

## UMBC President's Commission for Women Achievement Award Winners

### **Janet McGlynn**

Director of Communication and Outreach, Office of Undergraduate Education

*2011-2012 UMBC President's Commission for Women Achievement Award*



Since joining UMBC in 2001, Janet McGlynn has been a champion of student research and an advocate for women's issues on campus. She is responsible for several campus-wide undergraduate research programs, including the Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD), the Undergraduate Research Awards (URA) and the UMBC Review. She also promotes summer research opportunities and travel grants to support students presenting research at national conferences.

Her hard work and dedication has made URCAD a unique opportunity for all undergraduates to showcase their talents and develop as professionals in their fields. Around 250 students participated and about 2,000 people attended URCAD in 2010. Outside of research, McGlynn participates in committees, planning and activities that support student success, retention and graduation. She teaches a section of Introduction to an Honors University (IHU) designed to help new students make the transition to college academics. She works with the committee that selects the book read by incoming students each year as a part of the New Student Book Experience.

She encourages members of Women in Learning and Leadership (WILL) to participate in URCAD, recognizing it as an excellent opportunity for undergraduate women, particularly those in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, to gain valuable experience. She also serves on the Women's Center Advisory Board and is involved in women's issues on campus.

McGlynn earned her B.A. in Natural Sciences and Masters in Administrative Science from Johns Hopkins University.

### **Delana Gregg**

Assistant Director, Sondheim Public Affairs Scholars

*2011-2012 UMBC President's Commission for Women Achievement Award*

Since joining UMBC in 2002, Delana Gregg has always focused on community. She has



worked tirelessly to connect Sondheim students to the campus and greater Baltimore communities, has encouraged students to build their own tightly-knit learning community and is known as a strong advocate for women's issues on campus.

Drawing on her roots as a Peace Corps volunteer in Lithuania and as a Shriver Peaceworker Fellow at UMBC, Gregg puts service at the center of her role as administrator. She has elevated the position to include core values of social justice, and she challenges students to make the world a better place. She meets one-on-one with students to discuss race, gender and class dynamics as they relate to service projects and the people they serve. She manages relationships with dozens of community partners, including College Gardens, Health Leads and the Shriver Center, to ensure they have the critical volunteer support they need to operate in Baltimore.

While recruiting for UMBC and the Sondheim program, she advises high school juniors and seniors on scholarship resources, gives advice on college preparation, and guides new students as they enroll for their first semester of classes. Beyond administering the program and serving as a mentor to students, Gregg is always engaged in the UMBC community and volunteers behind the scenes for a variety of campus efforts. Gregg was also a member and co-chair of the President's Commission for Women and the President of the Professional Staff Senate.

She is committed to advocacy for women and is a member of the Women's Center Advisory Board. She has a keen eye for physical accessibility and safety on campus, the need to support working women with flexible scheduling, and she possesses a deep understanding of gender-based discrimination that makes her a valuable resource for a variety of committees and boards.

Gregg earned her B.A. in English from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and her M.A. in Instructional Systems Development from UMBC.

**Emma Sellers, Program Management Specialist and Program Coordinator, Political Science**

*President's Commission for Women Achievement Award, 2010-11*

For more than 30 years, Emma has served in a variety of positions at UMBC. In her current role, she is involved in all aspects of



operations in the Department of Political Science including budget, payroll and procurement processes. She provides staff support for committees, programs and initiatives. She manages the curriculum and creates class schedules each year. Education is important to Emma, and she's been able to earn both a B.A. in English and M.A in Instructional Systems while working full-time. In addition to her work in the Department of Political Science, she teaches two undergraduate courses: "Student Success Seminar" and "Academic Success for Lifelong Learning." Her work with students was recognized with a 2005-2006 University System of Maryland Board of Regents Staff Award for Outstanding Service to Students.

