Last month, we opened the newest building in our BioPark — the historic Lion Brothers Building at 875 Hollins St. — and with that opening, launched UM Ventures 2.0, an expansion of the tech transfer effort we began with the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) half-a-dozen years ago.

UM Ventures was designed to accelerate the commercialization of discoveries and technologies coming out of the labs of Maryland’s two biggest public research institutions: UMB and UMCP. It was designed to stimulate Maryland’s innovation economy and translate the knowledge we create at our universities into products and processes that not only improve health and wellness but also generate income, investment, jobs — even whole industries — here in the state.

And it’s worked. During the last five years, the number of technologies the two universities license annually to commercial partners has doubled. Together, we’ve launched 35 startups in the last two years, triple the number we launched in the first two years of the program. A few weeks ago, we celebrated the latest in a string of acquisitions of UMB’s early-stage companies: California-based Edwards Lifesciences acquired the device startup Harpoon Medical for $100 million, but Edwards will keep Harpoon’s R&D operations — and its jobs — right here in Baltimore.

So what does UM Ventures 2.0 offer that the original iteration hasn’t already delivered? In short, UM Ventures 2.0 is our launchpad for building a vibrant culture of innovation and entrepreneurship not only at UMB and UMCP, but throughout the city of Baltimore, across the University System, and, ultimately, around the state.

The space inside the Lion Brothers warehouse is a key asset in this culture-building exercise. The 6,000-square-foot space — dubbed “The Grid” (for “Graduate Research Innovation District”) — is a place for people to connect with one another and to connect our biggest problems to the solutions we know are possible. Once home to one of the world’s largest embroidery factories, the building now features co-working spaces and collaboration bars, where students, faculty, staff, alumni, and entrepreneurs — inside and outside the University and the University System — can work shoulder-to-shoulder on their ideas and inventions.

There are resources on-site to help ventures get off the ground. A Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides no- and low-cost counseling and workshops for area startups and small businesses. The Carey School of Law’s Intellectual Property (IP) and Entrepreneurship Clinic helps clients build their IP portfolio and provides a range of business law services.

The Graduate School has built an academic component to the Grid: a certificate program (rolling out this fall) and a master’s program (rolling out next fall) in Health and Social Innovation. Students will use business principles, market research, and design-thinking to solve complex health and social challenges. They’ll have to design and develop a project, iterate and test their ideas (be they policies, processes, or technologies), and connect with Baltimore’s community of leaders and entrepreneurs to take those ideas all the way to impact.

The Grid will have space for UMCP’s Robert Fischell Institute for Biomedical Devices. Co-locating the institute in College Park and Baltimore will encourage more device development with UMB’s community of researchers and entrepreneurs and with partners across the city. For years, UMCP’s engineering undergraduates have worked with UMB’s clinical faculty on their capstone projects; this expansion of the Fischell Institute allows students in UMCP’s graduate engineering program to develop comparable relationships with UMB faculty and students. It allows them to bring medical device technology closer to practice, and to put down roots right here in the city. The Fischell Institute in Baltimore is supported with $100,000 from the Maryland Department of Commerce.

While UM Ventures 2.0 is integral to promoting innovation and entrepreneurship within the University System, the community we’re serving is far broader than that. We’re using this platform to serve a city that’s one of the best-kept secrets in America’s innovation scene. Baltimore boasts some world-class technologies, and local developers are creating more flexible, affordable spaces to bring those technologies to market. What the city lacks is: 1) a cadre of experienced entrepreneurs who will anchor their startup companies in Baltimore, and 2) a pool of angel investors who understand the types of technologies being commercialized here.

So UMB has teamed up with Johns Hopkins University, the University System of Maryland, and Betamore @ City Garage to create Anchor Ventures, an effort to strengthen a citywide cluster of entrepreneurs, startups, and investors who know how to raise money, draft business plans, and hire top talent. Through Anchor Ventures, we’ll connect Baltimore’s technology companies to its academic innovators and develop that entrepreneurial culture that
every city wants — a culture of smart risk and steep rewards. We need to give Baltimore every advantage so that the people who go to school here and start companies here actually stay here and invest their ideas, talent, and money in a city that badly needs those resources. Anchor Ventures is being supported with a pair of grants from TEDCO worth $250,000.

