In my letter to the UMB community last month, just days after the election, I said that we would come together in the new year to discuss what a Donald Trump administration could mean for the University’s daily work and our plans for the future. January 2017 marks the first change in presidential leadership since I returned to UMB in 2010, and there is much at stake in terms of health and higher education policy, federal budget priorities, and issues of civil rights and social justice.

To forecast how the coming administration could influence each of these domains, next month we will launch the President’s Panel on Politics and Policy. We’ll invite noted experts and thought leaders to weigh in on how the new president and the new Congress could alter the country’s course and how such changes could affect institutions like UMB.

HIGHER EDUCATION

During the campaign, President-elect Trump offered few details about his plans for higher education policy, although this fall, he did address the student loan crisis, proposing income-based loan repayment, endorsing rules that would allow the refinancing of student debt, and suggesting that colleges that don’t use their endowments to cut tuition could risk losing their tax-exempt status. These proposals will be up for discussion, along with the president-elect’s pick for education secretary, Betsy DeVos, and the policy priorities that could mark her tenure. Also meriting examination are new immigration and visa policies floated by the president-elect, and how a proposed ban on visitors from certain countries could affect the international student community.

Meanwhile, Congress spent the last session moving forward on some aspects of the Higher Education Opportunity Act, but ultimately failed to put together a full reauthorization bill. We expect many complex issues to rise to the top during the 2017 reauthorization talks, including making higher education more affordable, holding colleges and universities accountable for student outcomes, reforming the accreditation process, simplifying the financial aid application, and shrinking the number of federal regulations governing higher education.

HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND DELIVERY

President-elect Trump has vowed to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), passed under President Obama. While a full dismantling of the law seems increasingly unlikely — most agree that a replacement bill would retain some ACA provisions — a substantial rollback is almost certain. Experts will weigh in on what pieces of the ACA might remain and what could happen to the many Americans newly insured under the law. Part of that discussion will likely entail how Mr. Trump’s choice for health and human services secretary, Rep. Tom Price (R–Ga.), might shape an ACA alternative.

Additionally, with the president-elect proposing Medicaid block grants to states, expansion of the program could be jeopardized — in states that haven’t yet enacted expansion as well as those that have. We’ll seek the experts’ advice on how we at UMB can help shape U.S. policy to ensure health care access for those historically underserved. We’ll also discuss proposals for such urgent issues as cutting health care costs, stimulating innovation in health technology and treatment delivery, and assuring quality care for all.

FEDERAL BUDGET

As we look ahead to the incoming president’s budget and to congressional appropriations, experts will share their thoughts on what’s at stake for higher education as a whole.

With a new Congress likely committed to limiting domestic discretionary spending, how will research budgets fare in the years ahead? The National Institutes of Health (NIH) supplies nearly 30 percent of UMB’s research dollars; will the agency be able to maintain or increase funding going forward? Will basic research, foundational to improving human health, continue to be funded at a level necessary to fuel scientific breakthroughs?

While President-elect Trump hasn’t expressed fondness for NIH, he has indicated support for government-backed discovery and innovation, and a willingness to invest federal dollars in science, engineering, and health care.
SOCIAL JUSTICE, HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Of all the policy changes predicted for the coming years, none has been reported or debated more than those affecting issues of social justice and human and civil rights. We’ll look at how U.S. policy protects minority and vulnerable populations and how we might strengthen those protections moving forward.

With President-elect Trump potentially filling more than one Supreme Court seat over the next four years, we could look at court rulings on matters of affirmative action, immigration, voting rights, reproductive rights, employment discrimination, criminal justice, marriage equality, and LGBTQ issues.

For decades, Baltimore and Maryland have been crucibles for civil rights and social justice, with local leaders shaping reforms that protect human dignity, encourage political inclusion, and stimulate shared prosperity. We’d be wise to examine how to partner most effectively with the local community and with allies nationwide in undertaking effective advocacy on behalf of those we serve.

In truth, we don’t yet know what Donald Trump’s presidency means for UMB. In many respects, these conversations will require something of a crystal ball. But it’s important that we begin preparing for a higher education landscape that might look very different from today’s. It’s important that we come together as a community to assess potential challenges and opportunities, and that we reaffirm our commitment to our core mission and to the people who rely on our compelling and compassionate work.

