Greetings from the Admissions Dean:

Welcome to our inaugural issue of “The Admissions Compass” – a newsletter targeted especially for University of Maryland School of Social Work prospective students. Our Admissions team will use this forum to provide applicants guidance through various stages of our MSW application process. Applying to a top ranked School of Social Work that attracts an ever-growing diverse population of talented MSW candidates can be an exciting and rewarding experience, with proper preparation. As a prospective student, you likely have a multifaceted array of questions, expectations, and options when applying to graduate school. In this issue, you will glean tips towards a successful application, meet our admissions team, gain a glimpse of current graduate student experiences, and learn more about our two dynamic campus locations. I look forward to reviewing your application! Happy reading.

–Dr. Kimberly Saunders
Meet the Admissions Staff

From left to right: First Row: Dr. Kimberly A. Saunders, Natalie Flowers; Second Row: Shannon DeGross, Scott Stafford, Jessica Rider Amin

Dr. Kimberly A. Saunders
What is your role at the School of Social Work?
Assistant Dean of Admissions

What is your favorite part about working for the School of Social Work?
Helping to identify a diverse array of future Social Workers and connecting with our current MSW students and outstanding School Alumni when they become Admissions Ambassadors.

Where is your favorite place to eat in Baltimore City?
Miss Shirley’s Café – I like this restaurant because it is near the Inner Harbor in Baltimore and for a good soulful breakfast/brunch meal.

Scott Stafford
What is your role at the School of Social Work?
Associate Director of Admissions

What is your favorite part about working for the School of Social Work?
I love being a part of a group of folks who are committed to fighting for justice and are working to improve society for all, especially those on the margins. Making social change is why I became a social worker.

What is the one thing you can’t live without?
I can’t live without water. It sustains, enriches, and entices.

Shannon DeGross
What is your role at the School of Social Work?
Admissions Counselor

What is your favorite part about working for the School of Social Work?
Working with different people.

What is your favorite thing to do in Baltimore City?
Visit the inner harbor.

Natalie Flowers
What is your role at the School of Social Work?
Admissions Counselor

What is your favorite part about working for the School of Social Work?
My favorite part about working for the School of Social Work is when I see new students entering the building on the first day of school. It gives me a good feeling to know that I had a major role.

If you could visit one place in the world, where would you go?
The one place in the world that I would like to visit is Dubai.

Jessica Rider Amin
What is your role at the School of Social Work?
Academic and Admissions Coordinator for the MSW Program at USG

What is your favorite part about working for the School of Social Work?
The people - it’s inspiring to be a part of a team that is deeply committed to advancing the field of social work and training future social workers.

Favorite travel spot?
Morocco – the scenery and architecture are stunning. The people of Morocco were exceedingly kind, welcoming, and generous.

Application Tips
- Apply early – for best eligibility for grants, scholarships, and program selection. Do not wait until deadline to submit your application.
- Check the status of your application at least once a week to ensure processing is up to date.
At a Glance

Incoming Class of 2017

- Males: 12%
  Females: 88%
- Baltimore: 84%
  USG: 16%
- Marylanders: 87%
  Out-of-State: 13%
- Average Age: 28
- Average GPA: 3.4
- Race & Ethnicity:
  White: 56%
  POC: 44%

Why Maryland?

MSW students receive over $750,000 in scholarship funds annually

Concentrations: Macro & Clinical Specializations:
  Aging, Behavioral Health, Community Action and Social Policy, Families & Children, and Health

Graduates pass license exam at a 10% higher rate

High national ranking and excellent reputation

Low tuition cost and high return on investment

Dynamic Faculty of Leaders in Various Fields and Research Areas
What factors influenced your decision to attend the University of Maryland School of Social Work?
I chose to attend the University of Maryland for a variety of reasons. Being centrally located in Baltimore appealed to me because the school is a short distance to D.C. and Philadelphia, which opens up a wide variety of networking opportunities and activities. I was also drawn to the school because the program offers a variety of dual-degree options which I am particularly interested in. Lastly, I wanted to pursue my graduate education in a location where I would be exposed to the exact topics and discussions I was learning about in the classroom and thus far, this University has provided me with that.

