

# Newsletter

WINTER 2019

**HOT NEWS**

**Save the Date!**

**April 24:**  
**URCAD 23 (pg. 7)**

**April 25-28:**  
**Quadmania  
Festival**

**May 4:**  
**Senior Reception  
for M27 cohort  
and their families  
(pgs. 11-12)**

**May 11: Spring  
Stress Buster (for  
students only).  
Parent volunteers  
& donations  
needed. (pg. 12)**

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## Fall Stress Buster Theme: **Chill Out!**

With help from a troop of parent volunteers, many generous donations, Meyerhoff Office staff, MPA Board members, Meyerhoff scholars, and UMBC's Counseling Center, a fun time was had by all at December's Stress Buster in the UC Ballroom.

From delicious food to exciting games to winter crafts and giveaways of socks, snacks, blankets and other winter essentials, students were able to take a breather from their studies and chill out for a bit. Many students enjoyed relaxing seated massages as well. We thank all who made this event a success, particularly our tireless MPA Vice President, Alisa Wallace, who spearheaded the Stress Buster and organized the evening's activities. It definitely takes a village!



**Aaaaaah! Students enjoy therapeutic massages.**

**Creative snowman crafts**

## Don't Miss Out!

Don't miss out on important information that affects you and your student. Make sure you're receiving the most current information about the Meyerhoff Program by keeping your contact information up-to-date.

Parents, please update your contact information via this link:

**Contact Information  
Survey**

## Welcome!

Please welcome new Meyerhoff staff member **General Associate Mr. Thomas Waters, Jr.**, who comes to us from UMBC Residential Life where he served as Community Director of Susquehanna Hall.

Mr. Waters holds a B.S. in Biology, a Masters in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration, and previously worked at the University at Buffalo (SUNY) Educational Opportunities Center supporting undergraduate students.



**Thomas Waters, Jr.**

He will be with the program until the search for the open staff position is completed later this year.

Mr. Waters will provide support for the selection process and other program initiatives.

## MPA Supports Students

The Meyerhoff Parents Association's (MPA) mission is to support and perpetuate the Meyerhoff Scholars Program by fostering unification among scholarship recipients (past and present), as well as their families.

Parents of Meyerhoff scholars are automatically members of the MPA and your participation is highly encouraged. The parent-elected Board of Directors provide support to Meyerhoff Scholars program activities and students.

In addition, the board works in conjunction with Meyerhoff Scholar's staff, the Meyerhoff Student Council and Alumni Advisory Board, for this demonstrates support/trust in the Meyerhoff Staff and the overarching goals of the program.

The MPA requests a donation of \$50 annually per member family to fund student activities sponsored by the MPA and/or Meyerhoff scholars conference registration, travel assistance and hardship scholarships.

Regular communications to parents and scholars referencing the Meyerhoff Scholars program is normally disseminated via e-mail from the MPA.

Contact the Meyerhoff Parent's Association Board Officers at [umbcmpa@gmail.com](mailto:umbcmpa@gmail.com) or obtain additional information at <http://meyerhoff.umbc.edu/parents/meyerhoff-parents-association/>. For general scholarship questions, visit [meyerhoff.umbc.edu](http://meyerhoff.umbc.edu) or contact the Meyerhoff Scholars Program office at 410-455-3139.

## Stay Connected



Register for the **UMBC Family Connection Newsletter** to stay up-to-date on important deadlines, upcoming events, and campus happenings.

Families have a space on myUMBC at <http://my.umbc.edu/groups/parents> to stay informed and stay connected.

It also provides a platform for families to connect with one another and with the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. No password is needed to access the page.

Visit <https://familyconnection.umbc.edu/> for more information.

# Welcome to the Meyerhoff Parents Association!

As parents of Meyerhoff scholars, we know the experience of a scholar is unique, opening doors to new and novel experiences, forging lifelong relationships and propelling these students toward a fulfilling career. It's vitally important to support our scholars. **Please make your donation today of \$50 per family each year to fund student activities sponsored by the MPA — this provides funding for Meyerhoff scholars' requests for financial assistance with conference registration fees, travel expenses and hardship scholarships. Your contributions also allow us to host events for students including three annual Stress Busters and the Senior Reception.**

Visit <https://gritstarter.umbc.edu/p/meyerhoffparents/> to make an online donation.

Your continued support helps make this program successful. Please donate to the MPA today.

