



THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE
MAGAZINE • FALL 2023

PUBLIC SERVICE, PERSONAL GROWTH

UBalt's Newest Initiative
Defines the Next Generation
of Internships



ALSO:

IN THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE

UBalt's Clinical Law Program
Establishes a Lasting Legacy

BREAKING THROUGH

Inspiration for Navigating
Modern Mental Health Care

Dr. Fred B. Banks, D.P.A. '20 (left), of the Maryland Department of Environment with NextGen Leader intern Mi'Yarnie Johnson, B.A. '23, on assignment in Patapsco State Park.



This Diploma makes known that
The University of Baltimore
By the Recommendation of the Faculty

and of the
Board of Regents

has conferred upon
Bobo Waters

in the degree of
Doctor of Humane Letters

in recognition of his distinguished service
to the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland, the
Faculty of Arts in 1984 for his tireless and devoted
service to the City of Baltimore and the Department
of the Police and an honorable citizen.

Robert L. Johnson
President



Bobo Waters



DOCTOR JOHN

On Wednesday, May 24, 2023, acclaimed film director, author and social critic John Waters received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from The University of Baltimore. In his acceptance speech, he reminisced about a few very important “firsts” that happened for him at UBalt, both as a student and again, years later, on his way to becoming one of Baltimore’s biggest cultural icons.

“I was thrown out of my high school—they wouldn’t let me graduate from Calvert Hall because of my long hair and truancy. I went to summer school at Boys Latin, somehow passed, and then went to the University of Baltimore with a big chip on my shoulder. But one teacher changed that—a woman named Miss Norris,” he said. “She encouraged me to write something...I did an inside job about my grandfather and how he was waiting for death. It got published—my first anywhere! And while my parents were horrified about the subject matter, they were proud I was in print. And here I am—58 years, eight books and 17 movies later.”

Three of those 17 films have an important tie to UBalt. “The University of Baltimore helped me even more, in 1972, 1974 and 1977, when they allowed me to hold the world premieres of three of my most notorious, trashy pics—*Pink Flamingos*, *Female Trouble* and *Desperate Living*—at the Langsdale Auditorium,” he shared with the crowd. “Yep, no questions asked; flat rental fee. No censor board could hassle me. Every show I did, I sold out, and I could keep all the money. They never balked at the subject matter. They never objected to the insane crowds that showed up. Nope, each premiere, they saved me and hid me with a cloak of education. And God knows I thank them.”

Full speech and video interview with **John Waters, D.H.L. '23**, are available online.



From time to time, I describe us as being not just The University of Baltimore, but the University *for* Baltimore. I do this to emphasize UBalt's commitment to civic engagement, and remind us that career advancement cannot happen in a vacuum—it must be community-minded.

Community engagement and professional development intersect across the University, in almost every program. They clearly converge in the service learning happening through our NextGen Leaders for Public Service internship program at the Schaefer Center for Public Policy, as well as in the public interest work being undertaken by student attorneys through the School of Law's Clinical Law Program, housed in The Chasen Family Law Clinic Suite.

The University's forward-thinking faculty exemplify those two concepts as they build upon our academic foundations, developing curriculum that anticipates industry advancement and responds to community needs.

Those values come full circle through our Early College Initiatives, as UBalt alumni help Baltimore City Public School students earn college credit through career-focused coursework, and inspire them to go on to college careers of their own.

For almost a century, this University has forged relationships with leaders, builders and changemakers—many of whom are UBalt alums—to develop programs that serve both students and citizens. In doing so, we have helped improve local lives by educating those who share in our passions and engaging those who want to see a stronger, better, more equitable world for all.

We are now looking toward the next 100 years with the confidence that our reputation for engagement will resonate across the city, the region—even nationally and around the globe. Within the University System of Maryland, our know-how regarding issues that matter to everyday people will ensure that we are much more than simply “relevant.” We'll live it—and we'll teach it, too. As we head into UBalt's second century, our work will position the University as the go-to place for those who want to learn how to create impact.

As you will read in this issue of *The University of Baltimore Magazine*, we are, in fact, already positioning ourselves in a way to attract resources to support that work, to foster new civic partnerships and public-service careers, as well as vital, broad-based thinking around these perspectives.

I invite you to learn more about the work we are doing, and hope that as a proud member of the University of Baltimore community, you will also continue to stay engaged.

Sincerely,

Kurt L. Schmoke
President, The University of Baltimore



Cover photo by
Nicole Munchel.

Above: UBalt Law students from the Latin American Law Student Association, and Professor Elizabeth Keyes (back left) visit Puerto Rico for a week of service and professional development during spring break 2023.

Right: Tacos and more from Taco Love Grill. Photo courtesy of owners, Gelmin and Jimena Portillo.

 DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

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

 WEB EXTRA

Don't forget that anytime you see the Web Extra icon, it means we've added related bonus content to the magazine website, ubalt.edu/ubmag.



10

In the Interest of Justice

BY CHRISTIANNA McCAUSLAND

UBalt's Clinical Law Program
Establishes a Lasting Community
Legacy Through Public Interest Work

16

Public Service, Personal Growth

BY MATTHEW LIPTAK

UBalt's Newest Initiative Defines
the Next Generation of Internships
for Students and Employers

22

Breaking Through

BY ANNA RUSSELL

Insight and Inspiration for Navigating
Modern Mental Health Care

B NOTED

- 4 Bringing Bee Power to Baltimore Schools
- 5 Data Driven Degrees
- 6 Extended Stay
- 8 World-Class Opportunities

B CONNECTED

- 26 Profile: Melodie Hengerer, J.D. '02
- 28 Profile: Steven Dashiell, B.A. '07
- 30 Profile: Karen Stout, MBA '88
- 32 Profile: DeWayne Wickham, M.P.A. '82
- 34 Class Notes
- 40 In Memoriam
- 41 B Online: Web Extras
- 42 Eat, Drink and 'B' Merry
- 45 B Creative: Boma Jack, B.S. '16



“Something about coming to The University of Baltimore instills that sense that people still want to belong to it.”

JOHN BRENNER

Bringing Bee Power to Baltimore Schools

Dual enrollment program bolstered by alumni instructors

BY TIM PAGGI, M.F.A. '15

Since 2016, Baltimore high school students have had the opportunity to earn college credits at University System of Maryland schools through the B-Power Initiative—one of two Early College Initiatives designed to give young people a head start into a post-secondary education.

B-Power was pioneered at The University of Baltimore, and under the leadership of **John Brenner, B.A. '01, MBA '16**, and **Philippia Richardson, B.A. '98, M.A. '01**, the Dual Enrollment program has expanded its footprint from four schools to 27 in just seven years. Out of 2,500 total participating students, 72 percent earned credits from UBalt and 65 percent went on to attend a two- or four-year college their first semester after graduating high school. But the staff will be the first to admit, it's the adjunct faculty making this growth possible.

Thanks to a roster of enthusiastic faculty, many of whom are UBalt alumni, B-Power course offerings have expanded from general requirements such as composition and algebra. The current catalog includes the kind of career-focused courses the University is known for, including psychology, forensics and accounting.

Olesegun “Segun” Aje, M.S. '17, has taught with the program since its inception. His extensive experience with writing and entrepreneurship, as well as working with at-risk youth, makes him emblematic of the best the program has to offer. He credits Brenner and Johnson's

leadership with his longevity, but teaching has given him some of his life's most meaningful experiences.

One such occurred in his Entrepreneurship 101 course this past spring at Eager Street Academy, the Baltimore City high school housed in a juvenile detention center.

All teachers have experienced asking a question to the class only to receive crickets in response. “But surprisingly enough,” said Aje. “I've never had that problem at Eager Street. The students in the detention center are by far the most curious and engaged.”

The semester culminated in a *Shark Tank*-style presentation, in which students pitched business plans to school employees, government officials and community members.

“It was a packed house,” Aje remarked. “Everyone was so supportive of the students. Giving them that audience was such a powerful opportunity, and for the adults, too. Everyone saw their potential.”

Rebecca Drury, M.S. '22, CERT '23, finished teaching her very first B-Power class in May at Benjamin Franklin High in Baltimore's Brooklyn neighborhood. She hopes to inspire young people to pursue mental health careers in Maryland. “There's something like one provider for every 400 individuals in the state,” said Drury. “I'd love to motivate at least one student per class!”

Exposing students to mental health care as both a career and a resource was the most meaningful aspect of the experience for Drury.



“They enjoyed seeing the professional side of what a client session might look like. But I also encouraged them to think about their own mental health and be open to the possibility of getting help,” she said. “This is a vulnerable population, and I want to equip them for what they're going to encounter when they go off to college.”

And Drury isn't alone. That's the goal of everyone who believes in B-Power, including donors like Patricia and Mark K. Joseph of the Shelter Foundation, who awarded a new grant to the program totaling \$301,500 over three years to continue growing its enrollment at no cost to students.

“The Dual Enrollment program has a proven record of success. Working with students from Baltimore city to help them advance to graduation

and college is inspiring. Patricia and I are proud of UBalt's achievement and pleased to support it,” said Mark Joseph, Shelter's president.

This type of student-focused funding also allows Brenner the flexibility to allocate other resources for professional development to help round out the experience for adjuncts. Brenner offers workshops on pedagogy, restorative practices and teaching young people. More than that, he sees teaching in the program as an opportunity for alumni to stay connected to UBalt while doing meaningful work.

“Something about coming to the University of Baltimore instills that sense that people still want to belong to it,” Brenner said of his many alumni instructors. “They always tell me they had a great time and want to give back to the community.” **B**

“It was a very natural thing to make the curriculum more data analytics intensive, because these are the kind of skills that the financial service industry requires.”

DR. MIKHAIL PEVZNER

Data Driven Degrees

New STEM designation sets finance grad students up for more success

BY MATTHEW LIPTAK

Graduate students looking to maximize their return on investment can find more opportunity in the Merrick School of Business with a newly STEM-designated program. The Master of Science in Business-Finance was redesigned to incorporate current methodologies including quantitative analysis, data-driven decision making and mathematical modeling. These features—traditionally found in disciplines like science, technology, engineering and math—are aimed at drawing new students to The University of Baltimore and revitalizing international student enrollment.

“There’s definitely a hunger for this kind of program,” said Danielle Giles, the business school’s director of marketing and communications. “Our students—especially international students—are looking for more comprehensive mathematics-based and data-focused programs that ultimately allow them to move up in their jobs. And that’s what we’re looking for—people looking to advance in their careers.”

Dr. Mikhail Pevzner, professor and Ernst & Young Chair in Accounting, serves as the director of graduate business programs and helped rebuild the master’s program to meet modern demands. He believes the revised curriculum will give graduates an advantage in finding employment after graduation.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the job outlook for data scientists and computer and information research scientists will grow between 21-36 percent from 2021 through 2031—much faster than the national average for all positions.

“Finance today is all about data and analyzing data. It was a very natural thing to make the curriculum more data analytics intensive, because these are the kind of skills that the financial service industry requires,” he said.

The STEM designation comes from the federal government, and the revised program required approval both from the University and the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). The approval process took about a year.

“You write a very extensive proposal to MHEC,” he said. “Basically, you have to justify how it will help the state. You have to show there’s a market for it, that it’s not just a capricious change.”

The newly revised program will integrate some aspects of financial data analytics into all courses of the graduate degree, both core and elective. It is now designed to also help students become fluent in the use of current tools used—like the Python programming language—so they can learn to apply data analytics at a high level in the workforce.

The changes revolutionize the program that mainly featured introductory finance graduate

courses and a broad choice of electives, Pevzner said.

Bishesh Rijal, a current graduate assistant from Nepal in the master’s program for finance, believes the revised curriculum and its new designation will propel students more effectively into their chosen fields.

His own study of data analytics has taken him from using a scientific calculator for his classes years ago to understanding and using Python today. He is excited for future international students who will be learning the latest skills at the business school.

“It will definitely provide them with a competitive advantage,” Rijal said. “They will be able to perform different tasks in different ways. They will be able to assess quality of data. They will also be able to recognize patterns and trends based on some seasonality.”

Pursuing the STEM designation is just one way the Merrick School of Business is striving to prepare students for in-demand careers, particularly in financial analysis or accounting, Pevzner said.

Employees in STEM fields either produce data or they interpret data, he said, and then they build models with that data to make financial decisions. Those decisions can include, whether to borrow money, whether to go public, whether to issue stock, and even to hire or fire.

“To make money decisions, you need data,” Pevzner said. **B**

BRAGS

#2

IN MARYLAND ON THE LIST OF MOST AFFORDABLE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES BY STATE

University HQ, 2023

THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE
MAGAZINE

Publisher

Office of Advancement
and External Relations

Executive Editor

Kate Crimmins

Assistant Editors

Kelley Chase
Daniel Mills
Kristi Moore, CERT '20, MBA '22
Courtney Trang, B.S. '11, M.S. '15

Managing Editor

Anna Russell

Art Direction

Skelton Sprouts

Photographers / Illustrators

JJ Chrystal
Chris Hartlove
Howard Korn
Chris Myers
Nicole Munchel, M.F.A. '16
Cameron Whitman
Marissa Zuckerman
Additional photography
courtesy of *The Baltimore Sun*
and Food & Water Watch

Contributing Writers

Elizabeth DeLeon
Emily Halnon
Chris Hart, M.F.A. '21
Matthew Liptak
Christianna McCausland
Kristi Moore, CERT '20, MBA '22
Tim Paggi, M.F.A. '15
Anna Russell
Jocelyn Slaughter

Proofreader

Sheri Venema

University President

Kurt L. Schmoke

**Vice President for Advancement
and External Relations**

Theresa Silanskis, M.P.A. '95

Comments, Suggestions & Inquiries

Office of Alumni Relations
The University of Baltimore
1420 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21201-5779
410.837.6131
alumni@ubalt.edu

Website

www.ubalt.edu/ubmag

The University of Baltimore Magazine is published by The University of Baltimore Office of Advancement and External Relations. The magazine welcomes feedback from readers. Letters received may be published in a future issue of the magazine.

The University of Baltimore is a member of the University System of Maryland.

Extended Stay

UBalt alums stay for second degrees and more

BY KRISTI MOORE, CERT '20, MBA '22

Whether it started with a campus tour, a fellow alum, or even just a feeling, many students at The University of Baltimore can point to a moment when they knew it was the right place for them. So right, in fact, that when they started considering a second degree, it was never a question that they would stay.

Ashlyn Woods, B.A. '21, J.D. '23

Ashlyn Woods was introduced to UBalt and the idea of law school long before she would become a J.D. candidate there. As a student at Eastern Technical High School, Woods had a criminal justice alum, **Luci Smith, M.S. '13**, teaching her law and related classes. After high school, though, Woods chose a different college. At least at first.

Ahead of her second year, she transferred to UBalt to major in jurisprudence (now the Philosophy, Law, and Ethics program)—a year experimenting with other majors had only cemented that a career in law was what she wanted most.

Whether she made the right move was immediately apparent: Not only did the University have a law school, but it offered her the option to start law classes in her final year as an undergraduate.

“When I found out about their early entry program, I changed

gears completely and was like, “This is what I need to do,” she said.

In 2020, two years after starting at UBalt, Woods became the law student she long wanted to be.

But the law school wasn't the only advantage to UBalt. The first thing Woods loved about the school was its community and how easy it was to feel part of it.

In her first year, she joined the Student Government Association, and remained involved in various student organizations, including the Anti-Racism Coalition, which she co-founded, and the Black Law Student Association.

“Just having the opportunity to connect and be involved in different organizations made me feel a part of the community,” she said. “It made it easy to stay and find my place.”



MARISSA ZUCKERMAN



NICOLE MUNCHEL

Luke Newman, B.A. '20, M.F.A. '23

When he was serving in the U.S. Army, Luke Newman already knew his future was in the arts. He transferred his military credits to the University of Baltimore to hone his creative skills and build his business savvy in the Integrated Arts program (now Arts Production and Management).

“When I read the description, and everything basically taught you the business of how to be an artist, that really, really appealed to me,” Newman said.

He quickly realized the benefit of UBalt's affordable tuition—he could stretch his GI Bill further and go for a master's degree.

A creative writing class during his undergraduate studies helped Newman realize he wanted to pursue an M.F.A. at UBalt. It served as an early introduction to some of the professors he could learn more from in Creative Writing & Publishing Arts.

“Every professor here has been so open and willing to see me how I need to be seen,” he said.

