



College Park Scholars
alumni association

2007 Annual Report

A Message from Our President



College Park Scholars has worked diligently to broaden the student experience and enhance the learning environment. By consistently recruiting the best faculty and strengthening partnerships with sponsoring colleges, Scholars has become the premiere living – learning program in the country. Read that line again: the premiere living – learning program in the country. It is not happenstance that students thrive under the leadership of our distinguished faculty and the support systems that result from our living community. Expanding that special community beyond the confines of the Cambridge quad has always been at the core of the College Park Scholars Alumni Association and we have spent much of the last three years building a strong foundation for long-term sustainability. Along the way, we have had the benefit of some stellar alumni who have contributed much to our beginning. For instance, Secretary James Howard guided us through the rigorous process required for our 501(c)(3) status. Alumni Council Co-Chairpersons Megan Dillard and Jessie Seidel have dedicated their alumni lives to the challenging task of managing the daily Council operations. Treasurer Erica Rossi has been a vital addition to our Board of Directors and has brought an incredible sense of accountability to our finances and business process improvement.

CPSAA is no longer an up-and-coming organization – we are here and we are striving full-speed ahead toward long-term sustainability. To paraphrase June Jordan, we are the people we’ve been waiting for. What will be so incredibly important in the coming years is to demonstrate our importance to our three main stakeholders: Alumni, students and the Scholars community. We will create this sustainability by following the ideals set forth in our mission statement.

Foster a sense of community among Scholars alumni – We will expand the range of events we hold each year while continuing to support the events that have become staples of the CPSAA. We must make a concerted effort to proactively seek increased participation from our alumni membership, as this is the foundation for a sustainable alumni association. Additionally, we will look to our membership for new ideas and financial support in accordance with this expansion.

Create a working network between current Scholars students and alumni – It is imperative that we build a connection with the CPSAA in the hearts and minds of current Scholars, as this will strengthen the organization each year with a new class of alumni leaders. Subsequently, we must do a better job of leveraging our current leadership to be more involved with their former program and communicate that involvement to their specific program alumni. This has proved to be a challenge in the past, and we are committed to finding a way to make this work.

Develop resources and ideas for the betterment of Scholars – As with the mission above, this is really a need-based ideal and one that will only flourish with increased involvement from our alumni leadership. In order to become a valued member of the Scholars community, we must take an active interest in the needs of the community and use the extensive abilities of the CPSAA membership to strengthen Scholars even more.

Potential abounds from our midst – we are improving the internal structure of our organization as we increase the value to our stakeholders and I am confident that we have the leadership structure in place to navigate us confidently into becoming the nation’s premiere alumni association for a living – learning community. I am pleased to present the annual report of the College Park Scholars Alumni Association, Inc. and I hope that you will see the great things that are happening and choose to become involved with our progress. Scholars is a very special place and it is important that we are vested in seeing that continue.

*Chris Branin, Arts '00
President and Chairman of the Board, College Park Scholars Alumni Association*

Year in Review

College Park Scholars Alumni Association, Inc. (CPSAA) is a registered 501(c)(3) organization that was founded in 2004 by a group of Scholars alumni interested in



serving the Scholars community. CPSAA is an organization of nearly 1,200 alumni of the College Park Scholars living-learning program at the University of Maryland. This group, comprised of both undergraduate and graduate alumni, is committed to the continued growth and success of College Park Scholars and the continued fellowship among and between alumni and current Scholars. College Park Scholars is a diverse, multi-disciplinary

learning community for academically and creatively talented first- and second-year students in a campus residential environment. Scholars strive to educate students of character, academically prepared for competitive research opportunities, challenging internships, and civic engagement. Through networking, social, and service events, development initiatives, and collaborations with program faculty and current students, the CPSAA aims to extend the College Park Scholars Community beyond the undergraduate experience. Eligibility for this alumni group begins once a student receives the Scholar Citation. In staying true to the mission of the College Park Scholars program, the CPSAA strives to create a community of lifelong Scholars.



During the 2006-2007 academic year, CPSAA participated in many campus events at The University of Maryland including a booth at Maryland Day 2007, where volunteers reached out to alumni, students, parents, and visitors to explain the individual Scholars programs and mission, and how they could become more involved with UMD and Scholars.



