

ALUMNI EVENTS

MARCH

Alumni Regional Networking Night

March 25, 2009

*6-8 p.m. (Remarks at 7 p.m.)
National Cryptologic Museum,
Fort George G. Meade*

The Alumni Association invites alumni living and working in Anne Arundel County for a night of networking at the National Cryptologic Museum (adjacent to NSA headquarters), the nation's first and only public museum in the intelligence community. Catch a glimpse into the secret world of ciphers and codes, while enjoying great food and conversation. We will also take this opportunity to highlight some of the university's special projects and recognize and celebrate our alumni working in government and defense industries, including NSA, NASA, Northrop Grumman and Lockheed Martin. \$

<http://retrievernet.umbc.edu/cryptologic>

4th Annual Wine Tasting

March 27, 2009

*7-10 p.m.
Baltimore Museum of Industry, Baltimore*

Join the Chapter of Young Alumni for this year's wine tasting at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. We are bringing back the silent auction, so be prepared to bid on a multitude of wonderful items. Due to the nature of this event, all participants must be 21. Proceeds will support the Alumni Association Scholarship and the Esperanza Endowment. RSVP no later than March 13. \$

<http://retrievernet.umbc.edu/winetasting>

APRIL

Black and Latino Senior Reception

April 23, 2009

*6-8 p.m.
The Skylight Room, UMBC Commons*

The Chapter of Black and Latino Alumni and the Mosaic: Culture and Diversity Center will host a reception celebrating the achievements of the Class of 2009. If you would like to attend the reception, please contact Stanyell Bruce in the Office of Alumni Relations at bruce@umbc.edu or 410-455-2632 no later than March 31, 2009.

Job Security Workshop

April 24 and 27, 2009

*9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Commons 318*

Even in uncertain times, employers are always looking for good talent and new employees who are excited by what they do. This two-day workshop will help you tap into that potential so you can take charge of your own life. \$

<http://careers.umbc.edu/alumni/ds.php>

MAY

May Grads Day

May 2, 2009

UMBC Alumni House

Join us in welcoming the Class of 2009 as the newest members of the UMBC Alumni Association. Meet and connect with the seniors while enjoying sporting games and a BBQ! Stay tuned for more information. \$

<http://retrievernet.umbc.edu/maygradsday>

Jazz Brunch

May 31, 2009

*11 a.m.-2 p.m.
The Rusty Scupper, Baltimore*

The Chapter of Black and Latino Alumni invites you to a Sunday brunch at the Rusty Scupper, located in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Enjoy a delicious brunch while listening to a live jazz band. RSVP no later than May 22. \$

<http://retrievernet.umbc.edu/jazzbrunch>

JUNE

Retriever Club Golf Classic

June 15, 2009

*11 a.m. Tee-off
Rolling Road Golf Club, Catonsville*

Hit the links at this popular annual day of golf and support UMBC Athletics in the process. The day includes a full round of golf, raffles and other activities. Contact Kevin Gibbons-O'Neill at retrieverclub@umbc.edu for more information. \$

UMBC Night at Camden Yards

June 16, 2009

*Bullpen party 5:35 p.m., Game 7:05 p.m.
Camden Yards, Baltimore*

Join the UMBC Alumni Association for a night of baseball as the Orioles take on the New York Mets. Space is limited, so please register early. \$

<http://retrievernet.umbc.edu/baseball>

STAY CONNECTED WITH RETRIEVER NET

Check out Retriever Net, UMBC's online alumni community, to stay up-to-date on news and events, search for other alumni, update your contact info, create an alumni e-mail forwarding account, find career contacts, learn about exclusive alumni discounts and more!

<http://retrievernet.umbc.edu>

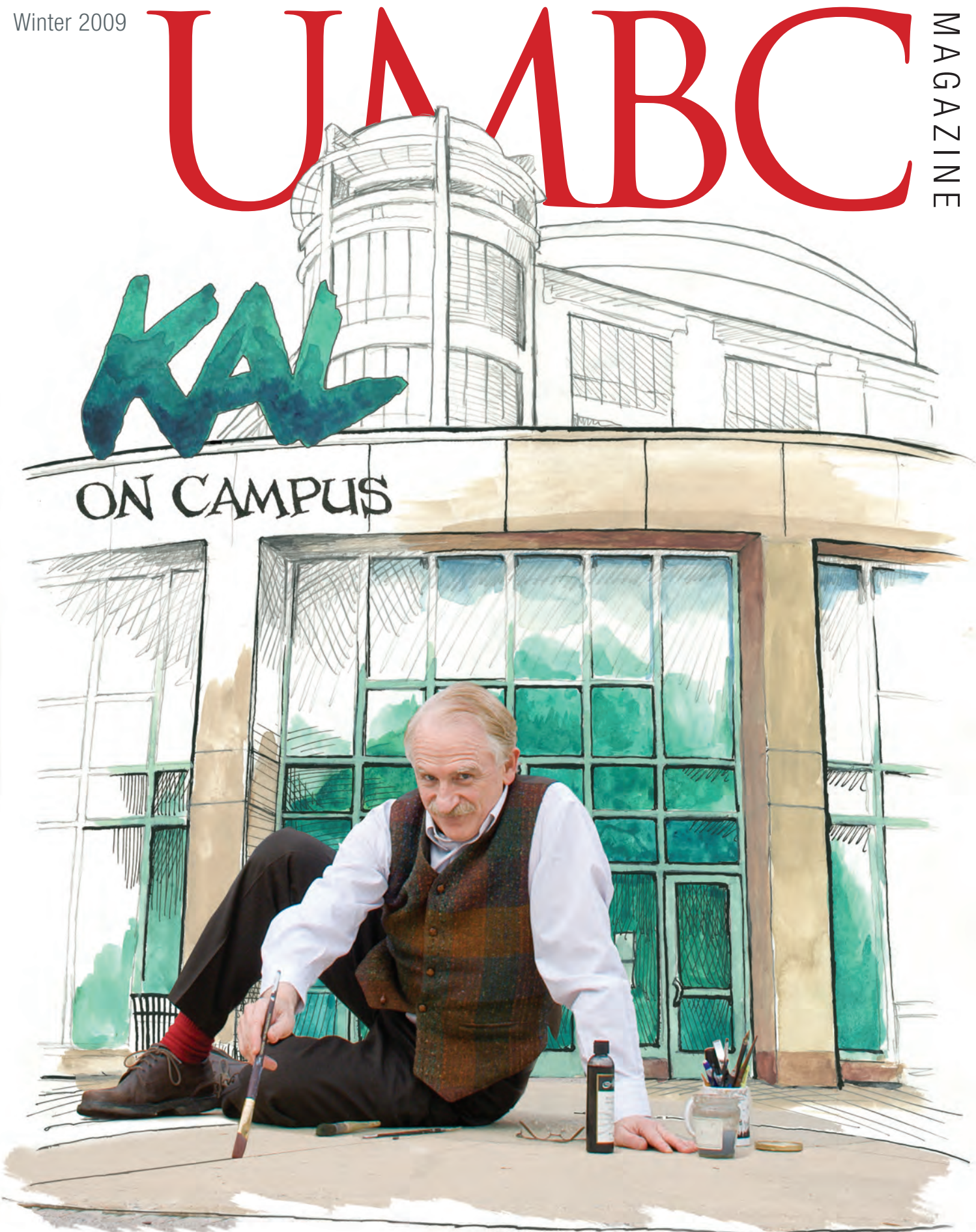
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UMBC

AN HONORS UNIVERSITY IN MARYLAND

UMBC MAGAZINE
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250

Winter 2009



McCain's War Room | Speaking Out on Autism | Women & Politics

18

Sondheim Scholar Ari Ne'eman's path has led him through misdiagnoses of his Asperger's Syndrome and exile from mainstream schooling to academic success at UMBC and burgeoning success as a voice for autistics. PLUS: Pulitzer Prize-winner Joel N. Shurkin examines what science is telling us about autism.

Abnormal Aspirations

by Mat Edelson

Because you believe in the power of
BIG IDEAS...



...you supply the electricity.

Last year, alumni support of the **UMBC Annual Fund** made a direct impact on our students, helping to fund scholarships, introductory course redesign, living learning communities, career services and more.

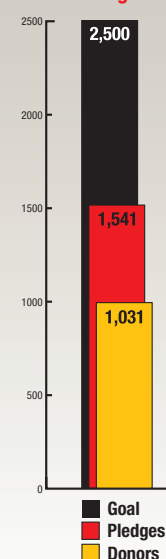
In our rapidly changing world, UMBC continues to lead the way by nurturing students with big ideas. But we can't do it alone.

Every gift matters. Become a lasting part of UMBC's legacy by making a gift to the **UMBC Annual Fund** today.

*The **UMBC Annual Fund** goal this year is to reach 2,500 alumni donors. With 1,541 gifts and pledges to date, we're already more than halfway there. Please help us meet our goal.*

www.umbc.edu/exceptional

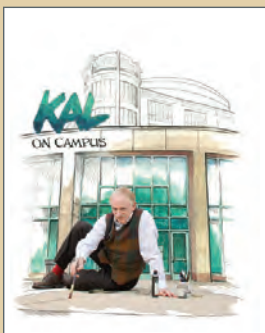
2009 Annual Fund Progress



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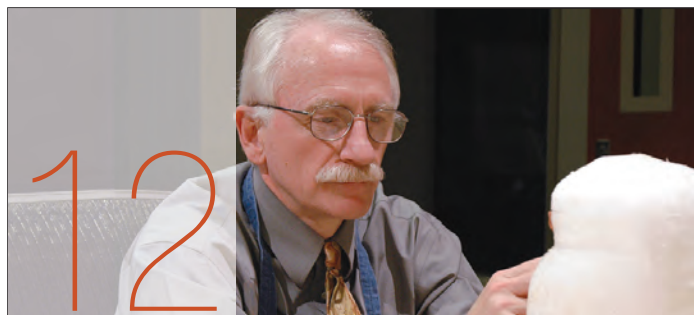
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on the cover

Kevin "Kal" Kallaugher. The cover illustration was a collaboration between Kal and Dan Bailey of the Imaging Research Center.



Kal On Campus

Kevin "Kal" Kallaugher reached the pinnacle of success in political cartooning. As an artist-in-residence at UMBC, he's been pushing the boundaries of his craft in a digital direction.

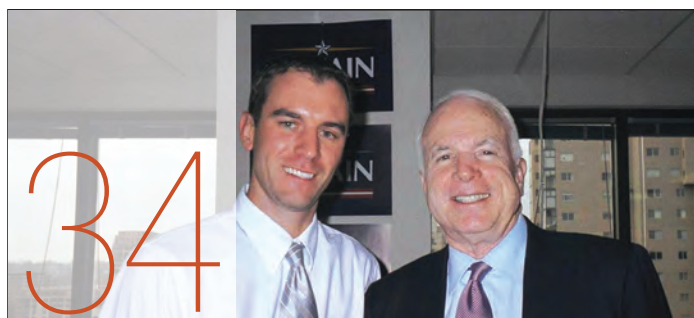
By Richard Byrne '86



Ballot Boxers

Four UMBC alumnae talk about how they've broken ground in politics and their thoughts about a bright future for women at the ballot box. PLUS: UMBC dean and political science professor Cheryl M. Miller examines women's electoral aspirations in U.S. history.

By Richard Byrne '86



Night Shift in the War Room

When UMBC alumnus Benjamin Lloyd '05 volunteered for the presidential campaign of Arizona Sen. John McCain, he never knew that he'd get to see the history-making campaign from the tumult of the candidate's war room.

By Richard Byrne '86



Visit UMBC Magazine online at www.umbc.edu/magazine for plenty of web extras, including videos, photo slideshows, interviews, reader reactions and more!

TO YOU



Welcome to *UMBC Magazine*!

The university has created this magazine to make connections. And, more specifically, reconnections.

I can modestly put myself forward as one of those reconnections. I graduated from UMBC in December 1986 with a degree in English. I spent a lot of time away from the university's orbit – in St. Louis, Prague, Sarajevo, Belgrade – pursuing a career in journalism and creative writing. And

while I valued the education that UMBC gave me, I had essentially disconnected.

A few years ago, I moved back to this area and went to work at *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. In the course of my work there, I came back to UMBC for a visit and was bowled over by the changes that had occurred on campus in the 15 years since I had graduated.

The UMBC I left in 1986 was a good state university that catered largely to commuters – many of whom had the gumption and tenacity to obtain their degrees as they worked full or part-time jobs. It had a terrific (and underrated) faculty and staff, but it also had self-esteem issues. It was rare, for instance, to see students wear UMBC gear around campus.

The UMBC that I saw on my return earlier this decade had impressive new buildings – and a soaring reputation for excellence in research, teaching and diversity. On-campus life was more vibrant. I heard multiple languages in the Commons. I saw lots of black and gold.

In short, I was proud that I had attended UMBC and proud of what it had become. And when the opportunity to edit this magazine came to my attention last summer, I jumped at it. I reconnected.

If you're holding this publication, you are likely one of our growing number of alumni.

The university has invested in this magazine to reconnect with you. We want to tell you what's going on here at UMBC right now: plug you in to the university's research, teaching and student life. We also want share some of the pride in the university's past accomplishments and its future endeavors.

But reconnection is never a one-way street. We have provided numerous spaces – in the magazine itself and on our Web site – for you, our alumni, to tell us your stories in class notes and in first-person essays, and to give us the feedback and ideas that will be so crucial to this publication's success.

We hope you enjoy *UMBC Magazine*. And we hope it spurs you to use this place to reconnect: Ask questions. Get involved. Find old friends – and make new ones – across years and across colleges and departments.

Let the reconnection begin!

Richard Byrne
Editor
'86 English
byrne@umbc.edu

our staff

Editor

Richard Byrne '86, English

Consulting Editor

Sue De Pasquale

Associate Editor

Jenny O'Grady

Design Director

Jim Lord '99, visual arts

Designers

Michelle Jordan '93, visual arts

Erin Ouslander '03, visual arts

UMBC News Staff

B. Rose Huber

Mike Lurie

Kavan Peterson

Chip Rose

Contributing Writers

T. DeLene Beeland

Joseph Cooper '08

Mat Edelson

Lila Guterman

Amanda Haag Mascarelli

Joel N. Shurkin

Al Staropoli

Kaitlin Taylor '09

Contributing Photographers

Bruce Beard

Chris Hartlove

Jim Lord '99

Erin Ouslander '03

Administration

Greg Simmons '04, M.P.P.

Vice President, Institutional Advancement

Miriam Tillman

Assistant Vice President, Marketing & Creative Services

Sandra Dzija

Director, Alumni Relations & Annual Giving

For information on the Alumni Association, please visit <http://retrievernet.umbc.edu> or call 410-455-ALUM.

For information on giving to UMBC, please contact the Annual Fund at 410-455-3464 or visit www.umbc.edu/exceptional.

UP ON THE ROOF

UMBC President Freeman A. Hrabowski, III takes your questions.

Q. We've named this feature "Up on the Roof" because taking visitors up to the very top of the Administration Building is one of your trademarks as UMBC's president. How did it begin?

— Richard Byrne '86, English Editor, *UMBC Magazine*

A. Actually, I'll tell you the first person to take me there – and it's a special memory. (Former president of UMBC) Michael Hooker took me there. And he talked about the fact that the campus – prior to his coming – had been far more oriented towards Washington than Baltimore. The real question was: What should be our focus? And we decided at that time to balance the areas of focus. To talk about the fact that we are, in many ways, in the center of the corridor. When we go to one end of the roof, we see downtown Baltimore. When we go to the other end, we're looking right into the driveway of the airport that is only 40 minutes from Washington. We had a conversation about the advantages of being connected to both metropolitan areas. Connected with the corporate community, with the cultural institutions, with the national science and health-care infrastructure, with the schools throughout the region.

So it became clear to me that the tour to the roof gave me the chance to make the point about our central location. To make the point about the development of the campus. To make the point about the connection between the campus and the broader community. And finally, going to the roof allows us to dream about the possibilities for UMBC.

Q. "Will the state's financial issues interfere with the funding of the new Performing Arts and Humanities building?"

— Anne Lepore Burger '87, English

A. First, we have received the money for the planning of the Fine Arts building. We are scheduled to get the money for construction in the next legislative session in 2010. We are ready to put the shovel in the ground, and we will be reminding people this year in preparation for next year. That building will



cost about \$150 million. And that process will involve our receiving approximately \$80 million for the first half of the building in 2010.

Q. "As an educator and alum I continue to be concerned with the repeated cuts in higher education across the UM system. Beyond writing letters, what can we – as individuals – do to more effectively communicate to decision makers that critical infrastructure is being disproportionately affected with every cut?"

— Darniet K. Jennings '98, '99 M.S., '03 Ph.D., information systems management and '03 computer science

A. The budget cuts have meant that we have had to have a hiring freeze. And we have cut operating budgets. Our goal is to insure that we continue to protect people on the campus and the academic program. That means supporting students and faculty and staff, and making sure that we provide a first-rate education, even when we decide not to do things that can enhance the institution. In many cases, it's a matter of delaying or postponing initiatives, and not necessarily stopping them completely. Or taking three years to do what we had hoped to do in two years.

Alumni can help us in several ways. Number one, coming back to campus and knowing people here can be helpful. Building relationships. Especially when alumni are working in places that may be hiring. This is a period for... "friend-raising" is what I call it. We want people who care about the university to help us support students in terms of jobs and internships. Opportunities for alumni to come back and speak to classes, or mentor students. Because jobs for students are as good as money. If students have jobs, they can stay in school. If you help the student, you help the university.

Alumni can also help by sending us well-prepared students: their own sons and daughters and relatives, or their students in classes, or their neighbors. When alumni tell their stories to friends – their stories related to their experiences at UMBC – people are impressed.

To send a question to President Hrabowski visit www.umbc.edu/magazine. 

THE NEWS


A Path to Provost

On July 1, Elliot Hirshman became the new Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at UMBC. Hirshman has a strong cross-disciplinary background (undergraduate degrees in economics and mathematics from Yale University, and a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from UCLA) and brings with him notable successes as a scholar and administrator – including a position as Chief Research Officer at George Washington University. *UMBC Magazine* asked Hirshman what motivated him to transition from his research on how drugs affect human cognition to a path that has led him to the position of chief academic officer at UMBC.

“My primary motivation for becoming an educator and researcher was recognition of the transforming power of the university. For students, the university



creates possibilities for personal, professional and intellectual development that dramatically enhance and alter the trajectory and purpose of their lives. Similarly, as one of society's central institutions for the creation and dissemination of knowledge and creative work, the university plays a critical role in enhancing economic development, cultural experiences, and the functioning of our democratic political system.

My transition from a faculty role, emphasizing my personal role as an educator and researcher, to a leadership role encompassing a broader purview, was spurred by personal mentoring. Dr. Michael Hooker, former President of UMBC and, at the time, Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, encouraged me to pursue an academic leadership role. Observing Michael's dynamism and innovative perspectives helped me understand the role that academic leadership can play in advancing our educational and research missions. His example, and those of other mentors and friends, continues to provide motivation and encouragement on a daily basis.” 

Behind the Rankings



The August release of *U.S. News & World Report's* annual *Best Colleges Guide* is one of the most-eagerly awaited dates in higher education. So when UMBC found itself at number five in a new category in the guide – “Up-and-Coming National Universities” – the sense of pride at the university was palpable.

The lofty ranking even spawned a promotional slogan: “You Knew It All Along!” What you might not know, however, is just how and why *U.S. News* created the category in the first place.

To find out, *UMBC Magazine* went straight to the source: Robert Morse, the director of data research for *U.S. News*. Put simply, Morse is the guru of college rankings and the other educational rankings that *U.S. News* creates. He also writes a blog called “Morse Code” that demystifies the methodologies behind the numbers.

Morse says that the “Up-and-Coming” list has its roots in the critiques of the overall rankings in the *Best Colleges Guide*. He says that some observers believe “that the peer survey doesn't capture rapid movements or changes at a school, and that it doesn't change much on the upside or the downside. So we wanted to come up with another way of recognizing schools that are changing rapidly and making improvements that the regular rankings don't pick up.”

The “Up and Coming” category was created from nominations made by administrators and academics in an annual survey that *U.S. News* sends to universities. Morse says that the magazine is considering making the list “more granular” by breaking it down further into categories such as “academic innovations” or “facilities.”

Morse says that achieving a high place in the new category does give the primary consumers of *Best Colleges Guide* – high-school students and their parents – an important message.

“It tells them that the school isn't sitting still,” he says. “And, assuming they understand how we did it, that other top academics think that [school] is innovative and that they are coming up with new ways of education.” It's especially useful, he says, “if people are interested in schools that are trying new things and being innovative in programs and not just sticking with the tried and true.”

— Richard Byrne '86

Diversity & Dollars

Diversity and value are hallmark qualities of the UMBC experience. But ranking them can be difficult.

The Princeton Review is one organization that tries to do just that. And the nation's preeminent education services and test preparation company has ranked UMBC in the upper tiers of its recent rankings of diversity and "bang for the buck" in higher education.

In The Princeton Review's annual guide to *The Best 368 Colleges: 2009 Edition*, UMBC was ranked second on the list of schools with the "Most Diverse Student Body." Only Baruch College – part of the City University of New York system – ranked higher than UMBC.

At present, the minority population of the student body at UMBC stands at 37 percent: 18 percent Asian, 15 percent African American and 4 percent Hispanic and Native American.

"UMBC has met with tremendous success in attracting a diverse student body," says Yvette Mozie-Ross '88, assistant provost for enrollment management.

And in January, UMBC figured highly in another Princeton Review project: its annual examination of the "100 Best Value Colleges," published in collaboration with *USA Today*. The university was among the 50 public universities listed as a great value.

In writing about UMBC, the Princeton Review noted that "Seventy-three percent of UMBC students receive some form of financial aid in the form of scholarships, loans, and grants."

The Review's conclusion was succinct: UMBC is a great value for the price.

