Last April, we began a tradition at UMB, a festival celebrating art, culture, and community. Now that spring has sprung, it’s time to do it again. Join us on Saturday, April 22, for our second annual Neighborhood Spring Festival.

The festival spans the 800 block of W. Baltimore St. in the University of Maryland BioPark. Kids will be entertained with face painting, balloon animals, hula hoops, and Sparkles the Clown. Neighbors and vendors will be selling handcrafted jewelry, art, dolls, soaps and lotions, baskets, gift boxes, and cards.

You certainly won’t want to miss musical sets from our student a cappella groups: Legally Sound, from the Carey School of Law, and The Hippocratic Notes, from the School of Medicine, along with the School of Dentistry’s cover band, Nitrous Roxide. Baltimore-based urban poetry group, The 5th L, will perform a spoken word set.

The festival is sponsored by the UMB Council for the Arts & Culture, and the council’s honorary chair, Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan, has invited artists in traditional Korean music and dance to share the day with us.

If you want to break a sweat, you can join a Zumba workout with Cherika Jones, who teaches the dance fitness classes at our Community Engagement Center. We’ll have yoga sessions for the youngsters and tae kwon do demonstrations that might induce you to take up the martial art. Reward yourself with some homemade sweets, breads, hot sauces, and granola — all made with love and all for sale by our neighbors and colleagues. Local restaurants will serve up Korean barbecue and kimchi, alongside food so hot that even the First Lady demurred last year. Hot dogs, pretzels, and fruit will be on hand for the less adventurous among us.

With our clinical and community partners, we’ll make health, safety, and employment services available to neighbors and connect them to the resources they need.

The Neighborhood Spring Festival coincides with Earth Day, and we’ll celebrate the occasion by planting a Japanese Stewartia, a beautiful tree that will bloom each year in the BioPark. You’ll be able to take some nature with you as well: Kids can pot a few spring flowers for your home garden.

This is a wonderful opportunity to come together with our neighbors and celebrate everything that makes us a community. I do hope you’ll join us on April 22. I hope you’ll bring your families and friends, and build this spring tradition into one that truly blossoms.

Sincerely,

Jay A. Perman, MD
PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITYWIDE

Courtney J. Jones Carney, MBA, director, Office of Interprofessional Student Learning and Services Initiatives, Campus Life Services, presented “Creating Positive Work Spaces: Avoiding Microaggressions in the Workplace” at the 41st Maryland Student Affairs Conference in College Park.

Stephen N. Davis, MBBS, FRCP, FACE, MACP, who is the Dr. Theodore E. Woodward Chair in the School of Medicine’s Department of Medicine, has been appointed UMB’s vice president of clinical translational science, a new role he will take on in addition to his previous duties. As vice president, Davis will spearhead UMB’s collaboration with Johns Hopkins University in competing for the prestigious National Institutes of Health Clinical and Translational Science Award. Since 2010, he has served as director of the General Clinical Research Center and he is a founding member and director of the UMB Clinical Translational Sciences Institute.

Kudos to those in Facilities and Plant Operations, Parking Services, Public Safety, and other departments who helped clear our streets and sidewalks during bad weather. This winter was mild compared to many, but when Mother Nature turned on the snow and ice, our people met the challenge. Thanks!

Stephen N. Davis

Malinda Hughes has been promoted to chief of staff in the Office of Academic Affairs and the Graduate School. She will work with and on behalf of Chief Accountability Officer and Vice President Roger J. Ward, EdD, JD, MPA, and Chief Academic and Research Officer and Senior Vice President Bruce Jarrell, MD, FACS, to coordinate a myriad of University-wide initiatives and special projects.

Congratulations to the schools of Law, Medicine, and Nursing for showing gains in the U.S. News & World Report rankings released March 14. The Carey School of Law evening program rose to fourth overall (from fifth) and is tied for first among public law schools. Health care law jumped from fourth to second and has been ranked in the top four for more than 10 years now. Dispute resolution (No. 18) and environmental law (No. 14) remained in the top 20. The School of Medicine moved up a spot to No. 16 in public medical schools for research and its primary care ranking jumped from No. 65 to No. 44 (26th among public schools), its best showing since 2007. The School of Nursing’s Doctor of Nursing Practice and Master of Science rankings remained in the top 10 and seven of its eight specialty rankings improved (nursing administration, nurse practitioner family, nurse practitioner adult/gerontology acute care, nurse practitioner pediatric primary care, and nurse practitioner psychiatric/mental health) or remained in first place (clinical nurse leader, nursing informatics).

