Vice President Mike Pence visited the Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute (HUPTI) on Wednesday, February 19 to support the University’s efforts in providing state-of-the-art cancer research and delivering advanced cancer treatment to military veterans and their families. The Vice President met with Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey, along with several students, administrators and professors during a meaningful roundtable discussion. Pence was also able to tour the facility and meet with HUPTI patients.

“Today’s trip was excellent; it was a great experience. We were able to speak with the wonderful team and students of Hampton University, but specifically the President and the excellent team you have here, you’re really changing lives. I’m looking forward to hearing more about how we can be helpful and support not only the mission of Hampton University, but specifically the Proton Therapy Institute,” Pence said.

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos also participated in the roundtable discussion with various campus leaders: Chancellor and Provost Dr. JoAnn Hayser, Senior Vice President and Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos at the Hampton University Proton Beam Cancer Treatment Institute,” said Dr. William R. Harvey, Hampton University President. “This life saving treatment and research center is seeing an average of 50 patients per day while easing human misery and saving lives.”

During the discussion, the Vice President spoke about what an honor it was to be able to meet with the wonderful team and students of Hampton University. “Hampton University is an extraordinary institution. You have been making history and making a difference as a historically black college in this country,” Pence said. “Hampton University and the Proton Therapy Institute are just an incredible asset for Virginia and for the United States of America. This is an educational institution of a tremendous reputation.”

Vice President Pence also complimented Dr. Harvey on his role regarding federal funding for HBCUs. “Dr. Harvey, you played a leading role when the President of the United States signed a measure to make federal funding for HBCUs permanent in this country. And the increases, the investment, all are a reflection of the quality of education, and the importance of this educational tradition in our country,” Pence said.

Lastly, Vice President Pence spoke on HUPTI and all it has done in the last 10 years. “It’s remarkable to think about the thousands of patients who have come in here, some of whom I met today, who have literally received lifesaving innovative proton treatment for cancer. And it was scarcely 10 years ago, Dr. Harvey, that this was a brainchild of yours and of Hampton University. Thanks to your leadership and the generosity of people around the country and the excellent team you have here, you’re really changing lives. I’m looking forward to hearing more about how we can be helpful and support not only the mission of Hampton University, but specifically the Proton Therapy Institute,” Pence said.

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“My wife and I extend our deep appreciation for your work,” Pence said. “Meeting with Vice President Pence as well as Sec. DeVos was a once in a lifetime opportunity…I am thankful to Dr. Harvey as well as everyone else instrumental in allowing us this opportunity to engage in this dialogue.”

The Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute offers proton therapy, precise and effective treatment in a noninvasive, pain free environment. Proton therapy often results in fewer side effects and less damage to surrounding tissue and organs as compared to traditional cancer treatments. HUPTI is committed to delivering the latest precision medicine advances in cancer-fighting technologies and research, as well as a continued focus on excellence in patient care. HUPTI treats breast, lung, prostate, head and neck, ocular, GI, brain and spine and pediatric cancers.
Hampton University Officially Dedicates Kennedy Hall Lobby
In Honor of Former Dean of Residence Life, Jewel B. Long

Hampton University hosted a dedication ceremony in honor of former Dean of Residence Life, Jewel B. Long. The lobby was named in honor of Ms. Jewel B. Long, the Hamptonian for which the lobby is being named. Ms. Long has been a member of the Hampton family for over 50 years. Over the years, she has given of her time, her talent, her energy, her values and all that is good on behalf of this wonderful institution,” said Dr. Harvey. “Ms. Jewel B. Long, you made a significant impact on Hampton University. You have worked tirelessly and diligently to instill in all of our students the tenets of the Hampton man and the Hampton woman. On behalf of all those who have walked these hallowed grounds, it is my pleasure to thank you for your service and to officially name this lobby, the Jewel B. Long Lobby.”

Ms. Long provided the group with a wonderful and emotional speech about her arrival to Hampton University in 1965 and the journey her life has been.

Two Hampton University Students Awarded BEYA Student Athlete Award

Hampton University students Jakari Harris and Michael Lawrence were awarded the Black Engineering of the Year Award (BEYA) Student Athlete Award at the 2020 BEYA STEM Conference Student Leadership Award Dinner in Washington, DC, February 13-15, 2020.

The Student Athlete Award recognizes the drive and determination of talented students who perform in the classroom and sports and during the three-day conference. Students attended the career fair to meet with top employers, take advantage of resources designed to enhance job search, and get tools for a successful STEM career. Seminars and workshops present workforce topics including career advancement, diversity, and specialized industry updates. The Career Fair links engineers, scientists, business professionals and students with employers and educators.

