

# the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 2019



## THE WORK WE DO

I have a job that gives me things to be grateful for every day. And yet there are some days, some weeks, when I know that I'm *especially* blessed. In September, I traveled to Zambia and Botswana to meet with our in-country colleagues, with our partners in education, research, and clinical care, and with dozens of people in cities, towns, and villages who are served by our work. It was an hour-by-hour endorsement of who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

The trip was one of reciprocity. In May, colleagues working for the Center for International Health, Education, and Biosecurity (CIHEB) at the School of Medicine's Institute of Human Virology (IHV) were among those from 10 countries who came to Baltimore for our inaugural Global Health Summit. Running dozens of HIV/AIDS projects in low- and middle-income countries, the center treats millions of patients, trains thousands of health workers, and builds capacity within local and global care-providing organizations.

*As I wrote to you in August*, the summit was a great success. Faculty and staff here and abroad shared strategies and best practices. They discussed how to leverage each other's efforts; how to exchange knowledge and resources more efficiently.

And yet I knew I couldn't fully appreciate IHV's daily work overseas unless I saw it for myself. So I did. I'm pretty sure our delegation packed three weeks of meetings, visits, and tours into one week of travel — Zambia first, then Botswana.

I can't possibly recount the entire trip here. But highlights come to mind: In Zambia, I visited with colleagues at Livingstone Central Hospital's Paediatric Centre of Excellence, and then co-hosted with them our first-ever UMB Global Meet-Up. The session, exploring interprofessional education and care, was webcast to viewers here in Baltimore and in countries around the world where UMB has projects and partnerships. I signed an MOU with the University of Zambia's Department of Pharmacy, opening up student, scholar, and faculty exchanges with UMB's School of Pharmacy, and advancing joint research in areas where our interests and expertise align, like HIV control and antimicrobial stewardship.

In Gaborone, Botswana, I visited Bontleng Clinic, where 4,500 HIV patients receive antiretroviral therapy (ART); it was one of the first sites in Botswana to use ART to suppress patients' viral loads and keep them at undetectable levels. At the University of Botswana (UB), we celebrated our brand new collaborative online course — Interdisciplinary HIV Services: Learning From Differentiated Care Models in Botswana and Baltimore. The course enrolls social work students at UB and UMB, as

well as UMB's nursing students. In January, our students will travel to Botswana to collaborate with their international classmates in person.

Certainly a high point of the trip was signing onto an agreement between the governments of Botswana and the U.S., authorizing the 5th Botswana AIDS Impact Survey (BAIS V), for which UMB will act as implementing agency. BAIS V is modeled on the massive population health surveys IHV now leads in Nigeria and Zambia. We won our role in this vitally important project because Botswana's leaders know our School of Medicine; they know IHV. They trust us, and their trust is well-placed.

The trip was enormously rewarding. At every turn, I was impressed by the breadth of our partnerships and by the people and projects keeping patients healthy.

But no visit moved me more than the one I took to a clinic outside Livingstone, Zambia. At the clinic, I met with five mothers. All five are HIV-positive, and all five benefit from CIHEB's HIV program. The women shared with me how grateful they are for the treatment they're getting; how grateful they are for our presence and our intervention.

Then they introduced me to their children, ranging in age from 2 months to 8 years, all five of them born since their mothers began receiving services at the clinic. *All five of them HIV-negative.* You know what the mothers call these children of theirs, these healthy, HIV-negative children? They call them their "Maryland babies."

That's why what we do is so powerful. In the end, it's not about metrics and data points. It's about the people they represent — the people we help, the people we save through our best ideas and our hard, hard work.

And just as I met women and children at that Zambian clinic helped by IHV, I know there are generations of people to come whose lives will be saved or restored, protected or enriched, by students, faculty, and staff — current and future — across our University. With Thanksgiving a few weeks away, that's what I'm giving thanks for. And as I make my contribution to the **Proud to Work Here. Proud to Give Here.** campaign, that's what I'll be thinking of. Your work is a blessing to millions of people around the world, of course, but it's also a blessing to me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jay A. Perman, MD

PRESIDENT

# LAURELS

NOVEMBER 2019

## UNIVERSITYWIDE

The following have been named to the President's Council for Women, which raises and discusses gender equity and other issues affecting women across all facets of the University:

**Aphrodite Bodycomb**, Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HS/HSL); **Alison Brown**, University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC); **Susan Buskirk**, Accountability and Compliance; **Vineet Dhar**, School of Dentistry (SOD); **Juliet Dickerson**, Human Resources (HR); **Natalie Eddington**, School of Pharmacy (SOP); **Lori Edwards**, School of Nursing (SON); **Karen Faraoane**, SOD; **Geoffrey Greif**, School of Social Work (SSW); **Patti Hoffmann**, HR; **Laundette Jones**, School of Medicine (SOM); **Jane Kirschling**, SON; **Mikhel Kushner**, Accountability and Compliance; **Matt Lasecki**, HR; **Lisa Lebovitz**, SOP; **Amanda Lehning**, SSW; **Flavio Lilly**, Graduate School (GS); **Jennifer Litchman**, Office of President; **Nancy Lowitt**, SOM; **Kim Lumpkins**, SOM; **Peg McCarthy**, SOM (chair); **John McKee**, Philanthropy; **Michele Ondra**, Carey School of Law; **Jenny Owens**, GS; **Michelle Pearce**, GS; **Jason Ramirez**, SOM; **Lisa Rowen**, UMMC; **Patricia Scott**, Office of Registrar; **Victoria Stubbs**, SSW; **Rod Taylor**, SOM; **Ashley Valis**, Community Engagement; **Alison Watkins**, Accountability and Compliance; **Tonya Webb**, SOM; **Lakeisha Wilson**, SOM and Staff Senate; **Susan Wolfsthal**, SOM.

**Emily Gorman**, MLIS, AHIP, research, education, and outreach librarian and liaison to the School of Pharmacy, Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HS/HSL), and others presented the poster "A



EMILY GORMAN



GAIL BETZ

Model for Assessing Professional Association Engagement" at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy annual meeting. Gorman and **Gail Betz**, MSLIS, research education and outreach librarian and liaison to the School of Social Work, HS/HSL, are among the co-authors of "A Comprehensive Review of Methods to Measure Oral Oncolytic Dose Intensity Using Retrospective Data," which appeared in the *Journal of Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy*.

The Staff Senate congratulates its former vice president, **Carl Jackson**, an administrative analyst in the School of Social Work, on being appointed to the Maryland House of Delegates.



MICHELLE PERALTA



BILL CROCKETT

**Michelle Peralta**, MPH, student wellness specialist, Wellness Hub, and **Bill Crockett**, MS, RCRSP, executive director, both of Campus Life Services, co-presented a keynote speech "Addressing Burnout Through Kindness in Graduate School" at the Healthy Campus Summit in Columbia, S.C. Peralta also received the

University System of Maryland Women's Forum Staff Professional Development Award and she and colleague

**Nemeka Mason-Clerc**, senior program specialist, received the Maryland Higher Education Commission and Maryland Department of Health Behavioral Health Administration grant of \$3,000 to host Campus Life Services' second Opioid Overdose Prevention and Reversal Training on Sept. 26.



