



# The Wisdom Institute

UMBC's Association for Retirees

Spring 2024

Vol. 6 Issue 1



Members of Retriever Essentials and the Wisdom Institute at the Fall Coat Drive.  
Photo courtesy of Ariel Barbosa

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## Upcoming Events

### ZOOM HAPPY HOUR

Wednesday, March 20  
5 - 6 p.m.

### 7th Annual Wisdom Institute Signature Event

Friday, April 12  
11 a.m. @ CEI Arena

### Spring concert Series

#### Jubilee Singers and the UMBC Gospel Choir

Saturday, May 4  
5 - 7 p.m.

#### UMBC Camerata Choir

Sunday, May 5  
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

## A Message from the Director

By Diane Lee

At a Board meeting in the early days of the Wisdom Institute, Dr. LaMouse-Smith, or Willie as I know him best, called upon us to make sure the deep ethic of care that guided our work at UMBC inform similar action in retirement. He made a formal motion that we continue to support student success and “adopt” Retriever Essentials to be a primary recipient of our compassion and call to service. The motion carried unanimously.

Willie’s call for the enactment of kindness and concern can be actualized in many different ways. Talented individuals at the Catonsville Senior Center knit scarves, mittens, and winter hats to be given to Retriever Essentials for distribution. Perhaps you could, too. Many folks have “de-cluttered” their closets and donated lightly used items. Others have purchased some extra canned goods or other non-perishable foods and brought them to campus when they come for events. In addition, many retirees have donated meal cards to Retriever Essentials so students could join other students in the food hall. These essential items truly make a difference to our students.

Gifts need not only take the form of material goods or food, however. You may choose to continue to share your expertise as well as your talents. Many retirees serve as tutors or mentors. Several have chosen to serve as a conversation partner with those whose first language is not English while others have reviewed articles for publication in the UMBC Review. The list goes on.

Wisdom is defined in many ways, but many agree practical wisdom combines virtue with action. Virtue embodies temperance, responsibility, honesty, benevolence, fairness, and justice (Zhang, Shi, Wang, & Ferrari, 2022). When coupled with the application of knowledge, we are encouraged to act knowingly, sensitively, and compassionately. We, as members of the Wisdom Institute, can, and hopefully will, continue to help our students succeed and flourish. What will you do?

Zhang, K, Shi, J, Wang, F, & Ferrari, M. (2022). *Meaning, structure, types, arguments, and future concerns. Curr Psychol., Feb. 5: 1-22. Doi: 10.1007/s12144-022-02816-6. Epub ahead of print.PMID: 35153458; PMC8817649.*

## Wisdom Institute Annual Luncheon featuring Denise Koch



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**April 12, 2024**

**Chesapeake Employers Insurance  
(CEI) Arena**  
**11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
**RSVP Required**

Denise Koch, the Emmy Award-winning journalist, is coming to UMBC on April 12 and you are invited to come hear her reflect on her 40 years at WJZ. She will also speak about her time at UMBC. Yes, she has spent time as a Retriever as well! Indeed, she has a rich and varied history that has led her to travel the world to report the news, share the stories of struggling high school students she followed for four years, perform in theatres across the country, including Center Stage, and work for gender equity culminating in her founding the Women's Leadership Institute of Baltimore. And there is so much more. Clearly, each experience contributed in some way to Ms. Koch becoming a respected and versatile broadcast journalist, not to mention beloved "Baltimorean."

Join us as we welcome Ms. Koch

back to UMBC at our Signature Event. We are sure you will enjoy hearing more about her professional journey and why she is so happy to call Baltimore home. It promises to be an inspiring and celebratory afternoon.

Registration information will be posted on the Wisdom Institute website, and via email. Don't miss this fun event! 🌟



## Update on Prescription Drug Benefit Cancellation

January means that the Maryland General Assembly is in session. The 2024 MGA session opened on January 10 and legislators have been busy. Senator Mike McKay (R) introduced Senate Bill 349 (SB0349) to reinstate benefits to those retirees hired before July 1, 2011. Delegate Robin Grammer (R) introduced a similar bill, House Bill (HB0670). Still, other legislators do not support these bills, and they need to hear from you. Legislators are saying that they have not heard from many of their constituents about this. Is this true or are they just saying that? Please phone and email your representatives and especially the governor again and ask them to consider supporting these bills. More information is in the text box next to the video mentioned below about how to contact your representative.

