

**Introduction:**

So, wherein lies the truth? A [2004 public opinion poll](#) conducted by the Panetta Institute for Public Policy in Washington, D.C., determined that volunteering time to engage in community service ranked at the bottom of college students' priorities. This past July, an [article](#) in USA Today stated that volunteer rates for college students hit record numbers.

That finding is closest to the truth for College Park Scholars; it coincides with the experience of our 900 first-year students who engaged in College Park Scholars 11th annual [Service Day](#). Divided into 21 service teams, these Scholars made their way to local schools, parks and non-profit organizations to work on projects designed by our neighboring communities. As examples, a team of Arts students spent the day realizing the dream of a mural, designed by one of the parents, on the cafeteria wall at Paint Branch Elementary School; Earth, Life and Time students donned hip waders or rowed out to the center of a demonstration pond to remove hydrilla, an invasive species, at the National Aquatic Gardens; a team of Science Discovery and the Universe students put together flight kits for College Park Aviation Museum volunteers to use with future student groups.

Did you know that the State of Maryland was the first state to require high school students to engage in [service-learning](#) activities (75 hours) as a condition of graduation? As such, service has been an integral part of Maryland students' learning. To reinforce that experience, College Park Scholars structures a co-curriculum to counteract what many national experts have observed as a civic disengagement by our youth. Why make this investment? "Community is essential to a democratic society," says George Kuh, Chancellor's Professor of Higher Education at Indiana University. "If civic disengagement among this college generation continues, students will begin to lose a sense of loyalty and community with their institutions."

Though Service Day is an annual, one-time event, it imprints on new Scholars the values of civic engagement inherent in College Park Scholars. We encourage your sons and daughters to continue serving their fellow Scholars and neighboring communities throughout their two-year experience. As an example, College Park Scholars hosts an after-school tutoring program, [Lakeland Stars](#), for students enrolled in Paint Branch Elementary School.

Civic engagement is more than community service. The Panetta Institute Poll also cited "public service as a personal goal" ranking lower than "enjoying oneself,"

"making money" or "having a close-knit family life." On Friday, September 29th, Scholars students can explore public service opportunities through our fifth annual [Scholars on the Hill](#) program. Participating students will tour the nation's Capitol, meet with a Maryland congressman, and learn about future internship and career opportunities. Please encourage your son or daughter to participate in this event.

Community and public service are two examples of civic engagement. Another, equally important example is charity. Let me close by observing that it is quite evident from whom our students have learned their values. This year's Service Day could not have achieved its mission without the [support from parents](#) of rising sophomores. Your generous donations covered most of the costs for transportation, bag lunches, work gloves, even first-aid kits. More importantly, it provided 3,000 hours of service that will have an immeasurable impact on so many - but in particular - your sons and daughters.

I am saddened that this year I will not have the personal opportunity to greet many of you during [Family Weekend](#). My good fortune of participating in a Fulbright Seminar in Germany unfortunately coincides with this annual weekend of activities. But I do hope you stay in touch as the semesters progress.

Best wishes to you all,

[Greig Stewart](#)

Executive Director

### ***Service Day***

Take a moment to review the reflections and photos from some of our Scholars programs' 2006 Service Day activities on their websites, such as those from [Environmental Studies](#). Ken Joseph, Associate Director of Media, Self and Society, reflected on the group's experience at Columbia Park School and Community Center where the group did landscaping, painting, and general clean-up. "We know when we invite these students to join the Scholars community that they are remarkable young men and women. However, on days like this, days when we see them working together in groups to achieve a common goal for a good cause, that's when we see how outstanding they truly are."

### ***Scholars on the Hill***

"Scholars on the Hill" is one of the Civic Engagement opportunities offered within College Park Scholars that allows students to visit nearby Washington, D.C. to gain an up-close and personal look at the federal government in action. Our next "Scholars on the Hill" event will occur on Friday, September 29, 2006. During this event, Scholars will have the opportunity to tour the U.S. Capitol, meet with a

representative of Congress, and learn about internship opportunities with the federal government.

