Hampton University Welcomes Incoming Freshmen During Two-Day Move-In

Clothes, shoes, mirrors, bedding, boxes of packaged soup, and more littered the halls and dorm rooms at Hampton University as parents, aunts, uncles, and siblings helped new freshmen students get set up in their home for the next year during the two-day freshman move-in.

Several organizations from all over Hampton University’s campus were available to help move the new students’ belongings straight into their rooms for them. It was a time for meeting new roommates, Resident Advisors, and getting to know the campus where they chose to begin the next adventure in their lives.

Xavier Gray from Atlanta, who is majoring in childhood education, chose to attend Hampton University, “because of the location, the campus, and it has exactly what I’m looking for in a college,” he said.

Xavier’s mother, Adrienne Gray, is excited for him to start his college journey. “We’re really excited about him attending Hampton, it was really important to me for him to attend an HBCU. Hampton was definitely one of my top choices and it became his as well, and we have many family members who have attended HBCU’s so they are important in our family,” Gray said. “I like the Standard of Excellence that Hampton has and so I want him to come and create his own Standard of Excellence and contribute positively to the Hampton community and I’m looking forward to him becoming a Hamptonian.”

Another new student brought his entire family with him from Maryland. “I’m looking forward to meeting new people, seeing new faces, and beginning my new life,” said Montego Felix, new freshman business major. Montego’s father, Darron, is excited for his son to be a Hamptonian. “I’m looking forward to him having new experiences, new challenges, his next steps in life and him focusing and having a chance to be on his own and making sure it’s getting done, you know, getting to the next level,” he said.

Amaya Pratt, incoming freshman chose psychology as her major. “I want to help autistic kids express their emotions so I chose psychology and maybe a minor in music and help the kids through music,” she said.

“I’m really excited about meeting new people who are like me, that think like me and that are open to change and different perspectives,” said Ayjah Johnson from Hopewell, Va.

There were several activities planned for the students and their families throughout the weekend, including an open mic night and talent show, and the Opening Session which included a warm welcome address from Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey, where he doled out sound advice to new freshmen. “Your success at Hampton is not a game of chance, it’s a game of choice. Please remember that all choices have consequences. If you make the wrong choice, you can throw away your future, your livelihood, your health and even your life. Make mature choices that will advance your knowledge, choices that will enable you to have good relationships, and make mature choices that will enhance your future,” Dr. Harvey said. “From this day forward you have become a part of a rich community, to live by the virtue of our illustrious history, unparalleled heritage, dignified traditions and local values. We hope that you will come to think of Hampton University as your new home, your ‘Home by the Sea,’ a place where you can take immeasurable pride. I am pleased to begin this journey with you, the Hampton class of 2022, Hampton has much to offer you, but more importantly, you have much to offer Hampton. Here you will be nurtured by those charged with the task of providing you with education for life. Live a good life, a respectable life, and understand that that’s the Hampton way, and the quality difference between a place like Hampton and other institutions.”

Jordan McKinney, Hampton University senior, political science major, and Hampton University Student Government Association President, was walking around Harkness Hall, helping out when needed. “Move-in is going great, it’s great to see the new freshmen coming in, we’re welcoming them into their ‘Home by the Sea.’ We have different organizations here helping out, and it’s just a great experience here today.” He also handed out advice to new students. “Take it all in, don’t feel like you need to rush or compare yourself to anybody else. We are all in this Hampton journey individually, and although we’re all one family as Hamptonians, we have our own individual paths, so with that, don’t feel like you need to fit some mold, because there’s no one mold here. It’s just a great time to take advantage and enjoy everything this campus has to offer,” McKinney said.

Reghan Pullins from Michigan visited Hampton University twice before and has known for a long time she would become a Hamptonian. “Hampton University was the only place I felt like I was at home so that was important,” she said. “I’m looking forward to making new friends, and checking out organizations like the choir and maybe Ebony Fire.” Reghan’s mother, Ebony Pullins-Govantes, was in her daughter’s dorm room putting together shelves and making sure she would be set after she leaves at the end of the weekend. She also left her daughter some great advice. “Stay focused, enjoy this time, stay true to yourself, make sure you get them grades and bring us home a degree.”
Motivational Speaker Curt Steinhorst Addresses the 73rd Annual Fall Educational Staff Institute

Hampton University takes it ‘Back to the Basics: Building Character Across the Millennials, Generation X and Z,’ for the 73rd Annual Fall Educational Staff Institute.

