

Catch the Social Work Spirit!

Congratulations December 2020 Graduates!



The department congratulates the following students on their December 2020 graduation: Ashley Harris, Gectse Jasso Flores, La'Toria Johnson, Jaylynn Riggins, Briana Slater, Karina Urriola, and Christian Malenia Dior Wallace.

Congratulations to the graduates!

A Word from the Chair



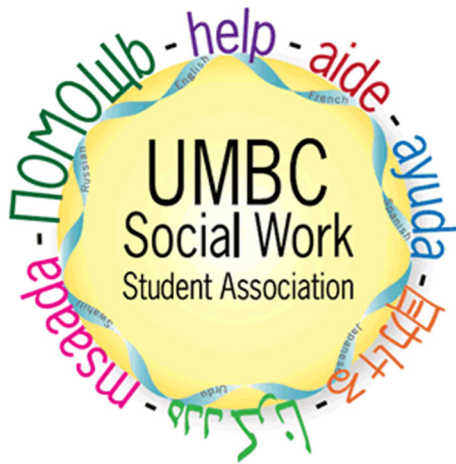
We are excited about the arrival of spring and celebrate the many new beginnings that the Social Work Program has experienced this year. We welcomed a new Dean (Dr. Judy Postmus), new Chair (Dr. Shelly Wiechelt), new Assistant Professor (Dr. Kerri Evans), and new Field Coordinator (Ms. Natalie Sanchez). Each brings new energy and ideas that enrich our program. Our faculty and staff are building on the longstanding strength of our program to meet the educational needs of our students in these transformational times. We are working together to rise higher in our efforts to achieve inclusive excellence in our learning environment and in our communities. The faculty are striving to teach students more about anti-racist and anti-oppressive practice. While we work together to provide high-quality remote learning now, we also look forward to a return to more in-person learning in the fall.

Our students show their resilience and strength through their diligence to learn, grow, and attain their goals. Our first year students came to us in the midst of a pandemic and began their journey towards becoming social workers via virtual learning. Our seniors embarked on their field experiences where they are applying classroom knowledge to work with people in the community in midst of turbulence in the world. We are proud of all of our students! Our Field Instructors and Adjunct Faculty partners helped to make our students' learning opportunities meaningful and successful.

We celebrated the retirements of Dr. Carolyn Tice and Dr Carolyn Knight last spring. We are proud to announce that each of them received an appointment as Professor Emeritus at UMBC by President Hrabowski. We are pleased and grateful that Dr. Tice established a scholarship "Rose Grabania Tice" in honor of her grandmother for a first generation social work student in our Shady Grove program.

We celebrate Social Work Month this March recognizing that social workers are essential. Social work has been around for more than a century and has made significant contributions to our nation. For example, social workers such as social reformer Jane Addams, former Labor Secretary Frances Perkins, and civil rights leaders Dorothy Height, Whitney Young and Ida B. Wells have helped Americans secure voting rights, equal rights, Social Security, unemployment insurance, and other programs. During the Coronavirus pandemic social workers have been on the frontlines helping individuals, families, and communities to get the services and resources that they need. Thank You Social Workers everywhere! Many of our students will soon join your ranks.

SWSA Officer Elections



Are you interested in becoming a Board Member of the Social Work Student Association (SWSA)? Please nominate yourself.

All Social Work Student Association Executive Board positions are open for next year and the positions include: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, PUBLIC RELATIONS, and SERVICE CHAIR

Please send your name, the position you are interested in, your current year (freshman, sophomore, etc.), and 2-3 examples of what you would like to accomplish in that position to Dr. Ekas-Mueting at aekasm@umbc.edu no later than March 15th.

All active members will be sent a ballot via google forms and the voting period will be from March the 22nd - 26th.

