



# SEAHAWK JOURNAL

FALL 2021

CECIL COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWSLETTER • ADMISSIONS@CECIL.EDU • 410-287-1006 • WWW.CECIL.EDU

## CELEBRATING STUDENTS

### Scholarship Breakfast To-Go!

The Cecil College Foundation took the opportunity in mid-September to honor students receiving Foundation scholarships and their donors by hosting a drive-thru breakfast in the parking lot on the North East Campus. Administrators, faculty, and staff gathered to recognize students with a hearty congratulations and a healthy breakfast “to-go!”

Thanks to the generosity of many supporters, the Cecil College Foundation was able to provide \$385,000 in scholarship awards to more than 300 students taking credit and certification courses.

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### IN THIS ISSUE

News & Events .....	2
Cecil College Athletics .....	3
Alumni News .....	4

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# NEWS & EVENTS

## Cecil Students Participate in a Local Plein Air Painting Event



The Art Department faculty encourages students to take a unique view of the world around them in their creations by breaking down the classroom boundaries.

To start the 2021 fall semester, Associate Professor of Art Mark Donohue took his painting class to the Rock Run Hollow Farm in Port Deposit to experience the therapeutic powers of nature. “Given what we have all been through with the pandemic and its restrictions, it was refreshing to be painting outside, enjoying the fresh air and seeing each other’s smiling faces,” said Donohue.

The students took part in the Cecil County Arts Council’s Plein Air event, which allowed artists from the region to create works about the historic area. Plein air painting is about experiencing painting and drawing outdoors, capturing landscapes and views in natural light.

Cecil College students created exquisite landscapes which would have been challenging to create in a classroom setting. The art faculty continues to think outside the box to offer students opportunities they would otherwise not likely experience.

Learn more about the arts at Cecil College at [cecil.edu/arts](http://cecil.edu/arts).



Pictured: Jon Esser, Dean of Arts, Humanities, and Commerce and Mike P., Early College Academy student

## HORTICULTURE CLUB Sow the Seeds of Campus Beautification

The Cecil College Horticulture Club was busy in September with the fall cleanup of the planting beds on the North East Campus. Due to the pandemic, this was the first opportunity since returning to campus that the club has been able to revisit the elevated planting beds.

Currently, the Horticulture Club has two elevated planting beds located on the third-floor balcony of the Engineering and Math Building. These beds were acquired through a grant and designed to be wheelchair accessible.

Even though the season is heading into fall, the Horticulture Club spent an afternoon weeding out the beds and planting vegetables suited for fall planting. Some of the vegetables grow quickly enough to be harvested later this fall while others that are accustomed to the mild mid-Atlantic winters establish themselves during the fall months and produce vegetables in late spring.

The vegetables that will be harvested are intended for the Cecil College Food Pantry to augment the staples currently available to students. The idea is to provide fresh and healthy produce for students. Items at risk of perishing will go to faculty and staff or be composted.

Mike P., a junior at Perryville High School attending Cecil College through the Early College Academy program, was excited to roll up his sleeves and dig right in. “I always wanted to learn about gardening but never really had the opportunity. When I heard about the Horticulture Club, I was like, ‘I’m in,’” said Mike P., who planted winter spinach and kale among other vegetables.

The Horticulture Club is focused on an organic vegetable garden and will be planting native wildflowers in some of the other planting beds around campus to attract native pollinators. Other plans are to access one or two of the permanent planting beds at each end of the EMB balcony, said club advisor Jon Esser, Dean of Arts, Humanities, and Commerce at Cecil College.

Learn more about clubs on campus at [cecil.edu/campuslife](http://cecil.edu/campuslife).



**Become a Seahawk!**

# OPEN HOUSE

**Wednesday, November 17**  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
North East Campus, Physical Education Complex

**Join Us!**

- Tour Cecil’s campus and classrooms
- Meet with Cecil College faculty and staff
- Learn about student life, financial aid, scholarships, athletics, and student services
- Cecil swag giveaways and refreshments

**Visit [cecil.edu/OpenHouse](http://cecil.edu/OpenHouse) for more information.**

**#ChooseCecil**





# CECIL SEAHAWKS



## VOLLEYBALL RETURNS TO THE COURT

The net is up, volleyballs are flying, and student-athletes are working hard on conditioning in preparation for the return of volleyball at Cecil College following a one-year hiatus due to the pandemic. But volleyball is more than just a competitive sport for these women. It is a healthy outlet for the stresses of life.

