USMH Honors Graduates

University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) honored 102 graduates from programs at Frostburg State University (FSU), Towson University (TU) and University of Maryland University College (UMUC) on Tuesday, May 20 during a Graduation Celebration at Fountain Head Country Club in Hagerstown.

More than 200 people attended the event to celebrate the academic achievements of students who completed degrees at USMH. Students were honored from FSU for the following programs: Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Arts in Teaching-Concentration in Secondary Education, Master of Education, Master of Business Administration and bachelor's degrees in business, liberal studies, and sociology. The first cohort of Towson nursing students was honored for completing the B.S. in Nursing program at USMH. Three UMUC students were honored for various courses taken through UMUC at USMH.

The evening began with a performance from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) a cappella group, The Cleftomaniacs, who performed current pop songs. After the musical performance, Marquis Clever, a student from Williamsport High School sang the National Anthem.

The featured entertainment for the evening was Mary Ann Jung, a historical portrayer from the company History Alive. She portrayed Clara Barton, the first woman nurse and founder of the American Red Cross. The performance was fitting as the first group of Towson nursing students were honored at the graduation celebration.

Dr. Jacquelyn D. Jordan, academic chair and professor in the department of nursing, participated in the Clara Barton performance when Jung brought her to the stage to help bandage another audience participant. Jung dressed Dr. Jordan in a nursing uniform from the 1800s, complete with a hoop skirt.

Ashley Smith, Towson University nursing graduate, delivered the student speech thanking faculty, staff and her fellow classmates.

The evening closed with the presentation of academic achievement awards and leadership and service awards.

Dr. Kim Rotruck, FSU education programs coordinator and professor, announced the recipients of the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) academic achievement awards. “All of these students completed this year with a 4.0 grade point average,” she announced as she commended each one for achieving such a feat.

continued on page 3
FSU MAT STUDENT

Jaclyn Stewart Helps FSU Staff and Students as a Graduate Assistant

“You should be very open-minded and willing to make changes that can make things better for the students and the teacher,” said Jaclyn Stewart, reiterating one of the teaching principles that she has learned as a student in Frostburg State University’s (FSU) Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) – Elementary program at USMH.

She and her fellow MAT classmates will have the opportunity to put these principles into action this fall when they serve an internship, or pre-practicum, in the Washington County Public Schools. They also are required to complete a spring-semester internship, or practicum.

Kathy Griemsmann, administrative assistant in the FSU department of education, explained the internships and MAT program. “There are 100 days of internship spread over the fall and spring semesters. The entire MAT program is over the course of one year. In addition to specific course pre-requisites for entry, a candidate must pass the Praxis I exams for education as well as an entrance interview. Praxis II tests need to be passed in order to be hired in a county school system.”

For her fall practicum, Jaclyn will be in a fourth-grade class at Rockland Wood Elementary School, and in the spring she will be placed with a second-grade class. “First, we will be observing to get our feet wet, and then slowly we will get to take over teaching responsibilities. Eventually, I will be teaching a subject every day.”

Jaclyn said she is interested in teaching fourth or fifth grade, “but I could change my mind,” she said. After graduation she has plans to live closer to D.C. and would like to work in the Montgomery County or Washington, D.C. school districts.

Jaclyn graduated from FSU in 2005 with a degree in psychology. “I had friends who completed the MAT program and I was tossing the idea around and decided that it would be a good program for me.”

A Cumberland native, Jaclyn moved to Hagerstown in June to be closer to USMH, and she said she definitely would recommend USMH to others. “It offers a unique program and everyone is very helpful.” She said her classmates “can count on each other and we know Dr. Rottrick and Kathy Griemsmann are here whenever we need them.”

Jaclyn enjoyed the USMH environment so much that she decided it would be a great place to work. She applied for a graduate assistant position and interviewed with three professors. “I was lucky enough to be chosen,” she said.

For compensation, she receives tuition reimbursement and a stipend. “As a graduate assistant, I provide instructor support, staff support, and I help with class preparation, and answering incoming calls for FSU.”

