Hampton University Receives the Largest Single Gift in the School’s History

Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey is pleased to announce that the University has received the largest, single gift in the school’s history of $30,000,000 from Ms. MacKenzie Scott. Ms. Scott made the announcement public today, saying “I pledged to give the majority of my wealth back to the society that helped generate it, [and] to do it thoughtfully.”

Dr. Harvey, who has successfully led Hampton University for more than four decades, met the measure that Ms. Scott set when she noted that she wanted to call attention to “organizations and leaders driving change.” She chose Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey and Hampton University as one of the institutions because as she explained, the recipients had to “have a track record of effective management and significant impact in their fields.”

“This pure act of benevolence is clearly a game changer and it could not have come at a better time,” said Dr. Harvey. “I speak for the entire Hampton University community when I say we are grateful to Ms. MacKenzie Scott, who has chosen to support us during this unprecedented period of uncertainty.”

Dr. Harvey, who has sole discretion on how the funding will be used, has consulted with members of the Board of Trustees, deans, and administrators to review plans for allocating the generous donation. Among the options for funding are the Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute, where lives are saved daily from the devastating effects of cancer; new student scholarships geared to assist high school students who have demonstrated strong character and a yearning for higher education; and further support of the University’s technological advances and upgrades to scientific laboratories campus-wide and more.

Scott deepened the meaning behind her pledge saying, “I watched the first half of 2020 with a mixture of heartbreak and horror. Life will never stop finding fresh ways to expose inequities in our systems, or waking us up to the fact that a civilization this imbalanced is not only unjust, but also unstable.” She went on to say, “What fills me with hope is the thought of what will come if each of us reflects on what we can offer.”

Other HBCUs and nonprofits are also receiving donations from Scott who sought guidance from a “team of non-profit advisors with key representation from historically marginalized race, gender, and sexual identity groups.” She also indicated that her work is ongoing and will last for years. This gift will ensure that Hampton University persists in educating the best and the brightest students in the nation and continues its legacy as THE Standard of Excellence.

Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey Appears on Politico Roland Martin’s Digital Show to Talk About the $30,000,000 Donation

Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey, appeared on Politico Roland Martin’s digital show to speak about the $30,000,000 donation to the school by Ms. MacKenzie Scott, the largest, single gift in Hampton's history. Dr. Harvey was interviewed on Martin’s digital show, “#RolandMartinUnfiltered,” via the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications’ ReadyCam on-site studio.

On the show, Martin asked Dr. Harvey about the donation. “I am pleased and thankful to Ms. Scott. A lot of people do a lot of talking, but she actually acted. She gave away $1.7 billion! She actually gave to six HBCUs, along with support to UNCF and she also gave it to Thurgood Marshall. I am just very thankful to her,” Dr. Harvey said to Martin.

During the interview, Dr. Harvey revealed how the funding will be used. “This is going to be a transformational gift for us and for these other institutions. We have the world’s largest proton beam cancer treatment center and we’re going to spend $10 million of the donation on our proton beam cancer treatment center. I’m going to spend $10 million for student scholarships for students who have demonstrated character, and then I’m going to spend another $10 million on other kinds of things such as upgrades on our physical plant and things like that,” Dr. Harvey said. “It’s a God’s send and I’m thankful to Ms. Scott. As I indicated, the other schools are Howard, Spelman, Morehouse, Xavier, Tuskegee and Hampton.”

Dr. Harvey and Martin also spoke about the Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute, where lives are saved daily from the devastating effects of cancer; new student scholarships geared to assist high school students who have demonstrated strong character and a yearning for higher education; and further support of the University’s technological advances and upgrades to scientific laboratories campus-wide and more.

Hampton University Rising Senior, Bruce Wilson, Named 2020 HBCU Competitiveness Scholar

Hampton University student Bruce Wilson has been named a 2020 HBCU Competitiveness Scholar, the highest student recognition given through the U.S. Department of Education and the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Wilson is a rising senior, political science major, economics minor from Chicago, IL and was recently elected to serve as the Student Representative on the Hampton University Board of Trustees.

