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

>> FALL 2009

USM Student Regent Visits USMH

Sarah Elfreth, University System of Maryland student regent, described USMH students as passionate and ready to organize as a student body. Elfreth visited USMH recently and met with USMH student ambassadors and students attending programs at USMH.

Elfreth spoke about the USM budget and the opportunity for two students attending programs at USMH to serve as ex-officio members of the USM Student Council (see article on page 5). The students asked many questions of Elfreth, and the meeting focused on various ways USMH students could organize and have a stronger voice and presence. Elfreth suggested forming a student council, and she made recommendations on how to start a student governing body. "Get a group together and visit other student councils, in particular the student council at The Universities at Shady Grove," she said. "Seeing how another higher education center runs its student council could help USMH in creating its own."

USMH Student Ambassador for Salisbury University **Ligia Teodorovici** plans to visit The Universities at Shady Grove. "I look forward to joining a team of students and USMH staff in attending a student council meeting at Shady Grove, so that we can begin to better understand what we want our own council to be like. Having Sarah's experience to help us with the by-laws and constitution is invaluable as well."

At the meeting, Elfreth praised the USMH student ambassadors for their dedication and said the group was a good foundation for getting a student council at USMH started. Elfreth also discussed the importance of USMH in Western Maryland and the center's growth, especially in workforce demand areas such as nursing, teaching and social work.

Carmen Veneziano, USMH student ambassador for Frostburg State University, said that Elfreth has continued to correspond with the USMH student ambassadors since the meeting regarding USMH's inclusion on the USM Student Council (see article on page 5).



Sarah Elfreth, USM student regent (center), discusses student advocacy with USMH Student Ambassadors.

"I think that Sarah will convey to the Board of Regents that USMH is not only working, but that it is thriving, and that investing in USMH has had a profoundly positive impact on our community," Veneziano said.

Dr. David Warner, USMH executive director, said, "Sarah is an exceptional resource for students and has made it her goal to help other universities strengthen their student government associations. Her visit to USMH helped to set the USMH Student Ambassadors in motion, and I am pleased to see that the groundwork for a USMH Student Council has begun."

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Major Milestones in History of Higher Education in Western Maryland

by Gaye McGovern, USMH Advisory Board Chair

Educational history will be made in January 2010 when the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), brings the first doctoral program to be offered in Western Maryland to USMH. UMCP will accept up to 25 students into the doctorate of education (Ed.D.) degree program, which is limited to faculty and administrators working in the public school systems of one of the three Western Maryland counties: Washington, Allegany and Garrett. UMCP will enroll the initial cohort of students with Frostburg State University (FSU) following with an Ed.D. that will be available to a wider base of students.

In another milestone development, an undergraduate degree in psychology from FSU, will be offered at USMH in the coming months. Based on student enrollment in psychology programs at Hagerstown Community College and Frederick Community College, broad interest in a B.S. in psychology is expected.

When these programs are in place, USMH will have grown from two universities with six programs to five universities with 21 programs. Enrollment at USMH has grown steadily to become the third largest regional higher education center in Maryland, and it is the youngest.

When USMH was located in downtown Hagerstown by then Governor Glendening, it had two missions. Not only was the center tasked with making higher education more affordable and accessible to Western Maryland, which had been educationally underserved for many years, but it was specifically designed to serve as a Smart Growth initiative. That is, the higher education center was to be an economic development catalyst focused not only on workforce development as other higher education centers are, but also to stimulate the renewal of downtown Hagerstown.

This actually is happening, in spite of the challenges presented by the current national and state economy. From 1990 to 1999, public and private investment in downtown Hagerstown was \$6,251,000.

The USMH location was announced in 1999, and from 2000 to 2009, public and private investment in the same downtown area totaled \$59,820,541. Future permits and plans that the City of Hagerstown can identify in the same area come to an additional \$54,200,000.

