President Hrabowski Dines with Queen Elizabeth II at British Embassy
Read More...

Antidepressants Study by Public Policy Professor Dave Marcotte
Featured in The Atlantic
Read More...

Sophomore Wins National Essay Contest on Health Care Policy
Read More...

UMBC Men’s Lacrosse Advances to NCAA Quarterfinals
Read More...

Baltimore Dance Project Performs at the Cultural Arts Center of Frederick
Read More...
Important Dates

Graduate Commencement:  
May 22

Undergraduate Commencement:  
May 24

Residential Life Spring Closing  
(Summer Break) 2007  
All Communities:  
May 23 @ 8 p.m.

Summer 2008 Session I: May 27  
until August 15

Summer 2008 Session II: July 7  
until August 15

Residential Life Freshmen Move In (Fall 2007):  
August 25

Residential Life Returning Students Move In (Fall 2007):  
August 27

Fall 2007 First Day of Classes:  
August 29
A Little Strength Training

If someone were to ask you what you were good at, how would you answer? Would your answer be of the “Good question…what am I good at?” variety, or would an answer roll off your tongue (“I’m good in crisis situations, excellent with numbers and am very detail oriented.”)? What if they then wanted to know if you also happened to like managing crises, or crunching numbers or attending to all those details? And as a further follow up, what if they asked you to prove you actually had these strengths? For most of us, knowing and clearly communicating our true dependable strengths (those that we’re both good at and enjoy) is something with which to wrestle.

Pinning down these dependable strengths can be tricky. There’s always the person who’s good at something, but seems miserable when they’re doing it (you may be a very effective accountant, but find all that number crunching interminably boring). Or we’ve all seen people who really want to be good at something, but will never excel in that arena (a la American Idol). There are also those who don’t recognize their own strengths (that enthusiastic neighbor who’s always so busy taking care of others – the one who’s always the first to volunteer to coordinate the community picnic – that she doesn’t realize she’s a natural organizer).

Wouldn’t it be great if our students knew and could effectively communicate their inner-motivated strengths? They’d be able to make major and career decisions more aligned with their skill sets and interests. They’d be able to interview much more effectively. They’d be able to manage their future careers with added foresight and insight. Working from their dependable strengths, they’d be contributing to society in really significant ways. Just think of a world where everyone was doing and enjoying what they did well.

Learning to recognize our true strengths – those skills and attributes that energize us, that make us feel alive when tapped, that we just can’t help but use when given the opportunity – is hurdle number one. Hurdle number two is learning how to talk about and convince others of our strengths (knowing we can do something is different from others – i.e., employers – believing we can do it). The third hurdle is learning to feel comfortable talking about what we’re good at (after all, it’s not bragging when you’re simply telling the truth!).

This summer (June 7-8) UMBC’s Career Services Center will be holding a two-day “training camp” for recent grads to assist them with uncovering, believing in and effectively communicating their strengths – and taking it all to the next level as it relates to the job search. Strength training can be tough work, but focusing on one’s personal strengths is no pain and all

UMBC Bookstore

Why do UMBC students work for the Bookstore? The obvious answer is money. There are additional factors that draw the best of UMBC’s students to the Bookstore. Flexible schedules, a convenient location and working with friends are a few of the benefits Bookstore student employees mention. 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. To use an analogy from the starting baseball season, our Bookstore team has been built from within. Our 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 summer and winter programs are in full swing and the Bookstore prepares for the upcoming semester. Applications for Bookstore employment are available on line. Please visit http://bookstore.umbc.edu.
End of Semester Information for Campus Residents

Halls and Apartments close Wednesday, May 23, at 8 p.m.

In order to support an environment conducive to study and to stagger check out times across the week, we ask students to move out of their rooms within 24 hours after their last final or no later than 8 p.m. on May 23 if their last final is on Wednesday! All buildings close and residents must be completely moved out of their rooms or apartments by 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23. (Graduating seniors and students with late Wednesday finals should read the info below for information about exceptions.)

Staff will provide students with a check list. Most students do a great job of preparing their rooms for check out. As a result, most of our residents receive a full refund of their security deposit. Since students won’t be able to enter the residence hall or apartment after closing, please check drawers, closets, cabinets, and wardrobes carefully before leaving. Cleaning crews enter buildings immediately following closing and items left behind are discarded by housekeeping staff.

Remember, students should schedule an appointment with the RA at least 2 days before move out. At this appointment, the RA inspects room damages, takes room key and resident ID. Failure to make and keep a scheduled check out appointment is one of the more expensive charges against the housing deposit ($50). Key and ID charges add up, too. Luckily, these are easy charges to avoid as long as students follow the check out instructions.

