



The Wisdom Institute

UMBC's Association for Retirees

Spring 2025

Vol. 7 Issue 1



UMBC



Tour of the Howard County Nature Conservancy, guided by Tabby Figure, UMBC alum; October 2024.
Photo credit: Kathy Raab

Inside This Issue

Message from the Director.....	1
Message from the Provost.....	2
Book Talks.....	3
Creative Endeavors.....	3
Scholars Corner.....	4
UMBC Stories.....	6
Armchair Travels.....	6
Welcome to Medicare Part D.....	8
AROHE Update.....	8
Essence of Senior Activity Centers	9
Welcoming and Outreach Committee....	10
Charlestown's Program.....	10
Member's Corner.....	10
Upcoming Events.....	11

Upcoming Events

**Zoom Lecture with
Professor Tom Cronin**
Thursday, February 27
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

**Happy Hour Zoom
Microtalks
with Kathy O'Dell**
Monday, March 24
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**Tour of the American
Visionary Arts Museum**
Thursday, March 27
11:30 a.m. -

**8th Annual
Signature Event**
Friday, April 4
11:00 - 2:00 p.m.

URCAD Breakfast
Wednesday, April 16
9:00 - 10:00 a.m. UC 312

**UMBC Observatory Tour
and Lecture**
Tuesday, May 6
5:30 - 7:00 pm
Physics Building, Room 401

More on the back page!

A Message from the Director

By Diane Lee

It is not only a new year; it seems we have also entered a new world. Technology and artificial intelligence, or AI as it is known, is here and it seems there is no going back. I needed to write something meaningful for this space in the newsletter and decided to google "the promise of retirement message" for inspiration. Here are a few examples of things that immediately popped up on my screen.

"Congratulations on your retirement! May this new chapter be filled with endless possibilities to pursue your passions, enjoy quality time with loved ones, and finally have the freedom to live life on your terms." Not bad. Actually, one has to hope that life was always characterized this way.

Following these suggestions is a list of sample sentences to acknowledge hard work, emphasize new opportunities, focus on personal fulfillment, and reflect a positive outlook. Any or all add direction and "oomph" to your message.

Scroll down and "good quotes for retirement" are listed. They include, "Retirement is not the end of the road. It is the beginning of the open highway." Another quote offered in the same paragraph is, "Retirement is wonderful if you have two essentials---much to live on and much to live for." Obviously, these quotes did get me thinking.

There were many more recommendations and examples of what to say. Just scroll down and choose whatever suits your fancy. My attention fell to a list of catchy slogans for retirement. "The longer I live, the more beautiful life becomes." "Count your age by friends, not years." "There are far better things ahead than we ever leave behind." "Retire from work, but not from life." Wow! Do you think these were written by retirees?

There were even "blessings for retirement." (As UMBC is a public institution and I truly value the separation of church and state, I recognize we may want to insert "wishes" for "blessings.") Nevertheless, one sentence was highlighted and it resonated strongly with me: "May they be blessed with strong networks of

(Message cont'd on page 2)

(Message cont'd from page 1)

friends and family to enjoy the journey that lies ahead.”

I stopped referring to AI and Google, deciding to think aloud with you here. As is often the case, we have the responsibility and opportunity to help make prayers and wishes come true. The creation and facilitation of strong networks of friends both new and old is one pillar upon which the Wisdom Institute was founded. We can make this happen; however, we each need to do our part. There is so much we can do to bring this to fruition. Attend Wisdom Institute events. If you don't see any to your liking, suggest something for consideration. Reach out to former colleagues and friends and meet on campus for lunch, a lecture, exhibit, performance, and/or athletic event. Mentor a student or faculty member. Collect goods for Retriever Essentials. Take a class or teach one. Use technology to reach out to those far away. The list goes on and on. I have to admit, I could have merely inserted Google's suggestions for “things retirees can do to create strong networks.” At this point, however, I wanted to get a word in edgewise.

Lastly, no matter what, make sure to come to the Annual Signature Event on April 4th on campus at the Chesapeake Employers Insurance Arena from 10:00-3:00. Rebecca Alban Hoffberger, Founder and Curator of the American Visionary Arts Museum and true Renaissance woman, will be the luncheon keynote. Ms. Hoffberger will also be joining us for a 30-minute tour of the Center for Art, Design and Visual Culture immediately following the luncheon. The rest of the time, engage with fellow UMBC retirees and enjoy sharing stories past and present. Perhaps AI would insert a slogan here: “Be there or be square. 🍷



Provost Manfred van Dulmen. Photo credit: Marlayna Demond

Message from Dr. Manfred von Dulmen, Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Reflecting on the First Six Months at UMBC

Having worked in public higher education for over two decades, I am reminded daily how fortunate I am to be surrounded by bright people who are deeply committed to improving the lives of the people and the communities they live in. Since I joined UMBC this past July, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the university community to further UMBC's mission.

