

The University of Maryland's Independent Student Newspaper

THE DIAMONDBACK

**FAMILY
WEEKEND
2021**

EDITOR'S LETTER

DEAR READER,

As the fall semester continues to plunge forward at full speed ahead, it's likely you're finding yourself in need of some comfort and relaxation. Enter Family Weekend at the University of Maryland.

The familiarity of home comes to College Park during this weekend, as the days are jam-packed with events geared toward the whole family. If you're a student, you might be wondering what to show your family or friends first on campus — or if you're a family member, it's possible you've been counting down the days until you once again get to see the student you said goodbye to about five weeks ago.

To help guide you through this weekend, The Diamondback created this special edition, which includes information about several campus traditions, ironic must-sees for parents during Family Weekend and a podcast that will take you back to move-in day.

Let the family bonding commence, we know you've missed it!

Angela Mecca

Editor in Chief

& 2021 Family Weekend Guide Editor

THE DIAMONDBACK

*Founded 1910,
independent
since 1971.*

ANGELA MECCA
Editor in chief

3150 S. Campus Dining Hall,
College Park, Md., 20742
(301) 314-8200

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ADVERTISING:
ads@dbknews.com
(301) 276-5770

Ethan Tuttle
Advertising Manager

WRITTEN BY:

Angela Mecca
Evan Hecht
Monica Godnick
Clara Niel
Joelle Anselmo
Noah Ferguson
Alexander Dacy

COPY EDITED BY:

Angela Mecca
Zoe Pierce
Ella Sherman

DESIGNED BY:

Ogenna Umoezulu
Vincent Petroni

PHOTO

EDITING BY:
Julia Nikhinson

FRONT COVER

PHOTO BY:
Julia Nikhinson

BACK COVER

PHOTO BY:
Kurt Leinemann

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MARYLAND AND WEST VIRGINIA meet at the line of scrimmage during Maryland football's 30-24 win over West Virginia on Sept. 4, 2021. JULIA NIKHINSON/THE DIAMONDBACK

FOUR LOCATIONS TO TAKE YOUR FAMILY THIS WEEKEND FOR SOME NOT-SO-WHOLESOME FAMILY BONDING

With so many great locations, it’s hard to limit it down

By Evan Hecht | @evanhecht_ | Staff writer



CORNERSTONE GRILL AND LOFT on Route 1 on September 27, 2021. JULIA NIKHINSON/THE DIAMONDBACK

After a month of seeing the wondrous campus and residential areas of the University of Maryland, it’s safe to say that many are well- acquainted with the numerous sights and scenery it has to offer.

Yet with so many gorgeous and inviting destinations, it’s hard to squeeze them all into one weekend. From the blossoming greens of the McKeldin Mall to the art installations located in the Art-Sociology building, there are so many amazing things to see.

But why take your family to see the basics, when you can show them what college is really like? Here’s a list of four must-see iconic locations to show your family this Family Weekend.

1. A pregame with your friends

What better way to get inundated with College Park fun than cramming 15+ people in your dorm or apartment? Yes, you’ll probably be breaking fire codes, but it’s a perfect location to take in the bright and beautiful scenery of LED light strips, which will chip off the paint that you’ll front the bill for. But the best part of going to one of these pregames isn’t the constant flash of the three people taking the same photo for the eighth weekend in a row, and it isn’t even the lack of air conditioning in some of the dorms. The best part of all is knowing that by the time it’s time to go, you’ll be waiting an extra 10 minutes as everyone pees before leaving.

2. Down to Route 1

During Family Weekend my freshman year, I thought I’d show my parents the display of collegiate excellence that is Route 1 at night. We decided to get some dessert at the old Insomnia Cookies. As we’re waiting for our order, my parents turn around and look out the window to see two students bent over throwing up. From that night on, Route 1 was deemed “vomit street” by my father. Two years later and he still only knows it as “vomit street.”

When walking down Route 1, you never know what you’ll see. You could see a fight outside about Marathon fries themselves! You’re most likely to see my dad’s personal favorite memory of College Park, but the possibility of sights are endless!

3. Old Town

Behind the beautiful facade of the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Association chapter houses lies a breeding ground for disease, muck and grime: the satellite houses. Starting around 11 p.m., the residential area of College Park turns into an episode of *The Walking Dead* — if the zombies drank vodka RedBulls. Similar to Route 1, you’re (not) destined to see collegiate excellence, peace, serenity and people on their best (or worst) behavior. If you’re lucky enough, you can even take your parents to a frat basement — just make sure they know someone inside. Have your parents rehearse naming five brothers, just in case.