## Meyerhoff Parents Association (MPA) Member Donation Form

Parent/Guardian FULL Name 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone 1: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address(es) 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian FULL Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone 2: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address(es) 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student 1: \_\_\_\_\_ M-\_\_\_\_  
 Student 2: \_\_\_\_\_ M-\_\_\_\_  
 New Member     Address Change     Same Address

*Your annual gift to the MPA Operating Fund provides unrestricted dollars for initiatives supporting current Meyerhoff students*

I work for a matching gift company. Enclosed is my employer's matching gift form.  
*(This form is typically available from your employer's personnel/human resources office.)*

Donation Purpose: (please check all that apply)—Fiscal Year: July 1- June 30

\_\_\_\_\_ One time Four-Year Donation (\$200.00), or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Membership Donation (\$50-per family) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount

### Additional Support:

\_\_\_\_\_ Fall Stress Buster \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Spring Stress Buster \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Summer Stress Busters \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Senior Reception \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other activities \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount

MPA Total Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type:  Check # \_\_\_\_\_  Money Order # \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make the payment payable to: UMBC FOUNDATION**  
*\*In memo field, note: MPA ACCT #05-20127*

Mail payment and this form to: Meyerhoff Parents Association  
 c/o UMBC/Meyerhoff Scholars Program  
 1000 Hilltop Circle, Sherman Hall 218, Baltimore, MD 21250

Online Donation: <https://gritstarter.umbc.edu/p/meyerhoffparents/>

# Student Services: Reach Out for Help

When times get tough, it can be difficult for students to know where to turn. UMBC has several services available to students to help ease those burdens.

**The Counseling Center:** Over the course of a student's college years, they will encounter many challenges and opportunities, both academically and personally. The Counseling Center is there to help them successfully navigate those challenges and take advantage of opportunities to make the most of their experience.

Services are confidential and free for registered UMBC students and include individual and group counseling, as well as a variety of resources, including online screenings and programs, self-help materials, and information for off-campus community referrals. Reach out for help and find it at the Counseling Center.



**Retriever Essentials:** Retriever Essentials aims to combat food insecurity in the UMBC community. If your student is having an issue with having enough food to eat, please be aware that Retriever Essentials has six (6) locations on campus where they can pick up a **FREE bag of non-perishable food**. Please visit our website at [retrieveressentials.umbc.edu](http://retrieveressentials.umbc.edu) to see the locations.

**Donations are needed to support this program. Your gift of non-perishable food items would be most appreciated.** The current greatest need is for canned beans, canned/jarred fruit, pasta sauce, travel toiletries, and healthy snacks. The full donation request list can be found at <https://retrieveressentials.umbc.edu/help-us/>.

**Learning Resource Center (LRC):** The Learning Resource Center offers small group tutoring to UMBC students (by appointment) for first and second-level classes, drop-in tutoring for Math and Science classes at the **Math and Science Tutoring Center**, drop-in tutoring for Spanish 101-201 courses at the **Spanish Tutoring Lab**, and support with writing assignments (appointments, drop-ins, and online) at the Writing Center.

Students will also find help through the **Chemistry Tutorial Center**, the **Biology Learning Center**, and the **Physics Tutorial Center**.

## Student Appreciation Day — 1st Annual Jollof Off

Jollof is a traditional West African dish that can be mixed with vegetables, meat, and the like. The program office sponsored its Fall Student Appreciation Day and 'Jollof Off' on December 12th in the Meyerhoff suite.

Meyerhoff Scholars, MARC Scholars, and Friends of the Program were invited to join the staff for fun, light food/ refreshments, and holiday cheer!



Many students also participated in the first successful and delicious 'Jollof-Off' competition with Nigerian and Ghanaian dishes.

M26 Anna Opoku-Agyeman, M27 Sezdoro Tamakloe, and M30 Ezekiel Ajayi competed for bragging rights. The winner of the competition was Ezekiel's Nigerian Jollof!

Photo provided by M26 Anna Opoku-Agyeman

# Letter from the Vice President

In 1988, Robert and Jane Meyerhoff brought to fruition the Meyerhoff Scholars Program at UMBC. This scholarship-based program spearheaded a courageous effort to facilitate educational opportunities that empowered under-represented students to pursue degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering or math. The Meyerhoff family's philanthropy has enabled our students to develop, thrive, and become productive citizens on local and national levels.

