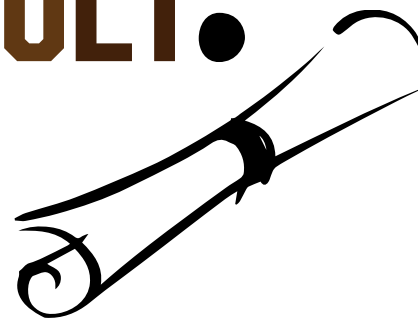




Congratulations
CLASS OF 2021!



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Afuah Aboagye

Spring 2021

B.A. Health Administration and Policy Program

Graduating as a child of African immigrants, and as a first generation college student is empowering. I was able to achieve my first degree against all odds, and I feel extremely privileged as a result.

Professor Andrea Kalfoglou (HAPP dept.)!!! This professor literally deserves all appreciation/accolades/recognition. I am BEYOND appreciative of her. Professor K. is an invested educator and believes in all of her students. She encouraged me during the hardest times of my schooling and believed that I could excel. Professor K. is a gem in her department, and at UMBC overall. Words cannot express how much I appreciate and love her! I owe my academic success in HAPP to Professor Kalfoglou, she is my inspiration and also my biggest cheerleader.



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Afuah Aboagye (She/her)

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Ibukun Adekoya

Fall 2021

Computer science, B.Sc

Graduating as a black student means a lot to me.



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Ibukun Adekoya (He/him)

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Jane Akintoye

Spring 2021

Mechanical Engineering (B.S.)

Graduating allows me to reflect on all I can persevere through in order to accomplish a goal.

Thank you to all my engineering friends that have continued to encourage me during late hours!



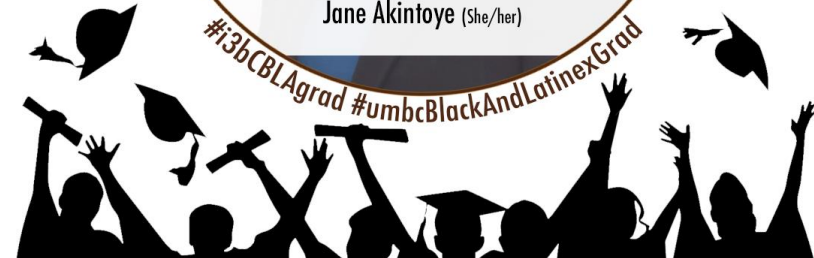
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Jane Akintoye (She/her)

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Madeline Alvarado

Spring 2021

B.A. Health Administration and Policy,
B.A. Sociology

Always remembering those who paved the way
for you to be here.

Thank you to my parents and grandmother



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Madeline Alvarado (She/her)

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Jonathan Amao

Spring 2021

B.S. Mechanical Engineering, minor Mathematics

As a Black, African-American, it feels amazing to be able to complete my degree in mechanical engineering and minor in mathematics. I am a living testimony that if I can do it anyone can do it.

I'd like to personally thank Dr. Sanchez and Dr. Madan for making Mechanical Engineering interesting and fun for me. I'd also like to thank NSBE for bringing me in and showing me the ropes as Black Engineer. I'd to finally thank God, my parents, and my friends for helping throughout my college experience.



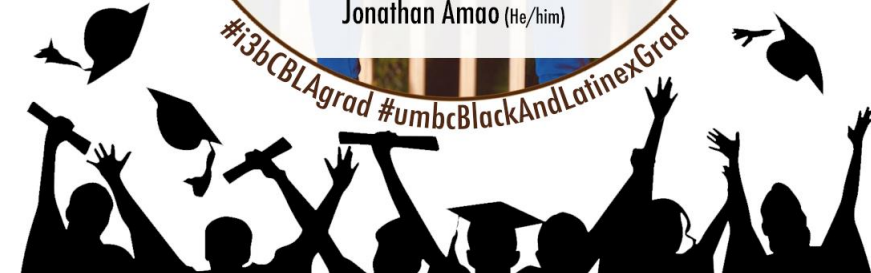
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Jonathan Amao (He/him)

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Shandon Amos

Spring 2021

B.S. Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Communications & Technology

I feel incredibly fortunate to be graduating from UMBC this spring, and even more so to be a Black graduate adding to UMBC's culture of inclusive excellence! This has been a long journey and would not have been possible without the support of my family and friends.

I would like to thank Dr. Jaqueline King for always encouraging me to fearlessly pursue my goals. Her consistent and kind motivation helped me throughout my college career.



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Nahum Arefeayne

Spring 2021

B.S. Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Graduating as an African American means a lot to me because I am glad to be a part of diversification of higher education. My success signifies that individuals like me belong in college and can succeed at it as well.

I would like to thank my mom, Miheret Mulugeta, because she was always receptive to my thoughts and anything I had going on. Thank you for being my sounding board throughout college and helping me succeed and get to where I am today.



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Nahum Arefeayne (He/him)

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Fabria Jno. Baptiste

Spring 2021

B.S. Chemical Engineering

Entrepreneurship & Innovation

I am very proud to be graduating as a black woman in engineering. I hope to inspire other little girls through my unconventional path one day.



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Fabria Jno. Baptiste (She/her)

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Ma'isah Bateman

Fall 2021

Geography & Environmental Systems

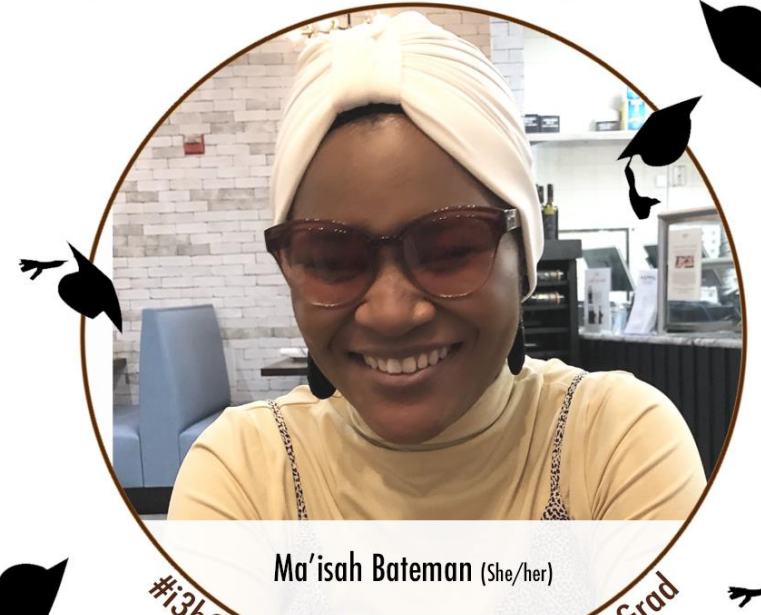
As an African-American, woman and Muslim living in a society where all odds are against us and perseverance is the only option, I now feel like the caged bird whom dipped its' wing in the orange sun rays. As a walk into my next chapter of life I will be as the free bird, thinking of another breeze and continuing to claim my future.

