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

>> SPRING 2008

# Higher Education

## Discussed During Capital for a Day

The United States, Maryland, Washington County and Hagerstown flags flapped vigorously in the wind as Gov. Martin O'Malley stood at the University System of Maryland podium positioned under a tent in the university courtyard. In spite of the cloudy skies, the City of Hagerstown shone brightly as the governor visited the community as part of his Capital for a Day initiative, which brings the governor and his cabinet to a designated Maryland city to discuss regional and state issues.

O'Malley and Lt. Gov. Anthony G. Brown addressed citizens, business owners and students at a "meet-and-greet" event held adjacent to the USMH building.

University System of Maryland Chancellor Brit Kirwan welcomed the governor and started the event. Kirwan thanked the governor for making higher education a top priority in Maryland and credited the governor's administration for freezing tuition costs in the state.

Sen. Donald F. Munson, R-Washington, and Del. John P. Donoghue, D-Washington, also spoke briefly at the event. Both thanked the governor for his support during the USMH funding dispute.

In turn, O'Malley recognized all the hard work both the legislators had done to keep USMH's budget intact.

"This center helps fill shortages in nursing and education in this region," said Kirwan. O'Malley agreed and asked the crowd, "Do you know this week is Nurses Week." The crowd cheered with that knowledge. The governor then recognized Mary Towe, vice president, chief nursing officer at the Washington County Hospital, and presented her with an official framed proclamation stating the second week in May would hereby be recognized as Nurses Week.

The event ended with Hagerstown citizens meeting the governor and taking pictures. O'Malley continued his day in Hagerstown with lunch at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts and a meeting with correctional officers at the Maryland Correctional Training Center.

As part of the Capital for a Day event, Dr. James E. Lyons, Sr., secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and Andrea Mansfield, assistant secretary for MHEC visited USMH. Mansfield met with Dr. David Warner, USMH executive director, to discuss

higher education issues within the region. "It was very productive to meet with Ms. Mansfield. We discussed the programs offered here and how they benefit the Hagerstown region," said Warner.



*Gov. O'Malley, Sen. Munson and USM Chancellor Kirwan discuss higher education issues at the Capital for a Day event held in the University Courtyard.*

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# TU NURSING STUDENT

## Ashley Smith Is Poised and Ready to Start Her Nursing Career

Her nursing uniform has been decorated and hung, a longstanding nursing student graduation tradition. She has celebrated with her fellow classmates and teachers at a USMH barbecue in the University Plaza courtyard and at the USMH graduation celebration. Then, on May 22, she was pinned during the symbolic pinning ceremony, where she became “an actual nurse.”

The day after the pinning, she received her bachelor's of science in nursing diploma from Towson University. With all the events and excitement of commencement, was Ashley Smith, a senior Towson nursing student at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH), ready to graduate and move on to the next stage of her life and career? The answer is yes.

“This has been an amazing experience, and I gained many friendships along the way. I also learned an important life lesson of how to adjust, make changes and be flexible,” Ashley said.

Ashley started the Towson nursing program at USMH in the fall of 2006. A Baltimore-area resident, Ashley chose to attend the Towson program at USMH, instead of on the home campus because of the “smaller student-teacher ratio and more personal relationships between the teachers and students. There is also a close-knit bond formed between students,” she said. As a senior, Ashley was

required to complete a practicum of experience that entails 84 hours of working in a hospital setting. She completed her practicum at Johns Hopkins Children's Center on the infants/toddlers unit and found it “was the perfect fit for me,” she said.

“I had such a great experience being paired up with a nurse and actually performing the duties of a nurse,” Ashley said. She applied to the unit and was hired. “I am so excited,” she said.

Last June, Ashley started working at St. Joseph Medical Center as a clinical nursing intern in their medical/surgical oncology unit and will stay there until July when she starts at Johns Hopkins.

**“I would like to gain knowledge and experience in a hospital setting initially. I hope to advance in the clinical ladder as a charge nurse and become a more experienced nurse along the way,” she said.**

“Then, I plan on going back to school for my master's. I am interested in becoming a nurse practitioner I would also like to be a clinical instructor, perhaps for Towson, one day,” Ashley said.



