



STATE *of the*
UNIVERSITY
ADDRESS *by*

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HIPPODROME THEATRE

Some of you may remember the movie “M*A*S*H.”

When I was a medical student in Philadelphia, my wife Leslie and I went to see that movie. “M*A*S*H” was a story about a group of surgeons and nurses working in an Army hospital in Korea. Hawkeye Pierce, as you may recall, was the main character. Hawkeye, his fellow surgeons, and fellow nurses cared for many wounded soldiers with horrific injuries. I am sure they didn’t want to be there. But there they were at the front, in a tent, saving lives. And not only did they treat really wide-ranging injuries, they also had to cope with their own emotions, their own stress, and fatigue. It was a struggle, and you could see that in the movie.

Movies like “M*A*S*H” made a deep mark on me, and showed the terrible conditions of war. But it was not until later in my career as a surgeon that I realized that something else had happened in Korea. Something else really, really good. Early in the war, when somebody had a serious leg injury, and a blood vessel was involved, the standard Army procedure was to remove the leg. Yes, amputation.

Life was prioritized over limb. You can understand that. And as you can guess, many had severe leg injuries with a blood vessel injury. Almost *half* of those individuals would lose their leg and go back to the States with just one leg.



Now, that’s quite a burden for a young soldier to carry throughout the rest of their life. But I’m going to tell you, it’s also a really hard pill for a surgeon to swallow. Taking off the leg of a young person can make you feel like you’ve failed, like you could have done better. What do you do in that kind of situation? Well, there are two choices. You can say, that’s life, that’s the way it goes, shrug your shoulders, and move on. Or you can push back and ask a question: Is there a better way to do this?

Several surgeons in Korea, in fact, did push back. They got very innovative on the battlefield, and they began to fix the blood vessels. And they really got good at it. When they turned around and looked, now only 7 percent were losing their leg, rather than almost half losing their legs. Many legs were saved. You can imagine the impact that that had on the individuals who then got to go back to the States with two legs. I hope you can also imagine, as a surgeon, the joy that you would have of seeing this successful operation.

If you think about it, terrible conditions — a war — gave birth to a whole new medical discipline: fixing blood vessels. We now call it vascular surgery. Today it’s common, but back then, that was a new idea. Surgery took a huge leap.

In fact, if you look throughout medicine, during war, there were many innovations. You may not have known that blood transfusion originated in the first World War. Or you may not know that helicopters originated in the Korean War. You may not even know that the NIH, the National Institutes of Health, began because of the second World War.

The same thing could be said in the social sciences, and technology, and engineering.

Many of the things we take for granted today came because of war, harsh conditions. It makes you realize that necessity creates the mindset to innovate.

Every time you hear a helicopter land on top of Shock Trauma, or you see a bag of blood hanging in a movie scene, or you hear that somebody’s getting their blood

vessels fixed, or you get an NIH grant, just remember, where did that come from? It came from war.

Now, you might wonder, why am I talking about war?

Do you think perhaps we've been in a war the past couple of years? We've been in a war against COVID. We've certainly been in a war against social injustice. You could even argue there's been an assault on our democracy. I think so. For sure, those battles aren't over by any means at this point in time.

But as I look back, I see that we've learned a lot during these past couple of years. We've had many innovations as a consequence of these wars already. And these struggles, I believe, have allowed us to ask much clearer questions about what's in store for us in the future.

It leads us to ask the questions: What can we do better? What will our innovations be? What will our "vascular surgery" be?

You might wonder, why does it look like a party here on stage? Why did we go to all this trouble?

Because I felt it was important to have a party. Think about all the accomplishments all of you in the audience and we onstage have had in the past several years. They are inspiring to me.

You all should be on this stage. If only there was enough room! But you've earned it, you've earned to be in the limelight because of what we've done at this institution over the past several years. It's great to be here to celebrate with your friends, but also to have some conversations with them about the future. That's what we're going to do for the next couple of minutes.

