

# Welcome from the Student Government Association (SGA)

University of Maryland Baltimore  
School of Social Work  
Spring 2021



# Meet the SGA Executive Board



## Judith Park

**SGA President**

Advanced year Macro/Clinical,  
CASP  
MPH/MSW dual- degree



## Joy Scalabrin

**SGA Vice President**

Advanced year Macro/Clinical  
CASP



## Caitlin Balicki

**SGA Corresponding Secretary**  
Advanced year Clinical/Macro  
Behavioral Health



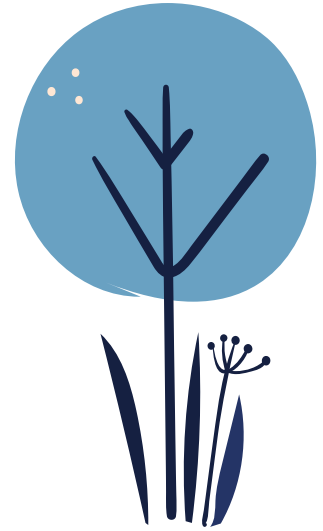
# We are here to support YOU

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Relax your jaw, drop your shoulders, take  
a deep breath in and out..

**Facebook: UMB, School of Social Work**  
(PLEASE fill out membership questions and  
agree to group rules to be accepted into the  
FB group)

**Email: [SGA@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:SGA@ssw.umaryland.edu)**

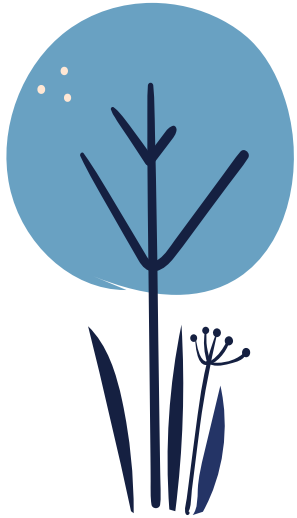


# SGA General Body Meetings

Every first Monday of the month  
from 5-6PM

Spring 2021 Dates - Feb. 1, March 1, April 12, May 3

Link to join: <https://umaryland.zoom.us/j/97433674231>





# DREAM Disability Justice *DREAM*



## **Mission:**

DREAM endeavors to create an inclusive and supportive community and to promote disability justice at the University of Maryland School of Social Work and in the community at large. We strive to engage individuals with disabilities and their allies in respectful and compassionate discourse to promote greater awareness and inclusion of disability on campus. We aim to advance disability justice by recognizing the diversity of disability, along with the various cultural and systemic barriers faced by persons with disabilities. Through education and advocacy, we work to break down structural barriers and advance the inclusion of persons with disabilities within the School of Social Work, the social work profession, and our communities.



**Dana  
Kobrin**

**Not Pictured:** Libby Nuss

**Email:** [DREAM@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:DREAM@ssw.umaryland.edu)



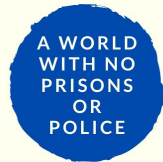
OUR TEAM

2020-2021



## Mission:

A student organization fighting for an equitable and anti-oppressive environment through an abolitionist and decolonizing lens.



## Our goals:

1. Make SSW curriculum totally anti-oppressive and eliminate diversity option.
2. Facilitate space for transformative justice in thinking about prisons and police.
3. Organize budding social workers to dismantle oppressive practices personally and institutionally.

## Connect with us!

Yael Ben-Chaim

Melia Jannotta

Isabel McLain

Loraine Arikat

Maryrejahllil "Mj" Lanier

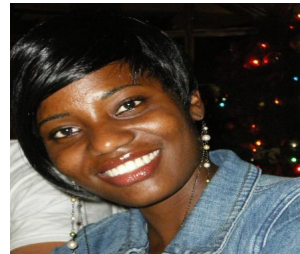
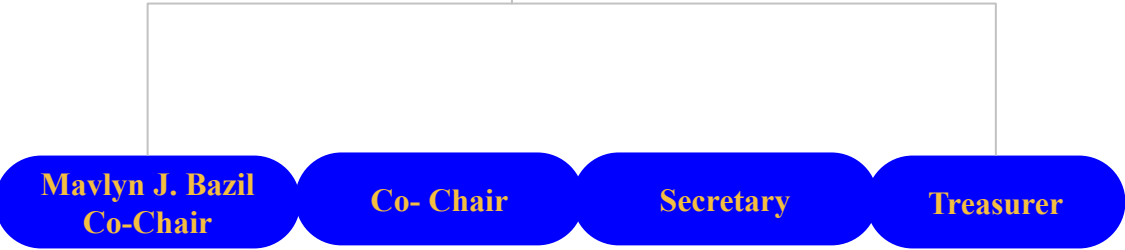
Instagram: @aowg\_umb\_ssw | Facebook page: Anti-Oppression Work Group at UMB SSW

