Last month, the Maryland General Assembly ended its busy 2016 session. Following is a wrap-up of the session — an overview of UMB’s fiscal year 2017 operating and capital budgets, and summaries of a few important bills we supported that were passed into law. For more information on these and other bills introduced this year in Annapolis, see UMB’s 2016 Legislative Session Impact Report.

USM AND UMB OPERATING BUDGETS

The 2016 session was a positive one for the University System of Maryland (USM), which saw a $91.5 million increase in state support. The system will use the increase to cover rising health care and retirement expenses, keep tuition growth for in-state USM undergraduates to 2 percent, and seed efforts to improve college completion.

The budget also includes a merit increase for USM employees, the first merit increase in two years. All UMB faculty and staff will be eligible for increases averaging 2.5 percent beginning July 1.

The FY 2017 estimated legislative appropriation for UMB includes $227.3 million in state funds, an increase of $11.9 million over our FY 2016 appropriation. Our budget also includes $126.4 million in tuition and fee income, a one-year growth of $2.4 million. In addition to funding increases in employee benefits and wages, we’ll increase dollars going to student financial aid and to facility improvements.

UMB CAPITAL BUDGET

UMB’s capital budget includes $81 million in state funds to continue construction of Health Sciences Facility III. For years, the state has generously supported this project, which will yield critical research space when the 429,000-square-foot building opens in early 2018.

State funds totaling $4 million will go toward badly needed upgrades to our electrical infrastructure so that we can provide electrical redundancy across campus and avoid blackouts like the one we experienced a few months ago, when power was temporarily lost in 22 University buildings.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2016

The Strategic Partnership Act, effective Oct. 1, establishes a partnership between “two distinct campuses” within USM: the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus and the University of Maryland, College Park campus. This partnership is called the “University of Maryland.”

Amendments made to the original bill clarify the intention of the legislation — not to merge UMB and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), but to build upon our existing collaboration. The law retains one president for each campus, giving him or her full powers and duties conferred to all presidents of USM institutions. It eliminates language regarding the combining of personnel systems and the creation of a joint faculty senate.

The legislation aims to raise the research profile of UMB and UMCP — which together attract $1 billion annually in grants and contracts — and to strengthen and formalize the hugely successful partnership, MPowering the State, begun four years ago between our two institutions. MPower has generated collaborative academic and research programs, created joint institutes, and accelerated economy-driving tech-transfer activity, substantially growing university inventions, patents, licenses, and startups.

The Strategic Partnership Act formalizes this collaboration in law, instructing the presidents of UMB and UMCP to develop and implement a plan that promotes alignment and cooperation between the two institutions and to appoint a joint steering council (a successor to the MPower steering committee) that will oversee this partnership.

The law establishes the University of Maryland Center for Economic and Entrepreneurship Development, to be located at UMCP, to advance education and research in fields with significant economic development potential: neuroscience, virtual and augmented reality, biomedical devices, data analytics, and cybersecurity. Meanwhile, the Maryland Advanced Ventures Center, to be located at UMB, will promote the commercialization of university technologies and discoveries, and will receive state funding to encourage university startups to locate in Baltimore.

The Strategic Partnership Act engaged our university communities like few other issues in recent memory, and I thank all of you who consulted with UMB and USM leadership on the bill and who engaged in the legislative process.
We’re meeting now with our College Park colleagues to discuss how we’ll operationalize the Strategic Partnership Act and fortify the alliance between our two great universities.

**CREATION OF A STATE DEBT — BALTIMORE CITY — LEXINGTON MARKET**

This legislation authorizes $350,000 in state funds next fiscal year to be used for the acquisition, design, construction, and renovation of Lexington Market.

The renovation of Lexington Market is key to revitalizing the area around UMB, to expanding nearby arts and residential districts, and to connecting the city’s Westside to downtown. University leaders sit on the market’s board of directors and on committees overseeing the property’s redevelopment. Our vision is of a new, vibrant Lexington Market that can once again serve as a community hub for shopping and socializing.

**SEED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ANCHOR INSTITUTION FUND**

This legislation enables the state to issue grants or loans to anchor institutions to be used for community development projects in blighted areas of Maryland.

