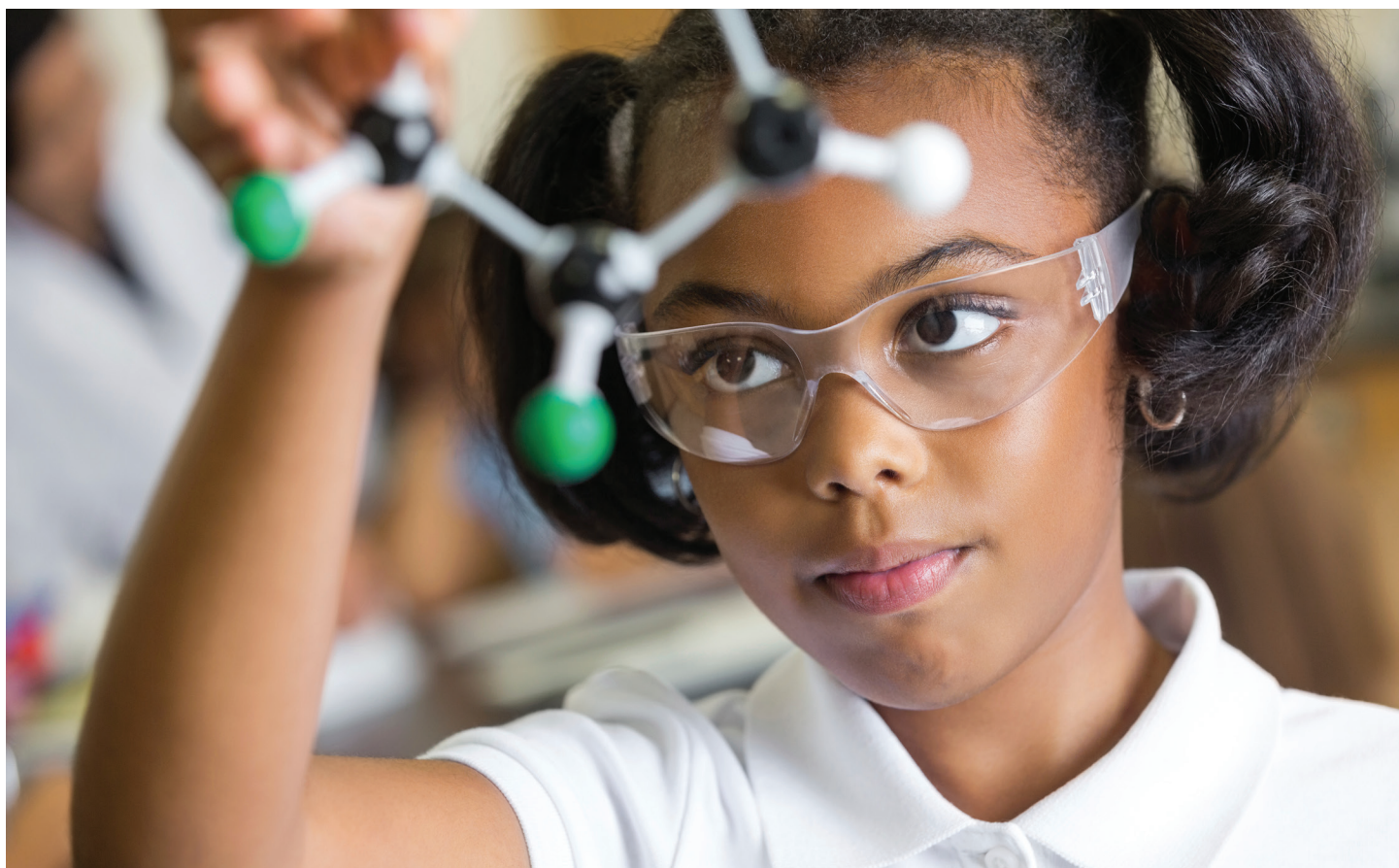


UMB CURE QUARTERLY

January 2017



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UMB CURE Scholars Program

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with great excitement that the UMB CURE Scholars Program welcomes its second cohort of scholars! After an incredible pilot year, 93 percent of our scholars have returned for a second year, and 85 percent of mentors have returned for a second year as well. With such success from the pilot year, I'm looking forward to seeing all that we can accomplish in year two.

