

in TOUCH

25

A
QUARTER-CENTURY
AFTER IAP'S
FOUNDING, COHORT
ONE LOOKS BACK
PAGE 6

Official
Newsletter
of the
**C. D. MOTE, JR.
INCENTIVE
AWARDS
PROGRAM
SPRING
2025**



YEARS

Tribute to a Visionary

What do you say to a person who has defined the personal and professional lives of so many people, who set us all on a course to have exceptional experiences and live purposeful lives? For starters: "Thank you."

From the start, **C. D. "DAN" MOTE, JR.** positioned and framed the Incentive Awards Program so that it could have the success and profile it enjoys today.

Then the president of UMD, he was clear that IAP is not a scholarship program, though he understood that the scholarship removed not only a financial barrier but also a barrier in the minds of students. Being selected for IAP is a moment when college pivots from a dream to an opportunity.

Believing that every student could graduate from college, he flung open the doors of opportunity to an ever-expanding swath of deserving students across the state. Mote expected them all to excel. "We're looking for students of courage who can make an internal commitment," he said. "If you listen to



their soul and their gut, you can identify these people who are just going to succeed. They're just determined to do something."

Incentive Awards scholars have confidence that they can continue their education by earning advanced degrees. They see themselves as game changers in their families. They are proud homeowners, enriching the neighborhoods that they call home. They are lawyers, teachers, doctors, accountants, consultants, architects, researchers and more.

Even years after graduation, alums stay connected to the program as donors and mentors and to their communities.

Quite simply, the C. D. Mote, Jr. Incentive Awards Program exists because Mote is a bold visionary. Even



more, this program is a reflection of him and his very nature. His legacy is immeasurable. ★



“

I WISH THE STUDENTS MY VERY BEST FOR THEIR EXPERIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND THAT WILL, I AM CERTAIN, TRANSFORM THEIR LIVES IN SPLENDID WAYS THAT THEY CANNOT NOW DETERMINE. HOWEVER, I AM ALSO CERTAIN THAT IT WILL BECOME CRYSTAL CLEAR TO THEM IN THE FUTURE.”

- C.D. “DAN” MOTE, JR.



C. D. Mote, Jr. with the first cohort of Incentive Awards scholars and Jacqueline Lee (left).

By the Numbers



245 + 20

GRADUATES

STUDENTS ON TRACK TO EARN THEIR BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN 2025

107

ADVANCED DEGREES COMPLETED OR UNDERWAY

Institutions include Cornell University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Pennsylvania, Howard University, George Washington University, Drexel University, Towson University, Morgan State University, Bowie State University, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Loyola University Maryland, Georgetown University and the University of Maryland, plus others!



112

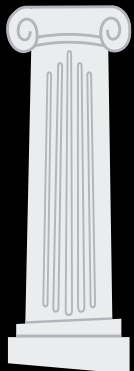
STUDENTS HAVE STUDIED ABROAD

in countries including Italy, China, Spain, Argentina, France, Brazil, Australia, Taiwan, Kenya, South Africa, Germany, Denmark, England and many more!



\$46,502,944

RAISED FOR IAP OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS



1,730

DONORS SINCE 2000



98%

ONE-YEAR RETENTION RATE

11%

WITH DOCTORAL DEGREES, SURPASSING UMD'S AVERAGE



Celebrating 25 Years of Growth

Take a look at how IAP has evolved since its inception.

THEN:



NOW:



SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

THEN: When IAP was established, it was known as the Baltimore Incentive Awards Program (BIAP), partnering with nine Baltimore City schools.

NOW: Over the years, IAP has expanded its reach and has formed partnerships with schools in Baltimore City; Prince George's, Montgomery and Charles counties, and KIPP DC, totaling over 100 schools.

COHORT SIZE

THEN: IAP's inaugural cohort was comprised of nine scholars.

NOW: IAP selects between 30-35 scholars each year.

STUDY ABROAD

THEN: IAP students can apply to any University of Maryland Education Abroad program for a semester or winter term.