The opening plenary session included a warm and welcoming introduction from Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey, to the new faculty who will officially be joining various departments beginning this fall.

“I want to take the time to acknowledge the new employees, as well as returning faculty. Thank you so much for what you do for our university. Our students look to you for educational support, guidance, and mentorship,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey. “Because of you all, Hampton University continues to uphold THE standard of excellence.”

Certified Generational Keynote Speaker for The Center for Generation Kinetics, Curt Steinhorst, was the man of the hour as he addressed dozens of new and returning faculty. Steinhorst has received standing ovations for his powerful delivery sharing his experiences working with many individuals across North America and Europe. His entertaining speaking style has engaged and inspired many audiences, as well as Hampton University’s new and returning faculty. As a millennial himself, Steinhorst has served as a speaking coach for top performers, executives, and TV personalities.

Dr. Neelam Azad, Chairperson and Associate Professor for the Hampton University Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received her second independent investigator award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The grant is titled, “Targeting Lipogenic and Angiogenic Mediators in Pulmonary Fibrosis,” and is a follow up to her previous grant in 2011. The period of funding is from July 2018 through May 2022, with a first year funding amount of $343,000, and for a total funding amount of $1,269,500 over the next four years.

The seasoned speaker began his address by asking the audience to participate in an interactive exercise to jump start his lecture. He continued by covering the different learning styles of millennials, Generation X, and Z. The most asked question was regarding the attention span of the new generation.

“We have to compel this generation by being more committed to communicating in a way that actually shows excitement. Information outside of emotion has no value unless someone who has the access to the information. So how do we prioritize as leaders that we’re going to show up and effectively communicate? There is nothing more valuable than capturing the attention when it’s being presented by someone who is more passionate about it and willing to work,” said Steinhorst. “Also, it’s totally fair and reasonable that you would ask students when they enter into the classroom, to follow policies around the use of technology.”

Steinhorst has made it his mission to help prepare faculty around the country with the tools and strategies necessary to engage students of this new generation. His unique insight and entertaining speaking style has captured the attention of audiences worldwide and it was a true honor to have Steinhorst at Hampton University.

Hampton University Concludes Annual Business of Engineering Program

Hampton University wrapped up their annual Business of Engineering summer camp on June 30, 2018. The camp was filled with high school students practicing projects that demonstrate the interdependence of engineering and business.

“This program allows high school students to explore the ins and outs of both business and engineering,” said Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey. “Students get the chance to work together as a team, while challenging their work ethic. This program is not only necessary preparation for their education, but for their professional career, and we are excited to be part of it.”

Throughout the program, students were challenged with real-world decision making, using valuable techniques within the fields of business and engineering in making real-world choices. They were introduced to the engineering methodology of the entertaining, yet challenging world of engineering. Students participated in design contest, case studies, and educational field trips.

“It is a good experience to be involved in the Business of Engineering summer program as we introduce students to the integrated worlds of business and engineering,” said Dr. Jerald Dumas, Assistant Professor for the Hampton University School of Engineering. “The program is beneficial to students because they experience a myriad of activities that expose them to both engineering and business concepts. Such activities prepare them for a challenging case study that prepares them to work as teams and become effective communicators of their ideas.”

The program challenged students to make decisions exercised in engineering and business projects that affect their daily lives. It is anticipated that when these students make decisions about their college careers in the future, they will have a better understanding of what to expect in their respective career paths.

“Overall, this was a very innovative experience that helped me learn a lot about business and I never really knew much about it,” said Amanuel Yoseph, rising ninth grader from Newport News, Va. “I also taught me how to speak up when I’m presenting, so that was very helpful for me.”

In just two weeks, the Business of Engineering program engaged students through collaborative and interactive activities, and challenged students through the exposure of problem solving techniques.

For more information about next year’s Business of Engineering summer program, go to http://busofeng.weebly.com/.

Hampton University Professor Receives $1,269,500 Grant

Dr. Neelam Azad, Chairperson and Associate Professor for the Hampton University Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received her second independent investigator award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The grant is titled, “Targeting Lipogenic and Angiogenic Mediators in Pulmonary Fibrosis,” and is a follow up to her previous grant in 2011. The period of funding is from July 2018 through May 2022, with a first year funding amount of $343,000, and for a total funding amount of $1,269,500 over the next four years.

“Congratulations to Dr. Azad on her very deserving grant award,” said Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey. “We are very proud of her and are excited to see our professors receiving awards, and serving as great mentors for our hardworking Hampton University students.”

