

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
INCENTIVE
AWARDS
PROGRAM

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
INCENTIVE AWARDS PROGRAM*



Freshman Year at a Glance

There's nothing like the first year in college. From freshmen orientation to last final exam, it is the beginning of an exciting journey of discovery. While every student's experience is unique, Brittany Atkinson and London Faust share their perspective about the highs and lows of their freshman year.

So, what did you expect for your first year in college?

London: For some people, making new friends can be challenging, but I wasn't too worried about this for I'd like to believe I am a likeable person. On the other hand, I was worried about the transition academically. I thought college was going to be too much to handle. It was going to be really hard with little time to get things done, but then I realized everything was quite manageable.

Brittany: I assumed that it would be a lot of homework, studying, reading, meeting new people, and adjusting to a new surrounding. I knew that no one would be there to make sure that I was doing what needed to be done, so I was going to have to be responsible.

What would you say you have enjoyed the most so far?

Brittany: The best moment of my experience was when I made dean's list for my first semester of college. I worked really hard and diligently, and it paid off. For me, getting good grades isn't about the number on paper, but the hard work behind it. I deserved the grades that I received because I earned it! I expect to make the dean's list for the second time this spring. [She did make it].

If there was anything you could have done differently, what would it be?

London: I wish I would have truly studied more for understanding. When finals came around I realized ... I was cramming. College is not made for us to learn information just to forget. I want to study and retain the knowledge that I'm learning. In spite of that, I'm happy to say that I also made the dean's list with a 3.75 GPA.

What advice would you give to the incoming freshmen?

Brittany: Don't procrastinate—the sooner you start, the sooner it's finished. I recommend getting a big calendar and writing due dates on it as soon as you get your assignments. This way, nothing will be forgotten. And of course, utilize the people in Incentive Awards Program. There are so many people willing to help if you have a problem!

London: Get to know your professors. It will definitely help you get on their good side. Also, don't think college is like high school. You have to make that mental transition. Just know you have to do the work and study. Be a good student!

What has been the eye-opening experience for you?

Brittany: College is where you grow up and become more responsible. You begin to make more decisions on your own, cook and clean after yourself. It's also the stage where you and time management become the best of friends.

What are you looking forward to in the years to come?

London: I am definitely looking forward to getting more involved on campus. After this year, I believe I should be much better at balancing my time.

Brittany: My freshman year has been wonderful, but now I'm looking forward to working with the new kids on the block. I hope everyone can have a great first year like mine!

Name one thing that you love about the University of Maryland.

Brittany: I would have to say the freedom. It's nice, but can also be intimidating. I can eat, sleep and do my homework when I want, but when you've lived at home for 18 years, it takes some adjustment.

London: I agree with Brittany. The freedom is great! There's nothing like being on your own!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: A FOCUS ON EDUCATION



Janiceia Adams '07 has her work cut out for her. A fourth grade teacher at P.S. 62 in South Bronx, New York, she admits, "This is the hardest thing I've ever done!" As challenging as teaching is, she also finds it most gratifying to identify and cultivate hidden potential in young people. Each day, she works with students from all walks of life, making sure they meet academic milestones while trying to meet their most basic needs. This opportunity, afforded her through Teach for America, was introduced to her by a former English teacher at Northwestern High School (Baltimore), Eric Thomas, who recognized her potential to change students' lives through education.

When she is not teaching, she assumes the role of a student as a master's degree candidate in education at Pace University.

Ultimately, she would like to use her degree in criminology and criminal justice to become a lawyer and work in the non-profit sector by offering teacher support and providing more funding for public schools. When asked about the temporary career change, she simply said, "There were several teachers that helped me along way and ... I want to do the same for others."

Janiceia credits the Incentive Awards Program with preparing her for a professional career. "There were countless occasions in which I had to learn how to network and that taught me how to navigate [the school system] to find resources for my own students." For Janiceia, teaching is not just confined to the three Rs but also about paving the way for students to excel. "It is my hope that in making a difference, we share our experiences with others to instill the importance of education," she says.



Networking at Work: Randal Brewer '09 benefits from the gift of gab

I was enjoying myself at the annual Incentive Awards spring reception when I met James Wheeler, a member of the Baltimore City selection committee. During our conversation, I expressed my interest in becoming an architect and, to my surprise, he told me he was the president of an architecture and planning firm, Ayers/Saint/Gross (ASG). We exchanged contact information and I followed up by contacting him about obtaining an internship. In May 2007, I was hired as an intern, which opened the door of career possibilities.

Working at ASG has been awesome! Besides the great food, the atmosphere is really relaxed, fun and flexible. It was initially difficult for me to transition into corporate America considering my previous jobs were research-based, but the people at ASG were more than willing to teach me. Since I've started working, I've managed various projects from assisting the town planning

studio within ASG by creating activity books for elementary and middle school children, as well as redeveloping maps for cities that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The absolute highlight of my experience has been my trip to Chicago and the College of Notre Dame to attend planning meetings and see what this company does best—design urban campuses.

Working on various projects has helped me refine my career interests and increased my level of confidence as a budding architect. I have significantly improved my digital graphics skills and general knowledge of architecture. As a result, this summer I will be interning at the landscape architecture studio at ASG, which is directly related to my major. I am so grateful to Mr. Wheeler for this opportunity and for the ability to work for such an amazing company!

