



Roberta and Greg Kahlert

WINTER 2020

The Kahlert Foundation: Philanthropy Moves Basic Science Research Forward

Sarah Bradley  March 5, 2020  3 min read

Greg and Roberta Kahlert believe that philanthropic support of basic science research is critical to laying the groundwork for the discoveries that bring us closer to finding preventions and cures for some of today's most pressing medical mysteries.

“There is such a need for this basic, fundamental research,” says Greg Kahlert, president of The Kahlert Foundation, “but the government and other institutions aren’t able to fully fund it or require at least some initial data.”

and make the connections that accelerate basic science research. The foundation has spread its grant funding widely, supporting the work of at least six principal investigators in the areas of depression, alcohol abuse, pain, cancer immunotherapy, and basic research resources.

New microscope equipment funded by The Kahlert Foundation helps to optimize tumor cell capture and analysis for Stuart Martin, PhD, professor in the Department of Physiology, who is conducting research on individualized drug treatments to reduce metastasis. Another Kahlert grant supports researchers in the Fannie Angelos Cellular Therapeutics Laboratory. It provides equipment for the cleanroom manufacturing suite to produce cell-based immunotherapies for Aaron Rapoport, MD, professor in the Department of Medicine and the Gary Jobson Professor in Medical Oncology, and funding for a research technician for Curt Civin, MD, professor, associate dean for research, and director of the Center for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, who is working to enhance the production of therapeutic cancer cells.



Greg Kahlert in Dr. Scott Thompson's lab.

The Kahlerts' support of the Department of Physiology is a prime example of their funding strategy at work: investment in the underpinnings of medical research to move innovative research forward. After meeting Scott Thompson, PhD, professor and chair of physiology, in 2014, the Kahlerts toured his lab, which included a hands-on opportunity to experience a research project. The visit inspired The Kahlert Foundation to support the General Physiology Research Fund.

In 2018, The Kahlert Foundation funded the continuation of Thompson's work on a new, fast-acting treatment for depression. The result was the novel, patentable compound NCGC-43. Next, the Kahlerts maximized the NCGC-43 funding with a grant in 2019 to explore the potential of NCGC-43 to treat alcoholism.

"Philanthropy helps to fill the gap between generating an idea and obtaining sufficient data and results so that we can make a strong application to larger funding

The Kahlert Foundation also has propelled basic science research in the Department of Neurosurgery by funding the work of Charles Sansur, MD, and J. Marc Simard, MD, PhD, on the therapeutic potential of repurposing an existing diabetes drug as a safe, non-addicting, non-opioid medication for neuropathic pain.

“We want to be a participant in finding cures, and we understand that it can take time to find them,” Greg Kahlert says. “We understand that by funding basic science research today, we have the opportunity to contribute to solving medicine’s big challenges.”

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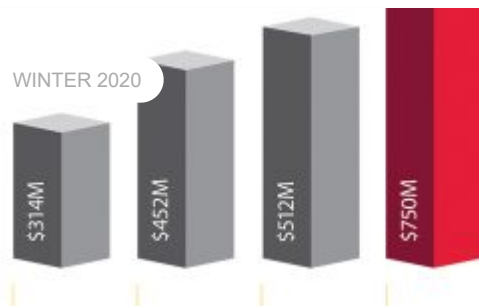


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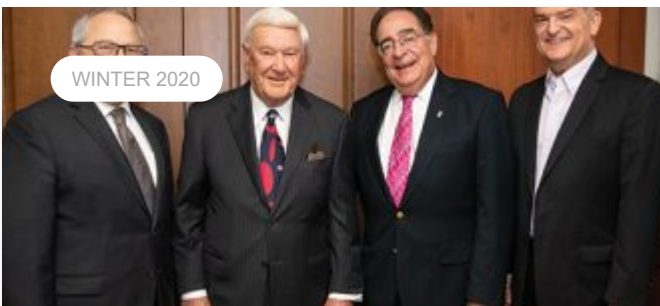
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WINTER 2020

UMB Leadership Changes, But Goals Remain the Same

 Lou Cortina  March 5, 2020  4 min read

The new year brought new leadership to the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), with Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, taking over as interim president after Jay A. Perman, MD, was appointed as the fifth chancellor of the University System of Maryland (USM). Perman had served as UMB president for nearly 10 years.



priorities would not.