U.S. News this year provided no new rankings for pharmacy, social work, physical therapy, and graduate programs in the life sciences and it has never ranked dental schools.

Claire Murphy has been promoted to director of marketing in the Office of Communications and Public Affairs (CPA). Murphy, who was hired by the Office of Development more than six years ago and joined CPA in 2012, is responsible for executing marketing strategies, programs, and communications, managing the production of a range of printed and electronic materials, liaising with schools and key administrative departments such as Philanthropy, providing marketing advice and support, and more.

Malinda Hughes

Jenny Owens, ScD, MS, director of Academic and Student Affairs, and Flavius Lilly, PhD, MA, MPH, senior associate dean in the Graduate School and assistant vice president, Academic and Student Affairs, co-authored “The Influence of Academic Discipline, Race, and Gender on Web-Use Skills Among Graduate-Level Students,” which was published in the Journal of Computing in Higher Education.

Jenny Owens
FLAVIUS LILLY

CLAUDE MURPHY
Corey Shdaimah, PhD, LLM, LLB, associate professor, School of Social Work, and Toby Guerin, JD, managing director, Center for Dispute Resolution, Carey School of Law, gave the keynote presentation at UMB’s fifth annual IPE Faculty Development Day.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Postdoctoral fellow Koyel J. Ghosal and Bryan Krantz, PhD, associate professor, Department of Microbial Pathogenesis, were among the co-authors of “Dynamic Phenylalanine Clamp Interactions Define Single-Channel Polypeptide Translocation Through the Anthrax Toxin Protective Antigen Channel,” which was published in the Journal of Molecular Biology.

Gary Hack, DDS, clinical associate professor, Division of Operative Dentistry, was invited to speak at the American Diabetes Association’s 2017 Call to Congress held in Washington, D.C.

Se-Lim Oh, DMD, MS, assistant professor, Department of Periodontics, Radi Masri, BDS, MS, PhD, associate professor, Department of Endodontics, Prosthodontics, and Operative Dentistry, and Elaine Romberg, PhD, professor emeritus, were among the co-authors of “Free Gingival Grafts for Implants Exhibiting Lack of Keratinized Mucosa: A Prospective Controlled Randomized Clinical Study,” which was published in the Journal of Clinical Periodontology.

Postgraduate resident William Wahle received the 2016 Tylman Award from the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics (AAFP) for his report “Radiographic Evaluation of All Ceramic Crown Margins,” during the AAFP annual meeting held in Chicago.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

Taunya Banks, JD, Jacob A. France Professor of Equality Jurisprudence, gave “The Last Word” at the 22nd Annual Mid-Atlantic People of Color Conference at George Washington University School of Law.

Danielle Citron, JD, Morton & Sophia Macht Professor of Law, participated in a public lecture “Why Fighting Online Abuse Is Good For Free Speech,” at Princeton University. Citron also wrote “The Privacy Policymaking of State Attorneys General,” which appeared in the Notre Dame Law Review.

“Against School Suspensions,” by Deborah Eisenberg, JD, professor and director, Center for Dispute Resolution, was published in the Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender and Class.

Michael Greenberger, JD, professor and founding director, Center for Health and Homeland Security, was a panelist at the conference “Zika Global to Local: Addressing the Epidemic from an International and Interprofessional Lens,” which was hosted by the Maryland Law Review.
Paula Monopoli, JD, Sol & Carlyn Hubert Professor of Law and director, Women, Leadership and Equality Program, gave a talk, “Demonstrating Your Value: Gender and Organizational Dynamics,” for the UMBrella Lunch and Learn Series. She also gave introductory remarks at the University of Maryland, College Park for an MLAW panel discussion on reproductive rights.

Robert Percival, JD, Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law and director, Environmental Law Program, wrote “The Future of Environmental Enforcement” in the Environmental Law Reporter and “Despite Attacks on Judicial Defercence, Reports of Auer’s Demise Are Premature,” in the American Bar Association Section on Environment, Energy & Resources Newsletter. Percival gave two talks at the Anhui Province Farmland Heavy Metal Contamination Remediation Training for the University of Maryland Office of China Affairs in College Park. He also delivered the keynote address for the 18th Northeast Florida Environmental Summit at the Florida Coastal School of Law.

Michael Pinard, JD, Francis & Harriet Iglehart Professor of Law and co-director, Clinical Law Program, gave a talk and teaching presentation, “Signs of the Times: Finding Our Roles in Moments and Movements,” at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law.

