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

>> WINTER 2010

USMH Enrollment Continues to Climb

Enrollment at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) has increased 24.3 percent since the regional higher education center opened in January 2005.

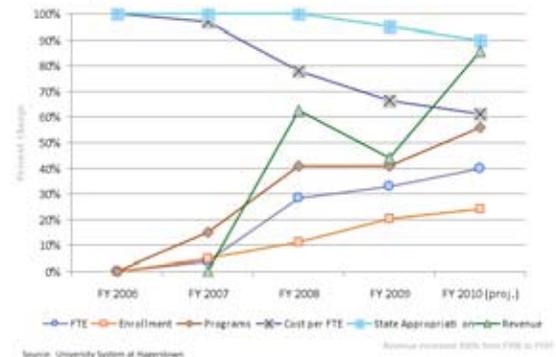
Official numbers for the fall 2009 semester, released by the University System of Maryland, show a headcount of 475 students, a 4.4-percent increase over last fall.

The total enrollment number includes 219 undergraduate and 256 graduate

students. The full-time equivalency (FTE) number for the current semester is 124.2, an increase of 7.8 percent over last fall.

“These numbers reflect the growth that we are seeing at USMH. We are offering more classes and students are taking more classes. We are very pleased with the numbers, and with new programs on the horizon, we expect the numbers to continue to grow,” said **Dr. David Warner**, USMH executive director.

Trends at University System of Maryland at Hagerstown: FY 2006 to present



This fall, the sociology program, offered by Frostburg State University (FSU), had more than four times the number of students it did a year ago. **Gary Austin**, coordinator of the sociology program, said he attributes the growth to recruitment efforts at the local community colleges and diligence in offering new courses such as Sociology of Education and Sociology of the Environment.

In addition to new sociology courses, the business program, also offered by FSU at USMH, is expanding with new course offerings in entrepreneurship (see article on page 3).

A bachelor's in psychology program and the center's first doctoral program, a doctorate in education or Ed.D., are in the pipeline.

USMH's current program offerings are expanding as well. A grant will allow an additional cohort of Towson University undergraduate nursing students to begin in the spring 2010 semester.



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HAGERSTOWN

**USMH — 5 UNIVERSITIES
UNDER 1 ROOF**

YOU'RE READY. WE'RE HERE.



Workgroup Report Released

by Gaye McGovern, USMH Advisory Board Chair

The 2009 Joint Report of the Chairmen of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee required the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to create a workgroup of stakeholders in the USMH center. The workgroup's mission was to study the operation of the center in depth and make recommendations to improve the future success of the center. This report was recently released by MHEC.

The University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) is one of eight regional higher education centers (RHEC) in Maryland. The RHECs are designed to provide postsecondary education in educationally underserved areas of the state.

Not only are they more accessible than driving to the main campuses of various universities, but they enable students to remain at home near their jobs and families, which provides a more affordable option than living on campus or commuting.

In addition to providing access to higher education, the task force found that USMH plays a vital role in the economic development of downtown Hagerstown.

Washington County is located in the Appalachian region designated more than 40 years ago as a target area needing assistance to improve local infrastructure and education. USMH was located in downtown Hagerstown to help revitalize the city as part of the Smart Growth initiatives of former Governor Parris Glendening.

This site presents certain challenges in regard to producing revenue through rent but as noted in this column in the fall

issue, the economic impact on downtown Hagerstown has been substantial.

Recommendations of the Workgroup report include the following:

1. The current organizational structure for USMH under USM is the most appropriate governance structure for the center. USMH should continue to work closely with Hagerstown and Frederick Community Colleges, Kaplan University, the Washington County Public Schools, the Washington County Health System and other business and government agencies in Washington County to fulfill the educational training needs in the region.
2. The location of the Center within the City of Hagerstown has achieved the economic revitalization component of the Center's mission. Hagerstown has seen a strong increase in development and economic activity since the inception and arrival of USMH to the city. The Center should continue to work with the City to provide programs and other opportunities to continue to attract students, businesses and continued economic development.
3. USMH should continue to develop creative scheduling solutions to maximize use of the facility. This will help increase the outside support for the center and utilize the facility during off-peak times, thereby reducing reliance on State funding. When possible, USM should purchase additional space near the center for expansion of USMH to include larger rooms and meeting spaces. The USMH staff and Advisory Board should also continue to raise funds for scholarships and other purposes with the support of the city and county governments and the local business community.
4. The USM policy for offering programs at the USMH Center allows for non-USM institutions to participate, should no USM institution be able or willing to provide a needed program. USMH should continue to solicit USM institutions to provide programs at the center. If no USM institution is able or willing to provide a needed program, USM and Center staff should work with MHEC to solicit program delivery from non-USM institutions within Maryland or from outside the State.

FSU Entrepreneurship Program Launched at USMH

On Monday, December 7, Frostburg State University (FSU) at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) launched a Small Business/Entrepreneurship concentration for students in the undergraduate business administration program. **Dr. Marty Mattare**, FSU at USMH undergraduate business program director, gave a brief presentation about the program, which is the only one of its kind offered in this region.