In fall 2006, CPSAA held the Second Annual College Park Scholars Alumni Association Golf Tournament to raise funds and generate support for the Scholars Program. More than 30 golfers participated in the annual tournament, which was hosted by 10 sponsors, including Lockheed Martin, Commerce Bank, Alexander & Cleaver Law Firm, Erova Studios, Union Jack's Restaurant and Sign-O-Rama. Additionally, the CPSAA participated in the Scholars' Annual Charity Softball Tournament to raise money for non-Scholars charities. This year's champion, Advocates for Children won \$1,168.90 for St. Ann's Infant & Maternity Home; Science, Technology & Society won \$609.79 for Habitat for Humanity; and Business, Society & the Economy won \$278.00 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.



In addition to raising money for charity, CPSAA provided regular social functions for Scholars' alumni. On the third Thursday of the each month, CPSAA sponsored a happy hour at Union Jack's



in Bethesda. This monthly event gave alumni an opportunity to catch up with old friends and network with new ones! The CPSAA also made an attempt at broadening the alumni's social network by sponsoring trips to sporting events, including Washington Nationals and Baltimore Orioles games, and to cultural events in and around Washington, D.C. such as the IMAX Theater at the Smithsonian Institution.

For the past four years, Scholars has traveled to the Big Apple for a weekend of touring, theater, and shopping. In 2007, CPSAA again provided alumni with the opportunity to join Scholars' students in their annual trip to NYC. This well-attended event provided an opportunity to reconnect with the Scholars program and spend a fun-filled weekend in the city that never sleeps. Trip options included hotel accommodations, roundtrip motor coach transportation, admission to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, admission to a Broadway performance, and admission to the CPSAA Happy Hour.





Ever mindful of the need for continued community service, CPSAA also supported Scholars in its annual Service Day, with alumni volunteers providing service to the Riversdale House Museum (a part of the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission). Upon arrival at the site, the alumni team was given a tour of the house and grounds. The alumni team was given historical documents and resources and

tasked with drafting language which now appears on signage throughout the property to allow visitors to learn information on a self-guided tour. This assignment was particularly meaningful to the alumni team, as the land the campus now occupies was gifted by the Calvert family in the 1800's, and the Riversdale House is their former house on what was the center of their property holdings in PG County.

In October 2006, CPSAA provided support at the Scholars Citation Ceremony. There, alumni volunteers represented CPSAA to encourage the citation class to remain involved in the program. At the Ceremony, the Outstanding Alumni Award was awarded to James Howard, who earned his citation from the International Studies program in 2000, and who graduated from the university with a degree in mathematics in 2002.



Through his participation and leadership in the Association's Board of Directors, Alumni Council, and the Scholars program at large, James has exhibited a commitment to Scholars since the inception of the Alumni Association. A founding member of the association, James drafted the legal and tax-related documents which made it possible to become incorporated as an organization in the state of Maryland. James also worked on behalf of the association to achieve 501(c)(3) status, providing Scholars with a charitable non-profit operating on its behalf. Through his knowledge of legal issues and non-profit operational strategies, James has provided strong leadership, structure, and organization.

Financial Report

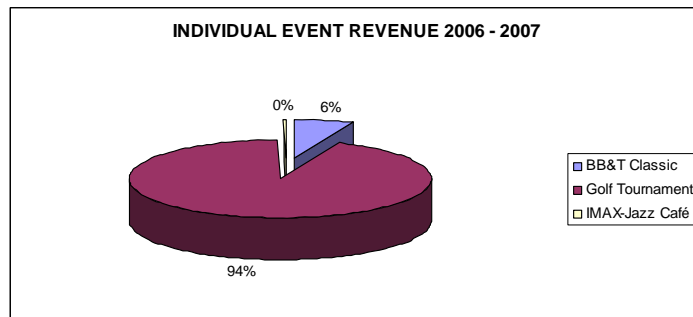
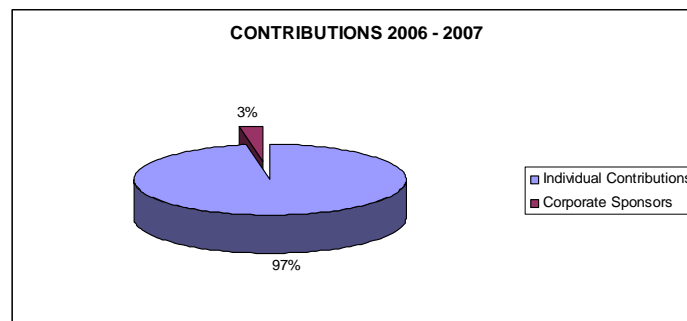
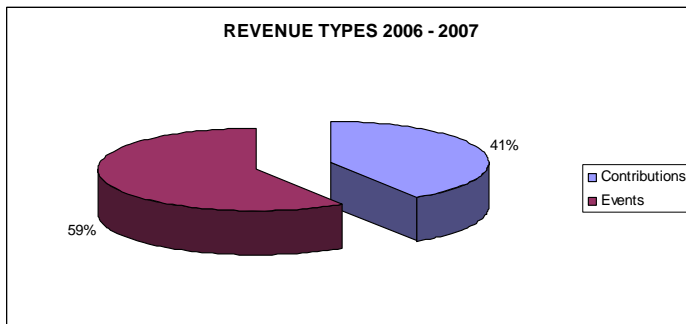
The College Park Scholars Alumni Association Board of Directors strives to make solid financial decisions and run the organization by the highest principles of non-profit management.

