

Newsletter

MEYERHOFF PARENTS ASSOCIATION



A NEW CHAPTER: MEYERHOFF SENIOR RECEPTION

The M31 Scholars were recognized at the MPA Senior Reception on May 6. Parents, Guardians, MPA Representatives, and Meyerhoff Staff extolled the achievements of this impressive cadre of scholars. The event facility was transformed into an extraordinary space with an elegant ambiance and a remarkable DJ. Seniors were awarded honor cords and the traditional “Ode to a Scholar” book, which is renowned for passing down Meyerhoff wit and wisdom.

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



(photo credit to Dr. Antonios Seas/M25, M29)

SUMMER 2023



Newsletter Highlights

A New Chapter: Meyerhoff Senior Reception

2023 Meyerhoff Scholars Graduation Dinner

Recognizing Excellence

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Leading Boldly: Celebrating President Sheares Ashby

2023 Spring Stress Buster

2022 Fall Stress Buster

Meyerhoff Parent Association

Mark Your Calendars

Meyerhoff Staff

News You Can Use

MEYERHOFF
PARENTS
ASSOCIATION

HELPING OUR STUDENTS
HOLD FAST TO THEIR DREAMS.

AUGUST 2023



(photo credit to Dr. Antonios Seas/M25, M29)



2023 MEYERHOFF SCHOLARS GRADUATION DINNER

Mr. Robert Meyerhoff and President Valerie Sheares Ashby celebrated the graduating Meyerhoff Scholars and Graduate Fellows along with guests on May 15th at the elegant Grand Lodge in Baltimore. The Scholars were honored with congratulatory wishes from the Meyerhoff Scholars Program founder, Mr. Robert Meyerhoff, and President Sheares Ashby along with other guest speakers shared inspiring words and their wishes for the students continued success.



(all photos by Jim Berger)

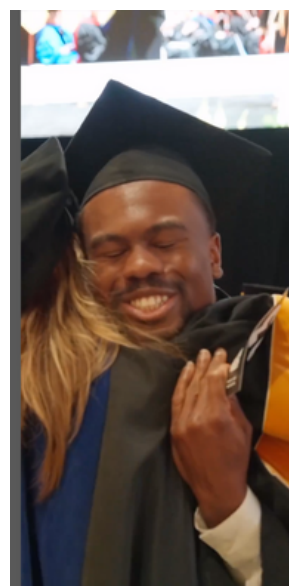
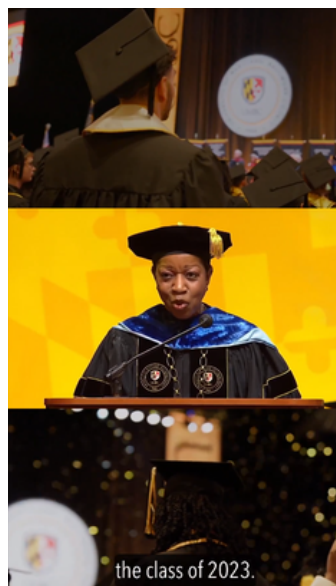


Valedictorian, Christopher Slaughter (M31), shares an inspiring message of growth with 2023 graduating class.

UMBC

The resounding theme of UMBC's Commencement on May 24, was one of resilience, growth, and greatness. As M31 Christopher Slaughter compared his journey at UMBC to that of planting seeds and watching them grow, President Sheares Ashby assured the graduates that the best was yet to come by sharing her belief that "...[each graduate] is going to change the world." She further declared..."Each of you has a story that we are honored to celebrate today. [As] One chapter concludes ... as you receive your degree... there are many more chapters for you to write....!" We are proud of all of you.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023!



(all photos by Marlayna Desmond '11/UMBC)

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

During Student Recognition Week, UMBC undergraduate students who have excelled this year in academic work, leadership, and service to campus and community were highlighted in the Honors & Awards booklet developed by the Office of the Provost, in collaboration with faculty and staff across campus.

Please join us in congratulating our outstanding Scholars.

