World’s Most Advanced Dental School Opens

JEFFREY RAYMOND

Members of the Dental School community have been anticipating the opening of their new building for nearly a decade. Now, with official grand opening ceremonies behind them, a new era is finally unfolding for the world’s oldest dental college.

“This is going to be a worldwide center of excellence in dental education and training,” said David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, president of the University, during the Dental School building’s grand opening on the morning of Oct. 24, during Founders Week. The $142 million, 375,000-square-foot building at 650 W. Baltimore St. is outfitted with the latest in dental technology, including clinical care stations that record and display patient information, clinical training labs that enable students and professors to share information with colleagues around the world, and custom-designed research space on the building’s upper floors. Ramsay and Christian S. Stohler, DMD, DrMedDent, dean of the Dental School, recognized corporate partners Planmeca, Bien-Air, and Nobel Biocare for their part in providing the building with cutting-edge technology that they said is unmatched by any other dental school.

Stohler said the new building fulfills “a dream of a dentistry that no one has seen, a dream of a dentistry that fits the 21st century.”

Other speakers at the grand opening included state Delegate Joan Cadden, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, whom Ramsay thanked for her leadership in securing $120 million in state funding for the building—the most ever spent by the state on an academic building.

Kendal Ehrlich, the wife of Gov. Robert Ehrlich, said the new building will help many people and will be a model for the nation. “You can feel the pride in this room,” Ehrlich said.

“Congratulations to everybody on this fabulous project.”

On the building’s fifth floor are 170 clinical simulators linked to a facility station, allowing instructors to check students’ work or give demonstrations from a central unit. Sessions can be recorded for later review by the students.

More than 300 patient stations in clinics on four floors will host more than 155,000 patient visits annually. Millions of dollars worth of the latest equipment, much of it designed specifically for the School, make the patient facilities as good as or better than most private practices, University officials say.

Stohler said the Dental School, founded in 1840, was the first to teach dentistry as a science. Now, he said, “We are leading again.”

The Dental School dean also praised the architectural firm Bohlin Cywinski Jackson of Philadelphia for creating a “breathtaking facility” that includes two distinctive, soaring atriums.

Sponsors of the grand opening ceremony were VPC, Inc./El/Eisenberg; 3M ESPE Dental Products; Baron Malone Company; Benco Dental Company; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield; Delphi Dental; DENTSPLY North America; Den-Mat Corporation; Eaton; 3M ESPE Dental Products; Den-Mat Corporation; Barton Malow Company; Eisenberg; Delta Dental; DENTSPLY North America; Den-Mat Corporation; Fisher Scientific International Inc.; GC America, Inc.; Henry Schein/Sullivan-Schein Dental; Maryland Physicians Care; Patterson Dental Supply, Inc.; Listerine Antiseptic; Schiff & Associates LLC; SS White Burs, Inc.; and VWR, Inc./Beckman Coulter, Inc.

Ronald Hausheer contributed to this article.

Medical School to Celebrate 200 Years

MARY SPIRO

The School of Medicine—the nation’s oldest public medical school—will celebrate its bicentennial next year with a variety of events and the wrap-up of a lengthy capital campaign.

The School, founded in 1807, kicked off observance of its 200th year with an announcement by E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, vice president for medical affairs, University of Maryland, and dean of the School of Medicine, during a press conference Nov. 29 at Davidge Hall. The theme of the bicentennial is “The Enduring Power of Leadership.”

The goal of the capital campaign is to raise $200 million in honor of the School’s 200-year history, said Jennifer Litchman, MA, assistant dean of public affairs at the School of Medicine. As of Aug. 31, the School had received $167.7 million in private support for its four key initiatives: scholarships and financial aid, professorships and faculty support, medical research and discovery, and unrestricted support.

“We are well ahead of our campaign projections and should achieve our goal during the bicentennial,” says Brian DeFilippis, director of development services at the School of Medicine. “Since July 1, 2002, the School has added 12 new endowed professorships and chairs (for a total of 39), and the endowment has grown from $89.1 million to $139.3 million. We have also received significant support for basic science and clinical research during the campaign.”

An ambitious fundraising goal is something that School of Medicine founders such as Dr. John Beale Davidge, the first dean, would well understand. Though formal instruction of medical students began in 1807, the school’s premier teaching facility was not constructed until 1867.

