



Table of Contents

A New Year.....	1
Dear Mr. President.....	2
Save The Date!.....	3
Dr. Acklyn Lynch.....	4
The First Crossword.....	5
Fun Puzzle.....	6
Herbert Run Restoration.....	7
Book Talk.....	8
Prescription Update.....	8
Armchair Travel.....	9
Friends, Fun, & Learning.....	9
Upcoming Events.....	11

Upcoming Wisdom Institute Events Spring 2022

March

Avoiding Scams & Frauds #2
March 15, noon - 1:00 p.m.

May

WI Signature Event
May 6, 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.

June

Morning Hike and Brown Bag at
Centennial Park
June 2 - 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.



Maverick gazing upon his black-eyed susans. Photo courtesy of Diane Lee.

A New Year

*Spring won't let me stay in this house any longer!
I must get out and breathe the air deeply again.*

- Gustav Mahler

I must admit, both the weather and the advice to cloister during the height of the pandemic led me to feel much like Mahler. I needed to take off my mask, stand still, inhale and exhale without worry. That need led me outside. At first, winter required I get my fix for green by making sure there were plants and flowers and other bits of nature inside my home. I opened the blinds and curtains. Artwork depicting views of the marsh, my favorite park, and the beaches at Nags Head and Charleston were given prominent places on walls in the rooms where I spent most of my time. A few drops of plant-based essential oils added to my sense of being outdoors. Yes, until it got warmer, I invited Mother Nature to linger inside.

As weather allowed, however, I spent more and more time outdoors. Whenever necessary, I put on multilayers, a hat, gloves, and whatever it took to be comfortable outside. The front porch became a healing garden filled with greenery of every shade and hue where I sit every morning with Maverick, our sweet rescue. Maverick prefers to nestle near the Black-Eyed Susans and I imagine him secure in memories of Maryland as am I. We share the porch with human friends too, walk more frequently, and watch waterfowl soar above the marsh at the park nearby. Poets, physicians, environmentalists, and researchers are telling us that this is just what we should do. There is a growing body of literature documenting the beneficial effects that exposure to the natural world has on physical and mental health, general well-being, and cognitive functioning. Indeed, a quick perusal of the literature reveals consistent headlines. Nature heals. Nature soothes. Nature restores. Nature provides respite for those feeling anxious, stressed, or depressed.

Nature invites us to attend to our surroundings with all our senses and helps us focus. Nature connects us to something larger than ourselves.

Time in nature is good for us, and we don't have to invest an inordinate amount of time in the natural world to reap benefits. As reported by Jim Robbins (Yale Environment 360, January 9, 2020, p.1) just two hours a week in green spaces, whether a planned park or natural environment, either all at once or spaced over several visits, makes a positive difference in health and psychological well-being. That's only 120 minutes a week! The great outdoors beckons. The good news is that spring is just around the corner, so bringing the outdoors inside needn't be a substitute for opening the door and going outside, spending some time in green spaces, and breathing in the fresh air. Let's go!

UMBC offers many delightful spaces for us. Walk the loop and rest among the trees at the Joseph Beuys Sculpture Park. Walk around the stadium and stop by Pig Pen Pond to watch the turtles and geese feed. Walk the whole Herbert Run Greenway, that is, the 1.4 mile loop connecting these and other special places around campus. (See the article by Patricia LaNoue in this publication for more details.) And while you are on campus, grab something to eat and enjoy a bite by the Library pond. As an added bonus, you are likely to see former colleagues or students walking by. You might even see Dr. Hrabowski, Lynne Schaefer, or others about to retire and can wish them well. Welcome them to the Wisdom Institute and tell them that you will see them again at the Signature Event on May 6.

Wherever you decide to go and however you choose to spend your time outdoors, enjoy the natural world. Allow Mother Earth to care for you, and commit to taking care of her as well. 🌿

Smiles,
Diane Lee



Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

Dear Mr. President,

By Tot Woolston

We knew this time would come. We always feared some other university would eventually steal you away. We should have known better. Your commitment to UMBC from day one was stronger than the prestige of the Ivy League schools or the sizable perks offered by larger universities with enormous budgets. And so, for over thirty years we have worked together with you to make the “improbable excellence” inevitable.

You came to UMBC with a dream. You probably believed in us more than we believed in ourselves. The first day I met you, I slipped into the passenger seat of your car for a trip to a community college to talk to a group of administrators about possible cooperative efforts. You began to tell me about your plans for increasing enrollment and improving retention. I was amazed at how much you already knew about UMBC and how quickly you had analyzed the problems and devised some solutions. I soon found out that was only the beginning.

The first years were spent establishing relationships, both on campus and off. You went to faculty department meetings, you met with student groups, you met with staff. You got to know us and we got to know you. Off-campus you went to high schools and community colleges. I remember once we were in the office of a high school principal who could not believe that the president of UMBC was sitting in his office. University presidents didn’t do that, but Freeman Hrabowski did.

Your oratorical skills are legendary. Audiences around the country have listened, spellbound, when you relate some of your experiences in the segregated schools of the south and recall your participation in the civil rights movement. Then you hit them with a poem recited from memory which highlights all of your previous points. Finally, you seem to always tie it back to UMBC and how fortunate you are to be president of a place that cares so much about students and does so well in preparing them for successful careers and full lives.

