

Newsletter

SPRING 2020

To our UMBC/Meyerhoff families: We hope you and your families are all doing well during this strange and stressful time of Covid-19. Although the world has changed quickly with so many things shut down and many of us sheltering at home, we hope this newsletter will represent a ray of sunshine during a dark and difficult time. Please enjoy this positive representation of our student and alumni community.

MPA Board

UMBC Alumnae Racing to Develop Coronavirus Vaccine



Kizzmekia Corbett, NIH

Kizzmekia Corbett '08, M16, biological sciences, says it feels like she's "living in a constant adrenaline rush." Maybe that's because she and her team at the Vaccine Research Center at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases have been working around the clock for weeks. They're racing to develop a vaccine for the coronavirus faster than it can race across the globe.

"To be living in this moment where I have the opportunity to work on something that has imminent global importance...it's just a surreal moment for me," Corbett says.

Despite it feeling surreal, the advances Corbett and her team are making are very real, and they're setting records. "We are making better progress than I could have ever hoped for," she says. After three months of studies in test tubes and in animals, the vaccine her team developed is about to enter a phase I clinical trial, a crucial hurdle on the way to FDA approval.

Read the complete article about Kizzmekia and her team's efforts to develop a Covid-19 vaccine in the latest UMBC magazine at <https://magazine.umbc.edu/umbc-alumnae-racing-to-develop-coronavirus-vaccine/>.

This NBC News report, "[Working on coronavirus vaccine trials, Kizzmekia Corbett is 'not your average' scientist](#)" highlights the contributions of Kizzmekia, along with fellow alumni Jerome Adams M4, Darian Cash M10, and Olubukola Abiona M25.

In addition, visit these links:

- Dr. Corbett appeared on Anderson Cooper 360 (CNN) on April 14. Watch online [here](#)
- News article in [People Magazine](#)

Check out this video recently released by UMBC. Share and post on social media!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YORRD0pcwzo&feature=youtu.be>

Alumni News

in the Spotlight



Vice Admiral Jerome Adams, M4 and Surgeon General, U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services.
Photo from IN.gov

Jerome Adams, M4 and Surgeon General

Vice Admiral Jerome Adams, M4, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Psychology, was honored at the October 2019 UMBC Alumni Awards Ceremony and Reception as *Outstanding Alumnus, Natural Mathematical Sciences*.

Dr. Adams, who has served since 2017 as U.S. Surgeon General at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, in reflecting on his undergraduate years at UMBC as a Meyerhoff scholar, shared **with UMBC, “one of my biggest mentors was Dr. Hrabowski, and I still stay in touch with many of my Meyerhoff colleagues and rely on them as a professional support network.”**

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Adams on this and his many other noteworthy accomplishments. Visit <https://www.alumni.umbc.edu> and <https://news.umbc.edu/umbc-alumnus-jerome-adams-confirmed> for more information.



Jamshaid Shahir, Meyerhoff Alumni

The National Science Foundation (NSF) selects about 2,000 graduate students nationwide who are, according to the NSF, **“anticipated to become knowledge experts”** for its [Graduate Research Fellowship Program \(GRFP\)](#). The fellowship offers each recipient three years of support through a competitive annual stipend, a cost-of-education allowance and professional development opportunities.

NSF Graduate Research Fellow Jamshaid Shahir and several other students spoke at a recent workshop at UNC-Chapel Hill, providing insights on the application process. Read the full article here: <https://gradschoolmagazine.unc.edu/2019/09/diversifying-research-in-the-sciences/>

Left: Jamshaid Shahir speaks at GRFP workshop at UNC-Chapel Hill. Photo provided courtesy of Monique Robinson.



UMBC's third 24-hour Black and Gold Rush was Thursday, February 27. This year, a record 2,674 alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students and friends made gifts to the university, totaling \$188,507 (with more being tallied).

The Meyerhoff Scholars Program was one of the highlighted Giving Day programs — coming in third place on the UMBC Leaderboard in the categories of 'most raised' and 'most donors.' 173 donors made gifts totalling \$15,766.74 to the Meyerhoff Operating, Meyerhoff Parents Association, and LaMont Toliver Alumni Memorial Scholarship funds.

And a special Thank You to the Meyerhoff alumna who initiated the Meyerhoff Scholars Program Challenge. Once 100 donors were obtained, she donated \$3,000 to the program!

