



A USMH PUBLICATION FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND THE COMMUNITY

>> FALL 2008

USMH Raises Scholarship Funds

Funds raised from the Elizabethtowne Feaste and Frolic event held on Saturday, September 13, generated 10 \$2,500 scholarships to be awarded in the spring of 2009. The scholarships are earmarked for students enrolled in programs at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) for use in the fall 2009 semester.

"We are extremely pleased to announce that we have raised these funds. With a high percentage of students attending higher education institutions in Washington County requiring financial assistance, the need for scholarships is tremendous," said **Dr. David Warner**, USMH executive director.

Dr. Warner continued, "I would like to thank all the sponsors, volunteers and attendees who contributed to the success of this event. Without their continued support, these funds would not be available."

In its second year, the Renaissance-themed event began at Duffy's with a reception and a dinner of Renaissance-inspired fare. Following dinner, a knight on horseback and the "Pied Piper," portrayed by flutist **Morgan Jenkins**, led guests to the Maryland Theatre, where they were greeted by a town crier, played by local performer, **Jay Frantz**. The town crier rang his bell to announce entertainment acts throughout the evening.

The entertainment featured sword fighters, musicians and others. Amid the ongoing musical and theatrical entertainment, guests enjoyed playing games of chance provided by the Exchange Club. Attendees used "funny money" to take their chances at various games including black jack, the giant wheel and others.

"The planning committee chose the Renaissance theme since many have said that USMH has served as the catalyst for the renaissance in downtown Hagerstown," said Dr. Warner.

"The community support of this event is significant and is greatly appreciated. If the level of support continues, we are on schedule to award additional scholarships



A Washington County Public School student dressed as a lady on horseback greets Feaste and Frolic attendees.

in 2011 when the Waltersdorf/Henson challenge grant funds will fully be matched. The additional scholarships will then be distributed from interest the fund has generated."

Dr. Warner explained, "This year it was decided that all the proceeds from the Elizabethtowne Feaste and Frolic would be deposited into a separate fund, which will allow scholarships to be awarded this spring."

All proceeds from this year's event benefited the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown Scholarship Fund, a fund of the Community Foundation of Washington County Maryland, Inc.

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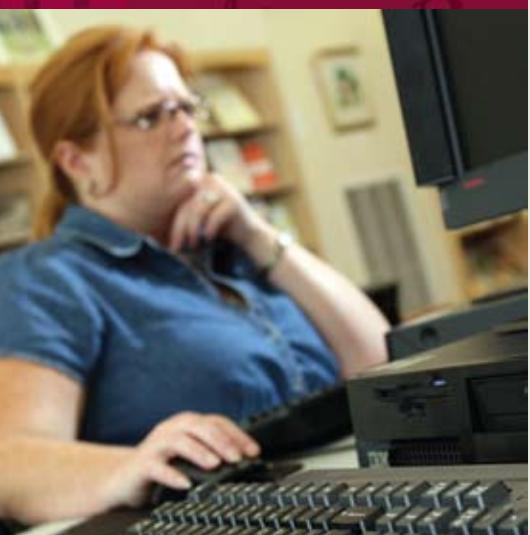
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USMH — 5 UNIVERSITIES UNDER 1 ROOF

YOU'RE READY. WE'RE HERE.



Educational Achievement Is Key to Local Economic Vitality

by **Gaye McGovern, USMH Advisory Board Chair**

An educated workforce is the key to economic development. In Washington County, Maryland, there has been a discernable shift among the general population toward more value being placed upon completing high school as evidenced by the decrease in high school dropouts.

The Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) rank high among the 24 public school systems in Maryland. The local work ethic is well respected among employers. About 50 percent of the WCPS students and a higher percentage of private high school graduates in the county continue on to college. By all accounts, these trends will encourage companies to site themselves here.

