Seeds of Change
Battling Baltimore’s Food Deserts

Inside: Rocking the Vote / Come Sail Away / Go Clubbing
For four days in late July and early August, the University of Baltimore welcomed more than 300 participants—ranging from mathematicians, architects and computer scientists to artists, educators, musicians, dancers and weavers—from 25 countries for the Bridges Baltimore 2015 conference. This annual event, which changes host cities each year, “celebrates the synthesis of math, art and science, [which is] engaging and fun,” says organizer and faculty coordinator Sujan Shrestha, assistant professor in the Division of Science, Information Arts and Technologies in UB’s Yale Gordon College of Arts and Sciences. Bridges Baltimore’s itinerary included what Shrestha described as the “largest exhibition of mathematical art ever assembled, with more than 150 artists taking part” as well as lectures, a movie festival, poetry readings and musical performances. The conference also opened its doors to the public for a free Family Day, which gave attendees of all ages the chance to experience firsthand the exhibited collision of math, art and science through workshops, games and more. pictured: The conference’s mathematical art exhibition included “The [3,12] Polyhedron Decorated with a Fractal Circle Pattern” (2015) by Doug Dunham, a professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Minnesota Duluth. “I hope that mathematical objects can be beautiful,” Dunham has said about his work, which is inspired by that of artist M.C. Escher.
Dear UB Alumni and Friends:

At UB, we take pride in providing career-oriented education. We are clearly successful at achieving this goal, as evidenced by the accomplishments of our approximately 45,000 alumni—regional and national leaders in law, business, public policy, communications and other fields. At a time when many are questioning the return on investment of higher education, the value of a UB degree in the marketplace is as strong as ever.

But the total worth of a college education, especially a UB education, must be measured by more than career success or additional dollars earned. Recent studies, such as the College Board’s Education Pays 2013, indicate that those with college degrees are more civically engaged than are those who hold only a high school diploma. College graduates are more likely to volunteer in their communities and are almost twice as likely to vote in local and national elections, a finding that takes on additional significance as we approach critical elections in Baltimore and across the country next year.

UB students have multiple opportunities to participate in the democratic process during their time here. Since 2004, the Schaefer Center for Public Policy has received grant funding to participate in the Help America Vote College Program, which encourages students to assist in elections as nonpartisan election judges and poll workers. The program reinforces the importance of an engaged electorate and provides the city and county with much-needed staffing support.

In addition, the UB Voter Education independent-study course, launched in spring 2014 through the College of Public Affairs, tasked students with raising their “Voter IQ” by learning about the voting process, election cycles, elected representatives and other critical elements of civic responsibility. Students then applied this knowledge to develop an online Voter Education Project to provide information on voter registration, the voting process, voting schedules and locations, and other relevant information. The project will be updated in the spring. (You can learn how various UB alumni, too, are involved in all facets of elections in our feature “Thinking Outside the Ballot Box” on p. 22.)

As our students continue to graduate and hit the ground running in their chosen fields, we remain committed to instilling in them the value of civic engagement in accordance with our mission statement, which commits us to providing our students with “a foundation for lifelong learning, personal development and social responsibility.”

Mentored by faculty whose work contributes to real-world solutions to 21st-century challenges and following our alumni’s rich tradition of civic awareness, our students make me confident that the real worth of a UB degree—for our graduates and for our region—will continue to grow by all measures.

Sincerely,

Kurt L. Schmoke
President, University of Baltimore

Seeds of Change: Battling Baltimore’s Food Deserts
by Meredith Lidard Kehn

One in four Baltimoreans lives in an area without easy access to fresh food. But the UB community is determined to bring healthy options—and hope—to the neighborhoods that need it most.

Thinking Outside the Ballot Box
by Libby Zay

An election-judge trainer, a U.S. Senate candidate, a political strategist and more—these UB grads are hard at work on the upcoming elections long before you enter the voting booth.

Don’t forget that anytime you see the WebExtra icon, it means we’ve added related bonus content to the magazine website.

www.ubalt.edu/ubmag     Fall 2015
When Don Haynes, associate professor in the School of Public and International Affairs, isn’t at UB, odds are you’ll find him knee-deep in the Gunpowder River or in the Jones Falls with a fly fishing rod in hand. Haynes grew up fishing in a “good-sized creek” behind his Southern Virginia home. “Fishing was kind of normal,” he recalls, explaining that he started fishing as most children learn to fish in Baltimore waterways, and late afternoons fishing, and they’ve become involved in conservation efforts. Haynes holds elected positions at the local and state levels of Trout Unlimited, a volunteer organization dedicated to protecting and restoring North America’s fisheries. He and his wife also participate in City Catch, an annual event in which children learn to fish in Baltimore waterways, and Casting for Recovery, which hosts retreats for breast cancer survivors. When asked why he loves his hobby, Haynes doesn’t have to fish for reasons. “There’s a pretty steep learning curve on how to do it, and there was nobody around to teach me,” Haynes explains.

Although he fished from time to time over the next few decades, it wasn’t until he reached his 40s that he gave fly fishing another try. “About six years ago, when the kids were gone and we had an empty nest, we were looking for something to do,” Haynes says, explaining that his wife, Norma, grew up fishing in the ocean. After the pair took a half-day fly-fishing lesson, they were hooked. “Knee-deep in the Gunpowder River or in the waist-deep in the water,” Haynes demonstrates how to cast a fly-fishing rod while standing in the Gunpowder River. He estimates he and his wife, Norma, spend 60-70 days fishing each year.

An excerpt from Ebert’s poem “Black”.

For six years, I have been reading
Between the lines
In a world
Completely color blind
No wonder
Waldo always hides
No wonder
Zebras always run
No wonder
I share traits with both of them
Always hiding
In crowds that’ll never accept me
And fleeing
As soon as I’m attacked
But I’m still searching,
For what it means,
I’m almost …
I don’t want to say like a poet.
He says of his position as youth poet laureate, “I’m just helpful for getting kids to want to write.”

The win came complete with a cash prize, a book deal, a city tour and the responsibility of giving a voice to the city’s youth while also encouraging that same audience to become more engaged in the arts.

Ultimately, he hopes to earn his master’s degree and become a literature or creative writing teacher. In the meantime, he’ll continue working to inspire the next generation of writers. “I’m almost … I don’t want to say like a poet,” he says of his position as youth poet laureate, “but I’m just helpful for getting kids to want to write.”
On the Spot

We walked around campus and put UB students, staff, faculty and alumni on the spot, asking them: “What advice would you give to recent graduates?”