I’ll soon share details on these important discussions, and I do hope you’ll join us.

Sincerely,

Jay A. Perman, MD
PRESIDENT

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

President and Mrs. Jay A. Perman wish you and yours a happy holiday season.

Please enjoy this linked greeting.
UNIVERSITYWIDE

M.J. Tooe, MLS, AHIP, FMLA, associate vice president, Academic Affairs, and executive director, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented “Expanding Library Contributions to University Success — Shifting the Paradigm: Expertise Rather Than Resources” to the Elsevier North American Library Advisory Board and “Who was Marcia Crocker Noyes and Why Do I Care About Her?” to the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland.

Ronald Dubner, DDS, PhD, professor, Department of Neuronal and Pain Sciences, served as guest editor on a special issue of the Journal of Dental Research published by the International and American Associations for Dental Research.

Howard Strassler, DMD, FADM, FAGD, professor, Division of Operative Dentistry, gave a presentation on the “ABCs of Bulk Fill Composite Resins” at the International Conference on Light Sources in Dentistry held at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He also led two panel discussions.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Leslie C. Costello, PhD, professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Services, and Renty Franklin, PhD, professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Services and associate dean of research, gave a presentation titled “The Role of Zinc in the Development of Cancers, and its Implications for Treatment and Prevention” at the International Conference on Cancer Research and Targeted Therapy held in Baltimore.

Vineet Dhar, BDS, MDS, PhD, associate professor and chief, Division of Pediatric Dentistry, received the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry-Healthy Smiles Healthy Children Master Clinician Scholarship to attend the 2016 American Dental Education Association/Academy for Academic Leadership Institute for Teaching and Learning.

Mary Anne Melo, DDS, MSc, PhD, assistant professor, Division of Operative Dentistry, Dean Mark A. Reynolds, DDS, PhD, MA, and Hockin Xu, PhD, professor and director, Department of Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering, were among the co-authors of “Do Dental Resin Composites Accumulate More Oral Biofilms and Plaque Than Amalgam and Glass Ionomer Materials?” which was accepted for publication in the journal Materials. Xu also invented “Bone Pastes Comprising Biofunctionalized Calcium Phosphate Cements with Enhanced Cell Functions for Bone Repair,” which received a U.S. patent.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

Mary Anne Melo, DDS, MSc, PhD, assistant professor, Division of Operative Dentistry, Dean Mark A. Reynolds, DDS, PhD, MA, and Hockin Xu, PhD, professor and director, Department of Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering, were among the co-authors of “Do Dental Resin Composites Accumulate More Oral Biofilms and Plaque Than Amalgam and Glass Ionomer Materials?” which was accepted for publication in the journal Materials. Xu also invented “Bone Pastes Comprising Biofunctionalized Calcium Phosphate Cements with Enhanced Cell Functions for Bone Repair,” which received a U.S. patent.

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Leigh Goodman, JD, professor, presented her lecture “Should Domestic Violence Be Decriminalized?” at Vermont Law School.
Get a Running Start: Your Comprehensive Guide to the First Year Curriculum (Chapters 3-8), by David Gray, PhD, JD, MA, professor, Donald Gifford, JD, Jacob A. France Professor of Torts, Mark Graber, PhD, JD, MA, University System of Maryland Regents Professor, Michael Van Alstine, JD, DrJur, MJurComp, Piper & Marbury Professor of Law and co-director of the International and Comparative Law Program, and others, was published by West Academic Publishing.

Michael Greenberger, JD, professor and founding director, Center for Health and Homeland Security, participated in the Securing Global Cities roundtable, organized by The Brookings Institution and JPMorgan Chase & Co., as part of a yearlong project of the Global Cities Initiative that will examine the intersection of globalization and security in today’s cities.

Michelle Harner, JD, professor and director, Business Law Program, participated in the “Claims-Priority Roundtable” at New York University School of Law and the “Chapter 9 Municipal Bankruptcy Roundtable” at the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C.


