Library Receives Gift of Walter Reed Papers

ROSALIA SCALIA

“Did the mosquito do it?”

An enigma of the 20th century, Dr. Walter Reed penned that query to Dr. James Carroll, to see if there was sufficient evidence to implicate the insect as the carrier that spread yellow fever—the dreaded disease that was a major scourge, especially in the tropics.

Reed, who was renowned for his research into the cause and spread of yellow fever, had been appointed head of the U.S. Army Yellow Fever Commission. Carroll, an 1891 School of Medicine alumnus, was a member of the commission. At the time Reed wrote the letter from Washington, D.C., Carroll was in Cuba, where the disease was killing U.S. soldiers at an alarming rate.

The correspondence between Reed and Carroll, as well as letters from Carroll to his wife, Jennie, and other family members, constitute the gift of rare letters that the Health Sciences and Human Services Library received on Dec. 6, 2004, from Theodore E. Woodward, MD, professor emeritus and retired chair of the Department of Medicine in the School of Medicine. Woodward, a medical historian, is the author of *The Yellow Fever Commission*.

The award-winning student team consisted of Nathan Gardner Andrews, Erik Arena, Jael Barbehenn, Anthony D. Briggs, Lawrence Bullard, Elisabeth Carmichael, Jennifer L. Curry, Robert Daniels, Marc DeSimone, Paul Dillbeck, Cristina Dugan, Brian Furlong, Chantelle Greene, Meghan Griffin, Joshua Hamman, April Hitzelberger, Edward Hsieh, Andrea K. Harris, PhD, dean of the School of Social Work, joined 15 students and faculty members on a trip to India, where they worked with faculty and students from the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences School of Social Work to assist nearby victims.

On a more personal level, PharmD student Mallakhow Priyantha comes from Sri Lanka's coastal area where the giant waves hit. “I am from a family of five. Two of my family members died, and another family’s house was completely destroyed. My father is hosting two families who lost everything,” says Priyantha, who returned to his homeland for eight days in January.

"After it first happened, my younger brother Amal, who is 26, was missing for four days. He works down by the docks on a tugboat. As it turned out, he was out at sea and didn’t feel anything out of the ordinary. Amal said it felt just like a high tide,” adds Priyantha. Although Amal and his crew returned safely to shore, his aunt and cousin, whose house stood on the beach, remain among the missing.

“You couldn’t believe the sight of the devastation—or the smell,” says Priyantha. “When I was there, they were trying to locate a crowded bus that had been buried beneath the mud. At that point, the authorities had an idea of where the bus was beneath the mud, but it wasn’t raised yet. When the bodies were found, they couldn’t be touched because they would just fall apart after having been in the mud for a long time. They were burned on the spot.”

Third-year dental student Liz Ribeug spent Dec. 24-29 in Thailand. "We were with friends in one of the resorts at the time. We felt the earthquake early in the morning, but then it became calm. In an hour and a half, we saw the sea receding, and then we witnessed the tsunami. Our hotel was a little uphill, so we were not injured, but we saw everything. The damage to our hotel was limited to flooded and contaminated pools and some overturned cars. We never guessed the real damage until we went to the nearby town. We saw that there was nothing there but completely destroyed houses and cars on top of one another. I saw injured and dead people, kids, animals. The whole scene was awful,” she says.

The Pharmacy School’s strong ties to Thailand generated some first-hand reports of the situation there. J. Edward Monteon, PhD, professor of pharmacology and coordinator of the School’s Thai/U.S. Pharmacy Education Consortium, says, “Surpornsri Kriatinhanakkul, one of the Pharmacy School’s recent clinical faculty visitors from Prince of Songkla University, reported that she had friends missing in Phuket and nearby Krabi. Somudeeter Rundnast, another former clinical faculty visitor, is employed at Krabi hospital and reported that the staff is working around the clock, taking care of survivors.”

On a positive note, Moreton says that "our Thai students here in the United States report that their families and loved ones are safe."
USGA Roundup

DANIELLE SWEENEY

The University Student Government Association (USGA) meets monthly to discuss student issues and concerns. All students are automatically members of the USGA.