Now, one of UMB's strongest friends is our clinical partner, the University of Maryland Medical Center [UMMC]. We came together in a united front, UMB and UMMC, to lead the counterattack on COVID, day in and day out. COVID is an interesting, unusual virus. It's thrown many curveballs at us. And do you know

what? Our people hit that ball every time it came at us. We took care of the sickest patients, got them better. Together, we did very well. I don't know about you, but I oftentimes look back on that period of time and take in all that we accomplished. So many people stepped forward, and it took personal fortitude. People took risk, personal risk. They were putting others first. That's respect for your fellow man and woman. You brought life and hope to all of us.

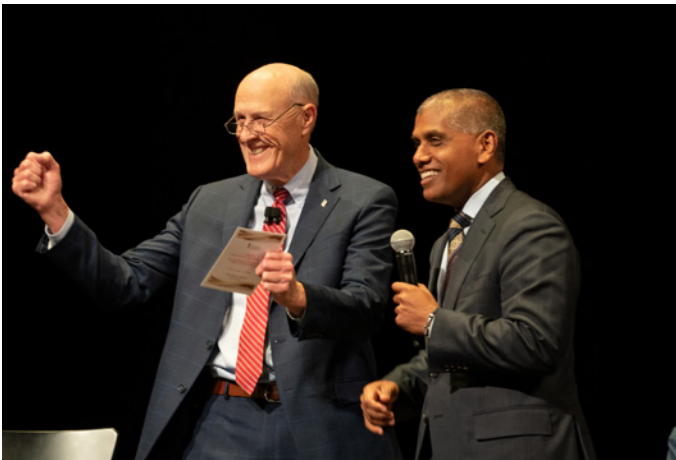


One of our best partners here is Dr. Mohan Suntha. I think that you all know Dr. Suntha. Because of COVID, we forged the strongest partnership and relationship you could ever imagine. How do we leverage this partnership, Mohan?

Dr. Suntha: "First, Dr. J, great party, thanks for the invite. But as you say, COVID taught us a lot of things. Right? It taught you, and it reminded us, of the strength of our partnership and the impact that we have when we act together."

When you think about all of the lessons of COVID, for all of the challenges, we remind ourselves of the differential impact, and the differential responsibility. We have to serve our communities. There is no you or me, there is no us or them. Right, there is only together. And when we think about that through the lens of our community, I think the next great challenge that we will take on together is how we define our roles as anchor institutions within our communities. Because yes, we'll continue

to serve the mission of education, we will serve the mission of acute health care, but where we together will have disproportionate impact is where we show our communities that we understand there is no us or them, that there is no you or me there, there is only we. We together have a responsibility to ensure that we lift up our communities. And in doing so, we're going to serve our mission. And we're going to remind each other, like we've done with COVID, that we are far better together. When I think about how we are going to go about this, there is an asset that I talk about. We have incredible human talent, right? That is an incredible asset. We are blessed to have differential resources. And that is an asset. But there's an asset that we don't talk about that I believe is going to inform us going forward in the future. And that is the asset of data. When I think about data, I think about an untapped resource that we are going to be able to leverage for the good of how we serve our mission. When I think about, as I've heard you often describe this, improving the human condition. When I think about the role the data has in that, I am inspired that our partnership is only going to continue to grow. Again, thanks for the invite to the party, I appreciate it.



I want to just introduce two other people to you, Dr. Bert O'Malley, the CEO and president of the University of Maryland Medical Center, our partner, and Dr. Mark Gladwin, our new dean of the School of Medicine.

UMB has another powerful partnership. It's a research partnership. And it's another partnership that I take particular pride in being a part of. Some of you may have heard of the partnership called *MPower*. It's our formal relationship with the University of Maryland, College Park, it's in its 11th year, and it's a very strong relationship. And *MPower* is what I call a *strategic* partnership for a reason. UMB has the science and techniques that College Park doesn't have. And College Park has all the special science and things that we don't have. We fit together like a puzzle — what a great kind of marriage to have.

