USMH Celebrates Building Futures for 10 Years

The University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) is celebrating its 10th Anniversary. In celebration of this milestone and in honor of a “Decade of Building Futures,” USMH will be hosting a year of festivities. The festivities are set to include an Alumni Ambassador picnic, an Alumni Ambassador parade party, open houses and many others, all of which will culminate in the Feast at Yuletide Scholarship Fundraiser on Dec. 4, 2015.

USMH kicked off its “Building Futures” celebration by hosting the Hagerstown-Washington County Chamber of Commerce Business after Hours on Jan. 22, 2015. Executive Director Mark Halsey guided members of the business community through a pictorial PowerPoint on the 200-year history of the USMH site projected on the newly installed high-tech video wall (see 200 Years, p. 2). In 2015, the USMH campus is expected to expand into additional buildings. The adjacent building in the courtyard will be named by Mayor & City Council to help celebrate USMH’s anniversary year.

A little more than a decade ago on Jan. 18, 2005, USMH officially opened its doors to students and the public, partnering with three universities to offer 12 degree programs. Frostburg State University (FSU), which had been offering classes at a site in the Public Square since 1988, moved to the center for opening day. FSU was joined by the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the University of Maryland University College (UMUC). The following January, University of Maryland College Park brought its graduate engineering degree to the center and in the fall of 2006, Towson University (TU) began offering a nursing degree. Salisbury University (SU) opened in August 2007. The center’s most recent partner, Coppin State University (CSU), opened in May 2012 to become the center’s sixth university. Currently, 23 degree programs are offered at the center.

Soon after opening day, planning for an endowment fund for scholarships began. By July 2005, the Magnolia Foundation Scholarship Fund had been established and a campaign to raise the match for

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USMH Built on 200 Years of History

USMH operates in the renovated Baldwin Complex, which itself stands on the site of two earlier hotels. The first hotel, The Globe Tavern, is famous for an illustrious guest, George Washington, who stayed on October 20, 1790. The Globe Tavern eventually burned and was replaced by The Washington House, similarly known for a famous guest—the abolitionist John Brown. The Washington House also burned; it was at this time that the Baldwin Complex made its architectural debut.

For nearly half a century, the Baldwin Complex was prosperous, operating as a hotel, The Baldwin House, and then as the site of two department stores, Leiter’s and Routzahn’s. Nevertheless, by 1990 the building was vacant and in desperate need of repair. By the mid-1990s, the building, owned by the City of Hagerstown, was described as the city’s “largest eyesore.” It was not until 2000 that the University System of Maryland (USM) confirmed the Baldwin Complex would be its new downtown Hagerstown campus.

In May of 2002, construction work began, renovating the Baldwin Complex and eventually transforming the space into a state-of-the-art facility. The project included a $12.2 million building renovation and a $4.4 million park construction. Today, USMH has over five hundred students and has awarded $250,000 in scholarship funds.

Since 2005, USMH has helped to provide local access to undergraduate and graduate-level degree programs, ensuring the highest academic standards are coupled with both convenience and affordability.

USMH TIMELINE

Source: Herald Mail 1/23/2005

1988

August Greater Hagerstown Committee proposes a USM campus.

1999

April Gov. Parris Glendening promises $150,000 in planning funds.

May Hagerstown City Council offers the Baldwin House site free of charge.

July USM Board of Regents approves $13.4 million for fiscal year 2001.
This year, USMH will celebrate its 10-year anniversary and the many milestones it has achieved along the way. Since 2005 we’ve graduated more than 1400 students, raised $700,000 in scholarship funds, awarded $250,000 in scholarships to 100 students, and now partner with six system universities offering 23 different programs of study. Our campus has expanded into its third building as we strive to add more programs to train our workforce for tomorrow’s jobs.