“Get involved in your community and DON’T COMPARE YOURSELF to other people when you graduate.”

Tairran-Shari Greene, graduate integrated design student

“Determine what your definite purpose is, and do that. Everything you do should be CENTERED AROUND accomplishing that purpose.”

Caylin A. Young, law student

“Get out there and MEET NEW PEOPLE, and most of all, GET INVOLVED WITH THE alumni association.”

Troy Pritt, B.S. ’15

“YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU’RE GOING to meet someone [who] could ... introduce you to your next OPPORTUNITY. So be open to every OPPORTUNITY and always, always be your BEST SELF.”

Sabrina Viscomi, MBA ’13

“Identify with a mentor early in your career so you can start building important relationships and develop a STRONG network of like-minded professionals that can help ESTABLISH YOUR CAREER PATH.”

Frank LePage, M.P.A. ’92, coordinator of veteran and military services

“Brush [up on] all your skills, particularly the HARD SKILLS, ... keeping some examples in YOUR HEART for when you have interview opportunities.”

Ting Zhang, assistant professor, Merrick School of Business

“Find something you’re passionate about, and try to make a DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY in whatever you do. Bring a POSITIVE attitude to difficult situations, and you’ll see that your career will progress.”

Margarita Cardona, director of sponsored research and faculty development

Hear more sage advice for new grads—and offer yours.
UB Institute Looks to Grow Baltimore by Monitoring Neighborhoods’ Health

by Chris Hart

People move to and from a city for all kinds of reasons: jobs, schools, housing, even the weather. What’s clear about Baltimore is that over the last several decades, more people have been moving out than in. Now, in an initiative supported by the University of Baltimore’s Jacob France Institute, that trend is understood better than ever—and it may be the start of a turnaround for the city.

Announced at UB in May, “Grow Baltimore: Who’s Moving, Where and Why” is part of a citywide initiative to increase Baltimore’s population by 10,000 new households by 2030. The Jacob France Institute’s Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance, which collects and publishes extensive information about city neighborhoods for public access, partnered with Live Baltimore—a local nonprofit focused on city living and residential investment—to generate a series of Grow Baltimore reports on aspects of life that either “push” people toward or “pull” them away from Baltimore.

The research for Grow Baltimore concentrated on property and public-school records as well as surveys and focus groups of recent movers conducted in collaboration with UB’s Schafer Center for Public Policy. These large pools of information about the city present researchers with a much greater level of insight than was previously available, says Seema Iyer, associate director of the institute, director of UB’s undergraduate Real Estate and Economic Development program and a research assistant professor in the Merrick School of Business. In turn, leaders can use this “big data” to make important decisions for establishing a more attractive, livable city.

Iyer says that by collecting, analyzing and—most importantly—sharing information about communities, it’s possible to spot challenges, such as a growing number of vacant homes on a block, or to identify elements that make a neighborhood special, including a concentration of community gardens.

“The data we provide serves as a continuous monitor on neighborhoods,” she says. “Only when you keep track of changes can neighborhood leaders address issues that impact residential attraction and retention.”

Steven Gondol, executive director of Live Baltimore, praised the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance’s work: “We can now target our outreach in specific neighborhoods while also sharing otherwise hidden assets to families wanting to raise children in the city,” he says. “This intervention strategy will allow us to accelerate our goal of growing the city through family retention.”

Building Naming Etches

Turner’s Place in UB History

I t isn’t easy to pull off an on-campus surprise for someone who knows virtually everyone in town and is intimately familiar with just about every inch of UB’s footprint. But on June 10, H. Melbane Turner, UB president emeritus, seemed to be riveted speechless as he learned, at a surprise ceremony in front of a crowd of family and friends, that the University’s Learning Commons building had been named the H. Melbane Turner Learning Commons in his honor.

In fact, his first response upon hearing the announcement from current UB President Kurt L. Schmoke was a simple “oh, goodness.”

The honor resulted from a collaboration between Schmoke and the University of Baltimore Foundation Board of Directors, explains Stuart Silberg, B.S. ’71, then-chairman of the board. “On behalf of the UB Foundation and our alumni, we very much wanted to recognize Mr. as an inspirational and respected president of UB for 30-plus years,” he says. “We felt the Learning Commons was the perfect venue.”

The renaming is, as Schmoke noted, a fitting tribute for Turner, who retired from UB in 2002 (though he remains an active volunteer).

“We’re here today is really no surprise or a secret to anyone who’s been around the University or this community,” Schmoke told the audience before recognizing Turner’s numerous accomplishments, including transitioning the University from private to public, expanding the campus from 2.5 to 14 acres and achieving regional accreditation.

“I think the things you’ve done for the University are well beyond just the things that you can measure in terms of the people that were hired here,” he continued. “The number of alumni, the graduates [who] have gone and done wonderful things in the city and the state—we really do appreciate it,” he said.

“This is wonderful,” a misty-eyed Turner said in his brief, impromptu remarks. “It’s a great privilege to have been associated with this institution for so long… I think this place is just getting started, and you’re the crowd to get it there.”

Renaming notwithstanding, the highlight of the event for many who are familiar with Turner’s signature accessory may have been the fact that he wased no time in donning a new bow tie featuring Ellie, the University’s bee mascot, that Silberg presented to him. In return, the former president removed his trademark bow tie with a previous UB logo and gifted it to Silberg, quipping, “I’ve got two or three of these.”
outgoing UB students and young alumni made new friends at the June debut of UB’s newest alumni volunteer program, Dinner With 12 Strangers, hosted by Phaedra Stewart, MBA ’96.

Students from Baltimore’s Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood visited campus in July to work on crafting their mural design presentations through a partnership among UB, the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts and Jubilee Arts’ Art @ Work: Sandtown, part of a summer-employment program for city teens.

members of the UB School of Law’s chapter of the Black Law Students Association contributed to earning the title of runner-up for best chapter in the nation, behind Harvard’s, in March.

days was the duration of a Baltimore visit in May from the monks of Tibet’s Drepung Gomang Monastery; at UB, they presented lectures on chanting and kindness as well as a “Tibetan cultural pageant.”

images (and counting) are being digitized by Langsdale Library’s Special Collections archivists to form the Burt L. Schmoke Photograph Collection, which covers 1990-97 and documents much of Schmoke’s tenure as Baltimore mayor; look for a curated online exhibit in the spring.

then-Baltimore Mayor Schmoke at the B&O Railroad Museum in August 1991 during his “Stay on Board With Schmoke”-themed campaign for re-election.