“Hampton University takes pride in honoring those who excel and achieve above and beyond what is expected of them. It is our hope that Mr. Bruce Wilson will use this recognition as proof that hard work and dedication truly pays off,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Scholars are chosen based on their academic achievements, campus and civic involvement and entrepreneurial ethos or “go-getter” spirits. Comprised of undergraduate, graduate, professional students, and international students from various academic backgrounds, the 2020 scholars were selected from among several highly distinguished HBCU students. In addition, each recognized scholar was acknowledged. Wilson was one of 44 students selected from 33 HBCUs.

“Being recognized as a 2020 White House HBCU Competitiveness Scholar by the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities through the U.S. Department of Education is a dignified distinction and one that I hope will inspire future Hamptonians and HBCU students across the nation to pursue academic excellence, leadership, and a heart for public service,” Bruce said. “In light of the current unprecedented and tumultuous times, the need for well-endowed HBCUs is more apparent than ever. I plan to use the privileges allotted by this recognition to represent Hampton University, bring exposure to the intellectual curiosity that exists on HBCU campuses, and to further expand the capacity and competitiveness of myself and HBCUs.”
Wilson is also 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. He is planning to spend the summer interning with the Economic Policy Institute, writing and researching on the racial wealth gap and economic inequality.

“I am simply thrilled to recognize the 2020 HBCU Competitiveness Scholars,” said Johnathan Holifield, Executive Director of the Initiative. “These students are fine examples of the talent and boundless vitality found at America’s HBCUs. This recognition heightens expectations for scholars to continue making meaningful contributions to our nation. I am confident they will deliver.”

Selected students will serve for one academic school year representing the 2020-2021 cohort of Competitiveness Scholars. During this unique academic school year, the Initiative will work closely with federal and non-federal partners to develop a robust calendar of virtual events for the scholars that will explore, exchange ideas and share best practices around leadership, professional development, career pathways, government resources and much more.

Competitiveness Scholars typically assemble during the Annual National HBCU Week Conference. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, scholars will not be able to convene in Washington, D.C. for the National Recognition Program in the Fall. Instead, plans are underway for an online recognition and virtual campaign to ensure the scholars receive their acknowledgement during the 2020 Virtual HBCU Week Conference.

During this virtual event, they will participate in workshops designed to strengthen their leadership and will be encouraged to seek out ongoing personal and professional development in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Nationally Recognized Hampton University Center for Public Policy’s Latest Poll Shows a Majority of Virginians are Pleased with Governor Ralph Northam and his Handling of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Strongly Disapprove of President Trump’s Response

Recognized nationally, the latest Hampton University Center for Public Policy (CPP) poll reveals Virginians attitudes about the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on their lives generally, from an employment perspective, financially, and how they feel about the response to the pandemic by state and national leaders. While the majority of Virginians are pleased with Governor Ralph Northam and his handling of the response to the coronavirus in the Commonwealth of Virginia, according to a new poll from the CPP, many Virginians strongly disapprove of how President Donald Trump and the federal government overall are handling the coronavirus pandemic. The poll conducted 1,099 interviews from July 13-21, 2020 and has a margin of error of +/- 5.0 percentage points at a 95% confidence level.

As the number of coronavirus cases continues to surge past four million in the United States, 81% surveyed say they have taken protective measures and are following the restrictions put in place, including such measures as wearing a mask when leaving home (80%), avoiding other people as much as possible (69%), and, keeping six feet away from people who are not in their household (74%).

Q10. When it comes to the restrictions that are in place in Virginia in response to the outbreak of the coronavirus, how frequently do you follow the restrictions?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restrictions in Virginia N=1,099</th>
<th>Always</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
<th>Skip/Ref to Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top Net</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottom Net</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While a small percentage of the individuals surveyed have been laid off or filed for unemployment, the personal financial situation of 45% of those surveyed has not been impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. Many Virginians were not prepared for the economic and financial impact the coronavirus would have on the overall economy of the state of Virginia, or their lives. While only 28% think the Virginia economy will get better in the next year, 45% think it will get somewhat worse or much worse.

