Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Donate $100,000 for Hampton University Students during Pandemic

Dr. and Mrs. William R. Harvey are doing their part to assist Hampton University students during these unprecedented times by making a donation of $100,000 to their “Home by the Sea” to provide financial relief to individual students who have needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hampton's first couple is no stranger to giving and giving back to the university they have led for 42 years. This latest gift matches the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s gift of $100,000 to the University in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hampton University will use the $200,000 to provide each on-campus student $100 to assist with travel costs to retrieve their belongings or return to school in the fall.

“The financial impact that the coronavirus pandemic is having on our Hampton students causes me great concern. Mrs. Harvey and I wanted to personally be of help to the students during this unprecedented situation. It is truly important for us to be supportive during the greatest health and economic crisis in our lifetime,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Hampton has also received $4.2 million from the CARES Act; half of these funds are to be distributed to students to support them and the funds will be allocated according to the federal guidelines.

This offering truly displays Dr. and Mrs. Harvey’s heartfelt commitment to giving back to the university community they serve. There is no question that in the four decades of service, the Harvey’s have upheld THE Standard of Excellence that is Hampton University. The Harvey’s are more than President and First Lady of Hampton University; they are truly admired for being the heart and soul of this prestigious institution.

As a visionary, Dr. Harvey has embraced HU founder General Samuel Chapman Armstrong’s mission to have every aspect at Hampton University excel. And excel it has under Dr. Harvey’s leadership. The William R. Harvey years, 42 and counting, will grace the record books as an unparalleled accounting of mega success, not just for the HU students, faculty and staff whose lives give testimony to the results of his labor, but for the global community of stakeholders who will continually reap the benefits of his astute leadership for generations to come.

Dr. Harvey has introduced innovations, which have solidified Hampton University’s stellar position among the nation’s colleges and universities. Ninety-two new academic programs, an endowment that has increased 866%, satellites on active missions in space, the largest free-standing proton therapy cancer treatment center in the world, speaks to his desire to leave the world better than he found it.

The Brewton, Alabama native is a servant leader who faces each day determined to enrich the lives of others. His blessed path led him from a small town to the coveted classrooms of Harvard University. With his Ivy League degree in hand, Dr. Harvey could have taken any one of so many prestigious university offers. However, he, the true educator, chose to lead at an HBCU where he could make a real difference in the academic worlds of young people who yearned for better lives. Dr. Harvey, the businessman, but his acumen to work placing Hampton on the fast track for growth and development as a world-class university.

Dr. and Mrs. Harvey continue to support Hampton University’s institutional vision and mission by ensuring high quality faculty and staff continue to thrive, to build character, and to help prepare promising students for successful futures. Hampton University truly thanks Dr. and Mrs. Harvey for their kindness, their faithful support, and their selfless generosity.

Hampton University Celebrates the Graduating Class of 2020 Virtually

Hampton University celebrated the graduating class of 2020 a little differently this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If circumstances followed the normal pattern, the seniors would have donned their caps and gowns this past Mother’s Day to attend Hampton University’s 150th Commencement ceremony. These students have worked hard these past years to earn their degrees and so Hampton University wants to recognize the importance of honoring their achievements. Below is the announcement for the 2020 Valedictorian and Salutatorian, special awards, a virtual celebration of Honors Day, and a special letter from Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey to the graduating class.

“These are truly unprecedented and challenging times. With the support of our outstanding faculty and staff, Hampton University students have continued to shine, despite this pandemic. We want to take this time to formally recognize the many accomplishments of the graduating class of 2020. Don’t be common or ordinary. Be extra ordinary and Dream no Small Dreams,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Hampton University would like to announce the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the graduating class of 2020 as Filip Stevanovic and Arayana Harris, respectively.

Stevanovic, originally from Rovinj Croatia, is graduating with a 4.0542 GPA. He is a psychology major with a marketing minor. He was a four-year letter winner on the sailing team and was a key contributor in two Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association Co-Ed National Championship qualifying teams. He was inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma this spring.

