



VOICE

News for the Campus Community — January 2010

IN THIS ISSUE

Message From the President	2
Chief Barnes' Farewell	2
Author Ehrenreich Comes to School of Nursing.	3
Inaugural CITS Column	4
Employee of the Month	8



Stephen Liggett

KAREN BUCKELEW

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, dean of the School of Medicine, has appointed Stephen Liggett, MD, to the newly created position of associate dean

Liggett to Lead Expanded Interdisciplinary Research Program

for interdisciplinary research.

Liggett is a professor of medicine and physiology and will remain the director of the Cardiopulmonary Genomics Program. In his new role as associate dean, Liggett will foster scientific collaboration among faculty members from throughout the institution in order to develop a broad range of interdisciplinary basic science and translational research, which will both broaden institutional basic research and lead to clinical applications for those basic science discoveries.

“A core mission of the University of Maryland School of Medicine is to directly affect human health by taking research

discoveries from bench to bedside,” says Reece, who is also vice president for medical affairs at the University of Maryland and the School of Medicine’s John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor.

“Dr. Liggett is an outstanding physician scientist with decades of experience in both basic and translational research. He will serve as a role model for his fellow faculty members as we work to expand our already strong interdisciplinary research program.”

Liggett will work closely with Curt Civin, MD, associate dean for research, and the School’s other senior leaders, including Bruce Jarrell, MD, professor of surgery and execu-

tive vice dean, to develop an infrastructure that fosters growth in biomedical research and partnerships across disciplines.

Liggett came to the School of Medicine in 2005. He directs a research team with National Institutes of Health funding exceeding \$10 million. He earned his medical degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine and trained in internal medicine, pulmonary diseases, and critical care medicine at Barnes Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He has held faculty appointments at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and Duke University School of Medicine.

“The composition of academic medical faculty and their talents have changed dramatically over the last few decades,” says Liggett. “We now see computer science, bioinformatics, engineering, molecular biology, and genomics playing strong roles in basic and clinical research.

“Bridging the gaps separating these different disciplines has become a challenge, both in terms of promoting collaborations and in translating research findings to clinical purposes. I’m looking forward to the challenges ahead of me in my new role and the opportunity to capitalize on all the interdisciplinary strengths of the School of Medicine faculty.”

Law Faculty Provide Expert Commentary on Dixon Trial



Andrew Levy talked to the news media outside the courthouse downtown.

JEFFREY RAYMOND

Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon’s trial on charges related to the theft of gift cards riveted the city for weeks. The area news media clamored to tell the story of the trial, the days of jury deliberations, and, finally, the fallout of the verdict. Several faculty members from the School of Law stepped up in scores of interviews to explain to the public the legal framework behind the human drama.

Moments after the jury returned its verdict of guilty on one of five counts, Adjunct Professor Andrew Levy, JD, was on the sidewalk in front of the downtown courthouse being interviewed on live television.

He appeared on three stations, explaining the verdict and possible next steps in the case, and he commented for a *New York Times* article on the case.

A few miles away, Assistant Professor David Gray, JD, PhD, MA, was at home preparing a test when the verdict came in. But reporters from *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Associated Press*, and *The Christian Science Monitor* all found him by phone and quoted him in their accounts of the trial.

Both Gray and Levy continued their commentary in the days that followed the early December verdict, showing up on local radio public affairs programs, in newspapers, and on television as they discussed post-trial strategy and constitutional issues relating

to the mayor’s continuation in office.

But the trial commentary from the School of Law began weeks earlier, when Professor Douglas Colbert, JD, started speaking with television and newspaper reporters as jury selection got under way. Colbert, who like Gray and Levy has expertise in criminal defense, agreed to watch the trial unfold in person so he could speak about it with reporters. He quickly realized the trial offered a wonderful teaching opportunity,

so he took his students with him to observe the lawyers in action.

Other faculty members also spoke up. Professor Larry Gibson, LLB, offered what turned out to be prescient commentary months earlier when the initial charges against Dixon were filed. He predicted the case would not hold up, and, indeed, the prosecutor, Robert Rohrbaugh, ended up filing two new indictments with more details.

And John Fader, JD, senior judicial fellow and retired Circuit Court judge for Baltimore County, explained the jury management strategy of Presiding Judge Dennis Sweeney during the trial and the jury’s lengthy deliberation.

Nursing School Spearheads New Pain Center



Susan Dorsey

STEVE BERBERICH

The School of Nursing is “uniquely poised” to spearhead a new collaborative Center for Pain Studies funded by a \$2.4 million, five-year federal grant, says Susan Dorsey, PhD, RN, director of the center.

The School is one of the nation’s largest professional nursing schools and one of the best equipped for discovery research, says Dorsey. Also, clearing new scientific ground in understanding chronic pain—the thrust of the new center—well suits nurses, she says, due to their proximity to both patients and science.

“We have bench to bedside and bedside to bench transfer of information,” says Dorsey, an associate professor and principal investigator of the grant.

Chronic pain is a leading public health epidemic, affecting more than 25 million Americans and costing more than \$165 billion per year in treatment expenses and lost work productivity. The center

will concentrate on pain associated with cancer and cancer treatments. Although much is known of the symptoms, the genetics and molecular mechanism of pain are not well known.

For the first time, research nurses and physicians from several different disciplines are working together at the center on five initial projects to advance knowledge and treatments of oral mucositis and peripheral neuropathy. The center also includes researchers from the University’s School of Medicine and Dental School, and the University of Maryland Medical Center’s Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center.