“We want to assure Dr. Perman that his work is permanent with a capital P — permanent in the CURE Scholars Program, permanent in community engagement, permanent in interprofessional education and international



UMB celebrated Jay Perman's legacy as president before he left to take over as chancellor of the University System of Maryland.

programs, permanent in diversity and inclusion, and permanent in the core values of this University,” said Jarrell, who has been at UMB since 1997. “But in making them permanent, they must also become dynamic, evolving into something even better that will lead to enduring success. That is one way we will improve the human condition.”

Jarrell reiterated UMB’s commitment to the city of Baltimore but noted that the University’s mission includes helping all Marylanders and many others beyond the state’s borders.

“As a Maryland native, I know that there are many needs here — in Baltimore City, certainly, but also, for instance, on the Eastern Shore and in Western Maryland,” he said. “Through new and existing partnerships with fellow universities and other institutions, we will expand UMB’s reach throughout Maryland.”

Jarrell is an accomplished surgeon, educator, and administrator. He was recruited by the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) in 1997 as chair of the Department of Surgery and later served as UMSOM’s executive vice dean. Under his leadership, the surgery department expanded its research programs to become ranked 11th nationally in funding from the National Institutes of Health.

UMB Interim President Bruce Jarrell is a Maryland native and has been a fixture at the University since 1997.

institutional relationships, including the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: *MPowering the State*, UMB's innovative and structured collaboration with the University of Maryland, College Park, as well as academic collaborations with other USM institutions. Jarrell's wide-ranging duties were further expanded in 2017 when he was named executive vice president and provost.

"The University couldn't be in better hands than Dr. Jarrell's," Perman said. "I've worked with Bruce for 20 years [at UMSOM before Perman became UMB president], and I know well his deep dedication to the students, faculty, and staff of UMB. I know that the University will continue to rise in prominence under Bruce's leadership because that's exactly what happened when he assumed responsibility for our academic enterprise seven years ago. I credit Bruce with a lot of our success over the last decade."

Jarrell was born and raised in Caroline County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware and a medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He completed a residency and renal transplantation fellowship at the Medical College of Virginia and has held faculty positions at Jefferson Medical College and the University of Arizona, where he was professor and chair of surgery before coming home to Maryland in 1997.

"The confidence placed in me to lead our extremely talented team of educators, researchers, and clinicians is profoundly gratifying," Jarrell said. "UMB will not only maintain our very high standards in the classroom, in the laboratory, and in patient care, but we also will continue to evolve, expanding our impact on the state, the city, and our own community."

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Lou Cortina

Lou Cortina is director of editorial services in the Office of Communications and Public Affairs at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

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Catalyst Campaign: Breaking Ground