“After four years of hard work and dedication, I feel truly exalted, but above all extremely humbled by being recognized as the 2020 Class Valedictorian. It feels unreal to not only earn a college degree across the world, but also to graduate with such a distinctive honor. I’m grateful to have been part of the HBCU experience, and I’m immensely thankful to Hampton University for allowing me on this life-changing journey. Finally, I wanted to say that I’m happy to follow in the footsteps of Elisabeth Kuester, a friend and sailing teammate who graduated from ‘Our Home by the Sea’ a year ago at the top of her class,” Stevanovic said. “These past four years have continuously pushed me outside my comfort zone and made me grow in unthinkable ways. It was quite the adaptation coming to the U.S. from Croatia but being emerged into a completely new culture in such a holistic way has been transformational to my whole outlook on life. Without a doubt, I would say that I have received an education for life.” Stevanovic intends to obtain a master’s degree in the U.S. He would also like to extend a special shout out to his Pirates sailing team and Coach Alex for an unforgettable four years.

Harris, originally from Richmond, Va., is graduating with a 4.0511 GPA. She is a psychology major. Harris wants to be a school psychologist and will be attending James Madison University in the fall as a student in their M.A./Ed.S. School Psychology program. “I came to Hampton with the expectation that I would do well for myself. My family expected that from me and so I wanted to make them proud. I had a lot of great teachers and professors during my time at Hampton who helped give me the resources I needed to succeed,” Harris said. “I really feel grateful and blessed by the people who helped me get to where I am. I am proud of myself and feel lucky that I get to be someone who my younger family members can look up to and know they can accomplish anything.”

Special Awards

Hampton University would also like to celebrate the 2020 President’s Cup Awarded to James Griffin, Morgan Martin, LeShai McCullough, Rachel Sutton and Briana Wills. Only a few select people qualify for this high honor.

James Griffin is a 2020 graduate of the James T. George School of Business with a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance. James hails from Carmel, Indiana. As a student, James participated as member of the Student Recruitment Team, Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society, and the Financial Management Association. As a graduate, James has accepted an offer to work as a Business Operations Analysts with Red Ventures in Charlotte, North Carolina.

(continued on page 2)
Hampton University Celebrates, continued from front

Morgan Martin is a 2020 graduate of the School of Science with a Bachelor of Science degree in Cellular and Molecular Biology. Morgan is from Atlanta, Georgia. As a student, Morgan participated as a member of the Freddy T. Davy Honors College (2019–2020 Vice President), Greer Dawson Wilson Student Leadership Training Program, and was a MARC (Maximizing Access to Research Careers) Scholar. In the fall, Morgan will be attending Harvard University pursuing a PhD in the Biological Sciences in Public Health program.

LaShai McCullough is a 2020 graduate of the School of Liberal Arts and Education with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. LaShai is from Concord, North Carolina. As a student, LaShai participated as a member of the Freddy T. Davy Honors College, Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society, College Girls and the John Biggers Circle with the University Museum. As a graduate, LaShai has accepted an offer to work as an Analyst with the US Government Accountability Office.

Rachel Sutton is a 2020 graduate of the School of Liberal Arts and Education with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Rachel is from Elizabeth City, North Carolina. As a student, Rachel participated as a member of the Freddy T. Davy Honors College, Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society, College Girls and the John Biggers Circle with the University Museum. As a graduate, Rachel has accepted an offer to work as a Consultant with Accenture.

W. Adrian Freeman Award Recipient

Ms. Ashanti Sallee, who will be attending Rice University for a PhD in Materials Science and Nanoengineering, has received the W. Adrian Freeman Award. This award is administered annually by the President's Office. Awarded since the 1962-63 academic year, it is designated for a graduating senior who has applied for advanced study at an accredited graduate school, with a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

Hampton University Participates in Several Virtual Events Celebrating 2020 Graduates

ESPN’s The Undefeated, presented ‘HBCU Day’ on Saturday, May 23 to celebrate the Class of 2020 graduates at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Using the hashtag #UndefeatedHBCUDay, the virtual celebration featured a collection of videos and written content shared all day across ESPN’s social accounts (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) and curated on www.TheUndefeated.com.

Hampton University also joined a coalition of HBCU leaders, advocacy organizations, and corporate partners that came together to host the National HBCU Commencement Celebration. The virtual event was streamed live on various social media sites including YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and more on Saturday, May 16, 2020.