Email: aowg@ssw.umaryland.edu

# Christian Social Work Fellowship (CSWF)



**Dr. Fred DiBlasio**



## The Purpose of CSWF shall be:

1. To promote the spiritual growth of members through prayer and Bible study during meetings.
2. To provide support, fellowship, and encouragement to social work students and any other interested persons or groups.
3. To help meet human and spiritual needs at the School of Social Work and the local community through volunteer outreach programs.
4. To help balance the spiritual needs and concerns of students with the demands of the social work profession.
5. To serve as a voice by which the issues and concerns of Christians in social work shall be addressed.
6. To follow Christ's example in showing compassion without judgment, and in seeking social justice for those who do not have a voice.

### Contact Information:

**Email:** [cswf@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:cswf@ssw.umaryland.edu)

**Facebook Page:** Christian Social Work Fellowship UMB



# International Social Work Organization

## ISWO



**Mission:** ISWO offers information and referral services to students interested in international social work through collaboration with local NGOs, alumni network, UMB faculty, and UMB staff. In addition, ISWO focuses on raising awareness about the role of international social work by giving students opportunities to learn about global issues. The organization advocates for an international social work focus at SSW and links students to opportunities for international research and experience. We partner with all UMB Professional Schools to provide a multidisciplinary team framework to prepare students for professional research and careers overseas.



Anna  
Thompson



Sheila  
Winter

**Email:** [iswo@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:iswo@ssw.umaryland.edu)







# Macro Student Union

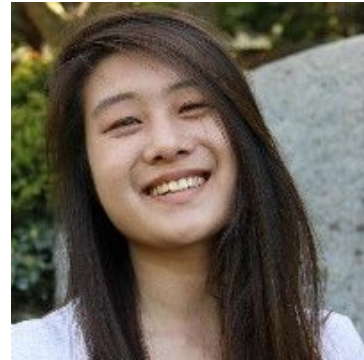
## MSU



Our purpose is to encourage greater knowledge and awareness of macro social work, increase macro social work opportunities for students, and support networking among fellow students and macro practitioners within the broader social work community. We hope to provide macro social work students with resources and networking opportunities through an anti-racist, anti-oppression, and inclusive lens.



Eva  
Bialobrzkeski



Lucy Zhao

MSU will hold one meeting/event per month during the fall and spring semesters. We welcome your input when planning events and meetings.

**Email:** [msu@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:msu@ssw.umaryland.edu)



# The Alliance of Anti-Racist Social Work (The Alliance)



**Shanice Harris, co-chair**



**Nina Duzhikhin,  
co-chair**



**Ivania Morales, secretary**



Our purpose:

- Within the context of shared learning, social justice, activism, and healing, we hold space for individuals and the social work community to develop a lens for anti-racist practice on the individual, community and structural level
- Committed to process of dismantling white supremacy by challenging and working through internal and structural racism shows up in the social work profession



Email: [alliance@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:alliance@ssw.umaryland.edu);  
Facebook: The Alliance of Anti Racist Social Work Practitioners



# Organization of African American Students in Social Work *OASIS*



**Mission:** OASIS promotes unity among African Americans and empowers students by providing academic, professional, social, and spiritual support. OASIS works to highlight issues of race, African American culture and provisions of social service to African American communities. Additionally, OASIS strives to improve the school's overall climate for all students.

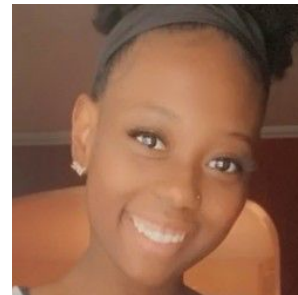
**Email:** [oasis@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:oasis@ssw.umaryland.edu)



Sakiera Malone



La'Nia Latimer



Sierra Somerville



Jasmine Thornton

Not  
Pictured:  
Lezer  
Getahun



# Queer Community Alliance

## QCA



**Mission:** To create a supportive environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans & queer (LGBTQ+) students, faculty, staff, alumni, and their allies. To educate and advocate for issues relevant and important to LGBTQ+ members of the SSW, including equal access, representation and recognition. To encourage dialogue on and inclusion of LGBTQ+ issues in the curriculum. To identify and address concerns of the LGBTQ+ community in the SSW as they arise within school policy, on campus and in the classroom. To collaborate and innovate within the SSW, UMB, and with outside organizations and individuals to promote equal rights for LGBTQ+ persons locally, nationally, and around the world.



