Congratulations Anticipating Fall 2015 Graduates!

Vinod Abraham*  
Fadaka Omotinu Olawa A Adebayo  
Heinz Adjakwah  
Chanel Allen  
Jessica Anane  
Hannah Buelt  
Jasmin Charron  
Nissi Chilkamari*  
Jake Dibattista*  
Taylor Dodson*  
Emily Ewing  
Aaron Good  
Kylee Haddock  
Ablavi A. Hobuame  
Jeanne Kadouno  
Mariam Kamara  
Frances Melo  
Golnaz Momenzadeh  
Oluwabukunola Olagun  
Kemi Omotoso  
Bruce Onuigbo  
Victoria Rico  
Naomi Robinson  
Motisola Rowe  
Rosnelly Ruiz  
Phillip Saunders  
Olivia Scaldara  
Avay Shrestha*  
Ismriti Shrestha  
Sabrina Sparkman**(4.0)

*Students Graduating with Honors

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Schedule of Events & Deadlines

November

- 5: *The Science of Happiness: When and Why Subjective Well-Being Matters* | 4:00 p.m. Albun O. Kuhn Library Gallery
- 10: Last Day to Withdraw from Individual Courses with a “W” for Fall 2015
- 17: IFR Pizza Information Session 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. : PUP 203
- 25: Last Day to Apply to UMBC Winter Scholarships

December

- 1: IFR Applications and $200 deposit due to ADMIN 222
- 1: Spring 2016 Internship Applications are due to Dr. Pinet-Peralta
- 1: Barbara E. Burkman Scholarship Award Application Due
- 2: HAPP end of semester party | Commons Fireside Lounge | 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 8: Last Day of Classes
- 11: IFR applicants will be notified of selection
- 17: Undergraduate Fall Commencement

January

- 4: First Day of Winter Session
- 7: Last Add/Drop Day Without “W” for Winter 2016
- 15: Spring 2016 Internship Letters of Intent are due to Dr. Pinet-Peralta
- 22: Last Day of Winter Classes

Scholarship Information

APPLICATIONS DUE DECEMBER 1, 2015 TO CATHY MCDONNELL, CAT@UMBC.EDU

BARBARA E. BURKMAN SCHOLARSHIP
TWO- $500 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Prerequisites:

Be a declared Health Administration and Policy Major for at least two semesters before applying.

Have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement by maintaining a UMBC CUM 3.5 GPA for at least two consecutive semesters.

In addition, the applicant must provide the selection committee with: A 1-2 page statement of why you chose HAPP as your major and how the HAPP major connects with your career goals.

One academic letter of recommendation

Current resume
The Sociology of Serial Killers will study the phenomenon of serial killers in society. We will review case studies of specific serial killers and study the similarities and differences. In addition, this course will cover the possible reasons for this type of crime and the treatment of it by the media.

This is a hybrid course. The class will meet in-person on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:00 PM - 9:10 PM.

Interested in Taking Other Selected Topic Courses In Our Department?

As a HAPP major you can take courses in the Sociology and Anthropology. If they are cross listed you can get them to count toward your major. Having a well-rounded academic background is not only attractive for employers but open you up to different opportunities the department has to offer. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your advisor!

Winter 2016

SOCY 397 - 02
Sociology of Serial Killers

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This is a hybrid course. The class will meet in-person on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:00 PM - 9:10 PM.

Spring 2016

ANTH 397 01
Environment and Culture

This course investigates the interaction between the environment and human behaviors and beliefs. Students will be introduced to the various ways in which anthropology has sought to understand human-environment relations, both from utilitarian perspectives (such as cultural ecology, ethn-ecology, and political ecology) and symbolic ones (focused on the meanings people give to the non-human world). In the second half of the course, students will consider how anthropology can contribute to the way we understand current environmentalist concerns and beliefs, focusing on applied anthropology in Maryland.