In short, the contributions of the Meyerhoff family are substantial; yet, it is equally important for each student and their family to demonstrate commitment towards ensuring the success of this program. The Meyerhoff Parents Association (MPA) seeks parents and families to support initiatives that promote students' success and the scholars' program longevity. No one act of volunteerism or kindness, no matter how great or small, is ever pointless, worthless or unproductive. In fact, there is no greater futility, than great intentions that are never accompanied by any act of kindness and volunteerism.

The MPA invites your participation in a number of volunteer opportunities that provide immediate and future benefits: Three seasonal Stress Busters, the Fall Picnic to the Selection Weekends and the Senior Reception Dinner. Often is not a matter of how much money one gives, but that the gift of oneself is usually witnessed or appreciated by others. Winston Churchill said, "You make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Becoming active in MPA sponsored activities and events brings awareness to each student of their family's caring actions and support. Stephen King wrote, "Being good is commendable, but only when it is combined with doing good is it useful." Inspire the students by giving of your time, talents and treasures in support of the Meyerhoff Parents Association's endeavors. Although you are setting your young adult free, let them know you are still present to lend a hand.

Please get involved and volunteer! Contact us at [umbcmpa@gmail.com](mailto:umbcmpa@gmail.com).



Alisa Wallace, MPA Vice President

## Retriever Courage

**Retriever Courage** is UMBC's initiative to strengthen campus prevention and response efforts related to incidents of sex discrimination and sexual violence/misconduct.

UMBC encourages those who have observed or experienced sexual violence/misconduct to seek support as needed at any time. There are many resources available on campus and in the community that offer confidential medical support, confidential psychological/emotional support, and interim protective measures (e.g., no-contact orders, housing adjustments, academic concerns). For emergency situations, contact campus police via 410-455-5555 or local police via 911.

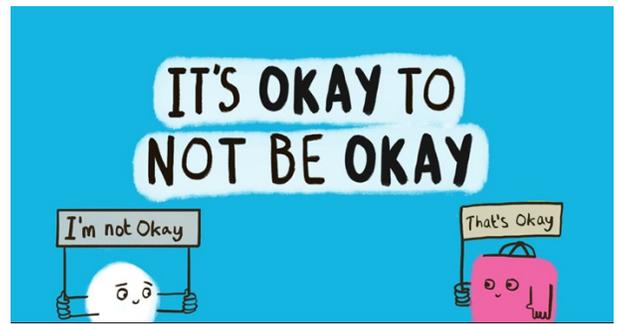


# Mental Health Initiative

As scholars take on various titles during their time at UMBC, the act of balancing their work-load and mental health is almost always unbalanced. The **Mental Health Initiative** is the Meyerhoff Council's plan to educate and provide scholars with resources to learn about mental health.

The initiative will include a mandatory meeting for all scholars in which the goal is to give an overview of mental health and the available resources on campus. Following this meeting, the council will then host smaller group meetings that will focus on more specific topics. Their goal with the small group meetings is to facilitate a space where the scholars can have an open conversation and discussion about their own mental health experiences or issues they want to bring up.

The goal of the **Mental Health Initiative** is to normalize conversations amongst students regarding any topics related to mental health and to create a space within the program where students can feel comfortable sharing their experiences.



**The Meyerhoff Scholars Program's  
30th anniversary celebration  
will take place May 31-June 1!  
More details will follow in the coming weeks.**

## Selection Weekend

Do you remember sitting in the audience at a Meyerhoff Selection weekend? While Selection Weekend has changed and the cohort size has increased over the years, Selection Weekend is largely the same experience that you may remember.

Applications for the M31 cohort have been reviewed and both Selection Weekends were held recently. We were pleased to see so many outstanding candidates. Decision letters will be mailed by April 1.



## Fridays at the Office

In an effort to bring more students to the Meyerhoff office and foster relationships between the different cohorts and different majors, the Meyerhoff Council is working alongside the staff to organize **Fridays at the Office**.

At this event, they invite students from specific majors to come hang out in the office during free hour to talk with students from other majors or from different cohorts and bond over pizza.

Last semester, a pilot event inviting Biochemistry majors was a success with a great turnout of about 20 students. Feedback the council received from staff and students who attended is being implemented into the planning of this semester's events. The council hopes that **Fridays at the Office** will continue in future semesters and become something the scholars look forward to.