Two New Social Work Program Endowed Scholarships Announced

Two new endowed scholarships have been announced for the Social Work Program. The first has been established by Emeritus Faculty and former program Associate Dean and Chair, Dr. Carolyn Tice in honor of her grandmother. The Rose Grabania Tice Endowed Scholarship will offer \$1,500 in support of to a student in the Social Work Program at the Universities at Shady Grove who is entering the field placement program in the fall semester. The student should be interested in practice or policy related to working women and children. Also, preference will be given to a first generation college student.

The second scholarship has been established by Dr. Kusmaul and her family in memory of her mother, Tina D'Angelo. The Tina D'Angelo Memorial Endowed Scholarship will offer support to returning students in the School of Social work. The scholarship is merit-based, with preference given to first generation college students who are interested in social work fields in aging or health. The program is hopeful the funds will be available for an award in spring 2022.

The Social Work department is deeply thankful for these new opportunities to support social work students.

UMBC Grit & Greatness

Are you interested in supporting the Social Work Program or one of the program scholarships? Go to <https://giving.umbc.edu/> to designate a gift!

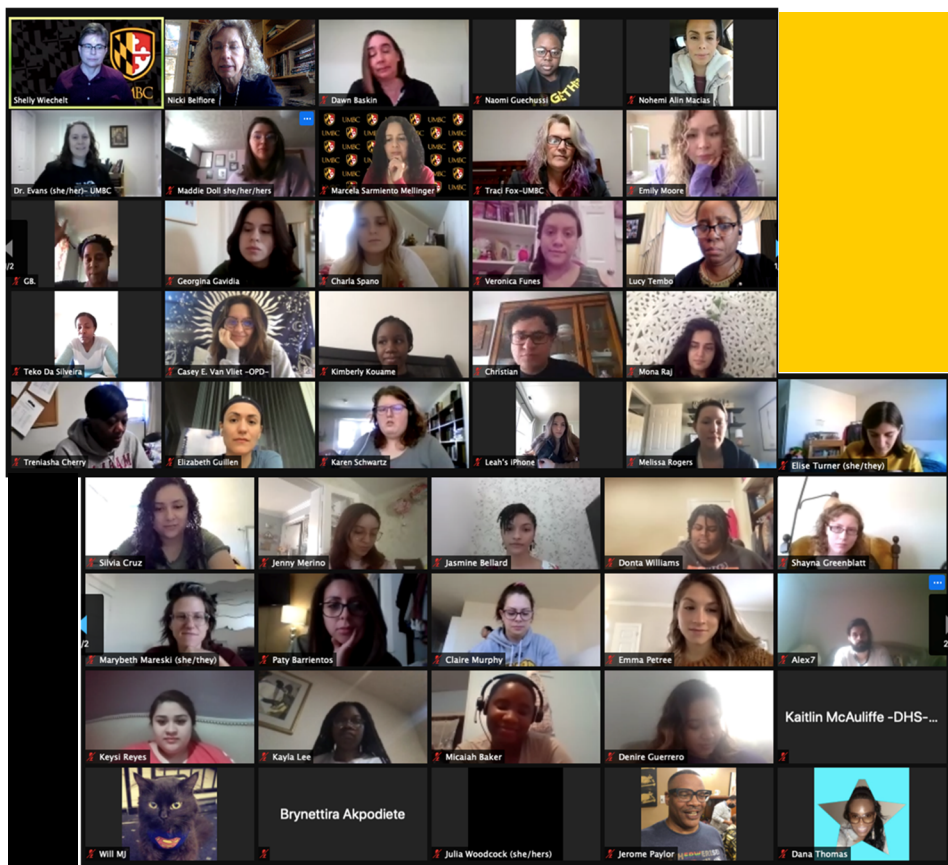
You will receive an immediate e-mail confirmation of your gift, followed by a thank you and receipt from UMBC within a few weeks, which you may use for tax purposes. Your full gift will go directly to the designation you choose. These designated gifts made by you will support the Social Work Program scholarships, awarded to students every year and towards the program. If you'd like to designate your gift to a specific listed scholarship fund, please note that fund on your submitted form.