— Kaitlin Taylor '09 and Richard Byrne '86



Regents Awards

The annual University System of Maryland's Regents Awards are the most important benchmark of excellence for employees at the state's higher education institutions. So the news that UMBC staffers took five of the six 2007-08 Regents Awards on offer this year is a big deal on campus.

The recipients include:

- **Catherine Bielawski '77**, director of undergraduate student services for the College of Engineering and Information and Technology – "Outstanding Service to Students in an Academic or Residential Environment."
- **Patricia Martin**, program management specialist, Student Support Services, and **Dennis Cuddy**, manager of administration and facilities, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry – "Exceptional Contribution to the Institution and/or Unit to Which a Person Belongs."
- **Earnestine Baker**, executive director, Meyerhoff Scholars Program, and **Karen Sweeney-Jett**, executive administrative assistant, Office of Institutional Advancement – "Extraordinary Public Service to the University or to the Greater Community."

"UMBC has a system-wide reputation for doing well," says Beth Wells '74, assistant vice provost and chairperson of the university's nomination board. "That can be accounted for in two ways: we have some awfully good staff, and we have made a commitment as an institution to put resources into promoting these awards, making it as convenient as possible to pause and recognize staff members."

All five UMBC Regents Awards winners will be honored at a ceremony in the University Center Ballroom on April 15.

— Joseph Cooper '08

AT PLAY

Sound & Strength

Imagine a few sounds: a squeaky door, the shredding of paper, a bowling ball falling down a staircase, and a persistent buzz. Then: a drum beat, some notes from a piano and a wailing saxophone enter the mix. Soon pauses are woven in, here and there, filling up space not with sound but with silence. Until the sounds renew themselves again.

This music filled the UMBC Fine Arts Recital Hall on an evening last November, created by five composers – four of them alumni of the university's music department. It was a celebration of improvisation, experimentation – and deep connections made at UMBC which have endured long after graduation.

Though the performers that night had collaborated in the past, the autumn performance



by Jeff Arnal '97, John Dierker '88, Will Redman '98, Jonathan Vincent '97 – accompanied by former UMBC student Marc Miller – was the first time that they had played together as a cohesive group. It was a chance for these professional musicians to commemorate bonds they formed at UMBC a decade ago and to revel in the diversity of their own creative approaches to contemporary music.

"Even though we all work in the avant-garde or experimental realm," observes Redman, a percussionist who organized the concert, "we have very different approaches to what we do."

The quintet's members point to another shared bond: the influence of music professor Stuart Saunders Smith. "Smith had an incredibly profound influence on the direction that my musical career took," says Redman.

"I encourage each student to let composition emerge from their unique self, untethered by commercial culture," Smith says. "And each of them did that." 🎧

— B. Rose Huber

Many Tiny Moments



Robert Deluty simply can't help himself.

Poetic moments may strike at any time, in any place. He wouldn't be so rude as to compose a full haiku during an administrative meeting, per se, but he's certainly

not above scribbling a few choice phrases on the nearest sugar packet.

He hopes you don't mind.

"If you are aware and alive, every day provides new opportunities," says Deluty, an associate professor of psychology at UMBC since 1980 and associate dean of UMBC's Graduate School since last July. "You just open your eyes and you're bombarded with sights and smells and sounds."

Deluty opens his eyes wider than most. Having released his eighteenth volume of haiku, *As With Sunbeams*, last fall, he has published more books of poetry than there are syllables in most of his works.

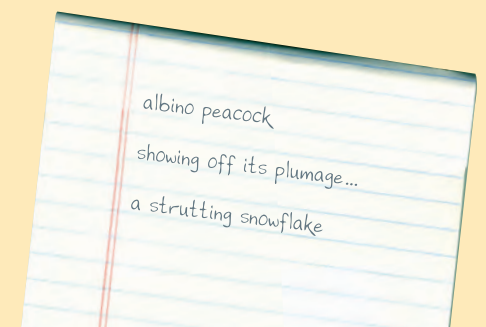
In tiny pieces, with the observance of a psychologist, he chronicles everything from the shocking price of a young bride's gown, to the stark beauty of an albino peacock, to the rich history of his Jewish family in Poland. Some end with a punch line; others with a punch to the stomach.

Many of the poems draw from his own life. His favorite isn't a haiku or a senryu, the haiku's more humanistic/satiric/ironic/humorous first cousin. It's "Lessons," a 21-liner ("That's epic for me," he jokes) encompassing four generations of his own family. In another, "For Elise," he recalls his mother, a former diamond cutter with the eyes of hawk, in her later years, nearly blind.

Other poems come from acquaintances and strangers, real and imagined. If you see him grabbing a pen and napkin on the fly, his next haiku just might be about you.

"I try to write them down as quickly as possible," he says. "I wouldn't want to lose the moment." 🎧

— Jenny O'Grady



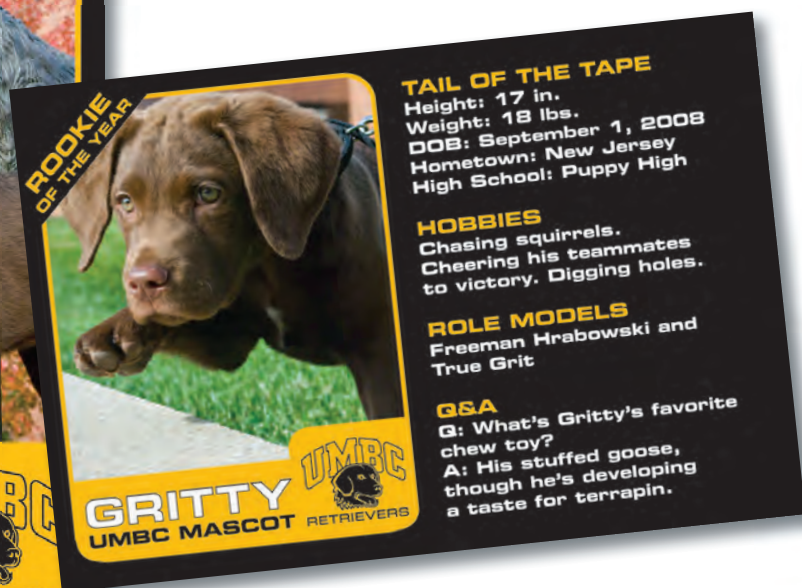


Got Gritty?

He may not fit into a jersey yet, but UMBC's new mascot Gritty (so named by the nearly 900 athletics fans who voted online last fall) is already a regular on the courts and fields. Our new favorite Chesapeake Bay Retriever's rookie card is sure to be a collector's item.



—Jenny O'Grady



Choice Strokes

The Choice Program is one of UMBC's most successful initiatives – helping at-risk youth through personal intervention by program workers. And now the Commons boasts a new work of art that celebrates the innovative program's 20th anniversary.

"Choosing to Make a Difference" is a mural conceived by artist Joey Tomassoni. Choice Program participants helped create the mural in collaboration with Class Acts Arts – a nonprofit group based in Silver Spring, Md. The work was unveiled in February 2008 at the Maryland Statehouse before its move to UMBC.

Based at UMBC's Shriver Center, the Choice Program's intensive efforts to attack youth delinquency and aid in personal development have been copied in other cities.



Lamar Davis, director of the Choice Program, is proud of the program's statistical successes, including the fact that 85 percent of its participants do not acquire new delinquent charges. "But numbers tell only part of the

story," he says. "Choice stories are stories of struggle and challenge but above all, they are stories of achievement, triumph and hope."

—Joseph Cooper '08 and B. Rose Huber

DISCOVERY

“Smog Blog” Tracks Air Quality

When fires blaze across the Western United States, it's just a matter of time until the resulting haze and dirty air plumes travel downwind to neighboring states – even as far away as the East Coast.

In 2003, environmental scientists at UMBC invented a method to track significant air pollution events and to provide a daily diary of air quality across the United States. The result is an innovative Web site known as the “Smog Blog,” which now attracts some half a million users annually.

The Smog Blog (alg.umbc.edu/usaq) offers real-time analysis and an extensive archive of satellite imagery and air quality data for scientists, allowing for instant communication about important pollution events. The site's postings also inform regulators and forecasters.

“We look at all these data sources and do the analysis to mesh all the data together so we can tell the whole story,” says Nikisa Jordan, a doctoral student in environmental science at UMBC. The blog primarily focuses on events in the U.S., but it occasionally highlights air quality in other parts of the world, as it did during the Beijing Olympics.


The site also serves as an extensive archive, allowing scientists and students to refer back to pollution events from previous months and years. “Having over five years of that information and analysis put together is really exciting,” says Engel-Cox.

Hoff adds that the blog works as something of a detailed lab notebook to keep track of important data. “It's really tough for faculty members to instill in students the importance of keeping a lab book,” says Hoff. “The blog is a wonderful way for them to keep [one].”

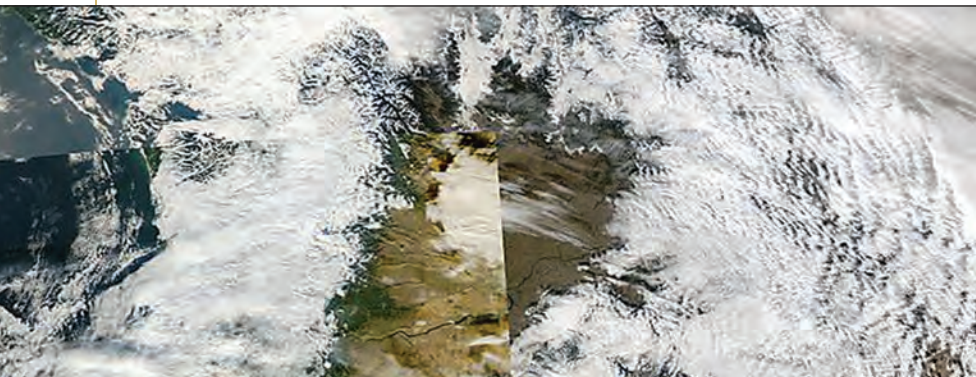
While scientists associated with the Smog Blog – including Hoff, Engel-Cox, and Jordan – have all published peer-reviewed papers that resulted directly from postings, the Web site has evolved over time from a daily log to a sort of instantaneous communiqué within the scientific community. And while blogging can never replace peer-reviewed literature, Hoff observes, it enables researchers to engage in the sort of back-and-forth dialogue reminiscent of the late 1800s and early 1900s.

But while those scientists had to wait for their letters to arrive by boat or post, blogging allows for much more immediate discussions. “What a blog brings to this is instant communication with your colleagues that identifies events that you can react to in real time,” says Hoff.

The Smog Blog has become an important source of information for air-quality regulators. Its postings have made it possible for local and state officials to determine the source of pollution events and to sometimes avoid penalties that might otherwise be incurred as a result of pollution from other regions.

A group of astronomers in the Midwest even uses the site to determine the best nights for stargazing. Even these unlikely users bring unexpected insights to the blog. “You get some very intriguing questions asked by people who you wouldn't expect to be looking at the site,” says Hoff. 

— Amanda Leigh Mascarelli



Jill Engel-Cox '04, Ph.D., marine estuarine environmental science, was a doctoral student in that program in 2003 when she presented the idea for the blog to her advisor, Ray Hoff, director of the Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology and the Goddard Earth Science and Technology Center.

“It made a great deal of sense,” says Hoff, a professor of physics at UMBC. “The best way to know what the air quality in Baltimore is going to be is to look at what the air quality in Ohio was yesterday.”

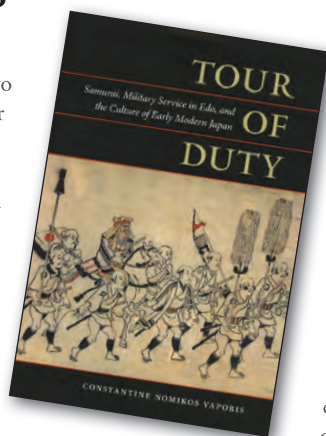
Smog Blog entries are the products of analysis by environmental science faculty and students from both UMBC and the Battelle Memorial Institute, who look at incoming data from satellite sensors and merge it with information from sparsely-distributed ground-based monitoring stations. Bloggers then post images, and make daily entries, providing a sort of “one-stop shopping” for information on air pollution across the nation and the globe.

Shogun Stories

From the 17th century through mid-19th century, Japan's daimyo (or "lords") answered to a higher power – the shogun. And they did so in person, splitting time between their own domains and the imperial city of Edo.

Tour of Duty: Samurai, Military Service in Edo, and the Culture of Early Modern Japan (University of Hawai'i Press), a new book by

UMBC professor of history Constantine Nomikos Vaporis, plunges the reader into the world of "alternate attendance" upon Japan's ruler. Fulfilling the edict required the daimyo and their retinues to make expensive road trips combining elaborate ceremonies and clashing egos. And



when they arrived in Edo, the traveling lords lived in elaborate compounds in which spheres of political influence were carefully calibrated.

Preserving the shogun's rule provided much of the impetus for the practice. But Vaporis writes that the ingress and egress of daimyo from city to provinces spurred profound cultural changes. "The city of Edo...not only exported culture,"

he observes, "but acted as an entrepot where the various cultural currents from the more than two hundred domains interacted and, at times, took on new configurations."

— Richard Byrne '86

Painful Fallout

Sickle cell disease does not simply afflict the bodies of the estimated 70,000 Americans who suffer from it. The condition often packs another powerful, though largely hidden, wallop.

"According to some studies, between 50 and 80 percent of people with this chronic illness are unemployed," says Shawn Bediako, an assistant professor of psychology at UMBC. "These are extremely high rates."

In individuals with sickle cell disease, irregularly shaped red blood cells form clumps in small blood vessels, restricting blood flow to limbs and organs and often causing pain that can last for weeks. Those afflicted with the illness often find that their ability to work and perform other daily activities is greatly limited. And if they cannot work, their access to employer-based health insurance is also diminished.

Few studies have examined the interrelation between sickle cell disease, unemployment and healthcare use. But that is now changing. Last year, Bediako received a one-year, \$55,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to study the problem. He plans to publish his findings sometime this year, and hopes that his research will help policymakers develop effective services and programs for adults with sickle cell disease.

— Al Staropoli



Can street paintings and advertisements be studied as art? And can examining other cultures inform our answer to that question?

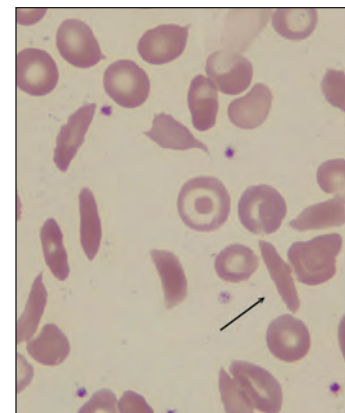
Preminda Jacob, an associate professor of art history and theory in UMBC's Department of Visual Arts, replies in the affirmative to both questions. In her new book, *Celluloid Deities* (Lexington Books), she examines the collision of cinema, politics and religion in South Indian culture at street level. Movie posters in the city of Chennai, she found, not only advertise a film – they can also be improvised into religious shrines or impart a political message.

"The street is a great equalizer of the visual experience," she told an attentive crowd at a November presentation of her research at UMBC.

Jacob also created a Web site (<http://www.celluloiddeities.com/>) that extends her research on what she calls the "multitudinous signs that jostle for attention" into startling images and video.



— Richard Byrne



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Can Concrete Help the Chesapeake?

Most of us barely give the pavement beneath us a second thought. But Stuart Schwartz, a senior research scientist at the UMBC's Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education, thinks deeply about it.

Schwartz studies pervious concrete – a building material riddled with voids that allow water to trickle through it. If this material becomes standard for driveways, parking lots and low-traffic roads, it may help manage the flow of storm water and pollutants into the Chesapeake Bay and other imperiled waterways.

When storms douse roads or parking lots in Maryland, mind-boggling gallons of water careen from the pavement into storm water systems and eventually into the Chesapeake Bay. That runoff also carries sediments, nitrogen and phosphates – substances linked

with a range of phenomena that are unhealthy for the bay, including deadly algal blooms and decimation of the habitat for young fish and crabs.

“What we’re really talking about is restoring hydrologic function in the landscape,” says Schwartz.

Pervious concrete is made with a cementitious binding material that is devoid of the sand or silt-sized particles used in traditional concrete. “Think of a rice crispy treat, with all the little spaces in between the kernels,” he says.

Despite its promising benefits, some contractors and engineers remain skeptical of pervious concrete.

Catastrophe can strike if ice forms within the voids of pervious concrete and bursts the material’s rigid matrix — which happened on a test section using the material on a Maryland interstate in the 1980s. Highway officials nicknamed it “popcorn pavement,” because the loose aggregate that broke into pieces that ping-ponged through traffic and damaged cars.

Schwartz is working to reverse that skepticism with new test plots on UMBC’s campus. He is also taking practical steps to win converts – helping to certify contractors and organizing a workshop attended by 200 people last August.

“There was so much interest, we had to turn people away,” he says. 

— T. DeLene Beeland



Aging Boomers in a Class of Their Own


When Jena Rathell '09, management of aging services, watched YouTube videos on her laptop this past semester, there was a good chance that she was doing homework.

Rathell was a student in “Aging 100: You Say You Want a Revolution? How Baby Boomers are Revolutionizing Aging” – a new high-tech undergraduate course offered by UMBC’s Erickson School of Aging Studies. It is a class with no textbook. The mid-terms and finals are taken online. Students can blog for extra credit.

Aging 100 acquaints students with key events and experiences of the baby boom generation. It is tailored for “millennials” – 75 million strong, and all born between 1981 and 1993 – who likely have never known life without computers. They learn about the Cold War and

the civil rights movement, as well as debates about the national debt and Social Security. Lectures are interwoven with videos, so students see guitarist Jimi Hendrix play at the 1969 Woodstock Festival as they learn about his cultural influence.

“They will be living with this population for the rest of their life,” says Dr. Judah Ronch, a professor at the Erickson School who devised the course with another Erickson colleague, Bill Thomas. “Boomers are different than the aging population now. On average they will live longer, be healthier and more active.”

Ronch also hopes to place the inevitable societal challenges of boomer aging in healthy perspective: “When they hear debates on the future of Social Security it will not be an abstraction that puts them to sleep – they’ll really know what it’s about.” 

— Al Staropoli



Digging Through Images



Walter Hege, *Erechtheion. The porch of the Caryatids*, 1928-29. © German Archaeological Institute at Athens.

Photography freezes a moment in the present, creating an artifact. Archaeology uncovers artifacts and structures to make them accessible to the present.

As two endeavors that traffic in time, photography and archaeology have much to say to each other. That dialogue was highlighted in the gallery of UMBC's Albin O. Kuhn Library this past autumn, in "The Creative Photograph

in Archaeology" – a traveling exhibition on loan from the Benaki Museum in Athens, Greece.

The exhibit showed visitors how 11 photographers – whose work ranges from the mid-19th to 21st centuries – offer us new ways of seeing archaeological sites, monuments and sculpture. It also offered three UMBC students who major in ancient studies a chance to learn about the mechanics of creating and interpreting an exhibition.

Cally Brandt '09, Lauren Nagel '09 and Sarah Ryan '09 completed internships connected to the exhibition under the direction of Richard Mason, a lecturer in the Department of Ancient Studies.

The students closely studied the exhibit's arrangement and content, which was comprised of photographs taken of high classical architecture on and around the Athenian Acropolis, along with other images inspired by ancient Greece. The semester-long project also gave students an active role in educating the campus community about the exhibit.

"We didn't just look through books for our research," said Nagel. "We walked through the gallery and really examined the photographs in a way most people would not."

Mason credits Kuhn Library curator Tom Beck and assistant curator Emily Hauver for making the exhibit (which will travel to multiple cities) and internship a success. "This type of work really shows how a university gallery can assist in teaching," says Mason.

— B. Rose Huber



Frederic Boissonnas, *The temple of Poseidon at Sounion from the E*, 1919. © Hellenic Culture Organization.

Moving Targets

As an associate professor of computer science and electrical engineering at UMBC, Hillol Kargupta logs thousands of frequent flier miles each year to do research, conduct business for a successful, global firm – and to visit his family. But it is his quest to make those flights friendlier to the environment that has won him a highly competitive IBM Innovation Award and a \$20,000 grant this past fall.

Kargupta is an expert on deep data mining in distributed and mobile environments. He is also the founder and president of Agnik – a company that pioneered the use of sensor-based data mining technology to improve efficiency in ground transportation fleets.

