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New University of Maryland Extension Program Offers Virtual Tour of a Local Dairy Farm

By LAURA WORMMUTH
University of Maryland
Extension

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (June 28, 2021)—For National Dairy Month, the University of Maryland Extension (UME) is releasing a new virtual tour of a working dairy farm, giving the public the opportunity to meet and learn from a Maryland farm family. As a natural expansion of the UME annual event, Breakfast on the Farm, the Day on the Farm program now offers the same educational experience in an online format, accessible to everyone.

The public is invited to follow the farm owners, on-farm experts like the herd veterinarian and nutritionist, and UME experts, through a guided tour that demonstrates the birthing and growth cycle of calves to cows, the milking process, animal nutrition and care, and other farming topics like equipment and conservation.

“The pandemic made it impossible to hold the annual event in 2020, and it inspired us to find a way to offer the experience in a more accessible format for the opportunity to see what a working Maryland dairy farm is like,”

said Racheal Slattery, Day on the Farm program coordinator. “Now folks can do the tour on their own time, no matter where they live.”

The first Day on the Farm tour introduces the DeBaugh family from Washington County, Md and their fifth generation dairy farm. A virtual map and guided stops takes the public through a video tour of their dairy farm, explaining farm management, facilities, animal husbandry, and punctuated by helpful 4-H youth who explain difficult scientific terms and concepts.

“This virtual tour is a perfect

complement for school and youth groups learning about Maryland agriculture,” Slattery said. “Our goal with this program is to not only create an interesting and fun video tour, but also have it be educational and informative, while allowing kids to experience a real Maryland farm.”

Sponsors for the Day on the Farm program include Frederick County Farm Bureau, MD Dairy Industry Association, Inc., Washington County Farm Bureau, Catoclin Soil Conservation District, Dairy Farmers of America, Frederick Soil Conservation District, Interstate Batteries (Potomac Valley Distribution, Inc.), Maryland Agriculture Council, Inc., Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board, Mid-Maryland Dairy Veterinarians, P.A., Washington County Soil Conservation District, Clopper Michael Unit #10 Auxiliary, Farm Credit, Kemin Animal Health and Nutrition, Lallemand Animal Nutrition, Lancaster Farming, Martin's Elevator, Inc., Renaissance Nutrition, Inc., Thomas, Bennett & Hunter, Inc., Willard Agri-Service of Frederick, and Willard Agri-Service of Mt. Airy.

Take the tour at <https://go.umd.edu/DayontheFarm>. For more information or questions about the Day at the Farm program, contact Laura Wormmuth, UME Communications Program Manager, at lwormmuth@umd.edu.

Prince George's County Receives Additional Federal Funding to Purchase New Battery Electric Buses

By PAULETTE L. JONES
Prince George's County Dept. of Public Works and Transportation

LARGO, Md. (June 28, 2021)—Prince George's County is excited to receive additional grant funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to purchase 4 battery electric buses, charging infrastructure and battery electric bus training. With this infusion of funding, the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) will expand its battery electric fleet to 16 vehicles. More importantly, it will expand coverage in the County while improving service reliability and air quality for residents relying on The Bus, especially in southern rural areas of Prince George's County.

The total amount awarded to DPW&T by the FTA is \$5,150,000. The new buses will be added to DPW&T's growing fleet of recently purchased battery electric vehicles. Prior to receiving this latest grant, DPW&T was awarded \$2.2M in 2019 as part of the Low or No Emissions (Low-No) Program Grant from the FTA and Volkswagen Mitigation Funds from the Maryland Department of Environment.

“Our successful application with the FTA builds upon our

efforts to expand battery electric buses in our fleet and to reduce harmful emissions in our communities,” said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. “Our investments support DPW&T's goal to deliver high quality transit services for our residents while also protecting our environment.”

The new zero emissions electric vehicles will help reduce nitrogen oxide emissions, while furthering the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation's vision to reimagine public transportation through innovation. In addition to lessening the carbon footprint, these buses provide a cost-effective alternative to diesel vehicles and have a 120-mile capacity between charges.

The County anticipates the production of the latest battery electric buses for early-2023 with delivery later that year. Investing in alternative fuel solutions by replacing conventional fuel buses with clean energy vehicles is part of the Department's commitment to deliver efficient and safe service throughout the County, while doing its part to protect the environment.



PHOTO CREDIT EDWIN REMSBERG PHOTOGRAPHY

A past Breakfast on the Farm event. The Day on the Farm program now offers the same educational experience in an online format, accessible to everyone.

PGCPS Blueprint Schools Model Earns International Recognition

Week of groundbreakings culminates with international best-in-class award for first-of-its-kind school financing model.

By OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (July 1, 2021)—Today, Chief Executive Officer Dr. Monica Goldson announced the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Blueprint Schools model for building six new schools was named Social Infrastructure Deal of the Year and Best Deal in North America, Editor's Choice by infrastructure finance industry leader IJGlobal.

