With yesterday’s kickoff of the 2017 General Assembly session, I thought it fitting to update you on the extraordinary progress we’re making as part of MPowering the State: University of Maryland Strategic Partnership. As you’ll recall, a key piece of legislation passed during last year’s session was SB 1052, which sought to formalize and strengthen MPower, the years-old alliance between UMB and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). The bill was intended to grow the two institutions’ collaboration in education, research, and service and to amplify our economic impact in Maryland.

While the law took effect only three months ago, the work wouldn’t wait. After all, we have several programs, centers, and institutes already operating under the aegis of our partnership and many more projects to come. In fact, UMCP President Wallace D. Loh, PhD, JD, and I have invited the deans of both universities to a retreat later this month to discuss what’s next for MPower. We’ve asked them to talk with their colleagues in Baltimore and College Park about “big ideas” that would be difficult (or impossible) to achieve without the other university taking part. We’ve asked them to consider projects ripe for significant outside support and those built to be self-sufficient.

This isn’t the first time we’ve undertaken the exercise. The deans were last convened in fall 2014, and the ideas put forth have since grown into important projects joining the two universities’ expertise and assets. The idea to collaborate in sports medicine and injury recovery became the Center for Sports Medicine, Health and Human Performance, launched last July. One of its first orders of business, unveiled in December, is a cross-university seed grant program to support major grant submissions in the center’s initial areas of focus: central nervous system injury and neuroscience.

The idea to combat human trafficking — sadly prevalent in the Washington, D.C., suburbs — became the SAFE Center for Human Trafficking Survivors, one of few university-based programs in the U.S. to combine comprehensive services for victims of human trafficking with research and advocacy aimed at ending it. Since it opened last May, the SAFE Center has become a critical resource for local and national anti-trafficking organizations. It’s taken a leadership role in developing a Prince George’s County-wide protocol for responding to human trafficking emergencies, and a new state grant of nearly $400,000 will help the center provide direct legal and social services to trafficking survivors.

SB 1052 calls specifically for two new collaborative centers to be established, each with a focus on growing in-state science and technology innovation and with directors appointed jointly by President Loh and me. The University of Maryland Center for Economic and Entrepreneurship Development will reside at UMCP and advance education and research in neuroscience, virtual and augmented reality, biomedical devices, data analytics, and cybersecurity. Meanwhile, the UMB-located Center for Maryland Advanced Ventures (CMAV) will be integrated with our joint tech-transfer operation, UM Ventures, to promote the commercialization of university discoveries.

As part of CMAV, we’re planning an innovation center to support startups spun out of University System of Maryland (USM) institutions. The center will coordinate and expand the services and resources available to USM’s faculty and student entrepreneurs — resources like a small business development center, a USM-sponsored early-stage investment fund, the Carey School of Law’s intellectual property clinic, and a program to promote industry-backed research. To stimulate job creation and economic growth in Baltimore, the innovation center will provide grants and investments to USM-affiliated companies that locate in the city.

MPower strengthens UMB’s partnership with UMCP even outside the framework of the formal alliance. For instance, the two universities are jointly part of a nationwide public-private consortium formed last month to revolutionize U.S. biopharmaceutical manufacturing. With an expected investment of $250 million, the consortium will train workers in the full supply chain of biopharma manufacturing, grow U.S. production, and more quickly bring safe drugs to market. The Institute for Bioscience and Biotechnology Research, an MPower center formed with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, is a regional leader in biomanufacturing research. The institute will serve as a key resource for the consortium’s cross-university investigative team led by Stephen Hoag, PhD, professor of pharmaceutical sciences in the School of Pharmacy at UMB, and William Bentley, PhD, MEng, Robert E. Fischell Distinguished Chair of Engineering at UMCP.

MPower is designed to take advantage of complementary capabilities in research and administration, so SB 1052 stipulates that UMB and UMCP seek operational alignment where it can produce meaningful benefits. Task forces are examining such alignment in areas like procurement, HR, finance, IT, and travel, and in research infrastructure and reporting. At the deans’ retreat later this month,
Continued from previous page

we’ll discuss guidelines for joint faculty appointments, opportunities for collaboration with the local governments of Baltimore, College Park, and Prince George’s County, and alignment of undergraduate and graduate academic programs.

