BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

Accomplished Women Pursue UB’s MBA Program for Career Advancement
Here we highlight the book art of L. Neff ‘fahiti Partlow-Myrick, B.A. ’92. An exhibit of works by Partlow-Myrick and Jenny O’Grady, M.F.A. ’06, debuted at Baltimore’s Hamilton Gallery in September. Their vibrant and playful books are composed of eclectic materials including wood, metal, Sculpey modeling clay and even beans.

The title of the show, DOS-à-DOS, refers to a bookbinding technique featuring two blocks of text bound by one shared spine. The “spine” that connects Partlow-Myrick and O’Grady, they say, is UB’s M.F.A. in Creative Writing & Publishing Arts program, where they met and grew into their artistic voices.
It always feels like a fresh start when classes begin at UB. Whether our students are walking onto campus or logging in to their laptops for the fall, winter or summer session, there’s a particular energy in the air. I think of it as the energy of possibility—the feeling that we’re all poised to embrace new opportunities.

Most of us can recall times in our lives that felt like a “reboot”: when we’re moving to a new city, starting a new job or developing new relationships. Sometimes big life changes are motivated by challenging circumstances. But there are also those times when we realize that something about our current situation just doesn’t feel right, and we need to move forward.

In this issue of the magazine we highlight some ways UB provides resources and support for people as they make the changes they want in their lives. Our featured programs are giving middle and high school students an early start to college. They’re also empowering people to successfully transition from incarceration, and supporting others after traumatic events.

We also focus on women MBAs who are embracing new opportunities in a variety of fields. We’re proud that the percentage of women in our MBA program is considerably higher than the national average. We also profile three inspiring alumni changemakers, who are giving back as well as providing inspiration and a helping hand.

By continuing to equip students and community members with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed, we hope to give them confidence to realize their potential in whatever way is right for them. Each academic session, and every day, we have the choice to embrace possibilities.

Sincerely,

Kurt L. Schmoke
President, University of Baltimore
Dino Psychology

BY KYLE FREISIEN

A 2017 book released by Fidel's Publisher, University of Baltimore M.F.A. Student

In 2017, Fidel released a book called "Pieces of a G," a collection of poems and visual art. The book was released through his own publishing company, "Kondwani Fidel." The book has received critical acclaim from prominent writers and civil rights activists.

Fidel is a Baltimore native who attended UB's M.F.A. in Creative Writing & Cultural Studies. He is also a member of the Naima Ensemble, a performance art collective based in Baltimore.

In 2015, a video of Fidel performing "Dinosaur" at a poetry slam in New York City went viral. His performance was noted for its raw honesty and powerful delivery.

Fidel's work often explores themes of identity, race, and personal experience. His writing has been praised for its ability to connect with readers on a deep and emotional level.

Fidel is currently working on a new collection of poems and visual art, which is expected to be released in 2019. He is also planning to perform a new solo poetry show at the Downtown Cultural Arts Center in Baltimore.

The professors' hypothesis describes a scenario in which the development of alkaloid toxins in flowers left dinosaurs no choice but to poison themselves.

Fidel's work has been featured in various publications, including the University of Baltimore Magazine, the Baltimore Sun, and the National Public Radio podcast "This American Life." He is also a regular contributor to the Baltimore City Paper and the Baltimore Sun.

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The Problem of Plastics
BY TIM PAGGI, M.F.A. ’15

Everyday plastic products, such as single-use bags and containers, provide a modern convenience yet present a persistent challenge to environmentalists. Professor Terese Thonus recently published an op-ed in the Baltimore Sun in which she discussed the problems that occur from discarded plastic items. Thonus, director of the University Writing Program in the Klein Family School of Communications Design, detailed rising public awareness of the issue as well as how damaging plastic pollution is for waterways and wildlife.

In her piece Thonus noted that since 2014, the Baltimore Inner Harbor Water Wheel (affectionately known as “Mr. Trash Wheel”) has collected 1.5 million pounds of trash, including 69,041 plastic bottles, 77,577 polystyrene containers, 522,055 grocery bags and 728,411 chip bags washed down the Jones Falls River. “You might wonder why—other rivers, other cities—have not seen similar success stories,” she wrote. “The Jones Falls is unique in that it has the infrastructure, the economics, and the experience to make a difference.”

“Ordinary citizens must get involved to solve this enormous problem.”

Terese Thonus

For the last nine years, Kemp has organized a Jones Falls cleanup as part of UB’s community service day. He enjoys it but says, “It’s kind of frustrating because plastic just springs anew. Plastic bottles, potato chip bags and granola bar wrappers—you see them over and over again.” And those single-use plastic bags are particularly damaging: “They end up all over the place and they keep raining. They degrade, and ultimately they get out to the harbor, bay and ocean.”

In order to help prepare future generations of environmentally conscious public policy makers, Kemp has designed UB’s program to center on the environment, society and the economy; he describes these as three legs of the “Sustainability Tripod.” UB’s approach is unique, he explains, because it factors in the human population when considering issues of sustainability, and it endeavors to integrate sound science into effective policy.