Dr. Anand Iyer, Dean of the Hampton University School of Pharmacy who also serves as a collaborator on the grant commends Dr. Azad on her success and leadership. “Dr. Azad is an outstanding scientist, and her leadership in research has contributed significantly to our fundraising efforts, which is a major priority for the School and the University.”

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Hampton University Showcased in 24 Fall Dates on ESPN+

Hampton University fans will get to enjoy HU athletes on a whole new level this fall as the Big South has partnered with ESPN+, bringing 24 Hampton dates to a national audience.

Hampton will see 12 volleyball matches, six soccer matches, and all six football home games on ESPN+ as presentations of the Big South Network.

ESPN+ is the exclusive streaming home of Big South Network productions. Fans can subscribe to ESPN+ for just $4.99 a month (or $49.99 per year). ESPN+ is an integrated part of the completely redesigned ESPN App.

Below is the schedule, sorted by date, that Hampton will appear on ESPN+. The schedule is subject to change with the most up-to-date schedules being listed on BigSouthSports.com. All contests are available exclusively on ESPN+. All Big South Championships, beginning with quarterfinal action, will also be broadcast on ESPN+.

SEPTEMBER*
9/21 – Volleyball at Presbyterian
9/22 – Soccer at Winthrop
9/27 – Volleyball vs. UNC Asheville
9/28 – Volleyball vs. USC Upstate
9/29 – Football vs. Charleston Southern
9/30 – Soccer vs. USC Upstate

OCTOBER*
10/3 – Soccer at Longwood
10/5 – Volleyball at Radford
10/6 – Football vs. Lenoir-Rhyne
10/10 – Soccer vs. Radford
10/12 – Volleyball at Gardner-Webb
10/13 – Soccer at UNC Asheville
10/16 – Volleyball vs. Campbell
10/19 – Volleyball at High Point
10/20 – Volleyball vs. Gardner-Webb
10/23 – Volleyball at Campbell
10/27 – Football vs. Virginia-Lynchburg
10/30 – Volleyball vs. Norfolk State

NOVEMBER*
11/2 – Volleyball at UNC Asheville
11/3 – Volleyball at USC Upstate
11/17 – Football vs. St. Andrews

*Schedule subject to change.
Hampton University Computer Science Pre-College Students Attend Program for Free & Get Prepped for the Fall

Each summer, Hampton University hosts a campus-wide Pre-College program for incoming freshmen. One department, however, offers a very specific and unique Pre-College experience for their entering freshmen students. Hampton University’s Department of Computer Science offers their Pre-College students attendance at absolutely no cost for the entire summer program, and work to ensure that they are ready for the rigorous curriculum come fall.

“The Pre-College experience is vital for future Hampton University students to gain leadership skills, to meet friends, and to excel academically to ensure future success, and it’s truly amazing that the Computer Science students have this unique opportunity available to them,” said Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey.

The Computer Science Pre-College program started with the help of a National Science Foundation (NSF) Historically Black Colleges and Universities – Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP) Grant in 2014. There were many students majoring in Computer Science who began the program but were ill-equipped with the necessary tools to be successful. “Our retention rate was not high and we had to do something about that and so we received the HBCU-UP Grant that looked at our curriculum and helped tweak it, but more than that, it gave us a Pre-College program and to see if we can bring those incoming freshmen in, prep them for what they did not get in high school, such as programming and math deficiencies, and to set them up for success for their four years here at Hampton University,” said Dr. Jean Muhammad, Chair of the Hampton University Department of Computer Science.

The Hampton University Department of Computer Science Pre-College program is completely free for incoming freshmen students who are Computer Science majors and will be attending Hampton University in the fall following the summer program. Students take two classes, a math course and a programming course, stay in the dorms for the 5 weeks of the program, are given books and a meal plan, and there is no cost to the students.

“This is a great recruiting tool for us, the parents can send their students to us to get prepared for the fall and they won’t have to worry about the cost of the summer. The only thing they pay for is the travel to the campus and the travel home, but books, class, everything is free. They get credit for those courses they take as well,” said Dr. Muhammad.

And each year the professors in charge of the program ensure the curriculum is meeting the needs of the students. “We change the curriculum each summer. We always started off with problem solving and computational thinking, followed by building block programming and ended with Java programming. But we realized over the years that we should start them off with Java early so that they will be ready for their first programming course in the fall. And that was what we did this year,” said Chutima Boonthum-Denecke, Professor for the Hampton University Department of Computer Science.

