When we opened the **UMB Community Engagement Center** (CEC) in West Baltimore last year, our immediate goal for the space was rather simple: We wanted the center to be alive and vibrant, packed with people and filled with joy.

If we were aiming for controlled chaos, we hit our mark.

Moving into year 2, the CEC is fully booked Monday through Friday, with programs led by UMB, by our partners, and by community members. Students from every UMB school are completing coursework, internships, service-learning credits, and volunteer projects at the center.

The work is interprofessional, and the activity is multigenerational. A play group for infants and toddlers shares space with a senior fitness class run by our nursing students. Children who use the center’s computer bank to play games and watch videos end up bringing in their parents and grandparents for our workforce development programs, or our fresh food market, or our monthly luncheons.

These luncheons reinforce something universal and tremendously powerful: that we — all of us — crave connection; we crave community. The lunches draw as many as 100 people at a time. Their sponsorship rotates, so that one month the luncheon might be backed by one of our schools, and the next by a department, and the next by a student group or a friend of UMB. Our people make the most of this time with neighbors, asking about their health, measuring blood pressure, reviewing medications.

During a luncheon sponsored by the School of Pharmacy’s PATIENTS program, a neighbor had an alarmingly high blood pressure reading. Faculty members leapt into action, not only rushing her to the emergency department, but also making sure that the great-granddaughter in her care was looked after.

Last spring, our medical students developed and taught a healthy living course at the center, and residents already are calling to ask when they’ll be back. The Institute of Human Virology’s JACQUES Initiative conducts hepatitis C and HIV screenings. Faculty, staff, and volunteers counsel needle users and help into treatment those struggling against addiction.

The Carey School of Law’s JustAdvice clinic is at the center every week, providing free legal advice in matters of housing, employment, and expungement — in civil, family, and tax law.

Through a partnership with the School of Social Work, financial professionals from GuideWell offer credit repair and counseling services, helping neighbors navigate budgets and bankruptcy and clear a path toward homeownership.

Every week, we do the hard work of connecting neighbors with jobs, helping with applications and résumés, conducting mock interviews. We enroll residents in GED classes offered by our partners. And we promise these neighbors that if they work with us and they meet the qualifications for a UMB job, we’ll guarantee them an interview. We’ll guarantee them a foot in the door.

Since we made this commitment months ago, half-a-dozen community members have gotten jobs at UMB or at University of Maryland Medical Center. Many more are getting the kind of training that opens up a host of new opportunities, here on campus and across the city — training to become a certified nursing assistant or geriatric nursing assistant; certifications in CPR and first aid, which are required for most hospital and health care workers.

We’re beginning to track the workforce clients we serve at the CEC. How many people come in for our help? How many receive training and what kind? Where do they find jobs, how much are they paid, how quickly do they advance? We offer ongoing support so that residents can keep polishing their professional skills and move up the career ladder, wherever that ladder takes them.

When you ask Ashley Valis, MSW, executive director of strategic initiatives and community engagement, what she considers the CEC’s biggest success in year 1, she says it’s the relationships we’re building, the trust we’re restoring. The impact will come, she says — climbing test scores, better health indicators, more jobs, higher incomes. And those metrics must be measured with rigor, so that we know we’re making a real and lasting difference.

But year 1 of the CEC was about proving that if we build it, our neighbors won’t just come; they’ll stand alongside us and build it, too. Helping us test this theory are community members we hired and trained in survey methodology. This summer, they went door-to-door, asking residents if they knew about the center and its services, and what programs they’d like to see added. But they also asked about UMB itself: How do our neighbors feel about their relationship with us? Are we earning their trust and partnership? Where do we still face challenges?
This is the first time we’ve assessed the strength and resiliency of our relationships within the community. Certainly, it’s the first time we’ve hired our own neighbors to gather the data. (I’m delighted to note that two of our three canvassers have since been hired by the School of Medicine.)

Of course, door-knocking isn’t the work of community members alone. We take our students out into the neighborhood, as well, because the generation of practitioners we’re educating are expected to keep people safe and healthy in their own communities. In order to do that, our students need to know these communities. They have to understand why a patient might miss an appointment, why she’s not taking her medication as prescribed. They have to understand the obstacles a parent might face in getting his child to school on time.

Canvassing is part of an interprofessional service course offered by our Center for Community-Based Engagement and Learning. One of the students said this experience with our neighbors has made her a better listener and a better communicator. She said that showing empathy has transformed how community members respond to her, and she’s more effective in her work because of it.

