

DREAMS REALIZED

**A Tribute to Robert E. Meyerhoff on the
30th Anniversary of the UMBC Meyerhoff Scholars Program**



DREAMS

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

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

Langston Hughes

INTRODUCTION

American activist Marian Wright Edelman once observed: “You can’t be what you can’t see.”

For three decades now, the Meyerhoff Scholars Program has made success in STEM fields a clear vision for its young scholars. Charged with granting access to the highest levels of science to all students regardless of background, the program has opened eyes and minds. And, as hundreds of alumni carry the shared vision into their work as researchers, professors, policy makers, and the like, the ripple effect of the Meyerhoff program is being seen on a national level.

Looking at the program’s successes now, it is easy to forget that its creation was a risky undertaking. Nothing like it had ever been done; many doubted it could work.

Thankfully, Robert Meyerhoff saw the promise in our students very clearly in 1989, even when others could not. So, too, could Freeman Hrabowski, UMBC’s vice provost at the time, as well as the dedicated staff who built the program from scratch, learning as they went.

Today, the Meyerhoff Scholars Program is a national model for efforts to increase diversity among future leaders in science, engineering, and related fields. UMBC has been heralded for producing the most African American graduates who have gone on to earn M.D./Ph.D. degrees. The program has spurred more than a dozen replication efforts, including well-documented successes supported by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and two new pilots announced this spring by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. And, with many of the program’s alumni moving into positions of leadership, the ripple effect of Mr. Meyerhoff’s vision is now visible in institutions across the country.

What once couldn’t be seen is now indisputable. And thanks to the vision of Mr. Meyerhoff, many dreams will be realized for years to come.

“I am in awe of the dedication and commitment with which Meyerhoff Scholars approach tasks at hand—be it academics, research experiences, service, or leadership. Meyerhoffs are ‘all in’ types. Now as alumni, they are distinguishing themselves as STEM professionals, changing the face of the STEM workforce, and showing the world how right Bob Meyerhoff was to believe in them in the first place.”

– Keith Harmon, director, Meyerhoff Scholars Program

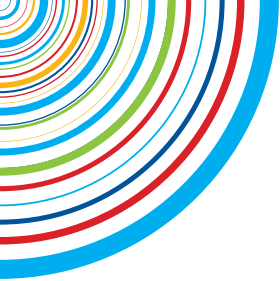


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Event Schedule..... 1

By the Numbers 2

Replicating Success..... 3

Dreams Realized: A History..... 4

The Family Connection: Paying it Forward 10

Meyerhoff Map12

The 13 Key Components 14

Our Gesture of Gratitude..... 18

Alumni Engagement Opportunities19



The first class of Meyerhoff graduates.



The Meyerhoff Class of 2019.

DREAMS REALIZED: A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. MEYERHOFF

Friday, May 31

Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, Baltimore

4 – 5:30 p.m. Reception
5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Program

Alumni-led informal gatherings in Baltimore will take place post-event. Check in at the registration desk for more information.

MEYERHOFF SCHOLARS PROGRAM FAMILY REUNION

Saturday, June 1

UMBC Event Center

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Registration opens at 9 a.m.

Alumni, scholars, and parents are invited to gather for a day of activity and engagement. The day's events will include:

- Registration and Continental Breakfast
- Family Meeting with MAAB Leadership, Meyerhoff Program Staff, and Dr. Freeman Hrabowski
- Affinity Meet-Ups/MPA-Led Parent Meeting
- Lunch
- Cohort Cluster Competitions/Parent Networking
- Campus Tours (optional)

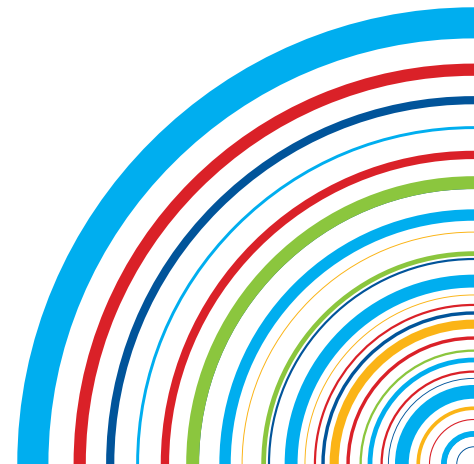
MEYERHOFF SCHOLARS PROGRAM ALUMNI RECEPTION

Saturday, June 1

Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel

8 p.m. – Midnight

The 30th Anniversary Celebration weekend culminates with dancing, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and more fun led by the Meyerhoff Alumni Advisory Board (MAAB).





BY THE NUMBERS

Since its inception in 1989, UMBC's Meyerhoff Scholars Program has graduated

1140

students with undergraduate degrees in science and engineering

with

84%

continuing on to graduate or professional programs in STEM.

Meyerhoff students are

5 TIMES

as likely to enter and complete a STEM Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. program as students who were admitted to the program but declined.

Meyerhoff students are

2 TIMES

as likely to remain in STEM majors as students who were admitted to the program but declined.

