Last month, when I delivered my fourth annual State of the University Address, I chose the theme “How We Lead.” I said that I believe the nation is experiencing a deficit of leadership and that UMB can model what we so urgently need: ethical, enlightened, courageous, and compassionate leadership that confronts our most significant challenges and justifies our optimism that they will be solved.

EDUCATION

Leading in education will take a willingness to open up our programs to far more students than we currently enroll. We need to make room in our curriculum for the “post-traditional learner,” the learner who’s of working age, who’s juggling family and bills, long hours and little time, but who still wants to learn and will sacrifice to do it. We need to provide these learners the flexibility to earn degrees, certificates, and credentials that will advance them through their careers.

Our Graduate School is leading in a lot of this work, but other schools are coming on board. The Carey School of Law has just launched its online Master of Science in Law in cybersecurity and homeland security. Nursing, Pharmacy, and Social Work are engaging instructional designers to build highly accessible online courses. We need to give these designers the chance to collaborate and share resources. We need to create common standards, without intruding on individual disciplines. We need a more inclusive vision of who our students might be and a plan to invite them into this vibrant learning community.

Entrepreneurial education is another area where we’re perfectly positioned to lead, given the discovery-rich environment in which we work. Entrepreneurship has been a theme among students this year: The student-run Entrepreneurship and Innovation Network hosted its first campuswide Expo. The President’s Fellows wrote their white paper on expanding entrepreneurial opportunities for students. We graduated our second cohort of Entrepreneurial Fellows, who dedicate a year to moving a faculty invention to market. This fall, we’ll seek approval for a master’s program in social entrepreneurship, challenging students to apply business principles and design thinking to pernicious social problems, like city food deserts that contribute to health disparities.

These master’s students will be working alongside an active community of entrepreneurs and artists in the Lion Bros. Building, the first adaptive reuse building to open in the BioPark and home to phase I of our Center for Maryland Advanced Ventures. This is where we’ll offer incubator space and services for startups across the University System and where our new Student Innovation Center will engage more of our students in entrepreneurship and tech transfer.

RESEARCH

UMB is leading in research, as well. Our grant and contract proposal activity has spiked over the last several years, and we’re seeing the fruits of our enormous productivity. Through spring of 2017, awards to UMB are 20 percent higher than they were at the same time last year.

Our research enterprise will grow even larger when Health Sciences Facility III (HSF III) opens in January 2018, adding 136,000 square feet for wet and dry labs and core facilities. At full occupancy — with well-funded, internationally known investigators making HSF III their home — the building should generate more than $100 million in research revenues and stimulate $212 million in economic activity.

We have another extraordinary opportunity before us to transform our research enterprise. We will join Johns Hopkins University in its application for a National Institutes of Health Clinical and Translational Science Award. Over the years, the awards have been given to powerhouse research institutions across the U.S., and they’ve proved instrumental in accelerating the translational research process. It’s high time that Baltimore’s two most powerful research universities forge this critical alliance around science and revolutionize how we move discoveries from the laboratory bench to the patient’s bedside.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We know that our leadership in the community relies upon close, deep relationships with our neighbors, broad agreement on community goals, and buy-in as to how — together — we achieve them. With the University of Maryland Medical Center we’ve launched our Partnership for West Baltimore, a series of programs to improve health, education, and economic development in our shared community. At a town hall meeting last month, our neighbors talked about their priorities: better schools for their children and better jobs for themselves.

Nearly 200 of our neighbors have come to the UMB Community Engagement Center for job search and training activities, and we’ve guaranteed them that if they participate in our workforce programs and they’re qualified for a UMB position, they’ll get
an interview. Now we need to figure out how to scale up training opportunities so that more neighbors can land these critical interviews and how to prioritize local hiring so that the interviews lead to solid jobs.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Embracing our community manifests itself in many ways — in our scholarship and service, in our policies and priorities. Our physical campus should be emblematic of this embrace as well. In our 10-year Facilities Master Plan now before the Board of Regents, we’re working toward stronger connections to Lexington Market and the Bromo Arts District, to downtown on our east side, and the BioPark on our west side. We want to build identifiable campus gateways — entrances that announce us to our neighbors and invite those neighbors into the UMB experience.

What we know for certain is that when you influence the UMB campus, you influence the city. Our boundaries are not firm, our borders are porous, and everything we do has implications somewhere else. And so as we knit together the communities surrounding us, as we invest in the revitalization of the Westside, as we make our outdoor spaces prettier, greener, and safer, as we establish this neighborhood as a hub for art, culture, and entertainment, we do so knowing that our end goal isn’t merely to transform our campus but to transform the community we share with our neighbors.

BIG IDEAS

I think all great leaders understand that leadership is only fleetingly achieved. There is always vastly more to be done and always new ways of doing it. And so it’s the elusiveness of leadership that pushes true leaders into new frontiers.

