

March 2008

College Park Scholars

Family Link eNewsletter



INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents:

I am pleased to provide remarks for this month's edition of the Scholars Family Link eNewsletter. I hope this finds you and your families well.

As the old saying goes, "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." But looking ahead to the rest of the semester, there is no shortage of excitement and Testudo continues to roar. The weeks and months to come include several activities involving Scholars students and families—from Alternative Spring Break to a special program for Women's History Month sponsored by the Scholars Alumni Association, to the annual Scholars in New York event. Truly, there is no better time to be a Terp!

This is also the perfect time to extend an invitation to each of you to attend

the university's annual Family Weekend, which will take place on Friday, October 10 through Sunday, October 12, 2008. Now in its 28th year, Family Weekend is the largest university sponsored program for the parents and family members of our undergraduate students. The weekend will feature special traditions along with an impressive array of social and academic programs, lectures, sporting events, musical entertainment, performances, and much more.

Complete details regarding Family Weekend will be posted on the Family Weekend Web site in July (go to www.familyweekend.umd.edu), and a brochure will be sent to you via postal mail in August.

Lastly, writing this introduction provides me with an opportunity to publicly recognize and personally thank the

incredibly talented College Park Scholars team of administrators, faculty and staff. In addition to creating wonderfully unique learning opportunities and a sense of community for students, College Park Scholars works hard to keep parents involved and informed. It is evident that the Scholars administrators, faculty and staff are dedicated to your student's success and to supporting your role as a parent. I commend them for their commitment, and I hope you find their efforts to be beneficial.

I hope you and your families enjoy your time together during the upcoming break and/or holidays. Happy Spring!

Sincerely,

Brian L. Watkins
Director
Office of Parent and Family Affairs

Spring Break Closing Times

Students living on North Campus should prepare to leave their residence halls for spring break no later than 7 p.m. on Friday, March 14; South Campus residence halls will remain open. Students who wish to stay on campus during break should contact the Department of Resident Life at 301.314.2100 to arrange for proper housing accommodations.

Students may reenter their residence halls beginning at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 23. Classes will resume the following Monday, March 24.

TRAVEL OPTIONS

The Department of Transportation Services (DOTS) will provide transportation from the University to New York City for students traveling to the N.Y./Metropolitan area. To register, students should visit the DOTS office at Regents Drive Garage and fill out the appropriate form. The cost is \$25 for a one-way ticket or \$40 for both ways. For more information, visit www.transportation.umd.edu/alt_trans/ny_bus.html or call 301.314.0183.

New Jersey Residents: A stop has been added at Metropark, N.J., which connects to Amtrak and N.J. transit trains and buses.

Scheduled trip dates are as follows:

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2008

Departs from: Stamp Student Union at 4 p.m.

Destination: Port Authority, N.Y. with drop-off stop at Metropark in N.J.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2008

Departs from: Port Authority, N.Y. at 12 p.m.

Destination: Stamp Student Union with pick-up stop at Metropark in N.J.



Have fun
while helping
others!

Alternative Spring Break

Alternative Spring Break (ASB) is a week-long, community service-learning trip, sponsored by the Adele H. Stamp Student Union Center for Campus Life. Students in ASB travel in groups to different cities, engage in active service and gain new perspectives on social issues. This spring break, students will travel to various locations at home and abroad. Volunteers will leave Sunday, March 16 and return on Sunday, March 23.

Kristina Laguerre, a freshman in Life Sciences, looks forward to her first Alternative Spring Break. She will travel to New Orleans to help gut and rebuild houses. Laguerre and other students on the trip will get to meet with people in the area and the students of Tulane University to hear about their experiences during Hurricane Katrina. "ASB to me is another way that helps people, especially young people, to realize that they can make a difference. Even though our individual actions may be small, together they can make a world of difference," Laguerre said.

Laura Griffin, a graduate of Media, Self & Society went on an ASB trip last year. "It relates to Scholars' mission...It's all about giving back to different areas," she said. Griffin said she thinks that the aspect of serving others on an alternative spring break directly correlates with what College Park Scholars tries to do abroad and domestically.