The \$2.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) National Institute of Nursing Research is the School’s first P30 grant, a prestigious NIH category for establishing a core center for interdisciplinary studies. Dorsey says the grant is a “huge” step in such research because it is designed to provide infrastructure and support to develop and grow key core resources that center scientists can use to advance their work.

Eventually information generated on pain genes will lead to new drugs, says Dorsey, a step toward personalized medicine in which groupings of patients with similar genetics may be treated with drugs targeting pain specific to their genes. “The train has already left the station. In 10 to 20 years we hope to be practicing personalized medicine,” she says.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



David J. Ramsay

There is a well-known Indian folk tale concerning blind men who are asked to describe an elephant. Although each man can feel only a part of the elephant, they describe the animal as a wall, a snake, a tree or a rope, depending on where they touch it. Depending on the source, the current U.S. effort to reform health care is described in various terms as well. The bills being considered in Congress differ in certain details and

evoke exaggerated responses depending on how one views the elephant, but all have one thing in common: if adopted and signed, they will significantly increase the number of people in the U.S. who have health insurance and, most likely, change how health care is delivered.

We may boast that Americans have the best health care in the world, and that no one without insurance is turned away from our emergency rooms, but the reality is that the uninsured are likely to receive care only after their diseases have reached a critical stage. And the resulting medical bills can and often do lead to bankruptcy—in fact, the most frequently cited cause of bankruptcy is unpaid medical bills.

The fight for universal health insurance has a long history in the U.S., dating back nearly 100 years. After World War II, employers agreed to provide health insurance, first to their employees and then to the employees' families. But this left elderly retirees without coverage. In 1965, Congress created Medicare, primarily for people aged 65 and older, and Medicaid, which provides care for low-income families and the severely disabled.

Meanwhile, the cost of insurance has risen to such a level that it makes it prohibitively expensive for many businesses to provide coverage to their employees. With rising unemployment, this has caused many working adults—those whom in a rational world would be the first to be covered—to lose their insurance. Due to technological advances and sheer growth in numbers, health care costs continue to rise at a much faster rate than the overall economy, and much faster in the U.S. than in the rest of the developed world. Moreover, the U.S. has linked much of the residency training for physicians to Medicare funding, which has resulted in distortions of medical costs by region.

The latest versions of health reform have much to recommend them. All bills currently under consideration would expand the number of Americans with insurance and would remove the most egregious problems of the existing system—loss of coverage with loss of job, caps on health expenditures, exclusions for pre-existing conditions, and an individual insurance market that is prohibitively expensive for most Americans. These expansions are mostly to be paid for by

elimination of waste, fraud, and abuse, and improved efficiencies in Medicare and Medicaid. Whether there are sufficient savings to pay for increased enrollments remains to be seen.

While there is some recognition that we shall need a major ramp-up at academic medical centers such as the University of Maryland, Baltimore to produce the needed primary care physicians and other health care professionals to service this expanded market—areas already in short supply—what is not recognized is the length of time and the capital and operating investments that will be required to meet these demands. For me, that is health reform's elephant in the room, and the missing piece that we shall be dealing with as we continue to cope with our budget challenges.

David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil
President

Barnes Gets a Final Salute

CHRIS ZANG

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Police Force begins a new era this month with the retirement of Chief Cleveland Barnes, MS, who joined the force as a campus patrol officer in 1971 and never left.

"The things that I'll miss the most are the camaraderie and the relationships I have developed over the years with members of the campus, members of the community, and members of my agency," Barnes said in his final weeks on the job, which officially ended Dec. 31. "To have a hand in the development of those in the agency and to have the assurance that I'm leaving the agency in good hands is a satisfying feeling."

Now charged with keeping the agency in good hands is Antonio Williams, who has been named the new UMB chief of police and director of public safety by Kathleen Byington, MBA, vice president of administration and finance. Like Barnes, Williams, 46, is a longtime law enforcement official, having retired from the Baltimore City Police Department before serving as chief of police for the Baltimore City Public School System and at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Williams starts Jan. 18.

He has some big shoes to fill following Barnes, who, taking a page out of his military handbook (two years with the Marines and 18 with the Maryland Army National Guard), would surprise his officers by showing up during the midnight shift, on a Saturday afternoon in the spring or on a holiday.

They returned the favor with a few surprises at his going-away reception Dec. 3 at the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center. In a ballroom packed with friends, family, and fellow officers, Barnes received mementoes and proclamations from University officials and those from the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

The highlight was a "roast" by Al Fick,



LAURA KOZAK

Cleveland Barnes and roastmaster Al Fick celebrate at the chief's retirement party.

associate director of Human Resources. Wearing a combat helmet and bulletproof vest to protect him should Barnes take offense, Fick presided over a hilarious slide show of the chief's "life," with Photoshopped images of him as a baby barking orders, as a teen (J.J. Walker and Rerun), and next to law enforcement luminaries such as *Andy of Mayberry*, *Barney Miller*, and *Mod Squad*, to name a few. The slide show ended with Barnes placed alongside such baseball greats as Babe Ruth, Ted Williams, and Roberto Clemente as the soundtrack from *Field of Dreams* played.

Baseball is a passion of Barnes, who was once drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates. He said the fact that he's "an outstanding cook" also would come as a surprise to many.