“We are proud of these two talented students for receiving this prestigious award. Hampton University looks forward to the future success of these scholars,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey, Announces Increased Hourly Staff Wages and More

Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey, announced a campus-wide staff meeting that he is raising the minimum wage to $12 an hour for on-campus staff.

“As you know, the minimum wage in this country right now is $7.25 and about six or seven years ago, we raised it to $9. Then, about three years ago, we raised it to $10. Effective in March, I’m going to raise it to $12 an hour,” Dr. Harvey said in front of an appreciative crowd of Hampton University Educational Support staff.

“Everybody is important to me.”

This latest raise in staff wages is another display of Dr. Harvey’s commitment to the university community. In 2011, Dr. and Mrs. Harvey gave a $166,000 personal gift to HU to support a wage increase to all full-time permanent staff earning less than $8 an hour. Through this donation, 118 full-time, permanent HU staff employees received a wage increase. In 2014, Dr. and Mrs. Harvey gave a $108,403 personal gift to support a wage increase for full-time permanent staff earning less than $9 an hour. In 2017, the minimum wage was raised again for full-time permanent staff to $10 an hour. In 2018, Dr. and Mrs. Harvey gave the faculty and staff an additional 1% raise on top of the annual raise as recommended by their supervisors.

Dr. Harvey also announced a pay increase for the campus’ clerical staff, provided they meet new performance standards. Training will be provided to those individuals who need assistance in learning any additional skill sets.

“These increases are important because they affect your pocketbook, but what it does for me, it says that we care about you and you’re part of the team. You have heard me say before that collective competence is better than individual competence any day. The fact is that it takes all of us to make Hampton go and this is just another way of saying thank you,” Dr. Harvey added.

The raises in salaries went into effect March 1.

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Contributors:
Matthew White, Glenn Knight, B. Da’Vida Plummer, Jessica Zimmerman, Alexis Brower
do anything,” said Reghan Pullins, sophomore, political science major, leadership studies minor. “I really enjoy how we had Black women to speak to us, which I felt I could relate to and see myself in those positions.”

While at the State Capitol, the students received the honor of speaking with Governor Ralph Northam, Attorney General Mark Herring, and Governor Northam’s cabinet members Fran Bradford, Deputy Secretary of Education; Traci J. DeShazor, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth; and to the delight of the students, Hampton alums Keyanna Conner (’06), Secretary of Administration. Conner oversees five agencies: the Department of Human Resource Management, the Department of Elections, the Compensation Board, the Virginia Information Technologies Agency and the Department of General Services.

Although Conner was a chemistry major at Hampton and went on to VCU to earn her Ph.D. in Physical Organic Chemistry, she fell in love with politics by chance. “I was watching CNN and there was a very charming young senator who decided that he would run for the presidency and I was just star-struck. I decided that I wanted to play a part in that campaign,” Conner said. She ended up leading a grassroots organization in Richmond, Va. for Barack Obama and the rest is history. Conner told the students, “As you’re choosing a field, make sure that the passion is there.”

Governor Northam graciously welcomed the Hampton University Choir students in his media room and spoke for approximately 20 minutes including a question and answer period, and photo opportunity. “I plan to work hard to get more money for universities to help schools like Hampton University,” said Governor Northam. During the Q and A session, Governor Northam also spoke about the gun violence in Virginia. “Last year, gun violence in Virginia killed over 1000 of our fellow Virginians. The tipping point was over Memorial weekend in Virginia Beach when we had that mass tragedy when we lost twelve Virginians and four others were wounded significantly. I put eight pieces of what I call common sense gun legislation on the table. Seven of the eight bills passed and we are still working on banning assault weapons,” Northam said.

Students also met with Virginia’s top lawyer Attorney General Mark Herring. He spoke passionately about issues that concern Virginia’s citizens, women’s rights and cannabis reform.

“Women are still discriminated against and do not have the full opportunities. An equal rights amendment would do a lot to guarantee them equality. In addition to raising the level of constitution protection for future generations, it is also important for our children and grandchildren to be able to look at our country’s foundational document and see that it protects them,” Herring said.

Herring also spoke about another hot topic today, cannabis reform. “We’ve got a great opportunity for significant changes in criminal justice reform this year and the years ahead. I think cannabis reform is at the top of the list. Criminalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana is setting up tens of thousands of Virginia citizens to criminal convictions unnecessarily and the way that the system falls on African Americans is disproportionate,” Herring added.