Each year from FY 2018 to 2022, the governor must appropriate $5 million to the fund. To be eligible for an award, anchor institutions must secure matching funds from a private source.

UMB and the Southwest Partnership have already identified several projects — for instance, the renovation of Hollins Market — that could be prime candidates for seed funding. The fund also could help us leverage private money to move the UMB Community Engagement Center into a permanent home in Poppleton.

**PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY EARLY COLLEGE HIGH (P-TECH) SCHOOLS ACT OF 2016**

P-TECH schools are public schools, grades 9 to 14, that integrate high school courses, college courses, and the workplace, giving students a pathway that allows them to graduate with a high school diploma, an associate’s degree or certificate, and relevant professional experience. Distinguishing P-TECH from other early college programs is that students develop workplace skills and can earn industry-aligned credentials.

Funding of $600,000 is allocated to support the planning of six P-TECH schools in Maryland: two in Baltimore City, two in Prince George’s County, one on the Eastern Shore, and one in Western Maryland.

UMB leaders visited the original P-TECH school in Brooklyn, N.Y., last year, and now we’re partnering with Johns Hopkins, Kaiser Permanente, Baltimore City Public Schools, and Baltimore City Community College to operate one of the city-located P-TECH schools. The school will focus on allied health careers, which makes it a natural fit for the student development pipeline we’re establishing with the UMB CURE Scholars Program.

**INCOME TAX — CREDIT FOR PRECEPTORS IN AREAS WITH HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE SHORTAGES**

This law offers doctors and nurse practitioners a state income tax credit if they serve as preceptors in Maryland’s medically underserved areas.

To be eligible, physicians and nurse practitioners must complete a certain number of hours training students in community-based clinical settings — and these settings must be in an area identified as having a shortage of health care workers. For every student enrolled in the program, the preceptor will receive a tax credit of $1,000 (not to exceed $10,000 per preceptor).

Testifying in favor of the bill, Richard Colgan, MD, vice chair for medical student education and clinical operations in our School of Medicine, cited studies showing a significant shortage of primary care providers in large portions of Maryland. Compounding this problem, he said, is that Maryland ranks dead last in the U.S. for graduate medical students who are likely to become generalists. “So to increase the pipeline of medical students choosing primary care — particularly care for the underserved,” Dr. Colgan said, “we need to expose them to the challenges and joys of working in these parts of our state.”

UMB had a productive legislative session this year. I thank our Government Affairs team, led by Kevin Kelly, JD, and everyone who testified on bills before the General Assembly, adding their important perspectives and expertise to the dialogue. And I look forward to working with the governor, the legislature, and you to build a stronger Maryland.

Jay A. Perman, MD  
President
UNIVERSITYWIDE

Brian Coats, ScD, executive director of technology integration, Center for Information Technology Services, was an invited speaker at the 2016 Cyber Security for Higher Education conference. He discussed “Distributed Identity Management: Building Interoperability and Trust Between Schools.”

Reba Cornman, MSW, director, Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program, Graduate School, was elected to the boards of directors of the Baltimore-based nonprofits Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (vice president for programs, which includes senior centers) and Action in Maturity, a senior center without walls that serves older adults’ transportation needs.

Nearly 100 employees representing 2,460 years of service were saluted at the 2015/2016 Employee Service Recognition and Community Service Awards Program in April. Steven Boggs, JD, director of records and registration at the Francis King Carey School of Law, won the Cecil S. Kelly Memorial Employee of the Year Award. Janice Hicks, program administrative specialist in the School of Social Work, won the James T. Hill Scholarship Award. Mary Cain (School of Medicine), Hazel Jones-Parker (School of Nursing), and the late Shirley Allen (School of Dentistry) were named Board of Regents staff award nominees. Janet Nance-Richardson, coordinator in the Carey School of Law, received the Community Service Award. Forty-five-year service award recipients were Thomasine Guberski (School of Medicine) and Carol Stillwell (School of Dentistry) and 40-year service award recipients were Donna Ferger (School of Medicine), Deborah Horstman and Darlene Watkins (both of the School of Dentistry), and Larry Miller (Administration and Finance), and Nolene Taylor (School of Nursing). Read more.