“They get all pent up inside from juggling their schedules between family, classwork, and life in general. There is nothing like team camaraderie to relieve that stress. Athletes who play team sports are always looking for feedback from their teammates, who become their friends, who become their sisters, who become their family,” said Cecil College Head Women’s Volleyball Coach Eden Barton.

This season will be unique for the Seahawks, with only one player, Emily Falko, having collegiate playing experience.

Rachel Cohen’s freshman season was canceled due to the pandemic, and the rest of the roster consists of first-year students. “Missing my freshman year was devastating. I call volleyball my therapy as it helps me take my mind off all the pressure of classes and other aspects of life. If I am having a bad day, playing volleyball makes it all better,” said Cohen.

This Rising Sun High School graduate from Port Deposit says having an outlet for stress is vital as she pursues a degree in kinesiology on the path to becoming a physical or occupational therapist. The resumption of volleyball at Cecil College has been an emotional and mental boost for her, while she admits it has been tough physically getting back into shape for the rigors of the game. “I feel like I am getting my life back together,” said Cohen.

For two freshmen, the transition to the collegiate level of competition hasn’t been too dramatic as they are from Pennsylvania school districts along the Mason-Dixon Line. Unlike Maryland, Pennsylvania didn’t suspend athletics until after the completion of the 2020-2021 season.

“Although my club season was canceled, the benefit of having my senior season is that I was able to continue to improve my game and not have any setbacks of my skills,” said Natalie Diamond, who graduated from Solanco High School located outside Quarryville, Pa. “Playing volleyball and being part of a team is what I look forward to throughout the day. Volleyball helps to keep me sane with everything I have going on in my life. It is a great way to relieve the pressure.”

Lydia Davis, a graduate of Octorara Area High School, wanted to attend a college within driving distance due to the uncertainties caused by the pandemic. The reputation of Cecil College’s volleyball program was also a draw for her. “I was scared to commit to a four-year college, and Cecil College was the perfect fit for me. When they announced we would have a season, it solidified my decision to come to Cecil College. I couldn’t see myself not playing volleyball this season,” said Davis, who plans to be an elementary school teacher.

Coach Barton is now working diligently with the student-athletes to recover some of the physical conditioning they lost due to the pandemic suspension. She understands how the 12-month layoff is a difficult obstacle to recover from on the collegiate level. “The main concern for me was that I didn’t have a recruiting season, but we were able to pull together an exceptional roster with some strong hitters. For these women, it is not just about getting back to school, but getting back on the court means the world to them,” said Barton.



## MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY

Cecil College’s newest NJCAA-sponsored program returned to the course this fall after experiencing interruptions, like most sporting events or teams, the previous year due to COVID-19. The Seahawks cross country team is only in its second season of competition, with the Fall of 2019 being the inaugural year. The Seahawks have competed at the 20th Annual Goldey-Beacom Fall Classic (Goldey-Beacom College) and the Delaware Invitational (University of Delaware), where a few Seahawks’ runners posted personal-best times and look forward to one more meet prior to the post-season.



*“We are thrilled to have our runners, and student-athletes across all sports, back on campus and doing what they love. We have a great group of runners this year who work hard and run hard, on the course and in the classroom, that will help to build a rich tradition of success in cross country at Cecil College.”*

- Brooke Fisher  
Assistant Director of Athletics & Sports Information



## SEAHAWK TURKEY TROT

### SEAHAWK TURKEY TROT 2021 Annual 5k Walk/Run!

The Seahawk Turkey Trot is back for another year, as an in-person 5K Walk/Run that will take place throughout the North East campus of Cecil College! Each step you take, no matter the pace, will benefit student-athlete development at Cecil College!

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

**9 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.** (registration begins at 8:15 a.m.)

**REGISTER TODAY**

\$20 per registration

Registration closes Thursday, Nov. 18, 11:59 p.m.

