

# Newsletter

## MEYERHOFF PARENTS ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2025



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## **RIISING WITH PURPOSE: MEYERHOFF SENIOR RECEPTION**

The M33 Scholars and Graduating Seniors were recognized at the Meyerhoff Senior Reception on May 8. 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. Seniors were presented with honor cords and the traditional MPA “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 Abnet S. Photography)

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



(photo credit to Abnet S. Photography)

## AN EVENING OF INSPIRATION AND GRATITUDE



With heartfelt messages of hope, love, and encouragement, the evening overflowed with powerful stories of growth and *stepping out on faith*. Ngozika Emezienna (M33) moved the room with her journey “from isolation to inspiration,” reminding us all of the transformative power of community and perseverance. Likewise, August Phelps (M33) shared his deep gratitude to a cohort that, in his words, pushed him “to be the best self” he could be. But the highlight of the evening came as Gabriel Otubu (M33), Meyerhoff Council President, delivered a stirring tribute of thanks to Mr. Robert Meyerhoff on behalf of the M33 Cohort. With reverence and pride, he pledged to honor the legacy of the Meyerhoff name—a name that has empowered each Scholar to, as Sir Isaac Newton once said, “stand on the shoulders of giants.” From the inspiring remarks of President Valerie Sheares Ashby to the affirming words of Mr. Keith Harmon, Director of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program, it was a night filled with deep pride, celebration, and the unmistakable sense that this is just the beginning of what these Scholars will achieve.



(all photos by Abnet S. Photography )



*UMBC Provost Dr. Manfred van Dulmen offered a powerful charge to the Class of 2025: “Go forward as agents of inclusive excellence. Lead with empathy, create with courage, serve with purpose, seek out voices different from your own, and build spaces where everyone belongs. Let the values you lived here at UMBC guide you as you shape a more just, more inclusive, and more hopeful world.”*

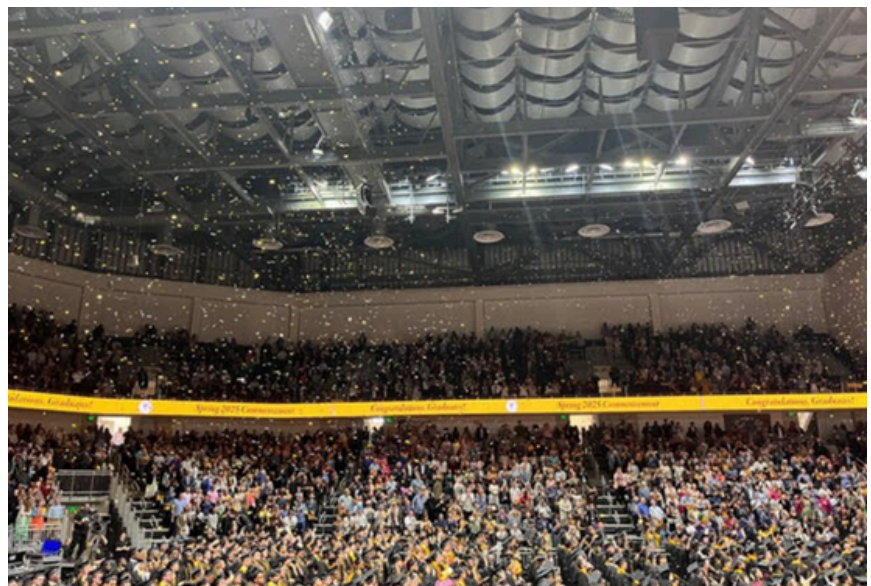
**UMBC**

Cheers echoed through the Chesapeake Arena on May 22nd as each UMBC graduate proudly crossed the stage during the Spring 2025 Commencement. The ceremony opened with a moving procession set to “Pomp and Circumstance,” as graduates were warmly welcomed by their families, friends, peers, and mentors.

Once the ceremony ended in joyful celebration, caps flew into the sky as gold confetti fluttered down, and warm embraces were shared all around.

Congratulations to our outstanding 2025 Meyerhoff Scholars graduates! We are incredibly proud of you and excited for all that lies ahead.

**CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025!**



## RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

As UMBC continues to champion its mission of inclusive excellence, we invite you to join us in celebrating our remarkable Scholars. This year, they have demonstrated excellence not only in academics but also in leadership and service to both campus and community. Well done, Scholars—keep shining and striving for greatness!