*Ashley Smith (center of photo dressed in black) poses with her fellow nursing classmates after the group hung their uniforms on the front of the USMH building.*

# USMH Programs Help to Fill Nursing and Education Workforce Shortages in Hagerstown Region

**When asked what advice she would give to the incoming class of Towson nursing students, Ashley said to “not give up. Nursing is such a rewarding profession to be in, and when you have one of those special moments when you see a patient improve or you make them smile, you’ll understand.”**

## A Nursing Tradition Continues



*Leading up to graduation day, it is a nursing tradition to hang the uniforms students have worn during their clinicals.*

*The Towson University nursing students at USMH received permission from the City of Hagerstown to hang their uniforms on the front of the USMH building for two weeks.*

*The tradition is rooted in meaning and celebrates the academic journey and accomplishments the students have achieved.*

*It is believed that the tradition was born out of a strong dislike for the nursing school uniforms students wore in the 1960s. In this era, Johns Hopkins nursing graduates would hang their nursing shoes on fences outside the school. The shoes were an unattractive brown color and were uncomfortable to wear. This progressed into the 1970s, when students would display their uniforms, because it was the last time they would wear their clinical uniforms and soon would be allowed, upon graduation, to wear their “whites.” In current times, nursing uniforms have improved much in style, and the tradition is carried on to declare success in completing the intensive nursing program.*

*Towson celebrates this nursing tradition and has carried on the tradition since its first class graduated in 1976.*

It has been headline news in Washington County and throughout the state of Maryland – nurses and teachers are in high demand. Through the programs offered from Towson University (TU) and Frostburg State University (FSU) at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH), the local region is gaining recent graduates in these growing fields.

The first cohort of Towson University nursing students at USMH graduated this May. Many of the 13 students have jobs lined-up following graduation, according to Susan Morren, administrative assistant for the Towson programs at USMH. “Most are working in Maryland,” Morren said. “One student has a position at Johns Hopkins (see article on Ashley Smith on page 2),” she continued. “Another will tentatively be going out-of-state as a nurse in the military.”

Next year’s senior nursing class is comprised of 14 students, who are primarily from the Hagerstown area. Fall’s junior class will enroll 24 nursing students with 10 of the student’s from the Hagerstown area. “The program is perfect for area residents, because they can receive their degree from Towson without having to commute. When they graduate many of the students, who call this region home, will decide to practice nursing in the Hagerstown area, which benefits our community,” said Morren.

According to Kathy Griemsmann, secretary for the FSU College of Education at USMH, many of the Master of Arts in Teaching - Elementary (MAT) students graduating this spring are pursuing teaching opportunities in Allegany and Washington counties. Eleven MAT Secondary students graduated this May and many have secured positions in

Washington County at schools such as Smithsburg and the Washington County Technical High School.

Joyce Shull, a senior FSU Master’s in Education (M.Ed.) student, said she is planning on working as an education administrator or supervisor in the Hagerstown area. “USMH absolutely helps to fill the workforce shortages in the area, because of the many programs offered and quality of the professors and programs.”

She continued relaying how attending classes at USMH has helped her prepare for a future career in the region, “I personally have enjoyed getting to know educators from the four-state region and have learned a great deal about each state’s interpretation of No Child Left Behind and how their schools work to meet Adequate Yearly Progress.”

According to the State of Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation (DLLR), in Western Maryland, which includes Allegheny, Garrett and Washington counties, there are openings for 1,065 nurses between 2004 and 2014 with an annual median salary of \$54,383.

In Western Maryland, elementary schools are expected to have 405 openings for teachers between 2004 and 2014, according to DLLR statistics, with an annual median salary of \$50,468. Secondary schools are expected to have 225 openings during this time frame with a median salary of \$54,329.

“USMH has made a difference in Washington County regarding workforce shortages. Our center is turning out graduates this year in the fields of nursing and education who will make a positive impact in our region and state, and in 2009 even more nurses and teachers will graduate from USMH programs. We are on a forward path, and each year USMH will contribute more to this region,” said USMH Executive Director Dr. David Warner.

# UMUC

## Launches B.S. in Criminal Justice and Certificate Programs at USMH

A new undergraduate criminal justice program is set to begin at USMH along with three new certificate programs in the public safety field. During a meeting held at USMH in late April, University of Maryland University College (UMUC) officials announced that a B.S. in Criminal Justice and certificate programs in Correctional Administration, Security Management, and Criminal Justice Intelligence will begin at USMH this fall.

"This area of the state has many criminal justice career opportunities, and USMH is very pleased to offer these programs at our center. It is important to bring programs to USMH that meet workforce demands in our region, and the UMUC criminal justice program does just that," said USMH Executive Director Dr. David Warner.

The new program announcement occurred during a UMUC Lunch & Learn meeting, in which UMUC administration, Hagerstown law enforcement, and community leaders networked and discussed UMUC's fire science, criminal justice, emergency management, homeland security, and environmental management programs.

