

MICUA *Matters*

The newsletter of the Maryland Independent College and University Association

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MICUA Capital Projects: Initiatives to Progress the State

During the 2022 Legislative Session, MICUA is requesting \$13.3 million in State matching capital grants to support campus construction and renovation projects totaling \$35.5 million at **Hood College**, **McDaniel College**, and **Stevenson University**. These three capital projects are directly related to the mission of each institution, and they support the construction and renovation of academic buildings and outdoor spaces used for innovative and high-demand academic programs and strategic initiatives of the institutions. The facilities will be designed and constructed to maximize student and faculty collaboration opportunities, promote and facilitate teaching, learning, and research, and provide local community use of campus facilities. The State's \$13.3 million investment in fiscal 2023 will leverage more than \$24 million in private resources and support over 250 new construction jobs.

HOOD COLLEGE requests a \$6.0 million State matching grant in support of a \$20.1 million project to renovate and expand the Hodson Science and Technology Center to accommodate growth in the STEM programs. This project includes a 32,000 gross square foot addition to Hodson Science and Technology Center. The Center was originally constructed in 1957, and additions were completed in 2000 and 2014. The proposed project will accommodate a new School of Health Sciences to house Nursing, Nutrition, Bioinformatics, Public Health and Sustainability Studies.

Hood College has been very responsive to developing new academic programs. There is currently insufficient space to meet the needs of existing programs experiencing growth and new programs, many of which include laboratory components that have been recently introduced into the Hood College curriculum. The Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability Studies, launched in fall 2021, focuses on three areas—water, energy and food. Programs that include laboratory components require state-of-the-art lab facilities to attract prospective Maryland students, who often already have experience with and access to high-quality lab spaces in their high school.



*The Hodson Science and Technology Center
Source: Hood College*

Renovation and expansion of the Hodson Science and Technology Center will also address the need for additional space in the growing science and computer science/cybersecurity programs. Under current conditions, nursing faculty offices are housed in the basement of a non-science building and are consequently separated from the simulation labs and nursing classrooms. A lab for the College's new cybersecurity masters program had to be constructed in an annex building due to the shortage of available space in the computer science department. Last year, the Maryland Department of Commerce brokered a partnership between the College and Kite Pharma, building a large oncology drug manufacturing facility in Frederick County. This partnership included a grant to Kite to establish a lab in the Hodson Science and Technology Center to train Kite employees and Hood students in immunotherapy drug production. An existing biology lab was converted to create this space, which will be restored as part of the renovation project.

MCDANIEL COLLEGE requests a \$1.3 million State Capital Grant in support of a \$2.65 million project to renovate and connect educational environmental spaces on campus. The project is part of a comprehensive effort to meet student and faculty need for academic spaces that support the growing interest in Environmental Studies, expand experiential learning opportunities, support faculty research, and serve the community. The project includes renovations and improvements to the Westminster campus and the McDaniel Environmental Center (MEC), all associated with the living laboratories and applied learning experiences that are a hallmark of the Environmental Studies Program. The project will improve and expand existing, underutilized outdoor spaces and turn them into dedicated and functional academic spaces.

The project involves three spaces on campus. The existing greenhouse will be expanded into an academic space for student and faculty research,

experiential learning in plant propagation, and campus and community service projects.

The MEC will be expanded to include a commercial teaching kitchen for the agri-food systems program, a microscopy classroom, and seminar space to support the breadth and depth of academic activities there. The project includes relocating the College's teaching garden to the Harvey Stone Outdoor Teaching Complex, integrating a forest understory restoration project into the landscaping, establishing demonstration plots with species that are compatible with those found at the MEC, and expanding the educational signage tour from the MEC to the teaching complex.

In addition to the academic opportunities for McDaniel students, both Harvey Stone Pavilion and the MEC play an important role in the local community. Harvey Stone Pavilion is frequently used for community events and that use can expand as it becomes a more accessible space through this project. These spaces will be used to expand on existing community partnerships, such as the local YMCA, to offer them outdoor learning places.