### 2024-2025 Honors College Graduates

#### December 2024

- Enya Caballero

#### May 2025

- Michael Ack
- Anjayooluwa Adegboyo
- Anna Adelstein
- Ajeetha Arudchandran
- Christopher Bispels
- Tessa Byrum
- Nathaniel Glover
- Liana Hill
- Gabriel Otubu
- Pavan Umashankar
- Brielle Wheeler

### Undergraduate Research Award Scholars

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| • Michael Ack        | • Jackson Moore       |
| • Suzi Agyako-Wiredu | • Matthew Quintanilla |
| • Mufaro Chiduza     | • Kevin Carbajal      |
| • Caly Ferguson      | Rodriguez             |
| • Lily Handwerger    | • Evan Sheldon        |
| • Jessica Hoffman    | • Jessica Slaughter   |
| • Aeon Kaplowitz     | • Kieran Soliday      |
| • Gabriel Kengni     | • Greeshma Tarimala   |
| • Tonderai Kodzwa    | • Pavan Umashankar    |
|                      | • Zorah Williams      |

### 2025 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Award

- Nathaniel Glover - Engineering (Chemical)
- Jacob Lombardo - Engineering (Materials Science and Engineering)
- August Phelps - Engineering (Robotics, Control, Automation)

### 2024-2025 Fulbright Award (Semi-Finalist)

#### Research/Study

- A'Lyssa Williams

### 2024-2025 National and International Awards

#### Goldwater Scholarship 2024-2025

- Caly Ferguson
- Lea-Pearl Njei
- Jariatu Kargbo



## DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Departmental awards from the College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences and the College of Engineering and Information Technology were given to juniors and seniors who displayed outstanding achievements during the 2024-2025 term.

*Please join us in congratulating our outstanding Scholars.*

### ***Mathematics and Statistics***

#### **Outstanding Graduating Seniors in Mathematics**

- Christopher Bispels
- Emmanuel Mekasha
- Evan Sheldon

#### **Outstanding Graduating Seniors in Statistics**

- Liana Hill

### ***Chemical, Biochemical, & Environmental Engineering***

#### **Outstanding Seniors**

- Evalynn Ellison
- Nathaniel Glover
- Pavan Umashankar

#### **Student Leadership Award**

- Pavan Umashankar

#### **Undergraduate Research Award**

- Pavan Umashankar

### ***Biochemistry***

#### **Faculty Award for Excellence**

- Gabriel Otubu

#### **Don Creighton**

#### **Memorial Scholarship**

- Anna Adelstein

#### **The Faith Award**

- Mesha Shajahan

### ***Bioinformatics***

#### **Excellence in Bioinformatics**

- Emmanuel Mekasha

#### **Outstanding Graduating Senior**

- Ajeetha Arudchandran

### ***Biological Sciences***

#### **Outstanding Graduating Seniors**

- Michael Ack
- Sydnee Vance
- Christian Verastegui

#### **Excellence in Biological Sciences**

- Nataley Der

#### **Roger Michael Davis Endowed Scholarship**

- Aeon Kaplowitz

#### **John H., Sr., and Althea Griner Scholarship**

- Desiree Amponash
- Peace Timi

### ***Computer Science and Electrical Engineering***

#### **Student Leadership Award-CMSC**

- Gia Oriana Santos

#### **Outstanding Achievement in Computer Engineering**

- Abby Joseph

#### **Student Leadership Award-CMPE**

- Nicholas Harrell

#### **CMPE Student with 4.0**

- Jessica E. Slaughter

### ***Chemistry***

#### **Faculty Award for Excellence**

- Shauna Kearney

### ***Mechanical Engineering***

#### **Outstanding Seniors**

- David Goba-Rivera
- Jacob Lombardo
- August Phelps
- Nicholas Pugh

#### **Student Leadership Award**

- Turibius Rozario

### ***Physics***

#### **The Michele P. Hayes Scholarship**

- Raleigh Mansfield

## UMBC PROGRAM AWARDS

As an honors university committed to inclusive excellence, UMBC strives to create an educational environment where every student is both challenged and supported--empowered to work hard, stay focused, and pursue their dreams. Please join us in celebrating our Scholars who set ambitious goals and achieved them with excellence.