But you are the catalyst that sets the example that truly makes us care deeply about our students and employees. Students, faculty, or staff who are fortunate (or unfortunate) enough to get on the elevator to the tenth floor with you, are subjected to a pop quiz on what they are working on and how they are doing. Sometimes the conversation goes on as you corral the unsuspecting participant into your office to continue the conversation. University presidents don’t do that, but Freeman Hrabowski does.

Experts in the field of leadership agree that the primary issue that determines the success of a leader is trust. You were always careful to tell the campus the truth. You didn’t over-promise and when you did promise, you delivered. When times were tough and budgets were tight you communicated the bad news in a straightforward way to every campus constituency.

You were as proud of our achievements as you were of your own: “Give yourself a hand” or “Give us a hand” interspersed so many of your

communications. Part of your genius was being able to tell the campus and off-campus constituencies of our achievements without it sounding like boasting. Grit and Greatness became our motto and it truly does define our institution.

And you also brought to the campus a dream of your own—a program that would bring under-represented minorities to the STEM disciplines and provide them with the tools and the support that would enable them to become successful in these areas. You had the good fortune to be introduced to Robert and Jane Meyerhoff who were looking to invest in that same dream. From that introduction, the Meyerhoff Scholars Program was born.

When the Meyerhoff’s seed money became available, as always, you were ready. You had a strategic plan with a theoretical base and a research program already written. In order to prove to the academic world that this program was actually working, research was designed from the get-go to determine if the program was achieving its goals. Students turned down scholarships from the most prestigious universities in the country to come to UMBC and they were successful. Your carefully planned research demonstrated that the Meyerhoff model made a difference. Your dream became a reality and UMBC began to gain national recognition for its diversity and for sending its graduates on to successful careers.

Then you used the model to spin off similar programs in the arts and humanities, the social sciences, and education. Being able to prove that the programs really worked attracted other funding agencies. UMBC’s reputation with well-prepared undergraduates led to expanded graduate programs and increased research funding. Enrollments and retention in both the undergraduate and graduate schools grew and graduation rates improved.

You found creative ways to celebrate “the life of the mind.” With your encouragement and support, the UMBC chess team became a

(Cont’d on page 3)

Dear Mr. President (Cont'd from page 2)

many-times national champion. Another college president once told me that Freeman got more favorable publicity by spending \$500 on his chess team than his school got with the \$500,000 he spent on the football program.

You have checked every box in the measures used to determine the success of college presidents. Since you became president, UMBC has seen its endowment increase dramatically; state funding has increased through your ongoing work with governors and legislatures; the physical plant has grown to include special facilities for the arts and an events center. And the UMBC basketball team shocked the athletic world when it became the first number sixteen seed to knock-off a number one seed in the NCAA men's tournament. The collegiate basketball community went crazy and UMBC notched a place in history that this generation of fans will never forget!

But the thing that has made you so special to the people who have worked at UMBC over the thirty-plus years you have led us is your humanity. You always took the time to interact on a very personal level with the university's many constituencies. You listened to us; you engaged with us; and you made every individual feel they were an important part of the university community. College presidents don't do that, but Freeman Hrabowski did.

Speaking at your inauguration, Dr. Catherine Gira, the late president of Frostburg University, likened your boundless energy to the Energizer Bunny, saying your innate drive made it possible for you to do all the things that college presidents are required to do, while at the same time bringing your personal touch to everything you did. In your inaugural address you told us what kind of president you were going to be. When you said, "To all of you I proclaim it an honor and privilege to lead the University of Maryland

Baltimore County. We are a university on the move. We know who we are, what we want to become, and how to get there. We will work to become the best public research university of our size in the world and we are determined that our dreams will not be deferred." Your words remain as breath-taking now as they were then. We knew you were special and that you had something special in mind for UMBC.

The community of retired faculty and staff—the Wisdom Institute—are happy to have you join our ranks. Due in no small part to the leadership you have provided over the thirty years you have been president, we are extremely proud of this institution to which we have devoted our careers. You are our friend, our colleague, a scholar, and a leader, and you have raised the bar by which university presidents will be measured going forward higher than it ever was in the past. We are both proud and privileged to welcome you into The Wisdom Institute. 🕯



Dr. Jay A. Perman

Save the Date!

Wisdom Institute 5th Annual Signature Event: The Future of Higher Education

May 6, 2022, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Mark your calendar for The Wisdom Institute's 5th Signature Event, May 6, 2022, featuring Dr. Jay A. Perman. Dr. Perman is the fifth chancellor of the University System of Maryland, appointed in January 2020. He came to the chancellorship from the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) where he was president for a decade. A pediatric gastroenterologist, he practices medicine once a week, teaching team-based health care to UMB's professional students. Dr. Perman received his MD from Northwestern University and completed a fellowship in pediatric gastroenterology at Harvard Medical School and at the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Boston. He has held faculty and leadership positions at UC San Francisco, Johns Hopkins University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the University of Kentucky, where he was dean of the College of Medicine. Dr. Perman has been a long-standing friend to UMBC and is a close colleague of Dr. Hrabowski. He is currently heading the search for UMBC's next president. His talk will be followed by a conversation with Dr. Hrabowski.

