Hampton University staff, faculty, friends and family walked the red carpet laid out in the lobby of the Cinema Café in Hampton, VA for the launch screening of the six-part miniseries, “Jacqueline and Jilly.”

“I thought the movie was absolutely incredible. This movie reveals the struggles that families deal with every day in regards to opioid addiction. It doesn’t matter the race, creed or color, this problem affects all families. I always tell our students to stay away from drugs, because they will ruin your life,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey. “Ms. Rowell was a joy to work with on this project. On her movie debut, my daughter, Leslie, also did an amazing job. Ms. Rowell and her crew are invited back to Hampton any time.”

“Jacqueline and Jilly” is a six-part miniseries which was filmed on Hampton University’s campus, in VC Suites and the Hampton University Museum, the oldest African American museum in the United States and one of the oldest museums in the state of Virginia. HU staff and students acted as extras, including Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey, and his daughter, Leslie Cash. The series stars Victoria Rowell (“The Young and the Restless”), alongside Richard Brooks, Daphne Maxwell Reid, Nikko Austen Smith and Shannon Wallace. Zachary L. Hines II, Hampton University alum, was the composer for the miniseries.

The first launch screening of the series was a raving success as one theater in the Cinema Café on a rainy Sunday evening, was packed to its entirety. Many in the community came out for the premiere, including Congressman Bobby Scott, Newport News Mayor, McKinley Price who is a Hampton University alum, and almost the entire cast of the series.

“It’s a movie about three generations of black women, two shattered dreams and one accidental addiction. The movie is anchored in opioid addiction, and how a family struggles to overcome denial and get to recovery,” Rowell said. “We have an amazing cast and it wouldn’t have been possible if we didn’t have the great support of President William Harvey, Mrs. Harvey, Hampton University and the staff for allowing us to film there, the Virginia Film office, the Virginia Board of Tourism Corporation, Mayor McKinley Price, Congressman Bobby Scott, former Congresswoman Thelma Drake, and more. There are so many people that make a movie happen. I was honored to co-write, direct, and executive produce ‘Jacqueline and Jilly,’ and we hope this six-part miniseries will open up conversations with family, friends, colleagues, and communities without judgment and shame.”

Once guests in the theater were seated, a letter from Attorney General Mark Herring was read, in where he stated, “Thank you for the tremendous service that you are doing to bring awareness to the opioid epidemic that is affecting not only the Commonwealth of Virginia, but also our country. You are not only helping to reduce the stigma of opioid addiction, but also bringing to light the reality of opioid addiction in the Black family. By continuing work to change the views on addiction, we can make sure that this population and others no longer feel overlooked or neglected,” he said.

After the screening, there was a Q&A session focused on opioid addiction and what is being done in the Commonwealth of Virginia to alleviate opioid abuse.

Hampton University Departments of Computer Science and School of Business Worked Together to Win AT&T Tech Competition

Students from both the Hampton University Departments of Computer Science and School of Business took part in a technology competition for AT&T on November 2, 2018, and won first place.

“Congratulations to these outstanding students for their collaboration and academic excellence in winning this competition,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey. “Our students continue to excel because only the best and the brightest attend our prestigious university.”

There were six teams total in the showcase and competition, which took place in Washington D.C. in early November. Hampton University had two teams that participated. The Hampton University teams competed against Howard University and University of Maryland.

The winning Hampton University team, which they named “Sanctuary of Defense” and used S.O.D. as their acronym during the presentation, included Taylor Owens, marketing major; Nia Dix, marketing major; Tauren Bass, computer science major; and Coleman Scott, computer science major. Each team was asked to identify an issue in their community, “and we had to leverage AT&T technology to solve that issue. The different questions they asked were, what was the issue? What were the different technologies we used? How to be a competitive advantage to AT&T and what were the pros and cons of the resolution we came up with,” said Owens. S.O.D. chose to focus on Hampton University as their community.

Each student had very specific roles in the competition. “We were there to help pursue an idea that was technically feasible,” said Bass. “The marketing students would throw ideas out and we would build upon those ideas on what kind of technologies that we could use, and how we could integrate AT&T’s technology.
Hampton University Hosts First Aviation Safety Stand Down Week

The Hampton University Department of Aviation hosted the inaugural Safety Stand Down Week, November 12-16, 2018, where many prominent aviation professionals came to campus to speak to students about safety.

“At Hampton University we always provide the best education possible under any circumstances. Our aviation department is the only HBCU in America with an FAA approved ATC program. Devoting an entire week to aviation safety shows that Hampton University is committed to preparing our students for real-world careers,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Mr. Julius Armstrong, Hampton University Department of Aviation Chair, spoke to students at one of the panel sessions. “Take full advantage of the opportunity and ask those very important questions from the aviation experts; and it so happens that our experts today are Hampton alumni who are out there and doing great work,” he said.