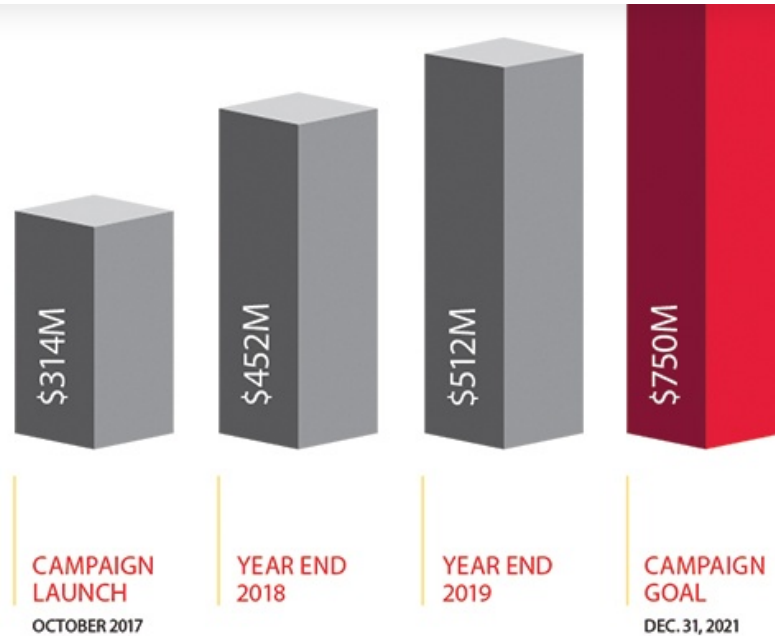
Kate Ostrowski  March 5, 2020  3 min read

The University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) groundbreaking fundraising initiative, the \$750 million Catalyst Campaign, has surpassed the important \$500 million milestone, totaling \$530 million raised by Feb. 1, 2020. This vital fundraising endeavor seeks gift support from alumni and friends to bolster a range of institutional priorities. Major initiatives include scholarships, faculty excellence, research, clinical initiatives, entrepreneurship, and community engagement.

Recent gifts include a \$1.8 million commitment from a local family to support the UMB CURE Scholars Program, the new Community Engagement Center (CEC) in West Baltimore, an endowed nursing scholarship, and a new student exchange program in Costa Rica.

Rebecca T. Gyi-Hovis, MD, committed a gift of \$750,000 to the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP) to establish the Felix A. Khin-Maung-Gyi Memorial Scholarship for Pharmapreneurship in honor of her late father, a UMSOP alumnus. A \$193,000 bequest was made to benefit the School of Nursing. The Brain and Behavior Research Foundation awarded \$150,000 to the School of Medicine. A local business executive made a \$100,000 commitment to the new CEC, in addition to a Hearst Foundation grant to the CEC of \$150,000. And more than \$48,000 has been committed to rejuvenating the UMB-University of Haifa (Israel) Student Exchange Program.





The community's generosity in support of UMB was truly encouraging in 2019 and continues to signal belief in the ability of UMB's students, faculty, alumni, and staff to succeed. UMB Interim President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, notes the importance of private sector support to the University.

"We're fortunate to benefit from generous assistance from the state, which provides nearly 20 percent of UMB's overall revenue," Jarrell says. "The remainder of our budget is generated through research and training grants, clinical care, student tuition, auxiliary services, and philanthropy. Of all those sources of revenue, gift support is absolutely the most flexible source available to us. We're redoubling our efforts — through the Catalyst Campaign — to invite charitable investment in the substantive UMB programs that improve the daily lives of Marylanders and countless others well beyond the state."

The Catalyst Campaign is led by two UMB Foundation, Inc., board members who serve as co-chairs: Ellen H. Yankellow, PharmD '96, the CEO of Correct Rx Services, and Brian J. Gibbons, JD '87, the CEO of Greenberg Gibbons Commercial. Yankellow and Gibbons invite you to visit one of UMB's stellar professional schools, innovative BioPark, and our growing Community Campus in West Baltimore to experience firsthand the critical work we are doing.