While there is much work to be done, Kemp expresses cautious optimism about certain initiatives. For instance, Baltimore’s City Council recently passed legislation that bans polystyrene (commonly referred to by its trademarked name, styrofoam). “That stuff has got to go,” he says. “Even wax paper is better—not great, but at least it will biodegrade.”

Thonus agrees that policy change is key. In her article she cites efforts by the city of San Francisco, which since banning the use of plastic bags in 2007 has saved approximately 14 million tons of oil and 100,000 marine mammals. And, she says, the collective effort of individuals can also have lasting positive impact. In her op-ed she provided practical solutions for how everyone can reduce their carbon footprint; she includes small yet significant choices like choosing glass over plastic, bringing reusable bags to stores and committing to recycling. “Environmentalists can only do so much,” Thonus notes. “Ordinary citizens must get involved to solve this enormous problem.”

Tim Paggi, M.F.A. ’15, is a writer based in Baltimore.
The Risky Business of Sharing DNA

BY KRISTI MOORE

n April police arrested Joseph James DeAngelo—a serial murderer and rapist who terrorized the community of Sacramento, California, in the late 1970s. Perhaps one of the most fascinating—and controversial—aspects of the case involves the way law enforcement officers identified the suspect: they used DNA from a public genealogical website to find a distant relative of DeAngelo’s and ultimately link him to evidence from the crimes.

Police have long relied on criminal DNA databases in their investigations. But using DNA which has been voluntarily provided for a public genealogical website to find a distant relative of DeAngelo’s and ultimately link him to evidence from the crimes.

Ram has been investigating where to draw the line between privacy and crime solving for more than a decade, and recently earned a grant from the Greenwall Foundation to further examine how police make use of non-law enforcement DNA repositories. After the Golden State Killer arrest, she and two co-authors published “Genealogy databases and the future of criminal investigation” in Science magazine.

Currently Maryland and Washington, D.C. are the only jurisdictions in the United States where law enforcement is prohibited from using DNA of family members to identify suspects, Ram explains. That legislation, however, is limited to only government-run databases and would not exclude police from using a genealogical-type site. “Just as law enforcement didn’t appear to make use of genealogical DNA data until the Golden State Killer arrest and now we have a proliferation of use of that kind of data, I think law enforcement’s appetite for new sources of DNA data is not going to go away,” she says.

Police who are investigating a crime are focusing on catching the perpetrator by any legal method, points out Charles Tumosa, director of UB’s Forensics Studies program in the College of Public Affairs’ School of Criminal Justice.

Tumosa recently appeared on an episode of a British podcast affiliated with The Guardian to discuss DNA privacy and the law. During the Golden State investigation, California police searched a public website called GEDmatch, an online forum where people share their genetic information (obtained from using services like ancestry.com) to connect with each other. Because people share their data voluntarily on GEDmatch and similar sites, Tumosa says that issues of privacy protection become complicated. People are taking “a risk by putting that data into that system,” he says. “If you’re willing to do that, how much of a leap is it to say, well, the police might become interested in you or in your family?”

Tumosa says most people participating in a genetic database are hoping to unearth interesting things about their heritage, or find out that they are linked to famous historical figures such as George Washington or Frederick Douglass. They rarely consider that generations of relatives might include “some good people, and some not so good people.”

“I think law enforcement’s appetite for new sources of DNA data is not going to go away.”

NATALIE RAM

Whether police investigators act ethically in using a family member’s DNA to target the suspect is another concern. Tumosa says it’s important to distinguish between issues of ethics and issues of the law. “When lawyers go to court, they never argue ethics or morals, they argue the law,” he says. “Police officers learn the rule of law, and if the law goes you the right to do something, you can do it.”

Use of these new technologies poses many quandaries, according to Ram. As part of her three-year grant, she also plans to focus on the possibility that law enforcement could tap additional databases such as research and clinical repositories of genetic information. If statutory protections are not in place to prevent use of these more comprehensive databases, she says, “it’s only a matter of time before law enforcement starts to use those resources as well. At that point, we have a universal DNA database, which no state has authorized.”

“The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support opportunities for communities across the nation, both small and large, to take part in the NEA Big Read,” says NEA Acting Chairman Mary Ann Carter. “This program encourages people to not only discuss a book together, but be introduced to new perspectives, discuss the issues at the forefront of our own lives, and connect with one another at events.”

In addition to Rankine’s visit, other Big Read activities will take place on UB’s campus and in venues across the city through June 2019.

“NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.”

Grab a copy of Citizen: An American Lyric by Claudia Rankine and join the University of Baltimore for the NEA BIG READ!”
UB Library: Then and Now

Library is the academic heart of a university, a place that fosters a sense of community and collaboration. At UB, Langsdale Library served as well. Originally constructed in 1965 and named for one of our founders, R. Lorain Langsdale, it housed books, archives and other reference materials. Over the years, it has been a valuable resource for students, professors and members of the larger community. Eventually we needed an updated facility, one more appropriate to showcase new technology and serve as a setting for social learning. The renovated Robert L. Bogomolny Library, named in honor of the former dean of Library, served as a place that fosters a sense of community and the Mathematics Learning Center. Then and now, our library is more than a place of change and growth, it is the physical and digital nexus for knowledge creation at UB.

