Hampton University Faculty Attend the 2020 Annual Fall Educational Staff Institute, Virtually

As the Hampton University fall 2020 semester is set to begin – virtually - faculty and staff gathered on Zoom for the three-day Fall Educational Staff Institute. This year’s theme: “The New Transformational, Educational Paradigm.”

The opening plenary session included warm and welcoming remarks from Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey, and updates about various things happening at Hampton.

“I would like to welcome you to the beginning of this academic year 2020-2021. I understand people will call this the new normal. I, for one, will be glad when we can get back to the ‘old normal.’ I miss interacting with those of you on the faculty. I miss interacting with the students as I walk across campus. I know we all will be happy when a vaccine for this pandemic is found that can help us get back to the old normal,” Dr. Harvey said.

During his welcome, Dr. Harvey spoke about the COVID-19 pandemic and what Hampton is doing to make sure faculty, staff, and students are safe. “Let me just say that we have taken this very seriously. When we first started talking about whether we were going to have in person instruction, we talked to a lot of people: faculty, staff, alumni, the Board, and administration. We wanted to do what was right and best for Hampton University. We know that there are some people that will applaud our decision, and some that will criticize our decision. We need to do what is best and right and let the chips land where they may,” Dr. Harvey said.

Dr. Harvey also spoke on the generous gift to Hampton from author and philanthropist Ms. MacKenzie Scott. “This gift is a godsend and the $30 million will be transformational for Hampton University. We want to try and use it in ways that are consistent with Hampton University being THE Standard of Excellence,” Dr. Harvey said.

The Keynote Address for this year’s Fall Educational Staff Institute was given by Dr. Pamela Mooienga-Wirsiy, Hampton University alumna (C/O 1991), who is the Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs at Georgia State University Perimeter College. She served as an ACE Fellow at Hampton University this past year. “What a year it was!” she said.

Dr. Mooienaar-Wirsiy presented on the new transformational, educational paradigm and where we go from here. “Many institutions across the nation and the world had to shift to remote or online learning this past year. This was a big deal because we didn’t sign up for this. I want to give kudos to the HU faculty and staff. You arose to the occasion and did what you needed to do,” she said.

She defined remote teaching versus online teaching, which faculty will need to decide what to do for their classrooms due to the virtual education for the fall semester. “Remote is synchronous, where instruction and learning happens at the same time. Online teaching and learning is generally asynchronous. The instructor and student do not have to be online at the same time. This involves detailed instruction, interactive modules, application scenarios and more.”

Dr. Mooienga-Wirsiy left the HU faculty with some thoughts and ideas she learned during her time as an ACE Fellow. “Be present. Everyone isn’t you. Technology differs. Let pedagogy lead. Focus on the outcomes you want and embrace it,” she said.

Hampton University Chancellor and Provost, Dr. JoAnn W. Hayesbert, also reflected on this year’s theme, as she presented to the faculty through Zoom. “This is a transformational educational paradigm. We have upgraded technology in all our instruction spaces. The technology will support faculty and students in accessing students wherever you are located. I challenge each of us to embrace this new reality and we must embrace it for an opportunity to change, where we can develop new approaches. It is mandatory that we work together. It is mandatory that we understand that each day is fluid. There are changes that will be made, sometimes on a daily basis. We ask you to work with us as we work with you. Colleagues, remember, this is a great place and it is indeed a great day to be at Hampton University,” Dr. Hayesbert said.

The 2020 Fall Educational Staff Institute concluded on Friday, August 7, 2020.

Hampton University Museum Awarded $218,669 Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services Museum Grants for African American History and Culture

“Thank you to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for continuing to support us, and allow for expansion of the Hampton University Museum, the nation’s oldest African American museum and one of the oldest museums in Virginia,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey. “This grant will ensure that our Museum can continue to preserve the rich heritage and legacy of our galleries that are dedicated to African American, Native American, Asian and Pacific art and artifacts.”

Building on a recently completed inventory and digital documentation project, the museum will be able to hire a data manager to input data to its collections management system on paintings, prints, photographs, sculpture, and fiber arts.

The collections data manager will lead training sessions for the museum’s curatorial team to ensure their proficiency in using the software system and their ability to carry on the work at the end of the grant period. In each year of the project, four student interns will work with the staff to scan curatorial records including catalog cards and accession paperwork.