Working hand-in-glove with Anchor Ventures is the Baltimore Fund, a $1 million fund providing up to one year of rent subsidies to startups that locate in Baltimore City. The companies can be affiliated with any University System institution, along with Morgan State University and St. Mary’s College. Again, the intent is to build a culture of entrepreneurship that strengthens our urban economy, creates a vibrant city life, and acts as a magnet for the young, creative people who will sustain economic growth.

Of course, we’re paying special attention to the Southwest Baltimore community where we’ve focused our engagement efforts. The Lion Brothers Building in Poppleton expands our BioPark footprint deeper into this community, and the low-cost business services available to our students and employees — the SBDC, the IP and Entrepreneurship Clinic — are available to our neighbors as well. The building will be their home for entrepreneurship, too, and we’re working with the Southwest Partnership on a plan that trains local businesses to get the most out of UMB’s services and purchasing power.

Supporting many of these efforts, including the Baltimore Fund, is money made available through the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State. I’m grateful to the legislature for understanding how important entrepreneurship is to robust economic development and for confidently forecasting the payoff we can expect from these investments.

With UM Ventures 2.0, UMB is taking a central role in writing Maryland’s entrepreneurial future; in expanding the creative opportunities we offer our students, faculty, and staff; and in bringing the fruits of innovation and entrepreneurship to the city we call home.

Jay A. Perman, MD
President

LAUNCH OF UM VENTURES 2.0 AND OPENING OF THE GRID — LION BROTHERS BUILDING, DECEMBER 2017
LAURELS
JANUARY 2018

UNIVERSITYWIDE

The University Student Government Association has named law student Bradly Beard as UMB’s 2018-2019 student regent nominee to serve on the University System of Maryland Board of Trustees. His application, along with those from other system institutions, will be considered, with three student applications being forwarded to the Governor’s Office.

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Reba Cornman, MSW, director of the Graduate School’s Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research program, was sworn in as a commissioner of the Baltimore City Division of Aging and Commission of Aging and Retirement Education, Baltimore City Health Department, by Mayor Catherine Pugh at City Hall.

Persia Drummond was honored as UMB’s November Employee of the Month, earning praise for her work ethic, dedication, and dependability as the weekend supervisor at the Health Sciences and Human Services Library. Drummond pulls 12-hour shifts on the weekend and never calls in sick.

Bruce Jarrell, MD, FACS, has been promoted from UMB senior vice president and chief academic and research officer to executive vice president and provost. Jarrell also is dean of the Graduate School. E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, has been promoted from UMB vice president for medical affairs to executive vice president for medical affairs. Reece also is dean of the School of Medicine.

Kelly Quinn, PhD, coordinator, Community Engagement Center, received the commUNITY award from No Boundaries Coalition for her volunteer service as a mentor to teenage community organizers in the Baltimore Youth Organizing Project (BYOP) and was a presenter at the annual meeting of the National Women’s Studies Association with four teenagers from BYOP. They discussed the teenagers’ political action and community leadership in Baltimore City.

The School of Social Work’s Promise Heights B'more for Healthy Babies Upton/Druid Heights’ Shasha Satchell, certified lactation counselor/ doula, and Stacey Stephens, LCSW-C, clinical instructor and program director, along with Wendy Lane, MD, MPH, clinical associate professor, School of Medicine, presented “B'more for Healthy Babies: Improving Birth Outcomes in West Baltimore” at the annual meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges in Boston.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Vivek Thumbigere Math, BDS, PhD, assistant professor, Division of Periodontics, was among the co-authors of “Hypercementosis Associated with ENPP1 Mutations and GACI,” which was published in the Journal of Dental Research.

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David A. Seminowicz, PhD, associate professor, and student Andrew J. Furman, both in the Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, were among the co-authors of “Cerebral Peak Alpha Frequency Predicts Individual Differences in Pain Sensitivity,” which is scheduled to be published in *NeuroImage* in February.

**CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW**

Birch Barron, MSPH, CEM, senior policy analyst and deputy director of the Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center, Center for Health and Homeland Security, made presentations at Towson University, at a webinar for the Mid-Atlantic Center for Emergency Management, at the Baltimore City Local Emergency Planning Meeting, and at an Opioid Crisis Roundtable hosted by Congressman Steny Hoyer and U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams.

Students Rachel Brown, Christie Chung, and Julia Sine wrote an op-ed published in *The Baltimore Sun* highlighting their experience with bail reform as part of their work with the Access to Justice Clinic.

