

## A PROMISE TO KEEP

NEWSLETTER, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

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### Fulfilling PROMISE

We are so proud of our PROMISE family, particularly those who have completed their season here in the University of Maryland system. We wish all of you continued success and hope you will remember your PROMISE, as we will always remember ...

#### *Doctoral Graduates*

#### **B. Michelle Harris, Ph.D.** Nutrition.

B.A. Holy Cross, 1979, M.S., Framingham College, 1987, M.A., Harvard University, 1991.

**Dissertation Advisor:** Dr. Mira Gupta. **Dissertation Title:** *The Relationship of Low Birth Weight and Current Obesity to Type 2 Diabetes in African-American Women.* **Present Position:**

Assistant Professor in the Nutrition and Food Science Program of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences at the University of the District of Columbia.

#### **Kelly Kitchens, Ph.D.**

Pharmaceutical Sciences. B.S., Hampton University, 2001.

**Dissertation Advisor:** Dr. Hamid Ghandehari. **Dissertation Title:**

*Transepithelial transport of pol(amidoamine) dendrimers across the intestinal barrier.* **Present**

**Position:** Researcher at Alba Therapeutics Corporation in Baltimore.

#### **Willie Merrell, Ph.D.** Physics. B.A.

Florida A& M University, 2000.

**Dissertation Advisor:** Dr. S. James Gates. **Dissertation Title:** *Applications of Superspace Techniques to Effective Actions, Complex Geometry, and T Duality in String Theory.* **Present**

**Position:** Postdoctoral Fellow, The University of Kentucky.

#### **Oliver Myers, Ph.D.** Mechanical Engineering. B.S. University of Maryland Baltimore County.

**Dissertation Advisor:** Dr. M. Anjanappa. **Dissertation Title:** *Modeling Interdigitated Piezoelectric Thin-Film Microactuators.* **Present**

**Position:** Undecided; looking into positions with Army Research Lab, Jet Propulsion Lab, Naval Research Lab.

#### **Wallace Southerland, Ph.D.**

Education Policy & Leadership. B.A. University of Bridgeport, 1991. M.S. University of Bridgeport, 1993. **Dissertation**

**Advisor:** Dr. Betty Malen. **Dissertation Title:** *The Politics of*

*Securing Campus Budget*



From left: Dr. Michelle Harris, Dr. Kelly Kitchens, Dr. Willie Merrell, Dr. Oliver Myers, Dr. Wallace Southerland, & Dr. Chris Whitt

*Resources: A Case Study of Three Reputedly Exemplary Chairpersons at a Public University.* **Present Position:** Acting Associate Director, Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, The University of Maryland College Park.

**Christopher Whitt, Ph.D.**

Government and Politics. B.A., Salisbury University 2000.

**Dissertation Advisor:** Dr. Linda Faye Williams; Dr. Miranda Schreurs. **Dissertation Title:** *Unaffordable Outcomes: The Wealth Gap, Black Political Participation and Public Policy Outcomes in the Black Interest.*

**Present Position:** Assistant Professor of Political Science, at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois.

*Master's Graduates*

**Temitope Akinsade**, Information Systems, UMBC

**Yared Amanuel**, Mechanical Engineering, UMBC

**Erikka Carr**, Cell Biology & Molecular Genetics, UMCP

**Geriell Ettiene-Modeste**, Mechanical Engineering, UMBC

**Philip Dyer**, Mechanical Engineering, UMBC

**William Fitch**, Engineering Management, UMBC

**Charles Glover**, Mathematics

**Ayesha Edwards**, Education Policy & Leadership, UMCP

**Nikisa Jordan**, Environmental Sciences, UMBC

**Lenisa Joseph**, Special Education, UMCP

**Tracey Lee**, Rehabilitation Counseling, UMCP

**Karol Martinez**, College Student Personnel, UMCP

**Anjanette McAdory**, Special Education, UMCP

**Jameelah Roberts**, Information Systems, UMBC

**Tina Zarpour**, Anthropology, UMCP

**KUDOS!**

**Janet Awokoya**, EDLP, advanced to candidacy and presented "African Paradoxes: A conversation on the heterogeneity of the African Diaspora" at the Western Social Science Association in Alberta, Calgary, Canada.

**Ebony Dashiell**, EDLP, has been awarded the University of Maryland Graduate Student Distinguished Service Award.

**Tanya Geiger**, PCHL, has been inducted into the Eta Sigma Gamma Honor Society.

**Maritza Gonzalez**, EDPL, has been selected for an internship with the National Archives through the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

**Dr. B. Michelle Harris**, NUTR, has been inducted into the Sigma Xi National Honor Society for researchers.

**Mary Frances Jimenez**, ENGL, presented her paper "Place and Witnessing in Cyrus Cassell's Poetry: Site as a Means Toward Sight" at the 2007 conference of the Collegium for African American Research, held in Madrid on April 19, 2007.

**Sylvette La Touche**, HLTH, has been inducted into Eta Sigma Gamma Honor Society, won 1<sup>st</sup> place in Urban Science in Education for Graduate Interaction Research Day, and is a recipient of a CRISP Fellowship from the Consortium of Race, Gender, & Ethnicity.

**Tina Ligon**, HIST, has been awarded the 2007 Graduate Student Ethnic Minority Achievement Award at UMCP, presented by the President's Commission on Ethnic Minority Issues.