Q4. In the next year, do you think the Virginia economy will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Virginia Economy Will: N=1,099</th>
<th>Much Better</th>
<th>Somewhat Better</th>
<th>About the Same</th>
<th>Somewhat Worse</th>
<th>Much Worse</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
<th>Skip/Ref to Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top Net</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottom Net</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Despite the negative outlook on the future of the state’s economy, many Virginians have confidence in Governor Ralph Northam and his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, including 59% who think the Governor issued the stay at home order at the right time. This response is in contrast to the President’s handling of the pandemic response. It is 54% that approve of Governor Northam’s handling of the response in Virginia with 28% disapproving. Some 73% disapprove of how President Trump handled the coronavirus outbreak with 19% approving.

Q2. Overall, do you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of the way each of the following people is handling the coronavirus outbreak?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approve/Disapprove N=1,099</th>
<th>Strongly Approve</th>
<th>Strongly Disapprove</th>
<th>Neither Approve nor Disapprove</th>
<th>Strongly Approve</th>
<th>Strongly Disapprove</th>
<th>Neither Approve nor Disapprove</th>
<th>Strongly Approve</th>
<th>Strongly Disapprove</th>
<th>Neither Approve nor Disapprove</th>
<th>Strongly Approve</th>
<th>Strongly Disapprove</th>
<th>Neither Approve nor Disapprove</th>
<th>Strongly Approve</th>
<th>Strongly Disapprove</th>
<th>Neither Approve nor Disapprove</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governor Ralph Northam</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President Donald Trump</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attitudes about government response to the pandemic at the state, local and federal level tell a similar story to the approval and disapproval ratings of the leadership at the top. Virginians surveyed approve of the manner in which the state government handled the pandemic (54%) and the response by their local government (52%). Those surveyed strongly disapprove of the handling of the coronavirus outbreak by the federal government (60%).

Q3. Do you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of how each of the following is handling the coronavirus outbreak?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Handle the Coronavirus N=1,099</th>
<th>Strongly Approve</th>
<th>Strongly Disapprove</th>
<th>Neither Approve nor Disapprove</th>
<th>Strongly Approve</th>
<th>Strongly Disapprove</th>
<th>Neither Approve nor Disapprove</th>
<th>Strongly Approve</th>
<th>Strongly Disapprove</th>
<th>Neither Approve nor Disapprove</th>
<th>Strongly Approve</th>
<th>Strongly Disapprove</th>
<th>Neither Approve nor Disapprove</th>
<th>Strongly Approve</th>
<th>Strongly Disapprove</th>
<th>Neither Approve nor Disapprove</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your State Government</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your City or Local Govt.</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Federal Government</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Democrats strongly approve of the state’s handling of the coronavirus outbreak (72%). Republicans are split with 42% disapproving and 40% approving the state’s response. While 46% of those identifying as Independents disapprove and 35% approve of how the state is handling the pandemic.

Q3A. Your State Government - Do you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of how each of the following is handling the coronavirus outbreak? (By Party Identification)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party Identification</th>
<th>Strongly Approve</th>
<th>Strongly Disapprove</th>
<th>Neither Approve nor Disapprove</th>
<th>Strongly Approve</th>
<th>Strongly Disapprove</th>
<th>Neither Approve nor Disapprove</th>
<th>Strongly Approve</th>
<th>Strongly Disapprove</th>
<th>Neither Approve nor Disapprove</th>
<th>Strongly Approve</th>
<th>Strongly Disapprove</th>
<th>Neither Approve nor Disapprove</th>
<th>Strongly Approve</th>
<th>Strongly Disapprove</th>
<th>Neither Approve nor Disapprove</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more details and Topline results, please visit the Hampton University Center for Public Policy website at www.hamptonlife.polls/
Hampton University PharmD Student Tiffany Alfred is 2020 Recipient of the Harvey B. Morgan Award for Advancing Health Policy

Hampton University PharmD student Tiffany Alfred is the 2020 recipient of the Harvey B. Morgan Award for Advancing Health Policy. This award, given on behalf of the Virginia Pharmacists Association (VPhA), recognizes and honors a future pharmacist who demonstrates service, activity, and commitment in professional policy development and advocacy for improved healthcare. As part of the award, Alfred will receive a $1,000 check, plaque, and a stipend for registration to attend the VPhA Annual Meeting.