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Kate Ostrowski

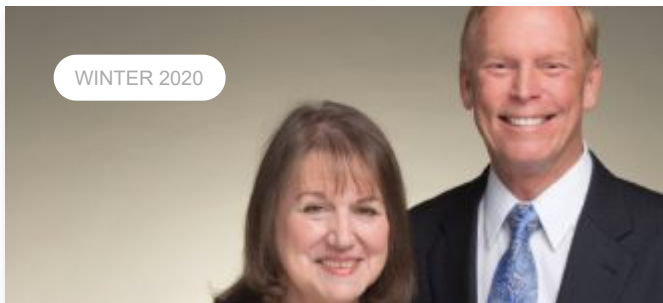
Kate Ostrowski, MPP, is the associate director, foundation operations and compliance, and board relations, in the Office of Philanthropy at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

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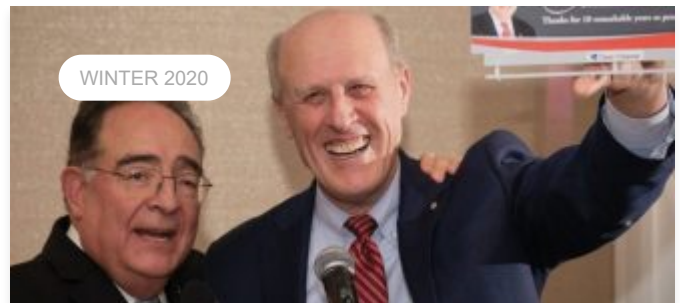
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From left, Terry Gyi, Rebecca Gyi-Hovis, and the late Felix Khin-Maung-Gyi.

WINTER 2020

Largest Scholarship in School of Pharmacy History Honors Beloved Alumnus, Fosters Pharmapreneurship

 Office of Philanthropy Staff  March 5, 2020  2 min read

\$750,000 gift from the Gyi Family endows the Felix A. Khin-Maung-Gyi Memorial Scholarship for Pharmapreneurship



Pharmapreneurship. The scholarship — endowed with a \$500,000 donation from the Gyi family and \$250,000 in matching funds from the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc. — is named in honor of her father, Felix A. Khin-Maung-Gyi, BSP '83, PharmD, MBA, founder of Chesapeake Research Review and a beloved UMSOP alumnus who died in 2014.

It is the largest scholarship to be endowed in UMSOP history, providing one full year of tuition for a second- or third-year student pharmacist who demonstrates superior academic achievement and a commitment to pharmapreneurship.

“Establishing this scholarship allows our family to give back to the place where it all began,” Gyi-Hovis says. “The education that my father received from the School of Pharmacy served as the starting point for all of his successes, and knowing what an important role the school played in helping to shape his career really motivated our desire to preserve his legacy here.”

Jordan Fraker, a third-year student pharmacist and president of the Entrepreneurship Innovation Network at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, is the scholarship's inaugural recipient.

“Being selected to receive this scholarship reinforces my belief that I am on the right path and that others see value in my endeavors,” Fraker says. “I am incredibly grateful to the Gyi family for their support.”



Jordan Fraker

Gyi received his Bachelor of Science in pharmacy from UMSOP in 1983. In 1993, he founded Chesapeake Research Review to provide institutional review board services to clients engaged in biomedical and social science research. As the company's chief executive officer for 20 years, he became a recognized leader in the field of human subjects protections.

“The School of Pharmacy is tremendously grateful to the Gyi family,” says Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FCP, FAAPS, dean and professor of UMSOP. “We thank them for recognizing the value of pharmapreneurship and for establishing this scholarship that will be invaluable in reinforcing the pharmapreneurial work that our school is undertaking, allowing us to support the educational efforts of a number of students over a long period of time.”

