

# UMB LAURELS

JULY/AUGUST 2025



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
BALTIMORE

## UNIVERSITYWIDE



JOURNEY KING

**Journey King, MS**, web developer, Office of Communications and Public Affairs, was named UMB's May Employee of the Month for creating the University's Navigating Federal Orders website and for her technical skill, dedication, and positive attitude.

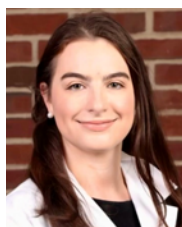
## SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



JOHN K. BROOKS



AHMED S. SULTAN



NAOMI I. HOCH



ELLIE R. HOCH

**John K. Brooks, DDS '79**, and **Ahmed S. Sultan, BDS, PhD**, faculty members, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences; **Naomi I. Hoch, DDS '25**; and **Ellie R. Hoch**, Doctor of Dental Surgery student, were among the co-authors of "Alpha-Gal Syndrome: Potential for a Hypersensitivity Reaction After the Use of Dental Products," which was published in the *Journal of American Dental Association* in May.

**Darien Weatherspoon, DDS, MPH**, assistant professor, Department of Dental Public Health, was the lead author of "Oral Health Care Use Characteristics in a Limited Sample of Medicare Advantage Beneficiaries, Medicare Advantage Encounter Data 2021," which was published in the *Journal of the American Dental Association*.



DARIEN  
WEATHERSPOON

## SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES



ERIC BELT

**Eric Belt, EdD**, adjunct assistant professor, presented "Faculty Perspectives on Building Meaningful Teacher-Student Relationships in Online Education" at the Relation-Centered Education Network

Conference in Dublin, Ireland, on June 17, and was appointed to the editorial board of *To Improve the Academy*, the peer-reviewed journal of the Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education.

**David J. Bunnell, MSHS, PA-C**, assistant professor, Doctor of Medical Science Program, was named president-elect of the American Academy of Physician Associates on June 3 and will serve

one-year terms as president-elect, president beginning in July 2026, and immediate past president through 2027.



DAVID J.  
BUNNELL

**Shani Fleming, PhD, MSHS, MPH, PA-C**, associate professor, was the keynote speaker for the Meharry Medical College Physician Assistant (PA) Program's White Coat Ceremony on May 2 and the Frostburg State PA Program White Coat Ceremony on June 18.



SHANI FLEMING



KAREN L.  
GORDES

**Karen L. Gordes, PhD, PT, DScPT**, professor and director, MS and Teaching Certificate in Health Professions Education, presented "Creating Resilient Learners: Strategies for Fostering Well-

Being in the Online Classroom" at the Teaching Professor Conference in Washington, D.C., on June 7.

**Gerald Kayingo, PhD, MBA, PA-C**, the Leslie S. Robinson, MD Endowed Professor and chair, Health Professions Education, and executive director, Physician Assistant Leadership

and Learning Academy (PALLA), received the Editorial Contribution Award for his contributions to *BMC Medical Education* by Springer Nature in May. Also, Kayingo and **Andrew Stakem**, program evaluation, data analytics, and accreditation specialist, PALLA, were among the co-authors of "Exploring the Landscape of Physician Assistant Associate-Specific Doctoral Education in the United States: A National Program Survey," which was published in the *Journal of Physician Assistant Education* on May 9.



GERALD KAYINGO

## CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

**Peter Danchin, JD**, professor, was appointed as a research visitor for the Trinity Term at the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford, and a fellow at Mansfield College in England.



PETER DANCHIN



KATHRYN FREY-BALTER

**Kathryn Frey-Balter, JD**, professor and interim director, Lawyering Program, presented "Teaching a Pure Question of Law in the First-Year Law School Advocacy Classroom" at the 2025 Capital

Area Legal Writing Conference at the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law, in Washington, D.C., on May 30.



