



UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE
MAGAZINE • FALL 2020

IN THIS MOMENT

2020 Reflections on What is
Inspiring Us and What is Missing

*I do feel enlivened during
these times, because you can't
sit silent and be asleep.*

LADY BRION

A QUIET PLACE

The buildings with their striking architectural elements. The bench where you sit to read and sip coffee between classes. Beautiful flowers in season, stunning stained glass, a quirky gargoyle. Or a little gem you may never have noticed before, like the plaque depicting an angel on the side of a familiar statue of Edgar Allan Poe.

Our campus is quiet now. The favorite spots we walk by in a more typical season of hustle and bustle are waiting for our return. While students, staff and others in our community are temporarily conducting classes and university business remotely, we're sharing photos of some distinctive outdoor features of UB that we miss. How many of these photos can you identify? A list of their locations appears on page 33.





We also remain connected through the shared values our students, faculty and alumni embody as they work for a brighter future and reach out to help those who are most affected by the pandemic.

In this issue we showcase many good things that are happening at UB and highlight aspects of this extraordinary time. In one article, we discuss how our faculty and students are transitioning to all online classes. I am happy to be a part of In This Moment, which features nine members of our community sharing how they are doing and what they are thinking about during this interesting year. We also cover how our alumni contribute to organizations providing food to those who need it.

I am especially glad to shine a spotlight on the excellent work of our Student Government Association. Their newly-created Philadelphia Pride Flag street mural, shown on page 37, is only the first step in a project to be called Inclusion Alley. It's a campus space that celebrates equality and solidarity. Raising awareness and taking an activist stance on some of the most important issues of our time is a large part of what we are about, and efforts like the SGA's show us the way forward in uncertain times.

The changes that surround us are ongoing. But what will never change is the resilience of our university community and the creativity we bring to the issues we are facing. We will continue to support and be there for each other. And with each small step, we contribute to a larger vision that reflects who we are and what we want our world to be.

Sincerely,

Kurt L. Schmoke

Kurt L. Schmoke
President, University of Baltimore

This has been a year like no other. When our semester began in January, who would have imagined the shifts we're experiencing in our country's health and economic situations, in the ways our society is functioning and in the advancement of vital issues around social justice. The events we've seen have been challenging, and also fascinating and inspiring.

Since our community went virtual in March, we have been sustaining our ties online.



Above: Matthew Michael, J.D. '20, photographed by Chris Myers on UB's campus.

Cover: Lady Brion, M.F.A. '18, activist and spoken word poet, photographed by Chris Myers.

Right: Illustration by Richard Mia.

Previous spread: Photos of UB's campus by Chris Myers, and courtesy of UB archives.

 DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

The gift icon highlights UB programs that are possible thanks to the generosity of UB's alumni, friends and community partners.



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In This Moment

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“My job has always been to plan for the future. But in this environment, it’s about resilience and finding ways to get through this.”

PAUL SAVAL

Second Responders

BY PAULA NOVASH

Many more people are struggling with food insecurity during the simultaneous health and economic crises associated with the pandemic. According to recently released studies by the United States Department of Agriculture and Northwestern University, the number of families experiencing hunger in the nation has almost doubled in the last year. Among families in Maryland, 1 in 3 households with children report that they do not have enough to eat.

Fortunately many organizations and individuals are stepping up to help, including members of the UB community. **Jim Crimmins, B.S. ’13**, is the day shift receiving lead at the Maryland Food Bank. The Food Bank distributed 31.4M pounds of food from March to August, an increase of 97 percent from the same time period in 2019.

Crimmins’ responsibilities include taking in donated food from community partners and making sure that drivers have products ready to deliver to partner sites such as churches, soup kitchens and schools. He says an initial challenge of the COVID-19 shutdown was the disruption in the ways food was distributed.

“Typically we do a lot of deliveries to school systems for things like after-school programs,” Crimmins explains. “Kids still need food, and we had to figure out ways to get it to them.” From March to August, the Food Bank provided 372,071 grab and go meals to children.



Jim Crimmins

“Typically we do a lot of deliveries to school systems for things like after-school programs. Kids still need food, and we had to figure out ways to get it to them.”

JIM CRIMMINS

An ongoing challenge, he adds, is not being able to plan strategically. “We are constantly re-evaluating, managing need and providing for where there are shortfalls in different areas of the state,” he says.

Crimmins says that it’s inspiring to see the dedication of the Food Bank’s volunteers who help with sorting and packing food, among other tasks. “We depend on them and they are very dedicated—even in the beginning most of them were here on their regular days,” he says. “They make it possible for us to get food to the people who need it.”

Saval Foodservice, a fourth-generation food distributor that serves the mid-Atlantic region, is helping people in a variety of ways.



Paul Saval

President and CEO **Paul Saval, J.D. ’80**, whose grandfather founded the company 88 years ago, says that Saval’s customer base includes more than 1400 independent, largely family-owned restaurants—an industry particularly hard hit by the pandemic. In the first months of shutdowns the company provided food to restaurant and food service workers who had been laid off or furloughed.

Now the organization has transitioned to working with nonprofits, providing food products for those in need and also lending Saval drivers and trucks to make deliveries for programs such as Meals on Wheels. “It’s worked well, because the nonprofits have the systems in place to feed people, and we have food products and the logistics to get the food distributed efficiently,” says Saval.

“My job has always been to plan for the future,” he continues. “But in this environment, it’s about resilience and finding ways to get through this.”

Edith Waithira, M.A. ’19, who works as a project coordinator for the Maryland Stadium Authority, interned at Baltimore’s Mera Kitchen Collective during her UB master’s program in 2019. Mera is a food-based cooperative made up of women chefs from around the world. The organization empowers women by creating a multicultural community and helping them attain economic independence. Mera’s team has served more than 72,000 meals in the city since March.

Waithira says she is inspired by the organization’s values. “From the first, you are part of the family,” she says. “It’s natural that they would want to alleviate suffering by feeding those in need.”

While interning at Mera Kitchen, Waithira’s responsibilities included preparing food for catering events, and also for the farmers market run by the collective. In addition, she helped with event planning and execution and provided transportation for team members.

“Sharing the foods that are important to us is a way to begin conversation, and a foundation to connect on deeper issues,” Waithira says. She adds that her family emigrated to Baltimore from Kenya when she was in middle school, and says of her own mother, “I imagine that she wished she had had a place like this one.”

Organizations like these will continue to adapt to support those who need them. Crimmins says the Food Bank is continually pivoting as different counties



Edith Waithira

“Sharing the foods that are important to us is a way to begin conversation, and a foundation to connect on deeper issues.”

EDITH WAITHIRA

change the way businesses and schools are operating. “Work is really intense right now, and we’re not sure what’s going to happen,” he says. “All we know is that things are constantly changing.”

Adds Saval, “This is a fascinating time with a lot of uncertainty. I remind myself, ‘patience and persistence,’ and to look for opportunities to overcome the challenging obstacles that confront us.”

Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES

Three defining UB institutions are celebrating important milestones this year.

The College of Public Affairs 10 YEARS

UB’s College of Public Affairs (CPA) is the only college in the state of Maryland completely dedicated to public service. The CPA excels in areas that include healthcare, criminal justice, human services, and public policy and international affairs. Our six undergraduate, nine graduate and five certificate programs exist alongside the William Donald Schaefer Center for Public Policy and the Center for Drug Policy and Prevention, giving our graduates broad-based knowledge as they help create a stronger public and nonprofit service sector.

CPA has been recognized numerous times by *U.S. News and World Report* as among the best public affairs schools in the nation, a significant honor and testament to our faculty, students and programs. Our CPA graduates are employed in federal, state and local agencies and nonprofits, where they are working to improve lives and communities in Baltimore and beyond.

The Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance 20 YEARS

UB’s Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance-Jacob France Institute (BNIA-JFI) provides accurate data and objective research to a wide range of groups, organizations and agencies to promote positive policy change. BNIA’s Vital Signs annual report “takes the pulse” of Baltimore’s neighborhoods, compiling data from 150 indicators related to demographics, crime, workforce, health, housing, education and sustainability. This data is open-sourced and accessible to community members and leaders for projects and research.

Celebratory events included July’s #BaltimoreData Week, an expanded virtual version of BNIA-JFI’s annual Baltimore Data Day. Data Day provides interactive workshops highlighting the latest trends in community-based data, technology and tools.

UB Law’s Clinical Law Program 30 YEARS

The University of Baltimore Law School’s Clinical Law program is currently ranked 14th in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. Our clinical tradition has always focused on client representation and advocacy for systemic change. A dozen different clinics represent, on average, 200 low-income clients every year, including adults, children, neighborhood associations and other nonprofit organizations. In addition, students participate in externships in a wide range of governmental, public-interest and private-sector placements.

The clinical program’s facility is run as a law office with a teaching and a public-service mission, and many of the program’s faculty are tenured academics as well as law practitioners. We are especially proud of the achievements of our student-attorneys, and of our alumni and former teaching fellows who carry our mission with them to law firms, legal services organizations, government agencies and law schools across the country.

BRAGS

UB LAW IS RANKED

#16

OF THE TOP 21 BEST SCHOOLS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

UB’s School of Law was recognized by *preLaw Magazine*, a publication for college students who plan to attend law school, as among the best for diversity.

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE MAGAZINE

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“Learning to take a position and support it forces us to think long and hard about an issue, and allows us to practice civility and consensus-building.”

FRED GUY

“We appreciate the ways Vanns invested in our students, and happily the outcome proved to be a win-win.”

WILLIAM CARTER

Civil Discourse

BY PAULA NOVASH

In a time when public discourse can be contentious and divisive, UB’s Hoffberger Center for Professional Ethics is a shining monument to vibrant discussion that moves our society forward. Since 1987, the Center has created a wide range of programs and activities that encourage us to think responsibly about the dilemmas and choices we face as professionals and global citizens.

Fred Guy, who retired in June after more than 25 years as executive director of the Center, says honest interactions that represent diverse views are crucial to our society.

“We should be promoting free, vibrant disagreement—that’s how we learn to think, and how we grow,” says Guy, who is an associate professor in the College of Arts and Sciences’ Division of Legal, Ethical and Historical Studies. “Reasonable and thoughtful people can have different opinions about issues, and both opinions can be valid.”

The Center provides a wide range of resources and activities, including seminars, teaching models and research sponsorships for faculty, student internships and public programs. Topics span professions and disciplines, from business and the law to art, digital media and literature. Other Center activities include sponsoring UB’s Philosophy Club, as well as themed Ethics Weeks in the spring and fall semesters.

“We try to reach a broad audience, using concrete examples to promote reflection,” says Guy. “When the one facing a dilemma is a fictional protagonist in a book such as Camus’ *The Stranger*, or a board member in a business case, it gives

people a context. Then questions such as when do the ends justify the means? or what would happen if everyone behaved this way? become something we can relate to as we formulate our ideas.”

The Center was co-founded by then-Provost of UB Catherine Gira and Baltimore businessman and philanthropist LeRoy Hoffberger. Grants from the Hoffberger Foundation (now Hoffberger Family Philanthropies) were employed to establish ethical studies across curriculum and disciplines.

In addition to many UB partnerships within the university and its alumni network, the Center also involves those in the broader community, says Guy. “It’s been invaluable to collaborate with other schools, and with Baltimore’s business and professional communities, to learn about the issues and challenges that arise for them,” he explains.

Monthly seminars, which are open to the public, feature speakers from UB and other universities as well as leaders from business, government, law, health care and nonprofits, among other arenas. Robust discussion is encouraged, as are opportunities to practice listening skills.

“We found that students are reluctant to talk openly about their views on racial issues and other controversial topics, so we started a program called, ‘Just Listen,’” Guy says. “This allowed students to share with others what their everyday lives are like given the race, ethnicity, religion or gender they are. Arguments were not allowed, only listening and comments. It was one



UB’s 2020 Ethics Bowl team

ETHICS BOWL WINNERS

In February the UB Ethics Bowl team made it to the quarterfinals at the 2020 Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl National Competition held in Atlanta, Georgia. Team captain Daniel Gellasch, along with Jayla-Rae Foster, B.A. ’19, Hugh Norko and J.C. Loyd, finished in the top eight of 36 teams, and were ranked number one overall in terms of most points and most wins. With this record, UB outranked participating teams that included Stanford University, Tufts University and the U.S. Naval Academy.

of the more effective programs we created and at a time when it was most needed.”

The Ethics Bowl is a signature activity of the Center. In these contests, four-person teams are given cases covering a broad range of issues. The teams develop a position and argument, and then compete in head-to-head rounds

against teams from other schools. Each team has multiple opportunities to respond to competitors’ presentations, and the sudden-death rounds are arbitrated by qualified judges. Over the years the Center has hosted and sponsored ethics bowls at the university, community college and high school levels.

Ethics bowls help participants understand and appreciate opposing points of view, says Guy. “Learning to take a position and support it forces us to think long and hard about an issue, and allows us to practice civility and consensus-building. The students develop critical thinking skills and confidence—the activity benefits them tremendously.”

Guy, who now teaches one course a semester as an emeritus professor, calls being director of the Hoffberger Center “the highlight of my career. A lot of people can be lazy thinkers, substituting empty phrases for deep, well-considered opinions,” he continues. “UB has, and will continue to have, the ideal atmosphere for the type of discussion the Center facilitates.”

Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.

DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

A Seasoned Approach

BY PAULA NOVASH

When navigating change, businesses often seek advice and input. Vanns Spices recently expanded and moved to a larger production facility, and the company reached out to UB’s Merrick School of Business. Vanns, founded in Baltimore in 1981, is a co-packer of premium spices, seasoning blends and flavorings that are distributed to restaurants, specialty stores and packaged food producers.

“The company’s leadership realized they needed some objective analysis about their business to extend and complement their existing strategy,” says Merrick School assistant professor William Carter. Carter guides his MBA students through their integrative capstone course in strategic management, helping them to analyze and make recommendations about organizational performance through case studies such as the Vanns project.

“Our students needed to understand the company’s situation and the factors involved in growth,” he continues. “Compiling and analyzing that data and using it to make recommendations is an excellent fit for a strategic management capstone.”

Carter conceived a competition in which three teams of students would develop presentations for Vanns. Initially Nick Ciotti, the

company’s president, met with the class for a question and answer session. He also shared information about Vanns’ history, product list, financials and industry.

Participant Paul (PJ) Sawchuk, MBA ’20, was impressed with how transparent Vanns was willing to be. “The information Nick shared was typical of what you would usually have in a business case study,” he says. “But this felt more organic, because we had to develop the background and challenges by working hands-on with their organization. You could appreciate that these are real people with real-world issues.”

The class toured Vanns manufacturing facility in March. Sawchuk, who works as an IT consultant, says that the physical site visit added additional value. “Having the opportunity to ask questions while on site brought a reality to the experience and made the company’s story even more compelling,” he says.

When Merrick School classes went virtual due to COVID-19, the students shifted their team collaborations online. “People adjusted well—it made us operate efficiently,” says Sawchuk. The teams participated in practice sessions with Carter before the actual competition, conducted in May via Zoom. Judges included Carter, Merrick school professors Frank van Vliet, MBA ’08, and Ven Sriram, as well as Ciotti and two executives from Vanns. Vanns also provided cash awards to the top two teams.



IMAGE COURTESY OF VANN'S SPICES

Sawchuk, a member of the winning team, says the project was a valuable part of his MBA studies. “Working with a company gives you a practical application of your coursework,” he explains. “I would urge the capstone class to continue with this type of project.”

The collaboration was a positive for Vanns too, says Ciotti. “Working with the MBA capstone strategy class was not only a good introspective exercise, but also yielded actionable results to

improve and focus the company’s strategic growth plan,” he says. “We have already undertaken steps to implement a number of strategic elements from the winning student groups.”

“We appreciate the ways Vanns invested in our students, and happily the outcome proved to be a win-win,” says Carter.

Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.

DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

SUPPORT UB STUDENTS WITH AMAZON SMILE

There’s a simple way to benefit UB students when you shop through Amazon.com. Visit smile.amazon.com and select “University of Baltimore Foundation” from the list of eligible charities. When you shop through the smile.amazon.com portal, a portion of the sale of items designated as “Eligible for Amazon Smile donation” will be sent to the University of Baltimore Foundation at no cost to you.

Your Amazon Smile donations are combined with our Annual Fund to provide direct financial support to UB students. It’s another great way to boost the power of your purchases and contribute to a variety of programs that help students to a brighter future.

“A world with menstrual justice is one that includes education about menstruation and normalizing menstruation.”

MARGARET JOHNSON

Destigmatizing a Natural Process

BY CHRISTIANNA MCCAUSLAND

Margaret Johnson was shocked to realize that women in Maryland prisons did not have free access to menstrual products. She saw this as a social justice issue, one she learned about through Reproductive Justice Inside Coalition (RJIC), an organization where one of Johnson’s law students was an intern working on reproductive health policy.

“The prison came to RJIC and asked if we could do a menstrual product drive for inmates,” says Johnson, a professor of law at UB and co-director of UB’s Center on Applied Feminism. “That opened my eyes to this issue of access and to areas where menstrual injustice was happening.”

Without access to menstrual products, inmates would deal with the indignity of bleeding through their clothing. In addition, guards and prisoners who could afford to purchase products from the commissary could use them as currency for coercion. Johnson calls these unfair practices “ridiculous. Society takes people who menstruate and targets them as ‘other,’ as people to be controlled and oppressed in ways they would not for other people.”

This lack of justice in the prison system was shockingly obvious, but other examples Johnson cites are more insidious. Take, for example, the case of a 911 operator experiencing heavy, irregular bleeding due

to perimenopause. Unable to leave her post, she bled onto her chair and was fired. And according to a lawsuit filed in 2019 by 19 states on behalf of migrant detainees at the U.S. border, access to menstrual products at Homeland Security-run facilities is often extremely limited or nonexistent.

Most recently, Johnson’s efforts involve working to end discrimination at state bar exams. In many states, menstruators (Johnson uses the gender-neutral term to include transgender and non-binary people) are not allowed to bring products to the days-long exam. One justification is that someone might try to cheat by writing answers on a menstrual product.

“They permit people to bring in laptops and people wear clothes. It’s possible someone stuffed the Rule Against Perpetuities into their underwear, too, but the bar doesn’t tell people they have to come naked to the exam,” Johnson says.

Johnson explains that taboos against menstruation go back millennia. From ancient philosophers to early religious texts, many cultures are rife with myths that menstruators are dangerous or bring bad luck. Even today, she says sex education can provide woefully inadequate information about menstruation. Rather than seeing menstruation as something natural that happens to a huge portion of the population every month, society has built structures of secrecy and created an environment ripe for bullying, harassment and discrimination.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARGARET JOHNSON

“A world with menstrual justice is one that includes education about menstruation and normalizing menstruation,” says Johnson.

In 2018, UB’s Bronfein Family Law Clinic, in collaboration with RJIC, helped pass a law mandating that prisons provide inmates with free menstrual products. Johnson was also part of a coalition to get free products in Maryland public schools. While that bill is currently tabled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Johnson’s law students did score another big win: after petitioning the dean, UB’s law school now provides free products in all women’s and gender-neutral bathrooms.

Last year Johnson traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, as one of two U.S. representatives to a United

Johnson speaking in Washington, D.C., at the 2019 National Period Day Rally.

Nations-hosted advisory group evaluating the effectiveness of policies on menstrual health and hygiene worldwide. Here in the United States, Johnson would like to see access to free menstrual products improved until they are as available in restrooms as hand soap. “Menstruation has been hidden for so long,” she says. “And it has not been built into our public policy and legal structures for what we think of as a fair and equitable society.”

Christianna McCausland is a writer based in Baltimore.

Next Generation of Ingenuity

BY TIM PAGGI, M.F.A. ’15

Michael Vandi, B.S. ’20, describes himself as a problem solver. And while a quick look at the applied information technology major’s resume confirms this, he also recalls an example from his childhood. “I grew up in Sierra Leone and we didn’t always have electricity,” he explains. “We used LED lamps that broke a lot.” From the time he was six years old, Vandi says, “I would open them up, look at the motherboards inside, and try to fix them.”

His focus shifted from hardware to software during high school, and after two years at the Limkokwing University of Creative Technology in Sierra Leone, he transferred to UB where his cousin, Bpaaki Vandi, M.S. ’19, also studied. “There is a real value at UB,” observes Vandi. “When I check my email, there’s always opportunities to get involved or to join new groups.”

Last year, one of those opportunities was joining a tight-knit group of students called the “Astrobes,” who, with mentor professor Giovanni Vincenti, participated in NASA’s annual Spacesuit User Interface Technologies for Students (SUITS) Challenge. Like their UB predecessors, the 2019 “Poegrammers” team, the Astrobes were challenged to design and create spacesuit information displays within an augmented reality environment.

Vandi, the team’s front end software developer, explains how the Astrobes’ software works with a glasses-like headset. “Words and images are projected onto what you’re seeing,” he says. “It shows the oxygen level in the top left corner, and in the middle there’s a map. When it is too dark, it goes into light mode, or dark mode if too light.” A challenge for Vandi was to display information without obscuring the user’s view. The Astrobes’ SUITS entry joins a repository of innovative technologies for NASA’s Artemis mission, which aims to put the first women and the next men on the lunar south pole of the moon by 2024.

“I joined the team because I wanted to show that contact tracing and protecting privacy can be done simultaneously.”

MICHAEL VANDI

Although the team had to present their project to NASA remotely due to the pandemic, the restrictions of COVID-19 have not slowed Vandi down. He recently helped to develop an app to track coronavirus cases by zip code without exploiting user data. Called the COVID-19



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL VANDI

Information and Tracker (CIAT) App, the project, created by four UB students, was awarded one of six innovation prizes by the University System of Maryland.

“When I heard current contact tracing apps developed by huge tech companies sacrifice users’ privacy by tracking their locations, I knew there had to be a better way,” says Vandi. “I joined the team because I wanted to show that contact tracing and protecting privacy can be done simultaneously.”

Vandi looks forward to publishing a report from an academic trip back to Sierra Leone, where he researched challenges to implementing e-learning there. Ideally, he says, his future path will lead him back to his home country.

“Maybe I will be able to return to Sierra Leone, if everything works out,” he says. Wherever Vandi lands, though, he’ll be addressing bigger problems than the broken lamps of his childhood, and finding ways to make the world work better.

Tim Paggi, M.F.A. ’15, is a Baltimore-based writer.

UB STUDENT TEAM HELPING TO COMBAT PANDEMIC

Four students from UB’s Science, Information Arts and Technologies and Simulation and Game Design programs are winners in the University System of Maryland’s (USM) COVID App Challenge competition, led by the USM COVID Research & Innovation Task Force. Olubukola Akanbi, Charles Chase, Stephanie Parey and Michael Vandi, B.S. ’20, collectively known as Team Breeze, collaborated remotely to develop the COVID-19 Information and Tracker (CIAT) application. The app employs Bluetooth technology to track and update users’ locations in order to limit the spread of the virus.

ABOVE: Michael Vandi at an event in Sierra Leone.

GEORGE HERMINA

- J.D., University of Baltimore
- Partner, Hermina Law Group
- Serves on UB's President's Council and the School of Law's Dean's Development Circle
- Volunteer mediator and adjunct college professor

A Case for Gratitude

GEORGE HERMINA, J.D. '90

BY CHRISTIANNA McCausland

As an undergraduate in the early 1980s, **George Hermina, J.D. '90**, studied the nascent field of computer science. Finding programming too solitary he obtained an MBA. Eventually his brother John, already an attorney, convinced him to become a lawyer.

"I've always liked to learn," Hermina says. "If I'd had someone to cover my expenses I would have been in school my entire life."

What Hermina's resume does not tell is the story of how inextricably bonded the Hermina brothers are by more than their law firm. They grew up in Egypt, where their father was an attorney, and moved to the United States together when they were young men. "John and I have depended on each other for a long time," Hermina recalls. "That closeness has made us work well together."

After working at a series of jobs to fund his MBA studies, Hermina became a financial analyst at the Maryland Public Service Commission. His brother went directly into law, eventually opening his own firm. Hermina jokes that his brother was "a great attorney but a lousy business manager," so George agreed to join the firm and

handle most of its administration. It was John who pushed Hermina to apply to the University of Baltimore School of Law.

"My experience at UB was fantastic," Hermina states. "The professors were so caring, so kind, so knowledgeable. My own brother John supports UB over his own alma mater. Even after graduation, when we ran into questions, we'd call a UB professor."

The Hermina Law Group's work naturally bent in an international direction given the brothers' ability to speak Arabic and understand cultural context. Their breakthrough case was helping Egyptian authorities get compensation for port cranes damaged by an American vessel.

Today the practice is split between consumer protection class action litigation and work for foreign missions and embassies. The foreign mission work deals with issues related to immunity as well as helping embassies manage myriad administrative woes, like employee disputes. Hermina also assists students from overseas who find themselves on the wrong side of the law. It's work that's changed recently.

"Our work has been limited both by the pandemic and by the current administration," Hermina explains. "There are fewer students coming to the United States. With COVID-19, there's not a lot of

trade going on and embassies are closed." He adds that many civil cases have been sidelined while pandemic-embattled courts focus on other priorities.

Hermina has plenty to keep him busy. He's a volunteer mediator, an adjunct professor at Thomas Jefferson and Stevenson universities, and serves on both Kurt Schmoke's President's Council and the law school's Dean's Development Circle. "I truly love UB and it has given me so much. I feel I should give at least some of my time and money to the school," he says.

Despite the volatility in the United States today, Hermina says that, "Even with the problems we have, this is the kindest place on earth as far as I'm concerned." His own story is sprinkled with tales of people helping him out when he needed it most.

"I think that if you have a good heart, things will work out," he states. "It's amazing how things worked out for me against tremendous odds." **B**

Christianna McCausland is a writer based in Baltimore.

RIGHT: George Hermina at his Fulton, Maryland home.



"I think that if you have a good heart, things will work out. It's amazing how things worked out for me against tremendous odds."