Although this program started out as grant funded, the department has had to rely on industry partners to fund the program each year. Thanks to Google, Lockheed Martin, Yahoo, and Accenture, the Department of Computer Science has been able to offer this fully funded program for the last five years. It’s important for these industry partners to contribute to programs like these because the hope is that eventually these students will work for them.

“There’s a national crisis for computer science, there are just not enough students across the nation with U.S. citizenship and that’s a fact and when you add to that minority students, African American students, then the number gets miniscule, so that’s how we ended up getting that grant, but NSF never is meant to be sustainable, it is always meant to get you started and then you have to maintain your own sustainability,” said Dr. Muhammad. “Our sustainability plan was to go to our corporate and industry partners and ask them to support us, showing them the data that we collected, specifically showing them the student quality and retention rate of students that completed the Pre-College program.”

For more information about the Computer Science Pre-College program, contact the Department of Computer Science at 757-727-5552.

Hampton University Hosts 21st Annual WRHLI High School Leadership Summit

Hampton University hosted the 21st Annual William R. Harvey Leadership Institute High School Leadership Summit from July 8 – 14, 2018. This year’s theme was 21st Century Leaders: The Millennial Generation, specifically designed to help rising high school juniors and seniors focus on “The Leader Within,” while gaining knowledge about Dr. William R. Harvey’s Ten Step Leadership Model. This residential program provided students with opportunities to establish a plan for after graduation through several challenging, but beneficial programs throughout the summit.

“This year’s 21st Annual Leadership Summit was very beneficial for these young high school students. They were introduced to a plethora of public figures throughout the Hampton Roads community,” said Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey. “Each year, I look forward to speaking to these bright and gifted youth, encouraging them to reach the highest heights and to fully invest in themselves."

This year’s summit hosted sixty-three rising high school juniors and seniors from various states across the country. The participants were introduced to a team of professional front-runners who shared their leadership styles and professional experiences, representing diverse professional backgrounds. Some of the presenters included, award-winning reporter, Mr. Don Roberts; Mrs. Janesa C. Moore Hunter who works for the Executive Office of The President, Office of the United States Trade Representative; Ambassador James R. Bullington, who served in Busch Gardens Amusement Park industry partners to fund the program each year. Thanks to Google, Lockheed Martin, Yahoo, and Accenture, the Department of Computer Science has been able to offer this fully funded program for the last five years. It’s important for these industry partners to contribute to programs like these because the hope is that eventually these students will work for them.

“You really enjoyed giving back to these students and counselors. After attending the summit, I set a goal for myself to attend Hampton University and to become a camp counselor the following year,” said Jala Tucker, WRHLI Leadership Fellow and rising sophomore at Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey after he provided remarks at the closing ceremony. Some students also received a personalized copy of President Harvey’s latest book, “Principles of Leadership: The Harvey Leadership Model.”

“When I attended the summit last year, I had an amazing experience with the other students and counselors. After attending the summit, I set a goal for myself to attend Hampton University and to become a camp counselor the following year,” said Jala Tucker, WRHLI Leadership Fellow and rising sophomore at Hampton University. “I soon realized the power of speaking your vision into existence. As a counselor, I wanted to make an impact on the students and help them understand their value and worth as young gifted minds. I really enjoyed giving back to these students and to the Leadership Institute which helped shape me into the leader I am today.”

The William R. Harvey Leadership Institute Summit Included:

- The Harvey Leadership Model
- 14 Guest Speakers
- Leadership & Team Building Activities
- A Trip to Busch Gardens Amusement Park

Workshop Topics Included:
1. The Model United Nations
2. 21st Century Civic Leadership
3. Father & Son: A Multigenerational Perspective
4. Financial Literacy – Preparing for College
Mrs. Doretha Spells, Hampton University Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer, Featured in Magazine

Serving as the first woman in Hampton University’s history in her current position, Mrs. Spells speaks in the article about a “learning curve” associated with being a woman in her position of authority and dealing with areas dominated by male leadership. “At times I think women have to work a little harder at it or maybe be a little tougher to let them know this is going to happen,” she says in the article. “Pretty soon they realize I am a no-nonsense person, and I believe in getting the job done by any means necessary.”

Mrs. Spells also speaks highly about Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey in the article and how she is honored to be part of the Hampton University family. “Dr. Harvey is a true visionary, and he always has believed there are no small dreams,” she said in the article. “To be a part of it – every day it’s something new. We learn something new; we do something different.”

