

# MICUA Matters

The newsletter of the Maryland Independent College and University Association

*Welcome to a New Academic Year, MICUA Students!*

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Johns Hopkins University

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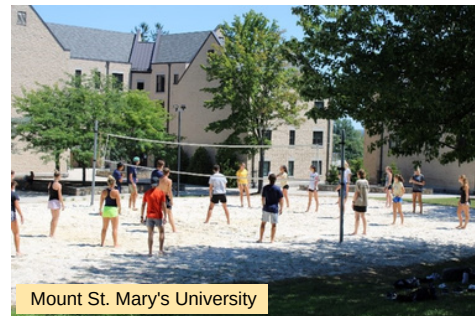
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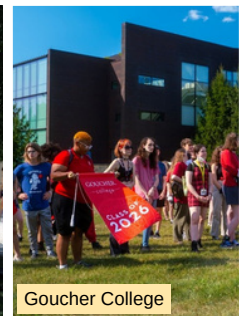
Hood College



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St. John's College

# *Hood's Clinical Mental Health and Counseling Students Serve High-Need Populations*

The counseling program at Hood College has been awarded a nearly \$1.3 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration's Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training program (HRSA BHWET). The goal of Hood's grant-funded program, "Strength in Training Equity: Experiential Preparation for a Diverse Behavioral Workforce," is to increase the number of behavioral health professionals, while also improving distribution and access to behavioral health services within medically underserved communities.

This follows a \$2.2M grant from HRSA in 2020 to increase the diversity of Hood's mental health counseling program as well as the diversity of the profession, by strengthening the recruitment and retention efforts and graduation rates of students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including underrepresented minorities.

With the new funds, the counseling program is increasing the number of counselor trainees at field placement sites in underserved communities by providing stipends and adding new qualifying sites as internship options; expanding

professional development opportunities for students and supervisors; and launching a hybrid training clinic—the NeighborHOOD Counseling and Training Center.

Staffed by counseling master's students under the guidance of licensed supervisors, the clinic offers both telehealth and in-person counseling services at a low cost to young adults. Megan Shaine, Ph.D., director for the counseling program and BHWET grant, said "Our multipronged approach not only encourages our counselor trainees to work with underserved populations, but also provides a new low-cost option for mental health services for the College and the Frederick community."

Fifteen clinical mental health and school counseling students have been selected to receive \$10,000 stipends in 2022-23 while completing their internships at qualifying hospitals, community mental health agencies, addictions treatment facilities, and schools serving high-need populations. The NeighborHOOD Counseling and Training Center began accepting Hood students as clients on February 1 and is now open to community members.



*The Tatem Arts Center, where the NeighborHOOD Counseling and Training Center currently resides.  
Source: Hood College*

# *Fellowship Offsets Cost of Summer Internships for McDaniel Students*

McDaniel College awards a limited number of need-based competitive Summer Intern Fellowships annually to current McDaniel students through the College's Center for Experience and Opportunity (CEO).

The fellowships allow the students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience while offsetting the cost of participating in summer internships.

Fellowships were awarded to 12 McDaniel students for Summer 2022:

- Kylie Baker, senior environmental studies and political science major from Frederick, Maryland, completed an organic gardening internship with White Rose Farm, Taneytown, Maryland.
- Zainab Bangura, senior political science major from Gaithersburg, Maryland, had the opportunity to intern at the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City.
- Nick Bloch, senior business administration major from Mount Airy, Maryland, interned as a client relations associate at Prudential Advisors.
- Jordan Creighton, sophomore from Waldorf, Maryland, was a production intern at the Abrons Art Center in New York City.
- Stephanie Eckard, senior history major from Westminster, Maryland, spent her summer as a research intern with the Carroll Farm History Project, where she had the opportunity to help design a website, [CarrollFarmHistory.com](http://CarrollFarmHistory.com).
- Kramoh Mansalay, junior biomedical science major from Philadelphia, shadowed at Conexio/CORAS Behavioral and Wellness Health.
- Alex Medellingonzalez, junior accounting major from Baltimore, interned at accounting firm PwC.
- Danielle Newhouse, senior psychology major from Eldersburg, Maryland, was an employee relations intern at Maxim Healthcare Group.
- Ally Paiz Santos, junior psychology major from Fort Meade, Maryland, served as a directional support professional at Target Community & Educational Services, Inc., which offers programs for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Carroll and Montgomery counties.
- Allie Scharnberger, senior political science major from Kensington, Maryland, interned with the United States Department of State.
- Melissa Torres, junior business administration major from Baltimore, worked as an advancing Hispanics and Latinos (AHL) financial advisor at JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- Matt Wilson, senior kinesiology major from West Deptford, New Jersey, interned at PIVOT Physical Therapy over the summer.