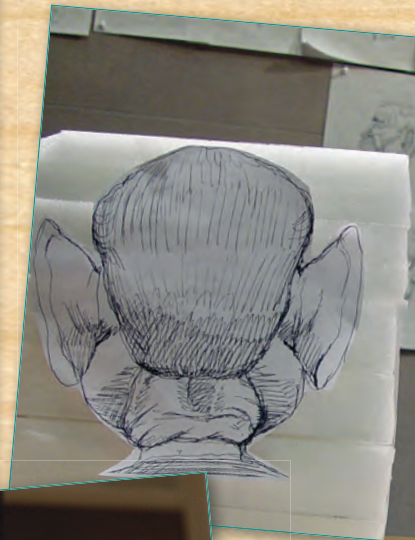
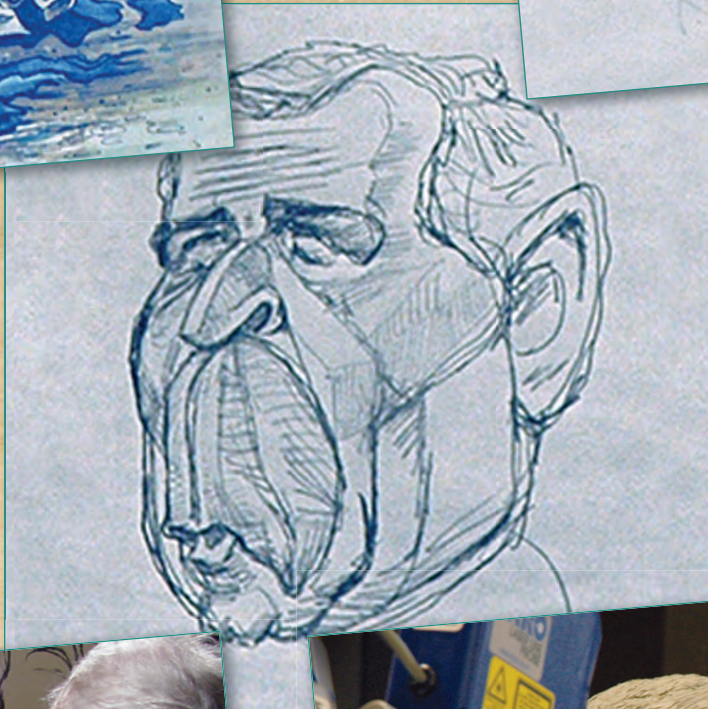
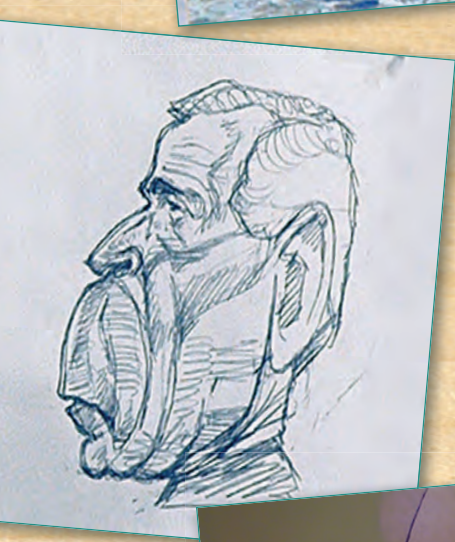
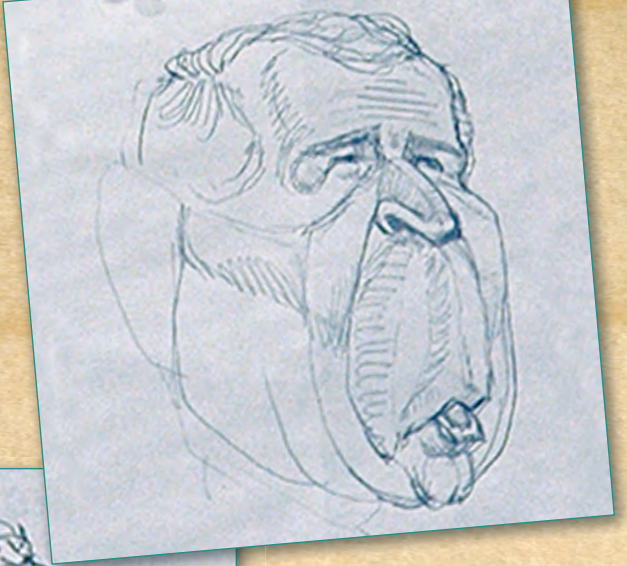
Now he's looking to take his research and business skyward. And when the European Union includes aviation pollution in its ambitious cap-and-trade emissions market system next year, Kargupta hopes his sensors will analyze the data that makes Europe's skies greener.

"Every second of flight burns about a gallon of fuel," says Kargupta. Airplanes already have sensors that monitor and adjust gasoline/air ratios to yield the best fuel economy, he observes, but analyzing that data for emissions purposes "is a chance to meet a real market need."

The available information is staggering. Kargupta observes that one hour of flight produces a continuous stream of about 10 megabytes of data. "Multiply that times all the world's airports," he continues, "and it equals a huge amount of data changing rapidly over a large area."

Kargupta is enthusiastic about the daunting task, however: "It's just the type of challenge we like at UMBC."

— Chip Rose





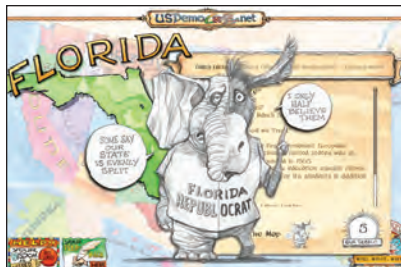
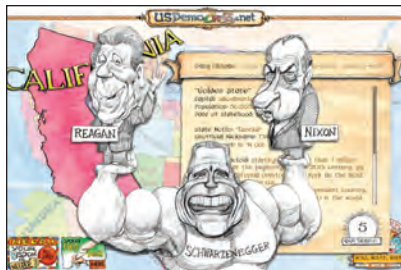
KAL ON CAMPUS

When renowned political cartoonist Kevin "Kal" Kallaughner came to UMBC, he wanted to push his craft into the digital age. He did that – and much more – by spurring innovative research and prodding a new generation of students to get involved in politics and media.

— Richard Byrne '86
Images courtesy of the Imaging Research Center



There's no doubt that the decision that I made that week back in 2005 was the right decision. My time at UMBC has surpassed any expectations I could have had.



US Democrazy marries Kal's trademark style to a Web site that explains American politics.

After nearly three decades in the political cartooning business, Kevin "Kal" Kallaugher was looking for new frontiers.

Someone less energetic might have reclined on their laurels. After all, Kallaugher's work for the *Baltimore Sun* and British magazine *The Economist* has made him one of the most-celebrated cartoonists in the English-speaking world. His style is instantly recognizable: highly-textural drawings and caricatures that brim with vigor and sharp wit.

His work has won a place in art museums and numerous prizes – including three Thomas Nast Awards for political cartooning.

But Kallaugher was already pondering what the editorial cartooning of the 21st century might look like. And his success was shifting into restlessness, especially as the business climate for the newspapers and magazines where he'd forged his career grew chillier.

Kallaugher embarked on that successful career as a cartoonist in Britain at *The Economist* and other U.K. publications after graduating from Harvard University in 1977. Then, in 1988, he landed in Baltimore at the *Sun*. But three years ago, the cartoonist suddenly found himself on the sharp edge of print journalism's cost-cutting frenzy when he was compelled to take a buyout at the *Sun*.

So he made a call in November 2005 to UMBC's acclaimed Imaging Research Center (IRC) – which brings together artists, researchers, corporations and students to investigate new media technologies and create advanced works.

"My initial impulse was just to come and take some classes," Kallaugher says. But when the university expressed interest in a deeper relationship, he took an "artist in residence" position at UMBC that he holds today. He's used that opportunity at the university to create multiple projects combining animation, innovative web design and improvisational political comedy.

"There's no doubt that the decision that I made that week back in 2005 was the right decision," he says.

Dan Bailey, director of the IRC, says that Kallaugher is leaving an indelible impression on UMBC's campus. Not only has the artist's vision of political cartooning in a digital age spurred research, he says, but Kallaugher has been a valued teacher and mentor to the university's students.

"It's been a perfect match," Bailey says.

Digital Dares

Talk to Kallaugher about his time at UMBC, and you hear about optimism and the future. It's a much different atmosphere, the artist observes, than the newsroom of a metropolitan newspaper.

"The difference between a newsroom and a campus couldn't be more acute," he says. "You have a newsroom which is full of grumpy old cantankerous cynical folks – and maybe that's part of the job description – who all believe the world was better 20 years ago generally."

"Then, you go to a campus, and it's all about the future," Kallaugher continues. "About optimism and hope. Possibility. And that's such a wonderful place to be. For me, there's no more exciting place to be than at a campus graduation. Because it's like, for that golden moment, there's this sense of possibility that is manifest in the air. And it's spring, and there are all these youthful faces. We all remember our graduations. Of course, we're all scared to death but as a society, we're celebrating our future."

Kallaugher plunged into his own future in his first collaboration with the IRC: an animated caricature of President George W. Bush that made its debut at an in-depth retrospective on Kallaugher's work ("Mightier than The Sword: The Satirical Pen of KAL") at the Walters Art Museum in June 2006.

The "Digital Dubya" project married Kallaugher's aesthetic to the IRC's capacity for cutting-edge research. First, the cartoonist molded a clay Bush head in his signature style as a model. Then, the model underwent intensive digital scanning, followed by the creation of a complex series of operations to make the image responsive to manual control gadgets such as joysticks and foot pedals. By the end of the process, the digital image (with Kallaugher at the controls) possessed the ability to speak like Bush and make realistic facial expressions. A digital cartoon.

Participants also point out that the effort is even more amazing because of the high-stakes deadline under which it was created (three months) – and Kallaugher's continual raise of the ante as the opening of his retrospective show approached.

Eric Smallwood '03 visual arts, technical director of the IRC, was the center's point man on the project. He recalls with a laugh the sprint to the finished animated "Dubya," which was unveiled at a mock press conference with Kallaugher at the controls and a hired Bush impersonator to provide levity and contrast.

"He kept coming in and saying, 'Now we're gonna do it live,'" Smallwood chuckles. "And then, 'Now we're gonna do it live onstage.' And then, 'Now I'm going to hire my friend who's a Bush impersonator.' So it's going to be the most highly-pressurized situation possible. And not only do we have to make the deadline, we have to make it good."

Shane Lynch '09, computer programming, who programmed much of the animation for "Dubya," says that Kal pushed for "more exaggeration" in the 3-D Bush, "which is like his cartoon style, really."

Kallaugher calls the project "an astonishing first step" in taking the cartooning art into the new century. "It's a salute to the innovation and energy and creativity of the people [at the IRC] that we were able to pull that off. What I love about these guys is they respond. That's why they're here. They're forward thinking."

Smallwood says that "we pride ourselves here on being a scrappy team that can get anything done." Digital Dubya, he says, "was probably the most enjoyable project that I've worked on since I've been here."

Dan Bailey observes that the project created valuable and boundary-stretching research on animation – and demonstrated its reach to a broad audience. The IRC's work literally freed Kallaugher's animation so that it could be done "live" – and respond almost instantaneously to news events.

"What the IRC does is pilot-based research," says Bailey. "This was that sort of research, done in an artistic context. Maryland Public Television did a documentary [on the project]. The synergy was great. It was research. To me, that's what a university research center is all about."

Rhetoric and Role-play

Kallaugher's fondness for graduations and his determination to push new directions has also propelled his other main activities at UMBC: teaching and mentoring.

"You have so much knowledge and specialty that you've accumulated," says Kallaugher, who will turn 54 in March. "To just go off into the sunset with all that stored up in your head is a waste to you. It's a waste to someone who could benefit."

That doesn't mean that there haven't been some adjustments for Kallaugher in moving from the sketchpad and the op-ed page to the dry erase boards of the classroom.

At the suggestion of John Jeffries, dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social



Kal's clay Dubya head is ready to undergo digital scanning. The cartoonist's work with the IRC was sponsored in part by the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation.

Sciences, Kallaugher taught a class in spring 2007 ("Political Rhetoric in a Media Age") in tandem with Thomas F. Schaller, associate professor of political science and author of the much-discussed book *Whistling Past Dixie: How the Democrats Can Win Without the South*.

The class yoked together two political junkies with high media profiles. (Schaller writes a column for *The Baltimore Sun* and appears regularly in other publications, and on television and radio.) Together, Kallaugher and Schaller led the students in the class through various forms of political rhetoric and its expression in print, broadcast and web media. They also took field trips and forays into the real world of political coverage – visiting a local TV news studio and creating a group op-ed and political cartoon, published in the *Sun*, about why so many students are unprepared for college.

"It was terrifically exciting," Kallaugher recalls. "We tried to take each of the different types of media and show the tools that the creators have, how they manage those tools, and how they manipulate those tools."

Schaller says that "I'm a very left-brain person and he's very clearly a right-brain person. But we were a good team in that I could explain concepts and he could demonstrate them. Literally, in some cases."

Kallaugher also played the role of teacher, mentor – and provocateur – in a seminar offered to students in the Imaging Research Center's Fellowship program in spring 2007. Along with David Stroud, an assistant research scientist at the Goddard Earth Sciences and

Technology Center (GEST), Kallaugher guided the fellows through an ambitious project: the creation of a 3-D animated film that explored themes of voting apathy among young adults.

The political cartoonist brought an added bit of urgency to the course, however. Kallaugher was cast in the role of a demanding client who was hiring the fellows as a production team. (Stroud took the role of producer in the seminar.)

The element of good cop/bad cop was intentional, Kallaugher explains. "We said, 'Let's create a real-world environment, where [the fellows] really understand what it's like out there.'"

Students in the course credit the cartoonist with being a charismatic and inspirational leader. But they add they were challenged by Kal's vigorous role-playing as a demanding client with hard-to-achieve goals.

One of the fellows, Ivy Flores '08 visual arts, says that the class had its "difficult and stressful" moments, some of which were related to Kallaugher's unfamiliarity with "the painstaking, time consuming and technical process of digital animation."

Megan Reilly '08 visual arts, who also participated in the seminar, concurs with the high degree of difficulty that Kallaugher brought to the class. "We had a really small IRC Fellows class for the amount of work we were set out to produce," she says.

Flores and Reilly both say that the resulting film, dubbed "The Choice," was a major accomplishment. And the two students received

What I love about these guys is they respond. That's why they're here. They're forward thinking.

postgraduate fellowships to rework the free-flowing film that mixes fantasy, nightmare and satire into a more polished version completed in time for the 2008 general election.

Kallaugher concurs with the students' assessment of the finished work. "What they achieved in a 3-D movie in 'x' number of weeks was phenomenal. It is a salute to them."

He insists, however, that the real lesson of the seminar was found less in the "very creative and very ambitious" finished project than in the experience itself.

"It was a crash course," he says. "I mean, you can crash by yourself when you're studying. But when you have to rally everyone else as a group, and show leadership, and keep going... If they're left with anything at the end of that exercise, it's what they're capable of doing."

Crazy for U.

Kallaugher's latest project also mixes his distinctive style and wit with research and pedagogy. And it also showcases his role as a creative goad to artists, researchers and students at UMBC.

The US Democracy Web site is interactive and interdisciplinary – drawing on students, faculty and staff with backgrounds in the social sciences, visual arts, and web design. The goal is to provide a dynamic (and funny) portal for students and others to enter into the very serious world of the democratic process and the very individual states that make up the American Electoral College.

"We wanted to make this a fun and enjoyable package," says Kallaugher, "that will be useful to people not just during the election season, but continuously after that."

Click on one of the states on the colorful US Democracy Web site and you find a dizzying array of information and entertainment that captures unique elements of each state. Scroll your mouse over "Maryland," for instance, and you see that Kallaugher and his team have renamed it "Crabcake." Go deeper, and you find the state's capital, population, state motto and date of accession to union.

There are also little surprises tucked away in the folds of the site. On Maryland's page, you can click to see Kallaugher's pop-up sketch of notable Marylanders John Wilkes Booth (actor and assassin of Abraham Lincoln) and John Waters (filmmaker). Booth holds a pistol; Waters a video camera. The drawing is titled: "Maryland's Notorious Shooters."

Schaller says that US Democracy "is classic Kal: very cheeky, very fun, very visual, and very colorful. Anyone who's been around Kal for five minutes knows he's all those things."

Constructing the site took much more than five minutes, however, and Kallaugher credits the team that assembled it with making the Web site seem at once organic and organized.

"This is just a huge amount of work," he says. "But it's amazing when, through a division of labor, the vision comes together."

Bonnie Crawford-Kotula '08, M.F.A., was the site's main designer. Her experience was like many others who've worked with the moving target of Kallaugher's ambitions for a project. "After moving into production stages," she says, "Kal's ideas kept coming! It was hilarious, because any day that Kal came in to meet with me, I never knew what the project would turn into by the time the meeting was over. He was constantly

Kal with the Imaging Research Center fellows in Spring 2007. The group's project became "The Choice," an animated 3-D film on apathy among young voters.



challenging me to try things I hadn't considered, particularly in regards to user interaction."

Another alumnus, Jamie Nola '08, visual arts, was responsible for taking Kallaugher's drawings and making them come alive for the Web, writing the codes and interfaces that make the site truly dynamic. "Kal has so many great ideas, and trying to keep up with him can be exhausting."

Crawford-Kortula says that getting the site to reflect Kallaugher's personality was a challenge that forced them to scrap a considerable amount of Nola's initial hard work on the site – "the site was well-designed and had a cool, funky feeling to it, [but] it wasn't Kal" – and get Kallaugher more involved in drawing.

"I felt very strongly that this project should have the flavor and feel of Kal's illustrations," she says, "because that's what made our site different from other sites discussing politics – it was from the perspective of a political cartoonist. His drawings are beautiful. So, we used a lot of scanned images of Kal's hand drawn work, and layered them into the site. The colors on the home page were mostly taken from blobs of color Kal had scribbled onto scraps of paper. We scanned those paint splashes, and sometimes changed the color of them in Photoshop, and then filled the states with the color."

As the Web site grows and progress, she adds, it has the capacity to absorb all of Kallaugher's brainstormers: "Whenever Kal gets a new idea, he can draw a funky cartoon, and it can be layered into the site."

Kallaugher's ideas seem to keep coming. He's hoping to take US Democracy "to the next level, even making it a dynamic community."

There's little doubt that Kallaugher has made UMBC a more dynamic community through his presence on campus.

Part of that, says Dan Bailey, comes from Kallaugher's easy rapport with all levels of the university hierarchy – ranging from UMBC's Board of Visitors (to whom he demonstrated US Democracy last autumn) to prospective undergraduates. "He really is egalitarian," says Bailey, "from VIPs to high school students."

Kallaugher's even become a bit of an evangelist about the UMBC experience. "I'm very fortunate," he says. "I travel a lot. I do a lot of public speaking. And I do get a lot of people who say, 'You're at UMBC.' I am happy to tell them what an amazing place this is."

KAL-laborations at UMBC

Working with the Imaging Research Center (IRC) and other UMBC departments, Kallaugher's major projects as an artist-in-residence and as a teacher have pushed his acclaimed work in political cartooning into new vistas of animation. Here are a sampling of those works, which can be seen in greater detail on the *UMBC Magazine* Web site.



DIGITAL DUBYA

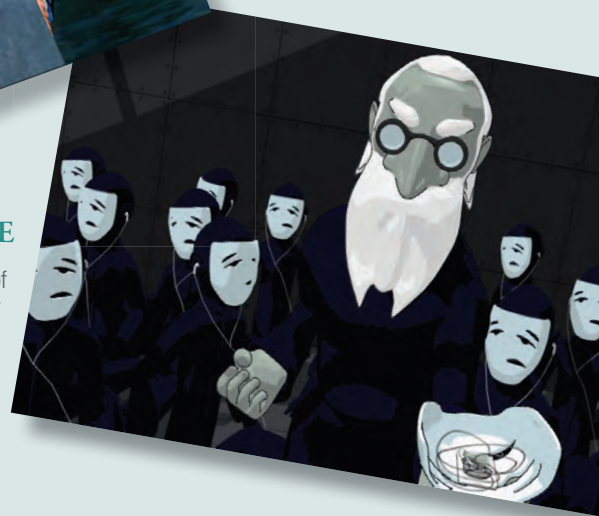
Kallaugher's first foray with the IRC was the creation of an animated George W. Bush that debuted at the opening of the cartoonist's career retrospective at the Walters Art Gallery in 2006.

<http://www.kaltoons.com/Kal.digital.Dubya.intro.video.htm>

THE CHOICE

A 3-D film challenging the apathy of young voters created by the Spring 2007 class of IRC Fellows in a seminar taught by Kallaugher and Dan Stroud.

<http://irc.umbc.edu/research/thechoice.html>



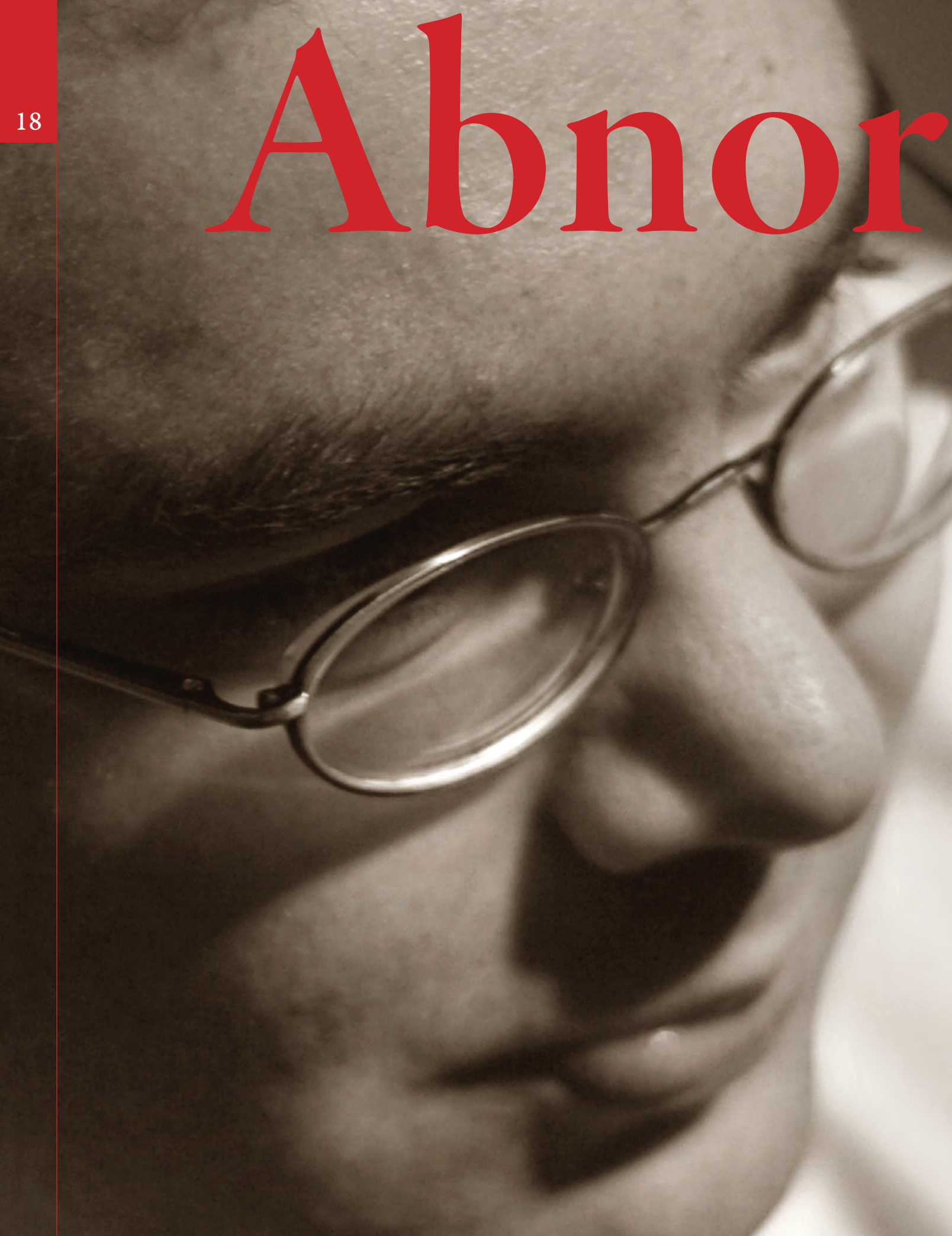
US DEMOCRACY

This Web site about the often-fractionous and confusing American political process drew on an interdisciplinary team of scholars, artists and designers.

