



Meeting Minutes

UMGC Alumni Advisory Board

September 23, 2024

This was the third Alumni Advisory Board meeting for the 2023-2025 term, Dr. Frank Musmar, President, led the meeting. The following board members, past presidents, and staff attended:

Present (in person): Dr. Frank Musmar, Dr. Kenya Dugger, Dr. Tulinda Larsen, Dr. Jim Payne, Laurie Sayles

Present (online): Najila Ahsan, Gustavo Hinojosa, Jr., Margaret Larkin, Dr. S. Raschid Muller, Bernetta Reese, Dr. Stacy Trammell, Norman Workman,

Former Presidents: Na Alston, Philip Callahan, Mary Anne Hakes, Joan Lee

Guests: Dr. Gregory Fowler, Rushern Baker, Eileen Brewer, Solomon Gebru, Velma Hart, Lisa Jackson, Frank Principe, Alki Thompson

Staff: Doug Dalzell, Danielle Matz, Jen McDowell, Gabriel Perkins, Berniece Reese, Nikki Sandoval, Cathy Sweet

Meeting starts: 6:30 p.m.

Proceedings

The meeting of the 2023-2025 UMGc Alumni Advisory Board session was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Alumni Advisory Board President, Dr. Frank Musmar.

WELCOME

Dr. Frank Musmar: Calls meeting to order, introduces UMGc President Fowler, and welcomes attending members of the board. Calls for motion to approve previous meeting minutes.

PRESENTATION I - GREETINGS FROM UMGc PRESIDENT DR. GREGORY FOWLER

President Fowler Remarks: First and foremost, things are going well from the state of business. Between financial aid issues & enrollment challenges that are affecting other universities, we continue to lay the groundwork for a lot of the fundamentals to be in place which allow us to grow. Both from the student support side as well as the various products we are trying to introduce into the marketplace.

As of the end of FY24, we are currently at 94,988 students – up more than 6,000 from FY23. That includes around 35,000 learners from the State of Maryland. It is the highest number of students

we have had in almost a decade, and we continue to be the largest school by far in the University System of Maryland.

Dr. Frank Musmar: How does this compare to other universities?

President Fowler: SNHU and Western Governor's University each have about 200,000 learners. They have a lot of other things they can do, and they have been at this a lot longer than UMGC in different ways. For a long time we have been focused on our core market, which has come with a lot of strengths and challenges. SNHU and WGU are both private institutions, so they have a lot more flexibility in what they can do. They also have various different market products.

But we are catching up. One of the things that matters most is brand recognition. We are beginning to see that a lot of the brand recognition work we have done is beginning to build. There continue to be many challenges and opportunities for UMGC in this space. We remain the largest public online institution in the US, and global events continue to matter more to us than SNHU or WGU.

Velma Hart: What is the all-time record of learners attending UMGC?

President Fowler: Our all-time record is 96,000. I will tell you that we have broken the all-time record for the number of credit hours taken in a year, which is at 1.1 million credit hours. As you know, a lot of our product is not simply degrees, people are coming to us for other things. We count credit hours as one marker, in addition to number of enrollments which continue to be up as well. Those trends are looking very good. UMGC is also 53% military, including active-duty veterans, spouses and children around the globe.

As I mentioned during our last meeting, we are continuing to future-proof UMGC against global events, because we continue to face some challenges after shutting down 200 campuses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But as you know, the world is a turbulent place right now. That means that all of our service members in Europe and Asia are having to deal with events across the globe. We have a great deal of deployments to the Middle East right now, and in Asia we do not have a carrier group left. When that carrier group goes, their families and children go as well. And that means the students who were tied to that campus will not be there for a while. These are challenges that we need to be aware of.

We have built a model now that allows us to continue to see growth by investing in other market segments. This is work we have done to ensure that we become the most transfer-friendly school in the country. We recently signed articulation agreements with the College of Southern Maryland and currently have one with Prince George's Community College. Those students are looking for a way to seamlessly transfer their credits and we are trying to be the best school across the country to do that with.

The same is true for workforce development. One of our biggest areas of growth in the past year has been our work with consortia like Guild, where companies will pay for their employees to take classes. Companies like Target, JP Morgan Chase, Tesla and Apple have helped pay for their employees to receive their degrees. This again goes back to our idea of affordability and accessibility without student debt.