“Congratulations to Ms. Tiffany Alfred on the receipt of this highly competitive award given by the Virginia Pharmacists Association. She deserves to be commended for her service and commitment to pharmacy,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey. Due to COVID-19, the VPhA Annual Meeting, which was going to be held in Virginia Beach, had to cancel their live meeting and will be conducting the meeting virtually. During that time, the VPhA Foundation will virtually “present” the check and award to Alfred.

“I am still in shock that I was named for this award! I am the type of person that does for the community, strangers, friends and loved ones, not for the recognition, but just for the principle. Where there is a need, I hope to assist in the solution. In 2019, I never thought that by me taking the initiative to plan a Diabetes Clinic at Cornerstone City of Refuge Church in Virginia Beach and an Influenza Clinic in Smithfield, I would see the influence it caused. The best part about these experiences was being able to use my training as a gateway to educate many community members about diabetes, cholesterol, preventing infection, lifestyle modifications, and much more,” Alfred said. “Being the recipient of this award is nothing short of a true honor for my family and me. As I continue to learn how to celebrate what I work towards, I am truly humbled by the recognition and I am inspired to continue to impact.”

Alfred, who is from Virginia Beach, has a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Norfolk State University. She started at Hampton University in 2017 as a PharmD student and will graduate in May 2021. Alfred is currently on pharmacy rotations at The Prescription Shoppe in Williamsburg, an independent pharmacy owned by Dr. Henry Kyle Ranger, HU graduate class of 2011. “I am learning quite a bit there, while also enjoying the atmosphere they have cultivated for their patients. It’s definitely been a great experience,” Alfred said. She also presided over the Hampton Chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), was CIC Chair for the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA), and a member of the Virginia Pharmacists Association (VPhA).

“I am extremely proud of Ms. Alfred and the wonderful work that she has been doing in the community and within the various students organizations at the School. Tiffany is truly deserving of this honor and embodies all of the qualities associated with this award. I look forward to many more of her achievements in the future,” said Dr. Anand Iyer, Dean of the Hampton University School of Pharmacy.

Some of the qualifications for the Harvey B. Morgan Award include:

• Have demonstrated exceptional service, activity and commitment in the area of policy development and related activity.

• Have applied their knowledge of pharmacy and policy to provide education and information to citizens, public officials and pharmacy students/professionals.

• Be in good standing of their student organization (APhA-ASP) and VPhA.

“When nominated for the Harvey Morgan Award for Advancing Health Policy, nominees are already recognized at their schools for demonstrating the Award’s criteria and honored with the letter of recommendation and nomination. We were thrilled at Tiffany’s qualifications and her nomination packet assured us she was an exceptional candidate for the award,” said Rebecca Snead, Executive Vice President/CEO of the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations.

After graduation, Alfred wants to continue in the public health field. “I hope to use my doctorate to target health disparities on a national scale. I don’t know the details of how I will do this, but in due time, I believe God will order every step to my destination,” Alfred said. She also loves the arts, such as music, poetry and singing, so Alfred plans to explore music in the future as well.

Hampton University Partners with Penn State College of Medicine Physician Assistant Program

Hampton University is partnering with Penn State College of Medicine to provide undergraduate students early acceptance into Penn State’s Physician Assistant Program.