CHRIS HARTLOVE

IN THIS MOMENT

REFLECTIONS ON AN EXTRAORDINARY TIME

The pandemic has transformed our lives in myriad ways. Our personal and professional routines have changed. We've had to find creative ways to work together and remain connected to friends and loved ones. We are learning to nurture ourselves differently. And all of these shifts may be causing us to explore new ideas and gain new insights.

From summer into early fall, we interviewed nine members of the UB community about how they are doing and what they are thinking about. Here we share their reflections on a fascinating, uncertain and inspiring time.

*To me, it's a time for creativity.
The more we push the boundaries
in all realms, the more we're
able to accomplish.*

MATT MICHAEL

INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED AND EDITED BY PAULA NOVASH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS MYERS

ENRICHMENT/
DISTRACTIONS

MICHAEL: I've been doing some photography as a side business, and rewatching movies by Christopher Nolan, my favorite director—*The Dark Knight*, *The Prestige*, *Inception*. I binge watched *The Sopranos*. And I just read *The Five Laws of Stratospheric Success* from *The Go Giver*, by Bob Burg and John D. Mann. It's interesting how it relates to business law and how it provides a roadmap to live your life by.



NIX: I recently read *Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* by Elizabeth Tova Bailey. You learn a lot about snails but it's really about paying attention to details and moments. Since we'll be moving to Sacramento I am reading about that city, books by Wallace Stegner and Joan Didion. And I re-read the *Kristen Lavransdatter* trilogy, set in 14th century Norway. Much of it is about decisions, which resonates with me now.

MATTHEW MICHAEL, J.D. '20, was the first director of the UB Student Government Association's Diversity Council.

Overall I'd say I'm doing well. I did test positive for COVID-19 and was sick for a few days, but recovered fast. I'm home with my family studying for the bar exam and fortunately no one else had a positive test.

I wanted to be an attorney very early on, like in third grade. My interests changed from criminal law to business law when I realized that the ways businesses are structured and how they operate can benefit people. In my communities not many who want to start businesses have the knowledge they need. I can use my law degree to fill that gap and be a resource for economic development. It's a way to give people power, help with social injustice and provide opportunities and jobs.

Developing the Diversity Council was a big achievement at UB, a great thing. The student-run Honor Board deals with academic violations, and I see the Council as an Honor Board for issues like harassment, mistreatment and discrimination. Students need somewhere to go and someone to talk to about these issues. Even when everything went online, we saw evidence immediately of people reaching out, that we could listen and be advocates.

I think people are sharing more. I work out at the gym late at night with a friend who's a dental student. Before the pandemic we used to talk but it's different now. It's empty in there and we use the time to share opinions about the market, the economy, social injustice, politics, gun rights, whatever. Talk, talk, talk—it's a no judge zone. Maybe others are having these conversations, thinking for themselves in ways that are great for our country and great for our growth as a society.

I see some people adapting well to this time, and others stuck in the past and not able to cope. It's interesting to think about those who are being socially conscious versus those who are in disbelief and hanging on to old ways. To me, it's a time for creativity. The more we push the boundaries in all realms, the more we're able to accomplish.

ELIZABETH M. NIX is an associate professor and chair of UB's Division of Legal, Ethical and Historical Studies. Nix is the co-creator of the collaborative *Baltimore '68* project and co-author of the anthology *Baltimore 68: Riots and Rebirth in an American City*.

In March my husband was in California for a new job—he is a disability rights advocate—and our sons were there as well. I expected to join him after the spring semester. When it looked like we might be staying at home, he wanted me to consider getting in the car with the dog and driving West. And I said, oh, the university is only closed for two weeks and then I'll need to be back in class. Oh well. Coincidentally we had a friend staying with us, and he and his daughter became my quarantine companions until I left for California this summer.

Things have changed so much, so quickly. I've been working on the second edition of my book *Introduction to Public History: Interpreting the Past, Engaging Audiences*. In the first edition, there's a section about controversial monuments, with a commission considering what to do with them. Now all of those monuments in Baltimore have come down. And several colleagues and I designed a lecture called *Decline by Design*, on the history of structural racism in Baltimore City. We delivered it more than 75 times, and to many people "structural racism" was an unfamiliar term—it was hard for people to accept and understand the history behind it. But now people are much more aware. We're overturning so much of what we used to think about our society.

Also, seeing a new acceptance of ideas that have been out there for decades is fascinating. The College of Public Affairs recently commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Poor People's Campaign. One of the ideas of the campaign was that everyone would get a guaranteed income, and most people were skeptical. And then Andrew Yang proposed that during the presidential campaign, and it was recently instituted in the form of extra unemployment benefits.

I also worked on the *Baltimore '68* project, a large collaborative public history archive that documents and examines a time of great unrest in the city. I think it's important to note that for many years in schools like UB, scholars and students have been doing the work to step back and see the context of these problems. So when people ask, how did we get here, what's the history, the research is there.

It's hopeful to me that people are thinking differently about myriad problems that have been revealed in this time, and also being protective of themselves and others, and generous. We've all probably had times when we thought, I can't do this. But we can. It's an opportunity to realize, here's a whole new thing we never thought would exist.

LADY BRION, M.F.A. '18, is an activist, an advocate and an internationally recognized spoken word poet. She is the cultural curator for Leaders of A Beautiful Struggle, a grassroots think tank that promotes the public policy interests of Black people, as well as executive director of the Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts and Entertainment District revitalization project. Brion also works with DewMore Baltimore, a nonprofit that uses art as a tool to increase civic engagement in marginalized communities throughout Baltimore.

I'm an introvert, but I miss social interaction. I am super excited to be able to work in a coffee shop again. I don't know why it makes me so productive, but it does. I also miss in-person arts performances, the open mic scene. And I had planned a lot of traveling this year—I'm turning 30 and it was a present to myself. Next year, I hope.

I was always an expressive young person and injustice didn't sit well with me. I come from a family of preachers. My Dad was politically astute and militantly spirited. We were very close and had a lot of deep conversations, and he was my biggest fan. If I showed him a bad poem he would say it was the best in the universe.

Adversity is part of the experience of being a Black woman in America. I do feel enlivened during these times, because you can't sit silent and be asleep. My creativity is often connected to an event, something I learn, something I'm moved by, or that's happening in my space. So there's a certain activation that happens as a result of all that's going on.

The current conversations about Black Lives Matter have long been necessary and now are happening deeply and consistently. I think there are a few things contributing to a tipping point. Before, people would often discredit the rambunctious and radical, but it does effectively disrupt so that people stop and take notice. Right now everything feels disrupted from the pandemic, so maybe people are more ready to listen.

Second, technology has us sharing information in such a rapid, in depth way, it's piercing more households and reaching more ears. Also, it's a moment

when it is harder to write off something and say it's not connected to you. COVID affects everyone, nobody is exempt, and that has shifted people's emotions and opened hearts and minds. Without that, this movement wouldn't have happened in the same way.

One thing that's okay is all of these opportunities for connecting virtually and community building. With everything digital it's easy to move beyond your small locale. I used to travel to different places—I've been to Ghana, London and other locations—for poetry competitions, and I miss that. But now there are lots of online platforms with mostly free links. You feel like you have access to celebrities in the poetry community and beyond.

And it is good to see the outpouring and redirecting of resources to support smaller Black organizations. We've lost some opportunities, but they are replaced by things we could not have anticipated.

I'm motivated by the resilience of people who are still getting up and working, like in the revitalization of the Black Arts District project (blackartsdistrict.org). If they are making things happen, I know I can do the same.

DAVID J. SMITH, J.D. '84, has more than 30 years' experience in fields that include career education, law, peacebuilding, humanitarian education, conflict resolution, community college teaching and civic and global education. He is the founder of the nonprofit Forage Center for Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Education and has appeared in a variety of media outlets such as NBC's Today Show.

We live in a multicultural community in Rockville—our neighbors are from El Salvador, Bangladesh, Cameroon—and in this time, I am valuing that more than ever. This spring I set up a front garden with a figurine of Winnie the Pooh. I move him every day, and young kids who walk by with their parents search for him.

I need to seek some space in my day. With everyone working or studying from home, including my daughter, my wife and my in-laws, it is sometimes a bit crowded. I sit outside under a tree and get lost in a book. I joined a book club with other men about my age, and we meet by Zoom every month. It's really been fun and I have made new friends.

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LADY BRION: I came late to the series *Pose*, set in the 1970s, and the culture is fascinating and magnificent. I like fantasy and mystical themes so I'm also enjoying *Umbrella Academy* and *Altered Carbon*. I'm reading Octavia Butler's *Wild Seed* and *Fledgling*. And I've also been exploring the rabbit hole of ideas about natural skin care, and when I walk, playing *Pokémon Go*.



SMITH: I'm reading Deborah Rudacille's *Roots of Steel*, which is about the history of Sparrows Point and Bethlehem Steel. Though I was raised in Baltimore County by working class parents, I never knew that rich and complicated history. It's gotten me to reflect on what we can do to help disenfranchised working class people who then, and now, have been left behind.

There are many opportunities to have influence now, where someone needs help and I am able to provide it.

DALYA ATTAR



In my work I often see that the best way to move forward is to find things that you both can relate to. The starting point can be very basic—noticing that what someone is cooking smells good, or talking about each others’ kids. We are often afraid to have conversations about big issues or divisions. I often tell people to put themselves out there in smaller ways.

The key is, I have to be willing to risk my space and my comfort in order to build something greater. The ability to risk totally corresponds with the level of trust. If I can build just a little bit of trust with a small interaction, there is an opening, a starting point for conversation. And the trust gets bigger and the risk gets bigger and we’re able to build a foundation for change.

I like the word “allyship” right now, particularly as a role we white men can take. More than ever before I am conscious of the advantages I have had, and of deferring to colleagues who have more experience and expertise about issues of inequality.

I think sometimes we expect the grand thing to happen, but it’s the little incremental things we have to do. And I’m hopeful we can do it—but it’s going to be a marathon. It’s shifting to be the learner rather than the teacher, stepping back and saying, I don’t know, but I’m ready to listen and learn.

F. MICHAEL HIGGINBOTHAM has been a professor of law at UB for more than 30 years. He is the author of books that include *Ghosts of Jim Crow: Ending Racism in Post Racial America*, and is a frequent contributor to various media outlets such as CNN.

I’ve always been a disciplined person—I get that from my parents—so during this time I keep to a routine. I get up at 6:30 a.m., stretch and go jogging. I do wear a mask and follow all the protocols, then I work most of the day.

I recently finished the fifth edition of my textbook on race law. So much has occurred in the last four years in race relations, and COVID-19 has highlighted the cons of not doing anything about injustices. Clearly this is our time to do something, to be working on problems and seeing some solutions. Seeing people of all colors at the protests says to me that we are ready for change.

It’s an interesting time to be a constitutional law professor—so many issues around the constitution and federalism have come up in the last few years. Going forward we need a commitment to legislation, and then I want to see the courts interpret these laws in ways that allow for adequate remedies to be provided. Many laws that provide vital protections, like the Voting Rights Act, have been undermined by recent decisions, and that is troubling.

My uncle A. Leon Higginbotham, who passed away in 1998, was a civil rights activist and judge on the United States Court of Appeals. He was awarded the Presidential

Medal of Freedom. In 1991 he published an open letter to Justice Clarence Thomas in the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, expressing his disappointment that Justice Thomas would turn his back on a century of racial struggle. I worked closely with my uncle on race and equality issues. My father, who is 95, recently said to me, Isn’t it time for a letter from heaven? So I’m working on a public letter in my uncle’s voice to President Trump, addressing race relations and race equality.

I tell my students they are so fortunate. Having a license to practice law is a great opportunity because you’re not only on the playing field, you can help to make the rules. I see that passion to make a difference in them, and that is inspiring to me.

DALYA ATTAR, B.S. ’11, represents Baltimore’s 41st District in the Maryland House of Delegates. Attar, who is also an assistant state’s attorney for Baltimore City, is the first Orthodox Jewish woman to serve in that legislative body.

I remind myself that I’m not the only one trying to be a wife, mother and teacher along with my jobs as a legislator and attorney. I remember when I was in college and law school I was working full-time and my children were younger, and I can’t say I’m busier now. If I could do that, I can do this. But it is a demanding time.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a role model for me. She worked all her life to ensure women can have just as much in life as men. As she so eloquently put it, “Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn’t be that women are the exception.” May her memory be a blessing.

With the legislature, constituent issues and the need for assistance are up a lot. I love how I can make a difference for people. When I was very young, I used to watch the news and be so upset at injustices I would see. I used to think, something has got to change. There are many opportunities to have influence now, where someone needs help and I am able to provide it.

My district, the 41st, is very culturally diverse. I’m seeing that we’re all in this together. The ways neighbors are helping neighbors is inspiring. There is a Jewish concept of social justice, Tikkun Olam, which means “repair the world.” To me, it says that we have a responsibility to the rest of humanity—the reasons we are here are not just about us. Respect for others was

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HIGGINBOTHAM: I watch the History Channel, and comedy shows like *In Living Color* and *Richard Pryor Live*.



ATTAR: We observe the Sabbath from Friday night until Saturday night, with no work, no phones. I’ve done this all of my life and it’s my respite, my way to recharge. It’s strictly family time, when I can relax with a book. I’m mainly a fiction reader—James Patterson is my favorite author and recently I read and enjoyed *The Inn and Cross*.

