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UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAGAZINE • FALL 2018

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## BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

Accomplished Women  
Pursue UB's MBA Program  
for Career Advancement

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## BOOK ART: DOS-à-DOS

Here we highlight the book art of **L. Nef'fahtiti 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 change-makers, who are giving back as well as providing inspiration and a helping hand.

Even our campus brand has evolved to better reflect who we are and where we're going. You'll notice that the magazine looks different too, with a refreshed design that complements our new look.

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



MBA student Taylor Jenkins (above) and Renee Christoff, MBA '91 (cover) are profiled in the feature on women in UB's MBA program (page 14)

Above:  
Chris Myers

Right:  
Harry Campbell

Top Left:  
Bruce Morser

Cover Photo:  
Chris Myers

Previous spread:  
Justin Tsucalas

DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

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

WEB EXTRA

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



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## Finding the Words

BY JARED BREY

By his own admission, **Kondwani Fidel** skated through grade school. When he was very young, an aunt would give him \$20 every time he got an A, so the East Baltimore native figured out how to do the work. Later he found ways to stay afloat—finessing his teachers to let him hand in work late, even cheating.

“I never saw the importance of education,” Fidel says. But he was willing to listen: “When adults or anyone spoke about it, they’d say, ‘Get good grades because that’s the right thing to do. You want a good job, you’ve got to get a high school diploma.’”

Now, with four years at Virginia State University and a year in UB’s M.F.A. in Creative Writing & Publishing Arts program under his belt, his perspective has changed. In 2015, a video of Fidel performing one of his poems in a Baltimore classroom where he was substitute teaching—about growing up with drug-addicted parents and murdered friends—went viral. His gut-wrenching essay, “How a young boy has been decaying in Baltimore since age 10: A Death Note,” on Medium.com was read more than 100,000 times in the first month after it was published.

In 2017, Fidel released a book called *Raw Wounds* to acclaim from prominent writers and civil rights activists, and his newest collection *Hummingbirds in the Trenches* debuted last summer. His essays and poems are written either for the page, for live performance, or



REGINALD THOMAS II

**“Before I’m a good artist, before I’m a good performer, I’m a good listener. I listen to everything. I listen to everybody around me.”**

for both. Fidel is also the subject of a new documentary by Jackson Tisi (available on his website, kondwanifidel.com) in which he narrates a journey through his experiences and neighborhood.

He credits his literary awakening to fellow Baltimore writer and UB professor **D. Watkins B.A. ’09, M.F.A. ’14**. “When I got introduced to him in 2015, this was my first time seeing a guy that came from my neighborhood, that looked like

me, talked like me, walked like me in these positions where you don’t normally see people like that,” he says. “That’s why I always talk about how much representation matters.”

His M.F.A. studies haven’t necessarily made him a better writer yet, he says, but have made him a better reader: looking at poems line by line, deconstructing meaning at the level of the phrase as well as the full scale of a finished work. He thinks about recording spoken word more, and he wants to get more creative with storytelling, maybe even work on children’s books.

Reading has been his ticket to a life in art, and he wants to pass it on. “People ask me all the time, what makes you different [from the peers you grew up with]?” he says. “We are no different. I am them, they are me. I stumbled across some opportunities that’s not afforded to everybody in my community.

### BIO

#### KONDWANI FIDEL

- Author of *Raw Wounds*
- VSU Alum
- University of Baltimore M.F.A. Student
- Instagram/Twitter/Snapchat: @KondwaniFidel

LEFT: **Kondwani Fidel** performs live in his “*Pieces of a G*” show at the Downtown Cultural Arts Center.

And lucky enough, I used those opportunities to my advantage, to pull myself from out the gutter.

And before I’m a good artist, before I’m a good performer, I’m a good listener,” he continues. “I listen to everything. I listen to everybody around me. And I’m good at taking advice, and I believe that’s one of the main reasons that got me where I am today.”

*Jared Brey is a writer based in Philadelphia.*

#### JOY AND ANGER

by Kondwani Fidel

**Timidness awards you two Black eyes  
Ever wonder why I’m the “angry Black guy”**

**Confidence awards you,  
You  
Your flesh might burn  
Your blood might churn  
But...you’ll be what everyone else wants, which is to be themselves**

**Slouches can’t survive monsoons  
You have to be hotter than fire or stronger than water, where i come from**

**Die a coward or get crowned  
Your crown might have thorns but boy the joy of being a King.**

WEB EXTRA

## Dino Psychology

BY KYLE FIERSTIEN

You might not expect a scholarly study by two psychology professors to involve a theory about why dinosaurs became extinct. Yet UB’s **Michael Frederick**,

along with Gordon G. Gallup, Jr., of the University at Albany, State University of New York, recently published “The demise of dinosaurs and learned taste aversion: The biotic revenge hypothesis.”

“I knew when we decided to write this paper that there’s no shortage of research on dinosaur extinction, and there are plenty of expert paleontologists out there,” says Frederick, assistant professor in the Division of Applied Behavioral Sciences in the Yale Gordon College of Arts and Sciences. “And yet, here’s me and Gordon.”

Populations of large herbivorous dinosaurs were shrinking even before a massive asteroid impact cemented their extinction. The pair’s hypothesis describes a scenario in which the development of alkaloid toxins in flowers left dinosaurs, who required massive amounts of food each day, no choice but to poison themselves.

To develop their theory they looked at research on aversive behavior—the natural, defensive reaction that, for instance, causes humans to react negatively to the taste of tequila after a night of too many margaritas. Based on studies of animals that are evolutionarily related to dinosaurs, such as crocodiles and birds, they believe that dinosaurs were very likely unable to develop aversive behaviors in relation to their food.

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

Frederick’s work falls under a field of psychological study called history theory, which investigates the life circumstances of an individual to determine causes of different psychological traits.

“It explains these quirks in behavior that seem maladaptive,” says Frederick, “but then when you really lay them out and think about it there’s this underlying logic that does make sense.” In a current study he’s looking at capillary samples to make a measure of lifetime stress, which can be used to gauge harshness of living conditions from neighborhood to neighborhood.

According to Frederick, there’s more work that can be done to solidify the biotic revenge hypothesis. “There’s the potential to find remnants of toxic plants in fossilized dinosaur guts—that would be really powerful. We know that flowers were emerging, and we think the alkaloid toxins were developed around that time or spreading.



**“There’s the potential to find remnants of toxic plants in fossilized dinosaur guts—that would be really powerful.”**

MICHAEL FREDERICK

“It’s a hypothesis that flows into testable predictions that we can actually look at,” he continues. “If future studies help us explain our observations a little better, that’s a step forward. And if not, well, we explored it and ruled it out. Either way, I’ll be happy.”

*Kyle Fierstien is a senior at UB, majoring in English with a specialty in professional writing.*

### TOP MARKS!

UB’S RANKING OF

#41

NATIONWIDE OF THE TOP 150 MASTER’S UNIVERSITIES makes it the best performing public institution in Maryland

SOURCE: Washington Monthly’s annual College Guide & Rankings, 2018

### UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE MAGAZINE

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Office of Institutional Advancement

**Executive Editor**  
Kate Crimmins

**Assistant Editor**  
Alli Hedden, M.A. ’14

**Managing Editor**  
Paula Novash

**Design**  
Skelton Sprouls

**Photographers/Illustrators**  
Harry Campbell  
JJ Chrystal  
Sarah Davis  
Chris Hartlove  
Bruce Morser  
Chris Myers  
Ron Solomon  
Reginald Thomas II  
Justin Tsucalas

**Contributing Writers**  
Jared Brey  
Abigail Green, M.A. ’01  
Christianna McCausland  
Tim Paggi, M.F.A. ’15

**Staff Contributors**  
Adam Leatherman  
Kristi Moore

**Student Contributor**  
Kyle Fierstien

**Editorial Advisors**  
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JJ Chrystal  
Danielle Giles  
Chris Hart  
Michelle Junot, M.F.A. ’14  
Adam Leatherman  
Catherine Leidemer, M.A. ’11  
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**University President**  
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**Vice President for Institutional Advancement**  
Theresa Silanskis, M.P.A. ’95

**Comments, Suggestions & Inquiries:**  
Office of Alumni Relations  
University of Baltimore  
1130 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21201-5779  
410.837.6131 / alumni@ubalt.edu  
ubalt.edu

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BATSTATS!