NEMEKA MASON-CLERCIN



CHANISE REESE-QUEEN



NAKIYA SCHURMAN

**Chanise Reese-Queen**, EdD, MSA, CMP, program director, Office of Faculty Affairs and Professional Development, School of Medicine, and **Nakiya Schurman**, academic advisor, School of Social Work, have been awarded scholarships by the UMB Roundtable on Empowerment in Leadership and Leveraging Aspirations (UMBrella) to attend the ACUI Women's Leadership Institute this winter in Amelia Island, Fla.

**Mary Ann Williams**, MSLS, research, education, and outreach librarian and liaison to the School of Dentistry, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, gave the presentation "Health Literacy: It Takes A Village" to the Harford County Local Health Improvement Coalition.

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# LAURELS

NOVEMBER 2019

UMB Writing Center consultants and students **Victoria Wolf** (School of Pharmacy), **Rupini Shukla** (School of Dentistry), and **Clara Van Gerven** (School of Social Work) made a presentation on “Negotiating Power and Diversity in Graduate and Professional Writing Center Practice” at the Communicating Resistance: Advocacy, Activism, & Tutoring conference at the University of Baltimore organized by the Baltimore Metro Writing Center Association.

## SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



GLENN CANARES



VINEET DHAR

**Glenn Canares, DDS, MSD**, clinical assistant professor and clinical director, Division of Pediatric Dentistry, is the first author of “Pediatric Dental Residency Program Directors’ Perspectives On and Use of Social Media for Resident Selection and Education,” which appeared in the September 2019 edition of *Journal of Dental Education*. **Vineet Dhar, BDS, MDS, PhD**, clinical professor and chair, Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry, is the second author.



MARY ANNE MELO

**Mary Anne Melo, DDS, PhD**, associate professor and director, Division of Operative Dentistry, was elected as a fellow

of the Academy of Dental Materials (ADM), an honorific international leadership group within the biomaterials field. She was inducted during ADM’s annual general meeting in Wyoming.



SILVIA MONTANER

**Silvia Montaner, PhD, MPH**, professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, is the senior author of “Angiopoietin-like 4 Binds

Neuropilins and Cooperates with VEGF to Induce Diabetic Macular Edema,” which appeared in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*.



NORBERT MYSLINSKI

**Norbert Myslinski, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, was honored in China and South Korea in September for his worldwide work

in neuroscience for young students. He gave invited oral presentations in Beijing, Xi’an, Suzhou, Shanghai, Yangshuo, Hong Kong, and Daegu.

## CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW



PATRICIA CAMPBELL

**Patricia Campbell, JD, LL.M., MA**, professor and director, Intellectual Property Law Program, presented on a panel “Building

Intellectual Property Clinic

Relations” at the Intellectual Property Clinic Workshop, Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Center for Intellectual Property Research.

**Donald Gifford, JD**, professor, presented “Sandy Hook, Tort Law, and the 2020 Presidential Election,” at the Dean’s Speaker Series at Carey Law.



LEIGH GOODMARK

**Leigh Goodmark, JD**, professor and co-director, Clinical Law Program, wrote “Victims Shouldn’t Be Forced to Testify Against Partners,” which was

published in *The Baltimore Sun*.

**Toby Guerin, JD**, managing director, Center for Dispute Resolution, presented “Negotiating for the Next Step,” at the National Institute for Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Md.

**Kathleen Hoke**, professor and director, Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy, presented “Vaping: Promise or Peril?” at the Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials quarterly meeting in Westminster, Md.



PAULA MONOPOLI

**Paula Monopoli, JD**, professor and founding director, Women, Leadership, and Equality Program, presented her paper, “The Legal and Constitutional Development of

the Nineteenth Amendment in the Decade After Ratification,” at the Center for Constitutional Law-Akron’s symposium, “The 19th Amendment

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at 100: From the Vote to Gender Equality,” in Akron, Ohio.

**Robert Percival, JD**, professor and director, Environmental Law Program, presented “China’s Environmental Courts: An Assessment,” at the China on the Palouse Speakers Series at the University of Idaho College of Law.

**Natalie Ram, JD**, associate professor, was cited in “Why This Scientist Keeps Receiving Packages of Serial Killers’ Hair,” in *The New York Times*.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL



JAMES KUCHER

**James Kucher, DPA, MBA**, program director, MS in Health and Social Innovation, has been named a Sullivan Foundation Faculty Fellow in Social Innovation &

Entrepreneurship by the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation. The three-year fellowship creates professional development experiences and fosters lasting relationships among faculty and staff across the Sullivan campus network.



JENNY OWENS

**Jenny Owens, ScD, MS**, faculty executive director, Graduate Research Innovation District, was selected by the Robert Wood Johnson

Foundation to be a Culture of Health Leader. The three-year leadership

development program of 40 national leaders is designed to foster cross-sector collaboration and support leaders in their continued growth and development as agents of change for equity and health.

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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



TRACY BALE

**Tracy Bale, PhD**, professor, Department of Pharmacology, and director, Center for Epigenetic Research in Child Health and Brain Development,

was elected to serve as president of the International Brain Research Organization for the 2020-2022 term.

**Scott Baliban, PhD**, research associate; **Myron Levine, MD, DTPH**, Simon and Bessie Grollman Distinguished Professor of Medicine and associate dean for global health, vaccinology and infectious diseases; **Marcela Pasetti, PhD**, professor, Department of Pediatrics; and **Raphael Simon, PhD**, adjunct associate professor, Department of Medicine, were among the authors of “Maternal Antibodies Elicited by Immunization With an O-Polysaccharide Glycoconjugate Vaccine Protect Infant Mice Against Lethal *Salmonella* Typhimurium Infection,” which was published in *Frontiers in Immunology*.



MEAGAN FITZPATRICK



KATHLEEN NEUZIL

**Meagan Fitzpatrick, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, and **Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH**, director, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, and professor, departments of medicine and pediatrics, were among the authors of “Future Epidemiological and Economic Impacts of Universal Influenza Vaccines,” which was published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.



OWEN WOODWARD

**Victoria Halperin Kuhns, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow, was a first author and **Owen Woodward, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Physiology, was a senior author of

“Target Genes, Variants, Tissues and Transcriptional Pathways Influencing Human Serum Urate Levels,” which was published in *Nature Genetics*.



RAO JALADANKI

**Rao Jaladanki, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Surgery, received a four-year, \$1,189,600 VA Merit competitive renewal award for “Surgical Studies on Mucosal Homeostasis.”

# LAURELS

NOVEMBER 2019



CHRISTOPHER JEWELL

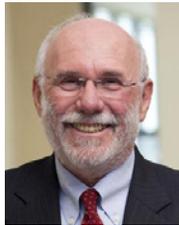
The White House presented **Christopher Jewell, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, with the Presidential Early Career

Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). The PECASE is the highest award the United States bestows on scientists and engineers in the early stages of their careers.