NOW: IAP students can still apply to any UMD Education Abroad program for a semester or winter term. Since 2015, IAP has established partnerships with Education Abroad and the School of Public Health to create dynamic experiences in Buenos Aires, Argentina; São Paulo, Brazil; and Nairobi, Kenya. The goal is to send a group of IAP students, along with an IAP staff member, to study abroad each year.

INSPIRING STUDENTS

THEN: Roughly 200 students attended IAP presentations each year.

NOW: IAP has enhanced recruitment efforts, reaching an average of 450 students annually through high school visits. It not only raises awareness of the program but also fosters a college mindset among more students each year.

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

THEN: All programming was delivered by Director Jacqueline Wheeler Lee.

NOW: IAP staff includes four full-time positions: director, assistant director, program manager and program management specialist. Each plays a vital role in carrying out IAP's initiatives.

TRANSITIONING TO COLLEGE

THEN: Incoming scholars participated in summer programs like Freshmen First, coordinated by Extended Studies, and Summer Institute for Bridge Students, sponsored by Pre-College Programs.

NOW: Scholars take part in Summer Discovery, IAP's customized three-week residential experience. Scholars enroll in a three-credit leadership course, benefit from workshops, and participate in community-building activities and off-campus excursions to establish a sense of belonging in the program and on campus.

SIBLING SCHOLARS

- Hamza '15 and Ahmed '16 Idris
- Josselyn '17 and Karen '20 Hernandez
- Christina '19 and Cynthia '18 Kearns
- Jessica '17 and Jocelyn '19 Nolasco
- Rebecca '25 and Samuel '27 Oluwasanmi
- Lester '26 and Giancarlo '27 Paz
- Keshawn '26 and Kahron '27 Brown

CHILDREN

50+

A Quarter-Century After IAP's Founding, Cohort One Looks Back

BY SALA LEVIN '10

In all but one case, the seven University of Maryland alums gathered on Tawes Hall's stage in January weren't just the first in their families to go to college. They were all part of the first cohort in a new UMD program that would steer the course of their lives.

Over their four years in the Incentive Awards Program (IAP), they bonded over mozzarella sticks at late-night dining, celebrated when the Terps won the national basketball championship their freshman year and tutored one another when someone needed an extra boost in class. As graduates, they went on to successful careers in law, education, health care and more.

This was the group's first reunion since graduating, but it wasn't hard to recall their old meetups in Founding Director Jacqueline Wheeler Lee's tight office in the Lee Building. On this afternoon, they were sitting on the same—but reupholstered—sofa and chairs once squeezed in there.

"We thought that it would be fun for you all to know that some things endure," Lee joked.

Before a crowd made up mostly of current IAP students, they reminisced about getting their acceptance letters, their first days on campus and quick-forming camaraderie, as well as the gratitude they still have for their experience in IAP:

MYRON GOLDSTEIN '05: "My high school was not known as a school that produced college graduates. So when I received the scholarship, I remember not only my family being very happy, but the teachers and administrators at my school being very happy. When they did the morning announcements, the teacher reading the announcements read my entire acceptance letter. I could hear his voice cracking as he was reading it."

EBONY WASHINGTON: "When we received the acceptance letters to the University of Maryland, we took a photo together. It was on the cover of a magazine Baltimore City Schools sent to every student in the school system. I remember my girlfriend across the street—her little sister ran over with the magazine and was like, 'Oh my God, Ebony, is this you on the cover?'" Her eyes just lit up. Seeing her excitement pushed away any anxiety that I was experiencing, just by seeing how somebody else was so happy for me."

TIANA WYNN '05: "One of the things I remember thinking that first day on campus was that there are eight other people who will experience this with me. I was excited that there were people who looked like me, that were from the same beginnings as me. I didn't know what to expect, but I knew at least I wouldn't be by myself."

REGINALD JONES '05:

"The campus was vastly different than Baltimore. We were learning about other people. You had to go outside of your comfort zone to interact with people that you'd never interacted with before."

