

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND INCENTIVE AWARDS PROGRAM

Suzanne G. and Murray A. Valenstein  
Baltimore Incentive Awards

Prince George's County  
Incentive Awards

# IN TOUCH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INCENTIVE AWARDS PROGRAM



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND



FEARLESS ENTREPRENEUR

Christopher Lane '15

As an incoming freshman in the summer of 2011, **Christopher Lane** didn't know what an entrepreneur was. But Lane's observant nature and keen sense of creativity led him toward what became his first startup.

Sparked by a question from his older brother, Lane wondered whether the social value of helping the community could be an alternative to money.

He set out to create a model where "doing good" could generate currency and be exchanged for some reward or commodity. He visited the Dingman Center for Entrepreneurship on campus, in addition to searching Google and studying online videos.

By fall 2013, he had secured \$1,500 in grants and was the only undergraduate to pitch an idea at the annual Social Enterprise Symposium hosted by the university's Center for Social Value Creation. Joining up with a fellow CIVICUS alum, Dev Kavathekar, Lane officially launched Procity, a name taken from "reciprocity."

In a year, Procity amassed nearly 500 registered members and partnered with 11 campus and local restaurants. For every hour of community service that members completed, they earned 12 "ProPoints" that they could use toward discounts at partner restaurants. According to Lane, Procity members have accumulated an estimated \$1,700 in total savings.

**"WHEN I SPEAK ABOUT PROCITY, THERE'S ALWAYS IMMENSE JOY BECAUSE IT FEELS GOOD TO CREATE SOMETHING AND SEE IT MANIFEST."** —CHRISTOPHER LANE '15

"I achieved being an entrepreneur and a student," Lane says. "When I speak about Procity, there's always immense joy because it feels good to create something and see it manifest."

Lane has a new business project, interACT, taking place this spring. It is an eight-week program to develop UMD faculty and staff members' communication, creativity and confidence.

Shortly after Lane graduates in May with a double major in theater and marketing, he will begin working as an account executive with New Day Financial, a mortgage banking company in Fulton, Md. Eventually, Lane would like to create his own theater company to focus on diversity and the intersection of identities.

"The opportunity that IAP has given me to explore these different options at a prestigious university, free of financial burdens, has been the greatest gift to my success, achievements and continued growth," he says.

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

Baltimore School for  
the Arts  
Digital Harbor High  
School  
Heritage High School  
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

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

KIPP Schools:  
KIPP DC College  
Preparatory

## HYPE



José Granados '15 speaks at HYPE 2014.

### Service to one's community is a key tenet of the Incentive Awards Program.

Senior José Granados and IAP alum Nancy Canales '13, both graduates of High Point High School, have taken this value to heart in their Hispanic Youth with Power & Education (HYPE) program, which they co-founded in Spring 2013.

HYPE works in partnership with the UMD Office of Community Engagement and Prince George's County Public Schools' International Student Counseling Office.

"It is our hope that this program will inspire Latinos in Prince George's County to learn about the college application process and to pursue higher education," Granados says.

HYPE is a one-day, college preparatory program held on UMD's campus for ninth- through 11th-grade students who attend Prince George's County Public Schools. It features workshops on the college admissions process, scholarships, financial aid, financial literacy and networking. Undergraduate students serve as mentors to participants throughout the day.

In the past two years, HYPE has served approximately 70 students and 40 parents.

"I see myself in these high school students, and it is with great joy and enthusiasm that I get to plan this program each year with my team and network of volunteers," Granados says.



## SHARE Peer Educators

Isaiah Bell '16 and Kaila Williams '17 were motivated, in part, to become Sexual Health and Reproductive Education (SHARE) peer educators by the prevalence of myths among young people: You can't get a sexually transmitted infection (STI) through oral sex, but you can from a toilet seat; you can use baby oil and Vaseline as lubricants with latex condoms; and you can douche to help prevent pregnancy after sexual intercourse.

