



Issue 4 | January 2021

Welcome from the Wisdom Institute!

THE WISDOM INSTITUTE'S ANNUAL SIGNATURE EVENT

APRIL 23, 2021

Presenter: Dr. John Jeffries , Dean Emeritus
The 2020 Election in Historical Perspective

We are excited to announce that the Wisdom Institute's Fourth Annual Signature Event will be held virtually on April 23, 2021. Our own John Jeffries, Professor Emeritus, Dean Emeritus, and noted historian, will be the featured speaker. Dr. Jeffries will be discussing the outcomes of the 2020 election in his talk titled, "The 2020 Election in Historical Perspective." This moment in history requires a reasoned and comprehensive narrative; there are few as well prepared to lead us in the quest to understand voting patterns since the mid-twentieth century as is Dr. Jeffries.

John, as most of us know him best, has been lauded for his teaching and lecturing. He was designated a UMBC Presidential Teaching Professor and honored with a University of Maryland Regents Award for Teaching Excellence. He is an Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer [2004-2019]. John is a well-respected and highly praised scholar and has authored numerous articles and books on the politics and policy of the Franklin D. Roosevelt era and on the World War II American home front. In his review of *Testing the Roosevelt Coalition and Wartime America: The World War II Home Front* (1996, 2nd edition 2018), Patrick D. Reagan notes, "Overall, 'War America' constituted the single best one-volume history of the World War II home front in the United States now in print." John's most recent publication, *A Third Term for FDR: The Election of 1940*, was published in 2017 and quickly gained national attention as "... a helpful primer for students, historians, or political scientists seeking introductions to the issues, personalities, political activities, and electorate behavior in one of the most consequential elections in the United States, indeed world, history" (The Historian). Clearly, John offers expertise in the study of the historical context that provides insights into the voting behaviors of Americans. Save the date on your calendar for an insightful and invigorating glimpse into our most recent national elections. We may not yet be able to meet in person, but the Wisdom Institute continues in its mission to offer a community for retired UMBC staff and faculty. You may have participated in some of our past events, either in person or online. But if you haven't found time to join us in the past, this event would be a great one to add to your calendar.



Mark your calendar to register starting March 23, 2021, go to wisdom.umbc.edu for more information.

Come on Spring!



As we anticipate the arrival of spring and the return of normal activities, we hope that you and your families have safely weathered this chaotic time. The Wisdom Institute Board wishes you an early Happy Spring. We eagerly look forward to a time when we can gather together in person and reconnect as the community we are. One thing this time apart has taught us is that community finds a way to survive and thrive. We have learned to Zoom, Skype, and "meet." We have learned to chat six feet apart and hold our family and friends more closely. Offering online programs has allowed our out-of-state UMBC community members to participate and reconnect. In the future, we hope to continue to offer a mix of online and in-person program-ming to keep everyone connected. So, keep checking our website (wisdom.umbc.edu), join our MyUMBC group, and mark your calendars. Wehopetosee you soon!

~ The Wisdom Institute Board

Coming WI Events & Activities: 2021

The events below are planned for the coming Spring. Please check on our website, wisdom.umbc.edu, regularly for updates or newly-posted opportunities. To review these activities and SIGN UP, click the "Events" tab at wisdom.edu and complete a few questions to join colleagues and friends, old and new, online or in person.

Let's Play Boggle! February 3, 4-5:30pm, Online.

Join a group of novice and experienced players to enjoy the word-finding game of Boggle. It's easy to learn and lots of fun to play. Our previous Boggle session involved lots of laughter. Invite your UMBC friends to sign up, too!

Sharing Our UMBC Stories February 18, 12-1:30pm, Online.

Enjoy your lunch while sharing your favorite stories of your time at UMBC with colleagues and friends. Stories can be funny, poignant, personally significant or memorable moments for the campus.

Indigenous People of the Amazon March 4, 3:30-4:30PM, Online.

Between the late 1970s and early 1990s Sandy Parker (GES) did research with indigenous, peasant communities in the Brazilian Amazon. His early focus was on their cultural ecology and later turned to indigenous ecological knowledge. Sandy will be sharing photos he took in these communities and some highlights from his experiences. Fear not, this is not a research lecture but simply a sharing of amazing images with commentary.