They also may not know that Barnes has taken some of those he has arrested over the years under his wing as a mentor. "I had some police interactions, shall we say, with some young people in the community. They are still here and have turned their lives around. I take pride in that," Barnes said. "Now I'm actively involved with setting up a mentoring program at Friendship Baptist Church, which I hope will have the same impact."

So it's not surprising the banquet room was filled to capacity. Barnes struggled to keep his emotions in check as he thanked those assembled. "This isn't my day; this is our day," he said. "I wouldn't be here today without all of you. And I feel truly blessed."

BCCC Life Sciences Institute Officially Opens at BioPark

ED FISHEL

The Life Sciences Institute of the Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) officially opened in the University of Maryland BioPark with a ceremony in November, highlighted by passionate remarks from U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, MSW, D-Md.

"Housing the Life Sciences Institute at the UM BioPark is about creating jobs and new opportunity for students who go here and residents who live here," said Mikulski. BCCC officials say she was instrumental in helping secure more than \$1.4 million in federal funding for the institute located in BioPark Building Two.

The institute was formally opened at the standing-room-only event hosted by Kathleen Kennedy Norris, PhD, biotechnology coordinator for BCCC and director of the institute. The event attracted many Baltimore City and state political officials and business leaders.

Mikulski, a former social worker and instructor at BCCC, said she "was no stranger to Baltimore's West Side," the BCCC or the University of Maryland, where she graduated from the School of Social Work.

She was emphatic about the decision by University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) President David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, to locate the BioPark west of Martin Luther

King Jr. Boulevard and the decision by the BCCC to locate the institute in the BioPark.

State Senator Verna Jones, MPA, also spoke at the opening ceremony. "We know all of the statistics that Baltimore City has a disproportionately high unemployment rate," she said. "We know that there are a lot of individuals who are impoverished that do not have access to the skills, training, and the jobs. Today, we can say that we are not just one step, but we are one mile ahead of the game to make sure that our people are trained."

The institute is part of a program to encourage students from the nearby Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy to attend the BCCC institute for two years and then transfer to the School of Medicine or School of Nursing to complete their four-year degree.

The goal is to increase the number of biotechnology specialists for Maryland's rapidly growing bioscience industry. Norris said 18 students already have been recommended to interview with Biomere LLC, a BioPark tenant, for potential employment.

"From the very beginning," said James L. Hughes, MBA, vice president of research and development at UMB, "we wanted to create as many jobs as we could for Baltimore City residents, for the full range of people, not just the PhDs."



ED FISHEL

Kathleen Kennedy Norris (right) and a Mikulski aide listen to the senator's remarks.

Researchers Receive Stimulus Grants to Address Minority, Rural Health Disparities

KAREN BUCKELEW

The School of Medicine's Office of Policy and Planning has received nearly \$5 million in federal stimulus funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to explore new strategies to address health disparities throughout the U.S.

One grant for more than \$2.4 million will create a national Bioethics Research Center funded by the NIH's National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD). The center will implement innovative strategies to address ethical issues in research and examine the implications of these issues on health disparities within Maryland and throughout the U.S. As part of that, the center will work to train physicians and researchers in bioethics. Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, the center also will work to foster public trust in clinical trials and medical research among minority and rural communities across the nation.

The formation of the Bioethics Research Center was announced at a November news conference in Southern Maryland by Claudia Baquet, MD, MPH, professor in the Department of Medicine, associate dean for the Office of Policy and Planning, and director of the School of Medicine's Center for Health Disparities.

Baquet also announced a second ARRA grant for \$2.5 million to fund a telemedicine study in rural Maryland. She was



From left: Steny Hoyer, John Ruffin, Claudia Baquet, Thomas "Mac" Middleton, and Benjamin Cardin at the November news conference.

joined at the conference by officials including John Ruffin, PhD, director of the NCMHD; U.S. Sen. Benjamin Cardin; U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer, whose district includes Southern Maryland; and state Sen. Thomas "Mac" Middleton, who represents Charles County.

"Previous studies have identified barriers to participation in clinical trials for certain groups, and there is a need to increase public trust in research among African-American, rural, and other underserved communities," said Baquet. "The lack of diversity in clinical research participation is an impediment to advancing new ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases. This issue contributes to health disparities in underserved communities. We are grateful for this NIH stimulus funding, which provides critical support for expanding the research and education we at the Office of Policy and Planning have developed over the past 12 years."

The new Bioethics Research Center, which includes a partnership with the Maryland Center at Bowie State University, will address the issue of clinical trial participation throughout the U.S., connecting the School of Medicine with key partners to reach out to primary care physicians, researchers, nurses, African-Americans,

and others from minority groups and rural communities.

The Maryland Center at Bowie State will help to create summer training programs and fellowships for historically black colleges, universities, and academic health centers across the country for the study of bioethics and clinical trial design issues. The grant also supports partnerships with media entities such as the Times Community Newspapers and the National Newspaper Publishers Association. These media partners will train journalists in how to develop coverage of clinical trial issues.

In addition to the Bioethics Research Center, a \$2.4 million stimulus grant to the Office of Policy and Planning from the NCMHD examines social determinants of health. It will fund state-of-the-art "telehealth" technologies in rural counties in Western Maryland and Southern Maryland. The "telehome care" study confronts the issue of health outcomes for chronically ill rural residents who receive home care far from their physicians' offices. This grant will allow Baquet and co-investigator Shiraz Mishra, MBBS, PhD, MA, associate professor in the School of Medicine's Department of Family and Community Medicine, to study whether home telehealth care can close rural gaps in health care.

