Hampton University Celebrates 127th Founder’s Day Ceremony Honoring General Samuel Chapman Armstrong

Hampton University celebrated the 127th Annual Founder’s Day Ceremony on Sunday, January 26, 2020. From the commemorative service for Hampton University Founder, General Samuel Chapman Armstrong, to a wonderful tribute for the same man from President Dr. William R. Harvey, and a moving keynote address from Christopher Newport University President Paul S. Trible, it was a truly wonderful day.

Founder’s Day began at the Hampton University Cemetery where Dr. Harvey placed a wreath on General Armstrong’s tombstone, commemorating all he did for the University.

“Thank you for joining me as we pay tribute to our legendary great visionary founder, General Samuel Chapman Armstrong. We pause here today to remember this great man,” Dr. Harvey said. “Hampton University has a tradition of excellence, which we have had since the moment that General Armstrong set foot on these hallowed grounds. Our tradition of being excellent began with him. Not only did General Armstrong envision Hampton as a haven for the education of African Americans in 1868, but he pioneered Native American education when others didn’t see that need.”

The Founder’s Day Address took place in historic Ogden Hall.

The Hampton University Symphonic Choir opened up the day with a beautiful and poignant rendition of “The Battle of Jericho.” Then, President Harvey paid tribute to Hampton’s Founder, and later on introduced the keynote speaker, Senator Paul S. Trible, Jr., President of Christopher Newport University.

“General Armstrong’s genius is just as apparent today as it was in 1868. His vision, courage and determination brought forth to fruition our beloved Hampton,” Dr. Harvey said. “Who was this man? General Armstrong’s Williams College classmate, Reverend Dr. John Denison, said he was a combination of fire and ice. Of hot passion, and cold intellect. In fact, all kinds of opposites united him. He was philosophic, yet combative. Earnest, yet triumphant. Serious, yet ridiculous. Of earth, as well as of the Heavenly Spirit. Restless, yet possessing a depth of his soul. Clearly, his classmate thought that he was a man of all seasons.”

Senator Paul S. Trible, Jr., was appointed Christopher Newport’s fifth president in 1996. Under his leadership, the university has become a top choice for high-ability students across America. He has overseen wholesale improvements to academic offerings and a complete transformation of the campus into a world-class liberal arts and sciences university.

During his address, Trible talked about how each person in this world should take responsibility for making it a better place.

“America and this world desperately need more good people like Samuel Chapman Armstrong and William Robert Harvey, who with minds and hearts and great dreams, lead, serve, love and set the world on fire,” Trible said. “Today, I want to speak to the young people but I hope this might be an appropriate message for all. We need young women and men desperately who will pursue excellence in all things, possess a passion for engagement, a moral compass to direct and define their lives, and a powerful sense of responsibility.”

Trible also spoke on having big dreams and the discipline to work hard to achieve them. “Don’t waste your life on modest dreams. Dream large, make your life a great adventure and change the world,” Trible said. “Discipline and hard work are essential. Some people dream of success, while others wake up and work hard to achieve it. The future is with the self-disciplined, the person who will work while others waste their time, who will study while others sleep, and who will pray while others play.”

Dr. Harvey then presented Presidential Citizenship Awards to President Trible; Lawrence Davis, a retired U.S. Air Force serviceman, prostate cancer survivor and graduate of the Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute; and the Honorable Louis R. Lerner, a retired circuit court judge from the 8th Judicial Circuit in Virginia.

Dr. Harvey also spoke about the last three sculptures to gain residence in Legacy Park, which have officially been installed. The three sculptures are of Susan B. LaFlesche, the first Native American to earn a medical degree in this country; Rueben Burrell, Hampton’s official photographer who worked on campus for 66 years; and Frederick Douglass, whom after escaping from slavery in Maryland, became a national leader of the abolitionist movement, gaining note for his oratory and incisive antislavery writings. Douglass visited campus in 1884 and said, “I have seen London, I have seen Edinburgh, I have seen Venice, I have seen the Coliseum, I have seen the British Museum, but I have not seen the world if I had not seen Hampton Institute.”

PRESIDENTIAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS (PRESENTED BY DR. WILLIAM R. HARVEY)
Hundreds of Talladegians, students, faculty, staff, alumni, local and state officials, as well as other leaders in higher education, braved the cold temperature and threat of rain to be on-site for the historic homecoming for alumni and Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey. Harvey, a member of the class of 1961, and his family’s record gift of $1.3 million to Talladega College was monumental in the creation of the Dr. William R. Harvey Museum of Art, the new permanent home for the world-renowned Amistad Murals, painted by Hale Woodruff, located on the Historically Black College campus.

“Talladega College has done so much for me and others,” Dr. Harvey said. “It’s a real pleasure for me to be able to support Talladega, its students, its president, and its faculty.”

Talladega College’s Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Lisa Long presided over the ribbon cutting ceremony that featured remarks from more than 25 speakers ranging from Talladega’s President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins, past and present chairmen of Talladega’s Board of Trustees, Talladega’s current Student Government President, campus faculty and staff, CEO of the United Negro College Fund, U.S. Department of Education Representatives, City and State Representatives, other college presidents and the curators responsible for the care and restoration of the Amistad Murals.

The ceremony was brought to a close with a standing ovation for an emotional Dr. Harvey whose remarks reflected on the immense impact that Talladega has made on his personal life and historic career as a leader in higher education and in business. He also shared priceless information to the current students at Talladega, who will carry the responsibility of forging the next chapter in their institution’s history.

“I want you all to know that the Lord has ordered my steps,” said Dr. Harvey, “I could not have done all the things that I have done if it were not for the Lord. One of the things that Talladega taught me is that Talladega folk care. I hope that some of you older Talladegians remember people like Dr. Hopson and Ms. Montgomery, Professor Harrison and many others.”

“Understanding the impact alone that this institution has played in my life and recognizing the importance of giving back and supporting Black colleges is the primary reason that Dr. Hawkins came to my office. And I am just as happy as I could be. I hope that some of you can continue this. I like to raise money for worthy causes and this is absolutely a worth cause. For those students that are here, I want you to know how fortunate you are to be a part of this great legacy that is Talladega College. The kind of leadership you have is absolutely outstanding. Board members, continue to support him, because he needs support,” said Dr. Harvey.

“If any one really wants to be a leader, if anyone really wants to be great, if anyone really wants to be a person of honor, I want to tell you something, to both the young and old, you must do what Jesus said, serve others,” said Dr. Harvey.

In addition to housing and preserving the Amistad Murals and other works of historic and artistic value, the Dr. William R. Harvey Museum of Art will help maintain the legacy of Woodruff and advance local, regional and national tourism.

In 2008, Talladega College President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins had the murals removed from the walls of Savery Library, where they had hung for almost 70 years, and had them appraised. They were valued at $40 million, but in danger of disintegrating. With the assistance of the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, GA, the murals were restored and sent on a three-year, eight-city tour. They received rave reviews from the New York Times and the value of the historic collection soared to $80 million.

Tours at the Dr. William R. Harvey Museum of Art will begin in March.

**Three Hampton University Department of Sociology Students Accepted into Top Research Summer Programs and Law School**

The Hampton University Department of Sociology is celebrating three of its students as they recently received acceptances into prestigious summer research programs and law school.

Martine Augustin, criminal justice major, is also a sociology minor on the Pre-Law Track from Philadelphia with a 3.75 cumulative GPA. She is active and involved on campus, and serves as the Vice President of Pre Law Society, and Miss of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity. Last summer, Augustin studied abroad in London and interned at Nike World Headquarters as a Jordan Brand Global Digital Marketing and Legal Intern. She wants to empower, influence, and change policies through law, with her ultimate goal of becoming a Supreme Court Justice.

Ericka Stansbury is from Wilmington, DE and is a member of several honor societies, including the Golden Key International Honour Society. She has been awarded merit-based scholarships and holds a 3.62 GPA and is currently working as a research assistant for Dr. Zina McGee, conducting research on maternal incarceration and childhood outcomes. She is passionate about juvenile justice studies, and will use her opportunity at Berkeley to conduct research on the sociological factors that lead to childhood adversity. She has also worked in the community as a peer advisor, and plans to obtain a Ph.D. in her field.