And so when people applaud UMB for taking on community engagement in addition to our daily work, I demur. Because it’s not an addition at all. This is our work. This is our mission. And it’s you who proves every day just how vital it is.

I hope you’ll read my personal reflection (page 3) on why the CEC is so important to me.

Jay A. Perman, MD
PRESIDENT

Day of Service

UMB has again agreed to allow staff to use four hours of paid leave to volunteer at a nonprofit organization of their choice from Oct. 1 through the end of the calendar year as part of Gov. Hogan’s Day to Serve initiative.

All regular state faculty and staff employees are eligible to participate. In support of this initiative, UMB’s Office of Community Engagement (OCE) has developed a website capturing potential volunteer opportunities with existing community partners to help staff in identifying appropriate volunteer opportunities close to campus.

While faculty and staff are encouraged to volunteer individually, we also encourage staff to volunteer as a group/department for one of the opportunities listed here.

In addition to the volunteer opportunities, you also will find the requisite UMB Day to Serve Participation Agreement and Verification of Volunteer Service forms on the site, both of which you will need to submit to Human Resource Services to document your volunteer service.
WHY THE CEC MATTERS TO ME

During an early-morning visit to the Community Engagement Center (CEC) a couple of months ago, I was greeted by a few of our YouthWorks students, local high schoolers taking part in the city’s summer jobs program.

Lamont, Alicia, and Keyontae are from the neighborhood, and the projects they worked on during their time at the center were personal to them, because they were for them — for their families and neighbors. When they greeted CEC guests for breakfast and lunch, they knew the guests by name. When they went door-knocking to spread the word about the CEC, they knew the people who opened those doors.

Lamont Roberson, especially, has a close relationship to the center. His grandmother, Maxine Ware, is a longtime community activist and serves on our CEC Advisory Board. Lamont’s aunts and cousins come to the line-dancing classes put on by Bon Secours Health System and to the yoga classes run by a neighbor from Hollins Market.

The trio of YouthWorks students talked to me about a special project they were working on. It was hot outside, a fact made abundantly clear by the many hours each day they spent knocking on doors. If they were hot, their neighbors were, too.

So Lamont, Alicia, and Keyontae drew up a plan to help their neighbors beat the heat. The solutions were simple, elegant, persuasive.

1. Put a table at the center’s entrance holding pitchers of water and ice.
2. Place a sign outside the center, inviting people to come in and cool off.
3. Lobby the city to make the CEC an official cooling center and put resources into it.
4. Advocate for a new cooling center in the neighborhood, with plenty of space to relax. (The students found the closest cooling center in Cherry Hill, an unconscionable 48 minutes away by public transit.)
5. Plant more trees in the community to provide a shade canopy and lower the street-level temperature.

The students gave me a draft of their plan. I still have it.

It wasn’t long after that morning that I’d heard Lamont had been shot while playing basketball in the neighborhood. It was three days before his 16th birthday, just a few days after his job at the CEC had ended — and he was clinging to life.

Lamont endured six surgeries at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center. He was given 26 units of blood. The University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) dedicated an August blood drive to Lamont, and the community came out in force. Friends from the neighborhood, from UMB, and from UMMC filled up every donation slot.

Staff in UMB’s Office of Community Engagement are advocating for Lamont through city and state victim assistance programs. They’re helping secure social services for Lamont and his family, organizing meal delivery, and connecting Lamont to professionals who can help him process his trauma. A crowdfunding page is collecting donations to cover the family’s expenses.

Lamont’s two-month journey back from near-death has been agonizing. But there is good news: Two weeks ago, Lamont was transferred out of Shock Trauma and into the Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital to begin his rehabilitation. We think of him and pray for him every day.

Long before Lamont was shot, we were doing the complex work of violence prevention. The School of Social Work, the Carey School of Law, the Center for Community-Based Engagement and Learning, the Shock Trauma Center — all are trying to make our streets and schools safer for youth like Lamont.

And long before Lamont was shot, I said we needed a community engagement center big enough for all the programming we wanted, big enough for a basketball court where children could play safely, big enough that we could show our neighbors that we’re here for good and that our investment in their health and well-being will only grow.
When we opened the CEC last fall, the trustees of the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc. authorized $300,000 to support the center’s first two years of operations. I am profoundly grateful to the board for its compassion and generosity.

Now we need to think about the next step — CEC v. 2.0. We’re looking at properties on West Baltimore Street, where the Southwest Partnership is focusing its revitalization efforts. We want to move beyond the BioPark and deeper into the community, but close enough to our current location that we don’t lose the relationships we’ve worked so hard to build.