“The Hampton University Museum is pleased to receive funding from IMLS to hire a Collections Data Manager, whose position will be to focus on pulling our various databases together into one. This position is funded for three years, which provides a fantastic start in transferring this data from catalog cards to an easily retrievable format for efficiency in gathering information on our strong and varied art collection. We are thrilled to provide this type of accessibility for our staff and constituents,” said Dr. Vanessa Thaxton-Ward, Director of Hampton University Museum and Archives.

As part of the grant, the museum will present small, online exhibitions that will make the collections more fully accessible to scholars, educators, students, and the public. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is an independent agency of the U.S. federal government whose mission is to provide lifelong learning, build capacity of museums and libraries, increase public access to information, ideas and networks through libraries and museums, and to achieve excellence.
Hampton University Assistant Professor, Dr. Rupak Dua, Awarded $300,000 Research Initiation Award to Develop Anti-bacterial Surfaces

Hampton University Assistant Professor, Dr. Rupak Dua, was recently awarded a Research Initiation Award for $300,000 by the National Science Foundation (NSF). As additive manufacturing has become an attractive option for the development of customized implant of polyether ether ketone (PEEK) polymer for biomedical applications, bacterial infections, and bone osseointegration problems hampers its use in clinics. To address this issue, Dr. Dua, who teaches in the Department of Chemical Engineering within the School of Engineering & Technology at Hampton University, will develop a biomimetic surface at the nanoscale on a customized polyether ether ketone (PEEK) structure to provide inherent anti-bacterial properties and enhanced bone integration properties.

“I am very grateful for the support of my Department, School, and University in receiving this award. Without the proper guidance and encouragement from my peers, it would have been a difficult task to achieve this milestone in my career,” said Dr. Dua.

The award will also provide a great opportunity to selected undergraduate students enrolled at Hampton University from all STEM departments in their sophomore or junior years who exhibit a keen interest in the material, additive manufacturing, and biomedical research. Dr. Dua will mentor a total of two (2) undergraduate students/year who can be funded from this proposal. However, he welcomes other interested students to get involved and receive first-hand exposure in cutting-edge research.

“I am very excited to work on this proposed idea as it is interdisciplinary, and it crosses among several disciplines of research, including biomaterial, biomimetic, advanced manufacturing, chemical/biomedical engineering, nanotechnology, and biology,” said Dr. Dua. “The interdisciplinary nature of the studies proposed in this award will enhance the research training of our undergraduate students. It will create opportunities for them to pursue higher education and STEM careers in research such that HU continues its advancement as a robust research university.”

The award will support collaborative efforts in the surrounding community by providing opportunities to the high school students from The Governor's School for Science and Technology to be involved in the research and leveraging the partnership with the Biomedical Engineering Department at Virginia Commonwealth University.

In 2019, Dr. Dua was awarded a Faculty Research award at Hampton University. He also became the Leading Emerging and Diverse Scientists to Success (LEADS) Scholar in Translational Research awarded by the Institute for Clinical Research Education, University of Pittsburgh. He has published in numerous high-quality manuscripts in peer-reviewed scientific journals, authored book chapters, and has presented his research work in various national & international scientific conferences. Recently, Dr. Dua was highlighted as the “Virginia Scientist in Spotlight” by the Virginia Academy of Science in their Spring issue of 2020. (https://vacadsci.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/VA-Scientists-2020-Spring-issue.pdf)

Dr. Dua has also won several international and national awards. He has been an active leader in promoting STEM fields and has chaired several sessions on scientific ethics at national conferences. Dr. Dua is a reviewer for many scientific journals and a member of many professional societies, including Sigma Xi, Virginia Academy of Science, Orthopedic Research Society, Biomedical Engineering Society, Tissue Engineering & Regenerative Medicine International Society.

Earning his doctoral degree in Biomedical Engineering in 2014 with a specialization in Tissue Engineering and Biomaterials from Florida International University located in Miami, FL., Dr. Dua worked for two years as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute of Orthopedic Research, and Education housed in Texas Medical Center (World’s largest Medical Center), located in Houston, TX. Before joining Hampton University in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the School of Science & Technology, Dr. Dua was working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Hampden-Sydney College, where he taught and supervised undergraduates on clinically-translated research projects.

Hampton University Architecture Department Hosts 2nd Annual Summer Design Camp, Virtually

The Hampton University Department of Architecture hosted its 2nd Annual Summer Design Camp – Archi Camp – June 22 through 26. This year’s camp was completely virtual due to COVID-19.

“We are monitoring the COVID-19 crisis closely, and even though these are challenging times, it is important to continue educating the youth in our community. Archi Camp is important for our local middle school students who are interested in the exciting world of architecture,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey. “Hampton University is leading the way in innovation and using virtual technology to ensure tomorrow’s leaders continue to thrive.”