Earnings of adults with advanced degrees beyond high school are approximately four times that of high school graduates according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2007 report on educational attainment. Unfortunately, all too often our college-educated young people are attracted to well-paying jobs in more urban areas. The University System of Maryland at Hagerstown, the community college network and private colleges are all part of the key to retaining our educated workforce. For our community to receive a return on its educational investment, we need to increase the college-going rate locally, improve local economic activity through more private and public sector employment, attract more high-tech and bio-tech employers, and continue to encourage strong family units where parents value education.

Lifelong learning is essential to expand our knowledge and skill sets for the new challenges our changing jobs and changing world present to us. To provide value

in today's global economy our citizens must retain their thirst for new knowledge and have the problem-solving skills necessary to succeed in a fast-paced, knowledge-based workplace.

Educational attainment not only increases worker productivity, it reduces social drains on the economy such as drug abuse, crime, welfare and health care issues. Educational attainment and opportunity, and health services are among the most important factors companies evaluate in considering location. Washington County has excellent health services. In addition to more traditional bachelor's and master's degrees, Washington County offers apprenticeships, entrepreneur training and certificate programs.

During the 1960s, college became an accepted path rather than an unusual one at the national level. Rural counties across America and in Maryland have taken longer to improve their college graduation rate among resident citizens. The good news is we have turned the corner. For example, more than 400 WCPS students are enrolled at Hagerstown Community College as ESSENCE students while still in high school. This early college enrollment program cuts college costs by allowing students to earn college credits while in high school at reduced tuition rates. This decreases the time and expense needed to attain the A.A. and subsequent B.A. or B.S. degree.

As a community, we are placing a higher value on education. With continued dedication to improving the educational attainment levels of our workforce, the quality of life in Washington County will benefit. Our schools and colleges are working together to enhance communication with students so more graduates will have the expectation that they will indeed continue on to college after high school. As community leaders, we can all set the appropriate example by promoting education.

FSU Holds Entrepreneurship Conference at USMH

The third annual entrepreneurship conference sponsored by The Trident Initiative of Frostburg State University (FSU) and the Western Maryland chapters of SCORE was held September 25 and 26 at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH).

The conference, "Regional Renaissance...Transforming Communities Through Entrepreneurial Activity" focused on business and entrepreneurial opportunities in Hagerstown and the economic revival of downtown Hagerstown. Speakers and panelists also discussed the current financial crisis and how it is affecting small businesses.

David W. Edgerley, Maryland's secretary of business and economic development, opened the conference on its first day. Secretary Edgerley said entrepreneurs may find it harder to secure a loan in today's economy, but that it is "always a good time to start a business."



Secretary Edgerley addresses Trident conference attendees.

Edgerley captured the spirit of entrepreneurship by telling the story of the founder of Next Day Blinds, who started his career in a small hardware store cutting and fitting window blinds. He then used his knowledge in the industry and worked his way up the corporate ladder at a window covering manufacturer. After gaining more experience, he decided to go out on his own and started what is now one of the largest retail providers of window coverings – Next Day Blinds.

The Next Day Blinds anecdote resonated with the conference attendees who including students, business professionals and small-business owners. After Secretary Edgerley spoke, **Michael**

Deming, president of Demcore Development delivered the conference's keynote address, "The Transformation of Downtown Hagerstown."



Mike Deming discusses downtown Hagerstown development at Trident conference.

Deming spoke about his beginnings and the foundation of his business and concluded by discussing his company's current projects in downtown Hagerstown. He answered conference attendees' questions, which included questions about the current state of the economy. Deming said he had noticed a slowing in residential business due to the housing market, but the commercial property industry is strong.

Local business owners including Katie Trent, owner of Alter Ego Boutique; Nathan and Allie Buchman, co-owners of The Potomac Bead Company; Charles Sekula, owner of The Schmankerl Stube; and Kate Rader, publisher of Hagerstown Magazine, participated in a panel discussion about how their businesses were started.

Available resources for entrepreneurs on the federal, state, county, and local levels were also discussed. Panelists included, **Brien Poffenberger**, executive director of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, **Timothy Troxell**, executive director of the Hagerstown-Washington County Economic Development Commission, and **Deborah Everhart**, director of the Economic Development Office at the City of Hagerstown. On the second day of the conference,

FSU students presented business plans for starting their own companies. The student projects were judged and prizes were awarded during a luncheon at Duffy's on Potomac.

