



**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND INCENTIVE AWARDS PROGRAM**

**INTOUCH**  
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INCENTIVE AWARDS PROGRAM

\*The University of Maryland Incentive Awards Program comprises the Suzanne G. and Murray A. Valenstein Baltimore Incentive Awards Program and the Prince George's County Incentive Awards Program.



Charles Daggs '69

**Gift to IAP Allows Expansion to KIPP Schools**

A generous gift from Charles Daggs '69 will welcome students into the Incentive Awards Program through a new partnership with the Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP) charter schools in Maryland and Washington, D.C. The first Daggs Scholars will enroll this fall as Incentive Awards scholars with full scholarships, and future KIPP graduates, known as KIPPsters, will be selected over the next several years.

Daggs is a major proponent of school reform and of charter schools and serves on the board of directors for KIPP Bay Area Schools. "[My family and I] feel strongly that children trapped in broken and underperforming inner-city schools is the civil

rights issue of our day," he says. "They deserve the same access to a quality education as children born in the most affluent neighborhoods in America. The KIPP Schools in D.C. and Baltimore City provide that access to children of lower-income families. We are simply providing the funding needed to bring a college education within their reach."

KIPP was launched in 1994 with a commitment to setting high standards, hard work and laser-like focus on results. Today, KIPP schools serve more than 39,000 students in 125 schools in 20 states and D.C.



**UKWU LANDS COVETED EYE-RESEARCH INTERNSHIP AS FRESHMAN**

In high school, Tochi Ukwu '15 fended off the recurrent swelling of her eyes that made it hard to read. The condition, called uveitis, is the third-leading cause of blindness, and there's no known cure. Ukwu, a microbiology major, hopes to change that.

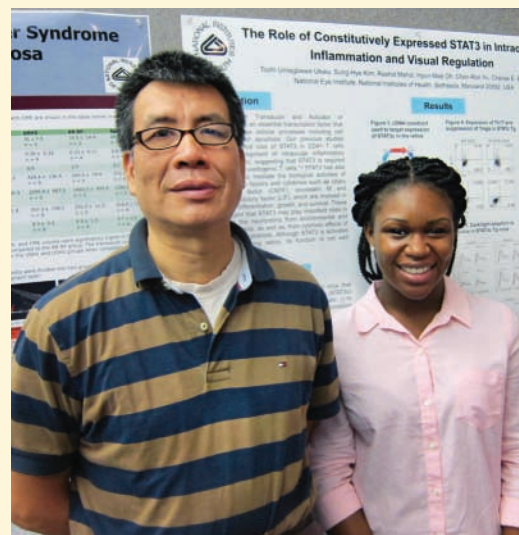
Last summer, she interned at the National Eye Institute (part of the National Institutes of Health) in Bethesda, Md., where she conducted research on

uveitis, the inflammation of the middle layer of the eye, called the uvea. "I wanted to determine if you can change the progression of uveitis and examine how manipulating one signaling protein can alter the regulation of vision," she says.

Ukwu worked under the supervision of staff scientist Dr. Cheng-Rong Yu. "She's very smart and a very hard worker," he says. "She works all day and all night."

She discovered in the retina a major moderator in the degree of inflammatory response and visual regulation, which supports existing research. The highlight of Ukwu's internship was when she presented her findings to visitors, postdoctoral scholars and staff scientists at NIH's poster day. "It was an amazing experience, and it was rewarding to know I made a contribution to eye research."

Tochi Ukwu '15 with her mentor, NIH Staff Scientist Dr. Cheng-Rong Yu.



**PARTNER SCHOOLS**  
Baltimore City Public Schools:  
Baltimore City College  
Baltimore Polytechnic Institute

Baltimore School for the Arts  
Digital Harbor High School  
Heritage High School  
KIPP Baltimore  
Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School

National Academy Foundation High School  
New Era Academy  
Northwestern High School  
Patterson High School

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School  
Renaissance Academy  
W.E.B. DuBois High School  
Western High School

Prince George's County Public Schools:  
Central High School  
Fairmont Heights High School  
High Point High School  
KIPP DC

Northwestern High School  
Oxon Hill High School  
Parkdale High School  
Potomac High School  
Suitland High School

## Jose Arevalo '13 "Accounts" for His Success



Jose Arevalo '13

Excel in academics. Check. Study abroad. Check. Get great internships. Check. Start a career. Check.