Enhance the facility’s relationship to our campus and the surrounding neighborhood.

The new building also houses the Achiement and Learning Center’s academic success programs, including tutoring, the Writing Center and the Mathematics Learning Center. Then and now, our library is not only a place of physical and digital access for learning, information access and knowledge creation at UB.

STATS ON VOTING

- Noteworthy, in the 2016 Presidential election:
  - 45% of eligible voters participated
  - Voting rate was 56.3% for women; 59.3% for men
  - More than 200 million eligible adults weren’t registered to vote
  - Currently more than 70% of UB students report they are registered, and vote

Get Out the Vote: UB Students Come Out on Top in ALL IN Voting Challenge

By Paula Novash

“Every vote counts. In two Maryland primary races this year, candidates won by fewer than ten ballots. Yet according to United States Census Bureau data, only around 60 percent of eligible voters participated in the 2016 presidential election. UB’s student body is a happy—and inspirational—exception to these statistics. Recently topping more than 90 million college and university students across the nation in the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, the goal of the Challenge, a national non-partisan initiative sponsored by nonprofit Civic Nation, is to improve students’ involvement and voting behavior.

UB was the only school in the Challenge to achieve a gold status rating, with more than 75 percent of our students registered and early voting ballots. “We often associate young people with apathy around the issue of voting,” says Anthony Butler, M.A., executive director of the Office of Transitions and Community Engagement (OTCE) at UB. “But this data is telling us that UB students are active and engaged.”

The high percentage of voters at UB could be due to a number of factors, Butler continues. “Our students are civic minded. We have a College of Public Affairs and a law school, with many opportunities to participate in programs and issues in Baltimore and beyond.”

“Voting is a great first step—then it’s a point of pride, says Butler. “We are seeing a tangible excitement on campus, especially among our students who will be eligible to vote for the first time,” he observes. “UB is a place of change and growth and opportunity and voter engagement sets the stage for students to reflect on and influence issues that are important to them.”

For the most updated information, access ubalt.edu/vote. Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.

BRAGS

UB NOW HAS MORE THAN 1000 MEMBERS IN THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LEADERSHIP AND SUCCESS

The NSLS is an organization made up of top students nationwide.
Art of Living
SAM ROSE, LL.B. ‘62

BY PAULA NOVASH

Sam Rose, LL.B. ’62, real estate developer, attorney, philanthropist and activist, enjoys a good story. A rare Picasso ceramic is more fun to live with, he says, when you know that the artist found and adopted the little owl portrayed on the vessel. “Every piece has a story behind it—that’s my favorite part of having art,” he says. His and his wife Julie Walters’ extensive collection includes works by modern masters Pollack, Miro, O’Keeffe, Calder, Hopper and Rose’s favorite American artist, Richard Diebenkorn. But the art is just one small part of Rose’s story, which weaves together themes of persistence, achievement and giving back, all of it leavened by a robust enjoyment of life.

“I’ve been pretty lucky generally—so many opportunities and interesting experiences,” he says. Rose grew up in the Mount Washington area of Baltimore and worked his way through Dickinson College (a celebrated lacrosse player, he set up the winning goal for Dickinson’s only national championship in 1963). Waiting tables and participating in the ROTC filled in the gaps in his college costs, and after graduation he attended UB law classes at night while briefly teaching middle school.

“I liked to read and liked history, so being a lawyer seemed like a good fit,” Rose says. But he quickly realized that real estate interested him more. He passed the Maryland bar but continued to work for his mentor James Rouse, the Baltimore-based developer and urban planner. After a decade with Rouse he took a leap, accepting a job at a company that quickly folded.

“That experience derailed my climb up the corporate ladder, but helped me decide that I didn’t want to work for anyone else,” Rose says. While contemplating his next move, Rose rented a Volkswagen camper and spent a few months touring Europe with his young son and daughter. Upon returning to the States, he tried several ventures. But continuing his successful partnership with Stewart Greenebaum, B.S. ’59, in the four decades since, Greenebaum & Rose Associates has developed hundreds of real estate projects, including residential communities and government and office buildings. His success has allowed Rose to provide financial assistance to hundreds of economically disadvantaged students, including many at UB. “Giving kids opportunities to go to school is one of the best ways to make a difference,” he says.

He delights in sharing stories such as the achievements of the Jolleys, twin-brother jazz musicians from the Washington area of Baltimore who are now international performers. Rose and Walters are passionate supporters of causes involving the environment and animals. They have endowed a prize for environmental activism at Dickinson and recently returned from a trip to see endangered mountain gorillas in Rwanda. And they currently share their home with three adored rescue pups.

“Julie’s favorite program may be the most selfless,” says Rose. He’s referring to Warrior Canine Connection (WCC), a nationwide initiative that provides service dogs for veterans struggling with challenging conditions such as depression and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The local program is a special partnership, because some of the dogs’ trainers are themselves veterans who have received community service sentences for minor offenses through the Maryland District Court’s Veterans Treatment Court. (WCC also has a partnership with The Bob Parsons Veterans Center at UB.)