Danielle Citron, JD, Morton & Sophia Macht Professor of Law, co-authored “The Internet Will Not Break: Denying Bad Samaritans Section 230 Immunity,” which appeared in the *Fordham Law Review*.

The Environmental Law Clinic hosted representatives from environmental law clinics around the country for its annual conference. This year’s theme was “Environmental Law Clinics in a Changing Political Environment.”

Robert Percival, MA, JD, Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law and director, Environmental Law Program, gave a talk titled “Reflections on 30 Years of Maryland’s Environmental Law Clinic.”

Leigh Goodmark JD, professor, gave a talk titled “Intimate Partner Violence, Transgender People and the Legal System” at the University of Oregon School of Law.

Clark J. Lee, JD, MPH, CPH, senior law and policy analyst, Center for Health and Homeland Security, co-authored “Law-Based Arguments and Messages to Advocate for Later School Start Time Policies in the United States,” which was published in *Sleep Health*.

Michael Millemann, JD, professor, was featured on CBS’s *Sunday Morning* discussing his work securing retrials for inmates affected by the Unger v. Maryland ruling.

Linda Morris, JD ’17, was named a 2018 Skadden Fellow. She will be working with the American Civil Liberties Union’s Women’s Rights Project for the fellowship term.

Eric Oddo, MPA, continuity program director, and Trudy Henson, JD, public health director, both of the Center for Health and Homeland Security (CHHS), attended the International Association of Emergency Managers Conference in Long Beach, Calif. Oddo and Michael Vesely, JD, academic program director, CHHS, taught an emergency management course titled “Maximizing Organizational Resiliency: COOP for Public Entities.”

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Max Stearns, JD, Venable, Baetjer & Howard Professor of Law, wrote “Obergefell, Fisher, and the Inversion of Tiers,” which appeared in the University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

Jayaum Booth, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, Center for Vaccine Development (CVD), Robin Barnes, health care provider, CVD, Seema Patil, MD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, Claire Fraser, PhD, the Dean’s Endowed Professor and director, Institute for Genome Sciences, Bruce Greenwald, MD, professor, Department of Medicine, and Marcelo Szttein, MD, professor, Department of Pediatrics, were among the co-authors of “System and Terminal Ileum Mucosal Immunity Elicted by Oral Immunization with Ty21A Typhoid Vaccine in Humans,” which was published in Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

Roy Film, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT, assistant professor, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, was asked by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties to serve an additional two-year term as a member of the Specialization Academy of Content Experts for the Orthopedic Clinical Specialist exam.

Isabel Jackson, PhD, assistant professor, and Zeljko Vujaskovic, MD, PhD, professor, both from the Department of Radiation Oncology, were among the co-authors of “Targeted Metabolomics Identifies Pharmacodynamic Biomarkers for BIO 300 Mitigation of Radiation-Induced Lung Injury,” which was published in Pharmaceutical Research.

Karen Kotloff, MD, professor, Department of Pediatrics, and head, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine; Myron Levine, MD, DTPH, the Simon and Bessie Grollman Distinguished Professor and associate dean for global health, vaccinology, and infectious diseases; and O. Colin Stine, PhD, professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, were among the co-authors of “Detection of Shigella in Direct Stool Specimens Using a Metagenomics Approach,” which was published in the Journal of Clinical Microbiology. Kotloff also authored “Shigella Infection in Children and Adults: A Formidable Foe,” which appeared in The Lancet Global Health. Kotloff, Levine, and Dilruba Nasrin, MBBS, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, were among the co-authors of “The Effect of Costs on Kenyan Households’ Demand for Medical Care: Why Time and Distance Matter,” which was published in Health Policy and Planning.

Margaret Lauerman, MD, assistant professor, Center for Shock, Trauma and Anesthesiology Research, received a five-year, $2.1 million grant for “Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network” from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Margaret McCarthy, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Pharmacology, was elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Donna Parker, MD, associate professor, Department of Medicine, and associate dean, Office of Student Affairs, received the 2017 Careers in Medicine Excellence in Medical Student Career Advising Advisor Award. She received this award at the Association of American Medical Colleges meeting in Boston.