McDaniel College Harvey Stone Pavilion
Source: McDaniel College



Black Box Theater at Stevenson University
Source: Stevenson University

With the addition of the sign tour, the MEC is developing into an important educational resource that will benefit community members, including public school teachers and students who can visit the MEC and go on the sign tour. The current garden and greenhouse have been used to support community food security outreach and programming, having propagated, and distributed 900 seedlings in 2019-2021, as well as growing and distributing approximately 820 pounds of fresh food to the community during that same time. Improving these facilities will lead to a much higher impact on the community.

STEVENSON UNIVERSITY requests a \$6.0 million state Capital Grant in support of a \$12.7 million project to construct a 45,000-gross-square-foot building that will create academic and theater space on the Owings Mills campus. The building will house a black box theater, scene shop, and office space, and will be located at Owings Mills North, the academic hub of the Owings Mills campus. The project helps to fulfill Stevenson University's long-range strategic plan of relocating academic programs and operations from its Greenspring campus to its Owings Mills campus, and consolidate the university's operations to one location and lower costs by eliminating redundant infrastructure, expenses, and services. This project will directly support Stevenson's Theatre and Media Performance degree, theater productions, and other

cultural and arts programs. The Theatre and Media Performance program serves an average of 240 students per year in a variety of courses, including 13 majors. The Department hosts several productions each year bringing hundreds of attendees from the campus and greater community. Each production involves students from across the university in roles from actual performing to stage production, music, sound, videography, and lighting.

In addition to providing academic space for Stevenson's Theatre and Media Performance bachelor's program as well as cultural opportunities for the entire university, the theater project is responsive to local community input that the land be used for educational and entertainment purposes and make space available for community groups and organizations looking for space to host special events.

By virtue of its location at Stevenson's academic hub of Owings Mills North, the new theater will be within easy reach and walking distance of students, faculty, and staff working, attending classes, or participating in activities on the Owings Mills campus or at the Owings Mills East campus recreational facilities. Therefore, fewer cars will be on the surrounding roads as students and staff are able to walk or ride bikes on Stevenson's cross-campus Dell Pathway to access the theater.

Six 2021-2022 Teachers of the Year Have Ties to MICUA Institutions

Each year, Maryland's 24 local school systems participate in the Maryland Teacher of the Year program, an affiliate of the National Teacher of the Year program. Six of the teachers named as 2021-2022 County/City Teachers of the Year have ties to MICUA institutions.

Congratulations to:

Lauren Byrd

Hickory Elementary School, Harford County
Grade 1
Loyola University Maryland (masters)

Adrin Leak

DuVal High School, Prince George's County
English, Grade 10
Loyola University Maryland
(Administrator 1 licensure)

Stephanie MacKenzie

Sudlersville Middle School, Queen Anne's County
English, Grade 8
Johns Hopkins University
(Administrative Certification)

Brianna Chantelle Ross

Deer Park Middle Magnet School, Baltimore County
Social Studies, Grade 6
Loyola University Maryland
(certificate in Administration and Supervision)

Jon Logan Webster

Crisfield Academy & High School, Somerset County
Social Studies, Grades 10-12
Goucher College (bachelors)

Amy Woolf

Oakland Mills Middle School, Howard County
Science/Biology, Grade 7
Johns Hopkins University (masters)

From the 24 local systems' teacher of the year award winners, in early September 2021, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) named a group of eight finalists who went on to compete for the honor of Maryland Teacher of the Year. On October 7, 2021, Brianna Ross was announced as 2021-2022 Maryland Teacher of the Year during a live television special presented on Maryland Public Television.

Ms. Ross earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. She was awarded a certificate in Administration and Supervision from Loyola University Maryland. Ms. Ross is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Urban Educational Leadership from Morgan State University. She teaches 6th grade Social Studies at Deer Park Middle Magnet School in Baltimore County, where she also serves as Equity Liaison and Social Studies Department Chair. Ms. Ross launched and currently coordinates a Summer Transition Program at Deer Park Middle Magnet School for elementary school students moving on to middle school. Ms. Ross will represent Maryland at events sponsored by the National Teacher of the Year program.