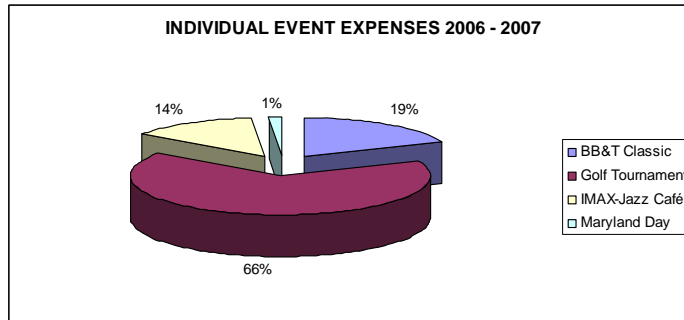
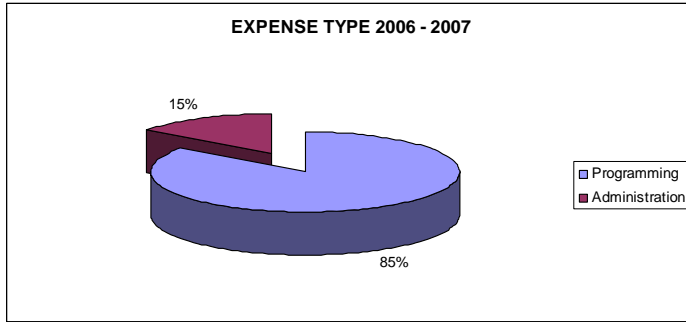
Revenues – FY 2007

Contributions	\$935.00	14.2%
Events	\$5,610.00	85.8%
TOTAL	\$6,545.00	100%

Expenses – FY 2007

Program Services	\$4,416.00	85.4%
Administrative	\$759.59	14.6%
TOTAL	\$5,175.59	100%





Please note that the aforementioned figures have not been audited by an external auditor.



2007 College Park Scholars Alumni Association Board of Directors

Chris Branin, President and Chairman of the Board

Arts '00

Erica Rossi, Treasurer

Public Leadership '97

James Howard, Secretary

International Studies '00

Jessica Seidel, Alumni Council Co-Chair

Advocates for Children '02

Megan Dillard, Alumni Council Co-Chair

Public Leadership '03

Justin Benoit, At-Large Member

Arts '00

Erin Pant, At-Large Member

Media, Self & Society '01

Ron Willoughby, At-Large Member

Life Sciences '98

Kevin Baxter, Ex-Officio Member

Advocates for Children '98

2007 College Park Scholars Alumni Association Council

Jessica Seidel, Alumni Council Co-Chair

Advocates for Children '02

Megan Dillard, Alumni Council Co-Chair

Public Leadership '03

Laura Allred

Earth, Life & Time '04

Kevin Baxter, Ex-Officio Member

Advocates for Children '98

Jesse Chen

Business, Society & the Economy, '06

Stefanie Fogleman

Science, Technology & Society '96

Emily Guskin

Media, Self & Society '04

Brad Howell

Science, Discovery & the Universe '02

Karen Lees

Life Sciences '97

Jenny Levy

International Studies '99

Jim McGee

American Cultures '99

Max Nickey

Environmental Studies '05

Sammy Popat

Arts '99

Tatiana Posada

Public Leadership '03

Yohannes Tilahun

Advocates for Children '03