

Catch the Social Work Spirit!

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Graduation Celebration 2013



On May 23, 2013, a crowd of over 250 gathered in the Albin O. Kuhn library at UMBC to celebrate the 2013 social work graduates and set the stage for their future goals and ambitions.

Elizabeth Wunsch, secretary of the Social Work Student Association (SWSA) began the celebration with a welcome to students, faculty, friends and family. Elizabeth was assisted throughout the ceremony by Rebecca Seader, Rebecca Behnke (SWSA Treasurer) Amber Carroll, alumni Alisha Patel and Adrienne Kilby, and student employee Erika Surock.

Special award winners included: Novlette Pollock (*Shirley Bembyr Scholarship*); Elizabeth Wunsch (*Dr. Gust W. Mitchell Scholarship*); Brandi Clayton (*Tejal Khajuria Memorial Scholarship*); Nicole Shah (*Steven and Rachel Eidelman Scholarship*); Kathleen Algire-Fedarcy (*Outstanding Undergraduate Student Alumni Award*); Melissa Hartman (*Susan Bernstein Scholarship*); Kaitlyn Snyder (*BreakingGround Scholarship*); Atefeh Fathnezhad (*Shady Grove Outstanding Student Award*); and Margaret Grant (*Title IV-E Student of the Year*).

Each year the social work faculty selects six students for the *Outstanding Social Work Seniors Awards* based on academic performance, achievement in field education and service to UMBC and the Social Work Program. The 2013 award recipients were William Cooper-Balis, Danielle Kostkowski, Sarah Martin, Amanda Phillips, Mery Rivas and Nicole Shah.

Special recognition was given to Edward Featherson by the SWSA for his dedication to the student organization and the program.

Karen Kraft and Conor Alysworth, the administrative staff of the Social Work Program, were acknowledged for their extraordinary effort in making the celebration a huge success.

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Plan to attend
our welcome
week
PIZZA PARTY

**Wednesday
September 4th**

**Room 334
11:45-1:00**

Please bring a
canned good or
nonperishable
item for a
charity food
pantry.

The Jordan Riddle Military Social Work Scholarship Campaign

SGT Jordan Riddle of Arlington, Texas was a United States Army combat medic who entered active duty military service on July 4, 2005. SGT Riddle was serving in support of combat operations in Al Diyala Province, Iraq, when he and his recon platoon entered a building rigged with explosives on January 9, 2008. Seven members of his team were killed in the ensuing explosion, and five others, including Jordan, were gravely wounded.

Jordan Riddle spent the next 3 years convalescing from his injuries, and was retired from active duty military service in March of 2011. While his body may have healed, the invisible scars of war proved too much for him to bear, and on October 18, 2012, SGT Jordan Riddle ended his life.

After almost a decade of war, where many service members have served multiple combat tours, stories like Jordan's are becoming far too common. For many veterans, the real battle begins when they return home and attempt to matriculate back into the lives that they once knew, while struggling with the after-effects of war. Therefore the need for social workers to practice in and around the military subculture, both with veterans and their families, is perhaps greater now than at any other time in our nation's history. It is for this reason that the Jordan Riddle Military Social Work Scholarship is being created- to assist current students who are veterans achieve their academic goals while preparing them for careers in military social work.



The Jordan Riddle Military Social Work scholarship will be award for the first time during the 2014 graduation celebration. Application requirements will be published on the program's website and student listserv. Any questions concerning the scholarship's application process or offering contributions to the scholarship fund should be directed to Dr. Carolyn Tice (tice@umbc.edu) or Katie Morris (kath@umbc.edu).

Phi Alpha Honor Induction Ceremony

Monday, April 1, 2013 marked the annual Phi Alpha Induction ceremony. Held in the UMBC library, the event featured comments from the organization's faculty advisors, Dr. Laura Ting and Katie Leiser, along with encouraging remarks by honorary inductee, Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, President of UMBC!



Congratulations to our 2013 Phi Alpha inductees:

Anika Adams, Abiola Adeniyi, Michael Alksnis, Rebecca Behnke, Brit-tany Bergmann, Jessica Boddy, Soheyla Bolouri, Sergio Borda, Tammy Brown, Michelle L. Campbell, Melissa Carrera, Melissa Charles, Brandi Clayton, Audrey Denakpo, Michaela Friedman, Sarah Getz, Malorie Gibson, Caitlin Hancock, Melissa Hartman, Tiffany Hebron, Candice Hill, Kaitlyn Hilton, Juliet Huang, Brandy Jackson, Christine Johnson, Rupinder Kaur, Kyu-Ryul Kim, Carryl Knight, Aurelia Larrimore, Rebecca Lee, Jecelyn Lizenberger, Amanda McIntyre, Heather Morales, Deanna Morgan, Matthew Morkosky, Ikechukwu Nwizu, Kimberly Oaster, Sarah Otley, Mariel Pfister, Novlette Pollock, Fernando Reyna-Orozco, Ashleigh Reynolds, Netelege Richards, Kathryn Ruff, Nichelle Scott, Hannah Simmons, Lauren Smeton, Lisa Stanford, Ashley Sweet, Angela Turner, Evan Wilson, and Taylor Wyatt.

