



Newsletter

MEYERHOFF PARENTS ASSOCIATION



MEMORABLE MILESTONE: MEYERHOFF SENIOR RECEPTION

The annual Meyerhoff Senior Reception is our time to celebrate our seniors and their parents/guardians on the momentous achievement of graduation. This event was hosted by the Meyerhoff Parent Association (MPA) and sponsored by gifts from parents, guardians, and alumni. On May 7th, the Seniors were honored with awards, honors cords, and gifts. These Scholars have brought great honor to the Meyerhoff Program through their notable successes, academic achievements, valuable leadership, and dedicated service.

Congratulations graduates & welcome to the legacy of UMBC Meyerhoff Alumni Scholars!!



Newsletter Highlights

Memorable Milestone:
Meyerhoff Senior Reception

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President Freeman Hrabowski

Meyerhoff Farewell Family
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Summer Bridge Stress Buster

Welcoming UMBC's Next
President

Meyerhoff Program Fall
Family Meeting and Retreat

Fall Family Meeting and
Retreat

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MEYERHOFF PARENTS ASSOCIATION | HELPING OUR STUDENTS HOLD FAST TO THEIR DREAMS.





On May 26th, the graduating seniors participated in Dr. Hrabowski's final commencement as UMBC President. The program included testimonies/comments from several distinguished Meyerhoff legacies, including Dr. Kafui Dzirasa '01, M8, and Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, '08, M16. As President Hrabowski presided over his final commencement ceremony ahead of his July 2022 retirement at UMBC, he confidently left the graduates with a simple, yet profound charge. He challenged each graduate to "*...be confident (knowing who you are) ... and never let anyone else define (you)...*"

Congratulations to the graduates and your families!



Dr. Freeman Hrabowski III
UMBC President Emeritus



*"As iron sharpens iron,
people sharpen people.
We need community."
-President Hrabowski*

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF PRESIDENT FREEMAN HRABOWSKI

On May 14th, Meyerhoff scholars, alumni, parents, guardians, friends, partners, UMBC administrators, and Meyerhoff staff, gathered for a special Farewell Family meeting with Dr. Hrabowski online and in person at the Chesapeake Employers Insurance Arena.





We gathered for a special Meyerhoff Farewell Family Meeting to honor Dr. Freeman Hrabowski. Instead of a somber goodbye, the meeting was the celebration of the spirit of inclusive excellence that will drive UMBC and everything affiliated with the Meyerhoff name for years to come.

Members of the M1 cohort honored Dr. Hrabowski through stories of success and lessons learned. Messages from Earnestine Baker, Executive Director Emerita, Dexter Meritt, MPA President, and members of the community replicated the sentiment of gratitude for years of service to UMBC. Dr. Hrabowski humbly responded with gratitude. He thanked the UMBC Meyerhoff family for their dedication not only to the program but to themselves. In his final message to his Scholars, he reminded all of his family that "...the work is not done...we must focus on what we can do to make tomorrow better and believe ...in the power (we have) to transform lives."

Thank you, Dr. Hrabowski for your life-long service to the UMBC and the Meyerhoff Scholars family!

MEYERHOFF FAREWELL FAMILY MEETING



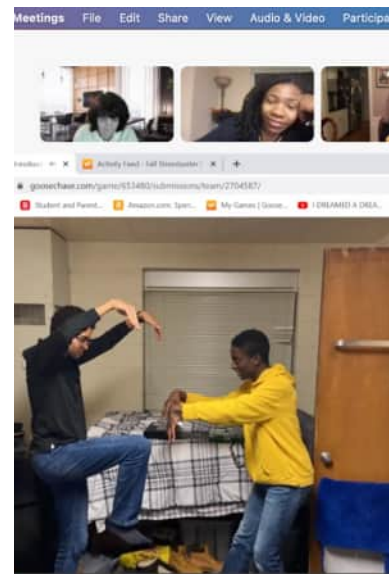
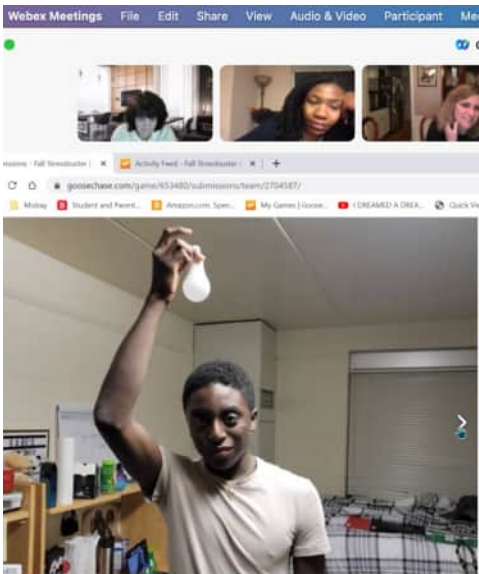
A Message from the Meyerhoff Parents Association