For more information, and to register visit [cecil.edu/turkeytrot](http://cecil.edu/turkeytrot).

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# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



## Meet Alumna Jada Brinkley

When Jada Brinkley began researching colleges while at Bohemian Manor High School, one of her goals was to avoid the pitfall of being saddled with student loan debt. She began investigating scholarship opportunities for all the institutions she was interested in attending and found what she was looking for at Cecil College when she applied for and was awarded the Cecil County Government Council Scholarship. This scholarship provided tuition for two years at Cecil College.

“What attracted me to Cecil College was the fact that it’s smaller than the other colleges I was researching, and I found a diverse and close-knit community. The Cecil County Government Council Scholarship relieved my financial burden, so I knew I could go to school and that I didn’t have to worry so much about the finances,” said Brinkley, who graduated from Cecil College in May 2021 with honors.

Brinkley earned an associate degree in business administration from Cecil College and is now attending Wilmington University, studying business analytics. During her time at Cecil College, she was active in campus life as a member of the Amazing Grace Christian Club and the Student Leadership Council. These opportunities created lasting friendships. “I felt comfortable and valued as an individual at Cecil College,” said Brinkley.

Brinkley knew the cost of attending college went far beyond tuition, so she was diligent in applying for every scholarship for which she qualified in order to cover other expenses. Those costs included books, fees, and living expenses. “I would advise anyone looking at colleges to apply for every scholarship that is available to them. The Cecil College Foundation offers many scholarships, and I learned that if you are already attending college, do not stop applying for scholarships. I think students forget there are

scholarships out there that they qualify for,” said Brinkley. The Cecil College Foundation provides more than 300 scholarships, benefiting traditional and non-traditional students.

The U.S. Department of Education data shows students in a degree program who received a scholarship were twice as likely to complete the degree as those who didn’t apply for a scholarship.\* Surveys by the College reveal more than 78 percent of Cecil College students work 20 hours a week to make ends meet. Over a 15-week semester, a \$100 scholarship means that students can work one less hour a week and put that

energy toward their academic pursuits and family.

Brinkley was among those students attending college full-time while

working 20 or more hours weekly at a local grocery store. Fortunately, her employer understood she was balancing school, work, and family obligations and accommodated her schedule. She says one of the benefits of attending Cecil College was it allowed her to continue to work while pursuing her education.

“Time management is so important when you are in college, and it is all about balance and prioritizing things in your life. I was still able to attend events because I kept the lines of communication open with my boss and teachers, so they knew what I was planning,” said Brinkley, who utilized the Writing Center and Cecil’s library services to complete her homework obligations. She also attended workshops offered by the College on how to be a successful student.

Even before completing her associate degree, Brinkley was looking forward to the next phase in her life. She took advantage of the Wilmington University Transfer Scholarship affiliated with Cecil College. The money she saved while attending Cecil College along with this scholarship will allow her to continue her education without taking on student loan debt.

“It’s important to not place too much emphasis on having your whole life figured out, either at the beginning or end of college. Rather, I’d encourage students to allow the College to develop them academically and personally. This will allow us to grow into mature and well-rounded individuals as long as we accept change and hear new ideas. After all, the trajectory of our whole lives cannot be figured out in two or four short years,” said Brinkley.

\* <https://www.ed.gov/college/>

The Cecil College Foundation provides scholarships to recent high school graduates as well as adult students. All current and future students of the College are encouraged to apply.

Awards are need and non-need based. Complete your application at [cecil.edu/scholarships](http://cecil.edu/scholarships).

[foundation@cecil.edu](mailto:foundation@cecil.edu) • 410-287-1053



### FIND OUT IF CECIL COLLEGE IS RIGHT FOR YOU!

Contact an Admissions representative to learn about:

- Academic Offerings
- Tuition Rates
- Paying for College
- Student Life
- Student Services and Resources
- Admissions Next Steps

Call us today with any questions at 410-287-1006, live chat on [cecil.edu](http://cecil.edu) during regular hours, or email [admissions@cecil.edu](mailto:admissions@cecil.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!