*Danielle Newhouse completed her summer internship at Maxim Healthcare Group.  
Source: McDaniel College*

The program is supported, in part, by generous gifts from The Rupe-Stuart Internship Award, courtesy of McDaniel College Board of Trustee member Mark Stuart M.S. '94, Timothy Rupe, and The Nora Roberts Foundation.

## *A Record Number of Mount St. Mary's Students Conduct Summer Research on Campus*

Thirty-four Mount St. Mary's University students in the School of Natural Science and Mathematics (SNSM) conducted faculty-supported research on campus this summer, allowing a record number of science students to gain early research experience.

The work of four of these students was supported by the Battelle National Biodefense Institute (BNBI), which awarded the university a \$20,000 grant to support faculty-mentored summer research experience. Before receiving this grant, funding constraints had forced the university to turn away several students or ask them to work on a limited volunteer basis even though SNSM faculty were hosting a record number of 30 students on campus this summer, shared Provost Boyd Creasman, Ph.D. "We are grateful for BNBI's support in helping students secure early research experience," he said.

"Building additional research capacity through BNBI scholarship support will provide the opportunity to create meaningful training experiences for students and contribute in substantive ways to educating the next generation of ethical scientific leaders," said Christine Seitz McCauslin, Ph.D., dean of SNSM.



*Naomi Leno, a junior majoring in chemistry and biochemistry, conducting bioinformatics for her summer research project.*  
Source: Mount St. Mary's University

The 10-week intensive BNBI-funded research projects are representative of the work of all 34 students who gained experience this summer. For example, Naomi Leno, a junior from Gaithersburg, Maryland majoring in chemistry and biochemistry, began with basic bioinformatics to identify the protein and gene sequences of two enzymes involved in metabolism of a fungal inhibitor. Once identified, she analyzed the kinetic behavior of both enzymes in an effort to understand how fungi become resistant to anti-fungal agents. Her work was part of a larger project aimed at determining the biochemical mode of action of calcium propionate, an organic salt commonly used as a fungal inhibitor in baked goods. The project hypothesizes that genetic differences in specific enzymes across species impact their kinetic behavior and account for the observed differences in sensitivity to calcium propionate treatment.

Jameelah Wallace, a sophomore majoring in biology, collaborated with Leno because her project also related to the biochemical mode of action of calcium propionate project. Wallace's work focused on protein expression and kinetic characterization of methylcitrate synthase and methylisocitrate lyase from *Rhizoctonia solani*, a fungal turf grass pathogen. Using site-directed mutagenesis, she created expression constructs that allowed her to identify key amino acids that contribute to the catalytic efficiency of these enzymes. Ultimately, this work has applications to the development of "green" fungal inhibitors.

BNBI President George Korch, Ph.D. said, "The range of projects that these students are undertaking will give them experiences that will last a lifetime and lead in unexpected ways to even greater opportunities."

# Summer Research on Dark Matter - The Perfect Opportunity for a Washington College Student

Washington College may seem like a quiet place over the summer, but learning continues across campus even after the academic year ends. Sneha Vireshwar Dixit '23, a prime example, spent her summer studying and researching dark matter under the tutelage of Digesh Raut, Visiting Associate Professor in Physics.