Today, we want to announce another big step that we're taking soon. And Dr. Suntha just mentioned it a minute ago. You'll hear a big announcement about this tomorrow, but I'm going to tell you just a little bit about it today. Our UMB and College Park partnership is creating a new joint research institute. And we're adding a third partner to that in the University of Maryland Medical System. This will be an institute that will be based and focused on intelligent health, data, and computing. All our strengths fit together again, like a puzzle. To make this institute powerful, we will put our energy into making this happen. I'm going to predict to you that new science will emerge. I'm certain that new ideas about patient care will emerge. And I'm equally sure that that in the end, we will learn more about other important topics and things we need to know more about like social determinants of health, etc. We expect to transform health care in Maryland. And this state will be much better for that.

With that, I would like to introduce another partner here, Dr. Darryll Pines, president of the University of Maryland, College Park. Through our partnership, we have come to expect innovation. In fact, we live in innovation. That's what *MPower* has done for us. Darryll, tell us what's in the future for innovation and our partnerships?

Dr. Pines: First of all, President Jarrell, thank you for inviting all of us to be here today with our partners in UMB. And first, let me thank Chancellor Perman. He was president of UMB when this strategic partnership was developed. The MPower relationship and MPower partnership brought our two institutions together.

As Dr. Suntha was speaking toward, we are all better together when we go together as one against initiatives that we care about. This new partnership that President Jarrell is talking about today is one of the most significant partnerships that we've worked on together. We want to transform care, like it's never been done before, by combining biomedical advances, like genomics, computational algorithms, like we do at College Park, and the use of big data as spoken to by Dr. Suntha, and bring that together to truly transform human health, transform care, and maybe even the health care system in the future. It is a strategic partnership that we know will lead to breakthroughs and advances. In fact, it has already done that.

I want to share a story with you that I brought to share with this community, to give you the vision of what we're talking about. It's about a lady by the name of Melanie Nichols. Melanie's family has a history of breast cancer. It's a history that Melanie could not escape when she tested positive for the BRCA gene mutations linked to breast cancer in 2008. This is a real story.

After 16 rounds of chemotherapy and breast reconstruction surgery, she had to have both ovaries removed to further reduce risk of cancer in the future. But Melanie is now cancer-free, thanks to precision medicine. Melanie's positive test results for the BRCA gene mutations instantly concerned her medical team, as BRCA gene mutations are linked to breast and ovarian cancer. Further tests confirmed that she had triple-negative breast cancer, a very aggressive form of breast cancer that disproportionately affects African Americans. Her best chance for cancer-free survival was to have bilateral mastectomy. Melanie says that this type of tailored precision medicine and treatment gave her so much hope that she stated the following: "Precision medicine offers the hope that by the time my daughter is at an age when she considers genetic testing, new targeted treatments will be available to give her additional choices for preserving her health." That is the hope that we hope to evolve in this new partnership. Thank you, Dr. Jarrell.



I just want to remind you all that was an engineer speaking, not a physician. And isn't that wonderful? He's an engineer by training, chemical engineer undergrad. Now, if I could get Dr. Suntha just to stand here for a minute, because I do want to point something out to the audience. You see three great institutions, their presidents standing before you. You've not seen this before. This is a really special opportunity. We are working together for the future. This is a first, it's a big step forward, and I must tell you, I'm pumped. I think this is really cool.

As a university, we have we could have faltered many times in many ways in the past several years, faltered in our missions and how we functioned in offering new degrees and programs. The past several years have been really trying. And as you know, there have been many distractions and many obstacles put in our way.

But we didn't falter. We flourished.

And I'm going to give you some examples of how we flourished. We flourished in research. I don't need to tell any of you in this room about the power and strength of UMB's research program. It goes deep, it's strong, and it continues to grow.

government leaders. I have to say, wow, we've really done a lot in the past two years. Did you know all of that?