UMBC is the

#1 UNIVERSITY

in the nation for producing African American graduates who have gone on to earn M.D./Ph.D. degrees, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

To date, Meyerhoff alumni have earned

314

Ph.D. degrees*

141

M.D. degrees

59

M.D./Ph.D. degrees

268

master's degrees to date, and more than 300 are currently pursuing graduate degrees.

and

136

other degrees**

with

283

currently pursuing graduate and professional degrees.

* Includes M.D./Ph.D., D.D.S./Ph.D., D.V.M./Ph.D., and Sc.D.

** Includes D.D.S., D.O., D.P.T., J.D., M.A., M.A.T., M.B.A., M.P.H., M.P.P., and Pharm.D.

REPLICATING SUCCESS

"The key to accelerating discoveries in science or the next tech breakthrough will be dependent on our ability to bring fresh perspectives to STEM fields," says Priscilla Chan, co-founder of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI). Now, CZI has turned to UMBC for a model of how to make that happen.

CZI announced in April that it has awarded \$6.9 million to support a unique partnership to replicate UMBC's Meyerhoff Scholars Program at UC San Diego and UC Berkeley.

"California's openness to new ways of thinking is what has made this state an innovation engine for the world," says Chan. "With these new grants, we hope to help bring even more diversity of perspective and experience to our state—and to Silicon Valley."

This builds off of the success replication efforts previously funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Pennsylvania State University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This spring, a paper published in *Science* magazine noted positive findings from these Meyerhoff-style programs.

The UMBC Meyerhoff program, founded in 1989, is recognized as one of the most effective models in the nation to help engage and retain underrepresented students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees in STEM fields. Program participants have already earned 314 Ph.D. degrees, 141 M.D. degrees, 59 M.D./Ph.D. degrees, and 268 master's degrees. Hundreds more are currently pursuing graduate degrees.

These achievements are particularly striking in a national context. UMBC graduates more African American students who go on to earn dual M.D./Ph.D. degrees than any other college in the U.S.—a credit to the Meyerhoff program model. UMBC is also second in the nation when it comes to graduating African American students who go on to earn a Ph.D. in any STEM field.

"It is truly thrilling to think about the national and global impact the Meyerhoff Scholars Program will have through partnerships like this," says **Michael Summers**, Robert E. Meyerhoff Chair for Excellence in Research and Mentoring and Distinguished University Professor at UMBC.

The CZI support will enable UC San Diego and UC Berkeley to apply many of the strategies successfully used at UMBC. These include outreach to high achieving underrepresented high school students, robust research experiences, team learning, peer counseling, intensive advising, preparation in the summer before matriculation, and engagement with students' families.

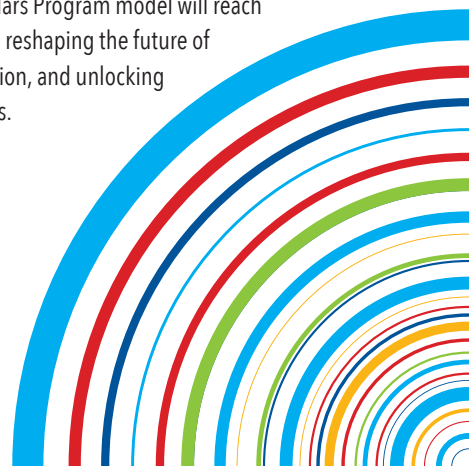
UMBC Meyerhoff alumni pursuing graduate degrees at UC Berkeley and UC San Diego are particularly excited to see this new partnership grow.

"Seeing a version of the program come to Berkeley is exciting because it means there is another initiative to increase the support for students of color. It means building and extending the community that wants to see us in academic spaces," says **Robyn Jasper '17, M25, biological sciences**, who is currently a Ph.D. student at UC Berkeley in plant and microbial biology.

Rockford "Rocky" Sison '13, M21, mathematics, a current Ph.D. candidate in applied mathematics at Berkeley, feels similarly. "I'm so excited to see other programs spring up across the country," Sison says. "It means a lot to me that more students will receive the type of financial, professional, and emotional support I received as an undergraduate. Ideally, every student would get this level of support."

Sison carries on that legacy of encouragement, sharing, "When I graduated from UMBC, being a Meyerhoff Scholar meant that I was dedicated to paying it forward, and I had a sprawling network of people with the same commitment."

Now, UMBC's Meyerhoff Scholars Program model will reach more people than ever before, reshaping the future of STEM in California and the nation, and unlocking new opportunities for students.





DREAMS REALIZED: A HISTORY

1988

The Meyerhoff Scholars Program begins 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 Ph.D. degrees in math, science, and engineering.

1989

The Meyerhoff Scholars Program enrolls its first class of students, the M1 cohort of 19 freshmen.

1990

Women are first admitted to the program.

Apple Computers, Inc., donates a computer to each member of the M3 cohort. The company also donated computers for the M4 and M5 cohorts.

1992

The M4 cohort earns a 4.0 GPA across the board during their Summer Bridge classes.