“We are very excited about this partnership with Penn State College of Medicine. The quality of our students at Hampton University will not only improve the nation’s health care system, but also bring diversity into the workforce. We hope to continue partnering with Penn State and expand to other areas of study that may interest our graduates,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Through the partnership, Hampton University students can apply early, during their junior year in undergraduate studies, to the Physician Assistant program at Penn State College of Medicine. Hampton students do not need to have a particular major, but they do need to be a member of the Pre-Health Program and interested in attending medical school. The Pre-Health Program provides a variety of medical education activities, including a pre-professional timeline, medical school application advice and support to Hampton premedical students pursuing careers in medicine, dentistry and the allied health professions.

“I welcome the chance for our students to expand their opportunities for growth and development. By seeking a professional degree in health care, our students will be able to achieve their ultimate goals of becoming a physician or surgeon. Some of our students are interested in dentistry as well. This partnership with Penn State College of Medicine is a great way for our students to be identified early to increase the diversity and quality of students at Penn State,” said Michael Druitt, Hampton University Pre-Health Program Director.

The program at Penn State accepts 30 students each year, and since 2014, has graduated about 150 physician assistants. Each student spends two years in the program. The first year is classroom-based learning and the second year allows students to work directly with patients.

Lynette Chappell-Williams, Chief Diversity Officer at Penn State Health and Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion at Penn State College of Medicine, said looking for opportunities to create diversity in the Physician Assistant Program at Penn State College of Medicine and elsewhere is critical. A national study found that many members of minority populations prefer to be seen by a Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner rather than a Physician.

“We know the makeup of our country continues to shift, and Penn State College of Medicine is taking steps to meet the changing population by finding opportunities to increase the diversity of our students,” Chappell-Williams said.

Dr. Michelle Penn-Marshall, Hampton University Vice President for Research, Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate College, visited Penn State last year with Mr. Druitt to speak about the possible agreement. “I am elated that the partnership between Hampton University and the Penn State College of Medicine has come into fruition. I credit President William R. Harvey and alumnus Mr. Ron Cummins for their vision. It was obvious during our visit in June 2019, that Mr. Cummins, Dr. Lynette Chappell-Williams and their colleagues were serious about the partnership. It is wonderful that our talented Hampton students will have the opportunity to fulfill their dreams of working in the Healthcare field,” said Dr. Penn-Marshall. “The union could not be more fitting, Penn State’s College of Medicine has a stellar reputation and Hampton is THE Standard of Excellence. We look forward to the success of this partnership and developing additional partnerships with Penn State’s College of Medicine.”

A Physician Assistant, under the supervision of a Physician, is able to perform most of the same patient care tasks as a Physician, including seeing their own patients, ordering and evaluating laboratory and diagnostic studies, and writing prescriptions. Penn State College of Medicine is also partnered with Lincoln University in Pennsylvania for this program. The first group of accepted students from the two universities will begin at Penn State College of Medicine in May 2022.
Hampton University Led AIM Satellite Mission Observes First Week of the Arctic Noctilucent Cloud Season

Hampton University leads NASA’s Aeronomy of Ice in the Mesosphere (AIM) satellite mission, which observed the first week of the Arctic noctilucent cloud season that began in early May. AIM spotted the night-shining clouds about 50 miles overhead in a layer of the atmosphere called the mesosphere. The May 17th detection marks the second earliest start in the 14-year history of the mission. The cloud season is expected to run through mid-August.

“Hampton University continues to reach new heights in academic standards world-wide. We continue to uphold THE Standard of Excellence and lead the way in innovative research. AIM launched 14 years ago and is still proving to be a crucial mission, as it continues to advance scientists’ understanding of global change,” said Dr. William R. Harvey, Hampton University President.

AIM was launched in 2007 via a Pegasus XL launch vehicle. The purpose of AIM is determine why noctilucent, or night-shining, clouds form and why they vary. These clouds are called “night-shining” because their high altitude allows them to continue reflecting sunlight after the sun has set below the horizon. AIM is NASA’s first mission dedicated to exploring these unique and mysterious clouds, and Hampton University is the first and only HBCU to have total 100% responsibility for a NASA satellite mission. Hampton University has a total of four satellites/instruments currently in orbit.