Marzena E. Pazgier, PhD, associate professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Division of Vaccine Research, Institute of Human Virology, was awarded a five-year, $2,437,990 R01 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for “Unlocking Env: A New Strategy for a Functional Cure Through Antibody-Dependent Cell-Mediated Cytotoxicity.”
Christine Wells, PhD, PT, CCS, ATC, associate professor, and instructors Jenny Forrester, PT, DPT, and Joshua Vogel, PT, DrMed, all from the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science; and clinical consultant Raymond Rector, CCP, LP, Ali Tabatabai, MD, assistant professor, and Daniel Herr, MD, FCCM, associate professor, from the Department of Medicine, were co-authors of “Safety and Feasibility of Early Physical Therapy for Patients on Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenator: University of Maryland Medical Center Experience,” which was published in Critical Care Medicine.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

The School of Nursing at the Universities at Shady Grove was recently presented with the Adventist HealthCare Spirit of Partnership Award for the strong partnership it has formed with Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center over the years. The school has provided Adventist HealthCare with the most nursing residents of any nursing school, helping to build a pipeline to the medical center of nurses who deliver high-quality, compassionate care.

The school’s Doctor of Nursing Practice Nurse Anesthesia specialty has been granted continued accreditation for 10 years from the Council on Accreditation. The specialty was found to be in 100 percent compliance with the standards and was granted accreditation with no annual progress report required, which is rare.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Emily Heil, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a one-year, $4,564 grant from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy for “Oral Vancomycin Plus Intravenous Metronidazole for Severe Clostridium Difficile NAP1/BI/027 Infection.”

Lisa Jones, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a two-year, $108,000 grant from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for “A Novel Protein Footprinting Method Coupled with Mass Spectrometry for the Structural Analysis of Class II CFTR Mutants.”

Joey Mattingly, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a one-year, $49,500 contract from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse. The award is given to a nurse who is committed to clinical practice, research, policy development, and/or education related to substance use disorders.

The school and Prince George’s Community College (PGCC) recently signed an agreement of dual admission that will ensure students’ seamless transition from PGCC’s Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program to UMSON’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Through the agreement, students can apply and be admitted to UMSON’s BSN program while in PGCC’s ADN program.

Luana Colloca, MD, PhD, associate professor, authored a primer on neuropathic pain, which received a “highly cited paper” designation by Web of Science. The primer is in the top 1 percent of papers of similar age in the field of clinical medicine and has been downloaded more than 2,500 times since publication.

Meg Johantgen, PhD, RN, associate dean for the PhD program, presented the keynote address “Nurses Leading Change Through Innovation in Research and Outcome Measurement” at the 12th Annual Delaware Nursing Research Conference in November.

Victoria Selby, PhD, CRNP, assistant professor, received the first Marianne Marcus Award at the 41st annual meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Nursing.

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Research Institute for “Engaging an Underserved Patient Community to Inform and Improve Comparative Effectiveness Research for Hepatitis C Treatments.”

Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been named a Visionary in Hospice and Palliative Medicine by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Amanda Oglesby-Sherrouse, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, $114,532 grant from the Maryland Institute of Technology for “Metallobiochemistry of Innate Immunity and Bacterial Physiology.”

Eleanor Perfetto, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a one-year, $16,487 contract from the Pharmacy Quality Alliance for “Outcome Measures of Hospitalization from Bleeding Events from Anticoagulant Medication Use.”

C.S. Raman, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a two-year, $402,012 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for “Redox Biochemistry of Energy Conservation in Methanogens and Their Syntrophic Partners.”

Fadia Shaya, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a one-year, $215,000 contract from the Maryland Department of Health’s Behavioral Health Administration for “Technical Assistance and Evaluation of the Strategic Prevention Framework — Partnership for Success Initiative.”

Julia Slejko, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a 13-month, $154,003 contract from Novartis for “Literature Review of Claims-Based Measures for Oral Oncology Drugs.”

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Dean Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW, wrote “A Look Back at the Impact of Research on Child Welfare Policy,” which was published on The Chronicle of Social Change’s website. In it, he looks back on his 40 years in child welfare services. Barth and Haksoon Ahn, PhD, MSW, associate professor, co-authored “Estimating Minimum Adequate Foster Care Costs for Children in the United States,” which appeared in the Children and Youth Services Review.

Sarah Dababnah, PhD, assistant professor, presented “Guiding Public Health Social Work Professional Development in Field Practica” at the American Public Health Association’s annual meeting in Atlanta.