The need for our community to promote and grow higher education has never been greater. A 2014 Pew Research Study entitled “The Rising Cost of NOT Going To College” points to the growing disparity gap between the median annual earnings of workers with a high school diploma and those with a bachelor’s degree or higher. It tracks data over the last 50 years from the “Baby Boomers” in the 60’s to the “Millennials” in 2013 and adjusts all of the data to 2012 dollars.

According to their research, in 1965 a young professional (age 25-32) with a bachelor’s degree earned $7,448 more per year than a person with a high school diploma ($38,833 vs. $31,385) — about 24% more. In 2013, a young professional with a bachelor’s degree earned $17,500 more ($45,500 vs. $28,000) — or about 63% more than their high school counterpart! Not only has the gap more than doubled, but the average earnings for a high school graduate are dropping, down more than 10%. The Pew Research Center notes this growing disparity as a leading factor in the erosion of our middle class.

As we celebrate USMH’s 10-year anniversary, let’s commit ourselves to an educational movement in our community far surpassing accomplishments to date. This will require: strengthening partnerships between our educational institutions and other public and private organizations; creating a “cradle to career” network of support to ensure every child has the opportunity for post secondary studies; and prioritizing funding of educational operations, infrastructure, and technology as critical to the growth of our local economy. USMH has come a long way over the last 10 years thanks to broad community support. We should all take pride in this educational anchor in our downtown and work even harder to see it grow over the next decade.


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**2000**

**January**  
Governor Glendening includes $700,000 for design in state construction budget.

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**2001**

**January**  
State Capital budget for 2002 includes $13.3 million for the center.

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**April**  
Allocation of $12.4 million is approved.

**May**  
Callas contractors awarded $1 million contract to stabilize the building.

**December**  
Whiting-Turner receives construction contract of $11.25 million.

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For more information, log on to [WWW.HAGERSTOWN.USMD.EDU](http://WWW.HAGERSTOWN.USMD.EDU)
USMH CELEBRATES BUILDING FUTURES FOR 10 YEARS continued

a $212,500 grant from the Waltersdorf/Henson Endowment Campaign through the Community Foundation of Washington County was underway. In September, the Board of County Commissioners endowed the first two named scholarships with a $50,000 contribution, which was soon followed by gifts from the City of Hagerstown, Citi and an anonymous donor who funded the STEM scholarship. The first Feaste and Frolic scholarship fundraiser was held in September 2007 at Duffy’s on the Square. Proceeds from the Feaste allowed USMH to award scholarships until the endowment was fully matched. To date, USMH has raised more than $700,000 and awarded 100 scholarships.

The first graduation celebration for FSU and UMUC students was held in June 2007. Subsequently, more than 1,400 students have earned degrees at the USMH campus. All graduates and former students are welcome to attend events this year to join in the celebration of the decennial anniversary. If you are willing to volunteer to help with planning the picnic or parade party, contact Erin Harman at eharman@hagerstown.usmd.edu or 240-527-2728.
Staffers Complete Decade of Service

Scott Thomas (left) IT/Telecommunications Specialist and Vichuda “Oh” Wachs (right) Office Clerk/Receptionist.

As Information Technology/Telecommunication Specialist for the center, Scott oversees four Interactive Video Network (IVN) classrooms for distance learning.

An IVN classroom is equipped with cameras and microphones to show students at USMH to students in another classroom at the home campus or other remote locations. During the Spring 2015 semester, 17 separate classes are conducted via IVN.

Scott’s other responsibilities include the installation, maintenance and repair of the technology on campus. He evaluates technology and makes recommendations for upgrades and improvements. He also provides classroom orientations for instructors and guests who use the facility. In addition to four IVN rooms, USMH also has three computer labs (currently), approximately 200 computers and four floors of printers, copiers, scanners, telephones, televisions, servers, switches, routers and card-reader systems as well as a video surveillance system to keep in proper working order.

Vichuda “Oh” Wachs remembers how it felt to move from the small dark space on the square to the brand new spacious state-of-the art building. “I was excited and proud of the accomplishment because I knew many people had worked hard to bring the center here and had overcome many obstacles.”

