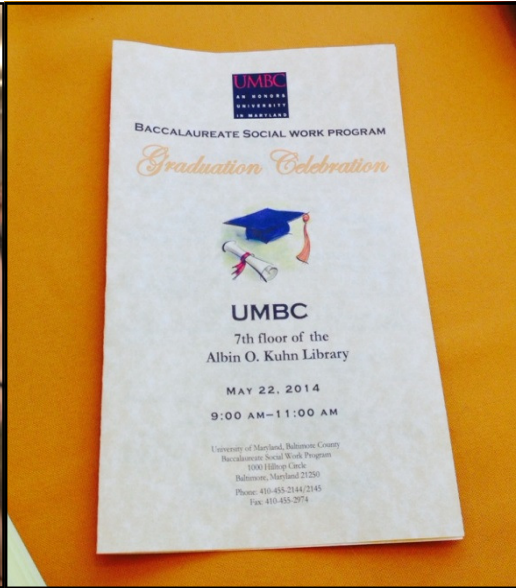


# ***Catch the Social Work Spirit!***

**May 2014 Graduation Celebration**

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## ***Inside this Issue:***

- 2. Dr. Nancy Kusmaul**
- 2. CSWE Site Visit**
- 3. Dr. Jayshree Jani Research**
- 3. Social Work Practice with Families**
- 4. Social Work at USG**

May 22, 2014 was a memorable day for social work students at UMBC! After years of academic work, including a full year of field education, 108 social work majors earned their Bachelor of Arts degrees. The faculty and staff of the Social Work Program honored the graduates at a celebration where over 300 family members and friends gathered. As one student said, "I can't believe I'm graduating. I've worked so hard for this day!"

The graduation event was organized by members of the Social Work Student Association (SWSA). Danielle Bouchard, President of SWSA began the day with a warm welcome and then went on to introduce the student awards. Thanks to the generous contributions of friends of the social work community, the following awards and recipients were announced: Shirley Bembry Scholarship, Nia Smith; Dr. Gust W. Mitchell Scholarship, Danielle Bouchard; Tejal Khajuria Memorial Scholarship, Alexander Perry; Steve and Rachel Eidelman Award, Amy Heikkinen; Outstanding Undergraduate Student Alumni Award, Melissa Hartman; Susan Bernstein Memorial Scholarship, Ashley Sweet; Shady Grove Outstanding Student Award, Laura Roth; and the Title IV-E Students of the Year, Rebecca Seader and Carrie Thompson. The faculty selected six students as recipients of the Outstanding Social Work Senior Award, Jason Ainsfield, Michael Alksnis, Nevena Assenova, Caitlin Hancock, Carryl Knight and Kelsey O'Donnell.

The social work faculty and staff express their congratulations to all the graduates!

**Welcome  
Back Pizza  
Party!  
Sept. 10th  
12-1:30  
Sherman  
Hall-B, 334  
All new and  
returning  
students are  
invited!**

## Dr. Nancy Kusmaul Joins the Social Work Program



The Social Work Program is pleased to announce a new Assistant Professor, Dr. Nancy Kusmaul. Dr. Kusmaul earned her B.A. from the University of Rochester, and her M.S.W., along with a Specialist in Aging Certificate, from the University of Michigan. She earned her Ph.D. from the University at Buffalo, State University of New York.

Before coming to UMBC, Dr. Kusmaul was a Clinical Assistant Professor at the College at Brockport, SUNY where she taught courses in human behavior, social work methods and field education seminar. At UMBC Dr. Kusmaul will initially teach SOWK 260 (*Social Welfare Policy I*). She will also serve as a faculty liaison in field education.

Dr. Kusmaul brings to the Social Work Program an extensive history in direct practice and management experience in health care settings—primarily nursing homes, but also hospitals, adult day care, and home care. Her research interests are in aging; health care services, workforce and policy; nursing homes; and the influences of trauma on the life course. Dr. Kusmaul has served on the New York State board of NASW and is a member of the Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGE-SW) and the Gerontological Society of America.

Please contact Dr. Kusmaul at: [nkusmaul@umbc.edu](mailto:nkusmaul@umbc.edu)

## Preparations Are Underway for a Site Visit

The School of Social Work, of which the Social Work Program is an integral part, will participate in a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) reaffirmation process within the next two years. In preparation for this significant event two major changes have occurred in the program.