I am regularly asked, what makes UMBC special? Why did you decide to join UMBC and what do you see as unique to UMBC? As I reflect on my first six months at UMBC, there are four commitments that stand out to me: to its people, to innovation, to opportunity, and to inclusive excellence.

With regard to the people, I see a deep commitment from staff and faculty to UMBC to make sure that UMBC is the best it can be, and a focus on achieving this excellence by working together. Many staff members help out with

Homecoming events from early in the morning until late in the evening. Staff from across divisions help out with events like Convocation and Commencement. Our model of shared governance means we have positive and effective relationships among members of the administration and bodies like the Faculty Senate and University Steering Committee. I have thoroughly enjoyed working together with these shared governance representatives. Another crucial part in our community is our incredibly bright and committed student body. The students (and alumni) I have talked to are ready to make a difference in the world or already have done so. I was blown away at the accomplishments of the Alumni Award winners. Truly a humbling experience!

Innovation seems to be around every corner at UMBC and there is a deeply ingrained commitment to new ideas and programs, entrepreneurship, and leading the way nationally and globally. Whether this is in research, and groundbreaking professional collaborations from Baltimore to the moon, or leading

the country in preparing underrepresented undergraduate students for PhDs through the Meyerhoff program.

The opportunity at UMBC is tremendous. In my first six months, I have witnessed so much excitement among staff and faculty to explore what is possible and create a vision for the future together. We can dream big. If we can go to the moon, where else can we go? If we can quickly rise to become an R1 research university, what else is possible? If we have programs that lead the country in undergraduate student success, how can we enhance graduate student success? Further developing the university's strategic plan in the coming months is going to be very exciting and I so much look forward to working with our university community to see what is possible and develop strategies to ensure we meet our goals in serving our communities.

Many universities talk about their commitment to inclusive excellence and access. However, at UMBC we implement this value at a higher level. It is consistently clear to me that the people who make up UMBC are dedicated to serving all and ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed. Deeply reflecting on how our processes, policies, and procedures support this commitment is critical and I look forward to helping to shepherd this work.

As we embark on a new year, I want to reiterate how grateful we are for the lasting contributions you have made to UMBC's success. Your achievements and dedication continue to inspire the work we do today. Please know that you remain a vital part of the UMBC community, and we are committed to ensuring this connection thrives. I look forward to the opportunities ahead to celebrate and engage with all of you in meaningful ways. 🙏

Book Talks



Reviewed by Pamela Morgan

Entitlement is an interesting novel by New York Times bestselling author, Rumaan Alam. Set in New York City, the story follows the transformation of Brooke Orr, a former idealistic classroom teacher, who changes careers and unwittingly becomes a protégé of a billionaire businessman and wannabe philanthropist. Feelings of entitlement become her downfall and creep into every aspect of her life, even straining her relationships with her family, friends and colleagues. In addition to attitudes of entitlement, Brooke is impacted by her perceptions of betrayal, which also play a significant role in her final disposition.

The unanticipated twists and turns that Alam crafts made this work a tedious read for this reader, to put it kindly. However, other readers may find *Entitlement* rather intriguing; after all, “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder” (Oliver Platt). 🙏

Alam, Rumaan (2024). Entitlement. New York: Riverhead Books. ISBN-13 978-0593718469

Creative Endeavors

What inspires me to write

Emma Sellers

I remember sitting on my parents' back porch reading fairy tales and romance stories. “Hansel and Gretel” was one of my favorite fairy tales – this story really fascinated me. Imagining the characters walking through the woods, trying to find their way back home, intrigued me. When the nice lady appeared and took them to her house, I was happy. But the lady turned out to be a witch, and I became afraid for Hansel and Gretel. I also used to find and read my mother's romance books, and I decided to write my own love stories although I knew nothing about that kind of love. At that time, I was only 10 years old. I always read stories with happy endings, such as these. As a child my world was full of laughter, and family fun. Growing up with six siblings had its challenges, but the good times outweighed the bad. There was always activity in our house, and I decided to write short skits about the amusing times we had. My friends called me silly, because nothing bothered me, and I thought life was supposed to be like a bowl of cherries. My favorite saying was “don't worry be happy.” I should have had my saying patented because years later an artist made a song using those exact words. The more I read, the more I wrote. Nothing lengthy, but more like short love stories, haikus, and free verse poetry. I stopped, looked and listened, using my life experiences to help me zone into my subject matter. I think writing and creating poetry has become an outlet that helps me express my ideas and thoughts on paper without any interruptions. Brainstorming and free style writing opens the door to my imagination, and to possibilities. I have lost track of the numerous times I have had to revise and then revise again. The aforementioned strategies inspire

(Creative Endeavors cont'd on page 4)



Hairbrush

Every morning, I am awakened
by her tight grip around my body,
I am shaken and slapped against
a wet towel – like I need a wake-
up call.