Edgar Fields



Jennifer Blue

**Email:** [sswqca@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:sswqca@ssw.umaryland.edu)





# Latinx Unidos for Community Healing and Awareness

## LUCHA



**Mission:** The purpose of LUCHA is to promote a feeling of **solidarity** and **pride** among Latinx students and other members within the SSW, to increase Latinx **awareness** within the SSW, to focus on and improve educational, cultural, and social development within the Latinx community.



Melody  
Concas



Daniela  
Pulido



**Email:** [lucha@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:lucha@ssw.umaryland.edu)

# Leadership Opportunities

SGA E-Board

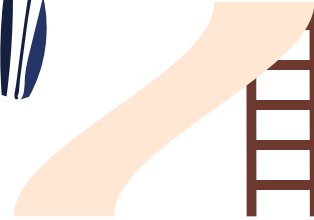
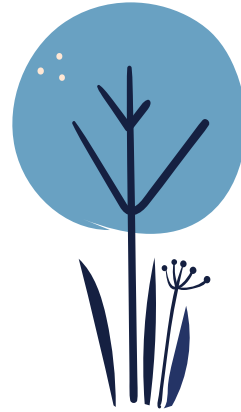
Student Groups

Faculty Committees

USGA Senators

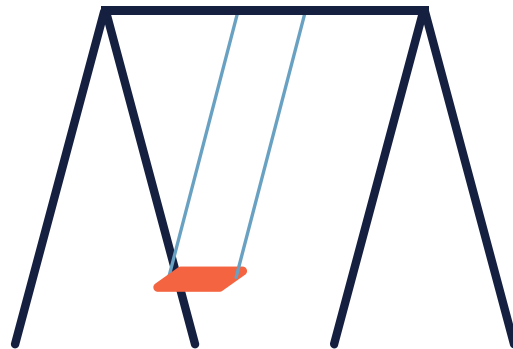
Learn more and apply at:

<https://umbforms.wufoo.com/forms/zlhxn6ma03arlm2/>





# SSW Resources



## Office of Student Services

- Career Development and Licensing Information
- Dean Henriette Taylor:  
Assistant Dean for Student Services, [htaylor@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:htaylor@ssw.umaryland.edu)

## Office of Student Affairs

- Dean Dawn Shafer:  
Associate Dean for Student Affairs, [dshafer@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:dshafer@ssw.umaryland.edu)

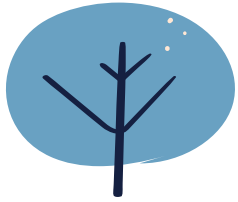
## Academic Advising

- [sswadvising@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:sswadvising@ssw.umaryland.edu)

## Daily Bulletin

- SSW news, updates and events
- **Check your email daily!**





# UMB Resources

## Student Counseling Center

- <https://www.umaryland.edu/counseling/>

## Writing Center

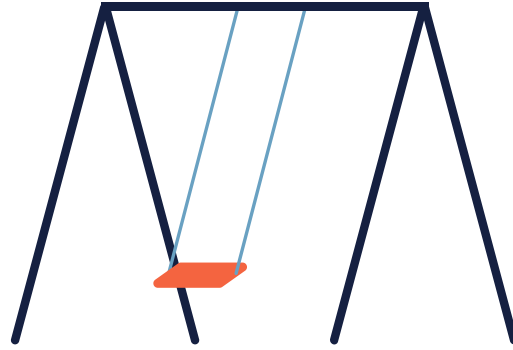
- <https://www.umaryland.edu/writing/>

## Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HSHSL)

- <https://www.hshsl.umaryland.edu/>
- SSW Librarian Gail Betz, [gbetz@hshsl.umaryland.edu](mailto:gbetz@hshsl.umaryland.edu)

## Office of Education Support and Disability Services

- <https://www.umaryland.edu/disabilityservices/>





# History of Anti Racism at UMB SSW

A brief overview of efforts by students, faculty, staff, and administration to combat institutional racism and oppression at the School of Social Work.