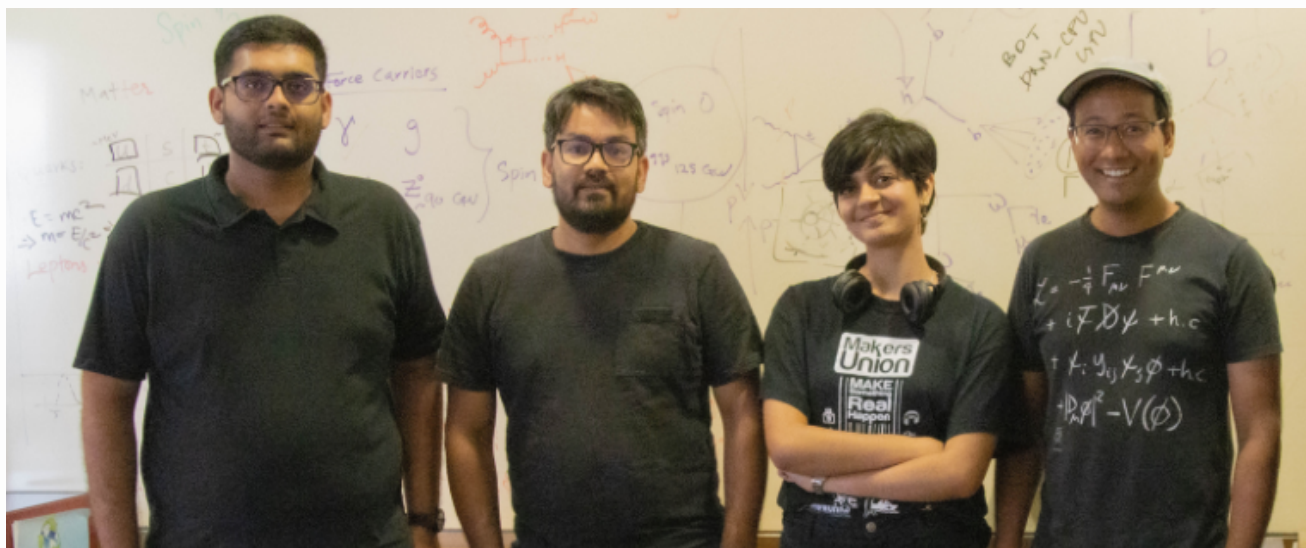
Far greater than just a summer internship, for Dixit this opportunity was one more step towards achieving her dream of becoming a physicist – something she's known she wanted to do since the 8th grade. Her summer research was focused on learning more about dark matter, a subject that is still relatively unknown. "We know dark matter exists and it's all around, but we can't see it or feel it," she explained. "We know it's there because certain things in space move faster than we think they should. So dark matter is this invisible matter exerting force."

Taking a cue from her subject of interest, Dixit actually exerted a little force of her own to create the

opportunity when she approached Dr. Digesh about working with him. "His course on quantum physics was the one I was most excited about, and I decided to learn more about him," she said. As it turned out, he was doing exactly the type of work she wanted to do. Dixit took the initiative to reach out and three days later, Dr. Digesh proposed a project that she said was more in line with her interests than the previous program applications she considered.

As a conceptual project, it required a great deal of reading and note-taking in an effort to understand the existing theories. Then she used that knowledge to run specific calculations on the computer. "This summer has been the happiest I think I've ever been," said Dixit. "It's so new and there's so much to study, I just feel really lucky."

Dixit's research – which was supported by the Cater Society and the John S. Toll Fellowship Program - will continue through the 2022-23 academic year and she has plans to build her senior thesis around it.



Physics faculty pictured with summer researchers in the Toll Science Center. Pictured L-R: Tapaswin (Tapas) Chirwanuru Kumar '25, Dr. Digesh Raut, Visiting Associate Professor in Physics, Sneha Vireshwar Dixit '23, and Dr. Suyog Shrestha, Assistant Professor of Physics  
Source: Washington College

# *Capitol Technology Expands Opportunities for Underrepresented Students in Cybersecurity*

During the summer, Capitol Technology University attended DEF CON for its 30th anniversary event over the weekend of August 11 – 14, 2022. This renowned cybersecurity and hacking convention draws a diverse crowd from all over the country every year, providing a venue for individuals interested in the fields of information technology, computer science, and cybersecurity to come together for knowledge sharing, workshopping, and networking. While in attendance at the convention, Capitol Tech's Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. William (Bill) Butler was invited to act as moderator of the 3rd edition of the National Service Panel (NSP), which was held in partnership with the Blacks in Cybersecurity (BIC) organization. The panel featured a facilitated discussion hosted by the Military Cyber Professionals Association (MCPA) aimed at sharing national service insights and opportunities among the hacker community.

BIC featured a DEF CON Village where attendees could visit numerous presentations throughout the 4-day conference, with subjects ranging from racial disparities in the field to shaping technology innovation through cultural experience. The BIC Village presented their talk "BIC Military Relations" during the NSP in an effort to further their mission to highlight Black experiences, innovations in the field, Black culture, and Black history as well as provide a platform for the discussion of social justice and its impact on the progression and development of technology. BIC has been a longtime friend of Capitol Tech, having previously worked with the University to expand opportunities for underrepresented students with an interest in cybersecurity.

Butler was honored to moderate and speak at the MCPA and BIC panel, as he values the mission and vision of both organizations, believing they are crucial to the furtherance of the cyber industry. Also, having served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a joint qualified communications information systems officer and now a retired Colonel with 30 years of service, Dr. Butler can speak to the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the cybersecurity and military industries.