I'm pulled around the world over and
over again. I can tame the wildest
growth and tease a hairdo into an en-
chanting beehive

Her loose hair becomes embedded in
my sharp teeth, and you want to shout
yuck!

Finally, I'm dumped in a pool of hot
soapy water. What a relief! that felt
good
My body is swished – swished through
the water and all her loose hairs dis-
solve from my teeth

I can feel the hot water turn into a cool
stream
Water relaxes my teeth, and it is wel-
comed

After a hard day at work, I'm placed
on her cool dresser – finally - I get a
chance to air dry, take a snooze and get
ready for the next wake-up call.

Tear Drop

Emotions fluctuating may cause to
swell and spill over being soaked up by
pores - tiny canals and tributaries

Salty to the taste flowing downhill
branching off into various directions
– your spillage may come at a time
when one can't hold any more sadness,
happiness, or simply hold the fluid of
mother nature

Transparent - clear - and wet to the
touch you are limitless and there seems
to be no end to your overflowing power

From the highest peak of the brown
rocky filled craters – your runoff
rushes down swiftly with a mind of its
own.

(Creative Endeavors cont'd from page 3)

me to write and are part of my writing
process. 🍷

Emma Sellers joined UMBC in 1987. She worked in Student Affairs and the Counseling Center before joining the Political Science Department. She held several positions in POLI, that included teaching Student Success and First Year Seminar courses. While working full time, she earned her B.A. in English 2003, a post-baccalaureate certificate in Instructional Systems Development 2005, and her M.A. in Instructional Systems Development 2007 from UMBC. She was awarded several awards before retiring; the last two being: President's Commission for Women Achievement Award 2010-2011, and Karen L. Wensch Endowment Staff Award 2022-2023. Emma retired as Emerita Staff on June 1, 2023.

Scholars Corner

Analytical Approaches to Improving Student Success

Phillip Rous

I was delighted to be asked to share with you a short reflection about my time at UMBC. It has been a great honor and privilege to be part of the UMBC community for over 30 years and it is that context which leads me to the subject of supporting the success of our students. Specifically, I would like to speak about analytics and predictive analytics and what these approaches can tell us about the progression of our students towards graduation. I will also cover some of the concerns that arise about how predictive analytics is used. It is, in fact, simply an extension of something that UMBC has been doing for decades and is the reason UMBC has been recognized for its research and implementation of new student support strategies.



Phillip Rous at Conwy Castle in Wales.
Photo credit: Phillip Rous

Many years ago, UMBC developed a state-of-the-art data warehouse containing rapidly updated student data that could be accessed very quickly. This meant that we not only had access to data of our current students but also the exact same information for all previous cohorts who matriculated in previous years and graduated (or not). Our version of student analytics uses this warehouse as its data source and can find trends and correlations that might be otherwise hiding in the data. In a sense this is nothing new for UMBC since we have been exploring these trends for years and that evidence-based approach has led to many successful initiatives and programs. However, it has the potential to identify groups of students that may need additional support and provide some insight into what that support might look like, perhaps at the institutional or college level.

I and many others were attracted to this analytical approach for three reasons. First, it had the potential to provide the *right* intervention at the *right* time to the *right* students and consequently, it might be scalable. In other words, it might provide guidance on developing





targeted and appropriate support to the largest number of students who need it. Second, because it pulls from a unified data base that contains all student data and not just academic information it has the potential to identify trends and correlations that were difficult to extract previously. Finally, I was inspired by then Dean Diane Lee whom I got to know by being one of the instructors for the very first round of first year seminars. Diane was an advocate for a more comprehensive and integrated view of what is now referred to as student success, one that includes but is not limited to the subject of pedagogy.

Bob Carpenter was able to design and then implement the new analytics infrastructure with generous support from the Division of Information Technology team (DOIT), Institutional Research and Analysis Decision Support (IADS) and some funds from the provost's office. Once implementation was accomplished (involving many technicalities that I do not fully understand), we had developed a new tool and had great potential for guiding our way to better student outcomes.

It works by first analyzing the progression of all students in every prior cohort contained in the data warehouse from which any significant trends and correlations in the data are identified by student characteristics. For example, it has been used to try to predict which groups of current or admitted students might need a particular support. This is where the commonly used term of "predictive analytics" comes from. A power of this approach comes from the exceptionally large historical dataset we are drawing from. Like any analytical tool, the answers that analytics provides are only as good as the questions you ask and there is an element of trial and error in how one proceeds through the analytics process.