YAVONA PIRALI '06: "I was in the Honors program, and I was also in the hard sciences. In a lot of my classes, I was the only African American person. The resources I had to depend on were these people right here, and my mentors to say that I can do it. I didn't want to fail because I knew I was the model for other people to say, 'You

look like me—you can do it, you can hack it.'"

ESSENCE JORDAN '05:

"I started in computer science, and I hated every class. I realized that my family had encouraged me to study that because in their mind that was job security and a guaranteed salary. But it didn't work for me at all. Thank God I changed to criminal justice, because it got me into the federal government."

WYNN: "I believe I was the first IAP student to study abroad, in London. Before I came to Maryland, I'd flown one time. Since then, I've probably left the country every year, if not two or three times a year. I've been to every continent except Antarctica. I attribute that to the fact that I went to London. So much of my thirst for knowledge to know what happens outside of the United States stemmed from that opportunity."

WASHINGTON: "College taught me to see myself as the professional that I so desired to be and that I now am, thankfully. I was very confident, but I had so many family and personal barriers that I was fighting through that completely blocked my ability to focus on my classes. My family wasn't big, my family wasn't there—it was just these guys and Jackie."

IMA IBIDAPO '05: "I'm so impressed by how big the program has gotten. I'm just grateful that we were the first cohort of this fantastic program." ★

First row: Tiana Wynn,
Nicole Poon-Ying, Yavona
(Williams) Pirali, Essence
Jordan. Second row:
Joseph Robinson, Reginald
Jones, Ima (Bassey)
Ibidapo. Third row: Ebony
(Jamison) Washington,
Myron Goldstein.

“
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”

- TIANA WYNN '05



From Transformed Individuals to Transformed Families

The aim of IAP has always been to provide rich experiences that students can leverage for enrichment and future advancement. Even better, alums can apply what they glean to enhance the lives of those around them, especially the new families they create. This cascading effect can have an impact for years to come and supports our vision: to ignite generational change, one cohort, one student at a time.

Inga (Ferguson) Williams '06, Anna Kalmykov '08 and Komi Akoumany '10 each derived something of value that they have passed along to those closest to them.

EMPOWERED ADVOCATE

When an unspeakable tragedy struck **Inga Williams '06's** immediate family, leaving her the only living member, she had to redefine the meaning of family, move in with her aunt and uncle—and decide whether to press forward and realize her dream of attending college. As difficult as it was, she found renewed motivation. “I had every reason to give up and every reason to keep going. I wanted to do everything they didn’t have a chance to do,” she said. She took a leap of faith and left Baltimore City for College Park, which took some getting used to, but she told herself she had to do well and make it on campus. Today, she is senior counselor/school liaison for Morgan State University’s Upward Bound Program.



INGA WILLIAMS WITH HER HUSBAND, JAMES III,
AND CHILDREN JAMES IV AND JAMIE.

Inga is married to her college sweetheart, **James Williams III '06**, and they have two children, James IV, 11, and Jamie, 5. Having to navigate a new UMD culture, the two Terps learned to demystify processes and systems, tapping into their own agency, and to find and use their voices. They leveraged those experiences later to benefit their children and know what to ask of and how to engage confidently with school officials on their behalf, especially for their spirited, neurodivergent daughter. They have created a culture of achievement in their home, communicating high expectations tailored to the unique abilities of their children.

“Both of my children will go to college,” said Inga. “It’s just a matter of where. They will rise to our vision.”

CHANGED MINDSET

Anna Kalmykov '08, a postdoctoral associate at the University of Pittsburgh, said it’s hard to imagine where she would be without IAP, but “I definitely wouldn’t be here!”

Her transition to the United States from Russia in 2002 was marked by constant upheaval and uncertainty and forced her to use innovative study techniques to succeed at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.

Her ESL teacher told her about IAP, and that paved the way for the life she now lives with her husband and two young daughters. Without family to guide her, the counsel she received through her IAP faculty mentor, Ann Smith, now-retired assistant dean in the Office of Undergraduate Studies, helped her avoid



Above: Anna Kalmykov with her husband and daughters.

