

**HOT NEWS**  
**SAVE THE**  
**DATE**

Feb. 26-27 & Mar. 5-6  
Meyerhoff  
Selection Weekends

TBD  
Senior Reception &  
Spring Stress Buster

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# Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2021

## Congratulations Meyerhoff Graduates

On December 16th and 17th, 2020, UMBC held its winter commencement ceremonies online for graduate and undergraduate students. **Congratulations to the December 2020 Meyerhoff graduates!** Welcome to the chapter of Meyerhoff alumni.



- Fatima (Computer Engineering, M28)**
- Elyssa (Mechanical Engineering, M28)**
- Abdul-Raheem (Mechanical Engineering, M28)**
- Noah (Computer Science/Math, M28)**
- Christopher (Math, M28)**
- Assefa (Chemistry, M28)**

## Sam Patterson, M29 Selected as Rhodes Scholar



Sam Patterson '21, M29, is one of 32 students selected from across the nation to receive a Rhodes Scholarship. After earning bachelor of science degrees in mathematics and statistics and a bachelor of arts in economics this spring, Sam will pursue an M.Sc. in the Nature, Society, and Environmental Governance at Oxford University. Sam is UMBC's second recipient of this prestigious scholarship, joining Naomi Mburu '18, M26, chemical engineering, who was selected in 2017.

Sam conducted research supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation at Harvard University with the Harvard Leadership Alliance and at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. Most recently, at the National Bureau of Economic Research, he evaluated trends in transportation changes in urban centers due to the pandemic.

A strong network of support has been at a cornerstone of Sam's UMBC experience. *"From the Meyerhoff Scholars program to the Honors College to Dr. Householder to Naomi Mburu [UMBC's first Rhodes Scholar] to my recommenders and mock interviewers and beyond, I've never had so many people on my team before, pushing me to achieve something I'm pursuing,"* Sam shares.

**Sam, keep up the great work and continued success to you!**



## Three Gen Z's Who Will Change the World



**Karen Herron**

**Jordan Troutman**

**Lauren Turner**

These Meyerhoff scholars are making their dreams come true, and in the process they are determined to make the world a better place. The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) blog post that features these scholars is below.

<https://chanzuckerberg.com/blog/three-gen-zs-who-will-change-the-world/>

## Jamie Joshua, M10 is Making a Difference in Higher Education



Jamie Joshua '02, M10, biological sciences, is using her institutional connections to reach a broad range of students as the Director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Cornell University's Johnson Graduate School of Management. The UMBC magazine feature is below.

<https://magazine.umbc.edu/retriever-educators-are-everywhere/>



## 2nd Annual African Americans in Health Care Awards presented by Kaiser Permanente and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum



**Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett**  
Viral Immunologist  
National Institute of Health



**Dr. Letitia Dzirasa**  
Commissioner of Health  
Baltimore City Health Department



**Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski III**  
President, UMBC  
& Conversation Moderator

Kaiser Permanente in partnership with the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History & Culture, presented the 2nd Annual “*African Americans in Health Care Awards*” on February 25th, from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. The recipients of this year's awards included Meyerhoff Scholar Program graduates Dr. Letitia Dzirasa and Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett. The event featured a conversation moderated by Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski III.

To view the video of the Awards ceremony, please click [here](#).

## PBS NewsHour Weekend, Inside the attempt to build trust about the COVID-19 vaccine in Black communities

As COVID-19 vaccines begin to roll out, some Americans remain skeptical about taking these vaccines. For the Black community, historical distrust makes their concerns even greater. NewsHour Weekend's Christopher Booker speaks with doctors, scientists and educators about how they are working on building confidence in the vaccines for a community that has been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

To access the video and transcript, please click [here](#).



