SNAPSHOT

In this issue we highlight the artistic visions of three photographers. The snowy street scene on the cover is by the iconic A. Aubrey Bodine, who chronicled our city and its inhabitants for The Baltimore Sun and whose daughter Jennifer Bodine, J.D. ’75, is the keeper of his legacy. The photos of Sue Tatterson, B.S. ’06, M.F.A. ’08, range from tiny details of East Coast abandoned spaces to soaring vistas of the American Southwest. And Kimberlee Jenkins, B.A. ’20, focuses on vibrant and authentic portraits of her subjects.

Experiencing such different styles and subject matter can help us see the world more broadly. We may begin to observe more closely, think more creatively, even be open to greater possibilities. That’s a path to new ideas and new solutions—and that’s the magic of art.
It’s good to be together again. After three semesters of virtual learning, some of our students and staff have returned to The University of Baltimore campus with protocols such as indoor masking in place to keep us all safe and healthy. (As always, we’re continuing to have a robust online presence to provide the flexible learning options our students want and need.)

Even as we transition to more in-person activities, many of us are reflecting on the changes we’re seeing in our society. Issues around social justice, health policy and education reform, among others, have opened up to new perspectives and new ideas. In some ways that’s allowed us to appreciate and value each other more. In others we can seem to be far apart.

This fall we convened a panel discussion of UBalt-affiliated thought leaders to address how we can better communicate in a time when many topics can be triggering. I was the moderator for their conversation, in which the panelists shared what they are experiencing in their classrooms, in community organizations and in the workplace. In this issue we share excerpts from their inspiring and insight-filled discussion. We’re also featuring a video of the entire event online at ubalt.edu/ubmag.

In addition, we are showcasing the work of three wonderful—and very different—photographers with connections to our institution. And in another feature, we talk about how our alumni are navigating career changes and job searches, and the resources that have helped them.

Our world will continue to evolve, and we will continue to adapt and look out for each other. Being a part of our UBalt community is always a reminder that together, we can change the world for the better.

Sincerely,

Kurt L. Schmoke
President, The University of Baltimore
A Marvel-ously Expanding Universe

BY TIM PIAGGIO, M.F.A. ’15

W

uggage or scoring, the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) has expanded to include

with over 20 movies and dozens of television series, making it one of the most successful and

famous franchises in the world. This expansion has not only brought in new fans but also

changed the way audiences perceive superheroes and their creators.

The MCU is known for its diverse

representation of characters from various cultural backgrounds, religions, and sexual

orities. This inclusivity is particularly notable in the recent introduction of supernatural

characters, such as Wanda Maximoff, who explores themes of identity, sexuality, and

sexuality. The MCU’s commitment to representation is evident in its casting choices,

which are diverse and represent a wide range of experiences.

However, as the MCU continues to evolve, there have been criticisms about the portrayal of

characters, with some arguing that the franchise still lacks diversity in certain areas.

Despite these challenges, the MCU has made significant strides in promoting representation

and inclusivity in popular culture.

The Take Down

BY CHRISTIANNA MCCANSLAND

The great Roman emperor Cæcero was known to make inflammatory remarks on the Floor of the ancient senate. Egyptians defaced build-

ings to remove the visage of former pharaohs. Americans defaced founding fathers notoriously vilified each other in the press. Character assassination—defined as the deliberate taking down of an adversary’s reputation in the eyes of the public—is as old as humankind. Now, a UAlb student is researching this tactic as it expands in our social media age. Jennifer Keohane is a rhetoric scholar, assistant professor in the Klein Family School of Communi-

cations Design at UAlb, and direc-

tor of oral communication courses. Along with three co-founders, Keohane launched the Character Assassination and Reputation Politics Research Lab (CARP) housed at George Mason University. The interdisciplinary lab looks at character assassination in the context of history, teaches students to understand and think critically about the topic. Keohane says it is hard to imagine a world without character assassination, and that recognizing and understanding the motivation for it can be the intrusive.

It is important to become a literate consumer of media so when an attack happens you think critically about it: “It’s helpful to think, ‘Why did this person launch this attack?’ What do they hope to achieve? How does this impact my decision-making about this person or situation?”

Jennifer Keohane, a longtime contributor to the magazine, writes from Baltimore. The rapid pace of information means that even the smallest gaffe can snowball much faster than in the past, resulting in what Keohane’s colleagues call a “Stacco vortex.” While character assassination is rife in politics, it shows up in professional athletics, the entre-

tainment industry, even corporate America. Microsoft founder Bill Gates was targeted due to his divorce, for example. But character assassination is especially difficult on high profile women. “Fundamentally, we want to believe in the unchanging essence of a person called ‘character,’ though we have different expectations of what is good character for women versus men,” says Keohane. This difference shows up in the archetypes and labels used in character assassination. Holding women to a standard that idealizes care and compassion makes it harder for them to respond to character assassi-

nation and less likely to rebound from a scandal, whereas men can often reconcile their careers even after an infidelity, for example. “There’s a perception of a ‘good’ woman as caring, a har-

nour, whereas leadership requirements as they are framed in American society are stereotypically male,” says Keohane. “So when women exhibits the necessary character attributes of leadership, like decisiveness, they’re seen as unlikable.” Feminist scholars call this the double bind,” she continues. “If you are a leader, you are labeled bitchy. If you are caring, you are seen as incompetent in leadership.” At CARP, Keohane and her col-

leagues have gathered over 10 examples of character assassination across history and cultures for use in study, and are launching an online database to expand that collection. They’ve also designed a textbook on the topic. Keohane says it is hard to imagine a world without character assassination, and that recognizing and understanding the motivation for it can be intrusive.

“Feminist scholars call this the double bind,” she continues. “If you are a leader, you are labeled bitchy. If you are caring, you are seen as incompetent in leadership.” At CARP, Keohane and her colleagues have gathered over 100 examples of character assassination across history and cultures for use in study, and are launching an online database to expand that collection. They’ve also designed a textbook on the topic. Keohane says it is hard to imagine a world without character assassination, and that recognizing and understanding the motivation for it can be intrusive.

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**Designed to Evolve**

By Paula Novash

In her more than 25 years of experience in product development, publishing, web/user-experience, advertising, and marketing, Quiñones has learned the value of remaining curious. “You can’t write about something you don’t know, so it’s vital to listen and be open-minded,” she says. “That helps us create inspired and inclusive solutions.” Quiñones has also taught design at George Mason University since 2008. “I find the best way to change the world,” she says. “I tell my students that they have powerful voices they can use to speak up for those who have not been heard. If they are intentional about the ways they want to bring about change—in democracy, education, mental health, public health—they can capture hearts and minds.”