Left to right: Dr. Mattare, Dr. Monahan, Bob Jones, Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi, and Chuck Zemene listen to the students' entrepreneurship business plans.

"It is one of our largest business concentrations at FSU," said Mattare. "It is designed for those interested in starting and running their own businesses, and

we have had graduates who have started successful businesses upon receiving their degrees."

The entrepreneurship concentration is one of six different concentration areas business administration students may choose. "Many of the courses in the concentration focus on business management and the qualities necessary to manage a small business," said Mattare.

After Dr. Mattare explained the program, 17 students in the entrepreneurship business plan course presented their ideas and plans for small businesses, including restaurants, an auto repair, and a golf putting green.

Students presented full business plans, which included a narrative covering all management areas of a business start-up from marketing plans to job descriptions, hours of operation and even an exit strategy. Audience members asked the students pertinent questions about their plans, such as how much start-up money would be needed, and how many potential customers populate the market area.

In addition to the class members, the audience included **Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi**, acting dean of the College of Business; **Dr. Mike Monahan**, chair of the department of management; Dr. Marty Mattare, business professor; **Bob Jones**, chair of the Hagerstown SCORE chapter and executive board chair; and **Chuck Zemene**, executive board member from SCORE.



Matthew Proctor, Mario Martinez and Mike Fritz, students in Frostburg State University's entrepreneurship business plan course, presented their plan for Valley Auto Werkes, an auto repair business specializing in BMWs and other foreign cars.

For more information on the FSU undergraduate business program at USMH contact:

Dr. Marty Mattare,
business program director
240-527-2747
mmattare@frostburg.edu

or visit

www.frostburg.edu/colleges/cob/index.htm

USMH

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Application Available for the 2010-2011 USMH Scholarship Awards

Students attending programs at USMH can now apply for the USMH Scholarship Awards for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Last year 10 students were each awarded a \$2,500 scholarship from funds raised at the 2008 Elizabethtowne Feaste and Frolic fundraiser. The scholarship fundraiser was held in September of 2009 to benefit the USMH Scholarship Fund, a fund of the University System of Maryland Foundation, for the 2010-2011 scholarship year.

"The Feaste and Frolic fundraiser was a great success and with the help of generous community members we have raised funds to support scholarships again for this year," said **Dr. David Warner**, USMH executive director.

2009 scholarship winner **Tiffany Adams**, an FSU student in the master of business program at USMH, said, "This scholarship has given me the opportunity to continue my education in graduate school. I was going to take one class and spread it

out for a longer period of time to make it affordable. Now, I can take three classes this semester and complete my degree faster. It allows me to pursue my dream." The USMH Scholarship Fund Awards for the 2010-2011 academic year consist of scholarships up to \$2,500 for students who are rising juniors or beyond and who are working toward a bachelor's or graduate degree at USMH.

Requirements include: A GPA of a B or better, junior status or 64 credits completed, a complete and timely application. Awards may be renewed twice. The awards may be used for tuition, fees, books or supplies and will be paid to the registrar of the USMH institution the awardee attends.

All application material must be submitted by March 15.



The 2009 USMH Scholarship Fund recipients pose for a group photo. Left to right: Gaye McGovern, Tiffany Adams, Cassandra Coffman, Sherry Beer Donovan, Julie Eckenrode, Oliver Daley, Joanna Hose, Wayne Keefer, Shannon Sturtz, and Dr. David Warner.

**UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND AT HAGERSTOWN (USMH)
SCHOLARSHIP FUND AWARDS FOR THE 2010-2011 ACADEMIC YEAR**

The USMH Scholarship Fund Awards for the 2010-2011 academic year consist of scholarships up to \$2,500 for students who are rising juniors or beyond and who are working toward a Bachelor's or graduate degree at USMH. Requirements include: A GPA of a B or better, junior status or 64 credits completed, a complete and timely application including all points listed below. Awards may be renewed twice. The awards may be used for tuition, fees, books or supplies and will be paid to the registrar of the USMH institution the awardee attends. All application material must be submitted by March 15 each year to the USMH Reception office.

Name _____ Social Security # _____

U.S. Citizen Yes No

If no, please list country of citizenship _____

Address _____ E-mail address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Daytime/cell phone # _____

Name and location of college where you earned junior status &/or completed 64 undergraduate credits including transfer credits _____

Grade point average to date _____ # credits completed to date _____

USMH Institution you will attend _____

Expected degree completion date _____

Major field of study _____

Have you completed and submitted the FAFSA form? _____ If so, when _____

Is your application based on financial need? Yes _____ No _____

Will you be full-time _____ or part-time _____ at USMH in the fall of '10? (Insert # credits)

Please provide an official copy of your transcript mailed in a sealed envelope directly from your college or university to: USMH, Student Services Office, 32 West Washington Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

Please attach unofficial transcripts or grade reports for all other college or university courses completed or attempted.

Please include a letter of recommendation from a professor, college administrator. If there has been a significant break in your educational continuity, you may submit a recommendation from your employer.

Please include a typed, double-spaced essay not to exceed 500 words. 1. your educational goal(s), 2. why you feel the scholarship is merited, and 3. evidence of service to others through some aspect(s) of volunteerism, community involvement or school-based extracurricular activities.