In January, the deans at UMB and College Park came together to discuss the Big Ideas that need the perspectives and expertise of both universities to be brought fully to life: a novel approach to neurodegenerative research; a program applying computational analysis to problems of clinical significance; a program to explore and replicate effective policing practices; new approaches to infectious disease detection and prevention. Several of these ideas could flourish under our combined energy and effort.

This exercise mirrors another one we’ve undertaken within UMB, bringing our deans together around our own Big Ideas, ideas that play to the schools’ complementary strengths: Pioneering addiction research and treatment to confront an opioid epidemic decimating communities across the U.S.; alleviating chronic pain that dramatically diminishes quality of life; improving transitions in care to safeguard patient health and cut colossal medical costs; solving problems endemic in our cities; innovating new approaches to drug design, development, and manufacturing; developing cures and therapeutics for the areas in which we have deep expertise.

PHILANTHROPY

But we cannot make good on these Big Ideas, we cannot set them in motion, without money. UMB is not likely to see a spike in state or federal dollars. The one elastic, accessible, cost-effective form of revenue-building is philanthropy, and this is where we’ll focus.

We embark this fall on a multi-hundred-million-dollar fundraising campaign, and our leadership in every one of our mission areas depends on its success. Our endowment portfolio has a market value of $272 million, and frankly that’s not good enough. If you look at our peer universities nationwide, you’ll see their endowments tower over ours.

The fact is we haven’t told the story of this University often enough or broadly enough. We haven’t told people how powerful we are, how innovative, how compassionate, how vital. Maybe that’s part of the “quiet leadership” approach we take to our work — the fact that we lead through action, not through words. But words are important now. We need to tell the story of UMB to our 74,000 living alumni and to the centers of wealth, power, and influence in Maryland and across the nation. We need to demonstrate to our friends why giving to UMB is the smartest thing they can do if they want a meaningful return on their investment. We have to show our value.

Believe me, our message won’t fall on deaf ears. Every day, I talk with the people of this city and state — from those in positions of great power to those in positions of great need — and they tell me that UMB is making change, that UMB is doing good, that UMB is leading in the ways that matter. Every day, I’m privileged to tell the story of this great University. I’m privileged to tell the story of your work and your leadership. And for that privilege, I thank you.

A full transcript and video of my 2017 address are available at State of the University.

Sincerely,

Jay A. Perman, MD
President
Scott Bitner, MBA, CPA, associate vice president, Budget and Finance, has been selected for the 2017-18 National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) Fellows Program, a one-year professional development opportunity for a group of 16 exceptional business and finance professionals. NACUBO represents chief administrative and financial officers at more than 2,100 colleges and universities across the country.

Kevin Engler, MA, instructional designer, Graduate School’s Office of Academic Innovation and Distance Education (AIDE), authored an article “Storyboard System to Ensure Alignment in Academic Courses,” which will be published in the online Learning Solutions Magazine. The article describes a storyboarding system developed by AIDE staff to help faculty plan academic courses.

The Maryland Neuroimaging Retreat was held at UMB on April 14 with more than 100 neuroimaging researchers, postdocs, and students, who heard presentations from 11 experts in the field of brain research. The theme was Pain Neuroimaging: Advances and Controversies. Members of the organizing committee included Rao Gullapalli, PhD, professor, and Shiyu Tang, research assistant, both from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, School of Medicine, and David Seminowicz, PhD, associate professor, and Joel Greenspan, PhD, professor and chair, both from the Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, School of Dentistry. Greenspan also is co-director of the University of Maryland Center to Advance Chronic Pain Research.

Zhewei Jiang, an IT enterprise developer for the Center for Information Technology Services, was named UMB’s May Employee of the Month for her work implementing and supporting the University-based ImageNow document management system, which stores over 8 million images. “In addition, your customer service skills are appreciated by your many admirers,” UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, said at the ceremony.

Reba Cornman, MSW, director, Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program (GGEAR) in the Graduate School, received a State of Maryland Proclamation from Gov. Larry Hogan in commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the Southern Maryland Caregivers Conference. The conference represents the partnership of GGEAR with the Area Agencies on Aging in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties. It is Cornman’s third governor’s proclamation.

Bohyun Kim, MA, MSLIS, associate director for library applications and knowledge systems, Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HS/HSL), wrote the chapter “A Librarian’s Guide to 3D Printing” in the Makerspace Librarian’s Sourcebook published by the American Library Association. She presented “Pricing, Staff Workflow, and Application Development for 3D Printing Service: Achieving the Best User Experience” and co-presented “Growing Makers in Medicine, Life Sciences, and Healthcare” with Brian Zelip, MA, MSLIS, emerging technologies librarian, HS/HSL, at the annual Association of College and Research Libraries conference.
Flavius Lilly, PhD, MA, MPH, senior associate dean, Graduate School, and assistant vice president, Academic and Student Affairs; Jenny Owens, ScD, MS, director, Academic and Student Affairs; Amy Ramirez, MA, director, International Services; TaShara Bailey, PhD, MA, diversity postdoctoral fellow; and Whitney Brown, MS, assistant director of Assessment, Research, and Staff Training, co-authored “The Influence of Racial Microaggressions and Social Rank on Risk for Depression Among Minority Graduate and Professional Students,” which was published in the College Student Journal.

