

Catch the Social Work Spirit!

Volume 19 , Issue 2

December 2015 Graduation Celebration



Inside this Issue:

2. *Eminent Scholars*
2. *Vanessa Barksdale*
2. *Gust Mitchell Endowment*
3. *Katherine A. Kendall Institute Grant*
3. *Careers in Aging Week*
4. *50th Anniversary Giving*

The pictures tell the story! December 17, 2015 was an extraordinary day for 21 social work students who walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. In True Grit fashion, President Freeman Hrabowski asked those graduating in social work to stand and receive the applause of an audience that filled the auditorium to capacity and beyond.

Those who received a Bachelor in Arts in Social Work included: William Agosto, Amelia Anthony, Amber Austin, Christine Beehler, Rachael Brown, Lindsay Bryant, Shadell Canty, Patricia Drazin, Celestina Eshun, Sara Gonzalez, Chelsea Hayas, Hannah Lough, Samuel Macer, Meghan Maskew, Jordan McGill, Breanna Richardson, Karen Ritz-Dow, Nia Smith, Dunrick Sogie-Thomas, Joseph Tichy, and Nicolas Weiner.

After the graduation ceremony, the Baccalaureate Social Work Program sponsored a luncheon for graduates and their family members. It was there that students, family, friends, faculty and staff had time to share UMBC stories and experiences. Special thanks are extended to Karen Kraft and Conor Aylsworth for the time, energy and creativity in organizing the event.

Graduates – Remember to be active alumni. We want to hear from you and learn about what you are doing in social work.

**Welcome Back to
UMBC**

Social Work Students!

It's a Pizza Party!

Wednesday,

February 3rd

Sherman Hall-B

334

Dr. Marcela Mellinger's Research with Eminent Scholar

Dr. Marcela Sarmiento Mellinger, Assistant Professor, has been involved in a research project titled "Grassroots to Mainstream", where she is seeking to integrate her interest in social justice, advocacy, and intimate partner violence. The goal of the study is to understand the progression of advocacy within the domestic violence movement at the state and local levels, as well as to gain understanding of the relationship between domestic violence programs and state organizations.

Dr. Mellinger has visited several domestic violence programs to conduct interviews in order to collect data. The interviews have been carried out along with Ms. Lucille "Becky" Powell, MSW, a former BSW classmate and colleague who has worked in the field of intimate partner violence for over 30 years. "Having Becky's insight has been invaluable for this project" stated Dr. Mellinger.

In addition to Ms. Powell, Dr. Mellinger has worked with her mentor, Dr. Richard Hoefer, a professor at the University of Texas at Arlington and Director of the Center for Advocacy, Non-profits, and Donor Organizations. This mentorship was established through the Eminent Scholar Mentor Program, sponsored by the Provost's Office at UMBC. Dr. Hoefer is collecting similar data in Texas. Once the data is collected, Dr. Mellinger and Dr. Hoefer, along with an undergraduate student from UMBC and a graduate student from UTA, will analyze the data which will then be used to author several publications.



Vanessa Barksdale Published in the UMBC Review



Vanessa Barksdale, a third year social work major, received an early holiday gift when she learned that her article, "Consciousness: The Evolution of Collegiate Activism in Maryland Students", will be published April 2016 in the 17th issue of the UMBC Review.

In her article, Vanessa examines the organizational success and challenges associated with Students for a Democratic Society and the Baltimore Algebra Project. She concluded that both organizations engaged students across socioeconomic classes, prioritized students' voices on issues of concern and supported student self-efficacy and empowerment.

Gust W. Mitchell Scholarship Endowed

Dr. Gust Mitchell and his spouse, Dr. Malinda Orlin, endowed the Gust W. Mitchell Scholarship for the benefit of social work majors. The scholarship will be given to a student who has demonstrated leadership by offering a significant contribution to the Baccalaureate Social Work Program and the community. Also, the work experiences and overall need of applicants will be taken into consideration.