The academic piece is critical, because MPower was always intended not only to strengthen UMB’s and UMCP’s collaborative impact on Maryland but to innovate how we train the students who will lead the state going forward. Now in its third year and enrolling 320 students, MLaw Programs are seeing significant year-over-year growth. Taught by UMB’s law faculty and UMCP’s social sciences faculty, MLaw prepares UMCP undergraduates for careers in law-related fields and for pursuing social change within a constitutional democracy. (In fact, MLaw now provides the SAFE Center a significant base of interns working to shape more effective human trafficking policy.) MLaw also strengthens the UMCP-to-Carey School of Law pipeline: With 75 College Park graduates now among the law school’s first-year class, UMCP is Carey Law’s No. 1 feeder school.

The Master of Science in Law (MSL), meanwhile, doubled its enrollment in year 2. The part-time program — taught in College Park and online by our law school faculty — is for working professionals who need training in the legal and regulatory aspects of health care, the environment, intellectual property, cybersecurity, and crisis management. With 85 students, the program already has exceeded enrollment expectations, and a new relationship with the U.S. government, wherein federal employees and their spouses are offered MSL tuition support, positions the program for considerable growth.

Enrichment opportunities are growing as well. The UM Scholars Program began in 2012 as a way for a handful of STEM-focused UMCP undergrads to spend a summer engaged in research with top medical school faculty at UMB. But two important expansions happened last year: 1) UM Scholars was opened up to UMCP students looking for research placements with our nursing faculty, and 2) the program became bi-directional, with UMCP students in medicine, law, and social work traveling to College Park for research opportunities in bioengineering and behavioral and social sciences. UM Scholars slots are highly competitive, and the students who fill them are exceptionally motivated. They’re also true believers in the whole point of MPower — that there are significant and systemic problems of health and justice that will be solved only by our earnest collaboration.

This spring, we’ll showcase these projects and many more during MPower Day in Annapolis. We’ll visit the capital with our UMCP colleagues to thank lawmakers for their support of our alliance and to show them its impact on the people and vibrancy of this state. Together, we’re moving ever-forward to place Maryland at the vanguard of innovation that advances human health and well-being and creates an economy that works for all. For more information on MPower’s signature achievements, visit MPowering the State.

Sincerely,

Jay A. Perman, MD
President
UNIVERSITYWIDE

Patricia Fanning, senior media relations specialist, Communications and Public Affairs, was named UMB Employee of the Month for November because “when you do something, you’re all in.” For instance, last summer she placed a highly successful series of stories on the Renaissance Academy, one of UMB’s Promise Heights schools.

Yvette Gregory, MS, federal work-study coordinator, and Breyann Williams, financial aid counselor, both of University Student Financial Assistance and Enrollment Services, served as presenters at the Delaware-DC-Maryland Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators Annual Neophyte Training Conference in Ocean City, Md.

The Kindness Initiative “stuff them with love” event, led by Rabbi Ariel Fishman, director of JHeritage, Michelle Pearce, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, School of Medicine, and the Campus Life/Wellness Hub team, drew attendees from all over the University who made hundreds of teddy bears and cards for the sick children of our city who are recovering in local hospitals, including University of Maryland Medical Center. The Kindness Initiative is a partnership program between UMB and JHeritage designed to promote a culture of compassion and kindness.

Patricia Scott, assistant vice president, University Student Financial Assistance and Enrollment Services, was selected by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators to serve on the Graduate/Professional Loan Limit Task Force.

Tisa Silver Canady, MBA, director of the Graduate/Professional Loan Limit Task Force.

