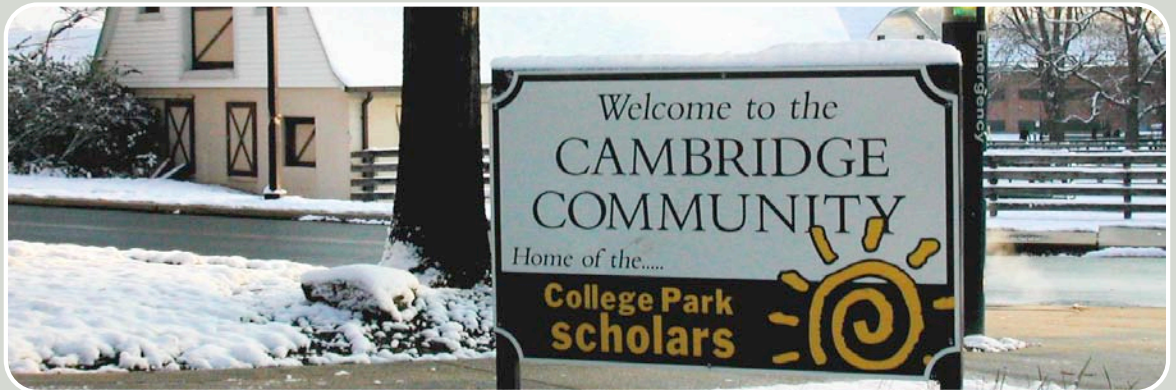


February 2008

College Park Scholars

Family Link eNewsletter



GREETINGS PARENTS!

On behalf of College Park Scholars, I would like to wish you a happy 2008!

Coming back to school at the end of January can be an eye-opener for many, especially after a month free of academic responsibility. The living-learning component of College Park Scholars has attempted to ease students back into the swing of things in different ways. By placing new events and prospects at their doorsteps, the program has created opportunities that inspire initiative, cultivate service-learning and foster civic engagement for its students.

As you read through this newsletter, you will find us celebrating our students' accomplishments while continuing to encourage them to take on new challenges as they round the corner into new phases of their journeys as Scholars, and as members of greater communities. In January, Life Sciences traveled to Belize and, looking forward, we see events like Terrapin Pride Day and Scholars in

New York, among others, dotting the schedules of students who have chosen to embrace these opportunities. Overall, the winter months have not stunted the accomplishments of the engaged, rather they have continued to expand horizons.

At such a pivotal juncture in political history, it seems natural that events like Terrapin Pride Day and others inspire service, as well as scholarship and exploration, should fill the calendar of a scholar, occupying his or her time. It is this tone of civic engagement that has been touted by many as a building block for a strong and healthy community; if utilized, it can work toward the betterment of an individual and of our society. Our goals for the coming months encapsulate our mission and devotion to this civic commitment and, as each student discovers what makes him or her tick, we find that the community benefits from this drive to become engaged and involved.

As we begin the process of accepting new

students into our community, I find myself navigating through the websites of the different Scholars programs. Doing this, I cannot help but reflect on the stories I have heard from those who have come to know these programs in a personal way. It is the stories of students who live the experiences with Scholars that create the identities of the programs themselves. The members of this community continue to define the accomplishments and enhance the legacy of College Park Scholars, as the stories they share continue to define their own lives at the university.

With this in mind, we look forward to the coming months with excitement and vigor and we entreat you to continue to read of our journeys in this monthly newsletter.

Sincerely,

Kendall Spera
Undergraduate Communications Director
College Park Scholars



Cultures of the Americas

The program Cultures of the Americas, formerly known as American Cultures, finalized its name change this winter. The change was initiated a year ago by the program's faculty and staff. Students and faculty feel that the new name reflects the essence of the program, as it examines various regions in North, Central and South America. The name, Cultures of the Americas, reflects a broader geographic focus and an extended range of cultural issues.



Terrapin Pride Day

Every year in Annapolis, members of the university rally together to recognize our many accomplishments and to promote the progress of our political ideals. In keeping with tradition, this year President C. D. Mote, Jr., the University of Maryland Alumni Association, Maryland Parents Association, the Student Government Association and the University Senate invite you to attend the annual Terrapin Pride Day rally and lunch, in honor of the University of Maryland. This event hosts outstanding speakers and unites legislators, alumni, faculty, students and friends who share interest in our community.

