
CENTERED ON SUCCESS:

SUPPORTING SUCCESS AT UMBC

UMBC seeks to support students, faculty
and staff members in their work and study,
encouraging success and retention.

Supportive programs and offices in this publication are grouped by their focus: undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty and staff, followed by entries of universal interest. This inventory was prepared as a service to the campus by the Office of Undergraduate Education in consultation with schools, departments and programs. To update information, contact Janet McGlynn, mcglynn@umbc.edu. For additional copies, go to www.umbc.edu/undergrad_ed.

SUPPORT FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Admission, Orientation and Placement

UMBC's Placement Testing Program is one of the earliest steps taken to help students succeed at UMBC. Approximately 1,500 new freshmen and 100 transfer students are tested and placed into appropriate mathematics and English courses each academic year. UMBC academic advisors use placement test results and the results from a standardized reading test to help students select courses for their first semester at UMBC. This process is completed online through Blackboard, providing easy and early access for incoming students.

Contact: Andrea Spratt, spratt@umbc.edu, x52467; www.umbc.edu/lrc/placement_test.htm

New Student Orientation begins with Course Selection Day and continues with Welcome Week activities, which take place at the start of the semester. Course Selection Day is designed to introduce new undergraduates to academic life at UMBC. During Course Selection Day, new students meet with an academic advisor to select and register for courses. Course Selection Day also provides incoming students the opportunity to meet new and current students, faculty and staff and learn more about academic requirements and options as well as resources and services to support their academic success at UMBC.

Contact: Dale Bittinger, bittinger@umbc.edu, x52278; www.umbc.edu/orientation

Welcome Week provides a total immersion experience for new undergraduate students. Welcome Week events begin on Residential Student Move-In Day and continue through Labor Day Monday. Some Welcome Week events, such as a hypnotist, Playfair and Big Crazy Fun Night, attract as many as 1,000 students. Woolies (returning students trained to help new students) have the specific assignment of helping new students through their first week.

*Contact: Lee Hawthorne Calizo, calizo@umbc.edu, x51754;
www.umbc.edu/orientation/welcomeweek.html*

The Graduate Advising Fellows Program recruits and trains graduate students to assist with the large volume of undergraduate advising during the advance registration period and Course Selection Day. Graduate advising fellows assist the Office of Academic Services during peak advising periods, offering more accessibility for undergraduates.

Contact: Nancy Miller, nlm@umbc.edu, x56865

Convocation speaks directly to new students and focuses on how we value them in this community. Featuring President Hrabowski as the primary Convocation speaker, this event emphasizes the importance the institution places on new students and their success. More than 1,000 new students attend convocation each year, along with faculty and staff. Student attendance is facilitated by the Welcome Week Leaders (Woolies) who bring new students to Convocation in groups.

Contact: Beth Wells, bwells@umbc.edu, x58907

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships assists UMBC students in making their higher education affordable. This office administers and coordinates a variety of federal, state and institutional programs including grants, scholarships, loans and paid employment. Financial aid programs are administered based on demonstrated need, and scholarship programs are awarded to students with exceptional academic and/or artistic talent.

Contact: finaid@umbc.edu, x52387; www.umbc.edu/financialaid; schl_info@umbc.edu, x53813; www.umbc.edu/undergrad/scholarships.html

The New Student Book Experience provides new freshmen and transfer students entering UMBC in the fall semester the opportunity to participate in a common reading experience. Nationally these programs serve to introduce students to the academic expectations of the university classroom and provide an early connection to a faculty or staff member. UMBC's experience is further enhanced by the book's connection to assignments students will be asked to complete in English 100, whether they take the course in the fall or spring semester.

Contact: Diane M. Lee, dlee@umbc.edu, x56805; Jill Randles, jrandles@umbc.edu, x53715; www.umbc.edu/undergrad_ed/book/index.html

Make UMBC Yours is an effort to help UMBC undergraduates to "own" their UMBC experiences by encouraging them to help create community on campus. Through media ranging from banners on the academic corridor to new orientation materials and Welcome Week sessions, UMBC's Offices of Institutional Advancement and Student Life are letting students know that they are producers of UMBC, not just customers or observers. One aspect of the Make UMBC Yours campaign is an annual opportunity for new undergraduates to literally create a piece of UMBC by collaborating on a large mural, several of which now hang in The Commons.

