

To Whom Much is Given

The Meyerhoff Alumni Advisory Board Newsletter

Spring 2011

Vol. 2 Issue 1

Officer's Corner

This month's Officer's Corner comes to us from Kamili Jackson, Communications Chair and Elections Chair.

Very soon you'll begin to see announcements about elections for the Meyerhoff Alumni Advisory Board. I hope that everyone reading this newsletter will consider participating on the board. You don't need to be in Maryland and you don't need to set aside a lot of time. All of the meetings can be attended by phone and a couple hours a month is a typical commitment. All of the positions will be open for nomination including president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, parliamentarian, historian and all of the cohort representatives.

Over the last couple of years the people who have participated on the board have set in motion a very special organization emphasizing fellowship among Meyerhoff alums and giving back to the program that gave us so much. The board has written by-laws, established the Meyerhoff Alumni Advisory Board as an official UMBC alumni organization and started the Alumni Cohort Giving Challenge raising a total of over \$55,000 so far. We have also started this newsletter, the only one at UMBC by and for alumni. Future goals include assisting the program with mentoring and finding ways to connect alumni across the country.

Here's the thing – The Meyerhoff Alumni Advisory Board, as with all organizations, is only as good as the individuals who come together to lend their energy, focus and creativity. In addition, periodically fresh ideas are needed to reinvigorate the organization. Knowing what I know about Meyerhoffs, I am sure that there are many talented people reading this newsletter right now. Perhaps you are an avid photographer, writer, or have amazing organization skills. Maybe you have implemented a successful fundraising idea for your fraternal organization, NSBE chapter, church, professional organization, or special cause. Maybe you have started a non-profit or give back to your community in a special way. Maybe you want to start now.

WE WANT YOU!!!

Information is coming soon to your email box and on Facebook.

Stay connected...

Facebook: Meyerhoff Scholarship Alumni
Linkedin: Meyerhoff Alumni, UMBC
Google Groups: Meyerhoff Alumni, UMBC
Website: www.umbc.edu/meyerhoff/alumni

Newsletter brought to you by the Communications Committee.

Editor – Stephanie Bates (M4)
Assistant Editor – Kamili Jackson (M4)
Staff - Tiffani Bright (M11) and Vondell Coleman (M4)

Questions, comments and corrections can be addressed to the staff at maabcomm@gmail.com.

NEXT ISSUE: Summer 2011

Cohort Giving Challenge Update

As your treasurer, I am delighted to report that we as a group continue to trend positively in terms of participation and pledges. Dr. Harbowski would expect nothing less.

As of 5/18/11, we are up 5% in participation and more than 84% in pledges when compared to the beginning of the previous quarter. Participation has increased from 11% to 16% with the M17's leading the way. Pledges have increased more than 84% to end the quarter with \$14,934. These are the types of numbers that CEO's live for.

However, last year we ended the challenge with 20% of alumni giving overall and raised \$19,080. We'll need a strong finish at the of end fiscal year do even better this year.

You still have time to ensure that your cohort wins the cohort challenge. The latest results are as follows:

- 1st Place - M17s - 38% participation
- 2nd Place - M6s - 24% participation
- 3rd Place - M4s - 23% participation

There are quite a few cohorts that are still in the running. M1s, M9s and M23s can still make a run for the title. If you haven't made a pledge, please think about doing so.

Always remember, there is strength in numbers and every pledge counts.

The cohort challenge ends every year on **June 30** at the end of UMBC's fiscal year. We only have a little over one month to go. Don't procrastinate. Make your donation today!

