



The Inauguration of

*President*  
*Valerie Sheares Ashby*

As the Sixth President of the  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

**Thursday, April 27, 2023**

## UMBC VISION

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Our UMBC community redefines excellence in higher education through an inclusive culture that connects innovative teaching and learning, research across disciplines, and civic engagement. We will advance knowledge, economic prosperity, and social justice by welcoming and inspiring inquisitive minds from all backgrounds.



The Inauguration of

*President*  
*Valerie Sheares Ashby*

**Investiture Ceremony**

Thursday, April 27, 2023, 1 p.m.  
Chesapeake Employers Insurance Arena

## Valerie Sheares Ashby

*President of UMBC*



Valerie Sheares Ashby began as the sixth president of UMBC on August 1, 2022. The first woman to serve in this role, she also holds a faculty appointment in UMBC's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Sheares Ashby joined UMBC from Duke University, where she had served since 2015 as dean of the Trinity College of Arts & Sciences. As dean, she led the development and implementation of strategic plans that resulted in significant new investments in faculty recruitment and development, philanthropy, and student engagement, and a realignment of operations that enhanced services and created operational efficiencies. Throughout, she consistently advanced diversity, equity, and inclusion as imperative to excellence in both teaching and research.

Prior to her tenure at Duke, Sheares Ashby chaired the chemistry department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) from 2012 to 2015. As a faculty member at UNC since 2003, she held numerous leadership positions and had experience at all levels of academic administration. She served on UNC's Arts & Sciences Foundation Board of Directors and Research Advisory Council and chaired the university's Institutional Conflict of Interest Committee and the College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Diversity Task Force. She engaged in all aspects of the undergraduate educational experience as director of undergraduate studies in the chemistry department, and she directed the UNC National Science Foundation Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate. Sheares Ashby was instrumental in UNC's collaboration with UMBC to launch the Chancellor's Science Scholars Program, which was among the earliest replication pilots by a research university of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program.

She began her academic career in 1996 as an assistant professor at Iowa State University and was promoted to associate professor in 2002. At Iowa State, Sheares Ashby served as a mentor for the Iowa State University Program for Women in Science & Engineering, a summer research program for undergraduate and high school students.

As a researcher, Sheares Ashby has focused on synthetic polymer chemistry, with an emphasis on designing and synthesizing materials for biomedical applications such as X-ray contrast agents and drug delivery materials. She is the recipient of the National Science Foundation Career Development Award, DuPont Young Faculty Award, and 3M Young Faculty Award, as well as numerous teaching and service awards, including the UNC Chapel Hill General Alumni Association Faculty Service Award and the Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Professorship for excellence in undergraduate teaching and research. In 2022, *Women of Color* Magazine named Sheares Ashby its Technologist of the Year.

She received her B.A. and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed postdoctoral research at Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz in Germany as a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow and NATO Postdoctoral Fellow.

## About UMBC

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County's commitment to innovative teaching, relevant research across disciplines, and supportive community empowers and inspires inquisitive minds. UMBC combines the learning opportunities of a liberal arts college with the creative intensity of a leading research university. At the same time, UMBC is one of the country's most inclusive communities for undergraduate and graduate education.

One of just 146 U.S. institutions categorized by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as an R1 research university, UMBC has been named a top-10 university in both innovation and undergraduate teaching by *U.S. News & World Report*, and the National Science Foundation recognizes UMBC as a national leader in research funding and impact. *The Princeton Review*, *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*, and *Fiske Guide to Colleges* have named UMBC a "Best Value" university. With almost 14,000 students and nearly 100,000 alumni, UMBC's community is making its mark in government and service, healthcare, technology, the sciences, education, the arts and humanities, and business and entrepreneurship.

UMBC's government and industry partnerships advancing entrepreneurship, workforce training, K-16 education, and technology commercialization contribute to the state's economic development. More than 130 technology, bioscience, and research companies and organizations are located at the bwtech@UMBC Research and Technology Park, which is also home to Maryland's first Cyber Incubator.



