

***Hello Parents!***

With winter finally beginning to feel its way into December, Scholars students are pushing for the finish line. It is a stressful time for most everyone. You can help by urging your student to keep a sense of balance in her/his life -- sleep rather than the "all-niter" is usually key followed by a regular, balanced diet and physical exercise. For better or worse, much of how students will do academically this semester has already been set by earlier work and study habits. If these have not been going well, the lessons learned at this time of a semester can be useful for the Spring semester.

Remind your student (again!) that getting an education takes a lot of hard work. A rule-of-thumb is that for every hour in class a student should be spending about three hours outside of class every week studying. With an average course hour total of 15 hours that translates into about 45 hours of study -- combined, that is the equivalent of a job and a half!

Remind your student too that there are multiple resources on campus to help with all aspects of coursework -- from time management to exam anxiety to free tutoring and study groups. Have her/him set up meetings with their academic advisor and their Scholars faculty, if not during Winter break, then right away as soon as they get back to campus next year. New Year's resolutions are as appropriate for study habits as for any other habit!

But also focus on what has gone well for your student. There usually are some high points in every semester's work and success in these can help fuel new habits for the Spring. Rarely is poor performance in one semester reason enough to leave the University, but it should lead to serious self-examination and repair. Scholars staff and faculty all take an active interest in the welfare of our students and stand ready to assist those who realize that some coaching and guidelines are useful.

If your student does well this semester academically even if not quite up to expectations, then certainly praise and congratulations are in order. First semester transitions to a collegiate way of life are often difficult processes to master, and achievement, even if a little lower than expected, is a substantive accomplishment. And there is a lot more to come!

Safe travels when you come to campus this winter season. And on behalf of the full Scholars community we wish you and yours a warm and fulfilling holiday season.

[Dr. John Cordes](#)

Faculty Co-Director of Science, Discovery & the Universe  
Coordinator of Undergraduate Research for College Park Scholars

### **Mark Your Calendars**

North Campus residence halls will close December 20, 2006, at 10:00 p.m. with no exceptions and will re-open on January 21, 2007, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Department of Resident Life is also hosting a welcome back event for new and returning students on January 21, 2007, at 9:00 p.m. at a location to be announced.

### **Register Now for "Scholars in New York"**

As the months roll by and we begin to feel the winter's cold, we see a bud of promised excitement, as the hope of springtime stirs in the back of our minds. Students in College Park Scholars especially are anticipating the spring, as they plan to journey together to the Big Apple for a weekend of great experiences. The faculty and staff at College Park Scholars work diligently all year round to create and organize a weekend filled with diverse opportunities and events for students, parents, alumni, faculty and staff. With preparations constantly being made, there are always new updates that can be checked on the Scholars website at <http://www.scholars.umd.edu/nyc/>. Below is a brief advertisement on what participating parents and alumni can expect:

*Broadway shows are never complete without an elegant dinner to enjoy before soaking up the lights and sounds of a theatrical masterpiece. We want you to enjoy every bit of the Broadway magic when you join Scholars for its 4th Annual Scholars in New York trip. Of course the show itself makes any night memorable, but without the relaxation that accompanies a special dinner, the New York experience is not complete. That is why we have created a dinner event specifically for our Alumni, Parents, Faculty and Staff. It is our pleasure to announce that we will dine at Simply Pasta, a restaurant that serves only the finest homemade Authentic Italian Cuisine. For the enviable price of just \$24.00 per person (plus tax and gratuity), you will select your menu from a variety of delicious meals. At a small cost, you can even choose to have wine or bar drinks with your meal.*

To learn more about the parent and family options surrounding Scholars in New York, along with the rates and registration information, please visit <http://www.scholars.umd.edu/nyc/parents.cfm>.

## ***Terrapin Pride Day***

Terrapin Pride Day is an annual event held in Annapolis, Maryland, where supporters of higher education and the University of Maryland gather to demonstrate their support for the University. The event is coordinated by the Office of the President at the University of Maryland. College Park Scholars is a strong supporter of the event and encourages students, parents, alumni, faculty and staff to participate in what has become noted as an influential event for the University. Be sure to check the website for further information:

<http://www.scholars.umd.edu/events/terppride.cfm>.