But it also presents us with some ethical

questions about how we use it. Early in the development of the analytics infrastructure I visited several universities that seemed to have implemented it successfully. One of them was using predictive analytics for advising students by ascribing a probability that each individual student would complete their chosen degree program so that an adviser in a meeting with a student could "flip their screen around" to show the student their probability of success within their current and alternative degree programs. Is this an appropriate use of predictive analytics? This led us to think more deeply about the ethics of analytics and, as a result, UMBC made significant contributions to the discussion with national organizations and their guidelines.

The source of concern is twofold. First, it seemed that predictive analytics was being used to change the students rather than the university. Secondly, I believe we must be aware that the way in which a student responds to such probabilistic information may depend on their individual background. A first-generation student, for example, might decide to switch to another degree program while students whose parents are familiar with the college experience might not. Consequently, I don't believe this is an appropriate use of analytics without additional safeguards and good training for people who are using this information while interacting with our students. Therefore, in an abundance of caution during my time as Provost, we only used aggregated data to understand the supports that UMBC might develop.

Like many things that happen at UMBC, two of the more successful outcomes of this work was unanticipated (at least by me). Dean Katharine Cole developed a group of "student advocates" who were tasked with reaching out to groups of students that appear to be having difficulty and then getting them to the right place to try and

resolve the issue (such as their advisor, student finances, central advising and housing). This amplifies the notion that poor academic performance can be the symptom of another non-academic issue that the student is facing. Analytics information was also used by the admissions office to predict the yield of admitted students and make enrollment projections on a day-to-day basis during the admissions cycle.

I hope that this analytics infrastructure continues to be useful to UMBC although there are many things that still could be done. One of those is "democratizing" the data and providing easy access for those who would like to investigate past trends with a view to understanding the best way to support our students. That is for the UMBC community to decide.

It is impossible to acknowledge the many faculty and staff who made contributions to this work. As Diane would say "it takes a village." I would however like to recognize the hard work and partnership of Bob Carpenter, Kathy Sutphin, Bill LaCourse, Connie Pier-son, Yvette Mozie-Ross, Jack Suess and Pat McDermott along with their staff (which does include several UMBC graduate students). I look forward to seeing everyone at the next Wisdom Institute Event.

Philip Rous joined the UMBC community in 1990 and held the rank of professor in the Department of Physics conducting research in theoretical physics. He served as Faculty Senate President, Dean of the College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences and, most recently, as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. Philip served 12 years as UMBC's Provost and stepped down from that position in 2023 prior to his retirement from UMBC in 2024. 🍷



UMBC Stories



Dean Richard Neville. Photo credit: Brian K. Slack

Memories of Dick Neville

John Jeffries

In my forty years at UMBC, I encountered many unforgettable people who were in a variety of ways essential to the growth and development of UMBC. All of us will have such memories, with Freeman no doubt figuring most prominently.

But here I want to focus on Dick Neville—a man of formidable talents and a deep and abiding commitment to UMBC who made crucial contributions to the university we have become. His career was one of talent and vision meeting opportunity at UMBC. He served as a high school teacher and principal before his post-secondary career took him to the University of Connecticut, to the University of Maryland, College Park, and then in 1969 to UMBC as chair of Education. He went on to become Dean of the Faculty in 1978-79 and the first Dean of Arts and Sciences from 1980 to 1989. When he stepped down, he remained as senior adviser to Freeman and served as

provost of the Biotechnology Institute from 1991 to 1994.

As dean, Dick devoted himself to building not just academic excellence but also a campus culture of cooperation, civility, and trust. He played a vital role in recruiting first-rate faculty members and then in supporting them in their scholarship, teaching, and curriculum development. (As one example of his role in the curriculum, he was largely responsible for the creation of innovative linked courses in history and literature offered by the History and English departments.) He was highly visible, greeting people with his broad and sunny smile, ready laugh, and genuine congeniality. After working long days, he sometimes slept on campus in order to maximize his time in pursuing his objectives. A man of deep principle and rectitude, he was also one of great humanity and warmth. He was not just our dean; he was our friend. Perhaps above all, he was a fierce and effective champion of UMBC and its mission. I should add, with great affection, that no one could match his often long, complicated, rambling, answers to questions as he endeavored to touch all bases (or, we sometimes thought, to avoid a more definitive answer).

Among my many personal memories of Dick, my keenest is how he did not only know who I was when I was a relatively junior faculty member but also what I was doing in my scholarship and other duties, and how unfailingly interested and encouraging he was. He often asked about my family, a reflection of how important family was to him. But that was characteristic of Dick—devoted to UMBC's people, whom he took the time to know, and who he knew were the key to UMBC's success. The sense of collegiality, common cause, and even family that has marked the campus owes much to the trust he inspired and his ability to bring people together.