I want to personally recognize my Mother who supported me throughout my college career. Every milestone I crossed in my college career, she never hesitated in asking me what's next? She believed that the sky's the limit.



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Ma'isah Bateman (She/her)

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Juanita Botonero

Fall 2021

B.A. in Business Technology Administration

Graduating as a Latine/x person is an accomplishment for both me and the Latine/x community, and it is something to be proud of.

I would like to thank Erica D'Eramo, and Dr. Carolyn Seaman for guiding me throughout my college career, and being there to answer any questions I had. I would also like to thank my parents for always supporting me.



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Juanita Botonero (She/her)

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Kyli Bumbray

Spring 2021

B.A. American Studies, minor Elementary Education

I feel honored and blessed to be recognized for my achievements and graduating as a black student. This is also very special to my family being first black family member to have graduated.

I would like the time to thank the most important people in my life, my parents Debbie and Postal and my brothers Patrick and Trey for always being here for me. I would also love to thank Dr. Shelton and Dr. Bhalla for being amazing support systems at UMBC.



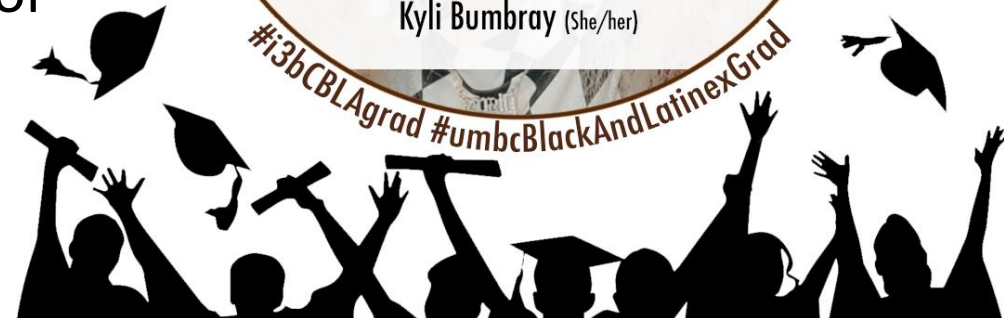
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Kyli Bumbray (She/her)

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Catalina Cabrera Caicedo

Spring 2021

Global Studies (B.A.) & Modern Languages,
Linguistics & Intercultural Communication
(B.A.)

Asian Studies Minor and Certificate in
Intercultural Communication

I would like to thank both my mom and my
sister for being so supportive as I was finishing
my degrees. I'd also like to thank both
Dr. Thania Muñoz and Dr. Brigid Starkey.



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Catalina Cabrera Caicedo (She/her)

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Allyson Caldwell

Spring 2021

B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

I am proud to have the opportunities to pursue science as a Black woman.

I would like to thank Dr. King, Dr. Cullum, and Dr. Brewster



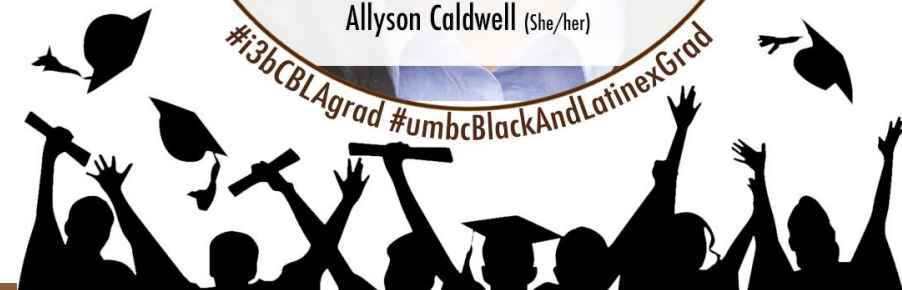
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Allyson Caldwell (She/her)

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Carol Canales

Spring 2021

B.S. Financial Economics, minor in Political Science

I always knew I was different from my white friends for a very long time. The achievements and goals feel a lot more rewarding knowing that I couldn't be here without the help of my padres, abuelas and sister for paving the way. The support system I made through my academic sorority and UMBC organizations and departments will last me a lifetime and I am forever grateful for being first generation Peruvian 🍷

I want to recognize Dusti Kottke and Luisa Gomez from Student Affairs Business Services Center for believing in me early in my academic career and always valuing my dedication to their department and student employees. I also want to thank Bri Gumbs for being the best supervisor and helping me find my passion at the Women's Center. I also want to thank Dr. María Céleri for being a wonderful guide and understanding individual who encouraged me to do a testimony based project for Gender, Human Rights and Political Violence in Latin America even though it is hard but important for our culture's stories to live on.



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Carol Erminia Canales (She/her)

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Katherine-Ann Carr

Spring 2021

B.S. Mechanical Engineering

Music minor

It means a lot to be graduating in general, but it means even more to me to consider how there are so few people like me in STEM. At times, it's intimidating, but I know that I wouldn't change my decision for anything else.



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Zaki Collins

Spring 2021
Spanish

It means that I not only beat the odds that were stacked against me but, I also succeeded in my endeavors. I will be using my experiences to hopefully make people like me be less of a statistic and more of the norm.

I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to my family and the Sherman Program.



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Sandra Crespín-Melgar

Spring 2021
B.A. Social Work, minor Psychology

I am not earning a bachelor's degree for-myself, but for my parents and my grandparents who did not had the change to pursue school. As a Latinx womxn, I am accomplishing my family's dream of becoming a college graduate.

I would like to thank my family for their love and support throughout my academic career. I would also like to thank my professors and all the staff at UMBC Shady Grove for their contributions to my educational achievements. Most importantly, I want to thank the Women's Center staff for their support and guidance.



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Sandra Crespín-Melgar (She/her)

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Alexandria Davenport

Spring 2021

B.A. in Psychology, minor Korean Language and Culture

I don't see many if any black women in Forensic Psychology. This is an important position not only for the person's wellbeing, but for the family of that person's wellbeing. We need more black women in the legal and mental health system to defend us when we cannot.

