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

>> WINTER 2008

# USMH Enrollment Up 15 Percent

University System of Maryland at Hagerstown Fall 2008 enrollment numbers show record growth. For the second consecutive fall semester, enrollment has increased 15 percent.

When USMH opened to 382 students on January 5, 2005, three universities were offering 12 academic programs. Today, six universities offer 19 programs, and with approval from the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), USMH will begin offering the first doctoral degree in Washington County's history in 2009.

**This semester, USMH enrolled 455 students—a 15-percent increase over last fall's headcount and a 19.1-percent increase compared to the first semester of classes in 2005.**

The numbers, when drilled down, point to additional growth indicators. The current full-time equivalency (FTE) is 115.3—an increase of 14.3 percent over last fall and a 47-percent increase when compared to the opening semester. It should be noted

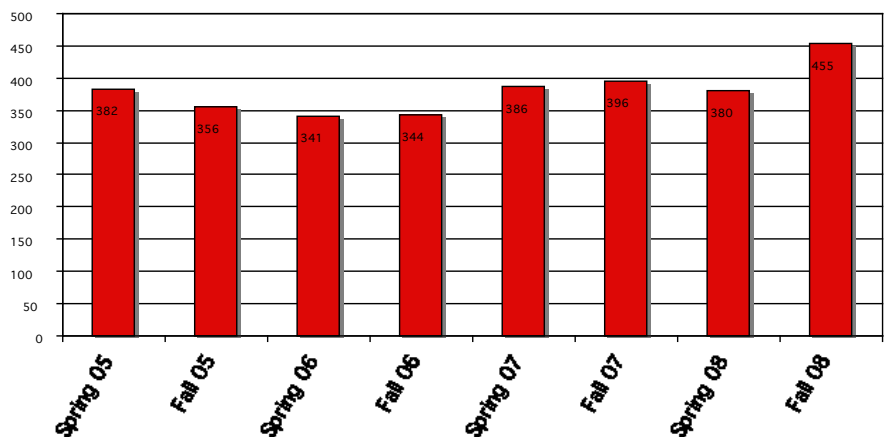
that one FTE equals 15 undergraduate credits or 12 graduate credits.

**Dr. David Warner**, USMH executive director, explained the significance of FTE. "When FTE grows faster than headcount, it means that students are taking more classes. This is possible because we have been able to bring some full-time programs in the last four years, as well as add classes to the part-time programs. Students are able to complete their

degrees more quickly if they choose," he said.

Dr. Warner also explained the rigorous process of selecting programs, "We have been careful to bring programs that are needed and can be sustained in the area. It is also important to note that three of our new programs—nursing, social work and education (at the bachelor's level)—address fields that are experiencing workforce shortages across the nation."

**USMH Headcount by Semester**



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HAGERSTOWN

**USMH — 5 UNIVERSITIES  
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# Current and Future Enrollment Growth Factors Include Community Support, Workforce Needs and Demographics

*by Gaye McGovern, USMH Advisory Board Chair*

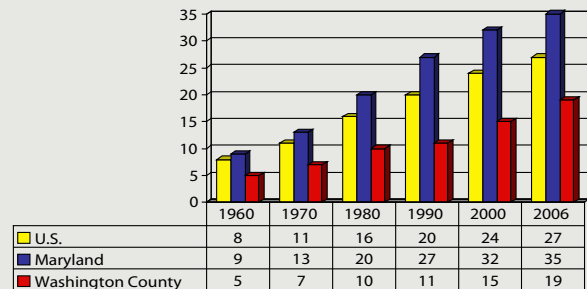
The University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) is growing in a sustainable manner at a current rate of 15 percent. This growth is influenced by several primary factors including community support for the programs and the concept of a locally based center for higher education, workforce needs and demographics.

As the USMH Center has developed during the past four years, programs have been added after careful evaluation. This phased approach now includes six universities and 19 programs with more coming in the fall of 2009. Soon the center will offer the first doctoral program in Washington County designed to assist educational leaders in their development.