“Seeing the veterans do the training for their fellow soldiers is something. There isn’t a dry eye in the house when those pups graduate,” says Rose. Rose is also former board chairman of the Smithsonian American Art museum, one of the many locations where his and Walters’ art has been exhibited. And how does he choose what he wants to add to his collection? The reason is consistent with Rose’s philosophy: “I don’t consider art an investment,” he says. “I only buy what I like.”

Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.

WEB EXTRA

Right: Sam Rose with Flash, seated next to a rare ceramic vessel by Pablo Picasso.

BIO

SAM ROSE
Dickinson College alumnus
LL.B., University of Baltimore
Founding partner, Greenebaum & Rose Associates
Philanthropist, activist, art collector
The Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree has long been considered the golden ticket to career advancement, the degree that can open the salary coffers and the boardroom’s doors. Considering that women represent 47 percent of the workforce, one would expect their numbers to be commensurate in MBA programs. Yet studies show that female enrollment at the country’s highest business schools gets less than top marks.

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This dearth of female executives coupled with ongo-

ing pay disparity complicates the business school land-

scape. Research by the Forté Foundation states that women

still account for only 37 percent of boardroom positions and 48 percent of Fortune 500 CEOs. While a woman

obtaining an MBA can still expect immediate

pay gains of 35-40 percent of her pre-MBA salary,
because of the gender-based wage gap the return on

investment in education for a female is less.

Stickney states that UB’s history as a place of

entrepreneurship and its campus culture of “pro-

fessional school for professional people” uniquely positions it
to serve the needs of busy working women seeking the
career advantages an MBA provides. Because many

women not only work but are primary caregivers for

their families, a return to school may seem impossible from both a financial and a time perspective. The

flexibility UB offers is examined. Program options
include specialized entrepreneurial tracks as well as a
general business track, and both asynchronous online
courses and evening classes on campus.

“People need to understand what the degree will do
for them, because no one is going to go back to school if they don’t know how it will serve them,” says Stickney.
“They need to know we can help you understand the

world of business better.” Stickney adds that the program
can be tailored through extensive elective courses; there’s even the option to create a customized specialization.

Women in UB’s MBA program are utilizing the degree in a wide variety of professions. In the following pages,
current and former MBA students share their experiences.

TRACY IMM, MBA ’92
Director of Public Affairs
Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA)

When Imm was appointed by the gov-

ernor to her current post at MIA in 2011, it was her first political appointment.

She’s spent most of her career in
corporate communications in Fortune 500 companies. But now she’s reached a stage when she wants to go back.

When an executive training program offered to fund

her MBA, Imm chose UB because the convenient loca-
tion and the richness of the program appealed to her. She

describes the degree as instrumental in every job

offer and promotion she’s received since.

“Because I had such a liberal arts background I

pursued the MBA to leverage the other side of my brain,” Renée Christoff says of her two-year MBA at UB.

“Because you have that degree and can speak that

language, you get a seat at the table where strategic
decisions are made.” — TRACY IMM

Renée Christoff

Two years ago, Imm started a consulting practice,

Tracy Imm Worldwide, to provide executive coaching and leadership training for women. She’s also au-

thorred The Brave Girls Guide to Work That You Love and

Conquer Shame and Claim Success: Three Keys to Al-

dance, Love, and Leadership to Facilitate her work. Imm

recently launched her own podcast, as well, Brave Girls with Tracy Imm. She anticipates that the gaps that can

stall a woman’s career will slowly close as a new genera-
tion moves up in the workforce and as women start their

own enterprises.

“We’re in a transition from a patriarchal, command-

and-control way of running organizations to a more

diverse, inclusive way,” Imm says. “The traditional

structure isn’t appealing to women. That pendulum is

swinging but there’s a long way to go to address work

life balance and how we want to work now.” By having

“a seat at the table” Imm can be an influential part of

the change she expects to come.

RENEE CHRISTOFF, MBA ’91

Vice President and Head of Global Associate Engagement + Corporate Responsibility, T. Rowe Price

Christoff was halfway through an MBA program in New York when her husband’s job moved them to Baltimore.

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“If you’re going to work in the business world you need to speak the language of the executive suite,” she states.

“Because I have a business degree on top of my

communications experience I was more than a com-

munications manager. It’s been a competitive differen-
tiator. Once you have that degree and can speak that

language, you get a seat at the table where strategic
decisions are made.”

boardman’s journey to her MBA began at an unlikely spot: the Allentown Museum in Pennsylvania where she was working as a curator.

“I’d started looking at a career change because my specialty was in historic and contemporary textiles and there were not many museums with a textile collection big enough to warrant a curator,” she recalls. She accepted a position as the manager of creative services at the Baltimore

MICHOLEE BOARDMAN, MBA ‘08

Senior Manager, Branding & Publications, Global Engagement & Communications, Fog一行

Christoff was working in finance, though

her academic background was in political science and she had a Master’s degree in Government from Harvard.

“Because I had such a liberal arts background I

pursued the MBA to leverage the other side of my brain,” she states. “Getting the MBA made me more well-rounded and gave me a better appreciation for the business environment in which I was working.”

She chose to complete her MBA at UB because she could go part-time on her own schedule. She liked that her fellow students were also working professionals, bringing maturity to the classroom as well as opportuni-
ties for her to build her local business. The program appr

approaches the professors as “rock solid” and brought a diver-
sity of experience in work and academia to the program.

