

Greetings from Scholars,

The age of technology has changed so much, including the transition for families when their children head to college. We know from our students that the weekly calls home of yesteryear have been replaced with daily cell chats, IMs, or emails with family members. Parents hear about conflicts with friends, challenges in the classroom, and the newest, greatest adventures almost instantly—a mixed blessing for us all!

Hopefully the news you are hearing from your children these days is good and you are learning about academic successes, budding friendships and exciting possibilities for the upcoming year. But no matter how smoothly things are going, we know your children continue to rely on you for support.

This is the time of year that exams and papers start to demand attention. We hope you will encourage your students to take a little time each day to relax: take a walk, play Frisbee on the quad, go to the [Campus Recreation Center](#) for a swim, hang out with friends. They will concentrate better and get more accomplished if they take have some down time.

We hope you will encourage your son or daughter to try one new activity each week or to visit a new office. For example, there are free Tuesday concerts at the [Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center](#), bowling in the [Union](#), and the [Career Center](#) has great information about winter job shadowing externships.

Fall is a great time for students to begin making plans for the spring semester as well. In addition to registering for classes, involvement opportunities like community service through Alternative Spring Break programs are being advertised. Each of the Scholars programs is gearing up for our annual spring [“Step to Bat for Kids” Charity Softball Tournament](#) and making plans for [Scholars in New York](#). Encourage your son or daughter to read the weekly listserv distributed through Scholars to learn what’s happening this semester and beyond.

There are also many resources to support your children through daily challenges. Please encourage them to meet with and get to know their Scholars faculty personally. We have an impressive and caring group of faculty associated with Scholars—a resource your children should not miss! Writing, math and science tutoring programs are available on campus, which can provide the little extra support that even our talented students sometimes need.

For students, success in college is a combination of their hard work and native

intelligence, which is then nourished by new challenges and on-going support from families, Scholars, and the University. Thanks for all that you do to support your children and their education.

But don't let your children be the only ones to benefit from your talents and support. This newsletter highlights a variety of ways that you can become more involved in Scholars.

For those who were able to join us for [Family Weekend](#), thanks for sharing time with us at the Scholars dinner (highlights below). It was a grand event! Hopefully you discovered first hand how many interesting opportunities for learning and growing here at Maryland.

For those who missed that event, it's not too late! Consider engaging your talents in making Scholars stronger or joining us for our annual Scholars in New York. (Read on!)

And since it won't be long until Thanksgiving break arrives and you can enjoy some extra face-to-face time with your children ~ hopefully not just via cell phone, IM or email, we've included some information in this newsletter to help you begin making your plans.

Enjoy!

[Martha Baer Wilmes](#)

Associate Director for Student Affairs

Family Weekend

Family Weekend harvested much success, as parents and family members explored campus and enjoyed many of the activities offered by Scholars and many other units on campus. Scholars would like to extend a special thank you to the many family members who were able to attend one of our weekend events, the 11th Annual Citation Ceremony and our Scholars Family Weekend Banquet.

This year, more than 650 students earned their citation upon successfully completing the program. Many of these students were recognized at our Citation Ceremony, where we also conferred special awards. Following the annual ceremony, which was held at Ritchie Coliseum, many students and their family members celebrated with a delicious feast in the Grand Ballroom of Stamp Student Union. We look forward to seeing many of you at next year's Family Weekend events.

From the Scholars Newsdesk (<http://www.scholars.umd.edu/news/>)

College Park Scholars was highlighted during UM President Dan Mote's "State of the Campus" message on September 14th. To read what President Mote shared, and to view the remainder of the "State of the Campus" message, please visit the [website](#).

UM Information and Upcoming Deadlines

Thanksgiving

All North Campus Residence Halls will be closed on Wednesday, November 22, 2006 at 7:00pm. The buildings will stay closed until Sunday November 26. The Department of Resident Life does offer limited temporary housing on a first come, first serve basis. More information about temp housing for Thanksgiving Break will be posted online at www.resnet.umd.edu shortly.