The Meyerhoff Parent Association is initiated by a group of M1, M2, and M3 parents, including original board members **Carolyn King, Isabelle McCants, McCauley Stancil, Edy Brooks, Dr. Sidney Jones, Kathy Chase, and Shirley Watkins.**

1993

The first class of Meyerhoff Scholars Program graduates goes on to graduate and professional programs at Northwestern, Princeton, Penn State, North Carolina State University, and the University of Pennsylvania, among others.

The Eli Lilly Company sponsors two students from Indiana, the first Meyerhoff Scholars to come to UMBC from outside of Maryland.

UMBC awards Mr. Meyerhoff an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

1994

Working with UMBC Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator **Dr. Michael Summers, Chianna Paschall M4, chemistry**, creates a model of one of the dozens of proteins that make up the HIV virus. Her model is featured on the cover of the November issue of the *Journal of Molecular Biology*.

The Meyerhoff Scholars Program creates an ongoing partnership with **Dr. Thomas R. Cech**, 1989 Nobel Laureate in chemistry, through which students complete research internships at his University of Colorado laboratory.

1995

Dr. Kenneth Maton, professor of psychology, and UMBC President **Freeman Hrabowski** publish their first study based on the Meyerhoff Scholars' experiences, "Enhancing the success of African-American students in the sciences: Freshman year outcomes," in *School Science and Mathematics*.

Diversity in Higher Education, Volume 1 publishes, "The recruitment and retention of talented African-Americans in science: The role of mentoring," by **Dr. Charles Woolston**, Dr. Hrabowski, and Dr. Maton.

UMBC begins its partnership with The Leadership Alliance, a consortium of more than 30 of the nation's leading research and teaching academic institutions.



On the Legacy of Summer Bridge

"It was a challenge seeing Meyerhoff Scholars go through Summer Bridge and initially not understanding its purpose, not getting it. Sometimes I saw hurt on their faces, or anger, and I said to them, 'Just listen. Just listen, and you'll come to understand what it is that we are trying to do.' ... And now I hear, 'Okay, I'm out. I've graduated now, and I get Summer Bridge. I understand' ... and they find themselves repeating some of the same principals not only to their students and colleagues, but to their kids ... I feel this part of my life has been so worthwhile. At the end of the day, I exhale and reflect, and I say, 'Thank you, God.'"

- Earnestine Baker

Executive Director Emerita, Meyerhoff Scholars Program

1996

The Meyerhoff Scholars Program is opened to people of all backgrounds committed to increasing the representation of minorities in science and engineering.

UMBC receives the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring from President Bill Clinton.

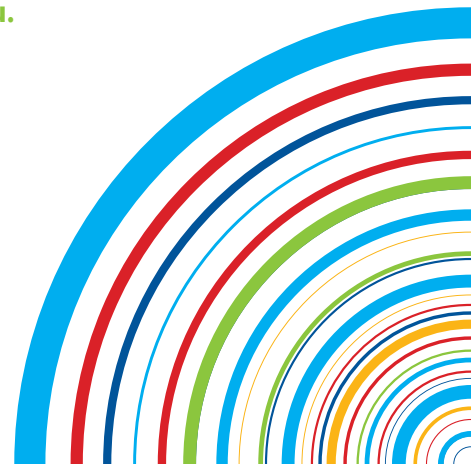
Damon Tweedy M4, biological sciences, is the first Meyerhoff Scholar to graduate with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

1997

The Meyerhoff Graduate Fellows Program begins, focusing on promoting cultural diversity in the biomedical sciences at the graduate level.

A gift from the Meyerhoff Foundation establishes The Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Chair in Biochemistry at UMBC and biological sciences professor **Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg** is the first honored to hold this position.

Read more from this interview at meyerhoff.umbc.edu.





1998

Oxford University Press publishes, *Beating the Odds: Raising Academically Successful African American Males*, based on research about the Meyerhoff Scholars Program and co-authored by Dr. Hrabowski, Dr. Maton, and **Dr. Geoffrey Greif**.

2000

Chester Hedgepeth M1, biological sciences, becomes the first African American student to receive an M.D./Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and the first Meyerhoff Scholar to achieve the degree.

The Meyerhoff Scholars Program begins an international partnership through the Fogarty MIRT Grant with Lancaster University in England, allowing students to participate either in a one-year exchange program or a summer research opportunity.

Dr. Summers receives the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring in recognition of the substantive undergraduate research opportunities Meyerhoff Scholars and others obtain in his HHMI laboratory.

The Journal of Research in Science Teaching publishes, "African-American college students excelling in the sciences: College and postcollege outcomes in the Meyerhoff Scholars Program," by Dr. Maton, Dr. Hrabowski, and **C.L. Schmitt**.

2002

Overcoming the Odds: Raising Academically Successful African American Young Women, based on research about the Meyerhoff Scholars Program, is co-authored by Dr. Hrabowski, Dr. Maton, **Dr. Monica Greene**, and Dr. Greif.

The Today Show features a segment about the Meyerhoff Scholars Program.

2003

Crystal Watkins M3, biological sciences, finishes her M.D./Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University, becoming the first female Meyerhoff Scholar to achieve the degree.

BEST (Building Engineering and Science Talent) cites the Meyerhoff Scholars Program for its exceptional "Institutional Leadership" in a report to the United States Congress of best practices among university programs leading the way in training minorities in the sciences.