The purpose of Archi Camp is twofold: to be an introduction for local middle school students to the world of architecture, and to serve as a bridge between Hampton University and local communities. This program also hopes to foster dialogue in the local Hampton Roads community about the power of design, and to inspire more young students of color to apply to architecture schools.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for the safety of everyone on campus, Hampton University cancelled all on-campus summer activities. With economic futures affected as well, corporate financial support for the camp quickly faded. Assistant Professor for the Department of Architecture, Laura Battaglia, Camp Administrator, as well as a licensed professional architect, was not dissuaded.

“Architecture is a hands-on profession and I wasn’t sure how to teach rising 8th and 9th graders the basics through a screen,” said Battaglia. “But I knew that by June, there were talented kids in quarantine who might benefit from a little architecture. If nothing else, it would provide them an academic distraction from other stay-at-home entertainment.”

This year’s camp was able to incorporate the current public situation by studying what community means as an architect in the age of social distancing. The students were able to work with a real client throughout the week – Ms. Ericka Ward of Divine Concept Group, Inc.

“Our participation as the 2020 virtual Archi Camp ‘client’ was a privilege that made what was once a dream more of a reality for our organization. DCG’s Exceptional Young Achievers initiatives involve sharing in the positive development of our youth, and Archi Camp afforded us the opportunity to contribute towards this mission despite the challenges of COVID-19. The students of HU’s Arch Camp were motivated, intuitive, imaginative and exceptionally creative! They were able to assimilate complex concepts and elaborate on what they learned with visual examples. The verbal presentations were exceptionally delivered and at one point during the final presentations of their models and renderings, I was literally brought to tears. In a week, the phenomenal gifts of these young people blossomed and they truly brought ‘life’ to our vision. It is always meaningful to be involved in initiatives that give back to the young people in our community,” said Ward. “Special thanks to Ms. Laura Battaglia for allowing our organization along with the ‘Bennis U’ HU architecture alumni organization to join forces in participation with other volunteers in such a meaningful experience that undoubtedly inspired the amazing talent of Hampton Roads’ next generation of architects!”

Archi Camp also partnered with LaRae Snoddy from Hampton University’s Educational Talent Search program, and Mia Moore from Spratley Gifted Center who very quickly found 20 interested and eager students.

To accommodate the altered structure for the camp, Battaglia reached out to volunteers who helped deliver supplies to every camper’s home. Curriculum was also adjusted to correspond to the new mode of learning. Throughout the week, campers learned how to think and see like architects and how to engage in the creative process of designing. By the end of the week, they had designed a conceptual site plan and building for Ms. Ward’s proposed Community Center in Hampton, VA.

At its core, Archi Camp is about empowering local students to “think big.” This year was no exception.

“My son, Jeremiah truly enjoyed Archi Camp. I was a little worried when I initially saw the schedule, but it was engaging. If they can keep Jeremiah engaged, they can keep anyone engaged! Job well done,” said Renita Bren, mom of Jeremiah who participated in the 2020 Virtual Archi Camp.
Hampton University has been awarded a five-year $1,554,390 grant from the National Institutes of Health – National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIH-NIGMS). This funding comes from the Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (U-RISE), which requires recipients to train and develop a diverse pool of undergraduate students in biomedical research to transition to research-focused higher degree programs.

“Hampton University continues to evolve, to make new strides in research, and to be at the forefront of innovation. Thank you to the NIH for continuing to invest in the success of our students. We know that the Hamptonians who complete this program will go on to be leaders in the biomedical field, and will truly change the world,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Through this funding opportunity, NIGMS expects that the proposed research training programs will incorporate didactic, research, mentoring, and career development elements to prepare trainees for the completion of research-focused higher degree programs in biomedical fields.

Drs. Michelle Penn-Marshall, Luísel Ricks-Santi, and Oluwatoyin Ajibola Asojo all serve as Principal Investigators for the grant. To make things run smoothly, the PI’s split up the responsibilities of the grant. Dr. Ricks-Santi communicates with NIH and is in charge of the students, Dr. Asojo communicates with the faculty and mentors, and Dr. Penn-Marshall facilitates with administration.

Dr. Cecile Androas-Selim, retired Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, received a grant award from NIH to fund the Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) program in 2014. That grant was a five-year $1.5 million award, which was a program that addresses the need to reduce the disparity in the number of people from underrepresented backgrounds in biomedical research careers. Because the funding ended in 2019, the PI’s needed to reapply for the grant.