It is useful background for her current role. Christoff and her team analyze employee surveys to take the pulse

of employee satisfaction and develop programs to sup-

port employee experience and engagement. She also cre-

ates corporate responsibility programs and community

engagement opportunities for T. Rowe Price employees.

During her MBA program, Christoff says, “I took an international marketing class and one of the speakers was from McCormick. It really ignited my interest in international marketing, something I hadn’t thought about at all. I now work for a global company and it all ties nicely to my international politics background and to my understanding of how things work across differ-

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Michelle Boardman describes UB as “a motivational place,” where everyone was balancing work and family.

**Taylor Jenkins**
Marketing assistant, Humentum; current MBA student

Taylor Jenkins jumped directly into the MBA program in 2016, fresh from her college graduation. She currently works in marketing at the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit, Humentum, and explains that it was important to her to have the competitive edge needed for career advancement.

“This gives me more skills, because even with my concentration in marketing I get so many different types of courses. It raises the stakes of the knowledge I have and that can be applied in many ways,” she explains. “It’s even more important now because it seems having a bachelor’s degree isn’t enough to advance in your career.”

Although she lives in Montgomery County, Jenkins says UB’s combination of flexibility and quality made the program a good fit. She can manage work and school. “I think there’s a misconception that you don’t get as much out of online courses so she can manage work and school. “I think there’s a misconception that you don’t get as much out of online courses but that is not true.”

She adds that UB is working hard to break down stereotypes that business is male-dominated. “There is still a glass ceiling and you need representation so you can say: Yes, I can do it too.”

**J. M. Kitner**
Current MBA student

Kitner always knew she wanted to get her MBA. However, when she completed her undergraduate degree in 2008 in an economics major, she chose to be strategic rather than accrue more debt from school loans. She also wanted to get real world experience before going after another degree, anticipating it would enrich her MBA program. When she moved to Baltimore from Florida four years ago, the time was right to return to school.

UB’s flexibility, particularly the option to do coursework online, appealed to her. She’s found the program insightful, with a good balance of discussion forums, case studies, readings and real life experiences. She’s already using skills from her theoretical leadership and marketing classes.

Kitner expects the MBA will give her greater flexibility and marketability as she navigates her career path. “There is still a glass ceiling,” she states. “I feel that additional educational will reduce that for me.

“I want to thrive in whatever role I choose to pursue in my career and the program will help me do that,” she continues. “The program has challenged my thought processes, it’s challenged how I interact with people, it’s challenged the way I approach and solve problems. There are so many benefits attached to the MBA in terms of professional and personal growth.”

Kitner theorizes that many women opt out of the MBA program because they anticipate that the workload “is intense and difficult to balance with the demands of work and life. “It is all true—it is intimidating and a lot of work,” she confirms. “This definitely stretched me out of my comfort zone.”

But, she continues, that does not mean it isn’t possible or worthwhile. Kitner hopes to lead by example and it appears to be working—a colleague told her recently that watching Kitner pursue her degree has inspired her to go back to get her own MBA.

“Even beyond the MBA, there’s still a lot of pressure on women to act a certain way—to not sound too assertive, for example—and that holds women back,” she explains. “Historically speaking, the world I’ve been a man’s world and, across leadership, it continues to be. Representation matters. There’s a desire among women to do this, but you need representation so you can say: Yes, I can do it too.”

Christiana McCausland is a writer based in Baltimore.
“EDUCATION IS THE GREAT ENGINE OF PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT”
—activist and peacebuilder Nelson Mandela

Mandela’s idea is embodied by UB, an institution dedicated to helping students and community members create meaningful personal and professional futures while giving back and making a difference.

We highlight two programs that empower people in challenging circumstances. By providing resources and support, these initiatives give participants tools to choose their next steps. After all, as Mandela also noted, “It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.”
The Power of a Helping Hand

Marcus Lilly

Education changes your worldview and mindset," says Lilly, a Human Services Administration major and Helen P. Denit honors scholar at UB. “You feel empowered in many areas as a parent, a worker, a community leader.”

Expanding educational access to Second Chance students is extremely rewarding, says Andrea Cantora, director of the program and associate professor in the School of Criminal Justice. “These are some of the most motivated students I have ever worked with,” Cantora says. “Seeing their love for learning and how they strive to excel is inspiring. If we weren’t providing this program they would still be trying to educate themselves.”

During the fall semester of 2018, 45 men at Jessup, who range in age from early 20s to 60-plus, are completing coursework towards a Bachelor of Arts in Human Services Administration degree. Non-students can also participate in a mentorship and tutoring program developed by UB faculty and staff. “Incarcerated men who are active leaders and role models in the prison community—and who are strongly committed to helping their peers succeed—attends classes with students and help them with their studies,” explains Cantora.

The program also provides support as the men return home and begin attending classes. Second Chance Reentry Coordinator Latonya Epps, B.S. ’16, says the transition period for former inmates is complicated. “It can seem overwhelming,” she explains, noting that many of the men are simultaneously searching for jobs, beginning classes, and updating identification and records. “Even dealing with technology is a challenge—most have had limited access to laptops and no internet use, and may need updated skills to submit paperwork and job applications online.”