- **1939:** first appears in *Detective Comics*
- **1940:** “Dynamic Duo” debut of sidekick Robin
- **1952:** first collaboration with Superman
- **1966:** TV series with Adam West
- **1989:** Tim Burton’s film *Batman*
- **2008:** Christopher Nolan’s *Dark Knight*

# Bam Pow Zap: *It’s the Caped Crusader!*

BY TIM PAGGI, M.F.A. ’15

Professor **Steven Leyva, M.F.A. ’12**, turned heads in academic circles when UB announced his new Media Studies class, “The Evolution of Batman.” Why devote an entire course to a character from comic books and popcorn movies?

“Batman is just cool!” exclaims Leyva, assistant professor in the Klein Family School of Communications Design. “But seriously. Who would say it’s not worthy of study if it’s been around for 80 years? People have done so many takes that you’d be hard-pressed not to call Batman literary, and its longevity suggests that something about it fascinates our culture.”

He adds, “The Bat Symbol is one of the most recognized symbols globally. It’s ubiquitous. It might be more recognized than McDonald’s arches.”

After the course was “unmasked,” Leyva was interviewed by notable pop culture and media blogs Gizmodo and Nerdist, and received an invitation to participate in a panel at the 2019 “Batman and Pop Culture” conference at Bowling Green University in Ohio.

He’s eager to discuss the particulars of Batman’s history with his students—to, say, compare differences between director Christopher Nolan’s gloomy 2008 hit “The Dark Knight” and Adam West’s eponymous campy 60’s television romp. However, to Leyva, the study of Batman provides a gateway to



**“My hope is that students see how a pop-culture artifact can be used to learn about society.”**

STEVEN LEYVA

outlets in the modern economy need content. In order to do that, you have to know how to analyze.”

Leyva is also a poet and editor of the literary journal *Little Patuxent Review*. He is currently putting the finishing touches on his next poetry manuscript; he published his first collection, *Low Parish*, in 2012.

But for now, he is focused on Batman—and he finds the unique qualities of this superhero particularly interesting. “Batman at his core is a twelve-year-old boy saying ‘I’m going to do something about crime.’ That’s something we can relate to. People believe deeply, in an uncynical way, that they can do something about what is wrong in the world—that they can take up the mission and the mission might save them.”

*Tim Paggi, M.F.A. ’15, is a writer based in Baltimore.*

LEFT: **Adam West as Batman circa 1966**

professional opportunities through focused and fun critical analysis.

“My hope is that students see how a pop-culture artifact can be used to learn about society—to turn a hobby or obsession not just into something you do on the weekends, but something that is academic study and potentially something you can get a job out of,” he says. “So many websites and

STATS ON PLASTICS\*

- **1.5 MILLION POUNDS** of trash
- **638,262** plastic bottles
- **737,025** polystyrene containers
- **522,603** grocery bags
- **728,411** chip bags

\* Collected by Baltimore’s Inner Harbor Water Wheel since 2014

# 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 638,262 plastic bottles, 737,025 polystyrene containers, 522,603 grocery bags and 728,411 chip bags washed down the Jones Falls Watershed.”

It’s a huge amount of trash and a huge problem, says **Stanley Kemp**, associate professor in UB’s Yale Gordon College of Arts and Sciences and director of the Environmental Sustainability and Human Ecology program. Kemp has witnessed firsthand the negative effects of plastics pollution here in Baltimore, especially in the Jones Falls River. “You might think, Jones Falls without clean water is just bad for fish,” Kemp reasons. “But quite frankly, do we not all need to drink clean water?”

For the last nine years, Kemp has organized a Jones Fall 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 wreak havoc. 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

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

TERESE THONUS

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 trees, 12 million barrels 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 recycle. “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.*

BRAGS

UB’S SCHOOL OF LAW IS RANKED

**3rd**

IN THE NATION FOR PLACING GRADUATES INTO STATE JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

**28.57% of 2017 UB graduates moved on to clerkships within the state**

SOURCE: *Law.com*

GREENWALL GRANT

Professor **Natalie Ram** is conducting further research into issues related to DNA use with a \$279,074 grant from the Greenwall Foundation as a Greenwall Faculty Scholar in Bioethics.

The Scholars program supports interdisciplinary and bioethics research with the goal of helping to resolve pressing ethical issues, inform biomedical knowledge and enhance public policy.

# The Risky Business of Sharing DNA

BY KRISTI MOORE

In April police arrested Joseph James DeAngelo, a man they believe to be the notorious Golden State Killer—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.

between use of that data by law enforcement to solve crimes and use of their DNA to track down their relatives,” she says.

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.

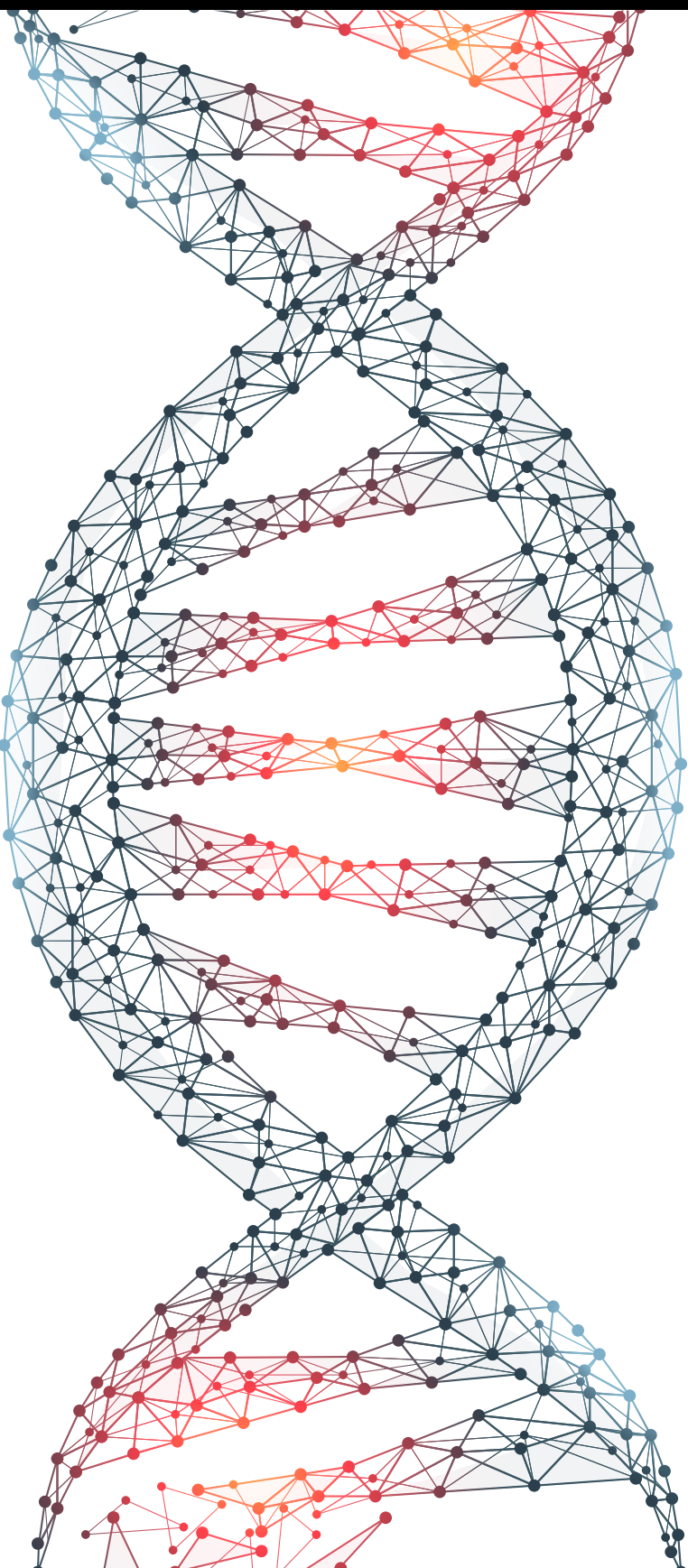
Currently Maryland and Washington, D.C. are the only jurisdictions in the United States where law enforcement is prohibited from using DNA of family members to identify suspects, Ram explains. That legislation, however, is limited to only government-run databases and would not exclude police from using 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.

Police have long relied on criminal DNA databases in their investigations. But using DNA which has been voluntarily provided for the purpose of contacting family members raises new questions, says **Natalie Ram**, assistant professor of law at the University of Baltimore School of Law. “I suspect until the Golden State Killer arrest very few people had given a lot of thought to the difference



Natalie Ram



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?”



Charles Tumosa

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.”