Shin Nippon Biomedical Laboratories, Ltd. (SNBL), an international pharmaceutical development company, has created a subsidiary—the SNBL Clinical Pharmacology Center, Inc.—that will soon be a major tenant in the UMB BioPark. Founded in 1997 in Kagoshima, Japan, SNBL has more than 1,100 employees worldwide, with branches in China, Europe, and the state of Washington. The center will assist U.S. pharmaceutical companies in bringing their products to market through product testing and development.

SNBL selected UMB BioPark because of the University’s significant resources. USGA faculty will serve as consultants on clinical trials conducted by SNBL. The consulting services will include designing protocols, providing pharmacokinetic analyses, and assisting with data management and analysis.

“SNBL is fortunate to have such a formidable partner as the University of Maryland, Baltimore,” says Takeshi Yamakawa, chief operating officer of the new subsidiary. “SNBL is eager to create a public partnership we want to foster in the BioPark’s development.”

President David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, says, “This is exactly the kind of private-public partnership we want to foster in developing the BioPark, and we are delighted that SNBL, a company with which we have had an ongoing relationship, has decided to make this investment.”

The project is expected to generate 40 jobs and represents $5 million in direct capital investment for the state.

Web SNBL’s commitment, the six-story wet lab and office building, located at 800 West Baltimore Street, is nearly 70 percent leased and scheduled for occupancy in May 2005. Joining SNBL in Building One is UMB’s recently recruited unit of the American Red Cross Holland Labs, which will occupy floors two and three and will bring 100 staff members and $10 million in NIH funding. UPM Pharmaceuticals, a UMB startup drug technology firm, will also be located in Building One. [See related article, VOICE, Nov./Dec. 2004].

“Companies moving to the BioPark will have access to our labs, facilities, and expertise in particular—the environment we’re creating in the BioPark sets the stage for many new collaborations,” says James Hughes, MBA, vice president for research and development at UMB.

On the Web


UMB BioPark www.umbbiopark.com

UMB BioPark Lands Japanese Pharmaceutical Firm

LINDA CASSARD

Dean from Baghdad Visits School of Pharmacy

MICHELE LUMI

A highlight of the full semester for the School of Pharmacy was a daylong visit by Mustafa Mohammed Amin Al-Hiti, dean of Engineering College of the University at the University of Baghdad. The visit afforded us an opportunity for the School of Pharmacy community to learn about the life-threatening dangers faced by university administrators in Baghdad, especially during the height of Saddam Hussein’s brutal reign.

As part of his presentation, Al-Hiti recalled his narrow escape from personal danger in late September 2003, when someone fired three shots at his car near the gate of his college in Baghdad. “I am in more danger of being assassinated now than in Saddam’s time; but I love being there now, because this is a time of hope,” he remarked.

To illustrate the terrifying nature of living in Baghdad under Hussein’s rule, Al-Hiti recalled a conversation with a friend and colleague who had been arbitrarily jailed at the Abu Ghraib prison for 3 years before the American takeover. The friend told him that Iraqi law mandated the execution of 40 prisoners every Wednesday. Making any derogatory comments about Saddam was a capital offense.

The Hussein regime, Al-Hiti said, de-emphasized the value of education by directing 95 percent of the nation’s income from oil sales toward the military. As a result, funding for education was minim- ular. Moreover, added Al-Hiti, the quality of education suffered further because many students attended the university not from a sincere desire to pursue academic goals but to escape military service.

“Offer you just an incredible story,” said David Knapp, PhD, dean of the School. “It is hard to imagine what we would do in our School of Pharmacy after 20 years of oppression like this.”

Al-Hiti’s visit to the United States included stops at Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Texas, and the Chicago campus of the University of Illinois. He labeled his visit the “first step in a 1,000-mile journey.”

Walter Reed Papers

Continued from page 1

happened to find the box of papers while looking for some other materials in Woodward’s office. The staff member brought them to Dr. Philip Mackowski, MD, who then contacted Woodward. Mackowski is professor and vice chairman of the Department of Medicine at the School of Medicine and director of the Medical Care Clinical Center of the Veterans Affairs Maryland Health Care System.