Tony Nguyen, MLIS, AHIP, technology/communications coordinator, National Network of Libraries of Medicine Southeast/Atlantic Region, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, was appointed to a three-year term as technology column editor for the Medical Library Association News.

Michelle Pearce, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, School of Medicine, will direct a new, 12-credit online graduate certificate in Integrative Health and Wellness in the Graduate School. In this one-year program, students will learn the fundamental concepts, philosophies, and methods of integrative health, as well as analyze empirical research on the use, benefits, and effects of integrative approaches to healing.

Vineet Dhar, BDS, DDS, PhD, MBA, associate professor and director, Advanced Specialty Education Program, Division of Pediatric Dentistry, is the recipient of the 2017 American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry’s Jerome B. Miller / Crest–Oral–B / For the Kids Award. The annual honor recognizes an up-and-coming clinician, researcher, or academician in pediatric dentistry for outstanding efforts on behalf of children’s oral health and welfare.

Joel Greenspan, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, and co-director, University of Maryland Center to Advance Chronic Pain Research, was appointed to the Advisory Council for the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health of the National Institutes of Health. Appointed by the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, council members advise, consult, and make recommendations about the future direction and activities of the center, including the research it sponsors.

William “Bill” Hoffman Jr., MAS, administrator, Department of Endodontics, Prosthodontics and Operative Dentistry, was co-presenter of two sessions, “Human Resources Management and Best Practices for the Department Administrator” and “Strategies for Success: Managing Faculty Compensation and Funding Streams,” at the National Council of University Research Administrators Region II spring meeting in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
Ru-ching Hsia, PhD, associate professor and director, Electron Microscopy Core Imaging Facility, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, received $99,975 in April for the “acquisition of an automated EM specimen processor, mPrep ASP-1000.” The award was made under the Defense University Research Instrumentation Program of the Department of Defense. Acquisition of this newly developed robotic platform will allow automated EM specimen preparation.

Leila Liberman, RDH, MDE, clinical instructor, Department of Periodontics, gave a lecture titled “What Makes Your E-Lecture Effective?” at the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) conference. Liberman and colleague Se-Lim Oh, DMD, MS, clinical assistant professor, Department of Periodontics, also presented a poster titled “Use of a Rubric for Calibration of Faculty Members and a Student Self-Assessment Tool” at the ADEA conference, which was held in Long Beach, Calif.

Radi Masri, BDS, MS, PhD, associate professor, Department of Endodontics, Prosthodontics and Operative Dentistry, is the recipient of a $20,000 UM Ventures Seed Grant for his proposal “To Build a Device for the Effective Application of External Magnetic Forces to Actively Steer Nano-Resin Adhesive into Dentinal Tubules.” The grant is part of a larger project to commercialize nano-magnetic based therapeutics through a new UMB startup.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

Deborah Eisenberg, JD, professor and director, Center for Dispute Resolution, was a panelist for “Integrating Research-Based Skills into Your Regular Mediation Practice and Teaching,” at the American Bar Association Dispute Resolution conference in San Francisco and “All Roads Lead to Rome: Paths to Advancing and Teaching Social Justice,” at the Association of American Law Schools Clinical Law conference in Denver. Eisenberg also was a moderator for the Women’s Bar Association Bench-to-Bar Program at Maryland Carey Law.

“Gender and Violence at 100 Days,” by Leigh Goodmark, JD, professor, was published by The Gender Policy Report — a nonpartisan, multidisciplinary effort to produce and disseminate timely, gender-focused analyses of emerging federal policy proposals based on the best insights from scholarship and research.

Arnold Matthews, a member of the school’s two-man facilities team who stepped up when his colleague had to go on medical leave, was named UMB’s April Employee of the Month. Responsible for what he described as “all the little things to help keep the law school running,” Matthews was called “truly amazing and essential to our success” by Dean Donald B. Tobin, JD, who attended the surprise ceremony in the President’s Conference Room.
Michael Pinard, JD, Francis & Harriet Iglehart Professor of Law and co-director, Clinical Law Program, moderated the plenary session “Pushing On and Pushing Through in Tumultuous Times,” at the Association of American Law Schools Clinical Law conference in Denver.

Rena Steinzor, JD, Edward M. Robertson Professor of Law, wrote the article “The War on Regulation,” which appeared in the American Prospect Magazine, and the article “White Collar Crime and the Trump Administration” for The Columbia Law School Blue Sky Blog. Steinzor also gave a briefing on progressive regulatory reform and the potential impacts of pending bills on public protections at the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Laura Bontempo, MD, MEd, assistant professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, wrote “Family Medical History” in the Reflections column of Academic Emergency Medicine. In this pensive essay, she examined the impact of a question asked by many practitioners during their initial assessment of a patient. Routine inquiry into the family’s medical history is much less routine when seen from the patient’s point of view, she says.