One Hampton alum, Mr. Dave Simpson, is a United Airlines pilot of a B717 airplane, and came to speak during the safety week. Simpson is a Hampton University aviation graduate, class of 2000, and has worked for several airlines in the United States. “When do you think safety begins in your professional career? It begins today, yesterday, it starts while you’re here at Hampton. Everything that you do from this point going forward is going to be safety and professional related,” Simpson said. “In aviation, when was the last fatal crash of a United States aircraft? 2009. That was almost 10 years ago. This is the safest period of aviation, ever in the history of aviation. In the United States, we take safety serious and that is what we are all about today.”

Speakers shared their experiences and gave advice to the students attending the sessions.

“Whatever you’re doing right now, work hard at it because you can always change later, but it will come down to your habits, academically, which can be transferred anywhere in the field. Work hard, do your best, develop the habit of being a professional and excelling,” said Brad Lindow, Captain of the Solairus Aviation Cessna Citation CJ3.

The speakers throughout the week included flight attendants, air traffic controllers, pilots (captains and 1st officers), airport operations officers, and more. The students had the opportunity to conduct a Foreign Object Debris/Damage FOD walk at Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport, thanks to the support of the airport operations staff at Newport News.

We were there to lead the process when it came to technology.”

“Taylor and I helped bring that business aspect to the competition and see how we can incorporate that and understand our consumer and the community around us. We helped show how we can involve the technology on our campus,” said Dix.

Mr. Nyota Baker, Hampton University Department of Aviation, Assistant Professor, was the organizer of the week of activities. “Aviation safety is a culture. Aviation safety is a priority. It is important that all future aviators are exposed to the safety aspect of aviation and I believed that we achieved that this week. I also wanted this week to be an enlightening experience for the students. I want the students to know that the sky is the limit when it comes to their career in aviation by introducing them to aviation industry leaders from Hampton University, the military and beyond. This safety week gave the students the opportunity to be mentored and gain knowledge of the vast possibilities that are offered in the world of aviation,” Baker said.

Dr. Joyce Shirazi, Dean of the Hampton University School of Engineering and Technology noted, “The alums returned to ‘Our Home by the Sea’ as leaders in the field of aviation adored in uniforms from various military branches, major commercial airlines, such as United, Delta, and Jet Blue, and as air traffic controllers and Vice Presidents of international airports such as Reagan, Dulles, Norfolk, Newport News Williamsburg, and Richmond. The students were mesmerized and inspired by this unofficial HU Aviation homecoming.”

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Once the idea and resolution were completed, the teams had to present to judges.

Dr. Jean Muhammad, Chair of the Hampton University Department of Computer Science, and Dr. Shontae Taylor, Assistant Professor for the Hampton University School of Business, accompanied the students on the trip.

“The students came up with their own solutions, so each team solution was unique. There were three schools there: Hampton University, Howard University, and University of Maryland and each school had two teams. We didn’t know how it was going to be set up until we got there. Each of our teams had computer science students from the Department of Computer Science, and business and marketing students from the School of Business so the computer science students provided the technical solution and the business students were going to market this idea to the judges. The students came up with the idea, the technology, the business showcase, everything, the faculty were just observers,” said Dr. Muhammad. “The computer science students learned from the business students how to market their product and the business students learned the impact of technology on their product ideas.”

“I am so excited that our business students had an opportunity to partner with the computer science students at the 2018 AT&T case competition and forum. In addition to competing in the competition, our students were able to meet and engage with several executives in leadership roles at AT&T. The students were provided valuable information on the importance of how AT&T incorporates STEM in their business model,” said Dr. Taylor. “Overall, the applicability of how business can reinforce the components of STEM provided wonderful context for our students. This was an awesome experience!”

The winning team walked away with free headphones – Beats by Dre.
Hampton University Recognized for National Excellence in Educator Prep

The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) has announced that the Hampton University Department of Education has received accreditation for its educator preparation programs. The fall 2018 review by the CAEP Accreditation Council resulted in 52 newly-accredited programs from 27 states and Puerto Rico, bringing the total to 196 programs approved under the CAEP Teacher Preparation Standards—rigorous, nationally recognized standards that were developed to ensure excellence in educator preparation programs.

