

HOT NEWS

SAVE THE DATE

6/5/2021 - 7/17/2021

Meyerhoff M33
Summer Bridge

7/17/2021

MPA Summer Bridge
Closing Meeting with
M33 Parents

8/31/2021

Fall Classes Start

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Newsletter

JUNE 2021

Meyerhoff Scholars Seniors Celebration

On May 8th, 2021, the MPA in collaboration with the UMBC Foundation recognized the M29 cohort via a virtual Meyerhoff Scholars seniors celebration.

This is what our legacy looks like!



Photo provided courtesy of Dr. Antonios Seas

Congratulations to the M29 seniors and graduates!
Graduates, welcome to the UMBC Meyerhoff Alumni Chapter.

Meyerhoff Scholars Seniors Celebration (continued)

The MPA sponsored Meyerhoff Senior Celebration event was a tremendous success! This celebratory event was held via WebEx on May 8th, 2021.



The agenda for the morning included a welcome message from Mrs. Darlene Brooks (M29 Parent and MPA President) followed by a senior celebratory message from Dr. Hrabowski. As Dr. Hrabowski provided advice to the seniors, he quoted Eleanor Roosevelt, *"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams"*. He encouraged the seniors to seek out the truth and to always do the right thing.

Mrs. Earnestine Baker (Executive Director Emerita, Meyerhoff Scholars Program) commended the seniors for being strong enough to cope during this tumultuous time and finding solutions to problems. She said, *"Life is like a book. If you never turn the page, you will not know what the next chapter has for you"*. She encouraged the seniors to go forward and write the next chapter, be the best they can be, and remember to give back.

Mrs. Renita Smith (M27 Parent and Alumni Cohort Representative) shared the history of the honor cords, and via a slideshow presentation, Dr. Antonios Seas (M29 Parent) captured the comraderie, ingenuity, perseverance, and outstanding accomplishments of the M29 cohort. All of the M29s were recognized via the slideshow presentation. A summary of the awards and recipients can be viewed on the next page.



Meyerhoff Scholars Seniors Celebration (continued)

Meyerhoff Seniors Awards	
Class of 2021 Valedictorian (College of Natural Sciences and Mathematical Sciences, the College of Engineering and Information Technology and Interdisciplinary Studies)	Jordan Troutman
Class of 2021 Valedictorian Finalist	Alexandra Seas
Undergraduate Research Award Scholars, 2020 - 2021	Jessica Christian, Ellen Gulian, Keren Herrán, Olufolake Majekodunmi and Jason Pentsil
2020 - 2021 Honors College Graduates	Karis Barnett, Autumn Cook, Hana Flores, Sam Patterson, Jordan Troutman, David Williams, Jessica Christian, Tobias Coombs, Keren Herrán, Alexandra Seas, and Halle Welch
National and International Awards	
Rhodes Scholar and Marshall Scholarship, 2020-2021	Sam Patterson
Knight-Hennessy Scholar, 2020-2021 - Finalist	Jordan Troutman
Barry Goldwater Scholarship Recipients, 2020 - 2021	Dominique Brooks, Olumide Fagboyegun, and Jordan Troutman
Fulbright Awards Finalists, 2020-2021	Olufolake Ashley Majekodunmi, Yianni Karabatis, and Olu Ogungbesan
Honor Societies Awards	
Phi Beta Kappa (Academic Honor Society for Liberal Arts and Sciences)	Shandon Amos, Autumn Cook, Keren Herrán, Yaw Owusu-Boaitey, Caleb Robelle, Sierra Wallace, Karis Barnett, Elyssa Ferguson, Nidhi Naik, Sam Patterson, Ayo Telli, Halle Welch, Jessica Christian, Ellen Gulian, Teni Ogunsan, Nicholas Potteiger, and Jordan Troutman
Phi Kappa Phi (Undergraduate students invited to membership for academic excellence)	Jason Ejimogu, Cassidy Kollmann, Monali Saraf, Olumide Fagboyegun, Teni Ogunsan, Alexandra Seas, Hana Flores, Sam Patterson, and Jordan Troutman
Tau Beta Pi (Engineering Honor Society)	Alexandra Seas, Carlos Souffrain, and Halle Welch
The Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Award	
This award is presented annually to the senior, selected by the cohort, who exemplifies excellence in academics, research, service, and leadership.	Yaw Owusu-Boaitey (<i>awarded posthumously</i>)



Meyerhoff Scholars Seniors Celebration (continued)

Mr. Kendall Queen (Meyerhoff lead summer bridge counselor) paid tribute to Yaw Owusu-Boaitey. He remembered Yaw as a bright light and gentle spirit. In addition to receiving the Robert and Jane Meyerhoff award, Yaw was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa honor society and awarded an undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences posthumously.