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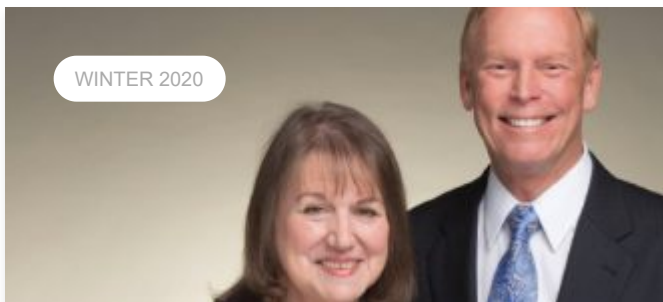
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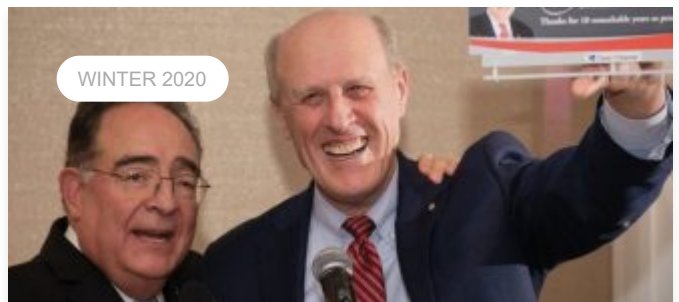
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UMB Community Paves the Way for New Community Engagement Center

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The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and Southwest Baltimore communities came together on Oct. 24, 2019, to celebrate the new Community Engagement Center (CEC) — the cornerstone of UMB's Community Campus. Renovations at 16 S. Poppleton St., the historic site of the new center, have been underway since the kickoff event, and the CEC is on schedule to open to the public in summer 2020.



the Welcome Way entrance by sponsoring inscribed bricks to be laid in front of the facility. This symbol of permanent partnership with our community will greet CEC visitors each day.



An artist's rendering at the new Community Engagement Center.

The new CEC will be close to seven times larger than the current center, which opened in 2015. Since then, the CEC has recorded nearly 40,000 visits from men, women, teens, and children who engage with its services and programming. Located immediately west of UMB's academic campus, the CEC is where UMB helps its neighbors find jobs, gives children a safe place to learn and play, hosts health and fitness programs, and connects neighbors with various resources.

You can be a lasting part of this joint legacy by helping to pave Welcome Way with one of three options:

\$50

\$100

Name One, Give One

Your name, or the name you choose, will be inscribed on a brick. You also will make it possible for the name of a West Baltimore child, family, or community member to be inscribed on a similar brick.

\$250

Paving the Way to Community

Your name, or the name you choose, will be inscribed on a paver brick.

For more information on the Welcome Way initiative, visit www.umaryland.edu/giving/welcomeway.

Welcome Way brick orders conclude March 31, 2020.

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Kate Ostrowski

Kate Ostrowski, MPP, is the associate director, foundation operations and compliance, and board relations, in the Office of Philanthropy at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

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Maryland Momentum Fund: Supporting UMB's Entrepreneurs

Kate Ostrowski  March 5, 2020  2 min read

The University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) faculty, students, and alumni have an entrepreneurial streak. In their research, studies, and work, they create solutions for tough problems while in many cases developing valuable intellectual property. Each year, UMB patents nearly 50 inventions and executes more than 50 license agreements on UMB technologies with industry partners. On average, the University annually spins out seven to 10 new companies founded by UMB faculty and alumni.

Startups based on UMB's intellectual property often require significant capital investment to complete the type of research and trials needed to develop market-ready technologies. The investment-raising process for startup companies typically is an uneven one, and the gap between the seed-funding stage and the next major financing round — an A round — is often particularly difficult.



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innovative ideas into the marketplace. MMF invests in technology-based startups related to any of USM's institutions. USM faculty, students, and alumni with qualifying startups are all eligible to apply for investment.

Since MMF was established in the spring of 2017, three UMB-associated startups have received funding: NextStep Robotics, Veralox Therapeutics, and NeoProgen.

NextStep Robotics is developing adaptive software that provides personalized robotic therapy to patients. Based on intellectual property from the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM), this personalized "assist-as-needed approach" is the first clinically proven option to effectively treat foot drop, a neurological condition that inhibits a patient's ability to raise their toes while walking.

Veralox Therapeutics, founded by a UMSOM alumnus, is focused on developing first-in-class small molecule therapeutics that treat the underlying pathologies of thrombosis and Type 1 diabetes, which each impact hundreds of thousands of new U.S. patients each year.