A gift by the Meyerhoff Foundation establishes the Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Science Fund to support teaching and research in the life sciences at UMBC.

2005

The Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Chemistry Building is dedicated in recognition of the Meyerhoffs' generosity and commitment to the universal benefits of education.

Dr. Hrabowski and Dr. Summers are invited by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to discuss the success of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program at a Symposium on Diversity in the Sciences, held at Harvard University. The following year, they speak again at the University of Louisiana Monroe and the University of Washington.

The Civil Rights Project at UCLA publishes, "Opening an African-American STEM Program to talented students of all races: Evaluation of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program, 1991-2005," by Dr. Maton, Dr. Hrabowski, and **M. Ozdemir**.

2011

UMBC is featured on *60 Minutes* in a segment entitled "Hrabowski: An Educator Focused on Math and Science." The segment, which aired on November 13, 2011, featured interviews with Dr. Freeman Hrabowski and Meyerhoff alumni and current students.

2006

In an editorial titled, "Why American College Students Hate Science," the *New York Times* points to UMBC as an innovator in turning American college students into scientists.

Dr. Hrabowski and Dr. Summers co-author a report entitled "Preparing Minority Students and Engineers" for *Science* magazine.

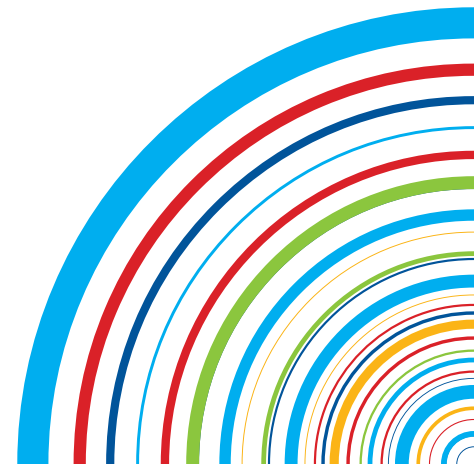
The Howard Hughes Medical Institute awards UMBC a \$2.2 million teaching grant to further develop the HHMI Scholars Program, a science education initiative that focuses on students from diverse backgrounds.

2012

The passing of **LaMont Toliver**, Director of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program and Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Education, on February 28, 2012, is a tragic loss for the Meyerhoff Scholars Program family and the entire University community. LaMont graced UMBC with his considerable abilities—his leadership, deep compassion, wisdom, wit, and determination—for 22 years. His example will continue to inspire us.

2007

Isaac Matthews M15, mechanical engineering, a star on the UMBC Track and Field team, is named Arthur Ashe Male Sports Scholar of the Year by *Diverse* magazine.





2013

In its 25th year, the Meyerhoff Scholars Program boasts more than 800 graduates, many of whom have gone on to pursue careers as scientists, researchers, engineers, and doctors. In a story entitled "Where Are They Now?" in the August issue of *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, the magazine highlights the successes of six Meyerhoff alumni.

2014

UMBC, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Pennsylvania State University, and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill embark on a five-year collaboration known as the Meyerhoff Adaptation Project. Under the plan, HHMI investigator Michael Summers and colleagues at UMBC provide leadership and advice to Penn State and UNC, which each adapt elements of the Meyerhoff Program to the Millennium Scholars Program at Penn State and the Chancellor's Science Scholars Program at North Carolina.

An article titled "Strength in Numbers" and video of the same name are published in the HHMI *Bulletin* to highlight the Meyerhoff programs effectiveness and provide more details about the Meyerhoff Adaptation Project.

2016

Three chemical engineering students are awarded the Barry Goldwater scholarship. To date, out of the 15 Goldwater scholarships awarded to UMBC students, 12 are Meyerhoff Scholars.



Life Changing Work

"[Bob Meyerhoff] gave my life meaning and value that it would not have otherwise had. I didn't start at UMBC because I cared about social justice issues. I loved solving problems and was just excited about the opportunity to do science as a UMBC professor. But Bob, Freeman, and the Meyerhoff program changed me. Don't get me wrong, I'm still really excited about research. But looking back, I believe the most important work I've done has centered around the Meyerhoff program. How do you thank somebody for giving you the opportunity to do something truly meaningful with your life?"

- Dr. Michael Summers

*Robert E. Meyerhoff Chair for Excellence
in Research and Mentoring,
Distinguished University Professor, and
Investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute*

**Read more from this interview at
meyerhoff.umbc.edu.**

2017

On August 3, **Jerome Adams M4, biochemistry and molecular biology**, is confirmed as the 20th Surgeon General of the United States. During his tenure as Surgeon General, Dr. Adams has created several initiatives to tackle our nation's most pressing health issues, including the opioid epidemic, oral health, and the links between community health and both economic prosperity and national security.

Naomi Mburu M26, chemical engineering, becomes the first UMBC student to earn the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. As a Rhodes Scholar, she will be completing a D.Phil. in engineering science and conducting research under **Dr. Peter Ireland** exploring heat transfer applications for nuclear fusion reactors.

Meyerhoff alumni have an outstanding year. They earned 36 Ph.D. degrees, which is the most ever in one year for the program.