"I wanted to remedy this issue and change risky sexual practices," Bell says.

**"SHARE HAS MADE ME WALK INTO A ROOM AND BE COMFORTABLE AND CONFIDENT. NOW I KNOW THAT I CAN SPEAK TO A ROOM FULL OF PEOPLE ABOUT ANYTHING."** —KAILA WILLIAMS

As SHARE peer educators, Bell, Williams and De'Ja Geter-Jackson '17 hold presentations and workshops across campus to increase students' knowledge about birth control, reproductive health and STIs.

The program has helped develop their communication and public speaking skills.

"SHARE has made me walk into a room and be comfortable and confident," Williams says. "Now I know that I can speak to a room full of people about anything."



(From left) De'Ja Geter-Jackson '17, Isaiah Bell '16, and Kaila Williams '17

## Enriching the Undergraduate Experience Through Exploration



Melva Coles '16



For most of her life, Melva Coles '16 knew she wanted to pursue the field of education, aspiring to be a teacher at just 8 years old. She's continuing on that path at UMD, thanks to enriching experiences in sociology and women's studies and engagement in out-of-classroom opportunities.

Coles wants to examine how race, gender, socioeconomic status and other forms of identity intersect with academic success.

"I would also like to study how educational institutions can better prepare teachers to educate and meet the needs of historically underserved student groups, and maybe someday, contribute toward these efforts," she says.

The Department of Women's Studies selected Coles to attend the National Women's Studies Association's annual meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, last November. This exposed Coles to a variety of research and deepened her interest in this field.

She is also gaining valuable research experience through a position with the Consortium on Race, Gender & Ethnicity.

"I'm establishing great relationships with premier faculty at this university, and I'm learning why research is so important in the field of education," she says.

## PUBLIC HEALTH WITHOUT BORDERS

In Fall 2013, Joshua Trowell '16, a community health major, was one of seven diverse UMD students who founded Public Health Without Borders (PHWB) to educate and serve communities in developing countries.

"PHWB provides UMD students the opportunity to travel abroad and apply their public health knowledge from the classroom to where it really matters—the lives of the less fortunate," Trowell says.

PHWB has traveled four times to Peru, where teams focused on oral hygiene, hand washing education and cleaner water resources. The organization raised \$10,000 for supplies and traveling expenses through LaunchUMD, a crowdfunding platform, to fund a trip to Sierra Leone last summer.

Trowell will spend two weeks in Bangladesh this summer to educate families, especially children, about the importance of hand washing and wearing sandals to prevent infection. Trowell's team has submitted grant proposals to Sesame Workshop and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



Joshua Trowell '16 (center) with PHWB members at UMD's 2015 Stampfest Organization Involvement Fair.

**"PHWB PROVIDES UMD STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL ABROAD AND APPLY THEIR PUBLIC HEALTH KNOWLEDGE FROM THE CLASSROOM TO WHERE IT REALLY MATTERS—THE LIVES OF THE LESS FORTUNATE."** —JOSHUA TROWELL '16





## IAP Welcomes New Associate Director

By Lenaya Stewart '15



Derrick Gunter

Derrick Gunter joined the IAP community in January as its new associate director. He is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the program, staff supervision, program assessment, the selection process, recruiting, and managing the budget, among many other duties.

Throughout his career, Gunter has worked with students in Massachusetts, California and Illinois. Prior to Maryland, he was the project director for the Achieving College Excellence Program (ACE) at Loyola University Chicago. Similar to the Incentive Awards Program, ACE nurtures the success of first-generation, low-income students during their undergraduate tenure.

Gunter, who created a supportive, mentoring environment at ACE, says, "Family is a support system that creates a level of comfort that other relationships do not provide. Families ask the hard questions and push you to do your best."

Gunter enjoys working with students, getting to know the University of Maryland community and helping to build the program. He is excited to be in Maryland, with its "warmer" weather, and to be closer to family and friends.