Since 2010, 85 teachers prepared at MICUA member institutions have been named a County/City Teacher of the Year, while eight have been named as Maryland Teacher of the Year. Several graduates of MICUA member institutions have also been recognized through the National Teacher of the Year program: the 2010-2011 national winner, Michelle Shearer, and a 2012-2013 runner-up, Rhonda Holmes-Blankenship, are McDaniel College graduates; the 2013-2014 national winner, Sean McComb, is a Goucher College graduate; and a 2016-2017 runner-up, Athanasia Kyriakakos, is a Maryland Institute College of Art graduate.

Observatory Coming to Capitol Technology University

Capitol Technology University Astronautical Engineering (AE) program was recently awarded a grant by the Maryland Space Grant Consortium to establish the Asteroid Large aperture PHotometry exoplanet transit (ALPHA) observatory, which will be located on the university campus.

What is ALPHA?

The ALPHA observatory is comprised of a complete NexDome system housing an 11-inch Celestron Optical Tube Assembly (OTA) mounted on an equatorial mount. This observatory will continue NASA's planetary defense mandate by performing follow-up observations of Near-Earth Objects (NEOs), such as comets, meteoroids, and asteroids, to characterize their orbits and potential impacts to Earth. ALPHA will monitor between 50 to 100 objects per night, including variable stars, exoplanet transits, and newly discovered type I and type II supernovae.

What is the student involvement like?

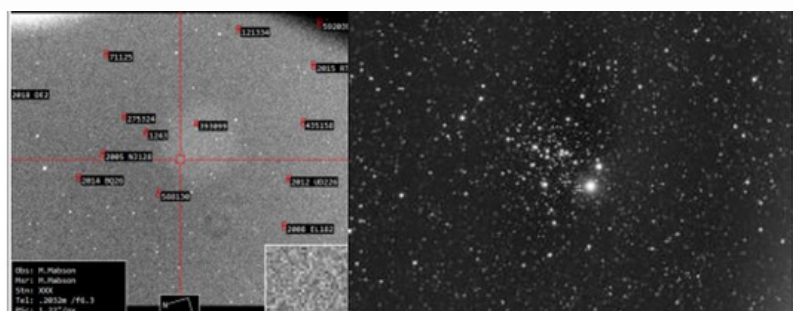
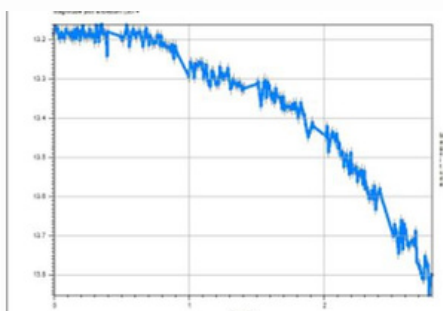
Capitol Technology University Astronomy Club member and AE program student Matthew Lewin, alongside Professor Marcel Mabson, developed initial requirements for ALPHA and refined how the observatory would be operated. ALPHA is a great example of how students' interest in a project can help a project flourish and provide experience with the engineering development life cycle. ALPHA will hold information sessions for prospective students.

How will ALPHA observe Near-Earth Objects?

The majority of NEOs are undetectable by the naked eye and require a telescope with a large aperture to resolve the object. For example, some comets can shine bright enough to be seen by the human eye, but most only produce a comet tail or brighten as they enter the inner solar system. The ALPHA observatory will use an 11-inch Celestron telescope configured for F/2 observations mounted on an equatorial mount. The complete system, including a cooled complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) camera, computers, and weather monitoring will be housed in a NexDome observatory system on the north side of the university campus.

How will ALPHA be operated?

Many observatories have a telescope operator inside the dome operating the telescope and planning for the next target. ALPHA will use a unique operations concept: the system will be operated automatically. Students will plan observation targets and load the plan to ALPHA. This plan will detail target position, exposure time, focus parameters, observation pause conditions, and observation ending time. Once transferred to ALPHA and observations begin, ALPHA will automatically locate and target each object without human intervention. During observations, students will be able to remotely access ALPHA to monitor observatory status and retrieve data.



Left: Graphical example of the 2.5 Hour light curve of Asteroid Erbisbuhl, Middle: Asteroid measurement detection of NEO object Pamela, Right: Image taken via observatory camera of Comet 67P/Churyumov
Source: Capitol Technology University

Goucher College Announces Arsht Presidential Diplomats

Goucher College has launched the Arsht Presidential Diplomats, a distinguished group of student leaders chosen to represent Goucher at various meetings with community, governmental, and business leaders. As part of the Roxana Cannon Arsht '35 Center for Ethics and Leadership, these ten undergraduate and graduate student leaders represent the various constituencies within Goucher's diverse student population. This first cohort of Diplomats includes a range of students and student-athletes studying science, business, education, and political science.

