

Did you know?

Diane Auer Jones, '88, M.S. applied molecular biology, was recently named deputy associate director in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. In this new role, she joins a group of experts advising the President on science and technology and coordinates the work of various federal agencies working on joint scientific research. Click [here](#) for more.

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

UMBC News 2

Summertime 2

Parents' Corner 3

Newsflash 4

We Want Your Feedback 5

Helpful Web sites 6



PARENTS CONNECTION

Student Affairs ...fostering student success

SPRING 2006

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

UMBC Wins College Chess Final Four

By Michael Hunsberger
The Washington Times
April 4, 2006

Forget basketball. The University of Maryland, Baltimore County is celebrating its own Final Four victory -- in chess.

In the sixth annual Final Four of chess this past weekend, UMBC defeated the University of Texas at Dallas for the President's Cup of the Pan-American Intercollegiate Championships.

"As far as hype, I don't know if you can compare it to an athletic event, but it is definitely well-known here on campus," said Alex Bardakh, UMBC's club's president.

UMBC has dominated the championship title since the competition began six years ago —winning the past four contests in a row. Texas won the first two.

UMBC was victorious even though their top player, Alexander Onischuk, was at another tournament in Russia.

"I was nervous when I learned that Alex would be in Siberia," said Alan Sherman, the faculty director of the chess program. "But hats off

to Pawel Blehm for stepping up and winning."

The UMBC players were Mr. Blehm, Pascal Charbonneau, Bruci Lopez, Katerina Rohonyan and Beenish Bhatia. Mr. Sherman gives



Photo by Dr. Alan Sherman

the players nicknames such as the "Kiev Killer" for Miss Rohonyan, or the "Polish Magician" for Mr. Blehm.

"We find [the nicknames] very helpful for psychological warfare," he said. "Chess is a game of strategy, tactics and psychology. We find it often intimidates our opponents."

The rivalry between UMBC and Texas is legendary in chess circles.

This year, Texas was the first-seed team, even though each team had two grandmasters—the highest

ranking for a chess player. There are about 40,000 chess players in the United States today and only 40 grandmasters.

Both schools have been fierce competitors in the Pan-American championships, the largest college chess tournament in the Western Hemisphere, which has been held every December since 1946. The Final Four playoff was created six years ago.

The other two college teams in the tournament were Miami-Dade College and Duke.

The tournament was a round-robin event, meaning that each team played each of the other three teams.

"Our hope is to eventually get a sponsor and a big, expensive-looking trophy we can trade each year, but for now we have the name without the trophy," Mr. Sherman said.

Click [here](#) for UMBC chess news.

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Medical Insurance for Your New Graduate

ATTENTION PARENTS: Medical insurance for your new graduate ends soon! The Alumni Association has made Short Term Medical insurance (STM) available to meet the temporary health insurance needs of new grads no longer covered by school or parental policies, usually at a lower cost than other alternatives.

Student insurance typically ends shortly after

graduation, while coverage through a parent's policy may end as early as the day before graduation. Check with [University Health Services](#) or with your own insurer to determine exactly when the coverage ends.

More information will be mailed to the current graduating class. Call 800-635-7801 or click [here](#) to learn more.

UMBC Academic Calendar

Note: For more information about UMBC events, visit the online [calendar](#) that appears in the toolbar of all official UMBC Web sites, including this one.

More information about important registration dates and deadlines can be found at the [Registrar's Office](#) Web site.

Mar. 19-26	Spring Break
May 16	Last Day of Classes
May 17	Study Day
May 18-24	Final Exams
May 24	Graduate Commencement
May 25	Undergraduate Commencement

Online Guide to UMBC News and Schedule of Events

- } www.umbc.edu/arts
- } www.umbcretrievers.edu
- } www.umbc.edu/calendar
- } www.umbc.edu/calendar
- } www.umbc.edu/announcements
- } www.umbc.edu/ebilling
- } www.umbc.edu/classof2005

REMINDER: INFORMATION REGARDING SPRING 2006 COMMENCEMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE. CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Summertime: Should the living be easy?