Contact: David Hoffman, dhoffman@umbc.edu, x51565; Lee Hawthorne, x51754; hawthorn@umbc.edu

Fall involvement events form a continuum of undergraduate programming from Welcome Week through Homecoming to continue offering engagement opportunities for students. In addition to the banner events

such as Welcome Week, Convocation, Fall Frenzy, Homecoming and Family Celebration, there is at least one evening event each day in The Commons. Fall involvement efforts include the Involvement Fest, attended by more than 500 students, which publicizes approximately 200 student organizations with which newcomers can engage.

Contact: Erin Hundley, hundley@umbc.edu, x53623; www.umbc.edu/studentlife

First-Year Transitions

First-Year Seminars provide new freshmen and transfer students with a small-group experience that focuses on a particular academic topic. This experience provides students with a means to become more connected and engaged with faculty, their peers and the university as they develop an understanding of scholarly work and the expectations that accompany this endeavor. First-Year Seminars provide up to 340 students with a small-group interaction with other students and a full-time faculty member.

*Contact: Jill Randles, jrandles@umbc.edu, x53715; Jack Prostko, prostko@umbc.edu, x51829;
www.umbc.edu/undergrad_ed/fys*

Introduction to an Honors University (IHU), a one-credit seminar, provides a small-group forum for addressing transition issues and for the enhancement of academic skills of new freshmen and transfer students. Typically linked with a three-credit course taken by many new students, such as ENG 100, SCI 100 or ENES 101, the seminars meet once a week. Those who participate in a seminar are provided with a support network of peers, staff and faculty as they familiarize themselves with UMBC's academic expectations.

*Contact: Jill Randles, jrandles@umbc.edu, x53715; Theresa Davis, tpdavis@umbc.edu, x52442;
www.umbc.edu/undergrad_ed/ihus*

The Advising Resource Center (ARC) in the Office of Academic Services is staffed by peer advisors to assist students in general advising procedures and basic questions. The ARC has a library featuring resources on major exploration, the professional and graduate school application process and general collegiate success. Two computer stations are available for students to use a computerized major exploration instrument, the Self-Directed Search. Students may make an appointment to take the assessment and meet with an academic advisor to discuss the results.

Contact: Ericka Thompson, ethompson@umbc.edu, x52500

Campus Connect is a welcome program that links any freshman, sophomore or new transfer student with a staff or faculty member or experienced student whose goal is to provide friendly support and information. Both hosts and students volunteer their interest in the program. The amount of contact and degree of support varies according to the needs of the student, but the hope is that students will feel a greater level of support as they make the transition to the university.

Contact: Jill Randles, jrandles@umbc.edu, x53715; Barbara Smith, bsmith@umbc.edu, x52300; www.umbc.edu/undergrad_ed/connect

First-Year Council (FYC), a product of UMBC's participation in the American Democracy Project, connects new freshmen and transfer students to campus resources while building identity and community among the class. The informed, involved students in FYC—including first-year students supported by more experienced students and the Office of Student Life—seek to enhance the first-year experience one student at a time, paying particular attention to those who seem to have a hard time adjusting to life on campus. The First-Year Council makes "UMBC First" bracelets available to members of the campus community willing to commit to helping first-year students answer questions and solve problems. The silicone bracelets allow new UMBC students to identify, on-sight, people willing to help them get acclimated to campus life.

Contact: David Hoffman, dhoffman@umbc.edu, x51565; Erin Hundley, hundley@umbc.edu, x53623

The Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement (McNair Scholars) Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, provides experiences that prepare eligible students for graduate education. McNair Scholars are selected from among UMBC students to participate in a variety of activities designed to prepare them to progress to earn doctoral degrees through involvement in research, mentoring, professionalization experiences, conferences, cultural enrichment trips and other scholarly activities. Eligible participants are low-income and first-generation college students or are those who are members of groups underrepresented in graduate education. Applications are available from the McNair Office, Math/ Psychology Building, room 216.