Undergraduate Research Award Scholar 2022-2023 Honors College Graduates

- Caylee Brown
- Sera Chase
- Sergio Diaz
- Kevin Gibbons
- Arjun Kanjarpane
- Brian Lynch
- Sean Starkloff
- Pavan Umashankar

- Christopher Bain
- Eden Beyene
- Karen Griffin
- Ayra Hussain
- Brian Lynch
- Yetunde Oshagbemi
- Jillian Perry
- Isabelle Rathbun
- Christopher Slaughter
- Maya Tondravi

National and International Awards

Goldwater Scholarship 2022-2023

- Arjun Kanjarpane
- Soujanya "Anya" Viswanathan

Gates-Cambridge Scholar 2022-2023

- Christopher Slaughter

Honors College

Outstanding Academic Achievement

- Maya Tondravi
- Christopher Slaughter

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GFRP)

- Christopher Slaughter
- Rachel Myers
- Tobi Majekadunmi

Samson, Rosetta & Sadie Feldman Award

- Milan Richardson



“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.”
– Langston Hughes

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Departmental awards from the Modern Language, Linguistic & Intercultural Communication department, the College of Natural Math Sciences, and the College of Engineering and Information Technology were given to juniors and seniors who displayed outstanding achievements during the 2022-2023 term.

Please join us in congratulating our outstanding Scholars.



Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication

Outstanding Achievement

- Ayra Hussain

Computer Science & Electrical Engineering

CMPE Students with 4.0

- Christopher Slaughter

Student Leadership Award

- Xavier Smith

Outstanding Achievement

- Kenneth Addo
- Christopher Slaughter
- Xavier Smith

Physics

Outstanding Graduating Seniors

- Brian Lynch

Undergraduate Research Awards

- Sergio Diaz
- Brian Lynch

Biological Sciences

Outstanding Graduating Senior

- Madison Santizo

Excellence in Biological Sciences

- Ananya Choudhary

Thomas V. Marsha & Martin Schwartz Fund

- D'Juan Moreland

Chemical Engineering

Outstanding Graduating Senior

- Rachel K. Myers

Chemistry

Faculty Award for Excellence

- Elijah Mugabe

Analytical Chemistry Award

- Ryan Hoffman

Organic Chemistry Award

- Viviana Smart

Biochemistry

Outstanding Graduating Seniors

- Sarah Arrieta
- Maya Tondravi

Satterfield-Bell Scholarship

- Arjun Kanjarpane

The Faith Award

- Jayo Adegboyo

Mechanical Engineering

Outstanding Seniors

- Tobi Majekodunmi

Biological Sciences

John H., Sr. & Althea Griner Fund

- Gelila Isayas
- Emmanuel Okusanya

Departmental Service Award

- Fairine Ahmed

HONOR SOCIETY RECOGNITIONS

Honor societies are national organizations that recognize student excellence, provide scholarship and leadership opportunities, and enable students to network with other professionals long after graduation.

Please join us in congratulating our outstanding Scholars who have been inducted into National Honor Societies.

Chi Alpha Sigma

- Jayo Adegboyo

Phi Beta Kappa

- Kenneth Addo
- Eden Beyene
- Senali Dansou
- Jeannine Dizon
- Karen Griffin
- Ayra Hussain
- Brian Lynch
- Rachel Myers
- Nithya Navarathna
- Esther Olajide
- Yetunde Oshagbemi
- Savannah Pearson
- Maya Tondravi

Phi Kappa Phi

- Jayo Adegboyo
- Mike Anoruo
- Sarah Arrieta
- Natolya Barber
- Nathaniel Glover
- Casey Hanks
- Garrett Hill
- Ryan Hoffman
- Arjun Kanjarpane
- Brian Lynch
- Tobi Majekodunmi
- Matthew Makila
- Rachel Myers
- Gabriel Otubu
- Savannah Pearson
- August Phelps

Phi Kappa Phi cont.