Right: Komi Akoumany with his wife, Stephanie, and daughter.

FAMILY VALUES

Though colleges were interested in **Komi Akoumany's '10** soccer prowess, he had no interest in being a college athlete. "I just wanted to be on my computer, coding 24/7," he said.

Being selected for IAP was like "winning the lottery" and an opportunity for him to keep the high school job he loved at NASA while further exploring computer science. "When you are expecting young people to acquire skills and knowledge that will determine the course of their lives, the last thing they should worry about is paying for college," he said.

After Komi and his wife, **Stephanie '10, Ph.D. '18**, married, they worked together—she, writing her dissertation in American studies, and he, coding.

Now a vice president of engineering at Scoop, he is keenly aware that IAP allowed him the freedom to focus on acquiring the critical skill set he needed to launch a successful career. He and his wife ensure that their 8-year-old daughter has the space she needs to freely explore her interests, understanding that any incremental gains she realizes are compounded over time.

IAP is forever intertwined in his family, he said. "My wife was the roommate of a fellow IAP student. It is in my daughter's DNA, and she knows about the program and how important it is to be empathetic and willing to help others. It's part of the value set that I derived from IAP and is now embedded into my family culture." ★



mishaps and better manage her time. "With support, I didn't struggle as much," said Anna.

The education Anna received through IAP at the University of Maryland impacted the people she met, altered her perspective and exposed her to different opportunities. "Geography is not so important but where you are in your headspace, your circles, that's what makes all the difference."

IAP's Bedrock: Donors and Partners

A cadre of individuals who believed in the Incentive Awards Program's potential placed early bets on the students who would matriculate at Maryland through IAP. Those gifts signified confidence in these budding scholars and an abiding belief in the power of education as a transformative tool.

Without their generosity, there would be no Incentive Awards Program. We are grateful to all who gave hundreds of deserving students an opportunity to pursue a college education through their gifts. This is why three donors support the program, in their own words:

"When [IAP students] go out in the world, they give back. They work in fields across the natural and social sciences, humanities and fine arts. **This is the legacy of IAP."**

— MARILYN MEYERS PH.D. '85



"To us, [giving] is a simple gesture that can change lives and, as importantly, create leaders who will pay it forward and be mentors for many generations to come."

— PHILL GROSS



"My wife told me...that she thought it was one of the best things we have ever done. **We have found in our lives that when we give freely from our hearts, without fail the return we receive is so much greater. I truly believe that living a life filled with giving, in whatever way you can, will enrich your life, the greater community and the planet."**

— JONATHAN BARRETT '87



DONORS



PARTNERS



Students, Alums Bring IAP's Mission to Life

IAP's enduring impact lies in its students' ability to leverage what they learn and experience at UMD into meaningful contributions. Current students foster professional development, personal growth and societal transformation through community involvement, while alums exemplify how the skills, values and opportunities cultivated through IAP inspire action long after graduation.

Meet eight who are making a difference right now.



ESTEYCI GARCIA GARCIA '28

MAJORS: MARKETING, OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS ANALYTICS

For over four years, Esteyci has been involved with Better Than School Enterprises (BTS), an organization dedicated to the holistic development

of students and their families in Prince George's County. By ensuring Maryland State Department of Education grant compliance, she helps secure the funding BTS needs to achieve its mission of building resilient, thriving communities. Even while navigating the challenges of her first year at UMD, Esteyci remains committed to BTS and believes that her future career lies in supporting community empowerment.



ALVARO CERON-RUIZ '27

MAJORS: PUBLIC POLICY, CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Since arriving at UMD, Alvaro has been driven by a clear purpose: to serve the public and create meaningful change for underserved communities. He took a significant step forward last fall when he interned at U.S. Rep. Glenn Ivey's office, serving the constituents of Maryland's 4th District—his own neighbors. In his role, Alvaro facilitated access to federal resources and helped families navigate complex processes.