UMB was honored with the Mayor's Business Recognition Award for its leadership with the Project SEARCH High School Transition program, an education and internship-to-work program for young adults with significant developmental disabilities. Of the more than 60 students who have participated in Project SEARCH at UMB, 20 have been hired by the University for jobs in Facilities Management, Parking and Transportation Services, the School of Medicine, and more. Dr. Perman and leaders of 10 other Baltimore institutions accepted the Mayor's Business Recognition Award, which is given annually to companies and institutions that have demonstrated outstanding community service and, through their contributions, have significantly improved our city.
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Mark Shirtliff, PhD, associate professor, Department of Microbial Pathogenesis, is a co-inventor of “In Vivo Biofilm Infection Diagnosis and Treatment,” which recently received a Canadian patent. The invention comprises methods of determination of location of infection and prevention, by a quad-valent vaccine, of MRSA biofilms in humans.

David Chen, DMD ’14, and Leah Romay, DDS ’16, residents in the Department of Prosthodontics, received one-year, $6,000 research fellowship grants from the American College of Prosthodontics Education Foundation to study Computer-Aided Design and Computer-Aided Manufacturing technology.

Norbert Myslinski, PhD, associate professor, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, was named 2016 Science Educator of the Year by the Society for Neuroscience at its annual conference in San Diego.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

Taunya Banks, JD, Jacob A. France Professor of Equality Jurisprudence, presented “Civil Trials: A Film Illusion,” at a symposium on The Disappearing Civil Trial at Fordham Law School in New York. She also presented a paper, “Public Toilets: An Essential Public Service,” at the University of Nevada and was elected to the Board of Trustees of Center Stage.


“Empowering Law Students in a Time of Trouble,” by Karen Czapanskiy, JD, professor, was published in Concurring Opinions.

Robert Percival, JD, Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law and director, Environmental Law Program, was appointed executive director of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law. Percival also gave a talk, “The Future of Environmental Enforcement,” at the program on The Future of Environmental Law at the U.S. Department of Justice and presented “Environmental Law in China and Climate Change,” at the Environmental Science and Policy Program at the University of Maryland, College Park.
Markus Rauschecker, JD, cybersecurity program manager, Center for Health and Homeland Security, wrote a column “China’s New Cybersecurity Law is a Call to Action for Congress,” which was published in JURIST.

A review of *The Drama of DNA*, co-authored by Karen Rothenberg, JD, MPA, Marjorie Cook Professor of Law, was published in *The American Journal of Bioethics*.

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

The following is a select list. For all the SOM laurels, visit [www.somnews.umaryland.edu](http://www.somnews.umaryland.edu).

The departments of Physiology, Anatomy and Neurobiology, Pharmacology, and the Program in Neuroscience honored professor emeritus Bradley E. Alger, PhD, from the Department of Physiology, with the inaugural Bradley E. Alger Lectureship in Neuroscience for his role as an outstanding teacher and mentor.

Lindsay Black, PhD, professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, received a four-year, $304,150 R01 grant for “Mechanism of Bacteriophage DNA Packaging Initiation and DNA Translocation.”

Cara Felter, PT, DPT, MPH, assistant professor, Sandy McCombe Waller, PT, PhD, NCS, associate professor, and Kelly Westlake, PhD, assistant professor, all from the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, are directing an after-school program at George Washington Elementary where Doctor of Physical Therapy students are working with the children to build awareness of health and wellness through exercise.

Matthew Laurens, MD, MPH, associate professor, Department of Pediatrics, Center for Vaccine Development, received a two-year, $1,824,578 grant from the National Institutes of Health Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Units for “Safety, Tolerability, Immunogenicity And Protective Efficacy Against Naturally-Transmitted Malaria of Infectious, Cryopreserved Plasmodium Falciparum Sporozoites (Pfspz Challenge) Administered by Direct Venous Inoculation Under Chloroquine Chemoprophylaxis (Pfspz-Cvac).”

W. Jonathan Lederer, MD, PhD, professor, Department of Physiology, and director, Center for Biomedical Engineering and Technology, has been appointed as an honorary member of the Physiological Society. Honorary members of this international society include multiple Nobel Prize winners.

Myron Levine, MD, DTPH, the Simon and Bessie Grollman Distinguished Professor of Medicine and associate dean for Global Health, Vaccinology and Infectious Diseases, has been named the recipient of the prestigious 2017 Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement, given by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. The award honors scientists who have made outstanding contributions to the understanding of infectious diseases and public health.

Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH, professor, Department of Medicine, and director, Center for Vaccine Development, received a $3,221,926 grant from the National Institutes of Health Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Units (VTEU) for “VTEU Protocol Development, Implementation and Assays Task Area B-D Task Order 15-0066.BICID1.0041.”

Jianfei Qi, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center, received a $1.7 million R01 from the National Cancer Institute for “Role of Histone Demethylase JMJD1A in the DNA Damage Response of Prostate Cancer Cells.”

Gloria Reeves, MD, associate professor, Department of Psychiatry, is principal investigator on a four-year, $2,372,859 R01 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health supporting “A Community-Based, Family Navigator Intervention to Improve Cardiometabolic Health of Medicaid-Insured Youth Identified Through an Antipsychotic Medication Preauthorization Program.”

Student Sarah Russell, working in the lab of Martin Schneider, PhD, professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, received a Poster Presentation Award at the third Cancer Cachexia Conference in Washington, D.C.

Joseph Scalea, MD, assistant professor, Department of Surgery, is 2016’s recipient of the American Surgical Association’s Foundation Fellowship Research Award. This prestigious award is given to only one or two top surgeons per year nationwide, and recognizes talented surgeons who are less than five years out of training. Scalea is the first to receive this award while on staff at UMSOM.
Thomas Scalea, MD, the Francis X. Kelly Professor in Trauma Surgery, Department of Surgery, and director, Program in Trauma, has been appointed executive director of the Panamerican Trauma Society for 2016-2019.

Nicholas Stamatos, MD, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, Institute of Human Virology (IHV), was lead author on “Class 3 Semaphorins Induce F-Actin Reorganization in Human Dendritic Cells: Role in Cell Migration,” which was published in the Journal of Leukocyte Biology. Co-authors included Sabrina Curreli, PhD, research associate, and Olga Latinovic, PhD, assistant professor.

Student Christina Perry Tise, PhD, received a Graduate Program in Life Sciences (GPILS) award for her PhD thesis and Sania Amr, MD, professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, received a GPILS Teacher of the Year Award.

Ronald Wade, director, Anatomical Services, received a College of Health Professions 2016 Community Award from Sacred Heart University in Connecticut in recognition of his contributions to the College of Health Professions there.

The school’s Community and Public Health master’s specialty, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, received two American Association of Colleges of Nursing awards for its forward-thinking initiatives: the Innovation in Professional Nursing Education Award in the Academic Health Center category and the Innovations in Baccalaureate Population Health Award. This is the second time the school has received the Innovation in Professional Nursing Education Award in the Academic Health Center category, and it is the only school to have received the award more than once.

Erika Friedmann, PhD, professor and associate dean of research, and Barbara Resnick, PhD '96, RN, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP, professor and Sonia Ziporkin Gershowitz Chair in Gerontology, were recently awarded a three-year, $340,000 grant from WALTHAM and Mars Petcare to examine the role of pet ownership in maintaining both physical and mental function in healthy older adults.

Hazel Jones-Parker, DNP ‘12, CRNP, AACRN, affiliate assistant professor, presented “Addressing the HIC Care Provider Shortage Through the Development of a Nurse-Led Interprofessional Education Collaborative Among Nursing, Pharmacy, Medical, and Social Work Students” at the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care Conference in Atlanta. At the same conference, Marik Moen, MPH, MSN, RN, assistant professor, presented “Wherever You Go: New Efforts in Intensive Re-engagement for Hospitalized Persons Living with HIV,” and Veronica Njie-Carr, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, assistant professor, presented “Enhancing Nurse Leadership Capacity in Resource-Limited Countries.”
Nina Trocky, DNP, RN, NE-BC, CNE, assistant professor and associate dean for the baccalaureate program, has been elected to the 2017 Governing Board of the Southern Regional Education Board Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing. The governing board informs its member states of legislation at the state and federal levels that may affect nursing education.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

The school’s Office of Communications and Marketing, under the leadership of assistant dean Rebecca Ceraul, received an Award of Excellence in the Reputation/Brand Management category at the Public Relations Society of America-Maryland Chapter’s 2016 Best in Maryland Gala.

