

Catch the Social Work Spirit!

December 2014 Graduation Celebration

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December 18, 2014 was an extra special day for the students and their families and friends. Wearing caps and gowns and participating in a processional to the Prince of Denmark March, thirty-three social work students flipped their tassel and graduated from UMBC.

The graduates included: Michael Alksnis, Nevena Assenova, Karla Barahona, Rachel Bender, Jamie Burnett, Melissa Charles, Jair Gama-Chavez, Chauntavia Gathers, Laura Gerben, Malorie Gibson, Qiyama Graham, Kathleen Hall, Nayane Henriquez, Melissa Hinkle, Francine Hyman, David Idemudia, Christine Johnson, John Keister, Sarah Kenney, Michele Martin-Jones, Chimamma Obiyor, Kelsey O'Donnell, Katie Piura, Maria Poulakis, Chelsea Slagle, Brittany Spencer, Shannon Taliaferro, Angela Turner, Brittany Watson, Priscilla Wiafe, Marquis Wilson, and Ndasi Zialo.

After Commencement, the social work faculty and staff hosted a luncheon reception for graduates and their guests. Comments heard across the room ranged from, "I'm so glad to be finished." and "I made it!" to "This is a proud day for our family."

Warm congratulations to the graduates from the members of the Baccalaureate Social Work Program!

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**Celebrate
Social Work
Month!**

March 3, 2015

12-1:15pm

**Sherman Hall-B,
334**

**Pizza and
Refreshments
Provided!**

In the Social Work Office

It takes a lot of work to keep the main office of the Baccalaureate Social Work Program running smoothly. Much of the credit for the office administration goes to staff members Karen Kraft and Conor Aylsworth who insure the students, faculty and agency representatives are served efficiently. The work they do on a daily basis is unmeasurable and highlights a commitment to excellence in service.

Two students support the staff. Quintanna “Quinnie” J. Moody is a third year Success Student. Quinnie is a graduate of Parkdale High School who enrolled with the Success Program to learn office skills and offer assistance to people. When asked, Quinnie said she enjoys working the Social Work Program because she meets new people and learns computer skills like those associated with designing special events flyers. In the future, Quinnie hopes to work in an office. Her hobbies include watching television, cooking, swimming, and “hanging out” with friends.

Lia Adams is a financial economics and psychology double major. In fall 2014 she began working with the Success Program where she was a peer to students in the program. She also joined the student organization Success Buddies, which began last semester.

The faculty and staff thank both Quinnie and Lia for their work and overall contributions to the Social Work Program. Please stop by the office (Sherman Hall 322) to meet Quinnie and Lia when your time permits.



Pioneer Luncheon

The group photo is of the members of the NASW Social Work Pioneers at their 20th Anniversary Celebration and 10th Annual Event in October 2014.

More than 100 people attended the two-day gathering, including Kevin Sumey and Dominique Mooskin, social work students from UMBC.



Dr. Jessie Harris, previous Dean of the School of

Social Work, University of Maryland, and an Adjunct Instructor in the UMBC Social Work Program opened the celebration with a greeting to all present and Dean Richard Barth, of the School of Social Work, University of Maryland gave the keynote address. Kevin Sumey described the honor he felt meeting with the Pioneers and hearing of their careers in social work. Special thanks to Dr. Betsy Vourlekis, Professor Emeritus from the Baccalaureate Social Work Program who insures UMBC students are included in the NASW Social Work Pioneers annual event.

Community Advisory Board



The Community Advisory Board is a group of students, program alumni, professionals and community leaders who support the Baccalaureate Social Work Program. The purpose of the Board is to provide a means for disseminating information about the Program, obtaining feedback from key community leaders about how the Program's significance is perceived, and securing suggestions for Program improvement.

Members of the Community Advisory Board serve as advocates of the Baccalaureate Social Work Program by enhancing its reputation and image and providing support and counsel to the Program's mission and goals. Current Board members included: Susan Roberts Bingham, Chairperson and Clinical Social Worker; Beth Potter, Instructor, Anne Arundel Community College; Bob Connolly, Social Worker, NASW Gerontology Consultant; Mira Wachs, Social Worker, Special Services, Anne Arundel Community College; BJ Pilkins, Medical Social Worker, University of Maryland Medical Center; Adele Crystal, Clinical Social Worker, Baltimore County Government; Julie Manley, Director of the Maxie Collier Program, Coppin State University; Rachel Crosen, social work major, UMBC; and, Danielle Bouchard, social work major, UMBC.

The Board meets three times during the academic year and attends functions such as the Phi Alpha Induction and the Program's Graduation Ceremony. Please contact Carolyn Tice (tice@umbc.edu) if you would like more information on the Board or would like to be a Board member.

Trip to India



January 2015 was significant to Jivwe Partridge, a social work major at the Universities at Shady Grove. It was in this month, Jivwe traveled to India with 17 graduate students from the School of Social Work and 10 students from Stevenson University.

Jivwe's trip of a life time began with a four day visit to Rajagiri College, with which the School of Social Work has a long time association, thanks to the collaborations with Dr. Raju Varghese, Associate Professor Emeritus. While at Rajagiri College, Jivwe attended the International Symposium on Evidence in Global Mental Health.

Other stops in India included: Munnar Hill, known for the tea plantations; Thekkady a city that has a cultural center, spice village, and wild life sanctuary; Alleppey, a visiting fishing village and a tsunami-affected area; Kollam, known for cashew nut processing; Thankassery, a village area; and, Kolla Varkala, a rural area, by the waters of Arabian Sea. Jivwe's trip ended in Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala State, and a visit to Came Comerin.

The trip to India is sponsored bi-annually by the School of Social Work as an educational experience for graduate and undergraduate students. In 2016, UMBC social work students will have the opportunity to travel to the Philippines with graduate students from the School of Social Work. For additional information please contact tice@umbc.edu.

Social Work at UMBC

This Year I Resolve to Stay in Touch

The beginning of the new year is a good time to consider the past and reflect. More importantly it can be a time to reconnect with people and places that impacted your life.

As you think about 2015, please consider sending us an update on events in your life. We would like to begin listing information on and pictures of our alumni in the newsletter. Your news will provide energy to the social work community and will help shape the future of social work education at UMBC.

Please provide us with your name, graduation date, home address, email address, phone number and some news about you! Information on your career, family and significant life events will be published in upcoming newsletters. All information should be sent to: conoray1@umbc.edu or on the enclosed sheet. Call 410-455-2144 if you have any questions or concerns.

The social work faculty and staff wish you all the best!

BACCALAUREATE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM
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