Author Ehrenreich Urges Action From Health Care Workers



Author Barbara Ehrenreich discusses her book *Nickel and Dimed* with a fan.

RONALD HUBE

As an advocate for the poor, best-selling author Barbara Ehrenreich, who delivered the Dean's Distinguished Virginia Lee Franklin Lecture at the School of Nursing in November, encouraged health care workers to join the fight for higher wages, more affordable housing, and better access to medical care.

"I have seen many ... health care professionals—doctors, nurses, social workers, etc.—conclude that they cannot be health care professionals without being advocates for social change," Ehrenreich said.

Ehrenreich talked about what she learned in 1998 when, prompted by the welfare-reform debate, she left her home to experience the life of the working poor. Accepting jobs such as a waitress, hotel maid, housecleaner, and Wal-Mart sales clerk, Ehrenreich said she saw how difficult it is to survive with a low-wage occupation—and how physically and mentally

demanding such work is.

"I never use the word 'unskilled' anymore to describe anybody's job," she said.

Earning an average of \$7 per hour, Ehrenreich, who chronicled her experience in her book *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*, said she could not afford the monthly rent or a deposit for an apartment. She was forced to move into a residential hotel for a weekly rate that was more than she was earning, and because the room had no refrigerator or stove, she often ate at fast-food restaurants.

"It can be more expensive to live in poverty," she said. "I was not so successful at making ends meet." She added that "all this was before the current recession," which she says has had the most impact on people who were already struggling.

One way workers in low-wage jobs try to survive is to avoid health care, Ehrenreich said, and she urged people in medical fields to actively support health care reform. "People take you seriously if you are health care professionals," she said.

Ehrenreich also encouraged support of labor organizing to raise wages, and called for a "strike against paying off student loans" to address what she says is an onerous burden of debt faced by graduates of higher education. "This is crushing what should have been a whole generation of educated people in America," she said.

The Virginia Lee Franklin Lecture is an endowed lecture named after a 1954 School of Nursing alumna.

Barth Named Chair of National Social Work Academy

Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW, dean of the School of Social Work, has been chosen by fellow board members as chair for the inaugural board of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare (AASWSW).

The formation of the academy, which was announced in November, grew out of years of discussion among professional social work organizations—most notably the St. Louis Group for Excellence in Social Work, Research and Education, the Society for Social Work and Research, and the Council on Social Work Education. The new academy will focus on social work policy and promoting excellence in research, scholarship, and practice.

Barth says: "I am honored to be selected as a fellow and to have a role in the development of this national resource. The establishment of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare is a milestone for the profession and will enable us to better respond to the significant growth in demand for rigorous analysis that can guide effective human services policies, programs, and practices."

More information about the AASWSW can be found at www.AASWSW.org.

Public Safety @ UMB

Editor's Note: To help the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Force share information on safety awareness, the VOICE will feature a regular column on safety matters.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ON CAMPUS

Have you crossed a busy street on campus lately? Most likely we all have. But are you aware that crossing the street is the most dangerous move a pedestrian can make?

In an effort to enhance pedestrian safety on campus, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Police Force monitors pedestrian and vehicular traffic during peak hours at various locations around campus and offers the following safety tips.

When walking on campus:

- Be predictable. Use sidewalks where provided.
- Cross and/or enter streets legally at marked crosswalks or intersections. Pedestrians are most often hit by cars when they jaywalk.
- If sidewalks are closed due to construction, cross the street and use the sidewalk on the other side of the street.
- Use extreme caution when crossing streets with multiple lanes and where cars move at high speeds.
- Before crossing the street, always look left, right, and left again for traffic.
- At intersections where traffic is controlled by signals or a police officer, pedestrians must obey the signal—do not cross against the stop signal unless directed to do so by a police officer and then do so with caution.
- Always be alert—especially at intersections where cars may turn right on red.
- Never assume that moving traffic will slow or stop for you unless it already has. If you have any doubt that traffic won't stop, don't step out.
- At night, wear light-colored clothing and consider adding strips of reflective tape to your front and back.

Remember, by observing basic pedestrian safety principles you can take advantage of the numerous opportunities for walking around the UMB campus and downtown area. Please, stay safe.

Register for UMB Alerts

E2Campus is the new vendor for UMB Alerts—the system used by the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) Emergency Management Team to notify the UMB community about emergencies and weather-related campus closings. UMB Alerts messages will be sent out via campus phones, and campus e-mail accounts. Users also can register personal devices capable of receiving SMS text messages, such as cell phones, Blackberrys or pagers. To sign up for UMB Alerts, click on the *Alerts/Urgent info* link on the campus main page and follow the directions.

LAURELS

DENTAL SCHOOL

Students **Jessica Lee** and **Natalie Rudoni** were chosen to participate in the 2009 Paul Ambrose Scholars Program in Washington, D.C. The annual program, sponsored by the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research and the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is a three-day leadership symposium on implementing a microgrant-funded, community-based health education project.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Advice to the Young Physician: On the Art of Medicine, a book by **Richard Colgan, MD**, associate professor, was published in the fall. The book examines the transition from technician to healer.

