

DID YOU
KNOW? . . .

UMBC faculty and students continue to be well-represented in prestigious academic award competitions. A faculty member and a 2004 graduate were recently named Fulbright Scholars, and four undergraduates were awarded scholarships by the Goldwater Foundation. (September 7, 2005)

Visit the page www.umbc.edu/news-events/Watch/ to learn more.

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PARENTS CONNECTION

Division of Student Affairs ...fostering student success

WINTER 2006, ISSUE 6

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Hatching a Fruitful Research Career

At a recent research conference on parasitoid wasps, Presidential Fellow **Kate Laskowski** not only turned heads as the only undergraduate student attending, the poster that she presented on her research won first prize, beating out all other presenters—including graduate students and post-docs.

Laskowski's field work on the wasps, a fascinating insect that could someday help us better understand human aging, sparked a passion for research that changed her life. "When I started at UMBC, I was pre-vet with an interest in wildlife pathology," Laskowski, a biological sciences major with a chemistry minor said. "But Professor **Jeff Leips** was my academic advisor and at the end of my freshman year he offered me the chance to some fieldwork." She's been studying the wasps ever since.

Leips, assistant professor of biological sciences, says that the wasps' creepy means of reproduction was the inspiration for the *Alien* series of science fiction thriller films. The wasps literally rob the cradle of other insect species, injecting their eggs into living fruit fly larvae. The tiny time bomb lies dormant for four to five days until the

larva pupates, or spins a cocoon around itself. Only then does the baby wasp hatch, killing its host and simultaneously providing itself with a food supply and a comfy, secure home in which to grow.



UMBC
UNDERGRAD
KATE LASKOWSKI

More importantly to Laskowski is the wasps' interaction with fruit flies or *Drosophila*, the standard studied life system for geneticists. A particular fruit fly gene, known as Ddc, seems to be an enzymatic tradeoff between how long the fly lives and how well they can avoid a parasitoid attack. Long-living flies are more likely to

get hit, while those better resistant to wasp attacks seem to be shorter-lived. Laskowski and other researchers are interested in what else Ddc can teach about the human aging process.

In addition to her accomplishments in research, Laskowski is also a founding sister of Alpha Sigma Kappa, a sorority for women interested in technical studies that includes majors in computer science and other physical sciences. Laskowski's career goal now is to become a professor, and she plans to work for a year after commencement and then begin graduate school.

Leips is not surprised at Laskowski's progress. "Kate is a dedicated, talented student who is going to have a great research career someday," he said.

More information about UMBC research is available on [UMBC's Research Site](http://www.umbc.edu/research).

Letter from the Editor: Preparing for Success

By Daniel Hall

It is a brand new year and I am reminded that always looking ahead seems to be the best approach to success.

For example, if your son or daughter wants to work for the United Nations one day, then encourage him or her to hold a position on the UMBC Model U.N. board of directors—www.umbc-mun.org or study abroad to gain international experience—www.umbc.edu/ies/studyabroad.html.

Another idea is to volunteer or intern for a desirable company or organization. This may contribute to a future employment opportunity. An excellent way to approach this is by contacting the Shriver center to discuss potential internship placements—www.shrivercenter.org.

Also, in my opinion, a major should be chosen based on what the student is most interested in and passionate about, instead of choosing a degree path simply because it may lead to more money. From

my point-of-view, if a undergraduate student loves the subject he or she is studying, then (s)he will naturally excel and success will inevitably follow. Most top level positions that I have researched require relevant experience (Internship!) and a B.A./B.S. (or higher) in a broad range of fields.

So, encourage your student to study and intern in a field that (s)he loves because being happy with what one does will ultimately lead to financial and life satisfaction.

UMBC Academic Calendar Spring 2006

[Fall 2005](#) | [Winter 2006](#) | [Spring 2006](#)

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 (see above).

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

Jan. 30	First Day of Classes
Jan. 30-Feb. 10	Schedule Adjustment
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.umbc.edu/retrievers.com
- } www.umbc.edu/calendar
- } www.umbc.edu/calendar
- } www.umbc.edu/announcements
- } www.umbc.edu/ebilling
- } www.umbc.edu/classof2005



Theresa P. Davis,
Director of the
Learning Resource
Center

Finding Success at the LRC

Theresa P. Davis,
Director of the Learning
Resources Center.

Over 3000 students annually take advantage of UMBC's Learning Resources Center.