*Dr. William Butler, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Capitol Technology University*  
*Source: Capitol Technology University*

# *Loyola Faculty Receive NSF Grant to Research Quantitative Literacy With Engineering Students*

Loyola University Maryland faculty members Raenita Fenner, Ph.D., chair and associate professor of engineering, and Peggy O'Neill, Ph.D., professor of writing, have been awarded a two-year grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to help educators prepare engineering students for successful careers. The \$125,000 grant supports their project, "Collaborative Research: Research Initiation: Defining Engineering Quantitative Literacy." Fenner and O'Neill began work on the grant with their collaborators this summer.

"The main goal of this project will be to obtain evidence to develop a student model for future assessment instruments intended to measure first-year engineering students' quantitative literacy," said O'Neill. "Another goal of the grant is to develop our skill as engineering education researchers by working with more experienced researchers, one at Purdue University and one at University of Florida, who will serve as our mentors throughout the project."

Fenner and O'Neill's research will help identify college-level engineering students' quantitative literacy, including computational, interpretative, reasoning, and communication skills in terms of quantitative information and data. This project aims to define the quantitative literacy expectations of first-year engineering students and create a means for measuring quantitative literacy, which will allow educators to better prepare future engineering students for success.

"Dr. O'Neill and I have been collaborating since 2017 in the best practices of teaching writing to engineering students," said Fenner. "Through this research we aim to provide a holistic experience for engineering students—weaving together engineering and writing to set them up for success in their future careers."

Loyola's four-year undergraduate program in engineering combines the University's exceptional liberal arts resources with robust coverage of both traditional and emerging areas of engineering to produce graduates who are ready to excel in today's diverse and rapidly changing environment. Students benefit from the University's focus on academic rigor and teaching excellence while receiving broad-based instruction in engineering fundamentals, and also choosing to specialize in one of four concentration areas: computer engineering, electrical engineering, materials engineering, or mechanical engineering.



*The Donnelly Science Center is home to the biology, chemistry, physics, computer science, and engineering departments at Loyola.*  
*Source: Loyola University Maryland*



*The National Science Foundation grant will help educators prepare engineering students for successful careers.*  
*Source: Loyola University Maryland*

## *JHU Students Join Community Members in Reflecting and Celebrating on Juneteenth*

On June 17, ahead of Juneteenth, Johns Hopkins University and the Baltimore community commemorated the holiday with an event featuring music, dance, and spoken word performances.

In a corner of the Beach on Johns Hopkins Homewood campus, the talking drums of performance group Urban Foli carved a space for reflection and celebration in the shaded heat filled with voices and movement.

The group was joined in the spiritual dance by members of the Baltimore and Johns Hopkins communities, who had come to celebrate Juneteenth at Homewood: Expressions of Freedom, hosted by the Billie Holiday Center for Liberation Arts and the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences in partnership with the Homewood Museum and the Center for Africana Studies.

Shawntay Stocks, assistant director of fellowships and community engagement for the Inheritance Baltimore project at Johns Hopkins, coordinated the event.

"In curating this event, we reflected upon the many ways that Black life has been oppressed and repressed," Stocks said. "Juneteenth: Expressions of Freedom was a way to reject the policing of the Black body, with song, joy, movement, speech, and breath. It was a celebratory, joyous, expressive, and moving moment to educate both our JHU community and our Baltimore community about the history of Juneteenth and our continued fight for freedom."

Juneteenth represents healing both for those historically oppressed and for the oppressors, said community organizer Nneka N'namdi, the founder of Fight Blight Baltimore. Earlier, N'namdi had delivered the celebration's keynote address, "A Commemoration of Juneteenth," which described the history of the first Juneteenth and connected it to Baltimore's African American history of freedom fighting.

Cheryl Hinton, a lifelong educator in Baltimore and a diversity practitioner who was a community co-coordinator of the event, reflected on the historically fraught relationship between African American residents of Baltimore and Johns Hopkins entities.

"Opening up the campus for this dialogue is critical and imperative for continued relationship building between us," she said. "Truth telling and transparency are an important part of this process."



*Members of the Johns Hopkins and Baltimore communities participate in Juneteenth at Homewood: Expressions of Freedom.  
Source: Johns Hopkins University*



# WAU Students and Faculty Celebrate Juneteenth



*Dr Weymouth Spence WAU President addressing the audience comprising of WAU workers and members from the surrounding community.  
Source: Washington Adventist University*

In accordance with its commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, June 20, 2022 marked the inaugural Juneteenth celebration at Washington Adventist University (WAU). Following a request in June 2021 from President Weymouth Spence and the WAU administration, plans came together under the collaborative efforts of the university's Social Committee. For many communities, Juneteenth has long been celebrated as the commemoration of the end of slavery—one of its biggest festivals held in its origins of Galveston, Texas since 1865.