The Department of Budget and Management mailed letters to retirees advising that the current prescription drug coverage will end December 31, 2024. The Wisdom Institute has

prepared a YouTube PowerPoint video about the Impending Loss of Prescription Drug Benefits. It is an 11-minute video, giving lots of information about this issue. Please go to <https://wisdom.umbc.edu/health-information/> to see the video. Under the video is a text box that has a list of the links shown in the video, so you may copy and paste as needed. Another website to watch is the University of Maryland Emeritus/ Emerita Association <https://blog.umd.edu/umeea/retiree-drug-plan-update/> Watch these pages for more updates. 🌟

## Armchair Travel Yampa

By Bryan MacKay

We arrive at Deer Lodge in Dinosaur National Monument, a place of low brown hills, endless clumps of sagebrush, and a river hurrying past. An unpromising place, Deer Lodge, but a river runs through it, the Yampa, and it bears on silty green waters the promise of sandstone canyons, roaring rapids, sandy beaches, and untrammelled wilderness. The Yampa is the last free-flowing, undammed tributary of the Colorado River watershed, a place where water levels rise with the late spring snowmelt runoff from the Rockies and ebb to a relative trickle by midsummer. This short season for boaters makes the Yampa a coveted float trip, a place where nature, not floodgates, permits only a limited number of visitors. This Sierra Club trip is our chance to see and experience the Yampa.

We launch from the boat ramp, the sediment-laden water sibilant as it slides past our raft's rubber tubes, the clank and grate of wooden oars and brass oarlocks the only disturbance in the stillness of this early June morning. Within a mile, we enter a steep-





On the Yampa River Photo by Bryan MacKay

walled canyon, impenetrable on foot, a place of silence and sunlight, bird-song and wind, tumult and chaos in the cascading rapids. River canyons are places like nowhere else on earth. We travel through them, borne by the eternal rush of water to the sea, leaving no trace of our passage.

The days unravel themselves in a pattern: eat, sleep, row or paddle. Life reduced to its simplest, most essential. We can live without cities, fast food, social media, and workaday cares, but we cannot live without rivers and wilderness.

On day four, we experience a self-imposed hour of silence. While yesterday's float was not all chatter, we are a sociable group, and contemplation of the scenery is a rare occurrence. Now, however, talk of thrust faults and anticlines, past travels completed and future travels contemplated, subside into quietude. No human sound mars the blessed peace. The river is flat here, flowing without noise, and the massive walls of desert-varnished sandstone keep their own counsel. But where river bends create alluvial floodplains, where box elder and juniper and willow choke the river's edge, the sound of birdsong enlivens the sun-drenched morning. The songs and calls are easily heard in the canyon's stillness – yellow warbler, song sparrow, lazuli bunting, canyon wren.

Their sweetness is an aural blessing in this sacred space.

We are floating through Echo Park for our silent hour. The Yampa meets its adjacent sister river, the Green, here, and they played a pivotal role in both Sierra Club history and the early days of the environmental movement. When David Brower, the Sierra Club's first executive director, heard about a plan to build a dam in Echo Park, just below the confluence of the Yampa and Green, he was incensed. How could a dam be permitted to destroy such beautiful free-flowing rivers and their canyons? Even more significantly, the Echo Park dam would establish a disturbing precedent, that dams and reservoirs might be built within the boundaries of national parks and monuments. Brower led a fight that ultimately killed Echo Park Dam and restored the sanctity of national parks and monuments.

In 1953, more than 200 Sierra Club members floated the Yampa and Green as Brower sought to rally his organization. Today, more than six decades later, we float these same timeless rivers, honoring the past while looking to the future. Around the evening campfire, we discuss the current threats to the Yampa: a proposal to pump Yampa water east over the continental divide for use by the ever-expanding cities of the Front Range; the fate of four endangered

fish species that inhabit the Colorado River watershed; and the unknown effects of climate change on precipitation patterns and river levels in an arid land. The ghost of David Brower sits with us, silent but omnipresent, in the gathering darkness.