Also at the Luncheon, The Model Entrepreneur of the Year award was given to Jan Russell and Mike Dreisbach, owners of the Savage River Lodge in Frostburg, and The Young Entrepreneur of the Year award was given to Nathan and Allie Buchman, owners of the Potomac Bead Company in Hagerstown.

Sam Lloyd, assistant secretary for small business at the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, delivered the keynote address at the luncheon.

The conference concluded with a discussion on green business practices, and a panel discussion on innovations in agricultural entrepreneurship.

The Trident Initiative is a comprehensive, entrepreneurship-based educational project that is funded by a multi-year grant from the Coleman Foundation.



USMH

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FSU and TU Students Volunteer at a Learning Festival

"Wow! Look at all the play dough hearts you made," said one student. Another could be heard saying, "You are doing great at stacking those blocks."

On October 4, Frostburg State University (FSU) education students and Towson University (TU) nursing students in programs at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) were not cracking open books in the USMH library, but instead interacting with children at the Born Learning Fest for Families with Young Children held in the USMH lobby and in University Plaza.

The event, sponsored by Washington County Community Partnership for Children and Families and the United Way of Washington County in partnership with the local School Readiness Collaboration, drew more than 500 people, mostly families with children aged five and younger.



Towson University nursing students discussed proper nutrition and developmental milestones for children. They also educated attendees about foods that pose choking risks and demonstrated choking prevention.

Judy Breitenbach, M.S., RN, Towson nursing programs director, said, "It was our pleasure to participate in the Born Learning event this year. It was an excellent opportunity for students to support the community by educating others on health and safety issues that affect children in this age group. A special thanks to entire classes of junior and senior nursing students who participated and for

the support from faculty members **Heidi Stone**, M.S., RN, **Christine Watts**, M.S., RN, and **Lisanne Chiota**, M.S., RN."

FSU Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) candidates read stories to children who were seated on a colorful parachute situated under a tree. The candidates gave parents brochures with tips on reading to their children. Other MAT candidates made homemade play dough with festival attendees and gave parents play dough recipe cards. Seniors in FSU's early childhood education undergraduate program played tablecloth games with children that emphasized shapes, letter and number concepts. They also provided initials for their names that the children could color and wear.



Dr. Kim Rotruck, FSU education programs coordinator, said, "Our instructors are proud of our candidates for their dedication to promoting learning for all children. I personally would like to thank the Early Childhood bachelor's candidates, **Ginny Ankeney**, **Holly Fairley**, **Lucinda Rector**, **Lindsey Fouke**, and **Mandi Glines** and our Master of Arts in Teaching candidates **Tonya Angle**, **Clint Cockrum**, **Jackie Stewart**, **Ed Marfut** (and his wife) for their extended participation throughout the day. I would also like to thank **Christine Dowdell**, **Nicole Lescallett**, **Lauren Myers**, **Jessica Meyers**, and **Angie Wyand** for sharing their Saturday to read to children. This festival was a wonderful opportunity to see how parents, grandparents, and extended family all value education."

"We were extremely pleased that local families were able to benefit from the expertise of our faculty members and students," said Dr. David Warner.

Career Center News: Job Fair Scheduled; Tutors Needed

The USMH Career Center will sponsor a Job Fair on November 19 from 5-9 p.m.

Local and regional businesses in the fields of education, health care, engineering, and social work will be in attendance.

Government agencies will also be represented.

For more information, contact Sue Frock, testing and career center coordinator, at 240-527-2755 or sfrock@hagerstown.usmd.edu.

Interested in making extra spending money? The USMH Career and Testing Center needs your help!

We are looking for accounting, math, and writing tutors. Set your own hours and schedule.

For more information contact Sue Frock, testing and career center coordinator, at 240-527-2755 or sfrock@hagerstown.usmd.edu.



