LOOKING BACK
THE SENIOR SEND-OFF ISSUE
TO MY FELLOW SENIORS,

This year was weird. Honestly, it was more than weird — it was exhausting, frustrating and full of grief. Simply put, this senior year is not what the class of 2021 expected when we first stepped foot on the University of Maryland’s campus.

But I hope you take a moment to celebrate yourself and to reflect on your years at UMD, whether you’re eagerly counting down the days before you can step out into the real world or you’re wishing time would slow down just a little bit.

The Diamondback’s Looking Back issue is dedicated to commemorating the experiences that made the class of 2021 what it is, from the construction projects we sidestepped and the snacks we bought at the Commons Shop to the senior memories we sadly missed out on.

This year’s graduation is a cause for true celebration. It’s amazing what you all have done, and you deserve recognition. So, congratulations. I can’t wait to see what you all do out there.

---

DAISY GRANT
2020-21 EDITOR IN CHIEF
The Diamondback sent out an online survey on social media platforms this month to gauge seniors’ feelings as they prepare to graduate. There were 68 respondents.

By Rina Torchinsky | @rinatorchi | Senior staff writer

**What will you miss the most about your time at UMD?**

- “I WILL MISS hanging out on the mall on a nice day with hundreds of other students doing the exact same thing.”
- “BEING within walking distance of some of my favorite people”
- “BEING a small fish in a big and intellectual pond. Also, Marathon fries!”

**How did your time at UMD compare with your expectations?**

- 53% said their time at UMD was worse than expected
- 34% said their time at UMD was better than expected
- 13% said their time at UMD was exactly as expected

**How would you describe your time at UMD in one word?**

- TIMES
- NOT
- EASY
- BUT
- RESILIENCE
- IS
- BORN
- OUT
- OF
- STRUGGLE
- AND
- YOU
- WILL
- PERSEVERE.

As a 2021 alum, you have access to many of our programs and services. Career4Temps | Advising App | Fairs
Details at careers.umd.edu

**Do you look back at your time at UMD in a positive or negative light?**

- 78% positive
- 6% mixed
- 16% negative

**Times have not been easy, but resilience is born out of struggle and you will persevere.**
N

\[\text{By Amanda Hernández} \mid \text{Senior staff writer}\]

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**SENIOR ARTISTS**

Seniors share how art has shaped their college experience — whether they are an art major or if art has simply continued to be a part of their life.

By Amanda Hernández | Senior staff writer

**Daniel Merkowitz-Bustos**

**Shelby Goodman**

**Joeseph Merkowitz**

**SHELBY GOODMAN**

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“NOT WHAT I EXPECTED”  
Seniors reflect on leaving college during the COVID-19 pandemic.

By Jenn Attanasio and Christine Zhu | @attanasio_jenn and @christinezhu142     |     Staff writers

The pandemic has left seniors at the University of Maryland with an unusual experience, one that they missed, what they wanted to do and what they are reflecting on their unprecedented last year of college: their college careers in a pandemic-free year.

As a senior whose last year of studying — we can’t do that for a while now, “Deleon said.

“Everyone is kind of starved for some sort of socialization, so we’ve been planning a lot of game nights and workshops,” Hamilton-Campos added. “It’s been nice because that’s a really good excuse to see my friends in a less formal setting.”

Many seniors have been forced to adapt. Apart from small graduation parties, the usual commencement celebrations — such as the senior bar crawl — are off the table due to the pandemic. But the class is finding its own way to spend their last few weeks as college students.

For instance, Zappas said she plans to have more “family dinners” at home with her roommates. Hamilton-Campos wants to come to the campus to go bowling in Tertile one more often, she said — something she’s recently done for the first time.

These little moments are some parts of the pandemic that seniors have cherished.

Hamilton-Campuses, for example, has seen her socializing increase during the pandemic.

“Everyone is kind of starved for some sort of socialization, so we’ve been planning a lot of game nights and workshops,” Hamilton-Campos added. “It’s been nice because that’s a really good excuse to see my friends in a less formal setting.”

And as for Melendez, even though the year was not at all what she expected — or hoped — it would be, she was still able to spend time with her friends. Melendez and her friends considered taking a semester off given how different campus life would be. But to this end, they wound up graduating this semester — all because of their own efforts.
I t’s the first day of 2021 that feels like spring, and a group of freshmen are clustered around the picnic table outside the Commons Shop at the University of Maryland.