For more information, visit the SSW website page on Diversity and Anti-Oppression Efforts.

# Various Groups at the SSW

These are some of the groups at the School of Social Work that have contributed to the history of anti-oppressive activism. This is not an exhaustive list, and many individuals not associated with these groups have contributed significantly to our school.

**Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEIC):** Committee created in 2014 out of a previous workgroup. Currently comprised of administration, faculty, staff and students. Recent actions: curriculum changes, implementation of Field Seminar, creation of Structural Oppression Course, hiring of full-time DEI Dean at SSW, improving employee training, etc.

**Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Planning Task Force:** created during fall 2018 in collaboration with the School of Nursing, specifically engaging with Jeffrey Ash, Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion at the School of Nursing. Report published summer 2019, available online. The DAO was very involved in the taskforce and implementation of the recommendations.

# Various Groups at the SSW

These are some of the groups at the School of Social Work that have contributed to the history of anti-oppressive activism. This is not an exhaustive list, and many individuals not associated with these groups have contributed significantly to our school.

## **Student Government Association and the following student organizations:**

- Anti-Oppression Work Group (AOWG)
- Alliance for Anti-Racist Social Work Practitioners
- Organization of African American Students in Social Work (OASIS)
- Latinx Unidos for Community Healing and Awareness (LUCHA)
- Queer Community Alliance
- Intersectional Feminism and Social Work
- Macro Student Union
- SSW Parent Alliance
- International Social Work Organization
- Christian Social Work Fellowship

You will have a chance to learn more about each student group during your Orientation.

1989 — **Beginning of taking accountability**  
 Several Black students and faculty members raised concerns about racial climate at the school of social work. "Building Bridges" Task Force formed in response.

1990 — **First African American Dean hired; SWCOS created**  
**Curriculum Reforms Begin**  
 The Diversity and racism course was removed and the Faculty Organization began attempts to infuse education that leads to and understanding of diversity and racism throughout foundation courses. Established advanced diversity course requirement.

2004 — **Student Proposal for Addressing Diversity**  
 Students proposed several changes to the administration including diverse course curricula, faculty training, student surveys, and protocol to address oppressive incidents

2012 — **Student Statement of Concerns**  
 Students presented concerns/recommendations at Dean Forum about curriculum, learning environment, field placements, and mechanisms for feedback.

2014 — **Diversity/Anti-Oppression Work Group created**

2015 — **Students, staff and faculty host events and protest in support of the Baltimore Uprising**

2016 — **UMB Climate Survey**  
 Results found that black students rated the lowest in perceived inclusiveness at the school. Women and also non-traditional students felt less included.

2016 — **University-wide Ombudsman Report**  
 A neutral conflict resolution practitioner that noted "Feedback and Department Climate" and "Values & Ethics" to be two categories with the most complaints.

2017 — **Achieving Inclusive Excellence Report**  
 383 ideas from faculty and staff to ensure an inclusive and culturally responsive organizational environment

2017-2018 — **Students and Alumni write letter to CSWE**  
 Several students and alumni write to CSWE saying that the SSW does not meet accreditation standards to educate students to address social justice at all levels. CSWE inquiry follows.

2018 — **Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Formed**  
 Jeff Ash, Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion at School of Nursing, invited to SSW, forms task force later co-chaired by Kyla Liggett-Creel, PhD, LCSW-C, Clinical Assistant Professor & Cherita F. Adams, MBA, MS, Assistant Dean for Administration and Strategic Initiatives

2019 — **Task Force Report (available on SSW website)**  
 Recommended several curriculum, training, hiring, and field education changes, building on previous efforts. Pushed for hiring full-time DEI Dean.

2019 — **Student Protest Furniture made by Prison Labor - Maryland Correctional Enterprises contract with UMB**  
 Related efforts continuing to this day.

2020 — **Mandatory Structural Oppression Course created**  
 Alongside a number of additional changes to course offerings and field educations as the result of the work of many students, staff, and faculty

2020 — **SSW Hires Full-time DEI Dean: Neijma Celestine-Donnor**

# Tips for Success

- Check the Daily Bulletin!
- Find rhythms of rest and self care.
- Get involved!
- Tips for Virtual Learning
- Hotline: <https://www.umaryland.edu/umbhotline/>





# Thanks!

What questions do you have?

Facebook: [UMB, School of Social Work](#)  
Email: [SGA@ssw.umaryland.edu](mailto:SGA@ssw.umaryland.edu)