Recommended Preparation: ANTH 211 or SOCY 101.
Welcome Our New HAPPA Faculty and Staff

Meryl Damasiewicz: Lecturer

Ms. Damasiewicz will serve as the lecturer for the Health Administration and Policy Program (HAPPA). During this winter, she will be teaching SOCY 101, SOCY353, and SOCY355 in the sociology department. In addition to teaching HAPPA this upcoming spring, she will coordinate the required internship (HAPPA 495). Prior to this position she was an adjunct instructor and advisor for Sociology and HAPPA in our department. She has also taught courses at Notre Dame of Maryland University, DeVry University, Western Maryland (McDaniel) University, Goucher College, Morgan State University, Catonsville Community College and Towson University. In addition, she coordinated an internship program at Towson University in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice.

Ms. Damasiewicz brings more than fifteen years of higher education experience in a number of areas and has demonstrated that she is a true asset to our team.

You can find Ms. Damasiewicz in PUP 251
Or via phone ext. 52060 or email mcozar1@umbc.edu
Welcome Ms. Damasiewicz!

Debbie Sanford: Academic Advisor

Ms. Sanford will serve as department academic advisor for Anthropology, Health Administration and Policy Program and Sociology. Prior to this position Debbie was the Director, Counseling & Advising Office Frederick Community College in Frederick, MD. Ms. Sanford was also the Academic Advisor in the Psychology Department at UMBC from 2005-2012.

Ms. Sanford received her Master of Arts Community Counseling, University of Maryland, College Park, MD and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY. She brings more than ten years’ experience in advising and counseling and is happy to be returning to UMBC! Welcome Debbie.

You can find Ms. Sanford in PUP 221
Or via phone ext. 53711 or email dsanford@umbc.edu
Welcome Ms. Sanford!
What’s HAPPening with our Faculty: Charles Cange

This is Dr. Cange’s second year as a visiting lecturer in HAPP. He completed his postdoc fellowship in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Stigma Reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa at the Center for Public Health and Human Rights, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He received his Ph.D. in Global Health from the University of Washington. He was a two-time Fulbright Scholar to Kuwait and a statistician for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). He also interned at the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Paris Office and at the U.S. State Department where he served in the Science, Technology and Non-Proliferation Office in Paris and drafted the Department’s 2005 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Madagascar in Antananarivo.

He is pleased to enter his second year at HAPP! Dr. Cange’s endeavors don’t end there as he will also be presenting his following works at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Expo.

1. Understanding the impact of the Gulf War on community perceptions of psychotrauma and cancer risk in Kuwait
2. Role of Stigma and Alienation on the HIV Treatment Cascade for Burkinabé MSM
3. Influence of traumatic experiences on female sex workers’ mental health in Burkina Faso
4. Female Sex Worker Mothers’ Empowerment

Strategies amid Social, Economic and HIV/AIDS Risks in Cameroon

5. A Comparative Study of Post-Conflict Cancer in Jordan, Oman and Kuwait

And he will be a moderator for this panel:

1. Community voices: Community member perspectives on community-academic partnerships and CBPR

The (APHA) will hold its 143rd Annual Meeting and Exposition from Oct 31 ’til Nov 4, 2015. The meeting will take place in Chicago, Illinois at McCormick Place. APHA’s Annual Meeting and Exposition brings together more than 12,000 public health practitioners from across the U.S. and around the world. At the meeting, colleagues will network, educate and share experiences in the HAPP field.

Meet the HAPP Team

J. Kevin Eckert
Acting Director
(410) 455-5698
eckert@umbc.edu

Mary Stuart
Professor
(410) 455-2084
stuart@umbc.edu

Luis Pinet-Peralta
Associate Director
(410) 455-3817
lpinet1@umbc.edu

Andrea Kalfoglou
Associate Professor
(410) 455-2061
akalfogl@umbc.edu

Jamie Trevitt
Assistant Professor
(410) 455-2079
trevitt@umbc.edu

Katie Birger
Lecturer & Retention Specialist
(410) 455-2080
cbirge1@umbc.edu

Meryl Damasiewicz
Lecturer
(410) 455-3374
mcozar1@umbc.edu

Charles Cange
Visiting lecturer
(410) 455-2073
cange@umbc.edu

Cathy McDonnell
Department Coordinator
(410) 455-5936
cat@umbc.edu

Debbie Sanford
Academic Advisor
(410) 455-3711
dsanford@umbc.edu

Carlos Turcios
Graduate Assistant Advisor
(410) 455-2089
carlos6@umbc.edu
**HAPP Student Spotlights**

**Senior: Jesse Roberts**

Jesse is a Track II Health Policy student in HAP and is a senior here at UMBC. Recently, Jesse completed an undergraduate research project with his research mentor Dr. Luis Pinet-Peralta which looked at the perceptions of quality care for Spanish-speaking Latinos with limited English proficiency with regard to the specific types of interpreters that they used. This research had been conducted through his membership in the McNair Scholars Program and gave him the opportunity to compile and apply what he had learned in his HAP courses to complete the research. With Dr. Pinet-Peralta’s help, he was able to have this research accepted into and presented at four undergraduate research conferences. The next step for this research is to have it published in an academic journal.