## Order of Ceremony and Inauguration Procession

### Academic Processional

*"Rigaudon" by André Campra, arranged by Drew Fennell*

*Performed by UMBC musicians Chandra Cervantes, Bentley Corbett '17, M.A. '20, Patrick Crossland, Brian Kaufman, and David Nekula '24*

### National Anthem

*Performed by Regina Aquino '23*

*Flag Presentation by UMBC Naval ROTC*

### Opening of the Ceremony and Greetings on Behalf of UMBC Faculty

*Susan McDonough  
Grand Marshal  
President, Faculty Senate*

### Moment of Reflection

*Rev. Sheri Smith Clayborn  
Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Baltimore*

### Musical Performance

*"Goodness of God,"  
arranged by CeCe Winans*

*Maurette Brown Clark,  
Gospel Recording Artist  
With Fernando G. Allen, Pianist*

### Greetings to the President

#### From the University System of Maryland Board of Regents

*Farah Helal '24  
Student Regent*

*Jay A. Perman  
Chancellor  
University System of Maryland*

#### From the State of Maryland

*The Hon. Wes Moore  
Governor of Maryland*

#### From the Maryland General Assembly

*The Hon. Mark S. Chang '99  
Maryland House of Delegates*

*On behalf of*

*The Hon. Adrienne A. Jones '76  
Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates*

#### From Baltimore County

*The Hon. John A. Olszewski, Jr., Ph.D. '17  
Baltimore County Executive*

#### From the Alumni

*Brian Frazee '11, M.P.P. '12  
President, UMBC Alumni Association  
Board of Directors*

**From UMBC Shared Governance**

Jess Wyatt  
*President, Professional Staff Senate*

Desiree Stonesifer  
*President, Non-Exempt Staff Senate*

Ethan Post, M.A. '24  
*President, Graduate Student Association*

Shubhi Saxena '24  
*President, Student Government Association*

**Introduction of the President**

Henry T. Frierson  
*Professor Emeritus, College of Education, and Past Associate Vice President and Dean of the Graduate School University of Florida*

Joseph M. DeSimone  
*Sanjiv Sam Gambhir Professor of Translational Medicine and Chemical Engineering Co-Director, Precision Health and Integrated Diagnostics (PHIND) Center Departments of Radiology and Chemical Engineering Department of Chemistry (by Courtesy) Department of Materials Science and Engineering (by Courtesy) Graduate School of Business (by Courtesy) Stanford University*

**Installation**

Jay A. Perman  
*Chancellor University System of Maryland*

Linda R. Gooden  
*Chair, University System of Maryland Board of Regents*

**Performance**

*"Climb Every Mountain," arranged by Fernando G. Allen*

*UMBC Jubilee Singers, led by Janice Jackson '89*

**Presidential Inaugural Address**

*President Valerie Sheares Ashby*

**Alma Mater**

*Performed by the UMBC Camerata and Jubilee Singers*

*Led by Janice Jackson '89 and Kevin O'Brien*

**Recessional**

*Sonata from "Die Bankelsangerlieder," edited by Robert King*

*Performed by UMBC musicians*

## University Leadership

**Valerie Sheares Ashby**

*President*

**Philip J. Rous**

*Provost and Senior Vice President,  
Academic Affairs*

**Tanyka M. Barber**

*Vice President, Institutional Equity,  
and Chief Diversity Officer*

**Brian Barrio**

*Director of Athletics*

**Kathy L. Dettloff**

*Vice President, Administration and Finance*

**Candace Dodson-Reed '96**

*Vice President, Government Relations and  
Community Affairs*

**Kacey Hammel**

*Chief of Staff to the President*

**Bobbie L. Hoye**

*Senior Associate General Counsel*

**Angela Paik Schaeffer**

*Interim Vice President,  
Communications and Marketing*

**Gregory E. Simmons, M.P.P. '04**

*Vice President, Institutional Advancement*

**Karl V. Steiner**

*Vice President,  
Research and Creative Achievement*

**John J. Suess, III '80, M.S. '95**

*Chief Information Officer and Vice President,  
Information Technology*

**Nancy D. Young**

*Vice President, Student Affairs*

## Deans

**Keith J. Bowman**

*College of Engineering  
and Information Technology*

**Dana Burr Bradley**

*Erickson School of Aging Studies*

**Katharine H. Cole**

*Vice Provost and Dean,  
Undergraduate Academic Affairs*

**William R. LaCourse**

*College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences*

**Kimberly R. Moffitt**

*College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences*

**Janet C. Rutledge**

*Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate School*



## Ceremonial Artifacts

### UMBC Ceremonial Mace

UMBC did not have a mace of its own until 1986, 20 years after its founding. Commissioned by the Alumni Association, it was presented at the 17th Commencement ceremony on June 8, 1986, in honor of John W. Dorsey, who served as UMBC chancellor from 1977 to 1986. It is hand-carved mahogany with a solid brass seal, and was crafted by local artist Charles Strauss. It is carried by the Grand Marshal, the president of the Faculty Senate.