So we are spending a lot of time thinking about how to increase those markets and increase those ideas. Workforce development is a big deal, and we now have up to 16 governors that are saying they would like to make sure jobs are available that don't necessarily require a college degree. Just last week, Vice President Harris said she would like to make that a federal policy.

But that does not mean that employees don't need skills. One of the things we are trying to work on is how do we help the county, the state, and even the country gain those skills rapidly? But there are not yet fixed vehicles by which we can ascertain skills without necessarily providing a degree.

In the last year, we set about to find a way to directly give college credits based on military ranking. Because of the way the military works, you cannot go from one rank to another. You have to be assessed. It has to be documented. You have to be evaluated by someone who is qualified to do so.

Many people have tried to do this in many different ways, including trying to give course credits for the various skills that a military student has been certified for. But those things change so quickly & there are so many of them that there is no way to systematize it. Instead, we have decided to provide class credits based on absolute rank and rolled out this program 2 months ago to 5,000 students. Since then, we have had several hundred people receive credit for classes and have saved our service members more than 1.1 million dollars.

Now we have to figure out how to scale this program, because there are about 30,000 students who are eligible. We are rolling it out month by month, and trying to make sure we do so in a way that allows people to receive the credits.

Nathaniel Alston: Would that be for all services?

President Fowler: Yes, that would be for all services. But you can also see how this will play out beyond military experience into things like first responders. We are looking at all these various ways to prove benefit to the state, the county & the populations within.

Thanks to Cathy & so many other people who have been working hard for the past year and a half toward our Gates Foundation grant, we've been looking at how to help the various populations succeed. There is a growing Latino/Latina community in Prince George's County that we want to figure out how to access and help in a way that serves the community well. We also announced a couple weeks ago that we received a grant from the Dept. of Labor to work with a company called Open Classrooms to do apprenticeships.

We've opened up quite a number of new locations, going back to our military commitment. We have opened up three new locations in Poland and one in Romania. We have moved our base in Saudia Arabia, and here in the States we have opened up new locations in South Carolina, North Dakota, San Antonio, as well as two in Hawaii. We are working closely with the Space Force, spending time down at Patrick AFB and Vandenberg mostly in cyber security and space engineering. All of these are new opportunities for UMGC.

Dr. S. Raschid Muller: Dr. Fowler, as a retired Navy Commander and Special Warfare Officer I am glad that you are tapping into some of those things we provide in the military. There is a skill

bridge program, which gives you verifiable tools and training to see who a person is and what they've been doing in uniform. As a federal employer in cyber, I hire based on utilizing the skill bridge program where there is a direct pipeline. I know exactly what I am getting from the military, so I am thankful that we are tapping in at that level.

President Fowler: It's one of those things where the logic of it made sense to people, but the minute we started talking about it the bureaucracy was what stood in the way. I suspect more and more we will hear businesses say, 'I don't need the degree if you can show me or demonstrate what someone can do'.

Dr. Kenya Dugger: When you are talking about the rank structure, as in the credits, what exactly does that look like? How many credits, at what level of credits are we talking about, and what kind of courses?

President Fowler: The ones we are currently looking at are mostly business, management, leadership, things you would see in those areas. They aren't the low-level courses, although it would depend on whether you're a 4, 5, 6 or 7. And of course we're talking non-commissioned officers for the most part. But it will vary, and that was only the first iteration of it.

You can imagine it's going to be a lot of data, cyber and a lot of other areas. We just need to figure out how to scale it and we are building as we go along, but the fact that this has been such a success in the last couple of months shows that there is a real opportunity to make a difference.

Velma Hart: I think you're exactly right. UMGC is the only organized and accredited institution who is looking at education from this standpoint, and I am deeply seated in this space. Will this affect the accreditation for the institution in any way? And will you have to do these certification courses differently, like in a subset or an LLC? Will the model for the organization change?

President Fowler: It won't affect accreditation. But part of what we need to do is work with the faculty to ensure that the skill sets are equivalent to what they'd expect to see in a course at a certain level. We need to check the boxes to ensure that the quality is still there.

Velma Hart: And that you'll be prepared for the next course level.