We have not faltered, we have flourished.

One thing that I always keep in the front of my mind is our commitment to education. To that end, we've also done a number of things to enhance our educators. You know that UMB is full of very talented teachers. Yet, I have to tell you, and I'm on this list, not many of us have any formal education as educators. I've taught my whole life. And yet, I don't have any training in teaching. We wouldn't think of putting a researcher in the lab or put a surgeon in the operating room, or an attorney in the courtroom, without years of preparation. But we do exactly that with our educators. We take a pharmacist or a social worker and put them in the classroom and expect them to be excellent. Now, it turns out, they're often excellent. But don't you think we could prepare them better as teachers as well? And I know we can. And there's a couple of ways we can do that.

One of them is the following visual image: Can you imagine that a fully trained dentist or pharmacist here who teaches our students also has a master's or a doctorate degree in education? We have a few of those. But today at UMB, and in our second year, we can now award those degrees. Our faculty can get a doctorate in education from UMB. And it's designed for people like you and me — working professionals in the health and human sciences. Now, we created this during the time of COVID. We were successful in it. We currently have 27 professionals enrolled in this program. It's actually the largest program of its type in the country.

Now, I don't know about you, but a doctorate in education for professionals at UMB. That's something I would never have thought I would see.

In another program, we started a teaching academy committed to increasing faculty teaching skills. That academy is led by Dr. Donna Parker in the School of Medicine and Dr. Christina Cestone in the provost's office. Dr. Cestone is here today. Let me walk over.

Cristina, good afternoon. Thank you. Tell us a little bit about this teaching academy that you've started.

Dr. Cestone: When I arrived here in 2019, and through COVID, I realized that there was a gap for educators who wanted to advance in their careers, so the time was ripe for LEAPS. LEAPS is our academy of educators. It's really been designed to help us develop and support the educational mission. LEAPS will seed educational innovation, it will offer inspirational ideas, advance educational research, celebrate our educators, and, importantly, provide coaching and mentoring. We're really excited about LEAPS. We hope you check out our website with events that is launching soon. I think it's really important to fulfill the educational mission, to invest in our educators.

Brilliant, right? That's how we'll develop more master educators at UMB. That's how our faculty will become national experts, innovators, on how to properly educate professional students to become great in their own right. I like that a lot.

Our University's culture, it's very fabric has been tested these past years. But it was woven well, its strength has shown, and our mission and core values have come through very strong. People stepped up everywhere. But I particularly want to thank our staff and our Staff Senate. They took on many strong leadership roles. I also want to make sure we remember our front-line workers, the people that came in day in, day out, and kept UMB operating. They kept us going, many of them behind the scenes. Perhaps you didn't see it, but our students volunteered to do so many things to help us out. We couldn't have done it without all of this. What a team! Of course, that's the UMB culture, isn't it?

Renée Hutchins is our new dean of law. She's here at the party. Now she just became dean of the Maryland Carey School of Law, but she was here for more than a decade. It's so nice to have you back. She's an inspiring leader, I have to tell you, and she has a lot of passion about the excellence of our culture. Renée, how do we make our culture even more excellent than it is already?

Dean Hutchins: Thank you, Bruce, for inviting me to the party. We make it more excellent by leaning into the tremendously diverse and talented community of scholars and teachers and doers that we have here at the University. I have to tell a law school story really quickly. Speaking of excellence, we recently received word that we ranked No. 1 historically for women faculty. And No. 2 historically for women students. That is exactly the kind of excellence that we want to celebrate and preserve and build upon. It is absolutely critically important. We do that in part by celebrating the very talent that we have inside our walls — talent like today's award winners, so congratulations to you all. It is also critically important to celebrate and lean into the excellence of community, because community is the cornerstone of democracy. Though celebrating community and building community is not about creating feel-good moments, it is about doing the groundwork that is essential to recognizing our nation's highest ideals. That is why it is important to celebrate the excellence of community.