**Bruce Krueger, PhD**, professor, Department of Physiology, received a two-year, \$424,875 R21 grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for “Sexually Dimorphic Epigenetic Regulation of Fetal Brain Development by Environmental Stressors.”



ROSANGELA MEZGHANNI



MYRON LEVINE

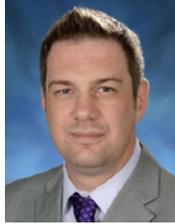
**Rosangela Mezghanni, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Pediatrics, **Myron Levine, MD, DTPH**, Simon and Bessie Grollman

Distinguished Professor of Medicine and associate dean for global health, vaccinology and infectious diseases, and **Marcelo Sztein, MD**, professor,



MARCELO SZTEIN

Department of Pediatrics, authored “Crosstalk Between Leukocytes Triggers Differential Immune Responses Against *Salmonella enterica* serovars Typhi and Paratyphi,” which was published in *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*.



EMMANUEL MONGODIN

**Emmanuel Mongodin, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology and Institute for Genome Sciences, received a four-year,

\$2,314,936 award from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for “Immunological and Functional Consequences Triggered by the Gut Microbiota Regulate Alloimmunity and Cardiac Transplant Outcome.”



JUSTIN ORTIZ

**Justin Ortiz, MD, MS**, associate professor, Department of Medicine, spoke at the United Nations International Day for Older Persons Side Event: End Immunization

Inequality Toward Health Aging, at the U.N. headquarters in New York on Oct. 11. His topic was “Benefits of Influenza Vaccination to Older Adults From a Global Perspective.”



REKHA RAPAKA

**Rekha Rapaka, MD, PhD**, assistant professor, was awarded a \$760,000 K08 Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Development

Award from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for her research titled “Human Cellular Immune Programming Against Invasive *Salmonella*.”



E. ALBERT REECE



PEIXIN YANG

**E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**, dean, John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor, and UMB executive vice president for medical affairs, and **Peixin Yang, PhD**, professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, were awarded a five-year, \$2.5 million R01 renewal for “Molecular Signaling Pathways and Cellular Stress in Diabetic Embryopathy.” This R01 supports research in the Center for Birth Defects Research.



SHANNON TAKALA-HARRISON

**Shannon Takala-Harrison, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Medicine, provided technical consultation on the role of

parasite and anopheline genetics in malaria surveillance for the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Her presentation was titled “Genomic Structure, Diversity, and Migration of *Plasmodium falciparum* in Southeast Asia.”

# LAURELS

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## SCHOOL OF NURSING

The school commemorated its 130th anniversary on Sept. 21 with a gala honoring its impact on nursing education and its continued leadership in Maryland and around the world. At the gala, the school inducted five new alumnae Visionary Pioneers, who are selected for their significant impact on, and contribution to, the field of nursing based on their leadership, innovation, or entrepreneurship. The new inductees included: **Bertha L. Davis, PhD, MS '77, RN, ANEF, FAAN**; **Kathleen Milholland Hunter, PhD '89, MS '81, BSN '76, FAAN** (deceased); **Robin Newhouse, PhD '00, MS '99, BSN '87, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN**; **Rear Adm. Sylvia Trent-Adams, PhD, MS '99, RN, FAAN, FNAP**; and **Margaret Chamberlain Wilmoth, PhD, MS '79, MSS, BSN '75, RN, FAAN**.



RACHEL BLANKSTEIN BREMAN

**Rachel Blankstein Breman, PhD '18, MPH, RN**, assistant professor, won the 2019 Research Article of the Year award from *MCN, The American Journal of*

*Maternal/Child Nursing* editorial board, for her article "Clinicians' Perspectives on Admission of Pregnant Women: A Triad." Breman also received a UMB Institute for Clinical and Translational Research 2019-20 KL2 Mentored Career Development Award for her project "Feasibility and Preliminary Efficacy of a Revised Shared Decision-Making Tool to Optimize Patient-Centered Care During Childbirth."

**Shannon Hansen, DNP '19, CRNP, AGNP-C**, and **Jade Kim, DNP '19, CCRN, AGPCNP-BC**, both graduates of the Doctor of Nursing

Practice Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP) specialty, have been selected to serve as AGPCNP residents at the Veterans Affairs Maryland Health Care System during the 2019-20 academic year as part of a Nurse Practitioner Residency Expansion Program.



YOLANDA OGBOLU

**Yolanda Ogbolu, PhD '11, MS '05, BSN '04, CRNP, FNAP, FAAN**, was named chair of the Department of Partnerships, Professional Education, and Practice (PPEP).

Since 2015, she has served as the director of the Office of Global Health within PPEP; she served as the office's deputy director from 2010 to 2015.

**Barbara Resnick, PhD '96, RN, CRNP, FAANP, FAAN**, professor, Sonya Ziporkin Gershowitz Chair in Gerontology, and co-director, Biology and Behavior Across the Lifespan Organized Research Center, was awarded a National Institutes of Health supplemental grant of \$168,305 for the project "The Impact of Gender Differences on Identification and Treatment of BPSD in Nursing Home Residents with Dementia."



VISIONARY PIONEERS ARTHUR J. MILHOLLAND, MD, (ON BEHALF OF HIS SISTER KATHLEEN MILHOLLAND HUNTER), INTERIM SON DEAN MARY ETTA C. MILLS; MARGARET CHAMBERLAIN WILMOTH; ROBIN NEWHOUSE; REAR ADM. SYLVIA TRENT-ADAMS, AND BERTHA L. DAVIS (SITTING).

## SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



BRUCE ANDERSON

**Bruce Anderson, PharmD**, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and executive director, Maryland Poison Center,

# LAURELS

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received a one-year, \$1,270,610 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for “Maryland Control Stabilization and Enhancement Program.”



CATHERINE COOKE



LEAH SERA

**Catherine Cooke, PharmD**, associate professor, and **Leah Sera, PharmD**, assistant professor, both in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a three-month, \$27,500 contract from CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield for “Opioid Use and Prescribing Analysis.”



ANDREW COOP

**Andrew Coop, PhD**, associate dean of academic affairs and professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been appointed to two American

Association of Colleges of Pharmacy committees: the Council of Sections Strategic Planning Committee and the Volwiller Research Achievement Award Committee.

**Joga Gobburu, PhD**, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and director, Center for Translational Medicine, received a two-year, \$206,498 contract from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for “Batch-to-Batch Variability

of Advair Exploring Solutions for Generic BE Pathway.”



JAMES LEONARD

**James Leonard, PharmD**, poison specialist, Maryland Poison Center, has been named a Diplomate of the American Board of Applied Toxicology.



MARY LYNN MCPHERSON

**Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD**, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and executive director, advanced postgraduate

education in palliative care, has been named co-chair of the 2020 International Conference on Opioids.



SARAH MICHEL

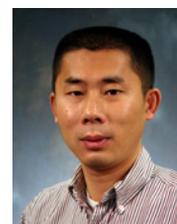
**Sarah Michel, PhD**, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been named the school’s associate dean for graduate programs. She also received a one-

year, \$82,281 grant from the Food and Drug Administration-funded Maryland Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science for “Trace Metals and Their Impact on Protein Quality, Safety, and Efficacy.”