I would personally like to thank Dr. Yoon for getting me through the last 2 years of my 300 level classes. Without her, I'm not sure if I would have had the strength to keep going through with learning Korean. She inspires me to keep learning as much as I can about the Korean culture and language.



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Alexandria Davenport (She/her)

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Shekinah Davis

Spring 2021

M.A. Intercultural Communication

I am a first generation college student. I am proud to have come this far, and successfully completed graduate school.

Thank you Joby Taylor & Charlotee Keniston of the Peacemaker Program at UMBC



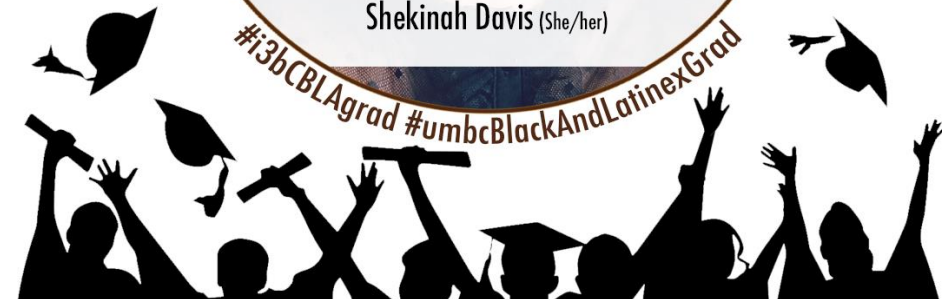
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Shekinah Davis (She/her)

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Tamera Davis

Spring 2021
Psychology B.A
Early Childhood Education Certificate

The world around us will always be full of wonders, beauties, and struggles that an individual will no doubt come in contact with throughout their life. I am happy to have had an education that has not only taught me how to tackle the struggles I will have in life as a Black American women, but has also taught me how to recognize the beauties and explore the wonders life has planned for me.

I would like to give a special thanks to the teachers in the Education department. Because of amazing teachers like Dr. Nash and Dr. Stites I have grown so much in a field I am passionate about and have learned how to help my community with my skills and gifts.



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Natividad Delcid

Spring 2021
B.S. Social Work
Psychology

Being raised as a Latin-American has been one of my greatest joys. I get the pleasure of being raised in two cultures but neither really overtaking the other. A merger, so to speak. Graduating from college cannot be understated in my culture where not many get the chance to proceed past grade school. I take great pride in being able to share this with my family because I did this for them and, selfishly, I did it for myself to break down barriers that kept us from succeeding and moving forward in education.

My family for putting up with me for this long. My friends for being patient with me when I had to skip outings with them, every single professor that I have had up until now for not giving up on me when I was so close on giving up on myself. My advisors for making a clear path for me to follow and guiding me. My girlfriend for staying up with me, countless nights to make sure I did my work on time. Thank you all. I truly and unconditionally appreciate all of you.



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Maithily Diaz

Spring 2021

B.S. Biological Sciences, B.A. Modern Languages (Span/Russ)
Minors: Music, Psychology

As a first generation low-income Latina, it feels incredibly proud to say that I am graduating Magna Cum Laude with two degrees and two minors. Working full-time, serving in countless leadership positions and taking on 200+ credits in 4 years was the biggest challenge ever but it forced me to step up and not only survive but excel despite the many adversities I faced these past years.

A huge shoutout to Hallie Crawford in Campus Life for being an amazing boss, a kind of mentor I aspire to be and one of my strongest supporters. She was there in the hardest times helping me when I didn't know how to ask for help and pushing me through the finish line in all my successes.



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Maithily Diaz (She/her)

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Ariel Egbunine

Spring 2021

B.S. Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

As an African-American student graduating with a degree in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, I am proud of my successes academically. I am tackling the world head-on, and look forward to what awaits me in this new chapter of life.

I'd like to thank my parents, professors, and mentors for driving me towards my future.



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Ariel Obioma Egbunine (She/her)

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Jason Ejimogu

Spring 2021
B.S. Biochemistry

It means that I have overcome adversity and have been able to grow myself as a Black individual. I am determined to keep overcoming obstacles.

I would like to thank my mentor Dr. Janae Brown and the Meyerhoff Scholars Program staff.



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Dayana Flores

Spring 2021
B.A. Political Science

As a first generational student I am extremely thankful for how far I have come. This accomplishment is not only just for me but as well as every Latinx child that had to translate documents from the age of 5. This is to show future generations that we are climbing up and we are important in this society. This is proof that we can do whatever we set our minds to.

This is for my parents. Although they did not understand the process of what was happening they did try to support in anyways they can. Words cannot describe how much I appreciate and love them.



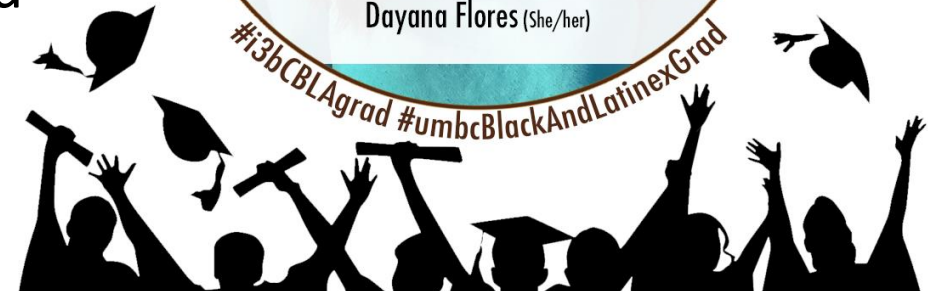
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Dayana Flores (She/her)

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Georgina Gavidia

Spring 2021
Social Work B.A
Sociology

It's truly an honor to be a first generation graduate. Not only am I graduating for myself, but for my family and Hispanic community. I am a representation (we all are) of a better future. Against all odds, we are able to achieve many things regardless of where we come from and what others believe of us.

I would love nothing more but to extend my gratitude to Marcela Mellinger and of course my family and friends. Although Dr. Mellinger intimidated me, she kept me motivated and pushed me beyond my limits my previous semester. They all believed in me and I am so grateful.



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Miglanche Ghomsi Nono

Spring 2021

B.A. Biology, minor EHS

It means so much to me. Brings out the feeling of empowerment and perseverance.

Mrs. Meika Samuel, for her guidance, advice, and for always making sure I stayed on top of my stuff.



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Zuriel Herran

Spring 2021

B.A. Geography and Environmental Systems BA
Honors College Certificate



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Keren Herrán

Spring 2021

B.S.