**Partnered for Success**

By Paula Novash

“Businesses don’t always know how to tell their story and share what will make us gravitate to them,” says Gonzalez. “We want to help them bring their awareness to their core communities in a way that’s authentic.”

“It’s important to believe in yourself and your ambitions, he continued. “There were times when I felt like I wasn’t good enough and doubted my capabilities,” he recalls. “During my time at U Balt, I met passionate people with interesting stories and experiences. They have become my biggest supporters and more importantly, my friends. They have given me the strength and confidence to follow my ambitions.”

“Working with the Masters students gives our entrepreneurs access to innovative problem solving and illustrates the power of collaborating across disciplines,” says Mortimer. “A strength of the CEI is that we provide connections to the business world, and this is a version of that—we’re working with Baltimore’s next generation of marketing and design professionals.”

Henry Mortimer

Notes Smith, “Our team also had a crash course in business development in order to create the process guide. This involved outlining the competition and setting specific profit goals.” They added that the semester-long project was an interesting test of the students’ project management skills, as each juggled working on their final portfolios and collaborating remotely. “We did a survey for the students to get their feedback on what worked and what we could improve,” Smith said. According to the judges, who were outside experts, “the quality of work the design students produce is exemplary.”

Smith agrees. “The opportunity to closely collaborate with other designers on the program was very valuable, because I was able to learn from their specialties. This project is great practice for working on a team with an external client.”

For her, says Rhee, the collaboration is a passion project. “Everyone I talk to feels the same way,” she adds. “We’re all so excited about the work we’re doing.”

Paola Novash is managing editor of the magazine.
On Juneteenth

The University of Baltimore honors Juneteenth—the day that commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers informed the people of Galveston, Texas, that the Civil War was over and enslaved people were freed. We’ve asked a few members of our community to share their thoughts about this historic day.

If you’re Black and you have mixed feelings about Juneteenth (finally) becoming a federal holiday, I get it. While many of our siblings worked REALLY hard to make this day a holiday, it can still feel like we’re being pacified; especially when it feels like it’s taking FOREVER to pass (and strengthen) laws made to protect our voting, civil and overall human rights.

Regardless of how you feel, Juneteenth is a WIN for us.

TAKING THE LEAD

Juneteenth was adopted as a federal holiday in 2021. The University System of Maryland (USM) added Juneteenth to its academic calendar this year as well. But at UBalt, the Student Government Association (SGA) introduced a resolution, officially adopted by the University, to honor the holiday a year earlier, in 2020.

“If we continue to examine and redraw our part in anti-Black racism and systemic inequities that so badly disadvantage people and communities of color. On Juneteenth and throughout the year, I hope we’ll talk with one another about how race shapes our lives. I hope we’ll commit to fully and finally ending slavery’s abiding legacy of violence, oppression and injustice. And I hope that, together, we’ll share in the joy of emancipation.”

Jay A. Pearlman, University System of Maryland Chancellor

Supporting Veterans

Veteran students and students who are active military members are vital—and valued—contributors to The University of Baltimore community.

“Having specialized support and legal counsel when needed can go a long way in making successful transitions possible.”

Bob Parsons, B.S. ’75, D.H.L. ’08, a Baltimore native and Marine Corps Vietnam War Veteran, and founder and CEO of PKG.

The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation offers support to non-profit organizations successfully working to empower, educate, nurture and nourish people during what is often the darkest time of their lives. Founded in 2012 by philanthropists and business leaders Bob and Renee Parsons, the Foundation provides hope and life-changing assistance to the country’s most vulnerable populations. The Foundation’s giving is driven by the core belief that all people—regardless of race, religion, roots, economic status, sexual orientation or gender identity—deserve access to quality healthcare, education and a safe place to call home. Visit TBPF.org to learn more.

Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.
In its inaugural year, book club have a copy of the book to enjoy. a private online forum. Joining is discussions and network through Midnight Library, by Matt Haig.

The by Brit Bennett, and Half, by Bryan Stevenson, The Vanishing

Join The University of Baltimore Alumni Book Club!

"The project gives students the opportunity to put into practice what we have learned throughout our human service course work," says Foulke. "Dr. Parkman suggested the idea of a vaccination clinic and introduced us to our UMMS partner. The student groups were responsible for organizing, fundraising, developing community partnerships, promoting the event and finally executing. We are happy to provide this timely event for our campus community. It’s a fantastic opportunity that we, the students, are very grateful to experience."

The students are all participants in the HSER 470 Senior Seminar, where they work together to complete a shared project that focuses on meeting a community need.

Helping the Community Access COVID-19 Vaccines

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The University of Baltimore is strikingly different from even our closest peers. Our pursuits are fueled by an undeniable purpose, and our mission is to transform lives and improve society. We know what we stand for, and why we’re all here. Let’s celebrate it, live it and, when it comes to U-Balt, love it.

Alumni Learning Consortium

Looking for new opportunities for engagement and learning? U-Balt alumni, students, staff and faculty can view upcoming events, as well as an archive of past events, webinars and other online resources, via the Alumni Learning Consortium (ALC). The ALC offers a variety of topics, including professional development, career advancement, history, personal growth and much more.

For more information, visit www.pbc.guru/ubalt.

What’s in a Name?

A statement from President Kurt Schmoke

In this issue of the magazine, you may have noticed that we have begun to capitalize “The” as our initial references to "The University of Baltimore," and also use the acronym “U-Balt.”

We’re adopting these changes on the recommendation of a task force organized by the University System of Maryland Board of Regents and our University, to maximize our impact and to distinguish ourselves more specifically from other USM institutions. Many of you might want to know that we are “The University of Baltimore, for Baltimore.” This refers to our strengths as an urban institution with a rich background and enormous capabilities in support of the city around us. Similarly, using “U-Balt” is a way to stand apart from other universities which use the UB acronym.

The Student Emergency Assistance Fund supports the continued academic progress and completion of students at The University of Baltimore. Contributions to the Fund make it possible for students experiencing unexpected financial challenges to move forward. The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have been especially difficult for many. The U-Balt community has come together with resiliency and determination to help together. We have already raised more than $379,000 for the fund and provided critical assistance to 475 students.

For more information, and to donate to the fund, contact the Office of Advancement and External Relations, 410.837.6133 or email annualgiving@ubalt.edu.