**C. Daniel Mullins, PhD**, professor and chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, and director, PATIENTS Program, received a two-year,

\$2,083,046 grant from the National Institutes on Aging for “Building Trust to Enhance Diversity in Aging Research” and a two-year, \$250,000 contract from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute for “Capacity Building for a Learning PCOR System.”

**Chanel Whittaker, PharmD**, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and director of education and training for the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, received a one-year, \$25,992 contract from the VA Maryland Health Care System for “Geriatric Teaching Clinics.”



BRUCE YU

**Bruce Yu, PhD**, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and director of the Bio- and Nano-

technology Center, received

a three-year, \$669,950 contract from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for “Nondestructive Analytics for Vaccines and Complex Drugs.”



ZAFAR ZAFARI

**Zafar Zafari, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a two-year, \$50,000 grant from the American

Lung Association for “Developing a National Microsimulation Model of COPD to Evaluate Different Policies and Interventions in Reducing the Burden of the Disease.”

# LAURELS

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PETER DOSHI



AGNES ANN  
FEEMSTER



EMILY HEIL



LISA JONES



KATHLEEN PINCUS



JANA SHEN

The school announced the following faculty promotions: **Peter Doshi, PhD** (assistant professor to associate professor with tenure); **Agnes Ann Feemster, PharmD** (assistant professor to associate professor); **Emily Heil, PharmD** (assistant professor to associate professor); **Lisa Jones, PhD** (assistant professor to associate professor with tenure); **Joey Mattingly, PharmD, PhD** (assistant professor to associate professor); **Kathleen Pincus, PharmD** (assistant professor to associate professor); and **Jana Shen, PhD** (associate professor with tenure to professor with tenure).

## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Student **Todd Becker** is one of 10 students the Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work accepted to the ninth cohort of its Pre-Dissertation Fellows Program.



TODD BECKER

Associate professor **Jodi Frey, PhD**, and Boston College's Patricia Herlihy will accept the 2019 Best Use of Technology in the Employee Assistance (EA) Field Award at the International Conference for Employee Assistance Professionals Association. This award recognizes their work as co-founders of the International Employee Assistance Digital Archive, which now boasts over 3,400 unique submissions from more than 475 authors. It is the only fully digital, public repository for the EA field and is housed by SSW and the Health Sciences and Human Services Library.



JODI FREY

Professor **Geoffrey Greif, PhD**, alumna **Judith Leitch, PhD**, and associate professor **Michael Woolley, PhD**, have co-authored "A Preliminary Look at Relationships Between Married Gays and Lesbians and Their Parents-in-Law: Five Case Studies," which has been published



MICHAEL WOOLLEY (LEFT) AND GEOFFREY GREIF.

by the *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services*.

Associate professors **Karen Hopkins, PhD**, and **Megan Meyer, PhD**, wrote "Evaluating Behavioral and Organizational Outcomes of Leadership Development in Human Service Organizations," which was published in the *Journal of Human Service Organizations: Management, Leadership & Governance*.



SHAWNA  
MURRAY-BROWNE

Student **Shawna Murray-Browne** was selected through a competitive process to join the 2019-2020 cohort of the Council on Social Work Education's

Minority Fellowship Program for doctoral students.

**Theda Rose, PhD**, assistant professor, is the lead author of "Patterns of Social Connectedness and Psychosocial Well-Being Among African-American and Caribbean Black Adolescents," which was

# LAURELS

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THEDA ROSE

published in the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*. Alumna **Tara Von Mach, MSW/MPH**, was a co-author.



ARTHUR ROSENBAUM

Adjunct faculty member **Arthur Rosenbaum, MS Ed, LCSW-C**, has been named chairman of the National Ethics Committee for

the National Association of Social Workers.

Student **Micah Saviet** presented two research posters at the Canadian ADHD Resource Alliance's 6th Annual ADHD Research Day in Toronto.



HENRIETTE TAYLOR

The Maryland Historical Society has added **Henriette Taylor, MSW**, assistant dean of student services, to its board of trustees.



MIESHA WILLIAMS

Ferrum (Va.) College honored senior web developer **Miesha Williams, MS**, with its Outstanding Young Alumni Award.



© Damon Winter/The New York Times/Redux

## *An Afternoon with* **MONICA LEWINSKY**

social activist on the front lines of digital privacy and online harassment

**TUESDAY, NOV. 19  
3 P.M.**

MSTF Leadership Hall at the School of Medicine

**SOLD OUT**

[umaryland.edu/Lewinsky-UMBrella](http://umaryland.edu/Lewinsky-UMBrella)

THE **UMBRELLA GROUP**

*UMB Roundtable on Empowerment in Leadership  
and Leveraging Aspirations*

# ARE YOU A STAR?

***Nominate an  
outstanding  
staff member  
today!***

*Categories include:*

- Exceptional Contribution to the Institution
- Outstanding Service to Students
- Extraordinary Public Service
- Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Inclusion, Multiculturalism, and Social Justice

The University System of Maryland Board of Regents' Staff Awards represent the highest honor bestowed by the Board of Regents for achievements of exempt and nonexempt staff employees from institutions within the University System of Maryland.

SUBMIT A NOMINATION AT  
***[umaryland.edu/ssenate/BORaward](http://umaryland.edu/ssenate/BORaward)***

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT INITIAL NOMINATIONS IS NOV. 25, 2019.**

**\$2,000**  
STIPEND TO  
ALL WINNERS!

# FOUNDERSWEEK

NOVEMBER 2019

## COMMUNITY COMMITMENT HIGHLIGHTS CELEBRATION

The University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) commitment to community engagement and philanthropy was paramount during its Founders Week 2019 celebration, which ran Oct. 21-26 and featured food and fun, camaraderie and charity, a groundbreaking and a gala, and much more.

The 24th annual Founders Week Gala capped the festivities on Oct. 26, as UMB administrators, staff, faculty, students, business partners, and community members gathered for the black-tie event at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor. The theme of the night was "Catalyst for Community," alluding to UMB's multi-year, \$750 million Catalyst fundraising campaign and Community Campus initiative.

grandest challenges; care for our neediest people; teach, train, and mentor our incredible students; and support all of our efforts to improve the human condition."

The University's researcher (David C. Gray, JD, PhD, MA), entrepreneur (Robert K. Ernst, PhD), public servant (Michelle G. Giglio, PhD), and educator (Francis B. Palumbo, PhD, JD, MS) of the year were honored, and an inaugural class of Catalysts for Excellence representing UMB's six professional schools was recognized for its philanthropic deeds. The UMB Foundation, Inc. honored one of its Board of Trustees members, Theo C. Rodgers, MBA, as the 2019 Distinguished Service Award winner for his contributions to enhancing and sustaining the University.

See *photos* and read more about the *Gala* and the *award winners*.

