Date: January 26, 2007

To: Deans, Directors, and Department Heads
   Student Organization Leaders

From: Marsha A. Guenzler-Stevens, Ph.D.
   Director of Activities

Subject: Undergraduate and Graduate Call For Nominations

Each spring the University honors outstanding scholar-leaders at the University Awards Program. Hosted by the Stamp Student Union, Campus Programs, and Multicultural Involvement & Community Advocacy, this program features some of the University’s most prestigious awards, including the eight listed below. This year’s University Awards Program will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2007. I am writing to enlist your assistance in identifying candidates for each of these honors. You are invited to nominate individuals for the awards described below.

The Byrd Citizenship Prizes and Wilson H. Elkins Award are selected from the same applicant pool. Individuals who nominate candidates for either of these awards will enter them into the pool for both. The Byrd Citizenship Prizes are presented as a memorial to the late President Emeritus H.C. Byrd and Sally Sterling Byrd, to the male and female member of the senior class who during their collegiate careers have most nearly typified the model citizen and have contributed significantly to the general advancement of the interests of the University. The Wilson H. Elkins Award is presented to a senior who has displayed outstanding involvement and leadership in campus activities and who has contributed significantly to the general advancement of student affairs.

The William E. Kirwan Award is presented to a junior who has exhibited outstanding leadership and commitment to the college community. Nominees will be evaluated on their academic performance; involvement in student activities; community service; and promotion of campus diversity/race relations, international relations and/or international understanding.

The Bethune Award, named in honor of the African-American educator Mary McLeod Bethune, is presented to the senior student who has contributed most significantly to the advancement of the African-American student community at Maryland and the general interest of the University.

The La Raza Unida Award, which translates as “the people united,” is presented to the senior student who has contributed most significantly to the advancement of the Latino(a) student community at Maryland and the general interest of the University.
The **Lorde-O’Leary Award**, named after writer/activist Audre Lorde and the late University of Maryland Professor Ron O’Leary, is presented to the senior student who has contributed most significantly to the advancement of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender student community at Maryland and the general interest of the University.

The **Vera Cruz-Kochiyama Award**, named after labor activist Phillip Vera Cruz and the Civil Rights Activist Yuri Kochiyama, is presented to the senior student who has contributed most significantly to the Asian Pacific American student community at Maryland and the general interest of the University.

Nominations for undergraduate awards are due by **Friday, February 16, 2007**. You may access the awards nomination form at [www.union.umd.edu/awards/](http://www.union.umd.edu/awards/). Click “2007 Undergraduate Nomination Form” to enter the student(s) you wish to nominate. Upon receipt of your nomination(s), the Office of Campus Programs will provide nominees with the appropriate award applications. Applicants will be invited to apply by **Friday, March 9, 2007** for full consideration.

Deserving graduate students may be nominated for the **University of Maryland Graduate Student Distinguished Service Award**. The nomination process for this award is unique. The award celebrates graduate students who have made outstanding contributions to the University community in the areas of scholarship, leadership, involvement and service. Candidates will be judged on the following criteria:

- service to the campus and broader community;
- involvement in campus organizations, issues and activities; and
- demonstrated leadership in departmental or campus graduate student issues, good scholarship, as reflected in research, publications, presentations, and professional contributions.

You may access the Graduate Student Service Award Nomination Form at [www.union.umd.edu/awards/](http://www.union.umd.edu/awards/). Click “2007 Graduate Student Service Award Nomination Form” to enter the student(s) you wish to nominate. Faculty, staff members, advisors, academic departments, and fellow students may submit letters in support of their nomination and additional materials (e.g. vitae) to Marsha Guenzler-Stevens at 0110 Stamp Student Union or via e-mail at mguenzle@umd.edu. Both online nominations and supporting materials should be submitted by **Friday, March 9, 2007**.

I encourage you to share this material with members of your organization. Please contact me at 301-314-8505 or via e-mail at mguenzle@umd.edu should you have questions about the nomination process or the Awards Program. Thank you for your assistance with this important selection process.