



Issue 2 | February 2020

Welcome from the Wisdom Institute!

As you are planning your many adventures in retirement, don't forget to mark the Wisdom Institute events on your calendar. We would love to see you at our events and hope you will check out our website to keep up to date on our upcoming events and news. Questions on these events or on the Wisdom Institute? Visit us at wisdom.umbc.edu or my.umbc.edu/groups/wisdom or Email us at wisdominstitute@umbc.edu.



Wisdom Institute Third Annual Signature Luncheon

When: Friday, April 24, 2020
11:30 a.m.

Where: UMBC Event Center

Join us for the Wisdom Institute's Third Annual Signature event. It will be held Friday, April 24, 2020, at the Event Center. Save this date for an afternoon of reconnecting with friends, an informal reception, and a tasty lunch! This event is a crowd favorite and offers much needed time to get back the UMBC vibe. See the exciting things happening on campus that you helped make possible! The reception, lunch, and parking are provided at no cost.

We will open the day with an informal reception for catching up with friends and UMBC family at 11:30 a.m. to be followed by lunch at 12:30 p.m.. Then join us for a conversation with Freeman Hrabowski, Philip Rous, and Peter Henderson about *The Empowered University: Shared Leadership, Culture Change, and Academic Success*.

This book opens with a heading, "It's about Us." While most books by college presidents write from a position of authority about their accomplishments, this book really is about us, that is, all of us who have worked to co-create UMBC as the wonderful university it is today. That being said, we know leadership matters. Leaders can create an empowered campus or render others silent and invisible. At UMBC, faculty, staff, and students have enjoyed shared governance, collectively cultivated a culture of inclusive excellence, and focused our efforts and resources to foster academic success, while walking side-by-side with Dr. Hrabowski. We will have the opportunity to discuss and reflect upon the values, vision, challenges, and successes that created UMBC with Dr. Hrabowski at the helm. Dr. Henderson will put our unique approach in perspective as he examines the national landscape for higher education.

We hope you will save the date on your calendar now and that we will see you April 24th at our Signature Event. Again, there is no cost to attend and free parking will be available. Visit our website, wisdom.umbc.edu, for more details and to register.

The Wisdom Institute appreciates the support from Provost Rous, who graciously hosts our reception and luncheon. We are also grateful for his support for our activities throughout the year.

RETRIEVER SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

<https://retrieveressentials.umbc.edu/help-us/>

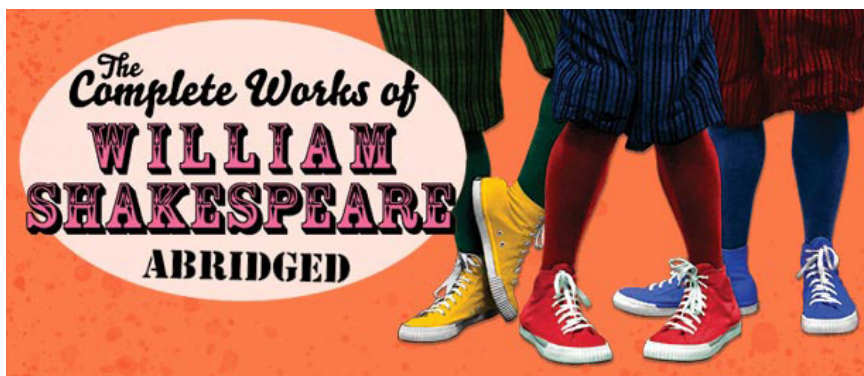
In conjunction with the Wisdom Institute's Signature Event on April 24, attendees are invited to make donations to Retriever Essentials, a faculty, staff, and student partnership to tackle food insecurity in our university community. A donation station at the event will collect donations of food and toiletries, or, if you prefer, make a monetary donation. Please visit their website for information on food/toiletry items they need and/or how to donate.

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged

When: Sunday, March 15, 2020
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Where: The Chesapeake Shakespeare Company
Seven South Calvert Street, Baltimore

Join fellow Wisdom Institute members for a production of The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged at the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company in Baltimore on March 15, 2020.



