

## 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:

Date	Code
Thursday, Dec. 21	HOL
Friday, Dec. 22	HOL
Monday, Dec. 25	HOL
Tuesday, Dec. 26	HOL
Wednesday, Dec. 27	AHL
Thursday, Dec. 28	AHL
Friday, Dec. 29	AHL
Monday, Jan. 1	HOL

For more information, visit [ubalt.edu/hr](http://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](http://www.mcc.maryland.gov). Just click the red box that says **PLEDGE NOW**.

If you donate by Dec. 31, you will be 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**, CUSS 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](mailto: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, UBSS chair-elect sat down with Michelle Junot, UBSS 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 BEGINNING—**

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](http://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          Joel Morse  
Ann Cotten                      Steven Pinchback  
Daniel Gerlowski              Elizabeth Samuels  
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 Martsoukos        BoRam Yi  
Ashley Mc Neely                  Jerry Yu

### FIVE YEARS

Nikita Anderson                  Mary Maher  
Carla Barqueiro                  Christopher Martin  
Elizabeth Boyd                    Keith Marryman  
John Brenner                      Thomas O'Donnell  
Andrea Cantora                   Cynthia Opakunle  
Mariglynn Edlins                  Brantley Parks  
Daniel Goladay                   Karen Rhodovi  
Laurie Harow                      Emily Rogers  
Eric Jones                          Victoria Schultz  
Michelle Junot                    Jose Smith  
Nancy Kang                        Ryan Steffy  
Yu Kang                              Bernard Stokes  
Hope Keller                        Frank van Vliet  
Elizabeth Keyes                  Gregory Walsh  
Eduardo Laithon                  Ronald Weich

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Do you have questions, thoughts, or concerns?

Email us at [ubss@ubalt.edu](mailto:ubss@ubalt.edu) or visit [ubalt.edu/staffsenate](http://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.