One girl, dressed entirely in powder blue, is wearing a pair of her mother’s old capris. She’s snacking on a strawberry pop. A boy is sporting the Maryland state flag on his mask. Around them, cherry blossom petals fill the air, filling it with sweetness.

Four years ago, I was on the other side of this vignette: a college freshman in the University of Maryland. Inside, a menagerie of items, both ordinary and extraordinary, can be found. It’s located down the stairs next to the South Campus Dining Hall. Inside, a vast assortment of snacks and sentimental moments at the campus convenience store.

Students reflect on snacks and sentimental moments at the campus convenience store.

Calix Cook is a junior English and psychology major living in Queen Anne’s Hall this year. A self-identified picky eater, Cook said trips to the Commons Shop are a routine part of his day. He said the selection of ramen and flavored Pocky has exploded.

“I would just frequent it when I was snacky or going to the Commons Shop,” Parigian said, referring to specialty items at the Commons Shop.

The Commons Shop is, as my friend and fellow senior history major, Oscar Saywell, phrased it, “all of that is centered around the friends that you call them back home.”

For many University of Maryland students, the convenience store is a reliable source of tasty treats and a key part of treasured campus memories.

This is what they got: a bag of salt and vinegar chips or the occasional spicy pickle for Parigian, and vegan chicken nuggets for her roommate. They spent so much time in the shop that Parigian felt the people at the counter recognized her. Earlier this month, I caught Taylor Galliun, a senior sociology and women’s studies major, on her way out of the shop. She’d just bought popcorn and Fannie’s Hot Cheese in anticipation of a movie night. Her usual, she said, was a Califlax-free mango ice tea.

When Galliun was in Anne Arundel Hall, she would frequent the shop after dinner or late at night. That’s when she and her friends discovered the cordial bar.

“If you ask me, we kind of drink it all the time,” Galliun said.

“I have. ”

Whether it’s hanging out at the dining hall or going to the Commons Shop, Cook said, “all of that is centered around the friends that you call them back home.”

For Cook, the Commons Shop is a spot for comfort — and, sometimes, romance. Last November, right before Thanksgiving, Cook met another student on Tinder, and asked if he wanted to go on a walk. A group of people met up on a chilly evening and did a “Tour de Commons Shop” on April 18, 2021. One group of people formed a full meal plan to subsidize one. With fewer opportunities to go to the dining hall, Saywell reconnected his energy on the shop around the corner. He started posting when he was starkly at night — “3 o’clock, something like that. And it fills a hole, you know?” said Saywell. He soon became “obsessed.”

But it’s not just the brief dopamine hit generated by specialty items at the Commons Shop that does the job — for students, it’s mostly about who they’re with. On late nights, the people are the most compelling part: the employees, bonded in conversation or solitude behind the counter; the groups of students clustered around snack kiosks, whispering and wasting time until their responsibilities call them back home.

“Whether it’s hanging out at the dinner hall or going to the Commons Shop,” Parigian said, “all of that is centered around the friends that I have.”

Tel Aviv University Sackler School of Medicine

New York State/ American Program

The Sackler School of Medicine-New York State/ American Program offers an innovative four-year medical school curriculum, taught in English, leading to the M.D. degree. The Program is chartered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York and is accredited by the State of Israel.

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For further information, e-mail sacklermed@acklermed.org

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Callie Cook is a junior English and psychology major living in Queen Anne’s Hall this year.
the fall, they became friends immediately. All for, like, the rest of the summer. ’

Ringland said, “But it was like, ‘Hey, wanna

They recognized each other’s names.

Around a list of prospective roommates,

School and had some mutual friends. But

They went to the same high

It helped that they were all soccer fans,

Once we got going, the train never really

Once Ringland and Mendez were roommates,

They were just hanging out in a house

She had found her first college friend

Three years later, they’re still living with

They were just hanging out at home because

Best Buds

One of us texted the other, I forget who,

Molly Oertel’s second semester of

Bethel Afful decided to be an architecture major because she’s

By Angela Roberts and Clara Longo de Freitas

Three years later, they’re still living with

T erps Raising Pups

Jimbo.

Nina and Neil Agrawal didn’t want to

In Molly Oertel’s second semester of

Jimbo.

Puppy Love

But it actually turns happy

They were just hanging out at home because

Slices of Life

No one could have predicted the past year. But despite all the turmoil and fatigue, seniors are graduating this May with a handful of quintessential college experiences — including finding what makes them happy.

By Angela Roberts and Clara Longo de Freitas

While the fall, they became friends immediately.

Demi broke out, their worlds still collided.