“We are so proud of our students and faculty in the Department of Education for the hard work they do every day. This accreditation shows that our students and faculty are continuing to uphold THE Standard of Excellence that Hampton University is known for,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

CAEP is the sole nationally recognized accrediting body for educator preparation. Accreditation is a nongovernmental activity based on peer review that serves the dual functions of assuring quality and promoting improvement. CAEP was created by the consolidation of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council. It is a unified accreditation system that serves the performance of all institutions focused on educator preparation. Currently, more than 800 educator preparation programs participate in the CAEP Accreditation system, including many previously accredited through former standards.

“These institutions meet high standards so that their students receive an education that prepares them to succeed in a diverse range of classrooms after they graduate,” said CAEP President Dr. Christopher A. Koch. “Seeking CAEP Accreditation is a significant commitment on the part of an educator preparation provider.”

Hampton University Professor, Dr. Zina McGee, Publishes Her First Book on the Victimization of Women and Children

Dr. Zina McGee, endowed university professor for the Hampton University Department of Sociology, has just published a powerful anthology, her first book, entitled, “Silenced Voices: Readings in Violence and Victimization.”

The anthology provides students with insightful readings that center on the experiences of women, children and others who are often silenced and victimized in their homes and communities.

“Dr. McGee is a respected, and highly accomplished member of our faculty. She has received the Edward L. Hamm Distinguished Teaching Award, amongst other accolades. We commend her completion of her book and wish her much success in this endeavor,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Dr. McGee has a Ph.D. in criminology from Tulane University, and a B.A. and M.A. in sociology from the University of New Orleans. Her area in specialization of research is in criminology. Over the past year, she researched, and analyzed data to come up with the findings for the book. “Much of the research that I’ve conducted has involved the study of children who have been exposed to violence and the extent to which that exposure to violence creates a situation for them to engage in greater delinquency,” Dr. McGee said. “I also have research that looks at mothers newly released from prison and the extent to which their coping strategies are often impaired when they’re expected to be re-socialized in a society that may not necessarily offer them the adequate resources to better themselves and the lives of their children.”

Through funding from the National Institute of Mental Health and the Hampton University Faculty Research Grant, Dr. McGee collected survey data on 1,500 youth in the Hampton Roads area and 500 women in prisons and jails in Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia and New York. Through those surveys, this book was created.

“I teach courses such as violence against women, juvenile delinquency and so I’ve been able to use much of my research in the classroom. As I used some of the textbooks, I was thinking of an anthology that takes a closer look at the victims themselves, because we live in a time where many women, and young children are marginalized on the basis of their race, and social class, and what we’re finding is even though they have been engaging in criminal activity, much of this has been in response to their own victimization patterns. This gave me the opportunity to do some more research and further my own study in an effort to bring something new to the students,” said Dr. McGee.

Dr. McGee has taught at Hampton University for the last 25 years and teaches courses in research methods, statistics and criminology. She has plans to continue research and take a look at the victims again but this time focusing solely on female offenders.

“I am so glad that the book is out. I’m hoping I can contribute further to scholarship and to really give students opportunities as well to learn more about the subject matter,” said Dr. McGee.

“Silenced Voices: Readings in Violence and Victimization” is available on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble for $133.95. The ISBN is 978-1-5165-3860-7. It is well suited for courses that focus on criminology, sociology, and racial, gender, and ethnic relations, as well as those that explore the social problems of gender, race and ethnicity.

Hampton University Pharmacy Students Hosted Free Health Fair in Washington D.C.

Hampton University third year pharmacy student, Russia Tatsum, successfully organized a free Health Fair at her childhood church in Washington D.C., with the goal of helping local homeless people receive health checks and free amenities such as flu shots and immunizations.

“Ms. Tatsum saw a unique opportunity to help people. She went above and beyond to ensure this event was a success,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

“This is another demonstration of how Hampton students develop character during their academic tenure at this university.”

Tatsum saw a need for the fair as her church, St. Luke's Catholic Church, is located in a poverty section of the city. She started asking around at the Hampton University School of Pharmacy for volunteers and donations, and even asked some students from the Howard University College of Pharmacy to help out. “My family has been attending this church since the era of my great-great grandmother and so I wanted to do something to give back to church members and the community,” said Tatsum. “I have some friends in the pharmacy program at Howard University so I thought why not get them involved as well. Before I knew it, this event took off!”

During the Health Fair, which ran November 10th and 11th, 2018, there were several tables where students were able to give out information about hypertension, the flu, stroke awareness, medical cannabis, healthy eating, HIV, mental health, breast cancer awareness and much more. They provided blood glucose monitoring, blood pressure checks, and many students drove up to D.C. to volunteer.

Both CVS and Harris Teeter provided influenza vaccines and Gene Health gave confidential genetic health screening tests.