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 annually per member family to fund student activities sponsored by the MPA and/or Meyerhoff scholars, conference registration and travel assistance. To make your online donation, visit <https://gritstarter.umbc.edu/p/meyerhoffparents/>.

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

Contact the MPA Board Officers at umbcempa@gmail.com or obtain additional information at <http://meyerhoff.umbc.edu/parents/meyerhoff-parents-association/>.

For general scholarship questions, visit meyerhoff@umbc.edu or contact the Meyerhoff Scholars Program office at 410-455-3139.



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

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.

Thank You from the MPA President

My Friends,

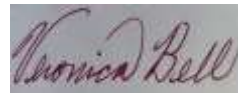
Our hearts and thoughts go out to the many people suffering the effects of the Covid-19 virus. This is a very difficult time for many of us. In the midst of this dark time, however, my heart swells with appreciation as I consider the many benefits the Meyerhoff Program has provided for my M28 son, Keynon. As the song by Hezekiah Walker goes, "I am grateful **for the things you have done....**" **I could go on and on...**"grateful, grateful, grateful, grateful, grateful, grateful, gratefulness is flowing from my heart."

As I approach the end of Keynon's 4th year as a Meyerhoff Scholar at UMBC, my heart, mind, and soul are filled with gratitude. Thank you so much! Thank you for advising, guiding, and setting up graduate school visits for young scholars. Thank you for dealing with the challenges and personalities. Thank you for sailing through the unique Summer Bridge issues that come up every year. You do the best job humanly possible! It is a challenging transitional time for the young incoming scholars. The work you have done has not gone unnoticed. You have changed many lives. Thank you!

The view from the eye of a senior parent is amazing. For those of you who work with the **MARC U*STAR** and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Scholars, Wow... much gratitude.

The opportunities with those programs are wonderful and vast!!! Please keep feeding these programs. Keep these for future cohorts. Thank you! Please keep up the good work. You folks are all ROCK STARS! Well done. The efforts of the program office staff help propel students from a rocket with a trajectory toward success. LOVE IT & thank you!

Someone must do the hard work. That is what I tell my son. Well, you folks have done all the hard work! Thank you for looking into the eyes and hearts of students and helping to keep them on the straight and narrow, focused on success.



Veronica Bell
M28 Parent & MPA President

Meyerhoff Student Council Update

By **Nidhi Naik M29**, *Meyerhoff Student Council Vice President*

The **Meyerhoff Student Council** has been working on implementing two initiatives, both of which started during the 2018-2019 school year. The first initiative, which has been a hit among students and staff, is Fridays in the Office. This is an opportunity to further bridge the connection between the Meyerhoff staff members and students. Once a month, students are invited to the office to join the staff and other students to pizza, which is graciously provided by the Meyerhoff Program Office. During these events, students can ask for class materials, advice from other students and staff alike, and hopefully get to know more M's.

The second initiative put in place during the 2018-2019 school year is the Mental Health Series. In a joint effort with Dr. Whitney Hobson and Dr. Chinedu Varma from the Counseling Center, students are invited to come to sessions to deal with various issues that can have a large impact on a student's mental health. The first session was an introduction to the counseling center and what mental health is and why it is important to take care of it. Next, there have been two small group discussions that have taken place. Each having their own topic such as time management and test anxiety. The Meyerhoff student council plans to continue both initiatives due to their success last year.

We appreciate the continuous support of the Meyerhoff office and the MPA and wanted to take this opportunity to thank the staff and MPA for all their support!



Meyerhoff Fall Stressbuster

Once again, the Fall Stressbuster was a big hit with our Meyerhoff Scholars, giving them a much needed break before the rigor of studying for final exams set in. It could only happen with the help of many dedicated parent volunteers, your generous donations, and assistance from the Meyerhoff Office staff, MPA Board members, Meyerhoff scholars, and UMBC's Counseling Center.

The December 6 event was held in the University Center Ballroom and provided students with a delicious meal, exciting games and prizes, winter crafts and giveaways of socks, snacks, blankets and other cold weather essentials. Special thanks go out to Jeremy Rubin M28, who entertained everyone with his hilarious standup comedy act!

