



MICUA Matters

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MICA Class Benefits Historic Preservation Project

In the fall semester of 2005, **Maryland Institute College of Art** students enrolled in a historic preservation and restoration course developed plans for the Boonsboro Historical Society of Washington County to restore the Boonsboro Trolley Station and create a museum of history. Because of the students' work, the Boonsboro Historical Society received a \$50,000 Capital Historic Preservation Grant from the State of Maryland toward the implementation of the project.

MICA students examined the trolley station using techniques of field measurements, freehand and technical draw-

ings, research, and field trips. The students also used some of the latest technologies available at MICA to assist them with the project, including 3-D imaging, AutoCAD® software, laser cutter and printer, and PowerPoint presentations. The semester culminated with a presentation by the MICA students to the Boonsboro Historical Society at MICA's Brown Center.

This fall, students in the course will document and develop an interpretive program for two historic ships, USCGC Taney and USS Torsk, and a visitor center for the Baltimore Maritime Museum. ■

Letter from the President

In June, Secretary of State, Mary Kane, led a delegation of Maryland officials to China for the purpose of promoting educational exchange opportunities between the State of Maryland and China. I had the good fortune to join Secretary Kane, several senior government officials, and ten higher education leaders.

During an eight-day marathon, the Maryland delegation visited Beijing, Hefei, and Shanghai; met with national, municipal, and local government officials; and conferred with numerous higher education leaders. In Beijing, Maryland's Secretary of State and China's Vice Minister of Education signed a memorandum of understanding to exchange English and Chinese language teachers; in Hefei, several higher education delegates participated in a day-long forum on education and global competitiveness; and in



MICUA President Tina Bjarekull traveled to China in June as part of a delegation promoting international education exchange.

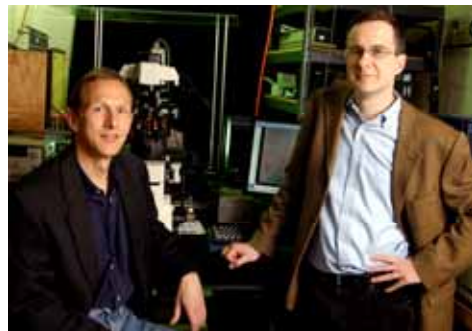
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Johns Hopkins Launches Nanobiotechnology Institute

Johns Hopkins University is preparing to aim enormous research and educational resources at some exceedingly small targets. The university launched its ambitious new Institute for Nanobiotechnology on May 15, drawing on the expertise of more than 75 faculty members from such diverse disciplines as engineering, biology, medicine, and public health.

The institute will strive for major advances in medicine by developing new diagnostic tools and treatments based on interdisciplinary research conducted at the atomic or molecular level. The institute will encourage the movement of these campus breakthroughs into the private sector for further development and marketing, and will also train the next generation of scientists and engineers in this emerging field.

The institute is being launched with \$6 million in initial funding. According to a report released by the National Science Foundation, Johns Hopkins spent nearly \$1.4 billion in science, medical, and engineering research in fiscal year 2004, making it—by nearly 44%—the leading academic institution in total R&D spending for the 26th year in a row. ■



Heading up the Institute for Nanobiotechnology will be Peter Searson, Director, and Denis Wirtz, Associate Director.

Sojourner-Douglass, Community College Sign Transfer Agreement

Sojourner-Douglass College and Anne Arundel Community College have joined forces to help students achieve success in the career fields of business administration and business management. The colleges recently signed an articulation agreement enabling AACC students who earn an associate degree in business management to transfer up to 70 credits into Sojourner-Douglass College's bachelor's degree program in business administration. All AACC transfer students with an associate degree in business management

must take at least 54 credits of upper-division courses at Sojourner-Douglass College.

Sojourner-Douglass College is a predominantly black private undergraduate and graduate college that offers classes at five Maryland sites—Annapolis, Baltimore, Cambridge, Salisbury, and Prince George's County—and in the Bahamas. With a weekend and evening class schedule, Sojourner-Douglass is dedicated to serving adult learners with the support system they need to thrive in a college program. ■

Public Gives Low Marks to Proposed Federal Student Database

Americans overwhelmingly object to a proposed federal system for tracking each college student's academic, financial aid, and enrollment information in a central database, according to poll results released in July by the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. The survey found that:

- Sixty-two percent of the respondents oppose the proposed federal data collection effort, while 33% support it.
- By a factor of more than two to one (68% to 27%), Americans think that enough information is already collected at the college and university level. They believe that dredging for more data would be a breach of students' privacy that could result in the misuse of their personal information.
- Sixty percent of Americans believe that collecting individual student data is costly, intrusive, and does not address a pressing public policy issue. Only 34% support the idea. ■

MICUA CAPITAL PROJECTS: Building on Success

In the 2007 legislative session, MICUA is requesting \$12 million in capital improvement grants from the State for construction and renovation projects at four member institutions. These colleges and universities plan to use the State grants to leverage over \$70 million in private capital investments. On a relative basis,

MICUA institutions receive about 3.5% of all State capital funds for higher education, down from 6% in fiscal 1995.

