

# the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 2023



## STUDENTS ARE THE HIGHLIGHT OF UMB

At the end of the calendar year, I usually reflect on many of the highlights from the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). This year, I want to focus on 6,667 highlights — our students! Across the seven schools at this one University, our bright and dedicated students enrolled in courses to become the next generation of health and human service professionals are truly the highlight of UMB. Our mission to improve the human condition and serve the public good is realized through these amazing students who will go on to serve their communities and people across the globe.

UMB exists because of our students. We are here because of our students. It is our students' curiosity, passion, and dedication that make UMB a vibrant and engaging place to be. Every one of UMB's 6,667 students comes with their own unique perspective, background, and commitment to learning, and they each contribute to the dynamic and inclusive environment that defines us. Their interactions, discussions, and collaborative efforts create an atmosphere of innovation and discovery. Our University is not merely a collection of buildings and classrooms; it is a living, breathing community shaped by the diverse experiences and aspirations of its members — faculty, staff and students alike.

Nothing is more important to me than supporting our students. That happens through academic resources like tutoring, the Writing Center, mentorships, and advising. We also support needs through the UMB Student Pantry, which assists students by providing nutritionally rich snacks and meals. It's a service open to all UMB students, and each month the pantry distributes 1,000-plus pounds of shelf-stable food and hygiene items.

For students' health and well-being, we have URecFit and Wellness and the Student Counseling Center, both at the SMC Campus Center, and the Student Health Center. There are

236 student groups ranging from affinity groups to Out and About Together, a student-led group that gathers weekly to explore the city of Baltimore and beyond. There are groups for so many interests, and ways to start new groups as well. Students interested in forming a new Universitywide student organization should contact Intercultural Leadership and Engagement at [ile@umaryland.edu](mailto:ile@umaryland.edu).

It's wonderful that UMB's students have such wide-ranging sets of interests and diversity of perspectives. The importance of fostering a sense of community at a university cannot be overstated. In this shared space exists the opportunity to engage in dialogue, challenge ideas, and broaden our understanding of the world. The relationships built with peers, faculty, and staff go beyond the classroom, creating a network of support that extends far beyond the academic journey.

Students, I want each of you to know that your journey is not just about gaining knowledge but also about discovering your passions, building lasting connections, and leaving an indelible mark on our University, indeed our world. Your success is our success, and your achievements are a source of immense pride for our entire community. I'm so grateful to have the opportunity to lead this University. As we close out this calendar year,

let us celebrate the potential, diversity, and brilliance that each of you brings to UMB.

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS  
PRESIDENT



PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO  
PRESIDENT JARRELL GREETES STUDENTS ATTENDING THE ANNUAL FOUNDERS WEEK STUDENT COOKOUT.

# Happy Holidays



## UMB Christmas Store: Make a Donation Today

UMB is seeking donations of **toys or cash** for its annual Christmas Store that will be held at the Community Engagement Center on **Dec. 15-16** from **11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** each day.

The store provides families with a unique opportunity to purchase gifts at significantly reduced cost so that every parent can experience the joy of giving.

Learn more about how to donate toys, cash, or your time at [foundrybaltimore.com/christmasstore](https://foundrybaltimore.com/christmasstore)



# WELCOME TO UMB!

## NEW HIRES: NOVEMBER 2023

### UMB

Jeffrey Han, Staff  
Marcus Harrison, Staff  
Juan Hughes, Staff  
Deresu Negese, Staff  
Precious Omagbe, Staff  
Deborah Pinkney, Staff  
Hiromi Sanders, Staff  
Shardae Sangster, Staff  
Jinissa Smith, Staff  
Ricardo Sookdar, Staff  
Devan Southerland, Staff  
Dominique Vivas, Staff  
Brandon Walsh, Staff  
Jason Ward, Staff  
Gabrielle Wolff, Staff

### SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Kelsey Hunter, Staff

### SCHOOL OF LAW

Sierra Jones, Staff

### SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Fehima Abdelrahman, Staff  
Apurva Borcar, Faculty  
Malika Brooks, Staff  
Matthew Bruce, Trainee  
Sarah Demaio, Staff  
Stephanie El Omeiri, Trainee  
Jordan Elcock, Staff  
Amina Farooq, Faculty  
Ellena Gasaway, Staff  
Bethany Goss, Staff  
Aisha Hegab Souquette, Faculty  
Itavis Johnson, Staff  
Venugopal Naik Keluth Chavan, Faculty  
Jonathon Kelvey, Staff  
Shannon Kirk, Staff

Karthikeyan Krishnamurthy, Trainee  
Harshita Kukreja, Staff  
Damond Lee, Staff  
Kirsten Marx, Staff  
Jerel McCord, Staff  
Holly Moody, Staff  
Yash Porwal, Staff  
Nathaniel Robbins, Faculty  
William Scerbo, Staff  
Lily Shaffer, Staff  
Dawn Shanklin, Staff  
Impana Shetty, Faculty  
Elena Soukhov, Faculty  
Amir Srour, Staff  
Orlando Wright, Staff

### SCHOOL OF NURSING

Tabitha Laurent, Staff  
Jennifer MacHamer, Faculty  
Arom Kim, Faculty

Margaret Runyon, Staff

### SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Omoyemen Alli, Staff  
Suvankar Ghosh, Trainee  
Stephanie Jackson, Staff  
Pari Majethia, Staff  
Rinky Parakra, Staff  
Becky Warren, Staff  
Shawn Wheeler, Staff

### SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Brittani Carlos, Staff  
Raniya Holmes, Staff  
Alexandra Kearson, Staff  
LaShawn Lane, Staff  
Jasmine Squirrel, Staff

THIS LISTING OF NEW HIRES IS PROVIDED BY UMB HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES. TRAINEES INCLUDE CLINICAL FELLOWS, POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS, RESEARCH FELLOWS, AND RESIDENT GI FELLOWS.