The 2006 Yale Law Review article “Gender and Constitutional Design,” by Paula Monopoli, JD, Sol & Carlyn Hubert Professor of Law and director, Women, Leadership, & Equality Program, was selected for inclusion in Gender in Constitution Law, a collection of the most influential articles in the field. Monopoli also co-authored the third edition of her casebook, Contemporary Trusts and Estates, and wrote “Gender and the Structural Constitution,” which was published in Maryland Law Review Endnotes. She delivered the keynote speech at the University System of Maryland Women’s Forum Annual Conference.

Robert Percival, JD, Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law and director, Environmental Law Program, gave a talk titled “Annual Supreme Court Review & Preview” at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, D.C. Percival also was elected to the Board of Regents for the American College of Environmental Lawyers. He also presented several talks, including at the annual meeting of the American College of Environmental Lawyers.

Markus Rauschecker, JD, cyber program manager, Center for Health and Homeland Security, hosted a panel discussion at CyberMaryland 2016 on “Developing a Well-Rounded Cyber Workforce: The Need for Law and Policy Expertise.”


The Maryland Charity Campaign supports all kinds of worthy causes: protecting and nurturing children, stabilizing vulnerable families, advancing critical research, safeguarding our natural resources. The UMB Foundation is an option, too. Join with your colleagues and consider a pledge today.
“Electtion 2016 and the Structural Constitution: A Preliminary Framing,” by Max Stearns, JD, Venable, Baetjer & Howard Professor of Law and associate dean for research and faculty development, was published in Maryland Law Review Endnotes.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

Clement Adebamowo, BM, ChB, ScD, FWACS, FACS, professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Institute of Human Virology, and Deanna Kelly, PharmD, BCPP, professor, Department of Psychiatry, received 2016 Research and Innovative Seed Grant awards as part of the MPowering the State initiative with the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). Adebamowo will team with Kathleen Stewart, PhD, MS, of the UMCP College of Behavioral Sciences and Social Sciences on “Geospatial Mapping and Access to Cancer Screening Services in Nigeria, a Low and Middle Income Country.” Kelly and Philip Resnik, PhD, professor of linguistics in UMCP’s College of Arts and Humanities, will research “Development of Computational Modeling to Identify Symptom Changes in Schizophrenia and Depression.”

Michael Bond, MD, associate professor, and Michael Abraham, MD, clinical assistant professor, both from the Department of Emergency Medicine, along with Jason Brown, MD, and Stephen Shaheen, MD, recent graduates of the emergency medicine residency, co-authored “The Orthopedic Literature 2015,” which was published in The American Journal of Emergency Medicine. The authors summarized articles on the topics of acute compartment syndrome, scaphoid and clavicular fractures, ankle injuries, hip fractures in the elderly, and sports medicine.

Joseph Collins, ScD, professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, was among the co-authors on “The Difficulty in Identifying Factors Responsible for Pressure Ulcer Healing in Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury,” which appeared in Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Eduardo Davila, PhD, associate professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and co-leader, University of Maryland Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center Tumor and Immunology and Immunotherapy Program, invented “Total and Phosphorylated Il-1 Receptor-Associated Kinase 1 and IL-1 Receptor Associated Kinase-4 as a Biomarker for Cancer Progression and Chemotherapy Resistance,” which was issued a U.S. patent.

Vasken Dilsizian, MD, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was bestowed as a Master of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology by its board of directors. The Master designation is reserved for distinguished leaders in the field of nuclear cardiology.

Student Sai Sachin Divakaruni received a four-year, $159,428, MD/PhD F30 individual training grant renewal from the National Institute of Mental Health for research training on “Regulation of Drp1-Dependent Mitochondrial Fission During Synaptic Potentiation.”

Warren D’Souza, PhD, MBA, FAAPM, professor and chief, medical physics, Hao Zhang, PhD, assistant professor, and Seth Kligerman, MD, associate professor, all of the Department of Radiation Oncology, are among the inventors of “Methods and Apparatus for Individually Optimizing Uniform Contrast Enhancements in Computed Tomography Imaging,” which received a U.S. patent.

Alan Faden, MD, professor, Bogdan A. Stoica, MD, associate professor, and Boris Sabirzhanov, PhD, research associate, all of the Department of Anesthesiology, are co-inventors on “Use of miR-23a-3p and/or miR-27a-3p Mimics as Therapeutic Agents for Inhibition of Neuronal Apoptosis Following Brain Injury,” which was issued a U.S. patent.