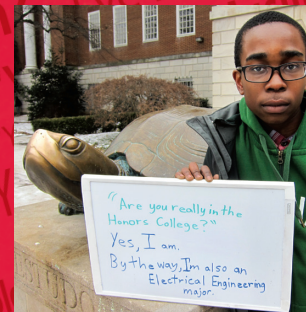
Welcome!

## #ITooAmMaryland

Last spring, IAP students were the impetus for #ITooAmMaryland, the first-ever, campuswide conversation on racial "microaggressions," which took place in October.

A microaggression is a slight or subtle verbal or behavioral insult toward a marginalized person or group. A panel of IAP students participated in an Office of Diversity and Inclusion luncheon where they shared unsettling accounts of such comments directed at them or others from faculty, staff and fellow students ("You are so pretty for a black girl"; "Are you here on an athletic scholarship?"; "You speak really good English"). Grace Benigno, IAP's coordinator of student services, pushed to extend the conversation across campus to others who might have similar experiences.

More than 200 students, including IAP students, participated in #ITooAmMaryland, which included roundtable discussions led by trained facilitators from across campus to address the effects of these seemingly harmless comments or acts that chip away at a person's confidence or sense of belonging. Through these discussions, participants learned how to respond to microaggressions in constructive and educative ways rather than to internalize them.



Top row from left: Gerard Dailey '16, Charmaine Wilson-Jones '15, Christine Oliveros '15  
Middle row: Alecia Frye '16, Chijiaku Maduka '16, Jessica Nolasco '17  
Bottom row: Nabreyia Scott '17, Ladeja Robinson '17, Chukwuma Odigwe '18





## SPOTLIGHT ON:

### J. Keith Scroggins '79 Donor & Selection Committee Member

J. Keith Scroggins '79 is the chief operating officer of Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) and a longtime supporter of the Incentive Awards Program. Despite his busy schedule, each year he interviews IAP candidates, helps build bridges for collaboration and partnerships, and serves as a key point person in BCPS. What keeps him connected? Let's find out!

#### WHY DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH IAP AND WHY HAVE YOU REMAINED SO DEDICATED?

When I learned about IAP, I was working at the Department of Public Works for the City of Baltimore. The idea that my alma mater was interested in increasing the number of students matriculating from Baltimore and was providing full scholarships to make it possible was intriguing. Years later, the program has become very dear to my heart. It is my passion. I don't just believe in it, I feel it.

#### HOW HAS WORKING WITH BCPS AFFECTED YOUR IAP EXPERIENCE?

In my role, I have greater contact with the schools than I've ever had before. I have a keen sense of the challenges and opportunities as well as the culture of the communities from which our students come. I can bring that knowledge into my interviews with IAP candidates to provide context and make an informed recommendation.

#### YOU HAVE ALSO BEEN A DONOR FOR YEARS. WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO SUPPORT IAP?

I am a Baltimore native, so I have a vested interest in IAP. I give because it's an opportunity to give back to Baltimore City residents—and my way of putting my money where my mouth is. It feels good to know that my gifts give young people the opportunity to enjoy some of the same things that I enjoyed when I was a student at Maryland. I loved my Maryland experience, so I'm always telling others about the university and encouraging young people to apply.

#### WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU MOST ABOUT WORKING WITH IAP?

The candidates themselves! Many of them have shared stories of abandonment, drugs and other maladies that would cause many adults to lose hope. Instead, they push against the negative influences in their communities with a sense of determination that is remarkable.

#### WHAT DO YOU WISH OTHER PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT IAP?

IAP helps students to be successful by giving them tools and access to lots of resources, both on and off campus. More importantly, it provides a family environment and works hard to keep the group together. IAP is a beacon of light for those who might otherwise drop out of Maryland, or worse yet, never apply. IAP encourages students to spread their wings, learn all they can and then take back to Baltimore what they learned.