UMB's commitment to the community also was showcased Thursday, Oct. 24, when a large crowd celebrated a ceremonial groundbreaking of the expanded Community Engagement Center at 16 S. Poppleton St. (*Read about that on page 13.*)

The Founders Week celebration began Monday, Oct. 21, with the Staff Luncheon at Westminster Hall, drawing 800 people for sandwiches, salads, desserts, and more. Perman greeted attendees as they arrived and other UMB administrators handed out hors d'oeuvres before the president took the microphone. "Nothing happens here without a great staff, and that's why it's appropriate to kick off Founders Week by telling our staff how much the



FRANCIS PALUMBO ACCEPTS HIS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM DR. PERMAN AT THE GALA WITH PHARMACY SCHOOL DEAN NATALIE EDDINGTON.

Emcee Denise Koch of WJZ-TV announced to cheers that the campaign had surpassed the \$500 million mark, and UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, thanked those in the crowd of 600 who helped make that possible as well as the people who drive the University's community engagement programs. He noted that from his office on the 14th floor of the Saratoga Building he can literally see the "whole of UMB."

"I see downtown. I see West Baltimore. I see our seven schools," he said. "I see the power of our physical presence. I see the breadth of communities and people we serve. I see so clearly who we are and why we matter. And it is all of you who make it so. I can't begin to thank you for the work you put in to solve our



UMB STAFF MEMBERS WERE SERVED THEIR CHOICE OF A WIDE ARRAY OF FOODS AT THE STAFF LUNCHEON IN WESTMINSTER HALL.

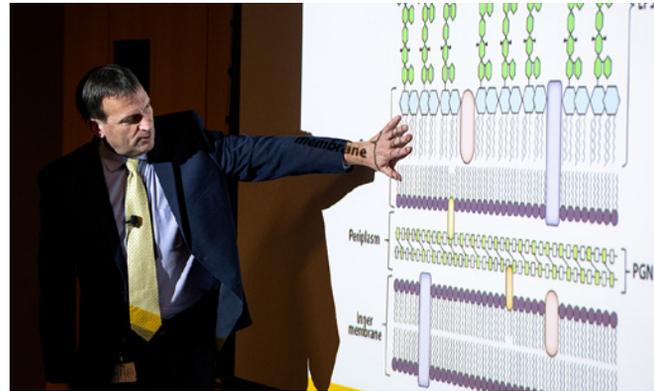
*Continued from previous page*

leadership of this University appreciates you,” Perman said. “Please consider this lunch a small measure of gratitude for all that you do.”

*See **photos** and a **video** from this event.*

On Tuesday, Oct. 22, Gray spoke on the topic of “The Fourth Amendment in an Age of Surveillance” in his Researcher of the Year presentation at the Francis King Carey School of Law, where he is the Jacob A. France Professor of Law. Gray offered keen insights as he took the audience on an informative ride through the history of the law that protects U.S. citizens from unreasonable searches and seizures by the government, court cases related to the amendment, and how it’s all intertwined in an era when tracking and surveillance devices are omnipresent.

*Read a **story** about this event.*



DAVID GRAY (LEFT) DISCUSSED TRACKING AND SURVEILLANCE DEVICES IN HIS FOURTH AMENDMENT RESEARCH LECTURE AND ROBERT ERNST SPOKE OF PATHOGENS AND PATENTS IN HIS ENTREPRENEUR PRESENTATION.

On Wednesday, Oct. 23, Entrepreneur of the Year Ernst took center stage at the School of Dentistry, where he is a professor and vice chair of the Department of Microbial Pathogenesis. In his presentation, “Pathogens, Patents, and Pataigin: Delivering Diagnostic Development,” Ernst expounded on his efforts to rapidly identify bacteria- and fungi-caused infections and the company he co-founded, Pataigin, which is developing a method to quickly and accurately identify disease-producing agents, or pathogens.

*Read a **story** about this event.*

Earlier on Wednesday, more than 650 attended the Student Cookout, held annually on the School of Nursing Lawn. The sun came out for the cookout after several rainy days, and UMB deans, administrators, and vice presidents doled out food to the students, who got to munch on pit beef sandwiches, barbecued chicken, hot dogs, vegetable wraps, and other assorted goodies.

*See a **video** and **photos** from this event.*

— Lou Cortina



STUDENTS WERE CLEARLY DELIGHTED TO BE SERVED A FREE LUNCH BY UMB ADMINISTRATORS LIKE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT ROGER WARD AT THE STUDENT COOKOUT ON THE SCHOOL OF NURSING LAWN.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

NOVEMBER 2019

## UMB CELEBRATES GROUNDBREAKING OF NEW CEC

In the heart of West Baltimore at 16 S. Poppleton St. sits a historic building that has been a fixture in the neighborhood since 1917. The columns on the building's façade are faded and the windows are broken and boarded up, but the inside holds a wealth of history and potential for Baltimore.

After years of being vacant, this historic building and its capabilities are finally being realized. While keeping its exterior preserved, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) is transforming the interior into a brand-new Community Engagement Center (CEC).

Oct. 24 marked the official start of the renovation with a ceremonial groundbreaking, and UMB community members, city leaders, elected officials, and West Baltimore residents were invited to come and celebrate.

"I've been waiting for this for a long time," UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, told the large crowd at the ceremony, held on the street corner across from the construction site. "This building is not UMB's alone. It's all of ours. This is your building."

Perman reflected on the partnership between UMB and the West Baltimore community, a collaboration that took a big step forward in 2015 when the University opened a 3,000-square-foot CEC located a short walk from the new building. The CEC provides free resources to the community, including workforce development, fitness/health classes, food markets, and space for the UMB Police Athletic/Activities League Program.

In four years, the center has recorded more than 35,000 visits from men, women, teens, and children who engage with its services and programming. Having outgrown the current space, UMB and West Baltimore community members are excited to see the center — expected to be completed by summer 2020 — move into a building that's seven times larger.

The expansion will make room for a more rich portfolio of community-driven programming that West Baltimore residents have been asking for: an exercise/dance studio, a large multipurpose room for community meals and events, a safe play area for children, a wellness suite, and a more robust computer lab.

"To see the center grow is very exciting," says Cassandra Fair, a Poppleton resident and regular visitor to the CEC. "The energy at the groundbreaking was fantastic! Everyone seemed to be invested, and that's what's so exciting about this project."

Community members have been involved in the planning and programming process of the CEC every step of the way. UMB has collaborated with community organizations like the Southwest Partnership to ensure that the specific needs of its West Baltimore neighbors are met.



RAVENS LEGEND RAY LEWIS BROUGHT SECOND-GRADER BLAIR PINNACLE III ON STAGE AT THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY.

"This is an investment in people, because if you invest back in people, then all of this works," Ravens legend Ray Lewis, a member of the UMB Foundation Board of Trustees, said in a rousing speech at the ceremony. "If we can affect these people together the way we're doing now, we can change our city."

Lewis demonstrated his investment that day when second-grader Blair Pinnacle III said he wanted to have a boxing class at the new CEC. Lewis told Blair he would talk to his friend, former heavyweight champ George Foreman, about getting a boxing class for the new center.

After the speeches, the crowd was invited to hang paper leaves on a metal elm tree. On each leaf, attendees were asked to finish the phrase: *I will grow in the CEC when I...* Some wrote about health and exercise goals, others about career, family, or community goals. Collectively, the leaves covered the tree with color and aspirations for a bright future together.