Woodland Hike at UMBC April 13, 2-3:30PM**

Did you know that UMBC has a wild side? In fact, nature and wildlife thrive in and around the UMBC campus in over 50 acres of woodland habitat? Join us to explore a major wild spaces of UMBC with a hike of the trails of the Herbert Run Greenway & CERA. This natural resource supports environmental research and is a surprisingly close get-away. Wear good walking shoes and dress for the weather...and don't forget your mask.

UMBC Signature Event: The 2020 Election in Historical Perspective April 23, 11:00am-12:45pm, Online

For our 4th annual Signature Event Our keynote speaker for the 4th annual Wisdom Institute Signature Event will be Dr. John Jeffries, Dean Emeritus of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and Professor Emeritus, History. He will discuss the outcome of the 2020 presidential election in the context of changes and continuities in the electorate and voting patterns since the mid-twentieth century. We have other guests and will enable some social contact among attendees.

Walking Tour of Dickeyville May 2, 2-4PM**

Join us during early Spring's resurgence for a historian-guided walk through the beautiful and historic mill town of Dickeyville. This mill town, located in the midst of Baltimore, has distinctive and historic homes and buildings. Wear good walking shoes and be sure to wear your mask for safety. The specific meeting location will be posted on the WI website.

"Spaced Out" Picnic Benjamin Banneker Park, May 19, 12-2PM**

Bring your personal picnic meal, beverage & your lawn chair for a socially distanced picnic as Spring arrives. We'll sit at social distance for lunch and visit with friends and colleagues or engage in safe outdoor activities. Please wear a mask to and from the event and keep in handy for unexpected "close encounters." The park is located at 300 Oella Avenue, and signs will direct you to the picnic area.

Morning Hike: Catonsville Trolley Trail June 11, 9:30am**

Join a group leaders to hike either the full 3 miles (round trip) or a shorter hike on the Trolley Trail. The longer hike starts at the Western end of Edmonson Ave. and ends in Ellicott City near Main Street. Hikers may visit shops or eateries or watch the river flow. A second, shorter hike begins in Ellicott City at the Trolley Stop restaurant [Frederick Rd. at Oella Avenue, near the river]. This group will hike up to Oella Avenue, where hikers have the option to purchase coffee or baked treats before hiking back down. Wear comfortable shoes, dress for the weather & bring anything (\$, walking poles, water, bug spray) you may need, including your mask.

****All participants of in-person event must wear masks, as required by the current regulations for the event's location and date. If in doubt, bring your mask & be safe!**

Answers to the Trivia Contest:

1. B, 2. A, 3. C, 4. A, 5. B, 6. A, 7. B, 8. A, 9. C, 10. A

WI Book Talks



Book Talk by

Pamela Morgan

Book: **The Water Dancer**

Author: Ta-Nehisi Coates

Year of Publication: 2019

Publisher: Penguin Random House, LLC.

The *Water Dancer*, written by Baltimore native Ta-Nehisi Coates, is the writer's first novel after years as an American author and journalist. I became intrigued with Coates after reading his articles published in *The Atlantic* and his nonfiction, *Between the World and Me*. Coates is a 2015 recipient of the coveted MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant" and continues to push his readers' thinking with his amazing writing style and handling of familiar but difficult and controversial topics.

The *Water Dancer* is no exception. Coates addresses familiar themes of the Antebellum South but with lots of rollercoaster-style twists and turns. Every time I thought I knew what was about to happen next, the author threw me off with a plot twist. Several times his plot twist made me furious, so furious that I had to put some space between myself and my reading. His choice of unique language to reframe traditional terminology related to that era of American history adds to the imagery of the novel; for example, he refers to enslaved people as the "Tasked" and slaveholders as the "Quality."

While the book deals with the familiar subjects of slavery and the Underground Railroad, parallels can be drawn to contemporary times and issues as the author addresses child and family separation, the quest for freedom and the belief in the supernatural, just for starters. Coates even manages to work Harriet Tubman ("Moses") into his narrative as the reader follows the development of the main character, Hiram Walker, the gifted son of a Tasked woman and her Quality master.