"This program will allow us to expand our commitment to developing the next generation of leaders prepared to engage with their communities and society at large in tackling the most important issues confronting our country and our world today," says Kent Devereaux, Goucher College president.

All Arsht Presidential Diplomats will have the opportunity to gain leadership development experience while contributing to the college through their service as Diplomats. Programming includes professional leadership development workshops with non-profit organizations, corporate and governmental leaders, and accompanying the President to meet with local, state, and national government officials and civic leaders.

At Goucher, the Roxana Cannon Arsht '35 Center for Ethics and Leadership explores ethics and leadership across various liberal arts disciplines. The endowed professorship expands support for the college's commitment to train and shape future ethical leaders.

"The Roxana Cannon Arsht '35 Center for Ethics & Leadership works with different stakeholders on providing Goucher students with ethical leadership

development opportunities. The Center also supports interested faculty in incorporating topics pertaining to leadership and ethics into our liberal arts curriculum," says Lana Oweidat, assistant professor of contemporary and creative writing and current Arsht professor. "One of the Center's main goals is to open up opportunities for collaboration in leadership training across the College's divisions while making more visible our collective efforts throughout our curriculum and co-curriculum."

Roxana Cannon Arsht, Goucher College Class of 1935, was the fifth female member of the Delaware Bar and the first woman judge in Delaware. Judge Arsht provided leadership to generations of attorneys and had an extensive record of community service.



Source: Goucher College

Johns Hopkins Staff and Faculty Support Students Who Test Positive for COVID-19

To say that managing the COVID-19 pandemic at Johns Hopkins has been a team effort would be a massive understatement. From nurses to shuttle drivers to volunteer case managers, a team of staff from departments across the university has been working behind the scenes since last spring to help limit the spread of COVID-19 and support students directly affected by the virus.

As students and employees returned to Homewood for the spring semester, instituting the necessary precautions—including thrice-weekly, mandatory testing—put a strain on the campus's health care and student outreach systems. Staff and faculty from Student Affairs, Transportation, Student Health and Well-Being, and other units teamed up to relieve some stress.

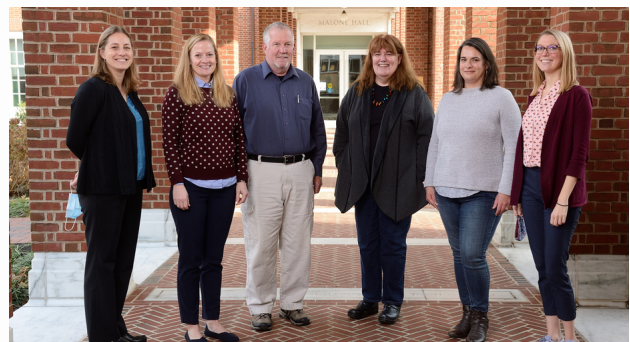
Student Outreach and Support—a branch of Student Affairs that helps students navigate significant difficulties that arise during their time at Hopkins, such as family emergencies, financial issues, or physical or mental health concerns—trained a group of Homewood and Peabody staff volunteers to serve as COVID-19 case managers.

Students who test positive for COVID-19 or have significant exposure to someone who tests positive are instructed by the Student Health and Wellness Center to isolate or quarantine at the Inn at the Colonnade, a hotel located just across the street from Homewood campus. At this point, the COVID-19 case managers step in to guide the student through the process and provide a link back to campus throughout their stay, coordinating with transportation, communicating with faculty, and regularly checking in on the students' general well-being.

In total, 43 Student Affairs staff members have been trained as COVID-19 case managers, with 33 serving in the spring, eight in the summer, and 20 this fall. To balance their volunteer roles with their full-time responsibilities, the case managers have devised and refined an on-call system to ensure students get assistance in a timely manner.