Stronger Together:
The Student Emergency Assistance Fund

The Student Emergency Assistance Fund has been helping U-Balt students in these ways:

- 36% housing and basic utilities
- 18% needs created by job loss
- 21% food, toiletries and medications
- 14% student travel/home
- 3% internet and educational expenses
- 6% other student emergency needs

For more information and to sign up, visit UBaltSmile.org.

Make Your Voice Heard with BeHEARD Baltimore

Baltimore residents who want to share their opinions about important policy issues, breaking news and current events have a platform in BeHEARD Baltimore®. A citizen engagement initiative of the Schaefer Center for Public Policy at The University of Baltimore College of Public Affairs, BeHEARD Baltimore participates complete brief surveys that address a variety of issues and may help influence public policy in the future.

Members of the BeHEARD community receive email notifications about new surveys every few weeks. Surveys can be completed on personal computers, tablets or smartphones, typically in to minutes or less. Participants can skip any survey and all responses are kept confidential.

The UBalt community has come together with resiliency and determination to help.

SUPPORT U-BALT STUDENTS WITH AMAZON SMILE

There’s a simple way to benefit U-Balt 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 U-Balt students. It’s a great way to boost the power of your purchase!

For more information, visit www.pbc.guru/ubalt.

The University of Baltimore is keeping its promise to provide our students with the option to put into practice “The project gives students the opportunity to put into practice what we have learned throughout our human service course work.”

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Create a book club management service, this initiative was launched thanks to a grant from Alumni Access COVID-19 Vaccines.

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JOIN THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE ALUMNI BOOK CLUB!

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David Grossblatt, J.D. ‘97, is an entrepreneur, an attorney, an angel investor, an early adopter and enthusiastic supporter of the digital economy, and someone who brings people together, among other things. And what connects Grossblatt’s many endeavors is his openness and sense of fun.

“I believe in an abundant environment, more people contributing more ideas,” Grossblatt says. “Finding ways to enrich everyone around you creates so much positive karma.”

During his career, Grossblatt has founded and nurtured hundreds of successful startups. His investing group, Giant Leaf LLC, supports projects and companies in areas that include technology, art and real estate.

A Baltimore native, he attended Pikesville High School and the University of Maryland before obtaining his law degree at UBalt’s School of Law. “My first experience of the internet was in the computer lab across the street from the law school,” he recalls.

After graduation, Grossblatt headed West and practiced law in the Bay Area for two years. “I loved law school and didn’t much like being a lawyer,” he says. He decided to start a company that provided software development, advertising and the digital economy have been incubated in the Dojo, and the ideas keep coming.

One—big—idea that captivated Grossblatt almost a decade ago is a decentralized infrastructure for the internet via blockchain technology. “I knew this thing was going to be good,” he says. “The current structure of the internet is like a train—you get on and ride where it takes you. Blockchain is more like a car—you control where you want to go.”

Blockchain stores data in contained, virtually hack-proof “blocks” that are linked. One of its uses is creating digital ledgers for financial transactions using cryptocurrency, of which perhaps the best known is bitcoin.

“From my law studies, I see this technology from a policy and legal perspective. It provides better security, privacy and transparency,” Grossblatt says. “It’s a much-improved user experience with such potential. A lot of people don’t understand it yet, but we’re getting there.”

He continues, “Here’s a related thing I’m in love with.” Grossblatt is nurturing the inaugural football program at Oakland, California’s 100-year-old Lincoln University. “I’ve never worked with athletes before, and it’s so much fun. I think of them as entrepreneurs,” he explains. “I wanted to do something good to help these kids—most of them come from tough situations. We’re helping them set up social networks and teaching them about cryptocurrency and ways to become financially successful after college.”

Grossblatt and his wife, Lesley (until recently the chief product officer of San Francisco public media organization KQED), recently moved from California to Carson City, Nevada. Lesley is unschooling (a less structured form of homeschooling dictated by the student’s interests) their children, ages 11 and 13, in a city with a small-town feel. “My children are phenomenal people, and my wife is amazing,” he says. “We are so supportive and respectful of each other. You can imagine how goofy I can be, too, and she’s my best audience.”

The future, says Grossblatt, includes global ventures, international family travel and endless possibilities. Recently he and some of his Dojo partners gathered in Las Vegas to discuss a sports and marketing program. “Being with people I love is the town for us,” Grossblatt says. “I want to bring that to other cities around the world.”

He continues, “I’m constantly trying to find more clarity, be more purposeful, live the best life for the best reasons. When I look back, I don’t think I could have dreamed all this.”

Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.
“He saw things the rest of us don’t see,” says JENNIFER BODINE, J.D.’75, of her father, celebrated photographer A. Aubrey Bodine (1906–70). For more than four decades, Bodine documented the stories of people in Baltimore and beyond for The Baltimore Sun. And as a celebrated pictorialist, a photographer who composed his works almost like paintings, “he devoted his life to elevating photography to an art form,” Jennifer adds.

BY PAULA NOVASH
“He visualized how he wanted viewers to experience a scene, and used his craft to create that vision,” she continues. “He didn’t take a picture, he made a picture.” Jennifer is an attorney, stained glass artist and designer of her steel riverside home on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, among many other accomplishments. She’s also the author of five books, curated collections that include Bodine’s Chesapeake Bay Country, Bodine’s City, Bodine’s Industry and Annapolis. Her father’s subjects varied widely, from oystermen to city children to cathedrals, and she says he was particularly known for the effects he achieved in a time long before digital photography or Photoshop.

“No one has been able to replicate his skill in the darkroom—it was his happy place,” Jennifer explains. “He could add elements like clouds to a scene using double photographic plates, and might make scratches or pencil marks on a negative or use dyes or tints to change the appearance of a print.”

Bodine was fearless in pursuit of an image, she continues: “Nothing got between him and a photo. He could not swim but was constantly on boats with watermen. He’d climb vertical rails and steel bars and ladders, perch on the tops of buildings to capture a cityscape.”

And, she recalls, “The man never met bad weather he didn’t love. When he was asked, ‘what advice would you give a budding photographer?’ he replied, ‘Go out in the worst weather imaginable.’”

This “learning by doing” philosophy is consistent with Bodine’s own experience. He went to work at age 14, yet “he was lucky,” Jennifer explains. “He went to the Sun as a messenger and sat next to the commercial art department. He learned from the photographers, and they quickly recognized his talent.”

Jennifer and her husband of forty-plus years, Richard Orban, have digitized more than 10,000 of her father’s photos, available as licenses and reprints at aubreybodine.com. She has designated the Baltimore Museum of Industry as the eventual recipient of the comprehensive Bodine archive.