New students enroll in their first semester courses with great chances for academic success; they have taken the **LRC - administered placement tests.** Another 1800 students tell us

that the **skillful and friendly LRC student tutors** help them to learn course material and the study skills that make a difference. Still other students give **LRC courses and instructors** high marks for helping them to brush up on math skills, learn strategies for reading a variety of college textbooks, manage time for doing coursework and seeing friends, and taking col-

lege tests with confidence. Can 3000 students be wrong?

Their advice to your student? Take the elevator to the 3rd floor of the Academic IV Building, Wing B room 345.

Learn to study smart while studying hard.

Tell your student to visit the Learning Resources Center today. You'll be glad you did.

Interns and Co-ops: Stepping into the Real World



Henrietta Akintoye, Biochemistry Major

ops consistently earn exemplary reviews from host organizations, often followed by an offer of full-time employment when they graduate.

Employers are more interested than ever in hiring UMBC talent. Last year, the Shriver Center coordinated and secured nearly 800 internship and co-op placements for students in over 360 organizations in the Baltimore/Washington area and abroad. These professional practice programs are a major resource for employers in the region and an excellent training ground for students, said Christine Routzahn, the Center's Associate Director of Professional Practice.

By combining classroom study with on-the-job experience, Shriver Center students earn academic credit, grasp the links between theory and practice, and learn valuable job-related habits and skills. They also develop a network of contacts for future opportunities and references, test their career interests, build a strong resume, and solidify their career goals. These interns and co-

In their own words, here are just a few students who made the most of their internship or co-op experiences:

Henrietta Akintoye, Biochemistry major who interned at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

"Wyeth is truly amazing! I am working on a project related to osteoporosis in the Women's Health Research Institute. In addition to learning a variety of new skills, I am also gaining a fresh perspective and appreciation for research. Every time a drug gets placed on the market, I can see firsthand how research provides for many, new and innovative health solutions."

Nicole Amoyal, Psychology major who interned with CHAMP (Children Achieving Maximum Potential)

"I have been working with autistic

children as an Intense Behavioral Therapist. This opportunity has given me experience that will better prepare me for graduate school as well as give me a better idea as to what I want to be doing in the future in regards to psychology."

Harry Malecki, Mechanical Engineering major who participated in a co-op at Kop-Flex, Inc. and now at Lockheed Martin

"The education you receive in an academic environment can only get you so far. The experience you receive in a professional environment can get you further. Taking part in a co-op has been the best opportunity I have taken to help prepare me for the next step in life."

As parents, please encourage your college son(s) or daughter(s) to visit the Shriver Center. The Center is an excellent resource for him or her to locate an internship or co-op for the spring, summer, or fall. In addition, if you would like to host a talented UMBC student as an intern or co-op, please call the Shriver Center at 410-455-2493.

Or visit www.shrivercenter.org for more information.

"The education you receive in an academic environment can only get you so far. The experience you receive in a professional environment can get you further..."

Parents Corner: Frequently Asked Questions

Where do I find information about Commencement?

<http://www.umbc.edu/newsevents/Commencement>

When can my child move into/out from the dorms?

http://www.umbc.edu/reslife/living/living_dates.html

Where is the academic calendar located?

<http://www.umbc.edu/academics/acadcalsp06.html>



Erum Marfani
Plans: To take the Foreign Service Exam
B.A., Political Science and Mathematics

“The seminars are designed to create an active-learning environment enriched by field work, original research, group projects or performance”



Kristin Drabyn in one of three Retrievers from the state of Indiana

Stories From The Class of 2005:

Erum Marfani

Plans: To take the Foreign Service Exam
B.A., Political Science and Mathematics
Baltimore, MD

An aspiring ambassador, Erum Marfani has prepared herself for a diplomatic career by participating in the Model United Nations, serving as vice president of the Muslim Student Association and interning at the Peace Corps Headquarters and Baltimore County Public Defender's Office. She presented her research on global labor trafficking at UMBC's 2005 Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day. A Sondheim Public Affairs Scholar and a McNair Scholar, her other on-campus affiliations include the Honors College, the Women's Center, the Math Council of Majors, the Political Science

Council of Majors and the Society of Inspiring Students with Individual Abilities. Marfani received an Outstanding Senior Award from the mathematics department and an Outstanding Scholar-Leader Award from the political science department, was a finalist for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship, and belongs to Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and the Golden Key International Honor Society. She has also volunteered at the St. Agnes Hospital soup kitchen.