Students Lisa Fedina and Boyoung Nam and alum Hyun-Jin Jun, PhD ’17, co-authored a paper published in Preventive Medicine that explores the prevalence and nature of police violence among women in four U.S. cities using data from surveys of police-public encounters.
Jodi Frey, PhD, associate professor, took part in a panel presentation that looked at suicide assessment and prevention in the workplace. Frey leads a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant, Healthy Men Michigan, which is a website that helps men in Michigan get and stay mentally fit.

Karen Hopkins, PhD, associate professor, presented “Expanding the Bench in Performance Management” at the American Evaluation Association’s annual conference in Washington, D.C.

Corey Shdaimah, PhD, associate professor, took part in a roundtable discussion featuring her recently published edited volume Challenging Perspective on Street-Based Sex Work at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology.

Student Nicole Mattocks wrote “Social Action Among Social Work Practitioners: Examining the Micro-Macro Divide,” which was published in the journal Social Work.

Stacey Stephens, LCSW-C, clinical instructor and program director, Promise Heights: B’more for Healthy Babies Upton/Druid Heights, presented the webinar “B’more for Healthy Babies SLEEP Safe Campaign” as part of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps’ Safe Sleep Campaign. Stephens described B’more’s campaign over the past eight years and gave illustrations of community engagement efforts that have resulted in a decrease of infant mortality rates and sleep-related death rates at the community and city level.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COMMEMORATES
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. & BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2018

Feb. 1, 2018 | Noon - 1:30 p.m.
MSTF Leadership Hall
Light refreshments served in atrium

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
PAMELA V. HAMMOND, PhD
“Would Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Take a Knee?”

• Former chief academic officer of Hampton University
• Aided other historically black institutions, including Virginia State University and Newport News General Hospital

Event is free to UMB staff, faculty, and students, but registration is required by Jan. 26
REGISTER ONLINE: umaryland.edu/mlk
EMLOYEES URGED TO HELP RECRUOT DONORS

The UMB community can play an active role in the University’s $750 million Catalyst Campaign. And it doesn’t just involve pulling out a checkbook or making a pledge.

“Keep your eyes and ears open,” Thomas J. Sullivan, CFRE, MS, chief philanthropy officer and vice president, said in the featured presentation at the President’s Quarterly Q&A on Dec. 12. “Tell us your suggestions or when you encounter people who are philanthropic.”

He gave the example of a UMB employee being at a dinner party and hearing that someone had just sold their business for $100 million. “We’d like to know that,” he said. “So, talk to your development people in the respective schools, talk to us [in the Office of Philanthropy]. There are ways we can reach out to these people and we will do it in a very dignified fashion.”

Catalyst is the largest fundraising effort in the University’s 210-year history. The effort encourages meaningful philanthropic support from alumni and friends toward resources that will support the University’s collaborative work relative to five Big Ideas: conquering chronic pain, eliminating addiction, furthering critical disease research and care, embracing entrepreneurship, and advancing community engagement.

UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, formally announced the campaign at UMB’s Founders Week Gala on Oct. 14 and he preceded Sullivan’s comments with some of his own to the staff, faculty, and students who gathered in the Health Sciences Facilities II Auditorium for the Q&A. He said the University sometimes hasn’t bragged enough about its accomplishments in education, research, clinical care, and service. “But now, whether it’s U.S. News & World Report rankings, anecdotal remarks, the confidence that the regents have in us, the legislature, the governor, we get that respect.”

Perman said the money raised by the Catalyst Campaign not only helps the University make research breakthroughs and retain and attract a talented workforce, but it’s also key to UMB’s community engagement work. And those efforts are getting noticed, he said, offering an anecdote about a chance encounter with a former legislator over the summer.

“He said, ‘Thank you for what you do for Baltimore,’” Perman said. “I pass this on because it’s indicative of everybody’s work here. That is a point of pride that you need to share in. So, if you feel that pride in where you work, then I’m assigning the whole UMB family to make this Catalyst Campaign a priority.”

Sullivan, who quoted Winston Churchill (“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”), pointed out philanthropy’s impact. It helps to fund student scholarships, faculty and research support, technology, community service initiatives such as the CURE Scholars Program, interprofessional education programs, and much more. He praised the state of Maryland’s funding to higher education as generous but not likely to grow substantially, as is also the case with federal aid.