I recently read through tributes to Dick after his death in 2004. They are stunningly but unsurprisingly consistent in emphasizing not just what a strong academic leader he was, but what a fine person he was as well. Indeed, his personality, character, and humanity were indispensable to his leadership and impact. UMBC has typically been fortunate in its academic leaders, but few if any have exceeded Dick Neville's importance to the campus. When I was dean, I always had him in mind.

I'll give Freeman the last words: "Dick showed us by example how to make a difference in the world. He inspired us through his passion for education and his strong values. In fact, he helped shape the character of this university through his emphasis on excellence and his compassion for others. He will always be our dean." 🕯

After forty years at UMBC, John Jeffries retired in 2013 as Professor Emeritus of History and Dean Emeritus of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.



Newsletter Committee:

Linda Baker, Co-chair

John Jeffries, Co-chair

Cheryl Miller

Pam Morgan

Betty Glascoe

Kathy O'Dell

Art Pittenger

Joyce Tenney

Marilyn Demorest, Copy Editor

Mike Mower, Design

Armchair Travel



Exhibit C. Endemic marine iguanas.
Photo credit: Bruce Lombardi

The Fantastic Galápagos Islands

Linda Baker

Visiting the Galápagos Islands had long been on my travel list, and last year my husband and I accomplished that goal by embarking on an expedition cruise with National Geographic/Lindblad. It was an incredible experience!

The Galápagos Islands, about 1000 kilometers from mainland Ecuador, arose gradually over millions of years from volcanic eruptions. There are 17 major islands in the archipelago, only four of which are inhabited by humans. We were impressed by the careful stewardship necessary to ensure the survival of the endemic and native species and to protect the fragile ecosystems. In fact, 97% of the entire archipelago has been protected as a national park since the 1950s. Tourism is carefully monitored, and only a certain number of ships are given permission to visit a given island each season. In fact, we didn't know until close to our departure date exactly which of the islands we would be visiting. All tourists must remain on the trails, venture no closer than six feet from the wildlife, and be accompanied by a guide. We learned so much from our certified naturalists, all of whom are native Ecuadorans.

Every night our ship sailed from one locale to another and anchored some distance away from land (see Exhibit A). During the day we would take a small inflatable boat called a Zodiac to



Exhibit A. Native blue-footed boobies (background: National Geographic Islander II). Photo credit: Linda Baker



Exhibit B. Endemic giant tortoises. Photo credit: Our guide at the El Chato Tortoise Reserve



Exhibit D. Endemic lava cactus. Photo credit: Linda Baker

explore the area. The main purpose of a visit to the Galápagos, of course, is to see the wildlife. Landing on an island, when it was possible, was typically wet, meaning we got off in shallow water and waded to the shore. We had opportunities to kayak, snorkel, hike, and take hundreds (literally) of photographs. I only have space to share four of the photos here.

The blue-footed booby is native but not endemic to the Galápagos. It is a marine bird that only comes to land to breed and rear young. We were lucky enough to see a mother feeding her nestling. The boobies in Exhibit A show variation in the intensity of their foot color. Males with a more vibrant blue fare better in their search for mates.

(Galápagos cont'd on page 8)

(Galápagos cont'd from page 7)

The coloration is a product of the birds' diet, which is predominantly sardines.

The endemic Galápagos giant tortoises have distinct shell sizes and shapes on different islands. On islands with humid highlands and rich vegetation, as in Exhibit B, the tortoises are larger, with domed shells and short necks, but on islands with dry lowlands, the tortoises are smaller, with flatter shells and long necks. Charles Darwin's observations of these differences contributed to his theory of evolution.

Marine iguanas are also endemic to Galápagos. Their many adaptations from land iguanas enable them to forage for food in the ocean, typically algae. We saw hundreds of them crawling all over one another to warm themselves up after coming out of the water. Their faces are scary enough to give anyone nightmares, as Exhibit C shows.

And finally, a word about the distinctive flora. The lava cactus is endemic to a few of the islands. It is usually one of the first species to appear after a volcanic eruption. Exhibit D shows a single plant that took root on a new lava flow and flourished. According to our naturalist guide, it is much larger than most specimens.

For those of you who would like to continue your armchair travel - or prepare for the real thing—I highly recommend Galapagos Wildlife (2023, by D. Horwell & P. Oxford, Bradt Travel Guides). 🐢

Linda Baker retired in 2019 as a professor emeritus in the Psychology Department, with specialty areas in developmental and educational psychology. She served in multiple leadership roles at UMBC, including chair of the Department, director of the Applied

Developmental Psychology doctoral program, and president of the Faculty Senate. She currently serves on the Board of the Wisdom Institute and on the Newsletter Committee.