The *Water Dancer* is most definitely a must-read, but it may best be read as a group that provides opportunities to process the content and bounce reactions off each other. I predict that this book will lead to a sequel because of the way Coates pauses the storyline. I also suspect that the riveting nature of this novel will prompt an Oscar-winning movie.

Book Talk by

Rochelle Sanders

Book Title: **Across That Bridge: A Vision for Change and the Future of America**

Author: John Lewis

Publication Information:

August 15, 2017; Hachette Books

John Lewis shares inner truths that provide a powerful glimpse into the heart of an individual who fought and dreamed of change. This poignant work bridges the spiritual, emotional, racial, and generational gaps that have caused us to lose sight of the need to keep fighting for the soul of this country. Spanning his experiences as a youth, his work and struggle during the historical civil rights movement, and transformative work in the U.S. Congress, John Lewis takes us on a journey of dreams, ideals, and survival to keep the dream of change and justice ever alive and relevant. Through eight aptly named chapters (Faith, Patience, Study, Truth, Act, Peace, Love, and Reconciliation), Lewis reminds us that the true work of social transformation begins from within. Only then can we effectively move toward the common goals of healing and unification that will save and transform the soul of our nation. Lewis calls for each generation to pick up the work of the one before, to rise above the division and hatred that have marked this country's legacy, and carry forward the vision Lewis and so many other civil rights advocates have spent a lifetime to bring to fruition. We are ultimately challenged to commit to the never-ending fight to hold ourselves and our leaders accountable to honor this nation's pledge of "One nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all." I encourage you to treat yourself to this excellent read and take up Lewis' challenge and embrace your role (as have I) to commit to the work of moving this country forward for the ultimate goal of saving the soul of our nation.

Book Talk

Do you recall going to your school or local library as a child and listening to the librarian talk about a book? The librarian would show the book, get to an extremely interesting part of the story, and then STOP! Then you would be told to borrow the book if you wanted to learn how the story ended. If you were like me, you raced to grab that book before anyone could when it was time to check out books!

Why not recreate those exciting moments for ourselves as retired adult readers? If you are reading or have read an intriguing book lately, and would like to nominate the book for possible inclusion in "Book Talks," please draft a 300-400 word book talk to pique our colleagues' interest. Whatever you do, DO NOT tell the end of the story!!

Submit your Book Talk here. You may find it easier to prepare your essay prior to completing the form so you can cut and paste; you may also attach a Word document, if that is more convenient. We look forward to reading your submissions. Accepted book talks will appear in the "Book Talks" column of the Wisdom Institute Newsletter.

Retiree Profile: Dr. Mary Rivkin



We were delighted to catch up with Dr. Mary Rivkin, at home in Bellingham, Washington. After 28 years as a faculty member in the Department of Education at UMBC, Mary made her way back home to the west coast. While she still considers herself very much a part of the UMBC community, Mary is greatly enjoying retirement and reconnecting closely with family. Grandchildren are truly a blessing! We posed some questions to learn of her adventures and future plans.

What is keeping you busy in retirement?

Politics! Mary has been actively involved in local and national politics. Over the years, she has planned marches and rallies, worked with groups on issues of social justice, participated in elections, and advocated strongly for sustainability and environmental justice. Not surprisingly, she has continued her work in these areas after retirement. Most recently, her activities have included writing “get out the vote” postcards, arranging political hearings on zoom for Indivisible Bellingham, and working with the local historical society. Her deep and abiding concern to make life better for all people comes through clearly and firmly in her actions, study, and discussions. Staying healthy! An octogenarian beset with Parkinson’s Disease (PD), Mary also focuses on exercising—“use it or lose it!” She welcomes communicating with others with PD. (rivkin@umbc.edu)

Why did you head to Washington State for retirement?

Family! Mary was born and raised in Bellingham, Washington in a family of seven children. Most live in the Northwest. A regional cluster of offspring, including three of Mary’s four children and five grandchildren, all live close by. Even with the pandemic, close contacts have been maintained. Zoom is a big help.

