

# ***Catch the Social Work Spirit!***

FALL 2018

**Graduation Celebration May, 2018**

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May 24, 2018 marked UMBC's graduation, the first held in the Event Center. After two years of construction, the 5000 seat arena allowed for graduates and their families to enjoy commencement on campus. The Social Work Program hosted a reception for over 200 people immediately following the graduation ceremony. Honored graduates at the reception were:

Daniela Acero, Idrissou Adam, Anuoluwapo Adegbesan, Christina Allen, Jannah Asaad, Aisha Ayoub, Ramata Ba, Danielle Baker, Oliva Boyle, Rachel Brown, Mahawa Bundor, Tori Burgamy, Melanie Bury, Jessica Calle, Emily Carrillo, Renee Carrizo, Brooke Chenoweth, Sandra Cockrell, Cynthia Colon, Fatoumata Conte, Kalyn Crocetti, Kira Crone, Julia Deibler, Ryanne Dunlop, Taylor Dunn, Wira Dwijati Ababedo Eado, Yesenia Enriquez-Arias, Elizabeth Espaderos, Silvia Esperanza, Katie Espinoza, Diana Ferrufino-Lopez, Sarah Folk, Wendy Gelhaus, Bianca Grande, Andrea Grubmeyer, Reina Guzman, Kathryn Guzzey, Sabrina Hall, Odin Hanks, Genevieve Hannan, Ramon Hillard, Heidi Howard, Matthew Hunt, Folashade Idowu, Destiny Jefferson, Hannah Johnson, Mykkea Jones, Tiffany Jones-Lam, Carmen Kaarid, Jennifer Keane, Kelcei Kelly, Sungsook Kim, Ashleigh Kristensen, Tracy Kwakye, Glenda Lazo, Dagem Lemma, Charley Lenovitz, Imani Lipscomb, Mildred Lopez, Pamela Lopez, Adrian Mabe, Evan Martin, Flloyd Martin, Maritza Martinez, Ghati Matinyi, Alethia McDowell, Katlyne Meade, Eden Measso, Beatriz Mendez, Genesis Mendoza, Claudia Meneses, Anna Milyaeva, Kimberly Moreno, Tiffany Muldrow, Veronica Musiol, Cindy Ngo, Becca Nolder, Eboni Onuoha, Maureen Onwugbenu, Anthea Palmer, Cynthia Pasley, Alisha Pelaez, Ercely Perez-Olivarez, Marie Pessagno, Mary Pratt, Gina Provenzano, Hannah Pursley, Karina Ramos-Pineda, Aniruddh Rao, Madeleine Reardon, Jacob Reeb, Cinthia Rivera, Mariah Rivera, Michelle Roque, Daniela Rosales, Julia Rostkowski, Tanya Sanchez De Lainez, Tara Schimpf, Tara Schimpf, Justin Schultz, Paige Simmons, Jenna Stolarek-Houston, Jane Stuthmann, Deblin Teo, Jeminetu Usman, Lorenna Valencia, Stephanie Vancek, Stephanie Weber, Shoshana Weissmann, Brionna White, Dante Wojtila, and Lydia Yosef.

**Welcome Back to  
UMBC**

**Social Work  
Students!**

**It's a Pizza Party!**

**September 10th**

**and 11th**

**12-1pm**

**Sherman Hall-B**

**Room 334**

## Scholarship Recipients



Thanks to the generous contributions of social work alumni and friends of the Baccalaureate Social Work Program nine students received special recognition at the program's graduation reception. Those recipients were: Blair Grooms: *Shirley Bemby Memorial Scholarship*; Ellen Tippett: *Dr. Gust Mitchell Scholarship*; Laura Popp: *Tejal Khajuria Memorial Scholarship*, Christina Allen: *Steven and Rachel Eidelman Award*; Rachel Mansir: *Lillian Lynch Memorial Scholarship*; and, Niteara Mickey: *Susan Bernstein-Charlotte W. Newcombe Memorial Scholarship*.

Sabrina Hall was honored with the *Outstanding Undergraduate Student Alumni Award* and the *Outstanding Undergraduate Student Alumni Award* from the Universities at Shady Grove Program went to Kathryn Guzzey. Marie Pessagno was honored as the *Title IV-E Student of the Year*.

Each year the faculty selects six students who they consider to be the *Outstanding Social Work Seniors*. This year the following students were selected: Victoria Burgamy, Yesenia Enrriquez-Arias and Carmen Kaarid, Evan Martin, Mariah Rivera, and Paige Simmons.

## HEALS Scholars

For the last four years, the Social Work Program has selected two HEALS Scholars to participate in a program that aims to educate and train BSW to postdoctoral-level social work students to strengthen the nation's the 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).

The 2018-19 HEALS Scholars are Danielle Misterka and Maddie Straw both of whom are in their field education placements. Danielle will intern at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) Midtown while Maddie will spend two semesters at St. Agnes Hospital. Both students will participate in monthly educational seminars at the School of Social Work, University of Maryland. Additionally, they will attend a policy summit in Washington, DC on health care, leadership and advocacy activities. Congratulations to Danielle and Maddie for being selected for this prestigious scholarship!

