

inTouch

*Official
Newsletter
of the*
**C.D. MOTE, JR.
INCENTIVE
AWARDS
PROGRAM**

SPRING 2022

IAP NAMED FOR ITS FOUNDER,
FORMER UMD PRESIDENT

C.D. MOTE, JR.

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Incentive Awards Program Named for Mote

Former UMD President Recognized for Contributions to Field, Expanding Education Access

BY ANNIE KRAKOWER

WHEN C.D. "DAN" MOTE, JR. arrived at the University of Maryland in 1998 to begin his tenure as president, he made what he calls a stunning observation: Of the 4,000 freshmen in that year's incoming class, only 40 came from public high schools in Baltimore.

"How could you have one of the great universities not only in the country, but in the world ... where the public high schools from the state's most important city only provide 1% of students (in the freshman class that fall) at the flagship university?" Mote says. "I decided we had to fix this problem."

That determination resulted in the Incentive Awards Program (IAP), which provides financial support, mentorship and a close-knit community to promising students facing challenging circumstances.

IAP comprises the Suzanne G. and Murray A. Valenstein Baltimore Scholars, the Prince George's County Scholars and Montgomery County Scholars. Now, all Terps joining the successful program will be reminded of its history and legacy.

To honor its founder, IAP will now be known as the C.D. Mote, Jr. Incentive Awards Program, and the Engineering Laboratory Building will also be named for the accomplished engineering innovator, UMD President Darryll J. Pines announced last fall. Their history goes back four decades, when Mote, then a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, met Pines at his high school and later became his undergraduate adviser at Berkeley.

"We are proud to honor my mentor and friend, former UMD President Dr. Dan Mote, through the namings of the C.D. Mote, Jr.



Opposite page: C.D. Mote, Jr. and wife Patsy surrounded by the Mighty Sound of Maryland during a celebration of the naming of the Incentive Awards Program and the Engineering Laboratory Building in his honor. Above: Mote and Jacqueline Lee (far left) with the first cohort of scholars in 2001. Right: President Darryll J. Pines, shown with wife Sylvia, gets emotional talking about Mote, his mentor and predecessor, at the naming event.

“He has defined the personal and professional lives of so many people and set us all on a course to have exceptional experiences and live purposeful lives.”

JACQUELINE W. LEE,
FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF IAP

Engineering Laboratory and C.D. Mote, Jr. Incentive Awards Program,” Pines says. “Your service to our university can never be fully measured, but it will always be gratefully remembered.”

During his 12 years as university president, Mote often cited his “expectation of greatness” as he transformed the campus. He oversaw a building boom, including the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, the Jeong H. Kim Engineering Building, the Bioscience Research Building and Knight Hall; created Maryland Day, which now attracts up to 100,000 attendees each year; led UMD’s first billion-dollar fundraising campaign, *Great Expectations*; founded the research park now known as the Discovery District; and began the presidential tradition of giving out turtle lapel pins, with the first designed by his wife, Patsy.

Among his long list of accomplishments, IAP sparks a special sense of pride for Mote—especially after its initial challenges securing funding and support. The program, founded in 2000, was inspired by a model that he implemented at Berkeley, where he previously worked for 31 years, rising to vice chancellor, and noticed a similar problem of attracting students from San Francisco. In addition to providing four years of financial assistance, IAP provides academic coaching and mentorship with a “community within a community” vibe. The program prioritizes community service and strives to help Terps develop critical thinking and leadership skills.

The program now has nearly 200 alums, with 77 who have completed or are pursuing graduate degrees. Mote fondly remembers students from early cohorts who are now working as company executives or earning doctorates in subjects like bioengineering, psychology and education.

“The fact that people want to recognize this program means a lot to me, and of course having my name associated with it is very special,” Mote says. “I’m confident that the program will continue to grow to more parts of the state ... and could become one of the nation’s outstanding educational programs.”

After launching with a focus on nine Baltimore City high schools, the program has expanded to include Prince George’s County and recently Montgomery County with support from multimillion-dollar gifts. Charles County will join this fall, too.

“It’s so fitting to honor him in this way,” says Jacqueline W. Lee, founding director of IAP. “Dr. Mote positioned and framed the Incentive Awards Program so that it could have the success and the profile it enjoys today. He has defined the personal and professional lives of so many people and set us all on a course to have exceptional experiences and live purposeful lives. All of us in IAP—the staff, the students and the alumni—owe him a debt of gratitude.”