We’re planning an ambitious fundraising campaign to acquire, equip, and furnish a bigger and better CEC, and to provide an endowment that will sustain the center’s annual operating expenses. We’ve set a fundraising goal of $10 million for the building and for operations, and we’re confident that our friends will eagerly contribute to this cause.

Not all of our community engagement efforts take place at the center, of course. Some don’t even take place indoors. At the Pop! Farm community garden in Southwest Baltimore, we work alongside our neighbors and friends — avid gardeners and budding growers alike — to plant the soil and cultivate the plots together.

My vision for the CEC isn’t so different from this. Because our community is a garden. If we tend it with love, with diligence and care, we will all reap the harvest. And a harvest is exactly what Lamont deserves.

— Jay A. Perman, MD
Each year the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) celebrates the achievements and successes of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and philanthropic supporters and pays tribute to UMB’s 200-plus-year history with a series of Founders Week events.

**MONDAY, OCT. 31 | NOON**
SCHOOL OF NURSING COURTYARD
**STUDENT COOKOUT**
Tickets required. Open to UMB students only.

**TUESDAY, NOV. 1 | 4 P.M.**
BIOPARK LIFE SCIENCES
CONFERENCE CENTER
**ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION AND RECEPTION**

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 2**
11:30 A.M. TO 12:10 P.M. OR 12:20 TO 1 P.M.
WESTMINSTER HALL
**STAFF LUNCHEON**
Tickets required. Open to UMB staff only.

**THURSDAY, NOV. 3 | 4 P.M.**
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, ROOM N103
**RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION AND RECEPTION**

**FRIDAY, NOV. 4 | 11:30 A.M.**
THE KOESTER’S MAIN LOT
660 W. LEXINGTON ST.
**FOOD TRUCK RALLY**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 5 | 6 P.M.**
HILTON BALTIMORE
**GALA**
Black-tie optional dinner, program, and entertainment. Tickets can be purchased for $150 by contacting events@umaryland.edu.

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**2016 Founders Week Award Winners**

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE UMB FAMILY WILL BE HONORED AT THE FOUNDERS WEEK GALA:

**ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR**
WILLIAM F. REGINE, MD, FACR, FACRO
School of Medicine
Professor and Isadore & Fannie Schneider Foxman Chair,
Department of Radiation Oncology
Executive Director, Maryland Proton Treatment Center

**PUBLIC SERVANT OF THE YEAR**
BRONWYN MAYDEN, MSW
School of Social Work
Assistant Dean
Executive Director, Promise Heights

**RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR**
LINDA SIMONI-WASTILA, BSPharm, MSPH, PhD
School of Pharmacy
Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research

**TEACHER OF THE YEAR**
LOUISE S. JENKINS, PhD, RN, FAHA, ANEF
School of Nursing
Professor, Department of Partnerships, Professional Education, and Practice
Director, Institute for Educators

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Visit umaryland.edu/founders to find out more information about the events beginning Oct. 31 and to learn more about our Founders Week award winners.
UNIVERSITYWIDE

M.J. Tooey, MLS, AHIP, FMLA, associate vice president, Academic Affairs, and executive director, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, has been selected as one of five mentors for the 2016-2017 National Library of Medicine/Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries Leadership Fellows Program. The yearlong program is structured to model and build health sciences library leadership capacity through webinars, site visits, and learning experiences.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Robert Ernst, PhD, associate professor, Department of Microbial Pathogenesis, received a four-year, $385,209 grant from the National Institutes of Health to fund his study “Protection Against Gram-Negative Sepsis Conferred by Lipid A-Based Structural Variants.”

Richard Manski, DDS, MBA, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Dental Public Health, received a two-year, $314,496 grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research to study modeling dental service use among the elderly in the presence of endogenous selection into dental coverage.

Mary Anne Melo, DDS, MSc, PhD, assistant professor, Division of Operative Dentistry, Dean Mark Reynolds, DDS, PhD, MA, and Hockin Xu, PhD, MS, professor and director, Division of Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering, were co-authors of “Novel Bioactive Nanocomposite for Class-V Restorations to Inhibit Periodontitis-Related Pathogens,” which was published in Dental Materials.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Sylvia Montaner, PhD, MPH, associate professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, received a five-year, $530,014 grant from the National Institutes of Health for her study “Promotion of Retinal Vascular Hyperpermeability and Macular Edema by ANGPTL4.”