The final confirmation was a table covered in books at an admission event and the person sitting behind it, Betsy Boyd, the M.F.A. program's director. She had made a pitch that sold him: “In other M.F.A. programs, you will write a thesis, but here, we make books.”

“That's what I wanted to do my whole life,” Newman said. “I looked around at others [M.F.A. programs], you write a thesis manuscript and it's a collection of short stories, but it doesn't go to print, they don't publish it, they don't have a big launch party and invite all of our friends and family. It was so exciting to just think that part of how I earned my degree is just living that dream.”

Newman fulfilled his dream ahead of his second graduation, publishing a collection of essays he titled, “The Last Cowboy.”

#6

IN THE NATION

U.S. News & World
Report, 2023**Sarah Creighton,
B.A. '20, M.S. '23**

Sarah Creighton has always loved learning.

It wasn't a surprise, then, that her school counselors had her joining the older students on state college visits when she was still a sophomore at Baltimore City College High School. This was how she discovered—and set her sights on—the University of Baltimore.

"It was something about the environment, the diversity; the tour guide was super nice. It just felt very welcoming," she said.

After she graduated from high school in 2017, Creighton came to UBalt to study psychology. She didn't know yet that she would end up staying for her master's degree or become an admission counselor. Over her undergraduate years, she found dedicated professors and diverse classrooms that revealed the depth of UBalt's value to her.

"I feel like if I emailed the professor at midnight, they would answer. And then they kind of get to know your whole life story so that if you are falling behind, they work with you. You don't feel like just a number in one of those big lecture halls," she said. "And then the diversity. People in my classes were not only my age—straight out of high school—but they were in their 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, even 70s. I got to learn a lot about life through these people and their experiences."

Creighton graduated with her bachelor's degree in fall 2020 and started pursuing her M.S. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology the following spring. During her time as a graduate student, she joined the University's admission team as a counselor—all of whom are either also current students or UBalt alumni.

"Honestly, I knew since my first few semesters here, I want to be here forever, if possible," she said, laughing but genuine. "Maybe I'll get another master's one day."



NICOLE MUNCHEL

"I feel like if I emailed the professor at midnight, they would answer... they kind of get to know your whole life story so that if you are falling behind, they work with you."

SARAH CREIGHTON



CHRIS HARTLOVE

**Randy Wells III,
B.A. '23, M.P.A. student**

When Randy Wells III transferred to the University of Baltimore, he was hoping for the on-campus experience he was missing after starting at an online-only college. He transferred his classes in 2019 to begin the Human Services Administration program and got just a brief taste of campus life before the COVID-19 pandemic pushed him back to online learning.

Still, that was enough for Wells to understand his time at UBalt would be different. Whether it was online or in person, the people here connected easily and often.

"UBalt has been a family-oriented place. Everybody gets along," Wells said.

Wells did finally get his chance to learn and engage on campus when the University re-opened before his senior year. He made the most of it, including serving on the Student Government

Association and running the Student Events Board. Wells said he's been proud of his part in reinvigorating the student life that was diminished by the pandemic.

The opportunities, he said, led to friendships and lessons on leadership he never expected but holds close.

"Coming here is what I wanted. I wanted it to be in person when it came time to graduate. I wanted to be in a room full of people," Wells said. "Riding by [campus], I always felt this urge to come here. And once I got here, I was like, 'I can't leave.'"

Wells started working toward a master's in public administration this fall and is staying on as the Student Events Board president. He hopes to bring back some old traditions and start some new ones, and looks forward to spending more time on campus, where everyone, he said, knows him by name. **B**

“When you step away from all that you know, I often think that is when you find yourself.”

DR. SALLY FARLEY

World-Class Opportunities

Global field studies open access for UBalt student travel

BY KRISTI MOORE, CERT '20, MBA '22

It took a lot of time to get there—half a semester, plus an early-morning flight and a slow drive on unpaved roads—but when Rebekah Opher stood at the base of the Mayan ruins in Belize, she knew the wait was worth it.

“These are stone structures, they’re built by hand, and they’re so high that I could only walk up to the first landing,” Opher said. “And just to think, for more than a thousand years, this is where they lived. This was a society, a civilization. I was definitely in awe.”

This perspective-shifting moment was possible because Opher, a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies student, elected to take Dr. Sally Farley’s Nonverbal Communication class during the spring semester. The psychology course had an optional component inviting students to travel to the Central America country over spring break.

The excursion may be a blip in Opher’s overall college experience, but moments like the one she experienced are why The University of Baltimore integrates global field studies into several of its academic programs.

“Global field experiences are life changing,” Farley said. “Stepping away from your family, responsibilities, school, possibly your job and your culture to explore something novel strips away your regular way of thinking and opens your mind up to intellectual, social and existential growth. When you step away from



all that you know, I often think that is when you find yourself.”

After a nearly three-year pause on travel prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, **Dr. Sharon Glazer, M.S. '95**, accompanied her Industrial and Organizational Psychology students to Spain. The successful trip was a turning point.

“That was the trip that signaled it was time to begin traveling again,” explained Eleftherios Michael, director of UBalt’s Diversity and International Services, who helps analyze risk management, policies and procedures for the experiences.

Over the course of 2023, UBalt students would trot the globe, landing in London, England; Bangkok, Thailand; Lucerne, Switzerland; Tel Aviv, Israel; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Aberdeen, Scotland.

These global field studies differ from the traditional study abroad

model in many ways, most notably because they only last about 10 days over breaks in the academic calendar. That’s by design.

“UBalt doing this is really giving people that are older or people that have a full-time job or a family an opportunity that they would never have anywhere else,” said Jessica Marin, a B.S. in Business Administration student who traveled to Thailand over spring break.

Another key advantage is the donor funding that helps defray the total cost so more students, regardless of their background, can participate, Michael said.

Vernon Wright, B.S. '69, and his wife Lucy have been sponsoring Global Field Studies for over 20 years. He said, “Growing up, I was fortunate to live abroad, travel and be exposed to cultural differences—and similarities.

Being able to see things from a different view definitely helped my career. I hope this experience does the same for these students.”

Students also often earn college credits for these program-based experiences. While most trips include some sightseeing, most of the time abroad is spent on academic opportunities, such as conferences, factory visits, and discussions with local leaders of various industries and fields.

“The best part of the experience is moving the classroom to some other part of the world,” said Kathea Smith, Merrick School of Business assistant dean for enrollment, academic affairs and student services. “You have to stretch your understanding. While the world is certainly connected, there are still big gaps between countries, and sometimes minor things in the USA are major things elsewhere.

#1

PUBLIC MASTER'S
UNIVERSITY IN MARYLAND
FOR GRADUATES EARNING
PERFORMANCE 10 YEARS
AFTER ENTERING COLLEGE
Washington Monthly, 2022

Below, left to right: students at the Mayan ruins in Belize; view of Belize jungle; Andressa Carvalho Viscone in Tel Aviv; Jessica Marin in Thailand; and Danielle Giles and Mikhail Pevzner of Merrick School of Business in Switzerland.



It's also important to see other places that are getting things right like equality in the workplace or environmental sustainability. Getting beyond the book is important for everyone and global field experiences make that possible."

For many students, and even staff, like Smith, the experiences are also their first chance to travel abroad.

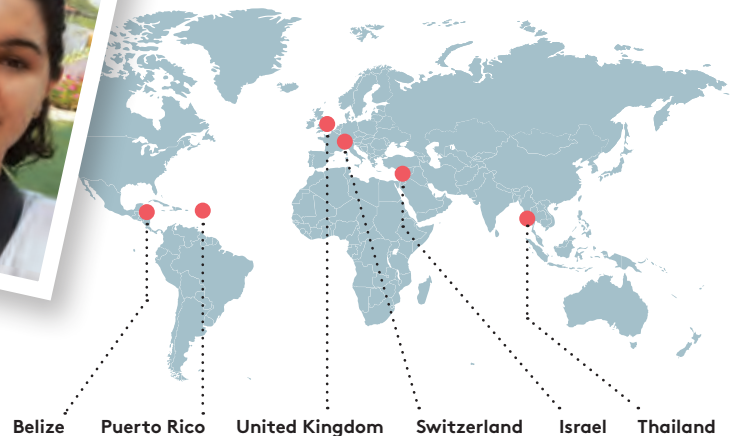
Andressa Carvalho Viscone, B.A. '22, had an opportunity to present research she conducted with Glazer at the Israel Organizational Behavior Conference at the Tel Aviv University in January.

For Viscone, now an M.S. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology student, it was a rare chance to meet professionals already in the field she's working toward.

"Having the opportunity to talk with people who have been in the field for a while who are doing focused research in specific

topics gives a good idea of all the things that we can do," she said.

Networking was a key aspect of the alternative spring break in Puerto Rico. Angely Luna and Karen Ceden, two UBalt law students, spearheaded the trip as the leaders of the Latin American Law Student Association (LALSA). They did community service and laid groundwork for future opportunities, such as internships and proposal writing. They also learned about the legal system through meetings with the governor's chief of staff and a federal magistrate judge and



visits to the Court of Appeals and House of Representatives.

"I thought through this trip we could bring more awareness to Baltimore and LALSA, and see how we could help the Puerto Rican community through our organization and also through the legal community," Luna said.

The students' enthusiasm and commitment to service and

learning was on full display during the trip, said Elizabeth Keyes, the UBalt Law professor that joined the students, and that made room for new confidences to arise.

In Puerto Rico, she said, "It was kind of wonderful to see students who are quiet in the classroom in Baltimore blossoming, just in charge and demonstrating their leadership." **B**

UBALT'S CLINICAL LAW PROGRAM
ESTABLISHES A LASTING COMMUNITY LEGACY
THROUGH PUBLIC INTEREST WORK

IN THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE

BY CHRISTIANNA MCCAUSLAND

“Public interest lawyers have saved lives, protected fundamental rights, established crucial principles, transformed institutions, and ensured essential benefits for those who need them most.

... In virtually every major American social reform movement of the last half century, public interest lawyers have played an important role.”

— Deborah Rhode, jurist and legal scholar
Former Ernest W. McFarland Professor of Law, Stanford Law School



HOWARD KORN

UNDER THE BILL OF RIGHTS, the Sixth Amendment granted United States citizens the right “to have the Assistance of Counsel” in criminal prosecutions. No such protections were guaranteed for defendants in civil procedures. Millions of people end up representing themselves pro se in housing, family and immigration courts, as well as in other civil legal matters.

This problem is especially acute in eviction courts, where renters are largely left to their own devices and forced to rely on their own limited understanding of landlord/tenant law. The National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel reports that disadvantaged tenants show up for eviction appearances alone and unprepared, while upwards of 90 percent of landlords arrive with legal representation. A 2020 study by the Eviction Research Network showed that Baltimore City, alone, had an eviction rate over two times higher than the national rate.

“Eviction is not a symptom of poverty, it is a cause of poverty,” says Neha Lall, Professor of the Practice and director of externships at The University of Baltimore School of Law, citing the work of Pulitzer Prize winning author and social scientist Matthew Desmond, founder of the Eviction Lab. “When a person is evicted from their home for as little as being five dollars short on rent, the dislocation that occurs is incredibly disruptive to their employment, to their children’s education, to family stability generally. And there really isn’t any social safety net around this.”

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic triggered an affordable housing crisis. This, coupled with mass unemployment, threatened to send the nation’s already high eviction numbers over the brink. Recognizing the desperate need for action, on May 30, 2021, Maryland became only the second state in the country to grant income-eligible citizens the “access to counsel” in civil evictions, by enacting the Access to Counsel in Evictions (ACE) Program. Additionally, Maryland enacted a requirement that landlords provide written notice to tenants alerting them they have 10 days to pay the owed amount before legal proceedings are initiated, and inform them of legal assistance and financial support resources.

While the ACE Program is an important step in mitigating a significant social inequity, its success

relies heavily on whether there are enough qualified attorneys to assist renters, and whether renters are able to access the help. Students and professors committed to public interest work in the School of Law’s experiential program are actively working to train future attorneys to meet this need.

“Instead of trying to get a pot of money for the University of Baltimore to just take on a handful of eviction cases in Baltimore City, we decided it would be a better use of our resources and our educational mission to apply for grant funds to pay our students to do placements at agencies across the state already working on implementation of the law,” Lall explains.

After its first year, the University of Baltimore School of Law Housing Justice Fellowship Program has placed 16 law students at legal aid organizations thanks to funding from Maryland Legal Services Corporation, and the University has created a housing justice course as well.

These are important steps toward ACE’s implementation that also help to solve a burgeoning hiring crisis by training attorneys who can fill the demand for services. While there is now funding for those in need to have counsel, there are few attorneys trained in eviction representation. “Our hope is that over time, this will help create a pipeline of graduates who are qualified to take on these cases and passionate about housing justice,” says Lall.

“You ultimately judge the civility of a society not by how it treats the rich, the powerful, the protected and the highly esteemed, but by how it treats the poor, the disfavored and the disadvantaged.”

BRYAN STEVENSON, AUTHOR, ACTIVIST AND ARONSON FAMILY PROFESSOR OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

The ACE program is a prime example of how the School of Law has put its commitment to public interest law into practice, and one of many ways the University of Baltimore plays an essential role in supporting equitable access to justice. During the last academic year, 73 students received externship credit to work in public service. Collectively, they conducted more than 11,000 hours of work at nonprofit and government placements including with criminal prosecutors, public defenders, the Public Justice



JIM LO SCALZO/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Center, Kids in Need of Defense, Tahirih Justice Center and the Human Trafficking Prevention Project.

Externships, which place students in workplaces outside of the law school, are one key component of the experiential learning program at UBalt Law. The other main component is the in-house Clinical Law Program. Each year, the clinical program teaches approximately 150 students how to practice law as “first-chair” attorneys—not as researchers or law clerks, but as lead counsel for their clients—in important areas of need: veterans advocacy, family mediation, mental health law and immigrant justice, to name but a few.

In essence, UBalt’s clinical program functions as a large public interest law firm housed within the law school, with dual educational and community service missions, and is perhaps one of the largest providers of pro bono legal services in the state after the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau. Through the clinics, students are licensed to practice law under a special court rule since they receive intense educational support from law school faculty, enabling them to represent and advocate on behalf of underserved populations at the community level and argue for systemic change at the state and even federal level.

The school’s program of 12 law clinics is one of the most highly regarded in the country, currently ranked sixth in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* thanks, in part, to the school’s commitment to having

it run by tenured professors, which is unusual among programs of its kind and demonstrates UBalt’s strong commitment to top-notch experiential education.

“There’s such a deep and wide need for legal services, and they’re incredibly expensive, so there’s not enough expertise to serve all the people in need,” explains Jaime Alison Lee, associate dean for experiential education at the law school, professor of law, and director of the Community Development Clinic. A recent “Justice Gap Report” from the Legal Services Corporation bears this out, noting that for 93 percent of the civil legal problems reported, low-income Americans received inadequate or no legal help.

Lee explains that, as part of an educational institution, the clinical program chooses not to take on a huge caseload similar to what an entity like Legal Aid might. Instead, “we tend to take on difficult cases, ones that really need a lot of attention,” so that students can learn deeply and intensively from their experiences.

Some of the most difficult are tackled through the Innocence Project Clinic (IPC). Led by director and Professor of the Practice Erica J. Suter, student attorneys provide legal support for defendants who maintain their innocence in criminal cases. In addition to the well-known exoneration of Adnan Syed last year, the work of UBalt students has contributed to the release of multiple clients, who collectively served over 75 years in prison. Under Maryland’s Juvenile Restoration

Adnan Syed, center, with his attorney, Erica J. Suter, University of Baltimore School of Law Professor of the Practice and director of the Innocence Project Clinic, outside the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.



Neha Lall



Jaime Lee



Michele Gilman

Act, those convicted of a crime as minors who have served over 20 years in prison, can now work with the IPC (and in conjunction with the Office of the Public Defender) to file a motion to reduce their sentences.

While these types of criminal cases may be more high-profile, the majority of the workload in the clinical program focuses on a wide spectrum of civil issues.

Susan Francis, J.D. '11, is the executive director of Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Service (MVLS), a nonprofit founded in 1981 to connect volunteer lawyers to low-income individuals in need of representation due to the lack of right to counsel in civil matters. She says the staff at MVLS starts making their “wish list” in February in expectation of the arrival of summer interns from UBalt. While student externs and interns do not practice law as they do under the auspices of a clinic, Francis says they work directly with clients on legal matters. They also play an essential role in community outreach and education.