James Campbell, MD, MS, professor, Department of Pediatrics, Center for Vaccine Development (CVD) and the Institute for Global Health, received a six-year, $7,592,089 award to design and perform the clinical trial and laboratory assays for the protocol “Phase 4 Trial to Evaluate the Efficacy of an Injectable-Free (All Oral) Delamanid-Containing Regimen for the Treatment of Multidrug-Resistant Pulmonary Tuberculosis.” This is part of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases contract awarded to pediatric colleague Karen Kotloff, MD, professor, for a Vaccine Treatment and Evaluation Unit within CVD.

Curt Civin, MD, associate dean for research, director, Center for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, and professor, departments of Pediatrics and Physiology, received a subcontract from the University of Maryland, College Park to participate and advise on stem cell and molecular biology in the new National Institutes of Health P41-funded Center for Engineering Complex Tissues. Total five-year funding for the center, which fosters collaborations to advance tissue engineering, is $6,302,200.

Natalie Davis, MD, MMSc, assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics, was the 2017 invited speaker for the “Let’s Talk” webinar/teleconference presented by the American Academy of Pediatrics Traffic Injury Prevention Project (Pennsylvania Chapter). She presented “Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of the Car Seat Tolerance Test” to more than 300 participants.

David Dreizin, MD, and Nikki Tirada, MD, both assistant professors from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors on “Abdominal and Pelvic Trauma: Misses and Misinterpretations at Multidetector CT: Trauma/Emergency Radiology,” which was published in Radiographics.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

Maureen Black, PhD, the John A. Scholl, MD, and Mary Louise Scholl, MD, Professor in Pediatrics, has been invited to serve a four-year term (2017-2021) as a regular member of the Psychosocial Development, Risk and Prevention Study Section at the National Institutes of Health.
Robert Gallo, MD, Homer & Martha Gudelsky Distinguished Professor in Medicine, and director, Institute of Human Virology, received the ASI Lifetime Achievement Award from the AIDS Society of India (ASI), a national network of HIV medical experts. ASI conferred the prestigious honor upon Gallo in recognition of his pioneering role in advancing path-breaking HIV science over the decades. He received it at the Pioneers in Infectious Agents and Cancer meeting in Naples, Italy, on his 80th birthday.

Shannon Takala Harrison, PhD, associate professor, Department of Medicine, Institute for Global Health, received a five-year, $1,632,515 National Institutes of Health R01 award for “Identification and Validation of Molecular Markers of Piperaquine Resistance.”

The school was well-represented at the 10th International Conference on Typhoid and Other Invasive Salmonelloses in Kampala, Uganda. Participants included Ellen Higginson, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, Center for Vaccine Development (CVD) and the Institute for Global Health (IGH); Irene Kasumba, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, CVD and IGH; Myron Levine, MD, DTPH, the Simon and Bessie Grollman Distinguished Professor of Medicine and associate dean for global health, vaccinology and infectious diseases, IGH; Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH, professor, Department of Medicine, and director, CVD; Ken Simiyu, PhD, senior program director, CVD and IGH; Rafael Simon, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, CVD and IGH; Marcelo Sztein, MD, professor, Department of Medicine, CVD and IGH; and Rezwanul Wahid, MBBS, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, CVD and IGH.

Niharika Khanna, MBBS, MD, DGO, associate professor, Department of Medicine, Program in Personalized and Genomic Medicine, received a three-year, $1.7 million U01 grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for “High-Performance Mixed Model Toolset for Integrative Omics Analysis of Big Data.”

Jeffrey O’Connell, DPhil, associate professor, Department of Medicine, Program in Personalized and Genomic Medicine, received a three-year, $1.7 million U01 grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for “High-Performance Mixed Model Toolset for Integrative Omics Analysis of Big Data.”

Kenneth Robinson, MD, assistant professor, Department of Anesthesiology, was recognized as one of the 2017 40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Health by the National Minority Quality Forum Leadership Summit on Health Disparities. The award was presented at the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust Awards’ gala dinner.
Taehoon Shin, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was awarded a four-year, $1.5 million R01 grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for “Non-Contrast-Enhanced Peripheral MR Angiography.” One of Shin’s primary research interests is unenhanced angiography, which is considered a highly promising approach to visualize arteries.

Biogen has acquired CIRARA (intravenous glyburide) from Remedy Pharmaceuticals, a UMB startup company co-founded by Marc Simard, MD, PhD, professor, Department of Neurosurgery, and chief, neurosurgical services, Baltimore Veterans Affairs Medical Center. CIRARA was invented by Simard and its development has been strongly supported by Howard Eisenberg, MD, Raymond K. Thompson, MD, Chair, the Department of Neurosurgery, and the School of Medicine. The license with Remedy Pharmaceuticals was negotiated by the UMB Office of Technology Transfer. Remedy will continue to be involved in the Phase 3 study.