“

Extending Our Reach

IAP Expands to Charles County

The C.D. Mote, Jr. Incentive Awards Program will expand this fall by welcoming its first students from Charles County Public Schools.

Supported by a grant approved by the Board of County Commissioners, the three selected students will benefit from the full scholarships, strong community network and wraparound programming that have become IAP's hallmark.

"I have always been an advocate for encouraging our youth and providing them pathways to find success," says board President Reuben B. Collins II, Esq. "This program promotes education, leadership and a sense of community in our youth while giving them access and opportunity to attend a distinguished institution of higher learning."

The expansion might not have happened but for a chance meeting in January 2019 between state Sen. Arthur C. Ellis of Charles County and Jacqueline Lee, IAP director. During the annual Freshmen Legislators Breakfast on campus, Ellis heard former IAP student Jahi Jones '19 share a moving account of his early life challenges, his tenacity and the positive impact the Incentive Awards Program had on his success. Ellis was so inspired that he asked Lee how students in his county could be considered for the program.

"The introduction of this program into Charles County marks the commencement of the opportunity for students who have traditionally been excluded from the path to higher education to be enveloped in support at the great University of Maryland," Ellis says. "I have been passionate about bringing this opportunity to our neighbors because I believe in the youth of Charles County and the firm foundation they will receive matriculating at UMD."

Charles County students who had been admitted to UMD and met baseline criteria were invited in February to participate in the rigorous selection process to become Incentive Awards scholars. The process, which includes an application, letters of recommendation and personal interviews, relies heavily on the cooperation of the school community.

"This program can provide for eligible Charles County seniors an opportunity to attend college at little to no cost to their families, as well as match students with academic mentors who can guide them through their academic and personal journey in college," says Maria Navarro, superintendent of Charles County Public Schools.

Application review and interviews take place throughout March and winners will be announced on April 1.

"Our youth have the ability for greatness, and through the Incentive Awards Program we can help to increase their chances for success and invest in the next generation."

REUBEN B. COLLINS II, ESQ.

President

Board of County Commissioners

"Investing in our next generation of leaders is the soundest decision we can make in an effort to build a better Maryland."

ARTHUR C. ELLIS

State Senator

District 28

"Programs such as this (IAP) provide opportunities for students who may not have considered college after high school because of financial need with resources to explore their goals and potential. I hope to see interest in the program grow in Charles County each year."

MARIA NAVARRO

Superintendent

Charles County Public Schools

Exploring New Cities



For more than a year, UMD Education Abroad programs were halted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. But they have returned, and IAP students have taken full advantage of the opportunity. Check out the cities our students are exploring!



Brian Escobar '22
BARCELONA, SPAIN

Major: Individual Studies



Elias Kallon '22
KASSE, GERMANY

Major: Materials Science and Engineering
Minor: Japanese



Alma Hernandez '22
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Major: Criminology and Criminal Justice
Minor: Global Terrorism Studies



Maximiliano Gonzalez-Cruz '24
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Major: Public Health Science

New Ventures

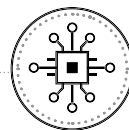


SEEKING JUSTICE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

ALMA HERNANDEZ '22
Criminology and Criminal Justice



Last summer, Alma Hernandez '22 was an investigative intern at the Public Defender Service in Washington, D.C. As part of the Criminal Law Internship Program, Hernandez worked in the trial division assisting defense attorneys and investigative specialists in felony cases. "This experience was incredibly rewarding and eye-opening," she says. "I assisted individuals with limited resources to fight cases that were life-changing." This internship solidified Hernandez's aspiration to pursue a career in criminal justice to fight inequity in and care for disadvantaged communities.



IMAGINING BATTERIES AND SENSORS OF THE FUTURE

ELIAS KALLON '22
Materials Science and Engineering



As part of the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, Elias Kallon '22 is learning various research techniques and preparing for graduate education. Kallon is a research assistant in Assistant Professor Kevin Daniels' lab, which is part of UMD's Institute for Research in Electronics and Applied Physics. He works with 2D materials to develop the next generation of batteries and gas sensors.