Unemployment is now 7.2 percent, the highest since 1945. Considering the Congressional Budget Office economists' projection in the first week of 2009 that unemployment will rise to nine percent before it begins gradually to recede, the practical, career-based programs offered at USMH are more important than ever. USMH has been well received by both full-time and part-time students. The student body is currently about one half full-time and one half part-time. Approximately half of the students are taking courses as college juniors or seniors and half are enrolled in graduate-level courses. All will graduate with skill sets that will make them more competitive in the tight job market we are experiencing.

Past history tells us several things about the variables that drive college-level enrollment. A one-percent increase in unemployment produces a similar increase in college enrollment. (USMH is growing much faster than unemployment is increasing.) Community colleges experience enrollment increases during recessionary times. The number of graduating high school seniors influences the number of freshmen enrolling in colleges. In June of 2009, we will see the largest number of high school graduates in United States history along with continuing serious economic challenges. Location, relevance of courses offered and costs are among other factors that are directly related to college choice. These growth factors unite to support both the concept and the reality of the USMH satellite center. And

**Percentage of the population 25 years and older with a Bachelor's Degree or higher**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

as one can well imagine, it is more cost effective not only for students, but for the participating universities to offer courses at our center than to build a stand-alone campus capable of providing the diverse offerings being developed here. The cooperative counseling and curriculum articulation efforts between the Washington County Public Schools, Hagerstown Community College and USMH will assist in building enrollment as well.

Distance learning is integrated in all areas of USM and indeed the University  
*continued on page 5*

# Student Ambassador Program Strives to Increase Communication

"My goal is to help USMH be the best center it can be for its eclectic student body while informing the administration of what Salisbury students need from it," said **Ligia Teodorovici**, USMH student ambassador for Salisbury University.

In addition to Ligia, three other students from USMH partnering institutions have volunteered to serve as USMH Student Ambassadors. These students are: **Felecia Garrison**, a nursing student from Towson University, **Jason Miller**, an accounting student from University of Maryland University College (see the student profile on Jason on page 4), and **Jaclyn Stewart**, a Frostburg Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) student.

**The goal of the Student Ambassador program is to improve and increase communication between students attending programs at USMH and the USMH administration. In August, program coordinators from each USMH partnering institution were contacted explaining the purpose of the program and asking for recruitment of students into the program.**

The students were selected in late November and Dr. David Warner, USMH executive director, held the first USMH Student Ambassador meeting in early December.

At the first meeting, Dr. Warner thanked each of the students for volunteering to serve in the role and welcomed them to their new position. The students shared what they would like to accomplish in

the role, and Dr. Warner explained that since they are the first group of USMH Student Ambassadors they can lay the groundwork for future students.

Dr. Warner suggested ways to make the most of their new roles, including meeting with the USMH Advisory Board, attending USMH Open Houses and events, starting community service projects with their fellow classmates (already the Student Ambassadors are making an impact in our community see the article on page 6), or starting a group or club.

During the meeting, Felecia said she had received feedback from other nursing students regarding discounted or free or free access to a fitness center. Dr. Warner said he understood the need for a student service of that nature and it was suggested that the Student Ambassadors poll their classmates to gain a better understanding of how many students would use a fitness center. The next Student Ambassador meeting is scheduled in February.

"I encourage all students attending USMH to communicate openly with the Student Ambassadors. I welcome all comments, and I look forward to expanding upon the open-line of communication that we have started in our first meeting," said Dr. Warner.

Students Ambassadors are needed for each program offered at USMH. Currently, the nursing, accounting, MAT, and social work programs have ambassadors. If you are a student who is interested in serving as a student ambassador, please contact your program coordinator or Amanda Johnston at 240-527-2722, [ajohnston@hagerstown.usmd.edu](mailto:ajohnston@hagerstown.usmd.edu).

Students attending classes at the USMH Partnering Institutions can email any of the student ambassadors with questions or comments pertaining to students. The student ambassadors will relay the information to Dr. David Warner and/or the USMH Advisory Board.