You can see why she's inspiring. Of course, she's also gotten me in trouble now with all the other deans who haven't gotten to brag on their school, so I apologize ahead of time. Right next to me here is someone who also cares about culture. That's Dr. Diane Forbes Berthoud, our new vice president for equity, diversity, and inclusion.

I will tell you, at a university or anywhere for that matter, excellence won't happen without having a focus also on equity.

Diane, where are we headed in our efforts to be a more equitable university?

Dr. Forbes Berthoud: Thank you, Dr. Jarrell. Good afternoon, everyone. Since we're celebrating, I want to share that UMB was recognized by Forbes as one of America's Best Employers for Diversity in 2022. This is based on the great work Dean Hutchins just mentioned, but primarily because of our diversity and our leadership, and because of employee and industry recommendations of the University. Kudos to us, but there's still more work to do.

One of the efforts that I'm pleased to be leading with many of you here on campus is our first-ever diversity strategic planning process. Where are we going to go without a plan? As part of that — and I heard talk about data earlier — is building out a robust transparent assessment and accountability system. I'm leading the creation and the development of the first-ever state-of-the-art institutional dashboard. That dashboard will be available to all of us in our community, and we will be able to track all aspects of our organizational life and how well we're doing and where we may need to improve. This is a game changer. We will be able to, for example, give you some more information and data on promotions, retention, hiring, how are we looking in terms of representation of various groups over time. But it's not just about innovative maps and great tools. I do love that stuff, and we do get a lot done that way. It's also about creating concrete action and steps and building on what's already been done here. For example, increasing the representation of women and those who are underrepresented in their professions all across UMB to serve the state of Maryland and beyond, and continuing to build capacity in partnership with our equity, diversity, and inclusion leaders all throughout our schools and units through my office. I'm happy to partner with all of you, and it's an exciting time for diversity and equity at the

University of Maryland, Baltimore. And here we go. Let's get ready for the ride. Thank you, Dr. Jarrell.

That's called bringing passion to the job, don't you think? For our culture is strong, but you've just now heard how we can make it even stronger. We simply have to follow through.

A commitment to Baltimore — especially West Baltimore — is in UMB's fabric as well. We have many community commitments. And a good example of that is our Founders Week Public Servant of the Year, Dr. Yolanda Ogbolu from the School of Nursing. She is a scholar in health care disparities and social determinants of health. And she has built great trust with our community, just like others at UMB and in particular the School of Pharmacy. Some of you may know about the PATIENTS Program led by professor Daniel Mullens. It's a decade-old program that is really very effective. It does research through community participation, hand in hand with the community. We saw just how much wonderful trust they had built with the community during the past years during COVID.

Now they have something new that I think you should be excited about. It's called the PATIENTS Professors Academy. People in the community take a rigorous course in the School of Medicine. They earned the title PATIENTS Professor. They're then qualified to teach, and what do they teach? They teach how to do research hand in hand with the community, how to do research relevant to the community. Now they have a whole new career advising people like you and me and companies and universities that want to do research with the community. Imagine that: Citizens from the community who are professors with us, teaching us. Imagine the pride that they have in their accomplishment. You should feel the pride in having them as part of our institution. Of course, that's what an anchor institution should do.

As part of my commitment to Baltimore on behalf of UMB there are three major priorities I'd like to let you know about.

Baltimore will thrive when its youth thrive. Youth have to have hope for the future. So we should be aiming to bring hope to our youth, hope for their future.

Many of our youth live in violent communities. To quote Dr. Tom Scalea, physician and chief of the Shock Trauma Center in the School of Medicine, "I ask you, my beloved city, how many more parents do I have to tell that their children are dead?"

Do you all remember that quote? I remember it so vividly. It tells you about the environment that our children are living in in the city. How can you have hope when all that's happening around you? We must be attentive as a university to this violence. It's our problem, too, so what are we going to do about it?