Honors College Certificate

From a young age, my local Latino community has embedded in me an appreciation for optimistic resilience. Therefore, for me, graduating from college is how I honor and thank my Latino community for challenging me to take ownership of each day!

I would like to thank my mother, Patricia Herrán, for all of her amor and apoyo. Thank you Mami for instilling in me confidence and ganas!



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Melannie Herrera

Spring 2021
B.A. Psychology

Being a Latina who is graduating college is meaningful to me because I am breaking stereotypes and showing my students to always reach for your goals and to continue learning.

My parents and sisters played a major role in my success and graduating college. They motivated me to do my best and to become a first generation college graduate.



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Hannah Jackson

Spring 2021

Intercultural Communication with a concentration in Hispanic Studies

Teaching English as a Second Language

My Peruvian heritage is what inspired me to study Spanish which opened the door for me to study so much more! I'm incredibly proud of myself for this accomplishment as only 4% of Latinas in the US hold master degrees. I have worked so hard to finish school while working full time/over time like many other students with marginalized identities

I want to thank Tania Lizarazo and Milvia Hernandez who both had me in so many of their classes and taught me so much about my Latinx heritage. Having professors that shared my identity was invaluable and they are both wonderful examples! I also want to thank my sister, Rachel, for going back to undergrad while working full time and inspiring me to do the same, we are both now finishing our masters.



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Hannah Jackson (She/her)

#I3bCBLAgrad #umbcBlackAndLatinexGrad #I3bLavenderGrad



Shameira Jenkins

Spring 2021
B.A. Mathematics

Being a successful, educated African American female in my family and community shines a light to others to accomplish their dreams. Having a great accomplishment as this shows I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me!

First, I thank God for blessing me! From my family and friends that have supported me through this journey have a great impact on this accomplishment. Everyone that has a part in my life has influenced me to keep pressing for the mark



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Shameira Jenkins (She/her)

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Megan Jirón

Spring 2021

M.A. Intercultural Communication
Concentration in Diversity Training,
ESOL Post Baccalaureate Certificate

I once read that Latinas hold the lowest percentage of graduate degrees compared to women of all other racial groups: through this disparity, we find solidarity. Education has made me part of a community of searchers that question in order to shape--ourselves, one another and our society. I'm proud to represent Chicanx scholars in our search to shape a better world.

I would like to thank Dr. Lizarazo for her advisement and her humanity. And my family for their continued love and support.



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Megan Jirón (She/her)

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Asia Johnson

Spring 2021
B.A. Psychology
Dance

As a black woman, I am proud to be joining the community of black graduates who have dedicated their time and energy to further their education. I hope that we continue to grow this community and see more examples of black excellence and success.

I am forever grateful for my mother, all of her support, and encouragement throughout the years. I love and appreciate her so much.



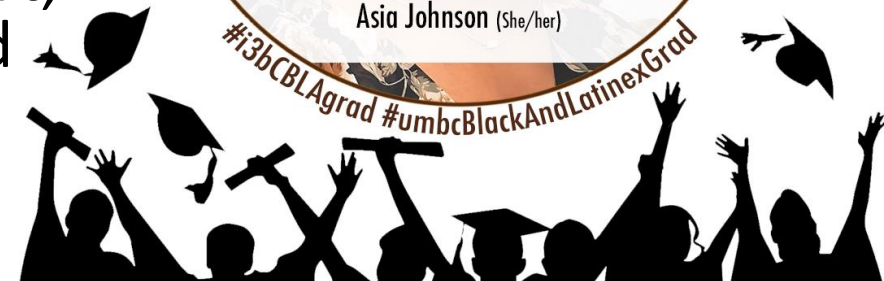
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Asia Johnson (She/her)

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Maya June

Spring 2021

M.A.

Nonprofit Management Certification

I would like to recognize my mom for always pushing me even when I didn't think I could do it. I want to thank my family for being my support system. I want to thank Dr. Young, Dr. Wallace, Dr. Henderson, and Ms. Thompson for always being supportive throughout my academic journey.



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Cristina Kanu

Spring 2021

B.A. Psychology, Management of Aging Services Minor

I am graduating as a Black student is an incredible achievement. For me graduation isn't only about the academic achievement but the personal growth that has come along the way. It was hard especially in this current climate, as a woman and a member of the Black community, I am proud to mark this milestone as a part of my overall journey and can't wait to see what the future holds.

I'd like to thank my counselor Dr. John Borrero for always supporting me in my academic goals. I would also like to thank my mom for always being my rock throughout my entire college career.



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Carter King

Fall 2021

B.A. Psychology

Certificate in Industrial-Organizational Psychology

As a Black, Queer woman I know that the odds are not in my favor. I have been working on this degree since 2015, pre and post pandemic and now that I am done I feel so strong. I allowed myself to feel weak and now I have shown myself and the world that I am strong.

I recognize that without my family I would have quit a long time ago. Even if I never use my degree I thank them for pushing me to finish what we started.



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Evangeline Kirigua

Spring 2021

B.A. Political Science

I am excited that I am graduating in May 2021. As a migrant woman of color in the United States, it has been an arduous journey to get here. I would encourage others to pick up their dreams where they left them off and keep moving. My motto: "If you don't do it, it won't be done."

I would like to recognize Dr. Brigid Starkey who believed in me and encouraged me to venture into Independent Study. She saw the potential I did not know I had.



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Giselle Lampley

Spring 2021

B.A. Biological Sciences, minor Psychology

I feel proud. It means that I'm one step closer to giving back to the community that helped raise me, protect me, and support me.

My mother who believed in my dreams even when I didn't.



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Giselle Ashley Lampley (She/her)

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Julaya Lewis

Spring 2021

B.A. Gender women sexuality studies

What mean to graduate as successful black women means a lot to me because coming from Baltimore it so many stereotypes and negative misconceptions about African Americans community. As a black women graduating first generation means that mean I create barriers for myself.

I like to personally recognize my mother Anya Gilliam because she push me to become a better person. She even sacrificed a lot to make sure I have a successful years at UMBC. This celebration is not only for me but, my sweet mother Anya Gilliam.