# GIVING HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER

**December is the season of giving, and the Office of Philanthropy offers an easy way to give back to the UMB projects, programs, and initiatives that matter most to you.**

With enhanced searchability and convenient payment options (credit card, Venmo, PayPal, Apple Pay, and Google Pay), donors can show their support in a matter of minutes!

To give by credit card or digital wallet, visit [www.umaryland.edu/give](http://www.umaryland.edu/give)

To give by payroll deduction, visit [www.usmd.edu/give](http://www.usmd.edu/give)



UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

# CATALYST

BIG IDEAS CHANGE THE WORLD



**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE FALL 2023 ISSUE OF**

## **UMB's *CATALYST* magazine!**

This dynamic digital issue of *CATALYST* highlights remarkable innovations and milestones from across our schools and departments, recognizing the invaluable contributions of our students, faculty, and staff. It includes stories about the UMB Center for Violence Prevention and its executive director, Nadine Finigan-Carr (pictured above), as well as other programs focused on UMB's Commitment to Baltimore, our new academic deans, and much more. Read these inspiring stories online at [catalystmag.umaryland.edu](http://catalystmag.umaryland.edu).

**Find out how UMB's big ideas are changing the world!**



**Visit [catalystmag.umaryland.edu](http://catalystmag.umaryland.edu).**

# LAURELS

DECEMBER 2023

## UNIVERSITYWIDE

The **UMB Student Pantry** received a \$27,819 grant from the Maryland Higher Education Commission through the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program in October.



JESSICA BAUER

**Jessica Bauer**, library services specialist, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, co-presented the poster “Strategic Alliance: Meeting the Needs

of Your Library, University, and Community” at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association’s Annual Meeting.



TIFFANY N. CHAVIS

**Tiffany N. Chavis, MSW, MLIS, LCSW-C**, health literacy librarian, Region 1 of the Network of the National Library of Medicine, Health Sciences

and Human Services Library, co-presented “Culturally Responsive and Community-Driven Description Practices” at the International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums in Oklahoma City in October.



TOM HOCKENSMITH

**Tom Hockensmith, MS**, executive director of central administration information technology (IT)

services, Center for Information Technology Services, is recognized as UMB’s October Employee of the Month for being a strong, customer service-driven leader who is known for his patience, knowledge, and dependability when helping with IT issues.



JENNY OWENS



ROGER J. WARD

**Jenny Owens, ScD, MS**, associate dean of academic affairs, associate professor, and executive director, Graduate Research Innovation District, Graduate School, and **Roger J. Ward, EdD, JD, MSL, MPA**, provost and executive vice president, UMB, were among the co-authors of “From Roe to Dobbs: The Critical Role of Medical Housing for Individuals Seeking Abortion Care,” which was published in the *American Journal of Public Health*.



VIRGINIA ROWTHORN

**Virginia Rowthorn, JD, LLM**, associate professor, Graduate School, and assistant vice president for global engagement and director, Center

for Global Engagement, UMB, presented “Reciprocal Innovation as a Tool to Democratize Global Health” at the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene’s Annual Conference in Chicago on Oct. 20.



JANE SHAAB

**Jane Shaab, MBA**, executive director, University of Maryland BioPark, and associate vice president for economic development,

received the Association of University Research Parks’ 2023 Career Achievement Award for her work in building Baltimore’s life sciences community and advancing the concept of university research parks and innovation districts.



FAITH STEELE



TONY NGUYEN

**Faith Steele, MLS**, outreach and education librarian, and **Tony Nguyen, MLIS**, executive director, Region 1 of the Network of the National Library of Medicine, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented the poster “Connecting LIS Students with Practical Experience Outside Traditional Internships” at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association’s Annual Meeting.



SARAH WEIRICH

**Sarah Weirich, MLIS**, head of resource development, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented “Updating

LAURELS ARE SUBMITTED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS AS WELL AS BY REPRESENTATIVES IN VARIOUS UNIVERSITYWIDE OFFICES. THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN THESE SELF-SUBMITTED LAURELS.

# LAURELS

DECEMBER 2023

Permission Workflows with Institutional Repository Partners” at the NASIG Autumn Virtual Conference.



AMY YARNELL



IRMARIE FRATICELLI-RODRIGUEZ



CHRISTINE NIEMAN HISLOP

**Amy Yarnell, MLS, and Irmarie Fraticelli-Rodriguez, MSI**, both data services librarians, Health Sciences and Human Services Library

(HSHSL), and **Christine Nieman Hislop, MSLIS**, data education librarian, Region 1 of the Network of the National Library of Medicine, HSHSL, presented the short talk “From BeginnR to PractitionerR: Building Confidence in Coding Through an R Community of Practice” at the 2023 Southeast Data Librarian Symposium on Nov. 3.

## SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



SOM CHATTERJEE

**Som Chatterjee, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Microbial Pathogenesis, received a \$2,764,704 R01 grant from the National

Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to study antibiotic resistance

in *Staphylococcus aureus* and serve as principal investigator of the grant.