Over the course of Jesse’s undergraduate career as a student in the HAP program, the most rewarding course that he has have taken here at UMBC has been HAP 411: Health Regulation and Quality Improvement with instructor Katie Birger. HAP 411 has influenced and given him the desire to pursue a graduate career in Health Policy research, and has sparked countless research ideas that he has pursued and plans to continue to explore onwards into graduate school.

“HAP 411 mapped the development of health regulation in the U.S from our pre-industrialized period through to the contemporary state of our healthcare system. In the course, I not only gained immeasurable knowledge surrounding the series of regulations that have come to make up our system, but this course has left me with eager questions, about the policy at its core.”

Originally, Jesse was an MLLI-Spanish major with the end goal of pursuing humanitarian-based work with the Latino community and other United States minority groups. However, as time passed he began to realize that he might be able to have a larger impact on improving the lives of minority populations by pursuing a career in healthcare.

Considering this is his senior year, Jesse has already begun the application process for graduate school. Jesse is planning on getting accepted in to either a Health Policy and Research Program or Healthcare Quality Improvement program within the upcoming months. Subsequently, he hopes that one day to either start up or work with an organization devoted to improving access to healthcare services for vulnerable populations specifically those geared toward helping people using mental health services. Jesse is a shining example of how applying knowledge acquired through our program can really impact our community. Best of luck Jesse!

**Senior Intern: Maura Smith**

Maura is currently a senior at UMBC and will be graduating this upcoming spring. She is a Track II: Health Policy student doubling majoring in Political Science and minoring in Information Systems, already enrolled in the accelerated Master of Public Policy Program. Despite already working on her graduate degree at UMBC, she expresses that UMBC wasn’t initially her first choice. However, “UMBC is one of few institutions to offer health administration at the undergraduate level, and the longevity and location of the program were huge selling points.”

She loved the opportunities HAP had for her as it allowed her to work in the medical field, while not necessarily having a medical degree. Unlike many of us, Maura already knew what she wanted to do from the age of 10. She cites Dr. Lisa Cuddy from the Television Series House as one of her inspirations for choosing health administration and policy. Maura has not only already completed a policy internship with Atlantic General Hospital, but is currently directing Just Food UMBC, a social entrepreneurship venture that aims to promote a sustainable food system at UMBC by networking between Dining Services and local agricultural community.

If any undergraduate students want to be involved with Just Food, Maura is the person to go to, since she accepts interns each semester. It can be used to fulfill the internship requirement (HAPP495) or if you are an underclassman use it as an independent study (HAPP499). Maura is a great example of how HAP students can apply their acquired skills to the real world!
Freshman Spotlight: Amina Maswadeh

Amina is a HAPP major following Track III in public health as well as a Biology minor. She has a wide variety of academic interests including, HAPP 100 class, her first year seminar on Happiness and Valuable Life class, and Greek Archaeology classes. Her love in HAPP begun when she met a friend in the public health field who worked with creating legislation on healthcare in other countries like Egypt and areas within Africa. Hearing her speak about her career with passion, Amina became interested in Public Health. She found her passion for health and fitness through her own journey and changing her life. She admits that she wasn't the “healthiest person” during the majority of high school. However, during her senior year in high school, she learned more about the impact nutrition and exercise applied to her quality of her life. Once she experienced the positive impacts on both her physical and mental, she wanted to share her story to those blinded by the notion that "being healthy is dull, boring, and the food tastes like cardboard" and to show others that small changes in a person’s habits can make a tremendous impact on their life.