President Fowler: Exactly. Except faculty don't build courses that way yet, they build their courses based on the courses they took. One of the bigger challenges is that people see faculty members as everything. The reality is, there is no one faculty member who is a great resource developer, a great assessor, a great instructor, a great student advisor. They wear a lot of hats. We are trying to think more of the function and the role as we continue to move forward. We may have experts who are doing skills development, we may have experts who are teaching in the class, and they may not be the same person. The functions are still there, but are much more tied to skill sets and not traditional structures and roles.

Velma Hart: If you are successful at this, I envision you will become the model for true workforce development for the world. Everyone will come to you to try to understand what you did. Can you predict a date or time when you will be at true saturation on this model?

President Fowler: That is a good question. The other element of this which we haven't talked about is predictive analytics. We need to determine what is likely to happen in real time with students who are in classes. We need to identify when students are likely to struggle or drop out and reach out to them before anything else with resources & practices that will make them successful. All of these tools are part of the ecosystem that allows us to work with employers in real time.

Eileen Brewer: You are talking more about a societal shift more than just a university shift. But how are we going to communicate that to students who want to come back to gain more skills and increase their earning potential, when society is looking at earning potential by assessing whether someone has a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, or a PhD?

President Fowler: What we are beginning to see is that there is no version of this where you do not continuously upscale. If you look at the market now, many of the jobs that are in high demand didn't even exist 5 years ago. It can't be a static thing that's just a certification or degree that lasts decades. That is going to be the reality of employment in the marketplace, and what you see is schools trying to adapt to that and running into resistance because there is such rigidity around the way they have to build. Yet, just think about how much learning is going on today outside of the classrooms through sources like Google and YouTube.

Nathaniel Alston: To your point, I do a lot of executive compensation for people who are in that workforce. And from what we are seeing in our national HR organization, is a shift in compensation and pay which is now based solely on knowledge, skills and abilities. We are no longer looking at things like degrees, and people are negotiating based on skill sets not education.

President Fowler: These are things we are looking at both directly, and trying to think about how we can help our fellow institutions within the State of Maryland. We want to be able to work with partners who are thinking about how we can ensure our students are gaining the skills they need. We are looking at advisory boards that we would love to invite employers to help us do work on. And I could use your help in thinking through who the institutions are that may be interested in doing some partnerships with us and who are the employers who might be willing to work with us.

Dr. Frank Musmar presents President Fowler with thank-you gift from Alumni Advisory Board.

Dr. S. Raschid Muller: Recommends searching for the Skills Bridge Program on Google as it can offer a breakdown of military rankings and jobs.

Bernetta Reese: Is there a list of current partners & employers?

Nikki Sandoval: That is a great question, we will get that list from our corporate learning solutions. I think it is on our website as well.

- <https://www.umgc.edu/transfers-and-credits/credit-from-colleges/community-college/national-alliances>
- <https://www.umgc.edu/transfers-and-credits/credit-from-colleges/community-college/maryland-alliances>

PRESENTATION II – ELEVATING THE PHILANTHROPY EXPERIENCE

Dr. Frank Musmar introduces Jen McDowell and Danielle Matz

Jen McDowell: Hello and thank you Dr. Musmar for inviting us to kick off this conversation about elevating philanthropy. To introduce myself, I am the Marketing and Communications lead for our team. What we really focus on is communications to alumni and donors, website strategy, E-marketing strategy, and social media strategy.

Danielle Matz: Hello everyone, I am so glad to be here today to discuss philanthropy. I primarily direct and manage our annual giving program, and work with Jen to scale our solicitations to the broader alumni community through a lot of different communication channels.

We are hoping to give you an inside look at what our solicitation structure looks like at UMGC. This is not unique to UMGC, a lot of higher education institutions frame their solicitation structures around certain gift amounts.

As I mentioned, we run the annual giving program which is where you are going to see solicitations under \$1,000, primarily through our mass communications. I also mention Leadership Giving, there you will see more personal solicitations that are below \$10,000. There are different vehicles for major giving, which are traditionally gifts over \$10,000 and allow donors to create endowed scholarships or operating scholarships at UMGC. Finally, we have planned giving, where you can create a lasting impact for UMGC through your legacy or estate gift.

