

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

## **May 2016 Graduation Celebration**

Volume 1, Issue 2



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The sun was shining on May 19th when the Social Work Program hosted its annual Graduation Celebration. Faculty and staff offer CONGRATULATIONS to:

Perpetua Abongnelah, Akinlolu Afolabi, Madeline Aikins, Jason Ainsfield, Lisa Alvarez, Andrea Arias, Allyson Armstrong, Nevena Assenova, Elizibeth Ayers, Sarah Balogh, Jessica Bellosi Mullinax, Sylvia Bikos, Katera Brittingham, Eboni Brown, Rachael Brown, Karen Buckhalter, George Buddemeyer, Shadell Canty, Josie Caruso, Amanda Ccana, Aby Chacko, Emma Chaplin, Natalie Charles, Meage Clements, Carrie Cleveland, Rachel Crane, Whitney Daggett, Zelalem Dagne, Weynshet Dagne, Sinoreh Daryadell, Heather Dean, Marina Diana, Tricia Dove, Duane Eggerman, Ryan Etherton, Valerie Etienne, Emily Fader, Leslie Flores-Membreno, Shana Frankel, Devonna Frazier, Kelly Galarza, Faven Gebremedhin, Sarah Giacalone, Bianca Giorgilli, Aaron Givens, Matthew Goldman, Rebekah Green, Sheronda Gross, Melissa Hamlin, Dario Nicolas, Hasan Martinez, Daniel Heckman, Cindy Holden, Rachel Ingley, Micaela Itter, La'Toria Johnson, Karen Jones, Holly Jordan, Hunter Kasky, Nancy Keng, Sarah Kim, Marianne Kirchgessner, Jessica Koontz-Ferrera, Chelsey Lafferty, Elliot Lambert, Hadassah Link, Jacquelin Lynott, Samuel Macer, Arich Manasseh, Maria McFadden-Castabile, Bethany Medley, Jessica Melefsky, Kenneth Melnick, Karlene Miller, Emeraude Mongbo, Sarah Moore, Sandra Mubang, Shiho Murakami, Elizabeth Nance, Jimmy Nesit, Trang Nguyen, Stephanie Nguyen, Michael Oliver, Erin O'Sullivan, Elizabeth Paco, Margaret Pazel, Amanda Perdomo, Kelly Portela, Gaby Portillo, Joy Mary Pothier, Rebecca Proctor, Katelyn Queen, Rafay Qureshi, Niloufar Rahmi, Veronica Renderos, Talisha Richards, Baneza Rivera, Rozalyn Ross, Zina Royster, Sierra Safak, Melisa Salgado, Scarlett Schiller, Krista Schmidt, Patrick Schrupf, Brittany Scible, Kelly Serna, Emma Sims, Brittney Sine, Imani Smoot, Dunrick Sogie-Thomas, Chasity Stacy, Julie Strauss, Austin Syme, Scott Tiffin, Mabere Toure, Nanila Tuah, Gaelle Valbrun, Monica Valencia, Glenda Valenzuela, Karina Velasco, Karla Velasquez, Annamariae Wagner, Nelly Waribe, Jesse Watson, Nicole Weller, Emily Wigfield, Tammy Williams, Shirley Wolf, and Laura Wood.

**Welcome Back to**

**UMBC**

**Social Work Students!**

**It's a Pizza Party!**

**Wednesday,**

**Sept. 7th**

**Sherman Hall-B**

**334**

## Student Social Work Officers

The Social Work Student Association (SWSA) is active at UMBC and Universities at Shady Grove (USG). Committed to service and professional development, the association is also a way for students to develop friendships and a network of support.

The current SWSA officers are: Presidents: Meghan Herring (Main Campus), Abbey Viado (USG), Vice Presidents: Monica Drever (Main Campus), Cinthia Rivera (USG), Secretaries: Ericka Williamson (Main Campus), Cynthia Colon (USG) Treasurers: Rachel Auth (Main Campus), Michelle Nyden (USG), Service Chair: Kristi Allen (Main Campus) Public Relations Chair: Brandon Miles (Main Campus) Executive Coordinator: Jennifer Marquez (USG) USG Community Liaisons: Kathleen Grace, Monica Nunez.

Please review the Social work websites: (<http://www.umbc.edu/shadygrove/socialwork/>) and <http://socialwork.umbc.edu/> to learn what is happening with SWSA.

## Student Leadership Luncheon



The Community Advisory Board initiated a new tradition in March for social work month. Board members hosted a luncheon to honor and celebrate UMBC and USG social work student leaders. In selecting student leaders, the Board defined leadership broadly, as seen in students who were officers in campus organizations and those who displayed leadership skills in the classroom or community.

Students invited to the 2nd annual luncheon were: Kristina Allen (UMBC), Tricia Dove (UMBC), Duane Eggerman (UMBC), Sarah Giacalone (USG), Daniel Heckman (UMBC), Jessica Koontz-Ferrera (USG), Kathleen Grace (USG), Meghan Herring (UMBC), Bethany Medley (USG), Robert Miles (UMBC), Leslie Flores-Membreno (USG), Rafay Qureshi (UMBC), LaToya Soloman (UMBC), and Abbey Viado (USG).

Special thanks to Bob Connolly, Dr. Adrienne Ekas-Mueting, Susan Roberts Bingham, Beth Potter, Katie Leiser, and Conor Aylsworth for organizing the event and to all Community Advisory Board members who contributed to the luncheon.