NeoProgen is developing a novel cell-based therapy for people who experience a heart attack and patients with advanced heart failure. The company's technology, developed by UMB's leading pediatric cardiac surgeon, Sunjay Kaushal, MD, PhD, and his lab, is developed from neonatal cardiac progenitor cells derived from tissue discarded during lifesaving heart surgery in babies with congenital heart conditions.

Learn more about MMF and eligibility or submit an interest form at momentum.usmd.edu.

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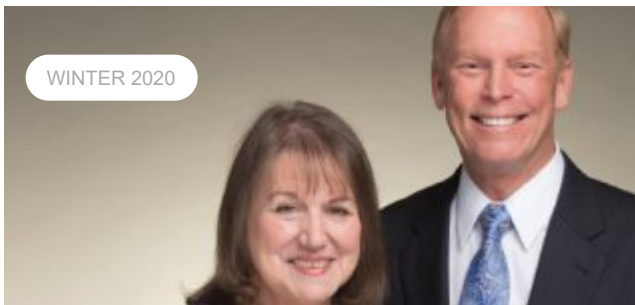
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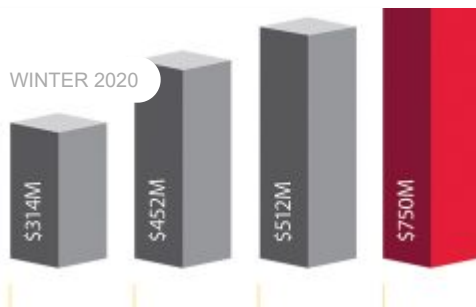
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UMB At A Glance

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Third-year dental student Elizabeth Chen offers Jermaine Blackwell-Smith, a student at Baltimore's Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School, a few pointers about dentistry. The activity was part of Planet Smilez, a week of hands-on summer activities organized at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and aimed at introducing middle school youths to the oral health professions.

To learn more about Planet Smilez, visit planetsmilez.org.





At the 2019 Founders Week Gala, then-UMB President Jay Perman (far right) presented the inaugural Catalyst for Excellence Awards to (from left) Harry Knipp, Robert Ord, Robert Kim, Beth O'Connell, Terry Gyi, Betsy Krieger, and David Kandel for their outstanding commitment to philanthropy and progress at the University.



The UMB CURE Scholars Program now serves over 100 scholars across five cohorts of students from sixth through 10th grade. The scholars, their families, mentors, and staff commemorated this milestone and their academic success at the Winter Wonderland celebration.



UMB Confronts Chronic Pain. In 2019, UMB experts engaged the community in conversation around chronic pain and the interdisciplinary research being conducted to find solutions.



After 14 years, Richard Barth, PhD, MSW, is stepping down as dean of the University of Maryland School of Social Work at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year and will transition into a faculty position. To honor his impact on the social work profession, lead donors and Dean Barth and his brothers have created the Richard P. Barth Professorship in Children's Services Research.



In 2019, the University of Maryland School of Nursing celebrated 130 years of impact on nursing education and its continued leadership in the state and around the world.

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Kate Ostrowski

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From left, Abba Poliakoff, Leonard Attman, Jay Perman, and Steve Dubin helped celebrate the UMB-University of Haifa Partnership.

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An International Interprofessional Partnership: UMB and the University of Haifa



Mary T. Phelan and Kate Tafelski | March 5, 2020 | 2 min read

What does the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) have in common with a university half a world away? On a trip to Israel in 2013, then-UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, saw the potential for partnership between UMB and the University of Haifa (UH) based upon a shared passion for academic excellence and social engagement in their communities and around the world.

Since then, 100 students and faculty have participated in the UMB-UH Partnership, which involves community-based, interdisciplinary training that fosters collaboration



The partnership is bidirectional. It allows students from UH and the UMB schools of social work, law, and nursing to go overseas and learn local approaches that promote the participation of diverse populations around shared civic and social concerns. Students of both countries return home more prepared to serve their communities in their professional capacities and to engage in collaborative community projects that enhance social justice and reduce social, economic, and health disparities.