Continued on page 2

New Campus Center to be “Front Door to University Life”

JEFFREY RAYMOND

Swinging mallets that sent bricks flying, students, faculty and staff representing various University programs ceremonially began knocking down the old student union building this fall to make way for a gleaming new $49 million campus center.

Scheduled to open in the fall of 2008, the campus center, to be located on Lombard Street between the Health Sciences and Human Services Library and the School of Nursing, will include offices for student organizations, a ballroom with seating for 280 people, meeting spaces, lounges, and food services. The current athletic center, atop a garage on Pratt Street, will be renovated as part of the project and will connect to the campus center. Facilities will include a fitness center for cardiovascular and strength training, and a 25-yard, five-lane pool.

For the ceremonial demolition of the long-vacant student union building on Oct. 4, work crews

Stop the Flu—Don’t Catch It, Don’t Spread It

Even if you aren’t at high risk for serious complications from the flu, others around you, such as children and the elderly, probably are. The flu can be spread easily in a school or workplace through coughing and sneezing. You can be contagious even before symptoms appear.

Getting a flu shot is the best way to prevent catching and spreading influenza. Also, sneeze or cough onto your sleeve, not onto your hands or a handkerchief. (Visit www.coughsafe.com.)

For more information about influenza, visit the Center for Disease Control’s Web site, www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm, or call the University’s Student Health office at 8-6791.

Continued on page 2
Being part of a vibrant, interdisciplinary academic community is vital to the School of Law’s continued success as we prepare students to become leaders in law and society, and as we work to find public policy solutions to complex social issues.

Today’s large, complex, and sophisticated regulatory frameworks in areas including health care law, family law, business law, environmental law, and intellectual property law create issues whose resolution requires lawyers with knowledge encompassing a wide range of fields.

To prepare our students for these challenges, it is increasingly important for us to take advantage of the wide range of opportunities for interdisciplinary coursework that the University of Maryland, Baltimore provides.

This year alone, the School of Law is offering almost 20 interdisciplinary courses that use resources from all sectors of the University. School of Pharmacy professors teach our students about food and drug law. Students in our Clinical Law Program work with School of Social Work faculty and students to reform law and policy related to housing, immigration, drug treatment, child welfare, special education, and other issues. Courses in our nationally ranked Law & Health Care Program benefit from the expertise of scholars from the schools of medicine and public health.

The Center for Health and Homeland Security coordinates and expands upon scientific research, health programs, policy development, training, legal analysis, and government consulting at each of the University’s professional schools. The Center has also been called upon repeatedly by the city of Baltimore and surrounding localities, the state of Maryland, and the federal government to address a broad range of problems and policies pertaining to terrorism and homeland security.

Interdisciplinary offerings for students find their fullest expression in the joint degree programs that the law school offers in conjunction with other University schools. The JD/MSW dual degree program prepares students for careers in the administration of human service organizations, and in executive, legislative, or judicial areas of government concerned with child welfare, family law, and other issues. The JD/MS in toxicology prepares students for professions in environmental regulation and public health risk assessment fields. Other dual degree programs with the schools of nursing, pharmacy, and public health impart the highly specialized knowledge necessary for today’s complex legal environment.

As the law itself has changed, the role of the modern law school has changed from one of simply training future lawyers to one of active engagement in the improvement of law and legal institutions. As a public institution, the University of Maryland School of Law embraces its mission to serve as a resource for the development of law and public policy in Maryland and beyond.

Our efforts in this regard are enhanced immeasurably by the opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration that the University affords. The School of Law’s nationally recognized specialty programs, academic centers, and faculty scholarship, and its wide range of conferences and symposia, all draw on the resources of our sister professional schools to help us frame the debate on a variety of issues such as end of life care, the environment, tobacco control, and the ethics of nanotechnology.

I look forward to continuing our shared work in the years ahead.

Karen H. Rothenberg, JD, MPA
Dean, School of Law
Marjorie Cook Professor of Law

News From the School of Law

School of Medicine Celebrating 200 Years

Continued from page 1

School of Medicine students are planning a public service event at area public schools in April, and mini-med schools for both adults and children will be held. A research symposium for national and international media is scheduled in June.