Dining Etiquette 101

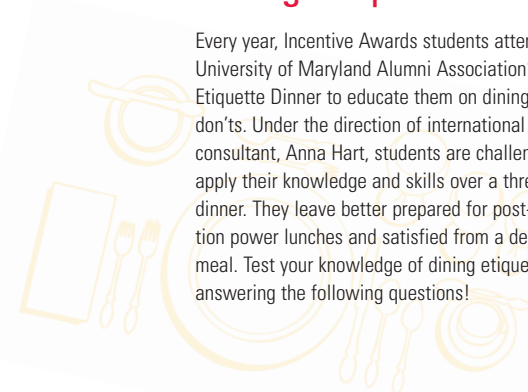
Every year, Incentive Awards students attend the University of Maryland Alumni Association's Etiquette Dinner to educate them on dining dos and don'ts. Under the direction of international protocol consultant, Anna Hart, students are challenged to apply their knowledge and skills over a three-course dinner. They leave better prepared for post-graduation power lunches and satisfied from a delicious meal. Test your knowledge of dining etiquette by answering the following questions!

Pop Quiz: True or False?

1. When asked to pass food around the table, you should pass it from left to right.
2. Your bread plate is always to your right.
3. Saw back and forth at your meat with a knife. Never stroke the knife toward you.
4. When you need to excuse yourself from the table, place your napkin in the seat of the chair until you return.
5. Always wait for hot meals to cool off rather than blowing on your food.
6. If you do not want a beverage, simply turn your glass upside down as a signal to your server.
7. Place personal items such as purses, briefcases or glasses on the dinner table.
8. When finished eating, your server will remove dishes from your right side.
9. Remove alien objects from your mouth with your fingers and place them at the edge of your plate.
10. It is appropriate to push your plate away from you when finished eating.

11 / 2F / 3F / 4F / 5T / 6F / 7F / 8T / 9T / 10F

Answer Key



A Star Headed to a Bright Future



“Life is a shooting star, burn bright.”
—Mitch Thrower, triathlete and author

This is exactly what senior Shiron Lindsay has been doing since she has come to Maryland. A fifth year senior majoring in mechanical engineering, Shiron surpassed the academic standard for Incentive Awards recipients and took the campus by storm.

During her tenure, Shiron was in the College Park Scholars program for academically talented students and appointed to the Advisors Committee for the Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering. She also joined the National Society of Black Engineers, College Park chapter where she created the Pre-Collegiate Initiative, which hosts a field day on campus for area high school students.

Currently, she works for Resident Life as the customer service supervisor for Hagerstown Hall. Her most memorable experience, however, was her trip to Australia to study international business cultures—an opportunity that was never afforded to any of her family members.

As Shiron wraps up her undergraduate career, she reflects, “The University of Maryland has exceeded my expectations. I never thought I could do all of this, but I would not have had this experience if it wasn’t for the Incentive Awards Program. I’ve received a tremendous amount of support from everyone in the program, my peers and several administrators on campus. When you know someone believes in you and encourages you every step of the way, you can do anything just like me.”

SENIOR FAREWELL

Saying goodbye is never easy, but our graduating seniors have big plans and high hopes for the future. Over the course of four years, they made their mark at Maryland and now they are ready to take on the world beyond campus. Here are some parting words about their college experience:



Bridget Blount
kinesiological science and psychology

“I have had a wonderful time here at Maryland and I will never forget it. I look forward to going to graduate school and bettering myself.”



Jennifer Covahey
criminology and criminal justice

“I have gotten to know many great people and the information that I have learned in class is invaluable. I can’t wait to start my career in criminology.”



John Sanders
anthropology

“My experience here at Maryland has matured my understanding of effective leadership. In the future, I hope to produce a movement of young leaders that will go back to transform their communities and uplift their peers.”



Olivia Coates
anthropology and economics

“It has been an amazing four years for I’ve had the opportunity to travel all over the country. I will miss those late night enlightening conversations and all of the support I received. It is my hope that all of the remaining students make the most of their time here since it will definitely fly by.”



Anna Kalmykov
biochemistry and microbiology

“Life at Maryland has been great! I have been impressed by the overwhelming number of faculty/staff members who have a genuine desire to see you succeed. I will always hold a special place for Maryland in my heart.”



Darian Scott-Carter
criminology and criminal justice

“The University of Maryland has provided me with the necessary professional and character development that is essential to my future career goals. It has offered me an opportunity of a lifetime.”

Congratulations and best wishes to all of our seniors!

Did you know?

The one-year retention rate is **95%** for Incentive Awards students—higher than that of other students at the University of Maryland.

Twelve of our students have traveled to 13 different countries: Australia, Brazil, England, France, Grenadines, Hong Kong, Italy, Jamaica, Lesotho, Mexico, South Africa, Spain and Vietnam.

Incentive Awards students graduate at the same rate as their peers at the university. That's **78%** in five years!

Thank you!

The staff of the University of Maryland Incentive Awards Program would like to thank everyone who has helped make this year successful. We could never have made it without support from our participating high schools, selection committee members, campus mentors, donors, parents and civic leaders. Thanks for all you do to make a difference in the lives of our remarkable students.

Stay tuned for the fall edition of *In Touch*.

For more information about the University of Maryland Incentive Awards Program, please visit our Web site at www.umincentiveawards.umd.edu.



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