Q & A with Kristin Hummel, Salisbury University Undergraduate Social Work Student

Q: How did you find out about the Social Work program at USMH?

A: I was actually on my way back to the Salisbury University campus in Salisbury, MD after having spent a weekend in Hagerstown with family and friends. It had always been hard for me to say my goodbyes and head four hours away from my comfort zone. So as soon as I heard a radio advertisement announcing that Salisbury University was being offered at USMH, I was instantly interested.

Q: When did you start taking classes at USMH?

A: I began taking classes during the fall '07 semester.

Q: When do you expect to graduate?

I expect to graduate after completing the spring '09 semester.

Q: What courses are you taking this semester?

A: I'm enrolled in the following courses: SOWK 406 Field Instruction Seminar 1, SOWK 416 Social Research 1, and SOWK 400 Social Work Practice 2. Alongside those three classes, I am also enrolled in two UMUC online science and lab courses: NSCI170 (Meteorology Lecture) and NSCI171 (Meteorology Lab).

Q: Are they blended or online?

A: The three classes from Salisbury University are blended with students located at Salisbury; however there is some online work that's needed for these courses. My two UMUC classes are strictly online, considering the students are coming from all parts of the US.

Q: How do the blended classes work?

A: The professor is typically stationed at Salisbury. There is a video camera that connects the professor and students at Salisbury with students stationed in



Hagerstown, Cecil, and Chesapeake County. Everyone involved in this connection speaks through microphones. In most classrooms, there is a TV that shows the professor, alongside a second TV that switches back and forth between the students. The students have to talk in sentences in order to allow the satellite to continued on page 6

Social Work Student Q & A

continued from page 5

enable his/her classroom to become viewable over the television screen.

Q: Are there challenges in completing your degree online and in blended courses versus traditional classroom-based courses? If so, what are those challenges and how have you overcome them?

A: There are several challenges that follow behind the “distance learner.” It is not natural to have to press a microphone button before speaking. In the blended course, it’s only natural to feel as if we, being the distance learners, are watching a professor teach a class. Questions are asked from the professor, and the students [in the class with the professor] automatically answer these questions, because they don’t have to bother pressing a microphone button. These challenges still remain, but I think we’ve all complained about it so much that we’ve developed a back bone and are definitely making more of an effort to be “heard.”

Q: What field placements have you participated in, and what have you learned from that experience?

A: My current field placement is at NMS Healthcare and Rehab Center here in Hagerstown. Considering this is my first semester in field, I’m still continuing to learn new things each week. One of the main things I’ve had to learn so far is how important it is to conduct myself in a professional manor. Seeing how I’m learning to become a Social Worker, my responsibilities at NMS is to help change a person’s state of mind. That’s pretty huge to me!

Q: Do you like the way the program works at USMH?

A: Overall, I do enjoy the program at USMH. Although it’s very challenging to keep up with a program that’s offered for the “working adult” but still requires the same amount of work, time and energy as a full-time student, I think we all seem to make do. It definitely helps if you have passion for becoming a Social Worker, otherwise this program would eat you alive.

Q: Would you recommend it to others?

A: I would definitely recommend students to attend USMH. The commute is next to nothing, and you can continue to hold a job and be available for friends and family.

Q: Do you find your classes to be small and close-knit? If so, how does this help you?

A: My classes are both small and close-knit. We’re all best friends; our own little family. Considering we’re all facing the same “struggles” of school together, we find it easiest to lean on each other for comfort. Not only do we see each other face-to-face during lecture time, but we chat through our discussions on MyClasses. It’s almost ridiculous how close we all are.

Q: What advice would you give to interested students?

A: The advice I would give any interested students is the same advice I would give to college students in general. College ... yeah, it’s hard! However, the social work program requires almost twice the effort. There are responsibilities we have to fulfill within the classroom as well as responsibilities on-line. It’s not only your knowledge that will get you through the program, but your passion as well. If you don’t have passion for social work, than you’re better off attending another program!