"The fact that we will grow our programming exponentially to serve more families and children is extremely exciting," says Ashley Valis, MSW, UMB's executive director of strategic initiatives and community engagement. "Together, we will deliver a new center that will be a welcoming, fun, educational, relaxing, respectful, and transformational space for our neighbors."

— Jena Frick

View a [photo gallery](#).

## '1807' ARTISTS REUNITE FOR RECEPTION

Called a “labor of love” by host M.J. Tooley, executive director of the Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HS/HSL), UMB’s *1807* arts journal took another bow on Sept. 25 as many of the artists gathered in HS/HSL’s Weise Gallery to see and discuss the works that have been exhibited there since July 15.

“To see the pieces in real life is so different from seeing them one-dimensionally in a book,” said Jennifer Litchman, MA, senior vice president for external relations, special assistant to the president, and founding chair of the UMB Council for the Arts & Culture, which was the driving force behind *1807*. The University’s first art and literary journal, the 60-plus-page, full-color product was published in May, featuring works in writing, visual arts, photography, and varied media.

“This exhibit is so inspiring,” Litchman said in concluding her opening remarks, “and I applaud all of you artists who are here today. I’m proud to work in an institution that places art in such high regard.”

Tooley, who also is associate vice president of Academic Affairs, pointed out that all the *1807* artists are accomplished in careers other than art but still find the time to express themselves creatively. Then she introduced three of the artists who led the group to their piece of art and briefly described the inspiration behind it.

Maureen Stone, PhD, a research scientist from the School of Dentistry, allayed the fears of the non-artists in the gathering of 50-plus. “Twenty-five years ago, I did not consider myself at all artistic but I was working at the NIH and took an evening class in sketching and drawing,” she said. “What I learned from that class was that anyone can draw what they see. All you have to do



PATRICIA HOFFMANN OF HUMAN RESOURCES DISCUSSES HER ACRYLIC ON CANVAS PIECE, “FLOW.”

is practice and keep trying and remember a lot of things in life are cubes — furniture, houses, cars. If you can draw a cube, you can draw a lot more than you think you can draw.”

Fifteen years ago, Stone found her true love — stained glass. She described elements of her *1807* varied media entry “Aqua Abstract” and how stained glass is great for busy people like her because you can leave it for months and when you return “it’s exactly where you left it. It doesn’t mold, rot, smell bad. It’s great!”

And if you have a bad pattern, mediocre execution, and little talent? “The glass will save you,” Stone said. “Because it will always look beautiful.”

Next, at the other end of Weise Gallery, whose newly remodeled Byzantine blue walls were the perfect backdrop for the artwork, Patricia Hoffmann of Human Resources discussed her acrylic on canvas piece, “Flow.” She created it after buying a beach house “to express some feeling of water; plus art flows through me.”

Her secret tip? Drywall mud, and lots of it. “I start with a coat of drywall mud, then I can do whatever I want,” she said. “I can make swirls, I can make lines, but I put this layer of drywall mud and it gives a lot of texture on which the paint will lay.”

Narrow white banners also hung from the Weise Gallery ceiling to display several writing samples. Suzanne Kelsey’s poem about abuse, titled “Innocence,” was one of them.

“The mirrors in this room hold secrets [memories I try to hide],” Kelsey read. “You come in and say, *Listen*, so we sit on the bed and you tell me [what he did to you] ...”



PROVOST BRUCE JARRELL, HIS METALWORK DISPLAYED BEHIND HIM, SPEAKS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF “RIGHT BRAIN” ART AT A “LEFT BRAIN” CAMPUS.

*Continued from previous page*

After reading the complete poem, which is on the *1807 website*, Kelsey, who works in the Office of Research and Development, said her friends are confused by her poems. “I’m always super happy, but my writing is kind of dark. I don’t know, maybe that’s my stress relief or something,” she said with a smile.

Bruce Jarrell, MD, FACS, who in addition to serving as UMB’s executive vice president, provost, and dean of the Graduate School, is a proud member of the Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland, closed out the event with some reflections.

He spoke of his mother, who died recently at 102, being a very good embroiderer “beautiful work with needle on linen. I, on the other hand, am a blacksmith; I forge iron. She got great pleasure out of telling all of her friends that she was a hooker and I was a forger,” Jarrell said to laughter from the audience.

He said he was so glad UMB, “a left brain technical campus,” was doing more “right brain things like *1807*,” which included two entries from him. “How many students are here?” Jarrell asked, having them point to their artwork. “We need people to carry on this tradition after some of us are gone, so please remain active with this,” he urged the students.



SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY STUDENTS AND *1807* ARTISTS ELIZABETH CHEN (LEFT) AND LAUREN GRITZER POSE NEXT TO GRITZER’S “DENTAL SCHOOL DAYS” MONOPRINT.

Then the *1807* artists on hand stood by their works and discussed them with visitors amid refreshments and snacks. Smiles abounded because art seems to take people to a happy place.

“It doesn’t pay the bills but I love to paint,” said the School of Medicine’s Joanne Morrison, whose acrylic on canvas “A Walk Down the Street” is part of *1807*. “You should see my office!”

— Chris Zang

*1807* is accepting submissions for the second issue until Nov. 29. See the *website* for details.

*Save the date*

# 2019 MARYLAND CHARITY CAMPAIGN KICKOFF FAIR

**Monday, Nov. 11 | 9 to 11 a.m.**

Southern Management Corporation Campus Center, Elm Ballroom A (208)

**Meet campaign chairs, pick up an MCC Giving Guide, and hear from local nonprofits that rely on MCC to continue their work in our community.**

*Light breakfast will be provided. Prizes given to the first 50 attendees.*





Help us launch the new Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning by taking a survey. Your responses will help guide services and programming.

Join the conversation today at [umaryland.edu/fctl](http://umaryland.edu/fctl).



# QUARTERLY Q&A

*with Dr. Perman*

THURSDAY  
**Dec. 5, 2019**

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | School of Pharmacy, Room N203

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

***This session will include updates on the campus climate survey and UMB's new Workplace Mediation Service as well as an open forum.***

*Winners of UMB's Ultimate Mileage Battle will be recognized.*



# COLLABORATION

NOVEMBER 2019

## FACULTY DEVELOPING INTERPROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIP



FROM LEFT, KAREN GORDES, NORMAN RETENER, DR. PERMAN, LINDA HORN, AND MEI CHING LEE

When the Center for Interprofessional Education (CIPE) launched the President's IPE Faculty Scholars Program in 2018, it sought to support faculty members who want to expand on IPE at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) "knowing that the future of health care is team-based."

The program's first cohort is doing just that, creating a team from the School of Medicine (SOM), SOM's Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science (PTRS), the School of Nursing (SON), and the Graduate School that applied for and was awarded a two-year seed grant to develop an interprofessional internship at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC).