#### WHAT MIGHT PEOPLE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I have spaces in my office and in my home that are dedicated specifically for Maryland paraphernalia. I have been a football season ticket holder since 1996. I attend football bowl games, I am a life member of the alumni association, a former member of the alumni association's Board of Governors and a volunteer for arts and humanities programs at College Park. I love to travel and I'm a diehard Ravens and Orioles fan.



J. Keith Scroggins '79





## New Professional Development Series Gives Alumni an Edge

**W**ho said the supportive IAP community has to end when students graduate? A new professional development series aims to extend the community by keeping alumni connected to the program and each other.

The Alumni Professional Development Series includes seasoned professionals from various fields who share their life experience, expertise and advice on topics of interest in a relaxed forum. The intent is to provide timely guidance and insight that will help alumni further develop personally and professionally.

Stuart Ritter '89, a vice president and senior financial planner at T. Rowe Price, kicked off the first gathering with a seminar about financial planning at his downtown Baltimore office. During Homecoming Weekend, selection committee members Rahn Barnes, Stuart Bowers '80, Don Scheeler '85 and J. Keith Scroggins '79 discussed how to effectively network in order to launch or elevate careers. Alumni at both sessions left with practical next steps.

"I am so thankful that IAP continues to provide mentoring for us," says Inga Ferguson Williams '06. "I'm finally at a point where I am wise enough to take advantage of the opportunities presented to me!"

The series will continue this year with three more sessions.

(Clockwise from top left) Brian Robinson Bowers '09, Ashley Lawrence '11, Don Scheeler '85 and Inga Ferguson Williams '06 after the October session on networking. Victoria Gold '14, Samuel Yirenkyi '14 and Nancy Canales '13. Stuart Ritter '89.

## OLIVIA COATES '08: LIVING HER DREAMS



As a child, Olivia Coates '08 never thought she'd be responsible for juggling multiple projects at one of the world's top companies and helping keep everyone there using the same procedures.

But today, she is the professional services consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers Public Sector LLP.

"Everyone in my family either worked in corrections or some aspect of the medical field. There was not a lot of variance in careers," she says.

While working as a federal contractor for the Department of State, Coates earned a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Science in International Management, both from University of Maryland University College. The combination of her job and education prepared her to manage many different areas.

"My work at the State Department gave me the foundation I needed to perform functions in a larger capacity and in a larger environment," says Coates. "Instead of supporting the program manager, I can be the program manager."

The challenge, of course, is that she works more than ever before. But, she says, "I love my job, and I love my company. My goal is to make partner in 15 years. I always tell my boss that I want her job!"

Coates credits IAP with exposing her to career options and giving her the skills to navigate the professional world.

"Everything from the mentors I had to the networking events I attended prepared me for the scenarios in which I find myself," she says. "Jackie (IAP director) even coached us on how to dress. It was frustrating and I didn't get it, but now I know how to be prepared for any situation. My motto is, 'When in doubt, be overdressed—wear a suit!'"

For Coates, the best part is seeing all her effort culminate into a career and a lifestyle she always dreamed of.

"This month I purchased my first home—a condo in Largo, Md.," she says. "I love having something I can call my own. Life has been incredibly busy, but good."





## CLASS NOTES

**Tiana Wynn '05** earned a master's degree in business administration from Loyola University Maryland last summer. She is headed to Thailand to celebrate.

**Latoya Felder '07** works at Hope Forward Inc. as an intake coordinator. She assists youth transitioning out of foster care with finding resources for life skills, housing opportunities and financial literacy. She also works at Strayer University as a campus coordinator in admissions.

**Bridget Blount '08** assumed a new role as the manager of evaluation and quality improvement for New Pathways Inc., an independent living program for foster care youth from 16 to 21 years old. She evaluates New Pathways' programs and assures they are aligned with its mission and goals.

**Shiron Lindsay '08** (pictured below, left) is a homeowner in Baltimore's Reservoir Hill neighborhood. Coincidentally, selection committee member, Rahn Barnes, Healthy Neighborhoods, managed the grant that she used, in part, to purchase her home.