“Mrs. Spells is an amazing woman and I truly proud of everything she has accomplished, both personally and professionally for Hampton University,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey. “I believe and have always believed in hiring the best person for the job, whether that be a man or a woman, and in fact, most of my staff are women because as it turns out, not surprisingly so, they were the most qualified people for each position.”

Mrs. Spells was happy to be able to contribute to the magazine. “I was so excited to be interviewed and appear in this month’s issue of CoVaBiz Magazine as a Leading Lady,” said Mrs. Doretha Spells, Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer for Hampton University. “It has been truly a humbling experience to be recognized in this manner.”

Hampton University Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications Welcomes Congressman Robert C. Scott to their State of the Art TV Studio

Congressman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott of Virginia was welcomed to the Hampton University Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications TV studio. Congressman Scott, who is serving his thirteenth term, representing Virginia’s Third Congressional District, requested to utilize the state of the art television studio at Hampton University to tape a PSA.

“Hampton University takes pride in welcoming some of the most successful leaders like Congressman Scott,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey. “Our studio in the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications is furnished with high quality equipment to create valuable content. It was an honor to have Congressman Scott utilize our resources.”

Founded in 2002, the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications emphasizes excellence and innovation while adhering to the core standards and ethical principles of the industry. Students have full-access to the amenities at the school, as well as to the high skilled and experienced professors. Through an earned reputation of excellence and achievement among various academic and professional communities, students and graduates have earned internships with organizations such as Google, The Washington Post, NBC, CNN and many more.

“It was a great opportunity for me to do a recording here. This is a great facility at the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications,” said Congressman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott. “We enjoy using these services here to record content and the students do an amazing job in making sure the work gets done. It’s great to be here and have this type of resource in Hampton Roads.”

Hampton University Joins Verizon Innovative Learning to Offer STEM and Technology Courses to Minority Male Middle School Students

The Hampton University and Verizon Innovative Learning are partnering to bring several Hampton City Schools minority male middle school students to Hampton University’s campus. The program, which began on July 2, 2018 and runs through July 20, offers the students immersive science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities.

“It’s wonderful that these bright, young male students are able to participate and be involved in the Verizon Innovative Learning community and receive the technology education that they deserve,” said Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey. “At Hampton, we want to ensure every student, even the ones at such a young age, are able to see that absolutely anything is possible.”

By 2020, 77% of US jobs will require technology skills, yet millions of students lack access to technology and resources to help them thrive in a digital economy. Verizon Innovative Learning, the education initiative of the Verizon Foundation, addresses this issue by providing free technology, free access and innovative curriculum to students impacted by the digital divide.

During the time the students are on campus, they take several classes each day, such as Design Thinking, 3D Modeling, and Electronics, taught by university professors. They will also be creating products using the skills they learn in the various classes. “The goal of this class is to teach the students about design and the process that it takes in order to design a solution successfully, so they’re going to be asked to actually create a solution based on the sustainable development goals developed by the UN, and so they go all the way from analysis of the problem to implementation of a solution,” said Dr. Deshea Simon, Program Manager and teacher of the Design Thinking class. “At the end of the program, they will have a physical product to show that addresses one of the sustainable development goals.”

The students involved in the program are all bright, young individuals who are excited to be part of the learning experience and gain life knowledge each day. “It’s not every day that you can learn about augmented and virtual reality, creative thinking, computer science and computer design,” said middle school student Jonathan Jackson, who attends Spratley Gifted Center. “When you hear about these things, you kind of want to take advantage of them because you never know when you’re going to experience them or see them in life.”

Gabriel Monroe, a middle school student from Huntington Middle School, has learned quite a bit from the program already. “I’ve learned a lot from the professors, like building and variable light speed,” said Monroe. “I’ve been learning how to place things in augmented reality, how to use a 3D printer, and how to solve world issues. Especially, how to interact with your group members to achieve a project, instead of taking the entire load yourself.”

Students of the Verizon Innovative Learning program are 53% more engaged in school, three times better in math, and two times better in reading.

“This is an excellent opportunity for these young men to be exposed to emerging technology and to be immersed in technology as creative thinkers of the technology solutions that impacts local and global communities,” said Dr. Otsebele E. Nare, Hampton University VIL Program Leader and Associate Professor for the Hampton University School of Engineering. “We thank Verizon for the vision and support of this program, as well as continuing this partnership with Hampton University.”

While on campus, students also meet with mentors whom they will remain in contact with throughout the following year. Mentors help teach respect, how to present to an audience, and how to work together in teams.