The event will be on campus and all COVID protocols will be enforced. There will be an informal reception prior to the luncheon, so set aside a good portion of the day. Early plans suggest the event will run from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This will be a special moment for reflection as well as for looking forward. Don't miss it! Stay tuned to wisdom.umbc.edu for updates, registration information, and other Wisdom Institute events. Registration will be opening soon. We hope to see you there! 🕯



Dr. Acklyn Lynch

Dr. Acklyn Lynch – Master Of Many Things

Written by Betty J. Glascoe

It is indeed an honor to share with you my interview of an incredibly unique, brilliant, multi-talented personality that many would describe as a connoisseur of multiple aspects of the arts and extensive world vision, Dr. Acklyn Lynch. He was the oldest of eight children born to Esme and Randolph Lynch, into a family of very sparse economic means on the Island of Trinidad in the city of Port au Spain, in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Acklyn's life was predestined at the age of 11 years to be elevated out of poverty by Dr. and Mrs. Sydney Grandison, an economically/financially secure family who sought to enhance the lives of 12 young boys and 6 girls, whom they moved into their home. With Dr. Grandison being the principal of Eastern Boys School, he had a tremendous influence on Acklyn and the other selected youth. This environment proved to be remarkably transitional for the young people and resulted in elevating their ability to learn, expanding their education, enhancing self-confidence and augmenting their skills and talents. Outside of this home, females were encouraged to learn, while males were encouraged in sports, but not academic endeavors. However, Dr. Grandison made certain that the young males were aware that they all must learn for self-gratification and future advancement. Though small in size, Acklyn mastered football and cricket

and gained considerable recognition from the Trinidadians and those who followed his athletic abilities. His drive and determination resulted in providing an entre for opening many doors that would later prove to be quite profitable.

Once meeting Acklyn, you become immersed in his beautiful Trinidadian accent, integrated with his poetic communication and rhythmic delivery. His brilliance, flow, and mastery of words enabled him, at an early age, to move in complex and elevated circles that many persons would find impossible to enter.

At the age of 15, Acklyn would meet with nationally and internationally renowned entertainers who would perform on the army base in Trinidad or at Queens Royal College. He was quite brilliant and sought to prove his value as a young man who could provide his multiple talents as an interpreter and share the significance of their successful integration into the culture of a foreign people, while comprehending the customs of the island and other foreign places where the entertainers might perform. As a result, he made a tremendous impression on the artists and became friends with Max Roach, Dizzy Gillespie, Abby Lincoln, Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis, Paul Robeson, Miles Davis, Sonia Sanchez, Randy Weston, Duke Ellington, and many other world-renowned artists. His talents and expertise were considered invaluable, and he was invited to travel the world with the different artists/musicians and provide this cultural and interpretive service for their integration and his cultural acceleration. He accepted this position with different entertainers for four to five years. He enjoyed traveling the world and learning and absorbing as much as possible about every culture that they encountered. After much discussion, he was persuaded to get additional education and go to college and profit from the vast knowledge he had acquired with his extensive travel and multiple experiences. After hearing Paul Robeson speak, he decided he wanted to attend a black University; Howard University in Washington, DC was his choice.

Acklyn didn't have the funds to pursue his dream, but he knew that there were people throughout Trinidad who believed in him and

supported his athletic pursuit. He had been known throughout the island for his exceptional skills in football and cricket. He wisely chose three people whom he would approach and ask them to invest in his future. He successfully raised \$500 and made the necessary arrangements to come to the US. He felt the need to be close to the action and started his career pursuit in New York City. His ultimate goal was to attend Howard University, but first he had to acquire some other experiences that would contribute to his present and future development. After purchasing his airline ticket, he had \$50 left. He had no idea what he would do. However, he was determined that he was going to actualize his dream. On his flight to New York, he had an extensive conversation with the passenger sitting beside him. When she learned that he had no specific destination in New York and she saw his drive and determination, she told him that he could not be on the streets of New York City. She insisted that he go home with her. He stayed at the residence of this Earthly Angel the entire time he worked in New York. He secured employment for the first year with a petroleum company and the second year he worked with a banking institution.

At the age of 24 years, Acklyn Lynch eagerly enrolled in Howard University. He was an exceptional student and though he was small in height and size, his skill set was high, and he received considerable recognition for his athletic abilities. He became politically active and a fervent and sometimes controversial student leader.

While in Washington DC, Acklyn would often be a guest speaker on WPFW, a jazz station. He became a tremendous hit with the listeners. They loved him. They loved his accent and were impressed with the fact that he knew most of the musicians personally and could share wonderful stories that were pleasing to the public and often took them on musical journeys with him. I must say that many of my friends asked me if I knew Acklyn Lynch and I was pleased to say that I did and that he was a very bright and gifted professor and the students loved him. Acklyn enjoyed this aspect of his life, but it wasn't until the early

(Cont'd on page 5)

Lynch (Cont'd from page 4)

1970's that he became a part of the WPFW family, sharing music and memories that he loved. In 1960 Acklyn Lynch graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Howard University. As a result of his scholastic achievement, he studied in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh for two years and from there he received a full scholarship to Harvard University. However, he merely stayed at Harvard for one year because he felt disconnected from what he referred to as "the real world." The environment was not conducive for his learning. He was an activist and students were unaffected by the inequities of the day.