Over the last four years, Jose Arevalo '13 has focused on his goals and achieved them. He completed five internships, including stints at two of the Big Four accounting firms. He explored Islamic business practices in the United Arab Emirates and studied microfinance in Nicaragua. He earned a GPA of 3.66 and is on track to graduate in May with dual degrees in finance and accounting. This fall, he will begin working at KPMG LLP in McLean, Va., as an advisory associate in consumer and mortgage lending. Yet Arevalo once doubted that he could become an Incentive Awards Scholar.

But as a sophomore at High Point High School, Arevalo found a spark in modern Latin cultural music, called reggaeton. It gave him something meaningful to focus on when he might have otherwise turned to the streets. "Music taught me that I needed financial stability to continue [to pursue music] and that education was the way toward financial stability," he says. Arevalo's passion for music, his family and the Latino community motivated him to attend college and succeed in life.

Arevalo appreciates the extra push and support that IAP has provided to help him achieve his goals. "Jackie [IAP Director] has always asked for more," he says.

In five to 10 years, Arevalo hopes to pursue a master's degree in finance or enroll in law school, focusing either on entertainment, music management or immigration law. For him, IAP has emphasized "making sure you get to where you want to be in the future."

## SCHOLARS PLACE 2ND AT NATIONAL ACCOUNTING COMPETITION

by Rafael Lovo '13

Jose Arevalo '13 and Rafael Lovo '13 in August participated in the 40th annual national convention of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA) and its ALPFA-KPMG Case Study Competition. The event in Las Vegas featured 24 collegiate teams from across the country, with each required to research a unique case of accounting questions around a particular company, develop a solution and present its findings to a panel of judges. After months of intense preparation locally, followed by two culminating presentations in Las Vegas, Arevalo's and Lovo's five-member ALPFA-UMD team took home second-place honors.



Top: Rafael Lovo '13 (left) and Jose Arevalo '13 (right). Right: Rafael Lovo '13 (3rd from left) and Jose Arevalo '13 (4th from left) with ALPFA-UMD Team.



## WILSON-JONES RALLIES SUPPORT FOR LANDMARK BALLOT MEASURE IN STATE



Charmaine Wilson-Jones '15 (far right) with fellow SGA members and state Sen. Richard Madaleno Jr. (far left) and state Del. Heather Mizeur (3rd from left).

Charmaine Wilson-Jones '15 can say she's had a hand in state history, with the passage in November of the landmark measure to legalize same-sex marriage.

Through her role as director of diversity for the Student Government Association (SGA), the government and politics major rallied support for the historic measure. For nearly three months, Wilson-Jones worked tirelessly, along with a few of her SGA colleagues, to plan and coordinate the Marriage Equality Rally, which drew more than 250 people on campus in October.

"It was like my life's work for so long," she says.

Wilson-Jones' contributions included mobilizing student groups to co-sponsor the event, coordinating efforts with Marylanders for Marriage Equality, and heavily marketing the rally. Additionally, she garnered the critical support and participation of local political leaders including U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin, state Sen. Richard Madaleno Jr. and state Dels. Heather Mizeur, Maggie McIntosh and Luke Clippinger.

"I supported this cause because I believe everyone should be entitled to the same rights that I have," she says. "Though I am not LGBT myself, I sympathize with the struggles of the [LGBT] community and consider myself an ally. I'm elated that marriage equality passed, and I think SGA played its part in that."



## Budding Campus Leaders

Freshmen Tarik Bayu, Chijiaku Maduka and McAllister Egbire-Molen wasted no time in seizing a leadership opportunity on campus. All three were elected as executive board members on the Black Student Union Freshmen Council. The council aims to help all freshmen acclimate to campus life and get involved with student organizations. "I like the fact that we are able to provide a place for other freshmen to feel involved and have something to call their own," says Egbire-Molen.



(From left) Tarik Bayu '16, Chijiaku Maduka '16 and McAllister Egbire-Molen '16

## Student Committees

IAP scholars don't just show up at program events. They shape them. Eight student committees, coached by IAP staff, each planned and implemented a successful event last fall, for a total of three community service projects, two performing arts excursions, two social outings and an intimate fireside chat. Through this process, committee chairs develop leadership skills and sharpen their professional communication practices while contributing to program goals.

Here's what we've been up to...

\*Student committee event



Fall retreat

Voter registration drive



## Community Meetings Nurture Sense of Family

By Lenaya Stewart '15



It's nearing 4 p.m. on a Monday, and in a small suite in the Cole Student Activities Building, students in the Incentive Awards Program gather. There are more people than chairs, so pillows are brought out to soften spots on the floor. "Even though most of us are tired and have had a long day, we are still happy to see one another and welcome everyone like family," says Candace Cooke '16.

semester goals, learn about internship opportunities, special campus events and upcoming IAP community service projects, and get a hug," says Davian Morgan '14.