AEIRSS PRINCE '26

MAJOR: GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

In 2020, Aeirss founded the Baltimore City Youth Voter Registration Committee with the goal of making civics engaging, accessible and enjoyable while addressing the low rate of youth voter turnout. Through partnerships with schools and community organizations, she leads initiatives, events and communications focused on registering young voters and promoting civics education throughout Baltimore City.

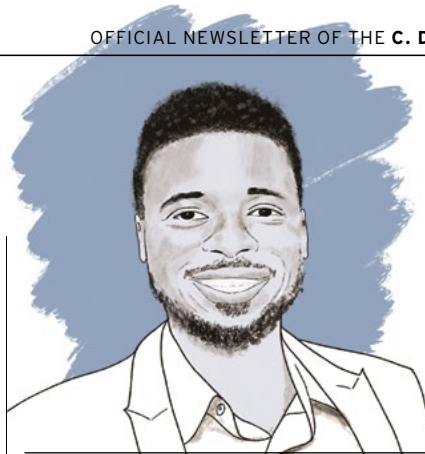


KIMBER GONZALEZ LOPEZ '26

MAJORS: COMPUTER SCIENCE, FINANCE

As director of education for UMD's App Dev Club, Kimber designs a web development curriculum for members on industry-standard technologies like HTML,

CSS and JavaScript. He equips them with practical skills that they can use to help local businesses and nonprofits solve problems. Through this role, Kimber empowers students to contribute to their communities while deepening his passion for leveraging education and mentorship to drive growth and innovation in the computer science field.



TUNJI ONIGBANJO '19
SENIOR CUSTOMER SUCCESS MANAGER, SAYARI

Tunji's finance degree opened doors to a career in global financial services, but he also provides free financial education through his website, thetunji.com, to help a broader audience. His goal is to help users overcome obstacles and build long-term financial success through properly using credit, establishing savings and investing in stocks. Tunji's impact has created a ripple effect, where individuals who benefit from his guidance share it with others.

administrator by day, he is also the founder of Hopeful HoriSONS, through which Davian leads efforts that address the educational and social-emotional needs of low-income Black and brown boys in Washington, D.C. The organization's Black Boys Book Bunch fosters literacy among children in grades 2-5 by encouraging them to engage with texts centered on Blackness while developing strategies to navigate tough emotions.



MAY SOE MIN '25
MAJOR: GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

During her time at UMD, May has been involved in numerous national and international initiatives, including serving as a teaching assistant for the course "International Development and Conflict Management." In this role, she mentored others and solidified her commitment to advancing the rights of refugees. In Fall 2025, May will begin graduate studies in international affairs, in the hopes of pursuing a career in the U.S. Foreign Service.



DAVIAN MORGAN '14, ED.D.
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, INGENUITY PREP PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AND FOUNDER/CEO AT HOPEFUL HORISONS

The lessons Davian learned in IAP, particularly in mentorship, leadership and resilience, are central to his work and community initiatives. An education



SHIRON LINDSAY '08
INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIST, COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION, BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Shiron, an instructional technology specialist in Baltimore City Public Schools, fosters dignity through housing as founder of Charmed Communities, a property management company focused on delivering quality housing in Baltimore while promoting responsible tenancy and active neighborhood engagement. By seeing potential where others see challenges, Shiron has expanded equitable access to safe, quality housing across the city. Her efforts have not only strengthened neighborhoods but have also inspired others to support the revitalization of Baltimore's communities. ★

Jacqueline Wheeler Lee: The Founder and Force Behind IAP

BY LAURA CECH



Jacqueline Wheeler Lee launched the Incentive Awards Program 25 years ago with no staff. No office. No prospective students.

"There were notes from a legal pad that had been torn out, shoved into this folder, and some correspondence from Baltimore City Public Schools, and on my first day the associate provost said, 'OK, here you go,'" she recalled.