The project is also a P3 Awards finalist for 2021 Social Infrastructure Project of the Year.

PGCPS is the first public school system in the nation to leverage a full-scope alternative financing model for a multi-school construction program. Groundbreakings were held this week for all six schools, including Adelphi, Drew-Freeman, Hyattsville, Kenmoor and Walker Mill middle schools and a new kindergarten through eighth grade academy in

Fort Washington. Construction on all six schools begins this summer with completion set for July 2023.

“I have no doubt that other school systems in Maryland and beyond will look to Prince George's County with admiration and inspiration for moving one step closer to ensuring that every child achieves their highest potential in modern school buildings,” said Dr. Goldson. “This is our blueprint for bold action, for fierce urgency, and as we will see on the

first day of school two years from now, for success.”

Prince George's County Education & Community Partners (PGCECP), a consortium including Fengage Asset Management, Gilbane Development Company, Gilbane Building Company, Stantec and Honeywell, will design, build, finance and maintain the schools. While it typically takes seven years from planning to building a school, the alternative financing model cuts that time in half to

deliver long overdue schools.

The second-largest school system in the state, PGCPS has the second-oldest buildings in Maryland. More than half of the 208 schools are over 50 years old. Coupled with the school system's capital improvement program, a total of nine schools will be under construction over the next three years.

For more information on the Blueprint Schools initiative, visit www.pgcpsblueprintschools.com.

Maryland State Police, Vehicle Theft Prevention Council Offer Tips To Avoid Having Your Vehicle Stolen

By OFFICE OF MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS
Maryland State Police

PIKESVILLE, Md. (July 1, 2021)—The Maryland State Police, along with the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, are reminding motorists to take simple steps to prevent having their vehicle stolen.

The warnings come as July is National Vehicle Theft Prevention Month. In Maryland, a car is stolen every 40 minutes, while one is stolen every 45 seconds in the United States. In most cases, vehicles are stolen either for the resale or distribution of parts, for transportation purposes, for the commission of other crimes, or for exportation.

One of the primary goals of National Vehicle Theft Prevention Month is to highlight how preventable most thefts are if people follow some basic steps. Overall, 50 percent of the vehicles stolen had the keys/key fobs left inside the vehicle while 60 percent of the vehicles stolen were left unlocked.

In addition, more than 66 percent of vehicle

thefts occur at night and 95 percent of the vehicles stolen had no anti-theft devices. National surveys reveal that 33 percent of drivers left their vehicle while it was running.

According to the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, 95 percent of stolen vehicles had no apparent anti-theft device and 22 percent of vehicles are never recovered. In 2019, there were 11,255 vehicles stolen in Maryland while 721,885 vehicles were stolen in the United States, costing vehicle owners more than \$6 billion.

To help drivers keep their vehicles safe, the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council is continuing its annual awareness campaign during July. Vehicle theft is serious business. Consider the following:

- Passenger cars made up more than 50% of all stolen motor vehicles.
- Only 56.1% of all stolen motor vehicles were recovered.
- Of all motor vehicles stolen, 74.5% were passenger vehicles.
- Thieves can strip a vehicle of parts in 30 minutes or less.

- Approximately 25 to 40 percent of the cost of comprehensive auto insurance is due to auto theft.

As a driver, you can take steps to keep your vehicle and belongings safe! Here are ways you can help prevent motor vehicle theft.

- Park in well-lit areas.
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park.
- Put away your valuables.
- Do not leave your keys in your vehicle.
- Do not leave the area while your vehicle is running.

The Maryland General Assembly created the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council in 1994 as a statewide planning and dedicated funding resource. The Council embraces a statewide strategy directed at public awareness, vehicle theft by juveniles, law enforcement and prosecution through a grant award process. Efforts by the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council have led to a more than 70 percent reduction of vehicle thefts in Maryland over the past 26 years. Those efforts have saved Maryland motorists more than \$239M over that span.

Governor Hogan Names Four New Members to University System of Maryland Board of Regents

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 1, 2021)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced that he has named four new members of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents [including]: Senator Douglas J.J. Peters

“As governor, I have the privilege of appointing distinguished Marylanders to serve on the University System of Maryland's Board of Regents,” said Governor Hogan. “Each of these individuals is well-qualified, widely respected, and will make an outstanding member of the Regents. I want to extend my congratulations to them on their appointments.”

Senator Douglas J.J. Peters is a lifelong resident of Maryland, a decorated military combat veteran, and a successful small business owner in Prince George's County. Upon his entry into the Senate in 2007, he was appointed as a member of the prestigious Senate Budget and Tax Committee, since 2016 Senator Peters has served as only the second Majority Leader from Prince George's County in over 50 years. During his tenure as an elected official, Senator Peters has served with distinction on the municipal, county, and state levels.