While Woodward expects to donate additional medical artifacts to the library, the collection of rare letters is, according to M. J. Tooey, the library’s executive director, an unexpected blessing. “We knew of the letters. We knew Dr. Woodward had them, but we didn’t know where they were until they turned up in a box in excellent condition,” says Tooey. “These letters are extremely important from both historical and public health perspectives.”

The letters are speaking to a different time—a time when letter-writing was important, when letters revealed the thoughts and sentiments of physicians who were trained at the Medical College of Maryland, he earned international recognition for his work on infectious diseases and devotion to teaching. As a member of the Army Typhus Commission, Woodward was instrumental in reporting the first cure for typhus and typhoid fever during World War II. He combated typhus epidemics in southern Italy, France, Germany, Egypt, and Aden—work that earned him a Nobel Prize nomination.

Building One of UMB BioPark nears completion.
Acupuncture Aids Osteoarthritis Patients

Researchers at the University of Maryland School of Medicine have found that traditional Chinese acupuncture significantly reduces pain and improves function for patients with osteoarthritis of the knee, according to the results of a 4-year study published in the December 21, 2004, issue of the Annals of Internal Medicine.

“Our study shows that acupuncture can be a safe and effective complementary therapy for people with osteoarthritis of the knee,” explains Brian Berman, MD, a clinical associate professor who served as the study investigator who is an associate professor of family medicine at the School of Medicine. “Before taking part in our study, many of the patients were taking anti-inflammatory medicine, but they still experienced a lot of pain. When we added acupuncture to their treatment, the majority reported significant improvement.”

“Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis, affecting more than 20 million Americans,” says Marc Hochberg, MD, MPH, a co-investigator of the study. Hochberg is professor of medicine and head of the Division of Rheumatology at the School, as well as head of rheumatology at the University of Maryland Medical Center. According to Hochberg, “Many people with osteoarthritis live with debilitating pain, which forces them to limit their activities. This research shows that acupuncture, when used along with medication, can help relieve symptoms and improve people’s ability to participate in their usual activities.”

The Phase III randomized controlled trial followed 570 patients—the largest group ever for an acupuncture study. Researchers divided the participants into three groups. One group received education about acupuncture, another received traditional Chinese acupuncture, and the third received sham acupuncture.

“The participants really couldn’t tell whether they were receiving the real or the sham acupuncture,” explains Lixing Lao, MD, PhD, a licensed acupuncturist and study investigator who is an associate professor of family medicine at the School. “We chose specific places for the needles to be inserted, based on traditional Chinese medicine. Those who received the sham acupuncture may have felt the edge of the guide tube, but the actual needle did not go in.”

“At the end of the 26 weeks, patients receiving traditional Chinese acupuncture had greater improvement in both pain relief and function, when compared to the sham acupuncture and the education groups,” says Berman.

But the benefits were not evident right away. Among those who received real acupuncture, their pain was not significantly reduced compared to the sham acupuncture group until week 14. On the function score, researchers saw a difference after 8 weeks of real acupuncture compared to the sham procedure. Overall, patients receiving genuine acupuncture reported a 40 percent improvement in both pain and function from their baseline scores. During the trial, seven acupuncturists treated participants at three sites: The University of Maryland Center for Integrative Medicine at Kerman Hospital in Baltimore, the Innovative Medical Research Center in Towson, Md.; and the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City.

“For the first time, a clinical trial with sufficient rigor, size, and duration has shown that acupuncture reduces the pain and functional impairment of osteoarthritis of the knee,” says Stephen E. Straus, MD, director of the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. This center and the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, both of which are part of the National Institutes of Health, provided funding for the study.

New Appointments at the School of Social Work

ROSALIA SCALIA

Jesse Harris, PhD, dean of the School of Social Work, has appointed Jennie Dunkley Bloom, LCSW-C, associate dean for administration and registration, effective immediately. He also named Patricia Boland, MSW, assistant dean for strategic planning and special projects. Bloom, a clinical associate professor who served as the School’s assistant dean for field instruction, succeeds Lily Gold, a 37-year veteran who retired at the end of 2004. Boland, who was director of the School’s Office of Continuing Professional Education, replaces Sharon Hodgson, who took a position at the University of Maryland, College Park, at the beginning of this year.