Jeffrey Fink, MD, MS, professor, Department of Medicine, was awarded a two-year, $450,000 grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for the trial “Does a Sick-Day Protocol Improve Outcomes in Chronic Kidney Disease?”

James Galen, PhD, professor, and Jin-Yan Wang, PhD, research specialist, both of the Department of Medicine, are among the co-inventors of “Bacterial Live Vector Vaccines Expressing Chromosomally-Integrated Foreign Antigens,” which was issued a U.S. patent.
Erin Hager, PhD, associate professor, and Maureen Black, PhD, professor, both from the Department of Pediatrics, were coauthors on “Toddler Physical Activity Study: Laboratory and Community Studies To Evaluate Accelerometer Validity and Correlates,” which appeared in BMC Public Health.

Donna Hanes, MD, clinical associate professor, Department of Medicine, was appointed state commissioner on kidney disease for a term of four years by Gov. Larry Hogan.

Linda Horn, PT, DScPT, MHS, GCS, NCS, associate professor and director of academic affairs, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, taught a two-day continuing education course, “Optimizing Functional Mobility in the Older Adult,” for physical and occupational therapists at Rush-Copley Hospital in Aurora, Ill.

Mary Kay Lobo, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, received a two-year, $60,000 Startup Research Grant from the U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation for “Genetics and Physiology Of Ventral Pallidum Microcircuits.” She also received a three-year, $500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for “Focused Electrical Stimulator For Targeted Neuromodulation,” and a three-year, $250,000 IMHRO Janssen Rising Star Translational Research Award for “Stabilizing Neuronal Architecture for Depression Therapeutics.”

Thomas MacVittie, PhD, professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, received an under prime National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases contract worth $2,420,155 from SRI International for “Assess the Efficacy of Filgrastim On: (A) Mitigating Myelosuppression/Mortality Associated With H-ARS When Administered in a Delayed Schedule and (B) Comorbidities and Mortality of Multi-Organ Injury Associated With Concurrent GI-ARS, Prolonged GI Injury and Delayed Effects to Lung And Kidney Characteristic of the DEARE in NHP Exposed To 10 Or 11 Gy.”

Mark Rogers, PT, PhD, FAPTA, professor and chair, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, received a five-year, $750,000 Advanced Rehabilitation Research and Training grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research for “University of Maryland Advanced Neuromotor Rehabilitation Research Training.”

Amit Sawant, PhD, associate professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, has been awarded a National Cancer Institute/National Institutes of Health R01 award worth $2,939,617 for “Investigating Radiation-Induced Injury to Airways and Pulmonary Vasculature in Lung SABR.” Sawant also received a second R01, worth $1,752,497, again from the National Cancer Institute, for “Personalized Motion Management for Truly 4D Lung Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy.”

Horea Rus, MD, PhD, professor, Department of Neurology, presented “Complement C5 Regulates TGF-β and Response Gene to Complement -32 Expression in Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis” at the 2016 International Congress of Immunology, held in Melbourne, Australia.
Charles White, MD, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors on “Radiographic Evaluation of Valvular Heart Disease with Computed Tomography and Magnetic Resonance Correlation,” which appeared in the Journal of Thoracic Imaging.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Linda L. Costa, PhD, BSN ’76, RN, assistant professor, was a co-presenter on “Making Your Research More Robust with Implementation Science” at the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s annual research symposium. Elizabeth Galik, PhD ’07, CRNP, FAANP, associate professor, and Joseph E. Pellegrini, PhD, CRNA, associate professor and director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Nurse Anesthesia specialty, were recently inducted into the American Academy of Nursing’s 2016 class of fellows.

Kathleen McElroy, PhD ’16, MS ’10, BSN ’97, and Ronald Piscotty, PhD, RN-BC, received New Nurse Faculty Fellowship Awards, grants funded through the Nurse Support Program II for FY 2017-19. The $30,000 awards can be used to supplement a fellow’s salary, pay for graduate education expenses, and cover professional development and associated dues.

Eliza Galik, PhD ’07, CRNP, FAANP, associate professor, and Joseph E. Pellegrini, PhD, CRNA, associate professor and director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Nurse Anesthesia specialty, were recently inducted into the American Academy of Nursing’s 2016 class of fellows.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Andrew Coop, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and associate dean for academic affairs, has been named a fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.