The realignment of the criminal justice program offered at USMH has been ongoing since March when Frostburg State University (FSU) officials announced they

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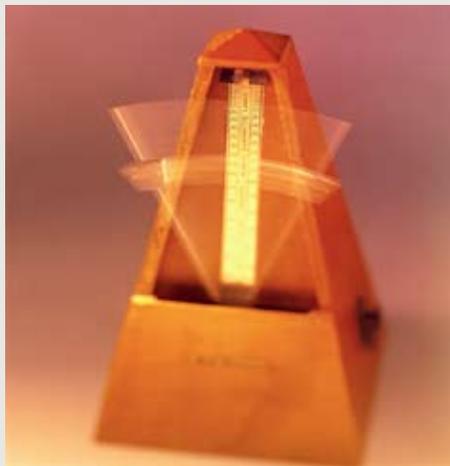
## ACCLAIMED JAZZ MUSICIAN AND POET ENTERTAIN USMH COMMUNITY

Intensity, passion, prose and rhythm – these words vibrantly describe the "Words and Music" event held at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown in April to celebrate National Jazz Month and National Poetry Month.

At the event, renowned jazz musician, Joshua Bayer and local acclaimed poet, Hope Maxwell-Snyder shared their talents with community members and USMH students and staff.

**"The arts can inspire so much in people," Dr. JoEllen Barnhart, USMH associate executive director said. "Giving our students and community the chance to talk one-on-one with a published author and allowing them to escape for a little while into the world of jazz is what bringing a cultural event to USMH is all about," she continued.**

Hope Maxwell-Snyder read from her recently released book, "The Houdini Chronicles," which depicts a love affair between Harry Houdini and his muse,



who falls in love with him after seeing his picture on the Internet. She also read from her published play, "The Back Room," which is based on true events that unfolded in Latin America during guerilla warfare. A Sheperdstown, W. Va., resident, Hope founded the Sotto Voce Poetry Festival in her hometown and serves as creator and director of Somondoco Press, an independent publishing company. Hope has a doctorate in Spanish literature from the University of Manchester in England.

Joshua Bayer performed jazz hits from his third album, "New Voice: Old Voice." Joshua is a jazz bassist, guitarist and composer. He has performed at venues such as The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The Detroit Opera House, Blues Alley, the Harlem Renaissance Festival, The World Jazz Festival and the New York Museum of Modern Art.

In between songs, Bayer explained the composition and make-up of the song he had just performed. At one point a student asked him why he chose a career in jazz versus classical music. Bayer answered that people gravitate to what they are passionate about. He also discussed the similarities and differences between jazz and classical music, explaining jazz is based in classical music but draws on improvisation.

# Bursts of Color

## Displayed in USMH Library



Imaginary, spontaneous, urgent, bursting with color – this is how Anna Glodek, a Maryland oil and watercolor artist, describes her paintings. Glodek's "New Beginnings" figure and flower painting exhibit will be displayed in the USMH Library until June 5.

Glodek paints figure and flower compositions that "fit somewhere between realism and abstraction," she said. Describing her inspiration, she said, "When I look at flowers, I see a dance of petals and leaves folding into each other, opening and closing, coming together or pulling away."

She said she likes to use a thick application of oil paint to create multiple layers and uses the palette knife to move paint

around. The medium of watercolor, "allows me to be contemplative, yet playful at the same time. I like the softness and quietness of building an image with transparent veils of color, especially in painting the human form."

Glodek has had her paintings displayed in the Foundry Gallery in Washington, D.C., and in October 2007, she had a solo show at the gallery. She has participated in group shows at Glen Echo National Park, the MOCA Gallery in Georgetown, and the Foundry Gallery.

She has studied at the Smithsonian Institute, the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, VA, and across Maryland with abstract, watercolor and figure artists.

"Anna's paintings are filled with intense color, texture and shapes. The patterns she creates in the paint are visually intriguing and appealing. We are extremely pleased to display her work in the USMH Library," said USMH Director of Library Services Jennifer Clement.

USMH Executive Director David Warner said, "Attracting regional artists to exhibit their work in our library is an important cultural component of our center. We invite the community, students, faculty and staff to come into the library to enjoy and reflect upon the artwork."

To view her collection visit the Foundry Gallery Web site at <http://www.foundry-gallery.org/Glodek/index.htm>

## NEW CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM TO BEGIN IN FALL '09

*continued from page 4*



### University of Maryland University College

would partner with UMUC to phase out the FSU criminal justice program offered at USMH and make way for UMUC's program. UMUC's criminal justice program focuses on educating students about the principles of crime and justice, trends in crime and criminal conduct and methods of prevention, along with basic skills, methods, and procedures of the criminal justice system. FSU's degree in criminal justice will continue to be available at the Frostburg campus.