**By Lorie Logan-Bennett
Assistant Director
Career Services Center (CSC)**

The spring semester is half-way over and you may be wondering how your student is planning on wiling away the summer months. Before booking that three-month trip to the beach, though, your student should know that spending his or her summer “vacation” as just that, a vacation, is nowadays a luxury he or she most likely can’t afford – and not just for financial reasons. With more and more employers citing experience as the key factor in hiring decisions, your student really needs to think about maximizing his or her break to include activities that will increase his or her post-graduation marketability. After all, time spent relaxing with friends is highly desirable, but so is getting that dream job or

being admitted to a top-ranked graduate program. So tell your student to relax (a little), but suggest that he or she add these other suggested activities to his or her agenda too:

Volunteering with an organization in his or her field (most employers look for relevant experience, paid or unpaid; even a few hours a week can really strengthen a resume), conducting informational interviews with professionals in the career(s) he or she is exploring, and of course, obtaining relevant experience through summer jobs and internships.

If your student has already planned on working during the summer, searching for a related seasonal job and/or internship makes sense on many levels—

all the benefits of a paycheck with bonuses of gaining applied expertise and developing a network (and references) that can be tapped during a future job search. Even getting a job outside his or her field can be beneficial if it leads to the improvement of such in-demand soft skills as communication, leadership and teamwork.

Where to start? Students can get assistance and access part-time and summer job listings in the Career Services Center and can find internship, co-op and service learning opportunities through the Shriver Center. Your student will soon be asking where the summer went, and before you know it, he or she will be asking the same thing about the college years. Here’s to spending fleeting moments wisely!

**Career Services Center
(formerly Career
Development Center)
Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday,
8:30am - 4:30pm,
Tuesday until 7pm by appt.
Math/Psych 204,
410-455-2216
careers@umbc.edu**

Parents Corner: Top UMBC Parental Concerns

Research shows that parents of college students have a few common areas of concern: safety and security, health, alcohol and drugs, sex and staying informed. Here are some tips on how to deal with the concerns that you may have about these areas.

Safety and Security: You may have a concern with the safety/security of your student at UMBC. To ease your mind, the UMBC Police offers escort services for those who request it. If your student feels like it is a burden to ask for an escort, there are blue light emergency telephones all over campus. These light phones are placed throughout campus and act as a direct telephone line to the police dispatcher in case of an emergency. If you are concerned about your student's safety on campus feel free to visit the [UMBC Police Web site](#).

Health: Have you heard that your student has been to the campus health services and you felt like you were the last person to find out about it? Between classes, social activities and other commitments students' don't always think, "maybe I should call home to say I've been to health services." This could be difficult for a parent—knowing that your student was ill, and not being there to help them. University Health Services will not call to tell you that your student was

there because it is against policy*. You will have to rely on your student to give you this information*, however, if your student doesn't tell you this information, you may want to respect that decision too.

**The Department of Health of Human Services issued the [Privacy Rule](#), resulting from HIPAA regulations, and became effective April 14, 2001. Compliance is required of all covered entities for the Privacy Rule on April 14, 2003. In essence, the rule specifies the actions required to protect the security and privacy of personally identifiable health care information and establishes the conditions for its use and disclosure.*

Drinking— You may have already dealt with this issue while your student was still in high school. When your student still lived at home you could closely monitor his or her behavior to ensure that he or she was making good decisions when it came to alcohol consumption. Most college students won't admit it, but they do seek your approval for the majority of their actions. If you feel there is a concern that your student is drinking too much, voice your concerns with your student. Let your student know that there are consequences to his or her behavior (regardless of age); also, include the importance of responsible drinking and maintaining control. You shouldn't make light of the subject nor should you moralize or lecture. Show that this topic is important to you, so that your student realizes that it should be

important to him or her too.

Sex— Aside from exploring their new found freedoms, activities and environment, students are also discovering new friendships, and intimate relationships. Exploring intimate relationships may include dating a number of people, having one steady partner or even engaging in casual sex. You may have to be the one to initiate this conversation, but remember to respect your student's decision and privacy. If you fear that your student is not protecting her/himself, encourage her/him to visit [University Health Services](#). You may feel uncomfortable about your student's sexual behavior, but reinforce that you love and care about her or his overall well-being.

Staying Informed— College is not only a transition period for your student, it is also a transition period for you. You may or may not have been very involved with your student's education experiences to date, but it is important to understand that it is up to your student to make the right decisions while at school. Most of all let your student know that you are just a phone call away, he or she may not be able to call every single day, but the call will come.