Photo of Yaw provided courtesy of Mr. Keith Harmon

Kendall also paid tribute to Mr. LaMont Toliver. He previously served as Director of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program and Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Education. His character became a north star for the program. We lost both of these extraordinary individuals far too soon.

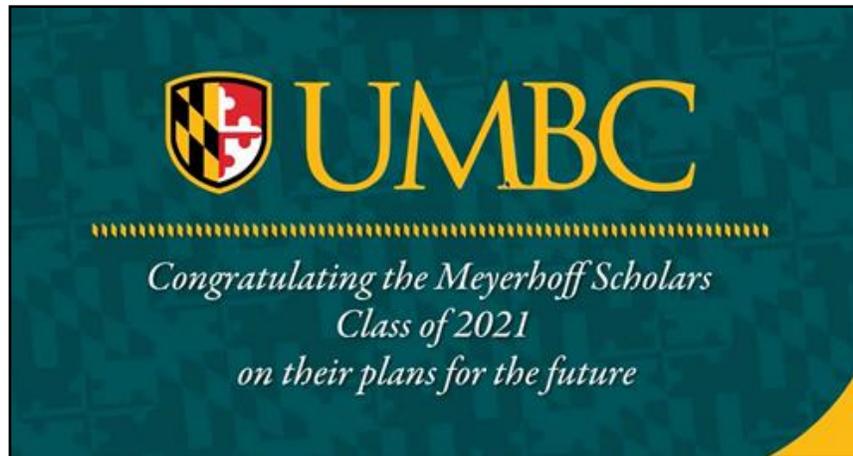
As the event neared its completion, Kendall led the M29s in reading the Meyerhoff pledge silently, and additional congratulatory remarks were made by the Meyerhoff program staff, parents, alumni, students, and others.

In closing, we thank the 2021 Seniors Celebration Planning Committee led by Mrs. Leslie Sands and Mrs. Florence Okeh (M30 Parents and Cohort Representatives). They did an outstanding job!



Meyerhoff Scholars Program Senior Recognition

On May 18th, we recognized the Meyerhoff Scholars Program graduating seniors. This special evening included congratulatory messages from Dr. Hrabowksi, Meyerhoff staff, alumni, and senior cohort members. Additionally, we viewed a special Class of 2021 video.



At the outset, Dr. Katharine H. Cole (Vice-Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs) offered a congratulatory message to the graduating seniors. This was followed by a special message from Dr. Hrabowski. He reminded the graduating seniors that excellence is no accident by quoting Aristotle, *“Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives– choice, not chance, determines your destiny”*.



*Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, III
President, UMBC*



Meyerhoff Scholars Program Senior Recognition (continued)



A congratulatory message was shared by a recent alumni (Justin Santos, M25) that is currently pursuing his MD/PhD at Emory University. Justin told the class that there would be hurdles, but the true measure of someone is how they pick themselves up.



Dr. Kellie McCants-Price, an M2, and the 1st female to apply to the Meyerhoff Scholars Program talked about how she grew as a student, and the importance of staying connected, as her most influential friendships are with people she met in college.

Her parting message to the graduates was: 1) remember your Meyerhoff days fondly, 2) celebrate your accomplishments, 3) remember, we are a family whose relationship does not end, and 4) congratulations to all of you! She wished the graduating seniors an amazing journey into the next garden whereby they are planted.

Additional congratulatory messages were shared by M29 graduates Nidhi Naik and Nahum Arefeayne. Mrs. Earnestine Baker encouraged the graduates to reach within to find that invincible spirit or feeling that allows you to keep pushing forward.

Near the conclusion of this special event, we watched a Class of 2021 video whereby the graduating seniors communicated what they would be doing post graduation, as many of them are enrolled in Masters, MD, and MD/PhD programs. Mr. Keith Harmon also led the graduates in reciting Langston Hughes poem, *“Hold Fast To Dreams”*. All of the staff and Ivanna Abreu, a Program Coordinator and co-facilitator of the event, offered congratulations and well wishes to the seniors.