VINEET DHAR

**Vineet Dhar, BDS, MDS, PhD**, clinical professor and chair, Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry, and assistant dean of postgraduate

and professional studies in dentistry, was among the co-authors of “Nonpharmacological Behavior Guidance for the Pediatric Dental Patient,” which was published in the *Pediatric Dentistry Journal*.



HYOJIK YANG

**Hyojik Yang, PhD**, research assistant professor, Department of Microbial Pathogenesis, was among the co-authors of “Structure Determination of

Lipid A with Multiple Glycosylation Sites by Tandem MS of Lithium-Adducted Negative Ions,” which was published in the *Journal of the American Society for Mass Spectrometry*.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL



GERALD KAYINGO

**James Cawley, MPH, PA-C**, visiting professor and Scholar-in-Residence, and **Gerald Kayingo, PhD, MBA, PA-C, DFAAPA**, professor, assistant dean,

and executive director, Physician Assistant Leadership and Learning Academy, were among the co-authors of “PA Scholars: What Drives and Inhibits Success?” which was published in the *Journal of Physician Assistant Education*.

**Shani Fleming, MS, MPH, PA-C**, associate professor and chief equity, diversity, and inclusion officer, led an event at the 2023 Physician Assistant Education Association Conference that was dedicated to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for physician assistant faculty of color.



ERIN GOLEMBEWSKI

**Erin Golembewski, PhD**, senior associate dean, was recognized as one of *Susquehanna Style* magazine’s 2023 Woman of Strength,

an honor that recognizes women who display passion, leadership, character, and perseverance to achieve personal and professional success.



VIOLET A. KULO

**Violet A. Kulo, EdD, MS, MA; Christina Cestone, PhD, MA; Karen L. Gordes, PhD, PT, DSCPT**, and **Erin Hagar, MA, MFA**, all faculty or staff members, co-authored the chapters “Assessing Learners in Online and Hybrid Learning Environments” and “Design,



CHRISTINA CESTONE

# LAURELS

DECEMBER 2023



KAREN L. GORDES



ERIN HAGAR

Build, and Then Teach: An Online Course in the Theoretical Foundations of Teaching and Learning” for the book “Teaching in Online, Distance, and Non-Traditional Contexts.”

**Violet A. Kulo, EdD, MS, MA**, associate professor and director, PhD in Health Professions Education program, was among the co-authors of “Consensus Competencies for Post-Graduate Fellowship Training in Global Neurology” which was published in the *Neurology Journal*.



COLLEEN OHM

**Colleen Ohm, MMS, PA-C**, assistant professor and academic coordinator, Physician Assistant program, graduated with Cohort 3 from UMB’s Faculty Leadership Development Program.



MICHELLE PEARCE

**Michelle Pearce, PhD**, professor, was selected to be on a panel of experts at the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery’s Faculty

Development Symposium due to her recent publication “Professional Development Coaching for Health Professions Graduate Faculty: A Pilot Implementation.”

## CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

**Doug Colbert, JD**, professor, was quoted in “Maryland Supreme Court Justices Heard Pivotal Arguments That Could Determine Adnan Syed’s Freedom,” which was published on WJZ-TV’s website on Oct. 5.



DEBORAH EISENBERG

**Deborah Eisenberg, JD**, vice dean and professor, presented “What Matters to Employment Attorneys When Considering Online and In-Person Mediation”

at the Association of American Law Schools’ Alternative Dispute Resolution Works-in-Progress Conference in New Haven, Conn., on Oct. 13.



MARK GRABER

**Mark Graber, JD**, professor, received the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Law and Courts section of the American Political Science Association. He also wrote “Is

Anyone Disqualified? Mindless and Mindful Textualism in the Second Confiscation Act and Section Three of the Fourteenth Amendment,” which was published in *Balkanization* on Oct. 5.



RENÉE MCDONALD HUTCHINS

**Renée McDonald Hutchins, JD**, dean and professor, was appointed chair of the Appellate Courts Judicial Nominating Commission by Maryland

Gov. Wes Moore on Oct. 11.



DIANE HOFFMANN

**Diane Hoffmann, JD**, professor and director, Law and Health Care Program, co-authored “Allocating Scarce Medical Resources During a Public Health Emergency:

Can We Consider Sex?” which was published in the *Houston Journal of Health Law & Policy* on Oct. 17.



QUINCE HOPKINS

**Quince Hopkins, JD**, director, Levitas Initiative for Sexual Violence Prevention, presented “Qualitative Study of International Restorative Justice Responses

to Sexual Harm: Methodology and Preliminary Results” at the Association of American Law Schools’ Alternative Dispute Resolution Works-in-Progress Conference in New Haven, Conn., on Oct. 13.



GUHA KRISHNAMURTHI

**Guha Krishnamurthi, JD**, associate professor, was quoted in “Newsom Deems Caste Bias Already Illegal, But Case Law Is Scarce,” which was

published in *Bloomberg Law* on Oct. 11.



ROBERT PERCIVAL

**Robert Percival, JD**, professor and director, Environmental Law Program, presented “Supreme Court Year in Review” at the 2023

# LAURELS

DECEMBER 2023

American College of Environmental Lawyers' Annual Meeting in Park City, Utah, on Oct. 7.



MATIANGAI SIRLEAF

**Matiangai Sirleaf, JD**, professor, made a presentation about the chapter she wrote in the book "Global Health Law & Policy: Ensuring Justice for a

Globalizing World" at the O'Neill Institute at Georgetown Law's Colloquium: Session 9 on Oct. 25.