“I had the privilege of serving as the supervising faculty member for Hampton University’s and Howard University’s branch of Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) community health fair event held in Washington D.C., an event spearheaded by Hampton’s own P3 student Russia Tatsum. I was extremely impressed by all the hard work and support that our P3 student body gave in regards to this endeavor,” said Dr. Shanea D. Parker PharmD, assistant professor for the Hampton University School of Pharmacy, “I believe with support by the faculty and staff our students can achieve great things and be a key player in the community.”

A total of 120 patients, 40 of which were homeless, attended the fair. There was food, children’s activities and even line dancing for attendees.

“I think the fair went extremely well for my first time coordinating it. I was extremely nervous about this idea and many times I was stressed and overwhelmed, but I kept thinking about how many lives we can save. How many people can we get to make a difference in their lives? I kept reminding myself that the stress will pass and we would help so many people,” said Tatsum. “I really hope we can continue this health fair in the future.”
Recently, the Hampton University Child Development Center reached 1,585 views via Google My Business. The nationally recognized facility focuses on helping children build a strong educational foundation.

“This great news is proof that the Hampton University Child Development Center is doing tremendous work in shaping the minds of our children. The positive results of Mrs. Joy Phelps and her team’s efforts is spreading to parents in Hampton Roads looking to give their child the best start possible,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Serving ages two and a half to five years old, the Hampton University Child Development Center offers a before and after school care program from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. With a highly trained staff, the school offers a theme-based curriculum grounded in the Virginia Frameworks. Structured schedules, interactive play and a daily rest period meet the holistic needs of children.

“I believe children learn through others and through their environment in rich settings. It has been proven through research that children learn and are ready for school when attending high-quality childcare facilities, where teachers facilitate their learning through interactions and interacting with other children in rich learning environments,” said Joy L. Phelps, Director of the Hampton University Child Development Center.

The Child Development Center has reached new heights as it has received recognition from The Child Care Aware of America (CCCAoA), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), National Head Start Association (NHSA), National Indian Child Care Association (NICCA), National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), Teachstone, and the Afterschool Alliance. These organizations have all acknowledged the HUCDC for their excellent care and service.

Additionally, the Hampton University Child Development Center provides community service opportunities to Hampton University students who want to gain community service hours for various organizations and clubs.

The Hampton University Child Development Center’s Google My Business Page Reaches over 1,500 Views in One Month

Mayor of Hampton, Donnie Tuck, Visits the Hampton University WRHLI

On Friday, November 16th, 2018, the Hampton University William R. Harvey Leadership Institute (WRHLI) held its Meet the Leaders Lecture Series welcoming the Honorable Donnie Tuck, Mayor of Hampton, VA.

“We were proud to welcome Mayor Donnie Tuck to the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute to speak to our fellow leaders. This Institution was built to develop leaders who will make a positive difference in society, and Mayor Tuck is a great example of such a leader,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

The William R. Harvey Leadership Institute hosts the Meet the Leaders Lecture Series to provide the Leadership Fellows with the chance to interact and engage in critical analysis and thinking. North Carolina native, Donnie Tuck began his journey with Hampton City council and moved his way up to mayor. His vision of becoming an elected official is one he has envisioned since he was a little boy. After running for city council of Hampton on various occasions and losing, Tuck expressed the importance of persevering through setbacks. With his goal of making Hampton, Virginia a better place, Tuck ran for city council in 2010, beginning his journey as a leader in the Hampton Roads community.

“If I promise you something or if I tell you I’m going to do something, you can count on it. When I talk about leadership, I always mention integrity. I think if you’re going to be a leader, you’ve got to have integrity,” said Hampton Mayor Donnie Tuck. “People have to know that you are honest. When I do town halls, I’ll tell you as much as I can tell you, but I will not lie to you. If I don’t know the answer to someone’s question, I will get your information and I will get back to you. People have to believe that you are a person of integrity when it comes to being a leader.”

“The William R. Harvey Leadership Institute foundation is built upon three pillars, Service, Commitment and Character. Mayor Tuck integrated all three and provided examples from his humble beginnings and amazing journey to become the servant leader he is today as mayor. The Leadership Fellows are residents of the city of Hampton while here studying, and it is important that they hear from the mayor – the leader who represents all citizens to include the Hampton University students,” said Dr. Jarris Louis Taylor, Jr., Director of the William R. Harvey leadership Institute. “What was even more impressive was the mayor’s charge for inclusion by the Leadership Fellows as he told them to get involved now and stay engaged with the city of Hampton as he needs their support as citizen leaders.”

Mayor Donnie Tuck began his first term as mayor in 2016. His membership and affiliations include the Virginia Municipal League, Town and Gown Committee, Office of Human Affairs, Peninsula Mayor and Chair, etc.