Contact: April Householder, aprilh@umbc.edu, x53057; www.umbc.edu/mcnair

Residential Life Programming

Living-Learning Communities (LLCs) are highly active residence hall communities. Students who live in these communities share their intellectual passions and participate in community-building activities and enhanced contact and engagement with faculty. Academic programs offering an LLC include the Center for

Women and Information Technology, Emergency Health Services, Exploratory Majors, Honors College, Humanities, Intercultural Living Exchange, Shriver Center, Visual and Performing Arts and Women Involved in Learning and Leadership.

Contact: Kim Leisey, leisey@umbc.edu, x53932; www.umbc.edu/reslife/communities/lrc.html

The Faculty Mentor Program is a program centered on helping students to be successful. The program is based on research indicating that undergraduates who have contact with faculty outside of the classroom are more likely to graduate, more likely to exhibit higher levels of achievement and generally more satisfied with college. Six residential faculty mentors and one transfer-student mentor serve approximately 2,000 students per year.

Contact: Kim Leisey, leisey@umbc.edu, Amy Sine, asine@umbc.edu or David Clurman, clurman@umbc.edu, x53932 in Residential Life; Ramona Arthur, arthur@umbc.edu, x52770 in Off-Campus and Transfer Student Services; www.umbc.edu/tmp/insights2001/features1001/partnerships.html

Academic Advising and Support Programs

The Learning Resources Center (LRC) is UMBC's comprehensive undergraduate academic support program. The LRC provides academic and learning services to help students reach their goals for an undergraduate education. Likewise, the LRC supports the academic community in its goal to give every undergraduate the opportunity for an honors college experience at a research university. The LRC collaborates with students, faculty, staff and administrators to conduct specific programs that maximize learning success for each student who seeks assistance. One example is the Academic Success for Lifelong Learning course (LRC 101) taught collaboratively with academic advising staff. The course carries three institutional credits and focuses on success strategies for college and beyond. Another example is the peer tutoring program. With faculty recommendations, the LRC hires students to tutor for 115 different 100- and 200-level courses in three tutoring centers. LRC services are free of charge and open to all enrolled undergraduate students.

Contact: Andrea Spratt, spratt@umbc.edu, x52467; www.umbc.edu/lrc

The Freshman-Year Intervention (FYI) report program asks faculty to identify and inform the LRC, at midsemester, of freshman students in danger of failing. The LRC then contacts the student with information about the campus support services available to them. Each of the 400 to 500 freshmen identified through FYI receives a letter that names the course(s) in jeopardy and encourages them to use the numerous academic support resources on campus, especially faculty office hours. By the eighth week of the semester, all other

freshmen receive the same information about resources available to help them academically.

Contact: Andrea Spratt, spratt@umbc.edu, x52467; www.umbc.edu/lrc/fyi_report.htm

Professional advisors are a critical component to the delivery of advising services at UMBC. Professional advisors are available in the College of Engineering and in specific disciplines, such as biology, information systems, psychology and visual arts. A total of seven professional academic advisors work in departments with large enrollments and significant numbers of transfer students. Through this program, students have access to one-to-one counseling about academic planning and course selection.

Contact: Paula Ashby, ashby@umbc.edu, x52500

Campus Life

Leadershape is an intensive, week-long leadership workshop attended by about 40 undergraduates each year. Participating students develop visions for social change and plans for carrying out their visions. Students focus their visions on creating new resources and a welcoming and inclusive environment on campus.

Though Leadershape takes place in January, the participating students continue to be deeply involved in fulfilling their visions by creating new organizations, traditions and networks throughout the year.

Contact: Erin Hundley, hundley@umbc.edu, x53623

The UMBC Review offers opportunities for undergraduates to publish original research papers. Submissions are accepted each May. The journal is staffed completely by undergraduates. Students solicit and select manuscripts, edit and format the papers, design the journal and prepare camera-ready copy for the printer.