Epps is available to help with everything from providing transportation for job interviews to lending a listening ear. But the most gratifying part of her job, she says, is seeing the students transform. “Seeing their excitement, give them a hug and tell them we’re glad to have them here,”

Lilly is one of the first Second Chance students who has transitioned to UB. But, Cantora says, more than 40 will be eligible for release in the next several years. “We are already anticipating how we can increase support services and involve some of the men who are already on campus,” she says.

In addition to his UB studies, Lilly works at Concerted Care Group supporting individuals who are dealing with substance abuse and addiction. “What drives me to see people do better,” he says. And, he continues, having opportunities to help others, especially at-risk youths, is important to him. “I feel low that to the guys still inside, who are dedicated to changing their lives.”

A Toolbox for Change:

Fewer than 20 years ago, support services for victims of crime were almost nonexistent. But now an ever-growing range of professionals in a variety of fields are dedicated to helping them and their families deal with the effects of crime and its aftermath.

For over fifteen years the Roper Victim Assistance Academy of Maryland (RVAAM) has been a catalyst in the shift toward more comprehensive services and protections. Based at UB, RVAAM sponsors an annual five-day residential training program and certification for service providers, conducts regional workshops and events throughout the year, and facilitates a large alumni network. The Academy is named in honor of Stephanie Roper, who was killed in 1981, and her parents, who were early and important advocates for victims and their families.

Director Debra Stanley says that the RVAAM and similar organizations help to transform the landscape for victims and those who assist them. “Victim advocacy has developed primarily through grassroots efforts, and academically-based training and certification have helped to legitimize the field,” she says. A professor in the School of Criminal Justice, Stanley has conducted extensive research in victimology and other areas, and also developed substance-abuse treatment and violence-prevention programs for high-risk youth and criminal justice populations.

RVAAM attendees include victim service professionals, social workers, victim advocates, teachers, counselors, clinicians and criminal justice professionals, and, adds Stanley, “there are always some UB students in the group.” The curriculum is focused on the state of Maryland, although other states do recognize RVAAM certification.

In addition to staying involved with the alumni network, Boisclair has also attended RVAAM regional workshops, which are often developed in response to requests for particular types of information. “The local trainings are very helpful because the needs we’re dealing with at a particular time in Frederick may be different from the needs of victim services providers in other regions of Maryland,” she says.

Rosemary Raiman, who recently retired from her position as coordinator of the domestic violence branch of the Charles County State’s Attorney’s office, attended the training in 2004. “When I began advocacy work 24 years ago, we were looking for credentials of some kind, and couldn’t find them,” she says. “Roper Academy was a blessing, giving us greater professional credibility as well as a broader knowledge of what’s available for those we serve.”

This year Raiman’s granddaughter Emily, a student at the University of Maryland, attended RVAAM training. “Emily is in the criminal justice program and has been involved in many events with me over the years,” she explains. “Seeing her passion for this work and watching her graduate from the Academy fourteen years after I did was very special.”

The impact from a crime is different for everyone, Stanley says. “One goal is to give service providers tools to meet people where they are and empower them in whatever way is right for them.”

An Impact Statement:

“You learn about yourself, too,” she continues, noting that victim support work is challenging and can be depleting. “Self-awareness, self-care and connecting with others in the field is critical—you form bonds that continue long after the program is over.”

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Debra Stanley

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Debra Stanley

A New Start:

The Second Chance College Program

LEFT TO RIGHT: Andrea Cantora, Latonya Epps, and Marcus Lilly

The Power of a Helping Hand

The Power of a Helping Hand

The Power of a Helping Hand
Over the summer, visitors to campus might notice that some students in the classrooms look a bit younger than the typical UB undergrad or graduate student. That’s because they’re still in high school; some are even middle schoolers. For the past four years, students have come from all over Baltimore City to participate in UB’s Early College Initiatives (ECI) program’s five-week Summer Academy. >>
What started as an under-funded after-school program in a single high school has exploded into an ever-expanding initiative with nearly a dozen nonprofit partners.

ECE has a network of nonprofit partners including local initiatives KIPP Through College, Sisters Circle, THREAD, SquashWise, Urban Alliance, Code in the Schools and Building STEPS. These partners help identify the students who participate in ECI, as well as provide funding. As the network continued to grow, so did enrollment.

High schools who attend the Summer Academy are also supported in other ways; they are registered for YouthWorks, a summer employment program for Baltimore City residents offered through the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development. Through YouthWorks’ support, attending classes is, in part, a summer job for them.

A “UB FAMILY” ENDEAVOR

Brenner prefers to hire UB adjunct professors and UB graduates to teach ECI’s courses. This past summer, he had 12 instructors working for him. “For me, hiring UB grads is part of the vision,” he says.

One of those instructors is Abigail Green, M.A. ‘01, is a writer based in Baltimore.

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The idea for Hosts for Humanity began with the gift of a home-cooked dinner. At the time, founder Jenny Owens’, D.S. ’15, newborn son Maximus was in Johns Hopkins Hospital undergoing his third surgery to deal with a condition called congenital diaphragmatic hernia. When he was born, doctors told Owens and her husband Nick that Max had only a 50 percent chance of survival.