Echoing Scott, Wachs remembers a lot of teamwork in the early days. “We all knew where we were going together and felt like we were headed in the right direction,” she said. She also remembers taking time to laugh by pranking then Executive Director C. David Warner.

As Office Clerk/Receptionist, Oh’s duties include scheduling classrooms to satisfy professors’ and students’ needs and meeting rooms for partner institutions. She also processes parking and security access passes for staff and students. Oh is already looking forward to the next 10 years at USMH. “I am excited about continuing to grow and change in the future,” she affirmed.

Ob Wachs and Scott Thomas are the two USMH staffers who remember the first week of classes at USMH in January 2005. Vichuda “Oh” Wachs moved down Washington Street from Public Square with Frostburg State University and Scott Thomas came four days later. Both have been at USMH throughout its entire 10-year history.

“We were all focused on making the center successful. Everyone worked as a team,” Scott said.

2007

- **May**
  - First Graduation Celebration for graduates of FSU and UMUC.

- **August**
  - Salisbury University joins campus.

- **September**
  - First Feaste and Frolic raises $27,000 for scholarships. Scholarship endowment reaches goal of $212,500 to earn match from the Waltersdorf/Henson Endowment Challenge.

2008

- **May**
  - TU graduates its first nursing class.

- **August**
  - UMUC launches criminal justice program.

2009

- **May**
  - FSU graduates first early childhood/elementary education cohort.

- **July**
  - USMH awards its first 10 scholarships.

- **August**
  - Barbara Ingram School for the Arts begins holding classes at USMH.
FSEA Opens Little Free Library in Courtyard

Little Free Library was started in Hudson, Wis. in 2009 and has grown to more than 15,000 Little Free Libraries worldwide as of January 2014. An estimated 1,650,000 books have been donated and borrowed from 2010–2013! The libraries are handcrafted structures designed to look like a one-room schoolhouse.

On Thursday, Nov. 20th, The Frostburg Student Educators Association (FSEA) celebrated the grand opening of a new Little Free Library location here on the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown campus. Thank you for helping to support literacy and education in our community and feel free to “take a book, leave a book.”

LIBRARY CORNER

By LaTanya West, Director of Library Services

Hi and welcome to the new semester!

We look forward to seeing you in the library throughout spring. Did you make New Year’s Resolutions? Was one of them to learn a new language? If so, check out Mango Languages — a new service available through the USMH Library. Just go to http://connect.mangolanguages.com/usmd-hagerstown/start to sign up. Mango offers more than 60 languages to choose from including Pirate! Mango also allows you to learn multiple languages so feel free to sign up for as many languages as you like.

You will need your 14-digit library card number; if you can’t find it or if you have any other questions, please contact the library at 240-527-2716 and we will be happy to help you.

Again, welcome back!
Hello and welcome to all new and returning students. My name is Bill Riggs and I am the USMH Student Council president. I hope everyone is enjoying or at least surviving winter thus far! I began at USMH in the fall of 2013 at Towson University and will be graduating this May with a B.S. in nursing. When I started at USMH, I was interested in getting to know classmates from all the different programs and being involved in the community as well. Student Council has been a great fit for that. We’ve worked with many nonprofit and charitable groups to help both students and the greater Hagerstown community and always have a lot of fun doing it.

As president, I would like to continue student involvement from all of the different institutions at USMH in our community service projects and fundraising events. I’d also like to meet and hear from more of you so I will be starting a new practice of rotating the time and location of my monthly office hours so I’m outside your classroom to talk with you. Student Council is your representative both on campus and within the state of Maryland. I want it to be responsive to your interests and concerns so I will be actively seeking your feedback. It’s also a great way to get involved in the community and USMH, network with various organizations, build your résumé, and develop leadership skills.