Graduating Seniors, Students with Late Finals and Summer School Residents

Graduating seniors who live more than 50 miles from campus may request a late check-out time for the morning of graduation by submitting an application to our central office located in Erickson Hall by Monday, May 7. Students with finals scheduled for late Wednesday afternoon or evening should contact their community director to arrange for an extended check-out time if they are unable to meet deadlines.

Transitional housing is available to summer school students who require housing between the last day of the spring semester and check-in for the first summer housing session. A limited number of spaces are available, so priority will be given to international, out-of-state and students who live more than 50 miles away from campus. The cost for the transitional period will be billed to the student’s account.

Summer housing is available for students registered for summer session courses at UMBC. Check the Web site for applications and details.

Click here to access UMBC’s ResLife Web site

---

Shriver Center Spotlight

Name: Jason M. Corallo
Major: Information Systems, MS
Graduation Date: December 2007
Placement: Northrop Grumman Corporation

“I was placed in an internship where what I do helps to keep the rest of the factory moving.”

Description of duties: Serve as a liaison between ERP users and the IT department to communicate factory needs. Maintain a supplemental factory Web site.

Future career plans: I would like to either continue working with Northrop Grumman in an IT-related field or pursue a great IT-related position in either the U.S. or Japan.

Click here to access the Shriver Center Web site
A Message from the Undergraduate Admissions Office

Congratulations on reaching the end of another academic year with your son or daughter. Here are some inside notes for parents about this time of year:

Final examinations at UMBC begin today, May 17. Remind your daughter or son to check the special schedule to see when each final is given – this time usually varies somewhat from the regular class time. Without the structure of classes (which ended on May 15) some students have difficulty buckling down to study. Most people study by trying to cram information into their brains. For a change of pace, suggest that your student practice getting the information out as that is the skill that will be tested during an exam.

To do this, students work alone or in small groups to design questions that seem likely to be on the final and then practice answering them. Some faculty members also make prior examinations available in the library or online to serve as study guides.

Throughout finals the Student Government Association will be sponsoring a Stress-Free Zone in The Commons. Students can stop by anytime for a guaranteed relaxing, no-finals-talk atmosphere.

Continuing students should have completed registration for fall classes by now. If your son or daughter has delayed registering for some reason, now is the time to take care of this. Some class sections may already be filled, making course selection challenging. To check on course availability, go to the Fall 2007 Schedule of Classes and click on the appropriate department. Then click on the course number to see how many seats remain available for that course.

There is still time to sign up for classes over the summer. Classes are offered in two sessions: May 29 to July 6 and July 9 to August 17. Newly admitted students are welcome to sign up for summer classes to get a jump on their college experience.

Have a wonderful summer. We look forward to connecting with students or parents again in the fall.

Transforming the Teaching of Science

Changes in the way UMBC faculty are teaching introductory chemistry is not only increasing pass rates but creating more interest in chemistry.

Professors Ralph Pollack and William LaCourse came to Diane Lee, dean of undergraduate education, with concerns about student performance in Chemistry 101. The large lecture classes that usually contained over 200 students left little room for more than a handful of students to participate, and additional weekly recitation classes did not make a difference in student grades.

The Department of Chemistry, the Office of Undergraduate Education and the Shriver Center worked together to create the Chemistry Discovery Center, a problem-based, high-tech learning lab (University Center, Room 201) focused on cooperative learning. Two years later, pass rates in Chemistry 101 are increasing, fewer students need to repeat the class and faculty have seen additional improvement at all grade levels. The number of majors, second majors and minors in chemistry and biochemistry is growing.

And an overall improvement in group skills is also migrating to upper-level chemistry classes.

“Science is a cooperative endeavor, not a solitary one,” said Pollack. “In the Chemistry Discovery Center, students become active participants in the learning process, and we know that those who work in groups do better than those who work alone. It gets them thinking about problems and coming to their own conclusions. They’re not just memorizing.”

During two-hour weekly sessions, students divide into groups of four, and receive worksheets to guide them in their development of the ideas and principles that form the basis of the unit being studied. Students take ownership of the group through rotating roles, from managing the group to computing and recording the information. Faculty and teaching assistants can send and view group work from a central monitor.

(UMBC’s Continuing and Professional Studies helped fund the lab’s first year, while the National Science Foundation funded the second year.)

Read More...
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 PAWS so that students’ academic success, university and life experiences may be fully actualized.