“We were terrified new parents, and that generous gesture from a friend was exactly what we needed to feel cared for,” Owens recalls.

Soon after, Owens talked with a woman from Tennessee whose grandson was also being treated at Hopkins. “She was staying in a hotel and the baby’s parents were living in a small room in the hospital,” she says. “I thought about my friend’s gift making a difficult time easier, and how hard it must be to be far from home with no support system.”

Owens considered the ways housing insecurity and isolation could compound the challenges of a loved one’s illness. She wondered, what if people living near hospitals could temporarily host people from out of town?

Hosts for Humanity, now a 501(c)3 nonprofit, connects families and friends of patients with volunteers who offer them accommodations in their homes. Here’s how it works: hosts, who live within 60 minutes of the hospital, apply and are vetted before being approved to participate. Those requesting housing pay a suggested donation of $15 per night and receive not only a place to stay but often a listening ear (Owens says many hosts are motivated to offer space because they have also experienced the illness of a loved one).

Although other organizations provide housing services, Owens discovered that the need is much greater than the supply. “Great organizations do this work but they usually have waiting lists,” she explains. “Research I saw estimates a need of 1 million nights of medical-related housing per year.”

Owens says she drew on experiences from her UB Doctor of Science in Information and Instruction Design program to set up the nonprofit. “The program emphasizes user experience and human centered design, and I’ve applied skills in those areas to everything from conceptualization to prototyping the website.”

Her job as faculty executive director of the Graduate Research Innovation District (Grid) at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, also informs the nonprofit. “The Grid provides entrepreneurial services and education for the university community and Baltimore City-based companies. I support and educate students as they create their own ventures, and feel lucky to be in a vortex of doing good work I care about,” Owens explains.

Owens was recently honored by Baltimore Business Journal as one of its “40 under 40,” a group of individuals who are making a difference in their workplaces and communities. She believes the Hosts for Humanity model can scale. “We currently have 38 hosts in the greater Baltimore area, and are looking forward to expanding here and into other cities,” she says. Since January, the nonprofit has housed 40 people for 269 nights, saving families more than $25,000.

Max is now a thriving two-year-old, and Owens continues to be grateful for his health and the excellent care he received. “The nonprofit has been a healing project for me, coming out of a moment of radical empathy during the roughest time of my life,” she says. “Everyone we serve has a powerful story, and my own experience has given me a real energy to be of use.”

Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.
Ronald J. Belinke, B.A., ’66, was inducted into the National Intercollegiate Athletic Administrators Association Hall of Fame at the 46th annual National Athletic Directors Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, in December 2017.

Gerald F. Devlin, J.D., ’69, retired district court judge, was present at the Maryland Court of Appeals to witness the swearing in of his granddaughter, Kathleen Soffer, J.D. ’16, as a member of the Maryland State Bar Association in December 2017.

John S. Nosek, B.S., ’73, M.P.A., ’84, CERT ’98, retired in December 2017 after 24 years as executive director at Goomersen (North Carolina) Orthopaedics, PA.

Stuart J. Robinson, J.D., ’74, was presented with the Worldwide Albert Nelson Magnus Lifetime Achievement Award by Marquee Who’s Who in September 2017.

Nathanial Fick, J.D., ’79, is training as a PeopleFirst-Law Firm Deposition Resolution Center as he shifts into full-time mediation and alternative dispute resolution after 42 years of civil litigation. He was reappointed by the National Board of Trial Advocacy in 2017.

Colonel John E. Donlin, B.S., ’75, was promoted with the Crime Suppression Award in June for lowering crime on the Maryland Transit Administration’s system by 17 percent since 2013.

Alan Jacobs, J.D., ’75, is serving as an adjunct law professor in the LLM and J.D. programs at American University’s Washington College of Law, after over 30 years of practice as a corporate partner.

Quoted from his email: “Always greet to reminisce about ‘We Make Downtown a College Town’ UB. Wish I could find that sticker… life gets in the way so believe it’s been five years since the three of us have skied together.”
Let us know when your little one arrives, and we’ll send you a Baby Bee gift. Share the buzz at 410.637.6313 or alumni@ubalt.edu.

LaNette N. Parsons, M.S., ’07, joined Palmer College of Chiropractic in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as an event planner in April.

Ted Dunlop, J.D., ’08, was elected to the Board of the Aviation Insurance Association as Director-Elect of the Eoray Division in May.

Glen Frost, J.D., ’08, M.L., ’09, CERT, ’09, was appointed in Marquis Who’s Who in December.

Ryan A. Mitchell, J.D., ’08, principal at Keenan & Graham, was recognized as a Rising Star by Maryland Super Lawyers and for his work in business litigation.

Ocasu Z. Dorey, J.D., ’09, accepted a counsel position with the United States Senate Select Committee on Ethics in April.

Christopher K. Doyle, M.A., ’09, was elected chair of the American Bar Association Business Law Section’s Government Affairs Practice Committee in June.

Katherine M. Vlach, M.A., ’09, was named one of 14 fellows with the Thomas Lakin Institute for Mentored Teaching.