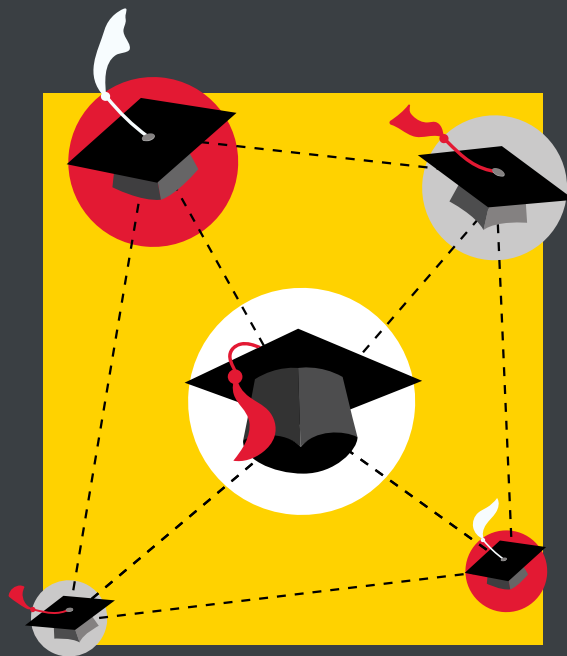


SHADOWING A BRIGHT FUTURE

TIMOTHY DUNNOCK '23
African American Studies



With a goal of working in real estate, Timothy Dunnock '23 has been participating in a shadowing experience with the Chesapeake Scholars program through Alex. Brown Realty, a commercial real estate company located in Baltimore City. Once a week, Dunnock dials in to conference calls about potential investment properties and also has the opportunity to visit property sites. "This experience has taught me how to start thinking as an investor," he says. "It has helped me build the confidence needed to become a successful real estate developer."



Back Together Again

IAP Alumni Network Hosts Homecoming Event

WHEN THE PANDEMIC STRUCK just weeks after the new IAP Alumni Network hosted its kick-off event on March 1, 2020, future plans came to a screeching halt. Whenever possible, members convened small groups virtually, but it did not compare to the large in-person gatherings they had hoped for.

More than a year later during Homecoming Week 2021, IAP alums finally came together in the place where their relationships all started: the IAP suite in Cole Field House. After touring the enlarged and renovated space, they reminisced while flipping through photo albums, watching old videos, and sharing stories of their time as students. The event, coordinated by the Alumni Engagement Committee under the leadership of Tiana Wynn '05, was just the first of many opportunities to connect and reconnect with friends new and old.



Healing the Mind, Body and Soul

Djuan Short '12


SINCE GRADUATING from the University of Maryland, **Djuan Short '12** has earned a master's in social work from the University of Pennsylvania and has become a licensed clinical social worker, business owner, yoga therapist and, now, a published author.

Through her new book, "Healing on Purpose: Journey to Emotional and Relational Wellness," Short speaks her truth by opening up about her personal experiences related to trauma and anxiety while empowering others to do the same.

The success of her Philadelphia practice, Dahlia Rose Wellness Center, was the inspiration for Short's book. The Wellness Center helps women struggling with trauma, anxiety and depression learn coping strategies and heal from their experiences.

"My mission is to work with women... to figure out how to use their voice and speak up for themselves," she says. "I want to help them create or co-create the life that they deserve and not feel ashamed or guilty for taking charge and doing something for themselves."

Throughout the book, readers encounter deeply personal anecdotes about Short's own healing journey and how she learned to live her life with purpose and intention, along with therapeutic practices, self-reflecting exercises and reminders of healthy habits that can be incorporated into daily life. By writing a book that is not only her story but the story of many others, Short brings years of education, international travel, internships and research to bear in facilitating lasting change in women's lives.



Short's book can be purchased from her website at dahliarosewellness.com.

"IAP allowed me to grow with structured fluidity and guidance along the way. I bring this same sensibility to the clients in my practice. I am thankful for the role IAP has played in my life."



Making Fearless Moves

Jahi Jones '19, M.S. '21



INSPIRED BY HIS COACHES

and older brother's wrestling experience, **Jahi Jones '19** was determined to become great at the sport—even more so after he lost his first match in high school.

"You'd think after losing it would be the opposite, but I thought it was cool and wanted to keep going," he says.