Jen McDowell: Why do we do it? For students. Last year alone, \$21 million was awarded in financial aid. Almost 1,700 students have benefitted from SAFER since its inception in 2020. But it's not just about going out and asking for the gift, it's about having the testimonials on both the donor side & the student side to hear the impact this scholarship is going to have on somebody's life and trying to grow our scholarship funding throughout the year.

Jen & Danielle share video about the impact UMGC's scholarship programs have had on students & alumni.

Danielle Matz: When we speak about philanthropy at UMGC, it's not just about soliciting and engaging in conversations about giving back to students. It's also about communicating to donors the impact they've had.

I've mentioned our annual giving program, and one of our communication channels is direct mail. We share the incredible stories and gifts from alumni each year through all our communications channels. We also have our UMGC alumni website and IMPACT website. These allow us to communicate our impact across all our channels.

As many of you know, telemarketing is a common communication channel used to solicit across a broad community of support. But what makes our program so unique is that it is personalized. Down from the calling team, they represent our student body.

Jen McDowell: We have two enhancements to our programs this year. We have launched our new giving platform, GiveCampus, with the ability to expand payment options to include Venmo and Apple Pay. Additionally, the platform provides new opportunities to increase giving as a part of event registrations.

Lastly, we have a new product called FreeWill. Only 33% of all Americans have a living will, so we are working with this company where alumni can go online and create a will free of charge. Alumni can choose to designate part of their will to go back to UMGC. It is an opportunity for us to look at planned giving and legacy gifts in a different way.

Joan Lee: I have a question about the \$21 million awarded in financial aid last year. About how many students were impacted by that?

Jen McDowell: It was about 4,000 – 5,000 if I recall correctly.

Jen McDowell & Danielle Matz finish their presentation and thank the meeting attendees.

Dr. Frank Musmar: The university has asked the Board to focus our efforts on supporting the alumni & university community in 3 areas during the 2023-2024 term. These 3 areas are global ambassadors, student success and philanthropy.

Today's discussion will be about philanthropy and advocacy. Thank you, Jen and Danielle, for the information, it was very helpful. I would now like to open the discussion to pose questions like 'How would you describe UMGC's mission to others to encourage support?' and 'Are you familiar with the different programs to support and ways people can give to UMGC?'. I'd like to open the discussion at this time.

Nikki Sandoval: If anyone does reach out with any questions, please direct them to Danielle, Doug or Dharma.

Jen McDowell: You can also access our website at impact.umgc.edu. It has student stories, ways to give back through scholarships and support, and how to get in touch with the team.

Laurie Sayles: Does that also show how to access FreeWill?

Jen McDowell: That can be accessed through the alumni website at alumni.umgc.edu/benefits. It is a free service, and we have had over 100 users since we launched in July.

Nikki Sandoval: It is a great free alumni benefit. It is optional to make a gift to UMGC so a few of the 100 did, but most just needed to make a will. It is a way for the university to give back to them and help them with that process.

Dr. Frank Musmar: Thank you. And now Nikki will share an update about our alumni engagement initiatives.

Nikki Sandoval: Thank you all so much. The amount of impact from this board has been tremendous. We first began considering how to form a formal Alumni Association back in 1989, and the following year Barry Chasen established the UMGC Alumni Association and served as its president from 1990-1992. We will be celebrating 35 years as an Alumni Association beginning in January, and 2025 is going to be a full year of celebration.

Over that time, these are the three founding principles of the Alumni Association which have not waived - Fostering lifelong relationships between alumni and the university; serving alumni through programs, benefits and services involving alumni in the promotion, advancement and

support of the mission and goals of the university; and the board is integral in providing support for and representing the 300,000+ UMGC alumni community members.

We are going to have a dedicated section on the alumni website highlighting the association, its history and its impact. We are going to establish the 35th Anniversary Alumni Programming Fund that can ensure we can continue to serve the ever-changing needs of our alumni community. We will also have anniversary committees and hope to have a big celebration at Homecoming 2025 with all the past alumni advisory board members and presidents.

Margaret Larkin: Question about our giving program. In terms of our different communications channels, which has been used most frequently for giving.