<http://usdemocracy.net/>



Abnor



mal Ambitions

Sondheim Scholar Ari Ne'eman has plunged headlong into the maelstrom of controversy over autism. His goal? To give autistics – including himself – a significant voice in the debate.

BY MAT EDELSON

PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS HARTLOVE

Staring over a plate of Crispy Beef, Ari Neëman is contemplating extinction. Not only his own extinction, but that of everyone just like him. Everyone with autism.

Neëman is dead serious. So much so that he created the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN) to take on the medical establishment's thinking about one of the most complex and contentious diagnostic categories in contemporary medicine.

"We're willing to spend millions to 'cure' autism," says Neëman, who started ASAN as a freshman at UMBC. "There's

"Nothing about us without us," is ASAN's motto. And it is a message that Neëman has taken nationwide with an evangelistic fervor that has surprised his mentors and college administrators.

"He's incredibly impressive," says Carolyn Forestiere, an assistant professor of political science at UMBC. "It feels like every other week, Ari's in some magazine or on a news program. I'm not talking local; I'm talking national coverage."

Indeed, Neëman's activism has him flying around the country appearing before educators, legislators...anyone whom he feels needs to hear his message. National Public Radio and *New York* magazine

Neëman recounts his story in a nearly deserted Chinese restaurant on Frederick Road that is edging towards closing time. Though his voice is quiet and measured, his matter-of-fact recitation only seems to amplify the pain woven into his tale.

In 2000, Neëman was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. It was a term relatively new to the established autistic spectrum at that time. Unlike so-called 'high functioning' autistics, who are often diagnosed as toddlers, many individuals with Asperger's often are identified much later in their development. (In Ari's case, the diagnosis did not come until he was nearly out of elementary school.)

Clumsiness is one tip-off to Asperger's. The ability to speak well, and yet still perform below par in school, is another. And the social dysfunction that accompanies it, though not nearly as marked as it is in so-called "low functioning" autistic children – many of whom shriek constantly and can be uncontrollable – can still be disabling without extensive assistance and therapy.

Such classifications may help clinicians and therapists, but Neëman and many others with autism find such labels problematic.

"I never like the terms 'high' and 'low' functioning," he says. "If you state that the 'high functioning' people are better than the 'low functioning' people, then the implicit message is that the 'normal' people are better than all of them."

The most profound consequence of the Asperger's diagnosis for Ari was a three-hour roundtrip journey each day to a New Jersey public high school populated by kids with every emotional and mental diagnosis under the sun.

Ari's mother, Rina Neëman, says that the decision to send her son to that particular school – which emphasized social skills over academics – was agonizing. Her son was struggling tremendously in a mainstreamed high school, and extensive research on Rina's part to find a better environment for Ari came down to two no-win alternatives.

"It became rapidly apparent that it was next to impossible to find a placement that could cater to Ari's social needs and his outstanding academic intellect," she recalls.

In retrospect, Ari says he did obtain some benefit from the school. But at the time, he saw it as nothing short of a



a high possibility this research will lead to pre-natal tests and selective abortions." To back up his assertion, he cites studies showing that 90 percent of pregnancies are terminated when the pre-natal fetuses test positive for Down's syndrome, spina bifida, and other developmental conditions.

Now a junior at the university, Neëman has built his network into a prominent voice in the autism wars. Too often, he says, the voices of those with autism are supplanted or diminished by those who do not have it. Neëman is especially troubled by those who argue that autism is a disorder to be eradicated – and not a culture to be embraced.

are among the news organizations that have provided a forum for a young man they've described as being at the forefront of the autism advocacy movement.

Neëman, 21, says he is compelled to speak so often to so many for a simple reason: He knows what it's like to have been spoken for.

It doesn't work.

EXILE FROM MAINSTREAM

By the time he was 14 years old, Ari Neëman came to a realization: If he didn't start advocating for himself, he recalls, he was "going to rot."

dumping ground for kids for whom the system's highest goal was "normalization."

"Normal" had always been hard. As a small boy in private school, his laser-like and inquisitive mind was already light-years ahead of his mates. But Ari was operating in only two dimensions, and his as-yet unrecognized autism wreaked havoc on his social and emotional development. Compounding that problem was a hodgepodge of misdiagnoses common to autistics—including attention deficit disorder—that left him confused and frustrated and bullied.

"I was ostracized. I didn't understand why," he says.

Neëman felt himself slowly being pulled away from mainstream education. When the Jewish day school he attended couldn't easily provide the full range of speech, occupational and psychological services that can help autistic students realize their potential, Neëman moved into public junior high schools.

Much was promised to Ari and his concerned and involved parents in the way of services and support. "Ari was given an aide who shadowed him his first year, helping him in social situations," says Rina Neëman. But it soon became apparent that a shadow wasn't a substitute for an integrative supportive program.

Ari's transfer to the special-ed high school two years later only confirmed his suspicions that he was being academically exiled. "I was moved into an environment that wasn't designed to help me," says Neëman. "We were being written off because of what society expects of people with disabilities. It becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy."

A WAY BACK IN

If the system was attempting to put Ari into check, it underestimated its opponent. In the end, his masterful manipulation of the pieces available to him—his teachers, case workers, and administrators—got him back in the academic game.

Playing various professionals in his educational ecosystem off against each other, Neëman and his parents had two case managers dismissed until landing a more sympathetic manager.

Then Ari pleaded his case to school officials to take just one class at the mainstream high school near his home. In the face of his determination, officials acquiesced.

With one foot in the door of that high school, Ari arranged for his mainstream class to be the last one of the day. Thus, he could quietly slip into extracurricular activities including Model U.N., the economics team and other academic competitions. Soon the faculty advisors to these clubs were wondering who this *Wunderkind* was. And, better yet, would Ari like to take regular classes with them?

"Sure," answered Neëman, coyly adding that it would sure be helpful if the teachers would pass their request directly to his case manager.

By the 11th grade, Neëman was fully mainstreamed again. Almost. His advisors felt it was unrealistic for a special education student to take any Advanced Placement courses. But he argued his way into two such classes and studied three more on his own, scoring five out of five in a menu of A.P. courses including comparative politics, European and American history, and English Literature.

At the same time, Ari became more adept at negotiating social conventions. Soon, he felt comfortable enough to take his first steps as an activist. Neëman's parents hired a consultant to help him transition back into the mainstream. The consultant was planning to attend an educational conference on special education reform at the College of New Jersey, and knowing Ari's erudition, he invited Neëman to sit on a panel and address the attendees.

"I was nervous, but I knew what I wanted to say," recalls Neëman. "I wrote out a speech beforehand but I kept making revisions. At the last minute I tossed it out and just spoke for fifteen minutes off the cuff, and it worked out really well."

That's an understatement. Ari left the conference with a BlackBerry full of speaking engagements and a path to his eventual appointment by New Jersey's governor, Jon Corzine, to the New Jersey Special Education Review Commission.

But as his mother picked him up from the conference, they had a more immediate journey in mind. They were heading down I-95 that evening, to visit a university that had caught Ari's eye.

If the system was attempting to put Ari into check, it underestimated its opponent.

They were headed to Catonsville. There, the offer of a Sondheim Scholarship, a political science/public policy education, and the chance to publish research as an undergraduate was an irresistible lure, a place—perhaps *the* place—that would allow his activism to blossom.

Ari Neëman knew that at UMBC, *his* voice would be heard.

DEBATING DIFFERENCE

"I am abnormal," admits Ari Neëman, between sips of green tea at the restaurant. "I don't have a problem with that."

How abnormal Neëman and others with Asperger's Syndrome are is the cause of considerable debate. (See "Spectrum Storms," p. 22.) But he argues that such debate misses the point entirely.

Some medical professionals feel that Asperger's is closer to a social learning disorder than it is to the sensory hypersensitivity and language issues more aligned with classic autism. But talking to Neëman over dinner, it becomes clear that the diagnostic lines are fuzzy.

It is not that Ari sounds or acts differently than—and here's that subjective word again—"normal" folk, but he's had to work at it. On the sensory side, he observes that certain random input used to drive him to

Spectrum Storms

What is science telling us about autism?

By Joel N. Shurkin



Few medical disorders engender as much controversy as autism, or as it is now known, autism spectrum disorder or ASD.

The term describes a range of behaviors. But what all people with ASD share is difficulty in social interaction, problems with verbal and nonverbal communication, and repetitive behaviors or narrow obsessive interests. The "hallmark," according to the National Institutes of Health, is impaired social interaction. About 75 percent of autistics are mentally retarded ("low functioning"). But the spectrum is broad, and includes people like Ari Ne'eman; the scientist Temple Grandin; British mathematician Richard Borcherds ("high functioning"), and the actress Daryl Hannah, who was diagnosed as borderline autistic as a child. The spectrum also includes children so violent, deranged and uncontrollable they have to be institutionalized.

According to most studies, the number of children diagnosed with autism has exploded in the last 30 years, perhaps by a factor of ten, to four to six children per 1,000. Autism advocates call it an "epidemic," but that is not necessarily so, largely because the definition of autism has been expanded. Children who were not considered autistic before now fall under that rubric, which has expanded the numbers.

For instance, when autism was first described by Leo Kanner of Johns Hopkins in 1943, about two thirds of children we now consider autistic would not have fit into his definition. Since then, the definition has been modified at least four times, each time adding children that would not have been included

previously. That explains much, but not all, of the increase in diagnosis.

Increased awareness also plays a role. Pediatricians and therapists believe they now can clearly identify ASD in children, although misdiagnoses—as happened to Ari Ne'eman in high school—once were common. Parents are likely the first to notice something odd about their child and pediatricians can now spot a problem. Is the child not learning language normally? Does the child avoid eye contact? Is the child obsessive about minor things? Unusually inflexible?

A series of tests has been developed to pin down the diagnosis, all based on observation. One test, developed in England by Simon Baron-Cohen, is the standard for picking up signs as early as 18 months of age.

There are no chemical or biological tests at present, although many scientists are researching them, often using animal models. Scientists in Philadelphia, examining autistic children with magnetoencephalography, found that their brains respond a fraction of a second more slowly than those of healthy children to vowel sounds and tones. That is just one test with a small number of children but is the kind that might well lead to a clinical diagnosis.

BATTLEGROUND AROUND

The hunt for the cause of autism also is wrought with contention. Despite the passion and volume of the discussion, scientists now agree on the general cause, even if they don't know the complete etiology. They

certainly agree on what does not cause the disorder: In 1967, the famed psychoanalyst Bruno Bettelheim blamed "refrigerator mothers" and cold parenting for autism. That theory has been discredited.

The hypothesis now generating the most heated debate is that childhood vaccinations cause autism. Yet it is a controversy that seems to exist largely in the minds of parents who are wedded to the vaccine theory, and some newspaper writers.

The science about that hypothesis is unambiguous. An Advanced Google Scholar search of the scientific literature shows more than 800 scientific papers on the origin of autism since 2000, virtually none of which demonstrate a link between childhood vaccination and autism. And Sanjay Gupta—the physician and CNN medical reporter recently nominated for the post of Surgeon General by President Barack Obama, used PubMed, the medical data research tool, to find 404 papers that specifically rejected the vaccine argument. The Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Pediatrics also agree vaccines are not the cause of the syndrome.

This rejection has not diminished the fervor of some parents of autistic children who charge a vast conspiracy by the scientific establishment. Nonetheless, there is no scientific evidence that vaccinations are in any way responsible—and much solid evidence they are not. Autism begins well before children receive standard vaccinations.

The scientific consensus is that genetics is responsible for 90 percent of autism cases (not including Asperger's, which may in fact be an entirely different disorder). Some researchers have even narrowed the location of the mutations involved on chromosome 11. That's the good news. The bad news is that there are 160 genes in that chromosome, and since autism is highly unlikely to be caused by a mutation to a single gene, the mechanics are not close to being worked out. At least 10 genes are likely involved. (The cause of Asperger's is still unknown.)

The evidence for a genetic factor is compelling. If one child in a family has autism, the odds of a sibling also having autism increases by two to eight percent, much higher than expected in the general population but not as great as if only one gene were involved. Identical twins are superb test platforms for studying genetics, and that is true of ASD as well. If one identical twin has classical autism, the odds are 60 percent that

the other twin will as well. And if the other twin does not have autism he or she is likely to have learning or social disorders. Not so in fraternal twins. Boys are three to four times more likely to have ASD as girls.

One Yale study — of a small sample — found that the placentas of children later diagnosed with ASD were abnormal. The growth pattern of the cells was different from the placentas of children who never developed ASD. If so, that would further the belief that ASD was planted on conception, not after birth. That also could lead to prenatal testing for autism, raising exactly the moral issue that Ari Ne'eman finds so frightening.

THE CONUNDRUM OF CURE

There is no "cure" for autism, and because, as most experts believe, every case is unique, there is not likely to be one cure. There are treatments and about the only thing everyone agrees on is that the earlier such treatment begins, the better. The Internet and mass media are full of stories about miraculous treatments, often involving animals, usually horses or dolphins. The non-verbal relationship between the child and the animal is believed to ameliorate the symptoms. There is anecdotal evidence behind some of them, but the plural of anecdote is not data.

Generally accepted treatments fall into two categories: education and behavioral interventions, and medications. The behavioral approach involves highly structured and very intensive training sessions to help the child develop communication and social skills. Medications include antidepressants to counter anxiety, depression or obsessive-compulsive behavior. In extreme cases, anti-psychotics and anti-seizure drugs also are prescribed. Occasionally, stimulants like Ritalin help when attention deficit disorder is involved. There is no scientific evidence to support anything else.

Joel Shurkin is a Baltimore-based freelance writer and the author of nine books, mostly on the history of science and medicine and on human intelligence. He was science editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer and part of the team that won a Pulitzer Prize for covering Three Mile Island. He has taught journalism at Stanford University, the University of California, Santa Cruz, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and is currently an adjunct at Towson University.

utter distraction. As a kid, for instance, the fabric on the roof of the interior of his dad's car used to make him cringe, but he was unable to ignore it.

"It drove me nuts," he says. "I hated riding in that car."

Other issues dealt more with language interpretation. Extreme literalism is an Asperger's trait, and though Ne'eman can laugh about it now, certain idioms used to baffle him.

"It's common for many of us. When I was younger, I found the phrase 'raining cats and dogs' an extremely bizarre expression," says Ari.

That it isn't a problem now is at the heart of Ne'eman's proselytizing for what he calls neuro-diversity. In short, neuro-diversity advocates argue that instead of trying to medically eliminate autism (and, by proxy, Asperger's itself), resources and research should be redirected towards providing education, therapy, skills, and services, regardless of where someone is along the autism spectrum.

Given his druthers, Ari would replace

labels and restrictive systems with integrated medical, technological and academic support that lets people with autism dictate their career and life paths. Instead of ranking people, says Ne'eman, "I'd rather put forth a model where we assess people on the basis of their objective traits and their needs."

Not surprisingly, there is a vast chasm between Ne'eman and other neuro-diversity advocates and the parents of children so severely affected by autism that the family's waking life consists of endless shrieking tantrums, relentless hyperactivity and an almost-complete disconnect from the world.

When asked why scientists shouldn't devise methods to prevent this kind of disorder in developing children, Ne'eman deflects the question away from prevention and toward his own concern for those who have already been diagnosed — and who may be diagnosed before they are even born. While people with autism do have high rates of mood



disorders, he says, the answer is to treat those symptoms, not eliminate the patient.

"We think there's value in addressing how many of us are more likely to be severely depressed, [and/or] suffer from tremendous anxiety," argues Neeman. "But the way to address that isn't in saying, 'Well, we're going to take a certain class of people and prevent them from existing.' These things don't come out of nowhere. There's a susceptibility because of biochemistry, but also we're anxious because of the significant number of communication issues and social rules that we're expected to perceive and follow."

Neeman places great faith in advances in communication technology that may redefine the capabilities of people with autism. He points out that across the autism spectrum, keyboard-oriented communication devices

Neuro-diversity proponents make a similar contention. People with autism have much to offer the world just as they are, these advocates insist.

There's little doubt that Neeman has succeeded in getting that message out. Ari chose UMBC over schools such as New York University, he says, because he was convinced that his outside advocacy work could flourish as he studied the intricacies of public policy and government.

His instincts were correct: In his role as president of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Neeman has been interviewed and featured in numerous media outlets: ABC's *Good Morning America*, *Salon*, *Education Week* and in a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation documentary titled *Positively Autistic*.

deeply unethical and very troubling with rewiring the fundamental aspects of how somebody thinks and perceives the world."

"He doesn't suffer those he considers to be fools gladly," says mentor Simon Stacey of UMBC's Honors College. Stacey points specifically to Neeman's dismissal of many parents who claim that their infants developed autism as a result of childhood vaccinations. Almost all medical evidence rules out a link between the two, but Ari cuts little slack to parents who still seek to establish such a connection.

"If you get him started on [these parents' concerns], he's really quite vitriolic, almost," says Stacey. "He needs to temper his comments a little bit. This is a big movement that he needs to get on his side and behind him."

Neeman acknowledges he's gradually becoming more politic as he progresses toward his degree and life after college. But he is no less focused on his future goals. He has just received an appointment to Maryland governor Martin O'Malley's Maryland Youth Advisory Council, and he is beginning to look to his post-UMBC career. Law school, applying for a Rhodes Scholarship, post-grad work in international relations – all are possibilities.

What is definite is Ari's desire to remain what he calls a "change agent" – someone helping to redefine the face and the future of people with autism.

"I feel like I've set up a good foundation," says Neeman, of both his advocacy and his education. "As long as I stick to my ideals, the core values that I hold, I'll be able to continue to make a difference. That's really what I've always aimed to do.

"I think that's one of the most important things anyone can do in this world."

Mat Edelson is a national award-winning freelance medical and investigative journalist based in Fells Point. His current book, with Chef Rebecca Katz, is One Bite at a Time: Nourishing Recipes for People with Cancer, Survivors, and Their Caregivers (Second Edition, Ten Speed Press).

"I am abnormal... I don't have a problem with that."

have allowed non-verbal people with autism to prove that lack of verbal skills does not equal impaired intelligence. Such results have compelled educators to reassess what disabled people are capable of achieving, he says.

"A friend of mine with autism, up until age 12, was assumed to be... the term then was 'mentally retarded,'" he says. "That evolved into 'has mental retardation.' That evolved into 'has an intellectual disability.'"

Neeman breaks into a smile. "Now he's graduated from Syracuse University. He's expressed his ability by being able to communicate."

Clear parallels between the autistic and deaf communities also intrigue Neeman. Many in the deaf community consider themselves not to be disabled, but rather part of a unique culture with its own form of complete communication. (In the deaf community's case, American Sign Language.) Wipe out their disability, they claim, and you've committed the medical equivalent of genocide.

Neeman's closest mentors at UMBC see him as an amazing intellect – and as a work in progress. "He's one of the brightest students we've ever seen. Uncommonly prepared," says Carolyn Forestiere, with whom Ari conducted comparative politics research as a freshman.


He's since presented his own position papers on autism at several educational forums. His article on how popular culture portrays people with autism will soon be published in the *International Journal of Inclusive Education*.

Listening to Neeman is much like being in the presence of a tenured professor capable of deftly marshalling facts to support his position. And his assurance in the rightness of that position can be fierce and unyielding to the point of impatience with alternative arguments.

When a talk show host openly wondered why Neeman wouldn't take a pill if he could to cure his autism, Neeman could hardly hide his disgust. "That's an unfortunate perspective," Neeman told the host. "(Autism is) part of who we are. I think there's something

HIDDEN TREASURE

25



The Joseph Beuys Sculpture Park, nestled along a southwest portion of Hilltop Circle, consists of 30 trees paired with 30 granite stones. This work by the German artist – who died in 1986 – is a delicate interplay of growth and erosion that reflects the green agenda of much of Beuys' late work.

Ballot Boxers

Four UMBC alumnae who have made careers in politics and government look back at an electoral cycle that held landmarks and heartbreaks for women candidates.

By Richard Byrne '86

The year 2008 saw a momentous breakthrough for African-Americans in U.S. electoral politics. But it was a landmark year for women as well.

UMBC Magazine talked with four prominent political alumnae just after Election Day 2008. We asked them to reflect not only on the tumultuous political year, but also about gender and politics issues in their own careers.

And to add some scholarly perspective, Cheryl M. Miller, an associate dean in UMBC's College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and a professor of political science, examines how 2008 advanced historical trends for women's presence in government at all levels. (See "Herstory Lessons")



Clockwise, from upper left: Delegate Adrienne Jones, Courtney Mattingly, Patricia Clark Taylor, Lisa Dickerson.



Collecting a Caucus

As late as the 1980s, fewer than 25 percent of the members of Maryland's House of Delegates were women.

Today, however, that number stands at 40 percent – and it is growing. Delegate Adrienne A. Jones '76, psychology, is not only a part of that fast-increasing contingent of women; she is among its leaders.