USMH Student Ambassadors

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Jaclyn Stewart, FSU  
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Ligia Teodorovici, Salisbury  
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**Mark Your Calendars to Attend**

**USMH College Fair**

**Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 5 - 8 p.m.**

**Meet with Advisors from USMH Partnering Institutions**

# USMH

## Staff Listing

We're Here to Assist You  
Monday through Thursday,  
8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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# Initiative and Perseverance Leads UMUC Student to USMH

A year ago **Jason Miller** worked for Citibank in Des Moines, Iowa and he had never stepped foot in the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) building. Fast forward to Fall 2008, Jason is now enrolled in the accounting program that the University of Maryland University College (UMUC) offers at USMH, and he is set to graduate in the Spring of 2010.

Life changes led Jason to USMH. "I have a B.S. in Mathematics and started my career at Citibank in Hagerstown. I became a mortgage underwriter and transferred to St. Louis and then Des Moines. Citibank closed their Des Moines site, and I moved back to Hagerstown," he explained.

"I really did not know what programs were offered at USMH. I wanted to go back to school, and so I went in and set-up an appointment with **Ken Davis**, a UMUC advisor," Jason said.

Jason recommends interested students take initiative and simply go to USMH and inquire. "Go into the Hagerstown center and just tell them you are interested in talking with someone. This is what I did, and the staff were very friendly and helpful."

"I like the way the program works at USMH and would definitely recommend it to others. I feel the classes are small enough to get to know the other students in your class," he said.

Jason said he finds he gets the most out of a class when students share ideas with each other. "I find that by sharing my ideas with others creates a domino effect, in that others then, are more willing to share their ideas. I feel this is one of the best ways to really learn."

This semester Jason is taking four classes. Three are on-line and one, Acct 323 is blended. In both types of classes, Jason said time management is crucial. "If you manage your time well, and know what you have to do, you can be very successful at both online and blended courses," he said.

Jason noted that with face-to-face classes you get immediate feedback from the professor whereas one of the "main challenges with online classes is if you have a question, you post the question and then wait for a response."

With 10 years of work experience, Jason wanted to be able to share his knowledge to help other students. When he heard about the new Student Ambassador Program USMH was launching he was immediately interested (see article on page 3). "Being in the workforce has really helped me with going back to college. I am able to use my experiences to help me in a lot of my classes.

As a USMH Student Ambassador, "I want to be able to help students set goals in both their academic and personal lives and then help them accomplish those goals. I want to be a representative of the students and a person they can go to if they have a concern about USMH."

His goal after graduation is to take the CPA exam and find an accounting position in the Hagerstown, Baltimore or the Washington, D.C., region.

Jason offered some wise and sound advice for students who are setting goals, "sometimes it may seem like a goal is impossible or too far out of reach. I think you just need to take it one step at a time and little by little you can do whatever you set your mind to."

# Student Artwork Adorns the USMH Library



Motley backgrounds, abstract etchings, whimsical curves, and contemporary lines – all these phrases describe the artwork Washington County Public high school students are exhibiting in the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown's (USMH) library in the months of February and March.

Approximately 90 public middle and high school students are participating in the exhibit titled, "Currents: Trends for Young Visual Arts." The juried art show features artwork in a myriad of mediums, including pencil, watercolor, acrylic, oil, photography, and sculpture.

The show culminates in an awards reception on Friday, February 20 from 6-8 p.m.

Staff and artists from the Washington County Arts Council and the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts will serve as judges for the show. Awards will be given in various categories and a Best of Show prize will be awarded.

"The school system is very excited to be displaying our students' artwork at USMH for a second year. The show was very successful last year, and we expect this year's display to be even better as our middle school students will be involved as well. The students have worked very hard on the pieces in the show and their dedication is apparent," said **Rob Hovemale**, Washington County public schools coordinator of visual and performing arts.