The 90-plus student organizations on campus are as diverse and varied as are the club members. During their time at UB, students can give dance, improv, gospel choir or jiu jitsu a try, just to name a few. Meet a handful of students—and find out why they’re so passionate about their pursuits—on the following pages.

by Libby Zay | photography: Christopher Myers

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I wanted more opportunities to work on book-binding projects and continue to learn new techniques. Luckily, Plork Press does just that. We’re planning a reading for the spring that highlights the chapbooks [small collections of poetry] of three writers. The chapbooks will be designed by the club with insight from the writers.”

—Jeffrey Bismayer, graduate creative writing and publishing arts student

You daydream about a weeklong adventurous vacation you want to take, but you can’t because you have loads of homework and studying to get done. So in comes the Outdoors Club to the rescue with camping, hiking, biking, skydiving and more.

—Christin Pittman, undergraduate digital communication student
Nicolas Israel-Eledan, undergraduate government and public policy student

“We have a black-tie dinner, a fashion show and cultural events during the school year that unite students from various African countries and those concerned with its welfare. Some people wear traditional clothes, but you can wear anything you like. … This [jacket’s] fabric is called ankara. The print is from Nigeria.”

AFRICAN STUDENT UNION

I went with the club on a tour of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for Maryland. It was such a fascinating opportunity that I wouldn’t have had as an individual. We also tour local crime laboratories and do other fun activities like going to the [now-closed] Crime Museum in Washington, D.C.

Leah Livengood, undergraduate forensic studies student

FORENSIC SCIENCE SOCIETY

“...
Access to affordable and nutritious food can be just a mirage for the 23.5 million Americans who live in what the U.S. Department of Agriculture calls “food deserts”—typically low-income areas that do not have easy access to grocery stores. Urban residents living in these neighborhoods often rely on fast-food joints and corner convenience stores for their meals, a practice that ultimately links food deserts to health issues like obesity, diabetes and heart disease.
For many Baltimore residents — especially those living in the 30 percent of households without easy access to a car — finding fresh food options can be a logistical nightmare. One in four Baltimore residents needs to travel more than a quarter mile to find a supermarket, placing 25 percent of citizens in what the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future defines as a food desert. In a study the center conducted in collaboration with the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative, researchers also found that one in three school-aged children in Baltimore lives in a food desert and that African Americans are disproportionately affected: 34 percent live in food deserts as compared to only 8 percent of white residents.

Even for those who live near a grocery store, proximity isn’t enough. At a local Giant supermarket, a dollar can buy either three in-store, proximity isn’t enough. At a local Giant supermarket, a dollar can buy either three in-store, proximity isn’t enough. At a local Giant supermarket, a dollar can buy either three in-store, proximity isn’t enough. At a local Giant supermarket, a dollar can buy either three in-store, proximity isn’t enough. At a local Giant supermarket, a dollar can buy either three...

Ripple, affiliate faculty and experiential learning program manager at UB, shows off some of the herbs grown in an on-campus garden that sits adjacent to an exit off the Jones Falls Expressway.

BALTIMORE: THE CITY THAT GARDENS

If you take the southbound exit for Maryland Avenue off the Jones Falls Expressway, you might notice a collection of yellow, green and blue planter boxes in a large, grassy area on the side of the road. Over the summer, those boxes were filled with herbs and vegetables. Darien Ripple, affiliate faculty at UB and its experiential learning program manager, led the effort to construct the boxes and a neighboring greenhouse and shed in spring 2014, as part of the College Readiness Academy, a six-week program at UB that helps local high-school students develop their college-level math, reading and writing skills. Ripple had been asked to provide the students with a personal experience that would encourage inquiry and help them understand a complex problem. He chose to take a look at the city’s food deserts, an issue that directly affects many of the students in the program.

A local Home Depot donated paint, plants and soil. Ripple collected pallets from UB’s dumpsters to create four raised beds that he and his students filled with herbs — basil, thyme, parsley and dill — and vegetables, including tomatoes, green peppers and jalapeños.

Because some students in the program had never seen a garden before, Ripple designated one of the planter boxes as a sensory garden and asked the students to smell and identify the herbs planted there. "Many times, students don’t visually know any herbs because they haven’t really seen them, but they might know the smell,” he explains. He says oregano reminded students of spaghetti while cilantro made them think of the rice at Chipotle Mexican Grill. Ripple expanded the gardens this past spring after receiving additional donations from Home Depot and a grant through the Parks & People Foundation.

Office of the Mayor’s Baltimore City Anchor Plan, an economic development partnership among eight Baltimore universities and hospitals. He and his students, including members of a newly formed UB student organization called the Urban Farming Association, planted corn, beans and squash — the three main agricultural crops of various Native American groups — on the side of the Maryland Avenue exit ramp. These plants are known as the “three sisters” because they have a symbiotic relationship: Corn removes nitrogen from the soil, beans return nitrogen to the soil and the large leaves of the squash plant provide shade and retain the soil’s moisture. Ripple has plans to ensure the garden continues to grow, including ideas for collaborations with community members and businesses, activities with elementary schools and a potential partnership to provide a local restaurant with fresh ingredients. The garden can be used by other UB classes to conduct ecological experiments, and Ripple is also inviting faculty from UB and other area colleges to include the issue of food deserts in their own curricula.

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Another way the foundation provides assistance to residents interested in starting and maintaining community gardens is through an annual membership program called the Community Greening Resource Network. The network provides classes on how to grow produce in urban spaces and workshops on different urban agricultural practices in addition to free gardening supplies donated by local nurseries. It also works to reduce risk perceptions surrounding urban gardening, as many residents are concerned about broken glass, animal waste and other contaminants in the soil. “In order to have access to healthy food, there’s a great need for people to have education. … so they aren’t consuming something that might not be good for them,” Rupp explains.