In January 2008, Jones was elected for the sixth time to the position of Speaker Pro Tem of the House of Delegates. She is the first African-American woman to

serve in that position. Jones also sits on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which wields significant authority over Maryland's state budget.

"It is important that women increase their numbers," says Jones. "Women have a different perspective."

In 1997, Jones was appointed to the House of Delegates by Governor Parris Glendening, when Delegate Joan Parker's death created a vacancy in the 10th District. She won the seat in the 1998 election and has held it since.

Jones grew up in Baltimore County and attended its public schools before coming to UMBC. Shortly after graduation, she was hired to work in Baltimore County government. For more than three decades, Jones has served as executive director of the county's Office of Fair Practices and Community Affairs. (She was named UMBC Alumna of the Year in 2003.)

She believes that her strong grounding in local government prepared her well for her ascent to state politics – and led her to apply for appointment to the state legislature in 1997.

"I thought that my background, in local government, lent itself well for transformation over to the state level in terms of issues and concerns," says Jones. A reputation as a hard worker and a team builder in Annapolis has also had an impact on her success.

"I don't have a big ego," says Jones.

"I'm a consensus builder. What's more important to me is the end result, as opposed to the means. I believe in looking at the potential for other members."

As she surveys the growing power of women in Annapolis, Jones puts her finger on one key factor. "A lot of it is attributable to House leadership under this speaker, Mike Busch," she observes.

Jones says that navigating her way through male-dominated state politics as a woman, especially early in her career, was made easier because of her background.

"I am used to dealing with men," she says. "I have four brothers and two sons, so I'm used to a male-dominated atmosphere. It doesn't bother me one way or another. You've got to get it done? You get it done."

Having more women legislators in Annapolis obviously means more power for the women's caucus – and a greater focus on women's issues. "The numbers help you in terms of counting the votes, which is all important in the House," observes Jones.

While women legislators do not operate in lockstep on some issues, including abortion, Jones says that "they're all members of the caucus. Their philosophies may be different. But a lot of times when it comes to key issues affecting women, such as pay parity, we are all together."

Herstory Lessons

The near success of Sen. Hillary Clinton and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin in the electoral battles of 2008 made it an important year for women involved in politics.

However, even before the 2008 landmark races in which Clinton fought to the end to wrest her party's nomination and Palin campaigned as the Republican vice presidential running mate to Sen. John McCain, other women have blazed trails in the struggle to gain electoral representation. The growing involvement of UMBC alumnae in politics is indeed reflective of the national trend.

Some of these events have been seminal, like Rep. Shirley Chisholm's gutsy but unsuccessful 1972 quest

for the Democratic Party nomination for president. Chisholm was the first woman (and African-American) to do so, and she won the support of 152 delegates at the convention in Miami. Chisholm's campaign slogan was "unbought and unbossed," and the representative from New York state also has the distinction of being the first African-American woman elected to the U. S. Congress.

A decade later, Rep. Geraldine Ferraro was selected in 1984 by Walter Mondale as his Democratic vice presidential running mate. As the first woman on a national major party ticket, Ferraro's place on the ticket and her hard-hitting campaign against the popular and incumbent Ronald Reagan were historic.

Her debate against George H.W. Bush, Reagan's vice-presidential running mate, was the first time that a female candidate competed in that forum.

On the heels of Ferraro's efforts, Rep. Patricia Schroeder put out feelers and seriously considered a run for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination. However, after a few months on the campaign trail in 1987, the Colorado congresswoman decided not to run. She cited as reasons her late organizational and fund-raising start and a crowded field of announced candidates.

However, without a doubt, 2008 was the most inspiring harbinger of things to come.



Shirley Chisholm

Jones was a strong supporter of Sen. Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primary. "I knew her. I met her. And I knew her positions, particularly on health care," she says. But she was a strong supporter of Sen. Barack Obama in the general election.

"For me as a Democrat," says Jones, "what is important is our agenda."

Sen. John McCain's hope that the selection of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin might sway disaffected Democratic women, says Jones, was incorrect. "Just because you're a woman doesn't necessarily mean anything," she says. "What's important is your ideology."

Jones says Clinton's campaign created new momentum for women leaders in politics. "What Hillary was able to do, as you heard often from her, was to get those 18 million votes that she had," she says. "That had a tremendous impact as far as breaking that glass ceiling."

She also hopes Clinton's example attracts young women to careers in public service. "We want them to go into science and engineering, but also don't forget about public service," says Jones. "That's what I think Hillary's candidacy brought to the American people."

Climbing Up (Capitol) Hill

Some women come to politics later in life, but Patricia Clark Adora Taylor '84 political science, had her first brush with ballots in 1958, when she was 16 years old and attending a Florida high school.

"I was just rocking along in high school, having fun, being a cheerleader, when I was chosen from my high school for Girls' State," recalls Taylor.

Girls' State – and its associated program, Boys' State – are youth leadership programs run by the American Legion. The experience swept Taylor into a lifelong interest in politics. She was elected "governor" of her Girls' State class and participated (as the only female representative) in a conference at the White House.

Gov. Leroy Collins also tapped Taylor for a state Youth Advisory Council to advise him on a most contentious issue of that era in the South. "He was interested in integration in public schools," she says. "He had to be. It was a burning issue of the times in the late '50s, and Florida was slow to do it."

After high school, Taylor married Chester Taylor, an engineer who had a long career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She traveled all over the world, including substantial travel in the Middle



East and Israel – experiences that she wrote about in her self-published memoir, *Unveilings: A Desert Journey 1973 to 1983*.

But Taylor never gave up her interest in politics and education. When she and her family moved to Maryland, UMBC accepted college credits earned at various military bases and she finished her political science degree in Catonsville after spending her junior year at Tel Aviv University.

Taylor says that Louis Cantori, a professor in UMBC's political science department who passed away last year, was a big influence on



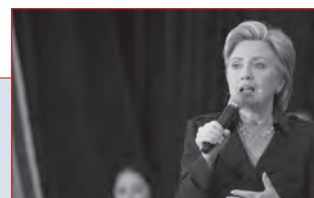
Geraldine Ferraro



Patricia Schroeder



Sarah Palin



Hillary Clinton

First was the hard-fought battle of Hillary Clinton for the Democratic Party nomination; she won over 18 million votes in the Democratic primaries in her contest with now-President Barack Obama. Second, Republican John McCain's selection of Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate marked only the second time that a woman was chosen by one of the two major political parties as a vice presidential running mate.

It does not diminish the importance of the landmarks set by Clinton and Palin to acknowledge a larger and more important phenomenon: the gradual increase over several decades in the number of women officeholders at all levels. The initial concentration

of women elected to local school boards and to city and county councils has progressed to a wide diffusion and possession of higher elective offices.

This surge has occurred, in part, because election to lower-level offices has increased the viable female candidate pool, and thus paved the way for higher-level success. The political and financial advocacy of organizations like EMILY's List (founded in 1985) also has contributed to electoral victories by female candidates.

This progression has resulted in dramatic increases in the number of female governors, congresspersons, and state legislators over time. A 2008 snapshot in time

is revealing. Sixteen women served in the U. S. Senate and seventy-one served in the House of Representatives. Seventy-four women held statewide elective executive positions, including eight governorships and ten lieutenant governorships. Twenty-four percent of state legislative seats were held by women.

— Cheryl M. Miller
Associate Professor of Political Science
and Public Policy and Associate Dean,
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

her world view. In particular, he urged her to investigate both sides of the Israeli/Palestinian divide. "He said to understand the conflict, you must meet Palestinians and talk with them and understand about them as well," she recalls. "And that was a good suggestion."

After graduation, Taylor embarked on two busy decades working for legislators on Capitol Hill and for Ross Perot at Electronic Data Systems, as well as earning a graduate degree from Duke University.

When Taylor took her first job on Capitol Hill in the mid-1980s, there was still a considerable gap between men and women in legislative offices.

"I had a friend who'd been there in the Kennedy years, and she said that there were almost no women on the Hill. Secretaries here and there. But women in decision-making roles? There were just about none. Then you get to the '80s, and women are on the Hill. Some are in legislative staff roles, but not many. They're still mostly in scheduling, office management, that sort of thing."

Her first job was working for Florida Rep. Charles Bennett, who served for over four decades in the House. As an aide to Bennett, Taylor wrote legislation that created the Timucuan National Preserve near Jacksonville. In later jobs on the Hill with Pennsylvania Rep. Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky and Florida Rep. Corinne Brown, she worked on health care and international issues.

"When you work on the Hill," she observes, "your product is your legislation or your policy, and you always have to be selling."

When Taylor moved from Washington to Jacksonville earlier this decade, she did not lose her desire to stay involved in politics. During the primary, she was a strong supporter of Hillary Clinton's campaign. And while Taylor was disappointed in Clinton's primary loss, she backed Obama in the general election.

"It took me about a week to get on board," says Taylor. "You had to get on board, because there was no alternative for people like me who are lifelong Democrats."

Taylor wrote talking points and speeches for local Obama surrogates, including Florida state representative Tony Hill. "By the end, I was just on street corners," she says. "Handing out literature, doing everything that you could."

The Republican Party's selection of Sarah Palin as their vice-presidential candidate

did not sway Taylor. Palin is "lovely and talkative, but she's against *Roe v. Wade*. It was the biggest slap in the face. I don't care if she cooks well, or juggles schedules well, or if she learns her world geography. If she's against *Roe v. Wade*, then that's declaring that women do not have a lifestyle choice."

While she still admits to feeling "crushed" by Clinton's loss, Taylor says that the imperative for change likely spurred many women to support Obama. "As disappointed as they must have been," she says, "they realized they did not want four more years of the Republicans."

"If I stop and think about it," Taylor concludes, "I could get angry, because I think the media did not treat [Clinton] right."

Leader of the PAC

Money is the lifeblood of American politics, and a rich vein for such fundraising is the political action committee, or PAC. Various industries and interest groups use PACs to exert influence on elections and navigate a complex net of campaign finance laws.

But PACs have also been maligned for giving those groups outsized influence on American elections. Barack Obama, for instance, made a ban on the acceptance of PAC money a building block of his successful presidential campaign.

As the manager of the political action committee at national accounting firm Deloitte LLP, Courtney Mattingly '01, history, is a rising figure in the PAC landscape. Deloitte is one of the so-called Big Four accounting firms, and its committee disburses approximately \$2 million in contributions per election cycle – raised exclusively from senior partners and managers in the firm.

Despite Obama's much-publicized move to restrict PACs in his campaign, Mattingly says that political action committees are still the best way for businesses and other constituencies to make their voices heard, especially after campaign finance reform enacted earlier in this decade restricted unlimited contributions (known as "soft money") from donors to national political parties.

"I think that after the soft money ban, the number of PACs is growing, and it's growing faster than it was 10 years ago," says Mattingly.

Less than a year after leaving UMBC, Mattingly found work as the political compliance officer for the PAC run by

the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) in Washington, D.C.

The federation represents American small business owners, and the job stoked Mattingly's interest in electoral politics. "NFIB is really where I cut my teeth in the political stuff," she says. "I was not terribly politically active before."

Mattingly moved to a job with Deloitte's PAC in 2005. She was promoted to manager of the committee in 2007. The job requires a nimble touch in calibrating the lobbying needs of the firm with astute analysis of the political landscape. Though the PAC had a tilt toward Republicans during the years of GOP ascendancy in Congress, Mattingly says that "we've tried to make our ratio of Republicans to Democrats more at parity than it had been in the past.... In 2006, it was more in the 70 to 30 range. This year we're looking at 55 to 45 Republican to Democrat."

In 2008, Mattingly sought to identify key legislators who are not directly involved with financial industries as potential candidates for the PAC. "I took a lot of interest over the summer tracking the key races," she says. "How many seats the Republicans would be losing, and looking at some open seats. I was able to recommend a couple Democratic open seat candidates."

Navigating public attitudes toward PACs is also tricky, but necessary. "We were a little taken aback," says Mattingly, "when after Obama got the nomination, he told the Democratic party not to accept any PAC contributions. I can understand the tide of animosity against lobbyists after Jack Abramoff. I think people are



interested in seeing the amount of power held by K Street be reduced. But I think they're in for a battle if they try to limit PAC contributions. It's definitely something that the business community and others will fight as far as the First Amendment goes."

Mattingly points to EMILY's List – a political action committee formed in 1985 to help elect more women candidates – as an example of how PACs can be a positive influence for change. "I don't think PACs are going away anytime soon," says Mattingly. "And I don't think their importance is going to be diminished. We will have to perhaps explain what we do and why we do it."

Mattingly believes that the 2008 election held promises yet to be fulfilled for women.

"I think it's still a glass ceiling that needs to be broken," she says. "It's trending in the right direction, but we still have a long way to go."

The recipe, says Mattingly, is more bottom-up movement. "We need to see a base of women getting involved in state legislatures, then moving their way up the ranks. We need to encourage women to keep trying. It might be a Republican woman who does it first."

On the Move

For Lisa Dickerson '78, political science, all politics is local. Local transit, that is.

Dickerson has spent much of her career as an executive and a consultant in the business of moving people to their destinations, including three years as the chief executive officer of the Maryland Transit Authority from 2004 to 2007.

"Where you lay tracks, people build communities," says Dickerson. And transit jobs offer chances for advancement, she adds, particularly for women.

"Anyone can have a career in transit," she says. "It's an excellent career choice for women." Transit, observes Dickerson, is built on easily quantifiable data: on-time bus and train arrivals, fares collected. She also points out that over half of today's MTA drivers are African-American females.

"If you can measure it," she says, "you can achieve it."

Dickerson's career has been a varied one, including a job as president of a transit firm serving Baltimore and Washington D.C. airports and a stint as manager of field operations for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She started her professional

career working for Maryland Republican Congressman Newton I. Steers in 1976, even before she graduated from UMBC.

Dickerson says that those varied experiences were part of the reason that Gov. Robert Ehrlich appointed her to the top post at the MTA in 2004.

"I came into the agency with a background in private industry," she says. "I had run ground transportation at National Dulles and BWI airports. I had implemented MetroAccess service for [Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority]. I believe that the Ehrlich administration was looking for someone with transit experience, and they were looking to have diversity in their executive leadership."

Since leaving the MTA in 2007, Dickerson has been busy doing consulting work for MTA and other agencies, with a special emphasis on community outreach.

Dickerson holds two other UMBC distinctions: She was named UMBC Alumna of the Year in 2006. And she was the last woman to serve out a full term as president of the Student Government Association (SGA) at the university.

She remembers attending a reunion of SGA officers and realizing that no other woman had yet to follow her as elected president of the body in the three decades since she held the position in 1976.

Dickerson says she grew up in a household that nurtured high expectations. "I'm from an all-female family," she says. "Five girls, no boys. So we grew up being told that we could do anything and be anything that we wanted to be, if you applied yourself – and your Christian values – and got a good education."

In Dickerson's view, 2008 broke a lot of new ground for women, as well as African-Americans, in electoral politics. "As far as women and minorities, what we grew up being told, all children, was that any little boy can be president," she says. "Now we know that anybody can be president. That the American dream is possible. Not just in theory. Not just a dream. But that it is possible for someone who looks like me."

Despite Hillary Clinton's narrow loss, Dickerson views her candidacy as a milestone, in particular for the way that it allowed women to confound the simple dynamic of having to seem tough enough for the job.



She cites a well-publicized incident during the New Hampshire primary campaign in which Clinton showed her vulnerable and human side after a tough defeat in Iowa's primary. It was a pivotal moment, says Dickerson, especially since the former New York senator rebounded to win the state.

"I think people respond to the truth," says Dickerson. "It was a moment when she said, 'I am myself and I am qualified and I feel.'"

Dickerson says that she felt considerable sympathy for Sarah Palin, too. "There have been so many moments when I thought I'd be asked a question I didn't know the answer to," she says with a laugh. "So I could identify with that."

Dickerson is also bullish on the chances of a female in Oval Office in the near future. Reflecting on her own upbringing in New Orleans, she points out that Barack Obama broke a barrier that many thought would never be shattered in their lifetime.

"I think it will be soon," she says. "I grew up in the segregated South. So I didn't know if [Obama would win] until election night."

Dickerson spent election night with her two nieces, aged 15 and 13 years, and asked them if they thought a woman would ever be president. "They said, 'Why not?'" The fact that it is a ludicrous question to the next generation means that it is going to be sooner rather than later.

"Women," she concludes, "have to envision themselves there."

HOW TO

Build an NCAA Tournament Team

Randy Monroe, Head Coach, UMBC Men's Basketball



Randy Monroe describes being a head basketball coach as “being a Tootsie Roll pop: he’s all good things rolled up into one. He’s the mentor; he’s the father figure; he’s the coach; he’s the advisor.” Now in the midst of his fifth full season as UMBC’s coach, Monroe offered his blueprint for building the 2007-08 team that won an America East championship and took UMBC to the NCAA Men’s Division I Championship Tournament for the first time. As a man who takes all of his roles seriously, it’s no surprise that Monroe looked past game tactics and diagrams of plays and focused on how UMBC attracts and nurtures scholar-athletes who possess character, integrity and spirit.

Step 1:

FIND CHARACTER IN RECRUITS

As a head coach, I think you need to be involved in the recruiting process. Meet a recruit’s parents and see what kind of people they are. See how much support they are getting from their family. Make sure he can play with his teammates. You can have all the talent in the world but if you don’t play with your teammates, if you don’t play smart, if you’re not playing together, then chances are you’re not going to have much success.

Step 2:

HOLD YOUR TEAM ACCOUNTABLE

I have one rule: Don’t do anything that’s going to be detrimental to yourself, your university, or your family. And if you can read between the lines, that rule covers a gamut of things. I show them articles about players who have gotten themselves into trouble. They don’t realize the magnitude of influence that has on the university. They don’t realize the influence it has on them. They don’t realize the magnitude of influence it has on their families. I want them understanding poor choices.

Step 3:

INSTILL A FIGHTING SPIRIT

You have to be ready to have heat or else you’re going to be left behind. If you don’t have that fiery nature, you’re going to get hurt. You’re going to get exposed. At some point in time, you have to draw a line in the sand and say,



“I’m tired of getting exposed so I have to do something about this, I have to kind of develop this aggressive nature, this intensity, so I can be able to play with a sense of urgency and play to a point where I’m not going to get myself hurt because of another person’s hype.” Maybe you’re going to get knocked a couple times, but that’s also the beauty of it. You might not be responsible for getting knocked down, but you have to be responsible for getting back up.

Step 4:

OFFER YOUR PLAYERS GUIDANCE



Sometimes I think people get the wrong impression of coaches. We’re on the sidelines jumping up and down and yelling at refs but that’s not the only thing we do. We meet with our players on a weekly basis. We talk about academics and we talk about life and then we talk about basketball after that. We talk about careers and where they see themselves five years from now or six years from now. We want them to follow an organized plan of attack.

Step 5:

BUILD AND NURTURE A FAN BASE

You need to develop relationships with people. We try to be as visible as possible on campus and develop those relationships with faculty and staff. In the community, it starts with coaching staff and student-athletes doing clinics and speaking engagements, especially at our local middle schools. Our marketing department is also critical in getting the word out about UMBC basketball. People need to see that we are not just about basketball, but that we are good people that want to reach out to the community. And we get out to the resident dining halls and the Commons early in the school year and let the students know that we need their support in order to be successful. It means a lot to us when we feel the energy of the students. We always let them know how much we appreciate their fantastic support.

Step 6:

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

My goal is to have a successful program. What does that mean? I think it means a lot of things. My thinking can be very shallow if I say I just want to win championships every year. Yes, we want to win championships, but that's just a part of it. To me, a successful program means that we're graduating your youngsters. To have your former players come back to the games or call you up. To help a youngster when he's down and when he's out, help to lift him up, help him to see that he is better than he thinks he is. So, I look at this as a successful program that's going in the right direction – a successful program that will stay on a consistent level for years to come. 🏀

— Joseph Cooper '08

After UMBC's nationally televised 82-65 victory over the University of Hartford in the America East men's basketball championship at the RAC, alumni e-mailed congratulations and thoughts on what the victory meant to them:

Way to go, Retrievers! Congratulations on a great season and thanks for making us all proud at UMBC.

— Christopher Truffer '00, mathematics

What a proud moment for an old alum.... Best of luck, guys!!

— Julie Clark '75, economics

Congrats Coach Monroe and UMBC! Very proud to be an alumni! Go Big Dawgs!!

— Jake Klim '02, visual and performing arts

Good job. Strong work. Down here in Texas people are noticing my UMBC gear. You have made all alumni very proud and are representing us well.

— Tove Goldson '97, biochemistry and molecular biology

Congrats Retrievers and Coach Monroe on making it to the Big Dance!!! I live in Chicago now, and last Saturday I made an entire bar full of people watch the AmEast conference championship game. Now you've got your own Chicago fan club cheering you on against Georgetown and beyond.

— Brett Ashley McKenzie '04, English

Awesome job, guys! You have given me yet another reason to be a proud UMBC alum! Go Dawgs!

— Daphne Hill '06, political science

Any Given Day. Fundamentals. Team. Every Pass Counts, Make 'em Crisp. Every Rebound Matters. Get up there. Every Shot Must Go In. Shoot to Score. Win Win Win. This is just the beginning. Win Win Win. Take it to the Hoop. Every Time! Your Time To Shine. GO Get 'Em Dogs!!! See you on CBS...