### *Honors College Community Service Award*

- Christopher Bispels

### *The France-Merrick Scholarship Program*

- Deeya Mistry

### *Honors College*

#### Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

- Nathaniel Glover
- Gabriel Otubu

### *Academic Success Center*

#### Outstanding Subject Tutor Award

- Liana Hill

### *JHU VTSI Scholar*

- Nathaniel Glover
- Liana Hill

### *GEM Fellow*

- Abby Joseph



*“Grit is passion and perseverance for long-term goals.”*

– Angela Duckworth

# HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTIONS

Honor societies are national organizations that recognize student excellence, provide scholarships and leadership opportunities, and enable students to network with other professionals long after graduation. Help us celebrate our Scholars who earned their place in 2024–2025 Honor Society!

## ***Sigma Pi Sigma***

- Katherine Carver

## ***Phi Beta Kappa***

- Michael Ack
- Jayo Adegboyoye
- Anna Adelstein
- Ajeetha Arudchandran
- Phoenix Bryant
- Tessa Byrum
- Courtney De Leon
- Nataley Der
- Samuel Geleta
- Nathaniel Glover
- Brandon Halliburton
- Lesley Hernandez
- Oluwaseun Kintunde
- Jacob Lombardo
- Munachi Nkeonye-Mbaekwe
- Obehi Oniha
- Gabriel Otubu
- Daisy Parry
- August Phelps
- Turibius Rozario
- Gia Oriana Santos
- Ayeroritse Tuedon
- Pavan Umashankar
- Sydnee Vance
- Nathan Zekarias
- Sarah Yoda

## ***Mu Sigma Rho***

- Nicholas Harrell
- Liana Hill

## ***Pi Mu Epsilon***

- Evan Sheldon
- Katherine Carver
- Liana Hill
- Nicholas Harrell
- Nicholas Bartolomeo
- Rileigh Mansfield

## ***Tau Beta Pi***

- Abby Joseph
- Tonderai Kodzwa
- Johann Mission
- Sebastian Seda
- Jessica Slaughter
- August Phelps

## ***Phi Kappa Phi***

- Anna Adelstein
- Suzi Agyako-Wiredu
- Ajeetha Arudchandran
- Lily Auerback
- Phoenix Bryant
- Darrell Davis
- Nathan Dayie
- Nataley Der
- Caly Ferguson
- Samuel Geleta
- Nathaniel Glover
- David Goba-Rivera
- Ethan Hardesty
- Nicholas Harrell

## ***Phi Kappa Phi Con'd***

- Jessica Hoffman
- Jan Iringan
- Jada Iwuoha
- Abby Joseph
- Faith Karanja
- Jariatu Kargbo
- Jacob Lombardo
- Rileigh Mansfield
- Emmanuel Mekasha
- Abel Melese
- Jackson Moore
- Esam Nesru
- Megan Nguyen
- Emmanuel Omole
- Gabriel Otubu
- August Phelps
- Tithi Prajapati
- Nicholas Pugh
- Ella Reinders
- Turibius Rozario
- Gia Oriana Santos
- Mesha Shajahan
- Evan Sheldon
- Jessica Slaughter
- Drake Thompson
- Pavan Umashankar
- Julia Van Der Marel
- Sydnee Vance
- Alice Yacubovich



## A Message to Our Graduating Scholars

Dear Scholars,

As you cross the stage and step boldly into the next chapter of your journey, we, the Meyerhoff Parents Association, stand in awe of all that you have accomplished. You have met rigorous academic challenges with resilience, demonstrated leadership with integrity, and served your communities with compassion and purpose. You are the embodiment of the Meyerhoff spirit—brilliant, courageous, and committed to excellence. We have watched you grow, strive, stumble, and rise again, always reaching higher and lifting others as you climbed. Your journey has inspired not only your peers but also the families and communities who cheer you on from near and far.

To those Scholars who are still on the path-- keep going. Your story is still unfolding, and the excellence you pursue today will become the legacy you pass on tomorrow.

As you all move forward, never forget the village that shaped you and the legacy you carry. Your future is bright—not because of chance, but because of your choices, your character, and your relentless pursuit of greatness. Wherever life takes you, walk boldly, lead thoughtfully, and continue to be the change the world needs.