The UMBC commencement ceremonies for the graduate and undergraduate classes of 2021 was held respectively on May 20th and May 21st, 2021. **Congratulations to the graduates and your families!**

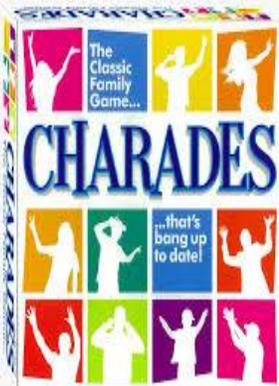


2021 Spring Stress Buster

This year's virtual spring stress buster was an enormous success! With the help of Meyerhoff scholars, parent volunteers, donations, office staff, and MPA Board members, a fun time was had by all at the May 12th, 2021 Virtual Spring Stress Buster. The scholars played three rounds of “**Who Am I**” and three rounds of “**Charades**”. Near the end of the stress buster, we concluded with a President Hrabowski impersonation activity.



The three rounds of Who Am I consisted of the students analyzing and guessing who was in the selected photo. There were baby photos, photos of the early years, and finally, pictures of the scholars in their later years. The participants received a select number of points (3,2, or 1) for each photo they named correctly in each round.



The scholars then proceeded to play Charades. There were three rounds (1,2, and 3) consisting of Easy, Medium, and Difficult words. This event was performed one cohort at a time. Each cohort's actor was provided a word via the private chat and time was allotted for that particular cohort to act out the word and provide a correct answer. If the correct word was not given, the other cohorts were given 5 seconds to attempt a steal. If they opted to steal and guessed the correct word, they received an additional point; if they did not, they lost a point.



Near the end of the event, there was just enough time for two of the participants to share their President Hrabowski impersonations with the rest of us. Briah Barksdale representing the M-30 cohort and Ms. Patrice Darby (General Associate with the Meyerhoff Program Office) did an outstanding job! Thank you.

Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski III
President, UMBC



2021 Spring Stress Buster (continued)

At the conclusion of the above mentioned events, the parent representatives totaled the scores and announced the winners. The M28/M29 cohort won Who Am I and there was a three way tie for Charades. The Charades winners were the M28/M29, M30, and M31 cohorts. **Congratulations to the winners, but more importantly, thank you to all of the participants, in particular the Meyerhoff Scholars!**

In closing, we thank the 2021 Spring Stress Buster Planning Committee and those parents that led/coordinated the events (Co-chairs Peter Mills and Shelton Burton, Shelandra Burton, Rodney Isabel, Karen Furman, Darlene Pernell-Bunkley, Bridgette Collins, and Dexter R. Merritt Sr.).

Meyerhoff Selection Weekends *February and March, 2021*



Earlier this year, the Meyerhoff Program Office conducted two Meyerhoff Scholar selection weekend events; they were held February 26—27 and March 5—6. Both of these events required an extensive amount of planning by multiple stakeholders (the Meyerhoff Program Office, the UMBC IT staff, the Meyerhoff scholars, prospective Meyerhoff scholars and their families, the MPA, and others). This was the first time that the Meyerhoff Selection Weekend activities were conducted virtually and the planning paid off. By all accounts, the execution was outstanding!



Meyerhoff Selection Weekends (continued)

February and March, 2021

The selection weekend activities included an opening program, multiple meet and greet breakout rooms, a selection weekend help space, numerous speakers (the Meyerhoff Program Office staff, MPA members, faculty, students, alumni, and more), and a closing program. Just by way of example, there were three meet and greet breakout rooms for each selection weekend. Meyerhoff candidates and their families were pre-assigned to one of three breakout rooms based on their last names. Information slides were presented during the breakout sessions and facilitators were assigned to each of the three virtual chat rooms. Additionally, there were people managing the event controls (letting people in, monitoring the chat sessions, muting and un-muting as needed, posting Q&As, and more).

The execution of the selection weekend activities did not end on March 6th. The Meyerhoff Program Office staff and others stayed in contact with the participants and their families, answering all of their questions. Over the last two months, offer letters have been extended to prospective Meyerhoff scholars and candidates have accepted offers. This has resulted in what will be the M33 cohort. At present, there are 48 scholars in the M33 cohort and two students from the Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO), a non-profit organization in New York, NY. **Congratulations to each of them and their families!**

It would be impossible to individually thank all of the people that made and continue to make this effort a tremendous success. In lieu of doing so, we'll simply say, UMBC as represented by all of the stakeholders mentioned above is held in very high regard!

Thank you, all!