Myron Levine, MD, DTPH, professor and director of the Center for Vaccine Development, received a four-year grant of nearly \$10.5 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for his work studying the burden of influenza among pregnant women and young infants in Mali and the potential benefits of immunization late in pregnancy.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Kathleen Buckley, PhD, RN, IBCLC, associate professor; **Janice Hoffman, PhD, RN, CCRN**, assistant professor and vice chair, Department of Organizational Systems and Adult Health; and **Robin Newhouse, PhD, RN, CNAA, NEA-BC, CNOR**, associate professor and assistant dean, Doctor of Nursing Practice program, received Dean's Teaching Scholars Awards for 2009-2010. The annual awards provide grants to faculty

researchers to fund one-year projects that evaluate teaching strategies and educational programs or help the award recipients develop publications on teaching scholarship.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Raymond Love, PharmD, professor and associate dean of curriculum, instructional design, and technology, is the recipient of the 2010 Judith J. Saklad Memorial Award from the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists. The award recognizes a senior psychiatric pharmacy practitioner for professional distinction and enthusiasm, passion for optimizing patient care, and dedication to the practice of psychiatric pharmacy.

Paul Starr, PharmD, certified poison information specialist at the Maryland Poison Center, has been named a diplomate of the

American Board of Applied Toxicology. The board is a standing committee of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Llewellyn Cornelius, PhD, MA, professor, was co-editor of "HIV/AIDS Among People of Color," a special issue of the journal *Health and Social Work*. Cornelius also co-wrote the guest editorial "Enduring Issues of HIV/AIDS for People of Color: What is the Roadmap Ahead?"

"African American Single Mothers Raising Sons: Implications for Family Therapy," an article co-authored by **Geoffrey Greif, MSW, DSW**, professor, was published in the *Journal of Family Social Work*.

Tax Reminder About Tuition Remission

Graduate level tuition remission benefits for University employees may be considered taxable income per Internal Revenue Service guidelines.

Tuition remission exceeding \$5,250 for an employee in a calendar year is taxable. All tuition remission for spouses and dependents, regardless of the amount, is taxable. A taxable tuition

remission is reflected in payroll deductions spread out over one to five pay periods. Employees are notified of the deductions one week before they begin.

For more information, call Human Resource Services at 6-2616 or visit www.hr.umaryland.edu/benefits/tuition_remission.cfm.



Log on to CITS

Offering a Wealth of Services to University

The *VOICE* welcomes CITS inaugural column on information technology services.

Social media, easy Internet access, advanced digital services—new technologies and enhanced services seem to appear daily at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB).

Social media such as Facebook and new communication and collaboration tools, for example, are becoming increasingly popular. Students, faculty, and staff can access most campus information technology (IT) services, including eLearning and communication systems, with one ID. A common high-speed wireless network grants Internet access from more campus locations. E-mail, research, financial, and student systems have been enhanced and upgraded.

For example, research and financial data are now available in a common reporting repository. Faculty lectures are digitally captured and downloaded to computers and mobile devices. Researchers have access to the Internet2 and National LambdaRail research networks, which provide the capability of sharing large data files with colleagues all over the world. Exempt employees will soon fill out time sheets online. The list goes on and on.

Considering the pace at which technology marches forward, you may wonder how UMB decides what services to offer the campus and who makes those decisions.

Peter Murray, PhD, vice president for information technology and UMB's chief information officer, says it is a process that involves the consensus of a large cross section of the UMB community. Murray chairs a campus IT Steering Committee composed of faculty, staff, and students from every school and administrative area. There are also representatives from the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and University Student Government Association.

UMB has contracted with University Consulting Group, which has helped design a process for obtaining input from IT Steering Committee members and sharing their ideas on how to improve technology services.

In January, the committee will meet to form an action plan for delivering new technologies and services. For information regarding the status of the existing plan, visit www.umaryland.edu/cits/plans/. If you would like to submit an item for the next IT plan, please e-mail CITS' Peggy Moran at pmoran@umaryland.edu.

PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT?

Consider a Planned Gift

A planned gift through the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc., can be a valuable component of your retirement planning and benefit any of the University of Maryland schools of dentistry, law, medicine, nursing, pharmacy or social work; the Health Sciences and Human Services Library; or the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry.

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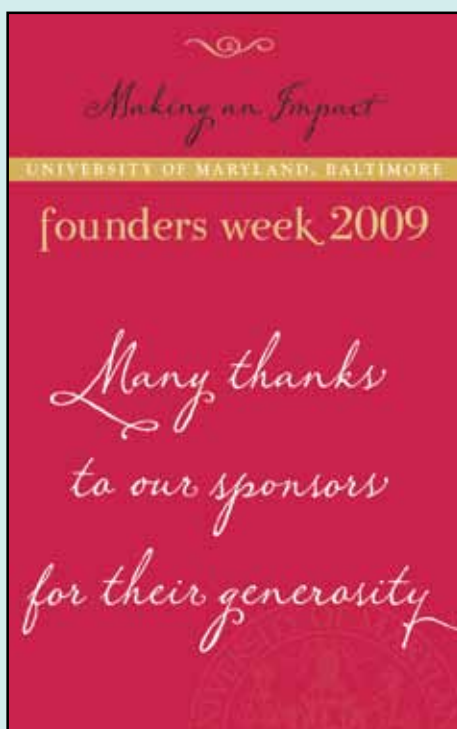
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†Up to 10x Faster" based on download speed comparison of 3G's 600 kbps vs. 4G's 6 Mbps. Typical published 3G avg. speeds (600 kbps-1.7 Mbps); 4G avg. speeds (3-6 Mbps). Actual speeds may vary.