Andrew Coop, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and associate dean for academic affairs, received an eight-month, $92,405 grant from the University of Michigan and an eight-month, $88,943 grant from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, both for “Preclinical Identification of Better Antimuscarinic Antidepressants.”

Jeffrey Gonzales, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and resident Anne Masich, PharmD, received a one-year, $4,725 grant from the American College of Clinical Pharmacy for “Vancomycin Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics in Obese Patients with Sepsis.”

Student Anna Hung, PharmD, received a one-year, $58,517 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for “Budget Impact of Antidiabetic Formulary Changes.”

Vijay Ivaturi, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a one-year, $21,300 grant from Thomas Jefferson University for “A Comparison of Buprenorphine Versus Morphine in the Treatment of Neonatal Ab.”

Lisa Jones, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a five-year, $965,818 grant from the National Science Foundation for “CAREER: Development of an In Cell Footprinting Method for the Analysis of Protein Structure” and a one-year, $9,741 grant from Indiana University for “Mechanism of Transcription Regulations by the Mediator.”

Postdoctoral fellow Joseph Levy received a two-year, $105,619 fellowship from Merck.
Alexander MacKerell, PhD, the Grollman/Glick Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, $60,319 contract from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine for “LRRK2 Dimerization and Therapeutic Evaluation.”

C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a two-year, $1,023,719 contract from Westat for “Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Scientific and Lay Training” and a two-year, $210,691 fellowship from Merck.

Amanda Oglesby-Sherrouse, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a five-year, $2.1 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for “Role of PrrF and PrrH Regulation in Pseudomonas aeruginosa Pathogenesis.”

Eleanor Perfetto, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received an eight-month, $235,000 grant from Optum Labs for collaborative research.

Student Melissa Ross won second place in the Maryland Public Health Association’s Dr. Donald O. Fedder Student Poster Competition.

Sarah Tom, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a two-year, $598,438 grant from the National Institutes on Aging for “Early Life Environment and Late Life Dementia, Cognition, Neuropathology, and Reserve.”

Patrick Wintrode, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a four-year, $215,600 grant from Vanderbilt University Medical Center for “Mechanisms of Glycosaminoglycan Catalyzed Protease Inactivation by Serpins.”

Melissa Bellin, PhD, associate professor, and interdisciplinary colleagues wrote articles based on findings from an ongoing National Institute of Health-National Institute of Nursing Research randomized clinical trial for children with high-risk asthma that were published in the Annals of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology and the Journal of Asthma.

Christine Callahan, PhD, research assistant professor with the Financial Social Work Initiative, gave a talk on “Clients Struggling with Mental Health/Trauma Histories” at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Financial Coaching Conference in Louisville, Ky.

Corey Shdaimah, PhD, associate professor, served as a special editor for an edition of Studies in Law, Politics, and Society.
President Jay A. Perman, MD, invites you to celebrate UMB’s partnership with the University of Maryland Medical Center and University of Maryland Medical System at a casual lunch.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18
Noon to 2 p.m.

Westminster Hall | 519 W. Fayette St.

Space is limited, so please RSVP by Jan. 13
umaryland.edu/UMBspirit
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 Program wrapped up the fall semester with a Winter Wonderland Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 10. The day was full of guest speakers, parent workshops, awards, and holiday stores for the scholars.

Scholars began the day at the University of Maryland (UM) BioPark and the UMB Community Engagement Center to use merits they earned for good behavior to purchase gifts for their families and other scholars. Parents attended a parent workshop facilitated by the Community Engagement Center staff at the same time.

The scholars then participated in an awards ceremony through the UM School of Pharmacy student organization A Bridge to Academic Excellence (ABAE). ABAE treated the UMB CURE scholars to raffle prizes, awards for all of the scholars, and lunch.

The afternoon was full of special guest speakers and awards given from the UMB CURE Scholars Program. UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, welcomed the scholars and their families and congratulated the scholars on an awesome first semester. Alison Lin, PhD, a program director for the Diversity Training Branch of the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities of the National Cancer Institute, emphasized to the CURE scholars that they can be anything they want to be and that they are all on the track to being scientists. The scholars were then treated to a presentation by Renetta Tull, PhD, associate vice provost for graduate student development at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and a global speaker for STEM equity, diversity, and inclusion.