USMH Executive Director Dr. David Warner said, "We welcome the students' artwork and are extremely pleased to partner with Washington County Public Schools on this event for a second year. It is a wonderful forum to work with the school system."

"We invite all members of the community to come and view the works of this talented group of young artists in the month of February," said Dr. Warner.

For more information on "Currents: Trends for Young Visual Arts" contact Amanda Johnston, USMH public relations specialist, at 240-527-2722 or [ajohnston@hagerstown.usmd.edu](mailto:ajohnston@hagerstown.usmd.edu).

## USMH Enrollment Growth

*continued from page 2*

of Maryland, University College (UMUC) was founded in 1947 with that in mind. Today about 1,500 UMUC students reside in zip codes served by USMH. These on-line students can receive their testing, counseling and library support at USMH. They also have the flexibility of taking courses when their work schedules or daily responsibilities allow them to do so. With its Interactive Network classrooms (IVN), Hagerstown has fully embraced the digital academic age.

A recent study by the National Center for Education Statistics reported at the end of 2007, on-line, interactive or blended distance learning was incorporated at 67% of colleges and 23% of non-credit post-secondary schools. Local employers can benefit not only from the technological literacy of USMH graduates but by renting USMH IVN classrooms to train their existing workforce.

Finally and most importantly for the economic development of the Hagerstown-Washington County region, there is a ripple effect that lifts the economic viability, standard of living and employability of future generations. Each graduate of a USMH participating university has raised the expectation level for his or her immediate and extended family as well as for fellow employees and friends. This effect can be seen in the chart, on page 2, which documents educational attainment in the US and in Washington County.

Can further growth at USMH be anticipated? Will job skills continue to become more sophisticated? The answer to both is a resounding, "yes."

## Alumni Updates

**Rhonda Dayhoff**, a May 2008 Frostburg State University Master of Arts in Teaching graduate, is pleased to report she is now a first grade teacher at Waverley Elementary School in Frederick and she says, "It is fabulous!"

Congratulations go out to Rhonda.

Thank you to those who sent updated contact information, your current information allows us to keep you posted on USMH news and information, including new program launches that might interest you. If you would like to submit or update your contact information, please email Amanda Johnston at [ajohnston@hagerstown.usmd.edu](mailto:ajohnston@hagerstown.usmd.edu).

If you are a graduate of a program at USMH, we want to hear from you, please send news updates to Amanda Johnston, [ajohnston@hagerstown.usmd.edu](mailto:ajohnston@hagerstown.usmd.edu). They will be published in the next issue of *Campus & Community*.

# Towson Nurses Collect More Than 200 Items for a Local Family In-Need

Many believe the holiday season is about miracles. This past Christmas season, one local Hagerstown mom in need received “the miracle she had been praying for” when the Towson University nursing class at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) adopted her family for the holidays through Head Start of Washington County.

**The Head Start organization has special meaning to the nursing students.**

**“We really wanted to adopt a family through Head Start because it is where most of us had our first clinical experience as juniors and this was an opportunity for us to give back to the program which helped us in our education,” said Felecia Garrison, USMH student ambassador for the Towson University Department of Nursing at USMH.**

**Amanda Peterson**, the nursing class vice president, and Garrison conceived the idea for the holiday drive and implemented it with the help of the nursing students.

The drive started the week before Thanksgiving and ended at the end of December. Nearly 200 items were collected for the family. In addition to collecting items and food for the family in need, nonperishable food items were collected for The Salvation Army and Hagerstown Rescue Mission. “Our family had a wonderful and amazing holiday, and I want to thank everyone who brought in something. Each and every one of you has made a difference in this family’s life during the holiday season,” Garrison said.

“For those who brought in a nonperishable food item, I thank you for bringing nourishment and love to our Hagerstown community during the holidays and especially with the economic crisis.”

Garrison said she hopes that helping and giving to one person will start the process of that person giving and helping another. As nursing students, she and Peterson believe the Towson nurses will take this experience and continue their passion of giving to and helping others in their daily lives as nurses.