One of UMBC's 2021 Valedictorians and the University's First Knight-Hennessy Scholar



Photo provided courtesy of Dr. Antonios Seas

Congratulations to **Meyerhoff Scholar Jordan Troutman '21** on being one of UMBC's 2021 valedictorians and the university's first Knight-Hennessy Scholar! He will be attending Stanford this fall. The UMBC News story sharing much more about Jordan's UMBC experience and plans can be viewed via the link below.

<https://news.umbc.edu/umbcs-jordan-troutman-to-continue-algorithmic-fairness-research-as-knight-hennessy-scholar-at-stanford/>

UMBC's 2021 Grads Advance Research with Public Impact

Congratulations to **Davis Cappabianca '21**, **Hana Flores '21**, **Keren Herrán '21**, **Ali Abdolrahmani, Ph.D. '21**, and **Briscoe Turner '21** on graduating from UMBC on May 20th and May 21st, 2021.

Keren Herrán (M29) is a Meyerhoff Scholar and **Hana Flores** (M29) is a Meyerhoff and U-RISE Scholar. You are all inspiring and are certain to do great things! Read more via the UMBC new article link below.

<https://news.umbc.edu/umbcs-2021-grads-advance-research-with-public-impact-from-disaster-response-to-assistive-tech/>



Four UMBC Students Named as 2021-2022 Goldwater Scholars



Photos provided courtesy of the UMBC Foundation

Joshua Slaughter '22, computer engineering; **Kaitlynn Lilly** '22, physics and mathematics; **Gerson Kroiz** '22, mathematics; and **Karan Luthria** '22, bioinformatics have been named 2021-2022 Barry Goldwater Scholars, setting a new university record for the most Retrievers to earn this prestigious undergraduate award in a single year!

For the 2021 competition, the Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education program awarded 410 new scholarships. All of the UMBC winners this year were either Meyerhoff or U-RISE Scholars. A total of 1,256 undergraduates were nominated by 438 institutions.

Special thanks to Ms. Mitsue Wiggs and Ms. Patrice Darby for assisting the students with their applications. Thank you for your dedication to the students.

Congratulations to Joshua, Kaitlynn, Gerson, and Karan! Keep up the good work and continued success to each of you.

Read more via the link below.

<https://news.umbc.edu/umbc-students-set-new-record-in-prestigious-goldwater-scholarships-for-stem-research/>



UMBC's 25th Annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD) included Meyerhoff Scholars

Many Meyerhoff, HHMI, U-RISE, MARC Scholars, and Friends of the Program presented their research results (see below). Participants were able to view student presentations and interact with presenters.

Attendees were able to see students' research posters and slides, as well as art, performances, films, and video games. Please visit urcad.umbc.edu for updates or additional information.

The presenters and their subject matter are listed below.

Shandon Amos | Investigation of the Protein-Protein interactions and Function of the Chromatin-Associated Protein Set4 in *S. Cerevisiae* | Mentor: Erin Green | Biological Sciences

Nahum Arefeayne, Dean Pavlick | Foundation Medicine Role of Histone Gene Mutations in Tumorigenesis | Mentor: Anita Corbett and Jennifer Spangle, Emory University | Biology

Briah Barksdale, Shonda Campbell | Investigating The Role of RHO1 in Bacterial Clearance using *Drosophila Melanogaster* | Mentor: Jeff Leips | Biological Sciences

Karis Barnett | Assay of An Antiparasitic Medication Using High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) | Mentor: William LaCourse | Chemistry and Biochemistry

Sarah Bowers | Obtaining Accurate Aerosol Extinction and Backscatter Coefficients Using Ceilometers | Mentor: Ruben Delgado | Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology

Dominique Brooks | Evidence For Conserved Mechanisms of Neurulation in the Zebrafish Forebrain | Mentor: Rachel Brewster | Biological Sciences

Allyson Caldwell | Apical Constriction Molecular Machinery Within The Zebrafish Medial Hinge Point | Mentor: Rachel Brewster | Biological Sciences

Tyler Carlyle, Charlie Waters, Chemistry and Biochemistry | Synthesis of Flex-Remdesivir Analogues As Potential Antiviral therapeutics | Mentor: Katherine Seley-Radtke | Chemistry and Biochemistry

Faith Davis, Patricia Boyd, Kierra Regis, Jon Catazaro, Johns Hopkins | USING PARAMAGNETIC TAGS TO ELUCIDATE the STRUCTURE of the HIV-1 5' LEADER | Mentor: Michael Summers | Chemistry and Biochemistry



UMBC's 25th Annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD) included Meyerhoff Scholars (continued)