**Monthly charges exclude taxes, Sprint Surcharges [incl. USF charge of up to 12.3% (varies quarterly), Administrative Charge (up to \$1.99/line/mo.), Regulatory Charge (\$0.20/line/mo.) & state/local fees by area]. Sprint Surcharges are not taxes or gov't-required charges and are subject to change. Details: Sprint.com/taxesandfees.

May require up to a \$36 activation fee/line, credit approval & deposit. Up to \$200 early termination fee/line applies. **Mobile Broadband Card Offer:** Offer ends 1/09/10. While supplies last. Taxes and service charges excluded. No cash back. Requires activation at the time of purchase. Mobile Broadband Card data plan required. **Mail-in Rebate:** Requires purchase by 1/09/10 & activation by 1/23/10. Line must be active 30 consecutive days. Allow 10 to 14 weeks for rebate. **Upgrade:** Existing customers in good standing with service on the same device for more than 22 consecutive months currently activated on a service plan of \$39.99 or higher may be eligible. See in-store rebate form or sprint.com/upgrade for details. **3G/4G Connection Plan:** No plan discounts apply. Offer ends 1/09/10. **3G Usage:** Includes 5GB of data usage. Add'l data usage \$0.05/MB. **3G Usage Limitation:** Sprint reserves the right to limit throughput speeds or amount of data transferred; and to deny, terminate, modify, disconnect or suspend service if usage either exceeds (1) 5GB/month in total or (2) 300 MB/month while off-network roaming. 1,024 KB equal 1 MB. 1,024 MB equal 1 GB. 3G Data Usage Limitation does not apply to 4G usage. **Free Month:** Service credit will appear on the respective invoice of the billing cycle after the 60th day. Lines must be active at 60th day to be eligible for credit. **Other Terms:** Coverage not available everywhere. The 3G Sprint Mobile Broadband Network (including roaming) reaches over 269 million people. 4G currently available in limited areas and on select devices; check sprint.com/4G for Sprint 4G coverage/device info. Offers not available in all markets/retail locations or for all phones/networks. Pricing, offer terms, fees & features may vary for existing customers not eligible for upgrade. Other restrictions apply. See store or sprint.com for details. ©2009 Sprint. Sprint and the logo are trademarks of Sprint. Other marks are the property of their respective owners.

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CAMPUS BRIEFS

Study Links Smoking to Heart Transplant Failure

A School of Medicine study provides the first direct evidence that, prior to a heart transplant, cigarette smoke exposure in the donor, recipient or both accelerates failure of the transplanted heart.

The study, published in December in the journal *Circulation*, showed that tobacco smoke leads to faster immune system rejection of the transplanted heart, heightened vascular inflammation and increased oxidative stress, and a reduction in the transplanted organ's chance of survival by 33 to 57 percent. The study, conducted in rats, involved exposure to levels of tobacco equivalent to that of a habitual, light to moderate smoker.

"This study makes clear that smoking in both the donor and the recipient should ... become a part of the risk calculus in organ donation," says Ashwani Khanna, PhD, the study's principal investigator and an associate professor of medicine at the School.

The research work was supported by

a grant from the University of Maryland Statewide Health Network and a tobacco-related diseases research grant through the Maryland Cigarette Restitution Fund Program.

Advocacy Events, Courier Planned for Legislative Session

The following is this year's schedule of annual legislative advocacy events for each school at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. The events provide students, faculty, staff, and alumni a chance to meet with members of the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis during the legislators' yearly 90-day lawmaking session.

Jan. 21: School of Medicine

Jan. 27: School of Law

Feb. 10: Dental School

(Maryland State Dental Association)

Feb. 18: School of Pharmacy

(Maryland Pharmacy Coalition)

Feb. 24: School of Nursing

March 3: School of Social Work

For more information, call the University's Office of Government and Community Affairs in Annapolis at 410-269-5087.

A one-way courier service from the Office of Government and Community Affairs in Annapolis to the Baltimore campus is operating during the General Assembly session. For more information, call 410-269-5087.

Photo Contest Deadline Is Feb. 22

Entries in the annual Say "Cheese" photo contest are due by 5 p.m. Feb. 22. The sixth annual campuswide contest has two divisions—one for students, the other for faculty and staff—and three categories: people, places, and nature. Up to two photos can be submitted in each category.

The contest is sponsored by the University Student Government Association, Student Services, and University Recreation & Fitness. For rules and other information, visit Student Services in suite 302, Southern Management Corporation Campus Center, or call 6-7117.

School of Pharmacy Hopes to Close Clinical Gap for Elderly Blood Disorder

STEVE BERBERICH

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded researchers from the School of Pharmacy a \$777,000 grant to study treatments for blood disorders that affect more than 10,000 elderly patients each year.

The challenge grant targets a widely accepted practice by clinicians of controlling anemia of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), sometimes called pre-leukemias, with erythropoietin, a hormone controlling red blood cell production.

Drugs called erythropoietin stimulating agents, or ESAs, are effective in treating anemia in MDS patients. However, little is known about the drugs' longer-term health effects. Myelodysplastic syndromes are the most common hematologic malignancy in the elderly.