Thank you for being a true visionary and leader. With the remarkable generosity of Robert and Jane Meyerhoff, you made the Hrabowski formula for supporting our Scholars seem quite simple - provide a caring community, set high expectations, provide opportunities to experience research, instill the value of giving back, and surround the Scholars with faculty and

and staff who are genuinely invested in their achievements. On behalf of the Meyerhoff Scholars, Program staff, MPA, and alumni, we thank you for your vision, your unwavering support of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program, and for challenging each one of the Scholars to "hold fast to dreams." You will always be a part of the Meyerhoff Scholars family!

SPRING STRESS BUSTER

On May 15th, the MPA hosted a Spring Stress Buster for the Meyerhoff Scholars. The event was virtual but that did not stop the fun! The Spring Stress Buster provided the Scholars the opportunity to take a pause, relax, and have a whole lot of fun prior to the start of the final exam week. What could possibly be better than time with friends, goodie bags filled with snacks, and a few stress-busting toys and games?





SUMMER BRIDGE STRESS BUSTER

The Summer Stress Buster was held on July 9th and supported by the MPA. This activity was designed solely for the incoming Scholars and for the first time in several years, this event was in-person. The comradery amongst the Scholars was more fun than imaginable. As a part of hours of fun, they challenged each other to friendly games of Tug-of-War and the Meyerhoff version of "Shark Tank." Three times a year, the MPA hosts Stress Busters to provide the Scholars with a mental break right before finals. These events are made possible by the support of parents, guardians, and alumni. Please consider becoming involved and supporting the MPA's endeavors by providing a [gift](#) at any level or volunteering your time. All funds raised will be administered by the UMBC Foundation, Inc., for the benefit of UMBC. To volunteer, please click on the [MPA Contact and Volunteer Form](#) link.





WELCOMING UMBC'S NEXT PRESIDENT

After a rigorous search, the University System of Maryland Board of Regents named Dr. Valerie Sheares Ashby as the next president of UMBC. Dr. Sheares Ashby is the sixth president and the first woman to become president of UMBC.

As a leading researcher in the field of chemistry, the recipient of a National Science Foundation Faculty Career Development Award, and a university leader at both Trinity and Duke, she is committed to increasing global prominence in the humanities and social sciences. We are excited about how President Sheares Ashby will lead the university forward.

Congratulations Dr. Valerie Sheares Ashby on your new appointment as President of UMBC and welcome to the UMBC family.





MEYERHOFF PROGRAM FALL FAMILY MEETING AND RETREAT

The Fall Meyerhoff Family Meeting and Retreat kicked off on September 10th, with a powerful welcome and words of encouragement from UMBC President Valerie Sheares Ashby. As a STEM major, a chemist, and a university professor, Dr. Sheares Ashby was excited to share her research experiences as a student, as well as her professional journey as a professor and now president. The energy and passion she brought to the discussion were infectious. As Dr. Sheares Ashby spoke, the Scholars beamed with enthusiasm from the encouragement they received.

Before leaving for the Meyerhoff Family Retreat, President Sheares Ashby shared immediate goals during the transition as president of UMBC and steadfast commitment to the vision for the future of the university, specifically to the continued success of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program.

"...The vision of UMBC is at the core of everything I value in higher education. We are redefining excellence through inclusive culture. Who does that? ...Through innovative learning, civic engagements, and social justice, the vision of UMBC is to achieve economic prosperity and champion civic engagement by welcoming inquisitive minds of all backgrounds...So, the only real question is how could I not (choose UMBC)."





FALL FAMILY MEETING AND RETREAT

On September 10th, the Fall Family Meeting and Retreat was held at Centennial Park in Ellicott City, MD for a day of fun games, great food, and music. The Program Office sponsored the family meeting, retreat, transportation, and meals for this event with support from the MPA. This was a day for team building for the cohorts.