This year's event will take place on Tuesday, February 20, 2007, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Miller Senate Office Building, Annapolis MD. Transportation from the University and lunch in Annapolis will be provided. College Park Scholars is also working with the Career Center to provide an event before Terrapin Pride Day, in Annapolis, that will provide participating students with information on internship opportunities in the state government. Please encourage your student to attend if this sounds like it would be of interest to them. Please also consider participating yourself, alongside the many parents and alumni who attend Terrapin Pride Day.

## ***Feature Story: "Winter Break: Making Scholars Proud"***

Kendall Spera, Undergraduate Publications Coordinator

Over the winter break, many students face a problem that they rarely encounter during the semester: BOREDOM. College Park Scholars, a program that advocates students taking action to better themselves and the community, suggests taking the path less traveled. Encourage your students to check out some different opportunities and activities throughout their time off, instead of just spending all break surfing *Facebook*. Listed below is some food for thought.

### Fun for your brain

- Read a book!
  - Check out some different online sites for some new ideas...and yes, even used books for the poor college student.
    - <http://www.amazon.com>
    - <http://www.barnesandnoble.com>
    - <http://www.powells.com>
- View a documentary or an independent film.
  - Instead of going to see a mainstream blockbuster hit, try something a bit more avant-garde. The website below lists some new films that provide a different flavor that may just spark your interest this winter.

- [http://movies.aol.com/franchise/indiefilmguide/in\\_theaters.adp?sem=1&ncid=AOLMOV00170000000009](http://movies.aol.com/franchise/indiefilmguide/in_theaters.adp?sem=1&ncid=AOLMOV00170000000009)
- Enroll in a winter class.
  - If in or around the area, seize the opportunity this winter to enrich your mind by taking a class to either fill some credits or just simply for your own interest and self-development. If out of the state, look into classes that your local college or university offers.
  - Registration made on or after January 2, 2007, will incur a \$20 late registration fee.
    - <http://www.summer.umd.edu/w/>
- Visit a local museum.
  - Take a day to do something out of the ordinary and enjoy the art in the museums in your home state.
    - <http://www.magicyellow.com/category/Museums/Cities.html>
- Volunteer.
  - A good method for trying to gather information to become active in social service is to use these key words accompanied by the name of your city or state in a search engine:
    - Soup Kitchens
    - Big Brother / mentoring programs
    - Clothing Drives
    - Hospital volunteer programs
- Prepare for the Future.
  - Begin compiling, writing, or updating a resume. Check out UM's Career Center website for information about resume writing, job opportunities along with other valuable resources:
    - <http://www.careercenter.umd.edu/>
    - <http://www.careercenter.umd.edu/student/studhome.asp>
  - Look into Internships for the summer
  - Be sure that schedules have been perfected for the upcoming semester before returning to school!

### **Scholars Newsdesk** (<http://www.scholars.umd.edu/news/>)

Catch up on students, faculty, and administrators connected with College Park Scholars, as their most recent press clippings can be found at our newsdesk online.

### **Guide to Holiday Giving**

As we approach the end of the calendar year, Scholars is very appreciative of those members of our community who wish to make gifts of financial support to the program. Alumni, parents, faculty and staff, community and corporate partners, and friends of the program allow for us to deliver our high quality programs, and assist us in continuing to grow College Park Scholars. Although we receive these gifts

throughout the year, we still receive a significant number of requests around year-end gifts. If you are considering such a donation, either as a repeat gift or for the first time, we have created this [guide to holiday giving](#) to assist you through the process. If you cannot find the information you are looking for, please contact [Kevin Baxter](#), our Assistant Director, at your convenience. Thanks so much for your support, and from all of us in the Scholars community ~ Happy Holidays!

From all of us at College Park Scholars, thank you for your continued interest and support of the program, and please [be in touch](#) with our faculty and staff if we can be supportive or respond to any questions or concerns.

Best Wishes for a very happy and healthy holiday season.