A challenging Gingerbread House competition took center stage, and students took advantage of free therapeutic seated massages to relax and de-stress. We thank everyone who worked so hard to make this event a success!



Congratulations to the M31
Gingerbread House Design
Winners!



2019 Meyerhoff Fall Retreat



Photos provided courtesy of Dr. Antonios Seas

On Saturday, September 14, 2019, Scholars gathered together for the Annual “Welcome Back” retreat and cookout held at the lovely Centennial Park in Ellicott City, MD. The purpose of the day is to welcome scholars to the new academic year, provide program updates, and to provide time for scholars and alumni to get to know one another better. The scholars and program staff started the morning with a family meeting at UMBC. Afterward, the group traveled to Centennial Park where they were joined by Dr. Hrabowski, Dr. Katharine Cole (UMBC VP and Dean of Undergraduate Education), alumni, and Meyerhoff Parents Association Board members.

The Meyerhoff Council coordinated icebreakers so that students in various majors could get to know one another. After a delicious lunch, the scholars participated in cohort Olympics — field games to promote bonding and teamwork — coordinated by the Council. The Juniors (M29s) came in first place! The afternoon concluded with remarks by Dr. Hrabowski and alumni. The MPA made a significant contribution toward the catering expense for this event. We thank Meyerhoff families for their donations enabling us to support this program.



2019 Meyerhoff Fall Retreat



Photo includes several Summer Bridge counselors

2019 Meyerhoff Fall Retreat



Photos provided courtesy of Dr. Antonios Seas



2019 Meyerhoff Fall Retreat



In Appreciation

Robert E. Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker Honored as 2019 Outstanding Philanthropists

On November 22, longtime philanthropists Robert E. Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker were honored for their many years of generous giving to a wide variety of programs and initiatives. The Meyerhoff Scholarship Program began in 1988 with generous support from Robert and Jane Meyerhoff to provide financial assistance, mentoring, advising, and research experience to African American male undergraduate students committed to obtaining PhD degrees in math, science, and engineering. Mr. Harmon, Mrs. Hall and eight scholars were in attendance.

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Music Director, Marin Alsop, and Freeman Hrabowski, President of UMBC, presented Meyerhoff and Becker with the 2019 Outstanding Philanthropists of the Year award during the Association of Fundraising Professionals Maryland Chapter's annual luncheon.

For more information on this achievement, read the full story here: <https://www.bizjournals.com/baltimore/news/2019/11/22/meyerhoff-becker-named-2019-outstanding.html>.



Pictured: M28 Keynon Bell, M28 Darius McKoy, M30 Evan Caryle, Robert Meyerhoff, M30 Ezekiel Ajayi, M29 Jordan Troutman

Dr. Hrabowski Honored

Dr. Hrabowski, UMBC President, has been selected as a recipient of the 2020 Baltimore Sun Business and Civic Hall of Fame.

He will be honored at an event on June 4th and in a special Baltimore Sun section to be published on June 7th.

Service Awards for Meyerhoff Office Staff

At the December 4, 2019, UMBC Service Awards Ceremony, Keith Harmon, Alicia Hall and Sharon Johnson were recognized for their many years of service to UMBC and the State of Maryland. Hats off to you all! Your **hard work and talents are such an important part of the program's success.** Congratulations!

Keith Harmon — 20 years

Alicia Hall — 20 years

Sharon Johnson — 15 years

MPA Fall Meeting Updates

MPA Luncheon: A Mix of Business and Pleasure

The MPA Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting was held on September 21, 2019, in the University Center Ballroom. In addition to student research poster presentations, annual reports from the program office, student council, Meyerhoff Alumni Advisory Board, and election of 2019-2020 MPA Board Officers, we enjoyed a lively alumni panel discussion and silent auction. We are so very grateful for the many volunteers who made the event a success, including our panel participants, student volunteers and the tireless MPA members.