SHeryl Syme, RDH, MS, associate professor and director, BS Degree Completion Program, Division of Dental Hygiene, was featured in the American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) September-October Access magazine feature article on community service grants awarded by the ADHA’s Institute for Oral Health.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW


“State Constitutions as National Constitutions,” by Mark Graber, PhD, JD, MA, Jacob A. France Professor of Constitutionalism, was accepted for publication by the Arkansas Law Review.

“A Right to Be Regulated,” by Michael Pappas, JD, MA, associate professor, was accepted for publication by the George Mason Law Review. He also wrote “Singled Out,” which will be published in the Maryland Law Review.

Environmental Law: Statutory and Case Supplement 2016-17, by Robert Percival, JD, Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law and director, Environmental Law Program, was published by Wolters Kluwer. Percival also presented “Environmental Priorities in the U.S. and China” at the Shanghai Environmental Protection Bureau in China.

Peter Quint, JD, LLB, Jacob A. France Professor Emeritus of Constitutional Law, was named senior visiting research fellow at the Rothermere American Institute of Oxford University for the fall 2016 term. Quint also wrote a book chapter, “The Influence of the Supreme Court of the United States of America on Constitutional Review in Europe,” in Hanbuch Ius Publicum Europaeum.

Max Stearns, JD, Venable, Baetjer & Howard Professor of Law and associate dean for research and faculty development, presented his forthcoming article, “Fisher, Obergefell, and the Inversion of Tiers,” at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

“Obama’s Use of Executive Orders, to Bypass Gridlock,” an op-ed co-authored by Rena Steinzor, JD, Edward M. Robertson Professor of Law, was published in The New York Times.

In Baltimore. Student Yvette Pappoe emceed the event at Westminster Hall, which was co-sponsored by Maryland Carey Law and its Black Law Students Association, Student Bar Association, and the Journal of Race, Religion, Gender and Class, as well as the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings, JD ’76. Ifill is currently on leave serving as president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

Abdu Azad, PhD, MPH, professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, has been awarded a five-year, $2,801,584 RO1 from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for “Rickettsia-Host Interface and Multiple Paths to Invasion.”

James Campbell, MD, MS, professor, Department of Pediatrics, Center for Vaccine Development, and Institute for Global Health, has been appointed a member of the national Committee on Infectious Diseases (COID) for the American Academy of Pediatrics. COID develops and reviews policy recommendations on the use of vaccines in children.
The Center for Vaccine Development (CVD) and CVD-Mali hosted the 10th African Rotavirus Symposium in Bamako, Mali, on June 1-2. This event, held for the first time ever in Francophone Africa, brought together nearly 200 leading scientists and health officials from around the African continent and the globe, and focused on the theme “Reaching Every Child with Rotavirus Vaccines.” Among the attendees were Samba Sow, MD, MSc, director, CVD-Mali, and Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH, FIDSA, professor, Department of Medicine, and director, CVD.

Joseph Cheer, PhD, associate professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, was awarded a five-year, $2.2 million R01 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to examine “The Long-Term Consequences of Ritalin and Marijuana Exposure in Adolescence.”

Global Health, and director, University of Maryland Travelers’ Health Clinic, presented the June webinar “Travel Vaccines: Know Before You Go,” sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. Chen also served as a Scientific Advisory Committee member for PATH’s Vaccines Against Shigella and ETEC Conference in Washington, D.C.

Ricardo Feldman, PhD, associate professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, spoke on “Patient-Derived iPSC Provide Insights Into Pathophysiology of Gaucher Disease” at the 12th European Working Group on Gaucher Disease, held in Zaragoza, Spain.

Joseph Gillespie, PhD, assistant professor, and Mohammed Sayeedur Rahman, PhD, assistant professor, both from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, received a two-year, $275,000 R21 grant from the National Institutes of Health for “Characterizing Gene Family Expansion in an Atypical Bacterial Secretion System.”

James Kaper, PhD, senior associate dean for academic affairs and professor and chair, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and James Nataro, MD, PhD, clinical professor of Pediatrics, Medicine, and Microbiology and Immunology, Institute for Genome Sciences, received a five-year, $8 million P01 from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for “Pathogenesis of E. coli and Shigella Infections in Human Enteroid Models.”

Kent Kester, MD, clinical assistant professor, Department of Medicine, was appointed to the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ari Landon, PhD, a graduate student in the laboratory of Ronald Gartenhaus, MD, professor, Department of Medicine, has been awarded a Howard Hughes Postdoctoral Fellowship and will be working in the laboratory of Joan Steitz, PhD, at Yale, continuing his studies in RNA biology.