“I know first-hand that Jennie and Pat are the best people for these positions,” says Harris. “Jennie’s dedication and vision have expanded the School’s field placement. She was responsible for placing more than 700 students each academic year and is certain to bring the same energy and excellence to her role as associate dean. Pat’s dedication and vision have contributed largely to the success of our continuing education program. I have no doubt that Pat will continue to bring her superb skills to the special projects and strategic planning efforts.”

After receiving her MSW in 1975, Bloom returned to the School in 1979 as an instructor in the training department, responsible for a wide range of social services training programs for professional public social workers. In 1989, she became director of the department, a position she held until 1992, when she became a clinical instructor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County’s Department of Social Work, the School’s undergraduate education arm. She returned to the UMB campus in 1997, to serve as assistant dean for field instruction until her current position.

Boland joined the School’s Office of Continuing Professional Education in September 1998 and worked as program manager for 5 years before being named director in January 2004. In the latter capacity, she directed the office in all aspects of its operation, including design, development, marketing, implementation, and evaluation of 100 programs yearly, serving social workers and mental health professionals throughout the region.

Karen H. Rothenberg, JD, MPA, dean and professor, School of Law, was featured in Baltimore Sun’s “B Side” section in the February issue. The School, the story notes, “is consistently ranked in the top 15 in the U.S. News & World Report’s annual (and influential) graduate school guide, one of the most coveted lists around.” Rothenberg’s efforts in creating the Law and Health Care Program and her passionate interest in musical theater were also cited.

In a live interview for WBAL-TV’s health segment on Jan. 16, Robert Ord, DDS, MD, chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Dental School, reported an increase in the number of women and nonsmokers being treated for oral cancer. Alexander Pazoki, DDS, MD, program director in the department, noted that there are opportunities for head and neck reconstruction after the cancer is treated.

According to a Baltimore Sun story from Jan. 15, the U.S. Navy is challenging whether it must pay the workers compensation benefit for the number of facilities in Maryland, a move that could prompt all military installations and federal agencies in the state to do the same and create a major funding shortfall for the landmark legislation. Garrett Power, LL.M., professor, School of Law, was quoted.

According to an article that ran in the Baltimore Sun (Dec. 26) and the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel (Jan. 13), forgiveness has recently become a respectable topic of scientific studies. In his clinical practice, Fred Bolatto, PhD, professor, School of Social Work, has found that using forgiveness can speed up therapy. Also quoted is Lydia Temoshok, PhD, professor, School of Medicine, and director, Behavioral Medicine Program, Institute of Human Virology.

A Jan. 11 article in the Washington Times addressed the nation’s shortage of pharmacists. Next year’s implementation of a new Medicare drug benefit is expected to increase the nation’s demand for pharmacists who already are in short supply. “The good news is although there is a shortage of pharmacists, there is no shortage in the number of people who want to become pharmacists,” says David Knapp, PhD, dean, School of Pharmacy.

In a story covered by the Baltimore Sun on Jan. 9, 12 graduate students from the School of Pharmacy spoke recently to nine classes at Elkton High School as part of a weeklong drug and alcohol education program, offered through the School’s Student Committee on Drug Abuse Prevention. School of Pharmacy students quoted were Nick Bourassa, Paul Ku, Jeffrey Kang, and Dave Heuholzer.

Brenda Atzal, RN, MS, project manager with the Environmental Health Education Center in the School of Nursing, discussed mercury poisonings and related environmental hazards in a spot on WBAL-TV on Jan. 6.

February 2005

VOICE 3
School of Nursing
Brenda Afzal, MS, RN, project manager, Environmental Health and Wellness Center, has been named first vice president for the Maryland Nurses Association’s board of directors.

Todd Ambrosia, PhD, RN, CRNP, assistant professor, Department of Family and Community Health, was selected as a fellow in the University of Virginia’s Center for Law and Social Policy’s Child Study Center for the year 2005-2006.

Jeffrey Johnson, PhD, professor, Department of Family and Community Health, has been named by the University of Virginia’s Center for Law and Social Policy’s Child Study Center for the year 2005-2006.