Contact: UMBCReview@umbc.edu; www.umbc.edu/undergrad_ed/review

The UMBC Student Government Association is the elected leadership body that helps to make UMBC a supportive and engaging environment for undergraduate students. The SGA includes a student legislature (A Senate and Finance Board elected at large and Student Organization Advocates representing campus groups), an active Executive Branch (the President, Vice Presidents, and cabinet officers), and a Supreme Court. About 50 students participate directly in SGA and hundreds more connect with SGA through clubs, organizations, events, and campaigns. SGA members believe that students succeed when they are involved on campus and have the support of other students. SGA contributes to UMBC's campus environment by creating student traditions, promoting student-friendly policies, and encouraging the development and

success of student-run organizations. SGA maintains close relationships with faculty, staff, and administration to ensure the success of these contributions to the UMBC community.

Contact: Jay Lagorio, jay@lagorio.net or Elani Odeyale, elani1@umbc.edu, x53894; sga.umbc.edu; www.ourUMBC.com.

Beyond Year One

Prestigious Scholarships Advising: Through awareness events, workshops and a website, UMBC takes an active role in informing undergraduate students about opportunities to apply for prestigious national or international scholarships for upper-level undergraduate work and for graduate study. In addition, students who decide to apply receive support in drafting their personal statements, preparing for interviews and other help in preparing a strong application. This support is provided by faculty advisors for the individual scholarship programs, assisted by staff in the Honors College.

Contact: Simon Stacey, spstacey@umbc.edu

The UMBC Study Abroad Office works with UMBC undergraduates to find academically appropriate, affordable study abroad programs throughout the world. Because of the increasing cultural and economic interdependence of the world, UMBC encourages students to include a summer, semester, winter or year study abroad experience as an integral part of their undergraduate program. UMBC students have a wide range of options for including an international component to their undergraduate experience.

Contact: Brian Souders, souders@umbc.edu, x52624; www.umbc.edu/ies/studyabroad

Undergraduate research is supported and encouraged at UMBC, starting with the freshman year. The **Undergraduate Research Award (URA)** program allows students to prepare proposals and compete for research funding to carry out independent research under the guidance of a faculty mentor. **Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD)** each April allows students to participate in formal oral and poster sessions, to exhibit creative works and to perform for a campus audience.

Contact: Janet McGlynn, mcglynn@umbc.edu, x55754; www.umbc.edu/undergrad_ed/research/ura; www.umbc.edu/undergrad_ed/research/urcad

SUPPORT FOR THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Support for All Students

The Office of Alumni Relations provides a number of initiatives to better serve current students and to keep UMBC's more than 40,000 alumni connected to their alma mater and to one another. The "Alum from Day One" project helps make the Alumni Association more visible to new students on campus and includes programs and events to connect current students with alumni throughout the year. In addition, RetrieverNet, an online community for alumni, includes an alumni career mentoring network available to students this year. Young alumni programming focuses on recent grads – and soon-to-be-grads – as they transition from college to the "real world." The Alumni association's signature events include an annual Annapolis Reception (an opportunity to network with Maryland's State Legislators and celebrate with Outstanding Alumni of the Year) and UMBC Night at Camden Yards. In addition, the Alumni Association presents a cash award to an outstanding student in each academic department and several larger scholarships, including an Alumni Legacy Scholarship, given to a student whose parent(s) graduated from UMBC.

Contact: Sandra Dzija, dzija@umbc.edu, x52210; www.umbc.edu/Alumni

The Career Services Center (CSC) provides programs and services to assist students in making a smooth transition from UMBC to the workplace or graduate education. CSC is available to assist with all aspects of career and educational success: exploration of career and major options and conducting targeted employer outreach in order to connect students with meaningful employment (full- and part-time), as well as networking opportunities and assistance to students in preparing for entrance to graduate school. Our goal is to assist in the preparation of undergraduates, graduate students and alumni to enable them to make valuable contributions to the world. The Center also offers resources for faculty and staff.