For Jennifer, it is fitting that her father’s photos reside in the city that shaped him, and that he loved. “Bodine traveled extensively for his work, yet his Baltimore photos are special,” she says. “I want people to have access and enjoy the works, so they can appreciate his legacy as an artist and also the way he viewed the world.”
“It’s beautiful, what gets left behind,” says SUE TATTERSON, B.S. ’06, M.F.A. ’08, of her photos of abandoned spaces. For almost two decades Tatterson has been exploring empty and decaying buildings and capturing their essence.

“I try and show how busy the places often were. For example, there’s a former silk mill in Western Maryland where the employees went on strike and walked away, leaving everything in process,” she explains. “And sometimes the spaces are just empty except for small items, like a toothbrush in a prison cell. You can always feel the energy of the people who were there.”

A professor at Central Arizona College and author of several books of her photography, Tatterson says that as a child in her native Australia, she enjoyed exploring.

“I always liked to do what I wasn’t supposed to be doing,” she says with a laugh. Her first camera was a Kodak Instamatic, “the one with the cube flash on top,” she recalls.

Tatterson studied photography “in the old school days of the darkroom,” she says. “When I saw the first image emerge in that tray of chemicals, I was hooked.” She worked as a commercial photographer, but realized it wasn’t her passion. At age 34, Tatterson took the opportunity to relocate to America, and says the move reignited her love for her art: “Everything seemed new again.”

During her time at UBalt, Tatterson became the graphic designer and photographer for the Schaefer Center for Public Policy and the Merrick School of Business. She also started teaching, as an adjunct professor in UBalt’s Klein Family School of Communications Design. Her “Spirits of the Abandoned” series began as her M.F.A. thesis project, and since 2008 has grown to include images from more than 80 locations in many states.

Usually Tatterson takes someone with her when she goes into abandoned spaces, though oftentimes she’s alone. “It can be a bit creepy—I’ve heard sounds that were terrifying and turned out to be a bunch of turkey vultures or some other critter who has made the abandoned space home,” she says. “You can feel very vulnerable being alone in these places and I try to convey that in a way that makes the images powerful.”

Since Tatterson’s move to Arizona in 2013, the spaces she highlights include ghost towns, “which are delightful to photograph,” she says. “The sheer size of the West is so different—everything is vast and open.” She’s recently begun a new series portraying skeletons of saguaro cacti and remains of animals she finds on her desert hikes. “I had this whole collection of bits and pieces I’d collected, and so I decided to see how they would come together as a still life series,” she says. “The abandoned places I photograph often feel otherworldly. It’s hard to describe the feeling they evoke,” Tatterson continues. “Some buildings I have photographed have been demolished, and no longer exist except in my photos. Capturing a moment in time in that way is precious.”

Tatterson’s photography is available at suetattersonphoto.com.
KIMBERLEE JENKINS, B.A. ’20, was inspired to create her Rose Garden series, which features members of an African-American dance company, in response to a political advertisement.

“During the 2020 election, a woman created campaign ads that made me very angry,” she recalls. The ads used derelict street scenes that were not located in the areas they were meant to portray. “To me, this was slander and misrepresentation,” Jenkins says. “I grew up in Baltimore, it’s my city and it is important to me.”

Jenkins’ response was to create a more positive, nuanced version of her hometown. “I wanted to show people who represent what the city really looks like,” she explains. The resulting images were featured on a billboard at Baltimore’s Penn Station.

“I loved showing not only the beauty of the dancers, but also their athleticism,” Jenkins says. “People who walked by were encouraging them as we worked. It was a great experience.”

Jenkins’ path as an artist includes a few detours. “In high school I tried photography but I doubted myself,” she recalls. She went into the military after graduation, and while stationed in Arizona, she bought a new camera and taught herself to use it.

“Taking photos again made me so happy that after I was honorably discharged, I decided to reconsider what I wanted to do,” she says. A career evaluation suggested she consider a field like art direction, with different facets. “I have always been attracted to a big umbrella, but I didn’t know that was a thing!” she says. UBalt’s B.A. in Digital Communication was the perfect fit.

“One of my first classes was about the business of being an artist, and it just made sense,” she says. “Of course, I need these skills to help my art flourish.” Jenkins was a social media ambassador for the University as well, covering events and contributing photos.

Jenkins says she especially enjoys portrait photography. “I like to create a spark in someone with fun poses and their favorite music,” she explains. “I love it when someone says, ‘I can’t believe I look like this!’ I want to help people feel confident.”

As Jenkins moves forward, she’s exploring featuring her images on shirts and other items. She says, “I want to show young creatives coming after me that you can try different paths. You don’t have to be just one thing.”

Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.
The past year and a half brought unprecedented changes to nearly every aspect of our lives, and work is no exception. Brick-and-mortar office locations closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, causing a seismic shift to remote work and a variety of changes in employment opportunities.

UBalt’s Career and Internship Center contributes to employment success.
Among those whose career searches prospered is Bianca Tablada, M.S., ’20, who graduated with a degree in applied psychology and was recently hired as the University’s health and human resources (HR) coordinator for KIPD Columbus, a network of public charter schools in Ohio. Her job search mirrored the times: “I was kind of burnt out from Baltimore,” says Tablada. “It opened up so many more opportunities for me than just locally in Maryland.”

Troy Pritt, B.S., ’15, MBA, ’20, is a career changer who left Sparrows Point Steel Mill for it years before getting his undergraduate degree and completing his MBA. In March 2021, Pritt started a new job as HR director at Maryland Vascular Specialists, having junior-level writing students complete a resume, and in capstone courses, having students practice interview ing and other job-related activities.

“One of the Center’s signature tools is the UBalt Career Cycle, which asks students to consider what phase of a career search they are in and helps them take the appropriate steps to reach their desired outcomes. “It requires what we call active engagement in your career, or career management, so that you’re not being a passive bystander in your own development,” says Mathews. She adds that these skills are not typically taught in our classroom or in our classrooms, so for many college students, “it’s a new process to have to engage in their own career planning and exploration. Parts of the Career Cycle, such as defining professional goals, can be tricky for students, Mathews says. “Most of our students know what industries they want to be in, but they haven’t explored the industry, so they don’t have a job target.” That means learning about the entry-level positions in your preferred field, what the qualifications are, what the average compensation is and what is trending in that field. This is important “particularly at a time like this, where you have some industries that did very well through COVID, and other industries that didn’t do very well,” she says. Mathews adds that Stewart has been a great friend and mentor who encouraged him to continue on and get his MBA, “and it all happened through the alumni network.”

