

# *Catch the Social Work Spirit!*

Fall 2017

Graduation Celebration May 2017

Volume 1 Issue 1



May 25th, 2017 will long be remembered by the family and friends of social work graduates. Beginning with a program celebration in the UMBC Engineering Building Atrium, and ending with the formal commencement at Royal Farms Arena, Baltimore, the following graduates were honored for their grit and greatness:

Christopher Actie, Jeffrey Adams, Viviana Aguirre-Torrico, Nicholas Albaugh, Farah Ali, Kristina Allen, Rosalene Allen, Claudia Aragon Hernandez, Andrea Arias, Rachel Auth, Danielle Baker, Vanessa Barksdale, Havva Barr, Jessica Boddy, Jennifer Bowles, Gail Brown, Erin Callahan, Viniceia Carter, Viviana Chieme, Danielle Combs, Denys Conway, Kellee Craig, Logan Dean, Audrey Denakpo, Mark Dhason, Jenna Diener, Seth Ditman, Monica Drever, Ria Edwards, Kyrstin Elliott, Janee Embry, Jared Etherton, Barbara Fatzinger, Gabriela Flores, Silvia Fuentes-Vasquez, Christopher Garboczi, Andrea Gough, Samantha Hari, Rebecca Harton, Meghan Herring, Kisha Hill, Natali Iraheta, Erica Isner, Hannah Jacobsen, Natasha Javier, Renee Jefferson, Kate Jenkins, Emily Jordan, Liana Kahn, Beth Kalb, Nyenpu Kamei, Sanyambe Kasembe, Juliet Kassman, Angeleena Kennedy, Natalie Kernizan, Viah Lauture, Jessie Lawson, Miriam Lopez, Jennifer Marquez, Flloyd Martin, Adriana Membreno, Emily Mensah, Robert Miles, Sara Molovinsky, Lorena Morales, Ashley Morris, Doris Namondo, Jimmy Nesit, Chantal Njila, Miquel Noel-Nosbaum, Monica Nunez, Michelle Nyden, Nancy Paz, Meghan Peters, Hytzell Pinto, Nancy Polanco, Jessica Praybe, Emily Preston, Madison Reitzloff, Cindy Reyes, Kelia Russell, Claudia Ryan, Ivanna Santos Ramos, Jennifer Segovia, Jessica Sifers, Daniel Sims, Matthew Smiley, Latoya Solomon, Katy Sorto, Bren Startzman, Lacey Stonesifer, Conor Sullivan, Jennifer Swadow, Nicole Terry, Shawna Thompson, Amber Tolzdorf, Vivian Tran, Roberto Umana, Reina Valladares, Karina Velasco, Abbey Viado, Julianne Walker, Symphony Walkley, Khiana Ward, Jesse Waterman, Kristine Wheland, Avery Wilkinson, Ericka Williamson, and Stefany Wolfe.

Special thanks to staff members Karen Kraft and Conor Aylsworth and members of the Social Work Student Association (SWSA) for organizing the memorable event.

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**Welcome Back to  
UMBC**

**Social Work Students!**

**It's a Pizza Party!**

**September 6th**

**12-1:15**

**Sherman Hall-B**

**Room 334**

## UMBC SUCCESS Graduation



SUCCESS (Students United for Campus-Community Engagement for Post-Secondary Success), a partnership of UMBC and the Maryland Department of Disabilities, is the first four-year college experience for young adults with intellectual disabilities in Maryland. Upon completion of the four year program, participants will receive a certificate of completion. Two main pillars of all programming are to increase independence and employability. There has been a SUCCESS student intern in the main social work office for four years under the direct supervision of Conor Aylsworth, Administrative Assistant II.

Mary Condron, the social work intern this year, graduated from the SUCCESS Program on May 9, 2017. In her graduation statement, Mary expressed an interest in working in an office and continuing her participation in the Special Olympics. Perhaps most memorable were the comments Mary and other graduates offered about the family support they have received over the years and the friends they made at UMBC through SUCCESS.

Congratulations to all the Success graduates: Bryan Barry, Mary Condron, Evan Davis, Daniel O'Mara, Delila Rosenboro, Jessica Sergi, and Andrew Wolfe.

## HEALS Students

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) partnered to implement the HEALS program which aims to educate and train social workers from the undergraduate to the postdoctoral levels. The program's overall goal is to strengthen the nation's delivery of health care services.

The Baccalaureate Social Work Program is proud to announce that the HEALS Scholars for 2017-18 are Evan Martin and Kalyn Crocetti. Both of these students have a long-standing interest in health care and the role social work has in designing health care policies and regulations. Evan's field placement is with the Veteran Administration's Gerontology Services and Kalyn will complete her placement with St. Agnes Hospital. Both students will be involved with monthly educational sessions with graduate-level social work students from the School of Social Work. Additionally, during 2018, they will attend a nation-wide policy summit in Washington, DC to monitor the transformation occurring in the health care system.