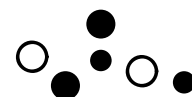
- Shefra Shah
- Christopher Slaughter
- Maya Tondravi
- Jessica Turner
- Pavan Umashankar
- Anya Viswanathan
- Sarah Yoda

Pi Mu Epsilon

- Chris Bispels

Tau Beta Pi

- Tobi Majekodunmi



“No action is too small when it comes to changing the world.”
– Cyril Ramaphosa

LEADING BOLDLY - CELEBRATING PRESIDENT SHEARES ASHBY



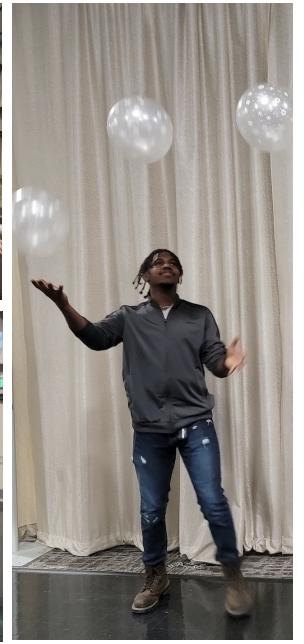
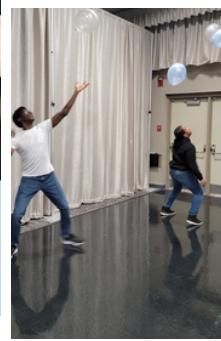
A Message from the Meyerhoff Parents Association

It is with great honor that we take the time to formally congratulate you, President Sheares Ashby, as the first woman and the sixth president of UMBC. With your strong leadership, decades of experience, and passion to continue the legacy of "inclusive excellence," we are optimistic that this university will continue progressing toward its goal of being a model institution of excellence. We are confident that as President of UMBC, you will lead with integrity and serve with eminence. Congratulations again on this most distinguished honor of becoming the sixth President of UMBC.

2023 SPRING STRESS BUSTER

Meyerhoff Scholars enjoyed a bit of respite from studying with *Summer Breeze* fun games at the MPA-hosted Spring Stress Buster on May 16th. Scholars competed at Corn Hole, the Limbo, Musical Chairs, and Kahoot, with winners earning gift cards. The fun was fueled with pizza and snacks, as well as snack bags to take back for long nights of study. Special prize winners were also awarded pampering gift products. A big “Thank You!” to all the MPA parents, guardians, and board members who donated their time and talents to make this event so successful.





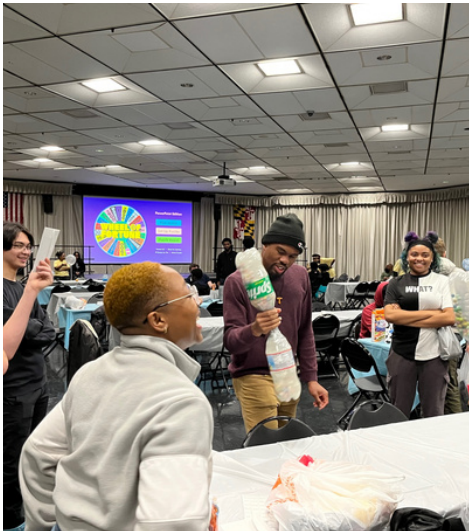
2022 FALL STRESS BUSTER

The Meyerhoff Scholars, once again, came out to relieve a bit of stress. The Fall Stress Buster provides our Scholars with a much-needed mental break right before finals exams. It could only happen with the help of many dedicated parent volunteers and assistance from the Meyerhoff Office staff, MPA Board members, Meyerhoff Scholars, and UMBC's Counseling Center staff.

The December 10th event was held in the University Center Ballroom. Snacks, games, prizes, crafts, and essential food items were provided to the Scholars to enjoy the evening. A special thanks to Jorina Addison for her creativity and leadership in organizing the event.

We thank everyone who worked so hard to make this event a success!





AUGUST 2023



***Congratulations to the
M31 Meyerhoff Scholars!***



The Meyerhoff Scholars

MEYERHOFF PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Thank you for your support!

The MPA would like to thank those current and alumni parents who planned and supported this year's **Selection Weekend** events. The MPA supported the Meyerhoff Program Office by engaging parents of prospective Meyerhoff Scholars, answering questions from families, and sharing our enthusiasm as a part of the Meyerhoff family. The MPA supports the Meyerhoff Program Office each year to make sure this event is successful each year.



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 Form](#). Your support is important and always welcome!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS ...