What Lee did have was an immediate sense of both the need for and potential of such a program. As envisioned by the university's then-president, C. D. Mote Jr., IAP provides scholarships and mentoring to exceptional students who come from neighborhoods underserved by the state's flagship university, but who demonstrate academic ability, maturity and uncommon persistence.

"I initiated the program, but she built, nurtured and developed it," Mote wrote in a recent award nomination. "She's grown it into one of the best educational programs in the state. Its transformational impact on students, the community, and

future generations is incalculable, and a great credit to the University System of Maryland."

Lee knew from the start whom to recruit as IAP scholars: "We are looking for evidence of character, leadership and tenacity despite obstacles, students who really want a community and guidance," she said. "There's this urgency that we need to hear."

Graduates say Lee can see potential in students that they can't always see in themselves. Almost everyone has a story of a time when she encouraged them to join a campus club, apply for an internship, overcome a fear of public speaking or consider study abroad.

"When you actually get out in the world, you realize how important those things are," said Myron Goldstein '05, who recalled using tips from an IAP etiquette dinner in his first internship. He now calls Lee his "second mother."

"It's not really a job to her," said Bryana Rowley '23, who has fond memories of Lee's homemade buttercrunch cookies.

"I feel like it's just her way of life—bringing out the best in everyone around her."

From working as an admissions counselor to a short stint in marketing, Lee said every previous job she had and every school she attended (The Bronx High School of Science, Wesleyan University and University of Maryland) helped prepare her to lead IAP.

"One of the things that was appealing was being able to lay the groundwork for something that was important to the university and that was, at its core, important to me: Expanding opportunities for students from various socioeconomic backgrounds," Lee said.

The job hasn't grown stale, she said, because every year a new cohort of amazing students arrives. "We are constantly assessing the program and trying to enhance the student experience and increase effectiveness," she said. "In a way, I have had 25 first years." ★

CLASS NOTES

JANICEIA BYRON '07 celebrated 17 years in education in August.



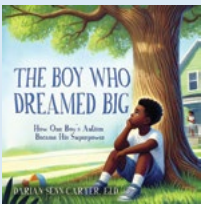
BRIDGET BLOUNT '08, deputy CEO of Baltimore's Promise, was named one of the Baltimore Business Journal's 40 Under 40 in December.

"Being recognized for the work I love—advocating for Baltimore's young people—is a testament to the power of perseverance and purpose," she said.

JENNIFER COVAHEY '08 proudly announced, "Future Terp Jaylyn Mae Covahay-Thomas was born April 13, 2024."



SHIRON LINDSAY '08 was honored as one of The Maryland Daily Record's Leading Women Under 40 for outstanding accomplishments in her career. Shiron is an instructional technology specialist for Baltimore City Public Schools who rehabilitates Baltimore homes and rents them to vulnerable community members.



DARIAN SENN-CARTER '08 published his first children's book, "The Boy Who Dreamed Big: How One Boy's Autism Became His Superpower."

It tells the story about Darian, a boy with autism who sees the world in his own unique way. He learns to embrace his differences and discovers that what makes him different is what makes him special. This uplifting tale encourages children to celebrate their individuality and find the beauty in thinking differently.

KOMI AKOUMANY '10 is vice president, engineering at Scoop News Group.

AMARA SILLAH '10 is the director of people for Teach for America; it's a strategic human resources role for the national organization.

NANCY CANALES BONILLA '13 and her husband, Daniel, welcomed their first child in August.

IN MEMORIAM

We remember **KARIM KAMBO '20, JENNIFER LEWIS '06, SHAKENA MACKALL '07** and **LAVON WILKINS JR. '09**, IAP scholars who left us far too early. We recall each of them for their character, their achievements and the ways they enhanced our community while they were on campus. Our great affection for them endures in the months and years after their passing, and we miss them terribly.



Clockwise from top left: Jennifer Lewis, Shakena Mackall, Karim Kambo, Lavon Wilkins

VICTORIA GOLD '14 was promoted to associate director, field reimbursement, for Sun Pharmaceuticals.