Since she’s a freshman her career goal aren’t as set in stone so far but hopes that with a Public Health degree, she will either pursue a master’s degree and become a fitness and wellness coordinator, a holistic nutritionist, or a naturopathic doctor. She aims to focus on prevention of the disease or chronic conditions before they happen through the implementation of healthy lifestyle choices and habits. Aside from her academic interest, she is a member of the Muslim Student Association, has joined the Wellness and Health committee of the SGA and also a member of Veiled Voices. Welcome to HAPP Amina, you are definitely destined to make a healthier world for your community.

HAPP 495 Internship Information

Spots in HAPP 495 are based on a first come, first served policy. You must have all materials submitted on time to be guaranteed a spot.

1. Make an appointment to discuss your internship placement interests and needs in the preceding semester with Dr. Pinet-Peralta.

2. Complete an internship application directly on the PDF and submit the application by email (as an attachment) to Dr. Pinet-Peralta at lpinet1@umbc.edu. Your adviser will not see you without this form completed. The application can be found online at: http://happ.umbc.edu/files/2014/09/Internship-Application-2014-2-6.11.14.pdf. Applications are due NO LATER than December 1st 2015 for Spring 2016 internship.

3. Once your application is submitted (this is the only way we know who is doing an internship), you can then start applying to internship sites.

4. Once you have accepted an internship, provide your site preceptor with the required letter of intent information and ask them to email the letter to Dr. Pinet-Peralta at lpinet1@umbc.edu. This form can be found at: http://happ.umbc.edu/files/2014/01/letter-of-intent-internship-1.14.pdf. Letters of intent are due NO LATER than January 15th, 2016 for Spring 2016 internship.

5. You will be given permission to register for HAPP 495 after the letter of intent from your preceptor is received. The letter of intent must be sent directly from the preceptor to Dr. Pinet-Peralta at lpinet1@umbc.edu.

Deadlines to keep in mind:

- Spring 2016 Internship Applications due 12/01/15.
- Spring 2016 Internship Letters of Intent due 01/15/16.
Introducing the 2015-2016 HAPP Council of Majors Board

**Treasurer:** Safoura Kashfipour  
**Track 1 Health Administration, Senior**  
Safoura is a senior at UMBC getting her minor and certificate in Public Administration and Policy. Her career focus is in the field of administration, policy, and advocacy in terms of human rights and humanitarian aid. After completing her Bachelor's Degree, she plans to continue her education in either Health Economics or Public Policy with a focus on global health. She is very passionate about the environment and is in the developing stages of starting a local, non-profit initiative that pushes for better recycling policies with businesses in the DMV area. With a previous background in biology she focuses a lot of her time in advocating for sustainability and wildlife preservation projects. Safoura has previously worked with the Institute of Marine and Biotechnology as an Account Specialist and has interned with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF under the Major Gifts department where she helped with event planning, processing checks, developing and maintaining donor connections, and other administrative-related tasks. During the semester she teaches English to Afghan refugees on campus while cooperating with the IRC, International Rescue Committee based in Baltimore, MD.

**President:** Stacy Mathews  
**Track 1: Health Administration, Junior**  
Stacy recently picked up a minor in Information Systems and hopes to pursue a career in Health Information management. She is a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda Honor Society as well as an active dancer on UMBC's South Asian fusion dance team, ADAA.

**Vice President:** Nohaa Aqeel  
**Track 1 Health Administration and Accounting, Junior**  
Aside from majoring in HAPP Nohaa is obtaining a certificate in Accounting. She hopes to pursue her MBA after graduation and get her CPA. Over the summer she interned with Amethyst Tech as an Administrative Assistant. There she gained knowledge about the cycle that start-up businesses go through. She helped the financial reports and process for the company's projects. Currently, she is interning with the SUCCESS Program on campus. She has been with the program for the past two years. And as the Vice President of HAPPCOM, she hopes to do more service work for Baltimore area and make an impact on the UMBC community. She hopes to take the experiences she has gained from her undergraduate career and use them to make a positive impact wherever she goes.

**Secretary:** Carlos Salazar  
**Track 1: Health Administration, Senior**  
Carlos is double majoring in HAPP and Economics. He is still exploring career options but has worked for a start-up to provide health pricing information for under/non-insured individuals and for Kaiser Permanente in their Finance Department. In addition to HAPPCOM, Carlos is a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity.