Not long after leaving Harvard University and having a casual day in downtown Washington DC, Acklyn was standing near John Hopkins University's School for Advanced International Studies, he met a stranger, who was so impressed with their conversation that he shared with Acklyn who he was and his identity and his affiliation with Johns Hopkins University. He told Acklyn that he was the kind of student they were seeking to enroll in their doctoral program and invited him inside to register. By invitation and because of his academic excellence, Acklyn attended Johns Hopkins University and earned his PhD in Political Science and Economics. He maintains this insatiable desire to learn. His academic and teaching concentration were in Political Economy and African American Studies.

It was in 1965 that Acklyn married the lovely and accomplished Martha Fernandez, originally from Bogotá, Colombia and they parented two beautiful children, Jair and Pilar Lynch. His goal has always been to be the best father that he could possibly be and to always give his children unconditional love, respect, and support. He was determined to give his children what his father, Randolph Lynch, never gave to him or his siblings.

Dr. Lynch taught at a few Universities and sometimes his activism got him in trouble. However, his most rewarding experiences were at Howard University and later in 1977 at UMBC, where he taught African American Studies integrated with

Political Economy. At one point he chaired the African American Studies Department. The students were eager to learn, and he loved their enthusiasm. He was determined to share as much as he could. He would often teach his classes dressed according to the personalities he introduced to the students. He used his connections that he had acquired over the years and invited many of the artistic luminaries to the campus to share their talent and their career experiences. They included musicians, poets, writers, painters, sculptors, radical thinkers, dancers, etc. Their engagements on the campus were open to the entire university community. However, their first responsibility was to share with his students in the African American Studies Department.

He encouraged his students to travel the world and to broaden their perspectives on life, while learning other languages and cultures to be able to acknowledge the wonder of peoples around the world, regardless of race or religion. Though he was not a devoted church attendee, he said that his goal was to enhance the value of our spiritual lives. He would take the students on trips to the different cities and states, such as New York, Chicago, New Orleans, etc. and introduce them to the value of travel and cultural transformation. Often, he would meet with artists that he knew and ascertain the students' enrichment from these experiences. Their cultural enhancement was paramount. He even took his students to his place of birth, Trinidad. They were interested and excited to learn of his earlier beginnings. These experiences were rich, and their curiosity for travel was elevated. During all of this, he continued to share on the jazz show, WPFW, whenever he was in the area.

He became a mentor for many students, but his biggest reward was Lafayette Gilchrist who later became a world-renown jazz musician. When Acklyn recognized his talent, he arranged for him to meet some of the famous jazz musicians that he knew. They were able to evaluate his musical talent and give him pointers on the world of jazz and what to anticipate. These directives proved to be extremely helpful.

Dr. Lynch introduced to the UMBC Community

a specific program entitled, "Wild Women Don't Wear No Blues." He was extremely proud of the resolve and the impact on the UMBC students and the support received from other universities in the area. Even though artistic women were introduced to share their talents in a variety of programs, many sought the inclusion in this program. Acklyn invited the performance of amazing female artists to share their talents for five or six years, until 1989.

Dr. Lynch's children, Jair and Pilar Lynch, were students in the university settings and have proven to be academic power houses like their parents. Jair was a student at Stanford University and Pilar was a student at NYU. Both were honor students. Jair began training in gymnastics as a youth and showed his exceptionalism with his participation on the gymnastics team at Stanford University. With their outstanding performances, their team competed in the 1992 and 1996 World Olympics. Jair was the youngest male on the team and the first African American to be chosen to captain an Olympic team.

(Cont'd on page 6)

Test Your Crossword Puzzle Knowledge

By Sandy Parker

Where and when was the first Crossword Puzzle published?

- a. Munich, 1774
- b. Zurich, 1804
- c. London, 1826
- d. Dublin, 1888
- e. New York, 1913

In what year did the New York Times publish its first Crossword Puzzle?

(The paper was founded in 1851).