Most important, the USMH center provides a sustainable model for the future of higher education. With state funding cuts resulting in fewer class offerings, and with increases in class size and tuition, many institutions of higher learning are turning away students. In September 2009, more than 2,000 Maryland students were turned away from community colleges for lack of space. While Maryland is faring better than most states due to its four-year tuition freeze, many states increased tuition as much as 15 percent this year.

The end result is a clear trend toward quality online classes, interactive video networking classrooms that link students in many locations with one professor, and expansion of the virtual library available to students who access it via their student technology to support student learning in the programs it offers and the University System of Maryland has placed a priority on keeping these technological advantages up-to-date.

Clearly, once the start up phase is passed, a higher-education center is more cost effective than building additional self-sufficient campuses with dorms, classroom buildings, professors unique to one location and all the support systems needed to operate a university.

There are challenges ahead, but the opportunity to offer degrees in a wide range of subjects through a variety of media to students living or working nearby while providing traditional and non-traditional class schedules is the key to future institutional survival in the academic world. ●

More than \$20,000 Raised in Scholarships at Feaste and Frolic

The third annual Elizabethtowne Feaste and Frolic raised more than \$20,000 in scholarship funds for students enrolled in programs at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH). The scholarships will be awarded to students who attend programs at USMH in the spring of 2010 for use in the 2010-2011 academic year.

very fitting to have a student from the school perform at the event.”

After the vocal performance, guests enjoyed a Renaissance-inspired dinner and a performance by the Maryland Shakespeare Players, a theater group from the University of Maryland, College Park. The student group performed scenes from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” “The Taming of the Shrew” and “Romeo and Juliet.”



Above: A member of the Maryland Shakespeare Players entertains Feaste and Frolic guests with a Shakespeare vignette.

Left: Feaste and Frolic event chair Gaye McGovern (left) enjoys dinner with fellow guests.



In June, 10 students attending programs at USMH were each awarded a \$2,500 scholarship from the funds raised at last year’s Elizabethtowne Feaste and Frolic. Several of the winners attended the event to show their support for the scholarship program and to thank the donors.

Scholarship winner, Tiffany Adams, who is a 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.”

“We are very grateful for the community’s support in raising the funds. Each person, company and organization that made a donation to the USMH Scholarship Fund, a fund of the University System of Maryland Foundation, is contributing to higher education in Washington County,” said Dr. Warner. ●

Maidens on horseback and noble gentleman greeted guests as they entered the Renaissance-themed event on September 12 at the Academy Theater in downtown Hagerstown. “The committee chose the Renaissance theme since many have said that USMH has served as the catalyst for the renaissance in downtown Hagerstown,” said USMH executive director **Dr. David Warner**.

To start the evening, **Heather Gayle**, a student vocalist from the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts, performed. **Gaye McGovern**, event chair and chair of the USMH advisory board, said, “Another significant part of our downtown renaissance came this fall when the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts opened, and it was



Above: A Renaissance reenactor, Sarah Angle, greets attendees as a lady on horseback.

USMH

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Student Regent Encourages Forming a Student Government at USMH

continued from cover

Elfreth is a senior at Towson University studying political science and economics. She served as both Towson's representative and the director of governmental relations on the University System of Maryland Student Council for the 2007-2008 academic year.

At Towson University, Elfreth has served as a resident assistant and an active member of the Student Government Association since 2007, as well as a student representative on the University Senate since 2008. She spent last summer as an intern in Senator Jim



USM Student Regent Sarah Elfreth meets with USMH Student Ambassador representing FSU, Carmen Veneziano.

Rosapepe's office. After graduation, Elfreth plans to pursue graduate studies in public policy and eventually earn her Ph.D. and teach. To contact Sarah Elfreth please email selfre1@students.towson.edu. ●

USMH Student Ambassadors Ready to Serve

Sarah Elfreth's recent visit (see front cover) has students talking and engaged about student government formation at USMH. One form of student representation was established last year — the USMH student ambassador program.