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To Be Equal: Stimulus Aid to Cities Presents an Opportunity to Fight Crime With Summer Jobs

These programs do more than keep young people occupied; they teach valuable social and emotional skills that can alter the course of a young person's life.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Gene Desmarais joined the WAVES and met her husband at the USO

Genevieve “Gene” Orzel Desmarais, longtime resident of Auth Village and recently of Salisbury, died June 24, surrounded by her family and her husband of 73 years. She had turned 100 on January 3, 2021.

Gene was born in Chelsea, Mass., to Adela and Casper Orzel who later moved to Erie, Pa. After graduation, Gene worked for General Electric.

But then she made the decision that changed her life—she enlisted in the United States Navy as a WAVE. It was during a USO dance in Washington that Gene met George Desmarais, also stationed here. They married in 1948 and settled in a house on Barto Avenue in the Auth Village neighborhood of Camp Springs.

They were among the founding families of the nearby St. Philip’s Church where the new pastor, Father Joseph Teletchea, turned the first shovel of earth on August 3, 1958. Gene became active in parish life, and after St. Philip’s School opened in 1960, with the school. All six Desmarais children attended St. Philip’s—as did the seven McHales.

In later years, Gene and George moved to Salisbury and were active parishioners of St. Francis de Sales Parish. They had a deep-seated faith and were daily devotees of the Divine Mercy Novena.

Gene enjoyed travel, sewing, China painting, stained glass and kayaking, and was one of my favorite partners at bridge.

She’s survived by George, her husband of 73 years; children, Bea Lowe (David), Dave (Kathy), Carl (Chris), Philip (Patricia), Mary Bork (Rich) and Carol Ann Miller (Bob); her sister Rita Orzel, grand- and great-grandchildren.

I found Gene’s recipe for “Chicken Casserole with Dumplings” in St. Philip Sodality’s Golden Anniversary Cookbook, page 141.

Neighbors & other good people

Faye L. Buzzanco, 90, of Clinton, past President of the Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 9619, Morningside, died April 23. A native of Savannah, Ga., her family moved to Washington where she finished her schooling and was secretary for several companies, before the Census Bureau, which she served for 29 years. Survivors include her husband of 49 years, John Buzzanco, four children and grand-

great-grandkids. She’ll be buried at Arlington.

Veronica Gallaro is the new facility manager at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. And the House is now open for tours. For information, call 301-868-1121.

Bob Bowser is the new president of the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Society in Charles County. And the Dr. Samuel A. House has fully reopened: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. Information: 301-274-9358.

Father Matthew J. Fish has been assigned pastor of St. Mary Parish in Charlotte Hall, leaving his position as administrator of Holy Family Parish in Hillcrest Heights; Father Philip W. Ilg has been assigned pastor of Holy Family. He had been parochial vicar of Mother Seton Parish, Germantown. (Pastoral assignments are often made in June.)

Town of Morningside

Thank you to Karen Rooker, Morningside Clerk-Treasurer, who emailed information about the zoning hearing signs posted at the corner of Suitland and Randolph roads. Developers first planned seven houses on that site, but have downsized to six. The hearing (DSP 19059) will be July 15 at 10 a.m.

These new houses will be at one side of the VFW. On the other side of the VFW, on Suitland Road, a carwash is due to be built. It’s the lot where The Village Barn once stood.

For information about Town meetings, hall rental, or other things Morningside, call 301-736-2300.

Changing landscape

Prince George’s held groundbreaking for six new schools, June 28 through June 30. They are Walker Mill Middle School in Capitol Heights, Adelphi Middle, replacements for Drew-Freeman, Hyattsville and Kenmoor middle schools, and a new K-8 academy in Fort Washington. All schools must be completed by July 15, 2023, or the developer will face financial penalties. The plan also protects taxpayers from cost overruns.

Beginning January 1, Maryland’s minimum wage will climb to \$11.75 per hour for people who work for employers with 15 or more employees. At the beginning of 2020, the minimum wage increased to \$11 per hour.

The new Capital Regional Medical Center, in Largo, opened in June. It replaces 75-year-old Prince George’s Hospital Center, whose patients have been transferred to the new hospital. (By the way, the new Medical Center has 30 fewer beds: 205, instead of Prince George’s Hospital’s 235.)

A new Dash In is coming to the intersection of Woodyard Road and Alexandria Ferry Road. It promises, “Great Deals On Gas, Coffee, Food, & Beverages. Clean Restrooms. Stop By Dash In Today. Whatever The Day May Bring, Dash In Has You Covered.”

A townhome at 6115 Oakland Way, in Skyline, recently sold for \$370,000.

Suitland HS alumnae obits

I often encounter Suitland High School in Washington Post obituaries. Here are two of them:

Emily Bugg Guard, 74, graduated from Suitland in 1964, went on to the U.S. Copyright Office. She married Glenn Barry Guard, had four children, and lived a very active life in Laurel. She died June 10 in Westminster, Md.

Raymond G. Karbett, Jr., 73, attended Suitland HS, and was a welding instructor with the Prince George’s Schools and Prince George’s Community College. He established his own business, Stingray Certified Welding, in Calvert County. He and his wife Christine have three children, and grandkids. He died Oct. 20, 2020 of lung cancer related to Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam.