Nna-Emeka Ejimogu, Verna Van | Sequence Conservation and Structural Modeling of An Arginyl-tRNA Transferase 1 (ATE1) | Mentor: Aaron Smith | Chemistry and Biochemistry

Olumide Fagboyegun | *Principal Component Extraction Eliminates Oxidative Peak Drift in MicroImmuno-Electrode Measurements of ISF* | John Cirrito | Washington University School of Medicine

Ellen Gulian, Dan Wines | Density Functional theory Studies of MoS₂ As A Function of Environmental Conditions | Mentor: Michael Hayden, Can Ataca | Physics

Brian Hanson | Identifying The Context Of COVID-19 Impact Via Social Media | Aryya Gangopadhyay | Information Systems

Josiah Hardy | Structural Characterization Of HIV-1 MAL Junction Conformers | Michael Summers | Chemistry and Biochemistry

Keren Herrán | Analysis Of Mental Well-being Of Environmental Migrants In Maryland: A Comparison Study | Dawn Biehler | Geography and Environmental Systems | Fizza Gulamali-Majid, Division Chief, Division of Newborn and Childhood Screening, Maryland Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene

Garrett Hill | Phenotypic Characterization Of PrkA Protein Kinase In *Aspergillus Nidulans* | Mark Marten | Chemical, Biochemical, and Environmental Engineering

Nneamaka Iwobi | Oral Exposure To Arsenic Through Food Consumption | Christopher Bradfield | University of Wisconsin-Madison

Jafira Johnson | Establishing Zebrafish As A Model To Study Genetic Components Underlying Neural Tube Defects Using Genetic Components | Rachel Brewster | Biological Sciences

Olufolake Majekodunmi | Examination Of Flavor Vanillin In E-liquid On Mouse Models Using Comparative Chemosensory Behavioral Experimentation | Weihong Lin, Tatsuya Ogura | Biological Sciences

Tobi Majekodunmi | Stroke Telerehabilitation: Technology Probe Design | Helena Mentis | Information Systems



UMBC's 25th Annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD) included Meyerhoff Scholars (continued)

D'Juan Moreland | Acoustic Similarity Between Yearling And Adult Males In Orchard Orioles | Kevin Omland, Michelle Moyer | Biological Sciences

Nithya Navarathna | Establishing A Cell-Based High-Throughput Screen To Identify Pathways Targeting ZNF217 Levels In Ovarian Cancer Cells | Achuth Padmanabhan | Biological Sciences

Oluwateniayo Ogunsan | Automatically Generated Phase Portraits For Understanding Biological Systems | Daniel Lobo | Biological Sciences

Crystal Parry | Effect Of Lisinopril Dosage | Fernando Vonhoff | Biological Sciences

Jason Pentsil | Improved Repeatability And Performance Prediction Of Additively Manufactured 17-4 Stainless Steel Using Tensile Testing | Marc Zupan, Michael Duffy | Mechanical Engineering

Kelsey Person | Role Of tRNA Diversity In Programmed Translational Frameshifting In Budding Yeasts | Philip Farabaugh | Biological Sciences

Kennedy Person | Genetic Analysis Of Ypk2 As The Ultimate Kinase In Controlling Protein Synthesis Accuracy | Philip Farabaugh | Biological Sciences

Kierra Regis | ELUCIDATING THE 3D STRUCTURE OF THE HIV-1 5' LEADER | Michael Summers | Chemistry and Biochemistry

Alexandra Seas | Development Of A Pharmacokinetic Model Of The Sustained Subconjunctival Delivery Of Timolol Maleate | Erin Lavik | Chemical, Biochemical, and Environmental Engineering

Micah Thorpe | Binder-Free Manganese Dioxide Cathode Performance In Flexible Batteries | Deepa Madan | Mechanical Engineering



2021 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program included 12 UMBC Awardees and 5 Honorable Mentions

UMBC is the baccalaureate institution for the below mentioned NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Offered Awardees (15 HHMI/MARC/Meyerhoff/URISE seniors and alumni) and five Honorable Mentions (3 Meyerhoff scholars). This is a tremendous accomplishment representing the hard work of our students, alumni, and the faculty and staff who mentioned and supported them.