Natural Environment! Mary has loved this place her whole life—snowy mountains to the east melting into rivers and creeks throughout the forests, salt water and islands to the west. “Loving this place” translated to her UMBC work on natural environments for children, invasive species, and environmental teacher education. It does rain a lot in Bellingham; in winter avalanches and landslides are a real concern, but the fresh wet air is wonderful.

What did UMBC mean to you?

“I was so fortunate to be at UMBC,” says Mary. The steadiness and loyalty of the longtime staff and faculty, combined with the brilliance, innovation, and warmth of Freeman, who himself became longtime, fostered an environment in which she and many others thrived. Her deepest interests—children’s growth and development and sustaining the natural world—found satisfying expression in teaching, writing, and service. “I became myself there.”

How have you stayed connected to UMBC?

The UMBC website and email keeps Mary informed on current events at UMBC. She is very proud of UMBC and the way it has stepped up to tackle issues of social justice, the pandemic, and teaching online. She appreciates the way UMBC keeps the community foremost in its focus.

We know you are an avid reader. What’s been on your reading list lately?

Some of her favorites recently are Isabel Wilkerson’s *Caste* and *The Warmth of Other Suns*, and *Lincoln on the Verge: Thirteen Days to Washington* by Ted Widmer. She still relies on the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *New Yorker*, *Atlantic*, and *Yes*. She finds the Obamas’ memoirs moving and reflective. Her newest passion is neuroplasticity; she highly recommends Norman Doidge for both his book, *The Brain’s Way of Healing*, and numerous YouTube interviews.

What are your future plans?

Mary plans to continue close connections with her family and looks forward, as we all do, to the pandemic subsiding so visits can resume. Her youngest grandchild is teaching himself to read—the kind of activity that absolutely thrills Grammie Mary who is miserable to miss so much of it!

The intensifying climate crisis affects her region in the form of contentious fossil fuel transport projects (pipelines, trains, and ports). Bellingham City and Whatcom County Councils have become familiar targets of her interest. Furthermore, water issues in the County focus concerns of fair use for homeowners, farmers, and the indigenous Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe. Treaty rights for water/salmon are very alive in the Pacific NW. Mary will continue showing up for Zoom meetings, signing petitions, and offering testimony in the interests of limiting fossil fuel, and encouraging equitable, sustainable water policies. Sometimes she participates in salmon habitat restoration projects too. Local as always, she prunes English ivy from her neighbor’s fir trees and her neighbor lets her clip lilac branches blooming in the spring. Life is engaging!

We Need Your UMBC Stories

The Wisdom Institute is interested in sharing UMBC stories as a periodic feature in our newsletter. Would you be interested in sharing your experiences, reflections, or funny anecdotes with your retired colleagues? If so, please submit a piece for consideration via this [Google form](#). A brief story (300 words or less) is all we need. You may find it easier to prepare your essay prior to completing the form so you can cut and paste; you may also attach a Word document, if that is more convenient. We look forward to reading your submissions.



UMBC Wisdom Institute

By Tot Wolsten

It was a hot July day in 1968. I had just been named UMBC's Registrar. Homer Schamp had asked me to chair a meeting of the Reinstatement Committee, a group that decided if students dismissed for academic reasons could return to UMBC.

1968 was a troubling time in higher education, the United States, and the world. The Selective Service was drafting young males to fight in a raging war in Viet Nam. Since draft deferments were given to men who were enrolled in college, denial of reinstatement often meant an immediate call into the army. In 1966 I'd had a horrendous experience at my College Park job when a computer glitch incorrectly, academically dismissed thousands of students, thereby creating panic for students and administrators alike. Our reinstatement decisions literally could be a life or death sentence.