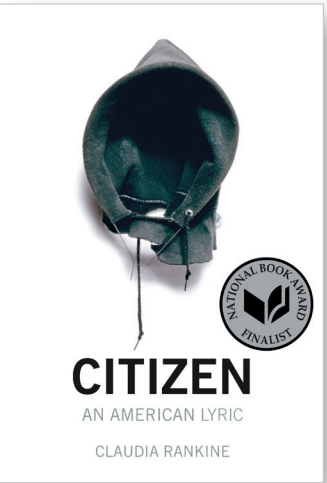
NATALIE RAM

Whether police investigators acted 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 gives 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.”

*Kristi Moore is a writer based in Baltimore and the digital content specialist in UB’s Office of Marketing and Creative Services.*

DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK



Rankine’s 2014 book of poetry is the subject of Baltimore’s Big Read, thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The Big Read program encourages conversation, discovery and understanding among participants through, as its website explains, “the joy of sharing a good book.”

UB, through the Robert L. Bogomolny Library, is one of 79 nonprofit organizations across the country to receive an NEA Big Read grant to host a community reading program. Thanks to an additional Fund for Excellence grant from the University of Baltimore Foundation, Rankine will visit campus on Thursday, March 7, 2019, for a reading and book signing.

“The University of Baltimore’s Big Read series is a great way to bring together teachers and students, adults and children alike, to share in a book that reminds us of the power we hold in our democracy,” says UB President Kurt L. Schmoke. “Every person counts, and every person is part of something larger. As an institution for higher education in the city, UB has always believed in that message.”

The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support opportunities for communities



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!**

across the nation, both small and large, to take part in the NEA Big Read,” says NEA Acting Chairman Mary Anne 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.



**CELEBRATE THE BIG READ WITH CLAUDIA RANKINE!**  
Author of *Citizen: An American Lyric*

Reading and book signing **Thurs., March 7, 2019**

Byron L. Warnken  
Moot Court Room  
John and Frances Angelos Law Center  
University of Baltimore  
1401 N. Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

For more information, visit [blogs.ubalt.edu/neabigread](https://blogs.ubalt.edu/neabigread).

DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

LIBRARY PROFILE 2017

- 107,957 walk in visitors
- 12,792 questions answered
- 16,740 materials circulated
- 300,736 database searches
- 107,876 website visitors
- 90,877 Special Collections Flickr views

# UB Library: Then and Now

A library is the academic heart of a university, a place that fosters a sense of community and collaboration. At UB, Langsdale Library served us well. Originally constructed in 1965 and named for one of our founders, R. Loran 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 man who served as president of UB from 2002-2014, features open floor plans that better adapt to the needs of our users. Its expansive space and natural light provide a welcoming atmosphere, and additional exterior and interior improvements



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

The new building also houses the Achievement and Learning Center’s academic success programs, including tutoring, the Writing Center and the Mathematics Learning Center. Then and now, our library is the physical and digital nexus for learning, information access and knowledge creation at UB. **B**

 DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK



BRAGS

ORIGINAL WORKS BY

8

MEMBERS OF THE UB COMMUNITY WERE FEATURED AT THE BALTIMORE BOOK FESTIVAL IN SEPTEMBER

# Get Out the Vote

UB Students Come Out on Top in *ALL IN* Voting Challenge

BY PAULA NOVASH

Election season provides ample evidence that 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 56 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 360 colleges and universities 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 70 percent of our students registered and casting ballots.

“We often associate young people with apathy around the issue of voting,” says **Anthony Butler M.A. ’02**, 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.

STATS ON VOTING

- Nationwide, in the 2016 Presidential election:
- 56% of eligible voters participated
  - Voting rate was 63.3% for women; 59.3% for men
  - More than 20 million eligible adults weren’t registered to vote
- **Currently more than 70% of UB students report they are registered, and vote**



**“We are seeing a tangible excitement on campus, especially among our students who will be eligible to vote for the first time.”**

ANTHONY BUTLER

And many of our students are older and involved in their communities already. ”

The OTCE is providing non-partisan opportunities to increase voter participation, explains **Pavan Purswani**, coordinator of Transition Programs. “We want to give our students resources to understand the voting process,” he says.

The office recently launched a website where voting resources are easily accessible: included are links to state and city voter information and polling locations, contact information for legislators and suggestions for how to effectively contact them to weigh in on an issue, among other information. “It’s a one-stop shop for civic engagement,” explains Purswani. “Voting is a great first step—then we all need skills to evaluate what we hear in the media, research issues we’re passionate about and participate in the conversation.”

For the first time this year, the office received funding for two part time Andrew Goodman fellows (the program is named for a civil rights-era activist who was killed while working to help people register to vote). Goodman fellows facilitate voter education activities and outreach on campus

and in the community; among the events this fall are lectures and debates, as well as trips for students to meet legislators and learn more about how the Maryland government functions.

Having such an engaged university is 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.” **B**

For the most updated information, access [ubalt.edu/vote](http://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

**SAM ROSE**  
• Dickinson College alumnus  
• LL.B., University of Baltimore  
• Founding partner, Greenebaum & Rose Associates  
• Philanthropist, activist, art collector

# Art of Living

SAM ROSE, LL.B. '62

BY PAULA NOVASH

**S**am 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, Miró, 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 Dickenson College (a celebrated lacrosse player, he set up the winning goal for Dickenson's only national championship in 1958). 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 before finding the winner: 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 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 Dickenson 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." **B**

*Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.*

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

WEB EXTRA

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.



CHRISTOPHER MYERS



Her MBA studies “raise the stakes,” says Taylor Jenkins. The degree is “even more important now... to advance in your career.”

COVER STORY

UB'S MBA PROGRAM IS  
ATTRACTING MORE WOMEN  
THAN AVERAGE TO THE STILL  
MALE-DOMINATED DEGREE

# BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

BY CHRISTIANNA McCAUSLAND  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS MYERS

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. >>



Tracy Imm says her MBA has been instrumental in every job offer and promotion she's received since.

**“ONCE YOU HAVE THAT DEGREE AND CAN SPEAK THAT LANGUAGE, YOU GET A SEAT AT THE TABLE WHERE STRATEGIC DECISIONS ARE MADE.” —TRACY IMM**

This dearth of female executives coupled with ongoing pay disparity complicate the business school landscape. Research by the Forté Foundation states that women still account for only 17 percent of boardroom positions and 4.8 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 standing as “a professional 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 essential; 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)

**W**hen Imm was appointed by the governor to her current post at MIA in 2016, 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 give back.

When an executive training program offered to fund her MBA, Imm chose UB because the convenient location and the richness of the program appealed to her. She says the degree has been instrumental in every job offer and promotion she's received since.

“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 communications manager. It's been a competitive differentiator. Once you have that degree and can speak that language, you get a seat at the table where strategic decisions are made.”

Two years ago, Imm started a consulting practice, Tracy Imm Worldwide, to provide executive coaching and leadership training for women. She's also authored *The Brave Girls Guide to Work That You Love* and *Conquer Shame and Claim Success: Three Keys to Abundance, 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 generation 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

**R**enee Christoff was halfway through an MBA program in New York when her husband's job moved them to Baltimore. Christoff was working in finance, though her academic background was in political science and she had a Master's degree in European History.

“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 opportunities for her to build her local business network. She states that the professors were “rock solid” and brought a diversity 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

**“BECAUSE I HAD SUCH A LIBERAL ARTS BACKGROUND I PURSUED THE MBA TO LEVERAGE THE OTHER SIDE OF MY BRAIN.” —RENEE CHRISTOFF**



Renee Christoff took an international marketing class and one of the speakers ignited her interest.

of employee satisfaction and develop programs to support employee experience and engagement. She also creates 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 different cultures and backgrounds and how you make that work in a diverse corporate culture.”

#### MICHELLE BOARDMAN, MBA '08

Senior Manager, Branding & Publications, Global  
Engagement & Communications, Jhpiego

**B**oardman'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

**“THEY COULD SEE THE LEAP I COULD MAKE FROM THE ART WORLD TO GLOBAL HEALTH, IN PART BECAUSE OF THE MBA.”**

—MICHELLE BOARDMAN



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

Museum of Art (BMA) with an eye to moving up in administration. A colleague from the Allentown Museum suggested she obtain her MBA.

“He strongly urged me to go back and get an MBA in nonprofit management because nonprofits were becoming increasingly savvy about operating by standard business practices,” she explains. “Part of that pressure was coming from their boards, which were comprised of executives. It was important to be able to speak to them on their level.”

She entered the UB program in 2001 and took courses for years at night and on weekends, eventually graduating with a 4.0. She describes UB as “a motivational place,” where everyone was balancing work and family with their schooling, and where she discovered that she could excel in the finance and math classes she never imagined she would enjoy. No sooner had she received her MBA than she was promoted at the BMA.