"We are excited about making our criminal justice degree program accessible to students in Hagerstown, in order to better serve the educational needs of students in the region, while optimizing the use of resources at both UMUC and Frostburg State University," said UMUC President Susan C. Aldridge. "We have worked extensively with Frostburg State University to ensure a smooth and seamless transition

for all current and future students." All students currently working toward this degree at USMH from Frederick Community College (FCC) and Hagerstown Community College (HCC) have been informed of the transition and will have the option of completing the program through either FSU or UMUC. UMUC staff will work to ensure that each student has the necessary academic advisement and other services needed to provide a seamless transition to the new program.

**For more information on UMUC's criminal justice programs visit <http://www.umuc.edu/programs/undergrad/ccjs/> or contact Nancy Hernandez, UMUC team associate in the office of Maryland Operations at USMH at 240-527-2711 or [nhernandez@umuc.edu](mailto:nhernandez@umuc.edu).**

UMUC is the second-largest university in Maryland, serving 90,000 students and offering undergraduate and graduate programs online and on-site. As demand grows for flexible, high-quality degree programs, the Board of Regents projects that UMUC's enrollments will grow by 101 percent by 2015.

In addition, UMUC is the 12th largest degree-granting university in the United States and one of the largest public providers of online higher education in the nation, offering more than 120 undergraduate and graduate programs available online and on-site, and more than 90 undergraduate and graduate degree and certificate programs and certificates fully online. The university offers classroom-based instruction at more than 20 on-site classroom locations throughout the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and has more than 150 worldwide locations.

# DIVING INTO THE DEEP

## USMH Staff Member, Scott Thomas, Explores the Globe

Do fish have personalities? Pose this question to USMH IT Specialist Scott Thomas and you will get the answer yes, indeed they do. Scott has been scuba diving across the Caribbean and around the world to Fiji, and his underwater adventures, at anywhere from 30 to 155 feet deep, are rich with stories about creatures that the average person will never see. Creatures that make you wonder if the vast oceans of our planet are really another world.

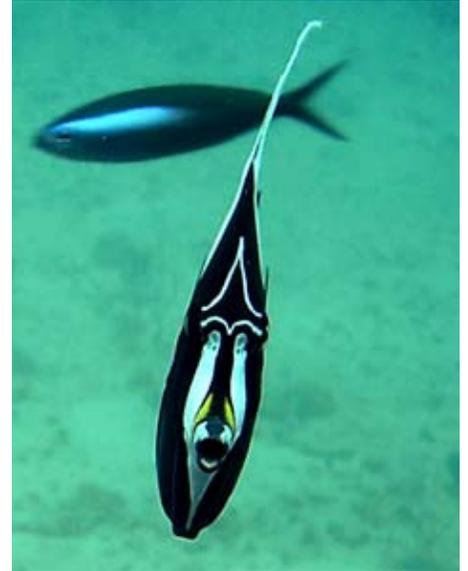
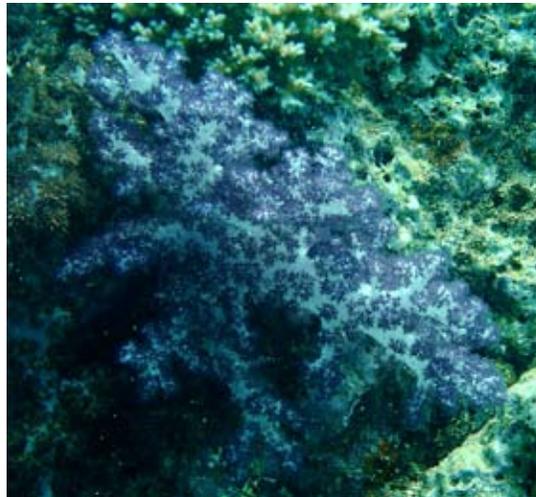
Scott started diving in 1992 when he took a course-of-interest class while attending the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. From this class, he received his open-water certification. After college, Scott started taking classes from Blue Marble Divers, “a full-service scuba shop with really nice classes” in Hagerstown, he said. In 2000, he received his advanced open-water certificate and took his first trip with Blue Marble Divers to Grand Cayman Island.

It was there on Grand Cayman where he developed an interest in underwater photography. “The

resort we stayed at offered an underwater photography class,” he explained. Now, Scott takes his camera on every trip.