A: What career do you plan to start after graduation?

Q: When I first began studying for my social work degree, I didn’t want to choose any particular path that I’d follow, because I didn’t want to limit myself. We all know that the social work field is filled with opportunities. But as the semester progressed, I discovered that I enjoyed the medical aspect of social work. And it helps that I intern at a local nursing home. So, maybe I’ll lean towards working with the elderly . . . but who knows?

Q: Do you plan on staying in the Hagerstown area to practice social work?

A: Yes, I do plan on staying here. As much as people my age want to “get outta Hagerstown” after high school graduation, it seems as if everyone eventually comes back. I wanted to “get out” and start a new life in Salisbury, MD. I soon realized that I loved the University more than the city itself. Hagerstown is my home . . . my comfort zone. I don’t think I’ll ever leave.

Q: Anything else about the social work program and your studies you would like to mention?

There is so much to say about this program, and it’s really hard to speak for others, but I’m going to go ahead and try. I don’t think I would’ve made it without the support system of my classmates. I’m going to be honest; the social work program isn’t the easiest program out their. Although it’s only part-time, it requires full-time commitment and dedication. But in the end, it’s all worth it.

Attention Students:

Check-out the Scholarship Guide insert in this issue of *Campus & Community*.

It is filled to the brim with scholarship listings and Web links!

★
 KARYN S. BERGMANN, *et al.*, , ★
 Plaintiff Class Representatives, ★
 Plaintiff Class Members, ★
 v. ★
 UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND, ★
et al. ★
 Defendants. ★
 ★

IN THE
 CIRCUIT COURT
 OF MARYLAND FOR
 BALTIMORE CITY
 Civil Case No. 24-C-005740

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AN IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MARYLAND FOR BALTIMORE CITY ABOUT
A CLASS ACTION INVOLVING A TUITION REFUND THAT YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE

A class action has been certified by the Circuit Court of Maryland for Baltimore City and steps have been taken by the parties to notify all class members of their rights and involvement in the case. The class action seeks partial tuition refunds for students charged out-of-state tuition after applying for in-state tuition at any one of the following University System of Maryland (“USM”) schools: (1) University of Maryland, Baltimore; (2) University of Maryland, Baltimore County; (3) University of Maryland, College Park; (4) University of Maryland, Eastern Shore; (5) University of Maryland, University College; (6) Bowie State University; (7) Coppin State University; (8) Frostburg State University; (9) Salisbury State University; (10) Towson University; and (11) University of Baltimore. Students who qualify as members of the class include those who: (1) petitioned any USM school for re-classification from out-of-state status to in-state status for any semester from the Spring 2001 to the present, and (2) were denied in-state tuition status based upon a failure to overcome the “financial dependence” or “residence at application” presumptions of the relevant USM policies, but otherwise met the requirements of the policy and the school’s procedures for obtaining in-state tuition status, including exhaustion of the institution’s administrative process. Class members are entitled to have the original decision to charge out-of-state tuition reconsidered by the institution, based upon revised standards for determining how these presumptions should apply (Those standards may be found at www.usmd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionVIII/VIII270). Depending upon the results of that review, you may be eligible for a refund in the amount of the difference between the out-of-state tuition that you paid and the in-state tuition rate applicable at that time.

If you believe you are a member of the class but have not received a personal notice and wish to be part of the class, you should immediately contact the class plaintiffs’ attorney Anthony M. Conti at CONTI FENN & LAWRENCE LLC, 36 South Charles Street, Suite 2501, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, to learn more about your possible rights in this matter, as you may be entitled to a tuition refund.

To learn more about your possible rights and to make a request to be considered as a member of the class, please contact Anthony M. Conti, CONTI FENN & LAWRENCE LLC, by calling (410) 837-6999 or by e-mailing info@lawclf.com. All e-mails should include the following information: full name, day and evening telephone number(s), current mailing address, name of constituent institution attended, and the years applied for and denied in-state tuition.

 /s/
 Judge M. Brooke Murdock



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