The Student Council helped with raising more than $14,000 for student scholarships during USMH’s annual Bingo fundraiser which took place this year on February 15th. That’s money that will go directly to students at USMH to help them reach their educational goals. Student Council has also worked with United Way of Washington County to help clean up downtown, participated in the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life to raise awareness and funding for people in our community affected by cancer, and volunteered at the community outreach day Convoy of Hope. Student Council will also be volunteering at local soup kitchens during the semester. We’d like to continue the tradition of volunteering in the community at least once a month!
CAMPUS CLUBS PLAN BUSY SPRING

Nearly every academic program at USMH has an associated club. Clubs provide students with opportunities to gain experience through volunteer service, to network with fellow students and community leaders and hone their leadership skills. Veritas Vitae, led by Alison Kretzer, has exciting spring travel plans for FSU psychology majors. The Towson Student Nurse Association is launching a new mentorship program and hosting career development and social events under the guidance of Elizabeth Samford. Spencer Taylor, president of the Frostburg Student Education Association, is heading up a slate of service projects. New members are always welcome! For information, contact individual club presidents or Jamie Bushong, Coordinator of Student Services and Outreach, at jbushong@hagerstown.usmd.edu, 240-527-2722.

VERITAS VITAE

On March 27, club members will travel to Washington, D.C., to tour the National Museum of Crime & Punishment and the United States Holocaust Museum. The tour will include a private, hands-on forensic workshop. For details, contact Alison Kretzer, amkretzer@frostburg.edu.

FSU Psychology majors know it is important to relax and unwind when the opportunity arises. There is no better way to rejuvenate and prepare for finishing the spring semester than relaxing at the beach. The smell of salt air, the call of seagulls, and the melodic rhythm of the waves is serenity at its best. Veritas Vitae has negotiated a block of oceanfront rooms at the Quality Inn, 54th Street & Oceanfront, to be offered to our members at reduced rates for Spring Break from March 15 through March 22, 2015.

TOWSON STUDENT NURSE ASSOCIATION

The Towson University Student Nurse Association (TUSNA) has exciting plans for the spring semester. We are hoping to host Nursing Career Development Days by inviting nurses to come in to speak to the group. We will continue our community service at the soup kitchen at the Church of Zion and we are planning a fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings. During National Nurses Week from May 6 to 12, we will host a potluck and possibly other events. Our new Sibling Mentorship Program will help transition J1 students into the role of a student nurse. It should be a very busy semester. For more information, contact Elizabeth Samford, esamfo1@students.towson.edu.

FROSTBURG STUDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Frostburg Student Education Association (FSEA) is finishing up our Warm Hands, Warm Hearts campaign and will distribute blankets as part of our Project Cover-Up event. Later in April, we will be a part of Emma K. Doub’s Literacy night. To volunteer, contact Spencer Taylor, setaylor0@frostburg.edu
Thank You 2014 FEASTE AND FROLIC SPONSORS!

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The Frostburg State University Chamber Choir under the direction of Karen Soderberg-Sarnaker performed Elizabethan madrigals for guests at Feaste at Yuletide.

Executive Director Mark Halsey (right) presented retiring University System of Maryland Chancellor William E. "Brit" Kirwan with the Chancellor’s Cup for his unstinting support of USMH.
USMH STAFF LISTING

Monday – Thursday  8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Friday            8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday          8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Mark Halsey
Executive Director
mchalsey@hagerstown.usmd.edu
240-527-2727

Jamie Bushong
Coordinator of Student Services and Outreach
jbushong@hagerstown.usmd.edu
240-527-2722

Leslie Cumber
Public Information Specialist
lcumber@hagerstown.usmd.edu
240-527-2712

Tamara Doleman
Office Clerk
tdoleman@hagerstown.usmd.edu
240-527-2772

Heather Elliott
Multi-Media Assistant
helelliott@hagerstown.usmd.edu
240-527-2723

Erin Harman
Director of Advancement and Outreach
eharman@hagerstown.usmd.edu
240-527-2728