**David Major**, BPHD, ran a 26.2 mile Miami Marathon in support of AIDS, and accrued \$3,021 in donations given to the DC Whitman Walker Clinic. He authored papers accepted for presentation at the Academy of Management National Conference and the Strategic Management Society National Conference, and co-authored a paper accepted for presentation at the Smith School Entrepreneurship Research Conference.

**Karol Martinez**, CAPS, has accepted a position as Assistant Director of Student Activities at the Maryland Institute College of Art.

**Alycia Marshall**, EDCI, presented at two conferences recently: a poster presentation at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Meeting on May 19-21 in Atlanta, GA; a roundtable presentation at the American Education Research Association Annual Meeting on April 7-13 in Chicago, IL.

**Jamie Monzo**, EDHD, will be teaching Psychology for gifted middle school students selected for the Talent Identification Program at Duke University.

**Jocelyn Reader**, HGEN, has been awarded the 2007 UNCF Merck Graduate Science Research Dissertation Fellowship.

**Katisha Smith**, ENME, who has been selected for a Meyerhoff Fellowship!

**Peggy Smith**, PCHL, advanced to candidacy!

**Yvette Williams**, MEES, has been awarded a fellowship from the Garden Club of America in their Urban Forestry Program.

Congratulations to **Rodney Harrell** and **Nazera Wright**, recipients of the Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship.

Congratulations to **George Leary** and **Jacqueline King**, recently selected as Teaching Fellows for the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC).



**29<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Research Conference participants at UMBC**

Congratulations to the following PROMISE family winners and participants of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Research Conference that took place April 27<sup>th</sup> at UMBC:

Division Winners:

**Kholiswa Laird**, Chemistry Division  
**Edward Warner**, Modern Languages and Literacy Division  
**Jacqueline King**, Psychology Division

BD Fellow Participants:

**Jameelah Roberts**, IS  
**Yared Amanuel**, ENME  
**Philip Dyer**, ENME  
**Katisha Smith**, ENME  
**Miguel Acosta**, ENCE  
**Bill Moss**, ENCE  
**Brenitra Mosely**, ENEE  
**Jason Nappier**, CMPS  
**Zaker Siraj**, ENEE

Congratulations to the 2007-08 UMCP Black Graduate Student Association & PROMISE members:

**Asha Dobbs**, President  
**Jamal Okon**, Vice-President  
**Sonia Prescott**, Treasurer  
**Lakisha Odlum**,  
Corresponding Secretary  
**Angel Miles**, Recording Secretary

#### **Upcoming Events**

May 18, 2007 Latina/o Graduation Celebration will be held 7-8:30 pm at the University Chapel at UMCP

campus. Attire is semi-formal. For more information visit:  
<http://www.provost.umd.edu/diversity/latingrad/htm>

June 15, 2007 **Annual PROMISE Town Meeting** begins at 4:30 pm in room 206 of the Public Policy Building at UMBC campus.

August 16-18 **Summer Success Institute**, hosted at the Columbia Sheraton Hotel in Columbia, MD!

### Post-It Notes

**The Rochester Institute of Technology's Future Faculty Career Exploration Program**, an all-expenses paid visit to RIT, is held September 26-30, 2007. Participants nearing the end of doctoral studies are offered the opportunity to explore career options through various presentations, interviews, and dialogues with faculty. Applications are accepted through June 8, 2007. For more information visit:  
<http://finweb.rit.edu/humanresources/employment/ffcep/>

**Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)** is holding its National Conference October 11-14, 2007 in Kansas City, Missouri. In preparation, SACNAS is calling for Student Research Abstracts for oral and poster presentations, due July 20, 2007. For more information visit  
<http://www.sacnas.org>

### Fellowship & Postdoctoral Opportunities

**The AEA/DU Graduate Education Diversity Internship Program**, a partnership with the American Evaluation Association and Duquesne University School of Education, is accepting applications from graduate students of color during their 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort, September 2007 through June 2008. The program is geared toward pre-doctoral students conducting

social or natural sciences research. Applications are due August 1, 2007. For more information visit:  
<http://www.education.duq.edu/gedip>

### PhD Comics By Jorge Cham

**Seminar BINGO!**

To play, simply print out this bingo sheet and attend a departmental seminar.

Mark over each square that occurs throughout the course of the lecture.

The first one to form a straight line (or all four corners) must yell out **BINGO!!** to win!

Speaker bashes previous work	Repeated use of "um..."	Speaker sucks up to host professor	Host Professor falls asleep	Speaker wastes 5 minutes explaining outline
Laptop malfunction	Work ties in to Cancer/HIV or War on Terror	"...et al."	You're the only one in your lab that bothered to show up	Blatant typo
Entire slide filled with equations	"The data clearly shows..."	<b>FREE</b> Speaker runs out of time	Use of Powerpoint template with blue background	References Advisor (past or present)
There's a Grad Student wearing same clothes as yesterday	Bitter Post-doc asks question	"That's an interesting question"	"Beyond the scope of this work"	Master's student bores head fighting sleep
Speaker forgets to thank collaborators	Cell phone goes off	You've no idea what's going on	"Future work will..."	Results conveniently show improvement

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WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

### PROMISING Thoughts...

PROMISE is a family of graduate students and their faculty/administrator supporters among the three University of Maryland campuses. We workshop, network, retreat, and mentor one another. We also encourage and support, commiserate and celebrate with each other.



Jackie, Shanna, Wynsome, & Asha form a PROMISE team during a walk-about in support of Sjogren's Syndrome!



Tina elated with her Graduate student Ethnic Minority achievement Award

**"We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond."**  
**Gwendolyn Brooks**