Jessica Maimon, B.S. ’02, MBA ’04, was appointed in the digital design in February.

Glen Frost, J.D. ’03, LL.M. ’09, was named including coordinator in Maryland Natural Resources as a diversity and inclusion coordinator in March.

Thomas A. Matlock, B.S. ’82, was named one of 14 fellows with the Thomas Lakin Institute for Mentored Teaching.

In Memoriam

Brianne N. Lanning, J.D., ’16, was appointed to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals in January.

William S. Burt, B.S. ’82, was named one of 14 fellows with the Thomas Lakin Institute for Mentored Teaching.

Jennifer G. MacIntyre, B.S. ’08, M.S. ’14, was appointed in the office of the United States Senate Select Committee on Ethics in July.

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Karen C. Nagle, B.S. ’85, M.S. ’87, was appointed one of 14 fellows with the Thomas Lakin Institute for Mentored Teaching.

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In audio recording, the mastered recording is used to reproduce and distribute music. Joe Knights, M.S. ’17, a.k.a. disc jockey Joe Nice, is incredibly familiar with mixing and blending various instrumentals and songs to create a vibrant listening experience. Knights is widely regarded as the first North American to bring dubstep, a London-based genre of music, to this side of the Atlantic Ocean. He also owns a digital and vinyl record label, GourmetBeats, and for the past seventeen years he has circled the world for performances. “When I began to play shows in Baltimore, I never imagined that I would work internationally,” he says. “Now I have traveled to 46 countries and to every continent except Antarctica.”

But between his roughly half a year on the road, Knights has also finely balanced activities that are launching him on a new trajectory. In 2017, he completed a Master of Science degree in Nonprofit Management and Social Entrepreneurship from UB. In 2018, he was awarded a Master of Arts degree in Intercultural Services in Healthcare from Wake Forest University.

Knights says the opportunities he has had in his musical career are a catalyst for humanitarian work. He recalls being in Sousse, Tunisia, for a performance and learning about the Arab Spring movement. “Tunisia is a wonderful place but similar to many other countries—a growing disparity of wealth and poverty exists,” he says. “Being there and having life experiences in other countries and in the United States made me want to understand inequality issues more on a personal level.”

Knights began his next act in his hometown of Baltimore (he was born in Southampton, Great Britain, and moved here with his family at the age of two). As one of the first cadre of Community Development Fellows in UB’s School of Public Policy, he was assigned to Bon Secours Hospital in West Baltimore.

“The hospital is in an impoverished area with numerous socioeconomic challenges,” he explains. “At the same time, the community leaders and residents are dedicated to revitalizing their neighborhoods. While interacting with the staff and residents, I realized how crucial it is to know and understand the people you’re serving, while listening, learning and working together on solutions.”

At Wake Forest, Knights helped develop a healthcare needs assessment tool for a Burmese refugee community. “Western medicine is unfamiliar to those from other cultures, and we can be paralyzed by what we know,” he says. “We must create more communication channels that facilitate the transfer and understanding of meaning to achieve the best outcomes.”

Now Knights’ professional goals include advocacy, community development and improving healthcare access for indigent and immigrant populations. He looks forward to when his young daughter Parker will be able to travel with him and share his experiences.

“Having friends all over the world and hearing their stories is transformative,” he says. “It’s been a magical journey so far, and I want to keep doing the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of people.”

Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.
Behind the Brand:
Ushering in a New Era

Since 1925, the University of Baltimore has supported students who are dedicated to making a difference and driven to succeed. Our students have gone on to become pillars of the legal community, innovative entrepreneurs, public policy leaders and influencers in the areas of creative writing, design and technology.

For many years the lowercase UB logo was a familiar and inspiring presence in midtown and around the city. But while the heart of our institution hasn’t changed, the marketplace for secondary education has become more challenging. University leadership, along with a large team of representatives from our UB community, decided it was time for an updated look to better differentiate us and reflect our history and core values.

UB is still delivering Knowledge That Works to the nontraditional student: the first-generation college-goer, the career changer, the adult learner. And now we can more confidently communicate our invaluable contributions to the city, state and region.

For more information, access ubalt.edu/brand.

ONLINE
Book Art from UB Alums

Kondwani Fidel
Jackson Tiil’s short documentary, Hummingbirds in the Trenches, follows Kondwani Fidel through his Baltimore neighborhood and culminates in a spoken-word performance.

Sam Rose’s Art Collection
The extensive art collection of Sam Rose, LL.B. ’62 and Julie Walters includes works by major twentieth century American artists as well as giants of European modernism.

You Know Us.
UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE MAGAZINE • UBALT.EDU/UBMAG
FORGE YOUR FUTURE

You know the quality of a UB education. If you're ready to advance your career or know someone who might want to either finish or start a degree program, check out our schedule of upcoming admission events.

You can also apply online at ubalt.edu/apply and use code FALLMAG18 to waive the application fee.

Jan. 15  Graduate Decision Day
Jan. 16  Transfer Decision Day
March 30  Open House
April 6  Undergraduate Expo at the Universities at Shady Grove
April 23  Graduate Information Session

more info: ubalt.edu/events