On May 18, the School of Medicine will host a bicentennial gala in conjunction with its commencement and a medical alumni reunion. The School expects that 1,800 business leaders, elected officials, alumni, faculty, staff, and students will attend the gala, which will feature a historical program and comedian Dennis Miller.

Other School of Medicine bicentennial events include the following:

- Diabetes lecture by singer Patti LaBelle and international researchers. Feb. 26, Hippodrome Theatre, free and open to the public.
- Central nervous system lecture by Huntington’s disease researcher Nancy Wesler, PhD, and Janet Reno, former U.S. attorney general. Sept. 24, Hippodrome Theatre, free and open to the public.

For more information, visit the School of Medicine bicentennial Web site, www.umdbicentennial.umd.edu. Information is also available through e-mail at bicentennial@ummdbicentennial.umd.edu or by calling the bicentennial hotline, 6-2007.

Continued from page 1

1812—when it took the medical faculty five years to raise the $40,000 needed to build the structure at Lombard and Greene streets, according to Larry Pitrof, executive director of the Medical Alumni Association.

An architectural and engineering marvel, Davidge Hall features the circular Chemical Auditorium and has constructed other University and Medical Alumni Association—The University of Maryland School of Medicine: The First Two Centuries—is expected to be released in January.

Karen H. Rothenberg

Oct. 13, 2007—A bicentennial logo, which features a star and the words “University of Maryland School of Medicine,” is to be displayed throughout 2007.

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World's Top Researchers on Pain and Gender Meet

JEFFREY RAYMOND

You probably learned about the “pain pathway” when you were a child in school—put your foot close to a fire, and nerve endings send a signal that travels to the spine, where it then goes to your brain and is decoded into a reaction: “Ouch!”

But according to Karen Berkley, PhD, you probably learned wrong. Berkley, a distinguished research professor of neuroscience at Florida State University, wants people to think not of a “pain pathway” but a “pain matrix” in which the central nervous system integrates information from the body, then plans and organizes bodily actions—including the “decision” to experience pain.

Researchers are examining how males and female process that information differently.

Berkley presented a lecture in the new Dental School building this fall to help kick off “The Painful Truth: A Conference on Gender and Pain Research,” a three-day meeting in Baltimore. The conference was organized by the Sex, Gender, & Pain Special Interest Group of the International Association for the Study of Pain® (IASP®). Richard Traub, PhD, an associate professor in the Dental School, is a co-chair of the group. Michael Gold, PhD, and Joel McCarthy, PhD, from the University’s Research Center for Neurovisceral Sciences & Women’s Health at the University of California, Los Angeles; Merck Research Laboratories; the American Pain Foundation; PriCara; Johnson & Johnson; the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s Women’s Health Research Group; the University of Maryland Medical Center; and the Fannie E. Rappel Foundation.

Influences on Pain, also helped plan the conference.

Differences in pain responses between men and women affect the prevalence and severity of a variety of disorders, from irritable bowel syndrome to temporomandibular joint disease. Berkley’s presentation followed a lecture by Margaret McCarthy, PhD, a professor in the School of Medicine’s departments of psychiatry and physiology, who spoke about the role of hormones in the differences between men’s and women’s brains.

The more than two dozen invited researchers at the gender and pain conference addressed a field that was scarcely studied at all just a few decades ago.

“Many of us feel we are not moving forward fast enough,” said Berkley. “We feel we are at the tip of the iceberg.” She said different pain experiences based on age, ethnicity, and culture must also be examined.

Pain and gender researchers hope their conclusions will eventually be used to create a set of guidelines for future research.

The conference was sponsored by the IASP® Sex, Gender, & Pain Special Interest Group; the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s Research Center for Neuroendocrine Influences on Pain; the Center for Neurovisceral Sciences & Women’s Health at the University of California, Los Angeles; Merck Research Laboratories; the American Pain Foundation; PriCara; Johnson & Johnson; the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s Women’s Health Research Group; the University of Maryland Medical Center; and the Fannie E. Rappel Foundation.
LAURELS

SCHOOL OF LAW
The School of Law’s Trial Team swept both the team and individual national titles at the National Institute for Trial Advocacy’s annual mock trial championship tournament in October. Students Jessica Butkera, Jason Downs, Sig Libowitz, Rachel Simmons, and alternate Nolan Welchek earned team honors, and Simmons was named the top advocate in the tournament’s championship round. The tournament, which took place in St. Petersburg, Fla., was limited to the 16 schools that had compiled the nation’s best mock trial competition records during the past three years. As the tournament winner, the School of Law will host the 2008 competition.