**Public Relations Chair:** Sarah Fakhraei  
**Track 1 Health Administration, Senior**  
Sarah recently picked up a minor in Management of Aging Services and plans to pursue a MPH after graduation. She interned at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene working with Planning Administration and Eligibility Services. She is also a member of Persian Student Association.
Love Traveling? Try our International Field Research (IFR) Program and Earn Credits!

Spring 2016 Session: Apply by December 1
Class Spring 2016 UMBC HAPPSOCY 403/663 Wednesdays, 4:30pm-7pm 3 credits
Travel to Switzerland June 20 - June 26, 2016
For more information please visit our website: http://ifr.umbc.edu/

Switzerland is a country of stunning mountain vistas, truly lies at the crossroads of Europe. It is among the top-rated countries in the world with regard to health care, environmental policy, public transportation, infrastructure, live-able cities, and healthy lifestyles. This experiential learning program applies an ecological framework to better understand how culture, policy, and practice interact to achieve a sustainable and healthy society. Extend your stay in Europe You may wish to extend your stay in Europe. Students will have an opportunity during the spring semester to discuss possibilities for extended travel and research.

IFR Spotlights: Mamta Bhatia & Yinka Bode-George

Mamta and Yinka both went to Switzerland this year as part of IFR. They both loved the experiences they’ve gained from taking this course as it allows students to dip their feet in conducting their own research and working as a team with colleagues and to see whether they aim to make their research into a full-fledged study. So what exactly did they study?

Mamta conducted comparative research on the prevalence of measles in Maryland and Switzerland. Interestingly, preventative measures are written within the American constitution. Unlike the United States, Switzerland is not allowed to mandate any form of vaccination onto their citizens and can only make a recommendation to get vaccinated. These laws are based on security precautions in order to avoid outbreaks of contagious diseases. Her most memorable experience from her time in Switzerland was her trip to the Tropenhaus, a research conservation center that caretakes for various tropical species of plants and animals. The Tropenhaus is dedicated to using methods of sustainable energy by using local hot springs as a way to power the center as well as surrounding buildings. Mamta recounts how unexpected it was to have a place like this located so close to the mountains, considering that the species being raised at the center would be impossible to find in the Swiss environment.

Yinka also conducted a comparative study, but she focused on water sustainability of the United States as a whole and Switzerland. Yinka was mostly surprised at how the Swiss and Swiss culture prioritized environment conservation in comparison to the United States. The Swiss are much more in tune with their natural surroundings and try to find ways to reuse the resources available and maximizing their potential. Proportionately speaking, the Swiss fund more sustainable projects using hydropower compared to the United States. When asked how she noticed the differences in everyday Swiss culture, Yinka replied “the Swiss experience nature in a different way, they integrate it into their technology, work, lifestyle and it’s not out of the ordinary to see people wear hiking shoes to work and participate in outdoor activities during their breaks or after work.”

Afraid of traveling to foreign countries due to cultural or language differences? Let us calm your nerves by saying that both Mamta and Yinka shared with us that they had no negative experiences with the Swiss and all were receptive to help them while in Switzerland. “Despite language barriers, most of the Swiss people we met knew some amount of English and we were able to get around with what they were communicating to us. People were warm and inviting and is definitely a place we would visit again.”

Mamta and Yinka’s experiences are just a snapshot of the types of project students in HAPPSO have worked on. It is definitely worth the experience and not worth passing up if you are a student who is interested in conducting your own research. This is also a class that is cross-listed with the Sociology department at the Undergraduate and Graduate level so you don’t necessarily have to be a HAPPSO major to take this once in a lifetime opportunity.
UMBC Counseling Center
If you feel overwhelmed and need someone to talk to, the counseling center is here to help! UMBC has an exceptional staff available for free and confidential personal and career counseling.

Hours of Operation: M-F 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Student Development & Success Center, Center Rd. (Located between Chesapeake and Susquehanna Hall)
(410) 455-2472
http://counseling.umbc.edu/

Facebook

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https://www.facebook.com/groups/98881349513/

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https://www.facebook.com/groups/160382655699/

UMBC Bioethics Student Association:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/16955809462

Department:
https://www.facebook.com/socyanth?fref=ts