



UMBC

Social Work Program Newsletter

January 2022

Catch the Social Work Spirit

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UMBC Social Work Program

Sherman Hall-B, 322

410-455-2144



Congratulations to our December 2021 graduates: Mariela Alvares Vargas, Jasmine Bellard, Millicent Adwubi Boateng, Briana Capuano, Rachel Depp, Jessica Diaz, Benjamin Doughan, Karen Galdamez, Denire Guerrero, Gabriela Alexandrac Hernandez Amaya, Binta Calatayud Issoufou Oumarou, Melissa Lindsay, Joana Takor Manyi, Madaline Nweyah, Julia Parada, Olivia Patch, Lera Purdie, Keysi Reyes, Aranza Sanchez-Huitron, Pierina Santa Maria, Morgan Schrader, Deniz Umitli, Donta Williams, and La Tanya R. Wright!



The National Association of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter

**25th Annual
Social Work Student
Legislative Education and Advocacy Development (LEAD) Day**

**Thursday, February 24, 2022
8:45 AM – 3:30 PM**

Due to renovations in the Capitol complex,
Student Advocacy Day 2022 will be a Live Webinar.

Keynote: Yaakov (Jake) Weissmann. MSW,
Montgomery Co. Assistant Chief Administrative
Officer.

Reflections on a Decade: in the Senate President's
Office: Lessons for Social Work Advocates

The event is FREE to NASW-MD student
members or \$ 5.00 for non-members.

Join over 400 social work students from across the
state to learn about the legislative process.

Our theme this year is the Power of Social Work
Advocacy.



A Word from the Chair

Our fall semester brought opportunities to reconnect with our students via in person instruction and on campus events. Nearly 70% of our social work courses were offered face-to-face. We also offered online, hybrid, and hyflex course options to best serve our students. We held on-campus welcome events for new students in the Baccalaureate Social Work Program at the UMBC and USG campuses. The students were glad for the opportunity to meet us and each other, albeit masked and socially distanced or outside. UMBC held COVID safe in person convocation and graduation events. 25 social work students graduated in December and were delighted to walk across the stage with their loved ones in attendance.

The spring semester launched in the context of the Omicron COVID wave. We continue to hold most of our classes in person with several online and hyflex options as well. We are providing high quality social work education to our students in the safest possible manner. UMBC is requiring all faculty, staff, and students to be fully vaccinated (including booster; unless exempted) and to wear a KN95 or equivalent mask. We hope to increasingly have opportunities to engage with one another on campus as the semester progresses.

Our Community Advisory Board met this fall and welcomed two new members who are both alumnae of our program: Debra Lindsenmeyer and Atefah Fahtenmed. The board also elected new officers: Don Vince, Chair; Jake Weissman, Vice-Chair; and Debra Lindsenmeyer, Secretary. Our returning board members are: Idrissou Adam, Mike Coleman, Kathryn Guzzey, Lisa Roeder, and Allyson Stanton. We greatly appreciate the contributions our advisory board members are making to our program.

Summer 2022 Classes

The Social Work Program is offering a variety of electives this summer, including SOWK 311, which gives students an early opportunity to experience field placement!

SOWK 311- Introduction to Field Experience in Social Work, Thursday 10-12pm (Seminar ONLINE).

In this course students are placed at various human services agencies throughout the Baltimore and Washington D.C. metro area. Students will gain valuable work experience and build their resume and network. Obtain 3 upper level credits. Can be used as a SOWK elective!

SOWK 374 (C)- Social Work with Immigrants and Refugees, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10-12 ONLINE.

This course provides an introduction to the information and skills necessary for generalist social work practice with immigrants and refugees.

****Fulfills 1 culture GEP requirement.**

SOWK 386- Social Work Practice with Families, Tuesdays 9-12pm ONLINE.

This course will provide students with the basic knowledge and skills to make initial assessments of family functioning in the context of the social environment and an understanding of the variety of challenges families experience.

2022 Phi Alpha Applications Open

Phi Alpha was established in 1962. The purposes of the Honor Society, as stated in its brochure, are to "provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideals." Further, Phi Alpha "fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work." At present, there are 62 chapters of the Honor Society in schools around the country, including the established chapter here at U.M.B.C.

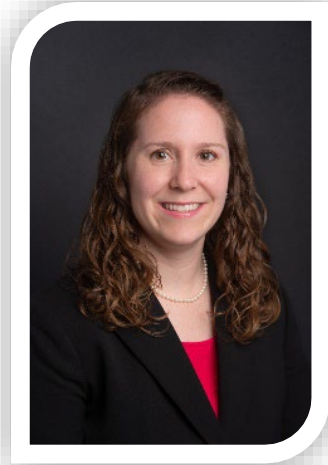
Students are eligible to join if they meet the following membership criteria:

- have declared social work as major
- have achieved sophomore status
- have completed nine semester hours of required social work courses
- have achieved an *overall* grade point average of 3.0 out of possible 4.0; and
- **have achieved a 3.50 grade point average in required or elective social work courses.**

The 2022 application was sent via listserv. For more information, please contact Laura Ting (ltting@umbc.edu) or Katie Leiser (leiser@umbc.edu).

Faculty News

Dr. Kerri Evans
featured in
UMBC
Magazine as a
UMBC 'Game
Changer'.



Hrabowski Innovation Grants:



Both Drs. Kerri Evans and Marcela Mellinger were awarded Hrabowski Innovation grants. The Educational Journey of Immigrant Children:

An Interdisciplinary Course Using Gamification and Role-Play (Implementation and Research Grant) is lead by Dr. Evans and Dr. Mellinger helped write and will create and evaluate the course Preventing Gender-Based Harm at UMBC: Designing and Teaching a Multidisciplinary Course (Implementation and Research Grant) on a team lead by Jodi Kelber-Kaye.

Student News



Department Scholarship Applications will open February 7th! All applications go through Scholarship Retriever.

Please review the department scholarships and consider which YOU can apply for! Remember, if you qualify for more than one, apply to as many as you'd like! Reminders will be sent through the listserv!

Alumni- please see the end of the newsletter for an opportunity to support a scholarship of your choice!

Shady Grove Social Work Student Story: Elsy Estrada Murillo *"I was instantly drawn to the activism around social justice and the desire to help others, especially for those whom society often fails."*





Are you interested in supporting the Social Work Program or one of the program scholarships? You can help make a difference by making a gift to the School of Social Work during this year's **Black & Gold Rush from February 16-17**. Please consider making a gift to the program or scholarships. In addition, please consider becoming a social media ambassador to help spread the word about supporting us during Black & Gold Rush. You can sign up to become an ambassador through this [link](#).

Go [here](#) 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

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