The cohort is composed of four members, including Karen Gordes, PhD, PT, DScPT, chief learning director for the Physician Assistant Leadership and Learning Academy at the Graduate School. In addition to creating the internship, she aims to advance the team's skills and knowledge in designing and evaluating interprofessional education curriculum.

"I also want to expand our scholarship opportunities in the area of IPE," she says. "Participating in the Faculty Scholars Program provides an exceptional opportunity to collaborate with other individuals dedicated and committed to the advancement of IPE."

The other team members are Linda B. Horn, PT, DScPT, MHS, assistant professor and director of academic affairs, PTRS; Mei Ching Lee, PhD, MS, RN, assistant professor, SON; and Norman F. Retener, MD, assistant professor, SOM.

Horn says she aims to develop a meaningful and sustainable interprofessional experience for the SOM, SON, and PTRS students in the internship. "I feel strongly that students need to be educated about interprofessional collaboration and practice so they can be better prepared for internships and clinical practice," she says.

Lee sees her participation boosting her knowledge in the areas of teaching, research, and clinical application. "The program is providing me with the experience of IPE didactic teaching of students from several schools at UMB," she says. "These teaching experiences broaden my knowledge about the barriers faced and facilitators needed by students to learn interprofessional collaboration, and they enhance the development and implementation of effective IPE courses at the University."

Retener says advancing IPE helps ease students' transitions from the classroom to clinical settings and ultimately makes them better health care practitioners. "This program also allows me to become an agent of change and a better advocate for IPE within my school," he says. "The School of Medicine is working to reform our curriculum, and this is a prime opportunity to include more interprofessional programs."

According to the team, the clinical internship at UMMC will occur in the spring of 2020, followed by evaluation, assessment, and the dissemination of its findings in the summer and fall.

In early October, Lee and Horn used funds from the \$15,000 grant to travel to Portland, Ore., to attend the Interprofessional Education Collaborative, which featured poster competitions, networking opportunities, expert speakers, and more. Gordes and Retener are scheduled to attend the spring 2020 session. In addition, team members are active as teachers in UMB's Foundations of IPE course, which features faculty from the UMB schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing, and pharmacy offering face-to-face and online instruction on team-based care.

"I'm a strong proponent of interprofessional education," Retener says. "I've always believed that patient outcomes are dependent on more than just one person or profession and that good outcomes are best achieved by multiple disciplines working together."

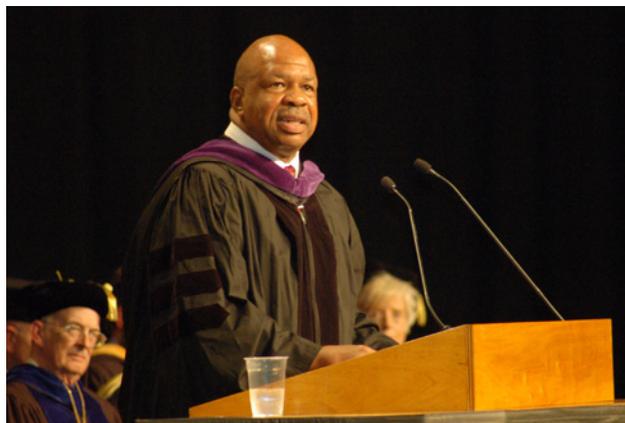
— Lou Cortina

*Read more about this **here**.*

# IN MEMORIAM

NOVEMBER 2019

## CUMMINGS REMEMBERED AS 'HERO TO CHILDREN'



THIRTY YEARS AFTER GRADUATING FROM UMB, ELIJAH CUMMINGS GAVE THE COMMENCEMENT SPEECH, INSPIRING THE CLASS OF 2006 TO "CHANGE THE COURSE OF PEOPLE'S LIVES ... BUT NEVER FORGET OUR HUMANITY."

Members of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) community expressed shock and sadness over the Oct. 17 death of Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, JD '76, who never forgot his West Baltimore roots and was committed to inspiring youths to overcome challenges and obstacles the way he had.

"No one was more dedicated to the youth of Baltimore than Rep. Elijah Cummings. No one," said UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD.

The 7th District congressman died of "complications concerning longstanding health challenges," his office said. A Baltimore-born son of former sharecroppers, he was in his 13th term representing Maryland in Congress and was chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

"He worked every single day to ensure equity and opportunity for the city's children," Perman wrote in a *letter to the UMB community*. "Despite weighty responsibilities as a leader in Congress, he was a constant presence at UMB and in his district, pushing for programs that would develop the talents of young people and show them a future beyond their city block.

"And children knew that — they were drawn to him; they were drawn to his personal story of challenge and triumph; they were drawn to his long fight for racial, social, and economic justice. We have lost one of the nation's greatest leaders certainly, and we have lost a hero to generations of children whose lives are better because of Elijah Cummings," Perman wrote.

Cummings, who grew up in a three-room house on Paca Street, just blocks from UMB, was a regular presence at the University. A graduate of Francis King Carey School of Law, he remained closely connected to the school throughout his career and was a longtime member of its Board of Visitors.

"Congressman Cummings cared deeply about people — the people of Baltimore, the people of this state, and the students in this school," said law school Dean Donald B. Tobin, JD. "The world lost a towering beacon of justice today."

Cummings was a true leader who cared deeply about Baltimore, particularly those in the West Baltimore neighborhoods that he, too, called home, said Ashley Valis, MSW '06, executive director of strategic initiatives and community engagement at UMB. In April 2016, after a tumultuous time in the city's history due to the Freddie Gray uprising, Cummings helped cut the ribbon on UMB's Community Engagement Center in West Baltimore at 1 N. Poppleton St.

"From the moment he stepped foot in the UMB Community Engagement Center, he commented about what a special place it was, meant to nurture families and help bridge the gap between the University community and our neighbors," Valis said. "He encouraged us, supported us, and, most importantly, he knew this deep commitment from an anchor institution in West Baltimore was long overdue. He was always there when we called upon his wisdom, encouraging our YouthWorks students to stay the course and study hard, and pushing the University to do more to serve the residents, particularly young people, in our city. He will be so dearly missed."

In addition to community engagement, Cummings was passionate about inspiring youths participating in the UMB CURE Scholars Program, a nationally acclaimed program that guides West Baltimore middle and high schoolers toward careers in research, STEM, and health care. It is the first middle school initiative funded by the National Cancer Institute's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities.

From the program's beginning in 2015, Cummings spoke to the young scholars on a regular basis, despite a busy schedule.

On the morning of his passing, a moment of silence was held in Cummings' honor at a meeting of the CURE Advisory Board. Founding executive director Robin Saunders, EdD, MS, praised Cummings' "unyielding support of the creation and success of our CURE Scholars Program."

*Continued from previous page*

“He, in fact, was an impetus to the program’s development,” Saunders added. “With a unique and prophetic understanding, he actually spoke to me personally about the trials he knew I would endure in building this kind of program, and, like you, I’m heartbroken about his passing. We have lost a true supporter and a true friend of the marginalized, invisible, and forgotten people of Baltimore.”

Kevin Cullen, MD, director of the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center, a supporter of the CURE Scholars Program, recalled how Cummings spent an hour on a Saturday morning talking to the young students and sharing his experience growing up in Baltimore in the 1950s.