Name	FIELD OF STUDY	CURRENT INSTITUTION	AWARD STATUS
Ellis, Myles Arthur Vincent*	Social Sciences - Economics	Harvard University	Offered Award
Fagboyegun, Olumide*	Life Sciences - Neurosciences	UMBC (senior)	Offered Award
Fernandez, Joshua*	Engineering - Mechanical Engineering	Georgia Institute of Technology	Offered Award
Holley, Rudolph*	Engineering - Chemical Engineering	Princeton University	Offered Award
Hopkins, Malakhi*	Engineering - Electrical & Electronic Engineering	University of Pennsylvania	Offered Award
Ibitoye, Temitope*	Engineering - Environmental Engineering	North Carolina State University	Offered Award
Larkin, Caroline Iturbe*	Engineering - Computationally Intensive Research	University of Pittsburgh	Offered Award
Opoku-Agyeman, Anna	Social Sciences - Economics	Harvard University	Offered Award
Osia, Uchenna*	STEM Education & Learning Research - Computationally Intensive Research	North Carolina State University	Offered Award
Smith, Aliyah*	Engineering - Aeronautical & Aerospace Engineering	Stanford University	Offered Award
Troutman, Jordan Thomas*	Comp/IS/Eng - Machine Learning	UMBC (senior)	Offered Award
Wallace, Sierra*	Life Sciences - Developmental Biology	UMBC (senior)	Offered Award
Blank, Elijah James	Life Sciences - Neurosciences	Johns Hopkins University	Honorable Mention
Bos, Jaelyn Teresa	Geosciences - Marine Biology	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	Honorable Mention
Gulian, Ellen*	Physics and Astronomy - Condensed Matter Physics	UMBC (senior)	Honorable Mention
Kollmann, Cassidy Elizabeth*	Physics and Astronomy - Astronomy & Astrophysics	UMBC (senior)	Honorable Mention
Yaschenko, Anna*	Life Sciences - Systems & Molecular Biology	North Carolina State University	Honorable Mention

♦ Denotes HHMI/MARC/Meyerhoff/U-RISE Scholar or Alumni.

Special Note - Anna Gifty Opoku-Agyeman received both the NSF and Ford Graduate Fellowships



Meyerhoff Council Update

The Meyerhoff Council helps to facilitate the connection between the Meyerhoff staff and the scholars. We plan outreach events and communicate student interests, with the goal of creating a more cohesive community. Throughout this academic year, the Council has been working hard on planning events to help the program stay connected. Initiatives such as the social justice newsletters, which have highlighted injustices going on around the world to Adulting 101 events to help students learn how to manage their finances and rent an apartment.

We have also had Major Fridays so that members of different cohorts can meet one another in a virtual format. Furthermore, we had our mental health series that features seminars from the counseling center. Additionally, we have had a plethora of fun events to keep those across the program connected during these tumultuous times. We saw great engagement in these programs this year and hope that spirit carries into the coming academic year.

Another round of applause is due to the new graduates! Congratulations to the M29's! May you continue to excel in your endeavors and in the bright future ahead. In addition, if you have not already checked out the Meyerhoff yearbook, please do so, as it highlights our seniors and other events throughout the year!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many students were not able to be on campus and experience the vibrant UMBC culture so many of us have come to know. This year the Meyerhoff Council and staff worked diligently to make sure students felt supported in this new virtual environment. As the outgoing Meyerhoff Student President, I am privileged to have had this position and I have no doubt that the new Council executive board will do amazing things for the program next year. I encourage the new graduates to stay connected to not only your cohort members, but also to those at UMBC. Lastly, to those still at UMBC, I hope you have a great summer and good luck in the upcoming school year!



Contributing Writer - Nidhi Naik
*M29, Meyerhoff Student President &
2021 UMBC Graduate*

Photo provided courtesy of Dr. Antonios Seas



Meyerhoff Alumni In The News

Congratulations to Dr. Oliver Myers, M1. He has been named a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and he is receiving the Dr. Eugene Deloatch Legacy Award from BEYA.

Please view the links below, for additional details.



<https://news.clemson.edu/oliver-myers-wins-high-honor-from-the-american-society-of-mechanical-engineers/>

<https://www.southcarolinamanufacturing.com/two-from-clemson-university-honored-among-nations-black-engineering-leaders/>

Dr. Oliver Myers

Associate Dean of Equity and Inclusion
College of Engineering, Computing & Applied Sciences
Clemson University

The Meyerhoff family extends condolences to Dr. Oliver Myers on the loss of his father, Mr. Oliver Myers. Homegoing services were held on April 6th, 2021 at the New Hope Fellowship Campus in Upper Marlboro, MD.