Eight years later, after the 2016 election, Boardman decided it was time to career shift again, this time to an organization working to better the world. She was hired at Jhpiego, a non-governmental organization

(NGO) affiliated with Johns Hopkins University. Its 4,000 employees work on health issues facing women and families around the globe.

“I wouldn’t be where I am today without the MBA,” she states definitively. “I went after one of the largest NGOs in Baltimore, one doing innovative work, and they could see the leap I could make from the art world to global health, in part because of the MBA.”

#### TAYLOR JENKINS

*Marketing assistant, Humentum; current MBA student*

**T**aylor 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 non-profit, 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’s able to take a combination of online and on-campus courses so she can manage work and school. “I think there’s a misconception that you don’t get as much out of online course work,” she notes, “but it’s extremely challenging—you must be very focused.”

She adds that UB is working hard to break down the stereotype that business is male dominated. “There is support for everyone, in general,” she says. “You see a diversity of men and women even when you go to the website to apply. As I’ve been there taking classes I’ve always felt respected and valued. There may not be as many women in class but I’ve never felt intimidated.”

Jenkins is still figuring out her future. She likes her current work in digital marketing but she also aspires to start her own business. “That’s one of the things I really appreciate about this program,” she explains. “It gives me the flexibility to stick with marketing, which I love, but also gives me the potential to do my own thing.”

#### J. M. KITNER

*Current MBA student*

**K**itner always knew she wanted to get her MBA. However, when she completed her undergraduate degree in 2008 in an economy in shambles, 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 education 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 bossy, for example—and that holds women back,” she explains. “Historically speaking, the world I’m in has 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.” **B**

*Christianna McCausland is a writer based in Baltimore.*

**“THERE IS STILL A GLASS CEILING. I FEEL THAT ADDITIONAL EDUCATION WILL REDUCE THAT FOR ME.”**

—J. M. KITNER



J.M. Kitner expects the MBA will give her greater flexibility and marketability as she navigates her career path.



HARRY CAMPBELL

# THE POWER OF A HELPING HAND

BY PAULA NOVASH

**"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."*

## A NEW START: THE SECOND CHANCE COLLEGE PROGRAM

When UB undergraduate **Marcus Lilly**, 36, came to campus, he had some of the first-day jitters that most students experience. But Lilly brought with him the confidence that comes from being a veteran student: For more than a year, he had been attending UB classes at the Jessup Correctional Institution through the University's Second Chance College Program.

"Prison can make you feel like an outcast," Lilly says. "The program helped me believe I belonged in a classroom."

A 2016 Experimental Sites Initiative of the United States Department of Education's Pell Grant program, Second Chance provides post-secondary education to incarcerated students. Research shows that those who participate in educational programs while incarcerated have a significantly better chance of successfully transitioning into society and finding employment, as well as lower rates of recidivism.

**"EDUCATION CHANGES YOUR WORLDVIEW AND MINDSET. YOU FEEL EMPOWERED IN MANY AREAS: AS A PARENT, A WORKER, A COMMUNITY LEADER."**

MARCUS LILLY



LEFT TO RIGHT: Andrea Cantora, Latonya Epps, and 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—attend 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 "welcoming the students to campus—being able to see 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 is to see people do better," he says. And, he continues, having opportunities to help others, especially at-risk youth, is important to him: "I feel I owe that to the guys still inside, who are dedicated to changing their lives."

 DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

## A TOOLBOX FOR CHANGE: THE ROPER VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACADEMY OF MARYLAND

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 1982, 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 advo-

**"OUR GOAL IS TO GIVE SERVICE PROVIDERS TOOLS TO MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE AND EMPOWER THEM IN WHATEVER WAY IS RIGHT FOR THEM."**

DEBRA STANLEY



JJ CHRYSTAL

cacy 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.

"We cover current policies and procedures, legislation, best practices and other developments in victim services and victim's rights," Stanley explains. In addition to a 500-page manual of resources that is updated yearly, the program incorporates role playing, art therapy, case studies and other hands-on techniques that involve participants.


Staying on site at facilities such as Bon Secours Conference Center in Marriottsville, Maryland (the site of the summer 2018 training) is key to the program's effectiveness, says Suzy Boisclair. Boisclair, who is the Supervisor of the Victim Services Unit of the Frederick Police Department in Maryland, attended the Academy in 2012. "The residential format is so valuable," she says. "It allows you to go into depth with a variety of key topics, and build relationships and professional ties."

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."

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. "Our goal is to give service providers tools to meet people where they are and empower them in whatever way is right for them" 

*Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.*

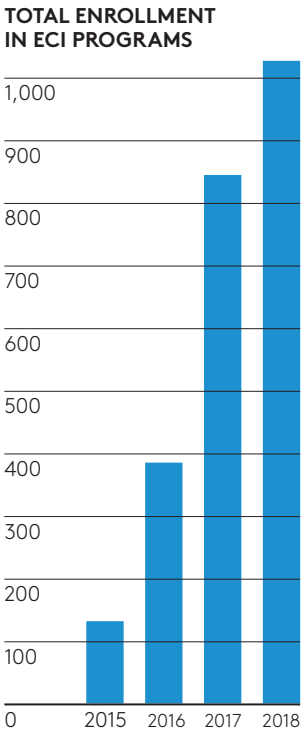
LEFT: Debra Stanley



# JUMP STARTING THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

UB'S COLLEGE READINESS PROGRAMS GIVE STUDENTS A BOOST AND STRENGTHEN THE CITY'S SCHOOL SYSTEMS

BY ABIGAIL GREEN, M.A. '01  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS HARTLOVE



Left: I'man Brooks, a student at the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women, in ECI class.

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. >>



ECI alumni (left to right) Richard Nwokeji, Kimberlee Jenkins, and Verna Agyei-Obese join program director John Brenner (second from right).

“We had close to 400 students on campus in summer 2018,” says **John Brenner, B.A. ’01, MBA ’16**, director of the ECI program. “It makes for a lively atmosphere.”

These students are attending classes taught by UB professors. High school students follow the same curriculum as UB freshmen. They can earn one college credit for completing a UB course, with a choice of Introduction to Video Game Design or Racial and Social Justice. Seventh- and eighth-graders take a non-credit version of these classes, and additional course offerings are planned for summer 2019.

The ECI program also runs a 10-week College Readiness Academy throughout the school year that prepares students in city high schools to be better equipped to enter college by introducing them to college-level math and writing. Students who do well may be eligible for the Dual Enrollment program, which allows them to take college courses while still in high school—and earn college credits in the process. “Earning credit adds value to the offerings. It’s more motivation for the students,” says Brenner.

What started as an underfunded after-school program in a single high school has exploded into an

**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.**

ever-expanding initiative with nearly a dozen nonprofit partners that now serves more than 400 middle and high school students throughout Baltimore. In a city with a high school dropout rate of more than 13 percent, the expansion of UB’s programs is important and encouraging.

**AN UNLIKELY CHAMPION**

Brenner joined the program in 2015 and his dedication and leadership are motivated by personal experience. He was born and raised in Baltimore City and came from a blue-collar family that did not prioritize education. “No male in my family had a high school diploma,” he says. “Attending college was an alien concept.”

So when Brenner decided to drop out of school at age 16, no one objected. He expected to get a good factory job like his father’s. But times had changed; Brenner soon discovered that without a high school diploma, he couldn’t get any job at all. Like many people he grew up with, he says, he was headed down a bad path. He describes himself at that time as “a different person.”

“When I saw, this is going to end really fast, really badly, I decided to get my GED,” says Brenner. “I went to the library, got books, studied on my own.” When he received his excellent test scores, he recalls, “I was blown away. I really didn’t know what my potential was.” That was all the motivation he needed to continue his education. He remembers thinking, “I must be meant to do something more.”

Brenner went on to earn his associate’s degree in fine arts from Baltimore City Community College—maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout—followed by a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies from UB, a master of liberal arts from St. John’s College in Annapolis, and an MBA from UB. With a laugh he says, “I just kept going, following my passions, and never stopped.”

That’s not to say it was easy. Brenner worked his way through school mostly as a part-time student, first working in gas stations at night and later tutoring and teaching at any college that would hire him, including UB. “I put myself through St. John’s teaching as an adjunct at five different colleges,” he says. The sacrifices were worth it. From the first time he stepped onto a college campus, he recalls, “Everything changed—I was around people like me.”