Contact: Anne Scholl-Fiedler, Diane Crump-Fogle, or Lorie Logan Bennett, careers@umbc.edu, x52216; www.careers.umbc.edu, www.careers.umbc.edu/faculty

Off-Campus Housing Center (OCH). This apartment locator service maintains housing and resource information for students, particularly upperclassmen, transfer and graduate students desiring to live off campus. Community assistants and staff coordinate commuter study groups, learning communities and community-building activities to connect students with transitional support programs, campus services and off-campus living resources. Students can meet with a peer mentor or explore off-campus housing options online via myUMBC. The OCH Resource Center also publishes Living Beyond the Loop: Community Resource Guide and Renter's Handbook to assist students with their housing search, roommate relationships and "good neighbor" expectations.

Contact: The OCH Resource Center; www.umbc.edu/och

Off-Campus and Transfer Student Services provides space, advocacy and attention to the concerns of commuting students, with a particular focus on new and returning transfer students. Transfer student outreach services and programming include the Transfer Student Network (TSN), the TSN online community and the Faculty Mentor. The TSN Faculty Mentor interacts with nearly 400 transfer students per year via workshops, online communication, transfer peer advisers and one-to-one mentoring. The TSN Entrepreneurs' Learning Community is a partnership with the Alex.Brown Center for Entrepreneurship, Career Development Center, the Office of Student Life and Off-Campus and Transfer Student Services. This model learning community provides "one stop" transition support, academic outreach, social networking and "career coaches" for transfer students interested in connecting business and their academic major.

Contact: Ramona Arthur, arthur@umbc.edu, x53619; www.umbc.edu/ocss

The Shriver Center was established in honor of Eunice Kennedy Shriver and Sargent Shriver, founder of the Peace Corps. Through its diverse programs, the Center broadens the meaning of scholarship to include research, teaching and service, as well as the application of knowledge. Each year, The Shriver Center places over 700 UMBC students in internship and cooperative education experiences in public and private organizations in the Baltimore/Washington area and abroad and approximately 350 students in direct service to the community through service-learning. Through work and service-learning, students gain valuable skills, develop social consciousness and explore their life's work. Additionally, in a rigorous two-year program, returned Peace Corps volunteers pursue graduate study while engaging in community service and ethical reflection. The Shriver Center also runs the Choice Program, which is an intervention program in which UMBC faculty, staff and students collaborate in solving key problems challenging our cities: delinquency, school drop-out and joblessness.

Contact: Michele Wolff, wolff@umbc.edu, x52493; www.shrivercenter.org

The Office of Summer, Winter and Special Programs (OSWSP) manages summer and winter sessions for the university and coordinates a number of special programs designed for specific student populations, particularly K-12 practicing teachers. Students who want to focus on a specific course, get a jump on graduation or try something new may attend summer and winter sessions, thus supporting the "12-month university" concept.

Contact: Beth Snyder Jones, ejones@umbc.edu, x52731; www.umbc.edu/summer, www.umbc.edu/winter

The Student Events Board (SEB) is the student programming body at UMBC. SEB comprises 14 board members and a large volunteer committee. Executive members and volunteers work together to offer a broad range of social and educational programs to students. These activities include concerts, comedians, lectures, movies and a variety of novelty activities. Many SEB events have become campus traditions. SEB creates opportunities for students to connect with one another and make memories during their time at UMBC.

Contact: Holly Brown, hollab1@umbc.edu, 5-3618; sta.umbc.edu/orgs/seb

Student Support Services (SSS) conducts a federally-funded TRIO program designed for students from all racial and ethnic backgrounds who are low-income or first-generation college students and for students with disabilities who have a need for academic and other support services in order to successfully complete their college education at UMBC. Program offerings include one-to-one tutoring, academic advisement, financial aid advisement, personal and career counseling, cultural and leadership enrichment activities, individualized developmental instruction, video-based supplemental instruction and skill-building workshops for eligible undergraduate students. SSS also coordinates accommodation services such as extended test-taking time, note-takers, assistive technology, mobility training and American Sign Language and other types of interpreters for undergraduate and graduate students with appropriate documentation of disability on file in the SSS office.