“We originally had a MARC grant and about two years ago, because there was so much overlap between MARC and URISE, NIH decided to streamline the program. When we went back to apply again for the grant, we had to apply for the URISE. It took about a year from when we finished writing it, for it to be awarded to us,” said Dr. Ricks-Santi, Director of the Hampton University Cancer Research Center.

There are two parts of the URISE program that Hampton University students can be eligible for depending on student classification, GPA and other factors. The Pre-URISE program prepares students for the URISE scholarship program.

The Pre-URISE program’s requirements are:
- Freshmen and sophomores who are interested in pursuing a PhD or MD/PhD in biomedical sciences;
- Must major in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, chemical engineering, mathematics, physics or psychology; and
- Must agree to complete URISE curriculum

Pre-URISE students receive mentoring and research opportunities, networking opportunities with the best scientists in the nation, summer research internships and more.

The URISE program’s requirements are:
- Rising junior
- 3.5 GPA or higher
- Interested in pursuing PhD in Biomedical Sciences
- Must major in biology, biochemistry, chemical engineering, mathematics, physics or psychology
- Must agree to complete rigorous URISE curriculum

URISE students receive tuition scholarship, monthly stipend, travel to scientific conferences, mentor and research opportunities, career development and much more.

The MARC program was designated for only biology, biochemistry and chemical engineering majors, but the new URISE program includes additional majors because biomedical research has become interdisciplinary and it takes an interdisciplinary team to solve biomedical problems. “Biomedical research is a very dynamic and all-encompassing field. You can be a behavioral scientist and study the social aspects of why people get cancer. You can be a physicist and study how cancer moves in the body. You can be a chemist and study drugs. We wanted to increase the interdisciplinary nature of the

Woodson H. Hopewell Jr. Leaves Legacy of Kindness, Wisdom, and Helping Others

After 44 years of working with students, faculty and staff, Hampton University alumnus, minister, author, and musician, Mr. Woodson H. Hopewell Jr. left this world on Wednesday, August 27, 2020.

“The entire Hampton family is deeply saddened by the passing of our great friend, Mr. Woodson H. Hopewell Jr. Not only a Hampton University alumnus, but a great and caring administrator. Having worked at our ‘Home by the Sea’ for over 40 years, Dean Hopewell, as he was known by many, was a man of God who brought hope to all who knew him. Kindhearted and a mentor to students and professionals, Dean Hopewell will be missed by every person who ever had the chance to meet him,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

As a trusted leader, having had worked at Hampton University since September 2, 1976, Mr. Hopewell was loving, caring, kindhearted, with a calming and quiet spirit. He truly cared about people, the entire Hampton family and making sure that everyone’s needs were always met. “I am deeply saddened by this loss. Dean Hopewell was my mentor, a minister, talented musician and he gave one of the most powerful sermons you would ever hear when we used to have our meetings in

(continued on page 4)
Woodson H. Hopewell Jr.

the chapel with the male students,” said Andrew Morrison, Interim Director of Residence Life & Housing and Hampton University alumnus.

An accomplished and talented pianist and vocalist, Hopewell received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music and the Master of Arts degree in Counseling from Hampton University in 1976 and 1983, respectively. His career started at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, where he worked and taught for one year. After that he came back to work at his alma mater as Night Manager of the Student Union. Then he became the Assistant Director of Student Activities, working with Dr. Greer Wilson, whom Hampton’s Student Leadership Program is named after. In this role, Hopewell wrote and composed the song “You Have a Friend in Me,” for the 1986 Annual Student Leadership Workshop Retreat, which is still used today for the Greer Dawson Wilson Student Leadership Program freshman orientation and induction ceremonies.

In 1988, Hopewell became the Director of Student Activities and shortly after became the Dean of Men where he worked closely with Ms. Jewel B. Long, who was the Dean of Women and started the position around the same time. “We were a duo of sorts, bouncing ideas off of each other. We would meet to talk about making crucial decisions as it was related to judiciary matters. We were disciplinarians and also teachers at the same time. Though we had administrative hearings with students, we were teaching life lessons during those hearings,” said Ms. Long.

Dean Long and Dean Hopewell always had a good working relationship as they worked alongside their entire careers. Dean Long retired from Hampton earlier this year. “Dean Hopewell would jokingly call me ‘boss.’ I think it was because he respected me or maybe because I was his elder, or maybe it was just my personality. It was a good relationship. He would deal with the facts and try to draw out the information. I would tell him to go ahead and add the details and the fluff. That’s why we worked so well together,” Ms. Long said. “We were a team that started together and ended at the same point of time. I believe that God’s hand is working again.”

