

The COLLEGE BOUNDER

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE BOUND, INC.



First Generation College Bound, Inc.
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www.FGCB.org

FGCB Support Was Crucial for Dentist

Dontra Scott, 27, graduated from the Howard University College of Dentistry last spring, the first First Generation College Bound alumnus to earn a graduate medical degree. He is currently a dental resident at Bronx-Lebanon Hospital in New York. Here is his story of how FGCB and its founder, Joseph Fisher, changed his life.

I grew up in Columbia, Md., in Columbia Homes, which was like public housing. My friends and I were young men being raised by single women. My mother was unemployed for a long time. Being the eldest child, I had a lot of responsibility taking care of my younger siblings.

I met Mr. Fisher in 7th grade at Harper’s Choice Middle School. He was one of my teachers. At first it was a rocky relationship. I

had some behavioral issues, including a temper. I loved school, but didn’t have a lot of parental influence at home and being young I was often influenced by friends.

I wasn’t extremely bad, but at times my attitude wasn’t the best. My attitude caused Mr. Fisher and me to get into one or two teacher-student disagreements.

He could tell something was not 100 percent correct. He pulled me to the side and got me straight. He also wanted to meet my mom. I wasn’t really comfortable with that at first because I didn’t know Mr. Fisher’s intentions. But I opened up a little. I wanted to get out of the situation I was in. He sat me down one day and said, “There are other opportunities in life; you just have to work hard in school.”

When I got to high school, he kept in touch. He



Dontra Scott speaks at FGCB’s 20th Annual Celebration at the University of Maryland on June 16, 2010.

encouraged me to explore as much as I could, to visit as many colleges as I could. He helped me understand and sign up for financial aid. A lot of people had their grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles who had been to college. In my family, I was the first and I was going in blind. I had nobody to tell me,

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Gilmore Elected FGCB Board Chairperson



Roy Gilmore

Roy Gilmore, director of security at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring and a Laurel resident, was elected chairperson of the FGCB board of directors in October 2010.

An 11-year board member, he formerly served as police chief of Laurel for eight years after retiring as a major and district commander from the Prince George’s County Police De-

partment. Prior to accepting his current position at Holy Cross, Gilmore served as director of the Maryland Police Corps, a federally funded police training program.

Gilmore is FGCB’s first board chairperson other than founder Joseph Fisher.

“I am pleased that Joe and the members of the

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**FIRST GENERATION
COLLEGE BOUND, INC.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joseph Fisher

Founder and CEO

Teacher, Howard County Public Schools, and head coach, The Catholic University of America women's cross country and track teams

Roy P. Gilmore

Chairperson

*Director of Security,
Holy Cross Hospital*

Mary S. Rhett

Treasurer

*Retired, Sales Representative for
Sentry, Inc.*

Anthony Miller

Secretary

*Director of Graduate Recruiting and
Corporate Outreach, Capitol College*

Gavin Brown*

Youth Pastor, Trinity Church

Robert Levan

Attorney, Funk & Bolton

Stefanie Lomax*

*Director of Human Resources,
Rolyn Companies, Inc.*

Lonnie Moore*

Consultant, IBM

Carrie Quinn

*Vice President and Senior Financial
Officer, Revere Bank*

Rena Ross

*Community Manager, Stevens Forest
Apartments
(FGCB Alumni Parent)*

H. Walter Townshend, III

*President and CEO, Baltimore/
Washington Corridor Chamber of
Commerce*

John Wiley

*Retired Director of Recruitment,
Prince George's Community College*

*FGCB Alumni

Admission Can Bring Tough Decisions



Joseph Fisher, founder and CEO of First Generation College Bound, reflects on a common spring dilemma for parents of college-bound seniors.

"My child has been accepted to college and we are all excited. I have shared the news with relatives, friends, co-workers and many others. However, we just received the financial aid package and I can't afford the cost for my child to attend. I do not want to disappoint my daughter, so what do I do?"