BRIAN COATS

REBA CORNMAN

T. Hill Scholarship Award. Mary Cain (School of Medicine), Hazel Jones-Parker (School of Nursing), and the late Shirley Allen (School of Dentistry) were named Board of Regents staff award nominees. Janet Nance-Richardson, coordinator in the Carey School of Law, received the Community Service Award. Forty-five-year service award recipients were Thomasine Guberski (School of Medicine) and Carol Stillwell (School of Dentistry) and 40-year service award recipients were Donna Ferger (School of Medicine), Deborah Horstman and Darlene Watkins (both of the School of Dentistry), and Larry Miller (Administration and Finance), and Nolene Taylor (School of Nursing). Read more.
The Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HS/HSL) has been named the regional office for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeastern/Atlantic Region, for the seventh straight time dating to 1983. In this capacity, HS/HSL will be the outreach arm of the National Library of Medicine and serve 10 Southeastern states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and D.C. HS/HSL also was named the National DOCLINE Coordinating Office to facilitate resource sharing across the U.S. Altogether, these cooperative agreements are worth over $6 million from 2016 to 2021.

Sara Rashidian, MS, IT application integration engineer, Center for Information Technology Services, was among the co-authors of “Multi-Group Motion Planning in Virtual Environments,” which was published in the Computer Animation and Virtual Worlds journal.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Retired faculty member Sophia Arabatzis Balis, DDS, Division of Pediatric Dentistry, was inducted into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame, which honors women in the state who have made unique and lasting contributions. Balis was the first woman to be appointed to the school faculty in 1966 and was a lecturer and clinical supervisor of sophomore and junior dental students until she retired in July 1991.

Alum Arthur Nimmo, DDS ’79, FACP, was appointed to the Commission on Dental Accreditation Review Committee on Prosthodontics Education for a three-year term. He is a past president of the American College of Prosthodontists.

Student Katrina Reynolds received the William S. Kramer Award of Excellence at the Phi Chapter of the Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society. Chapter President Karen Faraone, DDS ’78, assistant dean for student affairs at the school, presented the award, which recognizes a junior dental student who has demonstrated scholarship, character, and potential promise.

Mark Shirtliff, PhD, associate professor, and Janette Harro, PhD, research associate, both in the Department of Microbial Pathogenesis, are among the inventors of “Multivalent Vaccine Protection from Staphylococcus Aureus Infection,” which received a U.S. patent.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

“Will Anyone Be Prosecuted in the Flint Water Crisis?” an op-ed by Jane Barrett, JD, professor and director, Environmental Law Clinic, was published in Newsweek.

Laura Dunn, JD ’14, adjunct professor, presented a paper at the University of Texas-Austin conference “Theorizing Consent.”

Martha Ertman, JD, Carole & Hanan Sibel Research Professor of Law, participated in Women’s Week at the University of Utah; a campuswide lecture at Wellesley College; and at the Annual DC Queer Theory Symposium at College Park.

“Against All Odds: Why America’s Century-Old Quest for Clean Air May Usher in a New Era of Global Environmental Cooperation,” a lecture by Robert Percival, JD, Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law and director, Environmental Law Program, was published by the University of Utah Press. Percival also presented “The Importance of Public Interest Litigation to the Development, Implementation, and Enforcement of Environmental Law,” at the Green China: Public Interest Litigation and Environmental Governance Summit, in Shanghai. He and Michael Pappas, JD, MA, associate professor, will lead the Maryland Carey Law team participating in a $10 million U.S. Department of Agriculture project for sustainable water and agriculture.

Alumni named recipients of the 2016 Leadership in Law Awards by The Daily Record included: Marnell A. Cooper, JD ’02; David V. Diggs, JD ’86; Nancy McCutchan Duden, JD ’87; Robert L. Ferguson Jr., JD ’72; Hon. Kathryn Grill Graeff, JD ’86; Kristin Herber, JD ’01; Quinton M. Herbert, JD ’03; Matthew G. Hjortsberg, JD ’96; Kelly Hughes Iverson, JD ’92; and Brian Tucker, JD ’02. The following alumni were honored as part of the new Generation J.D. award, which recognizes young and rising lawyers: Tara A. Barnes, JD ’04; Jamar R. Brown, JD ’11; Heather R. Pruger, JD ’09; Jeremy D. Rachlin, JD ’06; and Michelle Daugherty Siri, JD ’02.