I do not underestimate the intangibles that come from interacting with people on campus. in a campus setting. KURT SCHMOKE

ENRICHMENT/ DISTRACTIONS



SCHMOKE: This time has allowed me to read eclectically. I've gone from Yale professor Frank Snowden's *Epidemics and Society: From The Black Death to the Present to a Christopher Buckley satire *Make Russia Great Again*. Now I'm reading Wes Moore's *Five Days: The Fiery Reckoning of an American City, about the uprising in Baltimore after the death of Freddie Gray*.*

I watched the movie *Harriet* and loved it. I would play the theme song, *Stand Up*, on repeat all day if my wife would let me! And we've both enjoyed the new version of *Perry Mason* on HBO. It's quite a different and interesting take on a childhood favorite.

ingrained in me at a young age and informs how I live my life, treating everyone with kindness and respect whether or not they look like me and have similar experiences to mine.

Some days it seems like my computer is always up in front of me, and I'm asking my 6-year-old to give me five more minutes to talk to someone. My kids know they always come first, though, and now I notice them saying things like, Mommy, you have a really cool job. You're able to help a lot of people. Even so young, they know that figuring out how to fix things and make a difference is important.

KURT SCHMOKE is the president of the University of Baltimore.

One good thing is I'm spending more time with my family, talking to my wife Patricia, my daughter Katherine and my son Gregory about their concerns personally and professionally. I do miss the interaction with people on campus and recognize the value, more now than ever, of a campus experience. I know our staff and faculty are providing an excellent academic experience for our students, but I do not underestimate the intangibles that come from interacting with people on campus, in a campus setting.

Like everyone in this time I experience lows and highs—George Floyd's death, and John Lewis' inspirational message to us on his passing. His Op-Ed is going to be one of the great pieces of literature. I believe it is one of the most memorable messages to the country that an elected official has ever inspired. One thing that is even clearer to me is how very important language is, because I see in national debates how language can be distorted to lead people in destructive ways. And language can also be used to inspire people to act. Lewis' message is a ray of light in darkness.

I hope that the public health situation improves soon so that we can get back to some form of classes on campus, or even some sort of hybrid model. And I hope that debate will revolve around substantive issues with expert health advice determining how we can proceed safely, and that the discussion will not become overly politicized.

Our student government leaders have been very impressive, helping to communicate to our students the rationale for how we're moving forward. They are involved in a project I'm excited about: a Philadelphia

Pride Flag mural, painted at one of the intersections on campus. I am looking forward to frequently walking by it in person, once we're back.

EUSEBIO SCORNAVACCA is an expert in disruptive digital innovation and digital transformation. His professional background encompasses fields that range from systems engineering to management. Scornavacca is the Parsons Professor of Digital Innovation and holds the John P. & Margaret M. Thompson Chair in Management Information Systems at UB.

I travel extensively for conferences and collaborative research opportunities. In January I took 13 UB students to Ghana to work with local start-ups. In February, I did a weeklong visiting professorship in Brazil, and in March I went to Morocco and France to give a couple of invited talks. I landed in the United States on March 13, and since then I have been at home with my wife and children, who are 7 and 11. Today, though, I've already had meetings with colleagues in Brazil, Egypt and Italy.

This new cyberphysical reality is enabling us to re-think how we do things. For example, we just created a new version of our Global Field Study. For years I have traveled with UB students to other countries to work with companies on real-world businesses challenges. This year the program will be virtual. Starting in January our students will join multinational teams and will work as consultants to companies in Africa, Europe and South America. Our focus will be on businesses with social impact, such as those who deal with issues of sustainability and equality.

Zoom works well for goal-oriented interactions. What I believe many of us are missing is some of the non-goal-oriented interactions. For example, when I travel I may give a talk or have a research meeting, and I could do that remotely. But then I go to dinner at my friends' houses, I meet their partners and kids, experience local foods, discuss their countries' history, culture and current affairs. I was in Estonia last November as an examiner for a Ph.D. thesis. I had the privilege to visit my colleague's home and learn about many aspects of daily life, including a tour of the local supermarket. I also went to a local incubator and learned about their unique business innovation ecosystem. All of this adds

humongous value and helps us develop meaningful bonds and trust. I leverage this network of friends and associates to develop unique learning opportunities for our students, such as the virtual Global Field Study.

COVID-19 is pushing a very strong and rapid diffusion of technology. Technology leaps have primarily been associated with the goal of gains in performance. However, the widespread diffusion of pervasive digital technologies also produces unintended outcomes that may have significant implications for society. In order to maximize the contribution of digital innovation to economic, environmental and social change, it is not sufficient to focus on the invention. We also need a thorough understanding of the possible ramifications of adopting these technologies.

For instance, say we have an artificial intelligence (AI) system that uses machine learning to decide whether or not to give people consumer credit, or call them for a job interview. But if the system starts using criteria such as gender, race and religion to make recommendations, we have an algorithm that may obtain a desired result, performance gains in predicting success, by employing biases we as a society don't accept.

This is an important issue and it shouldn't be treated lightly. We must advocate for algorithms that are fair, accountable, transparent and interpretable. It is vital they arrive at decisions through processes that humans can understand and trust. So we must shift our focus to the actual impact of technology to society. We must decide what risks we are willing to take in order to benefit from the possibilities that this incredible digital ecosystem provides.

LETITIA DZIRASA is a physician and the Baltimore City Commissioner of Health. Dr. Dzirasa is pursuing a Master in Healthcare Administration degree at UB, though she has paused her studies due to the challenges of the pandemic.

Our team meets online twice a day to review COVID-19 updates, and we are in a rhythm. We instituted an Incident Command Structure to support the COVID-19 response and it has helped provide better understanding of each other's work styles and how we all work together. It's a challenging time but we are finding ways to help support residents and each other.

There have been many changes to operations. We run senior centers and that was one of the first patient-facing services that we had to re-think, to protect those older adults. Many of the centers served as sites where they came together to eat, and we had to transition to all meal delivery. And because we know that isolation can also be devastating, we expanded our Maryland Access Point call center so older adults and their caregivers can call and be connected to people and other resources.

What has been hard is that for weeks, all of my dreams would be about work. This is a demanding job, you're never done. Although it always felt like that, and I enjoy it, now there's a sense of urgency, lives are on the line at a much larger magnitude. There have definitely been points where I have struggled with the uncertainty of it all. Having my family has certainly helped keep me grounded.

A couple of weeks ago my husband said, this is the new normal, so we have to figure out what balance looks like. So now we have blocked time for dinner, down time, doing puzzles. Then 8 p.m. is my 3-year-old son's bedtime. Afterwards we can go back to work if that's necessary, and oftentimes it is. Even if it's been a crazy day, which I've had a lot of, my son helps me see the world, the joy and contentment, from his eyes. On the weekends, I'm trying to soak it all in, take a step back and realize that he will only be this age once, and I want to be intentional and enjoy the time I have with him.

My son definitely gets that some things are different—he'll stop you if you don't have your mask on! He keeps me from taking myself too seriously. I want this to be a better world for him. I want him to be inspired and motivated to pursue his dreams, even if it's challenging, even if it's during a pandemic. So part of that is setting the example.

For everyone out there, this is a tough time. Things do not feel normal, it feels like we are not being supported by leadership in this country. I would encourage people to find that thing that keeps them hopeful. For me it's my family, it's seeing the work that we're doing, it's seeing our department come together, it's seeing the lives that we've saved. There are really positive things we've been able to do throughout this pandemic, and will continue to do. 🙏

Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.

ENRICHMENT/ DISTRACTIONS



SCORNAVACCA: I recently reread Nicholas Negroponte's *Being Digital*. It was written in 1995, and it's about the digital revolution in multimedia, virtual reality, the Internet. It's a great book, and it's so interesting to see how people were talking about digitalization back then, to help us better understand today.



DZIRASA: We just watched Mindy Kaling's *Never Have I Ever*. It's a young woman's coming of age story, funny but also deep. And I'm a big *Hunger Games* fan, so I am reading Suzanne Collins' prequel, *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*. I ordered an air fryer to experiment with different ways of cooking. I also learned to cut my own hair during quarantine!



TO SAY THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

has upended higher education is an understatement. Last spring, colleges and universities across the United States scrambled to move classes online as campuses were shut down to prevent the spread of the virus. Then, with fall rapidly approaching and the pandemic nowhere near under control, schools were faced with difficult decisions.

A NEW VIRTUAL REALITY

ONLINE LEARNING IN A TIME OF CHANGE

BY ABIGAIL GREEN, M.A.'01 • ILLUSTRATION BY RICHARD MIA

“I like being able to read my audience as I am going. I don’t deliver the same approach for all audiences. I want to see, are they tired, are they engaged, are they confused? And so I prefer the synchronous approach.”

WILLIAM HUBBARD

STUDENT ORIENTATION GOES VIRTUAL

For Jasmine Brown, a senior information technology major at UB, this is her second year as an orientation leader—but her first doing it virtually.

Normally, she would be in charge of two groups of freshmen, transfer and graduate students, guiding them through campus tours, financial aid information sessions and opportunities to get involved at UB. This year looks different: She and her fellow virtual orientation leaders will discuss Zoom etiquette, how students can contact offices virtually and how to use the UB portal.

As treasurer for the student events board, Brown helped plan the first event of Fall 2020, karaoke night on September 1, which took place on Zoom. “We want students to still feel like they’re getting that warm welcome to campus.”

Brown advises incoming UB students to keep an open mind. “We can still do the same things we’d normally do on campus,” she says. “We’re just in a different setting.”

According to data compiled by the Chronicle of Higher Education and Davidson College’s College Crisis Initiative on the reopening plans for nearly 3,000 institutions, 30 percent planned to resume classes primarily or fully online. Just under 24 percent planned to go back primarily or fully in person, and 26 percent were still undecided as of mid-August.

UB is among those institutions holding classes entirely online for the Fall 2020 semester. UB’s classes are a mix of synchronous instruction—i.e., real-time, live teaching—and asynchronous instruction, pre-recorded classes that students can access any time.

The university was an early adopter of online learning. UB’s Merrick School of Business launched the first Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of

Business International (AACSB)-accredited, open-enrollment online MBA in 1999. (AACSB accreditation signifies that a business school has passed rigorous quality standards for education; fewer than 5 percent of business schools worldwide achieve the designation.) In 2020, for the ninth consecutive year, *U.S. News and World*

Report ranked UB’s online MBA as a top program of its kind nationally. University-wide, UB offers five fully online degree programs in addition to several online courses across its 70+ undergraduate, graduate, law and doctoral programs and certificates.

THE SCHOOL OF LAW GOES ONLINE FOR THE FIRST TIME

Even with its history of being ahead of the curve when it comes to online learning, UB faced some challenges this fall. In particular, the School of Law was entering uncharted territory. “It’s really hard to know where the curve is,” says law professor William Hubbard. Hubbard, who is also director of UB’s Center for the Law of Intellectual Property and Technology, had not taught any online classes prior to the pandemic. He says that law schools in general have been slow to embrace online learning.

Much of that is because the practice of law has not had a big presence online. For example, “doing a Zoom deposition would have been shocking a year ago. And now it’s commonplace,” Hubbard says. Given the reduction in travel expenditures and the ease of deposing witnesses located anywhere, he thinks that going forward more of the practice of law will be done remotely.

The field of law has been reluctant to embrace some aspects of technology for good reason, he adds. Both lawyers in the courtroom and professors in the classroom, says Hubbard, “generally believe that we’re more persuasive in person.” And for Hubbard, asynchronous teaching presents some challenges. “Because I was a litigator, I like the give and take,” he says. “I like being able to read my audience as I am going. I don’t deliver the same approach for all audiences. I want to see, are they tired, are they engaged, are they confused? And so I prefer the synchronous approach.”

Already, Hubbard has learned ways of using technology to engage his students. First, he requests that they turn on their cameras in Zoom sessions. “The students have responded pretty well to that,” he says.

For 20-person classes, it’s been “a fairly seamless transition” to online learning, he says. In 80-person classes, it’s a little more challenging. But again, technology can be a boon: students who are reluctant to talk in class will sometimes send him private messages through Zoom’s chat feature, giving him an opportunity to encourage a student who may not have spoken up in person.

ENGAGING BUSINESS STUDENTS IN ASYNCHRONOUS CLASSES

Despite having taught online for more than 20 years, economics professor Daniel Gerlowski says, “What we’re doing now we haven’t done before.” Specifically, he and his colleagues have had to very quickly figure out how

to offer all classes entirely online. Prior to the pandemic, Gerlowski estimates he taught more than half his classes asynchronously online. During the pandemic, the asynchronous online instruction remains but there are a lot of synchronous online classes as well.

“All of us in the School of Business know how to teach online asynchronously, so the learning gap to teaching synchronously is much smaller for us,” says Gerlowski. Tech-savvy and an early adopter of many online teaching tools, he is already accustomed to using Zoom, narrated PowerPoints and VoiceThread, an online discussion board that allows users to post audio responses.

“The really amazing thing about the School of Business is the faculty are always encouraged to innovate,” he says. “We are free to do things we think work best for what we’re teaching and for our students.”