For the guest speaker, WAU invited well-known and accomplished author and storyteller, Janice Curtis Greene, an American Griot known for her portrayals of historical African American figures such as Harriet Tubman and Mother Mary Lange. President Spence affirmed, "At Washington Adventist University we have taken the time to honor and recognize the journey and achievement of African Americans. Sanctioned enslavement is never a good thing and does not reflect the love of Jesus. We will continue to celebrate freedom and justice every day at WAU."

Up until it was passed as a federal holiday under President Joe Biden's administration, Juneteenth was relatively unknown outside of most African American communities. "It's a recognition that freedom was withheld from so many enslaved people far longer than it should have," Vice President for Student Life, Dr. Ralph Johnson further explained. "It reminds us of the sinister systems in slavery and the extent that some states and individuals went to keep it intact. It is also the celebration that the slaves themselves had when they finally were free. For me, [Juneteenth] is an opportunity for people to learn the history and understand the dynamics around the whole issue and the institution of slavery in our country; to be more educated on what the Emancipation Proclamation really did and didn't do" he continued.

Chaplain Jason Dietz expounded, saying, "It's shocking that even in the midst of basically the entire country recognizing that slavery is abolished that there were still people that were enslaved. I think that speaks directly to the issues that we have in America today."

# *Goucher Prison Education Partnership Celebrates First Graduation Ceremony Inside Prison*

On May 18, 2022, the Goucher Prison Education Partnership (GPEP) celebrated its first graduation ceremony to take place inside a prison. James Jackson '21, Walter McCoy '22, Nyol Robinson '22, and James Scott '21 majored in American studies and earned their degrees through coursework completed inside Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup (MCIJ). The Washington Post covered the Commencement and observed that it reflected “a major pivot toward wider access to college in prisons across the country.”

After starting college in the 1990s, Nyol Robinson overcame many obstacles, including the removal and the return of Federal Pell Grants for incarcerated students, to graduate cum laude from Goucher.

“This day serves as a muse for the guys in the program working hard and making the sacrifices necessary to overcome the many struggles inherent in a program such as this,” said Robinson. “This day signals to them that there is an end to the long and arduous journey toward a bachelor’s degree if they can keep persisting.”

When Walter McCoy’s academic advisor, Claire Corliss, was asked to describe him, she said Walter is

one of the most dedicated, detail-oriented, and thoughtful students she has ever worked with.

McCoy earned the credits for his bachelor’s degree within prison in six years, the fastest a student has achieved this with GPEP. “Whenever I felt the work was becoming too much ... I began to think about my [daughter] and my goal of showing her that no matter what trials and tribulations she goes through in life, she is to always further her education,” he said. McCoy’s daughter sat in the audience, fighting back tears as she listened to her father’s speech.

Since the partnership’s 2012 start, 25 former GPEP students have earned college degrees. GPEP currently serves approximately 130 students continuing their college coursework inside two Maryland prisons.

“Despite the obstacles, throughout their college career, these graduates have grown as scholars, writers, mathematicians, speakers, listeners, friends, and colleagues,” said Eliza Cornejo, executive director of GPEP. “They have enriched both the Goucher and the MCIJ communities, and their own lives and those of their families, in immeasurable ways.”



*Graduates of the Goucher Prison Education Partnership (back row) pose with faculty and President Kent Devereaux.  
Source: Goucher College*

## *St. John's College's Personalized Attention to Students Recognized by Fiske Guide to Colleges*

For nearly 40 years, the Fiske Guide to Colleges has chosen a select group of schools noted for quality academic offerings and affordable cost for its annual Best Buy list. The tradition continues with the Fiske Guide to Colleges Best Buys of 2023, comprising twenty public and private colleges and universities from across the country. These are schools that, in the judgment of the editors, offer “outstanding educational value as determined by academic quality in relation to the net cost of attendance.” This year, St. John's College was recognized as a “Best Buy School” in the guide.

Here's how Fiske describes the College: “Books, books, and more books is what you'll get at St. John's—from Thucydides to Tolstoy, Euclid to Einstein. St. John's attracts smart, intellectual, and nonconformist students who like to talk (and debate) about books and ideas ... One of the few institutions with two coequal campuses. Students admitted to one can spend time at the other.”

St. John's lowered tuition in 2018 and offers both merit and need-based scholarships that have made it one of the most affordable liberal arts colleges in the United States.

In addition to the latest Fiske rating, other national publications have praised St. John's strengths, which include small class sizes, personalized attention to students, culture of active learning and sharing of ideas and insights across its two campuses. In fact, the Annapolis campus beat out every Ivy League school in the “Professors Get High Marks” and “Best Classroom Experience” in the Princeton Review's 2023 Edition of the Best 388 Colleges, where St. John's was ranked #6 and #7 respectively.