Since students are not permitted to leave their rooms at the Colonnade unless there is an emergency, they are provided meal and laundry service and Amazon lockers for any third-party supplies they may need to have delivered. Their case managers also notify the hotel's kitchen of any dietary restrictions the student may have. Students are given unique identifier codes to protect their confidentiality.

"We're really doing three times the work, between the Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Call Center (JHCCC), our sick clinic, and our main clinic. But there's a great team that's managing this. We have a lot of staff who've been doing this for almost two years now and have done an amazing job," says Alexandra Morrel, nurse practitioner manager for the Student Health and Wellness Center.



*John's Hopkins University Staff (from left): Emily Calderone, Elizabeth Winberry, Jon Walter, Kathy Schnurr, Nicoleen Wilson, and Elora Orazio.
Source: Will Kirk*

Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D., Selected as 25th President of Loyola University Maryland

The Loyola University Maryland Board of Trustees has unanimously selected Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D., as the institution's 25th president. Sawyer, formerly Loyola's senior vice president, was chosen after a national search following the June 2021 retirement of the Rev. Brian F. Linnane, S.J., who led the University for 16 years. Sawyer began as president on Jan. 1, 2022.

Sawyer is the University's first layperson to serve as president; all previous presidents have been ordained Jesuit priests.

A leader at Loyola for 23 years, Sawyer has assumed increasingly significant responsibilities during his tenure at the University, advancing strategic priorities and supporting the institution's growth. When he started at Loyola in 1998, Sawyer served as special assistant to the president for government and community relations. He rose to the position of Vice President for Administration before being selected as vice president for advancement in 2015. In 2017, he was named Senior Vice President.

In recent years, under Sawyer's leadership, the University raised more than \$100 million through the Bright Minds, Bold Hearts campaign, the largest campaign in Loyola's history, which significantly grew the University's endowment and student scholarship support. Sawyer has also led advancement in raising funds to support strategic capital projects, including the recently opened Miguel B. Fernandez Family Center for Innovation and Collaborative Learning.

Sawyer led the University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, overseeing the planning and successful reopening and operations of Loyola's campuses.

Sawyer is a graduate of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities' Ignatian Colleagues Program, designed to educate and form administrators and faculty more deeply in the Jesuit and Catholic tradition of higher education. During the program, Sawyer completed the Spiritual Exercises and participated in an immersion experience in El Salvador. In June 2016, he walked in the steps of St. Ignatius on a pilgrimage through parts of Spain and Italy.

A native of Wayne, New Jersey, Sawyer earned his bachelor's degree in government and politics from the University of Maryland, College Park, was awarded a Juris Doctor degree from the Widener University School of Law, and completed the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Institute for Educational Management program.



Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D., 25th President of Loyola University Maryland

Source: Loyola University Maryland

MICA Student Paints Portrait of the Late Honorable Elijah E. Cummings

Recent Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) graduate Jerrell Gibbs '20 (LeRoy E. Hoffberger School of Painting MFA) was commissioned to paint the official portrait of late congressman Elijah E. Cummings.

The painting was unveiled at a small event on December 21, 2021, at The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA). The painting was on display at the BMA from December 22, 2021, through January 9, 2022, before moving to its permanent home in the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington DC.

Rockey Moore Cummings commissioned the portrait in March 2021, and Gibbs, a Baltimore-based artist recognized for his evocative portraits of Black life and identity, was selected from a short list of three Baltimore-based artists — including MICA graduate Monica Ikegwu '20 (Painting BFA), according to a press release from the BMA. The selection of Gibbs, and the news of this commission, have been shared widely, including in *The Baltimore Sun* and *The New York Times*.

Growing up in Baltimore influenced Gibbs' perspective on socio-economics, body politics, race, economic disparities and their influence on one another, according to his website. Through his figurative portraits, Gibbs invigorates banal representations of black identity by depicting empathy, inviting the possibility for a spiritual connection. The works are adapted from small Polaroids into life-size paintings. For more information about Gibbs' work, visit <http://www.jerrellgibbs.com/>.



"Jerrell Gibbs. *I Only Have A Minute, 60 Seconds In It...*"
Portrait of the Honorable Elijah Cummings. 2021
Source: Jerrell Gibbs and Mariane Ibrahim

Inaugural Associate Provost for Equity and Belonging Named at McDaniel College



Richard M. Smith, Associate Provost for Equity and Belonging at McDaniel College
Source: McDaniel College

McDaniel College has named Richard M. Smith as the college's inaugural associate provost for equity and belonging.