"In this study, we will use data from regional cancer registries that are linked to Medicare enrollment and insurance claims data," says Amy Davidoff, PhD, research associate professor at the School. "We will examine the characteristics of Medicare beneficiaries with MDS, patterns of treatment, safety and effectiveness of ESA use, and costs of care."

Doctors have treated MDS patients with ESAs to control anemia for about



Amy Davidoff

15 years. This treatment has had a 20 to 40 percent response rate and median response duration of two years. However, there is a serious lack of large-scale clinical trial evidence supporting longer-term clinical benefits, according to Davidoff and co-grantees, Sheila Weiss Smith, PhD, professor at the School of Pharmacy; Maria Baer, MD, professor and director of the Hematologic Malignancies Program at the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center; and Steven Gore, MD, professor at Johns Hopkins University's Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center.

In 2007, the Food and Drug Administration administered a warning concerning the use of ESAs in patients with cancer-related anemia due to apparent increase in thromboembolic events, as well as a possible decrease in relapse-free survival. The absence of large-scale randomized trials in MDS precludes definitive conclusions regarding the safety and efficacy of these agents in this population.

The grant is one of only 840 such NIH grants awarded across the country from more than 20,000 applications.

ORD Expansion Brings Campus Corporate Interactions Under One Roof

The Office of Research and Development (ORD) and the School of Medicine have combined resources to put all aspects of campus corporate and industrial interactions under one roof. The move of personnel and resources from the School of Medicine's Center for Clinical Trials to ORD's Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property Group (CVIP) will better serve the clinical research interests of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). The result is a 26-person team within ORD tailored for the development and commercialization of biomedical technologies.

Mike Rollor, PhD, MBA, assistant vice president for CVIP, believes the combination of resources was the next logical step toward establishing a true "business center" for UMB's corporate relationships. According to Rollor, "The School of Medicine spent considerable time, effort, and resources developing its Center for Clinical Trials. At the same time, ORD grew its licensing, intellectual property, and corporate contacts groups to meet UMB's increasing demands for industry collaborations. As the lines between the separate groups grew less distinct and the overlaps grew in number and breadth, it became apparent that a single group could better represent UMB's interests."

The new CVIP is charged with managing all aspects of corporate collaborations such as clinical trial research contracts, clinical trial budget analysis and compliance, material transfer agreements, intellectual property development and protection, nonclinical corporate-sponsored research contracts, technology licensing, and strategic investments/startups.

"This impressive collection of PhD, JD, MBA, and RN degree holders brings a depth of knowledge in the life sciences

CAMPUS EVENTS CORNER

The Office of University Events is pleased to announce the 2010 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday and Black History Month Commemoration, planned for Wednesday, Feb. 3. The keynote speech, by Pulitzer Prize finalist and former *Sun* reporter C. Fraser Smith, now senior news analyst for WYPR Radio, will be followed by the presentation of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Recognition Awards. For more information, contact University Events at events@umaryland.edu or 6-8035.

Get Your Tickets!

University Events has partnered with the Hippodrome Theatre to offer discounted tickets to the University of Maryland, Baltimore community. The ticket ordering system has been revamped and is easier than ever to use. Individuals can view seat locations before placing an order and print their own tickets at the end of their transaction. Tickets are available for a limited time only so order early!

The 2010 lineup includes:

- *Young Frankenstein*, Jan. 12–24: order tickets by Jan. 8!
- *In the Heights*, Feb. 23–March 7
- *STOMP*, March 16–28
- *Phantom of the Opera*, April 8–May 9
- *The 39 Steps*, June 1–13

For more purchasing information, contact University Events at 6-8035 or events@umaryland.edu.

and private industry that is critical to optimize technology commercialization," says James L. Hughes, MBA, vice president for research and development. "Centralizing these activities improves our efficiency and effectiveness, allowing us to better serve both our faculty and industry. Additionally, it will facilitate the cross-selling of multiple services to companies."

ORD also leverages its in-house skill set with external advisory boards. The Scientific Review Committee consists of a small subset of UMB's scientific leaders that advise on the scientific and technical merit of recently disclosed intellectual property assets. Their input informs decisions to support protection and/or commercialization. ORD's Commercial Advisory Board, composed of private sector life science industry leaders, further refines ORD's commercialization strategies and broadens marketing efforts for select technologies.

"We are ever mindful that the ultimate goal is to commercialize discoveries that fill unmet needs in patient care," says Hughes.

One recent example is the partnership with PATH, an international health organization, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop a shigellosis vaccine invented by Myron Levine, MD, DTPH, director of the School of Medicine's Center for Vaccine Development. This vaccine could save the lives of 1 million children per year in developing countries as well as prevent traveler's diarrhea. Levine was selected as UMB's 2009 Entrepreneur of the Year.

ORD also maintains the important grants management function for the University and leads the development of the University of Maryland BioPark that is both a source and beneficiary of UMB's corporate collaborations and interactions.



Yes, you read that right. An online version of the *VOICE*, the University of Maryland, Baltimore's campus newsletter, the paper in your hands, is coming soon. The Office of External Affairs, which publishes the *VOICE*, is re-creating the publication for the Web and we want your suggestions, your questions, and your brilliant ideas. Visit our online blog at <http://umbvoice.wordpress.com> and let us know what you'd like to see in the *VOICE*'s new incarnation. All thoughts are welcome—so get your reader's hat on and start thinking!

