

Catch the Social Work Spirit!

Spring 2019

Graduation Celebration December, 2018

Volume 1 Issue 2



Photo: Marlayna Demond '11

December 20, 2018 was a significant day for some social work majors. The date marked their graduation from UMBC! As one student commented, "It took a long time coming, but I made it!"

With family and friends gathered at the Event Center for the 71st Undergraduate Commencement, graduating students heard from President Freeman Hrabowski who recognized those first generation graduates, veterans and those serving in the military, and the family members of UMBC employees. In keeping with tradition, he also gave special recognition to those graduating in social work.

The social work graduates included: Olivia Boyle, Tori Burgamy, Brooke Chenoweth, Sandra Cockrell, Jennifer Cruz, Taylor Dunn, Ababedo Eado, Patrina Franklin, Andrea Grubmeyer, Tracy Kwakye, Alethia McDowell, Katlyne Meade, Genesis Mendoza, Alisha Pelaez, Aniruddh Rao, Madeleine Reardon, and Tanya Sanchez De Lainez.

Graduates and their families are reminded that they are always welcome to return to the Social Work Program and to UMBC events. We extend our warmest congratulations to the graduates and applaud their academic success!

Please Save the Date for the spring graduation - Thursday, May 23rd, 2019, 10:00 in the UMBC Event Center.

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**Welcome Back to
UMBC**

**Social Work
Students!**

Tuesday

February 5th

Pizza Party

12-1pm

Sherman Hall-B

Room 334

HEALS Policy Event Supports NASW Spring Conference

Dr. Darla Spence Coffey, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), will be the plenary speaker at the NASW Spring Conference thanks to support from University of Maryland HEALS (UM-HEALS). UM-HEALS is a grant-funded program that aims to educate and train MSW/BSW-to-postdoctoral-level social work students to strengthen the nation's delivery of health care services. Funding for the program comes from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). For the last four years, the School of Social Work has selected two graduate and two undergraduate HEALS students. The 2018-19 HEALS Scholars are graduate students Erica Carroll and Rachel Gonzalez and undergraduate students Danielle Misterka and Maddie Straw.



Dr. Coffey is recognized nationally as a leader in social work policy and practice. She received her BSW from Eastern College, her MSW from the University of Pennsylvania, and her PhD from Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. She has an extensive background in social work practice in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence. More recently, Dr. Coffey has been advancing the causes of provider well-being and leadership in presentations and writings. Dr. Coffey is a Distinguished Fellow in the National Academies of Practice and is the 2017 recipient of the Advocate for Human Rights Award by the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University.

On March 28th, the first day of the NASW-MD two day conference, Dr. Coffey will speak on *Health Beyond Health Care: Elevating the Role of Social Work*. Included in her comments will be the need to take seriously the role of social determinants of health in health outcomes, which is quintessentially social work "space," and therefore vital for social workers to lead in efforts to understand and deliver services to address these factors. It is also expected that she will highlight the important opportunity for social work to expand the notion of health - so that all social and behavioral factors are included in the thinking and development of intervention efforts. Further, Dr. Coffey hopes to deepen the understanding of policy implications for promoting health.

Legislative Education and Advocacy Day

Thursday, February 28, 2019, 8:30 AM – 3:15 PM, in the Miller Senate Building, Annapolis, MD is the annual NASW-MD Advocacy Day. This year will include the keynote speech followed by a presentation on NASW Policy Priorities and Current Legislative Issues by Ann Ciekot, NASW Lobbyist. Samples of workshops and presenters are: Tools for Legislative Advocacy, Gisele Ferretto; Running for Office, Allison Berkowitz; and, Policy Practice Jobs for Social Workers, Jake Weisman. Lunch will be provided to all participants.

Registration must be completed with the school's designated Advocacy Day liaison as soon as possible. Seating for this event is limited and fills up *very quickly*. The event is **free to NASW-MD student members**, or \$20 for non-members (payable by check or cash). Please see www.nasw-md.org/ for details.

New or Revised Social Work Electives



The Social Work Program is pleased to announce that new or revised electives will soon appear on class schedules. SOWK 377 (GWST 377): ***WOMEN AND SOCIAL POLICY*** has been revised to examine the social policies that impact gender roles and the status of women in the United States. It explores in-depth the political and social assumptions the nation makes about women's lives, their roles and responsibilities.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE (currently under review by the UGC) designed by Dr. Marcela Mellinger, introduces students to basic concepts of IPV, and theories used to explain it, as well as systems involved in addressing it. The goal is to help students think critically about the factors that perpetuate IPV, while examining responses from a global perspective.