Douglas Sward, MD, clinical assistant professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, presented a workshop, “Search and Rescue: Initial Tasks and Reflex Actions,” during the Wilderness and Disaster Medicine course at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. The two-week course encourages students to improvise under austere conditions.

Areck Ucuzian, MD, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Surgery, Center for Vascular and Inflammatory Diseases, has been named winner of the 2017 Robert W. Hobson II, MD, Early Career Investigator Award for his abstract “Deletion of LRP1 in SMCs Differentially Alters Susceptibility of Distinct Vascular Beds to BAPN-induced Aneurysm and Dissection Formation.” The award is sponsored by the Council on Peripheral Vascular Disease, American Heart Association.

Zeljko Vujaskovic, MD, PhD, professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, and director, Division of Translational Radiation Sciences, and Isabel Jackson, PhD, assistant professor and deputy director, are two of the inventors of “Administration of a Therapeutic Amount of Genistein to Mitigate Erectile Dysfunction Resulting from Radiation Therapy for Prostate Cancer only Throughout a Defined Administration Period Commencing Shortly Before and Concluding After Radiation Therapy,” which received a U.S. patent.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

The school and Frederick (Md.) Community College (FCC) recently signed an agreement of dual admission that will ensure students’ seamless transition from FCC’s Associate Degree in Nursing program to SON’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Susan L. Bindon, DNP ’11, RN-BC, CNE, assistant professor, serves as co-editor of the Journal for Nurses in Professional Development, which was awarded a Bronze ASHPE Award in the “Best How-To Article” category from the American Society of Health Publication Editors.

Ameera Chakravarthy, MS, BSN ’02, CRNP, clinical instructor and interim director, Doctor of Nursing Practice program’s Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner/Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist specialty, received a UMB Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program’s Student Award for Excellence in the Field of Aging. The award is given annually to a UMB graduate student who has demonstrated a commitment to the field of gerontological studies.
Laurette L. Hankins, associate dean, development and alumni relations, has been selected as a 2017 Tribute to Women and Industry (TWIN) Award winner by the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. The TWIN award is a nationally recognized honor for women, and Hankins was selected by the TWIN Steering Committee for her University achievements, such as securing the three largest philanthropic gifts in the school’s history, as well as her contributions to the community, where among other activities she entertains retirement home residents with her one-woman cabaret shows.

Veronica Njie-Carr, PhD, ACNS-BC, FWACN, assistant professor, collaborated with colleagues from other universities to present “Exploring Intersectionality and Women’s Health” at the Society of Behavioral Medicine conference in San Diego.

The article “Allometry Is a Reasonable Choice in Pediatric Drug Development” by students Tao Liu and Parima Ghafoori was an Editor’s Choice Article in the April issue of the Journal of Clinical Pharmacology.

Nicole Brandt, PharmD, MBA, BCPP, CGP, FASCP, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and executive director, Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, has been appointed to the National Committee for Quality Assurance’s Geriatric Measurement Advisory Panel.

Student Mehmet Burcu received the 2017 New Investigator Award from the American Society of Clinical Pharmacology.

Susan dosReis, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a one-year, $89,675 contract from the Maryland Department of Human Resources for “Psychotropic Monitoring in Maryland State Foster Care.”

Agnes Ann Feemster, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and assistant dean for experiential learning, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Deanna Tran, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Editorial Board of the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association.

Fengtian Xue, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been named the school’s American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s Teacher of the Year.

Nicole Brandt

Mehmet Burcu

Catherine Cooke

Susan dosReis

Deanna Tran

Fengtian Xue
Allison Berkowitz, PhD, MSW, student and research assistant, received a Professional Development Award from UMB’s Graduate Student Association for assistance with planning and execution of the CRISP (Congressional Research Institute for Social Work Policy) Student Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C.

Lisa Berlin, PhD, associate professor, has been awarded a $328,021 grant to lead a 2 ½-year evaluation of the Maryland Family Connects program to be delivered by The Family Tree in collaboration with Sinai Hospital. The Family Connects program is a universal nurse home visiting program developed at Duke University.

John Cagle, PhD, has been promoted to associate professor with tenure.

Amy Cohen-Callow, PhD, and Joan Pittman, PhD, have been promoted to clinical associate professors.

Kathryn Collins, PhD, associate professor, will be presented the Distinguished Recent Contributions to Social Work Education Award by the Council on Social Work Education this fall.

Sarah Dababnah, PhD, assistant professor, and Jody Olsen, PhD, visiting professor and co-director, UMB Center for Global Education Initiatives, are among the authors of a new paper published in the Interdisciplinary Journal of Best Practices in Global Development. The research explored the role of internationally experienced faculty in promoting a global perspective in social work education and practice.