Here is what parents in this frequent situation can do. First, they need to review their financial situation and then share it with their child.

Parents are passionate about their son or daughter attending college, but perhaps can't afford a loan of \$10,000 or more each year. Their child needs to hear this.

Second, dream colleges aren't the only colleges. A college that is affordable and meets a child's needs for success can be a better choice.

I recall a student who attended a second-choice college because he was not accepted at (and could not afford) his first choice. He

did well and attended the first-choice college for graduate school with tuition assistance from his job.

At this college-bound season of excitement and challenges, parents should:

1. **Let their son or daughter know of their excitement over any college acceptances.** Hopefully, it is more than one college, and includes a community college.
2. **Wait for the financial packages from all the colleges to review affordability, then discuss this with their child.** The child may not like the conversation, but the parent has to be realistic and upfront. Most students think parents have endless pockets, especially after listening to their peers.
3. **Once the award packages come, parents should review them and make the best decision based on affordability and chance for student success.** The parents should include other awards in the calculation only after confirming them. Most colleges give until May 1 to make a decision (committing after that date puts a student in jeopardy of not getting a room on campus).
4. **If parents find that the cost of a four-year college is too expensive, they should set their pride aside and have their child attend a community college.** Some community colleges have relationships with four-year colleges that assure tuition discounts to students who finish two years with a 3-plus average.
5. **Parents should stay excited and optimistic about their child's college-bound future.** They should not worry about what others say, but rather stay grounded in the reality of their situations and what they can afford, especially in this challenging economic time. Their child will do the rest with their support and encouragement.

Dentist *continued from Page 1*

“This is what you do.” Mr. Fisher was that person.

I had a 3.8 GPA in high school and was accepted to multiple universities including Florida State, North Carolina and Maryland.

I was always interested in medicine, despite being the first person in my family to go to college.

Mr. Fisher didn't laugh at that; he just encouraged me. He told me it would cost a lot in the long run, and if I went to an in-state school I could save money. So I went to the University of Maryland.

I received a lot of scholarships because I was a first-generation college student who achieved high academic marks.

Thanks to Mr. Fisher's guidance I was able to attend Maryland without the burden of finances that many students face.

At first college was a real shock for me. I started off with a 2.6 GPA.

I was at a huge university; I didn't have too much support. Mr. Fisher would call at random and we would talk.

He encouraged me; he knew I had the ability to be there, or I wouldn't be there – it was just a matter of me applying myself.

I went to meet with the medical advisor after my first semester. He told me I wasn't going to make it, that my GPA was too low.

I wanted to prove him wrong. I got better my second semester, and my sophomore year my GPA skyrocketed. I had barely any B's after that.

I applied to dental schools the beginning of senior year. Mr. Fisher helped as far as making the right decisions financially.

I went to Howard University because it was close to home and they offered me a lot of financial support. Mr. Fisher talked me through the entire process. He was always there for me.

During dental school, there were some hardships with my family and my mother. Mr. Fisher was always there to keep me grounded. He always used to say, “No matter what's going on, make sure you stay focused on the ultimate goal.”

Thanks to his continued guidance and encouragement I ended up as vice president of my class and finished No. 16 overall in a class of 100.

Every day that I do something, it's the first time. I may not get it right, but I keep trying to get better.

Mr. Fisher was a guide, a mentor, a friend, all in one. He passed on what he knew so that I could make it and pass it along to others.

Thanks to people like Joe Fisher, children who grow up with dreams like mine are able to see them become a reality. I don't know where I would be today without Mr. Fisher.

“Thanks to people like Joe Fisher, children who grow up with dreams like mine are able to see them become a reality.”



CAREER
puppy

Since summer 2010, FGCB has a new resource to help students identify career paths which they can enjoy and excel in.

Career Puppy is a website that features career assessments that students can take,

and also video interviews with FGCB alumni describing their vocations.

GEAR UP students participating in the FGCB College Access Program at Central and Fairmont Heights high schools can take the career assessments for free.