Sominishia Wright is also a sociology minor from Dorchester, MA. She has participated in two summer internships at the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department House of Correction, and is currently working as a research assistant for Dr. Zina McGee, conducting research on juvenile victimization and coping mechanisms and childhood outcomes. She has a 4.0 GPA and has received merit-based scholarships. Wright holds membership in the Freddy T. Davy Honors College, Golden Key International Honour Society, and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society. Upon graduation, she will be studying incarceration and recidivism in a Ph.D. program.
Dr. Shahid M. Shahidullah, Professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Hampton University, recently published his seventh book titled “Modernity, Modernization, and Globalization: Issues and Challenges of the 21st Century.” In this volume, published in 2019 by NOVA Science Publications of New York, Dr. Shahidullah has assembled an impressive array of social scientists from different regions of the world, including Hampton University’s Dr. Zina McGee of the Department of Sociology and Dr. Mohammed Sillah of the Department of History and Political Science, to examine issues and challenges of modernization and globalization in the 21st century.

“This latest book is another great example of Hampton University’s professors leading the way in today’s society. Drs. Shahid Shahidullah, Zina McGee and Mohammed Sillah’s work is just one of the many contributions to the world that Hampton University has made over the last 150 years,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

“This book attempts to explore the directionality of the present world in the context of the recent rise of a series of unforeseen social and political events, such as the rise of global terrorism, the global spread of the war on terror, global religious violence and intolerance, and the global political expansion of the ultra-rights espousing the ideology of racism, sexism, nativism, and xenophobia,” Dr. Shahidullah said.

This book also claims that global modernity, particularly under the American mission of expanding what Thomas Jefferson called the “empire of liberty,” has been progressing across the world societies for more than two hundred years. Every American President from George Washington to Barack Obama, despite their different political views and ideology, upholds the doctrine of “manifest destiny” and “American Exceptionalism” to spread the “empire of liberty” in all across the world societies. The book documents that modernity and liberalism have remarkably advanced, particularly since the second half of the twentieth century. The world economy has become more global, world democracy has expanded, the global middle class has vastly grown, women’s economic and political empowerments have widened, and global digital connectivity has increased. These social and economic transformations, the book argues, are far more fundamental for the future progress of democracy and global modernity. The further spread of global modernity is inevitable and irreversible. The present right-wing ideologies of nativism, localism, nationalism, fundamentalism, and divisiveness in the global political trajectory is transient and temporal peculiarities.

“Modernity, Modernization, and Globalization: Issues and Challenges of the 21st Century” is uniquely dedicated to the memory of the lives lost in the Christchurch Mosque massacre in New Zealand; the Easter Sunday Church execution in Sri Lanka; the Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh; and the Holey Artisan Bakery slaying in Dhaka—the incidents according to Dr. Shahidullah, summoned the world for understanding the conviction of humanism which is the essence of modernity. About America, the book concludes by reminding us what President Abraham Lincoln once said to the nation in much darker days of the civil war, that America will again be touched “by the better angels of our nature.”

Dr. Shahid says that his next project includes two books. One is titled “Sociology for the New Digital Tribe of the 21st Century” to be published by Cognella Publishers (under contract), and another title is “Advances in Global Cyber Security Law and Regulations,” to be published by IGI Global (under contract). The later volume will be co-edited by Dr. Zina McGee and Dr. Ava Marrow of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

Hampton University Welcomes Dr. Kristie Norwood as the Director of Student Counseling Center

Hampton University is excited to announce the hire of Dr. Kristie Norwood as the Director of the Student Counseling Center (SCC). Dr. Norwood is a licensed clinical psychologist and recently worked at the Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center as the Assistant Chief of Psychology, working primarily with veterans dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder.