Olivia Carter-Pokras, PhD, associate professor of epidemiology and preventive medicine, has been appointed a fellow of the American College of Epidemiology. Carter-Pokras was also recently elected to serve on the executive board of the American Public Health Association.

Donald E. Wilson, MD, MACP, director of the Program in Minority Health and Health Disparities Education and Research, and former dean and professor of medicine at the School of Medicine, has been awarded the first Dean’s Diversity Award by the Association of American Medical Colleges’ Group on Student Affairs-Minority Affairs Section.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Claudia Baquet, MD, MPH, associate dean, policy and planning; professor of medicine and epidemiology and preventive medicine; and director of the University of Maryland and National Institutes of Health Comprehensive Center for Health Disparities Research, Training, and Outreach, has received the Outstanding Rural Health Achievement Award from the Rural Maryland Council. The award, which was presented during the annual Maryland Rural Summit in October, recognizes Baquet’s work in health disparities in rural and minority populations. Baquet has helped launch numerous programs, such as the University of Maryland Statewide Health Network, which expand resources to underserved populations.

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SCHOOL OF NURSING
Fourteen faculty and two students made presentations at a recent Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science conference in Washington, D.C. Topics included the role of faculty status on nursing doctoral students’ decisions to remain in academia.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
Dave DeLooze, assistant director of operations and maintenance, has been elected vice chair of the Council of University System Staff. The council is an advisory body to the University System of Maryland chancellor on matters affecting employees. Two Facilities Management employees—John Barber, structural trades chief, and Roy Ross, multitrade supervisor II—have been elected University representatives to the council.
Founders Week Awards include Entrepreneur of the Year

Alessio Fasano
Entrepreneur of the Year

Alessio Fasano, MD

Fasano says the success of the biopharmaceutical company would not have been possible without industry backing and the support of University President Ramsay.

“No doubt the systematic dissection of a cadaver leaves a lasting impression on every first-year medical student. As director for the Structure and Development course since 1998, Larry Anderson, PhD, a School of Medicine professor in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, ensures that his students’ encounters with their first ‘patient’ not only forms a solid foundation for the rest of their medical training, but that it is also engaging, entertaining, and fun.

“This is their introduction to medical school,” says Anderson, the winner of this year’s Teacher of the Year Award. “They are anxious, pensive, and they’ve probably never seen a dead body before. I want to give them a chance to gain some confidence.”

That is no small task for an 11-week course in anatomy, histology, and embryology. Before the start of a recent 8 a.m. lecture, Anderson blares some music relevant to the day’s topic: Tom Waits’ song “Heartattack and Vine.” He then launches into a videos-on, hands-on presentation—with props, animation, and audiovisuals—to help students understand the function of the nervous system.

Anderson advances the students’ knowledge beyond what can be seen and felt to learning through multiple imaging modalities. “His educational collaborations with the Department of Radiology have directly resulted in the routine integration of advanced computer-based radiological technology into the study of gross anatomy,” says Calvin Hisley, PhD, assistant professor of radiology. “This combination is universally considered foundational to the study of modern medicine.”

Anderson began teaching anatomy courses in 1978. He never imagined he would still be teaching anatomy 28 years later.

“For more than 30 years, Angela Brodie, PhD, professor of pharmacology and experimental therapeutics at the School of Medicine and a researcher at the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center, has led a far-reaching revolution in the treatment of breast cancer. Her pioneering work in the role of estrogens in breast cancer led to the development of the most important breast cancer therapy used today: aromatase inhibitors.

The 2006 Research Lecturer of the Year, Brodie began her studies on compounds that would block the conversion of androgens to estrogen in the early 1970s at the Worcester Foundation in Shrewsbury, Mass. There she and her husband, Larry Brodie, discovered formestane (4-hydroxysteroid-dienone). After relocating her laboratory to the School of Medicine’s Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics in 1979, Brodie pursued clinical testing of the drug. Formestane was released for worldwide use in 1994 and became the first new drug in a decade specifically designed for the treatment of breast cancer.

