

Catch the Social Work Spirit!

Spring 2018

Graduation Celebration December, 2017

Volume 2 Issue 2



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It was the 69th Commencement for UMBC and the last to be held in the Retriever Activities Center (RAC). President Freeman Hrabowski offered greetings and remarks to the graduates and their family and friends before asking those graduating with a degree in social work to stand. And stand they did to the applause of all that gathered.

Winter Commencement honored the following graduates: Rosalene Maria Allen, Danielle Denise Baker, Vanessa Barksdale, Mahawa Bundor, Azuredee L. Chambers, Viviana Andrea Chieme, Danielle Combs (Magna Cum Laude), Viah Lauture, Flloyd Martin, Emily Mensah, Chantal N. Njila, Zina Royster, Claudia J. Ryan, Francisco J. Segovia, Brittney Sine, Matthew Smiley, Amber Lynn Tolzdorf (Cum Laude), Symphony J. Walkley (Cum Laude), Khiana Ward, and Stefany R. Wolfe.

Following the ceremony, graduates and their guests were honored with refreshments and congratulated by the social work faculty and staff. Comments heard from those gathered included, "I can't believe I'm done" to "Now I'm ready to beginning working toward my graduate degree" and "You did it Mom!"



**Welcome Back to
UMBC**

Social Work Students!

It's a Pizza Party!

February 14th

Sherman Hall-B

Room 334

Dr. James X. Bembry, Associate Professor

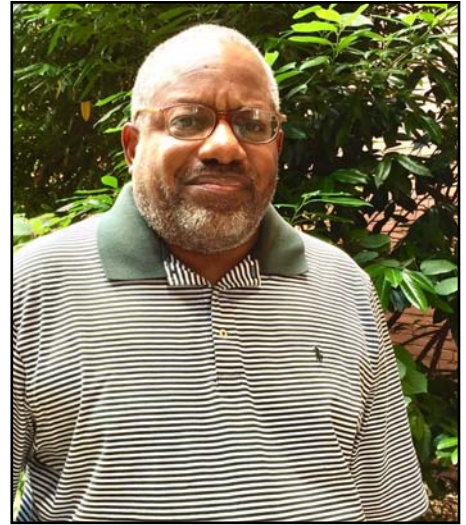
First, hello, to alums and friends of the program. Second, yes I am still here and continue to enjoy helping develop new professionals. I am still afraid of the Bay Bridge, and Quad D remains my favorite. Some things never change.

Anyway, I am proud to announce that my first novel was published November 15th. The title is *A Crack in the Heights*. What follows is a brief synopsis:

In 1988, an historic neighborhood known as Liberty Heights in Philadelphia, PA was being overtaken by the scourge of the crack cocaine epidemic. Two lifelong friends Salem Coleman and Sam Taylor are determined to save their beloved “Heights” by any means necessary.

It had always been a dream of mine to write a novel, and I appreciate that the publisher Star 86 took a chance with it. If you would like a copy it can be obtained from the publisher at 860-837-1828. The book will also be available on Amazon!

I am currently working on my second novel *The Confessions of a Colored, Catholic Child*.



Featured Alumni: Sarah Butts



Sarah Christa Butts, MSW, is the Executive Director of the Grand Challenges for Social Work and Senior Administrator to the Dean’s office at University of Maryland, School of Social Work (UM SSW).

She is the Founding Administrator of the [American Academy of Social Work & Social Welfare](#) (AASWSW) and played a significant role in the organization’s development and launching of Grand Challenges from 2013-2017. She is a co-author on the AASWSW working paper to “End Homelessness” and contributing author to a new book published by Oxford University Press, titled: *Grand Challenges for Social Work and Society*, edited by Rowena Fong, James Lubben, and Richard Barth. Ms. Butts graduated from University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) in 2007 with a Bachelor’s of Social Work and minor in Political Science. She went on to study at University of Maryland Baltimore, where she earned a Master’s in Social Work in 2008 as an advanced standing student. She studied in the Title IV-E Education for Public Child Welfare Program, with a macro /clinical concentration and specialization in children and families.

Ms. Butts interned as a case manager in foster care at Baltimore County Department of Social Services and as an Assistant to the Director of the Social Services Administration in Maryland. Upon graduation, she was hired as a Policy Analyst within the Maryland Department of Human Services, Social Services Administration. She has also held roles at the Family League of Baltimore, which include: Contracts Specialist and Research and Development Coordinator.

Over the past 10 years Ms. Butts has gained experience as an administrator in government, non-profit, and higher education settings. She has worked with legislation, state budgets, research administration, setting up a 501c3 organization, and now project management for a Grand Challenges initiative that is being advanced by the social work profession.

To learn more about the Grand Challenges for Social Work, please visit the website at www.grandchallengesforsocialwork.org

Leadership Luncheon and Veterans Luncheon

The Community Advising Board, comprised of program alumni, community members, and agency social workers, has the annual tradition of inviting student leaders from the UMBC and Universities at Shady Grove campus to an off-campus luncheon in honor of their contribution to the Social Work Program. The students invited to luncheon are selected by faculty and featured on the program's website. This year the luncheon will be held on April 13, 2018, 1-2:30 at P.F. Changs at Columbia Mall. Invitations to the luncheon will be mailed by the end of February.

On April 25th, 2018 from 12:00 -1:30 the Social Work Program will sponsor a luncheon at the Skylight Lounge on the UMBC campus for all social work majors who are veterans or are currently in a branch of the services. The purpose of this event is to honor the veterans, while offering a network of support for those who served. Details of the luncheon will be posted on the program's website and distributed through the listserv. People interested in attending the luncheon should contact Karen Kraft (kkraft@umbc.edu or 410-455-2145).



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

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