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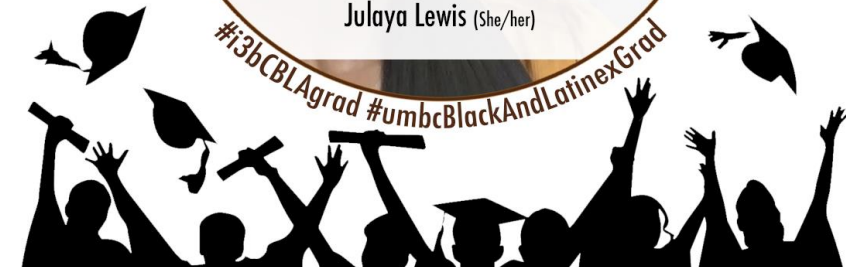
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Julaya Lewis (She/her)

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Viviana Llontop-Maldonado

Spring 2021

B.S. Biological Sciences, ODK certification

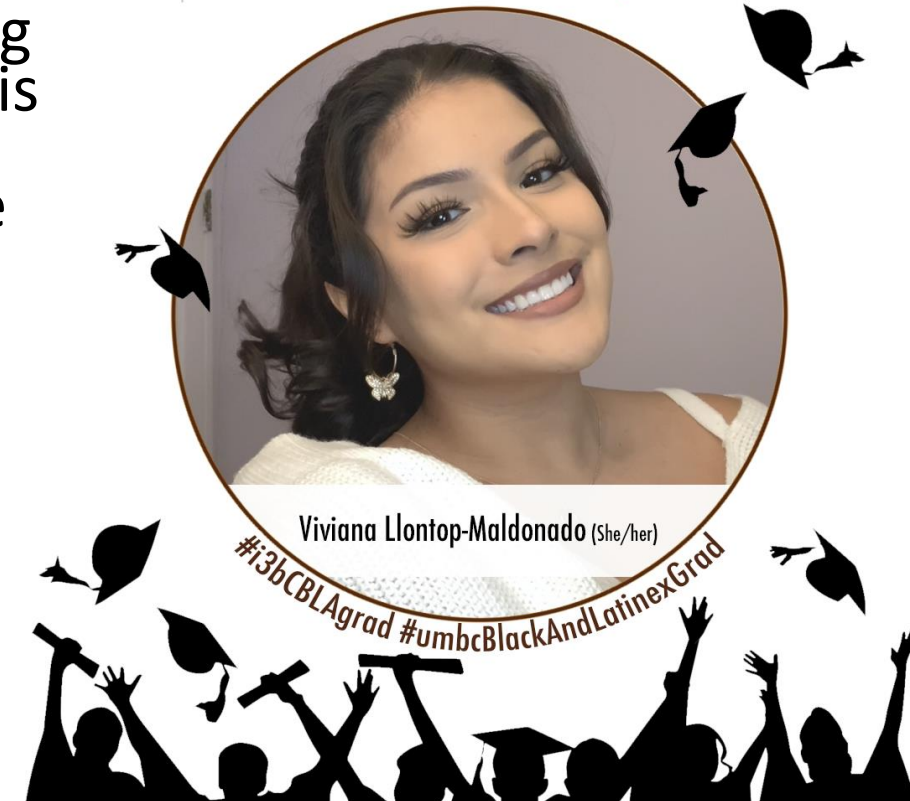
Graduating as a Latina woman in STEM is an amazing honor. I feel grateful for being able to accomplish this milestone and add to our growing percentage of graduating Latinx. I hope others who come from the same roots as me are inspired to keep going and to not give up on their dreams.

I will like to recognize my mama y papa. Without their love and support I don't know how I would've survived college! They're my inspiration, happiness, and encouragement to keep going at my dreams, Thank you.



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Viviana Llontop-Maldonado (She/her)

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Karina Lopez-Brown

Spring 2021
B.S. Information Systems

It feels exciting and empowering. It is an honor for me to represent my Latino community as a educated Latina women graduating from University.

I would like to thank my parents, Raisa Otero-Cesario and Michael Cesario, for all their support and love. Without them this wouldn't have been possible. Also, I want to thank my husband Chris Brown for being there for me and loving me. Finally, I would like to thank Cindy Greenwood from CWIT at UMBC for all her helping navigate through college. And in general a big thanks to the whole CWIT staff.



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Karina Lopez-Brown (She/her)

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Olufolake Majekodunmi

Spring 2021
B.S. Biological Sciences

To be a black woman graduating from college, it means a lot to me. I am very grateful to receive higher education and achieve this for myself.

I could not have made it this far without the Meyerhoff and U-RISE Program. They assisted me in achieving new heights I didn't know was possible. I am very grateful for my time at UMBC



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Olufolake Majekodunmi (She/her)

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Lola Malomo

Spring 2021

B.A.

Graduating as a black person means breaking barriers and moving the black community to the next level



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Luz Martinez

Spring 2021
B.A. Biology, B.A. Psychology

As a first-generation latina college student, my commitment to my education has not only been for myself, but to my family, community, and ancestors. Graduating undergrad means I have accomplished the first step to becoming a doctor and making both my family and community proud.

I believe my research mentor, Fernando Vonhoff, has had the biggest impact on me. Most of my college experience I have felt insecure in my ability to ever be a scientist, but Dr. Vonhoff has allowed me to have the creative space to become confident in my skills as a researcher.



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Luz Martinez (She/her)

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Luke Matthews

Spring 2021

Financial Economics, Political Science

It means the world. As a young African American man it is important that I trailblaze a path for others who look like me to follow.



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Luke Matthews (He/him)

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Wendy Miranda

Spring 2021

B.A.

I am proud to be graduating as part of the latine/x community! I'm happy to make my parents proud.

I would like to thank my parents, mentors and those who have supported me throughout my journey while being here at UMBC.



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Tasneem Mobarak

Spring 2021
B.A. Psychology
Emergency Health Services, Pre Med Track

I am so blessed to be able to graduate as a black Muslim woman. I will be the first among my siblings to pursue medicine and I am so excited to continue on this pathway to showing the world how amazing we are as Black individuals.

Tammy Henderson and Kate Dabinski. These professors were nothing less than great to me during my time at UMBC. Thank you for helping me further my career.



Sophia Murillo

Spring 2021

B.S. Information Systems

Naval Science - Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps

Coming from a Mexican immigrant family has heavily developed my work ethic and dedication. My background has allowed me to truly appreciate every opportunity as I am honored to be the first in my family to graduate from a university and start a chain for generations to come.

I would like to thank my family and fellow Midshipmen for their continued support throughout the years.