Concise Hornbook: Principles of International Business Transactions, by Michael Van Alstine, JD, Piper & Marbury Professor of Law and co-director, International and Comparative Law Program, was published by West Academic. Van Alstine also wrote the chapter “International Law in Domestic Courts” in the Handbook on the Politics of International Law.

Andrea Berry, MD, assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics, Institute for Global Health, received a five-year, $915,020 K23 award for “Protein Microarray Antibody Responses to P. falciparum in a Human Challenge Model.”

France Carrier, PhD, associate professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center, received a four-year Merit Award from Veterans Affairs for “Chemopotentiation by Low Dose Fractionated Radiation Therapy for Disseminated Gastric Cancer.”

Hancai Dan, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pathology, Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center, received a five-year, $1.8 million R01 from the National Cancer Institute for “Inhibition of Castration Resistant Prostate Cancer by Targeting of the IKKbeta/AR Signaling.”

Ashraf Badros, MD, ChB, professor, Department of Medicine, Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center, presented results of his investigator-initiated clinical trial at the 58th Annual American Society of Hematology Meeting in San Diego.
Student Benjamin Emmanuel, MPH, Samer El-Kamary, MB, ChB, MPH, associate professor, and Laree Tracy, PhD, adjunct professor, all from the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health; and Shyamasundaran Kottili, MBBS, PhD, professor, Department of Medicine, were among the co-authors on “Racial Disparity in All-Cause Mortality Among Hepatitis C Virus-Infected Individuals in a General US Population, NHANES III,” which was published in the Journal of Viral Hepatitis.

Alan Faden, MD, the David S. Brown Professor in Trauma, Department of Anesthesiology, and director, Shock, Trauma & Anesthesiology Research (STAR) Center, presented “Chronic Neurodegeneration and Associated Neuroinflammation Following Brain or Spinal Cord Injury: New Therapeutic Targets” at the University of Melbourne and three other sites in Australia.

Karen Gordes, PhD, DScPT, PT, assistant professor and director, Faculty and Student Affairs, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, has received a $1,000 interprofessional education seed grant for “Novel Partnerships for Interprofessional Education: Building Collaboration Between Information System Students Specializing In 3D Technology And Physical Therapy Students.”

Mangla Gulati, MBBS, CPPS, FACP, SFHM, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, has been elected governor of the American College of Physicians, Maryland Chapter. She will serve as governor-elect from 2017-2018 and governor from 2018-2022.

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

Michael Humphrys, MSc, lab research specialist, and Jacques Ravel, PhD, professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and associate director, genomics, both from the Institute for Genome Sciences, were among the co-authors on “The Effect of Cigarette Smoking on the Oral and Nasal Microbiota,” which appeared in Microbiome.

Jennie Law, MD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, was selected as a participant in the inaugural American Society of Hematology Medical Educators Institute. Her project focused on education in the assessment and management of sickle cell anemia.

Ada Offurum, MD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, was named Outstanding Hospitalist of the Year by the American College of Physicians, Maryland Chapter for 2017.

Mona Kaleem, MD, assistant professor, and postgrad Laura Andrews, MD, both from the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, were awarded a $28,000 grant from The Abell Foundation for “Examining the Burden of Ophthalmic Disease in the Underserved in Baltimore.” The project aims to improve access to vision care in Baltimore City and measure the incidence of ophthalmic disease among homeless people.

Judy LaKind, PhD, adjunct associate professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, was appointed president of the International Society of Exposure Science, which promotes, protects, and enhances the role of exposure science in diverse fields.
Elizabeth Phillips, MD, MA, clinical instructor, Department of Emergency Medicine, was appointed chair of the Committee on Ethics and Judicial Affairs for MedChi (The Maryland State Medical Society) in January.

Dudley Strickland, PhD, professor, departments of Surgery and Physiology, director, Center for Vascular and Inflammatory Diseases, and associate dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, received a seven-year, $5,405,872 award from the National Institutes of Health/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). This Outstanding Investigator Award (R35 grant) is designed to promote scientific productivity and innovation. This is the first time this prestigious award has been issued by NHLBI.

Rodney Taylor, MD, MPH, associate professor, Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, and the school’s associate chair of research, has been elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society from among his peers based on his high academic achievement and demonstration of leadership, professionalism, research, teaching, and service.