## **The COVID-19 Vaccine and the Black Community**

On 12/29/2020, several expert guests including Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett '08, M16 participated in a panel discussion on 1) the development of the COVID-19 vaccine, 2) safety and efficacy of the vaccine, and 3) dispelling the fear and skepticism in the African-American community. The webinar was sponsored by the Iota Upsilon Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha. A recording of the webinar can be viewed via the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/IUL1906/videos/the-covid-19-vaccine-and-the-black-community/145964847321739/>

## **Where COVID-19 Spreads Most Easily, According to Experts by Dr. Adjoa Smalls-Mantey, MD, D. Phil (UMBC Meyerhoff alumni)**

See the link below.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/covid-19-spreads-easily-experts/story?id=74783036>

## **MUSC Doctors Work to Ease COVID-19 Vaccine Fears Among Minorities**

*"We want to get the word out and we want to share our experiences that we have had with the vaccine and to share the experiences of other healthcare providers as well as the science behind the vaccine as well,"* said Dr. Baker Frost (DeAnna Baker Frost, M12).

<https://abcnews4.com/news/local/musc-doctors-address-minority-groups-hesitant-about-taking-covid-19-vaccine>

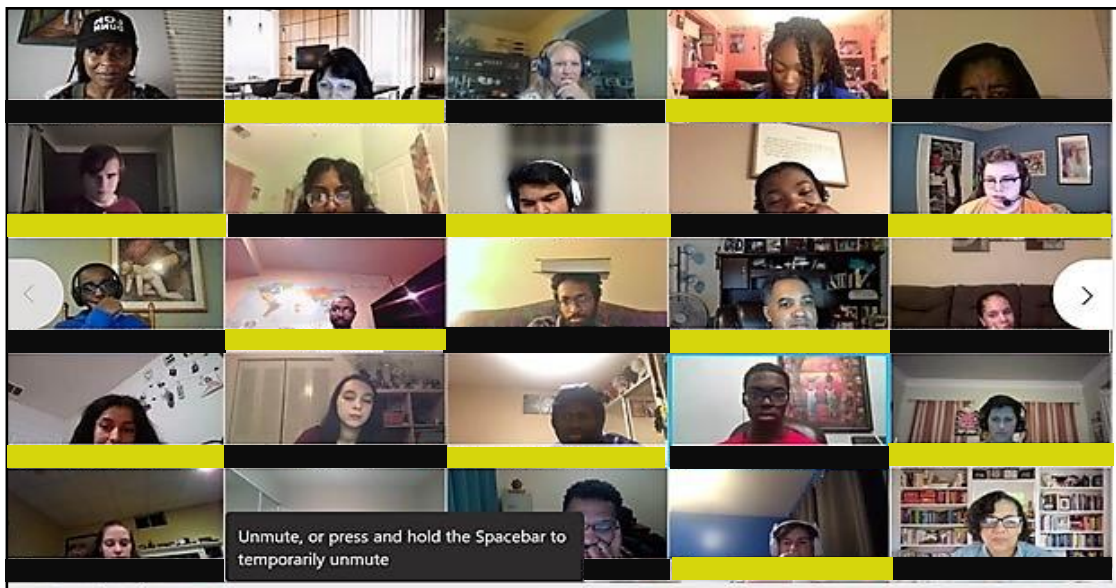
## **Twenty UMBC Memories from 2020**

As 2020 presented its own challenges, UMBC continued to demonstrate excellence at the highest levels. See the attached link <https://news.umbc.edu/2020/>