This has been adapted from UMBC's Office of [Residential Life](#). Please click [here](#) to read more.

Undergraduate Academic Advising

Degree-seeking undergraduate students are required to consult academic advisors prior to registration and will be required to obtain electronic advisement clearance before being allowed to register. Special (non-degree seeking) students are not required to consult academic advisors. Students may, however, request assistance in making course selections from the appropriate department.

Academic departments arrange to make advising reasonably available to the

students for whom they are responsible. They are **not** obligated to provide advising on an immediate, walk-in basis. **Students are responsible for contacting their advising departments well in advance of their registrations to arrange for advising sessions.**

Students enrolled at UMBC for the spring 2006 semester should seek advising from the appropriate academic department **prior to** their advance registration time for fall 2006 (assigned advanced registration times can be viewed using [myUMBC](#)).

Students who have been re-admitted to

UMBC for Fall 2006 should seek advising from their major department—if the major is undeclared/exploratory, the student should contact the [Advising Resource Center](#) within the Office of Academic Services in the Academic Services Building at 410-455-2729 to schedule an advising appointment.

New freshmen and transfer students will be advised in the context of the Orientation and Course Selection Day Program and subsequently assigned to departments for continuing academic advice.



Colin McGuigan
Co-Salutatorian
Plans: Peace Corps
B.A., History
Frederick, MD



Phillip G. Sokolove



Stories From The Class of 2005:

Colin McGuigan
Co-Salutatorian
Plans: Peace Corps
B.A., History
Frederick, MD

Colin McGuigan was a Sondheim Public Affairs Scholar with a passion for creating understanding across cultures and serving the disadvantaged. He led several service initiatives, including planning and coordinating a minute of silence for genocide victims in Darfur, Sudan and co-founding the Tea Empire, a student organization that seeks to learn about and appreciate other cultures through tea. As an intern for the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organiza-

tions, McGuigan wrote a report on the status of Maryland's nonprofit sector, edited testimony to be given to the Maryland General Assembly, organized informational meetings on nonprofit lobbying, and lobbied in Annapolis on issues important to nonprofits in Maryland. His numerous community service projects included tutoring students from inner city elementary schools and volunteering at a soup kitchen.

"At UMBC, my professors and peers have encouraged me not only to reach my potential, but to expand it, and reach it again. UMBC has imbued me with a mature understanding of success, which includes not only how much I have accomplished, but how much I have accomplished for my community."

Meet the UMBC Faculty: Presidential Faculty & Staff Award Recipient

Phillip G. Sokolove, Professor of Biological Sciences

Presidential Teaching Professor, 2006-09

Phillip G. Sokolove, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, has contributed significantly to improving the quality of teaching and learning at UMBC. In order to increase student participation, Sokolove implemented widely-recommended "active learning" methods in his large-enrollment (280+ students) introductory biology classes. He is the first UMBC faculty member to introduce the use of

wireless microphones in large classrooms and one of the first two faculty members at UMBC to use an electronic "clicker" system that allows students to respond anonymously to questions asked during lectures to assess their understanding of key concepts. Sokolove obtained an undergraduate degree in physics from the University of California, Berkeley, received a doctorate in biophysics from Harvard University and did his postdoctoral training at Stanford University. He began his employment with UMBC in 1974.

Upcoming Spring Parent Event

You are invited to a special performance of *For a Better World*, presented by the UMBC [Department of Theatre](#), Saturday, May 6 immediately following our spring parent meeting and reception. After the play, join us for an intimate discussion with director Robert Allen and cast members as they reflect on the themes and characters in the play.

For a Better World was written by Roland Schimmelpfennig and translated by Jan Caspers. The UMBC production features set and costume design by [Elena Zlotescu](#), light design by [Terry Cobb](#) and sound design by Brian Rudell.

For a Better World (*Für Eine Bessere Welt*) explores the skewed reality experienced by soldiers—young men and women in uniform—doomed to remain in a state of constant warfare. The military conflict encom-

passes all modern warfare, the time frame for final victory is never and the possibility of finding meaning in life outside of combat unthinkable. Beautiful and terrifying, *For a Better World* redefines what it means to survive a war. Roland Schimmelpfennig has been described as the hottest new playwright of his generation in Germany. His plays have been produced at the Royal Court in London, as well as throughout the rest of Europe and in Canada. This production is a North American premiere.