Peterson echoed Garrison’s sentiment: “It is such a joyous time of year and giving to someone less fortunate at Christmas makes me feel good inside.”

David Warner, USMH executive director, said, “I am very pleased the nursing



Towson nursing students, Amanda Peterson (left) and Felecia Garrison (right), with the holiday drive donations.

students took such initiative in participating in a project that benefited a local family in need. Their initiative sparked many people throughout the USMH community to participate in the project, and the contributions made by students, faculty and staff had a positive impact on the Hagerstown region during this past holiday season.”

Warner added, “I hear future community service projects are in the works, and I can’t wait to see what the students from our partnering institutions accomplish next.”

## Did you know?

**USMH has even more distance learning space for our partnering institutions and their students to use.**

The USMH IT department is pleased to announce the addition of a Interactive Video Networking (IVN) room. In November, Room 524 was turned into an IVN room bringing the number of IVN rooms at USMH to four. When not being

used as classroom space, the IVN rooms are available to rent for conferences or other events. For more information on using the IVN rooms, please contact **Scott Thomas**, USMH IT specialist at 240-527-2758 or [sctomas@hagerstown.usmd.edu](mailto:sctomas@hagerstown.usmd.edu).

**USMH staff are busy planning a graduation celebration to honor the graduates of our five participating universities.**

The 2009 Graduation Celebration will be held right here in the USMH Lobby and inside a tent in the USMH courtyard. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 19, from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

# Frostburg Advisor, Coordinator, and Professor, Guides Students to Own Their Education

“The university has provided all the tools, and I guide students to make sure their education is truly their own,” explained **Gary Austin**, Frostburg State University (FSU) coordinator of academic advising activities. “I work at encouraging students to take ownership of their education – that is my big goal.”



Austin, who has a dual bachelor’s degree in public administration and sociology from FSU and a Master’s in Liberal Arts from McDaniel College, started at FSU as an adjunct professor and in 2004 became a full-time professor. His current position involves many roles. “I am the clearing-house for two colleges – the College of Liberal Arts and Science and the College of Business.”

He serves as a coordinator for the FSU sociology and liberal studies programs. “I keep files on those students and make sure their requirements are being met and that they have everything they need to complete their degrees.” In the spring, Austin will be teaching sociology of education and social inequalities.

Bringing the FSU sociology of education course to USMH was the result of a collaborative partnership he has with the College of Education and the College of Business. “Some of the education and business majors were coming up short in open electives, so I suggested to the department of sociology to do new course offerings to avoid sending the USMH students elsewhere to complete their degrees,” he said.

The partnership between the colleges has also spawned monthly evening advising sessions for students and prospective students. “The Colleges of Education, Business and Liberal Studies will come together for undergraduate and graduate advising nights starting in January. This is FSU promoting another service to our students. We know many of our students are non-traditional and cannot always make it to advising during the day,” said Austin.

In addition to collaborating with other FSU colleges, Austin works with University of Maryland University College (UMUC) in fulfilling course requirements for liberal studies students. “We have 30 liberal studies students right now, and in some ways liberal studies is a much more vigorous degree in that the student is responsible for designing the program. This is

an option for students who don’t find a traditional major here – for example, art history.”

**Austin explained further, “A student could take an art history class through UMUC and then transfer into FSU with a collaborative degree. This is a classic example of University System of Maryland collaboration.”**

Sociology is one of Austin’s passions, having earned a degree in the discipline himself. He serves as advisor for the sociology club and said the group will complete a community-oriented project. FSU sociology students can be found throughout the Hagerstown region in various internships. “Each semester, internships are offered in local daycares, after school programs, and free clinics,” he said.

“Hagerstown community college does a great job for sociology students to get their prerequisites completed,” Austin said. “You can complete the sociology degree at USMH in 1.5 to 2 years if you take classes each semester, and it is all in your own backyard.”

“Attending FSU at USMH is an awfully good value,” Austin commented. “And people are going to need that in these economic times.”



## Contact Participating Universities

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