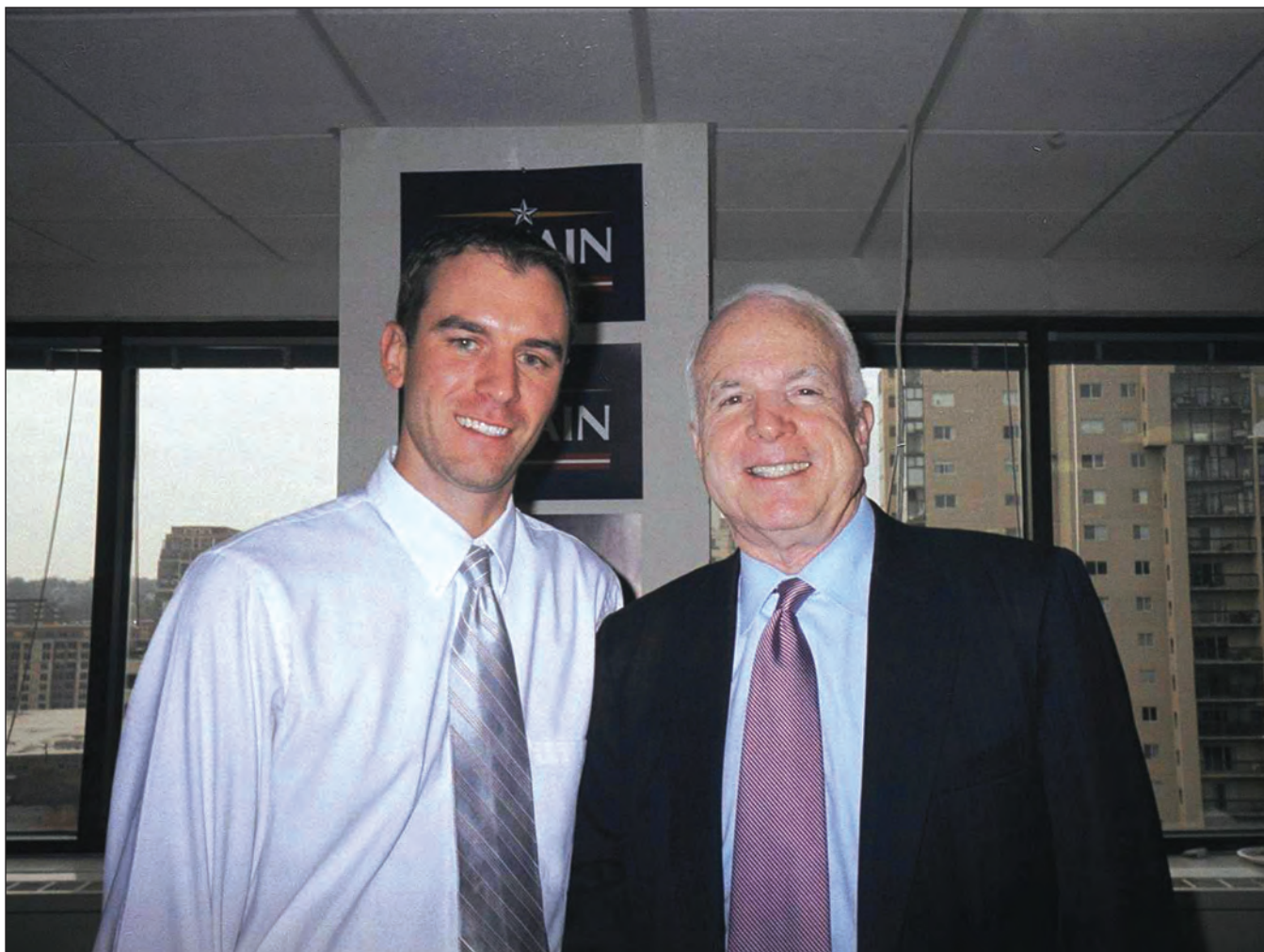
— John Codd '97, geography

I am so excited for you!!!! I loved cheering on the basketball team when I was a dance team member during my four years at UMBC. Good Luck and have a great time! You deserve it!!!!!!

— Rebecca Glover Wenck '06, American studies



CLASS NOTES



Night Shift in the War Room

*A UMBC Public Policy grad talks about his view of the 2008 campaign
from the nerve center of Republican nominee John McCain's headquarters.*

Benjamin Lloyd '05 M.P.P. did better than get in on the ground floor of Arizona Sen. John McCain's rollercoaster ride to the Republican nomination. He got in at the virtual nadir of the campaign.

Lloyd climbed aboard in August 2007, when a nearly-toxic combination of financial profligacy and low poll numbers nearly buried McCain's presidential hopes. Observers in the press had already written off McCain as a serious candidate.

"When I started," Lloyd recalls, "you could tell that a lot of stuff had been packed up. A lot of people had left. There had been 100 people working there, but when I showed up it was 20 or 30. The people who remained were definitely McCain loyalists. We still thought we could pull it out."

Lloyd's efforts and loyalty paid off. He was involved in the improbable resurrection and eventual triumph of McCain's campaign, as well as the topsy-turvy general election campaign which ended with the Senator's defeat. And Lloyd himself rose from volunteer to a job as the manager of the night shift in McCain's "war room" – monitoring news coverage and blasting out press releases to the media.

Lloyd, who took his undergraduate degree in political science at Towson University, also works for Harford County government as an agricultural marketing assistant. It was a job that he juggled along with his duties with McCain, which played havoc with his sense of time.

"Towards the end of the campaign, I managed the overnight shift, which was from 11 p.m. to 7 in the morning. So then I'd come home, sleep for a couple hours, and then I was also working part-time for Harford County government, so I put in about three hours a day there, and then I'd head back down (to Crystal City, Va., where the McCain headquarters was located.) It was like one long day. It was tough to tell when one day ends and the next begins."

Lloyd remembers McCain's improved performance in polls in New Hampshire gave the campaign some initial hope and a surprising third-place finish in Iowa stoked belief that McCain could compete for the nomination.

"The day after Iowa," he recalls, "we had a big event in New Hampshire, and we got really good press that day. We could all tell the tide was turning." A victory in South Carolina, where McCain had lost in an ugly battle

against George W. Bush in 2000, was another key moment in sealing the nomination.

"After we locked it up, we slowly started getting more staff," says Lloyd. "We had more money coming in. People started getting paid who hadn't been paid for a long time. Myself included."

From his vantage in the campaign's war room, Lloyd had a unique view on the love/hate relationship between McCain and the press. McCain had always enjoyed a highly favorable status in the eyes of the D.C. press corps, but in the weeks leading up to the Republican convention in Minneapolis, his staff started openly complaining about perceived favoritism toward Democratic nominee Barack Obama. Press access to McCain dwindled from the openness of

"My advice to anyone who wants to get in on a campaign is to get in early. That's how you can really get to know people and move up."

the "Straight Talk Express" buses (where he once held court with reporters for hours) to a more-traditional buttoned-down approach.

"We saw an immediate turn (in press coverage) after we had wrapped up the nomination," says Lloyd. "I know that a lot of people think it was senior staffers putting the clamp on (press access) and certain aspects of that. But I don't think it was that at all. It started well before that. I think a lot of people felt that despite the access that we were giving, we weren't getting fair press at all in a lot of areas."

Lloyd says that the heart of the McCain campaign's animus toward the press was their notion that Obama was getting a pass on tough questions.

"Our senior staff felt that the press should be looking at certain aspects of Obama's

record, and they didn't feel that the press was looking at Obama hard enough."

McCain's pick of Sarah Palin reenergized the Republican Party and squelched Barack Obama's post-convention bounce in the polls. But then the collapse of the U.S. economy and some disastrous national interview performances led to a steady dip in McCain's general election hopes that even the head-to-head debates between McCain and Obama could not raise.

"I think everybody thought that we were the underdogs," recalls Lloyd about the last days of the campaign, "but that we could still somehow pull it out. It felt like it was out of our hands at that point. We were having to hope for Obama to really screw up. We thought we had something with Joe the Plumber and 'spreading the wealth around,' but nothing seemed to stick."

On Election Day, Lloyd says that the mood was bittersweet. The staff worked until the election was called for Obama, and then accepted the loss with a sense of pride in their achievement.

"We had whiskey and champagne on hand, and the whiskey's what got drank," he says. "I think everyone felt good about what we'd done. We didn't feel like we could have done anything else, especially with the economy. The script was written for us."

As he reflects on his experience in the campaign, Lloyd remains enthusiastic. "Being part of the campaign was the best thing I've ever done. I'm glad I did it."

His advice to those who want to have a similar journey is to get in early and support a candidate that you truly admire.

"My advice to anyone who wants to get in on a campaign is to get in early," he says. "That's how you can really get to know people and move up. I started out unpaid. An intern, really. And by May, I was a manager of the war room, which is a really cool job. Probably the best job in the whole campaign as far as I'm concerned. Especially if you're someone who loves to watch the news and read newspapers. You're basically getting paid to do that, and to do that for John McCain, whom I've always admired. I voted for him back in 2000, in the first presidential campaign I could vote in. It was really a dream come true."



— Richard Byrne '86

UMBC Class Notes is compiled by UMBC Magazine staff from items submitted online and by mail by alumni, as well as from news articles and press releases received by the University. This edition of Class Notes contains information processed by January 8, 2008.

How to Submit Class Notes

The deadline for submitting Class Notes for the next print issue of *UMBC Magazine* is March 30, 2009. We cannot guarantee the publication of class notes received after the deadline as production schedules and resources require strict deadline compliance. Notes and photos may be submitted online at <http://retrievernet.umbc.edu/magazine> or by mail at: *UMBC Magazine* – Class Notes, Alumni House, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250.

Photo Guidelines

Digital photos should be taken on the highest-quality setting. They should be 4 x 6 inches or larger and 300 dpi. Save the attachment as a TIFF or JPEG. Questions? Please e-mail byrne@umbc.edu.

1970

David F. Mister, political science, has been rated "AV" – the highest rating in the *Martindale-Hubbe Law Directory* – for the 20th straight year.

1973

Howard Rones, psychology, retired after teaching in the Baltimore County Public Schools for 34 years. He is now teaching part-time at Krieger Schechter Middle School.

1974

Gloria A. McPartlin, history, notes that it has been 35 years since her graduation. She retired from the Anne Arundel County School System in 1988.

Rick Biniak '81, economics, completed the North Central Trail Marathon.



Elizabeth Myers, psychology, works as an activity director and board certified music therapist in a nursing home in southwest Virginia. She and her husband have three daughters and live in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

Michael C. Perlman, geography, is semi-retired.

Patricia Peters, psychology, left teaching to write children's literature.

1975

Dale Gardner, political science, recently celebrated his 30th anniversary with the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services. His son, **Jeffrey Gardner**, graduated from UMBC in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

1976

Loretta Cormier, ancient studies, says that her study of Latin and Greek prepared her well for a career as a medical and scientific editor – much of it spent at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. She also sings jazz.

James P. Richardson, biological sciences and psychology, was named the new chief of geriatric medicine at St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore.

Michael V. Spedden, sociology, has joined the firm, Preston Partners Inc., as senior vice president.

1977

Alex J. Cservek, political science, was recently named chief operating officer for The Strata Group.

Ruth Ann Pumphrey Raup, French, '93, M.A., instructional systems design, is human resources director at the United States Naval Institute, a non-profit on the Naval Academy grounds. She and her husband, William Emmerich, have one grown son, Joshua, who is a corporal in the United States Marine Corps.

William Simmons, psychology, is married with two daughters. He is director of benefits and compensation at Asbury Services in Gaithersburg.

1978

Rachel Belenker, sociology, is an attorney with the Ohio Department of Health.

Robert Hartge, history, works at The Johns Hopkins Professional Schools Association. He also works with Howard County Public Schools in their Black Student Achievement Program.

Karen Robinson Ropka, psychology and elementary education, is a special educator with the Baltimore County Infants and Toddlers Program – an early intervention program for children with developmental delays. She also participated in the first cohort of the Early Intervention Leadership Academy sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education and The Johns Hopkins University. Her son, **Andy Ropka**, graduated from UMBC in December 2008 with a degree in business technology administration.

Diane Trask Stegman, ancient studies, is a social work manager at Kennedy Krieger Institute. Her daughter, Michelle, is a senior at UMBC who is majoring in mathematics and planning on enrolling in UMBC's master's program following graduation.

Anna M. Williams, African American studies and social work, is the Director of Student Life for the SEED School of Maryland – a statewide tuition-free college preparatory school for students in grades six through 12.

1979

Marlene Amdur-Ferguson, psychology, works for Sackett Cook & Associates, a transportation insurance brokerage, in Towson. She celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary with husband Walter Ferguson last year.

Gary M. Brooks, history, has been honored for his support for public charter schools in Baltimore City. He practices law in downtown Baltimore.

Roland Owens, biological sciences, was appointed assistant director of the National Institutes of Health's Office of Intramural Research in March 2008. The office oversees more than 1,000 research groups on NIH campuses around the country.

Nomiki Bouloubassis Weitzel, psychology, became a grandmother last year. Her grandson, Stefan, was born on January 15, 2008.

1980

Calvin Baker, sociology, has been happily married to Shirlyn L. (Sherman) Baker '81, **African American studies**, for 27 years. He currently serves as EEO program manager in the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity Affairs for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In the future, he hopes to go into private practice for family counseling.

Nancy Carpenter, African American studies, earned a master's degree in urban planning from Morgan State University in 1982. She oversees hazard mitigation assistance grants for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FEMA Region 3.

1981

Rick Biniak, economics, recently completed his first marathon, the North Central Trail Marathon. He is a member of UMBC's Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Michael J. Haloskey, economics, was recently named vice president and commercial business development officer at Revere Bank in Laurel.

Sherry Zukerberg Henricks, psychology, earned an allied health degree and worked in several hospitals providing patient care for nine years before moving into medical sales and IT. She received her M.B.A. from UMUC and currently owns a medical consulting business, Pres-Henricks Consulting.

Cloretta Lewis Washington, American studies, works in human resources for the federal government, and has three children – Tyrone, 25, Ciarra, 21, and Taylor, 14 – and one grandchild.

1982

Donna Bilek, music, is the founder of Earthwalk Center for Wholeness in Towson. The center provides massage, Reiki, and other body work modalities as well as psychological counseling. She also teaches in the religious studies department at the College of Notre Dame.

Scott Jeffrey, geography, was named the 2008 Maryland Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Jeffrey is an associate professor at the Community College of Baltimore County, and he retains close ties with UMBC's geography department.

Ronald Pettie, English, has been a sergeant with the Baltimore Police Department for 26 years. He lives in Owings Mills with his wife, Christine, and he is working on a novel.

Art Vail, biological sciences, writes to say his daughter, Kelly, is a senior at UMBC, and that his son, R.T., also hopes to attend UMBC.

Gina Zawitoski, psychology, works for DLA Piper U.S. LLP. She was listed as one of *The Daily Record's* "Top 100 Women" winners.

1983

Denise Lee, philosophy, recently joined the University of California, Santa Cruz's university relations team as a donor recognition coordinator.

Mark Sorrentino, American studies, is chief of legal services for the Maryland Office of Unemployment Insurance.

1984

Elizabeth Ann Cunningham, history, says that her education has been incredibly important since the passing of her partner, Joe. "My education helps me to get through life. There are always problems to solve," she says.

Steven Daviss, biological sciences, completed medical school and works for Baltimore Washington Medical Center. He was selected by *The Daily Record's* "2008 Health Care Heroes" as a Physician Hero finalist.

Lorrie Liang, health science and policy, was appointed chair for the Maryland chapter of the American Diabetes Association for 2008.

Ronald K. Taylor, Ph.D., biological sciences, is a professor in the department of microbiology and immunology at Dartmouth Medical School.

1985

Jeanne M. Anastasi, social work, retired from Maryland state government in 2005. She moved to central Florida, where she is enjoying a range of daily activities – including taking classes and joining clubs.

Karine Armen, social work, received her master's in education. Her photographs have been published in several newspapers, and she has been invited to Thailand to speak about photography.

Ruth Ann Koshnick Besse, ancient studies, was featured in the *Laurel Gazette* for her efforts to teach Latin to both public and home-schooled students. She also edits a newspaper for Latin enthusiasts. She is one of two Americans on the Primary Latin Project Committee, which helps promote the elementary teaching of the language in England.

Greta Felter, sociology, has worked for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for 16 years. She and her husband of 13 years, Alan, have a daughter, Allison, age 11.

Joya Fritsch Fields, English, has published more than 100 articles in her writing career. She is also an award-winning novelist specializing in works of romantic suspense.

Joseph Kirby, information systems, has been named assistant vice president for IT business systems at UMBC, which is responsible for all administrative IT applications including the multi-year PeopleSoft initiative to improve UMBC's finance, human resource and student administrative services.

Stephanie Reel, information systems, works for the Johns Hopkins health system, and was listed as one of *The Daily Record's* 2008 "Top 100 Women" winners.

Karen Johnson Shaheed, political science, was recently appointed to the Prince George's Hospital Authority.



Elizabeth Ann Cunningham '84, history, says, "My education helps me to get through life. There are always problems to solve."

1986

Wendy Windsor Ashburn, economics, is the owner of Windsor Association Management.

B. Kevin Gibbons-O'Neill, economics, writes that he met his wife of 17 years in front of the University Center on the first day of classes in 1983. He is an assistant athletic director at UMBC.

James Hayes-Bohanan, geography, is an associate professor at Bridgewater State College.

Stephanie Hill, economics, was named a recipient of the President's award by *Women of Color* magazine, IBM Corporation, and the National Women of Color Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Conference. She is a director for Lockheed Martin.

Kary Maiman Lawrence, modern languages and linguistics, has two children – Nicholas, age 6, and Dmitri, age 5.

Joan Jackson Nunley, M.A., instructional systems development, was named as a biographical candidate in the *Cambridge Who's Who Among Executive and Professional Women* in the 2007/2008 "Honors Edition" of that registry.

Robert Rainer, M.D., biological sciences, recently published a book entitled *A Doctor's Guide to Wealth*, available on Amazon.com. He is CEO of MyPregnancyPlace.

1987

Dwayne Davis, chemistry, is a chemist with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Josh Harris, history, practiced law for nearly ten years before changing careers and becoming a special education teacher. He is principal of a school for children with moderate to severe disabilities in Yuba City, Calif. He also teaches martial arts.

Matt McGloin '05, theatre



The list of required props for Irish dramatist Martin McDonagh's black comedy *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (2001) indicates just what murderous mayhem awaits its audience: "Dead black cat; Dead ginger cat; 3 guns; Wooden cross; Dismembered corpses."

By the end of *Inishmore*, both the stage and the actors are drenched in sanguinary slaughter. Yet the play is a comedy – absurd, hilarious, and aimed at stripping away the glory from Ireland's senseless sectarian violence.

In a much-acclaimed recent production of *Inishmore* by Northern Virginia's Signature Theatre, **Matthew McGloin '05, theatre**, garnered critical raves for his performance as Davey – a hapless lad trapped in a bloodbath set off by the death of a revolutionary sociopath's beloved cat. In the course of the play's events, Davey is bullied, tied up, shot (twice) and shorn of his long red locks. (The latter event horrifies him most of all.)

"He's such an innocent character," says McGloin. "He's the one who is really affected by the things that happen to him."

Actors may be tempted to play Davey as a village idiot-in-training, but McGloin chose a different path – portraying a young man so sensitive and single-minded that he is perpetually startled by any occurrence, mundane or malevolent.

McGloin gives credit to his director, Jeremy Skidmore, for locating Davey in a fog of daft dizziness.

"It's too easy," he says. "It's pandering to the seemingly obvious on the page. That he is stupid. I think he's just very invested at one thing at one moment in time, so invested that he misses things that might be picked up by other people. But he also picks up things that other people don't pick up on."

Inishmore held other challenges for McGloin and the rest of the cast. The play stretches the boundaries of realistic stage violence to their furthest limits, including multiple gunshots,

animals (live and dead), body parts, and buckets of blood.

"The whole gore aspect was difficult at first," McGloin says. "It was even physically uncomfortable, and would take me out of the scene."

The blood, he adds, was particularly difficult to navigate. "If it's too thin, it doesn't feel right," McGloin says. "If it's too thick, you feel covered in Jello."

McGloin has won a number of professional roles since graduating summa cum laude in 2005, including appearances at the Kennedy Center, the Folger Theater, Synetic Theatre and the Virginia Shakespeare Festival.

"I loved the Theater Department," McGloin says. "It was the first time I'd received formal training. It was a birth into the world of theater and finding out what it's like. ... Theater socialization is its own weird thing, because you work and play with the same people. And then it ends. And you go off and do it again. But your work is your play."

McGloin recalls that his first acting role at UMBC was in a March 2002 production of the Christopher Durang play, *The Baby with the Bathwater*. But he says that the range of productions in which he appeared as a student – including productions of Ionesco's *The Bald Soprano* and Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* – provided a challenging range of genre for a young actor.

"Surrealism, realism, absurdism, puppetry and Shakespeare," says McGloin. "That's a pretty good gamut as far as I'm concerned."

With *Inishmore* now a bloody memory, McGloin is now appearing at the Kennedy Center in a much cheerier production: *Unleashed: The Secret Lives of White House Pets*.

"I play a Chihuahua," says McGloin with a grin.

— Richard Byrne '86



Haven Shoemaker, Jr., political science, graduated from law school in 1992, and works as a solo practitioner in Hampstead. He was elected mayor of Hampstead in 2003 after six years on the town council, and was reelected mayor in 2007.

Marcia Thibodo, computer science, opened a retail bakery, Oh, What a Cake!, in Columbia.

Matthew White, '88, M.A. history, is working on his Ph.D. in history.

Jennifer Wilson, English, writes that her son, Adam Wilson, started his studies at UMBC in Fall 2008.

1988

Viola Hibbard, nursing, worked at the National Institutes of Health nursing department until 1993, and then as a scientific reviewer/nurse consultant for the Food and Drug Administration until her retirement in 2005.

Frank Roso, Jr., computer science, is married to Linda Moynihan Roso '88, **information systems management**. Together, they have two daughters, ages 9 and 4.

1989

Harry Ryan, mechanical engineering, is playing a critical role in rocket engine testing at NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center near Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Harry analyzes data for all of the test stands at Stennis' test complexes. He has also been involved at another large project at Stennis—work on the J-2X engine, which will power the upper stages of the Ares I and Ares V rockets, used in NASA's Constellation Program.

J. Thomas Sadowski, political science, has been named chief executive officer of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore. He previously served as business development director in Baltimore County and had been executive director of economic development for Harford County.