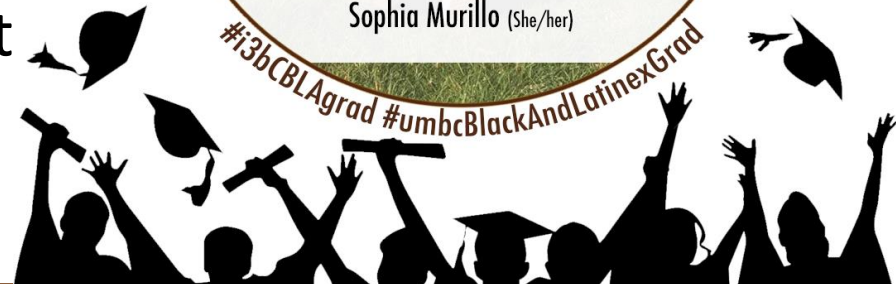
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Sophia Murillo (She/her)

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Jessie Nelson

Spring 2021

B.A in Asian Studies

Minor in Japanese Language and Culture, Certificate in Korean Language and Culture

Coming from a family without much experience in travelling and without much language diversity, I am extremely proud to be graduating as an Asian Studies major at UMBC. Through my comprehensive education, I am now equipped with the ability to speak Japanese, Korean, and Mandarin Chinese, and apply it to various socio-cultural contexts across the world. With my degree concentration and passion towards Asian Studies, I hope that I can help to contribute to Black representation within the ever-important fields of U.S.-Asia cultural, political, economic, linguistic, and societal studies and exchange.

I would like to give thanks to my Korean professor, Prof. Hye Jeoung Rupp, for her kind encouragement in my language studies, helping me become more calm and confident in speaking Korean, as well as gain confidence in myself. Even during her office hours and outside of the semester, Prof. Rupp did weekly Korean conversation practice with me, as well as taught me many aspects of Korean culture.



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Jessie Orion Nelson (She/her)

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Howard Nicholson III

Spring 2021

B.S. in Chemical Engineering, minor Music

To be graduating as a Black student is a testament to my strength, resilience and determination. I hope to be an example to aspiring Black engineers that come after me.

I would like to thank my parents, Howard and Sherrell Nicholson as well as my brother and sister, Michael and Kyra Nicholson. I would also like to thank the Meyerhoff Scholars Program, LSAMP, Honors College and Dr. Freeman Hrabowski.



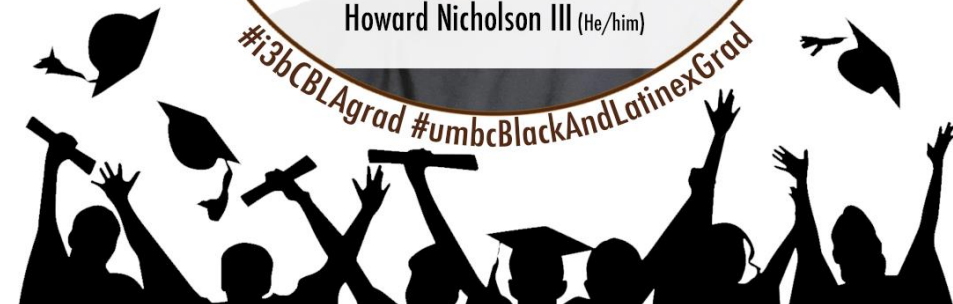
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Howard Nicholson III (He/him)

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Oluwalade Ogungbesan

Spring 2021
Chemical Engineering

Being a black graduate in STEM is especially important to me. Through this accomplishment, I hope to inspire future black scientists to continue on the path that they are on.

I would say that my mother has had a significant impact on my college career. As someone who is in a field similar to where I would like to go, she has inspired me through her hard work and also has encouraged me to continue even when things were hard.



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Oluwalade Ogungbesan (She/her)

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Mariana Orellana

Fall 2021

Modern Language and Linguistics - Spanish B.A.
Latin American Studies minor

Intercultural Communications certificate

Being a first generation college graduate and fully embracing not only my culture, but my identity mean the world. It makes me feel so proud of myself and I can only hope that others similar to me are able to brag about their successes like I can.

I want to thank my parents, Brenda and Luis for their endless love and support. I want to thank Mr. Mark for being the stepping stone I needed to even begin the process of applying to colleges. Lastly, I want to thank Ana Maria Schwartz, Tania Lizarazo and Thania Muñoz for all their career and identity advising and lessons, I would not be as proud as I am today without them.



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Mariana Orellana (She/her, They/them)

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Chidera Osuigwe

Spring 2021
Health Administration and Policy
Biology and Sociology

To be graduating as a black woman means that I have pushed past not only what was expected of me but what I expected of myself. Graduating as a young black woman means that the love and encouragement given to me by the community has prevailed over every challenge faced. It is an honor to be graduating as BLACK WOMAN!

I would love to thank Dr. Jennifer Callaghan- Koru for being my advisor and my teacher during these last few years. She has provided me with a wealth of knowledge, and most importantly, she gave me grace when I needed it.



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Chidera Osuigwe (She/her)

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Francheska Pineda

Spring 2021
B.A. Psychology
Human Services Specialty

As a Hispanic First-Generation Student graduating with a B.A. in Psychology means privilege. The privilege my parents has given me to continue my studies in such a supportive environment.

I would love to recognize Dr. Knight, Jennifer Riehl, and my parents. Their continuous support has pushed me to achieve my goals. I have grown so much not only academically but personally as well because of them. Thank you!



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Francheska Pineda (She/her)

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Itzel Pineda

Spring 2021
B.A. Psychology

It brings me a great deal of pride to know that I may up that small percentage of latina women that can say that they have received a college education with the sacrifice that my immigrant parents made for me to be here today. We owe our achievements to them and to our families because this achievement should not just be ours but it should be shared with those that helped us get to where we are.

My parents and family have been my support system through this entire journey. It is their support that helped me get to where I am, and would not be here if it were not for their support.



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Itzel Pineda (She/her)

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Jeilyn Portes

Spring 2021

B.A. Biology Psychology minor



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Monica Ramos

Fall 2021
B.S. Psychology

My graduation means a lot not only to me, but to my family also. My parent were both immigrants to this country and it makes me proud of myself because i know that their sacrifices of coming to this country and trying to give me the best life possible, wasn't for nothing.

I think my parents are the people have had the biggest impact in my college career. They pushed me to be the best that I can be and I feel that my college experience has allowed me to grow as a person.



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Monica Ramos (She/her)

Latesha Reid

Spring 2021
B.A. Psychology

I am me, unapologetically! I will stand up and stand proud in all things that help identify me. I made it, thank you UMBC for acknowledging me!

My friends and family have been my support system since day one! Without them I would not be here today! All love!!