# 23rd Annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day

Come and support our many participating Scholars on April 24, 2019 on the UMBC campus!

**Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD)** features research, scholarship, and creative work carried out by UMBC undergraduates. Student work is shared through oral presentations, posters, artistic exhibits, performances, and film. Over 300 presenters participate annually.

Researchers work with faculty mentors on independent research, or research that is part of the mentor's ongoing projects. They are from all disciplines, and can be working on a thesis, capstone project, part of a scholars or honors program, or they can be unaffiliated.

This campus-wide celebration of achievement affirms UMBC's commitment to the twin goals of research and a distinctive undergraduate experience. All current undergraduates who have conducted research, scholarship or creative work in the last year may apply to present their results at URCAD.

Mentors, fellow students, friends, family members, high school teachers and students, graduate school recruiters, and the general public are invited to attend.

Visit <https://ur.umbc.edu/urcad/> for more information.

## UMBC Continues to Rank as One of the Nation's Top Universities

For 2019, the *Wall Street Journal* and *Times Higher Education* have again named UMBC one of the nation's top universities. These rankings focus on student success and learning and are based on factors including available teaching resources, student engagement, educational outcomes, and diversity and inclusion in the learning environment.

UMBC has also recently been featured in the *Princeton Review's Best 384 Colleges*, honored as a "best value" university by *Forbes* and

named one of the top 3.5 percent of 18,000 global higher education institutions by the Center for World



University Rankings, which focuses on high-caliber research.

UMBC has also moved up by an impressive 80 spots on *Forbes* 2018 Best Value Colleges, now ranking 118 among top universities nationwide for value.

UMBC also ranks as 54 out of 485 public four-year institutions based on 22 metrics that assess academic excellence, affordability, diversity and economic strength, using data from the National Center for Education statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. *Source: UMBC 2018 Service Awards Ceremony Program*

# Meyerhoff Scholars: Winter Break 2019

During winter break several students traveled to Cambridge, Massachusetts to participate in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's annual Quantitative Methods Workshop. The workshop was an intense week-long coding class, where students were taught the coding language MAT-Lab.

Specifically, they learned quantification techniques that pertained to the analysis of biological data. Every day, the students were given real scientific data sets that were collected from various MIT labs, and they were tasked with quantifying the given data.

They learned many foundational aspects of MAT-Lab such as how to conduct a graphical analysis and how to use a K-means algorithm.

In addition, they were able to partake in several seminars, and meet with many MIT faculty to discuss their educational and career goals. Most importantly, the workshop showed the students the broad interdisciplinary nature of the research field.

The students were able to see how applications of computer science are used in the biology field every day in research. This experience exposed them to the importance of having knowledge in the computer science in order to have a successful career in the biological research. Overall, the students enjoyed their time at MIT, and they hope to be invited back.



**Pictured at MIT:**

***1st row, left to right: Emily Cannistrei, Ally Caldwell, Makayla Headley, Dominique Brooks. 2nd row, left to right: Chetana Jadhav, Noel Getachew, Shandon Amos***



## M30s Convene at Ski Resort

What better way to spend a fine winter's day than skiing with your cohort friends?

In January, M30s Nia Anderson, Leelee Sands, Justin Damon, Derek Rosario, Quentin Richards, Kendall Jackson and Logan Lineburg headed to the slopes at Liberty Mountain Resort in Fairfield, PA for a fun day of cold weather sports.

# Meyerhoff Scholars: Alumni News



**Da'Kuawn Johnson, M25**

## DA'KUAWN JOHNSON, M25, BRINGS SCIENCE TO BALTIMORE CITY SCHOOLS

**Da'Kuawn Johnson**, a 2017 UMBC biochemistry and molecular biology graduate, was recently on the front page of the Baltimore Sun newspaper, which celebrated his volunteer efforts to develop a program that brings University of Maryland School of Medicine medical students into elementary classrooms in Baltimore City.

There, the medical students are partnered with academically talented third grade students whom they mentor, teaching the young students about the fields of medicine and science through interactive experiments.

The program, called the Talent Mentoring Program, serves 20 schools this year, up from 14 in 2018, with 50 University of Maryland medical students participating as mentors. Many of the participating elementary schools serve high-poverty populations and are part of the district's broader effort to identify more of these bright students, and expand the opportunities available to them. We applaud Mr. Johnson's efforts to give back to his community.