“As was always his way, his words were passionate, compelling, and deeply meaningful,” Cullen said. “Rep. Cummings showed them what is possible for a child in this city.”

At each visit to UMB, “he spoke eloquently about his own journey in a way that relates to our youth extremely well,” added Brian Sturdivant, MSW ’00, director of strategic initiatives and community partnerships. Cummings spoke many times to students involved in UMB’s Summer Bioscience Internship Program and the city’s YouthWorks program, which provides youths jobs at UMB.

Jahid Carr, the son of Nadine Finigan-Carr, PhD, MS, a research associate professor at the School of Social Work (SSW), was a YouthWorks student who listened intently to the congressman.

“Rep. Cummings definitely had an impact on my son not only because he was an advocate for the internship program but also because he shared about his struggles with school and being in ‘special ed,’” Finigan-Carr said. “My son is on the autism spectrum and has struggled with school at times. He saw Mr.

Cummings thriving with his disability and as a black man and was inspired to do the same.”

Cummings also was a staunch supporter of SSW’s Promise Heights initiative, which works to improve the lives of children and families in the West Baltimore neighborhood of Upton/Druid Heights.

“He visited Promise Heights several times during the last few years,” said Promise Heights executive director Bronwyn Mayden, MSW ’77.

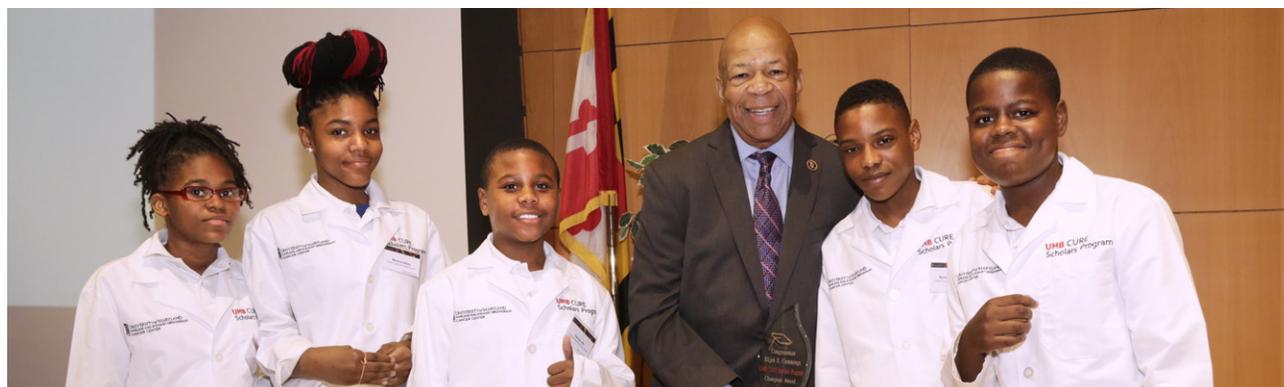
She recalled how during a visit to a local school, Cummings read to children and talked about the importance of reading and learning. He told the children he was placed in special education at an early age, but, through hard work, tenacity, and encouragement from family and community, he continued his education and graduated from law school.

“Elijah Cummings’ life illustrates the outstanding success available to Baltimore’s children when access to quality education is not a luxury but is every child’s right,” Mayden said. “We will miss his humor and his dedication to seeing every Baltimore child has a chance at prosperity.”

Thirty years after walking across the graduation stage himself, Cummings addressed the UMB Class of 2006 as the commencement speaker. (He also did so in 2010.) “From this day forward, you will be required to make decisions that will change the course of people’s lives,” he told the graduates. “You will hold in your hands the future of people who have given you their trust. I hope you will never forget our humanity.”

— Mary T. Phelan

*Enjoy a **video** of Elijah Cummings at UMB.*



CUMMINGS WAS A PASSIONATE SUPPORTER OF THE UMB CURE SCHOLARS PROGRAM, WHOSE PARTICIPANTS COME FROM WEST BALTIMORE LIKE HE DID.

# CURECORNER

NOVEMBER 2019

## FIFTH COHORT OF SCHOLARS IS URGED TO 'PAVE THE WAY'

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) held a white coat ceremony on Oct. 5 for the latest group of sixth-graders to be selected as UMB CURE Scholars. The West Baltimore public school students, known as Cohort 5, were welcomed by slightly older peers who took part in the milestone event.

Baltimore City Health Commissioner Letitia Dzirasa, MD, urged both the youngest and oldest of the scholars, composed of sixth-through 10th-graders, to seize their opportunities. “Gain all you can from your experiences in this program — mentoring, academic support, life skills coaching,” Dzirasa said. “Recognize that your opportunity to be here is still the exception and not the norm.”

Observing that all of the CURE Scholars have been gifted with the opportunity to learn about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) through the program, Dzirasa continued, “Now it’s your job to pave the way for our successors.”

The nationally recognized mentorship program is a pipeline that aims to guide West Baltimore students to promising futures in science and health care. Established in 2015, the program, supported by the National Cancer Institute, has become a model as the first to start as early as sixth grade.

Dzirasa, who became health commissioner in March 2019, told the scholars and a large audience of mentors, family members, and well-wishers in the School of Nursing Auditorium that her career path had come as a surprise.

“I want to be clear, not seeing myself here isn’t because I didn’t have aspirations to work in public health but rather it didn’t seem possible that I, a young African-American female who hates public speaking, could ever hold the role of top physician in a major metropolitan city,” she said.

She got a warm welcome from UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, who took note of the fact that he and Dzirasa are pediatricians.

Perman expressed pride in the ever-expanding UMB CURE Scholars Program, which has high retention rates even as the participants enter upper grades. Students attend the original

partner schools — Franklin Square Elementary Middle School, Green Street Academy, and Southwest Baltimore Charter School (SBCS) — as well as elite high schools.

“You are my kids,” Perman said fondly to members of all five cohorts. And he went on to pay tribute to their first mentors, the students’ parents and grandparents, who stood to enthusiastic applause. Several members of Cohort 5 are legacy scholars, joining siblings and cousins in the program.



CITY HEALTH COMMISSIONER LETITIA DZIRASA INSPIRED THE SCHOLARS.

And Perman generated a wave of congratulatory applause when he introduced UMB CURE Scholars Executive Director Gia Grier McGinnis, MS, sharing the news that she had recently succeeded in defending her dissertation for a DrPH degree from Morgan State University.

SBCS sixth-grader Gabrielle Canady took it all in and said she felt excited, proud, and hyped. “I’m ready to learn something,” she said.

“I think it’s a great opportunity for her, and I believe it’s an experience for her to be on her own and grow up,” said her mother, Antoinette Canady. “That’s what I want for her, to be independent.”

After the “mentor mixer,” where incoming sixth-graders meet older CURE Scholars, the Canady family and others connected with Cohort 5 were offered campus tours that included stops such as URecFit in the SMC Campus Center and the UMB Community Engagement Center in the UM BioPark.

— Patricia Fanning

Read more about the *event* and see a *photo gallery*.