“Every year, twice a year, the start of the season is a big event for us,” said Dr. James Russell, AIM principal investigator and co-director of Hampton University’s Center for Atmospheric Sciences.

“The reason we’re excited is we’re trying to find out what the causes of the season’s starting are and what does it really mean with regard to the larger picture in the atmosphere.”

Noctilucent clouds, also known as polar mesospheric clouds (PMCs), are being seen at lower latitudes than ever before, and have recently grown brighter and more frequent, suggesting a connection to global change. These clouds help scientists better understand how the mesosphere is connected to the rest of the atmosphere, weather and climate.

Scientists are excited to see what the cloud season will show. By measuring PMCs and the thermal, chemical and dynamical environment in which they form, the connection between these clouds and the meteorology of the polar mesosphere will be better understood. Last year, these clouds were spotted as far south as southern California and Oklahoma, which according to Dr. Russell, is the lowest latitudes they have ever been seen before. “With every year, we get new data to help us put together a picture of the atmosphere,” Dr. Russell said.

The Hampton University Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications Launching New Augmented Reality Lab

The Hampton University Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications has partnered with EON Reality to bring students an exciting addition to campus: a new Augmented and Virtual Reality Lab.

The new lab, located in the Scripps Howard School building in Room 148, further enhances the school’s already celebrated Center for Innovation in Digital Media. There are computers that will render HD graphics, animations and video, along with a virtual reality display measuring 8 feet tall by 40 feet wide to immerse the entire classroom in the experience.

Augmented Reality, or AR, is the simple combination of real and virtual, or computer-generated, objects. AR provides an interactive experience of a real-world environment where the objects in the real world are enhanced by computer-generated graphics and text.

Students who take JAC 450-01 Virtual Reality and Animation with Scripps Howard Endowed Professor Willie Moore will be among the first to utilize the lab. Scripps students in other journalism and strategic communication classes also will benefit from using the technology.

“We are very excited about the Augmented Virtual Reality Lab coming to the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications. This lab will offer our students an enriching learning experience that will keep them at the forefront of the ever-changing technological landscape of communications,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Scripps Howard School Dean B. Da’Vida Plummer knows this lab will be a great tool for future journalists and communicators to utilize.

“Communication as we know it may never be the same post-COVID-19, and our need to tell stories will require technology that allows people to experience the event, to experience the scene, to experience the story without leaving wherever they are,” Plummer said.

“Virtual reality is that tool. I am thrilled to see the technology coming to the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications so that our students are even better prepared to meet the challenges they await.”

When Scripps students apply for internships and jobs, they are sought after for the high caliber of technological skills they have that complement an already stellar education they receive in all facets of content generation for news, information, entertainment, global communication and creative services.

SHSJC Network Administrator Andre Smith detailed the benefits the lab will provide.

“EON Reality has created a platform that doesn’t require you to be a technology person to create augmented reality assets,” Smith said. “The new lab is going to be great for journalism students. Typically, journalists write on paper or on a computer, but in a 5G environment, AR and VR devices – like cellphones or headgear – will become the new computers. These devices will add another channel for news to be delivered and brands to interact with their customers. Understanding AR and VR content will empower journalists to tell their stories, while transmitting their audiences to the scene with interactive artifacts and immersive [360-degree] photos and videos. If we can accept the fact that we don’t all read on the same levels and come from various cultures and backgrounds, then we can see how adding more context to a story increases the likelihood that the article accurately communicates the point the journalist was trying to convey.”

Even though this lab will be housed in Scripps, it will be available for collaboration with other departments.

“The entire campus could benefit from experiencing their courses with augmented, mixed or even virtual reality,” Smith said.

The lab will give Scripps students the opportunity to create unique, interactive content for their classes and with their classmates.

“The new equipment will allow us to keep up with the modern ways of storytelling in the use of journalism and documentary broadcasting in the industry,” Moore said. “This opportunity could help in placing our students in the profession and competing in the broadcast and entertainment market. The new lab could also lead to enhance the motion graphics, animation and digital classes at Scripps Howard.”