Gerlowski acknowledges that teaching effectively online takes some trial and error. It might involve breaking up a large group Zoom session into smaller groups, adding polls to a Zoom session, adding in-class activities and using a narrated PowerPoint format, all to engage students. “It’s not just a video version of a lecture, it’s a lot better,” he says. He and his colleagues regularly share tips and tools, and he says UB’s Bank of America Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching and Technology is also a helpful resource for faculty and students.

UB’s Robert L. Bogomolny Library is another robust resource, offering research help, tutoring services, access to online and physical publications and more, says Allison Jennings-Roche, reference and instruction librarian. “In a lot of ways, we were very well prepared for the shift to online services because we were already doing this,” she explains. The chat feature on the library’s website offers instant access to a UB librarian, and other options are available as well. “We’re always happy to help, through live chat, email and one-on-one virtual consultation,” says Jennings-Roche.

OVERCOMING STUDENTS’ CHALLENGES

Making sure students have the necessary tools to succeed with remote learning is a challenge the university recognizes and is working to address. “The problem that UB faces right now is that some students are not ready to learn virtually. And we have to help them do that,” says Gerlowski. Last spring, many of his students did not have their own computers or broadband access at home. He continues, “You cannot learn on a smartphone.”

Through funding from the University of Baltimore Foundation and other sources, students were provided with the equipment they needed for virtual learning. “The university and the foundation really stepped up. All the students in my class who requested computers got them,” says Gerlowski.

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Several UB organizations provided our students with critical assistance that allowed them to continue to thrive academically during the pandemic.

The Student Emergency Assistance Fund was initiated by the Office of Student Services and is managed by the University of Baltimore Foundation. More than \$239,000 has been contributed by the UB community to provide for needs such as housing and utilities, food and medications, and internet services. The fund also helped students bridge financial gaps caused by loss of employment.

The University of Baltimore Foundation created a \$100,000 fund for technology assistance as UB moved to online learning in March. The fund provided essential tools such as laptops and webcams, and also helped to design a virtual lab for students in the simulation and design program.

And the Philip E. & Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation authorized \$25,000 in emergency funding to help UB’s Ratcliffe Fellows continue their education in the Entrepreneurship program.

Hubbard has concerns about some of his students as well, such as the single mother of a toddler who used to study on campus, but now lacks childcare and a reliable Internet connection at home. Yet he believes online learning creates new opportunities, too, such as eliminating weather cancellations and giving professors the ability to reach more students outside of Baltimore.

Gerlowski believes UB will use this time as an opportunity to fulfill the school’s longtime social mission to make education accessible for working adults. “We work with people who are trying to advance themselves,” he says. “COVID-19 changed everything, and it’s going to change the way people learn. From now on, online education is going to be the norm.”

Abigail Green, M.A. ’01, is a writer based in Baltimore.

DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

“The problem that UB faces right now is that some students are not ready to learn virtually. And we have to help them do that. You cannot learn on a smartphone.”

DANIEL GERLOWSKI

BUTHAINA SHUKRI

- M.S., University of Baltimore
- Career counselor and alumni relations and development professional
- Assistant to the President, Community Action Council of Howard County
- Former director of UB's Career Center and manager of publications for the School of Law

Celebrating Every Chapter

BUTHAINA SHUKRI, M.S. '00

BY PAULA NOVASH

In January **Buthaina Shukri, M.S. '00** retired from a 20-plus year career in higher education. “I had planned a family trip to the Galapagos Islands,” she says. “But, pandemic.”

Cancelling the trip was disappointing but Shukri is looking forward to her “third act” as assistant to the president at the Community Action Council of Howard County.

“It’s the best of all possible worlds, meaningful part time work at a nonprofit in my community,” she says.

Shukri has successfully navigated a variety of transitions, from coming to the United States at age 5 to living internationally. Her Iraqi father and British mother met when her father attended university in London. Shukri was born in Germany while her father was in medical school, and the family moved to Austria where he continued his studies. “My socially activist father was nearing graduation and did not want to return to the increasingly oppressive atmosphere in Iraq,” she says. “My parents had become good friends with a couple from Newton, Massachusetts, who offered to sponsor our family to emigrate. We became U.S. citizens in 1972.”

Shukri attended college in New York and lived in California before moving to Berlin, then part of West Germany, where her first husband was stationed with the U.S. Army. “We saw the Wall come down,” she recalls. The couple moved to Seoul, South Korea where Shukri began her career as a job assistance counselor. “I worked with U.S. military personnel when the armed services were being downsized,” she explains. “From the beginning I enjoyed the relationship building.”

“I met so many donors who came from unusual or humble beginnings, who were determined to prevail no matter what. Often they would credit an institution or professor who started them on a path. It’s great when you can share those stories.”

Upon returning to the States, Shukri took a position as UB’s assistant director of Career Development and Cooperative Education. The area evolved into The Career Center, and she eventually became its director and also completed her UB master’s degree.

“I was always in awe of the drive and resilience of UB students,” Shukri recalls. “I remember a mentee who would bring her 3-year-old to our meetings after she’d worked all day and before her finance class. One employer said to me, ‘I know your students aren’t going to grow up on my time and money—they know who they are and are going to be successful.’”

After what she calls “nine wonderful, fulfilling, stimulating, and growth-filled years,” Shukri opened a private practice in career counseling, which allowed her to be more available to her daughter Jessica, then in high school. She returned to UB as publications manager for the School of Law and several years later moved on to work in alumni relations and development at The George Washington University.

“I met so many donors who came from unusual or humble beginnings, who were determined to prevail no matter what,” she says. “Often they would credit an institution or professor who started them on a path. It’s great when you can share those stories.”

Recently Shukri and her husband Jeffrey Boutwell trained as contact tracers, helping health departments find and inform people who have been exposed to someone with a positive COVID-19 status. Shukri also looks forward to making a difference in her newest role at the Community Action Council, which provides food and housing assistance, including help with energy and weatherization needs, as well as early childhood education resources, to lower-income residents of Howard County.

Shukri became a grandmother in September 2019. “I come from a tiny nuclear family and now I want to gather memories for my grandson Jack,” she explains. Besides recording family history, a longtime interest, she’s writing letters and postcards to Jack: “It’s a way to capture the experience of his family living in this extraordinary time.”

Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.

RIGHT: *Buthaina Shukri at home in Columbia, Maryland.*



CHRIS MYERS

VERLANDO BROWN

- M.S., University of Baltimore
- Operations Assistant at Baltimore Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success
- Founder of First-Gen Baltimore
- Thought Partner, Michelle Obama’s Reach Higher Initiative

“The university really wants you to learn, and really wants you to make a difference in people’s lives, in the city, the state and this country.”

First and Goals

VERLANDO BROWN, M.S. '15

BY ABIGAIL GREEN, M.A. '01

Sometimes all it takes is one person to encourage you to go for your goals. **Verlando Brown, M.S. '15**, had several people supporting him during key moments in his life, including a high school guidance counselor, a UB admissions director and former First Lady Michelle Obama. And now, he’s become that encouraging person for other first-generation college students.

Growing up in West Baltimore in a single-parent household, Brown credits his mom for keeping him in school. “My mother was a big proponent for education,” he says. “I was not out in the street, selling drugs or going to jail.”

Brown attended Frederick Douglass High School. “It was rough,” he says, but it was also where his guidance counselor sparked his interest in higher education. “She said, ‘I believe in you, you are smart enough. I know for sure you can make it through college,’” he recalls. “Those were some really powerful words.”

Brown was accepted to Towson University in 2006. It was his first time living on his own, and like many students in his situation, he struggled at first. Statistics show that one-third of first-generation college students drop out within three years. Common issues include “impostor syndrome,” or feeling like you don’t belong, and

balancing work and school, since many of these students must work one or more jobs outside of class.

Brown advises first-generation college students to join at least one organization or club to get involved, even if they’re shy. “Trust me, I know how it feels. But just try to introduce yourself. People will help you and be there for you,” he says.

In fact, he adds, he came close to dropping out his first year at Towson. “What stopped me was the support system that I was able to find and create. Those people said, ‘We’re not going to let you give up on yourself.’” Brown would like to see better mental health support for first-generation college students, to help them avoid struggling as much as he did.

Seeking better job opportunities after attending Towson, Brown found himself on UB’s website. “When I read about the Human Services Administration program, I loved it. And UB as an institution, something grabbed me about how the school would help you apply what you learned in the classroom to the real world,” he says. A meeting with the graduate admissions director, who encouraged him and even waived the application fee, sealed the deal. “At UB, I felt like I mattered,” says Brown.

In an effort to support his peers, Brown created an event called First-Gen Baltimore. At First-Gen, Brown made another fateful connection: he enticed Eric Waldo, executive director of Michelle

Obama’s Reach Higher initiative, to be the evening’s keynote speaker. “Eric said he was really impressed and he invited me to the White House to meet the First Lady,” says Brown. Waldo also connected him with *Forbes*, and Brown has since written several articles for their website.

In Washington, D.C., Brown shared his story with students from around the country. When he was introduced to Mrs. Obama, “she gave me a big hug,” says Brown. “It was absolutely amazing.” And when he graduated from UB with his master’s degree, he received a personalized letter of congratulations from then-President Barack Obama.

Brown has worked at several nonprofits including Thread, Inc., an organization that links Baltimore youth with volunteers to build supportive relationships. Now he is an operations assistant at the Baltimore City Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success. In this pandemic year, he fields more requests for assistance than ever. “We’re doing the best we can to help people,” says Brown.

Of UB, he says, “The university really wants you to learn, and really wants you to make a difference in people’s lives, in the city, the state and this country.” And Brown, by all measures, is doing just that. **B**

Abigail Green, M.A. '01, is a writer based in Baltimore.

RIGHT: Verlando Brown on UB’s campus.



CHRIS MYERS

CLASS NOTES*

*Class notes featured here were received from June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020.

1960s

William Hughes, LL.B. '64, penned an article that was published in the April 6 issue of the *Baltimore Post Examiner*, entitled “The Game of Soccer was a Door Opener for Me.”

William R. Ferguson, B.S. '69, joined the Easterseals Delaware & Maryland’s Eastern Shore Board of Directors in September 2019.

1970s

Richard G. Lubinski, B.S. '70, reports he is semi-retired and living in Aurora, Ohio. He served 37 years on the Silver Lake Estates Board of Trustees with 16 years as board chairman. He most recently served as president of the Northern Ohio Chapter of the Association of Energy Engineers in Cleveland and also as vice president of the Association’s

Michael L. Curry, B.S. '77, received the 2019 Honor Award from the United Soccer Coaches in January in recognition of a distinguished career, service to the association and exemplary contributions to the coaching profession and beyond. He has been a member of the association for over 25 years and has volunteered in several leadership, administrative, coaching and philanthropic roles. He is a member of the United Soccer Coaches Foundation Committee and was a member of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (the former name of the association) Board of Governors for six years, serving as its chair for five years.

Stanley Alpert, LL.B. '63; Alan J. Bloom, J.D. '65; Jason Morton, J.D. '94; and Christopher R. Rahl, J.D. '96 were all recognized as Ten-Year Volunteers in 2019 by the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service, for accepting at least one pro bono case each year for ten consecutive years.

Region III, which covers eight states and 14 chapters.

Augustus R. Brown, J.D. '74, was unanimously chosen as the 2019 Faculty Member of the Year by the Keenan Trial Institute of Atlanta (Georgia).

John G. Peters, B.S. '75, was appointed executive director of Americans for Effective Law Enforcement in early 2020.

Richard K. Renn, J.D. '76, retired in January after serving for more than 22 years on the York County (Pennsylvania) Court of Common Pleas. He was also approved to serve as a senior judge, which means he can fill in part-time wherever needed in Pennsylvania.

Franzella M. Starkey, B.A. '77, was awarded the 2019 Volunteer of the Year award by the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service in October 2019 for supporting clients in a variety of legal issues including bankruptcy, adoption, custody and divorce. She joined MVLS in 1996 and has accepted 91 cases to help Eastern Shore of Maryland clients.

Warner I. Sumpter, B.S. '77, a retired brigadier general, was unanimously elected president of the Maryland State Board of Education for the 2019-2020 term.

J. William Pitcher, J.D. '78, a longtime Annapolis lobbyist, joined the law firm of Bellamy Genn in August 2019.

1980s

William C. Martin, B.S. '81, joined the UHY Advisors Mid-Atlantic Tax Practice as principal in January.

Mark S. Radke, J.D. '81, was appointed to the board of directors of First Colombia Development Corp. in July 2019.

Diane R. Schwartz Jones, J.D. '82, assumed the role of council administrator for the Howard County Council (Maryland) in August 2019.

David A. Goldner, M.S. '83, was interviewed for an article in the May 11 issue of *The Daily Record* called “Accounting Firms Grapple with Unprecedented Impact of Coronavirus.”

Julius C. Green, B.S. '83, MBA '89, was reelected in 2019 for a two-year term to the Pennsylvania CPA Foundation Board for the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Nancy Grodin, MBA '83, J.D. '93, retired on September 30, 2019, as Maryland’s Deputy Insurance Commissioner. She held the position for five years and served ten years with the Maryland Insurance Administration.

