

## Collector's Day 2021 Scholar's Report

By Lexie Allen

I was one of this year's recipients for a scholarship to attend the Collector's Day event at the Hammond-Harwood House, courtesy of Mrs. Judith Homorsky. I have visited Annapolis a few times before, but never have I had the chance to tour historical homes or visit museums. This all changed the weekend of November 13th. While it was only a two day trip and I flew in the morning of Collector's Day, I was able to do quite a bit of sight-seeing! In addition to the Hammond-Harwood House, I continued my exploration of Annapolis history by visiting the State House and the William Paca House.

As part of Collector's Day, I was led on a tour of the Hammond-Harwood House by curator Rachel Lovett. After learning about the history of the house and the families that once owned and occupied it, we had a small tea reception in the courtyard. Here the scholarship recipients were able to meet that day's speakers, donors and members of the Hammond-Harwood House, and the women who funded our scholarships.



My classmate Isabella Gordineer and myself  
in front of the Hammon-Hardwood House.

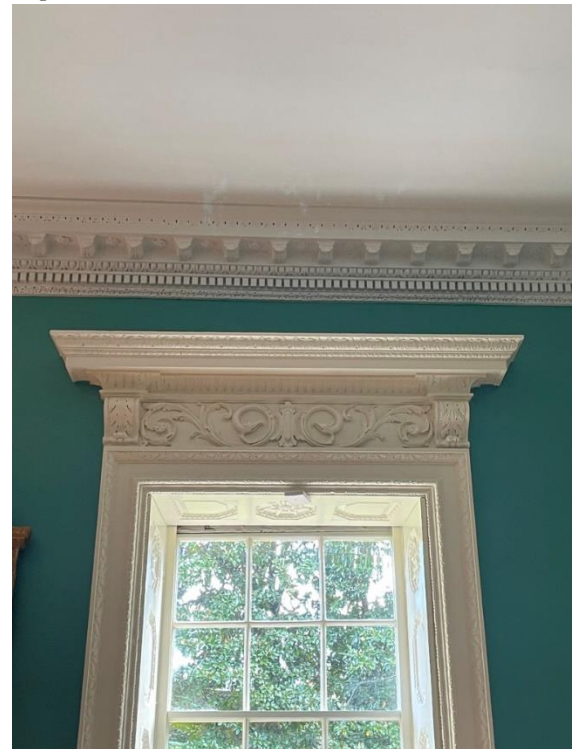
Frances Harwood funded five student scholarships to attend Collector's Day and I was the only recipient of the John and Madeleine Homorsky Memorial Scholar. Mrs. Judy Homorsky looked at my application and found out I studied Latin and abroad in Athens, Greece. Being a former Latin teacher, Mrs. Judy and I had an immediate connection! Although Mrs. Judy could not stay for the Collector's Day lectures, she was able to attend the reception, where I was lucky enough to meet my donor in person. Upon meeting Mrs. Judy, she told me it was an "honor to meet me" and we jokingly referred to me as her "honorary granddaughter". I'm sharing this as it was an important part of my experience. The staff and members of the Hammond-Harwood House went above and beyond hosting Collector's Day, wrapping me in a warm embrace and ultimately making me feel like family. I also want to thank Fran Harwood as she originally was willing to fund my scholarship, as well.



My favorite room, the Dining Room, at the Hammond-Harwood House.

Originally, Collector's Day caught my eye as an event I wanted to attend as this year its focus was on George Washington. As an alumna of George Washington University, I am very inquisitive about all things President Washington. Additionally, Collector's Day was to be located in Annapolis, Maryland, one of my favorite towns I have ever visited. The event lived up to my expectations!

After the reception, we were given two lectures by Brian Scott Miller, the Associate Curator of the Historic Odessa Foundation, and Catherine Kelly, a historian with the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture. The first presentation by Miller shared dozens of artworks, particularly portraits of America's first President, alongside their respective artists. Catherine Kelly's presentation focused on why and how art has influenced George Washington's image.



Window in the dining room of the Hammond-Harwood House. Interior decorative architraves are some of my favorite interior design details.

We adjourned for a curated wine and hors d'oeuvres tasting. Joyce White made examples of historic recipes, including Martha Washington's fruit cake and meat pies. We also tried George Washington's favorite drink, Cherry Bounce. After the day's events concluded, I joined other scholarship recipients for dinner in downtown Annapolis and retired to my room at the Historic Inn of Annapolis, the Governor Calbert House.



George Washington clock at the Hammond-Harwood House.

My professional and personal network expanded as a result of Collector's Day, alongside my knowledge of the influence art has on preserving and sharing a person's legacy and narrative. This was the 5th Annual Collector's Day and I hope to be able to attend another in the near future! Additionally, next time I am in Annapolis, I look forward to popping into the Hammond-Harwood House to say hello to all of the staff members, including Rachel Lovett and Eleni Bozori, who greeted and accommodated me so graciously that weekend!



Mary Washington's fruit cakes by food historian Joyce White.