While at UMD, Jones was successful on and off the mat. He pursued double degrees in accounting and supply chain management, and eventually he was inducted into the Maryland Medallion Society, which is reserved for top graduating seniors. Also, he became the wrestling team captain and was the first student-athlete in Maryland wrestling history to earn the Big Ten Medal of Honor. After graduating, Jones landed a project manager position at KPMG, one of the Big Four accounting firms, and decided to pursue his master's in business analytics. Simultaneously, he competed in wrestling for his final year of eligibility.

Jones faced a major setback when COVID-19 hit and prematurely ended his wrestling career. However, he was presented with a rare opportunity, combining his skills and passion for business, wrestling and advocacy. Nate Parker, an actor, filmmaker and former

wrestler, and Kerry McCoy, a former wrestler and two-time Olympian who coached Jones at UMD, teamed up with others to establish the HBCU Wrestling Initiative (HBCUW)—a program aimed at rebuilding or establishing wrestling programs at historically Black colleges and universities. While there are more than 100 HBCUs in the U.S., none has a Division I wrestling team, and Jones made a bold transition from KPMG to become the project manager for HBCUW.

Mike Novogratz, philanthropist and CEO, donated the initial \$6 million to HBCUW and challenged the program to raise one million dollars per year that he will match. Now as executive director, Jones has assumed this task.

He has also helped broker the first partnership with Morgan State University, which is personal to him and represents a full circle moment; the only colleges he applied to were UMD and Morgan State.

Jones says HBCUW will provide full wrestling scholarships to students, give opportunities to student-athletes and develop their leadership skills. "Now I can help the younger version of me by creating future opportunities through wrestling scholarships and more."

CLASS NOTES

MYRON GOLDSTEIN '05 is an appeals analyst II with Johns Hopkins Health System, training staff and developing a wide range of skills within his department. He is also preparing for ordination as a deacon at Greater Harvest Baptist Church in Baltimore.

KAREEM BRANCH '06 was recently promoted to the IT lab services lead role in the Engineering & Technology Directorate at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. He manages critical infrastructure for NASA's flight missions, research and development laboratories, and multimission laboratories, as well as cloud and on-premise IT infrastructure for a collision avoidance system.

INGA WILLIAMS '06 is the academic coordinator for the Upward Bound Program at Morgan State University.

▼ **JANICEIA ADAMS '07** married Christopher Byron in July 2021 in New Rochelle, N.Y.



BRIDGET BLOUNT '08 purchased her first home in Baltimore last year and was promoted to chief

impact officer at Baltimore's Promise, where she has worked for the past four years.

▼ **ANNA KALMYKOV '08** is a postdoctoral associate at the American Dental Association. She welcomed a baby girl, Ariana Evelynne Kalmykov Mossburg, with her husband, Aaron, on Sept. 17.



DARIAN SENN-CARTER '08 was featured on The Daily Record's VIP List for professionals who are 40 years old or younger. He also serves on the board of directors for the Maryland Book Bank, Civic Works and Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Center.

KEYYONNA BROOKS '10 married Shabazz Watkins last fall. She is a contract manager for Verizon and started a small business selling luxury candles and body butters. Check her out at selfcarewithkei.com.

ANTONIO TYSON '10 is a project manager at AstraZeneca.

ASHLEY BROOKS '11 was promoted to field experience manager for the Baltimore City Teaching Residency through the

New Teachers Project, where she leads a team of coaches and resident teachers.

LONDON FAUST '11 is a senior student coordinator for the Office of Graduate Studies at George Washington University.

LAMARA JOHNSON '12 works at Annapolis Road Academy as a professional school counselor and was married in September.

JAMES BOWMAN '13 completed a Master of Business Administration degree from UMD in December and is the director of accounting at Weller Development Company.

VICTORIA GOLD '14 is a billing specialist at an allergist's office in Columbia, Md.

▼ **DAVIAN MORGAN '14** completed a doctorate in education, leading and learning in organizations from the Peabody College at Vanderbilt University.



CATHERINE SAYIKANMI '14 is a program analyst at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the Office of HIV/AIDS. She is responsible for the program management of multilateral

agreements (UNAIDS, The Global Fund) and tracking data analytics and budgeting/financial metrics.

▼ **KENDRA BROWNE '15**, a speech language pathologist for Montgomery County Public Schools, is officially a business owner. Kendra Bliss Beauty is a DMV mobile makeup artistry service. "I didn't think I would pick up my brushes professionally after grad school. I believed I would be too busy with speech pathology and voice performance, but God had a different plan and the opportunities have been abundant," she says. See Browne's amazing work at KendraBlissBeauty.com.