Covid report: 1 more Marylander has died

Through 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 30, there were 62 new cases reported, bringing the total to 462,279. Only one new death reported.

Milestones

Happy birthday to my daughter Elaine (McHale) Seidman, July 10; Kevin Kline, Nicole Wade, Dee (Curcio) Brown and Dave Williams Jr., July 11; Carolyn Pruitt, July 12; Kenard Simms, July 13; Laverne Peggy Simms, Krista Lanehart and Laura (Thompson) Hoffmann, July 14; Helen Jurney, July 15; Norma Wright and Gary Lewis, Jr., July 1.

Happy anniversary to Dave and Carolyn Williams on their 46th on July 11.

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Brandywine-Aquasco

CRABS AND CONVERSATION

Blossom Bowie State University Women’s Forum presents crabs and conversation Wednesday, July 21, 2021, from 2–6p.m. You are invited to come and rejuvenate, refuel, and regenerate at our all you can eat Crab Feast. The feast will be held at Martin’s Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, Md 20770. Limited Space (COVID Safety Requirements). Cost for all tickets is \$55.00. For information and pay online: www.bsuwf.org.

Menu: Crabs, Steamed Shrimp, Corn on the Cob, Crab Soup, Fried Chicken, Macaroni Cheese, String Beans, Fried Fish, Baked Ziti, Mash Potatoes & Gravy, Tuna Salad, Macaroni Salad, Potato Salad and Beverages.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY

Mark your calendar Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at 10 a.m. to celebrate the opening of the region’s newest entrepreneurship hub. The campus and greater community are invited to virtually view the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to see how Bowie State University is cultivating the next generation of innovators in a state of the-art building that brings together students, business leaders and faculty in an entrepreneurial ecosystem.

GUESS WHO IS TURNING 100

Pomomoy High School will be turning 100 in 2022. It was completed in 1922 and was the first high school for Blacks in Charles County. What an honor and we want to celebrate it right. We are beginning to toss around some ideas about how to celebrate this momentous occasion. We need to hear from you. If you are interested in volunteering to work on the Planning Committee or have ideas to share or can help in the execution of the celebration, please let Philip Thomas know. A committee has not been formed yet but will be soon.

Tossing out a couple of ideas: Raffle or a Fundraiser, recognizing each class through some sort of presentation or showcase such as a photo display, scrapbook, table display, or your ideas. Put on your thinking caps and help us plan an exciting event worthy of being in existence for 100 years. You can text Audrey Turner Johnson on 301-922-5384 and I will give your name to Philip. Thank you.

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Adult Education Program, sponsored by the Board of Education during 1961–62 was held in twenty-six different centers for an enrollment about 6,000. This program provided additional educational opportunities for young people and adults in Prince George’s County to pursue their vocational or avoca-

tional interests. Such classes as bookkeeping, typing, shorthand, electronics, printing, and welding were among those offered.

Adults had an opportunity to improve skills or to develop new skills in home making. Among the classes available were those in interior decorating, sewing, tailoring, woodworking, landscaping, and basic home repair. Adults also had an opportunity to improve their ability to express themselves by enrolling in English, public speaking, and other classes. Information compiled and distributed in 1987 by the Prince George’s County Maryland Retired Teachers Association.

A MESSAGE FROM BSU PRESIDENT

“I am happy to announce that the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) has reaffirmed the accreditation of our University’s College of Education programs thru 2027. This announcement affirms that our undergraduate and graduate programs meet the standards required for excellence, which includes clinical partnerships, qualified and a rigorous curriculum, among others”.

“CAEP granted the accreditation during a meeting on April 26, based on evidence submitted directly by the College of Education, consisting of program data, finding from a three-day site visit, and panel reviews. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the review process had been postponed and our faculty and staff had been awaiting a final decision for nearly two years”.

“I want to thank College of Education Dean Dr. Rhonda Jeter and the rest of our administrators, faculty, staff and students for their hard work and determination in upholding the high quality of our educational programs here at BSU. This news is particularly significant, given how much the higher education landscape has evolved in the work done by our faculty to prepare the next generation of educators to teach and inspire students across the nation. This accomplishment represents our institutions commitment to academic excellence, the success of our students and the long-term viability of our university, as stated in our Racing to Excellence Strategic Plan”. E-mail message received from BSU about President Dr. Aminta Breaux’s Message.

MEDSTAR HEALTH

A brand-new experience tailored to your needs. We heard you and directly incorporated patient feedback into the design of our new emergency department. You will find state-of-the-art technology and a better experience for you and your loved ones—plus our caring team. Our new ER includes larger rooms, new reception area, a 24-hour café, and much more. Our goal is to make a stressful situation as comfortable as possible. For more information visit MedStarHealth.org.