“The Hampton University delegation was able to experience first-hand the importance of servant-leadership and advocacy in action, by addressing a cause near and dear to each of them, as they have a vested interest in eradicating cancer throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Leadership Fellows and Student Leaders strategically approached members of the General Assembly to garner support of the $11.5M announced by Governor Ralph Northam for HUPTI. It was truly a memorable day and I am confident the legislators heard the message loud and clear that our future leaders of the Commonwealth and our beloved nation want to end the misery associated with cancer and they will appropriate the funding for HUPTI,” said Dr. Jarris Louis Taylor, Jr., Director of the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute.

Mr. Bill Thomas, Associate Vice President of Governmental Relations for Hampton University, accompanies the students on this trip every year and left the students with some advice. “I try to get across to the students that you should only support those who support you in your interests. It doesn’t matter if your representatives are Republican or Democrat or Independent, it’s those candidates that support your institutions and your community and your family, nothing else matters, so the emphasis is to take the position that no permanent friends, no permanent enemies, only permanent interests,” said Mr. Thomas.

Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Hampton University Choir, April 17-19

The Hampton University School of Liberal Arts and Education, Music Department and the Hampton University Choirs are celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Hampton University Choir, April 17-19. There will be a Celebration Luncheon featuring two-time Grammy award-winner Ann Nesby and Hampton alumna Henrietta Thomas Telfair, along with a Celebration Concert featuring the Hampton University Choir.

“What an auspicious occasion to celebrate the Hampton University Choir’s 150 amazing years of excellence. Filled with rich musical tradition, the choir has performed in numerous grand venues all over the world, including Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Constitution Hall and many more,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey. “Hampton University has always been and will continue to be a place where the musical arts flourish.”

The first group of Hampton Singers was composed of 17 students; four of whom were former slaves. In the 1870s, General Armstrong traveled the nation with the Hampton Singers to raise money for the fledging school. The ensemble raised more than $300,000 for Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute performing Negro spirituals and plantation songs.

The entire community is invited to this once-in-a-lifetime historic event. Hosting the event will be Brenda Pressley. Ms. Pressley began her New York theatrical career in “And Still I Rise” written and directed by Maya Angelou. She later enjoyed success on Broadway in the original cast of “Dreamgirls” directed by Michael Bennett and as Grizabella in “Cats.” More recently, Pressley appeared on Broadway opposite Linda Lavin in “The Lyons” and with Mercedes Ruehl in The American Plan.” Ms. Pressley also starred opposite Oprah Winfrey in the ABC series “Brewster Place.”

Ann Nesby is the lead vocalist of the inspirational soul troupe The Sounds of Blackness noted for their hit singles, “I’m Going All The Way,” “I Believe,” “The Pressure” and “Optimistic.” As a solo artist, Nesby has garnered six Grammy nominations and as an accomplished songwriter, she has penned songs for Gladys Knight such as “Home Alone” and hit singles, “The Right Kinda Lover” and “Someone Like You” for fellow vocal powerhouse Ms. Patti LaBelle.

Also performing will be Henrietta Thomas Telfair, a native of Jacksonville, Florida where she attended the public schools of Duval County. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education with an emphasis in Elementary Education. She graduated with honors from Hampton Institute, presently Hampton University. Telfair also received her master’s degree in Criminal Justice from Everest University.

“The Hampton University Choir has been and remains an essential part of the fabric of Hampton University. We are very excited to be celebrating the sesquicentennial with all of our choir alumni from across the world,” said Omar Dickenson, Director of University Choirs.

The schedule for the weekend includes a reception in McGrew Towers on Friday, April 17 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Then on Saturday, April 18 enjoy the Celebration Luncheon in the Convocation Center from Noon – 2:00 p.m. On Sunday, rejoice with the Celebration Concert in Ogden Hall starting at 4:00 p.m.
Hampton University Engineering Students Win AMIE Design Challenge for the Third Consecutive Year in a Row

Hampton University students from the School of Engineering and Technology competed in the 3rd Annual Advancing Minorities Interest in Engineering (AMIE) Design Challenge at the Black Engineering of the Year Award (BEYA) STEM Symposium. For the 3rd consecutive year, Hampton University Students won the competition.

“Congratulations to the School of Engineering and Technology on this great accomplishment. This is the type of success that Hamptonians continue to achieve. We are proud of our students for setting the Standard of Excellence at this STEM competition,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

The team of eight Hampton University engineering students included one member from the University of Bahamas, who is attending Hampton due to Hurricane Dorian. The team focused on emergency preparedness and more specifically on a platform that would have eased human suffering during Hurricane Dorian. They used the skills learned from their Hampton University engineering courses and workshops to execute a plan. The team interviewed a group of displaced University of Bahamas students who were also impacted by Hurricane Dorian. Of the many unmet needs discovered during this interview process, the team focused on one innovative problem statement: “How might we aide those susceptible to connectivity failures during a hurricane contact first responders and loved ones?” To help answer their problem statement, the team designed FlyComm, a drone and buoy based system to maintain cellular communications from air to sea during service interruptions (e.g., during/after major storms).

