

# Parent Newsletter

Connecting Parents & Families to UMBC



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE COUNTY • SPRING 2013 EDITION

## True or False: Major A = Career B?

Sue Plitt, Associate Director of Career Services

Many students pick a major based on the career they ultimately want to pursue. Want to be a mechanical engineer? First be a mechanical engineering major. Want to be an accountant? Better be an accounting major. But what about the student who, along the way, figures out that all that lab/bench work they've done as a chemistry major is not what they want to do for the next 40 years? Or the history major who loves the subject but doesn't see themselves pursuing a Ph.D. to become a historian. Now what?

It's probably a good idea to reframe the major-career connection in terms of the skills being developed in any given major and the environments where those are valued. Thinking in these less limiting terms opens up not only options for potential job titles (what you are doing), but also for industry (where you are doing it). For instance, the obvious choice if you're an information systems or computer science major would be to pursue employment at an IT company (like many of our grads working at Microsoft, Google or IBM have done). Another option would be to follow in the footsteps of other IT alums, doing great IT work, in a variety of other industries: insurance (GEICO), aging services (Erickson Retirement Communities), government (U.S. Census), finance (T. Rowe Price), and defense (NSA)—just to glimpse the tip of the career options iceberg.

To help students understand the broad applicability of their degrees and their specific majors, UMBC is hosting its 6th annual Career

*Continued on Page 2*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2** Residential Life
- 3** Residential Life Continued  
Undergraduate Education
- 4** Undergraduate Education  
Continued  
Greek Life
- 5** Greek Life Continued  
Going Green
- 6** Going Green Continued  
Summer Internships
- 7** Bystander Intervention
- 8** Bookstore Announcements  
Emergency Contact Info
- 9** Important Dates

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

As we continue to develop our Parents Connection program we are interested in hearing about your experiences thus far as a UMBC Parent or Family Member. Please take a moment to fill out this short survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Q6TLXRG>. We are looking for feedback about not only your experiences but also, what we can do to make that experience even better. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

**You can check out the new myUMBC Parents Connection page at:**

<http://my.umbc.edu/groups/parents>.

Week, April 1-4, 2013. Key components to the schedule include a series of alumni panels and guest speakers. Other Career Week events include the free Dining & Business Etiquette Dinner and annual Spring Career Fair. Information for Career Week events can be accessed at [www.careers.umbc.edu/careerweek](http://www.careers.umbc.edu/careerweek).

For math (and every other!) major, the equation Major A = Career B is about to get a whole lot more interesting!

---

## REMINDERS FOR PARENTS FROM RESIDENTIAL LIFE

### Spring Break Closing:

Residence Halls will close on Friday, March 15th at 8:00PM (Chesapeake, Erickson, Harbor – non-nine month floors, Patapsco and Susquehanna Halls). Halls will re-open on Sunday, March 24th at 12PM. Students will receive a closing check list from Residential Life with the following reminders:

#### Spring Break Checklist

Before you leave for Spring Break, you'll need to do a few things. Following this checklist below will help to reduce the risk of fire, minimize pest problems and increase the security of your room and its contents.

- Turn the heating unit to a low setting. If you don't know how to do this, ask your RA for instructions.
- Unplug all appliances and extension cords from electrical wall sockets. Exception: You may leave refrigerators and fish tanks plugged in after checking to make sure electrical connections are safe... that is, not running under rugs, not hanging loosely out of the wall, or plugged into a thin extension cord.
- Turn off all water completely. Make sure faucets and shower heads are not dripping.
- Clean your bathroom well. Suggestion: to avoid a stuffy bathroom when you return, leave your bathroom door open to allow air to circulate. Make sure it's okay with your suitemates before leaving the door unlocked.
- Remove all trash and dispose of it in the trash room or in a dumpster.
- Check your window to be sure it is securely locked. If you should find your window unlocked and cannot lock it, notify your RA or FXIT (x53948).
- Feed your fish and water your plants. Remember, you won't be able to get back in until 12 Noon on Sunday, March 24th.
- Turn off your lights. If you're the last one to leave from your suite, make sure the bathroom light / fan is off.
- Remember to pack any medications or others necessities you might need.
- Lock your door and take your key with you.
- Tape this checklist to your door on your way out.

