

May 9, 2007

Dear Parents:

This month's welcome message was written by Kendall Spera, a sophomore Scholar in Media, Self & Society and a member of my staff in the Office of External Relations & Development. Kendall began in my office as an intern this past fall and is now on staff as the Undergraduate Publications Coordinator. Part of her portfolio is to assist in compiling information for our monthly parent newsletters and, as I'm sure you will agree, she does a remarkable job. Kendall is just one example of the many committed students enrolled in College Park Scholars. Many of our students volunteer their time in positions as diverse as student Ambassadors and Residence Hall officers. Each contributes to our community in valuable ways and serves to model those ways in which other students may become involved as volunteers, interns or employees throughout our community. If your son or daughter is interested in finding ways to become more engaged in our community, please direct them to [any member of our staff](#) or take a glimpse at a [sample of student groups](#) available in our community. College Park Scholars is a unit committed to the engagement of undergraduates and that begins at home in the Cambridge Community. Without students like Kendall, our program would be unable to deliver our many commitments to myriad constituencies. Our thanks go out to these students and our very best is extended to their families ~ to whom we wish a restful and exciting summer.

Yours very truly,

[Kevin Baxter](#)

Assistant Director

College Park Scholars

The Wrap-up: A Year in Summary

The time has come to reflect on another season that has passed, another year gone by. Fall of 2006 does not seem like it was that long ago but now as we approach the summer months, we can look back and see all of the things that helped to build our year into the memory that it now is. Beginning in August with Scholars' Service Day, we began our journey as a committed and thriving program as we helped to add to the success of yet another effort to aid our community. In September, the College Park Alumni Association hosted its second annual golf tournament at the University of Maryland Golf Course, and also the first Scholars on the Hill event for the academic year took place, as students had the opportunity to explore the halls of the Capitol Building and watch votes on the House floor. October brought with it Family Weekend and

the Citation Ceremony for Scholars graduates. In February, Scholars on the Hill had its second event at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and Terrapin Pride Day, during which students, faculty and staff ventured to Annapolis to speak with representatives of the pride and hope that we have in the university, garnered a successful turnout. March was spent gearing up for the much-loved and very popular Scholars in New York trip in April, which went off with the most success that it has seen to date. May, as you will read more on throughout this newsletter, gave way to the Arts Fair – a scholars' contribution to the 11th annual Maryland Day, the Scholars Academic Showcase and the annual Charity Softball tournament. Evidently, it has been a year full of success and great achievements.

It is easy to place value on the success of a program according to the execution of a certain amount of events or how many people attended particular affairs however, as we look back on this year, we choose to measure our success in the impact that was made. A group of freshman entered this university with excitement and uncertainty regarding the future and in just this year, here in the halls of resident housing, throughout classrooms and on academic field trips, laughter has echoed, feelings of comfort and security have resonated, and development and growth have occurred. What were once seeds have blossomed and the College Park Scholars program has seen yet another wave of sophomores culminate their final weeks as members of the living-learning program that helped to shape their first two years at the university – both academically and socially. So considering measured success in a different light, our outcomes from this year are stunning, and it is with great pride and profound appreciation that we send this final newsletter of the semester to the parents and guardians of the students who bring life and inspiration to this program. We wish you a happy and healthy summer break and we will return to you this Fall!

[Kendall Spera](#)

Undergraduate Publications Coordinator
College Park Scholars

“Step to Bat for Kids” Charity Softball Tournament

On May 5th beginning at 10:00 a.m. on the Engineering Fields, students from across College Park Scholars participated in the 10th annual “Step to Bat for Kids” Charity Softball Tournament. Nick Verderame, Student Coordinator of the Charity Softball Tournament said, “This tournament is great because it is fun, it brings everyone together, and it really is an easy, effective way to raise money for charities.” According to staff, there were at least 250 students who attended the event.

Advocates for Children came in first place in the tournament this year, contributing \$1,000 on behalf of Scholars to St. Ann's Infant & Maternity Home. In second place was Science, Technology and Society, whose \$500 in winnings went to Habitat for Humanity and the third place spot was held by Business, Society and the Economy, who gave \$250 in prize money to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

The sponsors helped to make the day a reality. Jimmy John's provided support for lunch and allowed the athletes a chance to eat between running bases and batting for a home run. Pepsi, Shanghai Café, Bagel Place, Ledo's Pizza, and Giant were some of the establishments that gave to the event, as well as the University of Maryland Athletic Department's Marketing Staff (who donated a trip from Testudo himself), members of the Joseph family, Cambridge Community Hall Councils and the College Park Scholars Alumni Association. We are always looking for individuals to sponsor us in the future so keep this special event in mind for and become part of a longstanding Scholars tradition that helps so many every year.