The USMH student ambassadors stand ready to serve via regular meetings and at student events and gatherings. The ambassadors represent each of USMH's partnering institutions, and it is the group's role to communicate student concerns and issues with USMH executive staff. Students can email their questions or concerns to the ambassadors and they will relay the information to **Dr. David Warner**, USMH executive director, and to the USMH Advisory Board.

USMH Student Ambassadors

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Student to Serve on USM Student Council

On October 11, the University System of Maryland Student Council (USMSC) voted to add an ex-officio or non-voting member from USMH to its body. The USMSC is comprised of two student representatives from each degree-granting institution in the University System of Maryland. The group ensures that the USM leadership is aware of student perspectives and is responsive to student concerns and issues.

Prior to the vote this month, USMH did not have representation on the council, however, its partnering institutions are represented. USM Student Regent **Sarah Elfreth**, who visited USMH recently (see cover story), informed USMH officials of the possibility of having representation in the USMSC.

Carmen Veneziano, a Frostburg State University (FSU) sociology student at USMH and a USMH Student Ambassador for FSU, will serve as an ex-officio member on the USMSC. "My entrance into this new role is a follow-up to the recent

visit of Student Regent Sarah Elfreth to USMH. I expressed an interest in the role, because I feel that USMH students share a common experience and a common situation that is wholly different from that of the main campus students. This is an opportunity to represent that experience to the larger USM community, and to be an advocate of the regional centers when decisions are made," said Veneziano.

The USMH Student Ambassadors are currently working on establishing a student council at USMH. Veneziano said "it is my goal that once such a group is formed that I will be able to work closely with its leadership, as well as the administration of USMH to liaise between USMH and USMSC, so that at all times the opinions and views of students attending programs at USMH are properly represented to the larger USM student community and leadership."

USMH Executive Director **Dr. David Warner** said, "We are very pleased to have representation on the University System of Maryland Student Council, and we are pleased to have a dedicated and

well-informed student serve on the council. I know that he will represent USMH and the students who attend programs here to the best of his ability, and I look forward to seeing the results of his commitment and hard work."

The Council meets monthly throughout the school year; its meetings rotate among System campuses. Among the specific responsibilities of the USMSC is the recommendation to the Chancellor each year for transmittal to the Governor of a group of nominees for the position of USM Student Regent. In the past, the Council has provided input on issues ranging from tuition policy to SAT score reporting and academic advising. Issues discussed at the meeting on October 11 included campus safety and the USM budget. ●

USMH Thinks It's Good to Be Green

USMH is taking steps to promote environmental friendliness on our campus.

"We recently increased our recycling program to include plastic, cans and glass in addition to the paper recycling we have had ongoing, and the response has been amazing," said **Dr. David Warner**, USMH executive director.

"The housekeeping staff are reporting that receptacles on each floor of the USMH building are full, and that is good news to hear. It means students, faculty and staff are using them and making a difference," he said.

In addition to recycling receptacles, USMH is printing its materials on paper approved by the Forest Stewardship Council, a group that advocates for well-managed forests, controlled sources and recycled wood or fiber. Look for the trademark logo shown at the right on USMH publications.

"We have worked with the printers of our materials to ensure they are forest conservation savvy," said Warner.

Have another idea about how USMH can increase its going green campaign? Email it to ajohnston@hagerstown.usmd.edu. ●



New Director of FSU Business Program Connects Students with the Dean

“I want students to have a chance to meet face-to-face with the dean, and I want students to build the sense that they are really part of a university,” said Dr. Marty Mattare, director of the business program for Frostburg State University (FSU) at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH).

With this goal in mind, on October 5, Dean Ahmad Tootoonchi and Dr. Mike Monahan, the FSU department of management chair, visited USMH for a meet-and-greet with undergraduate business students enrolled

at the Hagerstown center.

“Many of the students I meet with have not been to the main campus and they may not feel a part of it. I want to help change that,” said Mattare. A long-time faculty member in the FSU College of Business, Mattare has taught various courses for the past seven years. This fall, Mattare took on new duties to head FSU’s undergraduate business program at USMH. Ron Ross manages the graduate students.