CATHERINE SAYIKANMI '14 enjoyed five years at the United States Agency for International Development working on funding programs to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and support countries battling epidemics. She wrote, "I covered program management of the West Africa portfolio ... including eight countries. In the past year, I visited Ghana and Togo for strategic planning, programmatic reviews and data quality assessments." Catherine is also the social media and communications chair for the University of Maryland Black Alumni Network.

KENDRA BROWNE '15, a speech-language pathologist, is a new homeowner. She landed her first international client in her makeup artistry business and traveled to Grenada. She was invited to Instagram/META and NBC Universal for her contributions and talents in the beauty space.

CHARMAINE WILSON-JONES '15 is engaged to Dr. Kaila Noland, and they are planning an October wedding.

KALANI JOHNSON '16 is a research monitoring and evaluation associate at Abt Global. She wrote, "In my work, I have examined how body-worn cameras impact communities' relationships with law enforcement, conducting racial bias audits of police departments, and evaluating community-based violence intervention programs. Outside of my day-to-day work, I am an adjunct faculty instructor in the sociology department at UMD."

JOSHUA TROWELL '16 is an associate researcher at the Department of Defense and a doctoral candidate in public health at Uniformed Services University.

In August, chef **AMIRA GRADY '17** was selected as American Landmark Apartments' 2024 artist in residence. The program provides no-cost housing and a monthly stipend for up to one year for visual and culinary artists. "I intend to share the traditions of my family with others through community meals and other experiences that



C. D. MOTE, JR. INCENTIVE AWARDS PROGRAM





SUZANNE G. AND MURRAY A. VALENSTEIN BALTIMORE SCHOLARS
PRINCE GEORGE'S AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOLARS

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To learn more about how to support the C.D. Mote, Jr. Incentive Awards Program, please contact Jacqueline W. Lee, director, at incentiveawards@umd.edu.

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Check out our site: cdmincentiveawards.umd.edu

CLASS NOTES CONTINUED

promote food and fellowship," she said. "I serve Macallan on Ross (upscale apartment complex) as their resident culinary artist, hosting weekly events for the community centered around food, crafts, and strengthening relations between residents and property management."

JESSICA NOLASCO '17 started a doctoral program in hearing and speech sciences at the University of Maryland last fall. She and her professor presented at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association convention on a meta-analysis on language sampling in bilingual populations.

JASMINE THOMAS '17 was promoted to planning manager at the Baton Rouge Planning Commission last June. She added, "I started as a planner II in 2019 and then senior

planner in 2022, so I have been able to work my way up through the ranks within five years."

ISSMATU BARRIE '20 earned a Master of Science in health information management and technology from University of Maryland Global Campus. She also became certified as a registered health information administrator and said she is "excited to continue my career path as a project manager with the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group."

JESSICA JACKSON '21 is a medical student at Sidney Kimmel Medical College on a full tuition scholarship. She is the community service chair for the Student National Medical Association at the college, where she hosts monthly health screening events at a local shelter and provides wound care and STI screening

at an IV needle exchange clinic in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia.

TEDDY ROSEMOND '21 is a software engineer at Northrop Grumman.



SIERRA SEABREASE '21 is a software development engineer at Amazon. She is engaged and is planning a September wedding.

AMA-GREG ADJABE '23 is pursuing a master's degree in nursing at Johns

Hopkins University. "I completed a two-semester research project in the emergency department on 'The Importance of Antibiotic Compliance in BLUNT Open Fracture Trauma Patients in the ED.' I'm also a teaching assistant for two courses I've taken, serve as an executive board member of the Black Student Nurse Association, act as a diversity and inclusion ambassador, work as the graduate research coordinator, and serve as a student nurse at a local emergency department," she wrote.

MICHELLE CASTRO-LEMUS '24 started working at Clark Construction as a bilingual benefits specialist. In her role, she supports her team through open enrollment, creates and shares internal communications, and helps bridge the connection between the team and its bilingual population.