College Park Brings Engineering to USMH

The University of Maryland, College Park, launched its first program to be offered at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown during a reception on December 1. Graduate engineering courses will be offered by the System’s flagship school beginning in January 2006.

"The University of Maryland, College Park is in Washington County as of two o’clock today," said Dr. David Warner, executive director of USMH. "I am thrilled to make that statement." A University of Maryland, College Park flag was unveiled, joining the flags of the three other participating schools at USMH.

Timothy Troxell, executive director of the Hagerstown-Washington County Economic Development Commission, said that having College Park join the Hagerstown campus will benefit local business and industry, because there will be a more educated workforce available.

According to Dr. George Syrmos, director of the Professional Master of Engineering Program, students will be able to earn master of engineering degrees and graduate certificates. Interested students can contact Paul Easterling, associate director of the program at 301-405-3017 or peaster@umd.edu. To learn more about the program go to www.enpm.umd.edu.

Weather-Related Closings and Delays

Winter weather is upon us. Please check our website, www.hagerstown.usmd.edu, for weather-related closings and delays. During winter weather events, regular updates will appear on the home page. WHAG TV 25 and the following radio stations will also broadcast our closings and delays:

- WJEJ/WWMD
- WWJ
- WYII
- WCRH
- WFMD/WFRE
- WYZ
- MIX 95
- WQCM
- WHAG

Open House Draws Crowd

Prospective students from Hagerstown and the surrounding areas came out in the first snow squall of the season to learn more about the programs offered at USMH.

Counselors from the four participating universities were available to provide information and answer questions.

Current students participated in a poster session, showcasing their work for open house attendees.

Above: Casie Peterson and Jennifer Miller, FSU business students, prepared a poster and game to display during the open house.

Left: Paul Easterling (right), associate director of the Professional Master of Engineering Program at University of Maryland, College Park, and Dr. George Syrmos (second from right), director of the program, chat with prospective students during the recent open house.

Holiday Hours

USMH will be closed from Friday, December 23 through Monday, January 2. The center will reopen on Tuesday, January 3.

Winter intersession classes begin on January 3 for all of the participating universities.

NOTES and NEWS

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Winter 2005
Library Fully Staffed; Hours Expanded

As the first library media specialist at USMH, Jennifer Clement’s goal is to give students increased access to materials and broaden the libraries’ knowledge of research tools. “I am pleased to join the dynamic team at USMH while so much positive growth is taking place. It is a great opportunity to shape valuable library services that meet the needs of students and faculty, she says.”

In order to meet those needs, she has been working to increase student access to print materials and instructing students on the use of various databases for research purposes. She has established an interlibrary loan connection from Frostburg University, allowing students to access the interlibrary collections. Materials are shipped to USMH where students pick them up. Clement handles the return shipping. Early next year, Clement plans to have software in place to allow students to borrow materials through the University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI) Consortium. Students will be able to log in to the program and request any of the materials that are available through the USM catalogs. USMH will serve as a drop off and pick up center for the USMAI materials.

To further serve students, Clement is offering basic research instruction using online databases. Various databases are available to students through their affiliations with their home schools. Although there is some overlap, different schools have access to different databases. Hundreds of scholarly journals are available through the databases, Clement has found that students are largely unaware of this valuable research tool.

Rounding out the library services is an in-house collection. Clement has started to build the collection with a small, well-selected general reference section.

Meet the USMH Staff

The University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) has hired seven employees since opening its doors to students in January. Ten staff members are now in place to provide services and manage the facility. The following employees join Dr. C. David Warner, Dr. Jellileen Barnhart, associate director, and Linda McNamee, administrative assistant.

During a first round of hiring in January, Scott Thomas was appointed as information technology communications associate. He holds an associate degree in business administration from Hagerstown Community College and a bachelor’s degree in film and video from University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Thomas is certified in network management and administration. He recently earned his M.S. from Frederick Community College where he was an information technology specialist. He lives in Hagerstown.

Jeff Lucas joined USMH as maintenance supervisor in February. Lucas was employed by the University System of Maryland as a project manager during the renovation and construction of the USMH center. He has a bachelor’s degree in construction engineering technology with a minor in business from Spring Garden Institute in Philadelphia. Lucas has more than 20 years of experience serving as a project manager for schools, hospitals and commercial buildings. He says, “This is the most unique project that I have ever worked on, because it blends the old with the new. It was amazing to see the transformation from start to completion—and helpful, because I know where everything is.” Lucas lives in Middletown.

Vichuda Wachs assumed her duties as receptionist in January. She earned a four-year secretarial diploma in her native country of Thailand. Wachs previously worked for Frostburg State University and at Potomac Eye Specialists. She lives in Greenscove.

A second receptionist, Tamara Doleman, was appointed in October. She joins Wachs in providing day and evening coverage at the receptionist desk. She is a graduate of a school in the University of Maryland System, I am excited to be a part of this center. I believe strongly in the mission of bringing four-year educational opportunities to local residents and look forward to being a part of the center’s growth,” she said.

Tina Pyron was hired in December as a library assistant, bringing expanded hours to the library. She is available to help students with reference questions and technical issues. Pyron holds an associate degree in liberal arts from St. Leo University and plans to graduate in May 2006 with a B.S. in sociology from the Frostburg program offered at USMH. She worked as an intern at the Library of Congress for one year while in high school. Following high school, she served in the armed forces for three years. Pyron moved to Hagerstown in 2002 and has worked as a substitute teacher for Washington County Public Schools for the past five years.