Jen McDowell: Our phone program solicits the most gifts for our university. Our team of callers is amazing and give that personal touch. We also get many gifts through the alumni and impact websites, primarily fueled through things like our Giving Day. As part of our phone program, we also send mail and emails to let them know we are going to be calling, so they know it's the university by the time we call.

PRESENTATION III – ALUMNI COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Dr. Frank Musmar: Berniece Reese is now going to share updates about upcoming alumni engagement initiatives.

Berniece Reese: We have our Global Virtual Networking Hour on 10/1 taking place in a new virtual Metaverse. Regional Homecoming events taking place in San Antonio (10/3), San Diego (10/4) and Hawaii (10/10). USA Homecoming will be 10/10. If you can't join us in-person, we also have an amazing platform for our Virtual Homecoming Metaverse that you can join online. We also have Germany and Japan hosting their respective events on 10/18 and 10/25.

Additional upcoming events include our Author Talks series (more information is available for those at alumni.umgc.edu), our FUNd Run supporting the Veteran's Assistance Fund on 10/28, and our Veteran's Day Ceremony on 11/11 at the Marriott.

Finally, we are looking for volunteers to celebrate new alumni during Winter Grad Walk. Once the registration period opens, please feel free to pick a day and time that works best for you to come and celebrate at the Marriott.

Dr. Frank Musmar: I would like to thank the board members again for their service and remind everyone to participate in the upcoming activities listed on the agenda.

Rushern Baker: I'd like to take a moment to introduce my colleague, Lisa Jackson. She was in charge as Government Affairs Manager for me back when I was County Executive, and we both went to Okinawa together and got to see the work that UMGC is doing in another venue and the impact that it makes with a number of students who are from this area.

Lisa Jackson: Thank you for having us.

Nikki asks all to review the Homecoming 2023 report provided at the beginning of the meeting

Dr. Frank Musmar adjourns the meeting at 7:52 pm.



**UMGC Alumni Advisory
Board Meeting**

September 23, 2024

WELCOME

Dr. Frank Musmar

2023-2025 President

UMGC Alumni Advisory Board

UMGC PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Gregory Fowler

President

University of Maryland Global Campus

ELEVATING THE PHILANTHROPY EXPERIENCE

Jen McDowell
UMGC Assistant VP, Communications

Danielle Matz
UMGC Director of Annual and Leadership Gifts

Philanthropy: UMGC Overview



The engagement of UMGC’s alumni and friends is vital to the university’s ability to put students first—and to give exceptional students extraordinary educational opportunities regardless of their ability to pay.

ANNUAL GIVING

Gifts \$1 - \$999

MAJOR GIVING

Gifts \$10,000 +

LEADERSHIP GIVING

Gifts \$1,000 - \$9,999

PLANNED GIVING

Legacy and Estate
Gifts

Philanthropy: Student IMPACT

Your Impact, by the Numbers



2023 - 2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

\$21M

AWARDED IN
FINANCIAL AID

SINCE 2020

1,686 STUDENTS

have received emergency assistance
through UMGC's Student Aid Fund for
Emergency Relief (SAFER)



Philanthropy: Student IMPACT



Philanthropy: Your IMPACT

The Alumni Advisory Board, as leaders within the UMGC community, are being asked to help identify and further engage their networks to strengthen and broaden this support to meet future needs.



Philanthropy: Your IMPACT



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Dear {Salutation},

During the holiday season, when many are gathering to celebrate with friends and family, some University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) students are struggling to meet their basic needs.

To assist students worldwide who are experiencing financial hardship related to an unforeseen financial emergency, UMGC has created the Student Aid Fund for Emergency Relief (SAFER).

You can help those UMGC students — who are facing day-to-day challenges and multiple competing priorities as they pursue their education — with your year-end gift today.

On behalf of the Alumni Advisory Board, I wish you and your family a successful year ahead.

With gratitude,
Frank Musmar
Dr. Frank Musmar '11
2023–2025 President
UMGC Alumni Association



2023–2025 UMGC Alumni Advisory Board

Philanthropy: Your IMPACT



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
GLOBAL CAMPUS

Locations / Get Help / 855-655-8682 / GIVE NOW

Giving Day Where to Give How to Give Get Involved Meet Our Staff

UMGC Impact

FOUR LIVES TRANSFORMED: THE IMPACT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

UMGC IMPACT GET INVOLVED DONOR STORIES **FOUR LIVES TRANSFORMED: THE IMPACT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

June 27, 2023 8:23 PM



Since 1992, UMG's Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund has been helping make it possible for part- or full-time students to earn their degrees. By awarding scholarships of up to \$2,000, this fund is helping ease the financial burden on students so they can focus on what matters: their education.