2019-2020 MPA Board Officers

President: Veronica Bell (M28)

Vice President: Darlene W. Brooks (M29)

Assistant Vice President: Alisa Wallace (M29)

Recording Secretary: Adetokunbo Ajayi (M30)

Corresponding Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Denise Johnson (M28)

Assistant Treasurer: Darlene Pernell-Bunkley (M31)

Editor: Vanessa Chandler King (M29)

Historian: Karen Furman (M25)

2019-2020 Cohort Representatives

M27: Kenneth (Chris) Dixon, Rosalind Ellis and Renita Prevot Smith

M28: Kelly Jones

M29: Antonios Seas and Carol Williams

M30: Tina Brown-Smith, Jamillah Jackson, Florence Okeh and Leslie Sands

M31: Adam Beyene, Shelandra Burton, Iris Lewis and Mehrdad Tondravi

2019-2020 Alumni Representatives

Edie Windsor (M13), Stephen Mathews (M15), Deborah Nazon (M23), Stephen Omokehinde (M24), Salwa Salib (M25), Regina Bracey (M25), and Rebecca Truesdale (M26)



Above: Keith Harmon, Director, Meyerhoff Scholars Program receives check from MPA Treasurer, Ken Dixon.
Below: MPA President Veronica Bell speaks at luncheon.



MPA Fall Meeting Updates

MPA Luncheon: Thanks to Our Special Guests

The MPA Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting was a success in large part due to the support received from many volunteers, in many capacities. We owe a special debt of gratitude to the presenters, guest speakers, panel members, and students who participated in poster presentations. Those individuals include:

Meyerhoff Student Council

Jethro Ssengonzi, M28, President

Panel Discussion Members:

Olanike Awotunde, M26, Howard Univ. Medical School

Chimdiya Onwukne, M26 & MARC U*STAR,
Univ. of MD Medical School

Dr. Tyrone Spady, M7, NIH

Dr. Breanne Wright, M20, NIH

Stephen Mathews, MPA Alumni M11, M13 & M15

Meyerhoff Scholars Program, UMBC

Keith Harmon, Director

Research Poster Presenters

Karris Barnett, M29 & MARC U*STAR

Keynon Bell, M28, HHMI & MARC U*STAR

Noah Carver, M28

Jessica Christian, M29

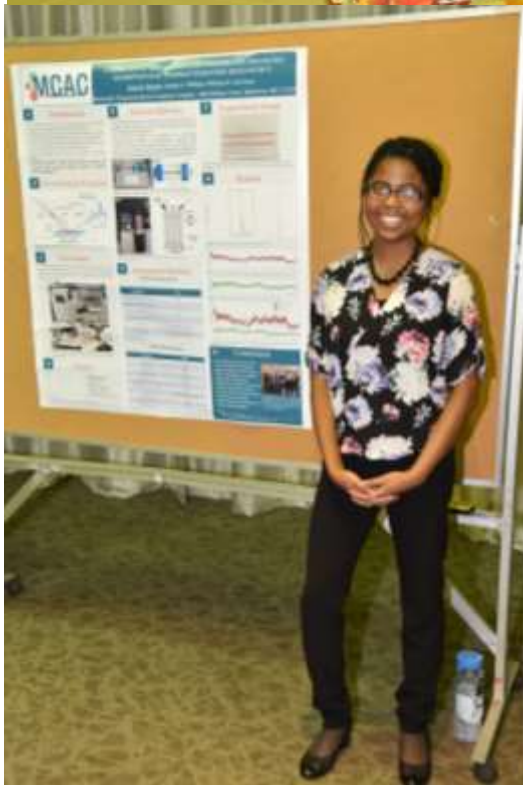
Darius McKoy, M28, HHMI & MARC U*STAR

Hannah Ramcharan, M29 & MARC U*STAR

Micah Thorpe, M30



MPA Fall Meeting Updates



Meyerhoff Scholars: News Worth Noting

Three UMBC Students Receive Prestigious Goldwater Scholarship



Not one, but *three* UMBC students have been named Barry Goldwater Scholars for the 2020 – 2021 academic year, earning one of the most prestigious scholarships available to U.S. undergraduates pursuing research in STEM fields. This is the second time that three UMBC students have received Goldwater Scholarships in the same year.

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program seeks to provide the United States with “a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers.” UMBC’s Goldwater Scholars include Jordan Troutman ‘21, M29, computer science and mathematics; Dominique Brooks ‘21, M29, biological sciences; and Olumide Fagboyegun ‘21, M29, biochemistry. They will receive substantial scholarship funding that advances their undergraduate work and supports their undergraduate educational paths.