Prior to the performance there will be a **"Behind the Scenes"** tour for our group and tickets at a special, discounted price!

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare is thirty-seven plays in 97 minutes! Three madcap men in tights weave their wicked way through Shakespeare's comedies, histories, and tragedies in one irreverent afternoon that will leave you breathless and helpless with laughter. Don't miss this fun event!

Tickets must be purchased in advance. Visit tickets.umbc.edu to purchase.

Tea and Tour of Dickeyville, Maryland



When: Sunday, May 3, 2020
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

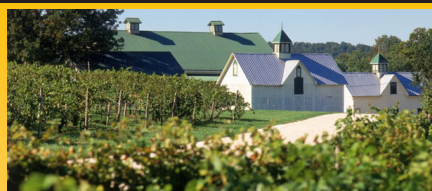
Where: 2433 Pickwick Rd, Baltimore

Founded in 1772, Dickeyville was designated an "historic district" of Baltimore City in 1969 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

Over the years, several UMBC employees have lived in this delightful village of approximately 120 homes along the Gwynns Falls. The gathering will begin at 3:00 pm with tea and conversation, hosted by Patricia and George LaNoue.

The tour will be led by Mike Blair, a Dickeyville archivist. The tour will run from 3:30 p.m. until approximately 4:15 pm, when guests can return to the LaNoue's to socialize. The event will end at 5:00 pm.

Boordy Vineyard: Tour & Tasting



When: Wednesday, May 20, 2020
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Where: Boordy Vineyard
12820 Long Green Pike
Hydes

Join us for an afternoon tour and wine tasting at this historic Maryland vineyard. We'll visit the vineyard [weather permitting] and tour the winery and barrel room. This will be followed by a tasting of seven wines. You may bring your own snacks or purchase food items at the winery. Outdoor tables are available if the weather is good. Wear sturdy shoes. Either drive yourselves or coordinate with WI colleagues to car-pool [12820 Long Green Pike, Hydes, Maryland 21082]. The tour is capped at 25 people and begins at 1:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$17 per person for this event. Guests are welcome to purchase a ticket and attend.

Visit tickets.umbc.edu to purchase.

WI Summer Kickoff Picnic



When: Wednesday, June 10, 2020
12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Patapsco State Park
8020 Balt. Nat. Pike,
Ellicott City

Join your colleagues and friends for a picnic at the Hilton Area of Patapsco State Park (Pavilion #201). Participants will sign-up to bring either an appetizer, a side dish or a dessert to share. Burgers (beef & veggie), kosher dogs and "fixins" will be provided. Bring your own preferred beverages [An alcohol license has been purchased]. The event is held in a large pavilion, holding 70+ people in case of rain. Feel free to bring outdoor entertainments/games. Park entry fees will be pre-paid. At the gate, say that you are with the Wisdom Institute for entry included in your fee. Tickets are \$5 per person. Guests are invited.

We Matter RXdrug Coverage Group

There are two groups with very similar names (UNITED We Matter and We Matter) who are both organized by Mr. Ken Fitch, but carry distinct missions in the area of retiree benefits. UNITED We Matter was formed to deal with future threats to benefits, and We Matter was formed to deal strictly with prescription drug coverage.

We Matter is the newly incorporated organization that originated the lawsuit that yielded the federal injunction to maintain our State of Maryland prescription medication benefits into 2019 and for as long as the injunction is not rescinded. There is no cost to participate. Please email MDRetireesRX@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

Joining United We Matter, Inc. [<https://unitedwematter.com>] is the best way to stay abreast of information regarding threats to other benefits, should they arise. This group was formed to broaden the scope of interest to include threats to limit or reduce Maryland State pensions and other benefits for retirees.

Retiree Lunch Gathering

Join other Wisdom Institute members for informal monthly lunch gatherings.

All retirees, staff, and faculty are invited. Lunch will be dutch treat, and parking is free with registration.