Happy New Year and Welcome to Medicare Part D

Kathlyn Miller

As this new year begins and you start using your Part D benefits, here are some things to remember.

Be prepared. Ask for a copy of the formulary (drug list) for your Part D plan in case you need to show it to your doctor. You will both know what is covered by your Part D plan. Phone the customer service department on the back of your card. Ask them to mail you a copy. Some plans have provided a postcard to request the formulary. Some Part D plans have the formulary online. Set up an account so you can access it when you go to the doctor's office.

Please know that for those retirees eligible for the HRA card, the card is to be used for prescription drugs purchases only. For spouses, one spouse may use the entire \$2,000 or each spouse may use part of the \$2,000. Download the Via Benefits App in Google Play or in the App Store on your mobile phone to keep track of your prescription purchases. Seek reimbursement for a prescription drug if necessary through the App and then receive reimbursement through direct deposit to your bank account.

If you are filling a prescription that is or is not covered by your Part D plan, ask the pharmacist about using GoodRx or BuzzRx. Your prescription might be cheaper, but note that the cost of your prescription using one of these

discount services will not count toward your Medicare Part D annual \$2,000 out of pocket cap for covered drugs. Only drugs covered by and purchased through your Medicare Part D plan count toward the \$2,000 cap after which copays are zero. Each person's circumstances are different, so there is no one size fits all. You may use your HRA card for prescription drugs purchased at the pharmacy through these discount services.



AROHE Updates

Joyce Tenney

The Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE), founded in 2002, has over 115 member organizations. It links retired faculty/staff associations, retiree and emeriti centers, and campus offices that engage retirees, such as human resources, academic affairs, alumni, and advancement/development.

AROHE provides resources and connections to increase retirees' value to their colleges/universities, communities, and professions in the areas of philanthropy, advocacy on behalf of the institution, volunteerism, and institutional knowledge and commitment. AROHE holds webinars and meetings to share ideas and best practices.

View past webinars and read issues of AROHE Matters at the AROHE website: <https://www.arohe.org>

Check out the AROHE Travel Institute at <https://www.arohe.org/travel-institute>. There are great trips available with Road Scholar.

Upcoming Webinar

Cyber Fraud and Personal Security Insights

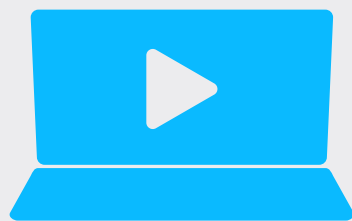
Virtual Workshop

April 8, 2025

10-11 a.m. PDT, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

MDT, 12-1 p.m. CDT, 1-2 p.m. EDT

Cyber threats are everywhere, which is why it is important to understand what it takes to keep yourself cyber safe. We are proud to team up with Fidelity Investments to offer this exclusive virtual workshop to share important information about common financial scams and ways you can monitor, protect, and safeguard your data. Register for this free webinar at: <https://www.arohe.org/Webinars>.



The Excitement and Essence of Senior Activity Centers

Betty J. Glascoe

Before we retire after years of dedicated service, we imagine all kinds of wonderful and relaxing things that we intend to do with the excess time that awaits us. The first thing on our agenda is to sleep later and discard any evidence of a tight schedule that would impact our daily lives. There are often exciting activities that await our development that can result in the commitment of talent and skills that require resurgence. With this, we get excited because of the renewal of the spirit. But then there might be those of us who have no plans nor any ideas about what

we could and should do with the wonderful time that we now have available to us. And this is where the Senior Activity Centers prove to be exactly what is needed for most retirees.

The Senior Activity Centers are developed in different communities in Maryland and other states to eradicate boredom of seniors, provide services, programs, physical activities, mental exercise renewal, and to ensure opportunities for participants to make new friends. In Maryland we are fortunate to have 111 Senior Activity Centers. However, it is significant to know that those centers that are associated with living facilities are often for residents only.

Howard County has six Senior Activity Centers/Senior Centers that are free and open to Howard County residents. Residents may participate at any of the Centers in Howard County. The most recent of the Centers is the East Columbia 50+ Center that opened its doors on March 7, 2024. It is a beautiful 29,000 sq. ft. facility that is remarkably well planned with programs and services that accommodate the needs of the wide-ranging membership. The offerings are planned for the same days and times weekly to simplify the attendee's participation.