Amal Mattu, MD, professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, attended the 43rd Annual Rocky Mountain Trauma and Emergency Medicine Conference in Denver. He led a four-hour pre-conference workshop on cardiac ischemia electrocardiography and presented the keynote address “High Risk Arrythmias in Which ACLS Will Fail.”

Jay Menaker, MD, associate professor, Department of Surgery, presented “The Incidence of Cannula Associated Deep Vein Thrombosis After Veno-venous Extra-corporeal Membrane Oxygenation” at the fifth EuroELSO 2016 Congress Conference, held in Glasgow, Scotland.

Michelle Pearce, PhD, assistant professor and program director of applied thanatology, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Center for Integrative Medicine, wrote the book Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Christians with Depression: A Practical Tool-Based Primer, which was recently published by Templeton Press.

WILBUR CHEN

MICHELLE PEARCE
Kevin Pereira, MD, MS, FACS, professor and pediatric director, Department of Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, spoke on “Pediatric Cervical Lymphadenopathy: When Can You Reassure and Discharge?” at the European Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology meeting in Lisbon, Portugal.

Christopher Plowe, MD, MPH, FASTMH, the Frank M. Calia MD Professor of Medicine and founding director, Institute for Global Health, presented “New Progress for Artemisinin Resistance Surveillance in Asia” at the third Symposium on Surveillance Response System Leading to Tropical Diseases Elimination in Shanghai, China.

Brian Polster, PhD, associate professor, Department of Anesthesiology, received a two-year, $423,916 grant from the National Institutes of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “Mitochondrial Structural and Functional Remodeling in Microglial Activation.”

Adam Puche, PhD, associate professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, received the preclinical Golden Apple award from the school’s Class of 2016. Puche is course director of Structure and Development, the first-year medical course instructing anatomy, histology, and embryology.

Junfang Wu, BM, PhD, associate professor, Department of Anesthesiology, Center for Shock, Trauma and Anesthesiology Research (STAR), along with co-investigators Marta Lipinski, PhD, and Eugene Koh, MD, both assistant professors from the Department of Orthopaedics, received a five-year, $1,684,375 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “The Function and Mechanisms of Autophagy in Spinal Cord Injury.”

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Susan L. Bindon, DNP ’11, RN-BC, CNE, assistant professor, authored a chapter, “Future Nursing Professional Development Services and Focus,” in a new leadership textbook, Leadership in Nursing Professional Development: An Organizational and Systems Focus. The chapter explores trends that will influence nursing professional development practice, identifies areas needing ongoing education, and forecasts priorities for future leaders.

Karen Clark, PhD, RN, CRNP, assistant professor, wrote “Systems Thinking, IPE/IPP, TeamSTEPPS® and Communicating: Are They Interconnected? A Look With a Broad Brush,” which was published in Nursing and Palliative Care.

Dzifa Dordunoo, PhD ’14, RN, assistant professor, was awarded a two-year, $15,000 UMNursing Research Grant for “Oxygen Therapy in Hospitalized Patients with Acute on Chronic Heart Failure.” UM Nursing grants are co-supported by the school and University of Maryland Medical Center Nursing.

Susan G. Dorsey, PhD ’01, MS ’98, RN, FAAN, professor and chair, Department of Pain and Translational Symptom Science; Cynthia L. Renn, PhD, RN, associate professor; and Barbara Resnick, PhD ’96, RN, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP, professor and Sonia Ziporkin Gershowitz Chair in Gerontology, have been awarded a five-year, $2.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to fund UMB’s Omics Associated with Self-Management Interventions for Symptoms Center.
Lily Fountain, PhD, BSN ’91, RN, CNM, assistant professor, was awarded a two-year, $15,000 UMNursing Research Grant for “BRIDG: Breastfeeding Resources for Initiation and Duration Grant.”

Kathleen Griffith, PhD ’06, MPH, CRNP, assistant professor, has been awarded a two-year, $439,436 grant from the National Institutes of Health’s Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for the research project “Exercise Effect on Chemotherapy-Induced Neuropathic Pain, Peripheral Nerve Fibers.”

Veronica Gutchell, DNP ’13, CNS, CRNP, assistant professor, Ameera Chakravarthy, MS, BSN ’02, CRNP, clinical instructor, and Roseann Velez, DNP, FNP-BC, assistant professor, were recently elected to the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland’s Board of Directors for the 2016-17 term as president, treasurer, and secretary, respectively.