Well, for one, we're starting a UMB Center for Violence Prevention. This was announced several months ago. And it's the schools of social work, law, and medicine, along with the Shock Trauma unit, and Dr. Scalea, to focus UMB's deep expertise on this intractable problem.



Another program, we call it the Eutaw Street Project. Eutaw Street, some of you may know, is right outside the door here. Sometimes there are people doing questionable activities out there. This Eutaw Street Project is to work with disengaged youth to provide them with support and guide them in ways to prevent them

from having high-risk behaviors, to help them. This is led by Dr. Kyla Liggett-Creel, the School of Social Work, and also our own UMB chief of police, Tom Leone.

How about social workers working with the police in a collaborative way? That's a really big step forward, and I'm proud of it. It'll have a big impact on Baltimore, I am sure. Of course, as a university, our goal should be to create more activities like this. We should figure out how to refine them, how to measure them, how to teach them, how to generalize them to the public to have an impact.

Now, we already know how to bring some success to our youth. There are some programs you know about like Promise Heights, the Community Engagement Center, and the CURE Scholars.



I want to spend a second on the CURE Scholars. This is a program that gets young men and women starting in sixth grade through the 12th grade. We now have our seventh cohort. We've now had our first group graduate from high school, and 16 of those CURE Scholars have begun college – is that not a phenomenal achievement? And I want to tip my hat to Chancellor Jay Perman and Dr. Kevin Cullen, the director of the Cancer Center, in the School of Medicine. Kevin, if you're out there, thank you for your support and doing this and making this a wonderful, wonderful program. We have to continue it.

A second priority we must have is community health. Baltimore has to be a healthy community to thrive.

I hope some of you know that the citizens in Baltimore have some of the worst health outcomes in the state. We need a much broader approach to community health. I'm pleased to tell you that in concert with UMMC, we are working on a program that will be led by an associate vice president that will focus just on community health, to develop a comprehensive plan with our community with all of the UMB schools in the medical center. For the first time, we will have a focused approach on community health in Baltimore. We need that so much.

My third priority has to come under the category of economic empowerment. *Baltimore will thrive when its citizens have increased opportunities to succeed and build their own businesses.*

At UMB, we've made some efforts. We already support a number of local businesses. We actually have this wonderful program called Live Near Your Work. We now have 68 members of the UMB family who have moved into homes in our West Baltimore community. This is a UMB program led by Dr. Dawn Rhodes, our senior vice president for administration and finance. I also hope that we will have a kickoff soon, in the next month or two, about a new program to provide financial and administrative services to community not-for-profit organizations. We can help them get a foothold and be even stronger in the community. But none of this is enough. What else can we do? What else can we do to drive economic development to our neighbors in West Baltimore. That gives me the opportunity to introduce you to Mr. Luke Cooper. Luke has been the UMB President's Distinguished Scholar for the past year. He's been busy. And he's going to tell you what he's been doing to help Baltimore citizens, particularly West Baltimore, and UMB make connections and build wealth in Baltimore.



Luke Cooper: I think my role is really about connecting the little with the big. There's a lot of disconnected things around any university, as you know. But in Baltimore, in particular, we have a big problem. Eighty percent of our businesses in Baltimore, the Black businesses, small businesses, are completely disconnected from procurement opportunities, and they're also completely underfunded. A university, in my mind, has an obligation to connect these little dots, these little companies, these little opportunities to create wealth in their communities, to create asset values within their firms, to the big things that in services that we need as a university. I think about great success stories, like Cindy J Cosmetics in West Baltimore, and her ability to create contract manufacturing for cosmetics, and all the great things that come out of her business. I think about success stories like Marvin and his wife Alia, who just started a food service business in West Baltimore, to deliver healthy foods to the masses. I think about big outcomes like Marco Chacón's company. There are things that benefit us tremendously as an institution. My job is to connect all of those dots. One of the things that gives me hope today with this community is all the people I have as allies that I get to work with, like Dawn Rhodes. We have to work on some of the processes that we need to keep an eye on that help us deliver vendors that are diverse to our community in a way that doesn't prevent them from using Pro cards and other things that break that process. I get to work on some of the technical components that limit