Griemsmann said, “It is nice to have help, and in the fall and spring semesters we will be grateful for her assistance. Having Jaclyn here also ensures continuity in office coverage, since I am here for students during the day, and in the fall, she will be here until 8:30 p.m.”

For the summer semester, Jaclyn is working Monday through Thursday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., and she said time management has become key. Jaclyn offers this advice to students interested in the MAT program, “be prepared to work hard and be very organized.”

FSU education students can reach Kathy Griemsmann and Jaclyn at 240-527-2741.
Anaïs Beurois, 19, is a French student who wants to improve her English. She studies at a French communication high school based in Paris on the Champs Elysées: l’EFAP (French School of the Press Attachés and Communication Works). In order to be bilingual and to observe an American company, she works as a volunteer in the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown.

Erin Harman, director of marketing and public relations, and Amanda Johnston, public relations specialist, help her to become integrated into the team. They give her work to do (writing articles in the newsletter, on the Web site…) and explain to her what their jobs consist of.

“Learning a new culture is an interesting experience. We can think that people who watch the same movies have the same interests and way of thinking. But it’s not necessarily true. In the entire world, people don’t have the same ideas, and we need to travel if we want to understand that,” said Anaïs.

After her studies, Anaïs wants to work in sports events or be a sports journalist. Although she doesn’t know baseball and football, she loves rugby and soccer. In Europe, this kind of job is for “macho men.” However, she wants to impose her feminine point of view. Please don’t be nasty with her: she practices Jujitsu! And be wary of her thin silhouette: Bruce Lee is skinny too!

Eager for new experiences, she has practiced rafting, jumped with a parachute from a plane and driven with her small car on the traffic circle “l’Etoile” in Paris! If you want to understand it, go on the Champs Elysees: it’s the biggest and most dangerous traffic circle of the world. So, traveling eight hours by plane to another country, with limited English and knowing nobody, is a new, fascinating experience!

Spoiled, helped and listened to, Anaïs has only two words on her lips when she meets one of the USMH team, “Thank you!”
Community Support Can Foster USMH’s Continued Success

by Gaye McGovern, USMH Advisory Board Chair

The University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) Advisory Board is a group of community leaders and University System of Maryland (USM) officials who work to promote awareness of the programs offered at the Hagerstown center and to help USMH identify and offer educational programs for students and employers.

The Advisory Board’s mission is to represent regional interests and workforce needs in program planning, raise money for scholarship funds, and support USMH as it implements programs. Our group’s top priority is for USMH to continue to grow both in enrolled students and program offerings.

In three years, USMH has grown from three schools offering 12 programs to five schools offering 19 programs, and our enrollment has increased. USMH’s location in downtown Hagerstown has given residents of Washington county convenient access to higher education.

Even with such accomplishment there is always the next benchmark to meet. The Advisory Board will strive to ensure USMH’s growth and success. Students, employers and community leaders must also take positive steps to increase the college attendance rate in Washington County. The Advisory Board would like to work with these groups to achieve the following:• Strengthen awareness and support of USMH in counseling and faculty advising programs at Western Maryland community colleges. The HCC-UMUC alliance offering a seamless transition for students from the associate degree to the bachelor’s degree is a good example of this. For a complete list of HCC-UMUC alliance degrees, visit www.UMUC.edu/MDalliances and click on “Alliances Admission Application” under Hagerstown Community College.

• Provide additional student housing and more stores and restaurants tailored to the student market by encouraging community developers and entrepreneurs to open businesses.

• Consider the future needs for class-rooms, faculty offices and conference facilities as USMH grows in programs and size. Conference facilities would enable USMH to attract meetings that would generate local revenue. Growth should be encouraged to include science, mathematics and technology programs.

• Support scholarship programs by local and state governments. At least 70 percent of Washington County college students need financial help for their studies. Some stellar examples of local or state government support for higher education scholarships include the 1989 Louisiana Tuition Opportunity Plan for Students (TOPS), the 1991 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Plan (OHLAP), the Garrett County Maryland Board of County Commissioners plan at Allegany College and the 2005 Kalamazoo Promise plan in Michigan. The Maryland Higher Education Commission Web site and their “Money For College” workshops provide excellent guidance to people searching for financial aid. The Washington County Board of County Commissioners and the City of Hagerstown have contributed to the USMH scholarship fund. But more needs to be done at all levels to help local students achieve their educational goals and dreams.