Dean Jane M. Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN, was recently appointed to the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC). The MCCC is charged with advising the governor and General Assembly on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change and maintaining and strengthening the state’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan.

Sherrie Lessans, PhD ’10, RN, assistant professor and director, Clinical Nurse Leader option, has been awarded a three-year, $460,817 grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Nursing Research to fund the project “Modeling Post-Menopausal Chemotherapy-Associated Weight Gain.”

Dave Lowing, a network systems engineer, was named UMB’s August Employee of the Month for his upbeat attitude, dedication to the school’s Learning Technology Office (where he did 700 recordings last year), and love of all things British.

Emily Heil, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received the 2016 Infectious Disease Practice and Research Network Clinical Practice Award from the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.
Student Laura Murphy, MPH, received the school’s Ellen H. Yankellow Scholarship.

Postdoctoral fellow Heather Neu, PhD, received the American Chemical Society’s Division of Inorganic Chemistry Young Investigator Award.

Student Bob Pang received the Pharmacy Quality Alliance-CVS Health Foundation Scholarship.

Lt. Cmdr. Judy Park, PharmD, a student in the MS in Regulatory Science Program, received the school’s GlaxoSmithKline Scholarship.

James Polli, PhD, the Shangraw/Noxell Endowed Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been elected a member-at-large to the Board of Directors of the Association of Graduate Regulatory Educators.

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, associate dean of clinical services and practice transformation, executive director, Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions, and professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been named the inaugural fellow for the University of Maryland Medical System’s Fellowship in Population Health.

Student Lisa Fedina received the 2016 Graduate Research Fellowship Award from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) at the U.S. Department of Justice for her dissertation “Understanding the Health Consequences of Sexual Victimization: Assessing the Impact of Social and Economic Factors.” The NIJ Graduate Research Fellowship Program in the Social and Behavioral Sciences provides support to doctoral students engaged in research on crime, violence, and other criminal justice-related topics.

Student Susan Klumpner received a doctoral fellowship award from the Council on Social Work Education’s Minority Fellowship Program. She is one of 24 fellows in this year’s cohort.

Amanda Leaning, PhD, assistant professor, has been selected by the Association of Gerontology Education in Social Work to receive the Faculty Achievement (Early Career) Award.

Leslie Rozeff, MSSW, clinical instructor, spoke at the annual Children’s Bureau Grantee Meeting in Washington, D.C. Representing the National Center for Evidence-Based Practice in Child Welfare (NCEBPCW), she co-presented a session with the lead from one of the sites, Oklahoma. The NCEBPCW’s model, “Partnering for Success,” also will be featured in an upcoming podcast produced by the Child Welfare Information Gateway.
Asking the right questions is essential to maximizing an institution’s potential in diversity and inclusion. That was among the messages conveyed by Marc A. Nivet, EdD, MBA, as he kicked off the Diversity Advisory Council Speaker Series at UMB on Sept. 28.

Nivet, executive vice president for institutional advancement at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and former chief diversity officer for the Association of American Medical Colleges, spoke for nearly an hour and then answered questions in “Diversity 3.0: From Fairness to Excellence.”

He pointed out that Motorola engineer Martin Cooper invented the cell phone in 1973 when he asked the right question. Told to create the next generation of car phone, Cooper “realized at that time you had to call a place — a home, office, pay phone,” Nivet said. “Why don’t we call a person? Cooper wondered. All the technology existed to do it, but no one had asked the right question until him.”

Nivet urged the 150 or so assembled at the SMC Campus Center to come up with the right questions in diversity matters as well. While he praised UMB’s “phenomenal” pipeline programs that guide West Baltimore youths into future health care careers, he said more could be done.

“How much does this institution source on food each year?” Nivet asked. Told millions of dollars, Nivet asked, “How far is the nearest food desert? Blocks away. What if you went to your food source, with whom you spend millions a year, the next time you went to bid and say ‘We want to have a joint partnership on a food desert eradication program.’ Which company is going to say no, we don’t want to do that? We don’t need your multimillion-dollar contract.”

The same could be done with technology, Nivet said. If a computer company wants to keep your account, have it supply modern equipment to schools in the area. “Why is there a child anywhere within five miles of this university who doesn’t have high-speed internet access or a laptop, or their school doesn’t have up-to-date technology?” Nivet said. “Tell the technology company, ‘We’ll put up $100,000 and we need you to put up $1 million.’ Which company is going to say no to that? The reason that doesn’t exist is because no one has asked the right question.”