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Roshae Roberts

Spring 2021

B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

As a first gen college student and immigrant, I never thought I'd get this far so it feels very good to have accomplished this milestone. I am now one step closer to reaching my goals and I know that I am making my family and friends proud.

I would like to thank my family and friends for their overwhelming support. I would also like to give a shoutout to my PI Dr. Tara LeGates, and the Honors College and LSAMP staff for giving me a community and guidance through my time here at UMBC.



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Roshae Roberts (She/her)

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Ana Rodriguez Cruz

Spring 2021
Social Work, BA
Psychology

Being a Latine/x graduate means recognizing my multicultural mindset and sharing with others.

Dad, mom, and Claudia <3

It was your valuable lessons that inspired me to keep going. Thank you for always being my inspiration and pushing me to be the best version of myself!



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Ana Rodriguez Cruz (She/her)

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Marian Singletary

Spring 2021

Computer Engineering B.S.

I believe it should always be empowering. Being a college graduate means defeating all the hurdles in this country that were set up to over generations and making those before you proud.

I would like to thank the Lord all of those who supported me especially my mother, father, and sister and all of my friends I have made in the journey.



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Veronica Soriano Lara

Spring 2021

B.A. Social Work minor, Psychology

It feels surreal! I have always dreamed of graduating University, and while it wasn't the easiest journey to get to this point in my life, I am so proud of myself for reaching this milestone.

I would like to recognize ACES Coordinator/ACES Coach Jessica Diaz. I would not be here without the support that ACES has given me.



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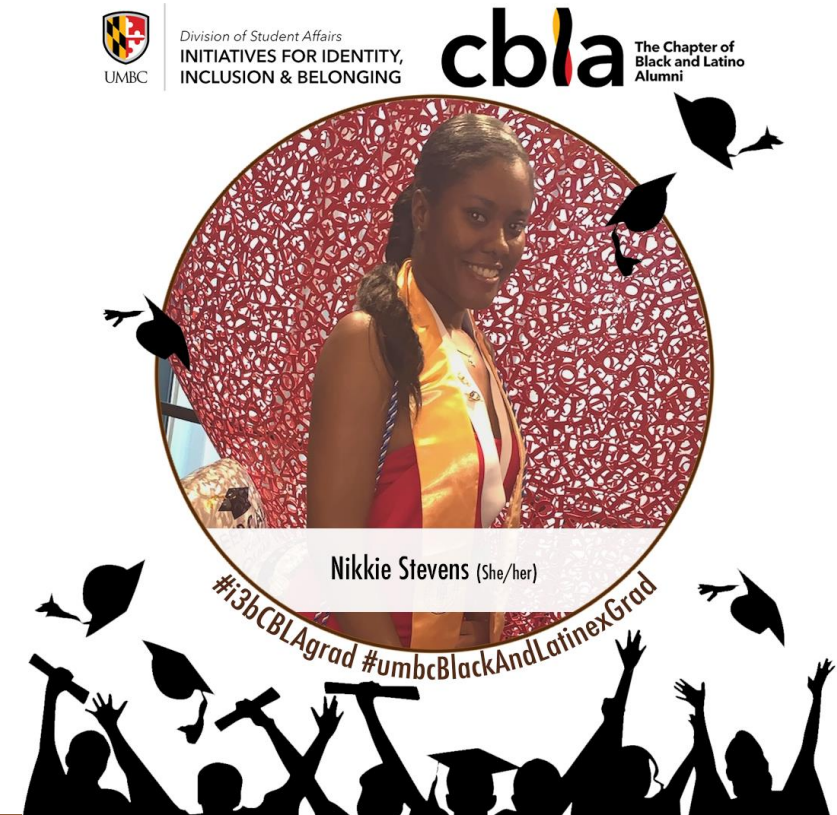
Veronica Soriano Lara (She/her)

Nikkie Stevens

Spring 2021

Media Communications

It means a lot I'm truly grateful to be apart of a community that helps us excel and continues to uplift us.



Vladimir Stewart

Spring 2021
B.S in Information Systems
M.B.A. Preparatory Studies Certificate

In my opinion, graduating with my held identities means overcoming commonly held stereotypes about my people. I look at this accomplishment as a way for me to pave my own path into the world and also serve as a role model for others in my community.

I would like to personally thank my parents for the support they provided to me these last 4 years. UMBC's NSBE Chapter was also an organization that enabled me to see people from my community being successful after graduation and I am grateful for all the advice and mentorship these individuals gave me. In addition, the resources members of the UMBC career provided to me enabled me to propel my plans of what I should pursue after graduation.



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Vladimir Stewart (He/him)

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Cira Roxana Tapia

Spring 2021

B.A. Global Studies, minor Multicultural Communication

I am very happy and proud to be a Latina and complete my Bachelor's degree, It is very important for me to complete a goal that I set for myself and I fulfilled it.

Thank you to Jess Myers



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Cira Roxana Tapia (She/her)

Ayo Telli

Spring 2021
Biology (B.A) and Psychology (B.S.)
Biopsychology Specialization Certificate

It feels amazing to be among an inspiring group of students, especially those of color. It may not have been an easy process for a lot of us, but I am so glad and grateful that we could make it this far.

I would love to recognize my family who have supported and encouraged me throughout my studies. I would not have made it this far without them.



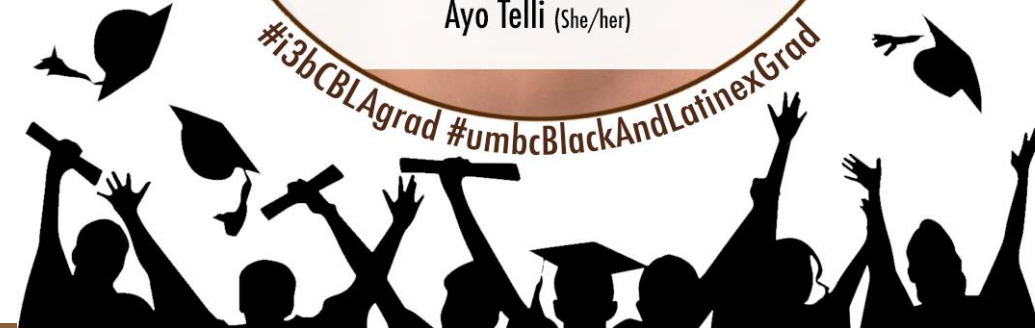
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Ayo Telli (She/her)

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Jela Thornton

Spring 2021

Modern Languages and Linguistics- Korean Track
Modern Languages and Linguistics- Japanese Track, Asian Studies

My blackness has been directly associated to my understanding of culture and language ability. As black culture, is an accumulation of styles and ideas from around the world, I have been taught to think and grow as an individual.