Along with educational resources, the network offers peer support for community members working to reduce the number of vacant lots in their neighborhoods. “When you’re transforming any type of open space,
you’re talking about changing behaviors and patterns of people around you,” Rupp says. Parks & People also runs several educational programs for city youth, and Rupp notes that “much like Ripple’s experience with introducing students to the UB garden—many participating children aren’t familiar with fresh fruits and vegetables. A community member working with the organization made this discovery while delivering bagged lunches containing tangelos to local high schools, she says. The students began bouncing the fruits as if they were balls, and the volunteer realized the teenagers weren’t just playing with their food—they had no idea what a tangelo was. While the increasing number of community gardens in the city is a step in the right direction, Rupp notes that they won’t necessarily help children consume fresh, healthy food. “Actually growing food in your own neighborhood is fantastic, but it’s only one piece of the puzzle,” Rupp explains. Whether through school activities or community programs, she says, children need hands-on experience with gardening to learn more about the health benefits of fruits and vegetables.

SHOPPING SOLUTIONS
Michele Speaks, B.A. ’92, has direct experience attempting to change unhealthy behaviors and to increase food access. In 2013, Speaks and her husband, Erich March, opened Apples and Oranges Fresh Market in the East North Avenue area of Baltimore, a community with few grocery store options. Speaks spent more than a year planning the store, and it opened to much enthusiasm from residents. “We felt really good about the ability to bring fresh grocery products to the community,” Speaks says. In addition to providing healthy food options, Speaks offered nutrition classes and food demonstrations inside the store, helped residents read package labels and learn how to shop on a budget, and held fitness classes in the parking lot. She also made a conscious decision to stock only healthy food. “Shortly into it, it was clear that there was a lot of pushback [from shoppers] about the lack of fried foods and soda,” she says. Speaks says she also heard rumors that the store’s prices were too high and that local residents expected heavily discounted prices. “[Urban agriculture] is not the thing to sell,“ she adds. “[Community gardens] get people connected to things and they help create a demand, but if you really want to see people having reliable access to healthy food, you need to have reliable grocery stores that are full service [located] where people can access them conveniently.”

Speaks stands outside the (now vacant) Apples and Oranges Fresh Market. She and her husband opened the store in 2013 and closed it’s doors after 18 months.

“The food movement is popular these days because people recognize the importance of the quality of food,” explains Christopher Croft, an adjunct professor in the UB College of Public Affairs’ School of Public and International Affairs who is teaching an undergraduate course on sustainable communities this fall. Thanks in part to a Fund for Excellence grant from the University of Baltimore Foundation, students are researching the feasibility of a Baltimore food hub to aggregate and distribute food to the public. The class is working with nearby Boone Street Farm, which supplies produce to residents who live in a food desert, to see if a food hub could help similar small farms reach a larger market. Croft’s class has split into groups to research supply and demand, competition, business structures, marketing and the financial viability of a hub, which could be virtual, brick and mortar or even a food truck. Graduate students in an Advanced Financial Analysis and Forecasting class are working to develop a five-year forecast of the hub’s financial needs and performance.

In addition to looking at successful food hubs, Croft’s class is using data collected by the UB Jacob France Institute’s Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance to understand food deserts and comes stories. Students will also gather supply-and-demand market data and query service providers to identify other partnering opportunities. What’s more, Croft says, the grant has allowed interested UB students in his class to serve as interns who assist with research and also get some hands-on experience at Boone Street Farm. Not only have they been helping to market the farm’s community-supported agriculture program, they’ve also been teaching the value of nutrition by leading cooking classes and by creating a healthy cookbook. “We really have to isolate our unique situation here in Baltimore and be methodical and careful about the best way to address the challenges as well as the strengths of the city,” Croft says. If the students find the food hub idea is feasible, Croft says the next step would be to create a business plan. Eventually, there could be a food hub or even a food truck. “This is a wonderful issue for UB because this is how we’ve been known—as a school that’s practical, that makes things happen,” Croft says. “In these challenging times, UB is rising to the occasion.”

—Libby Zay

Growing Together

“Poverty is a big barrier—we have to work within a person’s means to access healthy food—but we know that people really want to eat healthily and [that] they will do it if they have access.”

Olivia Farrow, J.D. ’95, works with the city’s Baltimore program, which enables residents to buy healthy food at locations including Lafayette Market (pictured), a corner store in West Baltimore.
For most people, the voting process seems straightforward: Show up at an assigned location, check a few boxes and voilà. But behind the scenes, there’s a lot of legwork that goes into making sure everything runs smoothly on Election Day. These UB alumni contribute their expertise to the campaign trail and beyond so votes can be cast with confidence.

Chrysovalantis “Chrys” Kefalas, J.D. ’04
Republican candidate, U.S. Senate
What he does: Kefalas is running to replace retiring Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) in the U.S. Senate, and if he makes it, he’ll be the first openly gay Republican to enter Congress. In the meantime, he also works full time as vice president of executive communications for the National Association of Manufacturers.

On the pressures of the job: “People put a lot of trust in us to make the right moves throughout the campaign because every decision leads up to that final moment when your candidate either wins or loses. On election night, it’s hard to sit still as the results are reported.”

Stephanie L. Binetti, B.A. ’09
founder, Binetti Political Strategies
What she does: Binetti co-manages a full-service political consulting firm with her husband, David Kosak. Binetti says they do it all for their clients—including Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake—from triple-checking the spelling on emails and bumper stickers to putting up yard signs long after the sun goes down.

On the pressures of the job: “The amount of money you have to raise and how much time you have to spend raising it is astounding. It’s incredibly energizing meeting voters and getting out across Maryland, but raising money limits the time to do that substantially—and without those donor dollars, you can’t compete.”

Kevin Keene, B.S. ’92, J.D. ’97
election director, Harford County (Maryland) Government
What he does: Keene and his team make sure eligible Harford County residents are registered to vote and that elections are conducted in a fair and impartial manner. If a close election causes a recount, he’s also the go-to guy to manage interactions with candidates, their supporters and their lawyers.

On some unexpected duties: “While most directors are in the office, my deputy and I are out delivering and setting up equipment, putting up signs, working lines at early voting [locations] or whatever it takes to get the job done.”

Jamal K. Jackson, B.A. ’13
election judge trainer, Baltimore City
What he does: Jackson works with UB’s Schaefer Center for Public Policy to train election judges on how to use voting equipment and how to follow procedures. He also visits polling locations on Election Day to monitor judges and to make sure they’re complying with the rules.

On why his job is crucial: “I can remember traveling to a polling location to monitor and observe and being utterly surprised to see that the election judges had not properly secured polling machines (which makes them subject to physical tampering). This is an absolute no-no that we stressed over and over again in training class.”

