



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

DSA News For You

Acorn Awards, Update on DFSL, and ALL IN Democracy Challenge Honors

Monday, March 25, 2024

Dear DSA Colleague,

At our most recent DSA Town Hall, we unveiled our new strategic plan, [Forward Together](#), and at the heart of the plan—the very core—are the people who make it their mission to ensure every student at the University of Maryland has the opportunity to thrive. That's why it warms my heart to see that, on Giving Day, **we raised \$382,067 to support our programs and initiatives in the Division of Student Affairs**. And, for the sixth year in a row Student Affairs won the challenge for Most Faculty/Staff Donors.

You know how important our work is and who we do the work for, which is why it's so moving to see you show up to support our work - your own and our colleagues around the Division - along with the 2,053 others who gave to Student Affairs this year. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for being amazing colleagues and champions for the Student Affairs experience here at Maryland.

Observances to note during April:

- We love our graduate students! Graduate Student appreciation week is April 1 - 5, and Graduate Student Life invites Grad Terps to [gather, celebrate, and get to know each other over fun activities](#).
- The Office of Multicultural Involvement and Community Advocacy (MICA) at The Stamp will [host UMD's first campus-wide celebration](#) of Southwest Asian and North African (SWANA) Heritage Month.
- Our MICA colleagues will also [host events](#) celebrating Asian, Pacific Islander, Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month Multiracial Heritage Month.
- The Office of Civil Rights & Sexual Misconduct (OCRSM), Campus Advocates Respond and Educate to Stop Violence (CARE), and Sexual Assault Prevention Committee (SAPC) will offer [many programs](#) that inform our community about sexual assault prevention and resources on campus as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM),

Acorn Awards

Kindness and care are the heart of our division. It is an honor to lift up those who demonstrate deep commitment to our community. Presented twice annually, our Acorn Awards celebrate how our people have led with love. We applauded our Acorn Award winners at our DSA Town Hall on Thursday, March 7, and we applaud them here, too.

Dana Calandrino, Resident Life

Dana Calandrino, a Residential Case Manager in Resident Life, has always provided empathetic support to on-campus students facing difficulties. She was nominated for one moment in particular, for her quick and caring response that helped a student in crisis and embodied our Division's commitment to community, integrity, and well-being. Upon receiving concerning texts from a student, Dana promptly called the student and discovered the severity of the situation. Remaining on the phone, she notified the police, which resulted in timely intervention that likely saved the student's life. Dana's dedication to student welfare is evident daily, and her actions in this instance demonstrate her exceptional commitment to their well-being.

Michael Martucci, University Career Center

Michael Martucci ensures bills are paid, purchases are made, and so many details are meticulously handled on behalf of the University Career Center, but, his contributions to his colleagues extend far beyond that. From providing energizing rock tunes in the hallways to offering comforting hot chocolate, uplifting quotes, and unwavering support, Michael helps foster a positive environment in Hornbake. He also recently assisted the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, in the absence of their Director of Finance, embracing the additional responsibilities while sustaining his commitment to the University Career Center. Consistently, Michael aids others in achieving their goals, always with a cheerful demeanor and sometimes accompanied by a little Rock & Roll.

Dai-An Tran, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

Dai-An embodies an ethic of care, demonstrating love, dedication, and unwavering support within our university community. His leadership style is grounded in the values of compassion and consensus. He proactively connects with each member of our divisional IT staff, fostering genuine understanding and appreciation for their work. His person-centered approach extends to all of his interactions with DSA and university colleagues, where he offers guidance and advice without judgment. Dai-An's compassionate leadership creates a supportive environment where individuals have the opportunity to thrive.

Chris Moore, Dining Services

While Chris's major commitments for football and basketball games are the money and IT systems, Chris has become an expert at making bushels of popcorn, perfectly pouring a draft beer and crafting the perfect hot dog. He has genuine passion for providing an outstanding experience for our guests and a true commitment to helping every student and every member of the Dining Services team thrive. He never needs to be asked, he is just there to make sure the team succeeds in everything and always goes above and beyond in everything he does for the University. Most importantly while he does all of this he never loses his dry sense of humor that helps everyone get through anything.

Kiera Martone, Resident Life

Keira masterfully balances one of the most challenging juggling acts of the profession. She is a supervisor who emanates care, support, and development; she is a fierce student advocate who has the cultural and political expertise to invoke meaningful and sustained change; she is a nationally recognized expert in the field of student conduct and housing; and she is a student of life, always eager to learn more for the betterment of her community. She leads and inspires the Communities Team by getting her hands dirty, getting in the trenches and leading with sweat equity. Keira's advocacy and thoughtfulness definitely makes our campus a more welcoming place for our students.

Recent Campus Update on Fraternity and Sorority Life

I [offered an update](#) regarding the pause on IFC and PHA new member education and initiation activities, and events where alcohol is present, on Friday, March 15. This update included details about our ongoing commitment to Fraternity and Sorority Life, including next steps for creating and preserving a healthy environment for all. For all fraternities and sororities, we remain cautious, watchful, and deeply committed to your safety and well-being.

UMD Earns ALL IN's Highly Established Action Plan Seal

The [ALL IN's Highly Established Action Plan Seal](#) is the highest recognition for student voting efforts on college campuses. UMD is one of 93 campuses that has earned this recognition so far for the 2024 election cycle. Thank you to our colleague Naomi Cohen, in The Stamp, and [TerpsVote](#) for developing a nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan worthy of this recognition. Civic engagement is crucial for the future of our democracy, and it's colleagues like Naomi and the students involved in TerpsVote that are leading the way. **GO ZAGS!!!!!!!!!!**

So much good stuff is happening in DSA with some of the most loving, caring, and good people I know. Life is good!

Warmest Wishes, good colleagues,

Patricia A. Perillo, Ph.D.

Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Maryland
she/ her/ hers

Save the Dates

- [Council Conversations: SALT Added](#) - A Healthy Brain, Chetan Joshi, Director of the Counseling Center -- Tuesday, April 9 at 2 p.m.
- [Maryland Day](#) - Saturday, April 27

Commented [1]: I will consider this my birthday present if it stays :)

Commented [2]: I JUST HOWLED!

Commented [3]: :)