Examples of the offerings are as follows:

Legal Aid, Walking Group, Moving Mondays, Embroidery Guild, Yoga, Mahjong, Soothing Energy, Pinochle, Soul Dancing, Reach Out and Play, Kidney Health, Color with Us, Ping Pong, Seated Yoga, Bid Whist, Who Cares, Agewell Seated Aerobics, Kings in the Corner, Rock Steady Boxing, Evening Bridge, AARP Meeting, Color with Us, Covid Vaccine Clinic, Tasty Tidbits, Family Law, Le Cercle Francais, Soap Making, 10 Things About Aging, Language Cafe, Community Health Fair, Tai Chi, Maryland Relay, Soul Line Dance, Seasoned Sisters, Where is Charlotte, Misako Ballet,

Twilight Yoga, Tech Help, Working Through Grief, Card Crafting Club, Legos, Full Circle, Poker, Chess, Shakespeare Reading Group, Nutrition Consultation, Scrabble, New Movie Release, Creative Writing, Go With Your Gut, Encore Movie, Senior Planet, Bingo, Moving Fridays, Stretching Circle, Financial Planning, Creating A New Future, and sometimes, Showtime Singers.

Some new offerings for inclusion are: Day Of the Dead, 50+ Players, Sip and Paint, Black Fiction Book Club, My Favorite Things, Holiday Tea, and Soundtrack of our Lives.

Participants have a lot to choose from. There are close to 70 activities that you might be willing to participate in. Now, Senior programs will differ according to the needs and desires of the residents in the different areas of the State. If there are services and programs that you so desire, and you would like to make certain that they can be included for your community, make this suggestion to the Department of Aging and Independence. I am certain that there are Departments and Offices that will be willing to hear from you and do what they can to accommodate your concerns.

Please enjoy! Have fun and avail yourself of all programs and services of interest to you and available to you. 🍷

Betty J. Glascoe's roles and responsibilities have included: Special Assistant to the VP for Student Affairs, Director of the Career Center, White House - Presidential Correspondent, Chief Judge for Howard County Board of Elections, Technical Writing, Playwright, Creative Writing Consultant, Management Consultant, and Organizational Development.

Hello from the Welcoming and Outreach Committee

Kathy Sutphin

Members of the Welcoming and Outreach Committee are dedicated to offering a warm welcome to UMBC's most recent retirees. The committee launched in the winter of 2024 to invite retiring faculty and staff to engage with the Wisdom Institute (WI) community. Four inaugural committee members – Joan Costello, Frank Hanson, Kathy Raab and Kathy Sutphin - created a checklist for introductory encounters intended to help encourage new retirees to enjoy WI fellowship and its many in-person and virtual activities. As a first step, an introductory email is sent to new retirees to introduce the committee members and notify them that a member will be contacting them soon. In follow-up contacts, committee members share a little about their former roles at UMBC and note that all university employees become WI members when they retire. They also share how they have been involved with WI and emphasize that members can become involved as little or as much as desired. One of the committee's biggest challenges has been finding successful ways to reach new retirees when their contact information is outdated. Since March 2024, the committee has reached out to over 60 retirees. The committee also recently welcomed a new committee member, Emma Sellers. We encourage all retirees to keep the WI records current by emailing updated contact information to wisdominstitute@umbc.edu.

Charlestown's Lifelong Learning Program Open to WI Members

Art Johnson

UMBC and the Charlestown Senior Living Community have been neighbors for more than 40 years. The Friends of UMBC, a relatively new Charlestown group, is seeking to strengthen the Charlestown-UMBC relationship which has weakened in recent years. (See the Spring, 2024 issue of UMBC Magazine for more information about Friends of UMBC) One set of activities WI members may be interested in attending is that of Charlestown's lifelong learning program (ELLIC) which features 40-50 speakers each semester. Presenters address a wide variety of subjects and entertainment forms. Several UMBC faculty members are regular presenters. WI members are invited to attend any of the programs for a \$5 fee, space permitting and if you are a guest of a Charlestown resident.

A complete description of ELLIC's spring program is now available on line: Go to cci.Charlestown; go to Education (ELLIC); ELLIC; ELLIC course Catalog: Spring 2025. The catalog provides a complete course listing and other useful information. If you are in need of a Charlestown resident to serve as your host, please contact Art Johnson (ajohnson44@comcast.net) and he will assist you and provide information that you may need, including parking advice.

Members Corner

Name: Ilsa Lottes

Role at UMBC: Professor Emeritus of Sociology

Retirement year: 2014

I recently published a book: *Quality of Life and Human Rights Policies in the U.S., How Our Two Political Parties Compare*. I was so concerned about the genocide in Gaza with U.S. support that I felt compelled to write about our country's policies and how they either support or violate rights stated in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Name: Patty (Keys) Hathaway

Roles at UMBC: Associate Staff Employee 1981-2004 (Accounting, Grant Accounting, Shriver Center, Graduate School); Alumni: 1997 B.A. Economics and 2003 M.S. Information Systems
Retirement Year: 2013 (finished UM career at College Park as Assistant Director- Institute for Governmental Service and Research)

I have been an advocate for the Navy for almost 30 years and continue to preserve the memories of a special destroyer crew. In 2022 I edited *An American Destroyer: USS Hamner (DD-718)*. I then published the sequel in 2024: *An American Destroyer: USS Hamner History in Photographs*. These books are sold on our website and were offered at UMBC Homecoming this past year. Please help me preserve the memories of this ship!
<https://hamnerdd718.squarespace.com/>





Upcoming Wisdom Institute Events Spring & Fall 2025

For more information and updates, please sign up on the Wisdom Institute website: wisdom.umbc.edu.