“My trip to Washington, D.C. for the 2020 BEYA STEM Conference was amazing. The trip was really a learning experience for me because I did not know what to expect. This year’s Design Team felt that we had some big shoes to fill, especially because the previous Hampton University Design Team won the competition last year and the year before. My team and I spent countless hours preparing for the Conference, and we encouraged each other to do our best and also to have fun,” said Anthony Stubbs, freshman, chemical engineering major from The Bahamas. “As we sat down and waited for the judge’s decision, there was huge tension in the atmosphere. Everyone had their fingers and toes crossed. Fortunately, we were able to come out on top once again giving Hampton University the three-peat title for the competition. I am just delighted to be a part of the Hampton University Design Team this year, being able to repeat history and win the competition for a third time.”

Hampton University was announced as the first place winner of the Annual AMIE Design Challenge and remains the only first place winner in the history of the engineering design challenge. The winners received monetary awards for their accomplishment. “I am excited and honored to have served as the 2020 Hampton University AMIE Design Challenge team faculty advisor. It was a great challenge to win first place for the third year in a row, but this year’s team was extremely motivated and eager to advance their design to the next level. Further, I was thrilled to have a student from the University of Bahamas on the team as he has provided great insight,” said AMIE design team faculty advisor and Hampton University associate professor, Dr. Jerald Dumas.

“Our students continue to win because they display the technical skills and the character instilled in them at Hampton University. Hampton University is truly a value-added institution and our students never fail to show this value to the world. They worked closely with their faculty advisor, Dr. Jerald Dumas, as well as their Net App advisors, Mr. Rodney Scurllock and Mr. Joseph Brown. Moreover, they convened several times per week over a three-week period to perfect the accuracy of their design. Lastly, they had the confidence to convey it to the judges and the crowd of hundreds in Washington, D.C. “,” said Dean of the School of Engineering and Technology, Dr. Joyce Shirazi.


The 2020 AMIE Design Challenge Hampton University Team Members as follows:

Chauncey Upsher – Computer Engineering – Junior
Vicky Olivier – Chemical Engineering – Senior
Kristopher Small – Electrical Engineering – Junior
Anthony Stubbs* – Chemical Engineering – Freshman
Lawrence Miles – Electrical Engineering – Sophomore
Noel Thomas – Chemical Engineering – Freshman
Bria Terrell – Chemical Engineering – Freshman
Larry Luster – Chemical Engineering – Junior

*University of the Bahamas

53rd Hampton Jazz Festival Lineup is Set

The 53rd Annual Hampton Jazz Festival announced the lineup of the artists performing at this year’s event. The Festival will take place at Hampton Coliseum – June 26, 27 & 28. Confirmed artists are as follows:

Friday features the return of one of the all-time Hampton Jazz Festival favorites - Charlie Wilson - who continues to churn out hit after hit after hit. Andra Day, whose hit “Rise Up” has become something of a national-anthem, will make her festival debut. Jonathan Butler makes another return visit to the HJF stage after the smooth vocals of local artist Liz Terrell opens the festival.

Saturday will continue heating up the weekend with headliner Anthony Hamilton, whose phenomenal performance at last year’s festival ensured his return for 2020. Arié will showcase her incredible artistry with her multitude of powerful hits like “Steady Love.” Brian Culbertson makes his return to the festival with his unique style and undeniable talent just after the “Go Go” music of the Chuck Brown Band gets the party going.

The 53rd Annual Hampton Jazz Festival will shine a spotlight on the number one request for 2020 – KEM. His neo-soul classics and audience engagement make him heir apparent to the festival closer. Fantasia will also return to the HJF stage to wow audiences with her incredible vocal prowess. Smooth Jazz will fill the venue by way of Jazz Funk Soul, featuring Jeff Lorber, Everette Harp and Paul Jackson, Jr. just after The B.B. King Experience gives a glowing tribute to the late, great blues guitarist.

Tickets to the 53rd Annual Hampton Jazz Festival are priced at $83 per seat, per day, plus applicable fees. Tickets can be bought on Ticketmaster.com or at the Hampton Coliseum Box Office.

Festival patrons can receive additional information about the festival online at www.hamptonjazzfestival.com or by calling (757) 838-4203. Travelers interested in hotel/motel information should contact the Hampton Visitor Center at 1-800-800-2202.

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