program is awesome!” she says. “It is a great resource for integrating your students into the workforce, helping them to realize their worth and becoming productive individuals. I highly recommend Project SEARCH to any employer seeking service excellence, lower cost, and increased productivity.”

And after some initial misgivings, Mikeia’s father now is an unabashed supporter of the program, too.

“She talks about her job all the time. I mean ALL THE TIME,” Jones says, chuckling. “I love that she’s happy. Would I support Project SEARCH if someone asked? Any given time. If they want me to come down there and talk to someone about it, I would be happy to do so. It’s a great program.”

As for Mikeia, she’s just happy that she and UMB found each other. Asked about her career goals, she says, “My hope for the future is to work for the Department of Neurology for a long time.”

— Chris Zang

MIKEIA JONES (FOREGROUND) AND SOME OF HER MENTORS, FROM LEFT, DENISE LANDRUM, JAVONIA HARDEN, JOB COACH SHENEKA LEWIS, AND TAMEKA HARRY.

When evaluation team chair Denise V. Rodgers, MD, FAAFP, announced on April 6 that UMB had “appeared to meet” all 14 standards necessary to reaffirm its accreditation with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, it came with a caveat.

Rodgers’ glowing report would have to be reviewed by a Middle States evaluation committee in June. The evaluation committee could affirm or change the chair’s recommendation before sending it to the full commission in November.

Now the wait is over. In a brief statement, the commission recently informed UMB of its decision “to reaffirm accreditation and to commend the institution for the quality of the self-study process and report.”

The government accreditation is needed every 10 years to ensure the University remains eligible to receive federal funding for students and researchers.

Called “comprehensive and very well organized” by Rodgers, the 3,000-page Self-Study Report was a massive, multi-year interprofessional project, with contributors from all UMB schools and units helping with work groups, attending town halls, and supporting UMB’s Middle States Steering Committee, headed by co-chairs Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP, dean of the School of Pharmacy, and Roger J. Ward, EdD, JD, MPA, chief accountability officer and vice president for operations and planning.

UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, saluted those involved after the April town hall. “Throughout this 30-month evaluation process, UMB has had to hit dozens of important milestones and deliver impeccable products that reflect the strengths and ambitions of this University,” Perman said. “The fact that we uniformly did so is a tribute to the hundreds of people who took part.”

— Chris Zang

Read more on Middle States.
TaShara Bailey, PhD, MA, recently joined UMB’s Diversity Advisory Council (DAC) as its first diversity fellow. She will assist the DAC in designing, initiating, and carrying out activities to further UMB’s commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity.

With her impressive background in championing organizational change in recruitment, enrollment retention, and strategic planning, Bailey will contribute to the development of evidence-based approaches for engaging the University’s faculty, staff, and students in building a culture of diversity and inclusion.

“I couldn’t be more pleased that TaShara has joined our team,” says Elsie Stines, DNP, CRNP, chair of the DAC and assistant vice president of special projects and initiatives in the Office of the President. “As we take on additional responsibilities, TaShara will help us synthesize the research on diversity; develop programming that reaches a broader community of students, faculty, and staff; and implement specific strategies that improve equity and inclusion at UMB.”

Bailey comes to the DAC from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where she served as a 2015-2016 University System of Maryland STEM postdoctoral fellow and a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Psychology.

Her passion for education comes naturally. Her late father, Sidney Bailey III, MA, was a longtime middle school and high school principal who won the Hattie Beverly Education Award and NAACP Educator Award. Like her colleagues on the DAC, she values the importance of diversifying the scientific workforce by broadening STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) participation of under-represented groups.

“I’m honored to be the first diversity fellow at UMB,” says Bailey, who earned her BS in agricultural and biosystems engineering from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and her MA in educational studies and PhD in higher education from the University of Michigan. “As an active member of the DAC team and the UMB community at-large, I look forward to continuing my father’s legacy in working toward diversity and inclusion in all aspects of STEM administration, development, education, outreach, and research.”

Bailey carries out her duties under the supervision of the Vice Dean of the Graduate School Roger J. Ward, EdD, JD, MPA. She can be reached at tbailey@umaryland.edu.

— Chris Zang

Read more on the Diversity Advisory Council.
The UMB Police Force and Department of Public Safety is committed to providing the University campus and surrounding communities with innovative solutions and best practices in the delivery of law enforcement services. As part of this quest for continual improvement, the force and department recently enacted a set of new alerts procedures with updated boundaries.

**UMB Alerts will be sent in the following situations:**

- Incidents that occur on-campus (the area within the blue boundary of the campus map available below) as determined by the chief of police or his/her designee using the *Clery Act* as guidance.

- Incidents that occur off-campus (outside the blue boundary on the campus map) when the suspect(s)/perpetrator(s) are determined to be a direct threat to the University community, as determined by the chief of police or his/her designee.

**UMB Alerts will not be sent in the following situations.**

- Incidents that happen outside of the blue boundary — regardless of whether a UMB student or employee is involved, except in the circumstance noted above.

- Incidents that occur within the blue boundary but are reported to the UMB police significantly after the fact.

**Special Circumstances**

UMB Alerts also may be considered under special circumstances with the recommendation of the chief of police and approval of the president or his/her designee. Examples might be civil unrest, traffic issues, or special weather-related events, which will be clearly marked as such.

The Office of Communications and Public Affairs is responsible for sending the above-named alerts and advisories after being requested by the chief of police or his/her designee, except under special circumstances or times of urgency or limited resources when the chief of police will send the communication him/herself.

*Download the campus boundary map.*