“Outside of *Law & Order*, there’s huge confusion about what the law does, and even more so when you are working with those who are least resourced,” she says. MVLS produces fact sheets and articles, written in plain language, that go directly into the hands of those in need so they are informed on the law and their rights. Much of that material is written by UBalt students.

“The nice thing about that is, we work with a lot of community partners who are the knowledge

bearers in their community,” says Francis. “When we put that in the hands of one person in the community, they talk to their neighbors, and they talk to their families, and they talk to their friends. All that knowledge in the community, and our students have a lot to do with that.”

Externs also work at the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland (PBRC), which provides civil legal assistance to low-income residents, particularly in the area of housing. Melissa Chiasera, managing attorney at the Courtroom Advocacy Project at PBRC, says externs from UBalt work directly with clients in rent court clinics and play an essential role answering questions on PBRC’s Tenant and Consumer Hotline.

“Having students work these shifts frees up staff attorney time while offering callers more personal attention and an opportunity to have their issue heard,” Chiasera explains.

Michele Gilman, Venable Professor of Law, directs the Saul Ewing Civil Advocacy Clinic. Because this is a general practice clinic, students see diverse cases. They may represent anyone from a consumer wronged by a retailer or suffering from collection of a debt against them, to people whose public benefits have been cut off or workers who haven’t been paid their full wages. Gilman says without these student lawyers, hundreds of people would go without representation every year.

“This results in their legal rights not being effectuated,” says Gilman. “And sometimes they end up being exploited by more powerful entities. It reinforces the power imbalances in our society when people aren’t able to advocate effectively for their legal rights.”

Annamaria M. Walsh, J.D. '93, director of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Division of the Appellate Court of Maryland, receives student attorneys from the Mediation Clinic for Families, which offers representation on matters such as child custody and visitation and divorce. She says most of the clients that the clinic assists would otherwise not have access to mediation in the court.

“[Cases] would simply move forward in the appellate process without settlement discussions,” says Walsh. “Even if the case doesn’t settle, the legal advice and information that the clinic provides to the parties they represent can be invaluable, especially to parents who are considering their future child access actions.”

While clinical work such as this might be gratifying for law school students, the impact goes far beyond their own professional development. They also play an important role in community development as they work to enact systemic change by examining the laws affecting their clients adversely and working to alter them to provide more equitable justice.

“We educated, privileged lawyers have a professional and moral duty to represent the underrepresented in our society, to ensure that justice exists for all, both legal and economic justice.”

SONIA SOTOMAYOR, ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

“We do individual client representation, which addresses the legal concerns of each person, but in addition, all our clinics also focus on addressing the systemic issues that generate problems for individuals in the first place,” says Lee. “We have an obligation and a commitment to not just fighting every little fire individually, but to improving the systems that we have more broadly.”

According to Lee, legislative work can take many different forms, from representing an organization that is advocating for a law or policy reform that could otherwise not afford an attorney to testifying in Annapolis for specific pieces of legislation.

This is an area Lee is familiar with in her own work. In 2020, the Baltimore City Council advanced an implementation timeline for the Water Accountability & Equity Act, a measure that improves access to affordable water and that Lee’s Community Development Clinic advocated for in partnership with the Baltimore Right to Water Coalition. In another instance, Gilman’s students testified in support of a recently passed bill that will assist those receiving SNAP benefits who have been victimized by EBT card theft.

“I do think the law school can play a unique role when our students are testifying before the General Assembly, because our testimony is based on our legal research, our policy analysis, and we are able to bring an objective evaluation of the situation to the table that I believe delegates and senators find very helpful,” says Gilman.

For Francis, for whom law was a second career, her experience in the Civil Advocacy Clinic was “the missing piece” that brought together legal theory and practical applications and set her on a public interest law career trajectory. As a clinic student-attorney, Francis argued an unemployment claim for a client who would otherwise have had no assistance navigating that complicated system and also testified in Annapolis on landlord-tenant issues.

“In clinic, I did direct representation, but also looked more broadly at whether the system was actually working or not working, especially for individuals that are least resourced,” she says. “It set me up perfectly to take all those lessons and work them into the services MVLS provides the community.”

Lee notes that not all students can or will follow a career in public interest law, but in addition to the results of their clinical work, perhaps the most comprehensive impact that public-facing legal advocacy has on the wider populace is how it fills the pipeline with community-minded lawyers.

This is particularly relevant as the clinic program’s “ethos of lawyering,” as Lee calls it, embraces client-centeredness, shifting power—and interest—back to the client as a human being. Not only are lawyers encouraged to engage their clients in discourse to better understand their goals and create legal strategies with the client at the fore, but they’re encouraged to openly share their knowledge of the law, thus making it more accessible and empowering the public to better engage in their own legal decision-making.

“The exposure to clients, to this kind of work, and to broader systemic issues is eye-opening for a lot of students,” says Lee. “We spend a lot of time in the clinical courses not just teaching the skill of writing a motion or doing an opening argument; we put it within the context of what a lawyer contributes to society and the work they can do to effect change.” **B**



FOOD & WATER WATCH

PUBLIC SERVICE

PERSONAL GROWTH

UBALT'S NEWEST INITIATIVE DEFINES
THE NEXT GENERATION OF INTERNSHIPS
FOR STUDENTS AND EMPLOYERS

BY MATTHEW LIPTAK

Dr. Debra Y. Brooks (left), executive director of the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, and NextGen Leader Jeanette Brown, B.A. '22, in the Baltimore City Hall rotunda.



CHRIS MYERS PHOTOGRAPHY

A year ago, **Dr. Ann Cotten, B.S. '85, M.S. '86, CERT '92, D.P.A. '03**, director of The University of Baltimore's Schaefer Center for Public Policy, and Dr. Roger Hartley, dean of the College of Public Affairs, co-authored an opinion piece for *The Baltimore Sun* addressing the "solvable problem" of unpaid internships and unveiled the University's ambitious and sweeping solution.

Now entering its second year, the NextGen Leaders for Public Service program gives undergraduate and graduate students from all majors at UBalt the opportunity to explore a career in public service. The program comprises a variety of academic and co-curricular initiatives, but NextGen's unique paid internship opportunities are the cornerstone.

In their op-ed, Cotten and Hartley acknowledged that "for predominantly minority schools like ours, the unpaid internship is a critical barrier to entry to employment, as well as a lost opportunity for employers to diversify their workplace," and asked, "Is there a better way to do two important things at once—improve services and have those services delivered by qualified employees who started as students in need of an opportunity?"

"I love what I do and the feeling that I'm helping my community. That is very important to me, and a career in public service is my way to do that."

JEANETTE BROWN

Jeanette Brown, B.A. '22, was one such student. Prior to coming to UBalt in 2019, this Baltimore mom's education and employment experience was fairly limited to administrative assistance. Brown shared: "I graduated with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. During that time, I discovered I really loved public policy work. So, I came back to get my master's in public administration."

But as she settled into her first semester, she encountered a problem common to many students—securing a job in her field without prior experience. For Brown, and students like her, NextGen was the answer.

The College of Public Affairs has previously supported internship programs as part of the University of Baltimore's commitment to experiential learning, but nothing of this scope.

The new program was the brainchild of Dean Hartley. Together, he and Cotten undertook the challenge of building a pilot program. "I hatched this idea years ago when I worked in a business school back at the University of Arizona," Hartley said. "I

thought it would be great to have something like an entrepreneurship center, but for colleges of public service, where students could get the same type of support and mentoring."

While the Schaefer Center already had long-standing relationships with partner organizations across Maryland, its current experiential model needed refining. When they learned of the Volcker Alliance's NextGen Service Corps, Hartley and Cotten knew they had found a missing piece of the puzzle.

Founded in 2013 by former Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul A. Volcker, the Alliance is a university and government partnership with a mission to "empower the public sector workforce to solve the challenges facing our nation." It currently supports 17 affiliated universities, including the University of Baltimore, through NextGen Service, and helps students explore careers in public service.

Combined with fiscal support from the state, the Schaefer Center's reputation and relationships with government and nonprofit organizations across Maryland has enabled the NextGen program to skyrocket in its first year, even earning national attention for the strength of its intern placements, according to Cotten and Hartley.

The overwhelming success of the pilot program proved fortuitous for Jeanette Brown. The graduate student was in the right place at the right time when she approached NextGen Program Manager **Pat Mikos, M.P.A. '11**, about her program's internship requirement.

The two discussed various placement options and settled on the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, as Brown expressed a desire to serve in her home city of Baltimore.

"When I applied for positions in public service, I felt my lack of experience stood out more than my educational accomplishments. This program bridges that gap. I'd definitely recommend it for anyone trying to launch a new career," she said.

Brown earned the notice and praise of the office's executive director, Dr. Debra Y. Brooks, when she tackled an important project, researching other cities that had successfully implemented programs. Baltimore was also interested in pursuing and compiling recommendations.

"I was very impressed with her ability to jump right in and take initiative," said Brooks, a triple graduate of University System of Maryland schools who has served Baltimore City Public Schools for over 30 years. "I love internships. I'm all about bringing up the next person. Jeanette went all-in. I knew she was invested, that she was excited about this work. It was just natural for her to be here in this office with us."

So natural, in fact, that Brown was invited to stay on in a full-time position as a special assistant. “I love what I do and the feeling that I’m helping my community,” said Brown. “That is very important to me, and a career in public service is my way to do that.”

Making the types of connections that might blossom into a career for one of the program’s student interns is Pat Mikos’ bread and butter. Prior to her arrival at the Schaefer Center in 2022, she worked at the Maryland State Department of Education in the Division of Career and Technical Education leading efforts to expand access to work-based learning and develop career pathways for high school and postsecondary students.

Now that she has access to a deep (and growing) roster of 77 “host sites” throughout Maryland, Mikos has developed a knack for finding matches that prove advantageous for both interns and hosts. Of course, it doesn’t hurt she is part of a robust network of UBalt alumni who have also built careers and connections in some of the state, county and municipal government offices, and nonprofit and community development organizations, where NextGen Leaders are placed for their internships.

While the agencies make the final selection and oversee the day-to-day functions of each internship, Mikos stays involved throughout the process and manages logistics from application review to check-ins with agency supervisors. More importantly, she serves as a custodian for the overall intern experience, ensuring they receive regular paychecks and advocating for their on-site needs.

“Interns have to work side-by-side with professionals so they can decide if this is the right field for them or if they need to redirect their efforts,” said Mikos. “They get networking opportunities and meet great people. They’re learning the culture and what it means to operate in the public sector. It’s the deepest, best kind of experiential learning there is.”

That kind of experience resonated with **Mi’Yarnie Johnson, B.A. ’23**. Growing up in the Gwynn Falls area of Baltimore, his parents instilled in him a sense of responsibility and care for the world around him. That’s one reason the chance to intern for the Maryland Department of the Environment’s lead control office during his final semester of his Policy, Politics and International Affairs program was such an attractive opportunity.

“I was motivated to make sure I left the undergraduate program on my top game,” he said. “I didn’t want to coast through an easy class. I saw the NextGen program as an opportunity to be productive outside my academic life and get some experience working for the government.”



NICOLE MUNCHIEL

Johnson’s duties included some intense research on the effects of the pandemic on the rate of lead case processing in multiple states. He also was involved in redacting confidential private information of residents who had made lead complaints in Maryland.

“I enjoyed being a helping hand,” Johnson said.

However, his supervisor and program mentor, fellow alumnus **Dr. Fred Banks, D.P.A. ’20**, considers Johnson much more than just a helping hand, and refers to his role in the process as “lead detective.”

When his alma mater reached out to his office to offer up highly-motivated, UBalt-educated interns whose stipends were paid for by the University, Banks jumped at the chance.

“Having the NextGen interns here helped us to speed our process up and deal with lab test overloads,” he said. Their work was not only pivotal for the department’s productivity, but helped move cases forward for affected citizens.

Like Jeanette Brown, Johnson’s impact on the office led to the offer of a full-time job. He now serves as loan coordinator for the Maryland Department of Environment and is considering a long-term career in a field he knew very little about before his internship.

Dr. Ann Cotten (left), executive director of the Schaefer Center for Public Policy, and Pat Mikos, NextGen Leaders for Public Service program manager, outside the Liberal Arts and Policy Building.

Johnson strongly recommends the NextGen program to others, regardless of their planned path. He tells prospects “they’ll be doing something that is interesting, that really matters and offers the chance at a lifestyle you always dreamed of.”

While the possibility of a job offer is certainly an enticing bonus, it’s the chance at a meaningful internship experience—along with the promise of fair compensation for their work during that internship—that draws many students to the NextGen program.

Arence “AJ” Williams, B.A. ’23, is someone whose life has been rooted in service. He was already a father, Army veteran and a high school football coach when he came to the University of Baltimore to pursue a degree in human services administration.

“Coming back home from the military and being a coach, I definitely knew I wanted to do something to serve the community,” he said. “I was having trouble finding an internship, when I received an email from my adviser about the NextGen program. I applied and, thankfully, I was accepted. I really wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself.”

Williams definitely got what he wanted. For his internship, he worked to help Baltimore County develop more equitable approaches and attitudes through its Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Community Advisory Council.

“I saw the NextGen program as an opportunity to be productive outside my academic life and get some experience working for the government.”

MI’YARNIE JOHNSON

Ramona Brown-Carter, a DEI program manager for the County, and graduate of the Maryland Equity and Inclusion Leadership Program at the Schaefer Center, served as Williams’ supervisor. She commended his work ethic, praising his attentiveness, flexibility and willingness to learn on the job.

“That’s what we needed,” Brown-Carter said. “He’s done a tremendous job in getting to understand how local county government works and assisting on a variety of programs. We’re mighty in workload, but small in number. He just came right in and joined in our effort to build an inclusive Baltimore. It was wonderful to see.”

Williams’ foray into public service rounded out his college career. “It was my first-ever internship,” he said. “It was just a really rewarding experience.”

As the NextGen Leaders for Public Service Program forges ahead, AJ Williams, Jeanette Brown and Mi’Yarnie Johnson have become part of this program’s

NEXTGEN LEADERS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- **Public Service minor**
(undergraduate, all majors)
- **College of Public Affairs graduate programs**
- **Public Safety Leadership Certificate**
(undergraduate and graduate, all majors)



CO-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES

- **Professional development workshops**
- **Events and conferences**
- **Mentoring for competitive programs**
(Fulbright Scholars, Presidential Management Fellows, Governors’s Fellows, etc.)
- **Career Center services**
- **Public service career fairs**



PAID PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCES

- **Schaefer Center Graduate and Doctoral Fellowships**
- **Public Service Internships**
(undergraduate and graduate)
- **Community Development Fellows**
(undergraduate and graduate)
- **Rosencrantz Fellows**
(undergraduate and graduate)




COHORT EXPERIENCES

- **Kickoff and closing retreat**
- **Site visits to government and non-profit organizations**
- **Service activities**
- **Volcker Alliance NextGen Connect**
- **Capstone portfolio presentations**

blueprint—and its footprint. Between the fall 2022 pilot program, and its 2023 spring semester and summer cohorts, over 100 student interns have left their mark on Maryland and what’s more, they’ve been paid for their efforts.

Now, Cotten’s focus is on growing that impact for students and communities year over year. The Schaefer Center is already making significant strides increasing visibility, capacity and funding for NextGen. As an added bonus, she believes these initiatives can “create something of an ‘enrollment engine’ for the University,” attracting students with the promise of a great education and links to great careers.

“It’s a game changer for the University of Baltimore,” said Cotten. “We’re an institution built on engagement, and this is the perfect way for students to marry their academic career with the opportunity to make a difference.” 

Dr. Fred Banks, right, supervises field training for Mi'Yarnie Johnson on lead detection techniques.



NICOLE MUNCHEL

BREAKING THROUGH

INSIGHT AND INSPIRATION FOR NAVIGATING MODERN MENTAL HEALTH CARE



If you've flown enough times, you know to "secure your own mask before helping others." If you spend regular time in health and wellness circles, you probably also know this phrase is used as a metaphor for prioritizing self-care. But what happens when you wait for a proverbial drop in cabin pressure to make sure there are enough masks to go around?

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Americans found themselves cut off from both supplies and services—and caught off guard by their lack of preparedness to deal with that.