**Congratulations, Class of 2025. We are proud beyond words.**

With admiration and hope,

*The Meyerhoff Parent Association*



## BOWLS, BRUSHES & BLISS: SPRING STRESS BUSTER 2025 WAS A HIT!

What do you get when you mix soothing chair massages, yoga flows, vibrant paint palettes, and delicious açaí bowls piled high with healthy toppings? A *perfect* Meyerhoff-style pause before finals!

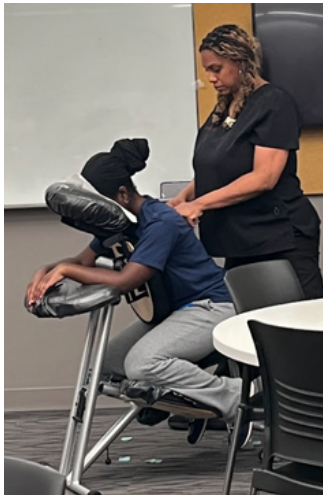
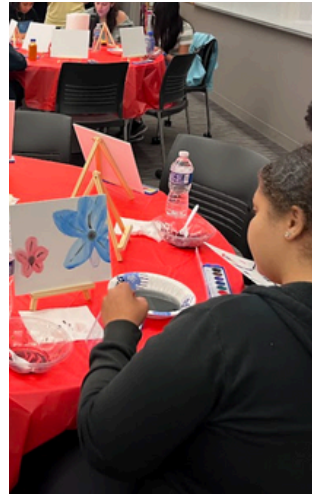
This year's **Spring Stress Buster** was just what our Scholars needed: a chance to breathe, laugh, and reset before hitting the books one last time. Some Scholars enjoyed **massages, not once, not twice, but three times** (no shame in the relaxation game!), while others tapped into their inner artists with paintbrush in hand. Meanwhile, açaí bowls were flying out faster than you could say “extra granola!”

None of this zen magic would have been possible without our **amazing parent volunteers, generous donors,** and the ever-supportive **MPA and Program Office team**. As always, you showed support, and our Scholars felt the love.

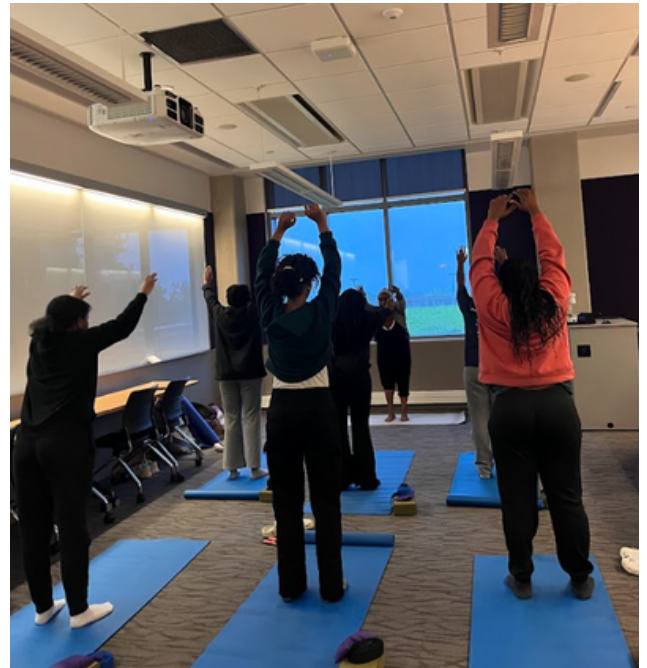
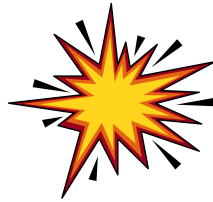
To everyone who helped make this event a memorable (*and stress-free*) -- thank you for helping us put the “ahhh” in açaí!



SPRING 2025



**STRESS?**  
**BUSTED!**



**ANOTHER WIN FOR THE RELAXATION SQUAD!**



The MPA extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped plan, support, and bring this year's Spring Stress Buster to life. These events are made possible thanks to the generous funding and in-kind donations from our incredible community of current and alumni parents and guardians.

In collaboration with the Meyerhoff Program Office, the MPA is proud to support these cherished annual traditions that offer our scholars a chance to pause, recharge, and feel cared for. Together, we are focusing on a vibrant, supportive community for Scholars and their families-- one that goes way beyond academics.