**Jeff Sovern, JD**, professor, was quoted in "Payday Lenders' Texas Lawsuit Could Topple Watchdog That Regulates Them," which was published on the KERA News for North Texas website on Oct. 3.



LIZA VERTINSKY

**Liza Vertinsky, JD**, professor, presented "Do We Need an Artificial Intelligence Patent Policy?" at the Mid-Atlantic Intellectual Property Works-in-

Progress Workshop at Georgetown Law School on Oct. 6.



JESSICA WILLIAMS



HEATHER MCKLVEEN

**Jessica Williams**, director of special events and the Westminster

Preservation Trust, and **Heather McKlveen**, events coordinator, were interviewed by WMAR-TV for the segment "Listen to Spooky Tales and Tour Catacombs at Westminster's Halloween Celebration!" on Oct. 31.

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



ODESSA ADDISON

**Odessa Addison, DPT, PhD**, associate professor; **Jason Falvey, PT, DPT, PhD**, assistant professor; and **Elizabeth Parker, PhD, RD**, assistant professor, all in

the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, were among the co-authors of "Associations Between Social Isolation and Diet Quality among US Adults with Disability Participating in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2013–2018," which was published in *Preventive Medicine Reports* on Sept. 12.

**Samuel Barlow, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow, Department of Physiology, received the 2023 Regeneron Prize for Creative Innovation. As a finalist, he received \$5,000 and an invitation to participate in an in-person competition; as winner of the prize, he received a \$50,000 award.

**Michael Benitez, MD**, professor, Department of Medicine, presented a Grand Rounds conference on the "Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe" at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine on Oct. 5.

**Andrea Berry, MD**, associate professor, and **DeAnna Friedman-Klabanoff, MD, MS**, assistant professor, both in the Department of Pediatrics,



ANDREA BERRY

Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, were among the co-authors of "Persistence of Antibody Responses to COVID-19 Vaccines Among Participants in the COVID-19 Community Research Partnership," which was published in *Vaccine X* on Aug. 11.

**Jason Falvey, PT, DPT, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, delivered the presentation "Towards Disability Justice: Optimizing Recovery and Resilience for Older Adults After Serious Illnesses and Injuries" to the West Virginia University Department of Physical Therapy on Sept. 8.



MATTHEW LAURENS

**Matthew Laurens, MD, MPH**, professor, Department of Pediatrics, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, received the 2023 Bailey K.

Ashford Medal for Distinguished Work in Tropical Medicine from the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene on Oct. 18.

**Kirsten Lyke, MD**, professor, Department of Medicine, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, was elected to the



# LAURELS

DECEMBER 2023

National Academy of Medicine in recognition of her pivotal research on emerging infections and human challenge models that have informed and shaped global vaccine and public health policy.

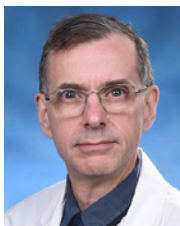
**Anna Maximova, MD**, PhD student, Department of Pharmacology, received a two-year, \$80,438 F30 training grant from the National Institute of Mental Health for “A Unique Peri-Hippocampal Mast Cell Population Drives Neurodevelopment.”



ALEXANDROS  
POULOPOULOS

**Alexandros Pouloupoulos, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacology, was the last author of “Enhancing Precision and Efficiency of

Cas9-Mediated Knockin Through Combinatorial Fusions of DNA Repair Proteins,” which was published as the cover article of *The CRISPR Journal* in October.



ADAM PUCHE

**Adam Puche, PhD**, professor and vice chair, Department of Neurobiology, was selected by the Academy Fellows of Pass and Susel and the Medical Education

Leadership Academy’s Executive Board to receive the 2023 Babak J. Jamasbi, MD ’89 Award as UMSOM’s Medical Educator of the Year.

**Jill Whitall, PhD, FNAK**, professor emerita; **Nesreen Alissa, PT, MS, PhD** student; and **Kelly Westlake, PT, MSc, PhD**, associate professor,

all in the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, were among the co-authors of “Age-Related Differences in Lower Limb Muscle Activation Patterns and Balance Control Strategies While Walking Over a Compliant Surface,” which was published in *Scientific Reports* on Oct. 2.



LEI ZHANG

**Lei Zhang**, research lab specialist, Clinical Division, Institute of Human Virology, was named UMB’s September Employee of the Month

for her support of mental health and her mission to spread kindness wherever she goes.

## SCHOOL OF NURSING

The Maryland Nurses Association’s 120th Convention, held Oct. 12-13 in Ocean City, Md., featured presentations by the following UMSON faculty members:

- **Marisa Astiz-Martinez, MS ’13, RN, RYT-200, CNE**, clinical instructor
- **Andrea Brassard, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, CNE**, associate professor
- **Tolvalyn Dennison, MSN, RN, AGCNS-BC, CNE**, clinical instructor
- **Crystal DeVance-Wilson, PhD ’19, MS ’06, MBA, BSN ’00, PHCNS-BC**, assistant professor; vice chair, UMSON at the Universities at Shady Grove;

and director, Maryland Nursing Workforce Center

- **Ann Hoffman, DNP, RN, CPN, CNE**, assistant professor
- **Melissa McClean, MSN, ANP-BC, ACHPN**, clinical instructor
- **Hannah Murphy Buc, PhD, RN, CNE**, assistant professor; director, Bachelor of Science in Nursing program; and director, Restorative Justice program
- **Denise Owens, DNP, BSN ’04, RN, CCRN**, assistant professor
- **Lisa Rowen, DNSc, MS ’86, RN, CENP, BCC, FAONL, FAAN**, adjunct professor
- **Pamela Shumate, DNP ’09, RN, CCRN-K, CNE, CHSE**, assistant professor
- **Rebecca Weston, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE**, assistant professor
- **Janet Wulf, DNP ’19, MS ’06, RN, CNL, CHPN, CNE**, assistant professor and director, MSN Entry-into-Nursing program

**Ayamba Ayuk-Brown, MBA**, was promoted to business operations director; **Jeffrey Frederick, BSN, BA, CEBS, GBA**, was promoted to senior human resources specialist; and **Tajhanae Peters** was promoted to admissions counselor.