“Nontraditional students— basically anyone who’s not a typical 18-year-old coming straight from high school—are UBalt’s bread and butter,” in fact, nontraditional are the new traditional.”

LAKEISHA MATHEWS

MEETING THE NEEDS OF NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS

Hearing success stories like these is music to Career Center director Lakeisha Mathews’ ears: “I just get so excited when I hear students talking about it, and know that when they leave our office they get what they needed. That’s so important to me.”

The Center serves undergraduate and graduate students, and prides itself on understanding that the needs of advanced degree seekers and experienced professionals are different from those of entry-level, traditional students. “Nontraditional students—basically anyone who’s not a typical 18-year-old coming straight from high school—are UBalt’s bread and butter,” says Mathews, who is also president-elect of the National Career Development Association. “In fact, nontraditional are the new traditional.” Mathews has seen more career searchers this year than in previous years: “It’s for anyone looking to improve their situation at any stage of life,” she says. Derwart also emphasizes mindset—he says visualizing one’s ideal future is just as powerful as a to-do list. “The subconscious mind doesn’t know the difference so you never know who’s sitting right next to you.”

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND BROAD IMPACT

It was also through word-of-mouth from a fellow student that Bianca Tablada found out about the Career Center. While staying at UBalt, she became a graduate assistant for employer relations at the Center, and then the internship and recruitment coordinator. Reaching out to students and letting them know about the Center and its offerings was a big part of her duties. “Nowadays, it’s pretty widely used. More and more students are finding out about it. But Tablada’s passion project was overseeing the Career Closet, which provides students with professional clothing and accessories donated by alumni at no cost. “That’s the service I’m proud of,” she says. Students can also receive coaching about how to dress professionally for different industries.

For her own virtual job search, Tablada says her experience with the Center helped her think on a broader scale. For instance, she used techniques like keywords to find her current position via LinkedIn. “I actually wouldn’t have thought to use LinkedIn if it weren’t for the Center,” she explains. The impact of the Center goes beyond networking and interview outcomes, says Crystal Wamalwa. She worked as social media manager there while she was getting her degree, and created videos, among other projects. Wamalwa credits the internship with Liu with helping to value herself and her contributions. “I learned very early on that my work has worth,” she says. Wamalwa believes that her experiences at the Center influenced her when she chose her field. “It’s no surprise that I landed in higher education,” she continues. “The Center’s trainings and teachings helped me get to where I am today, and that fuels me to want to make the best path for my own students.”

In 2020, Derwart had the chance to put his learning to the test by hiring many people, “it was the job he had during the pandemic. “If I had a replay of goals and my personal mission statement all ready clarified, I might have reacted differently,” he says. Instead, he realized he needed to pivot and keep moving forward. Today, he’s a published author and has a new job. “Everybody’s going to have to face challenges, it’s inevitable,” he says. “If you have this type of plan in place, it makes it easier to lean in and persevere.”

For more about Derwart and The New You, visit servanthorberg.com/mapping.com.
THE CHANGING CONVERSATION

COMMUNICATION IN A TIME OF RAPID SOCIAL EVOLUTION

The events of the last year-plus have prompted many of us to question how our society works and how it is changing. We are becoming aware of new perspectives on many issues—social justice, the political climate and education reform, to name just a few. It’s more important than ever to be open to different points of view, yet we’re seeing people struggling to connect.

In September, we gathered a panel of UBalt-affiliated thought leaders, moderated by University President Kurt Schmoke, for a wide-ranging conversation. We wondered what they are experiencing and how they are helping people communicate more effectively in the classroom, in community organizations, and with friends and family, when so many topics can be difficult to navigate.

Here are a few excerpts from their insightful discussion. To watch the entire event online, visit ubalt.edu/changing-conversation.

People are challenged with listening. More than half of the conversation is about you understanding the message that’s being given. Having a lot of these dialogues with people that are not necessarily on the same page as you, where I’m trying to gain their support or partnership, there’s a lot more said by the pauses than there are by the words. So listening to how they deliver it, watching their body language, these are all really important. Sometimes I think of understanding the full message, instead of just trying to get to your next point.

The biggest issue right now, I think, is echo chambers. We don’t get other points of view. When we stop having conversations with people that think differently from us, and we stop inviting them to the conversation, we get into a place where people are missing the skills to talk to people that don’t think like they do. So the number one thing that I ask is, have you met someone today, if you talk to someone today, where did you go? What did you eat, what did you get coffee, in a class, or whatever you’re doing, that may have been different than you? I think that helps. And there’s a challenge that I try to take up every day.

I think the challenge for me is that especially as a white person, racial trauma is something that is very complicated to teach.

The biggest issue right now, I think, is echo chambers. We have fallen into a place where we don’t get other points of view.

—Alicia Jones McLeod

We need to look past what’s on the surface. If you look at me, I have five academic degrees. And I’ve lived in a Baltimore City housing project, struggled on school, was raised by a single mom. So when I talk about public service, it’s in the context of being a beneficiary of the public health system, being a beneficiary of loans and scholarships, being a beneficiary of the teacher who took me aside and mentored me for two years. I’ve found that when I can say more about what my journey has been, I have had individual students and others come up to me and say, that helped me because I know it’s possible. Optimism is a choice. So I’m hoping that what I’m able to share with my students is the arc of an experience, that there will be setbacks and they can be major, there will be things that occur that you are ashamed of having done, or failed at or quit. But if you persist, I think optimism is rewarded.

—C. Alan Lyles

The biggest issue right now, I think, is echo chambers. We have fallen into a place where we don’t get other points of view.

—Ting Zhang

“Guided in-class debate is helpful to train critical thinking and motivate students to learn further.”

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WHY IS COMMUNICATION SO IMPORTANT?

We need to look past what’s on the surface. If you look at me, I have five academic degrees. And I’ve lived in a Baltimore City housing project, struggled on school, was raised by a single mom. So when I talk about public service, it’s in the context of being a beneficiary of the public health system, being a beneficiary of loans and scholarships, being a beneficiary of the teacher who took me aside and mentored me for two years. I’ve found that when I can say more about what my journey has been, I have had individual students and others come up to me and say, that helped me because I know it’s possible. Optimism is a choice. So I’m hoping that what I’m able to share with my students is the arc of an experience, that there will be setbacks and they can be major, there will be things that occur that you are ashamed of having done, or failed at or quit. But if you persist, I think optimism is rewarded.