that process. In my mind, there are lots of opportunities to connect the little with the big, and as an institution, our role is to do just that. So many of my objectives are related to that. I'm excited to be a part of such an institution that is doing all of these great things in our community. And I'll end with this last little tidbit. I've been a very successful tech entrepreneur, created two very successful companies, one I sold for \$15 million and one I sold for \$55 million. They were good outcomes. But the last one, the kind of economic mobility that I want to create in West Baltimore, was caused exactly by the things that I was doing in that company. The other week, one of my daughter's friends came up to me after school, and she said to me, "You know, Mr. Cooper, I know you." And I didn't know her. I didn't recognize her. And I asked her, "Well, what's your name?" And she told me her mom was a single Black mom from West Baltimore, grew up in a single-parent household, never had college education, formal training, went to school, in the city, and her kids go to school where my kids go to school, right. A school that costs \$30,000-plus a year to send them there. That is the kind of economic mobility that can happen when we connect the little with the big, and I'm excited to be a part of a university that cares so much about that mission. Thank you.

I think that's one of the first things I learned from my mom, how to connect the dots. And that's, of course, what Luke is doing, connecting the dots between community businesses and the great depth of resources and expertise in UMB. I hope you will all stay tuned in the coming months as we build out more of these programs.

Then there is fundraising. Nothing is more critical to our success than fundraising. Five years ago, we kicked off the Catalyst Campaign, then-President Perman kicked it off. It was led by Dr. Ellen Yankellow and Brian J. Gibbons.

Our target was \$750 million. I think that was a number that nobody here thought we would attain. Several months ago, we finished our Catalyst Campaign, even a little early, and raised \$778 million. That's a phenomenal achievement.

I want to point out and thank our senior vice president and chief development officer, Mr. Jim Hughes, and all the very able fundraising teams in each of our schools at UMB. Now, you might ask yourself the question, what is the impact of all of this fundraising? Sitting over there is Dean Jane Kirschling, and beside her is Mr. Bill Conway, and you just saw earlier he gave a wonderful gift to the School of Nursing — 830 nurses are benefiting from this phenomenal gift. Now, I'm going to say no one knows the impact of this better, the joy of this better, than both Mr. Conway and Dean Kirschling together. I want to ask each of them a question. I'll let the dean answer first and then Mr. Conway.



What led you to giving such a generous gift like this phenomenal gift? What was the impact of all of this?

Dean Kirschling: I want you to imagine that you're a first-generation student, and you're trying to make ends meet, and you've got a couple of little kids at home. You've been working as a certified nursing assistant in the nursing home, and you decide that you want to be a nurse, but you don't know how you're financially going to do that. But you go ahead, you fill out the application, you've taken your prerequisites at the community college, and you get your admission to the University of Maryland School of Nursing. Now you get told that you will be a Conway Scholar. Or imagine that you're a second-degree student, and you got a degree,

a bachelor's degree, say in communications, and you've been working in the communications field, but you decide that you want to do something different. You want to have more interaction with people and with communities. So you apply to the University of Maryland School of Nursing, knowing that you're still paying off all those loans that you took out for your first baccalaureate degree. You get your application letter that says you've been admitted, and that you're also a Conway Scholar. Or imagine that you graduated from high school. Your father was a nurse, and he instilled in you that you needed to get your education, but you also needed to follow in his footsteps. So you've gone to the University of Maryland, College Park, where you know that if you tell them you want to be a nurse at Maryland, you are guaranteed a spot as long as you meet the progression requirements. Then you decide that you're going to go to the Universities at Shady Grove so you can stay close to College Park, and you get your letter that says you're a Conway Scholar. You get full tuition, books, and fees. These are just three examples of the over 830 Maryland nurses who are benefiting from this phenomenal gift. To Bill and Joanne Conway, you are touching individual lives, you're touching families, you're touching communities. But more importantly, you have invested in a profession that makes a difference every day. And we thank you.