**Lynn Marie Bullock, DNP, RN, NEA-BC**, assistant professor and director, Office of Professional Education; **Kristy Novak, MS**, associate director of student placements; and **Stella Moshonisiotis, MS**, assistant director of graduate practicum and project placements, hosted the Preceptor/Clinical Site Representative Advisory Board kickoff meeting at UMSON on Nov. 3.

**Joan G. Carpenter, PhD, CRNP, ACHPN, FPCN**, assistant professor, presented the results of “Primary

# LAURELS

DECEMBER 2023

Palliative Care in Skilled Nursing Facilities: Outcomes of a Pilot Pragmatic Trial” at the University of Alabama, Birmingham Center for Palliative and Supportive Care’s Seminar Series on Oct. 11.

**Luana Colloca, MD, PhD, MS,** MPower Professor and director, Placebo Beyond Opinions Center, discussed placebo research in “Why Is the Placebo Effect Increasing?” which was published in *El Periodico* on Oct. 8.



YVETTE CONYERS

**Yvette Conyers, DNP, MS, RN, FNP-C, CTN-B, CFCN, CFCS, CNE,** assistant professor and associate dean for equity, diversity, and inclusion, presented “This

is Chess, Not Checkers: Changing the Game of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Academia and Nursing Practice” at the Doctors of Nursing Practice of Color’s Third Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., in October.



ASHLEY DAVIS

**Ashley Davis, MSN, APRN, CARN-AP, AAHIVS, FNP-c,** student, Doctor of Nursing Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialty,

was selected for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Minority Fellowship Program at the American Nurses Association.



HERSHAW DAVIS JR.

**Hershaw Davis Jr., MS, BSN ’09, RN,** clinical instructor, was interviewed for a blog post in recognition of Emergency Nurses Week on the *Minority*

*Nurse* website. He also joined the editorial board of the *Journal of Emergency Nursing*.



CRYSTAL DEVANCE-WILSON

**Crystal DeVance-Wilson, PhD ’19, MS ’06, MBA, BSN ’00, PHCNS-BC,** assistant professor and vice chair, UMSON at the Universities at Shady Grove, was appointed director of the Maryland Nursing Workforce Center.



JENNIFER FITZGERALD

**Jennifer Fitzgerald, DNP ’15, MS ’00, NNP-BC,** assistant professor, was appointed director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Neonatal Nurse

Practitioner specialty.

**Taylor Melton, DNP ’21, CRNP, AGNP-C, CNE,** assistant professor, was awarded Certified Nurse Educator designation by the National League for Nursing.

**Sakeenah Nasser,** student, Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, received the Maryland General Hospital School of Nursing Education Scholarship during the Maryland Nurses Association’s 120th Annual Convention.



NGOZI OSUAGWU

**Ngozi Osuagwu, DNP ’19, MS ’08, BSN ’03, CRNP, PNP, FNP,** assistant professor, presented “Implementing Mobile Text-Messaging to Improve

Attendance at Well Visits in Primary Care Pediatrics” at the Doctors of Nursing Practice of Color’s Third Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., in October.



KARIN G. RUSS

**Karin G. Russ, JD, MS ’09, BSN ’89, RN,** assistant professor, was appointed interim director of legal affairs and contractual services.

**Darlene Trandel, PhD, RN, FNP, CCP, ICF-PCC,** assistant professor, wrote the chapter “Person Centered Strategies for Promoting Healthy Lifestyles,” for the book “Health Promotion and Disease Prevention for Advanced Practice: Integrating Evidence-Based Lifestyle Concepts.”

## SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



ALLISON DUNN

**Allison Dunn, PharmD, MS,** research assistant professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, received a

# LAURELS

DECEMBER 2023

two-month, \$75,000 contract from NewAmsterdam Pharma for “Proposal for PK Analysis of Obicetrapib.”

**Joga Gobburu, PhD, MBA**, professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, and director, Center for Translational Medicine, received the 2023 Lewis B. Sheiner Lecturer Award from the International Society of Pharmacometrics and a one-year, \$75,000 contract from Jasper Therapeutics for “Population PK Analysis of JSP191 with Subcutaneous Injection.”



MAUREEN KANE

**Maureen Kane, PhD**, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and executive director, Mass Spectrometry Center,

received a one-year, \$1,096,553 contract from Johns Hopkins University for “Retinoid Metabolism in the Adult Heart and Heart Failure.”

**Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, PhD, BCPS, FAAHPM**, professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, and executive director, Advanced Post-Graduate Education In Palliative Care, was appointed to an International Association of Hospice and Palliative Care panel to determine essential medications in hospice and palliative care for worldwide use.