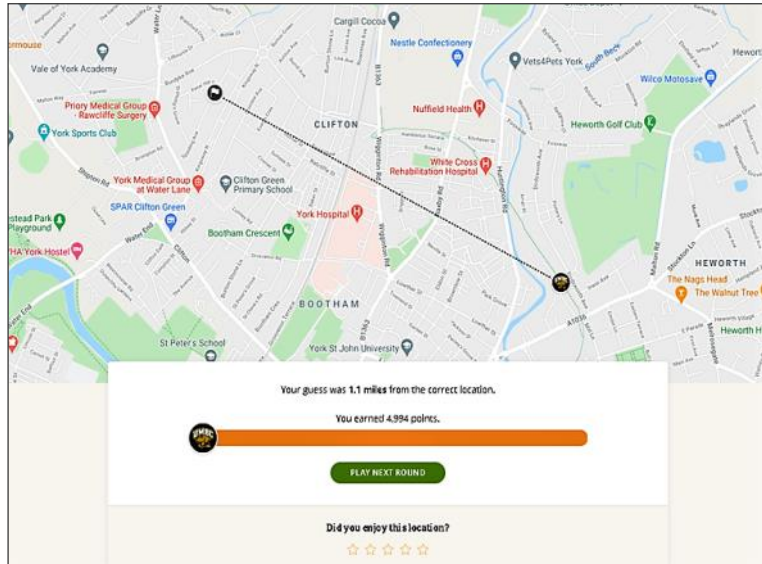
# 2020 Fall Stress Buster

Last year's virtual fall stress buster was a tremendous success! With the help of Meyerhoff scholars, parent volunteers, generous donations, Meyerhoff Office staff, and MPA Board members, a fun time was had by all at the December 17, 2020 Virtual Fall Stress Buster. The scholars played several fantastic games including the Wheel Challenge (which included a "Guess the Word Challenge" as one of 20 challenges), Minecraft Escape Room, and GeoGuessr (a geography game). The students were able to take a breather from their studies and enjoy some fun games with others in and outside of their cohorts. Some of the screenshots that were captured from this event are shown on page 6 and 7.



# 2020 Fall Stress Buster (Continued)

Congratulations to the M32 cohort! They received the Spirit award for the most participation from each of the cohorts (that photo and a few other photos of the virtual games that were played are below).



Minecraft Escape Room



We thank all who made this event a success, in particular the Stressbuster Planning Committee (Chantal – M32, Justyna – M23 & M32, Sade – M32, Shelandra – M31, and Darlene – M29).



## Your Annual Donations at Work

Your annual donations to the UMBC Foundation for the benefit of the Meyerhoff Parents Association were used to provide students a special catered dinner before their early move out and departure from the campus dorms prior to the end of 2020.

The Meyerhoff Parents Association normally provides several meals to students during in person events. However, due to COVID-19 these activities were significantly reduced.

The Meyerhoff Parents Association was happy to spotlight student perseverance and strength during the isolated days of on campus living and learning due to COVID-19. Prior to students completely packing up everything and moving out of their dorms in November of 2020, a free meal was provided by campus approved Glenmore Caterers and paid for through your annual donations. The meals were delivered on November 20, 2020. There were three meal options: Vegan (Vegetable Lasagna), Non-Vegan (Turkey), and Pescatarian (Salmon).

Special thanks to Veronica Bell who conceived the idea and had a big role in executing the project, and thanks to Meyerhoff Student Council President Nidhi Naik and MPA Board member Leslie Sands. In addition, special thanks to Sharon Johnson and Keith Harmon who provided significant assistance meeting UMBC COVID-19 Risk Assessment Requirements and Safety Protocols. Thank you for your dedication to the students.



*Photos provided courtesy of Mr. Keith Harmon*





## Upcoming Events



### M33 Selection Weekend

The Meyerhoff Program received applications for the M33 cohort, including several students nominated by members of our alumni community. Thank you for engaging in this process! **The Meyerhoff Selection weekends are scheduled on February 26-27 and March 5 - 6, 2021.**

### Senior Reception

The senior reception is usually planned by the Junior class so this activity will be organized by the M-30's. **This activity is currently being planned and the date for this event is currently TBD.**

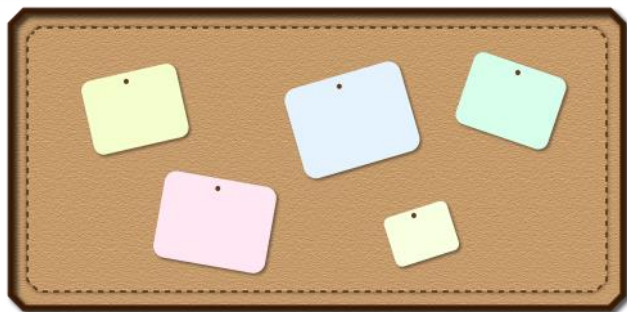
### Other Events

- Spring Stress Buster (TBD)
- Summer Stress Buster (TBD)
- Fall Family Outing (TBD)
- Fall Family Meeting (TBD)

*\* Dates are subject to change with advanced notice.*



## Notices and General Information



General  
information

### **Stipends for Unpaid Internships and Service Opportunities!**

If students plan to pursue an unpaid internship or service opportunity this summer at a Maryland small business or nonprofit, please see the below link. It includes eligibility requirements, stipend amount, and it speaks to the application process.