Over the decades, the scholarship fund has grown from an initial pledge of \$25,000 to a current market value of more than \$170,000, which expands its reach to serve even more deserving students. This important resource wouldn't be possible without the contributions of a wide range of donors, including alumni, corporations, UMG employees, foundations and friends of UMG.

impact.umgc.edu



Class of 2023 Challenge

UMGC alumnus Robert Alonso, Jr. '08 will match up to \$1,000 when this amount is contributed by UMG's Class of 2023.

[GIVE NOW](#)



Ehrensberger Legacy Society Inductees

This spring, the UMG Ehrensberger Legacy Society welcomed 11 new members. This Society is a special group of UMG's long-term, philanthropic supporters who contribute to the university through their estate plans, including bequests, stocks, trusts, annuities and other assets. Meet the newest inductees and learn why they were inspired to give to their alma mater through the avenue of planned giving.

[Read more](#)



Philanthropy: Your IMPACT

Laurie Sayles '10, '11

3501 University Blvd.
East Adelphi, MD 20783

April 16, 2024

Post 97 Non Donor

Mr. David D. Anderson
PO Box 7497
Rochester, MN 55903-7497

Dear Mr. Anderson,

In the next few days, you will receive an important telephone call from a representative of the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC). The caller will provide information on the University's current programs and seek your interest in looking at ways you can invest in the UMGC students of today and tomorrow. Before you take the call, I would like to share my experiences with you and why I feel it is so important to support our alma mater.

Hard work and survival had been my family's priorities when I was growing up in the Chicago projects. Luckily, I had a strong work ethic from a young age and knew better than to ask my parents for financial help. The same was true when it came to considering college, which is why I joined the U.S. Marine Corps.

After relocating to Florida, I spent some time researching schools, but I couldn't find the right fit. Not long after, I learned about UMGC. One of the top reasons for my ultimate decision to complete my degree at UMGC was the University knew how to work with military personnel. I relocated to Maryland and have been here ever since. From the moment I began my classes, I felt such joy to be a part of the UMGC community. I enjoyed participating and felt truly challenged by my professors. The camaraderie with my fellow classmates was engaging and it was refreshing to share how our relatable real-life experiences further emphasized what we were learning in class.

One story I remember involves when my academic advisor called a meeting to review my schedule. She was concerned about the number of English classes I was taking because they weren't part of my required courses. When I explained to her that I knew my weakness was communication and I really wanted to work in a corporate environment, she understood and was very helpful.

I am proud to say that I am the only college graduate in my family! While I didn't complete my degree until I was in my early forties, I persevered, and it changed the trajectory of my life. I have benefited significantly from my UMGC experience and while I never imagined that I could be a business owner, speaker, or an author. I have had the opportunity to do some incredible things, like testify on Capitol Hill five times. My journey as a student wasn't without its challenges but I know that education is the answer, no matter where or how your life begins. If you have the desire and drive, you can accomplish great things.

NORMAN WORKMAN '87

Date

Name
Address
City, State Zip

Dear Salutation,

In the coming weeks, you will receive an important call from a representative of the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC). This call will provide information about the University's programs and explore ways you can invest in the students of today and tomorrow. Before you take the call, I wanted to share my personal journey and explain why supporting UMGC is so meaningful to me.

Growing up as the oldest of eight in an Irish-Catholic family, I was fortunate to attend Boston Latin School, one of America's top high schools. Tragically, by age 16, I lost both parents and became the guardian of my siblings, which dramatically altered my future plans.

Despite these challenges, I remained hopeful. During college, I lived in a fraternity house year-round. However, after three years, the recession hit - I ran out of money, had no job prospects, and quickly learned that it's difficult to get hired with that much education but no degree. An enlightening conversation with a friend on military leave led me to join the United States Army, where I trained as a surgical technician and utilized the GI Bill to continue my education.