Michael Witting, MD, MS, associate professor, and Siamak Moayedi, MD, assistant professor, both from the Department of Emergency Medicine, with SOM student Kathy Dunning and non-UMB colleagues co-authored “Power Injection Through Ultrasound-Guided IV Lines: Safety and Efficacy Under an Institutional Policy,” which was published by The Journal of Emergency Medicine.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

The school and Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) signed an agreement of dual admission that will ensure students’ seamless transition from AACC’s Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program to UMSON’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Through the agreement, students will be simultaneously admitted into both programs while satisfying the requirements of both schools, saving them time and money.

Luana Colloca, MD, PhD, associate professor, co-authored an article on neuropathic pain that appeared in Nature Reviews Disease Primers. The article examines the challenges of understanding the pathophysiology of neuropathic pain and the progress that has been made.

The school has been awarded $25,000 from the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare to endow the Darlene J. Curley Scholarship. This latest grant contributes to the $255,000 that UMSON has received from the center since 2012 to support UMSON nursing students financially. The Jonas Center’s most recent gift honors Curley, MS ’82, BSN ’80, RN, FAAN, the center’s executive director.

Jeffrey Johnson, PhD, has been appointed professor emeritus by President Perman. Johnson served as a professor at the school for 12 years and was the founding director of its Office of Global Health. An emeritus faculty member is a retired professor who has demonstrated an exemplary record of service to the school and to the profession.

Gail Schoen Lemaire, PhD ’96, PMHCNS, BC, CNL, associate professor and associate dean, Master of Science program, has been awarded honorable mention for the 2017 Clinical Nurse Leader Educator Vanguard Award by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and the Commission on Nurse Certification.
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Lynn Disney, PhD, JD, MPH, director of research, PATIENTS program, has received a seven-month, $44,033 contract from Patients Like Me for “Patients Reported Outcomes Measurement.”

Joga Gobburu, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and executive director, Center for Translational Medicine, has received a one-year, $50,000 contract from Wockhardt for “Task Orders 8 and 9” and has received a one-year, $30,000 contract from Braeburn Pharmaceuticals for “Projecting Buprenorphine Drug-Drug Interaction Potential.”

Vijay Ivaturi, PhD, research assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has received a one-year, $23,000 contract from Thomas Jefferson University for “A Comparison of Buprenorphine Versus Morphine in the Treatment of the Neonatal Ab.”

Barbarajean “BJ” Robinson-Shaneman, BSN, MSN, senior program advisor, PATIENTS program, has been selected to receive the Women Honoring Women Community Service Award from Changing Lives Ministries.

Jodi Frey, PhD, associate professor, was one of several presenters during a webinar on preventing suicide in the construction industry. The webinar was offered on behalf of the HealthyMenMichigan.org campaign.

Joan Pittman, PhD, clinical assistant professor, and Deborah Gioia, PhD, associate professor, were invited presenters at the Dyuti 2017 International Conference on Healthy Aging and Mental Health at Rajagiri College in Kerala, India. Pittman presented on evidence-based group work interventions for older adults and Gioia presented on schizophrenia and aging.

Michael Reisch, PhD, MSW, MA, Daniel Thursz Distinguished Professor of Social Justice, was named to the editorial review board of Social Service Review for a two-year term. He delivered the keynote address to the National Association of Social Workers/Maryland’s 20th Annual Legislative Education and Advocacy Development Day in Annapolis.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Dean Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW, made a presentation on parent engagement in social services and child welfare services to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine stakeholders meeting.

Tanya Sharpe, PhD, MSW, associate professor, was invited by the Boston University School of Social Work to discuss her research on African-American survivors of homicide victims, offering culturally responsive solutions for research and practice.
ALUMNI COUPLE’S $1.5 MILLION GIFT CREATES CENTER

A UMB alumni couple, Richard Sherman, MD, of the School of Medicine Class of 1972, and Jane Sherman, PhD, of the School of Nursing Class of 1985, have made a $1.5 million gift to the University to establish a health care innovation center to be located in the Health Sciences and Human Services Library.

The gift, which will create the Richard and Jane Sherman Center for Health Care Innovation at the library, is dedicated to encouraging an environment where doctors, medical students, nurses, and other health care professionals can harness their intellects and probe their thinking “beyond the box.”

“It will be a place in which motivated health care thinkers and doers, individuals and teams of learners and mentors with diverse capabilities will find sources of intellectual property information, as well as diverse tools useful in promoting innovation,” said Richard Sherman, who retired from private practice in internal medicine and cardiology in 2015.