**Alumni Members:** The Meyerhoff Program Office needs your help obtaining contact information for past MPA Presidents and Vice Presidents. If you have names, years served as President and/or Vice President, phone numbers, email or street addresses, please provide that information as soon as possible.

You may forward that information to [meyerhoff@umbc.edu](mailto:meyerhoff@umbc.edu).

Please indicate **MPA President/VP** in the subject line. Many thanks for your help.



**M8 Kafui Dzirasa** is part of a six-lab group being funded by a 2017 MEDx Biomedical research grant studying neuropsychiatric illness and disease.

**M17 Jason Grant** successfully defended his PhD at Notre Dame and is now an assistant professor at Middlebury College in Vermont.

**M18 Benyam Kinde** graduated from the MD/PhD program at Harvard Medical School over the summer. He has been matched with his first choice residency in ophthalmology at the University of California, San Francisco.

**M20 Elisia Clark** received her PhD in pharmacology from the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania.



## Philip Adejumo — UMBC Swim Champion

Congratulations to M26 **Philip Adejumo** who won first place in the Men's 100 Meter Butterfly Heat at the 14th FINA World Swimming Championships held December 11-16, 2018 in Hangzhou, China.

Philip, who graduated from UMBC in May 2018, is pursuing a Post Baccalaureate degree at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he is conducting research with the Department of Biomedical Informatics.



# Meyerhoff Scholars: **Alumni News**

## ANGELIQUE JOHNSON SELECTED FOR NATIONAL NANOTECH PANEL



**Dr. Angelique Johnson**  
CEO, MEMStim LLC

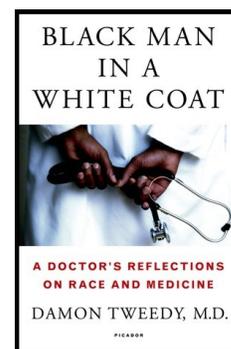
**Dr. Angelique Johnson**, a Meyerhoff Scholar alumni, was recently selected as one of the panelists for the Nanotech Entrepreneurs Share Commercialization Challenges and Successes webinar hosted by the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office. The founder and CEO of MEMStim LLC, Johnson and her team work not only to build practical medical devices that includes implantable cochlear implants to help patients with hearing loss, but in enriching her community with her service to others.

Johnson, an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the J.B. Speed School of Engineering at the University of Louisville in Kentucky, works with the university, primarily focused on research and development, helping educate people on the value of MEMs technology. Through her partnership with the university, she has also cultivated a relationship with the Micro Nano Technology Center, specifically in her utilization of the Clean Room space, which has helped her business flourish. Johnson hopes to foster entrepreneurship with the students that she encounters, whether through her opportunities to mentor or to work with them through a co-op program. You can read Dr. Johnson's complete article here: <https://louisville.edu/speed/news/johnsonNanotechEntrepreneursPanel/>.

## Dr. Damon Tweedy, M4 and Author, Interviewed on NPR

**Dr. Damon Tweedy, M4** and author of the book, *Black Man in a White Coat: A Doctor's Reflections on Race and Medicine*, was featured on National Public Radio (NPR) in February 2019. Dr. Tweedy, an associate professor of psychiatry at Duke University, discusses how racism in the medical field has affected African-Americans.

You can read an excerpt of the discussion here: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/02/11/693668201/racist-med-school-yearbook-photos-medicines-racism-problems-go-even-deeper>.



**Philadelphia-area alumni met students during Meyerhoff Scholars Day at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Engineering and Applied Science on October 15, 2018.** Mr. Harmon and Ms. Abreu accompanied M27-M29's in attendance: Abdulraheem Adeleke, Jane Akintoye, Keynon Bell, Timothy Bernard, Ricardo Cardoza, Dennis Chacko, Ncicole Couturier, Emily Duan, Christopher Hekert, Rudolph Holley, Meshach Hopkins, Yianni Karabatis, April Laranang, Jason Pentsil, Justin Reed, Monali Saraf, Coleman Tolliver and Tyler Trout.



**FRONT ROW:** Yasmine Ndassa, Matthew Shirley, Gerald Lopez, Nikaela Bryan, Bailey Nance, Elelbin Ortiz, Raju Mishra, Monroe Kennedy  
**BACK ROW:** Ozell Sanders, Julian Paige, Kendall Queen, Juliette Sardin

# Announcements

Our  
Deepest  
Condolences



The MPA extends our deepest condolences to:

M12 Vitya Blay and his wife, Kimberly, on the loss of their beloved daughter, **Zara Svetlana Blay**.