While working and finishing my undergraduate degree, I met my wife. After her transfer to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, we moved, and I began attending UMGC in the evenings. Soon, I was also teaching on campus, and we were expecting a baby. Things were starting to fall into place.

Our joy was short-lived. When our daughter was just 22 months old, my wife was tragically murdered. As I grappled with the loss and managed the trial, I became a single parent with limited support. Despite my determination to finish my degree, my GI Bill funds were running out. With dwindling resources, I relied on loans and support from friends to continue my education.

I started working to support others, engaging in victims' rights advocacy and completing my degree at UMGC. The principles I developed during my courses were invaluable, equipping me with the skills needed for my legislative work to strengthen criminal laws in Maryland while also aiding my personal healing process.

I owe a great deal of my success to UMGC. The transformation from a struggling, depressed veteran student to someone who testifies about the challenges faced by widowed single parents serving on a board with the Governor of Maryland is something I never imagined possible. Having a UMGC degree in my back pocket changed my life immensely.

DR. STACY TRAMMELL '03, '08

Date

Name
Address
City, State Zip

Dear Salutation,

In the coming weeks, you will receive an important call from a representative of the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC). This call will provide information about the University's programs and explore ways you can invest in the students of today and tomorrow. Before you take the call, I wanted to share my personal journey and explain why supporting UMGC is so meaningful to me.

My busy life as a member of the United States Air Force meant that earning my bachelor's degree took a while. I understood the importance of education and remained committed to finishing my degree despite numerous interruptions including balancing becoming a new mom, my husband deploying to Korea, and being medically discharged from the Air Force after eight years of service. I graduated from an Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) school in three years, after serving five years of honorary enlisted service in the Air Force domestic and abroad. While enlisted, I competed Air Force wide for a competitive AFROTC officer training scholarship program. As a recipient of this program, I was blessed with the opportunity to select a school of my choosing and moved to Maryland from Turkey with hope to continue my educational journey.

With working full-time, managing my new role as a business owner, and being a mother to my toddler and infant, I needed a program that fit into my busy life. When I discovered UMGC's Information Systems major for my Master of Science degree, it was exactly what I needed to maintain my work-life balance. This marked the beginning of my relationship with the University, which has remained strong to this day.

The instructors I worked with at UMGC truly understood the importance of a healthy work-life balance and were incredibly supportive of students with commitments beyond school. As I pursued both my master's and doctoral degrees, UMGC consistently demonstrated its support for all aspects of my life. My professors were not only knowledgeable but also a pleasure to work with. Additionally, the administration has always gone above and beyond to keep me informed about upcoming University events.

The knowledge and skills I gained while earning both my master's and doctorate degrees empowered me to start my own cyber and information technology company. My education not only equipped me with the expertise to engage in community discussions that I previously wouldn't have had a platform for but also earned me respect as a businesswoman of color.

Philanthropy: FY25 Enhancements

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS

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Phonathon FY25

\$10
Donated

1 Donor 321 Days Remaining

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This campaign ends on August 1 at 12:00AM EDT

GiveCampus – launched this July – provides an enhanced giving experience. With a more user-friendly interface and the ability to expand payment options to include Venmo and ApplePay, we can maximize giving opportunities. Additionally, the platform provides new opportunities to increase giving as part of event registrations.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS

Thank you for making a difference!

Amount *

\$

\$100 \$150 \$250

\$350 \$500

Make this gift recurring

Designation

Make your selection(s):

Select a Designation

Name *

Jennifer McDowell

Maiden Name

Please do not display my name

Email *

jennifer.mcdowell@umgc.edu

Street address *

Street address

City *

City

Homecoming 2024 USA Celebration

Days: 27 : Hours: 03 : Minutes: 36 : Seconds: 15

When: October 10, 2024
7:00pm - 9:00pm EDT

Where: College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center
3501 University Boulevard East
Adelphi, Maryland 20783

Price: Free

Event registrations close October 10th at 07:00 PM EDT

Register

[Send a Gift!](#)

Spread the word about this event!