In spring 2010, Central and Fairmont Heights became the fourth and fifth high schools in Prince

George's County where FGCB is active.

FGCB's programs at the two schools are funded by GEAR UP, a federal college access program for low-income students.

The website also offers advice on the college admissions and financial aid process.

Check it out by going to the FGCB website, www.fgcb.org, and clicking on the Career Puppy logo at the bottom of the home page.

Gilmore continued from Page 1

board have confidence in me in helping to sustain Joe's vision," Gilmore said.

"I look forward to working with Joe and members of the board in FGCB's mission of encouraging students from low- to moderate-income families to attend college. FGCB has made and will continue to make a difference for many students and their families."

Fisher said of Gilmore, "I'm delighted to have someone of Roy's abilities and experience to lead our board. He's such a strategic organizer and administra-

tive problem solver. And he's very passionate about helping people. He truly cares about the future of our youth.

"I've known Roy almost from the time I started the program in 1990, when he was handling neighborhood policing in the Laurel area for the Prince George's police. He had a meeting at Kimberly Gardens to address community concerns," Fisher said.

"With his skills, Roy truly made a difference in that community. He was very passionate and concerned to put the right officers in the community to address par-

ents' concerns about drugs and safety. He had a police officer come in and help with the Homework Club as a mentor.

"Roy also was a volunteer for the Boys and Girls Club. I got to see him coach youth sports and could see his genuine interest in the youth. When he became Laurel police chief, he continued to support FGCB's efforts," Fisher said.

"When he finally had time, he became a board member in 1999. We look forward to Roy leading First Generation College Bound."

*"I'm delighted to have someone of Roy's abilities and experience to lead our board."
- Joe Fisher*

Maryland Leadership Workshop and College Summit for GEAR UP Students

FGCB arranged for 21 GEAR UP students from Central High School and 20 from Fairmont Heights High School to attend a Maryland Leadership Workshop at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover on Sept. 21, 2010.

Maryland Leadership Workshops is a nonprofit organization affiliated with the Maryland State Department of Education to develop leadership among high school and middle school students. The workshops help students identify their strengths and weaknesses and experience team problem-solving.

At the September work-

shop, three of the students from Central and Fairmont Heights were endorsed for advanced leadership training in the future.

FGCB also held a College Summit and Career Fair for Central and Fairmont Heights GEAR UP students on Oct. 14.

In the morning, the 26 students who attended were counseled by Dr. Gwen Schiada of Career Puppy on the results of career assessments they had taken, and heard FGCB's Raymond Harrod speak on "Preparing for College and Beyond."

Meanwhile, Dr. Mary Ellen Kiss, a consultant to FGCB, briefed admissions

representatives from 13 colleges on the background of FGCB students and the FGCB program.

In the afternoon, students attended a college fair with the 13 schools, which included Allegany College of Maryland, Bowie State University, Capitol College, Coppin State University, Frostburg State University, McDaniel College, College of Notre Dame, Prince George's Community College, Salisbury University, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Towson University, University of Maryland College Park and University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Homework Clubs Active

The FGCB Homework Clubs at Kimberly Gardens in Laurel and Alden Berkley Townhomes in College Park had a productive fall.

In addition to their weekly meeting for homework and academic enrichment, their activities included:

- A field trip to Baltimore's Inner Harbor on Oct. 15. Forty-one students and their chaperones visited the Baltimore Aquarium and Port Discovery.
- Pizza parties on Oct. 26 at Alden Berkley and Oct. 27 at Kimberly Gardens.
- An honor roll dinner on Nov. 19 at the Golden Corral in Arundel Mills. Sixteen students from Kimberly Gardens and four from Alden Berkley made honor roll for the 1st quarter of school.
- Christmas parties on Dec. 21 at Alden Berkley and Dec. 22 at Kimberly Gardens. A total of 53 children received gifts.



Students have fun at a Homework Club Christmas Party.

Alumni Reach Back to Help Students

FGCB alumni volunteering with the organization's College Retention Committee are helping younger alumni to keep on track in college.