"The pandemic forced people to sit with their thoughts—literally quarantine with them—some for the first time, and some right alongside their families," explained Dr. Tiffany Parkman, director of The University of Baltimore's B.A.

in Human Services program. "Maybe before, their normal way of coping was to ignore their issues or problems, but now, they couldn't access their usual distractions. People began to realize they didn't have an actual plan for their mental health care."

"The hardships that came with the pandemic were awful to experience ... if you didn't do something to address them, then being swallowed up by this miserable situation was inevitable," said Dr. Courtney Gasser, director of the M.S. in Counseling Psychology program at UBalt.

As it turns out, therapy was ripe for virtual practice. A study published by the *JAMA Network Journals of the American Medical Association* comparing telehealth and in-person visits between 2019 and 2022 noted that "by August 2022 ... overall mental health service utilization was 38.8 percent higher than before the pandemic."

That being said, according to their COVID-19 Practitioner Impact Study, members of the American Psychological Association reported seeing increases in the number of patients seeking treatment for anxiety (+79 percent), depression (+66 percent), substance abuse (+47 percent), and trauma (+64 percent) since the beginning of the pandemic. That same study also reported that 60 percent of practitioners acknowledged that by 2022, they had no availability to accept new patients and 72 percent have longer waitlists than they did pre-pandemic.

"[The pandemic] helped some people to connect with mental health resources in an unprecedented way," says Gasser. "However, it's also shown us

that not everyone has equal access to health care or wellness resources, including counseling.”

Both faculty and alumni practitioners from the University of Baltimore agree there’s no time like the present to give your mental health the attention and care it deserves, but when access is restricted by time, cost, supply or even doubts, where do you begin? And should you even bother?

WE ALL NEED PROFESSIONAL CARE

Giovani Aguiar: At some point in our lives, we all need professional care. We go to the gym, we take vitamins, we eat well, all for the sake of our physical health. We need to do the same for our mental health. We should not wait until we get overwhelmed with emotions and feelings. We should be working on how to deal with emotions and feelings on a regular basis.

Bonnie Zucker: Usually, if you are thinking about therapy, it’s a good sign you would benefit from it. The main indicator is when you have symptoms that are interfering with your life in any way. While no one feels happy all the time, if you find yourself feeling down or sad more often than not, it means you should seek treatment. Also, if you have habits that you’d like to change, going to therapy is often a great way to do that.

Crystal Baldwin: Therapy is not just for times of crisis but also for times when things are manageable but difficult, a life transition is occurring, or even when things are going well!

GETTING STARTED

Zucker: Your primary doctor is always a good starting point; if they don’t have any recommendations, you can get a list from your insurance company. Many providers are also out-of-network, but you can pay upfront and then hopefully receive partial reimbursement from your insurance company if they offer out-of-network benefits.

Joanne Frederick: If you’re searching online, start with *Psychology Today*. You can drill down by location or put in the preferred gender or race of the mental health professional you’re looking for. You can even search by specialty or modality, if you know what you’re looking for. You can get into as much detail as you need to find someone. But I definitely suggest taking an all-of-the-above approach—don’t limit your search to one place; explore all the options open to you.

Lindsay Jimmink: Reviews and feedback are an important part of the search process. Online reviews

“You’re worth the time and effort it takes to find a professional that works for you.”

LINDSAY JIMMINK

(e.g. Google) are great, but also a doctor referral can be really helpful. For instance, if your primary care physician can professionally vouch for a therapist and is willing to refer you, that’s usually a good sign. And I’m always a fan of word of mouth—there’s a reason why people spread names. I’ve gotten patients because others have said, “I love Lindsay!” I’m very grateful for that.

DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Jimmink: Good mental health care comes down to figuring out what kind of professional you need to see. There can be a lot of trial and error involved. It’s like when you go to your doctor for physical symptoms—you may not know what specific type of treatment you need going in, so you see different specialists until you figure out you need to see a cardiologist.

Angela Frazee: There are a lot of different therapy modalities out there; clinicians should be able to share theirs and explain it to you in layman’s terms so you can see if it resonates. Therapists talk to you, help you process things and learn skills, whereas psychiatrists can assess symptoms and prescribe medication, but tend not to dig deep. If you’re concerned about something like a learning disability or ADHD, you can look into neuropsychological assessments and testing.

Tiffany Parkman: Depending on where you are, securing an appointment with a mental health care professional can take months. If you’re unsure about what you need, start by talking with your primary care physician. They can run tests, do lab work, and potentially even start you on medication to steer you in the right direction to buy some time before you can talk to someone. Don’t forget—if you have access to them, employee and student assistance programs are great resources to help you get started.

A MATCH MADE IN THERAPY

Baldwin: I encourage everyone to interview potential therapists. This helps feel out personality compatibility and allows for you to learn more about the therapist’s specialties, background and

CONTRIBUTORS

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE FACULTY

Dr. Courtney Gasser, LP, NCC
associate professor, director of the M.S. in Counseling Psychology program

Dr. Tiffany Parkman
lecturer, director of the B.A. in Human Services Administration program

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE ALUMNI PRACTITIONERS

Giovani Aguiar, APRN-PMHNP-BC, M.S. '15
Addictions and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Crystal Baldwin, LCSW-C, CKAT, B.A. '12
Therapist

Angela Frazee, LCPC, NCC, PMH-C, M.S. '14, CERT '14
Therapist

Dr. Joanne Frederick, NCC, LPC, LCPC, M.S. '96
Mental Health Counselor

Lindsay Jimmink, LCPC, M.S. '14
Clinical Therapist

Dr. Bonnie Zucker, Psy.D., M.S. '98
Psychologist

If you are facing an immediate mental health crisis that requires attention, or are having thoughts of suicide or self-harm, there are a number of resources available to you if you don't have access to a therapist or do not want to call 911.

- > Call or text the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 from any phone to reach local crisis services. (Same as calling National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1.800.273.8255.)
- > Text HOME to 741741 to text with a crisis counselor at the Crisis Text Line.
- > Visit your nearest Emergency Room. Even if they don't have psychiatric care, they can connect you with a hospital that does.

modalities. If you are of a marginalized identity it is perfectly acceptable to ask a therapist additional questions about their competency in working with clients of that particular group. Your safety and comfort are the priority in this process.

Zucker: After three sessions, you should be clear about your connection with the therapist and if they are a good fit for you. First, ask yourself if you feel they understand your presenting concerns, have a clear sense of treatment goals and if they have a plan for reaching those goals. Second, do you feel like you can share anything without being judged? Finally, ask yourself if you feel that the therapist appreciates your strengths and has a positive mindset about you and the therapy process.

Fraze: A good fit is going to be different for each person and unique to what they're looking for and what feels good to them. Some people want a more directive therapist, some more of a listening therapist. Understanding what kind of person you'd like to talk to will be helpful.

Courtney Gasser: Your therapist should be someone who can help you fulfill your goals for counseling, offers you a safe space for being emotionally vulnerable and whose focus is on you. Counseling can feel uncomfortable at times because it is a place where we process our pain, yet the therapist is there to form a positive professional relationship with you and offer a supportive space to do this hard work. If after a few sessions, you don't think this is a person who can offer you such space, then looking for a different therapist is usually a good idea.

THE STRUGGLE IS REAL

Baldwin: Since 2020, there haven't been enough therapists to meet demand and, unfortunately, waitlists are now commonplace. I recommend placing yourself on multiple waitlists and checking back every few weeks to increase your chances of getting seen earlier. While mental health apps are not a substitute for therapy, they're helpful in the interim, so I do recommend people utilize apps, books and the social media content of licensed therapists.

Zucker: Be patient. Don't just schedule with someone who has availability—it's worth waiting for someone who's the right match for you and your presenting concerns.

Frederick: Remember, it's always better to start identifying an individual who will fit your needs and life before there's a crisis. But if that happens, this is the time to start engaging in self-help. I have a number of books

"We all go through hard times in life and there is no shame in ever asking for help to get additional support."

ANGELA FRAZEE

and articles I recommend people can read, or that they start journaling. These are things that can help get you through while you're waiting for more help.

PUTTING YOUR MASK ON FIRST

Aguir: You need to reserve time for yourself, no matter how busy your day/week is. A few minutes in the morning, midday or at the end of the day, just to do something that brings you peace and re-energizes your soul. Spending time with people you love or doing something enjoyable can be very rewarding.

Fraze: There are some great social media accounts online right now that talk about mental health and are a great place to start listening to concepts. I also love books and workbooks on mental health. I have a few that I highly recommend, but if that is not your thing, journaling can be really helpful to just process what's going on for you. Also, make sure to fully nurture yourself. Focusing on what I believe are the three cornerstones of wellness—sleep, nutrition and exercise—is always a great place to start.

Frederick: Look into support groups. There are groups for everything you can think of and many of them offer online support. There are groups for substance addiction, like drugs and alcohol; process addiction issues, like gambling, technology, food, etc. They can help keep us afloat. And you can create your own support group, too. Start with your own network and just put your story out there. You'll be surprised at how many people you know or how many people they know have experienced similar trauma. We just need to tell our story, because when we do, other people will realize they don't have to be alone in this either.

Parkman: Everyone should be unapologetic about taking their own mental health days and doing whatever they think is right for them during that time. I started incorporating mental health days into the semester calendar during the pandemic, because it just got to be too much for students sometimes. Now, it's a staple of all my courses.

Gasser: Self-care should be tailored to the individual and their circumstances. For example, if someone is always on the go, then spending quiet time meditating or even not doing anything at all may be particularly revitalizing. If it is a problem to find time for self-care activities, then scheduling in your self-care time might be helpful.

SOME FREE ADVICE

Aguiar: Mental health is as important as physical health, if not more important. We all need to be advocates and stop the stigma surrounding mental health issues. It is OK to ask for help. You are not alone.

Baldwin: Be aware that most large tech corporations offering mental health services online are not a great option for quality care. Unfortunately, these companies share and sell your protected health information for marketing purposes and have high turnover rates, which means most customers will not have the same therapist for long. These unethical practices place their clients at risk.

Frederick: Remember, if you have to take medications, that is perfectly normal. Many people are on mental health medication, whether it's for anxiety, depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, anything at all. And medication does work. When you see someone functioning well, remember, they might be medicated. So, normalize it. Because that's one of the things that keeps some people from requiring crisis services. A lot of times, we need that extra help. And that's OK.

Jimmink: Cost isn't always preventative. Some people can't afford to pay out-of-pocket or the co-pays, even if they are insured. In those instances, it's very important to talk to providers and see if they offer a sliding scale. Many do. Some places offer discounted rates for seeing interns or those still under supervision. And in the state of Maryland, there's also the Pro Bono Project, and they do take on clients for free. I think it's really important for people to know that help is out there, even if you don't have the money for it.

Parkman: Everyone should devise a mental health care plan to prepare them for the next pandemic or the next disaster, whatever it is. The more resources you have—friends, community, family, doctors, access to services, designated funds—the better off you're going to be. Ask yourself: 'Where do I stand? What if something happens tomorrow? What's my capacity to bounce back? To face that issue head on and come out as minimally scathed as possible? And if you cannot answer those questions, then get to work formulating a plan to answer them. **B**

UBALT LICENSE PLATES

Show your UBalt pride whenever you drive! Alumni, full- and part-time staff with vehicles registered in

Maryland can apply for a special license plate that sports the UBalt logo.



ALUMNI BOOK CLUB

Connect with fellow UBalt alumni, faculty and staff as they read and discuss various books of different genres. Signing up is easy and participation is free!

Visit ubalt.edu/alumni/alumni-benefits for more information on these and other campus perks!

ALUMNI BEE CARD

The Alumni Bee Card is your one-card solution for official identification. It also provides library access,

special alumni discounts and more. Your first Alumni Bee Card is free!



MELODIE HENGERER

- J.D. '02, The University of Baltimore School of Law
- Health Law Shareholder at Baker Donelson
- Member, Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network
- Advocate, equity in organ transplantation

Lifesaver

MELODIE HENGERER, J.D. '02

BY EMILY HALNON

Organ donation changes lives, and in many instances, saves them. But the process isn't as simple as checking a box on a driver's license. Donation and transplant exist at opposite ends of a process that can be rife with legal challenges for donors, recipients, families and doctors—and very few lawyers with the expertise to help them navigate.

When **Melodie Hengerer, J.D. '02**, realized this need existed, she pivoted her legal career. Her sole focus is now on organ transplant and donation, and working with health care providers, tissue banks and organ procurement organizations (OPOs) to guide them through legal and regulatory issues so they can get organs to people who need them. In fact, the bulk of her clients are OPOs—federally regulated nonprofits that serve as a conduit between donors and recipients at transplant centers—that help with everything from authorizing donation to assessing the clinical suitability of an organ for donation.

"My clients operate in a world of high stakes—literally, life and death. It's an honor to be the one helping them face challenges while doing work that I absolutely love," she said.

This isn't the first time Hengerer has pivoted in her career. After ranking fifth in her graduating class at the School of Law and practicing in Washington, D.C., for a short while, she took time off to focus on her family when they relocated to North Carolina. A move back to

Baltimore eventually ushered in a new career with the Baltimore City Law Department (which represents the interests of the mayor and city council) a few years later. When she pivoted once again, this time back to private practice, the self-proclaimed science geek with a background in biology found herself drawn to medical malpractice cases.

When she landed a case involving allegations of negligence in the transportation of a donated kidney that purportedly arrived at the transplant center damaged, she knew she had found her niche.

"Everything about that case was so fascinating, since under federal law, organs can't be bought and sold, meaning products liability law didn't apply," she said.

Realizing there was a dearth of lawyers specializing in donation and transplant, she designed and pitched a business plan to Baltimore-based firm Baker Donelson in 2020 that would allow them all to get in on the proverbial ground floor of this nascent field.

Her first client in this space was Infinite Legacy, a regional OPO that manages organ donations across Maryland, Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. Hengerer helped facilitate a merger among these regions that expanded their service area to nearly 10 million people. She also helped the organization navigate the challenging and often delicate legal issues that can arise as families make the selfless decision to donate their loved ones' gifts at a time of profound grief and finds it "incredibly rewarding to

"My clients operate in a world of high stakes—literally, life and death. It's an honor to be the one helping them face challenges."

represent clients who live this inspiring mission, day in and day out."

In addition to being inspiring, though, the nature of her work is also inherently complex. One of the biggest challenges in her practice is that issues with organ transplants often exist at the intersection of medicine, law, and ethics—which can be tricky to untangle.

"The work is so interesting because there's rarely one right answer that fits all three spaces congruently," she said. "For instance, when a new clinical organ recovery procedure develops, we must seek to understand whether the practice is sound. While I may feel a particular procedure is legally defensible, in contrast, a bioethicist may have concerns about whether that same procedure is ethically appropriate, or vice versa. Ultimately, we try to reach a consensus because we all have the same goal in mind—to maximize organ donation while guarding public trust in the system."

There are also complicated issues with the allocation of organs, namely, who receives them versus who should receive them, said Hengerer. In a 2022 op-ed for

Medpage Today, she tackled the issue of using race-based calculations to determine whether a patient makes it onto a transplant waitlist. Historically, some centers have used metrics that make it less likely for Black patients to get on the waitlist for a kidney transplant. She noted: "Because the adjustment for race can erroneously indicate that Black patients are healthier than they actually are ... race-based calculations may effectively disadvantage Black patients when determining their place on the transplantation waitlist." She works closely with clients to address this kind of medical bias and advocate for a more just and equitable system.

"There's a lot of interest in health equity and whether organs are allocated fairly," she said.

As this field continues to develop and respond to the industry as a whole, Hengerer is well-positioned to grow with it. Her business plan has proven successful thanks to her foresight—she's grown her practice exponentially in just three years, become a shareholder at Baker Donelson, and last year she was a Leadership in Law Honoree (*The Daily Record*).

"It's been such a positive change to go from helping people fight about money to doing challenging, but altruistic legal work, especially alongside such dedicated and inspiring clients and such collaborative and supportive colleagues," says Hengerer. "I am so grateful Baker Donelson took a chance on me and this practice, because even if it was later in my career, I'm so grateful to have found this purpose." **B**



CAMERON WHITMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

STEVEN DASHIELL

- B.A. '07, The University of Baltimore
Yale Gordon College of Arts and Sciences
- Ph.D. in Language, Literacy and Culture,
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Researcher in Residence, American University
- Retired sergeant, Army National Guard
- Research Assistant Professor, Morgan State University

Ahead of the Game

STEVEN DASHIELL, B.A. '07

BY CHRISTIANNA McCAUSLAND

Dr. Steven Dashiell, B.A. '07, remembers working in human services just a few blocks from The University of Baltimore campus and watching the students on their way to class. It was a bittersweet sight for Dashiell, who did not put as much effort into his first bachelor's degree program as he felt he could have. Those students inspired him to sign himself up for another. Graduating from UBalt with a B.A. in Community Studies and Civic Engagement, he went on to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), completing a master's degree in Applied Sociology, followed by a doctorate in Language, Literacy and Culture.