Susie Hartman Smith, mathematics, works at The Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. She is married with two daughters – 11 and 14 years old.

Lou Weber, economics, is an area telecommunications manager for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Research Service Center in Beltsville. He is responsible for over 7,000 acres of telecommunications services that support the department's mission.

1990

William Glover, information systems management, is the chief information officer and director of Information Technology for the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Michael Houska, economics, is a vice president with Bank of America. He and his wife, **Amy Leatherman Houska '90, social work**, have two daughters – Emily, 11, and Alyson, 8.

Martin Smith, M.P.R., '96 Ph.D., policy sciences, is a health policy analyst with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

1991

Kara Freeman, information systems, was recently named the interim CIO of the American Council on Education (ACE).

Kathy Chamos Reeder, information systems management, is the proprietor of the Hempen Hill BBQ Bar & Grill, in Hagerstown.

Jennifer Torgerson, philosophy, teaches philosophy at Coppin State University full-time, and at the Community College of Baltimore County part-time. She is a Ph.D. candidate in education at the College of Notre Dame.

Timothy Tosten, political science, is the executive officer of the Fogarty International Center at the National Institutes of Health.

Les Williams, theatre, is an actor and producer in Los Angeles. He has studied with Sanford Meisner and Martin Barter, and he worked with the Meisner Theatre Company. Les has also performed in television and film, including *Play the Game* with Andy Griffith, and a forthcoming film, *The Ghastly Love of Johnny X*. He was the executive producer of a 2007 film, *Kiss the Bride*, starring Tori Spelling, and he has since created a production company – Silver Lake Productions – where he is in pre-production on the film, *ReleVance*, for which he is also the co-writer.

Greg Cangialosi '96, English, poses with daughter Gabriella, born January 2, 2009.



1992

Deborah Abernathy Fiackos, social work, is a stay-at-home mom. She and her husband, **Greg Fiackos '92, mechanical engineering**, have two children – Emily, age 10, and Andrew, age 6.

Derek Letsch, English, is a teacher in the Baltimore County Public Schools.

Tamara L. Lewis, psychology, works at the Maryland State Department of Education. She has completed an M.A. in counseling and a Ph.D. in education administration. The university is proud to have Tamara as a member of UMBC's Alumni Board of Directors and its Chapter of Black and Latino Alumni.

1993

Brandon Bonanno, chemical engineering, is vice president of Jacobs Environmental, an environmental and engineering consulting firm in Towson. He and his wife, Holly, have two children – Abigail, age 3, and Dominic, age 1.

Beth Sutton Czyryca, psychology, has taught high school chemistry for 12 years.

James McElligott, economics, is a tax attorney practicing in Virginia Beach, Va.

Richard Sober, American studies, is a painter living in Pecos, N.M. He is working on an extended project including words and images to describe various attributes of a particular time and place.

1994

Thomas Caughy, English, earned a black belt in karate from the Japan Karate Association.

Tessa Van Der Snick Hickey, psychology, is a practicing registered nurse and a physical therapist assistant. She is also the mother of two-and-a-half year old Reese, with another child expected soon.

Stephen M. Marz, M.A., history was recently named a certified archivist by the Academy of Certified Archivists. He is the deputy director of the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

Timothy Ryerson, interdisciplinary studies, recently began a master's of arts management program at the University of Redlands in Redlands, Calif. He hopes to complete that degree in 2010.

1995

Nikhil Bijlani, mathematics, was recently named vice president and controller of Harvest Bank of Maryland.

Christopher Rudolf, social work, has worked at Charlestown Retirement Community as a social worker for nearly 14 years. While working full-time, he attended grad school at the University of Maryland Baltimore and graduated with his M.S.W. in 1999.

Kathryn Seifert, Ph.D., psychology, has written and published three books: *How Children Become Violent*; *CARE 2: Chronic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment*; and *Relax, Your Life May Depend On It: A Guided Journal for Managing Stress* (howchildrenbecomeviolent.com).

Judith F. Osei Tutu, interdisciplinary studies, has organized "A Taste of Ghana" at the Afro American Cultural Center for the Charlotte Sister Cities organization in Charlotte, N.C., for the past three years.

1996

Yolanda Abel, M.A. instructional systems development, is an assistant professor in the department of Teacher Preparation at The Johns Hopkins University School of Education. Her areas of interest include human development, diversity and family engagement.

Celeste Bland, social work, earned her master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland Baltimore in 1997.

Greg Cangialosi, English, and his wife, Theresa, are the proud new parents of Gabriella Nichol Cangialosi, born on January 2, 2009. Greg, who is president of Blue Sky Factory in Baltimore, is a member of the UMBC Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Michael Carlin, biological sciences, '03, M.S. information systems, has been named assistant vice president for the infrastructure and support services department, which is responsible for all IT hardware, software, network, security, and help desk services at UMBC.

Joseph B. (Ben) Greene, philosophy, is an attorney with Exparte, Inc. in New York City.

Ian Mitnick, information systems management, is a digital archiver in a medical doctor's office. He also plays drums for fun and has formed a jazz duo called "Gosh Joss" with his 4-year-old nephew.



Jim Lord '99, visual arts, cradles daughter Elaina, born January 19, 2009.

1997

William J. Dunne, '98, M.S. emergency health services, is director of emergency preparedness for the University of California, Los Angeles, Medical Center. He and his wife, Fiona, have two daughters – Elle, age 4, and Lauren, age 3.

Loretto Gubernatis, English, published a book about werewolves, banshees, vampires and ghosts entitled *Ghosts 'N Things*.

Rachel Isenberg Miller, sociology, married on November 1, 2008.

Angela Panak, psychology, is a full-time mom living in Red Lion, Pa. Previously, she worked for Diamond Comic Distributors, where she met her husband, Steve. Raising their two sons – Holden, age 2, and Brodie, age 1 – is “the most challenging job I’ve faced, but the most fulfilling,” she said.

Tina Vinzinski Stanczewski, English, earned her J.D. from the University of Baltimore in May 2008 and passed the Maryland Bar Exam later that summer. She and her husband, Stan, live in Owings Mills.

Shannon Tucker, visual arts, was appointed assistant dean of instructional design and technology at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

Shannon Spence Weimert, '00 M.S., mechanical engineering, is an Aerospace Engineer at NAVAIR Patuxent River, working on Secondary Power Engines for the Navy's rotary fleet.

1998

Jessica Contreras, social work, a member of the Esperanza Committee, just started a new job as the Hispanic/Latino liaison to the mayor. She often accompanies the mayor or is the mayor's representative in programs and events that involve the Hispanic/Latino community.

Kristine Bartfeld Csyk, psychology, is working as a behavior specialist consultant in York, Pa. She received her master's in clinical psychology from Loyola College in Maryland in 2000. She and her husband, Kevin (who she married in 2001), have a daughter, Sara, age 3.

Catherine Hiebler, interdisciplinary studies, retired from her job at the Social Security Administration on January 2, 2009, after 39 and a half years.

Juanita Carol Johnson Stringer, political science, is a paralegal for legislative and congressional affairs for a non-profit foundation in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Thomas Young, history, earned his J.D. from the Pennsylvania State University, Dickinson School of Law, in 2001, and passed the Maryland and D.C. bar exams. He and his wife, Sandy, have four sons ages 6, 4, 2 and four months.

1999

Renee Brozic Barger, dance, earned her M.F.A. in dance from George Mason University, was co-director of a dance company called Movement Addiction, and is now the director of the Howard Community College dance program.

Kara Lee Corthron, theatre, received the 2008 Princess Grace Award for Playwriting. She was also hired as a staff writer for “*Kings*,” a new hour-long drama set to debut on NBC in February 2009.

Elizabeth Johnson, history, is a department chair at Mount de Sales Academy.

Andre Gudger, information systems management, founder and owner of Solvren Solutions, was named one of *Smart CEO Magazine's* “Future 50,” which recognizes the top 50 companies in the Baltimore region for their significant growth by employees and revenue. The company is housed at the bwtech@UMBC research park.

Jim Lord, visual arts, and his wife, Kate, are the proud new parents of Elaina Catherine Lord, born on January 19, 2009.

Brooke Stiles Neugebauer, visual arts, married in 2006 and had her first child, Gavin, in February 2008. She has worked in the advertising/printing/publishing fields since graduating, and currently works for a web-to-print company from home.

Mike Oehlers, visual arts, is senior graphic designer for a hospital in Maryland. He and his wife enjoy traveling and photographing various small towns, people and landscapes of America in their spare time.

Kelly Strain Simer, geography and environmental systems, has worked as a senior academic advisor at UMBC since graduating from UMBC. She and her husband, Greg, have two girls – Payton, 4, and Delaney, 2.

2000

Joshua Budich, visual & performing arts, married his college sweetheart Victoria Leftwich Budich '05, psychology, who he met their sophomore year at UMBC. They are the proud parents of a 10-month old boy, Jack. Victoria works as an investigator for the federal government in Washington, D.C., and Joshua works as a multimedia designer for a design company in Columbia. He also owns an art-print company and sells his artwork online at www.joshuabudich.com.

Meredith Exler, dance, teaches at Loiderman Middle School, an arts magnet middle school in Montgomery County.

Maribel Cabrera Ibrahim, M.S. engineering management, is a full-time mom living in Severna Park, where she is also the president of the MOMS Club, a daytime support group for stay-at-home mothers. She also works as a freelance writer and independent consultant.

Matt Levy, emergency health services, has been named chief resident in emergency medicine at Johns Hopkins.

Emma Ntang Monie, social work, worked as psychological rehab therapist at a mental health clinic after graduation. She now works at Catholic Charities as a program manager for mentally and physically challenged persons. She has also started a graduate program.

Joseph Morales, biochemistry and molecular biology, is a patent attorney in Baltimore.

Shaye Rudisill-Baraka, psychology, recently welcomed a baby girl named Anya Kailer Baraka.

2001

Ebony Lindsley Leggitts, psychology, married in June 2008. She is enrolled in the nursing program at Howard University.

Juan José Martínez-Sierra, M.A., intercultural communication, is a professor at the University of Murcia in Spain.

Melodee Baines '02, modern languages & linguistics, shows family photographs to two friends in Amman, Jordan.



Eric Messner, acting, has toured the U.S. with National Players as Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and toured Ireland for three months with the Keegan Theatre in *Death of a Salesman*. He has appeared at Theatre Alliance, The Shakespeare Theatre, and the Olney Theatre Center. He co-founded The Unmentionable Theatre with other UMBC alumni, and is a company member at Solas Nua. Eric also had a role in the fifth season of HBO's *The Wire*.

Yvonne Njage, biological sciences, attended Harvard Medical School and is currently finishing her residency in internal medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital.

Maria Roxanne Reyes, psychology and ancient studies, works as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Maryland Court of Special Appeals. A former assistant director of athletic communications at UMBC, she still helps to record statistics at the UMBC men's and women's basketball home games.

Jason Smythe, information systems management, is working in the IT field at Andrews Air Force Base.

2002

Jessica Amato, dance, has danced and worked as a personal trainer in New York City, and was recently admitted to physical therapy school in Delaware.

Stuart Dailey, music, is making music his career playing the saxophone in his jazz duo, Majestic Notes (majesticnotesmusic.com).

Evan Davidson, dance, has performed with several dance companies, worked as a personal trainer, and is applying to physical therapy school.

Jason Dixon, computer engineering, is a communications systems engineer in the Northrop Grumman IT-TASC organization.

Jennica Lee, dance, lived in New York City, performed with Disney in Tokyo for a year and is now dancing in Las Vegas.

Matthew Lee, economics, works at the Baltimore office of PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP.

Myrica Riddick, interdisciplinary studies, moved to Atlanta, Ga., and started an urban marketing business. She also works full time as a Web designer for Lockheed Martin as a Center for Disease Control contractor.

Michael Graham '84, M.P.S.



Last year, **Michael Graham '84, M.P.S.**, was thinking about retirement as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Naval Reserves.

After more than two decades in the reserves, Graham had risen to the rank of commander. And he did so as he built a successful career as a senior lobbyist for the American Dental Association.

The Navy, however, had other ideas.

"Last spring," recalls Graham, "when I announced that I was about to retire, they said, 'No, not quite. We've got one last trip for you. You're going to Iraq.'"

Graham was deployed to Iraq in May of 2008 as an intelligence officer, but quickly found a new position at the Joint Task Force on Law and Order — a collaborative effort between the U.S. military and the Department of Justice to help build the capacity of Iraq's government to investigate cases involving terrorism and major crimes and then bring them to trial.

Building that capacity, Graham says, involved working closely with judges and introducing contemporary investigative techniques — including the capability to gather and analyze forensic evidence and use it in trials.

The task force also had another ambitious goal: clearing an immense docket of thousands of Iraqi detainees arrested over the past few years by Iraqi and U.S.-led coalition forces. Graham says that the acceleration in the tempo of adjudicated cases has led to faster due process, a substantial number of acquittals, and a rise in public trust in the new Iraqi courts.

As chief of staff of the task force, Graham was the third-ranking officer in the effort, which has its headquarters at a U.S. military base five miles from the international "Green Zone" in central Baghdad. The compound is situated on the edge of the volatile Sadr City neighborhood, which is a stronghold of the radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al Sadr.

"There are only two ways to get there — you get in a heavily armed convoy or you take a helicopter," he says. "It's a fairly dangerous place."

Graham says that the task force worked long hours seven days a week (with time off on Sundays for religious services). As chief of staff, he split his time with judges — who were also housed on the base for their own safety — and with investigators.

"We had quite a few judges living there in what we called the Laguna Apartments," he says. "They worried for their lives. There had been — soon before my arrival — five assassination attempts on judges, two of which were successful."

Graham's work with Iraqi investigators often took him out onto the mean streets of Baghdad. "You were traveling with various [military police] units to go to police stations, sites where incidents occurred to look at the area, and even to collect evidence."

Graham's deployment with the task force ended in November of last year. In his six months in Iraq, he says that he saw immense progress in both the justice system and in public attitudes to investigations.


"As time went on," he says, "we saw the level of cooperation increase dramatically. It has to do perhaps with the Iraqi people being a little tired of their lives being in danger from day to day. They're tired of war. They're tired of a foul economy."

Graham also says that momentum had been gained in building an infrastructure for Iraq's legal system. A new courthouse on the compound where he was stationed began hearing cases ahead of a scheduled ribbon-cutting ceremony for its opening.

"They took complete ownership of that," Graham observes. "There's a lot of pride... Iraqis say that we don't need you to hold our hand."

On the U.S. side, Graham points to a successful trial and guilty verdict in a high-profile case that involved the kidnapping, killing and mutilation of two U.S. soldiers in 2006. The guilty verdict and death sentence for one of the three suspects arrested in the case that came down from an Iraqi court in late October was a milestone in Iraqi justice, he says, in part because of the key role that the new investigative techniques played in the conviction. Forensic evidence, he observes, "helped find the individual who was responsible for this crime."

Graham believes that the work accomplished in Iraq will not fall apart as the United States withdraws its combat forces in the next few years.

"You can't force Iraqis," he observes. "It's their country. But you can show the benefits of improving the justice system, and making it more streamlined, more efficient, and eventually more effective." 

— Richard Byrne '86

Paula Whittington '01, biological sciences



Talk to **Paula Whittington '01, biological sciences**, and you might not guess that she's a researcher who's getting potentially life-saving results. Modest and soft-spoken, the former Meyerhoff scholar recently published the findings from experiments that could help thousands of women with breast cancer.

In her research, Whittington has shown that a form of vaccination using DNA can treat breast cancers that are resistant to other drugs. Her research was done on mice, but if the vaccine works similarly in people, it could give hope to women whose cancers either did not shrink when treated, or whose cancers have come back despite initial treatment success.

Whittington did that research at Wayne State University, where she is a student in the M.D./Ph.D. program. She published it along with her co-workers and her advisor, Wei-Zen Wei, in September in the journal *Cancer Research*. Whittington defended her dissertation in late 2007 and is now finishing her medical degree – which she hopes to complete in 2010.

The joy in discovery is not just in the brainstorming, says Whittington, but in the process of testing and winnowing that accompanies it.

"I like the creative aspect of research, the idea of coming up with something and then testing it to prove it right or wrong. Then it's really cool that you might actually see a benefit in patients," she says. "Even just the hope of it is really cool."

Whittington already has impressed other scientists with her persistence and intelligence. "She's a very hard worker," says Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg, a professor of biological sciences at UMBC. "She just keeps trying and going for things. She's smart and things work out for her."

Whittington did research as an undergraduate in the laboratory of Angela Brodie, a professor of pharmacology at the University of Maryland Greenebaum Cancer Center. Brodie says that Whittington "had a spark about her" and impressed her by keeping in touch even after finishing her laboratory work.

"Paula has a lively, thinking mind," agrees her dissertation adviser, Wei. "She has a lot of interesting ideas."

It was during her work in Wei's laboratory that Whittington decided to take a cancer vaccine that her adviser has been working on since 1996 and see whether it works for tumors that are resistant to other treatments.

The vaccine is simply DNA injected into a muscle. The cells of the organism – mouse or human – then go to work making the protein encoded by the DNA, thereby alerting the immune system to the protein. Since it is the same protein that is overproduced by cancer cells, the organism's immune system then attacks any cells that have that protein.

About a quarter of breast cancers produce too much of a protein called Her2, which instructs the cancer cells to grow. Tumors that produce Her2 grow and spread more quickly than do other breast cancers, and patients with so-called Her2-positive tumors tend to die sooner.

Their best treatment option is a drug called Herceptin, which shuts down the Her2 protein. But Herceptin works for only a small fraction of Her2-positive tumors – and even those tumors that do shrink sometimes come back after the cancer cells become resistant to the treatment.

So Whittington, Wei, and their co-workers were delighted to discover that a DNA vaccine saved mice that had breast-cancer cells injected into their sides, regardless of whether the cells were resistant to other therapies.

Wei's vaccine has already undergone one small clinical trial, performed by researchers in Sweden, to test its safety. It had no adverse effects, Wei says. "They are planning another trial as we speak."

But Whittington has moved on – for now – to patient care in medical school. As she learns about internal medicine, surgery, and other specialties, she now ponders her future options.

"There are an infinite number of paths you can take," she says. "Strictly clinical? Strictly research? Both? Which field?"

Regardless, she's not likely to lose touch with faculty members that have discussed her research with her, mentored her, or taught her. Good at making scientific allies, Whittington keeps them abreast of her work, even from afar.

"I want them to know how I'm doing and that I'm working really hard," she says. "As appreciation for them taking the time to invest in me."

— Lila Guterman

2003

Sarah Andrews, ancient studies, recently launched Sundragon Editing, a freelance editorial service (www.sundragonediting.com).

Valerie Watkins Barbare, geography, received her master's in elementary education from the University of Phoenix in November 2008. She teaches third grade in Tucson, Ariz.

William Crockett, M.A. instructional systems design, has taught in the Baltimore City Public Schools system since graduating. He currently teaches fourth grade English and social studies at Curtis Bay Elementary School.

Janice Doyle, political science, retired in January 2007. "I am loving every minute of it," she says.

Traci Dunn, interdisciplinary studies, has taken a tenure-track position as an assistant professor at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif.

Allyson Gebken, modern language & linguistics and dance, is a teacher at Loiderman Middle School, an arts magnet middle school in Montgomery County.

Kevin Higman, political science, is currently working for Citizen and Immigration Services as a district adjudications officer in Memphis, Tenn.

Lisa Marie Harrison Howard, visual arts, works as a user interface developer and a data analyst.

Kristen Rynning Mahoney, psychology, writes that she married Brendan Mahoney on April 5, 2008.

Matt Nelson, emergency health services, has been accepted into the emergency medicine residence program at Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital.

Erin Barata Ouslander, visual arts, married Matthew Ouslander '01, information systems management, in April 2008. She is a print designer in the Creative Services office at UMBC.

Jessica Philips, M.A. psychology gave birth to her daughter, Charlotte, in June 2008. She is program director for Commonwealth Autism Service in Virginia.

Brad Siskind, political science and economics, has graduated from Syracuse Law School. He is currently working for the Department of Agriculture covering both employment discrimination cases and cases before the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Luke Smart, ancient studies, graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and is currently in a four year residency program in internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of Rochester. This past year, he traveled to Southeast Asia to do medical work in rural Bangladesh with the Presbyterian Church in America.



Erin Barata Ouslander '03, visual arts, and Matt Ouslander '01, information systems management, married in Baltimore last year.

Erin Sullivan, psychology, completed her master's in social work from the University of Maryland. She is currently a social worker for the Baltimore County Department of Social Services in child protective services.

Jennifer Vess, history, graduated from University of Delaware with a degree in history and a certification in museum studies. She is currently a curatorial assistant and the Jewish Museum of Maryland.

2004

Chioma Akaigwe, biochemistry and molecular biology, works full-time at Qiagen and attends The Johns Hopkins University part-time, earning a master's degree in bioscience regulatory affairs. Her twin sister, **Nkoli Akaigwe,** graduated from UMBC in 2005 with a degree in economics.

Courtney Smith Breece, health administration & policy, had a baby girl, Adelaide Elizabeth Breece, on September 1, 2008.

Kevin Cox, political science, earned his master's in public policy from UMBC in 2006. He has also graduated from University of Baltimore Law School, and is beginning as an associate in the litigation department of Semmes, Bowen, & Semmes.

Bernadette Cullen, political science and sociology, graduated from Millersville University with an M.B.A. in international business. She is currently in the final year of her M.S. in international development at Tanzania University. This spring, she plans to travel to Tanzania to study international health and education.

Alycia Downs, interdisciplinary studies, graduated with a master's in public health from Emory University. She works at McKing Consulting as a contractor for the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta as a health communications specialist working with clinicians on emergency preparedness and response issues.

Amie Ferchak Frisbie, sociology, gave birth to a son, Luke Frisbie, in November 19, 2008.

Erin O'Connell, political science, graduated from the University of Maryland Law School, and is currently working in Upper Marlboro as a staff attorney for House of Ruth, where she represents victims of intimate partner violence in protective order cases.