Born and raised in Baltimore, Smith graduated from McDaniel in 2000 and has taught at the college as a sociology professor since 2010. For the past three years, he served as special advisor to the provost and has led diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) academic programming, including faculty professional development and training.

In this new role, Smith provides vision and leadership to the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. He also works in collaboration with the provost to co-lead the college's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) administrative committee and guides the Bias Education Response Support Team (BERST).

"Richard is the perfect choice for this new role where he will both aid in the promotion of an institutional culture that values and supports diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as in connecting the college's DEI initiatives with the surrounding community," said McDaniel Provost Rosa Rivera-Hainaj.

Smith's teaching and research have been focused on race and racism in the United States, African American culture, race and justice, and racism and religion.

In addition to serving on faculty committees, he has been an advisor to the Black Student Union and Brothers Elite student organizations and a first-generation student mentor. He was the 2020 recipient of McDaniel's Dr. Ira G. Zepp Distinguished Teaching Award, which recognizes inspired classroom work and dedication to students. To learn more about McDaniel's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts, visit www.mcdaniel.edu/about-us/diversity-equity-inclusion.



Associate Provost for Equity and Belonging Richard M. Smith teaching in a Sociology classroom at McDaniel College.
Source: McDaniel College

Mount Junior Strived for Equity in Work as Maryland Public Service Scholar

Mount St. Mary's University junior Julianna Roman recently served as a Maryland Public Service Scholar in the Governor's Summer Internship Program, where she completed important work on how to better preserve historic African American cemeteries and how to implement policy changes to help graduation disparity between English language learners and non-English language learners.

"I enjoyed every second of doing my part to encourage a more equitable and hospitable environment for all Marylanders," Roman said. The Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE), French and Spanish triple major added: "I believe the core courses as well as my PPE and language courses have instilled in me the desire to be curious, reflective and compassionate—which I believe are important skills for a public servant."

Roman was placed at the Maryland Historical Trust, her internship site, under the mentorship of Director Elizabeth Hughes. "I was part of the beginnings of a study to establish a fund to better preserve historic African American cemeteries. The study was proposed in House Bill 1099 that had just passed through the Maryland General Assembly," Roman explained.

She interviewed and collected data on the situation in each of the 23 counties, and a few cities, in Maryland. "I created graphs and a PowerPoint which I used to present my findings on the historic African American cemetery working programs available across the country for the purpose of preserving historic African American cemeteries. There were not many," she said. "From this study I was then able to make recommendations to the working group who would then create Maryland's grant program for this purpose."

As part of her internship, Roman also proposed and participated in a group policy paper regarding the graduation disparity of English language learners compared to non-English language learners in Maryland. The group presented their findings to members of Governor Hogan's cabinet.



Mount St. Mary's University junior Julianna Roman in Annapolis.

Source: Julianna Roman

NDMU to Establish a \$1.5M Endowed Chair in Biological Sciences

Notre Dame of Maryland University will establish a \$1.5 million endowed chair position to advance groundbreaking research and scholarship in biology, as well as elevate NDMU as a leader in STEM and health sciences in Baltimore and beyond.

The Dr. Mary Kay Shartle Galotto '64 Endowed Chair in the Biological Sciences honors one of Notre Dame's most distinguished alumnae and loyal supporters. Offering Maryland's largest women's college, NDMU has long been a champion of STEM education and innovation, producing graduates who excel at the highest levels.

"The Dr. Mary Kay Shartle Galotto '64 Endowed Chair in the Biological Sciences will build on NDMU's strong foundation of STEM education and research. Expanding opportunities for our Women's College students to study and work with renowned researchers through this endowed chair will raise NDMU's profile as a STEM education leader," said Dr. Marylou Yam, president of Notre Dame of

Maryland University. "We are excited to see how this endowed chair will inspire generations of young women to pursue advanced education and careers in STEM."