I'm incredibly humbled by how much the UMB CURE Scholars Program has grown during the past year. We received over 75 scholar applications at the beginning of the school year, indicating that families are eager to enroll their children in our program. Additionally, we have expanded our mentor pool to include mentors from all over Baltimore City. Though the majority of our mentors still attend the six nationally ranked professional schools and interdisciplinary Graduate School at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), more than 15 percent of the UMB CURE Scholars Program mentors attend Morgan State University, Coppin State University, or other Baltimore-based colleges/universities.

I am also incredibly excited to welcome three new full-time staff to the UMB CURE Scholars Program. Lauren Kareem, MEd, the new curriculum specialist, brings extensive experience as a certified math, science, and special education teacher in Boston and Washington, D.C., public school systems. She has been hard at work developing our strong, STEM-based (science, technology, engineering, math) curriculum for our sixth- and seventh-grade scholars. Emily Rencsok, the new mentoring specialist, comes to the UMB CURE Scholars Program as a Baltimore Corps Fellow. She is responsible for recruiting our wonderful new mentors and providing ongoing cultural competency training throughout the year. Edana Jackson, the new office manager, has taught at Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School and brings more than 20 years of teaching experience to the UMB CURE Scholars Program to ensure that the program runs smoothly.

As we continue into the second half of this year, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all who have contributed to the growth and development of this program. Special thanks to our UMB CURE Scholars Program champions: partners from the University of Maryland (UM) BioPark, UM School of Pharmacy, UM School of Dentistry, UMB Community Engagement Center, MedSchool Maryland Productions, UM Medical Center Family Medicine, and UM Office of the Ombuds. I am eager to see our scholars' continued growth and accomplishments as we move into 2017!

Fondly,
Robin Saunders, EdD, MS

COATED WITH POTENTIAL

The second cohort of UMB CURE scholars joined the inaugural group in a festive white coat ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 1, in the School of Nursing auditorium.

The 26 newcomers from Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School, Southwest Baltimore Charter School, and Green Street Academy and 90 new mentors, primarily from the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) schools of medicine, law, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, and social work, were welcomed by UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD.

Perman reminded the children, families, mentors, and supporters that talent is universal but opportunity is not. He cited remarks by a recent speaker on campus who observed that a person's access to opportunity differs in the same way that a staircase or an escalator lifts one to the top.

"If you fall down an escalator, it doesn't matter so much because an escalator won't let you stay down." It keeps rising, he said. "That's what we're building here today," Perman said. "We're building an escalator."

That escalator hopefully will take city students excited about science into stable, well-paying careers in health care, breaking the cycle of poverty that is so prevalent in West Baltimore.

U.S. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, JD, who grew up just blocks from UMB and has served in Congress since 1996, told the UMB CURE audience about illnesses such as diabetes and cancer that disproportionately affect African-American communities.

"A lot of times, out of our pain comes our passion to do our purpose," he said. "If there's anybody who will be most qualified to find the cure for cancer, it is these young people. They have probably seen the pain and they want to do something about it."

Cummings, who is a 1976 graduate of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, helped launch the CURE Scholars Program at UMB in 2015. Another dignitary who was present for both ceremonies was Sanya A. Springfield, PhD, director of the National Cancer Institute's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities.

To recognize their support, Perman, Springfield, and Cummings were presented with awards by UMB CURE Executive Director Robin Saunders, EdD, MS, and several eager helpers: CURE scholars who got their own white coats a year ago and are now seventh-graders.

Among them was Shakeer Franklin, who received a shoutout of his own for being the subject of a documentary about how CURE has kindled his interest in science and made him a better student at Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School. Shakeer from West Baltimore, by Oscar award-winning filmmakers Susan Hadary and John Anglim of MedSchool Maryland Productions (a division of the School of Medicine), has been released theatrically in Los Angeles.