“UMBC has been instrumental in helping me to achieve my goals. I had great professors who not only taught in the classroom, but also helped me make contacts for internships and career development. With my degrees from UMBC, I am hopeful about my graduate school prospects.”

Explore Special Programs

The Combined Bachelor's/Master's Programs allow students to obtain both a bachelor's and a master's degree in as little as five years. Qualified students may begin taking graduate-level courses in their fourth year of undergraduate study. www.umbc.edu/gradschool

First-Year Seminars, limited to 20 students per class, are designed to introduce students to the academic excitement and

rigor that will be a part of every student's experience at UMBC. The seminars are designed to create an active-learning environment enriched by field work, original research, group projects or performance. [Read more.](#)

The Honors College at UMBC is a special option for students seeking to enrich their academic experience by taking small, intensive courses in areas of special interest. [Read more.](#)

UMBC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UMBC's four-game win streak was snapped with a 65-58 loss to Drexel its last time out. UMBC is at 6-2 on the season start three players with double-figures. Matea Pender leads the Retrievers with 15.0 ppg. Over the last two games Pender is averaging 19.5 ppg, scoring 22 against Lafayette and 17 against Drexel. The last time out Pender was 5-of-5 from outside the arc until taking a desperation three with eight

seconds left that fell short. Brittanie Hughes ranks second on the team with 12.8 ppg. Hughes started the season with six consecutive double-digit performances and recorded nine points versus Drexel. Amanda Robinson tallied a season-high 18 points against Drexel last week and is averaging 10.5 ppg. Read about one of UMBC's outstanding student-athletes at www.umbc.edu/newsevents/insights/archives/2005/12/ademic_spotli.html

GIVING MATTERS

Financial support that helps ensure students' success is a high priority for UMBC. For many students, a scholarship means being able to attend full-time, and not having to balance coursework with full- or part-time employment. For others, it means funds that support research, study abroad or other experiences that enrich their education and prepare them to take the next steps to achieve their academic and career goals.

Private support bridges the gap between State funding - now only about 20% of the University's budget - and the cost of education, and helps keep a UMBC education affordable to as many students as possible.

Visit www.umbc.edu/givingmatters to learn more about why giving matters at UMBC.

Or contact the Alumni Association at alum@umbc.edu or 410-455-ALUM.



We Want Your Feedback

Please take a moment to complete this form and e-mail or mail the results 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 75-125 word doc. to parents@umbc.edu.

The best information in the Parent's Connection is:

- The stories
- Helpful Websites
- The Calendar

I would like to see more information about:

- Student Events
- Financial Aid updates
- Other:

Comments:

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

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



AMAZING FACT

Did you Know?

Four UMBC students were named 2005 Goldwater Scholars by the Goldwater Foundation. Named for former Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater, it is the premier undergraduate award of its type, given to outstanding students in the fields of mathematics, natural sciences and engineering.



UMBC

AN HONORS
UNIVERSITY
IN MARYLAND

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 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

Student Affairs

Division of

...fostering student success

HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR PARENTS

Admissions

www.umbc.edu/undergrad/

Bursar's Office/ Student Billing

www.umbc.edu/bursar/

Scholarships

www.umbc.edu/undergrad/scholarships.html

Center for Women and Information Technology (CWIT) Scholars Program

www.umbc.edu/undergrad/s_cwit.html

Humanities Scholars Program

www.umbc.edu/undergrad/s_hum.html

Gateway to International and Intercultural Programs & Services

www.umbc.edu/international
Linehan Artist Scholars

Program

www.umbc.edu/undergrad/s_lin.html

Meyerhoff Scholars Program (Science and Engineering)

www.umbc.edu/undergrad/s_mey.html

Public Affairs Scholars Program

www.umbc.edu/undergrad_ed/urcad/index.html

Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day

www.umbc.edu/undergrad/s_pubaff.html

The Honors College

www.umbc.edu/honors

Parent Programs & Services

<http://www.umbc.edu/parents>

nts

Student Affairs

<http://www.umbc.edu/saf>

Career Development Center

<http://careers.umbc.edu/saf>

Residential Life

<http://www.umbc.edu/reslife/>

The Student Link

<http://www.umbc.edu/StudentLink/>

Hillel at UMBC

<http://www.umbchillel.com/>

The Retriever Weekly

(student newspaper)

<http://trw.umbc.edu/>

UMBC Publications

http://www.umbc.edu/news_events/pub.html

To unsubscribe to the Parent Connection or to offer comments and suggestions, please write to:

parents@umbc.edu or call 1-866-VIP-UMBC.