*St. John's College faculty member participates in a mathematics demonstration.*

*Source: St. John's College*

The Princeton Review also named St. John's a “Top 50 Best Value College” among private schools and one of the “Colleges That Pay You Back.” U.S. News and World Report ranked St. John's among the nation's best liberal arts colleges for the quality of its faculty and teaching. The Annapolis campus was recently called the number one “Hidden Gem in Maryland” and the number one “Hidden Gem in the Northeast” by College Raptor, with the College's Santa Fe campus receiving the same recognition in New Mexico and the Southwest.

## *MICA Alum Expands Business Into 3D Printing Medical Industry through Mentorship*

For Winston Frazer '16 (Painting BFA) — a winner in the 2017 MICA Ratcliffe Center for Creative Entrepreneurship's UP/Start Venture Competition — his time in the College's entrepreneurial program, and the connections he made through UP/Starts mentorship element, gave him his first crucial step toward success.

"A lot of people never get it," Frazer, the CEO of Danae, Inc., said. Having initial backing and support gets more people who are willing to support you, he added.

If not for his time at MICA and UP/Start, Frazer said, he likely wouldn't be where he is now — the CEO of a Baltimore-based 3D printing design house focused on allowing small companies to create and produce products at an affordable cost.

And if not for that mentorship element, he likely wouldn't be expanding his business into the 3D printing medical industry.

Last month, Materic, a custom manufacturer of advanced materials, and LaunchPort, LLC, a medical device venture center and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) contract manufacturing operation, announced a partnership to drive the use of advanced materials in the development of emerging medical device technologies. Frazer's Danae, Inc. — a Materic portfolio company — will place 3D printing equipment in The LaunchPort's City Garage facility at Port Covington to support growing demand from their clients for 3D printed medical devices.

The partnership between Frazer and Ken Malone, chief executive officer with Materic, began when Frazer was a student at MICA. Malone, a long-time supporter, and judge and mentor in the UP/Start event, was Frazer's mentor for his competition venture.

"It's great to just help other people be successful in doing the things that they want to do," Malone said, adding that Frazer "really put in that hard work, on his own, to learn and understand what he knew and didn't know — he just gets it."

"The creatives and entrepreneurship are so intertwined, that if you think about who are the most likely people at a university who are going start their own companies, you end up with artists and creatives," Malone continued. "What better place to have a program that helps them be successful and understand what it means to be an entrepreneur than at MICA."



*Winston Frazer '16 (Painting BFA)  
Source: Maryland Institute College of Art*

## *Stevenson Redesigns Its Chemistry Program to Help Students Find Their Career Fit Earlier*

This year, Stevenson University's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry launched a redesign of the majors to update curricula, mentoring, and academic experiences to strengthen career pathways for students.

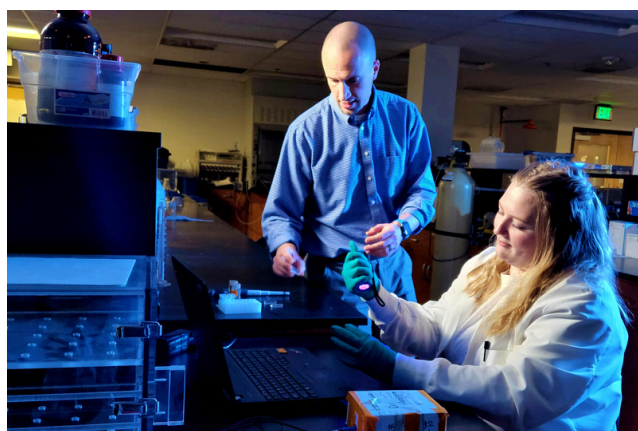
"We asked ourselves, 'Where do our students end up in their career paths after college, and what do they need to be poised for success after graduation,'" said Professor Jeremy Burkett, Ph.D., Chair of the Department. "We're ensuring that our curriculum matches not only what they need to know but also the skills and mindset that students will need to pursue further education or careers in chemistry."

In redesigning the program, Burkett and his colleagues considered three factors. First, they surveyed recent alumni, collecting data about what courses most benefited them. Then they developed a department advisory board. The board includes employers, and Burkett and fellow faculty asked them, "What is it you want from your job applicants?" These conversations helped the program assess how to prepare students for the job market post-graduation. Finally, Stevenson looked at other institutions' approaches. The main takeaway from all this research? Fit and flexibility are essential for students' professional success.