— Alex Likowski



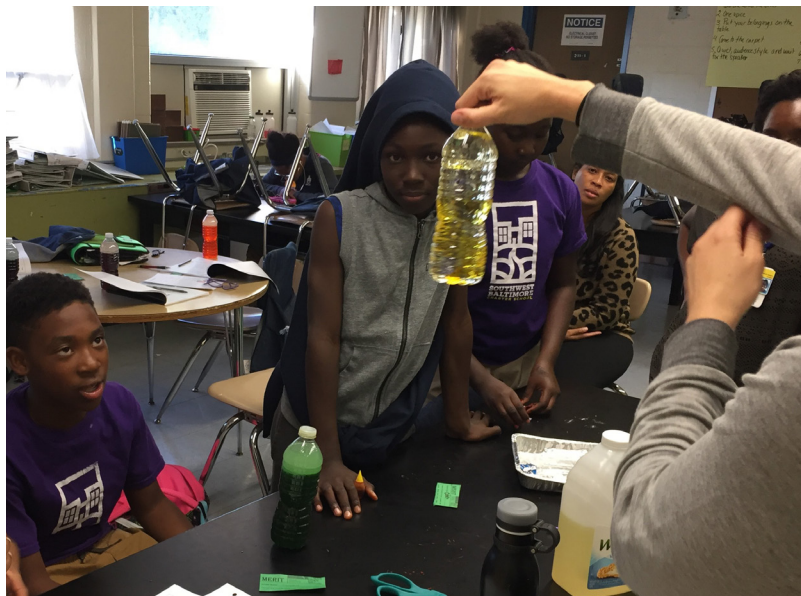
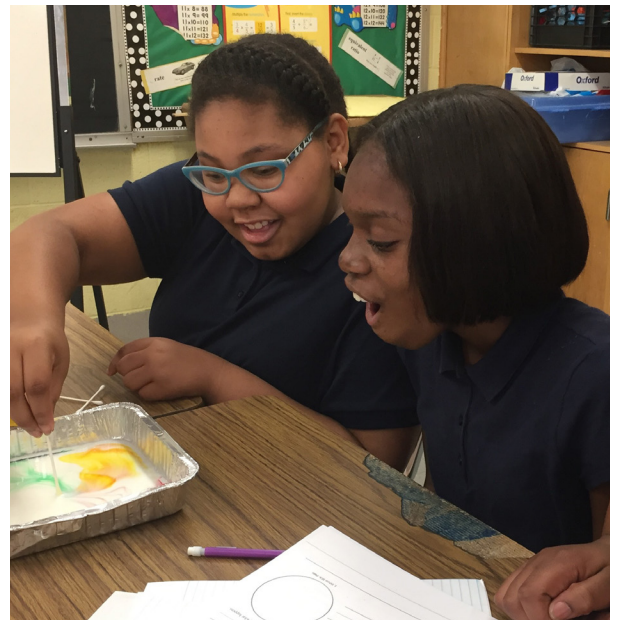
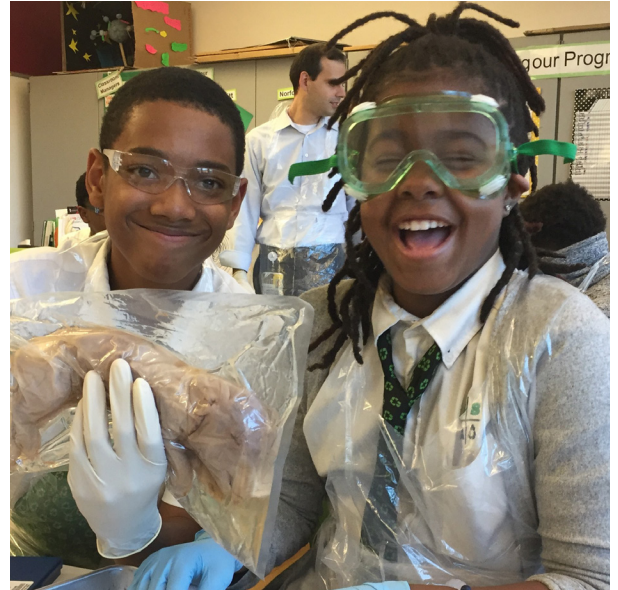
SCHOLAR ADVENTURES IN THE CLASSROOM

During the after-school sessions, UMB CURE scholars have been working on a variety of STEM- and health care-related projects.