Stephen W. Lafferty, J.D. '83, was named the first chief sustainability officer for Baltimore County in August 2019.

Cynthia S. Miraglia, J.D. '83, retired in September 2019 after 20 years as Maryland Workers’ Compensation Commissioner.

Three of our alumni were named to the *The Daily Record’s* 2019 Icon Honors list: **Arnold Williams, B.S. '72; Frances M. Draper, CERT '80, MBA '81; and Christopher W. Nicholson, J.D. '82.**

Brian G. Bailey, B.S. '84, M.S. '91, was named the new chief executive officer of Mountain Laurel Medical Center in Oakland, Maryland, in December 2019.

Audrey J. Carrion, J.D. '84, a Baltimore City circuit court judge, became chief administrator of the trial court in January.

Steven J. Ochse, B.S. '85, was promoted to senior vice president of finance and chief financial officer of Easton Utilities in August 2019.

Kendel S. Ehrlich, J.D. '87, was appointed as deputy director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy in August 2019 by President Donald J. Trump.

Walter E. Wilson, M.P.A. '87, was named the 2019 recipient of the International Municipal Lawyers Association’s Brad D. Bailey Assistant City/County Attorney Award for his work as associate county attorney for Montgomery County, Maryland.

Kevin J. Simmons, B.A. '88, was named director of the newly created Office of Emergency Management for the City of Annapolis (Maryland) in July 2019.

Donna E. Van Scoy, J.D. '88, joined Lerch, Early & Brewer in January as a family law attorney.

1990s

John J. Biemer, B.S. '90, is the founder and president of Jerseys of Hope, a nonprofit organization committed to inspiring a sense of community and

Named to *The Daily Record’s* list of Maryland’s Most Admired CEOs for 2019 were **Larry D. Unger, B.S. '73; Barry F. Levin, J.D. '84; and Alvin R. Hutchinson, B.A. '86.**

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well-being by donating athletic jerseys to hospital patients so they can use them while rooting for their favorite sports teams. He also published a children’s book, *Baby Buckeyes*, in 2019.

Scott M. Furniss, B.S. '90, was named chief financial officer in February for Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

David M. Waltzer, M.S. '90, joined National Dentex Labs in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, as its new chief financial officer in April.

Morrisann M. Wilson, J.D. '90, was appointed to the Maryland Workers’ Compensation Commission by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan in September 2019.

Elizabeth W. Benet, J.D. '92, was named in February to the newly-created role of global chief underwriting officer by AXA XL, a global commercial insurance and reinsurance company. She assists in managing the company’s worldwide cyber risk portfolio.

David J. Fischetti, B.A. '92, had his book, *Vision to Results: Leadership in Action*, recognized by *Forbes* as a Best Leadership Book of 2019.

Adrian S. Johnson, B.S. '92, recently completed his term as chairman of the African-American Credit Union Coalition.

David C. Miller, B.A. '92, published a children’s book, *Gabe and His Green Thumb*, which BlackNews.com called a “must-read for young black boys” in July 2019.

Chester G. “Chip” Davis Jr., J.D. '93, was appointed president and chief executive officer in February for the Healthcare Distribution Alliance located in Arlington, Virginia.

Jonathan L. Gold, J.D. '93, joined Dickinson Wright PLLC, in their Washington, D.C., office in April.

JOIN THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE ALUMNI BOOK CLUB!

The Office of Alumni Relations invites you to connect with fellow UB alumni, faculty and staff in a virtual community of book lovers. Participants contribute to book discussions and network through a private online forum. Joining is completely free; you just have to have a copy of the book to enjoy.

We will read one book every two months, and our picks will include fiction and nonfiction.

Members will vote to choose each new book from several suggested options. Our first selection is *Just Mercy, A Story of Justice and Redemption*, by Bryan Stevenson.

Created in partnership with Professional Book Clubs Guru, a book club management service, this initiative was launched thanks to a grant from Alumni Association-International. For more information, visit www.pbc.guru/ubalt.

Timothy J. Longo Sr., J.D. '93, became the police chief at the University of Virginia in February and serves as associate vice president for safety and security. He is the former police chief for the city of Charlottesville, Virginia.

Timothy J. Quick, J.D. '93, was appointed judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, in 2019.

Sean E. Doherty, B.A. '94, was elected to the Firestone (Colorado) Board of Trustees in April for a four-year term.

Anne Murphy, J.D. '94, is a lecturer of law at the University of Hawaii at Manoa William S. Richardson School of Law.

David J. Shuster, J.D. '94, was recognized by Benchmark Litigations as a Maryland Litigation Star in October 2019.

Gustava E. Taler, J.D. '94, was named an Influential Marylander for 2020 for civic leadership by *The Daily Record*.

Paula A. Kerger, B.S. '79, chief executive officer for the Public Broadcasting Corporation (PBS), and **Tamika L. Tremaglio, MBA '95**, Greater Washington Managing Principal for Deloitte, were both included in the *Washingtonian’s* list of The Most Powerful Women in Washington in 2019.

Richard B. Benenson, MBA '95, began his term in March as managing partner with Brownstein Hyatt Farber Shreck.

Kevin R. Dunbar, MBA '95, president and chief executive officer of Dunbar Security Solutions and Dunbar Security Products, became the sole owner of both companies in February.

Sharon Glazer, M.S. '95, professor and chair of UB’s Division of Applied Behavioral Sciences, was named a fellow of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology in April.

Charles R. Simmons, J.D. '95, joined the firm of Whiteford Taylor & Preston as a partner in April.

David T. Yang, M.A. '95, became vice president for digital transformation with ICF, a global consulting company, in February.

Michael G. Campbell, J.D. '96, served a one-year term as president of the Montgomery County Inn of the American Inns of Court, beginning in August 2019.

Mark O. Engel, M.S. '97, joined Kerkerling, Barberio & Co. Certified Public Accountants as a tax manager on the International Tax Team in September 2019.

Paul G. Fipps, B.S. '97, MBA '01, was named to the new position of chief experience officer for Under Armour, Inc. in February.

Christopher J. Lambert, J.D. '97, is the vice president for advancement and alumni relations at Bethany

Michelle J. Marzullo, J.D. '98, and Nicole Hewitt, J.D. '99, attorneys at HWK Law Group, were named to *Baltimore Magazine’s* “Women Who Move Maryland 2020” list.

College (West Virginia) as of July 2019.

Yolanda F. Sonnier, J.D. '97, became the head of the Howard County (Maryland) Office of Human Rights in June 2019.

Robert D. Matthews, B.S. '98, was named vice president for workforce development and chief of staff for Exelon Utilities in March.

Jessica duHoffman, J.D. '99, received the Executive Director’s Award from Maryland Legal Aid at the 2nd Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast in July 2019.

Dorenda R. King, J.D. '99, began her mission as equal opportunity manager at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in April.

2000s

Terri D. Brown, MBA '00, is the director of the Office of Arbitration Service for the National Mediation Board as of March.

Patricia M. Muhammad, J.D. '00, published three academic book reviews last year: “The Crime of Aggression: The Quest for Justice in an Age of Drones, Cyberattacks, Insurgents, and Autocrats” which appeared in 95:3 International Social Science Review Art. 16 (2019), “Accounting for Slavery” which appeared in 52:4 The History Teacher 724 (2019), and “Human Rights and the Care of Self” which appeared in 95:2 International Social Science Review Art. 11 (2018).

Joyette M. Holmes, J.D. '01, was sworn in as district attorney for the Cobb (Georgia) Judicial Circuit in July 2019. She received the Citizen of the Year award for 2019 by the *Marietta Daily Journal* in January. In May, Georgia attorney general Christopher M. Carr named Holmes the prosecutor for the Ahmaud Arbery case.

Melanie A. Pursel, M.S. '00, became tourism director of Worcester County (Maryland) in April. She was previously president and chief executive officer of the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce.

James B. Smith, M.P.A. '00, reports he earned a doctorate in public policy and administration from Walden University in October 2019.

Todd R. Chason, J.D. '01, was elected as managing member and general counsel for Gordon Feinblatt LLC in September 2019.

Carlos Nunes, J.D. '01, was hired as the code enforcement officer by the Boyce (Virginia) Town Council in October 2019.

Tiffany P. Robinson, J.D. '01, was chosen in July 2019 by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan to serve as Secretary of Labor for the state of Maryland.

Equilla Savage, B.A. '01, is a case management specialist with the Maryland Department of Corrections.

Nicholas E. Kosmas, MBA '02, J.D. '13, joined Clear One Advantage, a debt settlement and financial education company, as general counsel in May 2019. He oversees the company's national legal functions.

Gillian B. Pommerehn, MBA '02, was promoted to senior vice president by Crosby Marketing Communications in September 2019.

Astrid Schmidt-King, J.D. '02, executive in residence and director of the international business program at Loyola University Maryland Seller School of Business, was named a Bowe Fellow by the World Trade Center Institute for the 2020 cohort in October 2019. She participated in the Emerging and Developing Global Executives Program to learn more about key global business issues, relationships and more.

Kendra V. Johnson, J.D. '03, was appointed community superintendent for the Howard County (Maryland) Public School System in July 2019.

Mary E. Lanham, M.A. '03, joined UHealth and the University of Miami (Florida) Miller School of Medicine as chief marketing and communications officer in June 2019.

Gelmin A. Portillo, B.S. '03, and **Jimena Portillo, B.S. '07**, opened the second location of their restaurant, Taco Love Grill, in the Cross Street Market in Baltimore's Federal Hill neighborhood in August 2019.

Wennesa B. Snoddy, J.D. '03, was selected in March by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan to serve as associate judge for the District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County.

Mark A. Aitken, B.A. '04, joined DJI, the world's leader in civilian drones and aerial imaging technology, as director of U.S. Legislative Affairs in May 2019.

Kelly Beckham-Madigan, J.D. '04, was appointed the first executive director for the Baltimore County Office of Ethics and Accountability in December 2019. The office was formed in early 2019 to provide increased oversight of county government by working to identify fraud, abuse or illegal acts.

Christopher P. Dean, J.D. '04, is a health care lawyer who joined Miles and Stockbridge in December 2019 as a principal in its health care practice.

Jason Downs, B.A. '04, was appointed chief deputy attorney general for the Office of the Attorney General of the District of Columbia in March.

Georgette D. Kiser, MBA '04, operating executive with the Carlyle Group, was named to the NCR Corporation Board of Directors. NCR Corporation is a software- and services-led enterprise provider for the financial, retail and hospitality industries.

Andrew S. Rappaport, J.D. '04, was selected by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan in October 2019 to serve as judicial appointee for the Calvert County Circuit Court.

Aaron W. Anderson, M.A. '05, was appointed by Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker in September 2019 to serve on the state's Workers' Compensation Advisory Board.

Monique Y. Cox, M.A. '05, was appointed in November 2019 as executive director for the Baltimore region of the Urban Alliance. She leads its strategy, development and operations.

Jennifer L. McNulty, J.D. '05, was confirmed as associate justice of the Massachusetts Juvenile Court in August 2019.

Jason R. Potter, J.D. '05, became the assistant attorney general in the Office of the Attorney General for Maryland in January.

Kevin A. Wisniewski, M.A. '05, became the director of book history and digital initiatives at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts, in July 2019.

Rebekah L. Knouse Perillo, MBA '06, was inducted into the Howard County Women's Athletics Hall of Fame in February. She and her sister were honored for their achievements on the tennis court as students at Centennial High School in Ellicott City, Maryland.

Duncan S. Keir, J.D. '06, joined Albers & Associates in March.

Snehal P. Massey, B.S. '06, J.D. '15, joined the family law practice at Turnbull Nicholson & Sanders as an associate in February.

Kelly A. Powers, J.D. '06, was awarded the 2019 Federal Bench Exceptional Service Award in November 2019 for her work with children and parents. Particularly noted was her dedication, experience and service to the Court in handling cases under the 1980 Hague Abduction Convention.

Daniel A. Blank, B.A. '07, started a new position at Kohl's in Lutherville, Maryland, in September 2019.

Scarlett M. Corso, B.A. '07, J.D. '10, rejoined the liability team in the Baltimore office of Franklin & Prokopik in March. She previously held positions with The Travelers Indemnity Company and Gilman & Bedigian, LLC.

Kimberly H. Neal, J.D. '07, general counsel for The Children's Guild Alliance, was elected in January as secretary of the board of directors for the Baltimore chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel.

Erich M. Bean, J.D. '08, was selected by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan in November 2019 to serve as a judge for the Allegany County District Court.

Lauren D. Benjamin, J.D. '08, an attorney at the firm of Gildea & Schmitt, LLC, was reappointed to the alumnae board of Roland Park Country School in Baltimore in 2019.

Bridgette M. Harwood Stumpf, J.D. '08, won an Excel Award from the Center for Nonprofit Advancement in October 2019. Stumpf's recognition came from her work as the executive director of the Network for Victim Recovery of DC, a nonprofit she co-founded in 2012.

Mikhel A. Kushner, J.D. '08, joined the Office of Equity and Inclusion at

the University of Maryland Baltimore County in April as the Title IX coordinator.

Kevin D. Hebbel, MBA '09, was promoted to a director at the SC&H Group, leading organizations in the execution of business strategies and deployment of innovative solutions.

