

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 7

## *College Park Scholars*



### *Welcome!*

Asking you to recall the day you moved your son or daughter into the residence halls undoubtedly generates vivid memories. To each class we guarantee that it will be the hottest day of the year. As you know, we delivered this year, as in years past. We guarantee that it will be a mad-house for parking and access to elevators. Double check those, as well. Amidst all that activity, Scholars strives to deliver a human face and caring individual at a very large university.

During that hectic day, many of the Scholars faculty and staff find a balance between making themselves available, and not being intrusive. Your priority is to move your sons and daughters into their rooms and ensure their safety, comfort and [security](#). Having talked with several parents, I learned that our open office doors and cool bottles of water were appreciated. More importantly, our familiar faces from spring open houses or summer orientations mollified the impending reality of leaving your child behind.

In speaking to one parent since that day, she expressed how she was particularly caught off guard by her emotions when driving away from campus, *since this is her second child at Maryland and home is only 20 minutes away!* Her sentiments confirmed the scenes I witnessed toward the end of that August Saturday -- lingering hugs along the Cambridge Community pathways, and protracted waves by our new students to departing cars and vans.

The high school senior year is one full of applying to colleges and weighing the offers while simultaneously finishing up one's final year of school. The summer is then a frenzy of academic orientation, earning some pocket change, shopping for a dorm room, preparing for move-in and saying good-bye to friends. The imminent emotional impact -- of both parents and students -- often arrives unexpectedly. Returning to my parent conversation, she shared how she asked herself, "How will she manage without me?" Well, after 18 years of love, guidance and discipline, the ostensible answer came through, "perfectly fine."

Though your homes may be a bit quieter, I always welcome the return of students to the hallways, the sound of scraping chairs and garbled music from the room above me, and the lively bits and pieces of conversations as they pass between classes. Scholars bond early. That bonding is enhanced by the Scholars annual [Service Day](#). Each year, our 900 entering freshman join approximately 100 faculty, staff and student volunteers from across the campus in a day serving area parks, schools and non-profit community organizations. I had the privilege of dropping in on the team of [International Studies](#) students at [Beltsville Community Center Park](#), where staff from the [Study Abroad](#) office assisted them in removing invasive species and repair playground areas. We also dropped off the few extra lunches to [Martha's Table](#), where [American Cultures](#) students were peeling carrots and dicing potatoes.

Service Day provides an opportunity for each of the 12 programs to build community early-on, while imprinting on our students the Scholars value of civic engagement. Your sons and daughters are encouraged to continue serving their fellow Scholars and neighboring communities throughout their two years with us. And we make it easy for them. As an example, College Park Scholars hosts an after-school tutoring program, [Lakeland Stars](#), for Paint Branch Elementary School students. If your sons or daughters were involved in Scouts, a Big-Brother/Sister program, or another similar service activity, encourage them to check out the Lakeland Stars opportunity. We bring the elementary school children to campus twice a week where Scholars provide homework assistance and mentor individual children in Centreville Hall's all-purpose room.



The tradition of Service Day could not occur without the [support from parents](#) of rising sophomores. Each August, calls go out soliciting contributions to support the costs for transportation to the service sites, bag lunches, work gloves, (even first-aid kits.) Should you have missed that call and wish to support this year's effort, [please be in touch](#). Without that support, the 3,000 hours of service that was provided this year, could not have happened. **Thank you.**

In a couple of weeks, it will be pay-back time for yours truly. Our son finished his Bachelor-of- Science degree this past May. In October, we transport him -- and most of his belongings -- to New York City for his next exciting chapter of life. Over the years I have learned many lessons from students. I will be particularly appreciative of my most recent lesson learned -- this one from a parent. At the conclusion of the weekend as we drive away from Manhattan, I'm sure I will catch the last glimpse of David in our rear-view mirror and find myself uttering the question, "How will he manage without us?" Note to self -- the answer is, "Perfectly fine."

Best wishes to you all,  
[Greig Stewart](#), Executive Director

# *Service Day 2007*

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Service Day Event held on August 27<sup>th</sup> proved to be a worthwhile and rewarding community service project for both new and old scholars. For about 900 freshman scholars, the service event provided a comfortable and exciting atmosphere to interact, bond, and develop lasting friendships, not to mention participate in community service. Mary Zhang, an Environmental Studies scholar commented that service day was beneficial because she made new friends and became familiar with her new surroundings. Returning scholars were also eager to lend their services for the lead off event of the semester. Providing assistance and advice, sophomores helped navigate, lead, and assist freshman in their first event of many for the semester. With service day under their belt, new scholars have experienced a taste of community service within the Prince George's County area.



FALL  
HIGHLIGHTS

AUG 27  
Service Day

SEPT 16  
CPSAA Golf Tournament

OCT 12-14  
Family Weekend

# *Family Weekend*

27<sup>th</sup> Annual University Family Weekend

A message from Brian Watkins, Director of Parent and Family Affairs: “Don’t forget... Family Weekend is around the corner! Family Weekend will take place on Friday, October 12 through Sunday, October 14, 2007. For more information, including the complete schedule and registration instructions, visit [www.familyweekend.umd.edu](http://www.familyweekend.umd.edu). We look forward to welcoming you to campus for this wonderful weekend of events.”

At this year’s 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Weekend there will also be a College Park Scholars open house on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. at the Cambridge Community Center. Light refreshments will be served and feel free to bring guests. Online registration for Family Weekend will be available until 5:00 p.m. (EDT) on Friday, October 5, 2007.

## *Spotlight on Business, Society & the Economy*

One of the acclaimed Scholars programs, Business, Society, and the Economy has managed to create a meaningful curriculum that stimulates and motivates a new generation of entrepreneurs. Students engage in a colloquium made up of four, one-credit courses and learn how to succeed in today’s highly competitive business industry. In their first semester in the program, students participate in the Strategy Board Competition, where they study and follow a company to develop strategic recommendations for its improvement. In addition to their academic coursework, the Business scholars partake in many activities that allow them to apply their knowledge in the real world. Some of which include, a trip to the Cirque du Soleil show, IKEA, Harley-Davidson, Hershey Park, and New York. Comprised of talented and motivated scholars and faculty, Business, Society, and the Economy has improved the hands-on learning experience.



## Scholars News



### *ANNUAL ROPES COURSE ACTIVITY*

Every year, many programs participate in a team building, ropes course activity that allows scholars to experience their first taste of victory in college and overcome obstacles together. Science, Discovery, and the Universe experienced their ropes course challenge this past Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. When asked about this team building event, sophomore Hillary Borkey recalls her experience from last year, “The ropes course was definitely a challenge and at times scary, but it made all of the students depend on each other and I ended up making many friendships from the activity.” One of the many activities the scholars program has to offer, the ropes course challenge is definitely a fun and personally rewarding experience.



### *LEADERSHIP CHANGES IN SCHOLARS*

College Park Scholars announces key leadership transitions in several of its programs. This year, five of the twelve College Park Scholars programs will see change a change in leadership. These programs include Advocates for Children, Environmental Studies, Public Leadership, Science, Discovery and the Universe, and finally, Science, Technology and Society. All five program directors continue their involvement on campus with new endeavors. Dr. Bruce James, the former director for Environmental Studies speaks highly of new director Margaret Giblin, praising her “great energy and many ideas for taking ES to new heights.” The program is off to a great start and the newly appointed directors have already begun feeling at home within their Scholars families.