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The Gift of Wings

NIKIEA REDMOND, B.S. ’11

BY PAULA NOVASH

Since she was a child, Nikiea Redmond, B.S. ’11, has been recording people’s stories. Her mother, who owned a local restaurant, and her aunt are both activists who involved Redmond in projects in her community: “I worked on newspapers for kids and teens, interviewed people about the history of the neighborhood, helped in a local computer lab,” she recalls. “I wouldn’t be who I am today if I didn’t feel comfortable navigating different personalities.”

Redmond’s ability to connect is an integral part of how she came to direct and produce her acclaimed documentary, Anatomy of Wings. Created with co-director and co-producer Kirsten D’Andrea Hollander, the film chronicles the lives of six young women from Baltimore’s Dunbar Middle School. The group met in 2008 in a program designed to teach the girls to use video equipment, and over a decade they and their mentors became confidants and supporters of each other’s journeys.

Redmond grew up in East Baltimore and attended Dundalk community college and Towson University before transferring to The University of Baltimore to complete her degree. “I felt at home at UBalt,” she recalls. “It’s a place that encourages people to be creative.” Redmond interned in the president’s office of East Baltimore Development, Inc. where one of her supervisors mentioned that a program for young women was looking for volunteers. “I thought, I could see myself doing this,” Redmond recalls.

The meetings quickly became more than film classes. “We were having these amazing discussions. We were all influenced by the girls’ willingness to be open and true to themselves,” she adds. “Learning to listen to them changed my life completely.”

Anatomy of Wings is a montage of footage, some filmed by the girls and some of group discussions and gatherings. In later years, the young women and their families welcomed Redmond, D’Andrea Hollander and other mentors to their celebrations and events. The group conversations in the film reflect the reality of growing up in difficult circumstances—sometimes silly and fun, sometimes about hopes and dreams, and sometimes addressing tough topics such as teenage pregnancy and losing family members.

In many ways “The girls were living adult lives with a child’s mind in a child’s body,” says Redmond. Barely out of her teens herself when the group formed, Redmond was at times mentor, sister and role model. “I wanted to be there for them, hear it be about their story, not my story,” she continues. “And allowing them to be themselves in the moment, and not always having a solution, really let me check in with myself. I realized I need this too.”

One compelling section of the film takes place on a retreat, when the girls were close to high school graduation. Some of them clearly struggle to communicate their frustrations and fears about moving forward. Redmond says it was difficult when she couldn’t help a girl achieve all of her goals. “We want the best for people we love, and I had to accept that I could not always take them where they wanted to go,” she says. “That part still doesn’t sit well with me.”

Yet, she continues, “Everyone graduated from high school and now they are women in their twenties and thirties. When I watch them raise children, work, see how they manage conversations well, step up boldly and share their stories at film festivals, I know all of them are doing well.”

With Anatomy of Wings released, Redmond is looking to future projects that include a documentary exploring her grandmother’s story. She also brings book projects to life as an editor and designer. As mother to one-year-old son Ashton, Redmond says: “I’m looking at the whole journey, and what my next step should be. I’d like to be a resource for people in publishing, and also for people navigating film festivals, helping them to get their creative work out into the world.”

Anatomy of Wings will be featured in this fall’s American Black Film Festival and the team is working on streaming and distribution deals. There’s also talk of a podcast with the young women. Says Redmond, “We’re a family—the need for what we have together does not go away.”

One of the lessons of Wings, she says, is the invaluable value of allowing people the space to thrive in their own ways. “If we all were heard and seen for who we are,” she says, “what could we be capable of?”

Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.

CONNECTED
The Power of Voice
LaFONTAINE E. OLIVER, MBA ’13

BY CHRISTIANNA MCCAUSLAND

LaFontaine Oliver, MBA ’13, has a voice for radio. Maybe he picked it up from his father, who worked at the heritage African-American station WOOK in Washington, D.C. Oliver cut his own teeth working in college radio at the University of Miami, which helped pay his way through undergraduate school, before starting his career in commercial radio. Oliver has done it all, from producing to hosting. In July 2019, he became president and general manager at WYPR, Baltimore’s local NPR affiliate.

“I’m a big believer in the power of voice,” he explains, “and you see that now not just in radio but in the Renaissance of audio—the theater of the mind. You can connect in a visceral way that’s different from when you give people visuals. There’s a closeness, an intimacy, a connection that can be experienced as an individual or a group, like a couple or a family driving in the car.”

Oliver has a vocal presence, but he always leaned toward behind-the-scenes jobs in management. Knowing an MBA would help on that path, he took a job at the Morgan State University station, WEEA, while pursuing his graduate degree at UBalt. He finished his coursework online and received his MBA ‘13, the University of Baltimore.

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In July 2019, he became president and general manager at WYPR, Baltimore’s local NPR affiliate.

“Ten years to the day of opening the station, it was my turn to pay back the community,” he says. “I always leaned toward behind-the-scenes jobs in management. Knowing an MBA would help on that path, I was in a city he hadn’t lived in for six years, developing an emergency preparedness plan during a global health crisis, in a contentious time of local and national elections and social unrest. His plans included how to maintain breaking news coverage and high-quality content with all his staff working from home.

Despite the challenges, public radio thrived during the pandemic. While corporate sponsorship took a nosedive, leaving a $500,000 hole in the budget, individual donors stepped up. In its last fiscal year, WYPR brought in $3.5 million from individual gifts. Listenership rose as well.

“When we closed the studio because of safety concerns, we turned to community engagement,” he says. “I wanted to hear from our community, to understand their needs and what would help us improve. I knew it would be important to have that insight inform our long-term strategic planning. To build for success you need to develop a plan that’s yours—not your predecessor’s, not shooting from the hip—and that belongs to everyone.”

With a wry laugh, Oliver notes that while he got to the listening part, the planning stage was cut by the pandemic. Suddenly he was in a city he hadn’t lived in for six years, developing an emergency preparedness plan during a global health crisis, in a contentious time of local and national elections and social unrest. His plans included how to maintain breaking news coverage and high-quality content with all his staff working from home.

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“In times of crisis, people flock to public media. The pandemic drove people to us who wanted reliable, well-sourced information without hype or hysteria.”

Oliver notes that in an era of not just in radio but in the Renaissance of audio—the theater of the mind. You can connect in a visceral way that’s different from when you give people visuals. There’s a closeness, an intimacy, a connection that can be experienced as an individual or a group, like a couple or a family driving in the car."

“A vibrant and growing community radio station is a valuable asset to the city it serves. It doesn’t have to be the exclusive medium of radio. It’s a mainstay of the media landscape.