October 9, Wednesday: Howard County Conservancy 10.30am-12:30pm.

Tour of donor's house, outbuildings, garden, animals, part of trail. Afterwards, those interested could lunch at a local restaurant. Tour by Tabby Figure, UMBC Alum.

January 29, Wednesday: Happy Hour Zoom Microtalks with Kathy O'Dell, 5-6pm

Listen to or regale us with a story about something meaningful to you. Technology help is available. 7 min. max, 6 presenters max, no limit on attendees. Out-of-towners connect!

February 27, Thursday: Lecture by Biology Professor Tom Cronin, Zoom, 4-5:30 pm

In "Seeing Through Other Eyes," Tom will focus on how visual systems of other animals differ from those of humans and would explain the evolutionary roots of the huge diversity of visual systems that exist around us. The zoom talk will be recorded.

March 24, Monday: Happy Hour Zoom Microtalks with Kathy O'Dell, 5-6 pm

See listing for the January 29 event on for details.

March 27, Thursday: Tour of the American Visionary Arts Museum

In anticipation of the Signature presentation, we will tour AVAM. Ms. Hoffberger will try to greet us at 11:30 am. WI retirees and Charles-town Friends of UMBC MUST sign up by March 12 for the museum tour, bus or carpool.

April 4, Friday: 8th Annual Signature Event, 11 am – 2 pm

The keynote speaker is Rebecca Alban Hoffberger of the American Visionary Arts Museum (AVAM) in Baltimore. The event will be held on campus at the Chesapeake Employers Insurance Arena. The informal reception is at 11:00 am, luncheon at noon.

WI would like to support Retriever Essentials, the campus organization helping with food sustainability, by collecting non-perishable food as you come into the parking lot provided for us (go past the arena and turn right by the cross walk) or you may donate on their site, retrieveressentials.com, under getting involved. Thank you for helping us support this cause.

April 16, Wednesday: Undergraduate Research Day in the University Center

WI has been invited to attend a special breakfast from 9-10 am with students who will talk briefly about their research geared to retirees. If you wish to attend the breakfast in UC 312, please sign up on the WI website.

May 6, Tuesday: UMBC Observatory Tour and Lecture, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Physics Building, Room 401.

May 9, Friday: UMBC Symphony

Linehan Concert Hall. Generally, the tickets are free, but you need to sign up through the Music Department. Please also sign up on the WI website.

September TBD: Fall Walk in the Woods at the Robinson Nature Center

6692 Cedar Lane in Howard County. Trails, planetarium, and displays.

Note: If you have another suggestion for a fall walk, please contact Joan Costello.

October TBD: Lecture by Biology professor, Kevin Omland

Kevin will discuss his new book, "Understanding the Tree of Life," which he says is ultimately about the fallacy of human superiority.

Late October: Homecoming Activities

WI is not involved but wants you to know about the event, especially the Grit X talks presented by faculty, alumni and grad students. See homecoming.umbc.edu for details.





University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle
Sherman Hall 117
Baltimore, MD 21250

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
BALTIMORE MD
PERMIT 6440



Wisdom Institute's 8th Annual Signature Event

Guest Speaker: Rebecca Alban Hoffberger

April 4, 2025

UMBC Campus,

Chesapeake Employers Insurance Arena



Our day will begin with an informal reception at 11:00 am where you can munch on hors d'oeuvres while talking with friends. Then meet Rebecca Alban Hoffberger, founder and primary curator of the American Visionary Art Museum (AVAM), who will be our keynote speaker at the noon luncheon. The title of Ms. Hoffberger's talk is "Intuition & Its Role In Creative Invention Of All Sort." As noted in the Maryland Archives, Ms. Hoffberger "...has been able to create a museum that not only showcases works of art, providing a haven for pieces that offer a unique and different perspective on artistic work, but she has also used the AVAM as a means through which to challenge and shape the greater community as well." Indeed, Rebecca Alban Hoffberger has earned a long and varied list of awards for her service and contributions that have made the world a better place. Her story is engaging and important. More details about the Event will be posted on our website, wisdom.umbc.edu, as they become available. We look forward to seeing you there!