Karen Kaufman, PhD, CRNP, BC, associate professor, Department of Family and Community Health, has been invited by the American College of Nurse Practitioners to serve on the Nursing Practice Advisory Group. The group’s charge is to identify nursing practice issues, and to develop policy and planning guidelines.

Kathryn Spears, RDH, BS, is president and founder of the Harford/Cecil County Dental Hygienists’ Association. Spears is a part-time faculty member and a graduate student in the dental hygiene master’s program.

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School of Nursing Plays International Role in Mental Health Care

ROSA LIA SCALIA

Mental and behavioral disorders disrupt lives and cause enormous suffering to people of all ages. As of 2001, these illnesses—such as depression, substance abuse, schizophrenia, and Alzheimer’s disease—represented 11.5 percent of the global burden of disease, accounting for 28 percent of all years of life lived with disability and contributing to the rise in mortality levels.

According to the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), 114 million people in the Americas suffered from mental illnesses in 1990, and that number is projected to increase to 176 million by 2010. PAHO/WHO is working to attack the increase to 176 million by 2010 and to improve access to quality knowledge base of mental health education, training, research, and quality care provided by mental health personnel; (3) develop community health worker education programs; and (4) advance interdiscipl inary research focused on mental health promotion.

“We are extremely honored to have the only PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre in the nation—focused specifically on mental health nursing—houses within our School,” says Janet Allan, PhD, RN, CS, FAAN, dean of the School of Nursing and director of the centre. “This collaborative effort with our colleagues in Latin and Central America and the Caribbean will strengthen the knowledge base of mental health nursing and practice, and it will offer opportunities for faculty and student involvement in a variety of exciting initiatives,” she adds.

During a two-year pre-designation period, the School established mechanisms for technical cooperation in mental health nursing at the national and regional levels in the Americas. Although the designation does not bring the School financial resources directly, it allows the School to create specific projects that address the growing need for mental health treatments and to raise funds to implement them.

According to Sally Raphel, MS, APRN/PMH, FAAN, deputy director of the centre, the School hopes to advance three collaborative projects that focus on research, education, and practice. For instance, a project with the International Society of Psychiatric Nurses and Sigma Theta Tau International in Panama will seek to train mental health workers (including nurses) according to local needs, creating best practices that offer safe and effective nursing services.

Another key project is a 14-country collaboration to design curriculum guidelines for basic mental health nurses’ training in universities and programs of South and Central America and Mexico. The results will be published and disseminated in 2005. “The idea is to focus on mental health promotion and the prevention of illness by strengthening nurses’ abilities to provide quality care and support human rights. This role includes the obligation to safeguard the health and mental health rights of patients, ensuring that they and their caregivers receive appropriate information before consenting to treatment or participating in research,” she says.

Another project in the planning stages focuses on research for adolescent HIV risk-reduction interventions and partnership proposals in the area of substance abuse prevention. The Collaborating Centre will also aid in the effort to establish a unified nursing information system shared between countries, developing databases of mental health programs and experts in the region. It will offer opportunities for online courses and training, while helping to increase best practices and leadership in mental health nursing.

Plans for Women’s History Month

ROSA LIA SCALIA

“Get Real! During Women’s History Month!” The annual celebration next month will explore several popular women’s topics. Special presentations are scheduled for March 1, 8, 15, and 29, from noon to 1 p.m. each day—at the Dental Museum.

One session, titled “Iron Chef,” will feature a cooking demonstration. Another presentation, “The Amazing Race: Exercise to Win,” will introduce fitness programs and exercise techniques. A third session, labeled “The Swan: Reinvent Your Beauty Regimen,” will review skin care, beauty treatments, and makeup applications. In addition, home repair and redecorating ideas will be featured in a lecture on “Trading Spaces: A Demonstration on Fixing and Fauxing.”

Snacks and drinks will be provided during the lunchtime brown-bag series. Attendance is free, but registration is required. Check the March issue of the VOICE and the University’s Web site for further details and information about registration.