Nikki Baines Charlson, J.D. ’96
deputy state administrator, Maryland State Board of Elections
What she does: Charlson has a role in every part of the election process, including helping people file for office and register to vote, implementing new voting systems—like an easier-to-use ballot—and troubleshooting voter complaints.

On the buildup to Election Day: “No two elections are the same, although I think sometimes it would be nice if they were. … The most nail-biting part of my job is during the weeks leading up to an election. The final pieces of the election puzzle are falling into place, but there’s not much time left to find a ‘missing piece’ or resolve an issue. By the time Election Day comes, it’s showtime and there’s been no dress rehearsal.”

Sean Pumphrey, B.A. ’10, M.P.A. ’14
contractor, Election Software and Support
What he does: Pumphrey is the on-the-ground serviceman who installs and repairs voting machines at polling locations. In his role, he travels often and has to keep two types of customers satisfied: the election officials and the voting public.

On a predictable question: “Sadly, if you work in this business, you often hear the hackneyed question of whether or not you are there to ‘rig’ the elections. On the other side of the coin, no one seems to ask the same question of campaigns, which in some cases are intentionally misleading.”
Puzzled About Your Alumni Benefits?

Test your knowledge of UB’s alumni benefits and services, volunteer programs and more by taking a crack at the crossword puzzle below. Stumped? You’ll find many of the answers scattered throughout the UB alumni website at www.ubalt.edu/alumni. But don’t give up too easily: we bet you’ll be able to figure it out simply because you’re a loyal alumnus, volunteer, ambassador and friend.

Across
5. If you recommend a prospective student via www.ubalt.edu/recommend, that person will receive an ______ fee waiver.
6. a fast-paced event at which you help students hone their ability to make business contacts
8. UB’s auto insurance partner, whose mascot is almost as adorable as Eubie is
10. a program that allows you to dine at a local restaurant with a student who has similar professional interests
11. an alumnus-owned olive oil business featured in our last issue
12. the number of “strangers” (students) invited to this new, alumni-hosted dinner program

Down
1. Buy discounted books, apparel and gifts at Barnes & Noble at the University of Baltimore, UB’s campus ______
2. Come back to campus for this popular outdoor bash.
3. UB’s online career database
4. a program in which you can come back to the classroom to share your professional insight with students
7. Keep this in your wallet to access your UB alumni benefits.
9. join fellow alumni for this volunteer effort handing out coffee and treats to grateful students during exams.

Don’t forget to visit www.ubalt.edu/alumni to find out more about alumni benefits and services, to learn how to get involved and to request your UB Alumni Bee Card—your one-card solution for official UB alumni identification, library access, Campus Cash purchases, special alumni discounts and more. You can also update your email address to receive BuzZworthy, our monthly e-newsletter.

STUDY ABROAD 101:

Getting a Beefeater to Smile

Textbooks get you only so far. To really understand international government and politics, you have to make the trek to experience them firsthand.

UB’s Comparative Issues in Criminal Justice course took undergraduate and graduate students to England, the Netherlands and Belgium this summer for a whirlwind, nine-day tour of political and criminal justice systems in those countries. They saw where things go quiet inside NATO and EU headquarters in bustling Brussels. They heard from experts at The Hague’s international courts, where some of humanity’s worst offenders have stood trial. And they met with law enforcement officials in London to discuss police protocol in England.

The UB Foundation’s Fund for Excellence provided competitive scholarships to participating students with a minimum 3.3 GPA to help defray the cost of the trip. So thank you for putting the international into our government and politics course. … and for the chance to get a grin out of a Beefeater.

Want to support UB students’ next adventure (and more) through the Fund for Excellence? Make a contribution by visiting www.ubalt.edu/support or by including your gift in the postage-paid envelope in this magazine. For more information, contact the Office of Annual Giving at 410.837.6271 or annualgiving@ubalt.edu.

Recommend students at www.ubalt.edu/alumni, and we’ll waive their application fee.
Events and Photos

1. Michael and Alicia Weidel, J.D. ’13
2. Nuria A. Rodriguez Padro; Nikslay (B.S. ’14) and Eileen Batac-Schuster; Jessica L. Kaufman, B.S. ’11; and Nikkia N. Fitch, B.S. ’08
3. Hannah M. Dawson, B.A. ’12; J.D. ’15; Kate E. Wolfson, J.D. ’12; and Jennifer N. Nwachukwu, J.D. ’15
4. Chetta H. Hueson-Byrd, B.S. ’77; Pat Roarden, Office of Institutional Advancement; and Gina Norton, B.S. ’93
5. Karen A. (B.S. ’92) and Kyle Kupa

A Celebration of Service: Oct. 7, 2015

Spring Undergraduate and Graduate Commencement Reception: May 19, 2015

President’s Welcome Reception in Harford County: Sept. 24, 2015

President’s Welcome Reception in Philadelphia: Oct. 8, 2015

A Celebration of Service: Oct. 7, 2015

5th Annual Alumni Barbecue Hosted by Clifton L. (J.D. ’78) and Carol Ann Brown: Sept. 12, 2015

35th Annual UB Night at Camden Yards: June 9, 2015

4th Annual Young Alumni Reception at Verde: Sept. 7, 2015

A Celebration of Service: Oct. 7, 2015

University of Baltimore Magazine Fall 2015

After 17 years as a mariner, Rodriguez, now deputy administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Maritime Administration, decided to alternate stints at sea with semesters in Baltimore to earn a degree in business administration. “It was an unusual path, but everything I learned at UB I apply in some way,” he says. “I didn’t speak the language of business, and that’s what I needed and achieved.”

After graduating from UB, Rodriguez held positions at his merchant marine alma mater, administering its internship program and preparing students for their shipboard assignments, then worked to represent the interests of men and women who make their living on the sea at the International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots. Rodriguez says his business knowledge enhances his continuing journey in the maritime industry. “Effectively representing the maritime labor force requires knowledge of contracts, business plans, accounting, communications skills—all enhanced by my business education,” he explains.

Rodriguez’s role involves promoting the maritime industry—including the U.S. fleets trading in foreign markets and within the United States and its territories—responding to national emergencies and providing humanitarian aid. Maritime Administration ships were used to transport supplies and to support rescue workers in the wakes of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Sandy and also retrieved and neutralized chemical weapons from Syria in 2014 to comply with United Nations Security Council agreements.