The new endowed chair will expand NDMU's capacity to attract research faculty, enhance biology scholarship, and engage undergraduate students in significant research. The endowed chair position will work collaboratively with NDMU's award-winning faculty across disciplines on research, as well as serve as a key advisor for the Biology Department's Sr. Alma Science Year Program where top biology students are selected to participate in a year-long biomedical research internship with the world's top scientists at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

The endowed chair receives support from Go Beyond: The Campaign for NDMU – a \$45 million campaign for strategic initiatives, including faculty research, renovations to the University's Knott Science Center, and student scholarships.



*NDMU students work together in a lab in the Knott Science Center.
Source: Notre Dame of Maryland University*

St. John's College Student Starts Original Poetry Shop During Pandemic



*St. John's College junior Daryl Locke finds poetic inspiration in waking life and dreams.
Source: Daryl Locke*

St. John's College junior Daryl Locke says his poems come from dreams. He's not being figurative. Oftentimes, he says, they spring to the page (or his iPhone) as he recalls his nighttime reveries. Other times, they leap out while he's walking through downtown Annapolis or sitting in his room watching the sun refract through the window. "I'll just be walking somewhere, and I'll need to pull out my phone and type a poem," he says.

A recent work reads:

"Light in the window

Discreetly rising

As if my eyes couldn't see you

Good morning

Old friend and foe."

For years, he's been posting his poetry on Instagram under the handle @drunkpoete. This past fall, he created a "drunkpoete" website for selling self-designed tote bags with poems printed on the back, with the twin goals of bringing poetry into physical form and helping pay for his education.

The bags are made from beige canvas with a printed front design and a poem on the back. He mails totes to customers outside Annapolis and delivers them by bike to patrons in town. Locke also offers photography and poetry prints.

For him, there's poetry in everything, and it's helped him foster a genuine sense of community with fellow writers and artists. Locke, who counts Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, Sylvia Plath, Anne Sexton, and W.H. Auden as influences, developed an interest in poetry long before he conceived of printing his own work on tote bags—he says he started writing seriously in 10th grade.

Open for Service: WAU Food Pantry

Washington Adventist University (WAU) is known for its motto, “Gateway to Service,” highlighting its commitment to engaging and preparing students for service in and out of their communities. With Service Day once a semester, mission trips, and other available service opportunities, this aspect of the WAU lifestyle has been encouraged since its beginnings in 1904. A part of maintaining that motto involves providing service to the WAU students themselves. It has become more apparent, due to the challenges faced during this pandemic, that there is a greater need for support and security amongst the students. In response, an initiative was taken to create and open WAU's first Food Pantry.

The start of the pandemic, subsequent quarantine, and the transfer to virtual schooling were met with the limitation of food services, access to basic necessities, and work opportunities for many students who remained on campus. The generous donations received by the residence halls, Halcyon Hall and Morrison Hall, have greatly helped to aid students during these difficult times. However, the need for these necessities has persisted with students unable to access facilities available to them before the pandemic and without work to provide for themselves while returning to focus on their university education.

After conversing with several students about the problems they were facing, understanding the need for a resource they could readily access, and speaking with other universities about their pantries, the Vice President (VP) of the Center for Student Life, Ralph Johnson, started the plan for the WAU Food Pantry. Finding the space and producing the supplies needed to open a pantry would not have been possible without the support and assistance of several individuals, departments, and organizations who helped fund and donate various items needed for the formation of the pantry.

WAU's Chief of Operations and Compliance, Janette Neufville, helped locate a grant through Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) that would purchase special shelves and other items for the pantry area. The pantry is one of several ECMC initiatives that has benefited WAU's students since 2017. The Department of Advancement and Alumni Relations and the Student Association dedicated time to finding sponsors and preparing the pantry space for its grand opening. Organizations such as the Columbian Union Conference and Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington, faculty, staff, alumni, friends of the university, and other individuals also came forward with donations to help build the pantry's stock of food, other necessities, and items to be available for the students.

On Alumni Weekend, April 17, 2021, the WAU Food Pantry had a dedication and opening ceremony. President Weymouth Spence shared with the attendees, “This event, my friends, aligns with the mission of Washington Adventist University. Education cannot be effective if we have not taken care of the physical needs of our students.” Also in attendance was the Mayor of Takoma Park, Kate Stewart, who expressed, “This is so, so important for all of you here, but also it is important for our community because the students, the faculty, Washington Adventist University is part of our community. You are Takoma Park residents. You are here with us and since COVID has started, I've seen that community come together.”