Torria Ellis-Dugar, M4
Meyerhoff Alumni Advisory Board Treasurer

[Give by clicking here!](#)

[View results of the challenge by clicking here!](#)

Upcoming Events

Tuesday June 7, 2011 - 6:30 pm
Meyerhoff Alumni Advisory Board Meeting
UMBC Alumni House – All alumni are always welcome.
Contact Ray Onley to participate in the teleconference
ray.onley@gmail.com

Sunday June 12, 2011 - 12 to 3pm
Cook-out with the M23s
Alumni and current scholars welcome the M23s to UMBC and the Meyerhoff Program

Wednesday July 20, 2011 - 7 to 9pm
Pizza Party
Alumni and current scholars join M23s for a pizza party and end of summer bridge celebration

2009-2010 Alumni Board Members

President

Ray Onley, M4

Vice-President

Mawuli Dzirasa, M7

Secretary

Vondell Coleman, M4

Treasurer

Torria Ellis-Dugar, M4

Parliamentarian

John Foster, M11

Historian

Tanisha Hall, M6

Representatives

- M1 – Michael Haywood
 - M2 – Kellie McCants Price
 - M3 – Angelique Blanding
 - M4 – Delayne Johnson
 - M5 – Jason McCullers
 - M6 – Jennifer Plummer
 - M7 – Camelia Owens
 - M8 – Alexandra Harryman
 - M9 – Mileka Gilbert
 - M10 – Lauren (Battle) Wills
 - M11 – Tiffani Bright
 - M12 – Richard Shoge
 - M13 – Seth Miller
 - M14 – Michael Aaron
 - M15 – Candace Mainor
 - M16 – Shayla Shorter
 - M17 – Latey Jones
 - M18 – **Vacant – Representative Needed!**
- Graduate Fellow – Joe Washington

Want to be a Mentor?

Attention Alumni! - The Meyerhoff Alumni Advisory Board is in the process of re-establishing the mentoring program and any interested alums should contact Ray Onley (ray.onley@gmail.com) for more information and to volunteer.

The Board is also working on getting graduating seniors in touch with Alumni that have attended the schools that they are interested in pursuing. Again, please contact Ray about this program.

Alumni News!

Delayne Johnson (M4) was a fellow in the first cohort of the National Science Foundation STaR Program for 2010-2011. The Fellowship provides support in Service, Teaching, and Research for promising early career mathematics educators. The experience culminated in a presentation of her research on equity issues in mathematics education at the annual meeting of the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE) in Irvine, CA in January 2011.

Congratulations to **George Cutsail** (M18), **Kavita Krishnawamy** (M13), **Malcolm Taylor** (M16) and **Hannah Wilson** (M18) who each received a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.

Amber (Sallerson) Jackson (M11) will be finishing up her PhD in Mathematics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this May. Her dissertation title is "Multiscale Modeling of Multiphase Flow in Porous Media Using the Thermodynamically Constrained Averaging Theory Approach".

Phillip Marshall (M4) just moved from Hagerstown, MD to Richmond, VA taking on a new position with Insight Physicians. He has been married for 3 years and his first child just turned 1.

Seth Miller (M13) will be starting residency in Radiation Oncology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) on July 1st, 2011.

Omolola (Lola) Eniola-Adefeso (M7) won a CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). This award will allow Lola to continue her work on understanding particle dynamics in blood flow and improving the design of vascular drug delivery systems.

Lola has also been selected as the 2011 recipient of the Lloyd N. Ferguson Young Scientist from the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE). This award recognizes and honors her scientific contributions and achievements, and the dedication that she has shown in her research. She received her award at the 37th Annual NOBCChE meeting in April in Houston, TX.

Vashti Jamaica Wood (M12) will finish her MBA at the Darden School of Business at UVA in May 2011. She did a summer internship with Kraft Foods in/near Chicago and has decided to return full-time. Before her reintroduction to the working world, she is looking forward to traveling around the US and, hopefully, taking a trip abroad. Jamaica and co-worker pictured on the Kraft noodle below.