“It is rare that one individual can take a drug from the phase of synthesis to ultimate use in patients,” says Richard Smiten, MD, professor of internal medicine and associate director of clinical research at the University of Virginia Health System. Brodie was recognized with the top prize in the world for cancer research when she received the Charles F. Kettering Prize from the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation last year. She also received the Brinker International Breast Cancer Award for Basic Research from the Susan G. Komen Foundation in 2000, and the Dorothy P. Ehrlich, the Wellmobile program helps identify “all the services for which a patient might qualify.” In addition, he says, Wiseman “empowers her staff to be involved in their service to the community,” and she is a “mentor to those she leads.” Wiseman is also praised by Delegate Kevin Kelly, a member of the Maryland General Assembly from rural Allegany County. “In each region of the state where the four Governor’s Wellmobiles are situated, Dr. Wiseman conscientiously works in conjunction with local community officials to provide patient referrals, hospital/lab support, and other essential services to uninsured individuals,” Kelly says.

Wiseman, who organized the travel of two Wellmobile vans and staff to Mississippi in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, plans to expand the Wellmobiles’ hours and provide more education and care for patients with diabetes, one of the most common diseases among her clients. “The truth of the matter is that the Wellmobile Program is a true safety net provider that offers many people the care they would not have been able to receive elsewhere,” Wiseman says.
Founders Week 2006 “A Great Success”

The annual Founders Week celebration, which honors the accomplishments of the University’s professional schools and its graduate school, took place in late October under the theme “Illustrious Alumni.” This special section of the VOICE features event photos and profiles of Founders Week award winners and honored alumni.

“My heartfelt thanks go out to each and every person who made Founders Week 2006 a great success,” says Anne Ramsay, chair of the Founders Week Committee. Ramsay, who is the wife of David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, University president, thanked the hundreds of attendees, the sponsors, and the volunteers—including the Office of External Affairs staff, who served at the buffet tables during the staff luncheon; Pat Maloney, executive coordinator to the president, who collected luncheon tickets; and deans, vice presidents, and other University staff and guests who helped serve food and welcome guests at the luncheon and student cookout.

Special thanks go to volunteers at the gala: Tracy Boyd, Betsy Burner, Dianne Cooper, Susie Flaherty, Carolyn Footman, Rosa Johnson, Mary Nichols, Danielle Peterson, Daryll Smith, Nancy Steele, Christhia Williams, and Jan Wright.

1. University President David J. Ramsay serves hors d’oeuvres to Brian Sturdivant, coordinator for community affairs, during the staff luncheon.
2. E. Albert Reece (right), vice president for medical affairs, University of Maryland, and dean of the School of Medicine, talks with Alessio Fasano before Fasano’s Founders Week presentation on Oct. 23.
3. Angela Brodie delivers the Founders Week Faculty Research Lecture.
4. Richard Himelfarb (left), winner of the first President’s Award during last year’s Founders Week, and Joseph Tydings, one of this year’s Illustrious Alumni, enjoy the black-tie gala.
5. Richard P. Barth (left), dean of the School of Social Work, helps serve food during the student cookout.
Alumni Honored During Founders Week Gala

MARY ATKINSON

The theme of this year’s Founders Week was Illustrious Alumni, and six outstanding graduates were honored during the black-tie gala on Oct. 26.

Leading plastic and craniofacial surgeon William Magee Jr. DDS, MD, graduated from the Dental School in 1969. He and his wife, Kathleen, founded Operation Smile in 1982, a private, nonprofit volunteer medical services organization that has provided free reconstructive surgery and related health care to more than 100,000 young people around the world suffering with cleft lips, cleft palates, and other facial deformities.

As the organization’s CEO, Magee also has helped train more than 650 international physicians in advanced craniofacial techniques through Operation Smile’s annual Physicians’ Training Program held in Norfolk, Va. Operation Smile received the first $1 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize, the 2001 Antonio Fehrinelli Prize for Exceptional Endeavors of Outstanding Moral and Humanitarian Value, and the U.N. Servants of Peace Award, among many other honors.

Magee has presented the Honorary Kansanj Lecture to the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, and in 1998 he received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. Magee’s reputation as a leader in his profession has spread across the globe, making him a featured guest on many television programs, including “Dateline NBC,” “CBS Sunday Morning,” and “48 Hours.”