**C. Daniel Mullins, PhD**, professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, and executive director, PATIENTS Program, received a five-year, \$500,000 grant from the Burroughs

Wellcome Fund for “Advancing Regulatory Science to Assure COAs Reflect Diverse Patient Experiences.”



MAGALY RODRIGUEZ DE BITTNER

**Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, FAPhA, FNAP**, the Gyi Endowed Memorial Professor in Pharmapreneurship and associate dean for clinical

services and practice transformation, received a one-year, \$673,277 contract from the University of Maryland Medical System for “Joint Clinical and Education Collaboration FY24.”

**Fadia Shaya, PhD, MPH**, Distinguished University Professor and executive director, Behavioral Health Resources Program, was named a fellow of the American Medical Informatics Association.

**Ester Villalonga Olives, PhD, MsC**, associate professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, received a four-year, \$2,852,521 grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities for “Assessing Intersectional, Multilevel and Multidimensional Structural Racism for English- and Spanish-speaking Populations in the US.”



ZAFAR ZAFARI

**Zafar Zafari, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, was appointed to a three-year

term on the Maryland Aviation Commission by Gov. Wes Moore.

## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



RICHARD BARTH

**Richard Barth, PhD, MSW**, professor, was among the co-authors of “Exploring the Role of Standardized Instruments and Consultation in

Reducing Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Treatment for Behavioral Problems,” which was published in *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services* online ahead of print on Oct. 7.



TODD BECKER

**Todd Becker, PhD, MSW**, was among the co-authors of “Individual Characteristics Associated with Color-Blind Racial Attitudes in Master of

Social Work Students,” which was selected as the Best Quantitative Article in the *Journal of Social Work Education* (V. 58).



KERRI EVANS

**Kerri Evans, PhD, LCSW**, associate professor, was among the co-authors of “Examining Traumatic Experiences: Violence, Loss, Isolation, Cultural

Struggle, and Their Influence on the Mental Health of Unaccompanied Rohingya Youth Resettled in the U.S.,” which was published in the *Journal of Trauma and Loss*.

# LAURELS

DECEMBER 2023



JODI FREY

**Jodi Frey, PhD, LCSW-C, CEAP**, professor and associate dean for research, presented “National Guidelines for Workplace Suicide Prevention and How Employers Can Implement” at the Employee Assistance Roundtable’s Bi-Annual Meeting in Portland, Ore., in October.



LAURIE GRAHAM

**Laurie Graham, PhD, MSW**, assistant professor, was among the co-authors of “Rates and Correlates of School Personnel’s Bystander Action in Situations of Teen

Dating Violence and Sexual Assault,” which was published in the *School Social Work Journal*.



GEOFFREY GRIEF



MICHAEL WOOLLEY

**Geoffrey Grief, PhD, MSW**, Distinguished University Professor, and **Michael Woolley, PhD, MSW, DCSW**, professor, co-authored “Social Spheres of Protection and Threat: The Experiences of Black Men Married to White Women,” which was published in the *Journal of Family Issues*.



ERICKA LEWIS

**Ericka Lewis, PhD, LMSW**, assistant professor, and **Michael Woolley, PhD, MSW, DCSW**, professor, received the 2023 National Council on Family

Relations’ Diversity and Inclusion in Men in Families Research Article Award, which recognizes high-quality research on men in diverse families.

**Michael Schlossman, PhD**, lead research analyst, wrote the op-ed “Gov. Shapiro Can Fix Juvenile Justice in Pa. by Taking Lessons from the 1970s,” which was published by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* on Oct. 12.



STACEY STEPHENS

**Stacey Stephens, MSW, LCSW-C**, director, B’more for Healthy Babies, Center of Restorative Change, made a presentation at the CityMatCH Conference

on how effective cellphones and social media platforms were in engaging with families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## DECEMBER EPISODE

### ***Exploring Maryland’s New Generation of Farmers with ALEI***

**GUESTS:** Megan Todd, JD, managing director, Agriculture Law Education Initiative (ALEI), Francis King Carey School of Law; Nia Nyamweya, founder and farm manager, Beauty Blooms Farms, Montgomery County, Md.

Todd and Nyamweya discuss the new generation of Maryland farming, ALEI’s role in aiding farmers in the state, and the challenges new farmers face. The conversation also explores the practical implications of farming regulations, the importance of community organizations, and the impact of local farming on cultural heritage.

*Episode dropped Dec. 1.*

Learn more at [umaryland.edu/pulse](http://umaryland.edu/pulse).



## STRATEGIC PLAN OFFERS ROAD MAP FOR ADVANCING DIVERSITY

“Practice makes permanent,” said Diane Forbes Berthoud, PhD, MA, chief equity, diversity, and inclusion officer and vice president at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) as she introduced the University’s inaugural diversity strategic plan: “Weaving University REPS: Diversity Action and Accountability Plan” in a hybrid town hall Nov. 9.

Quoting advice she was once given from a music instructor, Forbes Berthoud explained that repetition of behaviors causes them to perpetuate. “The connection here is what we want to do is begin to practice, more and more, those things that make for a more dynamic, vibrant, equitable, and inclusive university,” she outlined, emphasizing that through that repetition, the diversity plan’s principles will become “fully integrated in our culture and in what we are.”