The alumni, led by Pat Fisher, wife of founder Joseph Fisher, stay in regular contact with FGCB college students to provide guidance

and encouragement when necessary.

In January 2011, the committee sent reminders to current students to fill out their annual FAFSA so that they would not lose their financial aid.

In November, the committee had sent 85 midterm care packages with food, gift

items and inspirational notes. And in December they mailed holiday cards to all FGCB college students and older alumni.

The committee seeks more volunteers. If interested, Contact Pat Fisher at fgcbrc1@gmail.com.

FGCB at UMES

CEO and founder Joseph Fisher was on hand Dec. 17, 2010 to witness the graduation of four FGCB alumni from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. The graduates were:

- Lamont Dial, bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice, 2006 graduate of Potomac High School
- Adaia Johnson, bachelor of science degree in business, 2006 graduate of Laurel High School
- Tahesia Patterson, bachelor of arts degree in English, 2006 graduate of Laurel High School
- Brittany Alston, bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice, 2006 graduate of Laurel High School

Riverfest 5K

The weekend of Oct. 8, 2011: Save that date for the 2011 Riverfest 5K Race!

FGCB's 5-kilometer run and two-mile walk is one of the featured events of Laurel's annual festival at Patuxent Riverfront Park.

The race threads through Laurel's quaint Historic District and is always a lot of fun, drawing runners of all ages and abilities. A registration form will be posted on FGCB's website, www.fgcb.org, by summer.

Top runners in the 2010 race were:

Male:

1. Brian Allen, Laurel, 17:17.60
2. Sheldon Degenhardt, Marriottsville
3. Brian Pettit, Laurel

Female:

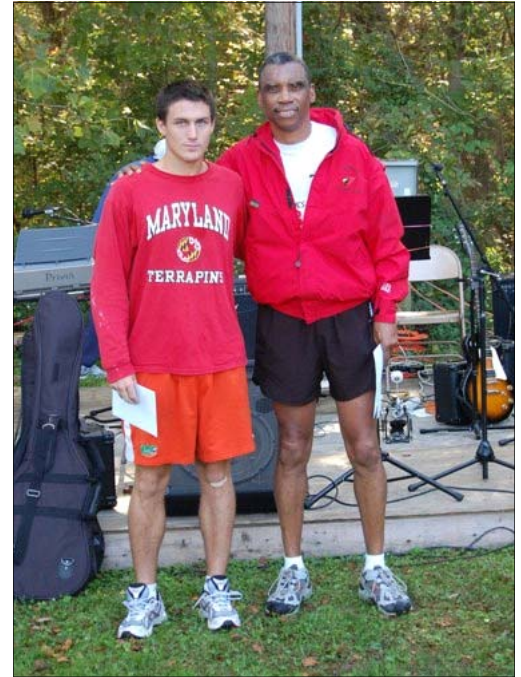
1. Camelia Mayfield, Ashland, Ore., 20:51.23
2. Madeleine Cronan, Denver, Colo.
3. Laura Kinley, Jefferson, Md.

Masters Male (over 40):

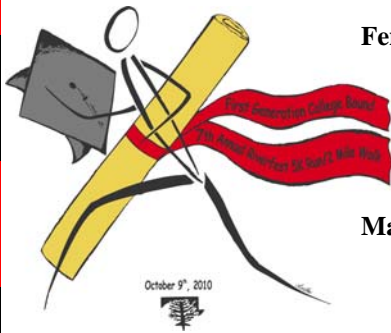
1. Jay Sweet, Laurel, 18:53.69
2. Jeff Gunter, Silver Spring
3. Louis Tomsic, Honolulu, Hawaii

Masters Female:

1. Marsha Demaree, Marriottsville, 23:34.15
2. Nancy Kearney, Laurel



Brian Allen, left, is recognized by FGCB's Joseph Fisher for winning the 2010 Riverfest 5K.