CALENDAR

Jan. 13 and March 10: School of Pharmacy Alumni Association meetings. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Pharmacy Hall, room 714. RSVP to Peggy Funk at mfunk@rx.umaryland.edu.

Jan. 21: School of Medicine Advocacy Day.

Jan. 27: School of Law Advocacy Day.

Feb. 4: Meeting of the School of Pharmacy's Board of Visitors. 8:30 a.m., Health Sciences Facility II, room 600.

Feb. 10: Maryland State Dental Association Advocacy Day.

Feb. 18: Maryland Pharmacy Coalition Advocacy Day.

Feb. 24: School of Nursing Advocacy Day.

March 3: School of Social Work Advocacy Day.

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GREEN CORNER

Did You Know?

- The University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents has approved the award of four renewable energy projects that will produce more than 20 percent of the annual electric needs for USM institutions and state agencies. The contracts also will advance the state's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint by 25 percent by 2020.
- There is a University Sustainability Steering Committee that meets on the first Wednesday of every month. Students are encouraged to become involved. Please contact Robert Rowan at 6-5277 to find out more.
- UMB is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), which provides resources, professional development, and a network of support to enable institutions of higher education to model and advance sustainability in governance, operations, education, and research. For more information, visit www.aashe.org.
- The Charm City Circulator will begin serving the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) campus and downtown area on Jan. 11. For more information, visit www.parking.umaryland.edu/ccf or www.charmcitycirculator.com.
- There's a carpool program on campus. For more information or to sign up, visit www.parking.umaryland.edu/rideshare.
- Coming in February—Connect by Hertz! Environmentally friendly vehicles for rent at low hourly or daily rates.
- UMB recycles! Please look for blue recycling containers across campus. Recycle **any** and **all** paper, plastic, aluminum, and glass.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



From left: John Geiman, David Ramsay, Jessica Wilkinson, and Cleveland Barnes.

WRITTEN BY RONALD HUBE

DECEMBER JESSICA WILKINSON

Whenever Cleveland Barnes Jr., MS, visited the Division of Budget and Finance office as the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) police chief, he was impressed with the professionalism and warmth of Administrative Assistant Jessica Wilkinson—so much so that he nominated her for an Employee of the Month Award. On Dec. 1, David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, University president, surprised Wilkinson with the honor.

"Oh my gosh, thank you," she said, almost in tears. "I'm so surprised."

Barnes, who retired on Dec. 31 (see article on page two), told Wilkinson the award was well-deserved. In nominating her for the recognition, Barnes wrote that her "never-too-busy-to-assist attitude coupled with her warming temperament and dispo-

sition clearly exhibit the characteristics of an individual who understands the importance of customer service."

"Any individual ... who encounters Jessica," Barnes continued, "will surely agree that her daily behavior in the workplace exemplifies what we should all be to one another as part of the UMB team—helpful as well as amiable."

"Although you're a relatively new employee," Ramsay said to Wilkinson, who was hired in May 2008, "you've become indispensable." John Geiman, MPA, Wilkinson's supervisor and associate vice president for budget and finance, joined in congratulating her.

"I am honored to have been chosen as Employee of the Month, and even more so in knowing that Chief Barnes, whom I genuinely admire, was responsible for the nomination," Wilkinson said. "Receiving this award has truly made this the best day of my career."

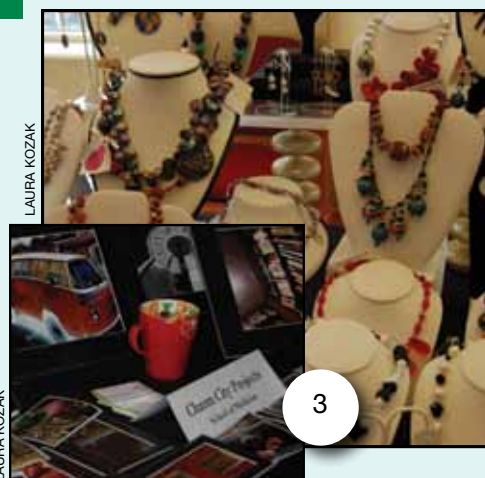
AROUND CAMPUS



ED FISHEL



PATRICIA FANNING



LAURA KOZAK

LAURA KOZAK

Mark Your Calendars

for Commencement 2010!

UMB's convocation and commencement ceremonies are scheduled for Friday, May 21, 2010.

For more information, please visit www.umaryland.edu/commencement.

1. More than 100 students, faculty, staff, and friends of six University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) schools participated in the 20th annual "Project Feast" held at Booker T. Washington Middle School in November. Several hundred people were served at the Thanksgiving event, which provides clothing and nonperishable foods in addition to a Thanksgiving meal to homeless and disadvantaged persons in West Baltimore. Project Feast is sponsored by UMB, the University Student Government Association, the Medical Alumni Association, and the School of Medicine Student Council.

2. From left to right: Sara Montag, School of Social Work (SSW) student; Pamela Parnell, SSW student; Judith Kuzmak, SSW student; Hannah Brancato, House of Ruth; Jaime Kauffman, Art With a Heart; Sonali Nijhawan, SSW student; and Sarah Schweizer, SSW student, are shown at one of two holiday craft sales for artisans in need that were held by SCOPE, a SSW students' organization.

3. In December, holiday shoppers came out in droves for UMB's Handmade and Homemade Holiday Craft Fair. **For more details, see the February VOICE.**

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