In his previous role as chief diversity officer for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Nivet was responsible for the AAMC’s vision and leadership on issues of community engagement, diversity, and health equity at medical schools and teaching hospitals across the U.S. and Canada. “I like to think I effectively agitate,” he said with a smile.
Nivet, who started his UT Southwestern post on Sept. 1, has spent over 20 years in academic medicine and has lectured around the country, finding many similarities. And despite gains made in diversity and equality, he said much work still remains.

“I’ve been to 137 colleges and universities and all care about this work,” he said. “They have quality leadership like you have here with Dr. Perman and direct day-to-day responsibility of the diversity board. There’s investment. But despite all that investment, [nationally] we had fewer black men in the first-year medical school class in 2014 than we did in 1978.”

“At his morning presentation — one of four Nivet did at UMB on Sept. 28 for groups ranging from students, members of the Diversity Advisory Council, and UMB’s deans and vice presidents — he said getting comfortable with being uncomfortable was a necessity. “There’s nothing magical or inherently good about diversity,” he said, admitting that was strange coming from a diversity officer. “If you don’t believe me turn on CNN and see what happens when you smash different religions together, different cultures together, different people together around the world and create artificial connections. I want to see diversity when it happens in a real world.”

“Every one of you has your own definition of diversity,” he said, mentioning it can be a minority issue, gender, LGBT, or disability issue. “But diversity means nothing more than difference. We put on this word all these different meanings. That difference doesn’t matter unless you have a culture of inclusion. Inclusion is the necessary fuel that animates the diversity.”

In his introduction, UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, recalled an AAMC Diversity 3.0 event Nivet spoke at several years ago in Washington, D.C. “I knew immediately that he had something very important to teach us,” Perman said. “I was drawn to the way Dr. Nivet framed the case for moving diversity from our periphery to our core and that … this is the only way we’ll achieve institutional excellence.”

Equating diversity to a software program, Nivet said Diversity 1.0 includes a social justice movement that seeks fairness and accessibility for women and minorities. Diversity 2.0 turns to cultural competency, population parity, and a focus on recruitment and retention. “Education is better when we are diverse. When we have people with conflicting views. Sure it’s great to give a kid an opportunity, but really the thinking is the reason we’re doing this is because it makes us better. That was Diversity 2.0.”

Diversity 3.0 moves to a broader definition of diversity, moving it from the periphery to the core, with a focus on an institution thriving. “It’s when the shift happens that you realize we can’t be an excellent institution unless we’re diverse and inclusive.”

Perman began the presentation by saluting UMB’s Diversity Advisory Council, which he formed shortly after his arrival in 2010. He applauded the launch of the DAC Speaker Series pointing out UMB has had many compelling discussions in recent years on diversity, equity, and inclusion. “We were eager to bring in others — experts who can inform our own debate, who can share the best scholarship in diversity, and who will contribute perspectives that lend nuance to our understanding and depth to our dialogue.”

Marc Nivet’s presentation certainly accomplished that.

— Chris Zang

See the video and more pictures.
She’s patient, flexible, timely, private, thorough, creative, and independent. They are all traits that make Laurelyn Irving, PhD, MSW, an effective ombudswoman for UMB.

Listener and peacemaker also would apply for Irving, who after starting in the School of Nursing in 2014 and School of Dentistry in early 2016 is now working with employees across UMB to resolve conflict, improve their work climate, and enhance job satisfaction.

“I think a lot of people start to feel some healing just being listened to so I do a lot of listening,” says Irving, who said one “visitor” (not client) spoke for four hours straight in their first meeting. “A lot of people feel stuck — in their job, in a bad interaction with someone — and they’re considering leaving. I listen and point out other ways to handle it. You don’t have to feel stuck.”

Irving, who mediated nearly 900 cases in the court system and 100 community mediations before coming to UMB, might facilitate a meeting between two employees who don’t get along. Her flexibility comes into play as she can either lead the conversation or “be a mouse in the corner and just observe” while two participants discuss their differences, with Irving’s contact using talking points they’ve discussed beforehand.

“Hopefully it ends with a handshake or a hug or the two going to lunch,” Irving says with a smile.

She consults with bigger groups, too.

“I’m working with one office group where we’ve got a plan that’s going to take us at least a month. We’re trying an experiment and after a month, we’re going to see how things are going. If it worked, great, we’re done. If it didn’t, we’ll tweak it and try something else.”

Irving doesn’t admit defeat, though there are some cases not suitable for the Office of the Ombudsperson. (See a list at http://www.umaryland.edu/ombuds/what-to-expect/.) Sometimes she will refer a visitor to her colleagues at the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) or to Human Resource Services (HRS).