Join us for fun and fellowship with colleagues.

Watch for emails with dates, locations and times. Please visit wisdom.umbc.edu for registration information.



Wisdom Institute Retiree Profile: Bryan MacKay

How to have fun in retirement

Bryan MacKay has been a valued member of the UMBC community since 1969. Bryan noted that UMBC was a very new school, but he received an excellent education even then. The biology program was modern, whereas those at College Park and other state colleges were still mired in traditional coursework. The summers of his junior and senior year he worked in Central Receiving and enjoyed delivering all over campus. In the fall of 1974, UMBC Biology had started a graduate program. He started taking courses to improve his job skills, one course a semester. In those days, a master's meant you actually did a research thesis; it was just not as extensive as a PhD. He recalls that he was terrified to have to give a lecture (he was very shy), and it was on botany, a subject about which he knew nothing. He practiced in front of his bedroom mirror. When it was over 90 minutes later, he was in love! He had found his calling: teaching. When he graduated with a MS in 1979, he was offered a position in Biology as a laboratory instructor, which he was happy to accept. Over the next 33 years, his job title changed to lecturer. He earned de facto tenure and then was in the first cohort entitled to promotion to senior lecturer. He loved his job and looked forward to it every day. He retired June 30, 2012, because he really wanted to travel.



In the 1980s, in his spare time, he got into environmental education, and was one of the cofounders of Pickering Creek Environmental Center, which still today services over 12,000 students of all ages learning about the Chesapeake Bay watershed. He gradually learned about the best places in Maryland to go to see interesting plants, animals and ecology. By 1988, that interest led to writing his first book, "Hiking, Cycling and Canoeing in Maryland". This guidebook, published by the Johns Hopkins University Press, did quite well, and he has sold almost 30,000 copies. It's not just where to go; there's a lot of information about what you're likely to see at each of the venues, a lot of good biology and nature writing. His favorite book came out in 2013: "A Year Across Maryland," one chapter for each week of the year, chronicling what you are likely to see in nature and where to go to see it. In retirement, he still loves to hike, cycle and paddle. Bryan and his wife, Debra, travel extensively around the United States, visiting mostly national parks, camping, hiking and taking photographs. They have now been to all of the national parks in the lower 48 states. Since his wife grew up at Lake Tahoe, California and still owns the family home there, they live at Tahoe all summer, enjoying the pleasant, dry weather, perfect for outdoor activities. They are most proud of their 31 day backpacking trip, completing the 211 mile John Muir Trail in the California Sierra in 2013. As to state parks, he still hikes in Patapsco once or twice a week. What he finds hard to believe is that he has been hiking some of the older trails for 55 years!

Bryan offers a tip for those wanting to enjoy a fun hike in the area: A short, fairly easy and very popular trail in Patapsco Valley State Park that you might like to try is the Cascade Trail. From the Orange Grove area restrooms, take the adjacent walking trail uphill. Over the next 250 yards, the trail passes through a shady, mature forest that in April has the park's best native wildflower display. Your goal is the cascade, which falls about ten feet into a clear, cold pool of creek water. It's very photogenic! Return to your car, or continue uphill along the stream for as long as you care to, then return via the same route.

To find the trailhead, leave the UMBC campus on I-195 headed toward BWI airport. Take the Route 1 exit. At the stop sign, turn right on Route 1, go 100 feet, turn right on South Street, and then enter the park on your left. After paying your entry fee, drive to a T intersection, turn left, cross the river, then turn right on River Road. Proceed to the end, the Orange Grove parking area.

Bryan still has season tickets to Retriever Basketball and works with the Wisdom Institute Programming Committee. His connection to UMBC is still alive and well!

Pro tip: For \$10, you can get a lifetime pass good for free entry into all Maryland State Parks. Go to the MD Department of Natural Resources website.

Did you miss an event?