He added that the center will centralize software with sources of academic, corporate, and scientific material with potential to enable people to efficiently focus ideas toward the improvement of patient- and physician-focused health care.

“The Shermans understand better than most how critically important it is that we nurture the relationship between provider and patient, that we enable their close communication and collaboration, so that everyone on the provider team understands the outcomes they’re striving for and how to best achieve them,” UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, said in the gift announcement on March 16. “I’m so grateful that the Shermans want to harness innovation as a way to strengthen this special relationship and have underwritten our efforts to do just that.”

“The remarkable and generous gift by Richard and Jane Sherman is a powerful gesture signaling both their compassion and their genuine commitment to stimulate innovative thinking here at UMB and well beyond,” added Thomas J. Sullivan, CFRE, MS, vice president and chief philanthropy officer in UMB’s Office of Philanthropy. “Their extraordinary charitable investment will create a lasting impact that will alter the lives of countless patients in the years to come.”

At the School of Medicine, Richard Sherman was mentored by the esteemed Theodore Woodward, MD ’38, then chair of the Department of Medicine. In part, Richard Sherman said, it was the impact of mentors such as Woodward that inspired the creation of the center.

“I was mentored by outstanding people at the medical school who taught me the real meaning of innovation, people who helped me to think differently and beyond the norm,” he said. “When you are trained properly in the beginning, it stays with you for life.”

School of Medicine Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, who is also the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and University vice president for medical affairs, said: “This is a tremendous gift from Drs. Richard and Jane Sherman that strongly supports our goal to focus on innovations that enable current and future health care professionals to provide the highest level of quality in health care delivery. We are all proud to have an alumni couple like the Shermans who are so dedicated to our institution and to making an impact.”

Jane Sherman, who practices holistic nursing, also referenced her School of Nursing education as playing a key role in supporting her strong convictions about the emphasis of providing nursing care that is both nursing research- and theory-based. She was one of four graduates in the first class of the school’s PhD program.

“Dr. Perman has been a strong advocate for interdisciplinary learning and service at the University of Maryland, Baltimore,” she said. “In support of Dr. Perman’s vision, the center will unite UMB’s professional schools and will be available to anyone on campus who wishes to take advantage of this outstanding resource.”

“We are excited about the enormous opportunities created by this generous gift from Drs. Richard and Jane Sherman,” added School of Nursing Dean Jane M. Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN, who is also University director of interprofessional education.
“Their gift will build upon the University’s ongoing work in interdisciplinary and team-based health care delivery and research. It will provide significant new resources and tools to spur creative thinking and innovation. We are deeply grateful to the Shermans for their commitment to creating an environment where new ideas will thrive.”

Together, the couple saw a need for changes in a health care system that has been cluttered by a check-the-box mentality that employs people who actually get between doctor and patient. Collaborative interaction and communication are lost, Richard Sherman said, by needless forms that often repeatedly ask the same questions of a patient. He had cancer as a 27-year-old intern and developed a perspective from both the doctor and the patient point of view.

Thinking “beyond the norm” inspired Richard Sherman’s involvement in the creation of ICU Medical Inc., a San Clemente, Calif., company that develops life-saving and life-enhancing medical devices. The company’s founder, George Lopez, MD, invented its first product, the ClickLock, following the death of a patient whose IV accidentally disconnected. Sherman remains a member of ICU’s board of directors.

Overall, he believes that today’s health care is burdened by non-professional policymakers driven by cash flow to support a massive bureaucracy. He adds that unnecessary programs need to be eliminated while others should be merged to promote economy and improved quality of care.

Both Richard and Jane Sherman point out the need for students to examine whether they really have the “gut ethic” it takes to distinguish the difference between individualized quality care and care that is just generic. It is Richard Sherman’s hope that the new center will support students who have creative ideas that need to be nurtured, so that these ideas are not lost.

— Mary T. Phelan

To learn more about giving to UMB, visit our website.
"I don't work for *The New York Times*. I work for 'the failing' *New York Times*.

With that, acclaimed op-ed columnist Frank Bruni, MS, set the stage for his counterattack on President Donald Trump’s criticism of the media before a crowd of 200 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) on Feb. 28. As the second speaker in UMB’s President’s Panel on Politics and Policy, Bruni defended the Fourth Estate, stressed the importance of social justice, and seared various elements of the Trump administration while never losing his sense of humor.

UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, made mention of Bruni’s “provocative and witty opinion pieces” in his introduction and the speaker did not disappoint.