"None of that would have happened without the University of Baltimore," says Dashiell of his extensive academic achievements. "The University gave me a chance at redemption, I guess I'd call it...And now I'm a Ph.D.—I'm a doctor—because of UBalt."

His time at UBalt "definitely informed me as a scholar, as someone who is involved in looking at the social world." He said the school was particularly adept at helping students form a community-minded perspective. Now a postdoctoral fellow in sociology at American University, Dashiell's work as a behavioral scientist looks at male-dominated subcultures and what happens when other populations enter those spaces.

"Social integration is something that's very important to my research and something that Baltimore models," he said. "I commonly go back to this idea of a confederation of communities rather than one big city. And it informs the way that I understand how subcultures and micro-cultures work."

Dashiell, who happens to be an Army veteran, knows a few things about male subcultures. His dissertation examined how male students who were also veterans perceived their masculinity, and how the powerful set of norms taught by the military informed those students' interactions on campus. It was also during his time at UMBC that he first found the world of online gaming.

"This was back when *The Ricki Lake Show* was still on and they were having episodes themed like, 'Our marriage is breaking up over *World of Warcraft*,'" he recalls. Having never played the game, Dashiell went to his adviser (whom he didn't realize just happened to be one of the foremost authorities on game studies) and mentioned he wanted to examine *World of Warcraft*. She told him to download the game and start playing, which he did on a Sunday.

"I called in sick at work for two days and didn't stop playing until Wednesday," he said laughing.

Global online gaming is a multibillion-dollar industry. And most of the games fueling that growth—like *Skyrim* and

"The University gave me a chance at redemption, I guess I'd call it...And now I'm a Ph.D.—I'm a doctor—because of UBalt."

Diablo—are geared toward men. More specifically, mostly white, middle-class men. And it is those men who are establishing the accepted norms of play in online gaming, says Dashiell. Yet, there have been women and minorities active in the gaming space since its inception. They are just invisible.

"Individuals, whether it be poor white men, or Black men, or women of any racial or social class, they have to learn certain norms and practices in order to act in these spaces," he says. "In order to operate, individuals need to learn how to engage in the games like men or they get attacked."

In games where players converse over headsets, for example, researchers have found that when a male player makes a mistake, other players gloss over the error. When a woman falters in the same way, other players call her stupid. Women also report being attacked for displays of femininity.

Currently, Dashiell is working on papers looking at what motivates men who play *Diablo* in "hard core" mode, which erases all their game progress and resets them to the beginning if they make a single game error. He's also conducting a study of how Black men in America speak about themselves online, and how they perceive themselves and their experiences online through the study of Reddit posts.

Much of Dashiell's work looks at the intersections where male subcultures meet race, gender and societal norms. In the end, he hopes his work will contribute to sentiment change, which he describes as the shift that happens when a given culture identifies that a behavior is bad. "It doesn't necessarily mean that any policies or any practices in society change," he said.

"Sentiment change takes a long time, and social change doesn't happen until 50 years after sentiment change," he continued. "So, trying to change something within your lifetime is a very, very difficult thing. Sentiment change is probably the best thing that you can hope for."

As a "humanistic social scientist," Dashiell isn't out to fix society's problems, but rather to bring increased awareness to what is happening in a deep and thoughtful way—one that inspires conversations outside academic bubbles that may lead to sentiment change and yes, hopefully one day, even social change. **B**



NICOLE MUNCHEL

KAREN STOUT

- MBA '88, The University of Baltimore Merrick School of Business
- President and chief executive officer, Achieving the Dream
- President Emerita, Montgomery County Community College
- Advisory board member, National Council on the Humanities

Achieving Her Dream

KAREN STOUT, MBA '88

BY EMILY HALNON

Community college left an impression on **Karen Stout, MBA '88**, at an early age. Even then, she recognized its value.

She remembers her mom taking classes at their local community college to build the skills she needed to get a job. And though Stout didn't go to a community college herself (a field hockey scholarship paid for her undergraduate degree at the University of Delaware), she was very aware of the importance of an affordable education.

"Access to education transformed what is possible for me and my family," she said.

When one of her early-career mentors told her she had what it takes to be a community college president, her interest was piqued. She'd always appreciated how her local community college was a cultural hub and supported many students in her hometown. Seeing as how she already believed in the mission of community colleges, and coincidentally was now working for one (Harford Community College in Bel Air, Maryland), Stout decided to go back to school to get her master's in business administration and set herself on that career path. She chose The University of Baltimore because it was an affordable institution that would allow her to balance her classes with her full-time job. Plus, her dad, **Bill Stout Jr., B.S. '70, MBA '77**, earned graduate

and undergraduate degrees at UBalt, so she was certain it would fit her financial, educational and professional needs.

"The University of Baltimore has a special access mission that's quite similar to a community college," she said. "It gave me an affordable option and the flexible format I needed to keep working full time while pursuing a business degree."

She's now the president and CEO of Achieving the Dream, a national nonprofit that helps over 300 community colleges across the country deliver a transformative education to a diverse community of students. She took on her role with Achieving the Dream in 2009, after serving 15 years as the president of Montgomery County Community College.

"Montgomery County Community College was in the Achieving the Dream network, which is what introduced me to a lot of the tools and strategies that the organization uses to bolster student success and increase equity," she said.

"I've become really passionate about what community colleges can do and now I have the whole country as my campus."

Achieving the Dream aims to transform communities by transforming community colleges. The organization works with partner schools to help them implement innovative, evidence-based programs and interventions that

"I've become really passionate about what community colleges can do."

can help students succeed. Their mission is to create opportunities and remove barriers to give students equal access to education, training and fulfilling careers. They've created a robust peer-learning community and have helped partner schools double their graduation rate and fully eliminate equity gaps.

"Most community college students end up living within a 50-mile radius of their community college," says Stout. "So, the work of community colleges really has an incredible ripple effect into the communities where they sit."

Achieving the Dream also advocates for policy and program changes that can help support community colleges. Stout was recently appointed by President Joe Biden to serve on the National Council on the Humanities, the advisory board for the National Endowment for the Humanities. Stout has always seen the humanities as a core part of any education—including at community colleges, which can have a reputation for being focused on workforce-oriented programs.

"But sometimes people aren't thinking that programs like literature, fine arts, music and

theater are workforce programs—even though they absolutely are, as they help students build important critical thinking and analysis skills," she said. "I think the National Council on the Humanities is making an effort to represent all sectors of higher education in its work and there is a desire to connect community colleges more directly to the advancement of the humanities."

She hopes her work on the Council helps reinforce the necessity of the humanities—at community colleges and throughout higher education, more broadly.

"Humanities are often under attack because of the perception that they don't have utility for jobs," she said. "As a council, we want to continue to raise the visibility of the humanities and connect them to the fact that they help develop well-rounded citizens and workers."

She says the need to prove relevancy will be a big part of her work going forward—both with the humanities and beyond.

"All of higher education is being asked to defend its value and return on investment," she says. "Community colleges used to be somewhat shielded from that, but we're not anymore. So, the next piece of our work will involve responding to that relevancy crisis and making sure community colleges are seen as a critical path to building a successful future and creating stronger, more vibrant communities." **B**



CHRIS MYERS PHOTOGRAPHY

DeWAYNE WICKHAM

- M.P.A. '82, The University of Baltimore College of Public Affairs
- Founding member, National Association of Black Journalists
- Dean Emeritus, Morgan State University School of Global Journalism & Communication
- Named the first Public Editor of *The Baltimore Banner*

Always Asking Questions

DeWAYNE WICKHAM, M.P.A. '82

BY JOCELYN SLAUGHTER

DeWayne Wickham, M.P.A. '82, had to work harder than most to suss out his own identity. He lost both parents at the tender age of 8 to a tragic murder-suicide that left him orphaned, vulnerable and always asking the question: "Who am I?" Despite his childhood trauma, this native son of Baltimore learned the value of hard work from his aunt and the value of networking on the golf course. He harnessed those parts of his identity, along with his intrinsic curiosity, and pushed himself toward a successful career in journalism that has spanned over four decades.

Even before his parents passed away, a young Wickham would walk to Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library after school. There, the reading hour "infused [his] curiosity" and allowed him to travel to distant places. An avid reader from an early age, he "always had a book with [him]," even as a teenager, when he was likely to be found cutting class in favor of picking up caddying assignments at the local golf course.

Following many of his friends at the time, he eschewed school completely to enlist in the military during the Vietnam War. Wickham spent four years on active duty in the United States Air Force. His service began as a military photographer and he later became a combat photographer—a role

which afforded him his first opportunity to engage with civilian and military journalists.

Upon his return to civilian life, he took advantage of his GI Bill® benefits and enrolled at Baltimore City Community College. When he decided to enroll in the University of Maryland (UMCP) to obtain his bachelor's degree, all of his credits would transfer to only two programs—business or journalism. His experience during the war quickly led him to choose journalism; in turn, his experience at UMCP (both his coursework and his role as a reporter and state editor for *The Diamondback*) led him to become practically obsessed with the subject and, above all, the storytelling.

Almost as much as the story, the concept of being the person who decides which stories need to be—and are—told intrigued Wickham. He was also drawn to the powerful force that the press represents in society, noting that our other democratic freedoms, such as freedom of religion or speech, couldn't last without it. According to him, "In a democratic society, journalism is the straw that stirs the drink. We need to make sure that everyone has a straw."

After graduating from UMCP, Wickham stayed as active as possible, notching a few years on his belt at *U.S. News & World Report* and *The Baltimore Sun* and as a founding member of the National

Association of Black Journalists. (He would later serve as president from 1987 to 1989.) It was in those early years that Wickham marked just how much conversation in print and broadcast journalism was rooted in public policy. As someone who was deeply invested in the history of journalism, Wickham understood that "journalism wasn't a neutral arbiter, but was a voice that had persuasion." So, he decided to pursue a Master in Public Administration degree at The University of Baltimore, because, as he put it, "if you want to write about something, you need to know something."

Now equipped with knowledge and insight to match his passion and curiosity, Wickham launched into a long and storied career. His career led him from Baltimore's historic Provident Hospital, where he was born alongside most Black Baltimoreans of his generation, to Selma, Alabama, onboard Air Force One with former President Barack Obama, for the 50th anniversary of the march for voting rights. It sat him across from some of the world's most influential leaders, including Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro. And it made him a household name as a nationally syndicated columnist for *USA TODAY*, and over 130 daily newspapers, from 1985 to 2015.

Over those 30 years, Wickham noticed a recurring theme when he conversed with his peers—the next generation of journalists.

As he noticed curiosity waning amongst these up-and-comers—combined with what he saw as the need for "more reporting, less repeating,"—he turned his focus toward education.

He began the transition from practitioner to educator as the Distinguished Professor of Journalism at Delaware State University in 2001. Harkening back to his youth, the next chapters in his career opened up on golf courses and led to teaching opportunities at North Carolina A&T University, University of Pennsylvania, and as the founding dean—now dean emeritus—and professor of journalism at the School of Global Journalism & Communication at Morgan State University in 2013. "The golf course was my friend," joked Wickham.

Wickham believes "the job of journalists is to tell people what those in authority don't want them to know," and peel away the proverbial onion by always asking questions. He's been very successful in this regard, as well as creating a safe space for journalists—Black journalists in particular—through his leadership. His extensive career has helped him find his purpose and his identity. There is no doubt that his career will also have a lasting impact on future journalists in similar ways, so long as they remain curious. **B**

**“There are a lot of roads to the top.
But for me journalism was one
that lifted me out of the life that
I found myself in.”**

DeWAYNE WICKHAM



CHRIS MYERS PHOTOGRAPHY

CLASS NOTES*

*Class notes featured here were received from May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023.

1960s

Jay S. White, B.S. '68, self-published a poetry collection entitled *Poems of a Gentle Soul* in September 2022.

1970s

Arnold Williams, B.S. '72, managing director and founding partner of Abrams, Foster, Nole & Williams Public Accounting (PA), received the Citizen Leadership Award from the International Economic Development Council in September 2022 in recognition of his contributions to economic development in Baltimore.

James B. Astrachan, J.D. '74, partner at Goodell DeVries, was selected by *The Daily Record* as an honoree for the 2022 Icon Honors.

Barnett Q. Brooks, J.D. '75, and **Abba D. Poliakoff, J.D. '77**, were named to *The Daily Record's* 2022 Business Employment Law Power List.

Stuart A. Dettelbach, B.S. '69, **Michael G. Bronfein, B.S. '77**, and **David B. Shapiro, J.D. '84**, were all recognized as Influential Marylanders by *The Daily Record* for 2022. Dettelbach was recognized in the philanthropic category for his work as president of Weekend Backpacks, which addresses food insecurity outside of the classroom where children are not able to participate in free meal programs. Bronfein and his company, Curio Wellness, were honored in the general business category, and Shapiro in the law category for his work with the Maryland State Bar Association.

Today's Golfer recognized **Bob Parsons, B.S. '75, D.H.L. '08**, as one of its Top 100 Most Influential People in Golf for 2022.

James Lambdin, B.S. '76, joined the Board of Trustees at Loyola University Maryland in October 2022.

Michael J. Naugle, M.S. '77, published a novel entitled *Obits and Pieces of My Life: A Saga of Family, Friends and Basketball* in 2022. The book follows Mr. Naugle's life in Baltimore and beyond, including his time at The University of Baltimore where he played basketball and met his wife, **Cass Naugle, CERT '84, MBA '86**, and their experience working in Niger, West Africa, as part of the Peace Corps.

Darlene Brannigan Smith, B.S. '78, MBA '80, has been serving as the interim associate vice chancellor for academic affairs with the University System of Maryland since July 2022.

The University of Baltimore School of Law awarded **Pamila J. Brown, J.D. '79**, the Distinguished Judicial Award at the school's 2022 Distinguished Alumni Awards. She also was honored with the 2022 Liberty Achievement Award by the American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section for promoting diversity and inclusion within the legal profession throughout her career.

John T. Long III, MBA '79, was appointed in January to the board of advisers for the Greenville Chamber of Commerce in South Carolina.

1980s

Patricia J. Arnold-Rensel, B.S. '80, joined InductEV, an industry leader in high-power inductive charging systems for commercial electrical vehicles, in fall 2022 as vice president of people operations.

Peter A. Caringi Jr., B.A. '80, the long-time head coach for the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) men's soccer team, retired on April 1. He spent 32 seasons at the helm, the longest tenure of any coach in a single sport in UMBC's history, notching 320 total victories and 11 conference championships. He coached nine All-American players (including his own son) and never experienced back-to-back losing seasons. An All-American soccer player himself, Caringi has been inducted into five Halls of Fame, including The University of Baltimore Athletic Hall of Fame as a member of the 1975 National Championship Soccer Team and as an individual player, holding the UBalt record for all-time goals scored.

Frances "Toni" Draper, CERT '80, MBA '81, chief executive officer and publisher, The AFRO American Newspapers, delivered the 2023 spring commencement address for the Johns Hopkins School of Education in Baltimore.

Marianne Schmitt Hellauer, J.D. '80, joined the private wealth planning group at the Baltimore office of Venable LLP in November 2022.

Andrew S. Hament, J.D. '81, retired in 2019 as the managing partner of the Melbourne, Florida, office of Ford Harrison LLP. He specialized in employment and labor law for almost four decades, including a notable case before the U.S. Supreme Court. He now serves as a mediator in business and employment disputes.

Robert L. Oatman, B.S. '81, joined the inaugural advisory board in June 2022 for Cooke and Associates, an executive protection and corporate security risk management firm based in Danville, California.

Peapack Capital in Bedminster, New Jersey, welcomed **Patrick Scatuorchio, MBA '81**, as a senior vice president and business development officer in December 2022.

Louise A. Lock, J.D. '83, shared that she joined the Maryland Attorney General's Office as an assistant attorney general in October 2021.