Jordan DeVylder, PhD, assistant professor, is the co-recipient of an R34 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to test a novel training intervention for social workers. The training intervention is designed to facilitate the detection and appropriate referral of youth with emerging psychotic symptoms.

Nadine Finigan-Carr, PhD, has been promoted to assistant director, Ruth H. Young Center for Families and Children.

Nancy Kusmaul, PhD, assistant professor of social work at the school’s BSW program at UMBC, was chosen to participate in the Eminent Mentor Scholar Program.

Amanda Lehning, PhD, assistant professor, delivered a keynote address on “Implementing and Evaluating Aging-Friendly Communities” at the Resilient Places, Resilient Aging conference at the University of Utah.

The school’s Social Work Community Outreach Service (SWCOS) has received over $53,000 from the Mayor’s Office of Human Services to help support Baltimore City public school attendance initiatives in three elementary schools that fall within the Southwest Partnership footprint.
MAY 18 AND 19 WERE SPECIAL DAYS AT UMB

as the Class of 2017 graduated in school convocations, enjoyed Party in the Park, and culminated the celebration with Universitywide commencement, featuring Operation Smile co-founder William P. Magee Jr., DDS ’69, MD.

Human Resource Services’ Jamaica Cosby, Patricia Hoffmann, Anthony Stradford, and former HRS colleague Sheila Greenwood-Blackshear (now of Accountability and Compliance) were among the first class to graduate with a Master of Science in Law, a degree for professionals who want to know more about the intersection of law and regulation. They are pictured below.

More pictures, stories, and videos are available.
Antonio “Tony” Williams, MS, will retire as police chief and associate vice president of public safety at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), effective July 1.

A steady and positive influence, Williams has served the University for more than seven years, and his tenure has been marked by steadily declining crime rates, recognition for meritorious service from the national Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, and innovative upgrades to safety programs like the Police Escort Service, which provides rides or walking escorts with UMB police to UMB faculty, staff, and students.

In the wake of two on-campus robberies the night of Oct. 6, 2014, Williams and UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, quickly stepped forward with a series of town halls to address fears within the University community. With a highly effective information campaign — advising people to secure their valuables, to pay attention to their surroundings, to walk without distractions and devices, and to use the escort service — crime began to fall. In fact, robberies fell from 12 in 2014 to four in 2015 to two in 2016.

“I want to thank everyone for the wonderful opportunity to serve the UMB community while working to make our community safe for students, faculty, staff, and visitors,” Williams said. “I enjoyed collaborating with all segments of our community to help UMB be the best place to study, work, live, and visit. I appreciated the opportunity to lead one of the best public safety departments in the University System of Maryland. I will always consider myself a part of the UMB family. Best wishes to everyone. Stay safe!”

Capt. Martinez Davenport, MS, will serve as UMB’s interim chief of police while a national search for a permanent replacement is undertaken. That search will be led by Roger J. Ward, EdD, JD, MPA, chief accountability officer and vice president, and Dawn M. Rhodes, MBA, chief business and finance officer and vice president.

Davenport joined the UMB Police Force in 2015 after 32 years of service with the Baltimore Police Department (BPD). He rose through the ranks in BPD, and retired as a major in 2015. Prior to joining BPD, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps, taught as a substitute teacher in the Baltimore City School System, and worked with the Baltimore City YouthWorks program.

He earned an Associate of Arts degree from Baltimore City Community College, a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Coppin State University, and a Master of Science degree in applied behavior science from Johns Hopkins University.

Davenport teaches criminal justice and related courses as an adjunct professor at both Stevenson University and Baltimore City Community College.

— Chris Zang
QUARTERLY Q&A
with Dr. Perman

MONDAY

June 19, 2017

1 to 2 p.m. | School of Social Work Auditorium

Please join me as I answer questions from students, staff, and faculty. Everyone is welcome to attend.

This session will feature a discussion about the campus climate survey.

ACCOUNTABILITY | CIVILITY | COLLABORATION | DIVERSITY
EXCELLENCE | KNOWLEDGE | LEADERSHIP
The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) is committed to improving the human condition and serving the public good. As President Jay A. Perman, MD, noted in his 2017 State of the University Address, it is unlikely that UMB will experience significant growth in state or federal funding. Thus the continued growth and progress of this special institution will depend heavily on philanthropy.

This fall UMB will embark on a multi-hundred-million-dollar fundraising campaign through which the University will invite and encourage alumni, corporate and foundation supporters, community partners, and friends to serve as the catalysts who will chart the course for UMB to fulfill its vision of pre-eminence in scholarship, discovery, clinical care, and community service.

An investment in UMB helps fund both existing and new bold initiatives including:

- Breaking new ground in scientific discovery.
- Preparing a new generation of talented professionals to lead in a demanding and complex global economy.
- Providing West Baltimore residents with access to services that promote neighborhood and economic development through UMB’s Community Engagement Center.
- Preparing promising students from West Baltimore for careers in health care, research, and science through the UMB CURE Scholars Program.
- Extending the international reach of UMB’s academic, research, and educational programs.