<https://my3.my.umbc.edu/groups/careers/posts/99144>

### **Drug Convictions and Financial Aid Eligibility**

The U S Department of Education requires that the following information be sent to all enrolled students. **This notice is for information purposes only.** A conviction for any offense under any federal or state law involving the possession or sale of illegal drugs during a period of enrollment for which you are receiving Title IV federal student aid (grants, loans, or work-study assistance) will result in the loss of eligibility for those aid programs. The time for ineligibility for aid varies based on the type of conviction and the number of times an offense has occurred. For additional information regarding contents of this notice, please click [here](#).

Information about the university substance abuse and prevention policy can be found [here](#).

### **Academic Success Center**

Please take a moment to review the academic support resources, particularly tutoring, available through the UMBC Academic Success Center. Know that additional resources are available through departments (CHEM, PHYS, ECON, BIOL, etc.) across campus.

It is a foundational tenet of the Meyerhoff program that scholars regularly utilize resources such as these maximize success in learning and academic performance (see additional details on Page 11).



## Notices and General Information (Continued)

Dear UMBC Campus Partners,

As we begin the Spring 2021 semester together, please be reminded of the many academic support services that are available to students, faculty and staff through the [Academic Success Center](#). The [ASC Team](#) is eager to help!

**Below are a few highlights:**

**Academic Success Center:** Through a coordinated approach and an unwavering commitment to student success, the Academic Success Center serves as a one-stop hub for a variety of services including [Academic Policy](#) support, [Academic Learning Resources](#), and [Academic Advocacy](#). Should you meet with students who are unsure which service(s) may benefit them, please encourage them to contact the Academic Success Center by email ([academicsuccess@umbc.edu](mailto:academicsuccess@umbc.edu)) or by phone at 410.455.2444 where our team will connect them with the service(s) most applicable to their needs.

**New this Spring 2021 Semester!**

The [Math and Science Tutoring Center](#) is back online to provide drop-in assistance for many Math and Science courses at UMBC. Students who have **quick questions about Math or Science concepts** can use the Math and Science Tutoring Center for **drop-in assistance** Sunday - Thursday from 5:00-9:00 p.m.

The [Computing Success Center](#) is online to provide **drop-in assistance for Computer Science and Information Systems courses** Monday - Friday, 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

**Academic Advocacy Referral Flyer (attached):** Academic Advocates are dedicated to serving undergraduate students who may need assistance navigating academic and/or institutional challenges (i.e., personal, academic or financial) that may adversely affect persistence, progression and timely completion of degree. Should you meet with a student who you believe could benefit from personalized support via a [coordinated care approach](#), please [submit a referral](#) and one of our [Academic Advocates](#) will connect with the student within two business days to review their degree progress, present options toward graduation, map out a plan for success, and facilitate communication and connections with the appropriate campus resources.

[Online Learning Resources](#) geared specifically for students on key topics including:

[Online Learning Resources Module](#): a fun, interactive module to prepare you for success in online learning. You will build skills in motivation, time management, study techniques and working with faculty and fellow students.

[Tips for Academic Success during COVID-19](#): general tips for getting the most out of online learning.

[Academic Success Center Services](#): what we do and how we can help you!

[How to Get Started with Online Learning](#): everything you need to know for learning online with UMBC.

[Time Management and Online Learning](#): a step-by-step video to build better time management habits.

[How to Study Effectively](#): an informative video with different study strategies.

