

PRIDE & Joy Newsletter—Scholar Issue

Maryland State Department of Education
Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools

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Issue 4

Welcome to MSDE * Academic Accolades * Special Deliveries * Shining Stars

“PRIDE Hall of Fame”

Let’s give a ‘Shout-Out!’ to this quarter’s Shining Stars profiled in the Liberty Street Lobby...
Nancy Carey, Janice Johnson, Maria DiPietro Lamb, Sherea Makle, Jerrienne McCain, Marie Pennix, Walter Sallee, Melanie Schuhardt, Barbara Smooth, and Deneice Yarborough

Academic Achievement at its Best

Dorothy Richburg, in Procurement, is beaming with pride for her daughter, *Dionne Nicole Curbeam*. Dionne received her Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Bowie State University. *Dr. Curbeam’s* dissertation was “A Quantitative Analysis of Faculty Concerns Regarding a Lecture Capture System at a Mid-Atlantic University.” *Dr. Curbeam* is currently employed as an Instructional Technologist at Coppin State University and an Adjunct Professor at the university.

Beverly Estep, in Correctional Education, is full of joy for her grandson, *Charles Edward Squires, III*. *Charles* graduated from North Caroline High School in Caroline County in May. He will attend Chesapeake College in the fall.

John B. Wood, III, son of **May Wood** in Public School Construction, recently graduated from Marriotts Ridge High School with a 3.5 GPA. *John* plans to attend the University of Maryland College Park and major in Aerospace Engineering.

Kathy Lauritzen in DOI has four reasons to celebrate. Her son, *Kjeld Lauritzen* graduated from Towson University with a Master of Arts in Teaching. Also, *Kjeld’s*

fiancé, *Alisha Brown*, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Maryland. Another son, *Keir Lauritzen*, earned his Ph.D. in Engineering from the University of Maryland. Also, *Keir’s* wife, *Catherine Lauritzen*, also graduated from the University of Maryland with a post graduate certificate in Nursing.

Woody Grant, in the Office of Equity Assurance & Compliance, is thrilled that his granddaughter, *Gabriele Alexis Wright*, is graduating from Vanden High School in Fairfield, California. *Gabriele* is contemplating following in her father’s footsteps by entering the U.S. Air Force, completing college, and becoming a career military officer.

London Lee, daughter of **Carolynette Snowden** in DORS, graduated from Lansdowne High School from the Academy of Finance. *London* will be attending Towson University in the fall and has been awarded merit-based scholarships that cover the full cost of tuition. In addition, her outstanding performance as a federal student intern has earned her a permanent part-time position at the Department of Treasury in the Office of Comptroller of Currency.

Erica Trusty, daughter of **Deborah Trusty** in Business Services, earned a MBA in Marketing & Finance from the University of Maryland College Park.

Heidi Toll, in OHR, is proud to announce that her daughter, *Laura Emily Toll*, graduated from Towson University as a Doctor of Audiology. *Laura* is in practice at Chesapeake ENT and planning her September nuptials.

Gerald Tich, in DORS, is pleased to announce the graduation of his grandson, *Michael Tich, Jr.*, from Loyola Blakefield High School with Honors. *Michael* has been accepted at Cornell University in New York and plans to major in Chemical Engineering.

Shirley Woodson, in DORS, is ecstatic that her daughter, *Sheriah Woodson*, graduated from Western High School. *Sheriah* is moving on to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in the fall. She plans to major in Biology and Pre-pharmacy.



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“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can.” ~ John Wesley

“The highest result of education is tolerance.” ~ Helen Keller

Welcome to the MSDE Family!

Preston Alderman, OSS/Audit
Rebecca Baden, DORS/FS
Tashara Branch, DORS/DDS
Jenn Campbell, DECD/Region 12
Mathew Dickey, DCCR/JJC
Elizabeth Fleming, DORS/DDS
Jo-Anne Foster, DCCR/JJC
Akida Goppy, DORS/FS
Jenna Green, DORS/DDS
Jon Hagert, DORS/DDS
Karen Harrison, OSS/Audit
Christina Jackson, DORS/DDS
Mertine Jermany, DORS/DDS
Barb Johnson, DORS/DDS
Matt Koerner, DCCR/CTE
Nicole Kohlhepp, DORS/DDS
April Leilich, DBS/Accounting
Brenton Mayhew, DORS/WTC
LaTonja McLendon, DORS/FS
Malita Pankey, DECD/Region 4
Ron Payton, DCCR/VCC
Kristi Peters, DSFSS
Regina Ravenell, DECD/Region 12
Eric Schmidt, DORS/DDS
Valentine Tita, DCCR/JJC
Robert Whittington, DORS/FS
Amber Zedney, DORS/DDS

“The vocation of every man and woman is to serve other people.” ~ Leo Tolstoy

Higher Education in the House!