WOMEN AT UMB

According to the fall 2004 enrollment report, women students continue to outnumber men in the majority of UMB programs. Men are a majority in only the dental post-graduate and evening law (JD) programs. The Office of Institutional Research and Planning reports that women students make up 72 percent of the total enrollment of 5,802 students.
Campus Fund-raising Report

As of Dec. 31, 2004, the midpoint of the current fiscal year, the University had raised $33.5 million from private sources, or 64 percent of its $52.5 million fund-raising goal. At the same point last fiscal year, the University had raised only $26.5 million. This year's total reflects a nearly 27 percent increase in private support. It is also noteworthy that research gifts have risen significantly, totaling almost $19 million to date, while last fiscal year's total was $12.5 million.

UMB Advocacy Events in Annapolis

UMB students, faculty, staff, and alumni will have the opportunity to meet members of the Maryland legislature and participate in advocacy events during the 2005 session of the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis. A number of events include professional associations.

Feb. 17: School of Pharmacy, Maryland Pharmacy Coalition Prayer Day.

Annapolis Courier Service

A one-way courier service from the University’s Government and Community Affairs Office in Annapolis to the Baltimore campus is operating during the 2005 session of the Maryland General Assembly. The service is in effect until April 14. Mail is being picked up from 44 West St., Annapolis, and couriered to the two locations on the Baltimore campus specified below.

Time and Days of Pick-Up in Annapolis

12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 44 West Street.

Delivery Destination in Baltimore

By 1:45 p.m. to the UMB campus mailroom in the basement of Howard Hall, 660 W. Redwood Street.
By 2:30 p.m. to the UMMS Corporate Office, Suite 880, 250 W. Pratt Street. For more information, please contact Dobby Koerner or Diane Lopez at 410-269-5087 or dkoerner@umm.edu. Contacts for campus mail are Paul Crouse, 6-3700, or Larry Butler, 6-6619. Contact for UMMS mail is Ken Rayman, 6-6255.

Financial Aid Office News

The Financial Aid Office recently moved to 111 S. Greene Street, Suite 104. It is now in the same building as Student Accounting and the Office of the Registrar. “Students tell us that they like our new location very much,” says Debra Steinbach, program management specialist. “The new location is more convenient for students who need assistance from all three offices.” The Financial Aid Office also recently hired two new counselors: Stacy Harrison for the law school and Michael Cummings for the medical school and the physical therapy program.

Note that the FAFSA form (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) needs to be filed by March 1. Go to www.fafsa.gov. For additional news, updates, and financial aid FAQs, visit the Financial Aid Office online at www.umm.edu/fsaid.

HS/HSLS Web Site Redesign

The Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HS/HSLS) invites users to help the library redesign its Web site to improve access to its resources and services. There are three ways to give your input. You can take a couple of minutes to answer seven quick questions on our Web site, or you can participate in a focus group and tell us what features you want to see on the site. Each focus group takes about 90 minutes and includes lunch. To participate in a focus group or answer the seven questions, go to www.hshsl.umm.edu/main.html.

You may also help us by using the Rate-This-Page icon in the upper right-hand corner of many of the library’s Web pages. By clicking on the icon, you can rate the design and content of the page. For more information, contact Patty Hinegardner at phinegar@hshsl.umm.edu.

The faculty library liaisons have recently created “Discipline/Profession” pages for dentistry, law (health law), medical/research technology, medicine, nursing, parish nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, and social work. These pages include links to resources on associations, board exams and career resources, evidence-based practice, government resources, statistics, style manuals, tutorials, and UMBC resources. For additional information, go to www.hshsl.umm.edu/resource and click on one of the disciplines.

HS/HSLS New Food Policy, Reminders

The HS/HSLS has revised its food and beverage policy. Beverages may be consumed if they are in covered or spill-proof containers. Snack food and fruits may be consumed only in designated areas: group study rooms and the second and third floors of the tower. Snacks are not permitted at the computers, in the stacks, or in common areas of the library. Hot foods or foods that must be eaten with utensils are not permitted in the library. To view the complete policy, go to the About the Library section of the Web site and select “Library Policies.”