In 2015, Dean Hopewell became the Dean of Judicial Affairs and Housing and stayed in this position until his death. A faithful member of the Hampton family, Dean Hopewell was inducted into the Quarter Century Club in 2002 and received the Claudis P. Harvey Outstanding Staff Award in 2003.

A noted author, in 2012, Dean Hopewell released a book entitled “Off the Dean’s Desk: Anecdotal Musings From the Dean of Men,” which was designed to help people in positions like him to realize they are not alone, and that the unusual circumstances they may encounter are not unusual. “I want people to understand the importance of being passionate about what you do. If you’re working with students or people, your approach can’t be laissez faire, you have to be committed,” Hopewell said about his book.

Dean Hopewell served as president of the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals and was the first African-American to serve as president of the Virginia Association of Student Personnel Administrators. He had held many leadership responsibilities in both associations.

A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dean Hopewell loved Philly cheesesteak sandwiches. He was married to Mrs. Delsey Hopewell and together they were the parents of three children; two daughters, one son; and one grandchild.

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Hampton University Student Jonathan Scott Named ESPN The Undefeated Rhoden Fellow

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Hampton University senior journalism and communications major Jonathan Scott has been named a Rhoden Fellow. Scott will participate in the fourth class of the Rhoden Fellowship – a one-year sports journalism internship program with ESPN’s The Undefeated that identifies and trains aspiring African American journalists. This Rhoden Fellowship class will begin Monday, August 24 and last through the conclusion of the 2020-2021 academic year. Scott is a Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications student.

“We are extremely proud of Mr. Jonathan Scott and his acceptance as a Rhoden Fellow. This is the type of success that Hamptonians gain through hard work, perseverance, and dedication. There is a bright future ahead for this young journalist and we are excited to see what he produces,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

A panel of senior editors at The Undefeated – ESPN’s multipurpose initiative exploring the intersection of sports, race and culture – and former New York Times award-winning sports columnist Bill Rhoden selected Scott, along with five other students, from a pool of outstanding applicants from HBCUs across the country.

A U.S. Navy veteran, Scott is a senior journalism and communications major from Brooklyn, N.Y. He anchors and produces for The Scripps-Howard News Watch, on WHOV-TV, Hampton’s broadcast station, and is the production assistant for the Hampton University Athletics’ TV show, Respect The H with Eugene Marshall, Jr.

“I am extremely proud to be the fifth member of the Rhoden Fellowship from Hampton University. The Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications family has welcomed me since my freshman year and given me the opportunity to express my craft and learn the ropes of journalism. I’m excited to be learning from the best in the business at my dream job. With ESPN and The Undefeated, I’ll be doing what I already love to do anyway,” said Scott.

The Fellows will work as stringers during the academic year, covering and reporting sports, as well as general news, at their respective universities for The Undefeated’s HBCU vertical. They also create and produce weekly multimedia content, and host and produce podcasts addressing resonant issues and topics affecting young people. During the summer, the Fellows work 40-hour weeks at ESPN offices in New York City and at The Undefeated in Washington, D.C. where they gain first-hand experience in all aspects of sports journalism.

“The Scripps family is very proud of Jonathan. He transferred into our program with an engineering and military background, and has found his passion in media. This opportunity with The Undefeated will open up a world of experiences for Jonathan, that will without a doubt, open doors for a successful career in the industry,” said B. Da Vida Plummer, Dean of the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications. Funded by ESPN, the Rhoden Fellowship is a one-year program founded by former New York Times award-winning sports columnist William C. Rhoden, who joined ESPN’s The Undefeated in October 2016 to run the fellowship program and serve as columnist and editor-at-large. The fellowship – established as part of The Undefeated’s mission to develop new voices and serve as an incubator for future sports journalists of color – is open to outstanding undergraduate students at HBCUs.

The Undefeated is ESPN’s multipurpose content initiative exploring the intersections of sports, race and culture. The digital hub, TheUndefeated.com, which launched in May 2016, combines innovative long-form and short-form storytelling, investigation, original reporting and provocative commentary to enlighten and entertain African Americans, as well as sports fans seeking a deeper understanding of black athletes, culture and related issues.

In addition to its cutting-edge content, The Undefeated seeks to be a thought-leader on race, sports and culture in the country – convening insightful forums to discuss and debate topical issues affecting sports and race in America.