Joga Gobburu, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and director, Center for Translational Medicine, received a 28-month, $111,000 grant from the Gates Foundation for “6mo-DMPA Modeling & Simulation Project.”

Jeffrey Gonzales, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received the American College of Clinical Pharmacy’s Critical Care Practice and Research Network Clinical Practitioner Award.

Student Brandon Drennen received a one-year, $26,000 grant from the American Chemical Society for “Dual Inhibition of the Oncoproteins Mcl-1 and Bcl-2 by Rationally Designed Polypharmacology.” He also received a one-year, $10,000 contract from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education for “Towards a New Therapeutic Modality for the Treatment of Alzheimer’s: Interception of Transient Helical States of beta-Amyloid with Small-Molecule Proteomimetics.”

Kristen Rawlett, PhD ’14, FNP-BC, assistant professor, who serves as research interest group co-chair for community and public health/health promotion for the Southern Nursing Research Society, was mentioned in the journal Research in Nursing and Health.
Margaret Hayes, MS, director of student services and outreach, was appointed by Gov. Larry Hogan to a five-year term on the Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners. She also was appointed to a second term on the Board of Directors of St. Agnes Healthcare.

Stephen Hoag, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, $32,000 contract from the Food and Drug Administration for “Professional Service for Manufacturing an In Vitro Component of an Assessment of a Proposed In Vitro Bioequivalence Approach for Evaluating Generic and New Animal Formulations.”

Student Jessica Krummel has received a 2016 EPIC Pharmacies Student Grant.

Student Maryanna Lanning received a one-year, $10,000 contract from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education for “Towards Targeted Antineoplastic: The Disruption of Aberrant Protein-Protein Interactions with Synthetic Alpha-Helix Mimetics.”

Jacqueline Milani, MS, MBA, CPP, director, Pharmaceutical Research Computing Center, received a one-year, $59,612 contract from Ocular Therapeutix for “Device Exposure Registry: A Post-Approval Observational Registry of ReSure Selanet to Track the Incidence of Endophthalmitis after Sealing Corneal Incisions in Patients Undergoing Clear Corneal Cataract Surgery.”

Students An Nguyen and Monica Tong won the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Local Clinical Skills Competition.

Student Elisabeth Oehrlein received a silver medal from the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy for her abstract “The Accelerator or the Brake for Real-World Evidence?”

Paul Shapiro, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, $440,160 grant from the National Institutes of Health for “Evaluation of Novel Substrate Specific Inhibitors of ERK1/2 in the Treatment of Asthma.”

Fadia Shaya, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a two-year, $99,998 contract from Maryland Industrial Partnerships for “HepaChipTM Liver-on-a-Chip for Drug Hepatotoxicity.”

Paul Shapiro, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, $440,160 grant from the National Institutes of Health for “Evaluation of Novel Substrate Specific Inhibitors of ERK1/2 in the Treatment of Asthma.”

Jana Shen, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and co-director, Computer-Aided Drug Design Center, received a nine-month, $62,934 subcontract from Arizona State University for “Molecular Mechanisms of Secondary Active Transporters.”

Peter Swaan, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and associate dean of research and graduate education, received a five-year, $1,749,829 grant from the National Institutes of Health for “Structural Biology of the Apical Bile Acid Transporter.”

Sarah Tom, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a two-year, $598,438 grant from the National Institute on Aging for “Early Life Environment and Late Life Dementia, Cognition, Neuropathology and Reserve” and a one-year, $223,216 grant from Novartis for “Value and Access to New Drug Products in the Part D Market.”

Hongbing Wang, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, $99,998 contract from Maryland Industrial Partnerships for “HepaChipTM Liver-on-a-Chip for Drug Hepatotoxicity.”
Haksoon Ahn, PhD, associate professor, received the 2016 Outstanding Middle Career Faculty Achievement Award from the Korean American Social Work Educators Association at the Council on Social Work Education annual program in Atlanta. Ahn emerged from a nationwide selection process in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments as a middle career faculty member among Korean American social work educators.