Contact: Cynthia M. Hill, chill@umbc.edu, x52445; www.umbc.edu/ss

Student Judicial Programs (SJP) facilitates student and community developmental and ethical growth opportunities promoting personal integrity, civility, self-responsibility, citizenship and appreciation for diversity. SJP is, in part, responsible for enforcing university rules and regulations found in the Student Handbook. This office also handles Student Parking Appeals.

Contact: Chris Tkacik, tkacik@umbc.edu, x52453; www.umbc.edu/sjp

University Counseling Services (UCS) provides free and confidential psychological services to UMBC students who are concerned about social, personal and academic problems. Services include crisis intervention, intake interviews, short-term individual counseling, group counseling, access to self-help materials and referral resources. The goal of UCS is to assist and support students in making changes that increase their chances for academic and personal success. Services are available to both undergraduate and graduate students. Consultation is available to faculty and staff who are working with students and student life issues.

Contact: x52472; www.umbc.edu/counseling

University Health Services is committed to providing high-quality, effective health care and health education services to the UMBC campus community, to assisting students in becoming knowledgeable consumers in the health care system and to maintaining a healthy campus environment. UHS helps students work toward wellness in order to attain academic goals, participate fully in the UMBC campus community and acquire the knowledge needed to obtain beneficial health care.

Contact: x52542, www.umbc.edu/uhs

Achieving the Commercialization of Technology in Ventures through Applied Training for Entrepreneurs (ACTiVATE) trains women with strong technical or business backgrounds to be entrepreneurs and to create start-up companies by commercializing inventions from Maryland research institutions. Supported by a grant from the NSF, ACTiVATE is an interdepartmental partnership involving the Office of Technology Development, Center for Women and Information Technology, Alex.Brown Center for Entrepreneurship and techcenter@UMBC. The program offers training in two phases. During phase one (January to June), participants working in teams of two or three conduct feasibility analyses to see if their chosen technologies can be commercialized. During phase two (September through December), participants develop business plans for the most promising technologies and present them to potential funders. Faculty, staff and post docs at UMBC are welcome to participate as entrepreneurs in training, as inventors bringing technologies or as mentors.

Contact: Ellen Hemmerly, hemmerly@umbc.edu, x58400; www.umbc.edu/activate

Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery provides research, instructional and support services that contribute directly to the recruitment and retention of all UMBC community members (faculty, staff and students). A proven factor in the retention of students is teaching the ability to access, use and evaluate information efficiently and effectively from a variety of sources. This can help to increase success in classroom and course-related assignments. Additionally, a well-planned and accessible library that provides for research, aids in the recruitment and retention of both faculty and students who engage in scholarly pursuits.

Contact: Jessame Ferguson, jessame@umbc.edu, x53604; www.umbc.edu/library

The Alex.Brown Center for Entrepreneurship works closely with university faculty, staff and the Baltimore business community to create one of the leading university centers for entrepreneurs in the country among universities of its size. The Center offers guidance and expertise to students, faculty and CEOs and senior staff members of early stage companies. Through internships in start-up companies, assistance in writing business plans, networking with experts, credit and non-credit courses and a dynamic speaker series featuring regional business starts, the Center provides connections to accomplished practitioners and real life experience.

Contact: Vivian Armor, armor@umbc.edu, x55740; www.umbc.edu/entrepreneurship

Campus Career Partners is an integrated information resource combining information from offices and programs throughout the campus that work with career-related issues (i.e., CDC, Shriver, Academic Services, etc.). The site offers targeted “where to go for what” information for students.

Contact: Lorie Logan-Bennett, lbennett@umbc.edu, x52216; www.careers.umbc.edu/ccp

The Center for Women and Information Technology (CWIT) is dedicated to providing global leadership in achieving women’s full participation in all aspects of information technology (IT). The Center partners with departments and centers to provide programs and activities to benefit faculty, staff and students. CWIT also partners on grants with faculty and staff, provides academic research opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students and provides outreach to the regional, national and global community through its website, presentations and publications and an award winning video.