2018

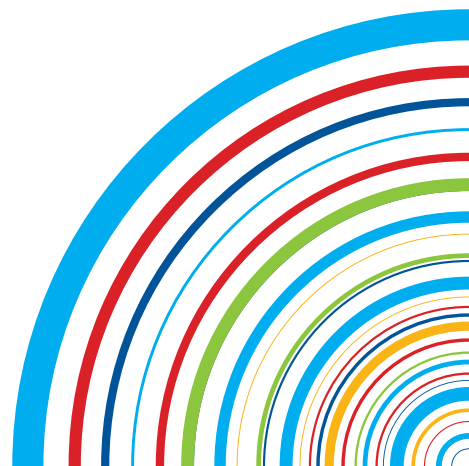
After following three M26 scholars during their senior year, the *Baltimore Sun* publishes an article highlighting the Meyerhoff Scholars Program's success. The article describes 12 "lessons" as exemplified by **Adrian Davey, chemical engineering**; **Ann Cirincione, bioinformatics and computational biology**; and **Tania Evans, chemical engineering**. Currently, Adrian is pursuing his Ph.D. in chemical and biomolecular engineering at UC Berkeley; Ann is pursuing her Ph.D. in quantitative and computational biology at Princeton University; and Tania is pursuing her Ph.D. in chemical engineering at Georgia Tech.

2019

Letitia Dzirasa M11, biological sciences, is named the new Baltimore City Health Commissioner. She becomes the first African American woman to serve in the role.

On April 9, Priscilla Chan, co-founder of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI), announces a gift of \$6.9 million to support a unique partnership to replicate UMBC's Meyerhoff Scholars Program at UC San Diego and UC Berkeley. The CZI grants, over five years, will allow the San Diego and Berkeley campuses to apply many of the models successfully used in the Meyerhoff program.

A new paper in *Science* reveals positive findings from the first four years of a five-year initiative to adapt the Meyerhoff Scholars Program at Pennsylvania State University at University Park and at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, supported by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. While strikingly different in some ways, these three institutions now share a commitment to all components of Meyerhoff-style programs. "These findings confirm that Meyerhoff-like programs and student outcomes can be achieved elsewhere, even at institutions very different from UMBC," says Michael Summers, Robert E. Meyerhoff Chair for Excellence in Research and Mentoring and Distinguished University Professor at UMBC.





THE FAMILY CONNECTION: PAYING IT FORWARD

"To whom much is given, much is required." Meyerhoff scholars internalize this message, which is introduced during Summer Bridge and is almost as ubiquitous as "Focus, Focus, Focus," and Langston Hughes' "Dreams" at Meyerhoff gatherings. For many of the scholars, giving back has become a foundational principle in their lives, as they mentor colleagues, students, and interns in their roles as researchers, medical professionals, biotech entrepreneurs, and more.

This extension of the Meyerhoff program beyond UMBC amplifies its impact. Like a family tree, the DNA for the Meyerhoff program's values and practices travels through generations of researchers as scholars graduate from UMBC and carry their experiences with the program wherever they go, cultivating the Meyerhoff culture in their new environments. Perhaps no simile is required—members of the Meyerhoff community feel that it is, indeed, a family.

"We truly are a family, full of people who accept and love each other as we are," says **Rhea Brooking-Dixon '02, M10, biological sciences**. After UMBC, she earned her Ph.D. from Duke University in experimental pathology, and today she is a scientist at Booz Allen Hamilton. She is married to **Jason Dixon '02, M10, computer engineering**, so for them, Meyerhoff means family in multiple ways.

Families always help each other out, and that stuck with Dixon and Brooking-Dixon after graduation. They remember being asked by advisors at UMBC about participation in a study group, both to receive and give support to their classmates. "That showed us that the Meyerhoff Scholars Program wanted us to consider not just what a community could do for us," they share, "but what we could also do for our community, whatever the scale, to help everyone develop into their best selves."

Cultivating each Meyerhoff cohort as a family begins with Summer Bridge, a six-week experience that combines academics and social activities. Students learn together, eat together, and play together, forming bonds that buoy them through their years at UMBC and beyond.

"We're developing a community. So to generate this concept of a community, they've got to have a shared experience," says **Keith Harmon**, director of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program. "So a big part of Bridge is doing everything together. You do nothing in Bridge as an individual."

The mentality of giving back and supporting one's community has been inherent to the program since its early days. **Crystal Watkins-Johansson '95, M3, biological sciences**, earned her M.D./Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University and now serves as director of the memory clinic in the neuropsychiatry program in the Sheppard Pratt Health System, and as an assistant professor of psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

"As a graduate of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program at UMBC, I have developed a tradition of mentoring undergraduate and graduate students from the Meyerhoff program," Watkins-Johansson says, "as the mentoring I received through the program continues to be the foundation of my success."

Isaac Newton said, "I have only seen farther by standing on the shoulders of giants," and that phrase, too, has resonated with Meyerhoff Scholars. **Erwin Cabrera '10, M18, biological sciences**, shares, "The Meyerhoff staff, program alumni, and UMBC faculty were my giants, so I strive to be a giant for those students who come after me."