The UMB CURE leadership team (with the help of the Baltimore Orioles mascot) presented awards to the UMB CURE community, including Scholar of the Month, Mentor of the Month, and Scholar Perfect Attendance awards. The Baltimore City Council provided individual resolution certificates to each sixth-grade scholar, recognizing their achievements and acceptance into the program. In addition, 22 sixth-grade scholars became fully admitted to the program, having been enrolled for at least one semester without receiving any demerits for poor behavior and having no more than one unexcused absence. UMB CURE now has 55 fully admitted scholars.

The final presentation featured 59 scholars receiving Math Awards for completing math problems during Saturday tutoring throughout the semester. A special shoutout goes to Mariah Beatty, a sixth-grade scholar at Green Street Academy, for completing more than 1,700 math problems since Oct. 15 and being the UMB CURE Mathlete MVP for the fall semester.

After a wonderful fall semester, the UMB CURE community is looking forward to the Science Olympiad projects that the scholars will begin in January. Stay tuned to hear about the accomplishments of the UMB CURE scholars during the Science Olympiad competition being held on Saturday, March 4.

— Emily Rencsok
MOORE TO BRIDGE ACCOUNTABILITY GAP

At 38, Wes Moore has accomplished a lot — Army officer, Rhodes Scholar, youth advocate, Johns Hopkins graduate, radio and TV producer/host, and CEO of BridgeEdU, a national initiative focusing on addressing the college completion and career placement crisis.

But to truly appreciate Moore, who will discuss accountability in the next UMB Core Values Speaker Series presentation on Feb. 14, one must read the first of his two New York Times best-selling books, The Other Wes Moore.

The best-seller, from which italicized excerpts appear below, details how two kids with the same name grew up fatherless in similar neighborhoods but met different fates … one as a White House fellow; the other in prison for murder.

As Moore says, “The chilling truth is that his story could have been mine. The tragedy is that my story could have been his.”

When I heard my mother coming up the stairs, I braced myself. She walked into my room, tired from her long day at work, disappointed by the conversation she’d just had with my dean, and furious after seeing her youngest child with a split lip that her only son had given her. … Welcome to military school.

UMB’s fifth core values speaker, who used “I” and “Wes” in his book to illustrate which Moore he was chronicling, overcame early academic and behavioral struggles to graduate from Valley Forge Military College in 1998, and Hopkins in 2001. There he founded an organization called STAND! that works with Baltimore youth involved in the criminal justice system.

The more Wes tried to be like his brother, the more his brother rejected him. Tony had tried to keep Wes in school and away from drugs for as long as Wes could remember. But Tony was still deep in the game himself.

More recently, Moore is the founder and CEO of BridgeEdU, which eases the transition from high school to college for students. Not an alternative to college or a traditional “gap year,” BridgeEdU is a new on-ramp to success, providing students with a personalized, affordable program for a semester or a year. Its students gain invaluable skills in and out of the classroom and earn transferable college credits.

Mayor Schmoke leaned back, rubbing both hands over his thinning hair, and asked how I had enjoyed my internship. Later he asked, “Have you ever heard of the Rhodes Scholarship?”

Moore was the first African-American Rhodes Scholar in Hopkins’ history, studying international relations at Oxford University. After his studies, Moore served as a paratrooper and captain in the U.S. Army during a tour of duty in Afghanistan. He then served as a White House fellow to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

A popular public speaker who was featured at UMB’s 2014 commencement, Moore resides in Baltimore with his wife and two children. He is also the host of “Future City” on WYPR Radio, “Beyond Belief” on the Oprah Winfrey Network, and is executive producer and host of PBS’ “Coming Back with Wes Moore,” which follows veterans as they reintegrate back into society.

As Wes heard the foreman begin, he closed his eyes and leaned his head back. “On the charge of first-degree felony murder, the jury finds the defendant … guilty.”