“We are so proud of UMBC’s Goldwater Scholars. Each student will make significant contributions to their respective fields, as future Ph.D.s,” says April Householder, director of undergraduate research and prestigious scholarships at UMBC. **“Their research—in neuroscience, genetics, and machine learning bias—is timely and important. We can’t wait to see where they will take it with the help of this scholarship.”**

Brooks, Fagboyegun, and Troutman are among the 396 winners selected this year. More than 1,300 students applied from 461 institutions across the country.

Kudos to Meyerhoff Assistant Director Mitsue Wiggs for working with Undergraduate Research, sharing information with scholars, and tracking Meyerhoff applications.

Read the full story in UMBC News, here:

<https://news.umbc.edu/three-umbc-student-researchers-receive-prestigious-goldwater-scholarships/>

Meyerhoff Scholars: News Worth Noting

Keith Harmon Receives National Role Models Award



Keith Harmon, Director, Meyerhoff Scholars Program

These positions have allowed him to garner a wide range of skills and expertise essential to programs supporting STEM **undergraduates, such as UMBC's nationally and internationally** ranked and recognized Meyerhoff Scholars Program.

The National Role Models Project conducted by Minority Access has been widely acclaimed for its success in identifying and publicizing as role models high achievers from minority populations who are excelling in fields which they are underrepresented.

These role models and administrators, practitioners, leading authorities, federal officials, corporate executives and others all assemble at the National Role Models Conference to coalesce their strengths in challenging issues of diversity and prevailing disparities. More information is available at <http://www.minorityaccess.org/role.html>.

Congratulations, Mr. Harmon! Your hard work and diligent, focused efforts have helped hundreds of students define and achieve their goals. You have made an indelible mark on the successful futures of many young people.

Congratulations to Mr. Keith Harmon, who received the 2019 Minority Access Administrator Role Models award and was recognized at the Minority Access 20th National Conference held in September 2019 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor. Several UMBC staff members joined him to celebrate his award.

The much-lauded Mr. Harmon serves as Director of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program at UMBC, where for the past 21 years he has held positions of increasing responsibility and scope that aim to support students, particularly those underrepresented in higher education.



Minority Access Administrator Role Model Award: Ms. Andrea Mickle, Executive Director of Minority Access, Inc. is pictured with Mr. Keith Harmon, Director of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program at UMBC, as he receives his award.

Meyerhoff Scholars: News Worth Noting

2020 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Programs Recipients

The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) helps ensure the vitality of the human resource base of science and engineering in the United States and reinforces its diversity. The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited United States institutions.

As the oldest graduate fellowship of its kind, the GRFP has a long history of selecting recipients who achieve high levels of success in their future academic and professional careers.

GRF provides financial support for three years within a five-year fellowship period, comprising a \$34,000 stipend per twelve-month fellowship year.

LAST, FIRST	UNDERGRADUATE INSTITUTION	DISCIPLINE	CURRENT INSTITUTION
Touma, Fatima	University of Maryland Baltimore County	Social Sciences - Sociology	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Symonette, Danilo L	University of Maryland Baltimore County	Comp/IS/Eng - Human Computer Interaction	University of Maryland Baltimore County
Rubin, Jeremy	University of Maryland Baltimore County	Mathematical Sciences - Biostatistics	University of Maryland Baltimore County
Korenic, Stephanie Allison	University of Maryland Baltimore County	Psychology - Social/Affective Neuroscience	Temple University
Hughes, Jason Jerome	UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE COUNTY	Life Sciences - Systems and Molecular Biology	Vanderbilt University
Hale, Maya A.	University of Maryland Baltimore County	Life Sciences - Cell Biology	University of Pennsylvania
Giannakoulis, Sam George	UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE COUNTY	Chemistry - Chemistry of Life Processes	University of Pennsylvania
Clancy, Shannon Marie	UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE COUNTY	Engineering - Mechanical Engineering	University of Michigan Ann Arbor
Cirincione, Ann	University of Maryland Baltimore County	Life Sciences - Bioinformatics and Computational Biology	Princeton University

2019 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 2019 conference was held in Anaheim, California from November 13-17 at the Anaheim Convention Center. This year's conference boasted more than 5,250 attendees and representatives.

During the four-day conference, over 2,875 students from over 350 colleges and universities participate in poster and oral presentations in twelve STEM disciplines. All undergraduate and postbaccalaureate student presentations are judged and those receiving the highest scores in each scientific discipline are given an award during the closing banquet. The following student presentations earned award recognition. Students listed below include UMBC students, Meyerhoff scholars, and MARC scholars.