For instance, someone who feels she has been sexually harassed and wants to initiate a formal investigation will be redirected to HRS. Or a few weeks ago a supervisor brought Irving a person who was emotionally distraught. “After listening and talking to that person for a while, I could tell that this was a mental health/counseling type of problem,” says Irving, who despite her PhD and master’s doesn’t diagnose or treat visitors. “So I called EAP and said, ‘Can we get this person in today? This is a crisis situation.’ They moved space on a calendar to get the person in.”

But Irving is able to respond to most of the visitors she sees, often on the day they call, but no later than the next workday. Asked for an example, Irving is quick to stress the importance of confidentiality. How important? She only keeps demographic information (sex, age, race, and which of the nine ombuds categories were discussed) after a case is closed, shredding her handwritten notes so no computer servers are involved.

She says a common ombuds issue would be a faculty member who feels he/she was wronged in a performance review. Irving will find out what important criteria the person feels was overlooked and work with him/her to develop an outline for a future meeting Irving may attend with the visitor. “Sometimes just me being there will bolster someone’s courage to say some things that are difficult, like ‘you hurt my feelings when you did this’ or ‘you really insulted me when you said that.'”
By bringing the parties together, and hopefully finding a solution, Irving believes she is serving two purposes. “If my work can help employees feel they have been heard and their perspective considered and I can help everyone avoid a lawsuit, that is a win/win result.”

Although Irving has been embraced by both the School of Nursing (“Dean Jane Kirschling’s support was critical for bringing me to campus and she advocated for my position to go full time”) and the School of Dentistry, and she will miss her colleagues there, she will be moving to a new private space in Room 201 in the Environmental Health and Safety Building at 714 W. Lombard St.

“It will be easier for people to find me in one office,” Irving says. Not that she will always be there. Training supervisors and employees in conflict management and workplace civility takes Irving around the University.

Roger Ward, EdD, JD, MPA, chief accountability officer, spoke at the March Q&A about the Office of the Ombudsperson being one of four steps UMB was taking to “create a culture of opportunity.” Has Irving’s one-person office achieved that?

“I hope so. That’s been my goal all along. We’re making real progress,” says Irving. “When I met with Dr. Ward he was quick to see how the ombuds role fit in supporting the campus values. He’s been most supportive.”

In the future, Irving would like to extend the ombuds program to students, enhance its visibility, and contribute even more to committee and training efforts. But for now, she’s happy to listen, clarify the conflict, and help find a solution.

“For the woman who spoke for four hours straight, we identified eight different issues. So then I asked, ‘Which of these do you want to deal with?’ We got it down to three issues and moved on from there.”

To make an appointment, call Irving at 410-706-8534. She also will schedule appointments at lirving@umaryland.edu but requests no other information be sent through email to ensure privacy.

— Chris Zang

QUARTERLYQ&A

with Dr. Perman

THURSDAY

Oct. 6, 2016

Noon | 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 UMB’s partnership with UMMC for the West Baltimore community.
MENTORING THE MENTORS

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.

Although programming was recessed until October, UMB’s CURE Scholars Program has been hard at work preparing new mentors for the year to come.

By mid-September, 70 new mentors from across UMB had joined the CURE team with numbers increasing daily. Students from the schools of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and social work had volunteered to fill the roles of primary, flex, and even lead mentor. Mentor training and orientation took place in September.

CURE officially welcomed its second cohort of young scientists on Saturday, Oct. 1. The newest members hail from Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School, Southwest Baltimore Charter School, and Green Street Academy. The day began with a welcome from UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, and included a white coat ceremony, lunch, campus tour, and a mentor mixer.

Our newest seventh-grade curriculum will work to enrich Baltimore City Schools content in biological sciences by offering small mammal dissection, as well as a focused study of human and cancer tissue samples. Scholars also will be introduced to basic computer coding skills by partnering with our corporate partner Cisco.

CURE will kick off its first Saturday session of its second year by participating in the American Heart Association sponsored “Heart Walk” to raise awareness about heart disease on Oct. 8 at Camden Yards. These activities will be followed by a planetarium presentation scheduled to take place at the Pratt Gym at URecFit on Saturday, Oct. 22.

Make sure to follow our scholars’ activities on Twitter and Facebook to stay up to date. Still can’t get enough of UMB CURE scholars? Get involved today and learn more by visiting our website.

— Lauren Kareem, MEd