DONALD GIFFORD

**Donald Gifford, JD**, professor, was inducted as a Life Member of the American Law Institute.

**Mark Graber, JD**, University System of Maryland Regents Professor, wrote "Outrage Matters: Is the Supreme Court of the United States Getting Fed Up with Donald Trump?" which was published in *Verfassungsblog* on April 25.



MARK GRABER



DIANE HOFFMANN

**Diane Hoffmann, JD**, professor and director, Law and Health Care Program, was among the co-authors of "Fecal Microbiota Transplantation:

A Tale of Two Regulatory Pathways," which was published in *Gut Microbes* on April 29.

**Kathleen Hoke, JD**, professor and director, Network for Public Health Law-Eastern Region, wrote "Nothing to Laugh About: Nitrous Oxide Misuse and the Need for a Public Health Response," for the Network for Public Health Law's website April 30.



KATHLEEN HOKE



ROBERT PERCIVAL

**Robert Percival, JD**, professor and director, Environmental Law Program, presented "Lessons from the Battle Against the Reagan Administration's Assault on

Regulation" at the Assault on Independent Agencies: Strategies for Financial Industry Accountability in the Face of a Hostile Judiciary and Administration Conference in Washington, D.C., on May 13.

**Maxwell Stearns, JD**, professor, won the silver medal for his book "Parliamentary America," and **Rena Steinzor, JD**,

Professor Emeritus, won a gold medal for her book "American Apocalypse" in the Current Events I category (Political/Economic/Foreign Affairs) of the Independent Publisher Book Awards on May 28.



RENA STEINZOR



JEFF SOVERN

**Jeff Sovern, JD**, professor, wrote "Marylanders Deserve to Know What Tariffs Are Costing Them," which was published in *The Baltimore Sun* on May 24.

**Rena Steinzor, JD**, Professor Emeritus, wrote "The Man Behind the Trump Deregulatory Throne," which was published in *Regulatory Review* on May 5.

**Maureen Sweeney, JD**, professor, was quoted in "La Misa, Donde Todos Son Bienvenidos, Nos Enseña Una Lección Importante Sobre La Migración, Dice Obispo Seitz," which translates to "The Mass, Where All Are Welcome, Teaches Us an Important Lesson About Migration, Bishop Seitz says," which was published in *El Pregonero* on May 7.

## SCHOOL OF NURSING

Eleven UMSON faculty members were recognized with Academic Nurse Educator Certification Awards from the Maryland Higher Education Commission through the Nurse Support Program II. Each faculty member was awarded the maximum \$5,000 for demonstrating excellence as an academic nurse educator through achieving the National League for Nursing's Certified Nurse Educator credential through initial certification or recertification. The faculty members are:

- Susan L. Bindon, DNP '11, MS '96, RN, NPD-BC, CNE, FAAN, ANEF
- Naomi Cross, MSN, RN, C-EFM, CNE
- Amy L. Daniels, PhD '18, MS '12, BSN '89, RN, CHSE-A, CNE
- Malissa da Graça, DNP '21, MS '07, RNC, FNP-C, CNE
- Melissa McClean, MSN, ANP-BC, NP-C, ACHPN, CNE
- Sun Young "Sunny" Park, DNP '22, MS '17, CNE, FNP-C, CNE
- Mary Grace "Molly" Renfrow, DNP '18, FNP, CNE
- Ciara Smith, DNP, PMHNP-BC, CNE
- Cory Stephens, DNP, RN, NI-BC, CPHIMS, FHIMSS, CNE
- Taylor Jones Swing, DNP '18, RN, CRNP-PC, CNE
- Rebecca N. Weston, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE



SUSAN L. BINDON



NAOMI CROSS



AMY L. DANIELS



MALISSA  
DA GRAÇA



MELISSA  
MCCLEAN



SUN YOUNG  
"SUNNY" PARK



MARY GRACE  
"MOLLY"  
RENFROW



CIARA SMITH



CORY STEPHENS



TAYLOR JONES  
SWING



REBECCA N.  
WESTON

**Chantelle Brown, MS**, assistant director of academic success, received the Outstanding Achievement in Academic Community Engagement

by a Staff Member Award at the Interprofessional Program on Academic Community Engagement's Symposium on March 25.