The HS/HSLS would like to remind patrons that it has designated floors 3-5 as “Quiet Floors.” The glass doors on the main staircases’ third-floor landing are closed in order to reduce noise traveling up the stairs. Also, please remember to turn cell phone ringers down, or to “vibrate,” when entering the HS/HSLS. Patrons should depart from open areas of the library to answer or talk on their cell phones.

In Memoriam: Ron Guiles, PhD

Ron Guiles, PhD, an associate professor in the pharmaceutical sciences department in the School of Pharmacy, passed away on Jan. 9 after a protracted illness. “Ron struggled with a severe health problem over the last two years but continued to keep up with his faculty responsibilities,” says Natalie Eddington, PhD, professor and chair of the department. “Ron was a productive member of our faculty for 13 years.”

Farewell to Valerie Rolandelli

DINSHAW DADACHANJI

After more than 21 years of dedicated service to the UMB community, Valerie Rolandelli has moved to the University of Maryland College (UMUC) to take the position of assistant vice president for procurement and business affairs.

At UMB, Rolandelli started as an entry-level buyer and progressively worked her way up to becoming director of facilities and special contracting. For the past several years, her responsibilities involved the procurement and management of construction and architectural contracts, not only for UMB, but also for other USM institutions in the Baltimore area.

Some of the significant projects Rolandelli has worked on include the Health Sciences Facilities II building, the Environmental Health and Safety building, the Health Sciences and Human Services Library, the Pharmacy Learning Center, and the School of Law/School of Social Work building. She also played an important role in the effort to reach out to minority business enterprises.

“I will truly miss all of the many people I have worked with through the years, especially my wonderful staff,” said Rolandelli.

Valerie Rolandelli

GIVING TO UMB

A gift made in honor of a loved one, teacher, student, or colleague is a wonderful way to recognize a person’s life and accomplishments or to commemorate a special occasion, such as a birthday, graduation, or anniversary. For more information or to contribute to UMB online, visit www.giving.umm.edu.
Leadership in Law Awards

DANIELLE SWEENEY

The Honorable Albert J. Matricciani Jr., ’73, judge of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, was named top winner of the Maryland Leadership in Law Award for 2004, a distinction presented by The Daily Record and Clifton Gunderson LLP.

Every year, nominations for the Maryland Leadership in Law awards are solicited from across the state, and a panel of judges chooses 24 winners. Award nominees are judged in two key areas: how their efforts have bettered their profession and communities, and how, through mentoring, they have promoted the next generation of professional and community leaders.

In addition to Matricciani, six other alumni and two faculty members of the School of Law were chosen to receive the 2004 Maryland Leadership in Law awards.

The alumni winners were: Roberto N. Allen, ’97, of Saul Ewing LLP; the Honorable Toni E. Clarke, ’86, judge for the Circuit Court for Prince George’s Country; Cynthia Fenimore, ’80, chief attorney at the Western Maryland Office of Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.; Michael C. Hodes, ’75, principal with Hodes, Ulman, Pessin & Katz, PA.; Elizabeth Lena Julian, ’78, public defender for Baltimore City; and Steven VanGrack, ’74, of VanGrack, Axelos, Williamsowsky, Bender & Fishman, PC.

Winners from the School’s faculty were professors Larry S. Gibson, JD, and Roger C. Wolf, JD. In addition, the winners’ list included Morton P. Fisher Jr., of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP. He is a member of the board of trustees for the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc.

The awards were presented last November.

UMMC Now Primary Stroke Center

The University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) is the first hospital in the state to receive designation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations as a Primary Stroke Center.

“This designation acknowledges the excellence of the entire stroke team, which includes doctors, nurses, therapists, technicians, researchers, and support staff,” explains Marian LaMonte, MD, director of the Brain Attack Team at UMMC and associate professor of neurology at the School of Medicine.

“We know that rapid treatment for stroke, particularly the use of clot-busting drugs, can save lives and reduce disability,” says William Weiner, MD, chief of neurology at UMMC and professor and chairman of neurology at the School of Medicine. “However, these drugs can only be used within the first few hours after someone has a stroke—that’s why it’s so critical to have a multi-disciplinary team in place that can respond rapidly in these cases.”
CALENDAR

Feb. 7-14: The High School Brain Art and Literature Exhibit. Outside the MSTF Auditorium. The exhibit will display the fine-hand and computer-generated art and sculpture of Maryland high school students. The Art and Literature Competitions are in celebration of Brain Awareness Week.