There are many ways in which philanthropy will help shape UMB’s future:

- Endowment and capital gifts stimulate novel pursuits in research, attract pre-eminent faculty to campus, and create new avenues through which students and faculty learn from and grow with one another.
- Annual giving funds directly support teaching and learning, help meet unforeseen challenges, and provide seed money for important and creative new initiatives.
- Planned gifts, including trusts and bequests, allow individuals to create meaningful legacies that will empower UMB in the future.
- Corporate and foundation gifts represent partnerships that are mutually beneficial, helping UMB while manifesting the philanthropic commitment of the respective corporation or foundation.

To learn more about the vital role philanthropy will play in UMB’s future, or to make a gift today, visit umaryland.edu/development/why-give.
Although the cuts in President Trump’s proposed government budget have raised fears in the scientific community, researchers can take solace in one single fact, Matt Hourihan, MPP, told an audience at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) on May 2. That is Congress, not the president, holds the purse strings in Washington, which is good news for the scientists in the room.

Hourihan, director of the Research and Development Budget and Policy Program at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), was the latest speaker in UMB’s President’s Panel on Politics and Policy.

He was introduced by UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, who said, “If you read my letter to the UMB community a couple of weeks ago about the March for Science, or the op-ed I co-wrote in The Baltimore Sun with UMBC President Freeman Hrabowski — my friend and colleague in science — you know full well how I feel about the budget put forth by President Trump. I won’t presume to know how you feel about it, but I imagine this next hour and a half is either going to give you a great deal of hope … or dash it to pieces.”

Hourihan quickly moved to appease the 75 UMB faculty, staff, and students at the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center. “We have really good reasons to be guardedly optimistic about what’s going to happen with the science and ecology budget,” Hourihan said. “The omnibus we received yesterday is a good example of that. My optimism is not blind optimism. It is based on history and more importantly on the rules — on who makes the actual funding decisions. Funding is in Congress’ hands. There is a good argument to be made that presidents’ science budgets don’t matter.”

Hourihan, who is a regular source of information and analyses on past, present, and future science budgets for policymakers and the science community, showed the audience charts from the Obama administration’s funding. Even though Obama headed a “more science-friendly administration” than Trump’s, Hourihan said the Obama discretionary budget, which is where most research funding resides, “took a shellacking” because of sequestration, spending caps, and backlash that followed the Affordable Care Act.
“We have since had a jagged recovery,” Hourihan said. “Some agencies did better, some worse with science funding. The discretionary budget tends to be the center of gravity around which science agencies tend to cluster. By 2016 many agencies did better than discretionary spending levels. Congress, when they can, when they have fiscal room, do what they can for science, especially basic science. NIH, NSF, your Office of Science at DOE. We’ve seen that happen for several years under this realm of decline and there’s really no reason to expect that to change.”

Not that the Trump administration won’t try, Hourihan said. He said they want to shift $54 billion from the non-defense budget to the defense budget. The National Institutes of Health would take a 20 percent hit under the Trump plan, Hourihan said, which would amount to more dollars than the NIH awards given out in 2016. The Department of Energy’s Advanced Research Projects Agency would be dissolved.

“There is a really good case to be made that the Trump budget request in science is actually the toughest we’ve had since the end of the Apollo era at least if not the toughest era ever,” Hourihan said.

After comparing Trump’s proposed cuts to President Reagan’s in 1982 and 1983, Hourihan explained why he doesn’t see such steep cuts becoming a reality, pointing out, among many things, the difference between Trump’s and Reagan’s approval numbers, in the public and in Congress.

“Even Republicans in Congress oppose his budget,” said Hourihan, showing a chart that included quotes such as “draconian,” “careless,” “counterproductive,” “cannot pass,” and “does not work” from GOP senators and House members.

Returning to his original theme, that Congress not Trump holds the purse strings, Hourihan pointed out that the just released congressional budget proposal includes a 6.2 percent increase for NIH and a 5 percent increase for general science.

After Hourihan concluded his remarks and answered questions from the audience, Perman returned to the podium and said “among all the things I’ve learned today — and I’ve learned a great deal — there is something I have not felt able to say in a long time and that is ‘rah-rah, Congress,’” eliciting laughter from the audience.

Perman also announced the President’s Panel on Politics and Policy would be returning in the fall after a summer hiatus. The first speaker will be Derreck Kayongo, business visionary, Global Soap Project founder, and CEO, Center for Civil and Human Rights, on Oct. 31.

Read more about the President’s Panel on Politics and Policy at UMB.