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Peter Bailer - poster presentation

Faith Davis - poster presentation

Hana Flores - oral presentation

Ridhi Chaudhary - oral presentation

Neuroscience

Andrew Hennigan - poster presentation

Physiology and Pharmacology

Olufolake Majekodunmi - oral presentation

Developmental Biology and Genetics

Theodore Addo - poster presentation

Josiah Hardy - poster presentation

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



Announcements



The MPA extends our deepest condolences to:

The Hairston family on the loss of Dr. Joe Hairston, father of M2 alumni Dr. Jahmal Hairston.

The Johnson family on the loss of Dr. Adrienne Steplight-Johnson, wife of UMBC Physics Professor Dr. Anthony Johnson and mother of M16 alumni Brandon Johnson.

The Yeh family on the loss of Lori Yeh, mother of M26 alumni Malachi Yeh.

The Hughes family on the loss of Ruben Hughes, father of M26 Jason Hughes.

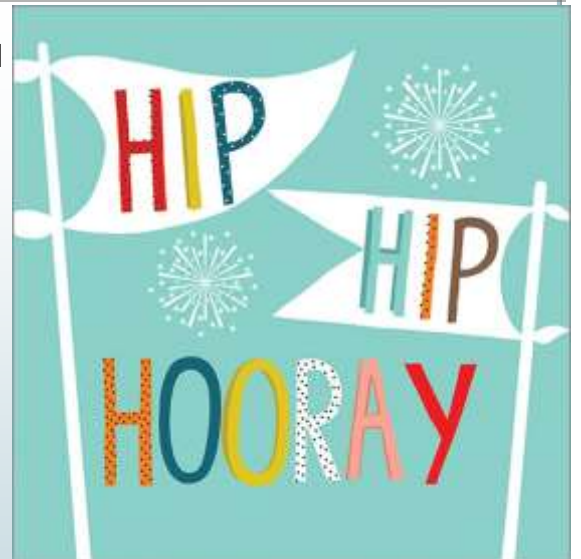
The Hasan family on the loss of M9 alumni Owais Hasan.



Thank You!

With your help, nearly 50% of our fundraising goal has been raised so far this fiscal year toward operating expenses! Your generosity has given the MPA funds to pay the majority of the costs associated with:

- ◆ Catering for the September 2019 Annual Welcome Back Retreat for students (see pgs. 2-3).
- ◆ The Fall Stressbuster, held on campus in December 2019 just before final exams. This well-attended and much-appreciated student event included a catered meal, access to seated therapeutic massage (with three therapists), and a variety of games and prizes for the students.



We are only able to host these events because of your ongoing financial support of the Meyerhoff program and the MPA. We thank you not only for your monetary gifts, but also for the many donated items that support events hosted for students, and for sharing your time and talents in a myriad of important volunteer roles. You rock! To make your online donation, visit <https://gritstarter.umbc.edu/p/meyerhoffparents/>.

Announcements

UMBC/Meyerhoff/COVID-19

UMBC is open, however the physical campus is closed. The UMBC physical campus is closed, however, employees are working remotely. Meyerhoff program staff are available to address questions and concerns through e-mails, phone calls, and teleconferencing. Should you need immediate assistance, please email meyerhoff@umbc.edu or call 410-455-3139.

Online Instruction — The remainder of Spring 2020 classes are being held online. In addition, summer 2020 courses will be held online.

2020 Commencement — UMBC will not be able to hold in-person commencement ceremonies this Spring. Instead, a novel technology platform will be used to host virtual commencement celebrations. The 2020 virtual commencement celebrations take place on:

- ♦ Wednesday, May 20 at 10am for graduate students
- ♦ Thursday, May 21 at 10am for undergraduate students

Details are available at commencement.umbc.edu. In addition, a range of options are being considered for an in-person event at a later time. The program office is also working with the Office of Institutional Advancement and the 2020 Meyerhoff graduates to create a virtual digital memento.

Please continue to monitor UMBC's COVID-19 website at: <https://covid19.umbc.edu/>.

