

University of Baltimore

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Board of Visitors Annual Report



Submitted October 2015

## **Executive Summary**

The University of Baltimore Board of Visitors (the Board) is pleased to provide this report on the progress of the University of Baltimore (UB) over the past year in meeting its goals consistent with its mission. The Board supports the efforts of the University by stewarding the strategic planning process and overseeing the fiscal responsibility of the assets of the University of Baltimore Foundation (UBF). The Board also works toward increasing the Foundation's assets for the future financial needs of the University through its fundraising efforts as well as the investment strategy.

These elements require growth in the institution's existing resource base from multiple sources, including state funds, private giving, corporate and foundation support and continued entrepreneurial activities. The University of Baltimore Foundation recognizes that its support is integral to the university's continued growth and transformation.

The University of Baltimore Foundation remains committed to expanding its support of UB's mission and academic goals. The Board is excited about the direction in which the University of Baltimore is moving and we are pleased to share in this report some highlights of Fiscal Year 2015.

## **Mission and Vision Statements**

### **Mission**

The University of Baltimore provides innovative education in law, business and the applied liberal arts to serve the needs of a diverse population. A public university, the University of Baltimore offers excellent teaching and a supportive community for undergraduate, graduate and professional students in an environment distinguished by academic research and public service. The University:

- makes excellence accessible to traditional and nontraditional students motivated by professional advancement and civic awareness;
- establishes a foundation for lifelong learning, personal development and social responsibility;
- combines theory and practice to create meaningful, real-world solutions to 21st-century urban challenges; and
- is an integral partner in the culture, commerce and future of Baltimore and the region.

### **Institutional Vision**

The University has become and will continue to be a living learning laboratory at the center of the Baltimore renaissance. Neither a traditional research nor comprehensive educational institution, the University will balance the seemingly contradictory: access and excellence,

teaching and research, the one and the many. Through this creative tension, the University will develop cutting-edge solutions and new possibilities by relating theory to practice and understanding to experience. The University's degree programs and continuing professional education will help students, faculty and staff understand the past, assess the present and shape the future. By blending the perspectives of law, liberal arts and business, the University community will create and transmit intelligent and practical solutions to challenging issues regionally, nationally and internationally.

### **Accomplishments**

UB's enrollment includes 3,485 undergraduate; 1,997 graduate; and 940 law students. UB has one of the most diverse student bodies in the University System of Maryland: of our 6,422 students, 58 percent are female, 2.9% are international students and 9.3% are out-of-state residents. The average age of a UB undergraduate student is 28. Many of our students are working adults who are seeking to better themselves and move forward in their careers. UB also has a high percentage of students who are the first in their families to attend college.

**FY 2015 was an eventful year at the University of Baltimore and we wanted to provide a brief overview of major changes as well as our notable accomplishments.**

#### **Roger Hartley Named Dean of University of Baltimore's College of Public Affairs**

Roger E. Hartley was named dean of the University of Baltimore's College of Public Affairs. Dean Hartley is the former director of the Master of Public Affairs Program and professor of political science and public affairs in Western Carolina University's Department of Political Science and Public Affairs. He earned a doctorate in political science from the University of Georgia at Athens in 1999, an M.A. in political science at the same institution in 1993, and a B.S. in public affairs from Indiana University in 1991.

Dean Hartley has published dozens of articles, reports, conference papers and review articles throughout his career on law and court systems, including the 2002 book *Alternative Dispute Resolution in Civil Justice Systems*.

#### **UB's Fund for Excellence**

UB's Fund for Excellence is made possible through generous gifts from our friends and alumni. It provides unrestricted funding for important needs that arise at UB during the academic year. One program of the Fund for Excellence is a special grant program that allows UB faculty and staff to apply for financial assistance to develop and execute innovative academic programs, new learning techniques and special one-time projects that enhance our students college experience.

In the past two years the Fund for Excellence has funded more than 60 proposals totaling more than \$1 million through the grants program. Examples of proposals we have funded include:

- An alternative Spring Break focused on human rights and volunteerism.
- A mentoring program for low-income communities.
- Global Field Studies in Foreign Economics.
- Testing the water-quality of the Jones Falls.

### **Online MBA Receives National Ranking in U.S. News & World Report**

The online version of the UB/Towson MBA—now entering its second year of operation after last fall's launch of a revised curriculum has been ranked #62 nationally by U.S. News & World Report in its 2015 Best Online MBA Programs evaluation. It is the only online MBA in Maryland to receive a ranking.

### **The University of Baltimore's HEROES Academy—Higher Education Readiness and Orientation for Exceptional Students continued to flourish in FY 2015.**

The 8th Annual University of Baltimore HEROES Academy was held this year on the campus of UB. One hundred and eighty (180) high school students participated in the Academy from five Baltimore region high schools: Baltimore City College, Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, Catonsville High School, Pikesville High School, and Western High School.

HEROES is a unique college-readiness program that offers high school sophomores a simulated college experience through various educational and inspirational activities. This University of Baltimore community outreach initiative allows students to visit classes, meet with professors, UB students and staff, and generally getting an immersive experience in college life.