Max Stearns, JD, Marbury Research Professor and associate dean for research and faculty development, presented “The Fate of Legal Scholarship” at the University of Baltimore School of Law.

“Dangerous Bedfellows: The Stalemate on Criminal Justice Reform,” by Rena Steinzor, JD, professor, was published by The American Prospect, a monthly magazine.

Students Theresa Thompson, Alexandria Montanio, and Sherri Weinstein took first place in the school’s Fifth Annual Health Law Regulatory and Compliance Competition.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Laura Bozzi, student; Braxton Mitchell, PhD, professor; Joshua Lewis, PhD, assistant professor; Kathleen Ryan, bioinformatics analyst; Jeffrey O’Connell, PhD, associate professor; Richard Horenstein, MD, assistant professor; and Alan Shuldiner, MD, the John L. Whitehurst Professor of Medicine, all from the Department of Medicine, as well as the Program for Personalized and Genomic Medicine, which Shuldiner directs, were among the co-authors on “The Pharmacogenomics of Anti-Platelet Intervention (PAPI) Study: Variation in Platelet Response to Clopidogrel and Aspirin” in Current Vascular Pharmacology.

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Andrea Meredith, PhD, associate professor, Department of Physiology, received a five-year, $1,936,790 competing renewal award from the National Institutes of Health’s National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for “Mineralocorticoid Receptor Antagonism Clinical Evaluation in Atherosclerosis.”

Rosangela Mezghanni, PhD, assistant professor, and Marcelo Szein, PhD, professor, both in the Department of Pediatrics, were inventors on “Multicellular Organotypic Model of Human Intestinal Mucosa,” which received a U.S. patent.

Professors Vincent Njar, PhD, and Angela Brodie, PhD, and Lalji Gediya, PhD, research associate, all in the Department of Pharmacology, are co-inventors of “Novel Prodrugs of C-17-Heteroaryl Steroidal CYP17 Inhibitors/Antiandrogens: Synthesis, In Vitro Biological Activities, Pharmacokinetics and Antitumor Activity,” which received a U.S. patent. The invention is a novel therapeutic method using small molecules to treat prostate and breast cancers.

Sanjay Rajagopalan, MBBS, FACC, FAHA, the Melvin Sharoky, MD, Professor in Medicine, and Matthew Weir, MD, professor, both from the Department of Medicine, received a five-year, $3.25 million R01 from the National Institutes of Health’s National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for “Daily Regulation of Ionic Currents.”

At the fifth annual Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Retreat, Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, and Richard Eckert, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, presented A-Lien Lu-Chang, PhD, professor, with a framed copy of the groundbreaking publication on DNA Mismatch Repair that led to Paul Modrich, PhD, an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, recently being awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work in this area. Lu-Chang was a postdoc with Modrich at the time and attended the Nobel ceremony in Stockholm when he received his award.

Robert Schwarcz, PhD, professor, Department of Psychiatry, is one of the inventors of “Derivatives of Nicotinic Acid N-Oxide, Their Preparation and Their Use as Inhibitors of Enzyme-3-Hydroxyanthranilate-3,4-Dioxygenase,” which received a U.S. patent. The invention is a method of inhibiting a key enzyme of the kynurenine pathway involved in neurodegenerative diseases.

Sanjay Rajagopalan

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

Lily Fountain, MS, RN, CNM, assistant professor, received first place for her doctoral poster “Improving Maternal Child Health Through Improved Prediction of Critical Thinking in Maternity Nurses” at Public Health Research Day at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Erika Friedmann, PhD, professor and associate dean of research, and Kathryn Lothschuetz Montgomery, PhD ’97, RN, NEA-BC, associate professor and chair, Department of Partnerships, Professional Education, and Practice, co-authored “Three-Year Pre-Post Analysis of EBP Integration in a Magnet-Designated Community Hospital,” which was published in Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing.