Thomas E. Miller, J.D. '09, joined Nixon Law Group, PLLC, a leading health law firm in Richmond, Virginia, as senior counsel in July 2019.

2010s

Kathleen W. Hurd, J.D. '11, was elected to the Board of Directors of Chesapeake Bank and Trust in November 2019.

Theresa J. Kallman, J.D. '11, became the director of patient safety and risk management for Jackson Hospital in Montgomery, Alabama, in January. She also presented a workshop at the October 2019 American Society for Health Care Risk Management National Conference in Baltimore, titled "Ethical Decision-Making: A Four-Topics Approach with Complex Case Study."

John P. Malone, J.D. '11, joined Shryne Group in Los Angeles, California, as general counsel in September 2019. He is experienced in helping cannabis startups with strategic planning and navigating complex regulatory environments.

Jessica L. Phillips, J.D. '11, joined Maho Prentice, LLP, in Santa Barbara, California, in September 2019. She specializes in personal injury, including automobile accidents, product liability, wrongful death, toxic tort, and sudden and catastrophic injuries.

Dytonia L. Reed, M.A. '11, J.D. '18, was named assistant director of government relations for the Maryland Insurance Administration in January.

Takia R. Ross, B.A. '11, was named one of *The Baltimore Sun's* 25 Women to Watch for 2019.

Matthew J. Rudo, J.D. '11, joined the Baltimore office of Cordell & Cordell in August 2019 as a senior litigation attorney.

Lauren B. Ziegler, J.D. '11, was appointed by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan in December 2019 to serve on the Maryland Park Advisory Commission.

Matthew P. Burkett, MBA '12, is the chief financial officer at FUN.com in North Mankato, Minnesota, which is the largest online retailer of Halloween costumes and novelty collectible goods. He joined the company in June 2019.

Robin Holmes, B.A. '12, founder of Deddle's Donuts, received the Entrepreneur of the Year Award from SCORE Greater Baltimore in September 2019. SCORE is a nonprofit that supports the growth of entrepreneurs and small businesses.

James R. Jeffcoat, J.D. '12, joined the Baltimore office of Whiteford, Taylor & Preston in April as counsel.

Aditya S. Raval, MBA '12, joined ClearOne Advantage in November 2019 as marketing director. He is responsible for marketing initiatives, digital engagement and new customer growth.

Michael Sapperstein, M.S. '12, was promoted to assurance manager in February for Rosen, Sapperstein & Friedlander, LLC, a business consulting and accounting firm.

Brian C. Thompson, J.D. '12, was promoted in April to associate general counsel at Merkle in Columbia, Maryland.

LaFontaine E. Oliver, MBA '13, became president and general manager of WYPR-FM 88.1, the National Public Radio station serving Baltimore and the state of Maryland, in July 2019.

Courtney Trang, B.S. '11, M.S. '15, became the assistant director of Alumni Relations at the University of Baltimore in September 2019.

Barbara E. Payne-Maddalena, J.D. '13, joined Berenzweig Leonard, LLP in December 2019 as a senior associate attorney.

Tiffany F. Boykin, J.D. '14, received the 2020 Benjamin L. Perry Professional Award by the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals last winter for her contributions to student success, outstanding leadership and service.

John J. Leppler Jr., J.D. '14, a civil litigation attorney, joined the firm of Albers & Associates as a senior attorney in January.

Anthony W. Moll, M.F.A. '14, won a Lambda Literary Award in June 2019 for his 2018 book, *Out of Step: A Memoir*. The collection of essays, set toward the end of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" years, won in the category of Bisexual Nonfiction.

Anna S. Sholl, J.D. '14, was promoted in October 2019 to deputy executive director of the Maryland State Bar Association.

Stephanie Weaver, M.P.A. '14, was appointed deputy administrator by California Governor Gavin Newsome for the Veterans Home of California-Yountville in October 2019.

Verlando C. Brown, M.S. '15, authored an article that appeared online in *Forbes* in February entitled "Overcoming The Challenges Of Getting Through College."

Tyler M. Corrado, B.S. '15, joined BBR Music Group/BMG Nashville in Nashville, Tennessee, in January. He was hired for the newly created role of manager of social media and fan engagement.

Jermaine D. Haughton, J.D. '15, authored an article in October 2019 called "A letter to my 10-year-old self, who wanted to be a lawyer" which appeared in Generation J.D., *The Daily Record's* blog for young lawyers, by young lawyers.

Kelly M. Savoca, MBA '15, was appointed vice president and chief financial officer for Sheppard Pratt Health System in August 2019.

Momen Abukhdeir, J.D. '16, was hired as the first chief data and performance officer for Baltimore County in February.

Richard L. Adams, J.D. '16, CERT '20, joined O'Byrne Law LLC as an associate attorney in November 2019.

Sonia M. Almonte, CERT '16, was named new community engagement representative for Baltimore County, District 1, by County Executive Johnny Olszewski in August 2019.

Kara Brogden, B.S. '16, joined Continental Realty Corporation as an asset management associate in October 2019.

Vernon D. Brownlee, J.D. '16, joined the liability team in the Baltimore office of Franklin & Prokopik in February.

Michael March, J.D. '16, an associate with Rosenberg Martin Greenberg LLP, was elected in February to the board of directors of the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service.

Bryan Upshur, J.D. '16, became the assistant solicitor for Baltimore City in February.

David A. Fraser, J.D. '17, joined the Baltimore office of Franklin & Prokopik as a liability associate in September 2019.

Kara K. Parker, J.D. '17, joined the Baltimore office of Franklin & Prokopik in November 2019 as an associate focusing on workers' compensation and employers' liability.

LET US KNOW

Let us know when your little one arrives, and we'll send you a Baby Bee bib. Share the buzz at 410.837.6131 or alumni@ubalt.edu.

Benjamin H. Seider, J.D. '17, joined the workers' compensation group of Goldberg Segalla in September 2019.

Brianna Billups, B.S. '18, received the 2020 Mary Pickersgill Award for Women's Leadership in Business in March. She was honored for her participation in the Merrick School of Business' Ratcliffe Entrepreneurship Fellows Program and for her business venture, Fully Grown, an organic line of fruit snacks whose profits support the nutritional health of children, families and communities.

David Chiodaroli, B.A. '18, writes for Screen Rant, an online entertainment news site that features news and commentary on television, films, video games and film theories.

Marleigh A. Davis, J.D. '18, joined the workers' compensation group at Franklin & Prokopik in February as an associate.

Janet E. Franklin, J.D. '18, joined Hawley Troxell in its Pocatello (Idaho) office as a litigation associate in January.

Horton J. McCormick, J.D. '18, joined Rollins, Smalkin, Richards & Mackie, LLC in October 2019 focusing on general litigation and insurance defense.

John F. Simanski III, J.D. '18, joined the liability team of Franklin & Prokopik in September 2019 and focuses on liability defense.

Matthew T. West, J.D. '18, joined Franklin & Prokopik in September 2019 as a workers' compensation associate.

Lindsey Eldridge, M.P.A. '19, became the community outreach coordinator for the Baltimore Police Department in August 2019. She has also been serving as the department's acting director of public affairs and community outreach since January.

Alexis L. Holiday, J.D. '19, joined Turnbull, Nicholson & Sanders, P.A. in January as an associate in the family law practice.

Baby Bees



Leo Heid, B.S. '59, welcomed great-granddaughter, Caroline Panzer, on November 15, 2019.

Christopher M. Craig, B.A. '06, M.A. '11, and **Courtney L. Craig, B.S. '12**, welcomed twin boys, Matthew Jacob and Brian Andrew, on February 6.

Caron A. Brace, M.P.A. '09, J.D. '14, and **D. Watkins, B.A '09, M.F.A. '14**, welcomed a daughter, Cross, on January 15.



Olukemi Fasehun, B.S. '11 welcomed son Jeremiah Fasehun.



Ashley Thomas, B.S. '11, and **Nicolas Banack, B.A. '14**, married in June 2019. They welcomed their first child, Hunter Banack, in April.

Roy C. Brewington Jr., M.P.A. '12, welcomed a son, Parker Ian, in September 2019.



Michael A. Carrington Jr., B.S. '15, and **Tariah L. Carrington, B.S. '16, M.A. '18**, welcomed Michael Anthony Carrington III

on December 19, 2019.

Christopher Pineda, B.A. '17, MBA '20, became the head of the Bel Air Downtown Alliance in July 2019. He previously managed the Main Street Program in Dundalk, Maryland. He and his wife, **Brittany Thompson Pineda, B.S. '18**, also welcomed their daughter, Abigail Grace, on February 18.

Adrianna Vargas, M.P.A. '19, welcomed a son, Amir Macias Lee Beard, in November 2019.

In Memoriam

- William G. Woods Jr., A.A. '43
George J. Connor, A.A. '47
Santo J. Salvaggio, B.S. '51
William Tamburrino, B.S. '51
George F. Wohlgemuth, B.S. '51
Albert G. Kramer, A.A. '52
Edward B. Rybczynski, J.D. '52
Leon I. Snyder, B.S. '52
Dorothy J. Tamburrino, A.A. '52
John R. Cannon, LL.B. '53
Raymond A. Richards, J.D. '53
Stanley M. Sody, B.S. '53
James J. Dembeck, J.D. '54
Harold E. Hicks Jr., CERT '54
David E. Monath, B.S. '55
Jerry M. Covey, B.S. '56
Francis J. Dabkowski, B.S. '56
J. Max Millstone Sr., LL.B. '56
Raymond B. Ellis, B.S. '57
Herman F. Timme, A.A. '57
Robert H. Bates, LL.B. '58
Bernard Brager, LL.B. '58
Dominic D. Ferrarini, LL.B. '58
Richard G. McQuay, B.S. '58
George W. Tyrie Jr., B.S. '58
Donald V. Conelius, B.S. '59
Wayne B. Morris, B.S. '59, MBA '90
Martin I. Moylan, B.S. '59
Edward J. Swietkoski, B.S. '59
Robert L. Metzger, B.S. '60
Charles E. Huckins, B.S. '61
John D. Malone, B.S. '62
Richard D. Rosenblatt, B.S.'62
Robert G. Durnal, J.D. '63
Barry J. Kanefsky, B.S. '63
David G. Lavin, B.S. '63
Frederick W. Meise Jr., B.S. '63
Richard J. Pozecki, J.D. '63
Thomas B. Shettle, J.D. '63
Wallace C. Ammon, B.S. '64
William C. Bausman, J.D. '64
Robert M. Colston, B.S. '64
Walter D. Dell, B.S. '64
Thomas J. Doud Jr., LL.B. '64
Donald J. May, J.D. '64
Jerome P. Mead, B.S. '64
Jack B. Rubin, J.D. '64
Robert H. Bommer Jr., J.D. '65
Charles A. Crawford, B.S. '65
Terry R. Crossfield, B.S. '65
Louis J. Martucci, LL.B. '65
Frederick J. Alsruche, LL.B. '66
Joseph H. Barthelmes, B.S. '66
Marvin M. Fribush, B.A. '66
Milton W. Lee, J.D. '66
Ronald J. Levasseur, J.D. '66
George A. Sheehan, LL.B. '66
David M. Williams, LL.B. '66
Richard C. Brooke, J.D. '67
Joan B. Burrier, LL.B. '67, M.P.A. '82
Patrick Cavanaugh, B.S. '67, J.D. '74
Thomas C. Getner, J.D. '67
Jack W. Harris, CERT '67
Roger B. Hayden, B.S. '67
Ronald K. Macken, B.A. '67
Wadsworth Robinson, LL.B. '67
Robert J. Smith, B.S. '67
Lewis G. von Lossberg, B.S. '67
Ronald B. Zimmerman, B.S. '67
William L. Bramman Jr., B.S. '68
Ronald L. Hayden, B.S. '68
John F. McClellan, LL.B. '68
John S. Munsell, B.S. '68

- James O. Myer Jr., B.S. '68
Patrick J. Barrett, B.S. '69
Guy R. Ayres III, J.D. '70
George A. Breschi, J.D. '70
St. George I.B. Crosse III, J.D. '70
Worthington E. Hubbard, B.S. '70
Joseph G. Johns Jr., B.S. '70
Frank R. Kanour, B.S. '70
Frank B. Proctor, J.D. '70
Frederick E. Spence, B.S. '70
Leonard H. Wilmore Jr., B.S. '70
Alan M. Wolf Jr., J.D. '70
John W. Bryant, J.D. '71
George K. Fluharty, B.S. '71
Andrew T. Grau, B.S. '71
James D. Medwin, B.S. '71
Carol A. White, B.A. '71
Louis C. Bricca, J.D. '72
Ralph A. Costello, B.S. '72
Richard A. Furst, B.S. '72
Emile A. Henault, J.D. '72
Robert L. Kreuger, B.S. '72
James F. Schneider, J.D. '72
Thomas F. Taylor, B.S. '72
Ronald B. Annesly, B.S. '73
Joe R. Carney, J.D. '73
Harry B. Classon, B.S. '73
Anthony G. Dibenedetto, J.D. '73
Karl V. Hetherington Jr., J.D. '73
Sherrie Kavalsky, B.S. '73
Edward C. Grapski, B.S. '74
Benjamin J. Rome, B.S. '74
Mary L. Smith, J.D. '74
WG Speicher Jr., J.D. '74
Joseph C. Baranauskas, B.S. '75
M. Lorraine Hebrank, B.S. '75
Roger L. Pickens, J.D. '75
Marijane K. Prichard, B.A. '75
Murray H. Seidel, B.S. '75, M.S. '83
Thomas P. Barbera, J.D. '76
James L. Carlsen, B.S. '76
Barbara T. Durr, B.S. '76
Laura H. Foster, J.D. '76
Otis K. Hurd, B.S. '76
Charles J. Kollar, J.D. '76
Thomas M. McDonald, B.S. '76
William M. Rudd, J.D. '76
Raymond S. J. Sprague Jr., M.S. '76
Kenneth D. Thomas, B.S. '76
Anthony J. Waytekunas Jr., B.A. '76
Neil S. Alpern, J.D. '78
Kirk L. Hurley, J.D. '78
J. Frank Nayden, J.D. '78