Cabrera's current role aligns directly with his commitment to mentoring the next generation of biomedical professionals. After earning his Ph.D. at the New York University School of Medicine, he now serves as the associate director for the Research Aligned Mentorship program at Farmingdale State University, a program that provides additional supports—similar in ways to the Meyerhoff Scholars Program—to annual cohorts of Farmingdale students.

For some Meyerhoff scholars, it was the group experience that helped them see their true potential. "Being surrounded by a critical mass of high-achieving African Americans was extremely important to my growth as an individual," says **Kamili (Shaw) Jackson '97, M5, M.S. '99, mechanical engineering**. "It gave me confidence and humility at the same time."

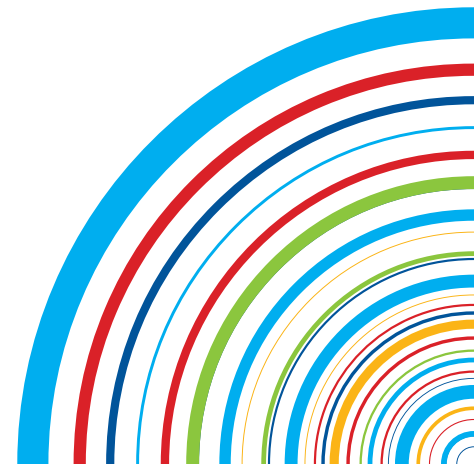
Mentoring the next generation of scientists and engineers, and changing their lives in the process, is a worthy goal and a laudable outcome of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program. But the ripple effect goes even farther. Those researchers, many of whom are from underrepresented groups in STEM, bring fresh perspectives and energy to their work, and the results of their efforts can impact an even larger set of people.

"My research experience in Dr. [Michael] Summers' lab helped me recognize the lasting impact that biomedical research could have on the lives of patients," shares **Chelsea Pinnix '99, M7, biochemistry and molecular biology**. "I began to envision myself as more than a future physician, and instead as a young woman with the potential to heal patients in my clinic and improve medical care for patients that I would never meet through meaningful research."

As the Meyerhoff Scholars Program enters its fourth decade, the emphasis on paying it forward is just as strong as it was at the program's founding in 1989. Except now, there already exists a network—a family—of hundreds of Meyerhoff alumni ready to support upcoming students in all that they wish to pursue, which goes far beyond earning a degree (or three).

And that message of changing the world is part of the conversation from the start. Teaching students to think beyond the degree toward thinking about a career where they can make real change in the world, both by doing meaningful research and mentoring others, is an important part of the Meyerhoff program.

"When we recruit, we don't talk a lot about Ph.D.s and M.D./Ph.D.s.," Harmon says. "We talk about legacy, and we talk about service. We talk about leadership. We talk about being a part of something that's bigger than yourself."



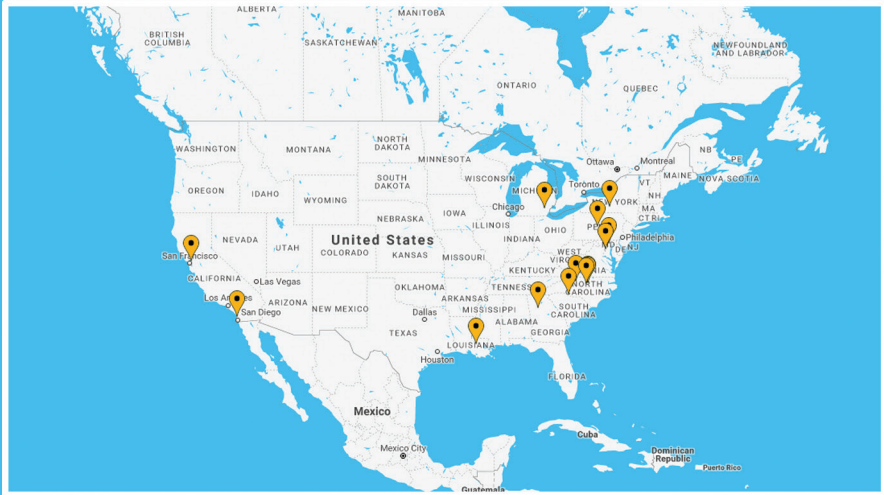


WHERE IS THE MEYERHOFF FAMILY NOW?

From their studies at top-ranking universities around the world, to the roles they are taking on as leaders in industry, research, and other areas, Meyerhoffs are making an impact, and carrying the program's purpose with them everywhere they go.

RED: 1990S ALUMNI
BLUE: 2000S ALUMNI
GREEN: 2010S ALUMNI

A map of the United States with 12 orange pins marking major cities. The pins are located in the following order from west to east: San Francisco (California), Los Angeles (California), San Diego (California), Las Vegas (Nevada), Dallas (Texas), Houston (Texas), Louisville (Kentucky), Chicago (Illinois), Detroit (Michigan), Philadelphia (Pennsylvania), New York City (New York), and Washington D.C. (District of Columbia). The map also shows state boundaries and names, as well as neighboring countries like Canada and Mexico.