Brenner was working as an assistant in the ECI program when his supervisor left in 2015. He seized the opportunity to grow the program by reaching out to people and forging new relationships. Now

ECI 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 schoolers who attend the Summer Academy are also supported in other ways; they are registered for YouthWorks, a summer employment program for Baltimore students 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 **Olusegun Aje**, a 2017 graduate of UB’s M.S. in Nonprofit Management and Social Entrepreneurship program. Aje, whose goal is to become a college professor one day, taught middle schoolers in the 2018 Summer Academy.

“The program is really important because a lot of these students have the capacity to be successful college students, but they already struggle with self-esteem issues,” says Aje. “So for some of them, the idea of going to college may not seem attainable and it may not necessarily be something they push hard for after graduation.”

Aje has already seen what exposure to a college campus, course and professors can do for students. “When I see the students who are totally engaged, who get it, that’s an opportunity for me to say, ‘UB, this is somebody right here you should put a lot of time and attention into.’ I know once they get into college they’re going to be great.”

**A HEAD START ON COLLEGE CREDIT**

Brenner considers ECI’s Dual Enrollment program, now in its ninth year, to be its core offering. The program sends UB adjunct professors into high schools in Baltimore City to teach courses in writing and math. Students can earn three college credits by taking the same courses as UB freshmen.

In 2017, 370 students took part in the Dual Enrollment program. By Spring 2019, Brenner anticipates ECI will be in 18 of the 39 public high schools in

**“When I see the students who are totally engaged, who get it, that’s an opportunity for me to say, ‘UB, this is somebody right here you should put a lot of time and attention into.’”** —OLUSEGUN AJE

Baltimore City, and he has no intention of stopping there. “I think we can make a bigger impact,” he says. “My vision is to offer college credit options to every high school student in the city.”

A huge financial catalyst for ECI occurred in August 2016, says Brenner, when the University System of Maryland (USM) Chancellor’s office launched an initiative called B-Power that provided funding to UB and Coppin State. This kicked off a chain reaction in which ECI began attracting private sector funding and philanthropy, doubling the USM investment. The program receives significant support from private and foundation donations to UB, including from Robert Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker, Legg Mason, the Shelter Foundation and the SunTrust Foundation. (Students, parents and schools pay nothing to participate in ECI.)

It’s become clear that ECI directly benefits UB, too, as students begin to graduate from high school and enroll there. And Brenner notes that if they don’t come to UB, ECI graduates tend to go to another USM school. Many of them are first-generation college students, just as he was, although he says these students are already way ahead of him: “They’re entering college with half their freshmen credits and two graduate requirements that they’ve already knocked off. And they do well in the courses.”

This is especially significant given the city’s low college enrollment statistics. According to Baltimore City Public Schools’ most recent data, less than half of high school students continue their education immediately after graduation: only 43.6 percent of the Class of 2015 enrolled in college by the following fall.

Whether ECI graduates go on to earn several more degrees like he did or go straight into the work force doesn’t matter to Brenner. “I just don’t want them to disappear. One in four students in the city don’t show up in college rolls or in work force rolls after they graduate high school,” he says, noting that he was one of those students in danger of slipping through the cracks. “I’m hoping that we can show them you don’t have to be the one in four. You can be among the three in four.” **B**

*Abigail Green, M.A. ’01, is a writer based in Baltimore.*



ECI instructor Katie Graul leads a class of students from the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women.

## A Sense of Home

JENNY OWENS, D.S. '15

BY PAULA NOVASH

**T**he 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 Interaction 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.

### BIO

#### JENNY OWENS

- D.S., University of Baltimore
- UMB faculty executive director of the Graduate Research Innovation District (Grid)
- One of Baltimore Business Journal's "40 under 40"

### Hosts for Humanity connects families and friends of patients with volunteers who offer them accommodations in their homes.

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 45 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." **B**

*Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.*

RIGHT: Jenny Owens in her Roland Park neighborhood.



CHRIS HARTLOVE

# CLASS NOTES\*

\*Class notes featured were received from June 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018

## 1960s

**Ronald J. Belinko, B.A. '66**, was inducted into the National Inter-scholastic Athletic Administrators Association Hall of Fame at the 48th annual National Athletic Directors Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, in December 2017.

**Gerard F. Devlin, J.D. '69**, a retired district court judge, was present at the Maryland Court of Appeals to witness the swearing in of his granddaughter, Kathleen Seifert, J.D. '17, as a member of the Maryland State Bar Association in December 2017.

## 1970s

**John S. Nosek, B.S. '73, M.P.A. '84, CERT '88**, retired in December 2017 after 24 years as executive director at Greensboro (North Carolina) Orthopaedics, PA.

**Stuart J. Robinson, J.D. '74**, was presented with the Worldwide Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by Marquis Who's Who in September 2017.

**Nathaniel Fick, J.D. '75**, is training at Pepperdine Law-Stratus Dispute Resolution Center as he shifts into full-time mediation and alternative dispute resolution after 42 years of civil litigation. He was recertified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy in 2017.

**Colonel John E. Gavrilis, B.S. '75**, was presented with the Crime Suppression Award in June for lowering crime on the Maryland Transit Administration system by 53 percent since 2013.

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



**Byron L. Warken, J.D. '77**, the School of Law professor known to many as “Mr. UB,” retired in May after 45 years at the law school. He started as an evening student in 1973 and went on to help launch the careers of hundreds of attorneys. To honor his immeasurable contributions to UB and to celebrate his retirement, the moot court room in the Angelos Law Center is now known as the Byron L. Warnken Moot Court Room.

**Melanie C. Pereira, B.S. '77, J.D. '87**, joined The Lisa Mathena Group of Patterson-Schwartz Real Estate as a sales associate in May.

**Richard N. Burger, M.S. '78**, was appointed to Clipper Realty, Inc.'s board of directors as an independent director in February.

**Thomas E. Mazerski, M.S. '79**, was named director of Carroll Community College's Miller in May. Miller is Carroll County's (Maryland) go-to resource for entrepreneurs and small business owners who want to launch or build their business.

## 1980s

**Zippy Larson, B.A. '82**, a Baltimore native and tour guide, offered her skills to take 50 Baltimore City Police cadets on a bus tour of Baltimore to get an insider's look at the city they'll protect in December 2017.

**Bruce E. Talbot, M.S. '82**, sold AGI, Inc. which he co-founded in 1990, to Sandy Spring Bankcorp in August 2017.

**Kevin D. Thomas, J.D. '84**, was appointed senior vice president, Florida State manager and underwriting counsel, for Agents National Title Insurance Company in February.

**Kevin B. Cashen, MBA '88**, was named president and chief executive officer of Queenstown Bank of Maryland in May 2017.

**Isabel M. Cumming, MBA '89, J.D. '93**, was selected as Baltimore City's Inspector General in December 2017.

**Margaret “Peggy” King, J.D. '89**, was named to the Baltimore County

Human Relations Commission for a two-year term beginning December 2017.

## 1990s

**Scott Baker, B.S. '90, J.D. '95**, was named the Annapolis Police Chief in June 2017.

**David M. Waltzer, M.S. '90**, was named chief financial officer for Interim Healthcare Inc. and its parent company, Caring Brands International, in April.

**Kimberly S. Barranco, J.D. '91**, was awarded the Judith P. Ritchey Award by the Baltimore County Bar Association (BCBA) in May 2017. This award is presented annually on Law Day for members making significant, unrecognized contributions that enhance the BCBA.

**Constance M. Hare, B.A. '91, J.D. '94**, was presented with the 2017 Maryland Pro Bono Service Distinguished Pro Bono Volunteer Award by the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland at the Maryland State Bar Association Annual Convention in June 2017.



Jeff Stratton, B.S. '83, Dan Magee, B.S. '80, Jack Boutilier, B.S. '79

**Jeff Stratton, B.S. '83**, reunited with his former “UB Lacrosse Super Bees” **Dan Magee, B.S. '80**, and **Jack Boutilier, B.S. '79**, on the slopes of Colorado in March.

Quoted from his email: “*Always great to reminisce about ‘We Make Downtown a College Town’ UB. Wish I could find that sticker... Life gets in the way so I believe it’s been five years since the three of us have skied together.*”

**David Lease, J.D. '91**, was appointed to the Circuit Court for Montgomery County (Maryland), in December 2017.

**Ira S. Rainess, J.D. '92**, was appointed president of Alliance MMA, Inc., in February.

**Jonathan L. Gold, J.D. '93**, joined Michael Best & Friedrich LLP's Washington, D.C. office as a partner in the litigation practice group.