Bill Conway: To answer your question, what brought my wife and I to decide to do this, it really began with a desire to create jobs, not so much to create nurses in the beginning, I had made a lot of money. I gave the stupid interview to The Washington Post when I said that I wanted to give away this money, but I wanted to create jobs, and if anybody has any good ideas, send me an email. Well, I received more than 3,000 emails. And a group of people at my company helped me and they work through this. And the idea that really came to the top was nursing, because there was an enormous shortage of nurses. If someone could get a nursing degree, they could get a job, and they could take care of themselves, they could take care of their families, and they could take care of the rest of us. I actually have been in a hospital and had a couple of nurses come in and say

to me, “Mr. Conway, thank you for our scholarship.” And, of course, I never thought that would happen. Finally, to say why we also did it, I think what was important is in your stories about some of the people who were awarded the scholarships was that I wanted the nurses to be able to do what they wanted to do. I didn’t want them to have to work to try to pay off all their student debt and everything when they would have preferred to work in a clinic and make half as much money. I wanted them to be able to do what they wanted to do. And the scholarship generally lets them do that. Thank you.

That is transformational. And it was immediately transformational to these students. Scholarships like this go a long way for our University.

Speaking of successful students, I’d like to recognize one student, an exceptional student as well. With Founders Week Student of the Year Aishwarya Iyer, an MD/PhD student in the School of Medicine. She’s a very humble, hardworking, inspired young woman, a superb student and researcher, active in student government, a great supporter of the University. You’ve earned this award, and we’re proud of you, Aishwarya.

You’ve heard a lot of things that have happened to UMB and many, many accomplishments. I’d like to just make one comment that each one of these accomplishments has an essential ingredient and which often goes unseen or unnoticed. And that is there are deans and vice presidents standing behind many of these things to make them happen. That’s what they do. But that’s essential to the functioning of the University. I want to thank each of you up here and down there for your many activities and helping us.

I also want to thank those who made this production possible. There many of them you know: Nancy Gordon, Clara Woodly, Monica Maggiano, Alex Likowski, Jon Kucskar, and our senior vice president, Jennifer Litchman, who’s here on stage.

I want to give thanks to two major sponsors. One is the Whiting Turner Company. Many of you know it and Mr. Tim Regan. Tim has been a great friend of the University. Thank you also to Wexford Science and Technology. They’re the builders of our BioPark, and some of you may have seen I think we have a picture there of a new \$320 million investment in 4MLK. It’s on the corner of Baltimore Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. It will change the face of our University and our community, and it’ll bring with it over 1,000 new jobs. And lastly, you all have heard a wonderful cellist here, and I want to give a hearty thanks to our cellist Lachezar Kostov. He’s the associate principal cellist for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. I hope we get to see him again.

Over the past few years, we’ve accomplished a lot. I’m here to tell you that the state of our University is strong, and it is you, all of us, who make it so — the UMB team, every member, every partner, every friend that we have — but you know how it goes, the job is never done.

Like the surgeons in Korea, we also have a choice before us as well. Do we just accept the result, the current state of affairs that we see today, shrug our shoulders, and move on? Or do we push back and ask the question: Isn’t there a better way to do this?

I think there is a better way to do this. I expect to see great breakthroughs in the health sciences, leaps in education and teaching, and progress in our social sciences toward curing social injustice and health inequities. I know I will see these accomplishments in the coming years. And, yes, like the surgeons in Korea, we will need to innovate. We will need to discover the next vascular surgery or whatever it is. But that’s something we at UMB know how to do really, really well.

Just like the surgeons in Korea, what they experienced, we will see the impact directly on people’s lives. That’s what we do. We will feel joy when we move forward in our progress on these things.

Yes, the state of our University is strong today, and our University’s future is even stronger tomorrow.

To all of you who made that possible, I say, “Cheers!”