#### HOUSING SELECTION PREVIEW

Please remind your student that his/her account needs to have a balance of under \$500 in order for him/her to be able to participate in Housing Selection – the annual process current residential students use to renew campus housing and select rooms for the upcoming year. Students may review accounts through

myUMBC. Students on the monthly payment plan (mpp) will have payments hit the account on March 20th. Students must sign an on-line housing application AND an on-line housing license by 11:59PM on March 31st to have priority for an on-campus housing space for the 2013-2014 academic year. Students will receive a Housing Selection brochure on or around March 1st. Refer your student to the brochure they will receive from Residential Life surrounding Housing Selection or the Residential Life web site which will be updated shortly. Here are key dates for your reference:

#### **HOUSING SELECTION DEADLINES:**

**March 11** Walker Same Apartment Priority Deadline

**March 13** Walker Housing Info Session Harbor Multipurpose Room 7:00PM

**March 15** Walker Returning Resident Priority Deadline

**March 29** Deadline to apply for Walker Avenue Apartments

**Mar 17th-25th** Spring Break

**March 14** Housing Selection Info Session Susquehanna Lobby 6:00PM

**March 31** Deadline to submit on-line housing license for PRIORITY HOUSING!

**April 5** Deadline to apply for a Single

**April 19** Deadline to apply for an apartment in Hillside, Terrace or West Hill

**April 22** Deadline to Squat your room (doubles only)

**April 23** Apartment Selection Day based on credits

**April 25** Room Selection Day

Relocated Students 9-11 a.m.

Same Community, Different Room 1-3 p.m.

**April 26** Room Selection Day

All Remaining Spaces

Time slot based on credits

Deadline for One-Stop Option

---

## **Important Reminders from Undergraduate Education**

*Janet McGlynn, Office of Undergraduate Education*

- This is the time of year for students to plan for housing and coursework for the summer and fall. If your son or daughter plans to live on campus next year, now is the time to complete and return a housing contract. Campus housing includes the Living Learning Community option, where students sharing an academic or service interest live together and participate in programs related to the community theme. Please note that most Living Learning Communities require an additional application.

- Spring Break begins at the end of classes on Friday, March 15. Classes resume Monday morning, March 25.

- While decisions about school work are the student's responsibility, families can help students who are home during the break. Your son or daughter may mention a goal of completing assigned reading, starting on a paper, or studying. Ask what the best time and place would be for this work. Consider reading your

student's syllabus together, noting the required in-class activities such as participation and discussion, reading assignments and exams and agreeing on a proper amount of study time to be designated for each. Preparing a course of study for the remainder of the semester can pay off in work accomplished by the end. Knowing which times will be devoted to school work can allow both parents and students to relax and enjoy their time together.

- Students and parents are invited to attend Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD) on Wednesday, April 24, 2013, from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM in the University Center Ballroom and other locations on campus. More than 200 undergraduates will share results of their research and creative work in areas ranging from Dance and Theatre to Chemistry and Physics. Watch the URCAD web page in late March for a full program and information about parking. Parents were very enthusiastic about URCAD last year and many wished they had allotted more time to view the interesting artistic and scientific presentations.

#### Notes:

Official Dates and Deadlines as well as information on registration procedures are provided by the Office of the Registrar.

---

## Help! My Student Wants To Go Greek!

*Richard Bussey, Graduate Coordinator for Fraternities & Sororities, Office of Student Life*

The decision to join a fraternity or sorority can be one of the best choices a student makes at UMBC. Greek affiliated students have significant opportunity for leadership development, are heavily involved in their campus community, and have exclusive access to ever-expanding professional networks. But for parents, especially those who have no firsthand experience with sororities and fraternities, this decision can be cause for concern. Below, I've listed the top five reasons I think joining a fraternity or sorority has the potential to tremendously enhance your student's college experience.