Ms. Sellers serves on a number of committees engaged in educating individuals on and off campus about diversity and women. As co-chair of the President's Commission for Women, she helped organize and run two Women's Leadership Summits which focused on a wide variety of challenges confronting professional women. For three years, she was on the Black Faculty and Staff Committee which promoted the understanding of African-American culture and collaboration with other minority groups. She is also a current member of the Women's Center Advisory Board. Outside of UMBC, Emma is active in her residential community, in local politics and in her church. She is currently vice president of the Graystone Community Association.

**Cheryl Miller, Associate Dean, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, and Associate Professor, Political Science and Public Policy**  
*President's Commission for Women Achievement Award, 2009-10*

Cheryl Miller exhibits a passionate and tireless commitment to her students, the university and issues related to diversity and leadership for women. For more than 20 years, Miller has served in a variety of roles at UMBC and has been committed to educating the campus community and public on issues of diversity. She served as Assistant Professor of political science for five years and then advanced to Associate Professor and eventually Chair of the Department of Political Science. In August 2008, she became Associate Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. A major focus of her research is government advocacy of marriage promotion targeted at disadvantaged women of color.



Serving as a mentor to students, Miller has had a positive impact and influence in students' personal and professional lives. Her students, especially young women, feel challenged to think beyond textbooks and theory and apply critical thinking skills to real-world situations. Her work with students from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds has bolstered efforts to address underrepresentation while increasing the pool of well-trained researchers and policy professionals.

**Claudia Morrell, Executive Director, Center for Women and Information Technology (CWIT)**

*President's Commission for Women Achievement Award, 2008-09*

Claudia Morrell is regarded as one of the foremost experts on gender issues in technology in the world and a role model and advocate for young women at UMBC and beyond. As executive director of CWIT, Morrell developed the CWIT Scholars Program, which provides scholarships and programmatic support to young women and men pursuing their undergraduate degrees in information technology and engineering. The CWIT Scholars Program currently retains 94 percent of its students, a rate that exceeds the normal rate of retention for students in these majors. During Morrell's tenure at CWIT, the Center has grown from two employees to 41 staff, including students and faculty who work to support girls' and women's participation and advancement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Under her leadership, CWIT has developed successful initiatives at every level—from K-16 and workforce issues to technology entrepreneurship—including Computer Mania Day, a program which educates middle school girls about careers in technology; an after-school tech program and summer camp for girls at six Baltimore middle schools; and the ACTiVATE program, which helps women start their own technology businesses. Morrell also was successful in drafting legislation that was signed into law on May 26, 2004 that established the first statewide Governor's Task Force on the Status of Women and Information Technology. The Task Force recently released the highly endorsed report, *In the Center of the Storm: Addressing the Challenge of Maryland's Tightening IT Labor Market*. She speaks at state, national and international events on issues of gender and IT, including recent presentations at the United Nations and the World Bank. She developed the first International Symposium on Women and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in 1995 and established the International Taskforce on Women and ICTs. In addition, she helped organize the Global Trends in Technology: Propelling Women into Leadership forums in 2006 and 2008. Morrell received a B.S. in Industrial Relations with Honors in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Loyola College of Maryland and a M.S. in Industrial Relations from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.



**Patrice McDermott, Associate Professor and Chair, American Studies**

*President's Commission for Women Achievement Award 2007-2008*

Patrice McDermott, Associate Professor and Chair of American studies, works to promote understanding among different groups, cultures and backgrounds and has encouraged the elimination of gender inequality on campus. She serves on the executive committee of the National Science Foundation ADVANCE grant, promoting women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). She is a member of the Gender and Women's Studies Program's Coordinating Committee and served as the program's acting director early in her career. McDermott was also interim director of the Women's Center, director of the UMBC's Faculty Development Institute on Race, Democracy and Diversity and is a founding member of the Center for Women and Information Technology's (CWIT) internal board. She is the author of *Politics and Scholarship: Feminist Academic Journals and the Production of Knowledge*. Her innovations and leadership as a teacher have also been vital to the American studies, gender and women's studies and languages, literacy and culture programs. McDermott received her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in American studies from the University of Maryland, College Park.