Marian Grant, DNP ’10, RN, CRNP, associate professor, made presentations at the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Student Policy Summit “A Year on the Hill: Nursing’s Contributions to Shaping Policy,” at the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine/Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association’s annual assembly in Chicago, and in a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute stakeholder workshop in Crystal City, Va., where she was chair of the Models of Care Delivery breakout session, “Prioritizing Comparative Effectiveness Research Questions for Patient-Centered Palliative Care Delivery for Adult Patients with Advanced Illnesses and Their Caregivers.”

Ann Hoffman, MS ’11, RN, CNE, clinical instructor, and Nicole Smith, MS ’14, RN, CNE, clinical instructor, passed the National League of Nursing’s certification exam and are now certified nurse educators.

Veronica Gutchell, DNP ’13, RN, CNS, CRNP, assistant professor, participated in the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education’s (CCNE) spring 2016 evaluator training. After training, evaluators serve on CCNE accreditation review teams.


Barbara Resnick, PhD ’96, RN, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP, professor, was awarded a five-year, $1,062,489 R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health for her project “Dissemination and Implementation of Function Focused Care for Assisted Living.”

Kathryn VonRueden, MS, RN, CNS-BC, FCCM, associate professor, co-authored “Using Procalcitonin in Septic Shock to Guide Antibiotic Therapy,” which appeared in Dimensions of Critical Care Nursing, and gave a presentation on “The Relationship of Compassion Fatigue, Burnout, and Unprofessional Behavior in a Level 1 Urban Trauma Center,” at the Society of Trauma Nurses national meeting in Anaheim, Calif.
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Mark Brueckl, RPh, MBA, assistant director of the Office of Experiential Learning, was named UMB’s April Employee of the Month for increasing and upgrading the program’s site visits and customer service, adhering to UMB’s seven core values, and applying his advanced data mining skills to help manage the vast student data that the office produces.

Lindsay Currier, scheduling coordinator in the Office of Academic Affairs, was named UMB’s March Employee of the Month for her day-to-day scheduling duties (including snow emergencies), demonstrating core values such as accountability and collaboration, and her proactive nature to solve problems “before colleagues even know they exist.”

Bethany DiPaula, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a seven-month, $68,860 contract from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for “Opioid Prescription Review for Pain Management.”

Student William Hedrich received the Outstanding Presentation Award at UMB’s Graduate Research Conference.

Yan Shu, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, $12,219 grant from Optivia Biotechnology for “Effect of OCT Inhibition on Platinum Nephrotoxicity.”

Linda Simoni-Wastila, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a two-year, $219,437 contract from Novartis Pharmaceuticals for a fellowship.

Julia Slejko, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a one-year, $50,000 grant from the PhRMA (Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America) Foundation for “Predictors of Medication Adherence and the Value of Adherence Prediction.”

Audra Stinchcomb, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, $528,811 grant from the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Technology and Education for “Effects of Chemical Penetration Enhancers in Drug-in Adhesive Transdermal Drug Delivery Systems on In-Vitro Skin Permeation Studies.”

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Dean Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW, presented his work on the intersection of child welfare-involved young children and educational progress at an Invited Symposium Roundtable, “Creating Opportunity and Educational Pathways for Young Children and their Families,” at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Washington, D.C.

Associate professors Charlotte Bright, PhD, and Terry Shaw, PhD, and research assistant professors Jill Farrell, PhD, and Sara Betsinger, PhD, have been awarded $45,000 by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to study the effect of Family Centered Treatment for youth with juvenile justice involvement and child welfare histories.
Gisele Ferretto, MSW, clinical instructor, has been named Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers-Maryland Chapter.

Angela Henneberger, PhD, research assistant professor, was promoted to director of research of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center.

Bethany Lee, PhD, associate professor and associate dean for research, Tanya Sharpe, PhD, associate professor, and Bronwyn Mayden, MSW, assistant dean and executive director of Promise Heights, were appointed to the Baltimore Safe Streets Community Advisory Board. Sharpe also was honored as the Social Work Educator of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers-Maryland Chapter and co-authored an article, “Racial Appraisal: An integrated Cultural and Structural Response to African American Experiences with Violent Trauma,” that was published in the Journal of Sociology and Social Work.