**A Home Away From Home:** By joining a sorority or fraternity your daughter or son will be welcomed into a tightly-knit community of students who are thriving at UMBC, a community willing to help get them comfortable and connected as they transition to a collegiate lifestyle. In a 2012 survey, 94% of Greeks agreed that their chapters have provided them with a strong support network at UMBC.

**Academic Excellence:** Promoting and expecting high academic performance is a central tenet of every Greek organization at UMBC. Almost all groups incorporate minimum academic standards and programs on improving study habits as a condition of membership. It is common to have your brothers or sisters in the same class. They become instant study buddies and can take notes in case of an absence. Often older members have already taken a specific class or had a certain professor - They can help younger members with study tips or tutoring.

**Commitment to Service:** Sorority and fraternity members proactively engage in numerous service projects and charitable fundraising events through UMBC and the local community each semester. In a survey from

2012, 80% of Greek students at UMBC agreed that since joining our community they have become more service-minded.

**Leadership Opportunities:** Greek chapter Presidents at UMBC have overall responsibility for between (10) and (55) members. Among other things, she or he runs and sets the agenda for meetings, supervises the enforcement of all policies, develops and operates within an overall chapter budget, coordinates with advisors and volunteer organizations, and provides motivation and mentorship for the rest of the membership - every chapter has several positions with similar responsibilities.

**Career Development:** Joining a fraternity or sorority connects students to an active, global alumni network interested in helping members develop and meet professional goals. Students will graduate with a well-developed network of professional contacts and mentors. Moreover, Greek students have access to exclusive professional development programs through UMBC and their National Organizations.

Students and parents can stay up to date on our UMBC Greek community online: <http://www.umbc.edu/greek>. For more information on the Office of Student Life and the programs and services we offer throughout the year, please visit our website at <http://www.umbc.edu/studentlife>.

---

## **Feeling a little left out of the green loop? Off-Campus Student Services offers students opportunities for “going green”!**

*Jessica Sadler, Graduate Assistant, Off-Campus Student Services*

Recyclemania 2013, an international recycling competition among institutions of higher education, is in full swing, and UMBC has stepped up its game in reducing waste and collecting recyclables such as plastic bags, e-cycling, compostables, paper, cardboard, and cans. Off-Campus Student Services encourages students to bring their recyclables and dispose of them in the marked bins around campus. For more information on Recyclemania or to find out where to recycle on the UMBC campus, visit the ReSET (Retriever Sustainability Event Team) myUMBC group page @ <http://my.umbc.edu/groups/reset>.

After freeing kitchen space of their stored grocery bags, students are invited to attend the “going green” events hosted by Off-Campus Student Services in collaboration with ReSET and UMBC Transit services as well as other campus members dedicated to the reduction of the UMBC community’s carbon footprint. Students are invited to visit the Sports Zone in The Commons on March 27th for a screening of the sustainability-related documentary “Cities on Speed: Bogotá Change”, the story of innovative solutions for urban problems in Columbia’s capitol, during one of the three viewing times (i.e., 11:40AM-1:00PM, 2:40PM-4:00PM, and 4:40PM-6:00PM). The viewings are free, popcorn will be served, and UMBC’s sustainability experts will explain how and where students can compost on campus.

If students have their own solutions to issues related to climate change such as the use of public transportation and UMBC’s Transit services, or students want to share their reaction to “Cities on Speed: Bogotá Change”, students are encouraged to attend OCSS’s UMBC Transit Forum on March 29th from 12:00PM-1:30PM in the UC Ballroom Lounge—it’s a free, catered event where a panel of sustainability experts and UMBC Transit professionals will collaborate with students about the challenges faced in

reducing our campus community's greenhouse gas emissions. For more information about these events, and other events such as Good Morning Commuter's Tuesday breakfasts, Transfer Student Network's workshops, or Commuter Connection's events, visit our myUMBC group page @ <http://my.umbc.edu/groups/ocss> or talk to one of our friendly Commuter Assistants by calling 410-455-2770.