Former Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan appointed **Cathi V. Coates, J.D. '85**, to the Worcester County District Court in October 2022. She is the first woman to serve on that county's district court.

Alvernia University in Reading, Pennsylvania, elected **Michael A. Duff, J.D. '85**, as vice chairperson of its board of directors in October 2022.

Timothy F. Maloney, J.D. '85, received the John Carroll Society's 2022 Pro Bono Legal Service Award in October 2022 for his volunteer work with the Catholic Charities Legal Network of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. He also serves on the Catholic Charities Legal Network's Advisory Council.

Trius Lending Partners, a mid-Atlantic-focused private money lender for real estate investors, appointed **Eric Benzer, J.D./MBA '86**, as director of business development in March.

Mark T. Holtschneider, J.D. '86, was promoted in October 2022 to president of Lexington National Insurance Corporation, an insurer that specializes in surety and warranty underwriting across the country.

After a 23-year tenure, **Murray K. "Ray" Hoy, J.D. '86**, retired on June 30 from his role as president of Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury, Maryland.

Lucy A. Rutishauser, MBA '87, was named to *The Daily Record's* Power 30 for 2022 as an influential leader in the business category.

Let us share your success!
Submitting a Class Note is
easy. Just visit [ubalt.edu/
classnotes](http://ubalt.edu/classnotes).

Two Maryland county executives made key appointments to their administrations in the past year. Harford County executive **Robert G. Cassilly, J.D. '88**, brought on:

Jefferson L. Blomquist, J.D. '83, as director of law/county attorney

Robert S. McCord, J.D. '89, as director of administration

Robert F. Sandlass Jr., M.P.A. '04, as director of finance

Howard County executive **Calvin Ball III, M.A. '99**, named:

Robyn Scates, J.D. '97, to the Howard County Board of Education, district one

Tavon A. Claggett, M.P.A. '12, as deputy chief, department of fire and rescue services

Brian R. Shepter, J.D. '08, as deputy chief of staff

Jeff Bathurst, B.S. '88, director of technology advisory and cybersecurity at SC&H Group headquartered in Sparks, Maryland, joined the board of directors of The Maryland Tech Council in August 2022.

Terry Grant, B.S. '88, was elected president and chief executive officer of KatzAbosch, a Mid-Atlantic accounting and business consulting firm, in August 2022.

Isabel M. Cumming, MBA '89, J.D. '93, inspector general for Baltimore City, was selected by *The Daily Record* as an honoree for the 2022 Icon Honors.

Todd Suddleson, J.D. '89, joined MG + M The Law Firm in February as partner in the firm's new Dallas, Texas, office.

1990s

The board of trustees for Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin, Maryland, appointed **Will E. Esham III, J.D. '90**, as secretary of the board in June 2022.

Eddie Hopkins, Cert. '90, M.P.A. '91, retired from the position of director of emergency services for Harford County (Maryland) in 2022, and soon assumed the role as town administrator for the Town of Bel Air.

Baltimore Style magazine honored **Renée Christoff, MBA '91**, as one of its 2022 Women of Strength.

The Daily Record named **Kevin M. Benson, B.A. '92, M.P.A. '97**, to its 2022 Power 30: Banking & Financial Services.

William R. Gallagher, J.D. '92, received the 2022 SAFETY4SEA Leadership Award in October in recognition of his effective leadership as president of International Registries, Inc., a maritime and corporate registry service provider.

Richard Gregson, J.D. '92, joined the Baltimore firm of Baker Donelson as counsel in October 2022.

Adrian S. Johnson, B.S. '92, was promoted to executive vice president and chief financial officer of MECU Credit Union in March 2022. A few months later in July, he celebrated 25 years with MECU.

Loyola University Maryland's Sellinger School of Business and Management named **William J. McCarthy Jr., LL.M. '92**, its 2023 Business Leader of the Year in March.

Cheryl Mickel, B.S. '92, was named to Barron's 2023 list of Top Influential Women in U.S. Finance in April.

The YMCA of Greater Cleveland (Ohio) named **Craig Chaffinch, MBA '93**, as its chief financial officer, effective July 25, 2022.

The University of Maryland Shore Regional Health welcomed **Soo Kyung "Michelle" Lee, B.S. '93**, as a member of its board of directors in September 2022.

Judi L. Knott, M.A. '94, MBA '99, was unanimously selected in September 2022 as president and chief executive officer of the Board of Certification/Accreditation, a not-for-profit organization that offers highly valued credentials for individuals and businesses in the patient care industry.

John M. Porter, B.S. '94, was appointed in fall 2022 as associate executive director at Riderwood, a senior living community in Silver Spring, Maryland.

John P. Angelos, J.D. '95, chairman and chief executive officer of the Baltimore Orioles, was named to *The Daily Record's* 2022 Power 100, a list of individuals shaping key institutions in Baltimore.

Sharon Glazer, M.S. '95, professor and chair, Division of Applied Behavioral Sciences in UBalt's Yale Gordon College of Arts and Sciences, was appointed in fall 2022 as a consultant for the United Nations' efforts toward its sustainable development goals by the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP).

Susan Sizemore, B.S. '95, joined the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) in Alexandria, Virginia, as a financial analyst in June 2022.

John C. Barkley, M.P.A. '96, was sworn in as the city manager of Charles Town, West Virginia, in August 2022.

Brethren Mutual Insurance promoted **George Dioguardo, MBA '96**, to vice president of claims in April 2022. He had previously served as director of claims since 2019.

Judy L. Smith, MBA '96, joined the Howard Hospital Foundation's board of trustees in September 2022.

Robert F. Smith, B.S. '96, was confirmed in May as director of the Department of Recreation and Parks for Baltimore County.

David Weiskopf, J.D. '96, was appointed in February as county administrator of St. Mary's County, Maryland.

Alicia J. Cunningham, MBA '97, senior vice president, corporate finance and revenue advisory services for the University of Maryland Medical System, was appointed to the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health board of directors in August 2022.

Nine outstanding UBalt alumnae are included in *The Daily Record's* Top 100 Women in Maryland for 2023. These graduates were honored in May for their leadership, community service and mentoring.

Barbara L. Simmons, B.S. '89, M&T Bank

Sue Ann Armitage, J.D. '90, Armitage & Armitage P.A.

Lisa Y. Settles, J.D./M.P.A. '94, Jackson Lewis P.C. (Circle of Excellence)

Olivia D. Farrow, J.D. '95, Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital

Tammi L. Thomas, MBA '99, TEDCO

Tracey A. DuBree, B.S. '02, UBS Financial Services Inc.

Neveen H. Kurtom, J.D. '06, Law Office of Neveen H. Kurtom LLC

Alicia N. Ritchie, J.D. '06, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP

Suzanne Burnett, J.D. '09, Potter Burnett Law

The ARC of Northern Virginia named **Melissa Heifetz, J.D. '97**, as its new executive director, effective January 1, 2023.

Rosenberg Martin Greenberg LLP welcomed **Jennifer R. Busse, J.D. '98**, in April as partner in the firm's land use and zoning practice.

Tracey J. Delp, J.D. '98, was appointed in December 2022 by former Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan as a judge for the Harford County District Court.

Melissa M. "Missy" Boyd, J.D. '99, formed her own law firm, Boyd & Early Family Law LLC, in fall 2022. The boutique, full-service family law firm is located in Plymouth Meeting and Malvern, Pennsylvania.

Alex J. Brown, J.D. '99, a partner at the law firm of Shapiro Sher in Baltimore, was ranked in 2022 edition of Chambers USA.

Hornblower Group, a global leader in the marine hospitality industry headquartered in San Francisco, California, welcomed **Karen A. DiFulgo, B.S. '99**, in March as the company's chief people officer.

Nadine Finigan-Carr, M.S. '99, was named the inaugural executive director of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Center for Violence Prevention, effective May 1.

ACNB Bank named **Michael Maccubbin, B.S. '99**, to the position of residential mortgage loan originator in March.

Jonathan Zhu, MBA '99, joined Korn Ferry, a global consulting firm, in September 2022 as a senior client partner and APAC market leader in the life sciences practice. He is based in firm's Singapore office.

2000s

Alex Allman, J.D. '00, was appointed in December 2022 by former Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan as a judge on the Harford County District Court.

Nicole Kimberly Barmore, J.D. '00, was appointed in September 2022 by former Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan as a judge on the Baltimore City Circuit Court.

Thomas M. Donnelly, J.D. '00, is currently the deputy state's attorney for Baltimore City under Baltimore State's Attorney Ivan Bates.

Winthrop & Weinstine, P.A., welcomed **Michael J. Fellerman, J.D. '00**, in January as a shareholder in the real estate finance practice.

St. Mary's Ryken High School in Leonardtown, Maryland, inducted **Philip T. Cronan, J.D. '01**, into their Athletic Hall of Fame for baseball in October 2022. Cronan is a founding principal in the law firm of Hollis, Cronan & Fronk, P.A., based in Easton, Maryland.

James W. Tinsley, M.A. '01, joined the board of advisors for Capewell in January. Based in South Windsor, Connecticut, Capewell is an aerial system manufacturer that provides engineered products for military, law enforcement, and humanitarian agencies.

Cindy L. Armstrong, J.D. '02, joined Franklin & Prokopik in June 2022 as counsel and lead in the firm's Hagerstown, Maryland, office.

Kevin M. Atticks, D.C.D. '02, was named secretary of agriculture for the state of Maryland in March by then Gov.-elect Wes Moore.

The Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service welcomed **Nancy B. Grimm, J.D. '02**, in January as its first family law attorney.

College of the Redwoods, a public community college in Eureka, California, welcomed **Theresa M. McBride, B.S. '02**, in May 2022 as a business professor for the Del Norte/Pelican Bay Education Program.

The Baltimore Station, a non-profit organization that supports veterans dealing with homelessness and substance use disorder, elected **Michael R. Nelson, J.D. '02**, to its board of directors in July 2022.

Gillian Pommerehn, MBA '02, was promoted to executive vice president, public relations and reputation management, at Crosby Marketing Communications in November 2022.

Mark E. Shaffer, B.A. '02, joined Greenberg Traurig, LLP, in March as a construction litigator and shareholder in the firm's Northern Virginia office.

Mark A. Bell, B.S. '03, M.P.A. '09, who serves as the assistant director for diversity initiatives in UBalt's School of Law, was elected in July 2022 to The Fund for Educational Excellence's board of directors. The nonprofit organization works to ensure all children in Baltimore City public schools experience an effective and equitable education.

Atif Chaudry, B.S. '03, was appointed secretary of the department of general services within the Maryland Department of Health in March 2023.

Justin Dunbar, J.D. '03, joined Niles, Barton & Wilmer LLP as a partner in November 2022.

Adam R. Flasch, MBA '03, was appointed in April to serve as the director of the governor's office of homeland security by Maryland Gov. Wes Moore. Brig. Gen. Flasch is a United States Army veteran who most recently served as the joint staff director at the joint force headquarters of the Maryland National Guard.

Charles Whittaker, B.S. '04, an HVAC teacher at the Center of Applied Technology North in Severn, Maryland, was named the 2023 Teacher of the Year by *The Washington Post* in April. Whittaker, who was also the 2022 Teacher of the Year for Anne Arundel County, began his teaching career 15 years ago after spending 30 years with Unilever Foods. He serves as chair of the center's construction department; is recognized for his work in creating partnerships with local unions, apprenticeship programs and other institutions in support of his students; and has also helped to create national standards for construction curriculum.

Luisella Perri, J.D. '03, joined Foley & Lardner LLP in Washington, D.C., as a partner in the taxation practice group and health care and life sciences sector in October 2022.

Kevin D. Reed, M.P.A. '03, was appointed the director of the Office of Budget and Finance for Baltimore County in December 2022.

Ginger R. Robinson, B.A. '03, J.D. '06, was appointed in July 2022 as department chair for sociology, anthropology and criminal justice at Montgomery College in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Harford Mutual Insurance Group promoted **Geneau M. Thames, J.D. '03**, to vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary in March.

Nathan Wiedemann, B.S. '03, joined Ulmer & Berne LLP in February as counsel in the firm's New York office.

Alana M. Alsop, M.A. '04, joined McKissack & McKissack, an architecture, engineering and construction company, in January

as the head of business development for the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

Berke Attila, MBA '04, was sworn in as the new director of the Department of General Services for Baltimore City in June 2022.

Amanda Johnson, née Ryan, MBA '04, was promoted to deputy group director of the State and Population Health Group at the CMS Innovation Center in March 2023. She previously led the Division of Encounter Data and Risk Adjustment Operations at CMS in the Center for Medicare.

The St. Paul's Schools in Brooklandville, Maryland, named **Ashaki Todman, B.S. '04**, as director of admissions for The St. Paul's School for Girls in July 2022.

Abigail "Abby" L. Baker, J.D. '05, joined the Washington, D.C., law firm of PilieroMazza in November 2022 as practice group chair of the business and transactions group.

Developer **Matthew Barry, MBA '05**, was hired in January as general manager of the Union Station revitalization project in Washington, D.C.

Carrie S. Boone, B.A. '05, authored her first book in August 2022, a memoir, entitled *Unbelievable Grief: Incredible Grace*.

Shirley J. Brewer, M.A. '05, published *Wild Girls*, her fourth book of poetry, in June.

Christine A. Frost, MBA '05, was named chief nursing officer at Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center in August 2022.

Shawe Rosenthal LLP named **Teresa D. Teare, J.D. '05**, as co-managing partner in January. She is the first woman to hold that position in the Baltimore-based firm's 75-year history.

Gregory Care, J.D. '06, was included in Lawdragon's 500 Leading Plaintiff Employment and Civil Rights Lawyers guide for 2022.

Michael P. Coe, J.D. '06, joined the American Public Power Association in February as vice president for security, resilience and energy solutions.

Ivy Tech Community College (Indiana), the nation's largest singly accredited statewide community college system, named **Erik Coyne, J.D. '06**, as the chancellor of Ivy Tech Bloomington effective May 1.

The Maryland Daily Record named **Gwen-Marie A. Davis Hicks, J.D. '06**, to its 2023 Personal Injury & Medical Malpractice Law Power List, released in August 2022.

Angela Oetting, J.D. '06, was named in September 2022 as the acting district public defender for Maryland's District 11, which covers Frederick and Washington counties.

Kelly A. J. Powers, J.D. '06, a principal in Miles & Stockbridge's Baltimore office in the family law and private clients practice group, as well as co-leader of the firm's litigant practice group, was elected to its board of directors in February. She was also elected diversity and inclusion officer for the International Bar Association's Professional Ethics Committee in May.

Comcast named **Christopher G. Rouser, B.S. '06**, as senior vice president of human resources at its central division headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, in November 2022.

Michelle McGeogh, J.D. '07, was elected to the board of Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service, the largest provider of pro bono legal service to low-income Marylanders, in August 2022.

Former Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan appointed **Joseph A. Riley, J.D. '07**, district court judge for Caroline County in October 2022.

Sameer Sidh, J.D. '07, was appointed the deputy administrative officer for economic development and infrastructure for Baltimore County in November 2022.

Tanyka M. Barber, J.D. '08, was named the University of Maryland, Baltimore County's inaugural vice president for institutional equity and chief diversity officer in April.

The Washington, D.C.-based firm of Venable LLP promoted **Shannon Beamer, J.D. '08**, to partner in its Century City, California, office in January.

Sullivan & Worcester welcomed **Abigail Bertumen, J.D. '08**, in February as counsel in the investment management practice group at the firm's Washington, D.C. office.

McNees & Nurick LLC named **Kendall A. Camuti Jr., J.D. '08**, as a member of the real estate and construction groups in February.

Chantress Dorsey-Baptist, MBA '08, joined The Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth as its human resources director in October 2022.

Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum awarded **Ellen Lupton, D.C.D. '08**, the honorary designation of curator emerita in July 2022 to celebrate the conclusion of her tenure as senior curator of contemporary design and in recognition of her 30 years of service to the museum. She continues to teach at Maryland Institute College of Art and holds the Betty Cooke and William O. Steinmetz Design Chair.

Laura E. Burrows Haviland, J.D. '09, was named to *The Daily Record's* 2022 Family Law Power List, released in September 2022.

William R. Gregory, B.A. '09, vice president of global supply chain for UltriSat, an international satellite communications company, was part of the 2023 cohort of 40 Under 40 awardees for the Middle East Policy Council.

Michael A. LaFlame, J.D. '09, joined Flaster Greenberg's intellectual property practice as an associate in October 2022.