The distinguished political career of Sen. Joseph Tydings, JD, began when he was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates shortly after his 1953 graduation from the School of Law. And after being appointed attorney for Maryland in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, Tydings vigorously prosecuted cases involving government corruption. Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1964, Tydings chaired the Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee post, Tydings wrote legislation establishing the federal magistrate system.

A champion of progressive causes, particularly environmental legislation, Tydings is being honored by the League of Conservation Voters and the Maryland chapter of the U.S. Lung Association this year for his leadership in the passage of Maryland’s Healthy Air Act. Always a proponent of higher education, Tydings served on the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland from 1974 to 1984, including two years as chair. He was also a regent of the University System of Maryland from 2000 to 2005.

Tydings is now senior counsel at Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin & Ominsky in Washington, D.C. Last year he established the Joseph D. Tydings Scholarship at the School of Law for outstanding students who are planning careers in public interest law.

In 1998, Frieman was awarded the Medical Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award. He also won the Dean’s Medal for outstanding contributions and service to the School of Medicine in 2006.

Naval Rear Admiral Carol Romano, PhD, RN, FAAN, earned her bachelor’s (1977), master’s (1985), and doctoral (1993) degrees in nursing from the University of Maryland. Since then she has become a pioneer in nursing informatics.

In 1976, Romano helped design and implement one of the first computerized medical information systems, which provided electronic medical orders and clinical documentation for patients in ambulatory and hospital environments. She was also instrumental in creating the world’s first graduate curriculum in nursing informatics, for the University of Maryland School of Nursing. Romano has also advised the World Health Organization on the management of human resources and health information in developing countries.

Selected as chief nurse officer by the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) and named assistant surgeon general, Romano is currently charged with the leadership and coordination of PHS nursing professional affairs for the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General. Romano has received the PHS Meritorious Service Medal, three PHS Outstanding Service Medals, and two PHS Achievement Medals, among many other awards.

In addition to lecturing at the School of Nursing for many years and serving on numerous advisory committees, Romano is a member of the School’s Alumni Association Council.

In the early 1980s, while studying for her bachelor’s degree at the School of Pharmacy, research pharmacist Victoria Hale, PhD, became interested in drug development. Today, Hale is founder and CEO of the Institute for OneWorld Health, a nonprofit pharmaceutical company that addresses the health needs of some of the poorest people in the world. Bringing together representatives from scientific, entrepreneurial, humanitarian, pharmaceutical, and health sectors, Hale created a way for potentially beneficial drugs deemed unmarketable by industry to be developed to solve global health problems.

In August 2006, OneWorld Health’s first drug, Paromomycin Intramuscular (IM) Injection, was approved by Indian regulatory authorities. Paromomycin IM Injection will be an important new public health tool for India in its efforts to safely and affordably control visceral leishmaniasis, a parasitic disease.

Hale received the World Academy of Art and Science’s 2006 BioPolicy Award, the award for social and economic innovation at The Economist’s Fourth Annual Innovation Awards Ceremony in 2005, and a grant from the MacArthur Foundation this year to further the work of OneWorld Health.

Before Barbara Mikulski, MSW, joined the U.S. Senate, she was helping Baltimore residents as a social worker—she earned a master’s degree in social work from the University of Maryland in 1965. Working with Catholic Charities and the Baltimore City Department of Social Services, she witnessed many of the challenges city residents face. And as a community activist, she fought to prevent the construction of a 16-lane highway through neighborhoods and family-run businesses in Baltimore’s Fells Point.

Mikulski was elected to the Baltimore City Council in 1971, and six years later she was elected to represent Maryland’s 3rd district in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1986 she won a race for a U.S. Senate seat in Maryland, and she is currently serving her fourth term as a senator.

Well-known for creating and sponsoring the HOPE VI program—aimed at improving living conditions for public housing residents—she was named a Legislator of the Year in 2004 by the American Planning Association. Mikulski has maintained a strong relationship with the University, and recently was instrumental in passage of a federal appropriations bill that helped establish the Institute for Nurse Educators in the School of Nursing. The institute addresses the nationwide shortage of nurses and nursing educators.
CAMPUS BRIEFS

**Nursing Alumni Sponsor London Tour**

The School of Nursing Alumni Association will sponsor a trip to the Florence Nightingale Museum in London, April 21-28. Continuing education credits can be earned during the weeklong trip, which will be led by former School of Nursing faculty member Jean Trotter, BSN. Tours of other London sites and a stopover in Iceland are included.