- Arthur I. Messinger, J.D. '79
John E. Ames Jr., M.S. '80
Mark R. Hagner, B.S. '80
Susan H. Murphy, MBA '80
Vincent J. Sabatino, CERT '80, M.S. '80
John E. Carter, MBA '81
Terri A. Davis, J.D. '81
Martin A. Hayes, B.S. '81
Larry L. Smith, M.S. '81
Barton L. Stringham, J.D. '81
Michael Zaruba, B.S. '81
Harry L. Adler, J.D. '82
Don E. Ansell, J.D. '82
Edward R. Jeunette Jr., J.D. '82
Kathleen E. Mensache, M.P.A. '82
Thomas J. Ward, J.D. '82
Ronald D. Bledsoe, B.S. '83
James W. Gracie, M.S. '83
Charles P. Hastings, B.S. '83
Claudia H. Stewart, J.D. '83
Timothy K. Michels, J.D. '84
Donald R. Newhouse, M.S. '84
Otila M. Van der Veken, B.A. '84
Joseph W. Majcher, MBA '85
David E. Deinlein, B.S. '86
Beverly D. Hague, B.S. '86
Francis G. Martin, J.D. '86
Carol M. McGowan, J.D. '87
Robert J. Morrissey, J.D. '87
James J. Conrad Jr., M.P.A. '88
Frederick A. Gantz, B.A. '88
John M. Lis, J.D. '88
Leslie H. Varga, B.A. '88, M.A. '95
Jean L. Buettner, B.S. '89, M.S. '92
Richard M. Terry, B.A. '89, M.A. '91
Mark W. Conforti, J.D. '91
Joseph R. Barnes, B.S. '92
Donald D. Lochary, M.A. '92
Kim W. Chong, B.S. '94
Sandra L. Sadler, B.A. '95
Susan E. Bare, J.D. '97
Todd M. Fannin, B.S. '99
Matthew D. Wiley, MBA '99
Amy Elizabeth Clemens, B.A. '04
Eric K. Johnson, B.S. '07
Marguerite C. Underdue, B.S. '07
Jeanne S. Ten Broeck, M.S. '11
Yolanda L. Thomas, M.S. '11
Lekquan D. Young, B.S. '19



SNAPSHOT IDENTIFIER

Top line, left to right:
Gargoyle, Preston Street side,
Liberal Arts and Policy Building
Student Center
Detail over Preston Street Entrance,
Liberal Arts and Policy Building
Blossom, Gordon Plaza Garden
Knights of Pythias Seal, Liberal
Arts and Policy Building

Second line:
Academic Center,
Charles Street side
Street lamp in Gordon Plaza
Stained Glass Window,
Liberal Arts and Policy Building
John and Frances Angelos
Law Center
Bench in front of Thumel
Business Center

Third line:
Stained Glass Window,
Liberal Arts and Policy Building
Student Center

Thumel Business Center
Street lamp on Charles Street
Gate along Gordon Plaza

Fourth line:
Robert L. Bogomolny Library
Knights of Pythias Seal,
Liberal Arts and Policy Building
Peggy and Yale Gordon Plaza
Commemorative Plaque

Robert L. Bogomolny Library
Academic Center,
Charles Street side

Fifth line:
Stained Glass Window,
Liberal Arts and Policy Building
Student Center
Detail over Preston Street Entrance,
Liberal Arts and Policy Building
Stained Glass Window,
Liberal Arts and Policy Building
Angel Relief, side of the
Edgar Allan Poe Statue

BERT P. SMITH, M.A. '85

Smith, a former Marine, award-winning graphic designer and postcard collector, died on October 24, 2019. He was a graduate of UB's publications design program, and joined the program as faculty in 1985. He taught at UB for 27 years until his retirement in 2012.

KATRINA J. DENNIS, J.D. '04

A trial attorney, University System of Maryland regent, mentor and activist, Dennis died on August 31, 2019. She was a passionate client advocate, known for her work in higher education and labor and employment. After her death, her friends and colleagues **Sean R. Malone, J.D. '97**, and his wife, Lisa Harris Jones, established the Katrina J. Dennis Memorial Scholarship for law students focusing on litigation.

MARJORIE BOAFO APPIAH

- MBA, University of Baltimore
- Author of *The Shimmigrant* and *Same Elephants*
- Education and literacy advocate
- Founder of nonprofit Girls for STEAM and creator of MarjyTV

The Scope of Story

MARJORIE BOAFO APPIAH, MBA '07

BY PAULA NOVASH

Author **Marjorie Boafo Appiah, MBA '07**, publishes her novels under the name Marjy Marj. It's an upbeat moniker that accurately reflects her enthusiasm for her many ventures. In addition to writing a series of novels based on the immigrant experience, Boafo Appiah is the founder of the nonprofit Girls for STEAM. She's also a management consultant who works with local businesses and host of a video streaming channel, Marjy TV.

Boafo Appiah was born in Ghana and moved to the United States in her early twenties. "I am as Ghanaian as jollof rice and as American as apple pie," she says. "Home is wherever you become part of your community."

Boafo Appiah initially lived with an uncle in New York and then moved to Baltimore to attend UB. "I have fond memories of my MBA studies," she says. "When my son Adom attended a camp at The John Hopkins University, we visited the UB campus. I took my Dad as well, when he visited from Ghana."

Boafo Appiah and her physician husband lived in Arkansas before relocating to their current city of Spartanburg, South Carolina. There she founded Girls for STEAM (STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) with friends from high school. The organization promotes educational activities for youth ages 6 to 18 in the United States and Ghana.

"We provide mentors and resources," she explains. "It's wonderful to see children get so excited about whatever they are doing—coding, dance, spelling, math, debate—and help the future generation to dream and aspire to achieve great heights."

One initiative of Girls for STEAM, Giving Book Day, regularly distributes books by authors of color. The project began when Boafo Appiah noticed that her local Barnes and Noble had boxes of unsold books to donate. The initiative also partners with Project Lit Ghana, which provides books by authors of African descent to children and young adults in that country. "Every day is Giving Book Day!" she says. "I am passionate about representation, that kids see themselves in stories. And for children who often do not own books, there is a special feeling when they can say 'this book is mine.'"


"I am passionate about representation, that kids see themselves in stories. And for children who often do not own books, there is a special feeling when they can say 'this book is mine.'"

Boafo Appiah created Marjy TV, which streams via YouTube and Facebook, as a vehicle to provide inspirational content and discuss "everyday issues impacting the human race," she says. Recent interviewees have addressed topics such as how to have difficult conversations and how to support frontline workers through music. She also hosted a series focusing on youth called "Everyday Heroes."

Boafo Appiah's first novel, *The Shimmigrant*, tells the story of Obaa Yaa Sasha, a young woman who emigrates to the United States and becomes a maidservant. "If you are bold enough to relocate to America and pledge allegiance to the flag, you are American, and

yet immigrants are judged," Boafo Appiah says. "We need to share stories of those who persevere against the odds, to inspire, motivate and encourage." Her latest novel, *Same Elephants*, continues Sasha's story as four friends from diverse backgrounds come together to educate their community about the dangers of stereotyping.

Her new book is set in both the United States and Ghana. "There is a lot about culture people will appreciate, and it deals with some sensitive issues," she continues. "I think my American, African, international and diverse readers will be quite pleased."

With her full, and fun, schedule, Boafo Appiah says she finds time to write wherever she can. "Early in the morning, after work, before my kid's games, in the car—I write whenever the opportunity presents itself." 

RIGHT: Marjorie Boafo Appiah at her Spartanburg, South Carolina home.



JEREMIAH DRUMMOND



LEFT: Photo by one of Hugel's television colleagues: "I was scrambling down the station steps to cover the 1968 Baltimore riots," he recalls.
ABOVE: Hugel today.

A Legacy of Giving

For **David Hugel, J.D. '73, M.S. '77**, a Vietnam War veteran and nationally recognized legal authority on public and highway safety, service to country and community has always been important. Like many UB students, Hugel worked while he attended school, first as a news reporter for WBAL and WJZ Baltimore where he covered the unrest in 1968 for the station. Then, while pursuing his law degree, he worked in public relations for the Baltimore office of the American Red Cross. He went on to teach as an adjunct professor in UB's criminal justice program from 1974-77 before joining Northwestern University

in Evanston, Illinois. There he taught constitutional law, evidence and police civil liability to law enforcement officials from across the country.
His passion for service and helping others is reflected in the legacy he is leaving for UB students and the community. In 2018, Hugel established the *David H. Hugel Papers* held in the Special Collections Department of UB's Robert L. Bogomolny Library. The collection, open for research to UB students, faculty, staff and the community, contains publications, articles, photographs and other ephemera related to his professional career, electioneering and community activism.
Most recently Hugel worked with the College of Public Affairs and the Office of Institutional

Advancement to create the *David H. Hugel Future Leaders Endowed Scholarship*. The scholarship supports future UB undergraduate students who are passionate about making their communities a better place for all. To fund the scholarship, Hugel has generously included a bequest for UB in his will.
Including UB in estate plans is a way alumni and friends can pass down opportunities to the next generation. When these gifts create an endowment, as Hugel's will, they grow and prosper indefinitely, benefiting UB students, faculty and programs. And it gives donors like Hugel the satisfaction of knowing their gifts will impact lives for generations to come.
UB's Office of Institutional Advancement provides gift planning information and assistance

to alumni and friends who are considering how they may want to help UB students. Most of the more than \$1 million in bequests UB has received in the last two years will eventually provide direct support to our students.
Through his bequest, Hugel is ensuring that his legacy of service lives on. For more information about gift planning with the University of Baltimore, please contact:
Leslie Joyce
Senior Director of Development
University of Baltimore
410.837.6217
ljoyce@ubalt.edu

For additional information visit:
<http://ub.myplannedgift.org/>

 DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK



"This project is a way to raise awareness, promote diversity and safe spaces, and highlight the struggles of underrepresented communities."
DANIEL KHOSHKEPAZI

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANIEL KHOSHKEPAZI

RAINBOW CONNECTION

In many cultures, rainbows are a symbol of hope. And a newly-painted rainbow crosswalk on UB's campus conjures thoughts of positive change as well, as it celebrates the university's support of the LGBTQ+ community. Conceived and executed by the university's Student Government Association (SGA), the Philadelphia Rainbow Flag street mural is located in the alley between the Thumel Business Center and the Liberal Arts and Policy Building.
"This project is a way to raise awareness, promote diversity and safe spaces, and highlight the struggles of underrepresented

communities to achieve social equality," says Daniel Khoshkepazi, President of the SGA.
The SGA passed a resolution in support of the project in June, Pride Month, and presented a proposal to UB's administration. "Everyone was 100 percent supportive, and that felt very empowering," Khoshkepazi adds.
University System of Maryland guidelines for the COVID-19 pandemic restricted the number of people doing the actual painting. Those involved include Khoshkepazi, SGA Senators Emily Kamp and Joseph Ha, Anthony Butler, M.A. '02, SGA Advisor and director of UB's Rosenberg Center for Student Involvement, and Sara Golden, a Baltimore community artist. The team spent more than 20 hours over several days creating the mural.

The rainbow crosswalk is the first of its kind on a Maryland university campus.
"We're proud to have a new campus and city landmark that people can visit and enjoy," says Khoshkepazi. "With projects like this one, the SGA is engaging in cultural change that benefits UB and the community for years to come."

THE
BOB PARSONS
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Providing transfer students
and military/veteran students
with financial support
towards tuition and fees



LET UB INVEST IN YOU

The Bob Parsons Scholarship Fund makes it possible for 1000-plus community college and military veteran students to complete their undergraduate education for free. The fund was established with a generous donation from The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation. Bob Parsons is a Baltimore native, UB alumnus and Marine Corps Vietnam War veteran.

"A college degree is a game changer. It opens the door to more career opportunities, higher paying jobs and a happier life," said Parsons. "I'm establishing this scholarship fund to help low-income students acquire a first-class college education and build a brighter future for themselves, their families and the city of Baltimore."

The nonprofit's \$5 million gift over five years will bridge the gap between what a Pell Grant covers and the university's remaining tuition and fees.

For more information and to apply, visit ubalt.edu/parsons or contact admission/ubalt.edu, 410.837.4777.