Now, students can custom design the program to fit their specific career needs. For example, a student with an interest in food science will take courses geared toward that job market, which would differ from what a future environmental scientist or teacher might take. Therefore, career readiness served as the guiding principle for the program's redesign process.

"Careers have become so specialized in the past 10 years," Burkett says. Thus, the program offers flexibility in what courses students need to take. This versatility allows faculty to teach one major that can get students ready for a career in the private sector, government, or education, all while serving as advisors who regularly check in with students, asking the question, "What's next for you?"

Stevenson chemistry and biochemistry graduates work for a variety of non-profit institutions and private industries in the State and region, including the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Institute of Genetic Medicine; Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division; McCormick & Co.; National Cancer Institute; National Institute of Aging; National Security Agency; and Proctor & Gamble. Stevenson's graduates are also pursuing advanced degrees at the New York Medical College, School of Medicine; Ohio State University Graduate School in Biochemistry; University of Maryland School of Pharmacy; and University of Virginia School of Medicine, among others.



*Stevenson Chemistry major Alexia Smith works with Professor Jeremy Burkett on collaborative research to assess the efficacy of various cancer-fighting drugs.*

*Source: Stevenson University*

## *Two Notre Dame of Maryland University Juniors Named Clare Boothe Luce Scholars*

A pair of Notre Dame of Maryland University rising juniors were selected as the recipients of two-year, full-tuition scholarships through the Clare Boothe Luce Program for Women in STEM.

Nadia Abi '24 and Erika Gutierrez '24 have earned scholarships to cover tuition, fees, and books for their final two years on campus, and they will also be eligible for additional academic and career support during that time period. NDMU's Clare Boothe Luce Scholars were selected based on their potential for success in chemistry, mathematics, physics, and computer science, as well as financial need and leadership involvement. Additional support available to the scholarship recipients includes seminars with industry mentors, career workshops, and research opportunities with NDMU faculty members.

"The Henry Luce Foundation's support for the scholarship will help NDMU continue to expand our STEM programs to more women scholars," said Dr. Marylou Yam, president of Notre Dame of Maryland University.

Abi is a chemistry major who served as a resident advisor as a sophomore and previously volunteered for a nonprofit organization that supports individuals with all levels of disability.

"This is an incredible opportunity for me as I enter my junior year," Abi said. "I feel like the 1-on-1 mentoring component will be very beneficial as I start to prepare for life after college, deciding whether to go into a master's program or jump straight into an industry job."

Gutierrez is a mathematics major and secondary education minor who is hoping to become a math teacher after graduation. She was first drawn to that career path as a high school student.

The Clare Boothe Luce scholarships are made possible through a \$172,500 grant awarded by the Henry Luce Foundation as part of Go Beyond: The Campaign for NDMU. The campaign supports transformational initiatives, including strengthening Notre Dame's leadership in STEM and health sciences education.



*Nadia Abi '24 (left) and Erika Gutierrez '24 (right) are recipients of NDMU's Luce Scholarship.  
Source: Notre Dame of Maryland University*

# MICUA Student Spotlights

Each quarter, the Maryland Independent College and University Association highlights a student or alum success story on the MICUA website. Below are some of the stories that have been highlighted. MICUA is proud of all its member institutions' students and enjoys sharing these impressive achievements.

## WASHINGTON COLLEGE IDEAWORKS' ELECTRIC RACE BOAT TEAM TAKES FIRST PLACE IN MANNED CATEGORY AT 2022 PROMOTING ELECTRIC PROPULSION RACE



Competing against 16 teams representing other colleges and universities, Washington College's Electric Race Boat Team took first place in the manned class for Small Craft at the 2022 Promoting Electric Propulsion race in May 2022, completing the 5-mile course in 22:23 and record pace of 13.4 MPH.

The five-member team that claimed victory at PEP included Evan McCarthy '22 (Team Captain and Driver), Jakob Stiens '22, Seyed Marjaei '23, Hannah Perkins '24, and Tristan Wright '25. This was the Washington College team's first time out at this race, specifically geared to collegiate teams.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO HOOD COLLEGE SENIOR, MARYAM IFTIKHAR!



Hood College senior Maryam Iftikhar '22 received the 2022 Portz Award for Outstanding Maryland honors student from a four-year college or university, awarded by the Maryland Collegiate Honors Council (MCHC).

She is majoring in Global Studies with a concentration in global governance and conflict, with a minor in Nonprofit and Civic Engagement Studies. Iftikhar's award marks the fourth time in five years a Hood College student has taken the top prize.