## SUCCESS Program Graduation

The SUCCESS program has been on the UMBC campus for four years. The vision of SUCCESS is for Marylanders with intellectual disabilities to have access to Maryland colleges and universities, thus enabling them to develop their independence, as well as critical thinking, problem solving, and employment skills.

For four years, the Social Work Program has accepted a SUCCESS student as an intern to work in the office learning clerical skills suited for employment in the competitive job market.

On May 5, 2016 all four of the social work interns graduated and members of the Social Work Program attended the graduation ceremony.

The faculty and staff of the Social Work Program extend best wishes to Bianca Bouknight, Quintana Moody, Sarah Pagan, and Shaniece Young. Special thanks to Amy Poole and Michele Wolff for their dedication to the SUCCESS Program.





## HEALS Scholars

Elliott Lambert and Kenneth Melnick, the 2015-16 UMBC HEALS scholars, along with nearly 50 BSW and MSW students from across the country gathered for educational sessions on health care, leadership and advocacy activities on Capitol Hill as part of the Social Work Health Care Education and Leadership Scholars (Social Work HEALS) Student Policy Summit. The summit was based at The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) national headquarters. NASW and the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) are partnering to implement the Social Work HEALS program, which aims to educate and train social workers from the BSW to postdoctoral levels to strengthen the delivery of health care services in the U.S. The New York Community Trust is funding the project.



NASW CEO Angelo McClain told the students it's important that social workers have a place at the table whenever health care policy and regulations are debated. McClain said that as his career advanced, "I began to realize I needed to speak up and put my voice in the conversation. I had an important perspective that nobody else brings."

CSWE President and CEO, Darla Spence Coffey, told attendees they are in a crucial period of health care history. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 is transforming the delivery of health care services by stressing improved health outcomes, greater access to care and reduced health care costs, she said. "There is a transformation occurring in our health care delivery," Coffey said. "It's not going to look like it always has." Coffey added: "We want to make sure you think together on education, practice, policy and research."

At a gathering on May 24<sup>th</sup> held at the University of Maryland, School of Social Work, Beth Kalb and Jeff Adams, the 2016-17 HEALS Scholars, were informed about the Policy Summit and other events associated with HEALS. Also, Jennifer Broadus, a field instructor for HEALS at St Agnes Hospital, and Dr. Nancy Kusmaul, a UMBC faculty liaison for HEALS, discussed the interface of HEALS with field education. For additional information on the HEALS program, please contact Drs. Melissa Bellin ([mbellin@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:mbellin@ssw.umaryland.edu)) or Carolyn Tice ([tice@umbc.edu](mailto:tice@umbc.edu)).

## Phi Alpha Induction



April 4, 2016 marked a day when attention turned toward academic excellence as students were inducted in Phi Alpha, the national honor society for undergraduate social work majors. All inductees completed a minimum of 30 credits (sophomore standing); including 9 credits of Social Work, and achieved a grade point average of 3.0 on a 4-point scale overall and 3.50 within the major. The ceremony was organized by the Phi Alpha officers: Co-Presidents - Jessica Koontz-Ferrara, Leslie Flores-Membreno (USG); Co-Vice-Presidents - Jessica Bellosi Mullinax, Kathleen Grace; Secretary - Nelly Waribe; and, Treasurers - Annamarie Wagner, Bethany Medley.



The following students were inducted in Phi Alpha, introduced by a biographical statement: Rosalene Allen, Rachel Auth, George Buddemeyer, Josie Mariah Caruso, Denys Conway, Marina Diana, Seth Ditman, Kyrstin Elliott, Barbara Fatzinger, Silvia Leydi Fuentes-Vasquez, Jill M. Godfrey, Kathryn Guzzey, Rebecca Harton, Liana Kahn, Beth D. Kalb, Sanyambe Kassembe, Sarah Kim, Sungsook Kim, Jennifer Marquez, Jessica Melefsky, Adriana Membreno, Robert Brandon Miles, Elizabeth Norma Nance, Michelle Nyden, Nancy Paz, Alisha Pelaez, Jessica Praybe, Emily Preston, Niloufar Rahmi, Melisa

Salgado, Jennifer Segovia, LaToya Solomon, Shawna Thompson, Karla Velasquez, Julianne Walker, Jesse W. Watson, and Kristine Wheland.

Special thanks to the Phi Alpha faculty advisors, Kathleen Leiser, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.-C and Laura Ting, Ph.D., L.C.S.W.-C for their guidance throughout the year.

# UMBC 50

## GRIT & GREATNESS

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 UMBC celebrates its 50th anniversary. Alumni and friends are asked to contribute \$50 to the Social Work Scholarship Fund in honor of the 50 year celebration. All scholarship funds will be used to honor students and their academic and community service achievements.

Please use the insert in the newsletter to make a contribution and to be recognized as a pioneer in building UMBC and the Social Work Program as a nationally recognized school for undergraduate education. Those who make a contribution by December 31st will be eligible for a \$50 gift card drawing.

Please check out our website (<http://www.umbc.edu/>) to learn of celebratory events happening throughout the upcoming year at UMBC, the Universities at Shady Grove, Baltimore and in other metropolitan areas.

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

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Baltimore, Maryland 21250