Contact: Claudia Morrell, cmorrell@umbc.edu, x52809; www.umbc.edu/cwit

The Commons integrates all aspects of university life by serving as the principal gathering place for the campus community. The Commons programs and services enhance campus life and school spirit through cooperative participation and collaboration. The Commons is a high-tech facility that provides wireless computer service, digital information displays and a host of well-equipped programming venues. Students can make use of comfortable study areas and lounges as well as a variety of dining and entertainment locations. Housed in the facility are the Campus Information Center, the bookstore, a Chevy Chase Bank branch, the OTC convenience shop, CommonVision (specialty printing), Flat Tuesdays and the gameroom, as well as various administrative and student organization offices. In addition, The Commons offers multiple meeting and programming spaces.

Contact: Drema Wentz, dwentz@umbc.edu, x53621, www.umbc.edu/thecommons

The Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation provides UMBC students, faculty and staff with many ways to participate in a wide variety of programs. Students, faculty and staff can take advantage of all of the resources provided by The Retriever Activities Center (RAC) through the Open Recreation program. The RAC contains three full indoor courts for basketball, volleyball and tennis, a weight room, the “cardio balcony,” with treadmills, exercise bikes, Stair Masters, etc., the Fitness Studio for group fitness activities, an indoor running track, an indoor and outdoor swimming pool and locker rooms. The facility is open seven days a week throughout the year. As a member of America East Conference, the department offers 20 varsity teams, 25 club sports and a huge intramural sports activity program.

Contact: www.umbc.edu/athletics/Recreation, www.umbretrievers.com, www.umbc.edu/sportclubs

The English Language Center (ELC) serves as a home-away-from home for UMBC's global learners by

offering academic and professional English language and communication programs in a supportive, cross-cultural setting. The ELC offers an Intensive English Program, Advanced English courses and Professional Development Programs. The Center provides high-quality language instruction to students and professionals with a wide range of learning goals. Specialized courses include pronunciation, intercultural communication, TOEFL preparation, and academic and professional writing. Students participate in conversation partners, field trips throughout the mid-Atlantic region and activities across the campus. Services for students include tutoring, immigration and academic advising, and assistance with admissions processes.

Contact: x52831, elc@umbc.edu, www.umbc.edu/elc.

The Department of Human Resources strives to enhance the employment experience of all campus faculty and staff by providing consistent and comprehensive services in a broad spectrum of human resources functions. Among its goals are to ensure that all employees are paid timely, properly and fairly; that benefits are appropriately explained and administered; that recruitment is conducted swiftly, effectively and in accordance with relevant laws and regulations; that staff receive the necessary training and development in order to best prepare them for success and advancement in their careers and that labor agreements and workplace rules and regulations are properly administered. The department also oversees the maintenance of physical and electronic personnel records for faculty and staff.

Contact: Valerie Thomas, valerie.thomas@umbc.edu, x53142; www.umbc.edu/hr

International Education Services (IES) provides guidance to UMBC's growing population of international students (both graduate and undergraduate), as well as to international faculty and researchers on all matters related to obtaining and maintaining their visa status for the duration of their stay at the university. IES provides assistance with work eligibility applications, travel documentation, change of visa status, extension of stay and other immigration compliance issues.

Contact: Arlene Wergin, wergin@umbc.edu, x52624; www.umbc.edu/ies

The Mosaic: Culture and Diversity Center provides a space for cross-cultural dialogue and is an excellent place for student engagement. The Center is home to many cross-cultural programs and activities. Many ethnic/cultural student organizations use the space to recruit new members, engage in cross-cultural dialogue and plan events such as the "Club Cupid" Pre-Valentine's Day Dance, hosted collaboratively by seven ethnic/cultural student organizations. The Center also welcomes faculty and staff.