[How to Create an Online Study Session](#): a video for forming virtual study groups with classmates and friends.

[How to Ask for Help during Online Learning](#): a video on how to reach out to your professors, fellow students and campus resources.



## Notices and General Information (Continued)

### **Higher Education Consumer Information**

The [Consumer Information website](#) is an important resource for UMBC students. In accordance with the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008, UMBC makes available to students important disclosure information, including information regarding student financial assistance, health and safety, accreditation and licensures, student outcomes, and the privacy of student education records ([Notification of Rights under FERPA](#)).

While UMBC has a long history of sharing information with students, the Consumer Information website was designed to provide all disclosure information in one easily accessible location. If you have questions about information on the Consumer Information website, I encourage you to contact the respective administrative department at UMBC. We are happy to answer any questions you may have. Best wishes for a successful semester.

Sincerely,

*Yvette Mozie-Ross, Ph.D.*

Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Planning

### **Get Your 1098-T Tax Form Online!**

1. Login to *myUMBC*
2. Select the Account Inquiry link.
3. Select the Account Services tab.

For more information go to <https://sbs.umbc.edu/1098-t/>.

### **January 21 – Retriever Ready Action Update**

This update includes COVID-19 Spring Semester Campus Access Requirements, COVID-19 Health & Safety details, Vaccine information and more.

<https://my3.my.umbc.edu/groups/insights/posts/98610>



## Notices and General Information (Continued)

### **Retrievers Connect (Early Access)**

Retrievers Connect is a new platform for networking, connecting, supporting, and engaging with members of the UMBC community, including current students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Currently, the platform is being soft-launched and we invite you to join! The Office of Alumni Engagement hopes to build a robust community of alumni on the platform before introducing it to current students. Though many of us have found the site to be intuitive to use (you can import your information from LinkedIn), we hope to provide more information on getting started and using Retrievers Connect in a later email. See below.

<https://retrieversconnect.umbc.edu/>

### **Initiatives for Identity, Inclusion, and Belonging (I3B)**

[Initiatives for Identity, Inclusion, & Belonging \(I3B\)](https://i3b.umbc.edu/) is dedicated to creating an environment that supports cross-cultural education and collaboration at UMBC. We invite you to join us in our commitment to empowering all UMBC students and staff to be culturally conscious and informed members of our community. We offer a safe and inclusive space for students and staff of all backgrounds, and we strive to develop innovative programs and initiatives that celebrate cultural diversity, equality, and social justice. See the link below.

<https://i3b.umbc.edu/>

### **Spring 2021 Housing Notices**

The Meyerhoff Program's **on-campus residential requirement** for students is again suspended for the Spring 2021 semester. Due to the COVID-19 response, Meyerhoff Scholars are not required to live in UMBC campus housing Spring 2021. Again, we encourage you to discuss housing options with your family and make the choice that is best for your physical, mental, and emotional safety and well-being.

### **Spring 2021 Housing**

The 2021 Spring Interest Application was made available beginning October 1st at [umbc.edu/go/housing](https://umbc.edu/go/housing).



## Notices and General Information (Continued)

### Spring 2021 Housing (Continued)

Residential Life will make offers to students who complete the application in early November and Spring housing assignments will be distributed in early January.

Please visit <https://reslife.umbc.edu/covid-19-residential-life-updates/covid-19-residential-life-faqs/#subsec2> for more information.

Application questions should be directed to Residential Life at 410-455-2591 or [reslife@umbc.edu](mailto:reslife@umbc.edu).

### Returning to Campus in January 2021 for RCA Activities

See the attached link <https://research.umbc.edu/covid19/>

**Spring Testing Plan (see January 21, 2021 email from Provost Philip Rous and Vice President Lynne Schaefer below). This information will be of interest to the current parents (M28 – M32).**

### Key Points

- Faculty, staff, and commuting students who wish to test on campus January 26 – 29 can now schedule their test.
- We are working to categorize everyone who is approved to be on campus so that you can receive specific instructions about your testing schedule for the rest of the semester.
- Continue to check your COVID Compliance Card in your myUMBC profile.