Iftikhar's departmental honors project is titled "Exploring the Legal Parameters of the Crime of Genocide and Analyzing the Efficacy of the Application of the Genocide Convention"; the paper she presented at the MCHC Conference was "Understanding Demographic Trends through the Lens of Cultural Anthropology."



Abdullah Wadood (AGI23), a current St. John's College Graduate Institute student, has been named as the winner of the 2022 *Confluence* Award for Excellence in Creative Writing for his story series *Ellipses I*.

Abdullah Wadood says, "The piece is the product of a long period of reflection and labor, and it's nice for that labor to be positively received. I'm grateful for St. John's for affording people the opportunity to have their work recognized."

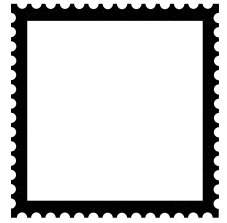
## CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE STUDENT, ABDULLAH WADOOD!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY ALUM, ANDRE DOUGLAS!



Andre Douglas received his master's degree in electrical and computer engineering from Johns Hopkins in 2019 while working at JHU's Applied Physics Laboratory. He was recently inducted into NASA's newest astronaut candidate class—one of 10 selected from a field of more than 12,000 candidates.

Upon graduating from NASA's training, Douglas may take on missions such as research aboard the space station, commercial spacecraft launches, or walking on the moon. He's among NASA's 23rd class of astronaut candidates since 1959.



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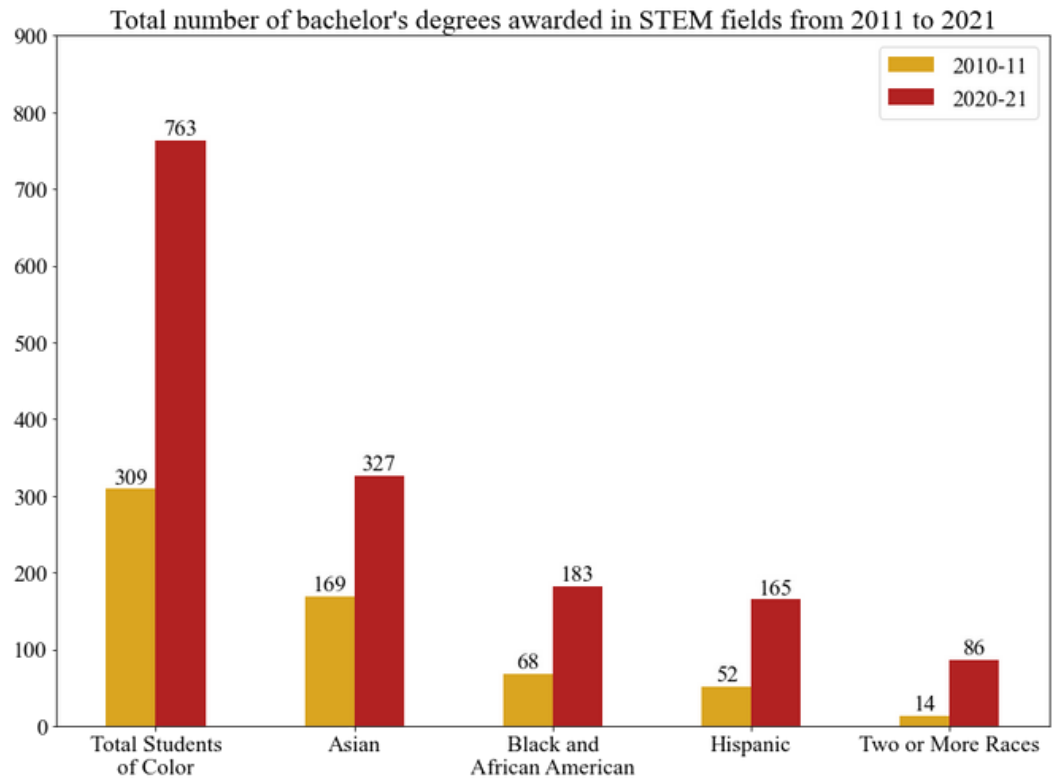
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**MICUA Institutions Doubled STEM Degrees Awarded to Students of Color**



Source: IPEDS data, STEM fields include biological and biomedical sciences, computer and information sciences, engineering and engineering technologies, mathematics and statistics, and physical sciences and science technologies.  
Note: Counts of degrees awarded to Indigenous Americans and Native Pacific Islanders are not depicted for privacy reasons.

To be added to our newsletter mailing list, or for questions or comments, please contact MICUA's Director of Communications Stephanie Thomas at 410-269-0306 or [stthomas@micua.org](mailto:stthomas@micua.org).