“You will find no small number of reporters who have or had his cell phone number. That may have changed recently for security concerns, but he loves the press. It is his stage, his microphone, his magnifying glass — but he doesn’t love anything but one version of events about himself. What he’s trying to do in a very sustained and deliberate fashion is nullify and delegitimize all the press that isn’t holding up a mirror that shows him as his reflection of himself. The only ones with access going forward will be the press that rewards him with flattering coverage.”

‘Narcissist Like Him Wants to Feel Love’

Prodded by questions from Perman, Bruni told the audience at the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center they should care a great deal about Trump’s actions on the Affordable Care Act, deportation, and much more. “A narcissist like him wants to feel love coming from the room. But of course when you govern you make choices and you decide to do things some people like and other people oppose and you cannot be beloved by everyone and he’s learning that.”

Bruni’s career at *The Times* spans more than 20 years and includes stints as a White House correspondent, the chief restaurant critic, the Rome bureau chief, and a staff writer for the Sunday magazine. He came to *The Times* from *The Detroit Free Press*, where he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for a narrative profile of a convicted child molester.

He admitted the media has itself to blame for some of the criticism Trump has heaped upon it.

“Do those of us in the media sensationalize the news too often?
Absolutely. Do we get caught up on little gaffes and scandals that don’t deserve the attention of the nation? Absolutely,” Bruni said. “But, at the end of the day, without us, who is writing the report card on these officials? Who is watching closely in an enterprising, investigative way in real time to tell people that no government official, not just Donald Trump, but whether it’s Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton — those officials aren’t going to give you the unvarnished truth about selling their programs and selling themselves. And you need a counterweight to that. Let that counterweight go away and you basically have all propaganda all the time. And in Donald Trump’s case you have the making of a demagogue.”

The Times’ first openly gay op-ed columnist, Bruni said the “outlook is bleak” for various social justice movements that were gaining ground under Obama and earlier administrations such as reproductive freedom, same sex marriage, and transgender rights. He fears Trump nominee Neil Gorsuch could be the first of three conservative Supreme Court justices appointed by Trump, citing Anthony Kennedy’s willingness to retire once his former clerk, Gorsuch, comes onboard and Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s failing health.

Advice for the Dems

Bruni said the stopgap that Democrats need to block Trump’s assault on social justice is to take back the House of Representatives. “Deny him one chamber of Congress. The Democrats need to be ruthlessly pragmatic like the Republicans have been when you have a president as erratic as Donald Trump.”

Liberals did themselves no favor in February naming former Labor Secretary Tom Perez to head the Democratic National Committee (DNC), Bruni said. He spoke of “dream candidates” who have vast intellect and military service. Then he mentioned Pete Buttigieg, the 34-year-old second-term mayor of South Bend, Ind., who, in addition to intellect and military service, is gay, Bruni said, and a concert pianist. “He has a fascinating cluster of attributes,” Bruni said, naming him the perfect DNC choice. “It’s important for Democrats to send the humble signal that they are ready to turn the page and look at things in new ways.”

Calling Trump’s Cabinet picks “a big mess from various different angles,” Bruni said Americans find Trump to be offensive in his comportment but support some of the things he is advocating. Bruni also said politicians from unconventional backgrounds could be a wave of the future. “We live in a culture that is increasingly celebrity-driven. In some cases it could bring us bizarre candidates and in some cases inspiring candidates.”

The President’s Panel on Politics and Policy was launched to examine issues important to the UMB community that are likely to be affected by the new presidential administration and Congress. Bruni took questions from a long line of UMB faculty, students, and staff who came to the microphone at the end of the event. Topics touched on the need for precise language, governors and Trump, labor law, voter burnout by 2018, white women voting for Trump, the president’s lack of comment on the desecration of Jewish cemeteries, student activity in politics, and more. A faculty member from psychiatry was teased “you must be having a field day,” by Bruni.

Another audience member asked how she can discuss politics with friends and family “who don’t think like us. It’s hard and painful and I don’t want to offend anyone.”

Bruni replied he and former Christian Coalition leader Ralph Reed are friends who break bread together “and we disagree on so many things. … If you’re realistic and rational and respectful, it’s not that hard to talk to each other.”

— Chris Zang
Goldie Blumenstyk, MS, one of the nation’s most respected higher education journalists, didn’t pull any punches as the latest speaker at the President’s Panel on Politics and Policy at UMB.