Claire Patterson, English, has worked as the assistant editor to *AmericanStyle* and *NICHE* magazines, both based in Baltimore, since 2005. Her little sister, Hannah, will attend UMBC in 2009.

Thomas Pilkerton, political science, graduated from the University of Baltimore Law School, and is currently an associate at DLA Piper US LLP in the corporate and securities group.

John Poling, information systems management, works for a financial company as a senior programmer analyst. His wife, **Julie Frias Poling '02, '04, M.S. information systems management,** works for a health insurance company as a lead business analyst.

Melanie Tran Stuckey, M.A. education, is expecting a baby boy in January 2009.

Alicia Wilson, political science, graduated from the University of Maryland Law School as a Truman Scholar. She is beginning her career at the law firm of Gordon Feinblatt, and is working as a coach for Baltimore Freedom Academy's mock trial team for the third year.

2005

Sheg Aranmolate, biochemistry and molecular biology, '06, M.S., applied molecular biology, appeared on the ABC television show, "Oprah's Big Give," as a contestant. He is the author of *iACTUATE*, a collection of 100 short stories containing subtle philosophical and inspirational undertones. He lives in Nashville, Tenn.

Mundia Chitambala, biological sciences, is a medical technologist at Quest Diagnostics in Baltimore.

Dominic Cirincione, political science and sociology, received his master's in public policy from UMBC in 2007, and is currently enrolled at University of Maryland Law School, where is a member of the *Journal for Health Care Law and Policy*.

Cristal Cooper, dance, is pursuing her Ph.D. in physical therapy in Maine.

Melissa Dunn Corkum, mechanical engineering, is in the process of adopting a two-year-old boy from South Korea with her husband **Patrick Corkum '00, computer science.** They have two other children – PJ, age 5, and Mia, age 3.

Nicole Finkbeiner, psychology, graduated with a master's from the University of Maryland, College Park in marriage and family therapy. She is continuing on for a Ph.D. in family science, working with a research study looking at the availability, affordability, and accessibility of fruits and vegetables in rural and low income areas.

Jennifer Anderson Foresta, ancient studies and history, married in 2007 and had a daughter in 2008. She works for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management as an investigations technician.

Sandra Harney, history, retired from full-time employment with the Baltimore City Public Schools, taking on contractual assignments from time to time "to keep my mind active and my skills razor-sharp," she says.

Al Wafa'a Salim Khatib, biological sciences, is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Virginia. She expects to graduate in May, and plans a residency in anesthesiology.

Anna Korovina, chemistry, is pursuing a Ph.D. at the George Washington University. She works at the Naval Research Laboratory.

Toniann Laurenza, American studies, graduated from The Johns Hopkins University in 2006 with an M.A. in teaching. She now teaches kindergarten in Butler, Penn.

Erum Marfani, mathematics, is completing a master's in statistics at UMBC and is teaching courses at UMBC and other community colleges.

Colin McGuigan, history, is pursuing a master's degree in religious studies at St. Charles Seminary, and hopes to proceed to a doctorate in fundamental or historical theology. A Sondheim alumnus, Colin married fellow Sondheim scholar **Amber Sampson McGuigan '06, social work and economics.** Amber completed her master's in social work at Catholic University and is a school social worker for Catholic Charities in Camden, NJ. Their first child, Maura Louis McGuigan, was born on June 29, 2008.

Aaron Merki, political science, graduated from the University of Maryland Law School. He is currently clerking for Judge Susan Gauey of the U.S. Federal Court in Baltimore, and has taken his bar exam. He helped create FreeState Law Project, a legal clinic focused on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender legal issues in Baltimore.

Kim Montenyohl, English, has been admitted to the library science programs at Illinois and Syracuse.

Robert Morris, economics, is beginning University of Maryland Law School.

Sean O'Keefe, political science, is studying for his J.D. at the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Jamie Pototschnik, interdisciplinary studies, is working as an assistant teacher in kindergarten in York, Penn., where she and her husband are remodeling their home.

Alicia Ritgert, dance and psychology, performed with Disney for a year and is starting her graduate degree in psychology.

April Trociuk, biological sciences, works as a purification technician, level II, at Medimmune in Frederick.

Sam John, political science, is beginning his Ph.D. program at UCLA in sociology and demography.

Elina Mavashev, political science and dance, is a dancer in New York.

Lindsay Phebus, dance and psychology, is finishing her master's in counseling at Loyola College and plans to get a Ph.D. in psychology. She also plans to perform with several dance companies in the Baltimore/Washington area.

Thelma Purdie, history, works for the Transportation Security Administration.

Jessica Richards, psychology, is in the clinical psychology doctoral program at University of Maryland, College Park. She is working at the Center for Addiction, Personality, and Emotion Research (CAPER).

Roshan Soni, computer engineering, is working for an IT consulting company in Chicago, Ill.

Chris Stanton, emergency health services, is a continuity of operations analyst for an aerospace firm (a.i. solutions). He is currently assigned to work at NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Steven Stone, chemistry, earned his master's degree in inorganic chemistry from the University of Washington. He is working as a forensic scientist with the Washington State Patrol.

Erin Travis, visual arts, works as a freelance photographer and also coaching basketball at the Friends School of Baltimore. Her photography work is online at www.crintravis.com.

Andrea Clark, political science, is pursuing a master's in public policy at Duke University. She interned this past summer at the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in Washington, D.C. on the financial markets and community investment team.

Valerie Dettmer, biochemistry and molecular biology, has recently married, and works for Panacos Pharmaceuticals researching better drugs to treat HIV.

Jennifer Jones Dulski, English, works as a facility liaison for a nursing home. She was married in November, 2008.

Lisa Fecteau, dance, lives in L.A., teaches dance, and performs with Faux Pas Dance Company.

DeArndra Hendricks, American studies, is pursuing an M.S. in human service administration health systems management from the University of Baltimore, with plans to later earn her doctorate. She also models.

Monica Jimeno, psychology, is pursuing a master's in speech-language pathology at Loyola College.

Cheryl Knott, geography and environmental systems, was recently promoted to GIS analyst for the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance at the University of Baltimore. She recently returned to UMBC as a graduate student in the geography and environmental systems program.

Lanah Clinton Koelle, ancient studies, works at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C. In May, she will graduate from the University of Maryland at College Park with a master's in library sciences.

Dimitra Kontokosta, chemistry, is pursuing Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

2006

Lakshmi Balaji, English, is a graduate student in the communications department at Villanova University. She plans to work in public policy and communication.

Amy Baumgarten, dance, is a dancer in New York.

Sara Gray Bradley, American studies, was married in 2007. She had her first son, Ben, in October 2008.

David Chapman, '08, M.S. computer science, received the distinguished NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship award for his proposal entitled, "climate studies using the EOS aqua satellite radiance data records." The award is for three years and carries a maximum amount of \$30,000.

Kyra Wilson Cook, political science and secondary education, graduated from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education with a master's degree in Learning and Teaching. Kyra married the love of her life in 2008, and is now teaching amazing students at Roxbury Prep Charter School in Roxbury, Mass.

Thomas M. Dance, Jr., political science, recently published his first book of poems, *The Ethos of Nature*. According to *PublishAmerica*, the book is "a linguistically liberal book of poetry... a glimpse into the worlds of man, beast, plant, and planet in a style certain to capture the imagination."

Nicole DeBlase, financial economics, works on Wall Street at Deutsche Bank, amidst the financial crisis. She works in equity research, focusing on multi industry stocks.

Judith Faucette, history, is in her final year of law school at the University of Iowa. Following graduation, she plans to work in international gay and lesbian human rights. In March 2009, she will present a paper on global sexual orientation law at an academic conference to be held at UCLA.

Kristen Friend, dance, is in physical therapy school.

Lucas Hanyok, visual arts, was hired by The Cyphers Agency as a graphic designer.

Grant Huang, political science, covers healthcare issues as a business journalist in Washington, D.C.

2007

Nancy An, visual arts, works as a graphic designer for CDR Fundraising Group in Bowie.

Brian Bailey, political science, was elected chairman of the Baltimore County Democratic Central Committee.

Daniel Bryant, mechanical engineering, works as a system engineer for GSE Systems in Eldersburg.

Christy Bullman, health and public policy and social work, earned a master's degree in social work and was awarded the Graduate Social Work Student of the Year by NASW-MD. In 2008 she started working for Civic Works and enrolled in UMBC's management of aging services program.

Frank Butler, chemistry, is a research associate with Sterilix Corporation.

Nicole Carbonaro, chemistry, is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Maryland, College Park, in atmospheric chemistry.

Kyra Wilson Cook '06, political science and secondary education, married her husband, Eugene, last year.





DeArndra Hendricks '07, American studies, is pursuing a master's degree and models on the side.

Ilavazhagan Ilagnayeru, financial economics, is a Financial Services Representative at MetLife, where he is providing planning and protection services for his clients.

Elizabeth Le, biochemistry and molecular biology, is a medical student at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Joe Maher, environmental studies and political science, spent time in Santiago, Chile researching sustainable development policies as a Fulbright Scholar. He is currently a research analyst for Resources for the Future and is applying to Ph.D. programs in economics. This past summer, he married fellow Sontheim alum, **Rachel Aliberti Maher '07, psychology and modern languages & linguistics.** Rachel works at Kennedy Krieger Institute in the neurobehavioral outpatient clinic as she finishes her master's in applied behavior analysis at UMBC.

Carrie Miller Mann, political science, is pursuing a master's degree in the college student development and counseling program at Northeastern University in Boston, MA.

Laura Kalb Maragni, M.A. education, and her husband, Michael, welcomed a baby girl, Isela Gabrielle, into the world in January 2008.

Lisa McAllister, English, is a publicist at Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group.

Allen McFarland, political science and economics, works as a legislative correspondent for Congressman John Dingell. He is beginning his master's in public policy at George Washington University this fall.

Kristen Moorby, American studies, works for ESPN. She also attends the University of Baltimore/Towson University joint MBA program, specializing in sports management.

Aaron Moss '07, theatre, is pursuing a master's of fine arts in acting from the Yale School of Drama on a full scholarship. Since graduation, he has filmed a commercial and recorded a voice-over for the anthology, *Santi: Lives of Modern Saints*. At Yale, he has worked on *Richard II* with the Yale Repertory Theatre, as well as productions of *A Women of No Importance* and *Dancing in the Dark*. Aaron also appeared in the *Taming of the Shrew*, *Titus Andronicus*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival.

Catherine Pulupa, ancient studies and modern languages & linguistics, plans to head to South America to teach. She is currently working at a language testing company, and also teaching ESOL at night. She has also worked as a substitute teacher and at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

Elsy Parada-Monteil Rosette, social work, is pursuing a master's of social work with a clinical concentration and specialization in aging at the University of Maryland Baltimore.

Brian Rudell, theatre, is sound supervisor and assistant technical director for the Kennedy Center Theatre for Young Audience on Tour.

Mike Wiacek, M.S. computer science, is a software engineer working on Google's information security team, where he develops App Engine applications which enable developers to build large scale web applications on Google's hardware and software infrastructure. Prior to working at Google, Mike was a software and network security analyst for the National Security Agency in Ft. Meade.

Shannan Williams, political science, is studying public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. This past summer, she worked as a mayoral fellow for the City of Chicago, as well as chairwoman for the Harvard Black Policy Conference at Harvard Kennedy School.

Greg Winger, history and political science, is working as a military awards research analyst for Serco, Inc. He is looking to apply to Ph.D. programs in international security studies.

Laurel Wright, biochemistry and molecular biology, and psychology, is pursuing a master's degree in public health at George Washington University, and is also working full time in the pharmaceutical industry.

Wes Bittner, ancient studies, is studying at CCBC in Catonsville toward his geospatial applications certificate.

Nicholas Boss, psychology, is a human resources specialist with the United States Army.

Fran Cirincione, political science and economics, is a budget analyst with the Social Security Administration.

Malini Ganvir, political science, is a student at University of Baltimore Law School, and is a paralegal with the State Highway Administration under the Office of the Attorney General.

Amanda Gonnissen, psychology, is working in the UMBC Alumni House as the annual giving coordinator.

Rebecca Holsinger, biochemistry and molecular biology, recently deployed to Denver, Colo., to work on her first service project with the National Civilian Community Corps and AmeriCorps program.

Ashley Leonard, ancient studies and modern languages & linguistics, has been working as a substitute teacher for Latin at Mt. Hebron High School in Columbia. She has been hired to teach German there next year. She has also been accepted to the classics graduate program at University of Maryland, College Park.

Debora Lin, chemical engineering, has been offered the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

Tara Ludwikowski, visual arts, designed the logo and signage for a new Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School. "It was one of the most rewarding things I've ever done," she says.

Erin Mathews, American studies, is a student at University of Baltimore Law School.

Melissa Minogue, political science, is pursuing a master's in international relations from University of Chicago. She also works for American Model United Nations.

Christine Powers, history, is pursuing a master's in public history at UMBC.

Katerina Rohonyan, computer science, recently placed third at the 2008 U.S. Women's Chess Championship, and hopes to make the U.S. Women's Olympiad team. She is currently working for Microsoft.

Katie Schmitt, political science, is pursuing a master's in public policy at University of Maryland, College Park.

Brady Walker, political science, is a student at University of Baltimore Law School.

Jessica Young, political science, is pursuing a master's in health promotion management at American University.

2008

Shannon Abell, political science, is a student at University of Baltimore Law School.

Sarah Aichele, financial economics, is finishing her master's in public policy at UMBC and is working for the Social Security Administration.

Friends We Will Miss

Collin J. Bowen '05, computer science, died on March 14, 2008 as a result of wounds he suffered in Afghanistan. On January 2, 2008, the vehicle in which he was riding struck a roadside bomb in that country's Khost Province. Bowen was a sergeant first class in the United States Army, and he was assigned to the 1st Battalion of the 175th Infantry Regiment of the Maryland Army National Guard. At commencement ceremonies in May 2005, UMBC's president Freeman A. Hrabowski, III recognized Bowen's determination to finish his degree despite multiple overseas deployments. He was also the recipient of the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. Bowen is survived by his wife, **Ursula Bowen '02, M.A.**, intercultural communications, a daughter (Gabriela) from that marriage, and two daughters from a previous marriage (Erin and Katelyn).

Louis Cantori, professor emeritus of political science, passed away on May 12, 2008. He joined the department in 1972, and was an internationally-renowned expert in Middle East politics and policy. His sons, **M. Gregory Cantori '84, geography** and **Eric L. Cantori '86, computer science**, and other family members have created a new athletics scholarship – the Lou Cantori Club Sport Athlete of the Year – to honor his love for and service as faculty advisor to UMBC's crew team. The first award was formally bestowed at UMBC's 2008 Homecoming.

Jamie Heard '09, died in his sleep at UMBC's Erickson Hall on April 27, 2008. Heard was a Meyerhoff Scholar (M17) pursuing a degree in biological sciences. Friends and staff at UMBC recall him as an upbeat young man who worked in the university's Residential Life organization and was an avid reader, pianist and poet.

Michael T. Johnson '91, M.A. history, passed away on December 9, 2008. Johnson earned a Ph.D. in American history from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 2002. He taught American history and Baltimore City history courses at UMBC, including a class in the fall 2008 semester. He also taught courses at Towson University and Coppin State University. His research on antebellum Baltimore found "a vast gulf between white Baltimoreans' imagery of African Americans and the way that the free black population of the city conducted their lives."

Phillip Neil Phillips '73, biological sciences, died on March 2, 2008.

Alan M. Scherr '85, visual and performing arts – photography, and his daughter Naomi were among the Americans killed in the terrorist attacks at the Oberoi Hotel in Mumbai, India, on November 26, 2008. Scherr taught photography at UMBC in the 1980s and at Loyola College of Maryland in the 1990s while working as a freelance photographer. For many years, Scherr was closely associated with the Synchronicity Foundation – a non-profit, non-sectarian, spiritual and educational organization – and served as its president.

John Sibiski '74, history, passed away on October 17, 2008.

Jane Suss '95, social work, passed away due to cancer on October 28, 2008.

Tobin T. Triebel '92, emergency health services, passed away on November 7, 2008. Triebel was a first sergeant with the Maryland State Police Aviation Command.

KARYN S. BERGMANN, et al., Plaintiff Class Representatives, Plaintiff Class Members,

v.

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND, et al. Defendants.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MARYLAND FOR BALTIMORE CITY

Civil Case No. 24-C-02-005740

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MARYLAND FOR BALTIMORE CITY ABOUT A CLASS ACTION INVOLVING A TUITION REFUND THAT YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE

A class action has been certified by the Circuit Court of Maryland for Baltimore City and steps have been taken by the parties to notify all class members of their rights and involvement in the case. The class action seeks partial tuition refunds for students charged out-of-state tuition after applying for in-state tuition at any one of the following University System of Maryland ("USM") schools: (1) University of Maryland, Baltimore; (2) University of Maryland, Baltimore County; (3) University of Maryland, College Park; (4) University of Maryland, Eastern Shore; (5) University of Maryland, University College; (6) Bowie State University; (7) Coppin State University; (8) Frostburg State University; (9) Salisbury State University; (10) Towson University; and (11) University of Baltimore. Students who qualify as members of the class include those who: (1) petitioned any USM school for re-classification from out-of-state status to in-state status for any semester from the Spring 2001 to the present, and (2) were denied in-state tuition status based upon a failure to overcome the "financial dependence" or "residence at application" presumptions of the relevant USM policies, but otherwise met the requirements of the policy and the school's procedures for obtaining in-state tuition status, including exhaustion of the institution's administrative process. Class members are entitled to have the original decision to charge out-of-state tuition reconsidered by the institution, based upon revised standards for determining how these presumptions should apply (Those standards may be found at www.usmd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionVIII/VIII270). Depending upon the results of that review, you may be eligible for a refund in the amount of the difference between the out-of-state tuition that you paid and the in-state tuition rate applicable at that time.

If you believe you are a member of the class but have not received a personal notice and wish to be part of the class, you should immediately contact the class plaintiffs' attorney Anthony M. Conti at CONTI FENN & LAWRENCE LLC, 36 South Charles Street, Suite 2501, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, to learn more about your possible rights in this matter, as you may be entitled to a tuition refund.

To learn more about your possible rights and to make a request to be considered as a member of the class, please contact Anthony M. Conti, CONTI FENN & LAWRENCE LLC, by calling (410) 837-6999 or by e-mailing info@lawcfl.com. All e-mails should include the following information: full name, day and evening telephone number(s), current mailing address, name of constituent institution attended, and the years applied for and denied in-state tuition.

Judge M. Brooke Murdock

THEN & NOW



UMBC's Quad has been filled with the sound of music in every era, from today's Quadmania (above) to a student music performance (inset) in the university's earliest days.

Courtesy of University Archives, UMBC

OVER COFFEE



For two decades, the Honors College at UMBC has offered select students an intensive and interdisciplinary approach to undergraduate education. As the college celebrated its 20th anniversary last fall, *UMBC Magazine* asked Mark Tyler '99, history – an Honors College alumnus who is now an assistant state's attorney in Anne Arundel County – and a current Honors College student, Ashley Seyler '11, to reflect on their experiences in the program.

What attracted you to the Honors College?

Mark: It represented an opportunity to have a more up-close and in-depth interaction with peers and professors. I didn't join the Honors College until my sophomore year, and throughout my first year and part of my second year, I was noticing that I was not getting as much of a chance as I wanted to have that interaction. Some friends of mine in the Honors College told me about their experiences – and that's exactly what they were getting.

Ashley: Through joining the Honors College, I got a sense of community that I didn't think was here. UMBC is not a huge school, but it's a bigger school. And I felt that in the Honors College, I wouldn't be swallowed up. You get to know your professor personally. You know everybody personally.

What Honors College courses had the most influence on you?

Mark: The Enlightenment Course I took with (Victor) Wexler of the history department. We went through many of the great political writers of the modern era: Voltaire, John Locke. I also took a course on Industrial Britain with Dan Ritschel of the history department. Out of the Industrial Revolution came lots of socialist writings like Karl Marx and the traditional liberal arguments. I feel I am better able now to put all the different political arguments from our government leaders into better perspective. What they are borrowing from when they say we need to cut taxes on the bottom 90 percent. People

are borrowing and picking and choosing from all these different philosophers.

Ashley: One of the courses I'm taking right now is a Chinese literature course. Honestly, I never thought I would have any interest in Chinese literature. But I have had my eyes opened. I think it's incredible to have that kind of diversity in your academics. I've never read poetry by Du Fu and Su Shi before. It's been eye-opening because there's this universality of struggle with politics and struggle with society. It's a great course.

Mark: The Honors College helps to facilitate an important facet of undergraduate experience: the willingness to branch out, to go out of your comfort zone, and try something that you wouldn't have necessarily tried, solely for the chance that what you do you might actually enjoy, or that it will spark in you a new intellectual interest.

How has travel fit into the Honors College experience?

Ashley: I went to France this past year with the Honors College. They sponsored a trip to Normandy and Brittany, and we ended up in Paris. It incorporated my interest in the French language and in history. That was my first time flying. That was my first trip out of the country. I had to get my passport and all that stuff. For me, it was amazing. I did so much there in two weeks. I saw all these things I've been learning about for years in my history classes and my French classes. It confirmed for me that all these things I'm learning are actually out there and actually happened. One of my goals is to join the Peace Corps, so I want to experience as much culture and as much difference as possible.

Mark: I took a trip to Kiplin Hall, which was the ancestral home of Maryland's Calvert family, up in Yorkshire. It was a survey of British history, culture and literature. We read everything from Tacitus to Jane Austen. It was my first time abroad. We had great meals every night cooked by an English lady – Mrs. Glue – but after she left we were alone in the house, and we wrote a murder mystery. I think some people may have dressed up a bit. But we took turns writing it, and we acted out the characters and let ourselves get lost in the experience of staying at this wealthy manor house and acting out this whodunit fiction that we wrote up. It was a blast!