Sixth-grade scholars began the year with potato clock and magic milk experiments. Additionally, scholars created their own homemade lava lamps, learning about polarity and density and the theory behind why the lava lamp works. For most of November, scholars were participating in a financial literacy unit facilitated by M&T Bank, teaching scholars the basics of budgeting and tracking their spending over the course of the month.

Seventh-grade scholars began the year with a food nutrition unit facilitated by Healthiest Maryland Schools. Scholars also have completed a Scratch by MIT unit, encouraging scholars to develop their own animation through learning basic computer programming skills. A highlight of the seventh-grade curriculum was the Introduction to Anatomy unit, teaching scholars about mammalian biology through the dissection of fetal pigs.

Both cohorts of scholars were treated to a speaker series in early December, having the opportunity to hear from successful health care professionals and cancer researchers who have been CURE scholars themselves. We would like to thank Jewel Greywoode, MD, Rodney Taylor, MD, MPH, Greg Carey, PhD, and Elsie Stines, DNP, MS, CRNP, for inspiring and empowering our scholars through their stories. Next semester, scholars will begin working on their Science Olympiad projects in preparation for the competition at Morgan State University on Saturday, March 4.



SCHOLAR ADVENTURES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

In addition to after-school sessions to work on STEM projects, scholars have math tutoring sessions on Saturday morning through A Bridge to Academic Excellence, a student organization at the UM School of Pharmacy. After math tutoring, scholars participate in various field trips or special curriculum elements through partner organizations.

To kick off the year, UMB CURE scholars and mentors participated in the Heart Walk at Camden Yards to benefit the American Heart Association on Saturday, Oct. 8. The scholars raised over \$250 to support research, education, and advocacy efforts regarding cardiovascular health, and they got some exercise in walking around Oriole Park!

For two additional Saturday sessions in October, the UMB CURE Scholars Program partnered with Art with a Heart, a Baltimore-based organization that develops creative initiatives for those living in the city's most vulnerable communities. Sixth-grade UMB CURE scholars learned about the solar system and constructed their own papier-mâché planets,

wonderfully complementing the scholars' Earth and Space Science curriculum in Baltimore City Public Schools.

The UMB CURE Scholars Program would like to give special shoutouts to the School of Pharmacy at UMB and the Morgan State University ASCEND Scholars Program for developing entire Saturday sessions for our scholars! Seventh-grade scholars were treated to an infectious diseases unit run by pharmacy students in which scholars learned about bacteria, proper hand-washing techniques, and how diseases spread throughout populations. Sixth-grade scholars took a field trip to Morgan State to get to know current undergraduate ASCEND scholars and participate in a variety of STEM projects.

Other Saturday activities included a planetarium presentation at the UMB URecFit Pratt Gym, an interactive presentation by Mad Science of DC at the UMB STEM Fair, and five scholars attended the UMB Founders Week Gala.



WINTER WONDERLAND CELEBRATION

The UMB CURE Scholars Program wrapped up the fall semester with a Winter Wonderland Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 10. The day was full of holiday stores, parent workshops, guest speakers, and awards for the scholars.

Scholars began the day at the University of Maryland (UM) BioPark and the UMB Community Engagement Center to use merits that they've earned with good behavior to purchase gifts for their families and other scholars. Parents were treated to a parent workshop facilitated by the Community Engagement Center during this time as well.

The scholars then participated in an awards ceremony through the UM School of Pharmacy student organization A Bridge to Academic Excellence (ABAE). ABAE treated the UMB CURE scholars to raffle prizes, awards for all of the scholars, and a delicious lunch!

The afternoon was full of special guest speakers and awards given from the UMB CURE Scholars Program. UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, welcomed the scholars and their families and congratulated the scholars on an awesome first semester. Alison Lin, PhD, a program director for the Diversity Training Branch of the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities of the National Cancer Institute, emphasized to the CURE scholars that they can be anything they want to be and that they are all on the track to being scientists. The scholars were then treated to a presentation by Renetta Tull, PhD, associate vice provost for graduate student

development at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and a global speaker for STEM equity, diversity, and inclusion.