#### Other OCSS Events:

**March 8th @ 12:00PM-1:00PM** Commuter Connection's "March Madness" @ The Commons, Room 331

**March 12th @ 8:30 AM-10:30AM** Good Morning Commuter Breakfast @ Main Street

**March 13th @ 12:00PM-1:00PM** TSN's "The Tassel is Worth the Hassle" @ The Commons, Room 331

**March 13th @ 4PM-6PM** "Librarian in the Lounge" @ The Commuter Lounge next to OCSS



Vets 2 Vets



Transfer Student Network



Off-Campus Housing



MTA Bus Passes



Commuter Connection



Good Morning Commuters

---

## Making the Most of the Summer with an Internship

*Kerry Kidwell-Slak, Associate Director, Professional Practice*

While many people think of Summer as time for hitting the beach or relaxing poolside, many UMBC students are spending their time learning more about their majors, developing professional skills and networks and, often, earning money through internships and research. Employers have been on UMBC's campus since early Fall recruiting Summer interns, but if your student hasn't secured an opportunity yet, it's not too late to get connected with a great experience.

### Three quick tips to get on the path to success:

1) Use Campus Resources – The professional staff of The Shriver Center (<http://shrivercenter.umbc.edu>) are available for one-on-one resume reviews and personalized meetings to develop strategies for seeking out positions. The Center also coordinates a range of networking events both on- and off-campus designed to connect talented students directly with organizations who can benefit from their skills. Further, all UMBC students also have access to UMBCworks, an online database, exclusive to our campus, featuring internships, research, part-time and full-time jobs in the Baltimore-Washington corridor and nationwide. Students just need to upload a resume to get started.

2) Develop Professional Skills – For many students, an internship is their first professional experience and the process of navigating the unwritten rules of the workplace can be daunting. Recognizing this, UMBC offers students opportunities to practice interview skills in mock interviews as well as workshops on topics like networking, what to wear in the workplace and building a relationship with a mentor.

3) Connect with Faculty – Particularly for students interested in research, UMBC faculty are key partners with students in the process of securing internships. Summer research programs and many employers

will want faculty references for prospective interns and students need to be pro-active in ensuring that their professors know them. Regular attendance in class, using office hours (even for academically strong students!) and reviewing the UMBC website to understand faculty's research interests are all important steps to building strong relationships with professors and instructors.

Finally, could you or your employer benefit from a motivated and skilled UMBC intern this summer? Interns can often be a cost effective way to grow capacity and the experience you provide can often put a student on the path to professional success. Visit <http://www.shrivercenter.org/employers/post-a-position/> or call The Shriver Center at 410-455-2493 to learn more.

---

## UMBC Bystander Intervention Training

### An undergraduate student perspective

*Erika Surock, Undergraduate Student, Green Dot Advisory Committee*

UMBC is going Green Dot! You may be wondering what exactly a Green Dot is, why it is important, and why I am so committed to it. I am very committed to the UMBC Green Dot Program because of my own personal connection to the cause. At the previous institution I attended, I was a victim of violence. The next day a friend asked me if I was okay. I asked her how she had found out about my situation and she replied that one of her peers had witnessed this incident from a corner nearby. This is exactly why I feel passionate about the Green Dot Program at UMBC.

Green Dot is a program that teaches UMBC community members how to be active bystanders, to react and prevent situations that have the potential for violence and proactively build a culture that does not tolerate violence.

A green dot is a single choice in one moment that makes our community safer! My hope is that if the majority of our campus engages in this behavior, we will prevent the likelihood that violence will occur in our community. Green Dot advocates for bystander intervention and encourages individuals who may observe a potentially violent situation to become active bystanders. I, and other students, have participated in a variety of campus activities to raise awareness about our initiative to decrease violence on our campus. We now hope UMBC parents can join us in spreading the Green Dot message by encouraging their students to become Green Dot trained.