Rodriguez says he thrives on the variety he finds in his work at the administration. “After 36 years in the industry, I still enjoy working with people who operate ships,” he says. “Every day, there’s something new, and I begin every day happy to be here.”

Running a Tight Ship

Michael Rodriguez, B.S. ’94

by Paula Novash

Rodriguez stands in front of the MV Cape Washington, a U.S. Maritime Administration Ready Reserve Force ship docked at Port Covington, Baltimore. This ship and others around the country support military sealift and humanitarian assistance missions such as the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and recovery operations following hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Sandy; the Haiti earthquake; and the U.S. response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

Check out Rodriguez aboard the MV Cape Washington.

WebExtra
We want to know more about this year in UB history.

Think back to your UB days and tell us, in a few sentences, about your memories of campus. We hope to collect and compile these brief stories for a future issue.

Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@ubalt.edu or 410.837.6131 to share your memories.

The year was **1965**.

At UB:

- the Bees soccer team topped Lynchburg College 4 goals to 1 in the north-south playoffs, winning the Mason-Dixon Conference Championship
  
  (Bonus points if you can tell us the exact date this championship took place; see our contact information below.)

- workers broke ground April 7 for the brand-new Langsdale Library, a $1.5 million project with the capacity to house 125,000 volumes (and with air conditioning!)

- at the second-annual bull roast, May 1, $3 bought all-you-can-eat-and-drink beef and beer

- having outgrown the Lyric Theatre, the annual commencement ceremony was held for the first time at the Baltimore Civic Center, drawing a crowd of about 5,000 to cheer on 585 graduates

- 1,153 freshmen enrolled during the fall semester, up 44 percent from 1964’s entering freshman class

- the Shirelles (of “Will You Love Me Tomorrow” and “Mama Said” fame) played the Homecoming dance, Nov. 26 at the Pikesville Armory, for a crowd of 1,500.

**Weber Extra**

**From Richard Banks, B.S. ’77:**

The person on the left in this photo is Brian Chetlet from Dundalk Community College. The person in the center is Joe Rutkowski from Johns Hopkins University, class of 76. The person on the right is Michele J. Gregory [B.A. ’76] from the University of Baltimore, class of 76.

**And the Story Behind the Last Photos Is ...**

The old photos of the 1975 UB Block Party featured in our last issue generated several responses; our thanks to everyone who weighed in. We hope you’ll share more stories about your time at UB.

**From Bonnie (Buchanan) Little, B.S. ’85:**

Attached is a photo from a Block party in June 1984 (above). My co-student (Incredible Hulk) and I (Batwoman) won best costume, male and female. The booth Hall of Just Us (of “Will You Love Me Tomorrow” fame) played the Homecoming dance, Nov. 26 at the Pikesville Armory, for a crowd of 1,500.

**Flashback: one year in UB history**

The first U.S. troops arrived in Vietnam. Martin Luther King Jr. marched on Selma, Alabama. The Dodgers beat the Twins 4-3 to clinch the World Series. And a first-class postage stamp cost 5 cents.

**And the Story Behind the Last Photos Is ...**

The old photos of the 1975 UB Block Party featured in our last issue generated several responses; our thanks to everyone who weighed in. We hope you’ll share more stories about your time at UB.
As a young social worker in New York City, Jessica Emerson, J.D. '13, found her calling working with victims of sex trafficking who were trying to turn their lives around. “If you have an arrest for prostitution on your record,” Emerson says of these victims, “it can be very difficult to find employment or housing, to apply for student loans or to heal from trauma.”

After running into these and other legal roadblocks with her clients, Emerson decided to attend law school in the hope of more effectively helping them, and UB’s reputation for its strong program in public interest law was a key attraction.

“After my first year of law school, I interned at the Legal Aid Society in New York City, and I was given the opportunity to craft a motion to vacate [convictions] on behalf of a … survivor of trafficking. We were successful in vacating all three of her prostitution convictions,” she says of the process of removing convictions from victims’ records and reflecting that they never should have been convicted in the first place. “That summer really sold me, and working on behalf of these survivors was a perfect way to combine my social work background with the law.”

Increasingly, states are passing legislation to empower survivors of sex trafficking to have convictions vacated. In 2010, New York was the first state to enact such a law, with Maryland doing so in 2011; 22 states have since followed.

With legal supervision from the Women’s Law Center of Maryland, Emerson spent another internship researching how vacatur laws work and how best to train attorneys to implement them. “The University of Baltimore was integral to me being able to conceive of and grow this project into a legitimate legal initiative in Maryland,” says Emerson, who is serving this year as a clinical teaching fellow in the UB School of Law’s Saul Ewing Civil Advocacy Clinic, continuing her work on the victim advocacy project she began during her time as a law student.

Maryland is still creating a structure to support its legislation, and Emerson has been instrumental in developing outreach materials and in training attorneys to understand the law and to advocate for survivors who seek to have their convictions vacated.

Emerson’s work has not gone unnoticed. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) heard a piece on National Public Radio in February about Emerson’s representation of a 24-year-old trafficking survivor. That led Shaheen to introduce an amendment to federal trafficking legislation—focused on financial incentives for remaining states to introduce similar legislation and to focus on the needs of criminalized trafficking survivors—that Congress passed last spring.

“IT is just a matter of time before all states have passed vacatur legislation,” Emerson says. “There are great social services agencies working with survivors of trafficking, but legal services for these same individuals are sparse. “We are doing a great disservice to victims of truly heinous crimes if we do not help them actually take back control of their lives,” she adds. “I am truly grateful to the people at the UB School of Law for allowing me the space I needed to find my voice.”
Let your fellow UB alumni know where you are and what you’ve been up to. Submitting a Class Note is easy; just visit www.ubalt.edu/classnotes or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 410.837.6131 or alumni@ubalt.edu.

1960s
Ellis H. Goodman, J.D. ’65, was awarded first place honors at the 2013 Toastmasters International Speech Contest in April.

Melf D. Powell, J.D. ’65, received the 2015 Donald C. Stone Award from the International Association of Schools and Institutions of Administration in July for his contribution to the field of public administration and active commitment to the association.

1970s
Louis A. Becker, J.D. ’70, retired from the Circuit Court for Howard County, Maryland, in 2014.

Drew D. Carberry, B.A. ’71, joined Lighthouse Learning Center in Catonsville, Maryland, as executive director in May.