“We are excited to welcome Dr. Kristie Norwood as the Director of the Student Counseling Center. Her background working with veterans, along with her exceptional training ensures that she will excel in this position and uphold our Standard of Excellence,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Dr. Norwood has always been a mental health advocate, program developer and wants to help decrease the stigma of mental health. “I’ve always wanted to work with marginalized populations, including populations of people who were suffering and struggling. Working with ethnic minority populations was important to me as well and I was able to do that with veterans and now able to do that with students too,” Dr. Norwood said.

The Student Counseling Center offers individualized counseling for students who need assistance with personal concerns, emotional distress and much more. “We provide mental health care to students for any issue they have going on which is impacting their mental wellness. Typical issues that we see include adjustment to college, identity issues, depression, managing anxiety; and dealing with trauma. We also see students who are coping with elevated levels of stress, especially during mid-terms and finals,” Dr. Norwood said.

Dr. Norwood is excited about her position and helping to decrease the stigma of mental health. “I want to help students and the campus community as a whole understand that it is okay to get help. We all go through ups and downs in life and it is okay to seek help from a therapist. While we may not be responsible for being down, I believe that we are responsible for getting up. I hope to encourage our students to make their mental wellness a priority and to seek mental health care if needed.”

Dr. Norwood received her undergraduate degree in psychology from James Madison University; she holds a terminal master’s degree in counseling with a concentration in community counseling from the University of Memphis, and a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Memphis. Following the completion of her graduate studies, she was selected to complete a one-year Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the only emphasis on Women’s Outpatient Mental Health and Trauma.

Dr. Norwood is excited to work with such a dedicated and competent Student Counseling Center team to serve the Hampton University community. The SCC team includes Ms. Alton Wampler (Licensed Professional Counselor), Ms. Cyndia Young (Social Worker), Mrs. Petra Gross (Licensed Professional Counselor), and Lysa Trace-Burianek (Administrative Assistant). Appointments for the SCC are made by phone; walk-in services are available dependent upon the nature of the crisis. For more information about the Counseling Center, call 757-727-5617 or visit http://www.hamptonu.edu/studentservices/counseling/.

AT&T has selected Hampton University’s Hampton U Online as a Preferred Online Education Partner

AT&T Inc., a diversified, global leader in telecommunications, media and entertainment, has partnered with Hampton University’s Hampton U Online in the provision of online learning for its more than 250,000 employees.

“We are delighted to begin this relationship with AT&T. Our online learning efforts began in 2010. Since that time, we have added more content, and more value for users of our services. We are certain that AT&T employees taking courses or seeking a degree with us will be ecstatic with our program offerings,” said Dr. William R. Harvey, President of Hampton University.

The key program, which secured this new relationship, is Hampton’s Master of Science in Information Assurance (Cyber Security) Program which focuses on providing a broad interdisciplinary information assurance education that prepares graduates to successfully defend, protect, design, implement and maintain secure information and information systems. Further, due to its excellence in this area, Hampton University’s Department of Computer Science is designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and National Security Agency (NSA) through 2021. For more information on Hampton U Online course offerings and University College, visit http://huonline.hamptonu.edu/.

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Hampton University Student Gives TEDx Talk at Thomas Jefferson University

Hampton University student and Student Government Association Vice President Bruce Wilson gave a TEDx Talk at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia about the importance of leadership development and service.

“Great job to Mr. Bruce Wilson for showcasing his tremendous talents in front of an engaged audience. Mr. Wilson is a great example of how our students let their lives do the singing,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Wilson has been leading example since his first year at Hampton when he realized the opportunities that student leadership offers individuals.

“I noticed a climate on the campus that I thought was too relaxed about student government and advocacy so I made it my mission to lead by example and attempt to raise the awareness of the doors that student government can open,” Wilson said. Fast forward to the summer of 2019 when Wilson received an email from a TEDx organizer, inviting him to be one of the inaugural speakers at their event at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

During the TEDx talk, he spoke about how student government in college is more than just student government; it can lead individuals to powerful places in the future.

“Student government is an outlet where students who have the urge to throw themselves in that ring of fire that we call leadership can. It’s that place where the girl who always volunteered to be the line leader of class can go on to be a Senator for her university. That little boy who made himself the team captain of every sport can be a representative for his class. And then [they can move] on to be scientists, thriving entrepreneurs, an award-winning actor, and just even the President of the United States,” Wilson said during the Tedx Talk.