The first involves the Intern Placement Tracking (IPT) system introduced by the Office of Field Education. The IPT system is an online field placement monitoring system designed to keep track of students in field placements, allowing the Office of Field Education to meet CSWE standards and to document the development of students' core practice-related competencies.

The second major change is the implementation of TK20, an assessment software used in higher education as an integrated assessment, planning and reporting system. TK20 offers a variety of assessment methodologies and an extensive list of reports to support the CSWE reaffirmation process. During the 2014 fall semester, TK20 will be implemented in SOWK 481 (Social Work Methods II) and ideally in all social work courses by spring 2015.

IPT and TK20 require training and resources. Faculty and staff alike have had to re-think routine documentation processes while considering the application of computer skills to their work with students. Special thanks to Dr. Adrienne Ekas-Mueting, Katie Leiser, Karen Kraft and Conor Aylsworth for their ongoing support of these initiatives.

## Dr. Jayshree Jani Researches Unaccompanied Youth

Dr. Jayshree Jani, Assistant Professor, conducts research in collaboration with the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Children Services (LIRS CS). With a mission that states all “migrants and refugees are protected, embraced and empowered in a world of just and welcoming communities”, LIR CS has been active in advocating for the needs of unaccompanied immigrant and refugee youth entering the U.S. to escape the violence, political oppression, and poverty of their native countries.

Research indicates that unaccompanied youth are extremely vulnerable: they live in difficult situations as minor refugees; their parents are frequently absent; and, they often experience trauma, exploitation or abuse. These difficult life situations threaten the emotional well-being of unaccompanied youth and require a comprehensive reception and care system to meet their specific situation and needs.

Dr. Jani, along with her colleagues, gathered qualitative and quantitative data on unaccompanied youth released from LIRS-CS affiliated shelters and community-based service homes or “sponsors” for the youth. Preliminary findings indicated that: 100% of the unaccompanied youth still lived with their sponsors; 98% of the youth were enrolled in school; and 61% had accessed medical care. The most common problems for sponsors were understanding legal processes and accessing legal assistance. Further findings underscore the importance of locally-base services and outreach that reflects the individuality of communities.

For more detailed information on Dr. Jani’s research findings and agenda, please contact her at: [jani@umbc.edu](mailto:jani@umbc.edu).



## Social Work Practice with Families

Jeannette Hoover, Instructor in the Social Work at the Universities of Shady Grove, revised the elective SOWK 386, Social Work with Families to introduce a broad fund of knowledge about the complexity of family interactions and the use of informed-based and culturally sensitive approaches to family interventions.

Designed in a hybrid format, the course includes small group activities, case studies, media items and videos that highlight varied and inclusive family structures. Using developmental theories and theoretical frameworks students learn to assess families from a strengths perspective and to honor family diversities.

The revised course complements content from human behavior in the social environment courses along with material on social justice and work with immigrant families. Throughout the course an emphasis is placed on interactive learning and life experiences.





## Social Work at the Universities at Shady Grove



The Social Work Program at the Universities at Shady Grove has developed connections with other programs on campus. During spring semester 2014, the University of Maryland's MSW program and Baccalaureate Social Work Program sponsored a career panel attended by approximately 65 students. The panelists included: Uma Ahluwalia, Director of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Jay Kenney, Chief of Aging and Disability Services, Steven Green, Director of Advanced Behavioral Health, and Dr. Daphne McClellan, Executive Director of the Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Students gained insight about job opportunities in the county and also information about licensure procedures.

During the 2014 summer months, twelve undergraduate and graduate students from 5 disciplines (social work, nursing, pharmacy, psychology, and public health) participated in an Interprofessional Education Internship with Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and provided feedback to DHHS about their experience. DHHS is one of several counties across the country that has an integrated department and service areas that work in unison to provide integrated services to their clients.

Christina Hyunh stated "This internship has been a great experience for me. I learned so much about the different resources in Montgomery County". Denis Escolero notes "This internship has not only provided me with interdisciplinary skills that will prove useful when I work in the field, but it has been interesting to be part of a group from different disciplines focused on a single, common goal of serving a client".

**BACCALAUREATE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY**

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