The celebration featured a video message from Dr. Harvey, other HBCU Presidents, celebrity hosts, motivational speakers, musical performances, and the profiles of HBCU valedictorians and other graduates. Guests included President Barack Obama, Kevin Hart, Thasunda Brown Duckett, Wyclef Jean, Mellody Hobson, Tanner Hardwick, and MANY more! In addition to highlighting this year’s graduates and their institutions, the event raised funds for participating HBCUs and their students.

Governor and First Lady Northam’s ‘Virginia Graduates Together’ Program, Honoring Class of 2020

Hampton University’s Class of 2020 was recognized in a statewide virtual celebration on Friday, May 29, honoring the remarkable achievements of the Commonwealth of Virginia’s graduates. Governor Ralph Northam and First Lady Pamela Northam gave a special address during the “Virginia Graduates Together” streaming event, which was distributed by public television stations throughout Virginia, along with special guests and recognition of accomplishments of graduates. The program included videos from Dr. William R. Harvey, Hampton University President and HU Student Government Association President, Jonathan Mack, a member of the Class of 2020. Along with Governor Northam’s special address, there were music performances, a keynote speech from United States Women’s National Soccer champion Angela Hucles Mangano, and well-wishes from notable Virginians.

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Contributors: Matthew White, Glenn Knight, B. Da’Vida Plummer, Jessica Zimmerman, Alexis Brower
Hampton University Upward Bound Celebrates 26 High School Graduates who are Pursuing Higher Education and Military Careers

The Hampton University Upward Bound Program is excited to announce the graduation of 26 seniors from four Newport News High Schools: An Achievable Dream, Donohue, Heritage and Warwick. Several of these students have been accepted to some of Virginia's top-ranking institutions and others will be pursuing a career in the armed forces while earning their bachelor's degrees.

"Congratulations to the young men and women from our Upward Bound program on their graduation from high school. Hampton University is dedicated to seeing young people receive a top quality education regardless of their background. Hampton University's Upward Bound program exposes high school students to the rigorous curricula required to successfully matriculate to college. We are proud to have played a part in the academic journeys of low-income and potential first-generation college students," said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

In the midst of COVID-19, the transition to college has been very difficult for these students, as they too have had to transition to virtual and telework operations. "The determination that these and other students across the country have possessed in light of cancelled traditional ceremonies and events is admirable, and our program would like to honor and ensure they get the recognition they deserve," said Dr. Candice Artis, Director of Hampton University Upward Bound.

Many of the students being recognized have been participating in the Hampton University Upward Bound Program since its return to the university in 2017. It is one of seven federal TRIO programs funded by the Department of Education to increase college access among low-income and potential first-generation college students. The program is designed to aid participants in transitioning and completing a post-secondary program of study after graduating high school. Upward Bound provides services such as academic tutoring, preparation for successful completion of college entrance exams, information about loans and scholarships and much more.

Upward Bound is planning to conduct a neighborhood drive-through during the week of June 1 through June 4. This particular week has been designated as "Senior Week" for Newport News Public Schools.

"We hope to gift seniors with some items to help them transition to college such as a Twin XL comforter sheet sets, pillows, and other small gifts to brighten their spirits," said Dr. Artis. "With donations from the Hampton University campus community and Newport News stakeholders, we hope to spread as much joy as we can, and let students know how proud we are to assist them in their pursuit for higher education."

Hampton University Holds 2020 Spring Educational Staff Institute Virtually

In response to the changed scenario that makes social distancing a requirement to remain safe from the effects of the COVID-19 virus, Hampton University held its 2020 Spring Educational Staff Institute on Monday, May 11, remotely through Zoom Teleconferencing. Dr. JoAnn W. Haybert, Chancellor and Provost presided over the institute with the theme of "Teaching and Learning Differently in the Age of Generation Z, Part III." Faculty and administrators focused on pros and cons of how the transition from classroom instruction to remote learning has affected their students due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"By hosting our annual Spring Educational Staff Institute remotely, we were able to protect our educators during these challenging times, while still maintaining the high quality training and insight that each Educational Staff Institute provides to our world-class faculty," said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

The Spring Educational Staff Institute opened with a discussion about transformational learning where panelists spoke about remote learning, online learning, hybrid learning and different methods of delivery. Hampton University faculty were encouraged to engage their students even more through the already existing service known as Blackboard, an online student/teacher portal, which can help educators increase efficiency, simplify workflows and amplify student engagement.