Developed by the Diversity Strategic Plan Committee, the plan will serve as a road map and framework to activate and advance equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) at UMB over the course of five-plus years. It is built around four themes referred to as REPS:

- Increase **R**ecruitment and Retention
- Improve **E**xperience and Climate
- Support **P**rofessional Development and Career Advancement
- Increase alignment of **S**cholarship, Service, and Education toward the fulfillment of UMB’s mission

Noting their alignment with UMB’s 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, Forbes Berthoud outlined the specific goals and objectives of each theme, their metrics of assessment and loci of accountability, and time frame for implementation to the online audience and those who attended in person at the SMC Campus Center.

Theme goals and objectives include:

- **Recruitment and Retention:** To actively recruit, retain, support, and advance diverse students, faculty, and staff. Among the theme’s objectives are expanding career development programs; committing resources to recruit and retain diverse students and faculty (emphasizing tenure-track faculty); recruiting and retaining diverse leaders at senior staff levels; and developing and implementing reward and recognition programs and initiatives that celebrate diverse students, faculty, and staff. Methods to measure success will



PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

DIANE FORBES BERTHOUD, UMB'S CHIEF EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION OFFICER AND VICE PRESIDENT, PRESENTS THE UNIVERSITY'S INAUGURAL DIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN TO A HYBRID AUDIENCE ON NOV. 9.

- include the number of career development programs created and expanded; an increased presence of underrepresented minority and minoritized faculty, staff, and students; funds committed to recruitment and retention; and the number of reward and recognition programs and initiatives formalized.
- **Experience and Climate:** To promote and provide professional and educational programs and initiatives that build capacity, equity, and respect, and to support and advance diverse students, faculty, and staff. Among the theme’s objectives are developing, expanding, and the institutionalizing of employee resource groups (ERGs) for faculty and staff and affinity groups for students; implementing accountability measures; implementing consistent and transparent climate assessments and demographic data reporting; and addressing microaggressions through advocacy, training, and reporting. Methods to measure success will include an increase in employee and student participation in ERGs and student affinity groups; more professional development opportunities for all ranks of faculty and staff; and an increase in the number of resources and trainings on microaggressions.

*Continued from previous page*

- **Professional Development and Career Advancement:**

To support and advance diverse students, faculty, and staff by promoting and providing professional and educational programs and initiatives that build capacity, equity, and respect. Among the theme’s objectives are increasing representation of minoritized and underrepresented groups in professional development opportunities; creating and developing mechanisms to track and assess the effectiveness of professional development programs; and embedding diversity and inclusion concepts into employee and supervisor trainings. Methods to measure success will include the increased promotion and retention rates of program participants; pre- and post-participation surveys indicating positive impact; the number of mentoring networks, sustainable pathways, and programs; and tracking the successful career advancement of participants.




PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

ATTENDEES AT THE SMC CAMPUS CENTER LISTEN INTENTLY AS DIANE FORBES BERTHOUD AND THE OFFICE OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION UNVEIL THE DIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN.

- **Scholarship, Service, and Education:** To promote and integrate EDI in teaching, learning, scholarship, and service. Among the theme’s objectives are reviewing and advising course content across the curriculum; providing and promoting programs and initiatives on inclusive education, pedagogy, and practice; developing mandatory courses across the curriculum focused on EDI; and implementing and measuring the impact of bias training for faculty promotion and tenure committees. Methods to measure success will

include the number and percentage of faculty participating in inclusive education, pedagogy, and practice development; the number and percentage of appointment, promotion, and tenure policies reviewed and revised; and pre- and post-surveys of participants in training indicating improvement in implicit bias awareness.

Detailed objectives for each theme, their metrics of assessment, loci of accountability, time frames, and point of connection to the UMB 2022-2026 Strategic Plan can be found in the full diversity strategic plan [at this link](#). 


Forbes Berthoud said the committee used a data-driven, evidence-based approach to identify EDI priorities and needs, reviewing 20-plus sources including the UMB 2022-2026 Strategic Plan; a faculty study by Damon Williams, PhD; the 2021-2022 President’s Fellows White Paper “The State of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at UMB”; 2019 and 2020 campus climate surveys; and the University’s EDI Data Dashboard.

She said other items informing the plan were a review of best practices across UMB and throughout higher education; information gathered during 40-plus listening sessions with the University’s community and more than 15 executive-level interviews; feedback gathered through the online platform Konveio, which garnered 1,500 comments from the community; 1,600 responses to a staff survey; and 1,200 responses to a faculty survey.

“A lot of people look at a strategic plan as a commitment from senior leadership to the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion. What’s unique about our plan is that the people who created the plan came from all over the University,” said Forbes Berthoud, lauding the input from students, faculty, and staff. “We were able to engage thousands of people both online and in person to hear their ideas about a better UMB and a stronger UMB.

“It was the inclusive process that helped us to prioritize so that we could make sure we really focus on what’s most important for our University,” she added. “It’s about looking at how we can continue to be better, and how we can be a better organization for our students, our staff, our faculty, and Baltimore.”

— Lorri Angelloz

*Watch a video of the town hall [at this link](#).* 

# MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION

DECEMBER 2023

## TOWN HALLS ENGAGE EMPLOYEES, STUDENTS IN SELF-STUDY

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) held five town halls this fall to engage employees and students in the University's Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) accreditation self-study process.

During the town halls, attendees were asked to work within a small group to provide feedback on specific standards and the outline of a chapter of the Middle States Self-Study.

The town halls focused on the MSCHE's seven standards of accreditation:

- I. Mission and Goals
- II. Ethics and Integrity
- III. Design and Delivery of the Student Experience
- IV. Support of the Student Experience
- V. Educational Effectiveness Assessment
- VI. Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement
- VII. Governance, Leadership, and Administration

Kenneth Wong, PhD, vice provost for graduate education and dean of the University of Maryland Graduate School, says the input received from the town halls is vital to the accreditation process because it provides an opportunity for everyone at UMB to think critically and reflectively about how the University is performing today and how it might do better tomorrow.