Erin Maskell and Tiffany Newton were named MSW Students of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers-Maryland Chapter.


Henriette Taylor, MSW, community school coordinator, was honored by the National Association of Social Workers-Maryland Chapter as its Field Instructor of the Year.

ANGELA HENNEBERGER
TANYA SHARPE
BETHANY LEE
BRONWYN MAYDEN
HENRIETTE TAYLOR

LUNCH with the PRESIDENT

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

Tuesday, May 24
11:30 to 12:30

Register at www.umaryland.edu/president/lunch-with-the-president.

SPACE IS AVAILABLE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.
Commencement is the most hopeful day of the year at UMB and the events on May 20 for the Class of 2016 promise to be memorable and festive.

Back by popular demand is the Party in the Park, the midday celebration in UMB Plaza Park (between the School of Social Work and the Carey School of Law) where the graduates and their families can celebrate the morning convocations and rest up for the afternoon Universitywide ceremony.

Enjoy free food, music, and fun activities from 11:30 to 1 p.m. The Oriole Bird and Poe from the Ravens promise to make an appearance! Food trucks also will be onsite with a limited number of discounted vouchers for graduates. Seating will be available for graduates and their guests.

A little after 1 p.m. the students, faculty, and platform party will assemble for the colorful academic procession to Royal Farms Arena a few short blocks away. There more memories await the graduates and their families at the commencement ceremony at 2 p.m.

The keynote speaker will be a familiar face — Jay A. Perman, MD. The UMB president will discuss the joys and challenges of preparing capable, compassionate professionals to improve the human condition and serve the public good.

An entertaining video titled “UMB,” created by Hippocratic Notes, the a cappella group from the School of Medicine, will be shown and Rebecca Livingston, one of the graduates from the School of Nursing, will sing the national anthem.

Alisha Duggal

Alisha Duggal of the Carey School of Law will reassure and inspire the new graduates as the student commenter. Two impressive honorary degree recipients will add a special touch to the festivities as well.

Wendy R. Sherman, MSW, has amassed a sterling four-decade career in public service and strategic communications since graduating from our School of Social Work. She started as campaign manager for Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski’s first bid for the U.S. Senate and then worked in the State Department for leaders from Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama to Secretaries Warren Christopher, Madeleine Albright, Hillary Clinton, and John Kerry, with several stops in between. Sherman, who rose to under secretary of state, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Public Service.

Wendy R. Sherman

The honorary marshals are led by Angela Brodie, PhD, a professor of pharmacology at the School of Medicine. Her 40 years of pioneering work in breast and prostate cancer research has saved the lives of thousands of people worldwide. She will be joined by Marjorie Fass, MA, now-retired assistant dean of student and academic services, who in her 22 years at the School of Nursing served in numerous leading roles in admissions, alumni affairs, development, and special events and helped found the school’s Living History Museum, the state’s only museum dedicated to nursing.

Freda Lewis-Hall, MD, DFAPA, is executive vice president and chief medical officer at biopharmaceutical powerhouse Pfizer. She had previous leadership positions at Vertex, Pharmacia, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Eli Lilly. Saying she “came to pharmacy for the science and stayed for the patients,” Lewis-Hall was appointed by the Obama administration in 2010 to be a founding board member of The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute and has helped shape the direction of comparative effectiveness research. She will receive an Honorary Doctor of Science.

Angela Brodie

Marjorie Fass
Two stalwarts from the School of Pharmacy complete the honorary marshal lineup.

Bruce Stuart, PhD, has hugely impacted the field of geriatric pharmacy in his 19 years as a professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research and as director of the Peter Lamy Center for Drug Therapy and Aging.

David Roffman, PharmD, BCPS-AQ Cardiology, now-retired professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was named the school’s Teacher of the Year on five occasions by graduating classes during his 45-year School of Pharmacy career.

Read more about all the festivities and personalities on our commencement website.

We look forward to you joining our special guests and cheering on the members of the Class of 2016 on May 20.