**Note:** See January 21, 2021 email from Provost Philip Rous and Vice President Lynn Schaefer on Page 15 - 16.



## Notices and General Information (Continued)

Dear UMBC Community,

### Updates for Spring Entry Testing

If you are expected to be on campus before March 1st, you need to complete testing and submit a negative test result at the start of the semester. Faculty and staff who participated in testing from January 2 - 9 are not required to participate in this pre-semester testing period. Residential students will receive testing instructions separately from Residential Life.

Faculty, staff, and commuting students can now [schedule an on-campus testing appointment](#). Please make every effort to sign up as soon as possible. You may also test off campus; options are detailed [here](#).

All community members who are currently approved to be on campus will receive an email from MarylandGenomics (MG Scanner Mobile) with instructions on downloading an app and a QR Code unique to you. You will need this information to test throughout the semester.

### Ongoing Testing Throughout the Semester

Based on your campus access status, we will be assigning everyone approved to be on campus to different categories and different testing schedules. You will see your designation in your COVID Compliance Card in your myUMBC profile by Friday, January 29th.

### Groups and testing schedules include:

**Group A - Residential students living on campus** will test twice a week throughout the entire semester except during spring break.

**Group B - Pre-approved faculty, staff, and commuting students** who come to campus two or more times a week and have shared work spaces and/or close interactions. This group will test twice a week throughout the entire semester.

**Group C - Student athletes and coaches** follow a unique testing schedule approved by the NCAA and the university. It includes regular testing at least twice a week.

**Group D - Pre-approved faculty, staff, and commuting students** who come to campus on average once a week OR come to campus less regularly but have a high risk situation that includes shared work space or interaction with others on campus. This group will be tested less frequently with the goal of accessing rapid antigen testing when feasible. More details will be provided directly to this group as the situation evolves.



## Notices and General Information (Continued)

**Group E - Faculty, staff, commuting students, or other visitors** who come to campus for a one-time visit OR who visit once a week or less and do not have shared workspace or interaction with others, if not already approved to be on campus, must first obtain approval from their supervisor and the Chief of Police to visit campus. We will share additional information on this process and testing guidance soon. In general, testing will not be required unless there will be exposure to others for more than 15 minutes.

After your COVID Compliance Card is updated with a group designation, if you believe that you have been assigned to an incorrect group, please speak with your supervisor. You can also contact [covid19@umbc.edu](mailto:covid19@umbc.edu).

### **Additional Compliance Requirements**

Please remember that all community members who are approved to be on campus must complete the [online symptom tracker](#) every day, seven-days-a-week, starting 14 days before arrival. Please be sure to review all the [campus access requirements](#). Thank you for your continued commitment to keeping our community safe and healthy. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to us at [covid19@umbc.edu](mailto:covid19@umbc.edu).

*Provost Philip Rous*

Vice President for Administration and Finance Lynne Schaefer

COVID-19 Planning Coordinating Committee Co-Chairs





# 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 Officers 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, as this demonstrates support and trust in the Meyerhoff Staff and the overarching goals of the program. A suggested giving level of \$100 annually per member family funds student activities sponsored by the MPA and/or Meyerhoff scholars, along with conference registration and travel assistance. Donate by clicking [here](#).

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

Contact the Meyerhoff Parents Association Board Officers at [umbcmpa@gmail.com](mailto:umbcmpa@gmail.com) or obtain additional information at <http://meyerhoff.umbc.edu/parents/meyerhoff-parents-association/>.

## 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.**

## UMBC Public Health Dashboard

This dashboard provides timely data about the prevalence of COVID-19 within UMBC's main campus, based on UMBC's on-campus testing and reported results from off campus testing and reported results from off campus testing among UMBC faculty, staff, and students who are approved to be on campus this fall.

Visit the dashboard at the Retriever Ready Spring 2021 site <https://covid19.umbc.edu/>. Please direct COVID related questions to [covid19@umbc.edu](mailto:covid19@umbc.edu).