Happy Hour in NYC



The College Park Scholars Alumni Association invites parents in the tri-state area to join them for their annual NYC Happy Hour next month. The event will take place at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 18th. Scholars faculty, staff, parents and alumni can mingle and enjoy themselves at the famous Faces & Names bar and lounge located at 154 West 54th Street, New York, NY. The back section of the restaurant has been reserved for our group. We hope you will be able to join us!

Scholars Alumni Association

College Park Scholars is more than just a program—it is a community. The support generated as a whole allows for the continual growth and success of the program itself. The College Park Scholars Alumni Association (CPSAA) in particular, seeks to continue the Scholars values of community service-learning through culturally diverse experiences and partnerships. The CPSAA coordinates monthly projects that support its educational foundation and focus on community-wide issues. One such project is the Women's History Month Event at the Sewall-Belmont House.

The event will take place at 11:30 a.m. on March 8, 2008 and will include a guided tour of the house and the affiliated museum. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the American struggle for women's suffrage.

The museum is the headquarters of the historic National Woman's Party and was home to Alice Paul, founder of the party and author of the Equal Rights Amendment. Its website states that it is the only museum in the nation's capital with a purpose of preserving and showcasing the fight for the women's suffrage.

Join Us!

Costs per ticket are \$6, which includes a charitable donation to CPSAA. Tickets may be purchased through CPSAA's website at <http://www.collegeparkscholars.com/index.cfm?page=Giving>. For directions to the museum, please visit the Sewall-Belmont House website at <http://www.sewallbelmont.org/>.

Stay tuned for more CPSSA events and opportunities. Future scholars graduates are highly encouraged to get involved with the Alumni Association. For more information about CPSAA and its many projects, please visit <http://www.collegeparkscholars.com/>. We look forward to seeing you at the Sewall-Belmont House!



President Mote's Testimony

In February of 2008, President Mote shared his testimony with the Maryland General Assembly regarding various functions of the university. In his address, he shared his positive feelings toward College Park Scholars, citing it as an institution that is serving the state and providing a special program that has attracted students from Maryland and beyond to the University. His use of Scholars as an example of a campus success story has truly honored the faculty, staff, alumni and current students that make the programs thrive. President Mote's testimony can be found on the Scholars Newsdesk on our main website, or it is accessible through the links below.

<http://www.president.umd.edu/testimony/2008/keeping.html>

<http://www.president.umd.edu/testimony/2008/transforming.html>

Wilmes Receives Thomas Mentor Award

Martha Baer Wilmes, the Associate Director for Student Affairs of College Park Scholars has received this year's Bud Thomas Mentor award. This award is named in honor of Dr. William "Bud" Thomas, former faculty member of the College of Education who passed away in 2006. The award celebrates a commitment to mentoring graduate students and new professionals in student affairs work.



Profile on Earth, Life & Time



One of the main questions that Scholars in Earth, Life and Time seek to answer is, "How does the perspective of time tell us more about Earth and the life on it?" In a recent activity, ELT scholars depicted the stages of evolution.

Students added blue shoes to the feet of Mr. Potato Heads, demonstrating one more stage of evolution completed. "It was a fun, interactive way to learn about genetics and evolution. The Mr. Potato Heads each had different appendages, and starting from the common ancestor, we had to find the order of evolution. It made genetics easy for everyone to understand, even those who hadn't taken a biology class," said Sara Sherman, a sophomore in ELT.

In support of their in-class activities, ELT scholars learn about natural history and the natural world in today's context of climate change and natural disasters. These scholars are continually challenged to look further into the questions of natural life. By the end of a two-year curriculum, students will have answered many questions about earth, evolution and humanity. One of the most valued experiences the program offers is an opportunity to travel to the Galápagos Islands through an exclusive geology field studies course. Made famous by Charles Darwin, the Galápagos Islands is a unique habitat, housing many creatures found nowhere else in the world.

For more information about this opportunity, visit, <http://www.geol.umd.edu/~jmerck/gal04/GEOL388/index.html>. Earth, Life and Time offers valuable trips at home and field opportunities abroad; the program provides its students with unmatched research projects, and presents tremendous knowledge of the natural sciences and society. Visit ELT at <http://www.geol.umd.edu/%7Ejmerck/eltsite/> to learn more.