Scholars also learn about campus resources and hear professional development tips while developing meaningful, supportive relationships with one another.



They've come together for a community meeting, which the Incentive Awards Program offers every three weeks during the academic year to nurture that sense of family.

"When I walk into the office and see familiar faces, I feel a bit less like a number, and I feel more like a person. It's always heartwarming to meet and gather with people who share similar struggles. That's where our strength is—in our ability to come together despite what we are going through," says Melva Coles '16.

"I know I can meet up with my IAP family and share my "gripes 'n grins" and

Mykia Smith '15 (at top, far right) shares a "grin." Bottom: Charmaine Wilson-Jones '15 leads out in a meeting.

## NEW FELLOWS

Scholars, servant-leaders, role models. To this list, we add the title of "fellow" to Tochi Ukwu and Charmaine Wilson-Jones, who joined the select group of students last fall. Incentive Awards fellows are exemplary students and campus leaders who display positive attitudes and demonstrate strong character, while encouraging others to follow their lead. Their contributions to the IAP leadership and service to their peers include planning and facilitating the fall retreat, leading portions of community meetings, providing program feedback and participating in the annual selection process.



Tochi Ukwu '15



Charmaine Wilson-Jones '15



\* "Rent" at Slayton House Theatre (with Malcolm Lewis '14 performing as Angel)



Etiquette dinner



\* Community service at the YMCA in Silver Spring, Md. (Preschool Halloween costume parade)



\* "In the Red and Brown Water" at the UMD Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center (with Christopher Lane '15, 5th from left, performing as Elegba)

\* Community service at Children's National Medical Center, Washington, D.C. (Thanksgiving arts and crafts)





## COUNSELOR SPOTLIGHT

### Pamela Wainwright, Digital Harbor High School



Pamela Wainwright

As a college access program specialist for the CollegeBound Foundation, Pamela Wainwright has served as the bridge between high school and college for hundreds of students at Baltimore's Digital Harbor High School.

She helps students identify colleges to consider, assists with their applications and writes letters of recommendation, among other duties, and serves as the primary liaison between Digital Harbor and IAP.

"She goes out of her way to help people," says IAP Scholar Thomas Tripline-Hammond '15. "She always called me her son. Without her I would not be in IAP or college." Adds Juan Peralta '13, "I'd heard about the program but never thought I could win the award. It was Ms. Wainwright who pushed me to apply. Now I'm about to graduate."

Wainwright is a staunch advocate for the program. When IAP expanded to include Prince George's County Public Schools in 2005, she played a role in training new counselors. "IAP is a program I believe in. When the vision and mission are laid out, it's impossible not to embrace it. I wanted counselors to know the incredible opportunity IAP would provide for their students and their community," she says.

The most exciting part of being an IAP liaison, she says, is the moment her students learn they have been granted the Incentive Award, and it sinks in that they are going to college. "They recognize that guidance and support will be available to them—not just money—and they realize they're going to be OK," says Wainwright.

Most rewarding, however, is when they graduate from Maryland and become productive citizens throughout Baltimore City. One former student and IAP alumna, Jennifer Covahey '08, is now the college access program specialist at Friendship Academy of Science and Technology in the city. "She and I are working side by side as colleagues now," Wainwright says. "I can hardly believe it."

### Hats off to CollegeBound Foundation

The Incentive Awards Program thanks the CollegeBound Foundation for its longstanding support. Since 2001, it has provided more than \$150,000 in textbook scholarships to IAP students from Baltimore City high schools. "This innovative college program wraps its arms around academically prepared, underserved students who have overcome extraordinary adverse life situations and persevered to realize their dream of a college education," says Craig Spilman '85, executive director. "The CollegeBound Foundation strongly endorses the Incentive Awards Program as an exemplary college retention model."



**COLLEGEBOUND FOUNDATION**  
*To College. Through College.*



\*Open mic at  
Busboys and Poets

Community service  
at Food & Friends,  
Washington, D.C.



\*Community service  
at Hillhaven Assisted  
Living Nursing &  
Rehabilitation Center,  
Adelphi, Md.

\*Ice skating



Community service at  
So Others Might Eat,  
Washington, D.C.



IAP  
holiday  
party



## Donor Luncheons

Special thanks to Arnold '69 and Alison Richman '69 and Don '85 and Laura Scheeler '89 for hosting luncheons on behalf of the Incentive Awards Program in October. Both events provided an opportunity for the hosts, students and alumni to introduce the program to guests, share their enthusiasm and encourage their participation through volunteering and philanthropy. Thanks also to Brittany Atkinson '11, Sade Diggs '13, Christopher Lane '15, Juan Peralta '13, Lenaya Stewart '15 and Tiana Wynn '05 for attending and sharing their personal stories.