**Jennifer J. Hammond, B.A '93, MBA '98, J.D. '98**, presented on estate and trust planning at Forest Country Club in Fort Myers, in March. She was appointed co-chair of the Lee County (Florida) Bar Association's Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Practice Section in May.

**Karen R. Ketterman, J.D. '93**, was appointed to the District Court for Talbot County (Maryland) in April.

**Robert W. Weinhold, Jr., B.S. '93**, was named one of Maryland's 2017 Most Admired CEOs by *The Daily Record* in November 2017.

**The Honorable Brett R. Wilson, J.D. '93**, was appointed to the Washington County (Maryland) Circuit Court bench in October 2017.

**Nancy J. Egan, J.D. '94**, joined the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America as state government relations counsel for Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina and South Carolina in August 2017.

**Eric N. Schloss, J.D. '94**, was named a partner at Saltzberg & Schloss in March, where he practices personal injury law in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., representing only plaintiffs and claimants.

**David J. Shuster, J.D. '94**, was elected to the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore's board of directors in September 2017. He was recognized by Maryland Super Lawyers 2018 for his work in business litigation, construction litigation: business, and personal injury-general: plaintiff.

**Brian P. Strong, J.D. '94**, joined the Mount St. Mary's University pre-law advisory board in May.

**Richard B. Benenson, MBA '95**, was named a member of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck's executive committee in September 2017.

**Christopher T. Burton, B.S. '95**, was named to the Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center's board of directors in November 2017.

**Dianna N. Fornaro, M.A. '95**, a senior-level communications specialist with Chesapeake Employers Insurance Company in Towson, Maryland, successfully completed the examination for accreditation in public relations in August 2017.

**Katy Giebenhain, M.A. '95**, had her poetry collection, *Sharps Cabaret*, published by Mercer University Press in May 2017.

**Tobin E. Porterfield, MBA '95**, released his first book, *The 55 Soft Skills that Guide Employee and Organizational Success*, in January.

**John C. McMeekin, II, J.D. '96**, was elected vice chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) at the ABA TIPS midyear meeting, and began his term in August.

**Rise L. Flenner, J.D '97**, joined PBMares as the director of succession planning in April.

**Cheryl A. Jones, B.A. '97, M.P.A. '99**, was elected as a member of Pessin Katz Law in January. She is part of the firm's wealth preservation group.

**D. Delroy Morgan, B.S. '97, M.P.A. '99**, was appointed the chief executive officer of Annotto Bay Hospital, a 110-bed facility in St. Mary, Jamaica, in January.

**Constance A. St. Germain, J.D. '97**, was announced as Capella University's chief academic officer and vice president of academic affairs in October.

**Submitting a Class Note is easy. Just visit [ubalt.edu/classnotes](http://ubalt.edu/classnotes).**

**April F. Pardoe, M.A. '98**, was named to the 2018 advisory board for the Women's Giving Circle of Howard County (Maryland) and celebrated the 10th anniversary of her interior design studio, April Force Pardoe Interiors, in January.

**David P. Ash, J.D. '99**, was sworn in as Deputy State's Attorney for the Anne Arundel County (Maryland) Office of the State's Attorney in February.

**Melissa M. Boyd, J.D. '99**, was re-appointed to the Montgomery (Pennsylvania) Child Advocacy Project board of directors for a three-year term in February.

**Heather Grimsley, MBA '99**, was one of 26 finalists honored through the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals program in May 2017. As the Director of the Division of Shared Savings Program at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, she is part of a team being recognized for improving patient care and saving \$1.3 billion through a new health care delivery system that compensates doctors and hospitals for the quality of medical outcomes, as opposed to for the quantity of patient services.

## 2000s

**Patricia M. Muhammad, J.D. '00**, published a research paper entitled “The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade's Vestiges: Exploring Proposed Forms of Restitution 2016” in the *International Social Science Review*. She also became a member of the United States Supreme Court Bar in November 2017.

**Amy E. Askew, J.D. '01**, a principal at the law firm of Kramon & Graham, was named Litigator of the Year by the Maryland State Bar Association Litigation Section Council in June 2017, and she was recognized by Maryland Super Lawyers 2018 for her work in civil litigation and professional liability.

**Anthony Guckert, B.S.'01**, was promoted to executive vice president of The Traffic Group, a White Marsh (Maryland)-based traffic engineering firm, in February.

**Jennifer L. Matthews, J.D. '01**, was appointed assistant state's attorney for Harford County (Maryland) in September 2017.

**Joan L. Parrow, B.A. '01**, joined The Children's Guild, based in Baltimore, as executive director of human resources in May.

**Aryan Kushan, J.D. '02**, was hired as the associate registrar for exams and grades at Georgetown University Law Center in July 2017.

**Jaime W. Luse, J.D. '02**, partner at Tydings & Rosenberg LLP, obtained a defense verdict on behalf of a minority-owned enterprise following a three-day jury trial in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, in July 2017.

**Kendra V. Johnson, J.D. '03**, became Superintendent of Montclair (New Jersey) Public Schools in May 2018. Johnson is the first African-American superintendent in the system's 144-year history.

**Neil E. Snyder, J.D. '03**, was honored as the Naples (Florida) Daily News Marco Island Citizen of the Year in December 2017.

**Christina L. Watts, MBA '03**, began serving as the director of quality and performance improvement for Trinity Health PACE in Livonia, Michigan, in November 2017.

**Mark A. Aitken, II, B.A. '04**, joined the Washington, D.C.-based law firm Akin Gump as a senior policy advisor in its communications practice in February.

**Katrina J. Dennis, J.D. '04**, was appointed to the University System of Maryland Board of Regents in August 2017.



Let us know when your little one arrives, and we'll send you a Baby Bee bib. Share the buzz at 410.837.6131 or alumni@ubalt.edu.



**Jason P. Kohler, MBA '04**, joined LCB Senior Living, LLC, in Norwood, Massachusetts, as chief operating officer in December 2017.

**Bianca M. Lansdown, J.D. '04**, was elected counsel at the global law firm Baker McKenzie in February.

**Dean E. Merritt, J.D. '04**, joined The Growth Coach of Greater Baltimore as business development and operations strategist in November 2017, working with business owners, law firms and sales teams to help grow their businesses. He also started volunteering as a mentor with the UB Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in January.

**William F. Burnham, J.D. '05**, was appointed an administrative law judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings for the State of Maryland in January.

**Jeffrey J. Griffin, B.A. '05**, was named executive director of the Franciscan Center of Baltimore effective August 2017.

**Brett S. Lininger, J.D. '05**, was appointed chair of the American Bar Association Business Law Section's Government Affairs Practice Committee in June.

**Shawdy Banihashemi, J.D. '06**, was elected partner at Jennings Haug Cunningham, LLP in January, where she focuses her practice in insurance defense and coverage and criminal defense.

**Georgia Noone-Sherrod, M.A. '06**, was appointed executive director of the Anne Arundel (Maryland) Conflict Resolution Center in January.

**Angelina Ricci Eisenhauer, M.A. '07**, joined Audubon South Carolina as director of policy and communications in January.

**Joseph Saunders Johnston, J.D. '07**, rejoined the firm of Morgan Carlo Downs, PA, as an associate in August 2017.

**LaNette N. Parson, M.S. '07**, joined Palmer College of Chiropractic in Bettendorf, Iowa, as an event planner in April.

**Ted Dunlap, J.D. '08**, was elected to the Board of the Aviation Insurance Association as Director-Elect of the Attorney Division in May.

**Glen Frost, J.D. '08, LL.M. '09, CERT '09**, was included in Marquis Who's Who in December 2017.

**Ryan A. Mitchell, J.D. '08**, principal at Kramon & Graham, was recognized as a Rising Star by Maryland Super Lawyers 2018 for his work in business litigation.

**Osasu Z. Dorsey, J.D. '09**, accepted a counsel position with the United States Senate Select Committee on Ethics in April 2017.

**Christopher K. Doyle, M.F.A. '09**, released *Harlequin Road*, an album of original songs, in August 2017. He also published his first novel, *Purchase*, in October 2017.

**Adam Marton, M.A. '09**, joined the University of Maryland Philip Merrill College of Journalism faculty as a lecturer in digital design in February.

## 2010s

**Warren E. Haynes, D.P.A. '10**, was named one of 14 fellows with the Thomas Lakin Institute for Mentored Leadership in October 2017.

**Judson R. Arnold, J.D. '11**, married Anne Hughes Fallon in Baltimore in December 2017.

**Rev. Mr. Kevin A. Fields, M.P.A. '11**, was ordained as a priest for the Archdiocese of Washington during a Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in June.