As a writer and speaker, Moore shares the illuminating lessons he learned on his journeys. In The Work, his second New York Times best-selling book, he writes about an Afghan translator who taught him to pursue his goals, the resilient students of post-Katrina-ravaged Mississippi who showed courage in the face of adversity, and his late grandfather, who taught that service can save.

Please plan to attend Moore’s accountability lecture on Feb. 14 at 8:30 a.m. at Westminster Hall. He follows such noted UMB Core Values speakers as Ronald Shapiro (civility), Norman Augustine (leadership), Carrie Hessler-Radelet (collaboration), and William Kirwan (knowledge).

Learn more about the UMB Core Values Speaker Series.

— Chris Zang
TOWERING TRIUMPH

Prevailing in the 2016 Snap! UMB Photo Contest was like clockwork to Larry Nohe, an information system engineer in the School of Nursing. His riveting black-and-white portrait from within the Bromo-Seltzer Tower, titled “The Inner Workings,” was judged the best of nearly 300 entries submitted by University faculty, staff, and students, and BioPark and Medical Center employees.

“I was stunned,” Nohe, a UMB employee for 10½ years, says of his victory. “I had stopped at the Campus Center to see the pictures [which are displayed in the Fireplace Lounge] and I remember thinking, ‘Wow, there are a lot of nice photos here.’ Then I ran into Steve.”

Steve Bossom, MFA, web developer in the Office of Communications and Public Affairs and coordinator of the Snap! Contest, had just finished hanging the first- through third-place entries. Introducing himself to Nohe, Bossom led him to his photo and the first-place sign.

Nohe passes the Bromo-Seltzer Tower each workday on the way to the bus stop, which got the clock ticking on “The Inner Workings.” “I heard they were now open weekends for tours so I made special arrangements with them for a Tuesday afternoon. It’s a very small area,” he says with a laugh, “so you can only take so many shots. I was maybe there a half-hour or so.”

The winning photo, which he took with a Canon Rebel using a wide-angle lens, didn’t overwhelm Nohe, whose photography hobby started with lighthouses over 15 years ago. “I like my third-place Peabody Library shot better,” he says of a color print of the Peabody’s six majestic balconies, which he titled “17 E. Mount Vernon Place.”

All the photos in the contest were not local. Young soo Kim, a third-year student in the law school, submitted dozens of pictures he took from as far away as Istanbul, Mexico, and Chile. “I travel during breaks,” he says via email. “Right now I’m in Quito, Ecuador, part of a monthlong South America trip.”

Two of his Snap! entries won second-place honors. He took “Aftermath” on his way to Cairo Museum. “I felt like the street on the picture well-represented what Egypt was going through — economic hardship and social changes.”

“Jamaica Station,” which he took in New York City with his Panasonic Lumix GX1 camera, shows his affection for “taking pictures of public transportation like buses, trams, and trains.” (See all the winning photos at www.umaryland.edu/snap.)

The third annual Snap! UMB Photo Contest, part of the University’s Council for the Arts & Culture, was judged by council honorary chair Yumi Hogan, first lady of Maryland;

Fletcher Mackey, a faculty member at the Maryland Institute College of Art; Calla Thompson, an associate professor in photography at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; and Tom Jemski, a photographer, videographer, and instructional support specialist at the School of Medicine.

“We are most grateful for the help of all our judges,” says Bossom. “And we are thrilled with the growth in the contest’s popularity. We went from 110 entries last year to 291 this year. Obviously we have struck a chord with our University community. I thank everyone involved for their support.”

Nohe, who won a $25 gift certificate redeemable for store credit at the UMB Seven Scholars Store, thinks the contest “is a great idea. It brings people from all across the campus together, those with common interests. I found out just looking at this that there are other people in the School of Nursing who have an interest in photography. Tara Byrd [assistant director of scholarships and grants in SON] won last year and I had no idea of her interest in photography until she won. The contest is great.”

— Chris Zang
Crime at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) was down 10 percent in 2016. And with even greater decreases in violent crimes such as aggravated assault and robbery, the UMB Police Force released the 2016 statistics with much pride, and maybe a tiny bit of surprise.