- a. 1869
- b. 1897
- c. 1904
- d. 1936
- e. 1942

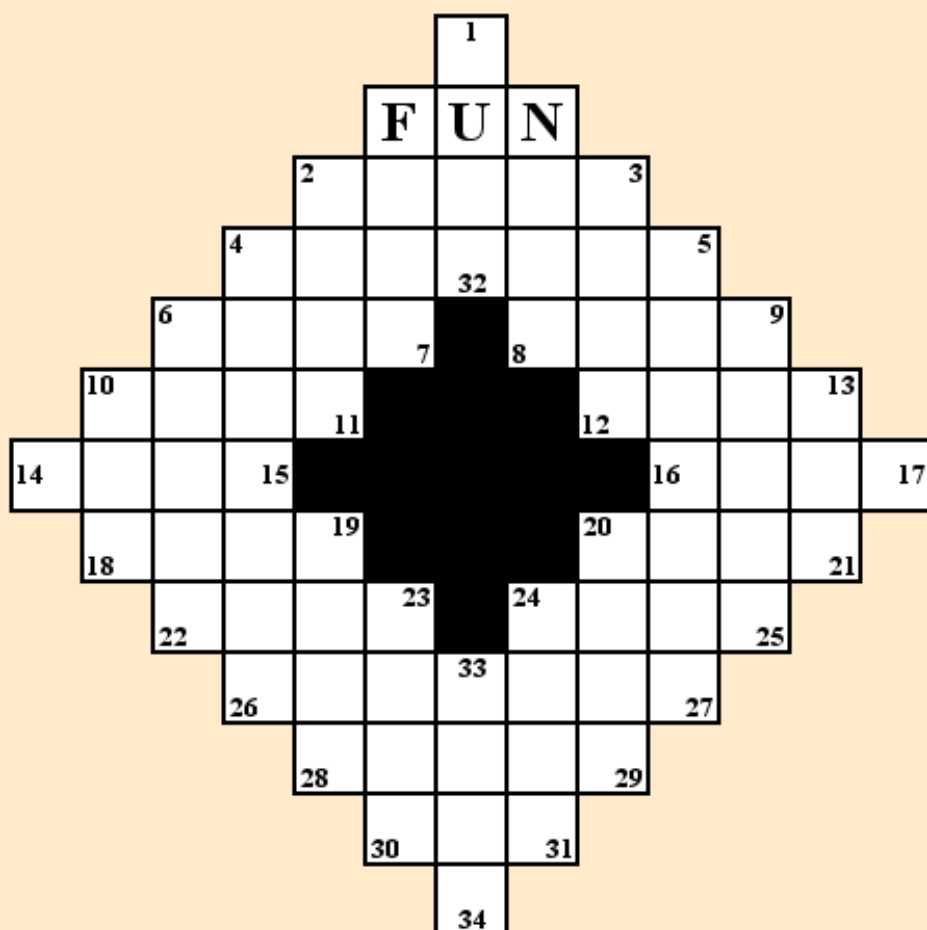
What is the three-letter word for an Indian Mulberry Bush?

(Clue last used in NYTimes Crossword Puzzle in 1971)

- a. aal
- b. kaf
- c. ghe
- d. ulm
- e. gaa

Answers on page 8.

First Crossword Puzzle (1913)



Fill in the small squares with words which agree with the following definitions.

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|--------|------------------------|
| 2-3. | What bargain hunters enjoy. | 6-22. | What we all should be. |
| 4-5. | A written acknowledgment. | 4-26. | A day dream. |
| 6-7. | Such and nothing more. | 2-11. | A talon. |
| 10-11. | A bird. | 19-28. | A pigeon. |
| 14-15. | Opposed to less. | F-7. | Part of your head. |
| 18-19. | What this puzzle is. | 23-30. | A river in Russia. |
| 22-23. | An animal of prey. | 1-32. | To govern. |
| 26-27. | The close of a day. | 33-34. | An aromatic plant. |
| 28-29. | To elude. | N-8. | A fist. |
| 30-31. | The plural of is. | 24-31. | To agree with. |
| 8-9. | To cultivate. | 3-12. | Part of a ship. |
| 12-13. | A bar of wood or iron. | 20-29. | One. |
| 16-17. | What artists learn to do. | 5-27. | Exchanging. |
| 20-21. | Fastened. | 9-25. | To sink in mud. |
| 24-25. | Found on the seashore. | 13-21. | A boy. |
| 10-18. | The fibre of the gomuti palm. | | |

Lynch (Cont'd from page 5)

With his exceptional skills on the parallel bars, Jair won the Olympic Silver Medal in 1992 for the US and as a representative of Stanford University. Acklyn was pleased to share that he never missed any rehearsals or performances anywhere in the world where his children were in competition or performing. Pilar was an exceptional dancer, and she was chosen to dance with the internationally renowned Alvin Ailey Dance Company. She performed all over the world, and her father would always follow to show his support, love, and respect for the talent of his children.

Jair Lynch received requests for speaking throughout the world because of his status with the US Olympic Gymnastics Team. Acklyn realized the significance of this transition in his son's life and decided in 2003 that he would resign from UMBC to be available to travel with his son and be that support system that he needed. It was also around this time that he discontinued his work with the jazz station, WPFW.

After leaving UMBC, the years that followed were earmarked by Acklyn traveling the world, lecturing and participating on panels in and outside of the US, speaking on the essence of the African American experience as well as from the books and numerous papers that he has been privileged to write. He has interviewed leading cultural, intellectual, and political figures and has logged thousands of hours of history making conversations on tapes that cover walls in a special room in his home. The tapes have accrued considerable value, and he anticipates donating them to the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). The quality of his work supersedes his presence as he constantly seeks positive changes that will impact all of our lives. He has also given considerable time to lecturing in prisons to the incarcerated for the purpose of giving hope and affecting change.

I am hopeful that many of us will have an opportunity to read his work.

Answers on page 8.

(Cont'd on page 7)

Lynch (Cont'd from page 6)

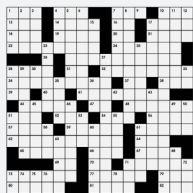
Two books that he sought to share are:

Lynch, Acklyn (1992). *Nightmare Overhanging Darkly: Essays on Black Culture and Resistance*. Chicago: Third World Press.

Lynch, Acklyn (2017). *Riffing on a Blue Nite... Sometimes I Wander*. Baltimore: Afrikan World Books.

So, with all that has been shared about Dr. Acklyn Lynch, he might be described as a published author, distinguished scholar, professor, activist, a music aficionado, lover of the arts, promoter, organizer, and mentor. But most of all, he is a loving and proud father and grandfather.