‘Oh! Tell them that story when I didn’t last time.’ Nina told Neil.

‘What?’

‘Do you remember that time when I didn’t best my mom’ good morning’ and she freaked out?’

‘Yay!’ Neil said as Nina burst out laughing. This is one of the best.

In the middle of one exam morning during his final exams, Nina said.

‘I was like, ’Well, I guess I just wasted 40

Nina and Neil Agrawal

It helped that they were all soccer fans, though they have different allegiances. Ringland and Mendez are both Arsenal loyalists, and they live with a Liverpool fanatic and a Manchester United supporter.

‘But just because we’ve spent so much time together, I have no reason not to, or need to get closer to you right now,’ I’ll be honest with you,” he said. ‘And Nina cracked up. “And I’m glad that I found you.”

‘Well, you know, when you don’t know someone’s fault.

‘Yeah, I don’t know a single minute where she was

‘I was like, ‘Hey, wanna

‘I mean that in a nice way.?’

‘I was like, ‘Well, you know one minute

‘He’s a happy guy now that I know how to

‘The world is huge, you know?’

‘I don’t know how to make friends.

‘But I mean, who knows what’s gonna

‘He’s a happy guy now that I know how to

‘That changed in her sophomore year after

‘That’s why this part of the building would

‘He’s a happy guy now that I know how to

‘So, he was like a guide dog grows blind; I

‘Once Ringland and Mendez say their friend-

‘One of us texted the other, I forget who,’

‘Hey, wanna

‘One of us texted the other, I forget who,’

‘One of us texted the other, I forget who,?

‘That’s why this part of the building would

‘Well, who knows what’s gonna

‘That happened to her in her junior year.

‘She had found her first college friend

‘She had found her first college friend

‘She had found her first college friend

‘Well, you know, when you don’t know someone’s fault.

‘Well, that is really our first college friend

‘Well, you know one minute,

‘Well, you know one minute,?

‘So, he was like a guide dog grows blind; I

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‘She said. “The world is huge, you know?”

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‘It helped that they were all soccer fans, though they have different allegiances. Ringland and Mendez are both Arsenal loyalists, and they live with a Liverpool fanatic and a Manchester United supporter.

‘But just because we’ve spent so much time together, I have no reason not to, or need to get closer to you right now,’ I’ll be honest with you,” he said. ‘And Nina cracked up. “And I’m glad that I found you.”

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Grading athletes remember career highlights and look to the future.

By Ashkan Motamedi

Graduating athletes remember career highlights and look to the future.

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The University of Maryland’s class of 2021 has seen a bevy of high-level athletics. From national championships and Big Ten tournament titles to a pandemic rocking the sports world, there has been no shortage of action surrounding Maryland athletics. Here are 10 of the best Maryland sports teams over the past four years.

1. 2019 WOMEN’S LACROSSE (22-2, NCAA CHAMPION)

2. 2018 MENS’S SOCCER (13-6-4, NCAA CHAMPION)

3. 2018 FIELD HOCKEY (22-3, NCAA RUNNER-UP)

4. 2020-21 WOMEN’S BASKETBALL (26-3, SWEET 16)

5. 2019-20 MENS’S BASKETBALL (24-7, BIG TEN REGULAR SEASON CO-CHAMPION)

6. 2018 MENS’S LACROSSE (20-2, NCAA SEMIFINALIST)

7. 2019-20 WOMEN’S BASKETBALL (28-4, BIG TEN TOURNAMENT CHAMPION)

8. 2018 WOMEN’S LACROSSE (14-4, NCAA SEMIFINALIST)

9. 2019 FIELD HOCKEY (17-4, NCAA QUARTERFINALIST)

10. 2018 WOMEN’S SOFTBALL (59-15, NCAA REGIONALS)

**TOP 10 TEAMS**

The University of Maryland’s class of 2021 has seen a bevy of high-level athletics. From national championships and Big Ten tournament titles to a pandemic rocking the sports world, there has been no shortage of action surrounding Maryland athletics. Here are 10 of the best Maryland sports teams over the past four years.

By Shane Connuck @shane_connuck | Staff writer

Two days after its best offensive showing in the last 15 years, Maryland women’s lacrosse defeated top-ranked Johns Hopkins in the NCAA quarterfinals, advancing to the NCAA semifinals.

Maryland women’s basketball didn’t need a last-second shot to win its 35th straight game, a NCAA record.

Maryland’s men’s soccer team finished the regular season as the No. 1 seed in the Big Ten tournament, giving the Terrapins a first-round bye.