Arnold '69 and Alison Richman '69



Laura '89 and Don Scheeler '85

**INTERESTED IN HOSTING YOUR OWN LUNCHEON?**

Contact  
**Stacey Sickels Locke**  
at [slocke@umd.edu](mailto:slocke@umd.edu)  
for more information.



## What's to Like about the Fall Retreat

IAP kicks off each academic year with a fall retreat. This year, IAP students were whisked away to NorthBay Adventure Camp for a weekend of icebreakers, games and team-building activities. The retreat encouraged bonding within and across cohorts and engaged students in setting community goals for the academic year. Read what students liked best about it:



**Make next year's retreat just like this one!**

Everything was planned well and I enjoyed seeing everyone participate. **SO MUCH FUN!**

**I LOVE the location!** *Best retreat of ALL time!*

**KAYAKING!**

The energy! Everyone was super pumped to be here and make this experience the best.

I had a fabulous time!! :-)<3



## CLASS NOTES

### Class of 2005

**Yavona Williams Pirali** gave birth to her second child, Carmen Alicia Pirali, last April. She is taking education administration classes at Coppin State University that will certify her to become a principal or a science education consultant.

### Class of 2006

**James Brockington** directs the special education department at Gilmore Elementary School in Baltimore.

**Ja-Neé Jackson** writes, "I am finally a homeowner living in Patterson Park! Also, last May, I graduated from Morgan State University with a master's degree in social work and I'm working for the Department of Juvenile Services."

**Misbha Qureshi** is a published scholar. Together with her adviser at Drexel University, Kenneth V. Hardy, she wrote the article "Devaluation, Loss, and Rage: A Postscript to Urban African American Youth with Substance Abuse," which appeared in *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly*. Qureshi is pursuing a doctorate in marriage and family therapy.

### Class of 2007

**Janiceia Adams** returned to New York City to work as manager, institute support for Teach for America. In this role, she manages the budget, provides support for staff hiring, trains staff members and provides all conference logistics for one of its training sites.

**Tameka Brooks** was recently engaged and plans to be married in October. Brooks gushed, "I am so happy!" She is an employment specialist for individuals with developmental disabilities at the Arc of Baltimore and was promoted to supervise the Project SEARCH site at University Hospital in Baltimore.



**Deon Jackson '07** (top row, 2nd from right) with fellow Baltimore Ravens cheerleaders. Together, they celebrated the Ravens' win at Super Bowl XLVII in New Orleans.



**Latoya Felder** launched her inaugural Breast Health Day in memory of her mother, who succumbed to breast cancer. The day included breast health education, a tribute to breast cancer survivors, raffles, giveaways and a host of vendors.

### Class of 2008

**Olivia Coates** works for the Department of State and is pursuing a master's degree in international management at University of Maryland University College. She will sit for the Foreign Service and civil service exams after graduating in May.

### Class of 2009

**Carolyn Crews** is working in human resources in Washington, D.C. at the Magazine Group, a custom publishing firm.

### Class of 2011

**Ashley Lawrence** works as a research program assistant on a study called "Community Aging in Place—Advancing Better Living for Elders" at Johns Hopkins University. She expects to complete a master's degree in public health from Morgan State University in May.

**Robyne Rivers Maxwell** married Antiwan Maxwell last May. In September, she started a doctoral program at the Georgia School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University in Atlanta.

**Sharina Ashton** is a human resources assistant at one of Washington, D.C.'s top law firms, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP.

### Class of 2012

**Lauren Robinson** is an independent contractor for *Baltimore Bride* magazine. She notes, "I primarily interview Baltimore newlyweds and wedding professionals to promote wedding services. Also, I am the senior editor of *Black Bride and Groom Publications*. I research and write stories to feature in our magazine and website. My next assignment—interviewing a celebrity newlywed couple!"

**Djuan Short** is pursuing a master's degree in social work at the University of Pennsylvania.





UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND

Incentive Awards Program  
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College Park, MD 20742

[www.umincentiveawards.umd.edu](http://www.umincentiveawards.umd.edu)



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To learn more about or to support the Incentive Awards Program, please  
contact Jacqueline Wheeler Lee, director, at [jwl@umd.edu](mailto:jwl@umd.edu) or 301.405.9024.

**SAVE THE DATE**



**13TH ANNUAL  
SPRING  
RECEPTION**

TUESDAY

APRIL 30

4–6 P.M.

University House