Admission: \$10 general admission, \$5 students and seniors. Ticket proceeds benefit the Department of Theatre Scholarship Fund.

Patrons may purchase tickets using a credit card through [MissionTix](#). Patrons who would prefer to pay by cash or check may make a reservation through the Theatre Box Office at 410-455-2476.

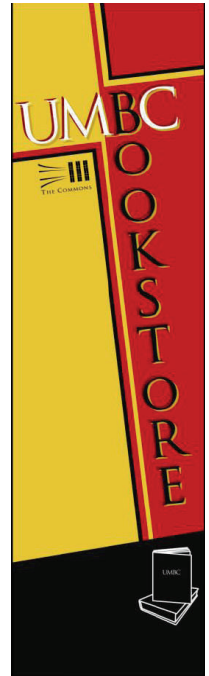
UMBC Bookstore—Student Employment Opportunities

Why do UMBC students work for the Bookstore? The obvious answer is money. However, there are additional factors that draw the best of UMBC to the Bookstore: flexible schedules, convenient location and opportunities to work with friends. The UMBC Bookstore is an institutional store and must use sound business practices. Our student employees are offered the opportunity to work and learn in a diverse retail environment. The Bookstore attempts to cross-train our employees so that a student is not limited to only running a register or opening boxes and shelving merchandise. Our Bookstore team has been built from within. The current textbook manager, her assistant and the

former textbook manager are all UMBC graduates who began their professional careers as student employees.

The Bookstore relies on our student employees during the summer and winter breaks. Work is available during the “breaks” as UMBC winter and summer programs are in full swing and the Bookstore prepares for the upcoming semester.

Applications for Bookstore employment are available online. Please visit our Web site: <http://bookstore.umbc.edu>. It is maintained by our student employee, Adam Franke.



We Want Your Feedback

Please take a moment to complete this form and e-mail or mail it to the contact information below. Also, if you have a story that other UMBC parents might find of interest that you would like to submit to “Parent’s Corner,” please send a 75-to-125-word document to parents@umbc.edu.

The best information in the Parent’s Connection is:

- The Stories
- Helpful Web Sites
- The Calendar

I would like to see more information about:

- Student Events
- Financial Aid Updates
- Other:

I would like to participate in:

- Parent’s Association
- Event Planning
- Writing Articles

I would attend a Parent’s Association meeting in:

- Fall
- Spring
- Neither

Comments:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Phone: 1.866.VIP.UMBC

Fax: 410-455-1077

E-mail: parents@umbc.edu

UMBC Parents Programs

1000 Hilltop Circle

Baltimore, Maryland 21250

UMBC Parents Programs



UMBC

A N H O N O R S
U N I V E R S I T Y
I N M A R Y L A N D

UMBC Parents Programs

UMBC Parents Programs
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, Maryland 21250
Phone: 1.866.VIP.UMBC
Fax: 410-455-1077
E-mail: parents@umbc.edu

The mission for Parent Programs at UMBC is to enhance a positive connection between UMBC parents and the University. We will accomplish this through the development of effective communication, family programming and the sustainable facilitation of the UMBC Parents' Association so that students' academic success, university and life experiences may be fully actualized.

An Honors University in Maryland

Division of Student Affairs

...fostering student success

HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR PARENTS

PROGRAMMING

[Humanities Scholars Program](#)
[Linehan Artist Scholars Program](#)
[Gateway to International and Intercultural Programs & Services](#)
[Meyerhoff Scholars Program](#)
[Public Affairs Scholars Program](#)
[The Honors College](#)

CONNECTION

[About UMBC](#)
[Alumni Association](#)
[Career Services Center](#)
[Residential Life](#)
[Student Link](#)
[Hillel at UMBC](#)
[Financial Services](#)
[UMBC Bookstore](#)
[Giving Matters](#)

COMMUNICATION

[Official UMBC Publications](#)
[Parent Programs & Services](#)
[Student Affairs](#)
[The Retriever Weekly](#)
[Office of Undergraduate Education](#)
[Financial Aid](#)
[Scholarships](#)
[Admissions](#)

To unsubscribe to the Parent Connection or to offer comments and suggestions, please write to Daniel E. Hall at parents@umbc.edu or call 1-866-VIP-UMBC.