You can also visit this site for more information: <https://covid19.umbc.edu/testing-tracking/umbc-public-health-dashboard/>.

## Stay Connected



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

Families have this space where they can 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 or guardians 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 scholars toward a fulfilling career. It is vitally important to support our scholars.

Thus, the MPA encourages you to submit an annual family gift of \$100 to fund student-centric activities sponsored by the MPA — this provides funding for Meyerhoff scholars' requests for financial assistance with conference and professional meeting registration fees. In short, 100% of your gift is invested in the students, and they are worth every penny we raise because they are our sons and daughters.

The MPA operating fund does not receive money from the UMBC foundation, the university or the program office. Gifts from you provide a majority of the funding. Employee gift matching programs are an easy way to double your contribution.

Donations can be made online using a credit card via the Gritstarter link <https://gritstarter.umbc.edu/s/1325/cf20/project.aspx?sid=1325&gid=1&sitebuilder=1&pgid=2246>. Your continued support helps make this program successful. Please donate to the MPA today.

For those that would prefer to send an annual family member gift or undesignated gift by mail, please click [here](#).

## Giving Day 2021

Giving Day 2021 was held from February 24th @ 9AM EST to February 25th @ 9 PM EST. During this period, UMBC hosted a 36 hour Black and Gold Rush. The outcome details will be shared when they become available.

**Thank you for the contributions made during Giving Day 2021 and throughout the year!**

## Order Your Polo Shirts and Cookbooks Today

**The MPA is selling the current polo shirt inventory (limited larger sizes) at 10% off the regular price plus free shipping on a first-come first-serve basis.** The purchase price of the cookbook is \$22. To purchase the polo shirt and/or cookbook, please complete the respective order forms and submit along with payment to the address denoted on the form.

You can also download the polo shirt and cookbook purchase forms on the MPA website. Click [here](#).

The COVID-19 campus restrictions caused the cancellation of MPA hosted events where we would display and sell our MPA polo shirts and cookbooks to attain additional revenue to support our scholars. Annually, shirt sales are our most popular fundraising activity, and our goal is to sell 100 shirts.

If you have any questions, contact the MPA Board at [umbcempa@gmail.com](mailto:umbcempa@gmail.com) or obtain additional information at <https://meyerhoff.umbc.edu/parents/meyerhoff-parents-association/>.






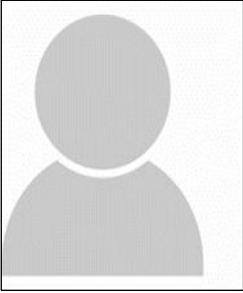




**Meyerhoff Parents Association  
Board of Officers & Cohort Representatives 2020 - 2021**

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p align="center"><b>President</b></p>  <p align="center">Darlene W. Brooks<br/>(M29)</p>                   | <p align="center"><b>Vice President</b></p>  <p align="center">Shelandra Burton<br/>(M31)</p>        | <p align="center"><b>Assistant Vice President</b></p>  <p align="center">Peter Mills<br/>(M32)</p> |
| <p align="center"><b>Recording Secretary</b></p>  <p align="center">Adetokunbo Ajayi<br/>(M30)</p>         | <p align="center"><b>Corresponding Secretary</b></p>  <p align="center">Alisa Wallace<br/>(M29)</p> | <p align="center"><b>Treasurer</b></p>  <p align="center">Denise Johnson<br/>(M28)</p>            |
| <p align="center"><b>Assistant Treasurer</b></p>  <p align="center">Darlene Pernell-Bunkley<br/>(M31)</p> | <p align="center"><b>Editor</b></p>  <p align="center">Dexter R. Merritt Sr.<br/>(M30)</p>         | <p align="center"><b>Historian</b></p>  <p align="center">Veronica Bell<br/>(M28)</p>            |

**Note:** The new Board of Officers was elected during the October 24, 2020 MPA Town Hall meeting. Peter Mills and Dexter R. Merritt Sr. subsequently joined the board after the meeting, in the roles identified above.