After giving an overview of what she would discuss concerning the current state of higher education and how it will be affected by the Trump administration, Blumenstyk smiled and said, “I told a friend what I would be doing today and she said ‘and then what will you be doing to cheer people up?’” getting a laugh from the 75-plus at the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center on March 21.

Since 1988, Blumenstyk has been a reporter and an editor at The Chronicle of Higher Education, which UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, called “the newspaper of record for those of us in academia.” She has traveled the world for The Chronicle and in 2015 she wrote the book American Higher Education in Crisis? What Everyone Needs to Know. She said the question mark in the title was important to her, to indicate that she didn’t know it all. “There was a lot of hype and silliness out there and I didn’t want to buy into it,” she said. But when the publisher said it was a chance for her to step back and say what’s changed in higher education in the past 25 years, she found it was “an irresistible time to take on this project.”

She read the following excerpt to the UMB crowd.

Over the past three years, the price of college has gone up faster than the price of all other goods and services. Student debt is at an all-time high at $1.2 trillion. Doubts about the value of a college degree are on the rise. State support for the public college sector, which educates seven of 10 students, has yet to find and may never find the return to the generous levels of financial support it had in the early 2000s. The financial model underlying many private colleges is becoming more and more fragile.

Collectively, colleges reflect and some say even amplify, the racial and economic income inequalities found in the nation’s neighborhoods and its elementary and secondary schools. The demand for career trades is growing even as experts agree the skills of a liberal arts education are becoming increasingly important. And the restless reform movement inspired by the promise of new technology and backed by powerful and political and financial might is growing more and more insistent that the enterprise spend less, show better results, and become more open to new kinds of education providers.

“I wrote that 2 ½ years ago and I think it holds up pretty well,” Blumenstyk said. “And that’s a problem for all of us here.”

She pointed out that college has never been more important, saying that by 2020, two-thirds of U.S. jobs will require education besides high school — a jump from 28 percent when she was in college in the 1970s.

But the education landscape is changing, something The Chronicle of Higher Education is focusing on with its Re:Learning project. Blumenstyk spoke about badging systems some universities are using to credit students for skills they’ve mastered. Credentialing in addition to degrees. Colleges’ closer connections with “embedded for-profit” company advisors. Electronic mentoring systems that give students alerts when their grades are falling. Open education resources, which provide well-vetted, free information to replace the high price of textbooks, providing professors more flexibility in the process.

She said such changes are needed because today’s college students often don’t have the support systems of generations past. “One-third of all college students are older than 25,” Blumenstyk said. “Thirty-seven percent attend part time and at community colleges that’s 60 percent. One out of four is a parent. One out of eight is a single parent. They’re all working, many because they
have to. The country’s population is getting browner and more economically stratified and so are our colleges.”

Despite billions of dollars in financial aid, lower income and minority students are still far more prevalent at two-year colleges than four-year. “That matters a lot,” she said, pointing out that community colleges are the least funded and have the poorest success rates. “Eight out of 10 students enter community college expecting to get a BA. Only 17 percent ultimately do.”

Debt without degree is a particular problem, she said, and the wealthy still are nine times more likely to earn a college degree by age 24 than others.

Blumenstyk was the third speaker in UMB’s President’s Panel on Politics and Policy, which examines issues important to the University community likely to be affected by the new presidential administration and Congress. She expressed some reservations about the Trump administration, pointing out a national science advisor had yet to be named, fears about government databases, the cultural divide between blue America and red America.

She pointed out the travel ban is affecting college admissions, with enrollment numbers down 40 percent from the targeted countries with Canada gearing up to accept the applicants.

“That’s how it’s looking,” she concluded. “Was there something in there a little bit cheery?”

Then she opened the floor to questions with Perman giving the first to “our educator-in-chief” University System of Maryland Chancellor Robert L. Caret, PhD. Caret disagreed with Blumenstyk’s assertion that higher education wasn’t working, citing a growing demand for college services and rising retention and graduation rates in Maryland, though he acknowledged growing national impediments to maximum growth.

Blumenstyk agreed that Maryland has put more money into financial aid and its institutions than a lot of states.

Added Caret: “In Massachusetts, students pay 70 percent of the cost, here they pay 50 percent of the cost. We’d like to see them pay 30 percent.”

— Chris Zang

See photos from the event.

Learn more about UMB’s President’s Panel on Politics and Policy.
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 put their science skills and engineering knowledge to the test on Saturday, March 4, at the Baltimore regional competition of the Maryland Science Olympiad, held at Morgan State University. After months of preparation with their teachers as well as student, staff, and faculty mentors from UMB, scholars from our three partner schools competed against 25 other teams in STEM events ranging from tower building and bottle rocket construction to food science tests and anatomy and physiology recall.