WMS Partners, LLC., in Towson, Maryland, added **Paul D. Lamari, J.D. '09, MBA '10**, as a shareholder in February.

D. Watkins, B.A. '09, M.F.A. '14, lecturer in the Klein Family School of Communications Design in UBalt's College of Arts and Sciences, was inducted into The Johns Hopkins University's Society of Scholars in December 2022.

The UBalt School of Law recognized five alumni who are making a difference at the school and in the community at its annual Distinguished Alumni Law Alumni Awards Ceremony on May 25.

The 2023 honorees are:

Taren Butcher, J.D. '07, Byron L. Warnken Memorial Award

Adam Shareef, J.D. '17, Judge Robert Bell Award

Annicc Brown, J.D. '16, Rising Star Award

Barbara Waxman, J.D. '80, Distinguished Judicial Award

Samuel G. Rose, LL.B. '62, Dean's Award

2010s

Glenmede, an investment and wealth management firm based in Washington, D.C., appointed **Bridgette Becker, J.D. '10**, to the role of relationship manager, wealth advisory in September 2022.

Susan K. Francis, J.D. '11, executive director of the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service, received the Women's Law Center of Maryland's 50th Anniversary Foundation of the Future Award in May 2022 in recognition of her leadership within the civil legal services community.

Admissions Gambit, a college admissions consultation group founded by **Erwin Hesse, M.P.A. '12**, and **Andrea Hesse, M.P.A. '12**, was selected as a part of the Racial Equity portfolio at NewSchools Venture Fund. The funding will allow Admissions Gambit to provide free college admissions guidance and essay advice to low-income and underrepresented high school students.

Luke Shaeffer, B.S. '11, joined Via of Lehigh Valley, Inc. in June 2022 as chief financial officer. Via is a non-profit agency based in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, that provides services to people with intellectual and development disabilities.

Jessica Swadow, B.A. '11, J.D. '16, was ranked in 2022 edition of Chambers USA as an "Associate to Watch."

Lauren Ziegler, J.D. '11, was promoted to member at Towson, Maryland-based Nemphos Braue LLC in March.

Jeffrey S. Zuback, M.S. '11, was named to the Greater Baltimore Committee as the organization's first-ever public safety data officer in December 2022.

It was a sweet surprise for **Walter Sweeney, B.S. '12, M.S. '15**, a lieutenant with the Anne Arundel County (Maryland) Police Department, when he was reunited on April 5 with a now-12-year-old boy whose life he saved in July 2011. As an infant, the boy nearly drowned in a swimming pool, and Officer Sweeney administered chest compressions to help restart his breathing. The boy's grandmother requested the reunion with the help of the police department after she saw a post on social media of Sweeney's recent promotion to lieutenant.

Roy C. Brewington Jr., M.P.A. '12, was named the director of the Wicomico County (Maryland) Department of Social Services in June 2022.

Patrice M. Clarke, J.D. '12, was selected as an honoree for *The Daily Record's* 2022 Leading Women award.

Christy M. Maier, J.D. '12, reports she is the general counsel and chief compliance officer at American Finance LLC, based in Harrington, Delaware. She has been with the firm since 2019.

Jeffrey W. Peyton, J.D. '12, joined Duane Morris as a partner in the firm's corporate practice group in August 2022.

Jana L. Ponczak, J.D. '12, was named to *The Daily Record's* 2022 Family Law Power List.

Michael E. Wagner Jr., J.D. '12, was named a 2022 Rising Star in construction litigation by the Legal 500.

Candice M. Washington, M.A. '12, was promoted in January to vice president of education and experiential learning at Hostel International USA.

Rachel N. S. Good, J.D. '13, joined Epstein Becker Green in March as strategic counsel in the firm's health care and life sciences practice.

New York Public Radio welcomed **LaFontaine E. Oliver, MBA '13**, as president and chief executive officer in January. Oliver, who was profiled in the fall 2021 issue of *The University of Baltimore Magazine*, was previously president and general manager at WYPR in Baltimore.

James Phelan Robinson, J.D. '13, was named chair of the Bar Association of Baltimore City's Young Lawyers Division in June 2022. He was also elected partner at Goodell DeVries in January.

NDA Partners welcomed **Catherine Gendrolis, M.S. '14**, in October 2022 as an expert consultant in medical device and diagnostic reimbursements.

Marc P. Lennon, MBA '14, joined the School of Social Work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, as sponsored research development director in August 2022.

Jordan G. Savitz J.D./MBA '14, joined the Baltimore and Washington offices of Baker Donelson as a shareholder in February.

Anna Sholl, J.D. '14, was named executive director of the Maryland State Bar Association in October 2022.

Beatrice C. Thomas, M.A. '14, J.D. '19, has joined the United States Attorney's Office in Baltimore as an assistant United States attorney in the civil division.

Kimberly Turco, J.D. '14, joined Quinn Law Group as an associate attorney in January.

Julia P. Worcester, J.D. '14, is the first-ever state government relations director for The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

Robert W. Carter, M.S. '15, joined Vallit Advisors in October 2022 as a director focusing on dispute consulting, business valuation and forensic accounting.

Kaitlin D. Corey, J.D. '15, an intellectual law attorney with Goodell DeVries, was appointed to the board of directors of the Northeastern Maryland Technology Council last September where she serves as board secretary and on the executive committee. She was also appointed as a special adviser to the Intelligent Transportation Society of Maryland in March.

Gina D. Dyson, J.D. '15, reports that in 2022 she became dean of student affairs and academic integrity for Walden University, based in Los Angeles, California.

Juarez R. Lee-Shelton, B.A. '15, M.A. '18, joined the history department at Stevenson University this fall, serving as an adjunct professor. The first course he is teaching is "Baltimore in the Civil War."

The Afro-American Newspaper recognized **Michelle Richardson, B.S. '15**, for her extraordinary contributions to media at its second annual AFRO Tea event in June 2022.

David T. Shafer, J.D. '15, joined the mergers and acquisitions practice at McDonald Hopkins LLC in September 2022 as a member in the firm's Baltimore/Annapolis office.

Kaitlan M. Skrainar, J.D. '15, was promoted in January to partner at Waranch & Brown LLC.

Krystle Starvis, M.S. '15, joined the Baltimore non-profit CLLCTIVLY in June 2022 as the organization's first chief operating officer. CLLCTIVLY is a place-based social change organization focused on racial equity, narrative change, social connectedness and resource mobilization.

Melissa Martin, B.A. '18, was recognized as a Home-town Hero by the Baltimore Ravens prior to the start of the 2022 season for her work as executive director of Stanley Snacks for School Kids, Inc., the nonprofit organization she founded in 2015 to provide healthier snacks to Baltimore area school students facing hunger and food insecurity. Stanley Snacks fills the hunger gaps in existing school meal programs and has distributed more than 300,000 snacks to over 6,700 children in 13 schools since its inception.

Peter S. Buas, J.D. '16, was elected in January as partner at Williams, Moore, Shockley & Harrison LLP, in Ocean City, Maryland.

The Maryland Multi-Housing Association hired **Lauren C. Graziano, J.D. '16**, in March as senior government affairs manager.

Jacob Kiessling, J.D. '16, joined the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, office of Barley Snyder in January.

Grason Wiggins, J.D. '16, joined government relations and law firm Harris Jones & Malone as an attorney and lobbyist in December 2022.

Then Maryland Gov.-elect Wes Moore appointed **June J. Chung, J.D. '17**, as a deputy legislative officer in December 2022.

Jayne Katherman, J.D. '17, was named in August 2022 to the junior board of the YWCA Greater Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Blair T. Lee, B.A. '17, M.P.A. '21, reports he was appointed executive director of strategic communications and alumni engagement at the Community College of Aurora (Colorado) in May 2022. He was also accepted into the Leadership

and Mentoring Institute, a professional development program, of the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education.

Kristen M. Mack, J.D./MBA '17, joined the civil rights practice at Hansel Law PC in Baltimore in June 2022.

Baltimore City State's Attorney Ivan J. Bates named **Kristin C. Tracy, J.D. '17**, the division chief for the post-conviction and motions unit in January.

Creative Collective NYC named illustrator and designer **Sophia Yeshi, B.A. '17**, to its fourth Creative Class in February. The Creative Class celebrates Black culture-shifters across a variety of disciplines.

Lisa A. Haney, B.S. '18, joined Continental Realty Corporation in Baltimore in July 2022 as senior property manager - commercial division.

Pessin Katz Law, P.A., welcomed **Colin D. McDaniels, J.D. '18**, as an associate in the firm's litigation group in August 2022.

Arao Ameny, M.F.A. '19, received the 2022 Mayor's Individual Artist Award from the Creative Baltimore Fund, a grant from Mayor Brandon Scott, the City of Baltimore and the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts. She was also a finalist for the 2021 Brunel International Africa Poetry Prize, sponsored by Brunel University London (United Kingdom). Ameny was also recognized as a finalist by Best New Poets in their 2022 honors for her work, "The Mothers."

Liff, Walsh & Simmons welcomed **Alanna C. Casey, J.D. '19**, as an associate and member of the employment law and litigation practice groups in June 2022.

2020s

The National Labor Relations Board General Counsel appointed **Kimberly E. Andrews, J.D. '20**, in February as the regional director for the agency's regional office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Bibi J. Barnes, J.D. '20, joined Mid-Shore Pro Bono in Easton, Maryland, in October 2022 as a member of the tenant counsel legal services team.

Jennifer A. Burroughs, M.A. '20, shared in October 2022 that she recently celebrated one year as the director of corporate communications at Monumental Sports & Entertainment, the ownership organization for the Washington Capitals, Wizards and Mystics professional sports teams, as well as the Capital One Arena where they play.

Bradley S. Clark, J.D. '20, reports he joined Baxter Baker Sidle Conn & Jones as a litigation associate in summer 2022.

Taylor Deer, J.D. '20, joined Waranch & Brown LLC as a trial attorney in January.

Hannah C. Ellis, J.D. '20, joined the board of directors for Howard County, Maryland, non-profit NeighborRide, an organization that facilitates volunteer drivers who provide transportation services for seniors to run errands, attend medical appointments and see to other day-to-day needs.

Alana R. Glover, J.D. '20, joined Jackson Lewis P.C. as an associate in September 2022.

Michael L. Hagan, J.D. '20, shared that in September 2022 he started his role as general counsel for Dominion Plastic Surgery in Northern Virginia.

Jalynn Harris, M.F.A. '20, was featured in *The Best American Poetry 2022*, an annual poetry anthology published by Simon & Schuster. Her poem, "The Life of a Writer," was one of 75 poems selected for the 2022 edition.

Ronald Kim, J.D. '20, started his position as a member of the workers' compensation team in the Baltimore office of Franklin & Prokopik in June 2022.

Shapiro Sher welcomed **Liam E. Rhodes, J.D. '20**, in October 2022 as an associate in the business law practice group.

Isabel Jorrin Garcia, J.D. '21, joined Pessin Katz Law, P.A., as an associate in the firm's litigation group in September 2022.

Tydings & Rosenberg LLP welcomed **Caylee Henderson, J.D. '21**, in October 2022 as an associate in the litigation practice group.

Richard Neal, M.A. '21, became the coordinator for communications and media for the University Honors program at the University of Maryland in September 2022.

Tyler Beall, J.D. '22, and **Sabrina N. Marquez, J.D. '22**, both joined Baker Donelson last fall as associates. Beall practices tax law and Marquez focuses on advocacy.

DLA Piper awarded **Ellen Pruitt, J.D. '22**, a Krantz Fellowship in November 2022. As a Krantz Fellow, Pruitt spent her first year at the firm working exclusively on pro bono matters.

Quinn Law Group, based in Severna Park, Maryland, promoted **Alexus Viegas, J.D. '22**, to partner in December 2022.

In Memoriam

1940s

James P. Decarlo, B.S. '49

1950s

Wallace Dann, J.D. '50
 V. Charles Rinuado, J.D. '51
 Irene Wilson, LL.B. '51
 Mary J. Kaltenbach, J.D. '53
 B.G. Usher, LL.B. '53
 Charles C. McGuire Jr., B.S. '55
 William O. Jensen Jr., LL.B. '56
 Charles J. Reisig, B.S. '56
 Irvin J. Schmidt, B.S. '56
 Nicholas J. Petite, LL.B. '57
 Edward R. Seward, B.S. '57
 Frederick Gelfand, B.S. '58
 Bess B. Lavine, J.D. '59
 Martin T. Lego, B.S. '59
 Leonard R. Skolnik, A.A. '59

1960s

Samuel W. Chairs Jr., B.S. '60
 Erhard G. Keller, B.S. '60
 Marvin S. Miller, LL.B. '60
 Joseph V. Dipietro, LL.B. '61
 E. J. German, B.S. '61
 H. Dean Hinson, A.A. '61
 John B. Shehan Jr., LL.B. '61
 John M. Tice, B.S. '61
 Charles H. Campbell, LL.B. '62
 Michael E. Catanzaro Jr., J.D. '62
 Jerry A. Chesser, B.S. '62
 Michael H. Folb, B.S. '62
 Jay E. Ruark, B.S. '62
 Raymond E. Pryor, LL.B. '63
 Arthur W. Fadely Jr., B.S. '64
 Howard B. Gersh, LL.B. '64
 Charles G. McBee, B.S. '64
 Stanley T. Sundergill, CERT '64
 James S. Patanella, J.D. '64
 Dale C. Bower, B.S. '65
 James D. Gary, LL.B. '65
 Preston E. Greene Jr., B.S. '65
 James C. Pecunes, J.D. '65
 J. Walsh Richards Jr., J.D. '65
 George C. Shaffer, J.D. '65
 Randolph N. Bandel, B.S. '66
 Walter H. Brown, B.A. '66
 Robert R. Dudley, B.S. '67
 Charles A. Gelcich, B.S. '67

Howard M. Horst, B.S. '67
 Edward J. Roach Jr., B.S. '67
 Murray J. Adams Jr., B.S. '68
 Raymond G. Ferguson, B.S. '68
 Richard A. Friedberg, B.S. '68
 Richard E. Frounfelter, B.S. '68
 C.R. Gosser, B.S. '68
 Carolyn L. Horst, B.S. '68
 Donald M. Lowman, J.D. '68
 Lawrence S. Mitchell, B.S. '68
 William R. Nelson, B.A. '68
 Charles F. Rey, B.S. '68
 Arthur M. Rubenstein, J.D. '68
 Steven P. Weiss, B.S. '68
 Ronald D. Bondroff, J.D. '69
 Charles Brodsky, LL.B. '69
 Robert J. Brown, B.S. '69
 John R. Francomano, LL.B. '69
 Roy J. Rebbel, B.S. '69
 Dennis J. Sennett, B.S. '69
 Mark S. Stafford, B.S. '69
 Alfred F. Strobel Jr., B.S. '69

1970s

John Johns, B.S. '70
 William J. Kunkel, J.D. '70
 Richard A. Noll, B.S. '70
 William R. Pyle, J.D. '70
 Richard V. Smith, J.D. '70
 Roman Szyjka, B.S. '70
 H. Richard Bressler Jr., B.A. '71
 John R. Creighton, B.A. '71
 William J. Eckard, B.S. '71
 Mark D. McGlaughlin, B.S. '71
 Laurence E. Miller Jr., J.D. '71
 David R. Nanney, B.S. '71
 Vaughn C. Brennan, J.D. '72
 Robert A. Breschi, J.D. '72
 Arnold D. Dashoff, J.D. '72
 Thomas H. Dixon III, B.S. '72
 Harvey M. Rosenfeld, B.A. '72
 Billy E. Vinson, B.S. '72
 Zeke Barbour, B.S. '73, MBA '80
 Victor J. Chiariello Jr., B.S. '73
 Norman W. Gettier Jr., B.S. '73
 Lawrence E. Katz, J.D. '73
 Arnold J. Sell, B.A. '73
 Atwood B. Tate, J.D. '73
 Leeward D. Tryson, B.S. '73
 Kenneth W. Engel, B.S. '74
 Robert E. Greene, B.S. '74
 John H. Hennessey Jr., B.A. '74
 Michael W. Shea, J.D. '74
 Robert L. Zouck Jr., J.D. '74
 Luke F. McCusker Jr., B.S. '75