“Traveling to Israel and participating in the interprofessional global health experience reinvigorated my passion for working in the Baltimore community,” says Rachael Parran, MS, BSN, RN, a doctoral student in the School of Nursing. “I learned that our world is large and our cultures may be different but we can learn from each other to improve the conditions in our own communities, and that working collaboratively with other disciplines is an effective approach to tackling complex issues.”

” **Traveling to Israel and participating in the interprofessional global health experience reinvigorated my passion for working in the Baltimore community.“**

RACHAEL PARRAN, SCHOOL OF NURSING DOCTORAL STUDENT

These experiences would not be possible without the philanthropic support of donors such as Leonard Attman; Alvin Katz, CPA; Abba Poliakoff, JD; and Steve Dubin, JD, who collectively hosted a gathering of friends and supporters celebrating the partnership between the two institutions.



Jahmya Ross, MSW '18, and other students talked about how their experiences in Israel informed their education and practice.

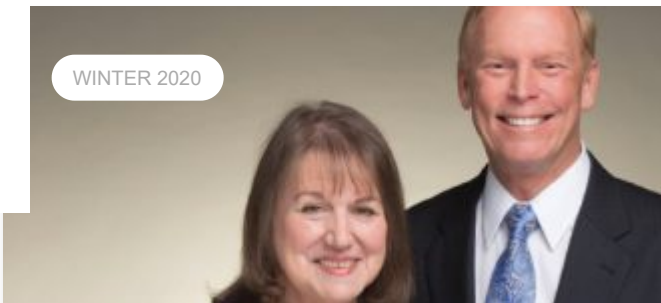


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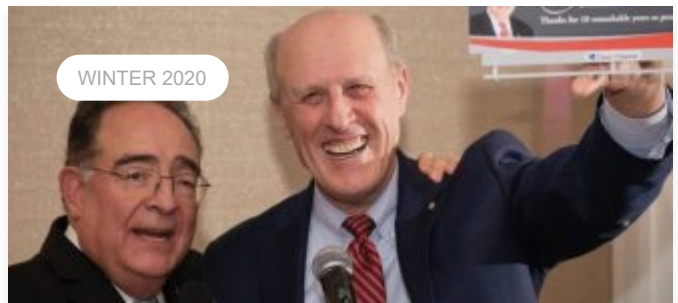
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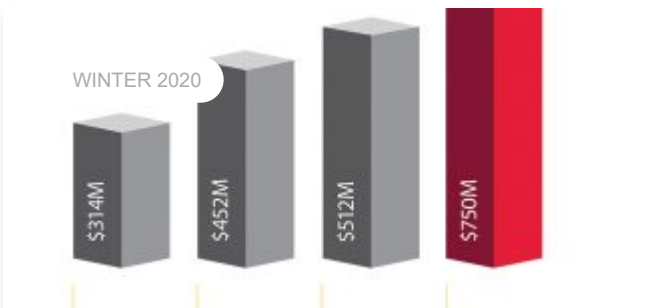
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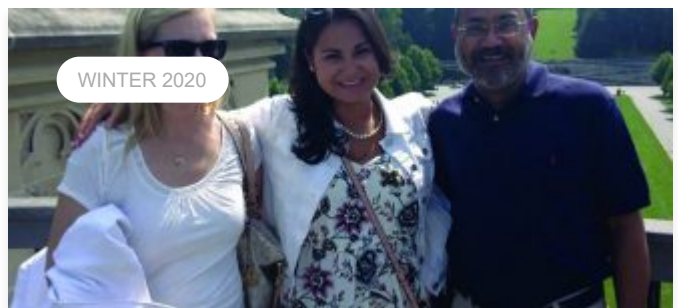


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