ENVIRONMENTALISM: SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE AND POLICY (currently SOWK 499), designed as part of the Katherine A. Kendall Institute will be taught by faculty from both the U.S. and India. The goal of the course is to provide a national/international perspective on responses to environmental issues that are most likely to impact vulnerable populations and their communities.

Community Advisory Board

The new academic year started with a meeting of the program's Community Advisory Board. Comprised of alumni and social workers from the area, the Board meets three times each year to provide input and guidance to the faculty, administrators, and students.

The current members of the Board include: Lisa Roeder LCSW-C, Social Service Manager, Charlestown Retirement Community; Dr. Adrienne Ekas-Muetting, UMBC Social Work Program; Katie Leiser, UMBC Social Work Program - Universities at Shady Grove; Mike Coleman, Realtor / Team Owner, The Coleman Kellam Team, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, Fox & Roach; Christy Bullman, NASW MD; Sonya Crosby, UMBC Assistant Vice Provost of Professional Programs; Katie Morris, UMBC Social Work Program - Universities at Shady Grove; BJ Pilkins, University of MD Medical System, Social Work Department; Kristina Allen, Pennsylvania Conservation; Susan Roberts Bingham, Clinical Social Worker; Dr. Carolyn Tice UMBC Social Work Program; Don Vince, Department of Human Services; Idrissou Adam, Graduate Social Work Student; and, William Renderos, CASA in Action.



Board Officers are Kristi Allen, President, Sonya Crosby, Vice President, and Christy Bullman, Secretary. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 10:00 on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 in Sherman Hall 334. All are welcome to attend.

Featured Alumna: Kristi Allen



Kristi Allen is a 2017 alum of the UMBC Social Work Program. While in the program, Kristi served as the president of the Student Social Work Association (SSWA), was inducted into Phi Alpha, the national honor society for social work majors, and was honored as the 2017 Student of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers-Maryland Chapter.

After graduation from UMBC, Kristi enrolled at the University of Denver as an advanced standing student in the Graduate School of Social Work. Her areas of expertise are social impacts of forest carbon policy, sustainable development, and environmental conservation.

She graduated in June of 2018 with a Masters in Social Work (Sustainable Development and Global Practice) and a Graduate Certificate in Animal Assisted Social Work. Kristi is currently employed by the state of Pennsylvania, coordinating a statewide initiative focusing on the conservation and stewardship of rare, threatened, and endangered plant species. At the December 2018 Board meeting, Kristi discussed a course she created, *Power, Privilege, and Oppression*, that examines the

phenomenon of oppression of diverse populations and its effect on multicultural social work practice. Kristi notes that as the 2018-2019 Board President, she is looking forward to sharing other perspectives with the UMBC social work community.

Mandatory Title IX Training



The UMBC community has implemented mandatory Title IX/sexual misconduct awareness and prevention training that is required of all faculty, staff, and students. These required training activities expand on those already underway at UMBC.

Based on recommendations from the UMBC community, and consistent with recent changes in Maryland State law, all employees will now undergo in-person training on sexual misconduct prevention and response. All faculty and staff will also be required to complete a complementary online training module.

In response to recommendations made by students, campus leaders and consultants will also be working with the student advisory committee to develop comprehensive mandatory training for all UMBC students on sexual misconduct awareness and prevention, to supplement the training they receive during orientation and other campus programs.

In addition to the face-to-face trainings, all faculty and staff are required to complete mandatory online training. The online training is designed for employees in higher education institutions to help them better understand Title IX and their roles as they relate to preventing and responding to sexual misconduct. It includes UMBC-specific policies and procedures, resources, and information on how to support and appropriately care for our fellow community members.

These mandatory trainings are one aspect of **Retriever Courage**, a holistic campus effort to create a safer, more caring environment for all members of our UMBC community.

Please visit <https://courage.umbc.edu/> for information on **Retriever Courage**. The goal is to create a coordinated campus response to incidents of sex discrimination and sexual violence, and misconduct—a response that is proactive, caring, and transparent.

BACCALAUREATE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, Maryland 21250