4. The Orange bus (Green, Blue, Purple or Gold also work)

The only way to end a scenic tour of campus — highlighting the best the campus has to offer — is on the bus. If your parents can ignore people drunkenly crying over an ex, students holding back the



MARATHON DELI on Route 1 on April 27, 2020. JULIA NIKHINSON/THE DIAMONDBACK

content of their stomachs until they make it back to the dorm and those few kids who decide to make the busride a concert they’re headlining, they’ll surely be able to take in the amazing scenery of the campus. The bus routes take you through every part of the campus, especially when it’s stationed at Stamp Student Union for 20 minutes. What better way to show your parents what College Park has to offer?

While this only scratches the surface of some amazing places to show your family members, you might also want to prepare a few backups that highlight a less debauchorous side of campus life.



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HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PAST MONTH AT UMD

A lot has happened since parents, families and friends left their student at this university.

Just about a month ago, students moved in at the University of Maryland. But by now, it's likely that everything has changed. Students have been to classes, sporting events and met tons of new friends. For students and families alike — it's understandable if it feels like it's been a blur. So let us catch you up. Here are some of the stories The Diamondback has published since the beginning of the semester.

SEPT. 8: HERE'S HOW UMD'S COVID-19 VACCINATION RATE COMPARES TO OTHER BIG TEN SCHOOLS

By Clara Niel | @clarasniel | Senior staff writer

The University of Maryland is among the nine of 14 Big Ten universities that have mandated the vaccine.

But Big Ten universities differ in vaccine requirements and how they have reported their vaccination rates, with some disclosing student vaccination rates and others not disclosing any vaccine data.

As of Sept. 8, UMD's current overall vaccination rate was 94.3 percent. The vaccination rate of all people on campus that Tuesday was 97.7 percent.

Here are other Big 10 universities' vaccination rates as of Sept. 8.

Indiana University

According to Indiana University's

online dashboard, 91.8 percent of the overall university population at Bloomington was partially or fully vaccinated. This consists of students, faculty and staff.

Michigan State University

Michigan State University did not respond to The Diamondback's request for vaccination data. The school does not have the data online.

Northwestern University

Northwestern University did not respond to The Diamondback's request for vaccination data. The school also does not have the data online.

Ohio State University

A spokesperson from Ohio State

University reported that 77 percent of students, faculty and staff had received at least one dose of a vaccine. The school has a vaccine mandate in place.

Pennsylvania State University

Pennsylvania State University is another school that strongly encourages but did not require the vaccine. They were still gathering data, spokesperson Wyatt DuBois said. According to a news release, 80 percent of its students were fully vaccinated as of Aug. 30.

Purdue University

Purdue University also has an online dashboard that contains vaccine information. According to the dashboard, 81 percent of the campus population was vaccinated.

Rutgers University

Rutgers University has a vaccine mandate in place for students. As of Sept. 2, Rutgers University's student vaccination rate was 98.8 percent, spokesperson Dory Devlin said.

University of Illinois

The University of Illinois is also in the process of gathering data on its vaccination rate, and it did not have all the information as of Sept. 8, said a university spokesperson.

University of Iowa

According to a spokesperson from the University of Iowa, the university is not legally allowed to track vaccination data. The university does not have a vaccine mandate in place.

University of Michigan

The University of Michigan has vaccination data available on its online COVID-19 dashboard. The student vaccination rate at Ann Arbor was 93 percent, the faculty vaccination rate was 91 percent and the staff vaccination rate was 77 percent.

University of Minnesota

The University of Minnesota recently implemented a vaccine mandate, right after the Food and Drug Association fully approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine on Aug. 23. Still in the process of data gathering, Minnesota had 98.5 percent of its students and 98 percent of faculty and staff fully vaccinated.

As of Sept. 8, 37 percent of students and 76 percent of faculty and staff had disclosed their vaccine status.

University of Nebraska

Another school without a vaccine mandate, the University of Nebraska was encouraging vaccinated students to upload their proof of vaccination. With voluntary registration, 69 percent of students, 81 percent of faculty and 74 percent of staff were fully vaccinated, according to university communications.

University of Wisconsin

The University of Wisconsin was still gathering vaccination data. It did not have a vaccine mandate but has encouraged community members to get vaccinated.

The most recent data release was Sept. 2, stating that as of Sept. 1, 92 percent of employees and 88 percent of their students were fully vaccinated. The university was expecting 80 percent or more of their students to be fully vaccinated, said university spokesperson Meredith McGlone.