CHANTELLE  
BROWN

**Jennifer Dalton, PhD, RN, CNE, CHSE**, assistant professor, co-authored "The Impact of Simulation-Based Ethical Education on Nursing Students' Moral Distress Levels," which was published in the *International Journal of Nursing Education Scholarship* on May 30.



THERESA DI SETA

**Theresa Di Seta, DNP '25, RN, NEA-BC, NPD-BC**, assistant director of student placements for partnership development and community health, delivered a podium presentation at the

American Association of Colleges of Nursing Access, Connection, Engagement Symposium in Indianapolis on June 4. She also delivered the online presentation "Underutilization of a Healthcare Preceptor Tax Credit: Challenges and Solutions" to the American Bar Association Health Law Section's Nursing and Allied Healthcare Task Force on June 19.



KRISTEN  
RAWLETT

**Kristen Rawlett, PhD '14, FNP-BC, FAANP, CNE**, associate professor, co-authored "Experiences of Women Prescribed Methadone," which was published in *Substance Use & Misuse* on May 14.



SARA ROBINSON

**Sara Robinson, DNP, RN, PMHNP-BC**, assistant professor and director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialty,

was featured in the video "National Nurses Week 2025: Celebrating the Power of Nurses," which appeared on [PsychiatricTimes.com](https://PsychiatricTimes.com) on May 7.

## SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

UMSOP's chapter of **Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International** received the organization's 2024-2025 Dr. Manasseh Heeralall Student Chapter of the Year Award.

**Nicole Brandt, PharmD, MBA**, the Parke-Davis Chair in Geriatric Pharmacotherapy and executive director, Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, was named the Doctor of Pharmacy's Class of 2025 Faculty Preceptor of the Year and received a five-year, \$229,845 contract from Johns Hopkins University for "Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program."



BECKY CERAUL

**Becky Ceraul**, assistant dean for communications and marketing, graduated from the UMB President's University Leadership Program as a member of its sixth cohort.

**Megan Chang**, second-year student, received a Maryland Pharmacists Association scholarship.



MEGAN CHANG



JILL MORGAN

**Daniel Deredge, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and **Jill Morgan, PharmD**, professor and chair, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes

Research, were voted the UMSOP American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Teachers of the Year.



**NATALIE D. EDDINGTON**

**Natalie D. Eddington, PhD**, Dean Emerita, received the Maryland Pharmacists Association's Honorary President Award, which recognizes individuals who have made significant

contributions to the association or the profession of pharmacy in Maryland.

**Hillary Edwards, PhD, MPH**, director of methodological research and evaluation, PATIENTS Program, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, received a one-year, \$100,000 contract from Bayer for "PATIENTS Professors Academy 2025."



**MEGAN EHRET**

**Megan Ehret, PharmD, MS**, professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, and co-director, Mental Health Program, received a four-year, \$3,468,259 contract

from the Maryland Department of Health for "Antipsychotic Prescription Review Program."



**OACIA FAIR**



**TROY PARKER**

**Oacia Fair, MS**, senior research data analyst, PATIENTS Program, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, and **Troy Parker, MBA**, associate director of career development, Dean's Office, were elected to the UMB Staff Senate as a full voting senator and an alternate senator, respectively.

**Steven Fletcher, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and director, MS in

Pharmaceutical Sciences Program, was voted UMSOP's alternate delegate to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's House of Delegates.

**Jace Jones, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was appointed the department's vice chair for education. He also was voted president-elect of UMSOP's Faculty Assembly.



**JACE JONES**



**CHEROKEE LAYSON-WOLF**

**Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD**, professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, was named the Doctor of Pharmacy's Class of 2025 Teacher of the Year.

**Daniel Mansour, PharmD, MS**, director of education and interprofessional clinical training, Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, received the Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International's Advisor of the Year Award.

**Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, PhD**, professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, and executive director, Advanced Post-Graduate Education In Palliative Care, received the UMB Graduate Student Association's Dr. Patricia Sokolove Outstanding Mentor Award.



**RINKY PARAKA**



**MADISON WORTH**

**Rinky Paraka, Madison Worth, and Agbo-oma Uwakweh**, students, PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences Program, received poster awards at

the 2025 Frontiers in Chemistry and Biology Interface Symposium.

**Kristine Parbuoni, PharmD**, associate professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, and assistant dean, PharmD Student Life and Student Success, was voted UMSOP's delegate to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's House of Delegates.

**Ryan Pearson, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and director, Bio- and Nano-Technology Center, received a five-year, \$3,421,030 grant from the National Institutes of Health for "Multimodal Nanoparticles for Severe Inflammation and Sepsis."



**RYAN PEARSON**



**KATY PINCUS**

**Katy Pincus, PharmD**, associate professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, was elected to the Maryland Pharmacists Association's Board of Trustees.

**Scott Riley, PhD**, instructor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was named the MS in Pharmaceutical Science's Class of 2025 Teacher of the Year.



**SCOTT RILEY**



**YAN SHU**

**Yan Shu, MD, PhD**, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was appointed as the department's vice chair of research.

**Julia Slejko, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, and director,

Pharmaceutical Health Services Research Graduate Program, received a 14-month, \$225,365 contract from Genentech, Inc., for “Patient Experiences with Copay Maximizer Programs.”



**JULIA SLEJKO**

**Krysten Garcia, MPH**, research analyst, was selected to present her research on racial equity in Maryland’s cash welfare program at the 2025 National Association of Welfare Research and Statistics Workshop in Charlotte, N.C., in August.



**KRYSTEN GARCIA**

**Lauren Schuyler, PhD**, assistant research director, Family Welfare Research and Training Group, is quoted in “Dismantling the Social Safety Net,” which was published in the spring issue of *Social Work Today*.



**LAUREN SCHUYLER**

## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



**RICHARD P. BARTH**

**Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW**, professor, was quoted in “Child Welfare and Protection: Understanding the Social Worker’s Role,” which was published in the spring issue of *Social Work Advocates*.

**Lisa Berlin, PhD, MS**, the Alison L. Richman Professor of Children and Families, and **Tiffany L. Martoccio, MA**, PhD student, were among the co-authors of “Maternal Psychological Risk Moderates the Impacts of Attachment-Based Intervention on Mother-Toddler Mutuality and Toddler Behavior Problems: A Randomized Controlled Trial,” which was published in the *Journal of Prevention Science*.



**MICHAEL SCHLOSSMAN**



**AARON BETSINGER**



**WILLIAM ALTEKRUSE**

**Michael Schlossman, PhD, MPhil**, assistant professor; **Aaron Betsinger, PhD, MA**, research assistant professor; and **William Altekruise, MSW, MHS**, senior research analyst,

all with the Institute for Innovation and Implementation, co-authored “Detention Risk Assessment Instrument Validation Study Report: 2025 Update,” which highlights the institute’s evaluation support across Maryland’s juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

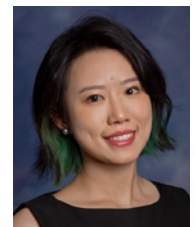


**COREY SHDAIMAH**

**Corey Shdaimah, PhD, LLM**, the Daniel Thursz Distinguished Professor of Social Justice, was among the co-authors of the chapter “Value Conflicts: How US Social Workers

Manage the Ethics of Outsider Practice” in the book “Hybrid Social Work: Contested Knowledge, Fragile Collaboration and Social Citizenship.”

**Peiyuan Zhang, MSW, PhD** student, was among the co-authors of “Culturally Tailored Community Brain Health Education for Chinese Americans Aged 50 or Above,” which was published in the *Journal of Applied Gerontology*.



**PEIYUAN ZHANG**

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