TANEISHA CARTER '16 earned a Master of Science degree in applied psychology, with a counseling psychology concentration, from the University of Baltimore in December and passed the National Counselor's Exam to become a licensed clinical mental health therapist. In the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University

CLASS NOTES

of Maryland School of Medicine, she supports efforts to incentivize and enhance diversity, equity and inclusion.

▼ **MEL. COLES '16** earned a Master of Arts degree in American studies with a graduate certificate in women's studies at UMD in December. She works as an event coordinator for UMD's Alumni Association.



ALECIA MAE FRYE '16 is a staff attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division, Consumer Protection Branch.

ESTHER EKANEM '17 is a radar systems engineer at Northrop Grumman in Linthicum, Md.

NABREIYA SCOTT '17 is an academic advisor for the School of Fine and Performing Arts at Bowie State University.

JASMINE THOMAS '17 was promoted to senior planner in the Long Range Planning Division, Baton Rouge Planning Commission. She has worked on various economic development programs including restoration

tax abatements, enterprise zones and brownfields. She also works on coordinating and implementing the comprehensive land use and development plan and has served on staff for the Complete Streets Advisory Committee.

KAILA WILLIAMS '17 will graduate in May with a doctorate in physical therapy from Temple University. She is an advocate for and advances the profession as an ambassador for the American Physical Therapy Association and as secretary of the National Association of Black Physical Therapists.

SABRINA CHRISTIAN '18 is a medical records paralegal at Wais, Vogelstein, Forman, Koch & Norman, a nationwide birth injury and medical malpractice firm. She is pursuing a Master of Health Administration degree at UMD.

ALLEXXUS FARLEY-THOMAS '18 earned a Master of Architecture from the College of Architecture, Art and Planning at Cornell University. She won the prestigious Richmond Harold Shreve Award, which recognizes excellence and originality in a graduate thesis, for "Design for Obsolescence: Re-internalizing the Becoming and Unbecoming of Architecture." Additionally, she received the Eschweiler Prize for Merit and Distinction in the Professional Master of Architecture Design Studios.

CYNTHIA KEARNS '18 will begin the physician assistant studies program at Ithaca College in the fall.

ASHLEY CLARKE '19 left her job at NBC4 last March to become audience engagement editor at the Center for Public Integrity (CPI), which is a nonprofit newsroom that investigates inequality. "Working at CPI has been a dream come true for me because I get to combine my passion for journalism with my passion for helping people," she says. Clarke is shop steward for her union and helps lead the diversity committee. She was accepted into the News Leaders Association 2021 Emerging Leaders Institute for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion cohort last year.

SAMARIAH COOPER '19 is a digital media specialist at Delta Consulting Group and recently earned a certificate in entrepreneurship from Cornell University.

DORRIAN GROSS '19 was promoted to senior technology engineer at Accenture.

JOCELYN NOLASCO '19 is a research analyst for government affairs at Bloomberg Government.

TAYLOR SMITH '20 is the community coordinator and law clerk for the Crime Control and Prevention Unit for the Baltimore City

State's Attorney's Office and is the advocate supervisor for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Baltimore. She is also pursuing a law degree and a Master of Legal Studies at Washington University in St. Louis School of Law.

MIGUEL TURCIOS '20 is the director of medical records at a psychiatric practice where he oversees more than 100 providers and over 250 facilities in the metropolitan Washington area and Pennsylvania. Turcios says, "My tasks change daily, but I wouldn't have it any other way. It is challenging, but I know it is shaping me to be the physician I aspire to be. I am currently in this year's medical school cycle."

JOSHUA BROWN '21 is in M&T Bank's Community Branch Management Program, which is designed to give trainees a strong foundation in retail branch banking.

JENIFER CORDON '21 was accepted into the Post-baccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award (IRTA) Program at the National Institutes of Health. IRTA provides recent college graduates who are planning to apply to graduate or professional school an opportunity to spend one or two years performing full-time research at NIH.

SIERRA SEABREASE '21 is a software engineer at Amazon in Arlington, Va.

MAIYA SPELL '21 is a senior program assistant at the National Academy of Engineering.



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FUN WITH FRIENDS

IAP students strike a pose at the annual fall retreat at Camp Wabanna in Edgewater, Md.