The Christian family on the loss of **Myong Cha Christian**, mother of M1 Bill Christian and grandmother of M29 Jessica Christian.

## May 4: Special Event for M27 Cohort

The Meyerhoff Scholars Senior Reception 2019, sponsored by the Junior cohort, recognizes members of the M27 cohort. Each M27 Scholar may attend along with two guests. Details will follow soon.



SAVE THE DATE

Meyerhoff Scholars  
Senior Reception 2019

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2019

3:00-5:00 PM

ARBUTUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1201 MAPLE AVENUE  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21227

THIS EVENT IS AN ACTIVITY OF THE UMBC  
FOUNDATION/MEYERHOFF PARENTS ASSOCIATION

# Announcements



## Volunteers Needed for Senior Reception on Saturday, May 4

### Volunteers Needed

We are in need of some volunteers to help with the upcoming Senior Reception on May 4. If you are interested, please email [umbcmpa@gmail.com](mailto:umbcmpa@gmail.com) with the subject line of Senior Reception Volunteer.

## Volunteers and Donations Needed for Spring Stress Buster Saturday, May 11

This students-only event, organized by MPA parent cohorts, provides a delicious meal, games and activities, music, prizes, crafts and more. **Parents can help by volunteering at the event and/or donating needed items.**



If you have questions or would like to help, please contact us at [umbcmpa@gmail.com](mailto:umbcmpa@gmail.com) with subject line **STRESS BUSTER**.

## MPA Clothing Drive for Arbutus United Methodist Church

The Arbutus United Methodist Church, site of the MPA Senior Reception and host of the Southwest Emergency Services Thrift Store, is in need of donations of new or gently used clothing. The MPA is collecting items at UMBC on Saturday, April 6 from 9-10am. Donations in secure bags would be most appreciated.

Meyerhoff parents will be waiting **OUTSIDE** at the traffic circle to load your clothes into their vehicles and transport them to the church, which sits directly across the street from the campus gate. Volunteers are also needed to collect and transport the items. Please direct questions and offers of assistance to [umbcmpa@gmail.com](mailto:umbcmpa@gmail.com), subject line **CLOTHING DRIVE**.

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 9am to 10am

**WHERE:** **OUTSIDE** at the traffic circle next to the RAC  
(Retriever Activities Center & Administrative Drive Garage)

**WHY:** To help support Arbutus United Methodist Church's "very crucial outreach . . . The poor of our community truly appreciate your generosity!"

# How I Spent My Summer: Meyerhoff Stories

Internships are an integral part of the scholar's experience. Many students find their passion through hands-on work solving real-world problems. Here, several Meyerhoff students share their insights.



**Coleman Tolliver, M27**

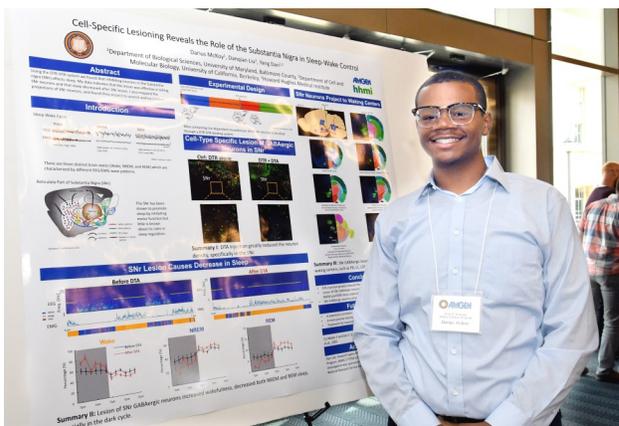
Coleman, a Mechanical Engineering major, headed to the University of South Florida in Tampa, where he developed a method to Digital Print Additive Manufacture (DPAM) using micron and plastic optical fiber interconnects to replace the current copper wire. CAD simulation software was used to better understand the physics of the 3D printer; the flow of filament through the nozzle and the heat gradient were used to optimize the FDM printing process. The project explored the feasibility of printing fibers in various methods and non-linear paths.