UMB CURE Scholars placed in the following events, with one first-place and three second-place honors:

**Bottle Rocket:**
5th place: Green Street Academy (GSA),
3rd place: Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School

**Crime Busters:**
6th place: Southwest Baltimore Charter School (SBCS),
5th place: GSA

**Disease Detectives:**
6th place: SBCS

**Experimental Design:**
5th and 3rd place: GSA

**Food Science:**
5th place: GSA

**Meteorology:**
4th and 6th place: GSA

**Reach for the Stars:**
6th place: GSA

**Rocks and Minerals:**
5th place: SBCS, 3rd and 2nd place: GSA

**Scrambler:**
4th place: SBCS

**Towers:**
2nd place: GSA

**Wind Power:**
4th, 5th, and 6th place: GSA and SBCS

**Write-it Do-it:**
2nd and 5th place: GSA

**Wright Stuff:**
6th and 1st place: GSA

Fifteen scholars from Green Street Academy will advance to the state Olympiad competition at Johns Hopkins University on April 8.
Other Saturday activities included UMB CURE partner Kaiser Permanente launching its anti-bullying curriculum titled “Bully Busters” on Feb. 25. Scholars were taught strategies on how to confront bullies using role-playing scenarios and having candid conversations about the effects of bullying. In addition, local nonprofit group Kinetic Kitchen taught our scholars how to create their own healthy and nutritious lunches. Scholars made strawberry-banana-kale smoothies, quinoa and bean salads, and zucchini nachos.

Johns Hopkins University (JHU) once again welcomed our scholars, this time to tour its world-renowned mechanical engineering labs. The tour, organized by Steven Marra, PhD, MS, associate professor at JHU’s Whiting School of Engineering, and Damian Cross, former CURE lead mentor and current JHU student, focused on exposing scholars to the possibilities in mechanical engineering. Scholars were led by members of Hopkins’ chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

As part of their research on cancer health disparities, scholars practiced their artistry by painting medical illustrations, courtesy of Colour Strokes Paint Party. Colour Strokes, which is owned by CURE parent Karin Soden, led scholars as they depicted cancerous and healthy renditions of tissues and organs. Our scholars completed more than 30 paintings that will serve to complement their research posters.

Coming up in April, in addition to the statewide Science Olympiad, will be the UMB CURE Cancer Disparities Symposium, the American Association of Cancer Researchers convention, as well as a trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

— Lauren Kareem
With more cars on the road than ever before, driving is dangerous in and of itself. Add in the factor of texting while driving and the risk soars off the charts. How dangerous is it? Mobile use is now the leading cause of death behind the wheel.

Consider the following facts from a variety of reputable sources:

• Texting while driving makes a crash up to 23 times more likely.

• At any given daylight moment across America, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cell phones or manipulating electronic devices while driving.

• Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55 mph, that’s enough time to cover the length of a football field blindfolded.

• Every year in the U.S., about 421,000 people are injured in crashes that have involved a driver who was distracted in some way. Some 330,000 of those accidents lead to severe injuries.

So put your phone out of reach when you enter your car. Better yet, put it on silent. A ringing phone in the backseat could tempt you to reach back for it, putting yourself in even more danger.

Teenage drivers are especially susceptible to distracted driving crashes. Every day, 11 U.S. teenagers die because they were texting while driving. Drivers under 30 years old account for nearly 40 percent of all distracted drivers involved in crashes. Teen drivers have a 400 percent higher chance of being in a car crash when texting while driving than adults, perhaps because 25 percent of teens respond to at least one text each time they drive.

It also turns young drivers into elderly ones in terms of risk. A study at the University of Utah found out that the reaction time for a teen driver using a cell phone is the same as that of a 70-year-old who isn’t using one.

Distracted driving is even more dangerous than drunk driving. Experts say texting and driving is six times more likely to get you in an accident than drunk driving.

“With the volume of traffic and pedestrians we have around the University, driving is difficult enough with two hands on the wheel and your full attention on the road,” says Cpl. J.R. Jones, safety awareness officer in the Department of Public Safety.

“If you add any distraction — eating, putting on makeup, fiddling with the radio, and especially texting — you’re just asking for trouble. So please keep your eyes on the road.”

And when walking outside the University, put those phones away as well. Focusing on your surroundings is the safe way to travel.

— Chris Zang