Dr. Acklyn Lynch is also blessed to have his loving and devoted companion, Ms. Duane (pronounced Du-awn) Jenkins by his side. She has been a tremendous support system for more than 15 years. 🐾



The First Crossword Puzzle

Written by Sandy Parker

The first crossword puzzle was published on Dec. 21, 1913, in the New York World. Created by Arthur Wynne, originally from Liverpool, England, it was included in the Fun section of the Sunday paper. When first published, it was called Word-Cross, but the story goes that an illustrator mixed up the two words a few weeks later and the name stuck: Crossword. Within ten years, crossword puzzles were in every U.S. major newspaper except for the New York Times. It was not until Feb. 1942 that the Times published its first crossword puzzle in its Sunday edition, prompted in part by a desire to provide readers with a distraction from news of the war. It was not until Sept. 1950 that the Times began a daily crossword. The crossword began appearing in British and European papers in the 1920s. 🐾

UMBC's Herbert Run Restoration

By Patricia LaNoue

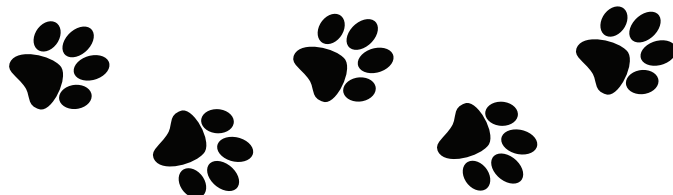
The Herbert Run Greenway, (HRG) (<https://hrg.umbc.edu/>), will benefit from a million dollar grant received by UMBC's Facilities Management. A major riparian corridor improvement is currently in process along the Herbert Run near the UMBC Stadium and the Chesapeake Employers Insurance Arena. Larry Hennessy, HRG liaison and grant recipient, shared that the Greenway will be greatly enhanced with the stream becoming much more visible and attractive when the project is completed. Stay tuned as our next issue will have a more detailed article on the development and restoration of this valuable UMBC resource. We can look forward to a tour in late spring! 🐾



New signage for the Herbert Run Greenway. Photo courtesy of UMBC.

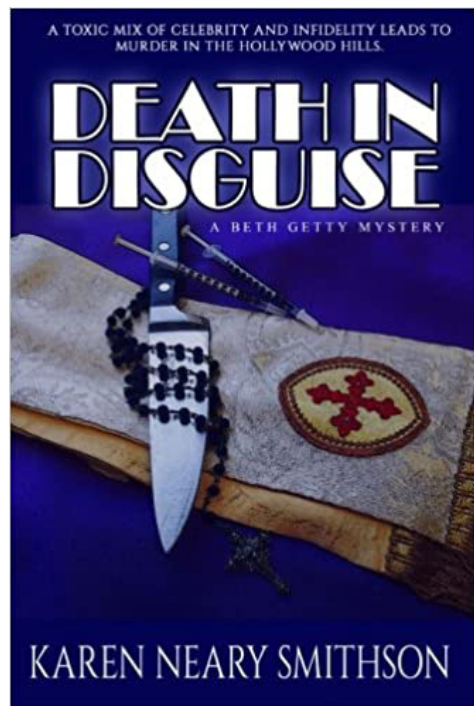


Herbert Run Park is located on the South East of campus. Photo courtesy of UMBC.



Book Talk

by Chuck Smithson*



Death in Disguise

By Karen Neary Smithson

Touch Point Press, April 2018

Death in Disguise is a multi-layered mystery where a toxic mix of celebrity leads point to murder in the Hollywood Hills. It will keep you turning the pages and guessing until the book's final chapters.

Teenage girls are being murdered in Los Angeles. Four in one week. The latest victim isn't like the others—not a runaway or a prostitute—but a nanny working for a celebrity couple. This has Sibeal “Beth” Getty perplexed. Beth is an Irish born fashion model gifted with an uncanny sixth sense she calls her fey.

When she reads the stolen diary of the nanny who was employed by her actress friend, Skye Andrews, Beth is amazed that she has forged a bond with the murdered girl. She is compelled to discover the truth about the nanny's death. But she doesn't know anything about conducting a murder investigation—that is her detective husband's line of work. He believes the nanny's death is the work of a copy-cat, but Beth's sixth sense tells her otherwise.

Beth decides to question the people mentioned in the diary. She interviews the nanny's ex/latest boyfriend, Skye's actor husband, Zach, who had an affair with the nanny. Beth is blindsided when one of Zach's crazed fans attacks her in a jealous rage. This incident infuriates Beth's husband. He demands she stop interfering with his investigation. Not heeding his order, she doggedly continues her pursuit of the elusive killer.

She begins to link unconnected details and stumbles into a tangled web of deception that makes it clear that nothing is as it seems. Help comes from an unexpected source when Skye offers a lead and a hand in solving the crime. As Beth inches closer to detecting the murderer's true identity, will she be the next victim on the killer's list? 🕯

Death in Disguise is written by local author Karen Neary Smithson and is her debut novel. It was awarded the PenCraft Award 2018 for best mystery sleuth novel.