To continue hosting meaningful events, we invite you to consider making a one-time, annual, or recurring [gift](#). We believe that nourishing the body and spirit is just as essential as nurturing the mind.

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



**MEYERHOFF  
PARENTS  
ASSOCIATION**



If you are interested in volunteering to support any of the upcoming MPA activities, please contact the MPA at [umbcmpa@gmail.com](mailto:umbcmpa@gmail.com). Your support is important and always welcome!

# HAVE YOU HEARD?

Hot Off the  
**PRESS**

## NEW MPA POLO SHIRTS ARE HERE!

Scan the QR code  
below or click  
[here](#) to purchase.



Show your pride in style—our brand-new Meyerhoff Parents Association (MPA) polo shirts are pure gold (literally)! Whether you're cheering from the stands or representing at events, now's your chance to wear the UMBC MPA logo with pride.



Order now for July delivery!  
Parents and guardians of Meyerhoff  
Scholars—this is your time to shine.

**Special Opportunity for M37 Families:**  
Parents of incoming Freshmen can purchase  
their shirts in person at the Summer Bridge  
Closing Celebration on July 26th (cash or  
check only).

Let's represent the Meyerhoff legacy  
with *unity* and *style*!



UMBC



## “A HOLE LOT OF FUN” WITH THE MPA!

On April 13, 2025, the Meyerhoff Parents Association (MPA) teed up an unforgettable day at Top Golf Baltimore! Parents and guardians of Meyerhoff Scholars came together for an exciting mix of golf, great food, and fantastic company. No golfing experience was necessary; just fun was guaranteed!

Laughter echoed through the heated bays as attendees embraced the spirit of friendly competition, enjoyed delicious bites, and connected with fellow parents/guardians, and MPA Board Members. Whether hitting the perfect shot or simply soaking in the vibrant atmosphere, everyone walked away with smiles and great memories.



Putter



# LET'S CONNECT! INTRODUCING THE MPA AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

We're excited to launch a new initiative designed to strengthen our Meyerhoff parent community--the **MPA Ambassador Program**!

This expanded outreach effort is all about building stronger connections among the parents and guardians of UMBC Meyerhoff Scholars, ensuring that families feel supported, informed, and connected throughout their student's academic journey.

As part of this initiative, connecting the parents and guardians of incoming Freshman (M37) with an MPA Ambassador, an experienced Meyerhoff parent who understands the path ahead. This one-year pilot program, launched in June, is an extension of the support already provided by the Meyerhoff Program Office and broader UMBC parent engagement efforts.

Participation is completely voluntary.

If you are the parent of an M37 or a current MPA Board member interested in participating, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact the Program Coordinator Mr. Arvind Mistry at [UMBCMPA@gmail.com](mailto:UMBCMPA@gmail.com).

**MPA  
AMBASSADOR  
PROGRAM**

**FOR M37  
FRESHMAN  
PARENTS**



## UPCOMING: MPA FALL TOWN HALL & SCHOLARS RESEARCH EXPOSITION



### MEYERHOFF PARENTS ASSOCIATION FALL TOWN HALL

Join us this fall at UMBC for the annual MPA Fall Town Hall & Scholar Research Exposition! This special event brings together parents, highlights student achievements, and offers a deeper look into the Meyerhoff Scholars Program. Enjoy engaging student research presentations as they highlight their summer research experiences, connect with the extended MPA community, and participate in our annual business meeting and board elections. This is a great opportunity to better understand the rigor and complexities the Meyerhoff Program offers to the Scholars. Make sure you have [signed up](#) to receive text messages to stay informed about upcoming dates, events, and important MPA news!



MEYERHOFF  
PARENTS  
ASSOCIATION

# EMPOWERING FUTURES—THANKS TO YOU!

## MEYERHOFF SCHOLARS PROGRAM



UMBC's Meyerhoff Scholars Program, which was established in 1989, has supported more than 2,000 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 or [online](#).



### Stay Connected...

MPA is transitioning to Mailchimp for our communications! Stay connected—submit your information [here](#) to opt in and receive important updates via text message.

Don't miss important announcements, event reminders, or key updates from the MPA!

### Volunteer your Time

If you are interested in volunteering to support any of the upcoming MPA-sponsored activities or the Meyerhoff Program in any way, please send an email to [umbcmpa@gmail.com](mailto:umbcmpa@gmail.com) with the title *VOLUNTEER*.



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