With time and distance since trip's end comes circumspection, greater appreciation, and even revelation of a sort. I believe we live in paradise if we can but recognize it. Not some angelic heaven, with white-robed patriarchs endlessly worshipping a detached God on His throne, not some primitive Eden where the lion lies down with the lamb, but a real paradise, an earthly paradise, of stone and water, starlight and stillness, searing heat and bitter cold, sunrise and sunset. In this paradise are wildflowers and birdsong, the acid lime green of box elder leaves against an orange cliff, the perfect red of a claret cup cactus blooming unlooked for among the new green grasses of the high desert, the cycle of seasons in endless procession. A corporeal paradise, replete with life and death, where life is so precious and treasured, but where death comes eventually to all, not as something to be feared and regretted, but merely a part of that same natural cycle that has given us a world so full of beauty and joy. We come to the wilderness, not just to escape the busyness of our daily lives, but to learn how to appreciate this earthly paradise. As John Muir said so enigmatically, "... for going out, ... I was really going in", words that seem nonsensical among the bustle of city life but now are revealed as truth in this wilderness, this Yampa river.

*Bryan MacKay is senior lecturer emeritus at UMBC where he taught for 33 years. He is also a double graduate (BS, 1973; MS, 1979). He and his wife Debi have visited all the 53 National Parks in the lower 48 states. He is the author of seven books, all published by Johns Hopkins Press, about nature and the outdoors in Maryland, including two about hiking, "Hike Maryland" and "Baltimore Trails."*



## Introducing a New Feature of the Newsletter

The newsletter is sent to more than 800 members of the Wisdom Institute twice a year, and copies are distributed to campus leaders as well. The WI Board has been gratified by the positive responses to the newsletter as it comes of age over the past five years. At this point we are introducing a new feature: Members Corner. This feature is designed to draw in contributions from a much broader representation of UMBC retirees than we have seen in past issues.

Members Corner will consist of short notes submitted by WI members about where they are living, what they are doing (e.g., hobbies, service activities, travelling, etc.). News about other retirees can be shared with their permission or that of a family member. A Google Form is on the website for submissions ([wisdom.umbc.edu](http://wisdom.umbc.edu)). Please pay attention to the guidelines that are included.

We will be continuing with the longer features that appear regularly:

- Have you had a particularly noteworthy experience at UMBC? Contribute to UMBC Stories.
- Have you been somewhere exciting or interesting, whether locally, nationally, or internationally? Convey your experience through text and photos in Arm-chair Travel.
- Have you read a good book or watched a great movie or play? Share your reflections in Book Talk & More.
- Have you worked on a creative project (e.g., sewing, painting, woodworking, poetry, or musical performance)? Submit photos and descriptions to Creative Endeavors.
- Have you done some interesting research or scholarship that you would like to highlight in Scholar's Corner? This work could have been done prior to or after retirement.
- Do you have a favorite pet whose story and photo you would like to see included in Maverick and Friends? This feature is named after Diane Lee's dog, who attracted many "likes" in early issues of the newsletter.

Please send an email to [wisdominstitute@umbc.edu](mailto:wisdominstitute@umbc.edu) with ideas or questions about possible submissions to any of these features or propose a special topic. A member of the Newsletter Committee will respond to you. Previous issues of the newsletter can be found in the Archives on the website ([wisdom.umbc.edu](http://wisdom.umbc.edu)) under the Newsletter tab.

### Newsletter Committee:

Linda Baker, Co-Chair  
Joyce Tenney, Co-Chair  
Betty Glascoe  
Cheryl Miller  
Pam Morgan

Kathy O'Dell  
Sandy Parker  
Art Pittenger  
Diana Smith, Coordinator  
Mike Mower, Design  
Marilyn Demorest, Copy Editor



*Naishi niwezavyo siishi mtakavyo*  
Photo courtesy of Pamela Williams Morgan

## Creative Endeavors

by Dr. Pamela Williams Morgan

Around 2015, a very special person, my program assistant, gave me a piece of fabric as a gift her father brought back from Kenya just for me. Its intended use was to be as apparel, but that use didn't quite work well for my lovely abundant figure. Consequently, I envisioned the cloth as artwork and explored the cost of having it professionally stretched and framed. After receiving a quote of over \$1300.00 but only \$712.00 with a discount almost exactly two years later, I decided to explore other options.

By September 2017 and a month into retirement, I proudly announced on Facebook that the stunning Kenyan fabric—which I recently learned is “Kanga” cloth—now brightens our living room after my daughter and I collaborated to stretch it across canvas.

Once the work of art was mounted on our wall, my husband inquired about the meaning of the words on it, which prompted me to “Google” the phrase. To my amazement, I learned that the phrase, “Naishi niwezavyo siishi mtakavyo,” is a Swahili proverb that means, “I live as I can afford, not as you wish.” Wow! How absolutely apropos!!