Additionally, we extend condolences to **Mr. Jordan Williams (M23)** on the passing of his mother Ms. Delores King Williams., **Mr. Chris Shelton (M17)** on the passing of his mother, Ms. Yvette Shelton, **Mr. Robert Bonnette Jr. (M4)** on the passing of his father, Mr. Robert Bonnette Sr., and **Dr. Kennita Johnson (M4)** on the passing of her father, Mr. Kenneth Johnson.

Congratulations to Chiatogu Onyewu MD/PhD, M7. She was named a 2021 Rising Star by the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association. Chi leads a group of scientists in the Research Program Management department and exemplifies what it means to be a role model for her team and mentees.

For additional Healthcare Businesswomen's Association information, see below.



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/healthcare-businesswomen-s-association>

Chiatogu Onyewu, MD/PhD
Director, Regeneron



Meyerhoff Alumni In The News

Congratulations to Ms. Tina Williams-Koroma, Esq., CISSP, & PMP, M10. She recently received a grant from the Maryland Industrial Partnerships program to develop a cybersecurity application alongside UMBC faculty member Anupam Joshi.

Please view the link below, for additional details.



<https://technical.ly/baltimore/2021/02/19/cydeploy-mips-umbc/>

Tina Williams-Korona
Founder & CEO
CyDeploy

Congratulations to Ms. Randi Williams, M24. She has been named 2021 Microsoft Research PhD Fellow. In her work, Randi seeks to empower communities through artificial intelligence (AI) education. Her research is at the intersection of human-robot interaction and primary education, with a particular focus on engaging and supporting students from underrepresented groups in technology.

Please view the link below, for additional details.



<https://www.media.mit.edu/posts/randi-williams-named-as-2021-microsoft-research-phd-fellow/>

Randi Williams, PhD Fellow
Research Assistant
Personal Robots Group



Meyerhoff Alumni In The News

Congratulations to Avery D. Posey Jr., PhD , M13, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Systems Pharmacology and Translation Therapeutics. He is the inaugural winner of the Lustgarten Foundation-American Association for Cancer Research Career Development) Award for pancreatic cancer research in honor of the late Congressman John Robert Lewis. The \$300,000 grant is given to members of racial or ethnic groups who have been shown to be historically underrepresented in the pancreatic cancer research workforce.

Read more via the link below.



<https://lustgarten.org/lustgarten-foundation-aacr-career-development-awards/>

Avery D. Posey Jr., PhD
John Lewis Award
Perelman Scholl of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania

Congratulations to Federico Cifuentes-Urtubey, M26. He has been selected to receive a grant from the Idea Institute at the University of Urbana-Champaign. The grant will sponsor a new mentorship program called **Peer Mentorship in a Virtual University Setting** which facilitates mentorship for underrepresented undergraduate students.



<https://idea.illinois.edu/giant/giant-project-selections-2021>

Federico Cifuentes-Urtubey
PhD Student
Illinois Graduate College



Meyerhoff Alumni In The News

Congratulations to Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett, M16, the lead scientist of the research team that developed the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID).. She was recently named to the **2021 “TIME 100 Next”** list for her groundbreaking contributions to science, with a profile written by Dr. Anthony Fauci.

In March, Dr. Corbett received the **Key of Life award** during the **52nd NAACP Image Awards**, and this past April, she spoke with CNN anchor Abby Phillip about the Meyerhoff Scholars program, vaccine hesitancy, and more.

For a synopsis of that interview, please view the link below.



<https://news.umbc.edu/kizzmekia-corbett-08-talks-to-cnn-about-meyerhoff-scholars-vaccine-hesitancy/>

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Viral Immunologist
National Institute of Health

Additionally, on May 11th, the **Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health** announced that Dr. Corbett would join the School as an assistant professor in the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases. She will hold an appointment at the Harvard Radcliffe Institute as the Shutzer Assistant Professor.

In her new role, Dr. Corbett will head the new Coronaviruses & Other Relevant Emerging Infectious Diseases (CoreID) Lab to study and understand the interface between hosts’ immune systems and viruses that cause respiratory disease, with the goal of informing development of novel and potentially universal vaccines.

To view the news release, please see the link below.

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/kizzmekia-corbett-joins-harvard-chan-school/>





News You Can Use



Ms. Patrice Darby
General Associate
MSP, UMBC

Photo provided courtesy of Patrice Darby

Ms. Patrice Darby joined the UMBC staff in November of 2020 as a General Associate of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program (MSP). She is an M20 that graduated from UMBC in 2012 with a degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Patrice matriculated to the Biomedical and Biological Science Program at Harvard University and graduated with a Masters degree in 2014. She was a private tutor and academic coach for five years.