Stuart M. Goldberg, B.A. ’70, J.D. ’74, was elected to serve a two-year term as chair of the Maryland State Bar Association.

1980s
Frances M. Draper, CERT ’80, MBA ’81, was appointed vice chair of the Morgan State University Board of Regents.


Charles E. Andreatta, MBA ’82, retired as associate director of the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Government Securities Regulations staff in April.

Paul F. Sullivan Jr., M.S. ’82, and his team at Sullivan & Co. in Bethesda, Maryland, recently completed a webinar for clients on “Pros & Cons of Pension Plans such as 401(k)s, Simple IRAs, Roth IRAs, SEPs, and other plans.”


Monroe W. DeVos, B.S. ’83, celebrated his five-year anniversary with Michelin North America in January and is now a zone deployment manager for Michelin Franchise Development in Harman, Maryland.


Marianne Shepperd, B.S. ’84, sold her business, Pet Sitters, in September 2014 and retired to the Florida Keys in May.

Patricia C. McMullen, J.D. ’86, was selected as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in June.

Gary F. Collins, J.D. ’87, finished working with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Afghanistan in December 2014 and is now with the Lebanese judiciary in Beirut, where he is working on a judicial strengthening program.

Michael D. Mallinoff, J.D. ’87, was appointed as county administrator for the Charles County (Maryland) government in May.

Robert G. Cassilly Jr., J.D. ’88, was elected to the Maryland State Senate to represent District 34, Harford County (Maryland), in January.

Baby Bee Announcements
UB proudly welcomes the newest members of our University family—Baby Bees! Moms- and dads-to-be, let us know when your little one arrives, and we’ll send you a Baby Bee bib, courtesy of the UB Alumni Association. We look forward to receiving more photos of your new additions proudly sporting their Baby Bee bibs and will include them in the magazine as space permits.

Share the buzz about your new Baby Bee with us at 410.837.6131 or alumni@ubalt.edu.

Nicole P. Klein, J.D. ’91
Tracey Barbour-Gillett, M.P.A. ’04
Mary D. Hellrich, B.S. ’66
Kelly A. Powers, J.D. ’06
Rachel Barrett-Ducklin, M.P.A. ’10

1990s
David L. Costello III, J.D. ’93, was selected as president of Aarundel Federal Savings Bank in Glen Burnie, Maryland, in May.

Robert D. Anbinder, J.D. ’92, was appointed president of the Bar Association of Baltimore City in May.

Richard E. Cosentino, B.S. ’87, MBA ’91, was selected as president of the Bar Association of Baltimore City in May.

1990s
Karen A. Stout, MBA ’88, was named among the 2015 Top 100 Women—The Daily Record for their professional accomplishments and dedication to the community.

Linda S. Ostovitz, B.S. ’78, J.D. ’81
Debra G. Schubert, J.D. ’85
Stephanie S. Franklin, J.D. ’94
D. Jill Green, J.D. ’94
Arielle Harry-Bess, MBA ’99
Jennifer Stearnman, J.D. ’99
Nicole P. Klein, J.D. ’91
Tracey Barbour-Gillett, M.P.A. ’04
Mary D. Hellrich, B.S. ’66
Kelly A. Powers, J.D. ’06
Kimberly Neal, J.D. ’97
Rachel Barrett-Ducklin, M.P.A. ’10

Sharon A. Perfetti, B.S. ’93, launched her website, The Stories Between, in September 2014. The site allows individuals to share stories and photos of loved ones who have passed away.

William A. York III, B.S. ’84, retired from the U.S. Air Force as lieutenant colonel in March and in April began his career as lead associate with Booz, Allen & Hamilton.
Aaron C. Ball, J.D., ’97, joined New York Life Insurance Co. as vice president and leader of the company’s long-term-care insurance business in Austin, Texas, in March.


Glenn M. Sulmasy, J.D., ’97, was appointed provost and chief academic officer of Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island, in March.


2000s

Michael J. Fellerman, J.D., ’00, joined Shulman, Rosman, Gadert & Ecker in Potomac, Maryland, in March.

Lt. Col. Dennis L. Hager II, J.D., ’00, was appointed deputy legal counsel for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in September 2014.

Joyette M. Holmes, J.D., ’01, was named the next chief magistrate of Cobb County, Georgia, in March.

Tanya C. Allen, B.S., ’03, was named a 2015 Top Nurse by Baltimore magazine in April.

Havalah M. “Halley” Hetrick, J.D., ’03, married Norman P. Hetrick Jr. in Philadelphia in May 2014 and was named to the Daily Record’s 2015 list of 20 in Their Twenties. Amanda Westveld, J.D., ’12, married Scott Plumer in the Netherlands in September.

Elizer Schwartz, MBA, ’06, is the director of marketing for the Asia-Pacific region for SurveyMonkey.

Matthew E. Feinberg, J.D., ’06, was named partner at Fishkin & Feinberg in Chevy Chase, Maryland, in May. He also was included as a 2015 Rising Star for Washington, D.C., by Super Lawyers magazine.

Garry F. Farley, B.S., ’09, M.P.A., ’09, is serving as an AmeriCorps volunteer for AARP Experience Corps in Baltimore.

2010s

Leah C. Dempsey, J.D., ’10, joined the Credit Union National Association as senior director of advocacy and counsel in May.

A. Michelle Gomola, J.D., ’10, joined Wright, Constable & Skeen in Baltimore in June.

Cynthia M. Gage, B.S., ’11, joined the firm of Hayes, Stier, Fountain & Kahalos in Easton, Maryland, as an associate in February.


Tiffany S. Stephens, B.S., ’05, was appointed acting deputy director of human resources for Hartford County, Maryland, in April.

Maurice “Maury” LaPointe, MBA, ’06, was inducted into the National Junior College Athletic Association Men’s Lacrosse Coaches Association’s Hall of Fame in May. He played for both Anne Arundel Community College and the University of Maryland, College Park.

Alicia N. Ritchie, J.D., ’06, was promoted to principal at Miles & Stockbridge in Baltimore in January.

Elizer Schwartz, MBA, ’06, is the director of marketing for the Asia-Pacific region for SurveyMonkey.

Matthew E. Feinberg, J.D., ’06, was named partner at Fishkin & Feinberg in Chevy Chase, Maryland, in May. He also was included as a 2015 Rising Star for Washington, D.C., by Super Lawyers magazine.