Around the County

Good Trouble Think-Tank Launches Countdown Maryland Primary Election 2022 Campaign

LARGO, Md. (June 29, 2021)—Renee Clarke, former NFL Washington Redskins Cheerleader now called The Washington Football Team and Maryland resident launched a Good Trouble Think-Tank podcast to honor the life of late Congressman John Lewis. The podcast will educate listeners on the legislative process, interview local politicians, hear from members of the community, and inspire all who listen to get involved in the community.

The Good Trouble Think-Tank podcast launched a Countdown Maryland Primary Election 2022 campaign to connect members of the community with candidates running for office. Get into Good Trouble with us to ensure Maryland residents are educated and informed voters. Good Trouble will host forums and podcast interviews with local politicians to encourage voters to choose the right leaders before they get to the polls.

Tune into the Good Trouble Think-Tank podcast to hear from Maryland candidates. Listen to our first episode- <https://anchor.fm/reneeclarke2/episodes/Meet-Monica-Roebuck-Maryland-Delegate-Candidate-District-23A-e13jmur>

“The vote is the most POWERFUL nonviolent tool we have.”
—Congressman John Lewis

Good Trouble serves as a grassroots answer to Congressman Lewis’ call to action to organize and seek change, justice, and equality for all.
—Renee Clarke, Good Trouble Think Tank

Become a Steward of the Land

UME Forestry Program Offers Certification Course

KEEDYSVILLE, Md. (July 1, 2021)—Learn to be a steward of the land this fall with the University of Maryland Extension General Forestry Course. This online course will be offered beginning Sept. 1 through Dec. 15, 2021. Registration is now open, and interested participants can register online at extension.umd.edu/forestry-course.

This is a non-credit course with no formal classes—work from the comfort of your home using your own woodlot, a friend’s, or a public forest. The course covers how to protect your trees from insects, diseases, and fire; step-by-step procedures walk you through a forest inventory and stand analysis; and the details of the forestry business are presented, including tax nuances and the sale and harvest of forest products. Ultimately, the course exercises help you develop the framework for a stewardship plan for your forest.

The cost for this forestry course is \$150. Included in the cost are copies of the supplemental readings: “A Sand County Almanac,” “The Woodland Steward,” “American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery,” a small pamphlet entitled “What Tree Is That?” and “Common Native Trees of Virginia Tree Identification Guide.” At the conclusion of the course, all participants receive a flash drive of the paper version of the text and appendices. A certificate of completion is awarded when all assignments are completed.

To learn more about the course and what it entails, go to go.umd.edu/GFC. There you can read a lesson from the text, view an interactive exercise, and read through detailed course information and FAQs.

For more information, contact course coordinator Andrew Kling, University of Maryland Extension, akling1@umd.edu, 301-432-2767, extension 307.

—Laura Wormuth, University of Maryland Extension

Local Students Honored

Area Residents Named to Dean’s List for the Spring 2021 Semester At Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. (July 1, 2021)—The following area students were named to the dean’s list for the Spring 2021 semester at Quinnipiac University:

Fort Washington, MD: **Yadel Negash**

Glenn Dale, MD: **Lydia Jones**

To qualify for the dean’s list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester.

—John W. Morgan, Quinnipiac University

Local Students Named to Dean’s List at Pitt-Bradford

BRADFORD, Pa. (June 30, 2021)—The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford has named more than 400 students to its spring 2021 Dean’s list. Dean’s list status is awarded to students who have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Among those named to the Dean’s list were:

Greenbelt, Md.: **Destined-Treasure M Kintum**, sophomore, business management

Temple Hills, Md.: **Miles Davis-Matthews**, senior, history-political science and international affairs

Upper Marlboro, Md.: **Shaelyn A Snipes**, senior, biology

—Kimberly Marcott Weinberg, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford

Area Residents Graduate From Mercer University

MACON/ATLANTA, Ga. (June 29, 2021)—Mercer University conferred bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees to more than 2,200 students at five commencements held in May in Macon and Atlanta.

Founded in 1833, Mercer University is a dynamic and comprehensive center of undergraduate, graduate and professional education. The University enrolls more than 9,000 students in 12 schools and colleges—liberal arts and sciences, law, pharmacy, medicine, business, engineering, education, theology, music, nursing, health professions, and professional advancement—on major campuses in Macon and Atlanta, medical school sites in Macon, Savannah and Columbus, and at regional academic centers in Henry and Douglas counties.

The following area students were among those who graduated from Mercer during the 2020–2021 academic year:

Upper Marlboro, Md: **Gregory Powers**, College of Education, Master of Education

—Kyle Sears, Mercer University

COMMUNITY

Prince George's Community College Center For Performing Arts Welcomes Third Season With Passport to the Arts!

Travel the world of arts as students, faculty, and artists present a new season of exciting virtual and in-person events

By SONJI JOYNER
Prince George's Community College

LARGO, Md. (June 30, 2021)—Explore local and national artists at Prince George's Community College's Center for Performing Arts (CPA) through more than 50 unique online experiences and in-person events! Entering its third season, the CPA is excited to offer the community new ways to access events beginning on August 23. This year's lineup includes: the Afro-Cuban All Stars, Collage Dance Collective, Heritage Film Festival, SUMMER: The Donna Summer Musical, A Raisin in the Sun, Kyung Hee Park and Friends, student art exhibitions, faculty jazz concerts, and a student production of William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. For information and to register for either in-person or virtual events, visit pgcc.edu/arts.