**We love hearing about your accomplishments.
Keep the good news coming!**

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FEATURED ALUMS: CLASS OF 2011



M19s

In the words of M19, Onajiti Shemi, they came, they conquered and hopefully left an imprint on each other's lives. Conquered? Definitely. They are leaving UMBC with a 3.6 overall GPA averaged over 71 people, acceptances to many prestigious graduate schools, and the possibility of at least 35 PhDs. It looks like they are a class to watch. In time they are sure to make an even bigger mark. In the words of someone we all know - it must be said "Very Impressive. Very Impressive". Congratulations Class of 2011! Good luck in all your future endeavors.



M18s – 2011 Graduates

CLASS OF 2011 AT A GLANCE

- 71 Seniors (M19s and M18s)
- 8 are out of state (NC, NY, PA, SC, and Haiti)
- Cohort GPA- 3.6

Majors

- Bioinformatics: 1
- Biology and Biochemistry: 26
- Chemical Engineering: 6
- Chemistry: 2
- Computer Engineering: 5
- Computer Science: 9
- Math: 8
- Mechanical Engineering: 14
- Physics: 3
- Psychology: 2

**5 Double Majors

Next Steps

- DDS: 2
- MD/PhD: 4
- MPH: 1
- MS: 8
- PharmD: 1
- PhD: 31
- Post-Bac: 6
- Work: 4
- 5th Yr @ UMBC: 15

Where They're Thinking About Going:

- Arizona State
- Carnegie Mellon
- Case Western Reserve U
- Cornell
- Drexel
- Duke
- Emory
- GA Tech
- Indiana U
- JHU
- MIT
- Northwestern U
- NYU
- Penn State
- Rice
- Rockefeller U
- Stanford
- U Arizona
- U Michigan
- U Oregon
- U Penn
- U Pitt
- U Rochester
- U South Carolina
- U Virginia
- U Wisconsin
- UC Berkeley
- UCSF
- UIUC
- UMB
- UMCP
- UMDNJ
- UNC Chapel Hill
- Washington University
- Yale

Some Things They've Been Doing @ UMBC:

- Chemistry Tutorial Center Tutors
- Learning Resources Center Tutors
- NSBE
- Physics Tutorial Center Tutors
- UMBC Soccer Team

Study Abroad Experiences in:

- Australia
- Chile
- England

FOCUS ON TWO 2011 GRADUATES

ONAJITI SHEMI, originally from Far Rockaway, NY, recalls her fondest Meyerhoff memory as dinner at Meyerhoff alum, Dr. Eniola-Adefeso's house during a summer internship at the University of Michigan. She quickly realized that there was a strong presence of Meyerhoffs at the University of Michigan when a group of 15+ M's gathered together to celebrate their unique connection — a bond that crossed cohorts, disciplines, and backgrounds.

While preparing to leave UMBC, Ona is making the most of her last moments on campus. Although excited about the next steps, she honestly admits that she will miss the friendships made at UMBC, the late nights of spontaneity, and of course, the laughter. She also acknowledges that UMBC can be a challenging place. However, she emphasizes that her experience of overcoming the demands of college life to conquer those rigorous classes and seeing her friends do the same will always have a lasting impression.

Ona is a Chemical Engineering major who has been accepted into PhD programs at University of Michigan, Penn, Northwestern, UIUC and several other schools. She is still in the process of making her final decision.

ANTHONY SIMMS is a graduate of Suitland High School in Forestville, MD. He remembers summer bridge as a time where he cultivated great friendships that have endured throughout his time at UMBC. In addition to missing the friends and fellowship with his cohort, he admits that he will also miss the younger M's that he's bonded with.

On the academic side he points to Muddappa Gowda as a favorite professor and one who made life as a Math major more enjoyable. He attributes his positive attitude and continued hard work among the many things that have helped to put him one step closer to attaining his PhD at his number one choice - Rice University.

DON'T FORGET!! This year's Cohort Giving Challenge Ends June 30, 2011.
Give today at: <http://retrievernet.umbc.edu/mhoffgiving>

[CLICK HERE FOR THE NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE](#)