The panel also identified additional virtual tools to utilize during this time such as Google Meet and Microsoft Teams, which is a hub where team conversations, files, meetings and more can live together in a single shared workspace.

"We found from student responses that 80% of students were satisfied or somewhat satisfied. About 20% were unsatisfied with the overall process," said Dr. Sylvia W. Rose Esq., Assistant Dean of the James T. George School of Business.

"Some common themes among students were that they believed the workload increased due to not meeting in person, and some felt like recording lectures would be helpful," Dr. Joyce Shirazi, Dean of the Hampton University School of Engineering and Technology, shared some pros and cons the students gave the department through their survey. "Some of the pros were they enjoyed learning in their homes. They could do classes remotely so they can do a multi-task while listening to instruction. They said the course content was not lacking, and even though the start of remote classes was rough, they got used to it pretty quickly," Dr. Shirazi said. "Some of the cons were that the flight and air traffic lab classes had to be postponed because they require one-on-one instruction. They said it was hard to get in touch with other students regarding group work. Some felt it was difficult for students who learn better in person, and they felt rushed to transition to online learning. Our students also mentioned a recorded lecture would help."

B. DiVida Plummer, Dean of the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications had a student conduct a study on the adjustments and raw reactions to the changes. She noted that, "Some of the students wish to stay more connected with professors. Others hoped professors would reevaluate syllabi. Most of them were grateful to faculty for providing tools and the study done stated the students were forced to have more self-discipline."

"It was very beneficial to the faculty, hearing from the deans and the reflections of students as well in regards to the transition from the classroom to remote instruction," said Dr. Haybert.

The next Faculty Institute will occur prior to the start of the 2020 Fall Semester.
Hampton University Biochemistry Student Sierra Williams-McLeod Awarded $10,000 as a 2020 American Heart Association’s ‘EmPOWERED to Serve Scholar’

Hampton University student Sierra Williams-McLeod was recently selected to receive $10,000 as a 2020 EmPOWERED to Serve Scholar. The American Heart Association EmPOWERed to Serve Scholars are college freshmen, sophomores and juniors working as agents of change to create health equity in their communities. She was selected as one of ten students from over 170 entries from college students across the United States.

"Ms. Sierra Williams-McLeod is an extraordinary student who epitomizes the Hampton University Standard of Excellence. Her passion for providing basic essentials to students in need is truly commendable. Congratulations on this truly auspicious accolade," said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Williams-McLeod is a junior, Biochemistry major, Spanish minor from Charlotte, NC. In order to receive this accolade, Williams-McLeod had to provide her background information, write a few essays and send in a video addressing what health equity means to her and how she has been an advocate for change in the community. Williams-McLeod is passionate about reducing health disparities and helping low-income, minority and first-generation students who face poverty and food insecurity.

"In my video, I spoke about the Hampton University Pirate Pantry, which I co-founded with my friend, Shelby Goodson, in 2019," Williams-McLeod said. "HU Pirate Pantry is an on-campus pantry located in the Student Support Services Department that provides food and toiletry items to HU students at no cost. To date, HU Pirate Pantry has recovered over 200 pounds of food and 600+ toilet items and redistributed them to those who need it the most. Pirate Pantry is especially close to my heart because I know it is helping to reduce food insecurity that many college students face on a daily basis."

Along with the $10,000 that Williams-McLeod will receive, she will also be given opportunities to engage, volunteer and collaborate with the American Heart Association. "I am truly excited to be selected as an EmPOWERed to Serve Scholar. Thank you to the American Heart Association for granting me the opportunity to showcase my passion for reducing health disparities among the African American community," Williams-McLeod said.

Dr. Ethlyn Gibson, Associate Professor at the Hampton University’s School of Nursing and Director of the HU Center for Gerontology Excellence, is excited for Williams-McLeod’s recognition. "I am very proud as a faculty member for Hampton University and as a member of the Board of Directors for the American Heart Association to see a young woman with such a passion to help her fellow students live healthy. Sierra is planning an all-day nutrition event for September 2020 when the students arrive back on campus so I hope everyone can participate."

The American Heart Association, the world’s leading nonprofit organization focused on heart and brain health for all, launched the EmPOWERED to Serve Scholars program in 2018 to empower college students focused on improving the health and well-being of their communities.