“The more you do it, the better you get at it,” he said of underwater photography, and with trips logged on his passport to Belize, Honduras, Cozumel, Curacao, and the Turks/Caicos, Scott has had wonderful opportunities to hone his underwater photography skills.

In February, Scott traveled to Fiji on a two-week diving expedition. “It was my first time on the other side of the world,” he said. “There were so many things I hadn’t seen before – different species of fish, soft coral (pictured below), different species of sharks, and, on land, there were giant fruit bats flying overhead. It was delightful. A completely different experience,” he said.



The underwater creatures he discovered in Fiji were fascinating and even playful at times. “There was this fish that would dart in and out of a piece of coral when I would get near like it was playing a game,” he explained. On a separate diving trip in the Caribbean, he discovered fish to be hypnotic at times.

There was a dive site “riddled with tunnels” that you could swim through, Scott explained. “There was a small type of fish with silver streaks that would shimmer,” he said. The fish began to fill the tunnel in which he was diving. “It became apparent I was swimming through a shimmering mass of fish and it had a hypnotic effect. I had to shake my head a couple times to stay with it,” he said. After getting through the mass of fish, he came to a closed-in

## Did you know?

### Did you know that USMH has a Communication and Outreach Committee?

The committee is comprised of USMH staff members: Dr. David Warner, USMH executive director; Erin Harman, USMH director of marketing & public relations; and Amanda Johnston, USMH public relations

specialist; and business and community members. The committee is charged with marketing USMH and its programs to the community and regional businesses.

### Did you know that the Committee is presenting to such groups as The Greater Hagerstown Committee and the local Rotary Club?

A PowerPoint presentation was prepared and delivered to these groups to promote USMH and its programs. Future meetings are being scheduled.

# in Search of Unique Underwater Life



the current. There are also light issues. The water filters out bandwidths like the color red, and all you see is blue. There is an art and science to color correction. There are different filters you can use to put light on your subject," he explained.

Scott said he uses a "point-and-shoot digital camera" and usually takes five times the amount of pictures that actually turn out. Many times

the images he has captured are a surprise when he sees them for the first time, he said.

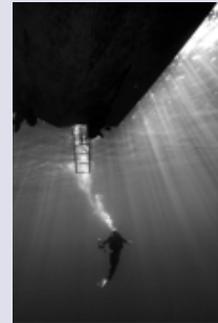
More adventures and surprises await Scott this summer as he is planning a second trip to the island of Curacao with Blue Marble Divers. "I would recommend to anyone interested in diving to go to Blue Marble and take a class," he said.

In April, the owner of Blue Marble Divers, David Stealey exhibited his underwater photography in the USMH Library (see box on the right). Scott and David have been on many dives together, and it is with David that Scott took his first underwater photography class.

cave area. "Instead of panicking, I did a 180-degree turnaround and swam back through the mass of fish. It was like an episode of the Twilight Zone," he said, "There were shimmering fish everywhere."

In addition to capturing images of fish and coral, Scott has also gotten some pretty close-up shots of sharks. He explained how a shark dive operates. First, a crew feeds the sharks to attract them and keep them occupied. While the sharks are being feed, the divers, who hold onto a rope together, can take photographs.

Underwater photography can be challenging. "You have elements working against you that you don't have on land," Scott said. "Your subjects are constantly moving and you're being dragged with



*David Stealey, who started diving in 1991, captures in his photos the natural beauty and behavior of marine life. The photo to the left was exhibited in the USMH Library in April.*

*Stealey, who exclusively uses a Nikon digital camera, said he especially enjoys capturing images that allow the viewer to make an emotional connection with underwater animals. He has captured clown fish, starfish, brain coral and many other creatures with intrigue.*

*Stealey's work has appeared in local and national magazines, and in 2007, Stealey received an honorable mention in the Turks and Caicos International Underwater Photography contest. His winning photo will appear in the Turks and Caicos calendar.*

*In addition to underwater photography, Stealey teaches SCUBA classes in Hagerstown through his company, Blue Marble Divers.*

## **Did you know that USMH hosted Board of Regents and University Relations Council meetings in April?**

USMH was very fortunate to host these meetings in April. At the Board of Regents meeting, University System of Maryland business was conducted and a presentation was made to the Board regarding

the programs and services USMH offers to the Hagerstown community. The University Relations Council is comprised of the public relations professionals from the University System of Maryland universities. David Disneau, a regional AP reporter, met with the group to discuss how the universities can receive AP press coverage.

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