

Suited Up
Don Thomas brings tales of NASA to the classroom.



Learn

MEET BALTIMORE

Classroom, lab, or studio: There's a college for your career.

BALTIMORE WAS ONCE called "the city that reads," and it's no wonder. Throw a book in Baltimore, and you're sure to hit a university or college.

"It's a great college town," says Kristen Campbell, executive director of the Baltimore Collegetown Network, which works to put colleges in touch with city resources and with each other.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILLENISON

And the colleges are great for the town, pumping \$17.2 billion a year into the local economy. More than 120,000 students at the network's 16 colleges take advantage of an education that goes beyond the classroom. Students at the Peabody Institute, a music conservatory, take advantage of cultural offerings in the Mt. Vernon neighborhood, such as Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. The University of Maryland, Baltimore, hosts the University of Maryland BioPark, which has produced 29 spinoff companies.

The schools provide a diverse blend of instructional approaches and fields of study, from arts instruction at Maryland

Institute College of Art to the scientific method revered at Johns Hopkins Medical School. Lesser-known educational gems, like Loyola College in Maryland—its Sellinger School of Business and Management was ranked in *Business Week's* top 50 undergraduate business schools—are part of the same landscape as celebrated campuses like Morgan State University, which has graduated more Fulbright Scholars than any other historically black college or university.

So the old adage that Baltimore is the "city that reads" still holds true, with one small change: Baltimore is also the city that learns.

The Faces of BALTIMORE

Don Thomas
DIRECTOR, Hackerman Academy of Mathematics and Science, Towson University

What on earth could top space? For former astronaut Don Thomas, it's simple: kids.

After retiring from NASA, where he took four space flights and oversaw experiments performed on the International Space Station, Thomas became the first director of the Hackerman Academy of Mathematics and Science at Towson University.

In just under two years, Thomas has launched programs designed to get students and teachers passionately interested in math and science. Along with visits to local schools, where he talks about being an astronaut, Thomas founded the Saturday Morning Science series. The program attracts hundreds of local kids and their parents to listen to local scientists talk about topics like "Hunting for Meteorites in Antarctica" and "Can You See the Great Wall of China From Space?" (Thomas' answer: Not really.)

"As an astronaut, I saw the planet from top to bottom," Thomas recalls. "Now I'm sharing that." And inspiring his students to reach for the stars.

Yash Gupta
DEAN, Carey Business School, Johns Hopkins University

With Yash Gupta as dean, the Carey Business School is setting a new standard for business schools: one that combines social issues with business education. Gupta arrived last year after stints at the University of Washington

and the University of Southern California, and he's bringing fresh thinking to the school.

"We've moved away from discipline-based education," Gupta says. In addition to taking the traditional statistics and management courses, students study interdisciplinary approaches to business problems. Starting next year, full-time students will pair with students in health-care fields or engineering to tackle development issues overseas, such as fighting disease or ensuring a clean water supply.

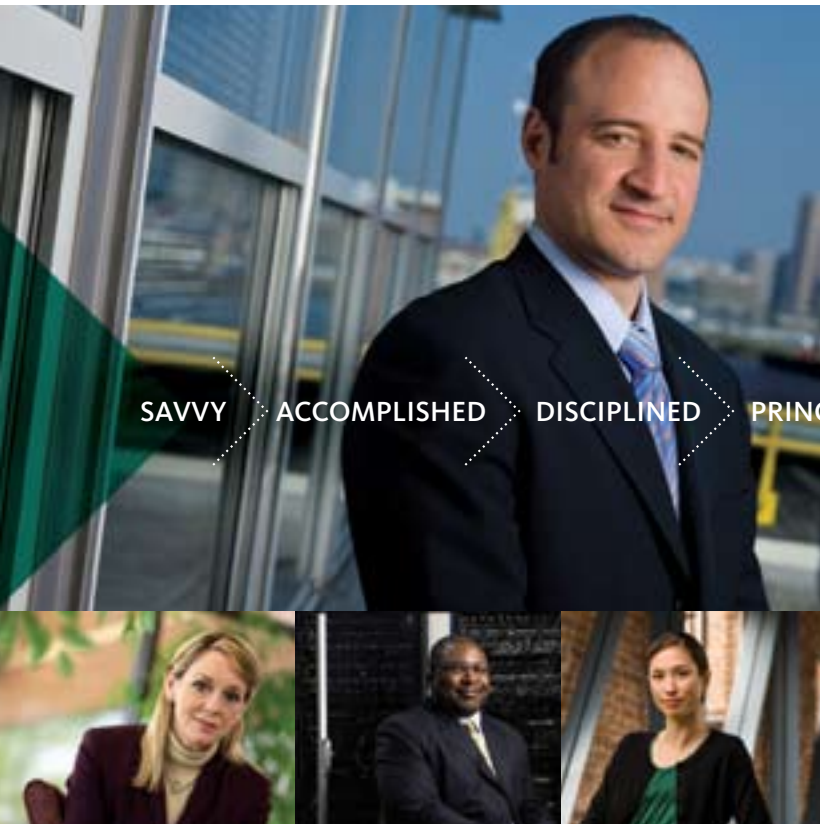
"Empathy is the most important thing to become a leader," Gupta says. "The days are gone when all you do is maximize shareholder value."

Paula Phillips
FACULTY, Maryland Institute College of Art

When Paula Phillips walks around her Baltimore neighborhood, she's looking at the pavement—for broken window glass. After finding the shards, she carefully sweeps them up and carries them home to her studio, where she uses them in mosaics.

This act of altruism becomes the medium of Phillips' artwork, and it's what makes her a good fit for the Maryland Institute College of Art's master's program in community arts. Students serve as resident artists with community organizations, where they use art to foster social change. "It really is about connection" between artists and where they live, Phillips says.

A late bloomer to education, she came to MICA as a master's degree student in 1994, when she was 45. "I like the potential of Baltimore," Phillips says. "I think we [artists] add some pizzazz and expertise in critical thinking."



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They come to Baltimore as mere children. They leave as caped crusaders.

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Baltimore