Darlene F. Peregoy, in DORS, earned a Masters in Business Administration from Loyola University Maryland.

Kathleen Klein, in the OHR, recently received an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree in Business Management from Essex Community College.

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” ~ Benjamin Franklin

Gloria Mikolajczyk is very proud of her son, *Christopher Belfoure*, who graduated from the University of West Virginia with a Bachelors Degree in History and a minor in Chinese. *Christopher* is also fluent in French and Italian. *Christopher* will work in Shanghai, China as a professional English trainer at EMC Worldwide.

Taylor Stewart, daughter of **Kim Stewart** in DBS, graduated from Coppin Academy High School—*Taylor* will be attending Coppin University in the fall, and is currently working as a manager at McDonald's.

Jamese Dixon-Bobbit in C&A is pleased to announce that her daughter, *Nekia Murphy*, graduated with an Associates Degree in General Studies and Allied Health from Baltimore City Community College. *Nekia* plans to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Education.

Marcus De'Mar Robinson, son of **Rose Bailey** in DORS, graduated from Salisbury University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology with a minor in Conflict Analysis Resolution.

Rona Bannister, of DORS-Region III, is proud of her daughter, *Renee M. Bannister*, who graduated from George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology. *Renee* will enter the Nursing Program at Coppin State University in the fall.

For more information about **PRIDE** in Maryland Public Schools visit www.MarylandPublicSchools.org

“**PRIDE** Maryland Public Schools”

Now, more than ever, is an opportune time to nominate our MSDE colleagues for their personal and academic achievements, contributions to public education, and always going the extra mile to serve.

Nominate any individual or group that creates and exudes a sense of **PRIDE** at the Department.

“The future depends on what we do in the present.” ~ *Mahatma Gandhi*

Bonnie and Bill Burke, in DBS, are the proud parents of *Jessica Eleanor Burke*, who recently graduated from Kenwood High School in Baltimore County.

Michael Simpson, the son of proud parents **David and Regina Simpson** in OS, graduated from Owings Mills High School. *Michael* will continue his education at ITT Technical Institute.

The grandson of **Miriam Silverman** in DSFSS, *Alexander Gustavo Mendez*, recently graduated from Mt. Hebron High School in Howard County. *Alexander* has decided to serve his country as a U. S. Marine. *Alexander* will continue his education at the University of Maryland College Park.

Regina Creek-Ravenell, in OCC, is proud to announce that her daughter, *Christia H. Ravenell*, has graduated from New York University (NYU). *Christia* earned a Master of Arts degree in Music Business.

Krystal Richardson, in DORS, is pleased to announce the graduation of her daughter, *Brooke Richardson*, from Mount Zion Baptist Christian School. *Brooke* completed the College Preparatory Curriculum and will be transferring 12 college credits to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore where she will major in Health.

Alycia Gold, daughter of DORS police employee, **Virginia Lewis**, graduated from Mergenthaler Vocational Technical High School. In addition to receiving her high school diploma, *Alycia* also received a Child Care Certificate in Early Childhood Development; she plans to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education at Baltimore City Community College.

Brigitte Kent, in DORS, is proud to announce the middle school graduation of her son, *Matthew Highsmith Kent*, from Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School. *Matthew* is looking forward to spending his high school years at Civitas High School in Baltimore City.



Little Learners!



Moving to the Middle!

Mary Gable, proud grandmother in DAP, welcomed a granddaughter, *Julie Elizabeth Gable*, on March 12th. *Julie* weighed in at 5 lbs 11 oz and 18 3/4 inches long. She is a bundle of joy to proud parents Chris and Nicole Gable.

Gloria Mokolajczyk, proud grandmother in DBS, welcomed a grandson, *Reed Conner*, to the world on March 31st. *Reed* is the son of Andy and Julie Belfoure Conner.

Renee Spence, proud grandmother in OS, welcomed a grandson, *Vincent De Paul Spence II*, on June 7th. *Vincent* weighed in at 7.9 lbs and 20 3/4 inches long. Mom Amy, Dad Matthew, and Grandma Renee are doing exceptionally well.

Nicholas Tsigounis, son of **Sherry Tsigounis** in OCC, graduated from Elmwood Elementary School and will be entering the magnet program at Parkville Middle School.

Mykhi Johnson, son of **Michelle Macer** in OCC, graduated from Abbottston Elementary School and has been accepted into the Ingenuity Program at Roland Park Middle School.

“Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.” ~ *Nelson Mandela*

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