Since 2011, the Baltimore City Health Department has worked with Nadine Finigan-Carr, PhD, research assistant professor, to address the sexual reproductive health needs of youth in and out of home care in Baltimore City. The PREP program has been awarded $85,000 to continue this evaluation work in FY17. The additional funding will allow the program, renamed U Choose/PREP, to expand the prevention intervention to Baltimore County and the adult training statewide.

Donna Harrington, PhD, professor, and student Kyeongmo Kim, MSW, received the Best Quantitative Article Award from the Journal of Social Work Education. Their article discusses the results of a national survey of social work PhD students, faculty, and administrators to inform the updating of Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education’s 2003 Guidelines for Quality in Social Work Doctoral Programs.

Michael Reisch, PhD, MSW, MA, Daniel Thursz Distinguished Professor of Social Justice, has been named a fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.

Gene Severance has been promoted from executive director of finance to associate dean for administration.
Implementation of UMB’s 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, titled “Pursuing Excellence: Maximizing Impact,” is thoroughly underway. Co-chairs Roger Ward, EdD, JD, MPA, chief accountability officer and vice president, and Claire Fraser, PhD, director of the Institute for Genome Sciences and professor in the School of Medicine, led a six-month inclusive process with input from leaders of each of the schools and central departments, as well as the University community.

It resulted in a strategic plan to guide the University’s actions for the next five years and beyond. UMB will focus on six themes in the implementation phase:

• Health, Justice, and Social Impact
• Research and Scholarship
• Student Success
• Inclusive Excellence
• Partnership and Collaboration
• Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Assessment

Each theme has a number of strategic outcomes, which help direct the development of goals and activities to achieve these objectives. (The full list is available here.)

For example, under Partnership and Collaboration, a proposed strategic outcome is to foster a “strategic partnership with the University of Maryland, College Park that can be viewed as a regional and national model of collaboration between distinct institutions with complementary missions.” This outcome may resonate with several UMB schools and departments, and provide opportunities for developing relevant, achievable strategies to “pursue excellence and maximize impact” across the University community and with our stakeholders.

Furthermore, it provides opportunities and possibilities for each school and department to develop goals in pursuit of achieving this priority.

Each school dean and central department vice president is charged with developing and/or aligning his or her plan with the strategic outcomes identified under each theme, in many cases with input from those in the school or department, and other stakeholders. What will result is a set of SMART goals that inform the University community on the priorities each school or department will undertake to advance or accomplish each theme’s aims. SMART goals are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and provide a time frame to see results.

This process of aligning goals will conclude in winter 2017, at which time the University community will again be informed on the collective strategy to achieve our common mission. This document will serve as the template as the University strives to achieve its strategic objectives and outcomes.

Some operational elements still need to evolve during the implementation phase of the plan. Creating effective tools and processes to help establish the strategic plan as a foundational document that guides our actions, and ensures that this plan is successful, require collaboration and coordination. For example, planning needs include identifying funding mechanisms for some priorities that may need support outside of school or department budgets to maximize impact, and developing knowledge transfer systems to share best practices and institutional data across the University to direct decision-making and inform new initiatives in a timely manner.

As part of the implementation process, the University is building capacities to pursue ways to improve outcomes and learn from our collective experiences to realize the impact envisioned for the future. We look forward to bringing you updates on the plan’s implementation, and eventually sharing its successes and accomplishments. Your thoughts and comments about the process are welcomed.
CURE Corner is an occasional feature with noteworthy updates from UMB’s CURE Scholars Program, a pipeline initiative that prepares West Baltimore children for health and research careers through hands-on workshops, lab experiences, and mentorship. UMB’s CURE scholars are the youngest ever to participate in the National Cancer Institute’s Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) national program.

The UMB CURE scholars had a busy opening to the 2016-2017 year with packed after-school and Saturday CURE sessions.

To kick off the year, UMB CURE scholars and mentors participated in the Heart Walk at Camden Yards to benefit the American Heart Association on Saturday, Oct. 8. The scholars raised over $250 to support research, education, and advocacy efforts regarding cardiovascular health, and they got some exercise walking around the ballpark!