Contact: Office of Student Life, osl@umbc.edu, x53462; sta.umbc.edu/diversity/mosaic

Research administration offices support faculty, students and staff engaged in research.

- **Human and Animal Research Protections Office (HARPO)** is responsible for ensuring university compliance with federal, state and local regulations with regard to research. The office provides administrative, organizational and regulatory support services for the university's human research program (Institutional Review Board or IRB), the animal care and use program (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee or IACUC) and the campus biosafety program.

Contact: Tim Sparklin, sparklin@umbc.edu, x52737; www.umbc.edu/HARPO

- **University supported research grants** provide support for faculty either as SRIS (Special Research Initiative Support) or SFF (Summer Faculty Fellowship) awards. Three hundred thousand dollars are set aside from the Designated Research Initiative Funds (DRIF) for these grants, which are administered by the Office of Sponsored Programs.

Contact: David Gleason, gleason@umbc.edu, x53140; www.umbc.edu/ospa

- **The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP)** promotes extramural funding of research and scholarly activity. The office, administered within the Graduate School under the Assistant Vice President for Research, is responsible for review, processing and sign-off on all extramural grants and contracts in support of research and other scholarly activity at UMBC. OSP provides direct assistance to faculty and departments in putting together proposals, negotiating contracts, interpreting policies, rules and restrictions and in finding appropriate sources of funding. It also acts as a focal point for educating faculty on how most effectively to apply for grants and acts as the agent of the university in any negotiation with public or private sources of funding and acts as the liaison with the funding agency, affecting any needed changes for the life of the grant or contract. Additionally, OSP serves as the agent of information gathering on government and private policy and on events affecting the climate for extramural funding and the ability of UMBC to compete successfully for that funding.

Contact: Jocelyn Bauer, bauer@umbc.edu, x53636; www.umbc.edu/ospa

- **The Office of Technology Development (OTD)** is responsible for commercializing inventions resulting from UMBC's research efforts. OTD receives invention disclosures from faculty and students, evaluates those disclosures for commercial viability and files patent applications when appropriate. Once a patent application has been filed, OTD works with the inventors to find commercial partners interested in licensing and commercializing the innovation. At times, OTD will work with faculty

members who are interested in creating their own company to commercialize an invention. Finally, OTD distributes a significant portion of licensing revenue received from an invention to the inventors, their labs and their departments. OTD has expertise working with companies and can assist faculty with company interactions, including collaborations, sponsored research, non-disclosure agreements and material transfer agreements.

Contact: Stephen Auvil, auvil@umbc.edu, x53481; www.umbc.edu/otd

UMBCTransit provides extensive shuttle bus services within the communities surrounding campus, to the Research Park, Technology Center and satellite parking, to the BWI train station (weekdays), the BWI Light Rail station (weekends) and UMB. Local service includes the Asian grocery market at Rolling Road and Route 40. Weekend service includes Arundel Mills Mall and the Inner Harbor. This route includes the Aquarium, ESPN Zone, Little Italy, Fells Point, 1st Mariner Arena, Camden Yards and the Greyhound Bus station. Of special interest is the weekend connection to the Baltimore Collegetown Network's uptown shuttle service, providing transportation to museums and other Collegetown campuses. The Wave 'N Ride service serves students, staff and faculty members who park in remote, main campus lots and need to get to center campus. A number of academic and administrative departments and student organizations use UMBCTransit's Charter Service for trips and events.

Contact: John Flister or Andrea Wynter, x52454; www.umbc.edu/transit

The Women's Center exists to assist all women in achieving their full potential in education, career and personal life through academic and intellectual growth, professional development and personal empowerment. The center offers safe space, resource and referral services and meeting/programming space for departments and groups on campus with goals in keeping with the center's mission. It also offers a private lactation and meditation room equipped with a hospital-grade breast pump, meditation and relaxation tapes, meditation cushions and religious/spiritual texts. The Women's Center welcomes participation from women and men throughout the UMBC community and serves faculty, staff and students. All are welcome so long as they respect women's experiences, stories and potential.

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