#### Upcoming Green Dot Trainings:

<i>Saturday, March 9</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Friday, April 12</i>
<i>10 AM-3:30 P</i>		<i>12 PM-5:30 PM</i>
<i>Harbor Hall</i>		<i>Commons 329</i>

To register, student can contact Jennifer Treger, Community Health and Safety Specialist in the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs at 410-455-3797 or [jtreger@umbc.edu](mailto:jtreger@umbc.edu). This program is sponsored by Student Affairs

ending violence  
one green dot at a time @ UMBC



for more information  
[umbc.edu/rvap](http://umbc.edu/rvap)

# Bookstore Announcements

## Graduation Center

Graduating from UMBC is an exciting accomplishment. Walking in the commencement ceremony is a proud moment for both students and families. If your student plans to graduate this May, now is the time to prepare.

UMBC diploma frames are custom designed and handcrafted. With more than 10 different beautiful styles, you are certain to find one that you and your student will love. The Bookstore is offering a 10% discount on diploma frames if ordered with a cap & gown during Graduation Center. They make perfect, long-lasting gifts that forever commemorate a grand achievement.

Additional graduation center information along with diploma frame descriptions and photographs may be found on the Bookstore website <http://bookstore.umbc.edu>. For diploma frames click on the merchandise catalog.

## New Professional Wear and Parents Apparel

UMBC Bookstore is expanding its professional wear offerings this spring with brand new polos, dress shirts, and pullovers. Many parents have asked for a larger selection of professional wear and UMBC Bookstore is excited to offer it. Much of the merchandise is already available in the store and online. Click on “Merchandise Catalog” from the UMBC Bookstore home page (<http://bookstore.umbc.edu>) and find the professional wear category. While you’re online, click on the Parents and Grandparents catalog to check out the new matching



UMBC Mom and Dad t-shirts. Just for Parents Connection readers: during the month of March enter promo code **1966** at checkout to receive free shipping on UMBC logo merchandise orders placed online (<http://bookstore.umbc.edu>).

### **We want to remind you at this time the importance of Residential Life having current and accurate emergency contact information on file for you.**

Residential Life on-call staff will contact you if your student is involved in a life-threatening emergency or is arrested. Please talk to your student about this information – we suggest the following questions – have you updated your emergency contact information recently and who have you listed as your emergency contact? Please encourage your student to go on-line and update his/her emergency contact information. It only takes a few minutes at the following web site: [www.umbc.edu/reslife/my\\_housing.html](http://www.umbc.edu/reslife/my_housing.html). Your student will need to select “Update Emergency Contact Information.” Thank you for having this important conversation with your student!

*On behalf of all of us at Residential Life*





Students Pose with SNL comedian Kenan Thompson who performed on February 24th

**UMBC**  
AN HONORS UNIVERSITY IN MARYLAND

## Important Dates For The 2012 - 2013 School Year

### Fall Semester

Aug 28 ----- Classes Begin  
 Sept 3 ----- Labor Day Holiday  
 Oct 12 - 15 ----- Homecoming  
 Nov 22 - 25 ----- Thanksgiving Break  
 Dec 11 ----- Last Day of Classes  
 Dec 12 ----- Study Day  
 Dec 13 - 19 ----- Final Exams  
 Dec 21 ----- Undergraduate Commencement

### Spring Semester

Jan 28 ----- Classes Begin  
 March 17 - 24 ----- Spring Break  
 April (dates TBA) ----- Quadmania  
 May 14 ----- Last Day of Classes  
 May 15 ----- Study Day  
 May 17 - 22 ----- Final Exams  
 May 23 ----- Undergraduate Commencement

**The Parents Newsletter is brought to you by :**

**The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, The Office of Institutional Advancement, and generous donations from families like you!**

To make a donation go to [umbc.edu/giving](http://umbc.edu/giving)