The UMB CURE leadership team (with the help of the Baltimore Orioles mascot) presented awards to the UMB CURE community, including Scholar of the Month, Mentor of the Month, and Scholar Perfect Attendance awards. The Baltimore City Council provided individual resolution certificates to each sixth-grade scholar, recognizing their achievements and acceptance into the program. In addition, 22 sixth-grade scholars became fully admitted to the program, having been enrolled for at least one semester without receiving any demerits for poor behavior and having no more than one unexcused absence. UMB CURE now has 55 fully admitted scholars.

The final presentation featured 59 scholars receiving Math Awards for completing math problems during Saturday tutoring throughout the semester. A special shoutout goes to Mariah Beatty, a sixth-grade scholar at Green Street Academy, for completing over 1,700 math problems since Oct. 15 and being the UMB CURE Mathlete MVP for the fall semester.

After a wonderful fall semester, the UMB CURE community is looking forward to the Science Olympiad projects that the scholars will begin in January. Stay tuned to hear about the accomplishments of the UMB CURE scholars during the Science Olympiad competition being held on Saturday, March 4.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

SCHOLAR OF THE MONTH

Mariah Beatty
Davioin Hill
Tyon Gilmore
Josiah Bryant

MENTOR OF THE MONTH

Ann Felauer
Eryn Trauben
Heather Ezelle

SCHOLAR PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Tiyon Bowie	Zoe Fisher	Emani Malone
Jackson Collins	Darien Hall	Joshua Terry
Shereen Farquharson	Keayon Lawson	Machai Whyte
Damia Finley		





Jayven is a sixth-grade scholar at Southwest Baltimore Charter School.

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT JAYVEN JEFFERSON

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE UMB CURE SCHOLARS PROGRAM?

I saw a flier with science experiments on it and I like that kind of stuff.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT BEING A CURE SCHOLAR SO FAR?

I really like working with the mentors because they help you figure out what you want to do.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE UMB CURE STEM PROJECT SO FAR?

Making the papier-mâché planets with Art with a Heart. I liked learning about

the planets and how close they are to the Earth.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?

I want to be a pharmacist. I didn't know what a pharmacist was until I joined the UMB CURE program. I had a lot of fun at the Healthy Halloween event created by the UM School of Pharmacy counting medicines as one of the activities, and now I want to be a pharmacist.



Quincy is an engineer in the Baltimore community who joined UMB CURE as a mentor in October 2016.

MENTOR SPOTLIGHT QUINCY GOLDSMITH

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO JOIN THE UMB CURE SCHOLARS PROGRAM?

I'm new to the community and wanted to find a way to be of assistance to the young people I see walking down the street every day. As an engineer, I also want to see more people that look like me in the science and engineering meetings that I attend.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE UMB CURE SCHOLARS PROGRAM SO FAR?

Getting to know my scholar and his family. I think that UMB CURE is a great example of a public university giving back to its community, and I'm glad that I can be a part of that by getting to

know my scholar and introduce him to STEM and health care careers.

WHAT PROJECT HAVE YOU MOST ENJOYED WORKING ON WITH YOUR SCHOLAR SO FAR?

Helping him with his math skills on Saturday mornings.

HOW DO YOU THINK BEING IN THE UMB CURE SCHOLARS PROGRAM WILL IMPACT YOUR SUCCESS AS A STEM PROFESSIONAL?

It will push me to continue to assist others. I'm also excited to be involved with UMB CURE to increase the diversity of the engineering industry because that diversity will allow the field to be more well-rounded.

LOOKING AHEAD

- ▶ Science Olympiad projects and competition
- ▶ Circles of Voices (www.circlesofvoices.com) event for mentors and scholars
- ▶ Field trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture
- ▶ Sealant Saturday through the UM School of Dentistry
- ▶ American Association for Cancer Research Convention
- ▶ Anti-bullying curriculum with Kaiser Permanente



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about becoming a mentor or supporting the program in any capacity, please contact Robin Saunders (rsaunders@umaryland.edu) or visit www.umaryland.edu/cure-scholars.

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UMB CURE SCHOLARS

Supported by the National Cancer Institute's Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) program, the UMB CURE Scholars Program identifies promising middle school students in Baltimore and prepares them for health care and research careers through hands-on workshops, lab experiences, and mentorship.

220 N. Arch St., 14th Floor | Baltimore, MD 21201 | 410-706-2361 | umbcure@umaryland.edu