Feb. 17: The Maryland Brain Bee at the Maryland Science Center, 5–9 p.m. The Maryland Brain Bee is a neuroscience competition for high school students. The winner goes on to the National Championship, which will be held on the UMB campus in March, during Brain Awareness Week.

Feb. 19-20: Family Science Days in Washington, D.C., at the Marriott Wardman Hotel. The exhibits, demonstrations, and classes are part of the annual convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and are open to everyone.

Feb. 20: The Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry will present the popular annual family program in celebration of George Washington’s birthday from 1 to 4 p.m. Attendees will enjoy a highly interactive performance presented by historical interpreter Dean Malissa from Philadelphia’s famed American Historical Theatre. Two performances, one at 1:30 p.m. and another at 3 p.m., are scheduled.

Feb. 23: Graduate School Seminar, “Mediation and the Resolution of Conflicts in the Workplace.” Roger C. Wied, JD, professor, School of Law, will present the seminar in the multipurpose meeting room at the Student Center at Pine Street.

March 18-19: The International Brain Bee, a live competition that tests the neuroscience knowledge of high school students, will be held at UMMS. Young men and women from all over North America compete to find the “best brain” in the event, which is coordinated by UMB and NIH. For more information, visit http://web.sfn.org/baw/bee.cfm.

Women’s Health Research Grants

PAT HAWTHORNE

The Women’s Health Research Group (WHRG) is now accepting applications for its Annual Research Grant Awards in Women’s Health. Established in 1997, the awards promote interdisciplinary research and encourage new investigators at the University in the study of women’s health issues.

Funding for four to five projects approximating $7,000 each is anticipated for this year, marking the ninth year for these awards. Researchers from all schools at the University are eligible to apply, as are students and fellows working closely with a faculty mentor.

A total of 58 grants have been awarded over the past eight years, for projects at five of the seven schools on the UMB campus. Funded research topics range from heart disease, depression, and cancer to reproductive health, aging, and drug metabolism.

Composed of UMB faculty and students, the Women’s Health Research Group has provided an intellectual community for the interdisciplinary study of women’s health since 1992. Through conferences and seminars, the group has created a forum for investigators to present scientific findings and discuss research efforts. Additionally, it provides educational programs on women’s health issues and supports initiatives to enhance funding opportunities for women’s health scientists at UMB. The WHRG is funded through the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine in the School of Medicine.

Applications for this grant year are due April 18, 2005 for funding to begin Sept. 1, 2005. Application packets are available in print and electronic format from WHRG, Howard Hall, Room 100E, 6-2866. Visit http://medschool.umaryland.edu/womenshealth/whrg/grants.html for more information.

CPR Courses

Health professionals can take CPR renewal classes at the Dental School (General Practice clinic A, first floor) on the following dates: Feb. 15 and 23; March 14, 15, and 18. All classes (except on March 14) will be held from 8 to 10 a.m. The class on March 14 will be from 10 a.m. to noon.

Pre-registration, with prepayment of $40.00, is required; walk-ins will not be accepted. The textbook costs $10.00. To register or get more information, contact Robert Bennett, PhD, CPR training program director, at 410-706-3622.

CLASSIFIEDS

Outstanding Apartments

GOOD LOCATION: 48th Street/Boone is nice heading the neighborhood of H. Baltimore, all in the city (pointed up). Nice short-term and long term, great for downtown & everything. Lincoln/White Hall/Hopkins./Apt. A, B, C, @ $595. 1st Bed: Up $75; 2nd, $65; people are at $85, 3rd room is Up $97, 4th for $101, 5th room is Up $106, 6th room is Up $111, $700. Call 410-252-9850 or email reddingapex@yahoo.com

RECENT ADMITTEE wanted to share office and handle overflow work. Landlord/Mentor will teach you the “nuts and bolts” of general practice. Howard County, near Route 1 at Route 32. Call Gloria at 301-490-1077 or 410-792-4432.