To date, more than 1,000 local high school students have participated in the day's events, and more than 100 UB staff, faculty and students have volunteered to host the HEROES Academy to ensure its success.

### **UB's MFA Reading Series**

The M.F.A. Reading Series in the College of Arts and Sciences brings a mix of outstanding novelists, poets, artists to the UB campus to share words and insights in an intimate setting with Creative Writing & Publishing Arts students and community members. The University of Baltimore's M.F.A. in Creative Writing & Publishing Arts 2014-2015 Reading Series featured renowned poet Joe Harrison, Pulitzer Prize winning author Michael Chabon and celebrated poet and memoirist Mark Doty.

## **UB Creates New Model for Linking HBCU Students and Law School**

The University of Baltimore School of Law received national attention from USA TODAY for its Fannie Angelos Program for Academic Excellence at the University of Baltimore School of Law. The program makes vital connections between students in Maryland's various Historically Black Colleges and Universities(HBCU) and the law school experience.

The program, a collaboration between UB Law and the HBCUs, is made up of two parts.

- One is the Baltimore Scholars Program, which immerses a total of eight juniors or seniors in law school life through a two-week “boot camp” in the winter. The students meet with lawyers and judges, complete law school assignments, and visit law firms. Students who complete the Baltimore Scholars Program and are accepted to UB Law with an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.5 and an LSAT score of at least 152 receive a full-tuition scholarship to the law school.
- The second part of the Angelos program awards up to 80 students or graduates, including the eight Baltimore Scholars, a grant to cover all but a small portion of a semester-long LSAT preparation course run by Princeton Review.

## **Certified Public Manager Program**

The fourth cohort of non-profit and government managers and supervisors for the Maryland Certified Public Manager Program(CPM) began their studies at the University of Baltimore's Schaefer Center for Public Policy.

The CPM is a nationally recognized leadership development program, through which participants gain the comprehensive, applied public sector management skills needed to meet the complex demands and challenges of the 21st century public management environment. The CPM program is a 15-month, non-residential course resulting in a certificate. It is offered in cohort format to groups of 25 participants. Currently recognized in 38 states, the CPM certification allows credentialed graduates to connect to a national professional network through the American Academy of Certified Public Managers and to a local network of fellow CPM graduates.

## **UB Student Named City's First Youth Poet Laureate**

University of Baltimore junior, Derick Ebert has been named Baltimore's first youth poet laureate by a panel of city librarians, artists, educators, community advocates and others. Over the course of the next year, Ebert will represent the city through his poetry and performances.

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake praised the selection of Ebert, saying his "inspiring, personal and powerful voice speaks to the unique facets of the Baltimore experience."

Ebert is a graduate of Baltimore City College. He is currently a mentee in UB's Brotherhood, Mentorship, Achievement, Leadership, and Enterprise (B.M.A.L.E.) Program.

### **Business Students Take on Real-Life Case Study Challenge from Verizon**

A group of five students from the UB/Towson MBA program--are the winners of a real-life case study competition sponsored by Verizon.

The winning team was one of seven graduate-student teams competing in UB professor Eusebio Scornavacca's fall IT for Business Transformation course. The challenge was to work together in an online environment and develop an in-depth analysis and solution for a business problem presented. Teams had to deliver a report that Verizon executive and UB alum, Manuel Sampedro and Scornavacca then reviewed.

The Verizon Foundation awarded \$3,500 in scholarships to the first- and second-place teams in the competition.

### **Vital Signs Marks 13 years**

The 13th edition of the Vital Signs report, published by the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance-Jacob France Institute (BNIA-JFI), tracks more than 150 indicators to take the pulse of neighborhood health and vitality. This is the thirteenth year of continuous monitoring for "quality of life" indicators and data collection in Baltimore neighborhoods. The report, along with new indicators and several data visualization aids, is available now on BNIA-JFI's updated website: [http://bniajfi.org/vital\\_signs/](http://bniajfi.org/vital_signs/)

### FY 2015 Fundraising Efforts

Merrick School of Business	\$1,151,050
School of Law	\$515,720
Yale Gordon College of Arts and Sciences	\$391,730
College of Public Affairs	\$59,720
University Wide	<u>\$3,288,940</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,407,160</b>

### Institutional Advancement

The Office of Institutional Advancement is integral to the success of the University of Baltimore Foundation. The Office of Institutional Advancement continues to implement initiatives that increase the best practices of the UBF and support its fundraising efforts. Specifically, the Office of Institutional Advancement continues to:

- implement official reporting policies that will keep donors up to date on the programs and scholarships their gifts help support.
- engage alumni in fundraising efforts through annual giving appeals and solicitations.
- engage alumni with regular correspondence and updates on the University.
- connect with UB alumni and friends by hosting regional and local events.
- engage students and young alumni because they are poised to be the next generation of UB supporters.
- promote UB's social networking sites on Facebook and Twitter in order to provide students and graduates with up to date information on UB events and activities.
- advance major projects/priorities set forth by the President.

**University of Baltimore Foundation, Inc.**  
**FY 2015**  
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Sydney Comitz

President, UB Student Government Association

\*\* Deceased