#Istillbelieveinmiracles 🌿







Anupam Joshi, Acting Dean, College of Engineering and Information Technology photo credit --Marlayna Demond '11/UMBC

## A Word from COEIT

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. There is a lot happening in the College of Engineering and Information Technology (COEIT), and I am excited to share a few updates.

From February 19-23, we celebrated Engineering and Computing Giving Week. We used this opportunity to reach out to alumni and encourage them to (re)connect with an academic department, program, or COEIT student organization that was meaningful to them and think about supporting it. We set an ambitious goal of 200 alumni donors, and while this newsletter went to press before we had final numbers, we are optimistic that we'll reach our target.

In other news, we will be hosting the very first COEIT Research Day on April 19, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The goal of this day is to cross-pollinate ideas between departments and external collaborators, with a follow-up seed funding activity to spark

interdisciplinary projects. The first half of the day will consist of spotlight talks in thematic parallel sessions from across COEIT departments and the second half of the day will comprise a college-wide poster session. We hope to welcome colleagues, collaborators, industry partners, and alumni to learn more about the exciting research happening in COEIT and to create pathways for future interdisciplinary projects. We'd love to see you there!

We are what we are, in no small part, because of all the wonderful work our faculty do in pushing the frontiers of knowledge and producing the next generation of leaders in engineering and computing. Our faculty excel in leading areas of research such as artificial intelligence, big data analytics, digital manufacturing, environmental remediation and sustainability, green energy, and next-generation communication technologies. They have secured major grants to support research centers, such as the Institute for Harnessing Data and Model Revolution in the Polar Regions, which recently received a supplemental award to expand its activities, and the Center for Research in Emergent Manufacturing, which is starting a partnership with the U.S. Army to investigate ways to digitize the army's supply chain.

We also boast a number of recent NSF CAREER awardees, who are selected for this prestigious award based on their promising plans for integrating education and research. Across the board, the research activities of our faculty open new opportunities for our graduate and undergraduate students to gain knowledge and experience in cutting-edge laboratories.

Our faculty also continue to be recognized for their innovative teaching strategies and their service to professional organizations.

As you can see, there is a lot happening right now in the college. It's an exciting time for UMBC and COEIT. Thank you for staying engaged with our vibrant community!

Sincerely,

Anupam Joshi

Acting Dean, College of Engineering and Information Technology



## Non-Medical Resources for Dementia and Alzheimer's Care

It is a sad fact that many Wisdom Institute members are dealing with family or friends in various stages of dementia or Alzheimer's disease. While we are not offering to collect specific medical information, we would like to collect links to websites that have been helpful to others and other resources we can post for our members to review and use as needed. Check out our current list of options. These resources have not been reviewed by medical professionals but may be of assistance. If you have other resources that have been of assistance, please email: [wisdominstitute@umbc.edu](mailto:wisdominstitute@umbc.edu).

Please visit the Health Information tab on our website at:

<https://wisdom.umbc.edu>.





## UMBC Stories

### A Tribute to Two Diversifying Giants

By Betty J. Glascoe

The year 1970 was a momentous time in the history of UMBC. The university opened its doors for the first time in 1966 with the excitement of a new higher educational institution in this Maryland area. The first graduating class was in 1970. However, there were two fearless and brilliant African American males, employed in the university community, who were convinced that the State of Maryland Board of Regents was falling short of its commitment to the people of Maryland in providing an institution that would consist of a diversified population of students, faculty, and staff. These remarkable men, whom I will refer to as Diversifying Giants, were Howard P. Rawlings and Norman Van Allan Reeves, Jr., who just happened to be brilliant, futuristic, and fearless men who could not be deterred and were on a mission and determined to make a difference.

Howard Peters Rawlings, better known as Pete, began his employment at UMBC in 1969. Norman Van Allan Reeves, Jr., who was fatefully known by all who knew him as Norm, began his employment within the same period. They had a singular vision and established the mission as to how to effectively actualize diversity on the campus and bring about positive transitions for the total UMBC community. In their pursuit, they established and successfully organized the UMBC Black Faculty and Staff Caucus. This organization provided an opportunity to bring together Black employees from throughout the campus to encourage, support, elevate the student population and the Black faculty and staff on the campus, as

well as identify transitions in the university community that would require attention and/or action.

In describing Norm, you would often find him in his wheelchair. He had muscular sclerosis (MS) and readily acknowledged what might be described as a physical challenge, but not a disability or a physical handicap, because he could and would challenge anyone at any time and/or whenever required. He never backed down or took a back seat to anyone. He made certain that people understood that his wheelchair should not define their communication with him.