"Sierra is the only student in the entire Eastern States region to be awarded this scholarship. As a Hampton University alumna, I am extremely proud of her efforts to combat food insecurity on campus and to lead the way by creating a solution to a growing problem during this pandemic and beyond," said MsEllahs Hills, Executive Director of the American Heart Association in Hampton Roads. "The American Heart Association is committed to investing in young people with ingenuity and drive to make the world a healthier place for all."

After Williams-McLeod graduates from Hampton, she plans on matriculating into a biomedical research doctoral program to fulfill her aspirations of becoming a neuroscientist. "I hope to utilize cellular and molecular techniques to develop novel therapies for neurodegenerative diseases," Williams-McLeod said.

For more information about the scholarship, please visit this website: https://www. empoweredtoserve.org/en/empowered-scholar

To view the joint EmPOWERED scholars video, visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v =feY4WmPcu2U&list=PLrDeLRAEJG0ZjBjMhwHzeoZ9yj8BvU7JD0

Aris Brown, Son of NFL Hall of Famer Jim Brown, Commits to Play Lacrosse at Hampton University

The Hampton Pirates Men’s Lacrosse team received a commitment from Aris Brown, son of NFL legend Jim Brown.

"It is my pleasure to welcome Aris Brown to our ‘Home by The Sea,’” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey. “His presence and athletic ability will be a welcomed addition to our Division I Lacrosse program.”

Aris Brown is a four-year starter, helping his team to three consecutive Gold Coast League titles as a midfielder for Sierra Canyon High School. He is 6’4, 180 pounds and is the 15th addition to Hampton’s 2020 class.

“I really liked the school as a whole and wanted to play competitive lacrosse with kids that look like me and make some history,” Brown told Lacrosse Bucket. “My dad has influenced my athletic career by giving me things to work on when he watches me play,” Brown said. “No matter how well I play, there’s always something that he thinks I can improve on. I’m very grateful for it though, and how it’s helped me throughout high school.”

Aris’ father, NFL Hall of Famer, Jim Brown, started his lacrosse career at Manhasset High School in New York. During his high school playing days, he earned All-Star honors for midfield. Brown went on to Syracuse University, where he lettered in four sports including lacrosse and football. While at Syracuse, Brown achieved many awards, including: Athlete of the Year in 1956-57, Team All-American Selection in 1956, and earned First Team Honors in 1957. He went on to play in the National Football League for the Cleveland Browns. He was elected into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1971, and into the Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1983.

Jim Brown helped evolve the sport, and put lacrosse into the main-stream in the 1950’s. There is no question that Brown was one incredible athlete. Many have argued that he is the best lacrosse player to have ever graced the game.

On Saturday, Feb. 13, 2015, as part of ESPN’s SportsCenter on the Road series broadcast from Armstrong Stadium, Jim Brown spoke to the significance of Hampton University sponsoring a Div. I team. “The big picture is that African Americans should participate in everything,” Brown said. “Hampton is exploring and educating and offering opportunities that is off the beaten path. That starts with lacrosse and where it ends nobody knows because there are so many things that the African American community have not had an opportunity to participate in. If lacrosse can be one that opens the doors, then I’m all for it. Hoo-ray Hampton! Keep it up!”

The Hampton Lacrosse program was founded at Hampton in 2011 and was a club team for four seasons before moving up to varsity status in May of 2015. Hampton is the 70th NCAA Div. I school to field a men’s lacrosse program, and the first-ever HBCU to field a Div. I program. Hampton is the first HBCU to play men’s lacrosse overall since Morgan State in 1981.

“We are very excited to welcome Aris Brown to the Hampton University community,” said Rashad Devoe, Hampton University Men’s Lacrosse Head Coach. “He is a tough, two-way midfielder that is very versatile, and his leadership is something we are looking for to keep us going in the right direction. Aris is so unbelievably humble, and just a great young man of integrity. He shows all the characteristics of a Hampton Man at such a young age.”

“Aris has handled the spotlight so graciously, as I am sure he has had some great guidance from his father, the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame and NFL Hall of Famer Mr. Jim Brown, along with his mother Mrs. Monique Brown. Working with them through this process has been an absolute joy. We are elated to welcome the Brown Family to their ‘Home By The Sea,’” Devoe added.