Garry F. Farley, B.S., ’09, M.P.A., ’09, is serving as an AmeriCorps volunteer for AARP Experience Corps in Baltimore.

Alex D. Tremble Jr., M.S., ’11, was appointed to serve on the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board’s Citizens Advisory Committee in January.

Elizabeth I. Best, M.S., ’12, authored and published her fifth nonfiction book, Workplace Bullying and You.

David Muncy, J.D., ’12, was named to The Daily Record’s 2015 list of 20 in Their Twenties.

Amanda Westveld, J.D., ’12, married Scott Plumer in the Netherlands in September.


Keenen Geter, B.A., ’13, was named to The Daily Record’s 2015 list of 20 in Their Twenties.

Jessica C. Moorer, M.F.A., ’13, is serving as president of the board of directors of the American Institute of Graphic Arts Colorado for the 2015-17 term.

Brooke J. Shemer, J.D., ’13, joined Ober|Kaler in Baltimore as an associate in April.

William C. Chapman, J.D., ’14, joined Ewing, Stier, Fountain & Kahalos in Easton, Maryland, as an associate in February.

Teresa E. Mack, B.A., ’14, published two books, The InHer Me in May 2014 and This Life, He Spoke ... , released on CD in June.

UB Alumni Honored for Commitment to Pro-Bono Legal Services

Two alumni received the William Reece Smith Jr. Special Services to Pro Bono Award May 9 from the National Association of Pro Bono Professionals for their outstanding commitment to and positive impact on pro-bono legal services.

William H. “Bill” Dorrill Jr., J.D., ’74, received a Daily Record’s 2015 list of 20 in Their Twenties, recognizing honorees’ professional accomplishments and civic involvement.
The Quito Her Heart

by Emily Brungo

Native Ecuadorian Alexandra De Guzman, M.S. ’93, admits she experienced some culture shock when she moved from Quito, the country’s capital, to the United States in 1990 to finish her schooling. Nestled in the Andes Mountains, Quito sits more than 9,000 feet above sea level; at the Inner Harbor, Baltimore has zero elevation. Baltimore’s climate is temperate; Quito’s weather is desert-like, with “very sunny days and very cold nights,” De Guzman says. Baltimore’s local delicacy is blue crabs. In Quito? Guinea pig—although De Guzman doesn’t partake. “I like soups—and ceviche,” she says.

Back in her homeland since 1993, De Guzman teaches negotiation and human resources management at Universidad de Las Américas while raising her teenage daughter and son. She also finds time to enjoy fabulous vistas like the one from El Panecillo, a mountain capped with a statue of the Virgin Mary that offers “the best view in all of Quito,” she raves. And, of course, there are the Galapagos Islands: “Ecuadorians call them the enchanted islands. … They are a treasure … nature at its very best,” she says.

Behind De Guzman, Quito and the surrounding hills are visible from El Panecillo, where visitors can take in “the best view in all of Quito,” she says.

Have you traveled abroad recently and snapped a photo of yourself wearing your UB gear? Send your photos to the UB Office of Alumni Relations, 1130 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21201 or to alumni@ubalt.edu. (And next time you head overseas, don’t forget to wear your UB apparel.)

Check it out:
www.ubalt.edu/ubmag

The University of Baltimore Magazine’s award-winning, user-friendly website allows you to read the latest issue from your desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone. Let us know what you think: Email us at alumni@ubalt.edu.

Find WebExtra bonus content online for the fall 2015 issue:

Find WebExtra bonus content online for the fall 2015 issue:

Come sail away: Michael Rodriguez, B.S. ’94, shows off the MV Cape Washington, a 637-foot cargo ship.

Congrats to our inaugural winner, Angeliki Frangos, M.A. ’04, and thanks for showing off your prize on Twitter!

Share a selfie with your copy of the UB Magazine using hashtag #ubalt. We’ll choose one entry at random to win a fun UB prize, and the winner will be announced in the next issue of the magazine.

Follow UB.

Want to stay up to date on the latest news, events and opportunities? Follow us on any or all of our social networks:

www.facebook.com/universitybaltimore
www.facebook.com/UBAlumniAssociation
http://www.linkedin.com/edu/school?id=18565 or search for “University of Baltimore” at www.linkedin.com/edu
www.twitter.com/eubiebee or @eubiebee
www.instagram.com/eubiealumni or @eubiealumni

Join the conversation and share your UB story by using hashtag ubalt. Learn more (and get some free UB digital swag) at www.ubalt.edu/socialmedia.
Sometimes a single moment can catalyze a life. For Keenen Geter, B.A. ’13, it arrived Oct. 8, 2011. He was on his way to a University of Baltimore student government retreat when he fell asleep behind the wheel. His car drifted off the highway, flipped and landed with a sudden jolt.

His injuries were minor, but he recalls sitting in the hospital grappling with the significance of the event. “I thought, ‘What if I had died without ever having given back to the community?’” says Geter, who completed an undergraduate degree in jurisprudence and is now finishing a Master of Public Administration degree at UB.

Shortly afterward, he founded Young Men With POWER (which stands for Purpose, Optimism, Wisdom, Engagement and Responsibility), a nonprofit that helps Baltimore-area boys in grades 5-9 develop the confidence and skills needed to become responsible young men who contribute to their communities.

Geter built his team from a trusted circle of friends who shared his vision and passion. Together, they developed a yearlong program that pairs boys with mentors and features a community-service project and 16 workshops—held on the UB campus—on topics such as financial literacy, college prep, leadership and public speaking.

They recruited participants through emails, word of mouth and a booth at a local anti-bullying summit. Twenty boys enrolled the first year, and a total of 52 have completed the program since its launch in 2012.

Raised by a single mom, Baltimore native Geter chose to help young men because he understands firsthand the challenges they face and the influences that can help lead them down the right road.

“Although she was a single parent, my mom worked and inspired me to get an education, to stay focused and to get a good job and career,” Geter says. “She also got me into programs that kept me on a straight path.”

His path has led to accomplishments that include serving as a mayoral fellow for Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, as a White House intern under President Barack Obama, as a constituent services representative in U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski’s office and, currently, as a community coordinator in the Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office.

Geter’s future plans include becoming a lawyer so he can serve as a legal advocate for youth or for a government agency.

“I plan on going to law school at the University of Baltimore,” he says. “So that’s how much I love the University—all my degrees will be from UB.”
a sample of the 1,000-plus flies in Associate Professor Don Haynes’ fishing collection