Unfortunately, students who reside in the Scholars community are not eligible for late stays in their rooms for the Thanksgiving Break. So, students who are not able to leave by 7:00pm on November 22 will need to relocate to temporary housing on South Campus. If your son or daughter lives on North Campus, please make sure he or she has plans to be out of their room by that time.

Also, for those students who require travel assistance to the Tri-State area, the UM Department of Transportation Services provides transportation to New York City during the Thanksgiving break. Details follow:

Leave: WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22, 2006

Departs from: Stamp Student Union

Time: 2 p.m.

Destination: Port Authority, N.Y.

Return: SUNDAY, NOV. 26, 2006

Departs from: Port Authority, N.Y.

Time: 12 p.m. (Noon)

Destination: Stamp Student Union

Cost:

Roundtrip: \$35

One-way: \$20

Registration for the trip begins Monday, Oct. 16, 2006 at the Transportation Services office in Regents Drive Garage. Call 301-314-0183 for more information. *Please note this is only transportation from and to campus. Passengers are responsible for their own travel arrangements upon reaching the destination point. *

Deadline for Dropping Classes

November 8, 2006 is the last day to drop a class with a “W.” After this date, a class cannot be dropped. A “W” is put on a student’s transcript as a reference to withdrawing from a class.

4th Annual "Scholars in New York"

On April 20 - 22, 2007, more than 450 College Park Scholars students, alumni, parents, and faculty will set out for New York City for the fourth consecutive year. With a weekend touring the Big Apple, participants will enjoy shopping on 5th Ave., eating dazzling cuisine, attending Broadway shows and visiting famous landmarks.

Accommodations are provided by the [Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers](#) in midtown-Manhattan. Accompanying activities for alumni and parent participants will include a happy hour on Friday evening organized by the [College Park Scholars Alumni Association](#); pre-show dinner on Saturday evening; and opportunities to explore the city on your own schedule.

Once again, we would like to extend an invitation to parents to join us on this annual tradition. Registration will open for this program in the next several weeks, and updates will be made directly to the website and through this newsletter. Activities will be available through individual selection (not in packages like in prior years), and you will be charged accordingly. *Prices do not include meals. *

Opportunities to Provide Support

College Park Scholars sponsors various partnerships, programs and activities that need leaders and aid to thrive and consequently to enhance all the individuals that are involved, especially students. We welcome support from many sources, including parents and family members. It is because of your helping hands that we are able, as a community of scholars, to foster an interest and passion for engaging and purposeful undertakings. If you are interested in learning more about giving and various leadership opportunities, please visit the website at <http://www.scholars.umd.edu/giving/>. We also welcome partial and full event sponsorships from private businesses, and welcome partnership opportunities for hosting internships, program site visits, and providing innovative mechanisms for support. If you are interested in discussing any such options, please contact [Kevin Baxter](#) at your convenience.

"Scholars on the Hill" Contacts Welcome

Each semester, College Park Scholars works in collaboration with the Office of the President (Federal Relations) to organize [“Scholars on the Hill”](#) experiences for our students. This event gives students the opportunity to visit Capitol Hill as well as

various other Federal Agencies where they can learn more about the federal government firsthand and even develop contacts for internships. It is a trip that has been a great success in the past, and one that our students and faculty look forward to.

It is almost time to begin planning the spring “Scholars on the Hill” trip and we are interested in developing new contacts within the federal government who might be able to assist with this initiative. We would like to visit a federal agency this spring, so any assistance in identifying contacts at a federal agency that might be willing to assist us in arranging a trip or who would like to speak to our students about their careers would be extremely helpful. Establishing these types of contacts and relationships is very important to the College Park Scholars, as it can be extremely beneficial in allowing students to have an up-close and personal experience while learning about their government. If you work on Capitol Hill or for a federal agency and would like to be involved in the “Scholars on the Hill” trip, please contact Emily Hept, Undergraduate Coordinator for Civic Engagement Programs at ehpt@umd.edu. Thank for so much your continued support of our initiatives here in College Park Scholars!