

2021 Student Award Winner

Millicent Sasu

I am a first-year law student at my dream law school, the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. I am the proud daughter of African immigrants who made enormous sacrifices for my three siblings and me. I knew that I had to work hard to make them proud and to ensure that their sacrifices were not in vain. I started my college career at Montgomery College and graduated in 2018 with an Associates of Arts. I transferred to the University of Maryland, College Park at the Universities of Shady Grove where I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice in 2020. Throughout college, my passion for the legal system grew with the internship experiences I was fortunate to participate in with the Department of Justice, the National Immigration Law Center, and Montgomery County's States Attorney's Office. I witnessed the impact lawyers have on people's lives. Since I was young I have wanted to be an attorney who helps others in need. Now, I am a proud law student fulfilling my dreams to serve at-risk youth as a juvenile defense attorney. Youth need someone who believes in them and fights for their justice, fair treatment, and the rehabilitation they may need. I look forward to gaining knowledge and experiences in law school that will help me positively impact young lives.



**2021 Student
Award Winner**

Linette Allen



Linette is an MFA candidate in Creative Writing & Publishing Arts at the University of Baltimore, where she is a Turner Fellow. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Griffel* (Norway), *Bangalore Review* (India), *Ilanot Review* (Israel), *Geometry* (New Zealand), *Bangor Literary Journal* (Ireland), *Existere* (Canada), *Hong Kong Review* (China), *Rialto* (England), *Prairie Schooner* (United States), and elsewhere. Winner of the 2021 Kay Murphy Prize for Poetry, she is a member of the Academy of American Poets and an ardent supporter of the arts and humanities. A native of Washington, DC, she is well-travelled, having lived in Italy, England, and Africa. Her dream is to someday live and work abroad in Meso-American indigenous communities, exploring the literary devices of surviving language systems: Nahuatl, Chol, Totonaco, Mazateco, Mixteco, Zapoteco, Otomi, Tzotzil, Tzeltal, and Maya. Her thesis, *Breakfast with Sappho*, is a lyrical feast for lovers of the ancient poet Sappho. Sensuous, centered around the breaking of bread and the swallowing of fruit, each poem is a portal — a titular series of revelations, a cohesive set of conversation starters. Like the gauzy organic remains of her writing, a speculative voice swarms the pages, building a narrative on the complexities of life and the self. Verse by verse, age to age, a song is being whispered to the bright and bothered.

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Kassidy Jacobs

Kassidy is a junior at the University of Maryland, double majoring in Government & Politics and Criminal Justice. She is from Baltimore and has aspirations of becoming a public interest lawyer. She has previously interned for the Maryland General Assembly with her representative, Senator Antonio Hayes. She is also heavily involved in community service work and has been a volunteer with Terps for Change for two years. She has volunteered at CASA de Maryland and Academy of Hope, where she helped address educational disparities facing immigrant and low income communities. She recently completed the Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program at Florida State University College of Law, where she took law school classes and solidified her interest in using the law to serve marginalized communities. This summer, she also helped Congressman Raskin's campaign efforts through the Democracy Summer program. In the future, she hopes to develop a strong legal foundation before becoming an elected public servant in the state of Maryland to advocate for underserved communities.

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Liz Onobikoty Etouke



Liz has been in Frederick, Maryland for five years. Before that, she lived in Cameroon, where she was born. She started her carrier as a sales representative with Nestle Cameroon, then moved up the ladder to become area sales manager, managing customer accounts and sales operations. She took advantage of the opportunity to transfer to the finance department, where she held the position of compliance officer in charge of audit preparation and internal control review. After securing immigration documents, she decided to take the leap of faith and come to the USA with her children. Now, she is pursuing her career in the financial industry, and her passion for personal finance. She will graduate from the University of Baltimore with her Bachelor's Degree in Business Finance in 2021. She will then pursue the certified financial planner certification. Liz holds a life and health insurance license in all fifty US states and is currently working as a benefits counselor with Mercer.