Dr. Mitchell is Associate Professor, Emeritus and served as chairperson of the Baccalaureate Social Work Program for years. He was instrumental in designing a course in social work and technology and maintaining a strong connection with the School of Social Work, University of Maryland, Baltimore.

The Gust W. Mitchell Scholarship is the third endowed scholarship for the program. The other two are the Susan Bernstein-Charlotte W. Newcombe Memorial Scholarship and the Tejal Khajuria Memorial Scholarship. An endowment scholarship means these awards will continue in perpetuity thanks to generous contribution of donors and the subsequent interest generated from the principal fund.

Careers In Aging Week



As the population continues to age, social workers will need to be prepared to work with older adults in interdisciplinary settings.

To prepare for this, the social work program along with the Erickson School of Aging and Brightview Rolling Hills Senior Living Community, are hosting its second Careers in Aging Week Event.

On **Wednesday, April 13 from 12-2 PM** in the Community Center there will be a screening of a new film- *The Age of Love*, to be followed by discussion and refreshments.

About the film: An unprecedented speed dating event for 70- to 90-year-olds serves as the backdrop for *The Age of Love*, an alternately poignant and funny look at the search for love among the senior set. Over one summer, we intimately follow as ten speed daters—recently widowed, long-divorced or never-married—prepare for the big day, endure a rush of encounters, then anxiously receive their results. Fearlessly candid about themselves and what they're seeking, these WWII babies are spurred to take stock of life-worn bodies and still-hopeful hearts.

Then, as they head out on dates, comic and bittersweet moments reveal how worries over physical appearance, romance and rejection, loss and new beginnings change—or don't change—from first love to the far reaches of life.

Plan on attending the Careers in Aging Week event. For more information, contact Dr. Nancy Kusmaul (nkusmaul@umbc.edu).

Katherine A. Kendall Institute Grant

Dr. Caroline Burry, Associate Professor, University of Maryland, School of Social Work (UMB), Dr. Carolyn Tice, Professor and Associate Dean, Baccalaureate Social Work Program, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and Dr. Mary Joseph, Director of the Baccalaureate Social Work Program, Rajagiri School of Social Work (RSSW) are 2016 recipients of the Katherine A. Kendall Institute Grant sponsored by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

The grant supports the development and piloting of an innovative joint BSW/MSW course that provides important content on environmentalism for social work students interested in international social work and also test synchronous teaching of the course in India and the United States. The course, *Environmental Social Work Practice: A Global Perspective*, will be offered as an independent study for BSW students and as MSW elective course in both countries. It will be also be piloted and taught by social work faculty from both countries.

The project's international partner is the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (RCSS) in Kochi, India. Rajagiri School of Social Work (RSSW) is affiliated with Mahatma Gandhi University and offers the Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Social Work, Post Graduate Diploma in Administration of Human Services and Doctor of Philosophy.

To meet the other main goal of the grant, piloting the new course, information technicians on all three campuses (UMB, UMBC, RSSW) will join the project team. The planned instructional model, using Skype for teaching a synchronous class, will allow for faculty and students' active live participation on all three campuses. The technology developed and piloted for this course will be written up as a template for dissemination for use by other schools.



Fifty for Fifty

UMBC50

GRIT&GREATNESS

UMBC turns 50 years old on September 19, 2016. In celebration of this once-in-a-generation event, the Baccalaureate Social Work Program is asking alumni to consider contributing \$50 to the Social Work Scholarship Fund in honor of the 50 year celebration. All scholarship funds will be used to give scholarships 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 September 10th will be eligible for a \$50 gift card drawing.

As the 50th anniversary approaches, we need your help to reconnect with our alumni. Please check our website (<http://www.umbc.edu/>) to learn of celebratory events happening throughout the upcoming year at UMBC, the Universities at Shady Grove, in Baltimore and other metropolitan areas.

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

1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, Maryland 21250