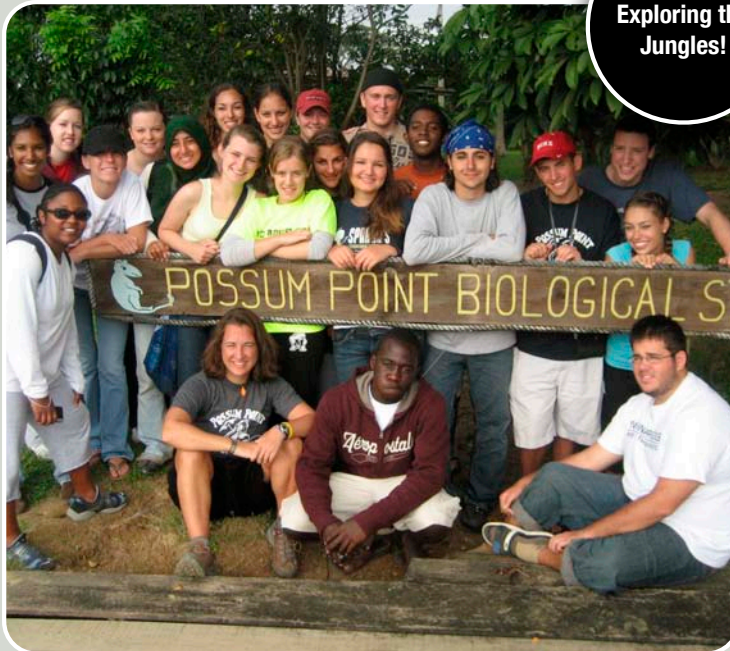
Terrapin Pride Day 2008 will hold added excitement due to the proximity of the Maryland primaries. Please join us on Tuesday, February 19, 2008, from noon to 2:00 p.m., in the President's Conference Room East on the first floor of the Miller Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen Street in Annapolis. Free transportation will be provided from the University to the Maryland Senate Building where you can meet with state legislators and have the chance to win their support for our state university. Buses will leave from the Cole Student Activities Building at 11:00 a.m. and return to campus from Lawyer's Mall at 1:30 and 2:00 p.m. Please register for the shuttle bus at <http://www.president.umd.edu/LCR/TPD/>. A photo ID is required to enter the Miller Senate Office Building and those who wish to attend do not have to be Maryland residents to voice their opinions and show their terrapin pride!

Get Involved!



Belize!

Life Sciences scholars had the opportunity to study abroad for two weeks in Belize this winter. More than 20 students ventured to the beautiful city on January 11 and returned January 21, earning two semester hours of credit. During their time there, they studied Mayan culture and traveled throughout Central America. The students stayed in Hotel Mopan in Belize City, as well as in Possum Point Research Station and cabins in Wee Wee Caye Marine Station. Jason Glass, Life Sciences scholar, was one of the students to make the trip. Expecting to do something over break and bond with his peers, Glass explained that his experience was much more than that. Glass said that on a typical day, their activities ranged exploring Mayan ruins and observing jaguar preserves to studying exotic jungles. His favorite part of the trip was climbing a Mayan ruin called Xunantunich. "It was the tallest thing I've ever seen," he said. "When you got to the top, you could see everything." Scholars also enjoyed their fifth day in Wee Wee Caye. The island is very small with many cabins and surrounded by mangroves, or tropical evergreen vegetation. Scholars experienced sunsets, wildlife, stingrays, sharks and a 30-minute tour around the island. In Belize, scholars truly experienced a once in a lifetime opportunity. "Everywhere you go, you can take a picture and it would be something you could put in a commercial or calendar," Glass said. "It's so beautiful; it's something you can't see anywhere else in the world." To learn more about the students' experiences or to view pictures from the trip please visit the [International Programs website](#).



Exploring the Jungles!

SNAPSHOTS





Profile on Advocates For Children

The primary goal of Advocates for Children is to work for a better life for youth in the community and beyond, and the activities that students of the program pursue reflect the many efforts made to achieve this goal. The program's mission has strong relevance to the greater community—there will always be a need for children advocates in the world. Along with addressing issues pertinent to child welfare, students partake in many community activities. "Advocates for Children is an amazing program in which a class of college students are educated and prepared to go out and speak up for children who have no say in society," Krystle Seu, Advocates scholar said. "We've volunteered at carnivals, elementary schools and most recently [we] went to Capitol Hill in order to give a voice to children that are overlooked everyday. This program will make you an advocate for children for the rest of your life." In December 2007, the program organized one of the College Park Scholars' trips to Capitol Hill in the "Scholars on the Hill" series. "I got to learn that it's totally okay to just walk into the House of Representatives and talk to your congress representatives," Kate Shoemaker, Arts scholar said. "The trip helped me put in context my relationship as a citizen with the government, and I also got a few good connections for possible future internships!" For more information about the Advocates program please visit their website at <http://www.scholars.umd.edu/advocates/>.

Springtime in New York City!

Registration for the 5th annual Scholars in New York trip has ended for students but parents can still register until Friday, February 22, 2008. Don't miss this chance to enjoy the perks of the city and the beautiful spring weather! Nearly 450 parents, alumni, faculty, staff, and students will depart Maryland on April 18, 2008 and enjoy three days and two nights in the Big Apple with College Park Scholars.

Parents can register online by visiting: <http://www.scholars.umd.edu/nyc/parents.cfm>. For additional information, please contact Alex Gordon, our Undergraduate Director of Special Projects at agordon4@umd.edu.