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Taryn Painter

Taryn is a first-generation college student at Towson University, in the Honors College. Raised in a multiracial, immigrant household in southeastern Pennsylvania, her broad interests in international affairs, identity, and displacement were cultivated at home and sharpened in TU's Departments of History and Political Science. With the support of TU's Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry, Taryn has been able to conduct survey research this past summer on public attitudes towards statelessness in the United States, which she plans to present at a conference in Spring 2022. On campus, Taryn sits on the Editorial Board of Towson's Journal of International Affairs and the Executive Board of Model United Nations. She is a member of Honorables of Color, the Undergraduate Research Club, and a Student Assistant in the Office of the Provost. Off campus, she serves as a Research and Student Engagement volunteer at United Stateless, a national, stateless-led organization dedicated to advancing the human rights of stateless people in the United States. After she graduates in 2022, Taryn is heading to graduate school to conduct further research on human rights and human security.

**2021 Student
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Alexandria Diaz-Shovan



I am a pansexual Mexican-American from Frederick, Maryland. My younger brother and I were raised by my mother and grandparents who taught us to love and accept everyone for who they are. Growing up with a mother with cancer and a little brother with autism, I was surrounded by social workers and people in the human services field. While in high school, I recognized my sexuality and came out to my mother's open arms. As I was learning more about myself and the LGBTQIA+ community, I learned that there was a lack resources in my surrounding areas. All of these things led me to major in social work, and made me want to help others like the family I grew up in. After I earn my master's degree in social work, I plan to start or join other foundations that have the same mission of creating resources for teens and adults in the LGBTQIA+ community. Rural areas do not have many physical and mental health resources that are accepting of the LGBTQIA+ community, and I plan to change that.

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Megan Steele

Megan is a senior at Towson University studying in psychology with minors in family studies, human services, and German. With Megan's unique course of study, she firmly believes she has made for herself a path to succeed in her future career as a pediatric psychiatrist. Megan has a remarkable talent to encourage children to accept who they are, no matter their cognitive abilities or disabilities. Her goal is to work in a children's hospital to ensure that children feel safe and welcomed in this world. Off campus, Megan is a substitute elementary school teacher, nanny, and a gymnastics instructor.

**2021 Student
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Ouriel Ndalamba



Ouriel is a junior at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, majoring in chemical engineering. Ouriel graduated high school in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where she was valedictorian. She is a Center for Women in Technology Scholar and a member of the Honors College. She made the President's List three times and earned the Undergraduate Research Award and the Center for Women in Technology Academic Excellence Award. During her first year at UMBC, Ouriel volunteered as a student ambassador with the Undergraduate Admissions Office. She is currently treasurer of the Center for Women in Technology Student Council, a position that allows her to interact with various UMBC officers. Outside of class, she enjoys dancing, hiking, and sewing. One of Ouriel's long term goals is to improve the conditions of minority students in higher education because she strongly believes that education is a powerful gift. She is the eldest of four children, speaks French with family, calls Baltimore, Maryland home, and believes she is a great cook.

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Franshay Barnett

Over the years, I've noticed the lack of financial literacy education in my community. I would like to help change that. In addition to becoming a CPA, I also plan to become a certified financial planner. I want to help people learn how to make their money work for them by teaching people how to plan, save, and invest. I want to help families gain the tools to attain and build generational wealth in communities where this is not often seen. My priority is helping parents create lucrative savings for their children's secondary education so that children aren't already in debt when they enter adulthood. It's something I wish that my parents had been able to do for me. Additionally, I'm an avid promoter of small and local businesses. As I see more and more of my friends and peers start their own businesses, I would like to be a resource for them as well. Ultimately, I would like to go into business for myself and hope to list as my clients those friends who I am already so proud of. As a CPA, I will positively impact my own life, and the lives of those in my community and beyond.

**2021 Student
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DeJanae Evins



As a University of Maryland, Baltimore graduate student, DeJanae is already a cannabis professional leading education and social impact initiatives in Los Angeles. In 2017, she founded the wellness and education platform, Green Goddess Glow. She currently works in marketing at the largest Black-owned multi-national cannabis company in the US. DeJanae has built her career in cannabis thus far by making information, that might otherwise be indecipherable, digestible in a culturally competent way. She has had the privilege of building out educational programs, delivering corporate responsibility trainings emphasizing the need for diversity at every level of the supply chain, lobbying at both NCIA and MCBA lobby days, speaking at wellness conferences and offering commentary to publications like Elle Magazine and Coveteur.