**Divya Potdar, J.D. '11**, left Wise Law to start her own practice, the Baltimore-based Diva Law LLC, in January.

**Edgar M. Freeman, M.P.A. '12**, was hired by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as a diversity and inclusion coordinator in March.

**Christopher G. Marasco, B.S. '12**, was named to a six-year term on the Howard Community College Board of Trustees in July 2017.

**Brian C. Thompson, J.D. '12**, was appointed assistant general counsel of Merkle Inc. in June 2017.

**Christopher Tom, B.S. '12**, was promoted to associate in the Baltimore office of Cho Benn Holback, a Quinn Evans Company, in August 2017.

**Brandon S. Butler, J.D. '13**, was named Alleghany County (Maryland) Administrator in March.

**Nathaniel L. Fissel, M.S. '13**, was reappointed to the tax committee of Allinial Global in May 2017, and was admitted as a member of Smith Elliott Kearns & Company, LLC, in January.

**Jaime D. Sigaran, B.A. '14**, became the Blue Frontier Campaign's national outreach manager in November 2017. Blue Frontier is a national leader in providing resources and opportunities to bring citizens who care about the health of our coasts and ocean into the decision making process.

**Mary K. Tilghman, M.A. '14**, had her first novel, *Divided Loyalties*, published in July 2017.

**Justin M. Barclay, M.P.A. '15**, joined the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Authority as program manager for transit asset management in June 2017.

**Richard L. Adams III, J.D. '16**, became an associate attorney at Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP, focusing in the areas of estates and trusts, in December 2017.

**Maame A. Amponsah, J.D. '16**, joined Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP, in Columbia, Maryland, as associate counsel in July 2017.

**Brianne N. Lansinger, J.D. '16**, joined the Maryland office of Cole Schotz P.C. as an associate in the bankruptcy department in September 2017.

**Philip S. Shriver, J.D '16**, joined BWV Law Group, LLC, in May.

## Baby Bees



**Lisa N. Zajdel, B.S. '05, M.S. '07**, and her husband, Joseph, welcomed their daughter, Sophia, on April 2. Her grandfather is **Alan S. Weisman, B.S. '71, M.A. '91**, and her aunt is **Jessica Maimon, B.S. '02, MBA '04**.



**Courtney Trang** (formerly Smith), **B.S. '11, M.S. '15**, and her husband, Tony, welcomed their son, Felix, on June 30.



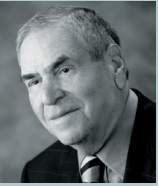
**Troy W. Pritt, B.S. '15**, celebrated the birth of his granddaughter, Neira, in February.



## In Memoriam



Alan M. Winner, J.D. '39, A.A. '48  
Donald R. Jackson, A.A. '41  
Robert J. Neubauer, J.D. '47  
Robert E. Doudiken, A.A. '48  
James O. Bromwell, Jr., B.S. '50  
Albert A. Grimm, B.S. '50  
Betty B. Nelson, LL.B. '50  
Roger J. Johnson, B.S. '51  
Sidney Schlachman, J.D. '51  
Richard T. Bentley, Jr., B.S. '52  
Thomas J. Goucher, LL.B. '52  
Charles F. E. Guertler, Jr., B.S. '52  
Thomas F. Keane, B.S. '53  
Michael J. Egan, B.S. '54  
Eugene M. Lerner, J.D. '54  
Bernard R. Burns, B.S. '55  
David G. Mock, LL.B. '55  
Eugene F. Karwacki, B.S. '56  
Joseph M. McKenna, B.S. '57  
Bernice E. Restivo, A.A. '57, J.D. '65  
Francis V. Andreasik, B.S. '58  
Harold Gavaris, J.D. '58  
William A. Barton, B.S. '59  
John B. Coles, B.S. '59  
Norman T. Dziennik, B.S. '59  
Elliott W. Hudgins, III, B.S. '59  
Albert G. De Bliss, J.D. '60  
Robert D. Deickman, B.S. '60  
Michael F. Delea, Jr., LL.B. '60  
Ronald A. Munley, LL.B. '60  
Roos "Nip" Nippard, B.S. '60  
Gerard J. Dotterweich, B.S. '61  
Vernon J. Haan, B.S. '61  
Bruce T. Miller, B.S. '61  
Martin A. Ziese, B.S. '61  
Harold M. Austin, B.S. '62  
Elmer F. Marousek, Jr., J.D. '62  
J. Edward Muhlbach, J.D. '62  
Leon J. Sadowski, B.S. '62  
Raymond M. Sillup, LL.B. '62  
Herbert S. Smith, LL.B. '62  
Eugene W. Horn, B.S. '63  
Henry B. Hummel, LL.B. '63  
John E. McCann, Sr., LL.B. '63  
John P. Pipkin, B.S. '63  
John P. Sluss, J.D. '63  
Melvyn J. Andrews, J.D. '64  
Robert J. Chester, LL.B. '64  
James C. Lindsay, LL.B. '64  
Mary M. Smith, B.S. '64  
Sasha L. Digges, Sr., LL.B. '65



**Stewart J. Greenebaum, B.S. '59**, Baltimore-based real estate developer, philanthropist

and humanitarian, who founded and endowed the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center, died Dec. 10, 2017.



**Dana M. Levitz, J.D. '73**, who served for 23 years on the Circuit Court of Baltimore County and was considered an expert in death penalty cases, died Jan. 17.



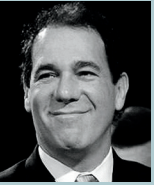
**Richard "Dick" Edell, M.S. '76**, twice named national coach of the year by the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association, died

May 2. He spent 29 seasons as a college coach at the University of Baltimore, Army West Point and Maryland, amassing a record of 282 victories.



**H. Wayne Norman, Jr., B.A. '76, J.D. '80**, former Maryland state Senator, died March

4. Norman was appointed in 2008 to the House of Delegates, where he served until he won a seat in the state Senate in 2014.



**Kevin B. Kamenetz, J.D. '82**, former Baltimore County Executive and Maryland Democratic gubernatorial candidate, died on May 10. Kamenetz began his public service career as a prosecutor in the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, and was active in state politics for 25 years.

William L. Henderson, B.S. '65, M.S. '80, M.P.A. '81  
Edward A. Kilner, LL.B. '65  
Donald S. Weller, B.S. '65  
Robert L. Kahn, B.S. '66  
Paul D. Mallonee, Jr., B.S. '66  
Leslie G. Metcalf, Sr., B.A. '66  
Emidio J. Rossi, B.S. '66  
Carmen F. Deyesu, LL.B. '67  
Joseph T. Fetcho, B.S. '67  
John J. Geis, B.S. '67  
Andrew A. Goletz, J.D. '67  
William R. Martz, B.S. '67  
Richard R. Tighe, LL.B. '67  
Charles E. Mahla, Jr., B.S. '68  
Stanley M. Nusenko, B.S. '68  
William M. Campbell, LL.B. '69  
George M. Donhauser, B.S. '69  
Leon L. Galitzin, V., B.S. '69  
Thomas M. Kerr, Sr., B.S. '69  
William Turc, Sr., J.D. '69  
Donald J. Von Restorff, B.S. '69  
George C. Zink, II, B.S. '69  
Patrick P. Bangs, B.S. '70  
Wallace C. Brenton, III, J.D. '70  
Bernard J. Deinlein, Jr., J.D. '70  
Albert F. Maufer, Jr., B.S. '70  
James P. Ryan, Jr., B.A. '70  
Leonard D. Williams, Jr., B.S. '70  
Ronald M. Bond, Jr., B.A. '71  
Charles C. Buckingham, B.S. '71  
Charles N. Curret, B.A. '71

Ronald Mack, B.S. '71  
William T. French, Jr., B.S. '72  
Louis M. Johnson, B.S. '72  
Paul M. Peters, B.S. '72  
Thomas G. Redman, J.D. '72  
John G. Swatkoski, J.D. '72  
Melvin E. Tansill, B.S. '72  
Suzanne R. Whitmore, B.A. '72, J.D. '78  
Charles F. Wilhelm, J.D. '72  
Louis A. Wilkins, B.S. '72  
Henry M. Witmyer, III, B.S. '72  
Domenic P. Altomare, J.D. '73  
Thomas R. Bruther, J.D. '73  
Christopher O. Bryan, J.D. '73  
Lester E. Carlson, J.D. '73  
Robert P. Hamilton, B.S. '73  
Charles H. Harlow, B.S. '73  
William H. Hokemeyer, B.S. '73  
George W. Knight, Jr., J.D. '73  
Herbert White, Jr., B.S. '73  
R. Terence Farrell, B.S. '74  
William H. Keys, B.S. '74  
Phillip E. Radabaugh, J.D. '74  
Robert A. Sherrock, J.D. '74  
Sterling F. Weatherly, B.S. '74  
Donald L. Beekman, J.D. '75  
Giles W. Couch, Jr., B.S. '75  
Thomas J. Moffett, B.S. '75  
Michael B. Wojtowycz, B.S. '75, M.S. '82

