

Catch the Social Work Spirit!

December 2013 Graduation Celebration

**Volume 17, Issue 2
Spring, 2014**

Inside this Issue:

- 2. Hrabowski Innovation Grant***
- 2. Midday Madness***
- 3. Dr. Marcela Mellinger***
- 3. Community Advisory Board– New Members***
- 4. Social Work at USG***



The Social Work Program hosted a graduation celebration on December 20, 2013 immediately following the sixty-first Commencement of UMBC, conducted by President Hrabowski along with Provost Philip Rous. Faculty and staff honored the academic success of twenty nine students who completed their bachelor's degree in August or December.

The social work graduates included: Anika Adams, Bianca Almeida, Brittani Ayers, Claudia Battu, Lisa Bauguess, Soheyla Bolouri, Gail Brown, Octavia Brown, Leah Creecy, Joanna Frazier, Cynthia Grimes, Nayane Henriquez, Jessica Kilpatrick, Amy Kirby, Anna Mahr, Yveline Marchal, Jason Miller, Kimberly Oaster, Emma Rava, Nanda Rich, Netelege Richards, Clerene Romeo, Lisa Soref, Christina Summers, Bethel Tafari, Brittney Watson, Rashema Watson-Barnes, Julia Webb and Brianna Wertz.

Family and friends of the graduates were invited to a reception in Sherman Hall. Most impressive was the number of people who traveled from the Universities at Shady Grove vicinity to attend the event. As one person commented, "I wouldn't miss this for anything!"

The social work faculty and staff wish the graduates, and now alumni, all the best. Alumni, please keep your email current by contacting Karen Kraft at (kkraft@umbc.edu) to give her a non-UMBC email address.

Students Attend Social Work Pioneer Luncheon

Thanks to an invitation from Dr. Betsy Vourlekis, Professor Emeritus, social work students Adrian Bristol and Madigan Neibich attended the Social Work Pioneer Program Luncheon in Washington, DC. The Pioneer Program was created to honor members of the social work profession who have contributed to the evolution and enrichment of the profession. Members identify and recognize individuals whose unique dedication, commitment and determination have improved social and human conditions. According to Adrian the luncheon, "highlighted the careers of social workers and helped me understand that I made the right professional choice."

Please go to <http://www.naswfoundation.org/pioneer.asp> to learn more about the Social Work Pioneer Program, including information on how to donate to the organization.

Welcome

Back Pizza

Party!

February

19th

12-1:00 pm

**Social Work
Conference**

Room 334

Hrabowski Innovation Grant

Dr. Carolyn Tice, in collaboration with Dr. Christine Callahan of the Financial Social Work Initiative and University of Maryland School of Social Work and doctoral student Sally Hageman, received a Hrabowski Innovation Fund Competition Award in December 2013 to conduct an intervention study on financial self-efficacy in BSW students at UMBC.

The project involves providing six trainings to the BSW students throughout the year on topics ranging from debt literacy, budgeting, financial capability and self-efficacy, as well as application of these and other materials to vulnerable populations that these students will be serving.

BSW students are an ideal group in which to examine perceptions, financial knowledge and self-efficacy, and career plans. There is intriguing research on how social workers are addressing financial hardship in their clients, and it is demonstrating that there are gaps in their educational



backgrounds in working effectively with individuals, families, and communities regarding their complex financial struggles. Closely interwoven with this is the fact that they often feel ill-equipped not only to help deal with clients' financial issues, but also feel financially vulnerable themselves.

The goals of the project are to increase and enhance students' financial self-efficacy and to learn and apply material to clients' needs as well. This is an innovative and novel approach to understanding students' self-efficacy and knowledge, and will assist them in improving and enhancing macro and clinical social work practice.

For further information about this study, please contact either Dr. Carolyn Tice (tice@umbc.edu) or Dr. Christine Callahan (ccallahan@ssw.umaryland.edu).

Midday Madness at UMBC



Hundreds of students from Baltimore County and Baltimore City visited UMBC on January 15, 2014, 39 of which spent time with the faculty and staff of the Social Work Program.

The students from Samuel F.B. Morse Elementary school were guided by Dr. James Bembry and Ms. Pearl Fletcher, a fifth grade teacher. Their tour of the UMBC campus included a visit to the Albin O. Kuhn Library, student residential halls, classrooms and the Commons. The highlight was time spent at the Retriever Activities Center (RAC) where they learned the UMBC cheer using their UMBC #1 giant foam finger provided by the athletic department. They also watched their teachers in a game of 'dress and shoot hoops', and loudly cheered the UMBC Women's

basketball team. The Washington Wizards Dunk Team stole the show with a display of trampoline dunks and tricks.