Did you know that every Fall term, the MPA hosts a Fall Town meeting? This year's Fall Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for [September 16, 2023](#). At each MPA Town Hall meeting, the Meyerhoff parent body selects a new Board of Directors (Officers and Cohort Representatives) for the upcoming year. Are you interested in serving in a leadership capacity for the 2023-2024 program year? Complete an [MPA Contact Form](#) and let us know. The MPA's mission is to support the Meyerhoff Scholars Program by fostering unification among scholarship recipients and their families and we all know that "*many hands make light work*." If you are looking to contribute in other ways, consider making an annual, one-time, or recurring [gift](#) so we can continue to offer high-caliber activities and programs to our Scholars. All funds raised will be administered by the UMBC Foundation, Inc., for the benefit of UMBC.

2022-2023 MPA BOARD MEMBERS & 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 Regina J. Bracey (M25)

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

Cohort Reps (M33) Jorina Addison, Florence Parry

Cohort Reps (M32) Sade Adegboyoye, 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

MEET THE NEW MEYERHOFF PROGRAM OFFICE STAFF

The Meyerhoff Scholarship Program originated with the generous support of Robert and Jane Meyerhoff over 3 decades ago to provide financial assistance, mentoring, advising, and research experience to African American males committed to obtaining terminal degrees in science, math, and engineering. Since the first cohort was identified, the program has grown exponentially. Since 1993, the program has graduated over 1400 students, who have earned a collective 415 Ph.D.s, 1 D.D.D./Ph.D., and 1 D.V.M./Ph.D., and beyond question, the Meyerhoff Program staff has been instrumental in the success of not only the Scholars but the overall program itself.

A WARM WELCOME TO HOLLY WILLOUGHBY

Holly Willoughby joined the Meyerhoff Program family as an Academic Advisor to second-year students.

A WARM WELCOME TO NOELLE SMITH

Noelle Smith joined the Meyerhoff Program staff as the Administrative Assistant to the Meyerhoff Program Office.

A WARM WELCOME TO EMILY ANGLEY

Emily Angley joined the Meyerhoff Program staff as a contractual Administrative Assistant to the Meyerhoff Program Office.

Click [here](#) for more information on the Meyerhoff Scholar Program staff.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

UMBC'S CHRISTOPHER SLAUGHTER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS GATES-CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to M31 Christopher Slaughter '23, computer engineering, for winning a Gates-Cambridge Scholarship to pursue graduate work at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom next fall. Only 24 of the most academically outstanding and socially committed US citizens were selected for this prestigious award. The full class of 2023 will form a community of almost 300 Scholars at the world-leading University of Cambridge.

The Gates-Cambridge Scholarship was established in 2000 with a generous gift from the Gates Foundation and the primary mission was to build a network of future leaders from around the world who would bring new vision and commitment to improving the lives of others, globally. Christopher is planning to pursue a Ph.D. in Engineering with a focus on point-of-care technology for screening, diagnosing, and tracking neuromuscular disease progression.

"We are so proud of Chris," says UMBC President Valerie Sheares Ashby. "He exemplifies UMBC's values and the Gates-Cambridge's vision of preparing leaders who demonstrate not only academic excellence but also a deep commitment to improving the lives of others."



(Photo by Marlayna Demond '11/UMBC)

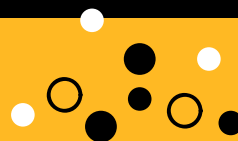
Read the full story in **UMBC News**, here:

<https://umbc.edu/stories/gates-cambridge-scholarship/>



NEWS YOU CAN USE

BLACK AND GOLD(WATER) PRIDE



Congratulations to M32 Arjun Kanjarpane, biochemistry and molecular biology, and M32 Soujanya "Any" Viswanathan, biology sciences, for being selected as the Goldwater Scholars! The Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program is designed to provide the U.S. with an increased number of highly qualified professionals in the STEM fields. More than 1,200 students from over 425 institutions across the country applied for the scholarship this year and only 413 distinguished scholars were selected. This was a tremendous accomplishment and the Meyerhoff family is proud of you both!

Kanjarpane, who has primarily focused on improving the understanding of the molecular mechanism behind HIV replication, and Viswanathan, who has mainly looked at the genes and molecular mechanisms involved in conditions of hypoxia in zebrafish, plan to continue advancing their research and make reputable impacts in their fields and in people's lives. The Meyerhoff Family celebrates these two exceptional Scholars.

Read more by clicking on this [link](#).



Congratulations Scholars!!

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 fields of science, engineering, and other 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 UMBC Foundation to benefit the MPA via check, postal mail or [online](#).

Contact Us

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



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 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.