HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

UBSS would like to wish all UB staff, faculty and students a safe and restful Holiday break. All UB staff are invited to join us for lunch on Thursday, Dec. 14 at Duken Ethiopian Restaurant or for our holiday movie night on Tuesday, Dec. 19 when we’ll watch Home Alone in the Learning Commons Town Hall.

The 2017 Winter Break begins on Dec. 21. The University will re-open on Jan. 2, 2018. Below are the codes that should be used for the winter break for regular employees:

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Dec. 21</td>
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<td>Friday, Dec. 22</td>
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<td>Monday, Dec. 25</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Dec. 26</td>
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<td>Thursday, Dec. 28</td>
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<td>Friday, Dec. 29</td>
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<td>Monday, Jan. 1</td>
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For more information, visit ubalt.edu/hr.

MARYLAND CHARITY CAMPAIGN

The Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC) is an annual campaign which gives Maryland State Government employees the opportunity to donate directly to their favorite charities. Over 900 non-profit charities have qualified to participate in the campaign and each of these charities has critical needs.

UB’s goal is to raise a minimum of $37,300 with an institutional participation rate of 25%. You can search for your favorite charity and make your tax-deductible donation online by visiting www.mcc.maryland.gov. Just click the red box that says PLEDGE NOW.

If you donate by Dec. 31, you will entered in a chance to win CenterStage and BSO tickets!

2017-18 STAFF SENATE

James Hale, chair
Keiver Jordan, vice chair
Laurie Harow, secretary
Michelle Junot, communication coordinator
Eric Jones, CUS representative
John Brenner, chair-elect
John Chapin, senator
Bill Boyd, senator
Zachary Luhman, senator

Interested in representing your colleagues on the UB Staff Senate? We have an open seat for the 2017-19 term left to be filled.

Email ubss@ubalt.edu to nominate yourself or a colleague for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

Thursday, Dec. 14 | Noon
Join fellow UB Staff for lunch at Duken Ethiopian Restaurant next to the Maryland

Tuesday, Dec. 19 | 5:30 p.m.
Join the UBSS for a holiday movie night in the Learning Commons Town Hall. We’ll be watching Home Alone and James Hale promises to bring popcorn.

Sunday, Dec. 31
Deadline to give to the Maryland Charity Campaign

Tuesday, Jan. 16
Deadline to submit Board of Regents Award packets

Friday, Feb. 2 | 10 a.m.-noon
UB Community Town Hall (location TBD)
Q&A WITH CHAIR-ELECT JOHN BRENNER

On a bright, cold day earlier this fall, John Brenner, USSS chair-elect sat down with Michelle Junot, USSS communications coordinator Michelle Junot to answer questions concerning his role at the University, shared governance, and elephant entrepreneurship.

MJ: THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO TALK WITH ME TODAY. LET’S START AT THE BEGINN—

JB: I was born a coal miner’s daughter…

MJ: NO. I WAS THINKING MORE LIKE YOUR POSITION AT UB…

JB: Sure. I’m the Director of the Early College Initiatives

MJ: NEAT, BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN EXACTLY?

JB: I manage the University’s dual enrollment, the College Readiness Academy, the Summer Academy, the Summer Achievement Institute, and the Freshmen Transition Program.

MJ: AND YOU’RE ALSO A GRADUATE OF UB, CORRECT?

JB: I’ve actually been a student, faculty, staff, and alumni. When I was pursuing my MBA, I was all four at once.

MJ: HOW LONG HAVE YOU SERVED ON THE STAFF SENATE?

JB: Since 2014. During that time, I’ve been a senator, secretary, cuss rep., chair, and now chair-elect.

MJ: WHY VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME FOR SHARED GOVERNANCE WHEN YOU ALREADY DO SO MUCH?

JB: Staff need representation. They need someone to say the things they otherwise wouldn’t have the opportunity to say. We need people to communicate, to have influence in the life of the university. Shared governance allows each member of this community to contribute to the conversation and voice concerns, and that’s a good thing.

MJ: WHAT’S SOMETHING YOUR COLLEAGUES MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU?