To read the full story, visit <https://ter.ps/vgk>

SEPT. 17: UMD TO EXPAND COVID-19 TESTING FOR ASYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS

By Joelle Anselmo | @AnselmoJoelle | Staff writer

A campuswide email from University Health Center director Dr. Spyridon Marinopoulos on Friday, Sept. 17 announced that beginning the week of Sept. 22, the university would offer testing at Maryland Stadium Monday through Thursday. Testing on Monday and Thursday is available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and testing on Tuesday and Wednesday is available from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Additionally, the university expects unvaccinated students to wear KN95 masks. All individuals, regardless of vaccination status, should wear KN95 masks when around large groups, including in classrooms and dorms.

The university purchased 50,000 KN95 masks for distribution throughout campus.

To read the full story, visit <https://ter.ps/vgo>



THE THOMAS V. MILLER JR. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING on Sept. 7, 2020. JOE RYAN/THE DIAMONDBACK

SEPT. 24: MARYLAND VOLLEYBALL UPSETS NO. 2 WISCONSIN, 3-2, BIGGEST WIN IN PROGRAM HISTORY

By Noah Ferguson | @NoahLFerguson | Staff writer

Maryland volleyball stormed the floor as Sam Csire's 17th spike gave the Terps a 3-2 upset win over the No. 2 Badgers in College Park, the team's first win over Wisconsin in program history.

"I've never been on a team that supports each other as much as this team does and matches each other's energy as much as this team does," Maryland defensive specialist Kaylee Thomas said. "This win was from all 16 players on the team."

To read the full story, visit <https://ter.ps/vgp>



MARYLAND VOLLEYBALL celebrates after its 3-2 win over No. 2 Wisconsin on Sept. 24, 2021. JULIA NIKHINSON/THE DIAMONDBACK

SEPT. 25: MARYLAND FOOTBALL HANDLES KENT STATE, 37-16, STAYS UNDEFEATED

By Alexander Dacy | @alexanderdacy | Senior staff writer

Maryland football was not perfect Saturday against Kent State. But the Terps didn't need to be.

Despite a rash of drops and penalties, the Golden Flashes could not keep up with coach Mike Locksley's squad. And given multiple chances at redemption, Maryland capitalized, beating Kent State, 37-16.

To read the full story, visit <https://ter.ps/vgq>



RAKIM JARRETT catches a touchdown pass during Maryland football's 37-16 win over Kent State on Sept. 25, 2021. JULIA NIKHINSON/THE DIAMONDBACK



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UMD COMMUNITY SHARES ON SACRED FAN TRADITIONS

These are the pre and post-game rituals that make UMD top-tier in spirit.

By Monica Godnick | @GodnickMonica | Staff writer



THE MIGHTY SOUNDS OF MARYLAND performs before Maryland football's match-up against Kent State on Sept. 25, 2021. JULIA NIKHINSON/THE DIAMONDBACK



FANS CHEER on Maryland women's soccer during their 0-0 draw against Nebraska on Sept. 23, 2021. JULIA NIKHINSON/THE DIAMONDBACK



MARYLAND FOOTBALL PLAYERS run out onto the field prior to the Terps' 30-24 win over West Virginia on Sept. 4, 2021. JULIA NIKHINSON/THE DIAMONDBACK

School pride is one of the University of Maryland's fortes, a plethora of traditions and activities take place before home sports games to build up that unmatched energy.

Joey Monaghan, a senior mechanical engineering major who is part of the Chi Phi Fraternity, said the tradition he loves the most is Family Weekend, a weekend when families of students from around the country visit the campus and get together.

"I get to talk to my friend's parents that I haven't met before, which is always fun," Monaghan said. "My dad always puts together a fun tailgate and I love that week every year."

This year, Family Weekend will be from Oct. 1 to Oct. 3. The celebration includes a series of events, from a home football game against the University of Iowa to a family festival and barbeque on McKeldin Mall.

The notorious tailgate parties organized before the game are one of the main traditions at this university. Football tailgates occur in multiple places, such as Mowatt Lane Garage, Lot 1B and Lot Z. Some sororities and fraternities also organize tailgates. This university's Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Association currently hold their pre-game celebrations at the lawn in front of President Darryll Pines' university house.

Attending the first home football game is a tradition students at this university generally don't pass up.

Capital One Field at Maryland Stadium came back to life as football season kicked off earlier this month. For many, it was their first time cheering as the Maryland state flag unfurled on top of the student section.

Freshman biochemistry major Isa Wahl said that the first game was an amazing experience for freshmen and sophomores, since the pandemic affected the typical sports setting last year.

"I think it is really interesting because we basically just have an extended [freshman] class with new students," Wahl said.

And one cannot mention fan traditions without talking about our beloved mascot, Testudo.

Neil Dedicatoria Jr., a junior economics major, enjoyed the magical powers of Testudo statues with his whole family before the pandemic.