Deborah R. Farrell, B.A. '76  
Lloyd H. Flagg, B.S. '76  
Robert N. Loman, B.S. '76  
Barnett A. Carroll, Sr., B.S. '77  
C. Gregory Kallmyer, J.D. '77  
Thomas C. Middleton, M.S. '77  
Betty S. Brody, J.D. '78  
John C. Lawson, M.S. '79  
Herschel D. Milliken, J.D. '79  
Allan Scherr, CERT '79  
Dennis P. Connor, B.S. '80  
James A. Consoli, J.D. '80  
Sharon F. Kelly, B.S. '80  
Mary A. McLaughlin, B.A. '80  
Larry D. Smith, B.S. '80  
William F. Wilderson, Sr., B.S. '80  
Margery S. LaMar, J.D. '81  
Thomas A. Matlock, B.S. '82  
Marcia L. Bogash, B.A. '83, M.S. '85  
Anne M. Irby, B.A. '84  
Maureen A. Jones, B.S. '85  
Patricia F. Campbell, B.S. '86  
Ralph R. Fields, M.S. '86  
Thomas J. McLaughlin, J.D. '86  
Anne Marie Lundquist, M.S. '87  
Temma L. Schaller, J.D. '87  
John W. Landrum, J.D. '88  
Mary Frances MacDonald Haynes, B.A. '89  
Michaela A. Whitaker, B.S. '89  
Marc A. Zeve, J.D. '89  
Robert C. Lloyd, Jr., B.S. '90, M.S. '95  
Robert H. Brawley, J.D. '91  
David E. Griffin, J.D. '91  
Harry A. Kreitzburg, Jr., B.S. '91  
Thomas L. James, M.S. '92  
Steven J. Reynolds, B.S. '92  
Ernesto V. Matheus, B.S. '93  
Scott P. Wagner, B.S. '93  
James S. Holtz, J.D. '94  
Doris O. Howard-Riley, B.A. '94, M.A. '98  
Melanie L. McCollum, J.D. '94  
Rose M. Weber, J.D. '94, LL.M. '95  
Brian W. Young, J.D. '97  
Stephen P. LaBash, M.A. '99  
Elayne M. Stewart, B.S. '01  
Rebecca Gage Bailey, J.D. '02  
Claudia M. Boyd Johnson, B.S. '07  
Donna C. Baust, B.A. '09, J.D. '12, CERT '15  
Jerome J. Deinlein, Jr., J.D. '12

JOE KNIGHTS

- M.S., University of Baltimore
- M.A., Wake Forest University
- Disc jockey “Joe Nice”
- Works with refugees and victims of human trafficking

# Mixing It Up

JOE KNIGHTS, M.S. '17

BY PAULA NOVASH

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

**“Having life experiences in other countries and in the United States made me want to understand inequality issues more on a personal level.”**

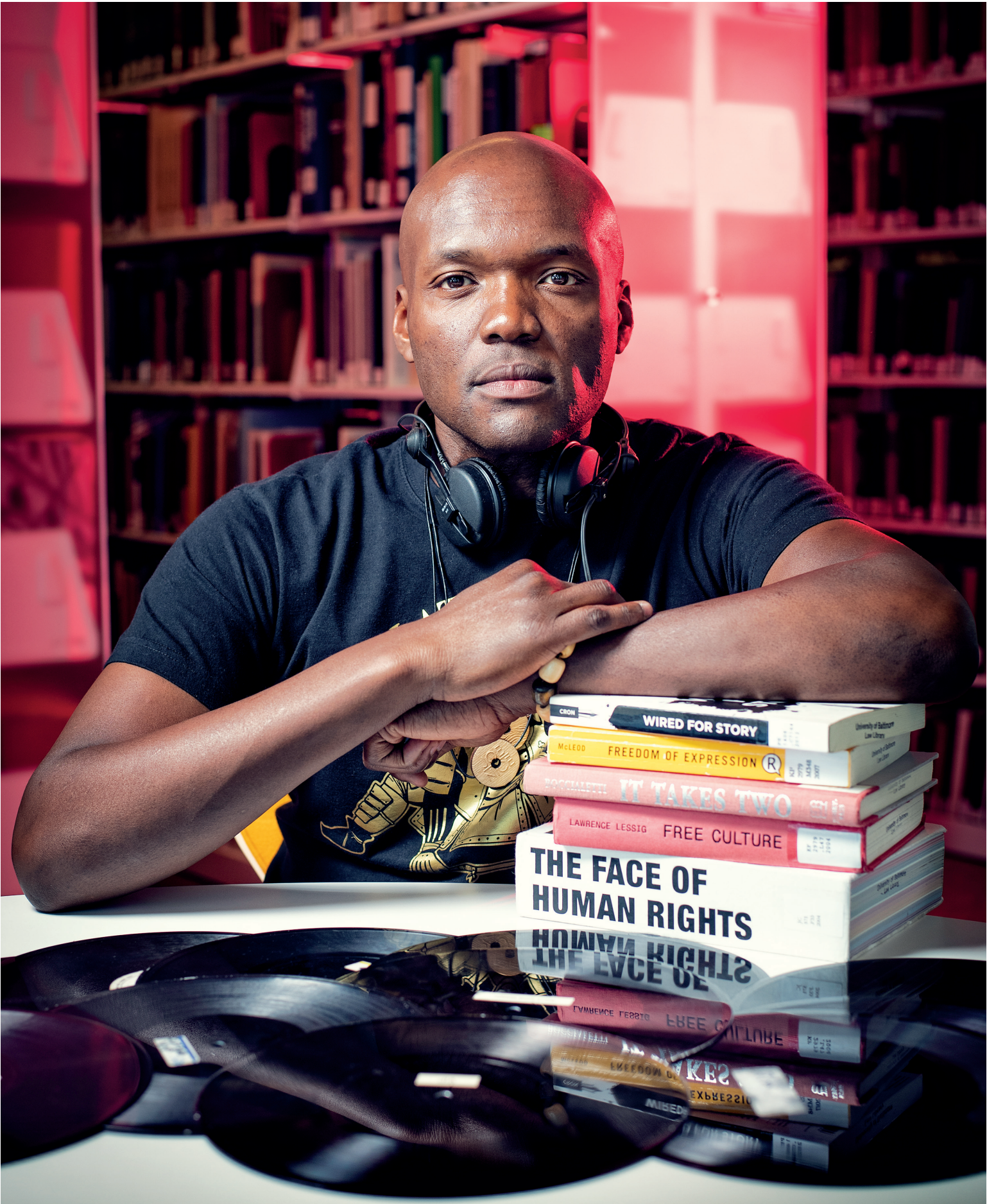
channels that facilitate the transfer and understanding of meaning to achieve the best outcomes.”

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.” **B**

*Paula Novash is managing editor of the magazine.*

RIGHT: Joe Knights in the John and Frances Angelos law library at UB.



CHRISTOPHER MYERS

## Book Art from UB Alums

The book art of L. Nef'fahtiti Partlow-Myrick, B.A. '92, and Jenny O'Grady, M.F.A. '06, features traditional book-binding techniques and a variety of eclectic materials.



Detail of *The Golden Accordion Pop-up Book* by L. Nef'fahtiti Partlow-Myrick

## Kondwani Fidel

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



A spoken-word performance by Kondwani Fidel (left), and his latest book, *Hummingbirds in the Trenches*.

## 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.



CHRISTOPHER MYERS



Included in Rose's art collection are two paintings by Pablo Picasso, *Portrait de Françoise Gilot*, and *Femme au béret orange et au col de fourrure (Marie-Thérèse)*, a small sculpture by Alexander Archipenko, and a large outdoor piece by Niki de Saint Phalle.

PHOTO OPPOSITE: SARAH DAVIS



## 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](http://ubalt.edu/brand).



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](https://ubalt.edu/apply) and use code **FALLMAG18** to waive the application fee.

Jan. 15

Jan. 16

March 30

April 6

April 23

Graduate Decision Day

Transfer Decision Day

Open House

Undergraduate Expo at the  
Universities at Shady Grove

Graduate Information Session

**more info: [ubalt.edu/events](https://ubalt.edu/events)**