First Day Winter Hike

January 1, 2020: the start of a new year and a new decade. Endless possibilities in sight for the year ahead. So to start that new year, almost a dozen Wisdom Institute members, friends, families, and dogs, strolled across the Swinging Bridge and along the Mill Race Trail in Patapsco Valley State Park. We learned about Patapsco Superlative, Hurricane Agnes, and Bloede Dam, all fading from memory into history. We finished the day with a short hike up to Cascade Falls and its scenic beauty. Make a First Day Hike your family tradition starting in 2021!



Home Town Girl

On October 25, 2019, the Wisdom Institute traveled to the Maryland Historical Society to view the exhibit, "Home Town Girl," a wonderful and striking collection of quilts done by Mimi Dietrich and some of her students on the Art of Baltimore Album Quilting and other styles of quilting. A really fun quilt in the exhibit is the "Hon" quilt, featuring row homes, orioles, ravens, a beehive hairdo, crab cakes, a pink flamingo, and black-eyed susans.

Mimi (UMBC's home town girl also, Class of 1970) and her husband, Bob (UMBC Class of 1970 and 39 years as Building Manager of Biology) met us at the exhibit. Mimi quickly added up our years of service - around 400 for 13 people. She was impressed. Mimi is a very engaging storyteller as she recounted her beginning interest with quilting - sleeping under one of her grandmother's quilts as a child (she still has it). Mimi was an elementary school teacher, but realized that was not her calling and began working at Stretch n' Sew. She learned their techniques and taught for them. After all that experience, she thought she could handle making a quilt for her first baby and she certainly did! She continued on making her specialty appliqué. Baltimore Album Quilts, a style of quilting originating in Baltimore around 1830-1840, became one of her passions after she saw an exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Art in the 1980s. She has written many books from basics, story quilts, and appliqué and has taught many classes on these subjects. She and a co-worker from her early days, Laurie Gregg (also a UMBC alum) started Village Quilters of Catonsville 35 years ago. It is still going strong with over 100 members. Mimi even has courses online. She also taught a class at UMBC in the American Studies Department (her major). She has collaborated with the Smithsonian Institution where she was allowed to study quilts in their collection and adapt them for today's quilter in a book.



Mimi is one of Maryland's and the nation's most accomplished quilters. She has traveled nationwide to teach quilting, and in 2013 the International Association of Creative Arts Professionals named her Professional Quilt Teacher of the Year. In 2015 she was inducted into The Quilters Hall of Fame. Our late Jim Milani (class of 1973 and staff member for 45 years) often referred to Mimi as UMBC's Rock Star of Quilting, and that she is! The exhibit continues until March 22, 2020. It is well worth seeing, as are all of Maryland Historical Society's exhibits.

Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building (ILSB)



The Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building (ILSB) is a center for researchers and faculty from across all colleges to work collaboratively on complex problems and to engage students in active and applied learning. Thus, teaching laboratories, research facilities, and areas for group study in the ILSB are designed to foster discussion, experimentation, and teamwork. As noted by Bill LaCourse, dean of CNMS, "Solving the big problems that shape and have the potential to save our society requires a multitude of disciplines coming together in collaboration—solutions are found through a "convergence" of talent and effort and individuals from all walks of life."

For example, faculty from Geography and Environmental Systems (Chris Swan and Colin Studds) and from Biological Sciences (Tamra Mendelson and Mercedes Burns) are working in the Environmental Systems Lab that serves as an intersection of environmental lab and

fieldwork where they are working on a number of different environmental problems, including the role of environmental toxins on organismal biology and associated ecological interactions. These faculty reside in offices and labs next to one another, along with their graduate students, in an open environment that fosters communication and collaboration across disciplines.

Dr. LaCourse noted several design features of the building serve as metaphors for the grander vision of the work to be done there. The entire building is centered on a sundial that shines down on the floor of the atrium, reminding us light is a fundamental source of life. The art installation, INFLIGHT, reflects the constant movement in science and nature and the interconnectedness of research and teaching. The green roof embodies our connection to the environment and commitment to sustainability.