Maryland’s women’s field hockey team won its eighth straight Big Ten championship in 2018.

Maryland women’s golf hadn’t reached the NCAA tournament in seven years. But after a number of impressive showings throughout the 2018-19 season, the Terrapins earned the NCAA tournament spot for the first time since 2012.

Maryland women’s soccer didn’t win the Big Ten regular-season championship in 2018, but the Terps won the Big Ten tournament and earned an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

Maryland women’s lacrosse had its most successful season in school history, finishing with a 19-1 record and winning the Big Ten tournament.

Maryland women’s field hockey didn’t just win the Big Ten regular-season championship, the Terps also capped a nearly perfect regular season with just five goals against and 3-0 losses coming against Duke and Michigan.

Maryland women’s basketball had its most successful season in school history, finishing with a 26-3 record and reaching the NCAA tournament.

Maryland women’s field hockey didn’t just win the Big Ten regular-season championship, the Terps also capped a nearly perfect regular season with just five goals against and 3-0 losses coming against Duke and Michigan.

Maryland women’s golf hadn’t reached the NCAA tournament in seven years. But after a number of impressive showings throughout the 2018-19 season, the Terrapins earned the NCAA tournament spot for the first time since 2012.
During my four years at the University of Maryland, the campuswide construction has annoyed me to no end. Some projects are small and relatively benign, but others block off entire walkways and turn 10-minute commutes into 20-minute hikes.

I know I’m not the only student who feels like I live in a big construction site. So in celebration of seniors moving on from their time in Construction Park, Maryland, I set out to see what projects seniors have found to be especially irksome during their time here.

David Pape, a fifth-year aerospace engineering major, is a driver for Shuttle-UM, and he said he remembers when his route along Paint Branch Drive changed constantly.

One week, the road would be northbound only but in the southbound lane, he said, but the next week, the road would be southbound only in the southbound lane. The following week, the road would once again be northbound only, but this time in the northbound lane.

“It was weird and unpredictable,” he said. The changes came as a result of the construction of the Iribe Center, a computer science and engineering building, Pape said. The building underwent construction from April 2016 to 2019.

I don’t venture to the STEM side of campus very often, but I avoided this area when the center was being built. The scent of unwashed computer science and math majors mixed with the smell of new asphalt was a wholly unappealing thought.

“I’m glad that computer science students have a better-looking building now, though, because I took a class in the old building, and it was depressing, to say the least,” he said.

Redevelopment hasn’t only impacted shuttle drivers. Anyone who has driven in College Park knows how busy traffic can be when lanes are blocked off in places or closed entirely — especially on Route 1.

An ongoing $29 million project is bringing amenities such as bike lanes and expanded sidewalks to the about 1.5-mile stretch of Route 1 from Bagel Place to the Bowlero bowling alley. The redevelopment project has closed lanes.

Since this project started, I’ve taken to playing Pokémon Go during my commutes. There are a ton of Pokéstops along Route 1, and if I’m going to be stuck in traffic, I figure I might as well get some enjoyment out of it.

Meanwhile, Hannah Blosser, a senior communication major, has tried to avoid as much of the construction as possible.

“It’s like every day a new spot of Baltimore Avenue in College Park is under construction,” she said. “You never know what’s under construction and what’s the point and how much it’s going to impact a student’s day.”

Senior government and politics major Liz Castillo knows all too well how much of an impact annoying construction projects can have on your day. She spent two years living in Anne Arundel Hall, just down the street from Cole Field House, which has been undergoing construction since 2015.

Construction would start at 7 a.m., Castillo said. To make matters worse, the dorm often had heating and air conditioning issues, she said, so she would open her window and awaken to the loud, banging noises.

“You’d just hear jackhammers, you’d hear hammering,” she said. “It would just be really disruptive on campus.”

I’ve watched Cole Field House come to life. The building is just across the street from the journalism building, where I spent most of my days before the pandemic. I can attest that the constant sound of jackhammers isn’t ideal when you’re trying to study — especially when you have the attention span of an elementary schooler, like I do.

It’s good to know that I’m not just being dramatic. Other seniors seem to have the same amount of disdain for the construction, so it’s nice to be able to commiserate.

The open campus we saw on our college tours sometimes seems like a mirage compared with the construction site we’ve grown accustomed to.

While I’ve enjoyed my four years at this university, and I’ve made unforgettable memories throughout the campus, I, like many other graduating seniors, am excited to move on and find somewhere to live that looks a little more… finished.