“Construction costs have risen rapidly over the past five years; at the same time, enrollment has increased and buildings are aging,” says MICUA

President Tina Bjarekull. “As a result, MICUA has a backlog of eligible capital requests of nearly \$330 million for the next five years. We prioritize requests through a very rigorous internal selection process and request funds for the projects that are most essential to our institutions and to the State.”



A rendering shows how MICA's Gateway Tower will transform the area.

State support for capital projects at independent colleges has been in decline for close to a decade. MICUA is seeking to reverse this trend, as the capital grant program is a cost-effective means for the State to accommodate enrollment growth and support economic competitiveness.

The capital improvement program for independent colleges began in 1976. Today, State support for an eligible MICUA capital project covers about 20% of the total project costs, compared to 40% a decade ago.

Maryland Institute College of Art seeks a grant for an ambitious project that will enable the art school to accommodate increased enrollment and provide Baltimore with a dynamic new landmark, revitalizing a struggling neighborhood. The proposed project—The Gateway—calls for construction of a mixed-use complex that will consist of 24,873 square feet devoted to academic and administrative programs, including studios, seminar room, career center, lecture hall, and student exhibition gallery.

Maryland Institute College of Art seeks a grant for an ambitious project that will enable the art school to accommodate increased enrollment and also provide Baltimore with a dynamic new landmark, revitalizing a struggling neighborhood.



The site of MICA's proposed project is at the intersection of Mount Royal and North Avenues in Baltimore.

One of the oldest colleges in the State, St. John's faces considerable challenges in updating the campus's historic buildings, many of which were built before the Civil War.

The building will be constructed at the north end of MICA's urban campus—on a site that had two rundown brick buildings for decades—strategically located at the intersection of Mt. Royal and North Avenues. The handsome seven-story complex will become a “symbol of new energy to the 135,000 people a day who enter Baltimore City on the Jones Falls Expressway from the north,” says MICA President Fred Lazarus. “The Gateway's studio tower will announce that this imaginative new structure relates directly to art and education: two of Baltimore and Maryland's strengths.”

Enrollment at MICA has increased 24% over the past five years, and all students are required to complete projects outside of the classroom. The new building will provide seven floors

of specialized studio units that are accessible to students and faculty 24 hours a day. The estimated cost of this total capital project is over \$25 million;



The boiler rooms at St. John's College have been the site of numerous repairs in recent years.

MICA is requesting a \$3 million capital improvement grant from the State.

St. John's College traces its origins to King William School, established in 1696 in Annapolis to educate young men to take their place as leaders in the New World. The college was chartered by the State of Maryland in 1784. One of the oldest colleges in the State, St. John's faces considerable challenges in updating the campus's historic buildings, many of which were built before the Civil War.

The college needs to replace the existing central heating plant and associated infrastructure, and is requesting \$1 million in capital funds for the \$4.5 million project in order to eliminate the impending risk of a heating system shutdown. Such a shutdown would force classes to be cancelled in “at least one and possibly all three of our classroom buildings,” says St. John's President Christopher Nelson.



McDowell Hall at St. John's College dates back to the 1700s.

“All academic activities would come to a halt, as class time, rather than research or independent study, is the central focus of the academic program at St. John’s College.” St. John’s academic program, based on the reading and discussion of the great books of Western civilization, is unique in Maryland and in the U.S.

The project would provide new infrastructure for climate control in spaces used for and in support of the academic program. The existing central heating plant was built and service lines were installed in 1951, and in recent years the system has suffered numerous breakdowns and leaking steam pipes. These problems are expensive to repair, cause severe safety issues, and disrupt campus activities, according to college officials.

Mount St. Mary’s University is requesting a \$4 million grant to construct a 20,500 square foot addition to an existing building that serves the performing arts academic program. Flynn Hall, the original building, was

theatre departments; it was last renovated in 1985. This project represents the most significant capital improvement for academic facilities on campus in over 30 years; the estimated cost is over \$10

million. The Mount has contracted a Baltimore architectural firm to develop a plan to replace outdated and inadequate space with a state-of-the-art instructional and performance facility.

Mount St. Mary’s routinely opens its campus to the general public for theatre productions, concerts, studio art shows, recitals, and other artistic productions, which are increasingly in demand due to recent population growth and diversification in the region. At present, there is no dedicated facility for the



Flynn Hall at Mount St. Mary’s University was constructed in 1903 as a gymnasium and currently serves as a performing arts center.

visual and performing arts in northern Frederick County. “In addition to enhancing the University’s mission, an expanded fine arts facility would provide Mount St. Mary’s with an opportunity to better serve the cultural needs of a growing local and greater Frederick community,” says Mount St. Mary’s University President

Thomas Powell. “This request was submitted to align with the Bicentennial

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The interior of Flynn Hall reveals the need for renovation and expansion.

built in 1903 as a gymnasium and has been modified to house the music and

Gilman's existing classrooms have changed little since the 1940's with blackboards and a pull-down slide projection screen. Under the proposal, instructional technology will be improved to support passive and interactive computer-based presentations.

in 2008, when the Mount community will celebrate 200 years of service to our students and to society.”