Academic Showcase

The Scholars 11th Annual Academic Showcase took place on Friday May 4, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Cambridge Community Center. The objective of the day was to present to friends, family, faculty and staff the fruits of labor of the College Park Scholars, as they completed their endeavors for their second year in the program. Individuals and groups of students prepared display boards, summarizing what they accomplished throughout their practica and capstone projects. Whether they partook in an internship or a service learning venture, their work was presented in a manner that relayed the information that they learned and/or the impact that they made. Under the direction of Dr. John Cordes, faculty co-director of Science, Discovery & the Universe and Coordinator of Undergraduate Research, along with the help of many faculty and staff people, the day was met with much success. Christine Kruszewski, mother of Matthew Kruszewski, a Life Sciences scholar, said she was "very, very impressed" by the showcase. "I think it's fabulous they [the students] get to see each other's work...I think it's just priceless having this experience," she said. The dialogue created among students through their different experiences creates a source of enthusiasm for continued efforts and development.

Some of the titles of the projects included "Metacognition and Learning" by Brian Massoff, and "Just need to talk? Just Call or Walk! HelpCenter Hotline at the University of Maryland" by Patrick Mahoney, both students in Life Sciences. Gloria Ryan, an International Studies scholar, explained that she thought the idea of hands on work done independently of an organized classroom setting proved

to be very beneficial. Her project, which addressed the influence of dance on students, with a concentration in the Bolshoi Ballet, generated success after a semester spent researching, meeting with her group and developing their thesis. At 1:00 p.m., Dr. Mark Wellman, Director of Business, Society & the Economy and Dr. Arjang A. Assad, Professor of Management Science Decision and Information Technologies, handed out prizes to the winners of the Strategy Board Competition. You can learn more about this competition here at <http://www.smith.umd.edu/news/stories/2004/stratboard.html>.

The day also featured a visit from outgoing Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs William W. Destler at 1:30 p.m. In a speech to the Scholars community, he expressed that the university has come a long way throughout his 34-year tenure and he will eagerly draw upon the best practices used here and utilize them in his presidency at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Hyacinth Todd, mother of sophomore Life Sciences scholar Sarah Todd, summed the intent of the day up well. "We could see that the students took great care in putting them [their presentations] together and they learned a lot."

Congratulations to all of those who helped with and participated in such a successful event!

Maryland Day

On April 28, 2007, the University of Maryland hosted its 9th annual Maryland day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The free event was open to all. Highlights of this Maryland day included the addition of the Global Village on Hornbake Plaza. According to an email sent to the university community by Brodie Remington, Vice President of University Relations and Chair of Maryland Day Planning Committee, "The Global Village is our newest neighborhood where you can enjoy international cuisine, music, dance and more." With a wide range of sponsors including Dell, BB&T, Ikea, ABC News and Pepsi, the daylong event welcomed Afrochique and Caribbean Dances, a kids' carnival, Filipino Burong Talo, and an Ikea furniture assembly contest. International poetry readings, as well as a plateful of other interesting things to watch and foods to eat made the day a great success. The formal opening ceremonies took place on Hornbake Plaza and both Army and Air Force ROTC members conducted a presentation of colors. Remington predicted more than 70,000 guests, 8,000 faculty, staff and student volunteers, with over 400 activities. Following this, President C.D. Mote shared some opening thoughts with the crowd, who then shortly after. Places to visit throughout the day included ag day avenue, arts alley, biz and society hill, sports and rec row, global village, science and tech way and terp town center.

Scholars contributed to Maryland Day through two different events. On McKeldin Mall, representatives of Scholars Alumni Association hosted a welcoming area complete with a Plinko Board and prizes. Across campus in the Cambridge Community our Arts program went Hollywood for their annual Arts Fair! The event highlighted Maryland day once again, as the Arts program put on its annual culminating event in the Cambridge Community Center from 1p.m. to 4 p.m. The day, which is a product of a semester's worth of work for scholars Arts students, is open to the entire community and serves as a chance for the program to share their gifts and talents with others in the spirit of service. This event is a large-scale project done within the workings of groups, consequently acting as a collaborative and mutual effort. One of the goals of the event is to learn creativity while working on a budget, and that is exactly what was done. The CCC was transformed into a Hollywood haven, with a jazz café in one room and a puppet show in another. One had the option of decorating walls covered in paper, to evoke the artistic talents of the visitors, though much of the wall space was plastered with pictures depicting different scenes and aspects of Hollywood. When president Mote stopped by to visit the Arts Fair, he received the Oscar for best performance, with which he was highly tickled. Dr. David Solomon, Faculty Co-Director of the Arts program, dressed as Chuck Norris for the day and there was even a Marilyn Monroe look-alike parading about. Everyone in the program was costumed to join in on the Tinseltown festivities. Chris Branin, former Arts scholar and current President and Chairman of the Board of the College Park Scholars Alumni Association said, in terms of success of the day and the amount of people to visit the event, "It was jammed!"

Move-Out Details

Residence halls close at 10:00 p.m. on Friday May 18, 2007 and all students must be moved out by this point. According to the Department of Resident Life, Students must check out of their residence hall within 24 hours of their last final. For further information, please contact Resident Life at (301)314.2100 or check the website at <http://www.resnet.umd.edu/moveout/>.