Pete was a tall and imposing figure who often greeted people with a smile, even when he was unhappy with something that they had done. He was a perfectionist, but he made certain not to intimidate, but to encourage honest responses from those individuals that were fortunate enough to work in conjunction with him. His voice had a moderate tone, but his strength was in the depth of his delivery.

Norm and Pete worked together extremely well and had sincere respect for the strengths that each possessed. When looking at the two of them together, many might question the level of their agreement and their pursuit for effectively handling many of the critical issues that were brought before them individually and/or before the Black Caucus. They always presented themselves in a unified manner. The Black Caucus leadership would often make members aware of the critical importance of always doing their best and realizing that their commitment and their performances impact future hiring of other Black employees. It was constantly shared with membership that if there were problems that you perceived were beyond your control, it was significant to bring them

to the Black Caucus in order that they might help with the resolution. It was always made clear that everyone must remember that no one was hired to take up space, but to show respect for what they are employed to do and successfully handle the responsibilities of the position.

When these Diversifying Giants secured their employment at UMBC, they shared a vision and established a mission to successfully actualize the goals that they had early established and utilized the Black Faculty and Staff Caucus to benefit UMBC and qualified personnel from the African American community. They felt that UMBC was not living up to the original purpose of this new university that was early identified to the State Legislative Body. As a result, Norman Reeves and Howard Pete Rawlings wrote a letter to Chancellor Dr. Albin Owings Kuhn in February 1970, identifying what they considered to be the inequities of UMBC hiring practices. (The letter can be found on the WI website under the Newsletters tab, along with an extended version of this article.) They knew that they were putting their careers and their professional reputations on the line, but they were willing to take the chance and sought to make a difference. They went to department chairs and made them aware that they could help them in their search for African American personnel. They shared that they had numerous resources available to them and they could be the vehicle that was needed. I am not certain how many people they recruited for positions at UMBC, but they were thorough in their recruitment tactics as we noticed an increase in the number of new Caucus members.

In May of 1970, I had just come out of an unhappy marriage with a beautiful infant baby girl and had established our new residence in a lovely apart-





ment. A friend called me to tell me that she and some other friends had given my name to two “top level” employees from UMBC that were seeking responsible, bright, innovative, and academically prepared personnel to apply for positions at the university. She was aware that I was trying to adjust to the transitions that were taking place in my life and realized that this referral might be difficult at this time; however, she knew that I needed to work. After thanking her profusely, I agreed to an interview with Pete Rawlings and Norman Reeves, not knowing what to expect. I immediately began my research on UMBC. Within a few days, after their call, they came to my new home/apartment to check me out, interview me and determine if I met their criteria. They informed me that they had heard impressive things about me from friends, but they would have to determine my preparation/qualifications before they could make the referral for me to be interviewed. I was a nervous wreck, but I tried to remain calm.

I was made aware that the position was for Director of the Career Placement Center and was a department at this time that was temporarily housed under the Counseling Center. They asked many questions that I anticipated and some that I was not prepared for, but I knew that they were essential. They wanted to know about the solidity of my childcare plan and my views on Motherhood; my future goals; my vision for the Center; how I handled stress; how would I learn all that is required to develop an exceptional Center; what kind of planning would be required to meet student and employer needs; how effectively did I respond to young people of all races; etc. I was made aware that this was not a position to take lightly. It required hard work and dedication. Norm appeared to be the one identified to be stern, but I understood. I

was given a variety of materials that I needed to study and comprehend how they might be incorporated into the development of the center. Norm said that he had heard that I was an actress. I confirmed and he suggested that I utilize my acting skills because I would need them. As they were leaving, I was exhausted. They informed me that they had done extensive research on this position and learned that if I secured this directorship, I would be the first Black female in the country hired to develop as well as direct a major departmental program from scratch at a predominantly White academic institution. Pete attempted to encourage me and said that I would be surrounded by a dedicated support system. Norm looked at me and smiled and said, “No pressure.” I was a nervous wreck, but it was clear to me that I would have the support of these two giants and the Black Caucus. I was told that they would be meeting with me again and I was given telephone numbers to call if I should have questions or concerns. I had never met men quite like them. They were amazing!