**Darian Scott-Carter '08** is pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership at Edgewood College in Madison, Wis. He is also a proud new homeowner in Bowie, Md.

**DeAngela Boone '10** purchased her first home in Bowie, Md.

**Jamece Hackett '10** started a position as the new "Pink" category manager at Victoria's Secret and is "super excited to be a part of this brand and to be my own boss." She is also a certified make-up artist.

**Ashley Proctor '11** is the social worker/case manager at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital. She completed her master's degree in social work at the University of Maryland School of Social Work in May 2014.

**Lamara Johnson '12** is working toward a master of education in school counseling at Bowie State University.

**Lauren Robinson '12** is a project assistant at Connections Education, a company that provides quality education through technology to students in grades K-12.

**Djuan Short '12** received her master's degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania in May 2014. She is working at the Support Center for Child Advocates as a staff social worker in Philadelphia and part-time as a therapist at Northwestern Human Service Children's Reach Outpatient Clinic.

**Nancy Canales '13** is enrolled in the University of Maryland Master's Certification Program in the College of Education and is a graduate assistant in the Division of Letters and Sciences.

**Sade Diggs '13** works at the Carson Scholars Fund as the scholarship development associate. She is the first Carson Scholar alumna to work for the nonprofit organization. She is also a full-time student at Morgan State University, pursuing a master's degree in social work, and is completing her field placement at the Renaissance Christian Counseling Center.



Davian Morgan '14 takes a "selfie" with his first grade class at Ingenuity Prep Public Charter School in Washington, DC.

**Chemia Hughes '13** was promoted to lead teacher in her classroom at the Easter Seals Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Intergenerational Center, where she teaches toddlers.

**Victoria Gold '14** works for ScribeAmerica while applying to school to be a physician's assistant. She works closely with doctors and is responsible for medical data collection and data entry.

**Malcolm Lewis '14** finished the manager-in-training program for Abercrombie & Fitch and is the assistant store manager for the Towson store. He had a great run when auditioning for "American Idol" in New York City, where he made it to the top-300 competitors (out of 100,000)!

**Davian Morgan '14** is teaching first grade at Ingenuity Prep Public Charter School in Washington, DC through Teach for America.

**Gabrielle Parson '14** is enrolled at UMBC where she is pursuing a master of arts in sociology.

**Samuel Yirenkyi '14** is pursuing a master of professional studies in geospatial informational sciences at Maryland. He is also a graduate assistant at the Center of Advanced Transportation Technology in the Department of Civil Engineering and an intern working on crime mapping in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program in the Office of National Drug Control Policy.





# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Incentive Awards Program  
1103 Cole Student Activities Building  
College Park, MD 20742

[uminctiveawards.umd.edu](http://uminctiveawards.umd.edu)

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
College Park, MD  
PERMIT NO. 10



**Like us on Facebook**  
[facebook.com/UMIAP](https://facebook.com/UMIAP)



**Follow us on Twitter**  
[twitter.com/UMD\\_IAP](https://twitter.com/UMD_IAP)



**We're on Instagram**  
[instagram.com/UMD\\_IAP](https://instagram.com/UMD_IAP)

## Come Join Us! Good Neighbor Day • March 28

For our third annual Day of Service, IAP is proud to join the UMD Office of Community Engagement's **Good Neighbor Day**, an annual service partnership between the university, the City of College Park and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. IAP will be helping with various beautification projects across College Park. For more information, visit [goodneighborday.umd.edu](http://goodneighborday.umd.edu). If you are interested in participating in **Good Neighbor Day** with IAP, please contact us at [uminctiveawards@umd.edu](mailto:uminctiveawards@umd.edu).



**GOODNEIGHBORDAY**  
MARYLAND IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY



# SAVE THE DATE



**15TH ANNUAL  
SPRING RECEPTION**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 4-6 P.M.**  
University House



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.