[Share](#) [Post](#) [Share](#)

[Copy to Share](#)

550 Guests Attending [View All](#)

Register today to attend the UMGC Homecoming 2024 USA Celebration on Thursday, October 10 from 7 – 9 p.m. EDT with one guest at the College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Adelphi, MD. Join us in person for a fun evening including great moments to network with your fellow students and graduates while making new

Philanthropy: FY25 Enhancements

FREEWILL

For individuals

For nonprofits

For advisors

About us

Log in

Get Started

As a member of the UMGC alumni community, we offer this free will service to you through FreeWill where you can create a will giving your loved ones peace of mind in case something should happen.

Get peace of mind

Just 20 minutes to create or update your legally-binding will

Get started now

Already included us in your will? Let us know by filling out [this form](#).



FreeWill – launched this August – provides UMGC alumni the opportunity to create a free will and leave a portion of their estates to UMGC upon their passing. This platform not only offers a new alumni benefit, but helps us identify and engage members of the alumni community earlier in their lives.

<https://alumni.umgc.edu/benefits>

Discussion Questions

Philanthropy & Advocacy

- How would you describe UMGC's mission to others to encourage support?
- Are you familiar with the different programs to support and ways people can give to UMGC?

35th ANNIVERSARY UMGC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**Nikki Sandoval
UMGC Associate VP
Institutional Advancement**

35 years serving the advancement of the global alumni community

In 1989, Brigadier General Edward A. Parnell, USMC (ret.) '75, was appointed by the university president to serve as the chairperson of a steering committee to explore founding an alumni association.

1989

1990

The UMGC Alumni Association was established in 1990 with Bary M. Chasen '76, serving as the first president from 1990-1992.





Celebrating our Purpose and Shaping the Future



Fostering lifelong relationships between alumni and the university.



The UMGC Alumni Association serves alumni through programs, benefits, and services and involves alumni in the promotion, advancement, and support of the mission and goals of the university.



The Board is integral in promoting support for and representing more than **301,000+** UMGC alumni community members.

Dedicated section on alumni.umgc.edu highlighting the association history and impact, inviting alumni to share their story.

Establish the 35th Anniversary Alumni Programming Fund.

Anniversary Committees for personal outreach to past board members with invitations to association reunion at Homecoming 2025.

A Year of Celebration



ALUMNI COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Berniece Reese
UMGC Senior Event Planner



Homecoming

EMBRACE YOUR IMAGINATION **2024**

Virtual Global Networking Hour | October 1 - Metaverse

Texas Regional Homecoming | October 3 - San Antonio

California Regional Homecoming | October 4 - San Diego

Hawaii Regional Homecoming | October 10 - Pearl City, Hickam AFB, Schofield Barracks

USA Homecoming | October 10 - College Park Marriott

- **Alumni Awards:** 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. EDT
- **Homecoming:** 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. EDT

Virtual Global Homecoming | October 10 - Metaverse

Germany Homecoming | October 18 - Heidelberg Castle

Japan Homecoming | October 25 - The New Sanno Hotel

Fall Programs

SEPTEMBER 2024

Author Talk: D. Arceneaux

Sep. 24 - Tuesday

6 p.m. | Online

Author Talk: A. Sisto & S. Marchese

Sep. 26 - Thursday

3 p.m. | Online

Virtual InternPLUS Fair

Sep. 27 - Friday

10 a.m. | Online

OCTOBER 2024

Homecoming Celebration

Sep. 30 - Oct. 28

Various Times | Global Locations

Author Talk: L. Zheng

Oct. 1 - Tuesday

12 p.m. | Online

FUNd Run

Oct. 28 - Monday

All Day | UMGC Headquarters

NOVEMBER 2024

Veteran's Day Ceremony

Nov. 11 - Monday

College Park Marriott Hotel & CC

DECEMBER 2024

Author Talk: A. Peters

Dec. 4 - Wednesday

6 p.m. | Online

Author Talk: E. Letts

Dec. 5 - Thursday

2 p.m. | Online

UMGC Winter Grad Walk

Dec. 12 - Thursday

Dec. 13 - Friday

Dec. 14 - Saturday

Dec. 15 - Sunday

College Park Marriott Hotel & CC

**Volunteers Needed*

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Frank Musmar

2023-2025 President

UMGC Alumni Advisory Board



**UMGC Alumni Advisory
Board Meeting**

September 23, 2024