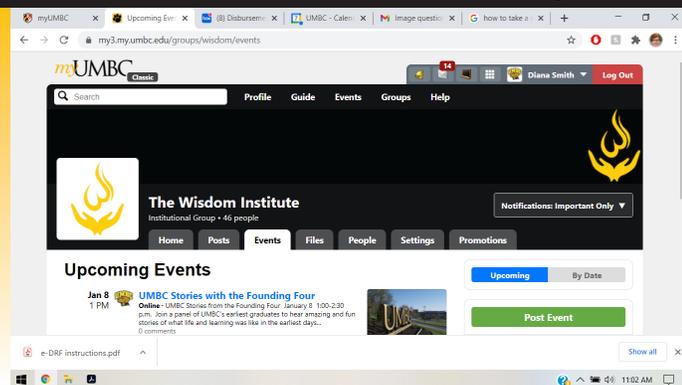


I arrived at the Hillcrest Building not knowing with whom I would be working and not totally certain of where the meeting was. I was directed to my soon-to-be office by Julie Enos, of the Registrar's office. When I opened the door lying on the carpeted floor was an unconscious man dressed in jeans and a tee shirt.

I didn't know whether to call an ambulance or the police. Almost immediately I ran into an older woman who introduced herself as Dr. Mae Roswell, Professor of French, also a member of the reinstatement committee. I warned her not to enter as there was someone outstretched on the floor. Dr. Roswell peeked in and said, "Oh, that's just Joel Jones. He's the other member of the committee, a professor of American Studies. He and his wife just had a baby so I suspect he is taking every opportunity to get a few minutes sleep." Upon hearing our voices Joel jumped to his feet and confirmed his attempt to nap.

So my introduction to UMBC was to encounter a sleeping faculty member on the floor of my office-to-be. But the tone of that meeting, always aware of the gravity of the decisions we were rendering, helped convince me that UMBC would be a very different, and very special place.

Join The Wisdom Institute's myUMBC Group-- Stay in the know!



Have you heard? The Wisdom Institute has a MyUMBC group that will help keep you informed of upcoming Wisdom Institute events, as well as other events that may be of special interest to UMBC retirees. Join us today to stay in the know! Log into [myumbc.edu](#), click on "groups" at the top of the screen in the headings list, and search for the Wisdom Institute. Select Wisdom Institute, click join, and you are a member! Join us today to stay in the know.

Sam Patterson Named Rhodes Scholar!

Second Rhodes Scholar in UMBC's history

For the second time in UMBC's history, one of our students has earned the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. Naomi Mburu ('18 Chemical Engineering) won the award in 2017. Established in 1902, the Rhodes Scholarship is the oldest and perhaps most prestigious international scholarship program in the world, enabling outstanding young people from around the world to undertake full-time postgraduate study at the University of Oxford, (ranked first internationally in the Times Higher Education rankings for 2017 and 2018). This year, Sam Patterson was one of only thirty-two students, from nearly 1,000 applicants, selected for his outstanding scholarly achievements, his outstanding character, his commitment to others and to the common good, and his potential for leadership in his academic field.



At UMBC, Sam is earning a triple degree in Economics, Mathematics, and Statistics. He is a member of the Honors College and a Meyerhoff Scholar. He has participated in three high-level internship experiences: one with the Harvard Leadership Alliance; another at the University of Chicago, Booth School of Business; and most recently at the National Bureau of Economic Research, where he evaluated the COVID-induced changes with regard to public transportation usage trends in cities such as New York, resulting in a forthcoming publication. He has consistently been named to the Dean's and President's lists at UMBC. His research interests include transportation economics, and bringing together those doing advocacy work and those doing research, introducing new ideas to government leaders and creating real change by providing opportunities for people to escape poverty. His work asks questions about how people access their jobs, schools, hospitals, food, election polls, cultural institutions, via public transportation, and how that access can be improved.

If that isn't enough, Sam is a dedicated musician who plays multiple instruments and produces music, avidly collects funk music records, and performs locally with his bands. Sam is from Marietta, Georgia, but quickly made Arbutus his home. As the Music Director of the Retriever Music Society, he has performed at OCA Mocha, the UMBC-owned, student-run coffee shop in Arbutus. He has also worked as a volunteer for Creative Coders, an after-school program at Arbutus Middle School, teaching public school children computer coding skills, and he even made efforts to save Mike's pizza shop in Arbutus when it was going out of business as a result of the COVID pandemic.