THE 13 KEY COMPONENTS

In a proven formula for success, the Meyerhoff Scholars Program adheres to 13 key components. Where top scholars at other institutions are motivated by competition, Meyerhoffs rely on mutual support and continually challenge each other to do more, creating an environment that amounts to positive peer pressure.

Here, we have paired the components with alumni quotes and words of wisdom from *Ode to a Scholar*, an inspirational book produced by Meyerhoff Scholars Program alumni.

Recruitment

The Meyerhoff Scholars Program currently receives approximately 2,000 nominations and enrolls approximately 50 new students each year. The top 200-250 applicants and their families are invited to attend an on-campus selection weekend where faculty, administration, program staff, and current Meyerhoff Scholars meet with the applicants in both formal and informal circumstances. This in-depth screening process helps identify students who are a good fit for UMBC—students who are not only academically prepared for a science, engineering, or math major, but also are genuinely committed to a postgraduate research-based degree and career.

*"I never really thought I had it
Everyone had something over me
I worked my hardest
And what happened?
They got four
But I got three
I never really thought I had it
They always had a little more
We would study hard together,
They got five while I got four
I never really thought I had it
I'm smart? Yeah, that's a lie
He studied one hour to my three
He got six while I got five,"
And then I told myself, "you're crazy!
Don't you see you're doing fine?"*

*So wrapped up in everyone else,
You've missed you keep increasing
every time"*

*Each time I did a little better
Each time I worked a little harder
Then I looked in the mirror like,
"Who's that girl?"
I'll admit it, yeah I felt smarter
So now, I guess I got it
I bet I had it all along
...I never thought I had it
And I've never really been so wrong
Finally, I got it."*

– Alexandria Scott, M18

Financial Aid

Meyerhoff Scholars receive a four-year merit award. Continued support is contingent upon maintaining a B average in a science or engineering major and completing all other requirements detailed in the Meyerhoff merit award agreement.

*"Lend us your dreams; have faith that we
will carry them for you."*

– anonymous

Summer Bridge

Once selected for the program, each cohort of incoming Meyerhoff Scholars attends a mandatory pre-freshman six-week Summer Bridge Program, during which they take courses in math, science, and the humanities. They also learn time management, problem-solving, and study

skills and take part in social and cultural events. Summer Bridge prepares scholars for the new expectations and requirements of college courses, and helps develop a close-knit peer group.

"Welcome to our family"

– LaMont Toliver

Program Values

Beginning at the recruitment phase, the Meyerhoff Scholars Program emphasizes the goal of achieving a research-based Ph.D. Other values consistently emphasized include striving for outstanding academic achievement, seeking help (tutoring, advising) from a variety of sources, and supporting one's peers. Scholars are also expected to participate in community service projects.

*"The demands of this age and the
expectations for this generation
are extraordinary; to meet them,
extraordinary young men and women
are required. There are no promises of
success—there is simply your humanity,
your leadership, your commitment to
the greater good—and the premise and
obligation that say:*

*'Of those to whom much is given, much
is required.'"*

– excerpt from the blog of
LaMont Toliver





Study Groups

Studying in groups is strongly and consistently encouraged by program staff, as it is viewed as an important part of succeeding in a science, math, or engineering major. Meyerhoff Scholars consistently rank study groups as one of the most positive, beneficial aspects of the program.

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

– African Proverb

Program Community

The Meyerhoff Scholars Program provides a family-like, campus-based social and academic support system for students. Students live in the same residence hall during their first year and are required to live on campus during subsequent years. Staff regularly hold group meetings called family meetings with students.

"Take pride in being a scholar; that is all we can ask. We love you like our own children, and you will always be one of ours."

– anonymous

Personal Advising and Counseling

Full-time academic advisors, along with the program's director and assistant director, regularly monitor and advise students. Advisors are not only concerned with academic planning and performance, but also with any personal problems students may have.

"Cry it all out; this will teach you a lesson. When you leave my office, there will be no more pity parties. The world owes you NOTHING! Show me who you are and what you can do. Make me proud."

– anonymous

Tutoring

All Meyerhoff Scholars are encouraged to take advantage of departmental and university tutoring resources to maximize academic achievement. Students are expected to excel, and are encouraged to seek not just As, but high As. Many Meyerhoff Scholars serve as peer tutors, working with both Meyerhoff and non-Meyerhoff students.

*"If I can help somebody,
as I pass along,*

*If I can cheer somebody,
with a word or song,*

*If I can show somebody,
how they're travelling wrong,*

Then my living shall not be in vain.

*If I can do my duty,
as a good man ought,*

*I can bring back beauty,
to a world up wrought,*

*If I can spread love's message,
as the master taught,*

Then my living shall not be in vain."

– Mahalia Jackson

Summer Research Internships

All Meyerhoff Scholars are exposed to research early on in order to gain hands-on experience and to develop a clearer understanding of what studying science entails. Program staff use an extensive network of contacts to arrange summer science and engineering internships, opportunities that maintain intrinsic interest in science, math, or engineering careers and create mentoring relationships.

"All growth is a leap in the dark: a small, unpremeditated act without the benefit of experience."