I would like to recognize my parents, who always taught me to try my hardest and grow into a better person. I would also like to recognize Professor Yoon, who helped me in my knowledge of Korean culture and always challenged me to try harder within her classes.



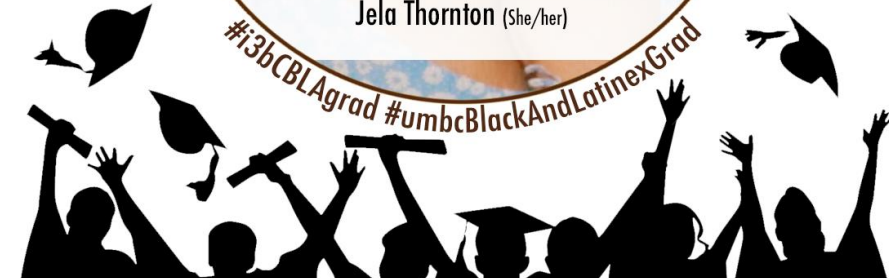
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Jela Thornton (She/her)

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Edith Torres

Spring 2021
B.A. English-Communication & Technology
History and Music Minors

It means I am living proof of someone who can be both strong and intelligent. My resilience was tested to its limits, and I still couldn't give up, no matter how many times I swore I would.

I'm incredibly grateful for my family, whom I may not always see eye to eye with, but are always there to make sure I finish what I start. I'd also love to recognize any/all of my track coaches, for teaching me self-awareness. Lastly, anyone who's been my friend, or taught me any nugget of golden information before or during my college career.



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Adrianna-Marie Urbina-Ruiz

Spring 2021
B.A. Mathematics

Being a Latina graduating with a math degree means working towards diversifying the math field. By becoming a math teacher and being someone Latinx students can identify with, my degree will also serve as a symbol in which students can see that if I was able to obtain a STEM degree, they can as well.

First and foremost, I would like to recognize and thank my dad for raising me to be passionate about STEM from a young age, and both him and my mom for believing in me. I also want to acknowledge the impact Mrs. Tighe has made on my journey, for without her, I wouldn't have realized math was the right major for me. Finally I want to recognize my Sherman Family - Shirelle, Rehana, Josh, and Corey - for being supportive of my pursuit of becoming a STEM educator.



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Adrianna-Marie Urbina-Ruiz (She/her)

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Frances C. Watson

Fall 2021

B.S. Computer Science

Not only have I overcome

Dr. Brittini Brown has had a significant impact on my college career and assisted through my participation in several organizations within the UMBC community and thank her for all the support she has provided me.



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Halle Welch

Spring 2021

B.S. Chemical Engineering

There have been many times where I have felt isolated in engineering because I don't see many people who have the same experiences as me, especially outside of UMBC. To me this highlights the friendships I have made and how we have formed solidarity with one another.



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Halle Welch (She/her)

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Danielle White

Spring 2021

B.S. Chemical Engineering

Being a Black woman studying chemical engineering has been hard but rewarding to know I am now part of the 20%

I would like to thank my friend Kiwane Lett for supporting and pushing me to stay an engineer even when things got hard. I would also like to thank all of my family and loved ones for their support throughout this long journey.



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Jameka C. Wiggins

Spring 2021

B.S. Chemical Engineering, minor Entrepreneurship and Innovation

I am a first generation Black woman pursuing a STEM degree and continuing on to pursue a STEM PhD! Graduating means the world to me and allows me to carry on the torch of many women of the past, and ignite a flame in young girls looking to do the same in the future. I am honored to be a Black graduate and a part of a continued legacy of excellence and success!

First I would like to thank God for bestowing these blessings upon me and giving me the strength to continue through. Next, I would like to thank my parents and immediate family members for their continued support of my academic and career journey. Finally, I would like to thank my UMBC family and friends; a special shoutout to my CWIT, LSAMP, McNair, and NSBE family for their continued encouragement, support, and guidance!



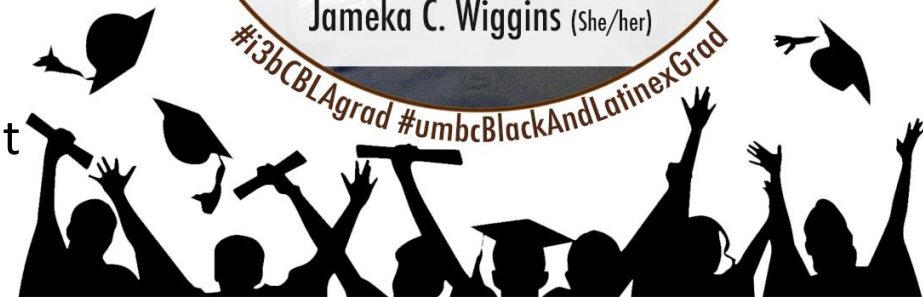
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Jameka C. Wiggins (She/her)

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Nicolette Williams

Spring 2021
Information Systems, B.S.

I've come a long way from being a little island girl. I wouldn't have made it without the support of family and friends.

Professor Tasha Richburg inspired me from the first class I ever took. She is the definition of a strong, successful black woman.



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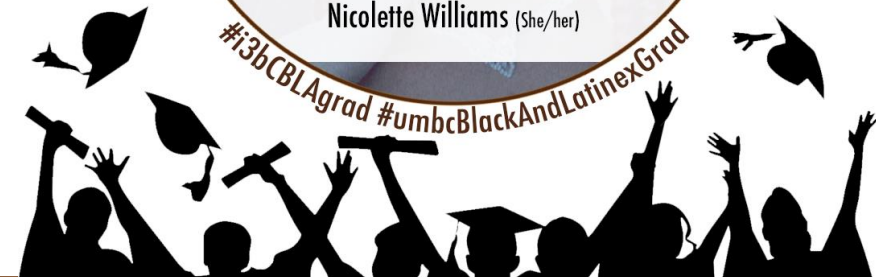
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Nicolette Williams (She/her)

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Sofia Zarate

Spring 2021
B.A. Chemistry Education
Teaching certificate

As a Latina woman, I am beyond grateful to have this opportunity to be receiving a great education and graduating with a teaching degree. My parents came to America for a better education and life for their family, so as a first generation American I am proud of myself for living up to their expectations.

I would like to thank my dad, mom, brother, and sister for always supporting me through my life and education. Without them I would have not been able to pursue my dreams and continue my education at UMBC.



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