**Jodi Kelber-Kaye, Visiting Assistant Professor of Women's Studies**

President's Commission for Women Achievement Award, 2006-07

Jodi Kelber-Kaye is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Women's Studies Program and the acting director of Women Involved in Learning and Leadership (WILL), a diverse group of undergraduate women who are involved in a learning community that promotes academic excellence, leadership development and civic engagement.

She also serves as the faculty advisor for WILL's living and learning residential floor. In addition to teaching core women's studies courses, Kelber-Kaye, a faculty member since 2003, has developed and teaches *Queer Representations in Film and Television*, and *Understanding AIDS*, a course cross-listed with interdisciplinary studies. Kelber-Kaye received her Ph.D. in comparative cultural and literary studies from the University of Arizona in 2003.



**Anne Brodsky, Associate Professor of Psychology and Affiliate Faculty, Women's Studies**

President's Commission for Women Achievement Award 2002-03

Anne Brodsky's research background studying the resilience of women and the role of communities in resisting societal risks such as violence, poverty and racism led to her current work with the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA). RAWA is a humanitarian and political women's organization that has operated clandestinely in Afghanistan and Pakistan for the past twenty-six years. Brodsky has been working with RAWA for more than three years to support their efforts to raise awareness of the plight of women under fundamentalist oppression, to give voice to Afghani women's lives and concerns and to document the resistance of Afghani women to their oppression. As part of these efforts, Brodsky brought members of RAWA to the United States and UMBC to tell the story of their lives and revolutionary work. Earlier this year, Brodsky published a book about RAWA and her experiences with the group, *With All Our Strength: The Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan*.

"Anne Brodsky is an outstanding researcher and scholar and a dedicated teacher," says Carlo DiClemente, chair of the Department of Psychology. "Her contribution of her latest book, *With All Our Strength*, is only the last in a series of wonderful contributions to UMBC. She was one of the first faculty mentors for the office of residential life, is active in promoting women's studies on campus, has co-developed a diversity course within our department and has contributed to a UMBC-Casey Foundation joint study program."

**Jill Randles, Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education**

President's Commission for Women Achievement Award, 2001-2002

Jill Randles is one of the UMBC representatives on the board of the Center for Women and Information Technology and is a member of the Women's Studies Coordinating Committee. She is a co-mentor to students in the Women Empowering Women program and has served on the Provost's Ad Hoc Committee for Gender Equity in Science, Mathematics, Information Technology, and Engineering. She has also served as a campus sexual harassment advisor, coordinating advisor training with the Human Resources Department, and works on the Task Force on Violence Against Women. In the broader community Randles helps victims of sexual assault and harassment as a counseling intern at the Sexual Trauma, Treatment, Advocacy, and Recovery (STTAR) Center in Howard County.



In acknowledging Jill Randles' achievements, President Hrabowski notes that she "touches the lives of so many students from wide-ranging backgrounds, and has a positive influence on their academic careers and personal development."

### **Mikhel Kushner, Women's Center Director**

President's Commission for Women Achievement Award, 2000-01

Since her appointment as director of the Women's Center in January 2000, Mikhel Kushner has brought tremendous energy and enthusiasm to her work, developing new programming and increasing the visibility of the Women's Center as a campus resource. On almost any day of the week, the Center offers programs, classes, or activities that span a range of issues appealing to an audience of all ages.

Mikhel has made the Women's Center a welcoming place, with tremendous resource materials," says Linda Brown, a member of the Women's Center Advisory Board and director of the Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis and Research. She has brought so many great ideas and a complete understanding of the mission of a campus women's center."

Kushner has also been instrumental in planning Women's History Month events at UMBC and was recently honored by Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend as one of four women selected as Maryland's 2001 Women of Achievement. Kushner holds a master's in social work from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, with a concentration on community health and women's issues. The Women's Center web page is located at <http://www.umbc.edu/womenscenter/>