I was made aware that most of the faculty/staff that they sought to recruit to UMBC were taken through the same process and some more extensively than others. It was obvious that the Black Caucus membership had the utmost respect and admiration for these formidable leaders. The Caucus took seriously the initiative to recruit African American students to come to UMBC, once it had been determined and acknowledged in the letter sent to Dr. Kuhn on 2/10/1970, that of the 2,286 students in attendance at UMBC, only 74 identified as African American. Dr. Kuhn responded positively on 2/17/1970 to the concerns identified, indicating that he agreed with their statements and analysis and specified that UMBC would be making significant changes within the uni-

versity community to make the university more inclusive and diverse. As a result, an officer for the recruitment program became a viable source for diversity; the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee was put in place; and the African American Studies Department became a celebrated inclusion in the academics of UMBC by African American students. What was obvious and constant was the strength, determination, drive, and fearlessness of Howard Pete Rawlings and Norman Van Allan Reeves. They knew that they had made positive changes and they felt better knowing that the university would be moving in the right direction.

What was quite surprising was that this exceptional leadership duo made plans to leave UMBC in 1972. Still utilizing the enormous skills and expertise that they had acquired over the years, they made certain that it was clear to those of us who were still at UMBC that they would be available to assist us when necessary and if needed. They were working in different capacities and making certain that they were helping people in any endeavors. They knew that they had purposes that expanded their visions for Baltimore City and the State of Maryland. In 1979, both Howard Pete Rawlings and Norman Reeves ran for public offices, and both won. Norman was elected to the Baltimore City Council to serve the 5th District, while Pete was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates to serve the 40th legislative district. Both men were fiercely committed to serving the people and gave all that they had. All earlier experiences fueled their drive and delivery. The continued thrust for Delegate Rawlings was education and his reputation among the Legislative body was escalating and superseding his presence.

*(Giants cont'd on page 8)*





(*Giants* cont'd from page 7)

The earlier impressive reputation earned by Howard Pete Rawlings when at UMBC in his co-leadership role of the Black Faculty and Staff Caucus, as well as the respect earned for the tremendous work being done by Delegate Rawlings in the Maryland legislature that impacted on education throughout the state, caused Dr. Michael Hooker, the President of UMBC, to seek his assistance in his search for a Vice President in 1990. Delegate Rawlings honored this request and accepted the assignment and went to Coppin State College in Baltimore to tell Dr. Freeman Hrabowski that the students at UMBC needed him. Delegate Rawlings, along with many other leaders in Maryland, was aware of the incredible credentials of Dr. Hrabowski that highlighted him as a superior leader in education. Dr. Hooker and Dr. Hrabowski were an exceptional leadership team. Delegate Rawlings knew that the University needed the multiple skills and talents of Dr. Freeman Hrabowski to lead UMBC into the future when Dr. Hooker, in 1992, took on a leadership role at another university.

The image of UMBC changed dramatically during the tenure of President Hrabowski. The early steps taken by Pete Rawlings and Norm Reeves to enhance diversity were intensified under his leadership. He was able to actualize his dream of recruiting exceptional Black youth for a specialized program in varying academic fields in the sciences that would lead to doctoral education and preparation. He secured funding from Joseph Meyerhoff to start the Meyerhoff Program, which became one of the most successful programs in and outside of the country. This program highlighted diversity at its best and most successful. The best and highest ranked students of color from throughout the

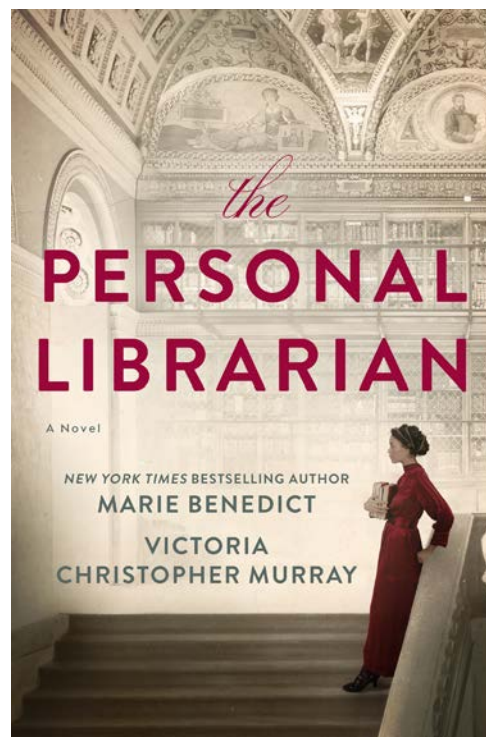
country were vying to get accepted into the Meyerhoff Program, because it marked an entrée to many prestigious opportunities. Companies, corporations, and agencies were excited to be invited to UMBC to recruit our students.