USMH has proven itself capable of delivering high quality education under challenging circumstances. USMH staff members were hired in anticipation of an enrollment number of 500 students. USMH enrollment has increased and the students who are attending USMH are taking more classes, which are positive signs of growth. However, since enrollment has not yet reached anticipated staffing levels and because Frostburg State University (FSU) will now provide more service to USMH, the management team had to eliminate five USMH positions where the positions would duplicate service provided by FSU. Unfortunately, this decision resulted

continued on page 5
In July and August, the USMH Library welcomes the “Spectrum Seven,” seven local women who love to paint.

The group describes their art as the artistic interpretation of the five basic senses (sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell). They involve spirit and passion in all of their creations.

The members of this group are: Eliane Ambrose, Marjorie Tressler, Marguerite Cyr, Becky Dietrich, Elisabet Stacy-Hurley, Donna Bingaman and Donna Mason.

Ambrose describes her art as an unconscious connection between God and nature. She doesn’t want to be closed and bored: it means that her paintings, and her life, are diversified. The colors she uses intensify what she feels.

Tressler is a very positive person. She tries to be joyful when she paints and she follows an important rule: the three B’s — be big, be bold and be beautiful. This woman puts her emotion into her artwork.

Cyr loves painting nature. In her art, she wants to preserve the moment — or the light, as she says — of the creative impulse.

Dietrich likes painting from past travels and on location. She loves travelling, and her travels are reflected in her artwork. Stacy-Hurley hopes her painting can touch others’ minds and hearts.

Bingaman hopes to illuminate the lives of people who can look at her art.

Mason hopes to tap into the imagination, open minds, tickle funny bones or touch people’s souls.

“Culture can open our spirit and develop our critical mind,” said Jennifer Clement, USMH director of library services. “Please come and visit the library to see this talented group of women’s artwork.”

by Anais Beurois, USMH intern from Paris, France.

See article about Anais on page 2.
Did you know that USMH is launching a student ambassador program?

As a way to have students more involved in decisions that affect them, USMH is launching a student ambassador program. The students would meet together at least once and then could conduct business via phone and email. The students would be tasked with discussing pertinent issues to students who attend partnering USMH institutions. Student ambassadors would report their issues, comments and concerns to the student representative on the USMH Board of Advisors who then in turn would report to the board. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Amanda Johnston, USMH public relations specialist at 240-527-2722 or ajohnston@hagerstown.usmd.edu.
Sponsorship Opportunities

Help provide scholarship funds for students attending the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown and support the downtown renaissance and revitalization efforts.

$5,000  Dukes and Duchesses  Includes 8 event tickets, reserved table, full-page ad in the program, visual and verbal recognition at the event, recognition in the Community Foundation of Washington County Newsletter, the event program, and a large-scale print thank you ad in the Herald-Mail.

$2,500  Lords and Ladies  Includes 6 event tickets, reserved table, 1/2 page ad in the program, verbal recognition at the event, listing in the Community Foundation Newsletter, the event program, and a large-scale print thank you ad in the Herald-Mail.

$1,000  Beefeaters and Royal Guards  Includes 4 event tickets, 1/4 page ad in the program, listing in the Community Foundation Newsletter, the event program, and a Herald-Mail thank you ad.

$500  Troubadours and Jesters  Includes 2 event tickets, listing in the event program, the Community Foundation Newsletter, and a Herald-Mail thank you ad.

Individual tickets are $100.

Mail your check, made payable to the Community Foundation of Washington County MD, Inc., to: The Community Foundation of Washington County MD, Inc., 33 West Franklin Street, Suite 203, Hagerstown, MD 21740 Attn: Waltersdorf/Henson Magnolia Foundation Scholarship Fund.

Please call the Community Foundation of Washington County at 301-745-5210 to reserve your space.
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