Theresa A. Nolan, J.D. '75
 Wayne S. Roach, B.S. '75
 Robert G. Browning, MBA '76
 Howard T. Dail, M.S. '76
 Charles M. Grayston, J.D. '76
 William E. Gyr, B.S. '76
 John A. Lally, J.D. '76
 Lawrence P. Murphy, J.D. '76
 Glenn E. Welch Jr., M.S. '76
 James W. Woodward Jr., J.D. '76
 Robert A. Carlson, MBA '77
 Barbara E. Pembamoto, B.S. '77
 Florence E. Raimondi, M.P.A. '77
 Thomas P. Raimondi, M.P.A. '77
 Richard C. Vogt, B.S. '77, M.S. '84
 Edmund L. Widdowson Jr., J.D. '77
 Donald W. Evans, J.D. '78
 James L. Myers, J.D. '78
 Robert E. Watson, J.D. '78
 Martin B. Brown, J.D. '79
 George F. Obrecht III, J.D. '79

1980s

Steven T. Blackwell, J.D. '80
 Alice A. Davidson, J.D. '80
 Roger L. Fink, B.A. '80, J.D. '83
 William G. Jepsen, J.D. '80
 Ruth A. McCullough, B.S. '80
 John W. Shanley, J.D. '80
 Sandra B. Stewart, CERT. '80
 Stephen F. Tomasek Jr., J.D. '80
 Robert J. Benney, B.S. '81
 Nicholas J. Desisco Jr., J.D. '81
 Nancy B. Jones, B.S. '81
 Melvin H. Meyer, M.S. '81
 Charles O. Davis Jr., B.S. '82
 Emily R. Greenberg, J.D. '82
 Robert R. Calder, B.A. '83
 Edward J. Novak, J.D. '83
 Doralee F. Simko, CERT. '83
 Leo W. Ottey Jr., J.D. '84
 Lorenzo D. Raras, B.S. '85
 Robert G. Tom, J.D. '85
 Frederick C. Grant, M.S. '87
 Shelley J. McVicker, J.D. '87

1990s

Kenneth E. Davis, B.S. '90
 R. Scott Graham, MBA '90
 L. Diane Johnson, MBA '92
 Lynette P. Pagdanganan, B.S. '92
 Charles R. Phoebus, B.S. '92
 Lucille S. Sweany, B.A. '92
 Diane M. Gillece, B.A. '93
 Margaret E. Holdridge, B.A. '93



LOUIS DIGGS

Louis S. Diggs, B.A. '79, M.P.A. '82, a noted historian of Baltimore County's Black communities, passed away in October 2022. He was also a Korean War veteran, a public schools' staffing officer and substitute teacher. He began researching the county's Black communities when he realized that some of his students could not find historical information about their own communities. He also co-founded the Baltimore County African American Cultural Festival and is considered the foremost contributor to the study of Black history in the county.

Dianne J. Hughes, J.D. '93
 Ian C. DeWolf, M.A. '94, J.D. '97
 Sharon H. Hilditch, B.S. '94
 Eric C. Agner, M.A. '95
 John Y. Averella, B.S. '95
 Celeste C. Chisholm, M.S. '95
 Loretta A. Hislop, B.A. '96
 Joseph T. Kearney, MBA '96
 Todd R. McNeill, B.S. '96
 Angelene M. Parsons, B.S. '97
 Paul J. Cline, J.D. '98

2000s

Roberto D. Santos, B.S. '00
 Jose H. Belardo, J.D. '03
 Frank V. Boozer Jr., J.D. '04
 Bayly K. Leighton, J.D. '05
 Jennifer S. Sieracki, M.S. '07
 L. Celia de Sandies Vismale, B.S. '07

2010s

Daniel M. Goemmer, B.A. '10
 Nicholas B. Hampe, B.S. '11

Amanda R. May, M.F.A. '16
 Doctoral student

Don Haynes
 Faculty

Alfred Anthony Porro Jr.
 Faculty

Terese Thonus
 Faculty



Meet UBalt's newest changemakers!

The University of Baltimore welcomed three new executive leaders at the beginning of the 2023-2024 academic year. Learn more about them online:



Ralph O. Mueller
senior vice president for academic affairs and provost



Dr. Nagraj "Raju" Balakrishnan
dean of the Merrick School of Business



Joan Worthington, B.S. '84, MBA '91
chair of The University of Baltimore Foundation Board



Watch UBalt's newest video series!

Every month, a member of UBalt's faculty or staff, like Tiffany Parkman (featured in "Breaking Through"), join us for Charles Street Chats. We visit various spots around the University's Charles Street home for casual conversations with these community members about their passions, their work and its impact.

Join UBalt's newest alumni social network

Are you ready to take the next step in your career? Start with our [LinkedIn](#) page! Whether you're searching for a new job or looking to grow in your current role, our LinkedIn page is a resource for ambitious professionals. Featuring Alumni in the News, Alumni Business spotlights, UBWorks/Job postings, professional development webinars and more!

Baltimore Law magazine available online

The all-digital 2023 edition of *Baltimore Law* magazine shines a light on the accomplishments of our very diverse and impactful law school alumni, who are contributing as leaders and changemakers at the local, state and national levels. Read more about their achievements at blogs.ubalt.edu/lawmag.

There's More to the Story...

Get enhanced content in the digital edition of *The University of Baltimore Magazine*.

SNAPSHOT:

Full commencement speech and video interview with **John Waters, D.H.L. '23**.

AROUND THE WORLD:

Global field study photo journals from faculty and students

SERVICE:

Read the full text of 'Unpaid internships are a solvable problem' (*The Baltimore Sun*)

BREAKING THROUGH:

Online articles and resources from mental health practitioners

B CONNECTED:

Select writings and expert opinions from UBalt alums

2023 BOOK LIST:

Get the latest releases from members of the UBalt community.

EAT, DRINK...:

Connect with UBalt eateries through photos, menus, links and more








Thank You, Baltimore!

UBalt dominated the Arts & Culture winner's circle in *Baltimore Magazine's* 2023 Best of Baltimore Reader's Poll. **D. Watkins, B.A. '09, M.F.A. '19;** **Kondwani Fidel, M.F.A. '20;** and Inclusion Alley (left) were all named favorites by the voting public.

“We thought ‘Why not replace the champagne with “the champagne of beers?”’ And it totally worked. It’s an unpretentious and fun drink.”

PETER “PJ” SULLIVAN

KEY

- B** Breakfast/Brunch
- L** Lunch
- D** Dinner
- C** Catering
- DI** Dine In
-  Carryout
-  Store/Merchandise
-  Multiple Locations
-  Alcohol
-  Accessible

Eat, Drink and ‘B’ Merry

BY ANNA RUSSELL

University of Baltimore graduates are renowned for having entrepreneurial spirits, but did you know many also boast excellent taste? Quite literally, in some cases. UBalt may not have a culinary arts program, but this group of alums is using their degrees to offer up some of the best bites—and brews—Baltimore has to offer. When we say “Knowledge That Works,” we mean anywhere, including a brewery, a taqueria, a delicatessen and a food truck.

Peter “PJ” Sullivan, M.A. ‘04
Wet City Brewing
 wetcitybrewing.com

PJ Sullivan’s palate wasn’t the first sense he put to work while building a “brewery + full bar + restaurant” with his brother, Josh. It was his keen eye for sharp design. When he came to UBalt, it was the only school around to admit people with a marketing degree in lieu of graphic design credentials into the Publications Design (now Integrated Design) program. Sullivan started his career in marketing and business development, but knew learning design would give him the edge he needed to branch out into brand development. Branding for local restaurants, including interior design, became his bread and butter. In 2016, the brothers leapt at the chance to combine their talents, and their award-winning homebrews, into a sleek and chic brew pub that radiates homey, neighborhood vibes. (The interior was inspired by Sullivan’s Scandinavian honeymoon with wife, and fellow UBalt alum, **Nicole Sullivan, J.D. ‘12**; the funky artwork is *all* Baltimore.) Wet City, which takes

its name from its cheeky hometown’s staunch refusal to stop selling alcohol during Prohibition, has an enviable selection of home and guest brews, craft cocktails and boozy slushies, alongside a seasonal menu of food specials. Since they brew onsite—the actual brewery in the back of the house boasts multiple fermenters and a canning line—they also sell canned beer to-go, which, of course, feature awesome original designs.

Most Popular Item(s):
 The Spagett. Both *Bon Appetit* and *Food & Wine* have featured Wet City’s play on an Aperol Spritz. Sullivan shared “We thought ‘Why not replace the champagne with “the champagne of beers?”’ And it totally worked. It’s an unpretentious and fun drink.” Wet City’s Dope IPA and the fruited sour beers in their “Making Out” series are also in-house favorites.



PHOTOS: NICOLE MUNCHEL



PJ’s Favorite Creations:
 A toss-up between Wet City’s Dope IPA and Pilsner-ish

- L** **D** **DI**    

**Gelmin A. Portillo, B.S. '03,
and Jimena Portillo, B.S. '07**
Taco Love Grill
tacolovegrill.com

You can definitely feel the love at Taco Love Grill. It's in the signature, slow-cooked birria. It's in the carefully curated selection of tequilas. But it's most noticeable in Gelmin and Jimena Portillo, its founders—a deep love for each other, a deep love of Mexican food and, surprisingly, a deep love of accounting. The two were already married when Gelmin received his degree in applied information technology and Jimena, hers in business. In 2011, they decided to



PHOTOS: JJ CRYSTAL

expand their partnership outside the home and both embraced their operational roles with gusto, knowing their skills would help their new venture thrive. Gelmin handles all their technical needs (e.g. POS systems, inventory, website, etc.), while Jimena oversees the finances and marketing, which she “fell in love with” while at UBalt. Everything else, they develop together, from

▲ **Vincent Fava at
Trinacria Foods**

the extensive menu to the generous paid leave policy that allows their staff to spend more time with their families—and has kept some of them employed by the Portillos since the restaurant opened. Their solid business acumen and discriminating palates have helped them spread the “Love” across the region, with the original location in White Marsh and a satellite location at Cross Street Market in Federal Hill, plus a new stall at M&T Bank Stadium and a birria-forward eatery in Parkville coming soon!



Vincent Fava, B.S. '86
Trinacria Foods
trinacriabaltimore.com

Unlike our other featured foodies, Vince Fava didn't have to build his business from the ground up. He faced the daunting challenge at the opposite end of that spectrum—taking over the family business that's been a Baltimore fixture for over a century. Trinacria Foods has been a beloved purveyor of imported foods and wines, deli sandwiches and fresh meals, and that quintessential “old world” vibe people love in an Italian market, since 1908. But Fava wasn't always interested in carrying that torch. After high school, he went to the University of Maryland College Park with a mind to become a lawyer, but it didn't suit, so he transferred back home to UBalt. Fava grew to love the school because it allowed him to stay in the city he knew and loved, while still getting out of the neighborhood for classes—classes that were much smaller and much more attuned to his needs. In one business administration class, everything finally clicked—marketing, accounting, management, all the skills he was learning that he found he loved, were exactly the skills he would need to assume his family's legacy. The rest is history. Fava recently expanded Trinacria's footprint to Lexington Market, where they serve signature items from their deli menu and



PHOTOS: NICOLE MUNICHEL

▲ **Jimena and Gelmin Portillo
at Taco Love Grill**

Most Popular Item: “All of the tacos” and the Chesapeake Burrito (with fresh crabmeat, of course)

Gelmin's Favorite Creation: Chilaquiles and a House Margarita

Jimena's Favorite Creation: Alambres and La Patróna Margarita

L D C | OI | 🍷 📍 🚻 ♿

“Our holiday lasagna is now [our customers’] family’s holiday lasagna, too.”

VINCENT FAVA

pizza-by-the-slice, alongside a curated selection of the market’s most sought-after grocery items and legendary frozen pasta dishes.

Most Popular Items: Italian Cold Cut Sandwich and the Lasagna

Vince’s Favorite Creation: Trinacria’s Lasagna—it’s his family’s recipe they’ve been making for generations and it’s always served at their holiday meals. Now, his customers snap it up each year: “Our holiday lasagna is now their family’s holiday lasagna, too.”

B L D C 🍷 🍷 📍 🗺️ ♿



▼ Robin Holmes at Deddle’s Mini Donuts



Robin Holmes, B.A. '12 Deddle’s Mini Donuts deddlesdonuts.com

The free-standing donut machine Robin Holmes purchased in 2016 with her winnings from The University of Baltimore’s Leonard and Phyllis Attman Competitive Business Prize still cranks out dozens (upon dozens, upon dozens) of hot, fluffy mini-donuts daily. But custom confections weren’t always on the menu for Holmes. She got her degree in human services administration from UBalt at age 30. After the passing of her mother, a lifelong cook, in 2013, her mission to build a legacy that would keep her memory alive brought Robin back to UBalt’s Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. There she learned a simple, but key lesson, from her mentor Thom Shipley: “Know your numbers.” Precise management of her books, combined with the kitchen skills she got from her mother and the support system she built at UBalt, allowed her

to expand beyond her original truck, and her wildest dreams. A semi-permanent stall at Lexington Market now allows her the flexibility to still take the famous Deddle’s truck out for events and catering, as well as manage a stall at Oriole Park at Camden Yards during baseball season. Holmes features a rotating menu of popular favorites and seasonal specials, and even offers “adult” flavors like “Drunken Apple” for catering events. Covered in crumbles and drizzles, and topped with a dollop of whipped cream, Deddle’s Mini Donuts are everything your inner-child dreams about for dessert.

Most Popular Items: “Funnell Cake” is the top seller at Lexington Market, while “Oreo Smash” and “Strawberry Shortcake” are the big hits on the festival circuit.

Robin’s Favorite Creation: The “Flying Pig,” with cinnamon, caramel and bacon. Robin loves “anything with bacon. Anything that screams breakfast.” 📍

B L D C 🍷 🍷 📍 🗺️ ♿



PHOTOS: NICOLE MUNCHEL



BOMA JACK, B.S. '16

To many, the words “video game” mean leisure, entertainment, even wasted hours sitting on the couch staring at a screen. Those individuals might be surprised at just how far “games” have come in recent years

That was true for Boma Jack, who went into the Simulation and Game Design program inspired by the role-playing games she loved as a youth. She imagined a career in traditional gaming, but her specialization as a 3D artist landed her somewhere unforeseen.

“There are so many things I’ve done that I never knew were possibilities before working in this field,” she remarks. “It’s been fulfilling to use my skill

set in all kinds of different industries. My degree opened a lot of doors.” That work includes creating renderings used for historic preservation, real estate and film.

As a 3D artist for Johns Hopkins Hospital’s Kata Project, Jack was part of an award-winning studio of engineers, game programmers, artists and health professionals learning how to implement gaming for stroke therapy. “We weren’t designing games for healthy people,” says Jack. “There’s a possibility of cognitive challenges, so simplicity is key.”

Interestingly, Kata’s immersive game experiences put players in the roles of animals like “Lal the Dragon” (top). In one game, the patient is hooked up to a hand device, then is tasked with navigating a dolphin named Bandit through various aquatic environments. The idea is to engage various muscle groups and reconnect their links with the brain.

One of Jack’s favorite main characters is an axolotl. “She swims, she flies, she moves! I designed it to encourage patients to wiggle a lot,

using a simple controller and joystick to stimulate different kinds of muscles.”

The aesthetic of the game, Jack mentions, borrows much from the famous world of Nintendo’s Mario Brothers (left). “Research shows that playful images and colors are more engaging—so we design our game with that in mind, for the look and feel. We want them engaged, even mesmerized, so they keep coming back for more.”

She believes other industries will embrace games moving forward. “Virtual reality and the metaverse have become increasingly important. Simulations are beneficial in so many ways because they save money and time. They can also potentially save lives.” She notes that games also provide a concrete system of rewards that can motivate users and reinforce their success, all on their own terms, and along the way, the experience is enjoyable.

For Jack, the memory of her first time seeing a patient experience a rehabilitation game is one she’ll never forget.

“They were genuinely smiling and having fun. Traditional physical therapy can be daunting, but if you can make it intriguing and entertaining, an hour passes like 10 minutes. That’s our goal. And seeing the patient’s face while I watched them play the game, in that moment I realized, yeah, I feel grateful for doing something that literally helps people get better and have fun at the same time.”

COMING 2025

**THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE WILL COMMEMORATE
ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION.**

Get ready to celebrate the impact we've had on Baltimore and beyond,
and join us as we set the course for continued growth.

**UBALT
100**

..... 1925 **B** 2025

PROUD PAST. BRIGHT FUTURE.