— Chris Zang
LEAD MENTORS PAVE PATH TO SUCCESS

CURE Corner is an occasional feature that will appear in The President’s Message. It discusses noteworthy updates from UMB’s CURE Scholars Program, a new pipeline initiative that prepares children for health and research careers through hands-on workshops, lab experiences, and mentorship. UMB’s middle school students are the youngest ever to participate in the National Cancer Institute’s Continuing Umbrella for Research Experiences (CURE) national program.

During the inaugural year of the UMB CURE Scholars Program, three young lead mentors stood out: Dane Weinert, an aspiring medical student from Nebraska interested in a gap-year experience as an AmeriCorps VISTA member immediately following his undergraduate years; and second-year School of Social Work students Lise Tonle Mafodong and Timothy Shu.

Weinert accepted the placement on a phone call to his undergraduate institution at Emory University in Atlanta. He admits he hesitated before accepting because the call came the day of the worst violence in Baltimore after the death of Freddie Gray.

“A good friend of mine gave me some advice that I took to heart,” Weinert recalls. “He said you’re going to a city to spend a year at an opportune time, when a lot of change will be coming. He said to see it as an opportunity, not something to be afraid of. I’m glad I did.”

The UMB CURE Scholars experience has exceeded his expectations. “I’ve become so connected to West Baltimore, not just sitting in an office all day,” says Weinert, who in the fall will begin medical school at Tulane University in New Orleans. “It’s definitely been a good experience.”

At UMB, Weinert has worked to recruit and coordinate volunteers, implement STEM programming through the program’s after-school component, and provide logistic support for the program operating in three West Baltimore schools.

His fellow lead mentors have been busy as well. Mafodong has provided administrative support to Robin Saunders, EdD, MS, executive director of the program, and has been indispensable in coordinating the many meetings of the working group and subcommittees as well as the CURE Advisory Board.

Shu, who was assigned to the Office of Community Engagement for field placement, coordinated site activities as lead mentor at Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School, the only one of the three UMB CURE schools that competed in the Maryland Science Olympiad in March to be invited to the state finals in April. There, Franklin Square won medals for second place and fifth place.

“Having Dane, Lise, and Timothy on the UMB CURE Scholars Program leadership team since last summer has been invaluable,” says Saunders. “Their commitment to the program’s mission and vision are evidenced in their countless hours of program planning, development, and implementation. Dane, in particular, has been integral in every aspect of the program — serving on all 11 advisory board subcommittees. His ideas have helped create our transformative science pipeline program that has already positively impacted our West Baltimore community. We were blessed to have all three student leaders on our team.”
STAY ALERT ON CAMPUS

On university campuses like UMB, May is a time to prepare for final exams.

Preparation also is key in staying safe, the UMB Police Force reminds us. Knowing where you are, where you are going, and what resources are available all can help make your trip a safe one.

So remember to:

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE AREA so you know where you are going. Check out our campus map! Pedestrians who look lost attract criminals.

If you see someone or something suspicious, BE PREPARED TO ALTER YOUR ROUTE or go into the nearest building. Simply acting alert can ward off an assailant.

UTILIZE THE BLUE LIGHT EMERGENCY TELEPHONES that are available throughout the campus if you need help.

CALL THE UNIVERSITY POLICE at 410-706-3333 if you feel in danger.

You are always welcome to CALL FOR A POLICE ESCORT at 6-6882 or 410-706-6882. Walking escorts are available 24/7 and riding escorts operate between 5 p.m. and 1 a.m. 365 days a year.

Crime is down at UMB, but that doesn’t mean the community should let its guard down.

“Preparation can go a long way toward reducing the possibility that you will become the victim of robbery,” says Cpl. J.R. Jones, safety awareness officer in the Department of Public Safety. “Remain alert and use the resources that are available. Safety is a two-way street. So help us help you by being prepared.”
PERKINS MAKES MOST OF LAST-MINUTE CHANCE

Jamesha Perkins thought she had missed out on getting a YouthWorks internship at UMB. She was a senior at Baltimore City College high school in 2011 and had filled out the application, but then there was silence.

“When they sent out the acceptance letters in early May and I didn’t get one, I said ‘oh I guess they didn’t pick me,’” Perkins recalls. “Then at the last minute either somebody begged out or a position opened. I got a call saying ‘how would you feel about working at the School of Medicine?’ And I said ‘yes, I’ll work at the School of Medicine.’”