Past "Scholars on the Hill" events have allowed Scholars to meet Representative Chris Van Hollen and Representative & Minority Whip Steny Hoyer. This is a wonderful opportunity for Scholars to learn more about the federal government, possible internship opportunities for later in their undergraduate careers, and to take advantage of our close proximity to Washington, D.C. More information about this event is available on our [Scholars on the Hill site](#). A special note to parents: Please be sure to ask your sons and daughters about this opportunity and their involvement or interest in it. We would also love to know if you have connections within the federal government that may provide support to future events for our students. If you have such connections or opportunities, please contact [Emily Hept](#), our Undergraduate Coordinator of Civic Engagement Programs.

### ***Scholars Alumni Association Golf Tournament***

During the afternoon of September 10, 2006, more than 30 parents, alumni, faculty, and friends of Scholars descended on the University Golf Course to participate in the 2nd annual Scholars Alumni Association Golf tournament. Hosted by 12 sponsors, including Lockheed Martin, Commerce Bank, and Union Jack's British Pub, the event was a social gathering geared toward generating support for the Scholars Alumni Association and promoting recognition of the living-learning program itself. Keep your eyes peeled for the 3rd annual Tournament so you can join us in fall '07!

### ***University Family Weekend***

(A message from the Office of Parent and Family Affairs)

Don't forget! Family Weekend is October 13 - 15, 2006 and online registration is now open. We hope you will make plans to join us for this exciting weekend, and we encourage you to register as soon as possible since certain events will fill quickly. Please visit [www.familyweekend.umd.edu](http://www.familyweekend.umd.edu) for more information.

College Park Scholars will be hosting a dinner during the Saturday evening of Family Weekend that is open to all current and former Scholars, and their families. This special event with faculty, alumni, and families, will occur in the Grand Ballroom of the Stamp Student Union. Students and families may register through the Family Weekend website. Below is the menu for the event:

#### *First Course:*

Autumn Salad (Seasonal greens tossed with sugared walnuts, dried cranberries and crumbled goat cheese, Champagne vinaigrette)

#### *Main Plate:*

Asian Spiced Chicken with Thai Shrimp Skewers (Coated in Panko Bread Crumbs and sautéed until golden. Garnished with 2 Thai-Chili Shrimp skewers)  
Jasmine Blended Rice  
Julienne of Autumn Vegetables  
Specialty Rolls and Butter

*Dessert Course:*

Citrus Custard (Creamy custard accented with citrus flavors and garnished with whipped cream)  
Chocolate Drop cookie  
Starbucks coffee, hot tea and iced tea

### ***Scholars "State of the Program" Message***

Dr. Greig Stewart, Executive Director of College Park Scholars, reflects on Scholars' successes over the past decade, recaptures highlights from the previous year, and looks toward the future in his annual [State of the Program message](#).

### ***From the Scholars Newsdesk***

(<http://www.scholars.umd.edu/news/>)

In August, U.S. News and World Report for the fifth consecutive year included The University of Maryland in a list of schools with outstanding academic programs that foster achievements from their students. Scholars feels proud to share in this prestigious accomplishment. For the full story, please visit our [release](#).

### ***Parent Advisory Council***

The Office of Parent and Family Affairs is looking for parents with energy and enthusiasm who are willing to serve as ambassadors for the University among other parents and family members. The Parent Advisory Council serves as the administrative body of the Maryland Parents Association and is made up of parents of current undergraduate students. This group of parent volunteers meets three times throughout the academic year to talk about important issues affecting students, to learn more about happenings at the University, to provide feedback to the Office of Parent and Family Affairs on issues of particular importance to parents, and to help plan programs to involve other Terp parents and families. For more information and to download an application, visit the Terp Parent web site at <http://www.terpparent.umd.edu/news/application>.