**Staff Award
Recipients
2021**

**2021 Staff
Award Winner**



Dawn Davis

Dawn is a Library Services Technician in the Cataloging Department at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Frederick Douglass Library. She previously worked at UMES as a Library Aide from 1991 to 1997 in the Cataloging and Special Collections Departments, and she returned to the campus in 2019. Dawn worked as a Library Aide at Wor-Wic Community College from 2002 to 2010. Dawn is currently working towards her AAS Degree in Library and Information Technology.

**2021 Staff
Award Winner**



Misty Green

Misty earned her master's degree in Learning Design and her bachelor's degree in Advanced Technology Education from Bowling Green State University. She teaches and works full-time for the University of Maryland Global campus as a Curriculum II Designer. She has twin boys who are finding their way in their own educational journey. When Misty is not teaching college students, working, or chasing her boys, she loves movie nights and ice cream.

**2021 Staff
Award Winner**



Taneisha Carter

Taneisha is a graduate student at the University of Baltimore in applied psychology in counseling psychology. She earned her B.A. in psychology from the University of Maryland College Park in 2016. She plans to use her education to advance to a leadership role serving communities impacted by social injustices. For the past four years, she been a Clinical Research Assistant at the National Center for School Mental Health at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. In this position, she collaborates with multiple agencies to address the gaps in mental health service provision and early identification of mental health issues in youth. Ultimately, she wants to provide clinical services to a diverse population of clients so that her research stays grounded in clinical practice and is infused with the latest implementation and treatment research. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, cultural events, and exploring new restaurants.

**2021 Staff
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Tierra Johnson

Tierra currently serves as Coordinator of Student Personnel at Towson University Campus Recreation. She has a longstanding relationship with TU. She has worked in various positions at TU since 2012. In 2018, Tierra graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and Anthropology from TU's College of Liberal Arts. A Maryland native, she is currently completing two graduate certificates at University of Maryland Global Campus, focusing on human resource development along with leadership and management. Tierra plans to utilize her professional development award to prepare for the Society for Human Resource Management certification exam. This certification will position her as a recognized expert and leader in human resources. When away from work and classes, Tierra is usually curled up with a book or cheering for her son's sport teams.

**2021 Staff
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Taylor McKenna



Taylor is a Special Projects Coordinator for the University of Baltimore's Office of Advancement and External Relations, and has been in this role for two years. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in Nonprofit Management and Social Entrepreneurship at the University of Baltimore. She lives in West Baltimore with her husband, two children, and two cats. She is involved in her community as a co-chair of the grants committee of her local giving circle, a member of her community association board, and a volunteer at her children's school. She is an avid reader and enjoys exploring Baltimore with her family.

**Faculty Award
Recipients
2021**

**2021 Faculty
Award Winner**

Dr. Sarah Federman



Sarah is an assistant professor in negotiations and conflict in the College of Public Affairs at the University of Baltimore. She serves as a Fulbright peace and conflict specialist. Sarah has just published this year a book in her field: *Last Train to Auschwitz: The French National Railways and the Journey to Accountability*.

**2021 Faculty
Award Winner**



Dr. Sel Hwahng

Sel Hwahng is assistant professor of health and sexuality in Women's and Gender Studies at Towson University. Sel is also pursuing a Sc.M. degree in cardiovascular epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Sel is principal investigator of the sequential mixed-methods project, "A Comparative Study of Dietary Attitudes and Behaviors among Low-Income Women of Color," funded by the University System of Maryland, Towson University, and Johns Hopkins University. Sel has received numerous grants, awards, and fellowships from institutions such as the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institutes of Health, the American Public Health Association, the International AIDS Society, the Association for Women in Psychology, and the American Heart Association. Sel's publications number over 30 sole-, first-, and co-authored articles and book chapters in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes. Sel is an editor of the book *Global LGBTQ Health*.