Since opening its doors in 2019, the Center for Performing Arts has showcased 80 dance performances, theatre, comedy, and musical events. Due to the pandemic last year, all performances were online to ensure safety for staff and patrons, which allowed the CPA to reach global audiences as far away as Japan, despite COVID-19 challenges. As organizations begin to reopen, the CPA recognizes the value in hybrid—both virtual and in-person—offerings to maintain its local audience and global viewers.

"Art should be for everyone! If there is one thing the pandemic has taught us, it is that location should no longer serve as a barrier to our experiences," said Center for Performing Arts Senior Manager Andre Mazelin. "No matter where we live, we should be able to explore great art, and visit places through these works where previously our imagination could only visit."

The Center for Performing Arts also houses the College's humanities programs, including theatre design, music, graphic design, mass communications, and more. Fall 2021 classes at Prince George's Community College begin August 23, with flexible learning options that allow students to pursue a degree or credentials on their terms. Scholarship opportunities are available for first-time and returning students. To learn more or to register, visit www.pgcc.edu/admissions--registration/ or email enrollmentservices@pgcc.edu.

Prince George's Community College's Center for Performing Arts strives to keep creativity and arts alive, which helps strengthen communities. The Prince George's Community College Foundation invites you to make a gift to help support robust educational programming, musical, and theatrical productions that celebrate the cultural vibrancy of our community as a Friends of the Arts at Prince George's Community College. For more information on giving, visit <http://www.pgccfoundation.org/giving/cpa>.

Prince George's Community College's Center for Performing Arts is a premier, state-of-the-art facility that nurtures and develops students' passions for dance, music, theater, and communications. The center also provides public access to some of the most renowned, star-studded national productions in music, dance, and theater. For more information and tickets, visit pgcc.edu/arts. Follow the Center for Performing Arts on Facebook and Instagram @PGCCArts.

Named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance designated by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security (2015–2020), Prince George's Community College (PGCC) provides high-quality education and training for the progressive and career-oriented residents of Prince George's County. From new high school graduates and career seekers to more seasoned professionals and senior citizens looking to enhance their skillsets, PGCC is comprised of students who represent a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and goals. Serving nearly 35,000 individuals annually, the College is the first choice for higher education for residents of Prince George's County. Collaborative partnerships, responsive degree and training programs, and a commitment to student success enables PGCC to address diverse education and workforce development demands. For more information, visit www.pgcc.edu. Prince George's Community College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104; (267-284-5000); www.msche.org. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation.

The 2021–2022 Center for Performing Arts schedule:

Performance.....	Date
Africana Art Collection.....	Beginning Aug. 23
Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration: Afro-Cuban All Stars	Sept. 18
Theatre Workshop.....	Sept. 27
Charm City Winds.....	Oct. 1
Prince George's Philharmonic.....	Oct. 9
The Faculty Violin Recital featuring Professor Enrique Reynosa	Oct. 15
Heritage Film Festival.....	Oct. 21–Nov. 17
The Paul Bratcher Trio.....	Oct. 22
Theatre Workshop.....	Oct. 25
A Virtual Conversation with Sonya Renee Taylor.....	Oct. 28
The PGCC Faculty Jazz Recital.....	Oct. 29
Twisted Tales of Poe I The Radio Play.....	Nov. 4–6
Fall 2021 Student Art Exhibition.....	Nov. 11–Dec. 3
Faculty Vocal Recital featuring Dr. Nakia Verner	Nov. 12
SUMMER: The Donna Summer Musical.....	Nov. 12
A Raisin in the Sun.....	Nov. 30
The PGCC Faculty Jazz Quartet	Dec. 2
Cirque-tacular's Snowkus Pocus.....	Dec. 5
The Baltimore Brass Sextet.....	Dec. 10
Fall Dance Showcase	Dec. 10
Prince George's Philharmonic Holiday Concert.....	Dec. 12
Sixty-Forth Annual Art Faculty Exhibition.....	Jan. 24–Feb. 24
Prince George's Philharmonic	Feb. 12
Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad	Feb. 19
The Grasso-Ravita Jazz Ensemble.....	Feb. 23
Theatre Workshop.....	Feb. 28
The Upton Quartet	March 3
Rumi Nations Exhibition	March 3–April 7
The PGCC Faculty Recital featuring the Enrique Reynosa Trio	March 9
Ballet Theatre of Maryland, Contemporary.....	March 12
Art of Circus.....	March 26
Theatre Workshop.....	March 28
The PGCC Faculty Jazz Recital.....	March 30
Jazz and Poetry Appreciation Concert	April 2
A Midsummer Night's Dream.....	April 6–9
Kyung Hee Park and Friends	April 13
Video Game Music Live.....	April 16
Spring 2022 Student Art Exhibition.....	April 20–May 6
Spring Dance Concert.....	April 21–22
Mass Communication Speaker Series.....	April 22
The Jazz Ambassadors	April 23
The Faculty Woodwind Trio.....	April 27
Acting Showcase.....	May 4
Spring Dance Showcase	May 11
Laughs from Largo!	May 21