"I look at accreditation as something that we must do because there are requirements around it," Wong said. "But it's also something that's really important for any organization — to take that time and reflect on its mission, on its goals, and improve them in the future."

Alison Watkins, JD, MS, assistant vice president for policy oversight and conflict of interest officer, was part of the working group focused on the Ethics and Integrity standard.

"We had a lot of folks from different schools that provided a lot of different perspectives on ethics and integrity," she said, adding that everyone in her group was thoroughly engaged in the discussion at the first town hall Oct. 3. "It presented a great opportunity to learn from others what's working well and areas that we can improve on."

A regional accrediting organization that uses peer evaluation to ensure the quality and improvement of educational institutions, MSCHE is one of seven such organizations across the country. UMB, which first earned accreditation by the commission in

1921, undergoes a reaccreditation cycle every eight years. Along with ensuring that UMB is in compliance with the commission's standards of excellence, MSCHE accreditation is an opportunity to strengthen the University through a comprehensive evaluation. It is also necessary for the University to continue to receive federal funding.

The full accreditation process includes two major components: the creation and submission of a self-study report to MSCHE and a multi-day site visit and review by peer evaluators from other accredited institutions, scheduled for spring 2025. UMB is engaged in gathering information for the self-study, which will examine how the University meets or exceeds the commission's seven standards for accreditation and identify areas and strategies for improvement.




PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

THE TOWN HALLS ALLOWED UMB STAFF AND STUDENTS TO PROVIDE INPUT ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY'S MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION PROCESS.

The process is being led by a Self-Study Steering Committee. With broad representation across the University, including 24 staff, faculty, and students, the committee has appointed seven Self-Study Working Groups, each charged with producing a draft chapter for one of MSCHE's standards that shows evidence of compliance and identifies areas of possible noncompliance and opportunities for improvement.

— UMB Staff

*Find more information about the Middle States Self-Study and watch videos from the town halls [at this link](#).* 

# MPOWERING THE STATE

DECEMBER 2023

## THIRD COHORT OF MPOWER PROFESSORS ANNOUNCED

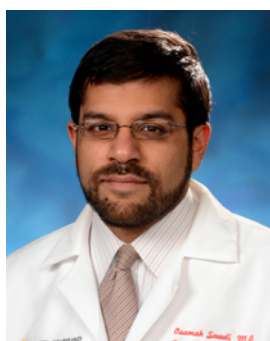
The University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: *MPowering the State* (MPower) has appointed six professors — three from the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and three from the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) — as the third cohort of MPower Professors. The professorship recognizes, incentivizes, and fosters collaborations between faculty at UMB and UMCP who are working together on the most pressing issues of our time.



LISA BERLIN



JAMES POLLI



OSAMAH SAEEDI

To be considered for the MPower Professorship, faculty members must demonstrate collaboration on strategic research that would be unattainable or difficult to achieve by UMB or UMCP acting independent of one another, and they must embrace the mission of *MPower* — to collaboratively strengthen and serve the state of Maryland and its citizens. Each professor will receive \$150,000, allocated over three years, to apply to their salary or to support supplemental research activities.

UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, and UMCP President Darryll J. Pines, PhD, MS, announced the professors in a joint letter Nov. 16.

The 2023 MPower Professors from UMB are:

**Lisa Berlin, PhD, MS**, is the Alison L. Richman Professor for Children, Youth, and Families at the School of Social Work whose research focuses on early child-caregiver attachment as well as programs and policies to support early parenting and child development. Dr. Berlin directs *Compañeros en la Salud de los Niños/Partners in Children's Health*, a five-year randomized trial testing a parent coaching program with low-income Latino families in East Baltimore. Dr. Berlin also is editor of the *Society for Research in Child Development Social Policy Report*, a journal

dedicated to leveraging child and family research to support evidence-based policy development.

**James Polli, PhD**, is a professor and the Ralph F. Shangraw/Noxell Endowed chair in Industrial Pharmacy and Pharmaceutics at the School of Pharmacy and co-director of the University of Maryland Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation and the Center for Research on Complex Generics, both funded by the Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Polli's research is focused on oral drug absorption, specifically maximizing oral bioavailability through formulation and chemical approaches and developing public quality standards for oral dosage forms. He is a fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists and has been an editor for its *Pharmaceutical Research* journal for 12 years.

**Osamah Saeedi, MD, MS**, is a professor and vice chair in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the School of Medicine and chief of the department's glaucoma service and director of clinical research. At UMCP, he is an adjunct associate professor in the A. James Clark School of Engineering's Fischell Department of Bioengineering. Dr. Saeedi is a National Institutes of Health-funded investigator whose research focuses on the development of novel methods of single-cell imaging in the eye. His innovative translational work connects the worlds of engineering and clinical care and aims to address the need for new diagnostic and therapeutic modalities for blinding and neurodegenerative diseases.

The MPower Professors from UMCP are:

**Wolfgang Losert, PhD**, professor, Department of Physics, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences

**Jessica Magidson, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Psychology, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

**Steven Prior, PhD, MA**, associate professor and associate chair for research, Department of Kinesiology, School of Public Health

— UMB Staff

Read more about the MPower Professors [at this link](#). ↗