*Chuck Smithson is UMBC Retired Staff and the husband of the author, Karen Neary Smithson.
ISBN-10 : 1946920401
ISBN-13 : 978-1946920409



State of Maryland Employee Prescription Drug Benefit Update

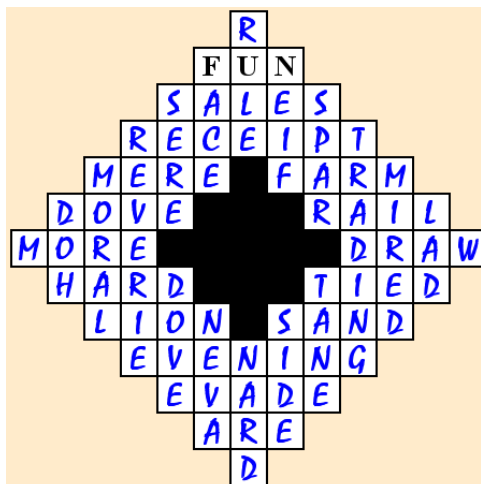
Are you aware that the State of Maryland eliminated State Retirees' Rx Drug Coverage? Yes. Any State Retiree 65 or older, or with a disability, is affected. This is something retirees earned and were promised. I, Ken Fitch, took the State of Maryland to Federal court and received an injunction (Fitch vs. Maryland) to stop the enforcement of this illegal and inhumane law. So many State retirees aren't aware of this action because their prescription drug coverage never stopped. This injunction allowed thousands of State retirees to retain their coverage while the case is pending. We have to get our coverage back! We have many retirees who are over 65 or retired disabled who are scared their days on this earth are limited. So I am asking for a little help. I have a petition up on the web page (www.unitedwematter.com), directed to the Maryland General Assembly, demanding the return of our coverage. Could you please join us in this fight? At least help our fight and sign the petition? You could also join our RX Drug Coverage Group on Facebook for information. 🕯

Ken Fitch
President
United We Matter
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FUN Puzzle

Answers:



Mini Puzzle Quiz

Answers: 1. e ; 2. e ; 3. a



Culebra, Puerto Rico. Photo courtesy of Culebra Department of Travel.

Armchair Travel Culebra, Puerto Rico

By Sandy Parker

Tucked away between the mainland of Puerto Rico and St. Thomas is a Puerto Rican island that although boasting one of the world's great beaches, few folks have heard of: Culebra. One of the two Spanish Virgin Islands (the other is Vieques), Culebra is considered an archipelago that includes the main island of Culebra (7 miles long, 5 miles wide) and 23 smaller islands. The main island is a mix of cliffs, beaches, coral reefs, and mangrove forests. There are no major resorts or large hotels, but there are many family-owned small establishments that run the gamut from private homes to small hotels and cottages. There is one town on the island, Dewey, with several restaurants, grocery stores, and small shops. Buses and taxis provide transportation to the main beach. The 2020 census has the island population at 1,792.

Although there is some evidence that the island was inhabited by Tainos and Arawaks in pre-Columbian times, the island remained largely uninhabited until the 1870s due to porous volcanic soils, no permanent streams, and few if any water sources (today water is provided by desalinization). The island became a U.S. territory in 1898

following the end of the Spanish-American War and was used by the U.S. military as a firing range as early as 1901. Remarkably, the island became one of the first wildlife refuges in the U.S. when it was designated as a Bird Sanctuary by Theodore Roosevelt in 1909 although subject to the priorities of the military. The islanders successfully challenged the military authority over the refuge in 1975, and in 1976 the refuge was turned over to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Today, it covers roughly 20 percent of the island's 7,000 acres. It hosts 85 species of sea birds including many species of Terns, White-tailed and Red-billed Tropicbirds, and three species of Boobies. The Culebran archipelago is also known for nesting sites for Leatherback, Green Sea, and Hawksbill turtles during the months of April to June.

The beach referenced above is named Flamenco and was rated the third best beach in the world by Tripadvisor in 2014; in 2017, Forbes rated it 19th of the top 50 beaches in the world. A mile long, it has powder white sands, and due to the arid nature of the island there is no runoff from rivers and streams, so the water is crystalline clear and colored a turquoise that almost defies belief. From Flamenco Beach you can hike up and over to Carlos Rosario beach for some spectacular snorkeling.

There are nine other beaches on Culebra, and our favorite is Zoni Beach (locals call it Playa Soni) where you can walk long distances seeing only a few folks. There are no facilities on Zoni, and you will need to rent a jeep to reach the beach. In the distance you can see St. Thomas and Tortola as well as islands of the archipelago. It is stunningly beautiful.

Aside from beachcombing, body surfing, snorkeling, and diving, there are ample opportunities for hiking, kayaking, fishing, and nature watching. You can charter a boat to visit the smaller islands of the archipelago.

Cancun this is not, but that is precisely the allure: slow paced, relaxing, and wonderful. 🌺

Enjoying Friends, Fun, and Learning with the Wisdom Institute

From mid-summer and well into the Fall, the Wisdom Institute has offered a wide array of activities and opportunities to engage with fellow retirees, learn, and have fun. They range from hikes and online meet-ups to learning opportunities and music. Given the ongoing Covid challenge, and the fact that some people are distanced from campus, we have intentionally mixed online events with in-person, mostly outdoor, activities. The goal is to offer something of interest for a broad range of UMBC retirees.