“Free, over-the-air options are important purely from an access point of view,” he says. “There’s a lasting utility to radio broadcasting that’s been counted out so many times, but radio is resilient.”

Christianna McCausland, a longtime contributor to the magazine, writes from Baltimore.
1970s

Stuart M. Goldberg, B.A. ’70, J.D. ’74, is the chairperson for the Strathmore Professional Advisory Committee, as well as chair of the Strathmore Alumni Project which is working to establish an alumni association and an alumni relations office for the university. He also serves as a foundation trustee for the Conifer du Château Retireurs Foundation in the United States.


Baltimore Center Stage appointed Tim Speechman Jr., J.D. ’87, LL.M. ’92, to its foundation board of directors in October 2020. This nonprofit organization serves as a statewide resource to connect citizens to health and human resources.

1980s

Linda S. Woold, B.A. ’82, J.D. ’85, was named as one of five 25 Women to Watch 2020. She is a former reviewer and investigator in the FDA Division of Manufacturing and Production Quality in the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

Joann Pettit, MBA ’90, joined HGA Architects and Engineers in June 2020 as associate vice president in business development in the Alexandria, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., offices.

Three books by author Carole Burton Westhaver, M.A. ’82, won American Library Association Youth Media Awards in January: R.E.-S.P.-T.C.T. Arthu Franklin, the Queen of Soul received the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Book award. BOY: Henry Brown Mail Mails Himself to Freedom was named as one of five Newbery Honor Books.

Olive M. Smith, B.S. ’85, is the deputy director for Gaming Compliance with the Virginia Lottery as of June 1. She was previously with the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency.

The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region elected Kelly K. Koerner, M.P.A. ’87, to a new leadership position, chief clinical officer, in September 2020.

The Hoffman Group, a full-service technology consulting firm with offices in Maryland and Virginia, served as its eighth president, effective July 1.

David P. Vanoves, J.D. ’95, was appointed as deputy commissioner for Trademark Operations at the United States Patent and Trademark Office in January.

Poo Lurz, B.A., ’86, served as incident commander for Baltimore County in December 2019.

John Godshall, MBA ’97, joined NPA Directors in December 2019 as an expert consultant. He is a former reviewer and investigator in the FDA Division of Manufacturing and Production Quality in the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

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CLASS NOTES®

*Class notes featured here were received from June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2021.

For the Hyatt, UBal is a family tradition. President Kurt L. Schmoke recently met with Lou Hyatt, who took business classes at the University in the late 1940s and founded Hyatt Commercial, the real estate brokerage firm celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Joining them are Lou’s son Alan J. Hyatt, J.D. ’78, and grandson Steven D. Hyatt, J.D., ’16, at the Severn Bank Building in Annapolis. The building is home to Hyatt and Weber, P.A., the law firm founded by Alan over 40 years ago, where Alan and Steven both practice.

William D. Mores, J.D. ’76, marked 30 years of service in March with the North Shore Unit Bank. He currently serves as the executive vice president and chief legal counsel for Shore United, and general counsel of Shore Bankshares, Inc.

Anniversary this year. Joining them are Lou’s son Michael D. Schmoke recently met with Lou Hyatt, who took business classes at the University in the late 1940s and founded Hyatt Commercial, the real estate brokerage firm celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Joining them are Lou’s son Alan J. Hyatt, J.D. ’78, and grandson Steven D. Hyatt, J.D., ’16, at the Severn Bank Building in Annapolis. The building is home to Hyatt and Weber, P.A., the law firm founded by Alan over 40 years ago, where Alan and Steven both practice.

We’d like to share your success! Submitting a Class Note is easy. Just visit ubalt.edu/classnotes.

1990s

Joanne M. Wehling, B.A., J.D., ’93, moved to London, Ontario, Canada, for the position of chief financial officer and publisher of Grant County, a daily newspaper.

Lesley A. Davis, J.D. ’92, joined Shelly L. Brown, J.D. ’94, as a member of the board of directors in December 2019.

Joan M. Smith, B.S. ’95, is the deputy director for Gaming Compliance with the Virginia Lottery as of June 1. She was previously with the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency.

Jeffrey S. Getty, J.D. ’92, was appointed as administrative judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit, effective August 2020.

Linda S. Woold, B.A. ’82, J.D. ’85, was named as one of five 25 Women to Watch 2020. She is a former reviewer and investigator in the FDA Division of Manufacturing and Production Quality in the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

Jeffries 2020 Retail Summit last September as a panelist for a session entitled “The Sleep Economy in A Post-COVID World.”

Michael O. Himmel, MBA ’00, joined Member Business Financial Services (MBFS) as a credit union relationship manager in May.

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Heather Young Schiecher, B.A., and her husband Dean, welcomed a daughter in September 2020.

The board of directors of the Eastern Washington Regional Planning and Development Council in West Virginia appointed the appointment of Rachel C. Snively, J.D., ‘11, to the role of executive director. She previously served as the Berkeley County Grains Administrator.

Courtney Trang, B.S., ‘11, ‘15, assistant director of Alumni Relations at the University of Baltimore, and her husband, Tony, welcomed their son Oliver on March 19.

Alan Teo, B.S., ‘11, and Sonya Tao, B.S., ‘11, ‘13, ‘17, welcomed a baby boy this year.

Deddie Donald, a business owner and operator of Robin Holmes, B.A., ‘12, was selected as the official donor category for last May’s faith Praknotes Steak.

Brandon S. Butler, J.D., ‘13, the director of Maryland county administration, joined Green LLC with Combining Group as a consult- ant in Mar. He relocated from his position in Western Maryland and beyond.

GRAM, a full-service public accounting firm, named Kelly M. DeRose, MBA ‘16, as an associate in the firm’s general litiga- tion group in January.

Raymond L. Ommirri, J.D., ’15, joined the litigation group at Miller, Miller & Canby in January. His work focuses on business, commercial and real estate litigation and criminal defense litigation.

Erik L. Johnson, J.D., ’17, joined the Anne Arundel County (Mary- land) State’s Attorney’s Office in August 2020 as the vice president and assumed the position of chief of the services and support bureau.

Leah C. Dempsey, J.D. ‘10, was appointed deputy director of the University of Baltimore’s Homeless Services in May.

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Raymond L. Ommirri, J.D., ’15, joined the litigation group at Miller, Miller & Canby in January. His work focuses on business, commercial and real estate litigation and criminal defense litigation.

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Online Panel Discussion
Many aspects of our society are changing rapidly. We’re dealing with new ideas and new challenges. There’s a lot to talk about, and yet we may not be sure how to effectively communicate about these topics.