Johns Hopkins University is seeking a \$4 million capital grant to assist in the \$31.5 million renovation of Gilman Hall, the university's first major academic building on the Homewood campus and its flagship structure. Constructed in 1915, Gilman Hall is home to a majority of the university's humanities departments. Renovation would allow for enhanced programming, the reunion of all humanities departments under one roof, and much-needed modernization of teaching and scholarship facilities.

Gilman's existing classrooms have changed little since the 1940's with blackboards and a pull-down slide projection screen. Under the proposal, instructional technology will be improved to support passive and interactive computer-based presentations such that an instructor can walk into any classroom or seminar room with a memory device and begin a presentation with access to real time data and web-based information sources.



Gilman Hall, built in 1915, is the flagship structure of Johns Hopkins' Homewood campus.

The Gilman renovation is part of the Johns Hopkins response to the “Call to Action and Leadership” issued by the Department of Defense in 2004, which urged the country to take action to improve the nation's foreign language capabilities and cultural competency.

“In response to the situation described in the Call to Action, we are developing concrete plans to increase the number of humanities students in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences by as much as 50 percent,” said Johns Hopkins President William Brody. “We also anticipate strategic increases in faculty, especially in disciplines that are of particular importance to today's world. The Gilman renovation will allow us to accommodate such increases and bring campus facilities for the study of humanities and social sciences to the same level as those for science and technology.” ■



Letter from the President (continued from page 1)

Shanghai, the Maryland delegation met with several officials to discuss the feasibility of a Maryland higher education center in China. There was scant time to explore the rich culture of the orient or visit historic sites. Yet from our bus windows and during our brief escapes, we seized a taste of modern China, a nation that is evolving at an unprecedented pace.

Beijing and Shanghai are bustling hubs with soaring skyscrapers and millions of people. The recent



architecture is grand, some is opulent. As with many industrialized cities, the roads are snarled with traffic—trucks, buses, cars, carts, bicycles, and rickshaws. Traffic lanes are ignored, and the vehicle with the loudest horn has the right of way. Clouds of smog hang low over the buildings blocking the sun. The cities are replete with contrasting images—the present/the past, the rich/the poor, the east/the west. These contrasts elicit hope and evoke regret.

Hefei is lined with hundreds of massive cranes and scaffolding is everywhere. Again, the contrasts are stark. Some construction workers are equipped with modern tools. Others are working with bare feet in oppressive heat. Some scaffolding is made of sturdy steel. Other is constructed with bamboo and string. Today, Hefei is a manufacturing mecca. Tomorrow, it may be something else.

The number of Chinese who speak English—and speak it well—is remarkable. On the streets, young Chinese walk out of their way to strike up conversations with foreign visitors, and parents encourage their children to speak English to complete strangers. Many speak freely about the country's problems, and some openly criticize their governments. There are harsh contrasts between the new rich and

the extreme poor. There is homelessness and despair; but there is also hope, determination, and entrepreneurialism.

Most Chinese consider education as the key to a more egalitarian future, and the Chinese government has established ambitious goals for its colleges and universities. The Maryland delegation met with several Chinese officials who discussed the challenges facing the higher education community in meeting these goals. Surprisingly, these challenges



will sound familiar to most readers. *How can China develop an internationally preeminent system of higher education? How can China meet the growing demand for higher learning? How can China provide access and success to underserved students? How can China make higher education more affordable?*

These are the same challenges our State and nation have faced for decades. Over this period, our political leaders have implemented several effective programs to improve access, expand capacity, and promote quality. On the continuum of progress, America's colleges and universities are the envy of the world, and Maryland's system of higher education is one of the best in the nation. In this environment, I am perplexed to understand several recent proposals to dismantle most federal student aid programs and exert additional federal control on college campuses. Clearly, more progress is necessary; but in our efforts to improve access, quality, and affordability, care should be taken to preserve effective programs and build on existing strengths.

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*Maryland's Independent Colleges
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A Vital Public Resource*



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Higher Ed, Business Groups Sponsor Listening Tour

The Maryland higher education community—including public universities, community colleges, and MICUA member institutions—is teaming up with the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and the Governor's Workforce Investment Board to sponsor a statewide listening tour, "Solutions for Maryland's Future: a Partnership for Workforce Development and Maryland Higher Education." Scheduled to make nine stops throughout Maryland this fall, the tour will facilitate a candid discussion between the business community and college and university presidents focused on the State's workforce and economic development needs.

The major focus of the listening tour is to listen, learn, and act based on how business leaders and others view Maryland's colleges and universities. Tour stops include the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore; **Washington College; Hood College;** the University System of Maryland, Universities at Shady Grove; Anne Arundel Community College; College of Southern Maryland; **College of Notre Dame of Maryland;** and Frostburg State University. ■



Hood College will host a stop in Frederick on the Solutions for Maryland's Future listening tour.