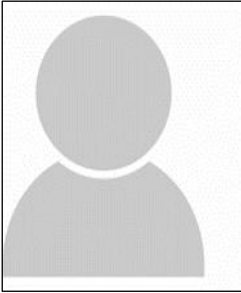






**Meyerhoff Parents Association  
Board of Officers & Cohort Representatives 2020 - 2021**

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>M32</b></p>  <p>Sade Adegboyo</p>    | <p><b>M32</b></p>  <p>Chantal Ireland</p>    | <p><b>M32</b></p>  <p>Rosalind Muchiri</p> |
| <p><b>M32</b></p>  <p>Justyna Sardin</p>  | <p><b>M31</b></p>  <p>Adam Beyene</p>       | <p><b>M31</b></p>  <p>Shelton Burton</p>  |
| <p><b>M31</b></p>  <p>Rodney Isabell</p> | <p><b>M31</b></p>  <p>Mehrdad Tondravi</p> | <p><b>M30</b></p>  <p>Florence Okeh</p>  |



**Meyerhoff Parents Association  
Board of Officers & Cohort Representatives 2020 - 2021**

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>M30</b></p>  <p>Leslie Sands</p>                   | <p><b>M29</b></p>  <p>Vanessa Chandler</p>             | <p><b>M29</b></p>  <p>Antonios Seas</p>              |
| <p><b>M29</b></p>  <p>Carol Williams</p>                | <p><b>M28</b></p>  <p>Vacant</p>                      | <p><b>Alum - M28</b></p>  <p>Kelly Jones</p>        |
| <p><b>Alum - M27</b></p>  <p>Kenneth (Chris) Dixon</p> | <p><b>Alum - M27</b></p>  <p>Renita Prevot Smith</p> | <p><b>Alum - M26</b></p>  <p>Rebecca Truesdale</p> |



**Meyerhoff Parents Association  
Board of Officers & Cohort Representatives 2020 - 2021**

**Alum – M25**



Regina J. Bracey

**Alum – M25**



Karen Furman

**Alum -M24**



Stephen Omokehinde

**Alum – M23**



Deborah Nazon

**Alum – M13**



Edie Windsor



## Letter from the Editor



Meyerhoff Scholars, Parents, Alumni, and other UMBC Stakeholders,

As I reflect on this past year, there were tremendous successes and challenges. For many, 2020 will be remembered as a tumultuous, terrifying, wearisome, and dark year. We witnessed systemic racism and hate, the advent of a deadly pandemic (COVID-19), the widening of economic and health disparities, and an assault on our democratic institutions, norms, and facts.

Still, as I reflect upon the video “*Twenty UMBC Memories from 2020*” and many other shared experiences across our country, I am optimistic about the future. You have demonstrated intellectual excellence at the highest levels from earning advanced degrees to leading the development of the COVID-19 vaccines. Your intellectual prowess, compassion, generosity, resilience, adaptability, and perseverance cannot be questioned, and as such, I believe our best days lie ahead.

In 2021 and beyond, the MPA will continue to support the Meyerhoff scholars and other UMBC stakeholders. We will work together like a pair of scissors. Regardless of the relative position of the blades, we will continue to work in unison by lifting each other up, bringing out the best in each other, and cutting whatever comes between us. We are here to serve you!

At every gathering of Meyerhoff scholars, Dr. Hrabowski reminds students of the importance of persistence, asking them to recite the Langston Hughes poem expressing that sentiment.

*Hold fast to dreams  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly.*

*Hold fast to dreams  
For if dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow.*

Now more than ever, remember to “*Focus, focus, focus*”.

*Dexter R. Merritt Sr.*  
M30 Parent & MPA Editor

Note: Meyerhoff Scholars, Parents, Alumni, and other UMBC Stakeholders, please send your stories, photos, and accomplishments to [umbcmpa@gmail.com](mailto:umbcmpa@gmail.com) with the title NEWSLETTER COPY. If you are willing to help by writing an article, please send us an email. Your assistance is welcome.



## 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...*



*Photos provided courtesy of 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**