It has proven to be a perfect fit. Perkins, who has aspirations to be a nurse, grew from that eight-week summer internship in the Department of Neurology to an “if/when” employee to, in May 2013, a permanent part-time office assistant in the department. She works Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and takes nursing classes at Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) on Tuesday and Thursday. Sometimes between semesters she works full time.

As an intern, Perkins began by doing general office duties — faxing, copying, filing, and running errands on campus. But says Dawn Flair, business operations specialist in the department, “within a short period of time, it was obvious that Jamesha was capable of so much more. Jamesha is extremely accurate with data entry and is great with Excel and PowerPoint. She quickly became part of our team and proved to be a very conscientious and valuable employee.”

Then 17, Perkins admits she had “good computer skills” from high school when she began her internship. Now her duties include assisting with Neurology’s volunteer program, tracking its faculty license renewals, handling follow-up for influenza vaccinations, and assisting with day two orientation, but she still remains a computer guru. “When something goes wrong with the laptop, they say ‘go ask Jamesha.’ I don’t know everything, but for the most part, I can help.”

UMB has participated for more than 25 years in YouthWorks, a hands-on, work readiness program coordinated by the Mayor’s Office of Employment. A lot of interns have come and gone. Camille Givens-Patterson, equal employment opportunity specialist in Human Resources, said it was quickly apparent that Perkins was a keeper.

“Jamesha was in the first group of young students I worked with through YouthWorks. Upon her initial interview, she came prepared with her resume and had a serious business handshake,” says Givens-Patterson, who has mentored Perkins along with Flair, Kathleen Slack, and others within the department. “I knew UMB was the right place for her. She had just graduated from high school and she was going to college. She is bright, professional, courteous, and knowledgeable. I know she is studying to be a nurse, but I told her she would make an excellent doctor!”

Perkins looks back on those YouthWorks days with fondness.

“I was fresh out of high school. I had never had a job before. But they didn’t treat me like I was a student worker, filling in,” says Perkins, who grew up in Towson area. “They treated me like a new employee, introducing me around to everybody in the department. I felt like I fit in with the other professionals in the office. They did a great job helping me become familiar with each division within the department.”

She also liked the freedom she was given by her supervisor.

“Dawn is amazing,” Perkins says. “She’s been a boss. She’s been a friend. She’s been a confidant. She encourages me when I’m down. She teaches me all the ins and outs of human resources and payroll, but she isn’t standing over my shoulder. She trusts me to just get the job done.”

JAMESHA PERKINS (RED SWEATER) WITH SEVERAL OF HER MENTORS (FROM LEFT) CAMILLE GIVENS-PATTERSON, DAWN FLAIR, AND KATHLEEN SLACK.
Flair also has glowing words about Perkins.

“I think that Jamesha is an inspiration to all young adults showing that hard work, determination, compassion, and education can help you reach all of your goals,” says Flair, who has been a YouthWorks mentor since 2010. “I have no doubt that Jamesha will make a wonderful nurse as she truly cares about people and wants to help them.”

First she has to finish her studies at BCCC (probably next year). Then she will start work as a nurse or go to nursing school.

Or both. “If all my dreams come true, I will be a nurse at the University of Maryland Medical Center and [pursue a graduate degree] at the School of Nursing.”

Perkins’ younger brother, John, is working as a nursing assistant, a point of pride for her. “I feel like a mom when it comes to him, even though I’m turning 23 this year and he’s turning 20. Growing up, I’ve always been on his butt about school. He graduated, got his certification, and he’s working now at a retirement facility and doing so well. So I’m really happy about that.”

Perkins also is pleased with her own path. And if that last-minute YouthWorks opening hadn’t occurred? “Honestly, I probably wouldn’t be here because when they hire administrative assistants, they have some experience or a bachelor’s or associate’s degree,” Perkins says. “I really hope the YouthWorks program is endless. This was a great opportunity for me.”

And for UMB.

— By Chris Zang

To read other UMB YouthWorks stories, visit www.umaryland.edu/oce.