Dee Horner
Development Associate
dhorner@hagerstown.usmd.edu
240-527-2719

Lisa McCulloh
Executive Administrative Assistant
lmcculloh@hagerstown.usmd.edu
240-527-2729

Mark Rini-Stevens
Maintenance Mechanic
mrstevens@hagerstown.usmd.edu
240-527-2763

Scott Thomas
IT Specialist
scthomas@hagerstown.usmd.edu
240-527-2758

Vichuda Wachs
Office Clerk
vwachs@hagerstown.usmd.edu
240-527-2061

LaTanya West
Director of Library Services
lwest@hagerstown.usmd.edu
240-527-2717

VIDEO WALL INSTALLED

Students and visitors may have noticed our new video wall. Beginning in early February, we began broadcasting General Assembly hearings and other events relevant to higher education and to the local region as a means of helping our student community stay abreast of policy debates in Maryland. The video wall was purchased in early Fall with funds that are reserved for capital expenses and cannot be used for ongoing operations.
CONTACT PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES

COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU)
Campus Director:
Curtis Hoover
240-527-2770 | choover@coppin.edu

FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY (FSU)
Education Doctorate Studies Program:
Dr. John Stoothoff
240-527-2736 | jlstoothoff@frostburg.edu

Education Undergraduate:
Cameron Dennison
240-527-2738 | cddennison@frostburg.edu

MAT Education Program Coordinator:
Dr. Jamey Tobery-Nystrom
240-527-2735 | jctoberynystrom@frostburg.edu

Liberal Studies and Sociology:
Gary Austin
240-527-2708 | gaustin@frostburg.edu

Business:
Dr. Marty Mattare
240-527-2747 | mmattare@frostburg.edu

Psychology:
Dr. Christopher Masciocchi
240-527-2746 | cmasciocchi@frostburg.edu

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY (SU)
Social Work Program Coordinator:
Heidi Moore
240-527-2751 | hlmoore@salisbury.edu

TOWSON UNIVERSITY (TU)
Nursing Programs Director:
Ms. Judy Breitenbach
240-527-2726 | jbreitenbach@towson.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK (UMD)
Graduate Engineering Program:
Erin Harman
240-527-2728 | eharman@hagerstown.usmd.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (UMUC)
Assistant Director:
Lisa Huffman
240-527-2750 | lisa.huffman@umuc.edu

USMH PROGRAMS

BACHELOR’S DEGREES
Business/Management
Accounting (B.S.)
Business Administration (B.S.)

Computer Technologies
Cybersecurity (B.S.)
Information Systems Management (B.S.)

Education
Early Childhood Education (B.S.)

Health Professions
Nursing (B.S. and RN to B.S.)
Health Information Management (B.S.)
Sport Management (B.S.)

Social Sciences
Criminal Justice (B.S.)
Investigative Forensics (B.S.)
Psychology (B.S.)
Social Science (B.S.)
Sociology (B.S.)

Social Work
Social Work (B.A.S.W.)

Other
Liberal Studies (B.S.)

MASTER’S DEGREES
Education
Master of Arts in Teaching-Elementary (MAT)
Master of Arts in Teaching-Secondary (MAT)
Master of Education (M.Ed.)

Engineering
Aerospace (M.Eng.)
Civil & Environmental (M.Eng.)
Electrical & Computer (M. Eng.)
Environmental (M. Eng.)
Fire Protection (M. Eng.)
Mechanical (M. Eng.)
Project Management
Reliability (M. Eng.)
Systems (M. Eng.)

Health Professions
Nursing (M.S.)

Social Work
Social Work (M.S.W.)

Doctoral Degrees
Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.)

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS
Engineering
Aerospace (GCEN)
Civil & Environmental (GCEN)
Electrical & Computer (GCEN)
Environmental (GCEN)
Mechanical (GCEN)
Project Management (GCEN)
Reliability (GCEN)
Software Engineering (GCEN)

Health Professions
Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Nursing Education

For more information, log on to WWW.HAGERSTOWN.USMD.EDU