## Phi Alpha Induction



The annual Phi Alpha Honor Society Induction was held April 3, 2017, on the UMBC campus. Phi Alpha is open to UMBC students majoring in social work who have completed a minimum of 30 credits (sophomore standing), 9 course credits of social work with a GPA of 3.0 overall, and 3.50 within the major. With family and friends present, Phi Alpha members Jessica Praybe, Jennifer Marquez, Michelle Nyden, Nancy Paz and Denys Conway directed the induction. Faculty advisors, Dr. Laura Ting and Katie Leiser provided guidance throughout the ceremony.

Members of Phi Alpha inducted Adjunct Professor Kevin Wade as an honorary member because of his outstanding teaching skills and demonstrated commitment to human rights, as seen in his clinical practice in the areas of child welfare and sexual abuse.

The new Phi Alpha members include the following: Farah Ali, Christina Allen, Oliva Boyle, Tori Burgamy, Erin Callahan, Jessica Calle, Emily Carrillo, Renee Carrizo, Jason Chrystal, Sandra Cockrell, Cynthia Colon, Danielle Combs, Kalyn Crocetti, Monica Drever, Yesenia Enriquez, Gabriela Flores, Sabrina Hall, Renee Jefferson, Hannah Johnson, Carmen Kaarid, Ashleigh Kristensen, Charley Lenovitz, Rebecca Mann, Anna Milyaeva, Sara Molovinsky, Lorena Morales, Doris Namondo, Cindy Ngo, Becca Nolder, Marie Pessagno, Cinthia Rivera, Michelle Roque, Daniela Rosales, Paige Simmons, Abbey Viado, Stephanie Weber, Ericka Williamson, and Stefany Wolfe.



## Dr. Marcela Mellinger, Associate Professor



Dr. Marcela Sarmiento Mellinger was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in the Spring of 2017. Dr. Mellinger’s research includes advocacy, intimate partner violence, and social work education. In the last year, she has been involved in research that seeks to integrate her interest in social justice, advocacy, and intimate partner violence.

Through the support of a Strategic Awards for Research Transitions grant from UMBC, she has been conducting interviews with women who were involved in the early years of what was known as the battered women’s movement. She has spoken to women from various states who were involved at the local, state, and national levels, advocating for services for victims and survivors, coordinated community responses, and the passage of legislation at the state and national levels. While listening to these women she has heard stories of resiliency, determination, and passion to bring about social change, the hallmarks of advocacy. She looks forward to telling these stories and the lessons we have learned from their advocacy in upcoming publications. Congratulations to Dr. Mellinger for her success!

## Social Work Student Association Elects Officers



The Social Work Student Association (SWSA) on both the UMBC and USG campuses are active and need assistance from students and program alumni. Whether it is a fund raising event, community advocacy activity, or a sponsored gathering for students, SWSA counts on support from the larger social work community. The officers for the 2017-18 are listed below. Please contact them to get involved or offer ideas for SWSA programs.

### UMBC Campus Officers

President: Ryanne Dunlop  
 Vice President: Paige Simmons  
 Secretary: Mesert Gizaw  
 Treasurer: Idrissou Adam  
 Service Chair: Mehr Lamba  
 Public Relations Chair: Gina Provenzano

### USG Campus Officers

President: Cinthia Rivera  
 Vice President: Cynthia Colon  
 Secretary: Emily Carrillo  
 Treasurer: Claudia Meneses  
 Executive Coordinator: Karina Ramos Pineda  
 Community Liaisons: Renee Carrizo, Rebecca Lopez,  
 Yesenia Enriquez-Arias & Kimberly Moreno

## **Council on Social Work Education Reaffirmation**

On August 1, 2017 faculty of the Baccalaureate Social Work Program submitted their three volume self-study to the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) to initiate the re-accreditation process. The purposes of accreditation are quality assurance, academic improvement, and public accountability.

The self-study is central to the accreditation process. It involves the program's self-examination that takes approximately two years to complete. It begins with a review of the program's mission, curriculum and operations relative to accreditation standards which include nine social work competencies. To review the student learning outcomes from AY 2016 – 2017 go to <http://socialwork.umbc.edu/program-evaluation/epas-competencies-summary-data-and-outcome-assessments/>.

Sometime during December, 2017 and January, 2017 a site visitor from CSWE will visit the social work programs on the UMBC and USG campuses. This site visit, along with the self-study, will result in a report from CSWE in June, 2018 defining the program's strengths and areas that need improvement. Comments from the report will be discussed in the Fall, 2018 newsletter.

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

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