Did you receive a scholarship? If yes, please describe the impact upon your ability to attend graduate school?
I have received a scholarship and because of this, I was swayed to move from Massachusetts to Maryland. I received the Sandra D. Hess Scholarship for Community Practice my Foundation year and did not need to apply for this.

What is your favorite thing to do in Baltimore City?
I live in the city and have enjoyed exploring the various communities and neighborhoods that make up Baltimore. Through volunteer opportunities and my field placement, I have gratefully been exposed to the rich history and culture of the people that call this place home. I also appreciate being able to quickly travel outside the city to enjoy nature through the many parks, trails, and hikes the state has to offer.

Who is your favorite professor and why?
I don’t think I can list just one professor that I could say is my favorite. I will say I greatly appreciate the variety of professors that teach at the University of Maryland because many of them choose this to accompany other jobs, meaning the teacher is bringing first hand and extremely relevant experience to the classroom.
Please describe your career path since graduating from the University of Maryland, Baltimore?

I focused on medical and psychiatric social work in the first chapter of my career. I then moved into private practice as my next chapter in my professional journey, bringing my experiences from my early work with me. While in private practice, I maintained a general practice of working with children, adolescents and adults with various mental health concerns. I began to take a particular interest in education, particularly child and adolescent education. Consequently, I earned my second master’s degree (MEd) from Loyola University in Maryland.

Upon receiving my second degree, I chose to work for Baltimore County Public Schools as a School Counselor. After working in this capacity for roughly a decade, I decided to move into the field of higher education. I served as a proud member of the Division of Student Affairs at Towson University for more than ten years. During my time at Towson as Associate Director of Disability Support Services, I provided direct clinical services to students, spearheaded a multitude of Student Affairs-related programming for students and faculty, developed administrative policies and guidelines, and supervised and managed a team within the department. I came to realize my true passion in higher education Student Affairs. Student Affairs plays a significant role in addressing students’ essential non-academic concerns in order to promote their academic success.

I look forward to giving back to my alma mater as Associate Dean for Student Affairs. I am excited to begin this new chapter of my career by bringing my Student Affairs knowledge and expertise to the institution. My mission at the School of Social Work is to promote students’ academic success by assisting them in meeting the many demands of their academic and personal lives, and promoting a positive school experience.

How did your education at the University of Maryland School of Social Work prepare you for your career?

I received an outstanding education at the SSW. As a student, I developed my active listening and interpersonal problem solving abilities. I had a clinical concentration and took advantage of courses offered that focused on working with individuals, groups, and children. My field placements allowed me to directly practice what I was learning in the classrooms. My education provided me with a large tool kit of strategies and approaches to address interpersonal conflicts, workplace communications and client based needs. I continue to apply what I learned here into my daily practice.

What advice do you have for MSW students?

Your social work degree is very flexible and highly valued in a variety of work settings. Graduates of the MSW program are highly skilled in interpersonal communication and client advocacy. These are skills that others value, rely upon and seek out. Although traditional social work roles are always to be considered, consider expanding your professional options to non-traditional careers and work settings where these skills are needed. When I was an MSW student, I certainly was not familiar with the field of Student Affairs.
Application Information

Application Deadlines

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<th>FALL 2018 DEADLINE</th>
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<td>March 16, 2018</td>
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<td>Foundation Shady Grove</td>
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<td>March 16, 2018 ONLY</td>
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<td>Advanced Standing Baltimore</td>
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MSW Program Information Sessions

Attending an information session is the best way to learn about our program.

Baltimore Campus

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<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6 pm to 8 pm</td>
<td>UMB SSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9:30 am to 11:30 am</td>
<td>UMB SSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 5</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10 am to 12 pm</td>
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Shady Grove (USG) Campus

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<tr>
<td>September 13</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 4</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Shady Grove (USG)</td>
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Campus Locations

Baltimore Campus
525 W. Redwood Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

USG Campus
9636 Gudelsky Drive, Bldg. III
Rockville, MD 20850

To register and for more info, visit
www.ssw.umaryland.edu/admissions/msw-program/connect/