Special Event for M28 Cohort — Cancelled

M28 Parents,

As you may be aware, the MPA Senior Reception scheduled for May 2nd has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We know it is disappointing for you and your student. The MPA is currently discussing alternate ways to celebrate your graduate, and will be in touch in the future.

Please send any questions you have to umbcmpa@gmail.com. Thanks, and stay safe.

Best regards,

Carol Williams & Darlene Brooks, Senior Reception Co-Chairs

Spring Stress Buster — Cancelled

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and associated closure of UMBC's campus, the Spring Stress Buster has also been cancelled.

Announcements

Important UMBC/Meyerhoff Office Information

STUDENT ACCOUNT — REFUND UPDATE

As you may be aware, the University System of Maryland Board of Regents gave UMBC approval to refund room, board, and certain fees, on a pro rata basis, to students who are not on campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Emails went out yesterday (04/17) with refund percentages and other details and we understand refund amounts will be credited to student accounts by Monday, April 20 and most students will receive refunds within the next two weeks.

As you receive your refunds, please be certain that all university charges which require payment have been satisfied prior to spending your refund. Refunds may be owed partially or completely owed back to UMBC.

Understanding the many challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, UMBC did not charge late payment fees for at least the months of March and April. In addition, delinquent accounts were not referred to Maryland Central Collections for March and April. Please visit the [Student Business Services](#) website for details regarding policies for May and beyond.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

Please take a moment to review the following resources available to students in need.

[UMBC Stay Black and Gold Fund](#) — AVAILABLE NOW

Students may apply for one-time emergency assistance funding through this initiative. Visit the website and view the application for [more](#) details.

Meyerhoff Parent Association (MPA) Hardship Fund — AVAILABLE NOW

MPA Hardship Scholarship Award requests can be submitted by students in need of financial support to cover UMBC student account charges.

To apply, students need to provide:

- ✦ **An explanation of the student's financial** hardship and circumstances as related **to the student's hardship** (loss/reduction of household income, medical expenses, separation/divorce/death of parent, parent(s), siblings(s) enrolled at the same time, other extenuating circumstances)
- ✦ An explanation of "self-help" - other sources of funding the student has applied for, received, or expect to receive (Federal grants, loans, family members, scholarships, etc...)
- ✦ A request for the specific amount the student is requesting

(continued on next page)

Announcements

Important UMBC/Meyerhoff Office Information

(continued from previous page)

✦ A statement detailing how receipt of this award would alleviate financial hardship on the student and their family (NOTE: Having a gap is not a hardship as nearly all students have to pay out-of-pocket. The student must convey the hardship confronted in having to pay out-of-pocket, ineligibility for loans, etc.)

✦ **A printout of the student's student account for the semester**

✦ **A copy of the student's FAFSA email Confirmation Page** containing the family's Estimated Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and loan estimates (**please do not forward the student's SAR as it contains sensitive information**)

✦ Students must be in good standing with the program

Students, please submit email your application materials to Mrs. Johnson (shjohnso@umbc.edu).

✦ UMBC Scholarship Retriever — **AVAILABLE NOW**

Visit UMBC's new scholarship database/application system to view award opportunities for which you might be eligible: <https://financialaid.umbc.edu/retriever/>.

The Office of Summer & Winter Programs Summer Scholarship — **AVAILABLE NOW**

Awards made to a limited number of full and partial scholarships to UMBC degree-seeking students who have a high GPA and are close to graduating. The scholarship application will remain open until 5:00 pm on Friday, May 1. Apply here: <https://bit.ly/34JPm7r>.

CARES Act College Student Grants — **COMING SOON**

UMBC Office of Financial Aid is preparing for receipt and administration of an expected \$4.6 million dollars through the CARES Act for cash grants to students to use on course materials, technology, food, housing, healthcare and child care. Please monitor your email and the financial aid website for more details once funds are available.

FOOD AND TOILETRIES

• Retriever Essentials — **AVAILABLE NOW**

Pre-packed bags of nutritionally balanced nonperishable food and travel size toiletry items are available for students at the UMBC Campus Police Department. Contact the Campus Police at (410) 455-5555. Address: UMBC Police Department, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250 (located across the parking lot from the Performing Arts and Humanities Building/PAHB).

We hope these resources will make a difference in the lives of students.

Contact Us!

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



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



Photos provided courtesy of Dr. Antonios Seas

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



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](#)**