— Chris Zang
CELEBRATING YEAR TWO

CURE Corner provides 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 celebrated its second year of personal and academic success with an end of year awards ceremony on Saturday, May 6. Special guests included UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD; Sanya Springfield, PhD, director of the National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities; Alison Lin, PhD, program director of the NCI’s Diversity Training Branch; and Kevin Cullen, MD, director of the Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Highlights from this year include:

- URecFit Healthy Heart Walk
- Planetarium
- Art With a Heart
- Healthy Halloween — School of Pharmacy
- Scratch MIT Computer Coding
- LEGO Mindstorms Robotics
- M&T Bank Financial Literacy
- UMB STEM Fair
- UMB CURE Speaker Series
- Maryland Science Olympiad
- Fetal Pig Dissection
- Infectious Disease — School of Pharmacy
- Johns Hopkins University Charm City Science League
- Oral Health Promotion — School of Dentistry
- Kinetic Kitchen
- Colour Strokes Paint Party
- National Museum of African American History and Culture
- UMB CURE Cancer Disparities Symposium
- American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting
- UMB Neighborhood Spring Festival
- Port Discovery
- Circle of Voices

With more than 10 award categories, scholars were recognized for a broad range of their accomplishments.

Scholars of the Month: Winners of this award were selected by their mentors for consistently demonstrating UMB core values (accountability, civility, collaboration, diversity, excellence, knowledge, and leadership). They included: Ndeye Diop (January); Josiah Bryant (February); Zakai Curtis (March); Tyjahnae Morton (April)

Cancer Symposium Winners: Award winners were selected by guest judges during the April 1 symposium. They included: Davioin Hill (first place); Ke’Ron Jones and Kai-yonna Hughes (second place); Damia Finley and Tyon Gilmore (third place)

UMB CURE SCHOLARS PROGRAM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBIN SAUNDERS (MIDDLE) AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LAUREN KAREEM (RIGHT) WITH 2016 SCHOLAR OF THE YEAR SHAKEER FRANKLIN (LEFT) AND 2017 SCHOLARS OF THE YEAR TAI’YON MORRIS WEAVER AND KE’RON JONES.
Nominees to present at the NIH 2017 Professional Development Workshop: Winners of this award were selected by their mentors based on their performance at the Cancer Disparities Symposium. They included: Davioin Hill, Joshua Terry, Nicholas Knight, Courtney Jacobs, Jackson Collins, Kyree Roberts, Princaya Sanders, Ar’Mya Dennis, Lamar Hill, Tyler McKenzie

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) Awards: Winners of this award were selected by mentors for creating beautiful and interesting cancer paintings. They included: Shereen Farquharson, Emani Malone, Tai’Yon Morris Weaver, Darien Hall, Lakerra Scribes, Katelyn Paige, Damonte Shields, Cohen Crosli, Josiah Bryant, Kori Scott

Reading MVPs: Winners of this award were selected based on having the highest overall reading scores on standardized tests. They included: Tyon Gilmore, Aamir Peoples, Markia Eubanks, Zoe Fisher, Princaya Sanders

Math MVPs: Winners of this award were selected based on having the highest overall math scores on standardized tests. They included: Kai-yonna Hughes, Aamir Peoples, Davioin Hill, Imani Pittman, Jackson Collins

Academic Excellence: Winners of this award were selected based on earning an overall cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. They included: Markia Eubanks, Jackson Collins, Davioin Hill, Ke’Ron Jones, Machai Whyte, Mariah Beatty, Tyon Gilmore, Tiyahnae Morton, Mekayla Scott, Shereen Farquharson

Wes Moore Book Club Scholars: Winners of this award were nominated by their mentors based on their interest in reading. Each scholar received a signed copy of *The New York Times* bestseller *The Other Wes Moore*. They included: Zakai Curtis, Aniyaa Green, Tai’Yon Morris Weaver, Tyon Gilmore, Machai Whyte, Mariah Beatty, Jackson Collins, Ke’Ron Jones, Kai-yonna Hughes, Damia Finley, Davioin Hill, Shereen Farquharson, Emani Malone, Zoe Fisher

Spotlight Scholars: Winners of this award were nominated by their mentors based on their consistent enthusiasm for science and willingness to learn. They included: Davioin Hill, Keayon Lawson, Ahron Fennell

Attendance Star Awards: Winners of this award were nominated by demonstrating consistently high attendance throughout the school year. They included: Hali Smith, Nicholas Knight, Aamir Peoples, Mekhi Taylor, Jaden Buggs

Scholar of the Year: Winners of this award were selected by their mentors based on character, grades, performance in the Science Olympiad, and in the Cancer Symposium. This year, there were two scholars who earned this distinction: Tai’Yon Morris Weaver and Ke’Ron Jones.

The UMB CURE Scholars Program summer component is scheduled to begin on Monday, June 26, and will continue through Friday, July 14. Upcoming activities include a trip to Goddard Space Center, swimming lessons, health education, Planet Smilez, robotics, and much more!

For more information, visit the UMB CURE website and follow the program on Twitter and Facebook.

— Lauren Kareem