### UMBC Ceremonial Batons

The ceremonial batons carried by the marshals are gifts from the Alumni Association in honor of UMBC's 40th anniversary. They are made of walnut, with the UMBC seal in brass on the top.

## Land Acknowledgement Statement

UMBC was established upon the land of the Piscataway and Susquehannock peoples. Over time, citizens of many more Indigenous nations have come to reside in this region. We humbly offer our respect to all past, present, and future Indigenous people connected to this place.

## Inauguration Marshals

### Grand Marshal

**Susan A. McDonough**  
*President, Faculty Senate*  
*Associate Professor, History*

### Faculty Marshals

**Yonathan Zohar**  
*2022 - 25 Presidential Research Professor*  
*Professor and Chair, Marine Biotechnology*

**Tamra Mendelson**  
*2022 - 25 Presidential Teaching Professor*  
*Professor, Biological Sciences*

### Staff Marshal

**Helena C. Dahlen**  
*2022 - 23 Presidential Distinguished Staff Award,*  
*Non-Exempt Staff*  
*Executive Administrative Assistant,*  
*Information Technology*

*Procession members will be seated by UMBC's Student Marshals.*

## **University System of Maryland 2022 - 2023 Board of Regents**

Linda R. Gooden, Chair  
Gary L. Attman, Vice-Chair  
Louis Pope, Treasurer  
Michelle A. Gourdine, M.D., Secretary  
William T. "Bill" Wood, Assistant Treasurer  
Robert D. Rauch, Assistant Secretary  
Kevin Atticks, ex officio  
Kevin A. Anderson, ex officio  
Hugh Breslin  
Ellen Fish  
Geoff J. Gonella  
Robert Hur  
Isiah (Ike) Leggett  
Ed McDonald  
Julie Oberg  
Yehuda Neuberger  
Douglas J.J. Peters  
Robert L. Wallace  
Andy Smarick  
Ayotola Oludayo, Student Regent  
Farah Helal '24, Student Regent

## **UMBC Board of Visitors**

Rodney C. Adkins  
Triffon Alatzas  
Peter G. Angelos, Esq.  
William C. Baker  
Robert A. Baruch '89  
Brian H. Billick  
Kevin M. Butler  
Keith Campbell  
The Hon. Benjamin L. Cardin  
Lynda Clarizio  
Lee Coplan  
James T. Dresher, Jr.  
Robert C. Embry, Jr.  
John C. Erickson  
Kathryn B. Freeland  
Stephanie C. Hill '86  
James Kennedy  
Keith A. Lee  
Earl L. Linehan  
Robert G. Merrick, III  
John O. Meyerhoff (retired)  
C. Warren Mullins  
Jim E. Nevels  
David S. Oros '85  
Colin J. Parris  
Morton I. Rapoport  
Mark A. Reynolds '78, M.A. '82  
Arnold I. Richman  
Scott M. Rifkin '81  
Henry A. Rosenberg, Jr.  
Mayo A. Shattuck, III  
Carl William Struever  
Marc B. Terrill  
Ingrid Vaughan  
Alan D. Wilson

## Delegates

**Heidi M. Anderson**

*President*  
University of Maryland Eastern Shore

**Aminta H. Breaux**

*President*  
Bowie State University

**Stephanie L. Coldren**

*Chief of Staff to the President*  
Loyola University Maryland

**Gregory Fowler**

*President*  
University of Maryland Global Campus

**Katherine Gantz**

*Vice President of Academic Affairs and  
Dean of Faculty*  
St. Mary's College of Maryland

**Samuel Hoi**

*President*  
Maryland Institute College of Art

**Bruce E. Jarrell**

*President*  
University of Maryland, Baltimore

**Anthony L. Jenkins**

*President*  
Coppin State University

**Carolyn Ringer Lepre**

*President*  
Salisbury University

**Essala Lowe**

*Vice President of Administration and Finance*  
University of Maryland Center for Environmental  
Science