A special thanks is extended to Dr. Bembry and Ms. Fletcher for their work on behalf of Baltimore City youth!

Eminent Scholars Mentor Program



Dr. Marcela Sarmiento Mellinger, Assistant Professor, received an invitation from the Provost's Office to participate in the Eminent Scholar Mentor Program. The goal of the program, which was established in 2003, is to facilitate a mentoring relationship between a prominent researcher and a junior faculty member in the same research area. Through the program the Mentor will visit UMBC, give a lecture or seminar, and spend time with Dr. Mellinger, discussing her research and planning for future research projects. In turn, Dr. Mellinger will have the opportunity to visit the Mentor's university where she will give a lecture or seminar focused on her research. In addition to these visits, Dr. Mellinger will maintain communication with her Mentor regarding current and future advocacy research projects.

Dr. Hoefer, a professor at the University of Texas at Arlington and Director of the Center for Advocacy, Non-profits, and Donor Organizations, was selected as Dr. Mellinger's mentor. He has extensive research experience on advocacy, which is Dr. Mellinger's main area of research. Dr. Hoefer is the Roy E. Dulak Professor for Community Practice Research and has published extensively on advocacy, non-profit administration, social policy, and program evaluation. He also teaches at the three levels of social work education: BSW, MSW, and Ph.D.

Dr. Mellinger is looking forward to participating in this program which has been recognized as a national model for inclusive excellence. Through the program, she hopes to move her research agenda forward and develop long-lasting relationships with the larger scholarly community currently involved in advocacy research.

New Community Advisory Board Members

The Baccalaureate Social Work Program has a Community Advisory Board (CAB) comprised of students, program alumni and professional and community leaders. The purpose of the Board is to disseminate information about the Program, obtain feedback from key community leaders about how the Program's significance is perceived, secure suggestions for program improvement, and assist the Program in obtaining local and state support. The CAB meets three times a year at UMBC.

New CAB members include: Robert Connolly (Geriatric Consultant – MD-NASW), Mira Wachs (Community College of Baltimore County), Marylin Kuzsma (Community College of Baltimore County – Dundalk), Julie Manley (Coppin State University), and Beth Potter (Anne Arundel Community College) and Danielle Bouchard (UMBC Social Work Student). Returning community members are: Adele Margel Crystal (Baltimore County Department of Health), BJ Pilkins (University of Maryland Medical Systems), Daphne McClellan (Executive Director, MD - NASW), Jim Shannon (Adjunct Instructor), Susan Roberts Bingham (Social Worker in Private Practice) and Chris Wirt (UMB School of Social Work, Title IV-E Program).

People interested in serving on the Community Advisory Board should contact Carolyn Tice (tice@umbc.edu) or Conor Aylsworth (conoray1@umbc.edu).



Social Work at the Universities at Shady Grove



The UMBC Social Work Program at Shady Grove is excited to have 3 new instructors for the Spring 2014 semester.

Dr. Lee Cornelius will be teaching Sowk 260: Introduction to Social Welfare, Social Policy, and Social Work I. Dr. Cornelius is a professor from the University of Maryland's MSW/PhD Program. He has met several of our students in the past few years, as Dr. Okundaye and Dr. Cornelius have been teaching SOWK 499: Independent Research Project: Reducing Global Social and Behavioral Health Disparities for Africans Living at Home or in the Diaspora. Each summer several students spend 2-3 weeks working on the research component of this course in Nigeria.

Dr. Kristen Woodruff will be teaching Sowk 470: Social Work Research. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Social Work Doctoral program. She currently works for Westat,

following her passion for research in child welfare. She plans to help students develop an understanding and interest in research.

Israel Garcia will be teaching Sowk 360: Social Welfare, Social Policy and Social Work II. Prof. Garcia is a Lieutenant in the United States Public Health Services Corps and works as a public health analyst for HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration). Prof. Garcia will be able to give his students an excellent perspective on the impact of policy and social work practice.

This coming summer, Professor Jeanette Hoover will be teaching SOWK 386: Social Work Practice with Families, Tuesday, 9am-12:10pm in hybrid format at the Shady Grove campus. This course is designed to provide students with an overview of social work with families. Social workers engage families in various settings, such as in social service agencies, the home, school, mental health and medical institutions, and in direct service agencies such as shelters and clinics. They also meet families in connection with social justice work such as work with immigrants. This course will provide students with the basic knowledge and skills to make initial assessments of family functioning in the context of the social environment and an understanding of the variety of challenges families experience. Students will be presented with developmental theories, as well as traditional theoretical frameworks used in family assessments. The concept of family in its more varied and inclusive forms, including same-sex marriage and non-traditional definitions of family will be explored.

Please consider the following summer course offering to be held on the Universities

BACCALAUREATE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, Maryland 21250