“Philanthropy is the only elastic source of revenue we have,” Sullivan said. “There are billions of dollars out there to be had. There are many, many people looking for meaningful organizations and institutions through which to help humanity, to advance society. And they are looking to connect with institutions like us. This means we’ve got to do a good job of articulating what UMB is all about, where it’s headed, what it aims to achieve, and, most importantly, how it’s going to change the world.”

UMB’s last capital fundraising campaign, which ended in 2012, raised $660 million, surpassing its goal by $10 million, Perman said. The current Catalyst Campaign is nearly halfway to its goal, standing at $346 million, and that $750 million “is merely a minimum target,” for when it concludes in December 2020.

In closing his presentation, Sullivan praised the Catalyst Campaign’s co-chairs, UMB Foundation trustees Ellen H. Yankellow, PharmD ’96, and Brian J. Gibbons, JD ’87, as well as the 43-person cabinet, all of whom are volunteering their time to the effort.

“Philanthropy should be embraced by all of us in this University,” Sullivan said. “It’s really everyone’s concern. It’s going to give Dr. Perman, the deans, and the leadership cohort the flexibility to address a lot of challenges going forward. We are very optimistic that with the leadership, the momentum, and the velocity we are building at UMB, we will do great things through philanthropy.”

— Lou Cortina and Chris Zang
Larry Nohe visits New York once or twice a year and doesn’t mind the hustle and bustle of the Big Apple.

In fact, he relishes it.

“I love New York City,” says Nohe, an information systems engineer at the School of Nursing. “Some people say, ‘Oh, I hate the crowds,’ but I love it. It has this energy that you don’t find anywhere else.”

Feeding off that energy, Nohe took a photo in Times Square that earned first-place honors in the 2017 Snap! UMB Photo Contest, with Nohe submitting the winning entry for the second year in a row. The black-and-white shot titled “Blockin’ out the Scenery, Breakin’ my Mind” — a nod to lyrics from the Five Man Electrical Band’s 1971 hit song “Signs” — shows an intriguing mix of street signs, traffic signals, and advertisements that dominate the city scenery.

“They do street fairs in New York where they close down the streets, and this one just happened to be Broadway,” says Nohe, a UMB employee for 11½ years. “My wife was poking around at one of the stands and I was just kind of taking pictures [with his Canon Rebel], got up on a light post, and shot above the crowd with a long lens. It looked OK in color, but when I switched it to black and white, it was even better.”
Nohe, who says he took up photography about 15 years ago, was surprised to win the Snap! contest again and the $25 gift certificate redeemable at the UMB Seven Scholars Store. “Especially after looking at the other entries,” he says after visiting the display in the Fireplace Lounge of the SMC Campus Center. “Some of them are pretty formidable.”

Among those formidable photos were six from Tom Paullin, UMB’s senior director of philanthropy. Paullin had three second-place entries, one third-place shot, and two honorable-mention picks.

One of his second-place photos, “Airplane (Unpainted),” was taken on an overcast day last spring at Martin State Airport in Middle River, Md., which has an aviation museum that features vintage planes. The photo shows a plane’s side windows, part of a wing and an engine, and one propeller, with ominous-looking clouds in the background.

“There’s some neat old airplanes out there, and the unpainted one captured my eye,” says Paullin, who joined UMB last March. “I have a private pilot’s license and my dad was a World War II pilot, so I’ve always been interested in airplanes. I just thought that was an interesting visual, especially on kind of a gray day like it was.”

Paullin says another one of his second-place photos, “Cloudy Saturday in Baltimore Outer Harbor,” was taken on the same day as he ventured back into Baltimore.

“That photo and the airplane shot might have been my two favorites among my entries,” he says. “An interesting part of the harbor is that part where nobody goes, where all the industrial work and the shipping happens. It was one of those rainy Saturdays — I was in town and figured I’d go down with my [Olympus] camera and see what happens.”

Paullin, who was joined in second place by Cynthia Pumphrey (School of Nursing) and Andrea Romanowski (School of Medicine), was excited to participate in the Snap! competition, sponsored by the University’s Council for the Arts & Culture. “I think it’s neat that the University has this,” he says of the contest, which drew nearly 240 entries. “It’s a good way to get the employees engaged. I enjoy taking photos when I get a chance, so it was good to see what other people think of them. I’m honored to have made the cut.”

