Summer 2006

USMH Hosts Reading Day

Nearly 1,000 parents and children attended the third annual Reading Day, sponsored by Partners in Literacy, a committee of the Hagerstown-Washington County Chamber of Commerce. USMH hosted the event, which featured children’s author Jonathan London and young teen author Chris Crutcher. Both authors signed books and gave presentations. In addition, more than 35 local authors were on hand to greet fans, sign books and talk to children about reading.

According to Kathleen O’Connell, assistant director of the Washington County Free Library and event committee member, Reading Day is aimed at bolstering literacy in Washington County. The idea for Reading Day came about in 1992, in response to a report indicating that 17 percent of Washington County adults were illiterate.

Each child in attendance had the opportunity to choose free books from a new and gently used collection that was donated by the committee.

Children sported balloon hats created by a friendly clown and were entertained by a roving magician. Hot dogs were donated by The Dog House.

Oil paintings by acclaimed Washington, DC, artist, Jack Perlmutter, now grace the walls of the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH). The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts owns the 26 paintings and is loaning them to the center. The paintings hang on the walls on the second through fifth floors.

Perlmutter was one of Washington’s best-known artists from the 1940s to the 1980s. His semi-abstract paintings and prints depict vibrant scenes of action and movement. Born in New York, he had a love of urban life, which is reflected in his bold, energetic and colorful works. Perlmutter died on May 4 at age 86.

“When I saw Mr. Perlmutter’s paintings, I immediately thought they were perfect for our center,” said Dr. C. David Warner, USMH executive director. “They are hanging in the new portion of the center. The contemporary architecture provides the perfect backdrop for the abstract style and urban theme of the paintings.”
Student Appreciation Night

Faculty and students enjoyed a respite from final exams during Student Appreciation Night on April 26. An old-fashioned picnic meal was provided.

Families were welcome, and a clown and roving magician provided entertainment for the children.

Frostburg Commencement Held at Maryland Theatre

Frostburg University held commencement ceremonies for its USMH students on May 30 at the Maryland Theatre. Undergraduate and graduate degree candidates participated in the ceremony.

Dr. JoEllen Barnhart delivered the commencement address telling graduates to “find that place from which poetry flows within you and go out and share it with the rest of the world.” Her speech required audience participation as the crowd was prompted to repeat specific words held up on cue cards by Lew Muth, director of Frostburg State University services.

Diplomas were awarded by Dr. Kenneth Witmer, acting dean of the college of education and Dr. Ronald Ross, MBA coordinator.

Dr. Steve Simpson, provost, presided over the ceremony in President Catherine Giza’s absence due to illness.

Towson University Brings Nursing Programs to USMH

Beginning with the fall 2006 semester, Towson University will offer its bachelor of science degree with a major in nursing at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH). Two options are available—a bachelor’s degree program for students who have completed their nursing prerequisites at a community college or through a hospital program, and an articulation program for students who are registered nurses seeking to obtain a bachelor’s degree.

According to Judy Breitenbach, Towson’s director of the nursing programs at Hagerstown, the bachelor’s program begins with the junior-year level and includes a full-time schedule of 16 credits. The classes in this program will be offered on-site, and clinical placements will be in the local area. The articulation program for RNs may combine on-site and online offerings.

Breitenbach, who holds an M.S. in nursing and has been in the nursing field for 28 years, maintains full-time hours at USMH. She administers the program and will teach some of the courses. “Nursing is a diverse, dynamic profession, and its boundaries are endless. I am pleased to be able to bring Towson’s undergraduate nursing programs to the Western Maryland region as the program director,” she says. “I look forward to collaborating with USMH and the Hagerstown community to ensure success for all of our nursing students.”

The need for the Towson programs is great, with other area nursing programs able to accept a small percentage of applicants each semester. “We are delighted that Towson University is opening baccalaureate degree programs in nursing at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown,” said Jim Hamill, CEO of Washington County Health System. “These two programs will greatly enhance the options in nursing for our region.”

Judy Breitenbach, director of the nursing programs at USMH.

Future Program Offerings at USMH...

By the fall of 2007, USMH will host six universities offering 18 undergraduate and graduate programs.

Fall 2006

• B.S. Nursing and RN to B.S. Nursing
  — Towson University
  Contact Judy Breitenbach
  240-527-2726
  jbreitenbach@towson.edu

• B.S. Social Science
  — University of Maryland, University College
  Contact Amy Shimko
  240-527-2711
  ashimko@umuc.edu

Fall 2007

• B.A. Early Childhood Education
  — Frostburg State University
  Contact Lew Muth
  240-527-2712
  lmuth@frostburg.edu

• M.S.W. Social Work
  — University of Maryland, Baltimore
  Contact Erin Harman
  240-527-2728
  eharman@hagerstown.usmd.edu

Although students will attend classes at USMH, they must apply to the university offering the program for admittance. Students will pay the same tuition and are eligible for the same grants and scholarships as students attending the universities’ main campuses.

Please watch our website for additional programs of study to be announced . . .

www.hagerstown.usmd.edu

Right: A graduate is photographed in front of the new fountain in University Plaza.