Wilson also spoke about a variety of famous individuals who were involved in some sort of student government in their youth. “When student government works in its proper capacity, one can gain all of the skills and traits experts have distinguished as crucial to being a prosperous member in our society,” Wilson said during the Tedx Talk. “It can set someone up for a life of service, leadership and excellence.”

Bruce is a native of the Southside of Chicago, IL where he volunteers as a Peace Ambassador for The Support Group and works closely with community leaders. He is a political science major and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Gloucester Institute Emerging Leader; a Scholar with The Institute for Responsible Citizenship; and the Greer Dawson Student Leadership Training Program.

After graduation, Wilson plans to continue his education to attain a master's degree in public administration and continue on to law school to focus on constitutional law and civil litigation. “My heart is really in public service so wherever God sees most fit for me to serve, is wherever I’ll be happy and most effective,” said Wilson.

To see the entire TEDx Talk, click here: [link]

Hampton University Student Team Selected as Finalist for JUMP into STEM Competition

Students from the Hampton University Departments of Architecture and Electrical Engineering were recently selected as a finalist for JUMP into STEM, a program driven by the Department of Energy, Oak Ridge National and National Renewable Energy Laboratory. The Hampton team has been invited to the final event, which will be held at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on Friday, January 31, 2020.

“We are proud of our students for being selected as finalists in the JUMP into STEM program. They demonstrate what tomorrow’s leaders are doing today to make a difference,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

JUMP (Join the discussion, Unveil innovation, Make connections, Promote tech-to-market) into STEM is an online building science competition for undergraduate and graduate students in the United States. Three challenges of JUMP into STEM are 1) Smart Sensors and Controls for Residential Buildings, 2) Designing a Healthier and Energy-Efficient Air Distribution System, and 3) Pushing the Envelope with Wall Retrofit Designs.

Hampton University’s team competes in the category of Smart Sensors and Controls for Residential Buildings. The team conducted their proposal, titled “Human-Centered Gaming Interface using Artificial Intelligence in College Dormitories,” based on a series of literature reviews, a statistical survey, and a graphical conceptualization, aiming at observation and understanding of the general energy use patterns, the importance of behavioral motivations, and the quality of thermal comfort.

The proposed gaming interface can be implemented immediately at Hampton University to change behavior as well as “scaled-up” to include dormitories across the nation and the world to encourage healthy competition. It can also be translated into gaming platforms for all other building types with other users. New sensor technology will be most beneficial if it can act in an educational way to raise awareness and change human behavior.

The Hampton University team members include:

5th-year Architecture: Amir Amzajerdian
3rd-year Architecture: Jarret Thomas
3rd-year Electrical Engineering: Jai Huntley

Hampton University’s assistant professors Laura Battaglia and Dr. Jeehwan Lee serve as professor advisors for JUMP into STEM, focused on blending the unique strengths of architecture students from the Hampton University Department of Architecture, and Electrical Engineering with a shared desire to teach energy-efficient building science.

“Collaborative works of Hampton University’s architecture and engineering students highlight the increased availability of sensors and IoT technologies for improved building energy efficiency and occupant comfort. Our proposal is anticipated to make a significant impact on improving the energy efficiency of existing dormitories as well as on motivating human behaviors in the energy use patterns. We are very excited to compete with roughly 24 students from Georgia Tech, University of Michigan, Carnegie Mellon University, UC Berkeley, North Carolina A&T State University, Clark Atlanta University, and Tennessee State University,” said Battaglia and Lee.

In conjunction with the Department of Energy’s (DOE’s) Building Technology Office (BTO) student design competitions, JUMP into STEM engages undergraduate and graduate students from architecture, engineering, computer science, and other STEM disciplines departments to enter the online student design competitions for solutions to building design research and development topics as individuals or as members of a team. The challenges offer the opportunity to compete for awards, including the chance to be selected for a paid summer internship at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, CO or at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Oak Ridge, TN.