For two additional Saturday sessions in October, the UMB CURE Scholars Program partnered with Art with a Heart, a Baltimore-based organization that develops creative initiatives for those living in the city’s most vulnerable communities. Sixth-grade UMB CURE scholars learned about the solar system and constructed their own papier-mâché planets, wonderfully complementing the scholars’ Earth and Space Science curriculum in Baltimore City Public Schools.

Other Saturday activities included a planetarium presentation at the UMB URecFit Pratt Gym, an interactive presentation by Mad Science of DC at the UMB STEM Fair, and five scholars attended the UMB Founders Week Gala.

In addition to these events, the scholars also have had the privilege of engaging in several academically enriching activities with students at the School of Pharmacy, including math support during “A Bridge to Academic Excellence,” dietary awareness at a Healthy Halloween Event on Oct. 28, and an upcoming workshop on infectious diseases the pharmacy students developed.

During the after-school sessions, UMB CURE scholars have been working on a variety of STEM projects, including potato clock and homemade lava lamp experiments as well as a nutrition unit facilitated by Healthiest Maryland Schools. A highlight of the seventh-grade curriculum has been the Scratch by MIT unit, encouraging scholars to develop their own animation through learning basic computer programming skills. A highlight of the sixth-grade curriculum has been a financial literacy unit facilitated by M&T Bank, teaching scholars the basics of budgeting and tracking their spending over the course of a month.

Looking forward to the rest of the semester, sixth-grade scholars will complete snowflake formation and egg drop experiments. Seventh-grade scholars will be participating in an Introduction to Anatomy unit to parallel their Life Sciences curriculum in Baltimore City Public Schools. Both cohorts of scholars will begin their Science Olympiad projects in early December.

To stay up-to-date on the UMB CURE scholars’ activities, follow UMB CURE on Twitter and Facebook. Want to know how you can be involved? Visit the UMB CURE Scholars Program website.

— Emily Rencsok
This time of year we often get caught up in the haste of the holidays, which sometimes causes us to overlook telltale signs of danger.

For instance, there is no reason to give potential thieves a heads-up that your house or car is filled with gifts. So close those curtains or use the trunk after shopping. Beware of announcing activities on social networking sites such as Twitter or Facebook.

“You can’t be too safe during the holidays,” says Cpl. J.R. Jones, safety awareness officer in the UMB Department of Public Safety. “Having safety routines in place can allow you to fully embrace the spirit of the season.”

Consider the following safety tips:

**AT WORK**

- Be aware of any suspicious activity, including strangers entering the workplace.
- Keep all purses and valuables out of sight and locked away.
- If you notice anything out of the ordinary, notify your security team.
- Sign up for UMB Alerts, the system used by the University Emergency Management Team to notify the campus community about emergencies and weather-related closings.
- Know alternative routes home if the main thoroughfare is blocked.

**WHEN TRAVELING, SHOPPING, OR IN A CROWDED SETTING**

- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Scan the people around you. Thieves avoid people who they perceive as too alert.
- If you have a bad feeling about your surroundings, move to an area that is crowded with others.
- Thieves try to target people they view as vulnerable: the elderly, women, or women and children. To avoid being targeted, think about what attracts criminals: flashy jewelry, a large purse stuffed with goodies, smart phones, shopping bags, etc.
- If you must use an ATM, use one located inside in a safe spot and don’t carry large sums of cash.
- If you are being followed, go to a populated public place and call 911.
- Before leaving the mall or airport, prepare yourself: make sure your keys are in your hand and your cell phone is put away. Walk with purpose to your car, aware of your surroundings. Don’t be distracted.
- Do not overload yourself with packages or luggage. It is difficult to defend yourself or see a pothole if your arms are full and packages obstruct your view.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Park in well-lit areas and avoid parking next to large trucks and cars with tinted windows that can provide cover for thieves.

**AT HOME**

- Train the kids to only open the door to family or friends who know the “password” and never open the door to strangers.
- Make sure you always lock your doors and windows.
- Look around before you open your door or garage. Thieves have been known to follow people in as they enter their house.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on automatic timers.
- Be sure your Christmas tree is mounted on a sturdy base.
- Never place wrapping paper in your fireplace.
- Beware of strangers at your door. Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts.

“In truth, we should use the same safety standards throughout the year,” Jones says. “But it never hurts to be a bit more cautious during the busy holiday season.”

— Dana Rampolla