The Rhodes Scholarship is a life-changing opportunity for exceptional young people with the potential to make a difference for good in the world. Sam has that rare mixture of grit and excellence that is the best of what UMBC represents. His experience in the U.K. will enrich not only his academic path, but also his personal journey in so many profound ways. We can't wait to see what he can accomplish with the support he will receive from this scholarship.

See the full UMBC News story here:

The Wisdom Institute Needs You!

The Wisdom Institute needs your ideas, your participation, and your contact information!

The Institute is only as relevant and fun as all of us make it.

- We need your input for programs, events, and service opportunities. These opportunities can come in all shapes and sizes, so send us your thoughts at wisdom.umbc.edu. Just click on Contact Us.
- We would love to have you join in as a volunteer or by attending an event. If there are ways to make your attendance easier or ideas to make these opportunities more relevant to you, let us know: click on Contact Us at wisdom.umbc.edu.
- We need your contact information to get the most recent updates to you quickly. If you are not receiving our emails, please update your information via the Contact Us link at:

wisdom.umbc.edu.



Opportunity for WI Members to Participate in a Reading Partners Initiative

By Dr. Linda Baker

The Sherman Center for Early Learning in Urban Communities, directed by Dr. Mavis Sanders, is interested in creating connections with other organizations on campus, including the Wisdom Institute. The Sherman Center has partnerships with four Title 1 schools in Baltimore, providing support for students in PK-Grade 2, their teachers, and their parents. It also works with other community organizations providing support for families and children birth to Grade 2 and is host to the Maryland Early Childhood Education Leadership program (ME-CLP). For more information, see the Sherman Center website, <https://shermancenter.umbc.edu/>. The UMBC News story that you can access from the home page provides a good overview of the Center activities.



One of the Sherman Center's partner schools is Maree G. Farring, a Title I school in the S. Baltimore neighborhood of Brooklyn. The principal, Ben Crandall, and the literacy coach, Dr. Joy Guthrie, are seeking volunteers to participate in an online initiative to improve the reading skills of children in grades 3 to 5. As a member of the Sherman Center Advisory Board, I will serve as a liaison. Here is a summary of what the program will entail:

- The program needs 10-15 volunteers overall, with about half coming from the Wisdom Institute.
- Each volunteer will work with four students twice a week in individual sessions lasting about 15 minutes. The time commitment each week is about two hours.
- Volunteers listen to the student read a passage for fluency that is taken from the school's Language Arts curriculum, provide support, encouragement, discuss vocabulary, and talk about connections with what they already know.
- Students will be in grades 3, 4, and 5 and in need of extra reading support.
- The volunteers will receive training on working with the students.
- The project will begin this semester and last for about 15 weeks.
- BCPSS will provide the platform for the virtual sessions.
- Students can be pulled out from their classrooms between 9:15 and 2:30 for the sessions.

If you are interested in participating, or if you have questions, please contact me, Linda Baker, baker@umbc.edu, in January so we can begin planning.

The Sherman Center and MECLP will also be exploring other opportunities for engagement with members of the Wisdom Institute, such as mentoring and guest speaking. Your suggestions are welcome.

Watch For These Upcoming Events

Our planning for events and activities into Fall of 2021 is limited, given uncertainties about vaccine timelines. Further details and new opportunities will be posted at wisdom.umbc.edu as soon as they are finalized. Check the site monthly for new, interesting & fun opportunities! Send your ideas for an online or in-person event or outing to lmorgan@umbc.edu.

Interesting & Unusual Trees

September, Online

This session will share knowledge from a pair of WI "tree folks." The speakers will focus on unusual, historic or rare trees that may be fun to add to your yard or give to others. The session includes a tree planting "how to" session.

What's Retirement Really Like?

September, Online

This will be the 3rd time the WI has sponsored a panel of its members to talk about transitioning to retirement, focusing on topics not covered by UMBC's HR department. We do this as a service to current employees.

UMBC Research & Innovation: Dr. Yonathan Zohar

Date TBD, Online

Dr. Zohar, UMBC professor of Marine Biotechnology, has developed innovative techniques to expand land-based fish farming. These innovations produce environmental benefits, support sustainable stocks of fish, and create jobs. He will share some of the details of his widely-recognized work from his lab.