The fourth annual Snap! UMB Photo Contest was judged by Council for the Arts & Culture chair Yumi Hogan, first lady of Maryland; Calla Thompson, an associate professor in photography at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; and Thomas Jemski and Mark Teske, photographers, videographers, and instructional support specialists at the School of Medicine.

“We had an eclectic mix of photos this year. I’m always pleased with the quality of the images,” says Steve Bossom, MFA, web developer in the Office of Communications and Public Affairs and coordinator of the Snap! contest. “Once again, I offer thanks to all of our judges for their dedication to this contest and for picking the winners.”

The first-, second-, and third-place photos will be on display in the SMC Campus Center until Feb. 24. Or visit the Snap! UMB Photo Contest website.

— Lou Cortina
Crime statistics can be misleading, says Martinez Davenport, MS, interim chief of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Police Force.

“You can have no robberies one year and one robbery the following year and it shows up as a 100 percent increase but it’s just one robbery,” Davenport says. “It can make things look worse than they actually are. Of course, one robbery is one too many for those of us in the Office of Public Safety. We strive to have no crime; therefore, we do all we can to prevent crime.”

There was a 10.3 percent increase in crime on the UMB campus in 2017 compared to 2016. Davenport points out the rise in crime was a result of those outside the UMB community getting involved in arguments and assaulting each other in places like the University of Maryland Medical Center emergency room and on the streets within the campus boundaries.

The incidents also occurred when suspects assaulted police officers who were trying to defuse situations in which family members and friends were fighting. Arrests by the proactive officers spared those who were arguing from serious injury.

“We can’t control who comes into the emergency room at the Medical Center or who walks through our campus and decides to argue and fight,” Davenport says, “but we will continue to take a proactive policing stance.”

Despite the slight increase in crime, Davenport, in fact, sees 2017 as a year of growth for the UMB Police Force. When he became interim chief in May 2017, succeeding Antonio Williams, MS, Davenport employed some new tactics.

“I wanted our officers to be more proactive and to show more of an omnipresence,” he says. “And because of that we’ve arrested 81 people this year as compared to arresting only 49 people last year. We’re not just standing on corners. We’re on the move and covering more area and proactively arresting offenders as they commit crimes that in the past may have gone undetected.”

Sometimes his officers deploy diversionary tactics to mislead criminals. “You may see unoccupied police cars parked at various locations, but the officer will be walking foot patrols within a two- to four-block radius. So it makes it seem like there are more officers,” says Davenport, who says he is “short-staffed” with 64 security officers and 38 sworn police officers “but we’re in the process of hiring more.”

Thefts were down in 2017 (59 as compared to 73 in 2016), stolen cars went up (four as compared to two in 2016), and burglaries were the same (one each year). Robberies rose from two cases in 2016 to five in 2017, but that’s still much less than the 12 UMB experienced in 2014. In addition, three of the five robberies in 2017 resulted in arrests due to a timely response by UMB’s patrol officers and good investigative work by UMB detectives.

Davenport, who joined the UMB Police Force in 2015 after 32 years with the Baltimore Police Department, doesn’t see the higher numbers as a sign of what’s to come.

“Although crime is up throughout Baltimore City, no, I don’t think we’re going to see a longer trend of higher crime on our campus because I’m asking my team of officers, sergeants, and lieutenants to be more proactive,” he says. “I do not want our officers just standing in one spot. We need our officers to constantly patrol our campus, keeping their eyes and ears open to actually see what’s going on.”

Davenport adds, “My officers are doing an outstanding job. They’re working a lot of hours to make this campus safe. Some of them — and you can include me — are working as many as 16 hours at times. They could be home with their families, but
because they have a passion for service they want to make this campus safe and we’re spending the extra time here to supplement the other patrol officers and detectives on the street.”

The new police communications center at 22 N. Pine St. has been a big help with updated technology that has eliminated “dead spots” where officers, dispatchers, and supervisors couldn’t communicate via radio. Monthly “Coffee with a Cop” sessions at rotating schools and police appearances at employee orientation have been well-received.

Davenport gave a few reminders of how we can help the UMB Police Force. Lock up valuables. Don’t leave laptops, coats, and textbooks visible in your car. Put away cellphones when you are outside. Continue using the walking and riding escorts, more than 13,500 of which were provided by the UMB police in 2017.

“I think we’re going to do well as a University in 2018, working against crime as a team with faculty members, students, and staff,” Davenport says. “I think we’re going to do real well.”

— Chris Zang