JB: Most people don’t know I was a high-school dropout.

MJ: DOES THAT EXPERIENCE INFLUENCE YOUR WORK WITH DUAL-ENROLLED STUDENTS?

JB: Absolutely. Whenever I meet with a new group of students, I first tell them, “Congratulations! You made it further than I did.” I dropped out of a city high school, so if I can help kids not do that—and not just tread water, but to actually get an advantage—then I feel like that’s paying it back.

MJ: IT’S NO SECRET THAT THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVE BEEN CHALLENGING AT UB, ESPECIALLY FOR STAFF. WHY DO YOU KEEP SHOWING UP TO WORK EVERY DAY?

JB: I love my job. Really. It’s the best job I’ve ever had. I have autonomy to make decisions and to be creative. I get to do what I’m best at doing—forming partnerships and managing people, programs and money. I honestly cannot wait to come to work on Monday, and I’m often done with the weekend halfway through Sunday. I’m excited about the programs I work with, and I’d rather be at work than sitting at home.

MJ: SO LISTEN…I HEARD YOU WERE IN A BAND THAT TOURED JAPAN. WE NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS.

JB: In one of my former lives, I was in a recording band that played rock music. We went on tour several times, including Japan. It was exciting to be able to travel. I still occasionally get fan letters…

[editor’s note: we encourage googling said band]

MJ: FINALLY, IF WE GAVE YOU AN ELEPHANT THAT YOU HAD TO KEEP, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH SAID ELEPHANT?

JB: I’d rent ad space on it’s sides—picture an elephant-sized sandwich board—and walk it down Charles St. at rush hour.

BOARD OF REGENT AWARDS

A USM Board of Regents’ (BOR) Staff Award is the highest honor bestowed by the BOR for achievements of exempt and non-exempt employees from USM institutions, who have demonstrated excellence in one of the following categories:

- Exceptional contribution to the institution and/or unit to which the person belongs
- Outstanding service to students in an academic or residential environment
- Extraordinary public service to the university or the greater community
- Effectiveness and efficiency regarding an academic or administrative transformation
- Inclusion, multiculturalism, and social justice

Winners receive $2000 stipend and a plaque. For more information and to nominate a colleague, please refer to the nomination packet available at ubalt.edu/staffsenate.

Packets are due Tuesday, Jan. 16
CONGRATULATIONS!

UBSS would like to offer sincere congratulations to all the UB employees who have reached service milestones this year:

FORTY FIVE YEARS
Alfred Guy
Stephen Matanle

FORTY YEARS
Kenneth Lasson
Therese Stumpf

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS
Anil Aggarwal
Marilyn Oblak
Gina Brandon

THIRTY YEARS
Lisa Bellamy-Smith
Ann Cotten
Daniel Gerlowski
Robert Lande

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS
Martha Crooks
Lourdes White
Tammy DeGross

TWENTY YEARS
Lenora Giles
Stephanie Pinkney Lee
Ramdhanie Janak
Robert Rubinson

FIFTEEN YEARS
Blair Blankinship
Bridal Pearson
Teresa Callison
Amy Pointer
Gloria Danziger
Shirley Skiles
Cassandra Jones Havard
Debra Stanley
Edgar Koch
Stephen Wilson
Melissa Manthorne

TEN YEARS
Carolyn Brooks
Elinor Miller
Ronald Castanzo
Nancy Modesitt
John Chapin
Hoang Nguyen
Phillip Closius
Jeremy Simpson
James Gibson
Christine Spencer
James Hale
Stephanie Stepp
Mary Jordan
Michael Swaby-Rowe
Christopher Justice
Erin Toepfner
Cheryl Knott
Janet Walker
Kimberly Lynne
Marion Winik
Antionette Marsoukos
BoRam Yi
Ashley Mc Neely
Jerry Yu

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Do you have questions, thoughts, or concerns?

Email us at ubss@ubalt.edu or visit ubalt.edu/staffsenate to complete our anonymous comment form.

Our next meeting will take place Monday, Jan. 8 at 11 a.m. in Business Center, room 143.