"On the way to the game there's that Testudo ... the one people don't know about as much, the one behind the stadium," Dedicatoria Jr. said. "We all go together and we all rub Testudo's nose for good luck."

When it comes to fan traditions, fan organizations often take the cake. The Crew, an organization that supports this university's men's and women's soccer teams, knows all about school spirit. If you purchase one of the group's scarves for \$20, you get free food and drinks at all of their tailgates throughout the season.

Tate Yuen, a sophomore animal science major, said the people who lead The Crew set a terrific atmosphere for the soccer matches.

"[The soccer games are] really fun and the chants are great," Yuen said.

As for die-hard fans, we cannot forget the athletes' parents. Nicole Baran, the mother of Maryland's wide receiver Jeshawn Jones, said her favorite tradition is Terp Walk. This is when the football team, cheerleading squad and marching band walk to the stadium before every home game. This year the walk started near Lot Z.

"The coaches and players with us walk through," Baran said. "The band is playing and parents are lining the street and everybody's cheering, it's so great."

Christine Finger, offensive lineman Marcus Finger's mother, said her most precious celebration was after the first football game against West Virginia University on Sept. 4. Many players went back to the football parent's tailgate area with their families.

"We just sat around and chilled out with the kids. And, you know, looked at the stars and it was such a beautiful evening, nobody really wanted to go inside," Finger said.

Michael DeBerdine has two daughters on the field

hockey team, Emma DeBerdine and Brooke DeBerdine. The family's own fan traditions are more on the "techy" side. Michael DeBerdine has been sending amusing videos to his daughters before every single game for years. One of them includes a picture of his daughters projected onto the wall while he dances to Pitbull.

"It's just sort of a way to, to just really make the girls know that ... we want them all to be in it for the fun, you know and don't take yourself so seriously," DeBerdine said.

And even during the pandemic, fans at this university still found their own creative ways to show support.

Debi Mason, field hockey midfielder and forward Taylor Mason's mother, said they have one fan who doesn't have a daughter on the team but has been driving to every game for the past 10 years. He is also their flag bearer during the games.

"When COVID shut down our tailgates, he would go to the practices and sit in the back of his truck to cheer the girls," Mason said.

Even as sports approach normalcy, new customs keep emerging. In collaboration with the university's athletic department, Ledo Pizza is sponsoring the men's football, basketball and lacrosse teams. As a result, Ledo Pizza is serving cheese and pepperoni pizza at every football home game, in sections 10 and 20 of Maryland Stadium.

Ledo Pizza stated on their official website that fans can win a free "Maryland Family" T-shirt if they purchase their eight-inch pizza and a large Pepsi.

At the end of the day, senior government and politics major Deirdre Kelly said these game-day and fan rituals are part of something greater.

"There's so many different traditions just besides sports games like rubbing Testudo's nose," Kelly said.

"Just such little traditions but like they hold so much meaning in addition to bigger traditions like attending tailgates or football games."

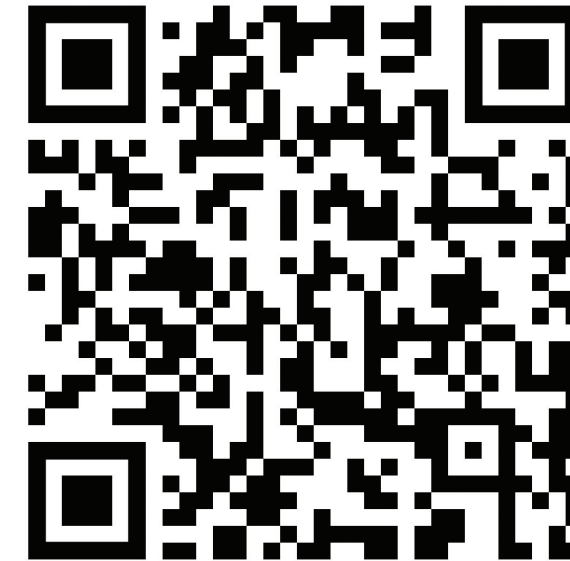
MEMORY LANE: A TRIP BACK TO MOVE-IN DAY

For family members of freshmen at the University of Maryland, it might feel like it was just yesterday that you moved your student into a dorm. You can probably still see them waving goodbye, their room packed with every necessity imaginable.

But in case you've forgotten, Offbeat, a podcast by The Diamondback, is ready to take you right back to move-in day.

In the episode, parents and students share both their excitement and anxieties — and a few even get choked-up. You'll hear from incoming freshmen and their families as they embark on their first year at this university, and hearing their elation might just make you nostalgic about your own college or freshman year experience.

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