Dean Ahmad Tootoonchi meets with two FSU at USMH business students at the October 5 meet-and-greet in the USMH lobby.

program. “It is my goal to go to the HR departments of large businesses, the city and county governments, and the local Chamber of Commerce to market the program to the community,” she said.

In addition to Mattare’s new role, she continues to teach entrepreneurship classes at USMH and on the main campus. “This semester, I am teaching Entrepreneurial Business Plan,” she said. “I am also working on a study of microbusiness in the state of Maryland.”

To ease the students and herself into her new role, Mattare has been visiting classes and introducing herself. She is also available in her office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-6 p.m., and she can be reached via email at mmattare@frostburg.edu. ●



“The position is newly created and gives the students a primary contact for the program,” said Mattare. “I will advise students and go to the local community colleges for regular meetings. I will also attend transfer fairs at Hagerstown Community College, Frederick Community College and Carroll Community College as well as others,” she said.

Mattare also plans to create marketing materials for the business

Did you know?

● **Did you know that in October, faculty members from USMH Partnering Institutions and from Hagerstown Community College and Kaplan University will be honored at the 2nd annual Academic Excellence in Higher Education Banquet?**

The awards ceremony will take place on October 23, 2009 at Fountain Head Country Club. Tickets to the event are \$50 and can be purchased by contacting the Hagerstown-Washington County Chamber of Commerce at 301-739-2015 x 100 or online at www.hagerstown.org.

● **Did you know that USMH is working with Frostburg State University to bring a bachelor’s in psychology program to the Hagerstown center?**

USMH administrators are consistently working with University System of Maryland institutions to bring programs to our campus. Stay tuned for more information on the psychology program and other possible offerings.

Education and Nursing Students Participate in Early Learning Festival

“What texture does that feel like,” asked a senior Frostburg State University (FSU) Master of Arts in Teaching student as he mixed the play dough with more flour. “It feels like slime,” replied a little girl as she rolled the dough to the right consistency. “Wow! That’s a tall tower,” said a junior Towson University (TU) nursing student to a little boy as he placed the 10th block on the top.

On October 3, more than 50 students enrolled in nursing and education programs at USMH could be heard laughing and interacting with children and parents at the Born Learning Fest for Families with Young Children.

The early learning event, sponsored by Washington County Community Partnership for Children and Families and the United Way of Washington County in partnership with the local School Readiness Collaboration, drew more than 400 people to University Plaza and inside USMH.

FSU education students made homemade play dough, read stories and conducted activities that related to the stories, such as letter matching, time telling, and puppet making.

Dr. Kim Rotruck, FSU education programs coordinator, said, “It was wonderful to see the education students interacting

with members of our community. Our instructors are proud of our candidates for their dedication to promoting learning for all children.”

Towson nursing programs director **Judy Breitenbach**, MS, RN, said, “I am extremely proud of the nursing students. They are a dedicated group. The junior level students were given the topic of Growth and Development and did four wonderful poster presentations. In addition, they provided activities at each station for that particular age group and distributed informational sheets to parents.”

“The seniors were more self-directed with their selection of topics. They choose to present information for parents on CPR and Autism. Their poster presentations were also well done. They reviewed breathing and compression techniques and provided contact information to parents so they could become certified in CPR. They educated parents on the signs of autism and also provided literature,” said Breitenbach.

“The event was a success. It is always a great site to see so many people from the Hagerstown community at



Frostburg MAT Students make play dough with children at the Born Learning Fest held in the USMH courtyard.

USMH. We were extremely pleased that local families were able to benefit from the expertise of our faculty members and students,” said **Dr. David Warner**, USMH executive director. “Our educational facility is here to benefit our community and events like Born Learning allow us to share what we have to offer.” ●



Towson University nursing students discuss developmental milestones with parents at the Born Learning Fest.

● Did you know that the USMH College Fair and Information Session will be held on Wednesday, October 21 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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