**David Williams, M29**

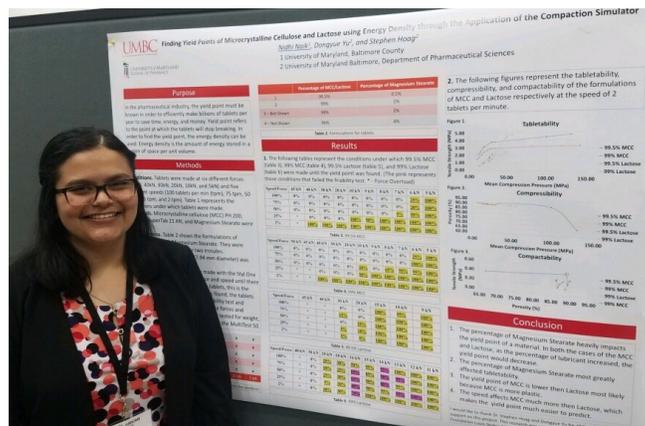
David, majoring in Computer Science, worked in the Lobo Lab at UMBC. His research was on merging two methods of genetic algorithms in hopes of increasing their efficiency.

The previous methods used the CPU and GPU separately, while the new method uses both concurrently in order to use all the resources available on the computer. The research also entailed seeing which parameters would give optimal results.



**Darius McKoy, M28**

Darius, a biology major, spent this past summer doing research at the University of California, Berkeley, as a member of Amgen Scholars Program. He studied the role of the Substantia nigra in sleep-wake control in mice in the lab of Dr. Yang Dan. The ultimate goal of the research is to elucidate a pathway for neurodegenerative diseases including Parkinson's disease, seeing as insomnia is usually an early onset symptom. This experience has peaked a newfound interest in neuroscience for Darius.



**Nidhi Naik, M29**

Nidhi, a Biochemistry and Computer Science major, headed to the University of MD School of Pharmacy in Baltimore where her goal was to find the yield point of microcrystalline cellulose and lactose using energy density through the application of the compaction simulator. Determining the most optimal conditions for pharmaceutical companies to maximize the production of tablets would allow them to save time, energy, and money. She utilized the compaction simulator, which simulates conditions of various tableting machines. "My time in Dr. Stephen Hoag's lab was very enriching, and as my first research experience helped develop my laboratory skills, adding many useful techniques to my tool belt."

# 2018 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS)

The ABRCMS meeting is the largest undergraduate research conference of its kind and is open to all students. The 2018 conference was held in Indianapolis, Indiana from November 14-17 at the Indiana Convention Center.

A UMBC contingent of more than 30 undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff attended the 2018 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) in Indianapolis, Indiana. The conference opened on Wednesday, November 14 and ended with a banquet and awards ceremony on Saturday, November 17.

Students had the opportunity to attend scientific talks and workshops on preparing for graduate school, present their own research and network with graduate school representatives and scientists in a variety of biomedical disciplines. This year's conference boasted more than 4600 attendees and representatives from over 500 graduate and medical programs, scientific societies and federal agencies.

The Meyerhoff/MARC group included 26 undergraduate students (sophomores and juniors) who submitted abstracts and were selected by ABRCMS to present their research in the form of a poster or oral presentation.

Of the more than 2000 student presentations that were delivered, approximately 300 were recognized with awards. The following UMBC Meyerhoff/MARC student presentations earned award recognition:

## **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**

Robin Bailey - oral presentation

Claudia Walker - oral presentation

## **Chemistry**

Ellen Guillan - poster presentation

Karis Barnett - poster presentation

## **Developmental Biology**

Dominique Brooks - poster presentation

## **Computational & Systems Biology**

Caleb Robelle - poster presentation

## **Engineering, Physics and Mathematics**

Tobias Coombs - poster presentation

Makayla Headley - oral presentation

Please join us in congratulating all of the UMBC student participants!



## Contact Us!

Meyerhoff Parents Association  
c/o UMBC/Meyerhoff Scholars  
Program  
1000 Hilltop Circle  
Sherman Hall 218  
Baltimore, MD 21250  
[umbcmpa@gmail.com](mailto:umbcmpa@gmail.com)



*Helping Our Students Hold Fast to Their  
Dreams...*



As always, we thank the photographers, parent volunteers, MPA members, students, UMBC staff and many others whose contributions continue to make this newsletter possible.



## Happy New Year from the Meyerhoff Office Staff!