M34 Cohort at the 2022 Fall Retreat

WELCOME, M34 MEYERHOFF SCHOLARS!

At the conclusion of the Summer Bridge, the Meyerhoff Program welcomed the M34 Cohort to the Meyerhoff family. This year's cohort was selected from a number of competitive applicants. After several years of holding the Summer Bridge program virtually, the program was able to run in person.

Congratulations to the M34 Meyerhoff Scholars!



Meyerhoff Scholars at the 2022 Fall Retreat



MEYERHOFF PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Thank you for your support!

The MPA would like to thank those who planned and supported this year's Fall Retreat. The MPA partially subsidized the catering expenses to make the event possible. The Meyerhoff Program Office, along with the MPA, makes sure that this event is successful each year. The MPA's mission is to support the Meyerhoff Scholars Program by fostering unification among scholarship recipients and their families. Please consider making an annual, one-time, or recurring [gift](#) so we can continue to offer this caliber of program to our Scholars. Nourishing the body and spirit is just as important as nourishing the mind. All funds raised will be administered by the UMBC Foundation, Inc., for the benefit of UMBC.



If you are interested in volunteering to support any of the upcoming MPA activities or the Meyerhoff Program in general, please complete the [MPA Contact and Volunteer Form](#). Your support is important and always welcome!

FALL TOWN HALL MEETING

On September 17th, the MPA hosted the 2022 Town Hall meeting, virtually. Mrs. Michelle Brooks (M33 Representative) served as the Moderator for the program and Mr. Dexter Merritt (MPA President) opened with a warm welcome message to all attendees. The agenda included special remarks by President Valerie Sheares Ashby, which was followed by Dr. Olivier Myers (M1 alumni, Associate Dean of Inclusive Excellence for Undergraduate Studies Clemson University), D'Juan Moreland (M31, Meyerhoff Student Council President), Mr. Keith Harmon (Director, Meyerhoff Scholars Program) and Mrs. Earnestine Baker (Executive Director Emerita, Meyerhoff Scholars Program). We also hosted the election of 2022-2023 MPA Board of Officers and Cohort Representatives.

2022 - 2023 MPA BOARD MEMBERS AND COHORT REPRESENTATIVES

President Michelle Brooks (M33)

Vice President Jill Bispels (M33)

Assistant Vice President Justyna Sardin (M32, M23)

Recording Secretary Vacant

Corresponding Secretary Carrie Noble Byrum (M33)

Treasurer Darlene Pernell-Bunkley (M31)

Assistant Treasurer Sherene Maitland (M32)

Editor Rochelle Matthews-Somerville (M33)

Historian Vacant

Cohort Reps (M34) Monica Chiduzá, Ama Halm, Veronica Hill, and Valerie Shelton

Cohort Reps (M33) Jorina Addison, Florence Parry, and Vacant

Cohort Reps (M32) Sade Adegboyo, Chantal Ireland, and Rosalind Muchiri

Cohort Reps (M31) Shelandra Burton, Shelton Burton, Rodney Isabell

Alumni Cohort Representatives

Florence Okeh (M30), Leslie Sands (M30)

Darlene W. Brooks (M29), Alisa A. Wallace (M29)

Veronica Bell (M28), Denise Johnson (M28),

Kenneth Dixon (M27), Regina J. Bracey (M25)

Karen Furman (M25), Antonios Seas (M25, M29)

Deborah Nazon (M23), Edie Windsor (M13)

MEYERHOFF STAFF

CELEBRATING ALICIA HALL, EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II

After 23 years of serving as the Executive Administrative Assistant of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program, Ms. Alicia Hall, retired from UMBC. Ms. Hall served as the first point of contact and her voice and face were well-known to scholars, alumni, parents, guests, and partners across the nation.

Thank you for your dedication to the Meyerhoff Scholars family!

A WARM FARWELL TO SHARON JOHNSON

After more than 17 years of dedicated service to the UMBC Meyerhoff Scholars Program, Sharon Johnson retired. Her passion for helping others and her commitment to the mission of the Scholars Program will be truly missed. Thank you for always creating a motivating atmosphere.

Congratulations on your retirement!

MEET THE NEW MEYERHOFF PROGRAM OFFICE STAFF

In October, ***Talareah Campbell*** joined the Meyerhoff Program family as an Academic Advisor of Junior and Senior Advising. Talareah comes to us from Georgetown University with experience as an Academic Advising, Tutor Coordinator, and Learning Specialist.