Her current responsibilities include but are not limited to managing the recruitment and selection process, outreach efforts with external partners (middle schools, high schools, universities, and community organizations), and writing grant proposals and reports. Patrice serves as the liaison to Meyerhoff Alumni Executive Board. She is also creating and delivering STEM-related content for the current Scholars and she heads the programming for the EDUCATE and ESTEEMED Scholars.

Patrice, welcome aboard! We are excited to have you and look forward to working with you!.

UMBC Ripple Effect Campaign

On May 16th, UMBC launched a media campaign entitled “**The Ripple Effect is Real**” celebrating the success and impact of the **Meyerhoff Scholars Program** and highlighting the accomplishments of the graduating class of Meyerhoff seniors and alumni.

The 6-week national visibility campaign showed how the Meyerhoff Scholars Program is changing the face of science, technology, and medicine in America. The purpose of the campaign was to increase the visibility of the Meyerhoff Program on a national scale and to attract financial donors. To obtain more information or take action, go to this landing page: meyerhoff.umbc.edu/RippleEffect.

If there are people or organizations you think would be interested in financially supporting the program or providing internship, research, or professional opportunities to Meyerhoff students or alumni, let the Program Office know at meyerhoff@umbc.edu.

Funds raised for the Program will be administered by the UMBC Foundation, Inc., for the benefit of **UMBC**



Giving Day 2021 Update

In the February 2021 newsletter, we said we would provide an update with regards to the Giving Day 2021 event that was held on February 25th. The MPA collected \$2,700 from 35 contributors during the Black and Gold Fundraising Day.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support. For those parents that would like to contribute a monetary gift, you can do so at:

<https://gritstarter.umbc.edu/meyerhoff-parents>.

Funds raised for the Program will be administered by the UMBC Foundation, Inc., for the benefit of **UMBC**

Summer Enrichment Academy

Registration for UMBC's Summer Enrichment Academy (SEA) 2021 is open. SEA offers full-day and half-day virtual academic summer camps for motivated students looking to expand their thinking and combat summer learning loss.

For more details, click [here](#). **Meyerhoff alumni Dr. Immanuel Williams** is also teaching several virtual UMBC courses this summer involving data science and analytics. His courses can be accessed via the above link.

Highlights From Three Pandemics, Three Conversations

On March 3rd, UMBC hosted "**Three Pandemics, Three Conversations**", a virtual event that featured UMBC alumni making a difference in the scientific, social, and policy responses to the grand challenges facing our society. It was incredible to see more than 600 community members and friends gather virtually to honor and learn from UMBC alumni.

If you missed any of this conversation, or would like to watch it again, you can find a recording [here](#).

USM COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements

On April 23rd, the [University System of Maryland](#) announced that it will require COVID-19 vaccination for all eligible students, faculty, and staff who will be on a Maryland campus in the Fall 2021.

Thank you for your continued commitment to keeping our community safe and healthy. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out by emailing covid19@umbc.edu.



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 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 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.

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.



**Letter from
the Editor**



On behalf of the MPA, I would like to take this opportunity to say job well done to all of the Meyerhoff scholars, but in particular, congratulations to the seniors and graduates! This past year has been like no other. During this pandemic and time of virtual learning, you have adapted, persevered, and continued to excel.

At the May 18th Meyerhoff Scholars Program Senior Recognition event, Mrs. Earnestine Baker (Executive Director Emerita, Meyerhoff Scholars Program) inspired us by sharing the following passage by Albert Camus,

*“In the midst of hate, I found there was, within me, an invincible love.
In the midst of tears, I found there was, within me, an invincible smile.
In the midst of chaos, I found there was, within me, an invincible calm.
I realized, through it all, that...*

*In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer.
And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there’s something stronger—something better, pushing right back.”*

Meyerhoff scholars and graduates, keep pushing!

Dexter R. Merritt Sr.
M30 Parent & MPA Editor

Note: *Scholars, as you complete your summer internships, we would like to hear from you. Please send your stories, photos, and accomplishments to 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



Photo provided courtesy of the UMBC Foundation

Note: *If you are interested in volunteering to support any of the upcoming MPA activities or the Meyerhoff Program in general, please send an email to umbcmpa@gmail.com with the title VOLUNTEER COPY. Your assistance is welcome!*

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**



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