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COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Stimulus Aid to Cities Presents an Opportunity to Fight Crime With Summer Jobs

"The Harlem Youth Action Project was a city-funded attempt to keep some of the smarter kids off the street ... the next time I saw Jet magazine there I was, all the way in the top left-hand corner of a news photo, leaning over Dr. King with my trusty tape recorder in my hand, looking for the last word. I was anything but a Power Memorial junior; I was starting to feel like what I thought of as a man."

—Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

When I was sworn in as Mayor of New Orleans

in 1994, I was taking the helm of a city that led the nation in violent crime. Although I had many bold and ambitious plans for the city, confronting violent crime had to my first priority.

A major component of my anti-crime agenda involved summer jobs for teenagers, which not only would give young people an alternative to criminal activity, but also provide income to families in need.

With a lot of hard work, our program was successful. Violent crimes and murders dropped by 60%, the unemployment rate was cut in half, and

New Orleans' poverty rate fell dramatically.

Today the nation finds itself facing another rise in violent crime. We're also faced with another opportunity to reduce not only the crime rate, but the unemployment and poverty rates, too.

The Biden Administration has recognized the importance of summer jobs for youth in combating a rising crime rate. In its Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety released just over a week ago, the Administration noted that young people are disproportionately likely to be involved in gun violence, either as perpetrators or victims. Youth employment programs, including summer jobs programs, can reduce their involvement in violence by as much as 45%. That's why cities across the nation have an obligation to use the funding they received through the American Rescue Plan to create summer jobs.

Of the \$350 billion directed to state and local governments, more than \$45 billion is directly targeted to metropolitan city governments where violent crime is most serious.

One study cited by the Biden Administration showed that violent crime arrests dropped dramatically among students who took part in Chicago's "One Summer Chicago Plus." The program offered an 8-week summer job at minimum wage, an adult job mentor, and for some youth, a cognitive behavioral therapy-based curriculum.

The researchers wrote: "Summer jobs programs can reduce a hugely socially costly outcome at a relatively low cost; we estimate that so we estimate that social benefits are likely to justify program costs, and may outweigh them by as much as 11 to 1."

A Brookings Institution study of Boston's Summer Youth Employment Program found a 35 percent reduction in arrests among participants.

More importantly, the effects appear to be lasting. These programs do more than keep young people occupied; they teach valuable social and emotional skills that can alter the course of a young person's life.

Youth who participated in Boston's program showed improved attitudes toward their communities. They were more likely to report that they had a lot to contribute, and that they felt connected to their neighborhood. They also were more likely to report knowing how to manage their emotions, how to ask for help when they needed it, and how to constructively resolve conflict with a peer.

Boston has already announced that it will use American Rescue Plan funds to expand the Mayor's Summer Youth Program.

As the nation emerges from the economic crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic, it's crucial that we avoid past patterns and practices that created the economic despair that contributes to violent crime. Summer jobs for youth are a proven solution.

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Still Watching for Weasels

Sojourner Truth was a brilliant and formidable enslaved woman and abolitionist, a great orator, and a powerful presence who possessed unbelievable courage and perseverance in standing up for justice as a Black woman. She challenged the racial and gender caste system of slavery by suing for the return of a son sold away from her. She got repeatedly thrown off Washington, D.C. streetcars but kept getting back on until they changed the rules and let her ride. She stood up with fiery eloquence to opponents and threatening crowds who tried to stop her from speaking. When a hostile white man told her that the hall where she was scheduled to appear would be burnt down if she spoke, she replied, "Then I will speak to the ashes." In a famous speech at the 1851 Women's Rights Convention she spoke of the back-breaking physical work she endured while enslaved that made her as strong as any man. When heckled by a white man in her audience who said he didn't care any more about her antislavery talk than for an old flea bite, she snapped back, "Then the Lord willing, I'll keep you scratching." And when decrying her exclusion from America's life and professed freedoms during a religious meeting where another speaker had just praised the Constitution, she told this story:

"Children, I talks to God and God talks to me. I goes out and talks to God in de fields and de woods. Dis morning I was walking out, and I got over de fence. I saw de wheat a holding up its head, looking very big. I goes up and takes holt ob it. You b'lieve

it, dere was no wheat dare? I says, God, what is de matter wid dis wheat? and he says to me, 'Sojourner, dere is a little weasel in it.' Now I hears talkin' about de Constitution and de rights of man. I comes up and I takes hold of dis Constitution. It looks mighty big, and I feels for my rights, but der aint any dare. Den I says, God, what ails dis Constitution? He says to me, 'Sojourner, dere is a little weasel in it.'"