*Donations for WAU Food Pantry.
Source: Washington Adventist University*

Washington College Student Presented to Philippine Society for Public Administration



Anastasia Bekker, a sophomore at Washington College, was recently invited to participate as a virtual presenter at the Philippine Society for Public Administration's annual conference.

Source: Anastasia Bekker

Washington College sophomore Anastasia Bekker had the unique opportunity to present a research paper at an international virtual conference hosted by the Philippine Society for Public Administration. Bekker was part of a panel of four presenters and discussed her paper titled, "The COVID-19 Pandemic and its Polarizing Impact on Education in Harford County, Maryland."

Tahir Shad, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Studies, facilitated the opportunity for Bekker. He felt it would be a good opportunity for her to think critically about the impact of the pandemic.

"I had Anastasia in my class last year and was thoroughly impressed with her writing and analytical thinking," said Shad. The conference was titled "Beyond the Pandemic: Reexamining, Reimagining, Retooling, Refounding, and Reenergizing Public Administration and Governance," and Shad felt that the 700 attendees would be interested in

hearing the Maryland perspective on this global issue. Bekker's research was centered around how the pandemic and education intertwined and became politicized, largely focusing on the polarizing debate around face masks. She had about two months to prepare, which included writing a 15-page research paper on her topic.

Bekker, who is majoring in Political Science and Economics, noted that this experience was beneficial in several ways, including developing good time management. "I really had to keep track of myself and set my own deadlines," she said. "Being a part of something so high-profile also gave me a confidence boost – I enjoyed knowing that the people attending this conference wanted to hear what I had to say."

"This conference represents the types of opportunities that we can provide for our students here at Washington College," said Shad. "It's this kind of mentoring that sets us apart."

MICUA Matters is published by the Maryland Independent College and University Association.

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Stevenson Launches New Bachelor's Program in Healthcare Management

With the expansion of the nation's healthcare sector and the demand for qualified professionals in all areas of healthcare administration, Stevenson University is launching a new Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Management program in Fall 2022. The program was recently approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

The B.S. in Healthcare Management draws on Stevenson's strengths in business and healthcare education through its Brown School of Business and Leadership and Berman School of Nursing and Health Professions as well as its established master's program in Healthcare Management. The bachelor's program will provide students a strong foundation in healthcare administration with coursework in accounting, finance, healthcare management, healthcare marketing, economics, healthcare information systems, healthcare regulations, and ethics and law.

The major is designed to make undergraduates career ready for job opportunities across the healthcare sector, from health insurers, hospitals and medical centers physician and specialty practices, ambulatory care centers, and rehabilitation and long-term care centers. Graduates will be able to employ a broad range of business skills, knowledge, and competencies that help organizations optimize the delivery of health services. These include conducting research, analyzing, and interpreting healthcare data; managing business practices that ensure the effective delivery of high-quality healthcare services; and communicating and presenting effectively to build successful teams and processes.

"A bachelor's in healthcare management opens doors to many career opportunities for today's students," said Sharon Buchbinder, Interim Dean of Stevenson's Brown School of Business and Leadership.

MICUA Staff: Where is your favorite place you've traveled?

New Orleans, Louisiana is a very colorful, cultured city. Every day was fantastic because of the delicious food, live jazz events, and meeting residents
Irnande Altema

My favorite trip was to Israel during the summer of 1991. We spent one week traveling through parts of eastern Europe then seven weeks visiting Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, the Negev, Haifa, and Eilat.
Sara Fidler

My favorite place to travel to is Ireland! My family hails from the Emerald Isle, so I was happy to visit the land of my ancestors.
Ashley Swift

Seattle, Washington was one of the most enjoyable and memorable vacations for my whole family.
Angela Sherman

Disney World. I go every year with my family and we have a wonderful time together as a family.
Pam Nussbaumer

One of the most beautiful places I visited was Old Town Lijiang in Yunnan Province, China.
Aubrey Waddick

My most memorable vacation was when my husband and I got married in Punta Cana.
Stephanie Thomas