Program faculty, staff and students thank you for your support of the Social Work Program!

GRIT & GREATNESS
The Campaign for UMBC

Advocacy Day in Annapolis 2021

NASW-MD Advocacy Day, usually held in Annapolis, provides an opportunity for social work students to experience the legislative process in action. The February 25th event was virtual this year, yet over 500 students and faculty from social work



programs across Maryland attended, including 70 attendees from UMBC. UMBC social policy professors, Drs. Mellinger, Evans, and Belfiore, were all there, with a special shout-out and lunchtime visit from Associate Dean Wiechelt. Social work programs represented included Morgan State University, Bowie State University, University of Maryland Baltimore, Salisbury University, McDaniel College, Frostburg State University, Hood College and, of course, UMBC.

Maryland State Senator and social worker, Melony Griffith, provided the keynote address. Using cooking recipes as a metaphor, she identified social workers as the special spice that adds richness and depth to any legislative advocacy project. Students learned how to analyze a bill, about the hearing process, and the legislative priorities of social work lobbyists. Afternoon sessions focused on community policing reform, social work careers in legislative advocacy, and immigration policy and social work values, presented by our very own Dr. Kerri Evans. It was a great day, launching students as macro advocates for social change!

New Field Coordinator: Please Welcome Natalie Sanchez!



The Social Work Field Office welcomed Natalie Sanchez this year. Ms. Sanchez started her position as Field Coordinator II at USG on August 24, 2020 and was hired because of her experience and area of expertise working with community college students and college student success. She earned a M.S.W. in 1997 from the University of Chicago and a B.A. in Sociology in 1995 from Dominican University. Ms. Sanchez is "job sharing" with Katie Leiser as they administer the Field Education program at the Universities at Shady Grove.

Why You Might be Interested in Financial Social Work



The Financial Social Work Initiative (FSWI) was established at the University of Maryland School of Social Work (UMSSW) in 2008. It was founded by two alum of the School—Meg Woodside, MBA, MSW and Robin McKinney, MSW—in growing recognition that addressing financial realities is more important than ever in people’s lives and in the social work profession, which serves those in need. At that time, the country was reeling from the Great Recession, yet since that period and most recently, there has been continued economic injustice and profound financial distress related to a host of issues across

a range of settings. Financial Social Work (FSW) advances valuable skill-sets and training to address financial distress and related issues across both clinical and macro social work spheres of practice. Regardless of social work setting and/or population, FSW concepts can be infused into practice to make it truly comprehensive. FSW work also recognizes that financial stressors often occur simultaneously with other psychosocial and environmental stressors, so addressing all together results in deeper, more nuanced practice.

At UMSSW, there is a class in the MSW program entitled Financial Stability for Individuals, Families, and Communities that explores in-depth both macro and clinical FSW concepts, interventions, policy, and historical contributions. FSWI also works closely with the Office of Field Education to develop foundation and advanced clinical and macro field placements where students can learn about FSW in action. Through UMSSW’s Office of Continuing Professional Education, FSWI offers a variety of continued and new courses each semester that explain and explore FSW across many settings and needs, such as behavioral health, child welfare, medical care, and reentry, to name just several. FSWI also offers a FSW Certificate Program (online version to be launched in March 2021) that trains social workers and other helping professionals in FSW concepts, skill-building, assessment, and interventions designed to ease financial distress and foster greater financial stability. Material on macro social work practice is also covered in the FSW Certificate Program, such as promoting individual and community asset-building along with pursuing policy work at the community, state, and federal levels in tackling economic injustices, racial injustice, and poverty.

We encourage you to explore our website and learn more about our coursework, training, and research activities at <https://www.ssw.umaryland.edu/fsw/>. For information on our scholarships for those contemplating the MSW program at UMSSW and how we support students, please visit <https://www.ssw.umaryland.edu/fsw/students/>.



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STRENGTHENING SOCIETY