“Quite frankly, 2015 was a banner year for us, incident-wise,” said Antonio Williams, MS, police chief and associate vice president of public safety at UMB. “To duplicate those numbers in 2016 wouldn’t have hurt my feelings at all. But to be able to report a 10 percent drop overall [from 109 incidents in 2015 to 98 in 2016] with crime down in every category except simple assault and stolen auto [which increased by one incident each], that’s impressive. It reflects a lot of hard work by a lot of people and I couldn’t be prouder of our public safety team and the UMB community that supports it.”

Aggravated assault (which includes the use of a weapon) showed a 43 percent drop, with four in 2016 compared to seven in 2015. Robbery showed a 50 percent drop, with two in 2016 after four in 2015.

Williams sees the robbery rate as especially encouraging. “I would say two robberies are two too many,” he said, “but when you go back to 2014 when we had 12 robberies on campus that’s a huge difference. Particularly when you look at what’s going on around us. The city again had over 300 murders. Robberies were up in the whole city and yet we’re seeing decreases here so I think that’s very commendable.”

2016 was a challenging year for the UMB Police Force, Williams said, noting an increased demand for services. There were more special events and new facilities coming on board like the Maryland Proton Treatment Center, the UMB Community Engagement Center, and various clinics and offices. Even some activity beyond the campus boundaries brought a response from Williams’ police and security team.

“There were a number of student groups who held demonstrations and protest-type activities in 2016,” Williams recalled. “When some of those events were held off-campus, we can’t necessarily go back and forth with the students, but we can make provisions and work logistically to make sure they are covered security-wise. We do everything we can to keep our people safe.”

Thefts are a major part of any college/university crime report and 2016 was no exception at UMB. There were 73 thefts at UMB in 2016 after 80 in 2015. Members of the UMB community acting as “the eyes and the ears” for the police can help bring those numbers down, says Williams, whose force will spread the message with more “Coffee with a Cop” events at UMB in 2017.

“If someone you don’t know is walking around the building or in someone’s empty office, call us. Or go to someone and say I notice you just left your office, did you lock your door? Hey, you left your purse sitting out on top of your desk. You might want to put that away. Things like that would be fantastic, that’s helping to look out for each other,” he said.

In addition to the human touch, increased technology will help the UMB Police Force in 2017. A new police communications center is opening in the site of the old bookstore at 222 N. Pine St. It will provide more space, a more efficient phone system, bigger and better monitors that operate in quadrants, providing four times the information, and upgraded equipment to help the dispatchers multi-task.

Also in that building is a new emergency operations center, which offers direct camera feeds from all over the campus, satellite TV for breaking news events, breakout space for training and simulations, and even a kitchen for emergencies when staff has to stay on duty.

Williams also is excited about a new portal on the UMB public safety website that will go live later this month. Users can pick out a time frame (say Sept. 1 to Sept. 15), click a button and the screen will populate with all the UMB crime data from that period. Want more detail? Click on each icon on the map for specifics.

“It has taken a while to get to the point where we can make this available to our community,” Williams says. “We wanted it to provide specific, meaningful information. With the portal, users can visualize if there are problems in a specific area, or during a specific time period.”

The chief shares the success in 2016 with an “active UMB community,” pointing out how employees’ swift reactions led
to several arrests. And while he looks forward to extending such partnerships in 2017, tackling the challenges associated with the Carter Center and Lexington Market demolitions, and reviving some marketing strategies such as “don’t talk, walk and text,” the chief didn’t want to leave 2016 without commending his public safety team.

“T’m absolutely proud of these men and women, both police and security,” Williams said. “They’ve taken on the job, they’re motivated, they recognize the importance of what they do, and their efforts have had a huge impact. They also see themselves as part of the community and that they serve as ambassadors to the University. They’re out there, they’re talking to people, they’re helping send a positive message about the University and the community.”

And his officers are grateful for the support they receive from the University. One newcomer who had come from another university recently told Williams people at UMB “actually come up to me and say thank you.” The newcomer also was surprised to always have access to a police car and other equipment, and even have a locker room to shower and change clothes.

“Those types of things are important in terms of morale,” Williams said, “but also it’s about supporting the people who help support the community and keep them safe.”

— Chris Zang