UMBC Planetarium Show

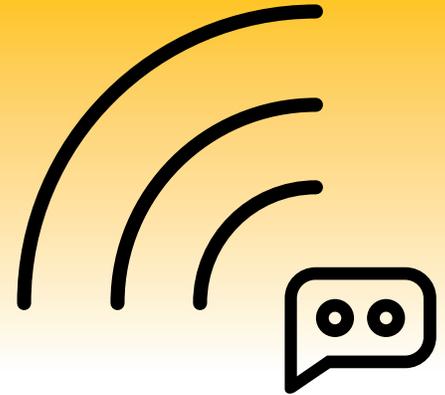
Date TBD

We've had two prior visits to the UMBC's fun and informative planetarium and are looking forward to these sessions returning in the Fall! If conditions permit, we hope to have a reception before going to the show.

WI Programming: Pandemic Update

With the onset of Covid-19, the WI Program Committee scrambled to find ways to safely enable our members to stay connected. We've undergone accelerated learning about how to run Webex and Zoom sessions and have had to rethink how we can safely be together in person. The advantages of online platforms include the capability for persons who are more distant or who might find it challenging to travel to campus for in-person activities.

While vaccines are now on the way, it remains important for us to practice safety measures when we meet in-person, such as maintaining social distancing and wearing masks. And we look forward to the time when we can return to offering you in-person events. Our lesson from this strange time may be that having a mixture of in-person and online events may be the best choice in the long term. It enables more UMBC retirees to engage in WI activities. Our online events have been entertaining, informative, and just plain fun. For those who are new to the Wisdom Institute, here are a few of the events we've held during these past few months.



Celtic Music with Tim Topoleski:

Our first major effort to use an online platform required a high level of technical expertise, because online meeting software is focused on voice quality, not sound from instruments. But Dr. Topoleski, after helping to resolve these problems, regaled us with music and the cultural background of various threads of Celtic Music. Video of this event is available at wisdom.umbc.edu under the Prior Events heading.



Let's Play Boggle:

An online group joined to play [or, in many cases, learn to play] the word-finding game of Boggle. Many of us had never played, but had a great time learning and improving as we went along. A lot of laughing ensued and another session is planned for Spring 2021.

WI Signature Event:

This event, typically held in April, was postponed to the Fall. A large group of people joined online to learn more about The Empowered University, the book about UMBC authored by Hrabowski, Rouse & Henderson. Each presenter discussed insights into our University's development and culture. Video of this event is available at umbc.edu/wisdom under the Prior Events heading.

Hiking Along the Patapsco River:

A smaller-than-expected group of hardy masked hikers joined the November hike along the Grist Mill Trail in Patapsco State Park. It was a day with blustery winds and beautiful late-fall weather. We had a great time walking along the river and enjoying each other's company... wearing masks, of course.



URCAD XXV Online this Spring!

April 19-25, 2021

Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD) is celebrating its 25th anniversary! Due to the COVID-related campus closure, URCAD XXV will be held online again this spring. You will be able to view presentations, watch films, see videos of dance and music performances, view artwork, and interact with presenters during the week-long asynchronous event. Students benefit from interacting with retired faculty and staff, and it's a great way to stay connected to the UMBC undergraduate community!



When URCAD moved online last April, 251 students presented their research and creative work, and thousands of visitors attended URCAD online via an interactive platform called VoiceThread. Nothing can compare to being together to celebrate the research, scholarship, and creative work of our talented UMBC undergraduate students. Experiencing live dance performances, being able to talk face-to-face with students, or being able to take a ride on a kinetic sculpture are things that are meant to be experienced in person, and the energy of URCAD on campus is irreplaceable. But last year's online event provided a unique experience for visitors to explore the presentations and to interact with presenters in really meaningful ways. The online format also expanded URCAD to a global event--visitors logged on from as far away as Korea and the U.K.

You can still view the presentations from URCAD 2020. The technology is easy to use; just visit last year's online event archive to familiarize yourself with the VoiceThread format: <https://urcad.umbc.edu/departments/>

Alumni Keynote Speaker:

Klaudine Wakasa Makokha ('08),
Trade Commissioner of Clean Technologies, Government of Canada.