The cost, including round-trip airfare from Baltimore, is $2,395. A $500 deposit is due by Dec. 15. For more information, contact Samantha Davis, the School of Nursing's director of alumni relations and annual support, at 6-0674 or ssdavis@son.umaryland.edu.

**Staff Award Nominations Sought**

The Council of University System Staff (CUSS) is accepting nominations for the University System of Maryland Board of Regents' Staff Awards. The awards recognize achievements by both exempt and nonexempt employees in the following categories: contributions to the institution and/or the employee's unit, service to students in an academic or residential environment, and public service within or outside the University.

Staff who have been employed for at least five consecutive academic years are eligible. A nomination form and more information are available at www.umaryland.edu/son/sonstaffawards.pdf. Nomination packets for staff at the University of Maryland, Baltimore must be sent to Pat Maloney, Office of the President, Room 103, East Hall, by Jan. 5, 2007.

**New University Stationery Available**

As part of an ongoing effort to better shape the University’s identity, new stationery, available in both a redesigned standard format and a bicentennial version, is now available.

The new letterhead, envelopes, and business cards can be seen at www.oit.umaryland.edu/stationery. The new stationery can be ordered as supplies of the old stationery run out by calling Bill Welkner of Ridge Printing Corporation at 410-668-4780.
Medical School Names Four Department Heads

Richard Eckert, PhD, a researcher for more than 30 years, has been appointed chair of the School of Medicine’s Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. And Peter Rock, MD, MBA, a nationally known expert in anesthesiology and critical care medicine, has been chosen to head the Department of Anesthesiology. The appointments, made this fall, came on the heels of announcements earlier this year regarding the heads of two other departments at the medical school. David Stewart, MD, MPH, an associate professor of family and community medicine at the School of Medicine and an expert on public health issues, including hypertension and diabetes in African-Americans, was named chair of the Department of Family & Community Medicine. Brian Browne, MD, FACER, FAEM, a professor of emergency medicine at the School who has long worked to expand the emergency medicine program, was appointed acting chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine.

Also, the role of Bruce Jarrell, MD, FACS, as vice dean for academic affairs at the School of Medicine, was expanded this fall to include management of research. Eckert comes to the University from Case Western Reserve University, where he was a professor of physiology/biophysics, dermatology, reproductive biology, microbiology, and biochemistry. His research focuses on understanding how normal surface epithelial cells function to protect against illness, and how those cells are altered during disease states, including skin cancer.

Before his appointment at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, Rock was vice chair of the anesthesiology department at The University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill, where he also served as a professor of anesthesiology and medicine. Rock was the medical director of respiratory care at UNC Hospitals as well as the chief of anesthesiology at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

Stewart, who is chief of family medicine at the University of Maryland Medical Center and an attending physician at University of Maryland Family Medicine Associates, PA, had been acting chair of the School of Medicine’s Department of Family & Community Medicine since 2003.

Before being named acting chair, Browne headed the Division of Emergency Medicine, which was recently elevated to full departmental status.

Shannon Stifler Wins Employee of the Month Award

Shannon Stifler, human resources and payroll specialist in the School of Medicine’s Department of Physiology, was the University’s Employee of the Month for September.

Stifler, who is described by co-workers as enthusiastic and energetic, answers questions about human resources and payroll, processes immigrant visa documentation, and maintains database files for the department’s business office. Stifler also prepares all appointment, reappointment, and termination forms for training grant recipients. She developed a spreadsheet and databases to help maintain a documented history of all training grant slots filled for each year.

“Could not run this department without people like Shannon Stifler,” says Kenneth Fahnestock, MA, administrator of the physiology department. Fahnestock praised Stifler for her “expertise, positive attitude, proactive thinking, and attention to the needs of others.”

Stifler was nominated for Employee of the Month by Meredith Bond, PhD, professor and chair of the department.

Stifler says interacting with co-workers is the best part of her job. “I like working with all of the different personalities in the department,” she says.

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