As an example of this, in July we began with an online learning opportunity geared to help us with techniques to battle the ongoing threat from scams and frauds often targeted to retired people. The session was led by an expert from AARP of Maryland and led many participants to take actions to make their own situation safer.

We followed that very informative event with a highly successful on-campus collection of food and toiletries for Retriever Essentials. Retriever Essentials is the on-campus organization that

(Cont'd on page 10)



*Donating to the Retriever Essentials.
Photo courtesy of Leslie Morgan.*

Enjoy Friends (Cont'd from page 9)

supports food insecure members of the UMBC community. The collection was held outdoors, in a parking lot, to minimize Covid concerns. At this drive, we collected more than 750 pounds of needed items! We hope to repeat this event again, as the need continues.

In August a group of music-lovers attended a live concert at Catonsville's Lurman Woodland Theatre. This "hidden gem" behind Catonsville High School has been offering concerts on Saturdays and Sundays for well over 30 years. This concert attracted around 1500 people and was enjoyed by all, not just for the music, but also to catch up with people we haven't seen in a while.

September saw a group of 26 people visiting the historic Leakin Park located in Baltimore. Our hosts were Ed and Jo Orser who have been volunteers at the park for some time. We learned about the history of the estate that became the park, learned about the relatively recent restoration of a chapel on the property, and also visited inside the main house. After the historical tour was finished, many participants also went on a hike through the woods on that beautiful September morning!

In October we hosted our second online event with a discussion, Talking about Race. Led by Fred Pincus, a longtime writer on the topic, the group discussed the current and challenging topic of race in our society and how we think and talk



*Attending a live concert at Catonsville's Lurman Woodland Theatre.
Photo courtesy of Leslie Morgan.*

about race. This discussion was marked by good will and sensitivity from all participants.

In November a talkative group of WI members met at Oca Mocha Café in Arbutus for coffee, food, and the telling of stories. Participants told stories about themselves and tales involving colleagues, including fabled folks of UMBC's past. There was a good deal of laughter and warm memories were rekindled.

We hope that this brief review encourages you to become one of the many WI members who have taken part in these opportunities, whether in-person or at a distance. The Program Committee is always happy to hear new ideas that might interest WI members [email wisdominstitute@umbc.edu]. The committee is currently working on events for Spring of 2022. Watch for announcements and join us. We hope to see more of you joining us for knowledge, fun, and sharing. 🌱



*Visiting the historic Leakin Park located in Baltimore.
Photo courtesy of Leslie Morgan.*

Upcoming Wisdom Institute Events Spring 2022



March

Avoiding Scams and Frauds #2 **March 15 – Noon - 1 p.m.**

Last year we held an informative and well-received session on how to avoid scams, identity theft, and fraud. This online session, led by an expert from AARP of Maryland, shares more information on ways to keep yourself safe. You need not have attended the first session to join us for this informative, online presentation.



May

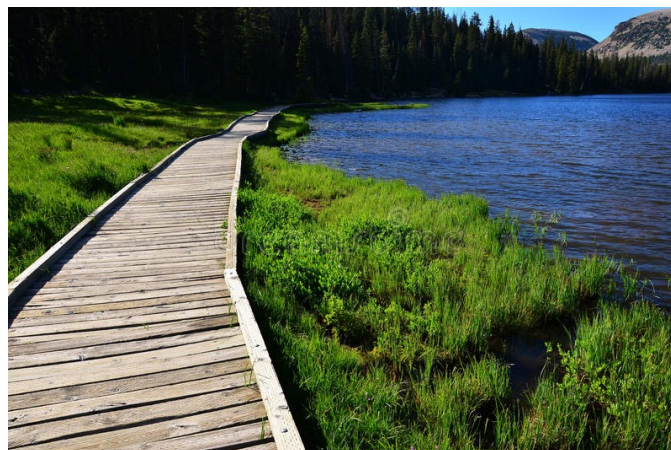
Wisdom Institute Signature Event **May 6 – 11 - 3 p.m.**

Mark your calendar for the 4th annual lunch event. Details are featured in this newsletter.

June

Morning Hike and Brown Bag at Centennial Park **June 2 - 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

Join us to walk the 2.6+ mile paved trail around the beautiful lake at Centennial Park in Columbia. We'll meet and hike at our preferred paces and then gather again for snacks or lunches.



ATTENTION ALL WISDOM INSTITUTE MEMBERS **We Need Your Assistance**

The Wisdom Institute sends out weekly emails to our retirees informing them of upcoming events, as well as keeping them abreast of items of interest such as the continuing efforts to retain Prescription Drug Benefits. If you have not been receiving our emails, it means we don't have your email address. Please go to wisdom.umbc.edu and click on the Contact Us menu to update your information.

We commit to not flooding your inbox nor will we share your address outside of UMBC. You may unsubscribe at any time. Providing your email address not only assures you are kept up to date, but it also assists The Wisdom Institute in being good stewards of the limited budget under which we operate by using email services instead of more expensive print options.

UMBC Ascends to the Nation's Highest Level as a Research University

The **Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education** today announced that UMBC has been placed into the category of doctoral universities with very high research activity, popularly known as Research 1 (or R1). UMBC is now ranked as one of only 146 R1 institutions nationally, including 107 public and 39 private universities.