Thank you to the officers for making the event and year a success: Margaret (Maggie) Grant- President, main campus, Albertina (Tina) Munoz -VP, USG, Rebecca Seader – Secretary, UMBC campus and Carmen Hernandez -Treasurer, USG

For more information on Phi Alpha please visit <http://socialwork.umbc.edu/current-students/student-organizations/phi-alpha-honor-society/>

Susan Bernstein Memorial Scholarship

Thanks to the generosity of the Bernstein family, this scholarship was awarded to a social work student, Melissa Hartman, pictured below with Dr. Carolyn Knight. The \$500.00 award is designed for a returning student who is entering the senior year field practicum and plans on a career in providing clinical services to children and families.

This scholarship is named in honor of Susan, "Susie", Bernstein who passed away in 2013 at the age of 56 after bravely battling cancer. Susie returned to school as an adult learner once her children were older. She completed her senior year internship in the Title IV-E child welfare program, where her enthusiasm for her work and her dedication to social justice issues were abundantly evident to all who encountered her.

She was a 2003 magna cum laude graduate of our social work program. In 2004, she earned a MSW from the School of Social Work, University of Maryland, Baltimore. Until October of 2012, Susie was a practicing psychotherapist in Annapolis MD.

UMBC faculty members remember her with fondness and clearly recall her diligence, resourcefulness, and commitment to the profession she so loved and admired.

Susie Bernstein is survived by her husband, Dr. Richard Bernstein, and two children, Jeff and Julie. Due to the generosity of the Bernstein family and friends, and Susie herself, the Social Work Program is able to offer this award annually to a deserving returning student.



Students and Alumni Participate in SUCCESS Together!



This year the Social Work Program welcomed Bianca Bouknight, a SUCCESS program participant. The SUCCESS program is Maryland's first pilot four year postsecondary education program for students with intellectual disabilities. The program allows for its students to develop their independence, critical thinking, problem solving and employment skills on a college campus. They are also able to interact with their peers and participate in a variety of educational, social and recreational campus-based activities.

Bianca (pictured on the left) came to the program eager to learn and develop her skills. During her time in the department she learned many office tasks including filing, sorting mail, creating flyers and data entry. She was also able to interact with students in the social work lab, and create her own schedule of daily tasks that she completed each day. Her willingness to learn new things and her proficiency in the skills she developed allowed her not only excel in the SUCCESS program but also greatly contributed to the department. While the department will miss her, we wish her the best in her future goals and ambitions. We would also like to thank Amy Lacosse and Jasmine Osima for their work as mentors to help Bianca succeed throughout the year.

Social Work at the Universities at Shady Grove

The Universities at Shady Grove (USG) held their 9th Annual Student Achievement and Leadership Breakfast on April 12, 2013.

During the event, the Social Work Program recognized Atefeh Fathnezahad as an outstanding representation of academic scholarship and leadership. Atefeh's high performance in her written work and participation in the classroom illustrated her academic scholarship.

Atefeh also participated in many student activities and was always willing to support a peer or organization. Atefeh illustrated her social work skills and values during her field placement with individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. She worked diligently to connect with her clients and serve them and was offered a full time position at her agency. She continuously took her classroom knowledge and theory into her work with her clients and brought many examples of her struggles and successes back to the classroom. She was an example of a student that enjoys learning and is passionate about her work with her clients.



Atefeh will continue her education at the School of Social Work, University of Maryland, Baltimore in the Advanced Standing Program.

Also at this event, Katie Morris received the Program Director of the Year Award, given to a Program Director from a participating USM institution who illustrates high involvement and support to students and programs at USG. As noted by a student, Katie Morris has “.. has shown us not only through teaching but by example how to lead and help others.”

In her award acceptance comments, Katie stated: “It is my students’ curiosity, questions, passion, commitment, concerns, ideas, and experiences that encourages me and all the faculty and staff here to want to do more.”

For information regarding the Social Work Program at the Universities of Shady Grove, please visit:
<http://www.umbc.edu/shadygrove/socialwork/socialworkba.html>

BACCALAUREATE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, Maryland 21250