I am so pleased that the two Diversifying Giants had such an enduring impact on UMBC. They gave all that they could to make life better for us all. I am doubly proud that they were devoted friends who fulfilled their purposes while here on this earth. May they forever rest in peace.



## Reimagining Retirement Webinar Series

“Reimagining Retirement: Exploring Your Life Plan,” a three-part virtual learning series hosted by AROHE and Fidelity Investments® explores the social, psychological, and emotional aspects of transitioning to, and living in retirement. The series is geared toward faculty and staff in higher education who are contemplating retirement or who are already retired and is designed to help attendees to clarify their goals and understand the changes that occur during life’s next chapter. Full information on this thought provoking series and links to the online recordings of the webinars are posted at <https://www.arohe.org/Reimagining-Retirement>.



## Book Talk

### The Personal Librarian

By Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray  
New York: Penguin Random House, 2021  
ISBN 978-0-593-10153-7

Reviewed by Dr. Pamela Williams Morgan

I just finished reading one of the best books that I have ever read! The book, *The Personal Librarian*, is historical fiction that is based on the life of Belle da Costa Greene, the woman who became the personal librarian for J.P. Morgan in the early 1900s and created the world-renowned Pierpont Morgan Library. While this story may sound somewhat mundane, it is anything but, as it touches on a myriad of contemporary subjects and themes.

The predominant theme revolves around the true identity of Miss Greene, who was born Belle Marion Greener and has a secret that she





must protect at all cost. In fact, secrets tend to permeate the story line. At the beginning of the book, she works as a librarian at Princeton University and, with the encouragement of Junius Morgan, interviews with his uncle, J.P. Morgan, for the position of his uncle's personal librarian. By the end of the book, Belle da Costa Greener has evolved into the confidant of the senior Mr. Morgan and the highly respected, successful curator of the impressive Pierpont Morgan collections. It is what transpires in the midst of her evolution that kept this reader fascinated and emotionally invested in her story. I highly recommend this awesome book and hope that, like me, you will dread coming to the end of it!

*Dr. Pamela Williams Morgan is professional associate emerita, having served as Director of the Office of Field Experiences and Clinical Practice (OFCEP) in UMBC's Education Department. After a 46-year career as an English/language arts educator in P-12 and higher education arenas, she retired in 2017.*



## Past Events

### Holiday Party



Photos by Howard Caplan



### Coat Drive

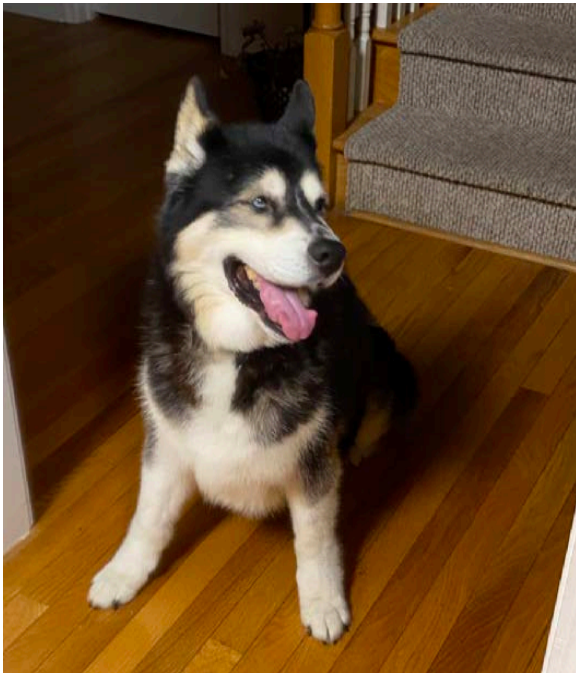


Photos by Ariel Barbosa





# Maverick and Friends



Maverick

Photo courtesy of Diane Lee



## Amber & Lacey

As a self-confessed dog person, I have, in recent years, “downsized” from 70-pound Labrador Retrievers to smaller rescue mutts... like these two. I call them the dynamic duo, due to their exciting leaps over the porch stairs, and racing around.

Amber, is about 7 years old, but keeps up with her younger (and larger) partner. Lacey (3), who displays her hunting heritage by her fur. They’re both lucky to have landed in a household adjacent to forest, offering frequent adrenalin rushes from squirrels, raccoons, snakes, foxes and deer. Then they come in and cuddle.