USMH Student Council Ready to Serve

by Carmen Veneziano, USMH Student Council Chair

I'm honored to be one of the founding members of the USMH Student Council. The USMH Student Council was formed when a few Student Ambassadors recognized that all USMH students share a common experience that is inextricably linked to the success of our great facility.

We were compelled to improve the quality of student life at USMH by developing innovative solutions to common issues faced by all students. Fueled by this dedication, we sought and secured a new and significantly lower-priced parking pass for students and are pleased that this plan is now being offered for the Spring 2010 Semester.

But our work is not done. Currently we are working to organize "Book Days" at USMH, whereby we hope to arrange for a major book retailer to come to USMH to sell books to students at the beginning of each semester and then buy them back when the semester is over. We are encouraged by our progress on this matter so far, and hope that something will be finalized by the end of spring.

Concurrently we are working on instituting and supporting a Student Council scholarship, in the hopes of making education as affordable as possible for students.

In the future we hope to expand the array of amenities available to students.

In all that we have done, are doing, and plan to do, our underlying motivation is ensuring that each and every student who wishes to improve his or her life through education has fair and affordable access to it, and that while doing so, each student has the best and most enjoyable experience possible.

We are founded by students and for students, and moving forward we hope that others will join us in our efforts. We have developed a constitution and a structure, and hope that we can continue to grow both in our numbers and our successes.

As we are a student-based organization, we consider all students to be members, and welcome participation at any level. Our goal is that the USMH Student Council becomes an organization where all students are well-represented through

fair and regular elections, so that our voices are heard in all matters or issues concerning students.

Join us in making sure that the future of USMH is bright in all its possibilities. For more information about the USMH Student Council, or to join, contact studentcouncil@hagerstown.usmd.edu or 240-527-2710.

Students can also stop by the Student Council office, Room 209, on the first and third Wednesdays, or second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, between the hours of 3 and 5pm.

USMH Thinks Green

USMH prints this newsletter and other materials on recycled paper.



Did you know?

- **Did you know that USMH is planning on installing digital signs throughout the building to communicate more effectively with students and faculty?**

The digital signs will be posted near the elevator on each floor, in the front window of the USMH building and in the USMH Library. The signs will be used to keep students better informed and will also be used to display inclement weather or safety information.

More information on this technology will be released in the coming issues of the USMH print and email newsletters.

FSU at USMH Education Student Awarded Kelly Regents Scholarship

Although she has an abundance of determination, **Paula Smith** didn't know how she was going to support her family and pay for college for her daughter and herself while working full-time and taking 15 college credits. Her answer came when she was awarded one of the most prestigious scholarships given by the University System of Maryland.

Smith is the 2009 recipient of the Kelly Regents Scholarship, a merit- and need-based scholarship awarded to a transfer student from a local community college who has decided to pursue a full-time bachelor's degree at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH). "I am very humbled to receive this reward," said Smith, a junior in the elementary/early childhood education program at Frostburg State University at USMH.

The Kelly Regents Scholarship covers the recipient's tuition and living expenses for a two-year period. "I have a daughter who is also in college, and I am the sole provider for our family," said Smith, who works full-time at Clear Spring Middle School as a student intervention specialist for at-risk students.

Smith, who maintained a 4.0 grade point average at Hagerstown Community College, must keep a 3.5 GPA in her

current program to retain the Kelly Regents Scholarship for the coming academic year, but she said she is up for the challenge.

"I really enjoy my classes a lot. Our professors are employees of the Washington County public school system, and we are learning from real-world experiences," she said. "The FSU faculty does an amazing job working with our schedules. They realize everyone is working during the day."

She has learned how to balance her course schedule with working full-time. "We have each class once a week and no classes on Fridays, so Fridays and weekends are spent completing the assignments."

The hard-working, self-proclaimed non-traditional student is determined to achieve her goals, and she spoke fondly of her former principal, **Roger Stenersen**, who helped persuade her to go back to school. "He really encouraged me to get my bachelor's degree. He was so supportive," she said. After graduation, Smith plans on teaching middle school math or fourth or fifth grade.

"The scholarship is truly amazing," she said. "It has changed my life, and is allowing me to achieve my goals without stress or worry."



Need extra funds for school? On the look out for scholarships and financial aid opportunities?

Check out the USMH Scholarship Guide.

It is filled with scholarships targeted for students attending programs at USMH.

Visit: <http://www.hagerstown.usmd.edu/about.aspx?details=newsletters>

● **Did you know that the USMH College Fair and Information Session will be held on Wednesday, March 10 from 5-7 p.m. in the USMH Lobby?**

Meet with advisors from USMH Participating Universities. If you are considering a career change or advancement, the USMH College Fair may be for you.

● **Did you know that USMH has an email newsletter and Facebook site? We want to give you the latest information about USMH activities and programs.**

To subscribe to the newsletter visit www.hagerstown.usmd.edu and click on the link at the top of the Web page.

You can find USMH on Facebook by searching for the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown, and then click "become a fan."

Connect with USMH via the Web, email and Facebook.

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