**Mark your calendars for the week of April 19-25, 2021 for
URCAD XXV Online at [URCAD.umbc.edu](https://urcad.umbc.edu).**

A graphic for the keynote speaker. On the left is a large photo of Klaudine Wakasa Makokha, a Black woman with her arms crossed. To her right, the text reads "Keynote Speaker" and "Klaudine Wakasa" in large bold letters, followed by "Green Economy Advisor to International Governments". On the right side of the graphic is the URCAD 25th Anniversary logo. Below the text is a grid of six small images: a woman's face, a globe, a man's face, a person in a white dress, a man's face, and a person with a camera. At the bottom of the grid is the text "UMBC presents".

UMBC Trivia Part 2

Test your knowledge of UMBC !

1. What year did the Maryland State Legislature pass the bill to establish UMBC?
 - A. 1961
 - B. 1963
 - C. 1964
2. On opening day in 1966, what were the three academic buildings open?
 - A. Gym 1, Lecture Hall 1, Biological Sciences
 - B. Lecture Hall 1, Library, Biological Sciences
 - C. Fine Arts, Biological Sciences, Gym 1
3. How many parking spaces did UMBC have on opening day?
 - A. 300
 - B. 400
 - C. 500
4. What year was the Math Club formed?
 - A. 1966
 - B. 1968
 - C. 1971
5. Who was the founding faculty member for the Classical Language program?
 - A. Dr. Freyman
 - B. Dr. Sherwin
 - C. Dr. Storch
6. What was the first cultural event at UMBC?
 - A. A modern dance concert
 - B. A folk music concert
 - C. A theatre performance
7. What year did the UMBC Women's basketball team form, without a coach? They played (and won) their first game.
 - A. 1966
 - B. 1967
 - C. 1970
8. In the year of Woodstock (1969), what play was performed at UMBC?
 - A. Keep the Peace Baby
 - B. Rockout
 - C. No Where to Go
9. What year was the Women's Union formed, and the first Women's Studies courses offered?
 - A. 1966
 - B. 1968
 - C. 1971
10. In 1973 UMBC awarded its first graduate degree. What was the subject?
 - A. Applied Mathematics
 - B. Biological Sciences
 - C. Chemistry

Answers can be found on page 2.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WI ACTIVITIES!

Let's Play Boggle! [February 3, 2021] Join a group of experienced and novice players to enjoy the fun word-finding game of Boggle. It's easy to learn and lots of fun to play. Invite your friends to join, too!

UMBC Stories & Lunch. [February 18, 2021] Enjoy your lunch while sharing your favorite stories of your time at UMBC with old and new colleagues and friends.

Indigenous People of the Amazon [March 4, 2021] Between the late 1970s and early 1990s Sandy Parker (GES) did research with indigenous, peasant communities in the Brazilian Amazon. Fear not, this is not a research lecture but simply a sharing of amazing images with commentary.

Early Spring Hike at UMBC [April 13, 2021] Hike the Herbert Run Greenway & CERA areas adjacent to the UMBC campus...wearing masks, of course.

UMBC Signature Event: [April 23, 2021] Join us for a talk by UMBC's own John Jeffries, for a discussion on The 2020 Election in Historical Perspective.

Walking Tour of Dickeyville [May 2, 2021] Visit the winding streets and historic homes of Dickeyville, once a mill town, hidden in the heart of western Baltimore, not far from UMBC's campus.

Spaced Out Picnic [May, 19, 2021] Bring your personal picnic & lawn chair for a socially distanced picnic outdoors. Visit with friends or engage in safe outdoor activities as spring arrives.

Early Summer Hike on the Catonsville Trolley Trail [June 11, 2021] Join a group [masked, if required at the time] to hike the 4 mile Trolley Trail to Ellicott City, where people may visit eateries or shops or simply watch the river flow.

Preregistration required at wisdom.umbc.edu in the **Events tab**
Just click on the events you choose and fill out the short form!

More Events are Being Developed: Check monthly for new online or in-person options!



University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250