Provost Philip Rous stated "The ILSB represents a fundamental expression of our collective vision of our university. The design for the building was co-created by our community as a functional asset, one that supports our mission and strategic priorities as they relate to both interdisciplinary research and innovation in teaching and learning. This approach recognizes that over many years our greatest accomplishments have been the result of faculty and students working together." The ILSB opened October 12, 2019.



Oca Mocha

5410 East Drive
Arbutus, MD 21227

Hours:

Monday–Friday: 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m. –10 p.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The Office of Community Affairs (OCA) function is to connect UMBC's resources to neighboring communities, while Mocha - the coffee shop - promotes opportunity, collaboration, and innovation by attracting community and university members and driving revenue to support the efforts of OCA.

RETREIVER SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

¡Adelante Latina! Enrich Two Lives.

When most of her classmates were beginning kindergarten, Ashley Ruano Hurtarte was making the perilous trip with her mother from Guatemala, across Mexico and then the Río Bravo (in Mexico) or Rio Grande (in the US) to the United States. When crossing the river at night, there was a severe storm, and the group had to turn back. Seeing that Ashley's mother was not able to take her through the currents to the other side, a man who was a total stranger carried her on his shoulders so that they could renew the trip successfully the following day. That experience gave Ashley a mission: to be persistent and to reach back to assist others in precarious situations, as that stranger had done for her.

Ashley and I met in 2016 when, shortly after retirement, I began tutoring in ¡Adelante Latina! (AL), a free after school college preparatory program for promising low income Baltimore City Public School latina students, like Ashley. During two years we met once a week and focused on English-language reading composition and writing. Fictional readings focused on the immigrant experience, and non fiction articles dealt with urgent social issues, like inequality, immigration policy, and climate change. Of course we did not neglect SAT prep, and Ashley scored 700 on the verbal section. (AL also offers tutoring in math and science.)



Ashley Ruano Hurtarte and John Sinnegan

Ashley was one of twelve latinas in the program to graduate from high school in 2018, and all of them went on to college with substantial financial aid. Ashley, who was undocumented at the time, earned a UMBC Humanities Scholarship. During her freshman year she earned a 3.6 GPA, and she became a permanent US resident. She is now a sophomore majoring in Global Studies with a minor in Spanish and a certificate in Intercultural Communication; she is deciding where to study abroad next year.

Recently she was selected by faculty members to participate in a binational video conference regarding intercultural communication and Latin American-U.S. relations as part of the collaborative agreement between the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and UMBC. She eloquently addressed issues and dangers faced by young latino immigrants in the current challenging situation. Ashley is already giving back to her community by tutoring English as a Second Language at the Baltimore Esperanza Center.

I have found tutoring in ¡Adelante Latina! to be extremely inspiring, rewarding, and educational; it is the best thing I have done since retiring. Ashley and the other students I have tutored have taught me so much I never knew about life in their home countries, their families, the perils and stress of being undocumented, and their intense desire to earn a college education and serve their community. I proudly attended Ashley's convocation, and I look forward to her graduation.

I strongly urge you to consider joining us in ¡Adelante Latina! No Spanish is required, and the time commitment is just two hours a week. As you help a committed, striving Latina student fulfill her dream of attending college, you will at the same time acquire new knowledge and experiences and become a more empathetic individual.

You can learn about the program and the role and responsibilities of tutors at <https://adelantelatinabaltimore.org/> You will help a young latina attend college and support her community while enriching your own life. For more information, please contact the AL program director, Ellen Spokes, ellen@adelantelatina.com.

John Sinnigen
Prof. Emeritus of Spanish and Intercultural Communication
Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication
UMBC

The Wisdom Institute Needs You!

The Wisdom Institute needs your ideas, your participation, and your contact information! The Wisdom 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 wisdominstitute@umbc.edu.

We would love to have you join in as a volunteer, or attend an event. If there are ways to make your attendance easier or ideas to make these opportunities more relevant to you, let us know at wisdominstitute@umbc.edu.



Trip to National Arboretum

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 our website: (visit the "contact us" tab).

wisdom.umbc.edu



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