**Joseph Macfarland**

*Dean*  
St. John's College

**Elaine Meyer-Lee**

*Provost and Senior Vice President of  
Academic Affairs*  
Goucher College

**Mohamed Noor**

*Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs*  
Duke University

**Ronald Nowaczyk**

*President*  
Frostburg State University

**Melanie Perreault**

*Interim President*  
Towson University

**Darryll J. Pines**

*President*  
University of Maryland, College Park

**Stepheca M. Sawyer**

*Associate Dean of the Richard J. Bolte, Sr. School  
of Business*  
Mount St. Mary's University

**Kurt L. Schmoke**

*President*  
University of Baltimore

**Holden Thorp**

*Alumnus, 1986, and Chancellor, 2008 - 2013*  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Daria J. Willis**

*President*  
Howard Community College

**David Wilson**

*President*  
Morgan State University

**Phillip Yerby**

*Alumnus, 2011*  
Hood College

## Campus Leadership History



**Freeman A. Hrabowski, III**  
1992 - 2022



**Michael Hooker**  
1986 - 1992



**John W. Dorsey**  
1977 - 1986



**Calvin B.T. Lee**  
1971 - 1976



**Albin Owings Kuhn**  
1965 - 1971

**Louis L. Kaplan** served as interim chancellor 1976 - 77 during a search for the university's third leader. Prior to 1988, UMBC was led by a chancellor. The naming convention changed to president in 1988 with the formation of the University of Maryland System, now called the University System of Maryland.

## University Timeline Highlights



**1966** - UMBC opens its doors on September 19.

**1967** - Students choose UMBC's mascot, the Chesapeake Bay Retriever.

**1970** - Commencement for UMBC's first graduating class is held on the Quad.

**1972** - The first computer on UMBC's campus arrives, a Univac 9400 punch-card machine.

**1973** - UMBC awards its first graduate degrees.

**1979** - UMBC creates an official Alumni Association.

**1987** - The bronze statue of True Grit is commissioned from artist and alumna Paulette Raye '87, philosophy, using Nitty Gritty, a champion Chesapeake Bay Retriever, as a model.

**1988** - The Meyerhoff Scholars Program is founded.

**1990** - UMBC's enrollment reaches 10,000 students.

**1993** - The Shriver Center, named for Sargent and Eunice Kennedy Shriver, officially opens.

**1996** - UMBC holds its first Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD).

**1998** - Students are inducted into the university's new chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

**2002** - UMBC closes its first capital campaign, raising \$66 million.

**2003** - UMBC Athletics joins the America East Conference.

**2007** - UMBC women's basketball earns its first NCAA tournament bid. The following year, UMBC's men's basketball team earns the school's first NCAA men's tournament bid.

**2011** - UMBC closes its second capital campaign, raising \$115 million.

**2012** - UMBC opens the first phase of its new Performing Arts and Humanities Building.

**2014** - UMBC's total fall enrollment exceeds 14,000 students for the first time.

**2018** - Naomi Mburu '18, M26, chemical engineering, is named UMBC's first Rhodes Scholar. UMBC's men's basketball team becomes the first-ever number 16 seed to defeat a number one seed at the men's NCAA Tournament.

**2022** - UMBC is named an R1 research university by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

See the full UMBC Timeline at [umbc.edu/about/timeline](https://umbc.edu/about/timeline).



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## THANK YOU

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The University System of Maryland Board of Regents officially presides over the presidential investiture.

On behalf of the Board of Regents, we extend our deepest gratitude to the UMBC students, faculty, staff, and alumni, as well as University System of Maryland colleagues and external partners, whose dedication and myriad contributions were integral to the inauguration celebration.

## UMBC ALMA MATER

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Hail alma mater! OUR UMBC,  
Boldly bearing your colors, the whole world to see,  
Striving together in true unity,  
Black, gold forever we're reminded of thee,  
Proudly we hail to thee, OUR UMBC!

Throughout the ages, OUR UMBC,  
Songs and memories still echo with true clarity,  
Knowledge and wisdom and truth we found here,  
Friendships we treasure that will last through the years,  
Proudly we hail to thee, OUR UMBC!

Music by Matthias Keller  
Words and Arrangement by Jari Villanueva



UMBC

[umbc.edu](http://umbc.edu)