The following were sponsors of the 2010 Riverfest 5K:

ASICS	Laurel Police Department
Baltimore/Washington Corridor Chamber Foundation	The Magnificent Body
Berman Enterprises	Beth Mazin
Bormel, Grice & Huyett, PA	Colleen Mazin
John & Lesley Brinton	McGowan & Cecil, LLC
City of Laurel	Modell's Sporting Goods
Catholic University Cross Country Track and Field	Optimal Care Chiropractic
Joyce Conyngham	Revere Bank
DJ's Auto Specialists	RPG Digital Print Solutions
Einstein Bagels	Safeway
Feet First Sports	Security Vault Works
Andrew & Kathleen Flott	Sherene Sedgwick
GDR Group	Target
Giant	Loretta Thompson
Laurel Board of Trade	Tranzitionz Ma'at Holistic Wellness Center
Laurel Fraternal Order of Police	C. Michael Walls
Laurel Leader	

Thousand Friends Campaign

I've been an educator and mentor of young people for more than 30 years, and I can honestly say that now, more than ever, educating our youth is crucially more important. Maryland residents can take pride in knowing our education system is ranked number one in the country for a third consecutive year by *Education Week Magazine*.

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley expressed his pleasure with the state's ranking in *Education Week Magazine*, but understands the importance of looking for ways to continue to improve the state's education programs.

"For Maryland to win we must move forward by creating and saving jobs through innovation, and that includes protecting our best-in-the-nation public school system," said Gov. O'Malley in a Jan. 15 statement after the rankings were announced.

I started First Generation College Bound more than 20 years ago as an innovative way to augment our education system by helping young people to be the first in their family to attend college.

During the last two decades, we've helped approximately 200 students earn a college degree, and we've helped more than 800 students graduate from high school and attend college. But there is so much more to be done and we need your help!

We need you to tell your friends about us so we can

continue to make an impact in the lives of young people.

In 2009, FGCB launched our 1,000 Friends Campaign to help promote the mission, services, and success stories of our organization with the public.

Through this campaign we also look to raise money to help support the program. And while all our donors have been very generous, we still need more Friends.

This year our goal is to add 100 people to the campaign so we can help more students get in and stay with a good college to earn a degree. They need the support of friends like you to help them get into college, and I need the continued support of friends like you so the organization can continue to help young people. With support from our Friends:

- Dontra Scott was able to graduate with a bachelor of science from the University of Maryland College Park and earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery from Howard University;
- Jeffrey Ramirez realized his dream of graduating from the DC Police Academy;
- Lonnie Moore graduated with a General Studies degree from Potomac State College and earned a Business Management degree from Morgan State University;
- Hope Jones earned a Nursing degree from Georgetown University;
- Kinte Jones earned a Commission in the U.S

Army after graduating from Morgan State University; and

- Chardae Smallwood graduated from North Carolina Wesleyan College with a Bachelor of Arts in Justice Studies.

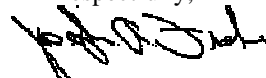
Through programs like our Homework Clubs for primary and secondary education students, the College Access Program, monthly student and parent/guardian workshops on the college admission process, college campus visits, and our retention programs designed to assist students with staying in college once they get there, we have managed to impact the lives of a lot of young people. Together we've built an organization that has made a difference in the lives of young people.

Your support will help to make the organization and our students successful. It will allow FGCB to continue and expand its efforts to help young people meet their college and career goals. Please join our 1,000 Friends Campaign and partner with us in this crucial work.

You can contribute online by going to FGCB's website, www.fgcb.org, or contribute by mailing a check to First Generation College Bound, 380 Main St., Suite 206, Laurel, MD 20707. You can also contribute through the United Way (number 9630).

Now is the time for you to join our network of Friends to make a difference in the lives of young people.

Respectfully,



"We need you to tell your friends about us so we can continue to make an impact in the lives of young people."

Save the Date!!
for
First Generation
College Bound's
21st Annual Celebration



Date: Wednesday

June 15, 2011

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: UMUC Marriott Conference Center



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