The language captured here in an 1863 edition of the National Anti-Slavery Standard shares a flaw with a number of other accounts of her speeches: they were written down in a mock Southern dialect that many 19th-century readers identified with slavery, despite the fact that Sojourner Truth was born and raised in rural New York, enslaved by a Dutch-speaking family as a child, took pride in speaking correct English as an adult, and reportedly sounded like white New York peers. But even in this crude transcription her message is still crystal clear. On July 4th it is helpful to return to her words again.

Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth's contemporary and fellow abolitionist, was very explicit on how he saw this day: "What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciations of tyrants,

brass fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade, and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy—a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages...[F]or revolting barbarity and shameless hypocrisy, America reigns without a rival." The legal barbarity of American slavery would soon end, but the struggle to make our nation live up to the lofty creeds enunciated in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution did not.

Since Truth and Douglass's day, Black, Indigenous, and other excluded and marginalized women and men have never stopped trying to root out the unjust and greedy weasels still gnawing away at the core of our Constitution, equal protections under the law, and other rights and freedoms needed to build a fairer America for ourselves and our children. The self-evident truths in our founding documents have not yet been realized for everyone. As efforts to undermine democracy and suppress voting rights are spreading in state legislatures across our nation, please stay awake and remain vigilant and ready to stop these 21st century weasels that seek to return us to our Jim Crow past and weaken our nation's still unfulfilled promise of equal opportunity and justice under the law for all. We must always move forward and never backwards.

Hoyer Announces Appointments to the U.S. Service Academies

WASHINGTON (June 30, 2021)—Today, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) announced the names of 12 Fifth District students appointed to the United States Service Academies. The students, nominated by Congressman Hoyer, have accepted offers to the Air Force Academy, the Merchant Marine Academy, the Naval Academy, and the Military Academy at West Point. All of the service academies require a nomination from an authorized nominating source.

Congressman Hoyer also announced two student recipients of the ROTC scholarship today. The scholarship allows Members of Congress to nominate up to five candidates who were not offered an appointment to a military service academy.

"I am pleased to recognize these outstanding Fifth District students for their appointments and scholarships, and am honored to nominate them," said Congressman Hoyer. "Each one of them will bring exceptional talent, perspective, and dedication to the Service Academies. I join in thanking them for their service to their nation and wish them the best of luck in their future military careers."

The following Fifth District students received appointments:

U.S. Air Force Academy
Shawna Ganley, Calvert County
Leondre Ingram, Prince George's County

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Danielle Sullivan, Charles County

U.S. Military Academy (West Point)
Andrew Kraske, Prince George's County
Jeremiah Malbon, Prince George's County
Kouassi Pone, Calvert County

U.S. Naval Academy
Joshua Doughty, Charles County
Kara Hunt, Anne Arundel County
Thomas Joseph, Anne Arundel County
Ryan Lowe, St. Mary's County
Joseph Lusby, Calvert County
Joseph Oster, Calvert County

Army ROTC Congressional Scholarship
Shawn Bell, Prince George's County
Alexander Raymond, Charles County

Van Hollen Now Accepting Service Academy Applications for Class of 2026

WASHINGTON (June 30, 2021)—U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) announced that his office is now accepting applications from students across Maryland for nominations to the Uniformed Service Academies in the Class of 2026.

All applications and supporting materials must be received electronically by 5 p.m. on September 30, 2021. More information, including the online application, can be found at <https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/constituent-services/academy-nominations>.

"Attending one of our nation's renowned service academies is an excellent opportunity for young Marylanders. I hope that students across our state who are interested in serving our nation consider

this exciting path," said Senator Van Hollen.

Senator Van Hollen's office welcomes applications from all interested candidates and seeks an applicant pool that reflects the diversity of the State of Maryland. The office strongly encourages applications from those with backgrounds and identities underrepresented among officers in the Armed Services. The Senator's office is working to expand outreach to these applicants through direct engagement with local schools, including information sessions for educators and students.

Qualified applicants will participate in a virtual interview with members of Senator Van Hollen's Service Academy Advisory Board in November 2021.

Hoyer, Cardin, Van Hollen, Brown Announce Nearly \$4 Million for Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department's Office of Minority Health

WASHINGTON (June 29, 2021)—Today, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05), Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Congressman Anthony Brown (MD-04) joined in applauding the announcement of \$3,999,807 in funding for the Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department's Office of Minority Health. This new federal funding will provide essential resources and tools to the department to better respond

to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding comes from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act established through the Prince George's County Health Literacy Enhancement for COVID CARES.

"We are pleased that the Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department has been awarded nearly \$4 million in funding to assist minority communities in com-

bating the COVID-19 pandemic," said the lawmakers. "This funding is critical to enhance COVID-19 testing, tracing, and mitigation measures in communities of color and rural populations in our county. We thank the tireless work of the firefighters and EMS professionals during this public health emergency, and believe this additional round of funding will go a long way in protecting our most vulnerable communities."

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