## PHI ALPHA Induction



With over 175 people in attendance, the annual National Honor Society for Social Work Phi Alpha Induction was held on April 9, 2018 and included greetings and comments from Provost Phillip Rous and Associate Dean of the School of Social Work, Dr. Megan Meyer. Dr. Laura Ting and Katie Leiser, advisors to the society, scripted the induction with students officers providing the society's charges, pledge, and candle lighting .

Dr. Jayshree Jani and Chelsea Moyer were inducted by the membership as honorary members of Phi Alpha.

Newly elected members to Phi Alpha included: Brooke Chenoweth, Angela Choi, Ryanne Dunlop, Bethany Engle, Stefany Feria, Mesert Gizaw, Amber Gosser, Odin Robert Hanks, Annette Hubbard, Jennifer Keane, Cassidy Kehn, Samantha Kramer, Glenda Lazo, Michael Lewandowski, America Lucero, Rachel Mansir, Eden Measso, Paulette Moore, Maria Nissley, Eboni Onuoha, Cynthia Pasley, Katherine Perez, Laura Popp, Mariah Rivera, Farah Shirazi, Madison Straw, Stacey Stroh, Lorennia Valencia, Stephanie Vancek, Amber Webster, and Jennifer Yoshikawa.



## Dr. Nicole Belfiore, Clinical Instructor

The students, faculty and staff are pleased to welcome, M. Nicole Belfiore, as a new Clinical Faculty member in Social Work at The Universities at Shady Grove. Beginning the fall semester 2018, Dr. Belfiore will primarily teach SOWK 260: Social Welfare, Social Policy and Social Work I and SOWK 360: Social Welfare, Social Policy and Social Work II.

Dr. Belfiore comes to the Social Work Program with an extensive professional background. She earned her B.A. in English from Oberlin College, her M.S.W. from University of Maryland at Baltimore, and a Ph.D. from the Catholic University of America (CUA). Her clinical social work practice has addressed issues of death and dying, domestic violence, and crisis intervention. She has also worked as a human service program administrator and volunteer coordinator. Prior to joining the UMBC faculty, Dr. Belfiore worked in the Office of Field Education and taught at the National Catholic School of Social Service at the bachelors, masters, and doctoral levels. The courses she taught included policy, ethics, research, and motivational interviewing.

In terms of a research agenda, Dr. Belfiore was a member of the SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) grant for substance use disorders at CUA, providing trainings, conducting research, and designing curricula. Her scholarship areas of interest include community service and service learning, societal and social work ethics and values, and higher education. Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Belfiore at: [belfiore@umbc.edu](mailto:belfiore@umbc.edu) or 301-738-6282.



## Featured Alumna: Priscilla Villavicencio



Priscilla Villavicencio, LGSW, is the mental health therapist at the Wheaton High School Wellness Center and an adjunct professor at UMBC's Social Work Program at the Universities at Shady Grove campus. Priscilla graduated from UMBC in 2006, completing her Bachelor's of Social Work and a minor in Sociology. Her field placement was at the Linkages to Learning Program at Kensington Wheaton Youth Services where she accepted a case management position upon graduation. She furthered her educational pursuits and earned a Master's degree in Social Work (MSW) at the University of Maryland Baltimore in 2009.

During her MSW program, she had clinical field placements at the House of Ruth in Prince George's County and the D.C. Rape Crisis Center. She was trained in Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and worked with children, adolescents, and adults. Through her work she participated in outreach programs with a focus on the Spanish speaking population.

Upon graduation, she was hired full-time at the Linkages to Learning Program at Kensington Wheaton Youth Services, where she worked as a mental health therapist with high-risk families for seven years. During this time she also contracted with the D.C. Rape Crisis Center. Currently, she works in the Wellness Center with high-risk adolescents at Wheaton High School. Priscilla's social

work practice focuses on trauma informed care with primarily the Spanish speaking population. She is also a social work field instructor and an adjunct instructor. At Universities at Shady Grove, Priscilla teaches SOWK 250: *Introduction to Social Work*, sharing her various social work experiences with the students in her classes.

# Social Work Student Association

Students in the Social Work Program are very active within the community. This is readily seen through their participation in the Social Work Student Association (SWSA), one of the program's student-led organizations. With meetings held at least monthly, students offer both the campus and the surrounding communities valuable volunteer efforts, donations and programming throughout the year. The following are the AY 2018-19 officers: UMBC Campus - Danielle Misterka, President; Mike Lewandowski, Vice President; Tanya Ramsey, Treasurer; Hailey Kerr, Secretary; Maddie Straw, Public Relations; Blair Grooms, Service Chair; and, Dr. Adrienne Ekas-Mueting, Faculty Advisor. Universities at Shady Grove Campus - Maria Bruno, President; Rebecca Lopez, Vice President; Pilar Flores, Secretary; Kaila Swan, Treasurer; Audralina Sherman, Service Chair; Garmai Korvah, Public Relations Chair; and Jeanette Hoover, Faculty Advisor.



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