Four UB-affiliated thought leaders collaborate to address The Changing Conversation: Communication in a time of rapid social evolution.

Anatomy of Wings
Learn more about the film, a recent winner of Best Documentary at the LA Femme International Film Festival! Wings follows a group of young women from Baltimore over a ten-year period. Clips, upcoming screenings and more are available at anatomyofwings.com.

Bodie’s City
View a slideshow of photographs by Aubrey Bodine, selections from Jennifer Bodine’s book Bodie’s City. Many of the locations featured in this historic collection of Baltimore photos are within a few blocks of The University of Baltimore campus! Visit the slideshow at ubalt.edu/ubmag.

Online Panel Discussion

- Creating an atmosphere where people feel safe sharing ideas
- Engaging with those whose worldviews differ from our own
- How historical events inform our discussions today

Their wide-ranging discussion covers topics that include:

- How learning environments and the workplace are adapting to societal change
- Navigating difficult conversations in personal and professional settings
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A Path of Integrity

LINDSEY ELD RIDGE, M.P.A.’19

BY PAULA NOVASH

Lindsey Eldridge, M.P.A.’19, majored in broadcast journalism at Morgan State University. After she graduated with highest honors during the recession of 2008, finding work was a challenge. “For months my job was applying for jobs,” she recalls. “People would tell me I didn’t have the experience they wanted, and I needed a job to get experience. I began to think, maybe communications is not for me.”

Now Eldridge has come full circle as the director of Public Affairs and Community Outreach for the Baltimore Police Department. Baltimore’s is the eighth largest law enforcement agency in the country, and since Eldridge began the job early in 2020, “It’s been a whirlwind!” she says. Although navigating remote technology, pandemic concerns, and incidents of crime around the city is a constant challenge, “We just keep pushing forward,” Eldridge says. “What makes it work is the expertise of my excellent team, and the relationships we have in the community.”

Eldridge has built community connections throughout her career. In her first job post-college, with a Washington, DC-based organization called Leadership Directors, she worked with government officials. “I had the opportunity to practice the business skills I needed for my future, like how to send a proper email and call someone in a professional manner,” she recalls. After a few years, wanting to return to Baltimore, she took a job in the administration of Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake.

“I tried to learn all I could about city government and Mayor Rawlings-Blake’s platforms,” Eldridge recalls. The upswing after the tragic death of Freddie Gray “was a rough time for the city,” she recalls. “Making sure people know that you care, and following up to build a foundation of trust, was more important than ever.”

Eldridge recalls some memorable moments. “One day a voice on the phone said, ‘Hi Lindsey, this is Vice President Biden and I need to schedule a call with Mayor Rawlings-Blake. I had the opportunity to meet First Lady Michelle Obama, too.’”

Next, Eldridge took on a scheduling role in the administration of Mayor Catherine Pugh. “One of my favorite projects came about during this time,” she says. “I helped put together an event for 100 faith-based organizations, to share information about how city government could help them grow and develop. It’s still one of my proudest achievements.”

During her maternity leave after the birth of her first child (she’s expecting her second this fall), Eldridge approached the Baltimore City Police Department about a new position. “I was fortunate to take on the role of Community Outreach Coordinator and create it from the ground up,” she says. She then served as interim Communications Director before moving into her current position.

Throughout her tenure, Eldridge has worked to bridge gaps between the police department and the community. “Our department has truly made great strides in the last few years. We are very focused on what the community wants, needs and deserves. We want to be worthy of their trust.”

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Eldridge hopes the peaceful protests in Baltimore after the tragic death of George Floyd reflect progress toward forming more positive community connections. One of her goals is to encourage more women to join the Department. “Women make up 16 percent of our organization with the national average only around 11 percent,” she says. “It was a rough time for the city,” Eldridge recalls. The uprising after the tragic death of Freddie Gray “was a rough time for the city,” she recalls. “Making sure people know that you care, and following up to build a foundation of trust, was more important than ever.”

Eldridge says she values the different perspectives women in law enforcement provide. “The speakers for the Mayor, City Council, Fire Department, State’s Attorney and Police are currently all women,” she notes. “I feel a sisterhood with these leaders. We need to keep breaking that glass ceiling so young women coming after us don’t have to.”

Her approach to new challenges, Eldridge says, is “making sure I’m acting with integrity. Commissioner Harrison also says ‘Right is right even if no one else is doing it, and wrong is wrong even if everyone else is doing it.’ When I stay grounded in integrity, I know I’m exactly where I’m supposed to be.”

Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.
Members of The University of Baltimore community gathered to mark the 20th anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001. Speakers including Josiah Guthland, director of the Bob Parsons Veterans Center; Roger Hartley, dean of the College of Public Affairs; and Hugh McLean, director of the Bob Parsons Veterans Advocacy Clinic, shared personal stories and highlighted the significance of the day.

UBalt lost three notable alumni during the attacks in New York City. Nicole Marano, associate vice president for Student Success and Support Services, honored Joseph V. Maggitti, B.S. '75, Seamus Oneal, M.S. '97 and Karen L. Seymour, B.S. '81 by sharing reminisces from their families about their legacies and the many lives they touched. These alumni are also honored in a plaque in Gordon Plaza, dedicated by the University in 2002. This recognition is located in a garden space beautified by members of UBalt’s chapter of the national leadership honor society Omicron Delta Kappa, who were represented by the group’s president Chloe France.

Activist and community artist Ron Kipling Williams, B.A. ’13, M.F.A. ’16, performed his poem “One Morning.” Williams is an adjunct professor and faculty fellow at UBalt’s Hoffberger Center for Professional Ethics.

In his closing remarks, Guthland reflected on the enduring impact of September 11 for our nation. “As professionals and leaders of The University of Baltimore, it is our privilege and also our duty to educate the next generation so that they too, like us, will never forget,” he said.

The UBalt Student Government Association placed 147 flags in the Plaza to represent Maryland lives lost on September 11, and also in the military conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. “When the sun rises, it will shine on the flags of our fallen,” Guthland continued, “and remind us that even as time stops for no one, we will stop and remember them.”

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Sometimes we forget to protect and honor and cherish what is sacred to us believing it will always be there. Sometimes we forget as we scurry around in our daily fury to stop and remember who we are and whose we are. And then one morning it becomes too late.

Like the trees towers do fall but what we did before and how we stand in that moment and what we do next marks who we are.

On the day of the anniversary of one morning we pause and reflect and remember and acknowledge that we are part of a greater whole.

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