In this indoor pose, however, they are defending us, from the couch from the serious threats...most often delivery drivers. Photo courtesy of Leslie Morgan



## Bailey

The boss of the house, Bailey. Named after Bailey Ave in the Bronx. The most loving dog ever. So easy to love. Rudy Storch taught in the Ancient Studies Department for 43 years. Now his time is spent with Bailey and family. Photo courtesy of Rudy Storch



## Jazzy

Jazzy’s “legal” name is Jazzmin, a name inspired by a favorite jazz pianist and his daughter Jazmine. Jazzy has a memorable UMBC connection. My husband and I went to the Howard County shelter hoping to adopt a cat, and we met a black cat we really liked. We were sad to learn that this cat had already been spoken for. The very next day a student in one of my graduate classes asked if anyone wanted a sweet black cat that needed a home. We went to Baltimore to meet the cat and took her home that same day. We had 15 wonderful years together. Photo courtesy of Linda Baker







# Upcoming Wisdom Institute Events Spring 2024

## March 20, 5-6 p.m. ZOOM HAPPY HOUR

Lift up your favorite beverage during HAPPY HOUR and regale us with a story about something meaningful to you. Examples include a favorite trip, cooking feat or hack, museum/gallery exhibit, book/movie review, craft/art projects, hobby, volunteer work, silliest prank, best deed, favorite possession or whatever you like.

**Guidelines:** 5-minute maximum w/images, if applicable (we can share screen in Zoom). We'll "curate" topics, for variety's sake, from those submitted for the first gathering, so don't be sad if your topic doesn't get picked; we hope to have future happy hours, possibly live or at someone's home, but we also want to give our colleagues from around the country a chance to join us.

We love when you sign up early, and if you wish to present, please register by March 10. This will give us time to review topics and get back in touch with you. Looking forward to hearing your stories

**Host** - Kathy O'Dell

## April 12 at 11:00 a.m. 7th Annual Wisdom Institute Signature Event, featuring Denise Koch Chesapeake Employers Insurance (CEI) Arena 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. RSVP Required

Join us as we welcome Ms. Koch back to UMBC at our Signature Event. We are sure you will enjoy hearing more about her professional journey and why she is so happy to call Baltimore home. It promises to be an inspiring and celebratory afternoon.

Registration information will be posted on the Wisdom Institute website, and via email. Don't miss this fun event!

In conjunction with the Wisdom Institute's Signature Event, 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 food and toiletries, or, if you prefer, you may make a monetary donation.

## May 4 at 5-7 p.m. Spring concert with the Jubilee Singers and the UMBC Gospel Choir

The choir is under the direction of Janice Jackson. The concert will be held at the Earl and Darielle Linehan Concert Hall. Please register with WI; you also need to register with the Music Department closer to the date to secure a ticket (go to [umbc.edu/Music](http://umbc.edu/Music) then choose concerts and events and register for a ticket). It is reserved open seating, no fee.

## May 5 at 7:30-9:30 p.m. Spring concert with the UMBC Camerata Choir

Please register with us, you do not need to register with the Music Department. It is open seating, no fee. We are offering the opportunity to gather and see one or both of UMBC's vocal groups. The choir is under the direction of Carlin Truong. The concert will be held at the Earl and Darielle Linehan Concert Hall.

Be sure to bookmark our website at [wisdom.umbc.edu](http://wisdom.umbc.edu).



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# SAVE THE DATE!

Wisdom Institute's  
7th Annual Signature Event  
Guest Speaker: Denise Koch  
April 12, 2024  
UMBC Campus,  
Chesapeake Employers Insurance Arena



Stay tuned for more details and registration information. There is no cost to attend this special event. Our day will begin with an informal reception to be followed by a seated luncheon. Our luncheon speaker is **Denise Koch of WJZ TV**! Ms. Koch celebrated 40 years at WJZ in 2022. She also taught at UMBC--did you know her then? Set aside the day, join former colleagues, enjoy the luncheon, and take time to see all the renovations on campus.

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We look forward to seeing you at Wisdom Institute Events. To see what is happening go to [wisdom.umbc.edu](https://wisdom.umbc.edu/contact-list-information-update-form/). We will also send emails with upcoming events. If you are not receiving Wisdom Institute correspondence, please sign up at <https://wisdom.umbc.edu/contact-list-information-update-form/>