– Henry Miller

Mentors

Historically scholars were paired with STEM professionals in the Baltimore-Washington corridor. More recently, scholars have faculty mentors in research labs both on and off campus, across the nation, and in other countries. In addition all first and second year scholars have are assigned a Peer Advisor from the junior and senior cohorts.

"If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."

– Isaac Newton

Faculty Involvement

UMBC faculty are involved in all aspects of the program, including recruitment, teaching, mentoring, research, and special events and activities. Faculty involvement promotes an environment with ready access to academic help and encouragement, fosters interpersonal relationships, and raises faculty expectations for underrepresented students' academic performance.

"If we do nothing else, we must teach our youth to dream and to imagine the possibilities. The problem today is not that young people have small dreams, many don't know how to dream at all."

– anonymous

Administrative and Public Support

The Meyerhoff Scholars Program is supported at all levels of the university, one factor researchers have cited as important for the success of any intervention program. Funding partners to date include HHMI, NASA, NIH, NSA, NSF, AT&T, IBM, and the Abel and Sloan Foundations, as well as support from many private donors.

"In the end, it is not a favor that is done for you, but a contribution to society that is made for you."

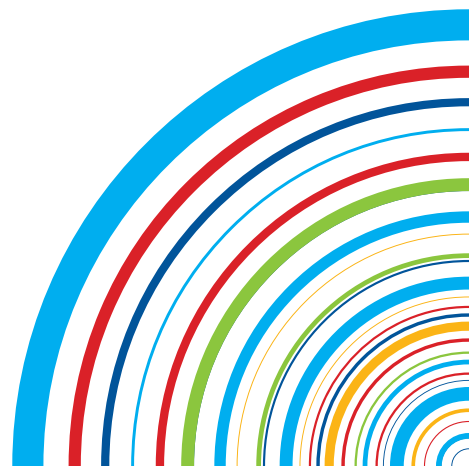
– anonymous

Family Involvement

Parents are an integral part of the program with staff helping families learn how to support their students on the collegiate level. The parents have formed the Meyerhoff Parents Association, which serves as a fundraising and mutual support resource.

"Teach our children that SUCCESS is nothing more than going from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm."

– anonymous





OUR GESTURE OF GRATITUDE

A Philanthropic Initiative of the Meyerhoff Alumni Community



Our paths have taken us from UMBC to research labs across the country and throughout the world. We have become scholars, physicians, faculty members, lawyers, policy makers, engineers, teachers, and entrepreneurs. We have been working to finish our degrees, start our labs, launch our businesses, and start our families. We have struggled and we have succeeded. We have asked for help, and we have helped others. We have built a community based on cooperation, collaboration, and mentoring, leading others as we forge paths for ourselves.

As Meyerhoff alumni, how do we now honor the generosity and commitment of Robert E. Meyerhoff, who, over 30 years, has given so much to the Meyerhoff Scholars Program and has impacted the lives of each one of us? Individually, our ability to give might seem insignificant, but as Meyerhoff alumni, the power of this community is the collective strength that comes from working together as a family.

Today, we are pleased to announce that graduates of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program have pledged a half million dollars to ensure the continued health and vitality of the program. Commitments range from modest monthly donations to multi-year pledges. Regardless of the size, the intent has been consistent—to show deep appreciation for the generous support of Mr. Robert E. Meyerhoff.

On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program, we are summoning this generosity of the Meyerhoff alumni community, and ask graduates to consider making a gift to The LaMont Toliver Memorial Endowed Scholarship and/or the Summer Bridge Endowment. If you wish to speak with someone about making a gift to the UMBC Foundation to support the Gesture of Gratitude campaign, please contact Alex Ganzermiller (alexg@umbc.edu) or give online via the form linked from meyerhoff.umbc.edu/30th.

As graduates of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program, we have expressed our thanks to Mr. Meyerhoff many times, and in many ways. Now we ask that you consider thanking him with your philanthropy by giving to this Gesture of Gratitude campaign to support the next generation of Meyerhoff Scholars, and to honor the legacy of Robert E. Meyerhoff.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Meyerhoff Alumni Advisory Board (MAAB) Executive Board

"Of those to whom much is given, much is required."

Get involved! MAAB will be holding elections this summer for the executive board. Positions available are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Parliamentarian. Be sure to connect with the current MAAB E-Board this weekend to learn more about each of these positions.

MAAB Mentoring Initiative

"If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."

MAAB is looking for alumni to serve as official mentors for the MAAB Mentoring Initiative. Each alumni who signs up will be assigned an undergraduate Meyerhoff scholar with similar interests. In collaboration with the MAAB Mentoring Committee, mentors will offer an invaluable connection and support as scholars prepare for post-college life and training.

MAAB Summer Meet-Ups

"I am my brother's keeper."

Each summer, undergraduate Meyerhoff scholars venture out to various research experiences and internships across the country. This initiative serves to connect alumni and undergrad scholars both professionally and socially. Sign-up to become a host for an activity or organize a gathering of Ms in your area.

Learn more and sign up at meyerhoff.umbc.edu/alumni.

meyerhoff.umbc.edu