Tyonna Amis joined the Meyerhoff Scholars Program family as an advisor providing support to the Meyerhoff Program Office.

More information on the Meyerhoff Scholar Program staff can be found by clicking [here](#).



MEET OUR 2022-2023 MEYERHOFF STUDENT COUNCIL

The Meyerhoff Student Council provides an opportunity for Meyerhoff Scholars to represent their cohort, act as a liaison between their peers and staff members, and contribute to the initiatives that strengthen the Meyerhoff Scholars Program. The current Meyerhoff cohort representatives include:

M31 Ishanathan Guteng, Naiyah Lewis, D’Juan Moreland - Council President

M32 Caylee Brown, Ryan Hoffman, Anya Viswanathan, Daniel Williams

M33 Evalynn Ellison, Nathaniel Glover, Gabe Otubu

M34 Katherine Carver, Tadiwa Chiduzza, Nathan Dayie

MEYERHOFF ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to M26 Alumnus Anna Gifty Opoku-Agyeman, Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University, who was recently recognized for her work empowering Black women working in economics and other related fields. Her most recent project *Black Agenda: Bold Solutions for a Broken System* is a tremendous achievement. Learn more by clicking on this [link](#).



Congratulations to M8 Alumnus Kafui Dzirasa, MD, Ph.D. on being the newest laureate of the Franklin Institute Award for his groundbreaking work investigating how stress and other environmental factors affect the brain through genetics which can lead to depression and other emotional dysfunctions. Read more about Dr. Dzirasa's research by clicking on this [link](#).

Congratulations to M23 Alumnus Yves Nazon, Ph.D. mechanical engineer candidate at the University of Michigan, on his role in lifting barriers for young people of color in STEM. He also co-leads the Black in Robotics National Board, which brings together researchers, professionals, and students in robotics to support one another to help navigate academics and entrepreneurial paths. Read more by clicking on this [link](#).



NEWS YOU CAN USE

The mission of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program is to significantly increase the number of U.S. research scientists and engineers who aspire to earn advanced degrees in the STEM fields. The Meyerhoff program has been recognized as a national model for developing STEM leaders in the field. To read more about the success of the Meyerhoff Scholars program, click this [link](#).

SIMONS FOUNDATION PARTNERS WITH STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY TO IMPROVE DIVERSITY IN STEM FIELDS

The Stony Brook Simons STEM Scholars program is modeled after the renowned University of Maryland, Baltimore County's (UMBC) Meyerhoff Scholars Program. M18 Dr. Erwin Cabrera was chosen to lead the initiative and named Executive Director. With a gift of \$56.6 million, Stony Brook University intends to fund a training program that will provide scholarships, housing, and a stipend to 50 new, underrepresented students at the university, annually, in the STEM fields. More details can be found by clicking this [link](#).

NEW HHMI PROGRAM PLEDGES \$1.5 BILLION FOR OUTSTANDING EARLY CAREER FACULTY COMMITTED TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) launched a \$1.5 billion program to help build a scientific workforce that mimics our nation's increasingly diverse leaders in the STEM fields. Over the next 20 years, HHMI expects to support up to 150 early-career faculty. This will include not only salaries but also professional development in leadership and mentoring training. More information about the program and the application process can be found by clicking on this [link](#).

ARE YOU WONDERING HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE MPA?

MEYERHOFF SCHOLARS PROGRAM



UMBC's Meyerhoff Scholars Program, which was established in 1989, has supported more than 1,600 scholars in the field of science, engineering, and related fields. With the numbers growing and the goal of increasing diversity amongst future leaders, the success of the program is built upon the support of family and friends who understand the value of the program.

Make an Annual Gift

You may make an annual gift to the MPA via check, by postal mail or [online](#).



Contact Us

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UMBC/Meyerhoff Scholars Program
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Sherman Hall 218
Baltimore, MD 21250
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Volunteer your Time

If you are interested in volunteering to support any of the upcoming MPA activities or the Meyerhoff Program in general, please complete the [MPA Contact and Volunteer Form](#).

Show your MPA Pride
[order a polo shirt!](#)

Stay Connected...

Update your contact information [here](#) and never miss out on important information.

All funds raised will be administered by the UMBC Foundation, Inc., for the benefit of UMBC.