**Cohort Giving Challenge Update**

As you 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 $14,994. 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 end of 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!

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**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
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) 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.

To Whom Much is Given

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.

We love hearing about your accomplishments. Keep the good news coming!
FEATURED ALUMS: CLASS OF 2011

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.
To Whom Much is Given

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 Chicago
- 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.